COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

Walk description originally prepared by:- Jean & Bob Hall hallbobandjean@aol.com

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Title of Walk TOSSAL de GRAU CIRCUIT. (B)

Location of StartLa NuciaKey Statistics for walk - Distance in km9.4km.Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m585mtrs.Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and
total completion time including any stops3 ½ hrs.

Key Statistics for walk - Grade M/A

Grid reference of start point 747106E 4275566N

Directions to Start

From La Nucia drive south along the CV70 towards Benidorm to Km.44. Immediately after the sign turn R and zero your odometer. Drive along the surfaced road with Montebello urbanization on your L and a new urbanization across the barranco on your **R**. for approx 0.9 km to reach a roundabout. Go straight across this roundabout and continue until reaching a Y junction. Take the right hand fork which is a track that is rough in parts, past a Casa on your L with blue domed roofs for a further 2.5km to where a track goes off down L to a ruin, a total of 3.4 km from the CV70. This junction is the start and there is parking for several cars. Note: After the blue Casa the track up to the start becomes very rough in places but is passable. If it proves too rough for your vehicle there are plenty of spots to pull off, park and walk the rest of the way to the start.

Short walk description

Full Walk Description

This is an allied walk to the medium Tossal del Grau Circuit. (A). With the addition of other steeper, higher and rougher paths. The walk links in with part of the well known Circuit of Puig Campana but going anti clockwise reveals different views. The valleys around Tossal del Grau are very beautiful and surprisingly unfrequented. Views are excellent. Puig Campana resembles a volcano from this direction and Ponoch hints at its massive bulk and sheer cliffs.

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LA NUCIA AREA. - TOSSAL de GRAU CIRCUIT. (B)

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Note that times quoted are walking time only and do not include any rest stops or lunch breaks. <u>Underlined</u> letters represent map references

Elapsed Walking Time/ Distance so far

Walk down the sidetrack to the ruin on your **L.** Go straight on down the track, which soon becomes a path and goes down into the barranco and across a streambed. Go up the opposite bank and soon reach a small col with lone pine and cross paths **A**. (5min. .3km) 5min .3km

Take path R following crest of the ridge to a shallow col with cross tracks **B**. (17min. .7km) 22min 1km

Ignore tracks off $\mathbf R$ and $\mathbf L$ down and take track $\mathbf L$ up marked with a blue dot and passing a cairn on $\mathbf L$. Continue along this track that contours around the head of a barranco and turns into a path $\underline{\mathbf C}$. (5min.)

27min 1.3km

Continue along path to arrive at an old almond grove D. (Hard to recognize) (8min. .4km) 35min 1.7km

Just where the almond grove begins look for a steep rough path R (746351E 4275314N) going up the crest of a rounded ridge. (WNW) Continue up path to meet track **E**.(22min .7km) 57min 2.4km

Turn L down track to a sharp LH corner with cairn on RHS marking the start of a rough very steep path going up F. (2min .1km)

59min 2.5km

Follow this path marked by cairns, which climbs to meet the Puig Campana circuit path at a cairn. (*Note: This path is not easy to follow and very easy to lose).* keep going up until you arrive at clearer track **G**. (**20min .4km**)

1h 19min 2.9km

Turn **R** and follow the well-worn circuit path past Font Solsida, with its majestic ochre cliffs, to reach a track **H**. (**35min 1.6km**)

1h 54min 4.5km

Turn R down the track to the Col de Pouet. (4min .1km)

1h 58min 4.6km

At the col there is a signpost. The track down **L** goes to Finestrat. The path going **NE** leads to the Collado del Llam and the track going **R** down goes to Polop. We take the track towards Polop. Ignore minor tracks going off **L** and then up **R** to next track going sharp off **L K**.(32min 1km) 2h 30min 5.6km

Take this track sharp L to reach a junction where you take the track up L M. (8min .5km) 2h 38min 6.1km

Pass a ruin a few meters off the track on your LHS and ignore track up to it N. (9min .6km) 2h 47min 6.7km

Continue down the main track to a junction with a circular water tank P. (1min .1km) 2h 48min 6.8km

Turn L contouring the hillside and ignoring minor tracks off R and L to a junction with a track off down R R. (6min .5km)

2h 54min 7.3km

Go down this track, which bears \mathbf{R} , and down before rounding the head of the barranco and turning \mathbf{L} to reach the main track at a signpost \mathbf{S} . (Cami de Monjo). (12min .8km)

3h 6min 8.1km

Turn **L** down the main track passing a "barrier" and reach a T-junction graveled track with signpost **V**. (**12min .8km**)

3h 18min 8.9km

Turn R down the track and wind down to reach the start. (7min .5km)

3h 25min 9.4km

