

Gaucín Route VI: La Umbría

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

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 leave all gates as you find them: keep dogs on a lead whenever livestock is loose and when passing near or through private property. Wear suitable footwear and carry sufficient water, especially in the summer months.

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 roadsign 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.

Pass through the metal gate and follow the track, which widens and offers good views to the left of the village of Cortes de la Frontera at the foot of the Sierra de Los Pinos. After approximately 15 minutes you pass a junction with a wire gate and a track going up the hill behind you. Stay on the main track ahead.

Shortly after this you see a “Tramo V” sign on a tree, indicating one of the municipal forestry areas, and then pass an old goat farm building on your left. *This is about 50 minutes from the start of the walk.*

Stay on the main track, which climbs steadily for 10 minutes and passes chestnut trees, until you reach a **junction opposite a stone water trough, where you should turn right onto the larger track** and follow it uphill through more chestnut trees. Ignore the option to the right (there is a red/white “X”) and instead bear left and uphill to large metal gates, a cattlegrid and a sign “Ruta VI - La Umbría”.

If you have children or dogs take care because the main road is just on the other side of the gates. *Approximately 1 hour to the gates.*

Pass over the cattlegrid and through the gates, then turn immediately right.

On the left is a marker post with a red/white “X” on the post. (*This is indicating that you are leaving the GR141 route, which now goes in a different direction*). There is also a low rock on the right with a ceramic “VI” sign.

From here the route is all downhill!

Follow this good track, which passes to the left of gates to Finca ‘La Umbria’. There are fantastic views to the left over the Genal Valley and towards Sierra Bermeja, Sierra Crestellina, Gibraltar and Gaucín castle.

Ignore any side-turnings to private properties and keep on the main track, which goes gently downhill. As the main road below and to your left gets closer, you meet brushwood gates to a property ahead, and the driveable track ends.

Go to the left of the brushwood gates on a small path, which goes between bushes and then descends via a steep track to the main road.

Turn right and walk along the main road; in 5 minutes you will be back at the bandstand where you began the walk.