

Cartajima – Pujerra - Juzcar – Cartajima

Out of the hotel door, turn right and carry straight on between the town hall (ayuntamiento) and the church. Cross over the first crossroads, and wend your way down to the right then to the left and then, when you see a house with a large leafy garden and eagles on the gateposts, turn right and follow the road down out of the village. Pass the goatfarm on your right and carry on the main track, ignoring minor tracks.

At a fork, the major track goes to the right. At the next meeting of four paths, carry straight on. At a fork in the road, look out for the trail slightly left between two cork oaks – go between the oaks. Immediately after that, take the right hand fork.

After a short, steep descent, there is a track off to the right but the main track is straight on.

You meet the main Juzcar-Pujerra road, cobbled at this point, just above the river by a small white building. If you decide not to visit Pujerra, turn right and go straight up to Juzcar. We mention this possibility as the climb up to Pujerra is short but quite steep (+300 metres).

To continue to Pujerra (which really is worth the trip), turn left onto the main track. Cross the bridge over the Rio Genal. (3/4 hr to this point) Note on your left the ruins of one of the three ancient flour mills at this point – the site of Cenay, a Moorish village that was abandoned after the “reconquest” of Spain in 1492.

Just a few metres further on the left is a track going in. There is a waymarked very narrow footpath up to the right.

After a steep bit, the main track appears to go straight on but in fact you need to take the turning to the right. The track is narrow but you will be reassured when you see a waymark. The track goes around to the right and joins a wider track where you turn right.

Cross the road onto a track going up immediately afterwards which is waymarked.

The green signs that you see are the Via Pecuaría or ancient routes for moving livestock – in this case from the mountains to the coastal areas.

You will enter the village of Pujerra on a metalled road and arrive at a lookout point. (1h 20m including snack stop)

There are a couple of restaurants and bars in Pujerra and it is a pretty little village – the most remote of the seven Alto Genal villages. The church square is worth a visit.

Return to the river the way you came up.

At the river follow the main track up to Juzcar where you will arrive opposite the Hotel Bandolero. Turn left and follow the meandering main village street till you get to Torrecheli – a super Spanish bar and convenient watering hole.

Just after Torrecheli, on the right, is a steep but thankfully short stretch of metalled road which takes you up to the main Cartajima to Juzcar road. Turn left, cross the road and look for a signposted track going off to the right.

Follow the main track and its waymarks to Cartajima.

The Small Print: Please be sure that you are prepared for all eventualities. Take sunscreen, hat, water, mobile phone with you. We take no responsibility for the accuracy of these instructions and you do this walk at your own risk. If you need help, please telephone us on +34 696081354 or +34 952180778