

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Colin and Brenda Read	
Last Updated	29th October 2023	
Title of Walk	Relleu Castell & del Panta Circuit (plus Gorge Walkway)	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Relleu. Parking on the side of the CV-775 road near the Sports Centre.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	335	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3hr 5hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	M/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 38.589675, Long: -0.308018	
Directions to Start	Coming from the coast near Villajoyosa (junction 66 on AP7) follow CV-770 north through Orxeta (alternatively; via Finestrat and CV-758). Turn L onto CV-775 towards Relleu to reach the NE edge of the village. Park on the side of the road near the Sports Centre.	
Short walk description	<p>A circuit going via the Ermita Sant Albert and the Castell ruin, then incorporating part of the 'Ruta del Panta' G/W marked route to reach the dam, where the impressive gorge walkway is optional (small charge applies). Mainly straightforward paths and tracks, though there are a few short rough sections and a couple which are mildly exposed. Some sections are unmarked.</p> <p>Lovely countryside and good views.</p> <p>Note; at the time of writing the walkway is being extended and charges in the future may vary!</p>	
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	
Walk (SW) towards the village. Ignore the junction on the R with the CV-778 and continue ahead beside the CV-775 into the village, bearing R along C' Evarist Manero Molla, passing roadside cafes. Turn second R along C' Alacant (observing architectural details as you go). Turn second R again into Plasa Sagrat Cor de Jesus and turn second L along C' Major. Turn R along C' l'Ajuntament and L along C' De Nazaret then R along		

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<p>C' Les Moreres overlooking on your L a ruined watermill. Turn L over a bridge into Travessia Alcoi and up into C' el Moli to arrive on your L at the Lavadero, where there is an information plaque.</p>	10mins, 580m
<p>Ignore the road (C' El Moli) going straight uphill. Turn back R into C' El Barranc, signed to 'Castell & Ermita Sant Albert'. After about 75 metres turn sharp L into C' el Calvari and go up to the arch entrance, follow the Calvary ramps or turn R up several flights of steps, then (ignoring a track on the R) go L up a paved ramp to reach the Ermita Sant Albert.</p>	15mins, 1.0km
<p>Turn back and fork L up a track signed to 'Castell', then branch L onto a path and up steps to reach the Castell de Relleu ruins from where there are extensive views.</p>	20mins, 1.3km
<p>From beside the western (left) corner of the most complete remnant of the Castell, locate an unmarked path which passes behind it, descend it as it zig-zags steeply down northwards to reach the C'el Moli surfaced road, beside a camping and picnic area (water and toilets).</p>	22min, 1.5km
<p>Turn L on the road and then immediately L again at a signpost onto an unmarked track, descend it (ignoring G/W cross). Continue ahead around the slope, to where it bends to the L and a path descends R at a signpost.</p>	25mins, 1.7km
<p>Ignore the path on the R and continue straight ahead on the track (Y/W & R/W) signed to 'Relleu' it reduces to a path then reaches a (blank) signpost at a junction.</p>	28mins, 1.9km
<p>Turn sharply R down a path and after a few metres, beside a dead tree (R/W cross on rock) leave the obvious path and step to the R onto a narrow rough mozarabic path. It descends L between terraces towards the ravine of the Rio Amadorio, then loops L and rises back up towards the village (part of this section is eroded, narrow and mildly exposed). At a cross track go straight ahead on the narrow path and continue passing a small ruin (mill?) then between walls to pass a disused finca and merge onto a track, which turns sharp R up a ramp, to regain the village streets and turn R onto C' Major.</p>	43mins, 2.8km
<p>Continue R along C' Les Moreres and follow the road to a 'T' junction. Turn R along C' de la Mare de Deu del Miracle. Then bear R at a 'Y' junction into C' Alacant. When the road splits (where there is a font and a cross) keep L (ignore a side road on the L and a G/W X on curb) and continue past a signpost to 'Panta De Relleu' (you have now joined the G/W marked route, which will lead you to the Dam). Where the road bends L towards the main CV-775, take the minor surfaced road which branches R marked G/W.</p>	49mins, 3.2km
<p>Follow this until it turns sharp R, go straight ahead down a track which descends past buildings to the main CV-775 road at a blind bend! Cross it and turn R (with care) along the road then almost immediately turn L at a signpost onto a concrete cami.</p>	56mins, 3.7km
<p>Ignore a track which cuts back L and continue straight ahead between terraces (occasional G/W & White markers). Ignore all other side tracks until overlooking the eroded cliffs into the Rio Amadorio. The path now bears L, following the edge of the river gorge, it then descends steeply on a rough path and crosses the river on wooden duck boards. (Note: it could be impassable soon after heavy rain).</p>	1hr 4mins, 4.3km
<p>Continue along the opposite bank, passing above the (dry) water deposito of 'assut de Fasemai'. The path winds along beside the river, until eventually it becomes a track and continuous to reach a junction with a surfaced road, at a signpost.</p>	1hr 14mins, 5km

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Turn L along the road, until you reach a track on the R with signpost.	1hr 21min, 5.6km
Turn R signed to 'Panta De Rellou' ignore tracks on either side and follow the main track as it winds around a couple of bends and dips into a shallow barranco. Here the track splits, bear L then up onto a path which follows the barranco, ignore paths on the L to reach a "Forn de Calc" (lime kiln). Continue passing beneath a small sub station building to reach a cross track, then almost immediately at a signpost, branch onto a path on the R signed to 'Presa Del Panta'	1hr 35min, 6.7km
Follow this path as it skirts along the edge of the reservoir bed (normally empty) before rising up on slopes on the R to pass behind a stone shelter. Continue up the steep awkward slope to reach the ticket office! where there is a view down to the Dam, to which access is now forbidden. Down behind the ticket office there are picnic benches.	1hr 43min, 7.4km
From here (optional) you can pay for access to the 'Pasarelas Del Pantano' a walkway hung from the cliff above the impressive gorge of the Rio Amadorio. (Cost at the time of writing 2.5 euros or 1.5 euros for seniors. Allow at least 15 min and add about 400m walking distance). The path down to the start of the walkway is steep, rocky and awkward!	
Return down the steep slope to the stone shelter or via a higher, easier path and continue past it for about 30 metres ignoring steep loose narrow paths on the R, until in a dip you reach a slightly more defined path which turns sharply back to the R (G/W cross) follow it diagonally down to the (dry) bed of the Dam.	1hr 47min, 7.6km
Note; If the Dam is full (very rare) stay on the main path and follow the G/W back to the signpost and turn R following the route markers along the road towards Rellou.	
Cross the bed of the Dam bearing R following tracks, keep R at a junction and continue along the eastern branch of the dam bed. Ignore side paths branching R and L. The track becomes clearer as it goes over a slight rise, past a path joining from the R. Pass between timber posts near an information board and soon reach a "T" junction.	1hr 56min, 8.5km
Turn R and pass between steel posts (with broken chain) and follow this track uphill to a cross roads. Turn L and continue passing a ruin on the L, to reach a second set of steel posts with a chain. Here beside the righthand post (cairn) is the start of a very faint path.	2hr 0min, 8.8km
Follow this path to the R (which is very vague at first) as it undulates over mounds of earth, it gradually rises up L and improves as it heads towards a power cable pole and reaches a junction with an eroded track. Turn L uphill to pass over a high point (342m) beside a timber hunters hide.	2hr 24min, 9.0km
The track descends to a 'T' junction near a ruin. Turn L downhill, ignore a track on the R and pass a finca on your L, to arrive at a junction with a surfaced Cami. Bear L along it down into a barranco, round a hairpin bend and up to junction with a surfaced road.	2hr 42min, 11.5km
You have now re-joined the G/W marked route. Turn R along the road and then almost immediately at a signpost turn R and take the unsurfaced Cami which rises up and bears L. Continue for some distance until you pass three finca's on your L, then just as the Cami becomes surfaced there is a path on the L and signpost to 'Rellou'.	2hr 19min, 10.1km

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Follow the path parallel to the road, it soon junctions with a cross track. Turn L and in a few metres bear R onto another track. In about 30 metres a path descends to the L, follow it beside terraces as it bears up L where it has become eroded, to join the main road.

2hr 35min, 11.1km

Turn R and follow the road going straight across at a junction and directly uphill into the village to arrive adjacent to the various cafes. Turn R to return to the roadside parking.

2hr 52min, 12.2km

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

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

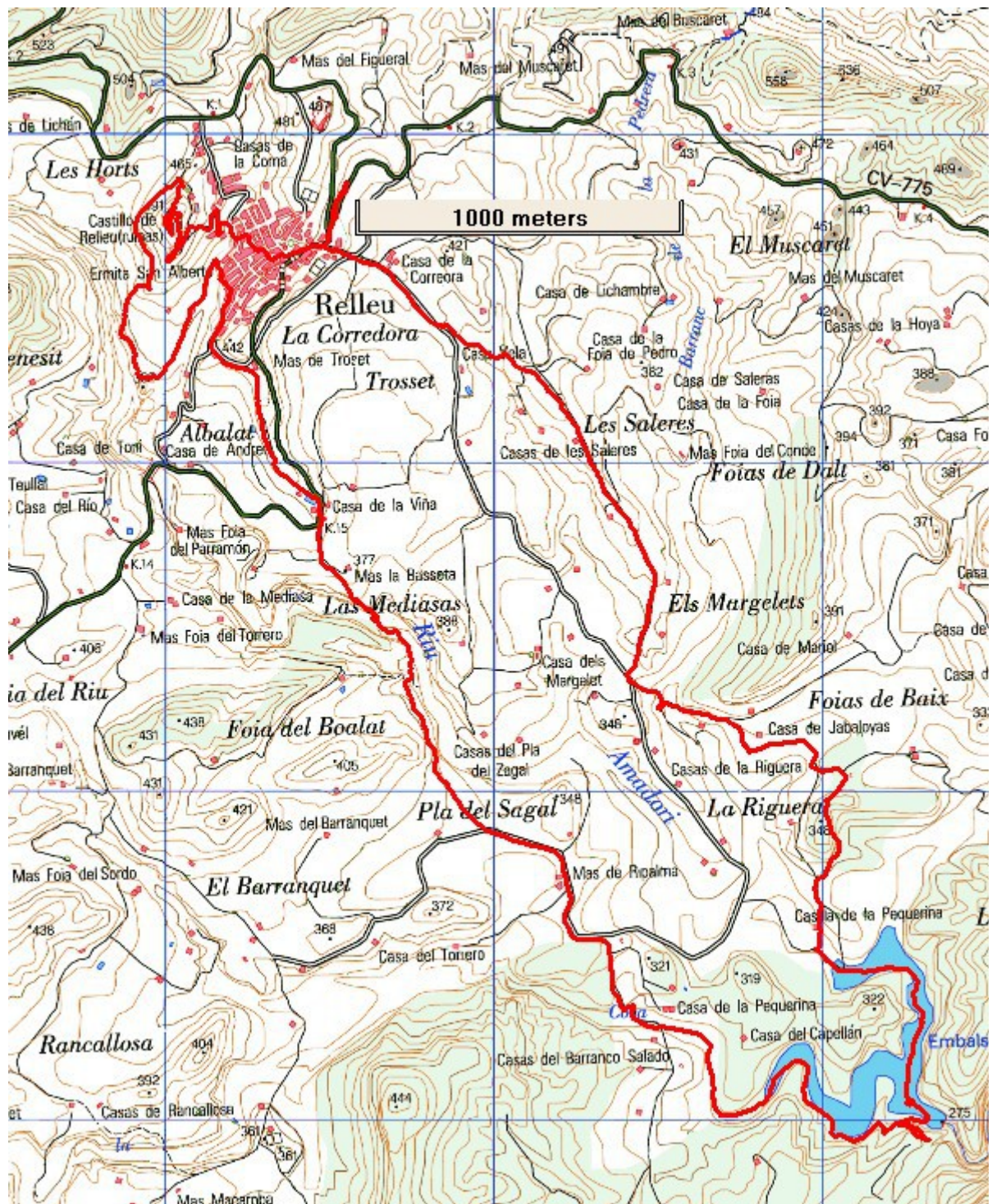
Soon after heavy rain the river bed could be impassable and the dam bed may contain water.

Note; Dogs are not allowed on the canyon walkway.

see map below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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