

GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Capturing animals is not permitted



Walk on the marked trails



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Please respect private property



Plant collecting is not permitted



Please refrain from making noise



Free camping is not permitted

Emergency phone: 112



MÁLAGA

PARAJE NATURAL
Desfiladero de los Gaitanes

MORE INFORMATION

Regional Delegation in Malaga for Sustainability, Environment and Blue Economy. Avda. de la Aurora, 47. Multiple Services Building. 5th and 6th floors. 29071. Malaga. Tel. 951 777 008 / 670 948 894.

ventanadelvisitante



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

Haza del Río



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

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000



unesco
Reserva de la Biosfera

• ROUTE

Linear walk

• LENGTH (ONE WAY)

4,4 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (ONE WAY)

2 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Forest Trail

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Panoramic views over the Conde de Guadalhorce reservoir and the Tajos de Haza del Río. Pine forests and Mediterranean vegetation (holm oaks, juniper, Savin juniper, broom and European fan palms, among others).

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

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

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Málaga / Álora

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1038 - Ardales

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 54' 36,61" N / 4° 45' 26,34" O

36° 55' 12,60" N / 4° 44' 52,54" O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Ardales, take the MA-5403 road to El Chorro and continue for about 6 kilometres to the roundabout next to the Caminito del Rey Visitor Reception Centre. Turn right towards El Chorro and Álora, and continue along the MA-5403 until reaching the turn-off to the Tajo de la Encantada electricity substation. Cross the bridge and head towards the Barriada de El Chorro. Behind the ADIF station building there is a road that will take you to a dirt track, follow it until you come to a fork, leaving the Camino de Los Albercones on the left and taking the righthand fork heading uphill towards the old Haza del Río Forestry House, where the path begins.



PARKING

There is no car park at the beginning of the trail, but you can leave your vehicle near the trail as long as it does not block the passage of other vehicles, especially fire-fighting and security vehicles.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

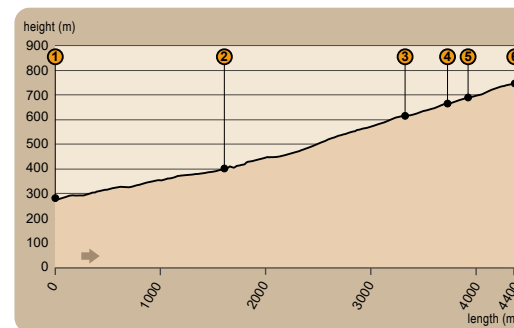
You can get from Malaga to Álora either by local train (www.renfe.com) or by bus (Autocares DAMAS, www.damas-sa.es). From there you can travel to El Chorro by bus, using the bus service offered by Autocares Rivero (www.autocaresrivero.com).



OTHER TRAILS

Among the trails offered in the Natural Park, the closest are the Gaitanejo and Los Embalses trails.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

471 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

747 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

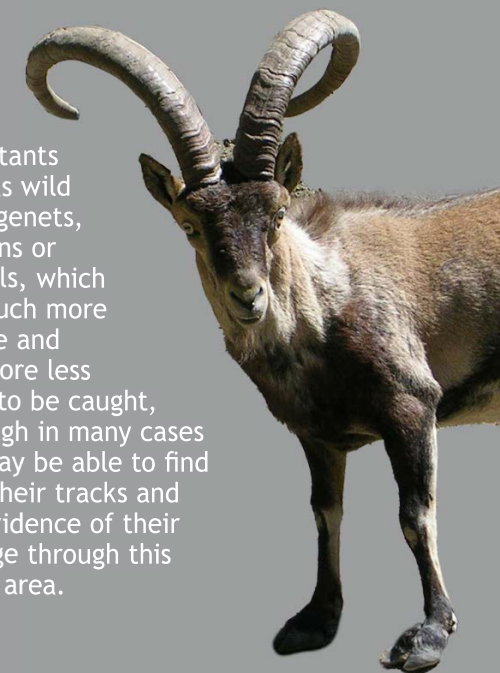
276 m

LIFE IN THE GORGE

With some 50 nesting pairs, the griffon vulture has established one of the main breeding colonies in the province of Málaga on these cliffs. Golden eagles, Bonelli's eagles and peregrine falcons can also be seen in full flight, and other smaller rock birds such as the red-billed chough, the golden swift and the blue rock thrush which, defying vertigo, establish their nests on the most inaccessible cliffs. What you will hear for sure are the trills and sounds of the forest birds: chaffinches, stonechats, woodpeckers, warblers, titmice, chiffchaffs, etc. that live in the pine forest.

Being a regular of this Natural Site, specimens of Iberian ibex are easy to spot jumping from rock to rock or hidden among the vegetation. Along the way, species such as Spanish junipers, mastic, European fan palms, rockroses, broom, thyme and also holm oak, wild olive trees, carob trees, eucalyptus and stone pines, can be seen standing among the dominant Aleppo pines.

But there are many other inhabitants such as wild boar, genets, martens or weasels, which are much more elusive and therefore less likely to be caught, although in many cases you may be able to find both their tracks and the evidence of their passage through this forest area.





Trail Haza del Río

In its stubborn search for the Mediterranean, the Guadalhorce River has excavated the impressive narrow gorge of Desfiladero de los Gaitanes in the vertical walls of Sierra Huma. This mountain massif forms part of the same limestone arc of the Sierras Béticas as the Torcal de Antequera and the Sierra de Camarolos. Its proximity to the sea and peaks that barely exceed a thousand metres in height condition the Mediterranean character of its forests. The Haza del Río trail climbs through the foothills of this mountain range, surrounded by pine trees, crosses the main stream of the Arroyo del Chorro and introduces us to the Natural Park through varied natural, ethnographic, historical, scenic and forestry highlights.

The protective forest

After the obligatory immersion in the overwhelming beauty of the gorge, you will cross the Encantada dam and the village of El Chorro to take the road to Haza del Río. The start of the path [1] is located next to the forestry house of the former forester, which, like the rest of the forestry engineering works associated with the reforestation, was built in 1942. Until the 1940s, the town of El Chorro and the surrounding roads and paths suffered a great deal of damage due to erosion, floods and flooding. The replanting of pine trees, retaining walls to contain the runoff, firebreaks and the lane along which you are walking are some of the actions that were carried out to safeguard the population. You will see them along the way, as the path crosses the pine forest from beginning to end.



Vertical abyss

The vertical white strip of Los Frontales de los Castellones will accompany you on your left, above the treetops and along a large section of the trail. In this impressive rocky outcrop, one of the favourite places



for climbers to challenge the abyss, there are various forms of the karst relief of the Natural Park: springs, chasms, caverns and caves such as Las Palomas [2], which is best seen from below but whose roof is the trail comes near to on one of the corners. The chimney that can be seen from this point belongs to the power plant associated with the Encantada reservoir. Behind it, although not visible from the path, are the ruins of the mythical fortress of Bobastro and the remains of a Mozarabic cave church; a fragment of history that is well worth a visit.

With the cawing of the choughs reverberating on the walls and the shadow of the vultures falling overhead, the trail continues ascending along an increasingly steep track.

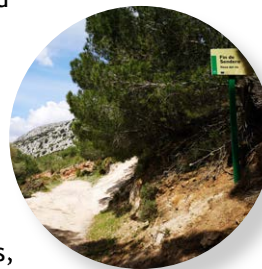
Where the path reaches the headwaters of the Arroyo del Chorro watershed the trail arrives at the Puerto de Flandes [3]. Alongside the gorge, colourful signs describe the flora and fauna of the area. A few metres further on, the view opens up to the east, offering a wonderful panorama of the Valle de Abdalajís mountain range. The trail now turns a very sharp corner, as if to go around the Tajos de Haza del Río (the natural wall of that it has been following since the beginning) and heads northwest, to the area called Las Pedreras. As the bite taken out of

the massif by the stone quarry [4] at the foot of the path testifies, the rocks used to build the reservoirs in the 1970s were extracted from this area.



The Sierra de Huma

From here the air becomes cooler. Following the markers, the last seven hundred metres of the path in follows a slight ascent under the protection of the reforested pine forest. To our right, the 1191-metre peak of Pico Huma hides behind the mountain range, whose name apparently comes from the illusion of smoke created by the eastern clouds around these peaks. Among the pine trees you will come across various vestiges of the ancient inhabitants of the sierra: threshing floors [5], fountains, wells and the remains of ancient cultivation terraces. And where the pine forest ends, at the highest point of the route, there is a signpost at the end of the path and a wonderful panorama [6] over the Conde de Guadalhorce reservoir (the oldest of the 5 reservoirs that make up the Guadalhorce-Guadalteba complex), the Sierra de las Nieves, the Puerto de los Azulejos, the Sierra de Ortegícar and many other geographical landmarks that we invite you to discover.



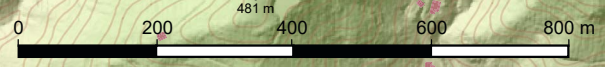
Trail

Haza del Río



- Haza del Río Trail
- Road
- Path
- Drivers' road
- Natural Space
- Railway

- 1 Landmark (see text)
- Fountain
- Farmstead
- Forest House
- Traditional threshing floor
- Cave
- Panoramic view
- Geological formation of interest



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