

RIOMALO CTR. WALKING LAS HURDES

ROUTE 7: MAJÁ ROBLEDO

Route 7
Type: Circular
Distance: 10,5 km.
Difficulty: High
Time:
All year round



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INTRODUCTION

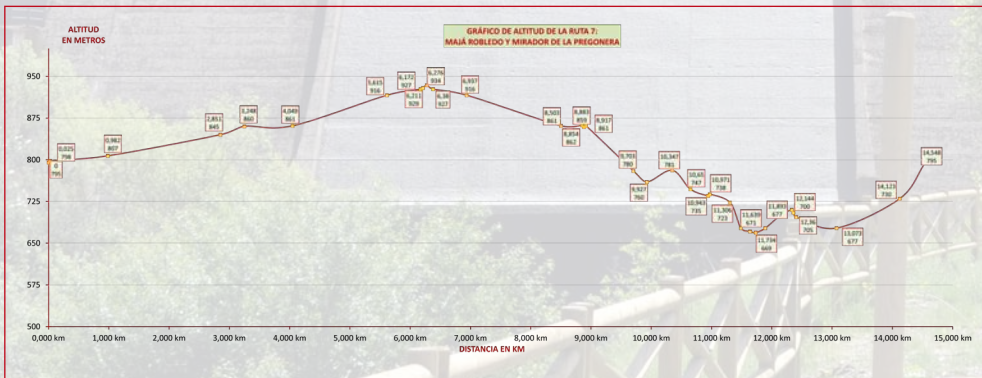


NOTE 1: Remember, traveler, you are in a region of high natural sensitivity. Your step ought to be careful, in order to preserve the physical space and biodiversity. Then you can come back and look for places where you feel part of nature and at peace with that surrounds you. And welcome!

NOTE 2: The routes proposed by CTR Riomalo are ready for expert hikers, cyclists and canoeists. CTR Riomalo is not responsible for the lack of experience of travelers or if the climatic conditions complicate their difficulty. The routes are all public and if there is any restrictions in specific seasons, they are specified in the own itineraries. Hikers should take into account all the indications made in the routes, as well as be extremely careful in complicated areas and, of course, respect the natural and historical heritage of the area.



NOTE 3: This booklet is a property of Riomalo CTR and the producer, Esther de Aragón, so much in design, as in text and graphic content. Wildlife photos belong to the professional photographer David Santiago (www.dauidsantiagofoto.com).



Those who have done this route say it is exciting and it is true because it is spectacular and nice. The verticality and the magnitude of its landscapes make this itinerary one of the most beautiful walks through Las Hurdes, definitely!

The itinerary we propose takes the path to the dam of “Maja Robledo,” which collects water from the Hurdano river in its headwaters, here called “river” of the Casares”. High mountains close the course, which is receiving significant contributions, such as the brook of the Ceño, that slips between rocks in a beautiful jump, in front of the Mirador de la Pregonera, which is a point of our way.

Huge mountains and rocks go with our dizzy path in its constant turns, ascents and descents. And everywhere, the terraces that have been wrenched from the mountains by the Hurdanos for their tiny gardens. Strange contemplation of those valleys and vertical walls of orchards and “majadas” (pens for goats). We have often cited

the words of Unamuno on Las Hurdes: “A land without land”, because here one can feel the truth of the statement, and the hardness of a past life, fortunately, but not forgotten, as evidenced by the terraces and the “majadas”.

Moreover, various alquerías will be visible along the route, as La Huetre, that the route will cross at the end. Robledo will stay above and the path will look out of the valley of Casares, Casares de las Hurdes, Carabuzino, Heras, Casarrubia y Asegur dominating the valley through which flows the river Hurdano.

The “Senda Majá Robledo”, well marked, is a traditional way between those alquerías and the “majadas” of the course of the Hurdano. When someone looks at those remote landscapes may not understand very well how somebody could keep living there, but that aspect is one that promises part of the emotion cited above. The impression is assured, as the astonishment and thousand others feelings, so is the beauty of this route!



ASÍ ES EL RECORRIDO

Our route begins on the road between Casares de las Hurdes and Carabusino, in a well marked curve that has a sign indicating the access to the dam of Majá Robledo. There is enough space at the start of the path to leave the vehicle and begin walking. Above us, we will see Robledo and below, La Huetre, which the route will cross near the end.

The path was made to build the dam on a traditional way, so it is comfortable, and it follows the contour line of the slopes of the Sierra de la Canchera. Below, we will see the course of the Hurdano, sometimes imperceptible by the verticality of the own valley, winding and closed.

Over the course, on the other side of the mountains, the peaks of the Sierra de la Corredera, the objective of our third bike route. Its highest peaks approaching 1,500 meters, including the so-called Pico de la Corredera, which rises between the valleys of the high courses of the rivers Malvellido and Hurdano.

Before reaching the end of the path, we can gaze at the spectacular Mirador (viewpoint) de la Pregonera, located in an almost unbelievable position on the peak of the mount from which it takes its name. The route comes back to it after visiting the dam of Majá Robledo, that is at the end of the path, in a beautiful spot called "La Roverde". The dam was inaugurated by the Kings in 1998 and collects waters coming down from the Peña de la Canchera and the Pico Solombrero.

The reservoir is small and very beautiful, enclosed under the peaks of the Canchera and Solombrero and the place is conditioned to have a rest for a while.

The route then turns around and gets in the way of the Mirador. The path is signposted from this point, so it is difficult to get confused, even though it seems impossible to see from above all its winding way. However, it is settled with small stone slabs.



The spectacular nature of the environment is undeniable from the Mirador de la Pregonera and almost dizzying: To the West, the mountains closing the dam, imperceptible from this point; behind, the Sierra de la Corredera, closing the space to the north and showing the arrival path; to the East, the valley of the Casares, with La Huetre, Casarrubia, Heras, Carabusino, Robledo and Casares de las Hurdes; in front, the beautiful waterfall of the Ceño, very submitted to the summer water lack, but impressive when it plunges eroding the enclosed space; below, the river Hurdano or Casares, being twisted literally by the bottom of the valley and allowing small terraces that will become more numerous in the vicinity of La Huetre.

And there still remain the walls of the old "majadas" as witnesses of the rudeness of that past life, of which we spoke previously.

The trail leaves the Mirador and begins to zig-zag towards the river. Then it cross the bridge and makes a steep climb. The eternal slate of Las Hur-

des here overwhelms, but it shows numerous veins of quartzite.

After passing the bridge of the Fuente Fría, the route comes again closer to the Hurdano river and crosses it close to the natural pool of La Huetre. The place is very nice and the waters, very cold, help mitigate the rigors of summer.

Then the route is introduced between terraces of fruit trees and reach the traditional "alquería" of La Huetre, wandering about its former streets to take the road to the cemetery, where there is an immense and beautiful elm. Immediately, the route looks for the end climbing to the track where we began the route .

In our memories there stays the irrigation ditch that accompanies a section of the route close to the Fuente Fría and, as a curiosity, the shame that we feel when we thought about the visitors' quantity that the "levadas madeirenses" have, and the ignorance that exists of these remote places. Perhaps, we conclude, loneliness is one of their main attractions, but also an unfair way of thinking, because this loneliness is the same that people who inhabit the area suffer.



ALQUERÍAS



The villages of our route form part of the municipality of Casares de las Hurdes and are all located in the valley of Casares.

The centre of municipality, Casares de las Hurdes, is known as "The Balcón (vantage point) of Las Hurdes" and so could be called all his "alquerías": Robledo, Carabusino, La Huetre, Casarrubia and Heras. All literally hang off the slopes of the mountains that close the north of Las Hurdes. From the port of Casares, Robledo is the first village that the traveler will find when entering the region from the road of Ciudad Rodrigo. Robledo is the highest village of the region; it is located at 920 meters. There are no trees that justify its name Robledo, but it is known that there was in the past.

Below, Carabusino, whose curious name says Félix Barroso, a writer and noted expert in Las Hurdes, could come from "carabouxiño", which

is referred to the “agállaras, gállaras or agallas” (oak apple) in the northwest of the Iberian peninsula. The Carabusino’s situation intimidates and you wonder, when contemplate it, if some of its inhabitants have not fallen headlong downhill. The outlook over the valley Hurdano are stunning from here; in fact, on the same road is the Mirador de las Estrellas, the place seems so high. In our memory are the thousands of terraces that extended throughout the slopes decades ago. Now, a lot of them have become part of nature, although the old photos, those that went around the world and were made from here, remain as testimony of the past.

The people of the area has retained a warm and friendly character. The truth is that it is a pleasure to wander through the traditional streets of La Huetre, as does the route, to observe the old slate houses and talk to any of its inhabitants. If you go before the end of the summer, somebody can even offer you a delicious “pavía”, a kind of peach, not nectarine, that has a pleasant smell and taste. By that time it is also easy to see the fruit trees overflowing fruit and a lot of figs drying on sieves. But if the route is done in early spring, the flowers will compete with the cherry-trees for the beauty of the valley. We again recall the words of Félix Barroso and we are agree to think that the name of La Huetre may come from “vulture”, common in the area.

Casarrubia is below La Huetre and its spring color is also the one of the cherry-trees. Below, there are remains of other places, now depopulated and the pieces of land used as terraces, as it happens with Casa Jurde or Casas del Monte.

Casares de las Hurdes and Heras are still down below. The second looks more like a neighborhood of the first, given its proximity. Casares shows beautiful slate traditional buildings, such as the Casa de la Cultura or the same Council building.

From any of the “alquerías” cited the outlooks over the Hurdano river (or Casares) are magnificent, because they extend toward the horizon, toward Asegur and Nuñomoral.



LA NATURALEZA

On our route, the dominion of the nature is undeniable. The vertical slopes, the river that twists between slates, the tiny terraces ... all this recalls the natural paradise in which we are.

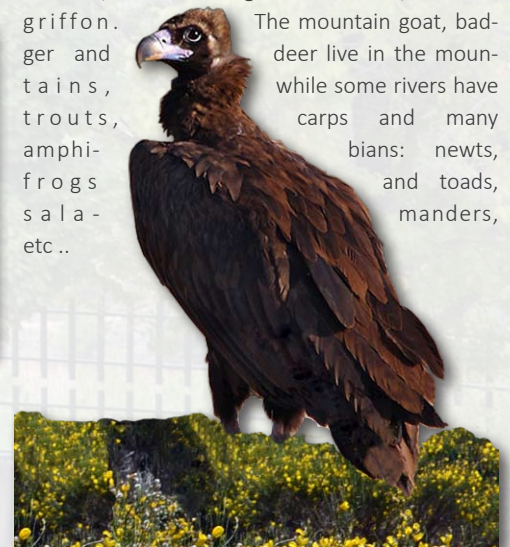
The river is one of the protagonists of the route and, as mentioned, is known as the Casares river until it joins the Malvellido in the “alquería” of Cerezal, from where definitely it takes the name of Hurdano. Centuries ago, its waters were washed to collect gold, as some classic travelers said. But, besides the scar-



des has managed to wrench from the mountains tenaciously.

As for the vegetation, besides the pines and ferns in the undergrowth, the route includes countless number of plants that give colors to the mountains in spring and summer: rockrose, heather, lavender, broom, spurge, etc.

Our route runs through areas where reptiles are plentiful and that are flown by birds of prey, such as owls, eagles and vultures, black and griffon. The mountain goat, badger and deer live in the mountains, while some rivers have trouts, carps and many amphibians: newts, frogs and toads, salamanders, etc ..



ce and tiny terraces, the river has only allowed the construction of small walls for “majadas” of goats, some of them located in impossible places. As for the terraces, the slopes of La Huetre are an alive picture of what the people of Las Hur-