

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps	
Last Updated	1st July 2014	
Title of Walk	GR11 – Day 5. Elizondo to Collado de Urkiaga.	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Elizondo – near the church on the corner of Calle Santiago and Calle Mauricio Berecoechea.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	19	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	1200	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	5.25hr 6.25hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/A	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 43.145936, Long:- -1.517281	
Directions to Start	Find the church by walking NE up Calle Santiago and the church is on the RHS.	
Short walk description	Initial climbs through deciduous woodland is rewarded by a high level ridge traverse finishing at a remote col from where transport is necessary. Several hostals in Eugi (S of the col) will provide this.	
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	
Leave the village beside the church and cross a staggered cross roads L then R to continue ahead.		
Walk between a couple of elegant farm buildings and then R uphill on a track.		500m, 6.5min
At a fork best to keep R steeply uphill in woodland and straight across a junction to dip slightly and rejoin the road.		1.5km, 25min
Keep ahead for 100m further and then sharp R into a field with markers (R/W). Follow the clear line as it turns sharp L and runs along beside a fence. A higher parallel path soon avoids any residual mud beside the fence.		
Arrive at a broad track and turn L for 50m then R.		1.9km, 30min
Keep ahead uphill until you reach a gate and just before this turn R.		2.3km, 36min
150m further on fork L on a footpath and pass a farm on the LHS.		

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<p>Reach another farm on the R just after a small hill and then as you almost intersect the road coming up to join you from the L, swing R up a small rise.</p> <p>Climb up the beginnings of an open spur and take a L fork to go level around the flank of the hill.</p> <p>As this levels a little a footpath joins from the R and we continue ahead.</p> <p>Cross a concrete road and continue ahead on a track soon passing a water trough.</p> <p>Ignore the first fork where the L drops considerably and go R.</p> <p>At the next fork go L onto a footpath almost level and with stone cobbles.</p> <p>Soon you pass a water point with a pipe</p> <p>Emerge to join a track and continue L uphill beside a fence.</p>	<p>2.8km, 45min</p>
<p>At the top of a steep climb turn R still uphill on a track.</p> <p>You can take a small cut-off at the next jnc to turn L still uphill.</p>	<p>5.6km, 1hr 33min</p>
<p>200m further there are 2 tracks on the RHS. take the second (middle) of these which is initially levels and then starts to climb.</p>	<p>6.5km 1hr 51min</p>
<p>This continues in woods for some time passing barns - ruined and otherwise – and a water tank. Finally you arrive at a track where there is a hunter's cabin on the RHS with water.</p> <p>Go directly ahead over the brow of a col (Collado de Urbillo) and take the gently rising track ahead.</p> <p>Pass through trees on a very rocky path into a clear area and watch carefully for the R/W markers. There is a rocky peak in front of you.</p> <p>Continue ahead becoming steeper after a stream crossing.</p> <p>Arrive at a col and turn R beside a fence still uphill now on the border between F and Sp.</p>	<p>8.7km, 2hr 19min</p>
<p>At the top (Zagua - an outlier of Pena de Alba to your NW)</p> <p>follow the open path L and downhill. Reach a shallow col and rise again over a small hill to drop down to a further col.</p> <p>The path now works R with R/W markers through trees and gently up to avoid a steeper climb over the hill.</p> <p>Reach a col where there is a very large shooting tower in front of you and continue ahead.</p> <p>Continue steeply up and over a hill to join a track which joins you from the R.</p>	<p>9.9km, 2hr 47min</p>
<p>Turn L to pass a marsh/pond on your R and then before a gate turn R ascending to find another hunter's cabin also with water.</p>	<p>12.5km, 3hr 27min</p>

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Above this there are 2 visible cabins. Follow the path across to the one on the RHS which you pass below and seek out the waymarks to continue ahead rising across the flank of the hill.

Soon you turn L going very steeply uphill on a grassy rib.

After passing a small sink hole on your L in the woods a faint track joins you on the L and you continue uphill.

Just past a water pipe swing R on an uphill footpath.

Continue up an open spur and when the spur joins the body of the hill swing up and R to follow the clear R/W markers aiming steadily to a col. (1075m)

13.8km, 3hr
52min

Cross the still at the col and turn R uphill and close to the fence for 100m or so.

Find the first R/W markers just to the L of a sink hole and the next on the highest of several boulders in front of you. (It is important to take care finding the correct route here - especially if misty!).

Continue into a rocky corner and make your way across the boulders and further upwards.

Keep R of some shooting butts aiming towards a fence at a col but trend L following markers posts still uphill.

15.2km, 4hr
11min

Reach the next col with a confusing finger post.

Drop down L a few m and follow the markers ahead and around the next hill. There are many braids of the path here but ultimately any will do – but try to pick out the R/W markers for the best result with least effort.

At the next col there is a finger post where you turn sharply L following markers past a white building on your LHS and then run parallel to a garden fence into the woods on a footpath.

16.9km, 4hr
37min

Watch closely through the woods for markers as there are many sheep tracks.

Soon the path becomes a track and arrives at a clearing with a large tower.

Turn L downhill to arrive at an enormous bunker, gate with stile and a few metres lower – the road.

Wait for whatever transport you have arranged.

The author stayed at Hostal Etxeberri, C/ San Gil 20, Eugi - 659 477435 . 948 304454 .Jose Antonio will arrange to collect you from the col if pre-booked. HB cost €50 pppn incl the transport.

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

None

See map below.....

Route followed is outlined in Red

