

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps	
Last Updated	2 nd November 2016	
Title of Walk	GR11 – Day 32 - Pla de Bouet to Refugio Comapedrosa	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Alins. Pla de Bouet. Either walk up the long track to Pla de Bouet or take a taxi (about €8 per person in 2016)	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	11	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	990	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4hr 4.5hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 42.623106, Long: 1.385506	
Directions to Start	<p>From the town of Sort take the C13 road N towards the high Pyrnees and in Llavorsi take the L504 and then at Labana take the L510 continue for some time to the village of Areu – almost at the end of the tarmac!</p> <p>From Areu it is either a long walk up a track towards the Refugio de Valldeferrera or it is possible to get a 4 wheel drive taxi from either Alins or Areu. There is nothing much to commend the walking option as mush of it is in forest.</p>	
Short walk description	A walk up a delightful valley followed by a tough ascent across scree to crest the 2770m high Portella de Baiau where we cross into Andorra and a charming descent to the Refugio Comapedrosa.	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p style="color: red;"><u>Note – finger-post times are shown as a matter of record to indicate where you are – not to advise on achievable times!!</u></p> <p>From the parking area on the track near the turn off to the Refugio Vallderrera continue uphill on the track and ignore the first finger-post.</p> <p>When you reach a zig back to the R continue ahead on a footpath at a finger-post and</p>		

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<p>with R/W markers. Rise through a boulder field and reach a grassy plateau with marshy areas and board walks and cross a bridge.</p>	470m, 8min
<p>Soon reach a large bridge crossing on the L at a finger-post. Ignore this and work up on the RHS of the stream through boulders.</p>	
<p>When this opens to grassland cross slightly L to follow a path rising up the RHS of a spur.</p>	1.7km, 37min
<p>A little way up this move L to continue up with a deep gorge down below you on the LHS.</p>	
<p>Reach a magnificent corrie and walk around this swinging L to gain the lower levels of a rock ridge on front of you.</p>	2.8km, 1hr 3min
<p>Once over its crest and on the far side, swing slightly R and climb upwards.</p>	
<p>Reach a large open plateau and in the distance see the Refugio de Baiau perched on a rocky promontory and above it the Portella de Baiau – our intermediate destination.</p>	5km, 1hr 54min
<p>At the lake below the refuge cross the outlet from a lake and find a bouldery path leading up to the refuge.</p>	5.7km, 2hr 12min
<p>Leave this by walking down a grassy rake behind the refuge which soon turns rocky and then look out for a R/W taking you L up over rocky steps in order to get around a rock face below you.</p>	
<p>Once above and around this drop down to the lake and follow around the L shore improbably crossing a boulder field and ignoring other steep paths going up L.</p>	6.2km, 2hr 20min
<p>Once past the boulder field follow the line up L which uses grass slopes for a while before reaching a channel which crosses your line and you cross this to the L to find the continuation of the ascent.</p>	
<p>Soon you must take to the scree and use all available holds and strength to continue your ascent to the Portella.</p>	7km, 2hr 40min
<p>Cross this and descend easily to a finger-post and then to a lake which you pass on the LHS.</p>	7.7km, 2hr 53min
<p>Drop to the dry stony outlet from this and work down to a very small lake (20m?) and then R onto a small bluff with a metal post.</p>	
<p>Soon you start to swing L.....</p>	8.7km, 3hr 9min
<p>and down the valley with magnificent views with the refuge (your destination) perched on a rocky spur. You are now following copious yellow dots as well as the R/W markers.</p>	
<p>Follow the yellow dots as they take you uphill on the side of the spur to the refuge, ignoring the L fork lower down which would take you directly onward towards the valley bottom.</p>	
<p>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</p>	<p>Stamina for the breathless ascent to the Portella is necessary.</p>

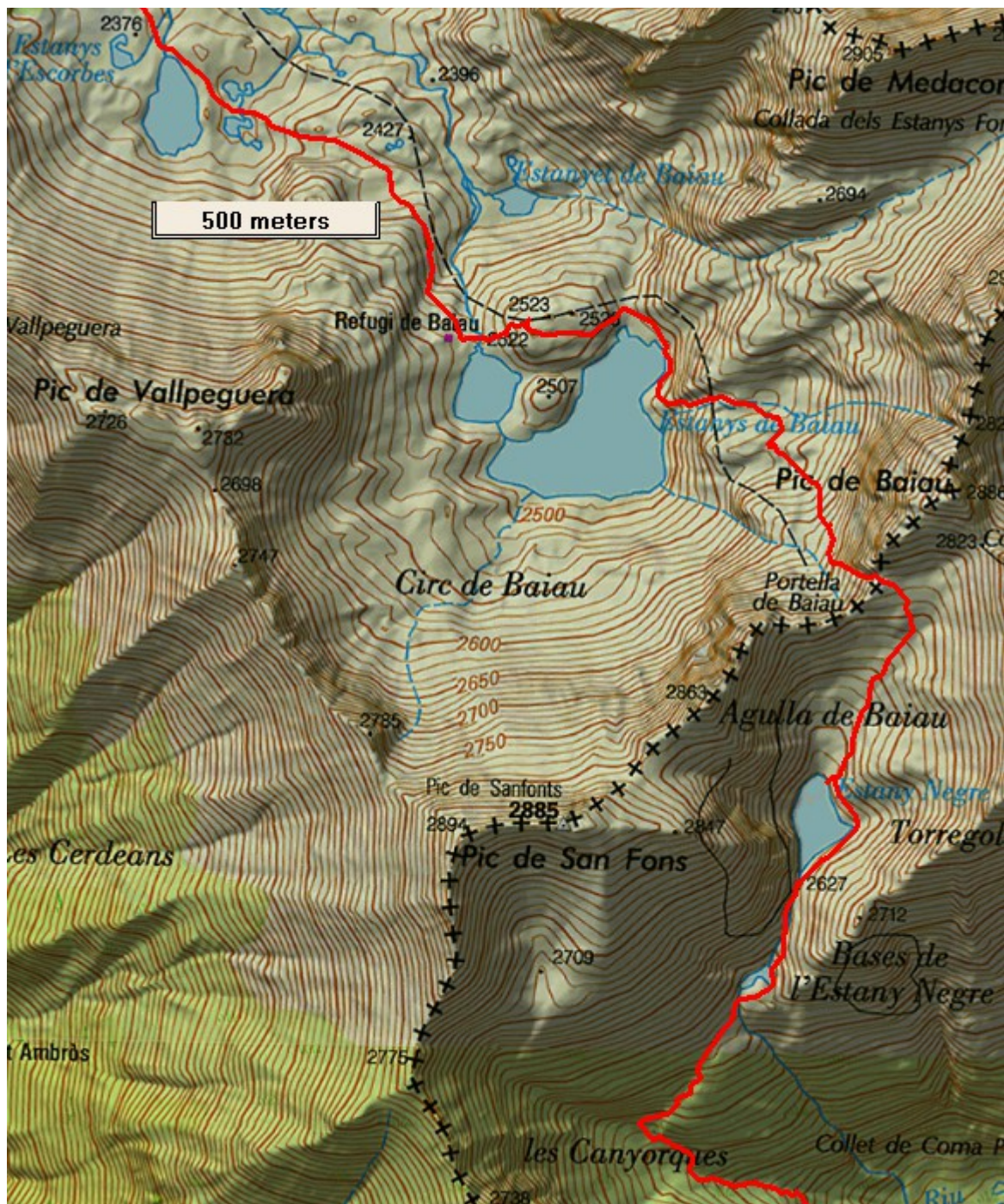
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Route followed is outlined in Red – Part 1



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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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