

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKS

SIERRA AIXORTA. TWO ARCHES CIRCUIT

08.

TWO "ROCK ARCHES" CIRCUIT WALK ON THE NORTHERN SLOPES OF AIXORTA

WALK STATS: DISTANCE 8km – WALKING TIME 2 ½ hrs. - ASCENT 300mtrs. - GRADE M

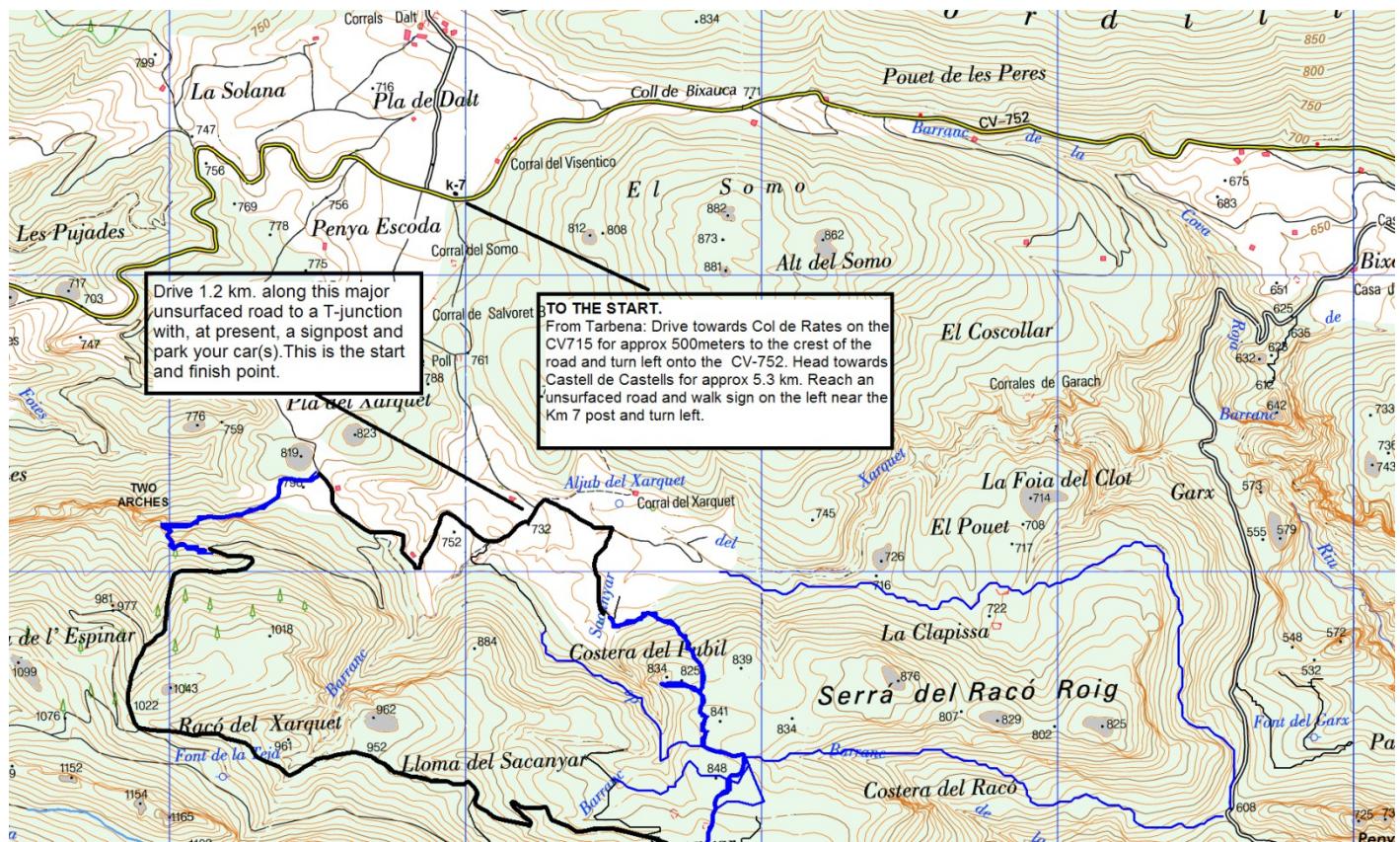
(Walking time only – add time for breaks and lunch)

WRITEUP BY: Michael T. Davies davies.mt@googlemail.com VERIFIED Feb. 2013

LEGAL NOTICE: Although we strive to make descriptions as correct as possible, use at your own risk.

DESCRIPTION.

Although there is an easier way to visit the Large Rock Arch this circular walk includes the Little Rock Arch and a traverse along the northern slopes of Aixorta. Both arches are geological curiosities and probably formed by a harder part of the roof of a cave the remainder of which has fallen in. The Little Arch is reached by ascending the Barranc de Sacanyar to arrive above the Arch. Good boots are necessary to make the short scramble down to the visit the Arch. The descent to the Large Arch is also steep and requires care. Apart from the two scrambles down to visit the Arches the rest of the walk is all on good paths and tracks.



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THE START.

Note that times quoted are walking time only. - no breaks.

Underlined letters are map references.

Total distance and
% of walk completed
based on total time

From the start walk **SW** along the major track (direction Els Arch) to an open area on your **L** with a cherry plantation. Take the minor track off **L A**, which soon crosses a dry streambed and bears **L** up the hillside. At the first sharp **R** bend **B** find the path going straight on. (4min.0.5km) **0.5km 3%**

Follow this sometimes-rocky path up the barranco del Sacanyar to its top at a small hollow **C**. Follow the path bearing **L** along the top of a stone wall (heading due north) and up through pine woods to near its crest. Here you must find cairn on your **LHS**. **D** (22min.1.1km) **1.6km 19%**

From the cairn follow the feint path, which runs alongside a bank of rocks to an old field with cairn. Walk right diagonally across the "field" towards a large bank of rocks and find a cairn on top of it. This marks a "way" over the bank and down to more old fields and ruins. Turn **L** and follow the bottom of the bank a few meters on its **S** side until you find a rock pool. From here you can see the signpost on the hill near the arch. Search about 10meters away from the rock bank for a feint path following cairns towards the **LHS** of the hill where you will find the arch. (5min.0.4km) **2km 22%**

Retrace your steps back to the cross path. **D** (5min 0.4km) **2.4km 26%**

Turn **L**. Continue keeping a sharp lookout for a path, marked by a blue arrow **E**, going off **R** and up towards a white notice board. (2min 0.1km) **2.5km 28%**

Follow blue dots which lead up bearing **R** and then **L** to arrive at a field **F**. (3min 0.2km) **2.7km 30%**

Cross the field to a ruin and track. Turn **R** pass a small fenced enclosure **G** to arrive at T-junction with main track. (4min 0.3km) **3km 33%**

Turn **R** along the main track, ignoring a minor one down **R** and go up to reach a sharp corner where the main track **H** goes up **L**. (14min 1km) **4km 43%**

Here find a minor track going straight on and take this one. It soon crests and then dipping passes a large rock **J** on your **RHS**. Continue to a T-junction **K**. Turn **R** soon passing a cairn on **RHS** (20min.1.2km) **5.2km 58%**

Continue steep down to a T with the major track **L**. (5min 0.3km) **5.5km 61%**

Turn **R** down the major track which winds down to a sharp **RH** bend. (10min 0.7km) **6.2km 67%**

Here find a cairn on your **LHS**

From here a rough, very steep "path" leads down to the Large Arch **M**. (8min .3km) **6.5km 74%**

From the Large Arch follow the good clear path to arrive at the PRCV 151 cross track and signpost **N**. (10min 0.7km) **7.2km 82%**

Turn **R**. Arrive at a major track. (8min 0.3km) **7.5km 88%**

Turn **L** and follow major track back to the start. (17min 1.3km) **8..8km 100%**

