

GOOD PRACTICE

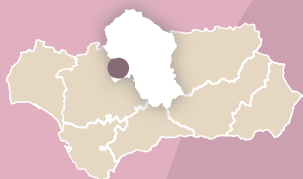


- Please leave rubbish in the bins provided
- Walk on the marked paths
- Please respect private property



- The capture of animals is not permitted
- Starting fires is strictly forbidden
- Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112



CÓRDOBA



MORE INFORMATION

Huerta del Rey Visitor's Centre. Carretera de San Calixto (A-3151), km 10,2. Hornachuelos. Córdoba. Tel. 957 64 11 40
 ventanadelvisitante.



CÓRDOBA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de
Hornachuelos



Trail

Botánico



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

1,6 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

45 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Medium - Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted soil footpath

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

A relatively steep valley with riparian woodland along the axis of the stream and Mediterranean scrub on the slopes. Abandoned marginal olive groves. Road infrastructures and facilities for public use.

• SHADE

Plentiful

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Córdoba / Hornachuelos

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

921 - Las Navas de la Concepción

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 40' 44,08"N – 5° 15' 33,66"O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Hornachuelos you reach the Huerta del Rey visitor's centre on the A-3151 road, towards San Calixto, taking a turn-off to the left a little over a kilometre from the village. The path starts next to the centre. Signs will help us to find it.



PARKING

There is a car park with about 80 parking spaces in the Huerta del Rey recreation area, near the path.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

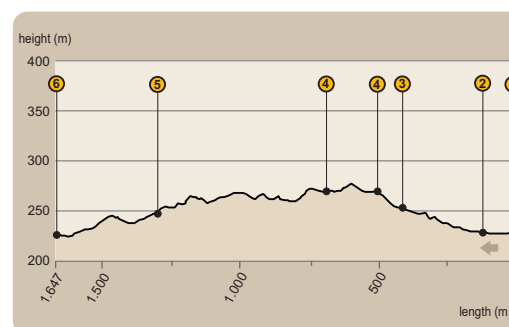
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Auto Transportes San Sebastián S.A. (tel. 957 42 90 30).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has six signposted trails, five of which start from the Huerta del Rey recreational area or its vicinity, which apart from this one are: Guadalora, Las Herrerías, Del Águila and Rabilarga. The Bembézar trail starts at the dam of the Bembézar diversion reservoir, also near Hornachuelos.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

53 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

277 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

224 m



LIME KILNS

Walking along the paths of the natural park we will come across several of these old lime kilns, which are abundant in the area around Hornachuelos.



Lime kilns were used to make lime by burning limestone and using rockrose and gorse as fuel. In short, it was built from a hole in the ground at the edge of which a truncated cone-shaped stone wall was built, in which a hole or "door" was left to allow the lime kiln to be filled with stone and fuel. Inside, several rows of limestone rock were arranged until the inner wall was completely covered, and the remaining gap was filled with the rockroses and gorse used as fuel.

After about three days with the lime kiln burning and another two days in which the stone was left to cool, the calcined limestone was extracted and transported in sacks to be sold or transformed into lime. It was a basic element for important tasks in everyday life in the past, mainly for whitewashing houses and other buildings, but also for making mortar and even for disinfecting stables.



Botánico

Huerta del Rey

The trail starts next to the Huerta del Rey visitor's centre (check [1] on the map), from which others start in the vicinity, which can be easily distinguished on the ground by the signs installed. Before or after walking the route, it is advisable to visit this visitor's centre, which provides information about the natural park and its public use.



The first two hundred metres are next to the Rabilarga stream and its riverside forest, where we can enjoy its freshness and its wealth of plants and animals. Among the elms, hawthorns, ivy, wild vines, oleanders, brambles and black poplars, we can hear the sounds of water, the stirring of the foliage and also the many birds that flutter among the branches.

We will reach a fork [2] where we must choose the path to the left, as if we follow the other path we will enter the La Rabilarga trail that does not separate from the stream, which is precisely what we will do by heading west, and going up the slope along a zigzagging path.



Mediterranean scrubland

Leaving the stream behind, we will be surrounded by a very different vegetation, better adapted to the harsh climates of the area.

It is one of the many possible manifestations of the Mediterranean scrubland, in this case a cork oak grove with rockroses, mastic trees, terebinths and kermes oaks, among many other species.

A basic attraction of the trail is the recognition of plants. In front of the cork oak we can observe that it is a tree with persistent leaves and medium size, very similar to the holm oak, but easily distinguishable from it by its very thick, spongy and light bark: it is the cork.



After a little more than two hundred metres of ascent, the path turns to the left and descends slightly. From the height where we are, we will be able to contemplate views of the valley from which we started, the visitor's centre and the path we have taken, and to see the changes in the vegetation cover.

On the other side of the river and the road we will see the crops of the Huerta de la Albuja.

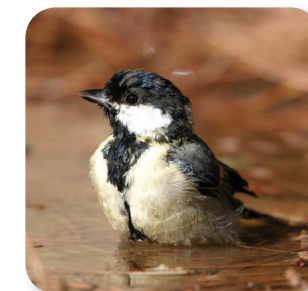


Viewpoint

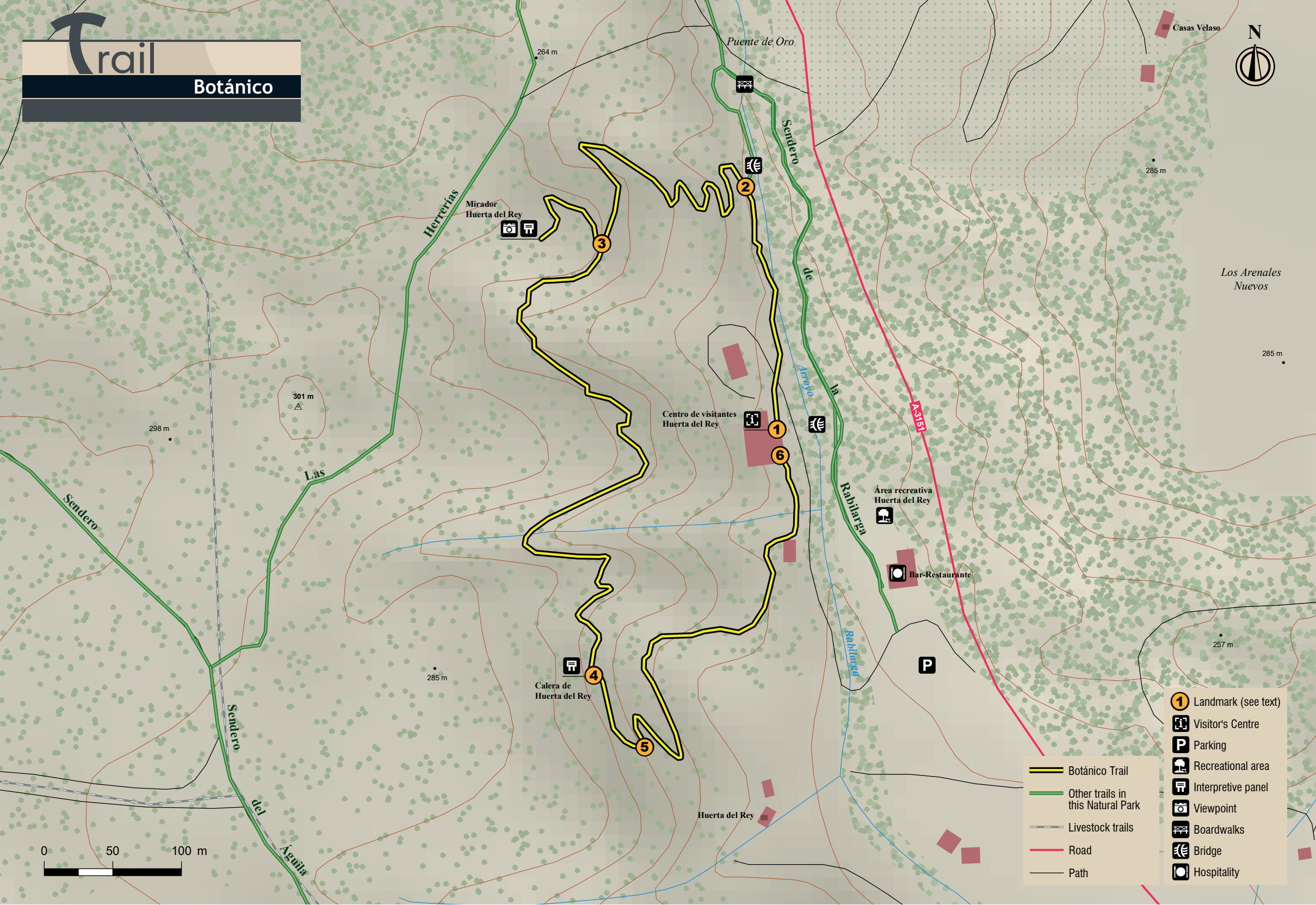
In less than a hundred metres we will find a path to the right [3] that leads to the Huerta del Rey viewpoint, which, given its proximity, we cannot refuse the invitation it offers us. Back on the path, we will continue along the upper part of the slope, making two large waves in an attempt to maintain the elevation while avoiding the valleys of the terrain. The views of the valley continue to be offered with the differences in nuances that the passage of time and the changes in perspective provide.



The path reaches the Huerta del Rey limekiln [4] and, shortly after, almost to the southern end of its route [5] when it descends towards the stream and returns to the point from where we started [6]. At this point we can see an olive grove of old trees that has been abandoned, perhaps because it is not competitive due to its low production, which is not surprising given the slopes and the fragility of the soil on which it stands. In any case, the abandonment is an opportunity for the original Mediterranean scrubland, which, as we can see, is taking advantage of it.



Trail Botánico



- Botánico Trail
- Other trails in this Natural Park
- Livestock trails
- Road
- Path
- Landmark (see text)
- Visitor's Centre
- Parking
- Recreational area
- Interpretive panel
- Viewpoint
- Boardwalks
- Bridge
- Hospitality