

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT  
NOV '19

8 days from £719

November 2018, March, May, September & November 2019

## The Costa Blanca Mountains

*Inland from the resorts of the Costa Blanca lies some of the best walking country in Spain. The sparsely populated mountains rise up to 3000ft and are a haven for wildlife including wild cats and genets, badgers and weasels and even golden eagles. Well maintained tracks along the rocky peaks and through lush valleys link traditional villages where the old Valencian lifestyle still prevails. Your holiday base in Calpe has a bit of everything – beautiful beaches, a lively and picturesque old town, stunning scenery in the shape of the immense Rock of Ifach and varied wildlife, both on the Rock and on the salt pans.*

• 7 nights hb in Calpe • 3 walks amid the mountainous hinterland • Optional excursion to Valencia

### PROGRAMME

**DAY ONE:** Flight to Alicante. Transfer to your hotel for seven nights half board accommodation. Transfer time one hour, depending on traffic.

**DAYS TWO TO SEVEN:** At leisure in Calpe with three included guided walks.

**Walk 1:** You will have a short coach transfer for the first included walk on the unspoilt Serra d'Oltà hills. You follow a circular route around the peak, mainly along good forestry tracks, with moderate ascents of approx 220m and just one short section of stony footpath. The route affords good views of the coast and surrounding mountains as it passes through pinewoods and moorland. You will make a stop at St Francis' hermitage. The walk is approx 5 miles.

**Walk 2:** 30-mile coach transfer to Famorca. Following the old road downhill through Famorca and another small village, you have the chance to explore the caves at La Cova. These caves have been in continuous use since the Palaeolithic period, most recently as a refuge for the villagers' sheep and goats. The route ascends along an ancient footpath until Castell de Castells comes into view. Passing two freshwater springs, and an ancient gypsum mill and kilns, there is the option of a short ascent to see some 1000 year old, but still productive, olive trees. Approaching Castell de Castells, you cross the medieval irrigation viaduct. Originally built by the Moors it is still in use today. 7 miles with ascents of 350m and descents of 600m.

**Walk 3:** 50-minute coach transfer to the start of the walk which will explore the Jalon Valley, famous for its vineyards, fine wines and the typical sweet white Mistela. The route starts from the summit of the Coll de Rates from where you have panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and the Tárben Valley, the Sierra de Ferrer and the Jalon Valley with its whitewashed villages, vineyards and citrus groves set out in neat rows. The route descends from the Coll de Rates along the old Royal Road that takes you down into the Jalon Valley. This footpath was the principal connection between the provincial capitals of Valencia and Alicante up until the early 20th century. You then

follow an easy footpath through pinewoods along the southern flanks with views of the valley below. In Jalon, you can visit one of the wine Bodegas. 6 miles with ascents of 80m and descents of 525m.

As well as the Rock of Ifach trail in Calpe, there is an eco-trail at the base of Ifach and two 'Voramar' paths in Calpe along the water's edge to Arenal-Bol beach and the marina of Les Bassetes. There will also be an optional full day excursion to the city of Valencia.

**DAY EIGHT:** Free time until departure for the airport and your flight home.

### YOUR HOTEL

**DIAMANTE BEACH HOTEL** ★★★★★, Calpe (seven nights)

The hotel is located just a few metres from the Levante Beach promenade. The hotel's modern style is characterised by its spectacular glass façade. Rooms are equipped with a full bathroom with hairdryer, air-conditioning, safety deposit box, mini-bar, telephone, satellite tv, wifi and internet connection, and large balcony. There are three outdoor pools, cafeteria, piano bar, and the Mediterranean cuisine buffet restaurant with "Show Cooking". The spa centre offers a large heated pool with a vast range of spa amenities. Our guests receive one free circuit of the spa consisting of 16 elements including hydromassage, turkish bath, ice fountain, thermal bath, jacuzzi, sauna and 5 different sorts of shower. ([www.diamantebeach.com](http://www.diamantebeach.com))

If you have friends who are not walkers interested in this itinerary, it is featured in our Escorted Holidays brochure with a touring programme.

