

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Title of Walk **BERNIA WEST SUMMIT CIRCUIT**

Location of Start Bernia BBQ or Bernia Restaurant

Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km 10.4km.

Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m 735mtrs.

Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops Not quoted

Key Statistics for walk - Grade S/C Scr.

Grid reference of start point
Altea la Vieja 756629E 4283108N
Bernia Restaurant 757219E 4284300N

Directions to Start

The start is at the Bernia Barbecue car park high up a steep badly surfaced road above Altea La Vieja. Starting from the Village of Altea La Vieja take the CV755 towards Callosa. Pass the **RH** turns to Alhama and Paradiso and arrive at a casa on the **RHS** with a large statue. Turn **R** and follow this narrow twisting road steep up some 6 km to its end at the Barbecue car park. **NOT FOR NERVOUS DRIVERS** See walk map for alternate parking spot.

Alternatively, you can start from Bernia restaurant in Bernia - instructions start at [below](#)

Short walk description

Full Walk Description

This exciting walk combines part of the well know Bernia Circuit route with the ascent of the west summit. Our version of this walk starts on the south side of the impressive Bernia Mountain Range. Good waymarked paths and tracks lead round the west side passing through the remains of Fort Bernia (built during the reign of Philip II of Spain to control and suppress the Moorish uprisings). A path from the north side starts the ascent through a shrub area. Then the going gets tough as the climb continues up and across rough scree to reach a rake. The scramble up this rake (not recommended in very windy conditions) gains the top of the ridge. The best way across the ridge to the west summit is waymarked. The ridge traverse is exciting and involves a few interesting scrambles, the toughest of which are now made easier with the aid of chains and ropes. Reaching the summit is rewarded with extensive views and a sense of accomplishment. The descent, however, is not a walk in the park. It requires more scrambling with chain and rope followed by a steep, often loose surfaced path back down to the Fort.

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS

BERNIA WEST SUMMIT CIRCUIT

THE WALK

TOTAL Km

Note that times quoted are walking time only and do not include any rest stops or lunch breaks.

Underlined letters represent map references

Walk back up the road for approx 300meters to its crest and take the surfaced road going up **R** passing by casitas and ending at a water reservoir – see map. (There are 5/6 car spaces here if you want to shorten the walk). **(10min. 0.7km)** **0.7km**

Find path just past reservoir going up **R** to Font Runar **A**. Follow the **Y/W** waymarkers on clear path to the Fort **B**. **(20min.1.1km)** **1.8km**

From Fort Bernia take the path going round the **W** end of the ridge and down to reach a track. Follow this track to the walk map near the Bernia Restaurant **C**. **(43min 2.9km)** **4.7km**

*✂ If starting from Bernia follow instructions from here. When you reach the Fort take the path going round the **W** end of the mountain back to the Restaurant as described above.)*

Turn **R**.(If starting from Bernia Restaurant turn **L**) (**E**) along road, which soon becomes a track winding round past two houses and on to a sharp **L** bend here find a path going straight on and up **D**. **(6min.0.5km)** **5.2km**

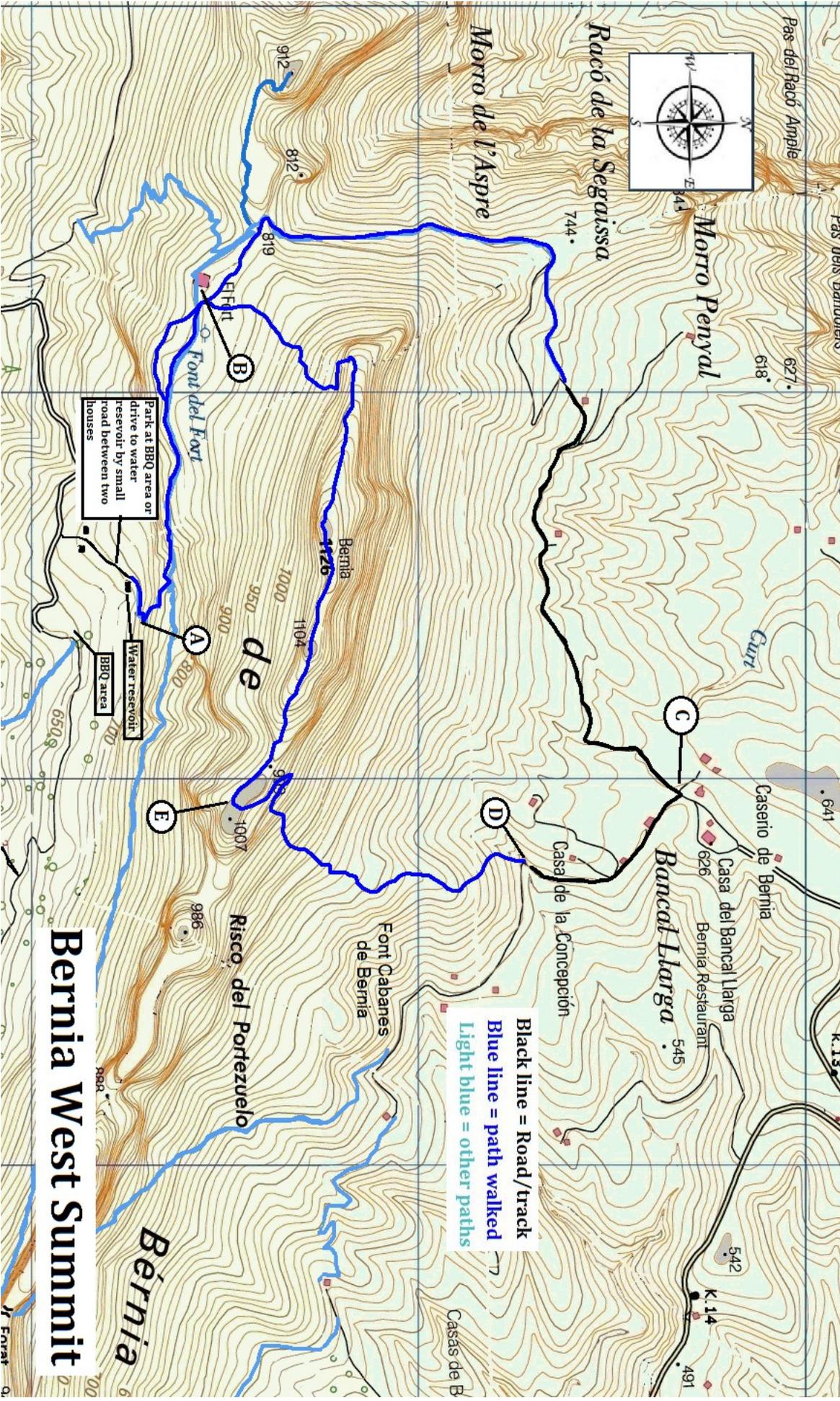
Take this path which climbs steeply up through trees and shrubs. In 2012 it was quite clear but it can become overgrown with lack of use. Look for old faint red marks to guide you. When you exit the growth area these marks tend to disappear. Find your best way up and when you arrive at the base of the ridge head **R (W)**. Now look for the rake heading upwards from **R** to **L (W to E)**. This is your path up. (it is marked by a large faded red dot). Scramble up this rake to arrive at the top of the ridge **E**. **(42min. 1.3km)** **6.5km**

Timings are not shown from here on as your scrambling abilities will establish same

At the top of the ridge turn **R (W)**. Traverse the ridge following the red marks. You will start on the **S** side and then cross to the **N** side before negotiating an awkward ledge which has been made a lot easier with the help of a chain. Continue up several scrambles to finally arrive on the secondary summit (with large cairn) which appears to be a dead end. Peak over **R** side of summit to find path down to a small col. The next objective is to climb the broken rock face straight ahead. Although this looks difficult, it is made easier with a rope and good hand and foot holds. Once this is done follow path up to summit. **(0.8km)** **7.3km**

From the trig point continue **W**. Path is waymarked and quite easy to follow. Shortly after passing through a funnel, with the aid of a rope, find a chain on **LHS** to gain the next level down. From here head up **R**. Continue to follow the red markers which will eventually lead you down a small rake on the **S** side of the ridge. From here the way down is steep and it is not well marked but you can see Fort Bernia below which is your objective. **(1.2km)** **8.5km**

Retrace your steps back to car(s) **(1.9km)** **10.4km**



Bernia West Summit

Black line = Road/track
 Blue line = path walked
 Light blue = other paths

Park at BBQ area or drive to water reservoir by small road between two houses