

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps	
<b>Last Updated</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Pic de Finistrelles from Nuria	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Queralbs Santuario de Nuria rack railway station	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	13	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	920	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4.5hr 6.66hr	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	VS/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 42.397541, Long: 2.154548	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	The start can only be reached by using the rack railway that starts in Ribes de Freser and stops at Queralbs where there is a large car park at the station. Cost in 2019 was €19.50 return.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A horseshoe route over the high mountain ridge surrounding Nuria. Fabulous views after a demanding ascent. Lovely valley return after steep descent.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>		<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
<p>Start by walking across from the station between the buildings of the Sanctuary and the lake and turn R uphill beside the far side of the buildings. Keep to the RHS of the stream and either take the path that rises to the R of the camping pitches or a little further to the R, the track which passes through the ski piste.</p> <p>Either way soon arrive at a concrete bridge to cross the stream to the L.</p> <p>Now walk out on the grassy track back to the L (ignoring the steeply rising short cut) and double back to reach a finger post.</p> <p>Continue ahead here signed to Puigmal and Finistrelle.</p> <p>At the next finger post ignore the sign to Puigmal to your L and keep ahead on the GRT73.</p>		770m, 13min

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<p>This is now a delightful path up across a meadow but demands concentration as it is a little vague with only occasional R/W markers. Higher it runs closer to the stream and is clearer.</p>	
<p>Cross the stream.....</p> <p>and head up more directly to the R aiming to pass above a crumbling rocky spur visible up to the L.</p>	2km, 45min
<p>When the zig-zags have delivered sufficient height the path crosses to the L to crest the spur and you are then faced with a wonderful bowl meadow off to your RHS.</p>	2.8km, 1hr 7min
<p>The path curves around into this dropping slightly to reach the stream which you cross between 2 streams.</p>	
<p>Zig up a little to curve L and cross the second stream and now proceed on a clear path which zig-zags up the flank of the hill. At this stage the col with a post is visible ahead of you.</p>	
<p>Finally after a long zig away from the col you turn to face it and climb steadily to arrive at the col with its cross and sign.</p>	4.6km, 1hr 51min
<p>Once rested turn R up the ridge away from the col initially on the ridge line itself but soon climbing steadily up on the RH flank of the hill to arrive at a col at the foot of Pic de Finstrelle.</p>	
<p>This scree path zig-zags up steeply before easing just before the summit and you proceed directly over this.</p>	5.9km, 2hr 22min
<p>Drop down to a col and then over the very shaley Pic de Nuria followed yet another smaller peak to reach the col at a cross roads of footpaths with a post just off to the L telling you what you can and cannot do in this area!</p>	
<p>Turn R at this col (col d'Eina).....</p>	7.6km, 2hr 58min
<p>and walk along to a further finger post which sends you slightly R now with R/W markers (signed 4.5km to Nuria).</p>	
<p>Follow this path briefly above rocky slopes to reach a fence (to prevent stock from entering this dangerous area) which you pass through and continue down the grassy ridge.</p>	
<p>Eventually the slope steepens across loose rock and then drifts off to the L flank of the hill and zig-zags down steeply to finally reach the valley bottom.</p>	10.36km, 3hr 58min
<p>Almost immediately that you reach the bottom cross the stream to a finger post and turn R on a good path still with R/W markers.</p>	

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

Descend steadily on this delightful path above the L side of the stream and turn a corner slightly to the L to reveal the Sanctuary and lake below you.

When you reach a bridge cross over it to the R and descend to pass a second bridge without crossing it and keep to the RHS of the stream to return to the station.

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

### **Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

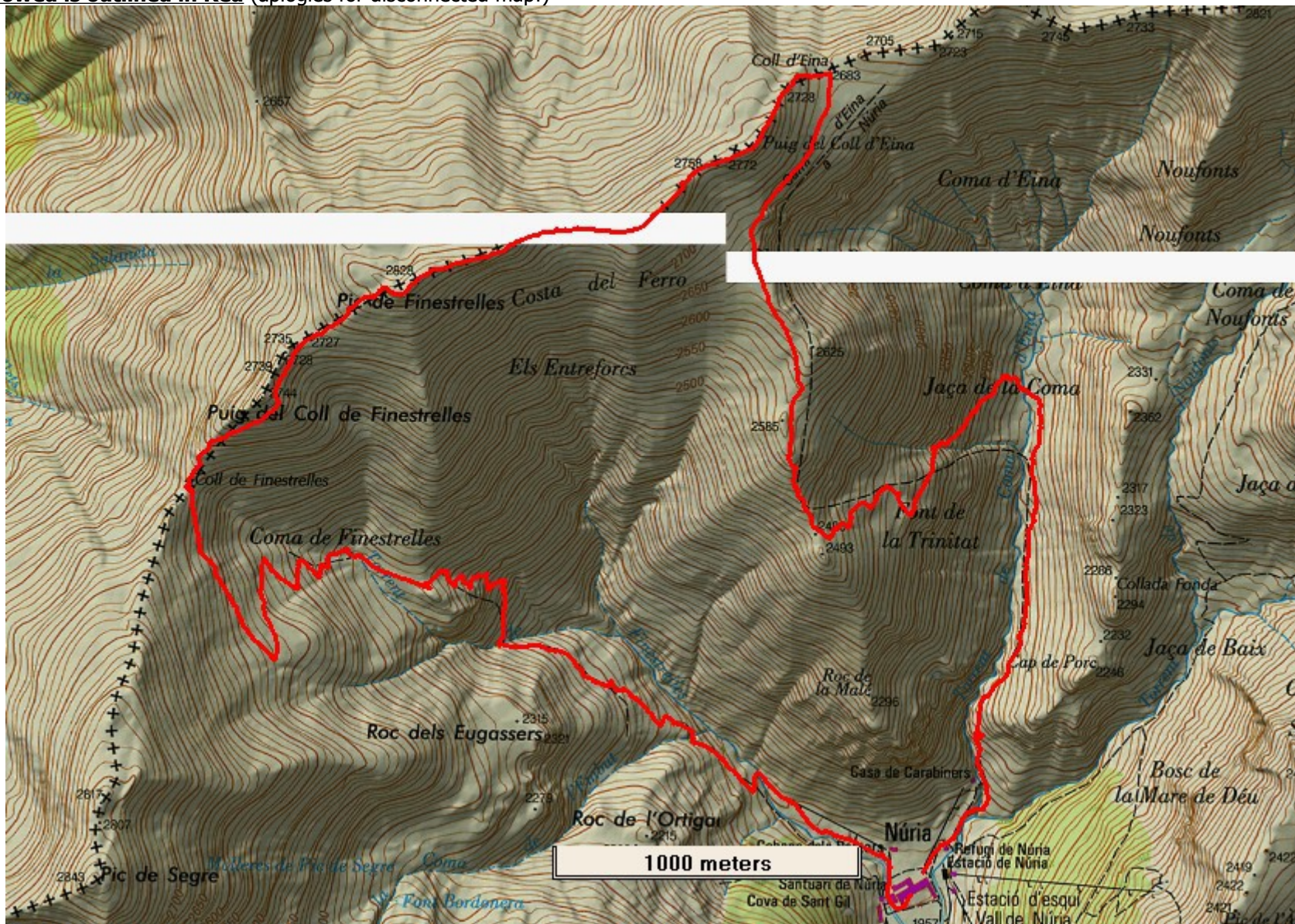
Demanding day

See map below.....

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**Route followed is outlined in Red** (apologies for disconnected map!)



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