

NETWORK OF TRAILS SOUTHERN FACE OF SIERRA BLANCA MARBELLA (1)

MARBELLA-JUANAR

DIFFICULTY: Low
TYPE: Linear
LENGTH: 6 Km (Outward)
ESTIMATED TIME: 2:30 h (Outward)

VEREDA DEL FARO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate
TYPE: Circular
LENGTH: 6 Km
ESTIMATED TIME: 3 h

RUTA DE LOS TRES VALLES

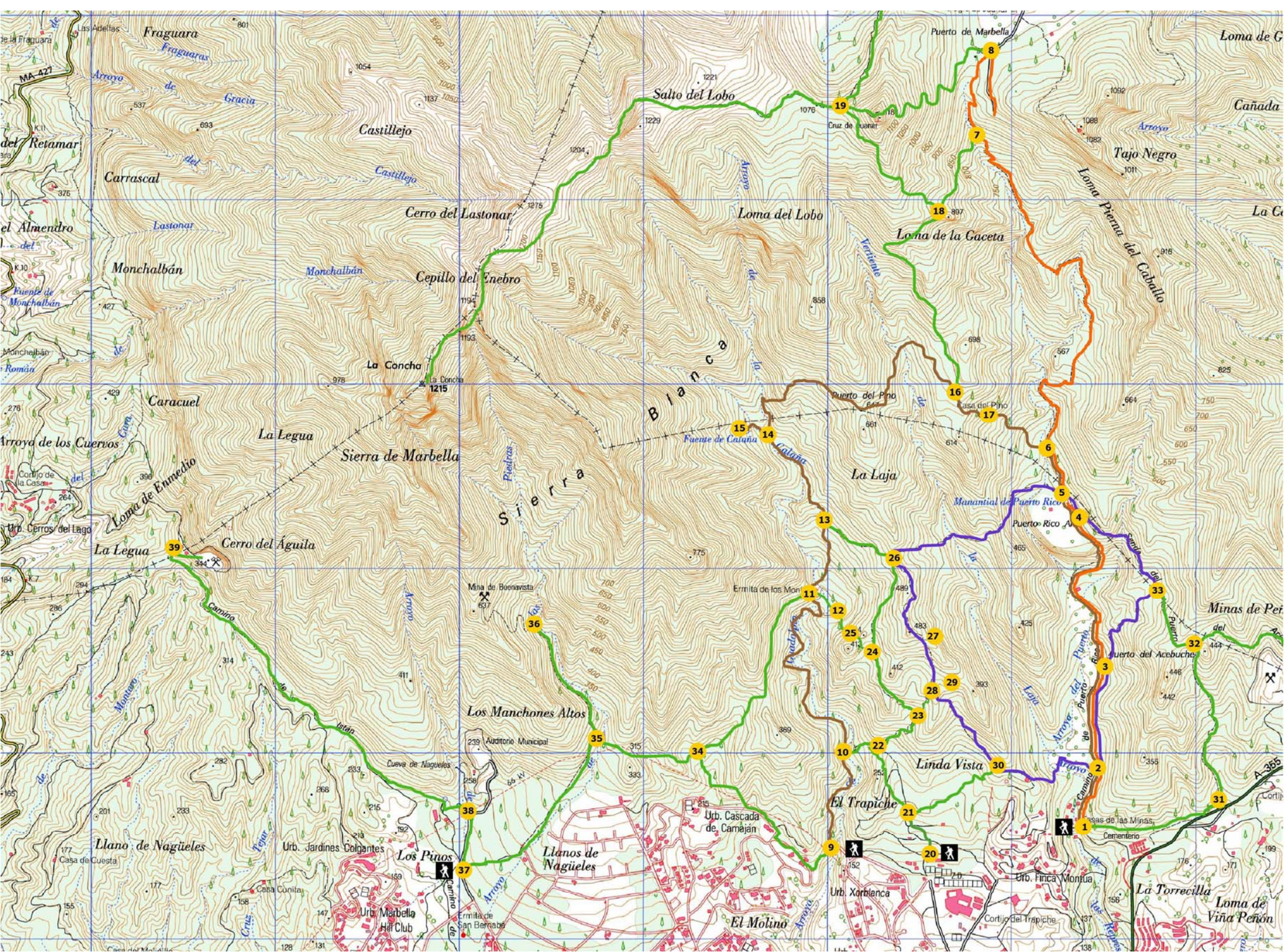
DIFFICULTY: High
TYPE: Linear
LENGTH: 8,5 Km (Outward)
ESTIMATED TIME: 4:00 h (Outward)

OTHER TRAILS



1. CARRIL DE LA VÍA
2. PUERTO RICO BAJO
3. CARRIL PUERTO RICO BAJO
4. CASA DE LA FINCA. PUERTO RICO ALTO
5. PUERTO RICO ALTO
6. CRUCE CASA DEL GUARDA
7. CRUCE PUERTO JUAN BENÍTEZ
8. PUERTO MARBELLA
9. LOS MONJES (LA FABRIQUILLA)
10. CRUCE JUAN RUIZ
11. ERMITA DE LOS MONJES
12. HOYA LA BARRACA
13. VEREDA DE LOS CAZADORES
14. ARROYO DE LAS CARIHUELAS
15. FUENTE CALAÑA
16. ARENAL CASA DEL GUARDA
17. CASA DEL GUARDA
18. PUERTO JUAN BENÍTEZ
19. PUERTO DE LAS ALLANÁS

20. DEPÓSITO DE AGUA EL TRAPICHE
21. FINCA CAPELLANÍA
22. PUERTO JUAN RUIZ
23. HOYA DE LAS GOLONDRINAS 1
24. CRUCE PUERTO DE LA CRUZ
25. PUERTO DE LA CRUZ
26. PUERTO DE LAS PITAS
27. MIRADOR DE LOS GITANOS
28. HOYA DE LAS GOLONDRINAS 2
29. PUERTO DE SANTILLANA
30. LA MONTÚA
31. CAÑADA ANCHA
32. PUERTO DE ACEBUCHE
33. HOYA DE LOS CABAÑILES
34. CAÑADA DE LA RANA
35. VEREDA DE BUENAVISTA
36. MINA DE BUENAVISTA
37. PINAR DE NAGÜELES
38. DESVÍO MARBELLA ISTÁN
39. PUERTO CORREPIÑA. CANTERA DE LA LEGUA



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Respect the tranquillity of the areas you walk in to ensure you do not disturb the local fauna and facilitate their observation.
- Take any rubbish to the nearest rubbish container. You could also collect any rubbish you find along the way and thereby help improve our environment.
- Gather all the information you can on the route: maps, description of itinerary, etc.
- Use adequate footwear and materials, carry sufficient water.
- Try not to go out alone and tell family and friends of your plans. Make sure your mobile is fully charged.
- All the trails on the southern side of Sierra Blanca have significant inclines, so make sure you are well equipped.
- Marbella has unique spots, enjoy them.

SIERRA BLANCA

Sierra Blanca forms part of the most southern foothills of the Andalusian mountain ranges and is located between the municipalities of Istán (to the west), Ojén (north and east) and Marbella (to the south).

It is a small mountainous massif that stands out along the Costa del Sol due to its greyish-white colour and the characteristic shape of one of its highest peaks (La Concha). The maximum heights along the mountain range are to be found at the summit of La Concha (1.215m), Cerro Lastonar (1.275m) and Pico del Juanar (1.181m).

With the approval and implementation of European Union Habitat Directive 92/43/CEE, the Sierra Blanca mountain range has been declared an SCI (Site of Community Interest) with code ES6170011, forming part of Red Natura 2000. It has recently been proposed that Sierra Blanca should form part of the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park, with which it already shares its western border.



MARBELLA CITY COUNCIL
Environment Department:
www.marbella.es/medioambiente
Tourism Department:
www.marbellaexclusive.com

ASOCIACIÓN MUJERES EN LAS VEREDAS
www.mujeresenlasveredas.blogspot.com



MARBELLA - JUANAR

DIRECTIONS

All these trails begin in the area known as Puerto Rico Bajo **(2)**. To get there one must go to the new cemetery that lies at the start of the Ojen road (A-355). From the A -7, take the exit by the La Cañada shopping centre.

When at the door of the cemetery, take the road going down and leave the cemetery to your right. Continue on until reaching Carril de la Via **(1)** where there is the Cascada de Puente Palos car park and a road to the right. On this road to the right is one of four panels indicating the start of a trail, which are located throughout the entire southern face of the Sierra Blanca. To get to the Puerto Rico Bajo car park **(2)** continue 500 metres along this road.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

The road turns into a track with a chain that prevents vehicular access. Continue along this track and after some 300 metres there is a signpost **(3)** indicating the direction to be taken, towards Puerto Rico Alto.

Continue along the track and after 400 metres you will find to the right the Nuestra Señora de la Paz fountain. A little further on, the track forks and you must continue to the right until coming to a signpost marker that indicates a path running to the right. The path begins to ascend the mountain-side leading to the travertine cliffs which can be seen ahead, this formation is known as the Puerto Rico shelters or caves.

At this point the path leads up a sharp incline until coming to a cistern that channels spring water from Puerto Rico Alto. During the ascent there are beautiful views of the valley with Marbella and the blue sea in the background, on clear days you can even see the coast of Africa.

On the travertine cliffs there is a plateau known as Puerto Rico Alto, at this point you will find the ruins of Casa de la Finca **(5)** and an abandoned fruit orchard. Here you will find another signpost which indicates the way to Juanar.

A few metres further on is the dry riverbed of the Puerto Rico Alto spring **(5)**, and it follows to the north towards Juanar leaving Vereda del Faro to the left. The track continues up to the next signpost **(6)** where the path leading up to Casa del Guarda remains to the left. You must continue on in the direction of Juanar.

Continue the ascent until reaching a spring from which flows Arroyo de la Barbacana, more commonly known as Arroyo de la Represa in its urban section. Once passed the spring, you cross an area previously affected by a fire and which is now regenerating nicely.

The ascent continues unhindered and the views expand, to the left is Pico de Juanar and Tajo de Juan Benítez, and to the right is Tajo Negro.

Now almost at the end of the ascent is the signpost leading to Puerto de Juan Benitez **(7)**. You must continue on towards Juanar.

The ascent comes to an end at Puerto de Marbella **(8)** on the side of Pico Juanar. Here is the last signpost indicating the path to the right, towards the viewing point where the route ends.



MARBELLA VIEWS FROM
MACHO MONTES SCENIC
OVERLOOK (JUANAR)

VEREDA DEL FARO (EL FARO PATH)

DIRECTIONS

All these trails begin in the area known as Puerto Rico Bajo **(2)**. To get there one must go to the new cemetery that lies at the start of the Ojen road (A-355). From the A-7, take the exit by the La Cañada shopping centre.

When at the door of the cemetery, take the road going down and leave the cemetery to your right. Continue on until reaching Carril de la Via **(1)** where there is the Cascada de Puente Palos car park and a road to the right. On this road to the right is one of four panels indicating the start of a trail, which are located throughout the entire southern face of the Sierra Blanca. To get to the Puerto Rico Bajo car park **(2)** continue 500 metres along this road.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

The road turns into a track with a chain that prevents vehicular access. Continue along this track and after some 300 metres there is a signpost **(3)**, at which point you must leave the track and turn right towards Puerto Rico Alto-Ojen. The trail continues ascending until arriving at Hoya de los Cabañiles **(33)** where there is another signpost. Here you must turn left towards Puerto Rico Alto.

From here continue to the left towards Puerto Rico Alto gaining a little height and enjoying unrivalled views of Tajo Travertino. This section ends in the ruins of Casa de la Finca **(5)** which is next to a deserted fruit orchard. Here there is another signpost and the path coincides with the ascent to Juanar until, a few metres further on, you reach the dry riverbed of the Puerto Rico Alto spring **(5)**.

The river only bears water when, during the rainy season, the housing located amongst the

bushes a few metres to the east overflows.

Here there is a signpost indicating you must turn left towards Puerto las Pitás. The path continues until it crosses the stream which runs down the ravine and from there ascends along the side of Loma de la Caseta until arriving at Puerto del Pino.

From Puerto del Pino there are splendid views of Cañada de la Represa with Pico de Juanar and Tajo Negro to the left, the Puerto Rico Alto plateau at our feet and the Valley of Puerto Rico Bajo to the south. The path crosses Cañada de la Laja and goes up Loma del Lobo until it reaches Puerto de las Pitás **(26)**.

Here there is a signpost indicating you must turn left towards Mirador de los Gitanos **(27)**. This viewing point is a must to enjoy the magnificent views it offers over the coast of Marbella.

Take the path once again and continue a marked decline to Hoya de las Golondrinas where there is another signpost **(28)** close to Puerto de Santillana **(29)**. Here take the direction indicating Montúa.

Continue descending Cañada de Santillana until arriving at the Montúa clearing, where you will find the last signpost **(30)** and from there descend towards the Puerto Rico Bajo car park where the path ends **(2)**.



PUERTO RICO SHELTERS FROM
PUERTO RICO BAJO

RUTA DE LOS TRES VALLES (THE THREE VALLEYS ROUTE)

DIRECTIONS

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When at the door of the cemetery, take the road going down and leave the cemetery to your right. Continue on until reaching Carril de la Via **(1)** where there is the Cascada de Puente Palos car park and a road to the right. On this road to the right is one of four panels indicating the start of a trail, which are located throughout the entire southern face of the Sierra Blanca. To get to the Puerto Rico Bajo car park **(2)** continue 500 metres along this road.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

This trail coincides with the ascent to Juanar until arriving at the crossroads that lead to either Casa del Guarda or Casa del Pino **(6)**. You must take the path to the left and go down to Arroyo de la Barbacana. Once you have crossed the stream there is a sharp incline up to the ruins of Casa del Guarda **(17)**.

Some 150 metres past Casa del Guarda the path forks into two, in the area known as Arenal de la Casa del Guarda **(16)**. Here there is a signpost, where you must continue to the left towards Calaña.

In this section, the path moves down to Cañada de la Laja to then go up to Puerto de la Adelfilla, and from there, again descend to Arroyo de las Carihuelas, where you must take a left turn.

The path continues descending along Arroyo de las Carihuelas until it joins Arroyo Calaña

(14). At this point there is a signpost and from here you can go up to the Calaña spring **(15)** which normally has water until the beginning of summer.

Continue going down towards Marbella for some 500m following this stream until you come to Vereda de los Cazadores on the left. At this point you must be careful not to continue following the stream. Once you have left the stream you must continue on until reaching the next signpost **(13)** at which point you must turn right, towards Los Monjes. Half way down, there is another crossroads where you must turn right and continue descending towards the ruins of Ermita de Los Monjes **(11)**.

At the Ermita ruins there is another signpost indicating Marbella to the south. Continue descending and at the end of the first incline you will see an impressively large Aleppo pine tree.

The path continues in slight descent, crossing the stream a number of times, and where you need to cross it you must be careful as it is easy to get lost.

You now come to a clearing where the path stays close to the stream and where there is another signpost **(10)** indicating the ascent to Puerto Juan Ruiz to the left **(22)**. Here there is a further signpost indicating the descending path towards Finca de Capellanía **(21)**. Once on the plain, you must turn left along the path that goes up to Montúa **(30)** and from there go down to the Puerto Rico Bajo car park where the trail ends **(2)**.



LOS MONJES HERMITAGE

NETWORK OF TRAILS SOUTHERN FACE OF SIERRA BLANCA MARBELLA (2)

CAMINO VIEJO DE ISTAN - CANTERA

DIFFICULTY: Low
TYPE: Linear
LENGTH: 2.5 Km (Outward)
ESTIMATED TIME: 45 min (Outward)

LOS MONJES PATH

DIFFICULTY: Low
TYPE: Linear
LENGTH: 2 Km (Outward)
ESTIMATED TIME: 1:30 h (Outward)

NAGÜELES-BUENAVISTA-LOS MONJES

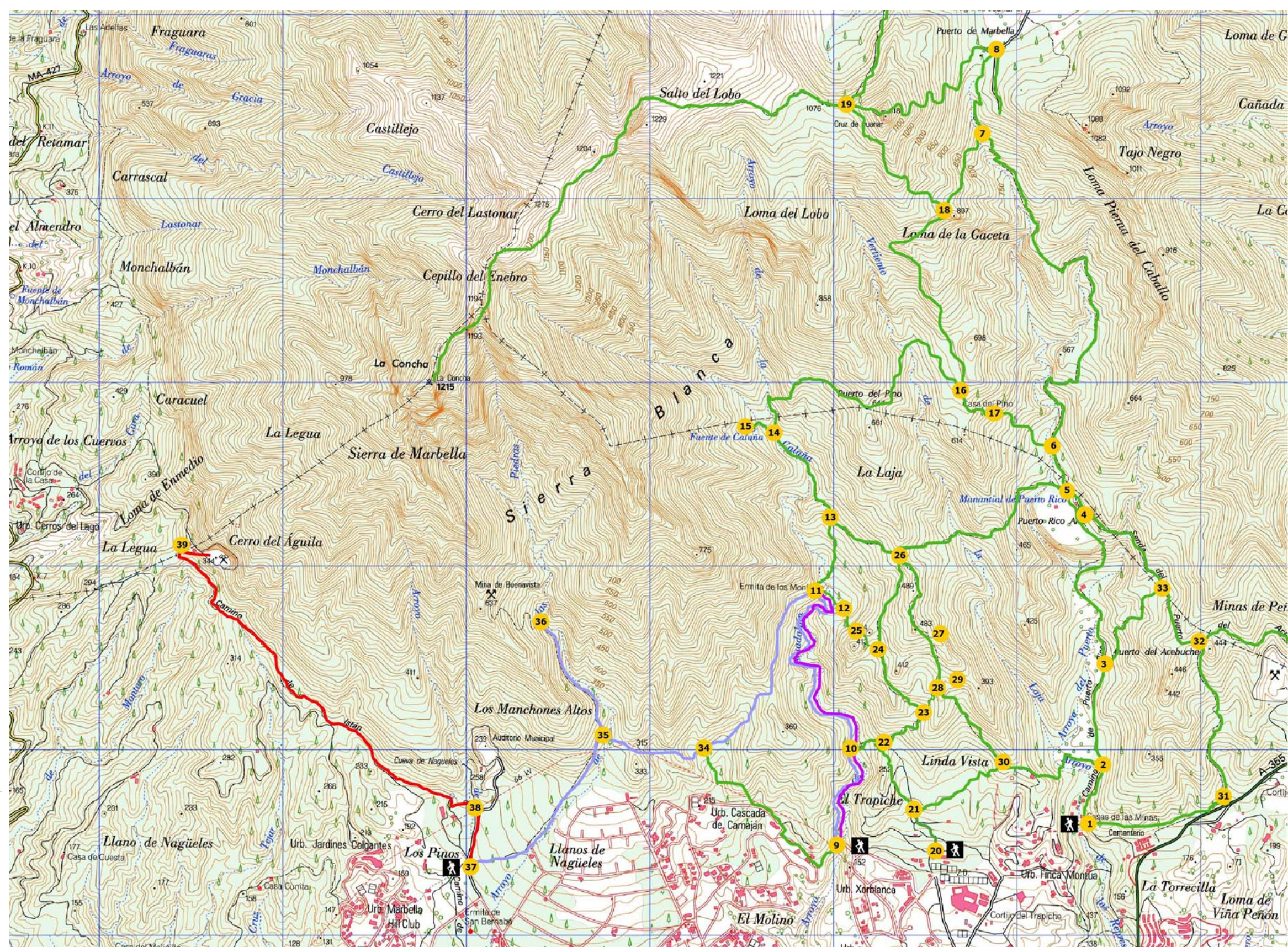
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TYPE: Linear
LENGTH: 6 Km (Outward)
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OTHER TRAILS



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5. PUERTO RICO ALTO
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8. PUERTO MARBELLA
9. LOS MONJES (LA FABRIQUILLA)
10. CRUCE JUAN RUIZ
11. ERMITA DE LOS MONJES
12. HOYA LA BARRACA
13. VEREDA DE LOS CAZADORES
14. ARROYO DE LAS CARIHUELAS
15. FUENTE CALAÑA
16. ARENAL CASA DEL GUARDA
17. CASA DEL GUARDA
18. PUERTO JUAN BENÍTEZ
19. PUERTO DE LAS ALLANAS

20. DEPÓSITO DE AGUA EL TRAPICHE
21. FINCA CAPELLANÍA
22. PUERTO JUAN RUIZ
23. HOYA DE LAS GOLONDRINAS 1
24. CRUCE PUERTO DE LA CRUZ
25. PUERTO DE LA CRUZ
26. PUERTO DE LAS PITAS
27. MIRADOR DE LOS GITANOS
28. HOYA DE LAS GOLONDRINAS 2
29. PUERTO DE SANTILLANA
30. LA MONTÚA
31. CAÑADA ANCHA
32. PUERTO DE ACEBUCHE
33. HOYA DE LOS CABAÑILES
34. CAÑADA DE LA RANA
35. VEREDA DE BUENAVISTA
36. MINA DE BUENAVISTA
37. PINAR DE NAGÜELES
38. DESVÍO MARBELLA ISTÁN
39. PUERTO CORREPIÑA. CANTERA DE LA LEGUA



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CAMINO VIEJO DE ISTÁN-CANTERA

(OLD ISTÁN TRACK)

DIRECTIONS

To get to the start of this trail, you must take avenida Canovas del Castillo and when you come to Pinar de Vigil de Quiñones go up *del Pinar* street. After going under the motorway, carry straight on until coming to a large roundabout.

At this roundabout, take the second exit and continue straight on along Buchinger avenue until coming to another roundabout. There you must take the third exit and continue straight on until coming to Nagüeles Park on the left.

At this point you must leave the road that surrounds the park and follow a smaller road which leaves the pine forest to the right. Just 100 metres away there is one the 4 panels indicating the start of a trail **(37)**, which are located throughout the entire southern face of the Sierra Blanca. This panel indicates the trail to the right, heading towards Buenavista Mine **(36)**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

From this starting panel we must continue along the road and after passing two large houses, take the first left turn at a signpost that indicates direction Istán.

Shortly after starting to ascend along the Camino Viejo de Istan (Old Istan Track), we leave the Manantial de Nagüeles to the left. This section of the track has been recently asphalted and the route is lined with manholes housing the electrics that connect the area of Nagüeles in Marbella with Cerros del Lago in Istan.

You must keep always to the right, following the border of the Monte Publico Sierra Blanca until the tarmac ends and an earth track begins to the right. This is a good place to leave the car if you don't want to walk the previous tarmac section.

As soon as you start on the track, continue straight up until you come to some pine trees on the right, survivors of the great fire that razed the south-western foothills of the mountain range in August of 1991. Continue along the track and some 400 metres further on it borders the mountain towards the right, and from here there are wonderful views of Cantera de la Legua.

Following the track, you will come to a short and sudden ascent. At the end of this, is an esplanade at which point the Municipality of Marbella ends and the Municipality of Istán begins.

You can make a stop on this esplanade to enjoy the wonderful views of Sierra Blanca and the top part of the Peak of La Concha and, if you walk a little to the west, you can also see a section of the Concepcion Reservoir. At the end of this esplanade there are also some cork oak trees that survived the fire. These trees have the peculiarity of being adult trees, although they have the appearance of young trees given that the stress caused by the fire meant that they stopped growing.

The path carries on to the right, climbing up a more pronounced incline until reaching the Cantera de la Legua viewing point **(36)**. Before reaching the viewing point, you can see some towers in ruins that used to be the transportation system for the stones from the quarry used to build the Concepcion Reservoir. The quarry viewing point has benches and tables where you can rest.

From here you can continue on to Istan or return along the same path to Nagüeles.



VIEWS OF LA CONCEPCIÓN RESERVOIR

SENDA DE LOS MONJES

(LOS MONJES PATH)

DIRECTIONS

To get to the start of this path you must go to the Xarblanca School. In the northern area of Marbella, find the bus station on Avenida del Trapiche. On the roundabout at the entrance and exit to the A7 located next to the bus station you must take the exit heading north, directly to Sierra Blanca. At the following roundabout take the third exit and continue straight along the main street until coming to a one way street marked with a no entry sign directly ahead, which is next to the Xarblanca School. If going by car it is advisable to park and continue on foot down the one way street until reaching a road that branches out to the left and is cut off by cement blocks to prevent the passage of vehicles.

At the end of this small incline is La Fabriquilla **(9)** where you will find one the 4 panels indicating the start of a trail, which are located throughout the entire southern face of the Sierra Blanca.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

To get started on the path that ascends to the north you must cross the Calaña stream and turn right until you come to a wall that appears to block the track. Go round this wall to the right and a few metres ahead the path reappears and is well marked out.

On this first stretch we will find two paths, one that goes up the side of the mountain and the other that runs parallel to the stream, both of them come together a little further on. If you choose to go down the stream, you can visit some pools in which to bathe, weather permitting.

After leaving behind a flat clearing with a small pine forest, continue to the left until coming to a signpost **(10)** which indicates you must continue parallel to the stream, direction Los Monjes.

This section of the path continues gradually ascending and requires you to cross the stream several times, where you will need to pay attention as it is easy to get lost.

On the final ascent prior to reaching the ruins of Ermita de los Monjes, to the left you can see a truly impressive Aleppo Pine. At the top of the little ascent, you come to a small clearing where you will find the ruins of Ermita de los Monjes (11 – the Monk's Chapel).

Once you reach here, you can lengthen the walk if you have the energy, or you can return on the same path to La Fabriquilla.



LOS MONJES HERMITAGE



LOS MONJES STREAM



VIEWS OF LOS MONJES VALLEY

NAGÜELES-BUENAVISTA-LOS MONJES

DIRECTIONS

To get to the start of this trail, you must take avenida Canovas del Castillo and when you come to Pinar de Vigil de Quinones go up calle del Pinar. After going under the motorway, carry straight on until coming to a large roundabout.

At this roundabout, take the second exit and continue straight on along avenida de Buchinger until coming to another roundabout. There you must take the third exit and continue straight on until coming to Nagüeles Park on the left.

At this point you must leave the road that surrounds the park and follow a smaller road which leaves the pine forest to the right. Just 100 metres away there is one the 4 panels indicating the start of a trail **(37)**, which are located throughout the entire southern face of the Sierra Blanca. This panel indicates the trail to the right, heading towards Buenavista Mine **(36)**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

The trail begins on this main path which ascends through the pine forest and leaves the other tracks to the left and right. When this track begins to descend, to the right begins the path that goes up parallel to Arroyo de las Piedras and which gradually enters Cañada de las Encinas.

Half way up is a signpost **(35)**, from here you can go up to the Buenavista Mine **(29)** which is some 800 metres away or continue on towards Los Monjes following the path that branches out to the right and then goes down to cross the Arroyo de las Piedras.

Crossing the stream, the path continues until reaching a track where you must turn left to go up to Puerto de los Pilones. Here there is a colony of bee hives, so make sure you don't get close to the

bees. Go down to Cañada de los Pilones to subsequently walk up to Puerto de los Mochileros.

From the Puerto (mountain pass) there is a quick descent to Cañada de la Rana **(34)** where you will find another signpost. Continue straight along Cañada de la Janta until you get to Puerto de Camoján, from where you can enjoy some magnificent views of a large part of the coast. From here the path goes down to Ermita de los Monjes **(11)**.

At the Ermita (chapel) ruins, there is another signpost which indicates Marbella to the south. Continue going down and at the end of the first descent you will see an impressive looking Aleppo pine. The path continues a slight descent, criss-crossing the stream, at these points you must pay attention as it is easy to get lost.

You then come to a clearing where the path closely follows the stream and there you will find another signpost **(10)** telling us to continue our descent to Marbella. The path continues and after passing a small pine forest we come to two paths, one that goes up and the other that remains close to the stream, although both paths subsequently come back together a little further down. If opting for the path by the stream you can visit some pools in which it is possible to bathe if the weather permits. Once passed the pools, continue along the path closest to the stream until you go through a narrow passage where you leave the stream and take a road to the left that ends at the Xarblanca School. As soon as you cross the stream you will get to La Fabriquilla **(9)** where you will find another of the 4 panels indicating the start of a trail, and which are located throughout the entire southern face of the Sierra Blanca.