



El Pinarillo picnic area

ESNERJA · DOWNLOADABLE GUIDE

El Pinarillo: map and walk guide

The easiest mountain walk in Nerja: from the caves to the El Pinarillo picnic area on a wide track through pines, with tables and a fountain at the end.

Access: The Pinarillo track has a barrier by the caves that is usually closed to cars in summer and whenever there is a fire risk, and open in the cooler months depending on the rain: if it is closed, you start walking from the car park.

Up-to-date information: esnerja.com/senderismo/el-pinarillo

4.7 km

one way from the Nerja Caves

9.4 km

there and back, same track

2.5–3 h

there and back with stops

310 m

of gentle climbing

Easy

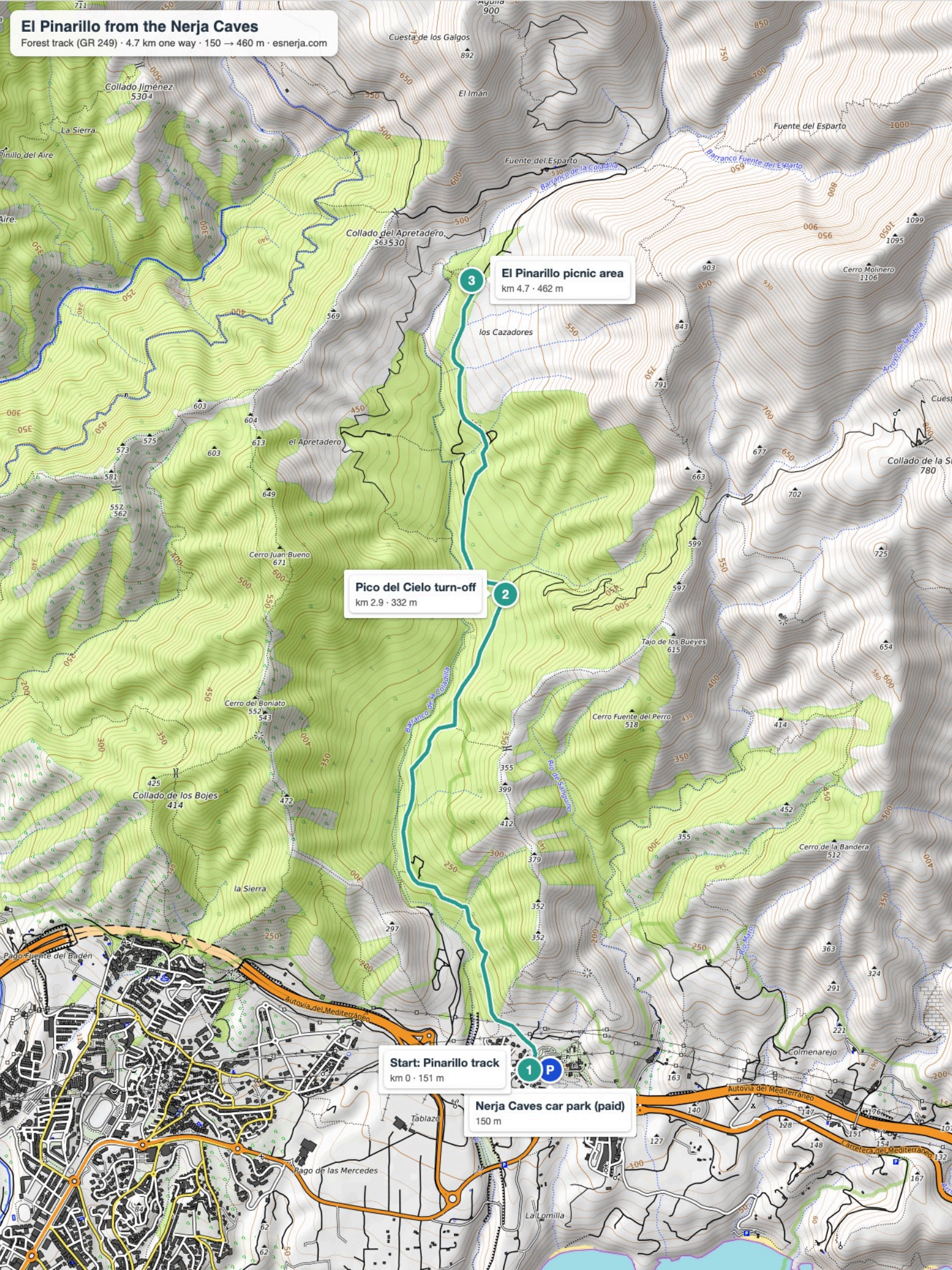
wide track, no difficult sections

Fountain

at the picnic area

El Pinarillo from the Nerja Caves

Forest track (GR 249) · 4.7 km one way · 150 → 460 m · esnerja.com

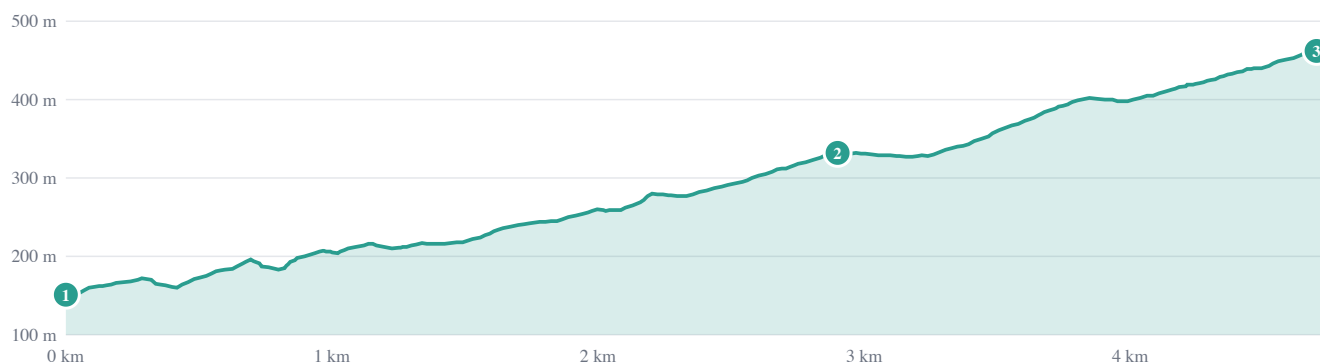
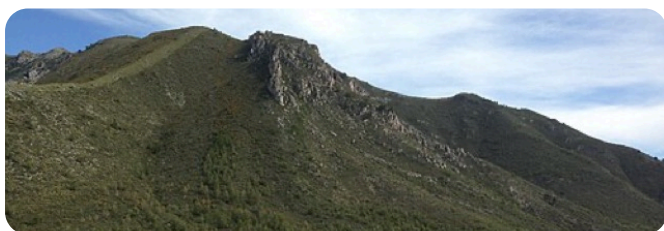


Indicative route. Download the GPX at esnerja.com and save the map for offline use: some networks have no coverage on parts of the route.

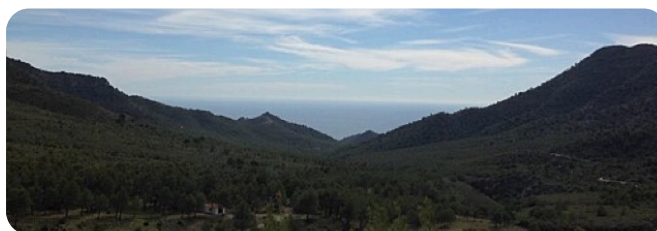
The route, section by section

- P Nerja Caves car park** · 150 m
Paid and attended during the caves' opening hours. The route leaves along the track heading north, west of the car park.
- 1 Start: Pinarillo track** · km 0 · 151 m
A gravel forest track, waymarked as the Gran Senda de Málaga (GR 249). It climbs gently up the valley through pines and Mediterranean scrub.
- 2 Pico del Cielo turn-off** · km 2.9 · 332 m
The Cuesta del Cielo path branches off to the right. Carry straight on along the track.
- 3 El Pinarillo picnic area** · km 4.7 · 462 m
A municipal picnic area with tables, barbecues and a fountain in the shade of the pines. Return the same way; if you have energy left, the Fuente del Esparto is 1 km further up.

Route profile (one way)



The track through the pines · Alexander Wagner García, CC BY-SA 3.0 (Commons)



Sea view from El Pinarillo · Alexander Wagner García, CC BY-SA 3.0 (Commons)

Before you go: safety and tips

Heat and fire. The track climbs a south-facing slope and it gets very hot in summer: start early and carry water (at least 1.5 litres per person). In the natural park fires are only allowed in the designated barbecues, and not even there during the fire-risk season. Some networks have no coverage on parts of the route; **112** works on any network.

With children and dogs

It is a wide track with no difficult sections: fine for children used to walking. Keep dogs on a lead: it is a natural park and authorised vehicles may use the track.

Bikes

Mountain bikers use the track a lot: keep right and take care on bends.

What to bring

- Shoes with good grip (the surface is loose gravel).
- Water, a hat and sun cream.
- Lunch if you plan to stay at the picnic area.

The barbecues

The picnic area barbecues can only be used outside the fire-risk season and when there is no warning from the Junta or the town council. Take your rubbish home.

Getting there

The Nerja Caves are about 4 km from the centre of Nerja, on the Maro road. Buses from Nerja to Maro stop by the caves. The caves car park is paid.

Guide written by EsNerja (October 2026) using the Junta de Andalucía trail sheet "El Pinarillo – Fuente del Esparto – Río Chíllar" (Ventana del Visitante), Nerja town council notices on vehicle access to El Pinarillo and the OpenStreetMap trail line. Map: © OpenTopoMap (CC-BY-SA); data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL); elevation: Open-Meteo. More information at esnerja.com/en/hiking/el-pinarillo-recreational-area.