

GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided

Walk on the marked trails

Please respect private property

Please refrain from making noise



Capturing animals is not permitted

Starting fires is strictly forbidden

Plant collecting is prohibited

Emergency phone: 112

GRANADA

MONUMENTO NATURAL
Cueva de las Ventanas

MORE INFORMATION

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UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

MONUMENTO NATURAL
Cueva de las Ventanas



Castillo de Piñar



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

1,6 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour

• DIFFICULTY

Moderate

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Stairs and cobbles, footpath

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Plains dotted with olive groves and cereal crops, a large part of the trail is surrounded by almond trees.

• SHADE

Scant

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Granada / Piñar

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

992

• START / END COORDINATES

37°26'26.42"N, 3°26'18.23"W



HOW TO GET THERE

To access this route, take the A-4001 road to reach the town of Piñar. Once there, go up to the highest part of the town until reaching the municipal swimming pool, where the beginning of the path is located.



PARKING

There is no car park at the beginning of the trail, although you can park your vehicle nearby.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

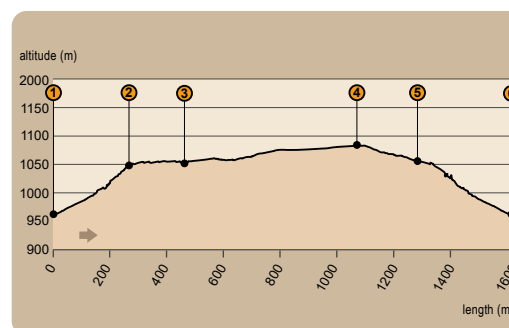
It is not possible to access the trailhead by public transport. The main company running regular bus routes in the area is Alsa (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park includes other trails, which are signposted.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

124

• MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

1084

• MINIMUM ALTITUDE

960



THE CAVE OF WINDOWS

The Cueva de las Ventanas Natural Monument, declared as the Sierra de Arana. It covers an area of some 28 hectares and within it, in addition to the aforementioned cave, are the Cueva de la Carigüela and the Nasrid castle of Piñar.

The significance of the cave lies in the human remains that have been found, dating back more than 20,000 years from the Upper Palaeolithic period, as well as the remains of Quaternary animals, such as cave bears and giant hyenas. The area of human habitation is divided into two distinct parts, the exterior, which is reached by the light from the "windows" at the entrance and where daily life was carried out, and the interior, reserved for burials and ritual practices.

The Cueva de las Ventanas is the only one of its kind adapted for people with physical disabilities in the whole Peninsula. It is also decorated and explained with life-size representations of scenes from everyday life in the Palaeolithic period and reproductions of archaeological artefacts and human burials. It is managed by the City Council, which offers users a guided tour service. Tickets are issued at the local information office, from where you can enter the cave on a lovely little tourist train.



Castillo de Piñar

The Castillo de Piñar trail is a route which is ideal for walking from the upper part of the village to the area around the Andalusian fortress of the same name. It is just over a kilometre and a half long, but its short distance should not be misleading, as the first sections are very steep and you have to climb steep stairs to reach the high plateau where most of the route runs, so please bear this in mind before starting out. Particularly significant are the views of Piñar and its surroundings from the viewpoints built for this purpose and the panoramic views of the Nasrid castle.

The viewpoints

The route starts about 50 metres above the municipal swimming pool, near a small children's playground, on a cobbled path, flanked by a wooden fence where you will find the signpost to the start of the trail [1]. Almond and olive trees flank this stretch which, in order to gain height, has small steps from time to time. The path gradually approaches the crags on which the fortress stands, in the shadow of which the cobblestones wind their way. The slope increases progressively until reaching the first viewpoint, which is located at an old wall in the outer area of the castle, which can be reached by climbing a steep flight of stairs [2].

The views over Piñar and the surrounding areas of olive groves and wheat fields are truly spectacular, and it is not for nothing that the castle enjoys an unequalled strategic position from which it dominates the valley. It enjoyed a virtually unassailable position, at least from the steeper side. From there, the path heads in a westerly direction towards the second viewpoint along the edge of the plateau. The trail crosses a copse of pine trees until after a couple of hundred metres coming to a small detour that will take us to the other panoramic observation area, the Andalusí viewpoint [3]. At its foot of this lies one part of the town's climbing school. The other is in the vicinity of the Cueva de las Ventanas, the natural monument hidden in the subsoil of the whole crag. Both viewpoints are also in great demand for stargazing, as the skies free from light pollution are perfect for this, turning it into an important tourist attraction.



The high plateau

After enjoying the landscape of olive groves, wheat fields, almond trees and small houses covered with gabled Andalusian tiles, the path returns to the main road and continues towards the end of the plateau, following the footpath sign. At this point the cobblestones disappear and the road goes into the middle of the pine forest along a clearly path marked on both sides by two lines of stones, which also help us to see the consequences of human footfall on the grass or turf. Most of the trees seen along the path are young Aleppo pines, although there are also some holm oaks, especially moving away from the rocky cliffs, some of which show obvious signs of overgrazing that prevent them from growing normally.

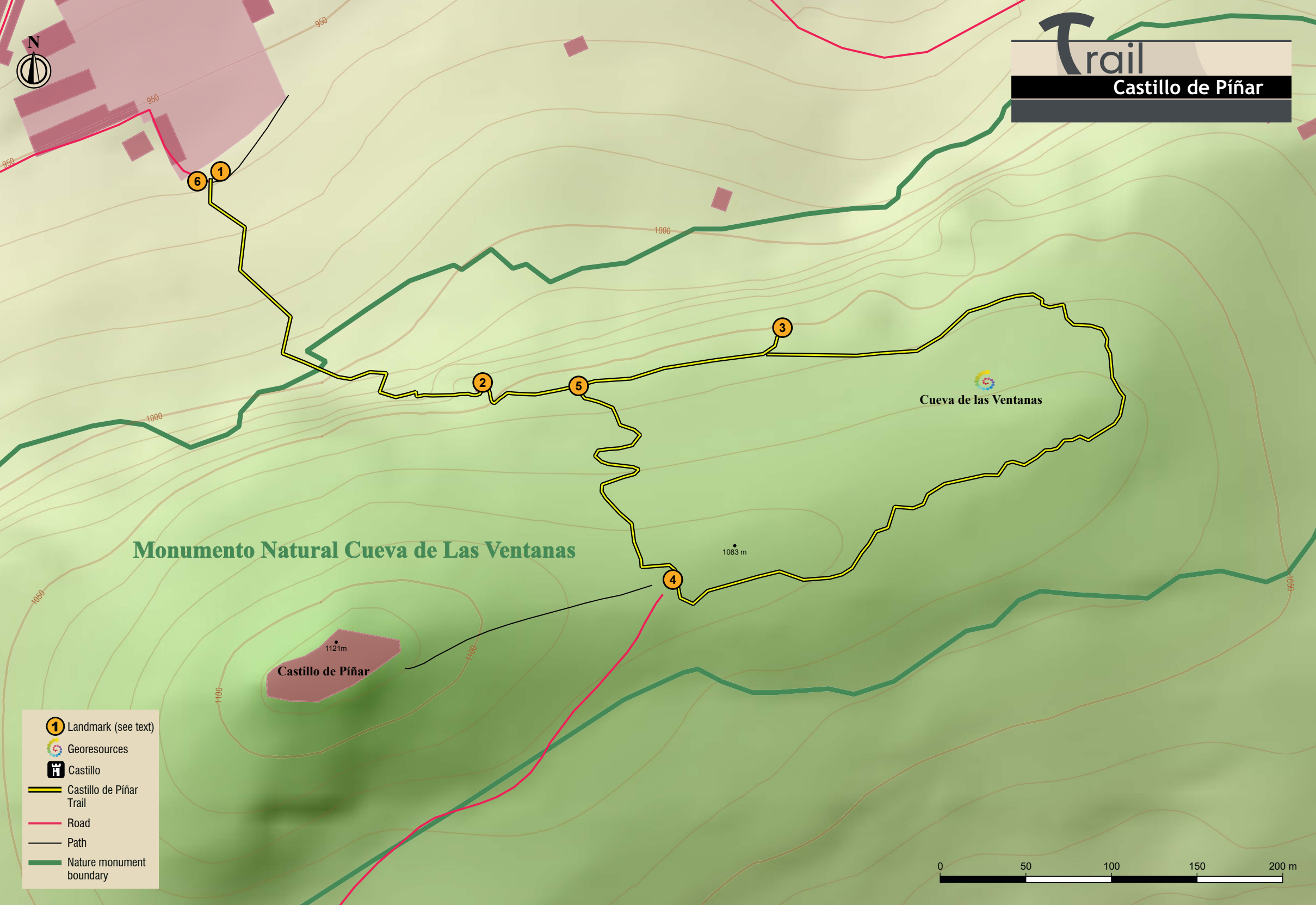
Shortly after, the forest disappears and the route zigzags along a stretch of around 300 metres through a bare area characterised by limestone, the most abundant rock in the Arana mountain range which the crag forms part of, and on which the path sits. If you look closely, with a bit of luck, you may come across rabbits or partridges, a wood pigeon... or the occasional fox droppings marking its domain.

The Castle

The impressive sight of the castle looms ever more clearly over the tops of the pine trees. The path leads an old recreational area and a large car park [4] for those who decide to drive up to the castle. From this point, the path descends, again on cobblestones, to the junction which is left to one side after crossing the first viewpoint [1] and reaching the start of the route on the outskirts of Piñar [6].

The fortress should not be entered because of the danger of landslides. It was built for the protection of the kingdom of Granada during the Nasrid period (13th to 15th centuries). It was an important defence against Christian incursions from the Jaén area. When Piñar was conquered by the Catholic Monarchs, shortly before the "capture" of Granada, its last governor, Sidi al Mandari, decided to leave his land and go to North Africa. There he founded the city of Tetuan, on the ruins of the city destroyed by the Portuguese, which today has been twinned with Piñar since the year 2000.





Trail

Castillo de Piñar

Monumento Natural Cueva de Las Ventanas

Cueva de las Ventanas

Castillo de Piñar

- ① Landmark (see text)
- Georesources
- Castillo
- Castillo de Piñar Trail
- Road
- Path
- Nature monument boundary

