

# Walking in the Sierra Nevada



Self Guided Walking Itinerary Number 9

## **A circular walk in the hills above Pinos Del Valle an ascent to the “Ermita”**

*Approx 3hours Easy except for the climb up to “Ermita” !*

The Hill above Pinos del Valle is dominated by the Ermita de Santo Cristo del Zapato. (The hermitage of the shoe). So called as the rock on which it stands is painted white and looks like a boot. This pretty building is well worth the climb. It is the focus of a procession from the village every year on 3rd May when ladies will be seen in traditional dresses and men riding their horses also in traditional style. Great views of The Sierra Nevada from the Ermita.

**To get to Pinos del Valle from Lanjarón, follow the road westwards to the motorway; go straight across the first roundabout, then follow signs to Pinos at the second. The road crosses a dam, then bends steeply up to the right and into the village of Pinos.**



**Drive through the village, taking the righthand fork at a junction (re-cycling bins on the left). At the top of the village, you reach a t-**

**junction, turn right here and around 100m further on is the parking area beside the wash house and sports ground.**



**Walk up past the washhouse and turn left on a good track, concrete initially. After about 100m the track bends steeply round to the right past a quarry.**

**(Ignore another track, which continues straight on). The road is now a dirt track.**

**After another 100m take the signed footpath off to the left past a modern building and up through the woods. This path continues in many zigzags up to the “Ermita” . Approximately 45 minutes from the starting point.**

## **Section 1 Pinos to the “Ermita”**

**The walk starts from the public “Wash house” beside the small sports ground at the top end of the village.**

**Note: For a short way on the ascent, two plastic pipes run up alongside the path, where these finally leave our upward path, turning leftwards along another track, this will be our route on when descending from the “Ermita”.**



**The Ermita de Santo Cristo del Zapato. (The hermitage of the shoe)**

**Called the hermitage of the shoe as the rock**

**on which it stands is painted white and looks like a boot. This pretty building is well worth the climb. It is the focus of a procession from the village every year on 3rd May when ladies will be seen in traditional dresses and men riding their horses in traditional style.**

## **Section 2 The “Ermita” back to Pinos Del Valle**

**Unfortunately there is no relatively easy way or nice way of descending from the monument other by descending the way we went up. We retrace our steps to the top of the plastic pipes. Here turn right along a marked path (red or orange and white stripes) beside the pipes. The plastic pipes cease after about 5 minutes when**

**they reach a large “deposito” (water tank). Ignore the water tank and track beside it, continue along the path mostly gradually downhill. The path is mainly obvious to follow, though after about 40 minutes the descent through a forested area finds the path a little obscured. The orange and white stripes on the trees are useful at this point. Shortly after this section we reach another well-defined path.**

**Turn left along this path and follow it as it mainly contours the hill. Eventually this brings onto a drivable dirt track (bee hives at it’s start). Follow the main dirt track initially level, then downhill, taking the right fork to join a tarmac road.**

**Turn left and follow the road back to Pinos Del Valle and our starting point. This road is mostly quiet with few motor vehicles. However exercise care along the road.**