

Cartajima → Ronda

Start: Cartajima, Hotel Los Castanos, 847m, W36°38.741, N005°09.229
Highest: 1150m, Amola pass
Lowest: Ronda, 750m
Type: Up a barren mountain to start with, then down to Ronda all the way along a track passing by dwellings and (weekend) houses
Difficulty: medium, steep start, partly on rocky grounds to start with, easy going downhill
Length: 13.7, 4h
Way marks: partly yellow/white way markers and posts

Directions:

- Leave Hotel Los Castaños and turn left
- Down at the end turn left again and continue straight on leaving the village along the cemetery on the right and sports facilities on the left
- *Pass by the Mirador de Amola, the Amola is the big mountain dominating the village in the east. It is along its pass that you will cross over to Ronda*
- At the T-junction (1), cross over (*have a look at the board explaining the type of birds you may see*) and walk uphill to the right behind the sign Juzcar, right around the rock with the singular tree on top
- Pass by stables on the left until you hit a track and walk straight on (not up left to the pump house)
- 500 m Cross over the asphalted road (2) and follow the path beyond it along a wooden post with yellow/white rings
- 650m, *fountain on your right*
- Uphill along a fence to your right you come to a gate, pass along and follow the path uphill, keeping the crush barriers to your left
- 1100 cross a little stream
- 1200m, at the big farmhouse (3) follow the road for some 30m, cross over and turn right uphill along the track going anti-clockwise around the hill called Mulhacer in front of you. Follow this track, cross the (dry) stream and then turn left, following the stream uphill. Walking along the stream, further on you see a white pump house and a first metal gate and then further uphill a second pump house and a second gate, signposted with yellow and white markers on both sides.
- Pass through this 2nd gate (4) and follow the small stream on your left up to water troughs
- At the troughs walk uphill on the right hand side of the track towards a ruin
- Approaching the ruin (5), walk up keeping the ruin to your left
- From the ruin climb up slightly to the right (two o'clock) to meet a fence, where you turn right, keeping the fence to your left
- 2h, 3.7km pass through a wire gate (probably lying on the ground) where the fence meets another coming in from the right and follow the path behind it up to the left

- Soon, after some 25 meters follow a vague path uphill along the contours up to a track/path, partly aligned with dry stone retention walls which runs parallel to a fence some 20m further uphill
- Follow this path and fence and when this path peters out into open barren terrain head right, north west, just to the left of the NW cliffs of the Almola mountain to cross over the pass (6); *have a look around here: to your left the bizarre rock formations of the Los Riscos, behind you the village of Cartajima and east of it Parauta and Pujerra, to the east the Almola and up north the valley of Ronda*
- Over the pass you walk gradually down into the plain you see below
- In the plain turn right, diagonally crossing it to the far north eastern end of it
- There follow the track (7) which loops left /NW and follow this track all the way down to two farmhouses and a shed
- Follow the track which loops right around the shed and the farmhouses; *some friendly dogs may bark at you*
- Once beyond the farmhouses (8) walk down to the right parallel to the fence on your right to find a gate where the fence meets another coming in from the left
- Pass through and walk down to the far end of the field (DO NOT pass through a white/yellow signposted gate on your right hand side!); the fences sluices you into a narrow stretch; pass through the gate at the far end of it you find gate opening up to a track (the same track you were on)
- Turn right, passing by a huge impressive gate going downhill (do not turn right along a second huge gate) along a fence to your left through open terrain with oak, heather, false sage and gorse
- Meeting a track follow it downhill and stay on this track all the way to Ronda, passing by dwellings, weekend houses, vines, olive groves
- Down under a viaduct
- Reaching the outskirts of Ronda (9) walk straight along no 39 into Calle San Acacio which leads to the big San Francisco square
- Walk to the end of the square, cross over the road to enter the town through one of the two arches
- Walk straight on up, turn right when you hit the road and follow the road up to the bridge (10)

Directions from the bridge to:

Hotel Ronda

- turn around and take the first road down to the left
- Hotel Ronda is on the right hand side

Three things:

Once you have walked anti clockwise around the hill opposite the big farm and passed through the second gate left to follow a dry stream, there are no water troughs anymore, you walk straight up along the (dry)stream towards the ruin and follow the descriptions from there.

The start of the track you follow at the far end of the plain the other side of the Amola is not that obvious the first 100 meters, but still recognizable as a faint double goat path.

Once you have passed the farmhouses down the other side of the Amola the easiest thing to do is to stay on the track which runs parallel to the path in the field on the right hand the other side of the fence. The field is full of thistles this time of the year. Walk on, pass through the metal gate and descend until the track turns right at a huge gate. There walk straight on along the fence on the left as the description says