

## GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked paths



Please respect private property



The capture of animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Access with motor vehicles and bicycles is not allowed



Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112

GRANADA



## MORE INFORMATION

Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development

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UNIÓN EUROPEA



Junta de Andalucía

Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible

PARQUE PERIURBANO  
Dehesa del  
Generalife

Acequia Real  
Dehesa del Generalife



© / Editing / Coordination: Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development / Environment and Water Agency  
Production and Photography: Grupo Entorno, Federación Andaluza de Montañismo and Environment and Water Agency

### • ROUTE

Circular

### • LENGTH

7 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME

3 hours

### • DIFFICULTY

Low

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

The trail consists on a sandy path almost entirely

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Area with an important landscaping value, due to its views over the city of Granada and most especially the neighbourhoods of Albaycín and Sacromonte. The vegetation is dominated by pines over the first and last section, and in the middle section there is an interesting patch of Portuguese oak.

### • SHADE

Scant

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the landscaping value of the area, we advise you to bring your camera as well as binoculars for birdwatching. Please remember to carry sufficient water with you, as there are no springs along the way. Although it this is an easy trail, it is recommended to download the digital map from the Visitor's window to prevent getting lost. This is one of the most visited trails in the province of Granada, especially the section that runs along the Acequia Real canal.

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Granada / Granada

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1009 - Granada

### • START / END COORDINATES

37° 10' 36,01" N – 3° 34' 12,45" O

37° 10' 35,79" N – 3° 34' 13,11" O



### HOW TO GET THERE

Starting in Granada, go towards the Alhambra, using the easiest way known as the "new access" which starts at the southern ring road. Once near the Alhambra, continue by the dirt path that goes by the town's graveyard and in less than two kilometres will take us to the "Aljibe de la Lluvia" recreational area, where this trail properly begins.



### PARKING

There is not a dedicated parking at the beginning of the trial, but there is a small dirt plain where you can leave your car. Please be careful to leave sufficient space to allow other vehicles to pass. It is recommended to avoid parking here when the ground is wet. Mud is easily formed and you run the risk of getting your car stuck in the mud.



### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

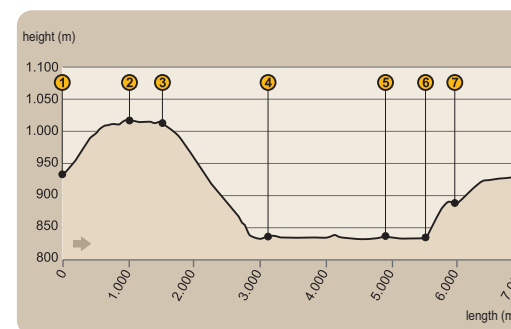
The service dealer for the city of Granada is Transportes Rober, and the line that will bring you closest to the start of the trail is line 13 (Puerta Real - Cementerio). Telephone 900710900 [www.transportesrober.com](http://www.transportesrober.com)



### OTHER TRAILS

This natural park includes other trails. The closest are: Training circuit.

### PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

187 m

### • MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1017 m

### • MINIMUM HEIGHT

830 m



Alhambra's Acequia Real

## WATER CULTURE IN THE NASRID KINGDOM

It is impossible to understand the city of Granada and the Alhambra without considering water. The enormous hydraulic heritage in the area is thanks to Muhammad I al-Ahmar, nicknamed "the Red", and the creation of the Nasrid Kingdom.

The Nasrid promoted terraced crop fields and orchards, and used water as a decorative and aesthetic element in their palaces, and thus created an extensive network of canals, ponds, reservoirs, pumps and fountains by means of which water could reach even the most remote areas.

A fine example of this is the Acequia Real (Spanish for Royal Canal) is a great example of hydraulic engineering. Most of it was excavated inside the mountain and it spans over six kilometres over a mild 3‰ slope.

Besides, the archaeological remains at the end of the trail, next to a patch of olive trees, belong to the systems of *norias* and canals called Pozos Altos y Alberca Rota, and which brought up water from the Acequia Real to have it subsequently distributed to the country summer houses of high government officers in the Nasrid Kingdom.

This impressive ensemble includes one of the most significant hydraulic complexes from Medieval Spain and is an example of a perfect system of water use and management.



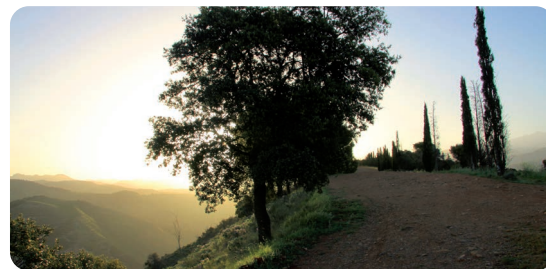


## Acequia Real Dehesa del Generalife

### Aljibe de la Lluvia and the Reloj de Sol

At the heyday of the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada, the Dehesa del Generalife, was a recreation palace for high government officials of the Alhambra. In this area, palaces such as the Palacio del Generalife, Los Alixares or Dar alArusa. The Nasrid used water as decorative and aesthetic elements, so a large number of hydraulic works were built to carry water to fountains and palaces, such as the Aljibe de la Lluvia (see [1] on the map), the point where this route begins.

After a short section uphill, first by a path lined by pines and aromatic plants, and then a small firebreak, you will arrive to the plains called Llano de la Perdiz. With Sierra Nevada in the background, you will cross a wide clearing lined by cypresses, until reaching the Reloj del Sol [2], Spanish for “sundial”, from where you may enjoy a view of the area around it.



*Llano de la Perdiz*

From this point, pay attention to the signals that will lead you by the left of the recreational area of Llano de la Perdiz to a new path [3] that will lead you to go down the northern slope of Dehesa del Generalife.



### Quejigal del Darro and Acequia Real de la Alhambra

During the way down, you may enjoy one of the few woods of holm oaks that are still standing near the city of Granada. Thought this parch of trees, the trail offers incredible views over the basin of the Darro River with the skyline of the Sierra de Huétor in the foreground.

As the trail goes down to a cool shadowy area near the river, the holm oaks give way to a most unusual, quejigal, patch of Portuguese oaks [4] dotted with a few specimens of hazelnut trees and ash trees. This is an ideal spot to rest on hot days, listening to the chirping and tweeting of the birds that have made their home in this small patch of Mediterranean vegetation.

Leaving this beautiful spot behind, the trail continues to the west along the Acequia Real [5] and El Tercio, fine examples of hydraulic infrastructures built under the Nasrid dynasty to take the waters of the Darro River to the orchards in the Generalife and the gardens and palaces of the Alhambra.

Towering over the Darro valley, getting closer to the neighbourhoods of Sacromonte and Albaycín, the trail continues parallel to these centuries-old canals for almost two kilometres until it arrives to the nearabouts of La Silla del Moro.



*Detailed view of the path*



### Granada, at your feet

Leaving behind the tracing of the Alhambra irrigation canals [6], the trail goes uphill among pine trees, rockroses and aromatic plants up to the nearby vantage point of La Silla del Moro [7].

From this privileged balcony we can observe the pretty transitions from the orchards and cortijos by the River Darro to the neighbourhoods of Sacromonte and Albaycín and finally the city centre of Granada.

The picturesque neighbourhood of Sacromonte, complete with its Abbey, its Roma *zambras* and its cave houses, is one of the most unique attractions of Granada, and represents a series of historic, ethnographic and cultural values that need to be preserved at all costs.

At the other side of the Ziri wall stands the Albaycín, a neighbourhood which was granted UNESCO Heritage Site status. Here once stood the Iberian town of Illiberri, replaced, over the centuries, successively by a Roman, Visigoth and Muslim town. In the Nasrid era, from the 13th century, the political and military power took the new fortress of the Alhambra as their seat, and the Albaycín neighbourhood continued growing.

From this point, take the path that will take you back to Aljibe de la Lluvia, lined with centuries-old olive trees and archaeological remains, with the Sierra Nevada skyline as a constant presence in the background.





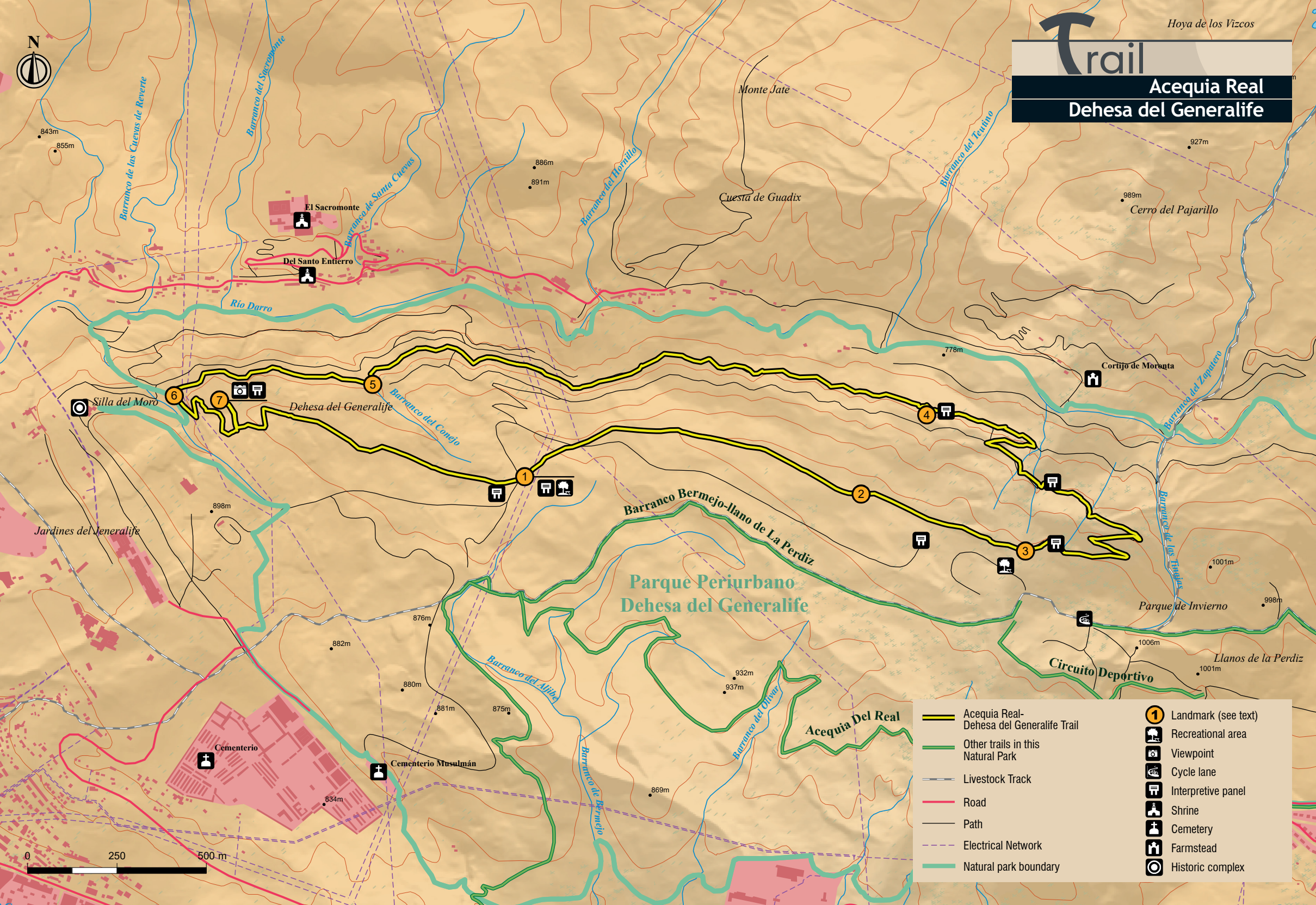


Hoya de los Vizcos



Trail

# Acequia Real Dehesa del Generalife



	Acequia Real-Dehesa del Generalife Trail		Landmark (see text)
	Other trails in this Natural Park		Recreational area
	Viewpoint		Cycle lane
	Livestock Track		Interpretive panel
	Road		Shrine
	Path		Cemetery
	Electrical Network		Farmstead
	Natural park boundary		Historic complex