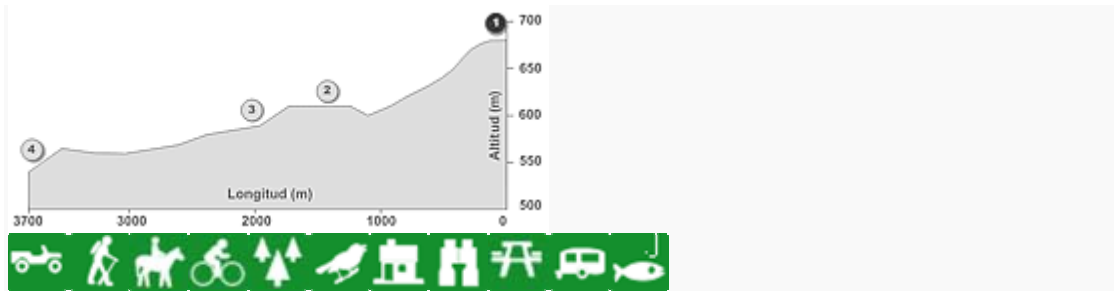




1. THE ROUTE OF THE FARMER



The route begins on the Loja – Priego road where you head down a rural road towards the flat lands of “El Raso”, passing by some farmhouses. This road is known as the “Via Pecuaría” and was an old cattle drove.

Continue along the walk where you will come across various other paths heading off in different directions. After crossing the stream “Arroyo Palancar” the route changes direction towards the farmhouses of “El Raso Alto y Bajo”, and then meanders along to the lands of Palancar. Here the route meets the Algarinejo – Fuentes de Cesna Road and the start of route 10 (the border route).

If you were to carry on, for about 700m, along the Algarinejo road heading east, on the opposite side of the road you will meet up with route 4.

TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: Rural road and lane / old cattle drove	
Distance: 3.7 Km	Difficulty: Low to Medium
Duration: Rambling (4-5h) / Cycling (1-2h) / Horse riding (2h)	
Restrictions: Speed limit for motor vehicles to 20km/h	
Uses: Occasional fishing activities	

THE ENVIRONMENT

The walk works its way through a mountain range to one side known as the “Subbetica” and to the other the lower area of “El Raso” and the basins of the river Pesquera. You can observe a very well preserved forest dominated by black poplar, rushes, bramble patches, hawthorns, etc. In addition, within the river basin you will find patches of Mediterranean forests dominated by gall oak. A unique botanical enclave is the area “El Raso Bajo” at 150m to the east of the farmhouses, where there are 6 or 7 outstanding botanical species.

There is a diverse fauna present, such as the Montpellier and ladder snake, weasel, badger, genet, common hare and the red-legged partridge and numerous other birds and insects living amongst the trees. Also you may see a golden eagle, short-toed eagle, Bonelli’s eagle or a griffin vulture. In the streams you may find “Boga” (a South American ray-finned fish) (now in decline), Barbell, Loach and various species of aquatic birds.

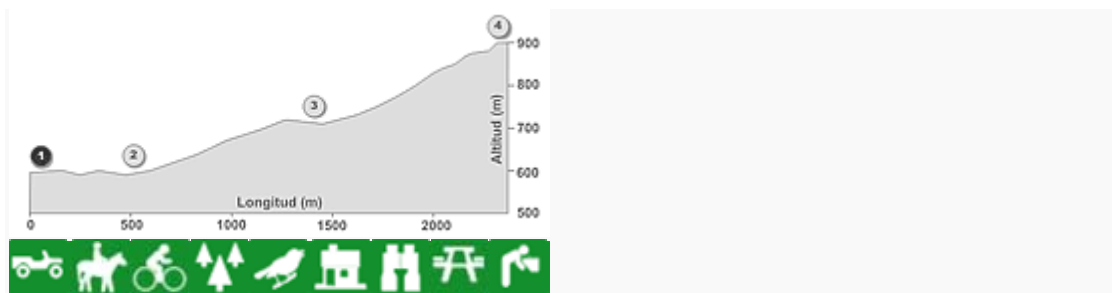


THE CULTURE

Farming of the dry lands of “El Raso” and the irrigated valleys has been the principal activity in this area. The first farmers of the region began the agriculture of herbaceous plants (food for the cattle and various cereals), alternating seasonally with pulses such as lentils, beans and chick peas to avoid exhausting the land. The cattle ranch was used to provide stubble which provided sufficient nutrients to close the agricultural cycle.

This system remained in place until the 20th C when the introduction of chemicals altered this process. Although traditional methods can still be observed in some parts of the area. It is an area of great natural interest for its farming methods and its beautiful cortijos (old farmhouses) in particular those of “El Raso Alto” y “El Raso Bajo” where you can see grand properties dating back to 16th C during the conquest of the kingdom of Granada by the Castilians.

2. THE ROUTE OF THE WATER



The walk starts from the “Abrevadero de la Harinera”, a good access point from the roads of Algarinejo. Travel along the route to the river Turca where the lane narrows to 1-2m wide, here you arrive at a spring known as the “Cascada de Zurreón”, which runs parallel with a stream of the same name.

Also, close to the river Turca there is a lane heading east towards a bridge that crosses the river, after which the walk gradually inclines to the “Loma del Moro Santo”, close to the main road. After passing through the “Arroyo de Zurreón” and following the “via pecuaria” or drove, a path used for transporting livestock, your journey ends at the “Cruz de San Sebastián” where you can join up with Route 5.

TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: Rural road and lane	
Distance: 2.3 Km	Difficulty: Medium to High
Duration: Rambling (1.30-2h) / Cycling (1h) / Horse riding (1.15h)	
Restrictions: Inaccessible to motor vehicles except for access to the river Turca	



THE ENVIRONMENT

The steep, high sided slopes and the scenic mountains of Algarinejo are an example of a rugged limestone landscape, which is Jurassic in origin. Gullies, precipices and pools occur in deep ravines such as the Rio Turca and especially the “Arroyo de Zurreón”.

On the edges of this hydrological system the visitor will find various trees and plants including willows (*Salix* spp.), poplars and elms e.g. (*Ulmus minor*), also reeds, rattan, centenary walnut trees, fig trees and pomegranate trees.

This is a very interesting site for observing reptiles and amphibians e.g. ladder snake and common frog and especially for bird watching, as many types of birds arrive in masses covering the mature trees, like the great tit, the Chetti's warbler and others such as the common nightingale, blue tit, spotted flycatcher etc. The presence of forest mammals e.g. martens, genets and smaller birds of prey e.g. the common kestrel also bear witness to this. The barbell is the dominant species of fish which uses the river Turca for spawning.

THE CULTURE

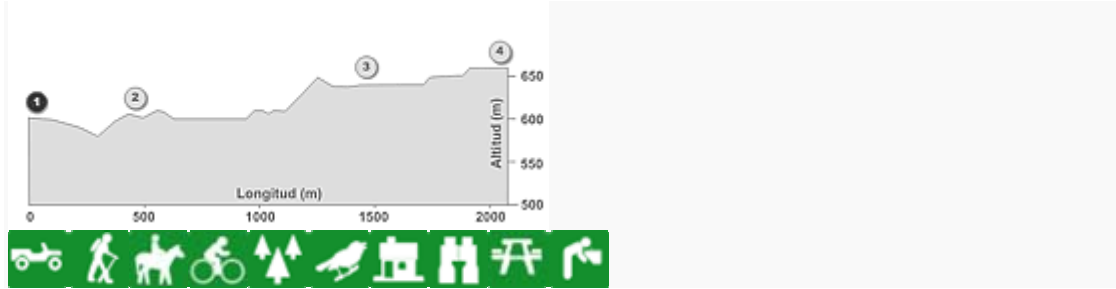
Between the streams and ravines of clear water lies typical andalusian country architecture, like the urbanization “Peñón”.

The “via pecuaria” that crosses from “Arroyo Zurreón” to the “Cruz de San Sebastián” was the main route for moving livestock by the local farmers and is of great historical importance in Algarinejo. Various bridges from the medieval period like the “Puente Hundio” were used for the movement of livestock looking for fresh grazing, at the same time fulfilling the function of tax collection from the crossing farmers. Drinking troughs and resting areas were provided along the way for the seasonal migration of sheep and cattle and were well used between the best growing areas.

An intricate system of irrigation channels and small reservoirs created during medieval times supported the highly productive small holdings of the area of “Arroyo Zurreón”. Fig, pomegranate and centenary walnut trees grow in an environment where the Muslim influence is considerable. These species are characteristic of the medieval systems of agriculture. The centenary walnut trees of this landscape are a legacy of another traditional activity: the tanning of hides, which required the use of the walnut tree pulp, in the “Cortijo La Tenería”



3. THE ROUTE OF THE MILLS & STREAMS



Along this walk you can take various alternative routes. Firstly leave from the town centre of Algarinejo in the direction of “Molinos de Arrabal”. Before crossing the bridge over the river, you will find a picnic area to the right and the start of Route C. To the left is an alternative Route B, which begins at “Los Molinos” and then runs parallel with an irrigation channel. It meets with Route C at another picnic area half way along the walk. Continue from here across the area known as “Las Calderas” where there is another split in the walk: Route D leads to the “Nacimiento de las Llanadas” and Route E takes you through a farmhouse with the same name. To the rear of the farmhouse is a romantic garden. Both options end at the N321 road. From here the road will take you directly back to the centre of Algarinejo. The footpath “Las Calderas” also goes back to the town centre.

TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: Rural lane ranging from 4-5m to 1-2m in width. For pedestrian use only	
Distance: 2.1 Km	Difficulty: Low to Medium
Duration: Rambling (1-1.30h) / cycling (30-45m)	
Restrictions: Restricted access in various parts for motor vehicles, horses and bicycles.	



THE ENVIRONMENT

Over the last 40 million years, due to the limestone landscape in this area, a number of streams have converged to form a steep sided riverbed principally known as “Arroyo Morales”, which is a river that flows through Algarinejo.

Due to the succession of numerous sources of crystal clear water there exists a diverse and lush environment. You will find ample pools and cascades that provide bathing and recreation facilities and a number of small wooded areas of native trees e.g. black & white poplar, willow, walnut and elm. Distinctively “Nacimiento Fuente de Las Llanadas” and the “Pozas de las Calderas” contain the most significant outcrops and streams in the district.

There is a rich and diverse fauna present: water snake, ladder snake, Montpellier snake, common frog, common toad, nightingale, green finch, owl, weasel, hen, aquatic blackbird, grey wagtail, marten, genet and fish like barbell, bream together with a few not usually found in this area e.g. Rainbow Trout and American Crayfish.

THE CULTURE

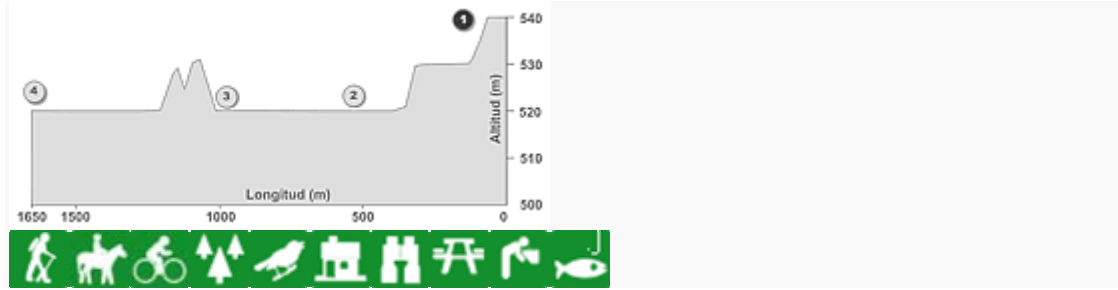
The use of water in the “Arroyo Los Morales” dates back 3000 years to the Roman era and, as in all of Andalusia, has shaped the natural beauty and complexity of the area that has survived into present day. During the Muslim period many irrigation channels were created together with small holdings that produced vegetables and fruit, which were vital to the surrounding areas.

You will find examples of the following: bucket mills powered by the flow of water, irrigation channels known locally as “caces”, terraced small holdings of andalusian origin, looms for making cloth and wool from the abundant livestock around the area, foot bridges, manufacturing complexes and dams. All of which combine along the route as a testament to bygone times.

The “Complejo Hidroeléctrico de Nueva España” and the “Complejo Fabril de Las Llanadas” are of great interest for understanding the modern use of water. The production of oil in oil mills, the extraction of liquor distilled from grapes and the production of flour were activities developed in “Las Llanadas” one of the best preserved estates in Algarinejo, dating back to the 17th century. In which you can immediately appreciate the romantic garden from the 19th century together with a single cascade of water.



4. ROUTE OF THE RIVERS AND THEIR HABITATS



The walk starts from the “Fuentes de Cesna-Algarinejo” road in the district of Palancar. The route continues from “Molino Chicurro” towards the river Pesquera at which point it turns into a small path. It runs parallel with the river on the right hand side, then after about 150m it crosses over to the left.

Within approximately 200m you will cross back over the river to follow a drove, a path used for transporting livestock, which runs through the farmhouse “La Venta”. The walk finishes at the “Fuente de la Venta” (spring).

TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: Rural walk mainly pathways	
Distance: 1.6 Km	Difficulty: Low to Medium
Duration: Rambling (1h) / Horseback (45m)	
Restrictions: Partial access for bicycles, inaccessible for motor vehicles after the Molino Chicurro	
Uses: Seasonal fishing	

THE ENVIRONMENT

The river Pesquera is the main feature of this route, with a geomorphology characteristic of a river located between mountains and extremely steep hills and an example of a “karstik” or limestone landscape. However, of special interest is the rugged terrain through which it flows.

This river maintains a good water level derived from rainwater. There are numerous pools in the riverbed and small streams feeding the river especially to the right bank.

Mainly to the left you will find a well-established and preserved wood (cross the river on the section of the path between “Molino Chicurro and La Venta”). Here you will see huge willow trees, black poplars and elms together with reeds, eneas, centenary walnut trees and a great variety of other plants commonly found in or around water.



It is a habitat of special interest because of the conservation of wildlife, where you can observe species such as the common buzzard, short-toed eagle, eagle owl, little owl, Scops owl, red-legged partridge, genet, marten, badger, rabbit, hare etc., they are particularly noticeable next to the river in the area of the "Sierra del Castillejo". Also present are crayfish, large barbell and loach.

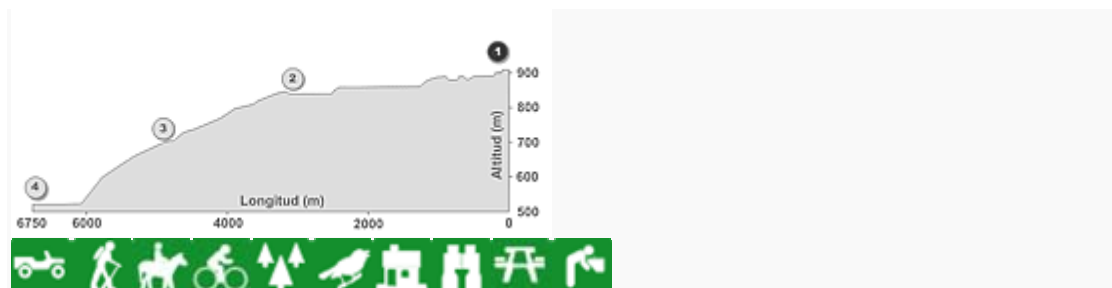
THE CULTURE

Although this territory is densely populated, the river Pesquera has a well-preserved natural habitat being the main river of the "Montes de Granada".

The many interesting ethnological sites along the river testify to its purpose of being fundamental to the rural community: "Acequia y Molino de Cubo de Chicurro" (a type of watermill), "Azud de la Confederación"(20th C), "Caseria de la Venta"(16th-20th C), "Molino de la Venta"; and scenic enclaves: the area "Molino Chicurro"; "river Pesquera", "La Venta" (house and spring).

Historically, the principal function of this section of the river Pesquera has been the main junction and resting area for the Loja-Priego drove. It was used for transporting significant numbers of sheep. It runs parallel to the river providing a path through various difficult points of the ravines. At the junction of Palancar it connects with the Algarinejo-La Viña drove (Route 2), continuing to the lands of Raso-Palancar (Route1), heading for the rich seasonal pastures of the "Sierras de Priego".

5. ROUTE OF THE SHEPHERD



The walk starts from the N-321 and is relatively flat as it winds through the olive groves, Holm oak woods and old farmhouses, as in the small hamlet of "Cruz de San Sebastián". Without leaving the main path it meets up with the "Realenga" or "Via Pecuaria" Loja-Priego, droves or paths used for transporting livestock between Loja and Priego, where you can enjoy extensive views of the landscape around the "Montes de Granada" and the "Sierras Subbéticas", owing to the high altitude of this part of the route. The "Realenga" descends amongst mature Mediterranean woods until it reaches the enclave of "Tajos del Chite", deep limestone ravines which form an outstanding landscape.

From this point, continue on down the "Realenga" until it connects with Route 4 (Route of the rivers and their habitats) at the "Cortijada La Venta" (a farmhouse known as La Venta). This is a nice resting area and is also the point at which you can start the walk going in the opposite direction.



TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: Rural walk and for some part the original path between Loja - Priego	
Distance: 6.7 Km	Difficulty: Low
Duration: Rambling (3h 30m) / Horseback (2h 30m) / By car (30m)	

THE ENVIRONMENT

The route travels through a mountainous environment where you will see 2 distinct areas, the "Sierra de los Castillejos" to the north and the "Sierra del Chite" to the south, marking out a basin which runs W-E known as the area of "Chite". These mountains have a geomorphology of outstanding rugged peaks, with high steep sloping cliffs, sheer drops and precipices made from limestone (Tajos del Chite). It has a guaranteed rainfall of 700mm, supplying the streams and springs such as the "Arroyo de Meliena-Chite" and the "Fuente del Chite".

It is an area of interesting woodland, such as the enclave of "Chite", which is dominated by the Holm oak and a biodiversity of shrub formations: - barberry, thicket and juniper. The level of the humidity allows for the growth, in the shady areas, of impressive Gall oak standing alone or intermingled with other trees. The complexity intensifies with the appearance of heat-loving plants like "cornicabra" or the lentisk found in the low-lying regions. It has to be emphasized, the existence of centuries old trees like some of the Gall oaks and the age old "Encina del Chite" (Holm oak of Chite). Furthermore, it is an occasional hunting ground for the large birds of prey like Bonelli's eagle and the golden eagle. You may also come across the ladder snake, Montpellier snake, marten, weasel, genet, mountain cat, or a vulture passing by, a red-legged partridge, common wood pigeon, raven, azure-winged magpie (found in abundance), rabbits and the common hare.

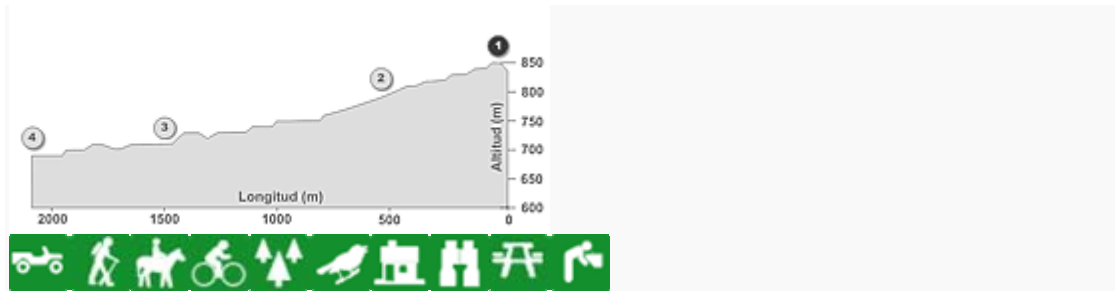
THE CULTURE

The economic history of Algarinejo from the 16th C to the 20th C is that of the stockbreeder. This type of economy was introduced way back in the Roman times and possibly during the Muslim era. The network of "Vias Pecuarias" or droves around Algarinejo was essential for the movement of cattle, sheep and "long-tailed" sheep but mostly cows, between the valley of the river Genil and the "Subbética". The drovers or stockbreeders who traveled along the "meat paths" (as they were known locally) would have to pay tolls at various points, particularly when crossing bridges. This seasonal migration of the animals by the drovers made the most of the estates of impressive Holm oak that had abundant pastures in spring-summer. The acorn was used to feed the vast amount of local pigs, and this was the basis for the quality pork industry which still goes on today.

The abundance of wool required an industry that assisted the development of the stockbreeder, thus the production of quality cloth began. The cloth was produced in mills know as "Molinos Batanes", which were built along the streams of Algarinejo from the 16th C.



6. THE ROUTE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE MINES



The route begins at the junction with the cattle drove of Loja in the area of “Chite” (route 5). This path heads left towards “La Zarzuela”, which descends in the direction of “La Viña”.

After about 500m you will encounter the first crossing, here you turn right heading for “La Solana”, passing by traditional cortijos (farmhouses) nestled amongst olive groves and small woods of Holm oak.

The walk is now heading for the mountain range of “Sierra Tosquilla”, eventually ending at on old mining hamlet. From here there is a network of footpaths from the “Parque Cesna”. About 1km to the west is the River Pesquera.

TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: Rural track and path towards the end of the walk	
Distance: 2.1 Km	Difficulty: Medium
Duration: Rambling (1.30 – 2h) / Cycling (45m) / Horse riding (1h)/ Vehicle(20m)	
Restrictions: None	

THE ENVIRONMENT

Fundamental to this route is the “Sierra Tosquilla”, which passes behind the mountain range of “Chite” in a southerly direction. You will see large limestone outcrops at the summit together with other rocks such as clays and marls from the Triassic period. In spite of the exceptional geological interest it is poorly served by a decent water network, although you will find the occasional waterfall like the “Arroyo del Salto” a small affluent of the river Pesquera and the springs such as the “Fuentes de Cortijo Solana” (the fountains of the farmhouse Solana).

Perhaps more suited to this environment, than other trees, are the great Oak trees both Holm and gall oaks situated around and about the rural dwellings. There is also Mediterranean vegetation, particularly near to the start of the walk and to the north of the old mining town. The complexity of the habitat and the existence of tall trees allows for birds such as the short-toed eagle and the common buzzard to be spotted, as they need tall trees to rest and for nesting. There are frequent sightings of the eagle owl towards the river Pesquera. In addition, there are large populations of other species, mainly the native red-legged partridge.

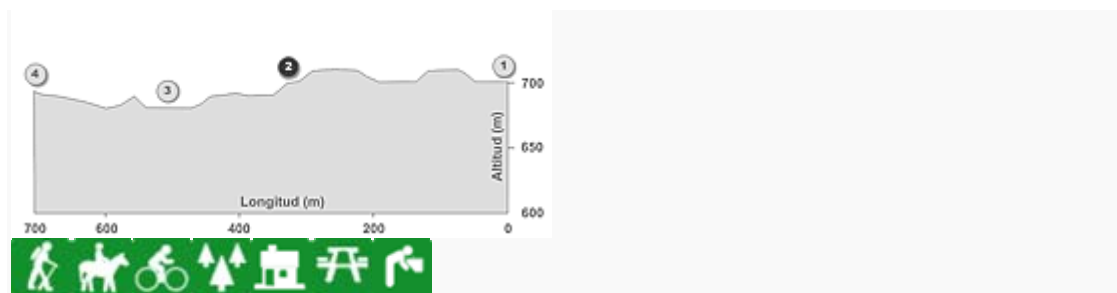


THE CULTURE

The mines that we see today have been there since medieval times. The mine was used to excavate iron and ochre used as a colorant. These activities were practiced around the sierras of the “Cortijo La Solana”, quarries and iron mines of the “Sierra Tosquilla”, the estate of “Cortijo Tosquilla”, “La Yesera” (plaster furnace), “Via Pecuaría” cattle drove, etc.

The mining zone of Sierra Tosquilla has well preserved architectural and industrial buildings, which remained in operation from the medieval time right up until the fifties. The mineral was controlled by the Tower of Pesquera for fiscal purposes and was transported via the river Guadalquivir to supply the furnaces of the medieval capital of Andalusia, Córdoba, for the making of various metallic goods.

7. ROUTE OF THE DWELLINGS



The walk begins from the crossroads at “Cordel de la Viña”, at the animal path through the hamlet of La Viña, where you will find one of the best-preserved collections of architecture in Algarinejo. After passing a series of buildings, on the right, the walk continues on to the “Barriada del Castillo”, the original part of this village and the main attraction of the route.

This urban community is of great architectural interest, situated in the vicinity of the “Salto o Cascada de La Viña”, one of the points of interest along the walk, after which it connects with Route 8 (Ruta de los Arrieros) that is much longer and finishes near to the reservoir at Iznájar.

TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: Paved all the way	
Distance: 600m	Difficulty: Low
Duration: Rambling (20m) / Horseback (15m) / Bicycle (10m)	



THE ENVIRONMENT

The village of La Viña is situated near to the foothills of the “Sierra de Chanzas” (described as a “mountain range of great natural interest”). It is one of the most intriguing mountainous areas of the municipality, where you will find the highest peak “El Morrón” at 1200m above sea level. This is mountainous countryside whose rugged forms perpetuate small mountain streams. The “Salto de la Viña” stands out as a remarkable place in terms of geology and hydrology.

Amongst this urbanization you will find, on the old path, woods of large Holm oak together with “cornicabra”, walnut trees and centenary fig trees that have resisted the passage of time and the actions of man. Observations of local wildlife can be limited with the exception of the more commonly found animals usually associated with this environment e.g. Iberian lizard, common gecko, sparrow and swallow, the house martin, swift, field mouse, foxes etc.

THE CULTURE

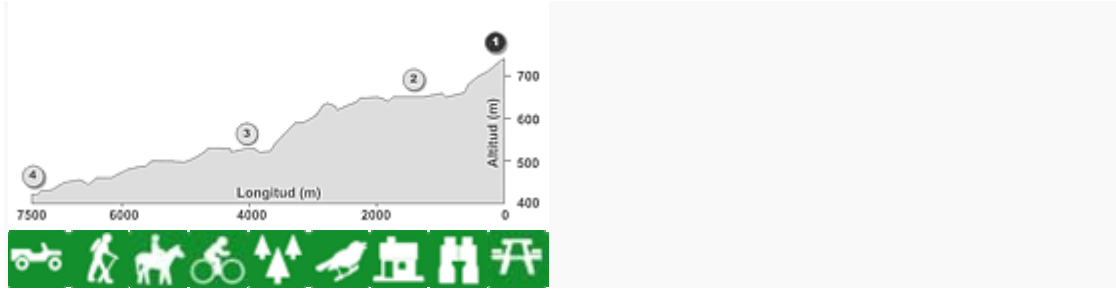
In the area of La Viña there has been an intense exploitation of the territory, in particular from the “andalusi” era. Here you will find magnificent examples of well-preserved andalusian architecture, like the “Barrio del Castillo”, some of which date back to the 16thC.

The housing, traditionally, was based around rectangular passages with thick load bearing walls, made of large stones held together with local mortar that supported 2 floors. On the lower floor was the kitchen with a wide fireplace, and the main place of activity, also located on this floor were small bedrooms. The upper floor was mainly dedicated to the storage of grains, provisions and oils in large ceramic vats or stores built into the room, a kind of silo restricted by walls. There were also some sleeping quarters located on the upper floor. You may also have encountered small livestock on the 1st floor. On the outside corners of the original buildings, over time, would have been added bedrooms, bathrooms, outside kitchens, store rooms and rooms to house animals e.g. donkeys, sheep, goats. Once completed the buildings took on an “L” or “U” shaped form made up of rectangular passages or naves in the middle of which was located a paved patio with a well or water storage tank. The roofs of the buildings would have been gabled and traditionally tiled.

Also of great interest are; the old part of the village, a path that was originally for droving (the movement of livestock) and which crosses other droves, a medieval “Molino de Cubo” (type of watermill) near to the “Salto de La Viña” and a collection of oil mills.



8. THE MULETEER ROUTE



The route begins at the crossing of the “Cordel de la Viña”, which is the entrance to the tiny hamlet of La Viña on the N-321, a typical village used by muleteers and where you will find several historical routes. After passing through the village the walk travels through magnificent examples of native forests of oaks to arrive at the interesting estate known as the “Hacienda Cortijo del Llano”.

From this zone, the path descends quickly towards the area of “La Ratonera”, where you will find a great biodiversity and lots of examples of our rich heritage. After travelling parallel with the “Arroyo de La Viña”, the ravine of the town of La Viña, cross the bridge over the “Arroyo Blanquillo”. The route starts to ascend gently, passing through distinct farmhouses, it then slopes down again to eventually reach the border of Algarinejo with Zagra. At this point you will reach the beautiful enclave of the river Pesquera and “Tajos de La Cerradura”, the starting point of the “Red Turística del Parque Cesna” (the tourist routes of the park in the hamlet of Fuentes de Cesna).

TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: Rural lane of various widths	
Distance: 7.5	Difficulty: Low to Medium
Duration: Rambling (3-4h) Cycling (1.30-2H) Horse riding (2h)	
Restrictions: Access to motor vehicles is limited (Apr-Jun) to protect the young birds during the rearing season.	

THE ENVIRONMENT

Within this environment you will find narrow valleys emerging onto small fertile plains, in where you will see the outstanding mountain range of “Sierra Tosquilla” to the west and the spurs of the mountain range of “Sierra de Chanzas” to the east. Perhaps of greater interest to the visitor is the variety of its rivers: “Arroyo de La Viña”, “Río Blanquillo” and “Río Pesquera”. There are also many enclaves such as “Tajos de La Cerradura” and the tails of the dam at Iznájar. You will notice continuous changes in the landscape, and various types of woods some dating back to the old Mediterranean forests, before being replaced by the olive trees. In the area of the river Blanquillo you can find a mixture of poplars, willows, elms, sugar cane and “*Tamarix Africana*”.



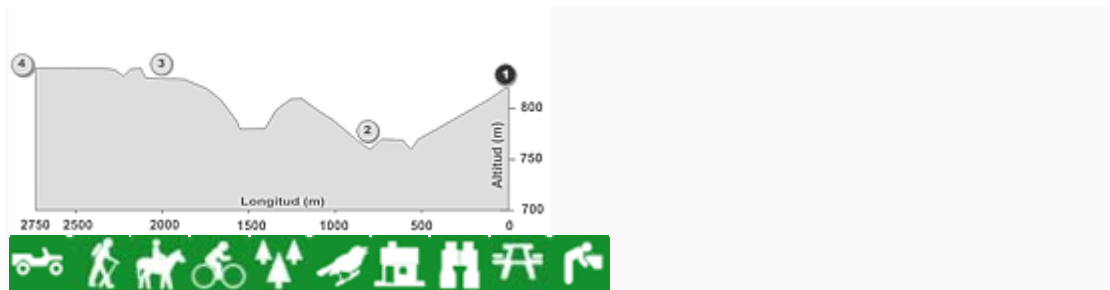
It is known that the surrounding areas which have a permanent water supply, act like true "ecological runners" for the fauna. For that reason, it is no wonder we can observe species like the Genet, the Marten, Bonelli's Eagle, the Osprey (in migration), the Otter, the Grey Heron. Also in this area are Andalusia Barbels, the Rainbow Trout and an abundance of Carp, Black Bass have now also been introduced.

THE CULTURE

The route goes along an old path travelled by muleteers who transported goods between Loja and Priego, La Viña being the resting stop. The type of merchandise carried by the muleteers would have been very basic products for the local community like bitumen, salt, and salt fish which came from the coast of Malaga. Along their route they have left behind a rich patrimony of old farmhouses, medieval bridges and walkways, stone quarries for ashlar masonry and mills. You will find such splendid examples of architecture like the "Cortijo El Llano", dating back to the 17th C and "La Ratonera", an area with a beautiful landscape and an interesting medieval bucket mill, made of great stone blocks. There are many other cortijos along the way in particular the "Cortijo de las Juntas" which is typical of the very old farmhouses.

The route ends at the exceptional enclave of "La Cerradura", where you will find medieval bridges and an interesting network of irrigation channels, together with a bucket mill from the Nasrite period (14thC). In this area two very significant paths cross, the main muleteer route towards La Viña and the main cattle drove of Loja to Iznájar.

9. ROUTE OF THE OLIVE GROVE AND THE OIL



The walk starts from the N-321 road, on the section that connects Algarinejo with the small village of La Viña. It descends gradually until it reaches the area of "El Molinillo", a district of old estates, centenary oak trees, animal drinking troughs and farmhouses set amongst the olive groves. The path crosses the "Arroyo de La Viña" and ascends in the direction of the farmhouse "Cortijo de Cuenca" heading for the source of the spring and watering hole of "Cuenca-Doña Juana".

The route finishes some 700m ahead, with a stretch that is virtually flat. Here it joins Route 5 (Ruta del Pastoreo), which goes in the direction of the river Pesquera. You can continue along Route 5 for a "good" walk.



TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: Rural walk of varying widths	
Distance: 2.7 Km	Difficulty: Low to medium
Duration Rambling (1h 30m – 2h) / Horseback (1h) / Bicycle (30-45m)	

THE ENVIRONMENT

This route is steep and mountainous particularly towards the final section, with variations in altitude along the walk. You will come across different types of environment from the limestone foothills of the “Sierra de Las Chanzas”, the alluvial plains of the “Arroyo La Viña” to the south facing foothills of the “Sierra del Chite”.

As with other routes in Algarinejo, this walk has an abundance of olive groves, where, fortunately, you will still find woods of great Holm oaks like those at the “Casas de la Viña” and the “Dehesa del Molinillo”. Also there are masses of different types of trees along the course of the river, like the well-preserved willows and poplars of the “Arroyo La Viña”.

The wildlife is limited in this area, in part because of the high population and the extensive cultivation of the un-irrigated land. Nonetheless, it’s not unusual to observe mammals such as the weasel and the common fox, or reptiles like the Montpellier snake and the water snake and birds such as the conspicuous azure-winged magpie or the abundant common kestrel.

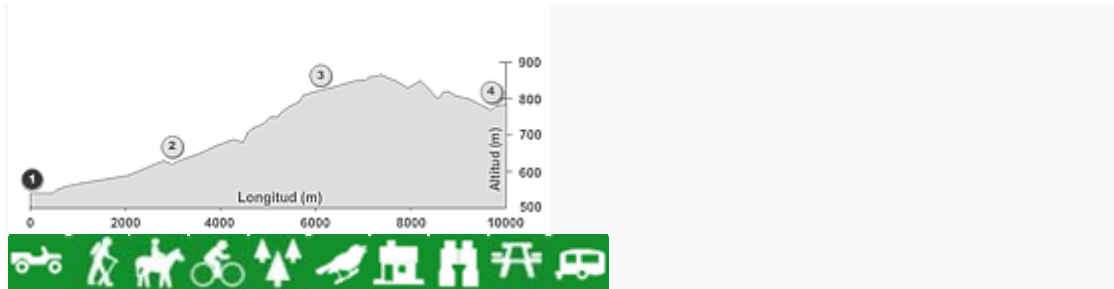
THE CULTURE

Dominating the walk are numerous mature olive groves, of the variety “picual”, that produce olives considered amongst the best quality within the Mediterranean basin. Olive groves began to be cultivated predominantly during the Roman times around the area of “La Viña Cuenca-Doña Juana”, expanding during the “andalusi” phase in areas of flat lowlands at the foothills of the mountains. The cultivation continued over the rest of the area from the 18th C at considerable cost to Holm oak and Gall oak, which populated most of the municipality at the time. Before the modern factories or olive mills, the olive oil was extracted by pressing the fruit using stonerollers, moved by donkeys; the mixture would then be separated to give the oil.

The alternation of old olive groves and old pastures of Holm oak, give you an impression of what the landscape of Algarinejo was once like before the monoculture of olive groves. Enclaves like the “Fuente de Cuenca”, “Dehesa de El Molinillo”, “Arroyo de La Viña” or the farmhouses of “Cuenca” and “Doña Juana” together represent a unique local landscape.



10. THE FRONTIER ROUTE



This route connects with that of Route 1 (the route of the farmer). It begins in the district of Palancar on the road (NO-2) heading west. When you arrive at the junction sign posted for “Puerto Málaga” turn left towards Fuentes de Cesna where you will travel along the road bordered by olive groves, old farmhouses, olive mills and woods of Holm oak.

After arriving at the hamlet of Fuentes de Cesna you will have reached an area known as the “Noria de Cesna” where you will cross the NO-2 to the “Tierras de Cesna” and here you will find the Park of Cesna.

It is here where you can see the most panoramic views across the municipality “Sierras de Castillejos- Chite” including the National Park known as the Subbética to the North.

TECHNICAL INDEX

Type of Walk: National road Algarinejo – Fuentes de Cesna	
Distance: 10 Km	Difficulty: Low
Duration: By car (45min) / Bicycle (2h 30 – 3h)	
Restrictions: Access to all vehicles. Great for walking	

THE ENVIRONMENT

During this walk you should be able to appreciate more clearly the morphology of the area which is very typical of the Poniente Granadino: with rolling hills of olive groves and mountain ranges such as the “Serranía de las Cabrerías” and the “Serranía de Cesna”. Despite the limestone nature of the rock, there is very little water around this area.

In this typically Andalusia countryside, there remain patches of well preserved Mediterranean woods, accompanied by different types of thorny and aromatic plants with Pine trees scattered around. In the zone known as “Cortijo Mahoma – Cortijo Ventorro” and “las Marrojuelas” you will see magnificent examples of Gall and Holm oak trees. This area is also rich in birds and mammals like the common hare and the red-legged partridge. You may also see the short-toed eagle, golden eagle and the vulture, together with hawks, buzzards, the eagle owl, Scops owl and mammals such as the badger, the marten and genet.



THE CULTURE

The border between the Muslim “Estado Nazarita de Granada” and the Christians was maintained for nearly 300 years, between the beginning of the 13th C and the end of the 15th C. During this time the area of the Tower of Pesquera and Cesna was taken over numerous times. There was a large population around the border and hence lots of products were exchanged amongst the different societies. The lands of Cesna were conquered by the Syrians from the year 917, after the wars against the Mozarabs who rebelled under the leadership of Omar Ibn Hafsun. This history has left behind an extensive legacy in particular the remnants of the Tower of Pesquera and the castle of Cesna.

From the 16th C the lands were distributed amongst the population and became very attractive to numerous Spanish populations, as the lands were very rich in water and extremely fertile. There are many farmhouses lining the route, such as the cortijos “Marrojuelas, Cruz de Bujeo, Casa de Bujeo Alto, Nevazo, Ventorro; Mahoma, La Gancha” and the cortijo “Noria de la Gancha”, one of the last waterwheels to be driven by animals.