

A walk to the Concepcion dam

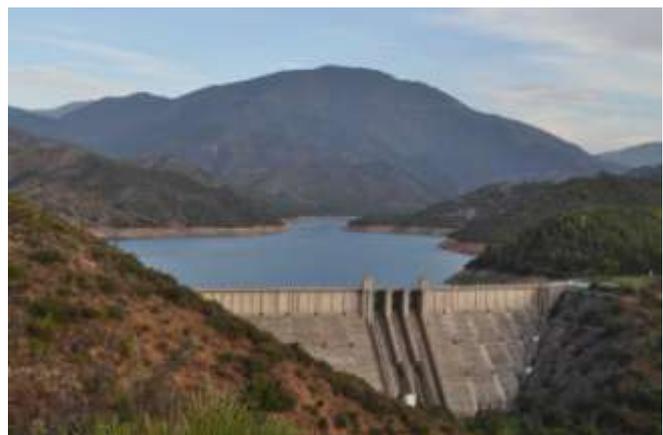
To get to the starting point, which can be a bit tricky to find, coming from Central Plaza to Las Brisas and turn right at restaurante Picadero, currently closed, and drive in direction of the Aloha Golf Club. Pass the entrance road and at the next roundabout turn left. Then drive straight ahead and where the road ends in a roundabout drive straight onto the gravel road and park.

Follow the gravel road a few hundred yards and turn right at the path that runs along the mountainside. It is a sign that read Puerta Verde de Marbella where the trail begins. That this is dog owners' paradise, you soon understand. It gets better later on. The trail is wide and gravelly and easy going. The view down towards the Mediterranean is breathtaking.



As we pass over the highway you can see the soft curves and the road becomes almost like a graphic artwork. We soon reach our first rest stop.

Straight ahead is the ninety-meter-high dam wall at Concepcion dam. This giant pond supplies Marbella, Fuengirola, Mijas, Benalmadena and others with drinking water. The reservoir covers an area of 142 square miles, a huge area. Where we are, we have the water surface as a mirror of the mountains around. On the right, at the slope of La Concha is a small white village and further on the mountain side climb several houses in the greenery.



We continue our walk. The path has narrowed and we go after each other among bushes. To the right is the pond and we are enjoying the view. You can see a cliff with a tree on top. It is there we shall have our picnic. What a lovely place to walk to!



We follow the path and come to a trouble area. With great care we help each other to pass. There is no risk of falling but you have to look for where to place your feet. The area is crossed without problems. We reach the way we earlier left, but our path continues down the right. The path is constantly well maintained, it's clear that this is a popular way to walk. It is a few hundred meters until we reach the hill with the lonely tree. Here, we'll eat our picnic. It

took an hour to get here. Some of us climbs up the side of the hill to eat.

The sun is warm and the water glistens. We can see all the way down to the Mediterranean. Just a few meters higher up you reach the top and can see the pond's entire length in each direction. In the shadow of the tree, we pack up a picnic basket and enjoy the views and tranquility. What a great trip! Almost as Ferdinand under the olive tree.



The return journey is along the same path we came the first hundred meters. We reach the road and follow it back. We go on the other side of the mountain and may view down to Aloha, Los Narajos and Nueva Andalucia. We're soon back to the parking lot. It has been an easy walk for nearly two hours with generous breaks.

Have a nice walk!

Peter