

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
- Open camping is not permitted

Emergency phone: 112



ALMERÍA



MORE INFORMATION

Las Amoladeras Visitors' Centre.
Ctra. AL-3115 Almería-Cabo de Gata. km 7. Almería. Tel. 950 16 04 35
ventanadelvisitante.

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PARQUE NATURAL
Cabo de
Gata-Níjar

ALMERÍA



Caldera de
Majada Redonda



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



ROUTE

Linear

LENGTH (OUTWARD)

2,8 km

ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour

DIFFICULTY

Low

TYPE OF TRAIL

Track

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Relatively uneven terrain between hills and depressions of volcanic origin. Steppe vegetation dotted with striking palm shrub, esparto grass, Anthyllis cytisoides, Periploca angustifolia and other autochthonous species as well as agave and prickly pear.

SHADE

Scant

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Almería / Níjar

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1060 - El Pozo de los Frailes

START / END COORDINATES

36° 48' 56,09"N – 2° 5' 43,71"W

36° 49' 28,40"N – 2° 5' 41,56"W



HOW TO GET THERE

From San José, take the AL-3208 northbound. Past Pozo de los Frailes we reach a crossing. Take the AL-4200 to the right. After 3 km, take the exit for Presillas Bajas, where we descend eastward to the Majada Redonda rambla, the starting point of the trail.



PARKING

5 spaces at the start of the trail. There are also parking options in the village itself.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

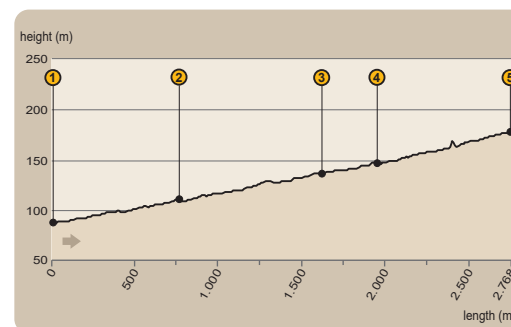
The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA - Alsina Graells (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es), Autocares Bernardo (tel. 950 25 04 22; www.autocaresbernardo.com) y Frahemar (tel. 950 26 64 11; www.frahemar.com).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has an extensive offering of signposted trails. Nearby trails include the Requena and Escullos - Pozo de los Frailes trails.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

91 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

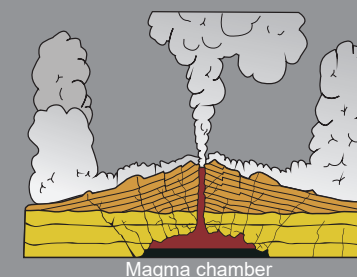
178 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

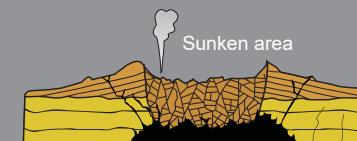
87 m

VOLCANIC CALDERA

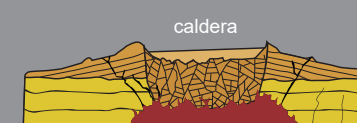
The volcanic origin of the Cabo de Gata is visible in the structure of the relief and in many other details. One of the characteristic geomorphological formations are the volcanic calderas formed by the sinking of the magmatic cavity, generally by remaining empty, although they can also be formed by other causes.



Magma chamber



Sunken area



caldera

The result is a depression of the terrain surrounded by a circular wall or elevation that the name caldera, from the Spanish for boiling pot, truly captures. There are other well-known calderas of this type throughout the world, such as the Ngorongoro caldera in Tanzania and several in the Galapagos Islands and Canary Islands (Las Cañadas del Teide and Taburiente). They are also those formed by more recent eruptions such as the Krakatoa caldera in Indonesia or Pinatubo in the Philippines.



Trail Caldera de Majada Redonda

The Majada Redonda caldera, to which this trail leads, is one of the highlights of the volcanic landscape of the natural park and owes its fame to a number of reasons. Among them area the relative scarcity of geological formations of volcanic origin on the Iberian Peninsula, and the singularity of the landscape formed by the fusion of volcanism and aridity, the challenges faced by the cultures that have inhabit the area through the ages, faced with a resistant and invasive environment that maintains a surprising biodiversity.

Presillas Bajas

A Presillas Bajas, a parish of Nijar, we descend eastward towards the Majada Redonda rambla, where we start the trail (see [1] on the map), through the dry bed of the rambla, heading north. The surrounding landscape and vegetation are typical of the area. We see some trees such as carobs, almond trees, fig trees, shrubs like palm shrub, agave and other spiny and aromatic plants. After about a hundred and fifty metres, at the second curve on the path, we not a more exuberant vegetation, with palm shrub - the only autochthonous European palm - rushes and a couple of large carob trees.



Also nearby are the ruins of an old farmstead. We can observe outcrops of volcanic ash with bentonite (white-coloured clay) and hornblende (a long, vitreous black-coloured mineral).

After the meander rambla we find a meadow of esparto grass on the left and an abundance of *Phlomis purpurea* on the right. The sides of the rambla reveal the alveolar erosion (gaps in the rocks) and we can see the lichens, a symbiosis of seaweed and fungus, in the floor of the rambla and on the rocks.

Los Berengueles

If we take to the trail in the early morning, we can observe the phenomenon known as hidden precipitation. This consists of the condensation of environmental humidity, perfectly visible on the leaves of the palm shrub, whose groves channel this water to the inside of the plant.



About eight hundred metres into the trail, we veer away from the bed of the rambla [2], making a short rise on the side to our right. We cross a modest area of *Anthyllis cytisoides* sprouting against the chalk-white stone. We descend to the bed of the rambla once again and continue to follow its meanders.



About seven hundred metres further on we find the mouth of the old dry stone well on the left [3], at the mouth of a tributary of the rambla. A little further on we can enjoy a view of the ruins of the old Cortijo de Los Berengueles farmstead. Making our way along winding path we son reach a cross with another path rising left [4] to the Collado farmstead and Las Presillas Altas.

The caldera

We stick with the course of the Rambla, although if you have time to spare it is worth taking a brief detour up to enjoy the beautiful landscape of expanses of dry land cultivated since ancient times.



Some three hundred metres further on, we see a sample of the old stone walls, called balates, that were built to prevent the erosion of the soil and maximise water for the cultivation of cereal.



A little further on, we can make out the Cerro de Peñones, atop which there is a radar, and at almost five hundred metres of altitude, crowns the volcanic structure of Majada Redonda.

An information panel close to the end of the trail [5], explains the volcanic caldera of Majada Redonda in which we now find ourselves.





Caldera de Majada Redonda



1 Landmark (see text)

P Parking

Geological formation of interest

Farmstead

Interpretive panel

Caldera de Majada Redonda Trail

Path