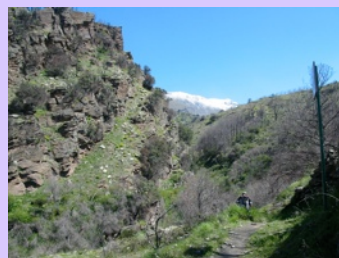


Walking in the Sierra Nevada



Self Guided Walking Itinerary Number 8

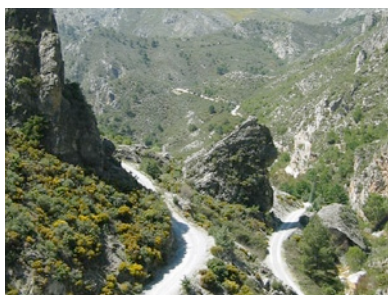
A Circuit of the Rio Verde

4 to 5 hours medium

The Rio Verde area is a spectacular gorge worth the visit if only to drive through! The walk takes you into what feels like a rock desert in places and can feel quite remote, especially in poor weather. Makes a nice tour combined with driving down the length of the Rio Verde to the coast.

From Lanjaron, drive to the motorway in the direction of Granada. Leave the motorway at the Otivar/Padul junction, turning left, towards Otivar and continue to km 31. 300m beyond km 31 is a pull-in, with an interpretation board and map.

Park here.



Walk back 300m, to a footpath sign on your left (do not cross the bridge over the gorge). Follow the footpath,

keeping to the main path. After approximately 40 minutes you come to a flat pinnacle of rock, a good place to pause and survey the gorge beyond.

After the viewpoint, the path begins to zig-zag downwards. Some rough steps and a handrail lead to a spectacular 30m waterfall; it is possible to scramble into a cave to the right of the waterfall, with some good formations (worth having a torch).



Cross the stream in front of the fall, and continue on the path on the opposite side. Eventually the path descends, crosses the stream

again, then joins a dirt track at a bend and sign describing rules for canyoning. Turn right onto the dirt track; 10 metres beyond is a fuente. Follow the track up hill, alongside the reservoir. At the end of the reservoir, turn right, just before the bridge. Continue along the track past a series of fords. After crossing the 3rd stream, you will see an obvious limestone pinnacle, just beyond which is a cortijo built into the rocks. At the cortijo, take the dirt track up to the right, and follow this over several ups and downs back to the road. Turn right at the road, and walk the 500m to the car.