



CAMINO MOZÁRABE DE SANTIAGO EN CÓRDOBA

4. CORDOBA – CERRO MURIANO (16km / 4 hr)

The hills of Cordoba

Set off from the Iglesia de Santiago. Be guided by the Jacobean Way signpost ceramic tiles (scallop and yellow arrow) to the end of the city limits, through the quarters of la Magdalena, San Lorenzo and Los Trinitarios (former Puerta de Plasencia). Follow the 11-12th century Muslim city wall (Ronda del Marrubial) for a few metres, turn right into Calle Sagunto, and then into calle Cinco Caballeros (next to Clinic Los Angeles de la Noche and the church of San Juan de Avila). When you reach the thoroughfare Carlos III, notice the first of a series of granite milestones marking the route to Cerro Muriano. Cross Avenida Carlos III and continue down the wide Avenida Blas Infante (Fatima quarter), past the sports facilities and beneath the high-speed train track, until you reach the much restored Roman bridge over the creek arroyo de Pedroches. Cross the bridge, leaving the ruins of the old mill Molino de los Ciegos on the left, and following a path on the right. When you hit the tarmac again, use the underpass to get across the link road for the N-432 (last tile signpost). The high-speed rail track is on your right.

By leaving this narrow tarmacked track when it curves right a little further on, you take a path that opens up on the left next to an electricity pylon and cross the Canal del Guadalquivir. Head towards a piece of waste ground enclosed by a wall. Passing this bricked site on the right, carry on straight uphill. When the terrain levels out at the top of the rise, look back to see a view of Cordoba town and, beyond it, the rolling Campiña, yesterday's walk. Ahead lies the Sierra, to be tackled on today's leg. All the little paths lead to a dirt track, which you join, turning left. Follow the track and pass beneath a conveyor belt used for transporting stone from a nearby quarry. The N-432 is on your left. Turning right, walk through pines and eucalyptus. From here to Cerro Muriano you will be using the medieval drover's road called Cañada Real Soriana, successor of the Roman Corduba-Emerita Road, signposted nowadays not only Mozarabic Trail but also GR-40.

This track opens onto a narrow road and travels through several housing developments before coming to the shrine of Nuestra Señora de Linares. A landscape of Mediterranean scrub and oak leaves the houses behind and then it's a gentle but continuous rise to the Santuario de Linares (where they'll stamp your Pilgrim's Passport), with its graceful medieval watchtower and, further ahead, a small single-arch Roman bridge. From here follow the steep incline up Loma de los Escalones, which has observable vestiges of the Roman road carved out of the limestone. Moving swiftly through the excavated quarry site, you gain the old road layout of the N432, used now as the turnoff into Cerro Muriano village. A few metres down the right shoulder, take an uphill path and cross the old railway line at the signalbox.

Shortly before crowning the last summit offering a view of Cordoba, there is a plaque erected by the Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Córdoba in memory of their former Chairman D. Vicente Mora Benavente. The way leads through pine and thicket and over the railway tunnel. Going back to the road, stay on the right shoulder for a few yards. When you see a signpost indicating the Camino de Santiago, continue until you see a sharp bend right with a similar signpost. From this bend, next to a ceramic tile dedicated to the Virgin Mary, take the path



sloping upwards from stream-bed on the left. The ascent is flanked by oaks and thickets. Once on the ridge, there are some buildings on the right, and behind you a path leading to the shrine, Ermita de Nuestra Señora de los Pinares, by Cerro Torreárboles, the highest peak in the (Cordoba) municipality. It's worth a visit for its wonderful vistas of Cordoba, its rolling lands in the background and the hills on either side. Back to the ridge; take the wide path through pines and oaks towards Cerro Muriano, ward of the municipalities of Cordoba and Obejo, less than 2 km away. It's a gradual descent into the village.

Don't leave without going to Bar H (Casa Bruno), opposite Iglesia de Santa Barbara (patron saint of miners) to get your Pilgrim's Passport stamped. If you have time to spare, there's a path next to the football field that leads to the abandoned copper mines and the Museum – legacies of the pre-Roman and Roman origins of the town once controlled by Consul Sextus Marius– and to the emblematic Piedra Horadada or "Piedra Horá" (hollowed rock).