

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Jo Fletcher
<b>Last Updated</b>	2 July 2017
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Fuente De to Horcada de Valcava
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Fuente De main car park at the base of the cable car.
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	17 km
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	820m
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4.5hr 5.5 hr
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	VS/B
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 43.14445, Long:   Long:   -4.81240
<b>Directions to Start</b>	Leave Potes on the CV 185 and travel to the end of the road which is approximately 25km. As you approach the Cable car there is a large car park on your R. Park in the car park.
<b>Short walk description</b>	A wonderful walk up Rio de Cantijo valley before climbing steeply to get great views down to Fuente de and then prior to turning for home the best views of the western Picos de Europa. Depending on the time of year you may witness some diverse flora and fauna as well as a variety of vultures and eagles.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
Depart the car park and re-join the main road. Turn R. Walk up the hill to the end of the road where there is a roundabout. Ahead of you there is a gate and cattle grid with walk signs and a sign for camping.	3 mins/200m
Cross the cattle grid and follow the track for 150m to a track junction signed L to the campsite. Bear R and continue steadily uphill. After 650m you reach a font/water trough on your R.	16mins/1km
Continue on the track until you reach a track junction after a further 400m, signed L to Pido. Turn R and continue to climb until after a further 700m you reach a track junction with sign post. There is an arrow pointing R painted on the rock and a X showing on the route to the L. You need to turn L. Your return journey is from the R.	38Min/2.2km

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<p>Your track now follows the line of the stream which is below on your L. You gently climb in open meadow land. After 1.4km you reach the end of the valley and the track crosses the river on a bridge.</p>	1 hr/3.6km
<p>The track now enters a wood and climbs steeply zig zagging backwards and forwards before it eventually breaks out of the woods on to a flat meadow. You meet a track. Turn L. (N.B. If you turn R at this point this is a short cut which will take you back across the valley and re-join the route home.)</p>	1hr 24/4.6km
<p>You have now reached Bustavantino with a small building and a water trough. Follow the track 700m up hill to reach a promontory.</p>	1hr 37/5.3km
<p>Make sure you stop and admire the views.</p>	
<p>You now go round a R bend and descend. After less than 100m the track bends L and you need to identify the path that goes straight ahead. Continue along this path which becomes more distinct. Keep to the lower path at an indistinct junction which leads up to some rocks and some walls. The path contours and leads up to the head of the valley where you meet a fence that has a chain section which can be unhooked to let you through.</p>	2hrs/6.6km
<p>You now cross the valley head and start to descend into a small stream bed, trying to pick up a path that is below and right. The path goes through low scrub. You continue gently down until you reach a small stream.</p>	2hr8min/7.1km
<p>Cross the stream and bear R and head up the hill. The path becomes indistinct but your target is the obvious col ahead. Make your way up to the head of the valley where you find a fence which you need to cross.</p>	2hr26min/7.9km
<p>After crossing the fence you join a track. Turn R. At this point you are able to take in the view across to the Western Picos and beyond to the Cantabrian mountain range. The track now undulates but is a climb up to the highest point on your walk. You eventually reach a Track junction at Horcada de Valcava (height 1789m).</p>	2hr40min/8.9km
<p>Ahead and below you can now see your route home. Turn R and descend along the track until you reach a stream shortly followed by a further stream.</p>	3hr15min/11.5km
<p>Continue to follow the track which takes you steadily downhill with the river/stream on your R. You pass a sign post on your L pointing up a path but remain on your track. After about 1.5km, the track starts to descend more steeply until you reach the junction with your outward journey. Turn L on the main track.</p>	4hr/14.6km
<p>You now retrace your route continuing to follow the track downhill until you reach the road and then down to the car park.</p>	4hr 30/17km
<p><small>Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional</small></p>	
<b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b>	
	<p>Although this route can be walked in either direction, if the weather is hot the clockwise direction (as written) affords you some shade in the woods during the steep climb.</p>

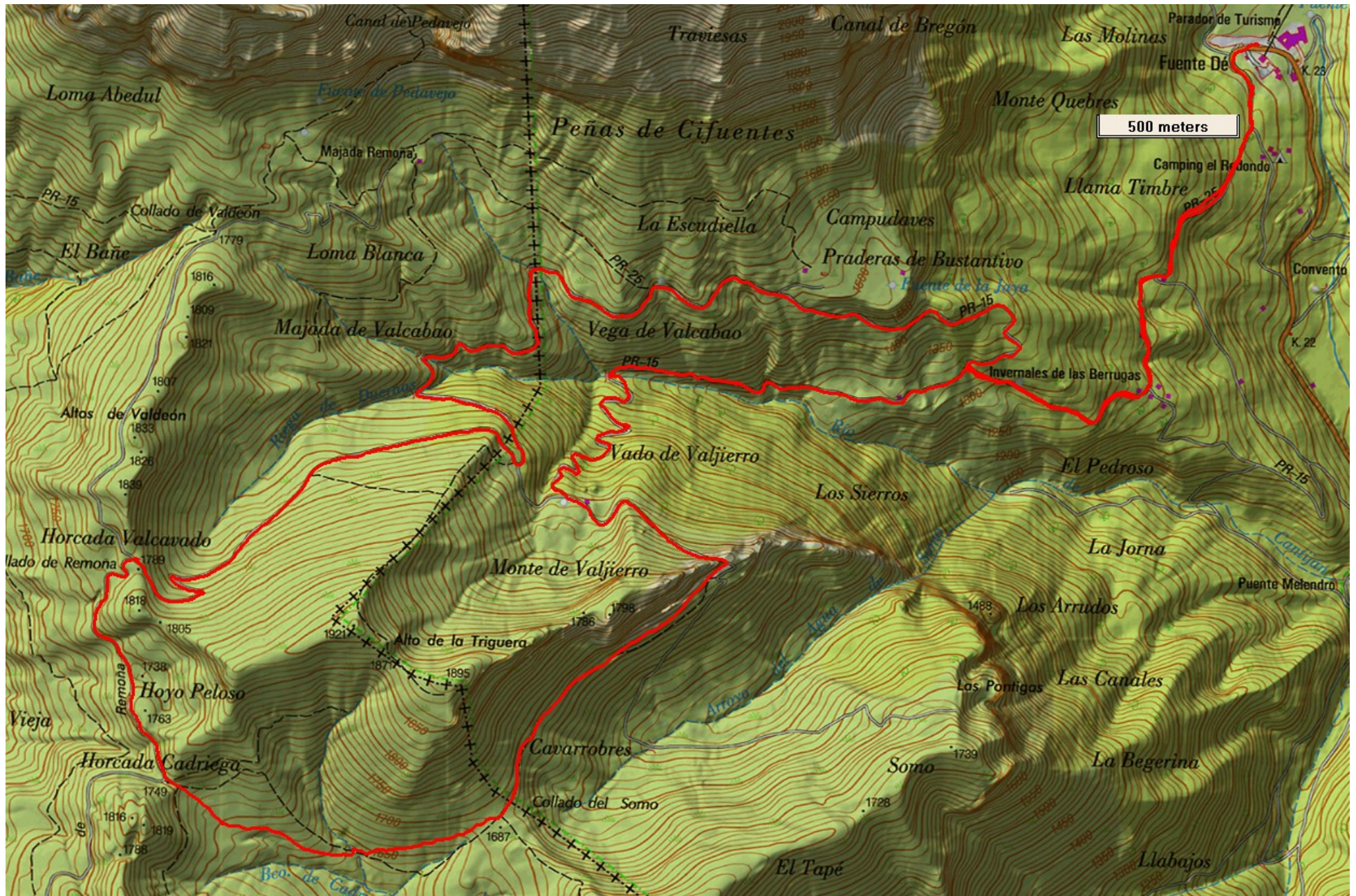
see map below.....

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**Route followed is outlined in red**

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