

Routes for people of your kind

Touristic Routes of the Region of Níjar



The Mining Route

For those who are strong as rocks.



For those who are strong as rocks




Stretch A: 20 km.
Stretch B: 7 km.



Stretch A: 25 minutes without stops. 3-4h with stops.
Stretch B: 20 minutes without stops. 3-4h with stops.



Stretch A: Easy. For all kind of tourism. Mixt. Asphalt/tracks.
Stretch B: Normal. For all kind of tourism. Mixt. Asphalt/tracks. A vehicle 4x4 is recommended for the distance to Cortijo del Fraile.



Ehe Mining Route
Route map



Interesting points

- Venta del Pobre
- Rodalquilar
- Aguamarga
- The volcanic house
- Aguamarga Mineral installations
- Cortijo del Fraile

Introduction

The permeability and the porosity are not only properties of the soil, but also of all visitors who feel the interest and who want to discover the volcanic origin of our land. A tour through the source of the mining resources that paved the majority of Spanish cities and that dreamed with the Promised Land after the discovery of one of the greatest: The gold.



About 3 kilometers away from the last crossroads, in direction to La Joya, we can find the access to the Aguamarga equestrian sports, where it is possible to go to different horse routes. To go to them we will turn to the right and we will continue for a slope. In one following way fork we will turn to the left until we arrive to the equestrian sports (see to equestrian paths).

After equestrian sports visit, we will return to the crossroads to the right in direction to Aguamarga. Hardly two kilometers from the last crossing, to the road right direction to Aguamarga, we will recommend a stop to enjoy the old collection of the Aguamarga Waterwheel. Besides of their rests, we can see a pool, a livestock drink-basin what the livestock rested and the interior tunnels of the collection where water was extracted.



Thousand-Year-Old Olive Tree.

It is a thousand year old olive tree of amazing size and maximum Mediterranean quality and older and bigger than the ones of the Jerusalem Mount of Olives.

We can access through a boulevard which entrance is to the left hand side between La Joya and Aguamarga, just before entering the village.

fishing traditions; even now that it is one big tourist center. It is a very quiet place, where its people look after the little gardens and orchards. We recommend a walk through the village and its beach.

There is a path that takes us to the coves of Enmedio and El Piorno. To get to it, we turn to the right at the village's entrance reaching a slope and we will follow the signals through a little sand way.



From the village's entrance we will turn to the left for an asphalted road to arrive to the area of mineral loading. We reach there by turning right before the municipal district of Carboneras.



Aguamarga Mineral installations

From this point onwards, we can visit the installations of the old mineral loading area and we can enjoy the wonderful sea views and its beach.



Stretch A

We arrive to the start point from the Almeria-Murcia highway, going out from the detour of the N-341, direction Carboneras. In the next roundabout we can see the signpost Venta Del Pobre.

Venta del Pobre

This is the starting point of this route that covers a part of the old train railway, used mainly to transport the iron mineral for its shipping in load ships. The complete train railway would start from Lucanena de las Torres and would reach the village of Aguamarga.

Venta del Pobre

Route starting point ●
Venta del Pobre ●
Aguamarga ●
Aguamarga Mineral installations ●

From this point we continue across the road N-341 to Carboneras.

Along this road, going along the national road and going through the known spot La Palmerosa, where the old railway used to go. From this point until the crossing of Aguamarga we will continue along the main way. In the crossroads between the N-341 and the ALP-712, turn right in direction to Aguamarga. This road goes along the railway but there are not visible remains of it.



It will be continued by the tour on direction Aguamarga following the main way.

Aguamarga
Aguamarga is one of the most populated villages of the coast of Nijar. It keeps part of the





Going inside the tunnel, we will have a beautiful sight of the little valley placed between the two sheer rises where they are rests of the old mining village of San Diego.

Following the main road we can see different mining entrances on the left and on the right hand side and we will appreciate the rocks' various tonalities. Here we can also observe remains of a well, located 500 meters away to the left of the main road.

We continue along the way until arriving to a crossroads. At the left hand side, there is a walking path.

We will turn right across a road lined with pítas and with sights over Cerro del Cirto, an area where they were extracted the biggest amounts of gold of the volcanic caldera of Rodalquilar.



El Cortijo del Fraile
This way we reach Cortijo del Fraile built in the 18th century by the monks of the Convent of Santo Domingo of Almería to attend over the olive trees and vines. This country house of great beauty and size also has chapel, mausoleum, wells and in 1928 it was the location of the famous passion crime that inspired Garcia Lorca's "Bodas de Sangre". Since the 19th century it no longer belongs to the church.

We recommend stopping and enjoying the views of the Cortijo and its surroundings.



From the parking, we will return to the village and we will take the first bend on the right to climb to the high part of the gold mine building. A land road of irregular conditions then begins. It is recommended to have a 4x4 car or drive cautiously if you use a standard car. We will leave on the right the tanks and washing screws and going under the main hopper, we will continue along the pathway. We will find a crossroads and although both of them arrive to the high part of the mines, going along the one on the left, we will continue appreciating the mining installations.

We will arrive to a viewpoint over the mining buildings and over the Rodalquilar Valley, of exceptional beauty. We can appreciate the natural immensity of the valley with the sea at the back and other buildings that belong to different gold metallurgic processes. To the other hand of the road there are other landscapes over strip mines and old installations inside Cerro Del Cirto.

We continue our trip along the main way to Cortijo del Fraile. Almost one kilometer away from the viewpoint, in a gully area we can see, on the left hand side a little white-golden tunnel. We recommend a stop in this area.



deposits, tunnels, shafts and a metal loader. Looking the opposite way of the village we can see an impressive geologic formation called Mesa Roldán, a volcanic dome formed nearly 9 million years ago. The upper part is crowned by marine sediments (Finger coral, seaweeds, bivalves, etc.) and coral reefs.



We move forward in our car about 200 meters until we reach the Volcanic House, leaving the car in the nearby parking.

The volcanic house
It is a Museum of geomining interpretation that pays special attention to the volcanism of the Natural Park of Cabo de Gata-Níjar and its mining past.

Behind the Volcanic House there is a viewpoint where we can see the Rodalquilar Valley, from a really exceptional location.

It is recommended to visit the bottom part of the mining installations, paying special attention to the tanks and washing screws.

The route can continue by bicycle. It is medium difficulty.

Park the car at the entrance and continue walking.

We will start from a little pathway that travels across the hill where the loading installations were built.

From the high area we can appreciate wide sea landscapes, of the village of Aguamarga and the installations below (Loading). We can observe mineral

Stretch B



This route takes us to the mining past of Rodalquilar and its gold mines.

Rodalquilar
This route starts at the Rodalquilar town's square, a village of mining tradition since the 16th century. Actually, it is a quiet village, thanks to the landscape integration of the new buildings.

It is recommended a little walk through the new village and the ruins of the old miner's houses.

We will take the crossroads in direction to the high part of the village. We will leave, on the left the watercourse and we will climb the road on the right. At the high area we can see different characteristic buildings of Rodalquilar.

Due to its special beauty, it is recommended to visit Rodalquilar's church, the Rodalquilar's telematics resources centre, botanic garden El Albardinal and the Rodalquilar's amphitheatre, a modern construction and totally integrated in the environment. It is also the environmental office and the exposition center.





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Apuntarse a Níjar

