

The Large Walk

LENGTH: 21 km.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate by virtue of length.

TRAIL MARKS: Purple circles. Red and White horizontal Lines (GR) and Yellow-White horizontal lines (GR).

COMMENTS: The first part of the walk is the same as The Top of the Mountain Walk. If you are ambitious, you can combine them for a very long day.

DIRECTIONS: Turn left after passing through the gate of the Casas Rurales. Walk down the path to cross the river and bear left. At the end of the path you will see the sign for Molino Rio Alajar 400 metres, keep left on the paved road for 70 metres and take the path on your right which takes you to Alajar. Entering the village you pass the Guardia Civil on your right. The name of the 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 the stonewall barbed with wire on your right hand you turn right onto 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 in front of you. At this point you travelled 400 metres from the square. Coming to the main road, turn left and after 25 metres turn left again onto a wide cobbled path and head uphill towards La Pena (note this is the path: that celebrants use to ride and walk up to the Virgin 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, restaurant and stalls on the right.

Proceed straight through the plaza and into the grassy park. Bear right, but do not take the trail for El Mirador, which goes uphill (This is The Top of the Mountain Walk). Continue until you reach a Park explanation board: Sendero el Calabacino and follow this for 200 metres. The Calabacino Walk now turns left downhill (yellow circle), but you continue straight on. After another 200 metres

take the smaller path on your right. Its uphill now, the path broadens and from this point its rather steep until you reach the top. Here turn right, descending through a beautiful chestnut orchard and you come to a fork, bear right here. This is the junction with the Castaño del Robledo trail on your left. At this point you have come 1,2km from the hermitage.

After another 1,1 km turn left, just before a stone building on your right and then 200 metres further on turn right onto a smaller path continuing uphill with a fence on your right. At the top of the hill there is a pine forest on your left, continue on and soon you will see the village of Fuenteheridos below you. Turn right at the bottom of the trail and cross the main road. After 60 metres take the path on your left uphill, pass the cemetery and head towards the church and turn right into Calle Fuente to arrive at the main square of Fuenteheridos. Plaza El Coso 7,5 km in the walk, bars and restaurants to choose from.

Do not miss seeing the 12 fountains on the square which flow all year round in part explains the name of the town.

Cross the square keeping the fountains on your left and enter Calle El Camino de los Marines, keep the football field on your right until you reach the busy Portugal-Sevilla road after 600 metres Cross the road with care and you should see a Park explanation board. Follow the Sendero (path) to Aracena until you reach the village of Los Marines. The red and white park trail marks become very elaborate (wooden boards reading Sendero or path in Spanish) and should guide you all the way to Los Marines (4km from Fuenteheridos).

Coming into Los Marines on Barrio Alto. Walk downhill towards the church. Ignore the white and red lines now, as these continue to Aracena.

Keep the church on your left hand and. at the end of this street turn right into Calle Fuente. At the end of the street (note the old public washing place on your left). turn right for about 500 metres walking on the entrance road of Los Marines. Just before hitting the highway go parallel on the old asphalt road on your right for 100 metres, then cross the road and take the trail in front of you.

The trail to Linares starts at the west end of the

quarry. Another explanation board appears: Sendero Alto de Chorrito. Follow this trail, first walking uphill and when you reach the top turn left (700 metres from the road) and descend to Linares. The village remains invisible behind the hills. Turn right on the road (1,6 km from the top) and after 100 metres cross the road to continue down to Linares. Another 1,3 km and turn right at the fork, than shortly after left and right again. You enter the village and head for the church and bull ring There are a few bars and restaurants here. When walking towards the church, you will find another Park sign board and a marker Sendero Linares-Alajar 300 metres. Walk to the bottom of the village via Calle Arrieros. In this street you will find an excellent restaurant with the same name. Find a new Park explanation board Sendero Linares-Madroneros-Alajar and follow these signs. After crossing a river walk uphill for 1 km to reach the top and a gate with the name Maria Lozana on your left.

500 metres ahead you see an abandoned house on your left and now its better to leave the path and go round the house, avoiding brambles on the path..Cross the stream and walk uphill. Just after the top turn right. There should be a sign Caracol –Alajar sendero. If you want the quicker route to your cottage, go straight on and follow what are now the red trail markers in reverse.

Follow the Caracol trail for 2 km and turn right on the junction into Alajar(left goes to Los Madroneros). Alajar will come into sight very soon now. Head to the church and here right for bars and restaurants at the main square. Turn left after the church if you want to go straight to Molino Rio. At the end of the street go down the steps on your right and walk down calle Peligros, at the bottom cross the bridge on your right and walk back the way you came earlier on (still 1,2 km to go).