

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps
<b>Last Updated</b>	1st July 2014
<b>Title of Walk</b>	GR11 – Day 13. From a wild campsite at Aguas Tuestas to Candanchu.
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Aguas Tuestas meadow and wild camp site. (There are absolutely no facilities here)
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	15.5
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	680
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	5hr 7hr
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/A
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 42.828628, Long:- -0.626756
<b>Directions to Start</b>	This is a remote wild camp site. The nearest that you can approach by car is driving up the Vall de Hecho on the A176 and continuing through Hecho and towards La Mina. Here follow the gravel track on the S side of the river heading E until you reach a car park with a barrier. From here continue on foot uphill on the track to arrive at the bothy/refugio and drop over the hill into the meadows on the GR11.
<b>Short walk description</b>	A memorable walk through high mountain scenery with views in all directions.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
Start walking E on the RHS of the pastures on a very clear footpath with occasional R/W markers.	
It may be necessary to swing R and uphill a few times to avoid marshy ground and stream crossings, but as you approach the head of the valley, swing SE across the valley on the footpath to reach a stream where a wet crossing is almost certain.	1.8km, 29min 2.2km, 35min
On the far side continue E up a grassy tongue in the middle of the valley.	
At a finger post turn R towards the Ibon de Estanes on the GR11.	2.8km, 45min

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Walk up to a rocky corrie and ignore a path doubling back to the R and reach a corner to continue directly ahead.	
Climb above what looks like a sink hole with a stream running in to it  and then keep L of the stream to walk up R into a rocky corrie on the LHS of the valley. This is easy but steady climbing with the potential for snow fields above you.	3.9km, 1hr 6min
Walk up towards the headwall on the LHS and pass below this and swing around to the L with stunning scenery on the RHS.	
Very soon reach the col (unnamed)  and thread through this keeping R as it starts to descend more steeply and then zigs first L and then R to avoid crags and meander around the head of a rocky corrie.	4.8km, 1hr 27min
At a junction keep ahead to cross a small stream and turn uphill L below crags.	5.5km, 1hr 41min
Trend R now with undulations running parallel to the lake - Ibon de Istanes - with a (possible) waterfall up on your RHS and then start to descend towards the shore of the lake.	
Cross a stream and work up a shallow grassy ramp under a crag on your LHS and then cross this L (with waymarks) to continue ahead parallel to the lake shore. (Now there are Yellow and Green waymarks as well!)	
Descend a steep rocky gully	6.7km, 2hr 5min
and then turn R across rocky terrain to emerge on grass and the exit from the lake.	7.5km, 2hr 25min
Follow the path soon downhill and through grassy pastures.	
As soon as you ascend up to a grassy top where the views open up and you can see clearly the Cirque d'Aspe - a huge cirque of crags and possible waterfalls- away on your RHS with mountain tops looming above, then look out for a cairned footpath junction where you turn R, ignoring the clearer path ahead.	9.2km, 2hr 50min
Follow this as it contours with undulations with R/W markers towards some woods.	
Work up and down to find the best line and reach the first stream crossing below some imposing crags above you. Cross a second stream and then follow the undulating path some 400m or so to the third (possibly more serious) crossing.	11.6km, 3hr 39min
Here, work down – following markers - for the crossing, ignoring the higher path which is more susceptible to stone fall. Cross to a small islet and then descend with markers to cross to the far bank.	
(Both stream crossings may involve removal of footwear and a wet crossing!)	
Once safely across work out across scree and then wind up a couple of zig-zags before turning off L and towards some woods.	12.5km, 3hr 59min
Walk through these and on exit and turn R uphill across pastures in a rocky valley.	13.1km, 4hr 14min
Reach a large pipe with finger post and keep directly ahead.	

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At a junction soon after ignore Y/G waymarks ahead and turn R following the R/W R and up a small spur before crossing L to a sign.

Arrive at a col with a track at right angles to you

and continue ahead on a footpath dropping to soon reach the ski complex. Walk straight down through the middle of this following the track descending to the town. Accommodation here can be more difficult than you might expect because it is focussed almost entirely on skiing and there will not be many things open during the summer. It is important to book ahead.

The Refugio Pepe Garces (on the RHS as you descend) is always open but is a lack lustre space. Many of the rooms in the basement of a large block are without windows and it is a soulless space – albeit the warden is helpful and friendly. The author stayed here in Jun '14 at a cost of 439 pppn HB.

13.9km, 4hr  
29min

**Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

None

See map below.....

Route followed is outlined in Red

