

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

Walk description originally prepared by:-	Jean & Bob Hall hallbobandjean@aol.com
Last Updated	Nov. 2012
Title of Walk	SIERRA de ALFARO and BARRANCO MALAFI
Location of Start	Road to Val d'Ebo from Villa Mercedes (off CV720)
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	15.5km.
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	731mtrs.
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4 ¾ hrs. 6 hrs.
Key Statistics for walk - Grade	VS/B
Grid reference of start point	38.771562N 0.194429W
Directions to Start	Take the CV/720 either going W from Benichembla or NE from Castells de Castells to Villa Mercedes at km 28. Here the side road to Val de Ebo goes N and is signposted " Petracos". Drive along this road towards Val de Ebo, for approx 3.8km. , passing Petracos, and find some lay byes on the RHS opposite the barranco.

Short walk description

Challenging hike to summit of Alfaro requiring some map reading experience followed by long and lovely barranco walk back.

Full Walk Description

The walk starts with a vaguely marked ascent to Punta d'Alfaro followed by a long pleasant ridge walk and short climb to the summit of Alfaro. This high spot offers wonderful views of the Sierra Serrella before descending by old tracks which lead very steeply down to Barranco Malafi. Barranco Malafi is the grandiose and remote gully formed by the, generally dry, river Malafi. Superb wild flowers in spring and early summer. Bird songs accompany the walker often nightingales and sometimes eagles can be seen.

Preferably a GPS or at least a compass would greatly aide in following our notes.

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SIERRA de ALFARO and BARRANCO MALAFI

THE START.

*Note that times quoted are walking time only - no breaks.
Underlined letters are map references.*

**Elapsed Walking Time/
Distance so far**

From the walk sign, look **SW**. Your first objective is to arrive at the top of this hill. The best route is to aim just to the **R** of the first peak (about half way up) and then follow the cliff edge as closely as possible up to the top.

From the walk sign leave the road and immediately take leftmost rough track to dry riverbed. Turn **R** and almost immediately look for a faint path on **LHS** of riverbed. Look up **WS** to spot a rock peak – your first objective. Arrive at **RHS** of this peak. Once there, ignore cairns leading you to the **R** and continue up following as close as possible to cliff edge. If you lose path, continue up as steeply as possible to arrive at very top. **READ MAP CAREFULLY**

Once there, follow ridge in a **SW** direction to arrive at hill straight ahead. Continue straight ahead on vague path which eventually veers **R** and contours rock “wall” **A** around horseshoe ravine to arrive at large cairn.

Continue heading SW (watch for cairns) and arrive at overgrown track B . (40min 1.8km)	40min 1.8km
Follow track and arrive at overgrown crosstrack C . (4min .2km)	44min 2.0km
Turn R and follow this track to a clear crosstrack D . (8min .3km)	52min 2.3km
Turn R and follow track to where track starts to turn R into a small barranco and watch for a cairn on LHS of track marking path off L E (if you reach a sign with car and bicycle, you’ve gone slightly too far) (33min 2.2km) <i>(NOTE: For a much shorter walk missing Alfaro, continue down track passing sign with bicycle and on down K into Barranco Malafi and continue through barranco back to cars)</i>	1h 25min 4.5km
Follow this rough hunter’s path (watch for cairns) to hill top. Here spot trig point atop Alfaro to WSW . Approach trig point by bearing L of it. There is no path, but way is easy. Arrive atop Alfaro. (35min 1.6km)	2h 6.1km
From trig point head N and spot small rock outcrop. Find path down from R of outcrop leading down passing two dead trees to arrive at overgrown track F . (5min .2km)	2h 5min 6.3km
Carry on down this track keeping R to bottom of barranco. At junction at bottom turn sharp R (if you haven’t already taken a shortcut) and continue to end of track bearing R H . (1h 13min 4.4km)	3h 18min 10.7km
Follow path through barranco back to car(s). (1h 24min 4.8km)	4h 42min 15.5km

