

SECTION 4: *Santuario Trail*

Description:

There is a good trail on opposite side of river, however, there is one dense stand of carrizo that requires circumnavigation and possible travel into private property. Section 4 of the trail is 3.55 miles/ 5.7 km long, ending at San Miguelito where Section 5 begins.

Access to trailhead parking:

From Plazuela de La Estación, cross the tracks and remain on the blacktop road to the right (to Cieneguita) for 1.7 miles from the railroad tracks. The road becomes to gravel for .8 miles where it returns to pavement. Take this road for a total of 3 miles to the intersection at the Guanajuato Bridge. Parking is on the shoulder of the road at the intersection. Access to the trail is at the bridge. Trails descend on the east side of the bridge, heading north.

Waypoint 1: Trailhead parking, mile 0.0. GPS coordinate: 20.982, -100.805. Access to the trail is at the bridge. Trails descend on the east side of the bridge, heading north. There is a distinct trail approximately 30" from top of riverbank. Walk toward the river then travel along the trail/dirt road at the top of the riverbank. The road to Atotonilco is visible on the right.

A dirt road enters from the Atotonilco road. Stay on trail, continuing above the river, close to the road. At .5 miles/ .8 km the trail nears the river. At 1.25 miles/ 2km, a pedestrian path crosses the river. At 1.39 miles/ 2.3 km, there is a riparian grove at a bend in the river. At 1.7 miles/ 2.72 km there is another grove of trees. At this point stay near to the river. Do not travel right along the well- used trail.

An arroyo meets the river at 1.8 miles/ 2.88 km. This segment is very difficult for walking and has many fences. Nirvana resort comes into view. May cross into private property here; there is a gate inside another fence. Observe a heavy stand of carrizo along the river on the other side of the fence. Walk in front of Nirvana, along side a broken down barbed wire fence. Do not cross. Come upon a pipe fence, and bushwhack through tall grass, stay inland of river. Cross the river at 2.6 miles/ 4.2 km. At 3.4 miles/ 5.5 km a road crosses the river. At 3.55 miles/ 5.7 km a road crosses the river to Rancho El Fresno.

FINAL WAYPOINT: At the end of Section 4 is an earthen road, running north/south from San Miguelito to a small village, at 3.55 miles/ 5.7 km. GPS coordinate: 21.002, -100.799. This location is 10.74 miles/ 17.28 km from start of Section 1.