

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps
<b>Last Updated</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Cova Tallada and Torre de Gerro from Las Rotas
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Denia Parking area at end of Las Rotas road – limited parking in a busy visitor spot.
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	4
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	260
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	1.5hr 2.5hr
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	M/C
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 38.822321, Long: 0.159348
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From the CV736 which runs between Javea and Denia, close to Denia look out for the minor road to Las Rotas (or Les Rotes in Valencian). Follow this to the end and a turning circle where you can park. If this is full there are spaces a little further back the way you came.
<b>Short walk description</b>	Cova Tallada is a man made cave which is a popular bathing spot for those not wanting to spend time on a beach. An interesting walk on a hot summer day with the option to extend it up to the ridge and along to the Torre or just return directly from the cave.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
From car park walk back along road. Take first road (Carrer de la Via Lactea) up L and quickly L again at a junction to continue uphill to a sharp RH bend. Take chained off track - bear L at a junction and continue to its end.	10min, 0.6km
Take path <b>L</b> which starts with steps going down. There are some awkward sections along here with polished rocks and one section with a chain to provide protection against a slip so care is needed. Follow the coast to eventually drop down to a signpost.	26min, 1.2km

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You are now almost directly above the cave. You can drop down from the sign post to find a chained route leading you seawards and along the edge to peer into the beginnings of a large cave and if competent you can clamber through to explore this. Alternatively from the signpost you can continue ahead rising slightly to pass a turn doubling back on your RHS (which we take later) and walk out onto a scrubby rock area covered with pebbles. (about 60m from signpost) By wandering about on this surface you will encounter wire netting covering large holes which peer down into the cave below and bring with it the stark realisation that you are standing on top of the cave roof!

Leaving these openings and walking carefully down and slightly L you will encounter an improbable set of almost washed out G/W paint marks at a steep edge. If you peer down you can see that in the past rudimentary steps have been carved out here and these lead down to a small promontory that then gives easy access to the large cave. It is very easy to ascend these steps if you have entered the cave using the route above but requires caution and care to descend them.

From here your options are either to return to the car park directly using your outbound route or to take a longer excursion by climbing up the hill and walking back along a ridge to visit the Torre del Gerro before returning to your car.

To do this assuming you are ABOVE the cave retrace your steps a few metres to find a path rising up to the L. This climbs steeply across rough ground to reach a rocky ramp protected with a chain.

Above this as the slope eases you reach a cairn where you keep R on a thinner (but clear) path. Follow this a few hundred metres to a second fork and here keep L still rising almost directly towards the crest of the ridge.

After a while a large concrete trig point comes into view which you pass and in a few more metres reach a cairn at a T-junction. Turn R here.

Now follow this ridge with extensive views all around to reach the Torre.

Pass this on its RHS to reach a track which you follow down in zig-zags to pass your outgoing route and return to your car.

Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional

2.2km, 51min

3.2km, 1hr 10min

### **Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Although a short and popular walk the going underfoot can be hard work and exploration of the cave – in particular – may be dangerous. Don't undertake it unless you are skilled and confident – sure footed and have a head for heights.

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**Route followed is outlined in Red**



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