

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	24 th October 2017
Title of Walk	GR11 – Day 46. La Jonquera to Espolla
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	La Jonquera Ayuntamiento (town hall)
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	17.5
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	601
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	2.5hr 3.66hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/A
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 42.416978, Long: 2.873328
Directions to Start	La Jonquera is a substantial trading spot just before the French border. It has many hotels, supermarkets and eating opportunities.
Short walk description	This route abandons the true GR11 route part way along in order to find accommodation in what otherwise would be a very long route. The route is "joined up" the following day. Mixed views and some points of interest.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>From the Ayuntamiento (town hall) walk south on Carrer Mayor and then turn left into Carrer Migdia. Walk uphill and intercept a finger post on the left just by a small park and continue ahead.</p> <p>Turn left at a rough track with a "No Entry" sign on it. Fork left and just past the end of the fencing on the left, turn left steeply up a footpath. Rejoin the track and turn left and at a junction keep ahead. Now swing around to the left and then keep ahead at the next junction and then quickly left at a fork.</p> <p>As a track joins you from the left you keep ahead and still ahead at a crossroads. Swing around to the left with magnificent boulder scenery and then right onto a footpath with waymarks. Rejoin the track at a crossroads and keep ahead rising slightly.</p>	

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Ignore a couple of poorly defined tracks off and reach a T jnc where you turn right and then immediately left onto a footpath.	
Rejoin the track and go steeply up to a col. Here ignore the R/W markers left and instead continue on the track to drop down steeply and then climb to reach a concrete track where we turn right. (worth turning up left to visit the church of Santa Lucia)	2.9km, 37min
A few hundred metres down here turn left at a junction steeply uphill (marked with dead end road sign).	
Zigzag steeply up and soon move more easily along to the right with views over a cluster of large boulders and then keep left at a junction/car parking right in front of a bouldery top.....	5km, 1hr 2min
and zigzag down. Reach a finger post with a pedestrian route to Cantallops signed downhill to the right. If we keep left a little further there is a footpath also signed right to Cantallops. This is probably the best option as the author had trouble going ahead on the track.	
On the track climb over a barrier and continue zigzagging back right to soon overcome a second obstacle and meet the descending footpath! After some distance turn right where a track joins us from the left and a few metres further you can look over your shoulder to see the No Through Road sign. Going forward we turn left to avoid concrete.	5.6km, 1hr 8min
You will need keen eyes to spot a thin footpath crossing just after a widening in the track (the path on the left is easier to spot).....	6.2km, 1hr 13min
..... and assuming you spot this, turn down to the right and a little way down back to the left to walk under a steep stoney bank. A short way along here you will encounter a row of stones across your line encouraging you to turn down to the right again and you follow the same procedure of walking down here a short way and then swinging left again under a stoney bank which soon becomes a wall. As the path improves you reach a building and turn right in front of it and down to a track where you turn left.	7.1km, 1hr 27min
<u>If you miss the footpath then you will rejoin the route just a little lower on the original track.</u>	
Join a tarmac road where you continue past the bins and then past an inaccessible church tower to reach a plaza where you turn left to pass a bar and then left again beyond it passing a finger post and a font. Walk up and cross a bridge on the right, pass the Ayuntamiento and then cross a larger road.	7.7km, 1hr 34min
Continue ahead swinging right past Masia Serra and walk straight down this broad track keeping left at a fork and with large farm buildings on either side. After perhaps 1km at the end of a vineyard on the right meet a track junction, turn right and then swing back to the left. Soon repeat this process where a footpath goes uphill but we follow the track, soon fork left and reach a junction marked with road signs where we double back to the left.	9.5km, 1hr 53min
Climb up this to reach a junction at the top where we turn right to cross the col and at the other side of this right again.	10.4km, 2hr 2min
This initially undulating track is soon marching along the ridge line and we follow it until we reach a small hillock with a wooden pole, several trenches with sand bags and at the	

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far end a yellow metal pole.

From here on the route crosses a military area which may not be possible at all times

Just beyond this turn left at a "No Entry" sign opposite a standing stone and start to descend. Swing right to drop towards a barranco bottom and then curve left to rise up to the top of a ridge. Cross this and drop down to repeat the process now dropping to cross a stream and then over yet another ridge.

Now rise more gently soon swinging right to crest a ridge and fork right briefly dropping to next encounter a track joining you from the right which is briefly concreted.

Repeat this process and now find yourself aiming over the left end of a ridge. As you crest this you join tarmac and drop to fork right into the village of Espolla.

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

12.6km, 2hr
32min

14.6km, 2hr
56min

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Slightly more challenging route finding off the official GR11 route. Crosses a military area which may not be possible at all times. Check!

See maps below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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apologies for split map.....!!



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