

GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked paths



Please respect private property



Please avoid making noise



The capture of animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Plant collecting is not allowed



Open camping is not permitted



It is not permitted to collect rocks or minerals

Emergency phone: 112



SEVILLA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra Norte
de Sevilla

MORE INFORMATION

Cortijo El Berrocal Visitor's Centre. Rural way Almadén de la Plata - Los Melonares, km 5.5. Almadén de la Plata. Sevilla.

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra Norte
de Sevilla



La Travesía

SEVILLA



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

2,3 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Mediterranean *dehesa* wood, in which cork oaks predominate Panoramic views of the Natural Park. Archaeological site.

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Seville/ Almadén de la Plata

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

919

• START / END COORDINATES

37°52'28.24"N, 6°8'32.54"W

37°52'7.76"N, 6°7'10.67"W



HOW TO GET THERE

The public uplands area of La Travesía is located on the western edge of the municipality of Almadén de la Plata, on the boundary of the municipality of Santa Olalía del Cala. If you are coming via Santa Olalía de Cala, take the SE A-6405 road at 1.1 km from the intersection with the Rivera de Cala.

Next to the entrance to the public uplands there is a area where you can leave vehicles and from there you gain access to the trail, which is signposted by a pedestrian gate.



PARKING

There is no actual car park at the start of the trail, but there are places nearby to leave your vehicle.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

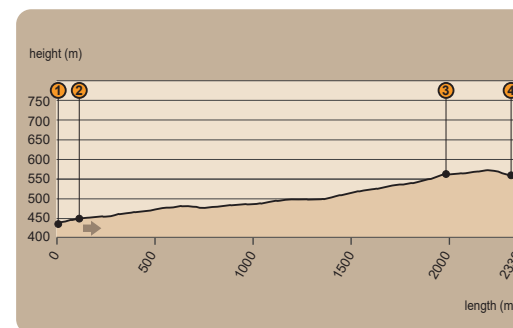
There is no public transport at the start of the trail. You can reach Almadén de la Plata by bus. The main bus company operating regular lines in the area is Damas S.A. (tel. 902 114492; www.damas-sa.es).



OTHER TRAILS

The los Molinos and El Calvario trails are both nearby.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

133 m

• MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

572 m

• MINIMUM ALTITUDE

439 m



THE LA TRAVIESA NECROPOLIS

Discovered in 1986 and excavated in 1992-1993, La Travesía is one of the largest Bronze Age burial sites in the south-east of the Iberian Peninsula. It comprises a total of 29 burials in cists. A cist is a prehistoric funerary monument, of small dimensions and rectangular in shape, covered with flat slate stones that formed a chamber for a single individual in the fetal position. The main burial site is on the highest point of the necropolis, on a mound of earth, and is covered with a thick glazed sheet. Around, in an austere manner and forming a semi-circle, are the remaining 28 cists. While in most of the cists ceramic pots have been found, a bronze halberd was found in the main one. The differences in the grave goods and in the prominent central location of this cist are indicators of a social hierarchy.

Nearby one finds the archaeological remains of an ancient human settlement of the same period, which is believed to have been associated with the necropolis. The ensemble has been declared a Spanish Historical Heritage Site and is included in the catalogue of archaeological sites of the province of Sevilla.



The uplands that provide

The publicly owned uplands are essential for the conservation of Andalusia's principal ecosystems. Since the most remote times, they have been an indispensable part of the landscape, the culture and the economy of the towns and villages. In La Traviesa, several forestry and livestock activities are carried out; please respect the gates and fences that you find along your path and do not leave the marked path.

Once in the access lane to the public land, we pass the house of the estate and come to the start sign [1] at the end of a very tight bend. The trail rises gently along a well-compacted track of earth and stones, which leads into the *dehesa* [2]. *Dehesas* are woods that have been cleared and manipulated for use by humans. Of these, the pastures are used for cattle and sheep and the *montanera* of the Iberian pig, but they are also used as hunting grounds, to obtain wood and firewood and for harvesting mushrooms, asparagus, etc. In addition to its productive function, the *dehesa* is home to a considerable number of animal and plant species that find food and shelter in it, which makes it one of the richest and most valued ecosystems of the Sierra Morena. The trail stays within this ecosystem along the entire route and, although the vegetation does not let you see it, it runs practically parallel to a section of the Rivera de Cala.

The geological resources

Surrounded by beautiful specimens of cork oak with their bare reddish trunks, we walk on a reddish soil, the same one that the mountain inhabitants must have trod for thousands of years, which attests to the mineral wealth of the Geopark.



Geological resources have constituted another type of exploitation that, since the beginning of the history of human occupation, has encouraged the continuous presence of different cultures in the Sierra Norte de Sevilla.

Enveloped by the sounds of the blue tit, the great tit and the robin, and the scents of rockrose, lavender and French lavender, we continue the ascent. Where the uplands have clearances, the trail gives panoramic views of the mountainous outline of the sierra. A kilometre and a half from the beginning, at a fork, we continue to follow the main lane, which goes up on the right, and we leave behind on the left the lane that descends the slope. Mastic, strawberry trees, torviscos (*Daphne gnidium*), some holm oaks but, above all, the purple cloak of the lavenders accompany us along the way. We will also find different species of mosses and lichens, reminding us that we are travelling across the north face of La Traviesa.

The slope gets tougher in the next six hundred metres until it reaches an uncovered flat area of vegetation [3], on the very backbone of the mountain. From the edge of the col and, for the first time, towards the southern



slope of La Traviesa, we suddenly behold an extraordinary panoramic view over the meadows of the Natural Park.

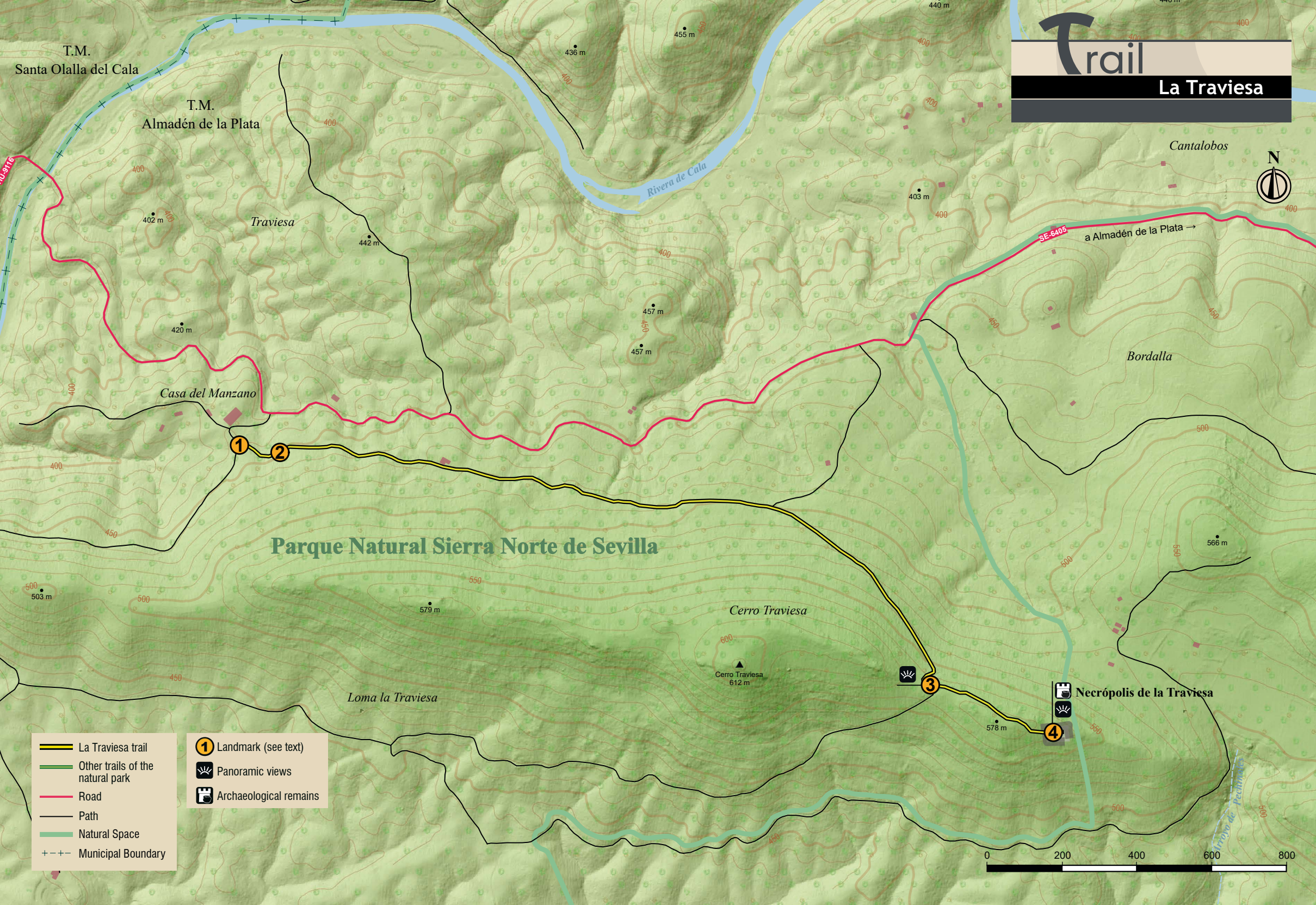
The necropolis

The trail continues ascending along the path on the left, guarded by cork oaks of particular beauty. In about three hundred metres, the vegetation gives way, allowing us to make out, at the end of a path a few tens of metres long, the stone wall that delimits the necropolis, the wooden fence of the entrance and signs identifying the excavation [4]. So we leave the main road at this point, and go along the aforementioned path to the necropolis.



The site consists of 29 graves between 4,250 and 3,000 years old, discreetly distributed among the vegetation and stones. The necropolis dominates a spectacular view over the park, which increases the solemnity of the place. When one is there, one could swear that those ancient inhabitants of the Traviesa buried their loved ones as close to their god as possible. Be respectful. It is a sacred place, of worship and burial that, like so many funerary landscapes of ancient times, attests to the importance of this territory.





T.M.
Santa Olalla del Cala

T.M.
Almadén de la Plata

Casa del Manzano

Parque Natural Sierra Norte de Sevilla

Cerro Travesía

Necrópolis de la Travesía

- La Travesía trail
 - Other trails of the natural park
 - Road
 - Path
 - Natural Space
 - Municipal Boundary
- 1 Landmark (see text)
 - Panoramic views
 - Archaeological remains

