

Circular Itinerary**Approximate Distance:** 2.260 m.**Approximate Time:** 45 min. without stopping**Starting Point:** Visitor Centre “Ricardo Codorniu”**Arrival Point:** The same (circular itinerary)**Ascent Drop:** 80 m.**Descent Drop:** 80 m.**Cartography:** Esc. 1/25.000 of the IGN: 933-III Alhama de Murcia

We are situated in the hearth of the bed of Río Espuña, an emblematic site charged of history. Nowadays, it receives a great number of visitors, who go there to observe the natural richness of this site.

The Visitor Centre “Ricardo Codorniu” is an ancient restored house which has been inaugurated as public centre in 1997. This building is the departure point of this little local path that travels around *La Huerta Espuña*. We have to follow the white and green signs of the local path, parallel to the road. If we follow it, we arrive, in few minutes, to the monument Ricardo Codorniu which has been built in 1927. In the last decade of the 19th century, this erudite engineer had worked with D. José Muso and D. Juan Ángel de Madariaga in order to reforest Sierra Espuña.

When we cross the road, in front of the bust, we can see the forest house Huerta Espuña, which has been the “operational centre” of the reforestation. From there, we take the “Senda del Agua” (together the *Caño de Espuña*) until the recreational area of *Fuente del Hilo*. *El Caño de Espuña* is an old water channelling from *Fuente del Sol* to the irrigated lands of Alhama. Its higher part has been built in 1869 and its lower part during the Arabian period.

Once we past in front of *Casa de la Marina*, we arrive around *Fuente del Hilo*. Here, we go away from the “Caño Espuña” to go up by the large staircase, next to the bar. Before the ascension, we arrive at *El Campamento de los Exploradores*, a place where there are the recreational area and *La Casona*. From there, we take the track where there are two high columns which were the entrance to these old camps. That track leads us until the Codorniu’s Monument, that we have already visited. In a few minutes, we reach again the Visitors Centre “Ricardo Codorniu”.

Sendero Ricardo Codorniu

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