

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
MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL
Los Alcornocales

MORE INFORMATION

Territorial Delegation of the Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development in Cadiz. Natural Park Office Los Alcornocales.

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

PARQUE NATURAL
Los Alcornocales

Trail

El Palancar



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000



Red de Reservas de la Biosfera

• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

2,8 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour

• DIFFICULTY

Average

• TYPE OF TRAIL

The trail is not very characteristic for walking, it is a stony, sandy path and there are some stretches of path.

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Scattered scrubland, wild olive grove and cork oak grove. An excellent view.

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and a mobile phone and wear suitable clothing and footwear. In summer migratory birds can be seen frequently, so it is advisable to bring binoculars with you.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz, Málaga / Los Barrios

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1074 - Tahivilla

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 14' 53,89" N – 5° 34' 47,26" O

36° 14' 53,84" N – 5° 34' 47,27" O



HOW TO GET THERE

On the Jerez-Los Barrios A-381 motorway, take the turning no. 70 and at the service road take the Los Barrios direction. Then, cross the Charco Redondo reservoir over a bridge, continue along the service road and approximately 1 km from the start you will cross the motorway through a tunnel that will take you to the start of the trail. The route along the service road is just over 2000 metres, the route starts on the left, at a metal sculpture.



PARKING

There is a car park at the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

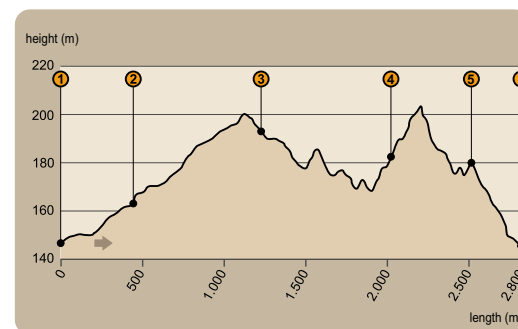
Buses stop in Alcalá de los Gazules or Los Barrios. The company is Transportes Linesur (tel. 957 42 15 85; www.linesur.com). The railway station with the best connections is in Los Barrios (check services and timetables at tel. 902 32 03 20; www.renfe.com).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural site offers other routes, such as: La Teja and Valdeinfierno.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

58 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

203 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

145 m



The caves in the sandstone served as a refuge for the inhabitants of the sierra

CAVE HOUSES

Human presence in this area dates back to prehistoric times, when natural shelters were used as places of worship, as evidenced by the several paintings that can be found throughout the natural park, giving rise to the well-known Southern Art.

In more recent times, these small natural shelters dug by the wind and rain in the predominant sandstones of the area have served to house settlers who benefited from the natural environment as a resource. In this valley we can find three cave houses, one of them walled closing the cavity, with a door and a small window.

In fact, several families lived in these cave houses until a few decades ago, living in virtual isolation and only sporadically visited by the Recovero, a kind of trader who exchanged village products for milk, eggs or those materials that these cave dwellers were able to obtain from nature.



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A very didactic trail

The beginning of the trail is dominated by large iron sculptures (check [1] on the map). We soon see the didactic character of the path: a first panel on the bujeos, then another on birds and a little further on, one on the gall oak grove.

We arrive at a fountain surrounded by wooden walkways under a sandstone pit. It is a source of ferruginous water, with its characteristic orange colour due to the iron dissolved in it. Here we can also observe one of the nine anthropomorphic tombs that have been found in the surrounding area, tombs carved into the sandstone rock. This type of burial is quite common in the area and we can find thousands of them in the area of Los Alcornocales Natural Park and its surroundings.

A branch of the path to the left leads to a rest area with wooden benches and another fountain with the same characteristics as the previous one. It is a beautiful place to enjoy nature.

On returning to the main track and after walking a few metres, we can take a momentary detour to the left to visit some huts called *moriscos* (Moorish huts). These constructions were the typical houses of the area, built with local materials. The walls are made of stone and the roof of heather. These Moorish monasteries are located in a beautiful gall oak grove and an interpretative panel gives us details about this ecosystem. We can also observe the remains of a charcoal or pottery kiln. We retrace our steps and continue along the main lane.



Variety of ecosystems

The accessible section ends [2] and the track goes gently uphill next to a cork oak grove. Another panel explains interesting aspects about the cork oak. We continue climbing, leaving behind beautiful views of the Charco Redondo reservoir, approaching a pine forest and an enclosure dedicated to the Andalusian donkey. In fact, a donkey reserve was created in 1995 to help conserve this emblematic species. The pine forest under which we walk is made up of reforestation pines and a panel tells us why they were planted here. The track continues to climb and we reach the top of a small pass.

The pine forest stretches out to our left and an open field, called a *herriza* (low-productivity stony area), opens up on our right. At this point we leave the track and take a path through the heather [3] until we reach a panel that explains the type of ecosystem we are in.

Past and present houses

We now walk for a while through this open terrain until we leave the horseshoe and come across the cave houses [4], forming a settlement with a very interesting past history. A panel here explains this picturesque place and shows us that the rural



Cave house



inhabitants have always known how to live in harmony with the environment, finding ways to make the most of its resources.



Sandstone detail

From here the path runs through a scrubland area, sometimes along a firebreak, sometimes over sandstone and always with magnificent views of the surroundings. We descend through heather and cork oaks, approaching a pine forest. Cross the gate that leads to the pine forest [5] and turn left down through the pines. Shortly afterwards we leave the pine forest and reach the starting point.

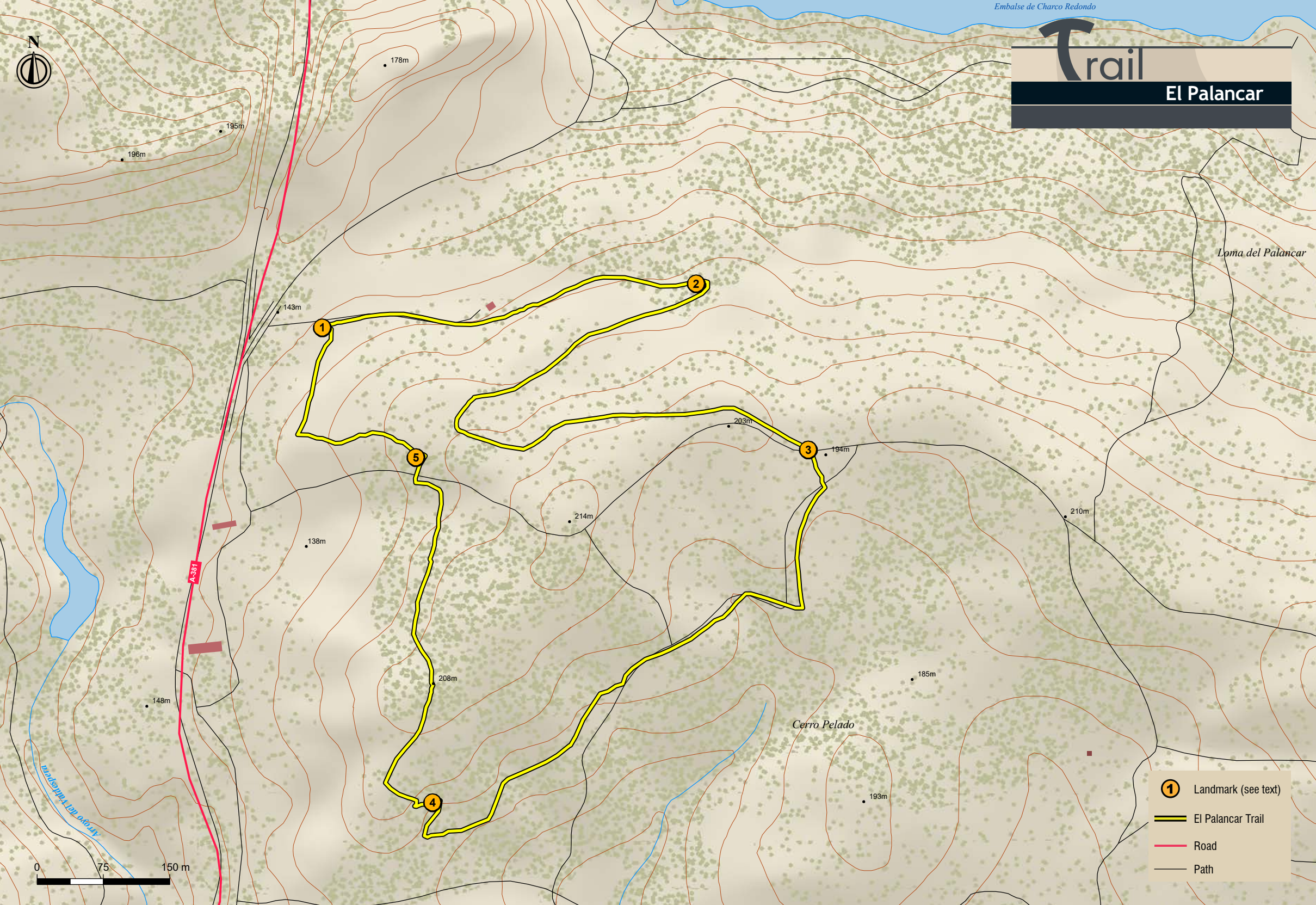
There are several trails in the vicinity that we can follow and continue to get to know this beautiful spot: the La Teja trail, a pioneer in the management of cork oak groves for their regeneration, and the Valdeinfierno trail, also adapted for people with physical disabilities in one section, with a beautiful riverside forest.





Trail

El Palancar



- 1** Landmark (see text)
- El Palancar Trail**
- Road**
- Path**

