

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Mary Gough and Ralph Phipps	
<b>Last Updated</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Benissa Gata circular	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Benissa, At the sub-station beyond the Cemetery near the motorway junction.	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	17	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	820	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4.75hr 6hr	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	VS/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 38.741170, Long 0.054474	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From the N332 at its junction with the AP7, take the slip road towards the motorway and before reaching the toll gates take a R turn onto a minor road that runs along side the access road - signed to the Cementeri. 650m later turn R - still signed Cementeri. 350m after this ignore the R turn to the Cementeri and continue directly ahead to arrive after a further 1.3km at a sharp LH bend by the electricity sub-station. Park here.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A wander around the hills between Benissa and Gata. Some lovely paths and sweeping views into the bigger mountains.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<p>Continue along the road descending onto concrete and then a rough track and follow this under the motorway in a tunnel.</p> <p>At the far side, turn immediately L along a terrace and at the far side climb up a few terraces to turn R along a clear footpath.</p> <p>Where this is lost under vegetation clamber up across rocks on the clear line to join a junction with the original track where you turn R.</p>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
		560m, 6.5min
		750m, 10min

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<p>Walk into a barranco and at the far side of this turn steeply up to the L across rough ground.</p> <p>Keep L on this to find a continuation of a mozarabic path continuing up and steadily becoming clearer as you get great views across a barranco on your LHS and across to an array of terraces.</p> <p>Reach a broad track and turn R.....</p> <p>soon leaving it by continuing ahead on a secondary track aiming for a ruin.</p> <p>Pass the ruin on its RHS and continue on a footpath and after only a few metres swing sharply L still on a clear path.</p> <p>Walk around a terrace aiming L and continue now on a very clear footpath.</p> <p>Continue over the ridge and soon steeply down aiming towards the motorway and soon going lower than the carriageway to arrive at a tunnel under it.</p> <p>Here turn L along a barranco littered with various waste to reach an indistinct path crossing you where you turn L following cairns up bancales.</p> <p>Take care to turn R along a terrace at one stage to find the best line.</p> <p>As you go over the shoulder of the hill there are several R and L turns before you descend beside cleared terraces finally turning R along a clear terrace and walking almost level for a while.</p> <p>Turn L just before a couple of blockwork buildings.....</p> <p>and onto a track which you descend until a bend where you continue ahead down a couple of terraces before turning L along a clear line.</p> <p>Follow this down through bancales to arrive in front of a small casita – Les Negres – where you turn R down a concrete track.</p> <p>Continue ahead at a junction and then as the track bends to the R turn back L around a stone well structure and across a level terrace and past a concrete dew pond where you ascend one terrace and turn R.</p> <p>Walk onto a mozarabic path which is now descending towards the foot of some crags.</p> <p>Pass these and walk through the barranco ahead for a few metres before exiting onto a path on the LHS to find yourself soon walking between 2 walls.</p> <p>As the motorway viaduct comes into view we swing briefly to the R and then double back L to join tarmac and continue directly ahead on this (L).</p> <p>Stay on the RHS of the road and some 50m ahead, just past the 3km sign look out for a descending broad path on the RHS doubling back.</p> <p>Take this and soon turn L and keep on the higher terrace as this descends to find yourself walking above the level of the barranco on your RHS.</p>	<p>1.1km, 16min</p> <p>1.7km, 29min</p> <p>3.9km, 1hr 6min</p> <p>4.3km, 1hr 12min</p> <p>5.1km, 1hr 26min</p> <p>5.3km, 1hr 30min</p> <p>6.5km 1hr 47min</p> <p>7.6km, 2hr</p>
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When the terrace ahead is blocked drop down one terrace and continue in the same direction soon passing under the viaduct briefly joining a concrete track and at a bend leaving this on a rising footpath.	8.1km, 2hr 7min
At the top of the rise there is a vague intersection with another path and you keep half L and soon snake around to the L on a clearer line.	
Drop down to cross a barranco in front of some impressive coloured crags and at the far side of the barranco turn L to follow the line of the barranco.	8.5km, 2hr 12min
Continue up this as best you can watching for a cairn marking a point where you can leave the barranco bed on the LHS for easier going.	
Intersect a track crossing your line with Y/W markers and turn R to follow it.	9.2km, 2hr 24min
Follow this uphill in zig-zags until you reach a Y junction where you turn L.	9.7km, 2hr 32min
Work out L on the flank of the hill to a T-jnc where you turn R still ascending.	
Reach a half roofed casita and turn R on a track.	10.4km, 2hr 42min
About 250m later look out for a footpath descending on the LHS through trees.	
Follow this down until you crop down with difficulty onto a clear terrace where you turn R along the terrace.	
Walk around the head of a barranco to ascend a track to a junction where you turn L in front of an orange coloured house.	
Cross a tarmac road .....	11.1km, 2hr 53min
to continue ahead soon drifting L up bancales to intersect a better path which you follow uphill.	
Stagger up the hill eventually passing a junction with a path descending to the L .....	12.1km, 3hr 13min
and soon a further junction where we turn L up towards the summit.	
At a cairn on the first summit turn L along the ridge line towards a second slightly higher summit.	12.3km, 3hr 18min
Reach the trig point and turn R with Y/W markers and down hill.	
Follow this across a shallow barranco and thread through 2 ruins following the clear path to arrive at a finger post – PR CV 388 – turn R towards Benissa.	13.7km, 3hr 40min
The path broadens into a gravel track and then concrete and at a cross roads turn R.....	14.7km, 3hr 53min
soon leaving this before a gate along a descending footpath which quickly turns back to the L.	

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Reach a track and turn up for a few metres and then R at a large tree and away from some gates.

Before you reach the tarmac turn R along a footpath and this becomes a track further on and at a junction turn L and immediately R on a rough footpath.

Pass a well on your RHS and soon turn R now ignoring side turnings descending steadily in zig-zags.

After dropping down for some time through woodland you reach a junction where you turn L

Now at a fork keep R and then swing gently L to reach the tarmac where you turn R to your parked cars.

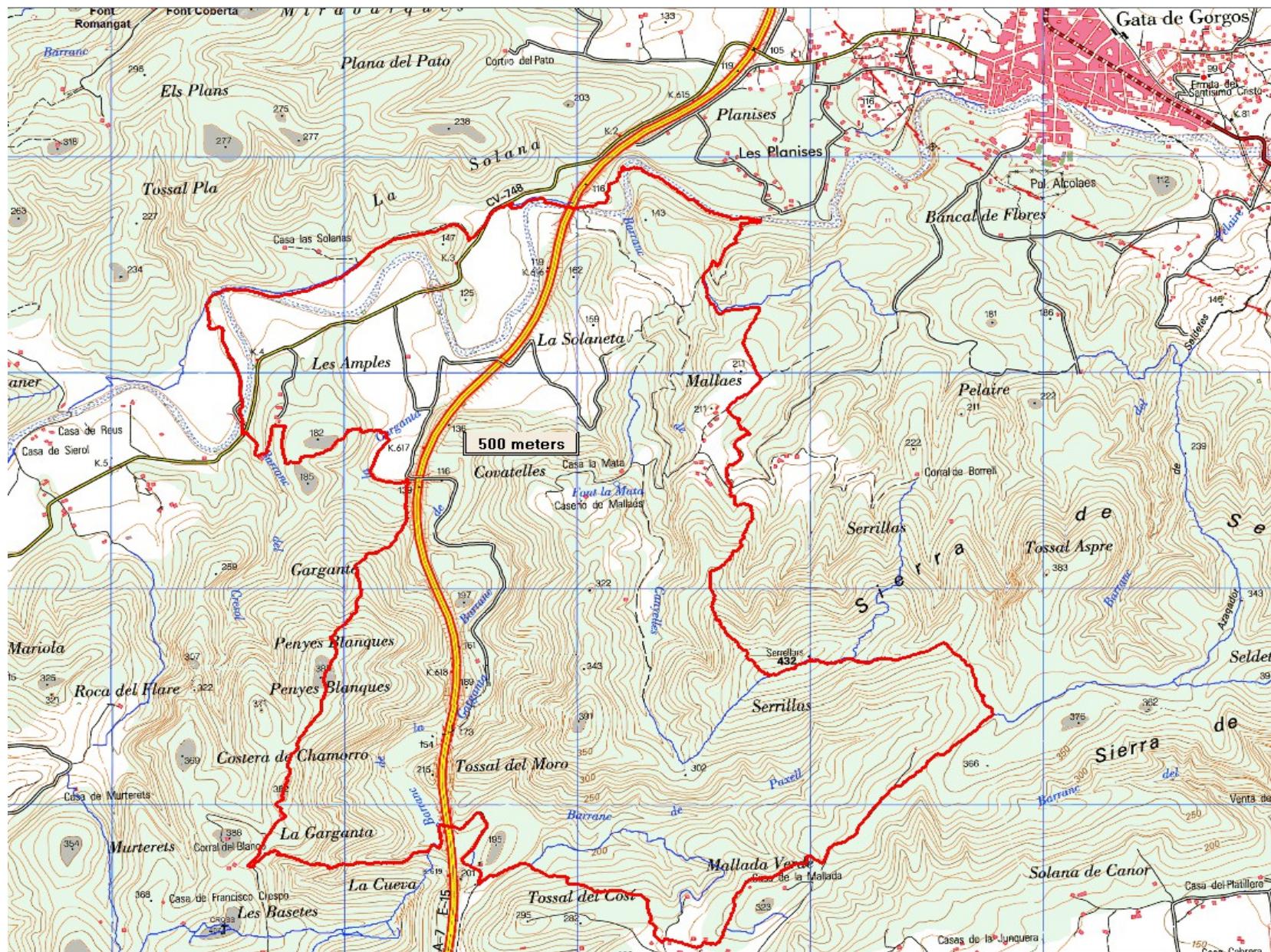
15.7km, 4hr 6min

16.5km, 4hr 20min

### **Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Tricky navigation. Best to follow the gps track.

**Route followed is outlined in Red**



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