

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	John E. Mail
Last Updated	8 th January 2024
Title of Walk	Ponoch Summit & la Carrasca
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Finestrat. Car park below Puig Campana, 4 km north of Font Moli
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12.5 km
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	800m
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	Walking time 3.5 hrs Total time 5.5 hours
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/B/Scr/X S/B if avoiding the ridge crest route
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 38.60344, Long: -0.21173
Directions to Start	From CV758 in Finestrat take Av. Reverendo Maximiliano Lopez to Font Moli. (car share from here). Drive towards Puig campana on asphalted road and crossing bridge over barranco. After 3.4 km, at road junction turn right onto another asphalted road. After 200m turn right again onto asphalted road. Follow this road for 1km until Asphalt ends. There is parking for 4 or 5 cars.
Short walk description	A climb to the summit of Ponoch using the little used ridge route. We then descent by PR CV 017 and then to the col between Sanxet and Ponoch. We walk around the flank of Sanxet to Mas de Carrasca before heading back to the car park.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
From car park continue East along broad track for 50m to stone cairn and take well defined narrow track to the right.	0 km, 0 min
At junction with broad track to left, keep straight on	660m, 11 min
At stone cairn take well defined track uphill to the right	900m, 15 min
At Refugio join PR CV 289 turning left uphill	1.4km, 27 min

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Continue to Col de Pouet.	2.1 km, 37 min
Take second narrow path to the left PR CV 17 towards Polop	
At junction post turn left uphill on narrow path	2.9 km, 52 min
Follow path steeply uphill to col.	3.1 km 54 min
At the col turn right leaving marked path to follow ridge to the right. 100M further along the marked trail is a junction to the right with a safer route up to the summit and back. Use that path if you are not an experienced mountain walker.	
The route along the ridge is not a path but a series of faint animal trails At times you will have to scramble. In one or two places the route deviates from the crest to get around crags – but never stray far from the crest.	
Walk along the ridge from the col and climb straight up and ignore the faint path to the left. Continue along the ridge until you get to a significant drop with a sheer drop to your right. (38.61210, -0.18078). Scramble down the rock face to your left where there are some foot and hand holds. Continue along the ridge after passing the gap.	3.6 km, 1h 9m
Keep to the right of the crest and drop down onto a slightly lower path before rejoining the crest again.	3.7 km, 1h 10m
You are now getting near to the summit and after passing though some holly oaks you will find a path which crosses the crest to avoid the summit crag in front of you. This path leads you to a junction with the marked trail PR CV 016 where you turn right and follow it up the short scramble to the summit.	4.1 km, 1h 12m
There is a book to sign at the summit in a box! Enjoy the 360 panorama and get ready to descend. We follow the marked trail PR CV 016 back to just below the col from where we started to climb the ridge.	5.1 km, 1h 30m
At the finger post turn right and drop down into the valley and turn left on to a narrow path next to a stone cairn.	5.5km, 1h 37m
Follow this path past a pine tree down to the valley floor where lack of soil hides the route for a while. There are stone cairns to help. Our route crosses the valley water course and the path is obvious again where it rises up to meet another Yellow and white marked path PR CV 13.	5.7km, 1h 40m
Cross PR CV 13 and take the well defined narrow track next to a large cairn. In front is Sanxet Mountain and this path follows the left hand side flank, at first through woods and later emerges on a rocky route with stunning views down to Las Castelletes. We follow this path to the Mountain House "La Carrasca".	6.8km, 2h
From La Carrasca turn left downhill down a broad forest track. At the next junction ignore the broad track to the left and continue to descend.	7.5km, 2h 8m
At tee junction with a broad track turn Left.	9.3km. 2h 35m
Pass gate	9.6km, 2h 40m
At Broad track junction below large house keep straight ahead	!0.3km, 2h 37m

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Look out for stone cairn on right hand side of the broad track and take narrow path that drops then turns left and descends, steeply at times to the valley floor.	10.6km, 2h 51m
Cross the water course	10.7km, 2h 54m
The path then climbs up to meet the broad track again where you turn right.	10.8km, 2h 57m
Follow this broad track until you reach a section which is asphalted. Look for a stone cairn on the left hand side and turn on to the narrow path	11.2km, 3h 2m
This path descends steeply then zigzags its way to the bottom of the valley.	
The path crosses the water course	11.6km, 3h 11m
and rises again to meet a broad track at a tee junction where you turn right.	11.7km, 3h 12m
We follow this broad track back to the car park	12.5km, 3h 25m
<small>Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional</small>	

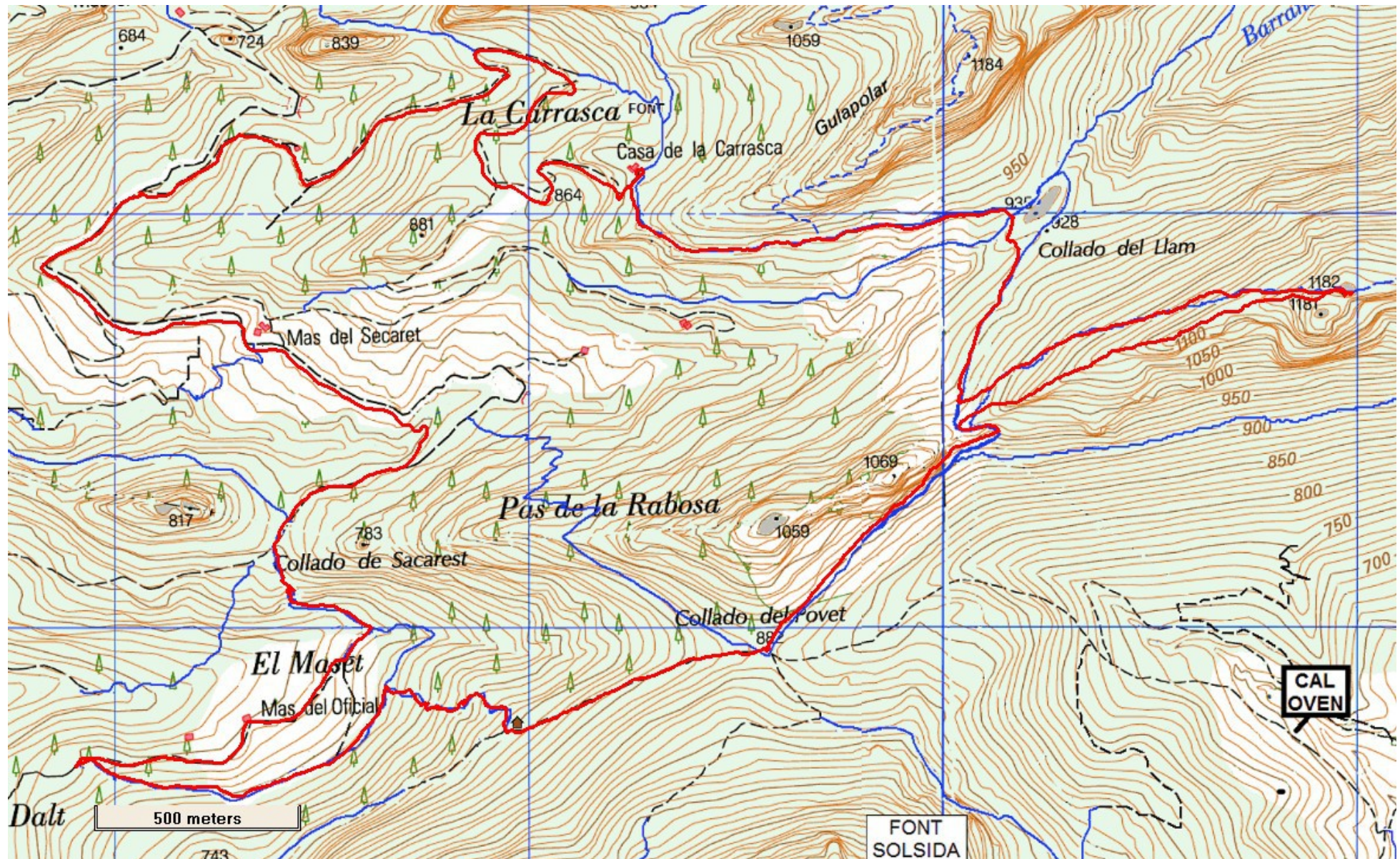
Walk Recommendations or restrictions

The ridge crest route is suitable for experienced mountain walkers only. It involves scrambling up and down with some exposure. It can be dangerous in windy conditions.

The easier route up and down PR CV 16 has no exposure but is very rough underfoot with a lot of loose stones on a steep path

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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