



Stage

13

ARCHIDONA • VILLANUEVA DE TAPIA

THE STAGE IN SUMMARY

Stage 13 is a fairly leisurely route between two villages at the same height and with no large valleys in between hence, the slopes along the pathway are very gentle overall and never very long. The route crosses from one municipality to the next just before crossing the A-333 road to Salinas. Almost the entire section uses different types of tracks, which in general, are kept in good condition thanks to the high volume of agricultural traffic in the region. It passes underneath both the highway and the AVE high-speed railway line, and over the Bobadilla-Granada railway line by a level crossing without barriers.

The route takes a north-easterly course, between some low mountain ranges on the left and hills covered in Holm oak and Dehesa pastures on the right. The majority of this Dehesa land along the route is well maintained and has even been regenerated in places. It is a fine example of a harmonious relationship, both past and present between a natural landscape and human exploitation of natural resources for development.

The Great Path uses two traditional pathways that are designed perfectly for maximum ease of use, despite having to converge in their detour to pass underneath the motorway and the railway line. These much-loved routes form part of the local fabric of the surrounding villages. By following the Arroyo de la Negra upstream, the route introduces you to one of the tributaries to the valley of La Hoz de Marín, and so complementing the previous stage.

Very close to the town of Villanueva de Tapia is the historically symbolic spot named El Trifinio, where the three provinces of Malaga, Granada and Cordoba meet. It is easy to imagine the controversies that would have arisen in these parts, up until the provincial boundaries were settled in the early nineteenth century. The Trifinio marker is where the Arroyo de la Cerca joins the Valholgado ravine to form the Arroyo del Cerezo, just to the east of the village and very close to the pathway. ►

A solitary Holm oak tree standing over the Olive trees





13. ARCHIDONA • VILLANUEVA DE TAPIA

Archidona (S) (705 m)



Villanueva de Tapia (S) (680 m)



17.1 km



3 h 50 min.



170 m



205 m



Linear



On foot
Bike



3.0 km



13.1 km



1.0 km



Environment
hazards



1

2

3

4

5

Underfoot
Conditions



1

2

3

4

5

Navigation



1

2

3

4

5

Physical Effort



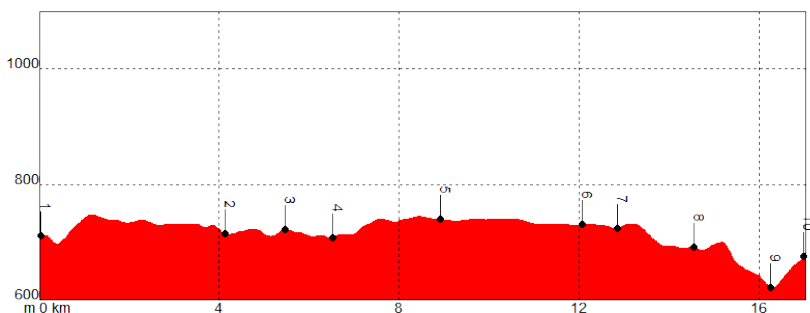
1

2

3

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5



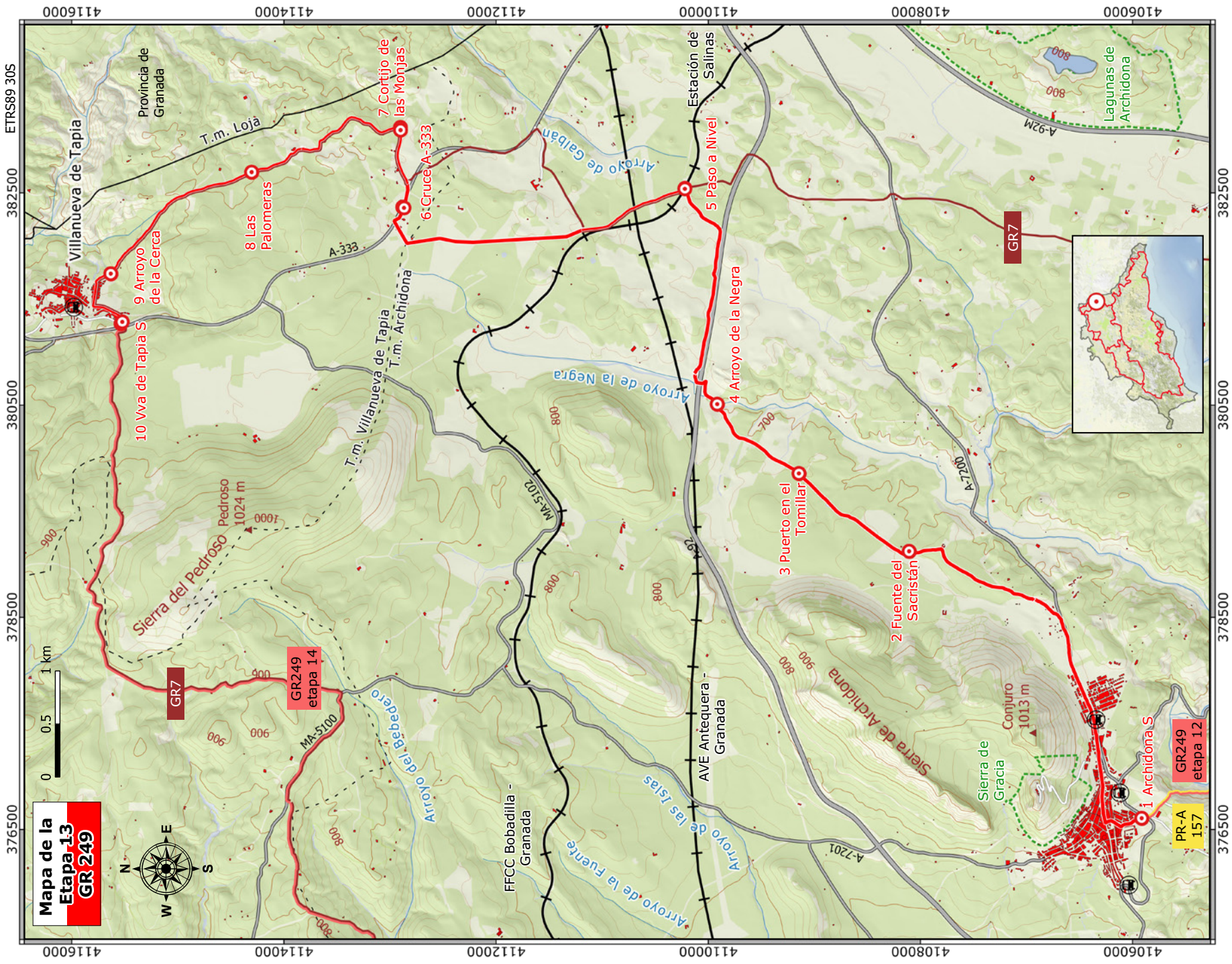
- Road traffic circulating in Archidona and on the A-333
- Tracks used by various motor vehicles
- Crossing the Arroyo de la Negras stream
- Level crossing without barriers at km 8.9

GR-7 E-4

Partial overlap from Point 5

P O I N T	X	Y	HEIGHT ABOVE SL	DISTANCE
1. Archidona S	376606	/ 4105914	/ 705 m	Km 0,0
2. Fuente del Sacristán spring	379122	/ 4108106	/ 720 m	Km 4,1
3. Mountain pass at El Tomillar	379856	/ 4109145	/ 725 m	Km 5,5
4. Arroyo de la Negra stream	380509	/ 4109915	/ 705 m	Km 6,5
5. Level crossing	382539	/ 4110220	/ 740 m	Km 8,9
6. Crossing A-333	382359	/ 4112868	/ 730 m	Km 12,0
7. Cortijo de la Monjas estate	383092	/ 4112900	/ 725 m	Km 12,8
8. Las Palomeras	382696	/ 4114304	/ 695 m	Km 14,5
9. Arroyo de la Cerca stream	381739	/ 4115632	/ 625 m	Km 16,2
10. Villanueva de Tapia S	381285	/ 4115524	/ 680 m	Km 17,1

STAGE 13 MAP



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

 **From Archidona to Arroyo de la Negra**
→ Up to km 6.5

The beginning of Stage 13 crosses Archidona to the north from the starting point on Luis Braille street. When you reach the main crossing, it turns east, with a long stretch on Virgen de Gracia street, leading onto Llano de Pablo Picasso avenue. It is lined by housing developments and passes an industrial estate on the left at the end. At the two-kilometre mark, you leave the A-7200 road and take a country track that overlaps with the old Camino de Villanueva de Tapia.

The path follows the outline of the Sierra de Archidona, running along its eastern side and keeping it in sight throughout. The limestone mass reaches an Height above SLe of 1,013 meters at the summit of El Conjuero, its southernmost peak. This is next to the shrine of the Virgen de Gracia, and is also the end point of the town's via ferrata. The cliff faces of this mountain range are on the other side, overlooking the Sevilla-Granada motorway, with its caves and crags with climbing routes also

visible. The mountain slopes on the side of the path are gentler and lacking in vegetation, except for dense Esparto grasses and smaller outlying Holm oaks. Meanwhile, the Great Path runs through olive groves and arable land. Further on, you pass two crossroads on the right and left before arriving at the Sacristán spring (km 4.1), which feeds a tributary of the Negra stream to the east.

The clay hills on both sides of the path are covered by well-tended Olive and Almond groves, however there are excellent age-old Holm oak trees scattered around, which occasionally clump together to form copses. Larger trees appear more frequently on both sides of the path, growing on the border between public and private land. In the middle distance you can also see some rocky, unfertile land with patches of Shrub oaks. The two important farmhouses in this section are El Monaguillo and El Tomillar (km 5.5), on the right in an area with the best views of the Central Limestone Arc. The mountain ranges to the east, behind Villanueva del Trabuco and Villanueva del Rosario were crossed just two stages ago and appear very close.

You then cross a stream that has carved out a deep channel in the clay and pebbles, and from the west we enter a Realenga (Crown land) before dropping down to the Arroyo de la Negra stream. The riverbed has very little vegetation, mainly because it is a very new course. Reeds and Bulrushes are most abundant here and, despite the reduced volume of water, there is some interesting fauna. ►

Villanueva de Tapia surrounded by olive groves, seen from Las Palomeras



 **Through Holm oak and Olive tree Dehesa pastures**
→ To the end of the stage

As soon as you pass under the motorway (km 6.5), you take the Realenga del Puerto track, which runs alongside the fast road, keeping this on your right. The treeless peak of Cerro del Umbral remains behind you, while you enter the best kept Dehesa pastureland of the route. The Holm oak forest is the key element in the traditional agroforestry system of the Dehesa, which is also used for hunting on this occasion. To help these different elements to coexist, in the adjacent fields, there are areas of very dense shrubs of Montpellier cistus and others that have been ploughed and even planted with olive trees.

There is a sign for the Via Pecuaria (Livestock Way) from Seville to Granada nearby, where the route makes a sharp turn to the north from the motorway at Los Borbollones. This brings you to the area called Las Hoyas de Galván, the location of the farm named Finca Sureco. You then come to a level crossing with no barrier on the Bobadilla to Granada railway line, as well as the link up with the Tarifa to Athens Pathway. Extreme caution must be taken here when visibility is low. Next up is an underpass of the AVE line and a long straight stretch between olive groves that momentarily separates from the GR 7 route.

120

121

A sign showing the hunting ground boundary on a pile of collected rocks



At times there are patches of Rockroses in the Dehesa hunting grounds



When you reach the regional road, the A-333 (km 12), walk a short way to the east and take the path known as Entredicho. On your right, in the ravines to the east, are some Holm oaks with dense undergrowth of Scorpion broom, Gorse and Laurel-leaf rockroses. The steeper slopes prevent any cultivation of crops here, so nature is left to take its own course. This is, in fact, the hilliest section of the day and you soon reach an area where Olive trees cover the landscape. From the top of the final hill, Las Palomeras (km 14.5) you can appreciate the full expanse. An information board greets you at the Entredicho viewpoint, where Villanueva de Tapia comes into view for the first time, at the head of a valley. Its white contrasts heavily with the green of the olive trees and the earthy yellow terrain.

The ownership of the village and its pastures was highly disputed in the 16th century, so much so that it acquired the nickname of El Entredicho (the Injunction). This continued until the governance was granted to the lawyer Pedro de Tapia, who lent it his surname. The route drops down to the Arroyo de la Cerca stream, which has its source in the Trifinio, then climbing up to the farmhouse, where the stage ends. ■