

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	30 th September 2018
Title of Walk	Pico Cerler from Arpriu ski station
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Cerler, near Benasque Parking area at top ski station at end of A2617 road.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	6.5km
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	550m
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	2.5hr 4hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/B/Scr
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 42.560730, Long: 0.569658
Directions to Start	From Benasque follow the A139 to the N and 1.7km after leaving the village at the first roundabout turn R and follow the A2617 around Cerler village and on up into the mountains to arrive at the ski-station and a large parking area.
Short walk description	A tough walk with plenty of climb in a short distance and fantastic views from the summit. Slightly marred by all the ski lifts but the views are tremendous.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Start off by walking to the R of the ski station and level on a wide track to reach a junction where you keep ahead towards a rocky waterfall.	200m, 4min
Swing R on the track as it starts to ascend alternating between steep and very steep sections.	
At a junction high up on the hill keep R and more steeply uphill.	1.4km, 39min
Arrive at the top station and a wide panorama beyond and here turn R and in a few metres keep R uphill.	2km, 54min
Follow this track to the end at the top station of yet another chair lift	2.8km, 1hr 10min
and walk through the large arch to descend slightly L aiming for the grassy col below.	

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Just before you reach this the track you are on curves around to the R but you leave this to descend a few metres more and cross the grassy col.

Aim up and slightly R to find a clear path climbing up through trees and scree.

The rocky going gets worse as you reach the ridge line of the peak and turn L and more steeply uphill.

Finally reach the top of the ridge with its several summits and decide how far you want to proceed along it. The final peak allows views not only of the mountain tops and ridge set out before you, but also the Benasque valley below.

3.8km, 1hr 34min

The gps track with this route now returns along the ridge until the point where it turns R to descend beside a few poles. By peeing ahead and over the edge you can see that there are in fact Green and Black waymarks leading on and down through the rocks and scree.

4.1km, 1hr 39min

By persevering carefully you can scramble and totter down these taking care to find the next marker before you desert your current one and after a considerable time you reach scattered trees and marginally easier going.

Here the path finally slithers out to the R emerging into scrub and pasture where the line and the waymarking are scant. (but the gps track attached DOES follow them!)

4.6km, 1hr 52min

Essentially you must descend rightwards across the slope finding occasional waymarks and heading steadily down to intersect the line of the overhead chair lift almost at right angles.

When you reach this there is a clearer track heading off downhill to the L. Take this.

5km, 2hr 3min

Just after this ends and before you follow an ascending line the footpath now doubles back to the R.....

5.2km, 2hr 9min

and now zig-zags down to reach easier going.

Finally follow a clearer track in the grass down to the L aiming for the bottom chair lift station and join the track on its L to rise back up to the car park.

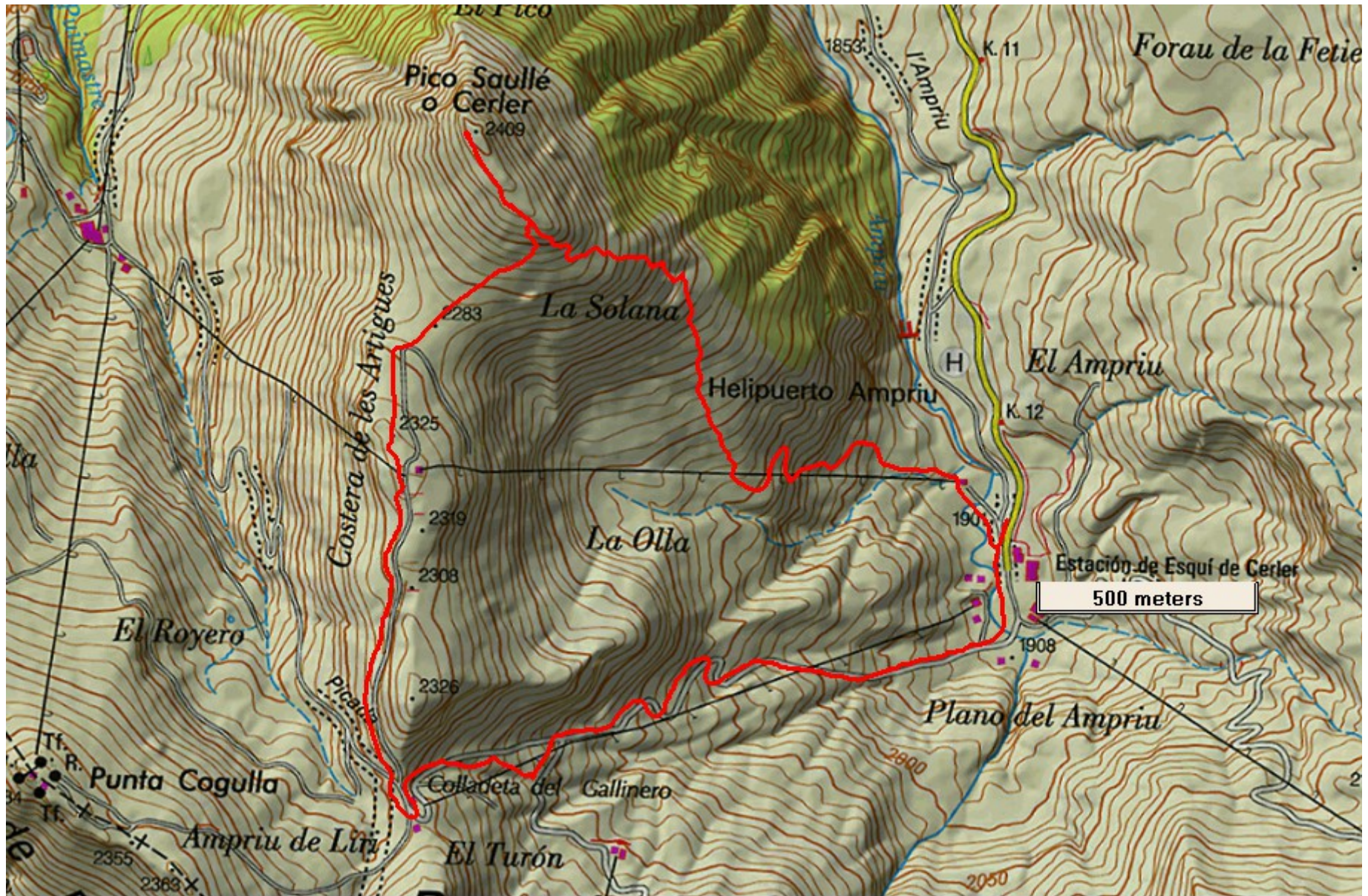
Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

The descent route used in this description is extremely tough and potentially dangerous descending as it does through scree and rocks. Better to return by the outgoing route or extend it by looping to the N from the first top ski station reached and then return up the valley.

If determined to keep it short then it would be better to do this route in reverse.

Route followed is outlined in Red



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