Canal de la Espartera

A varied walk taking in some interesting scenery on the northwestern edge of the Sierra Nevada, including the distinctively shaped peaks of Trevenque and Boca de la Pesca. The route crosses the arenales de Trevenque, gravel ‘rivers’ formed by erosion, before descending through pine forest to the river Dilar. Take extra care when walking on the loose surface of the arenales, which can be slippery. This is an official walking route which is generally very well signposted.

Getting There

By Car: From Granada, take the La Zubia exit from the southern ring road (Ronda Sur). When you reach La Zubia go straight on at the traffic lights then take a left signposted to Cumbres Verdes (you cannot turn left directly, so continue up to the roundabout, do a u-turn and then turn right). Then follow signs to Cumbres Verdes. You soon enter the Sierra Nevada Natural Park, and, after a few kilometres, pass Cumbres Verdes on your right. The road then turns into a dirt track. Follow this for 1.5km until you reach Fuente del Hervidero. Either turn off left to park here, or carry on 1km to another car park at the trailhead, but bear in mind that this stretch of road is often in poor condition.

By bus: There is no bus service to Fuente del Hervidero. On weekends there are two buses a day to Cumbres Verdes (service 275), from where you need to walk 1.5km up a dirt road to Fuente del Hervidero.

Disclaimer: While we have made every effort to ensure that this information is accurate, conditions can change, and you are responsible for your own safety.

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1. From Fuente del Hervidero, take track at the top right of the car park.

2. After 600m, where the road bears left (signed Jardín Botánico) carry straight on into the car park (the alternative starting point). There is an information panel in Spanish describing the route (PR-A21). Take the path to the right of the sign.

3. After a few metres, there is a sign marking route PR-A21 towards Mirador and Toma del Canal. Shortly after this, take left fork, then turn left onto a smaller path. This is marked with one of the posts that you should follow throughout the route.

4. After about 1km, the path very briefly joins the dirt road before carrying on up some steps. Note the posts with crosses indicating the routes not to take.

5. Cross the dirt road again, following the path through the fencing beside an information panel.

6. Take path to the right (marked with a post).

7. After just over 1km you reach a signpost facing the other way. Take sharp right down to the dirt road (signed Toma del Canal and Collado Sevilla).

8. Keep on the road, zigzagging down towards the river for about 3.5km, passing the Casa Forestal de Rosales and crossing the Canal de la Espartera.

9. At the Toma del Canal there is a hydropower substation. Take the path to the right (marked). The path briefly follows the river before bearing up to the right, while the river drops away below.

10. When you meet a dirt track, go straight on (marked Collado Sevilla). Keep following the path until you arrive back at the car park (2).