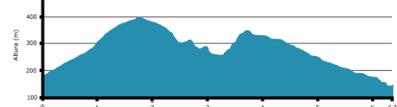


SIERRA BLANCA INTERESTING SITES

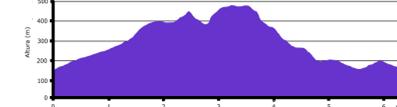
- 1 PUERTO CORRITO
- 2 PUERTO VENTANA
- 3 PUERTO HILTO
- 4 PUERTO DEL MADROÑO
- 5 PUERTO DEL PILÓN
- 6 PARTE MEDIA DEL SENDAJÓN
- 7 PARTE ALTA DEL SENDAJÓN
- 8 LADERA CERRO LOS CORRALITOS
- 9 CERRO LOS CORRALITOS
- 10 PUERTO LOS CORRALITOS
- 11 LADERA CEPILLA DEL ENEBRO
- 12 HOYA CEPILLA DEL ENEBRO
- 13 CRESTA SUR HOYA CEPILLA DEL ENEBRO
- 14 LA CONCHA
- 15 CASA DEL GUARDA
- 16 ARENAL CASA DEL GUARDA
- 17 PUERTO DE LA ADELILLA
- 18 ARROYO DE LAS CARIHUELAS
- 19 FUENTE CALAÑA
- 20 VEREDA DE LOS CAZADORES
- 21 VEREDA DE LOS CAZADORES 2
- 22 ERMITA DE LOS MONJES 2
- 23 LOS MONJES
- 24 CAMINO DE LAS ÁNIMAS-LA FABRIQUILLA
- 25 SENDERO DE LOS MONJES
- 26 CAMOJÁN
- 27 ROZÁ DE LAS PITAS
- 28 DEPÓSITO DE AGUA EL TRAPICHE
- 29 FINCA CAPELLANÍA
- 30 FINCA CAPELLANÍA 2
- 31 FINCA CAPELLANÍA 3
- 32 PUERTO JUAN RUIZ
- 33 HOYA DE LAS GOLONDRINAS
- 34 HOYA DE LAS PAPELETAS
- 35 HOYA DE LAS PAPELETAS 2
- 36 PUERTO DE LA CRUZ
- 37 PUERTO DEL PINO
- 38 PUERTO DE LAS PITAS
- 39 PUERTO DE LAS PITAS 2
- 40 MIRADOR DE LOS GITANOS
- 41 HOYA DE LAS GOLONDRINAS 2
- 42 PUERTO SANTILLANA
- 43 LA MONTUÍA
- 44 LA MONTUÍA
- 45 ARROYO DE LA LAJA-REPRESA
- 46 HOYA DE LOS CABAÑILES
- 47 PUERTO DEL ACEBUCHE
- 48 CAMINO VIEJO DE ISTÁN
- 49 PUERTO DE CORREPÍÑA. CANTERA DE LA LEGUA
- 50 PLACAS DEL CURA
- 51 URBANIZACIÓN CERROS DEL LAGO
- 52 PUERTO DE LA MAJADA DE COSME
- 53 CARRETERA DE ISTÁN-MARBELLA
- 54 ISTÁN
- 55 CARRIL DE LA VÍA
- 56 PUERTO RICO BAJO
- 57 CARRIL PUERTO RICO BAJO
- 58 FUENTE Nº SEÑORA DE LA PAZ
- 59 CASA DE LA FINCA. PUERTO RICO ALTO
- 60 PUERTO RICO ALTO
- 61 SUBIDA CASA DEL GUARDA
- 62 FUENTE CHUMBAR
- 63 SENDERO PUERTO JUAN BENÍTEZ
- 64 PUERTO DE MARBELLA
- 65 CRUZ DE JUANAR
- 66 CENTRO CINEGÉTICO JUANAR
- 67 OLIVAR DE JUANAR
- 68 CIRCO DE JUANAR
- 69 PUERTO DE LAS ALLANÁS
- 70 SENDERO MARIO ZUMAQUERO
- 71 PUERTO DE LOS TRES PINOS
- 72 PUERTO DE TAJO BLANCO
- 73 PINAR DE NAGÜELES
- 74 VEREDA DE BUENAVISTA
- 75 MINA DE BUENAVISTA
- 76 CAÑADA DE LA RANA
- 77 ERMITA DE LOS MONJES
- 78 PUERTO JUAN BENÍTEZ
- 79 CAÑADA ANCHA
- 80 OJÉN
- 81 ÁREA RECREATIVA EL CEREZAL
- 82 CASA EL CEREZAL
- 83 EL CASTAÑAR
- 84 PUERTO DE PUZLA
- 85 MIRADOR AL NICOLÁS
- 86 PUERTO DE NICOLÁS
- 87 REFUGIO DE JUANAR
- 88 PUERTO DE LOS CHARCOS
- 89 MIRADOR DEL CORZO
- 90 SENDERO DE LA ABEJERA
- 91 CERRO DE LA ABEJERA
- 92 TAJO NEGRO
- 93 MIRADOR DEL MACHO MONTÉS
- 94 PUERTO DEL ZAPARRILLÁ
- 95 HOYA DEL ZAPARRILLÁ
- 96 LLANO DE LOS ENEBROS
- 97 PUERTO VERDEGRAJA
- 98 FUENTE DEL TIO ROBLE
- 99 PUERTO DE LOS CINCO DEDOS
- 100 CUEVA DE LA VIRGENCITA
- 101 NACIMIENTO MANANTIAL DE ALMADÁN
- 102 SENDERO JUANAR-EL POZUELO (JOSÉ LIMA)
- 103 PILAR DEL POZUELO
- 104 PUERTO DEL POZUELO
- 105 PUERTO DE LA VÍBORA
- 106 LLANO DE LAS JARILLAS
- 107 PILAR DEL BLAS

ROUTE PROFILES

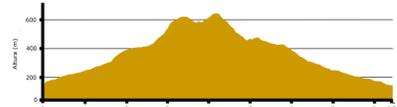
NAGÜELES-LOS MONJES PR-A 428
 Difficulty: Medium-Low
 Length: 6,3 km (one way)
 Type: Linear
 Duration: 3:10 h (one way)



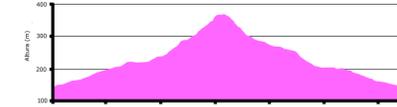
VEREDA DEL FARO PR-A 429
 Difficulty: Medium
 Length: 6,3 km
 Type: Circular
 Duration: 3:20 h



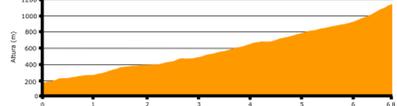
LOS TRES VALLES PR-A 430
 Difficulty: Medium-High
 Length: 8,2 km (one way)
 Type: Linear
 Duration: 4:20 h (one way)



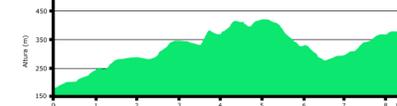
SALVADOR MORERO SL-A 025
 Difficulty: Medium
 Length: 3,2 km
 Type: Circular
 Duration: 1:30 h



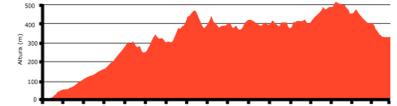
MARBELLA-CRUZ DE JUANAR PR-A 169
 Difficulty: Medium
 Length: 6,8 km (one way)
 Type: Linear
 Duration: 3:40 h (one way)



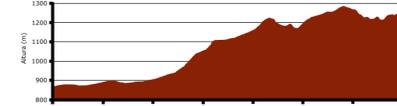
MARBELLA-ISTÁN PR-A 140
 Difficulty: Medium
 Length: 8,3 km (one way)
 Type: Linear
 Duration: 3:20 h (one way)



MARBELLA-OJÉN GR 249 (GRAN SENDA MÁLAGA. ETAPA 31)
 Difficulty: Medium-High
 Length: 17 km (one way)
 Type: Linear
 Duration: 5:45 h (one way)



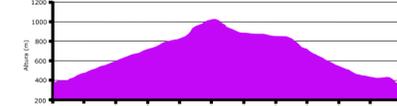
JUANAR-LA CONCHA PR-A 168
 Difficulty: Medium-High
 Length: 7 km (one way)
 Type: Linear
 Duration: 3:30 h (one way)



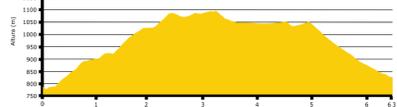
ISTÁN-LA CONCHA PR-A 135
 Difficulty: High
 Length: 5,3 km (one way)
 Type: Linear
 Duration: 3:30 h (one way)



ISTÁN-OJÉN PR-A 167
 Difficulty: High
 Length: 11 km (one way)
 Type: Linear
 Duration: 5 h (one way)



JUANAR-EL POZUELO (JOSÉ LIMA) PR-A 278
 Difficulty: Media-Baja
 Length: 6,3 km
 Type: Circular
 Duration: 2:30 h



TRAIL MARKERS

	Right direction	Path variant	Change direction	Wrong direction
Long Distance Path (GR)				
Small Distance Path (PR)				
Local Path (SL)				



MAR MEDITERRÁNEO

ISTÁN-OJÉN - PRA 167

Difficulty: High
Type: Linear

Lenght: 11 km (one way)
Duration: 5 h (one way)

The route begins at a water tank **84** , just heads upwards Hotel Altos de Istán. There you turn left towards the stream you can see to the east. To get there, follow the lane and go through an old quarry, now a clay pigeon shooting range, then descend to meet the stream. This stream is called Juan Inglés (on the maps it appears as Molinos river), and you will meet it at the Nacimiento Del Río Molinos. The first part of the route goes upwards. Take care not mistakenly follow any of the creeks or gullies that branch off Juan Inglés. The first notable tributary appears around 1,000m into the walk, where you must first go right and then straight ahead. Common sense should be used here.

Around 3,800 metres into the walk, at an approximate altitude of 835 metres, there will be a dried up stream filled with stones that you should not take, opting instead for the path on the left, which shortly leads to another important crossroads. In this case, we will take the path on the right, to reach a more level area and, a little higher up, after one last and hard upwards incline, the Puerto de Verdegrija mountain pass **97** . From this point, you can see the Juanar Plains and make out the end of the first section of the route you will reach after going down the path and entering a small pine grove. Then you will reach Circo de Juanar **68** where you have to go straight over the crossroads, following the lane. Not long down this lane, you will find a farmhouse that is currently a Centro Cinegético goat sanctuary **66** .

From the Juanar farmhouse take the lane heading downwards towards the left along the lane, and, about 1,000m in, a path to the right indicates the beginning of the road **88** . At this point the olive trees have given way to a patch of pine trees. The path that will take you to Ojén is known as the camino del cerezal ("the cherry tree path"). The cherry tree path winds as it descends through a valley covered with lush vegetation, in contrast to the path you have followed so far. As you descend, the path gets bigger and the unevenness starts to smooth out. Soon, you will reach a Puerto de los cinco dedos crossroads **99** . Take the left-hand path and continue your descent towards the road, which will pass through a tunnel providing access to the Casa el Cerezal **82** . After passing a wire fence, the path becomes a lane. There is a fork in the road; you can take either, since both lead to Ojén **80** .

COMMON SPECIES



GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE SIERRA BLANCA NETWORK OF PATHS

Sierra Blanca is part of the southern foothills of the Baetic mountain range and is located between the municipalities of Istán (to the West), Ojén (North and East) and Marbella (to the South).

It is a small mountain massif that stands out on the *Costa del Sol* due to its greyish-white colour and the characteristic shape of one of its highest peaks (La Concha - 'the Shell'). The most characteristic mountains in the Sierra are La Concha (1,215 m), Cerro Lastonar (1,275 m) and Pico del Juanar (1,181 m)

With the approval and implementation the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC of the European Union the mountain range of Sierra Blanca was declared an SCI (Site of Community Importance) with code ES6170011, forming part of the Natura 2000 Network. Recently it has been proposed that Sierra Blanca should become part of the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park, with which it already shares a western border.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Respect the tranquillity of the countryside as you pass through so as not to disturb the surrounding fauna and make it easier to spot them.

- Take your rubbish to the nearest bin. You can also pick up any rubbish you find and contribute to improving our environment.

- Gather all the information you can about the route, maps, route description, etc.

- Wear appropriate footwear and material, bring enough water.

- Be careful not to go out alone and inform your family and friends of your plans. Take a fully-charged mobile phone.

- All the Sierra Blanca and Sierra Canucha trails have steep slopes so it is necessary to go well equipped.

- Marbella has unique corners for you to discover, enjoy!

LINKS OF INTEREST

Delegaciones de Medio Ambiente y Turismo. Ayuntamiento de Marbella
<http://medioambiente.marbella.es/>
<http://turismo.marbella.es/>



JUANAR-PICO DE JUANAR - PRA 168

Difficulty: Medium-High
Type: Linear

Lenght: 7 km (one way)
Duration: 3:30 h (one way)

The walk begins at the Refugio de Juanar hotel **97** or from a little higher up, where a barrier prevents cars from accessing the route. From there, take Juanar's main track until you reach the Centro Cinegético Juanar goat sanctuary **66**, today the mountain goat sanctuary. Once you are in the farmhouse, take a lane to the right goes downhill, amongst olive trees. Shortly after descending, the road opens. Follow the left side. This enters a small forest of Monterey pine trees, which you walk through until reaching a Circo de Juanar crossroads **68** , that allows you to reach Istán if you continue forwards. Turn left, still amongst the pines, but with no descent this time.

Clearly, the route begins to become a ramp, more and more steep, which coincides with the change in ground: the lane turns into a wide path, which then becomes a narrow and winding route that runs through Mediterranean vegetation. At the end of the slope, you will find a hill called Puerto de las Allanás **69** . To the left, there is a path that leads to the summit of Juanar (1,184 m), better known as Cruz de Juanar ("the Juanar Cross").

From the Puerto de las Allanás, you can see the ridge that you will be walking along to the West. Start walking downhill along a path that may sometimes get lost if you do not pay attention to it. This path leads onto the aforementioned ridge. Turn west, skirting along its southern slope where it is made up of gentle hills. Shortly, you will find a more steep area, with walls. We are in the Salto del Lobo ("the Wolf's Jump"), probably the most difficult area on the entire route. We pass through it carefully on the right-hand side, with caution as it gains altitude. You will reach the saddle that gives this passage its name and, once you have passed this, you will find yourself on the gentle hills of the ridge once again.

Continue your walk along the left-hand side of the hills and, shortly, you will find yourself on the slopes of Cerro Lastonar. At 1,279 metres, this is the highest peak in Sierra Blanca. With a slight deviation to the right, we will reach the summit. The rest of the way to La Concha is the most beautiful part of the route. The ridge becomes a bit thinner and the hills give way to a more aerial path, to which you should pay special attention. After walking through La Cepilla de Enebro crossroad **82** , where you go ahead on the left side, soon you will reach the peak of La Concha **14** , from which you can admire the entire coast and the nearby Concepción reservoir.



Cerezos en flor, Juanar. Marzo/Abril

ISTÁN-LA CONCHA - PRA 135

Difficulty: High
Type: Linear

Lenght: 5,3 km (one way)
Duration: 3:30 h (one way)

The route begins just above the Altos de Istán Hotel **84** , to the left of the fenced-off water tank. Here, the unpaved track starts, and you will find a sign with information about the route. A few metres from this, you will see a signpost indicating PR-A 135 and PR-A 139, where you will turn right.

About a minute from the beginning of this stretch another similar post will appear on your left, indicating the PR-A 139 Istán - El Picacho, and the PR-A 135 Istán - la Concha. Continue forwards in the direction of PR-A 135. Here, the path ascends until it reaches the Pilones pass.

The next section, also ascending, takes you to Puerto Corrito mountain pass **4** via a path that is difficult to distinguish. (From here, you could return to Istán, following the path that appears on your left in the direction of El Picacho).

The route continues, turning to the right, until you reach the second mountain pass, Puerto Ventana **3** , which is U-shaped. In this section the path is easier to follow, both due to the downwards direction along the sierra as well as the gentle climb to the Lomilla de Enmedio.

From here, following a short climb, you will arrive at Puerto Hilito **3** , with a large solitary pine as a reference point. (Be careful to watch out for natural reference points so as not to lose your path). Continue onwards until you pass the Gracia León mountain pass and shortly after crossing the Fuentezuela gorge, you will ascend to the Cifuentes mountain pass. Then cross the Castillejo gorge, the last before arriving at the Corralillos mountain pass **10** , where the path, which is difficult to distinguish, also becomes physically difficult.

From here, find the Espolón summit (Cresta del Espolón), which links to the Concha rope (La Cepilla del Enebro) **42** . Here there is no clear path, only boundary markers (milstones) that indicate the direction of the route. At this point we connect with PR-A 168 Juanar - La Concha. From here it will take about 15 minutes to reach El Pico de la Concha **14** (la Concha peak - 1,215 m).



Puerto Rico Alto, Pico de Juanar y Salto del Lobo

MARBELLA-ISTÁN - PRA 140

Difficulty: Medium
Tipo: Linear

Lenght: 8,3 km (one way)
Duration: 3:20 h (one way)

From the initial information board in the Pinar de Nagüeles **73** , turn onto the first street on the left in the direction of signpost **48** that indicates the direction to Istán.

Shortly after starting the climb along the Camino Viejo de Istán (the Old Istán Road), the Nagüeles spring can be found on the left. Always keep to the right while following the edge of the public Sierra Blanca Forest. Until the asphalt ends and an unpaved track starts on the right. This is a good place to leave the car, if you do not want to walk the previous section.

As soon as you start along this track, you will ascend until you see a few pine trees to the right, that survived the great fire, that took place in the south of the mountains in August 1991. Continue along the lane and about 400 metres in, this skirts the mountain to the right; from this point you already have an excellent view of the Canteras de la Legua quarry.

Following the path, you will reach a short and steep ascent. At the end of this you will reach a more level area where the Municipality of Marbella ends and the Municipality of Istán begins. At the end of this level area there is also a patch of cork oaks that survived the fire.

The path continues to the right up an even steeper slope until you reach the Puerto de Correpilla mountain pass - Canteras de la Legua quarry viewpoint **49** . Before arriving at the viewpoint you can see some towers in ruins, that used to be the transport system for the quarry stones, that were used in the construction of the Concepción reservoir. From the Canteras de la Legua quarry, continue along the forest track in the direction of the neighbourhood of Cerros del Lago. Approximately 100 metres in, you will find placas del Cura (climbing area) on your right, and about 300 metres from the quarry, also on your right, you will see a signpost **50** . At this point you will leave the forest track, and embark on an ascending path that is the PR-A 140 (Marbella - Istán), as indicated by the sign.

You will begin the ascent, now walking amongst the vegetation (low brush), until you arrive at the Llano del Almendral plain. The journey continues passing very close to the old fence of a goatherd, from where you will descend to reach a cork oak grove. Cross the arroyo Cuevas stream and go uphill along the path until you come out next to a light transformer, now on an asphalted road without finished buildings **51** (Urb. Sierra Blanca Country Club). From this light transformer, go uphill for about 200 metres until you reach the water tank. Behind this tank, the track becomes a path and you continue the upwards climb until it culminates in the puerto de Maji mountain pass. From here, you will descend to cross the cañada de Monchalbán valley, and then start another ascent until you reach the Puerto de la Majada de Cosme mountain pass **52** . Here, the path turns into a track.

Continue forward until you cross the arroyo Salto del Puerco stream, and soon after you will pass through a cork oak grove that you must go through towards the cañada del Tajo Bermejo valley. From here, the track becomes a path again after a few minutes.

Between ascents and descents, you will arrive at Pascual mountain pass, which runs along the base of the Tajo Bermejo gorge, then cross the arroyo Castillejo stream, leaving the Tajo Bermejo gorge behind. Continue descending through a small forest and then follow the fence of a private estate, that will take you directly to the A-7176 Marbella-Istán road **53** , where you will find a post indicating the PR-A 140, showing that there are only 2 km left until the end of the route.

Go along the A-7176 - Marbella-Istán road, for about 500 metres (staying carefully on the edge of the road). After several bends, leave the A-7176 on your right, along a concrete track with several steep climbs. After under 500 metres you will arrive at a junction with a signpost and a sign with indicating various destinations of the PR-A, including that of the hermitage of San Miguel, indicating that we have 900 metres left to finish the PR-A 140 - Marbella-Istán route **54** .

SALVADOR MORERO - SLA 025

Difficulty: Medium
Type: Circular

Lenght: 3,2 km
Duration: 1:30 h

Salvador Moreno route was inaugurated on March 26th, 2011. The name of this route was a tribute that his family and friends did to Salvador on his 80th birthday. Salvador Moreno was one of the last greatest connoisseur of Sierra Blanca mountains. During his long life as a mountaineer, he walked each path, hills and gorges, all through the fields. He expended so many years of hiking, that he knew as anyone else, where you can find each cave, chasm and narrow cliff where it was impossible to move on. Everyone who had the privilege of travelling around these beautiful mountains with Salvador, felt that walking with him, was like being beside a walking encyclopaedia. His anecdotes and knowledge made hiking with him an unforgettable experience.

This route begins at the initial information board at the Depósito de Agua El Trapiche water tank **88** , located in the northern part of the old Don Miguel hotel. You will start the route along the lane heading west, until you reach a signpost after 300 metres where you will turn right. After a small ascent, turn right at the next signpost. A few metres further on you will reach an old goatherd house where you will turn left. At this point the Linda Vista plain begins at the Finca de Capellania, which you will cross from south to north. In the northern part of the plain, follow the path on the left at the signpost **29** . A few metres ahead you will reach another signpost **30** , where you will turn right onto a path heading north.

Walking uphill, turn left at the signpost **31** towards Puerto de Juan Ruiz mountain pass. After passing both a right and a left turn, you will reach Juan Ruiz mountain pass **32** , where you must take the path on the right towards Puerto de Santillana mountain pass. This path starts in an eastwards direction, turning northwards as it climbs until you reach Hoya de las Golondrinas **33** , where you will follow the path on the right, that will take you to the next signpost **43** . Turn right at this signpost towards La Montúa, keeping Puerto de Santillana **42** mountain pass on the left-hand side, a few metres away. This part of the route also forms part of the Vereda del Faro route on this constant downhill path.

When you reach the La Montúa 2 signpost **43** , continue southward and you will reach the La Montúa signpost after a few metres **43** , where you will turn right, **44** deviating from the section shared with the Vereda del Faro route. Following the indications on the information board at Finca de Capellania, you will reach the next signpost **29** , located in the northern part of the Linda Vista plain. Here, you will connect with the path that was taken at the beginning of the route. You will then only have to turn left, in search of the initial information board by Depósito de Agua El Trapiche water tank **88** , where the route ends.

MARBELLA-PICO DE JUANAR - PRA 169

Difficulty: Medium
Type: Linear

Lenght: 6,8 km (one way)
Duration: 3:40 h (one way)

This trail begins at the initial information board in the Carril de la Vía **55** . Take the road that ascend to the area known as Puerto Rico Bajo **56** .

The road becomes a lane with a chain preventing access to vehicles. Continue along this lane and about 300 metres in you will find signpost **57** . Go onwards towards Puerto Rico Alto looking for the next post.

Continue along the lane and 400 metres in you will find the Fuente Nuestra Señora de la Paz spring **58** on the right. A little further up, the lane forks and you should continue on the right-hand path until you find a signpost that indicates the path that goes to the right. The road begins to climb the slope and takes you to the travertine gorge, that we see from the front; this formation is known as the Puerto Rico shelters.

The trail sharply zig zags upwards at this point until it reaches a tanker (white hut) that channels the Puerto Rico Alto spring. On the travertine gorge you will find a plateau known as Puerto Rico Alto. At this point you should see the ruins of the Casa de la Finca and an abandoned plantation of fruit trees. Here, you will find another signpost **59** that indicates the correct path to Juanar, leaving the path of Ojen to the right.

A few metres later we find the dry riverbed at the source of Puerto Rico Alto **60** , continue north towards Juanar leaving the Puerto de las Pitas **61** to the left. We continue ascending to the next signpost where the path that goes up to Casa del Guarda **61** is on the left. Continue towards Juanar.

Follow the climb without stopping, and after passing the crossroad that takes to Fuente Chumbar spring **62** , the views getting bigger. On the left you can see the Juan Benítez gorge first and, behind it, pico de Juanar peak, and, on the right, you can see the Tajo Negro peak **62** . Almost at the end of the climb, you will find the signpost of the path that leads to Sendero Puerto Juan Benítez mountain pass **63** , you should continue towards Juanar. When you reach the Puerto Marbella mountain pass **64** , there should be some signposts that indicate the ascent to the peak and about 300 metres to the south, the Mirador del Macho Montés viewpoints **63** .

The last stretch of the climb, and the hardest, is just 1 km and, whilst ascending in zigzag, you will see excellent views of the Juanar plains and the beach. Nothing compares to the views you will have when you reach the Cruz de Juanar **65** . From there you will have an excellent panoramic view of the surrounding mountains: Sierra de las Nieves, Sierra Canucha and, on clear days, even Sierra Nevada.



Cruz de Juanar. Pico de Juanar

NAGÜELES-BUENAVISTA-LOS MONJES PRA 428

Difficulty: Medium-Low
Type: Linear

Lenght: 6,3 km (one way)
Duration: 3:10 h (one way)

The route begins at signpost **73** , that is next to the initial information board in the Pinar de Nagüeles, which indicate to the right the lane that goes to Mina de Buenavista mine **75** .

Take the main lane that goes up through the pine forest and pass several branches to the left and right that you don't take. When this lane turns to the left and begins to descend, the path you should take goes up to the right and goes uphill, parallel to the arroyo de las Piedras stream. Little by little this enters the Encinas gorge.

Halfway up, you will find signpost **74** . From here, you can go up to the Mina de Buenavista mine **75** that is about 700 metres away. When you descend, you will continue towards Los Monjes, following the path that goes to the right and descends until you cross the arroyo de las Piedras stream.

Crossing the stream, the path continues until it reaches a lane, where you will turn left to climb up to de los puerto de los Pilones mountain pass. You will then descend to the cañada de los Pilones valley and then ascend once more to the puerto de los Mochileros mountain pass.

From the mountain pass there is a steep descent to the Cañada de la Rana valley, where you can find signpost **76** . Continue straight in the direction of Ojén, then climb until you reach the puerto de Camoján mountain pass, from which you can enjoy magnificent views of the coast. From here, the path heads downhill to the Ermita de los Monjes **77** hermitage.

In the ruins of the hermitage, you will find another signpost, which indicates Marbella to the south. On the first descent after reaching the ruins of the Ermita de los Monjes hermitage, you will see an Aleppo pine on your right with an impressive appearance.

After leaving behind the Aleppo pine, the path continues to descend little by little and, at several points, requires you to cross the river bed. Be careful not to lost the path in the places where you have to cross.

Once you reach signpost **23** , continue on the right until you reach a plain with a small pine forest.

In this section, you will find two paths, one that continues by the hillside and another that runs down parallel to the stream. These join together a little further on. If you choose to go down to the stream you can visit some pools where you can bathe if time permits.

Continue along the path parallel to the stream, until you reach a bifurcation in the path that you will take to the left, and a few meters later it approaches to the stream to cross the last stretch of rock, that you must go around on the left side. A few metres in, the path will appear again, clearly signposted.

Turn left at the signpost **24** and cross the arroyo Los Monjes stream. The trail ends at Los Monjes **25** , just above Xarblanca school, where there is one of the four trail start panels that are located along the southern face of Sierra Blanca.

MARBELLA-OJÉN - GR 249 (GRAN SENDA MALAGA. ETAPA 31)

Difficulty: Medium-High
Type: Linear

Lenght: 17 km (one way)
Duration: 5:45 h (one way)

The route begins at the mouth of the Arroyo Guadalpín stream near the Palacios de la Finca, where you will start your journey next to the Ramón Gómez de la Serna Street takes you across Ricardo Soriano Avenue and you will head north-west along Avenida Jaime de Mora and Aragón. About 800 metres in, you will cross the AP-7 motorway. At the roundabout aftern the motorway, turn left onto the long Buchinger Avenue. This ascends north-west and becomes Albinos Street, which leads to the Sierra Blanca quarry that has been converted into the Nagüeles Auditorium.

After about 3.5 km you will see two large stones on the right of the path and a sign indicating the start of the Sierra Blanca path, Pinar de Nagüeles **73** . Go onto this battered lane between thin Aleppo pine trees with cork trees and olive trees. Leave the Contesa gorge on the left. The track has numerous branches, but you should follow the central one, which ends up becoming a path. You will climb decidedly through the Encinas gorge to Vereda de Buenavista crossroads **74** . Here, turn right and go down a small section, cross the Piedras stream and go upwards to the Pilones mountain pass, where there are many beehives. Another descent and a subsequent ascent will lead you to conquer the Mochileros mountain pass. A third descent leads to La cañada de la Rana crossroads **76** . The route that goes south leads to Marbella, to the Cascada de Camoján neighbourhood, whilst the one on the left is the Great Malaga Path, which ascends the Janta gorge, one of the richest areas in vegetation due to its shade. Here is the first important climb, the Camoján mountain pass **74** . From here, the route continues to the east. To the east, in the direction of the route, you can see the Calaña gorge where the hermitage is and the Juanar Cross on the horizon. To the south, you can see the Bay of Marbella in all its splendour with the Strait of Gibraltar, the Rock of Gibraltar and the North African Rif coast all visible on clear days.

You will then make a slight descent towards the north, on a hillside that was affected by fire where esparto grass fields thrive. In contrast, the valley floor is covered by a dense pine forest. To get there, you have to take a somewhat complicated route that has rope handrails and then you will reach the Hermitage of the Monks (Ermita de los Monjes) **77** (kilometre 6.5). There is very little left of the building, but the individual rooms are somewhat distinguishable thanks to the cleaning done by volunteers both on the building and the access roads. After crossing the Calaña stream, take the right path on the next signpost **22** . The second important ascent leads to the Puerto de la Cruz mountain pass **36** . Still overlooking the Monjes gorge, the path ascends to the north along the western slope of the ridge, leaving behind the Puerto de la Cruz crossroads **35** until reaching a new crossroads, located in the Puerto de las Pitas mountain pass **38** (km 7.5), which is also identified by a sign. You must turn to the east and descend to the Laja stream and then ascend to the Puerto del Pino mountain pass **37** , another exceptional vantage point.

During the steep descent, you can see the area of Rico Alto mountain pass with its neat grove, the reddish cut from the front of the 'fossil' waterfall and the path that goes east, which you will use later. The Arroyo Puerto Rico stream (km 8.8) **60** , the old ditch, a limestone quarry and Puerto Rico Alto, Casa de la Finca ruins **59** come after each other between the two crosses that mark the PR-A-169 that comes from Marbella and continues towards Juanar. From the Golondrinas mountain pass to Puerto Rico, the Faro route and the GR-249 share the journey, although the former is going the opposite direction. Between white rock roses, an easier stretch starts towards the Hoya de los Cabañiles valley **46** , where a new crossing leads to Puerto Rico Bajo and meets the PR-A-169. After the Cabañiles valley, which gives its name to an old road that emerges from the Great Malaga Path, you arrive at Puerto del Acabuche mountain pass **47** , in a somewhat more deforested area.

Soon, you can see a wide levelled trough; this is one of the Peñoncillo mines, the one at the highest altitude. There is a milestone at kilometre 10.8, just above another of the open pit mines. This is where you suddenly turn from heading north to heading east. A thin wire fence separates the forest space from the first luxury developments. The route follows the boundary of the territory for a large period of time. After successive ascents and descents next to the chalets, you reach an area of highly developed pine trees of three species: stone, maritime and Aleppo pines.

Finally, you will see Ojén (just after a landslide of white marble from a higher-up quarry) and you will reach the burnt area. The slope is very steep, abruptly interrupted to the right by the slope of the road. The vegetation becomes spectacular in the hills that surround the Tajo Negro stream. This is the most diverse area in terms of plants along the entire route, in strong contrast to the areas affected by the fire. The pine forest with olive trees is not very developed, but the thicket acquires jungle-like proportions through a mixture of all the noble species that have appeared throughout the day. You will know you are close to the end when you reach the first water tank. You will reach the hill with the antennas, take a lane that goes down to the road, pass underneath this road and, after a series of sharp bends, reach the western area of Ojén **80** where stage 31 of the Great Malaga Path ends.

VEREDA DEL FARO - PRA 429

Difficulty: Medium
Type: Circular

Lenght: 6,3 km
Duration: 3:20 h

This trail begins at the initial information board in the Carril de la Vía **55** . Take the road that ascend to the area known as Puerto Rico Bajo **56** .

The road becomes a lane with a chain that prevents access to vehicles. Continue along this lane and about 300 metres in we find signpost **57** . Go onwards towards Puerto Rico Alto looking for the next post.

This section ends in the ruins of Casa de la Finca **59** , which is next to an abandoned fruit-tree plantation. Here, you will find another signpost and the path coincides with the climb to Juanar until, a few metres later, you will reach the dry bed of the source of Puerto Rico Alto **60** . You will find a signpost that indicates that you should turn left towards las Pitas mountain pass. Continue until you cross the stream that goes down through the ravine and from there you will ascend up the slope of the Caseta hill, before reaching the Puerto del Pino mountain pass **37** .

There are fantastic views from the Puerto del Pino mountain pass. You will then descend through the mountain pass and cross the Laja gorge, ascend again up the Loma del Lobo hill and arrive at the Puerto de las Pitas mountain pass. In the mountain pass, you will find signpost **38** , that tells you that you should turn left. A few metres ahead, in the signpost **39** you must turn left, towards the Puerto de las Golondrinas mountain pass, looking for the Mirador de los Gitanos viewpoint **40** .

Return to the path and continue downhill steeply to the Hoya de las Golondrinas valley, where you will find another signpost **41** near the de Puerto de Santillana mountain pass **42** . Here, you will follow the signs to Montúa 2.

Go down via the Santillana gorge until you reach the Montúa 2 crossroads **43** , continue until you reach the Montúa signpost **43** a few meters after. There descend to Arroyo de la Laja-Represa stream, **49** follow direction to Puerto Rico Bajo **56** and, after going down the road, finish de path at the initial information board in the Carril de la Vía **55** .

SENDA JOSÉ LIMA (POZUELO) - PRA 31

Difficulty: Medium-Low
Type: Circular

Lenght: 6,3 km
Duration: 2:30 h

The route starts in the car park located about 50 metres from the Refugio de Juanar hotel **97** (this is reserved for hotel customers). Take the road that you accessed the carpark from, heading downhill, for approximately 800 metres. On the left you will find a path indicated to be José Lima path **80** , which you will take.

The path briefly descends between common gorse, reaching a dry stream that runs parallel to the road. After crossing the stream, the path begins a prolonged ascent up the eastern face of the Sierra Blanca. As you ascend, you can see the Olivar valley behind, and the Cerro Nicolás peak in the background. The road continues upwards, less steep in some places and more in others, until reaching the hill where you can enjoy a beautiful mountain landscape on your right-hand side.

The ascent continues immersed in a trough with diverse Mediterranean vegetation. You will continue until you reach the Pilar del Pozuelo source **80** . This is approximately 2.4 km into the route, which started in a pine and holm oak forest. The source is not in good condition and, as well as a watering hole, there may be a subsequent ascent with a small water pipe in which you can cool off. The Puerto del Pozuelo mountain pass **80** is located about 350 m from the source, and the path ascends fairly steeply between the trees and shrubs.

The route continues along the sign-posted path along the north-west face of Sierra Blanca. You can see the beautiful Verde River valley from here. You will reach the small forest of Pinsapos, a botanical relic, native to the Mediterranean forest and endemic to the mountains of Cádiz and Málaga.

The Gurupalo summit rises on your right, and you will slowly descend its slope, enjoying magnificent panoramic views. At sunset, and on the time of year, there may be a small water pipe in which you can cool off. The Puerto del Pozuelo mountain pass **80** is located about 350 m from the source, and the path ascends fairly steeply between the trees and shrubs.

RUTA DE LOS TRES VALLES - PRA 430

Difficulty: Medium-High
Type: Linear

Lenght: