

Rio Laja Trail- Section 6: *Yellow and Purple House Trail*

Description:

This is one of the most highly recommended sections of the network of trails along the Laja. It does require much crossing (back and forth) between riverbanks, so is best traveled during drier parts of the year. The mountain biking is intermediate (plus) at the start, but turns into excellent novice/intermediate single track trail once ascending the left bank of river. Section 6 of the trail ends at the Los Barrones, totaling 2.24 miles/ 3.6 km.

Access to trailhead parking:

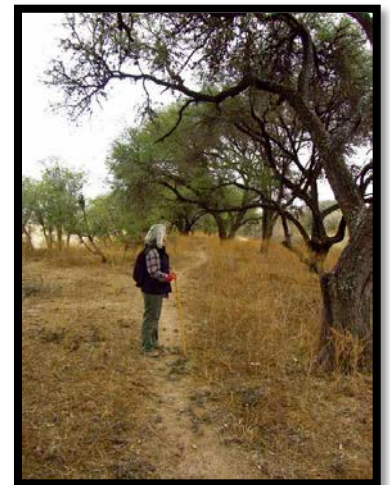
Taking the main highway to Dolores Hidalgo from San Miguel, after the Pemex station on the left opposite the turn to Los Labradores, turn left at the sign saying to Atotonilco. Go approx. 1.11 miles/ 1.78 km in the direction of Atotonilco. There is a dirt road on the right hand side. Turn right and go about 200 yards/ 180 meters where there is a sign on a wooden post saying “ Monasterio”. Turn left and follow the dirt road, a distance of .93 miles/ 1.5 km.



Waypoint 1: Trailhead parking, mile 0.0/ km 0.0. GPS coordinate: 21.018, -100.807. Near the large, imposing gate to the (private) green bridge, there is parking on the right shoulder in view of the green bridge about 110 yards/ 100 meters from the river. Hike right around the building and then left, heading toward the river. The trail soon becomes more prominent, and parallels the river. Observe a brick water pumping station, with a dirt road leading to the pump. Follow the trail paralleling the river, heading north. At 40 yards/ 36 meters past the structure, meet a fork in the trail. Take the lower trail. Come to wall, and take trail to descend to the river.

Head left toward river at split in path

Waypoint 2: River crossing at .3 miles/ .5 km. Once traveling on upper left bank of river, private land will be marked by a high, well-made fence, roughly 20 feet from river. Fence surrounds a resort or a large hacienda. Large willow trees (Sausal) line the riverbank. Continue in a northerly direction. Stay right as the trail splits to keep proximity to the river. The trail soon becomes more defined.



Large willow trees on left bank



Brightly painted house seen through the trees

Waypoint 3: Large purple and yellow house on opposite bank at .73 miles/ 1.2 km. Walk on either side of the river. Hike on left bank trail through wide-open spaces, where the trail becomes indistinct then established again. At about 1 mile/ 1.6 km, there is another good path for crossing the river, however, one can stay on the left side of the river. Continue paralleling the fence. When the trail forks, stay

right (low). A fence on the left side encroaches the trail, making it necessary to cross the river.



White painted rocks and nopales

Waypoint 4: At .93 miles/ 1.5 km, a dirt road crosses river. Later, a proper road crosses the river around 1.15 miles/ 1.84 km. On the right side of the river, a good trail parallels the river. The trail comes to another road crossing the river where also there is a road paralleling the river blocked by painted white rocks and recently planted nopales. On the left side of the river there is a structure with a thatched cone shaped roof. On the right bank of the river, the preferred route is along the road, which borders fenced property.

Waypoint 5: A brick kiln in center of agricultural field, to right of river, at 1.75 miles/ 2.8 km. A carrizo stand blocks view of river. Walk between Carrizo and agricultural fields. The road eventually leads into the river and carries on up the river. Cross the river here to ascend to the trail on the left bank. There is a rough road, which serves as a trail. At 2.11 miles/ 3.4 km, an arroyo comes in to the river from the west. Another road crosses the river here. Remain on the trail closest to the river when approaching the pueblito of Los Barrones. This trail ascends as it passes through a grove of mesquite trees, about 50 yards/ 45 meters from the river. There is cultivated land between the trail and the river.

Waypoint 6: End of Section 6 and start of Section 7, at 2.24 miles/ 3.6 km. GPS coordinate: 21.043, -100.814. There is a green metal pedestrian bridge crossing the river. This location is 15.62 miles/ 25 km from start of Section 1.