

GOOD PRACTICE



- Please leave rubbish in the bins provided
- Walk on the marked paths
- Please avoid making noise



- The capture of animals is not permitted
- Starting fires is strictly forbidden
- Plant collecting is not allowed
- Open camping is not permitted

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Emergency phone: 112

MÁLAGA
GRANADA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierras de Tejeda,
Almijara y Alhama

MORE INFORMATION

Sedella Visitors' Centre. C/ Villa del Castillo nº 17, Sedella. Tel. 951 28 95 70.
Regional Sustainable Development Office in Malaga. Avda. de la Aurora, 47.
Edificio Servicios Múltiples, 5th and 6th floors. Málaga.
Tel. 951 77 70 08 / 670 94 88 94.
ventanadelvisitante.



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

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• **ROUTE**
Linear

• **LENGTH (OUTWARD)**
7,1 km

• **ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)**
4 hours

• **DIFFICULTY**
High

• **TYPE OF TRAIL**
Forest trail and path

• **LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION**
Relief of medium and high mountains; rough and steep with deep canyons through which streams run with uneven flows. Pine forest and scrubland predominate.

• **SHADE**
Scant

• **SPECIAL AUTHORISATION**
Not required

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

• **PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES**

Málaga / Nerja

• **SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000**

1055 - Motril

• **START / END COORDINATES**

36° 46' 58.43"N - 3° 50' 54.83"W

36° 48' 17.50"N - 3° 48' 54.29"W



HOW TO GET THERE

From Malaga, take the A-7 motorway in the direction of Motril, take the 295 turnoff to Cueva de Nerja. Just before entering the car park of the Cave, we take the forest track that starts on our left and follow it for 3 kilometres, until a junction where the beginning of the trail is located.



PARKING

There is no car park, but you can leave the vehicle in the vicinity of the trailhead, as long as the entrance lane is open and the passage of fire engines or surveillance vehicles is not impeded.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

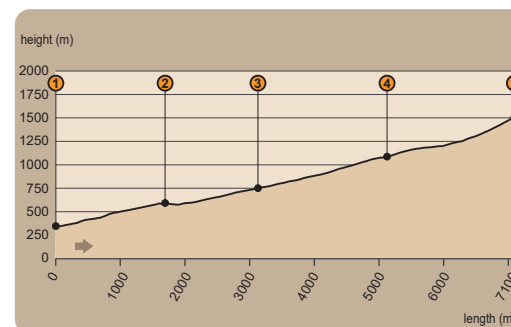
You can get to Cueva de Nerja by bus (the main company running regular bus routes in the area is ALSA, tel. 902 42 22 42 www.alsa.es).



OTHER TRAILS

There are numerous trails to choose from that pass through the Natural Park. The nearest one is the El Pinarillo-Fuente trail of the Esparto-Río Chillar.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• **MAXIMUM GRADIENT**

1171 m

• **MAXIMUM ALTITUDE**

1506 m

• **MINIMUM ALTITUDE**

335 m



THE LAST REBELS

The Pico del Cielo was the scene of some of the bloodiest battles between civil guards and *maquis* in our recent history. But who were the *maquis*? And why in these mountains?

With the dictatorship that followed at the end of the Spanish Civil War in 1939, there was a persecution of those who opposed the Franco regime. Faced with this situation, in the nineteen-forties, several groups of guerrillas and simple men from the towns and villages of the mountains decided to “head for the hills” and fight for freedom and against the dictatorship. They were known as *maquis* or mountain people, although the authorities, in order to smear them, described them as bandits, outlaws, thieves and fugitives.

The *maquis* of the mountains of Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama resisted until 1954, much longer than those of the rest of Spain; they knew well this mountainous stronghold, one of the southernmost of the Cordilleras Béticas. Very rugged mountain ranges with deep ravines, most of them dry, and short rivers with big drops, which scatter all along their flanks enormous stone cliffs forming scree. Their proximity to the coast, the very steep slopes, the scant plant cover and the nature of their materials have contributed to an intense erosion and the development of a karst relief, with limestone pavements, shelters and caves. A vast, tough, inhospitable and wild territory that, for almost a decade, sheltered the hopes and dreams of the last rebels.

MÁLAGA-GRANADA

PARQUE NATURAL

Sierras de Tejeda,
Almijara y Alhama

Trail

Subida al Pico del Cielo



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



The bowels of the sierra

The trail starts [1] at the junction of a forest track with the lane that leads to the El Pinarillo recreational area, about 3 kilometres from the Cave of Nerja. Inhabited for millennia by prehistoric humans, Nerja is the most spectacular and best-known among the multitude of caves excavated by the action of water in the dolomitic marbles of the Natural Park.

It was discovered in 1959 and combines magnificent depictions of rock art with the extraordinary stony beauty of stalactites and stalagmites millions of years old. Some of those rocky shelters, more modest than the spectacular cave of Nerja, sheltered in the bowels of the coastal mountains the last rebels of the Civil War: the *maquis*.

We enter an Aleppo pine forest, a forest regenerated after the fire of 1975, ascending through a forest lane with numerous curves and some concreted stretches to prevent the track being swept away by water. Our trail, which runs along the original path, stops the first stretches of curves. Among the clearings of the pine forest, the white and grey tones that the marbles give the peaks, ridges and ravines stand out. The decomposition of these rocks forms sandy soils rich in magnesium, where vegetation thrives. In addition to the pines, the slopes are covered by a Mediterranean thicket of boxwoods, palm hearts, mastics, rockroses, gorse, junipers, buckthorns, lavender bushes, rosemary and a wide range of plant life that we invite you to discover.

We continue the ascent through what is popularly known as “Cuesta del Cielo” and, after a sharp turn in a southerly direction that leaves Cerro Mangüeno on our right, we reach a windy ridge of the mountain



foothills: the Romero col [2]. Here, with the panoramic view cut off by the outline of the Tajo de los Bueyes, the view takes in the Mediterranean, the city of Torremolinos and the sierra de Mijas. It is not uncommon to come across the golden eagle or Bonelli’s eagle and, among the vegetation and rocks, the ibex.



La Sibila

After the col, the path descends slightly down the eastern slope, crosses the Romero stream just where the Sibilia stream flows and ascends again in search of the *cortijo* (Andalusian-style farmhouse) with the same name [3]. La Sibilia was a singular personage, one of the many who inhabited these uplands. They say that she was the widow of a shepherd, who had to draw on her healing skills and divining skills to earn a living. There is no one left who does not remember her as already an old woman, but it seems that she helped people from many places, who came here to visit her. Although she died in the first half of the last century, her popular name, her history and her air of mystery will survive our days in the stones of the farmhouse, in the waters of the stream and in the recesses of our collective memory.

A hundred metres from the *cortijo* of la Sibila we find an sign next to a square construction that we will go round on the right. The lane that we took and that provided the artificial note in this rugged mountain range is transformed into a path that climbs zigzagging to the next hill [4], a spur of the peak at

1090 metres above sea level. From here, an impressive panoramic view opens up that stretches from Fuengirola to Cabo Sacratif, passing through Motril, Almuñécar, La Herradura and the Cliffs of Maro-Cerro Gordo Natural Park.



La cuesta del Cielo (the slope of Heaven)

Enveloped in the scents of the mountain, the trail continues north following the crest of the hill. The grove has disappeared and we are surrounded by espartos, aulagas, rosemary and thyme on a clay soil. The climb gets steeper and so does the feeling of penetrating deep into a wild territory. We look for the remains of the path, which veers slightly to the west slope, and we watch out for the loose rocks and our breathing, taking the necessary pauses.



We arrive at the Pico del Cielo [5] by a scree on the west face. The summit is crowned by a geodesic vertex and a cross of mirrors that reflect the immensity. An end of the trail where the pleasure of the consummate effort is joined by the priceless experience of walking on history and, if time permits, the enjoyment of the panoramic views on the mountain axis of Tejada, Almijara and Alhama with the peaks of Albucaz, El Fuerte, El Lucero and La Maroma. At ones’ feet, the Cabeza del Caballo hill, the Tajo del Barco and the ravine of the Colmenarejos, where a magnificent holm oak grove and a forest with specimens of black pine and Carrasco over a hundred years old are preserved. The backdrop comprises the Sierra Nevada, the Mediterranean Sea and, on a clear day, the African coast.



Subida al Pico del Cielo



- Subida al Pico del Cielo trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path
- Livestock Track
- Natural Space
- Landmark (see text)
- Recreational area
- Trail
- Panoramic views
- Farmstead
- Spring

