

Gaucin Walks XIV: Around Gaucín

Difficulty: Medium

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Terrain: rough paths and tracks

This is a good walk ideal for introducing you to the delights of walking around Gaucín. There is a long shallow climb towards the end of the walk.

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

THE WALK: The walk starts at Unicaja bank in the centre of Gaucín. Go past the bank leaving it on your left following the main street, Calle San Juan de Dios round to the left where it becomes Calle Los Bancos. After approx. 200m you will come to a roundabout. Turn right into Calle Nueva, past Bar Portesuelo. After approx. 50 metres of climbing uphill take the track off to the left, marked with a “VII Molino del Capitan” sign.

Follow the track as it winds its way down the hillside. After approx. 500m you will see a house called Finca de las Cuevas on your right. In another 150m or so the road splits opposite an ochre-coloured house. Take the right fork, heading downhill, below the crags and cliffs to which the castle and the *ermita* (chapel) cling precariously. The track continues its descent past a few scattered buildings and barking dogs amidst olive and almond trees.

After approx. 2km the track splits with a small house on the left; take the right, slightly less obvious track that heads downhill passing the large metal gate to the house. The track reduces from being a vehicular route to a mule track and then a footpath, which winds through large rocks. As the path widens out again you will see a large house 100m to your left and a concrete path to small house to your right. In another 50m you will see the driveway to the large house, Posada Romana. The track splits here and you take the right fork.

Continue up the concrete track, which after approx. 50m, gives way to gravel after passing over a stream. You will pass an old quarry on your left and have views back up to Gaucín castle on your right. After approx. 3.3km you meet a concrete track coming up from your left. On the right is Finca Alboran with its entrance also on this junction. Turn right and start the final steep climb. After approx. 100m you come over a ridge and are rewarded for your efforts with a fine view of Gaucín. After a further 200m the track forks. Take the left, concrete track and this brings you up into the centre of the village by the Pharmacy.