

Blanqueo Factory and Berta Wilhelmi

Located **at the confluence of the Genil and Aguas Blancas rivers**, the Fábrica del Blanqueo (Blanqueo Factory) was one of Granada's main industrial complexes in the early 20th century. Owned by the Sociedad Fabril Wilhelmi y Lemmé, it included a paper mill, a hydroelectric power station, and a large-scale agricultural estate, becoming an economic engine for the province thanks to its strategic location and innovative infrastructure.

At the helm of this enterprise was **Berta Wilhelmi**, a woman ahead of her time. She founded Spain's first coeducational school camps, **promoted public education by establishing a school and library in Pinos Genil**, and **fought tuberculosis** by launching the Anti-Tuberculosis Board and the Alfaguara Sanatorium. As early as 1892, she publicly defended women's right to practice any profession, setting a historic precedent for gender equality in Spain. The Wilhelmi family managed their business from the house adjoining the factory, blending industrial activity with rural life. Their network also included the Chimeneas Altas factory in Dúdar and another one in Paseo del Salón, Granada.



Today, her legacy can be discovered in the Berta Wilhelmi Room at the Tranvía de la Sierra Interpretation Centre in Pinos Genil, which pays tribute to her pioneering role in progress and social justice.

"Fábrica de la Luz" (Factory of Light)

Inaugurated in 1898, this was the **first hydroelectric power station in the province** of Granada and a landmark in Andalusia's electrification. It harnessed the flow of the Genil River to generate renewable energy. One of its most symbolic moments was supplying electricity for the first electric lighting of the Corpus Christi Festivities. The laying of the cornerstone in 1897 was a ceremonial event that brought together authorities and local residents, reflecting the excitement of progress. After eight decades of operation, the plant closed in 1978, leaving a valuable legacy in the industrial and energy history of Granada. Today, its remains still stand as a symbol of innovation and modernity.



Sierra Nevada Tramway

A visionary project by the Duke of San Pedro de Galatino, it operated from **1925 to 1974**, connecting Granada to the mountains via a **20 km route** that boosted economic, social, and tourism development. Although it was ultimately dismantled due to the construction of the Canales Reservoir, its memory lives on in the old station of Pinos Genil, now home to the **Tranvía de la Sierra Interpretation Centre**.



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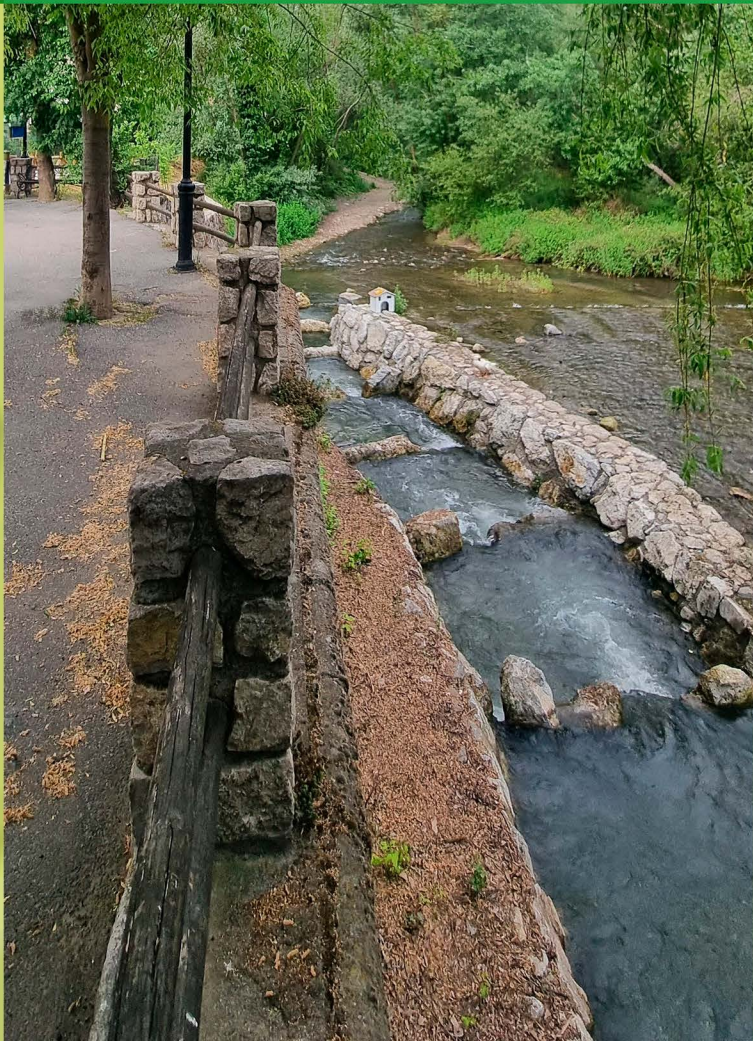
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Trail Pinos Genil Trail: Flowing Water



LOCATION

Distance: 7,40km
One-way duration: 1 hour and 50 minutes

This trail invites us to discover the natural and cultural richness along the Genil River. This green corridor, nourished by the river's waters, supports a beautiful riparian forest that serves as a refuge and essential stopover for more than a hundred wildlife species, including kingfishers, nightingales, dippers, and grey herons. The trail begins at the Tranvía de la Sierra Interpretation Centre (1), located in the former Sierra Nevada tram station. This emblematic building has been restored and transformed into a cultural space where visitors can immerse themselves in the history of Granada and the tramway, as well as learn about the fascinating life of Berta Wilhelmi.



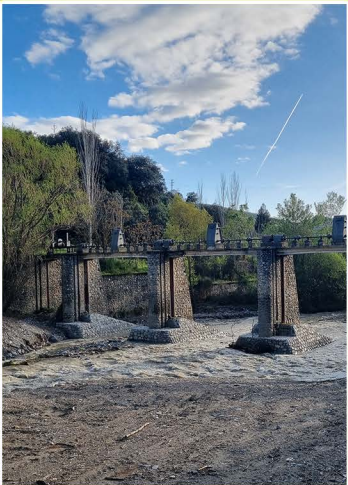
The route leads to the **Fábrica de la Luz** (2), a historic hydroelectric plant inaugurated in 1898 - the first in the province. Although it ceased operation in 1978, this milestone reminds us of the region's industrial past and its contribution to energy development.



Crossing to the opposite bank of the Genil, the trail continues through a mix of urban areas and rural paths that lead to the **Blanqueo Paper Mill** (3), located at the junction of the Aguas Blancas and Genil rivers. Here we also find the Sierra Nevada National Park Visitor Centre (CREA), dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured birds.

The path continues across several wooden footbridges connecting both riverbanks. Among them, the crossing over the old **Blanqueo Dam** (4) stands out - a prime example of industrial heritage that allows visitors to witness the power of the Genil and explore an intricate network of irrigation channels still in use today.

In the heart of the village stands the **Centenary Elm Tree** (5), dating back to the 16th century, a living witness to local history. Before concluding the route, we stop at the **Parish Church of Santa María Magdalena** (6), a Mudéjar-style temple from the 16th century. Built on the site of an old mosque, it is dedicated to Saint Roch, the town's patron saint, and represents the valuable cultural heritage preserved in Pinos Genil.



Trail signage:

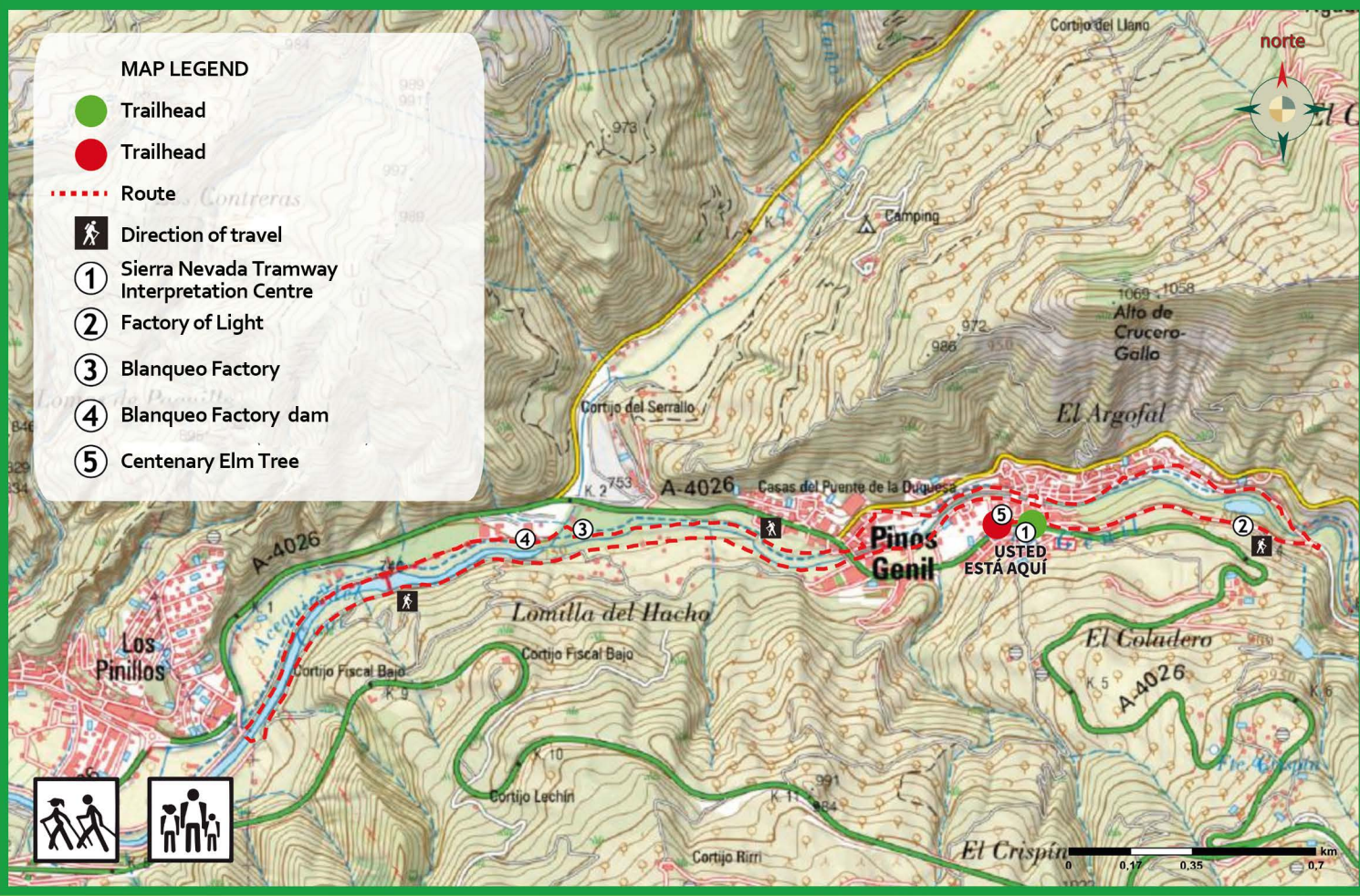
TRAIL CONTINUITY

CHANGE OF DIRECTION

WRONG DIRECTION

MAP LEGEND

- Trailhead
- Trailhead
- Route
- Direction of travel
- 1 Sierra Nevada Tramway Interpretation Centre
- 2 Factory of Light
- 3 Blanqueo Factory
- 4 Blanqueo Factory dam
- 5 Centenary Elm Tree



FEDME - SIDIF difficulty system



Difficulty assessment according to MIDE

MEDIO Severidad del medio natural	ITINERARIO Orientación en el itinerario	DESPLAZAMIENTO Dificultad en el Desplazamiento	ESFUERZO Cantidad de esfuerzo necesario
1	1	2	2
valor máximo 5			



RECUERDA:

AVOID MAKING NOISE

DEPOSIT GARBAGE IN CONTAINERS

STAY ON THE PATHS

NO FIRE ALLOWED

PLANT COLLECTION PROHIBITED