

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 37 - Refugio de Malniu to Puigcerda
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Meranges, Refugio de Malniu – a remote refuge at the edge of a lake. There are other walking options from here.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	15
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	150 (1120 descent)
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3.33hr 4.5hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/A
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 42.464361, Long: 1.785437
Directions to Start	The N260 road runs along the south side of the Pyrenees. In the town of Ger (to the NE of Bellver de Cerdanya) a turning NW – the GIV4031 heads off up into the hills. Follow this to reach Meranges and then find a minor tarmac road leading up to Malniu.
Short walk description	A low level hike over rolling hills and into the vale of Puigcerda, lying almost directly on the France/Spain border.
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>Drop down in front of the refuge onto the track which runs past the bins. Follow this for a few metres to cross the bridge on the LHS and then L on the first footpath following Y/W markers to reach a finger-post indicating local path 120 which is what we follow.</p> <p>Carry on in this direction following markers before turning R more directly up the hill to reach a high point which is revealed as a tree covered plateau.</p> <p>Follow path 120 (also with R/W markers) as it wanders over this confusing flatland.</p> <p>Drop down a little and then up to pass a large pond on the LHS.</p>	

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<p>Reach a large grassy area about 500m across and stretching out in front of you and cross to the R of this to find a finger-post (local path 139) where you cross a fence and continue L along the track slightly uphill.</p>	2km, 33min
<p>When you pass a large house shaped boulder the trees close in and then you pass into a second large grassy area with a refuge (Refugio de la Feixa) ahead on the LHS.</p>	
<p>Before reaching this there is a finger-post on the RHS</p> <p>where you turn diagonally across open pasture. Keep well to the R of the direction indicated by the post with a plan of keeping R of a tussocky area and soon crossing a track and finding a less distinct track aiming slightly E of SE (NOT the track S of SE!)</p> <p>This becomes more distinct as it enters the trees and crests a small hill (unnamed on Spanish OS).</p> <p>Descend on a mixture of open grassy track and short sections of gravelly track until you enter some trees when it becomes a narrower gravelly footpath descending steeply.</p> <p>Walk out into grassy pastures with small scattered rocky tors and you aim for the L'most of these.</p>	3km, 46min
<p>Cross a gravel stream bed (or track?) and continue directly ahead now aiming just to the L of the rocky outcrops on a barely visible line.</p> <p>Pass through a gate and into a more wooded area still descending.</p>	5.8km, 1hr 24min
<p>Emerge from woodland with a finger-post down slightly to the R on a track.</p> <p>Keep a little way L of this, cross the track and rise gently (between 50 – 100 m L of the outcrops) to find the L' most of 2 close indistinct tracks aiming into the forest. (you should end up ON the ridge line and not on its R)</p> <p>You quickly emerge into a felled area with more outcrops visible ahead.</p> <p>At a fork keep R out of the woods and and just L of an outcrop.</p> <p>Descend steeply in this clear felled area to cross a track, pass through a stile and now walk into grassland.</p> <p>Reach a finger-post where you continue ahead (Guils de Cerdanya – 35mins) and after this there is a water collecting channel on our LHS.</p> <p>300m further on cross this channel to the L and onto a stony path into the woods.</p> <p>Descend the steep ridge with the village of Guils directly in front of you.</p>	7.2km, 1hr 44min
<p>Finally this becomes a track and at a junction we continue ahead.</p> <p>Join tarmac and bend round to the L to a junction where we turn R (with a font on the LHS)</p> <p>Take the first L, pass a water trough and turn L again at a junction.</p>	8.8km, 2hr 12min

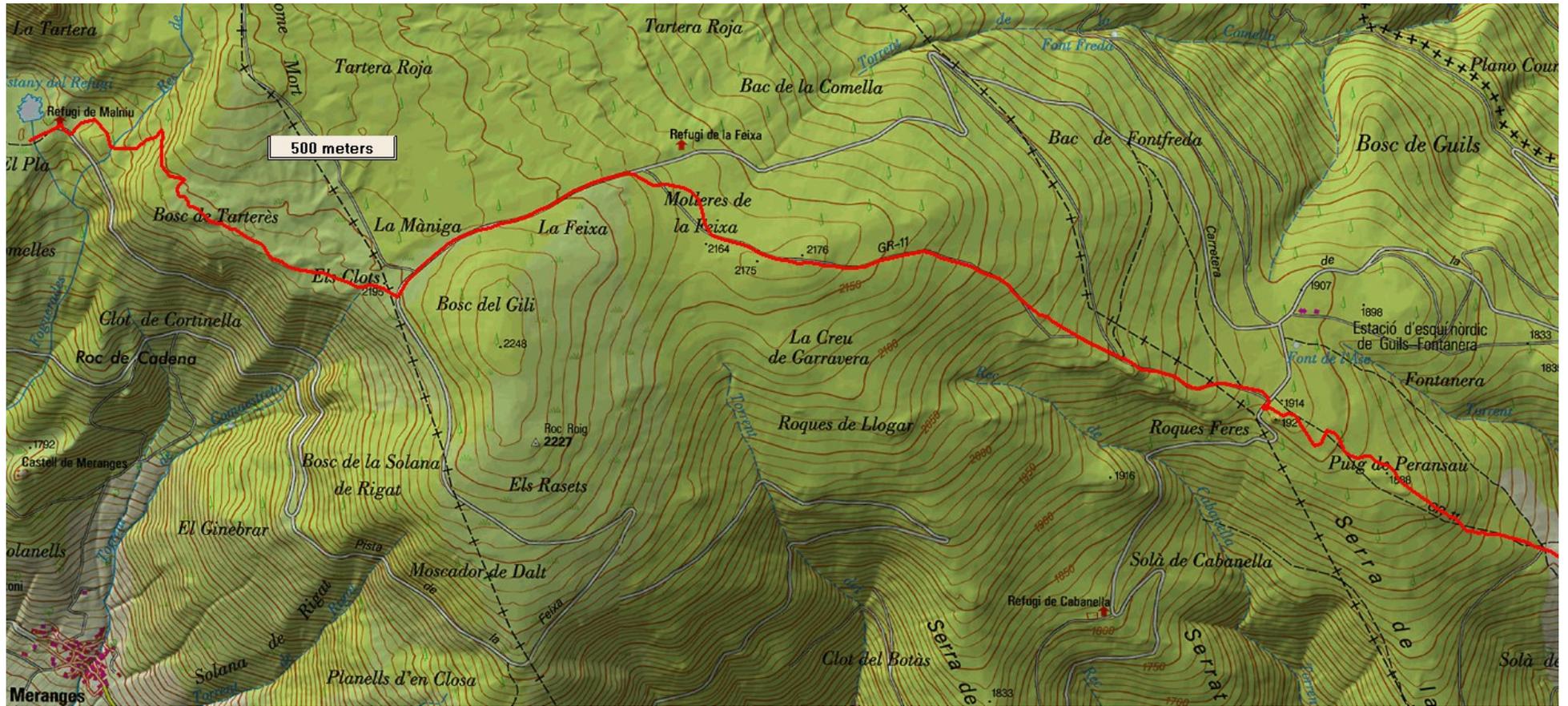
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<p>Follow this road down several hundred metres and take care to ignore R/W markers which go L over a bridge past a sub-station and continue ahead.</p>	<p>9.8km, 2hr 25min</p>
<p>Swing around to the L twice by the bins and the bus stop joining the main road with a big brown sign – Torrent de la Mata de l'Os.</p>	
<p>At the 5km road sign turn L up a track (signed Puigcerda 1hr 10min)</p>	<p>10.2km, 2hr 29min</p>
<p>Rise a little to begin with and as you descend meet a junction where you turn R soon reaching the main road again where you turn L towards Saneja.</p>	<p>10.9km, 2hr 37min</p>
<p>At a junction turn L past a bus stop and a childrens' play area into the village of Saneja</p>	
<p>Keep ahead to the church and then turn R downhill.</p>	<p>12.2km, 2hr 50min</p>
<p>Join the main road where we turn L and continue to reach a fork L just before the Sant Marti town sign.</p>	
<p>Take this and turn L again to cross the bridge and soon swing R into an old village street to arrive at a roundabout where we turn L to cross the railway and at the next junction turn R and follow this down to the railway station on the RHS.</p>	
<p>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</p>	<p>None</p>

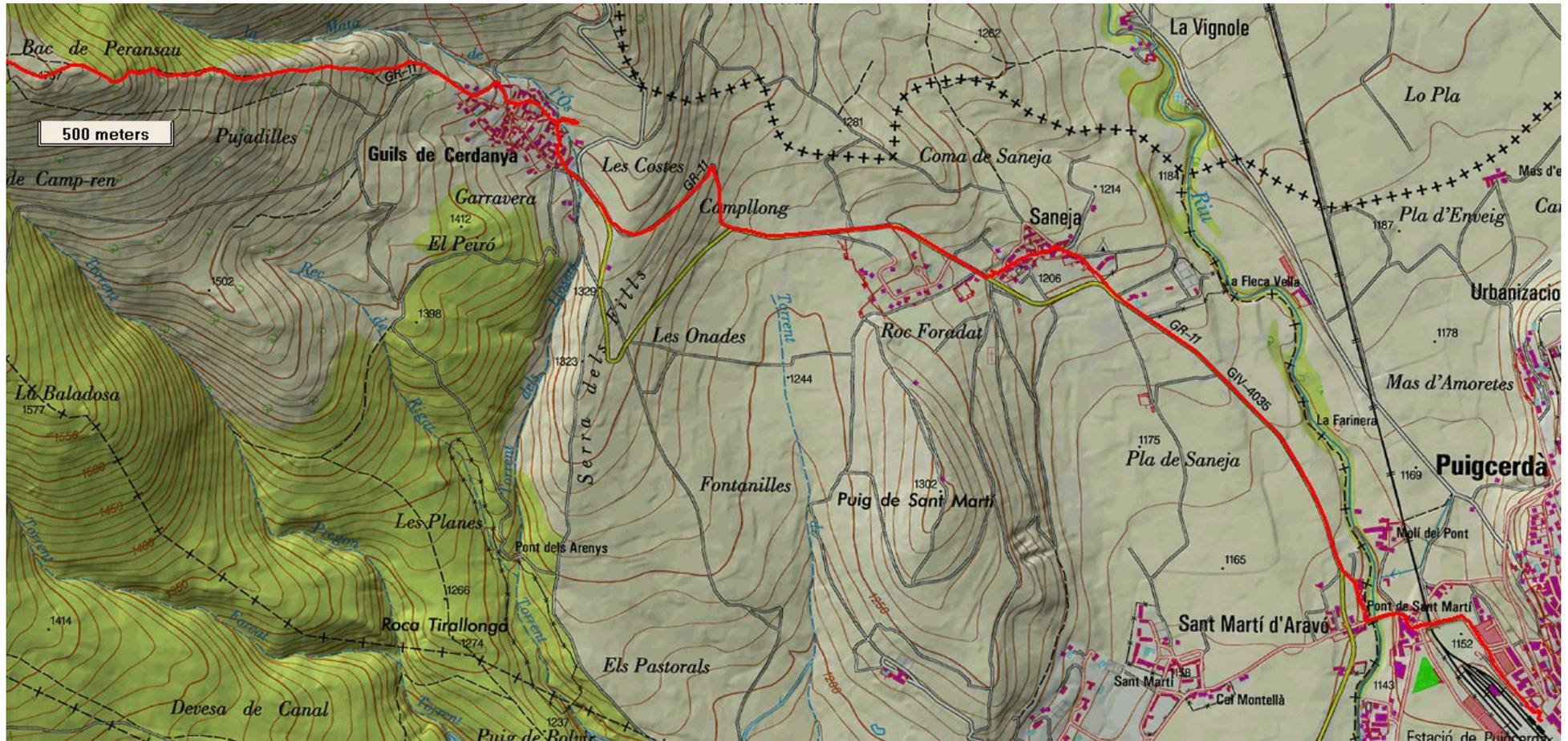
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Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 1



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Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 2



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