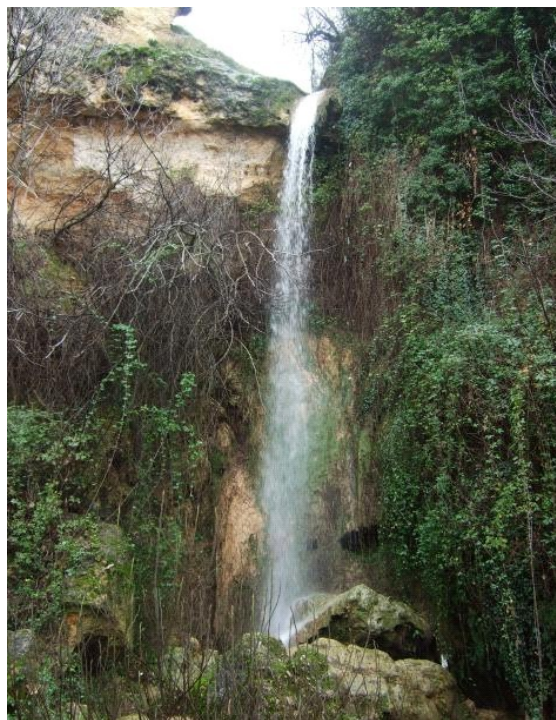


Walks from Molino la Ratonera

MOLINO LA RATONERA

Four Short Walks From the Mill



With directions, duration and length of walk



www.molinolaratonera.com (0034) 951 822 999

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There are steep sections on most of these walks so please wear boots or stout shoes. A stick is helpful on steep land as the very dry, gritty soil can be as slippery as ice. There is a right to roam in Spain, but please show respect for our neighbours' property by not taking fruit, almonds etc and not invading privacy when the owners are working their land. Always carry sufficient water and sun protection.



1 Ridge Walk on la Ratonera

Distance: 2.8 km (1.75 miles)
Duration: 45 minutes

From the mill entrance, turn left (North) and ascend the hill, following the main track. Ignore the smaller track which goes straight on at the sharp bend and keep to the main track. Onwards and upwards until you come to an old cortijo, partially renovated, with swimming pool (Cyrillo's). Continue past this and take the second turn on the right after Cyrillo's. This track ascends steadily towards the ridge of the hill, la Ratonera, from which the mill takes its name. From the top of the hill you have panoramic views with the mountains of Malaga visible to the far SW, Zagra to the east and Sierra Ojete, with its ruined miners' cottages to the west. When the track reaches an olive grove, turn right, keeping Cyrillo's and the molino to your right and head for the clump of oak trees. Bear right and then cross the next olive grove for a few metres until you reach a well defined track. Turn right and follow the track down onto the ridge walk. Follow this well defined track back to the mill.

****A short diversion from this walk takes you down to the point in the river where the original water channel (acequia) to the mill, joins the river. After you have passed Cyrillo's cortijo, take the first turn on the left and go down the hill until you come to the river. This takes only a few minutes.****



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2 Mines and Ruins

Distance: 7.5km (5 miles)

Duration: approx 2 hours 30 minutes including exploration

WARNING; be very careful near the ruins, most of which are in a dangerous state and watch out for mines and open holes on the top of the plateau. We do not consider this a safe walk for children.

Turn right (South) from the mill entrance, follow the track to the T junction, turn right and continue past Cortijo los Roperos. Follow the main track round to the right until you see a small white cortijo on the left. (This is Antonio's cortijo). Turn right (South) from the mill entrance, follow the track to the T junction, turn right and continue past Cortijo los Roperos. Follow the main track round to the right past a small white cortijo on the left. (This is Antonio's cortijo). Continue on the track until you pass some farm buildings. Just past these you will see a concrete track heading up hill on your left. Follow this up onto the plateau. Once you amongst the ruins Walk in a westerly direction, that is keeping the mill valley and the backs of the rebuilt houses at your back, and once you have crossed the plateau you should be able to see down into the Pesquera valley. From here you have excellent views of the Torre Pesquera, the ruins of an 9th century castle which was conquered by the Moors in 1423. (See picture on the other side of this leaflet).

On the plateau there are over twenty ruins, originally built for ochre miners who worked at mines here and beyond La Viña village. Mining here began in medieval times but the settlement was abandoned during the 1950's.

Once you have explored enough, head back towards the La Viña valley (where the mill is) retracing your route.



3 To Lake Iznajar

Distance: 7km (4.5 miles) there and back

Duration: 2 hours

At the mill entrance, turn right (South) and follow the track to the T junction. Turn right, cross the river and then ascend the hill to Los Roperos. Shortly after you pass the cortijo, turn left and follow the track down towards where you will see the meeting of several tracks. Turn right and follow the track uphill, but always keeping in a southerly direction (ie away from the mill). As the track descends and straightens you will see a cortijo on your left. Keep straight on on this track and you will soon reach the main road (Zagra to Fuentes de Cesna). Cross the road and carry on past a ruin in the same direction along a track which leads directly to the end of Lake Iznajar. Once you see the lake, bear round to the right and you will see the dramatic cliffs of Lal Cerradura (the keyhole), the mouth of the rio Pesquera. Lake Iznajar is the largest lake in Andalucia and extends far into Cordoba province. Sandy beaches are available at Iznajar town.

Return by the same route or you can follow the main road by turning right towards Zagra.

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4 To La Viña

Distance: 6.5km (4 miles) there and back

Duration: 1 hours 45 minutes plus time for exploring the village

From the mill entrance, turn left (North) and ascend the hill, following the main track. Ignore the smaller track which goes straight on at the sharp bend and keep to the main track. Onwards and upwards until you come to an old cortijo, partially renovated, with swimming pool (Cyrillo's). On up the hill eventually reaching the large, white cortijo, Cortijo El Llano (pictured). There has been a dwelling on this site since Roman times and the track you have followed is an ancient drovers' road, pre Roman, known as a via pecuaria. In front of the cortijo is a large threshing circle - an "era".

At Cortijo El Llano go completely past the house and garages and then follow the track as it bends to the right. Follow the track through the olive groves until you come to a metalled road with a steep hill facing you. Go up this hill into the village. There is a supermarket and if you follow the road that goes steeply downhill to the left of this, you will come to the waterfall. Here the La Vina river drops over a 20 metre cliff, providing a dramatic spectacle in winter and Spring. (See picture on front cover). By the end of summer this might not be running because of lack of rain. If you follow the road back up to the crossroads near the supermarket and carry straight on, you will come to the village bar, situated in the last building on the right....not always open, but worth a try. If you carry on past this building, turn right at the crossroads onto the unconcreted track and follow this road down to Cortijo El Llano. Alternatively, you can go up from the village to the main road and walk back to the top end of Zagra by this route. (Please note that this route is a lot longer than returning by track).

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