

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps										
Last Updated	10 th September 2021										
Title of Walk	Pico el Escalar and Pico de Astun circuit										
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Astun ski station										
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	8										
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	495										
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	2.66hr 4.75hr										
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/B										
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 42.809471, Long: -0.506969										
Directions to Start	<p>This walk is written up on the basis that you can take the chair lift from Astun ski station to the top. This only runs (apart from skiing!) during the summer season and up to the middle weekend in September. Check for details.</p> <p>From Jaca take the road (A23) north towards France being careful to turn off to the R before the Somport tunnel and follow the "old" road towards Candanchu. Past this take a R turn signed to Astun and follow this to the end to reach the chair lift station.</p>										
Short walk description	A cracking and challenging ridge walk with views across the Pyrenean chain and into France over a series of charming lakes.										
Full Walk Description	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;"></th><th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>From the top chair lift station take the descending track which curls to the R and under the chair lift.</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>When you reach a fork with a sign board, turn R and continue along a broad track.</td><td style="text-align: center;">310m, 5min</td></tr> <tr> <td>This reaches a shoulder.....</td><td style="text-align: center;">1.3km, 18min</td></tr> <tr> <td>..... overlooking the first of our many lakes and from here proceed slightly R and</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	From the top chair lift station take the descending track which curls to the R and under the chair lift.		When you reach a fork with a sign board, turn R and continue along a broad track.	310m, 5min	This reaches a shoulder.....	1.3km, 18min overlooking the first of our many lakes and from here proceed slightly R and	
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downhill for a few metres before taking a steeper path descending L towards the lake.

Follow this almost to the far end of the lake where it bends around to the L (and descends to the lower chair lift station) but ignore this and curve R and uphill to reach the far end of the lake from where a thin path strikes up the hill to the L towards a col in the ridge.

When you reach the col.....

2.3km, 41min

..... turn R and now climb and scramble up and over several summits with hands on required at times.

Finally when the pyramidal summit of Pic des Moines is in front of you reach a T jnc. where you turn R descending to reach the col des Moines (or col de Jaca in Spanish).

3.6km, 1hr 10min
4.2km, 1hr 22min

Now proceed directly ahead up a steep grassy slope aiming for the summit ridge directly above you.

When you reach this.....

4.7km, 1hr 35min

..... continue ahead on the ridge line rising and falling over several peaks with occasional scrambling section to finally reach the Puerto de Astun where several other footpaths join you.

6.9km, 2hr 20min

Turn directly R here to descend on a clear path aiming for the top chair lift station.

As you pass by the LHS of the Obon de Astun (lake) you will have to climb briefly to reach the chair lift from where you return to the car park

Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Some scrambling. Breathlessness possible because of the altitude.

See map below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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