

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
Sierra de
Grazalema

MORE INFORMATION

El Bosque Visitors' Centre. Federico García Lorca nº1.

El Bosque. Cádiz. Tel. 956 70 97 33

ventanadelvisitante



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de
Grazalema

Trail

El Pinsapar



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

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

10,5 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

4 hour and 30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Average

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path and earthen track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Mountainous landscape formed of limestone and sink holes with magnificent views, fir forest and Mediterranean mountain with an abundance of gall oaks and holm oaks. In addition to ethnographic elements of interest such as farmsteads, *alfanjes* (circular clearings with mounds upon which cola furnaces were built) and snow wells.

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Authorisation required.

Individuals: cvelbosque@reservatuvisita.es, 956 709 733.

Companies, associations, clubs, federations and official groups: Office of the Sierra de Grazalema Nature Park: 600 161 916 - 600 161 906

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Check that the water is safe to drink. From 1 June to 15 October, due to the risk of forest fires, the trail can only be accessed via the eastern section on guided tours and only runs as far as the fir forest.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Grazalema

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1050 - Ubrique

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 46' 0,67"N – 5° 22' 53,27"W

36° 46' 8,95"N – 5° 27' 35,18"W



HOW TO GET THERE

From Carboneras, take the A-372 towards Benamahoma. After about 1.5 kilometres, turn right and take the CA-9104 towards Puerto de la Palomas. The trail is access a kilometre off the road to the left.



PARKING

There is a carpark with some 50 places at the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

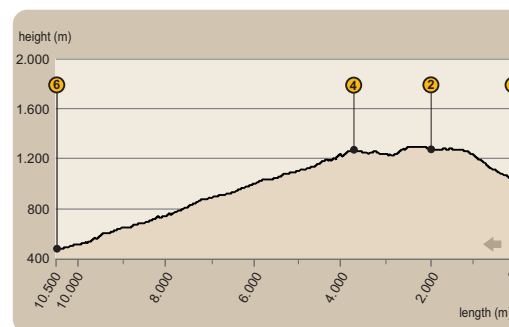
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are Los Amarillos (tel. 902 21 03 17) and Transportes Generales Comes S.A. (tel. 902 19 92 08). The nearest train stations are in Cortes de la Frontera, Jímera de Líbar, Benaóján and Ronda (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or by telephone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



OTHER TRAILS

The Río Majaceite and Arroyo del Descansadero trails meet at Benamahoma. The Los Charcones, Puerto de las Presillas, Llanos del Endrinal and Salto del Cabrero trails all begin in the vicinity of Grazalema.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

823 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1.298 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

475 m

A MILLENIAL FOREST

Thanks to its singularity, the fir forest has become the emblem of this nature park. It belongs to a new species of fir present in the mountains around the Mediterranean. This particular species is only found in Andalusia in the Serranía de Ronda and Sierra de Grazalema, where it extends across more than 400 ha over the Sierra del Pinar. It is mostly found on the northern sides, protected from excessive direct sunlight, and the resulting loss of humidity, which generates a dense, shady forest where it competes for light, leaving the lower branches without leaves and scant undergrowth reduced to just a few species.



It was described by the Swiss botanist Edmund Bossier in his work "Botanical Journey through the South of Spain" in 1838. In Málaga, Boissier contacted Pablo Prolongo and Félix Haenseler, two pharmacists from the city with a passion for botany and they showed him their herbariums. This was Boissier's first sight of branches and needles from the Spanish fir, believing it to be a new species for science, which he later confirmed through his field work.

Spanish fir forests were much more extensive a million years ago, when climate conditions were different to today's. It is a vestige of time those times; a botanical gem limited to very small area.



Towards the Puerto de las Palomas

Our trail begins in the area known as Las Canteras or Los Areneros (see [1] on the map) due to the quarries found in the area, just a couple of kilometres from Grazalema, on the road that rises to the Puerto de las Palomas.

We begin to ascend between the repopulated pine groves, which serve to protect from erosion caused by the intense rain this area receives. In fact, this areas has one of the highest pluviometric indices in Spain.



We continue to gain altitude until we reach the Puerto de las Cumbres [2], a natural mountain pass on the northern face of the sierra of the same name. The view from here is spectacular, with the Serranía de Ronda at our back and the vast extension of the Reserve Zone before us. We can also make out El Torreón, the highest peak in the province of Cádiz, and some fir trees announcing our approach to the forest.

The pines make way for higher altitude vegetation: piornos, hawthorn, maples and blackthorn. If we move silently, we may be lucky enough to spot a mountain goat on the rocks.



El Pinsapar

The fir trees become numerous and after a curve in the path we see the fir forest of El Pinsapar in all its glory under the watchful eye of El Torreón [3]. From this point, the trial begins its descent. Soon we are in the fir forest [4] and the first thing that draws our attention is the relative lack of light.



The descent makes its way to a number of screes, gradually widening to become an earthen path. The firs disappear from view as the gall oaks take over. We are now in the Puerto del Pinar [5] pass. On the left, a sign indicates the way along a recently refurbished path to reach the forest track. Behind us we can see the northern face of the Sierra del Pinar, with Spanish firs covering practically all of its steep side.

We take the track on our left, which descends towards the small village of Benamahoma. Over the gorges of the mountains we can see the choughs and vultures circling and observing us closely.



To Benamahoma

The forest track runs through a fantastic Mediterranean forest where gall oaks, holm oaks, mastic abound and the odd fir tree reminds us of where we have come from.



Coaling was a common activity in these mountains. Coal was obtained with slow burning of shavings, branches and dead trees used to build the furnaces, on clearings on the margins of the

trail (alfanjes). But this also led to excessive pruning and significant deforestation.

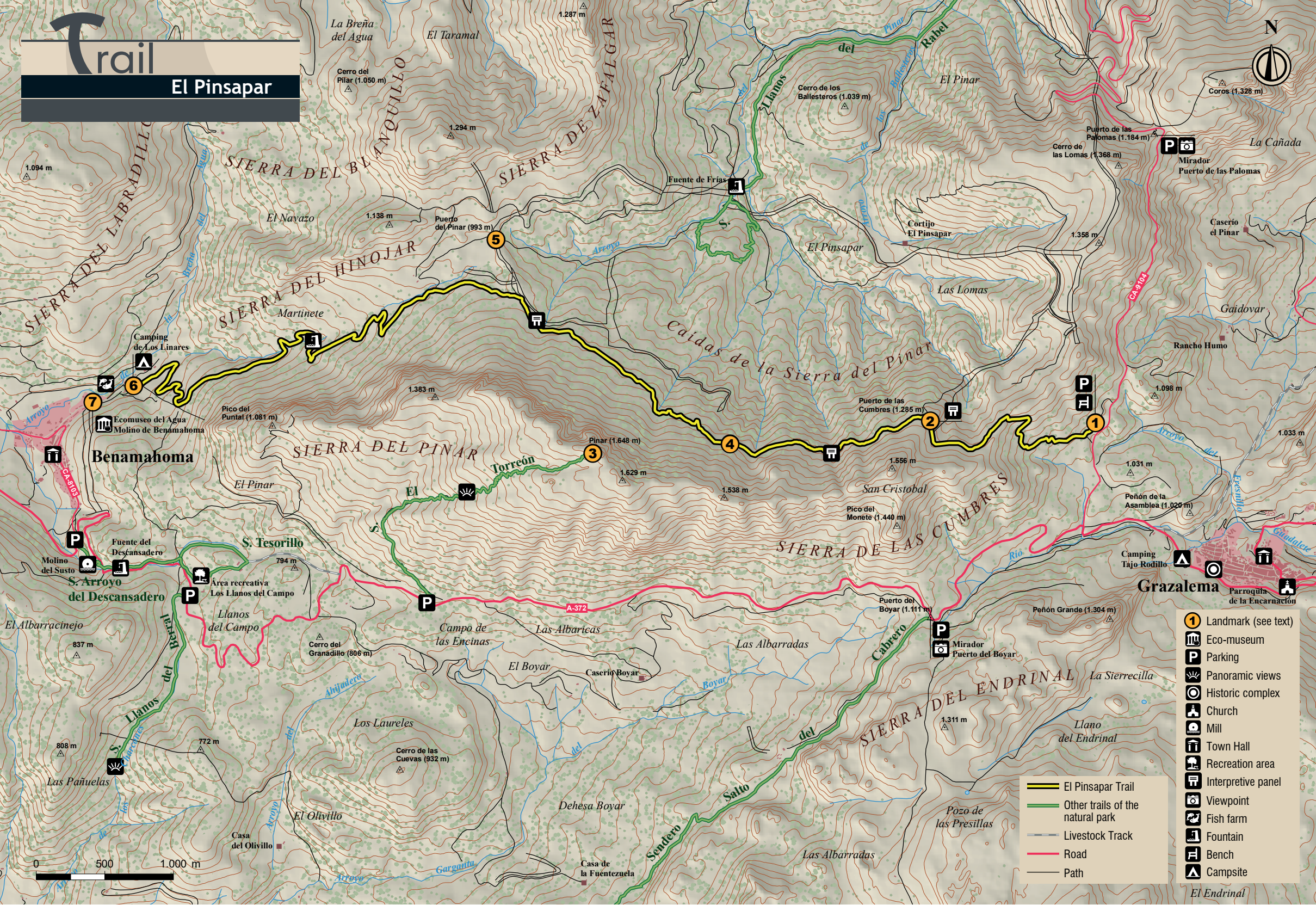


Continuing our descent, we pass alongside the campsite [6] and reach a gate where our trail ends (or reaches the halfway point if we're making the return journey in the other direction). We continue and pass alongside the cemetery and, in a few minutes, reach El Nacimiento, in Benamahoma, a spectacular emergence of underground waters, alongside the fish farm, and the source of the river Majaceite. Just a few metres away is the Eco-Museum of Water [7], installed in the old mill of El Nacimiento or Los Capitalistas, where we can find out more information on the natural park.

This trial takes us deep into the Spanish fir forest. This is a unique species of fir that saw these mountains declared a Biosphere Reserve and Nature Park. Why is this fir so important? Let's climb up the fir forest and see for ourselves!.

Remember that this trail is located within the Nature Park's Reserve Zone and therefore it is necessary to obtain an authorisation.

Trail El Pinsapar



- 1** Landmark (see text)
- Eco-museum
- P** Parking
- Panoramic views
- Historic complex
- Church
- Mill
- Town Hall
- Recreation area
- Interpretive panel
- Viewpoint
- Fish farm
- Fountain
- Bench
- Campsite

- El Pinsapar Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Livestock Track
- Road
- Path

0 500 1000 m

El Endrinal