

#Yunquera



Yunquera owes its name to the large number of reeds (juncos) that can be found in the vicinity and, as everyone well knows, where there are a lot of reeds there is also an abundant supply of underground water.

It also happens to have the most extensive covering of Pinsapos, (Spanish Fir) in the whole region and the visitor to the area will be struck by the greenness as he or she contemplates nature at its best in the Sierra de Las Nieves. In fact to call it green does no real justice to the truth, as there are such a limitless number of different shades of green, that at times it seems there are no two plants alike in the whole valley or mountains. It really is a magical spot where time has almost stood still and there is a kind of primeval feel to the whole place that will not leave the visitor indifferent.

It seems to go back to Roman times, although there are no remains from that period today. What is known though is that it was a place where the Christians were living when the Berber Invasion took them by storm in the VIII century. The splendid La Torre Vigia (The Arabic Watchtower) that stands high up above the village today is evidence enough of the presence of an impressive stronghold from the past. A visit to the top is well worth it as it opens up some magnificent views of the overwhelming beautiful natural beauty that surrounds Yunquera.



WALKS

PASEO DEL AGUA
CAVES OF THE COWS
LA CRUZ DEL POBRE
LA TORRE VIGIA

PLACES OF INTEREST

The la Cruz del Pobre Hermitage
Nfra. Sra. Encarnación Church
The "Los Patos" Mill
The Watch Tower
The Calvario Hermitage
Nacimiento de Plano

WHERE TO EAT

Abanico, El
C/ Calvario,14.
Tel. 952 48 28 96

Asencio
C/ Mesones, 1
Tel. 95248 27 16

Restaurant Enara
Ctra. Sierra de las nieves, s/n
Tel. 952 48 25 24
www.sinatur.es

Casa Pedro
Camino del Sao, 1
Tel.952 48 27 73

EL Castillo
La venta
Tel.952 48 25 03

Don Serrano
Avda. Sierra de las Nieves, 26
Tel. 952 48 25 21

Merino
C/ Nacimiento, 14
Tel.952 48 26 20

Quini, El
Camino del Sao, 4
Tel. 952 48 25 03

Bodegas EL Por Fin
C/ Agua, 26
Tel. 95248 28 25

Miguel-Miguelín
Pol. Ind. Sierra de las Nieves
Tel. 620 441 712

WHERE TO SLEEP

P* Asencio
C/ Mesones,1
Tel.952 48 27 16
www.hostalascencio.com

Rural House Casa Esperanza
C/ Alozaina
Tel.952 30 84 44/ 610 733 5 18

Rural House El Desahogo
C/ Cerrillo, 71
Tel. 952 29 93 52
www.demalaga.com/desahogo/

Rural House El Molino de la Teja
C/ Sauquillo, 14.
Tel. 95248 27 75

Rural House Sauquillo
C/ Sauquillo, 7
Tel. 952 48 27 21/ 676 445 571

CAMPING

Pinsapo Azul (3)
Con. Forestal Sierra de las Nieves, s/n
Tel. 952 48 27 54
www.campingpinsapoazul.com





THE WATER WALK

This walk takes us down the cobbled stone street known as [Calle Agua \(the street of water\)](#), which used to be where most of the water used to flow down from the river and thus it was lined with reeds almost all the way. The village name comes from the word for reeds, junco. It is in this street that the famous [Mosto Yunquerano](#) can be tasted at the local tavern.

Another of the other attractions to be seen on this route is the [Natural Museum](#) which includes several mills like [los Patos](#), which today still has the original water source channels in working order. The way is riddled with all kinds of irrigation ditches, trenches and bridges that all come together to form an impressive system that still feeds the agricultural needs of the village's terraces and allotments.

Once the aqueduct is passed the walk comes to the river and follows its course for a while until something catches the walkers eye just to the side of an old irrigation channel. It is [Molino la Teja](#), an old mill that today has been totally rebuilt and turned into a lovely country house that can be rented out. For details, ask in the tourist office.

This walk is mainly through the urban limits of the village, but it also takes the visitor through places that help to get glimpses of the wonderful natural environment that surrounds him or her on the stroll. There are some spectacular sights of [Torrecilla](#), [Tajo de la Caña](#), [Cerro Corona](#) and of course, the most important [Bosque de Pinsapos](#), [Spanish Fir Forest](#), in the whole of Europe.



OBSERVATIONS

85% of this walk is within the urban limits and the other 15% is on the outskirts, so in the wetter months of Autumn the countryside may be especially muddy.

There is drinking water on route.

Can be done all year round.

Best done during daytime.

It links with the GR347 and the

Watchtower walk.

Excellent panoramic views.

DIFFICULTY Easy on foot. Medium-high by bike

(it is a little difficult at the outset).

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





CAVES OF THE COWS

This peaceful stroll around the village's narrow, windy streets reveals a lovely selection of typical humble homes which are still within the wall that used to enclose them when the village was under Arab rule. Some of the houses are craftily built on the rocky outcrop and use the ancient Arabic defence wall as the very walls of the building. It is on this same Arab wall that one of the most impressive buildings in the whole village stands; [La Iglesia de la Encarnación](#).

A visit to a place that the locals call [La Cueva de La Vacas](#), as it was a place that the shepherds used to shelter their cattle and animals, is a must as the views of the natural surroundings around the village from this elevated place are spectacular. The panoramic view of [la Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park](#), as you look out over the terraced allotments fed by intricately designed irrigation channels, is truly breathtaking. The fresh green of the Spanish Firs contrasts with the almost white limestone and the chestnut trees that are a special feature in the [Yunquera](#) area and all together they create a beautiful chromatic postcard of an almost perfect mountainous landscape.

The route carries on along an old irrigation channel between the cemetery and the [Cruz del Pobre](#), and almost all the way along the visitor is treated to the sight and smells of one of the protagonists of [la Sierra de las Nieves](#); the [Spanish Fir](#).



OBSERVATIONS

50% of this walk is within the urban limits and the other 50% is on the outskirts.
 There is drinking water on route.
 Can be done all year round.
 Best done during daytime.
 It links with the Cruz del Pobre walk.
 Excellent panoramic views.

DIFFICULTY : Easy on foot. Medium by bike or on horseback
SURROUNDINGS : Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park and Natural Biosphere Reserve.



CIRCULAR





LA CRUZ DEL POBRE HERMITAGE

This walk starts off at the [Fuente del Poyo \(drinking fountain\)](#), which is a very emblematic symbol in the village, as it is a place where many local workers have spent long hours waiting to be taken to the fields around the village, in order to spend a hard day working for one of the local land owners.

There are two interesting aspects that the visitor will come across continually along this walk: first the altarpieces, and second, the blue crosses which are encrusted on ceramic plaques on many walls dotted around the village. These objects help the visitor to conjure up images of the Via Crucis in Easter week celebrations when the streets are full of worshippers stopping off at each station as they work their way around the streets. This religious celebration first took place back in 1866 and a small hermitage was erected on route to commemorate it. It was named [La Cruz del Pobre Hermitage](#).

The rest of the walk through the streets is lovely and always accompanied by the wonderful backdrop of the [Torrecilla](#) mountain and [La Sierra de las Nieves](#) natural park.



OBSERVATIONS

The entire 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.
 It links with the Cueva de las Vacas walk.

DIFICULTY : On foot. (it can be adapted for people with some disability)

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





THE VIGÍA TOWER

This route takes the visitor to a place along a way that in times gone by was transited on foot, but also often on horseback, by the Arabs who were then the owners and rulers of the village. Here, like an eternal witness to a bygone era, stands the remains of the [Mora Hermitage](#) where the prayers and songs to the sun used to be heard all over the village. By the means of a tunnel this part was connected to the Arab stronghold or more exactly a cylindrical-shaped tower topped off with dark-stoned turrets, red bricks and cement. On the inside there was a mobile staircase that allowed those inside to get to the second of the three floors of the tower and therefore, not be captured. From here, there were also some tunnels that led down and underground to the castle which was in the lower part of the village (some remains of this castle are still to be seen today), and thus, the Arabs could mobilise a lot of men from one end of the village to the other without being seen by the enemy at all.

During the War of Independence it was used as a watchtower, which was constantly alight with the torches and lamps that were on standby to warn of any attack or encroaching force. The bowmen were on hand to shoot their precise arrows, through loopholes in the tower that protected them from the sight and aim of their enemies.

As the visitor approaches this place he or she will pass by lots of different crops in the fields, complex irrigation systems set into the lie of the land, and allotments of all sorts that are very reminiscent of the Arab era way gone by.



OBSERVATIONS

50% of this walk is within the urban limits and the other 50% is on the outskirts.
There is drinking water on route.
Can be done all year round.
Best done during daytime.
It links with the Paed del agua walk.
Excellent panoramic views.

DIFICULTY : Medium

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



CIRCULAR

45 min.

