

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Charles and Kath Pye, Ralph Phipps	
<b>Last Updated</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	The Bamboo curtain of Benichembla	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Benichembla Bar Bon Aire on CV720	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	12	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	401	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	3hr 4.5hr	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	MS/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 38.753907, Long -0.111763	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	Pick up the CV 720 along its route through Pedreguer and Alcalali and follow it to Benichembla where you park on the outskirts of the village on the way towards Castell de Castells.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A circular route under Caballo Verde with some unexpected lush bamboo tunnels to add extra interest.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>		<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
Walk down the road beside the bar towards the centre of the village.		
Follow this as it snakes around towards the L and as it turns R towards the village centre turn L and walk along beside the plaza before turning R at the end of this road.		
Follow this all the way out of the village and join the main road where you turn L until just before a bend on the R where you cross and find a path between the bins going off downhill.		600m, 8min
Follow this as it snakes down turning slightly R to emerge on the road again beside a metal working workshop.		
Turn L for a few metres before crossing the road and finding a track descending to the river.		
Just before the bridge turn L and walk along the river bed.		850m, 12min

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<p>As you reach a large boulder in the middle of this there is a short ascending track on the RHS which you take for a few metres to find a level track surrounded by bamboo curtains going along above the riverbed.</p>	
<p>Follow this until you are forced to drop back into the river bed and now walk up another 30m to find a similar track on the LHS which you follow until it swings L to rise up and meet tarmac beside a pic-nic area.</p>	1.6km, 25min
<p>Turn R on the tarmac and continue to rise steeply up for a while before levelling off with the barranco well below you on the LHS. Ignore a turn to the R and then a second road joins you from below on the L as you continue ahead.</p>	2.6km, 39min
<p>Reach a junction with a concrete road going off directly uphill on the RHS which we take to reach a set of signs on either side of this saying "Camino Particular" and "Prohibido Pasar" cross a small barranco on the L to find an overgrown track (looks more like a path now) which we follow uphill until it swings to the L and looking back we are just above the level of the house.</p>	3.4km, 39min
<p>A few metres along here there is a rough footpath going steeply up to the R with cairns and occasional evidence of the old mozarabic path. Take this and clamber up the hill using hands where necessary.</p>	
<p>When you enter the trees err slightly L until you reach a level terrace which you take out to the L.</p>	
<p>Soon this is more obviously a partially ruined mozarabic path and it quickly becomes less clear although the descending path is still obvious.</p>	
<p>Cross a barranco and double back to the L and after only a few metres find a footpath going steeply up to the R again. After a few metres there is a very small platform fixed to a pine tree above you and just below this you must take the L fork to arrive quickly at a fuente and above it a concrete cistern which we pass and then swing a little around to the R.</p>	4km, 1hr 4min
<p>Soon you are walking on a level terrace and shortly pass a ruin below you where we double back to the L to pass below it and reach tarmac where we turn R for a few metres. Now continue ahead on the track when the tarmac ends.</p>	4.6km, 1hr 14min
<p>Pass a small white water pumping station and just beyond this go up a couple of terraces in zig-zags before resuming your level walk.</p>	
<p>Work through some scratchy vegetation (partially trimmed) and once clear of this walk up a steadily rising path on the flank of the mountain to pass over a small spur (on your LHS) and work R still rising gently.</p>	
<p>At a cairn where a path drops down directly ahead take care to find a path going directly R to quickly emerge to join a track above a small semi ruined casita with a white house with distinctive wall painting above you in the distance.</p>	5.5km, 1hr 32min
<p>The track reaches tarmac just above the white house and here you turn L downhill.</p>	
<p>390m later just opposite a set of well groomed terraces there is a small cairn on the LHS..... indicating a path dropping abruptly for 2/3 metres before levelling out and tracking L through woodland. (some R/W tape markers)</p>	6.4km, 1hr 46min

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<p>Drop down a couple of terraces awkwardly and pass a ruined casita where before entering a deep barranco you turn down to the R and cross several walls before doubling back to the R and soon joining an overgrown track which leads down past a ruined casita and then as you swing R a more intact building of 2 stories with wide terraces ideal for a pause.</p>	6.9km, 1hr 58min
<p>Pass the building on the RHS and now on a track descend ignoring a path junction and 2 track junctions to soon reach the river which you cross and walk up to the main road.</p>	7.8km, 2hr 11min
<p>Turn L along this for 400m to find a track going down on the LHS which you take to cross the river and climb steeply for a short while ignoring a junction on the RHS before reaching a crest on concrete and continuing ahead now on a gravel track.</p>	9km, 2hr 27min
<p>Ignore the first L turn going uphill and descend to reach a building and after this you reach the concrete track on the LHS which was your outgoing route in the morning. Ignore this and continue ahead again ignoring the first turn to the L and when you reach a fork go L slightly uphill to finally arrive at the river bed immediately in front of the village.</p>	11km, 2hr 53min
<p>Now walk uphill and soon take the R turn on concrete leading more directly towards the village. This delivers you to the gates of a park directly below the concrete wall designed to protect the village from damage caused by floods.</p>	
<p>Walk through the park to near the end to find a set of steps leading up L to the road beside the bar.</p>	
<b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b>	None

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Route followed is outlined in red



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