

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

Visit www.walksinSpain.org for more walks descriptions in Spain

Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	30 th June2014
Title of Walk	GR11 – Day 3 – Bera to Collado de Eskisarroi
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Bera de Bidasoa, traffic lights in middle of main street.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	21.2
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	1055
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	5.5hr 7hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/A
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 43.279995,Long:- -1.688035
Directions to Start	From the N121 going either S or N take the NA8304 signed to the town of Bera de Bidasoa and where this meets the NA1310, start here. This is a "shortened" version of the GR11 and depends on you being able to pre-arrange either a car drop off or a taxi to meet you at the Collad de Eskisarroi. Thence either back to Bera or on to Elizondo for accommodation!
Short walk description	A great day's walking across high hills with deciduous woods and expansive views N and W towards higher summits.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>From the traffic lights walk E along the main road passing large car park on the L and then the Town Hall (Ayuntamiento) and Tourist Office also on the L before reaching a large square used as a car park with more traffic lights. (The nicest part of the village lies further directly ahead!!)</p> <p>Turn R here and walk up on a concrete road past a school and sports facilities ascending steadily.</p> <p>The route here is well marked with R/W indicators and it is hardly necessary to describe the route further. Climb steadily on tracks taking turns as appropriate until you reach open country.</p>	620m, 8min

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

<p>Continue steadily up to reach a turn where you go R uphill to reach the summit Santa Barbara. (This can be avoided by continuing ahead if necessary at the junction)</p>	3.2km, 57min
<p>Enjoy exploring the adorned bunker (one of many you will see over the next few days) and several stone markers before turning L along the ridge beside some woods to reach a col.</p>	
<p>Continue ahead up into some woods and at the end of these turn slightly R to find a stile into a field.</p>	4.4km, 1hr 15min
<p>Follow the initially unmarked line slightly down to the R onto a clearer faint track heading for a farmhouse building.</p>	
<p>(Views N include the summit of La Rhune (Fr) or Larun (Sp) which is a pleasant walk from the Sp side but has a railway running up it from Fr!!!)</p>	
<p>The track passes to the R of this through a stile to reach a concrete road.</p>	
<p>Turn 2nd R at the end of the concrete along a track and then L uphill at a fork following the signs at junctions to walk along a shallow ridge towards the summit of the wooded Ibantelli.</p>	5.2km, 1hr 26min
<p>We do not reach this but contour around to the R on its flanks to eventually arrive at a large open plateau with building- known on occasions to open as a Bar/Restaurant. Do not rely on it being open!!!</p>	8.9km, 2hr 20min
<p>Continue ahead uphill on a track where you are soon joined at a fingerpost by a further track. Keep L.</p>	
<p>A few m further on at a second fingerpost you turn R downhill to pass in zig-zags the hunter's bar (firmly closed to visitors when visited!) and continue steeply down further than you would like to reach a L fork which soon passes a barn being redeveloped. (The owner told me he hoped to open accommodation in the future) There is a water point here although it is claimed it is poor quality, but the owner dispense filtered water from inside the premises which he leaves in bottles outside - help yourself.</p>	9.9km, 2hr 35min
<p>Continue up past the barn to cross the ridge line and drop down briefly.</p>	10.9km, 2hr 52min
<p>Pass yet another barn and reach the Col de Narbalatz</p>	11.9km, 3hr 7min
<p>where you keep R downhill briefly on a bulldozed forestry track and then desert this to descend more steeply on an older forest track to reach a farm which you enter on the L before turning up a concrete track through the farm yard. There is water flowing from a pipe just after you turn L.</p>	13.1km, 3hr 32min
<p>Keep uphill and turn R at a junction and then later L to reach a picnic area with a stone trough and water pipe (you might have to turn the tap on behind the edifice!!)</p>	
<p>Fork L and then R aiming for the top of the hill and then swing R climbing less steeply around the flanks of Bagalta to walk level past a barn and then slightly downhill for a while on a delightful track with wide views heading almost due E.</p>	
<p>As this turns R (SE) there is a less defined grassy track continuing ahead soon with R/W waymark</p>	15.7km, 4hr 13min
<p>which we follow and then reach a finger post for an ancient monument.</p>	

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

<p>Now continue ahead until you reach a road junction where you turn R and S and then trend L again over a col. The author got a little lost here as the gps track will show!! Essentially you must contour around the wooded hill on its L flank aiming generally SE to reach the Collado de Esquissaroi. Look out for the waymarks!</p> <p>If for any reasons you miss any of the markers, you are likely to emerge on the road to the L of the col and have to turn back up to it as the author did! Await your transport.</p> <p>The author stayed in Elbete – the town adjacent to Elizondo- at Posada Elbete, - 948 581 519 – Belen and Carlos arranged a taxi to collect us from the Collado. The hotel cost €40 pppn in June '14</p>	17.8km, 4hr 43min
--	----------------------

Walk Recommendations or restrictions	None
---	------

Map appears below.....

Route followed is outlined in Red

