

# Cortijo Grande and St. Theresa

Walk 5

**Distance** - 6 miles / 9½ km **Ascent** - 190m (624ft) Mapa Topografico Nacional de Espana, 1031-II,Turre,1:25,000.

Apart from a short distance at the end, this linear route provides an opportunity to walk among the mountains without leaving a hard surface. The minor roads are entirely quiet and the scenery is splendid. There is a good deal of steady but not steep uphill walking on the outward half.

The Iglesia Theresa, long a ruin, appears to have been a fortified church, the focal point of a more populated area in previous centuries. Its mountain setting is very attractive, with a rushing little stream in front and a great gap in the mountains ('garganta' – throat) behind.

**Start/car parking:** Small signposted car park near end of Cortijo Grande village, (when approached on the lower road), map reference **5950 1096**.

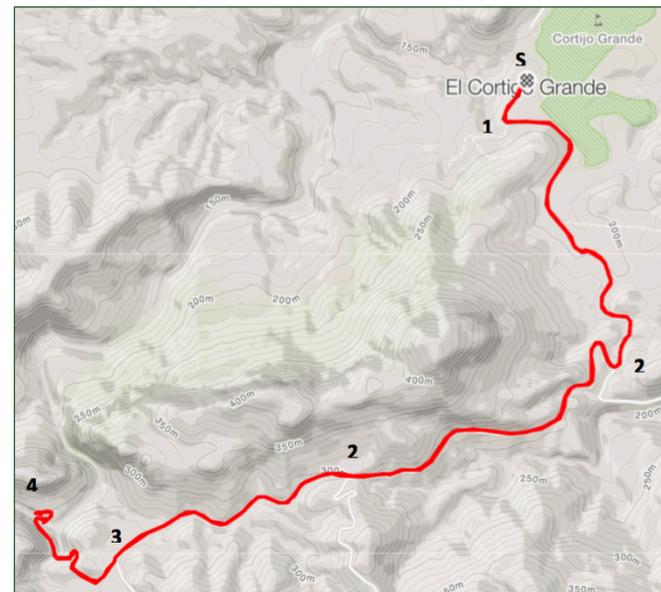
**Refreshments:** Bar Almazara and restaurant Casa Pinos in Cortijo Grande.

**Via bike:** Yes

## El Route

Begin at Bar Almazara, head South West joining the road through Cortijo Grande, a straggling village with houses. The road rises up a little under a pleasant avenue of trees.

1. At a junction, stay with the main road, rising to the left; there is a bar/restaurant 'Fatima' sign. Part views of a golf course below to the left and also of the main ridge of the Sierra Cabrera mountains, with the village of Cortijo Cabrera improbably high on the mountainside, are gained. Go straight ahead at a road junction heading among the mountains - the start of a long, steady but not too steep rise.
2. At the next road junction, with several signs, turn right for 'Nacimiento'. The ascent continues. At the top of the long rise the road forks. Go right, again for 'Nacimiento', now gently downhill. There is evidence of previous mining activity on the adjacent hillside.
3. As the road begins to rise, with a ruined farmhouse on a hillock ahead, fork right along an unsurfaced track, descending to pass behind the ruin. The Iglesia comes into view, easily reached by crossing a little stream. This is potentially a delightful picnic spot, with stream, mountains and wild flowers.
4. Return via the same route.



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