

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Colin Read and Alan James
Last Updated	19th November 2022
Title of Walk	Segaria Ridge Scramble from the West
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Benimeli
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	10
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	700
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4hr 5.5hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/C/Scr/X
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.821688, Long -0.04225
Directions to Start	Benimeli Cami Olivers signed Pou de Baix from the CV-729 from Beniarbeig to Sagra. Car park or at roadside.
Short walk description	A classic summit via a demanding ridge scramble. Paths lead around and up the western end of the ridge onto its crest, then along the northern flank to gain the impressive notch. About 1km of rugged scrambling and boulder hopping lead over the summit to the col beyond. Return along the northern flank to regain the ridge crossed earlier before descending directly to Benimeli. Tremendous views and airy situations.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>Walk back up the Cami Olivars to the main road CV-729, cross it into the Carrer Señor and uphill into the main square Placa Major. Cross this diagonally L and exit uphill along a street (Carrer Fora) that soon leaves the village and trends L.</p> <p>Follow the concrete as it rises up ignoring drives and side turnings to arrive at the final building with outhouses and a chain across the drive, the footpath starts here on the R with G/W markings of SL-CV 109.</p>	435m, 7min

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Follow this uphill in zig-zags with opening views back across the Orba valley. In one or two places it requires concentration to select the correct line but there are plenty of G/W markings. Reach and cross an old asbestos water pipe and in a few metres arrive at a level terrace with sign post to 'Area Recreative'.	1.1km, 23min
Continue ahead on an expanding track and follow it without interruption enjoying the expansive views, to reach a junction with a footpath on the R. Signed to 'Area Recreative'	2.0km, 35min
Follow the G/W marked footpath uphill ignoring side paths, to reach a road at a bend (the road goes up to the antenas Segaria).	2.4km, 43min
Leave the road immediately for an un marked footpath on the R behind a sign post (the road is marked G/W and also leads to the col). The footpath has some steep sections (which could be muddy after rain) it swings R to reach a terrace. Turn L up a broken bancal (faded green dot on stone) now the path winds around in the forest and eventually junctions with another bend on the road.	
Follow the road for about 30m, then turn R onto a footpath which traverses along before turning L beside a boulder up a very stony path, it then passes through terraces before traversing L then weaving up to emerge at picnic tables close to the col.	3.0km, 1hr 07min
Follow the concrete road up past the antenas, take the G/W - Y/W path to the L of the final building (mind your head) and continue over flat ground at first, before descending a little to the R down a rocky ramp, then re-ascend leftwards to regain the ridge to a point where ahead an impressive ridge of rock rises up sharply and blocks progress.	3.53km, 1hr 21min
Take the path to the L of this ridge then scramble down keeping close to the cliff, to a reach a junction with a path which descends to the L.	3.6km, 1hr 24min
Here it is possible to continue past a signpost along under the cliffs, which are used by rock climbers, to reach the precarious ruins of the Iberian Castle, before returning to this junction.	
Descend the path which bears R to reach a fork, with a signpost to 'Portet de Beniarbeig PR-CV 415'.	4.07km, 1hr 31min
Bear R (Y/W), a little way along here turn R up some slippery crags protected with chains and continue to finally emerge easily into a fantastic gap in the ridge line, with panoramic views both south and north.	4.25km, 1hr 39min
Turn L and walk easily up a few metres before moving off to the LHS of the ridge just below its crags and now keep close to the crags above as you traverse under the crags still climbing to arrive at a second breach in the ridge line.	
Now the going is easier and you scramble up over rocks quite steeply for a while, keeping generally close to the crest and turning obstacles on the R until you reach a more level stretch. As the ridge ahead begins to steepen you can now see beyond it the summit dome, don't be tempted to continue along the crest as there is an unseen vertical drop ahead, which would involve serious climbing or an abseil. So now you must keep R and descend a little down part vegetated ramps.	

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<p>You will be able to see ahead and below of you a vegetated gully, rising up to regain the RHS of the ridge on the summit dome and you are aiming for this.</p> <p>Once you have descended a little you should be able to see a rocky ledge with a single palm tree erect in the middle of it level with you on the R flank of the mountain. You must be below this where there is a much easier descending line going through the bushes and vegetation that will take you across to the foot of the gully.</p> <p>Climb steeply up the gully and then the going is easier again as you make for the summit trig point (509m) and its log book housing.</p> <p>Continue now descending, along the ridge following Y/W markers interspersed with yellow blobs, many of which do not necessarily indicate the best line and some are difficult to see from above.</p> <p>Soon aim down to the R for a clump of oak trees, pass these to the L and then 30m further pass a second clump on the RHS. Eventually the col at 'Portet d'Ondara' is reached, where there is a finger post which points back to the 'Vertex Geodesic' on the summit and two signs pointing roughly north to 'Font de Catala' and 'Morros de les Coves'.</p> <p>Continue along the ridge for about 100m rising slightly for a short distance to find descending path which doubles back to the L. Follow this (Y/W) as it descends along the flank of the ridge, initially it keeps close to the foot of the cliffs (concentration is required as there are a number of false trails) soon you have impressive crags above you to the L. You reach a path 'T' junction with a fingerpost and turn L signed to 'Font de Catala'</p> <p>Follow this path down to reach a fenced compound with a semi-ruined building within.</p> <p>Turn L and start to ascend steeply up the flank of the ridge again, passing through some undergrowth. Further up ignore a indistinct L turn and continue generally moving up R towards the crags on this side of the ridge and as you meet them there is a finger post at a 'T' junction pointing L to 'Portet de Beniarbeig' which you passed on your way out.</p> <p>Turn R and continue uphill. When you arrive directly under the topmost crags there is a junction where to the L there are the ruins of the Iberian Castle. Turn R and scramble up the rocks you descended earlier to regain the level plateau and cross to the other side of the ridge.</p> <p>Follow the Y/W and G/W markers along this side of the ridge before climbing slightly along a rocky ramp and continue for 100m or so and then descending back to the L flank of the ridge.</p> <p>A short way ahead are the masts, cross the ridge to walk along beside the RH side of the first building (mind your head) to reach the concrete road.</p> <p>Descend the road to reach a set of steps directly in front of you with the picnic area on the R and here turn L onto a footpath.</p> <p>Following both Y/W and G/W markers (which do not always follow the best line) to descend rough ground down towards a col. The going is tricky here and care is needed. Eventually the col is reached, (beware there are two wells here which used to be roped off) there is a signpost here. Turn R towards Benimeli.</p>	<p>5.15km, 2hrs 09min</p> <p>5.59km, 2hrs 22min</p> <p>5.99km, 2hrs 29min 6.99km, 2hrs 45min</p> <p>7.49km 2hrs 59min</p> <p>7.69km 3hrs 04min</p> <p>8.09km 3hrs 13min</p> <p>8.29km 3hrs 16min</p> <p>8.69km, 3hr 29</p>
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Follow the marked trail across the col and descend towards the village, you arrive at its edge beside an old water deposito which is passed on the L to arrive at a building and a set of steps descending R.

9.39km
3hrs 44min

Go down the steps and turn R to walk along a path with stations of the cross. Steps lead down directly towards a garage door and on reaching this turn R and descend more steps to arrive at a road, turn R.

Follow the road around to the L and pass a 'No Entry' sign and 'El Llaurador' to continue ahead to the 'Placa Major' square. Leave it by the Carrer Señor cross the main road into Cami Olivars back to the parking place.

9.79km
3hrs 52min

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

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

The N side of the ridge can be wet and shady at almost any time of year. It is steep and the going can be dangerous in damp conditions.
At the time of writing some sections of the Y/W paths on the N side are somewhat overgrown.
The timing for the approximately 1km section from the notch to the col at 'Portet d'Ondara', will vary greatly depending on the scrambling ability of the party.

See map below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red

