

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Colin Read
Last Updated	16th January 2018
Title of Walk	Serra de Besa Circuit (summit optional)
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Alcalali. At a small car park besides the junction of the CV-720 and the CV-750.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12.3
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	370
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3hr 4.5hr (plus 25 min for summit)
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	M/B
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.75225, Long:- -0.04141
Directions to Start	Coming from all directions to Alcalali, where at the edge of the town the CV-720 from Pedreguer (at km 0) junctions with the CV-750 (km 2.2) from Jalon (Xalo). There is a small car park on the NE corner beside the intersection, with more parking bays on the roadside opposite.
Short walk description	Pleasant tracks and country lanes to and back from the base of the Serra de Besa. Steeply up the flanks of a barranco, then up and across this low laying ridge, with lovely views from both sides (a little rough and scratchy in places). Then doubling back along its flank through beautiful woodland. Quite a tough walk for its grade and complicated route finding.
Full Walk Description	Cross the road and turn L in the direction of Parcent (SW). At the next junction turn R onto CV-750 towards Murla & Orba "Passeig del Pou". When the pavement runs out cross the road and continue for about 190 metres. Fork L onto the minor road signed to "Horts del Moli", follow it downhill round a bend and turn L onto a track beside a small casita. The track soon bends R & ends, but go L onto a small path which winds through trees and down to a casita, turn L up steps beside it, then R along concrete beside a disused water deposit, continue to a 'T' junction. Turn R along a track and in a short distance at a cross roads, turn L along a rough path to reach the river, turn L along its bank then cross it on stepping stones (may
Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	720m, 10min

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not be possible after heavy rain). Join a track and bear L, continue as it becomes surfaced, ignore a road on the R to reach a cross roads with the CV-720, beside a four arched bridge.	1.18km, 16min
Go straight across onto the Camino Rural, signposts to "Ermita de Sant Joan" and PR-CV 425 "Mirador coll de Rates 4.33km" (straight ahead the Serra de Besa can be seen). Follow the road round a bend to where it turns L. Go straight ahead along a track (Y/W & R/W crosses on telegraph pole). Immediately after the second small casita on your L (a third casita can be seen straight ahead) turn L onto a grassy track. At a junction turn L, to reach a 'T' junction with a surfaced road. Turn R and follow it (now heading towards Penya Talai & Col de Rates) to reach a junction with sign boards.	2km, 30min
Ignore the road to the L, continue straight ahead signed "Ermita de Sant Joan 105m PR-CV425". Pass the Ermita and at the first junction turn L signposted to "Senia de Mosquera" (50m). Pass the well and continue to where the road ahead is unsurfaced. Turn L onto a narrow concrete track, at its end turn R along a walled track, soon it bears L (heading towards the right end of the Serra de Besa). It turns L at a bancal to reach a junction. Ignore the ramp going up R and go straight ahead along a narrow terrace. At a junction turn R in front of an Olive tree, to reach a 'T' junction with a surfaced road going L (note the covered well). Turn R along a broad track to reach the start of another surfaced road, just before a bend and a low concrete bancal.	2.86km, 41min
Turn immediately L onto a grassy path which heads towards the hills, continue (ignoring side paths) past a ruined casita to a high concrete bancal. Turn L and follow the bancal, as it turns R, the path becomes rough for a very short distance. Step up onto the end of a surfaced road beside a casita. Go up the road, ignore a left turn and continue. When the surfaced road ends turn R onto a dirt track, which crosses behind an Olive grove, then swings up L to a 'T' junction with another track. Turn L (red blob and yellow arrow on a concrete structure) continue, ignore a part surfaced track on the R, to emerge at a 'T' junction with a surfaced road.	3.74km, 56min
Turn R uphill (Y/W marker) passing a ruin on your L (above to the L is the Serra de Besa) the tarmac ends at a junction of tracks.	4km, 1hr
Turn L along a broad track, it soon bears L then swings R to a 'T' junction (BTT sign post). Turn R, cross the head of a barranco to another junction, turn R uphill and after a short distance ignore a path going L continue straight ahead (red dot and arrow on rock). It now climbs steadily up the flank of the Barranco Negre, to eventually emerge at a junction of paths, with a Finca to the R (selling organic wine. Red cross on rock). Turn L above vineyards and soon reach a road at a 'T' junction.	5.1km, 1hr 19min
Turn L towards "Al Vent". Just before the villa gates turn L up a track (red arrow on ground). Near where the track ends, ignore a path directly ahead and take a path on the L (cairn and faded red mark on rock). The narrow path climbs before traversing R along the flanks, be careful not to lose the line (there are a few cairns and it is a little scratchy). It eventually reaches some old terraces with a large pine growing amongst them (good views to the south) and ahead is a shallow col.	5.8km, 1hr 35min
OPTION : The summit (482m) is directly above and about 300 metres distance. The way is unmarked, rough and scratchy, it takes about 25mins there and back. The views are good, though they differ little from those both here and further along the ridge.	

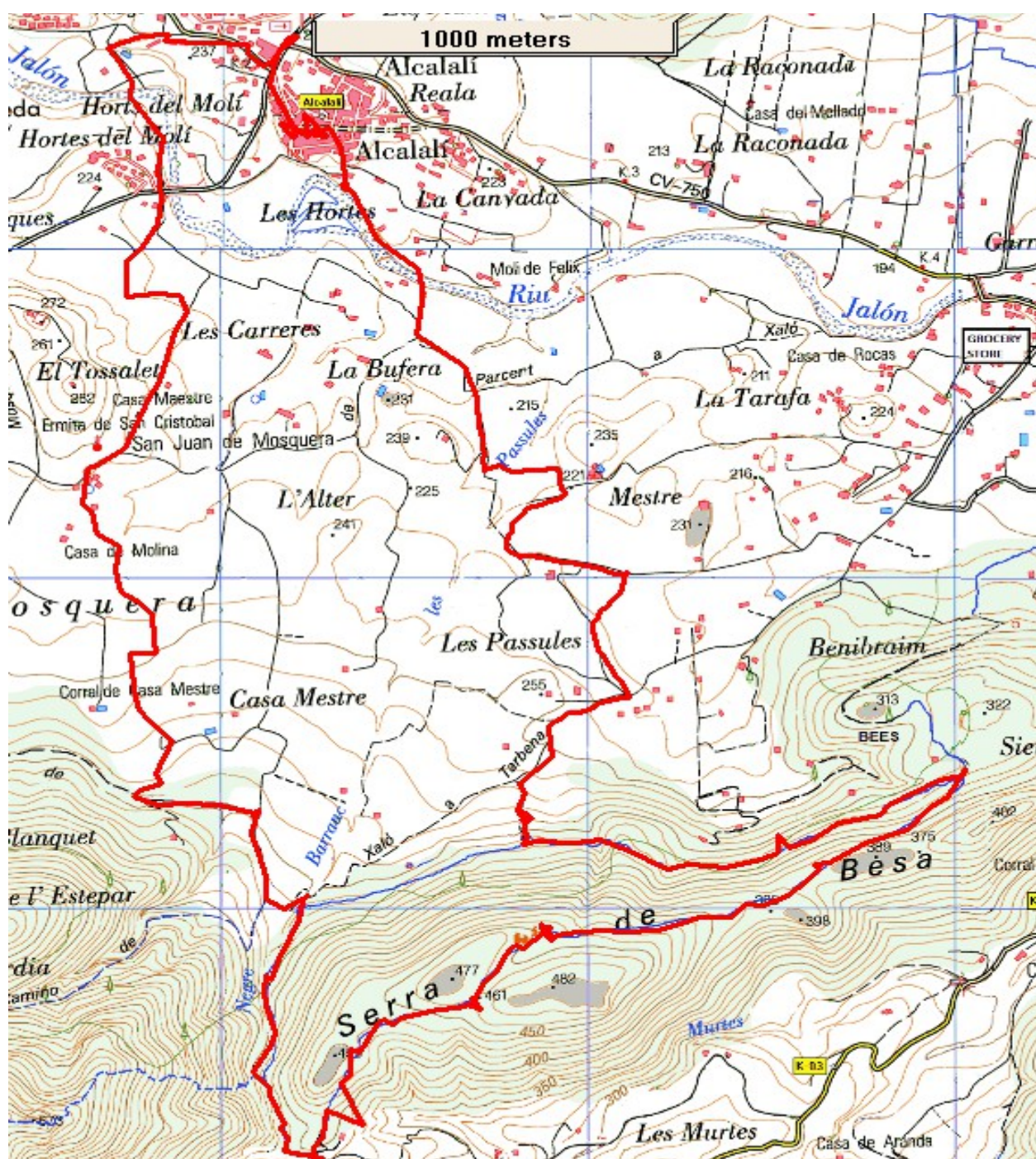
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To continue the main route; Head north initially to cross the col (466m), then bear R (E) to reach the second of two ruins. (A good place for lunch).	6.1km, 1hr 41min
Continue in an easterly direction, towards the coast now traversing this northern flank and descending gently, to eventually reach a small rocky area, with a collection of cairns. Ahead the ridge rises again towards another small top. Head towards it then pass it down to the left, eventually descending a little more steeply to emerge on a path junction at the edge of open terraces.	7.48km, 2hr 4min
Don't cross the terrace, turn sharp L (SW) onto a footpath, which traverses through pine forest, it rises to gain terraces and undulates along them (occasional red arrows). After a steeper section of descent and a bend, look out for an outcrop of rock with a cleft in it on your L (do not miss it). Opposite it is a small path (cairns).	8.72km, 2hr 25min
Turn R, descend over bancals to a ruin on your L, pass it and down to a second ruin, pass this on its R. Wind down this path beside terraces, until it becomes a track then emerges onto a surfaced road (G/W cross on wall & BTT sign on rock). Turn R along the road to reach a 'Y' junction (BTT sign on post & on wall to L a green & red blob).	9.2km, 2hr 32min
Turn R along the road, (G/W on wall) ignore a concrete track cutting back L to "Villa Maria Segador" then pass a villa on the R with a domed roof and two more tracks cutting back to the L (G/W crosses). In about another 14m there is a fourth track on the L (just before reaching a fence on the R). Turn L onto this and follow it through scrub land, when it reduces to a path, continue bearing R (there are vague paths going L, which do cut a corner but are rather overgrown) to reach a surfaced road.	9.86km, 2hr 39min
Turn L, follow the road past a finca on your L, shortly there is a fence on the L, when it ends so does the tarmac, ignore a track on the L and continue straight ahead, in about 50 metres a path joins from the L and in two paces it crosses to the R. Turn R and follow it across the edge of a vineyard, pass a well on your L, go around the edge of almond plantations to where it becomes a track. Continue along it to a 'Y' junction, just before reaching a finca.	10.44km, 2hr 58min
Turn L and follow this track round a left hand bend and on to a right hand bend. Leave the track and go straight ahead across a narrow barranco, via a small concrete ford onto the edge of a vineyard, immediately turn L go up a short concrete ramp to the next level and immediately turn R. Follow the edge of the terrace above the bancal and at the other end turn L to the next corner, turn R and step up onto a surfaced road. Turn R and follow it to a 'T' junction (BTT sign on corner).	10.95km, 3hr 4min
Turn L then R along the surfaced road (ignore side tracks and a concrete road joining from the L) at a left hand bend go straight on (R/W marker) the road soon ends beside a Finca and becomes a path. It descends and crosses the river (Caution flood zone) it turns L, eventually it becomes surfaced and enters Alcalali to pass beside a mirador. At a junction continue straight up (R/W cross) ignoring side streets, to reach the "sundial and Farmacia" sign on the building ahead, turn L to reach the "Placa del Porxe L'Adjuntament" continue under the arch and go on to the junction with the main road CV-750. Turn R to reach the car park.	12.31km, 3hr 23min
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Walk Recommendations or restrictions	None

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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