

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Mary Gough	
Last Updated	30 th October 2023	
Title of Walk	Santa Maira, Serra de L'Alfaro, La Espelda	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Castell de castells Sheep farm before village	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	14 km	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	550 m	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3hr 50 min 4hr 50 min	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/B/Scr	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat : 38.730916, Long : - 0.201783	
Directions to Start	CV720 road, immediately before entering the village of Castell de Castells from direction Benichembla, turn sharp R, downhill past old washhouse, at the bottom by sheep pens and bin compound turn L and park here	
Short walk description	A varied walk with extensive views of the surrounding mountains from a low level ridge, an opportunity for sightings of local wildlife – arrui, wild boar, partridges and others . A large section of the walk on easy forest track with some early easy scrambling.	
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	
Walk to the RHS of the ' sheep farm ' to reach a small junction, turn L and continue on surface camino to far end which becomes track and continue to end of terraces at RHS	620mtrs.10min	
Turn R along terrace on feint track, within a few mtrs. trend L and rise up a terrace wall (cairn) zig zag up further terraces on feint path to level off at lower edge of a large, smooth rock, turn R on feint path to reach a collapsed terrace wall, rise L up this and similar on the next terrace to walk forwards and emerge on a surfaced camino.	830mtr 18min	
Turn L and ascend, ignore a driveway at RHS and soon after walk forwards onto a path aiming for a pine tree ahead, pass to RHS of tree ascend for a few metres.	1.05km	

Remember that you use these walk guides at your own risk. Take precautions and if unsure – turn back!

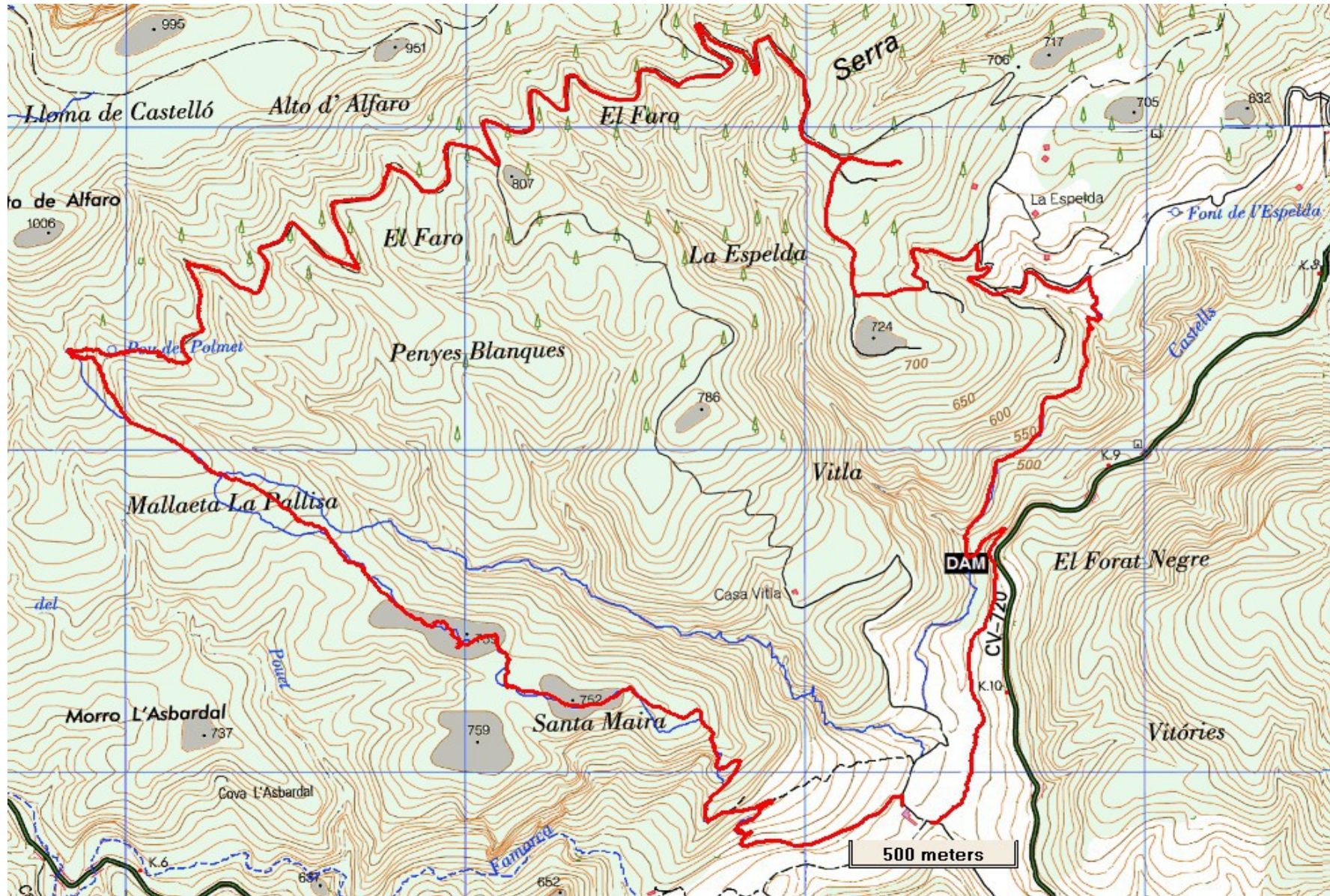
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Turn R along this low ridge (cairns) ascend gradually keeping to LHS of a prominent rocky knoll, trend L and to RHS of large tree and ascend to reach a small col (cairns), trend L and rise up and work forwards (cairns) to reach the next rocky ridge	1.37km 30min
Rise up a small scramble, trend R and pass to RHS of a hunters hide (cairns) within a few metres trend L (cairns) and meander along an animal/hunters path to reach a ruin	2.10 km 55min
Pass to RHS of ruin, walk forwards for a few metres to reach a feint path, turn R, soon after the path trends L (cairns) then R and rises to reach the RH corner of a small copse, turn L (cairns) on feint path through trees to reach a 'minor ' junction	2.45km
Optional opportunity to view a natural 'hole' (avenc), retrace steps and continue working through trees (cairns) to emerge at a ruin on open hillside	2.9km1hr15min
Pass to RHS of ruin onto a path towards a solitary tree, the rock strewn path (cairns) crosses old terraces then continues forwards (cairns) aiming towards the base of a curved rock outcrop with pine tree on top and a naturally formed ' corral ' at RH base .	4.08km
Turn R from 'corral' and go forwards across lower of old terraces to LHS of gully bottom,reach a rocky area and continue directly forwards gradually ascending to reach a low ridge top, drop down onto forest track	4.6km 1hr42min
Turn L and continue on main track ignoring all L and R diversions to reach a junction	7.8km 2hr24min
Go directly forwards, ignoring L ascending fork with traffic control sign, continue to reach a large concrete well.	9km 2hr45min
Take R fork onto a grassy track, continue to reach an almond terrace at LHS, continue to far end of this	9.7km 2hr54min
Turn L on feint path along almond terrace, walk forwards on a clearer path and descend by LHS of an olive terrace to drop onto an obvious track, turn L and soon after ignore a fork from RHS and continue to emerge on a surfaced camino,	10.4km 3hr 2 min
Turn R, after 100mtrs., ignore a R fork and continue along camino to reach a Y/W fingerpost at RHS	10.9km 3hr11min
Drop down R off camino and follow Y/W path along the riverside to reach a dam, cross over riverbed ascend to the L which soon turns R below the road (CV720), continue and pass through a ' bamboo ' area (Y/W and bright paint marks), trend R and cross over shallow riverbed and follow path to return to parking area.	13.4 km
<small>Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional</small>	
Walk Recommendations or restrictions	Minimal early rough section compensated by easy walking on forest track

see map below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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