

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps
<b>Last Updated</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Title of Walk</b>	GR11 – Day 38. Vilallobent to Planoles
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Puigcerda Railway station
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	23
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	1180
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4.33 6.5
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	VS/B
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	<b>In Vilallobent</b> – Lat: 42.406333, Long: 1.950860
<b>Directions to Start</b>	The C16 road leads almost from Barcelona N towards the French border. Once through the Cadi tunnel follow signs towards Puigcerda and then minor roads towards Vilallobent.
<b>Short walk description</b>	A high level traverse on the GR11. Difficult to accomplish as a day walk without adequate transport arrangements.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
<p>Continue from the railway station past the petrol station and down to a roundabout where you cross the first turning on the left and take the second left walking around the children's playground and ahead.</p> <p>Now take what is effectively the third turning on the right with scrawled graffiti on a wall – GR11.</p> <p>Follow this road as it passes over a narrow bridge and curls left into a hamlet -Barri Santa Julia.</p> <p>At the other side of this there is a finger post indicating Vilallobet to the right. Take this and follow the signs to eventually turn left on tarmac and then right at a crossroads into Vilallobent.</p> <p>If you pass up on this rural alternative you can proceed on the road to the village of Age, which you can walk through or pass on the right. Either way come to a T jnc and turn right, then follow the road to Vilallobent.</p>	

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### **Note distances and timings start HERE.**

In village walk ahead onto concrete road. The concrete soon ends and you continue on a track to soon find a footpath leaving on the left and climbing steeply.

Meet the track again and go left to reach another shortcut up to the right on pasture to join the track again and walk right across a small saddle and ahead through a gate.

1.3km, 16min

Climb steadily and at a fork keep right uphill and immediately ignore a second fork on the right to continue uphill.

Follow yellow flashes with 602 in them to reach a grassy ride on the RHS and take this as it becomes footpath and crosses a stream.

3.6km, 41min

Work uphill on the far side of the stream and when a col comes into sight curl slightly right to find a weathered finger post.

4.4km, 49min

Take the second track on the left and follow this for 700m to reach a dry stream bed on the left.....

6.5km, 1hr 11min

which we follow on its left bank to emerge on a grassy col with a finger post slightly above on your left.

6.8km, 1hr 17min

Keep left uphill joining a track on your right to reach an indistinct fork where you go right and level towards trees. This improving track passes a boundary stone- 501-I and you soon descend and undulate passing more stones up to number 501-VI where the track climbs to reach a col with a fence at boundary stone 502.

10.6km, 2hr

Cross this and turn half left ignoring a cross up to the right. This indistinct path soon has waymarks and leads into trees and the top of a wet and pockmarked gully.

Turn down this with indistinct markers but keep slightly left of the gully to drop down to a track where you turn left.

11.1km, 2hr 8min

When this doubles back to the right it meets a junction where we turn left and then immediately abandon the track for a footpath on the right - waymarks.  
(Probably better now to follow this track than take the footpath)

11.8km, 2hr  
15min

Follow the footpath carefully as it drops to cross a stream and then works uphill to find a way through rocks before swinging left to cross a barranco. Clear a broken down fence, cross the water course and walk ahead through broom and roses with a rudimentary fence on your right.

Eventually rejoin the track.....

13.2km, 2hr  
33min

and some way on this doubles back to the right and within metres there is a way mark on a tree on the left. Take this shortcut down to rejoin the track and turn left.

15.2km, 2hr  
56min

The next time the track swings right the shortcut down to the left is a little further on, but take this to avoid a track loop and again turn left when you meet the track and continue L.

At a junction turn right downhill and at the outskirts of the village of Dorria turn right downhill on a cobbled road. Reach the church, font and benches.

17.4km, 3hr  
19min

Pass these and continue down on cobbles to reach concrete and then zig right at a junction.

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A few metres down at a finger post (Camping - 1 hour) turn left steeply down.

Just before the stream bed at the bottom of the track turn right and cross the stream a little lower. Rise a little and ignore 2 paths off left before starting to descend. Open a gate to cross a stream and take the first path on the RHS descending with waymarks.

After some time the path widens to become a track and you reach a finger post. Turn right down on concrete. (now ignoring the Gr11 signs)

Cross the main road and descend taking the left fork to Planes and then on towards Planoles. Follow this down through the village before swinging left to cross the valley and ascend to Planoles.

21.3km, 4hr 2min

**Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Long and demanding day. Author used taxi to Vilallobent to shorten the day by some 4km! (Otherwise 27km)

See maps below.....

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**Route followed is outlined in Red**

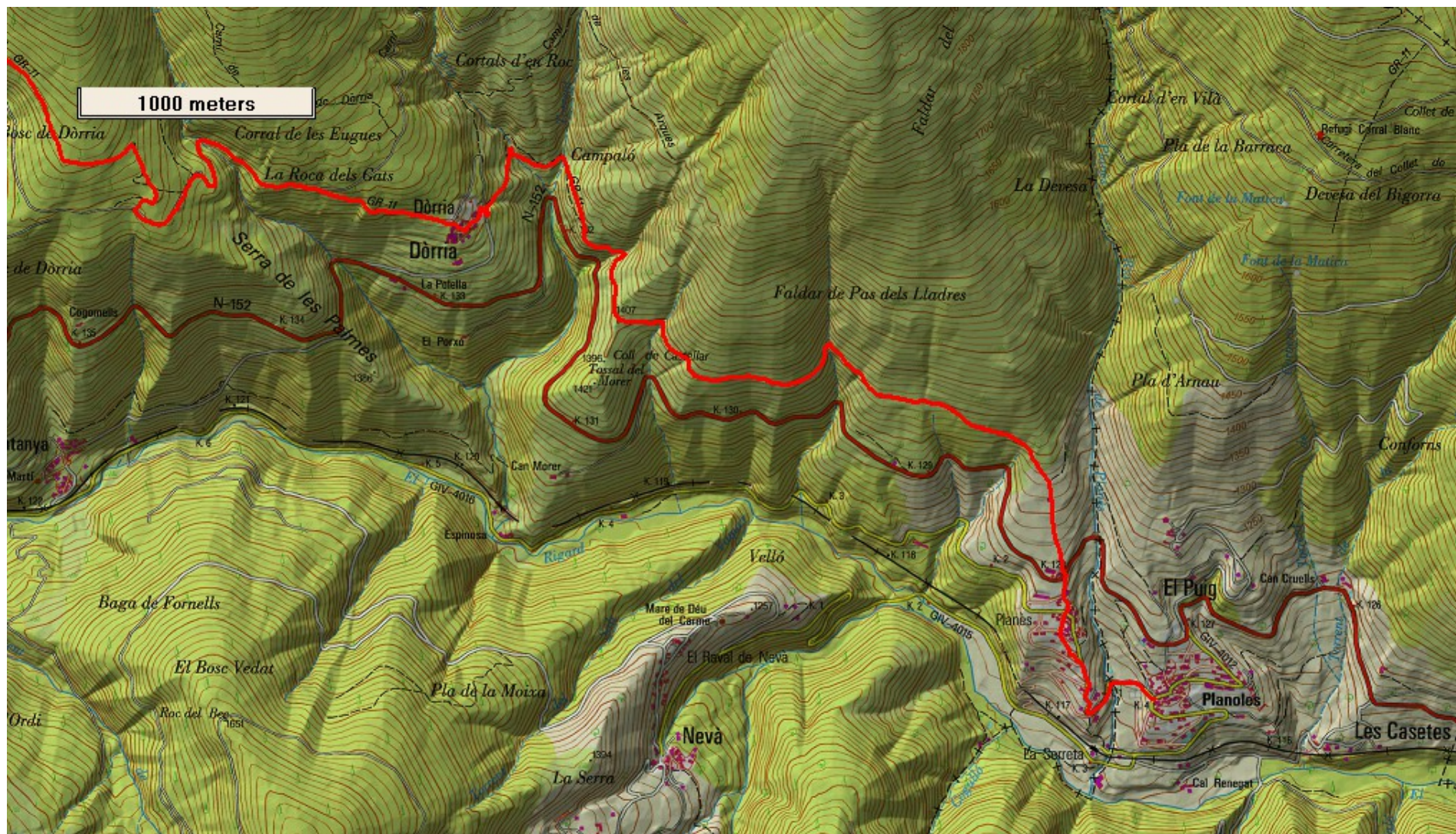


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