

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
Los Alcornocales

MORE INFORMATION

Natural Park Office Los Alcornocales.

Pza. San Jorge n.º 1. Alcalá de los Gazules. Cádiz. Tel: 956 41 86 01.

El Aljibe Visitors' Centre.

Benalup Casas Viejas km1. Alcalá de los Gazules. Cádiz. Tel. 956 42 05 29.

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
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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)

3,1 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour and 20 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track and path

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Scattered scrubland, wild olive grove and cork oak grove. An excellent view.

• SHADE

Scant

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Take a mobile phone with you. It is suggested to bring binoculars for bird watching.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Alcalá de los Gazules

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1070 - Alcalá de los Gazules

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 24' 41,01" N – 5° 44' 25,93" O

36° 23' 41,61" N – 5° 44' 07,62" O



HOW TO GET THERE

Via the A-381 from Jerez Los Barrios, exit 42 towards Benalup-Casas Viejas on the CA2228.



PARKING

There is a car park at the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

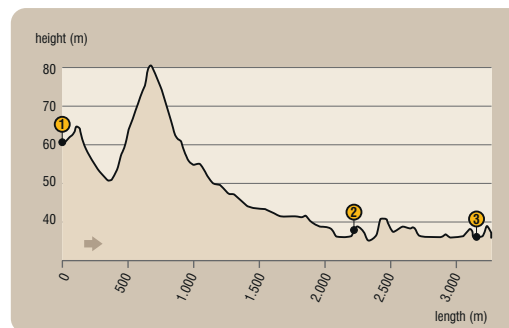
Buses stop in Alcalá de los Gazules or Los Barrios. The company is Transportes Linesur (tel. 957 42 15 85; www.linesur.com). The railway station with the best connections is in Los Barrios (check services and timetables at (tel. 902 32 03 20; www.renfe.com).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park offers other routes, such as the Teja trail, which is of great environmental interest, and the Palancar trail, which is partly adapted for disabled people, just a few kilometres away.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



Reservoirs are artificial constructions designed to store water for different uses

BARBATE RESERVOIR

A reservoir is the accumulation of water produced by an obstruction in the bed of a river or stream that partially or totally closes its course, a dam being the most usual method of obstruction in artificial reservoirs.

The Barbate reservoir, located in the Barbate river valley, is the fundamental element of the flood protection system for the irrigated and irrigable areas downstream, mainly the area formerly occupied by the Laguna de la Janda.

• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

45 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

81 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

36 m

CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA



PARQUE NATURAL
Los Alcornocales
trail
Cañada Real
de los Ratones



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



Livestock trails

The route begins on the CA228 road, at kilometre 27, where a turn-off to the left takes us along the Real de Mercegal track. A few metres away we find the viewpoint of Los Ratones (check [1] on the map), from where we have a wonderful view of the village of Alcalá, Sierra del Aljibe and its surroundings. This area would be another possible starting point for the trail, as it has a small car park.



about 1.2 km from the end point of the path. We recommend that you ask about this at the El Aljibe Visitor's Centre.



Tradition and modernity share natural space

In the Aljibe visitor's centre there is a scale representation of the Necropolis of Monte Bajo.

There are several trails in the vicinity that allow visitors to get to know the area: the Palancar Interpretative Trail and the Teja Trail, both of which are of great environmental interest.

Livestock

The Retinta breed is native to the south of the Iberian Peninsula and is the bovine breed par excellence of Los Alcornocales. The one we find grazing in these lands has its origin in the fusion of several breeds: the red, the blonde from Cádiz and the Retinta itself, which predominates over the others. Their characteristic open spiral horns are known locally as beach horns. Its coat is mainly red, with varying shades, with an overall slender appearance, with a strong neck and loins, a product of its place and way of life.



Trail



Cañada Real de los Ratones



Excellent viewpoint with magnificent panoramic views

Birdwatching

The osprey is the jewel in the crown, as the Barbate reservoir has been one of the sites chosen for the reintroduction of this species in Andalusia. Other birds likely to be seen include spoonbills, teals, mallards, ducks and egrets. It is very common to see Retinto cattle in the area, which once again shows the importance of the area in terms of livestock farming.

Necropolis of Monte Bajo

The necropolis of Paraje de Monte Bajo belongs to a Copper Age community. So far, four funerary structures have been excavated, all or part of which were dug out of the rock and in which the corpses were deposited together with their grave goods. These are all secondary burials, which were introduced into the tombs after various complex rituals. Depending on the level of the reservoir, the necropolis may not be accessible and may be underwater.



We continue ahead through wild olive groves, including a well-preserved cork oak grove, guided by milestones that show us the right path and lead us to the shore of the reservoir [2] where the path ends.

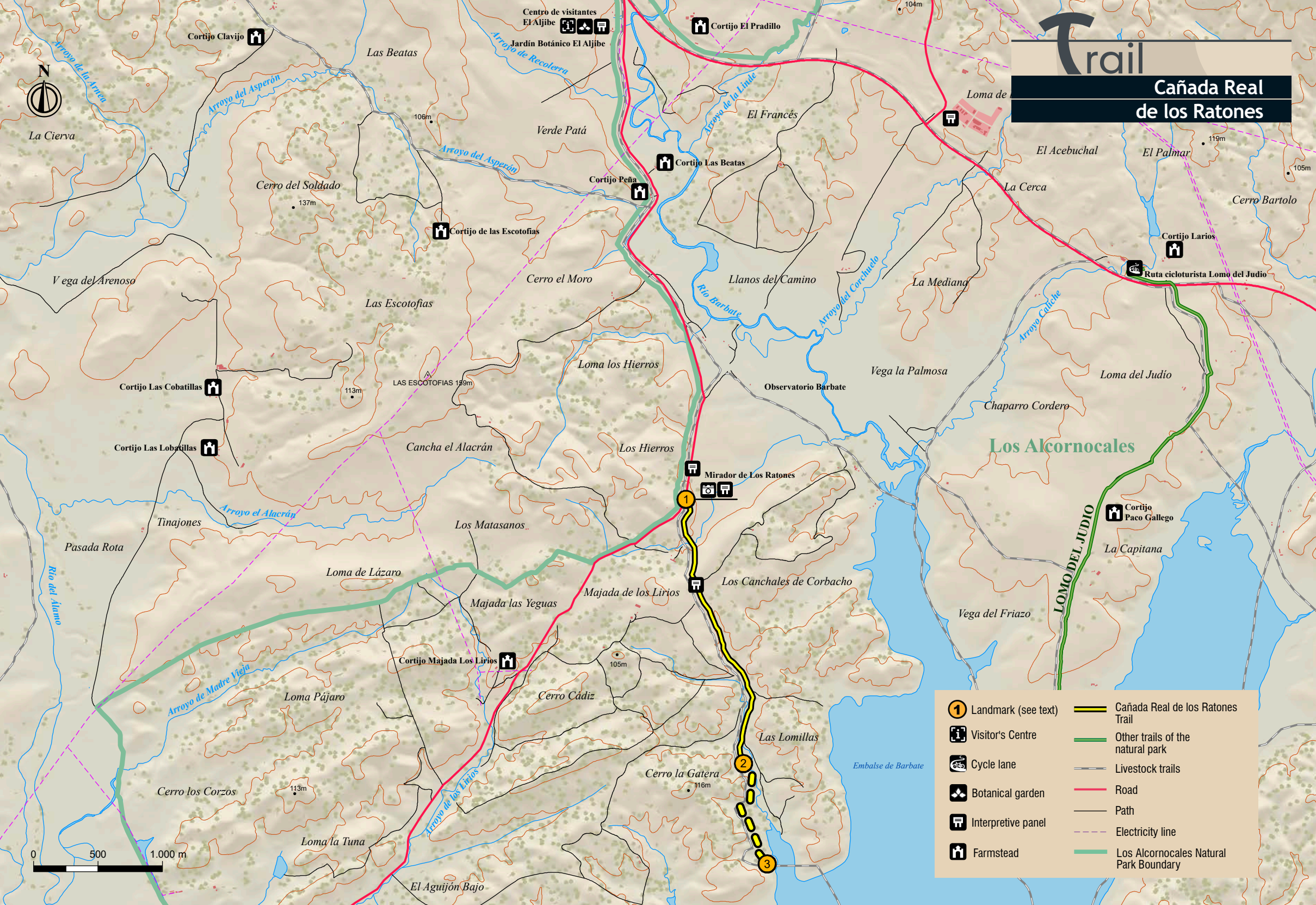
Depending on the rainfall regime, the reservoir can increase or decrease its water volume significantly from one year to the next. If the level is low, we can continue walking, winding through the canyons and inlets of the terrain until we reach the necropolis of Monte Bajo [3]



This is a comfortable route that runs along several livestock trails, through pastures and Mediterranean scrubland, until it reaches the vicinity of the Barbate reservoir. A pleasant journey on which to observe the birds in the waters of the reservoir with the added bonus of being able to contemplate the necropolis of Monte Bajo.



Cañada Real de los Ratones



	Landmark (see text)		Cañada Real de los Ratones Trail
	Visitor's Centre		Other trails of the natural park
	Cycle lane		Livestock trails
	Botanical garden		Road
	Interpretive panel		Path
	Farmstead		Electricity line
			Los Alcornocales Natural Park Boundary