

## 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



## MORE INFORMATION

Centro de Visitantes Cortes de la Frontera  
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

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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)

1,7 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

40 minutes

### • DIFFICULTY

Low

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Track and path

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

The relief is hilly with sandstone soils. Views of the mountain ridges and farmland (bujeos). Arrival at the Greera lagoon. Cork oak forest. Road used during the cork harvesting season.

### • SHADE

Plentiful

### • 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

Málaga / Cortes de la Frontera

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1064 - Cortes de la Frontera

### • START / END COORDINATES

36° 35' 15,49"N – 5° 23' 49,6"O

36° 35' 5,37"N – 5° 23' 35,35"O



## HOW TO GET THERE

From Cortes de la Frontera take the A-373 southbound towards Ubrique. After about 5 km we reach the recreational area of El Pimpollar. At this point, take the track on the left towards El Colmenar. After about 3 km, the trail starts a few metres from the bridge over the Pulga stream.



## PARKING

There is a car park with some 10 places at the start of the trail.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

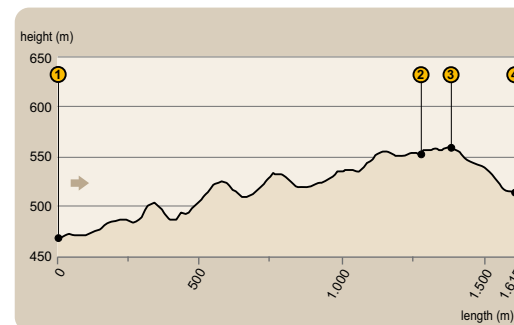
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Transportes Comes (tel. 902 19 92 08; [www.tgcomes.es](http://www.tgcomes.es)). The nearest train station is in Cortes de la Frontera (check services and timetables at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) or tel. 902 24 02 02).



## OTHER TRAILS

The natural park offers other routes for hikers. Nearby trails include the Ubrique-Asomadilla and Río Hozgarganta trails. Both are in Jimena de la Frontera.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

93 m

### • MAXIMUM HEIGHT

560 m

### • MINIMUM HEIGHT

467 m

## ROADS OF LA SACA (DEBARK)

Cork is an important source of income for the economy of Los Alcornocales Natural Park.



*La saca* or debark takes place approximately every nine years. In order to access this land, which is sometimes steep, there is a network of roads or sacking tracks, which connect with the forest track along which the vehicles that will collect the harvest circulate.



But the cork oak also has another important use: its acorns. Between the months of November and February, the Iberian pigs fed in the *montanera* forage for fruit on the ground, exercising their meat, which will thus have a better distribution of fat (marbling), which we will appreciate at the table.



CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL  
Los Alcornocales



Trail  
Garganta de la Pulga



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





Trail

## Garganta de la Pulga

### A wisely tamed forest

We start our route at a sharp bend in the forest road that links Cortes de la Frontera with El Colmenar (check [1] on the map), just at the point where the Garganta de la Pulga stream passes under the road.

Guided by the signs, we start to ascend gently along a forest track. All around us there is a magnificent cork oak grove with large specimens [2], accompanied by some gall oaks and the characteristic scrubland made up of rockroses and heather.



*On the way we can observe a curious detail in the branches of some gall oaks. These trees, commonly called Andalusian oaks, usually develop balls of three or four centimetres in diameter, called galls. These are an original defence mechanism against wasp stings and should not be confused with their fruits.*

Man has influenced the evolution of the landscape through agriculture and forest use, including beekeeping and cork extraction (both of which are good examples of sustainable production).



### Sandstones

Little by little, we gain altitude and the landscape is superb, with a dense and well-preserved cork oak forest, with jays fluttering among the canopy. In the continuity of the cork oak grove we can distinguish some areas devoid of tree vegetation; these are the *bujeos* or black earth, typical soils of dry farming in the Andalusian countryside.

The markers indicate that we must leave the forest track and continue along a sack track, which descends gently. Several rock formations [3] open up between the trees. These are sandstone rocks, the predominant material in the cork oak forest. Sandstone is generally not very consistent, so these rocks tend to fracture easily.



*In the distance, between clearings, the bujeos can be found. This type of soil is characterised by its high content of expansible clays, which cause deep cracks when dry and waterlogging otherwise. It is, therefore, hard and difficult to work, but very productive, being mainly dedicated to dry crops, mainly sunflower and wheat.*



### The lagoon in the shadows

We continue the descent and leave the sack track to continue along the path. It is completely shady in this part of the route, with thick vegetation through which we will enter until we reach the Greera lagoon [4], the final purpose of our trail.



*With a maximum depth of almost two metres, the Greera lagoon is in an amazing location. It is not linked to any specific watercourse, being one of the most beautiful endorheic lagoons in the region. Surrounded by cork oaks, gall oaks, strawberry trees and heather, it is an ideal refuge for birdlife, as well as for roe deer, deer and cross-breeds of wild boar and domestic pigs.*

Once we have enjoyed the beauty of the enclave, we return along the same path that brought us here. However, we can still continue our visit to the area. In the nearby village of Cortes de la Frontera is the visitor's centre managed by the Regional Government of Andalusia. Getting to know the landscapes, nature, history and people of the region is the proposal that this facility proposes to the visitor to enjoy the richness that each of them contain.







Rancho del Palero

Casa de la Huerta de la Pulga

# Trail

## Garganta de la Pulga

A CORTES DE LA FRONTERA

Huerta Varea

Majada Mariana

571 m

Las Albertillas

483 m

P

1

2

3

4

Laguna Greera

609 m

599 m

Loma de la Pulga

545 m

547 m

557 m

Casa de las Albertillas

540 m

491 m

Barranco de las Cruces

A EL COLMENAR

0 100 200 m

1 Landmark (see text)

P Parking

Farmstead

Garganta de la Pulga Trail

Path

