

## Gaucin Walks VI: La Umbría

Difficulty: Easy

Time: 1h 30m

Terrain: Tracks and paths

*This is one of the flatter walks around Gaucin, and a great introduction to the area. There are lovely views across the valley to Cortes de la Frontera on the first section, and views of Gaucin and Gibraltar on the final section. Part of the walk is shady so it is a good choice for the summer months.*

*The walk overlaps with the GR141 (red/white markers) and some of the walk is marked with two blue 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.*

*We welcome any feedback/comments to: [gaucindaywalks@gmail.com](mailto:gaucindaywalks@gmail.com)*

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**THE WALK:** Start at the bandstand and childrens park “Parque Antonio Godino” which is just outside Gaucin on the main Algeciras to Ronda road.

With the bandstand, play park and a small aviary on your left, walk up the main road towards Ronda. Ignore a track going down to the left by a large signboard: “Muebles Las Palas” and a sign: “Ruta V – Garganta Las Palas” and walk past a signpost indicating the GR141 and routes to Estacion Cortes. Continue on the main road for a couple of minutes until you see the Mirador de Gaucín on the right.

Take the next track off to the left, marked “Ruta VI, La Umbría”. The track is opposite the far end of the Mirador by a blue and white arrow roadsign. You will see a large rock ahead on the path and a green metal gate to the right. Pass to the left of the gate and follow the path, which goes between two fences. Just after a locked 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 few metres on, by 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!

At a small gully bear round to the left, staying on the main path which follows the contour line. You will soon 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 which drops down to the left and take the right fork, which climbs upwards. After a few metres you see a rock with two blue lines and white and red waymarks.

Ignore a steep path going up to the right (there is a post with a red/white “X” here but it has fallen over) and continue on the narrow footpath ahead. You soon pass a post on the right with red/white waymarks to reassure you that you are on the correct path. This narrow path winds around the end of the valley, then climbs a little to join a forestry track. Turn left onto the track. After a further 5 minutes you will arrive at a pair of large rusty metal gates. The gates may be shut with wire/string and should be left as you found them. *This gate is about 30 minutes from the start of the walk.*

The track widens and follows the contour line round the side of the hill, with 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; there are two blue stripes on the rock on the right. 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.*

The track now climbs steadily for 5 minutes and you reach a junction opposite a stone water trough. Turn right onto the larger track and follow it uphill through the chestnut trees. Ignore the option to the right (there is a red/white “X”) and instead bear left to two large metal gates signed “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. *1 hour to the gates.*

Pass through the gates, making sure you leave them shut, then turn immediately right up a small track, next to a large signboard saying “Gaucin, Balcon de la Serranía”. On the left is a marker post with a red/white “X” on the post. You can ignore this, as it is indicating that the GR141 route (which goes to Benarraba) goes in a different direction. There is also a yellow/white marker on the same post, and if you look carefully a low rock on the right with a ceramic “VI” sign.

So follow this good track and keep to the left of a pair of large metal 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. As the main road below gets closer, you meet brush-wood gates to a property ahead, and the driveable track ends. Go to the left of the gates on a small narrow path, which goes between bushes and then descends via a steep rocky gully 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.