

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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| Walk description originally prepared by:- | Kees Andriessen CBMW, March, 2014 | |
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| Last Updated | 23 rd March 2014 | |
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| Title of Walk | The summits of Morron Chico (1444m) and Morra de las Moscas (1502m) via caracol from El Berro | |
| Location of Start | Town car park in El Berro – Sierra Espuna | |
| Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km | 22 | |
| Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m | 900 | |
| Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops | 6hr30min 7hr45min | |
| Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system) | VS/B | |
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| Grid reference of start point (if known) | Lat:- 37.888047, Long:- -1.49279 | |
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| Directions to Start | Walk starts at the town car park in El Berro | |
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| Short walk description | A delightful walk along an open ridge with a stiff climb up a fire break followed by an enchanting track up to the 2 summits of the ridge. Return via a “village” of ice houses (neveras) woodland tracks and a simple barranco back to the El Berro | |
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| Full Walk Description | | Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far |
| Turn L out of car park and again at first road junction. (1min, 100m) | | 1min, 100m |
| After 30m turn L onto R/W marked path. Continue through gate and up a path at the bottom of a barranco. (the barranco is like a gravel drive most of the way with the path leaving now and again on either side to cut corners and find the easiest route). Another small barranco, which also acts as a path, joins from the LHS which you take. (20mins, 1.32km) | | 21mins, 1.42km |
| Continue up this barranco to where the valley widens and the path forks. The L is marked R/W and the R continues up terraces keeping to the RHS. Both paths then converge and continue to the LHS out of the valley on a more substantial path that soon becomes a narrow track. Ignore two tracks that join on your RHS at km2.53 and 2.75 and press on until you join a wider track. (26mins, 1.99km) | | 47mins, 3.41km |
| Turn L onto this track then R onto a Y/W path signed “Sender del Dinosaurio” (5mins, 0.34km) | | 52mins, 3.75km |

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| Continue through the trees over rope bridge with a sign on the far side that reads "Pasarela barranco del Leyva" and on past a sign on your RHS about a natural reservoir. Ignore a path that joins on your LHS (km4.02). A track that runs parallel on your LHS nearly converges with your path but stay on the path for a short distance until you reach a fire break and turn R here and steeply up hill (8mins, 0.66km) | a 1hr 4.41km |
| The path levels for a while with good views of your intended struggle ahead up a steeper slope. Follow this until unexpectedly you come across a clear path going from R to L across your route. Take this to the R. (28mins, 1.06km) | 1hr28min,5.47km |
| Follow this past 3 zigs to the L and then when approaching what might have been a 4 th zig to the L the path continues ahead through a breach in the rock, round a spur and drops a little.(10mins, 0.50km) | 1hr38min,5.97km |
| Keep ahead on this path as it moves across the slope rising steadily to reach a viewpoint of the final set of zig zags up a rocky gully – named el Caracol. (22mins, 1.10km) | 2hrs, 7.07km |
| Take these and arrive at a spur which the path crosses and drops briefly with the continuation of our path clear above us on a spur in the distance. Take care when you reach a rocky spur to find the continuation of the path turning L at a patch of scree and stones. (19mins, 0.90km) | 2hr19min,7.97km |
| Continue to follow up in zig zags gently making your way into a barranco that separates the main ridge from the summit of Morron Chico. (16mins, 0.80km) | 2hr35min,8.77km |
| At the top of the barranco turn L where you will see a clear path going across to the peak from R to L on a rising line which does not appear to be going to the top. This is because you need to clear 2 small scramble crags. | |
| The first is very short and after this the path climbs quite steeply for a few metres to reach the second crag line. | |
| This is easily surmounted by working up the middle for a few metres and then taking to a sloping ramp up to the R to emerge on easier ground which you follow to the summit building. (23mins, 0.94km) | 2hr58min,9.71km |
| Retrace your steps down both scrambles and down to the first col where you rise up directly ahead to soon meet the clearer path you left earlier lower down (14mins, 0.73km) | 3hr12min,10.44k |
| At the plateau with the main ridge in front of you go L at a fork, marked with a cairn. (4mins, 0.20km) | 3hr16min,10.64k |
| Follow the cairns up the ridge to the higher of the two summits, Morra de las Moscas. (13mins, 0.65km) | 3hr29min,11.29 |
| Continue over the summit and down the other side following the cairns and sliding to the LHS of the next lower summit. Continue down then through the trees and steeply down to a track. (21mins, 1.04km) | 3hr50min,12.33k |
| Turn R onto this track, through a gate and on to a "village" of ruined neveras (ice houses) (10mins, 0.61km) | 4hrs, 12.94km |
| Continue down to the last nevera then L onto a path going downhill and bear R into the trees. Go through the trees and out to follow a small valley going down keeping to the LHS. The path then crosses to the RHS. (20mins, 1.03km) | 4hr20min,13.97k |

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| Ignore path on RHS, pass a ruin on your LHS and continue on looking for a less well defined path that goes under a large bough (like an arch) of a pine tree and descends steeply in the direction of a track. Just before reaching the track turn R on a clear path with Y/W markers and follow this down on the RHS of a barranco. Pass a ruined nevera. (26mins, 1.51km) | 4hr46min,15.48k |
| Continue to where the path joins the main track and go R (8mins, 0.45km) | 4hr54min,15.93k |
| Continue down this and take the first turning on the LHS. (you're now returning back to El Berro the way you came earlier) (30mins, 2.64km) | 5hr24min,18.57k |
| Stay on this track (later to become a path) down into the valley where the path forks. (27mins, 1.91km) | 5hr51min,20.48k |
| Take the R path. The paths then come together again and a barranco begins. The path continues down this barranco until it joins another (7mins, 0.46km) | 5hr58min,20.94k |
| Turn R into this barranco (which is like a gravel drive most of the way with the path leaving now and again on either side to cut corners and find the easiest route) and continue to where the path leaves on the LHS up to a road. Turn R down this road then, after 30m, go L onto another road and you're back. (21mins, 1.39km) | 6hr19min, 22.23k |
| Walk Recommendations or restrictions | Long walk requiring significant endurance |

See map below.....

Route followed is outlined in Red

