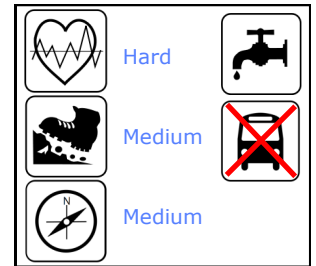
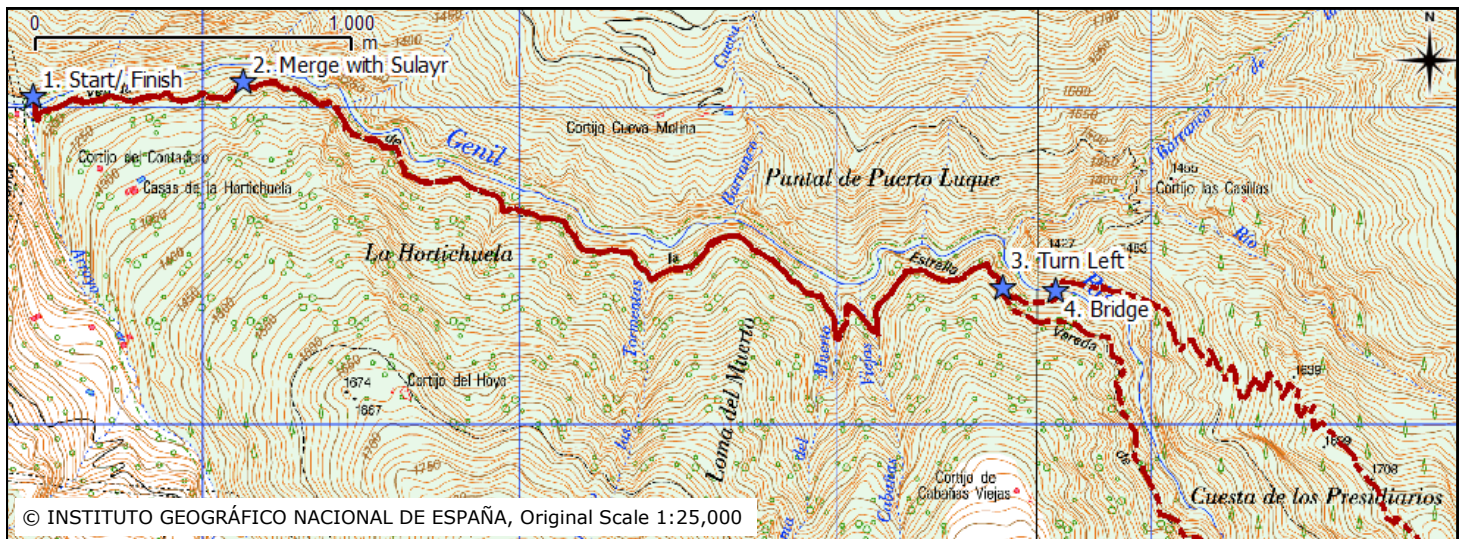


Vereda de la Estrella Loop

This route incorporates one of the classic hikes of the Sierra Nevada, the *Vereda de la Estrella*, but rather than going out and back the same way, it forms a circuit using a higher path on the other side of the valley, which gives you a more open view of the rugged north faces of the three highest peaks in the mountain range - *Mulhacén*, *Veleta* and *Alcazaba*. A long walk, but well worth the effort. The scenery in this deep valley is stunning, and the *Vereda de la Estrella* path, originally built to access the *Estrella* copper mine, is a feat of engineering. If the full walk seems too much, it's still worth considering going part way along the main path.



Key Facts	
Length	22.5 km
Time	7 hours
Min/Max Altitude	1142 m / 1797 m
Accumulated height difference	1008 m
Season	Spring, Summer, Autumn



Getting There

By Car: From Granada, take the A-395 towards Sierra Nevada. Take the exit marked *Pinos Genil*, *Güéjar Sierra*, *Dúdar*, *Quéntar* and follow the road under the A-395 and across the river *Genil*. Turn right, and after 2.5km turn left for *Güéjar Sierra*.

When you enter the village (after 8km), take the right turn signposted *Río Genil*, *Río Maitena*. Follow the road round until you get to a set of wooden signs for accommodation and places of interest. Bear left, marked towards *Sierra Nevada*, *Río Genil*. At the next junction, turn right (signed towards *Maitena*, *Charcón*, *Sierra Nevada*) then go straight on (signed *Maitena*, *Barranco San Juan*, *Sierra Nevada*). After reaching the bottom of the valley, turn left through a tunnel (signed *Vereda de la Estrella*, *Barranco San Juan*). You will go through two more tunnels and cross the river twice before you reach the end of the road and a car park.

By Bus: This walk is not easily accessible by bus.

1. From the car park, cross the wooden bridge and take the path up to the left, signposted *Vereda de la Estrella*, *Vadillo*, *C. Secreta*.

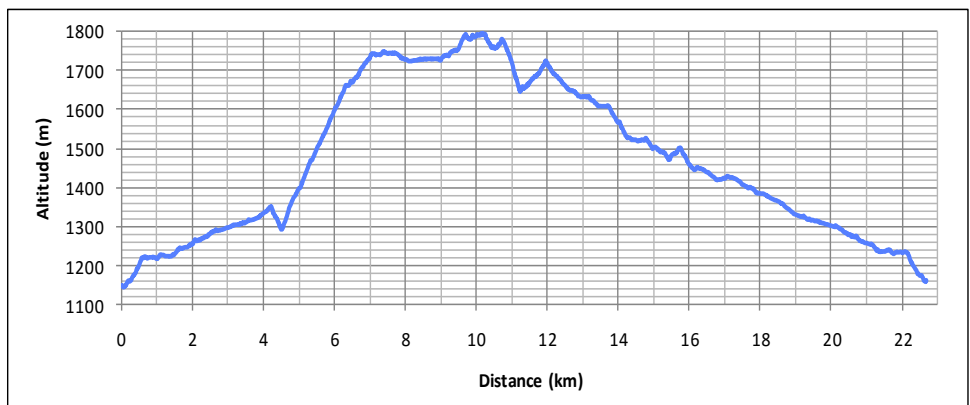


2. After just under 1 km, the path merges with the *Sulayr* long-distance walking route.

This is well marked with wooden posts with red and white markings, and our route follows it until the *Cucaracha* (5).



3. After a further 3 km, take the path to the left down towards the river, following the *Sulayr* route. Cross the bridge (4) and follow the path winding steeply up the other side - this is the toughest part of the hike.



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.



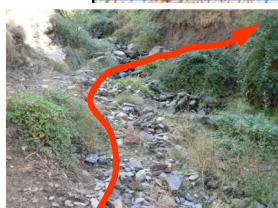
5. Almost 3 km after the bridge, you will reach the *Refugio de la Cucaracha* (approx. 2½ hours from the start of the walk). Here our route leaves the Sulayr, so do *not* follow the posts, but cross the fence and take the path carrying straight on past the refugio.



6. After almost 2km you will reach another refugio (*Aceral*). Take the left fork just afterwards.



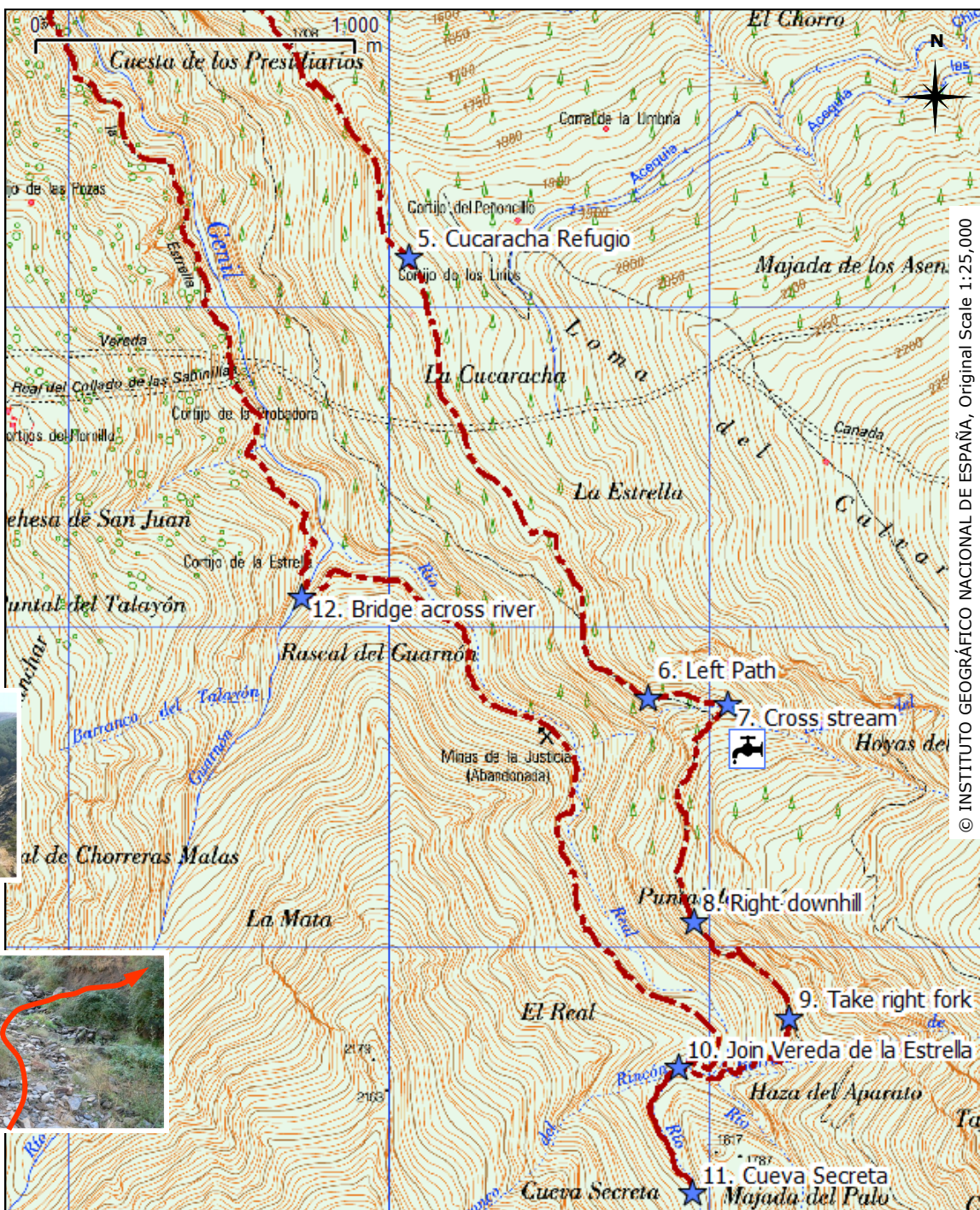
7. The path becomes narrow and rocky before reaching a stream. Head up left and cross when you see the path continuing on the other side. NB this is the best place to refill water.



8. After about 1km, follow the main path down to the right and then after another 500m take the right fork (**9**) to descend to the river and cross the bridge.



10. You will see the path on the other side - this is the *Vereda de la Estrella*. Turn left along it for the detour to *Cueva Secreta*, keeping left along the river, or turn right to start the return section.



11. *Cueva Secreta* is a natural refuge/ cave, and is a popular place to camp for trips into the high mountains.



12. The return path is easy to follow along the side of the valley and is marked with yellow and white stripes until you reach the point where you turned off (**3**).

