

## GOOD PRACTICE



Please avoid making noise



The capture of animals is not permitted



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Collecting rocks and minerals is not permitted



Walk on the marked paths



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Please respect private property



Open camping is not permitted

Emergency phone: 112



ALMERÍA



## MORE INFORMATION

Las Amoladeras Visitors' Centre.  
Ctra. AL-3115 Almería-Cabo de Gata. km 7. Almería. Tel. 950 16 04 35.  
ventanadelvisitante.



ALMERÍA

PARQUE NATURAL  
Cabo de  
Gata-Níjar

Trail

Escullos  
Isleta del Moro



## OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



### • ROUTE

Linear

### • LENGTH (OUTWARD)

2 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

50 minutes

### • DIFFICULTY

Low

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Path

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Coastal area with cliffs and beach. Coastal fishing settlements.

### • SHADE

Little or none

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Almería / Níjar

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1060 - Pozo de los Frailes

### • START / END COORDINATES

36° 48' 16,44" N/2° 3' 46,97" O

36° 48' 49,52" N/2° 3' 13,87" O



## HOW TO GET THERE

We reach Los Escullos by way of the AL4200, taking a turn-off between Rodalquilar and Pozo de los Frailes. The trail starts heading to the north of the village, alongside Arco beach.



## PARKING

There is parking available at the start and end of the trail.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

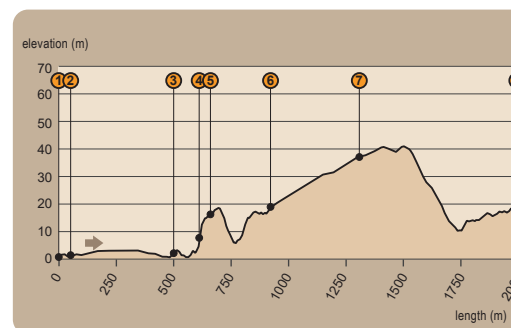
The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA - Alsina Graells (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es), Autocares Bernardo (tel. 950 25 04 22; www.autocaresbernardo.com) y Frahemar (tel. 950 26 64 11; www.frahemar.com).



## OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has an extensive offering of marked trails. Those nearby are: Los Escullos - Pozo de Los Frailes, Loma Pelada y Requena.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

40,29 m

### • MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

41,34 m

### • MINIMUM ALTITUDE

1,05 m



## THE ISLETA DEL MORO ARRÁEZ

The Isleta del Moro is a fishing settlement with its origins in the 19th century, intimately linked with artisan fishing activities and orchard growing. It was built on a headland that, like the rest of the Cabo de Gata, emerge from the depths of an old tropical sea. That incandescent magma cooled some 12 million years ago, forming a particular volcanic rock called dacite. Dacite can be distinguished where the asphalt doesn't reach and the and in the emblematic footprint of the rock and the islet.

The origin of the name of the village has been lost in legend. It seems likely that it is related to the traditional art of fishing know as la *moruna*, whereby passing shoals of fish, such as milt, sargo, mackerel or white tuna would be intercepted during their migration.

Today, the main economic activity of Isleta is tourism and hospitality, but some artisan fishing activities have been conserved as has the traditional image of the village, with its modest whitewashed houses, boats anchored in the bay and fisherman working amid nets and hook lines.



# Trail

## Escullos Isleta del Moro

### The fossil dune of Los Escullos

After barely 2 kilometres, the Escullos-Isleta del Moro trail crosses some of the most emblematic natural spaces, ramblas, ravines, cliffs and beaches before reaching the fishing village of Isleta del Moro.

Even before starting the trail, on the fossil dune of Los Escullos we can visit the battery of San Felipe, built in the 18th century as part of a much older defensive system. For centuries, these coasts suffered constant attacks from Turkish-Berber boats that sowed terror and death among the locals.

The sign marking the start of the trail [1] is located on the Arco beach, together with the whimsical shapes of the fossil dune. This particular dune is, in reality a set of dunes that took shape during the Quaternary. The geological term for these is aeolianite, due to their wind origin. For millennia, the wind dragged very special particles of calcium carbonate from the sea: oolites. These grains of sand are formed in warm water by concentric layers of aragonite segregated by marine animals. The wind formed a series of dunes with these oolites, which end up fossilising in time. The action of the waves against the dunes, the humidity, the salt and the wind itself created artistic shapes of Los Escullos.



We leave behind the cliffs of Los Escullos and the volcanic domes of Los Frailes rising above them. In 50 metres we cross the rambla of Majada Redonda [2], which transports materials directly from the volcanic heart of the park to the Arco beach. The trail advances along the upper edge of the beach before it reaches a rocky outcrop [3]. This promontory, like the rest of the clear yellow walls of the front, is formed by sediment of marine origin. Take care not to slip or damage the structure. After passing by the adjacent cove of black pebbles and before reaching an imposing rocky outcrop that practically juts into the sea, we take a left to access [4] the upper part of the cliff.

### Life on the cliffs

Once up there, the path continues to the east, bordering the cliff [5]. Regaining our breath, we can appreciate the stark contrast between the blood red of the volcanic mountain, the golden yellow of the marine sediment at the bottom of the cliffs and the raging blue of the sea. The dark stains under the water correspond to pastures of the plant Mediterranean tapeweed. Although people often confuse it with seaweed, they are superior plants with roots, stems, leaves and flowers and they play a key role in the conservation of the ecological wealth of the Mediterranean and the defence and security of the coast. The trails winds between the banks and ravines. Dotted with palmettos, Neptune grass, esparto grass, mastic, matagallo and bufalaga



marina. You can probably spot the fleeting movement of the spiny-footed lizard or the eyed lizard. You are even more likely to catch the flight of the marine birds like seagulls, old world cormorants and shearwaters, which have their main residence here.

### Alluvial fans

In some 300 metres, the route changes direction [6], leaving the murmur of the waves and the singsong of the wave splashing against the rocks. The trail winds north-west as we walk on an ingrown dirt track towards the dark forms of the interior of the mountains. All of this surface, more or less flat that extends between the mountains and the sea, receives the name *rellana* or coastal depression. For millennia, the mountain streams deposited volcanic materials dragged from the mountains on this plain, forming what are known as alluvial fans.



Before reaching the road, at the crossing, the trail changes course to the right [7], to reach this part highest peaks on the route. Shortly, with the easterly wind again in our face (or the westerly wind at our backs, you never know!) and without leaving the trail, we face the final section. On the descent, guided by the smell of the sea and saltpetre, traditions and fishermen, we finally reach the village of Isleta [8].



15-17 million years ago, on the surface of a tropical sea there emerged an archipelago of lava and fire from the entrails of the earth. The tectonic plates push the island, raising the peninsula and pulling back the sea. The action of the waves, torrential rains, sea winds and living creatures ultimately shaped what we know today as Cabo de Gata. The expressive strength of the landscapes and rock tell us the geological story of the place, but also tells us of its people, their territorial identity and their culture. With their uses and customs, their traditions and memories, the peoples linked to the sea transform the coastal landscape they inhabit. Both processes, the human and the geological, continue to be developed at present.

# Sendero

## Escullos Isleta del Moro



Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Níjar

Mar Mediterráneo

Landmark (see text)	Los Escullos Isleta del Moro Trail
Information point	Other trails of the natural park
Trail	Road
Viewpoint	Path
Interpretive panel	
Fountain	
Parking	
Panoramic views	
Castle	

