

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Colin Read
Last Updated	9th April 2019
Title of Walk	Cim del Penyalba* to Cim del Monduver traverse. (note: *sometimes called Penya de Migdia.
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Barx Car park on outskirts of village
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12.5
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	900
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4.25hr 6.5hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/C/Scr/X
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	The fine open ridge of the Serra de Monduver, over Cim del Penyalba & Monduver, via 3 or 4 sections of scrambling, some of which is unavoidable. Visiting the Cova de les Mallaetes & Forat de la Drova. Returning via paths & tracks along a traverse of the southern flanks. Very varied terrain with fine views. Some passages are exposed & some short sections are steep & difficult!
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
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 your 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	

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village, then pass a concrete cami on the R. In a few hundred metres 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).	12min, 939m
Go 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.	26min, 1.59km
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 a cave system of "Cova de les Mallaetes" with various fences and gates around and above it (from where there are good views).	44min, 2.16km
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.	58min, 2.7km
Descend to the col. The Y/W path bears L here. Follow it initially but look out on the ground to the R for a yellow arrow, pointing towards cairns and the ridge on the RH skyline. The arrow marks a vague path, with frequent yellow dashes of paint. Work rightwards across and up it towards the shoulder (a little overgrown in places) until eventually it reaches the crest of the ridge and a yellow arrow pointing in both directions. Stop here (the yellow marks cross the ridge to reach the foot of cliffs beyond where there are rock climbs). Your route goes up the ridge.	1hr 16min, 3.33km
Turn L and follow the rocky crest scrambling directly over a series of steps. At times there is exposure particularly over the cliffs on the R. A difficult crack leads to the top of the tallest step. Ahead there is one more small step. Trend rightwards to near its R edge, climb it and avoid vegetation by working R around its edge, along ledges overlooking the cliffs (exposed). Continue up to the summit (772m) with its mini house containing a log book (bring a pen). There are wide ranging 360deg views (be aware you are virtually surrounded by cliffs).	1hr 25min, 3.53km
The ridge now stretches roughly southeast and "Montduver" with its masts looms ahead. Go along the summit plateau following Y/W marks to its southeast end (there are large cliffs on your immediate right!). The marked path descends gently, then as the ground ahead begins to steepen the Y/W marked path to the Col descends to the L. Ignore it and continue ahead to descend southeast towards the continuation of the ridge. There are yellow (only) paint marks. The rocks become steeper as scrambling becomes necessary and (at the time of writing) there are some in-situ ropes. A final steep chimney/crack gets you down onto a path. Follow the path (Y/W) down to the Col and a junction at a signboard.	1hr 37min, 3.81km
Ignore the path to the L and continue along the fine, open, undulating ridge signed "Monduver". Cross over the top of "Punta de la Drova" and go past a trig point to reach a small sign. Bear R signed "Routa la Cresta" (the path on the L traverses beneath the crest to avoid the scrambling). Continue along the crest, which becomes narrower and more rocky. Scramble down to a notch (dip in the ridge) a little further ahead the rocks rise steeply. Turn L off the crest and descend a few meters to a path (which continues down), but turn L on a path just below the rocks and in a few meters you reach the "Forat de la Drova" a hole/tunnel through the cliff, with views	

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down cliffs to Drova!	2hrs 01min, 4.77km
Go back along the short path, (it is possible to descend here, to the (Y/W) traverse path and turn R to pass under and thus avoid the next section of scrambling). The continuation of the ridge contains the most difficult section, where a few moves are at the upper limit of scrambling grades and only suitable for the most experienced scramblers/climbers. To continue the scrambling. Turn R back up onto the crest. Then go L along it (unmarked), to where it rises steeply into what is in fact a pinnacle, with a wide gap beyond it (its top can be reached but leads nowhere!). Step down L and traverse beneath the base of the pinnacle. When beneath the gap behind it step up, then make an exposed difficult, steep, off balance move L and step across to reach a grassy ledge. Now climb directly up to regain the crest, just beyond the gap. Turn L and continue easily to intersect with the alternative (Y/W) path, which comes up from the L. Follow it along the ridge, over a subsidiary top, to reach the Col and a junction with the surfaced access road.	2hrs 21min, 5.26km
Turn L along the lane, ignore a path descending to the L signed to "Xeresa". Look for a path on the R, follow it to cut a corner then rejoin the surfaced lane. Go up it and ignore a path on the R at a LH hairpin. Continue to where there is a path on the R signed "Monduver PR-CV 153 & 51". Follow it as it zig-zags up to rejoin the surfaced lane again and follow it to its top. Ignore a path with sign on L of the fence and take a concrete path on the R to reach the trig point on the summit, amongst the jumble of masts. Pass it and turn L to reach a disfigured Madonna on the L. Whilst here ponder the contrast between this place and the top of "Cim del Penyalba!	2hrs 43min, 6.3km
Continue southeast to the R of the final mast. Go along the ridge, (orange/white markers) the path bears L and descends a spur. Be very attentive and look out for a path on the R small cairn (easily missed).	2hrs 55min, 6.78km
Follow the path rightwards at first, it then descends skirting below the ridge on your R. Pass a path on the R, (which in a few metres leads up to a notch in the ridge and a mirador!). Continue down, the path splits but keep R to eventually pass a stone bench and reach "Col de la Rafela" at a junction of paths, beside a post and next to a large boulder, under which there is a shelter. Ahead is the rocky cone of "Penya Negra".	3hr 15min, 7.59km
Turn R at the boulder and descend the southern slopes towards "Drova". The path joins a track which goes to the R. It reaches a junction with a cross track on a bend, with an information post on the R.	3hr 24min, 7.99km
Turn R and follow the track, it skirts the hillside. Note; the large cave in the cliffs above, before passing a block built water deposito. Pass a large boulder on the R and then a set of gates at the fenced in protected area of "Cava del Perpalló". Continue and soon look out for a path on the R with information board, just before a LH hairpin bend.	3hr 43min, 9.38km
Turn R signed to "Ruta trauistic Barx" (yellow dot on rock) onto a path and follow it through trees, ignore all side paths. The path gradually evolves into a track and passes a ruin on the L. Continue passing a building on the R and soon more buildings on the L. It reaches a cross roads.	4hr 07min, 11.1km
The road crossing your path L to R is the access road to the masts on "Monduver" and is marked Y/W ignore it. Go straight across onto "C' Covatelles". Follow it to a 'T' junction. Turn R along "C' de la Penya Roja". At another 'T' junction turn R along "C' del Pinar". Just before the lane ends there is a short surfaced track on the L, beside "Casa El Somai".	4hr 13min, 11.6km

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Turn L along the track beside the wall with the villa on your R. As the track ends there is a path. Follow it down through wooded terraces. At a small 'Y' junction bear R. The path bends R then L downhill, to a junction with a cross path.

4hr 17min, 11.9km

Turn R, ignore paths on the R & L, the track becomes surfaced and reaches a junction. Ignore the lane on the L and go straight ahead. Just past a villa on the L the lane surface ends, continue ahead on a concrete path. Ignore steps zig-zagging down to the L and go ahead onto an unsurfaced path to reach a second identical set of steps. Turn L and descend them. Go across an urbanisation road and straight on along "C' Quatretonda" across another road and into the car park which is straight ahead.

4hr 25min, 12.5km

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.

see map below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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