

Gaucín Route VIII: Camino Molino del Capitán

Difficulty: Medium
Time: 2 hours 30 minutes
Distance: 8 Kms
Terrain: rough paths and tracks, some sections of steep descent
Ascent/descent: 350 m
Wikiloc ID: 51318777

This route follows the first part of an ancient route to the Molino del Capitán on the river Genal. Instead of going all the way down to the river it returns to Gaucín through the Jarraqueque estate. There are spectacular views in all directions.

Part of the route is marked with two blue stripes of paint.

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: 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 a “Ruta VII Camino Molino del Capitán” sign.

(NB July 2020; this is not correct and should read “Ruta VIII Camino Molino del Capitán”)

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 with a grey seal toy on the right. **Take the left fork, and then a minute later go right by a tall white electricity box with green doors.** Follow the rough track downhill, past a ruined archway on the right, a fence and then a house on the left.

At the next junction there is a Roman numeral “VII” and a sign to “Finca El Paraíso” on the left. **Here take the middle option** - go straight on and steeply downhill on a rocky path. Pass through a ramshackle gate made of bedsprings and continue downwards. The track makes a loop to the right and then to the left, passing some farm buildings.

When you arrive at a small open area with two gates (a large metal gate on the right to a private property, and a smaller wire gate straight ahead) **pass through the smaller wire gate straight ahead** and continue downhill on a narrow stony path. Pass through another wire gate and then just after the gate take care to keep left on the main path at a small fork. In another minute or two the path meets a wider vehicle track.

Turn right onto the track. Ignore any left or right turnings to private properties and walk downhill on the vehicle track, passing through a large grey metal gate in the middle of the track (which may be open). After about 5 minutes on the vehicle track you arrive at what seems to be a “dead end”, with a private property on the right.

Go straight ahead to the left of a pile of logs and you will see a small path going down to a stream bed. Go down the small path and up the other side, past a metal bridge. Follow the path around the hillside to a pigsty and a metal gate on the left with a sign “Coto Privado de Caza”. There are two blue stripes on the gate. **Pass through this metal gate** and follow the path.

At a small open area the path bears to the right and uphill, following around the corner of a fence on the right.

At another small open area where the way is unclear keep straight ahead, dropping down slightly and then follow the fence corner around to the right.

This ancient path is stony and narrow at first and then widens out through woods. **At a fork keep to the wide and clear route on the left**, and then you soon meet a vehicle track below.

Turn left onto the vehicle track. You are now in the Jarraqueque estate. Stay on the main track, which climbs steadily to a junction. *About 1 hour to the junction.*

Turn left at the junction and walk uphill towards a white building you can see ahead – a goat farm. The track curves around to the left past the goat farm. Stay on this track, which climbs steadily for about 20 minutes until you arrive at a ridge and a junction of three tracks by a stone water trough.

Take the track to the left of the water trough (i.e. straight ahead from the track you came up from the goat farm). This section has great views in all directions. Stay on the main track, past two junctions (both with options to the left and downhill). After about 20 minutes from the water trough you will arrive at a third junction.

At this third junction LEAVE the main track and go left and downhill on the smaller track.

If you miss this third junction then in less than 5 minutes you arrive at a very large metal gate with a ladder to the side, and you should turn round and return to the junction.

You are now following a lovely path through pine trees. There is wild lavender here in the spring. The path curves around to the left by a streambed, and then generally follows the contour line. There are some steep drops to the left so take care.

After you see a fence and a private property on the right of the fence, the path descends very steeply for a few minutes and can be slippery.

When the steep descent flattens out and then starts to climb uphill, look up to the right to see a metal gate. Leave the path and climb up here to pass through the metal gate.

Follow the concrete track uphill, ignoring any side turns to private properties, and in 10-15 minutes you arrive at the main road.

Turn left to return to bar El Portesuelo.