

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Robbie Jackson, 17 November 2014	
Last Updated	17/11/14	
Title of Walk	Barranco de la Encantada via Ermita de Santo Cristo circuit	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Near Planes, around the 29km marker on the CV-700 between Pego and Muro, where there are road signs pointing to Barranc de l'Encantà.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	10km	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	340m	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3 hrs walking, 4 hrs completion.	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	M/A	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat 38.78721, Long: -0.32214	
Directions to Start	On the CV-700 between Pego and Muro, around the 29km marker look for road signs pointing to the Barranc de l'Encantà. Turn R here and almost immediately R again to drop down to a large parking area.	
Short walk description	Circuit through part of the Barranco de la Encantada, returning via the Ermito de Santo Cristo, near to Planes.	
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	
A fairly easy walk, mostly on quiet roads, but with many points of interest and fantastic views. The trail leads through the beautiful Barranco de la Encantada, before opening out onto a road with impressive views over the Embalse de Beniarrès. The trail leads down towards Planes before climbing on a track up to the Ermita de Santo Cristo, and then returns to the start point via quiet roads and a short section of track.		
Start down the road signposted to the Barranc de l'Encantà, from its junction with the CV-700. After about 9 minutes there is a ruined casita on the RHS, and a pool just after. (9mins)		9 min, 550m
As you continue down the road and a wall of rock becomes visible on the RHS, on the other side of the stream. Just opposite this cliff there is a set of concrete steps leading down on the RHS. Descend these steps to a pool (point A). (8 mins).		17 min, 1.0km
Go back up the steps and turn right to continue along the same road as before, which sweeps round to the left. Continue until you arrive at a white casa on the L (point B), with a track leading off to the left of it, before the road bends to the right. (6 mins)		23 min, 1.4km

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<p>Take the track to the left of the casa, which after a minute or so passes the black gates of Villa Monica on the LHS. Continue down the track passing through an orchard of cherry and almond trees, and ignore a track leading up on the LHS. The track widens out into a field, and just before the end of the field another ruined casita is visible below on the RHS, with pools in the stream just beyond. (9 mins)</p>	32 min, 2km
<p>Continue along the track which narrows to a path at the end of the field. The path leads you to the ruined Molino del Barranco de la Encantada (point C). (6 mins).</p>	38 min, 2.4km
<p>(Around this next section there are good places to stop for something to eat). Continue along the path leading up on the left. (Here there's an optional diversion down a short steep path on the RHS to where the water drops into a narrow steep section of the barranco). At one point going up the path forks; take the left hand fork to arrive at another ruin just above, with a good view of the barranco. (The right hand fork leads to the same ruin). (4 mins)</p>	42 min, 2.6km
<p>Continue along the same path which leads upwards to the left, on the LHS of the barranco. After a while the path levels out, and then climbs again. As it sweeps round to the left the view towards the Serpis Valley opens out, and two casas become visible ahead. Continue on the path towards these casas. The path leads you round the RHS of the fence of the casa named Corralet, to a concrete road at the gates of the casa (point D). (17 mins).</p>	59 min, 3.3km
<p>Go up the concrete access road of the house to meet the asphalt road. (2 mins)</p>	1h 1min, 3.4km
<p>Turn left onto this quiet road which winds its way down between olive groves and cherry trees, with fantastic views on the RHS overlooking the Embalse de Beniarriès towards the Serra de Benicadell. Continue on this road until it stops at its junction with the main road (CV-711) below (point E). (29 mins).</p>	1h 30min, 5.4km
<p>Turn left onto the road towards the village of Planes. Walk about 250m on this road, past the 1km marker and a section of high stone wall on the left until you reach the start of the rock steps / track which leads upwards on the LHS. (2 mins).</p>	1h 32min, 5.7km
<p>Turn left up the rock steps which zigzag past the stations of the cross up to the Ermita de Santo Cristo on the hill of St Christopher. (20 mins).</p>	1h 52min, 6.4km
<p>From the ermita take the road which leads away from its front and immediately bends round to the right. The road leads into a broad valley where a large white house is visible on the skyline opposite. Continue on the road until you meet a crossroads (point F). (12 mins).</p>	2h 4min, 7.4km
<p>Go straight across at the crossroads on a concrete road which crosses the barranco and bends first to the left and then right to climb up the hillside. Ignore a fork on the RHS. You pass a casa on the RHS after which the road becomes steeper, and then bends to the left where the concrete runs out. Continue on the track as it sweeps to the left with views of Planes, until at a right hand bend (where once again you see the large white house you saw previously) you meet a track leading upwards on the right (point G). (15 mins).</p>	2h 19min, 8.3km
<p>Go right on the track (marked with Y/W) and continue until you meet the road at the far end of the track (point H). (10mins).</p>	2h 29min, 8.8km
<p>Turn right onto the road. This road leads back down to meet the CV-700 just before the junction with the Barranco de la Encantada road at the start of the walk. (20 mins).</p>	2h 49min, 10km

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Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Navigation is straightforward and there are no difficult or vertiginous sections.
There is limited parking off the road at the Pont de les Calderes. An alternative may be to start the walk in Planes.

See map below.....

Route followed is outlined in Red

