

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

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| <b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>   | Ralph Phipps  |
| <b>Last Updated</b>  | 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2014  |
| <b>Title of Walk</b>   | GR11 – Day 2 Irun to Bera de Bidasoa  |
| <b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>  | Irun, near train station.   |
| <b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>  | 25  |
| <b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>   | 950   |
| <b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>  | 5.5hr<br>7.5hr  |
| <b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>   | VS/A  |
| <b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>  | Lat:- 43.341024, Long:- -1.798682   |
| <b>Directions to Start</b>   | Start at the top of the street named Fuenterribia Kalea near the railway station. |
| <b>Short walk description</b>  | A great expedition in its own right with deciduous woods and high moors.          |
| <b>Full Walk Description</b>   | <b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>                                       |
| <p>Walk away from the railway station and turn R onto Calle Colon - the main street through Irun.</p> <p>Continue down this until you reach a complex junction where the road splits into a tree lined dual carriageway and cross to the RHS.</p> <p>Descend a little, cross a small stream, ignore the immediate turn on the R and take the next turn on the R.</p> <p>Follow this across a staggered cross roads (L then R) and straight across the first r'bout.</p> <p>At the next r'bout go half L and follow this to a T-jnc just over a stream where you turn R.</p> <p>Go under a bridge supporting the A8 motorway and almost immediately find a track on the L with a large signboard.</p> <p>Go steeply up this concrete track until it swings R to a waterworks and here keep ahead up a rough track to reach an elegant farm building restored in 2005 where the concrete</p> | <p>1.4km, 16min</p> <p>2.2km, 24min</p>   |

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re-starts.

Cross a road and continue ahead now on tarmac for a short while.

3.7km, 47min

Cross a second road and reach a picnic area with water supply. (Bar here but like many others rarely open!!)

Swing slightly L past the buildings on your LHS and continue ahead on a track which undulates a little.

300m beyond this and just after a play area turn R at a jnc uphill. Now ignore a turn to the R and continue ahead along the ridge line.

Pass a flower adorned farmhouse with market garden at a saddle and start to rise in zig-zags on the L flank of the mountain more steeply uphill again.

Ignore side turnings and continue following the clear R/W markers to reach a turn L across a grassier path which leads steadily through ferns to pass close to a white casita and then a set of picnic benches very close to the road.

8km, 1hr 44min

Now walk on close to the road to reach an information cabin and just past this turn L for a few m and then R at a signboard down grassy path that might be hard to see from the road. (R and Y waymarks)

This undulates for a while before rising again to a second picnic area and soon after almost re-joins the road.

8.9km, 1hr 57min

At a finger post here turn half L downhill.

Ignore an uphill track a few hundred metres after this and turn L downhill and then at the next complex jnc swing R around the end of the spur as indicated by a finger post.

Now start to descend through multiple zig-zags crossing several streams in the process and finally arriving at the valley bottom.

14.6km, 3hr 4min

Follow this now for a while before crossing a cattle grid and ascending (buildings all around now) to the W end of a dam.

Turn L across it and follow the road for almost 700m to find an Ermita on your RHS just before a large bend to the L. This has benches and makes an alternative stopping point to the bar which lies a little further up the hill! (The water point here was dry in 2014)

Continue around the bend and take a L turn up towards the Bar (open in June 14).

16.5km, 3hr 32min

There is an option here to follow a footpath up through the woods by taking the R turn just before the Bar and over a stile or alternatively you can pass the bar on your RHS and continue ahead up a concrete track. Both alternatives arrive at the Collado de Telleria where you keep ahead (E).

18.4km, 3hr 57min

Waymarking is good here and there are a few turns to execute so be vigilant. Cross a crossroads and soon after fork R crossing a staggered crossing point on a footpath before soon reaching a farm building with water point on the wall.

Turn L along the concrete track here and then soon R and L along a path contouring along the side of the hill before reaching a point with complex junction and small sign where we continue along the ridge. (Fingerpost – Lesaka R and Bera ahead L). Bera village is in view now down to your L.

21.3km, 4hr 33min

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Continue along the L flank of the hill before reaching a saddle with multiple choices just after some power lines where (disappointingly!) we take the middle rising track initially without waymarks until 75m or so up the hill.

Soon we reach the start of the steep descend to Bera de Bidasoa and the track drops quickly with views occasionally to reach tarmac road.

Continue ahead dropping towards the town and cross an indistinct crossroads and then a clearer one to reach the flank of the river where we turn R to find an old bridge (L) which we cross.

Turn L at the other side, then R up an alley to reach the main road where we turn L to reach the town centre at a set of traffic lights.

The author stayed at Hotel Ansoenea, Plaza de los Fueros, 1 - 948 631 155 at a cost of €50 per room per night incl b'fast in June '14. Several eating options available.

24.2km, 5hr  
13min

**Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

None

See map below.....

**Route followed is outlined in Red**

