



## \*Rave 866 m. and Cruz de Motrico 852 mts. (With tour of Senda de las Ferreras and Los Tejos)

*Pablo Vozmediano Salazar*

\***STARTING POINT:** Villalba (574 mts.).

\***ALTITUDE:** Approximately 800 mts. of accumulated unevenness for all the circuit of the Senda de las Ferreras and the Senda de los Tejos, and the ascent to the Rave and the Cruz de Motrico

\***DIFFICULTY:** Easy. It is an easy route, generally by good paths or trails, except for the ascent of the Rave, where we must pay a little attention to find the path.

\***TIME REQUIRED:** The complete tour can be done at a leisurely pace, in about 4 hours.

\* **Partial times:**

- From Villalba to the Cruz de Motrico, it can be reached if we go directly, in 50'.

- To go up and down the Rave from the path, 25' is enough.

- The alternative route: Senda de las Ferreras - Pista de San Juan - Senda de los Tejos, and the ascent to the Cruz de Motrico, takes about 1h. 20', at a normal pace.

- To return from La Cruz de Motrico to Villalba, 40' is enough.

\***CARTOGRAPHY:** See the map 1:25000 del I.G.N. (169-II Zambrana).

\* This is a simple route to reach the Cruz de Motrico, a modest mountain much visited by the mountaineers of Haro and Miranda de Ebro, generally very crowded. This route offers us the possibility of going directly to this peak from Villalba, in which case we can consider it as a simple trekking route, or also ascend on the way to another simple mountain less visited, the **Rave**, which in spite of not being so frequented, offers us equally beautiful views of the Obarenes Mountains. If we only do these two summits, we can make the round trip in just 2 and a half hours from Villalba, at a leisurely pace.

If we want to complete the tour, we can do it in many ways, but I recommend a circuit that allows us to know two beautiful routes that descend to the northern slope, in the zone of Miranda. These are the **Senda de las Ferreras**, and the **Senda de los Tejos**, two beautiful itineraries that we can join and combine with the ascent to the Cruz de Motrico. They are especially recommended in spring to enjoy the greenery that offers us that time, or in summer to enjoy the shade of the forests through which they pass.

If we make the complete route, we should not consider it as a as a trekking route, but as a mountain one, since we will have to go down some slopes on the Mirandese side, which we will have to go up again later to return to the Riojan side. In that case, we have to plan around 4 hours to make the complete tour, at a calm pace.

\*\* **WATER:** It's important to consider that we are not going to pass near any fountain in the itinerary, so we will have to foresee it. We can get water at the Villalba fountain, next to the Town Hall.

### **- ASCENT TO THE CROSS OF MOTRICO 852 mts. (50' one way, from Villalba):**

We start the tour in Villalba, next to the church. We go out through the paved street on the right and behind the church, heading towards the mountain. Immediately we leave behind the houses and the cement and the street becomes a good path that arrives in just 5' to a water tank, metallic and of cylindrical form. We leave the track that follows on the left towards the deposit, and continue straight ahead, also along a wide path that narrow as we move towards some black poplars.

The path continues along the bottom of the ravine passing by some black poplars, and later on, some pines. After a short stretch, we arrive at the reservoir that is fed by the water catchment that is behind El Portillo (15'). We can see over it the Rave, and on its right next to an electric turret, the Portillo pass, which accesses the Camaldolese Monastery of Herrera.

The reservoir is surrounded by a wire fence, so we must go to the right to place us on the opposite side and continue the route.

Once on the other side, continue along a path that continues gaining height through the thalweg, now to the left, and



which finally ends in a wide path that also comes from Villalba (21'). Just here, we have in front of us the wall where there are several climbing ways, known as "Los agujeros de los Moros".

Now we continue going up along the path to the left for 8' approximately (29'), until we reach some black poplars on the right edge. A few metres before these black poplars, the path goes up to the Rave (there is a small stone marker) through a small thalweg on the right. I'm going to denominate this point as the 1.



#### - DEVIATION AND ASCENT TO THE RAVE 866 mts. (25'

**round trip):** If we want to ascend this mountain, we must take this path that goes to the right, through the thalweg, and just a minute later, we leave it, to take another path to the right, which goes quite unnoticed (there's also a stone marker on the detour). If we should continue without taking this detour, the path would take us a little further to the left and would connect in about 4' to the wide path that goes to the Cruz de Motrico.



We take the path on the right which soon becomes safer and begins to ascend quickly through the forest. Once we find it, we can easily ascend to the summit of the Rave in just 15' from the path. When we reach the summit, we see firstly a nativity scene placed by the Bilibio Mountain Club. The mountain letterbox is a few meters to the left, on top of some stones, something else hidden. It is a letter box placed in 1994 by the Mirandese Mountain Club, quite original, as it is one of the old hand pumps that were used to remove the wine of the barrels.

From here we can see perfectly Villalba, Haro, Toloño, the Herrera monastery at our feet, the nearby Cruz de Motrico, Peñalrayo, El Avellano and the east side of one of the Peñas de Jembres.

To go to the **Cruz de Motrico**, we return to the path by the same itinerary up to point 1, without venturing into any other possibility; which on the other hand would in no way be better; due to the lack of a better path and the vegetation surrounding this peak on all its sides. The only advisable option is to follow the small path at the base of the Rave, which continues through the thalweg and which I mentioned earlier, which connects in 4 minutes with the track that goes to the Cruz de Motrico. It's a small shortcut, but it's minimal.



**- We continue towards the Cross of Motrico:** If we haven't ascended the Rave and we want to go directly to the Cruz de Motrico, from point (1), we are going to continue ascending for a couple of minutes, until we reach a crossing on the right (31'), next to a pine forest that is flanked by a wide firebreak on its right side (currently converted into a track), and that besides, it is the limit of the provinces of La Rioja and Burgos (\*at the crossing there is a sign indicating the prohibition of circulation with vehicles).



We leave here the path of Villalba, to go to the right and to the north, following the new path, which is going to be the reference for the rest of the itinerary. After a first flat stretch, there is a steep slope of about 30 meters that can be avoided by following the bend made by the path (\* this curve connects with the small shortcut that comes from Rave), and a second flat

stretch from which we can observe slightly the two peaks of the Peñas de Jembres to the southwest. Now there is a short descent from where we can clearly see in front of us the rest of the path to the Cruz de Motrico, already visible from here, and which always borders the right edge of the pine forest.

**-PATH OF LAS FERRARAS (2):** In this descent, when the path turns to the left and begins to ascend again in the direction of the Cruz de Motrico (8' since we have left the Villalba path), we see on our right two posts, one metal and one wooden, and a path that begins there. This is the **Senda de las Ferreras**, a very advisable option if we want to lengthen the route, and which I am going to relate later. I am going to call this point of reference as **2**.

If we continue straight towards the Cruz de Motrico, after about 17' from the path that goes up from Villalba (43') we will already be situated practically under the cross, in a place where the firebreak is already beginning to lose altitude, recognisable by a wooden post in the middle of the firebreak at its highest point (a few metres before, we have left another path on the right that descends towards the northern slope).



We only have to locate a good path that leaves from the right edge of the firebreak, and reaches the mailbox and the big cross, after a short but steep ascent of about 5 minutes. **We have spent 50' since Villalba.**

From the summit we can see Miranda de Ebro to the north. We can also observe the strong ascent to this summit from that slope, and whose most used access road begins in



the surroundings of San Juan del Monte.

To the west we can see Peñalrayo. To the southwest, El Avellano and the Peñas de Jembres. More to the left, where we come from, we see the pyramidal peak of Rave and in the background the Sierra de Toloño. You can also see the Herrera Monastery half hidden at the bottom of the mountain.

\* The return to Villalba by the same itinerary can be done in just 40'.



**-( Option 2 ) ITINERARY: PATH OF LAS FERRERAS, PATH OF LOS TEJOS with ASENT TO LA CRUZ DE MOTRICO:**

If we have decided to do the route of the **Senda de las Ferreras** and the **Senda de los**

**Tejos**, At this point we take the path that begins at the two posts (0h.). The path starts almost flat and goes slightly to the left, the first two minutes, and then begins to descend decidedly towards the ravine on our right. There is no possible loss and



it runs through a very beautiful forest, especially in spring, and very pleasant in the summer when the heat is tight.

About halfway down the descent, we find a panel that shows us how the ferreras were built and the procedure used to extract the iron ore.

After descending about 12' since we have taken the path, we arrive at the wide forest track that comes from Herrera and Villalba and goes to the left, towards La Laguna (San Juan del



Monte). The only reference we have from this point is another wooden post without any indication at the point of junction with the track.

Now we must follow the track to the left for about 15' (1.400 mts.) in the direction of La Laguna. This stretch is practically flat, and we will even continue losing altitude until we reach the Senda de los Tejos detour.

-19'- We leave a wide track on the left with a sign indicating the prohibition of vehicles. This track ends at the firebreak of the normal itinerary from Villalba to La Cruz de Motrico, just 6 minutes from the summit.



-22'- We leave on the right a path indicated by a sign as Senda de las Cárcavas, and continue along the track, seeing on our left the Cruz de Motrico and the ravine on its right, via which we are going to go up.

-27' Left detour. We reach a signpost indicating the trails of Monte de Miranda, and several signs indicating the ascent to the **Cruz de Motrico** and the **Senda de los Tejos**. It also indicates that we have 1,700 meters left to reach the Laguna Recreational Zone.



We're going to leave the track and take this path on the left. After 2' we leave on the left the path that goes straight up to the Cruz de Motrico. We continue straight ahead along the path indicated as **Camposverdes** and **Senda de los Tejos**. In 4' we leave a firebreak on the left and continue going straight up, entering into a beautiful little forest and quickly gaining altitude along the ravine. We pass by another panel indicating the old ferreras and about 15' from the track, by a metal staircase that saves a small rocky slope.



We see some small yew trees spaced and half hidden among the vegetation, and when we have walked 22' from the track of La Laguna, we end in wide firebreak, where there is a sign indicating the Senda de los Tejos through where we have come up.



Now we have to follow along the firebreak to the left, to go up to the Cross of Motrico. There's a short descent, and soon it starts to climb steeply. We still have to do the hardest part of this

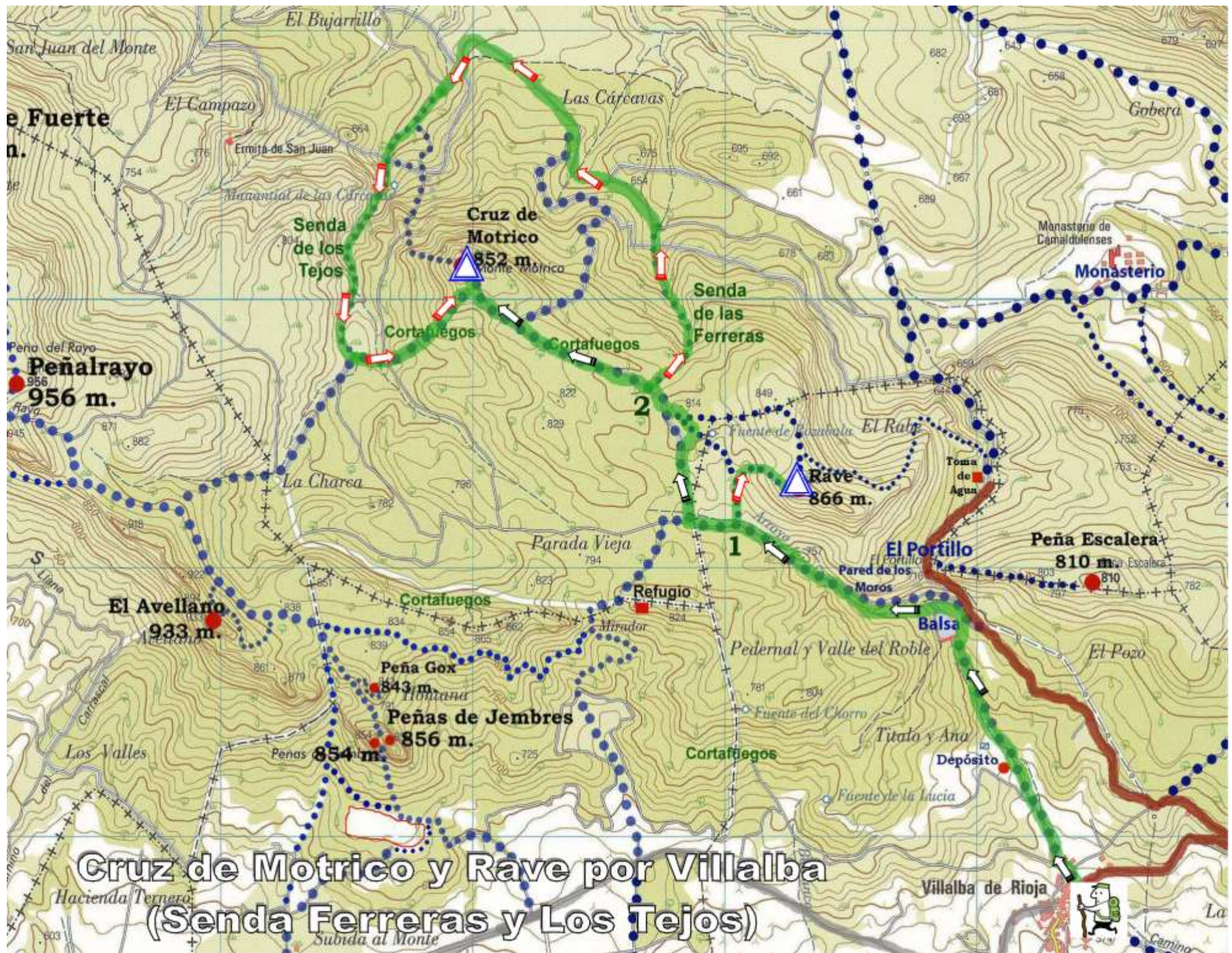
circuit, although it's easier than it looks. We have to gain altitude for about 14' until we reach a flat area, after some

hard slopes, while we see the peaks of El Avellano and Peñalrayo behind us. We go through this flat area for about 2' and we arrive under the summit of Motrico, at the post that we have already mentioned in the normal itinerary of Villalba. We only have to climb the barely 5' to the cross at the summit.



**To make this tour of the Option 2, we have spent approximately 1h. 20', at normal pace.**

We are going to return to Villalba in about 40 minutes through the normal itinerary, as described above.



Cruz de Motrico y Rave por Villalba  
(Senda Ferreras y Los Tejos)

## \* 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](mailto:www.pablovozmediano@yahoo.es) or on the telephone number **699 001252** (Pablo Vozmediano Salazar).