

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

**Walk description originally prepared by:-** Jean & Bob hall [hallbobandjean@aol.com](mailto:hallbobandjean@aol.com)

**Last Updated** Feb. 2012

**Title of Walk** Cordilleras Ridge Circuit

**Location of Start** Benichembla

**Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km** 13km.

**Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m** 720mtrs.

**Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops**  
4 ¾ hrs.  
5 ¾ hrs.

**Key Statistics for walk - Grade** S/B

**Grid reference of start point** 751074E 4293662N

**Directions to Start** From Parcent take the C V-720 to Benichembla. Go straight across the roundabout and park near the Bar Bon Aire. Our walk starts from here.

### **Short walk description**

### **Full Walk Description**

This walk follows above and looks down on the remote and peaceful Val de Almadic. Starting at the town of Benichembla it begins with a very steep 45min. ascent by road and very rough tracks. After this rather tough start we are rewarded by a wonderful path that takes us along a ridge on the south side of the valley at about 750 meters. This path crosses many small barrancos before reaching the end of the valley just below Cocoli Airstrip. Here we cross over to the North side of the Almadic valley and eventually begin our descent to Benichembla by the north side of El Mirabo.

**Note that times quoted are walking time only. - no breaks.** Elapsed Walking Time/

**Underlined letters are map references.**

Start by walking back along the CV-720 towards Parcent. **(ESE)**. Go straight across the roundabout and just after crossing a small bridge look for a path going off **R**. **A** (10min 0.8km) **Distance so far**  
**10min 0.8km**

Follow this path which after a while bears **L** and eventually reaches a tarmac road **B**. (4min 0.2km) **14min 1.0km**

Turn **R** at tarmac road and arrive at concrete road going up **L**. **C**. (2min .2km) **16min 1.2km**  
 (If you miss the path from the bridge continue along the CV-720 and take the first turning **R** and after about ½ km. arrive at this road)

Take this road. It climbs steeply and is in bad repair. Keep to the road (ignoring track off **L** at the first bend) until reaching a **L** hand bend where there is a yellow arrow painted on a rock. Follow the direction of the arrow and go **R (SW)**. Continue up and pass house # 17 on the **L** and a communication tower (antenna) on the **R**. Arrive at a Y junction with a red arrow pointing **L**. **(E)**. Follow direction of the arrow, keep to the main track, ignore next track going **R**, and eventually reach a square house **L** with a longish driveway, iron gates and an old blue truck in the driveway. The track passes to the **R (W)** of this house and deteriorates even more. Continue up and eventually arrive at another yellow arrow painted on a rock face, (this is now partially obscured by a bush). Follow the direction of the yellow markings and pick up a path going **R (SW)**. **D**.  
**(34min 1.9km)** **50min 3.1km**

After about 10 min. the path will pass a hunter's blind **E**. (10min .5km) **1h 3.6km**

The path is fairly well defined but does become vague at times. However it is difficult to go astray as long as one keeps close to the cliff edge on the **R** and below the mountain on the **L**. The path descends and ascends many small barrancos before arriving at a standing stone **E**. (60min 2.5km) **2h 6.1km**

The path now takes you down another barranco which has a steep decent on a loose surface. After the climb up out of this barranco you will soon arrive at small cull with remnants of old stone walls **(25min .5km)** **2h 25min 6.6km**

Cross the cull and look for cairns indicating the way up. Keep heading **(WSW)**. Take note of the Cocoll summit which can be seen to the **R** on the other side of the valley. It is distinguishable by the lookout tower on the top. Just below the summit are a few buildings and the Cocoll Airstrip. **(Also note the path, which can be seen just below this, traversing the N side of the valley. This is your return route).**  
 Continue staying fairly close to cliff edge. Reach and cross small gully **G**. (749042E 4290610N) **(15min.1.1km)** **2h 40min 7.7km**

Continue until arriving at the head of the Almadic valley. Do not follow red & white flashes which will lead you down to the valley bottom unless you wish to return to Benichembla by a more direct route along an unsurfaced road. Your aim now is to cross over to the north side of the valley and make your way back to Benichembla keeping high (Via the track you noted earlier)

**Note: The walk can be extended by taking a little detour up to landing strip. Follow light blue paths on map. Path up requires a little searching, but path back to our continuation path is waymarked Y/W.**

From here there is no clearly indicated route. Cross over as best as you can and climb up for a few minutes before bearing **R**. When you arrive at a gully follow the cliff edge up until it narrows and allows you to crossover. This spot is recognizable by an old rusty oil barrel **H**. (17min .5km) 748706E 4290790N **2h 57min 8.2km**

With luck you will come across the path marked by yellow dots. If not (which is more likely), climb up about 15 meters then head **NE** towards Benichembla. Soon you will stumble across the path. As you head towards Benichembla your next objective, a group of pine trees with long trunks and all the growth on the top will soon come into view. Just before reaching these trees look for a fork **K** with a path going down **L**. It is important to find this path which is marked by cairns and yellow dots otherwise the way down will be difficult. If you reach the trees you have missed it and should retrace your steps. There is a path leading down from the trees but this soon deteriorates and you will have fight your way through maquise and over terraces. **(31 min 1.5km)** 749266E 4292040N **3h 28min 9.7km**

The path is now fairly well defined but it becomes overgrown in places and can easily be lost. After about 16 minutes the path will pass a ruined casita **M**. (16min .7km) **3h 44min 10.4km**

Continue and after about 50 meters at a small pine tree the path looks as if it goes straight on but you need to bear **L** -follow yellow dots.(left by pine) **N**

Arrive at a new signpost after about 6 min. Go **L** and keep following the yellow dots. Soon Benichembla will come into view and the way becomes clearer. The path finishes at an impressive crop of cactus **P** just before reaching the road to Benichembla and back to your car. **(60mins 2.5km)** **4h 44min 13km**



