

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Jon Lyons and Ralph Phipps	
Last Updated	14 th March 2016	
Title of Walk	Alt de Xap to Forat	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Benirrama. Parking area within the village on LHS opposite Barret and Social Centre.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	14	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	610	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3.5hr 5hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 38.83054 Long -0.19648	
Directions to Start	Take the CV700 from Pego past Adsubia and on up the Gallinera valley. Reach a turning on the L (CV170) to Benirrama. Bear R uphill as you enter the village to a parking area on the LHS.	
Short walk description	An interesting ascent to a high level ridge walk followed by a delightful return along the flank of the mountain. Orchids in late March/ early April on ascent route.	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
From the parking in the village pass the Barret de la Vall on the LHS and then turn R gently uphill.		
At the next junction turn R more steeply uphill on a concrete track.		
Look out for the G/W markers indicating the point where you leave this track and follow a level footpath to the L.		
Continue on this uphill until it joins a broad track which you follow R and around a bend to the L to reach a more level section.		380m, 9min
Continue along here until there is a further G/W sign on the RHS indicating the footpath which you now follow.		520m, 11.5min

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<p>If here at the right time of year (early April) you will find many naked men orchids whose flowers resemble the obvious!</p>	
<p>Eventually this reaches a short rocky defile where you emerge at the top of the ridge. Now turn slightly L following the G/W path downhill to pass a ruin on the LHS and soon join a road.</p>	<p>1.2km, 31min 1.4km, 35min</p>
<p>Now turn R and follow this along under the peak of Xap until you start to descend and see a large walled finca in front of you.</p>	
<p>Just before this there is a Y/W footpath which passes the building and continues uphill.</p>	<p>2.5km, 50min</p>
<p>Join the road at the Mirador and gaze out over the valley before turning L.</p>	<p>3.7km, 1hr 9min</p>
<p>It is best now to follow the road, although you can if you wish turn R up rough ground just before the first bend to the L. (If you do this then continue over the hill over increasingly tough terrain before dropping to reach a set of 3 semi-ruined houses in front of you.)</p>	
<p>Assuming you have followed the road then continue passing a junction on the L and starting to drop downhill until you reach 2 tracks on the RHS. Take the L most of these.</p>	<p>5.2km, 1hr 30min</p>
<p>This leads directly to the 3 houses and before you start to climb up directly in front of the first of these you must turn L across a terrace (avoiding trees and bushes which block the way on the terrace above) and then work up onto the next terrace to continue ahead and pass the final house on the RHS– in better condition than the others.</p>	
<p>Just past the last house look out for a large cairn on a boulder on your RHS and clamber up here to find a clear path continuing ahead across rocky terrain to emerge at a col just below a large open area (an era – threshing circle). A path passes over this col and down the other side, but we continue ahead along the LHS of the ridge line still on a clear path to arrive eventually at a ruined house on the RHS.</p>	<p>7.1km, 2hr</p>
<p>This is the Cave House and if you wander in you will find the floor dropping towards a large wall (the house was originally 2 stories) with a window overlooking the valley below.</p>	
<p>Now continue ahead taking care in a little while to err rightwards over a boulder to continue along the Y/W path. You quickly arrive at a junction where a path continues uphill to the L towards the Forat or descends to the right downhill. Take this.</p>	<p>7.4km, 2hr 5min</p>
<p>Descend to a 2 part junction, with both joining paths coming in from the LHS. Ignore these and continue R and downhill on a wonderful engineered path.</p>	
<p>Continue ahead zig-zagging down until you see a clear path off on the RHS just below some crags. Ignore this (it leads up below the crags to a fuente)</p>	
<p>After another few hundred metres there are some newly built walls on the RHS of the track to prevent scree washing down on to the route and shortly after this on the RHS there is a much less clear footpath rising up a ramp. Take this. (If you reach the tarmac road you have gone too far!)</p>	<p>8.3km, 2hr 23min</p>
<p>This climbs a little and wanders along to meet a terrace where you turn R and then L up steep ramps to emerge on a higher terrace. Walk along this and join a track.</p>	

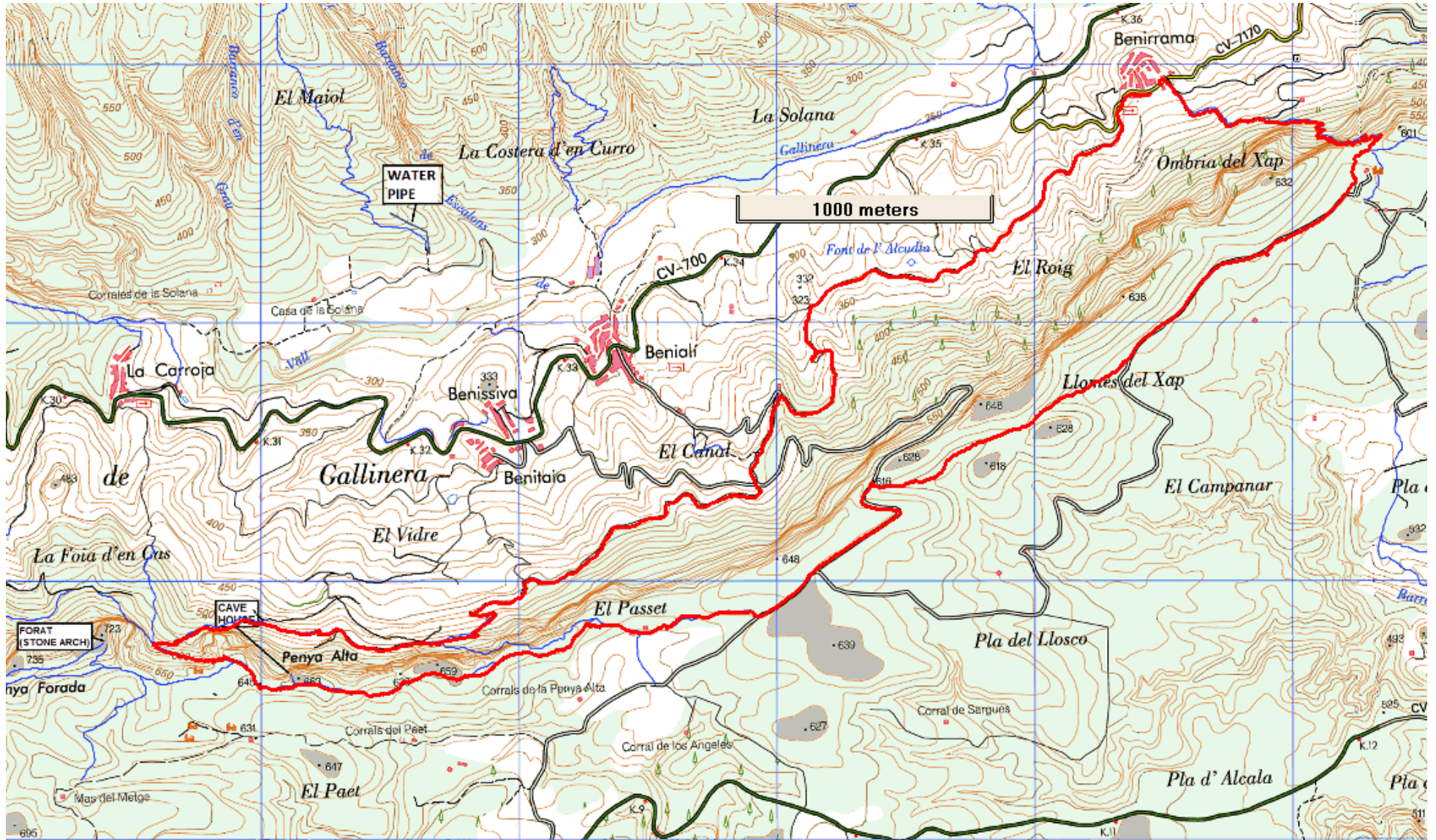
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<p>Continue along the track to join a concrete road coming up from your L and continue uphill. Ignore what looks like a good concrete ramp on the LHS and continue until you see the track narrow to a footpath ahead (with a cairn) and a drain cover in a track going off L. Take this.</p> <p>This track runs level for a while before zig-zaging downhill and steadily becomes wider and clearer. Once its stature has been reinforced it zig-zags again and continues generally downhill.</p> <p>At an obvious junction after it has become a very clear track, turn R and uphill on concrete for a few metres.</p>	<p>9.1km, 2hr 35min</p>
<p>Continue ahead for some time until you reach a complex junction with a tarmac road. Turn L and immediately R through some no entry signs. There are a couple of very large boulders nestling in the cherry orchard in front of you.</p>	<p>10.9km, 3hr</p>
<p>Follow this down until you reach a sharp bend doubling back to the L where there is a more level track on the RHS in front of a new house wall. Take this.</p>	<p>11.3km, 3hr 5min</p>
<p>As this swings around to the L it starts to drop sharply and then "ends" at a level terrace where the way ahead is down a steep ramp on the LHS. Drop down this to join a new track where you turn R.</p>	<p>11.9km, 3hr 10min</p>
<p>Follow this downhill as it becomes concreted and at a junction turn R.</p>	<p>12.1km, 3hr 15min</p>
<p>Follow this road along past a large metal water tank (which you can pass on its RHS) and then a concrete fuente and tank finally arriving at the outskirts of the village. Turn R uphill to your parked cars.</p>	
<p>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</p>	<p>None</p>

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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