

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

Visit [www.walksinspain.org](http://www.walksinspain.org) for more walks descriptions in Spain

<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Colin Read
<b>Last Updated</b>	26th April 2019
<b>Title of Walk</b>	The Scrambles of Picatxo (Cim La Sella) & el Miquelet
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Pedreguer, Street parking on CV-7240 Av. de Joan Carles 1
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	8.3
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	630
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	3.5hr 6hr
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/B/Scr/X
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 38.8016 Long: 0.0404
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From the N332 turn at km194 into Pedreguer. Almost immediately as you enter the outskirts, before reaching a Masymas, park on the side of the road in Av. de Joan Carles 1. There are signposts for the "PR-V 440" walks beside steps going through a wall at the side of the road.
<b>Short walk description</b>	This route, incorporates up to 5 individual scrambles totaling several hundred meters. A short road walk and a quiet country lane leads to the small wooded ridge with its distinctive "Camels Humps". Here, tracks & paths lead via a circuit over Penya Roja (optional) to reach the fine rock ribs on the flanks of Miquelet & Picatxo. Where you may choose whichever combination, you wish to do. Once embarked upon some of the scrambles would be difficult to escape from! Route <b>(A)</b> on Picatxo is more a buttress than a ridge, the route is therefore more complex. A rope may be preferred for route <b>(C)</b> on Miquelet. There are several wide ranging view points.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
The route described incorporates all five routes and the times and distances take this into account! (other additional scrambles may be possible). A good combination, is to combine routes A-D-E-C in that order and then B if you have time. See information on grades, in walk recommendations at the end!	

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

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

Turn towards the N332. Signed "La Sella (circular per Miquelet)" Note; all signs referred to are for the "PR-V 440". From here you can see the two obvious humps of Miquelet on the L and Picatxo straight ahead, routes **A,B,C & D** can be seen! Walk along the side of the busy road (thankfully it does not last long)! Go over the Autopista bridge and along the N332 slip lane. Turn R onto a Cami with signpost.

5min, 447m

Follow the surfaced lane, signed "La Sella (circular per Miquelet)" G/W markers. At cross roads continue straight ahead, the lane bears L up towards Picatxo. At a junction with signpost, turn R along a concrete lane (not signed, but has G/W marks). When the concrete ends, go straight ahead along a footpath. At a 'T' junction with signpost, turn R signed "Xiprerets Raco del Coleto (circular)". Very soon there is another junction with signpost. (If you want to get straight to the scrambling and miss out the circuit around Penya Roja, then turn L to "Collao" and pick up the walk from that point \*). Otherwise, turn R signed "Xiprerets". The path winds up to a junction with a cross track, opposite a set of steps and a signpost. (You will return down these steps in due course).

15min, 1.11km

Turn R along the track signed "Raco del Coleto per Mont Roi" The track reduces to a broad path and reaches a junction with signpost.

24min, 1.81km

Turn L up along the branch path signed "Penya Budista". At a 'Y' junction, bear L uphill. The path zig-zags up through bancals, before dropping down to junction with a concrete cross track, at a signpost.

31min, 2.15km

Turn L (not signed) and go along the track for about 60 metres (this is about 20 meters before reaching a water deposito building with mast on the L). Turn L onto a vague path (red dots), weave up over a few bancals before moving L, then weave up again to reach the indistinct top of Penya Roja (241m). The way up is a little overgrown and scratchy. The views are similar to those from the next minor top which is more open and accessible. (This top can be avoided by continuing along the main track past the water deposito. But it only saves several minutes).

36min, 2.42km

To descend, continue ahead a short distance, then weave down to the R, descending several low bancals to regain the broad track. Turn L along the track past another water deposito on the R. Ahead is a top with a cairn and pylons. Note a path on the L at the saddle just before heading up to the cairn! (216m)

42min, 2.73km

Retrace your steps for about 23 metres to the saddle and turn R onto the small path, which zig-zags down towards the main roads far below. The path swings R to traverse the hillside. Beside a pylon (with yellow dots on it) at a RH bend, find a vague path on the L. This initially descends steeply amongst boulders, to reach a better path leading rightwards. It passes close to a road with villas above and reaches a junction of paths with a signpost.

55min, 3.33km

Go L along the path signed "Pedreguer". It leads down steps onto a broad track at a cross junction (this is the junction with your outward route). Turn R signed "Collao", follow the track to the col. Ignore path on L signed to "Pedreguer" (\*the shorter option joins the track here) and a track on R, continue to a second signpost.

59min, 3.66km

Alternatively, from here you can miss scramble (A) out and turn R signed to "Picatxo & Mirador. Follow the path as it winds steeply uphill (G/W marks). Pass beneath a small cave & prayer flags (looking back into the urbanisation, the red Buddhist temple is visible). At a junction with signpost keep L, continue to a second junction, signed to the summit of Picatxo which is soon reached (244m). Can you spot the Buddha? (in

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

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

place at the time of writing).

If you wish to climb scramble **(A)** on the southwest flank of Picatxo. Continue ahead signed "Pedreguer 1.130m" along the track (G/W). Ignore a path descending on the L and go on for little more than 100 metres, until beneath an open area above on the R where the rocks descend from the summit of Picatxo right down to the track. Here there is a lone pine tree with red dots on it. The scrambling commences near here.

1hr 1min, 3.77km

**Scramble (A)** Is about 200 meters long, the initial few rock holds require care thereafter most of the rock is excellent! Route finding is more complex than the other routes.

Move a few metres to the L of the tree and start immediately L of twin streaks of yellow lichen on the rock face (there are red dots en-route, though other lines will be possible!). Climb up, then move L and trend gradually L, look for the easiest and most continuous line of clean firm rock, until overlooking the cliff edge on the L. Follow the edge, with moves out R then back L, eventually trending R to reach the summit of Picatxo (244m) Where, at the time of writing, there is a Buddha if you can spot it.

1hr 31min. 4.0km

From the summit turn R downhill (G/W) to reach a signpost. Turn L signed to "Mirador & Miquelet". Descend the path (east) towards the sea. It passes through a squeeze then traverses to the mirador. After looking at the panorama info board, go back up over the saddle. Ignore a path on L going down to "Pedreguer" and reach a signpost pointing R towards "Miquelet".

1hr 36min, 4.36km

See scramble descriptions below. But alternatively, if you wish to miss out those scrambles. Turn R here to reach the summit. The path weaves uphill (G/W marks & red dots) it is steep in places with a few scrambly steps but soon leads to the summit of Miquelet (202m) with its shrine.

To reach scrambles **(B, C & D)** on the southwest flank of Miquelet. Continue L along the path which joins a track and at a junction with signpost bear R signed "Miquete per Circular". Go on for about 30 metres until directly below the summit and the rock ribs, where there are (G/W) paint marks on the R (easily missed).

1hr 41min, 4.60km

The scrambling for these three routes commences here. They are about 150 meters long. The approach is common to them all. The rock is generally very firm. There is some exposure particularly on route **(C)** and escape could be difficult! Except on route **(B)** which is the easiest, not exposed and is escapable in several places. There are occasional red dots on some routes, when the way may not be obvious!

Scramble up past the (G/W) marks, then follow old white paint marks, weaving up through bancals and over rock steps, to a point between and level with the toe of the two most distinct ribs (the white paint marks end here at a horizontal mark). The left bounding rib is **(D)** and the right hand pinnacled rib is **(C)**. The rib of **(B)** is further R out of sight.

Route **(B)**. Traverse R and pass beneath rib **(C)**. Continue up a rising rocky rake of stones for about 10 metres, until beneath the next shallow rib and just before reaching a small bancal. Scramble up the left hand spur then move to the one on the R and follow its R edge as it broadens (easily escapable on the R). After a steeper section, pass a tree down to its L, then weave L & R to avoid shrubs. After an easy angled section climb a steep wall directly, just L of a shrub. Climb the final step on the R, just L of trees, to reach the summit.

1hr 50min, 4.8km

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

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

If you intend to descend and climb more scrambles on this flank of the hill, see descent options 1 and 2 below. Timings for the descents to the next two routes are included with their descriptions. Allow more time if ropes are used!

Route **(C)**. Some may prefer to use a rope on this route, where several long slings, a selection of nuts & cams would be useful, (unless you are very confident!). Move R beneath the toe of this crenelated rib, to its righthand edge. Climb up trending L onto the crest and follow it more or less directly to the summit. It is steep and exposed in places!

2hr 18min, 5.38km

Route **(D)**. Work up onto the crest of the lefthand rib and continue. Most difficulties are turned on the left. Eventually, you arrive directly onto the summit of Miquelet (202m) with its shrine.

2hr 42min, 5.96km

From the summit there are two options, which lead back to the start of scrambles **(B, C & D)**. Perhaps, if you are doing more than one of them, you can alternate both descents, though option 1 is the shortest. Use option 2, in order to reach scramble **(E)**.

Option 1; From the top of the scrambles turn immediately R (southeast) at the summit shrine (signed "Mirador & Picatxo"). A path weaves down (G/W marks & red dots) it is steep in places with a few awkward steps. Continue down to the signpost on the track, which you visited earlier. Turn R along the path which joins a track and at a junction with signpost bear R signed "Miquelet per Circular". Go on for about 30 metres back to the start of the scrambles. This takes about 11min and has been included in the timings given above for the routes.

Option 2; From the summit, signed to "Pedreguer" head (east) towards the sea and a rocky knoll (this is the top of ridge **(E)**) pass it on the L beside a tree (G/W). Descend an awkward slab to a path and then go down over several bancals (some awkward), to reach a path on the R with post and G/W cross.

2hr 45min, 6.1km

From here, in order to reach scramble **(E)** on the north east flank of Miquelet, turn R and keep to the R passing two more G/W crosses until directly above a villa with two octagonal turrets and where the steep end of the ridge above meets the path. The route starts steeply but soon eases. It is about 150 metres long.

2hr 49min, 6.3km

Turn R about 10 meters before reaching the toe of the ridge. Go rightwards up an earthy/rocky ramp which leads behind a tree. Traverse L along a ledge beneath a bancal to reach the rocks (faded red paint marks). Traverse L onto the flank of the ridge. Scramble up and L onto the crest the first few holds require care, but thereafter the rock is solid! (Alternatively, at the paint marks, climb directly up a few metres then, traverse L to gain the crest, more difficult but on firmer looking rock). Follow the crest throughout, (narrow in places). Then descend the rocky knoll at its end, to rejoin the descent path. Cross it and continue up easy rocks to arrive on the summit plateau.

2hr 58min, 6.42km

Now choose either of the descent options again to reach your next objective, or to continue the walk:-

If you do not wish to do scramble **(E)** or have already completed it and want to continue along the walk. From the summit follow option 2, to reach the post with G/W cross. Now follow the path to the L as it swings L and passes beneath the cliffs of Miquelet to reach a junction with a cross track and signpost. Note; timings given assume you have completed scramble **(E)** and have descended again!

3hr 16min, 6.96km

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

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

Turn L signed "Pedreguer". In about 100 metres, when directly under the rock ribs leading back up to the summit of Miquelet, there are (G/W) marks on the L. This is the start of scrambles ( <b>B, C &amp; D</b> ). From here, when finished scrambling, continue (south east) along the track to arrive at a crossroad and signpost.	3hr 18min, 7.10km
Ignore tracks going L & R and go straight ahead (not signed) down steps (G/W marks). The path winds down, ignore a path on the L, bear R to where steps lead down to a cross track, with signpost.	3hr 22min, 7.26km
Go straight across signed "Pedreguer (Les Galgues)" down steps onto a path (G/W), descend through woodland, then past terraces to reach a surfaced Cami.	3hr 26min, 7.46km
Turn R along the lane, pass a signpost on the R opposite the concrete lane on the L of your outward route. Continue ahead back to the signpost beside the N332 slip lane.	3hr 29min, 7.68km
Turn L and follow the slip lane (with care) over the bridge and back to the roadside parking.	3hr 34min, 8.30km
Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional	

### **Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Note: Timings and distances are subjective and are for the inclusion of all the scrambles. But will vary depending on use of ropes etc and the number of options you include!

British scrambling grades are numbered rising in difficulty 1-2-3 & 3S (with + or - where appropriate the S is for Serious)

An approximate comparison is:-

Route, **A**=2. **B**=1. **C**=3S. **D**=2-. **E**=1+

The scrambles and descents from Picatxo and Miquelet can be slippery and awkward if wet after rain or if dew is laying on the ground.

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



Route followed is outlined in Red

