

Walking in the Sierra Nevada



Self Guided Walking Itinerary Number 2

To Tello and Back!

6.5 hours fairly hard

From the Spa in Lanjaron this route ascends the hills above Lanjaron via the Fuente Pedro Calvo to "Tello." The return is via the main track following the east side of the Rio Lanjaron ascended in route 1.

From the Tourist Information Office, walk uphill (in the direction of the Motorway) for about 100m until you reach a small road on the right beside the Bar Al Frenazo. Turn right and follow this track uphill.



After approx 10 minutes on this track, there is a turning on the left signposted Escorta. Take this turning, initially descending then climbing past houses. The road levels off and in about 100m at a left hand bend take a track off to the right that climbs steeply. We now start to enjoy good views looking back over Lanjaron towards the Sierra de Lujar (masts on top).

The road continues up hill through zig zags and levels off in an area with red soil and rocks. There are now some pylons ahead to the right and before the path makes a descent down to a cultivated area, we need to find a path that heads towards the pylons. After a few metres, the path becomes more obvious passing along through cultivated terraces past an

obvious lone olive tree. Pleasant walking takes us beneath the electricity cables then gradually ascends before countouring round to another area of red "burnt looking" rock. We come to a driveable dirt track road, turn left and in a few metres the path turns off right by a mine entrance and ascends steeply uphill.

We pass a ruin and come to another cortio with allotment garden. Pass to the right of the cortio and continue uphill towards more pylons. There are two sets of electricity cables ahead. At the 2nd set, ignore the track off to the left and keep on

ahead steeply up hill towards another pylon. Bear left in front of the pylon and follow zig zags uphill into a wooded area.



We pass through the wooded area and at the top of an area of more mature pine we come to another driveable dirt track. Turn right here and follow the track gently uphill.

In approx 200m we come to a junction with a larger driveable dirt track. This is the main track up from Lanjaron to the various smallholdings on the mountain. (Turning right here would take us back to Lanjaron in just over an hour) Our way on is to turn left, signposted Tello, following the main track.



In approx 50m the main track bends sharply to the right. Here we leave this track by taking a path almost straight ahead then bearing

right uphill through what is supposedly a fire break in the forrest.

The path becomes better defined and in approx 15 minutes leads to a building on the far side of a dirt track road. The building is a recreational hostel owned by a local council. Cross the road and pass through the grounds of the hostel passing to the right of it.



Our way on is to follow the path continuing to follow the fire break. A few metres above the hostel and to the right is the Fuente Pedro

Calvo, reputed to be the best drinking water in the region. (It does not come out of the pond!).

Continue up the fire break which bears left above the fuente. In approx 15 minutes we pass to the right of an old goat pen with its wire fence. Here the surface becomes a driveable track. Keep ascending and in around 300m bear right at a junction and in about 100m to some water troughs. The hillside above was all forested until September 2005 when a huge fire took hold

and burnt around 80,000 acres of trees. Since then the hillside has been cleared and is due to be planted again.

About 300m beyond the troughs we reach the main driveable dirt track road coming up from Lanjaron. Here turn left passing the Cortio Quemada in around 100m. 11.58am. Keep on up the main track, ignoring the turning signed Bordaila. Continue up the main track for around another 5 minutes (it is possible to cut the corners off some long bends) until we reach another junction off to the right signed Torno Cano.

Our way on is to leave the driveable tracks here and take a faint path from behind the signpost which is marked with small cairns. The vague path takes a line to the right of the 3 pines and we climb to about 10m below the obvious lone pine (with a stump beside it) 200m above and to their right. Here a more defined track heading diagonally up right is attained. Follow this up to the right passing another lone pine in the baranco.

After around 20 minutes on the faint path we round the ridge and are now following it above the valley of the rio Lanjaron with vies of old terraces on the other side of the valley and views of the high mountains above. The path is generally better defined here though it does occasionally become a bit vague.

In a further 10 minutes the path deteriorates and crosses an area of scree with an obvious rock feature with a boulder on top at its far side. There is a driveable dirt track road just above us and we need to make a rising traverse so that we join this. Turn right at the track and follow it gently down hill. 12.58.

400m down the track is a baranco on the left which usually has some running water and a chance to replenish water bottles. In around 100m there is a junction, continue downhill on the right branch signed Tello.



Where the driveable track finishes, it continues as a footpath descending to the ruins of Tello, white buildings with a backdrop of cypress trees, much

of which were destroyed in the big fire of 2005. We also get some fine glimpses at the head of the valley to the left of Pico del Caballo, Europe's most westerly 3000m peak standing at 3017m above sea level.

The path that we are descending on reaches a broader path coming in from the right about 50m before Tello. This will be our way on once we have looked around Tello.

Tello was a forestry education centre run by the University of Granada. Although long abandoned before the fire, what remains now is only around half of the buildings. Just beyond the buildings are the burnt out remains of old Giant Redwood trees. Thankfully these are now regenerating from the routes of the old trees.

Return back along the broad path ignoring the way we came down. After a few minutes the broad path deteriorates with a short section of steep loose ground. Keep an eye out for the marker post that signs our way back onto a path that leads down towards the Rio Lanjaron. The path now improves and crosses the Acequia Alto just above a bridge that crosses the Rio Lanjaron.

Just after crossing the bridge is a nice picnic spot beside the river. The path now ascends around some rocky outcrops. Take the right branch under the ascequia The path now begins its descent past a prominent rocky outcrop and cortio's running parallel the Rio Lanjaron.

In around 1hr 15minutes from Tello we come off a "difficult" paved section which is the remains of an old mule track. We now come to a cortio on our right with a driveable track. About 100m along the driveable track another driveable track comes in from the right. At this point turn right and immediately left onto a path. Signpost and blue paint flash.



Descend the path and in around another 30 minutes we come to another driveable track.

Turn right descending. In around 100m when the track divides, take the right branch continuing downhill.

In 100m, just after a building, the track becomes tarmac. At this point we take a path that descends on our right to another road. Turn left and this brings us past the "Fuente Hoya del Grillo" to the edge of town. Now turn right into town and back to your starting point. Doing this walk you have definitely earned a cold drink, ice cream or beer!