

## Walking in The Alpujarras, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Sep 2019

Capileira in the Alpujarras was the venue our Autumn walking holiday this year. Capileira is a delightful mountain village at an altitude of some 5000ft and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest village in mainland Spain. A short distance away lies Mulhacen, the highest peak in the Iberian Peninsula at about 11400ft.

Our holiday started at Granada airport where we made a short journey to Lanjaron for lunch then on to Capileira, arriving about 2pm where our apartments were ready for us. We were in Las Chimineas apartments (<https://www.apartamentoslaschimeneas.com>), a delightful complex with a fabulous communal patio that lent itself to some great 'Sundowners'.



On our first walking day, we explored the delights of some of the Taha villages set on the hillside of the Trevezal Valley (there are no flat walks around here!)



The second day we decided to go for the BIG one, Mulhacen at 11400ft. The National Parks run a bus service from



Capileira up to the Mirador of Trevezal at 9000ft which made for an 'easier' ascent of the peak. The weather in the mountains can change from day to day and hour to hour. Despite a bad forecast we all went up on the bus and 5 of the group decided to go for it and get to the top, which they achieved without any of the forecast thunderstorms. The rest of us walked part way and then returned for an earlier bus.



Following a 'day off' in Orgiva thanks to our tour guide Linda, we resumed our walking duties with a choice of 2 walks. Jan led the A party from the village of Busquistar along the Ruta Medieval and back to Busquistar (with a few ups and downs!). Quite a demanding walk in the heat.

Phil led the B party on a downhill walk from Capieleira to Busquistar where we met up with the A party and enjoyed a drink together in the local bar. Some of the group then took a service bus to Trevelez, the highest village in Spain and then back to Capileira.



Our final day's walking started from Canar and gave everyone the choice of a 4, 7 or 9 mile linear walk through the bewitching village of Soportujar and then on to Pampaniera. Thanks to the drivers, our minibus shuttle service gave us several options.



We spent our last day and night in Granada which enabled us all to see the delights of the Alhambra Palace and the Albaicin, a neighbourhood in Granada that maintains the layout of Medieval Moorish narrow streets.



The entertainment for the week was provided by John H and a posse of beauties with a special edition of 'Take Me Out'. Hilda (alias Lynne) from Horbury in her curlers and headscarf was the star of the show with a special "Ode to John". Will he ever be the same again? Judy was inspired to capture the moment in one of her fabulous drawings.



Our thanks go to the minibus drivers Vini, Peter, and Linda Marshall who shuttled us around some very winding roads! Linda, who had lived near Orgiva for many years, also provided us with the local knowledge and the odd impromptu walk.

We have put together a compilation of photos from the week which can be viewed by following the link below :

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/KQcXR4YGuuuKQZNH7>

Looking forward to the final Calpe next March and Bulgaria next September.

Phil Barrowcliff & Jan Sherlock