

32 NERJA: CRUZ DEL PINTO

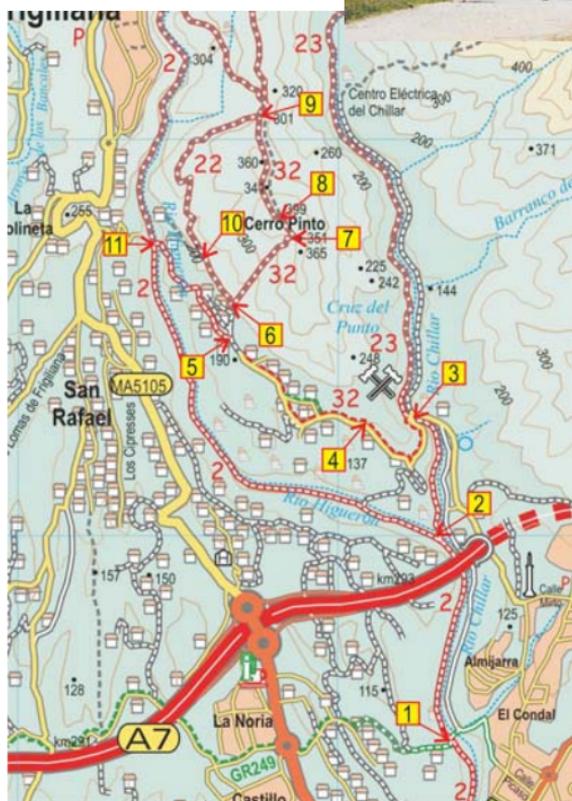
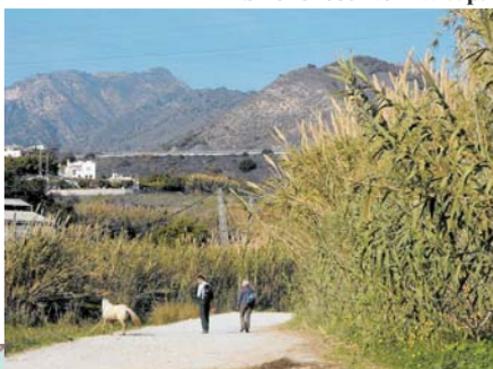
The climb to **Cerro Cruz del Pinto** is a popular walk and with good reason as it offers fabulous sea views and a superb perspective on the park's major summits, including **La Maroma** (Walk 35), **El Fuerte** (Walk 31), **Lucero** (Walk 36), and **Alto de Cielo** (Walk 38). It's relatively easy but gets a high exertion rating for the steep climb between Wps. 6 & 7. The summit is named for Francisco de Pinto, a sailor from Verona who got into a spot of bother in a storm off the Spanish coast in the sixteenth century and promised to raise a cross on the nearest summit if his ship made landfall.



Access: see Walk 23

A 'brief encounter' at Wp.1

The start is the same as Walk 23, the first three waypoints of which appear in the waypoint file for the present itinerary. At the cement works (Wp.3 17M), we bear left on the surfaced track for 'Los Almáchares', the collective name for the *huertas, casetas,*



cortijos and new villas above the confluence of the **Chillar** and **Higuerón** rivers.

Climbing steadily, we pass a rough track doubling back to the right toward the old quarry (Wp.4 25M). We stay on the surfaced track for a further 900 metres, ignoring branches accessing private property, and passing occasional signposts for 'Quinto Pino'.

Leaving the built up area, we reach a pinewood, where we briefly intersect with Walk 22 at a concrete branch climbing to the

right beside a 'Parque Natural' sign, signposted 'Quinto Pino' (Wp.5 37M). Turning right, we follow the concrete track for 200 metres until it swings left toward the gates of the **Quinto Pino** villa, the main way carrying straight on as a rough track.

Our narrow path at Wp.6

At this point, we turn right onto a narrow path flanked by cairns and marked by another 'Parque Natural' sign (Wp.6 41M).



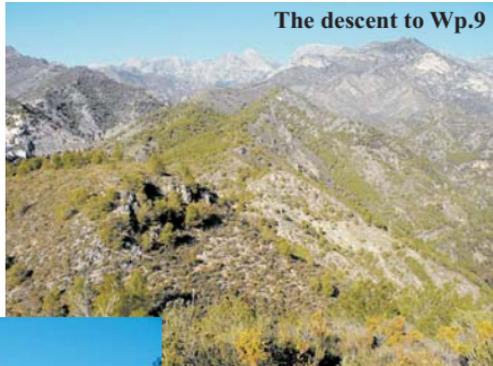
Cruz del Pinto (Wp.8)



The path climbs steadily to steeply amid rosemary, palmetto and pine to a col between two hummocks (Wp.7 54M), where we turn left and climb along the ridge to the **Cruz del Pinto** (Wp.8 58M).

Behind the cross, a rough but less precipitous path descends to skirt to the right of a craggy, pine capped knoll, beyond which we rejoin Walk 22 at Wp.7 (Wp.9 72M).

The descent to Wp.9



Wp.9



Bearing left, we follow the track back round the base of **Cerro Cruz del Pinto** for a kilometre until it runs into the bend of another track above a small orchard (Wp.10 85M), where we carry straight on to rejoin our outward route at Wp.6 (89M).

At Wp.5, we can return the same way, or turn right to descend into the **Higuerón** (Wp.11 99M) and stroll downstream back to Wp.2 (123M).