



Vía Serrana

La Linea de la Concepción (Campo de Gibraltar)
to Seville

General Information and Detailed Walking Notes

Johnnie Walker

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Introduction

The **Vía Serrana** is the Camino route from the **Campo de Gibraltar** to **Sevilla**, the beginning of the **Vía de la Plata**, one of the main Camino routes to **Santiago de Compostela**.

The Vía Serrana has been designed within the last ten years by the *Asociación Gaditana Jacobea Vía Augusta de Cádiz*. During this time, members of this Association have been preparing and way-marking a Camino that allows pilgrims to walk from *La Linea de la Concepción* to *Sevilla*, through the *Serranía de Cádiz*, the *Cañada Real de Ronda*, the old pathways of *Los Molares* and *El Coronil*, and *Utrera*, where it joins with the *Vía Augusta*, from *Cádiz*.

The development of the Vía Serrana, as the Association explains in its information leaflet on the route, has involved: "years of traipsing around and along hundreds of trails, ravines, streams, paths and roads" in the region. Part of the Camino is the route followed by the *benimerines* (who settled in Gibraltar from North Africa in the 14th century), connecting the "Kingdom of Gibraltar" with the "Kingdom of Granada", in Ronda. It was later called the route "of the smugglers" or "of the fishmongers".

The Association was founded in 2009. In 2015, at the first edition of the *Premios Camiño de Santiago*, granted by the *Xunta de Galicia-Xestión Plan Xacobeo*, its work was formally recognised for valuing and recovering the different routes that connect with the Camino de Santiago, gaining second prize in their category. The three main routes the Association's members have recovered and way-mark are: the *Camino del Estrecho*, which connects the Bay of Algeciras with that of Cádiz, passing through Medina Sidonia; the *Vía Augusta*, which historically was the Roman route that began in Cádiz and crossed the whole of Spain, with one of its branches passing through Seville; and the *Vía Serrana*, from the Campo de Gibraltar to Seville.

For more information

http://www.asociaciongaditanajacobea.org/folleto_via_serrana.pdf

http://www.asociaciongaditanajacobea.org/folleto_mapa-caminodecadiz.pdf

http://www.asociaciongaditanajacobea.org/folleto_mapa_camino_estrecho.pdf

Getting there

From Malaga: by Avanza-Alsa bus from Malaga to Linea (06.45h-09.50h | 11.30h-14.15h | 14.00h-17.05h | 16.15h-19.20h). Check the times, as these may vary summer to winter and weekdays to Sundays/ *festivos*.

Accommodation

There is a range of accommodation at various price points at the beginning of the Camino in La Linea, a wider range in the middle, in Ronda, and an even bigger range (obviously) in Seville, at the end. See, among others, www.booking.com and www.airbnb.es. The other accommodation options along the way, listed below, are based on those used by pilgrims recently and the list recommended by the *Asociación Gaditana Jacobea*. Additional options for these places may also be available on the internet (see booking, airbnb etc).



*The first waymark - Iglesia de Santiago
La Linea de la Concepción*



Stages

Approximate distances between the main places and accommodation options follow. The length of stages you walk can be varied depending on the distance between the various accommodation options and the time you have available.

The walking notes below are based on 14 days' leisurely paced walking in fine, end-winter (February) weather.

The approximate distances are consistent with the information leaflet produced by the *Asociación Gaditana Jacobea*.

Note: where climbs are involved, these distances will seem very conservative - because you are covering less kilometres (because you are going up often, not ahead!) and because it is exhausting.

Wikiloc *senderismo* information on (10) stages, distances and elevation profiles are listed at the end of the Guide.

	<i>14 days</i>	<i>10 days/Wikiloc</i>
La Linea - San Martín del Tesorillo	27 kms	27.8 kms
San Martín - Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena	16.6 kms	18.3 kms (<i>to Jimena</i>)
Estación Jimena - El Colmenar/Estación Gaucín	19 kms	18.4 kms
Est Gaucín - Estación Cortes de la Frontera	11.5 kms	22.8 kms (<i>to Jimera de Líbar</i>)
Estación Cortes de la Frontera – Benaoján	16.3 kms	
Benaoján - Ronda	9.2 kms	16.4 kms (<i>from Jimera</i>)
Ronda - Setenil de las Bodegas	19.8 kms	
Setenil - Olvera	14 kms	27.7 kms
Olvera - Coripe	24.2 kms	24.6 kms
Coripe - Montellano	16.4 kms	
Montellano - El Coronil	13 kms	29.5 kms
El Coronil - Utrera	19.3 kms	19.3 kms
Utrera - Dos Hermanas	18 kms	
Dos Hermanas - Sevilla	15.7 kms	34.2 kms
Total	240 kms	239 kms

Summary of the route

The Vía Serrana starts at the church of Santiago in La Linea de la Concepción, and ends at the Cathedral in Sevilla, where the Via de la Plata begins. It is approximately 240 kilometres long.

This Camino route is extremely beautiful. Many pilgrims and walkers say it is amongst the most scenic and beautiful of all the Caminos they have walked. However, there are challenges to be addressed, most notably steep climbs and descents in some sections, and limited accommodation options in some places. With careful planning, these challenges can be overcome and, if so, the outcome and experience are well worth it.

The first half of the Camino (La Linea to Ronda) and the second half (Ronda to Seville) are markedly different, especially in relation to the terrain and level of difficulty. The first half is much more challenging! However it is possible to get a train to and from your start and end points, over 3 or 4 days, between Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena de la Frontera and Benaoján or Ronda. You can either base yourself in Los Ángeles, moving forward each day ... or in Ronda, doubling back each day. This means you wouldn't have to carry your full rucksack during these difficult stages, and it also helps with the lack of good accommodation options on these parts of this Camino.

Across the whole route there are a number of open spaces/large sections with no shade, so you need to be careful and carry plenty of water in summer, and watch out because it is muddy/slippery underfoot in winter.

Finally, on the more straightforward stages, you can walk an average of 4 kms per hour (or whatever your usual pace is). The more challenging the section, the less kilometres will be covered per hour because, as always, kms p/hour is a function of: level of difficulty; fitness level/stamina/tiredness; and the weather.

Buen Camino!

John



Gibraltar, from La Línea de la Concepción, Clare Wilkinson, Flickr - <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/legalcode>

Day 1. *La Línea to San Martín del Tesorillo (27 kms) or
La Línea to San Roque (8.3 kms), San Roque to San Martín (18.7 kms)*

La Línea de la Concepción (referred to as **La Línea**) is a town in the province of Cádiz, in Andalucía. It lies just north of the Gibraltar–Spain border, which lies north of the British overseas territory of Gibraltar, with which it has close economic and social links. The town derives its name firstly from the *línea* or boundary line separating Spain from Gibraltar, and secondly from the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Its people are called *linenses*.

The **Via Serrana** begins at the church of Santiago, c/Jardines 25, in La Línea. Here, on the wall to the left of the main door of the church, is the first of 10 bespoke Via Serrana tiles which lead from here to the outskirts of La Línea.

Go (west) along the c/Jardines till it comes to a T-junction with the c/De las Flores. Turn **Right**. Cross over the c/Isabel la Católica and pass along the right hand side of the market. Turn **Left** onto c/Aurora then, shortly, **Right** onto c/Cartaya then, almost immediately, **Left** onto c/San Pedro. Follow this long road all the way to its end at c/Castillejos. Turn **Left** and follow the c/Castillejos as it veers **Right** (ie do not go straight ahead onto the c/Virgen del Rosario). Cross the junction at c/Prim and **KSO** onto the Camino San Roque. At the end of the Camino San Roque cross (very carefully) the c/Cartagena main road. Once on the other side, turn **Left** along the pavement then, almost immediately, turn **Right** onto a path. **2.5 kms**

In less than 1 km, at a crossroads, go straight ahead, but veering **Left** a little. Here, leave behind the last houses of La Línea. Pass some groves on the left. Moderately ascending, the path leads to a large cistern. Pass to its **Right**, to come to an access road for barracks. Turn **Right** then, almost immediately, **Left**, onto a path accessed by a gate (close it behind you). About 300m from the gate, the path forks. If the weather is good go **Right** (ascending), going up on the mountainside, with magnificent views of Gibraltar. The path on the Left (descending) is more sheltered, but can be muddy in bad weather. There is no difference in length, and after about 1 km both paths converge again anyway.

About 2 kms from the gate the path meanders towards a pleasant grove, soon after which reach a crossroads. It looks like a T-junction, but continue straight ahead on a path which is hardly noticeable at first, but which then becomes more obvious. The road to the right at this junction also leads to San Roque. The path leads to a bigger one, which this time is

a T-junction. Turn **Left** and go through (and close) a gate, leading to the Sanroqueño district of El Toril. Go up its only street to arrive at the *Autovía del Mediterráneo*. **7 kms**

Cross by several underground pedestrian crossings, which involves little turns and seeming detours at times, but it's to avoid the dense and dangerous traffic on the *Autovía*. Once on the other side, on the c/Batallón Cazadores de Tarifa, pass to the **Right** of the roundabout at the main entrance to San Roque, and continue up the c/ Batallón to the Plaza de Andalucía. Here, turn **Right** onto c/San Felipe, which rises steeply till it reaches the parish church of Santa María La Coronada, in **San Roque. 8.3 kms**

[If arriving in La Linea late morning/early afternoon, you might choose to walk these first 8 kms or so that day, returning to La Linea to sleep, then coming back to San Roque the next morning to continue].

Standing in front of the church, turn **Left** onto the short c/Ruben de Celios. There is a small grocer's shop here – the last for 15 kms. Continue onto calles San José, Cristóbal Colón and Correos. At the end, go down the stairs and go **Right** to the c/De la Cruz, to cross the busy Avenida at the mini-roundabout. Still on the c/De la Cruz, pass to the right of blocks of flats. At a fork, go **Left** towards local roads CA-5121 and CA-0575. Take the tree-lined path over and down to the **Left**. When it joins the road, go **Right** on the cycle path. Cross the bridge then take the road up to the **Right**, the CA-9202 – asphalt, for about 3 kms, with no pavement. After passing through the pueblo of Santa Ana, at the top of the hill, there are views of San Roque and the Rock of Gibraltar to the right. The asphalt road leads onto a wide, winding, undulating track. **12.5 kms**

There is no shade here for the next 2-3 kms, until you reach some trees. A further 1 km on, go through the gate of *Monte La Alcaidasa*. **KSO** along the grove, as it becomes a shady, sandy pine forest. Some 2 kms later, pass through the main buildings of the *Finca La Alcaidasa*, go through the gate and down a stony track. Follow the track through the trees. **18 kms**

At a clearing/meeting of 4 paths, take the one to the **Right**. The paths here are not good in bad weather – but they are passable, to the side, in better weather. This section ends at a wide glen (a firewall). Turn **Left**. The path narrows till it reaches a narrow road – the access for *La Alcaidasa* – in the middle of rocky landscape. Turn **Right**, and up, between the rocks, onto 2.3 kms of asphalt. Along this stretch, pass round a green metal gate by means of a wooden pedestrian gate to the side of it.

KSO till the local A-2100 (Castellar-Sotogrande) road. Cross it and, through a gate, access a path – which is wide and grassy at first, then it narrows and winds down. Caution: the downward and stony parts will be muddy and slippery in bad weather. This eventually leads down to the *Arroyo de la Venta Nueva*. Cross, in dry weather, and go **Left**. Some 1.5 kms later the path joins another one of better quality. 1 km further on go through a gate and, with the entrance to the *Finca Pascal Rio* on the right, turn **Left**. **KSO** then, where a chain prevents vehicle access, go **Left**, then **Right**, to a "bump" in the path, over the Hozgarganta river. Cross carefully when dry or in shallow water. Caution: slippery moss underfoot. *[In wet weather the water here could reach up to 1m. If this is this case, go back a little – to where the chain prevents vehicle entry – to go by the road].* **KSO** till the houses at the main road, the CA-513. **23 kms**

Turn **Right** and walk along the road, towards San Martín. Arrive at the c/San Roque, which is a natural continuation of the main road. At the main junction, with El Secadero down to the right, turn **Left** for the church of San Martín and the Plaza de la Constitución, in **San Martín del Tesorillo. 27 kms (27/213kms : from La Linea/to Seville)**

Accommodation

- **Hostal Sabana**, c/San Roque, 1, San Martín del Tesorillo. Tel: (+34) 956 618 476.
- **Hostal Ochomín**, Plaza de la Paz, 2, El Secadero - 800m down to the right of San Martín. Tel: (+34) 951 778 225 | 610 496 689.

Day 2. San Martín del Tesorillo to Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena de la Frontera (16.6 kms)

From the church of San Martín in the Plaza de la Constitución, go along the **Right** of the plaza to c/La Fábrica (CA-8200) to continue. At the bottom the road forks at a small building with a Via Serrana tile and a sign: *Campo de Tiro*. Go **Left**. After 500m, at another fork, veer **Right**. Here there is an information panel on *Rte 04 - Lomas Ganaderos*.

After just under 1 km, at a small building on the right, is a cross with the inscription: *Francisco Ferrer Vizcaino*. Just after this, take the track to the **Left**. Ignore a turn immediately right leading to farm buildings. **KSO** the track, for 500m, till it comes to the CA-8200 road again. At the side of the road is a little brown sign on a stick: *7.6 kms to the Guadiaro river*.

Cross the road onto the stony track ahead. Stick to the main path, ignoring any right or left turns, passing a small farm on the right and then coming to another, at trees. Here the track begins to rise – just 40m to 60m at first, then later more steeply, to a high point of 200m. After 2.5 kms ascending reach the *Pista de los Americanos* and another small *Rio Guadiaro* sign. **5 kms**

Continue to the peak at 200m. To the right a wide valley stretches out before the mountains, with a fantastic view.

The route now descends over 4 kms passing, after the first kilometre, small white farm buildings – a shady rest spot, if needed. The descent is gradual for 2.7 kms then steep for the last 1.3 kms. Come down to the CA-8200 road (at the end of *Rte 04*) and turn **Left**, just before the Km-10 sign.

Follow this road (the *Cañada Real de Gaucín*) for about 4 kms. After 1.4 kms, as the road bends to the **Right**, pass the gates of *Toros de S. Miguel/Dehesa del Cubano*. 2.6 kms later arrive at the Bar Fuente at *Venta de la Fuente*, a good place for a stop. **13 kms**

After the bar, **KSO** the CA-8200, but only for a little more. Pass the *Cortijo la Barca* and the *Finca de la Gloria* on the left, then soon, after a sharp right turn on the road, the *Finca Chozas*. Just after this take a path off the road to the **Left** – wide at first, then becoming a very narrow path through bushes. The entrance (which is not too obvious) is over to the left hand side of the bushes. Deep livestock footprints in muddy earth create the trail, which gets extremely narrow in parts, and will be mushy in wet weather. In really bad weather, go by the road. Climb this path to a height of some 120m. After 1 km, at a break in the path, go to the **Left** (towards a fence) and take the first **Right** to pick up the path again, climbing. Near the end it opens onto a wider space, before going up the last little part.

The route now descends again, after about 1 km arriving at the first houses of Los Ángeles. 0.5 km later, by calles Manilva and Huerta Los Ángeles, cross a level crossing and turn **Right**, onto c/Nuestra Señora de Los Ángeles, to arrive at **Jimena de la Frontera** train station, in **Los Ángeles. 16.6 kms (43.6/196.4kms)**

Jimena de la Frontera is an historic town and municipality in the province of Cádiz. The municipality is actually comprised of four towns in the region: Jimena de la Frontera, Estación, San Martín del Tesorillo and San Pablo de Buceite. Jimena's castle was built on the hill by the Moors around 750 A.D. as part of making Jimena a strategic military position. The railway station is situated just outside the town, in nearby Los Ángeles/Estación de Jimena. Several trains a day stop at Jimena on the line between Algeciras and Granada.

Accommodation

- **Hostal Los Arcos**, c/Reina de los Ángeles, 8, Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena. Tel: (+34) 956 641 212.
- **Hacienda Don Luis**, c/Blas Infante, 9, Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena. Tel: (+34) 956 641 195.
- **Restaurante Las Rejas**, Carretera Comarcal 405, Km-20, Jimena de la Frontera. Tel: (+34) 956 648 288.

[The Hostal Los Arcos and the Hacienda Don Luis are both right beside the train station, so it is possible to be based here for 3, maybe 4 nights, getting the train back and forth each day. This can help with the steep climbs and lack of accommodation options between here and Ronda. There are 3 trains a day north and south, including one that leaves at 06.53h from Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena each morning].

Day 3. Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena de la Frontera to El Colmenar/Estación Gaucín (19 kms)

From Jimena de la Frontera Station, go down c/Juan de Dios. As it bends left at the bottom, there is a nice pedestrian path along the left hand side of the road. The road bends right and becomes the main A-405 road. Here, walk to the left of the road, between the houses and a garage. At the end, turn **Right**, then **Left**, alongside the main road. Stay on the left hand side. Pass the *Restaurante Las Rejas* and **KSO**.

Just before the road bends right, take the road to the **Left**, the CA-8201, as far as a house on the right, opposite where another road (coming from the *pueblo*) joins from the left. Follow a narrow path that runs at first alongside the wall of the house, then it becomes a path between fences, then a path between trees. This leads, slightly ascending and eventually, to the A-405 road. As the road curves sharp left, take the road branching off to the **Right**, to the *cementerio San Pablo*. **4 kms**

Pass the cemetery then go down a stony lane, which ends up at the railway line. There is no level crossing here, and the track is set slightly up on an embankment of stones, so both cross and descend on the other side extremely carefully.

Follow the path ahead on the other side, towards the old railway signal, as it goes at first between fences, then through trees. After 650m pass a villa (with dogs!) on the left, then follow the lane a further 160m or so, to the CA-8200. After just over 1 km the road turns sharp **Right**. As it then goes round and up to the left, go off down to the **Right**, onto a tree-lined walkway, the *Paseo de la Diputación*, and cross the *Arroyo de los Fresnos*. **KSO** then continue on the c/Jimena as it goes round and up **Left**, all the way to the Plaza Constitución. Turn **Right** onto the c/Real and come to the church of San Pedro y San Pablo Apóstoles, in **San Pablo de Buceite**. **7.5 kms**

There are bars and restaurants on this main street. Continue on the calles Real and Blas Infante, down to the *Paseo de la Paz*. At the mini-roundabout and Bar-Restaurante Venta Las Acacias, turn **Right** and cross the bridge over the Guadiaro river. Follow the road round **Left** and continue on the (busy at times) A-405. After about 600m, at a sharp curve to the right, take an asphalt (at first) road to the **Left**, the *Central Corchado*. Continue on this road, the *Cañada Real de Gaucín*, ignoring a street that comes from the left, and passing between all the houses. As the road starts to rise, cross the *Arroyo de Santón* by a little bridge. Shortly, come to the gates of the *Cortijo Los Lirios*. **10.5 kms**

This is a *Cañada Real*, so you can pass through here freely. After entering, take the second path on the **Left**, ascending between red-brown-white wooden posts. Pass to the **Right** of the big white building and go through the gate, to begin a long climb. A zig-zagging path, steep at times, leads at first to a plateau with a small ruin on the left, at a height of 180m. Take a deep breath – because in about only 1 kilometre more you will be up at 300m, at another plateau.

Here take a path immediately on the **Left**, descending – steeply at times. The path winds round the hill before coming to a junction of paths, with one joining from behind left. Almost immediately we come to another junction. To continue, don't go left or right here as such – but slightly **Right**, then immediately **Left**, to go through a gate. Once through **KSO**, up ahead. This next section goes up and down, sometimes rising to 340m, and there are not many waymarks, but stick to the main path all the time. Eventually, after about 3 kms, pass a gate with a tall eucalyptus, and take the path that then bends round to the **Right**. Go up and round **Left**, and follow this path as it winds towards the MA-9300 road. **16.5 kms**

Turn **Left** onto the road as it curves downhill, for about 850m. There, as the road curves left, take the lane on the **Right** to a farmhouse and go through a gate immediately on the **Left**, to go down the first of two descents through fields. Each stretch is about 1 km in length. The first stretch is very stony, but the narrow path is obvious. The second stretch is less stony, but the path is less obvious. If you look ahead, down to the river and the bridge, you need to be on the path that brings you out to the right hand side of the bridge when you reach the bottom. There, exit from the fenced fields and double back **Left** a little, to turn **Right** and cross the bridge over the Guadiaro river. Go up the Avenida Santiago and enter **El Colmenar**. **19 kms (62.6/177.4kms)**

Pass the first houses in the village and **KSO** to reach El Colmenar's bars and restaurants and the railway station, **Estación Gaucín**.

Accommodation

- **Hostal Los Arcos** or **Hacienda Don Luis**, back at Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena.
- **Hostal-Hospedería Las Buitreras**, c/ Pista Forestal, 67, El Colmenar. Tel: (+34) 952 153 184 | 669 808 271.

Day 4. Est Gaucín to La Cañada Del Real Tesoro/Estación Cortes de la Frontera (11.5 kms)

The 11.5 kms "*Sendero Cañón de las Buitreras*" stage is worthy of a special note here, for two reasons:

First, it is spectacular! The canyon is located on the eastern edge of *Los Alcornocales* Nature Park, between the villages of El Colmenar and Cortes de la Frontera. It has stunning vertical walls, and is over 100 metres deep. The Guadiaro river has gradually carved this narrow canyon out of the rock (limestone and similar) that makes up these mountains. It is called the *Cañón de las Buitreras* (Vultures' Canyon) because its steep walls are the nesting ground for a large colony of Griffon vultures. Humans have also played their part in the formation of the landscape, with the construction of impressive tunnels and bridges for the Algeciras-Ronda railway line.

Second, it is challenging! With very steep ascents, equally steep descents, and some narrow/on the edge paths in parts, this stage is extremely demanding, even for experienced walkers. If it is possible to walk today without carrying a heavy rucksack, that would be best. Also, take enough water in hot weather, and watch out for mud/slipping in wet weather. It will feel a lot longer than 11.5 kms usually feels! Be warned!

From the station, go **Left** along the main street, passing *Sendero Cañón de las Buitreras* information boards on the left, then turn **Left**, at a sign for *Cañon Buitreras*. Go up a little and round to the **Right**, then turn **Right** to follow the road between houses, then **Left** after the last house on the left. To the right, in the valley, is the river Guadiaro. The road goes **Left**, then **Right**. Cross a little bridge, with eucalyptus trees on the right.

Arrive at locked gates and a "*Private Property*" sign – however you can enter, by going round the left hand side of the gate. With the *Buitreras Hydroelectric Plant* on the right, take a path up to the **Left**, pebbled at first, then with steps, and running up alongside a thick pipe. At the top of the steps, turn **Right**, go under the pipe, and follow a path round to the **Right**, then the **Left**. A narrow trail meanders for the next 600m or so – sometimes flat, sometimes a little up and down; sometimes close to the edge of the hill, sometimes more "inland". During this section you reach a height of 250m.

After a while go down in height, and all the way down to the edge of the river. The path becomes sandy, and runs alongside the river between large stones. Caution: during the rainy season, this section is waterlogged and impossible to pass. In that case you would need to do what the cyclists do for this stage – go on the long and winding road!

The path goes up and down at times, until reaching the sign: *peligro cauce de caudal variable*, and a short suspension bridge. Cross the bridge and go down the steps. The paths in this next section are mostly safe and passable, if a little stony underfoot, but extra care is needed at those times when they are narrow and right on the edge of the hill. Continue to the point where the train tunnel is up to the left. Here the way is still passable, but it's a little tricky, over stones.

At a height of 270m, reach some wooden steps, leading to a climbing path then, later, more steps. Up you go, a bit at a time, higher and higher, sometimes more steeply than others. This can be exhausting, especially in hot weather. However the way is well marked (usually down low), and the views – back, down, across and up – are spectacular! The vultures may also be circling up above. Finally, at a height of 450m, reach a small plateau with a wooden marker set in the middle of stones. Pause, rest and relax here ... before the steep descent ahead.

Descend very carefully. It is extremely steep at times and the ground underfoot is stony and may be muddy. With the railway line over to the left, finally come down to 330m in height by some large wooden rocks, to a wooden railing and a tunnel going **Right**. The tunnel is low, so pass through it carefully, especially going up the steps in the middle and along the last low bit – mind your head! **4 kms** [*You will note that this is one of those sections that has felt like a whole lot more than just 4 kms!*]

Coming out of the tunnel, cross the *Puente de los Alemanes* and climb up on the other side, with the help of strong metal cables. Pick up a path and follow it through low bushes on the mountainside. Pass some fig trees and some loose piles of stones, before reaching a house in ruins. Here you are back up to 410m height. Pass up by the **Left** hand side of the ruin and, at the top left, pick up a wider lane going off to the **Left**. Follow this good, wide path now for some time. Eventually go through an open gate and pass, on the left, a high voltage post and an Information Board. In the next 1.5 kms the path meanders along the slopes of the hill, through the beautiful valley. It bends **Right** and **Left**, rising steadily to a height of over 500m – higher than earlier in the day, but not as steep, and on a wide and pleasant path. At the top, where it meets another path and comes to a plateau, there is a tree, for shade and a rest.

The descent is not too steep, and it's on a good track. The route veers round **Left** and crosses the *Arroyo de los Puertos*. The land to the right is secured by a fence, behind which a power line runs. Keep going down on the winding track. Pass two old stone huts, on the right, behind the fence. With another bend to the **Left**, cross the *Arroyo de la Abejera*. After going up and down a little on the path, go through a gate and descend, passing a house with a stone wall and several other small farm buildings. The path leads further down to the valley and, after about 1 km, cross a cement bridge over the *Arroyo de Salitre*, going round **Left**.

Continue on a rocky lane between trees and small houses, later passing the *Finca Allá Bajo*. At a fork in the paths, with the *Finca El Cerrillo* on your left, veer **Left**. Go down to the big white house on your left, and cross the river by the stone bridge behind it. **10 kms**

Turn **Right** onto a paved road. About 600m along this road, after the last of the houses, take the fork up to the **Left**. Go up, round and down to arrive at the first houses of **La Cañada Del Real Tesoro. 11.5 kms (74.1/165.9kms)**

Walk along the main street, pass the parish church of San Juan de Dios, and come to the centre of the town, at the Bar Picoteo (there are more bars in the streets to the left of this). After house 56, turn **Left** onto c/Costerilla II for the **Cortes de la Frontera** train station – or **KSO** to the end of the main street, to continue.

Accommodation

- **Hostal Los Arcos** or **Hacienda Don Luis**, back at Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena.
- At the moment there is no cheap accommodation in La Cañada Del Real Tesoro/ Estación Cortes de la Frontera, although one casa rural option was spotted, as you leave the pueblo.

Day 5. La Cañada Del Real Tesoro/ Estación Cortes de la Frontera to Benaoján (16.3 kms)

Leave La Cañada del Real Tesoro straight along the main street. After the last houses, with the *Bar La Parra* on the left, take the road to the **Right**, bending round **Right**. Here a sign says: *Jimera de Libár 11 kms*.

Cross the bridge – over the Guadiaro river, again! – and follow the PR-A 255 trail on the A-373 road, up and round **Left**. Some 650m along, turn **Left** onto a wide track, level at first. The track curves, and goes up and down a bit, before reaching a cattle grid. Continue, going up moderately, till crossing the *Arroyo de la Bovedilla*. On the left, on the other side of the valley, you start to see the mountains – some are 1325m high. Stunning! Ahead, on the mountainside, is Cortes de la Frontera.

At a fork continue on the **Left**. A sign with white and yellow rings marks the PR. Again the track goes up and down, both slightly, till you come to a sign which says you can go to Jimera de Líbar by going right (by the pueblo and the mountains) or straight ahead. **KSO** ahead. After about 1.7 kms the track winds down to the railway. Go through the underpass (by the dry part, at the side of the *Arroyo de Alfacara*, when possible) and turn **Right** onto a path through trees. About 0.7 km later turn **Right** and go under the railtrack again. **4 kms**

Follow the track round **Left**, where it becomes a path, till crossing the (not always obvious) *Arroyo de los Judios*. The next 4 kms is on a long path through trees and bushes, with the train line and mountain views to the left. Sometimes the path goes nearer the track; sometimes it is further up the hillside. Over the course of these 4 kms: go through a gate; cross a drainage channel, an *arroyo* (with the help of some large stones) and another two drainage channels; and go through another gate. After this last gate turn **Right**, up a track to cross the railway line on a green walkway.

Once on the other side, do a U-turn to the **Right**, onto a path parallel to the Guadiaro river. Pass *Los Molinos*, the *Finca La LLana* and the *Casa Rural Venta del Rey* (all accommodation options if you choose to stop here), as well as a lovely riverside picnic area. A little further on an information panel on the right indicates 1 km to Jimera station and 2 kms to Jimera de Líbar. **KSO**, crossing a stream by a small bridge. Pass the land of *Molino Rodete/Venta de la Salud*, on the left, and go under the bridge. The path becomes a street. Arriving at c/Cuesta de la Barca, **KSO**. A little further along follow the arrow **Right** for a fountain and the station, in **Jimera de Líbar. 9 kms**

An underground passage leads to the main street, the *Virgen de la Salud* chapel, the Plaza San Roque and a bar (open from 12 noon | closed Tuesdays). This is a good place for a rest.

To continue, with the railway line on the left, follow the street to the end, turn **Right** and go uphill, till a path from the town joins from the right. Go **Left**, over the river, then **Left** again, and follow the path round **Right** and up into the trees. Pass a green walkway over the railtrack, on your left, and **KSO** up the path. Soon the first green *Parque Natural* signs appear. These will mark the route for the next 7 kms. Continue along the path, with the railtrack and river alongside left. The path is narrow and goes up and down. When it is up higher it is often on stones, and at times it goes very close to the edge of the ridge on the left hand side. In some parts the slopes are secured by wire. Otherwise, go very carefully.

About two thirds of the way along, the railtrack disappears into first one, then another, tunnel. The second time this happens, the path is down close to the river, passing between rocks. Pass by a ruin, then cross a wooden walkway over the *Arroyo del Pozo del Moro*. The path climbs up and down twice more, before we see the first houses around the Benaoján-Montejaque train station. Eventually a set of distance poles tells us the station is only 700m away. From here go down to the pedestrian bridge over the river. Turn **Left** and cross it, for the station and local bars and restaurants, in **Benaoján. 16.3 kms (90.4/149.6kms)**

Accommodation

- **Hostal Los Arcos** or **Hacienda Don Luis**, back at Los Ángeles/Estación Jimena.

Day 6. Benaoján to Ronda (9.2 kms)

From the pedestrian bridge **KSO**, in the direction *Cueva del Gato*, for about 600m, till reaching the underpass under the ctra MA-555. Just before the tunnel, go up the path to the **Right**, to the road. Walk along the road for 200m (carefully – it's at a bend), then take the wide cemented path on the **Right**: the *Colada del Camino de Cortes de la Frontera*. It's the second path – the first is to a private estate.

After a few hundred metres go through a fence. Underfoot becomes dirt and stones. As the path rises and winds upwards, there are beautiful views around and behind. Go through a gate, then another, and come to a ruin. **KSO** and pass a house over to your left. The path rises again and becomes very stony. Reaching the brow of the hill you are at a height of almost 700m, and can see Ronda ahead. **6 kms**

KSO a wide gravel path, descending steeply for about 600m (to about 570m in height), then bend **Right** and **Left** as the path starts to go up again, gradually. In the next 750m you will climb back up to 620m. At a crossroads, with a marker with a white and yellow ring, **KSO**. Go down another steep, stony path – some 500m, to the *Sijuela* valley (560m height).

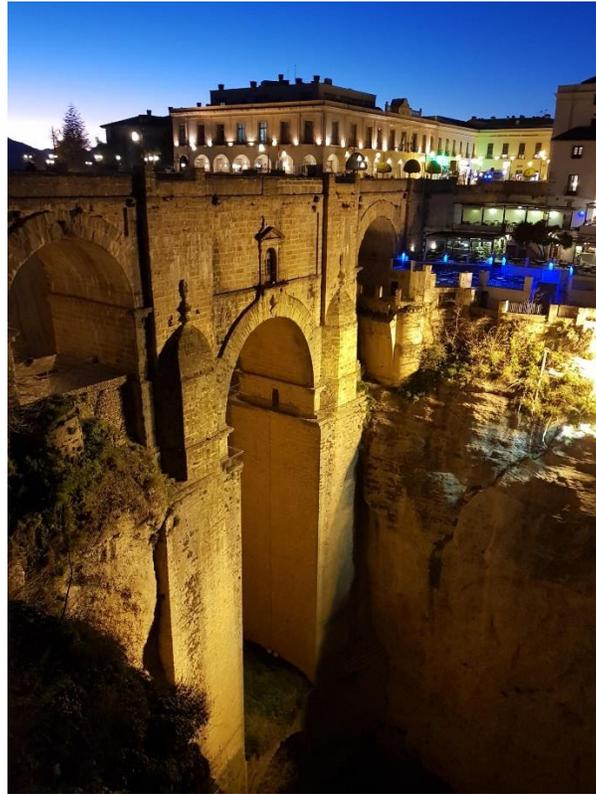
Over the next 1-1.5 kms you go up again, on a gravel track. Pass a house with dogs on the left, then two more houses further on, the last of which has a yellow wall and green fencing. At a T-junction, come to the end of the *Colada del Camino de Cortes de la Frontera*. Turn **Left**, and follow the road down, round and **Left**, towards Ronda. Arriving at c/Pila Doña Gaspara and a mini-roundabout, turn **Left**. After 670m join the c/Torrejones, leading to the plaza Ruedo Alameda. Go through the *Puerta de Almocábares* and continue on the c/Espíritu Santo. Take a set of stairs up to the **Left**, then continue to the **Right**, on c/Armiñan. After just over 700m, arrive at the famous "New" bridge over the Guadalquivir river, in **Ronda. 9.2 kms (99.6/140.4kms)**

Ronda is an historic city in the province of Málaga, in Andalucía. With a population of about 35,000 inhabitants, it is the largest city in the region. Ronda is situated in a mountainous area about 750m (2,460 ft) above mean sea level. The Guadalquivir river runs through the city, dividing it in two and carving out the steep, 100-plus-metre-deep *El Tajo* canyon, above which the city sits.

Accommodation

For a wide range of accommodation options at various price points see, among others, www.booking.com and www.airbnb.es.





Ronda, Johnnie Walker

Day 7. Ronda to Setenil de las Bodegas (19.8 kms)

There are no painted arrows in the centre of Ronda. To leave, cross the *Tajo* river by the "New" bridge and go through the Plaza España onto the Avenida de la Paz. Pass the Plaza de Toros on the left, and go up the *c/Jerez*. Here a walkway begins on the left, passing a monument to the *Virgen del Rocío*. Follow the road round left and at a mini-roundabout go down to the **Left**. At a row of semi-detached houses, take a path to the **Left** leading to the *Bodega de los Descalzos Viejos*. The arrows begin here.

It is a steep path down. In 200m, at a fork, go **Left**. Where the main road over to the right bends, the concrete path becomes a stony and sandy one. Again, it's a steep descent, and tricky underfoot in parts. It ends at a junction of paths with various information posts. Take the path that goes off **north-east** (ie the one at a "ten past the hour" position). The ground underfoot here is wider and better. After 280m, at some ruins and just before the road, turn **Left** onto a path and follow this to the road. Join the road briefly, but as it bends left, take the road to the **Right**, and pass the walls of a military base. Cross the *Arroyo Guadalcobacín* and go through a tunnel under the railway line. **4 kms**

Almost immediately, at a crossroads of paths, **KSO** – up to the A-376 road (ignoring a second tunnel to the right just before this). Cross carefully and **KSO** ahead on the MA-7402. The road climbs and then bends to the **Right**. 140m later, turn **Right**, accessing a path by the gates of *La Hacienda del Conde*. Pass some buildings on the left, then the *Finca Shangrilah* left and the *Villa Nerea* (with dogs) right. **6 kms**

Later pass between more houses - with more dogs! Just before arriving at a T-junction, by some large prickly cactus plants, watch out carefully for an arrow up to your left, indicating a sharp **Left** u-turn up. Pass a broadcast tower and a huge fenced ranch, and continue on up till reaching the MA-7402. Cross over and **KSO** on the lane on the other side, which leads back to the road. Continue on this road as it goes up **Left**, and winding, for about 1.5 kms. Before one of the road's sharp bends to the left, leave it to the **Right**, at the sign: *Bodega Taller Doña Felisa, Chinchilla*. Take the paved road by some rubbish bins, down between trees. On the left is the Setenil River. After 760m leave the road to the **Left** by a wide, sandy path. **10 kms**

Continue on this path, winding and undulating (and ignoring paths coming from the left or right) for quite a long time. Pass: some solar energy panels in a field; a sign pointing to *Cortijo del Médico*; the striking *Peñacerrada* rock; and a wooden signpost for *Acinipo* and *Setenil*. Keep on going, along the same path, winding up at times. Eventually, after the last climb, arrive at some houses, in **Venta de la Leche.* 16 kms**

Here, before the bus stop, the Via Serrana tile marking goes off to the **Right**. Follow this path to the T-junction with the CA-4223|9113 and turn **Right**, then follow this road till it reaches a junction of roads, bus stops and the entrance to **Setenil de las Bodegas. 19.8 kms (119.4/120.6kms)**

To enter the centre of Setenil, turn **Left** here, onto the CA-9120 road, then **Right**, onto calles Reyes Católicos and Moreno de Mora, which lead to the Plaza de Andalucía and the Information Office (Tuesday to Sunday, 10am - 2pm).

Setenil de las Bodegas is a town in the province of Cádiz. The town extends along a narrow river gorge, and is famous for some of its houses being built into the rock walls of the gorge itself, created by enlarging natural caves or overhangs and adding an external wall.

* If not visiting or staying in Setenil, it is possible to KSO at Venta de la Leche, following former waymarking: After the bus stop, follow the exit road out of the pueblo. A sign indicates: *Torre-Alháquime 7.7 kms*. Follow this. At a fork in the road go **Left**. The road appears to end at a building, but it actually continues to the **Left**, by a fence. (Note: it is sometimes overgrown, so may be hard to spot at first). In some parts the ground underfoot is not good. Go carefully. At the end of the path, at a crossroads, **KSO** till arriving at some buildings. Cross the Trejo river and pass the rest area of the San Juan Hermitage. Follow a wide dirt track, with trees on both sides, until the CA-9120 road. Here the main road coming from Setenil joins from the right.

Accommodation

- **Casa de las Lanzas**, c/Vilchez, 25, Setenil. Tel: (+34) 633 417 522.
- **Casa Mina**, c/Mina, 31, Setenil. Tel: (+34) 657 669 897.

Day 8. Setenil to Olvera (14 kms)

From the Setenil Tourist Office and the Plaza de Andalucía, go through the archway to the **Left** and follow the c/Callejón round **Left**, with the rock on the left and parking and bodegas on the right. The road bends right, passing a sign for Olvera, and winds down through bodegas before coming up to join the main road coming from the left, the CA-9120. **1.5 kms**

Here a signs say: *19 kms from Ronda; 7.5 kms to Torre Alháquime; and 12.5 kms to Olvera*. Turn **Right** onto this road, and continue on it all the way to Torre Alháquime, winding left and right; sometimes going up a little, sometimes on the flat, sometimes going down. After crossing the *Río Guadalporcún*, the road rises a bit more steeply. At the top of the rise Torre Alháquime comes into sight, on the slope of a mountain, with Olvera behind it. Stunning! The road winds down. At a sign: *Area Recreativa Molino de Trejo 500m*, just under 1 km from Torre Alháquime, the path from Venta de la Leche joins from the left. **KSO** to the entrance to Torre Alháquime. **9 kms**

For a little while walk on a nice pedestrian walkway to the left of the road. At the end of this, **KSO** and up the stairs, on the c/Alcalá del Valle. Cross the road, to the right of the *Barrio San Roque* signs, and **KSO** up on the other side. Blue/yellow arrow tiles lead up through the pueblo. After another flight of stairs, turn **Left** and **KSO**, then go **Right**, through the archway, leading to the church of *Nuestra Señora de la Antigua*. Turn **Right** at the church, up stairs and through another archway, leading to a beautiful seating area with 360° panoramic views.

Leave this seated area by a set of stairs and gate to the **Right**. Turn **Left, Right, Left** again (at house number 1), then **Right** onto c/Trascastillo. Going down, make a sharp **U-turn, Left**, onto c/Nueva then, a little further on, a sharp **U-turn, Right**, onto the Avenida Andalucía. Follow this down to a T-junction at the Plaza de El Santo and turn **Left**.

At the roundabout, take the first exit on the **Left** then, almost immediately, the path off the road to the **Left**. At a fork, veer **Right** and follow the path round right, passing some work buildings, on the left. Shortly, arrive at more work buildings, and follow the path up to the **Left**, to begin a climb over more than 1 km. Caution: this is on a very narrow path – some of it extremely narrow; parts of it are on hard rocks; and it gets quite steep. At the top, come to a clearing next to the main *carretera*, just before the *Santuario de Nuestra Señora de los Remedios*. The shrine is not always open, but if the main gates are open you can see inside through the glass. There is a bar on the opposite side of the road.

To continue, pass in front of the shrine and pick up a pedestrian pathway to the **Left** of the main road. Pass under the *carretera* and continue. Enter the pueblo by calles Vereda Pino and Nuestra Señora de los Remedios and the Avenida Julian Besteiro, to arrive at the Plaza de la Concordia, in **Olvera. 14 kms (133.4/106.6kms)**

Olvera is a city in the province of Cádiz, towards the end of the "pueblos blancos" route. Of great interest within its surrounding area is a large colony of Andalusian griffon vultures, to be found within the natural reserve of the "Peñon de Zaframagón", a huge rock outcrop located 14-15 kms northwest of Olvera.

Accommodation

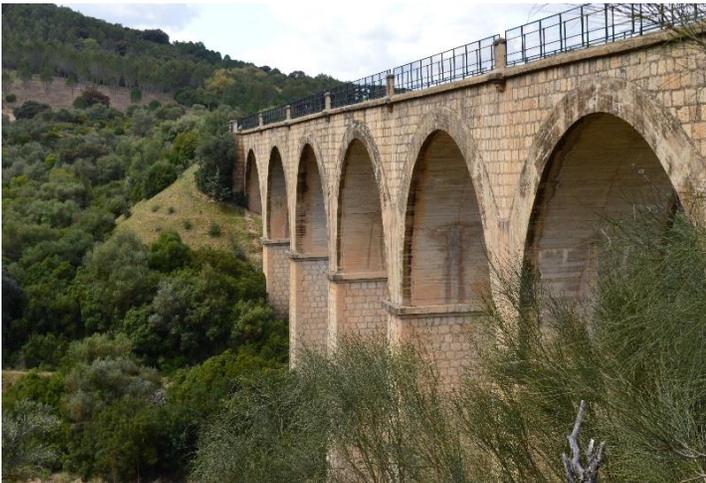
- **Hostal Medina**, c/Sepúlveda, 6, Olvera. Tel: (+34) 956 130 173.
- **Hotel Estación Via Verde**, c/Estación, Olvera – 1 km further on from the centre of Olvera, on the route.
Tel: (+34) 657 987 432.

[Note: if staying at both the Hotel Estación Via Verde in Olvera and the Hotel Estación de Coripe, the distance hotel to hotel tomorrow is only 21.2 kms].

Day 9. Olvera to Coripe (24.2 kms)

Leave Olvera to the **Right** hand side of the Plaza de la Concordia, on the c/Sepúlveda. Pass to the **Right** of the bus station, going down the c/Estación, at first between houses, then on a pedestrian walkway. At the bottom, with the Hotel Estación Via Verde on the right, follow the signs **Left** for the Via Serrana|Via Verde (ie not straight ahead for the Via de la Frontera|Via Verde de la Sierra). **1 km**

From here the route is very pleasant, straightforward and flat, following a series of 20 unused tunnels and a number of station buildings dating back to the 19th century. These are from a railway project that was started but was never finished, so you pass through stops and stations that never came to be, through tunnels through which trains never passed! The tunnels offer cool and shade on hot days. The longest of them are lit.



Coripe-Zaframagon, Leandro Martínez del Río (Flickr) -
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Tunnel, Johnnie Walker

The first 7-8 kms (tunnels 30-21), are on asphalt, with mountains to the left and valleys to the right. This leads to the Navagrilla "station". The next 7-8 kms (tunnels 20-16) are on a gravel path, more enclosed, with mountains on each side. This section passes through the *Zaframagón Nature Reserve*. After tunnel 16 there are some farm buildings and some signs, including: *8.2 kms to Coripe*.

Crossing the Zaframagón viaduct, and entering the Province of Seville and the municipality of Coripe, vultures circle around the rock on the left, the *Peñon de Zaframagón*. After the rock, arrive at the Zaframagón "station" buildings, now a Visitor Reception and Information Centre and a Museum-Observatory. There are drinks and snacks machines here.

16.5 kms

The next 5.7 kms (tunnels 15-11) continue on gravel, and are even more enclosed. Between tunnels 14 and 13 is a picnic-rest area with tables and seats. Immediately after tunnel 11, is the Coripe station Bar-Restaurant and Hotel.

After tunnel 11, follow the granite marker **Right** onto the main road to go up towards the centre of Coripe (a further 2 kms). The first kilometre or so is by the main road, until a bend and a picnic area on the left. The next part continues up to the entrance to Coripe by a dirt track that runs to the **Left** of the road. Entering the pueblo there is a **fuelle** on the left. **KSO** to the Plaza San Pedro, Bar Pastor and church of San Pedro, in **Coripe. 24.2 kms (157.6/82.4kms)**

Accommodation

- **Hotel Estación de Coripe**, Antigua Estación de Coripe Via Verde, s/n, Coripe – 2 kms before the centre of Coripe, on the route. Tel: (+34) 954 026 033.
- **Pensión-Bar Pastor**, Pza. de San Pedro, 26, Coripe – opposite the church. Tel: (+34) 955 858 569.

Day 10. Coripe to Montellano (16.4 kms)
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Leave Coripe to the **Left** of the Plaza San Pedro on calles Las Onzas and Santiago de Vallhonrat, then turn **Left** onto c/Azucena. This leads onto a lovely tree-lined gravel path. Follow this down and round, ignoring paths to the right and left, as it winds through countryside. The path goes down steeply, passing a quarry on the right. Cross an *arroyo*. The path winds up then bends **Left**, parallel to the A-8127 road, which you join, to the **Left**, just before the Km-12 mark. About 200m later, on the left, is a white cone ("*San Pedro*") and on the right a sign indicating: *11 kms to Montellano*.

3.5 kms

Take the path to the **Right**, through a wide valley between the hills. Pass the *Finca El Ran Chito* and a house with solar panels – and dogs! The path gains in height, and the view back is lovely. At the top, at a junction of paths, turn **Left** and go down to the big white house. Just before it, on the **Left**, a dark coloured dirt track starts, steep in parts. Underfoot can be wet and muddy in bad weather. It is a bit of a climb up at first, but once at the top you continue in a more relaxed way, on land between fields. At another junction of paths, go up to a T-junction at a farm. Turn **Left** and pass a ruin, which is used as a stable.

The next goal is the quarry beneath the Cote castle tower. Both can be seen ahead in the distance. **KSO** passing another ruin on the left and a house on the right (dogs!) The path winds up and round. At a junction, take the path winding down **Left**. At the bottom point, do NOT continue straight ahead up – rather, turn **Right** onto a path through fields. It's not obvious you should go this way, but soon you will see arrows on the trees on your left. The path is narrow and stony at first, but it improves after the trees.

Cross an *arroyo* and **KSO** a stony, earth field. Again, it might not be too obvious that this is the way, but **KSO**. As you go over the brow of a little hill, an arrow on a fence on the right reassures you're going the correct way. The path improves again. Follow it down and round to the foot of the hill, at the *Arroyo de la Mujer*. Go **Left** at a stake with white/yellow rings that says "PR2". Passing beneath the quarry (which is on the right on the mountain slope) go up and round on a wide stony path. At the top, where the path flattens out, there is an information panel about the various 13th century towers in the region. **11 kms**

Cross the road (A-8127) and **KSO**, on a path to the left of the road – gravel at first, then asphalt, then gravel again. At some picnic tables, the path comes back round close to the road, but **KSO**. Shortly after this, at a crossroads of paths, **KSO** again – with trees above a stone wall on the right. Reaching some more picnic tables, **KSO** the asphalt road ahead. Here there is another "PR2" pole, on the right.

Follow this road as it winds all the way round and, eventually, into Montellano. Much of this is on a pathway with a wooden handle-bar, and with the *Arroyo de Majalén* on the left. Reaching the first houses of the pueblo, pass a play/sports area on the left and **KSO** onto c/Ruiz Ramos. Pass between the junior and senior schools and follow this road round **Right**, then immediately **Left**, then **Right** again, as it comes to the main road (the A-8127 again) and c/de la Cruz, in **Montellano. 16.4 kms (174/66kms)**

Accommodation

- **Hostal-Restaurante Bobi**, junction of c/Juan Pérez Mendoza and c/Ronda. Tel: (+34) 954 875 356.

[If staying at the Hostal Bobi, after the play/sports area, turn first Right onto c/Juan Pérez Mendoza, and go all the way to the end of it, where it meets the c/Ronda. Next day, continue on the calles Ronda and de la Cruz into the centre of Montellano, to leave from there].

Day 11. Montellano to El Coronil (13 kms)

To leave Montellano: from rejoining the main road at the c/de la Cruz, take the road up to the **Left**, passing the *Plaza de Abastos* market, on the right. Go through the Plaza Andalucía and turn **Left** onto c/Sevilla. At a roundabout with three arches, turn **Left** onto the A-375 road.

As the road bends left, take the path to the **Right** of it (there's a faded arrow on the wall of an old building). Immediately, at a fork, keep to the **Right** hand side to follow a path through fields and olive groves. At *Picadero Sta Isabel* follow the path **Left**, winding at first between farm houses and buildings, then down, where it narrows. Cross the *Arroyo Salado de Morón*. Caution: the short slope is steep, and can be muddy; and the stones of the former bridge are unevenly spread. Having crossed it, go **Left**, then **Left** again, and follow the path round to the main road (A-375), between the San Sebastian restaurant and the service station. **4.5 kms**

Turn **Right** and walk along this main road for approximately 4 kms. The road is winding, it rises slightly, and it can be busy at times. 400m after the Km-24 sign, take the path to the **Left**, leading to the *Castillo de las Aguzaderas*. **9 kms**

At a T-junction, with the castle to the left, go **Right** on an asphalt path then, almost immediately, **Right** again, onto a path through fields – gravel and more defined at first, then stony, then muddy across a field. At an apparent fork, veer **Right**. This leads back to the A-375. Cross it carefully to continue on the road into El Coronil. Approaching the pueblo, you will see the beautiful church tower. At a roundabout, **KSO**, onto the Avenida de Andalucía. After the Avenida bends **Left**, after house number 1, turn **Right** onto c/Cura Barranco. Half way up, after house number 10, turn **Left**, then **Right**, into c/Corredera. Pass to the **Right** of the 16th century church of *Nuestra Señora de la Consolación*, on c/Yglesia (yes, with a "Y"!) to reach the *Ayuntamiento* and Plaza de la Constitución, in **El Coronil. 13 kms (187/53kms)**

Accommodation

- **Hostal Don Juan**, Calle del Bosque, 2, El Coronil. Tel: (+34) 955 830 233.

Day 12. El Coronil to Utrera (19.3 kms)

From El Coronil *Ayuntamiento* **KSO** onto the c/Real. At the end, at the *Capilla de la Vera Cruz*, turn **Left**. At a junction with a play area on the left, take a path on the **Left**, beside a pine tree. Pass some solar panels on the right and then walk for a long time between vast, open fields. Some of the route is through earthy fields, so it will be muddy in wet weather. Ignore any paths to the right or left. After about 3 kms, a sign indicates: *Los Molares 8.7 kms. KSO*. The path becomes earth and mud, through a field, but it will improve again later. After 1.5 kms, pass round the **Right** hand side of the *Cortijo de Guardainfantilla*, and **KSO**, as the path winds and rises. Eventually, at the top of a little hill, you begin to see signs of some life ahead. A short time later, come to a junction of paths. Veer **Left** and go through the *Cortijo de Pardales*. **8 kms**

Turn **Left** round the back of the buildings, then continue through the fields on the **Right**, all the way to the SE-4201 local road. Just before the road is a picnic area, on the left. Cross carefully and continue on the *Camino de El Arahal*. At a crossroads, turn **Left**, to walk towards the pueblo. Arriving at the first houses, at a *Camino Augusta* plaque, **KSO** on c/Baltasar Alcanzar. Follow this street round **Left**, then turn **Right**, onto the Avenida de Andalucía. Turn **Left** onto c/Real to reach the 14th century castle and 18th century church of Santa Marta, in the centre of **Los Molares. 13 kms**

KSO, passing a play area on the right, then turn **Right**, up c/Cerrado. Follow the road round **Left** then, at a junction with a roundabout, go **Left**. Ignore a path off to the right after just 300m. The road winds its way round and, eventually, crosses a concrete bridge to enter Utrera. At the roundabout, cross and **KSO**, onto c/Molares. At another roundabout, **KSO** again, onto c/Álvarez Hazañas. Follow this round **Left** into the Plaza del Altozano, with the church of San Francisco on the right. Leave this to the **Right**, into the Plaza de la Constitución and the church of Santiago, in **Utrera. 19.3 kms (206.3/33.7kms)** Here the route joins with the *Vía Augusta*, from Cádiz.

Utrera is an historic town in the province of Seville, Andalucía. Its chapels, dating from the 14th to 18th centuries, churches and 14th century castle are popular tourist attractions. Utrera is considered the cradle of the fighting bull and the flamenco.

Accommodation

- **Hotel Vera Cruz**, La Corredera, 44, Utrera. Tel: (+34) 955 865 252.

Day 13. Utrera to Dos Hermanas (18 kms)

From the Plaza de la Constitución, **KSO** the c/Fuente Vieja to the Plaza Santa Ana, then take the second **Right**, onto La Corredora. Just past the Hotel Vera Cruz (number 44), at the intersection of calles Corredora and Vera-Cruz, there are two options to get to Seville: either by Dos Hermanas (described below), or by Alcalá de Guadaíra. The latter continues straight on La Corredora here, to the main Utrera-Sevilla road, then goes straight through a number of roundabouts, before turning **Right** onto the c/Progreso to continue to Alcalá de Guadaíra.

To go by Dos Hermanas: At the Hotel Vera Cruz, cross over to the other side of the road, and turn **Left** onto the c/Vera-Cruz. Near the end of this street, at a mini-roundabout, veer **Right**, pass under the bridge, and go up the stairs to cross over the railway line and come down at the cemetery on the other side. There, take the path to the **Right** – the one nearest to the railway line: the *Camino de los Callejones*. Stay on this path, more or less, for about 7.5 kms.

After about 1 km, go under a bridge then, 1.5 kms later, go around another bridge, to the **Left** hand side, to continue on the same path on the other side. From here the path moves further away from the railway line, and underfoot it will be gravel, earth, stones or sand.

About 3 kms from the cemetery, there is no arrow indicating KSO, but don't follow the gravel path round to the right. Instead **KSO** ahead on a path between trees, prickly cacti and olive groves. About 1 km later, passing the gates of the *Finca Florida Alta*, an arrow on a post on the right will confirm you are still on the correct path. Pass the gates of the *Finca San Antonio* and **KSO** the path ahead, between trees. Cross an *arroyo* and arrive at some farm buildings. Again, **KSO**.

Almost immediately, at a fork, veer **Right**, at the impressive *Hacienda de Don Rodrigo*. The path narrows. Eventually, arrive at a junction of roads. Turn **Right** to continue, on the A-8029.* **8.5 kms**

*[A sign here actually indicates that Dos Hermanas is 8 kms away, on the road straight ahead, the SE-426. In truth, the waymarked route runs for 7 kms along the side of the railtrack, where sadly there is rather a lot of fly-tipping going on. So if you want to avoid this you could simply **KSO** here, on the SE-426, which eventually becomes the c/Cerro Blanco then, in turn, the c/Real de Utrera. Then, at a roundabout, the waymarked route joins from the Avenida España right].*

* 500m along the A-8029, on a walkway to the left of the road, cross over the bridge. At the end of the walkway, cross over and follow the path round **Right**, then **Right** again, under the bridge, onto a path that runs parallel to the railway line, on its right. Stay on this path for some 7 kms, sometimes down on the level, sometimes raised up a little. Periodically trains pass, at some speed. 3 kms along arrows point both ahead and left ("*alternativa*"), through a tunnel. **KSO** (the fly-tipping on the alternative path is worse!) Pass under a bridge and, eventually, the path ends with a large parking/open space on the right and Cantaelgallo station on the left. **16 kms**

Here, either follow the road round to the roundabout and do a sharp U-turn **Left** to take the pavement beside the busy road that goes through the tunnel; or simply use the station underpass to get to the other side of the railway line. Once on the other side, **KSO** ahead, on the Avenida España (with the main road underpass and tunnel joining from the right). At the roundabout, take the first **Right** onto c/Real de Utrera. **KSO** this road for some time, till it veers **Left** onto c/Santa Ana and reaches the Plaza de la Constitución, in **Dos Hermanas. 18 kms (224.3/15.7kms)**

Accommodation

- **Hotel Leflet Valme**, Avenida de la Libertad, 6, Dos Hermanas – about 1.5 kms further on from the centre of Dos Hermanas, on the route. Tel: (+34) 955 679 292.

Day 14. Dos Hermanas to Sevilla (15.7 kms)

From the Plaza de la Constitución, take the second exit on the **Right**, onto c/Nuestra Señora de Valme, which leads to the Plaza del Arenal and the Dos Hermanas train station (*only 15 mins by train to Seville*). At the roundabout, take the second **Left**, onto the Avenida Sevilla. Cross over to the other side, to use the walkway to the **Right** hand side of the flyover road. Come down on the other side and **KSO** till the roundabout (with the Avenida España to the right). **KSO** ahead, between the Dia supermarket left and a service station right, onto the Avenida de la Libertad.

KSO, passing the Hotel Valme, on the right. At the third roundabout **KSO**, veering slightly **Right**, to join c/Gabriel Miró, then the Avenida de Las Universidades, which has walkways on both sides. About 3.5 kms and several roundabouts later, arrive at the entrance roundabout of the *Gran Hipódromo de Andalucía*. **5 kms**

On this side of the roundabout make your way over to the **Left**, to walk parallel to the racecourse fence. At first the road goes up a little, then it descends. After just over 500m, turn **Right** (leaving the racetrack fence) along a wide path that leads to Calle "O" (the streets around the racecourse are all marked with letters, for its traffic) then, by a last little bit of dirt track, to a bridge over the *Canal del Bajo Guadalquivir*. At the end of the track, continue on asphalt to a T-junction. Go **Right**, to cross the railway line by a bridge. **8 kms**

Come out near barracks, and go round to the **Right** (the left is a military zone). Pass under the train tracks, by an abandoned barracks, until reaching the N-4. Caution: concentration and care is required here, because it is where a lot of main roads converge. The important thing is to end up on the other side on the Avenida de Jerez, from where it is pretty much a straight road into the centre of Seville. Go slightly **Left**, by a pedestrian crossing and a shared bike lane, to cross the *Rio Guadaíra*. Continue, on the Avenida de Jerez, between buildings (including University residences and the Hotel Al-Andalus). Pass the Betis stadium, on the left, and **KSO** onto the long Avenida de La Palmera, which eventually becomes the Paseo de Las Delicias. Over to the left is the Los Remedios bridge over the *Rio Guadalquivir*. Continue along the Paseo de Las Delicias. Shortly before the San Telmo bridge on the left, and the *Jardines de Cristina* on the right, turn **Right** onto the Avenida de Roma, up to the Puerta de Jerez. From here, to the **Left**, the Avenida de la Constitución leads straight to the Cathedral of **Seville**. **15.7 kms (240/0kms)**

Sevilla is the capital and largest city of the autonomous community of Andalucía. It is situated on the plain of the river Guadalquivir. The inhabitants of the city are known as *sevillanos-sevillanas*. With a very large municipal population (703,000 in the 2011 census), and a metropolitan population of about 1.5 million, it is the fourth-largest city in Spain. Seville's Old Town contains three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Alcázar palace complex, the Cathedral and the General Archive of the Indies. For a wealth of historical and cultural information about the city see, among other sites, www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seville.

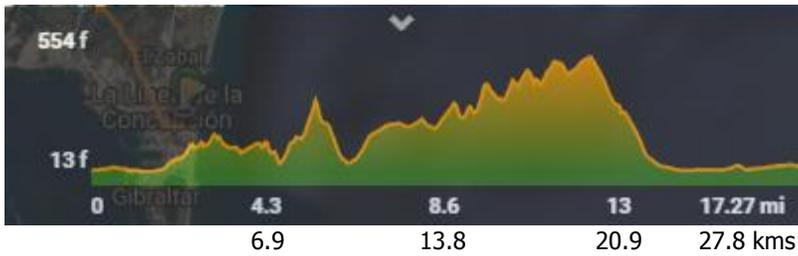


Giralda and Cathedral, chantrybee (Flickr) - <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/legalcode>

Wikiloc stages, distances and elevation profiles: <https://es.wikiloc.com/rutas-senderismo/via-serrana>.

1ª etapa: La Línea de la Concepción - San Martín del Tesorillo

17.27 miles (27.8 kms) | 13-554 feet (4-169 metres) – Easy



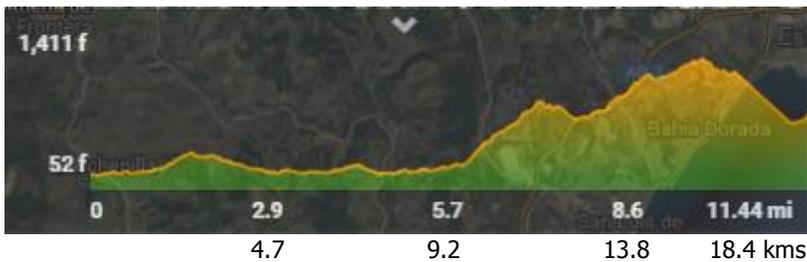
2ª etapa: San Martín del Tesorillo - Jimena de la Frontera

11.38 miles (18.3 kms) | 23-600 feet (7-183 metres) – Moderate



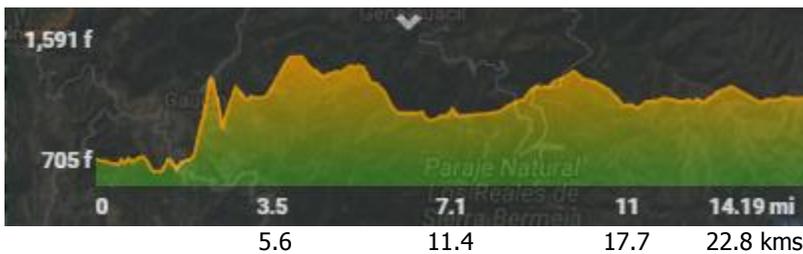
3ª etapa: Jimena de la Frontera - El Colmenar (Estación de Gaucín)

11.44 miles (18.4 kms) | 52-1,411 feet (16-430 metres) – Moderate



4ª etapa: El Colmenar (Estación de Gaucín) – Estación de Jimera de Líbar

14.19 miles (22.8 kms) | 705-1,591 feet (215-485 metres) – Difficult



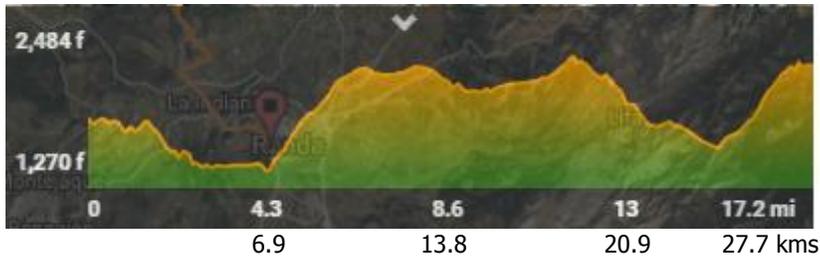
5ª etapa: Estación de Jimera de Líbar - Ronda

10.21 miles (16.4 kms) | 1,306-2,434 feet (398-742 metres) – Moderate



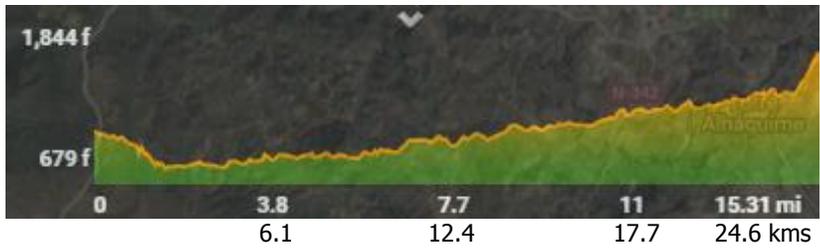
6ª etapa: Ronda - Olvera

17.2 miles (27.7 kms) | 1,270-2,484 feet (387-757 metres) – Moderate



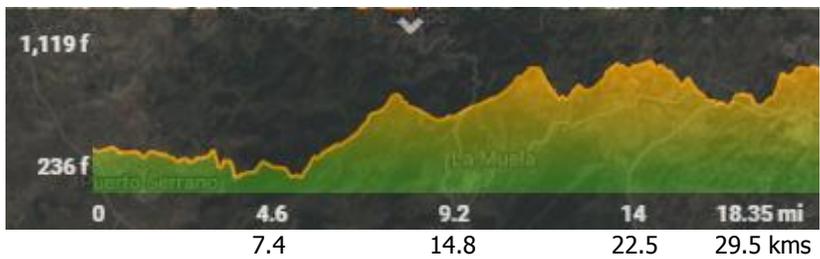
7ª etapa: Olvera - Coripe

15.31 miles (24.6 kms) | 679-1,844 feet (207-562 metres) – Easy



8ª etapa: Coripe - El Coronil

18.35 miles (29.5 kms) | 236-1,119 feet (72-341 metres) – Moderate



9ª etapa: El Coronil - Utrera

12 miles (19.3 kms) | 138-456 feet (42-136 metres) – Easy



10ª etapa A: Utrera - Sevilla (by Dos Hermanas)

21.28 miles (34.2 kms) | 10-190 feet (3-58 metres) – Easy



10ª etapa B: Utrera - Sevilla (by Alcalá de Guadaíra)

21.81 miles (35 kms) | 20-246 feet (6-75 metres) – Easy

