

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



HUELVA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de Aracena
y Picos de Aroche

MORE INFORMATION

Cabildo Viejo Visitors' Centre. Plaza Alta s/n. Edificio Cabildo Viejo. Aracena. Huelva. Tel.959 12 95 53/54.

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

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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)

3,8 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour and 30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low, except the last 500 m before the Linares summit, where the slopes are steep.

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path or track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Broad *dehesa*-type landscape, orchards and vegetable agarndes, streams and gallery forests. Extensive cattle breeding of sheep and pork (at the *montanera* feeding state, that is, letting the pigs feed on acorns just before being slaughtered).

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Check that the water from fountains is safe to drink.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Huelva / Linares y Alájar

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

917 - Aracena

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 52' 47,43"N – 6° 37' 25,38"W

37° 52' 30,97"N – 6° 39' 37,08"W



HOW TO GET THERE

The main road to Aracena is N-433 (Seville-Lisbon). From there, take HU-8105 in the direction of Alájar. After six kilometres turn to the left in the direction of Linares de la Sierra, and take the road to the graveyard, to the northwest.



PARKING

There is a car park with some 40 places 200 m away from the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

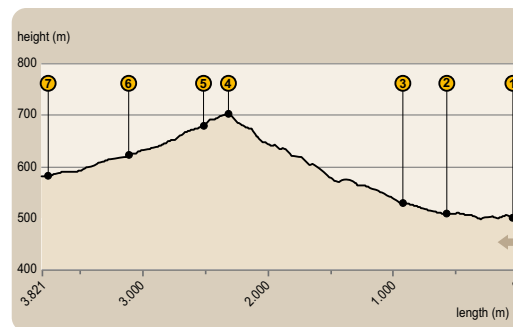
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are Casal (tel. 954 99 92 90; www.autocaresbernardo.com) and Damas (tel. 959 25 69 00 ; www.damas-sa.es).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has an extensive offering of marked trails. The closest trails are two that begin in Alájar (Ribera de Alájar and Los Madroñeros) and a third one that starts in Linares de la Sierra and leads to Aracena. The GR-47 footpath goes through Alájar and links the Santa Eulalia shrine with Hinojales and the GR-48 footpath.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

210 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

700 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

490 m

ANIMALS

Throughout the trail, small birds can be spotted, such as Eurasian hoopoe, typical warblers, Eurasian blue tit, great tit, true thrush or blackbirds, as well as larger birds of prey such as vultures, golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, short-toed snake eagle, booted eagle, northern goshawk, common buzzard, red kite, Eurasian eagle-owl, etc. This area is also home to reptiles such as jewelled lizard, and Iberian wall lizards, skins and colubrids, and amphibians such as Iberian newts, frogs and toads live in the streams. If you are lucky, you may have a chance encounter with wildlife (Egyptian mongooses, foxes, weasels, badgers or common genet). And you are almost certain to find pigs or cattle grazing peacefully, since farm animals are part of this ecosystem.



HERITAGE

Both Linares de la Sierra and Alájar are monumental towns included in the General Catalogue of Historical Heritage of Andalusia under the category of Historical Complex. One of the main attractions of Linares is its almost 300 llanos, rustic mosaics laid before the threshold of a house, as well as the lavoir fountain, the Old Fountain, the Church of St. John the Baptist and its bullring, which is used for many other purposes. In Alájar, the San Marcos Church, from the end of the 18th century, and the Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles shrine in the Peña de Arias Montano, from the 16th century, are especially noteworthy.



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Trail

Linares de la Sierra
Alájar



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería,
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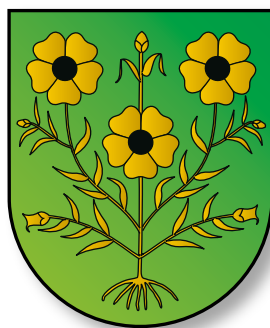
Trail

Linares de la Sierra

Alájar

Linares hill pass

Make sure to set aside some time to wander about the pretty town of Linares de la Sierra before starting the trail. You will not regret it. Their unique pebble paved streets, which become full mosaics with floral or geometrical motifs at the threshold of the houses, and its monuments, such as its particular bullring or the New Fountain (where you may fill your bottle for the trail ahead) will surprise you.



A flax field is a field where common flax, or linseed, is grown. Linseed has determined the history of the area, giving its names to Linares de la Sierra, whose badge features three golden linseed flowers.

Leaving town by the path that leads to the graveyard (see [1] in the map) you will see that the area surrounding the town is used for cultivating vegetable gardens, as it is common in all the villages in the area. Although they are still a key element of their landscape, such vegetable gardens have today a decreasing significance, while, in the past, they produced most of the food for the village.

As you walk away from the village, vegetable gardens disappear and the landscape turns into a *dehesa* dotted with cork oaks, among other tree species, such as chestnuts, olives trees or pines. Some trees are impressive due to their size. Besides, it is interesting to spot some Portuguese oaks and gallery forests with silver and black poplars and willows by some streams, as the one you will find

in the first part of the trail [2], which has a small reservoir [3], an ideal spot to make a break and enjoy the trees, and the ivy, common smilax and honeysuckle that climb the trunks with the help of their tendrils or using their thorns as hooks, like giant serpents searching for light.



The masonry walls are used to mark a property's boundaries, and they are a sign of identity of this landscape, as well as serving as important ecological niches. They serve as the support of a large variety of plants, especially lichen and ferns, and are used as a shelter by many animal populations.

Looking back from different spots of the trail before reaching the hill pass, you will enjoy beautiful views over Linares and its surroundings.

The last section before the hill pass [4] is the steepest in the entire trail and ends in the road; please be extremely careful in the few metres that you will have to walk by the road.



View of Alájar

A few metres downhill you will find a resting area [5] in the shadow of some chestnuts, the tree that is the symbol of this natural park, and rest assured to know that the hardest part of the trail is already before you. This second half also runs between cork and Portuguese oaks, streams and masonry walls in diverse and surprising arrangements.



The trail follows the tracing of a stream ([6] whose springs are also located in the summits of Linares, as landmark [2]), but runs downhill to Alájar [7], offering interesting views over the village and the hill at whose foot it lies, Peña de Arias Montano, which takes its name from the famous humanist and secretary of King Philip II, who spent his last years in this village. Alájar deserves a lengthy visit to appreciate its streets, houses and monuments, as well as its produce and plans for visitors.



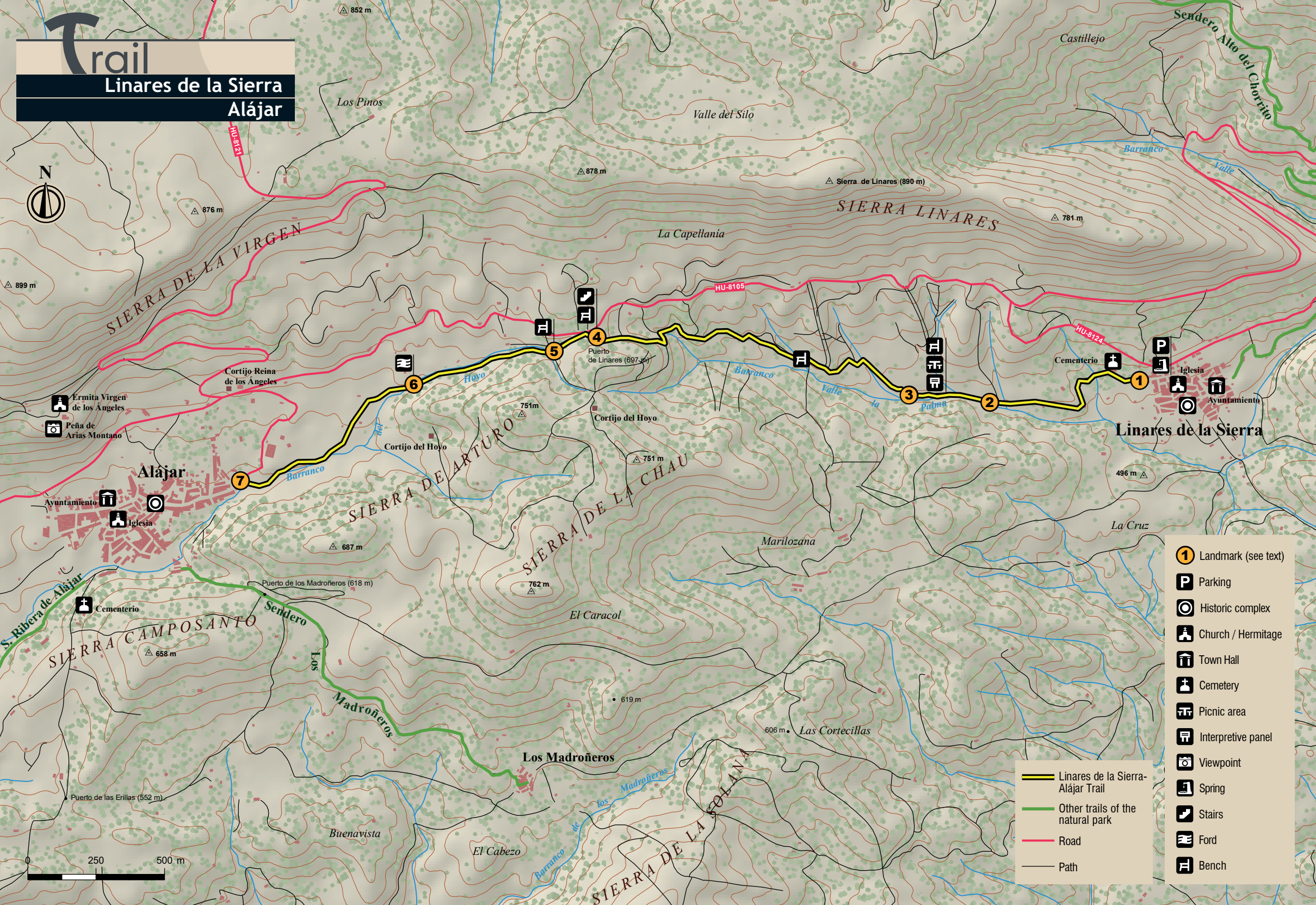
The trail follows a old path that links two pretty villages in Sierra de Aracena: Linares de la Sierra and Alájar, both worth a visit. The trail runs among *dehesas* and vegetable gardens, which are some of the most typical landscapes of this natural park.

The trail can be walked in either sense, but it is slightly difficult if starting in Linares and walking to Alájar, since Alájar is 60 m higher in altitude.

Trail

Linares de la Sierra

Alájar



- Landmark (see text)
- Parking
- Historic complex
- Church / Hermitage
- Town Hall
- Cemetery
- Picnic area
- Interpretive panel
- Viewpoint
- Spring
- Stairs
- Ford
- Bench

- Linares de la Sierra-Alájar Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path