

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps	
Last Updated	6 th November 2015	
Title of Walk	Portell de Migdia and Collado de Porc	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Monistrol de Montserrat Ermita de Santa Cecilia on the BP1103. Ample car parking.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	9	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	700	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3hr 5.5hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/C/Scr/X	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 41.611063,Long: 1.817272	
Directions to Start	From anywhere near Barcelona take the A2 in the direction of Igualada and Lleida and leave this on the C55 at junction 582A heading N. Continue to arrive at Monistrol de Montserrat where you take the BP1121 towards the Monasterio de Montserrat. Wind up this road for several km and turn R at a junction (signed Barcelona N11) and pass through a tunnel before finding the Ermita de Santa Cecilia on the RHS. Park here.	
Short walk description	A an extremely demanding day out with challenging scrambling with heady exposure – fantastic fun for those with a good head for heights. Miserable for those without. Wind in and through some of the rocky spires of Montserrat before descending on good trails and 1-2 km of road at the end to rest the legs.	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Exit the car park to the E and cross the road to walk up a wide track.		
This passes an electricity sub-station and diminishes to footpath standard and climbs steeply to a junction with a finger post at the GR4 where you turn R.		150m, 3min
Pass a pylon where there is a path going up L which you ignore and instead drop into a barranco and take care to find the DESCENDING path to the R (ignoring the path		300m, 7min

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<p>climbing steeply in front of you)</p> <p>50m or so down this turn L at a junction with a R/W marker in front of you.</p> <p>At the next junction turn L uphill in zig-zags.</p> <p>At the next junction with a finger post (Canal de la Font del Llum – 816m) turn L towards Portell del Migdia.</p> <p>When you reach a small cross the better path goes off R towards the font, but we continue directly ahead on a steep path.</p> <p>This soon drops into the bed of the barranco and involves some easy scrambling over loose rocks which require care.</p> <p>After a while the loose rocks abate and you climb in woodland to reach the Portell – the col. Rest here!</p> <p>Now continue over and down the other side moving from side to side to find the easiest descent line and looking out for Y/W markers.</p> <p>Look carefully to spot a wooden finger post attached to a tree on the LHS (and facing away from you) indicating a route to St Jeroni.</p> <p>Pass this by and continue to descend and find a second fingerpost on the RHS pointing back up a short rocky scramble.</p> <p>Work up this and then swing back around to the L to cross a lower water slide and then climb up to find a narrow crack with a rock buttress rearing up on your RHS and a flake on the L and the path goes up this crack, descends at the far side and then continues up a second flake.</p> <p>You crest a small rocky spur and turn R slightly uphill into woodland – still with Y/W markers!</p> <p>Cross a barranco and work up the LHS of this for a short while before turning further L and steeply uphill to crest a second rocky spur which provides easy access to a rock promontory on the LHS.</p> <p>However we descend directly ahead and down a crack for a short while before turning R under some crags with fantastic views out to the L and then cross a small col by working up yet another crack with a Y/W flash at the bottom and blue paint marks up its length. This quickly deepens to the point where you might not extract your legs, so it is best to straddle the crack from quite an early point and work your way up astride it!</p> <p>Drop down on the other side in steep woodland to reach a finger post at Coma dels Naps de Dalt (??) where we turn R.</p> <p>Continue along here briefly passing through an open area and soon after this TAKE GREAT CARE to find the Y/W markers indicating an abrupt L turn (where a clear path also continues ahead).</p> <p>Follow this as it drifts a little to the R to pass through a barranco where there might occasionally be running water and soon after this work very steeply uphill initially through the trees and then on a rock ramp to arrive at an open rocky col with fantastic views all around.</p>	<p>1.2km, 29min</p> <p>1.4km, 34min</p> <p>1.6km, 39min</p> <p>1.9km, 45min</p> <p>2.5km, 57min</p> <p>2.8km, 1hr 3min</p> <p>3km, 1hr 9min</p>
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<p>Now turn slightly R and level under some crags and above a second crag. You work down this by walking into a corner and then doubling back beneath the lower crag before turning down R through mixed terrain where vigilance is required to pick out the correct route (some paint splashes – not all of them Y/W) At a couple of apparent junctions keep L to arrive at a level path.</p>	3.3km, 1hr 17min
<p>Turn R at a level path and walk ahead for a short time before again turning L and steeply down hill.</p> <p>You need to drop low enough to pass a rocky spur on the RHS and once around this you climb again in the woods.</p>	3.4km, 1hr 20min
<p>Round a spur now heading NE and soon pass a comfortable cave before descending a few metres.</p>	4km, 1hr 33min
<p>The going now is finally much easier and you continue level to arrive at the Col del Miracle, from where several paths leave. (you should definitely ignore the path descending steeply over</p> <p>You must swing slightly L (with Y/W) and continue to the next col where - again – there are multiple choices.</p>	4.5km, 1hr 43min
<p>You must continue ahead to the brim of the mountain where you turn R (ignoring all finger post suggestions for other routes!!)</p> <p>slightly downhill before quickly doubling back to the L and continuing under a series of impressive crags above you.</p>	4.8km, 1hr 49min
<p>Follow this Cami del Coll de Porc steadily down until you reach a finger post (Els Frares Encantats) where you turn R downhill.</p>	5.4km, 1hr 58min
<p>Reach a second junction also with the note Frares Encantats where you join the GR4 and turn R still downhill.</p>	5.7km, 2hr 5min
<p>At the next finger post (height 753m) turn L downhill.</p> <p>Ignore a junction pointing to the Font de San Josep (on the RHS) and continue ahead round a zig to the R and where the path forks, keep R.</p> <p>Continue along this until you pass a section where there are descending and then ascending steps and just beyond these there are steps descending to the road.</p>	6.1km, 2hr 12min
<p>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</p>	<p>Take these and then use the road to return to the R and follow to your parked car.</p> <p>For those with a good head for heights, an ability to navigate and mountaineering experience!</p>

Route followed is outlined in Red

