

## GOOD PRACTICE

- It is prohibited to drive motor vehicles outside the permitted routes
- Please avoid making noise
- Capturing animal is not allowed
- Starting fires is strictly forbidden
- Please leave rubbish in the bins provided
- Collecting rocks and minerals is not permitted
- Plant collecting is not permitted
- Walk on the marked paths
- Please respect private property

Emergency phone: 112



## HUELVA

### MORE INFORMATION

Cabildo Viejo Visitors' Centre.  
Plaza Alta, s/n. Aracena. Huelva. Tel. 959 12 95 53/4.  
E-mail: [cvcabildoviejo@reservatavisita.es](mailto:cvcabildoviejo@reservatavisita.es)  
Territorial Delegation of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development (Huelva). Calle Sanlúcar de Barrameda, 3, 21001. Huelva. Tel. 959 07 05 54  
[ventanadelvisitante.es](http://ventanadelvisitante.es)



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

## 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

Linear

### LENGTH (OUTWARD)

1,1 km

### ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

30 minutes

### DIFFICULTY

Low

### TYPE OF TRAIL

Forest path and track

### LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Holm oak forest on high scrubland.  
Repopulated eucalyptus forest. Mediterranean scrubland and archaeological remains.

### SHADE

Scant

### SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Before tackling the trail, inform yourself of any hunting activity between the months of October and February. Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

### PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Aracena

### SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

N.º 917

### START / END COORDINATES

37° 55' 28" N, 6° 33' 55" W

37° 55' 37" N, 6° 34' 33" W



## HOW TO GET THERE

From Aracena, take the N-433 towards Portugal and then the HU-8125 in the direction of Castañuelo. To access the trail, which begins just metres from the kp 4 mark, turning off the road to the left in the direction of Castañuelo.



## PARKING

Alongside the road there is an esplanade that serves as a parking area for vehicles.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

It is not possible to access this trail by public transport. The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are Casal (tel. 954 99 92 90; [www.autocaresbernardo.com](http://www.autocaresbernardo.com)) and Damas (tel. 959 25 69 00; [www.damas-sa.es](http://www.damas-sa.es)).



## OTHER TRAILS

The Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche Natural Park has a broad offering of marked trails. The closest are the trails that start at the village of Aracena: Aracena-Corteconcepción, Aracena- Fuenteheridos and Aracena-Linares de la Sierra.



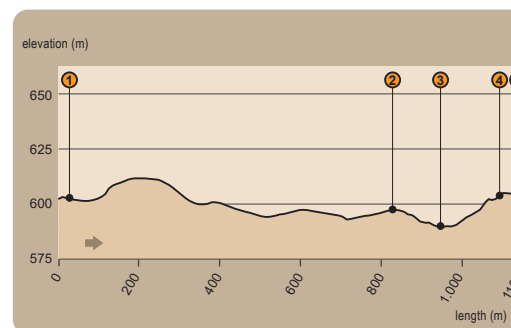
## EL CASTAÑUELO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

El Castañuelo archaeological site is comprised of two superimposed sites from two different eras and cultures. It was excavated in the 1970s and is considered the best site dating from the Celtic presence in the Sierra de Aracena. The oldest remains date to the second millennium B.C. and correspond to this site houses numerous rectangular graves covered with flagstones inside which a wealth of burial goods were found.

At a second site, a pre-Roman settlement was found. Historians place it in the Second Iron Age, around the 5th to 6th century B.C. As you'll see if you walk this trail, it's made up of a series of square or rectangular rooms, built with masonry walls and floors of pebbles and dried clay. These rooms are connected to each other, which is interpreted as a form of social organisation in which the family, in its own section, maintained its independence from the village.

There is also a third area, known as El Santuario, which dates back to the Roman period. The numerous remains found in the area attest to the archaeological value of the entire complex: ceramic cups and vases, flat copper axes, funerary ornaments in gold, figures and carvings in bronze, etc. Most of these relics can be seen in the Museo Provincial de Huelva. In 2008, the Regional Government of Andalusia declared the El Castañuelo archaeological site a Site of Cultural Interest, under the category of Archaeological Zone category.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### MAXIMUM GRADIENT

23 m

### MAXIMUM HEIGHT

612 m

### MINIMUM HEIGHT

589 m

HUELVA



PARQUE NATURAL

Sierra de Aracena  
y Picos de Aroche

Yacimiento  
El Castañuelo



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



## Yacimiento El Castañuelo

Some 4,000 years ago, in the Bronze Age, a group of families found a spot under the sun on a quite hill in the Sierra de Aracena. Much later, in the Iron Age, others built their village in the same place. Their vestiges attest to this.

Mixed with the archaeological remains are interesting geobotanic aspects, on its short route the Sendero Yacimiento El Castañuelo trail offers the opportunity to discover this unique space first-hand the place where who knows how many generations were born and raised and played, hunted, loved and died, but whose customs and experiences survive in the numerous remains that survive to this day.

### From the lumber plantation to rewilding

The trail starts at the Los Barrancos, in a eucalyptus forest used for logging [1] interspersed with a dehesa of holm oak. This is a private property. Please do not walk outside the marked route. As the path ascends along the side, the holm oak becomes more and more dense. On the left is the ravine of the Barranco de la Nava, and on the right, the valley of the Ribera de Huelva river (or Ribera de Uerba, to give it its original name). The landscape is typical of the higher areas of the sierra, but the thickness of the holm oak forest is unusually impressive. The absence of livestock over recent decades has allowed for extraordinary natural regeneration.



Your visit is likely to coincide with the management works of the estate or, depending on the time of year, on the activities relating to exploitation: hunts, movement of livestock and diverse forestry works such as the destumping of the eucalyptus (which consists of the extraction of stumps from the earth and filling the gaps during the clearing of the terrain). The destumping allows for control of resprouting and better forest management. The stumps are used for biomass fuel. You are also likely to find hives in the immediate area. Although beekeepers install hives at the regulatory safe distances, make sure not to approach them as they can be dangerous.

### The hamlet

After some 900 metres, the trail reaches a dry-stone wall [2]. This is the boundary of the estate where the El Castañuelo site is located. The dirt track flanked by eucalyptus trees is transformed into a small path. At the entrance to the property, we find signs with information on the archaeological area. Please close the gate once you pass through. A few dozen metres further on, before reaching the archaeological complex, the landscape opens up into a panoramic view of the hamlet of Castañuelo [3]. The resplendent pearl white of the houses is highlighted against the greenish-black mantle of the sierra. The hamlet has a number of fountains and springs and an exuberant riverbank from which it takes its name. If you have the chance, we recommend you also visit the spectacular viewpoint of Castañuelo, just metres from the start of the trail.

The Mediterranean scrubland of the area around the hamlet is especially well conserved. Look at the concentration of holm oaks or the magnificent canopy of the strawberry trees, on the heather, lavender and rockrose enjoy the fragrance.

### The Iron Age settlement

Surrounded by holm oaks we carry on up the path for another 150 metres. Finally, at a clearing in the trees, we suddenly encounter a few masonry walls [4]. The mud and stone form a series of square rooms which must have had similar roofs to those of the shepherds' cabins, with branches on a wooden structure. The pavement was formed by boulders covered in dried clay. It's a pre-Roman settlement dating back to the Iron Age (5th and 6th centuries B.C.). Have you noticed its location? The strategic crag, at a height,



allowed for any approaching danger to be spotted. Moreover, there is water close by, and then, as now, there was abundant game hunting.

### A bird's eye view

Continuing for dozens of metres, the view of the landscape opens up once more [5]. It's the end of the trail. The streams of the Fuente del Castaño and the Barranco de la Nava ravine have excavated the channel of the ravine ahead, revealing a series of curious rock formations. On the banks, the repopulated plantations extend like lines on a notebook, dominating the nearby peaks.

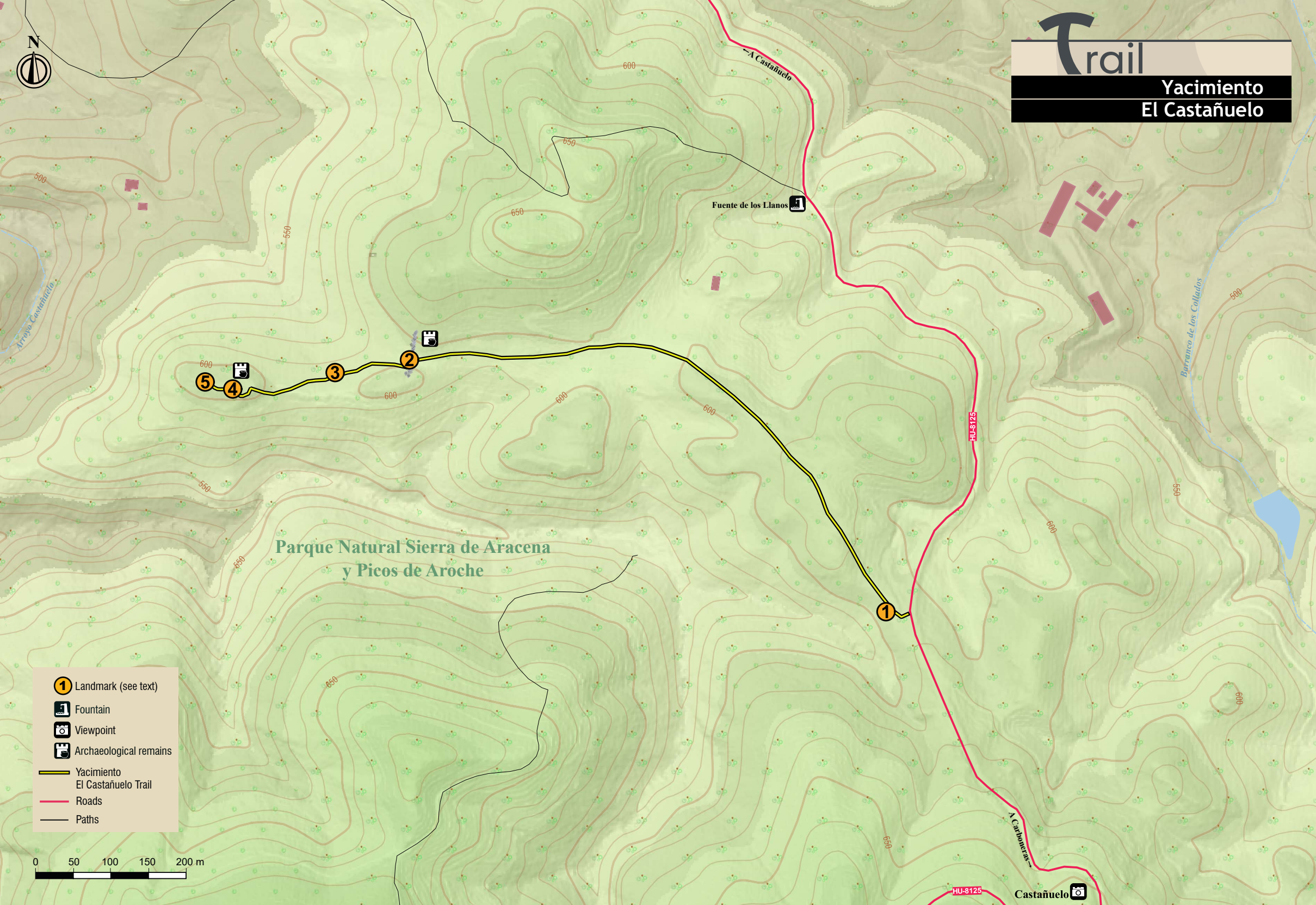


This type of relief is called *apalachense* in the Spanish and if that brings the mind the gigantic Appalachian mountains of the United States you would be correct. The origins date back in the Palaeozoic period some 300 million years ago, when most of the planet's lands emerged forming a single and colossal continent: Pangea. North America, Europe and North Africa were connected and the Appalachian mountains formed part of the same mountain range as that before you. Over time, the continent fractured and so did the Appalachians, with part remaining on each continent.





# Yacimiento El Castaño



## Parque Natural Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche

- Landmark (see text)
- Fountain
- Viewpoint
- Archaeological remains
- Yacimiento El Castaño Trail
- Roads
- Paths



Castaña