

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps
<b>Last Updated</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
<b>Title of Walk</b>	GR11 – Day 27 - Refugio Colomers to Espot
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Arties Refugio de Colomers. Accessible by mountain taxi from Arties
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	20
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	630
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4hr 6hr
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/B
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 42.624101, Long 0.920237
<b>Directions to Start</b>	If taking a mountain taxi to the nearest car park, then follow signs from here. Else arrive as part of the GR11.
<b>Short walk description</b>	A high level traverse across one of the best areas of the Pyrenees with many small lakes and open mountain scenery.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
<p>From the Refuge, turn R and head across towards the dam and the old refuge, turning R at the first finger that you pass and again at the second to arrive at a diagonal path that ascends the rocky rib with the refuge on it.</p> <p>Descend L past the refuge and double back to the R to cross the dam.</p> <p>At the far side turn L on the higher of two paths signed Refugio d'Amitges and quickly R at a second finger-post.</p> <p>Walk up to a col and then through a complex plateau with lakes. At the next finger-post continue ahead still signed to Amitges and still rising.</p> <p>After dropping a little continue on RHS of lake to next finger-post where a R turn would return you to Colomers. Keep ahead beside the lake.</p>	450m, 6min

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<p>At the next lake ignore a fork R with red tipped rock and continue beside the lake to find the next R/W marker.</p>	
<p>Cross a stream with multiple R/W confusing markers above you (RHS) beside a stream. Do not follow these, but instead keep L to walk around a small bluff and find the continuing path at the end of Lac Obago.</p>	3.4km, 42min
<p>Zig-zag steeply up to arrive at a false col and continue less steeply through several false tops to reach Port de Ratera at 2571m our high point for the day and just past a finger-post towards Refugio Saboredo (L) which we ignore.</p>	5.7km, 1hr 8min
<p>Walk down in zig-zags passing a finger-post to Amitges (ignore) and out onto a spur with views over the Estany del Port de Ratera.</p>	6.5km, 1hr 19min
<p>Alternate rugged rocky switchbacks and pasture to reach the valley bottom with a log bridge and short section of boardwalk.</p>	
<p>Cross back over the stream and reach a finger-post L to Amitges (ignore) and continue ahead and down to walk beside yet another lake (Estany del Obaggues de Ratera)</p>	8.4km, 1hr 40min
<p>Rise slightly to avoid a desperate section of boulders below in the RHS and then thread through tree roots before dropping to cross a final log bridge and section of board walk.</p>	
<p>Reach a broad track and turn L and then soon at a track junction turn R descending.</p>	9.6km, 1hr 55min
<p>After some time double back to the R and emerge at a covered info point above the 4x4 taxi rank (white land rovers) and large parking area.</p>	12.1km, 2hr 25min
<p>Walk down to and below the dam and then continue on a track past toilets and then L steeply downhill.</p>	
<p>Soon pass a track on the R leading to the Refugio Ernest Mallafre.</p>	12.4km, 2hr 29min
<p>After crossing a log bridge quickly turn R on a descending footpath beside a stream.</p>	
<p>Cross the tarmac and continue ahead in an open area and slightly uphill to join a track and continue ahead now downhill.</p>	14.6km, 2hr 55min
<p>Ignore a L fork and keep descending through a timber stile.</p>	
<p>At a finger-post continue ahead and downhill.</p>	
<p>Eventually cross a bridge over the Riu Escrita and walk out level to reach tarmac.</p>	17.8km, 3hr 34min
<p>Follow this downhill to the village of Espot.</p>	
<b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b>	

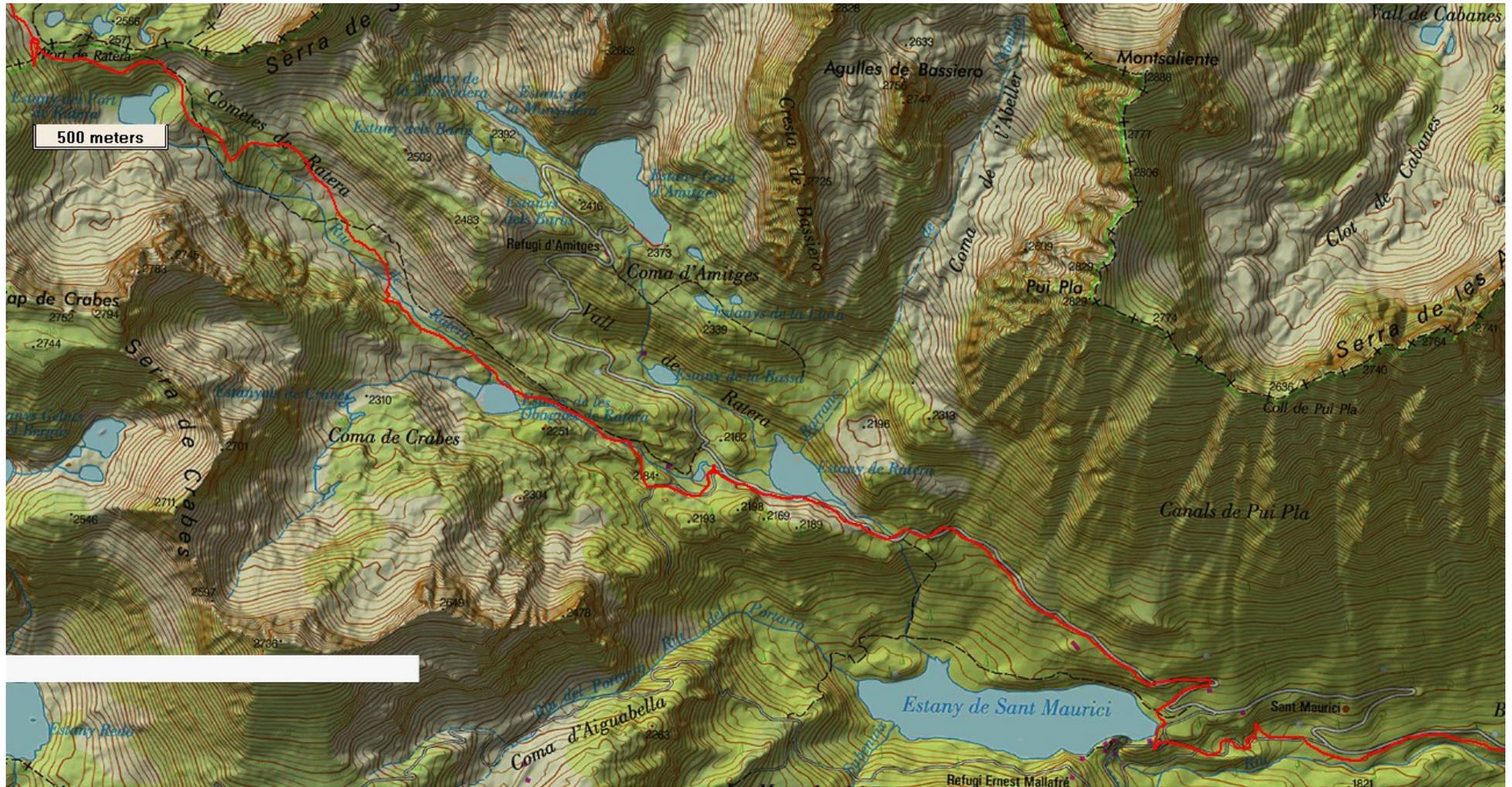
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**Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 1**



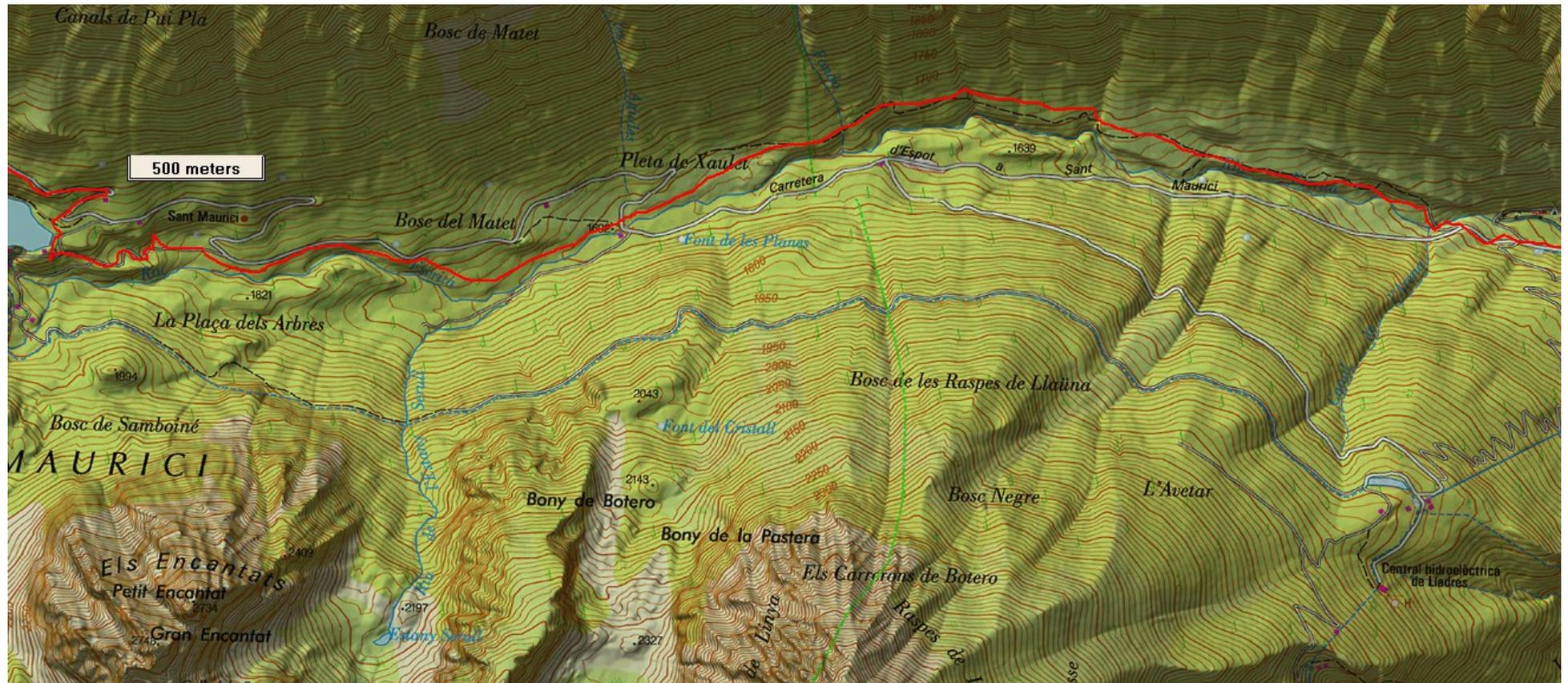
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**Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 2**



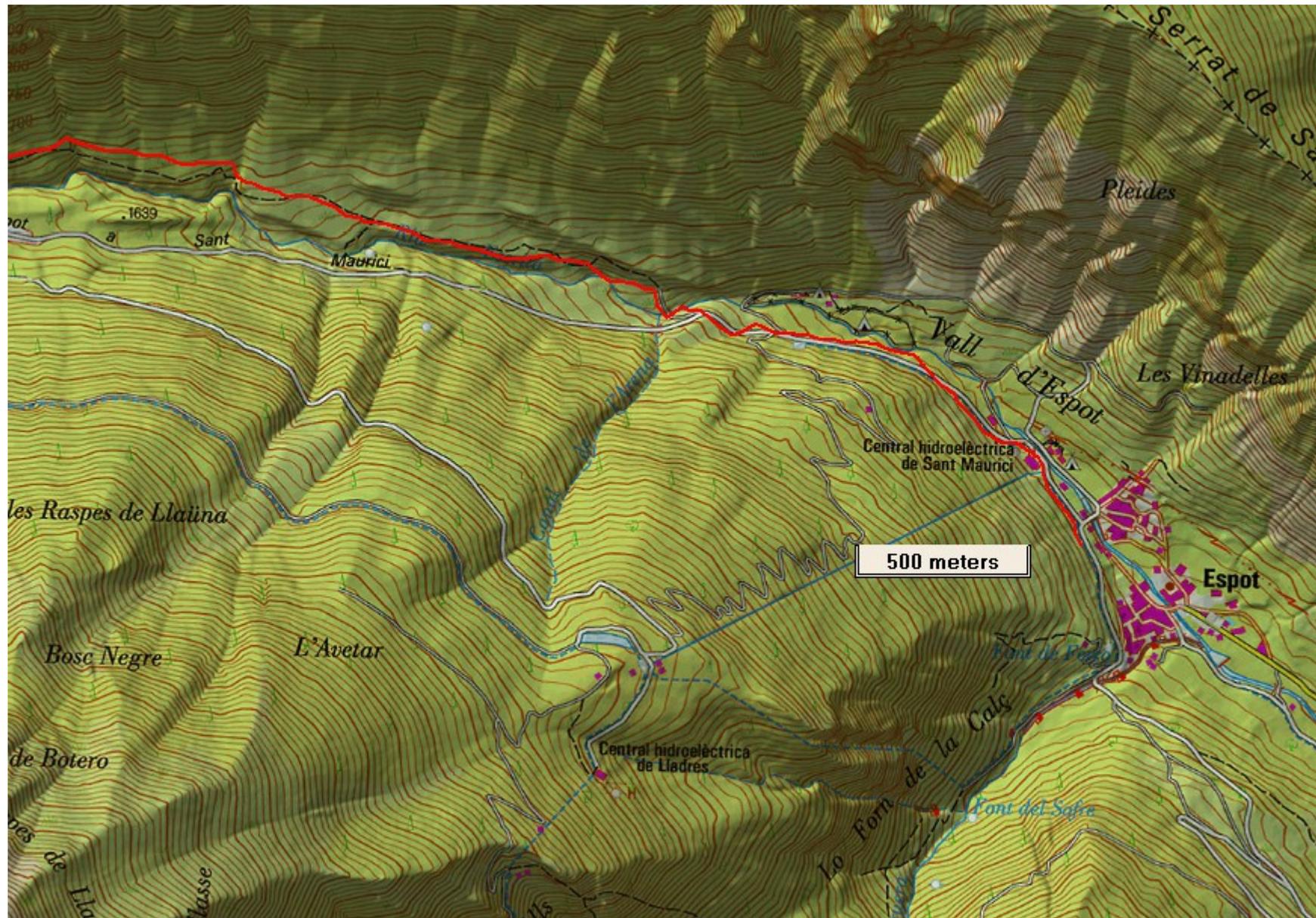
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**Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 3**



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**Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 4**



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