

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

[Visit www.walksinspain.org](http://www.walksinspain.org) for more walks descriptions in Spain

Walk description originally prepared by:- Jean & Bob Hall hallbobandjean@aol.com

Last Updated Jan. 2012

Title of Walk Serrella Castle Circuit from the South

Location of Start Guadalest

Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km 9.1km.

Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m

Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops 3 ¼ hrs.
4 ¼ hrs.

Key Statistics for walk - Grade M/B

Grid reference of start point 742430E 4287220N

Directions to Start

From CALLOSA de en SARRIA: Drive towards Guadalest on the CV 755 for 10 km to a side road going down **R** to the dam. Drive across the dam and continue on surfaced road for approx 4 km to a T-junction. Turn **R** up surfaced road, (ignoring road off **R**), for approx 0.6 km to a track going off left just past a large 'Deputacion De Alicante' sign. Turn left on to this track which is well surfaced but very narrow. Continue up until reaching a ruin on **LHS** and park.

From BENNIMANTELL. Drive towards Benifato for approx 1.0 km to the turn off for Beniarda on the **R**. Drive down through the very narrow contorted streets of Beniarda and continue for approx 0.75 km down to the bridge. Cross bridge and turn **R** for 2.0 km along road to the T-junction (see above). Carry on to start.

Short walk description

Full Walk Description

The history of the Moorish occupation of this part of Spain for over seven centuries is well documented elsewhere, but the remains of watch towers and castles are still to be found throughout the region on many strategically situated crags, and certainly add interest to a day in the mountains. Our first castle, the highest in the region, is right on top of a sheer crag overlooking the northern side of the Guadalest Valley forming part of the Sierra de Serrella. This range runs in a shallow arc from east to west and excellent views of the range can be had from Guadalest and the C3313. The zig-zags of the forestry road can be seen crossing the front of the castle crag and disappear over a col to the right of the crag. At the bottom left of the zig-zags a small red building marks the pumping station. The castle is not marked on the military maps, but its water supply is Pozo de Castellet.

From the starting point your destination towers above you with its ruined Castillo just visible. But the easy start up track and path gives you your "second wind" and superb views of the Guadalest Reservoir. Then the steep path ascending the rugged Barranco de les Coves, with its occasionally gushing stream and rock scrambles, ends at a fuente. To the West rises the imposing Barranco de la Canal de les Coves with its two parallel spines of upturned strata leading to Malla del Llop, (Alt 1357m). To the East the spectacular peak of the Castillo now looms appreciably closer.

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

SIERRA SERRELLA. EL CASTELLET. (Serrella/Castell de Castells).

NOTE: TIMES QUOTED ARE WALKING TIME ONLY – NO BREAKS.
UNDERLINED LETTERS ARE MAP REFERENCES.

**Elapsed Walking Time/
Distance so far**

From the ruin walk up the track which soon becomes unpaved. Just before reaching a small ruin look for a path going off **R** which is marked by 2 cairns **A**. (7mins 0.5km) **7min 0.5km**

Take this path through a shrub area and up the steep Barranco de les Coves.
For most of the way the path up the **W** side of the Barranco is reasonably good but near the top when it crosses the streambed it deteriorates. Arrive at a **water trough B**. (24min 1km) **31min 1.4km**

From here look **R** and sight a low rocky spine ending in a rocky knoll some 200 meters away. The path starts from the base of this knoll where the old bancales meet it. To get there is at present indistinct and secateurs and gloves will be useful. Basically find the clearest way along one of the lower bancales either at trough level or one or two bancales further down to arrive at a **rough track C**. (3min .2km) **34min 1.6km**

Follow track up passing ruin on your **R** to arrive at a cairn on the base of the rocky knoll marking the **path up D**. (7min .4km) **41min 2.0km**

Now look up **L** to sight a lone pine on the hillside. Your path passes immediately to the **L** of the pine. From the cairn the path starts off rather indistinct but becomes more defined before reaching the pine. Now, straight ahead, sight a rock knoll with a wall on its **R**. The rather faint path aims for where the wall joins the knoll.
Now, straight ahead, sight a larger rocky knoll with a bancale wall on its **R**. Again the path aims for where the wall meets the knoll. Climb around the **RHS** of the knoll to reach a ruin with Era **E**. (20min .5km) **1h 1min 2.5km**

From ruin a track leads to a T-junction with main rough track. Turn **R** steep and long up to the **crest** below the Castillo **G**.(20min .6km) **1h 21min 3.1km**

The way up to the Castillo is well defined with a short scramble near the top.
The ascent is well worth the effort but those prone to vertigo may forego it.(30min .4km return)
1h 51min 3.5km

Turn **R** down the track to reach cross tracks at a col **H**. (9min 0.6km) **2h 4.1km**

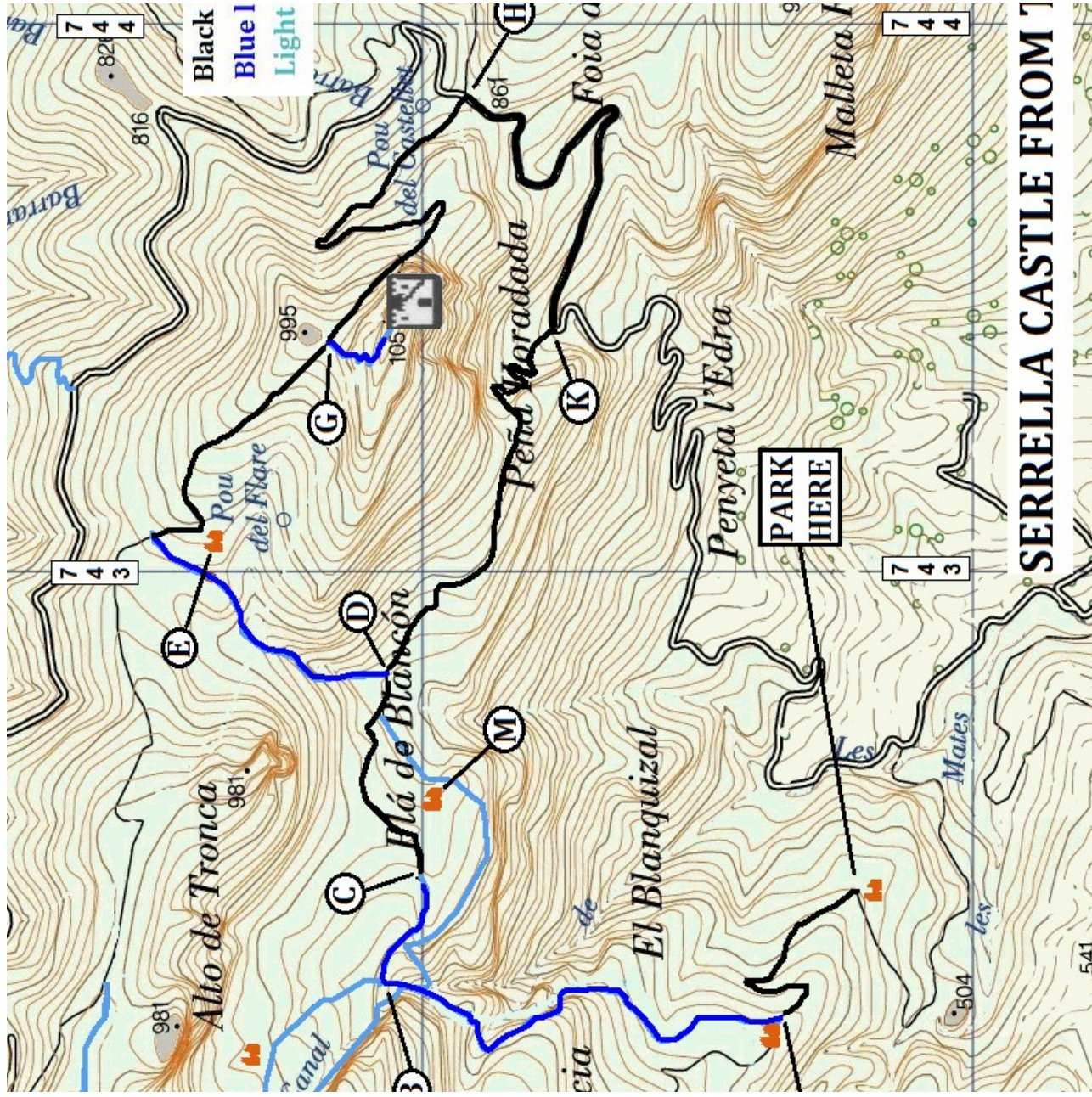
Turn **R** direction Guadalest. Continue down track and keep a sharp lookout for a **faint track** going off **R** at a sharp **L bend K**. (14min 0.9km) **2h 14min 5km**

Turn **R** on to this abandoned track and follow it to arrive at a **ruin M**.(23min 1.4km) **2h 37min 6.4km**

Turn **R** and follow the track down. Where the track ends look for a path going straight ahead. Continue along this path which winds down and becomes overgrown. Head towards a font which can be seen ahead **B**.(7min 0.3km). **2h 44min 6.7km**

Turn **L** and retrace your outward path down the Barranco to **track A**.(22min 1.1km) **3h 6min 7.8km**

Turn **L** and down back to car. (4min .3km) **3h 10min 9.1km**



SERRELLA CASTLE FROM 7