

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	17 th September 2020
Title of Walk	Camino Royal from Salardu to Betren
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Salardu Main car park
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	13.5
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	390
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3.33hr 4.5hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	M/A
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 42.707593, Long: 0.903209
Directions to Start	From Vielha in the heart of the Pyrenees take the C28 E up along the Val d'Aran to reach the village of Salardu. At a roundabout turn L towards car park 1 and park here.
Short walk description	An interesting walk down the valley exploring village footpaths and the villages of the valley. More ascent than you might expect!
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Start from car park 1 in Salardu which has about 100 spaces. From here walk up the hill and fork left crossing a bridge.....	500m, 8min
..... towards Unha a delightful village with many fascinating characteristics.	
The route takes you uphill and through the village and then out to reach a wooden sign board "Cami Peatonal" towards Gessa and follow this half right and then out on a concrete track.	1km, 16.5min
Ascend a little before dropping down steadily towards Gessa and then swing round left at the finger post.....	2.1km, 31min
..... and descend down Cami San Martin to its end where you turn right (Carrer de Partau) and then left and continue downhill. At the end of this turn right but avoid	

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crossing the stream, instead follow down a concrete track beside the running water and then under the main road. (gps track slightly wrong through village, but correct after that)

Cross a bridge and swing slightly left to find a footpath sign indicating a route ahead which you take and quickly double back to the right following the river valley down. Ignore a footpath off to the left soon after this and continue downhill to reach a gravel track on the outskirts of the village of Arties where you turn left on tarmac and take the rightmost fork to walk through the car park and past tennis courts, play area and a concrete cow(!)

4km, 1hr 1min

When you reach the village centre you turn right over the bridge but you may prefer to take time out to explore the village itself and if so keep left and wander the streets and alley ways. When ready, return to the bridge, cross it and walk up hill to the right.

4.7km, 1hr 10min

When you meet the main road, turn left and walk down to the pedestrian crossing which you use to take you to a parallel street behind the main road with a finger post.

Turn left down this and it soon becomes a descending gravel track.

5.5km, 1hr 24min

Pass by a footpath junction with a sign to the Ermita de San Jaume which you ignore and continue ahead to reach the village of Garros and ahead through a narrow street and into a square. Drift left across this to walk out the other side and reach a church which you pass on the left.

8.1km, 2hr

A little way ahead there is a sign board and wall with an ossuary showing interred human bones.

As you turn a corner to the right your concrete track ends and you continue ahead onto a footpath above a walled terrace.

8.4km, 2hr 6min

This now descends steeply in places to reach a broad track and this quickly swings left over a bridge.....

9.4km, 2hr 21min

..... and you cross this and follow the track uphill through the village of Casarihl, cross the main road and walk up the hill and swing around to the right.

When you reach a junction continue ahead now downhill to reach the church at Escanhau and keep left rising on concrete.

10.2km, 2hr 33min

Ignore a footpath going off to the left and keep on the main track steeply uphill and then over a spur and down into a wooded lane which swings left after a short initial descent.

Reach a junction with a broader gravel track.....

11.6km, 2hr 56min

..... and turn right downhill ignoring both a footpath and second track going off left.

Where the track doubles back to the right you can take the left fork and follow this more or less level for 600m to reach a lane going down right and into the town of Vielha. Alternatively at this point you can follow the main track downhill to the right and emerge at the roundabout in Betren to finish the walk.

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

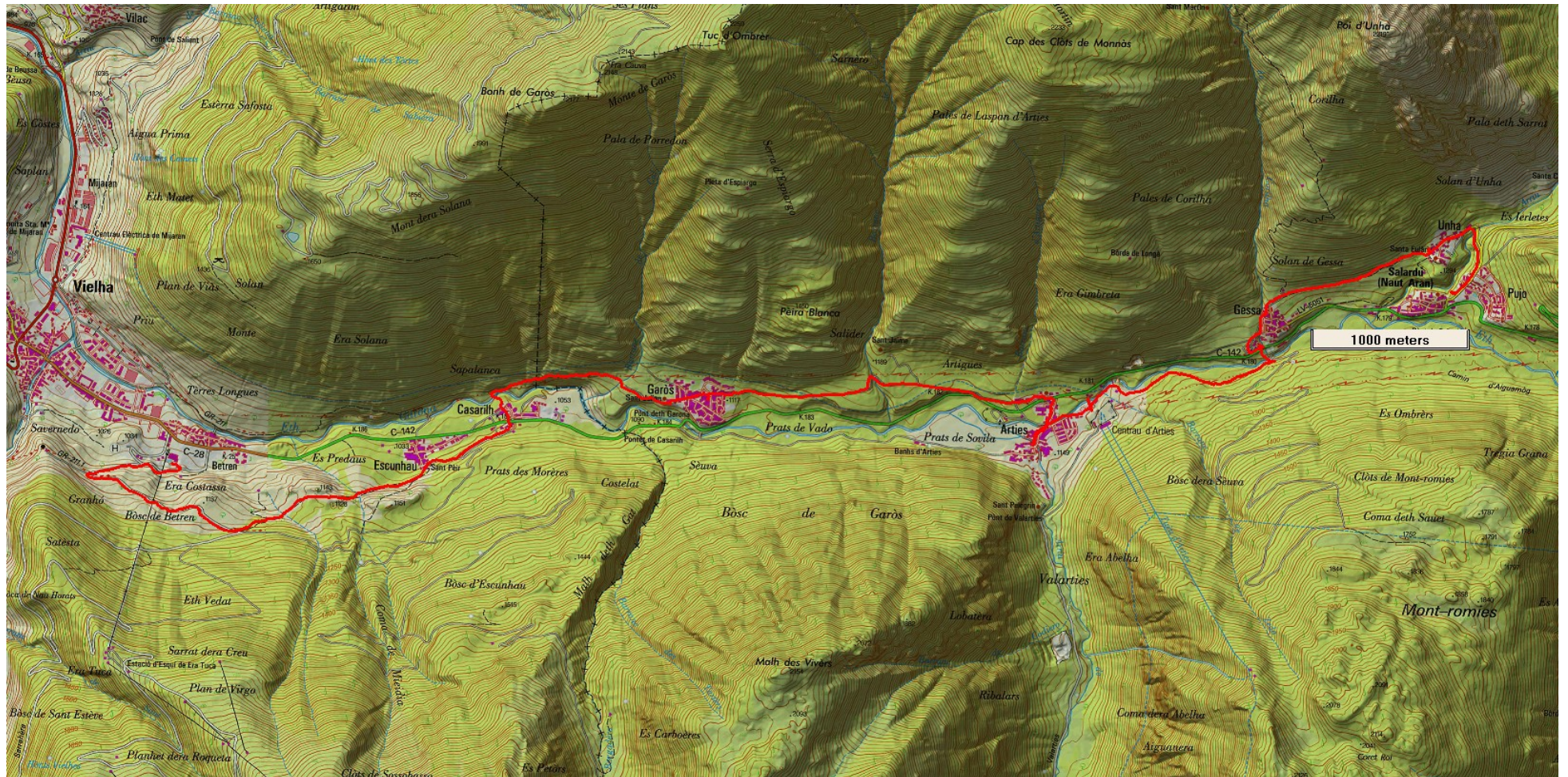
Walk Recommendations or restrictions

None

see map below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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