

The Gorge Walk

LENGTH: 15,8 km.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate.

TRAIL MARKS: Blue circles, Cream circles and Orange circles.

SUMMARY: You first follow the Castaño del Robledo Walk (blue circles), then follow the cream circles and for the final section of the walk (the Walk of the Watermills) orange circles.

Note: You do pass through a village, so you have to bring your own food and water.

DIRECTIONS: Turn right after passing through the Molino Rio gate. After 500 metres, just after the first junction, head down to the river. Bear right and cross the stream. Continue up the hill between two stone walls. As you crest the hill you will come to a stone alley on your right. Turn right here and continue straight through two iron gates (which may or may not be open), carry on between the two stone walls. A farm building will soon appear on your right followed shortly by a fork in the path (1,2 km). Go left at this junction, you are now on the official white/ yellow marked trail to Santa Ana (You will see both blue circles and white/yellow stripes for the same stretch until you have to turn left after crossing the river, here you have to follow the cream circles).

At a crossroads. (2,1 km) you reach Finca Manantial, note the blue circle on the tree, continue straight on.

Further on along the path you have to cross a river and here **IMPORTANTLY** turn left (3,1 km), follow the river down stream and start following the cream circles. At this point the Park authority has placed an official sign to identify the Castaño del Robledo-Rio Tinto sendero (path) and you should see above you a farm called Finca del Molino.

After 800 meters along this trail you can go left down to the river for a swim. Continuing on the trail you reach a natural viewing point (two rocky outcrops 4,7 km) bearing right here you go down and up through heather until reaching a T junction. Here you turn right walking up the hill, you will see a stone building ahead. Walk around the building and follow the path. At 6,4 km in the walk you will arrive at a crossroads, here turn left, note the cream circles (two) and official park authority sign-

Santa Ana la Real to Rio Tinto. Do not take the path to your right, this will lead you to Santa Ana la Real. At next junction take right fork (7,3 km), then turn left, keeping the stone wall on your right. Go through the gate (1) 7,9 km and enter meadows with holmoak and cork oaks. At next gate (2) 8,5 km turn right and at the third gate (3) 9,2 km walk straight along, cross a river and open the gate of Dehesa El Coto (4) 9,8 km, go through fifth gate (5) 9,9 km. A bit further on you will see a barn and silo in front of you on. Here turn right and go through sixth (6) gate 10,3 km. Keep the path on your right, you will see a sign of Finca El Villanes on your right (10,9 km), you now follow the orange circles for the Walk of the Watermills.

Carry on to the river on the sandy track for about 5 minutes. Just before reaching the river, you pass through a gate (7) 11,2 km and turn immediately left along the river bank. Note the orange circle is placed on a tree just before the gate. You will have the river on your right hand side. Eventually the trail will slope down to cross the river (12,1 km) A big tree has fallen over the river, which you can use as a bridge. Please take care when crossing. On the other side turn left and follow the trail alongside the river.

Note: Ignore the orange arrow pointing right, you have to follow the orange circles in reverse until you are back at Molino Rio Alajar. You will pass a rocky viewing point on your left 13,7 km, then shortly after a spring on your right which is safe to drink, (dry in summer) and 10 minutes further on a picnic table and another spring which is also safe to drink on your right 14,8 km, followed soon after by another picnic table on your left. You will pass a watermill undergoing reconstruction on your left 15,1 km. Next stop is Molino Rio Alajar at 15,8 km.