Moundain route to climb the heights and, from the divide, gaze upon the beautiful Lozoya and Hermoso valleys, the countryside of La Alcarria, the Pendón Massif, the Cuerda Larga, the Machotas mountains of Zarzalejo, the Sierra de Hoyo...

If you are lucky, perhaps you will come across the Mora Cave. And if you are luckier still and manage to survive the curse of the Saracen, you will be able to find the treasure concealed inside it. Because, as we know...

Beautiful, beautiful Mondalindo,
everyone who sees you wants you,
who had the coin,
that lies beneath you.
(Folk Song)

But even if you don’t manage to find it, you’ll return a richer person: your eyes and skin will have been enriched by the extraordinary landscapes and winds from afar. You will have been closer to heaven, at the summit of the Mondalindo, and your lips will have drunk from the Fuente del Agua Fría (Cold Water Spring), with the chasm at your feet.
ROUTE 3: MONDALINDO POR LA MINA DE LA PLATA

TOPOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND BASIC ROUTE INFORMATION

Distance: 12.6 km
Time: 4h 30 min
Difficulty level: 3/5
Accumulated positive slope: 680 m.

Ruta 3: Mondalindo por la Mina de la Plata

Leyenda
- Ruta-3 Mondalindo por la Mina de la Plata
- Ríos arroyos
- Carreteras
- Vías Pecuarias Bustarviejo

Map showing the route from Collado Abierto to Cancho de Mondalindo, passing through Torre de la Mina and Majadas de los Arrieros.
ROUTE DESCRIPTION

We leave the Plaza de la Constitución and, after passing the Town Hall, we go down Calle Feria to the left. We continue until we enter the Miraflores road (M-610).

We continue along the road, nothing more than a street to start, until we pass alongside the football ground. We cross the forecourt and come to an information panel.

The start of the path that we are going to follow is to the left of the information panel for the Silver Mine, along the edge of the pine forest.

About 1000 metres after this fork in the path, we arrive at the Mine Tower (1430 m). There we can obtain information from the information panels and have a rest, enjoying the views from the table and wooden benches.

We have two options to continue the route. Firstly, marked on the ground, we can follow a route up the slope that is behind this rest area, following a trail that is easy to miss.

The start of this trail is very steep, running perpendicular up the hillside, although it soon eases. About 400 m further up, it joins a path coming from the right. After continuing up a further 500m, we arrive at the Collado Abierto (open hill).

The second option, which is more difficult in rainy or snowy periods, follows a trail that goes north from the rest area.
From there, we head to the right of the slope and take the steep and demanding trail that will lead us to the **Collado Abierto**.

When we have crossed the stream, we go up, leaving it to our right. After 30 metres we cross it again and can now see the upward path. We follow it, with the stream to our left. Sometimes the trail disappears, but soon becomes visible again.

To the left we can see the **Braña Summit** and the firefighters’ observation post. We are on the **Collado Abierto** (1606 m), a high pastureland that will amaze us with its impressive views of the **Lozoya Valley and the Sierra de Ayllón** set back on the right, in the distance.

To the left, sitting on top of the large hill, we can see the **Mondalindo**, to which we are heading.

We walk alongside the fence, up a gentle slope, until we have travelled 450 metres from the Collado Abierto and can see the granite formation of **La Albardilla** (1656 m) on our right.

This takes a considerable effort, but it will allow us to see the entrance at the mouth of the mine on the left and, if we look back, we will be able to enjoy the impressive views of the valley to **Miraflores** as we pass through the broom shrubs.
We continue walking without changing course, alongside the fence, tens of metres away from it. We will carry on like this until we reach the summit of the Mondalindo, occasionally looking back, because the height gained offers spectacular views of the Cuerda Larga, Lozoya Valley and the peaks of the Carpetano Mountains (Peñalara, Claveles, Reventón and Navafría).

At the summit of the Mondalindo (1831), we can enjoy a spectacular panoramic view: to the south, the Madrid plateau, with the towers of the Ciudad Deportiva silhouetted on the horizon, the Vellón Reservoir, San Pedro Hill, Pendón Hill, Arcón Summit, Santillana Reservoir; to the west, the Abantos, the Pedriza, the Najarra, Hierro Peaks, Trigo Mountain, Peñalara, the Claveles Crag, the Reventón Pass; to the north, Navafria, Pinilla Reservoir, the Three Provinces, Lobo Peak, the Cerrón; to the east, the Negra Crag, Atazar Reservoir, Sierra de la Cabrera, the Cabeza... A real treat for our eyes.

We return to the route, continuing eastward for about 60 metres until we come to the fence on the boundary between Bustarviejo and Valdemanco.

We turn right, joining the straight, steep path down the southern hillside, which takes us to La Almohadilla (1727 m), which we walk alongside on the right and, after a distance of 300 metres, we reach the top of the Cancho de Mondalindo (1647 m). There we will get a strong sense of the altitude when we carefully peer out over this unique granite viewpoint. From this vantage point, we will be able to make out Bustarviejo, four hundred metres below us.

We continue along the route, firstly retracing our steps for around 60 metres to rejoin the path, which will take us westward (to our left), along the southern hillside with a gentle slope, to pass by the Agua Fría Spring.

After the spring, the path down is steep. Zigzagging along the hillside, at around 800 metres from the spring, we come to a fork in the path.
OPTION ONE.

If we prefer not to take any chances, to make it easy to find the path, we can follow this to the left, going down towards the south. At the next intersection, we take the right-hand path to the El Pedregal housing development.

We can recognise this intersection because the path to the right is wider, making it passable for vehicles.

We head towards the northern part of the housing development and turn left, going down a paved road. We turn right down the second street and, at the end, turn left and go down towards the M-610 road that joins the Cañada Real Segoviana cattle road.

We follow this along to the right until we reach the church. We turn right, passing in front of the door to the church. Now we are in the square, only a few metres from our starting point. This is a perfect time to give our tired feet a rest, we’ve earned it!
OPTION TWO.

For those of us who are a little bit more adventurous (navigating it is slightly more difficult), we take the trail on the right, which runs along the hillside, remaining more or less at the same height. We follow this until it enters a small rocky area. Although sometimes it may seem like we are getting lost, if we continue towards the west, we will soon arrive at the stone wall of a farm. We follow this, turning left and going down. To the left we can see an interesting old circular cattle pen.

We continue, leaving the farm’s wall to our right. After a few more metres another farm wall appears. We turn left again, following the trail that runs parallel with this wall. This takes us to a path, a typical track in our town, damp and shaded, running down between the brambles, oaks and ferns. At the end of this path we come to a wider one, where we find the Prado Mayor Pool, which is brilliant for cooling ourselves down, now that we are nearing the end of our walk.