

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



SEVILLA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra Norte
de Sevilla

MORE INFORMATION

Cortijo El Berrocal Visitor's Centre. Camino rural Almadén de la Plata-Los Melonares km 5,5. Almadén de la Plata. Sevilla.
Tel. 955 95 20 49
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

Trail

de los Molinos



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

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000



Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura



Red Española de Reservas de la Biosfera



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark

ROUTE

Linear

LENGTH (OUTWARD)

2,8 km

ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour

DIFFICULTY

Medium - Low

TYPE OF TRAIL

Track with sandy surface

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Mountain environment, with moderate heights and slopes. Peri-urban area with agricultural land. Extensive forest domain with Mediterranean vegetation and a predominance of meadows and scrubland. Relatively open valley with scattered riparian vegetation.

SHADE

Frequent

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Sevilla / Almadén de la Plata

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

919 - Almadén de la Plata

START / END COORDINATES

37° 52' 30,23"N – 6° 50' 60,29"O

37° 53' 10,64"N – 6° 60' 37,99"O



HOW TO GET THERE

From the motorway Ruta de la Plata (A-66) take the exit to Almadén de la Plata. Other access routes are from Castilblanco de los Arroyos via SE-5405 or from El Real de la Jara via the A-5301. Once in Almadén de la Plata, go to the end of Calle de Los Molinos. The trail starts at the back of the health centre.



PARKING

There is a car park at the start of the trail and there are also places nearby to leave your vehicle. Almadén de la Plata is an option to consider.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

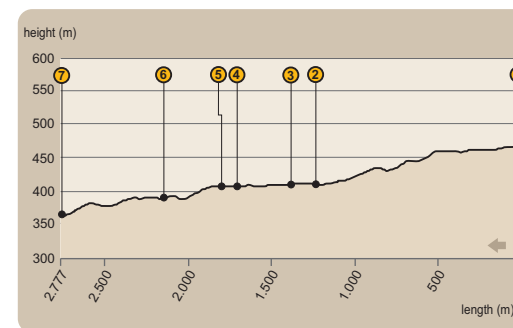
The main concessionaire of regular bus lines in the area is Casal (tel. 954 99 92 90; www.autocarescasal.com).



OTHER TRAILS

In Almadén de la Plata several paths of different types and trails converge. El Calvario is similar to this one, short and offered by the natural park. A long route is the Mozarabic Way to Santiago de Compostela, or the GR-48 or Sierra Morena Trail, between Barrancos (Portugal) and the River Yeguas.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

104 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

467 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

363 m

MILL WITHOUT MILLSTONES, MOUTH WITHOUT TEETH

The area through which this trail runs is home to a large number of watermills. The existence of a watercourse suitable for this industry enabled them to operate in series, taking advantage of the water's momentum.

The mill harnessed the energy of the water, which was channelled from the riverbed through an irrigation channel called a *cao* to a well or reservoir. From here the stored water was released and directed under pressure onto a wheel with blades (*rodezo*), which by means of an axle transmitted the rotation to a mobile stone (*corredera* or *volandera*), above a fixed one (*solera*). The grain, poured between the two through a hopper (a kind of funnel), was ground by the friction of the two stones (millstones), on which grooves were carved to expel the flour.

These grooves, subject to considerable wear and tear, had to be reworked frequently, which required another equally curious ingenuity: the *cabria*, a kind of crane that allowed the upper stone to be tipped and the fixed stone to be accessed, an operation which, given the weight of the grinding wheels, required more skill than strength.



The miller's trade was a usual motif in literature and in expressions of popular speech. Such is the case of Don Quixote addressing Sancho Panza exalting the good care of the teeth, which gives the title to this text, as well as the sentence "molino parado no gana maquila" (part of flour or grain that the miller received for his work) or numerous other pieces of Spanish proverb: "agua pasada no mueve molino" (water under the mill does not move the mill); "quien primero viene, primero muele" (he who comes first, grinds first); "mientras tiene agua el molino, el molinero bebe vino" (while the mill has water, the miller drinks wine)...



Trail de los Molinos



This trail runs between Almadén de la Plata and the River Rivera de Cala, almost always next to the Los Molinos stream, so called because of the large number of these water-powered factories that were installed on its banks many centuries ago.

In addition, we will have the opportunity to find other traces of the traditional mountain economy and to understand the keys to the landscapes that surround us. We will drive along old paths flanked by stone walls and we will go through meadows and groves.

Almadén de la Plata

We start our journey on the outskirts of Almadén de la Plata, a town with mining in its name, where the street of Los Molinos ends (check [1] on the map), heading north-east. Before leaving it, we would do well to spend some time visiting the town, learning about its interesting history, and recognising it in its streets and monuments. A profitable entertainment that we can extend to the trail we are about to embark on.

The imprint of mining is recognisable in many features of the landscape and town planning, although, as it is now more history than current affairs, its location and interpretation need to be fine-tuned. From the agricultural area that we pass through on our first steps and from the head of cattle that can be seen here and there, we sense that such activities have always played an important role in the local economy.



Looking back we see Almadén wedged between the Calvario hill to the south and the hills of Los Covachos and Pedrera to the north, while ahead we see a corridor opening up towards the Rivera de Cala. The road to Santa Olalla de Cala runs some distance to our left, and on the opposite side the Los Molinos stream, which we will gradually approach.

Historic paths

We advance between stone walls that separate us from orchards and other crops, revealing the antiquity of the path and recalls ways of life of the past. We also see lines of prickly pears, which are another type of traditional fencing. Just after the crops, we enter the domains of the meadows, the most characteristic formation of the natural park.



The meadow is a forest cleared for multiple uses (livestock, agriculture, forestry...), in which many of the natural values of the original Mediterranean forest are preserved.

Approximately one and a half kilometres further on, we reach the Molinos stream, which we will not leave until it flows into the River Rivera de Cala. The name of the stream is not whimsical, as we will find the remains of up to six mills on its banks. Another important clue to the complex mountain economy that lasted for centuries until not so distant times.



Grinding chain

In the stream we find the first mill, the Manadero [2], now converted into a farmhouse, but in which we can observe signs of its origin, perhaps more than five centuries ago. In the following mill [3] we can find the remains of the irrigation channel and the pipe that carried the water to move its machinery.



Downstream we find four more mills [4], [5], [6] and [7], some in better condition than others, but all of them resisting the abandonment and ruin years after years. The last of these, the Rivera mill [7], which is one of the best preserved, marks the end of our tour. At this point, the path opens up to reveal the mouth of our stream, to channel its waters into the Cala reservoir, one of the reservoirs that supplies the metropolitan area of Seville.



Trail de los Molinos



	Landmark (see text)		De los Molinos Trail
	Church		Nature park boundary
	Mill		Límite parque natural
	Farmstead		Road
	Ayuntamiento		Path
	Interpretive panel		

