

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

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| <b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>  | Ralph Phipps   |
| <b>Last Updated</b>   | 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2017  |
| <b>Title of Walk</b>  | Serra de Besa and Penya Talai  |
| <b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>   | Jalon<br>Rastro site on the Alcalali side of the town CV750. Park in the car park under the trees opposite Aleluja bar   |
| <b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>   | 13   |
| <b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>  | 685  |
| <b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>   | 3.5hr<br>5hr   |
| <b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>  | S/B  |
| <b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>   |  |
| <b>Directions to Start</b>  | Rastro site on the Alcalali side of the town on the CV750. Park in the car park under the trees opposite Aleluja bar and near to the Tourist Info office.  |
| <b>Short walk description</b>   | Constantly improving views on this hill and mountain walk with 360 views of many of the Costa Blanca's finest mountains from the summit of Talai. Rough going up and down this peak, otherwise good paths. |
| <b>Full Walk Description</b>  | <b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>  |
| <p>Cross the road from the Tourist Info office (being re-built Nov 17) and walk up the road to the L of the Bar Aleluja.</p> <p>Ignore the tarmac as it swings quickly R and keep ahead up a track and follow this to see a short junction on the LHS leading into a fenced orchard. 30M beyond this turn L up rough rocks with feint indications of a path and climb up to join a track at the top. Turn R here.</p> <p>Pass to the RHS of the structures and soon drift slightly L to join a descending footpath past a ruined casita.</p> <p>At a track junction turn R and then quickly L to reach tarmac and here turn L and then take the first on the R.</p> | 600m, 8min   |

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| Follow this up until it bends around to the R and then when it soon bends round to the L again leave the tarmac and walk ahead on a footpath into woodland.   |                  |
| Follow this as it swings L and slightly more steeply uphill to join a woodland track and then reach a junction with tarmac where you turn L.  | 800m, 10min      |
| Walk ahead to a water deposito and double back to the R soon on a track.  | 1.3km, 17min     |
| Follow this ahead for some 450m and here swing gently all the way around to the L around a knoll above you on the LHS.  |                  |
| Walk into the edge of a barranco level and turn hard R still on a very clear footpath.  | 1.9km, 28min     |
| Now you walk level around a barranco descending on your RHS keeping to the main path until you reach the far side of the barranco facing the ridge of Serra de Besa where the path turns abruptly R.  |                  |
| Ignore this and instead climb more steeply on a path into the woods which soon turns R and continues level.   | 2.3km, 32min     |
| This now climbs steadily for some 2km on a clear path with occasional scratchy bushes to arrive at a set of ruins in an open plateau.   | 3.6km, 57min     |
| Pass these on the LHS and drift off to the L now taking care to hunt out the cairns for the continuing path.  |                  |
| This continues generally SW now to pass through a shallow col and then continue ahead on the LHS of the ridge line soon descending to reach a track.  | 4.6km, 1hr 12min |
| Follow this down to a junction where you turn R and drop a little passing 2 cross roads to climb directly on tarmac up the spur in front of you.  |                  |
| When this bends sharply to the L keep ahead onto an unmarked footpath which clambers up a steep bank and then continues more easily ahead.  | 5.1km, 1hr 19min |
| Down on your RHS is the upper part of Barranco Negre and your path follows this uphill until just before a casita where the owner has blocked the original path you are forced to drop down to the R and cross the barranco.  | 6km, 1hr 39min   |
| This "new" path is now paint marked and cairned but after only 50m or so of following this out of the barranco you abandon it at a small cairn to work R and steeply uphill to the edge of the ridge rising up to the summit of Talai.  |                  |
| Near the top the slope eases a little but becomes rocky.  | 6.9km, 2hr 2min  |
| From the summit keep ahead towards a secondary slightly lower top and between the 2 look out for cairns dropping steeply on the LHS with a thin and stoney path leading down to a small col before a much lower knoll. (The track is here visible below you on the LHS)           |                  |
| At the col keep ahead and leave the more obvious path line to climb briefly to a hunters' hide and to the R of this find a thin path leading out level to the R which soon becomes clearer and descends more easily than the path behind you to reach the track where you turn R. | 7.4km, 2hr 16min |

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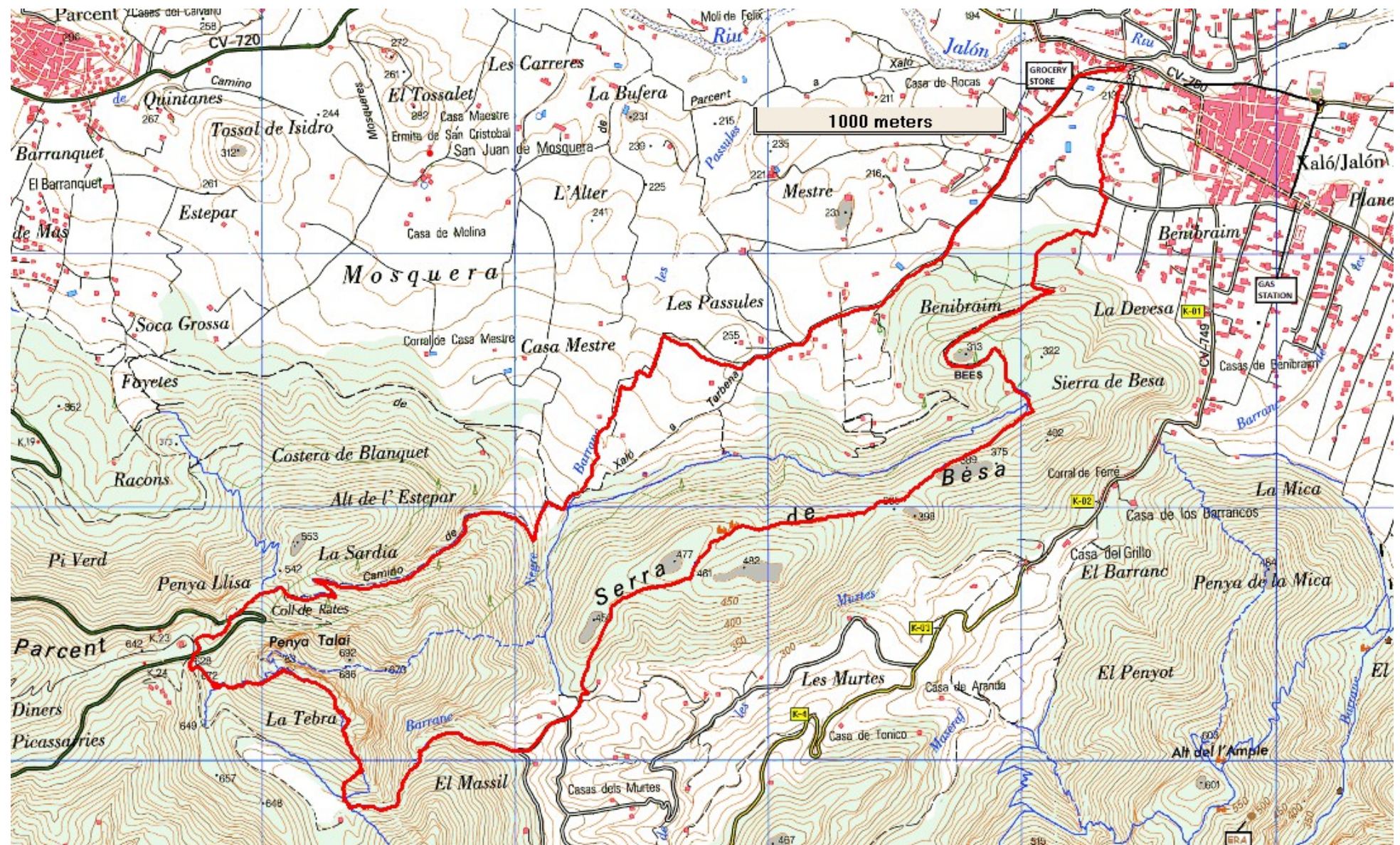
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|--|---|
| Cross the road and to the R of the cyclists check in box find a Y/W footpath descending to reach the road again.   | 7.8km, 2hr 21min  |
| Cross this to the viewpoint and find the continuation to the R of the diorama.   |   |
| Drop down on this continuing footpath to a finger post and here turn R initially level and then soon dropping again.   | 8km, 2hr 25min  |
| Follow this down for some to eventually reach a surfaced road and here turn immediately R across a terrace to the far side where the path turns L slightly downhill. | 9.7km, 2hr 52min  |
| When you reach a cross path junction keep ahead and soon cross a terrace which opens out into a track where you soon have a pipeline on your RHS.                    |   |
| When you reach a cross roads turn R and follow this around to the L onto tarmac.   | 10.3km, 3hr   |
| Now follow this main road as it twists and turns a little aiming steadily across in the direction of Jalon and arrive at the main road beside the Bar Aleluja.       |   |
| <small>Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional</small>                   |   |
| <b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b>  | The rocky ascent of Talai can be omitted if necessary . |

See map below.....

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**Route followed is outlined in Red**



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