

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Jo Fletcher and Phil and Viv Freakley	
Last Updated	7 Nov 2016	
Title of Walk	Mont Caro summit and ridge from Coll de la Carrasqueta	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Coll de Carrasqueta, just below the summit of Mont Caro in a small development of houses known on some maps as Esquirol and on others as El Mascar.	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	11.5	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	830	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4 hrs 5 hr 30mins	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 40.80146, Long: 0.32582	
Directions to Start	<p>From the C12 in Tortosa take the T-341 west from Tortosa through Roquetes in the direction of Els Reguers and Alfara De Carles. 2 Km from Roquetes turn L at a junction onto the road signposted for Caro. Follow for 20km. Ignore the left turn which climbs up to Mt Caro and continue straight on to pass through the small development of houses known as Esquirol or el Mascar on some maps. Pass through a large car park, noting the Hotel/restaurant on the left and 1km further on find a clear junction where the main road doubles back on itself – this is the Coll de Carrasqueta. Bear left and after 250m find a small car park on the left where the walk begins.</p>	
Short walk description	<p>A great ridge walk up to Mont Caro with excellent views across the whole area. The return route on the S side of the mountain has several points of interest to keep walkers interested.</p>	
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	
<p>With your back to the entrance of the car park take the path in the R hand corner heading off in a S direction on a good path (GR7) marked R/W and blue stars for the Estels route. The path initially undulates gently through the woods before climbing more steeply to join the ridge at the Coll de Pallers.</p>	26min/1.2km	

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<p>Turn left to leave the GR7 and continue along and up the ridge on a smaller cairned path which is waymarked in red. The path steepens and now requires the occasional short scramble over larger rocks It is worth looking back to see the views opening up behind you. Eventually the path reaches a wider part of the ridge where you can clearly see the summit with the mast on the top. Our path descends from a low col down to the L.</p>	<p>55min/2.4km</p>
<p>The path continues on the NW side of the ridge below the Mont Caro summit The path is now in trees and it requires the odd minor scramble to get up to the ridge. As you break out from the trees you find yourself alongside the masts on Mont Caro. Go just beyond the fence and join the road.</p>	<p>1hr15min/3.1km</p>
<p>It is now worth turning R and going up to the viewing point which gives you spectacular views of the surrounding area and down to the coast. Having admired the views you re-join the road and descend on the winding road. There is the odd short cut between the bends of the road but it is just as easy to follow the road. You will eventually reach a flat area with a road barrier and a sign on your R hand side. This is Coll Del Vicari.</p>	<p>1hr38min/5km</p>
<p>Take the path on the R at the end of the barrier which descends. After 500m you reach a path junction and a sign (Bassis de Caro) At the junction turn R.</p>	<p>1hr49min/5.5km</p>
<p>You are now heading for Forn de la Pimpollada which you will reach in about 300m. This is an example of an oven which it is rumoured was used to provide pine pitch for the waterproofing of ships for the Spanish Armada which were built in the ports along this coast.</p>	<p>1hr54min/5.8km</p>
<p>After the Forn continue along the path. The thin path is marked by cairns. After a short distance (50M) there is a path that descends, keep right at the junction and contour around the hill under the ridge of Mont Caro.</p>	
<p>Your next marker is an obvious and distinct rock outcrop with a gap - Lo Comptador. It is suggested that this was used by the animal herders to count the animals by driving them through the gap.</p>	<p>2hr20min/6.9km</p>
<p>The path now become a little more difficult as it hugs the side of the hill and wanders through the trees. Continue to look for the cairns as these mark the best route. You are now going to walk along the path for 2.5km until you reach a large smooth rock on your R hand side on a ridge. The rock has markings and a metal plate. You need to turn R to join the RW marked GR7 once again and climb the rock and head steeply uphill.</p>	<p>3hr23min/9.4km</p>
<p>The path ascend now for 300m until it reaches the Coll de Pellers which you should recognise as this is the way that you came up from the car park.</p>	<p>3hr32min/9.7km</p>
<p>You now go straight ahead and descend down the path back to the car park.</p>	<p>4hrs/11.5km</p>
<p>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</p>	<p>Nil</p>

Route followed is outlined in Red

