

Path *Siete Hermanos*

PR-MU 41

Lineal Itinerary (one way)

Approximate Distance: 3.350 m.

Approximate Time: 1h10 without stopping

Starting Point: Visitor Centre “Ricardo Codorniu”

Arrival Point: Recreational area *La Perdiz*

Ascent Drop: 106 m.

Descent Drop: 121 m.

Cartography: Esc. 1/25.000 of the IGN: 933-III Alhama de Murcia

In this itinerary we link up two of the most visited places of Sierra Espuña: the Huerta Espuña place and the recreational area “La Perdiz”. The path *Siete Hermanos* (PR-MU-41) gives us the opportunity of discovering old sites that are part of the history of Sierra Espuña.

We start in the Visitor Centre “Ricardo Codorniu” and we follow along the path to Ricardo Codorniu (SL-MU-1). In a few minutes we see the Ricardo Codorniu’s monument (it was built in 1927).

Following carefully the white and yellow marks, we cross the road to enter the front of the Casa Forestal Huerta Espuña. We enter up a staircase path, with a railing on the right, behind which are ancient tree nurseries, that were used, during the Espuña’s historical reforestation. We keep waling down until we reach the bed of Rio Espuña. This area is highly environmental with dense vegetation: poplar, elm, wild rosebush, sarsaparilla and ivy.

From there, we go up until we reach the *Collao de los Siete Hermanos*. From this point we can see in the bed of the river an ancient capacity station, that measured the flow of Rio Espuña, in order to evaluate how the reforestation’s plantation reduced the flood capacity of this river. We can observe further up the *Cabezo de la Mezquita* (its name comes from an old castle that had been built by the Muslims near to the top). Finally, we arrive to the *Collao de los Siete Hermanos*, which is a strategic point where there is a firebreak. This name originated during the reforestation at the beginning of the 20th century, when seven cypresses were planted in circular shape. When these seven cypresses were cut down near their stumps, seven “heirs” have now grown.

We now walk down by a zigzag path which will take us into an area near the ancient *Sanatorio Antituberculosos*, which was built in the 30s to accommodate people who suffered from tuberculosis. Before arriving at the sanatorium, we follow the PR sign on the left side (leaving the GR 252) and take the path that is parallel to the recreational area Perdiz. On the way, we can see a little Virgin Pilar.

We can make this route in opposite direction, starting in the Reacrecational Area Perdiz.

Senda de los Siete Hermanos

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