

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps, 4 th June 2014
Last Updated	23rd January 2026 by Olaf Hasse
Title of Walk	Forada ridge circuit from Benissiva
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Benissiva Behind the co-op building on the RHS of the main road just before reaching the village.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	17 (18 with options)
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	950
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	6hr 6:30hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/C/X
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.819505, Long:- -0.225309
Directions to Start	Follow the CV700 from Pego westwards through the Gallinera valley until you reach the outskirts of the village. There is a Co-operative warehouse on the RHS. Pull onto the forecourt and pass the building on the LHS down a track to find ample parking.
Short walk description	A terrific walk along this ridge with an early opportunity to explore the Forada – a magnificent hole in the ridge line which you can pass through or over – as the fancy and your nerves dictate!
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Walk back up to the main road and turn R. Pass the Bar Placeta (on your RHSO and just after this look out for a small alley ascending to the L past a baker's shop (Forn or Panaderia).	
At the top of this zig R and then L and at the 2 nd turn on the R take this uphill.	320m, 4min
Keep going past the Franciscan convent on a concrete track.	
Continue as this turns to tarmac and then ascend a couple of zig-zags before turning R at a fingerpost still on a concrete track.	1.5km, 22min
At a fork keep up L on a concrete track which soon gives out to a footpath. Climb steadily.	1.8km, 30min

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<p>Pass a turning on the L to a cave and font and keep ahead on a clear stone footpath to reach a complex junction where you turn L ignoring 2 paths to the R.</p>	2.3km, 39min
<p>This path now ascends improbably below some impressive crags to zig-zag steadily up a breach at a col where you turn immediately R. (The path directly ahead goes to the cave house- blocked up cave visible from the outside with window! - which is entered from the inside of the house on the surface)</p>	2.7km, 50min
<p>Now you can see the Forat very clearly and the path heads steadily up towards it.</p>	
<p>At the base of the promontory with the Forat there is a junction where you can avoid any further sightseeing by turning L along the flank of the ridge.</p>	3.3km, 59min
<p>Those with more determination can carry on uphill to sit under the Forat while those more foolhardy than yourselves venture over the top.</p>	
<p>(This can be done by making your way out to the W on easy ground before turning and continuing to climb up an ever diminishing width of ridge. When you reach the narrowest part it is guarded by a large boulder which you can either pass on the LHS with good holds but considerable exposure of else clamber without dignity over the top. Once past this there is still some exposure but the going is generally easier.)</p>	
<p>Once you have had your fill of this adventure return to the base of the "hole" and turn W along a clear footpath which runs level to pass across a rough section to join the crest of the ridge.</p>	
<p>After a couple of hundred metres there are occasional cairns indicating the path line running along the LHS of the ridge.</p>	
<p>Soon the bulky mass of Penyal Gros looms in front of us with a clear path running up to the L of the impressive crags.</p>	
<p>Follow this steeply up and when it becomes hazy continue up and back to the R to reach the summit trig point.</p>	4.8km, 1hr 50min
<p>Now turn away from this and continue slightly S of W along the ridge.</p>	
<p>Drop to a small col and back up again to the next summit.</p>	
<p>From this the going is not clear. Continue L along the ridge until you start to drop and can see back to your R a line of craggy rocks. Our path drops down (with cairns) to the R under this rocky section but still along some tricky scree.</p>	5.6km, 2hr 14min
<p>You are dropping down to an obvious col where you can see the continuing path ahead rising to reach a breach in the next ridge.</p>	
<p>Make your way up to this and follow the path as it turns abruptly L running along the RH flank of the ridge to your L.</p>	5.9km, 2hr 25min
<p>Follow this with some less obvious sections to continue towards a path running gently uphill in front of you to reach a col where you turn R to reach a small summit.</p>	
<p>Go over this and soon drop off to the LHS to run across scree dropping gently to reach a breach in the ridge on your RHS (by staying to the L you avoid a small crag drop off on the main ridge line)</p>	6.8km, 2hr 47min
<p>Scurry across this breach and stay L to clamber up some small crags and continue your</p>	

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<p>ascent steeply to the summit with a cross. This is actually the highest peak on the ridge – unnamed peak at 908m!</p>	7.1km, 3hr 06min
<p>Now turn NW for a few metres and then W again to descend the ridge line continuing ahead and soon reach a col where you turn R to descend an obvious path. This is steep and awkward in places.</p>	7.5km, 3hr 12min
<p>As you descend this you will be able to see below you the remains of Benissili castle built on a rocky promontory on the L.</p>	
<p>When you reach a barranco cross this and immediately turn L down the R bank and soon at a fork take the L, less obvious turn to stay beside the barranco.</p>	
<p>Descend towards the castle to arrive suddenly at a plateau with a large open water tank on your RHS.</p>	7.8km, 3hr 25min
<p>Cross level to the R to reach the edge of the castle grounds, cross some rocks and continue downhill now on a clear mozarabic path.</p>	
<p>(The castle has been swathed in scaffolding for some years and some remedial work involving breeze blocks has been carried out, but there is obviously no hurry to finish them! You can clamber in amongst the scaffolding to explore this if you chose)</p>	
<p>(The mozarabic eventually passes a ruined lime kiln and then traverses L under some crags to reach a junction where you turn R and descend more steeply down to a road.)</p>	8.5km, 3hr 55min
<p>You could also continue L at the junction rising slightly to arrive at a concrete road opposite some gates. Turn R here down the road to join the road above at the 10.5km mark</p>	
<p>Turn L downhill and reach a main road which you cross directly to the R follow the main road til the next junction turn L</p>	9.1km, 4hr 05min
<p>After ~120m turn R to reach a small road with 10 tonne sign on your RHS which we follow.</p>	9.2km, 4hr 10min
<p>This continues down to reach a bigger road 500m below the village of Benissili .Cross the road and follow a footpath straight ahead</p>	10.2km, 4hr 36min
<p>Follow the path until it ends on the road again and now continue down the main road through delightful orchards to reach the outskirts of Al Patro where you go uphill just to the RHS of the old wash house.</p>	11.2km 4hr 47min
<p>Take the first L and level and at the T-jnc turn R up to the village high street and here turn L again. Pass the ethnological museum, zig-zag L and R twice and now follow the Y/W signs down before turning back to the R along a steadily descending path.</p>	
<p>This runs beside the river valley for some time before finally dropping into it and crossing to run across stony ground and then cross again on a clearer rising track on the RHS.</p>	12.3km, 5hr 2min
<p>Pass the espacio natural on the RHS also worthwhile to go 30m to the left to enjoy the view to the barranco and continue ahead on concrete to reach a junction where you continue ahead now on gravel ignoring the R turn.</p>	12.6km, 5hr 14mi

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Drop down to a small plateau and take the L most indistinct track continuing directly ahead which soon becomes clear again as you crest a small rise. (Still with Y/W) Cross a small barranco on the RHS and where the track starts to rise on concrete ignore this and continue ahead onto a terrace.	13.5km, 5hr 30miin
Continue along this level and rise up on a clear line to reach a corner with a fork, turn L, follow the path down to the Rio Galinera	13,7km 5h35
Cross the river and on the other side turn L for 50m, find a path on RHS and up again	13,9km 5h 40min
Follow the clear path up to the forest in the direction to Benissiva up to altitude 340m and at the fork follow to the R.	14,1km, 5hr 45min
Follow to track down to a small barranco, 10-15m decent and cross the Barranco following the marked track	14,3Km, 5hr 50min
Continue this for about 300m until a junction, still follow the track straight ahead nearly on the same altitude	14.6km, 5h 55m
After another 400m, also following the water pipe, turn R towards the valley down to a small street, turn L and after 30m again R	15,1km 6h 0min
After 50m follow a green arrow on the ground down to a small canal on the RHS. Follow the canal, might be slippery, and the following path straight forward to the river	15,7 6hh 12min
Cross the river, go up the path for 100m until the path meet a small road, turn R and follow the road 400m where the path turns left, after 300m the path meets the main road	16.4km 6h 25min
After a few m on the main road leave the road following the stairs down on a YW marked track. After 300m you reach Benissiva. Turn R and next L and follow the YW Marks. After 200m you reach the car park.	16,9km 6h 33
Walk Recommendations or restrictions	None

See map below.....

Route followed is outlined in Red

