

The Hippy Hike

LENGTH: 13,5 km.

TIME: 3 to 4 hours.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate.

TRAIL MARKS: Yellow dots.

COMMENTS: Round trip through the hamlet El Calabacino, Known as the hippy village and Castaño del Robledo Bars in Castaño.

DIRECTIONS: Turn right after passing through the gate of the casas rurales, after 500 meters turn right, ignore the blue dot(This is the Castaño del Robledo walk)and continue on the path straight ahead. You will soon see a chicken farm on your right. do not turn left to the road,but walk on, a little further you reach the asphalt road, turn left and you will reach the main road.Here cross the road, see yellow dot marker on your right and walk uphill on the trail. When you reach the top of this hill,you will see the church/hermitage of El Calabacino and thats where you head to. Cross a (dry) stream, walnut orchard on the right. You have entered the hamlet. About 600 meters after reaching the top, you should arrive at the Hermitage, large stone building with a cross on the roof (about 2 km in the walk) and here turn left uphill around the hermitage. From now on is a long way uphill direccion Castaño del Robledo, some parts on cobbled stones and some bad streches (erosion). You will pass a gate on the left with the name Ignacio Navarro and arrive at the chestnut forest. The path broadens. Just before the summit, there is a fork,go straight uphill to the top (5,2 km in the walk). Walk down and important stay on the narrow path on the left and ignore the wider path next to it. In the distance you can see the village and castle of Cortegana. You reach Castaño del Robledo in calle Arias Montano (6km).

Turn left for drinks and right to continue the walk. At the end of calle Arias Montano you will see an old olive mill in ruins on your right and a little thereafter the water treatment plant. Continue ahead over a steep narrow path,this is the toughest part in the walk (300 meters). Keep the stone wall on your left, untill you reach the top. Here take the main road straight forward HU 8114 for 600 meters, than turn right on a gravel and concrete path, chestnut forest on either side. Pass Finca La Notaria and you will reach a junction, turn right

uphill, 300 meters further ou will reach a new junction, here turn left,you have reached the highest point in the walk, Great views (8,3 km in the walk).

From now on the walk goes downhill to Alajar. After 1 km there is a new fork, here take the right narrower path. You walk through a mixed forest. Another km on the path and you have a choice: The yellow marked trail goes right down hill, but you can also go straight forward and arrive after 300 meters at La Peña de Arias Montano, bar and restaurant. Here you can also take the Top of the Mountain Walk (1 hour extra).

We continue downhill, with more great views overlooking Alajar and surroundings.

400 meters after the La Peña junction turn right (wooden banks) and shortly after turn left cross the stream. Another 400 meters and you will arrive at the Calabacino Hermitage again. 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(12 km). Plenty of bars to be found. To come back to your cottage, pass the church, walk down the steps, down the Calle Peligros, cross the bridge at the bottom on your right and continue your walk on the path in front of you, water treatment plant on you right.

1 more km to go, straight on and you are back at the Molino.