



Pico del Cielo seen from Nerja · Photo: JesMaxi, CC0

ESNERJA · DOWNLOADABLE GUIDE

Pico del Cielo: map and guide to the climb

Nerja's mountain: from the caves to the 1,508 m summit on the PR-A 477 trail and the Cuesta del Cielo, with the sea at your feet all the way up.

Before you go: there are no springs on the whole route and almost no shade beyond the Civila farmhouse. The summit is often in fog. 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/pico-del-cielo

9.8 km

one way from the Nerja Caves

19.6 km

there and back (14 km from the Cuesta del Cielo)

7–8 h

there and back with stops

1,360 m

from the caves to the summit

≈ 1,500 m

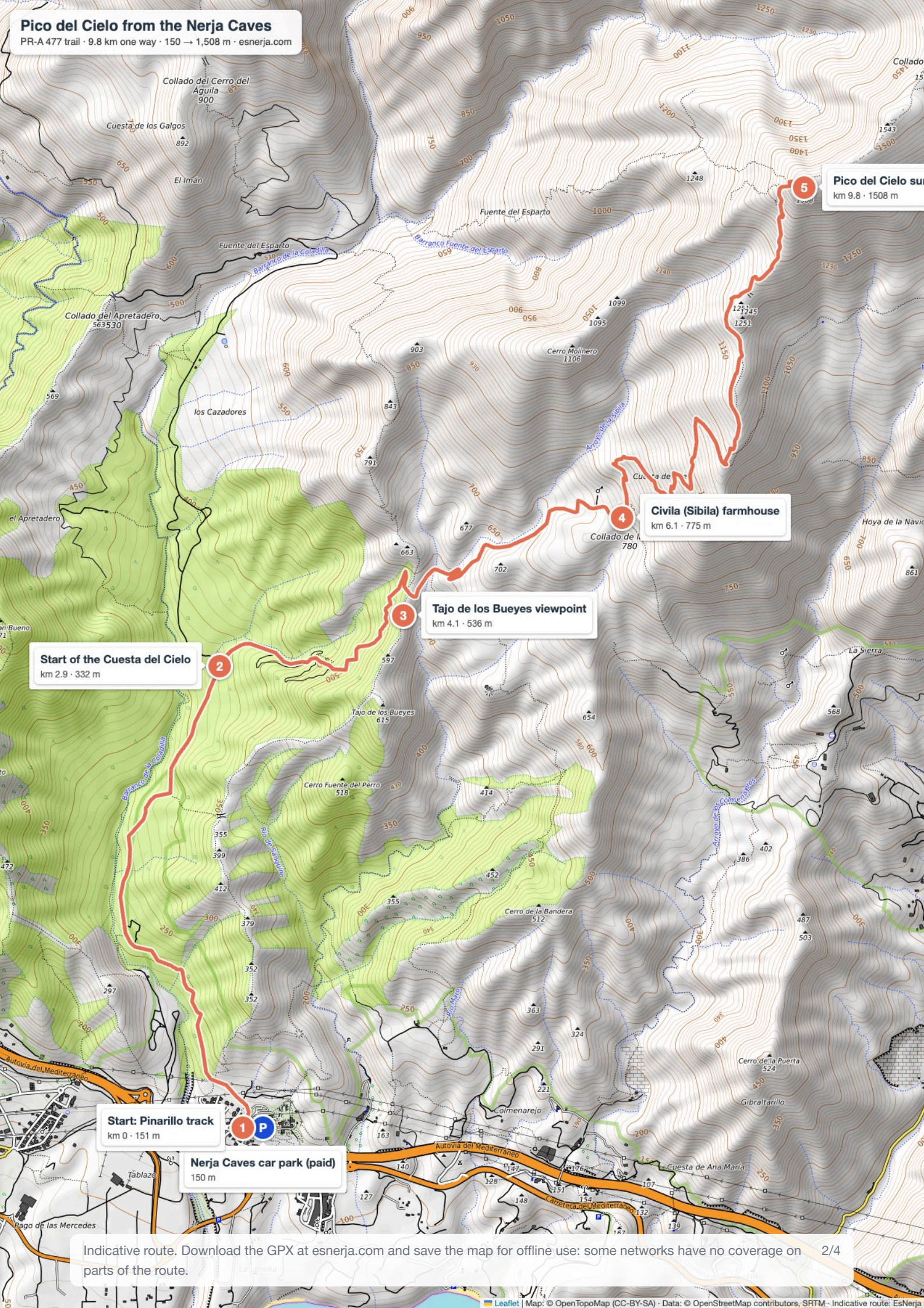
of total ascent

Hard

long, steep and dry

Pico del Cielo from the Nerja Caves

PR-A 477 trail · 9.8 km one way · 150 → 1,508 m · esnerja.com



Pico del Cielo sur
km 9.8 · 1508 m

Civila (Sibila) farmhouse
km 6.1 · 775 m

Tajo de los Bueyes viewpoint
km 4.1 · 536 m

Start of the Cuesta del Cielo
km 2.9 · 332 m

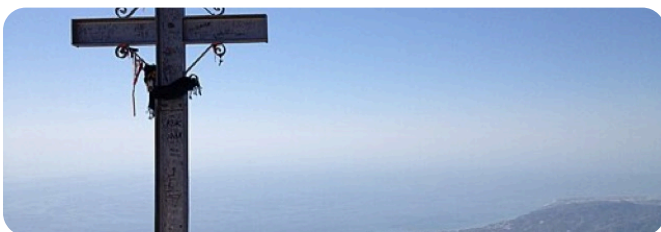
Start: Pinarillo track
km 0 · 151 m

Nerja Caves car park (paid)
150 m

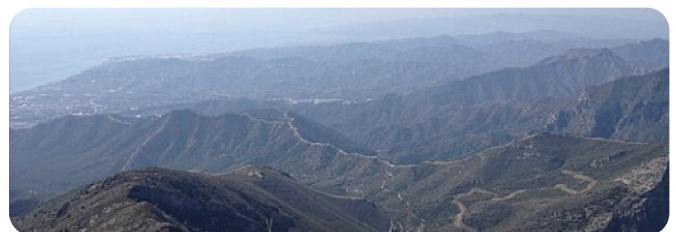
The route, section by section

- P Nerja Caves car park** · 150 m
Paid and attended during the caves' opening hours; in high season it fills up. The route leaves along the track climbing towards El Pinarillo, west of the car park.
- 1 Start: Pinarillo track** · km 0 · 151 m
The first 2.9 km share the track with the Gran Senda de Málaga (GR 249), through pines and Mediterranean scrub, up the Río de la Miel valley.
- 2 Start of the Cuesta del Cielo** · km 2.9 · 332 m
Leave the track: the real climb begins. If the track barrier is open you can drive this far, and the route is then about 14 km there and back.
- 3 Tajo de los Bueyes viewpoint** · km 4.1 · 536 m
First big view of the Nerja and Maro coast from the pine wood.
- 4 Civila farmhouse** · km 6.1 · 775 m
A ruined farmhouse and pass at about 780 m. From here the gradient increases, the pines disappear and the path climbs relentlessly up the Cuesta del Cielo.
- 5 Pico del Cielo summit** · km 9.8 · 1508 m
Trig point and cross. Views of the whole coast, the Almirajara, La Maroma and, on very clear days, the mountains of Africa. You return the same way.

Route profile (one way)



The summit cross · Juan Pablo Olmo, CC BY 2.0 (Commons)



Views from the top · Juan Pablo Olmo, CC BY 2.0 (Commons)

Before you go: safety and tips

No water and little shade. There are no springs on the whole route. Carry at least 2–3 litres per person (more in summer) and start early: beyond the Civila farmhouse the slope is open and the sun is fierce. Some networks have no coverage on parts of the route; **112** works on any network.

Fog and wind

The summit is often in cloud, even when the coast is sunny. If the fog comes down, don't carry on: the last stretch is stony and it is easy to lose the path.

Heat and fire

In summer the fire risk is very high and the Pinarillo track is usually closed to cars. Fires are forbidden throughout the natural park.

The descent

It is long and hard on the knees: keep energy and water for the way down. Poles help on the Cuesta del Cielo.

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.

What to bring

- Hiking boots or trail shoes with good grip.
- 2–3 litres of water, food and something sweet.
- A hat, sun cream and a windproof for the summit.
- The map or GPX downloaded and a charged phone.

If you want something shorter

The track to the **El Pinarillo picnic area** or up to the **Fuente del Esparto** start from the same place and are much easier.

Guide written by EsNerja (October 2026) using the official PR-A 477 trail sheet (Junta de Andalucía, Nerja trail network), the OpenStreetMap trail line and the IGN trig point record. Map: © OpenTopoMap (CC-BY-SA); data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL); elevation: Open-Meteo. More information at esnerja.com/en/hiking/pico-del-cielo.