

Gaucín Route VII: The Route of Guzmán el Bueno

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

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).

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.

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 with a grey seal toy on the right. **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.