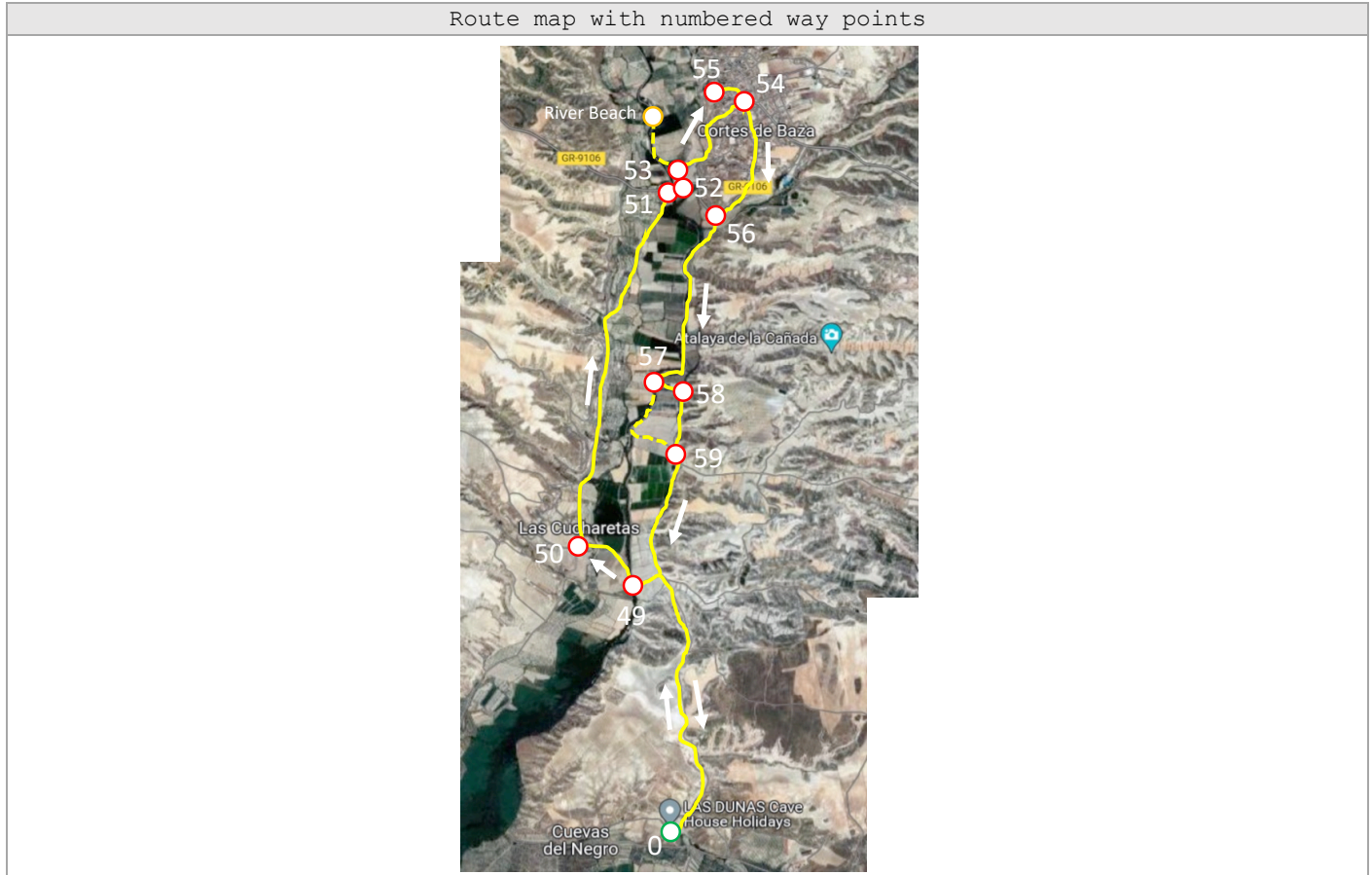
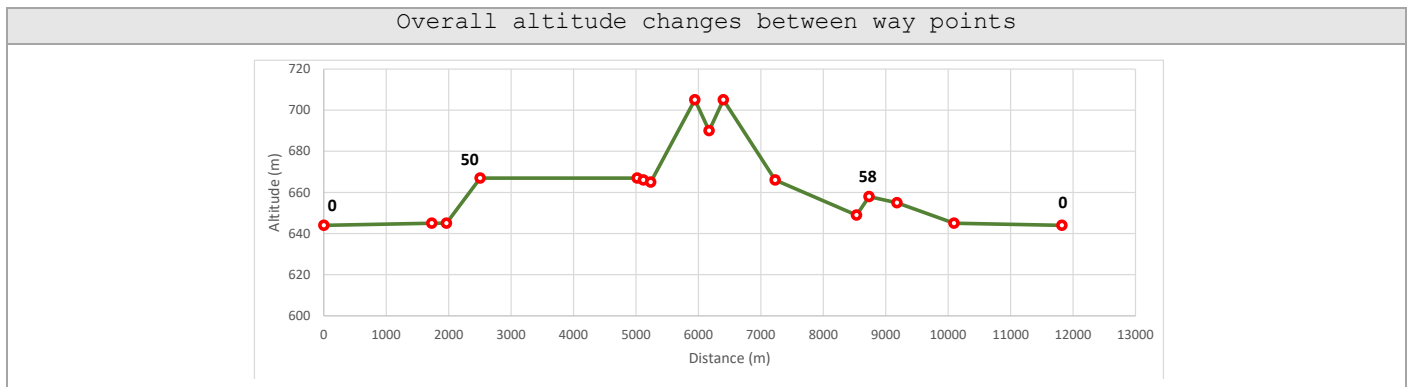


LAS DUNAS TO CORTES DE BAZA		
Circular route to the village of Cortes along both sides of the Castril valley.		
Walk or pleasant bike ride to the village of Cortes de Baza up one side of the Castril river valley and returning back down the other. There is a small street market in Cortes on Saturday (09:00 to 14:00). There is also the possibility of having a picnic at the small river beach below the village.	Total Distance	13 km
	Uphill Height Gain	+ 87 m
	Downhill Height Loss	- 87 m
	Time, walking	3 hrs 30 min







Follow Way Points in the sequence described and shown on the map. These are **not** necessarily in numerical order.

Key to map	
N	Way Point N : Latitude & Longitude in decimal degrees, altitude in metres
←	Turn left at Way Point
→	Turn right at Way Point
↑	Straight on at Way Point
m/km	Approximate distance to next Way Point in metres or kilometres
↗ m	Overall increase in altitude + meters to next Way Point
↘ m	Overall decrease in altitude - meters to next Way Point



0	Las Dunas, Cuevas del Negro : 37.608663°N, -2.776097°W, 644m alt.
← 2 km ↗ 1 m	At the Cueva del Olivo entrance to Las Dunas, turn left down the white gravel surfaced road towards Cortes de Baza (Cañada de Cortes). Pass through a lunar landscape with cave houses built into the cliffs on the right. The road climbs with an almond orchard on the left, then descends through a cutting. At the bottom of the slope is a cliff directly ahead with several cave openings cut into it. The road then bounds round through cultivated fields to the river.
49	Bridge across Castril River at Las Cucharetas : 37.623878°N, -2.778939°W, 645m alt.
↑ 800 m ↗ 22 m	At the river, go straight on across the metal bridge, signposted "Las Cucharetas, Carramaiza 10km", rather than following the bend in the road signposted to "Cortes de Baza 6km". Immediately after crossing the bridge follow the road as it bends to the right. The road then becomes surfaced as it heads uphill into the village of Las Cucharetas.
50	T Junction with GR-9103 in Las Cucharetas : 37.627192°N, -2.783427°W, 667m alt.
→ 2.5 km ↗ 0 m	At the road T-Junction turn right onto the main road (GR-9103) through the village of Las Cucharetas. Follow the road out of the village with the Castril valley on your right.
51	Road Junction GR-9103 with GR-9106 : 37.649145°N, -2.776542°W, 667m alt.
→ 100 m ↘ 1 m	At the junction with the GR-9106 (STOP sign), turn right towards Cortes de Baza. Follow the road over the bridge across the river.
52	Bridge across River Castril below Cortes de Baza : 37.649321°N, -2.775456°W, 666m alt.
← 150 m ↘ 1 m	Immediately after crossing the bridge, take the sharp left turn down a track which runs alongside the river. Follow the track with the river on your left and cultivated fields on your right for about 150m until you reach a junction in the tracks.
53	Junction of Tracks in fields below Cortes de Baza : 37.650268°N, -2.776054°W, 665m alt.
→ 1 km ↗ 40 m	At the junction, take the track to the right heading towards the village on the top of the cliff. <i>Alternatively, to visit the small river beach, take the track straight on for about 500m.</i> To go into the village, follow the track to the right past the waterworks until it becomes a concrete road (Calle Paraiso). Ignore other side roads to the left and right. Climb up the steep road until it comes out in the centre of the village on Calle Santos Cosme y Damian opposite the Coviran supermarket.
54	Coviran, Cortes de Baza : 37.655020°N, -2.770690°W, 705m alt.
← 300 m ↘ 15 m	The street market in Cortes de Baza is held on Saturday mornings (09:00 to 14:00) on Calle Santos Cosme y Damian opposite the Coviran supermarket. To visit the XVI century church (Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Anunciación), turn left down Calle Baza. It is then signposted to the left via the Plaza Constitución and Calle Iglesia.
55	Iglesia, Cortes de Baza : 37.655421°N, -2.773230°W, 690m alt.
↓ 300 m ↗ 15 m	There is a viewpoint in front of the church on the cliff top with good views over the Castril valley. To return, retrace your steps back to Coviran (Way Point 54) and Calle Santos Cosme y Damian.
54	Coviran, Cortes de Baza : 37.655020°N, -2.770690°W, 705m alt.
↑ 900 m ↘ 39 m	Follow Calle Santos Cosme y Damian (with the supermarket behind you) out of the village. As it leaves the village, the road (GR-9106) descends and bends to the right.
56	Track turning off GR-9106, Cortes de Baza : 37.647784°N, -2.772975°W, 666m alt.
← 1.5 km ↘ 17 m	Towards the bottom of the hill at the 7km GR-9106 marker and at a bend with a circular convex safety mirror, take the track down to the left. There is also a small signpost "Cueva Calseba". Follow the concrete track down the slope and across a ford. Then stay on this track with the cliffs on your left and cultivated fields and the river on your right.
57	Track Turning, Cortes de Baza : 37.636567°N, -2.777250°W, 649m alt.
← 200 m ↗ 9 m	After the track bends to the right, away from the cliffs, and then left, parallel again, look for a vehicle track on your left heading towards a ravine in the cliff with a large cave to the left and electricity pylon to the right (Way Point 58). Turn left up the track between the fields towards the ravine. <i>Alternatively, stay on the main track all the way back to Las Dunas. Use this alternative route if on a bike.</i>

58	Track / Goat Path Junction, Cortes de Baza : 37.636371°N, -2.774973°W, 658m alt.
 500 m  3 m	<p>Cross an irrigation channel then turn right to follow the goat path which follows the base of the cliff.</p> <p>The goat path joins a vehicle track coming up through the fields from the river. Stay on it until it turns up through an almond grove in a gap between the cliffs.</p>
59	Track Crossing in almond grove, Cortes de Baza : 37.632410°N, -2.775733°W, 655m alt.
 2.7 km  11 m	<p>At the almond grove (just before the line of electricity pylons), leave the vehicle track when it turns up into the almond grove, and instead turn right onto the goat path which continues along the base of the cliffs.</p> <p>In about 1km the path comes out on the unsurfaced road at the cliff caves just above the bridge to Las Cucharetas which you came down on the outbound route from Las Dunas.</p> <p>Re-join the road heading uphill through the cutting back to Las Dunas.</p>
0	Las Dunas, Cuevas del Negro : 37.608663°N, -2.776097°W, 644m alt.