

## Gaucín Route V: Garganta Las Palas

Difficulty: Medium  
Time: 2 hrs 30 minutes  
Distance: 9 Kms  
Terrain: rough tracks and paths  
Ascent/descent: 290m  
Wikiloc ID: 49906882

*This walk covers part of the ancient route between Gaucín to Cortes de la Frontera, the village you can see on the other side of the Guadiaro valley.*

*The route is marked with Roman numeral V (on ceramic plaques), and also with two blue stripes of paint. The last part of this walk overlaps with Route XIII.*

*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.*

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**THE WALK:** Start at the bandstand and children's park "Parque Antonio Godino" which is just outside Gaucín on the main Algeciras to Ronda road. With the bandstand and park on your left, walk along the main road. Take the first track going down to the left by a large faded signboard: "Muebles Las Palas" and a sign: "Ruta V – Garganta Las Palas". There is a signpost on the right. Follow the concrete track, ignoring the numerous entrances and tracks off this track and continue downwards. After about 20 minutes the track goes to the right and uphill with green tarpaulin fencing ahead. On the right is a smart dark green/black metal gate to a private property.

**DO NOT keep following the track here but instead turn left onto a smaller path - marked with a Roman numeral 'V' -** which goes steeply downhill and then widens, with a fence on your left. Pass through a gate. After the gate the fence on your left goes downhill to the left, but make sure you continue straight on, into the woods where the path is well defined and passes through trees between two low banks. There is a yellow arrow on an old tree.

Continue on this lovely path for about 10 minutes, descending gently through cork oaks. Start to look out for a track lower down on the left through the trees. **When you come to a junction in the path, follow the main path around to the left.** (There is a lone pine tree amongst the oaks straight ahead). Within 5 minutes you will have joined the much larger track below. There is a sign in the trees that says 'Camino Gaucín a Cortes'. **Turn left onto the large track**, marked by Roman numeral V and follow it for about 30 minutes until you reach a junction.

**At the junction turn left onto the upper track.** After about 10 - 15 minutes **take the left fork** where the track splits, and follow this track downhill to a gully where the track deteriorates. As the track climbs again you zig-zag up the hillside through oak woods and pines, eventually reaching a wire gate ahead.

**Go through the gate, turn right onto the track** and then walk for 5 minutes steeply uphill on the main track. 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, **turn right** and stay on the concrete track to arrive at the petrol station.