

# WALKING IN ANDALUCÍA

by Guy Hunter-Watts

**CICERONE**

JUNIPER HOUSE, MURLEY MOSS,  
OXENHOLME ROAD, KENDAL, CUMBRIA LA9 7RL  
[www.cicerone.co.uk](http://www.cicerone.co.uk)

© Guy Hunter-Watts 2016  
First edition 2016  
ISBN: 978 1 85284 802 6  
Reprinted 2017 and 2020 (with updates)



Printed in China on responsibly sourced paper on behalf of Latitude Press Ltd  
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.  
All photographs are by the author unless otherwise stated.



Route mapping by Lovell Johns [www.lovelljohns.com](http://www.lovelljohns.com)  
Contains OpenStreetMap.org data © OpenStreetMap contributors,  
CC-BY-SA. NASA relief data courtesy of ESRI

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks as always to my old friends Sam and Jeannie Chesterton from Finca Buen Vino, Gustavo Romero Moreno in Canillas, and Sepp and Inge in Ferreirola, who all offered such warm hospitality when I was out walking the trails. Thanks are also due to Jo Carter in Grazalema for advice on the Ribera circuit, and more of the same to Tessa Jacobs for her help on the computer and company when walking the trails in La Axarquía. And many thanks the readers who sent feedback about changes they encountered in the first edition of this guide.

## Updates to this Guide

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website ([www.cicerone.co.uk/802/updates](http://www.cicerone.co.uk/802/updates)), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time. We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to [updates@cicerone.co.uk](mailto:updates@cicerone.co.uk) or by post to Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal LA9 7RL.

**Register your book:** To sign up to receive free updates, special offers and GPX files where available, register your book at [www.cicerone.co.uk](http://www.cicerone.co.uk).

*Front cover:* Cazorla and the Castillo de la Yedra

## WALK 7

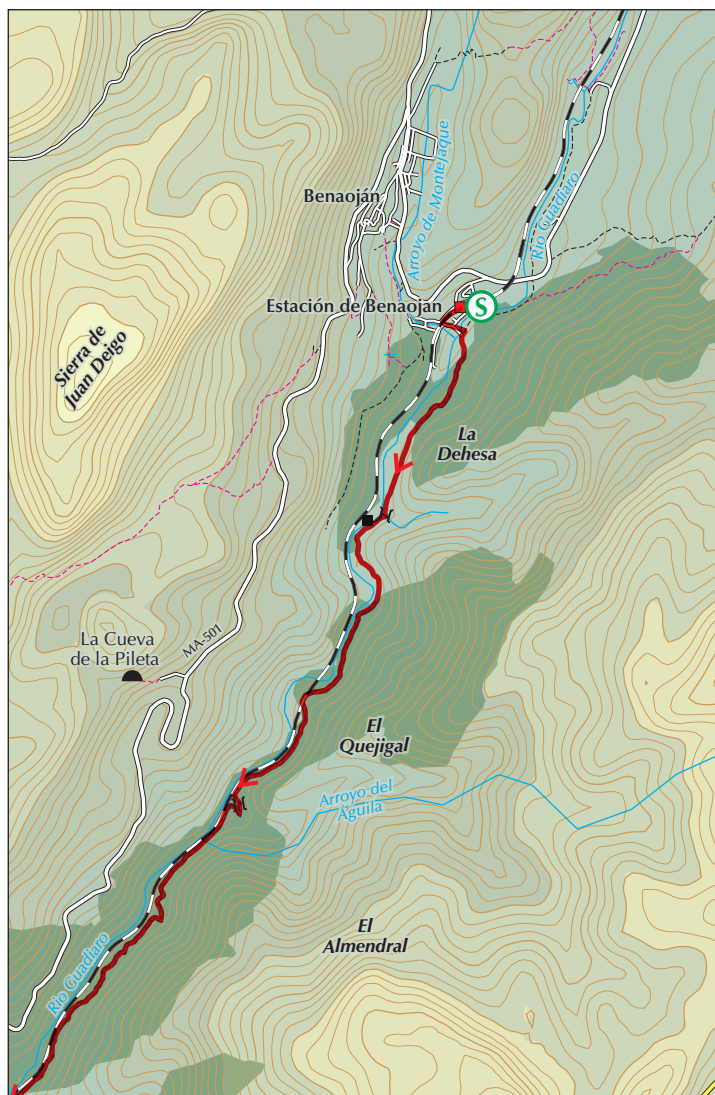
### *Estación de Benaoján to Estación de Jimera de Líbar*

<b>Start</b>	Benaoján train station platform
<b>Finish</b>	Jimera de Líbar train station
<b>Distance</b>	8.5km
<b>Ascent</b>	45m
<b>Descent</b>	85m
<b>Grade</b>	Easy
<b>Time</b>	2hr
<b>Refreshments</b>	Estación de Jimera de Líbar
<b>Transport</b>	Trains depart from Jimera back to Benaoján at around 1.00pm, 5.00pm and 8.00pm (check <a href="http://www.renfe.com">www.renfe.com</a> ). The journey takes just 7 minutes.
<b>Note</b>	In autumn 2018 the bridge was destroyed by flooding and in 2020 is still not repaired. To cross the river use the road bridge further north over the MA-7401 then turn down right on a path to reach a track which runs south to the damaged bridge's far side. This adds an extra 1.4km to the walk.

This short, easy walk follows a pretty riverside path that links the sleepy village of Benaoján with the sleepier-still hamlet of Jimera de Líbar, following the course of the Guadiaro river and that of the Ronda to Algeciras railway.

You might combine the walk with lunch at Restaurante Quercus (closed Mondays), or the colourful Bar Allioli (closed Tuesdays) before returning by train to your point of departure. Or you could turn this into a longer there-and-back walk by retracing your footsteps back along the Guadalete valley from Jimera.

Head south along the platform, drop down to the road and continue past Bar Stop. After 75m turn left and cross a level crossing. The road drops down, crosses a bridge (see above) over the river Guadiaro and reaches a sign for



topped by four solar panels. Using the house as your bearing, make your way down the hillside – there's no clear path at this point – looking for a gap in the vegetation that lines the stream's banks. Here cross the stream via stepping-stones and then, angling right, go through a green metal gate.

The track runs beneath the house with solar pannels. Shortly, to your right, you'll spot the spring and drinking trough of Fuente de los Bueyes (1hr). ►

Passing above the spring the track angles right. Here keep straight on up a stony path, ignoring a second track that shortly cuts down to the right. Reaching a wall, go left for 10m then pass through a black metal gate. The path climbs gently on up, passing above a farmhouse before going through a second metal gate.

Passing just left of a stone ruin, the path angles left and is marked by series of signs for Cañada, which lead steeply up to a black metal gate. Beyond the gate continue along a narrow footpath, which winds through thick undergrowth, running a few metres left of a stone wall.

At a point where the wall angles left, so should you, to reach a wire-and-post gate. Go through the gate and continue parallel to the wall. The path and wall angle left again and cross a more open swathe of land before re-entering thick undergrowth. Crossing the third of three (dry) stream beds, cut right to a wire-and-post gate, which is opened by releasing double hooks from their rings (1hr 30min).

Beyond the gate, angle right and descend between two walls to reach a track that leads to a solitary farm. The metal gate giving access to the farm is kept locked but you should cut left through a gap in the fence 5m beyond this gate. The track climbs, levels, and then descends past a number of farm sheds to reach the valley floor, where you go through another metal gate before crossing a **bridge** spanning El Arroyo del Espinar.

Beyond the bridge follow the track over a low rise, then cut left along a less distinct track running through thick stands of broom. Angling right, it passes through a gap in a wire fence to reach a junction. Here turn left,

You could divert to the spring to replenish your water.

Three of the stepping stones were washed away by severe flooding in 2018. After heavy rain you may need to remove boots at this point.

At this stage the jagged *lajas* (limestone ridges) of the upper reaches of the valley are visible to the east.

here for a panoramic view of the Hozgarganta valley. Otherwise angle right and follow a narrow path that runs just right of a fence above the CA3331 before angling left, passing through a stile, and reaching the road.

Cross the road and, dropping down between its white bollards, angle left along a narrow footpath that loops down into the Hozgarganta valley through stands of oak, pine and lentiscus. After adopting a more level, westerly course, the path again loops steeply downhill with marker posts showing the way.

Eventually you reach a broad track. Here turn left and follow the track down towards the valley floor. The track eventually narrows to become a path, which descends parallel to a fence before reaching the river and a signboard about Hozgarganta's ecosystem (1hr 25min).

Beyond the sign, go through a green metal gate then cut left along the left bank of the river. After 50m the path cuts right and crosses the Hozgarganta via concrete **stepping-stones**. ◀

You now pick up a sandy path running parallel to the river on its right bank, with some cobbled sections. ◀ Sticking to the clearest path, and looking for white arrows and green waymarking stripes, you arrive at an open swathe of land and a stone hut in front of the farmhouse of **Casa de Esquivel** (2hr).

Here, angling 45 degrees left, you reach a wire-and-post gate. Beyond the gate bear right then after 40m back left and cross the Hozgarganta via another run of concrete steps. Beyond the steps maintain your course through a stand of oleander then turn right along a narrow path that runs close to the river's north bank.

After passing through a gate made of a bed base the path passes above Molino Esquivel where it merges with a track for a few metres before angling down right towards the mill's fenced garden. After running closer to the bank of the Hozgarganta it rejoins the track. Up ahead a house with a palm tree now comes into view.

Continue along the track for 125m then leave it to its right, picking up the path once again. Meeting with a broad track that runs up from the river turn left, climb

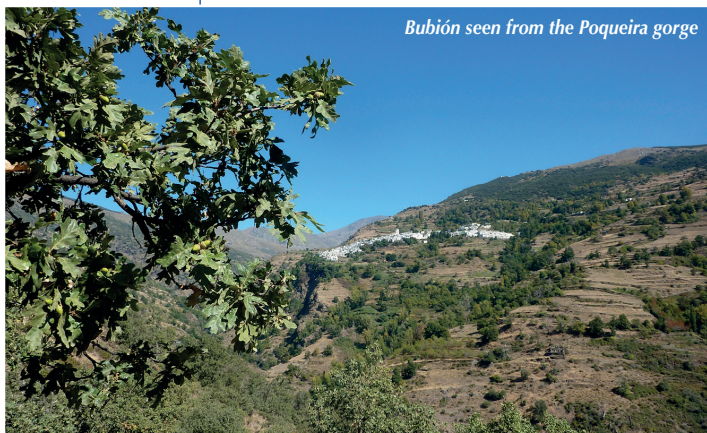
## WALK 25

### *Pampaneira circuit*

<b>Start/finish</b>	Ruta del Mulhacén restaurant at the entrance to Pampaneira
<b>Distance</b>	9.8km
<b>Ascent/descent</b>	655m
<b>Grade</b>	Medium/Difficult
<b>Time</b>	3hr 10min
<b>Refreshments</b>	Capileira, Bubión

This challenging gorge walk makes for a great first taste of the abrupt Alpujarran topography. The circuit takes in three of the region's most attractive villages and a fabulous slice of the plunging Poqueira barranco.

Be prepared for a fair amount of climbing: first once you cross the river, again as you tackle another steep ascent from the river up to Capileira, and a final steep climb up to Bubión. Your efforts will be amply rewarded with magnificent views to all points of the compass, and you could break for lunch or tapas in Capileira or Bubión.



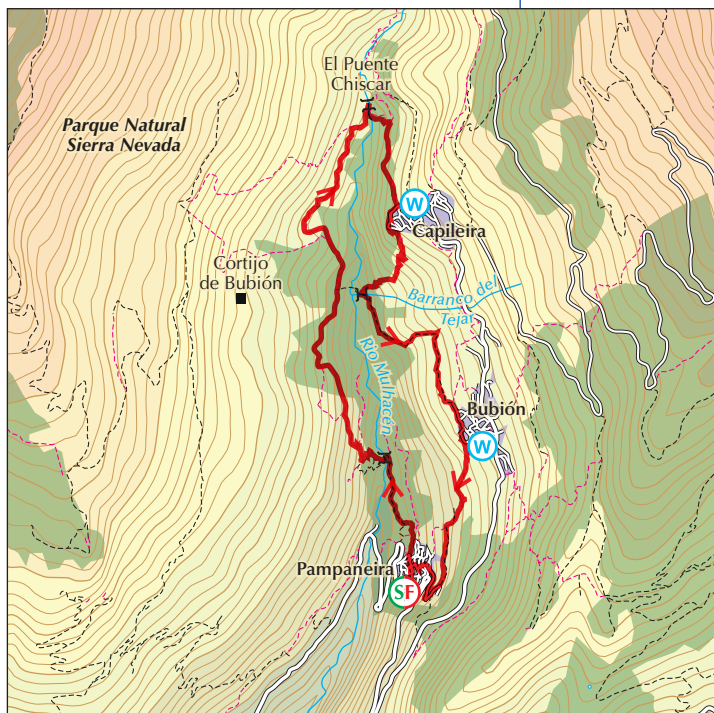
*Bubión seen from the Poqueira gorge*

From the Ruta del Mulhacén restaurant, head for the village centre, passing the church and the Fuente de San Antonio. ►

Keep to the top side of the square, passing beneath a *tinao* (see glossary). At the end of Calle Antonio Álvarez drop down a flight of steps then turn left. Bearing right, pass a sign for Camino del Río. The street bears right, then right again, and the cobbling ends. Head straight ahead along a footpath. Reaching a fork above the village *lavadero* (open-air wash house) keep right and drop down a steep path to a road (10min).

Bearing right you reach a fork. Here keep left following a sign 'Sendero Local, La Atatalya' and continue

The ceramic plaque on the fuente extols the merits of its water and suggests that, should you be single and wish to marry, by drinking from the spring you'll soon be blessed by matrimony – indeed, instantaneously!





down to the **bridge** spanning the **Río Mulhacén**. Five metres beyond the bridge, just before a waypost indicating Sendero Atalaya, turn right along a path that zig-zags upwards, waymarked with green and white stripes. Reaching a fork keep right and pass above a ruined building.

The path braids then continues to climb, more or less parallel to the gorge as views open out east to Bubión. Zigzagging up through a stand of deciduous oaks you come to a fork some 20m before a long, low ruin. Here take the right, lower fork, ignoring green and white way-marking on the ruin.

Crossing a half moon-shaped field beneath the ruin the path becomes clearer, still running parallel to the gorge which is down to your right. Passing beneath a small ruin it loops left then crosses a streambed. Crossing two more streambeds it runs steeply downhill before levelling once again. Crossing another stream via a small stone bridge you reach a fork. Keep left, following a sign for PRA-70 Capileira 3.2km.

After climbing, the path leads through a gate before passing between a group of farm buildings, now way-marked in yellow and white. Passing another ruined farm and its threshing floor the path continues to climb. After looping across two more streambeds then passing through two more gates you pass another whitewashed farm building.

Reaching a junction where Puente Palo is signposted left, turn right and drop down a cobbled path then cross the Río Mulhacén via the **Puente Chiscar** (1hr 25min). Beyond the bridge the path loops right then climbs up the eastern side of the gorge. Reaching a junction where **Capileira** is signed both ways keep right, following red and white GR waymarking. Having crossed a smaller bridge a final steep pull brings you to the outskirts of Capileira and a small sign for Puente Chiscar next to a signboard with a faded map of the Sendero Sulayr, a GR footpath that runs round the whole of the Sierra Nevada (1hr 50min).



*The path down from Capileira towards the Poqueira river*

Bear right and follow a line of black lamp posts, skirting the lower village. When you reach a spring next to a wooden bench bear right at a sign for Sendero La Higuera. Descending, you pass a larger, metal sign for Camino de las Higuera/Molino de Bubi3n, now following a newly paved path. Turning to dirt the path zigzags down into the valley following the course of the streambed of **Barranco del Tejar**. ▶

Descending past a stone house flanked by cypress trees and then a ruin, you come to a junction with a slate sign for Puente Molino/Bubi3n. Here turn left and cross the Barranco del Tejar via a small stone bridge.

A broad path now leads you upwards, passing left of a line of cypress trees. Its dirt surface changes to cobbles before it angles right then crosses a second small bridge (2hr 30min). Reaching the outskirts of **Bubi3n** you pass a map and a PR waymarking post. Passing the village five-a-side football pitch, follow the path left then back to the right. Passing the Museo Casa Alpujarre3a you come to the village square and the church.

After heavy rain the path turns to a streambed and is a little tricky to negotiate.

At the end of the square turn right at a sign for Ruta Barrio Bajo. Descending past the main entrance to the church, and then bearing left, you arrive at a GR7 sign for Pampaneira, 1.5km.

Descending for 50m you pass a spring, La Fuente del Barrio Bajo. The path eventually merges with a track. Follow it left, then after a few metres rejoin the path by angling right and continue down to the first houses of Pampaneira. Here continue down a narrow street that angles right, left, then right again. Reaching a GR7 sign continue down a flight of steps. Reaching Restaurante El Lagar turn left to return to the church. From here retrace your footsteps to the beginning of the walk (3hr 5min).