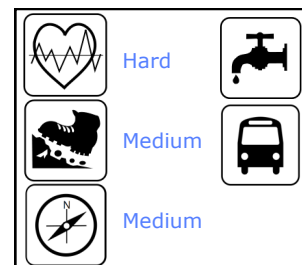


Mulhacén - Laguna de la Caldera

Climb to the top of Spain! *Mulhacén* is the highest mountain in mainland Spain, towering 3,479 metres above sea level, so it's not surprising that it offers amazing views. If the weather is clear, you can see right down to the Mediterranean Sea. The landscape is mainly rocky and barren, but many of the plants that do grow here are unique. You are also very likely to see ibex during your walk.

This circular route also includes the crater lake *Laguna de la Caldera* and the *Mulhacén* river. The descent is very steep and the path is uneven in places, so we recommend wearing hiking boots.



Key Facts	
Length	14 km
Time	6 hours
Min/Max Altitude	2463 m /3479 m
Accumulated height difference	1118 m
Season	Summer, early Autumn



Left: view to the north from the top of *Mulhacén*.
Above: starting the ascent of *Mulhacén*.
Above right: *Veleta* and *Laguna de la Caldera*.
Left: view of the north face of *Mulhacén*, *Alcazaba* and *Laguna de la Mosca*.



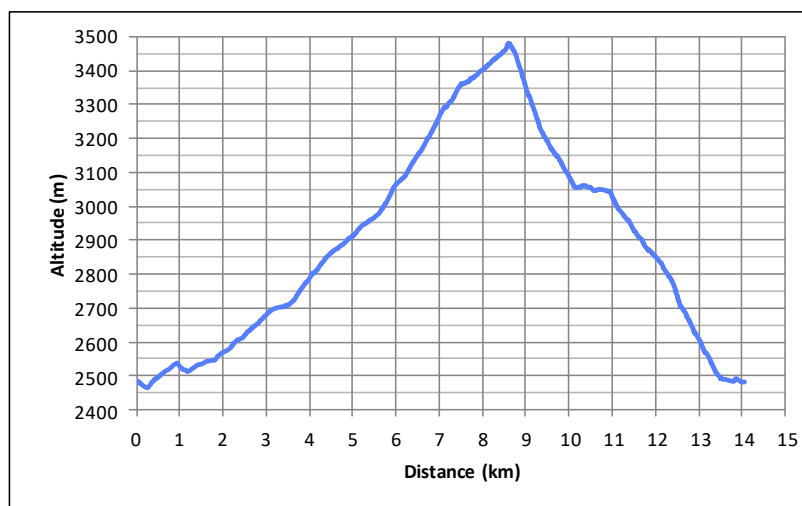
Getting There

The walk starts from the *Refugio de Poqueira*, where you can stay overnight. See our [Acequias del Poqueira walk](#) for details of how to walk to the Refugio from Capileira.

To get to Capileira:

By Car: From Granada, take the E-902/A-44 towards Motril. Take exit 164 and take the A-348 towards Lanjarón. Carry on past Lanjarón and after about a further 8km turn left onto the A-4132, marked towards Trevélez (the turning is just after you enter Órgiva). Follow this road until you get past Pampaneira, then turn up to the left following signs for Bubiñ and Capileira.

By Bus: Capileira is served by Alsa services from Granada bus station (4 per day).



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.



1. Starting from the *Refugio de Poqueira*, take the dirt road downhill.

2. After 3.5 km, you meet another road. This is *Alto del Chorillo*. Cross the road and take the path up to the left. It is marked by cairns - make sure you keep following these.



The path ascends steadily. Some people may struggle with the altitude, so take your time and take breaks if you need them. **If you start to feel unwell, turn around and walk back down.**



3. After about 2 km take the left fork towards *Mulhacén*.

4. After about another 1.5 km you will reach *Mulhacén II* (5).

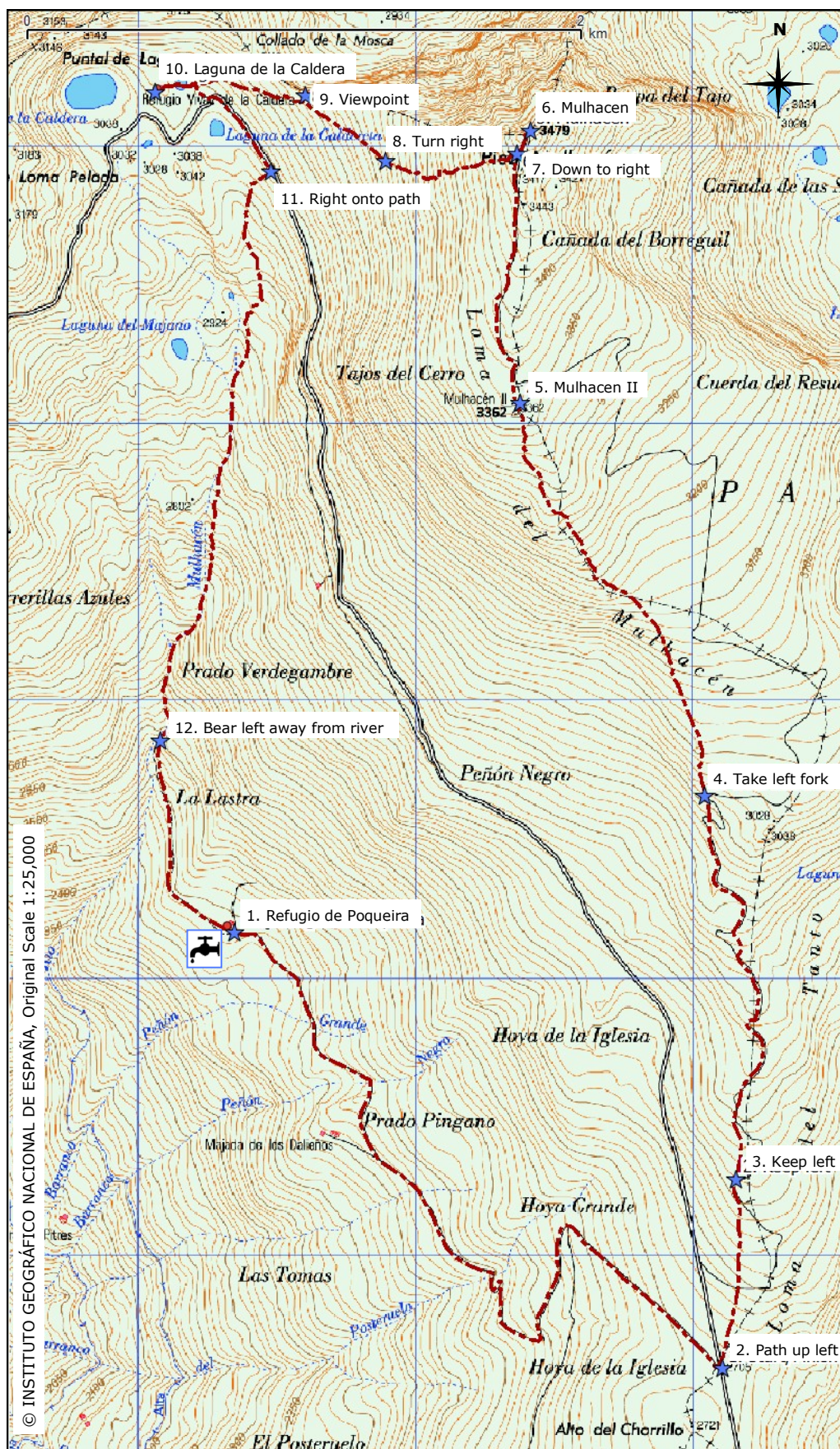
From here the ascent is relatively gentle until the final ascent to *Mulhacén* (6). On this section you have very good views of *Veleta* and the crater lake *Laguna de la Caldera*.

The north face of *Mulhacén* is almost vertical, so take care when you reach the summit, particularly in bad weather. On a clear day you may even see as far as Africa.

7. Start descending the same way you came up, but after 100 m take the path down to the right.

8. The path zigzags very steeply downhill. After about half a kilometre, where the path splits, turn right towards the lake (*Laguna de la Caldera*). Keep right and then take a very short detour to the top of the ridge to get a view of the north face of *Mulhacén*, *Alcazaba* and *Laguna de la Mosca* below you (9). After the viewpoint bear left down to the main path towards *Laguna de la Caldera*.

10. At the lake *Laguna de la Caldera* there is a *refugio* (basic mountain cabin). From here, retrace your steps and after 150 metres turn right onto a path and then left onto the wide track.



11. After less than half a kilometre take the path down to your right. Follow the path marked by cairns alongside the *Mulhacén* river.

12. After about 2.25 kilometres, the path bears away from the river. Bear left onto a

bigger path. After ascending quite steeply for a few hundred metres you will see the *Refugio de Poqueira* just ahead of you.