

# # Istán



Istán is like a spot of bleached white plaster in the middle of the green mountainside. The predominant sound that can be heard in its streets is that of water which seeps out of the stones, flowing along the irrigation ditches and channels into the terraced plots of land. All this water, of course, fruit of Rio Verde (Green River) is born and dies in the municipality as it runs into the reservoir that supplies the whole of the Costa del Sol with water all year round.

Visitors can notice when they are getting near Istán, which is located within the Biosphere Reserve, the quality of the light changes. This is due to the subtle combination of colours that are created as the pine, oak and Holm oak trees mix with the bluish reflection from the Green River's reservoir.

It is within this beautiful landscape that one of the most famous examples of the Holy Chestnut Tree can be seen. This enormous, ancient tree is probably the oldest within the whole Sierra de las Nieves park and is dated back between eight hundred and a thousand years. It is about thirteen metres round at the bottom and has been declared a Natural Monument by the regional government (Junta de Andalucía).



## # WALKS

THE VIEWPOINTS  
SOURCE OF THE RIVER  
HISTORIC CENTRE

## PLACES OF INTEREST

The Water Museum  
The San Miguel Church  
The San Miguel Hermitage  
El Chorro Fountain and  
Washing Place  
The Tower of Escalante  
Moorish irrigation channels  
La Esfera  
Fountains  
Via Crucis  
Natural Miradores (Viewpoints)

## WHERE TO EAT

Barón  
C/ Marbella, 8.  
Tel. 95 2 86 98 66

Entresiererras  
Avda. Juan Carlos I, 8

Restaurante Bar La Parada  
Avda. Juan Carlos I.  
Tel. 952 86 96 40

Restaurante Los Jarales  
Ctra. de Istán, Km, 13  
Tel. 610 88 18 93

Rincón de Curro  
C/ Chorro.  
Tel. 607 87 66 44

Troyano  
C/ Plaza, 3  
Tel 636 01 78 44/ 952 86 97 34

Cafetería-Pizzería Tres Cantos  
C/ Marbella, 31.  
Tel. 659 721 437

## WHERE TO SLEEP

H\*\*\*\* Los Altos de Istán  
Las Majadillas. Tel 952 86 99 60  
[www.summahoteles.com](http://www.summahoteles.com)

H\*\* Los Jarales  
Ctra de Istán  
Tel 610 88 18 93 / 952 86 99 42  
[www.losjarales.com](http://www.losjarales.com)





## VIEW POINTS

This walk will take the visitor to all of the seven **Miradores (view points)** that are dotted around the urban centre of the village and on the outskirts and, as such, enjoy some of the most spectacular views of the mountains with the constant sound of the river in the background.

The sight of the water fall at the **Río de los Molinos**, is most impressive, as it goes over the dike before joining the **Green River** and eventually the reservoir. The finishing touch to all this is surely the magnificent backdrop of the **Sierra Blanca (White Mountain Range)** with its sharp and indented mountain peaks.



#### OBSERVATIONS

The entire walk is within the urban limits.  
There is drinking water on the way.  
Can be done anytime of the year.

**DIFFICULTY** : Middle

**SURROUNDINGS** : Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park and Natural Biosphere Reserve





## SOURCE OF THE RIVER

All of this walk is along an edge of the old irrigation channel which allows visitors to experience something of the great natural beauty from both a landscape and an ecological perspective. Several of the other bike or walking routes actually run along the same way and are sign-posted as well, like the [Istán/Cañada del Infierno](#) and the [Istán Castaño Santo](#) routes.

It is the main drinking water supply route for the village of [Istán](#) while at the same time it also provides water for the fertile fields, which, in turn, creates a lovely green landscape all around. The other aspect worthy of mention is that the [River Molino](#) has its source here, and there are still lots of existing water mills along its length.



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#### OBSERVATIONS

80% of this walk passes through the countryside while 20% of this walk is within the urban limits.

There is drinking water on the way.

Can be done anytime of the year.

Can be done either daytime or at night.

Excellent panoramic views.

#### DIFFICULTY - Middle

SURROUNDINGS - Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park and Natural Biosphere Reserve



- 1 La Estrella
- 2 W. Clovis Fountain and Viewing Point
- 3 Square Puente del Chá
- 4 Azulejo Viewpoint
- 5 The Casa juvenil Viewpoint
- 6 The Peñón Viewpoint
- 7 The Tajo Barbano Viewpoint
- 8 The Hermita Walk
- 9 The Calles Cross
- 10 The San Miguel Church
- 11 The Coto Walk
- 12 The Course M3 River
- Beginning of the walk





## HISTORIC CENTRE

One of the best aspects of this walk is that the visitor has the opportunity of appreciating the influence that the Arab culture had on this village in many different ways. The marks of this influence can be seen in the layout and design of the urban development with its old houses rising alongside the steep, narrow streets up to the **Torre de Alquería** and the strongholds on the top. Furthermore the abundant number of water sources and irrigation channels that can be discovered within and without the urban centre, are also proof of the outstanding genius of the Arab people to make the most of the resources that they had, and the lay of the land.



