

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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| Walk description originally prepared by:- | Ralph Phipps |
| Last Updated | 22 nd November 2016 |
| Title of Walk | GR11 – Day 35 - Encamp to Refugio d'Illa |
| Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description) | Encamp One of the main towns within the Principality of Andorra on the CG2 road between Spain and France. |
| Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km | 18 |
| Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m | 1500 |
| Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops | 4.5hr 6.75hr |
| Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system) | VS/B |
| Grid reference of start point (if known) | Lat: 42.536163, Long: 1.582333 |
| Directions to Start | Start at the N end of Carrer Major at its junction with Ave. de Joan Marti – the original road through the town and NOT the bypass. |
| Short walk description | A long and challenging day winding up a long and beautiful valley to arrive at this high level refuge with no road access. |
| Full Walk Description | Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far |
| <p style="color: red;"><u>Note – finger-post times are shown as a matter of record to indicate where you are – not to advise on achievable times!!</u></p> <p>From the bridge over the river make your way out to the main town road beside the tourist information office and cross it directly into Carrer Major.</p> <p>Turn L beside the church – Esglesia de Sant Miguel.</p> <p>Turn R at the top and slightly downhill in the Carrer de l'Arena to reach a roundabout where we go straight across and onto a track.</p> <p>At a junction turn L uphill to arrive at some steps that lead up to a roundabout (the main CG2 road) which we cross at the lower level to mount some steps with a finger-post to Lac d'Engolasters (1hr 50min)</p> <p>Cross a footpath cross roads and at the next junction with a sign go L steeply uphill.</p> | 650m, 10min |

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| <p>Pass a finger-post to Cami del Fener de L'Olla (sp. ?) and ignore this and keep uphill in zig-zags.</p> | |
| <p>Finally reach 2 restaurants at the end of the lake – La Dama del Lac on the RHS gets the morning sun.</p> | 2.7km, 1hr 10min |
| <p>Walk along a track on the S side of the lake and pass a small parking area now continuing uphill on tarmac to crest a small spur with a building on the corner and then descending back to the L.</p> | 3.6km, 1hr 21min |
| <p>Reach a T-jnc and turn R around a bend but leave this L and level at a finger-post.</p> | 4.1km, 1hr 29min |
| <p>Pass a font and then a track down on the L which we ignore and keep ahead and level.</p> | |
| <p>Pass a mirador on a spur on the RHS and then shortly after this another font and footpath on the R which we ignore and swing around to the L towards the barranco.</p> | |
| <p>Reach a picnic area and continue slightly uphill on the L still in forest and then quickly reach a junction where you continue L uphill.</p> | |
| <p>Reach a finger-post where you continue ahead (signed Coll Jovell) still uphill.</p> | |
| <p>Walk over a spur - Coll Jovell - and down on the other side.</p> | 6.4km, 2hr 11min |
| <p>After a considerable descent pass above a walled farm down below you on the RHS and an open bothy on the L now walking level. Soon reach a finger-post where you turn L again uphill.</p> | 7.4km, 2hr 25min |
| <p>As you pass over some rocky slabs close to the stream you will find a walled enclosure on the LHS and then a building on the L signed as Borda de l'Estall.</p> | |
| <p>Reach a finger-post showing Refugio de l'Illa as 2hr 30mins!!</p> | |
| <p>Pass through a stile and electric fence and then through a gate with open pastures beyond and a refugio above on your LHS – Font Verd. Pass through another gate with a locked bothy soon afterwards on the RHS.</p> | 9.3km, 3hr 11min |
| <p>At a finger-post at a bridge (we do not cross) we continue ahead (Refugio d'Illa – 1hr 55mins)</p> | |
| <p>Pass a finger-post cross-roads (now 1hr 45min) Pass through a fenced stile and gate in rapid succession to walk into an open pasture still rising gently uphill.</p> | |
| <p>Follow this path now past the Refugio Riu dels Oms (on the RHS in open pastures – Elm in English!) and continue starting to rise more steeply again.</p> | 13.8km, 4hr 40min |
| <p>These higher sections are wonderfully attractive but you may be too tired to appreciate them!!</p> | |
| <p>Eventually crest a small spur and look across to the refuge nestling on a crag. In 2016 this was undergoing major works which looked unlikely to be finished before Spring 2017!!</p> | |
| Walk Recommendations or restrictions | Stamina for the long pull up to the Refuge. |

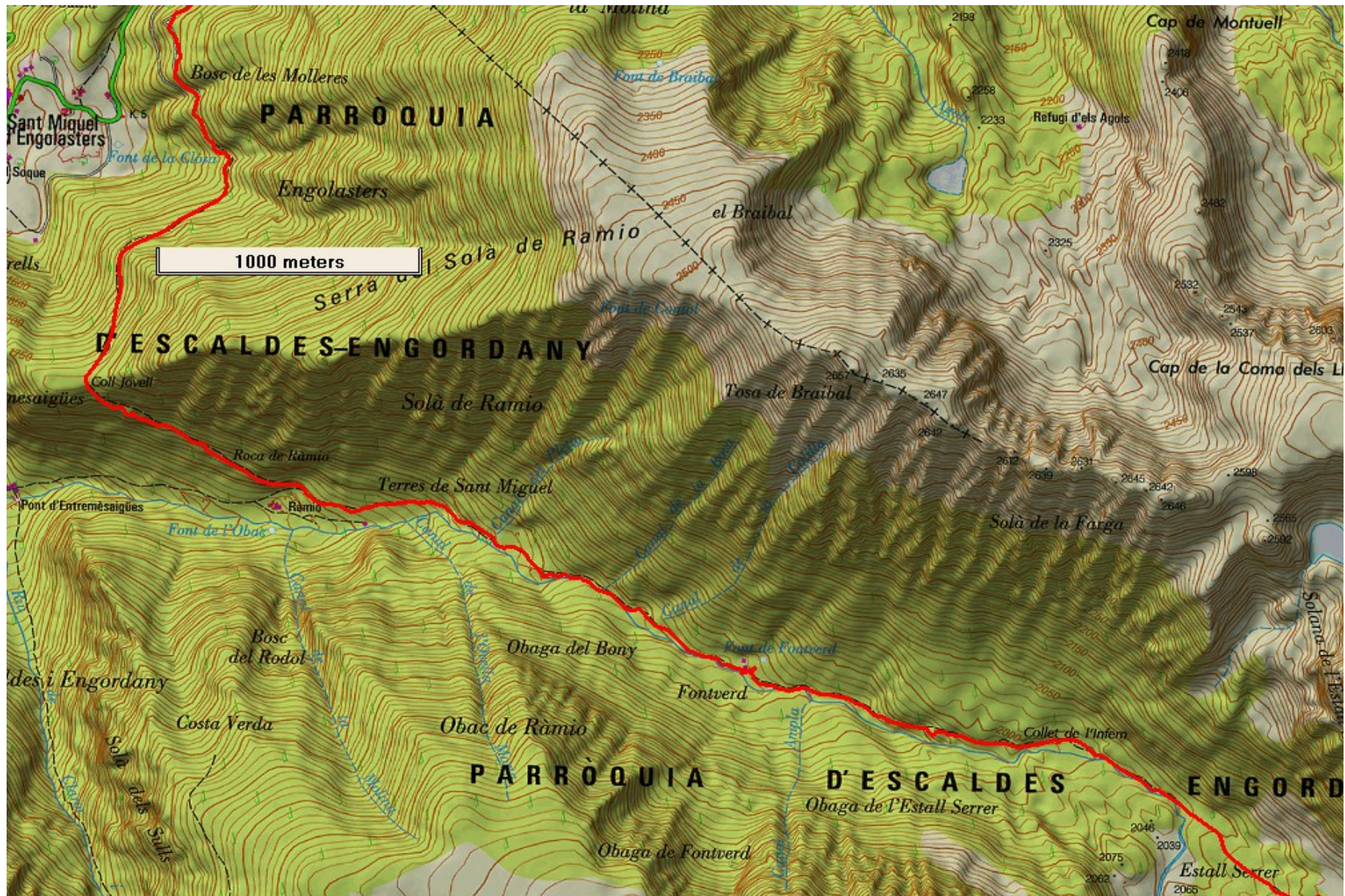
Remember that you use these walk guides at your own risk. Take precautions and if unsure – turn back!

Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 1



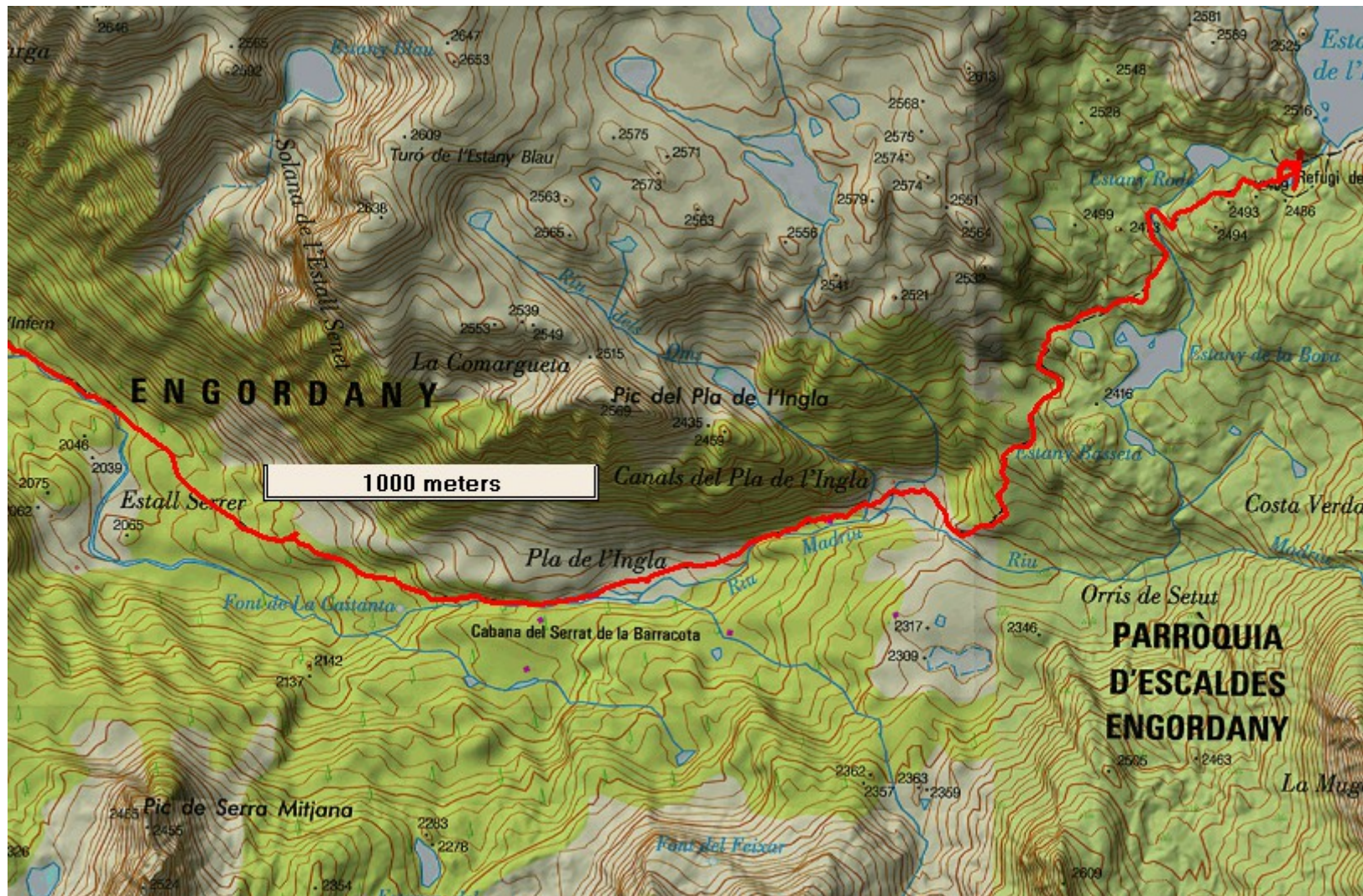
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Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 3



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