

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
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Last Updated	
Title of Walk	Circuit to the Ermita de Nuestra Senora de la Luz from Somaniezo
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Somaniezo village. Turning circle just before the village acts as a small car park.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	13.5
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	750
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3.75hr 5hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/A
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 43.144782, Long: -4.526734
Directions to Start	Just to the NE of Potes there is a roundabout on the outskirts of Ojedo where we turn S on the CA184. Follow this road through several villages for nearly 3km to find the CA870 signed to the L. Take this road ignoring turnings off and follow it to the end and the parking just outside Somaniezo.
Short walk description	A steep climb up to the Ermita de Nuestra Senora de la Luz in open country on the flanks of Pena Sagra followed by a traverse across the Pena to descend via Luriez to our start point. Fantastic views back to the Cordillera and Picos. Deciduous trees.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>From the parking walk into the village over the bridge and swinging L uphill.</p> <p>A few metres up turn R into Calle de la Luz and as this road widens beyond houses take a R fork at a finger post uphill still on concrete.</p> <p>Ignore a sign to a fuente on the RHS and instead take the track signed to Pena Sagra along the L bank of the stream.</p> <p>The track levels, crosses a bridge and then starts to climb more steeply.</p>	530m, 6.5min

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<p>Cross a subsidiary stream just before a couple of steep zig-zags and quickly arrive at a small stone hut on the LHS in an open area. There is a trough and running water here and the inside of the hut is well maintained.</p>	2.5km, 49min
<p>Climb steeply beyond this and get a little relief at a zig-zag and then higher up a R turn where trees have been cleared leaving stumps.</p>	
<p>Pass an ugly concrete cattle shed on the LHS and continue to climb to soon reach the well maintained Ermita and its fence surround (locked when visited!). Above this is a boule or petanque court and the track continues up on the flanks of Pena Sagra to the R.</p>	3.9km, 1hr 23min
<p>After exploring the Ermita leave to the N and find a wooden finger post pointing to Luerieza (7km) and the GR71 straight ahead and descending. Take this track to quickly meet another track where you turn R and level.</p>	
<p>Descend to walk through a gate, around a barranco and then across a cattle grid as you rise on the far side of the barranco.</p>	
<p>Reach a spur with 2 magnificent oak trees guarding a subsidiary track going off L, but we turn R here on the main gently rising track line.</p>	5.9km, 1hr 54min
<p>After a big dipper down and up you pass the remains of a small burnt out stone hut on the LHS on a small plateau and immediately after this turn down L at a track fork, descending past a large stone water tank.</p>	6.6km, 2hr 5min
<p>Descend steeply at times to find yourself curling slightly L and then out along a spur where a track joins you from the L and some 400m beyond this you double back to the R and descend more steeply again.</p>	8.2km, 2hr 27min
<p>Swing L and ignore a track joining you from the L and a little further a second track joining from the R.</p>	
<p>Now zigzag down again more steeply ignoring tracks joining you from pastures on the R and L and when the track levels out you pass a stone water trough on the RHS and quickly after this a concrete building where a track joins us from the RHS.</p>	
<p>Walk down onto concrete just past a small block tower on the RHS with a large hole (door?) at the bottom and below this turn L at a T-jnc.</p>	10.6km, 3hr 2min
<p>Now follow the principal concrete line down passing a partially hidden small church off to the RHS and lower swing R to reach the main tarmac road at a large bend.</p>	
<p>Here turn L just at the higher end of the railings and walk onto a concrete road between buildings and keeping level past buildings.</p>	10.9km, 3hr 7min
<p>Beyond the buildings the track forks and we keep L and almost level.</p>	
<p>Ignore side turnings and walk into a barranco and then swing around to the R heading slightly downhill.</p>	
<p>Beyond a smaller barranco which we cross there is a fork with a steeply rising track going up L which we ignore descend briefly using the RH track.</p>	
<p>Walk through a group of magnificent pine trees and once clear of these out into open</p>	

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pasture with an electric fence either side of the track.

12.1km, 3hr
24min

Just at the outskirts of the village you cross a stream and continue R and slightly downhill, now keeping to the L of a large white house and meeting a junction where you turn R downhill to return to the car.

Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Best done Spring or Autumn with an early start to give shade for the ascent.

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Route followed is outlined in Red (apologies for colour change!)

