

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps, 7 th April 2014	
Last Updated	12 th January 2015	
Title of Walk	Penya Talai circuit and scramble from Jalon	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Jalon, Park in the cemetery car park behind the petrol station at the eastern end of the village on the CV750.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	16km	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	1000	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4hrs 5hrs	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/B/Scr	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.737346, Long -0.008922	
Directions to Start	Coming from Benissa on the CV750 turn L immediately before the petrol station and 50m up the road park on the RHS opposite the cemetery on the L.	
Short walk description	A demanding scramble and hill walk laced with a beautiful woodland path along the Jalon valley.	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
From the car park walk down across the field to the L of the petrol station and when you intercept a road, turn L.		
Continue to the T-jnc and turn R and continue until you meet the main road through the village where you turn L.		270m, 3.5mins
Continue to the end and turn around a bend to the R and immediately after this turn L on tarmac heading directly for 2 large electricity pylons.		610m, 7.5mins
When you reach the pylons continue to the L of them now on a track through vineyards.		
At the end of this swing around to the L and then R past a farmhouse and uphill to intercept a gravel track where we turn R.		900m, 11min
Walk up this past a lime kiln with signboard and then either turn L uphill through woods to intercept another track above us where you turn L, or follow the track to the junction where you turn L on the new track.		

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<p>This diminishes in stature to become a footpath and we follow this past a building on our RHS and then drop down to the R to soon meet a concrete track where you turn R and quickly reach a tarmac road where we turn L and then immediately R.</p>	<p>1.4km, 18min</p>
<p>Follow this gently uphill to the corner of a building where you turn R onto a clear footpath.</p> <p>Follow the main footpath ignoring any crossroads and side paths to cross a large black plastic water pipe which we follow as e turn uphill L and on the RHS of a set of terraces to become a wider track.</p>	
<p>Turn L at a tarmac road and walk up to a water pumping station</p> <p>where we turn sharply R up a concrete road which quickly diminishes to a track.</p>	<p>2km, 26min</p>
<p>Continue ahead on this as it rises through and at a clear and level section with views to the RHS across the Jalon valley it swings L, passes a small concrete table and peters out to become a footpath.</p>	<p>2.7km, 36min</p>
<p>Cross a terrace and turn R, ignoring side turnings and sticking to the most obvious line. Soon you have open views again across to the RHS of the Jalon valley as this footpath unerringly continues along the flank of the hill.</p>	
<p>Penya Talai is now occasionally in view directly ahead with striking crags guarding its summit.</p>	
<p>Reach a footpath junction where you turn L uphill beside Barranco Negro on your RHS.</p>	<p>5.1km, 1hr 9min</p>
<p>Reach a black and white hunting sign on a pole on the RHS which is your marker for a descent (very steep) just beyond the pole to cross the barranco below. You should be able to see the first of a set of green paint marks on the rocks on the other side of the barranco indicating that this is the right place.</p>	<p>5.6km, 1hr 18min</p>
<p>From the bottom of the barranco turn R for a few metres and then at the first large green paint splash exit up a short craggy scramble to find the next green maker and occasional small cairn.</p>	
<p>Now you must diligently hunt out the green paint splashes and cairns to find the best way ahead. If you lose them, don't panic – UP works well!! Initially you will be aware of a gully on your LHS but as you ascend you move away from this to the R.</p>	
<p>Once you reach the shoulder you turn L on a short level section</p> <p>and pass slightly to the R of the ridgeline for a few metres before scrambling up again with green markers above to continue the assault. There are some tricky scrambles along this section and the route may look improbable. The green paint splashes help.</p>	<p>6.1km, 1hr 33min</p>
<p>Continue ahead to reach the second summit from where you can see the main summit ahead and to your R, guarded by crags.</p>	<p>6.6km, 1hr 44min</p>
<p>To reach this you must pass over the second summit and drop down from the col a little to the R to reach an initially clear footpath below you which slants up to the L across scree and scrub.</p>	
<p>When this runs out it is best to continue ahead towards the crags before contouring R towards a subsidiary ridge on the RHS and above it a small rocky knoll with a tree on top just below the main crags.</p>	

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<p>Aim across for this and walk <u>below</u> the knoll to see a steep gully descending on the other side of this subsidiary ridge. (with views down to the road below)</p> <p>You must descend this to get below the crags and then continue around to the L to resume your ascent.</p> <p>Soon you can see an initially grassy ramp doubling back to the L with a clear rocky ramp at its head</p> <p>continuing to the L to breach the crags and take you to the summit.</p> <p>From the summit retrace your steps towards the head of your scramble but after only a short distance looking down to your L you will see cairns marking your descent path. This soon crosses scree but then you return to easier ground as you descend towards the building at the Col de Rates.</p> <p>At a small plateau keep to the R to find the continuation of the path which soon drops down to a track where we turn R, cross the road and continue ahead down a footpath to reach a car park/viewing point and from the RHS of this the footpath continues downhill.</p> <p>At a junction with fingerpost turn R still downhill</p> <p>and ignore the next turning on the RHS</p> <p>When you reach the end of a tarmac road turn R to continue on a track.</p> <p>This wanders around to the L before dropping briefly to meet a junction where you turn R and then immediately R again onto a footpath with signs to the donkey sanctuary.</p> <p>After 60m of climb you reach your outgoing route where you turn L onto the footpath that contours down the side of the valley. (There is more ascent on this path than you will remember!!)</p> <p>After several km this swings around to the L to cross a terrace and then opens to become a track which soon drops downhill.</p> <p>Reach the water pumping station and turn L and very quickly look out for the track that turns R down beside the terraces and then becomes a footpath level and to the R.</p> <p>When you reach the tarmac turn L, drop down to the junction where you turn L and immediately R and a short way up this take the footpath on the LHS to take you uphill to the woods above the lime kiln.</p> <p>Drop down to the R onto the lower track, turn R and continue for 100m before turning L and passing the house on your LHS. Swing L again to reach the track across the field between vines and into the town.</p>	<p>6.9km, 1hr 53min</p> <p>7km, 1hr 56min</p> <p>7.1km, 2hr</p> <p>7.9km, 2hr 16min</p> <p>8.1km, 2hr 19min</p> <p>9.8km, 2hr 42min</p> <p>9.9km, 2hr 44min</p> <p>12.2km, 3hr 12min</p> <p>13.1km, 3hr 22min</p> <p>14km, 3hr 33min</p>
<p>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</p>	<p>A route only for those that enjoy scrambling with some exposure. Tricky cross country route finding up to the summit.</p>

Route followed is outlined in Red

