GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked paths



Please respect private property



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is not allowed

The capture of animals

is not permitted

Starting fires is

strictly forbidden

Emergency phone: 112



CÁDIZ MÁLAGA

> PARQUE NATURAL Sierra de Grazalema

MORE INFORMATION

Cortes de la Frontera Visitor's Centre Av. de la Democracia s/n. Cortes de la Frontera. Málaga. Tel 952 15 45 99 ventanadel**visitante.**









OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION





• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

10.9 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

3 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Average

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track and path

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Route over limestone relief with characteristic formations: pavements and poljes. Plains of pastureland and holm oak groves with livestock. Fuente de Líbar. Farmsteads and farming constructions.

• SHADE

Little or none

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Málaga / Montejaque, Benaoján and Cortes de la Frontera

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1050 - Ubrique

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 44' 12,33"N - 5° 15' 1,98"O 36° 40' 7,72"N - 5° 14' 49,99"O



HOW TO GET THERE

In Montejaque, we first take Avenida Europa and, at the northern end of the village, turn on to Calle Líbar, where the trail begins.



PARKING

There is car park at the start of the trail and there are also places nearby to leave your vehicle. Monteigue is an option to consider.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

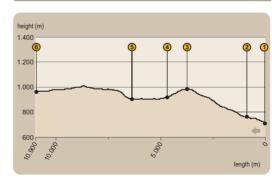
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are Los Amarillos (tel. 902 21 03 17) and Transportes Generales Comes S.A. (tel. 902 19 92 08). The nearest train stations are in Cortes de la Frontera, Jimera de Líbar, Benaoján and Ronda (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or by telephone on 902 24 02 02).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park offers a number of routes for hikers. Those closest include El Pimpollar en Cortes de la Frontera y La Cueva del Gato y Río Guadiaro en Benaoján.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

313 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1.010 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

697 m

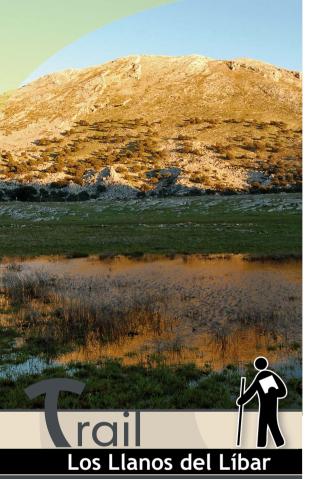


A LANDSCAPE MOULDED BY WATER

Despite the fact that this is a place with a high level of rainfall, water is barely visible on the surface. It penetrates the infinite number of fractures and cracks, sometimes creating galleries, as in the case of chasms and caves, giving the area one of the most extensive underground complexes on the Iberian Peninsula.



On the surface, after thousands of years the erosion and wear of the limestone creating a series of nooks and crannies ranging from small grooves we can see in the rocks to large depressions caused by the sinking of the soil. The former are known as limestone pavement, the latter as poljes, of which Llanos de Líbar is one of the important in the nature park.



This trail offers the opportunity to enjoy a landscape marke by the greyish shades of the naked limestone rock and the green of the holm oak leaves.

The water has patiently moulded the rocks of these mountains, sometimes causing curious shapes to emerge while others are hidden under the plains in chasms and caves. They provided the verdant green of these pastures used for grazing, connected by this cattle track that takes us to the Líbar farmstead.

The plains first

We begin to cross the first rise which takes is from the village (see [1] on the map) which takes us through the olive groves to the Sierra de Juan Diego.



During the rise, we enjoy views of the village, its streets and alleyways that allows us to imagine its Arabic origin, like the Arabic quarter of the city of Ronda. Its own name, meaning lost mountain in Arabic, attests to this history.

A little later we enter the first of the plains, Llano del Almendral [2], where we can see the almond trees that gives it its name, although today holm oaks and hawthorn.



But the main feature of this landscape is the domination of grey limestone rocks whose shape and textures are lent a particular appearance.

It is the nature of this rock, subject to slow erosion, that determines the panorama we observe here, from El Pozuelo [3] with plains and dehesas transformed by man into rich pastures where livestock graze [4].

Holm oak and grazing land

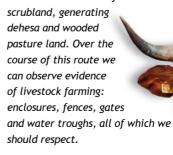
After the first expanse of pasture land, we enter a dehesa of very old holm oaks [5].



The dehesa is also a source of food for livestock. As well as pasture that grows below the trees, animals feed on the young shoots of the branches within reach, pruning the interior of their canopies in the process. These specimens, given their age, are weaker to plagues of perforating insects and whose effects can be observed in the small holes in the areas of the trunk bereft of bark. To combat this, they attempt to catch males in traps, used to attract the pheromones of the females.



Livestock breeding is one of the most important activities in the area, bit the limestone soils offer scan resources. To ensure there is sufficient pasture land to feed the livestock it is necessary to eliminate wooded areas and



Pastureland

We pass the Libar farmstead, whose interior courtyard preserves an impressive walnut tree. This constructions is good example of the hold economy of the area.

hold economy of the area, with its incessant farming activity.



The rocky crags and vertical faces around us serve as a refuge for an array of birds such as red-billed choughs, short-toed eagles and, above all, the majestic griffon vultures, who it's not too difficult to spot circling above is search of dead cows and thus contributing to the ecosystems, ensuring hey do not become a source of disease for the rest of the livestock. Further on, we find the fountain of Líbar [6] and the end of the trail.



