

Lavaderos de la Reina

Lavaderos de la Reina means “the Queen’s washing place”. It is an area of lush meadows fed by mountain springs. By far the best time to visit is in late spring or early summer, when the melting snow feeds the gushing streams. The first part of the route also gives some great views of the Sierra Nevada. This is a long walk, but not particularly difficult, although there is a steady climb at the beginning, and you also need to clamber down some rocks beside the waterfall. Remember to check the conditions locally before you go - the area can still be snow-covered well into May or even June.

	Medium	
	Medium	
	Medium	

Key Facts	
Length	17 km
Time	6 hours
Min/Max Altitude	2029 m / 2575 m
Accumulated height difference	640 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*). Just after you leave the village, take the left turn marked towards *Camping Cortijo Balderas*.

After 2km, the road narrows, with a big rock on the right-hand side. Straight after this, turn right. The road is marked as “no entry”, but don’t worry about this. The road descends to the river, and a little while after this turns into a dirt track. Keep to the main track, following the signs for cyclists (right). Keep going until you reach a chain across the road, where the walk starts.

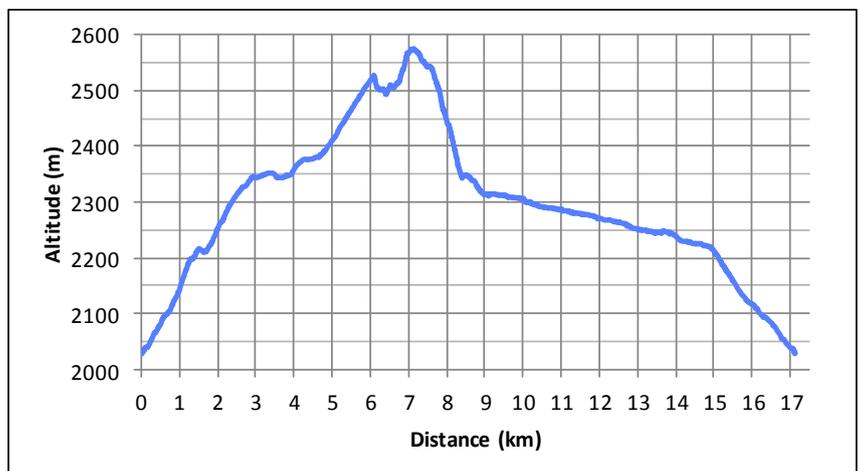


In total, from the turn-off to the chain it is about 12km.

By Bus: This walk is not accessible by bus.

Above: View of Alcazaba, Mulhacén and Veleta.

Right: Lavaderos de la Reina



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. Just after the chain, take a path to your right. There are actually a few different paths, but they merge back together after a while. Head up to the top of the ridge and then along it. In some places the path is not very clear, but just keep following the ridge. Most of the time you are gradually climbing, but about 1.5 km after the chain there is a short downhill section.

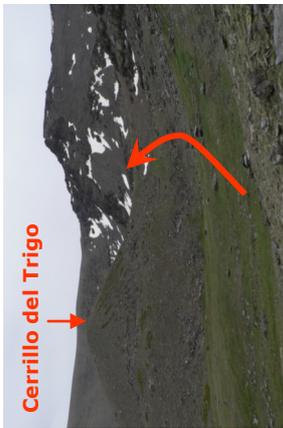
2. After the downhill section, carry on up the ridge, keeping to the right of the highest point (Papeles, 2424m). About 3.5km after the chain you will rejoin the dirt track.

3. Follow the track for 1km until you get to the Peña Partida refuge. This is a good place to stop for a breather and to enjoy the view. To continue, take the path on the other side of the refuge, and after about 100m, take the left fork.

4. Keep on this path. After about 1.5km it bears round quite sharply to the right. The path now descends quite steeply to the first "borreguil" (a marshy meadow), where

it disappears. Skirt round the right-hand side of the meadow, and then go to the left of the rocky outcrop (see photo). Once you pass the rocky outcrop, bear right and up.

5. Now head for a small path that winds up the steep slope a few hundred metres ahead of you, keeping the Cerrillo del Trigo on your left (see photo).



Take the path up to the top, and then continue across a short flat section, until you can see a number of streams and waterfalls criss-crossing lush green meadows.

6. You have reached the Lavaderos Altos, the higher part of the springs. To reach the lower springs (Lavaderos Bajos), follow the rocky path down the left-hand side of the river.

7. To continue the walk, follow the irrigation channel that forks off to the left of the main river. This is an easy path, sloping very gently downhill.

8. After about a kilometre, you will cross the Sulayr long-distance walking route. Keep straight on.

9. After 3.25km you meet the dirt road for the first time. Keep on the path, taking the fork to the right.

10. When you meet the dirt road for the second time (after 2.5km), join it and follow it back to the chain at the start of the walk (just under 2km).

