

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	John E. Mail
<b>Last Updated</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
<b>Title of Walk</b>	El Cantal Circuit via Lázaro
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Villajoyosa Remote car parking on minor road beyond riding school.
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	13.1km
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	660m
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	Walking time - 3hr 43m Total time - 5hr
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/B
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 38.508504, Long: -0.300893
<b>Directions to Start</b>	On N332 south of Villajoyosa near to km 132, turn North into car park next to restaurant El Charco (Closed) at grid reference 38.493310, -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.
<b>Short walk description</b>	This is a longer version of the "El Cantal Circuit". This adds a tough climb along faint trails to what is mainly 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, to Alicante and to Mount Aitana
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
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	

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the house follow the path to the left and continue to ascend heading towards the overhead power line.	110m 2min
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 44 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 50 min
The narrow path descends and meets a broad concreted track. Turn right and follow this track uphill.	3.5km 58 min.
The broad track turns left, right and left again. To the right-hand side of the track is a small flat passing/parking area.	3.6km 1hr 1m
From this point turn left and start climbing the hill (Lázaro) to the white survey post on the summit. There is no defined path but to the right-hand side of the slope there are faint trails which get more defined as you approach the summit. At the summit there are splendid 360 degree vistas.	4 km 1hr 11m
From the summit take the path down to the col in the direction of the next lower hill which has a large stone cairn built on its summit. There are cairns marking the path. Keep to the right as to the left there is a big drop.	
At the col you start to climb up again towards the next summit.	4.1km 1hr 12m
At the next summit pass the large stone built cairn and turn right to a fairly well defined path that descends directly towards the rocky outcrop "El Cantal"	4.3km 1hr 20m
Pass a large hunters hide looking like a Pterodactyl nest and continue descending	4.5km 1hr 26m
Follow this path down until you reach a col beneath El Cantal. Here there is a crossing of narrow paths. Go straight ahead and follow the path towards the base of El Cantal.	4.7km 1hr 30m
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. This location makes the perfect lunch stop.	4.9 km 1hr 31m

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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 below at a col. Turn left along the broad track.	5.3km 1hr 41m
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.	6.2km 1hr 53m
Pass by broad track junction to your right and continue uphill towards concrete marker post and then along the ridge still following PR CV 437	7km 2hr 7m
Follow PR CV 437 until there is a junction to the right. Keep left and stay on the marked track which follows the ridge line and does not descend.	7.6km 2hr 15m
Go past the large stone cairn and stay on the path along the ridge.	8 km 2hr 20m
At the next stone cairn there is a junction with a narrow path to the right. Turn right onto this path.	8.2km 2hr 25m
Follow this narrow path down hill until you reach a broad track, turn left.	8.6km 2hr 31m
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 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.	8.8km 2hr 35m
Ignore broad track option to the left. Continue down the hill and up the other side.	9.1km 2hr 39m
You will reach an open area with an information board. This makes for a good drinks spot after a stiff climb.	9.5km 2hr 46m
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.	10.1km 2hr 53m
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.	10.3km 2hr 58m
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.	11km 2hr 48m
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.	11.2km 3hr 13m
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.	12.2km 3hr 31m
Follow this broad track back down the valley to the car park	13.1km 3hr 43m

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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**

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.

see map below.....



**Route followed is outlined in Red**

