

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

Emergency phone: 112



JAÉN

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de Andújar

MORE INFORMATION

Cercado del Ciprés Information Point. Camino de los Rubiales S/N. Andújar, Jaén. Teléfono: 662 97 40 12 / 617 86 10 52.

Viñas De Peñallana Visitor's Centre. Ctra. Andújar-Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza, Km 13. Andújar, Jaén. Tel. 953 53 96 28.

Natural Park Office Sierra de Andújar. Tel. 953 10 33 00.

ventanadelvisitante



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de Andújar

Trail

Camino Viejo:
Los Cerrillos-San Ginés Section



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000

ROUTE

Linear

LENGTH (OUTWARD)

5,9 km

ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

3 hours

DIFFICULTY

Moderate

TYPE OF TRAIL

Path

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Scrubland covered with holm oak, lavender and rockrose. During the flowering season, in April and May, the landscape is particularly attractive. Panoramic views of Andújar and the Guadalquivir valley.

SHADE

Scant

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Jaén / Andújar

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

904

START / END COORDINATES

38°4'13" N, 4°3'36" W

38°6'37" N, 4°2'41" W



HOW TO GET THERE

From the Andújar cemetery to the north of the town, take the old San Amasio road. From the second kilometre, the surface of the road worsens but it is transitable with four-wheel drive. After about 900 metres, by a metal gate, stands the sign indicating the start of the trail.



PARKING

There is a no parking at the start of the trail. You can leave your vehicle in the immediate surroundings of the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

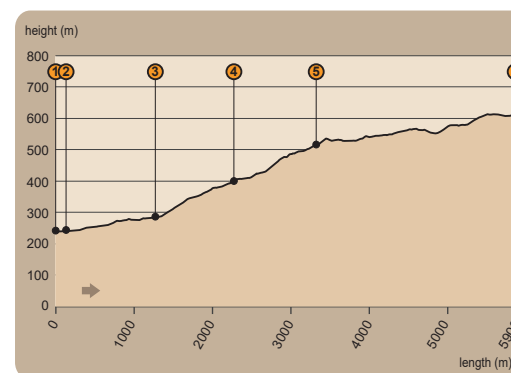
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA (tel. 902 42 22 42), Transportes Ureña (tel. 953 50 09 44) and Transportes Marcos Muñoz (tel. 953 50 09 82). The nearest train stations are Andújar and Marmolejo (www.renfe.es; tel. 902 24 02).



OTHER TRAILS

The Natural Park is home to numerous marked trails. Among those close to this one are: La Ropera, el Camino Viejo: San Ginés-Lugar Nuevo section, Control de la Cabrera-Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza and El Encinarejo.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

379 m

MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

613 m

MINIMUM ALTITUDE

234 m



THE SHRINE OF SAN GINÉS

Built by volunteers and financed with private donations, the shrine of San Ginés is an important landmark for pilgrims and walkers on the old road, who make the annual pilgrimage to the Virgen de la Cabeza sanctuary. Although the *cofradías* or brotherhoods have their own traditional stops along the route, San Ginés is one of the most important and an official stop on the popular pilgrimage.

It's a simple, beautiful church with white walls and stone buttresses, which was built in the nineties in the vicinity of an older shrine which has existed for centuries. Inside, above the smooth immaculate walls that frame the altar, we can find a half-point arch, a horseshoe arch and a pointed arch. It is a mix of styles that commemorate three important periods in the history of these lands. The altarpiece features a mosaic of painted blue tiles, typical of the traditional ceramic work of Andújar, representing San Ginés, the Virgen de la Cabeza and the sanctuary itself.

The shrine is the first important stop on the route to the sanctuary. On a clear day there is an interesting panoramic view of the mountains, where we can make out Jabalcuz, La Pandera, Sierra de Grajales, Sierra Mágina and the peaks of Veleta, Mulhacén and La Alcazaba in the Sierra Nevada.



Trail



Camino Viejo: Los Cerrillos-San Ginés Section

Whether on foot, by bicycle, horseback, mule or carriage, pilgrims have excavated the land and stone on the Andújar road to the Virgen de la Cabeza sanctuary. Known as the Camino Viejo or old road, this route uses some old shepherding tracks to plunge into the depths of the Mediterranean scrubland, embracing the wildlife of the mountain with the history, culture and spiritual tradition of its inhabitants. Our trail takes us along the section from Los Cerrillos to the iconic shrine of San Ginés, ascending through an area of pasture and crossing scrubland covered with holm oak, pines, rockrose and lavender.

Fighting bulls and big trophies

We encounter a sign [1] at the start of the trail, opposite a picnic area and an iron gate where several livestock trails cross. The trail leaves the countryside behind and enters an area of pastureland through the Cordel de los Molinos. The uprooted earth, the smell of manure and the mooing lost in the immensity of the open space tells us we are on livestock farm, and it is important to remember to close all gates behind us. Before long we encounter the defiant faces of the bulls on the other side of a wire fence that runs parallel to the Molinos stream.



The breeding of fighting bulls and hunting are the main activities on these lands. In the sierra de Andújar, both the livestock exploitations and the hunting grounds are dehesas of holm oak. The former are open, with extensive pastures and sparse undergrowth, while the hunting grounds have a dense coverage of thickets that serve as a refuge for deer, bucks and wild boar. Over the course of the path, we'll have the opportunity to make some of them out.

In 150 metres, alongside the stream we find the old flour mills [2] that give this livestock trail its name. These were used to process the cereal produced in the area into flour: the while gold that sated so much hunger throughout history.

We continue our gentle ascent through the pasture. The pastures of Andújar show a curious distribution in the form of a strip running along the foot of the mountainside. This strip of pasture, shining intense green during the winter and spring, turns abruptly to straw yellow with the May sunshine. The grasses of Andújar have very short cycles; they dry out rapidly and remain faded well into autumn.

In 800 metres, after a steep slope, we leave the bulls behind and holm oaks begin to appear on each side.

The route is made by walking

As we delve further into the Mediterranean scrubland, the sections of the trail become hemmed in by the slate of the mountain. The passing of an infinite number of pilgrims over more than eight centuries has carved out the metamorphic rock, formed by clays and marine lime which are eroded relatively easily. The Virgen de la Cabeza is the oldest of the major *romerías* or pilgrimages and every year, without looking for shortcuts and overstepping the rubbish that some thoughtless individuals leave behind them in the mountain, hundreds of people make their way to the sanctuary.

Through the holm oaks, asphodels, rockrose and lavender, flowering into a purple blanket in spring to decorate the path, we reach one of the landmarks of the pilgrimage: the Cuesta del Reventón hill [3]. The trail continues along the right of the sign indicating the hill. In some sections, through the thin trunks of the holm oaks we can make out the valleys of the Jándula and Guadalquivir.

These holm oaks are older than their slender figures might suggest but between the acidity of the terrain, resulting in poor soil, and the stress of the intense coaling that has traditionally supplied the population of Andújar with fuels, they grow rickety.



The Guadalquivir Valley

In the passing shade of the griffon vulture or black vulture circling above our heads and the occasional encounter with a magpie, we reach an open clearing on the left of the trail [4]. From here we can observe the Guadalquivir

Valley in all its glory, in the foreground, the holm oaks of the Sierra Morena and the countryside beyond, and in the background the Sierras Subbéticas. On our left we can make out the skyline of the town Andújar and behind it the Sierra Mágina. Also visible are the peak of Jabalcuz, the outcrop of the Peña de Martos and the Sierra Ahillos. A kilometre further up, at the viewing point of the valley [5], where there is also an entrance gate to the Natural Park, the exceptional view opens up once again and a panoramic information panel indicates the names of the villages and mountains on the horizon.



After catching our breath again, we cross the gate marking the limit of the public forest with the private property, we cross a firebreak and enter the shining Aleppo pine forest of Lugar Nuevo: a property belonging to the Ministry that is home to some 10,000 hectares of pine forest and Mediterranean scrubland. The trail leads us along a path that crosses several firebreaks. On one of these crossings we pass the Collado de la Virgen or Collado del Lobo, a landmark on the pilgrimage route that reminds us that until recently this was wolf territory. In 700 metres we reach the end of our trail, at the shrine of San Ginés [6], where pilgrims rest before tackling the next section to the sanctuary.

Trail

Camino Viejo: Los Cerrillos-San Ginés Section



T.M. Marmolejo

Parque Natural Sierra de Andújar

T.M. Andújar

- Camino Viejo Trail: Los Cerrillos-San Ginés Section
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path
- Natural Space
- Municipal Boundary
- Landmark (see text)
- Panoramic views
- Mill
- Trail
- Shrine

