

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	23 rd June 2018
Title of Walk	Refugio d'Amitges circuit from Estany de Sant Maurici
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Espot, Taxi stop at end of Estany (lake) Sant Maurici
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	11
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	570
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4hr 6hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/B
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 42.582199, Long: 1.011710
Directions to Start	From the mid N of Spain find the C13 road heading N from Sort. Turn L on the LV50014 at the S end of Panta de la Torrossa – a large reservoir and drive to Espot.
Short walk description	Using the many 4 x 4 taxis from Espot makes it easier for us to gain access to these high mountain fastnesses quite easily. The scenery all day is stunning.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>Before commencing the walks proper you may care to walk along the wooden board walk to take some photos of the lake and surrounding peaks but then.....</p> <p>From the taxi stop continue ahead on the track to a wooden information cabin and here turn R continuing up the track.</p> <p>This soon doubles back to the L again and now we settle in to a steady plod with occasional views out to the L over the lake to the distant peaks beyond,</p> <p>Pass 2 finger posts to the L pointing towards the Cascada de la Ratera (a waterfall) which we ignore to arrive at a wooden bridge over the stream which we cross and follow the track up to the R and soon beside the Estany de Ratera. Keep L at a fork where the R turn simply drops down to the lakeside and the L fork has a R/W post.</p>	

Remember that you use these walk guides at your own risk. Take precautions and if unsure – turn back!

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Soon after the end of this lake you arrive at a fork in the track with a finger post and here turn R to cross a stream and continue to ascend towards the Refugio d'Amitges.

Zig-zag up this track to reach the Refugio (manned during summer months with cafe and restaurant) and continue ahead – ignoring the track off to the R towards the sam wall - on the ascending track to cross a small col and drop down to the RHS of the next lake – Estany dels Barbs.

Follow the track as it ends and then becomes a footpath which rises up a rocky spur towards a col slightly to the L. Stop anywhere here for impressive views and a breather before retracing your steps back down past the Refugio.

The track descends to a steep bend to the L where you can walk ahead and clamber up a few rocks to join a footpath with yellow painted posts marking the route. (This starts from higher up the track at a finger post but it is easier to walk down to this bend to access it)

Follow this complex but well marked path steadily down until it reaches the Ratera stream and here you meet the GR11 path with its R/W markers and turn L.

Make your way past the Estany de les Obagues de Ratera and follow the clearly marked R/W footpath until you cross a couple of stretches of boardwalk and arrive at a junction with a track where you turn L.

You soon reach the junction with your outgoing route (off L) and turn R to descend across the wooden bridge.

Just after this there is a finger post on the RHS indicating the Cascada de Ratera and Estany de Sant Maurici.

Take this descending footpath to a junction where you turn R down to the bottom of the waterfall.

Continue down a little lower where there is a better viewpoint of the whole waterfall and then follow the path to find yourself above the visible Estany de Sant Maurici below you on the R and soon on this path you reach the end of the lake and the track leading a few metres to the taxi rank. **The last taxi leaves here at 6pm**

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

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Use group taxi from Espot - €9 rtn in 2018

see map below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red

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