

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps	
Last Updated	23 rd April 2016	
Title of Walk	Collbato circuit	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Collbato picnic area, bar and access to caves – car park.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	13	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	770	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3.5hr 5.75hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 41.572556,Long 1.828668	
Directions to Start	Follow the A2 to the N of Barcelona and take exit 576A. Pass the village of Collbato on the B112 towards Montserrat and look out for a sign to the L towards the Coves de Collbato. Follow this lane for 200m and park in the large open area on the LHS just above the picnic area.	
Short walk description	A strenuous ascent to the Ermita de Sant Joan followed by an easier descent past the funicular station and the down a delightful track - Cami Vell de Collbato to return to the village.	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
From the car park first take the opportunity to descend past the bar and picnic area and climb the small hill in front of you – signed to La Salut – a small ermita with good views.		150m, 2.5min
Now return to the bottom of the hill and turn L in front of the bar to find some steps descending.		
Follow these to meet the road, turn R for a few metres and R again onto a footpath that climbs gently to the outskirts of the village.		
Once you reach a junction turn R, R again and then L to find yourself in a small square. A few metres further on if you turn L again you will pass the church immediately on your RHS and enter the main plaza of the village.		680m, 11min

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<p>Once finished with your sightseeing retrace your steps with the church on your LHS and continue directly ahead and gently uphill for some time. With occasional R/W signs as guidance.</p> <p>At the end of the tarmac continue ahead on a track.</p> <p>Ignore the first fingerpost pointing up hill to the R towards the Monastery and follow signs to El Bruc. And then shortly after ignore a fork L and continue to follow signs to El Bruc.</p> <p>Now at a very wide fork keep R still signed El Bruc.</p>	1.3km, 19.5min
<p>At the next UNSIGNED junction turn R heading directly for the mountain through cultivated orchards.</p>	2.3km, 32.5min
<p>As the cultivated land finishes the track veers slightly L at a point where a footpath continues directly ahead through the bushes.</p> <p>Note – all of this footpath is signed with blue paint splashes.</p> <p>Climb steeply for a while before doubling back to the L on a more level section and at the end of this at a scruffy section look out for the footpath turning sharp R in amongst more indistinct lines going ahead as climbers path.</p> <p>Follow this steeply up to turn R across the barranco (ignoring a climbers path to the L)</p>	2.6km, 38min
<p>This remains more level for a few metres before reaching a rocky rib where you turn L steeply uphill across rocky terrain.</p> <p>After a 100 metres keep to the LHS of the rib and watch out for the footpath keeping well to the L of the rib as it becomes craggy. This continues steeply uphill under crags before reaching a gully which you cross and then turn R up immediately beside it.</p> <p>This soon becomes clearer as an engineered path zig-zagging up the hillside.</p>	3.1km, 49min
<p>Soon reach a junction with large yellow painted signs where you turn R – towards St Joan – along a footpath that is indistinct only for a few metres.</p>	3.8km, 1hr 4min
<p>After interminable zig-zags uphill you eventually come face to face with a rocky promontory</p> <p>where you have to turn R following the blue paint marks across tricky ground to soon drop to easier ground and then you soon climb up to a small col from where there are views across to the Ermita de Sant Joan.</p>	4.8km, 1hr 30min
<p>To get there you must move a few metres to the R before descending to the L steeply for a short distance and then starting to climb up again across rock to emerge on the track to the Ermita. (This section is clearly signed all the way)</p>	5.1km, 1hr 35min
<p>Follow the track down a few metres ignoring the track off to the L to a higher Ermita and pass the Ermita de Sant Joan on your LHS.</p> <p>Continue down this wide track ignoring footpaths off to the L and R and reach the top funicular station.</p>	5.9km, 1hr 47min

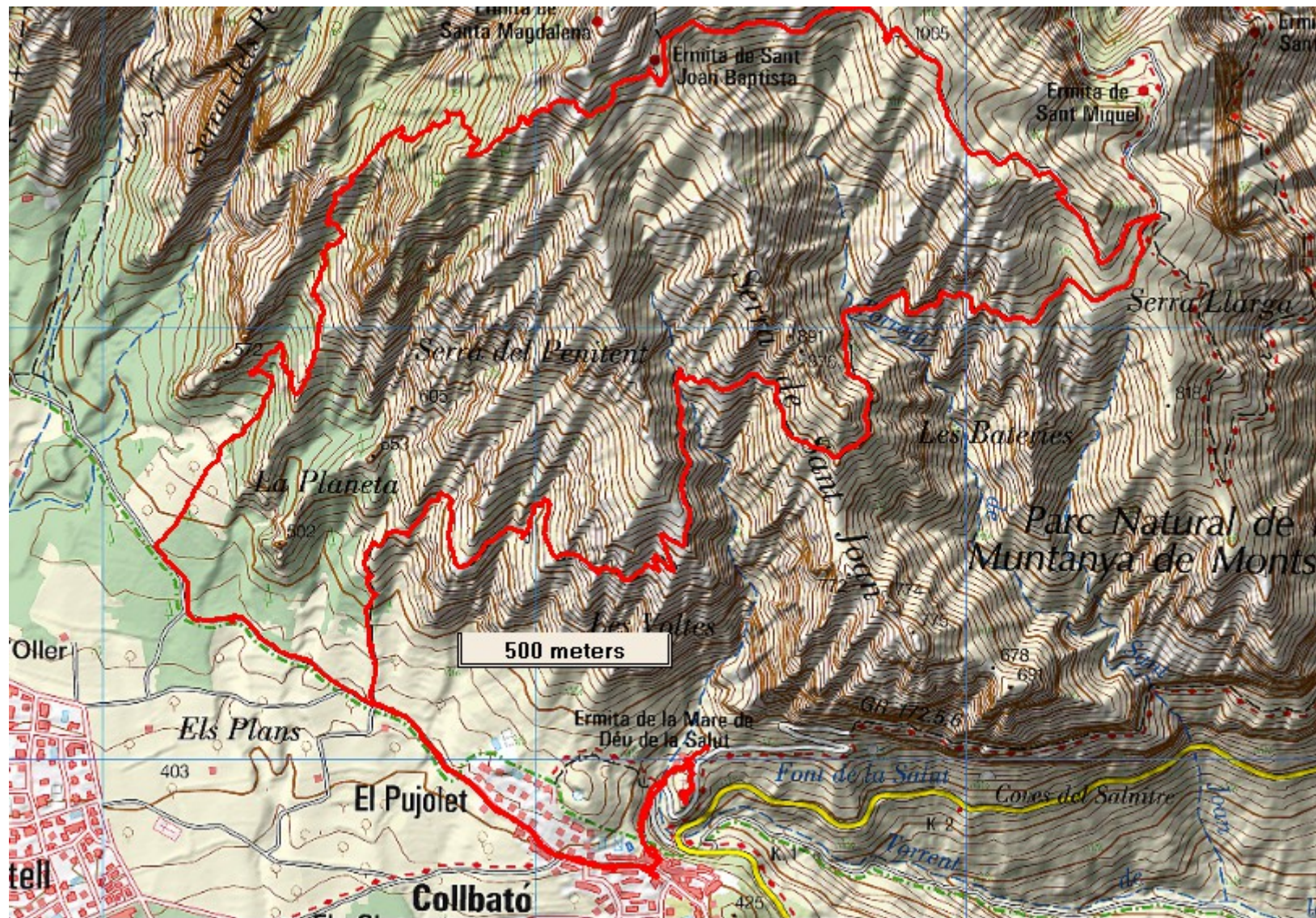
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<p>Pass this and continue ahead on a concrete track with R painted lines up a couple of zig-zags before starting to descend sometimes steeply.</p> <p>When you reach a small plateau area where the main track turns sharply L ignore this and turn sharply R signed to Collbato in 1hr 25min.</p> <p>Pass a junction and continue downhill to the L.</p> <p>When almost at the bottom of the hill reach a section where there is a clear track off the the LHS but there are yellow arrows pointing more steeply downhill. Follow these.</p> <p>Walk through a stile and ignore an immediate indistinct track off the the L and a further LH track a little lower and instead continue down to the signed cross roads where you turn L.</p> <p>Continue directly ahead through the village until you reach a small square with a building on the LHS – El Moli de l'Oli – just before reaching the church.</p> <p>Turn L here and R at the Moli and then L and immediately L again to find your outgoing track.</p> <p>Reach the road and keep L on a rising stepped footpath – ignoring the path going up R to La Salut – and arrive at the car park.</p>	<p>7.1km, 2hr 5min</p> <p>9.1km, 2hr 35min</p> <p>11.6km, 3hr 18min</p>
Walk Recommendations or restrictions	None

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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