

## COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps, 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	
<b>Last Updated</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Barranco de Famorca high level circuit	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Castell de Castells	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	16	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	780	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4.25hr 5.5hr	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/B/Scr/X	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 38.730916, Long:- -0.201783	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	Take the CV720 from Parcent and Benichembla to Castell de Castells. In the village, immediately opposite Hotel Serrella (on the RHS) turn L. After 20 m. turn L again into Calle Jose Antontio and them almost immediately L again down a ramp into the signed parking area.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	Exploration of a scrambling barranco followed by a high level mountain return and easy descent to the village.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>	
From the car park return to the main road and walk N out of the village until you reach the lowest point where you turn L on a minor road which descends to and crosses a small barranco and drops down to the town rubbish dump!	13min, 1.2km	
Turn L with the sheep corral on your RHS (your direction is signed Serra d'Alfaro on one side of the road and Famorca 6.3km on the other). Proceed up the road to cross the barranco after approx. 400m and turn R at a fork onto a track. (7mins, 0.55km)	20mins, 1.75km	
Continue over the barranco and up to a fork where you go R. (small building RHS) (4mins, 0.37km)	24mins, 2.12km	
After approx. 70m track ends on a spur coming down from the RHS. (small building LHS). Proceed directly ahead onto a terrace and walk out along it for 50m before zig-zagging down L to reach the barranco bottom. (4mins, 0.25km)	28mins, 2.37km	

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From here and for some considerable time you can follow the bed of the barranco and enjoy short scrambles of differing grades. At times there are options to avoid these scrambles both to R and to L. The notes below (in yellow) can be ignored if you are a competent scrambler.

Leave the barranco on the RHS to avoid a difficult climb and return (9mins, 0.28km)

37mins, 2.65km

Leave again on a path on LHS, over a terrace, and up a track to the top of a dam (8mins, 0.68km)

45mins, 3.33km

Return back into the barranco. A track joins the barranco from the RHS and shortly leaves on LHS. Take this track for a short distance and when it swings sharp L go straight on and continue in the barranco. Continue in the barranco under a road bridge (km 4.6), then another (km 4.9).

1hr 22min, 4.9km

Between here and your exit point from the barranco there is just over another 1km, However before you reach this you must plod along a long level stretch before reaching the final denouement! You come up to a water-slide which provides a challenge for most and requires good balance to push up from side to side to clamber up it. Don't despair – there is an alternative rock ledge to escape on the LHS.

From here to the your departure point is mostly level walking which can be made more interesting by exiting up onto a scratchy terrace on the RHS which passes a ruin and then gradually makes its way down to join the barranco again after 3/400m.

Juts beyond this you reach a wall across the barranco which marks your exit point. Turn L up onto the first terrace.

1hr 41min, 6km

Walk along this to discover a set of stone steps which get you up to the next and then clamber up the one above before turning R and walking out to reach the road.

1hr 46min, 6.3km

Walk 20m along the road to find a ramp going up to your L, passing through a few scratchy bushes to emerge on open ground with a clear track rising up through the terraces.

When this reaches a concrete road, turn L and soon reach a finger post beside a large hunter's refuge indicating a cave directly ahead and down hill. Take this.

1hr 51min, 6.7km

When you reach the cave pass down on the obvious but grassier path below it and then start to climb up on the other side. This delightful path zig-zags up a little to emerge at a ruined building where you meet a Y/W path.

Turn R soon along the top rim of the cave and at the far end of this walk up a few metres on a rough path to join a concrete track. Turn L up this.

2hr 1min, 7.3km

Follow this as it continues uphill soon becoming a rough track which zig-zags up across terraces to reach a junction.

2hr 10min, 7.9km

Turn L still uphill and when the track peters out you are on a footpath.

2hr 18min, 8.5km

Turn immediately uphill in steep zig-zags for a few metres before trending L working up the flank of the hill.

There are a few more sets of zig-zags but you continue to work out upwards and leftwards.

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<p>Follow this footpath now unfailingly as it rises along the flank of the mountain with views out to your L. It crosses several intermediate spurs before finally cresting the main mountain ridge and reaching a footpath junction with cairn.</p>	3hr 1min, 10.9km
<p>Turn L and soon drop down to reach a track. Join this and continue ahead along the ridge with panoramic views.</p>	
<p>The track makes a couple of zig-zags and then drops more steeply with a view ahead of the track rising steeply in front of you. Thankfully you do NOT have to go up this!</p>	
<p>At the bottom of the col just before the track starts to rise look for a footpath going off to the L which rises a few metres before commencing a steady descent in zig-zags.</p>	3hr 22min, 12.3km
<p>Reach another track and cross this directly to continue in zig-zags on your footpath.</p>	3hr 28min, 12.8km
<p>At the bottom of the footpath you reach a barranco</p>	3hr 41min, 13.5km
<p>which you exit uphill for a few metres on a track which then descends steadily to reach a camp site building on the RHS and then another on the LHS.</p>	3hr 49min, 14.1km
<p>At this building move a few metres to the R to join a concrete track which continues to descend.</p>	
<p>When you reach a tarmac rural road turn R still downhill.</p>	
<p>Reach the main road and turn L to walk down to a major junction where you turn R and walk back uphill to the car park.</p>	

**Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Moderate scrambling ability required and ideally use of GPS

Route followed is outlined in Red

