GR 141 GRAN SENDA DE LA SERRANÍA DE RONDA
SECTION 4: BENARRABÁ – BENALAURÍA

LENGHT:	12,3 km	DURATION:	5 h

INCLINESS

Total ascent:	884 m	Total descent:	732 m

CARTOGRAPHY E/1:25.000
1064-II Cortés de la Frontera | 1064-IV Gaucín

7,54%	44,04%	48,42%	28,99%		1	2	2	4

PROFILE OF THIS SECTION

LINKS TO OTHER APPROVED TRACKS

	GREAT TRACKS		SMALL TRACKS		LOCAL TRAILS

GR 249 Gran Senda de Málaga

PR-A 240 Benarrabá - Genalguacil

PR-A 239 Benarrabá - Algatocín

PR-A 236 Benalauría - Benadalid

PR-A 237 Benalauría - C Tesoro

PR-A 238 Benalauría - Algatocín

PR-A 291 Benalauría - Jubrique

SL-A 175 Concoste - La Portá

SL-A 157 Prado de la Escribana

This guide does not offer information regarding the state of conservation of the tracks since it can vary at any time.

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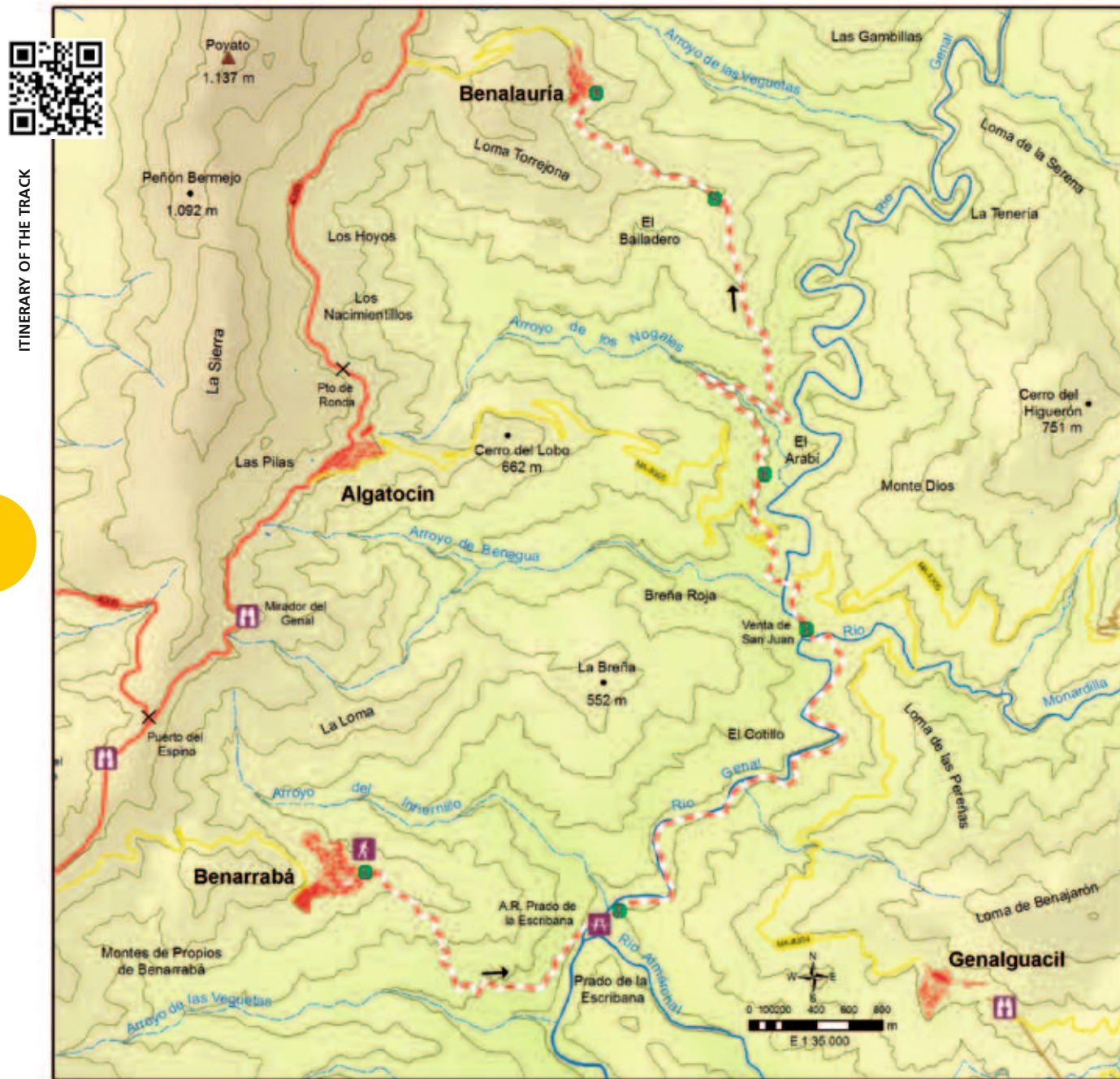
SUMMARY OF THE SECTION

This section offers the best of the **Genal valley**: the cork oaks, the meadows and vegetable gardens, the mills and the river, with its particular ecosystem; the mountain farms, the polyculture, the muleteers' paths, the chestnut grove and the Andalusian architecture, very characteristic in this area of the Serranía de Ronda. From the beginning, we will continue going down until we reach the **meadow of La Escribana**. From that crossroads, an old resting place for cattle, where the river **Almárchar**, which comes from Sierra Bermeja, flows into the **river Genal**, we will walk on a recovered path parallel to the course of the Genal river. **San Juan inn** and the campsites placed at both shores, make this place one of the most visited, especially during the summer, when several pools are set up to **bathe in the river**. The climb up to Benalauría will include some steep slopes, although the foliage is always helpful to alleviate our effort. Once we reach the chestnut grove, the environment changes and, with Benalauría faraway, the walk becomes easier.

Prickly husk of the chestnut
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MAIN SPOTS OF THIS SECTION

1	Benarrabá	30S x: 296288 – y: 4047364	538 m
2	Prado de la Escribana	30S x: 297883 – y: 4047192	190 m
3	Venta San Juan	30S x: 299073 – y: 4049181	273 m
4	El Arabí	30S x: 299021 – y: 4050160	292 m
5	El Bailaero	30S x: 298413 – y: 4051630	604 m
6	Benalauría	30S x: 297880 – y: 4052151	631 m

‹ **THIS SECTION ONLINE**

KEEP IN MIND

The fact that this section is shorter does not mean it demands less physical effort than the previous ones. The big gradients, ascent or descent, are continuous throughout the whole route, except the part within the meadow of La Escribana and San Juan inn. Even though this stretch is almost flat, it has some risks, like floods or landslides due to the river's proximity and the route passing through unstable areas. It may be impossible at times to wade through Monardilla river, close to San Juan campsite, might be impossible due to river swellings. We will pass through the short stretch from the way MA-8305 (Algatocín-Jubrique) to the point where the path splits from the hill walking on the roadside and taking shortcuts in a couple of curves, so we will need to be careful with cars. From the meadow of La Escribana to Benalauría, we will run into the GR-249 Gran Senda de Málaga but in the opposite direction. We highly recommend using telescopic poles.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ITINERARY

1 BENARRABÁ – km 0

The track starts in front of the Sierra del Espino rural school, near the local swimming pool and the **Banu Rabbah hotel.** It is extremely pleasant to walk absorbed by the chromatic nuances of mastic trees, labdanum trees, lavender, arbutus, brooms, pines and gall-oaks; but **kermes oaks** or **cork oaks** take the biscuit. Visitors from other places might find the bizarre tradition of reusing old mattresses as gates and fences to delimit properties shocking. This is common in all the Serranía de Ronda but specially in Genal valley, where it is a widespread practice. To find an explanation, we must go back to fairly recent times, when subsistence economy was dominant in the Mediterranean mountain and exploiting any resources was a vital task. This forgotten practice is called recycling nowadays.

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▲ Berry of the arbutus
▶ Balcony in Benarrabá

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