

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKS

SIERRA AITANA RANGE – Buddhist Colony Circuit from Almaseras

R21

CIRCUIT: ALMASERAS —CONTADOR—EI CARRASCAL RIDGE— BUDDHIST COLONY—
COLLADO DE SANXET- ALMASERAS

Walk DESCRIPTION BY: Jean & Bob Hall hallbobandjean@aol.com VERIFIED Nov 2014

WALK STATS: DISTANCE 10.0km - WALKING TIME 3hrs - ASCENT 615mtrs - GRADE S

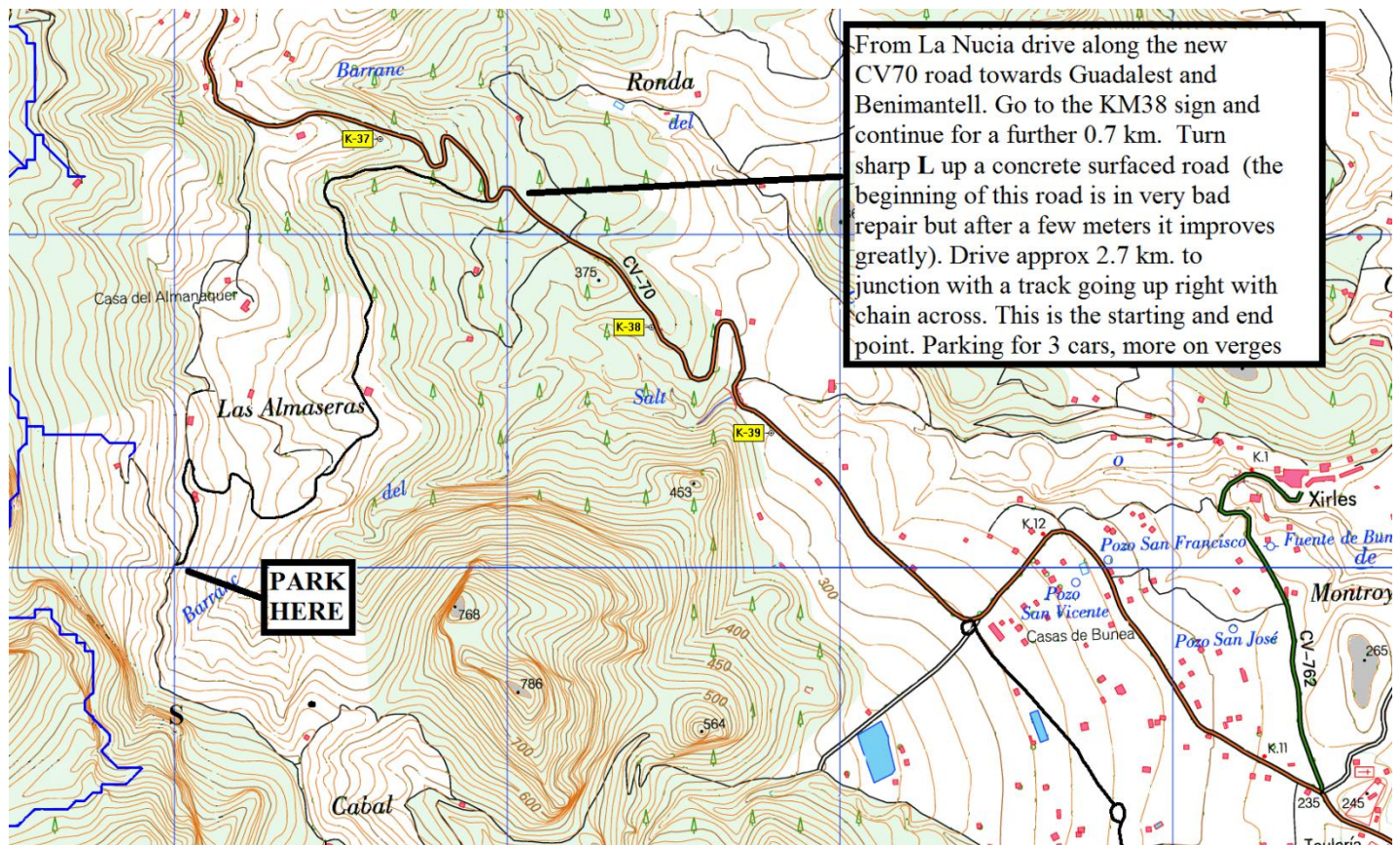
(Walking time only – add time for breaks and lunch)

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

DESCRIPTION OF WALK.

An excellent walk, certainly one of the best in the Aitana Range. A circular walk, not too hard, or long or high, which crosses the sierra and encompasses views and aspects of both sides of the range. Passing through the narrow Paso Contador¹, (much enlarged since the days when sheep could be counted singly as they passed). Spectacular views of the-Sierras Bernia and Aixorta to the east and the Arc valley leading to Sella to the west Soon followed by a stiff climb over the ridge of El Carrascal with a shady place at the summit from which to admire Puig Campana and Sanxet before descending into the wooded Sanxet valley with its Buddhist colony. Returning over the lip of Sanxet, (pause to take in the views), to pass below the "waterfall," (occasional), and the overwhelming cliffs of the "Habitaciones de Dios".

60% paths. 40% tracks. Not too muddy a day or so after rain.

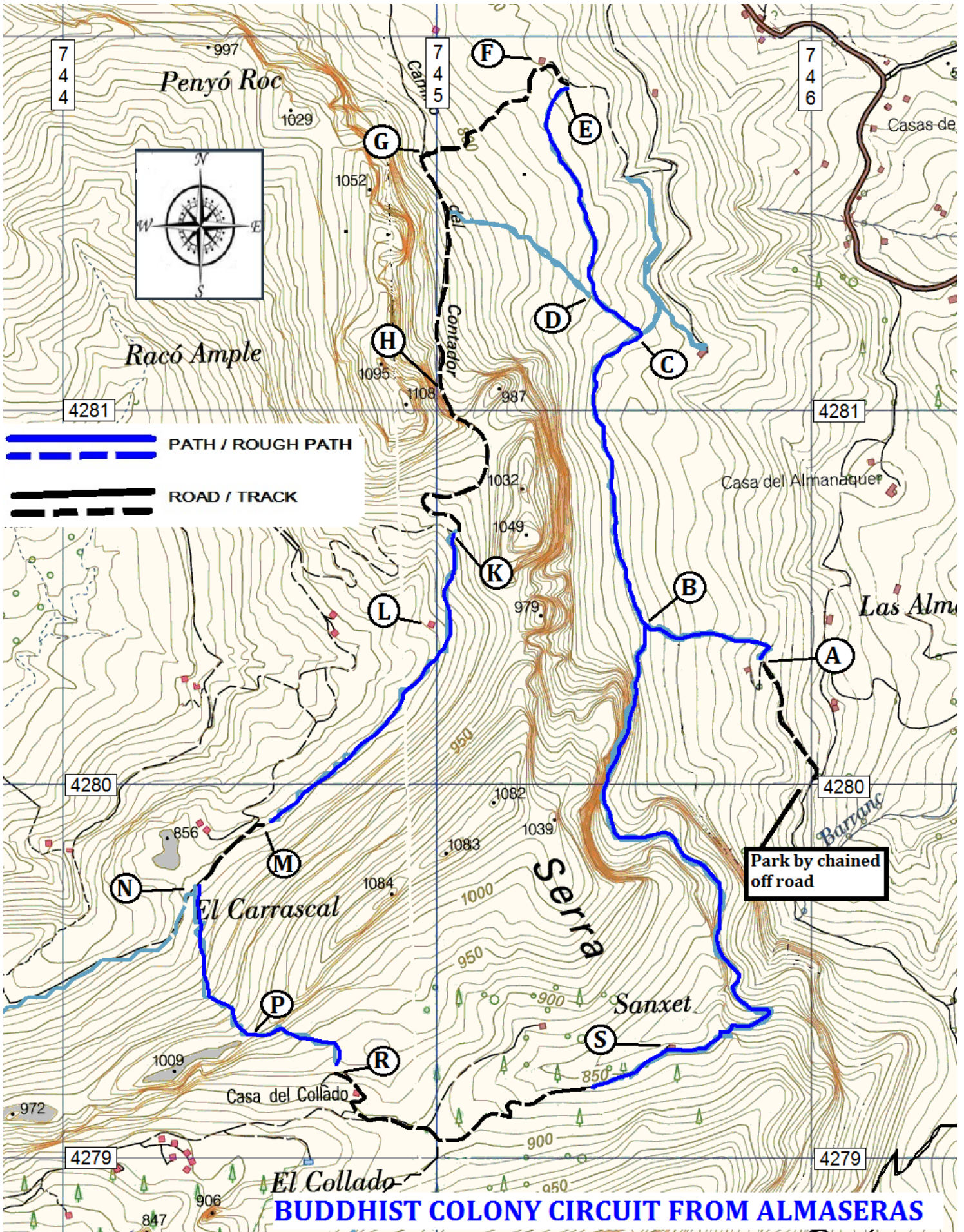


Buddhist Colony Circuit from Almaseras

NOTE: TIMES QUOTED ARE WALKING TIME ONLY – NO BREAKS.
UNDERLINED LETTERS ARE MAP REFERENCES.

**Total distance and
% of walk completed
based on total time**

Cross over the chain and walk up the track to the first LH bend before reaching the casa. Find cairn on RHS of bend marking path off R <u>A</u> . (6min .4km)	.4km 3%
Follow path to the end of the almond bancale where it turns L and climbs steeply. Pass a large cairn and a ruin (R), to arrive at a cross path and cairn <u>B</u> . (9min .4km)	.8km 8%
Turn R and follow path to arrive at a cross path that looks water washed with large stones approx. 1 ½ ft.high on L and R of path going up <u>C</u> . (14min .8km)	1.6km 15%
Take the path going up L to Y junction <u>D</u> . (3min .1km)	1.7km 17%
Here there are 2 options: <u>Option 1:</u> Take the path going up L to the track which leads to the Paso de Contador. (15min) This route is shorter but the path is steep and can be very muddy.	
<u>Option 2:</u> Continue on the path R going straight ahead to meet a track <u>E</u> . (10min .6km)	2.3km 22%
Turn L to reach cassita/shed with steel garage door <u>F</u> . (2min <.1km)	2.4km 23%
Just before casita/shed find track going off L and up. Follow this track until it ends and find path continuing up until it meets the track to the Paso de Contador <u>G</u> . (10min .5km)	2.9km 29%
Turn L(S) up track to the Paso de Contador with views down into the Sella Valley <u>H</u> . (15min .8km)	3.7km 37%
Start down and just after the second bend find on the L a cairn and path going S <u>K</u> . (5min .5km)	4.2km 39%
Follow this good path passing a casita <u>L</u> on your RHS . Near here it joins a narrow track. (7min .3km)	4.5km 43%
Turn L follow this narrow track to where it drops down to a wider track <u>M</u> . (10min .6km)	5.1km 48%
Turn L up this track passing casa with solar panels on R to find cairn at the crest of the hill on LHS marking beginning of path going up S <u>N</u> . (4min .2km)	5.3km 50%
ZigZag up this overgrown, rough and steep path to the ridge of El Carrescal <u>P</u> with its shady evergreen oaks and superb views of Puig Campana, Sanxet and the Bhuddist Colony in the valley. (18min .5km)	5.8km 60%
We now head down (S) into the valley on a rather rough path to reach a new casita. Take the track down to the large stone Casa on the main track <u>R</u> . (13min .5km)	6.3km 67%
DETOUR to visit Buddhist Colony starts here by turning R (W) down the track to the shrine and straggly collection of buildings with the Stupa out of view. (often in retreat-respect privacy).	
From the large stone casa continue up track, which bears R around "helicopter pad" and then L and winds down to a ruined casita <u>S</u> on the S side of the valley of Sanxet. Continue on path to the lip of Sanxet <u>W</u> . (stupendous views) (15min 1km)	7.3km 74%
The path now zigzags down and L(NNW) to pass below "waterfall" cliff. (10min .5km)	7.8km 80%
Continue (N) beneath the spectacular colourful cliffs of "The Rooms of God" to arrive at a cairn with a path going down R where we join our outward path <u>B</u> .(24min 1.1km)	8.9km 93%
Take path R drop down to meet a track and on to your car(s). (14min .8km)	9.7km 100%



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