

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	20 th Sep 2015
Title of Walk	GR11 – Day 16. Refugio Respomuso to Banos de Panticosa
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Refugio Respomuso.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	13
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	1130 (descent 1530)
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4.75 6.5
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/C/X
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 42.817099,Long: -0.287770
Directions to Start	The Refugio Respomuso is in a remote location that can only be reached by a prior walk from Sallent de Gallego. Part of the GR11 long distance walk.
Short walk description	A walk across a high Pyrenean ridge reaching almost 2800m. Far reaching views and fantastic but demanding scenery.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Exit the front door of the Refugio and walk along to the L (initially E and soon SE). Follow the tricky and undulating path until it finally drops to the river which feeds the reservoir.	
Cross the river to find the R/W markers and continue ahead uphill to join the older GR 11 path which did not visit the refugio.	1.1km, 24min
Turn L along this for about 100m and then turn R again up hill on an indistinct path beside a stream.	
Drop a little to cross a stream and continue ahead uphill.	1.8km, 37min
Crest a small col to see a small lake below you – the Ibon de Llena Cantal.	2.8km, 1hr 1min
After a considerable slog uphill crest a grassy plateau to look down on another lake – Ibon de Tebarray, surrounded by high mountains. You have a view ahead of our	

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<p>continuing route up the LHS of a black slag ridge of a mountain – Garmon Blanco.</p> <p>Follow the path up until there seems nowhere else to go and find that it turns R with markers up a scree filled gully to soon reach a col. (Collado de Piedrafita)</p> <p>Descend on the far side (slightly easier than the ascent route) and work less steeply across to the L and a second col – Cuello de Infierno – the gateway for an ascent of the Picos del Infierno which are not on our itinerary.</p> <p>Instead follow the path down through rocky ground before levelling slightly to pass a lake – Ibon Azul Superior (Higher Blue Lake!!) – on your RHS and then rise to the R over a small bluff to descend steeply with a second lake on your RHS – Ibon Azul Inferior. (you can guess!)</p> <p>The going improves as you drop towards a still bigger lake – Embalse de Bachimana- and at a plateau with a dilapidated finger post you turn R, cross the river and follow the rising path on the SW side of the lake.</p> <p>This undulates significantly until you round a headland to get your first sighting of the Refugio de Bachamana.</p> <p>When you reach a junction just beyond the dam wall you could turn L to visit the Refugio, but our path continues to the R to descend on a partially man made path with regular views and some pic-nic spots alongside the river.</p> <p>There are many undulations along this path as it finds the best route to descend through dramatic rocky scenery but finally you are rewarded with your first views down to the small village and its luxury hotels.</p> <p>At a junction keep R with feint markings and a finger-post about 50m below you</p> <p>on the LHS and soon arrive at the Refugio Casa Piedra above a large car park slightly to the R</p>	<p>4.3km, 1hr 37min</p> <p>4.8km, 1hr 46min</p> <p>7km, 2hr 33min</p> <p>8.1km, 2hr 54min</p> <p>9.5km, 3hr 21min</p> <p>12.5km, 4hr 25min</p>
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Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Linear walk. There is a road to Banos de Panticosa so you can exit from here if you have transport. The scramble to the Collado de Piedrafita requires no fear of exposure!
Risk of snow in the early summer.

Route followed is outlined in Red – parts 1 and 2 below



