

GAUCÍN ROUTE VI: LA UMBRÍA



This is one of the flatter walks around Gaucín, and a great introduction to the area. There are lovely views across the valley to the village of Cortes de la Frontera on the first section, and views of Gaucín and Gibraltar on the final section. Most of the walk is shady so it is a good choice for the summer months.

The route is marked with Roman numeral VI (on ceramic plaques), and also with two blue stripes of paint. Part of the walk follows the GR141 (marked with red/white/yellow stripes).

Please close all gates, whether you find them open or closed. There is an abundance of loose livestock on our routes (sheep, goats, pigs, cows) and you are reminded that according to Spanish law it is obligatory to keep dogs on a lead in public spaces at all times. Wear suitable footwear and carry sufficient water, especially in the summer months.

Difficulty	: Easy	Terrain	: Tracks and paths
Time	: 1 hour 30 minutes	Ascent/descent	: 185m
Distance	: 6 Kms	Wikiloc ID	: 38745009

THE WALK: Start at the bandstand and children's park "Parque Antonio Godino" which is just outside Gaucín on the main road going towards Ronda.

With the bandstand and park on your left, walk along the main road. Ignore a track going down to the left by a sign: "Ruta V - Garganta Las Palas" and continue on the main road past a signpost indicating the GR141 and routes to Estación Cortes. In a couple of minutes you see the Mirador de Gaucín on the right and will pass a GR141 marker post on the left.

Leave the main road and take the track to the left by a blue and white arrow road sign and a "Ruta VI, La Umbría" plaque. The track passes to the left of a metal gate and goes between two fences. Just after a grey metal gate below you on the left, the path splits. **Take the right fork uphill** (waymarked by two blue lines on a rock and a rock with the Roman numeral VI).

The track then becomes a footpath and starts climbing slowly through cork oak trees with views to El Hacho mountain and the Alcornocales National Park. Ignore any off-shoots to private properties and stay on the main path. It is quite narrow at times, with a steep drop to the left - so be careful! Stay on the main path, which follows the contour line until you meet a wire and post gate with a red and white waymark. *This is about 20 minutes from the start of the walk.*

Pass through the gate and stay at the same level, keeping a fence on your left. After a couple of minutes the path splits. Ignore the path that drops down to the left, and **take the right fork**, which climbs upwards by two white lines and a GR141 marker post. Continue on the narrow path ahead, passing another GR141 marker post. The path winds around the end of the valley, then climbs a little to join a forestry track. Turn left onto the track. *(There is a post with a red/white "do not enter" cross on the right).*

After a further 5 minutes on this lovely forest track you will arrive at a large metal gate. *This is about 30 minutes from the start of the walk.*

GAUCÍN ROUTE VII: THE ROUTE OF GUZMÁN EL BUENO



This is a good walk ideal for introducing you to the delights of walking around Gaucín. There is a steady climb back up to the village at the end of the walk.

The route passes the battle site where Pérez de Guzmán, known as Guzmán el Bueno (“Guzmán the Good”), died on September 17, 1309 during the siege of the castle of Gaucín. The route is marked with Roman numeral VII on ceramic plaques, and also with two blue stripes of paint. The first part of the walk overlaps with Route VIII (Molino del Capitán), and the final part overlaps with Route III (La Adelfilla).

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Difficulty	: Easy	Terrain	: Rough paths and vehicle tracks
Time	: 1 hour 30 minutes	Wikiloc ID	: 49395648
Distance	: 5 Kms		
Ascent/descent	: 230m		

THE WALK: The walk starts at Bar El Portesuelo, at the end of Calle Los Bancos and just past Supermercado Ruiz Galan. Walk uphill past Bar El Portesuelo for a minute and take the first track off to the left, marked with “Ruta VII Guzmán el Bueno” and “Ruta VIII Molino del Capitán” signs.

Follow the track as it winds its way down the hillside. After about 10 minutes you will arrive at a junction by an ochre-coloured house on the left and a white electricity box. **Take the right fork, heading downhill**, below the crags and cliffs to which the castle and the *ermita* (chapel) cling precariously. The track continues to descend past a few buildings amidst olive and almond trees.

After another 15 minutes, and shortly after passing gateposts and a large black metal gate on the left, the track rises slightly then descends again. There is an open field ahead, and a small white house to your left. Stay on the track and follow it as it curves to the left, but then **just before the small white house you should LEAVE the main track, taking a smaller path which passes to the right of the metal gate in front.**

The path goes between two fences, then narrows and becomes stony, and then passes large rocks. As you emerge from the woods you join a wider track with a house to your right and a wall made of large boulders. In another few minutes you arrive at a junction by gates to a large house called “Posada Romana” and a tall green electricity box.

Take the right fork and continue uphill on the main track, passing an old quarry on your left and “Finca Isabel” on your right. After about 10 minutes you arrive at a junction. **Turn right and uphill**, passing the entrance to “Finca Alborán” and start the final steep but steady climb.

After 5 minutes you come over a ridge and are rewarded for your efforts with a fine view of Gaucín. The track flattens briefly and then climbs again. After a further 5 minutes, **at a junction with two electricity pylons, follow the main track, which curves around to the left.** After another 10 minutes you will arrive at the centre of the village by the pharmacy and bar La Esquinita.

GAUCÍN ROUTE XIV: "RUTA DE LOS ARRIEROS" - ROUTE OF THE MULETEERS



A short but wonderful walk, which can be done in both directions. It includes two ancient stony paths used by villagers and their mules for centuries. You will follow the first part of a route called "Camino Piedras del Río". The walk is suitable in summer if done early in the morning as it has the sun on the descent but will be shady for the climb back to the village.

The route is marked with Roman numeral XIV on ceramic plaques, and also with two blue stripes of paint.

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Difficulty	: Moderate	Terrain	: uneven rocky paths and tracks, some steep sections
Time	: 1 hour 30 minutes	Wikiloc ID	: 51941603
Distance	: 3 Kms		
Ascent/descent	: 190m		

THE WALK: Start at the church of San Sebastián in Calle Larga. With the church on your left, walk to the next junction a few metres away, where there is a row of signs including a green sign saying "Camino Piedras del Río". **Go downhill on Calle Arrabaleta.**

At the bottom of the street go straight ahead down a ramp towards a large new white house then left past a row of garages to follow a rocky path between walls and carob trees. This is the Camino Piedras del Río, the first of the two mule paths on this route. After 2-3 minutes of walking on the level with a fence on your right, the path starts a zigzag descent with some good views to Gibraltar and the coast.

After 15-20 minutes on the rocky mule path, you arrive at a driveable track. **Turn right** and follow this wider track downhill for about 10 minutes more. Just after passing a track to the left leading to a smart gate, the track rises slightly then descends again. You will see a more open field ahead and a wire gate, and a white house to your left.

Before the track bends around to the left, LEAVE THE TRACK and take a stony path to the right up a steep rocky slope and marked with blue paint - this is the second of the two mule paths.

After 10 minutes of climbing gently on the rocky path, look for a large carob tree by some rocks on the right hand side, opposite a gate made of dark brown corrugated iron. If you look carefully on the right by the carob tree there is a small opening in a rock. This is the entrance to the Cueva del Órgano, a 165 metre cave with a depth of 13 meters, so called because the rock structure inside the cave is shaped like organ pipes.

Continue up the path, passing through a wire gate, until you arrive at a more open area with a large oil drum full of stones ahead. **Keep right here on the obvious path.** After passing through another gate made of an old bed frame you will arrive at a junction.

Turn right and follow the path uphill, which becomes grassy with meadow flowers on either side. It then joins a concrete track and winds past some farm buildings and allotments. When you reach a white wall ahead, **turn left.** At the next corner **turn right and uphill towards a rough brick building**, and after one final bend you enter the village on Calle Casares. At the next corner by a water fountain, go straight on here up and uphill to emerge at the Town Hall and Bar Zorro, where you can enjoy some welcome refreshments.