

Gaucín Route XIII: Venta Socorro to La Claridad

Difficulty: Easy Time: 1 hour 30 minutes Distance: 5 Kms Terrain: rough paths and tracks Ascent/descent: 150m Wikiloc ID: 38402639

A short - but very pretty - walk which passes through pine and cork oak forests and offers beautiful views of the surrounding countryside.

The walk begins opposite bar “Venta El Socorro” by the bus stop. The last part of this walk overlaps with Route V.

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 bus stop on the main Gaucin to Ronda road, opposite bar “Venta El Socorro” which is near the car parking area and recycling bins. You can reach the bus stop from the centre of the village via an alley to the left beyond the Unicaja bank and passing by Bar Otolao.

Take a rough downhill track, which begins to the right of the bus stop. Take a moment to turn round and admire the arches of the bridge. You pass a few gates to farm properties but keep on the main track. There is a conifer plantation on the left. After about 10 minutes the path crosses a streambed by a fence ahead and then bears right and uphill via a grassy gully, until it meets a driveable track at a junction.

**Take note of this junction because you will return here later in the walk.*

Go straight ahead and follow the driveable track downhill past an old bath in the field. Stay on this track for about 5 minutes, ignoring any side options to private properties, until you see a fence straight ahead and the path turns sharp left and uphill, by the fence. There are pine trees on the right.

After the path bears round to the right you will see a wire gate ahead and the rocky path goes downhill to the right of the gate. Soon after this, the path enters woods and becomes a little indistinct at a small fork. It doesn't matter whether you take the right hand (lower) option of paths, or the left hand (upper) option, which goes up to a fence – both small paths join up again in 2-3 minutes and become a wider track.

Follow this lovely woodland path to a large metal gate. (Ignore a smaller wire gate to the right with a faint blue arrow). **Pass through the large metal gate and keep walking on the main track.**

This metal gate is usually unlocked but should be pushed shut after passing through.

After 2-3 minutes the track bears around to the left and then climbs steeply for another 5 minutes. You will reach a large metal gate ahead and a lot of barking dogs by a woodyard below on the left.

Ignore the sign on the gate saying “Prohibido el paso, Propiedad Privada” and **pass through the gate**. If it is locked (rarely) you can pass through a smaller wire gate to the right.

Pass a wooden building on the right and then a sign to “Finca La Claridad” and stay on the concrete track as it winds uphill to the village, passing several private properties.

When you reach a T-junction with a large builders yard ahead and some chickens on your left, there are two options:

Option 1: (the complete walk) turn left and follow the track downhill for 5 minutes. You will arrive at the corner * from earlier in the walk. Turn right down the grassy gully and re-trace your steps to the bus stop.

Option 2: (less climbing) turn right and stay on the concrete track to arrive at the petrol station. Turn left and walk along the main road to return to the bus stop. Or go straight across the road from the petrol station to enter the village by Bar El Chaparro.