Secret Sierras of the Costa Blanca

Trip Code: CBS

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	6 MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Summit Aitana (1,558m) and Puig Campana, two of the Costa Blanca's most iconic peaks
- Explore the Sierra Serrella's limestone ridges, taking in the summit of Mallada del Llop
- Pass through El Forat, a dramatic tunnel carved through the rock in the Sierra Bernia
- Enjoy a free day in the coastal town of Altea

AT A GLANCE ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This excellent one-week guided Spanish walking holiday explores the ‘Secret Sierras' of the Sierra de Aitana, la Serrella, Aixorta, and Bernia, which form the famous backdrop to the Costa Blanca. Just a short journey inland from the package holiday crowds of Benidorm, there is a very different side to the Costa Blanca amongst the rugged limestone peaks of these sierras and the traditional, white-painted villages of the Marina Baixa and Marina Alta regions. From three different hotel bases in Benimantell, Castell de Castell, and Altea, we will set out to walk the best routes in the region, including airy ridges and summits such as Aitana (1558m) and Puig Campana (1408m). Each of our carefully selected bases provides a comfortable place to stay in stunning locations.

Altea is an attractive traditional coastal town with a historic centre and the perfect Mediterranean ambience. This is a great walking holiday, offering a variety of moderate walks, options for more challenging days, a region renowned for its reliable sunshine, easy access through Alicante, and even a chance to try one of our guide's delicious home-cooked Spanish Paellas and share a beer with the locals after a great day's walking! This isn't just a taste of the region; this is living the Mediterranean life!

Use the 'Change Version' drop-down on the itinerary page for day-to-day information about next years itinerary.

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday in the Marina Baixa and Marina Alta regions of the Costa Blanca is intended to provide a week of walking in the Spanish Mediterranean sunshine, suitable for regular hill or back country walkers. Mostly the walking is on good trails and mule tracks but we will encounter some rocky paths and very short sections of easy scrambling. We will be walking between 7 and 9 hours on most days with ascents up to and above 1300 metres.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Single timed airport transfers on Day 1 and on Day 8
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Airport transfers (other than the one or two group transfers described)
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Tips for support staff and guide
- Miscellaneous personal expenditure - drinks and souvenirs etc...

TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

In some cases you may choose to take a ferry and/or train to your holiday start and end destination. Please see further information on Travelling by Train.

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

The group will meet at the group hotel in Benimantell on Day 1.

A single transfer from Alicante Airport to the group hotel will be provided in late morning of Day 1.

On the last day of the Land Only itinerary, there will be a single transfer back to Alicante Airport timed to meet the check-in for flights departing in the late morning.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All breakfasts, 5 packed lunches, 1 traditionally prepared Paella lunch and 4 dinners are included in the holiday price. You will need to pay directly for dinner for the 3 nights in Altea. We recommend you allow €30 - €40 per meal for these 3 meals.

2027 Itinerary:

All breakfasts, 5 packed lunches and 4 dinners are included in the holiday price. Three dinners and one lunch in Altea are not included and are payable locally. We recommend you allow €30 - €40 per meal.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Breakfasts are typically continental - a combination of orange juice, tea, coffee, yoghurt, fresh fruit, freshly baked local bread and jam. Lunches will usually be picnic-style, made up from bread, cheese, cold meats, tomatoes, salads and fruit. Dinners are taken either in the hotel or in local restaurants which serve a range of dishes including traditional southern Spanish options, including paella and a locally famous 'farmer's stew'. Vegetarians can be catered for.

Accommodation

There are three separate bases for this walking holiday.

We will spend 2 nights in a charming family-run hostal in Benimantell. In Castell de Castell we stay for 2 nights at a family-run rural hotel with great food. Our base for the remaining 3 nights is a hotel in either the coastal village of Albir or Altea, both located on a wide bay surrounded by an amphitheatre of unspoiled mountains. All rooms are en suite.

All accommodation is twin share. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired with another single client of the same sex. Single supplements (on request) are limited and are allocated on a ‘first come, first served’ basis . If you are planning to extend your holiday, additional nights are available on request.

2027 Itinerary:

There are two seperate bases for this walking holiday.

We will spend 4 nights in a charming family-run hostal in Benimantell. Our base for the remaining 3 nights is a hotel in Altea, located on a wide bay surrounded by an ampitheatre of unspoiled mountains. All rooms are en suite.

All accommodation is twin share. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired with another single client of the same sex. Single supplements (on request) are limited and are allocated on a ‘first come, first served’ basis . If you are planning to extend your holiday, additional nights are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

We estimate that €180 should be sufficient to cover all personal expenses, including the 1 lunch and 2 evening meals in Altea that you will purchase directly (allow €30-€40 per meal), as well as tips for your guide. Cash can be withdrawn from ATM's in Alicante Airport and in Altea. Credit and debit cards can be used to pay for most goods and services.

2027 Itinerary:

We estimate that €180 should be sufficient to cover all personal expenses, including the 1 lunch and 3 evening meals in Altea that you will purchase directly (allow €30-€40 per meal), as well as tips for your guide. Cash can be withdrawn from ATM's in Alicante Airport and in Altea. Credit and debit cards can be used to pay for most goods and services.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

You should be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking 3 to 6 hours for consecutive days. Hill walking, with a good amount of ascent and descent, is the best training. Running, cycling and swimming are also good for developing cardiovascular fitness and stamina.

Climate

The Costa Blanca has a Mediterranean climate, characterised by lots of sunshine (3000 hours each year - that's about 325 days of sunshine). Sea breezes and the general elevation of the walks we undertake (around 1000 metres) help to moderate the temperatures that we will encounter. At the season that we travel to this region (outside of the hottest Summer months) we can expect daytime highs of between 15 and 25 degrees centigrade depending on the elevation. At night, the temperatures will fall to 10-15 degrees centigrade.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Costa Blanca Walks (Vols 1 and 2). Cicerone Guide.
- Mountain Walks on the Costa Blanca. Bob Stansfield.
- Valencia and the Costa Blanca (Lonely Planet Regional Guides)
- Costa Blanca Berlitz Pocket Guide (Berlitz Pocket Guides)
- Costa Blanca and Alacante (AA Essential Guides Series)

Maps

Marina Baixa: Serra d'Aitana. 1:20,000 Scale & Marina Baixa: Serra de Bernia. 1:20,000 Scale.

Marina Baixa: Serra d'Aitana & Marina Baixa areas at 1:20,000 in a series of GPS compatible maps from Editorial Piolet with cartography based on Spain's civilian topographic survey overprinted with hiking routes and other tourist information. Road network indicates locations of petrol stations. Local villages are annotated to show what facilities can be found there, including accommodation, restaurants, etc.

Private Groups Information

Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You must bring the following items:

- Hiking/walking boots
- Trainers / sandals / evening footwear
- Socks
- Trekking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof overtrousers
- Underwear
- Baselayer shirts
- T-shirts and/or casual shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Lightweight windproof/waterproof jacket
- Lightweight thermal gloves
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack c. 30 litres
- Sun protection (including for lips)
- Water bottles 1 Litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Washbag and toiletries

- Antibacterial handwash

- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment. Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are also a good idea.

The following items are optional:

- Gaiters
- Shorts
- Towel (for swimming)
- Swimwear
- Trekking poles
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Spare laces
- Insect repellant - (DEET)
- Camera
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The holiday starts at the hotel in Benimantell and ends in Altea. A single timed transfer from/to Alicante Airport is provided.

Transport SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

If flying from the UK there are a number of low cost airlines offering flights to Alicante. A flight search website such as Skyscanner or Kayak may be useful to research your options.

If you would prefer to book a 'flight inclusive package', using scheduled airlines from the UK, please contact our flights department for a quote. Whilst flight prices are likely to be more expensive, you will benefit from full financial protection.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Our expert local guide, Jose Molina Lopez, has led trips for KE all over the world from Peru to Nepal and Bhutan, but he especially loves showing people around his own backyard!

Please Note This document was downloaded on 31/10/2026 and the trip is subject to change