

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Bob & Jean Hall hallbobandjean@aol.com
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Title of Walk	SERRELLA CASTLE Extended Circuit from the South
Location of Start	Guadalest
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	11km.
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	768mtrs.
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3 ³ / ₄ hrs. 4 ³ / ₄ hrs.
Key Statistics for walk - Grade	S/Scr

Grid reference of start point Lat: 38.699692, Long: 0.212738

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

Visit to Serrella castle from Guadalest with side trip up canal of Malla del Llop.

Full Walk Description

This strenuous but exciting walk has very little flat sections. The ups and downs are often very steep. Some path finding skills required as paths are overgrown in places and can be badly eroded. The normal approach to El Castellet (Serrella Castle) is from the North at Castell de Castells. This more dramatic approach is from the South near Guadalest. The ascent of the rugged Borranco de les Coves begins on the West side with a good path. A rock scramble brings us to the east side. This crossing is made more exciting when there is flowing water. The path continues ascending as it heads into the spectacular widening Canal of Malla de Llop. About half way up the Canal we exit by zig zagging up the east side, affording great views of the Canal as we gain height. The very steep track leading up to the pinnacle of El Castellet can be daunting but good views offer excuses for many rest stops. The scramble up to the castle ruins (not for those suffering from vertigo) is rewarded with stunning 360-degree views. A steep decent on a partially surfaced road followed by a nice ramble on an abandoned track to return to the Barranco de las Coves where we retrace our steps back to the start.

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SERRELLA CASTLE(EL CASTELLET). Extended Circuit from the South

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**. (25min 1km) **32min 1.5km**

From here the path is a little less defined. At the font turn **R** and walk a few meters to find a path starting above a bancale wall. Continue up (**N**) on fairly defined path passing a large stand alone boulder type rock (with remnants of an old stone wall in front), on your **RHS**. Arrive at a ruin **C**. (9min 0.4km) **41min 1.9km**

Continue walking up the canal keeping to the **RHS**. Look for cairns to guide you. Pass a water trough. Now the up is even steeper - continue and watch very carefully for a path marked by cairns and a pyramid of rocks on the **RHS**. This path leads up and out of the canal. It is hard to spot but once found it is quite clear and easy to follow. Arrive at the top of the ridge **D**. (30min 1.2km) **1h 11min 3.1km**

Turn **R** (**E**) and follow just below the ridge top on the **N** side. Path drops down a little passing through some scattered pine trees to arrive at a track by an animal enclosure **E**. (13min 0.6km) **1h 24min 3.7km**

Turn **R** and head **E** along track. It winds down and passes by a ruin, (with Era) on the **RHS** before climbing very steeply up to the crest below the Castillo at walk sign **G**. (28min 1.5km) **1h 52min 5.2km**

The way up to the Castillo is well defined with a short scramble near the top. The ascent is well worth the effort. The top offers amazing 360 degree views. There and back (15min .0.5km) **2h 7min 5.7km**

Continue down main track to reach cross tracks at a col **H**. (16min 1.0km) **2h 23min 6.7km**

Turn **R** direction Guadalest. Continue down track. Soon its' surface becomes concrete. Keep a sharp lookout for old bancales with a faint track going off **R** at a sharp **L** bend **K**. (13min 0.9km) **2h 36min 7.6km**

Take this abandoned track. It climbs quite steeply through bancales and passes between two rock pinnacles. Then it descends before climbing once more to arrive at a ruin **M**. (25min 1.4km) **3h 1min 9.0km**

Continue down track. Where the track ends look for a path straight ahead. Continue along this path which winds down and becomes overgrown. Look ahead and spot the font you passed on your outward journey – this is your objective. Use your pathfinding skills to arrive there. **B**. (9min 0.3km). **3h 10min 9.3km**

Turn **L** and retrace your outward path down the Barranco to track **A**. (25min 1.1km) **3h 35min 10.4km**

Turn **L** and down back to car. (6min .5km) **3h 41min 10.9km**

