

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps, 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	
<b>Last Updated</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Beniali to Al Patro circuit via Pintures Rupestres	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Beniali car park at eastern end of village.	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	16.5	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	770	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	5hrs 6hrs	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 38.821864 ;Long:- -0.219893	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	Follow the CV700 from Pego, through Adsubia and reach the car park (with bins) at the outskirts of the village.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A complex walk with some difficult but short passages along the flanks on both sides of the Gallinera valley.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<p>From the car park follow the main road a few metres to the W and turn right past the Bar Nou Terrassa and down a steep hill. Thread through the railings half way down and keep ahead and steeply down to join a tarmac road where you proceed directly ahead further downhill and across a bridge over the river.</p> <p>Immediately past this turn right on a track past a corral and follow this initially beside the river and then climbing uphill a little.</p> <p>The route is signposted with occasional posts and purple and white paint flashes.</p> <p>At the end of the track just before a small casita on the RHS there is a further post and paint flashes indicating a rocky route that goes over a small hill, down to cross a barranco and then uphill again a little way before reaching another marker post where you turn L to follow the clear path. (Marker A)</p> <p>This runs down into a barranco and then makes its way up the barranco generally on the LHS and up some fearsome rocky ramps now with built steps.</p>	
	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>	<p>350m 5mins</p> <p>560m, 7.5mins</p> <p>870m, 13mins</p>

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Take care to look out for the markers as after a few hundred metres of uphill you will be veering off more level to the R across a slab to drop back into the barranco. At this point you should be able to clearly see the gated cave directly above you on the RHS of the barranco.

As the path reaches the centre of the barranco it turns back uphill on the far side and after a few metres there is a further marker post sending you to the R.

Follow this slightly downhill for a few metres before it turns uphill to a slab and reveal the end of the gated cave.

After enjoying the cave paintings you need to retrace your steps back to the last marker post where you turn uphill to the R (your inbound route came up from lower down) on a clear path which briefly makes its way up below the crags until there is a weakness where it can zig-zag up to cross the ridge above you.

Now the path turns to start its descent to the village of Beniali and at times this path looks as if it might once have been the main road – so wide and well maintained it seems.

It soon joins a wall on the LHS and then passes a signed threshing circle (era) on the RHS and then a corral (de Tio Alberto) on the LHS before zig-zagging steadily downhill to arrive at the finger-post (marker A) from which you started this circle. Turn L here and drop down to cross the small hill again and rejoin your outbound track.

Follow this downhill and just before a building in front of you turn R to pass it on your LHS and soon join a tarmac road where you turn R.

Here turn R and follow the tarmac until it ends with glorious views up the valley and across to the Forada ridge on the LHS.

Just before the tarmac ends there is a ruin on the RHS with a G/W sign and path going off to the R.

Follow this as it zig-zags up the flank of the hill on the R and then continues up the valley before crossing a barranco and then threading through some ruined houses before dropping back into the main river bottom.

At the bottom turn L briefly before ascending across the river on a track which starts up R and then turns more directly uphill. When you reach a corner with a path continuing up above you and with a 1metre wall directly ahead, clamber up the wall and walk along the terrace generally keeping up to soon intersect a Y/W path on which you continue ahead. You will intersect **Point B** note below.

Along here there are terrific views back into the deep river bottom on your RHS.

This now goes ahead on the LHS of the valley, passes the camp site and crosses some giant banks which mark the site of the prior rubbish tip. Then it drops into the valley before crossing from side to side a little and finally joining a clear footpath.

This ramps up directly towards the village of Al Patro.

At the top of this ramp directly below some houses you can zig-zag up following Y/W and then G/W markings to emerge on the main road along through the village with bars either side and a fuente a little off track.. Walk to the end of the main road and join the CV700.

1.4km, 25mins

2.9km, 55mins

4.3km  
1hr 12mins

7.1km, 2hrs

8.1km, 2h 15mins

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Turn R for a short distance and take the concrete ramp up towards the cemetery. At the top of this an obvious path goes L and then zig-zags up to work alongside a wall to a house and then to the road.	8.3km, 2hr 18mins
Go uphill along the road. Ignore a track/driveway ahead of you as the main road turns to the L. Go around the head of a large barranco and then again uphill on zig-zags. As the last of the very steep zig-zags ends look carefully for a clear track going L and take this, ignoring the concrete road which continues uphill steeply.	9.5km, 2hr 35mins
This is now an almost level section and then it appears to end just past a building on a small rise on the RHS and with a bend to the L there is a less significant track (very overgrown in Dec 2020) going off to the RHS which we take.	
This requires care where sections have previously been washed away but it continues with care.	
You rejoin the tarmac road and continue uphill.	10.6km, 2hr 52min
Just as this starts to descend take a footpath off to the R and work uphill to join the path junction below the route up to the Forada.	
At the junction turn L downhill on a wonderful engineered path.	10.9km, 2hr 58min
Ignore the next turn L after only a few metres and continue ahead zig-zagging down until you see a clear path off on the RHS just below some crags. Ignore this (it leads up below the crags to a fuente)	
After another few hundred metres there are some newly built walls on the RHS of the track (heavily overgrown) to prevent scree washing down on to the route and shortly after this on the RHS there is a much less clear footpath rising up a ramp. Take this. (If you reach the tarmac road you have gone too far!)	
This climbs a little and wanders along to meet a terrace where you turn R and then L up steep ramps to emerge on a higher terrace. Walk along this and join a track.	
Continue along the track to join a concrete road coming up from your L and continue uphill. Ignore what looks like a good concrete ramp on the LHS and continue until you see the track narrow to a footpath ahead (with a cairn) and a drain cover in a track going off L. Take this.	11.9km, 3hr 15min
This track runs level for a while before zig-zaging downhill and steadily becomes wider and clearer. Once its stature has been reinforced it zig-zags again and continues generally downhill.	
At an obvious junction after it has become a very clear track, turn R and uphill for a few metres.	12.9km, 3hr 28min
Continue ahead for some time until you reach a complex junction with a tarmac road. Turn L and immediately R through some no entry signs. There are a couple of very large boulders nestling in the cherry orchard in front of you.	14km, 3hr 44mins
Follow the road down until you reach a track going L. Take this and at a junction where the main track turns sharply R continue L and down.	14.2km
When it runs out you are directly above a corral (and house) with fence. Make your way down to the fence and follow it around to the L.	14.4km, 3hr 48min

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<p>At its end you turn R down a gully showing obvious signs of having been an engineered track.</p> <p>At the bottom of this join a concrete road downhill and then shortly the road back into the village of Beniali. (L) At the bottom of this road turn R onto the CV700 and in a few metres arrive at the car park.</p>	

**NB – route distances and times may need updating following update to route description. GPS track is current and reflects this described route.**



**Red line shows route taken – Beniali to Al Patro circuit via Pintures Rupestres**

