

## COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps	
<b>Last Updated</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Roca Xapada circuit	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Mas de Barberans On track signed to Cami de la Barranc de la Galera and La Vall. Small parking area beside sign for Cova d'en Marc and Forat de la Vella, with the large car park for the start at the picnic site approx. 1.5km further on.	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	7.5	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	535	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	2.5hr 4.5hr	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	MS/B/Scr	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Start walk at Lat: 40.751535, Long: 0.321370 Finish at Lat: 40.745800, Long: 0.330466	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	Head for Mas de Barberans on the TV3421. From the N pass the village and 3 kms after passing Mas de Barberans turn right (L and before the village if coming from the S), signposted 'Cami de la Barranc de la Galera and La Vall'. Continue along here as the tarmac vanishes and proceed along a track for 5.2km to reach the parking for Cova d'en Marc where you can leave a car. The picnic parking is a further 1.2km further up the track on the LHS.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	An easy start leads to a challenging scramble along the ridge and then easier ground with views of rock pinnacles all around. Finish with a cave or rock hole (Forat).	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>		<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
From the picnic car parking area walk back along the track the way you drove in.		
When you reach a track junction turn L and continue gently uphill.		250m, 4min

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<p>Pass a junction leading down to the L to a building and soon after this reach a second junction with a chain across the track on the R.</p>	<p>1km, 15min</p>
<p>Take this and walk more steeply up several zigzags to eventually reach a col.</p>	<p>2.6km, 40min</p>
<p>Just before this look out for a cairn on the R marking a small footpath that you take up the ridge to a small plateau about 50m above.</p>	
<p>From here carefully follow the red paint marks as they lead you up initially on the LHS of the ridge line but soon crossing to the R.</p>	
<p>These lead you steeply uphill to reach a series of scrambles which become steadily more serious the higher you go. The final one goes up a rocky gully and swings L to mount a high step and then emerge on a grassy but eroded ledge. If you are a confident scrambler then none of these will be troublesome.</p>	
<p>From here work up to the ridge line and soon cross to the L flank of the ridge continuing to push uphill avoiding a large rock tower in front of you.</p>	
<p>Keep going to reach a col on the ridge – your high point of the day - with the Roca Xapada on the RHS and a broad plateau on the LHS with outstanding views of the Barrancs de Lloret and d’Orio- an excellent picnic spot.</p>	<p>3.9km, 1hr 9min</p>
<p>Continue from the col now dropping down to a neck in woodland in front of you.</p>	
<p>In front of you the large peak is Castell de l’Airosa and you make your way steadily down to a col directly in front of it on the way walking across a narrow ridge with tremendous views down to the pinnacle clad lands in front of the highest summit (with masts) – Caro.</p>	<p>4.7km, 1hr 28min</p>
<p>At this col there is a finger post signed to L’Airosa slightly L but we continue descending slightly R still on a clear path.</p>	
<p>Eventually cross a small barranco with a finger post in the middle pointing back the way you came and some way beyond this after zig-zagging down for a while you reach a further finger post indicating a cave on the R and Forat on the L.</p>	<p>6.5km, 2hr 5min</p>
<p>Either of these paths will lead you back down to the track on the valley floor where you left your car. (The gps track takes the path on the L)</p>	
<p>If you have not parked a vehicle here then turn R up the track and continue for about 1.5km to reach the parking spot.</p>	
<p>Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional</p>	
<p><b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b></p>	<p>Car shuffle needed from the first bridge crossing at the Raco and up to the picnic area further up the track on the LHS. Moderate scrambling from the first col. An easier but equally rewarding version without scrambling, is a there and back route from the small Raco d’en Marc parking.</p>

See map below.....

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