The Fuente del Esparto

ESNERJA · DOWNLOADABLE GUIDE

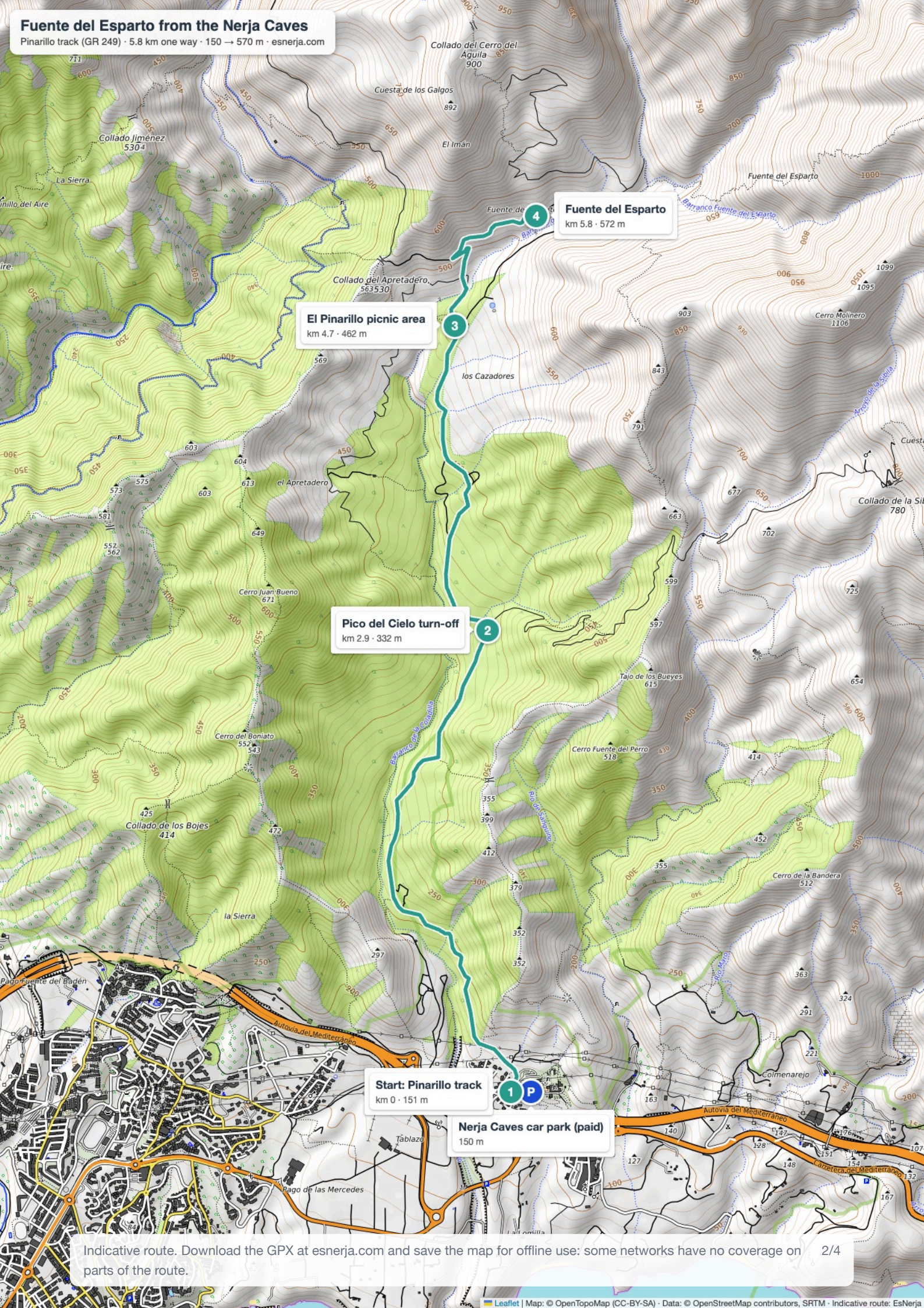
Fuente del Esparto: map and route guide

From the Nerja Caves to the Fuente del Esparto spring along the Pinarillo track: a mountain walk through pines, with the sea behind you, following the Gran Senda de Málaga.

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/fuente-del-esparto

5.8 km one way from the Nerja Caves	**11.5 km** there and back, same track	**3.5–4 h** there and back with stops
420 m from the caves to the spring	**Moderate** wide track with a steady climb	**Water** at El Pinarillo and the spring


Fuente del Esparto from the Nerja Caves
Pinarillo track (GR 249) · 5.8 km one way · 150 → 570 m · esnerja.com
Collado del Cerro del Águila 900
Cuesta de los Galgos
892
Collado Jiménez 530
El Imán
La Sierra
Fuente del Esparto
1000
Fuente de
4
Fuente del Esparto
km 5.8 · 572 m
Barranco Fuente del Esparto
Collado del Apretadero 563530
El Pinarillo picnic area
km 4.7 · 462 m
3
1099
1095
Cerro Molinero 1106
903
los Cazadores
843
791
Arroyo de la Sibila
Collado de la Sil 780
677
663
702
el Apretadero
Pico del Cielo turn-off
km 2.9 · 332 m
2
Cerro Juan Bueno 671
599
725
597
Tajo de los Bueyes 615
654
Barranco de la Coladilla
Cerro del Boniato 552
543
Cerro Fuente del Perro 518
414
Río de Sangüino
355
399
Collado de los Bojes 414
425
472
412
452
355
Cerro de la Bandera 512
379
la Sierra
352
352
297
Río Marín
363
324
291
Pago Fuente del Badén
Autovía del Mediterráneo
221
Colmenarejo
Start: Pinarillo track
km 0 · 151 m
1
P
163
Nerja Caves car park (paid)
150 m
Tablazo
Autovía del Mediterráneo
140
147
176
128
151
154
148
127
Carretera del Mediterráneo
132
107
Pago de las Mercedes
167
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.
2/4
Leaflet | Map: © OpenTopoMap (CC-BY-SA) · Data: © OpenStreetMap contributors, SRTM · Indicative route: EsNerja

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.

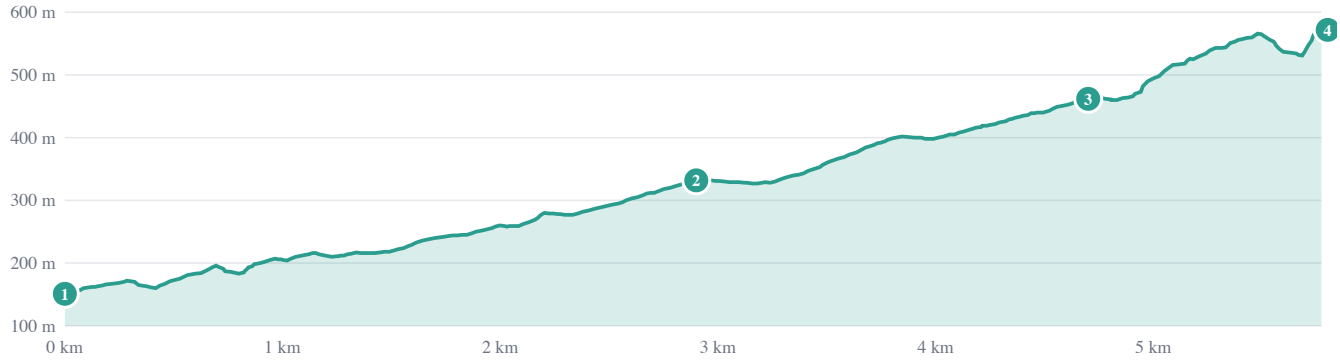
1 **Start: Pinarillo track** · km 0 · 151 m
A gravel forest track, waymarked as the Gran Senda de Málaga (GR 249), through pines and Mediterranean scrub.

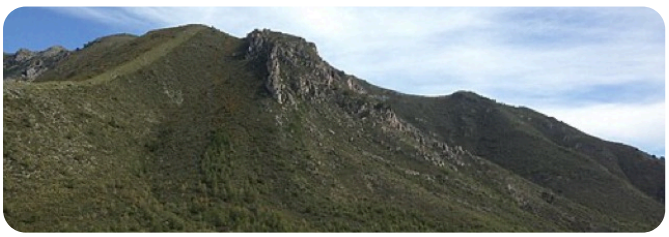
2 **Pico del Cielo turn-off** · km 2.9 · 332 m
The Cuesta del Cielo path (PR-A 477) branches off to the right. Stay on the track.

3 **El Pinarillo picnic area** · km 4.7 · 462 m
Tables, pine shade and a fountain. A good place to rest; many people turn back here.

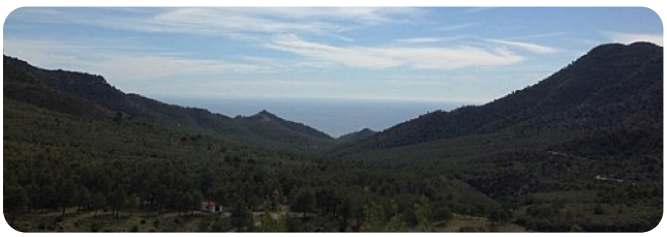
4 **Fuente del Esparto** · km 5.8 · 572 m
A spring by the old miners' houses. The official path down to the Chíllar river via the Cuesta de los Galgos starts here (4.5 km one way).

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)

Approximate distances and altitudes (OpenStreetMap and elevation model).

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.

If you want to go further

From the spring, the Junta's waymarked path goes down to the **Chíllar river** (4.5 km one way, moderate) and the track continues towards the La Furia mines and El Almendrón. Check the status of the Chíllar on esnerja.com first.

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/fuente-del-esparto**.