

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

MÁLAGA

PARAJE NATURAL
Desfiladero de los Gaitanes

MORE INFORMATION

Territorial Delegation of the Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development in Málaga

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UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARAJE NATURAL
Desfiladero de los Gaitanes

Trail

Gaitanejo



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

• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

4,4 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

2 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Medium - Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track and Path

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Among the vegetation, pines, ash trees, eucalyptus, occasional juniper and a large number of oleanders near the banks of the reservoir can be found. Along the route, what stands out most is the capricious formation of some of the sandstone walls, giving rise to hollows, some of which have been used as dwellings.

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

In the case of active tourism companies, it is required to have the administrative authorisation regulated by the joint Order of 20/03/2012, based on the stipulations of article 10 of Law 2/1989. Procedures in the Territorial Delegation of Málaga. Regional Ministry of Environment and Land Planning.

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Málaga / Ardales

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1038 - Ardales

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 55' 39,13" N – 4° 48' 2,99" O

36° 56' 4,53" N – 4° 48' 1,6" O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Málaga city, take the A-357 motorway and then follow it once it becomes a conventional road A-354 until you reach the village of Ardales (which is not accessed as it is on your left). Then, turn right onto the MA-5403 road to Puerto de las Atalayas. There is a crossroads where you will continue straight on, that is, leaving the MA-5403, and after 1.9 kilometres along the service road of the reservoirs we arrive at the turning to the dirt track. Then you will find signs to redirect visitors, following this track, to the starting point of the trail, after 580 metres.



PARKING

There are none, although 500 m from the start of the trail, following the same track along which the route runs, there is an esplanade for 6-8 cars.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

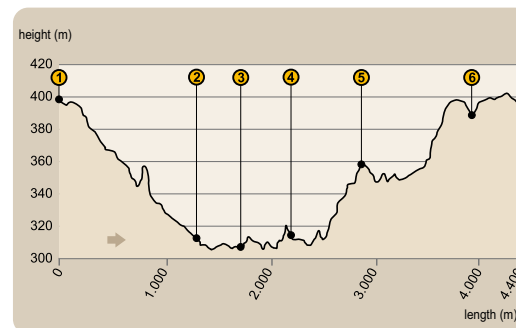
Regular line Málaga-Ardales: Los Amarillos Bus Company (tel. 902 210 317; www.losamarillos.es).



OTHER TRAILS

There is no nearby route of the Regional Ministry.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

101 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

402 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

301 m

THE GARGANTA DEL CHORRO

The Desfiladero de los Gaitanes Natural Park, also known as Garganta del Chorro, is one of the most spectacular landscapes in the Málaga mountains. This is due to the verticality of its walls, which can reach a height of 300 metres, and its narrow width, which in most cases does not exceed ten metres. Visitors will be amazed by the size of this canyon, more than three kilometres long, which divides the space into two halves.

The river Guadalhorce is responsible for the opening of this spectacular gorge, which, like a knife, has gradually cut through the rocks of the Sierra de Huma. These rocks, of different origin and age, have given rise to geological formations in the form of caves and chasms. In total, more than 20 caves of great geological and archaeological importance have been identified. The cave of the same name is located about five kilometres from the municipality of Ardales. Important examples of rock art have been found here, with more than 1,000 artistic motifs in its more than 1,600 metres of galleries. Your visit must be arranged.



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



Gaitanejo

This path invites us to walk in the company of the Gaitanejo reservoir and to enjoy the magnificent view of its surroundings from Los Embalses viewpoint. First, we will walk along a forest track with restricted access for certain authorised vehicles, so we will do so with due cautions, descending little by little to the dam's natural downstream boundary. It is from this point onwards that we observe a change in the vegetation as we walk alongside the reservoir, surrounded by a mixed riverside forest with ash trees, eucalyptus, palmettos, tamarisk, large oleanders and some waterfowls.

We start our walk with the first views of the Gaitanejo Reservoir, leaving on the right a junction on the forest track that we will avoid to continue along the main track downhill.

The Gaitanejo Dam

We go through a tunnel excavated in the sandstone and pass through an area full of large rocky hollows, until we reach the oldest hydroelectric power station in Spain, the Gaitanejo Dam. (Check [1] on the map).



Gaitanejo Reservoir, along the right bank of which runs part of this path, surrounded by abundant natural vegetation and the result of repopulation

At the beginning of the 20th century the idea was conceived of exploiting, for hydroelectric purposes, the difference in level of the Guadalhorce between the entrance to the Tajo de los Gaitanes and the El Chorro station. From 1924-27 the Hydroelectric Company built the Gaitanejo Dam downstream with its own hydroelectric power station. This reservoir rendered the spillway at the bottom of the Chorro Dam unusable, so that another one had to be built in 1935-36, with a similar layout to the existing one, but at a higher level.

Gaitanejo Reservoir [2] is a reservoir located in the municipality of Ardales, in the province of Malaga, a short distance from the Guadalhorce and Guadalteba reservoirs. Gaitanejo has a capacity of 4 hm³ and collects water from the rivers Turón, Guadalteba and Guadalhorce.



It should be noted that 100 metres away is the popular Caminito del Rey, with access cut off due to its ruinous and dangerous state of conservation.

The cave house

There are dozens of caves, grottoes and cavities caused by the erosion of the River Guadalhorce which, over the centuries, has deepened the limestone of the ground, creating the impressive Desfiladero de los Gaitanes and all these impressive formations, at all heights.



Arch drawn on a huge sandstone wall, caused by the erosive effect of the strong gusts of wind on the huge sandy rocks

Another characteristic feature of this area is the composition of its mountains, made up of sandstone rocks, which are much more sensitive to erosion caused on this occasion by the effect of strong gusts of wind. On the opposite shore, we can find a spectacular arch in a sandstone wall known as La Roseta.



The walls of this mountain consist of sandstones that allow the formation of caves, once used as dwellings

Some caves can also be easily observed in various steep walls. Some of these caves have been used by people in the past to make their homes. This trail literally passes through one

of them [3] and, although the passage of time and the carelessness of some walkers have taken their toll, some of the walls can still be clearly seen.

Los Embalses Viewpoint

A diversion will allow us to approach this viewpoint [4]. We are now within one of the most important hydraulic complexes in Andalusia. From this viewpoint we can see, from left to right, the Conde de Guadalhorce, Guadalteba and Guadalhorce reservoirs; to complete this hydraulic system we would be missing the Gaitanejo reservoir and the Tajo de la Encantada, but unfortunately from this point they are not visible. Above the Guadalhorce and Guadalteba dams, the Peñarrubia mountain range can be found, being practically opposite from the viewpoint.



This mountain range is characterised by its colours lighter than the others, while the surroundings of these marshes consist of sandstones, which give them an earthy yellow tone; in this case, its light colour is due to the fact that the material that composes it is mostly limestone.



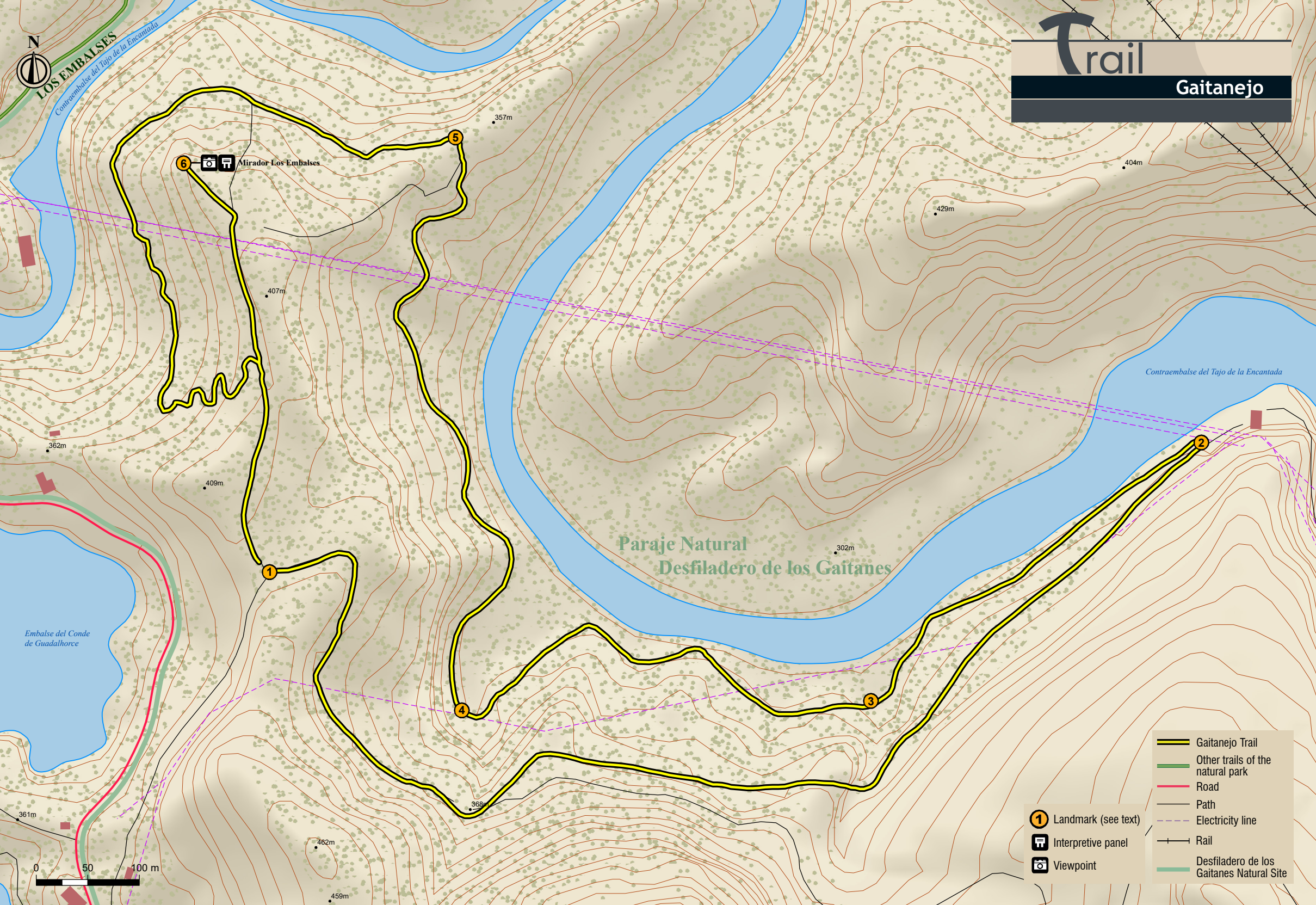


LOS EMBALSES
Contraembalse del Tajo de la Encantada



Trail

Gaitanejo



Mirador Los Embalses

Paraje Natural
Desfiladero de los Gaitanes

Contraembalse del Tajo de la Encantada

Embalse del Conde de Guadalhorce



- Gaitanejo Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path
- Electricity line
- Rail
- Landmark (see text)
- Interpretive panel
- Viewpoint
- Desfiladero de los Gaitanes Natural Site