

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	24 th June 2019
Title of Walk	Pic de l'Aliga, Pic de Fontnegra and Pic de la Fossa del Gegant
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Querlabs Santuario de Nuria rack railway
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12.5
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	1030
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4.5hr 6.66hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/C
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 42.397541, Long: 2.154548
Directions to Start	The start can only be reached by using the rack railway that starts in Ribes de Freser and stops at Querlabs where there is a large car park at the station. Cost in 2019 was €19.50 return.
Short walk description	A high level ridge walk in the heart of the mountains with several peaks offering extensive views across the range and in to France followed by an attractive valley descent.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>Start by leaving the rack railway station directly ahead and swinging around to the R to be above the platforms on a track.</p> <p>Walk through a stile in the fence on the LHS to access a double concrete track which runs on an e en but steep gradient up towards a mast and (invisible) refuge.</p> <p>Keep going until you reach the refuge and curve L to the terrace in front of the building from where there are great views in many directions.</p> <p>Walk across the terrace to the open hill side and at a finger post (and flag pole) turn L steeply uphill for a few metres and then zig back to the R to find the slope easing on a rising initially grassy line.</p>	1.2km, 25min

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A couple of hundred metres further at a finger post take the LH fork (but ignoring the direction of the finger post which points directly up the hill!!)

Keep going now in zig-zags following pick paint marks until near the summit there is the opportunity to bypass the rocky top by taking a clear path going more directly ahead to a col and leaving the pick waymarks to find their own way to the rocky summit of Pic d'Aliga.

3.2km, 1hr 14min

From the summit drop down a few metres to the R to find the clear and continuing path up to the LHS of Pic de la Pala and on up towards the summit of Pic de Fontnegra.

The clearest path line approaches this by working R towards an intermediate col and then doubling back to the L, but there is also a clear line up a shaley slope leading directly and steeply to the summit.

5km, 2hr

Once there take care to turn L and work out on the ridge to find a clear path doubling back to the R and down to the col between the summit and Pic de Roca Blanca. (There is a steep path line going directly off the summit of Fontnegra but this is a tricky and dangerous option!)

From the summit of Roca Blanca.....

you can clearly see the continuing ridge ahead and the rocky promontory directly below Fossa de Gegant along with the path descending to the L from this col down into the valley below you on your L.

5.8km, 2hr 20min

Reach the col

and take the slanting path up to the col de Noucreus (with lots of small crosses) and turn R for the few short metres to the summit.

7km, 2hr 45min

Now retrace your steps back to the col with the crosses and then back down to the col where the GR11 path descends to the R.

This is steep and shaley for 50m or so but then levels and works L on a slightly easier gradient now with occasional R/W markers.

After a considerable distance down this path reach a finger post where you continue downhill (signposted Nuria) to cross a rickety bridge (at time of writing) and continue down beside the stream.

Reach a further finger post and keep ahead descending soon to be on a wide track which makes its way down to the stile through the fence that you took earlier in the day.

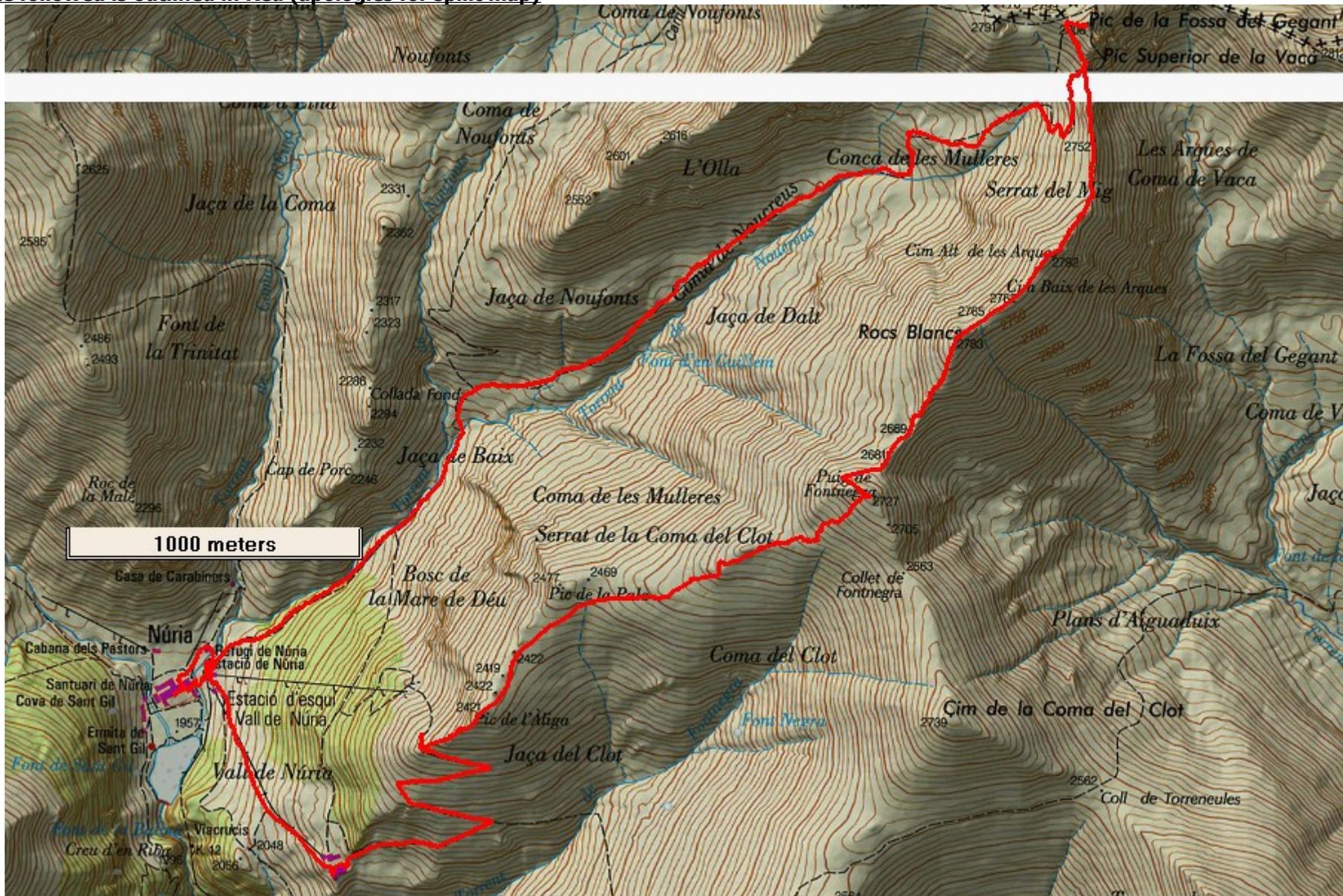
Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Care needed on the section after Fontnegra.
Demanding day.

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Route followed is outlined in Red (apologies for split map)



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