

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

Visit www.walksinspain.org for more walks descriptions in Spain

Walk description originally prepared by:-	John E. Mail
Last Updated	18 th March 2021
Title of Walk	El Cantal Circuit
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Villajoyosa Remote car parking on minor road beyond riding school.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12.7km
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	590 m
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	Walking time:- 3hr 23m Total time:- 5 hrs
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/B
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 38.508504, Long: -0.300893
Directions to Start	On N332 south of Villajoyosa near to km 132, turn North into car park next to restaurant El Charco (Closed) at grid reference Lat: 38.493310, Long: -0.287592. Reset car odometer Drive under motorway bridge. And pass equestrian establishment (Charco 25). 0.4km from N332 turn left and ignore road to right. Road surface is bad from here. Be careful as you can meet oncoming traffic. At 1.91 km keep left and ignore paved road to right At 2.4 km turn left into flat area where there is space for a few cars to park
Short walk description	An undulating walk on mostly well defined paths and forest roads around this picturesque area visiting the impressive rocky outcrop of El Cantal. The walk offers panoramic views to the coast, to Puig Campana and to Mount Aitana.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Leave the car park in the direction of the overhead power line	0 km, 0 min
The path narrows slightly, bends left and approaches a single storey house. Just before the house follow the path to the left and continue to ascend heading towards the overhead power line.	110m 2min

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

The path turns right and we get our first view down to the sea and a coastal watch tower. Continue to climb turning right again then left.	425m 6 min
Follow the path which now heads inland and we get our first glimpse of "El Cantal" sitting on the skyline before we enter some woods and zigzag to gain height. At the top of the hill there is a short path to the left to a position with good views along the coast which makes a good place for a drinks stop.	1.2km 18 min
Return to our main path and continue the short distance to the next junction where we turn right and continue along the same level.	1.3 km 19 min
At the next junction turn left uphill up the track which is water eroded in parts.	1.5km 22 min
At the next minor junction with a track to the left, turn right and continue uphill.	1.8km 27 min
After a steep climb, the track opens out to a broad flat area with a shady tree – perfect for a drinks stop, particularly with a group.	2.3km 36 min
Continue along the broad track until you reach a stone cairn marking the junction of a narrow, well defined path to the right. Take this right turn.	2.8km 43 min
As we pass the 3.1 km distance travelled we pass a place where one of our CBM walkers, Brian Lambert, tragically died whilst walking this route.	3.1km 48 min
The narrow path descends and meets a broad concreted track. Turn right and follow this track uphill.	3.4km 54 min.
Stay on this broad track passing two houses on the right and you reach a house on the left of the track. Just before the house turn left, steeply at first up the faint trail which will take you up to the col above you.	4.3km 1hr 5m
At the col you will find a narrow path which runs along the ridge towards the rock outcrop "El Cantal". When you reach this path turn right.	4.4km 1hr 9m
Climb up to the base of El Cantal where you pass between some large rocks to join a path just below the outcrop on the coastal side.	4.5km 1 hr 12m
After taking in the views of the rock, follow the path around the Southern side and then along the ridge away from El Cantal. Keep to the ridge line until the path meets the concreted track bellow at a col. Turn left along the broad track.	4.9km 1hr 21m
Follow this broad track until you reach a junction with a narrow path to your left marked with a finger post "PR CV 437 (El Sorell)". Turn left onto this narrow path which has yellow/white markings.	5.8km 1hr 33m
As you follow this path you can take an optional deviation to the top of a small hill to your left which has a hunters hide built on it. This hilltop makes a good panoramic spot for lunch.	6.5km 1hr 42m
There is no path up the hill, just scramble up towards the shed-like structure which is quite visible.	6.6km 1hr 46m
After lunch follow the ridge line to rejoin the marked trail at a concrete survey post at the next col.	6.8km 1hr 50m
Follow PR CV 437 until there is a junction to the right. Keep left and stay on the marked	

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

track which follows the ridge line and does not descend.	7.2km 1hr 55m
Go past the large stone cairn and stay on the path along the ridge.	7.6km 2hr
At the next stone cairn there is a junction with a narrow path to the right. Turn right onto this path.	7.8km 2hr 5m
Follow this narrow path down hill until you reach a broad track, turn left.	8.2km 2hr 11m
Follow the track until you see a huge closed iron gate blocking your path. Do not despair! There is a narrow path bypass to your left. Take it to go along the valley bottom. The path then rises steeply to rejoin the broad track where you turn left and continue having passed the gate.	
At the next major junction between broad tracks turn Right where is a concrete marker post.	8.4km 2hr 15m
Ignore broad track option to the left. Continue down the hill and up the other side.	8.7km 2hr 19m
You will reach an open area with an information board. This makes for a good drinks spot after a stiff climb.	9.1km 2hr 26m
Continue along the broad track which descends into the next valley by the odd zigzag. At the bottom of the valley you will reach a junction of broad tracks. Keep left signposted CV437 to Ermita St Antone.	9.7km 2hr 33m
After 150m turn right onto broad track. After walking past some fields the track turns left and there is a path to the right which quickly narrows and heads up the valley bottom. Take this path.	9.9km 2hr 38m
After climbing the valley and its many terraces you will meet another path to the left. Ignore this path and keep right crossing a terraced wall.	10.6km 2hr 28m
After a few minutes in the woods again you will reach a more open area and the path keeps to the left-hand side of the terraces. Before climbing the path turns right near to a pine tree with a bright blue tank at its base. To the left there is a path which climbs quite steeply up through the woods. Take this left turn.	10.8km 2hr 53m
After a short climb the path meets a broad track. Turn left and after a few metres there is a junction of broad tracks. Take the right hand track uphill. Follow this broad track, which is badly weather eroded in parts up to its col and down the other side until it meets another broad track. Turn Right.	11.8km 3hr 11m
Follow this broad track back down the valley to the car park	12.7km 3hr 23m
<small>Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional</small>	

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

To get to the start you need to drive along a rough unpaved forest track which is unsuitable for vehicles with little ground clearance. Hire cars will not be insured on this road.

There are no drinking water sources on this route.

After the walk there is a roadside cafe on the right-hand side of the road about 3km further South on the N332 at Lanuza.

Route followed is outlined in Red

