

# COSTA BLANCA WALKS

## CASTELL GRANADELLA CIRCUIT

SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016 at 10:30am

WALK LEADER – ANDY ECCLES

**DISTANCE: 8.5 kms**

**WALKING TIME: 3.5 hrs**

**ASCENT: 378 metres**

**GRADE: Moderate to Hard**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**PART NATURE RESERVE – DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED**

### START LOCATION

The walk starts at Cumbre Del Sol, Benitatxell.

- Exit the N332 between kilometre 181 and 182 onto the CV740 to Teulada.
- Follow the road under the railway bridge and around the various roundabouts onto Av. Mediterráneo (dual carriageway) through the town.
- At the top of the main road get into the left hand lane and go straight ahead at the roundabout (**take care because there is a stop sign where you wouldn't expect it**).
- Take the CV740 signposted Xabía 10 and Benitatxell 4.
- Follow the road through the countryside until you reach Benitatxell where you remain on the road around to the right following the signs for Xabía and Moraira.
- At the traffic lights by the BBVA bank, go straight ahead and down the hill going over two pedestrian crossings. After the second crossing and just before the traffic lights, bear right at the fork to Cumbre Del Sol (**beware, there is a naughty give way sign immediately after you have turned off the main road**).
- Continue to follow this road up the steep winding hill (part of the cycle route for La Vuelta) with great views to the left until you reach a small dual carriageway system where you keep left (**do not bear right and continue up the hill**).
- At Encinas there are three junctions at the fork, take the left hand road down the hill and at the next fork, Girasol, keep left again, following the road down until you come to a sharp right hand bend with a track going straight ahead. Park here, the track is the start of the walk.

### WALK DESCRIPTION

The walk starts along an easy track eventually heading downhill to the beach at Cala Granadella, a beautiful cove with a pebble beach which was voted as the best beach in the whole of Spain in 2012 and 2013. A good place for a banana break after 3.8 kms.

We then walk up the Camino Particular (PRCV354) which is a sealed road surface but be warned, it is very steep for around 500 metres. We turn left off the road onto a track which then becomes a coastal path rising up the cliffs with great views onto the beach below and out to sea.

The path then becomes more difficult as it drops down and rises back up the cliff side but there is a sturdy wooden fence for support until it reaches a point where there are chains bolted into the rock face to assist with passing a short area. Boots with good grips are seriously advisable, especially here. It is not a sheer drop if you stumble but you could hurt yourself and is described on the Walks in Spain website as '*beautiful but adventurous*'. This is followed by a path that continues up to the Castell Granadella where we will stop for lunch. A brief history of the Castell which dates back to 1739 will also be given at this point and you are free to explore the area and enjoy the views.

From here, it is another fairly steep uphill walk over a mainly rocky track where we follow the yellow and white painted markers to outline the route to the Mirador de Llavant where there are more great views down the coast.

At this point, we follow an easy track which eventually leads us around to the path where we started and back to our vehicles.