

GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked paths



Please respect private property



Dogs must not be kept loose



The capture of animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112

GRANADA
ALMERÍA
SIERRA
NEVADA
PARQUE NACIONAL
PARQUE NATURAL

MORE INFORMATION

Laujar de Andarax Visitor's Centre.
Carretera Laujar de Andarax-Berja, km.1
Laujar de Andarax (Almería). Tel. 958 98 02 46.

ventanadelvisitante

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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

8,3 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

2 - 3 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Medium

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path and lanes with stony and sandy road surface

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

The first part of the trail runs through a repopulated pine forest that, due to the height, is no longer found as we ascend, and the vegetation typical of the high mountains of Sierra Nevada can now be observed. Shrubs, junipers and endemisms line the terrain while the highest peaks of the Sierra rise in front of us.

• SHADE

Scant

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Bring hiking boots and warm clothing, as well as a raincoat, regardless of the time of year in which we are, as the trail enters high mountain areas. It is also advisable to bring water, as it is not recommended to drink from streams and ravines given the presence of cattle and mountain goats in the area. To observe wildlife it is recommended to bring binoculars and/or telephoto cameras.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Granada / Capileira

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1027 - Güéjar Sierra

1042 - Lanjarón

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 58' 8,44" N - 3° 19' 58,55" O

37° 1' 38,91" N - 3° 19' 24,92" O



HOW TO GET THERE

The beginning of the trail is located in the recreational and control area of La Hoya del Portillo at 2,150 metres above sea level, a place accessed by following the old Sierra Nevada road (GR-411), approximately 11 km from Capileira.



PARKING

Next to the same starting point and the control barrier, there is an area enabled for vehicle parking.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The service dealer for the area is Alsa / Alsina Graells. www.alsa.es (tel. 902 42 22 42).



OTHER TRAILS

The park offers other routes; La Cebadilla, Acequias del Poqueira and Pueblos del Poqueira routes can be found nearby.



Mountain goats

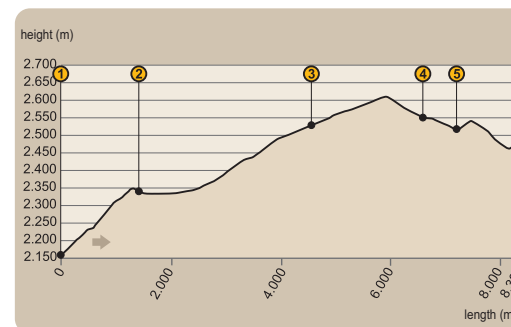
MOUNTAIN GOATS

Along this route it is easy to see mountain goats, which have their best refuge in Sierra Nevada, as it is home to the world's largest population of this ungulate. As a result, the population of mountain goats in the Sierra Nevada enjoys a high genetic variability that guarantees the future of the species and that has allowed the exit of specimens to other natural spaces for their reintroduction.

The mountain goat is a robust animal that in the case of large males can weigh more than 100 kilograms and have antlers of considerable size. The fur of these animals varies according to the time of year, being reddish-gray with black spots during the summer, while in winter the fur is denser and darker, so the spots are not so evident. Thanks to its specially adapted hooves, this animal can move safely and easily over the steepest cliffs.

To be able to observe these beautiful animals, we must first of all keep quiet and at a sufficient distance not to disturb them, so it is recommended to bring binoculars and telephoto cameras.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

452 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

2.600 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

2.150 m

GRANADA-ALMERÍA



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible

SIERRA
NEVADA
PARQUE NACIONAL
PARQUE NATURAL



Hoya del Portillo
Refugio del Poqueira



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible



Hoya del Portillo Refugio del Poqueira

Among the various routes to climb to the Poqueira shelter from the Alpujarra, this is the most feasible of all, although it is also the most exposed in case of blizzards and snowfalls.

Starting from a height of 2,150 meters, in the recreational and control area of La Hoya del Portillo, we will ascend through the reforestation pine forest, which progressively disappears in favour of improved vegetation adapted to the harsh weather conditions of the area.

The road to the Poqueira refuge will be an excellent viewpoint of the highest elevations of Sierra Nevada and the headwaters of Poqueira.

Sierra Nevada's High Mountain Habitat

Our trail begins at the Hoya del Portillo (check [1] on the map), recreational area and information and control point of the Natural Park and the Sierra Nevada National Park. From here we enter the forest of wild pines through which the path ascends steadily, until we reach the firebreak that goes up to Puerto Molina.

In this wide open space [2] we can observe how the harsh weather conditions of the area and the altitude affect the reforestation pine forest, which is increasingly scarce and with greater difficulties to adapt to the high mountain habitat. The heavy snowfalls and blizzards that occur in the area during the winter months give rise to curious deformations in the trees, which struggle to survive in this hostile environment.

In this regard, the arboreal vegetation gradually disappears to give way to the broom, which thanks to its creeping bearing and cushioned shape, manages to perfectly survive the harsh conditions of this environment.

The headwaters of the Poqueira

We left the vicinity of Puerto Molina behind to continue gently ascending the old lane that led to Cascajar Negro, a quarry from which until recently the stone necessary for the construction of Alpujarra houses was obtained.



Throughout this entire area we can enjoy a magnificent landscape [3], with the Poqueira Ravine at our feet and the peaks of Sierra Nevada getting closer and closer. From left to right, the peaks of Veleta (3,394 meters), Cerro de los Machos (3,324 m), Raspones y Crestones de Río Seco, Puntal de la Caldera (3,225 m), Puntal de Juegos de Bolos (3,022 m) and, finally, Mulhacén, the highest peninsular level with 3,479 meters of altitude.

Despite the stony character and the altitude of the area, here we can find numerous plant endemic species such as the Sierra Nevada violet or the Linaria, perfectly adapted to this type of substrates.

The Poqueira Shelter

We continue our way along the track that will lead us to the Poqueira refuge, visible for a long time but nevertheless still far away. This is due to the rarefied atmosphere of the high mountain, which makes distant elements appear closer than they actually are.

Our path crosses several streams and ravines such as the Posteruelo [4]. In this area it is common to find snowdrifts, even in the hottest months of summer, so we must be very careful in this regard and in



particular if the snow is hard, surrounding them if necessary to prevent accidents.



Hiker in the snow

During the spring, we will be able to observe the beautiful spectacle of the thaw, which covers the nearby meadows in green and creates whimsical shapes and tunnels in the snowdrifts.

After leaving the detour [5] that leads to the Hoya de la Iglesia sheepfolds, we arrive in a few minutes at the Poqueira Shelter. Located at 2,492 meters above sea level, the privileged location of this shelter will allow us to better know the high mountain of Sierra Nevada and access its highest peaks.

*The Poqueira Shelter is open throughout the year.
Tel. 958 34 33 49 - 958 06 41 11
659 55 42 24*



Trail

Hoya del Portillo Refugio del Poqueira



- Hoya del Portillo-Refugio del Poqueira Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Natural park boundary
- Road
- Path
- Livestock Track
- Long-distance trail (GR-140)
- Electricity line

- 1 Landmark (see text)
- Recreational area
- Interpretive panel
- Viewpoint
- Cemetery
- Hermitage/Church
- Town Council
- Farmhouse
- Shelter