
ROUTE NOTES
Smugglers Trails of the
Sierra de Aracena



PACKAGE CONTENTS

Each Sherpa self-guided tour has a different package of maps and route notes to go with it. We provide this page so that you can check that you have received the right material for your tour. If you find that you are missing any pages or maps please let us know as soon as you can so we can forward to you.

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TOUR NAME: *Smugglers Trails of the Sierra de Aracena*

DURATION: *9 Days*

MAPS FOR THIS TOUR INCLUDE:

1 x 1:40000 sheet map Sierra de Aracena

1 x A4 photocopy map Los Molinos

1 x double sided A3 street plan of Aracena and general information

1 x street plan of Almonaster

1 x double sided sheet Alajar street map and general information

THESE ROUTE NOTES ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION RECEIVED

Maps: All the walks are on a map print, except the southern section of one of the options from Alajar. A separate sheet is provided to cover this route but the notes are good and this extra map is just for general reference. The main map provided is quite good, clear and the topography is accurate. There are however many paths shown on the map that do not exist on the ground and many paths that do exist on the ground that are not on the Map so be aware if you intend to follow the described routes.

Descriptions: The route descriptions are broken down into short sections that start with the cumulative time and distance. You may find that you walk faster or slower than these timings but you will soon be able to judge by how much and adjust timings accordingly.

Baggage Transfer: You are requested to limit your baggage to one piece and 20 kg maximum per person, (no loose items in carrier bags) which should be carefully labelled with 'Sherpa Expeditions' tags or stick on labels to help the hotels/taxi companies who will be arranging for the transfer of your baggage each day. You should have your baggage ready by 9.00 am, unless otherwise advised in these route notes. The hotel management will advise where they would like you to leave your bags. You should also have a small daypack to carry those items you will need during the day.

NOTE: If your baggage exceeds the 20 kg maximum or you have more than one bag, you will be charged locally for the extra weight and/or luggage.

DAY 1: Arrival in Aracena

The most convenient airport to fly to is Seville.

Travelling from Seville to Aracena can be done in 2 ways

Either pre book a taxi with Sherpa (to be paid locally – approx. 125 Euros for up to 4 passengers)

OR take a taxi from the airport to Plaza de Armas bus station in Seville (approx 25 Euros) then a bus to Aracena. The taxi takes around 30 minutes to, more at rush hour. If your flight is not going to arrive before 3.00 p.m. then it is very unlikely you'll get to the station in time for the last bus to Aracena.

There is also a bus from the airport into Seville which takes you to the plaza de Armas bus station. The airport bus costs €2.50 and takes about 30 minutes to the city.

From Seville City :

Buses from Seville to Aracena depart twice daily from the Plaza de Armas bus station in the city. The ticket booth is on the left hand side as you walk in and you need to go to the ticket booth (not the bus booth). These are modern, air conditioned coaches with plenty baggage space beneath the seats. They generally depart from platform 27 or 28 but check when you buy the ticket. Cost: around €9 (one way). Journey time: approx 1 1/2 hrs

- **Sevilla – Aracena (Mon-Sat)**

09.00 - 10.20

16.00 - 17.20

If you are catching a bus from Seville you will need to get to the bus station approx 1 km from the Hostal Rural Molino. If this is your plan then either make sure you have a wheelchair so that you can easily walk to the Hostal, see map in map pack, or hire a taxi for the short distance.

ACCOMMODATION IN ARACENA
(refer to your accommodation schedule)

HOSTAL RURAL MOLINO DEL BOMBO

Aracena, Huelva

Aracena, Huelva

T: 959 12 84 70

Aracena

The town of Aracena is clustered below the hill-top medieval castle. It was not until the Middle Ages that Aracena became a significant settlement when the area was passed to the Kingdom of Castile in 1267. The area around Aracena was ceded to the Knights Templars to maintain and protect the Sierra. They built the Iglesia del Castillo around the remains of the Moorish castle and remained here until 1312. The church's Mudejar tower was formerly the minaret of the twelfth-century Almohad mosque. Visit the Natural Park information centre for general information and to admire the sixteenth-century building. Also worth a look is the interior of the Convento de Santa Catalina. Tourist buses flock to the town from late morning to visit the Gruta de las Maravillas, caves well worth a visit and entertaining to.

DAY 2: Aracena-Alájar

- **Distance: 12km Approx.**
- **Duration: Estimated Walking time 3 hours 15 minutes**
- **Total Ascent: 422m Total Descent: 283m**

There are a number of things to see in Aracena either on the day of arrival or the morning of Day 2. The main 3 are the castle ruins, the caves and the ham museum. These are indicated on the route map provided. You can do these in any order but the caves do not open until 10am (entry 8 Euros and limited number of visitors each day) so it is probably best to head up to the castle ruins first for the views, then walk down to the caves. Either join the early visit or book for the next one. Visit the ham museum after the caves or whilst waiting for your entrance. There is plenty of time as the walk can be done comfortably in the afternoon if need be and there are no such attractions at Alájar.

The route description below is from the hotel but re-enters the museum and the caves so it is easy to pick up the route from various points.

0.00hrs Turn right out of the hotel and first left down "La Esplanada" street, pass the bullring on your right.

0.03 / 250m Turn right down "Santa Teresa" street just where the road bends to the left.

0.04 / 375m At the crossroads, turn right onto the main shopping street "Gran Vía". At the end of the street on your left you will find the "Iberian" museum, which is an interesting visit if you would like more insight on the area and its world famous Iberian art.

0.07 / 516m Turn left in front of the Iberian museum along Calle "Juan del Cid" (street sign not obvious!)

09.20/ Turn right at the crossroads opposite Hotel "Los Castaños"

0.12 / 830m If you wish to visit the caves "Grutas de las Maravillas" follow the yellow Tourist office sign crossing over the road and staying on the right hand side. The ticket booth for the caves is in the same building as the tourist office. If not go straight on.

0.14 / 1.00m At a 3 fork junction, take the middle fork with No Entry traffic signs to leave Aracena, passing the first signpost which points you will see on your tour of the Sierra on your left.

0.18 / 1.15km At the roundabout go straight on along road with a No Entry sign passing a Spar supermarket on your right (open 09.00 – 21.00 Monday – Saturday).

0.21 / 1.45km Go straight on at crossroads, passing swimming pool and football stadium on left. Walk past the houses on your right.

0.27 / 1.85km The tarmac road converts into a track called "Camino de la Molinilla" continue along this soon walled track keeping straight on along the track.

0.41 / 2.80km Go through a (open) gate and arrive in a cleared area with a pylon in the middle. Ignore the rough track to the right before the pylon and walk past the pylon and follow the good track as it turns right in front of a gateway constructed of wooden poles. Now follow the path straight on with a stone wall on your left and continue along it as it goes down through the trees.

0.47 / 3.32km Pass a white/ yellow waymark on post on left.

0.51 / 3.61km Cross over a concrete bridge when you reach the bottom. Bear left after the bridge and pick up the path on the right hand side of the gate, 50m from the bridge. Walk along this narrow partly overgrown path.

0.55 / 3.88km Turn left onto a track and then 60m further on turn right at end. There is a wooden sign indicating Aracena and Linares on the last tree on your left before the junction.

0.58 / 4.13km Take the left hand fork down the track passing a large wooden gate on left at junction).

1.04 / 4.35 km The track leads to a farm on left with metal gates and a water tank. Pick up the track to the right parallel to the farm with a wall and wire fence on the right. After 30m go through a gate waymarked yellow and white on the left hand post and continue straight on.

1.05 / 4.50km Track bends to left. Fork right away from the obvious path leading down to the stream and head towards the wire fence. Keeping the wire fence on your left

1.07 / 4.63km Walk through a wire gate with white/yellow waymark on left post and follow an obvious path between wire fences.

1.09 / 4.78km Reach top of track, fork right onto a footpath following a wire fence on your left, passing yellow/white waymarks on a tree and on a fence post.

1.13 / 5km Turn right onto a wide vehicle track which is soon walled on the left hand side (nearby). Continue along this track, forking left after 130m following the stone wall on the left. There is a white/yellow waymark on the wall after the tree and another waymark further along this track between walls.

1.20 Ignore minor track off to the right.

1.31 / 6.32km Turn right at end of track onto a cobbled path (yellow & white marker on the wall to right) and passing gate posts to "Villa Angelica" on your right and follow along a walled, partly cobbled track. Fork right past an old stone bridge, cross over another bridge 200m later and turn right away from the stream towards the village "Linares de la Sierra". Walk up the cobbled street, take the next left following the white/yellow waymark and then fork left following the water channel (near road).

1.44 / 7.26km Emerge onto the square and pass the original public wash place and drinking fountain further up. Walk straight on through the square and after 120m go up the steps at the far end. At the top turn left and turn left again at the T-junction. There are two paths available in the two bars in the once yearly bullring. Walk to the side of the church and take the first left and then second right (street name 'Arrieros') past the restaurant "Meson Arriero". Continue 'diagonally' straight on.

1.47 / 7.5km At the top you will find the a sign board and a waymark on the wall at the beginning of the waymarked path to Madroñeros and Alájar. Follow this walled path 180m down to the stream, cross over and begin to climb up

1.53 / 7.86km Turn right ignoring the path on the left, following the white and yellow waymark on wall and continue to climb.

2.05 / 8.40km At the top on the left is a gate with 'Maria Locana' written on tiles, keep left down between walls. The path begins to descend and then levels out. After 200m the path takes a 90° turn to the left. Here the path goes through a pig farm, where you are likely to find pigs loose on the path, loose stones and brambles. For 300m the path is quite difficult but is passable. Continue along the walled path and at a small abandoned building (2hrs13) on your left the brambles do get worse but again it is passable. You will meet a bit of a cobbled path as you emerge from the brambles and then turn left down towards the stream. Keep the stone wall on your left where you will see a white and yellow waymark at the end of the wall. Cross over the stream to your right (it may be a bit difficult if the water level is high) and pick up the path on the other side. There is a white and yellow waymark on a stone wall on your left now going uphill.

2.19 / 9.04km go through / past a wire gate.

2.22 / 9.24km Go straight on towards Madroñeros at signpost ignoring the path signposted 'Alajar Caracol' to the right (not on map).

2.30 / 9.69km Go through / past wire gate as path descends and then levels out on the approach to the village.

2.37 / 10.01km Reach the first houses of the village, follow path to left. Walk into 'square' with a tree in the middle and go straight across following path round to right and right again past wooden fencing to a house. Continue straight on ignoring steps down going sharp left heading towards a well and then go left away from houses past a tap and walk up the stone steps where there is a marker on the wall on the left. Continue along this path Passing a second sign

board and bench. 4 minutes later pass gateposts marked “El Moro” where the path soon after becomes concreted. In another 4 minutes pass the sign post to “El Caracol” on your right. Then at the junction of paths go straight on following the sign for Alajar.

3.04 / 11.07km You will see Alajar come into view as you come to the top of the concrete track, walk down into the village. At cobbled road go right, keep straight on descending then slightly up. Go left into the square and walk past the church on your left. Turn right at the end and left into the next square. Walk past restaurante “El Corcho”.

3.13 / 12.4km Hotel La Posada is on your right just after the square.

ACCOMMODATION IN ALAJAR

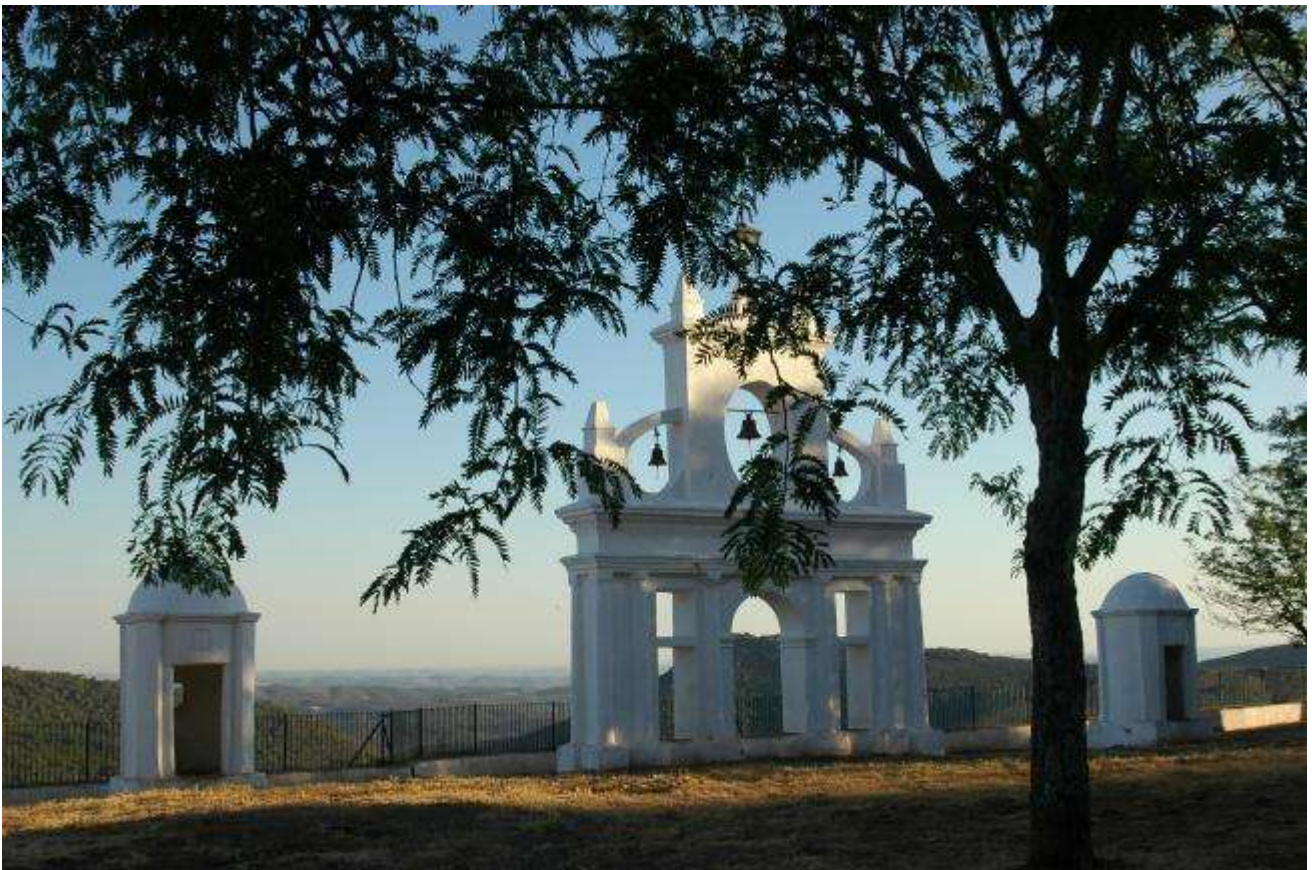
(refer to your accommodation schedule)

LA POSADA DE ALAJAR

C/ Medico Emilio Gonzalez, 2

21340 Alajar

Huelva Tel: 959 12 57 12



DAY 3: Walk from Alajar - Option A - “Puertos Circular”

- **Distance: 10.6km Approx.**
- **Duration: Estimated Walking time 3 hours 20 minutes**
- **Total Ascent: 478m Total Descent: 496m**

0.00hrs Turn right out of the hotel and take the first left down “calle Maestro Aurelio Rodríguez” street. Go over cross roads and at the end of the street take the cobbled track to the right (not up to the house), which soon becomes a path, widening back into a track once you pass some houses on your left. Keep straight on.

0.13 / 866m At the end, turn right up a concrete then stony road between stone walls towards “Alojamiento Rural Encina” sign and then the hamlet “El Collado” –do not go onto the tarmac road. Turn right into the hamlet and follow the cobbled street round to the right, go through the square and bear left. Continue to follow the street to the left until you reach the tarmac road.

0.16 / 1.03km Cross over the road diagonally to the left and head up the washed out path you can see behind the sign “Casa Rurals Molino Rio Alájar”. Continue upwards and two minutes from the tarmac take a right fork, leaving a stone wall on your left. Ignore the gap in the wall and take the path to your right –you can see a yellow dot waymark on the ground. The path climbs quite steeply with a wall on the left in places and then begins to level out, stick to the obvious main path, following a stone wall now on your right. Pass a house on your left and ignore paths off to the left.

0.28 / 1.43km At a T junction with a curved stone wall in front of you turn right –observe yellow dot waymark on wall. Ignore a path to the right. The path begins to drop down soon down some stone/rock “steps”.

0.29 / 1.5km At the bottom of these “steps” bear left and continue straight on with a stone wall on your right and then also on left.

0.31 / 1.59km Pick up a rough path going up an embankment –observe yellow dot waymark on ground. At the top go through the gap in the stone wall and turn right. Go past 2 houses on right and observe a yellow dot waymark on the butress of the 2nd house. Keep going straight on for 30m and meet a larger gravel track.

(To visit to ancient church turn left and look up to your right and you will see the church, a few metres up the track is the path to the church)

0.33 / 1.88km At the gravel/cobbled track turn right. Walk down the track.

0.36 / 2.15km Fork left where you see an information board describing the walk up to La Peña. Continue up this path, which follows a wire fence on right and after 4 minutes come to a white barn and path bears right at a small junction where you will see a yellow dot on the wall now on your left. After 100m cross over a flat stone bridge (there is a yellow dot on a tree in front of you) and turn right. Follow the path round to the left past 2 log benches.

0.43 / 2.29km At the fork take the left path heading up with a wire fence on your right. Go past an information board after 6 minutes describing the “dehesa” farming method and there are lovely views to the south

0.51 / 2.62km At the top of the path, turn right to join a wide forest path which leads into “La Pena” area. Walk across the grassy area taking in the fantastic views south from the balcony and visit the chapel “our lady of the Angels”. Refreshments are available from the stalls, bar and restaurants if you walk towards the buildings you can see on your left.

0.55 Arrive at Chapel. Spend time looking around and admiring the view and perhaps get some refreshments. Note the timings for the walk continue as if you had not stopped If you wish to return to Alajar now you may do so by continuing along the cobbled area – Roman vegetable garden on your right- towards the road and pick up the notes from *** below. Once you are ready to move on walk back towards the way you came in but head towards the stone wall and wooden railing above the path you arrived on as you follow the trail upwards between the wooden railings you will see a wooden sign on a holm oak on the left “Mirador”, follow the sign. Continue along this path where you will see another wooden sign “Mirador” above a green/white hunting sign on a pine tree on the left just after a sharp bend.

1.02 / 3.18km 5m later pick up a small trail on the right, 40m along this trail is a green/white sign on a tree. (If the path starts to level out and you see a stone wall on the right then you have missed the path and need to turn back.) This is the way to the 2nd mirador and it is well worth the steep climb up to the top for the views. If preferred then you can opt out and continue straight along the trail picking up the **instructions at *** below.**

Follow the trail which goes above the treeline and continues to ascend through low scrub, on a gentler section of the climb pass a stone bench. Stay on the main trail as it curves up to the right and past rocky outcrop, the trail reaches a crest and then descends slightly to reach the viewpoint.

1.15 / 3.77km There is a stone bench and an information board. Once recovered from the climb head back down the way you came.

1.27 / 4.37km On meeting the path you were following from the junction turn right.

*** Continue along this path and you soon find a stone bench on the left and the path continues on both sides, walk past "Finca La Garduña" (7 minutes from junction) where it turns into a track. Follow track round to left and soon the track begins to descend through a pine forest.

1.40 / 5.06km The track bends round to the right and begins to ascend. There are a few undulations on the way to the top.

1.54 / 5.71km At the top you will see a clearing with chestnut trees, straight ahead there is a wooden waymark post. Depending on the foliage, there may also be a sign on the tree behind. Take the track to the right.

1.58 / 6.00km At a wooden bench and information board describing the tradition of chestnut cultivation in the area and how to grow chestnuts. The track sporadically waymarked with white arrow posts pointing in the opposite direction and with small flashes.

2.00 There is a trail on the left and a white arrow marker post, keep straight on.

2.14 / 6.06km When the path takes a sharp turn left, ignore the first track left and continue on the main track past a wooden bench. Continue along this obvious main track, ignoring all turnings off.

2.27 / 7.81km Reach a concrete gate post on both sides and a wooden waymark post on the right and turn left through the gate and follow this track until the end. Turn right onto the tarmac HU8121 road and walk along it for 750m.

2.38 / 8.48km Reach the 3rd mirador (great views). Continue down the road for 6 metres and pick up an ill-defined path on the right between the road sign and the crash barrier. Go past an electricity pylon on left. Follow this narrow sometimes overgrown path down until you reach the road again.

2.53 / 9.93km Turn right and walk along the road round the bend past the entrance to "La Pena".

2.55 / 9.53km Take the path alongside the railings on the right and continue down observing a sign to Alajar 283 metres on a pole on your right. Follow this well maintained Roman road down until you reach the tarmac road again.

3.03 / 9.93km Turn right and pick up the path to your right just before the small white utility buildings.

There is a white and red waymark on the wall on your left. Cross over another tarmac road diagonally right and you will see the path continue straight ahead of you, down the banking. Following this main cobbled path until you reach Alajar. Turn left at the T junction at the end of this path and continue down this cobbled street bearing right as the traffic sign indicates until you reach the square.

3.17 / 10.6km La Posada is past the square on your right.

Walk from Alajar - Option B - “Los Molinos”

Total Distance: 13.5KM

Estimated walking time: 3 ½ hours **Total Accumulated Height:** 365 m

An easy walk passing a couple of old traditional mills and through an ever-changing landscape with holm and cork oaks, crossing picturesque streams, going through deep gorges with interesting rock formations inhabited by eagle owls. Mainly along tracks and open paths, using part of the long distance walks GR 47 Hinojales-Santa Eulalia (marked Red and White) and marked by a red dot occasionally.

0.00 Walk straight down “Calle Constitución” which is directly opposite the front door of La Posada (the hotel). At the T junction turn right, following the signs to “Restaurante La Botica”. Continue to follow the sign to La Botica turning right down some large steps. Walk to the bottom of the street, passing “La Botica” on your left. Turn left and then right over the bridge.

0.04hrs / 300mtrs Continue past the houses on left and right then take the first fork heading left. Shortly after you will pass an information board on your right describing part of the valley.

0.12 / 870mtrs At the end of this track turn left onto a tarmac road, and after 65mtrs turn right down a track signed “Molino Río Alájar”. Ignore the track you will pass on your left.

0.18 / 1.28kms you come to a fork where you follow the sign to “Molino Río Alájar” and turn left keeping the stream on your right. There is a sign banning motorbikes and quads and also a marker post with a white arrow. Follow this pleasant path gently downhill passing through lush vegetation and the old water mills that were used for grinding grain into flour. The path is waymarked with wooden posts and white arrows.

0.26 / 1.85kms you will see a stone mill on the other side of the river and an information board describing how the mills worked. Follow this track and you will pass a stone built picnic bench and the river is down in the gorge to your right.

0.33 About 7mins after the info board you will pass a second stone built picnic bench

0.43 / 2.93kms, you approach a point on your right, walk out onto the rocky promontory with the railings for a moment, then drop down and return to the track and continue on down the valley, you are nearing the end of the waymarked path.

At the point after the sign prohibiting motorbikes and quads (sign facing those coming up the valley) take the less obvious path on right, there is a marker post with white arrow and red dot. Continue along this path for 900mts to where the path has a ‘U’ turn to the right dropping down to cross the river.

1.01 / 4.0kms At this point do not go right to the river (but note you return to this point on the way back). You need to continue straight on through a ‘tunnel of vegetation’. You can see a red circle and white/yellow flash waymarks on the wall on your left. Walk along this partly overgrown path, which begins to rise and bears left away from the river after about 6 minutes and continue until you reach a farm on your right.

1.09 / 4.4kms When you reach the green gate (red circle waymark on right hand gate post) it is time to go through a few fields and perhaps meet some of the farm animals. Go through the gate (there may be cattle in the field –cows do not tend to be dehorned, so don’t worry, they are not bulls!) turning right head towards the darker green gate in front of you in the middle of the fence (red circle waymark on right hand gate post). Note the dogs from the farm can get to this point but the two encountered were noisy but friendly. Once through the gate, turn left and walk across the field to the white gate posts. Go through the right hand gate (red circle/white yellow waymark on right hand gate post). There maybe horses in this field. Once through this gate head straight on for 50m (the track splits to go around a few trees, keep to the left) and then left towards a very rickety gate (red circle/white and yellow way marks on right hand post).

1.16 / 4.75m Once through this gate follow the obvious track straight on through the holm oaks. This is a typical “dehesa” of the area where the woodland has been cleared enough to let cattle and pigs graze. Continue along the main track.

1.25 / 5.32km you will find a waymark on a fence post to reassure you. Ignore track off to right just before waymark, keep straight on.

1.38 / 6.40km Reach another gate (red circle waymark on right hand gate post). Turn right onto a vehicle track and continue along this track, crossing the stream you were following earlier over stepping stones after about 7 minutes. Keep following the same track.

1.57 / 7.69km At a farm building on left and a gate on right go through the gate and straight on (red circle waymark on left hand post) following the obvious track.

2.01 / 7.90km continue **straight** on through an (open) gate, observing white/red and red circle waymarks on your left.

2.09 / 8.47km approach another gate (liberally waymarked) and once through go 10m up the track and turn right following the track gently downwards until you reach a gate just before the river. The gate is usually open, go through but do **not** cross the river. You may find cattle around (as before, cows have horns!).

2.13 / 8.72Km Once through this gate turn left to see waymarks on stones on the ground and continue along the path with the river on your right. You may find more cows on the path ahead but if there are don't worry, they have an escape route ahead! After 150 metres ignore the path which goes off to the left through some green gates (the aforementioned escape route) and continue straight on through the oleander bushes, keeping the river on your right, but perhaps crossing over a small stream if there has been recent rain.

2.20 You pass a small concrete block built utility building on your right. Continue along the path with the river below for another minute or so and you pass through the final wire gate. Keep following this path until it drops down to the river.

2.27 / 9.4km Cross over the river on stepping stones and up the other side and turn left to pick up the path you came down on. Follow the path climbing gently back towards Alájar.

2.48 / 10.5km pass the “Mirador” now on your left.

3.12 / 12.07km join the concrete track and turn right.

3.17 / 12.45km Turn left onto the tarmac road and pick up the track to your right leaving the road as it bends to the left.

3.26 Cross over the bridge turn left, walk up the steep street and up the steps take the second left to find the hotel at the end of this street or go straight on into the square.

DAY 4: Alájar To Almonaster La Real

- Distance: 12 km Approx.
- Duration: Estimated Walking time 3 hours 20 minutes
- Total Ascent: 736m Total Descent: 599m

Leaving Alájar we head west towards Almonaster along the stream valley populated with oleander, poplar and ferns, passing through several small villages on the way. Almonaster boasts an interesting islamic history with a beautiful tiny 9th-century mosque (only rural mosque preserved in Spain) well worth a detour. Tonight you stay at a 2 star hotel which also has a restaurant.

0.0 Turn right out of the hotel and take the first left down Maestro Aurelio Rodríguez street. Continue down this street and fork right onto a cobbled track which shortly converts into a path. Follow the path until you reach a tarmac road.

0.12 / 858 m Turn right onto the tarmac road after 50 Metres observe a white and yellow waymark on a fence post on your left, turn left after the post to join the path. After 2 minutes a small path on the right and white gate posts + green gates on the left.

0.17 / 1.10km Come to a dirt track where there is a farm building on the left, you turn right up the track and after only 50 metres take a path that forks left by white gate posts and green gates following the stone wall on your left. There is a white and yellow waymark on the wall. Continue on this path crossing over a stream (ignore smaller path on the left), until you join a path from the right and end at the hamlet El Caserío, one of the 5 hamlets belonging to Alájar which has been attractively restored by mainly well-to-do people from Sevilla and Huelva.

0.23 / 1.41km Keeping the Judea on your left, go right along the concrete road, walk through the hamlet and as leaving fork left and down the concrete road. Follow this track, passing a spring and drinking fountain on your right then keep left on the track (not the road) round past a house on your left. The Aracena – Almonaster road is above you

0.28 / 1.62km Go straight along a narrow path past wire gates and yellow/white waymark on wall on left. At a T junction turn left as waymarked.

0.37 / 1.93km Reach the farmstead (Cortijo) and go straight on, ignoring the 1st right and then bearing right between the buildings. A waymarked path runs between stone walls, crossing over a stream (slight right then left) with wire fences on top, then just wire fences each side. Here the marking is more visible.

0.42 Notice the gate on the right ends, continue straight on along the track ignoring tracks and paths to the right until you get to the top of the rise. In front of you is the gate for El Manantial. Turn right heading for the tree 15m away with a waymark painted on it. Turn left along the track and notice another waymark on the wall on your left. Continue along this clearly waymarked wooded path passing some yurts (camp site on map) and then a large house on your right 2 minutes later.

0.55 / 3.38km Where the path forks go right crossing over a small (dry) stream) and after 220metres (3 or 4 minutes) cross over a wider stream, which could be quite high but there are stepping stones. Here you will see various waymarks. You are following the white and yellow flashes and also the small knee high signs for “Camino Sta Ana – Alájar”, which begin here. Take the path up on your right with a high stone wall on the left and wire fence right. This path is very eroded in places. Climbing gently continue straight up past “Finca El Molino” on left, ignoring path coming from right. Follow this path with both forms of waymarks.

1.12 Cross over a (dry) stream. There is a sign here for St Ana. After 3 minutes ignore track on the right and 4 minutes later pass a white house on your right.

1.21 / 4.83km Pass the water treatment plant. You can now see the ancient arab watering system running along side the path still in use today. 4 minutes later pass concrete track on the right and After another 2 minutes ignore the path on the right and go up past buildings and head into the village of Sta Ana.

1.32 / 5.47km Walk past the drinkable fountain and public wash place. Take the first street left, the next left and then the next right into Virgillio Fernández Street, passing the back of the church on your right.

1.37 / 5.7km Take the left fork at the end of this street (There is an information board describing the next part of the walk to Almonaster La Real if you fork right). Continuing straight on and down the concrete road, which converts into a wide dirt track at “El Maltravieso” gateway (1.43hrs) and begins to climb.

1.54 / 6.3km At the top you are greeted with magnificent views towards today’s destination. Continue straight on down the cobbled path. Marker post on the right.

1.54 / 6.78km Reach the Main N435 road, cross over and go down the waymarked track into the hamlet “La Corte”. Walk straight through a metal framework structure used during the festivities, past the house Casa Marian Vázquez on your left and keep left at the Junction. Wind down through the village, passing a small supermarket on left.

1.59 / 7.15km Turn right just **after** the small church. Continue down and out of the village. The next hamlet “Calabazares” is now in sight. Follow this concrete then dirt track (ignoring road on the right near the last buildings and look for a post in the brambles 20m on on your left), take the first fork right, as per waymarks (post at 2.06 hrs) and continue along ignoring all other paths. Ignore track on the right with a post and sign for different route, and 3 minutes later ignore track on left with similar post and sign (this is where this other route crosses ours). 20m further on cross over a (often dry) ford, where the path

2.12 converts into concrete for a short uphill stretch and just after a small white utility building the track converts into concrete which continues and we follow all the way to Calabazares.

2.23 / 8.75km Bear left but keeping to the right of the palm tree (there is a bar open daily just opposite) and pass bus shelter and head towards the church

2.25 / 8.93km Opposite the church and past the houses take the path on the left leaving the tarmac road on your right. Continue along this path, which begins to climb up the valley running parallel to the road. Ignore all turn offs from this path.

2.41 / 9.95km Reach the tarmac road again and turn left, walk along the road for 50 metres and just before reaching the Almonaster - Aracena HU8105 road take the walled path off to the left (not the track into the field), opposite the bus shelter. Continue along this path which is the old drovers path connecting Almonaster with Sta Ana,

2.50 / 10.6km Cross over a stream and continue along the main path ignoring all other paths.

2.56 Pass a junction with big red gates.

3.05 / 11.41km Reach Restaurante El Camino on your left. Walk past the restaurant towards a tarmac road. Turn left onto the road and cross over. (This is the side road going downhill not the main road that is just up to the right.) Continue along the road, passing a 30km/h road sign and go another 40m to the sign with the exclamation mark.

3.11 / 11.8 km At the sign with the exclamation mark go through a gap in the crash barrier on your right, follow the track rounding the bend to the right and then turn left following the path downwards, past the ruins of the Tenería (XVIII mill and leather curing factory) on your right. Go round 2 sides of the ruin passing an information board. The path continues with the river on your left.

3.14 / 11.9km Turn left over the Roman bridge where there is another information board and continue straight on up cobbled lane between houses. Take the first street right and then first right. Take the left hand fork and continue straight up the cobbled street. Go straight across the crossroads with a bar on the left hand corner. At the top continue straight on and you will find your Hotel (Hotel Casa Garcia) on your left at the end of the road.

3.19 / 12.10km Reception is at the end of the covered terrace, however if nobody appears to be around just pop into the bar, where they will be able to help you.

Directions to the Mezquita - From entering the village:

From the Roman bridge continue straight on and at the 1st crossroads turn left and then left at the T junction, walking past the “Centro de Interpretación Islámica” (a small museum explaining the Islamic influence on Almonaster and the area, open at weekends). Turn right up stepped street and then left at the top.

From the hotel: 5.30 minutes / 300m

Turn right out of the hotel and 2nd right as per signs to Mezquita. Walk past the church on your right and take 2nd left down a stepped street. Walk straight on past square on left. At T junction turn left walking past the “Centro de Interpretación Islámica” (a small museum explaining the Islamic influence on Almonaster and the area, open at weekends). Turn right up stepped street and then left at the top.

ACCOMMODATION IN ALMONASTER LA REAL

(refer to your accommodation schedule)

HOTEL CASA GARCIA

Avda San Martín, 2
21350, Almonaster la Real
T: 959 14 31 09

Directions: Follow the street winds its way through houses and enter the main square.

DAY 5: Almonaster to Galaroza

- **Distance: 16.7 km Approx.**
- **Duration: Estimated Walking time 5 hours 30 minutes**
- **Total Ascent: 595m Total Descent: 540m**

Probably the most rewarding walk of the week taking in 2 peaks and finishing along a lovely river walk. You start the walk by climbing the highest accessible peak in the park Cerro San Cristobal which boasts fabulous views in all directions from the 2 viewpoints. You drop down along a little known path which takes you above the small village of Los Molares before climbing Sierra de Los Palos Altos and then along the beautiful river walk. You won't be passing through any villages and won't find any drinking fountains on route so please make sure you take plenty of water and some lunch. There are a couple of lovely spots to eat a picnic along the way (see ^^) Once in Galaroza make your way to the top of the village where you will find your 2 star aparthotel with lovely views across the sierra and its own restaurant and swimming pool.

0.0 Turn left out of the hotel towards the main road and then right to cross over at the zebra crossing and continue down the road passing a sign "Subida al cerro de San Cristobal 100m"

0.02 hr / 0.10km Turn left to join the sendero SL-A-127 also signed "Ruta del Arte" and follow the cobbled trail

0.6 hr / 0.33km Pass a flour mill ruin with an information board in Spanish and continue along this cobbled trail as it bears left and continues to climb leaving the stream on your right. Turn right at next junction and zig zag up the path. As part of the "Ruta del Arte" you will pass "Pajaros suena bastante mejor que Aves" on your right made out of local marble and steel and then a "stone cone" on your left. Continue to climb and pass a green and white way mark

0.10 hr / 0.5km Bear right as the path joins a vehicle track

0.13 hr / 0.65km Fork left following the same way marks and continue to climb passing an explanation on the geology of the area on route.

0.28 hr / 1.38km Walk through an (open 09/10/12) wire gate as path now levels out.

0.31 hr / 1.55km Fork left following the g/w waymark

0.40 hr / 2.0km Fork right leaving the obvious path on the left and follow the g/w waymarks up a couple of steep steps. (Both paths rejoin after 80m and the left fork looks easier but possibly is quite eroded). Ignore the track on right just before a concrete water mains grid and continue upwards following a park "sendero" sign and 2 black arrows bearing left. Ahead of you you'll see a g/w waymark and then a sign which says "siga subiendo por la vaguada hacia el noroeste hasta atravesar el castaño/ keep climbing the gully in a northeast direction through the chestnut grove" The path has actually been recently cleared to place a water mains pipe and you can practically follow the concrete manholes all the way to the top (there are 4 in total).

0.50 hr / 2.48km Pass a water deposit on the right and the path drops down towards a smaller white deposit and you'll see the back of 2 signs 9said to be now on the ground indicating the path you have come along. At this junction follow the g/w waymark to the right along a sandy track through cork oaks and a wall with fence on the left.

0.54 hr / 2.67km At junction continue straight on passing a large gate on left and soon a great view will open up on the left (Los Romeros/ Jabugo and the castle of Cortegana)

1.04 hr / 3.21km ** At top of rise you can choose to visit the viewpoints (approx 750m) or continue with the walk by going straight on down the track which descends very steeply at first. You return to this point after visiting the viewpoints To visit the view points (well worth it especially on a clear day and as a reward for the climb you've just done!) turn right onto the tarmac road following g/w waymark and signposts to "sender Mirador", Continue straight on for the Mirador due south (50m) past the telecommunication masts to the small lookout posts beyond. (3.24km). On a clear day you can see the sun reflected on the Atlantic (Huelva coastline) Walk back the way you have come and visit the view point on the right looking

north (3.56km) where you can see Los Romeros, Castaño del Robledo, Jabugo, Aguafria, El Repilado. Return to **

1.20 hr / 3.97km Turn left off the tarmac road and then sharp right down the track mentioned ** earlier. It is a very steep descent with a fallen pine (09/10/12) after 50m. Ignore track on left and continue along main track with wire fence on left as path continues to descend less steeply and then steeply again as the views open out on the right. Continue on the obvious path as it bears right, ignoring an overgrown path straight on and you can see the masts of San Cristobal above you. The path narrows with vegetation and continues to descend

1.32 hr / 4.61km As you see a fence ahead turn right (straight on ends in a gate with stone gate posts) and the path levels off in a SSW direction with a fence on your left.

1.40 hr / 4.95km Reach a small opening with chestnuts ahead and bear left passing a gate on your right and a stone wall with a fence on it. There are lots of loose stones where it appears that the wall on left has tumbled down. Shortly after gate the path forks and there is a cairn on the left. Fork right and up, do not continue down, and then fork left after 20m following a path between low stone walls on either side

1.52 hr / 5.63km Continue along this path and as the vegetation opens up to your left the stone walls disappear. Follow a narrow footpath along the same contour with the villages Los Romeros and then Agua Fría below you on your left. Reach a fence, bear left and begin to descend heading towards stone walls and a view south. Continue to descend now between the stone walls with a views either side of you.

2.04 hr / 6.19km Meet a junction and turn left with a wall and fence on left (Observe a concrete pipe on right). After 30m meet a second junction and turn left again keeping the wall and fence on left. Reach an opening with a junction of paths, with a gate on left, and continue straight on along the main track ignoring the paths of to the right (first right, narrow overgrown path takes you to Los Molares marked with 2 white stripes) under electricity cables until the next junction.

2.15 hr / 6.77km At this junction keep straight on (the track left descends to Los Romeros) passing a house on left (loud barking dogs (9/10/12)). Keep straight on along this track ignoring any turnings off until the track becomes tarmac

2.30 hr / 7.45km Here you reach a marker post 'Camino de Santa Ana a Fuente del Oro y Cortegana'. The track bears right, continue along parallel to the road to reach the road at Km 138.

2.33 hr / 7.65 At the stop sign cross the road to track opposite and follow it to the left parallel to the road, then turn right up main track. This track bears right again between wire fences. Ignore track to the right at the top of the rise, keep on same track now between wire fences

2.40 hr / 8.0km Come to a set of (missing) gates on your left then reach the chestnut trees. The path goes slightly to the left and one minute later the path levels out before starting to descend slightly through chestnut trees.

2.50 hr / 8.52km Come to the end of wire fence (there are red gates here) bearing left through an open chestnut grove

2.54 hr / 8.72km Meet a crossing of tracks with a marker post, go straight on passing a building on your left. Keep straight on into the pine trees and pass a marker post on your left. (This path is steep and/or rough underfoot but does get easier towards the top.)

3.10 hr / 9.45 Pine trees on your left signal that you have reach the highest point of the climb as it gets easier along a path now flanked by stone walls.

3.20 hr / 9.56 Emerge into a chestnut plantation with a tall wire fence on left. Continue along path following the fence as it turns left and you now have fenced in chestnut trees on either side of you, keep straight on and the path becomes walled on both sides begins to descend and the walls soon convert back to fences. Pass a barn on the right and a minute or two after this you reach a four-way junction.

3.24 hr / 10.2km Turn left at the junction and follow the track (almost 2km) all the way down to the tarmac road. You can now see Castaño del Robledo on your right as you turn left.

4.00 hr / 12.1km Reaching the tarmac road, cross over picking up the track (just before the back of the road sign) which turns right and descends. After 400m you will see a wire gate on left go straight on along a narrow footpath,

leaving the main track as it bends right. The footpath maybe overgrown in parts as you pass a white building on right and then a renovated stone building also on right. Continue with a high stone perimeter wall on your right, ignore small path left as the path follows the wall right passing loud barking dogs on left and descend to a stream.

4.14 hr / 12.7km Climb up to the bridge and turn left over the bridge (^) and follow the path as it ascends towards a small white house on right

4.16 hr / 12.8km At the house turn left picking up the a green and white waymark SL-A 129. You will now be following this waymarked path all the way to Galaroza, your destination today.

4.26 hr / 13.3km At the bottom of the zig zag path you have just descended keep straight on as the waymark indicates. Pass gates to El Tortero a little further along.

4.36 hr / 13.80km Cross over (dry) stream and after 100m you will see a junction with camino de Jabugo a Castaño de Robledo waymark on left and the SL-A 129 waymark on right. Turn right at junction and pass an information board about wild mushrooms found in the area. Fork right again shortly after the info board following the SL-A 129, crossing over the ribera.

4.44 hr / 14.2km Pass 2 white houses on left and reach a junction of paths bearing left following the SL-A 129 as indicated (ignore painted arrow to right on dead chestnut tree) You will also be joining the Camino de Galaroza a Castaño Bajo. Continue along this pretty wooded path with the ribera on your left below you as it meanders along for almost 2km.

5.18 hr / 15.9km Reach the ribera and cross over using the high bridge on your left . Keep straight on along a concrete track approaching the outskirts of Galaroza. Fork right at next junction following the SL-A 129 along a now cobbled path. Turn left at the junction heading towards the main N433.

5.26 hr / 16.3km At main road (N433) turn left and walk along until the zebra crossing (Bar Venecia on left) where you can cross over. Keep straight on past a small square with palm trees on right and follow the street as it bears right passing a bar Casa Rafalito on left as you walk towards the centre of Galaroza.

5.30 hr / 16.5km In the square turn left after the central fountain and walk up the street with sign to Parking and Aparthotel Galaroza passing Guadalinfo on right. Keep right and continue upwards where you will shortly find Aparthotel Galaroza on left (16.7km)

ACCOMMODATION IN GALORAZA

(refer to your accommodation schedule)

APARTHOTEL RURAL SIERRA DE GALAROZA

Mariló and Luis

C/. de la Cultura, 21

21291 Galaroza, Huelva

T: 959 12 34 14

DAY 6: Galaroza To Fuenteheridos

- **Distance: 14 km Approx.**
- **Duration: Estimated Walking time 3 hours 30 minutes**
- **Total Ascent: 911m Total Descent: 885m**

0.0 Turn left out of the Aparthotel Rural Sierra De Galaroza and walk along the concrete road for about 3 minutes looking for the waymark post Galaroza a las Chinas. At the post turn right and follow the track that bears left and then sharp right and continue to houses on your right. At the houses take the left hand fork up and continue straight on along the concrete lane soon converting into a cobbled village street

0.14 / 1.53km. At end of street walk up the cobbled then concrete steps on your left. At the top of the steps turn right and continue along the again concrete lane.

0.18 / 1.72km. Take the left hand fork (from this point if you look back over your right shoulder you get a good view of the communal threshing area, the large circular raised area just below you to the right). Begin to climb on this concrete road, which soon converts into a dirt track. Pass a track joining from the right and a house/barn on the left and keep straight. The track descends slightly and begins to level out.

0.27 / 2.38km. Ignore 2 tracks to your left way marked Camino del Roblecillo al Oso and 20m further on Camino de los Perillos. Continue along this main track waymarked to Val de Arco, also a red/white marking on post. After 2 minutes pass a post on the right (Roblecillo al Pitoso) and after another minute walk past some black gates on your right and follow the track round to the left. Now look out in front of you for a boulder on which is written in big white letters 'VCO' (Val de Arco) and an arrow. Follow the arrow, i.e. to the right. Continue along the main track

0.37 / 2.98km Cross over a stream and follow the path bearing right as it becomes partly cobbled. Follow the path upwards through oak and pine forest and then a stone wall on your right, which then opens up with a river valley below you and a wire fence on your right.

0.50 / 3.66km Reach a small section of path where the bed rock is exposed and the main track continues straight on. Here you need to fork left up over the rock on the smaller path marked by a couple of small cairns and a red and white. The path becomes more defined off to your right with a stone wall also on your right.

0.54 / 3.78km As the wall and path appear to end turn left into a cork oak clearing. There is a red/white waymark on the low wall on left (possible covered by vegetation) Follow the path between oak trees in a N direction. There is a red/white waymark on a pine tree < 200 metres along to reassure you. Here you want to continue in a N / NE direction through the oak and pine wood until the path turns left to go over the crest where you will see a wire fence on your right. Keep on this same path with the wire fence on your right and head down towards the road where you will see a pine waymark post with a white arrow.

0.58 / 4.07km Turn right onto the road and then left down tarmac road towards "Valdelarco zona baja" indicated on road sign. Walk down for 1 km into Valdelarco.

1.08 / 5.27km Walk past the square on your left (there are various bars for refreshments available in the village which is also worth a small detour) and follow the road straight ahead. Head down and pick up the narrow path on the right of a stone wall at the end of the road. Follow this pleasant back alley under an arch and a building (mind your head) until the end.

1.23 / 5.5km Turn right onto a recently cobbled street, walking away from the village which converts into a track just before the information board and post with R/W marking. The information board shows the next part of the route. You need to turn right now following the "Valdearco – Talenque" waymarks. In about 2½ minutes turn right again at the waymark Valdelarco a Cortelazor and another info board. After 70m take the right fork waymarked Valdearco – Fuenteheridos (today's destination), there is also a post with white arrow. Continue along this track ascending at first and following white arrow waymarks pointing in the opposite direction and ignoring any paths of the main one.

1.36 At fork stay right following marker (do not go down to the stream). The path now runs parallel to the stream on your left. This section of path can be quite wet as it is below the stream bed at times and water often spills on to and

flows along the path in places. 3 minutes after the fork ignore a track on left that leads to a concrete going across the stream. Another 4 minutes brings you to a clearing where there is a marker post, keep straight on.

1.48 / 6.96km Cross over the stream ignoring the narrow path ahead, keep following stream and just 1 minute later cross over the stream again via stepping stones.

1.51 / 7.26km Reach a widening of the track at junction with a log bench and a information board about Nature and vegetation in the valley. Continue along the path crisscrossing over the stream and take an upper path above the stream where the stream water has flooded the path again.

2.00 / 7.96km At the end of the path cross over via stepping stones. Turn right and follow the track between two white utility buildings and bear left going up the track (white arrow on post pointing back the way you came). After approx. 4 minutes reach a tarmac road where you turn left and walk along it for 560m until you reach the village of Navahermosa, forking left as you enter. At the small square with a drinking fountain in the middle (tap on far side), fork right and walk down through the village.

2.13 Follow the tarmac road round to the right by a second fountain and traffic mirror on the wall and continue on out of the village along this quiet country road.

2.20 / 9.33km Where the road bends round to the right at the bottom of the valley go straight on along a dirt track waymarked Valdearco a Aracena. Go straight along this track passing a chestnut plantation on your right.

2.25 / 9.72km Cross over a small stream with waymarks on either side of stream and pass a handwritten sign 20m further on "Mantengase a la escucha" (Keep listening). Keep straight on ignoring a path to the right and then one to the left, the path is quite eroded in places.

2.34 / 10.01km Join a wider track on a bend and keep going in the same direction, i.e. left option at junction, passing a rusty yellow gate on your left and a yellow/white waymark on the metal fence post just after.

2.40 / 10.40km Walk past two sets of gate posts "Finca el Pozito on the right and Valdelama on the left, keep straight on. At the junction just ahead and then take the right turn joining the camino Cortelazor- Fuentehéridos and leaving large white gate posts on your left (Finca Valdelama) here there is a post with white arrow and y/w marking. Continue along this walled dirt track ignoring a track coming in from your right after 500m and a track on your left 60m later. Follow the main track going right, which bends round to the right in a wide sweeping bend after a further 350m and continues towards the main road.

3.19 / 13.4km Reach the main road N-433 where you cross over and pick up the track between two buildings. Go straight across a minor tarmac road and walk along the cobbled lane.

3.24 / 13.6km At the end turn left onto tarmac road into Fuentehéridos. At the road sign "Fuentehéridos", bear right and walk along the pretty "Paseo de los Poetas" a paved walkway just below the road. Make your way up the steps and into the square. On your left you will see the famous fountain of "doce caños (twelve spouts)" which gushes two million litres of water daily being the source of river Múrtiga. Walk out of the square opposite café bar "El Manantial" turning right up the street "La Fuente", continue up the street for 2 minutes and you will find Hostal Carballo (your hotel) on your right.

ACCOMMODATION IN FUENTEHERIDOS

(refer to your accommodation schedule)

HOSTAL CARBALLO

C/ La Fuente, 16
21292, Fuentehéridos
Tel/Fax: +34 959 125 108

DAY 7: Circular Walk Fuenteheridos

- **Distance: 14.8 km Approx.**
- **Duration: Estimated Walking time 4 hours 5 minutes**
- **Total Ascent: 208m Total Descent: 201m**

0.0 Turn right out of the hotel and walk up past the church. At “Casa Tinoco” turn left up the steps. Continue along this cobbled street heading out of the village and 4 minutes from the hotel pass the information board “Fuenteheridos-Galaroza” walk and white arrow waymark. Keep straight on up the cobbled track. Pass the cemetery 2 minutes later on your right and follow the street round to the left where it converts into a track. Continue along this track until you reach a tarmac road

0.10hrs / 680m. Turn right and cross over the road heading towards the back of a triangular road sign and go through opened mesh gates with white and red waymark on right gate post and hunting signs on left. Follow track round to left and up into a chestnut plantation and continue up towards an electricity pylon, parallel to the road. After the pylon the track swings round to the right and continues to climb.

0.19 / 1.54kms At the top of the hill bear right on approaching some pine trees and continue along the main track descending for 2 minutes then gradually uphill again before becoming flatter (there is still a wire fence on your left.

0.28 / 1.80kms At the crest of the hill where there are more pine trees follow the track as it bears left, then when you reach a gate on the left go straight on heading down a footpath keeping wire fence on your left. At the bottom, pass a small utility building on right and reach a junction with white and red waymark on posts just before reaching the track.

0.35 / 2.11kms Turn left onto the track and continue along this track until you pass a stone building on the left and reach a T junction. (You may recognise this next part of the walk if you did the circular walk from Alájar.)

0.39 / 2.28kms Turn right following white arrow waymark and wooden sign to Castaño del Robledo (if visible through the vegetation). Continue along this main track sporadically waymarked with white and red waymarks and white arrows. Keep to the main track.

0.57 / 3.20kms At junction with log bench on right, turn right past information board about the chestnut plantations and continue along a wide track between wire fences. As you pass a stone building on the left the track becomes concrete for a short distance.

1.07 / 3.74km Walk past white gate posts to “La Notaria” on right and a large stone building on left. Continue along this track until you reach a tarmac road.

1.07 / 4.43km Turn left onto tarmac road, following white arrow waymark and walk alongside road. Pass gates to ‘Castanales’.

1.24 / 5km Just after the next no overtaking road sign facing you, walk up a couple of wood steps on the left onto the embankment and continue in the same direction.

1.26 / 5.11km Head towards the green water tank, passing a white arrow waymark on your left. Follow the track to the tank and take the right hand fork i.e. the right hand path as indicated with a white arrow. Head down this footpath keeping the stone wall on your right. There are some tricky conditions underfoot in places due to water erosion and pigs.

1.36 / 5.53km Enter the village and follow the cobbled street down , passing bar / Restaurant “El Roble” open from 09.00 – 17.00h (closed Tuesdays) and into the village square.

1.36 / 5.66km . Take the narrow street to the left of church past bar Kiko (closed Monday’s) and at T junction turn right. Follow this cobbled street through the village until you reach a tarmac road.

1.43 / 6.13km Go straight across passing “Sierra Castaño” a shop with seating area where you can buy everything for a picnic lunch and more. It is OK to sit at the tables and eat produce purchased in the shop. Open from 10.00 – 15.00h. Follow the street round to left and then round to right. At junction keep right.

- 1.45 / 6.36km Go straight on, past the houses, where the road converts to a track and pass a white arrow waymark on right. Soon the track becomes concrete between stone walls and where it begins to descend you can see Galaroza to your left. The path continues to descend
- 1.57 / 7.26km After a new white house where the concrete track ends stay left keeping the new stone wall on your left
- 2.01 / 7.45km Walk as far as a small white house on left and turn right down walled path following white arrow waymark. Ignore a path on the left after 120m (just before a mesh gate with hunting signs on it) and continue descending to the river. Follow the river on your left.
- 2.12 / 8.10km Cross over the river and after 40m turn right at the T junction along a track, pass info board.
- 2.12 / 8.15km Fork right at a small house towards the river (there is a white arrow waymark and 2 other waymarks indicating routes “Jabugo a Castaño” and “Galaroza a Castaño Bajo”) and cross back over the river after 30m. Follow the track as it turns away from the river. Pass white building on your left and around the next bend
- 2.17 / 8.49kmtake the right fork following waymark “camino Jabugo a Fuenteheridos” and begin to climb up the track.
- 2.35 / 9.28km At a crossroads of paths continue straight on following the waymark “Camino Jabugo a Fuenteheridos” sign on your left, ignoring waymark “camino Galaroza a Castaño” to right. 25m ahead there is another waymark “Camino Jabugo a Fuenteheridos” on your left. The track bears round to left between wire fences.
- 2.37 Continue straight on past waymark “Camino El Pedregal”. 4 minutes later pass a marker post on your left and 3 more minutes will bring you to a building on the left.
- 2.48 / 10.2km At the top of the hill there is a junction. Continue straight on along “Camino Jabugo a Fuenteheridos” at junction of paths, ignoring left turn waymarked “camino de Galaroza a Alajar”
- 2.52 / 10.50km At Salmon coloured house go straight on as indicated by waymark “Camino Jabugo a Fuenteheridos”
- 2.56½ / 10.90km Fork left off the main track onto a footpath just before a square drain cover following a wire perimeter fence on you right. The drain cover is on the left of the path and is quite easy to miss, there are no other markers for this path (March 2010). If you walk past a green rusty gate with a sign “Ganado suelto cierran la puerta” you have gone 10m to far and you have missed the path.) There is soon a wire fence on both sides of the path, which you continue along as it drops quite steeply.
- 3.02 / 11.20km At the bottom of the path where there are some electricity metres, turn right onto a track with a green gate to your left.
- 3.06 / 11.60km Pass a waymark “Camino Cruz del Pobre” on right and at the T junction turn left past some electricity metres on your left. After 25m fork right following waymark “Camino Cruz del Pobre” on left.
- 3.12 / 11.90km At next T-junction turn right onto “camino viejo Galaroza a Fuenteheridos” . The track is sporadically waymarked with the camino signs, white arrows and red and white flashes.
- 3.15 / 12.05 km Cross over the stream on a concrete bridge and bearing right continue up the track
- 3.16 / 12.10km At electricity metres on right, bear right along “camino viejo Galaroza a Fuenteheridos” as waymarked on right
- 3.20 / 12.30km At more electricity metres ignore “camino Sta María” on left and continue climbing straight on.
- 3.31 ignore small path on right
- 3.34½ / 13.12km At a fork in path go left, continuing to climb, passing a wooden sign on a tree on left “bosue encantado” (enchanted wood) after 70m. 50m further you come to a small fork where both paths go the same way.

3.38 / 13.34km At crest, fork left but not sharp left. You will see various hunting signs above the wall and a white and red waymark on the corner of the wall. Follow the path which then bears right and you will see another white and red waymark on a pine tree on left as you head down.

3.42 / 13.57km After the path levels off, follow it as it bends round to the left up a small embankment and then right continuing alongside what looks like a dry river bed on your right. Continue along the path with the riverbed on your right for 350 metres. Keep to the lower clearer path at first, pass a building on your right (it is on the other side of the stream). The path then cuts up to the left to join a track.

3.46 / 13.92km At a small chestnut clearing and a white arrow waymark pointing in the direction you have come in on your left, turn right onto a track.

3.53 / 14.26km As you approach a line of fence posts with no fence the track bears right (don't go straight on smaller path). Observe a white and red waymark on a tree on your right and continue climbing up towards the road. Keep to the main track.

3.57 / 14.49km Turn left up the track 5m before the tarmac road and follow the track round to the left and down towards the cemetery. The track then becomes a cobbled street and you head down towards the village. Go straight on past Calle La Charneca and walk towards the church. Fork right towards the church doors and then turn left down the steps. At the bottom of the steps turn right into Calle La Fuente.

4.05 / 14.81km Hostal Carballo is on your left.

DAY 8: Fuenteheridos To Alájar

- **Distance: 13.5km Approx.**
- **Duration: Estimated Walking time 3hours 30 minutes**
- **Total Ascent: 378m Total Descent: 456m**

0.0 Turn left out of the hotel and walk down the street. Turn left at the bottom, walk past the fountain (down in the hollow before roundabout) on your left and go straight on up the street Camino de los Marines (next to the Supermercado Komo Komo).

0.04hrs / 231m Walk through some large metal gate into the recreational area following the track round to the left and then round to the right walking past the football ground on your right and the swimming pool on your left. Follow the track bearing right and soon you will reach the main N-433 road.

0.13 / 763m Cross over and pick up the track on the other side. After 50m you will find an information board describing part of the walk to Los Marines. Continue straight on along this track following white arrow waymarks pointing in the opposite direction.

0.20 / 1.19km Bear right along the track just past "Hacienda de los Marines" 2 minutes later at a wooden sign post "Sendero" fork right onto a narrow footpath with pretty allotments on the left and yellow/white waymarks.

0.30 / 1.64km Walk past another wooden sign "Sendero" and a narrow path pointing in the direction you are going. Begin to climb up this pleasant path through cork oak forest.

0.38 / 2.02km Walk past a "sendero" sign and a house. At the crest keep straight on descending.

0.42 Keep right ignoring track down to the left. 20m further the track becomes concrete.

0.54 / 3.17km Arrive at Los Marines pass a sign indicating a footpath to Aracena. Continue into the village going straight on down at the first junction but it is a dead end. Turn right at the view point just up to your right as it gives a good view over the roof tops. Otherwise make a right at the T-junction, then right at the church, right at the next T junction towards a wash place and square with palm trees (you will find various bars for refreshments along this route, there is a bar on the right as you walk through the streets and another one further on past the square to the left). Walk past a wash place on your left.

1.04 / 4.14km Turn right onto the tarmac road heading out of the village. At the no-overtaking road signs, about 7 minutes from the square walk through the gap in the crash barrier and walk along this stretch of old road until the crest.

1.09 / 4.13km Cross over the main N-433 road and pick up the track straight ahead, (running alongside the quarry) there is an information board describing this part of the walk on your right. After 50m the cobbled path bears right but you go straight ahead along a newly bulldozed track, there may be a sign that prohibits quads and motorbikes. After a further 120m bear left following yellow/white and white arrow waymarks and begin to climb up this pleasant wooded stretch. Just before the crest you will pass information boards about the chestnut forest and the vegetation that grows on the sunny and shaded sides of the sierra.

1.20 / 4.57km At the crest continue along the path which begins to descend and you will see a white arrow waymark sending you in the right direction, that is to the left. The path opens out to fabulous views to the south as you head downwards, ignoring a sign that says "fin de itinerario" (end of route).

1.29 / 5.07km The path becomes a dirt track and you take the right fork down past a arrow waymark sending you in the right direction.

1.43 / 6km At the bottom of this track turn right onto a tarmac road, cross over and walk around the left bend in the road. At the next right bend pick up the track that continues straight on with a sign prohibiting quads and motorbikes where there is also a post with white arrows. This was the old road to Linares de la Sierra.

1.54 / 6.74km Follow the main track round to the right with the white arrow waymark indicating the way.

2.01 / 7.15km Reach various sign on a post by small house at a junction. There is also a post with a white arrow. Here take the right fork, continue along the main track and after 270 m follow the white arrow waymark down a path to your left.

2.08 The path meets a track where you need to go right, there is a marker post and a yellow and white paint marker on the gatepost to your right.

0.12 Come to a junction with an information board. Go right up towards the church then first left up path to the right of the black railings and turn left along the street. At the next junction keep right then left at the top and you will hopefully find yourself at the bullring once more where there is also a bar for refreshments.

2.12 From the bullring follow the road around to the front of the church then walk away from the church along the road. At the first junction go right then keep straight on continuing along this cobbled track.

2.17 Pass an information board describing this final part of the walk to Alájar and soon the cobbles convert to dirt track.

2.31 / 8.70km Pass another info board 'Riberas' and 5 minutes later a pretty picnic spot on your left and begin to climb.

2.41 Pass the first picnic bench.

2.59 / 10.7km At the top follow the white arrow waymark up the wooden steps where there is a welcome bench. Walk down past the white arrow waymark down steps and you will see the next white arrow waymark on your right close to the road. Go down this path and follow the sign pointing in the direction of Alájar, next to a set of gates after 300m.

3.14 Track starts to have intermittent sections of concrete.

3.21 / 12.1km Emerge onto tarmac road leading into Alájar. Turn left and walk through the village along the main cobbled street and at the square after the phone box and chemist, take the far right street "Fregenal de la Sierra." At the top turn left and then take the right fork following the direction of the traffic arrow. Walk down into the square and continue straight on.

3.29 / 13.5km La Posada is on your left after passing through the square.



DAY 9: Departure

At the end of the tour you can either pre-book a taxi for the return journey or take the bus from Alájar.

Buses from Alájar to Sevilla (via Alajar)

Monday to Friday

Leaves Alájar	Arrives Aracena	Leaves Aracena	Arrives Sevilla
06:45(from village square)	07:15	07:40	09:10
14:15 (from main road)	14:40	16:00	17:35

Saturdays

Leaves Alájar	Arrives Aracena	Leaves Aracena	Arrives Sevilla
07:00 (from main road)	07:25	07:40	09:10
16:00 (from main road)	16:25	16:40	19:35

Sundays and Bank Holidays

Leaves Alájar	Arrives Aracena	Leaves Aracena	Arrives Sevilla
17:30 (from main road)	17:50	18:10	19:35

There is a morning bus from Aracena to Sevilla on Sundays and bank holidays that leaves Aracena at 10:30 arriving in Sevilla at 12:05. A taxi to Aracena is required to catch this bus (price 18€)

A taxi can also be arranged from Alájar to Aracena to coincide with the times the bus departs for Sevilla saving the waiting time at Aracena station. The bus station does have a bar where food and refreshments are available.

Thank you for joining us, we hope you enjoyed your holiday.

We are very pleased to receive comments on our trip and would be grateful if you would return our feedback form. Perhaps you have made discovery that will enhance the experience of those who follow you, or maybe the tree with the waymark on it referred to in our notes has been felled! We are happy to hear from you.

