

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



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112

GRANADA



MORE INFORMATION

Puerto Lobo Visitor's Centre. Ctra. Víznar a Puerto Lobo km 43. Víznar. Granada. Tel. 958 54 04 26.

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de
Huétor



Trail

Cueva del Agua



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

6,5 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

3 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Sandy and rocky forest path

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Karst landscape, characterised by limestone, passes, gorges, shelters and caves such as the Cueva del Agua. Woods of reforested pines, holm oaks and kermes oaks, as well as shrub species such as *Genista scorpius*, *Cytisus oromediterraneus*, rockroses, etc. Viewpoints over the sierra.

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Check that the water from fountains is safe to drink.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Granada / Víznar y Alfacar

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1009 - Granada ; 1010 - La Peza

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 15' 41,22"N – 3° 31' 31,7"O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Granada take the A-92 east to Guadix. At exit 253, take GRNE-52 to Víznar. After some 3 kilometres, you will arrive to the Puerto Lobo Visitor's Centre, where you will take the Puerto Lobo-Alfaguara road for five 5 kilometres to the beginning of the trail.



PARKING

There is a car park at the start of the trail and there are also places nearby to leave your vehicle.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

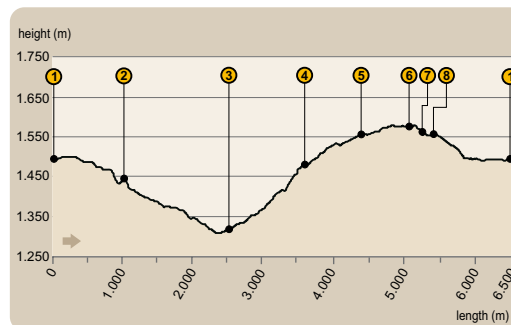
The main companies running regular rout buses in the area are Alsina Graells Sur (tel. 958 18 50 10), Carlos Fernández de la Torre, SL (tel. 958 40 54 13) and Trinidad Nievas, SL (tel. 958 54 51 10). The nearest train station is Granada (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 902 24 02 02).



OTHER TRAILS

This trail shares sections of its tracing with the Cruz de Víznar trail. Besides, the park has other nearby trails such as the Cañada del Sereno trail or the Cerro del Maullo trail.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

273 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1.579 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

1.306 m

CUEVA DEL AGUA VIEWPOINT

From this viewpoint we can observe the Cerro Calavera, a fantastic mountain in Sierra Nevada, the Darro valley at our feet and the nearby Cruz de Víznar just by a fire surveillance post.

A large fissure in the rock will catch your attention. This is the cave called la Cueva del Agua. Although it is now closed for preservation reasons, from that point you may admire the how water has patiently shaped this landscape and worn the rocks until shelters and caves like this were formed, and used by humans as a refuge for centuries. Occasionally, these underground waters find a fissure or a layer they cannot penetrate and spring to the surface as sources. Settlements and town were created in the vicinity of such sources to ensure a good supply of fresh water. Once again, water is the shaping element of the landscape.



HOLM AND KERMES OAKS

For part of the tracing, you will walk among holm oaks and kermes oaks. Both are acorn-producing species, but with some differences: adults leaves of kermes oaks are fuzzy and have the same colour on both sides. Besides, they look more like a shrub and have a pointy acorn.





Viewpoint to viewpoint

This trail starts by the botanic collection of Arboretum (see [1] on the map), a former tree nursery used for the extensive conifer reforestation made in the area years ago.

Go along a tree path and, after a little more than one kilometre, you will arrive at the Vízmar viewpoint, also called Cueva del Gato [2]. From here, we can observe the Darrio River valley, several forest houses, such as Casa del Gato and Casa de Bolones, and the Spanish Civil War trenches on the summit of the Cerro de Maúllo.



Hill to hill

You will also see a large number of reforested pines and holm oaks, together with dense scrubland, conquering its natural territory as undergrowth of conifers, as well as a good number of fragrant aromatic and medicinal plants.

At the end of the canyon, a viewpoint offers a magnificent view. The area, known as Collado de Vízmar [4], is covered by dense layer of vegetation adapted to harsh winds and intense sunlight, and composed by esparto grass, blue broom, sage, etc.



Before arriving at the cave

The trail continues among holm and kermes oaks [5] before starting to go down and observing a depression to our left, wider than it is deep [6]: those are the so-called sinkholes, concave holes caused by the ground collapsing due to the formation of an underground cave. Just in the centre there is a thorny tree, a hawthorn, whose whitish or pinkish wood is used as fuel or in the turnery.

A few minutes after leaving behind an old transformer station built in stone, you will arrive at a new viewpoint, [7], the Cueva del Agua viewpoint, and to the cave of the same name [8].



The patch of Spanish firs is classified as Special Tree Grove, since the presence of this species in the area is rare. Such specimens were introduced during the reforestations made over the last century. Their conical shape is very characteristic, and leaves grow along the branches following a spiral pattern; this helps to identify this species.



You will see birds of prey hovering over your head, using thermal currents, while the chirping of smaller birds gives away their presence.

To the left you will admire the Sierra de Almijara, Sierra Nevada and the Vízmar hill; just in front of you, the towns of Vízmar and Alfacar (right), both looking to the town of Granada and its fertile valley.

Finally, you will see a reddish mountain range marked by the caves and cracks made by rainfall, that, when in contact with carbon dioxide (CO₂) present in the air, slowly dissolves the limestone rocks prevalent in the area, making the landscape a catalogue of unusual shapes.



From there, go back to the transformation station and the forest path and gradually descend for approximately 1.5 km to the starting point, thus completing the circular tracing of this trial.

This limestone sierras are rich with caves and shelters used by wildlife and shepherds alike. Among the former, bats are specially noteworthy, with their almost non-existent sight in favour of other more developed senses, and soft bodies that do not need to be hardened against the sun.



The limestone landscape of this sierra seems to have designed sophisticated shapes and textures that you will be able to admire going from view point to viewpoint in this circular route across the Sierra de Alfacar and Vízmar. Underground, the water is busy sculpting caves and shelters, or springs above ground and runs rapidly down the canyons.

This trail has several protagonists: its viewpoints, the presence of water and cave-like formations, all of which allow to better understand the appearance of this natural park, as well as its distant and recent past.



Trail

Cueva del Agua

1 Landmark (see text)

Recreational area

Panel interpretativo

Viewpoint

Bench

Cueva del Agua Trail

Other trails in this Natural Park

Livestock Track

Path