

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Viv & Phil Freakley
Last Updated	25/01/16
Title of Walk	Two Valleys Walk
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Arnes, Terra Alta, Catalunya.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	17
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	700
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	5hr 6.5hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/B
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 40.870853, Long 0.254634
Directions to Start	Turn off the main A231/T330 onto the road which passes through Arnes. Approx 300m SE of the edge of the village turn S onto a small road signposted for the Toll de Vidre and follow this for some 3.5km to a junction at the brow of a hill. Turn right here and follow a rough track downhill for about 0.5km to a clear parking area on the left. Signposts for the Toll de Vidre help to confirm the route along the way.
Short walk description	Circular walk, starting down the valley of the Riu d'Algars and then crossing high, cliffy and complex territory to finish down the valley of the Riu de les Valls.
Full Walk Description	<div> <div> <p>Continue along the track in the direction signposted for the Toll del Vidre and the Refugi del Mas de Damia. The walk begins by crossing the Riu de les Valls and reaches the first junction where a left fork-(signposted as before) continues the route onwards. The easy track is broad and follows the river closely through shady woodland, passing two picturesque farmhouses (masia) before reaching the signpost for the Toll del Vidre. The route continues straight on from here but a short detour (2mins) to the right leads to the pool and small waterfall of the Toll del Vidre.</p> <p>Returning to the signpost, the route continues along the track in the direction of the Refugi del Mas de Damia and the Mas de Pau. After 3mins the track fords the river on rounded stepping stones, the first of a number of such crossings. The small path, waymarked in blue and leading off to the left before the river crossing, is the Estells route back to Arnes and can be used to make short variant of the walk described here. Cross the river and continue along the track, following, for a</p> </div> <div> <p>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</p> <p>20mins, 1.9km</p> </div> </div>

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<p>short way, the Estells route for Beseit. The routes diverge after 5mins as our track veers leftwards to ford the river once more. The well-signposted track continues on for the Refugi del Mas de Damia,</p>	
<p>..... crossing the river a further four times to reach the refuge. It is a basic but clean unguarded refuge with an open fireplace, table and benches and an upper (tiled) floor where 15 to 20 sleeping mats can be laid. Water can be taken from the river but would need to be purified/boiled. There are no cooking facilities.</p>	1hr, 5.15km
<p>The route continues along the track, signposted for the Mas de Pau where it arrives after another 3 river crossings.</p>	1hr 10mins
<p>It is worth looking around the back of this restored farmhouse to see the open shelter with its fireplace and old bread oven behind. Leave the Mas de Pau by turning left onto a small, cairned footpath which drops down to cross the river and then zig-zags up to a small ruined mas, the Mas de Llosera. This is the start of a steep climb up to the Coll de Montfort. The path is good, well shaded and waymarked sometimes with green paint and sometimes with yellow. In late spring the path is lined with violets and cowslips. At the Coll de Montfort, the path joins a track.</p>	2hrs, 7.9km
<p>Turn right onto the track and follow it to its end where a footpath continues, dropping at first but then climbing steeply up past a deep pothole (avenc). The scenery now becomes dramatic as the path finds a balcony route across a tall cliff to breach an escarpment and descend to a green hollow where there is a cairned junction. Look to the left to find the path, with its green waymark, which crosses a barranco and then climbs gently (green waymarks and cairns) to make its way along the side of another, shallow barranco. The path crosses this barranco and then climbs steeply up to rejoin the ridge of the escarpment. The route now turns right to follow the ridge but it is worth stepping out to the viewpoint on the left for vistas of the rock scenery and the Aragon plain beyond.</p>	
<p>The route now continues up the ridge, surrounded by steep wooded slopes, fragrant with the scent of pine. After a few minutes, the path reaches a broad grassy saddle, with the steep cliffs of the escarpment on its left. This is the Coll de l'Ereta.,</p>	3hrs, 9.8km
<p>The descent path from the Coll de l'Ereta zig-zags to find a clever route down the steep escarpment, passing the two monumental black pine trees. to a large water reservoir and a track.</p>	3hrs 20mins, 11km
<p>Turn left onto the track and follow it for about 250m where a cairn marks a less well-used track descending to the right. Yellow waymarks now guide the descent, firstly along the track and after 2mins onto a path to the right, also marked with cairns. Now the path descends into and follows a narrow barranco which is known by three different names: les Tosques, Pedrigual or Estrets de l'Home to a font (known by all three names).</p>	3hrs 50mins, 13km
<p>The valley narrows until the path is descending along the boulders of a river bed, dry at first but soon studded with small pools. Crossing the river bed and climbing up on the other side, the path now becomes a switchbacking balcony route, revealing forested slopes and crags on all sides as it crosses a series of side ridges. Finally it descends into Les Vails, the valley of the Riu de les Valls, reaching the green pastures of the Mas de les Valis where there is a junction of paths.</p>	4hrs 30mins 15km
<p>A signpost gives our route in the direction of the Coll de la Creu and Ames and indicates a left turn. In fact, the left turn comes a little way on, after crossing the small Riu del les Vails. The path, waymarked in blue and in yellow, now follows the river past the rocky flanks of the Bellastera mountain and past a second mas, the Mas Botzut. The immense and majestic cliffs of the valley and the series of emerald pools of the river make a fitting climax to this walk</p>	
<p>Some 30mins after starting down les Vails, there is junction where the blue waymarked route turns sharply to the right. Our path continues straight on, past a large cairn, gradually broadening into a small track to arrive back at the car park.</p>	5hrs, 17km

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Walk Recommendations or restrictions

None

Route followed is outlined in Red

