

# The Mountaintop Walk

**LENGTH:** 5,8 km.

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate.

**TRAIL MARKS:** Purple circles and Yellow circles.

**COMMENTS:** A great short walk to the top of the mountain, behind the Hermitage, this trek provides views of Alajar and the entire valley and is a spectacular way to orient yourself to the area. You will get a perspective of the walks you have taken so far and will be able to see where the Molino Rio Alajar sits in the scheme of things.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left after passing through the gate. Walk down the path to cross the river and bear left. Follow the purple trailmarks into the village. Entering the village (1,2 km) you pass the Guardia Civil on your right. The name of this street is San Antonio. At the end of the street turn left into Calle Colon and then turn right into San Bartholome walking past the church on your right down to the village square, 1,4 km in the walk. Leave the square on Calle Alta, the street name shortly changes to Calle Rosales as you head uphill away from the square. Pass Calle Fregenal de la Sierra on your right. At the end of a stonewall topped with barbed wire on your right hand, you turn right on a stone track. Proceed uphill along a cobbled path, bounded by stonewalls. At the end of the cobbled path you reach the road. Cross the road and head down a narrow alley, between a farm building on the left and a stonewall on the right directly on front of you. At this point you have travelled 400 metres from the square.

Coming to the main road, turn left and after 25 metres turn left onto a wide cobbled path and head uphill towards La Peña de Arias Montano.

**Note:** this is the path that celebrants use to ride and walk up to the hermitage of the Virgen de los Angeles.

At the end of the cobbled road turn left and proceed to the entrance of the Hermitage. Walk onto the plaza lined with a bar (open weekends) and restaurant (open weekly for lunch hours except Mondays) and shops on the right.

Proceed straight through the plaza and onto the grassy park. Bear right and take the path that goes in between the wooden fences. From now

on its uphill until you reach the top. At 370 meters from the grassy park turn right (Purple Circle on tree), 300 metres along you pass a stone bench on your right and another 450 metres ahead you reach the Top with a Park explanation board. Spectacular views.

Return to the cottages by reversing your route or use the last part of the Hippy Hike to go home. Herefore bear right again when you have come down to the grassy park of the Hermitage. Bear right. After 100 metres you go between a stone gate on your left and a large cork oak on your right. Bear left at the next fork marked by a yellow circle. We continue downhill, with more great views overlooking Alajar and surroundings. 400 metres after the La Peña junction turn right (wooden banks) and shortly after turn left, cross a stream. Another 400 metres and you will arrive at the Calabacino Hermitage. Here turn left, downhill, pass a fountain on your left, cross a stream and finally you reach the Alajar road. Walk into Alajar to the main square. (bars and restaurants). You should recognise the square and walk home 1,2 km to go.