

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Jean & Bob Hall hallbobandjean@aol.com
Last Updated	1 st March 2019
Title of Walk	Aitana Benifato Castle Circuit from Font Moli
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Guadalest Font Moli Ondara – a remote font on the slopes of the mountain.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	16.5
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	812
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	5hr 6hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/B
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 38.662771, Long: -0.207138
Directions to Start	Take the CV70 from La Nucia towards Guadalest. Pass the Km 34 sign and 0.7km further on take the minor surfaced road going off L (Sign for El Trestellador restaurant). Continue along this surfaced road ignoring road off L for 1.2km to a group of casas amidst trees and a trough which is near the Font Moli Ondara. This is the start and there is parking for several cars and more down the road.
Short walk description	This is a long walk on the lower north side of the Aitana range. It is mainly on very good tracks which allows you to soak in the beautiful scenery. It commences with a pleasant walk to Partagas with amazing views of Guadalest. Other highlights are passing through an interesting rock slide, a beautiful hidden valley and a scramble up to castle ruins. There are a few stretches on paved roads but the scenery relieves the tedium. Save this walk for a clear day. For those who want a tougher walk, a few options are noted.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Walk up the LH track between Casa La Caseta and another casa and round a sharp RH bend. Continue, ignoring a minor track off L , round a LH bend to reach a junction. Take	

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the track up sharp R over a chain barrier A . (9min .5km)	0.5km 3%
Continue up always bearing R . Ignore track R B with dead end sign and track L . Arrive at nevera (snow hole) C on RHS . (16min 1km)	1.5km 8%
Continue up through a rocky gully and on to Corral de Senyores D on your RHS . (10min .5km)	2.0km 12%
Continue along the main track to a T-junction E . (12min .8km)	2.8km 16%
Turn R . Ignore minor tracks R and L to reach junction with track above Partagas F (15mins 1.1km)	3.9km 21%
Turn L arrive at a junction. Take track R Signposted to Passet De La Rabosa. (<i>The track off L goes to the Port de Tagarina</i>) Follow the track which winds up to arrive at a path R indicated by a Y/W waymarker and another signpost G (in 2019 the track was chained off at end). (9min .5km)	4.4km 24%
Take this path which passes through a jumble of rocks, (possibly caused by a fall during an earthquake) to reach a col (1178meters) where path divides H . (10min .5km)	4.9km 27%
You take the RH path and after 20mtrs. take LH path (2019 very water worn) going down and across the valley aiming for the next col with a group of pines. Here at a cairn you join a faint track K and turn up L . (17min .8km)	5.7km 32%
Follow this track (ignore 2 tracks off L) as it curves around and down across the Barranco Barbaroja, with ruin on your R and pass ruin of Coral de Bernal on hillside on your R . Continue to meet a crosstrack at a shallow col M . (15min .9km)	6.6km 38%
Turn R up track and watch for cairn marking beginning of path. (3min .1km)	6.7km 39%
Take this path which skirts a valley on your L . Ignore all paths off L . Continue to reach a large cairn where the path turns sharp L N . (7min .5km)	7.2km 41%
Follow the path heading in a westerly direction to arrive at a beautiful valley with a casita and almond trees. The path descends steeply down the S side of the valley before crossing over to the N side to eventually meet a track P . (16min .8km)	8.0km 46%
Turn R and pass through a notch with a superb view of Benifato Castle. At a sharp LH bend find a cairn marking a path going down R . (7min .4km)	8.4km 49%
Take this path going steep down for a few meters and then levelling out R and aiming for the col on RH side of Castle. Continue on this path up to the col with a large cairn S . (15min .7km)	9.1km 54%
The Col offers some shelter from wind and sun and has superb views for a rest while the energetic make the very worthwhile scramble up the Castle by the "path" on the NW side. (20min)	60%
From the foot of the Castle cliffs find path down to meet a track. Wind down main track, with occasional red arrows, ignoring minor tracks off L and R to arrive at a T junction with green fence I . (30min 1.9km)	11.km 70%

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Turn **R** skirting the fence. At end of fence continue straight on to casa gates. Bear **L** and continue down to meet a surfaced road at a bridge **V**. **(10min .5km) 11.5km 74%**

Cross the bridge and follow the track up **L** to the main road **W**. **(8min .6km) 12.1km 76%**

2019 NEW PATH requires good map reading skills. If not confident go to "skipping new path"

Turn **L** down road. Where road changes from concrete to blacktop find culvert on **R J**. Walk along bancale, down sharply at end. Continue following infrequent cairns to reach field with scree on its **RHS**. Stay on **LHS** of field to and beyond its' end. Shortly you will find very overgrown old track. Follow track to **T**-junction **L**. Turn **R** and walk to **Q** on map.

SKIPPING NEW PATH

Turn **L** down the road and look for new cement track going off **R X**. **(6min .4km) 12.5km 78%**

Follow this track, which after a while loses its surface, to reach a chain across track at a casa driveway **Q**. **(20min 1.2km) 13.7km 85%**

Take the feint track going up **R**. Keep climbing steeply on the **RHS** of the almond banales until reaching the very highest point of the plantation. **(5min .2km) 13.9km 87%**

Find a feint path **Y** going up and over the ridge aiming at lowest point of ridge.

NOTE: *If you still have spare energy, you can climb Font de Salines (see map).*

Now look for a stone building (Coral de Senyores). Make your way to it and the track **D** (The easiest route is along the wide almond banales). **(9min .4km) 14.3km 90%**

Turn **L** and retrace your steps back to Font Moli and your car(s). **(31min 2km) 16.5km 100%**

NOTE: Again, for those with spare energy, a nice path finishing with a track to **B** can be added.

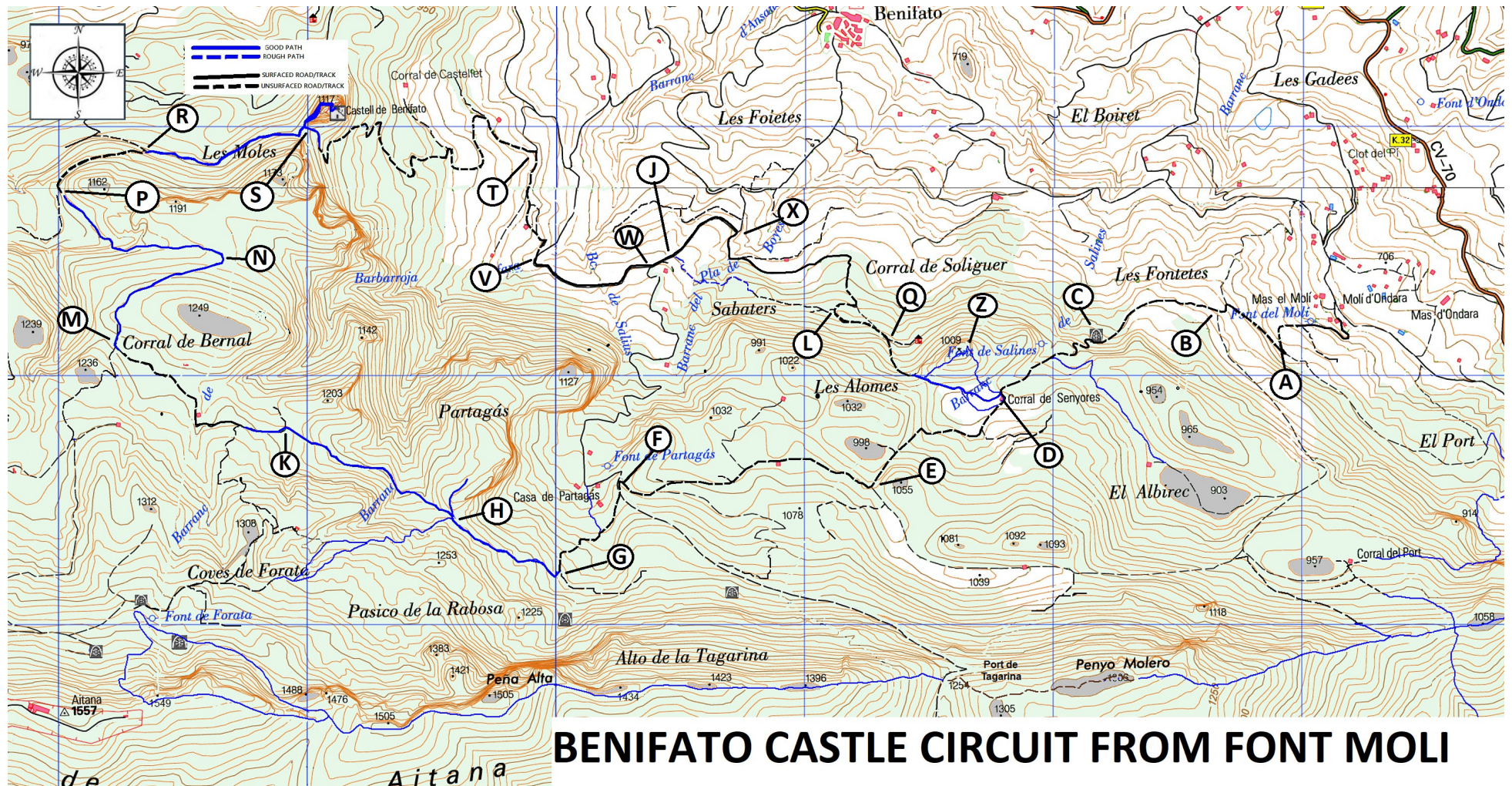
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Walk Recommendations or restrictions

None

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Route followed is outline on the map below



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