



CAMINO MOZÁRABE DE SANTIAGO EN CÓRDOBA

3A. CASTRO DEL RÍO - SANTA CRUZ (22 km / 4½ hr)

Rolling land and fortresses

Depart Castro del Río from the Guardia Civil barracks. As you leave behind the barracks and the petrol station, you're on a minor straight road. Before long, you hit the regional road. For Bujalance you would veer right. Go left - and be careful whilst walking along the roadside. Not long after you cross the river Guadajoz, a path named Camino del Molino appears on your right. After a steady 3½ km climb you come to a narrow road.

Turn left onto this road, and after some 4 km you'll reach the town of Espejo. Now you have a choice to make: enter this pretty, whitewashed, hill-town crowned by a splendid medieval castle; or skirt the town, keeping it on your left as you head towards the grain storage tower and take a path down to the stream arroyo Pontanilla, where there is a small Roman bridge and remains of a Roman road. The road forks at Casilla de los Pavones, some 4 km ahead. Go left, crossing this secondary road beneath a power line. Continue straight for 2km and, with the Guadajoz now in sight, pass a well called las Harinillas on your left.

Turn left onto another path and head towards the N-432, where you emerge near the farmstead Cortijo del Alcaparro. . Use caution as you walk along the roadside to get to the river. Just after crossing it, a path appears on the right. About 1 km later you find yourself walking down calle Espejo in the hamlet of Santa Cruz (a ward of Córdoba city).