

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps; David and Theresa Brain	
<b>Last Updated</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Font Mata and Beyond	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Benissa Remote location in Barranc de l'Auillera beside but below an AP7 motorway tunnel.	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	7	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	290	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	2.25hr 3.66hr	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	M/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 38.743168, Long:0.053154 (at tunnel)	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	Just before the Benissa access to the AP7 motorway from the N332 take the small slip road on the right which runs parallel to the motorway access road. As it drops down the hill turn R and follow signs to the "cementerio" but at the next sign (R) to the cementerio continue ahead until the road deteriorates to a gravel track. When it reaches a tunnel under the motorway park here. (Works underway along motorway access road in Oct 20 which may result in access changes)	
<b>Short walk description</b>	This is a lovely walk with two very short but steep climbs and a steepish descent on concrete but the reward is magnificent 360 deg views and some interesting features along the way. Two specimens of Lentisco ( <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> ), reputed to be the oldest in Spain are found at the Font wedged in cracks in the rocks.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>	
Start by finding a thin footpath into the grass at the NE side of the tunnels and follow this a few metres before it starts to climb up to the L soon becoming an obvious engineered zig-zag path with green paint marks.		

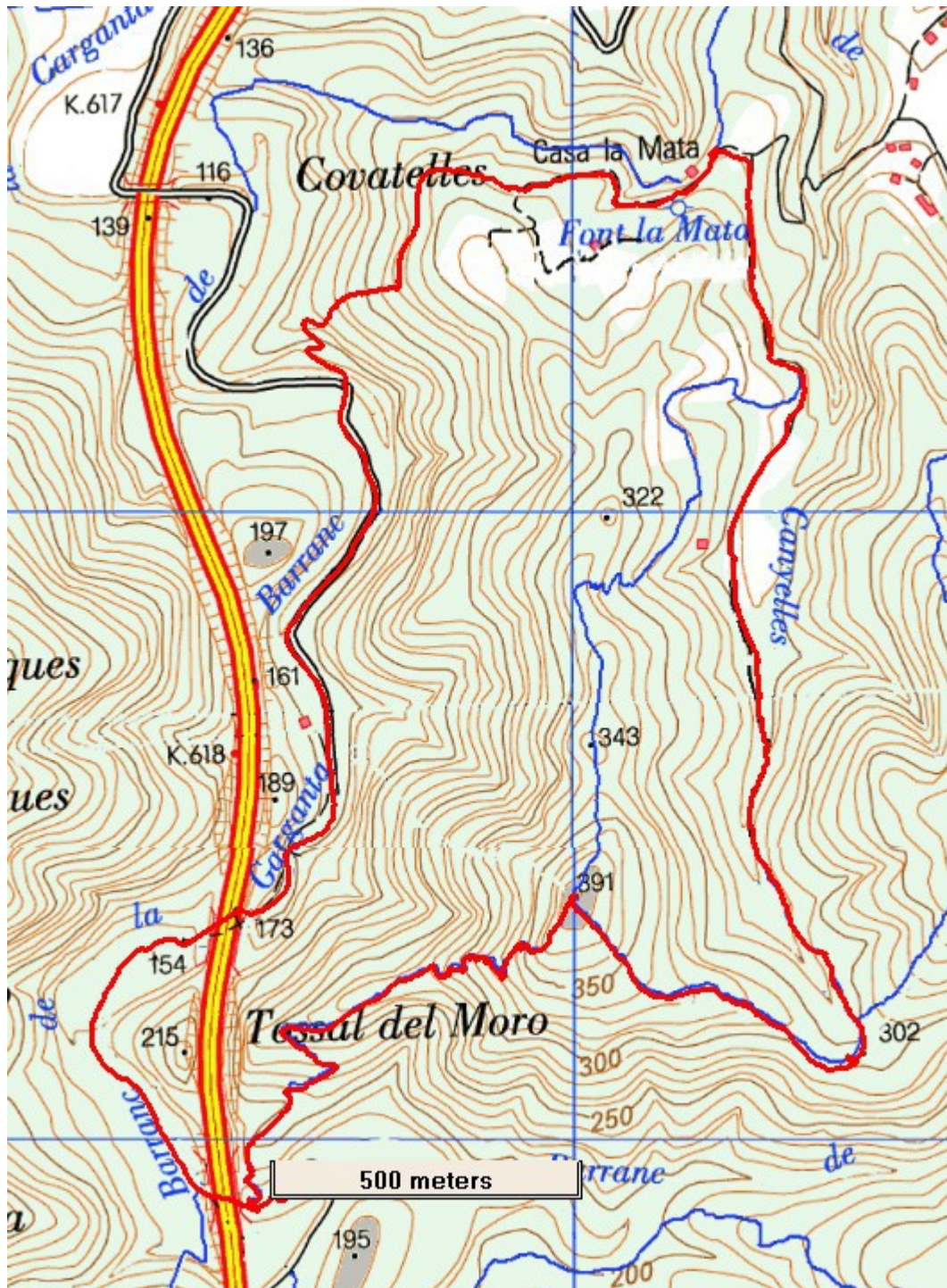
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Follow this without interruption as it steadily gains height passing several ruined casitas on the way. A level stretch leads to a view of a further summit ahead of you but the path zig-zags easily up this to arrive at the summit cairn.	1.2km, 30min
Just BEFORE (3m) reaching the summit cairn turn R and start to descend steeply down a waymarked (Y/W) path to reach a level section through woodland.	
Reach a level col with a ruin on the LHS with a well. Inside the ruin is a good example of a wine press stone.	1.9km, 44min
Continue ahead a few metres to a finger post where we continue straight ahead ignoring the path to the R indicated to Senija.	2km, 46min
This path gradually widens to a track with cultivated terraces down on the RHS.	
When a track joins you from above on the L (with a finger post above you also) keep directly ahead.	3.2km, 1hr 8min
Reach a T-jnc with a finger post where you turn L and slightly uphill.	3.5km, 1hr 13min
Reach a complex junction with a finger post and a chain across a concrete track off to the L downhill.	3.6km, 1hr 15min
You can proceed down this to Font de Mata to admire the well and then return to this point and turn R once across the chain (L from your original direction) rising slowly.	
Once it levels off look out for a sharper L turn uphill on broken concrete and BEFORE making this turn look out for a marked (paint marks) footpath going straight ahead into the trees.	4.1km, 1hr 21min
Follow this for a short way until it broadens out into a track and shortly you reach an electricity pylon.	
Walk to the R of the pylon.....	4.4km, 1hr 26min
..... and then descend on a steep concrete walkway which eventually leads on to a gravel footpath.	
Reach a junction with a red paint mark on the RH footpath .....	4.6km, 1hr 30min
.....which you follow down, soon in zig-zags to cross the barranco and reach a track.	4.8km, 1hr 33min
Turn L here and in a few metres follow the main track right and uphill.	
Follow the barranco bed and walk through 2 tunnels (not our parking area!) and continue ahead along the track to soon reach our tunnels with our parked cars.	5.8km, 1hr 48min
<small>Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional</small>	
<b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b>	None

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**Route followed is outlined in Red**



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