

GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked trails



Please respect private property



Please refrain from making noise



Capturing animal is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Plant collecting is prohibited

Emergency phone: 112



GRANADA
ALMERÍA
SIERRA
NEVADA
PARQUE NACIONAL
PARQUE NATURAL

Laujar de Andarax Visitor Centre. Ctra. Laujar de Andarax-Berja, km.1. 04470 Laujar de Andarax (Almería). Tel. 950 51 35 48
Administrative Centre National park and Sierra Nevada Nature Park. Ctra. Antigua Sierra Nevada, km 7. Pinos Genil (Granada). Tel. 958 98 02 38. pnSierraNevada.Usopublico.csmaea@juntadeandalucia.es
ventanadel**visitante**.

© Editors / Coordinación: Regional Ministry of Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Development Department of Sustainability, Environment and Blue Economy / Environment and Water Agency of Andalusia and Production and photography: Environment and Water Agency of Andalusia

OTHER CONSERVATION SCHEMES



• ROUTE

Linear walk

• LENGTH (ONE-WAY)

845 m

• ESTIMATED TIME (ONE-WAY)

30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low. Universally Accessible Path (UAP)

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted ground track Trail accessible for persons with reduced mobility

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Reforested pine forest. Panoramic views over the high plateau of the Marquesado del Zenete and the Hoya de Guadix.

• SHADE

Plentiful

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Granada / Ferreira

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1028

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 6'52.28"N, 3° 1'47.87"W

37° 7'18.40"N, 3° 1'56.11"W



HOW TO GET THERE

The trail begins at La Ragua mountain pass. From the A-92, take exit 312, towards La Calahorra and Puerto de la Ragua, and continue along the A-337 to the pass itself. The road is narrow with poor visibility, and during the cold months there may be ice on the road surface. Exercise extreme caution.



PARKING

In the Puerto de la Ragua area there is a parking area.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

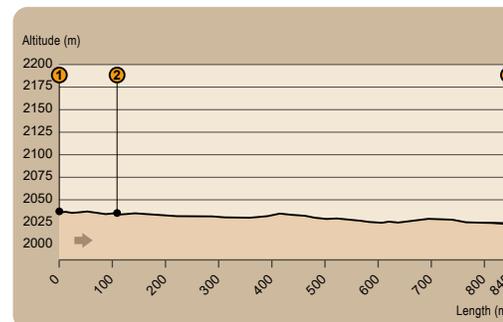
The start of the trail cannot be reached by public transport, although it is possible to take a taxi to nearby villages. The main company running regular bus routes in the area is Alsa (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es).



OTHER TRAILS

The Sierra Nevada National Park and Natural Park offers other signposted trails, Ragua-Lagunilla Seca and Ragua- Aldeire, section 15 of the GR-240 SULAYR and the Transnevada cycle path.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

14 m

• MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

2036 m

• MINIMUM ALTITUDE

2022 m



CARING FOR FORESTS

The Hoyos de Pura trail enters a pine forest, reforested last century as part of the National Forestry Repopulation Plan to alleviate the dangerous state of degradation of the Spanish forests. In the Marquesado del Zenete, in addition to the general problems created by uncontrolled logging, overgrazing and land clearing for agriculture, mining activity dealt the coup de grâce to already extremely degraded forests. In the 19th century alone, more than twice the weight of the Great Wall of China was extracted in iron ore from the Alquife mines. The snowy ground, battered by winds and torrential rains, became a desolate landscape, barely covered by steppe vegetation.

In response to the problems caused by deforestation, a series of spectacular reforestations were carried out, giving rise to extensive artificial forests. Scots pine was planted for the upper levels, cluster pine for the intermediate levels and black pine for the lower levels. Due to the characteristics of the soil and climate in the area, and in order to ensure the success of the reforestation, very high densities of pine trees were used. It was an emergency response to halt the spread of the desert. But the trees grew too close together, setting up a fierce struggle for light, soil and nutrient resources. At present, a series of forest care tasks (silvicultural treatments) are being carried out to reduce competition between trees, increase the strength of specimens and guarantee the balance and health of our forests.

GRANADA-ALMERÍA



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

SIERRA
NEVADA
PARQUE NACIONAL
PARQUE NATURAL



Trail
Ragua-Hoyos de Pura



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul



Trail

Ragua-Hoyos de Pura

The Puerto de la Ragua is the main natural mountain pass through the backbone of the Sierra Nevada. Located on the provincial border between Granada and Almería, this strategic enclave links the regions of Marquesado del Zenete, on the northern slope of the sierra, and the Alpujarra on its southern slope. As the old inns, the remains of which are still standing, testify, muleteers used the pass to exchange products between the two regions. Crossing through the heart of a leafy pine forest, this path leads from La Ragua to the Ferreira viewpoint, in the area known as Hoyos de Pura, where you can take in a spectacular kaleidoscope of landscapes, histories and geologies.

The forest

The path is specially adapted for people with reduced mobility (PRM); it has a compacted surface, wooden edge boards and several wider sections with benches to rest on. The starting sign [1] is located in the vicinity of the Puerto de la Ragua hostel, at the entrance to a Scots pine forest. The refreshing smells of pine, damp earth and fresh grass will immediately surround you, as will the cooing and twittering of finches, chickadees, pigeons, jays and blackbirds.



The density of the pine forest does not allow light to penetrate to the base of the trees, which is why the trunks of the first few metres of the trees are practically bare. In the thick of the forest, however, a gusty air seeps through the trees like the waves of the sea. Further on, where the pines have more space, you will see how the branches are greening up closer to the ground. At 100 metres, a panel describes the forestry work being carried out [2] to reduce competition between trees, increase the strength of the specimens and ensure the balance and stability of the forest.

Among the sounds of the pine forest, the drumming of the green woodpecker resounds, clattering over the trunks with its blunt beak in search of larvae and insects. Insect communities are, in fact, of great importance in the Sierra Nevada. Among them, diurnal butterflies stand out, with more than 120 species represented and several endemic species exclusive to this natural space. Along the path, you will be able to enjoy the sophisticated patterns of different species that, with their apparently fragile and whimsical fluttering, give the path a delicate and colourful note of dynamism and vitality.

On the last stretch of the path, the tree dome opens up to the west over the pines and broom of the slopes opposite. To the north, the open landscape of the high plateau at the foot of the Sierra Nevada can be glimpsed. In this part, slate slabs protect the left side of the path as a guardrail. You will probably hear the stony sound of small rocks sliding nearby, as the Sierra Nevada has the world's largest population of mountain goats. With a bit of luck you will be able to see them too.



The Ferreira viewpoint

A breeze perfumed with the scent of rosemary and thyme and a stone and wood railing announce the proximity of the Ferreira viewpoint [3]. The panoramic view opens up here spectacularly. The first thing that will strike you is the vastness of the plain of the Marquesado del Zenete, which stretches from the foothills of the Sierra Nevada almost as far as the eye can see. The metamorphic rocks of the Natural Area are what make up the subsoil, not only of the Marquesado, but also of the rest of the Hoya de Guadix. Over millions of years, the area was filled with fluvial sediments (conglomerates, sands and

clays) from the Sierra Nevada. These are soft materials on which erosion has carved, as can be seen in the background, one of the most impressive landscapes of gullies and caves in Europe.

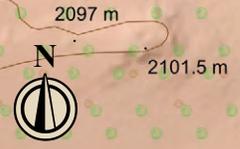


Historically, the Marquisate of Zenete was the reward granted by the Catholic Monarchs to the Mendoza family for the services rendered in the battle against the Muslims. The Mendoza family built their castle in La Calahorra, which is still in a good state of preservation. La Calahorra is one of the 10 municipalities, all of them above 1000 metres above sea level, that make up the Marquesado region. Ferreira is another of these municipalities and, as the reddish colour of the soil denotes, is named after the abundance of iron in the area. Although the most intense garnet colour is found in the Alquife mines. Composed mainly of iron oxides and hydroxides, copper, mercury, lead, silver and gold ores were also extracted from these mines. At the time, Alquife was one of the most important open-cast iron ore mines on the continent. In 2010, it was declared an Asset of Cultural Interest for its important historical, geological, landscape and ethnological values.



Trail

Ragua-Hoyos de Pura



- Ragua-Hoyos de Pura Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path
- Drivers' road
- Municipal Boundary
- Provincial Boundary
- 1 Landmark (see text)
- Information point
- Trail
- Recreation area
- Interpretive panel
- Viewpoint
- Parking
- Panoramic views
- Accessible installation

