

The Linares Walk

LENGTH: 15 km.

TIME: 3,5 to 4 hours.

DIFFICULTY: Easy to moderate.

TRAIL MARKS: Red circles.

COMMENTS: Another great first walk through the beautiful village of Linares and the intriguing, abandoned hamlet of Los Madroñeros.

DIRECTIONS: Walk through the gate off the Inn and turn left. Cross the bridge and bear left past the monument on your right. After 400 metres turn right, sign Molino RioAlajar and walk on for about 800 metres and turn left following the trail sign posted Los Madroneros. On the outskirts of the village take a right at the fuente publico (water fountain) which is 3,5 km in the walk. Entering the hamlet you pass the front door of the church and then turn right walking on until you see yellow and white trailmarks on the wall on your right.

When you arrive at a fork in the path keep left and walk uphill passing the Finca Mailozana gate on your right, shortly afterwards you reach a wire gate which may or may not be open-if necessary, open and close it and continue the walk.

Just before the top of the hill 5 km in the walk you arrive at a junction, carry straight on, ignoring the signpost for the Caracol trail on your left which would lead you on an alternative walk back to Alajar. Pass a second gate on your right marked Finca Mailozana.

Cross the (dry) stream. At this point you leave the official trail for a short time to avoid the brambles going around the abandoned house to come back to the trail again.

You do this by going right after the stream and after 20 metres follow the path on the left, passing the house to continue across the field and rejoin the trail (5,6km).

After the Maria Lozana gate continue down the path (6,2km) and cross the river to follow the path into Linares (7,5 km).

Head towards the church and bull ring for bars and drinks or treat yourself to lunch in one of the best

restaurants in the Sierra called Los Arrieros in calle Arrieros.

At the main square (bullring) you will see an official park sign board plus a sign for the Linares-Alajar walk. Follow this back, around the church and look for another Park sign board Sendero Linares-Alajar at the end of the street. Follow the trail climbing steadily to the top of the track (11,6km) where you go close to the road. Take the stairs on your left leading you up to a bench, follow the sign down the path away from the road,keep on the path and you will arrive in Alajar (13,6 km).

Walk down calle Rafael Montesinos heading towards the church (turn right at the front of the church for bars and food or left if you want to go back to Molino Rio).

Pass the front of the church and at the end of the street take the steps down on your right and walk into calle Peligros. At the end of the street turn right, cross the bridge and walk straight on to Molino Rio Alajar (1,2 km to go).