

4.

Iron Ways

Iron Ways allow people with little technical knowledge to feel the excitement of other outdoor sports such as climbing and mountaineering. An Iron Way consists of a line of rungs fixed to the rock which are used to ascend in the same way as if you were using a ladder. Along the rungs, a steel cable periodically attached to the rock is provided. You will climb up clipped into the safety cable using a lanyard which is an energy-absorbing system in the event of falling.

It is sometimes possible to add an extra level of difficulty and excitement to an Iron Way with monkey bridges (a cable

Iron Ways ascents. *David Barrera*





for each hand and a cable for each foot) Tibetan bridges (a cable for each hand and a cable for both feet) zip-lines (inclined cables used to be propelled) or suspended ladders, thus the technical difficulty and physical condition required can differ according to the route. For this reason, it is very important to be aware of the difficulty level that you are going to undertake as well as of the required equipment that it will be needed.

The most important Iron Way Park in Spain can be found in the Serranía de Ronda as well as one of the most prepared companies of active tourism to practise this sport in which safety is the paramount. ►

Iron Way	Rungs	Money bridge	Tibetan bridge	Suspended ladder	Zip-lines	Difficulty
1. Atajate						D
2. Benadalid						VD
3. Benalauría						D
4. Benaoján						D
5. Gaucín. Castillo del Águila						VD
6. Gaucín. El Hacho						VD
7. Igualaja						D
8. Montejaque						VD
9. Tajo de Ronda I						D
10. Tajo de Ronda II						E
11. Infantil de Benaoján						VE

VD: Very Difficult

D: Difficult

E: Easy

VE: Very Easy

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Harness • Zipper • Helmet • Gloves • No sliding shoes
- Suitable clothes based on the season • Water • Mobile phone with a spare battery • First-aid kit

TO FIND OUT MORE

Official website of *Diputación de Málaga* (the Provincial Council) with reliable information about all the Iron Ways in this province.

<http://www.malaga.es/es/turismo/naturaleza/ds-0/tp-59/>



Check on Wikiloc for the Iron Way routes in the Serranía de Ronda available in different formats to free download.

<http://es.wikiloc.com/rutas/via-ferrata?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&a=via-ferrata&q=serrania+de+ronda>



VIDEOS

Great video outlining the highlights of the Iron Ways in the Serranía de Ronda, the most important Iron Way Park in Spain.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHVOSp-UZjYferratas/com1_md1_cd-157639/vias-ferratas-serrania-ronda



SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.pangeacentral.com
www.sierraventuraronda.es
www.aventuraronda.com
www.alandalusactiva.com

ATTENTION

✓ Do not use Iron Ways in the opposite direction. ✓ Keep the safe distance. ✓ Please, obey all warning signs. ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature. ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire. ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock. ■



Iron way in Benaoján. *Manuel García. PANGEA CENTRAL*

PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*

IRON WAY 1. Atajate

Municipality. Atajate

Nearest town. Atajate

Coordinates. x: 299662 y: 4057370

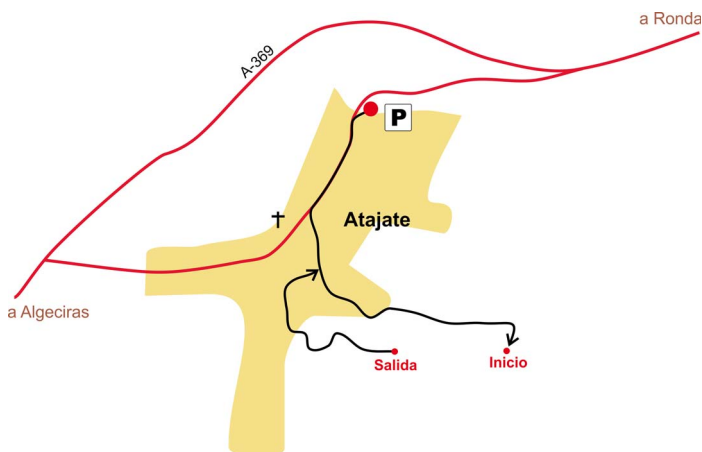
Difficulty. Difficult

Itinerary. 87 m

Slope. 40 m

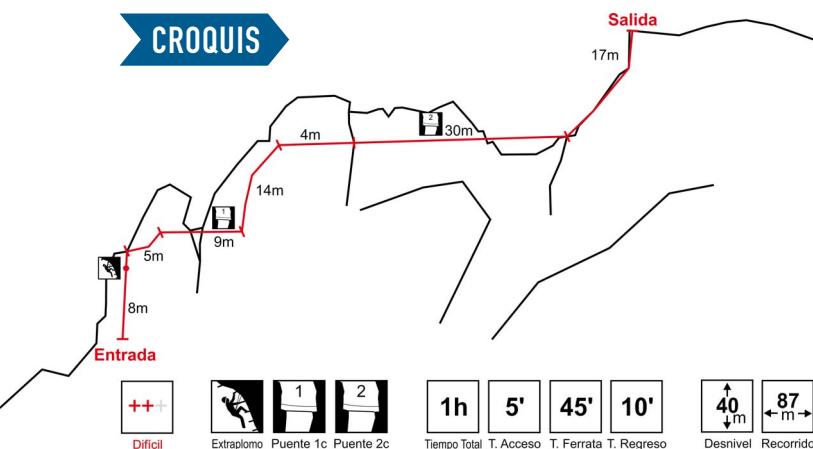
Estimated Return Time: 1 hour from the car park.

Access. You can access from the car park located in Atajate next to a huge sign referred to the grape must (*Mosto*), one of the most important cultural and economic activities in this municipality.

PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*



CROQUIS



Brief review. This Iron Way is very accessible from the car park as well as very varied and entertaining as it boasts a monkey bridge and a Tibetan bridge. The greatest difficulty is an overhang at the beginning of the route.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+atajate>

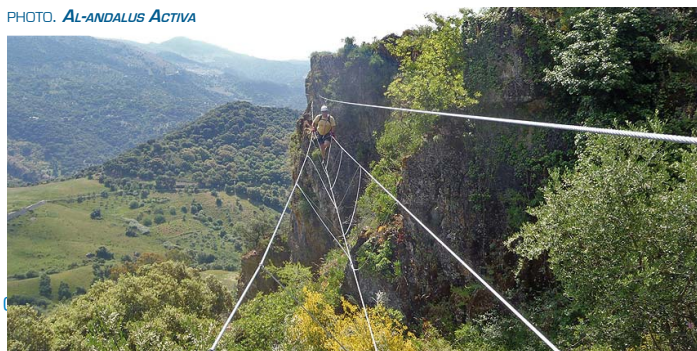


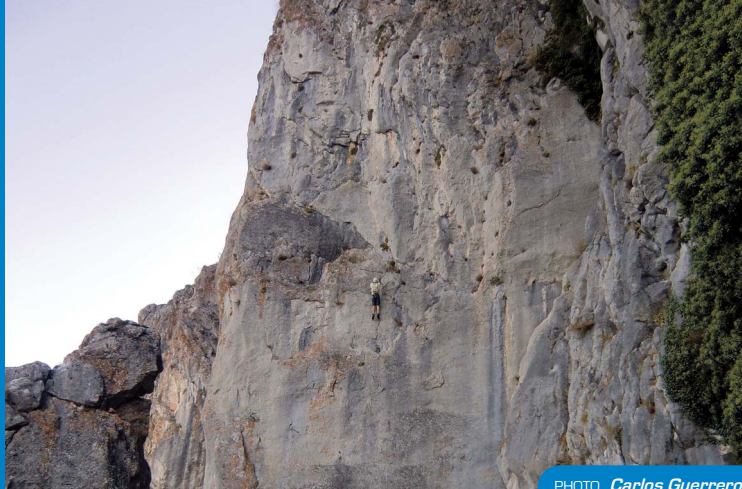
VIDEO

www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWDsm2u4PuYVideos



PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*



PHOTO. *Carlos Guerrero*

IRON WAY 2. Benadalid

Municipality. Benadalid **Nearest town.** Benalauría

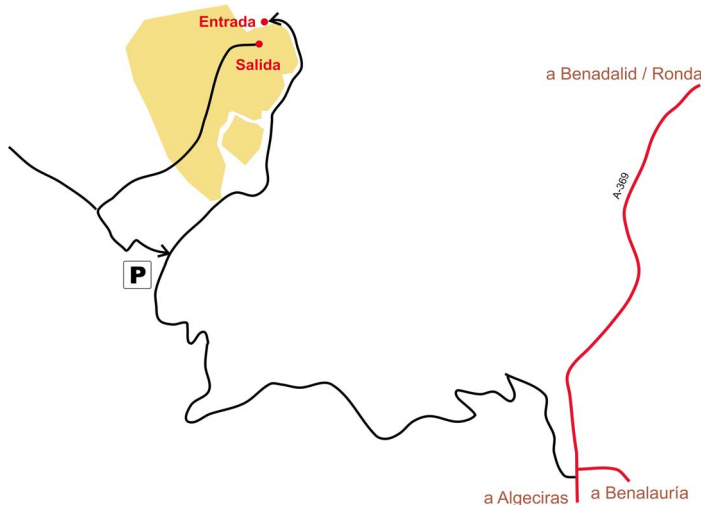
Coordinates. x: 296438 y: 4053060

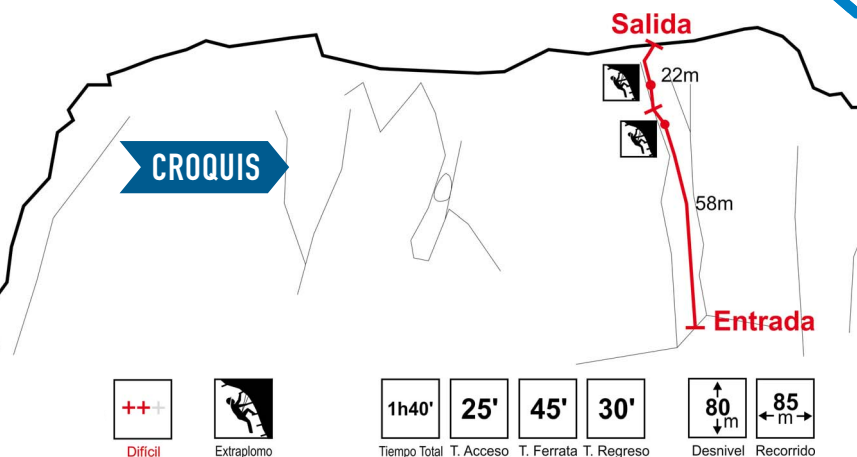
Difficulty. Difficult **Itinerary.** 85 m **Slope.** 80 m

Estimated Return Time: 1 hour 40mins from the car park.

Access. On the crossroad between the road A-369 and the local road to Benalauría, you will see a path towards the mountain range. You can nearly arrive at the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría, where the route starts and it will lead you to the Iron Way which is under the wall.

The return will be along the marked path on the left side from the end of the Iron Way towards the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría.





Brief review. It consists of an aerial Iron Way where a good physical condition is required as you will find tough overhangs, especially for amateurs or climbers in poor physical shape. It is not recommended to anyone with severe fear of heights.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+benadalió>



VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwYttTme-B8&list=UUET9u-B18fMZU-StKsOi7QQ>



PHOTO. *Carlos Guerrero*





Monkey bridge. *Manuel García. PANGEA CENTRAL*

IRON WAY 3. Benalauría

Municipality. Benadalid

Nearest town. Benalauría

Coordinates. x: 296414 y: 4353005

Difficulty. Difficult

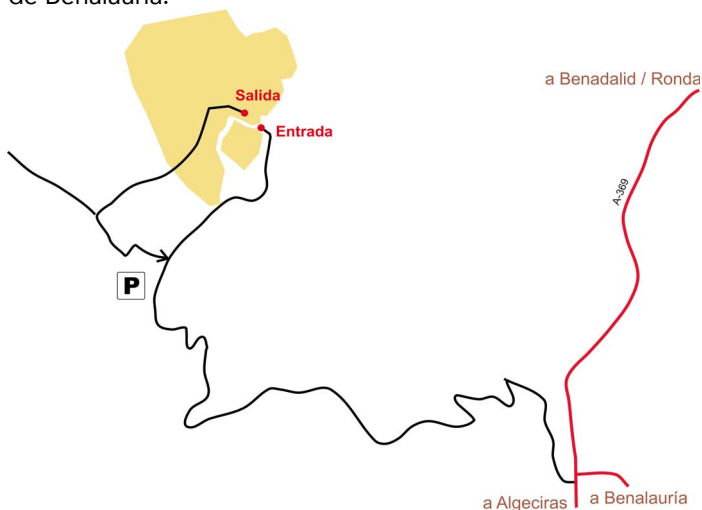
Itinerary. 97 m

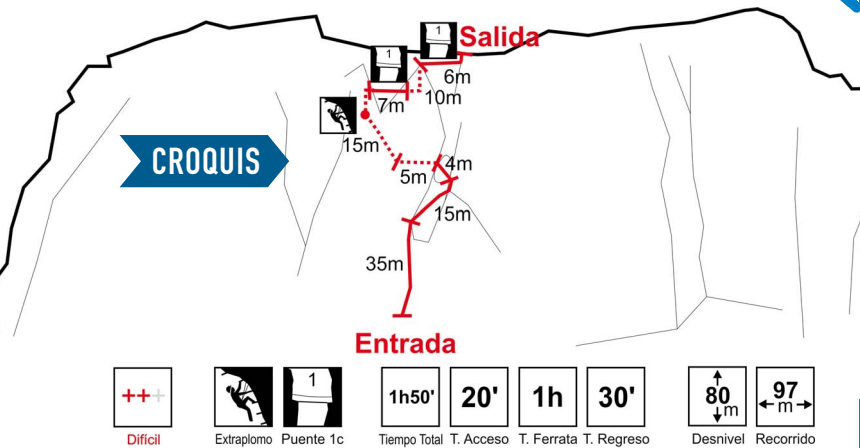
Slope. 80 m

Tiempo total estim.: 1 hour 50mins from the car park.

Access. On the crossroad between the road A-369 and the local road to Benalauría, you will see a path towards the mountain range. You can nearly arrive at the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría, where the route starts and it will lead you to the Iron Way which is under the wall.

The return will be along the marked path from the end of the Iron Way, on the left side, towards the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría.





Brief review. It is a very easy as well as technical Iron Way as you will need to tackle two monkey bridges. It is the favourite route for amateurs as it is a great combination of difficulty and easiness with astonishing views.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+benalaur%C3%ADa>



VIDEO

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3txwbR1gkcU



PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*



PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*

IRON WAY 4. Benaoján

Municipality. Benaoján

Nearest town. Montejaque

Coordinates. x: 299098 y: 4066122

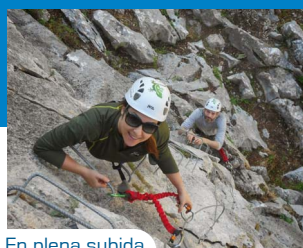
Difficulty. Difficult

Itinerary. 90 m

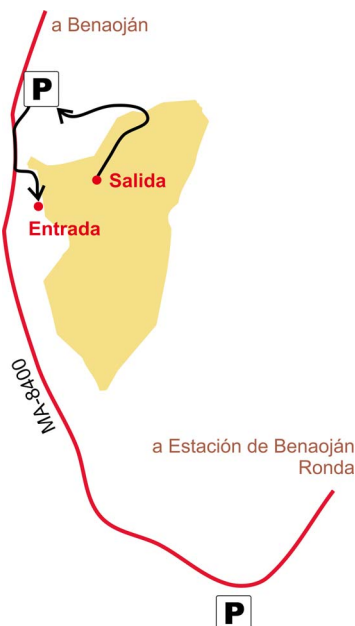
Slope. 70 m

Estimated Return Time: 1 hour 20mins from the car park.

Access. You can park your car rather on the left side of the road close to the village Estación de Benaoján or on the right side, just before the entrance to the town Benaoján if you are coming from Ronda. In any case, it will not walk further than 5-10mins to the beginning of the route. The road will be left behind after a small curve, where you will start with a small rock step which will lead you to the beginning of the Iron Way. The end of the Iron Way will be on the left side towards Benaoján leading to the same place where the car is parked.



En plena subida





CROQUIS



Difícil



Extraplomo



Puente 2c



Tiempo Total



T. Acceso



T. Ferrata



T. Regreso



Desnivel



Recorrido

Brief review. The Iron Way in Benaolán is the most ancient in the Serranía de Ronda, as it was the first iron way fixed in this area. It is a short but very demanding Iron Way due to a tough overhang located at the beginning of the route together with the Tibetan bridge. Apart from these two obstacles the route becomes quite accessible.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+benaol%C3%A1n>



VIDEO

www.youtube.com/watch?v=61ZovM8Zpig&list=UUET9u-B18fMZU-StKsOi7QQ



PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*



Zip-line. *Al-Ándalus Activa*

IRON WAY 5. Castillo del Águila

Municipality. Gaucín **Nearest town.** Gaucín

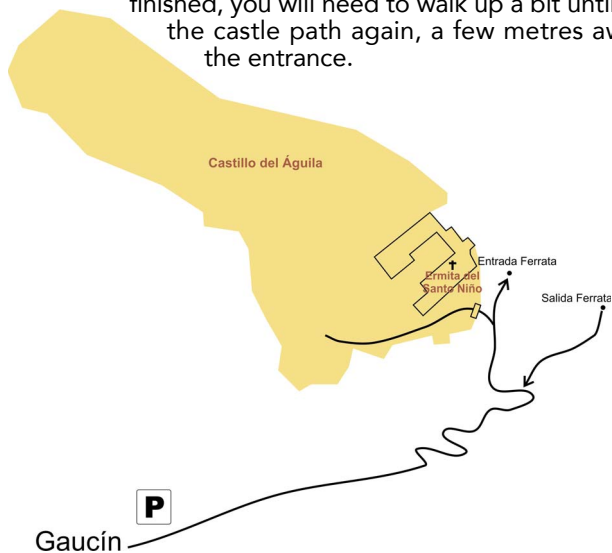
Coordinates. x: 293093 y: 4044915

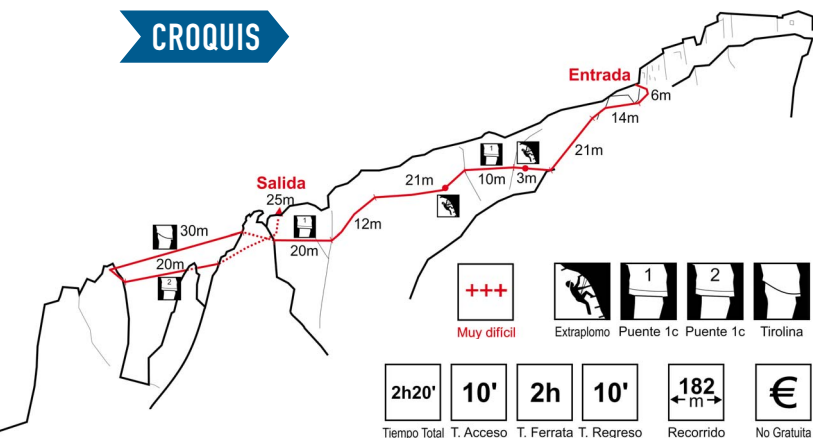
Difficulty. Very difficult

Itinerary. 182 m **Slope.** It is a practically horizontal route.

Estimated Return Time: 2h 20mins from the beginning of the Iron Way.

Access. You can leave your car in Gaucín, in the car park located close to the beginning of the route to the castle Castillo de Águila. You will need to walk along a beautiful cobbled path which weaves back and forth and which leads you to the door of the castle, exactly where the Iron Way starts. Once you have finished, you will need to walk up a bit until you find the castle path again, a few metres away from the entrance.



**CROQUIS**

Brief review. This Iron Way is the most difficult one found in the Serranía de Ronda. It requires a very good physical condition and a high-end technical knowledge, as you will need to tackle a monkey bridge, two Tibetan bridges and a zip-line. You will enjoy excellent views to the valley Valle del Genal and to the Nature Reserve in Sierra Bermeja.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+c Castillo+del+gauc%C3%ADn>

**VIDEO**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC2wtMiUh_E



Tibetan bridge. *Carlos Guerrero*

PHOTO. *Carlos Guerrero*

IRON WAY 6. El Hacho

Municipality. Gaucín

Nearest town. Gaucín

Coordinates. x: 280761 y: 4068206

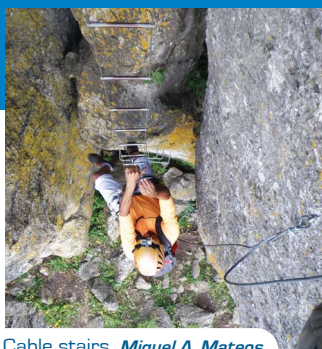
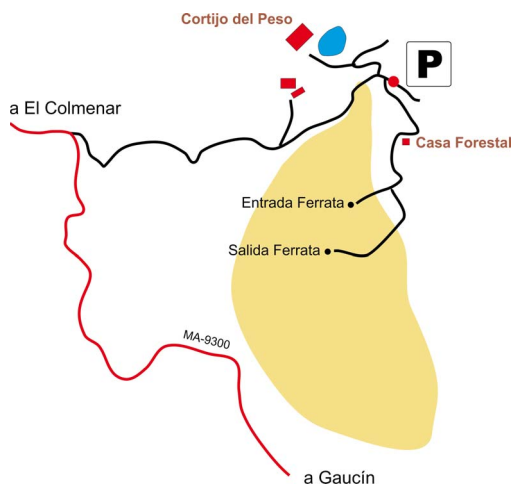
Difficulty. Very difficult

Itinerary. 300m

Slope. 100m

Estimated Return Time: 3hours 30mins from the car park.

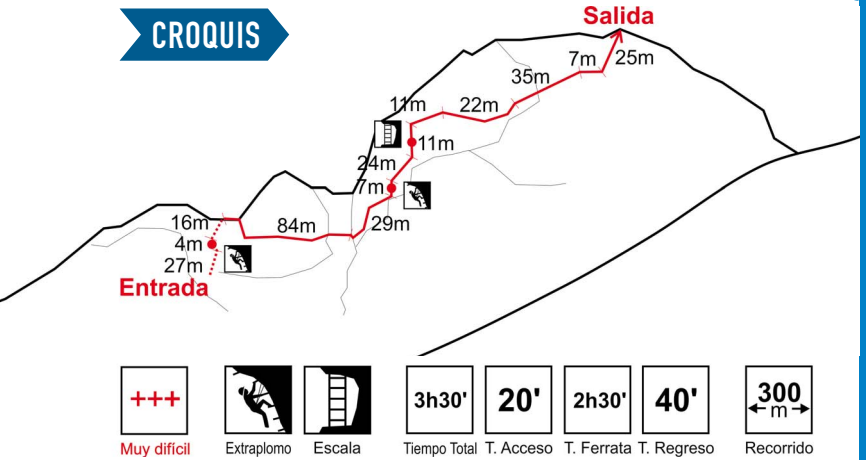
Access. You can access from the road which links the village El Colmenar (Estación de Gaucín) to the road Ronda-Algeciras, approximately at the kilometre 2.5. In a curve to the right, you will find a path on the left side which will take you to a typical

Cable stairs. *Miguel A. Mateos*

Andalusian country house el Cortijo del Peso. Just before you arrive to this cortijo, you will come across another widen path on the right where you could park your car. You will walk along the marked path towards a forest house and then to the rock walls where the Iron Way starts.



CROQUIS



The return will be along the left side towards the forest house and the car park.

Brief review. This Iron Way is quite difficult as a very good physical condition is required to tackle the two overhands as well as the cable stairs fixed in the middle of the Iron Way. Once you have achieved these stairs, you will reach the peak El Hacho with any difficulties.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+del+Hacho+de+gauc%C3%ADn>



VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwZWVvc7rDQ>



PHOTO. Miguel A. Mateos



PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*

IRON WAY 7. Montejaque

Municipality. Montejaque

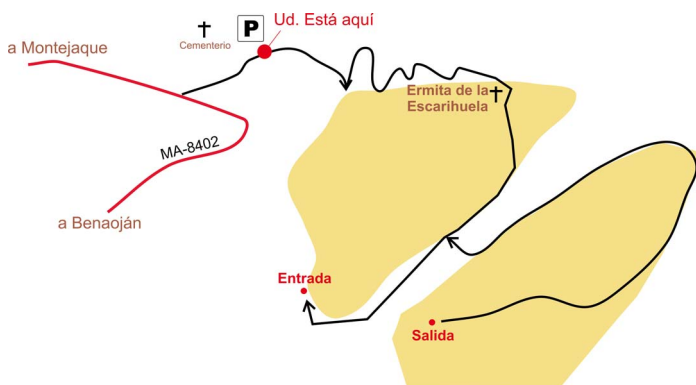
Nearest town. Montejaque

Coordinates. x: 299814 y: 4068206

Difficulty. Very difficult **Itinerary.** 258 m **Slope.** 178 m

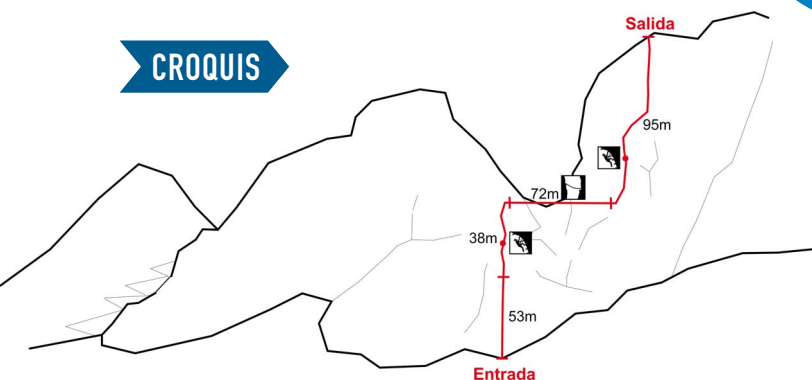
Estimated Return Time: 3 hours from the car park.

Access. You can access from the car park located in cemetery of Montejaque, at the end of the town towards Benaoján. You will need to walk up along the cobbled path which leads to the chapel Ermita de la Escarihuela. Once you have arrived at the chapel, you will leave the main path and turn right looking among the rocks for another path. This new path will take you to a separation in the rock walls and after an abrupt descent, you will arrive at the beginning of the Iron Way.





CROQUIS



Muy difícil



Extraplomo



Tirolina



Tiempo Total



T. Acceso



T. Ferrata



T. Regreso



Desnivel



Recorrido

The return will be along the marked path on the left side towards a plain where then you will need to walk around, on the left side again, and finally you will arrive at the chapel and at the car park.

Brief review. The Iron Way El Hacho is considered as very difficult due to two tough overhands and, especially, to a spectacular zip-line stretched over 70 metres which links the two walls. It is not recommended to amateurs and it requires technical equipment to tackle the zip-line.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property, respect the path and the signs.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+Montejaque>



VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FZAbzyUMn8>



PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*





PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*

IRON WAY 8. Igualeja

Municipality. Igualeja

Nearest town. Igualeja

Coordinates. x: 310784 y: 4056394

Difficulty. Difficult

Itinerary. 94 m

Slope. 28 m

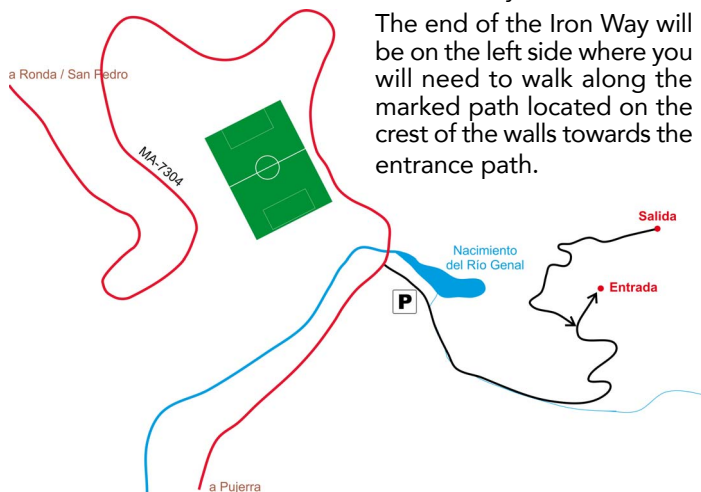
Estimated Return Time: 1hour 30mins from the car park.

Access. You can park your car in the water spring Nacimiento de Igualeja, close to the entrance of the town. You will leave behind the water spring and go upriver along the path towards the Iron Way.



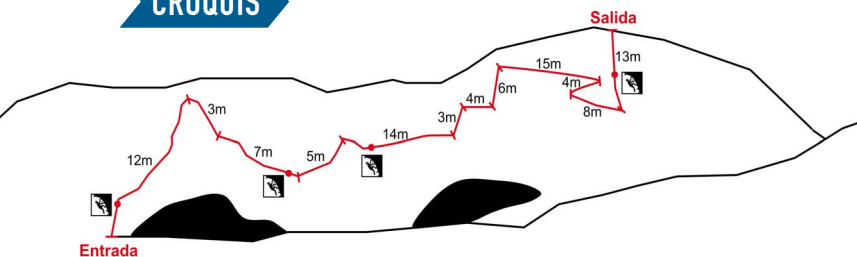
PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*

The end of the Iron Way will be on the left side where you will need to walk along the marked path located on the crest of the walls towards the entrance path.





CROQUIS



Muy difícil



Extraplomo

1h30'

Tiempo Total

10'

T. Acceso

1h

T. Ferrata

20'

T. Regreso



28m



94m

Desnivel Recorrido

Brief review. The difficulty of this Iron Way is due to the two overhands and, especially, due to the route where some acrobatic moves are needed.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+igualeja>



VIDEO

[igualejahttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS3lVVaZrIl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS3lVVaZrIl)



PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*





PHOTO. David Barrera

IRON WAY 9. Tajo de Ronda I

Municipality. Ronda

Nearest town. Ronda

Coordinates. x: 306582 y: 4068377

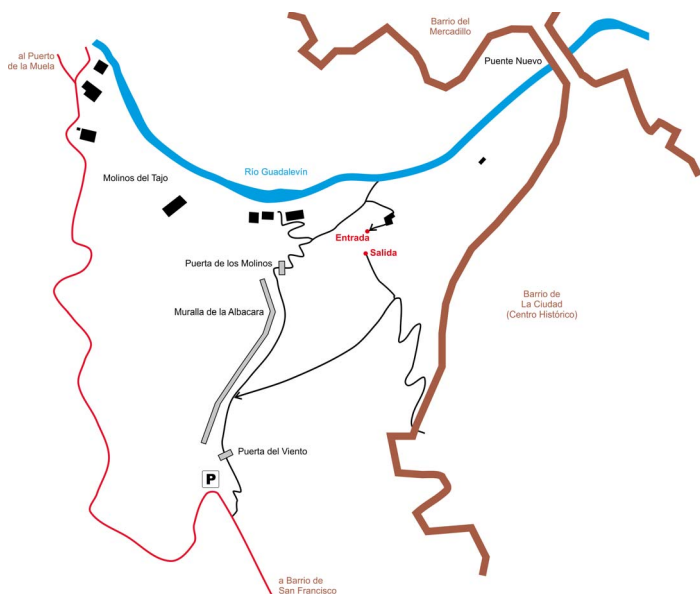
Difficulty. Difficult

Itinerary. 74 m

Slope. 56 m

Estimated Return Time: 40mins from the beginning of the Iron Way.

Access. You can park your car in the cobbled path which descends to the ancient mills Molinos del Tajo from the neighbourhood el barrio de San Francisco in Ronda. Any side of the path close to the Arab wall's gate la Puerta del Viento is suitable to leave your car. Then you will have to walk through this gate and



CROQUIS



Difícil



Extraplomo

40'

3'

30'

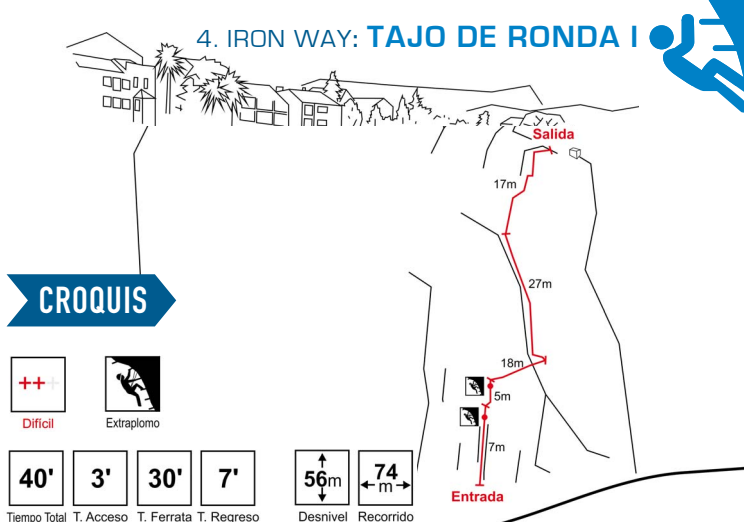
7'

Tiempo Total T. Acceso T. Ferrata T. Regreso

56m

74m

Desnivel Recorrido



along the wall Muralla de Albacara towards the gate Puerta de Cristo or also known as Puerta de los Molinos. You will need to go through this gate and walk down the narrow path in the direction of the Molinos. This path takes you close to the river Río Guadalevín. You will finally find a path on the right side which goes up towards the walls of the Iron Way.

The return will be found on the right side along the path which will lead you to the historic city centre of Ronda towards the Molinos and Puerta del Viento.

Brief review. In general, this is not a very technical Iron way. Nevertheless, a small but tough overhand will be found in the first stretch and that is the reason why it is generally classified as difficult. Moreover, in the second stretch, a less tough overhand is also found.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+Tajo+de+Ronda>



VIDEO

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4i6Z5Nposo&list=UUET9u-B18fMZU-StKsOi7QQ



PHOTO. *David Barrera*

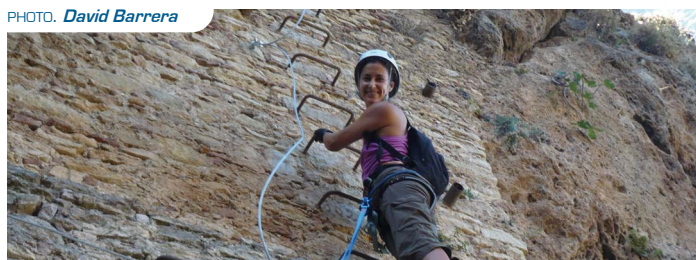




PHOTO. AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA

IRON WAY 10. Tajo de Ronda II

Municipality. Atajate

Nearest town. Atajate

Coordinates. x: 306574 y: 4068371

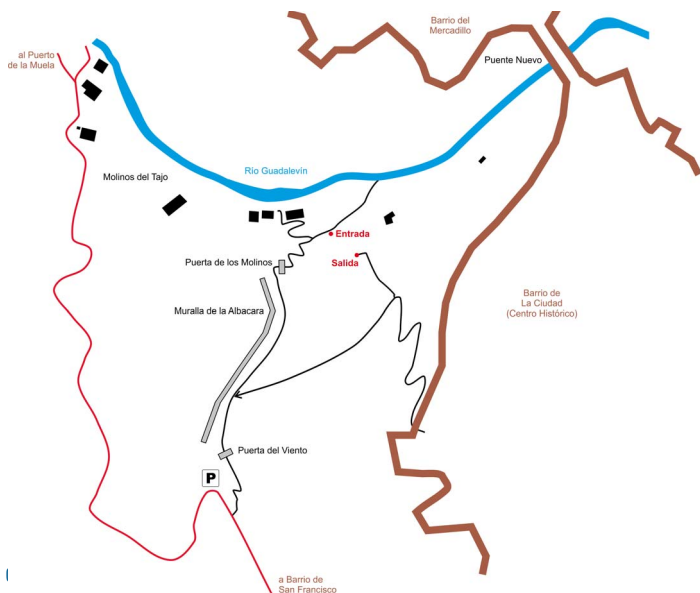
Difficulty. Easy

Itinerary. 75 m

Slope. 50 m

Estimated Return Time: 27mins from the beginning of the Iron Way.

Access. You can park your car in the cobbled path which descends to the ancient mills Molinos del Tajo from the neighbourhood el barrio de San Francisco in Ronda. Any side of the path close to the Arab wall's gate la Puerta del Viento is suitable to leave your car. Then you will have to walk through this gate and along the wall

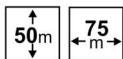




CROQUIS



Fácil



Desnivel

Recorrido



Tiempo Total



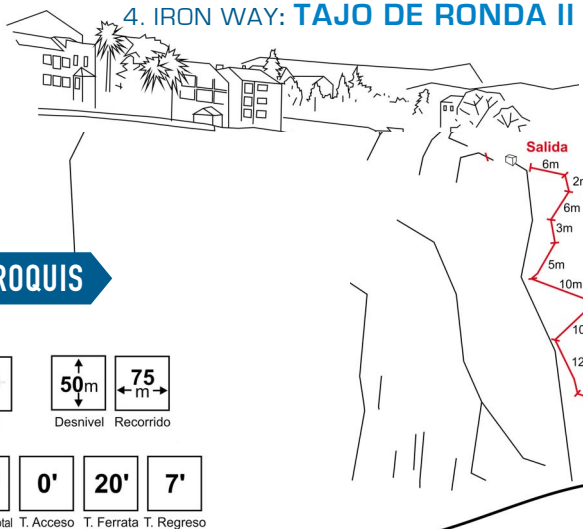
T. Acceso



T. Ferrata



T. Regreso



Muralla de Albacara towards the gate Puerta de Cristo or also known as Puerta de los Molinos. You will need to go through this gate and walk down the narrow path in the direction of the Molinos to find the beginning of the Iron Way.

The return will be found on the right side along the path which will lead you to the historic city centre of Ronda towards the Molinos and Puerta del Viento.

Brief review. This is the second Iron Way located in this spectacular spot of Ronda. It is fixed in parallel to the Iron Way Tajo de Ronda I but this one does not have any major difficulty.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied.

TRACK

<http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+Tajo+de+Ronda>



PHOTO. AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA

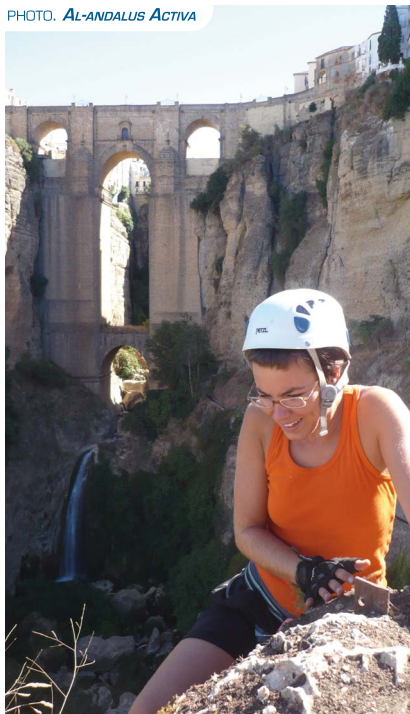




PHOTO. *Jerónimo Bueno. PANGEA CENTRAL*

IRON WAY 11. Benaoján (children's)

Municipality. Benaoján

Nearest town. Estación de Benaoján

Coordinates. x: 299662 y: 4057370

Difficulty. Very easy

Access. You can park in the road Ronda-Benaoján up to Estación de Benaoján Road, next to a fountain.

PHOTO. *Jerónimo Bueno. PANGEA CENTRAL*





PHOTO. *Miguel A. Mateos*



How to use the guide

David Barrera



The Serranía de Ronda is a great place for active tourism with a wealth of possibilities within your reach. This guide delves into fourteen of the main activities and each of them has a different icon and colour to make searching easier.

Each pursuit is divided into different sections to organise the wide range of information offered. These sections are:

- **DEFINITION.** It consists of a general description of the activity as well as the most interesting tourist attractions and resources available in the Serranía de Ronda to practise it. It is been considered convenient to include an information sheet ►

for some activities such as Iron Way, climbing, canyoning and the network of viewpoints with extra details. All the other pursuits have been considered as a whole.

- **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT.** It has been specified compulsory equipment for a personal protection and technical requirements to practise the activity. If you decided to rely on a specialised company, it will provide the necessary equipment.
- **TO FIND OUT MORE.** It is a section with a wide variety of essential bibliography about the activity in the Serranía de Ronda as well as with links to specialised web pages to find out more information.
- **VIDEOS.** It is a collection of links to check out institutional and private videos which will show you the different experiences you can live in the Serranía de Ronda before plunging into it.
- **SPECIALISED COMPANIES.** It is a full list of specialised companies focused in active tourism.
- **ATTENTION.** It is a summary of rules and advices which need to be taken. They could be general rules, like litter collection, or more specific advices, as checking on the weather forecast before practising canyoning. ■

Cherry Blossom. *Felipe Crespo*



