

GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked paths



Please respect private property



The capture of animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112



CÁDIZ



MORE INFORMATION

Del Estrecho Information Point. Carretera N-340. PK 77,5. Tarifa. Cádiz. Tel: 697 95 55 40.

ventanadelvisitante



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
Del Estrecho



Algarbes
Betijuelo



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



ROUTE

Linear

LENGTH (OUTWARD)

5,6 km

ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

3 hours

DIFFICULTY

Medium

TYPE OF TRAIL

Dirt road and footpath. Some stretches with loose stones that make traffic difficult.

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Pine woods, mastic trees, rockroses, eucalyptus, gorse and even broom on the last stretch of the route. Spectacular views of the Strait of Gibraltar.

SHADE

Frequent on the first part of the route

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Caution with stray cattle.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Tarifa

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1077 - Tarifa

START / END COORDINATES

36° 4' 25,64" N - 5° 41' 43,23" O

36° 3' 46,1" N - 5° 42' 44,46" O



HOW TO GET THERE

On the N-340 at km 74 take the A-2325 road to Punta Paloma. Before reaching this village, past the Paloma campsite, turn right onto a track that leads to the necropolis of Los Algarbes, where the trail begins.



PARKING

There are possibilities at the beginning and in the middle of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

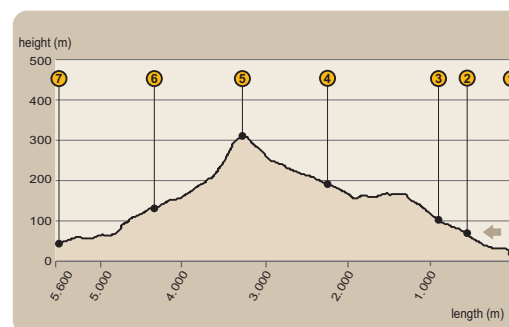
The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are: Transportes Comes (902 19 92 08; www.tgcomes.es), Portillo (902 14 31 44; www.ctsa-portillo.com) and Linesur (956 66 76 49; www.linesur.com). Algeciras has a railway station (956 63 20 87; RENFE customer service: 902 240 202; www.renfe.es) and a harbour station (956 58 54 63). Tarifa also has a harbour station (956 68 18 30).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park offers other routes for hikers, the closest being Duna de Bolonia and La Peña. The GR-7 international long-distance footpath starts in Tarifa and goes to Atenas.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

289 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

309 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

20 m

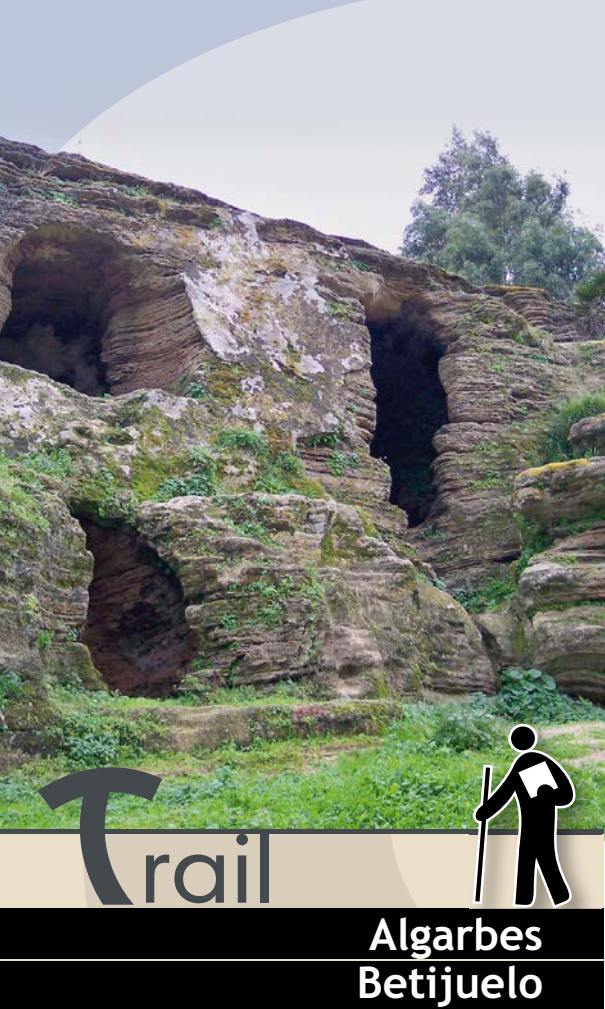


THE ALGARBES NECROPOLIS

This extraordinary archaeological complex is the most important Bronze Age site in the province of Cádiz, covering an area of more than two hectares. It is well before the Phoenician colonisation, and its excavation evidenced the existence in the area around the Strait of Gibraltar of farming communities with an advanced culture in prehistoric times. This is borne out by the finds made: metal, ivory or gold pieces, numerous ceramics, polished axes or decorative objects such as pendants or perforated discs made from mollusc shells, etc.



It is an outcrop of sandstone rock, a kind of fossilised dune, used by our ancestors as a cemetery. Taking advantage of the fact that the rock is not hard and is easily eroded, they carved caves, galleries, chambers or pits for burials. There are about fifty funerary structures, some with side access and others with vertical entrances. There are also two anthropomorphic tombs, similar to those found at other nearby sites.



The Algarbes

At km 74 of the N-340 is the turn-off to Punta Paloma (A-2325), in the direction of the coast. Immediately after crossing the River del Valle, and after passing the Paloma campsite, we must take the first path on the right.

A few metres further on we find the car park and the sign for the start of the path (check [1] on the map).



We follow the dirt track to the left bordering the necropolis of Los Algarbes. At the end of it, the path has two consecutive sharp bends at the edge of the eucalyptus grove that covers a good part of the hillside, to enter it [2] heading west. These trees from distant lands are mixed with native species such as mastic trees, palmettos and kermes oaks. After about three hundred metres of gentle ascent, we leave the track that leads to the houses and military installations of Paloma Alta, and turn off to the right [3] onto a path of lesser importance that heads towards the Loma de San Bartolomé, which is the elevation in front of us.



Betijuelo

A few hundred metres further on, the eucalyptus trees disappear, giving way to pine trees and vegetation with a more Mediterranean appearance.

We cross the Paloma Alta road [4], to find ourselves on the other side of Betijuelo, a characteristic rural nucleus of dispersed constitution - like many others in this area - inhabited since ancient times by ranchers with small livestock farms, which are gradually being displaced by other types of neighbours and businesses related to tourism.



Betijuelo can be reached by car, which is why there is an alternative point of incorporation to the trail, with a car park on the side of the road. After another five hundred metres of ascent, surrounded by stone pines, we reach the highest point of the path [5], where there is a geodesic vertex. The views from here are breath-taking, covering a wide stretch of the Atlantic coast of Cadiz, from Trafalgar to Tarifa. We will find the dunes of Valdevaquero on the left and Bolonia on the right, and the immense inlets in which they are located. Behind the second, there is Cape Gracia, with its lighthouse installed on an old watchtower. To the south, behind a blanket of stone pines, there is the Strait of Gibraltar, with the African coast on the other side.



Paloma Baja

We will also find very close by, to the southeast, Paloma Alta, the military complex that we skirted on the way up. Now, heading down towards the coast, we will go to Paloma Baja, also belonging to the Ministry of Defence. It is a relatively easy descent through a firebreak that separates dense forest masses with very varied undergrowth where numerous animals take refuge.



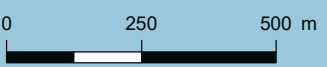
After a kilometre descending, we will reach the bed of the stream of Los Puercos [6], which is generally dry, although its width gives an idea of the flow that it can have. The trail takes us to a wooden fence where we can admire the unique landscape. Finally we descend to meet a track that leads us to the road where the path ends [7].

Weather and tide permitting, we can try the return trip along the beach. If not, the return journey can be made on the tarmac road: the starting point is about two kilometres away.



Trail

Algarbes Betijuelo



OCEANO ATLANTICO

- Algarbes - Betijuelo Trail
- Livestock trails
- Nature park boundary
- Road
- Path
- Electricity line
- Landmark (see text)
- Parking
- Panoramic views
- XXXX
- Beach
- Camping