

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Mary Gough and Ralph Phipps, 6 th November 2014	
Last Updated	23 rd February 2021	
Title of Walk	Aitana West	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Benifato Font de Partagas	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	16	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	830	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4.25 5.5	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/B/Scr	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.657965, Long -0.241729	
Directions to Start	From the environs of Benidorm take the CV70 heading inland towards the tourist honeypot of Guadalest. At Guadalest continue to pass Benimantell, Beniarda and then Benifato. Turn L towards the village and then take the 2 nd turn R with tourist sign to Partagas. Continue up this twisty road to the end and park here.	
Short walk description	An intriguing walk under the craggy slopes of Aitana via several fonts, up an interesting rocky ramp and along its ridge before returning with fantastic views from the highest summit in the area.	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>Leave your cars and walk to LHS of water channel and turn L onto a track (Y/W)</p> <p>Continue (ignore any L forks) and pass a sign - Sender dels Botanics.300 MTR. 6min</p> <p>Follow the track around a LH bend and look out for the continuing footpath with Y/W pole on the RHS. Take this.</p> <p>Walk through a boulder field that looks like a lunar landscape with an imposing crag over on the R. The path line is very clear.</p> <p>Reach a junction with a fingerpost pointing L towards the Sender dels Botanics, but we turn R for a few metres and then L to descend down a shallow barranco.</p>		<p>275m, 5.5min</p> <p>1.1km, 21min</p>

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Cross a rocky and vegetated barranco descending towards you from the L and then rise uphill.	1.9km, 36min
When you reach a track turn L uphill, ignoring a further track on the L which runs level.	2.2km, 39min
At a junction keep R and follow this gently downhill.	2.9km, 48min
As you pass through a small clump of trees you reach a junction where you turn L and uphill.	3.4km, 56min
When you meet a junction with a broader forest track turn R downhill.	
Ignore any smaller side turns as this main track zig-zags steadily up and down along the flank of the western ridge of Aitana.	
As the views to the W open up and you can see Montcabrer in the distance we meet an indistinct fork where we turn R and continue down the wide fertile valley.	
We pass several lonely houses along this route and then meet a tarmac road with chain across our track	5.9km, 1hr 26min
where we turn L and continue to reach a picnic area at Font del Arbre	6.2km, 1hr 30min
Past this leave the tarmac on a gravel track on the LHS and about 50m further there is a smaller grassy footpath going steeply up to the L. Take this.	
Follow it up to cross the track again and then when you reach it for a second time turn R on the track and follow it around a bend to the L.	6.6km, 1hr 38min
At a bend there is a smaller track going off R with cairn and large red dot.	6.8km, 1hr 41min
Follow this until it runs out and then ascend gently on its LHS to find a thin footpath through trees continuing ahead and almost level. This is indistinct but the key is to rise only very gently (up one terrace at a large boulder) and to stay level where possible.	
When you emerge on a small bluff with clearer views ahead you will see the crag line ahead of you and on the LHS and in the distance there is a large triangular rock below the crags which is our objective. We will pass just below this on the RHS.	
Continue a short distance to the next small bluff and here turn L a little uphill following occasional cairns	7.5km, 1hr 50min
before turning level along the flank of the mountain – above the tree line and below the crags.	
Soon you can make your way past our triangular rock and descend to reach a circular walled corral (or possibly unfinished nevera).	
Continue a little lower along the flank (to find easier going) and then cross a large fan of bouldery scree and turn uphill to intercept a rock wall coming down. Walk up beside this to find a clear rising ramp on the RHS.	8.2km, 2hr 10min
Follow this up a few rock steps until you can see an easy rocky step ladder on the LHS which leads more directly uphill until you emerge on the main ridge beside a large cairn.	8.4km, 2hr 14min
Turn L up the main ridge rising over a few small summits until as you <u>descend</u> you reach a large crag which you cannot easily descend.	9.2km, 2hr 30min

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<p>Move L to reach the corner where the crag doubles back to the L (the way you have come) and either descend a short rock step here or turn back a little way long this craggy edge to find a thin descending gully which allows you to drop down below the crag.</p> <p>Either way continue on an ever clearer path line on the L edge towards the summit of Aitana. (East)</p> <p>Before you make the final rise towards the summit you reach a breach in the crag line on the LHS with a large cairn and clear grassy ramp route down. (Important to get this right!)</p> <p>Follow this and then continue gently descending for several hundred metres (the path line is clear) before dropping down more steeply L to intercept a track below you and above cultivated terraces.</p> <p>Turn R uphill on the track.</p> <p>As you reach your high point on this track and start to descend you will pass a further round wall – corral or abandoned nevera??</p> <p>Pass a fork where the track doubles back to the L and shortly at the next fork continue L at a fork downhill.</p> <p>Reach a complex plateau area with multiple paths/tracks and turn R (level) following the signpost to Benifato and in a few metres turn L on a descending track.</p> <p>At the next fork continue down L.</p> <p>Ignore a track at right angles on the L (marked Privado) and enjoy views down over a fabulous house on the LHS.</p> <p>This track then diminishes to become a footpath and descends steeply to reach a Font de Forata.</p> <p>Continue ahead to reach the junction where we departed from this path at km 1.1 and continue ahead descending towards our cars.</p> <p>Join the track where we turn L and continue down track (ignoring any L or R forks) and return to cars ..</p>	<p>10.8km, 3hr 10min</p> <p>11.1km, 3hr 6min</p> <p>12.4km, 3hr 24min</p> <p>12.7km, 3hr 28min</p> <p>13.2km, 3hr 35min</p> <p>14.3km, 3hr 54min</p>	
Walk Recommendations or restrictions	Minor scrambling and some navigational skill required	

See map below

Route followed is outlined in Red

