

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps, 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2012. Updates by Lawson Tickell, Apr '18	
<b>Last Updated</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2018	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Pla de la Casa circuit from Facega	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Facega village streets on CV720	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	9	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	670	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	3.33hrs 4hrs	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat., Long. :- 38.734402,-0.267976	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From Castell de Castells follow the CV720 through Famorca and arrive at Facega. Park along the main road.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A straightforward way of visiting one of the Costa Blanca's highest ridges.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>	
From your car retrace your steps a few metres across the bridge and turn right steeply immediately after it.		
Follow this surfaced road past the fuente on the RHS and at a junction after 320m carry straight on ignoring the L turn.		320m, 5mins
Continue on this concrete track as it starts to climb the hill and at the end of the concrete bear right on a dirt track through terraces (the return route comes to this junction from the left).		750m, 10mins
The track across the terraces continues more easily uphill to the R and ends at a barranco on the L where there is a clear path zig-zagging up through the terraces. Take this.		900m, 15mins
After mounting a few terraces it arrives on a very broad (and often cultivated) terrace. Turn R along this but move towards the LHS and after about 30m you will see a footpath leaving this on the L and rising slowly.		

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This makes its way across bancales to arrive behind a large ruin and then directly out onto a concrete road. Turn L and follow this uphill.

1.25km, 20mins

This runs into a steep sided barranco; take the obvious path ahead, initially on the LHS before crossing to the RHS before it turns abruptly back on itself to leave the barranco and start the ascent up the mountain.

1.5km, 27mins

This path now makes its way along the flank of the mountain, at times climbing steeply for a while and then levelling out as it continues generally SW with occasional red blobs and Y/W markers. Cross several scree falls getting ever closer to a small cliff which you pass in front of (look out for the giant's 3D jigsaw puzzle below you at this point) before reaching Fuente de Roger, a distinctive trough with an occasional trickle of water.

3.4km, 1hr 10mins

Here, leave the fuente by turning L steeply uphill and continue to follow this waymarked path (Y/W).

A little further along you descend briefly to drop below a line of crags and soon after passing these you trend L and uphill with the Barranco Hondo clearly visible on your RHS.

There is some simple scrambling along this part of the route with some small sections of path having fallen away but which are easily passable with care and soon you drop a little to cross the barranco and then climb steeply up the other side for 15m to arrive at a broad track with a pumping station. (seats here)

4.35km, 1hr 30mins

Continue up the track for some 150m to a finger-post where you turn L and leave the broad track in favour of a path that drops to cross a dry barranco before rising steeply to soon arrive at a col where there are multiple choices and a finger-post.

4.8km, 1hr 45mins

Directly ahead lies a thin path which would lead you up to cross a shallow col with a large karstic hole visible from the other side – *Penya d'Afric* - (but not from your current position). Immediately on your LHS is a clear path rising steeply up to the summit of *Pla de la Casa*.

Less acutely to the LHS is a path which continues almost level and this is your route marked with a yellow blob and R/W GR marker. Follow this around a corner to the L and then more steeply uphill across scree to arrive at a col below the far end of *Pla de la Casa* (on your LHS)

5.9km, 2hr 9mins

Continue slightly L and gently uphill to a fingerpost where you turn R and after a short section of almost level ground this path starts its drop into the *Barranc del Moro*.

There is soon evidence of a water pipe buried beneath the surface and with wear and tear there are leaks which can make this part of the route wet even in the warmest weather.

As you progress down this path you will see ahead a small building almost at the junction of your barranco with a similar barranco coming in from the RHS. Pass to the RHS of this building.

6.9km, 2hr 40mins

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

Continue downhill on a clear path which finally drops into and crosses the barranco before finally reaching a junction of tracks. Continue ahead on the smaller GR marked path until you reach a track running along the edge of cultivated land where you turn left.

8.1km, 3hrs 8mins

This runs back to re-join the track on which you started your ascent. At the junction turn R and head straight for the village.

9km, 3hr 20mins

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

**Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

None

