

## GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked trails



Please respect private property



Please refrain from making noise



Capturing animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is prohibited



Flying drones is prohibited

Emergency phone: 112

CÓRDOBA

RESERVA NATURAL  
Laguna de Tíscar

## MORE INFORMATION

Territorial Delegation in Córdoba for Sustainability, Environment and Blue Economy.  
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UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía  
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,  
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

RESERVA NATURAL  
Laguna de Tíscar

Trail

El Río Genil

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## OTHER CONSERVATION SCHEMES



### • ROUTE

Circular

### • LENGTH

1,1 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME

40 minutes

### • DIFFICULTY

Moderate

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Path and track

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Along the route, the scrubland is dominated by wild olive trees, mastic trees, esparto and white asphodel. You will find riparian vegetation typical of a natural riverbed, basically composed of black and white poplars, willows, oleanders, brambles, etc.

### • SHADE

Scarce / Frequent

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required for individuals. Authorisation is required for environmental education activities organised by organisations.

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Córdoba / Puente Genil

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

988

### • START / END COORDINATES

37°25'34.58"N 4°49'37.91"O



## HOW TO GET THERE

From the town of Puente Genil, via the A-379 (km 78.3, exit Puerto Alegre), via the CO-6303. The Tíscar lagoon is located at kilometre 4, where there is a parking area.



## PARKING

There is a car park with about 20 parking spaces next to the beginning of the trail.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

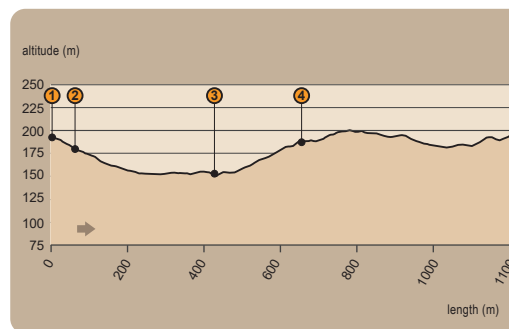
There is no public transport to the start of the trail. The main bus company in the area to Puente Genil is Autocares Carreras (info@autocarescarrera.es - 900 108 703). Once there, you can reach the start of the trail by taxi.



## OTHER TRAILS

The Laguna de Tíscar Nature Reserve has no other public footpaths available to users (it does have an access path to the public observatory). The nearest ones are in the Laguna de Zóñar Nature Reserve (approx. 25 km away)

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

48 m

### • MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

201 m

### • MINIMUM ALTITUDE

153 m



## THE GENIL RIVER

The Genil, with a length of 359 km, is the second most important river in Andalusia, after the Guadalquivir, of which it is a tributary. It rises in the Sierra Nevada National Park, specifically on the north face of Mulhacén. The name is given when the glacial stream of the Guarnón meets the river Real, both in the municipality of Güéjar Sierra, in the area around the spot known as the Minas de la Estrella, where there is a well-known public footpath. From there to Palma del Río, where it merges with the Guadalquivir, it is a watercourse that forms the backbone of a large part of Andalusia, specifically the provinces of Granada and Córdoba, although its drainage basin extends over the provinces of Granada, Córdoba, Jaén, Málaga and Seville.

The Genil is regulated by several important reservoirs (Canales, Bermejales, Iznájar, Malpasillo and Cordobilla), although it has a water regime with two high points, one in winter due to the influence of rainfall and the other in spring, thanks to the thawing of the Sierra Nevada. In summer it suffers a markedly low water level like the rest of the Mediterranean rivers, except when water is released from the reservoirs to irrigate agricultural areas.

It is a river that has been much praised in literature, especially by the Andalusian poets of Granada and Cordoba, who compared it to the Nile for the richness it offers wherever it flows, but also by Azorín, Machado and Lorca, among others. As Ricardo Molina wrote: «Oh to reflect the almond trees, the poplars, to copy the deserted beauty of the ruined mills.... ».



## El Río Genil

The path starts with a steep descent to the Genil river, flanked to the right by a wooden fence for protection. At the end of a large bend, there is a small lay-by that invites you to drink in the landscape [2], especially the winding meanders of the river Genil, surrounded by a dense copse of riverbanks that crosses a sea of olive trees, as it prepares to leave the province of Cordoba and meet the Guadalquivir downstream.



### Mediterranean mountains

The dominant vegetation in the arboreal stratum is the wild olive tree, although it does not appear in high densities; mastic and broom in the shrub stratum and in the pastures esparto grass, tuberose or the curious friar's cowl that sometimes completely cover some surfaces. It is not uncommon to see evidence of rabbits, which are very common along the whole trail, especially droppings, burrows, burrows and even bone remains.

As you get closer to the river, the silence is broken by the sound of the water as it is incorporated into the landscape, interrupted



only by birdsong, which also intensifies exponentially in the thick bushes that grow next to the Genil and prevent you from observing the riverbed in all its fullness. Blue tits, nightingales, robins, partridges, etc., form part of a natural orchestra that varies its players and repertoire with each season of the year.



### Riverside forests

Fortunately, shortly before starting the return ascent, there is a small detour that will bring you closer to the river and into the riverside forest, acting as a viewpoint over the Genil. For safety reasons the path does not allow you to reach the water because a wooden fence prevents you from doing so, but you can observe the area with total security [3]. Thus, with dedication and with a bit of luck, you will be able to observe grey herons, coots, mallards, kingfishers, great cormorants and other species of birds associated with wetlands. Wild boars are not easy to spot, but their tracks are imprinted all over the clayey soils by the water. The coolness of the site, the shade and, of course, the presence of water year-round is much appreciated by these mammals.

The plant species along the banks of the river are easy to admire. The tallest trees are black and white poplars, smaller ones are willows and tamarisks, and on a smaller scale there are reeds, oleanders, rushes, hemlock, brambles, etc.

The climb is best tackled calmly so as not to exhaust your strength or get too hot, as the saying goes, you have to "climb like an old man to reach the top like a child". On the way back there are many interesting things to observe that will make the walk more

pleasant, such as small specimens of a close relative of the holm oak, the kermes oak; sheets of gypsum and calcite that glisten in the sunlight like real crystals; rabbit burrows, foxes and mongooses, etc, etc.



Looking up a little once we get to the top of the road, to the east, you will see the outlines of the relief of the Sierras Subbéticas, a natural park in the province of Cordoba, recognised as a geopark by UNESCO. On the nearby boundaries, you will see how the natural vegetation is replaced by a replantation of young olive trees which are supported by irrigation until they reach the right size to go into production [4].



From here we have only 250 metres to go until we reach our starting point, the recreational area at the beginning of the path, practically at the same level for most of the time along a path that runs parallel to the road that leads to Puente Genil. From there you can continue on to the nearby Laguna de Tíscar Bird Observatory.

This circular path begins and ends at a small recreational area with tables, water (untreated) and ample parking, located near the Laguna de Tíscar, in the municipality of Puente Genil [1]. It is relatively easy walk, as the entire route barely exceeds one kilometre in length and only has a little elevation gain on the way back after leaving the river, but this does not require a very high level of fitness. The route runs through a patch of Mediterranean vegetation and riverside woods that have been preserved in the heart of the Cordoba countryside, surrounded by olive groves and farmland.

# Trail

## El Río Genil



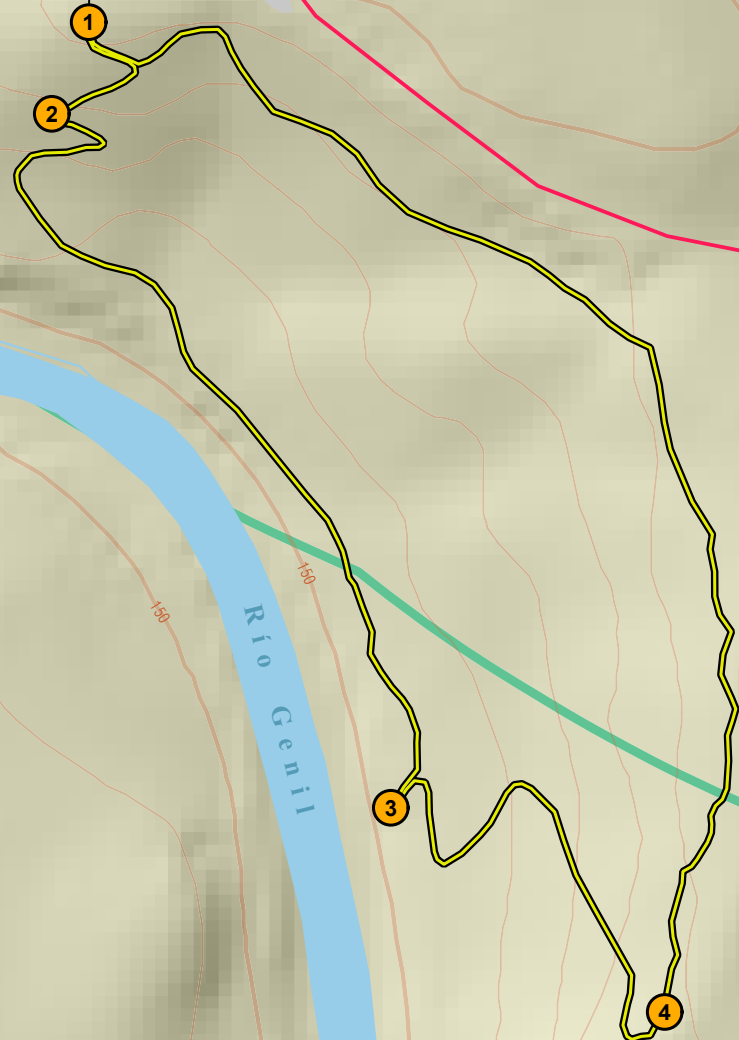
Observatorio Laguna de Tíscar

Reserva Natural Laguna de Tíscar

Laguna de Tíscar

Zona de protección de la Reserva Natural Laguna de Tíscar

CO-6303



178 m

208 m

219 m

- El Río Genil Trail
- Road
- Protected Natural Area Boundary
- Landmark (see text)
- Observatory
- Recreation area
- Parking

