

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Brain Norman and Mary Gough	
Last Updated	27 th October 2013	
Title of Walk	Solana and Castell d'Aixa from Jalon	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Jalon, Cemetery car park SE of the town centre.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	13	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	770	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4hrs 5hrs 20mins	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/C/X/Scr	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.737524,Long: -0.009366	
Directions to Start	Approaching on the CV750 from Benissa in the E turn L just before the petrol station. Continue up this road for 100m to find a gravel parking area on the RHS opposite the walled cemetery. Park here.	
Short walk description	A demanding day on the Solana and Aixa ridges with great views into the heart of the mountain areas.	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>Walk back down the road towards the town and turn L around the petrol station.</p> <p>Walk along Calle Virgen towards the centre of the town and take the 4th turning on the RHS (Calle Iglesia).</p> <p>Walk through the main square and exit at the far R corner at 90 degrees to your entry and then take the next L which bends a little and becomes Calle Hospital.</p> <p>When you reach the main road, cross this and cross the bridge across the (normally) dry river bed. Take the first L into Via Pista on tarmac.</p> <p>Dog leg L and then R and further on R and then L along here to continue on tarmac.</p> <p>Continue along Cami Riu Rau to reach an open area with the Resturant Riu Rau on your RHS. Turn R towards it and then immediately L along the Partido Solana Camino.</p> <p>Follow the tarmac as it bends around to the R and starts to climb towards an estate of</p>		<p>500m, 12mins</p> <p>1km, 20mins</p>

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houses.

Just past the first house on the RHS and a ruin on the L look out for a thin path on the LHS through long grass and take this.

1.8km, 28mins

When you reach a track on the LHS step up R onto the first bancal and continue ahead.

After 150m turn R at a wall corner beside a field of vines and then turn quickly L on top of the first wall to continue in your original direction.

When you reach a tarmac road turn L briefly and then R again across the first terrace still on a path.

Reach another tarmac road and turn R uphill and follow this to arrive at the end where you take a clear footpath L (white markings) which soon joins a track at some beehives. Continue along the track.

Reach yet another tarmac road and turn R up to a lay by and turn R up the track.

2.7km, 41mins

After zigging back to the L you reach a cairn which would enable you to cut out a long loop of track, but if in any doubt continue directly up the track which will double back to the R.

At the end of the track take a footpath which goes steeply uphill with red dot markings.

3.2km, 51mins

Pass to the L of a ruin and then shortly turn level to the R 2 or 3 terraces above the ruin to head towards a shallow valley. Once you reach this and exit the other side the path continues steeply uphill with cairns and more red dots on occasion.

Keep persevering with this almost directly uphill to reach the summit after a short rocky scramble.

3.8km, 1hr
11mins

Turn R along the ridge.. Soon you will see a col below you and from a rocky promontory above this there are various options. It is best to drop down steeply to the L for a short while and pick up a path going along the flank on the LHS of the ridge line. Alternatively you can drop off to the R but this is generally more scratchy.

In any event you will eventually reach the col

4.5km, 1hr
27mins

and from here a Y/W path miraculously appears which heads along the ridge slightly on the RHS to crest a minor summit and then drop down again to a second col.

4.9km, 1hr
36mins

From here the path trends around to the R still with Y/W markers. Take care at a Y jnc to take the upper path where the markings are a little confusing and soon after this you can make your bid for the summit, striking directly uphill to the L to crest the ridge and then turning R and steeply up some rocky ramps (generally on the LHS) to reach the ruined castle on top of Castell d'Aixa.

6.1km, 2hr 5mins

From here you will find Y/W markers leading downhill to the R which lead down to the col between you and Tossal Gran (to the SE). This convoluted path zig-zags down to the col.

6.5km, 2hr
15mins

From here follow a path directly uphill for 15m and then follow an ever improving path to the R as it climbs to pass below crags guarding the W edge of the summit.

Pass below these and then trend upwards initially on a good path but then deserting this to arrive at a plateau below some crags falling eastwards.

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<p>Here turn R up the ridge to reach the summit.</p>	<p>7.1km, 2hr 28mins</p>
<p>Continue over the hill and down the ridge to E with a steep drop off to the L to soon arrive at a col.</p>	<p>7.6km, 2hr 39mins</p>
<p>From here turn half right and take a path marked with a Y/W cross which trends initially E and then SE onto a gently descending ridge.</p>	
<p>After a short period of gentle descent the slope steepens to drop you down on the RHS of the ridge line to a plateau with a ruin on the RHS.</p>	<p>8.3km, 2hr 49mins</p>
<p>Drop below this and turn L immediately along a terrace.</p>	
<p>Follow this path along as it drops one more terrace and then twists around to the L to pass through a rocky gateway and then doubles back to the R.</p>	
<p>It can be tricky to follow the true line of the old trail down here as there has been substantial erosion and not all of the "helpful" green arrows follow the correct route, but by diligent evaluation you should be able to follow this down to a second plateau area.</p>	
<p>From here the path drops slightly off the W side of the ridge and then quickly doubles back as it begins to descend in zig-zags towards the valley below.</p>	<p>9.3km, 3hr 9mins</p>
<p>Reach the valley and cross it directly turning L at the other side to follow a slightly ascending path which soon levels and traverses SW along the flank of the hill and above the river valley.</p>	
<p>Reach the river just below the sewage treatment works, cross it and turn R along the path on the other side.</p>	<p>10.2km, 3hr 25mins</p>
<p>This soon meets a track where we continue ahead until almost opposite the first house on the LHS.</p>	<p>10.7km, 3hr 32mins</p>
<p>Here cross the river bed directly and clamber up rocks on the other side to turn R and scramble up the wall of a terrace. At the top turn L along a path and proceed at the LH edge of a row of terraces steadily climbing.</p>	
<p>When you reach a tarmac road turn L.</p>	<p>11.1km, 3hr 39mins</p>
<p>Take the first road to the R and follow this as it twists R and then L. At the T-jnc turn L and follow this down as it runs parallel to the river bed and towards the town of Jalon. Continue until you reach the bridge, cross this and retrace your steps from the start of the walk to reach the car park.</p>	
<p>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</p>	<p>Experienced mountaineers and navigators.</p>

Route followed is outlined in Red

NB – route on map is incomplete for start and finish of walk through town.

