

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Colin Read	
Last Updated	8th April 2024	
Title of Walk	Passet del Golero Via Carrascal Ridge, Barrancs Del Arc & Xarquer. (including a longer easier option)	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Sella. Car parking spaces beside track immediately beyond the Refugio Font de l'Arc.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	13	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	656m	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4hrs 6hrs	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 38.62054, Long: -0.234323	
Directions to Start	From CV-770 km 15.3 at eastern end of Sella turn into minor road passing Car parks. In 400m turn R & keep R passing beneath the cemetery. Follow this road into Barranc del Arc for 4km. When tarmac ends turn R past Refugio Font de l'Arc and park on the right.	
Short walk description	Ascending into the upper valley of Barranc del Arc. Then climbing more steeply up to and over the ridge of El Carrascal, descending past the Buddhist Colony, before reascending via a mozarabic path over Passet del Golero. Finally descending the flanks of the valley of the Barranc del Xarquer. Some superb scenery and interesting terrain. Mostly straightforward tracks and paths, though some are unmarked and complicated. The ascent up to and over the ridge of Carrascal is steep and sometimes rugged. It is a little overgrown in places but not scratchy.	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far

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<p>From the car park, go back along the access road to the signpost at the junction and turn R towards 'Benimantell' along the unsurfaced track, following the PR-CV 09. Continue, ignoring a track off to the L and another on the R, to reach the cluster of Fincas which make up the 'Casas de l'Arc del Canonge' where there is a junction with a track which bears off to the R. There is a ruined stone casita on its right.</p>	<p>25min, 1.9km</p>
<p>* From here a longer easier option is possible. It follows the main track PR-CV 09 for 3km, to a 'Y' junction of tracks. Leave the Y/W marked track and turn R, continue for 830m to a lefthand hairpin. Turn R along a track which becomes overgrown and emerges at the uppermost of the ruined fincas, described in the text below. This adds almost 2km. The views along the way are fine but the going rather tedious.</p>	
<p>To continue the shorter steeper route turn R. Follow the track, which descends slightly then rises up to reach a 'T' junction. Turn L and continue to a second similar junction at a bend.</p>	<p>31min, 2.3km</p>
<p>Turn L along the less defined track, which passes through more dense woodland. Ignore a track/terrace on the L, where the track rises up rightwards. Continue to a level section where the path bears L to reach the end of a terrace. Go along the right edge of it and up a path to another terrace. Pass along the edge of this one, then go up a stoney track and along the left side of another to arrive at a junction with a cross path. On the terrace opposite there is an upturned steel bathtub.</p>	<p>46min, 3.1km</p>
<p>Turn R, passing several terraces and a path on your R. Ignore it and continue up this steep eroded track to a junction on the L below a very steep eroded rocky section. Bear L as the track levels off and reduces to a path. It goes along a terrace, to eventually reach a junction with a cross path (cairns).</p>	<p>1hr 01min, 3.7km</p>
<p>Turn R, then bear L to follow the path as it passes below a steep rock buttress. It is at times a little overgrown, though not very scratchy. Reach a junction with a cross path (cairn).</p>	<p>1hr 07min, 4.01km</p>
<p>Turn R, and go up following a steep path, which in parts forms a drainage shoot. Continue up a rocky slope, above the path now slants rightwards, to pass behind boulders. From here it becomes rather vague. Bear R away from a small outcrop of rock through shrubbery (occasional cairns) to reach a more open area below and to the R of a ruined finca. Pass the ruin on the R and work up the rocky slope to reach the righthand side of a second ruin, which is directly above the first. Go L across the front of it to reach the level platform of a former threshing circle. From here there are extensive views of the upper 'Arc' valley.</p>	<p>1hr 16min, 4.4km</p>
<p>* It is here that the longer variant re-joins the route.</p>	
<p>Pass behind the finca to reach a cross path and turn R onto it. The path curves L around the flank of the hillside and rises to the R around the head of a barranco, where it passes a water trough. It soon turns up L amongst pines, then turns R, stepping up onto and across several broad grassy terraces, keep towards the righthand side. Finally, it turns L across a field towards a gap in the tree line to reach a junction with a cross track. Here there is a blue dot on a rock.</p>	<p>1hr 30min, 4.9km</p>
<p>Turn L along the track (marked Y/W). After a while it rises up and then just as it levels out, before you reach a finca which is ahead and below on the L, look for an</p>	

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<p>unmarked footpath branching sharply back up to the R (cairn with blue and red dot).</p>	1hr 40min. 5.62km
<p>Zig Zag up this rough and steep path to reach the rocky crest of the ridge of El Carrascal, step up the rocks to admire the superb views of Puig Campana, Sanchet and the Buddhist Colony down in the valley.</p>	2hr 03min, 6.4km
<p>Descend the few metres back down to the upward path which turns L (NE) and go along it a little, to where it crosses to the other side. It descends, gradually working leftwards and zig zagging down into the valley on a rather rough path. Eventually you reach a track beside a casita, there is a large stone Casa below.</p>	2hr 16min, 6.9km
<p>Turn R down the track past a chain, then turn immediately R again on a well defined track. Continue and in a while you pass, on your left, the straggly collection of buildings forming part of the Buddhist colony. The Stupa is out of sight (respect their privacy). Continue, ignoring all side tracks until eventually you reach a signpost on the R. This is just before reaching a metal barrier, where ahead at a junction the track becomes surfaced. At the signpost there is a footpath rising up to the R, where 'Benimantell' is scratched onto a rock.</p>	2hrs 47min, 9.3km
<p>Turn R, signed to 'Passet Del Golero'. A short ascent leads past a ruined Finca and just beyond it on the left to a rocky view point. Continue along the footpath passing a disused water deposito and other structures. Traverse the hillside to beneath the cliffs, where the path descends a short distance down a few zig-zags. Ignore a path descending left. Turn R uphill, climb the amazing mozarabic zig-zags to reach the "passet del Golero". Near the top on the right there is a painted sign indicating towards 'Sella' but first, turn L to reach in a few metres, another fine view point on a rocky promontory.</p>	3hrs 08min, 10km
<p>Return to the painted sign and continue ahead for about 25m to a 'Y' junction with a painted rock sign, indicating 'Sella' L and 'Benimantell' R. Turn L and descend to reach a terrace, go straight ahead across it, then steeply up to join a track. Turn R then go L around a hairpin and on past the back of a finca. Continue, at a cross roads go straight on (blue dot on rock) and follow the main track ignoring all side tracks and always descending. Eventually the track passes directly beneath a cliff face (a climbers venue).</p>	3hr 47min, 12.1km
<p>From the crest of the bend, leave the track and descend to the R along a narrow path, passing beneath the cliff. It continues along beneath the next cliff. There are numerous options, keep working right and down to emerge in a car parking clearing.</p>	3hr 56min, 12.4km
<p>Go straight across the car park to the R and step down crossing open woodland, to junction with a path coming in from the surfaced cami just to your left. Turn R and follow it towards the cliffs. Just before reaching them turn L and follow vague paths making towards an isolated pinnacle of rock. Pass around it to the L along a terrace to reach the surfaced cami.</p>	4hr 04min, 12.7km
<p>Immediately leave the surfaced road and turn R down a path which descends beneath the foot of the rock pinnacle and emerges onto the surfed cami. Turn R to return to the car park near the Refugio.</p>	4hr 08min, 12.9km

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Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Car parking at the Refugio can be limited at weekends, when many rock climbers visit the area!
The ascent to the ruins via the drainage shoot could be very slippery when wet!
The gpx. track is for the shorter route which is fully described.

See map below.....

Route followed is outlined in Red

