

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKS

BOLUULLA AREA CIRCUIT

075

ANCIENT ROUTE TO BOLULLA CASTLE & SIERRA DEL RACÓ ROIG CIRCUIT

WRITTEN BY: Michael Davies davies.mt@googlemail.com VERIFIED Dec 2014

WALK STATS:

- WALK A Ancient route: DISTANCE 06.5km- WALKING TIME 2hrs.- ASCENT 350mtrs. GRADE M
 - WALK B Raco Roig: DISTANCE 07.6km- WALKING TIME 2 ½hrs. ASCENT 330mtrs. GRADE M
 - WALK C Both walks: DISTANCE 14.1km- WALKING TIME 4 ½hrs. ASCENT 702mtrs. GRADE S
- (Walking time only – add time for breaks and lunch)*

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

WALK DESCRIPTION

This is a beautiful walk which combines the old mule paths from Bolulla (that supplied the Castle and areas beyond) with a higher level circular walk. Both of these shorter walks can be done separately.

While surfaced roads reach almost to the col below the Castle it is well worth tracing the old path which is now cut by tracks and roads but there are still four well defined sections of mule path to enjoy and the intervening stretches of road are short.

At the col below the castle our route follows above a barranco until reaching a peaceful fertile valley and the return to the col has fine views of the Arc dels Xaeguet and the Sierra de Aixorta.

The return from Point A to the bar Era includes tracks and a mule path through pine woods.

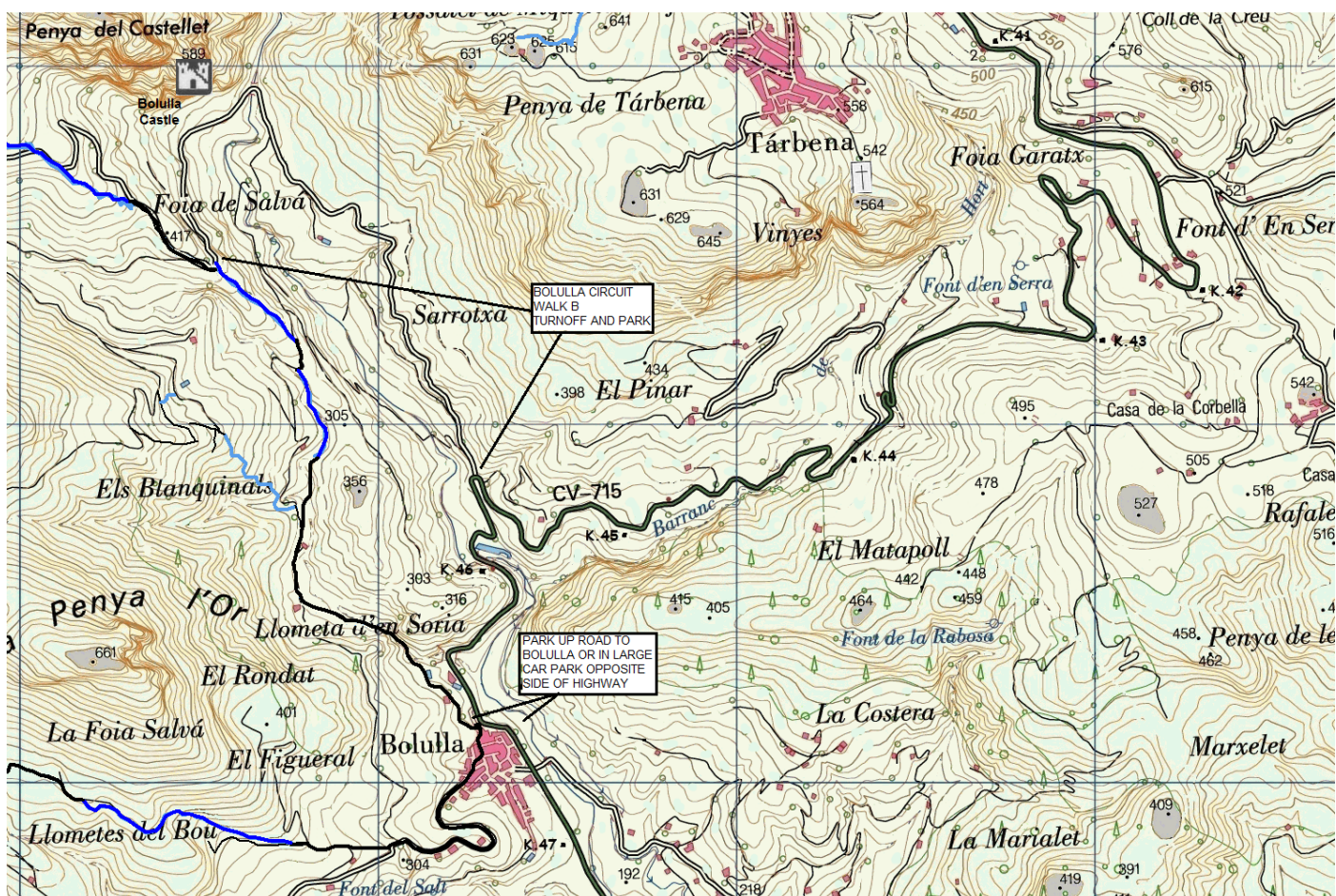
TO THE START.

Walks A&C

From Callosa d' En Sarria take the CV715 to Bolulla. Ignore the road into the village, which is opposite the bridge, and continue for a few hundred meters to the next road sharp up and to the left. 200 meters up is the Bar Era plaza with usually enough parking. If this parking is full there is plenty more back down and across the bridge on the other side of the river.

Walk B

Same as above but instead of turning up to the Bar Era in Bolulla continue along the CV715 for another km. to the next road going off left at a sharp bend. Take this road to the point where it loses its surface and becomes a rough track and park in the small clearing straight ahead.



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THE WALK

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 plaza outside the bar walk up the concrete road on the **R (NW)** and pass a water reservoir on your **R**. Pass through a mini gorge where the road crosses the Rio Negro. Ignore all side roads serving casas and pass a casa **A** on the **RHS** with solar panels and wire fencing (and dogs). **(.8km 11min.)** .8km 4%

Just past this casa find a cairn and track going down **R**. **(.1km 1min.)** .9km 4%

Turn down the track which crisscrosses the stream bed to its end in an orange grove. **(.2km 3min.)** 1.1km 5%

Make your way **R** (marked by a cairn and an orange dot) down into the dry streambed and scramble up the bed of the Rio Negro for approx 200 meters to a rock and cairn on your **RHS**. **(.1km 3min.)** 1.2km 6%

Climb up the bank and turn **L** following the bank for approx 20meters to join the old mule path. Follow the path up until it meets a track with cairn. **(.2km 4min.)** 1.4km 8%

Turn **R** up the track and look out for a cairn on your **LHS** which marks the 2nd continuation of the mule path. **(.1km 2min.)** 1.5km 9%

Climb this path noticing the splendid views ahead and to right (Bolulla Castle ridge ending in the vertical defile of the paso Tancat with the heights of Tarbena further **R**. And behind you a good view of Bernia). The path reaches a surfaced road **B**. **(.3km 7min.)** 1.8km 11%

Turn **L** up around corner. Pass a concrete road **C** with cairn on your **L**. (return route). **(.1km 2min.)** 1.9km 12%

Continue up the road sighting a ruined casita above **L** and just after a small section of stone wall look for a rough track **D** off **L**. **(.2km 4min.)** 2.1km 13%

Walk a few meters up the track turning **R** and go straight ahead to a cairn on a **LH** bend in the track. This marks the start of the 3rd stage of the mule path. **(1min.)**

Take the mule path up and it will meet a very overgrown rough track marked by a cairn. Turn **R** up the track to the surfaced road with cairn **E**. **(.3km 7min.)** 2.4km 16%

Turn **L** up the road for approx 100 meters and find a cairn on **RHS** marking the 4th continuation of the mule path **F**. **(2min.)** 2.5km 17%

Walk **NW** up the path marked by **Y/W** way markers to meet the surfaced road **G**. **(.3km 7min)** 2.8km 19%

FOR WALK A GO TO “WALKS A & C” BELOW.

BOLUULLA AREA CIRCUIT Cont'd.

Walk B starts and ends at this point. Walk C continues here.

In 2012 the surfaced road ends here but a rough track continues up past "Stan's" casa **H** to a col. Just past Stan's casa note a path off **L** marked by a cairn and a red arrow - this is our return route. After passing this continue a little further and look **L** for a very small blue arrow painted on a rock above a yellow and white flash **J**. (.4km 10min.)

3.2km 23%

Step up and walk along the **R** hand side of a small clearing to find a path. (1min.)

The path climbs steadily to reach some bancales after about 32 mins. Continue along path another 22 min. to arrive at an almond orchard where the path becomes a track **K**. (2.7km 54min.)

5.9km 42%

At a "Y" junction take **L** track (**W**). Keep to this main track ignoring tracks off **L** until reaching a surfaced road with a signpost **L**. (.7km 9min.)

6.6km 45%

Turn **L** Follow direction "Els Arcs" until arriving at distinct track off **L**. Take this track. (.2km 3min.)

6.8km 47%

About 100mtrs. down track arrive at sharp **L** bend. Cross a brook and go up a track on the other side heading **SSE**. Soon track becomes a path **M**. (.4km 5min.)

7.2km 49%

Continue along path avoiding temptation to cross the barranco before its end. (.7km 15min.)

7.9km 54%

Bear **L** (**E**) crossing barranco and zigzag up other side. After 3 min. reach top marked by a cairn. At this point path goes into a small wooded area and eventually out to clearing. Cross this area as best you can heading **E** and soon the path will become distinct again. Arrive back at col below Bolulla Castle (2.1km 45min.)

10km 70%

Walk down the track to reach the surfaced road and the finish of Walk B (.4km 10min)

10.4km 74%

Walks A&C

Work your way back to **C** in notes above. (.9km 26min.)

11.3km 83%

At point **C** turn **R** (**W**) down the concrete road, ignoring tracks off **L** and cross the streambed at a **LH** bend **N**. (.6km 8min.)

11.9km 86%

Ignore rough track down **L** and continue along the road which loses its surface and goes steep up to a "Y" junction with cairn. (.4km 5min.)

12.3km 88%

Take the track down **L**, ignore the next 3 tracks down **L** and reach an almond bancale at the end of which there is a 4-way junction **P**. (.5km 6min.)

12.8km 90%

Continue straight on down to a corner with a cairn. Drop down to another corner with 2 cairns by a large pine tree marking the start of a mule path down **R**. (.1km 2min.)

12.9km 90%

Wind down the mule path to the stream bed near a concrete road. Continue along the stream bed for a few meters and take the path slightly **R** which leads to the road at twin cairns **R**. (.3km 6min.)

13.2km 95%

Turn **R** along the road passing your earlier track on **LHS** back to the Bar Era. (.9km 15min.)

14.1km 100%

