

# # Tolox



Located at the heart of la Sierra de las Nieves, it is a land of constant colour changes that range from the stony white of the limestone to the mud red of the more sturdy rock formations higher up, amongst which is the emblematic peak called Torrecilla. This summit stands high at 1919 metres and is the highest within the whole province of Malaga, and the third deepest fall in the world. Another very special spot in the area is the source of the Rio Verde (Green River).

All of this rich diversity creates a wonderful postcard-like landscape and one of the most attractive natural beauty spots in the whole province, especially when it snows and the white blanket covers most of the area. This is not, however, the only place worthy of mention for its beauty in the municipality of Tolox. As just north of the territory the mountain ranges drop off suddenly forming impressive and very deep cliff-like walls. The two most dramatic are the Cañada de las Carnicerías and the one that is a little further away near the Horcajos River, where the forests cling to the sheer cliffs to form hanging forests.

On leaving the highest parts of the mountain ranges, visitors will leave behind the cliffs and fast running water and exchange them for a more smooth looking landscape full of rolling hills and olive groves, fields of cereal crops, vegetable plots and fruit tree orchards.

The village is built true to Arab design and style, the best example of which is the part named, la Rinconada del Castillo or el Barrio Alto. This part is made up of extremely narrow windy streets that adapt to the lay of the mountainous land they are built on. As is normal for these places it seems that each corner has a wonderful selection of hanging flowers to delight the visitor. One aspect that is perhaps worth mentioning is the presence of a spring of bitter water which has certain medicinal properties that are used by some to cure certain ills.



## # WALKS

RINCONADAS DEL CASTILLO  
BARRIO ALTO  
FUENTE AMARGOSA  
PASEO DEL BALNEARIO

## PLACES OF INTEREST

The San Miguel Arcángel Church  
Corners of the Castle  
The Spring of Bitter Water Spa  
Upper Square  
San Roque Hermitage  
The Manor House of Hidalgo  
Fernández Villamor

## WHERE TO EAT

Bar Avenida  
Avda. Balneario, 20  
Tel. 952 48 75 24

La Rústica  
Avda. Balneario, 19.  
Tel. 952 48 72 05

El Tajo  
Avda. San Roque.  
Tel. 677 51 40 27

Terraza La Alberca  
C/ Encina, 65.  
Tel. 952 48 73 35

Venta Verita  
Las Millanas, s/n.  
Tel. 952 48 01 70

## WHERE TO SLEEP

H \*\*\* Cerro de Hajar  
Cerro del Hajar, s/n  
Con. del Balneario  
Tel. 952 11 21 11 / 605 88 54 30  
[www.cerrodelhijar.com](http://www.cerrodelhijar.com)

H\*\* El Balneario  
Tel. 952 48 70 91 / 679 42 94 54  
[www.balneariodetolox.com](http://www.balneariodetolox.com)

P\*\* Las Flores  
Avda. del Balneario, 11  
Tel. 952 48 70 01

P\*\* Martín  
Avda. del Balneario, 33  
Tel. 952 48 70 49

P\*\* La Torrecilla  
Camino de la Fonda, 33  
Tel. 952 48 72 15

P \* La Fuensanta  
C/ Animas, 1  
Tel. 952 48 71 03

RH Los algarrobos de Ardite  
Ardite, 7  
Tel.: 636 378 073 / 649 178 855  
[www.ardite.sierradelasnieves.net](http://www.ardite.sierradelasnieves.net)

Los Manueles  
Avda. del Balneario, 42- D  
Tel. 952 48 70 91 / 679 42 94 54

Rural House La Posada Azul  
C/ Nueva, 4  
Tel. 607505211 / 610704877  
[www.intoandalucia.com](http://www.intoandalucia.com)

Rural House Las Millanas  
Paraje Las Millanas  
Tel: 952 48 07 03





## THE CASTELL WALK

This walk takes the visitor into the old area surrounding the [Castle](#) with its narrow streets and hidden flowery corners that help to maintain a somewhat Arabic design and feeling, albeit for the original decoration done by the locals.

Along streets that are lined by the remains of the old Arab castle, there are great views of the [Alfaguara River](#) below and some of the ancient wheat mills as well as the hill named [La Cruz Paventura](#).

There is a small tunnel at the end of this street, which used to be an entrance arch to the castle in its day. History has it that back in 883 the Omar - [Ben Hafsum](#), took control of the castle and decided to strengthen it and turn it into one of his strongholds to protect the headquarters in [Bobastro](#). Further along the walk the visitor comes across the [Parish Church](#) that goes by the name of [San Miquel Arcángel](#) which too served as a refuge for the Christians when the Moors rebelled against them.

The next stop is at the [El Museo de Artes Populares y Tradiciones Populares](#), which is in the [Arts Centre](#) in the village. This museum has two rooms: one which houses all the local tools that people once used in their work in the houses and in the fields as well as objects from the mills like the milling stones. The other room contains a very old style bedroom with an iron bed, a woollen pillow, a washing basin, a baby's cot and even a [MISAL](#) from 1864. There are also old toys, iron keys, ration cards, etc.

The route ends up when the road to the Spa is reached once again and with a left turn the visitor will find him or herself back at the point of departure.



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OBSERVATIONS

100% of this walk is within the urban limits.  
 There is drinking water on route.  
 Can be done all year round.  
 Can be done during daytime or at night.

DIFFICULTY : Easy

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



CIRCULAR



- 1 Office of Tourism, The Arts and The Popular Traditions museum
- 2 The San Miguel Arcangel Church
- 3 Neighborhood castle
- 4 The Upper Quarter
- 5 Upper Square
- 6 The Spa
- 7 The Amargosa Fountain
- Beginning of the walk



## THE UPPER QUARTER

This walk goes up into what is known as the [Barrio Alto \(the upper quarter\)](#). The whole walk takes place amongst the beautiful streets which are lined with outstanding examples of the typical white-washed houses that are so abundantly dressed up in blankets of precious flowers in all kinds of multicoloured flower pots. There are also large old manor houses that have elegant wrought iron gates and balconies, which used to clearly set the limits as to which part of the street and surrounding territory belonged to which house.

One of the most outstanding streets that is most worthy of mention is named [Calle Río Verde, \(Green River Street\)](#) which used to be where the river itself flowed down through [Calzada Square](#) until it joined the [Caballos River](#) further on down in the lower part of the village.

Once the visitor is halfway up the route some wonderful views of the village open up, which show how integrated it is, into the [Natural Park](#).

From here it is all downhill through the streets to [Plaza Alta \(Upper Square\)](#), where there are some fine examples of old Manor houses. The end of the walk is not far and takes the visitor back to the starting point.

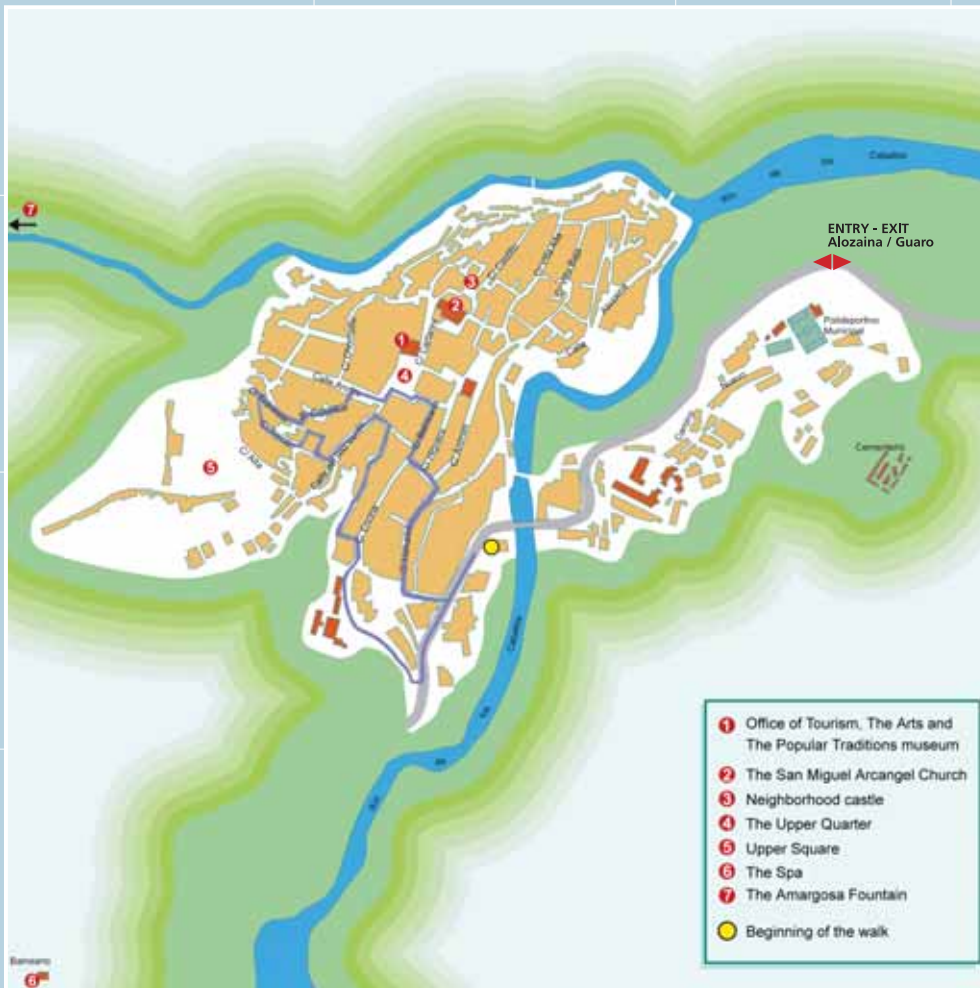


#### OBSERVATIONS

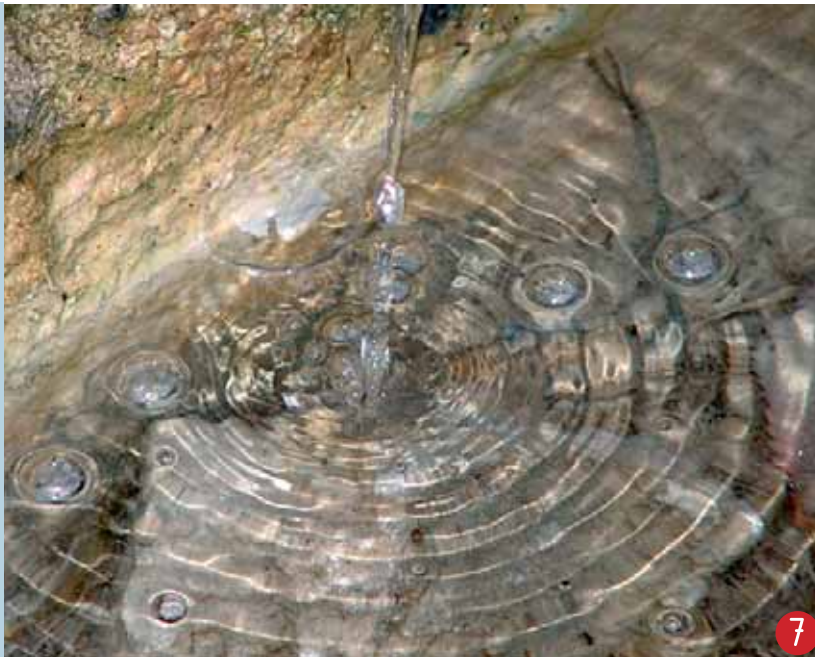
100% of this walk is within the urban limits.  
 There is drinking water on route.  
 Can be done all year round.  
 Can be done during daytime or at night.  
 Excellent photographic route.  
 Links in with the Acequia de Molino route.

DIFFICULTY : Easy

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



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## AMARGOSA FOUNTAIN

A comfortable walk that mixes part of the urban centre and country paths, taking visitors into the lovely woodland alongside the river. The river banks of the [Alfaguara](#) are rich in vegetation with narrow stretches of ash trees, Holm oaks, rosebay, and hedges.

A little further along the visitor will be able to taste the somewhat bitter mineral water at one of the most famous springs in the province of Malaga: [La Fuente Amargosa](#), which gets its name from the very same taste of its water. However, its fame spreads all over the province as a cure for many an ill condition.

There are two mills on the path and another one on after the spring of water. These mills speak of the past activities that used to go on thanks to their constant source of power and visitors can almost conjure up the beast of the country pulling the millstones around under the watchful eye of the mill keeper.

The old living quarters and store rooms used by the workers of these mills to shelter from the rain and keep their tools are still visible with their iron poles, branches and roof tops amongst the beauty of this enchanting valley..

Back to the start through wonderfully picturesque streets with an outstanding example of a [Phoenician Ceramic](#) to end the route.



#### OBSERVATIONS

50% of the walk is within the urban limits, while the other 50% is in open countryside.  
 There is drinking water on route.  
 Links in with the Castle Corners walk and the Walk around the Upper Quarter.  
 Can be done all year round.  
 Best done during the daytime.

**DIFFICULTY :** Easy

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







## THE WALK TO THE SPA

This walk is very popular with both visitors and locals ([Tolitos](#)) alike due to the peace and quiet, shade and delightful colours that the 15 to 20 metre high eucalyptus trees, that were planted by the local school children in 1930, as part of their natural history activities and today line the pathway.

About 750 metres along the path visitors will come across the [Balneario de Fuente Amargosa](#), which was built in 1867 when a [Tolox-born](#) doctor by the name of [D. José García Rey](#) discovered the medicinal waters there. It was totally destroyed by a three-hour long storm in 1906 but was rebuilt soon after. The waters here are medicinal and can cure all sorts of respiratory complaints as well as helping to unblock different kinds of arteries.

From the Spa the visitor can enjoy some wonderful views of the [Natural Park of la Sierra de las Nieves](#), which is surrounded by the [River Caballos](#) with its fresh crystal-clear water which comes from the very heart of the mountains.

From this point the walker can either choose to go back to the start of the way, or turn to a parallel route, that follows a leafy path and continues past an old water spot called the [el Pantano](#), which is used to water the allotments and gardens that are located nearby. The special [Iglesia del Balneario \(Spa Church\)](#) can be spotted amongst the vegetation and they still hold mass there during the summer months when the Spa is open to the public.



**OBSERVATIONS**

50% of the walk is within the urban limits, while the other 50% is in open countryside. There is drinking water on route. Can be done all year round. Best done during the daytime.

**DIFFICULTY :** Easy

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

