

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
ALMERÍA

SIERRA
NEVADA

PARQUE NACIONAL
PARQUE NATURAL

MORE INFORMATION

El Dornajo Visitors' Centre.
Carretera Sierra Nevada, km. 23.
18196 Güejar Sierra (Granada). Tel. 958 34 06 25

ventanadelvisitante®



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

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Trail

Río Alhama

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

7,1 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

3 hours

• DIFFICULTY



Environment: 2

There is more than one risk factor



Itinerary: 2

Precise identification of landforms and cardinal points is required



Underfoot conditions: 2

Walking on staggered paths or uneven terrain



Effort: 3

More than 3 h and up to 6 h (3+2+1) of effective running time

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Mid-mountain. Gallery forest, poplar groves. Holm oak forest. Agricultural areas, almond trees. Rural cultural heritage landmarks, mills, irrigation ditches, farmhouses and farmyards

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Caution for wild cattle and risk of falling.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Granada / Lugros

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1010 - Lapeza

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 13' 31,37"N — 3° 14' 41,08"W

37° 13' 49,05"N — 3° 14' 27,26"W



HOW TO GET THERE

To Lugros on the GR-4105. After crossing the village and walking about 500 m along the same road, we reach a mill next to where the path starts.



PARKING

There is parking available at the start of the trail. Next to the mill you can park 3-4 cars, but in front and on the other side of the road, under the poplar grove, there is a dirt car park where you can park 10-20 vehicles.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

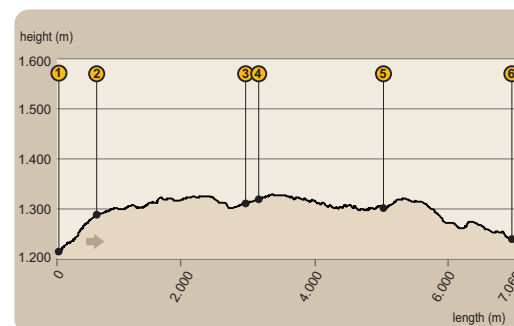
Public transport The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are Alsina Graells Sur (tel. 958 18 54 80), Maestra Autedia (tel. 958 153 636) and Alsa (tel. 902 42 22 42).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park offers other routes for hikers. Nearby trails include the Jérez del Marquesado-Postero Alto and Molinos de Isfalada trails

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

33 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1.330 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

1.207 m

ANCIENT WATER CULTURE

The fields and villages bordering the Sierra Nevada massifs have made wise use of the available water resources. This has

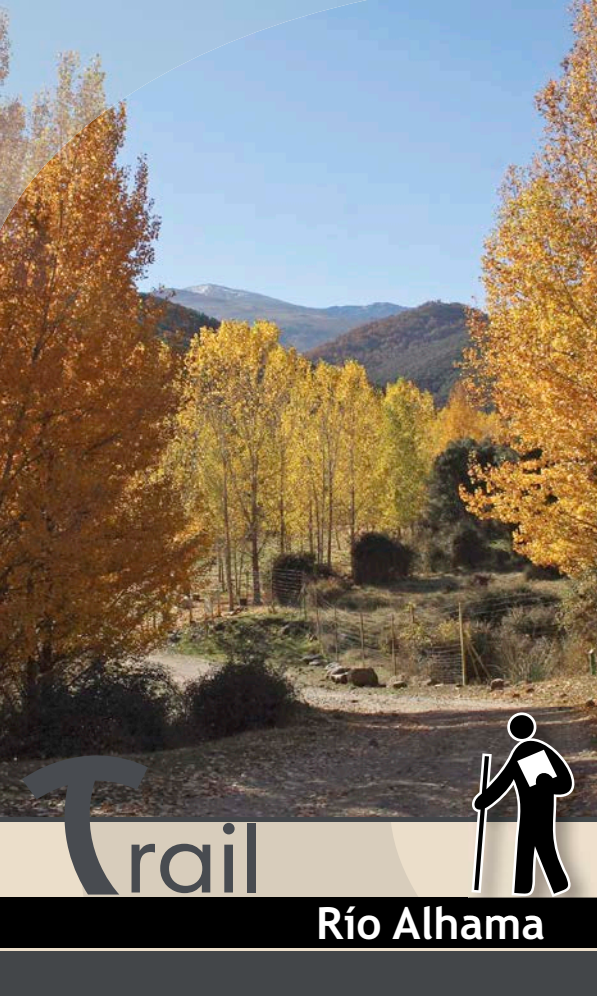
been the case since ancient times. We can speak of a water culture of its own, of a difficult process of domestication of resources, of organisation and management of water for irrigation and human supply.

The complicated network of irrigation channels that run along the slopes of the hillsides, diverting and distributing water, are of medieval origin in many cases, being a good example of an ancestral culture that, even today, is an inseparable part of the rural landscape. Along the way we will pass close to some of these irrigation channels, such as those of Polícar and Guadix.



These traditional conduits play an important role in the maintenance of agricultural ecosystems, as old as the irrigation channels themselves. Since the Middle Ages, all the geographical features have been skilfully exploited, building terraces where it seems impossible to do so, and then ingeniously laying out irrigation ditches to bring the water needed for irrigation to them.





Río Alhama

Herrerías mill and cattle track

The path starts at the Herrerías mill (check [1] on the map), an old flour mill. From the bridge we ascend the Cañada Real de las Herrerías (cattle track) leaving the River Alhama on our left. Cattle trails or “cañadas reales” are transhumance paths that link traditional grazing areas with mountain passes or high mountain pastures.



We walk through abandoned crops where the scrub (marjoram, thyme...) predominates over the few remaining almond trees. In the background, the Picón de Jérez can be found, dominating the whole region, at an altitude of over three thousand metres. We continue going up until we reach a flat area with wide views.

We leave the cattle track to reach the irrigation channel of Polícar [2], which we cross several times over small wooden bridges.

During this pleasant route, following the irrigation channel, we can observe the strip of holm oak forest that covers the lower part of the mountain range, which for centuries was operated by the charcoal burners, a traditional activity that has now disappeared. On the way we find a cattle gate that we cross, leaving it closed again.



The River Alhama and the gallery forest

After a short while, we leave the irrigation ditch path to go up to a forest track. To our right, a fence serves as boundary for the Maguillo estate, which is used for hunting.

We walked along it for about three kilometres. The track descends to the River Alhama [3], where we now enter the limits of the national park. The poplar groves, which are bright yellow in autumn, offer a wonderful view of the gallery forest. In this area, considered a representative symbol of the Sierra Nevada's cattle breeding, we can find some bulls and cows grazing outside of our sight.



After crossing the river, we take the path to the left that runs parallel to the Guadix irrigation channel, another one among the many in the Sierra Nevada, walking through the shade under a dense holm oak forest.



Towards Lugros

The path now turns north to begin the return to Lugros along the other bank of the River Alhama. We cross a bridge over the Fraguas Ravine [4] and once again enter an area of pastures and abandoned crops, passing shortly after the Corral Nuevo farmhouse [5]. These farmhouses where the name Corral are shown are places where the cattle were gathered and where shepherds were sheltered during the cold winter nights.



We come out onto a track on the right, parallel to the irrigation channel. We pass a cattle gate and climb to an open, flat area, overlooking the Lomas del Bañuelo to the left. From here we have a complete panoramic view of Lugros and its surroundings. Before entering the village and walking through its interesting streets [6], we should stop to observe, next to a nearby farm, the water distributor of the Guadix irrigation channel.





Trail

Río Alhama

- Río Alhama Trail
- Sierra Nevada National Park boundary
- Boundary of the Sierra Nevada Natural Park
- Livestock trails
- Road
- Path
- Electricity line
- Landmark (see text)
- Parking
- Church / Hermitage
- Mill
- Farmstead
- Town Council
- Cemetery
- Bridge