

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Colin and Brenda Read	
Last Updated	29th March 2019	
Title of Walk	Cim del Penyalba via El Forat de la Drova	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Barx. Public car park at eastern edge of the village	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	800	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4hr 6hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/C/Scr	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 39.0111, Long: -0.2995	
Directions to Start	Barx. From Gandia on CV-675 at roundabout at eastern end of village with "BARX" sign on it. Take first exit onto Carrer Pep Andres Garba and turn right immediately and right again. Pass the Ajuntament De Barx office, then turn right into car park.	
Short walk description	A circuitous undulating approach, via a cave to the "Forat de al Drova". An (optional) section of scrambling, then a fine open ridge with some scrambling moves. Very easy scrambling leads to the summit through its crown of cliffs, where there are fine views. Descending the easy scrambling leads back to part of the outward route. Mostly on well graded mountain paths but sometimes steep and rocky!	
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	
<p>From the car park, walk back out of the entrance and turn L to cross in front of the Ajuntament de Barx office. Continue to the road junction ignoring a road on you R. Go straight on along the main road "CV-675" named "C' Rafael Chaveli" which becomes "C' de la Font" Ignore all side streets. At a 'T' junction beside the Font turn R still on the main road into "C' de Simat". Pass the "Barx" road sign at the edge of the village, then pass a concrete cami on the R.</p> <p>In a few hundred metres more there is a signpost on the R, where a concrete drive leads up leftwards between large farm buildings. The sign points to "Font del Airer & Cim del Penyalba PR-CV 51" (at the time of writing the sign is pointing 90 deg in the wrong direction ie, directly uphill).</p>	11min, 919m	

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<p>Go to the left of the post passing beside the gate and up the concrete drive (Y/W). Pass between the large chicken sheds, keep left as the concrete ramps up then pass the corner of the building on your R to join a path. It climbs up through vegetation across the hillside to reach a junction with a signpost.</p>	23min, 1.66km
<p>Turn R, signed towards "Cim de Penya Alba PR-CV 51-VIII". In a few metres look out on the R (with care) for a small lime pit (hole in ground). The path continuous and winds steeply uphill with lots of Y/W marks, sometimes crossing rock slabs to reach the cave system of "Cova de les Mallaetes" with various fences and gates around and above it (from where there is a good view).</p>	41min, 2.26km
<p>Continue up to the L along the marked path. At a junction there is a post and Y/W cross at its base. Turn R and continue, crossing over the first top, across a shallow saddle to a second slightly higher top of " Pic de les Aguiles" (638m) with its cairn style shelter. The mountain in front of you is "Cim del Penyalba" your objective, but first you must outflank it on the L (N).</p>	54min, 2.79km
<p>Continue ahead, descend to the col. The Y/W marked path bears L. Ignore a yellow arrow pointing to cairns on the R. Eventually a signpost is reached, at a fork in the path.</p>	1hr 03min, 3.17km
<p>Turn L downhill, signed to "C' Les Foies and Font Nova PR-CV 51 D-3". The fine well engineered path descends down a series of zig-zags before bearing R to another junction, with signpost.</p>	1hr 14min, 3.79km
<p>Go to the R, signed to "Cim Penyalba PR-CV 51 D-3". The path traverses the hillside, rising over a shoulder with fine views towards the coast. It crosses a small area of terraces and then goes across exposed ledges above cliffs in a barranco, before reaching a junction with a concrete access road at a signpost. Below are the red roofs of "Les Foies and Font Nova".</p>	1hr 27min, 4.59km
<p>Turn R signed "Barx, Cim Penyalba & Monduber PR-CV 51 D-3". Go up the concrete to reach gates. Turn R onto a path, which immediately turns L beside a fence to pass a villa. At the back corner of the fence, leave the Y/W marked route (which continues uphill) and turn L along an unmarked path, still beside the fence, to pass around the villa, where it then bears R past a large rock. The path crosses a shoulder, then descends gently passing close to the right side of a small ruin (beyond to the L is a green water tank) soon you reach a junction with a cross path.</p>	1hr 39min, 5.33km
<p>Turn R and follow this Y/W marked path as it climbs to reach a saddle on the spur above and a signpost. "Monduver" with its masts looms large ahead. Above you is a notch in the skyline ridge, this is your next objective!</p>	1hr 45min, 5.59km
<p>Turn R, signed "Forat de la Drova & Cim del Penyalba PR-CV 51 D-5". The path ascends the flank of the spur, before crossing to the L and zig-zagging up. Despite the steep aspect of the hillside, the path is nicely graded (a pull but not a flog). Just below the ridge you reach a signpost at a junction.</p>	2hrs 06min, 6.5km
<p>Turn R, signed "Forat de la Drova & Puntal de la Drova PR-CV 51 V-3". Follow the path to a small sign below the notch, pointing to "Routa la Cresta". Turn L off the traverse path up towards the ridge crest and just before reaching it, take a path on the R (easily missed) and in a few metres you reach the "Forat" a hole/tunnel through the cliff, with views down to Drova. Go back along the short path, then up R onto the</p>	

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exposed rocky crest. (If you wish to avoid the scrambling, go back down to the traverse path, turn L and follow it to another small sign, pointing up along the crest). Otherwise turn R along the exposed rock ridge and scramble along its crest. It soon eases and leads to a junction at a small signpost, where it merges with the lower traverse path. Both routes now continue ahead to reach the trig point and the "Punta de la Font Nova (750m)".

2hr 14min, 6.81km

Continue along, down into a col, then up along the fine open undulating ridge. Ahead the rocky dome of "Cim del Penyalba" dominates the view! A signpost and path junction is reached in the col before the final ascent.

2hr 29min, 7.56km

Continue straight ahead signed to "Cim del Penyalba". The Y/W marked path rises up rock slopes on the ridge, then skirts R beneath the cliffs to out flank them, look out for a path descending to the R (this will be your return route). Continue ahead a short distance to where there is a break in the cliffs, turn L up rocky terrain with easy sections of scrambling which are not avoidable. (There are at the time of writing two lengths of rope in situ, though they are quite unnecessary and more of a hinderance than a help!). Upon reaching the crest (beware you are virtually surrounded by cliffs) turn R to reach the summit (772m) with its mini house containing a log book (bring a pen). There are wide ranging 360deg views.

2hr 40min, 7.92km

Return by the same route, taking care to find the correct exit to the L from the summit plateau (some yellow paint marks go straight along the crest back towards the Col, that way also has ropes but is very difficult and steep!). Once below the level of the cliffs turn R back towards the Col and almost immediately locate the path which descends to the L. Descend the unmarked path towards the red roofs of "Les Foies". At a junction turn R and descend again (still unmarked) to reach a junction with a cross path, this one has Y/W markings.

2hr 53min, 8.43km

Turn L, the path traverses the hillside and returns you to the signpost and junction, where your outward route descended to the R.

2hr 58min, 8.85km

Continue ahead signed "Barx PR-CV 51 V-3" (you are now retracing your outward route) Go across the Col and up over the tops of "Pic de les Aguiles" again. Descend back to the "Cova de les Mallaetes" (ignoring paths on the L & R). Then descend the sometimes awkward rock slabs and path to regain the "small lime pit" and path junction with signpost.

3hr 30min, 10.4km

Turn L, signed "Barx PR-CV 51". Follow the path back down to the chicken sheds and pass between them, to emerge onto the "CV-675" main road.

3hr 40min, 11.0km

Turn L along the main road, which you follow through the village. Turning L at the font into "C' de la Font" and continue up along "C' Rafael Chaveli" and back to the roundabout, next to which is the car park.

3hr 52min, 12.0km

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

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

The path to the "Cova de les Mallaetes" and the summit rocks would be very slippery when wet!
Navigation on the summit in thick cloud/mist, could be difficult.

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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