

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Colin Read
Last Updated	20 th October 2017
Title of Walk	Complete Serra de Seldetes Circuit (Tossal Aspre option)
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Gata de Gorgos. Large gravel car park on Carrer Alcolaes. Opposite a school.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	11
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	580
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3.5hr 5.5hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/C/Scr
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 38.770805, Long: 0.082222
Directions to Start	N332. At km 188.5 at edge of Gata de Gorgos (Benissa end). Turn into C' Lepanto in front of "Muebles Monfort" keep L to cross bridge, follow it through crossroads to 'T' junction. Turn L onto C' Alcolaes. Park on gravel car park on R, opposite a school.
Short walk description	A long undulating traverse across varied terrain, leads to the foot of the most easterly ridge on the northern flank, of Serra de Seldetes. The ridge offers rugged terrain with some scrambling and in places exposure, to gain the summit ridge of Seldetes. All its tops are then traversed, before turning north over the neglected summit of Tossal Aspre. Finally descending its northern slopes back to Gata. Much of the route is pathless and rugged, the rest is almost all paths and tracks. There are two alternative routes (A & B) included in the description.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Turn R and cross the road, go immediately L past bins onto a track. Follow it round a bend, past a building on the R, in about 15m before the next building turn R onto a path. Passing close to a pylon, head into trees to emerge beside villas, at the end of an access track.	4min, 270m

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Turn L onto a path, follow it to a surfaced road, go R for a few metres to a 'T' junction. Turn L, at the first bend go straight on to a short track (faded Y/W marks) which loops R back to the road, ignore this and go straight on to a path. At a junction at the end of a bancal turn R, ascend bancals, turn L above a ruin, continue to reach a junction, where a short track goes R to the road, ignore it.	12min, 700m
Turn L onto a path, follow it as it traverses terraces, ignore a path which ascends to the R at the end of bancals (this is where you will junction on your return journey). The path weaves then rises through bancals to a fork, turn sharp R and go up a few bancals to a level area.	20min, 1.19km
Ignore paths on the R & L go straight ahead and descend leftwards into the bed of a barranco. Bear L to an open rocky area, now bear R onto a rising traverse, then up to cross the crest of the ridge above, descend a little to a junction with a well worn path. This is the Azagador de Seldetes ridge path, of the PR-CV 412. (Junction for option B)	30min, 1.75km
Turn L downhill. In about 60 metres, immediately before a surfaced road going off L, turn R onto a path (Y/W on rock at junction). Descend alongside olive terraces, after about 25 metres turn R across a terrace, then bear L onto a vague path. It becomes more defined and descends to a cross road of tracks. Go straight on along a track with a part concrete surface, to reach the gates of a rustic building. Follow the track L then R and on to another L turn.	40min, 2.44km
Turn R onto a path and immediately L (more or less straight on) onto a vague path, go along the terrace keeping to the R. Step down a bancal, cross an open area keeping close to the bancal on the R. Just before it ends climb up it at a breach. Cross the terrace diagonally L towards another bancal and descend into a shallow barranco, go straight across its stoney bed and ascend a breach in a bancal, step L and up over the next bancal to land on a path. Turn R and follow it continuing straight ahead to reach a dew pond in front of a very small casita.	46min, 2.74km
Pass them on the R go straight on for about 10m, ignore a path going R and step up a bancal and turn L along a pathless terrace. In the distance there is a pylon with a ruin beside it. When within about 30m of them, step down L and follow the stoney edge of the lower terrace and when it runs into shrubbery, head L to the pylon.	49min, 2.9km
From the pylon head south towards the rocky escarpment on Serra Seldetes NE flank. Note the fine rocky prow of the ridge beyond the barranco which is your route later. First head towards it to pick up a vague path which heads through vegetation, the path becomes a little more defined and bears L passing under the power cables and down into the barranco. Before you reach a walled enclosure at the bottom, turn R into the bed of the barranco, then climb up the steep scree slope on the opposite side to reach a track beside the railway lines. Turn R, go up the track to reach a pylon.	1hr 07min, 3.25km
The next 1.5hrs is over rough pathless terrain. Move R immediately beyond the pylon to gain a rocky slope, which leads up leftwards onto the ridge. Follow it (cairns) passing a few "White Caza" signs along the way, whilst trending out to the L edge, with airey views into the quarry below. Continue, more or less along the crest, outflank a rocky knoll on the L. Head through trees to reach a rock outcrop, climb it on the L in two steps to regain the crest. Continue to the next rocky knoll, with a "Reserva de Caza" sign at its foot.	1hr 27min, 4.04km
Climb up behind the sign, over short rock steps, to emerge onto a fine exposed section of rock ridge, with dramatic cliffs plunging down to the L. Continue directly over several	

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rock steps to reach the summit of the rock spur, where the way ahead is barred by a vertical drop.	1hr 37min, 4.13km
Move back a few metres and descend to the R to a ledge, then L keeping close against the rock face, to emerge on a rock shelf below the vertical rock step. Continue up the remainder of the ridge as it merges into the summit slopes and up onto the crest, with wide views over Teulada and beyond. Turn R and follow the crest to the summit.	1hrs 58min 4.86km
Continue west, keeping to the crest of the ridge over the second top, on increasingly rough karst limestone, then onward descending past large cairns some with steel posts (marking the district boundary). Ignore small cairns leading down R towards terraces. Bear L keeping to the crest over the next minor top and passing more large boundary cairns, to reach the third summit which has a tall conical cairn. Bear towards the R then L to reach the fourth summit (no large cairn here but several clusters of shrubs). Down to the R is woodland and ahead on the R are two ruins (your destination) but first, bear L along the remainder of the rocky ridge, to reach a second tall conical cairn. Now head west in the direction of the summit of Serrellars, to reach a smaller cairn. Head across an open expanse of rocky boulder strewn terrain (recently burnt) towards a wall, pass terraces on the L and descend to intersect with a path (at last)!	2hrs 37min 6.86km
Turn R (red dot on rock) follow the path to a crossroads of paths and sign boards (a few metres to the R is a renovated well).	2hrs 43min 7.19km
Go straight ahead onto the PR-CV 412 "Gata de Gorgos 5 km" and follow the path through woodland, after about 120m pass a track which cuts back L. In about another 70m just as the trees thin out and an open view on the L reveals the summit of Tossal Aspre, about 7m past a tree with a Y/W marker on it, there is a small path on the L.	2hrs 51min 7.46km
<p>OPTIONS:- From this point there are two other alternatives.</p> <p>A - Follow the main description to the summit of Tossal Aspre and then reverse the route back to this point and continue via option B. This avoids the 120m of awkward vegetated descent to the ruin at Les Porqueretes, but adds 1.7km to the distance & 50m more ascent.</p> <p>B - To avoid more of the rough limestone, ignore the Summit of Tossal Aspre and continue along the main path. It leads across to and then down the Azagador ridge of the PR-CV 412, to the cairned junction of your outward route. Turn L and reverse that route back to the start. This adds about 600m to the route length, ascent is unaltered.</p> <p>Otherwise -</p> <p>Turn L and follow the path, after about 8m it forks, bear R. It weaves through vegetation (cairns) and heads to the R initially, then turns L towards the summit again. Now the terrain is pathless. The line across the plateau connects areas of increasingly awkward rocky ground, interspersed with vegetation, heading all the time towards the summit. Aim for the most prominent section of the rocky band just below the summit and scramble up it to gain the top. There are wide ranging views in all directions, including looking back towards your earlier route.</p>	3hrs 05min 8.19km
Turn R (east), the terrain is rough and pathless again. Head towards the saddle, look out for a large cairn near the L edge from where you can look down towards terraces and a ruin at Les Porqueretes on the shoulder of the hill below (this is your destination). First continue on the same line onto the next top passing near a group of small trees. Continue just to the L of the crest, descending gradually at first towards the viaduct at the eastern end of Gata (from these slopes there is a birds eye view over the Azagador ridge on the R). Aim between two shrubs as the ridge drops off more steeply. The ruin and its terraces come back into view. Initially, head towards their right hand	

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end and over a rocky step, then towards the ruin and finally bear L to arrive at the top left hand corner of the terraces. (looking down)	3hrs 30min 9.28km
Turn R and follow the terrace to the ruin. Turn L to pass behind it and locate a path on the R, follow it onto a broad terrace. Turn L along it passing two pines, go down a bancal, across another terrace onto a path beyond it, which passes between old walls, then winds down to emerge on top of terraces. Turn L along the top one and descend to the L onto another path. Turn R and descend to the road head.	3hrs 40min, 9.86km
Walk down the road for about 120m, ignore a track on the L, until opposite an access ramp up to terraces on the L. Here turn R onto a path, which descends past the ends of terraces to reach a 'T' junction below the final terrace (junction with your outward route). Turn L, traverse along terraces to reach a short gravel track which leads to the road (don't go to the road).	3hrs 48min, 10.4km
Turn R at the start of the gravel track onto an obscure path. Descend to a ruin, turn R descend bancals, turn L ignoring a path on the R. Continue to the road. Turn R and in a few metres at a junction turn R, then immediately L onto a path (red arrow on road).	3hrs 52min, 10.6km
Follow the path to reach villas. At the first garden wall turn sharp R onto a part hidden path, follow it passing a pylon on its right to junction with a track. Turn L and follow it back to the car park.	4hr, 11.1km

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Walk Recommendations or restrictions	The car park might be busy on school days.
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See map below.....

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