

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	John E. Mail
<b>Last Updated</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Estany Esblacat from Ordino-Arcalis
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Andorra, Ordino Arcalis Lower ski station car park.
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	6
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	472m
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	2hr 20m 3hr 30m
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	MS/B
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 42.63158, Long: 1.5011
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From Ordino take the CS 380 (also numbered CG-3) for 15km (22 minutes) to Car park (Cs 380) at lower Ordino Arcalis ski station, near Restaurant Hortell.
<b>Short walk description</b>	A high level (2,300 m) anticlockwise circular walk up to the Estany (lake) Esblacat, then along the valley side before descending to the car park. Spectacular views throughout.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	
Leave the car and a short distance walk up the road to a hairpin bend where a broad track joins to the right and crosses a bridge over a stream (Riu Tristaina)	0km 0 min
Turn right and follow this broad track down the valley following signpost to Estany Tristaina	240 m, 4 min
A footpath joins us from the left (HRP) This will be our path on our return leg of the walk today.	400m, 6 min
Next to a small stone hut and its circular stone built store take narrow path uphill to left signposted to Cami del Camis Vell towards Estany Esblacat (1hr 30m) There is an information board here with local maps showing route options.	1.2 km, 17 min

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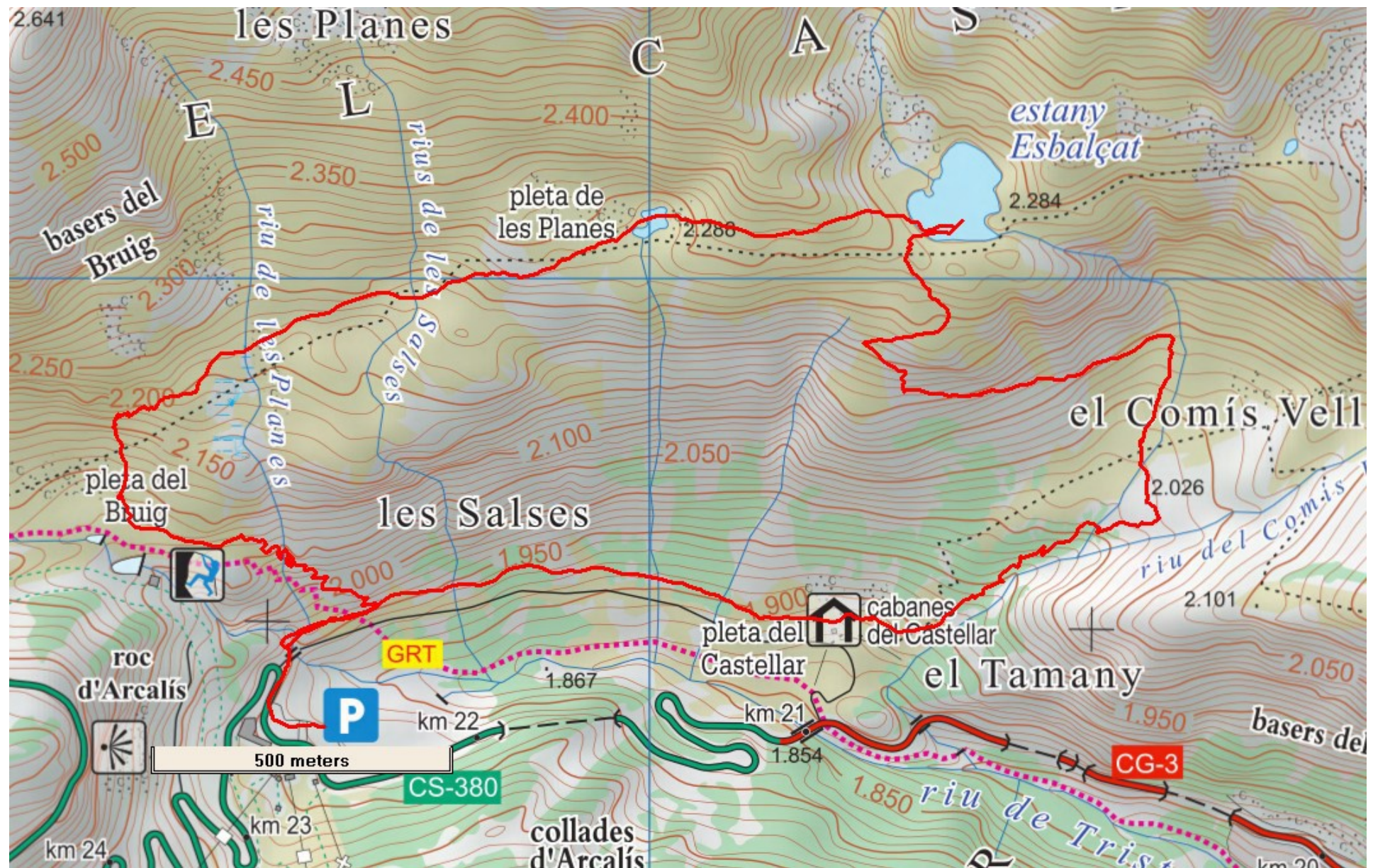
After following a mountain stream for a while we cross the stream bed on some logs	1.8km, 31 min
At signpost with "4" marked on it continue ahead following indicated route to Estany Esbalcat.	2.1 km, 39 min
Continue along path now marked with yellow paint blobs and climb up to Estany Esbalcat, a lovely place for a picnic lunch!	3.3 km, 1hr 13m
We are now going to walk west for a while before dropping down into the valley.	
After exploring the lake, return to the signpost on the path we came up on and take the left-hand path signposted to la Cova del Forat de las Planes.	
Cross a stream bed by rock hopping	3.9km, 1hr 25m
Near a rocky outcrop there is a stunted pine tree. Look for the yellow dot on a rock. Go to the left of the pine "bush" and the path drops but continues west. Do not take the higher path as it is blocked by fallen trees.	4.8 km, 1hr 47 m
At an overhanging rock the path turns left	4.9km, 1 hr 50m
Go down a couple of zigzags and reach a rock with two arrows and yellow blobs. The path now descends towards a small man made lake.	
At signposted junction (with HRP/GRT) turn left onto Cami del Bruig.	5.1km, 1hr 55m
The path now descends steeply through many zigzags to rejoin our outward route where we turn right and head for the car park	5.8km, 2hr 15min
At the road turn right for the car park	6 km, 2hr 20m
Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional	
<b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b>	<p>Off season you might not get refreshments at the end of the walk. A short drive down the valley to el Serrat there are good value bars &amp; cafes.</p> <p>The walk is quite high. Allow extra time if you are not used to altitude.</p>

See map below.....

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**Route followed is outlined in Red**



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