



MOUNTAIN

Toloño 1.277 mts

From Rivas de Tereso (La Rioja)

Pablo Vozmediano Salazar

- * **SATARTING POINT:** Road from Rivas to Peñacerrada, km. 2'3 (750m.) or Rivas de Tereso (650m).. **ALTITUDE:** 521 mts. in the first case, or 621 mts. in the second.
- * **TIME REQUIRED:** 1h. 10' for the first option, and 20' more if we leave from the village..
- * **DIFFICULTY:** Easy. * **CARTOGRAPHY:** Map 170-I (Labastida) esc. 1:25000 of the I.G.N.
- * **REMARKS:** We are not going to find water on this route. We can take it Rivas de Tereso.

In this case, we propose to climb the Toloño, by the route that we can consider as easier, and with less effort to reach the summit (of course, renouncing to other mountain accesses, other paths...etc.). This option is the most recommended in the case of going with children, or or people unfamiliar with the mountains, and taking a road as starting point.

So, we take as our starting point the Riojan village of **Rivas de Tereso** (* we can take water here, as we are not going to find it later), located at 650 mts altitude. We can get there from Haro via Labastida (leaving in the direction of Laguardia, and taking the first crossroads on the left), or via Briones and San Vicente de la Sonsierra.

We continue along the road towards the Puerto de Rivas and Peñacerrada, and 2.3 km away, just before reaching some large black poplars next to the road, we see on the left a path indicated with a green sign of "Pequeño Recorrido de la Sonsierra Riojana" (PR-LR 51). We enter a few meters with the car and in a wide field, on the right, you can park the car. We are at an altitude of approximately 750 meters, and this is going to be our starting point.

*** The ascent can also be started from the same village of Rivas de Tereso (we should only add 20' more). To do this, once in the village, we go to the church located in the center of the village. In this place there is a fountain where we can get water for the way (we won't find it later).*

We leave the village (0') by the left side of the church, following a paved street that goes through a Via Crucis, and that goes to some detached houses in the outskirts. We arrive at a bend to the right (3'), where we see in front, under a couple of black poplars, a table with a barbecue and a fountain, where an old path continues. We leave the asphalt and continue straight on along this path that takes us out of the village, gaining altitude immediately, and takes us in 20' to the road that leads to the Puerto de Rivas y Peñacerrada, just a few metres before the path, on the left of the road, with signs indicating "PR-Senderos de Pequeño Recorrido - Sonsierra Riojana".

Itinerary:

Here we begin to see the yellow and white marks that go up towards Toloño, passing by the hermitage of Humilladero, and others that go towards the mountain pass of Rivas. At the beginning of the path there is a wooden stake with the paint marks, indicating the route to be followed.

We begin to walk following these marks (0'), and after a few metres, the wide dirt track that leads to the Toloño turns to the left, entering the holm oak forest, and leaving on the right another path where we would go up to the hill located at 950 m, to the left of the Peña Colarada, a characteristic rock, and clearly visible from here.

The path continues gaining altitude diagonally to the left (E-NE), and after 8' we leave a detour of another path on the right. This path leads to a firebreak, which, if you go up it, will take you to a ridge, to the right of Peña del León.

We must continue on the main path, without loss. A little further on, we can also see another detour to the left, which leads along the slope of Toloño, until San Ginés, which we also ignore. We continue gaining altitude, between gentle slopes and some flatlands, and we reach in 30' the limit of La Rioja and Alava. At this point, the path narrows and is in worse condition. In 10' more, we reach the remains of the Hermitage of the Humilladero (40'), leaving the forest behind, and going out to clearer ground. These are just three walls that hardly serve to protect us from the wind in bad weather. At this point, the two paths that go up from San Ginés meet. We head towards the remains of the hermitage, some metres to the right of the path, and leave it definitively.

From here, we follow the same itinerary of ascent that comes from San Ginés.

Ruins of the Humilladero Hermitage 1,060 m / 46'. In this place, better known by some of us as "The 3 walls" (as only three walls remain of the hermitage), our itinerary converges with the one coming from Ribas de Tereso and with another variant that goes up from San Ginés and where we will go down later. There is a beautiful view from here, especially towards Las Conchas and the Obarenes Mountains to the west.

Behind the three walls we can see the path that goes up decidedly to the mountain. It passes by a small grove and after a few meters, a flanking to the right begins, gaining altitude quickly, now by a mountain path that crosses channels on the slope, formed by erosion. We are in **55'** next to the ruins of the **Monastery of Toloño**, on its right side, where we can still see some well-preserved remains of it, as well as some deep circular **refrigerators** built in ashlar stone, a few meters below and to the left (SW) of the monastery. After leaving the ruins on the left and crossing a wire fence, we arrive at some open fields, located on a wide plain and where we can usually find cows or horses.

We must cross these open fields leaving the ruins of the monastery behind us (the path gets lost in the grass here ...) and try to locate a red paint mark on a rock in front of us on the other side of the open field. We can also find traces of other yellow and white marks. There we can take up the stony path again and it is going to be difficult to lose it again. It gains altitude again among the boxwood bushes and immediately passes a hillock before the main summit..

From the top of this small hillock, we have a beautiful panoramic view of the open fields, the ruins of the Monastery of Toloño and the **Peña del Castillo** (a large isolated rock, which has a letterbox, and is located behind the ruins of the monastery, and which can be reached by climbing on some of its sides).

Once we have passed this small hillock, we follow another short flat stretch and we already see the summit in front of us, surmounted by a Cross with a letterbox, a small metal pyramid and another letterbox on its right. We are in the border between La Rioja and Álava. **We have spent 1h 05' to reach the Toloño** at a quiet pace.

The views from this summit, if we have good visibility, are magnificent. To the south we can see practically all of Rioja Alta, with the meanders formed by the Ebro river in Briñas, Gimileo and Briones, in the foreground, and in the background from the Sierra of Cebollera to the Sierra of la Demanda and San Millán. To the west, we see Mount San Cristóbal and the end of the Sierra of Toloño, sinking into the Conchas de Haro, as well as a large part of the Obarenes Mountains being lost in the distance in the province of Burgos. To the north, Euskadi, with the green and wooded lands of Alava in the foreground, and with the unmistakable silhouettes of Gorbea, Anboto, Aizkorri and many other well-known mountains. And to the east, we have the rest of the Sierra of Toloño, with the wooded summits of Atxabal, San León, Eskamelo, and the rugged peaks of Palomares, Cruz del Castillo ... etc., before merging with the Sierra de Codés in Navarra.

In conclusion, an unforgettable panoramic view, which allows us to observe the contrast between the two sides of Toloño..

* **Toloño has other heights also known as Toloño, in its extreme west, (we know it as the Los Angeles letterbox, at 1,252 meters), and in its extreme east, known as Peña del León, at 1,206 meters, as well as the Peña del Castillo at 1,262 meters, all of them with letterboxes.**

Toloño por Rivas de Tereso

Toloño O.
1.252 m.

P. del Castillo
1.262 m.

TOLOÑO
1.271 m.

Peña del León
1.206 m.

RIVAS DE TERESO



Pictures of the tour



Toloño, from de road



Toloño, forest track



Toloño, forest track



Arriving at the Humilladero



Near the Monastery



Peña del Castillo and Monastery



Nevera



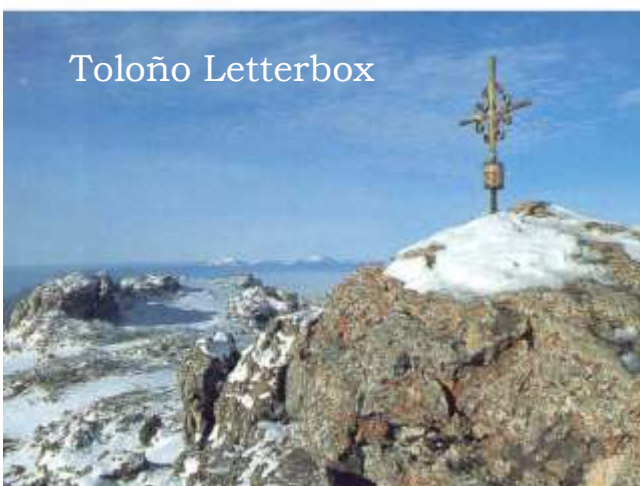
Monastery and P. del Castillo



Peña del Castillo



Last meters



Toloño Letterbox



Toloño letterbox

* Author's note.

I'd like to make a little introduction to these routes.

First of all, I want to make it clear that I am just a simple mountain enthusiast, and that I am not qualified enough to make technical comments on flora, fauna, history and other similar topics.

For that reason, I prefer to leave such matters to more capable people. I apologize for any mistakes I may have made in referring to some names of municipal districts, historical facts, or any other name used by me, when making these routes.

I am simply an unconditional lover of Nature in all its facets, and I have always regretted the lack of sensitivity that politicians have shown in everything related to these issues.

The Haro region and the Rioja Alta have privileged places where you can enjoy natural environments, sometimes unknown by the inhabitants of the area. In spite of having a great landscape and fauna richness, at an institutional level, there has always been an absolute lack of any kind of printed information about trekking or mountain routes in our region, which shows how little interest has been taken in it.

However, the reality is that at the grassroots level, there is a great fondness for it. This is demonstrated by the large number of people who every Sunday take their backpacks and go to the mountains. Also, the two existing mountain associations in the town, counting at present the Toloño Sports Association (to which I belong), with more than 300 members.

For that reason, I have always tried to collaborate as much as possible, to spread that richness in the mountain environment in which I usually move.

On one occasion, I coincided in a mountain activity with the manager of Camping de Haro, Carlos Contreras, and during a short conversation, I voluntarily and totally disinterestedly accepted the commitment to facilitate some routes. In this way, people who visit our city and the camping, and wish to do trekking or mountain, or simply know our environment, can have at their disposal, a minimum of information to do so.

As I promised, and although these simple routes are the work of an amateur, I hope they are useful for those who, like me, share that interests in Nature. Les ofrezco en principio estos pocos itinerarios que en un futuro próximo, irán ampliándose con otras rutas futuras.

Before I finish, I'd like to ask everyone who makes these routes **MAXIMUM RESPECT FOR ANIMALS, PLANTS, AND NATURE IN GENERAL. WE MUST NOT IN ANY WAY DEGRADE THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE ARE.**

Neither should we forget that on some occasions, we will be passing through areas close to private properties (vineyards, farm fields...etc), or through places with a great cultural and historical richness, which we will also have to respect.

Finally, if anyone wishes to contact the author of these routes, for any suggestion, additional information, or any criticism, they can do so at:

www.pablovozmediano@yahoo.es or on the telephone number **699 001252** (Pablo Vozmediano Salazar).