

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Mary Gough
Last Updated	7 th December. 2016
Title of Walk	Els Frares - Serrella Ridge
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Facheca. Remote ruin about 1km from village.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	14.5
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	950
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	5 hrs. 6 hrs.
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/ C/Scr.
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 38.72793, Long: -0.2722
Directions to Start	From Jnc 62 on the AP7 motorway go through Pedreguer and take the CV720 W. After some time in Facheca take a L turn signed Quatretondeta and then almost immediately turn L and follow up to end of surfaced road and park near a ruin.
Short walk description	A tough winding ascent leads upwards and through these impressive rock pinnacles ' Els Frares ' then up on to the Serrella ridge and return down the valley below Pla de la Casa.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Take the path directly leading off the edge of the tarmac, begin to wind up the side of the barranco , cross the narrow riverbed and ignore the first two small forks to the L wind R and upwards to reach rock/scree canal and continue R.	1km, 30 mins
Follow the clear path across the next two scree flows then pass to RHS of a large rock face and continue to reach a small font , wind up round RHS of this.	2km, 40 mins
Continue winding upwards as path turns rocky, stay R at Y/W finger-post and follow this winding rocky path on LHS of barranco until the path dips and then rises across barranco to reach Font Roja.	3km, 1 hr.
Pass to RHS of Font onto path signed Quatretondeta – follow this rock strewn and undulating path to meet a junction (signpost). Take L fork still on a rocky path (blue dots) undulating and at times less stony and with	4km, 1hr.30min

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rock face close to LHS , the path then starts to wind upwards and passes through the large rock pinnacles (cairns and blue dots) to reach a rock wall which necessitates a short scramble up.	1hr. 50 mins
Continue working up this rocky zig zag path (cairns and blue dots) and through small rock buttresses to just below the ridge top when the path turns R.	5.3km.2hr.25min
Follow this path through a pine forest and reach a forest track and turn R.....	5.6kms
and continue to next junction,ignore L turn and go slightly R on another broad track.....	6.2km.2hr.45min
which soon after turns into a partly surfaced road and leads to a grassy plateau, (here is an optional visit up to the fire watchtower) retrace steps back down to grassy plateau.	7.2km.3hr.15min
Walk across track and onto a path (cairns) at RHS of concrete road this continues through a pine tree area and meets a broad track. Walk directly across this through pine trees and emerge onto rocky path to LHS of ridge (cairns ,blue dots) follow this and at a flat grassy area used by goats walk straight across and back onto path to reach the far end.	8.9km 3hr.40min
Wind slightly L and start to zig zag down on uneven rocky path to reach a cultivated area, walk across LHS of this to far corner (cairn).	9.2km.3hr.55min
Turn down L through trees and emerge on broad track , turn L and continue round to a junction , take R fork (although marked Y/W cross) follow to next junction with signpost.	10km. 4hr10min
Turn R on path around base of Pla de la Casa ,follow this rocky undulating path which turns into a grassy path as it reaches the col, aim across L to an old wooden signpost.	11.2km4hr 40min
Start to wind down the path/water course to reach a waterhouse.	12km
Continue down the rocky path for 10m then wind L on a clearer path ,follow down RHS of barranco then in a dip the path crosses to the LHS and continues down winding out at the bottom near terraces to meet a junction with a broader track turn L.	13.6km 5hr45min
Continue until the path narrows and goes through a scrubby area ,turn immediately L up the side of a terrace wall to find a faint path leading R across a terrace , continue and rise up a terrace at the far end of each until just below a mesh fence follow this across to emerge out to tarmac road and turn L to cars.	14.5km.
Walk Recommendations or restrictions	Some hand scrambling skills needed

Route followed is outlined in Red

