

**RIOMALO CTR. WALKING LAS HURDES**  
**ROUTE 5: CHORRITUERO DE OVEJUELA**

*Route 5*  
*Type: Circular*  
*Distance: 4,7 km.*  
*Difficulty: Media*  
*Time: All year round*



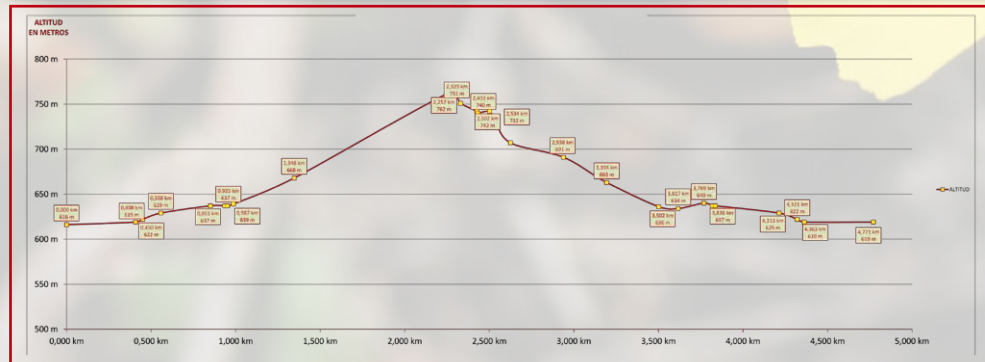
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*NOTE 1: Remember, traveler, you are in a region of high natural sensitivity. Your step ought to be careful, in order to preserve the physical space and biodiversity. Then you can come back and look for places where you feel part of nature and at peace with that surrounds you. And welcome!*



*NOTE 2: The routes proposed by CTR Riomalo are ready for expert hikers, cyclists and canoeists. CTR Riomalo is not responsible for the lack of experience of travelers or if the climatic conditions complicate their difficulty. The routes are all public and if there is any restrictions in specific seasons, they are specified in the own itineraries. Hikers should take into account all the indications made in the routes, as well as be extremely careful in complicated areas and, of course, respect the natural and historical heritage.*

*NOTE 3: This booklet is a property of Riomalo CTR and the producer, Esther de Aragón, so much in design, as in text and graphic content. Wildlife photos belong to the professional photographer David Santiago (www.davidsantiagofoto.com).*

## INTRODUCTION



The itinerary documented in these pages is short, only a few kilometers, but it is very attractive because the spot that it reaches. On the going, the path ascends the slopes of the mountain, above Ovejuela, looking for the place where the small river of the same name has carved the rock on the way down towards the narrow valley, causing a beautiful corner with waterfall and pool, known as Chorritulo and Tinaja, respectively.

It is said that prehistoric man walked through this area, as we do, hence the idol that appeared near the Chorritulo, a black stone representation of the Mother Goddess.

Anyway, these places are as beautiful as remote. The fact that the road ends in Ovejuela may have been able to preserve part of the traditional architecture, or the classic terraces used as gardens and the walls winding through the mountains, all of them usual in Las Hurdes.

Our route is short in length, but it is necessary to note that descends sharply to the Chorritulo and comes back down the river, which crosses

several times over stones. But such is the natural beauty of the route that visitors never get tired and always wants to come again. The waterfall is different each time, the color of the mountains, the vegetation ... everything is different from one day to another.

And most interesting is to see appear suddenly a black stork, as it has happened to us, a black vulture or a raptor.

The name of the waterfall, as so often it happens in Las Hurdes, depends on who does the reference: Chorrillo, Chorritulo, Chorritulo ... The fact is that the Ovejuela river plunges and begins its descent by a tiny valley, as tiny as it flows into the Los Angeles river only a few kilometers later ... but that's another issue of our routes.

Meanwhile, the village of Ovejuela is an interesting little place, with a center of interpretation dedicated to the beekeeping of Las Hurdes, located in an old mill that is just entering the alquería, over the Ovejuela river.

A small but great route to feel the natural beauty of Las Hurdes. Happy walk!



## THE ITINERARY

This walk to the Chorrituelo has a bit of everything in the region of Las Hurdes: ups and downs the mountains, inescapable for anyone who wants to know the region; the traditional architecture of Las Hurdes, like in Ovejuela, or the terraces, taken from nature itself in almost impossible locations; the streams that can flow very fast on its way down or almost be dry depending on seasons; the slate, eternal, always in sight, giving form and color to the landscape; the vegetation of rockrose, heather, arbutus, pine ...; and, of course, an incredible beauty, the usual of any place of Las Hurdes, well in line with the paradise that is the region.



The proposed itinerary begins before entering the town of Ovejuela, on an enabled viewpoint that overlooks the Ovejuela river. Just entering the alquería, an old and well preserved mill tells the visitor it is one of the Interpretation Centers of Las Hurdes, in this case it is dedicated to the traditional exploitation of bees and honey.

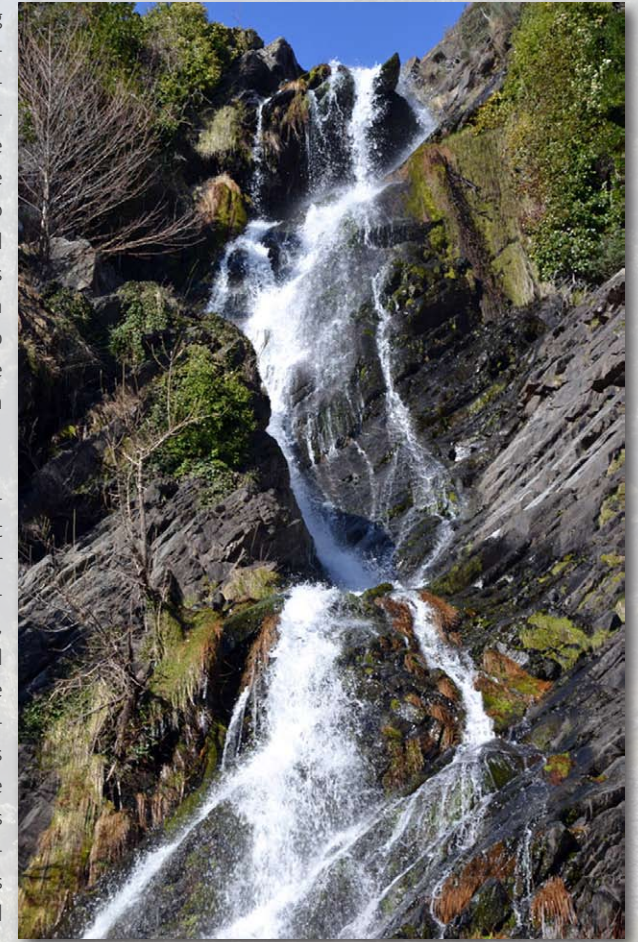
The ascent through the small streets shows some traditional houses, some ancient furnace, even a restaurant become a Museum by a person who decided to return to its origins, leaving the city, to embark in a project of a very different life.

After leaving Ovejuela, the route follows the signs of a PR. Immediately it approaches the natural pool on the river (point 5) and saves it by a bridge.



Then it starts a magnificent and long climb for the hillsides of the mountains that divide the region of Las Hurdes and Gata. The outlook over the valley are becoming wider again, despite the narrowness of the own valley. The truth is that its contemplation helps to think how a tiny stream has managed to dig its course over the slates, schists and quartzites; very hard working for a small river. These places seem to stop time, so remote is this area. And the terraces with olive or fruit trees seem ratify this affirmation.

In fact, the paths that go to the Chorrituelo of Ovejuela, are those that the inhabitants used to go to their gardens. If we followed up, from point 10, instead of starting the descent, we would crown the mountains and have a look at the lands of Gata, at the height of Robledillo. However, our interest is now in the river that collects the waters of the upper zone, because it has hit an outcrop of quartzite, less soft, which has forced a great waterfall in the rainy season, That impresses when it appears on having lowered the way. That section has a steep slope down, so we have risen to half the difficulty, although with a bit of caution it has no problem.



The eighty meters high of the Chorrituelo reach a delightful pool (point 13), called "Tinaja", where the bathroom is advisable when it is hot, because the return is made along the river itself, through a very closed valley. The traveler will have to cross the river several times, he will see again the terraces and some ancient apiary, before reaching the natural pool, come back to Ovejuela and to the viewpoint where he started the route.



## OVEJUELA

Because our route starts and ends in Ovejuela, we must dedicate a few lines to this lovely alquería, located under the summit Vela (1.075 m.). The village shows its nice traditional architecture, in addition to the terraces and traditional pens. The place belongs to the municipality of Pinofranqueado and besides the Chorrutuelo, its surroundings well deserve a stroll along the paths that the inhabitants have been using for thousands of years, as the remains of a pre-Roman fort demonstrate.



However, the river is not the only stream of Ovejuela. The Fuente de la Espigadora is the reason of a legend that flows through the area and that refers to a channel built to bring water to Granadilla. This channel, in the area called La

Trinchera, was made by a Moorish caid for express request of the daughter of the Christian governor of Granadilla, according to tradition. It is said that when the works were about to end, the girl threw himself from the wall of Granadilla because she would not want to marry the caid.



## THE NATURE

Nature is so overwhelming on our route, as it is usual in Las Hurdes. On this occasion it is dominated by the Ovejuela river and the brooks that are joining it on its descent towards the village. The river springs up in the southern slopes of the Pico de la Boya, collecting water from springs and brooks of the mountains, and it jumps in the Chorrutuelo eighty meters of difference up to the low pool, called Tinaja, from where it conti-



nues its descent, having excavated its course, tilling slates and quartzites. The pool is in a wild place, enclosure in an environment dominated by the rocks and the vegetation.

After the pool, the course turns through the mountains, showing a typical Mediterranean vegetation of cork trees, arbutus, heather, rockrose and pines, besides the fruit and the olive trees that take advantage of the terraces.



The Ovejuela River, meanwhile, receives water from the various brooks: Zarzuela, Garganta Vieja, Cabril and Arro-sancho. Then it goes to its mouth over the river of Los Ángeles, after only five kilometers of convoluted course, close to the Vado of fishermen, in a dis-

Entrambasaguas and next to a shelter beautiful spot which will be in another of our routes.

As for wildlife, these lands are special significance. The last time we saw a black stork leaving the area also not difficult to see various

a great setting for bird watching, some of we did the excursion, we were lucky because area of the bank and a pair of black vultures. It is types of eagles, owls or kites, among others.

