

Path *La Umbría de Peña Apartada*

PR-MU 59

Lineal Itinerary

Approximate Distance: 6.570 m.

Approximate Time: 2h30' without stopping

Starting Point: Visitors Centre "Ricardo Codornú"

Arrival Point: Hill Bermejo

Ascent Drop: 426 m.

Descent Drop: 121m.

Cartography: Esc. 1/25.000 of the IGN: 933-III Alhama de Murcia; 932-IV Sierra Espuña

Sierra Espuña is a natural park with great botanical richness. It has a high concentrate of more than one hundred different plant species, which are equivalent to 50% of the plants existing in the Region of Murcia. The large pine forest that comes from the reforestation program will accompany us all along this way path, from the Visitors Centre "Ricardo Codornú" until the Bermejo Hill.

We will follow the forest path next to the Visitors Centre, that goes towards the camping area called *El Campamento de los Exploradores*. We are following the PR white and yellow marks, leaving on one side a recreational area in order to take, after a bend, a path that goes out at the left hand side and onto the rocky steps. This way is narrowed by beautiful rosemary, juniper, and shrub oak bushes; we will keep going up until the firebreaks of *La Morina*. By taking this route, we will see the most important aspects of the itinerary. Just before reaching the wonderful path called *La Umbría de Peña Apartada*, we will catch a sight of the strange landscape of the Gebas Ravines nicknamed "Badlands".

During your route in *La Umbría de Peña Apartada*, you will discover the history of the park thanks to the masonry dikes, small walls and terraces which were restored at the end of the 19th century during the reforestation program. This "great natural work" and the weather of this shady place favoured the development of this vegetation cover. We can appreciate there a little mixed forest made of holm oaks inside of the dense pine forest. In autumn, we will admire the ochre-coloured sequences of oaks hidden by both hillsides. In the little ravines that go down towards the River Espuña, the humidity of the environment makes clear the presence of unique spots in the region.

We will steadily keep going towards the Hill *Bermejo* and despite the thicken forest, when we are able, we can admire at the North side the majestic *Morrón de Alhama* and la *Morra de las Moscas* and a slender *Morrón de Espuña* surrounding the Hill Mangueta and the Hill Bermejo. This historical forest way comes out onto a large pathway not far from our arrival point. From the viewpoint of the Hill Bermejo we can catch a sight, underneath the top of *Las Cunas*, of the amazing *Peña Apartada*.

Sendero de la Umbria de Peña Apartada

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