

## Rio Laja Trail- Section 4: *Santuario Trail*

### Description:

There is a good trail on both sides of the river, however, there is one dense stand of carrizo that requires walking around and possible travel into private property. Section 4 of the trail is 3.55 miles/ 5.71 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/ 2.74 km from the railroad tracks. The road becomes to gravel for .8 miles/ 1.29 km where it returns to pavement. Take this road for a total of 3 miles/ 4.8 km to the intersection at the Casa de Aves Bridge. Parking is on the shoulder of the road at the intersection. Access to the trail is at the bridge. Trails descend on both sides of the bridge, heading north.



***One of the many fences along this trail***

the right bank is very difficult for walking and has many fences. Nirvana resort comes into view. The trail on the left bank (north) is difficult to follow as large stands of carrizo on the riverbank need to be walked around by as far as 50 meters from the river. Also, an outfall pipe from Atotonilco (possibly from the Santuario pollutes the river (which looks offensive and has an unpleasant odor). The river may be crossed at 2.6 miles/ 4.2 km, and again 3.4 miles/5.47 km where a road crosses the river.



Final waypoint: At the end of Section 4 is an earthen road and low concrete bridge crossing the river, running north/south from San Miguelito to a small village, at 3.55 miles/ 5.7 km. GPS coordinates: 21.002, -100.799. This location is 10.74 miles/ 17.28 km from start of Section 1.

***Earthen Road at end of Section 4***

*Waypoint 1:* Trailhead parking, mile 0.0/ km 0.0. GPS Coordinates: 20.982, -100.805. Access to the trail is at the bridge. Trail descends on the right (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. At .5 miles/ .8 km the trail nears the river. At 1.25 miles/ 2 km, a pedestrian path crosses the river. At 1.39 miles/ 2.25 km, there is a riparian grove at a bend in the river. At 1.7 miles/ 2.74 km there is another grove of trees. At this point stay near to the river (do not travel right along the well- used trail.) As there are significant trail obstacles above this point, look for a place to cross to the left bank of the river going north.

An arroyo meets the river on the right bank at 1.8 miles/ 2.88 km (if not on left bank at this point, cross the Rio). The trail on