

The Castaño Walk

LENGTH: 15 km.

TIME: 4 to 5 hours.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate.

TRAIL MARKS: Blue dots with black arrows, Horizontal White and Yellow Lines (PR Pequeño Recorrido).

COMMENTS: This is a walk of wonderfully varied terrain, comprised of lush green orchards bounded by stone walls, arid hilltops and Roman roads running beneath giant cork oaks. It is possible to have lunch and beer in Castaño, but the bars close after 15.00 hours.

Finally, when the blue trail marks appear together with the other trail marks, follow the blue ones.

DIRECTIONS: Turn right after passing through the gate. Continue down the path passing Monica's and Peter Jan's mill. After 400 metres, just after the first junction, go heading down to the river. Bear right and cross the river. 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), carrying on between the two stone walls. A farm building will soon appear on your right followed shortly by a fork in the path. Go left at the junction, you are now on the officially white-yellow marked trail to Santa Ana (3 km to go). Half way you cross a river and a farm/mill El Molino will appear on your left. At this point ignore the trail on the right, go straight forward uphill, blue dot.

About half a km, before reaching Santa Ana you turn right and walk in the direction of the main road, which you will reach after some hundred meters...

(If you want to visit the village of Santa Ana (two bars) follow the official signs and come back later the same way.)

Cross the main road at the bus stop and continue on your way to Castaño del Robledo.

You are again on an official white-yellow marked trail and have to follow this all the way to Castaño

del Robledo. At approximately one third of the way, after crossing a wooden bridge you will have the possibility to turn left and have a look at a waterfall (20 minutes detour). At this point the trail goes uphill for a long way.

Arriving in Castaño del Robledo follow the signs for Plaza del Alamo. Here you arrive at the main square, where you will find the church and two bars.

After refreshments walk uphill on Calle Arias Montano for about 60 meters, here turn right down a small alley. A park sign will appear immediately, turn left. Go uphill for about 1,5 km. This is a beautiful part of the walk beneath a canopy of trees. When you reach the top, go straight down through the chestnut forest all the way to Alajar. Never go left or right. You will pass a farmgate on the right with the name Navarro, a bit further the path narrows and you have to follow a rather narrow washed out gully, walking through mixed forest. As you descend into the hippy village, the Roman road reappears and becomes quite intact. You will round a small church, hermitage and head further down, pass a fountain on your left. A little further you arrive at the entrance of Alajar.

Walk down the main street and at the end you will reach the main square, here turn right, pass the church, walk down the steps and at the bottom of the street, take calle Peligros cross the bridge at the bottom and follow the trail back to the Molino. 1,2km to go.