

# Routes for people of your kind

Touristic Routes of the Region of Níjar



*The Water Route*  
For those who like to get wet.





## Interesting points

### Stretch A

- **Villa de Níjar**  
(Church, town hall, gastronomy, shops, etc.)
- **Mill's riverside**
- **Huebro**

### Stretch B

- **Villa de Níjar**  
(Church, town hall, gastronomy, shops, etc.)
- **The Reservoir of Isabel II**

## Villa de Níjar's Street Map



## Introduction

The fact that needs sharpens the talent, is something difficult to discuss. And as a clear manifestation of such, the effort of several generations of people from Níjar, who rolled up their shirts to challenge an imperative occupation. Water. Walking through its wells, dam and mills we will realize the town's events and determination to face droughts, the environment's dryness and its hope to fight it.

## Stretch A. Níjar-Huebro

Huebro

NÍJAR VILLA



- Routes starting point
- Church
- Town Hall
- Stage Space
- Information Point
- Mill's Riverside
- Huebro



We start the Route of Water in Villa de Níjar, a town which could be mistaken for a giant urban garden during the year's four seasons. We recommend visiting the church, sited in the town hall's square, and the town hall.

From this same square, we will take the street Camino de Huebro, leaving Calle Saladar to the right, and we will start going up entering the typical small streets that tinge the town in white.



Close to the Scenic Arts Centre, we recommend a visit to the viewpoint of Cerro Redondo, where you can enjoy a panoramic sight.

By the first indication sign of Valle de Huebro, it is possible to see the remains of an ancient water mill, similar to the ones we will see in the valley's area.

After leaving Níjar, we continue our way to Huebro.



In a curve, which has a cross at its top, called Curva de la Cruz, there is a viewpoint from where we can observe Valle de Huebro and a panoramic sight of Níjar.

To the right, about 50 meters away, we can access a path and from there, we can gaze at an excellent view of the village of Níjar.

After that stop, we will continue our way to Huebro.





### Mill's riverside

We will reach the crossroads of Camino de Huebro with the signed pathway of Rivera de los Molinos, located by a country house at the road's left hand side. This pathway will allow us to see many water mills (see walking pathways).



We will continue our way through a winding road that accesses Huebro. Throughout the path, some stops can be made in some viewpoints. Less than 2kms away from Rivera de los Molinos, we will find a crossroad signed as GR 140, a pathway registered with a national number system, which is part of a walking itinerary network signed and built due to their connection between pathways to avoid

using the asphalted roads. This one in particular, connects Sierra Nevada with the Natural Park of Cabo de Gata. Due to its attractive and charm, we recommend to explore and enjoy them.

Continuing along the road, we will reach Huebro.

### Huebro

The village of Huebro is nowadays a small country house with great charm due to its outstanding location and environment. From the church's square, we recommend to take a walk along the surroundings to enjoy both water and virtues which are evident each step of the way.



The town's square and church. The small church is Mudejar.



Views from the Valley of Huebro. The beauty of El Valle de Huebro can be appreciated from the country house's square. Nowadays some of the valley's mills are private property and have been restored into private houses.



The washing area and Huebro's source of water. The water springs come from Sierra Alhamilla and gives water to all the region of Níjar. From this place, part of the GR-140 route starts here.



## Stretch B. Níjar-P. de Isabel II



### Villa de Níjar

From the town hall's square, we will go down Andalucía Street that joins with the Avenue of García Lorca and the neighborhood of Las Eras, a place where all the shops of Níjar are sited. We recommend stopping and walking through the shops and take some pottery, some things made of esparto grass or enjoy the area's gastronomy.





600 meters away, we reach a bifurcation, where we will continue straight across the track on the right to Pantano de Isabel II. We will reach a parking area where we will find information about this giant hydraulic construction site.



From now onwards, it is a walking road.



### The Reservoir of Isabel II

The reservoir of Isabel II was the biggest Spanish hydraulic construction of the 19th century and at the same time, a big fiasco. Unveiled in 1850 financed by private investors, the project was planned so that the reservoir would give service to the irrigation areas of Nijar's fields. The ignorance concerning the area gave as a result, a decade after, that half of its capacity became flooded by loads of mud that had been carried by the rain.



Two short tunnels that were the drainage pipes of the dam's upper area. After we've gone through them, we can reach the end and to see the first sights of the valley drained by the dam. Afterwards we return to the tunnels' exit to climb the stairs that take us to the dam's upper part.

From here we can access different points of interest.



### Isabel II Reservoir's Upper Wall

After climbing the steps, to the left we can enjoy the reservoir's upper wall. From here we will have a centered panoramic landscape of the gully and we can notice the lower pipes of drainage and ditches as well as some building elements.



### Viewpoint from the Caves

Turning left until we reach the end of the dam, from the drainage stairs there is a little path on the right. The path goes under some caves bored through the rocks and we access them by climbing the hill a few meters above the path. In its high part, there is a big landscape over the rear part of the reservoir, where we can observe the deposits swept away by the rain that filled reservoir. The climb is difficult and not suitable for everybody.

We start our way from the parking by the low area of the dam's wall which initially was conceived to keep the water. Nowadays it is full of eroded land and covered with vegetation.

We continue the route towards this construction and once there, at the left hand side we will see a path that allows us to access the wall's high area. We recommend going through

On our way, we can observe cultivation areas, and the typical terracing of the area, as well as partridge colonies. It is important to drive carefully due to some road narrowing.

Approximately seven kilometers away from Nijar, we will find an exit to the right that informs us of a change of direction to the Reservoir of Isabel II, through a sand track.



At the end of the Avenue of Federico Garcia Lorca, we will go to Lucainena de las Torres, turning left at the crossroads and following the signs until we leave the town. We continue our way across AL-103, a two direction road.



### Reservoir's Front Viewpoint

Once we are in front of it, this is the best viewpoint to observe the dam's structure. We access this point at the end of the drainage tunnels, turning right and climbing down the rock. The access is difficult and not suitable for everybody.

### Engineers' House and Control Tower

We will reach there by turning right after climbing the stairs of the drainpipe tunnels, following a path by the hillside. In its high point, we will find the house of the engineers that developed the building work. From

here we go down and at the right hand side, we can see a small control tower with views to the reservoir. From here we can also observe a landscape of the drainage valley, as well as the dam's structure and the reservoir's area.

To return we recommend taking the path that starts at the engineers' house and in opposite direction to the reservoir. From this path we will return to the parking area to enjoy wonderful views.



## Walking routes

See path guides

### Mill's riverside



2km.



1 hour.



Level: Easy.  
Suitable for all kind of visitors.



Villa de Nijar.



### Path's starting point

2600 meters away from Nijar, in direction to Huebro, by the crossroads of the path of Huebro with the path of the Mill's riverside.

We will exit Nijar with our car in direction to Huebro. 2600 meters away we will reach the crossroads of the path of Huebro with the path of Rivera de los Molinos.

We will continue walking and nearly 2 kilometers away we will find the remains of six linked hydraulic mills that took advantage of the 400 meters of slope between Nijar and Huebro. Along the route, the wind, the birds and the water course will please our eardrums, while we watch how the water flows along the mills, and surrounded by pitas, chumberas, olive trees, irrigations ditches and ponds.

Along the way we will find indications of the route GR-140.

## Notes

Lined area for taking notes during the walk.





P.N. Cabo de Gata-Níjar

## Another kind of tourism

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Apuntarse a Níjar



Almería