

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	23 rd November 2016
Title of Walk	GR11 – Day 36 - Refugio De l'Illa to Refugio de Malniu
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Vall de la Llosa - Refugio de l'Illa A remote refugio high in the Madriu valley in Andorra near the Coll de l'Illa. Access only on foot
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	14
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	810
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4.33hr 6.75hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/B
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 42.495015, Long: 1.656498
Directions to Start	A remote refugio high in the Madriu valley in Andorra near the Coll de L'Illa. Access only on foot. Nearest access by road is in Spain from the Vall de la Llosa and from here a 5km walk back uphill!
Short walk description	A high level tramp down a Pyrenean valley and then up over a high col – Portella d'Engorgs and easy walking down to Malniu.
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 below the hut walk around the RHS uphill following the R/W markers.</p> <p>Pass the dam on your LHS and curl up to the R through a boulder field to arrive at a finger-post (Port de Vallcivera – although this is marked further S on the map!).</p> <p>Descend on the other side into a corrie with scattered boulders and trees to reach a finger-post to the L of a multi-coloured pole and keep straight ahead with occasional R/W markers.</p> <p>Work your way down this long valley until you arrive at a shepherds' hut on the LHS. The route from here is confusing as a finger-post suggests that you should drop from</p>	<p>520m, 11min</p> <p>4.3km, 1hr 1min</p>

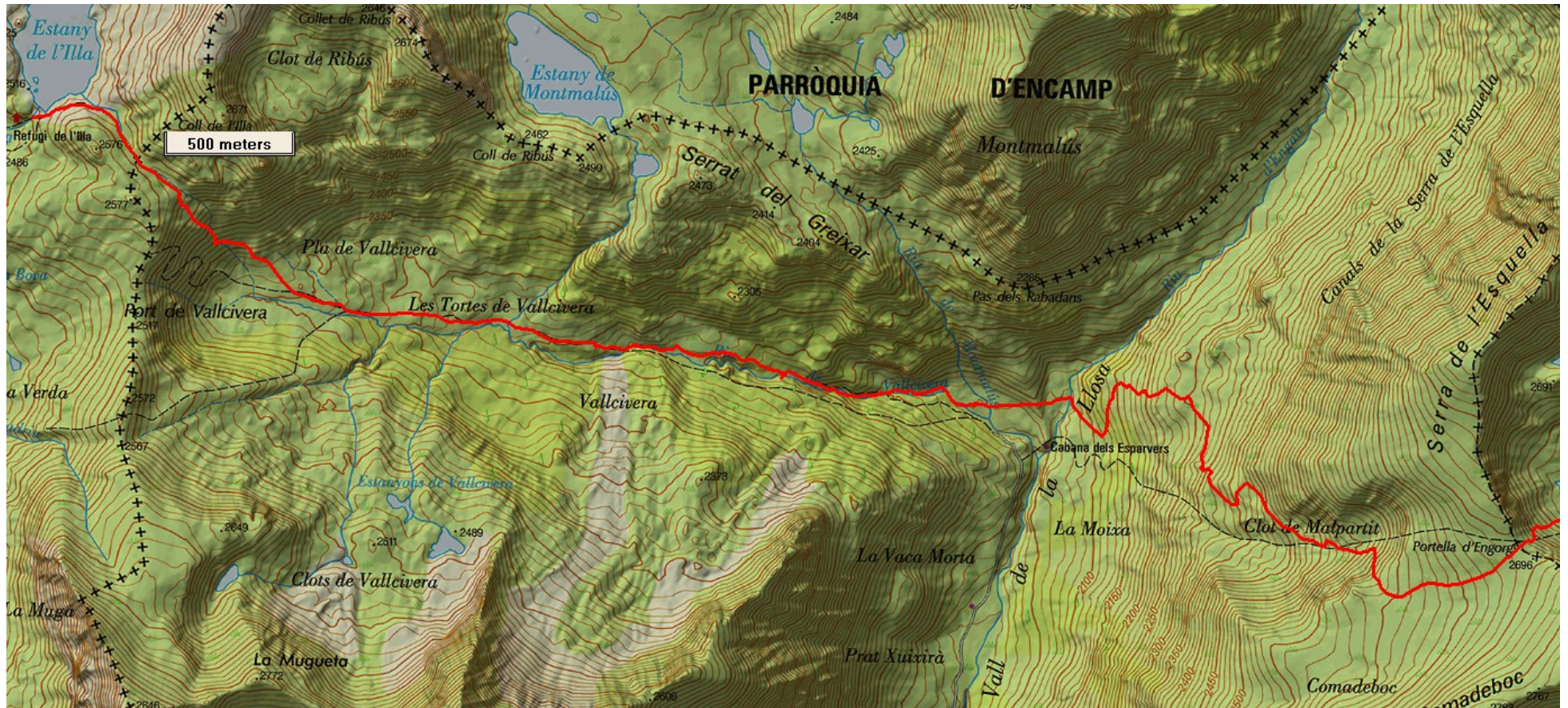
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<p>here down to the river. Do not do this but walk directly beyond the hut (used as a bothy) following the finger-post direction to Puigcerda.</p> <p>Curl around to the SE, cross a spur and drop to cross a river at a finger-post (Ref. De Malniu – 9.7km).</p> <p>Work up slightly R before swinging L again into more open pastures.</p> <p>Double back again to the R in zig-zags to reach an open plateau with a weather station,..</p> <p>now work up R again across the flank ascending steeply until you emerge into an open corrie.</p> <p>As you work up this a col appears on your RHS which you ignore, but follow infrequent R/W markers aiming slightly L across open terrain to finally arrive at the Portella d'Engorgs.</p> <p>Now descend on the other side very steeply into a lake filled corrie and just past the second of these swing L briefly to avoid a steeper descent and soon resume your line down to a barranco - again swinging L. (Over the skyline on the LHS you may glimpse a very strange upright rock butress in the distance – an sign that you are on the right line!)</p> <p>Reach a refuge - Folch y Girona – and here turn R down a spur and slightly back uphill.</p> <p>Cross the river at a finger-post (Malniu 1hr 15min).</p> <p>Take care to work uphill and seek out a breach in the crag ahead before you can continue to drop beside the river.</p> <p>At the end of a section of scree there are a range of lines on the ground but we keep L and uphill soon finding more waymarks – R/W.</p> <p>Once past the scree descend again across meadows to find yourself high above the valley on your RHS.</p> <p>Continue along this undulating path with boulders and tree roots which make the going hard as you claw your way up using all available steps and holds to eventually arrive at a pasture on a col where you swing around to the L.</p> <p>As you you emerge from the trees and reach a grassy spur you will see the lake (we go to the R of this), car park and even the refuge ahead of you. There are fewer waymarks here.</p> <p>Arrive at the refuge and order a large beer – you deserve it!</p>	<p>5.3km, 1hr 28min</p> <p>7.5km, 2hr 42min</p> <p>9.4km, 3hr 9min</p> <p>12.6km, 4hr</p>
<p>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</p>	<p>Good navigation skills required for the Portella crossing – avoid if misty, or studious follow the gps track.</p>

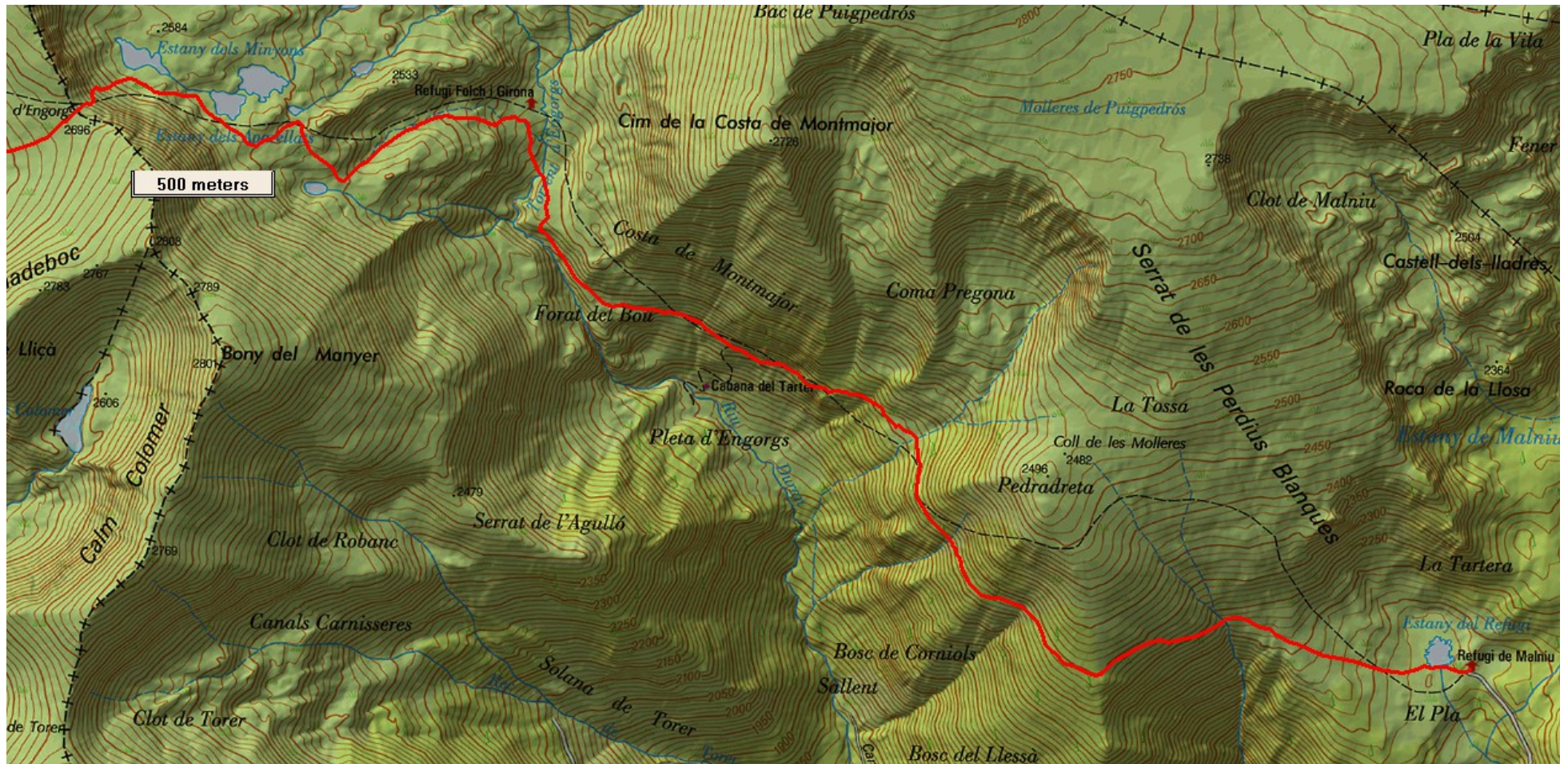
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Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 1



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Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 2



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