

## SIERRA AITANA RANGE – EXTENDED BUDDHIST COLONY CIRCUIT

R22

CIRCUIT: ALMASERAS —CONTADOR—EI CARRASCAL RIDGE-BUDDHIST COLONY-CASA

LA CA RRASCA-COLLADO DEL LLAM-CASA DE DIOS- ALMASERAS.

**WALK SPECS:** DISTANCE 12.5km. - WALKING TIME 4 hours - ASCENT 550mtrs – GRADE MS

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

**WRITE-UP BY:** Jean & Bob Hall [hallbobandjean@aol.com](mailto:hallbobandjean@aol.com) VERIFIED Nov 2014

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

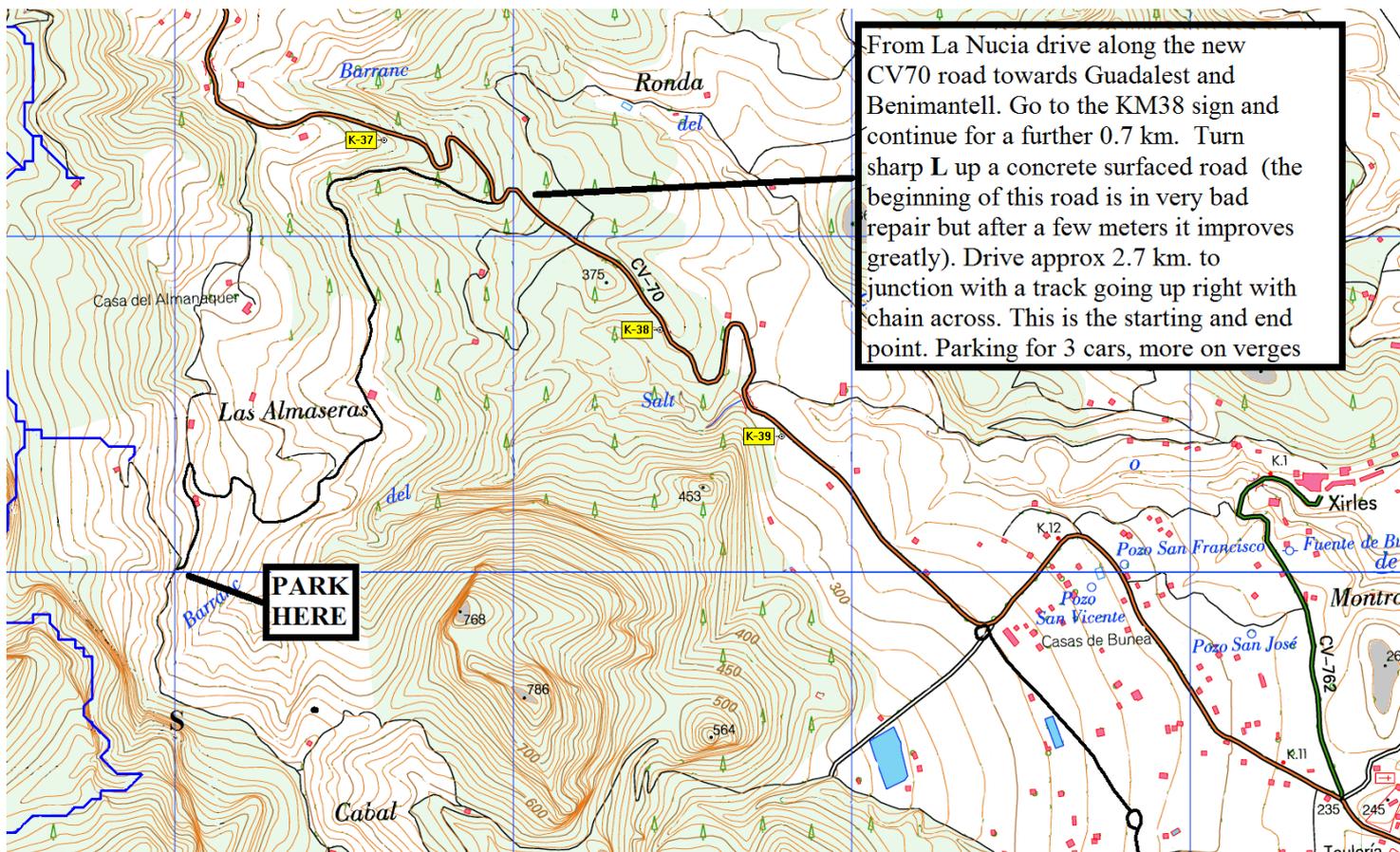
### DESCRIPTION OF WALK.

For energetic walkers. This walk encompasses the best of both the Buddhist colony circuit and the Sanxet circuit. Passing through the narrow Paso Contador (much enlarged since the days when sheep could be counted singly as they passed). Spectacular views of the Sierras Bemia and Aixorta to the east and the Arc valley leading to Selia 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.

From here we go around Sanxet, passing the La Carrasca casa and around to the Casa de Dios.

**70% paths. 30% tracks.** Not too muddy a day or so after rain.

### TO THE START.



# COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKS

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### THE WALK

**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 A**. **(6min 0.4km)** **0.4km 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 **B**. **(9min 0.4km )** **0.8km 7%**

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 **C**. **(14min 0.9km)** **1.7km 13%**

Take the path going up **L** to Y junction **D**. **(3min .15km)** **1.8km 14%**

Here there are 2 options:

**Option 1:** 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.*

**Option 2:** Continue on the path **R** going straight ahead to meet a track **E**. **(10min .7km)** **2.5km 19%**

Turn **L** to reach cassita/shed with steel garage door **E**. **(2min .1 km)** **2.6km 20%**

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 **G**. **(10min .5km)** **3.1km 24%**

Turn **L(S)** to the Paso de Contador **H** with its views down into the Sella Valley. **(15min .8km)** **3.9km 31%**

Start down main track. Just after 2<sup>nd</sup> bend find on the **L** a cairn and path going **S**  
**J.**(5min .5km) **4.4km 33%**

Follow this path passing a casita **K** on your **RHS**. Near here it joins a wider path.  
(7min .3km) **4.7km 37%**

Turn **L** follow this path to where it drops down to a track **M**. (10min .7km)  
**5.4km 41%**

Turn **L** up this track passing casa with solar panels on **R** to find cairn at the crest  
of the hill on  
**LHS** with path going up **S N**. (4min .2km) **5.6km 43%**

ZigZag up this rough and steep path to the ridge of El Carrescal **P** with its shady  
evergreen oaks and superb views of Puig Campana, Sanxet and the Bhuddist  
Colony in the valley.(18min .5km) **6.1km 51%**

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 **R**.  
(13min .5km) **6.6km 57%**

### **EXTENDED BUDDHIST COLONY CIRCUIT – Cont'd.**

**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". Ignore Track off **L** and continue straight on. Turn **R** along track, which  
ascends along the **S** side of the valley and becomes a path. Pass through a  
rocky dell soon after which the view opens up to the **R** and you can catch a  
glimpse of the small "Stupa" of the Buddhist Colony in the valley below.  
Continue to reach the shoulder of the ridge. (From here see the Sella Valley  
with Pena de Sella and Divino to the **W**, the remarkable crescent of Monte  
Castellet to the **SW** and the towering peak of Puig Campana to the **S E**.  
(13min 1.1km) **7.7km 62%**

Continue straight on down. The path veers **L** aiming for a large Casa across  
a small valley to the **SSW**, your next objective. Follow this clear path to the  
Casa La Carrasca **V**, which is normally unoccupied and makes a shady  
stop. (10min .4km) **8.1km 67%**

From Casa La Carrasca turn **L** and find a path going up and traverses  
around the base of Sanxet before reaching a cairn with a path,(which you  
ignore), going down **R**. Continue straight on bearing **L** to pass on the **NW**  
side of the strange naked rocks of the knoll in the center of the Collado del  
Llam and arrive at signpost **W**. (22min 1.2km) **9.3km 77%**

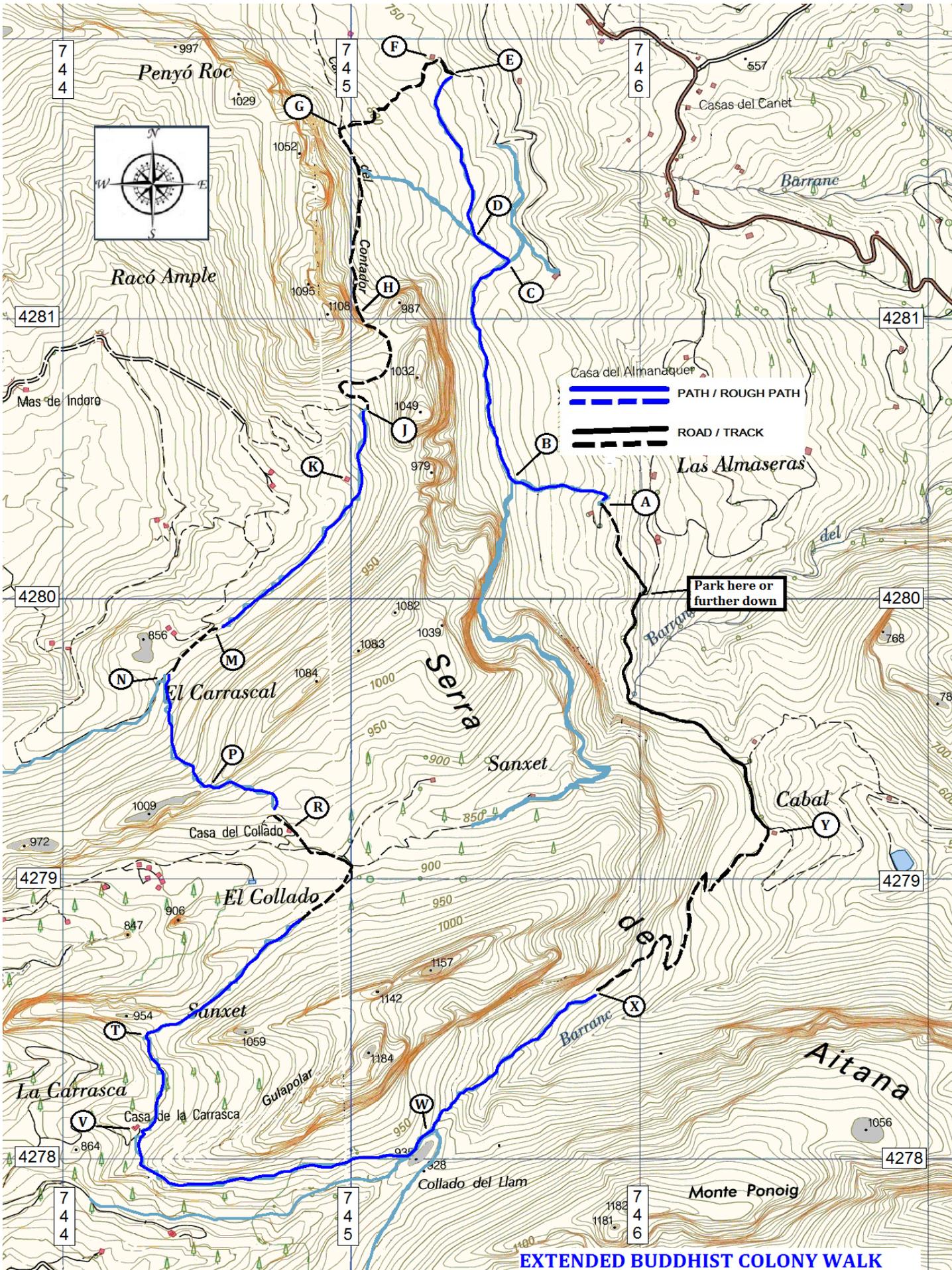
Continue down the path (direction Polop) with the massive cliffs of Sanxet on  
your **L** and the bulk of Ponocho on your **R** to join a track **X**. (15min .8km)  
**10.1km 84%**

The track winds down to the Casa de Dios **Y**.(in 2012 painted blue). (20min  
1.2km) **11.3km 93%**

Here you join the main track and turn **L** down to reach your car(s).  
(15min 1.2km) **12.5km 100%**

*Note: This rather dull walk down a paved road can be avoided by*

*spotting a car at this point.*



**EXTENDED BUDDHIST COLONY WALK**