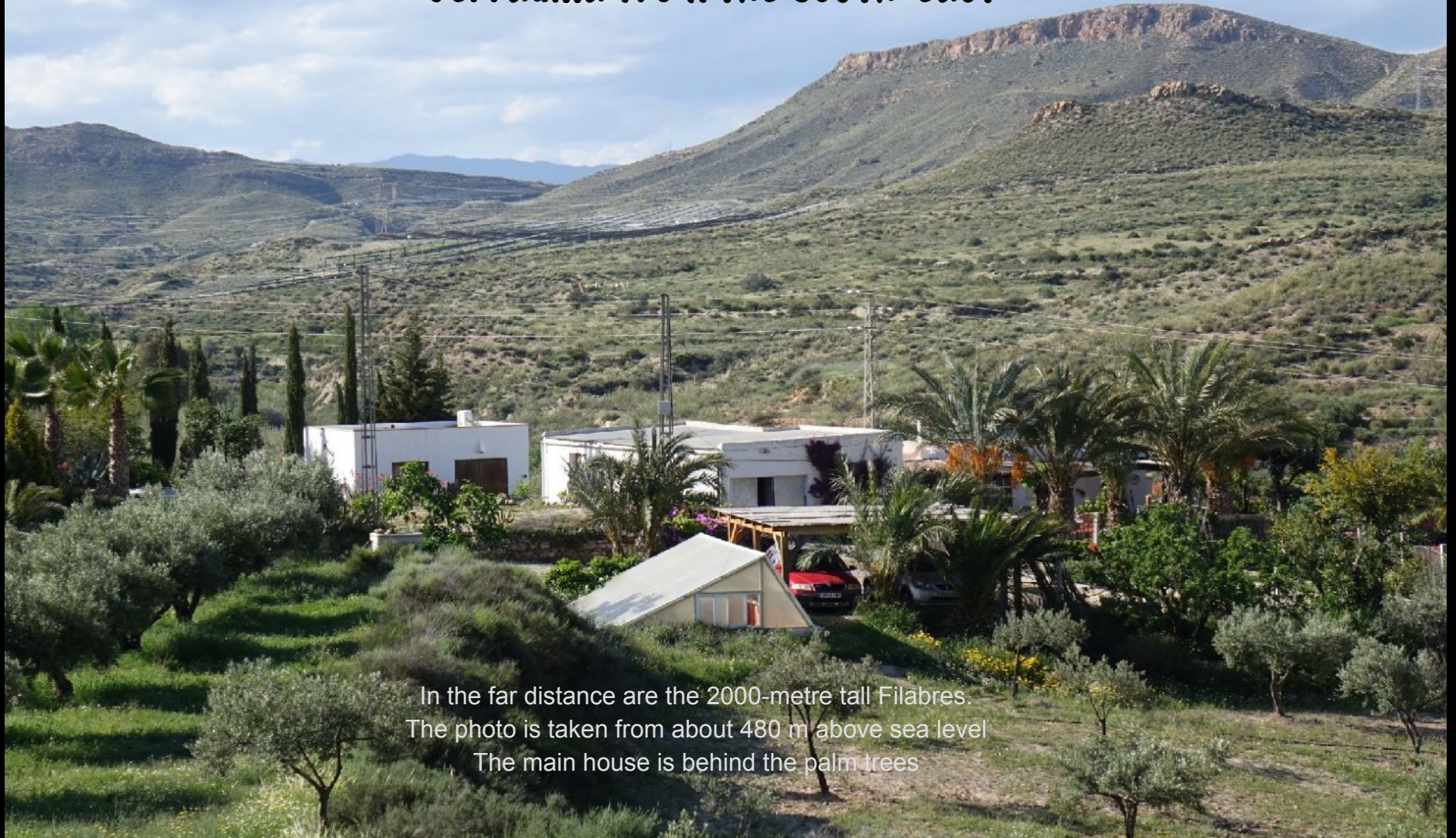


Cerradilla from the north

Cerradilla is an old property the lower main house in front of the picture has half-metre thick stone and mud walls – useful for keeping summer heat out and winter warmth in!
In front of the picture (left) is the filter room for the plunge pool.

Cerradilla from the South-east



In the far distance are the 2000-metre tall Filabres.
The photo is taken from about 480 m above sea level
The main house is behind the palm trees

Google-Earth picture of Cerradilla



Northern boundary the ramba mid-top to mid right
Southern boundary "Via Verde" crossing picture
Western boundary the gorge next to the house
Eastern? Top of the hill/railway cutting to old ford

Cerradilla northern boundary

Water finds its lowest level. Normally. So when it rains a lot (well, about once a year) the northern boundary of Cerradilla, the Rambla de Lucainena, ceases to be a dry river bed but makes its presence obvious!

Cerradilla western boundary

Similarly the western boundary simply termed a “barranco” (ravine) can become a raging, noisy torrent when heavy rain arrives..

Cerradilla southern boundary

The southern boundary is the old railway line – now a “Via Verde” or pedestrian and cyclists track – which has wooden railings acting as safety fencing. But below it is the well-preserved bridge to let excess rain from yet another “barranco” through. As and when!

A landscape photograph of a hillside. At the top, a wooden fence runs across the frame. Below it, a stone archway is built into the hillside. The hillside is covered in dense green vegetation, including many olive trees. In the foreground, there is a fenced-in area that appears to be a garden or field. The overall scene is a mix of natural growth and human-made structures.

But more information..

To the left is semi-waste ground. Right in the front and to the right are some of the 400 olive trees. Third way up in the middle is the residual old well, and behind it to the right is old "deposito" or reservoir, now converted to an onion-growing garden! To the left is an orange grove, though perhaps rather overfull of spring flowers!

A photograph of a winding road on a hillside. A large group of cyclists is gathered on a straight section of the road in the middle ground. The hillside is covered in dense green vegetation and some rocky outcrops. In the foreground, there are out-of-focus olive tree branches. The sky is overcast.

On the "Main Road" above us..


The road from Lucainena to Nijar is a great favourite for cyclists. Including races. Very twisty, so also used by motorcyclists and - when they felt brave (or foolhardy) for car rallies



Air conditioning??..

Not really required. The house has very thick walls: So in the summer hot air is kept out, and in the winter cold air kept out! Ceilings are well insulated..

Cooling down..



Not far away – well, less than 30 minutes by road – is the Tabernas desert. The only designated desert in Europe. So in summer cooling off can be necessary! Hence we built a plunge pool: economical and easy to run, and warmed when necessary by solar-heated black plastic pipes. (There is a large, well-maintained public pool in the village!)

Cooling down..



The pool is both very private and well-shaded from wind. (There are refreshing afternoon winds which some like to hide from!) Also there are spa-like features for those who like pressure jets of water and air to increase bathing pleasure..



And keeping warm..

Being nearly 500 metres up, it does get cool (very rarely even freezing!) so there is a purpose designed and built "Kakelofen". This woodburner is the main house heater, with smoke heating the ceramic "chimney" giving night storage properties.

The Kakelofen "chimney".

The "Chimney" one the fire is going goes through 4 horizontal rows of fire bricks. Additionally hot air from the firebox surround goes to heat a wall in the one bedroom/study.