

## COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps
<b>Last Updated</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2013
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Montcabrer summit and circuit from Cocentaina
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Ermita Sant Cristofol, Cocentaina
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	17
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	1058
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	5hrs 6.66hrs
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	VS/B
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 38.74913,Long:- -0.449442
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From the N340 at the south of Cocentaina turn N towards Muro de Alcoy. Go through several roundabouts. When you reach the roundabout with the statues of 3 men and a large rusty bent tower, turn L. (signed) Follow this road steeply uphill and around several zig-zags to arrive at the car parking area for the Ermita.
<b>Short walk description</b>	A circuit to the highest summit of the Mariola range across wild mountain terrain.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
From the car park walk back out of the car park and cross the road to join the steep concrete road going uphill and signed to the Castell.	
When this finally reaches a col and plateau in front of the castle turn R and follow Y/W signs on a footpath.	1.7km, 25mins
This moves to the RHS of the ridge line and ascends steadily.	
Join a tarmac road and continue ahead dropping steadily. Ignore a driveway going straight ahead and turn slightly L now on a rough track.	2km, 30mins
Where the track bends downhill to the L there is a clear footpath going straight ahead with Y/W markers. Take this.	2.3km, 35mins

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

Cross a small neck of land with a small hill off to the L.	2.6km, 39mins
Walk below some colourful climbing crags above on the RHS and trend slightly L.	
When you meet a track with a fingerpost, turn R uphill.	3.5km, 52mins
A little further on the footpath leaves the track to the R and wanders alongside a fence.	
Cross a tarmac road and continue on a track signed to Refugi Les Foietes.	3.8km, 57mins
At a complex jnc. swing around to the L and then after a few metres turn sharp R.	4.2km, 1hr 2mins
The track swings around a 90 degree LH bend and then goes uphill. At the top of the hill take care to find the footpath going off to the R and uphill.	4.8km, 1hr 10mins
Follow this over a small summit and then drop slightly as the footpath widens into a track and falls to a col.	5.6km, 1hr 21mins
Look for the footpath rising abruptly in front of you and follow this up rough going. Make sure you pick up the R turn as it trends around to follow the line of a barranco steeply uphill.	
The path emerges at a small rocky promontory where it falls slightly and continues through an area of burnt scrub.	
Take care threading your way across the limestone clints and then descend quite steeply to cross a barranco and ascend and head towards a very large walled ruin – the Talleco de Dalt.	7km, 1hr 48mins
Go behind this and then cross to the L to continue on the Y/W path which soon crosses some terraces with fallen and burnt trees to reach a col. Turn R uphill here to continue on a Y/W now additionally a R/W – the GR7.	7.4km, 1hr 57mins
A little way up this look out for a split in the path with fingerpost where the Y/W trends L and the R/W signed to Montcabrer– which we follow - goes slightly R.	7.8km, 2hr 6mins
Trend slightly L to cross above a barranco coming up from below you on the L, cross a small plateau and continue uphill and R across the flank of the hill.	
The path changes direction a little with additional R/W markings to go more directly uphill.	8.8km, 2hr 24mins
Cross a more moderate slope with fantastic rock scenery heading towards a ridge in front and to the R.	
When you reach a more level stretch towards the R you can see the peak of Pla de les Vaques in front of you and slightly over to the L and in the mid distance is the summit Montcabrer – a rocky promontory.	9.3km, 2hr 34mins
Take in the Pla if you wish and either way follow down to a col before ascending to the L of the summit of Montcabrer and then turning to the R to reach the final summit.	10.8km, 3hrs
When sated with views and food retrace your steps to just before the col and follow the continuation of the R/W GR7 under the crags of the summit to the NW.	11.3km, 3hr 8mins
Pass a fuente tucked under the crags and then the path turns slightly rightwards still descending.	

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

<p>Just before reaching a col find a fingerpost pointing to your R towards Mas de Llopis. Follow this for a few metres and at a T-Jnc turn R still waymarked.</p> <p>As you descend you can see a small spur in front of you to the L with a very large ruin on it that looks as if it could have been a monastery. This is our next objective.</p> <p>When you reach it turn slightly to the R on a footpath (ignoring the broad track) that soon passes a fuente - Font de Llopis - on the RHS. The path rises slightly for a while before descending.</p> <p>Pass Font de Sanxo and turn L steeply downhill on a stepped path.</p> <p>After descending down some scree there are large crags below you and the path descends via a boulder filled gully and then trends R with a fence line to protect you from a fall down steep slopes.</p> <p>Pass a picnic table on a raised platform and under cover!</p> <p>Continue through a further fuente with small pools and then below this trend R.</p> <p>Pass yet another fuente with stone table and benches and then turn L down the bank of a steep barranco.</p> <p>Pass Font de Borrás.</p> <p>Pass a stone table and benches tucked under a crag on the RHS.</p> <p>Join a broad track with a ceramic sign on the RHS – L' Ascarolla (or similar!)</p> <p>This joins tarmac and then there is a rough track to the R with Y/W which we take and ignore the next R turn steeply uphill to quickly arrive back at the Ermita and car park.</p>	<p>12.1km, 3hr 23mins</p> <p>12.9km, 3hr 35mins</p> <p>16.2km, 4hrs 37mins</p>
---	--

<b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b>	None
---	------



Route followed is outlined in red

