

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Mary Gough
Last Updated	14 th December 2020
Title of Walk	Barranco Rubia and Ponocho summit circuit
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Polop Helipad / Water deposito at base of Ponocho
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12.5 km
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	980m
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4 hr.35min 5 hr.25min
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/C/Scr/X
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 38.615675 Long: - 0.149621
Directions to Start	Helipad. From main roundabout in Polop take exit on CV715 signed La Nucia, continue up to meet roundabout on CV71 and take exit Avd. Balco de Ponoig follow up to base of Polop and park on large car park near water depositer/helipad
Short walk description	A seldom used route passing a cave house and up a barranco, along a ridge across to a col and an alternative route up to an iconic summit, along the ridge to Col de Llamp then return down a valley and through a forest path.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
At the top LHS of car park turn onto a path and meander along to reach a cave house	520mtrs. 17Mins.
Visit cave house then retrace steps and turn L (old red paint) up RHS of barranco, after (approx.) 180m, 5 mins. Trend L (cairns) still upwards aiming across to a small group of pines, level off then continue up barranco – ignore a R bend and continue to reach a chimney at RHS.	920mtr 36 min
Turn R and scramble up the chimney and just before the top turn L up and over a boulder, soon after trend R towards a faint path and continue aiming for the ridge ahead (running parallel to Ponoig) Weave along the ridge (cairns), reach a small copse of holly oak.	2.3km 1hr.20min

Remember that you use these walk guides at your own risk. Take precautions and if unsure – turn back!

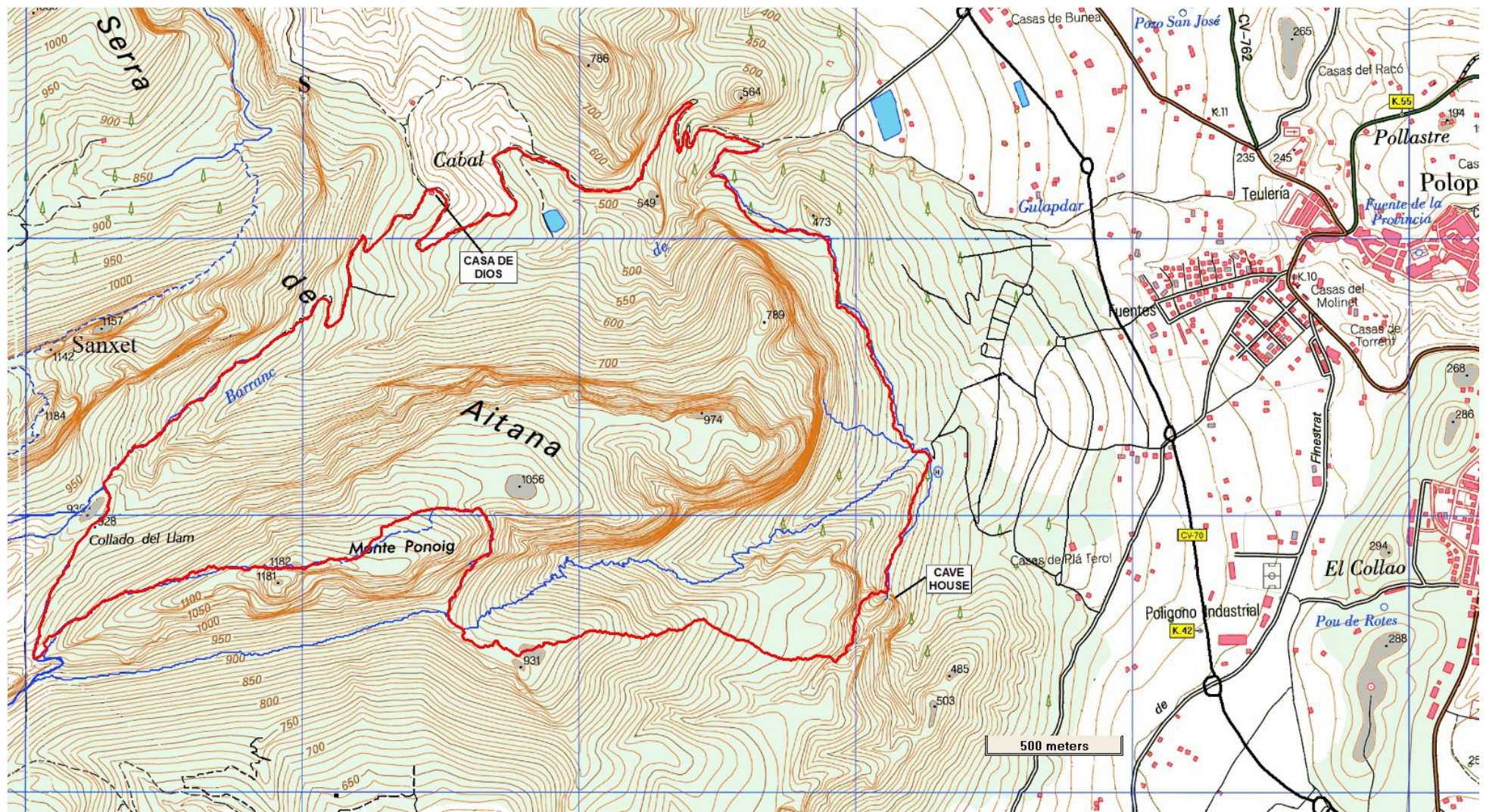
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Walk through the copse onto a path (cairn) and follow across scrubland trending R towards a rocky knoll.	2.5km 1hr32min
Continue R to a col with signpost.	2.6km 1hr 40min
Now turn R almost level to pass a sizeable bush on its LHS and then aim to the L of a solitary pine tree across scree.	
After about 150m curl slightly uphill to the L and walk about 20m below the crags on your LHS and then descend slightly aiming for a natural staircase with a sharp rock erected beyond this to act as a cairn . * it is very important to find the correct start for this traverse	
Scramble up (cairns) and look for further cairns leading you along a ledge with exposure on RHS.	
Take the first obvious ramp on the LHS (cairns) and head up for for 25m before turning R again on the continuation of the traverse.	
Scramble up a second rock staircase to arrive at a broader rocky spur, after this the going is more straightforward.	
Walk gently uphill around to the L (cairns) and intersect a barranco, now aim further L and walk along the LH bank to reach the ridge line.	3.2km 2 hr
Once up on this swing L as you start to ascend along the ridge line soon heading more or less W towards the summit of the ridge.	4 km 2 hr 17 min
Enjoy the views of the Castelletts ahead then move off slightly R (5m) to find a clearer path descending along the ridge line (Y/W) continue down to reach a col (Col de Llamp) with a signpost.	5km 2hr 50min
Turn down R (signed Polop) (Y/W) continue winding down to reach a prominent house on a col (Casa de Dios).	7.8km 3hr 25min
Take the R fork onto a track and continue to emerge at a surface road on a mirador with benches.	9.4km 3h 48min
Continue down to reach a sharp LH bend	10.5km 3hr 55m
Drop down at RHS (rock with various colours paint) onto a path which undulates crossing a riverbed and through a forest to return to the car park.	12.5km 4hr 35m
<small>Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional</small>	

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

A high level of stamina is required for the continual early ascents until both ridges have been attained, with a head for heights and navigational ability for the section after the first col.

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