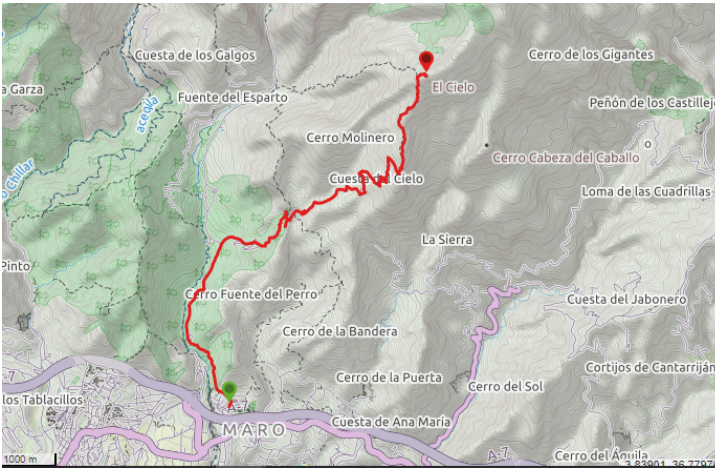


El Cielo from Nerja caves



Start/finish: Nerja caves

Distance: 20km return

Time: 7hrs

Refreshments: None along the trail

Terrain: Forest track and steep rocky footpath.

Highest altitude: 1508m

This scenic trail starts from a car park by the popular Nerja caves. The route follows a forest track along the Barranco de la Coladilla (gorge) initially. The track becomes a narrow, stony path that leads to the peak of El Cielo with its distinctive cross. Magnificent views welcome the walkers.

Starting from the sandy car park by the entrance to the Nerja caves follow a dirt track northwards towards El Pinarillo picnic site. The first 3km of the route is shared with the GR249, waymarked with red/white signs. Follow the Barranco de la Coladilla (gorge) to a clear junction with directional signs, where leaving the GR249, take the right fork towards El Cielo (The left fork continues to El Pinarillo picnic site).



You will leave the dirt track a few times as a shortcut. After 1.6km notice a narrow path on the right that leads up to a viewpoint, perfect spot for a picnic.

Follow the forest track for another 1.6km and reach the remains of a building. The route continues behind the building, but from here it is a much more demanding stony footpath.

Ascend on the zigzagging path for about 1.8km to reach a ridge.



Follow the ridge due north towards El Cielo in the distance. The peak is about 2km from this point, but the last 600m is the most demanding section. Very steep and rocky.

The 360 degree panorama is absolutely worth the long hike to the top.

After a good rest, retrace your steps to the car park.