

## 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



CÁDIZ  
MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL  
Sierra de  
Grazalema

## MORE INFORMATION

Cortes de la Frontera Visitor's Centre. Av. de la Democracia s/n.  
Cortes de la Frontera. Málaga. Tel. 952 15 45 99.

ventanadelvisitante



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

© / Editing / Coordination: Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development / Environment and Water Agency  
Production and photography: Grupo Entorno, Federación Andaluza de Montañismo and CAGPyDS archive

## OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



### • ROUTE

Circular

### • LENGTH

3,1 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour

### • DIFFICULTY

Low

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Not specified

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

The trail runs through a predominantly sandstone relief, dominated by cork oak, gall oak, pines and related scrubland. Blackish bujeo soils. Sack track, kiln constructed with sandstone rock, abandoned farmsteads.

### • SHADE

Little or none

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Málaga / Cortes de la Frontera

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1064 - Cortes de la Frontera

### • START / END COORDINATES

36° 35' 55,64"N – 5° 22' 13,46"O



## HOW TO GET THERE

From Cortes de la Frontera take the A-373 southbound. After some 4 km we find a recreation area and youth hostel. The trail begins at the recreation area.



## PARKING

There is a carpark with some 20 places at the start of the trail in the recreation area.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

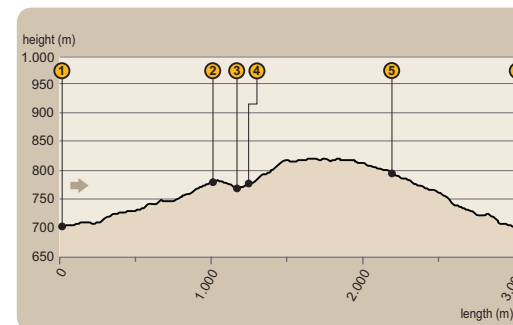
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are Los Amarillos (tel. 902 21 03 17) and Transportes Generales Comes S.A. (tel. 902 19 92 08). The nearest train stations are in Cortes de la Frontera, Jimera de Líbar, Benaoján and Ronda (check services and timetables at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) or by telephone on 902 24 02 02).



## OTHER TRAILS

The natural park offers a number of routes for hikers. Among those closest are the Río Guadiaro Trail, the Cueva del Gato Trail, which is a continuation of the formers, the Llanos de Líbar Trail.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

122 m

### • MAXIMUM HEIGHT

821 m

### • MINIMUM HEIGHT

699 m

## THE SANDSTONE CORK OAK

These soils provide for the existence of one of the largest cork oak forests on the continent. Its exploitation has been part of the life of the inhabitants of these mountains.

The thick, spongy bark of the cork oak is known as cork. Its exploitation is an important source of income in the area, and a clear example of sustainable development. Cork harvesting takes place every nine years. The quality of cork depends on a number of factors and its final uses, for bottles of wine or insulation, etc.



The acorn is also used for feeding free-range pigs. The pigs fed this way present a better distribution of intramuscular fat (marbling) due to the continuous exercise of searching for the mountains for food.



CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL  
Sierra de  
Grazalema

Trail

El Pimpollar



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



### From the recreational area

The trail begins on the A-373, five kilometres from Cortes de la Frontera, opposite a youth hostel (see [1] on the map). There is a recreation area managed by the Cortes de la Frontera Council, and is also the site where the villagers celebrate a pilgrimage.

We pass through a gate and begin to descend a forest track.



We make our way through a cork grove dotted with repopulated pines and the characteristic undergrowth of heather, gorse, gall and ferns. On the way we see a series of hives, producing rich honey, a sustainable economic activity in the areas, along with cork production. The forest track we follow makes way for a sack track [2]. This is the name given to the routes made for the cork harvest, and allow for machinery and personnel to reach difficult areas. Just before the crown of the saddle we ascend, we find a limekiln [3] built from sandstone just beside the geological boundary of the sandstone soils suitable for the cork oak, with the limestone of the Sierra de los Pinos.



### Cortes de la Frontera in sight

From this point we can enjoy excellent views of Cortes de la Frontera. [4]. We continue our gentle ascent along the side of a firebreak. The risk of wildfire is high in the summer season. Firebreaks serve to avoid the propagation of the flames. Reaching the crown of the saddle, we enter the cork oak forest to descend towards the path. The tree vegetation makes way for broom, spiny broom and gorse, allowing for excellent views of the Bay of Algeciras and the dense cork oak forest that extends before us.



*Until relatively recently, whitewash was obtained using limekilns like this one. The kiln was filled with limestone rocks, heat was applied for several days using the most suitable material available locally for fuel: gorse, rockrose, wild olive branches, etc. Once the stone was cooked, at temperatures of more than 1,000 degrees, lime or whitewash was obtained, which was used for painting walls, a technique used as whitewashing. It was also used to disinfect stables, water, sick animals and even people.*



### Among the farmsteads

A little later we reach the ruins of the Cañuelo farmstead, with a formidable fig tree alongside the path [5]. We continue our descent and pass several more ruins, guided by the signage and crossing a small stream. On our walk, in Autumn especially, we hear the cry of the stags and we see a multitude of mushrooms like the Caesar's mushroom.



We find ourselves in the recreation area. If we still want to continue discovering the area, we can visit the Cortes de la Frontera Visitor's Centre. This will allow us to discover more about the places, landscapes and customs of the area and information on other trails offered by the Regional Ministry of the Environment.



From the recreational area of Cortes de la Frontera we take a circular path through an cork grove of century-old trees.

We enjoy the panoramic views and pass a sandstone kiln before reaching the geological frontier between the sandstone and limestone, between cork oaks and holm oaks, a result of the different type of soil.

# Trail

## El Pimpollar



PARQUE NATURAL  
SIERRA DE GRAZALEMA

PARQUE NATURAL  
LOS ALCORNOCALES



- 1** Landmark (see text)
- P** Parking
- Panoramic views
- Farmstead
- Recreational area
- Interpretive panel
- Hostel

- El Pimpollar Trail
- Livestock Track
- Nature park boundary
- Road
- Path

