

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps	
Last Updated	15 th July 2016	
Title of Walk	La Punta de L'Aqua from Mas de Satorres	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Horta de San Juan, Mas de Satorres	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	14km	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	950m	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3.25hr 5hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 40.924198, Long: 0.326779	
Directions to Start	<p>The T333 road between Arnes and Xerta passes a junction to the village of Horta de San Joan. Immediately opposite this junction is a minor road. Take this and 50m further on turn L onto a track. Follow this as it zig-zags down to cross a river and then steeply uphill. Ignore turns to the L and continue on the main track for a further 1km to arrive at the Mas de Satorres.</p>	
Short walk description	<p>The Punta de L'Aigua is a haughty and dominant top, with beautiful form and a characteristic profile with two clear ends that make it easily identifiable from many places. Arguably one of the most beautiful mountains in Els Ports. This itinerary, although not the most direct one, allows us to see some very interesting corners like the remote depression the Vacarissal, the "masos" of Fandos and Capella, which are in ruins and surrounded by old cultivated fields and with views of the Roques de Benet.</p>	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>Park near the Mas de Satorres just as it appears on the left. By continuing for just a few more metres you will be able to stand at the edge of a very deep valley on the right above cliffs with a waterfall in the middle distance to your left (providing it is flowing!)</p> <p>Now go back to the Mas and follow a track to the right of it uphill and alongside large</p>		

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<p>agricultural terraces. Keep to the left of these and shortly rejoin the track that headed directly up the hill shortly after you started.</p> <p>Follow this to the left and just around the bend at the end of the ridge you will find a track heading more directly uphill on your right with slightly indistinct yellow/white markers. Follow this. The slope soon relents a little.</p> <p>This shortly rejoins a track, next to cultivated fields which are fenced. Keep to the right on a level track and a little further ahead the track comes to a standstill but the yellow/white path and signpost point straight ahead uphill into woodland.</p> <p>The footpath becomes stony and difficult. Reach an open stony hillock. Ignore a footpath to the right (with a sign to El Ventador) and continue more steeply uphill on a rocky ridge line and then soon enter woodland. just to the the right of this line.</p>	20min
<p>Pass Cambretes Rocks, small walls of conglomerate next to the path and after climbing below them we continue on the same line to the left.</p>	25min
<p>Reach a viewpoint over the Valley of Cubars and the valley of the Canal. The footpath makes a turn to the right around the ridge line heading towards a col at the foot of the steep face of La Moleta.</p>	26min
<p>After a few more minutes we arrive at the Col de la Ereta (629m) which is directly below the steepening of the ridge line. We now ignore the yellow and white markings, that continue to the right on a route that runs parallel to rio Canaleta. Instead follow the footpath that moves left and directly up the steep ridge line with occasional yellow paint signs. Walk into the forest and climb steeply.</p>	
<p>At the foot of a rocky barrier we start up the Pujador de la Mala Dona, an obvious rocky ramp that climbs up the rocks, using an easy terrace line which zig zags back and forth. This is a short scrambling section where hands are useful. After heading right for the second time we follow this line around a rocky corner and out of the barranco. Here we turn back to the left and over an exposed step to join the easier ground – but still steep.</p>	36min
<p>The route soon levels off as we contour left through a pretty black pine forest. Ignore any wayward paths encouraging you to climb to the ridge line and continue contouring to the left. There are some small descents.</p> <p>We make a right turn around a rib and the route drops a little. It continues on the flank, in an easterly direction where the forest is predominantly oak.</p>	
<p>Reach a pretty col - Lomo de la Moleta - where the views open up and we can take a break. In front of us we see on the left the Mola d'Atans and on the right the Punta de l'Aigua. Now the route descends a little to the right to trace the easiest route through the rocky slope in a broadly E direction. The ridge is always on our left and the summit visible although we never go up to it.</p>	54min
<p>After undulating a little reach a shady corner with varied oak trees. Go up a rocky step and follow the crest, with a straightforward ascent.</p>	1hr 5min
<p>Reach a col and crossroads. Ignore a barely visible footpath on the right with its yellow and white waymarks. and instead continue straight ahead, with yellow and white waymarks towards a grassy col in front. Behind the col are the rocky features of the Punta de L'Aigua. To the left we have the impressive Barranco del Cubars, flanked by</p>	1hr 10min

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limestone walls. Cross a (normally dry) stream bed and go up towards a col.	
At the col just before the descent to the Mas de les Creuetes de Lloa, turn R (S) and almost doubling back, marked with yellow and white paint splashes. Contour briefly and then undulate through woodland.	1hr 15min
Meet a footpath that comes from the right. Continue following the paint marks to the left.	1hr 21min
Reach a small col at the foot of rocks and continue around to the left, on a contouring line. Further ahead, the path makes a right turn and we cross a forest of black pine.	1hr 21min
Just before reaching the crest ignore the path on the right aiming for the col and instead continue L.	1hr 29min
Ignore an indistinct path to the right and go by the left, descending. A little further ahead we reach a small col from where we can see the Punta de l'Aigua.	1hr 32min
Go around the col to the R and descend sharply to reach a rocky balcony, over the depression of the Vacarissal. The route descends to the right.	1hr 37min
Reach the depression of Vacarissal, covered by a meadow and woodland. There is a metal direction post and we aim for the "Col of Gilaberta NE". Turn left and walk about 50m through the bottom of the valley, until finding a little well which almost always has water. When you reach this leave the bottom of the valley and we go up to the right on rock. The paint marks are vague here.	1hr 39min
We pass below the pretty spur that comes off one of the two tops of the Punta de l'Aigua. Continue to ascend steadily with a much bigger rocky rib ascending on our RHS. Cross a barranco and continue up rocks on the other slope, following the paint marks up a steep climb.	1hr 49min
Continue ahead to a rocky col where the Y/W show an initial sharp descent and obvious red markings indicate a route to a second (higher)summit. This goes straight up the ridge line.	
Reach the summit of Punta de l' Aigua. At the top there are pines that reduce the visibility across the Ebro plain but you can still see :- Caro, Espina and the Muntanyoles, Terranyes, Roques de Benet and behind them Penyalgalera, the crags of Cubars, Mola d'Atans and Punta dels Raus.	2hr
To reach the second top it is necessary to descend to the col located between the two and to walk a few meters from the crest, with some airy steps but without real difficulty.	
Return the same way to the col below the first summit.	
Pick up the Y/W markers again and continue to the right initially downhill across rocky ground and then through forestry with occasional meadows. There are few markers here but we are aiming for the col in view below us.	2hr 10min
Reach the Col de la Gilaberta. With its metal sign post and here leave the yellow and white signs and turn left, for a bearing of 300°. (is this correct?) Cross a path through pines without a defined path and a little ahead find a footpath marked with paint stripes which descends parallel to the barranco Cubars.	

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At a depression with a well we go to the right.	2hr 20min
Reach the Mas de les Creuetes de Lloa which we passed on our outward journey.	2hr 23min
At the col. turn right, and then descend to the left, again following yellows and white signs. Keep going down through old cultivated terraces which are now covered by forest with pine, oak and rockrose.	
Cross two shallow dry barrancos and undulate gently.	2hr 35min
Watch carefully for a barely visible small crossroads and signs. Turn left and go slightly uphill (the path ahead at the X-roads runs out) to cross a spur and then descend sharply towards the bottom of the barranco de Estrets. (Lower down this becomes the rio Canaleta after it joins with the barranco d'en Pique.)	2hr 39min
At a small col go down between old bancales of almond trees. A little ahead we cross through broad leaved trees (?) and pass a stone quarry which we leave across bancales with paint marks.	2hr 43min
Reach the Masas de Fandos and Capella which are totally in ruins and situated at the heart of the valley, in a very rustic corner. Turn right with the river below on our L, in direction of a small narrow passage. (An alternative route is signed from here to avoid the forthcoming barranco if it is full of water)	2hr 51min
Walk into the dramatic rock paved river bed sometimes with a little water (Estret of the Bater) and then cross it as the footpath follows the left bank of the river, and then criss-crosses the river descending through lush vegetation to finally finish on the R bank! This joins the ascending old royal road that links the towns of Alfara and Horta de Sant Joan, with remains of the edges and paved with stones in some places.	2hr 53mins
Ignore a footpath on the L marked with red paint and continue ahead on the major line. On the left left there is an isolated rock (the Boat), located just in the confluence between the barranco de los Estrets and el barranco d'en Pique and from now on this is the rio Canalets. Above us are the majestic Roques de Benet. Keep rising over the Canaleta valley.	3hr 10min
Reach the Collado de la Barca which marks the end of the ascent and then from a bend we descend to doing short zig-zags. At the bottom we can see the narrow defile of the Canal and we can hear the noise of the water. Carry on up to the R.	3hr 13min
Ignore a path to the left marked with red paint which descend stowards Salta del Ventado (a waterfall needing a 20min detour) and instead continue ascending.	3hr 19min
Reach the Collado de la Ereta and stay on the road before to arrive at Mas de Satorres.	3hr 28min
Walk Recommendations or restrictions	None. The gps track for this route is approximate and the details need verifying. Feedback welcome.

See map below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red

