

Guanajuato

Guanajuato is a famous historical city, with well-preserved architecture, even though it thrives as a commercial center and university town. It turns out that there are a couple of good hikes nearby.

Lagunillas



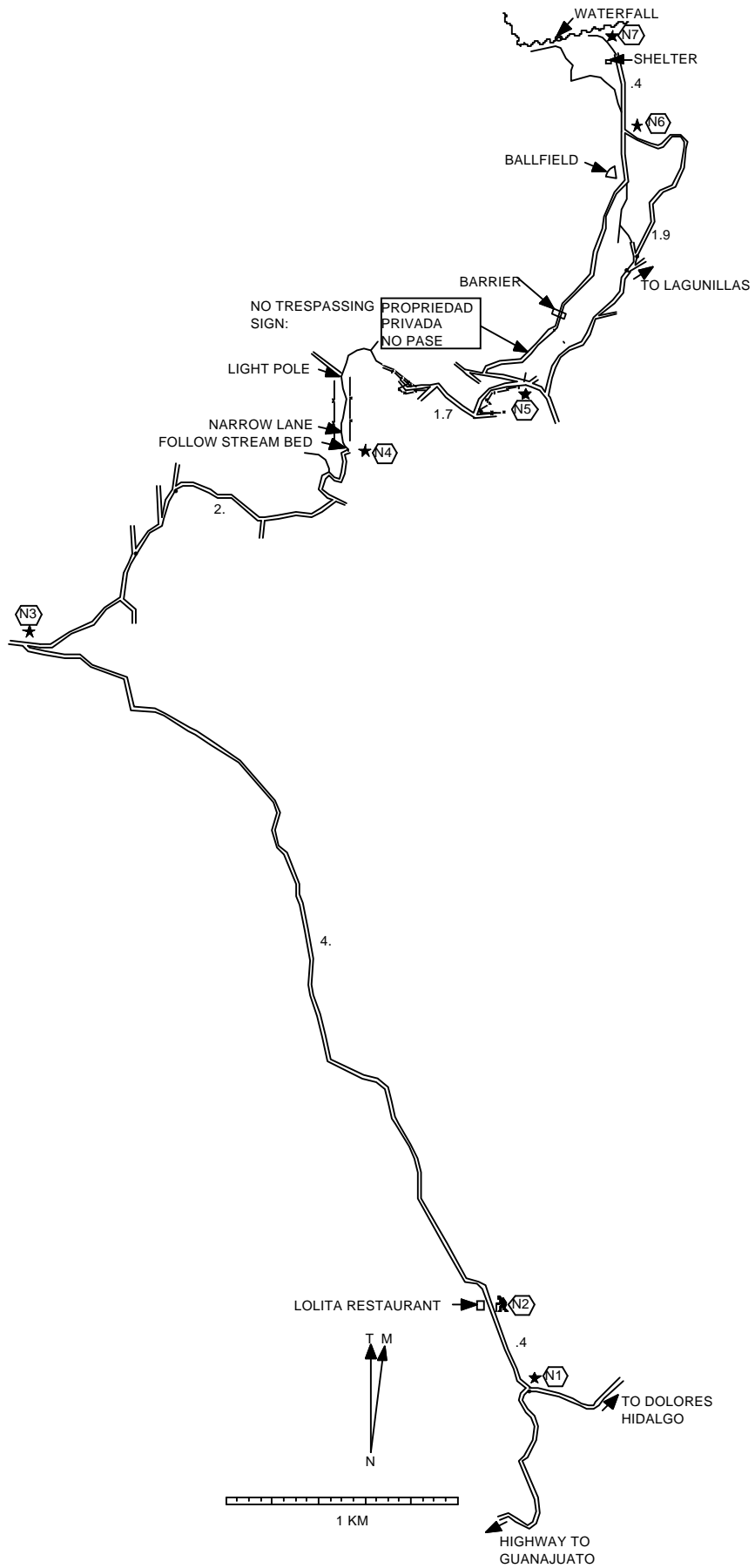
Trail Data Length each way = 10.4 km. Exertion index = 390 going, 320 returning. Maximum elevation = 2724 m.

Most of the way is on jeep tracks, but the first part is on an all-purpose dirt road and some is on foot or donkey trails. Going through Llanos de la Fragua, the trail is a narrow lane between farms. The vegetation is oak forest with other dryland plants. There are some glimpses of the surrounding hills. At the end you'll reach a pretty, shady ravine with a little brook just babbling its heart out. It even tumbles over a rock face to make a dainty waterfall. You can make your way above the waterfall and follow the ravine as far as you like.

For the first 4.4 km there could be enough road traffic to be annoying, although between trucks it's good walking. The rest of the way you should encounter only people and livestock.

The road branches off the Guanajuato-Dolores Hidalgo highway between Los Mexicanos and Santa Rosa. At Km 91.8, on the outside of a curve, go north on a dirt road. To the right is Rancho Milagro. In .3 mi (.5 km), reach the Restaurant Lolita. The owner is gracious about letting hikers use his parking lot ("Hago una caminata. ¿Me permite estacionar?"). Eating a meal is not a requirement for parking, but it is the gracious way to say thanks. Anyway, the food's good. If this doesn't work for some reason, there are a couple of parking spaces across the road.

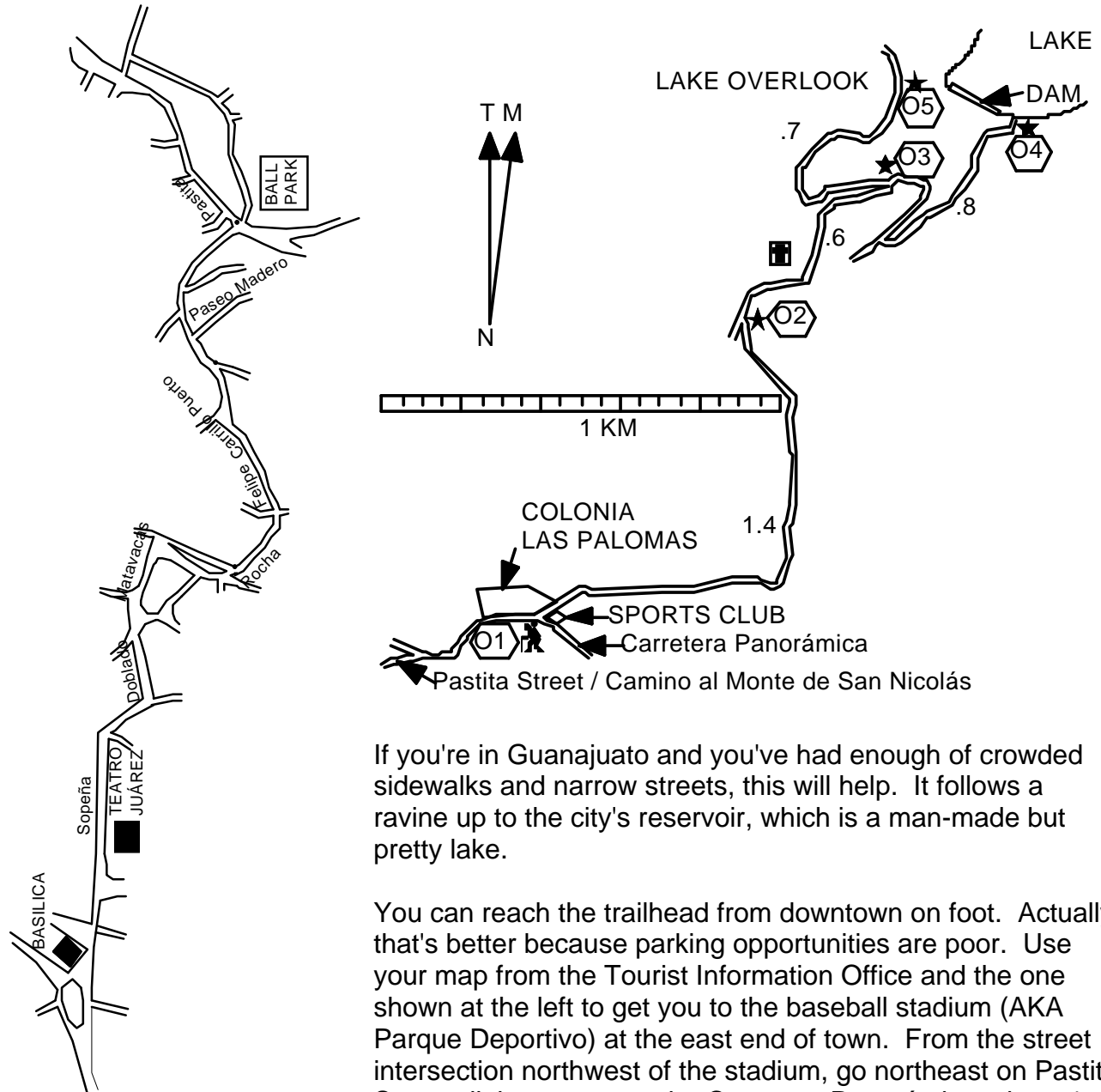
Guanajuato 2





Arroyo las Palomas

Trail Data Length each way = 2.8 km. Exertion index = 140 going (+ 60 for the overlook), 30 returning. Maximum elevation = 2250 m.



If you're in Guanajuato and you've had enough of crowded sidewalks and narrow streets, this will help. It follows a ravine up to the city's reservoir, which is a man-made but pretty lake.

You can reach the trailhead from downtown on foot. Actually, that's better because parking opportunities are poor. Use your map from the Tourist Information Office and the one shown at the left to get you to the baseball stadium (AKA Parque Deportivo) at the east end of town. From the street intersection northwest of the stadium, go northeast on Pastita Street all the way up to the Carretera Panorámica, about 1

km and uphill enough to warm up your leg muscles. There, go right (east) .3 km to a narrow, fairly steep concrete street on the left with a 12-inch steel pipe running along its left side and a concrete guard rail along its right side. To your left is a small fenced-in colonia and to the right is a private recreation club surrounded by a stone wall. The concrete street is the first part of the trail.

Bikers like to go around to a viewpoint above the lake to get a better workout.