

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Gordon Gleeson and Ralph Phipps
<b>Last Updated</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Col de Rates circuit from Alcalali
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Alcalali CV 720 km40.5 (Alcalali to Parcent, just over Rio Gorgos on RHS)
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	12
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	490
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	3.33hr 4.66hr
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	MS/A
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 38.748127 Long: -0.04595
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From Alcalali cross roads of CV720 and CV750 head SE (towards Parcent) to cross the bridge over the river Gorgos and soon after this turn R and down a few metres to park on rough ground above the river.
<b>Short walk description</b>	Twisting through Alcalali campo, and climbing up SL-CV 119 to Mirador Coll de Rates. Then down the PR-CV158 to explore hidden trails cerca Parcent.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
Walk back to the main road and turn L crossing the bridge over the river and just beyond this turn R signed to the Ecopark.	190m. 2.5min
Continue ahead with the Ecopark below and on the RHS.	
Curve R at the finger post and then turn L steeply uphill towards the village and just after the bins (on the RHS) turn R up a smaller lane climbing steeply for a few metres .....	435m, 6.5min
....before cresting the hill and dropping down and into the campo.	
Continue ahead to a T-jnc and turn R passing a broad viewpoint (Mirador)	640m, 9.5min

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Keep ahead soon descending above the river and onto a thinner path which curls R and crosses the river bed on stepping stone before climbing back up to the L and joining a track and soon a road.	1.2km, 18min
Walk straight ahead across a cross-roads.	
At a fork ahead keep R and soon see a small wooded hill above you on the LHS.	1.3km, 20min
At the next fork turn R.	
Reach a complex 5 way junction and turn L uphill on tarmac.....	2.1km, 31min
..... and very quickly L again at the next fork.	
At the next junction turn L.	2.9km, 43min
Reach the end of the tarmac and here turn R with a finger post now following a zig-zag path steadily uphill.	3.6km, 52min
Continue steeply uphill for some time and just after a big zig-zag you reach a path junction where you turn L now onto a less clear footpath.	5km, 1hr 24min
When you reach the road turn L uphill and arrive at a surfaced track on the RHS which leads you up to a fantastic viewpoint S towards Tarbena and the coast.	6.1km, 1hr 42min
Now retrace your steps down towards the road and just before this find a finger post on the LHS pointing you down hill on a Y/W footpath.	
Cross the road again to a viewpoint and find the continuing path on the R of this descending steadily.	6.5km, 1hr 50min
Keep L at several junctions and soon find yourself descending on an obvious path towards the village of Parcent in the distance.	
Go across a small cross roads .....	7.8km, 2hr 18min
.....and soon past a sign board and then L at a junction onto concrete and at the next junction just before you reach tarmac turn R (with R/W cross) and pass a very large house on the LHS to curl round to the R and join a footpath going ahead.	8.4km, 2hr 30min
Follow this and soon curl uphill to the R and then curve again back to the L and some 60m after this look out for an indistinct footpath with cairn and between a Mata and an Olive that drops off to the LHS. Take this.	9.5km, 2hr 45min
Drop down to pass a ruin on the LHS and then the path ahead widens to become a very feint but broader track.	
Cross another track and continue ahead.	
When you reach a pair of parallel walls on your RHS (each side of an overgrown water course) turn R along the edge of the wall and at a track continue ahead now on much clearer ground.	

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As this ends take a small doge leg R and then L and soon you are on a concrete track amongst scattered houses.

Reach a junction and turn R .....

.....and almost immediately pass the Ermita de San Juan on the LHS (formerly a mosque)

At a fork just beyond this keep L and continue to a cross roads where you turn L. Follow this as it turns R and then reaches the main road. The car park is in front of you!

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

10.4km, 3hr 2min

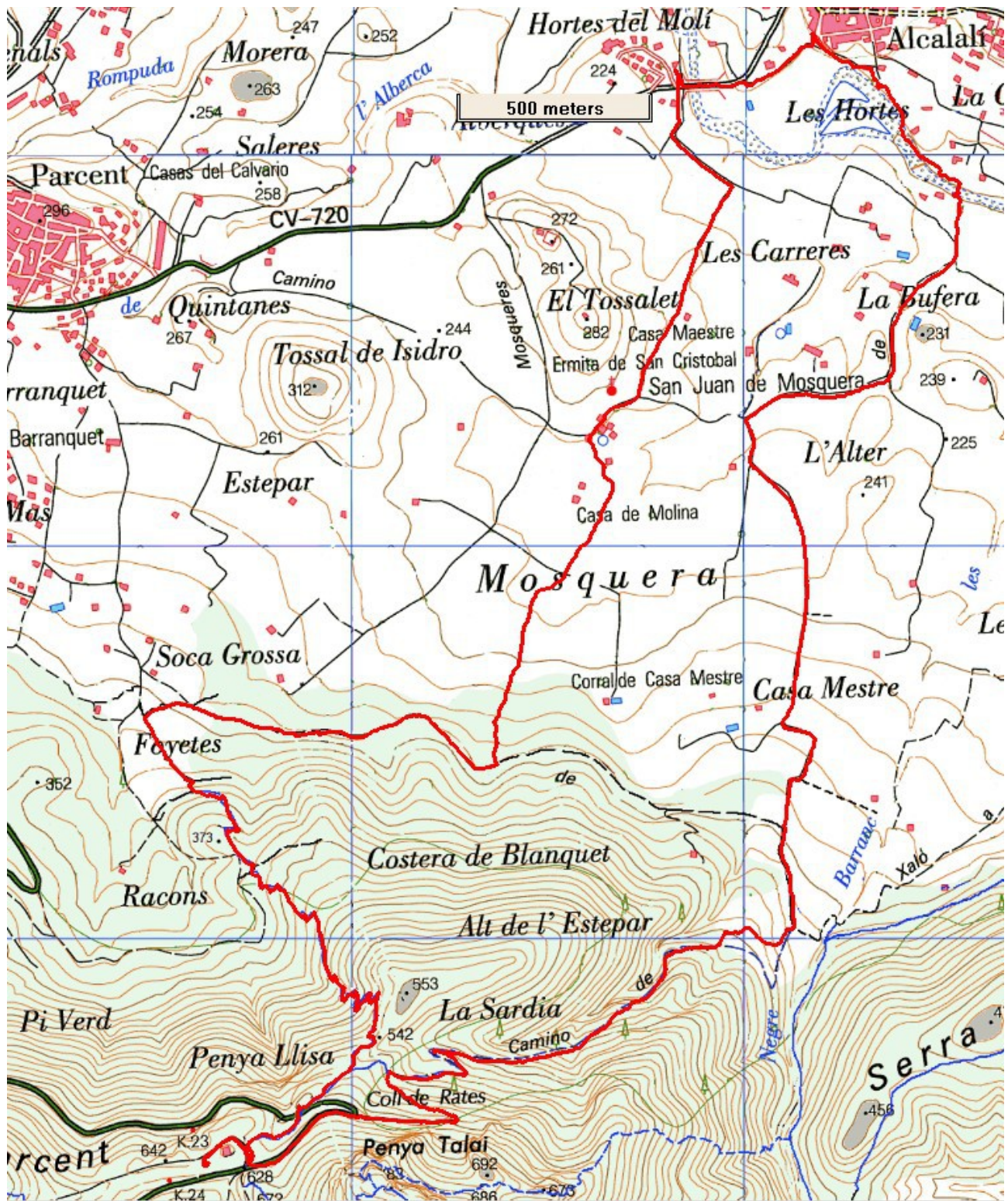
**Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

None

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**Route followed is outlined in Red**



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