

GOOD PRACTICE

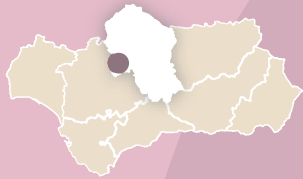


- Please leave rubbish in the bins provided
- Walk on the marked paths
- Please respect private property



- The capture of animals is not permitted
- Starting fires is strictly forbidden
- Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112



CÓRDOBA



MORE INFORMATION

Huerta del Rey Visitor's Centre. Carretera de San Calixto (A-3151), km 10,2. Hornachuelos. Córdoba. Tel. 957 64 11 40

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

CÓRDOBA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de
Hornachuelos



Las Herrerías



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

Circular

• LENGTH

5,1 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour and 30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Medium - Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path or track with cobbled or rocky surface.

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

High plateau with elements of karstic modelling. Wide panoramic views over the Guadalquivir river valley. Pastures and Mediterranean woodland. Grassy crops.

• 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

Córdoba / Hornachuelos

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

921 - Las Navas de la Concepción

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 50' 53,78"N – 5° 15' 36,19"O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Hornachuelos you reach the Huerta del Rey visitor's centre on the A-3151 road, towards San Calixto, taking a turn-off to the left a little over 1 km from the village. Once in the centre, follow the signs to the north, first going up the Rabilarga stream, and then, once outside the Huerta del Rey recreational area, taking the path to the left, where the path starts after some 100 metres.



PARKING

There is a car park at the Huerta del Rey recreational area, very close to the start of the trail, which has about 80 parking spaces.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

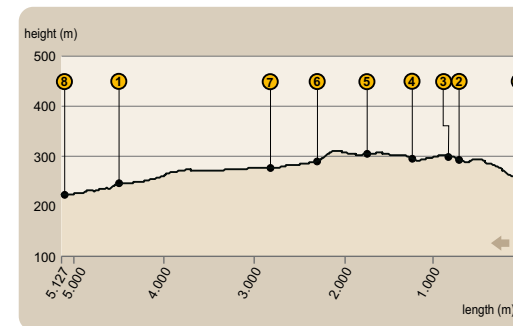
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Auto Transportes San Sebastián S.A. (tel. 957 42 90 30).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has six signposted trails, five of which start from the Huerta del Rey recreational area or its vicinity, which apart from this one are: Guadalora, del Águila, Rabilarga and Botánico. The Bembézar trail starts at the dam of the Bembézar diversion reservoir, also near Hornachuelos.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

88 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

311 m

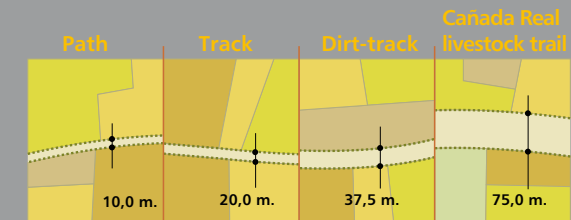
• MINIMUM HEIGHT

223 m



LIVESTOCK TRAILS

The path takes its name from the livestock trail along which it runs almost in its entirety, the Las Herrerías track. Since the Middle Ages, these trails have formed a magnificent network of paths throughout Spain, and they were for centuries the only network capable of structuring the whole territory. However, in recent times, since livestock began to be transported by road or rail, or simply since they stopped being moved between summer and winter pastures, livestock trails began to disappear from the map, and also from the memory of villages.



Now that the process has been reversed again, as witnessed by the road signs that remind us of the public status of these trails that, although they are no longer used for transhumance, can and should have other uses according to the common good, whether simply as public roads or ecological corridors. The original width of the "cañadas reales" (royal livestock trails), tracks or paths, the numerous rest areas and the extension of the network - 125,000 kilometres and almost half a million hectares throughout Spain - give an idea of its importance and possibilities.





Huerta del Rey

Several paths start in the surroundings of the Huerta del Rey visitor's centre.

The signs will take us to Las Herrerías, going up the Rabilarga stream heading north. Once we leave the Huerta del Rey recreational area, we will take the Camino de Torralba to the left. About 100 m away to the left, a wide path which enters the mountain: this is the place where the path starts (see [1] on the map).



The first stretch of the path heads south-west. To our left, we will have an excellent view of Hornachuelos with the fertile Guadalquivir river valley behind. We are on a high plateau where we can see traces of karstic modelling, with a karren, furrows and small hills created by the dissolution of the limestone rock. Vegetation is not very dense, with a predominance of scrubland made up of mastic trees, gorse, palmetto, steppes and lavender. Little by little, holm oaks gradually displace cork oaks, which dominate the rest of the route. Perhaps among the holm oaks we will see the rooting that wild boars do with their snouts in search of fruit and roots.

Lime Kilns

After some 900 metres of slight ascent, we come across fields of crops and begin an equally gentle descent. 800 meters further, we find a large holm oak at a fork in the path [2]. We take the path to the right, changing the orientation of the route to the north-west. The other path is the Águila path. In this area we find the first of the three lime kilns - stone constructions or ovens for making lime - on our route, named Grande las Palmillas [3].



We continue ascending, always on very bearable slopes, up to an altitude of about 300 meters, from where we can enjoy a wider view and notice a decrease in the number of trees in favour of scrubland. To the north we find the Esparto peak, which at 524 meters is one of the highest in this area. Behind it is the Umbria de Santa María, which forms the right bank of the Bembézar reservoir. A few metres away, we pass by the Calera de los Chaparros [4], where the density of trees recovers. We continue parallel to a fence and, after leaving the Casilla de San Antonio to the right, we reach the lime kiln of the same name [5], where a sign will explain how these old lime kilns work.

Fuente del Valle

Continuing along the plain we reach, in about 600 metres, the start of the descent to the Fuente del Valle recreational area [6].

It is a rest and refreshment area in Las Herrerías track, where the Fuente del Valle and the San Abundio shrine, patron saint of Hornachuelos, are also located. We can take the opportunity to rest in the shade of one of the holm oaks or cork oaks, and contemplate the large specimen of mastic tree along the path that we will have to go back to.



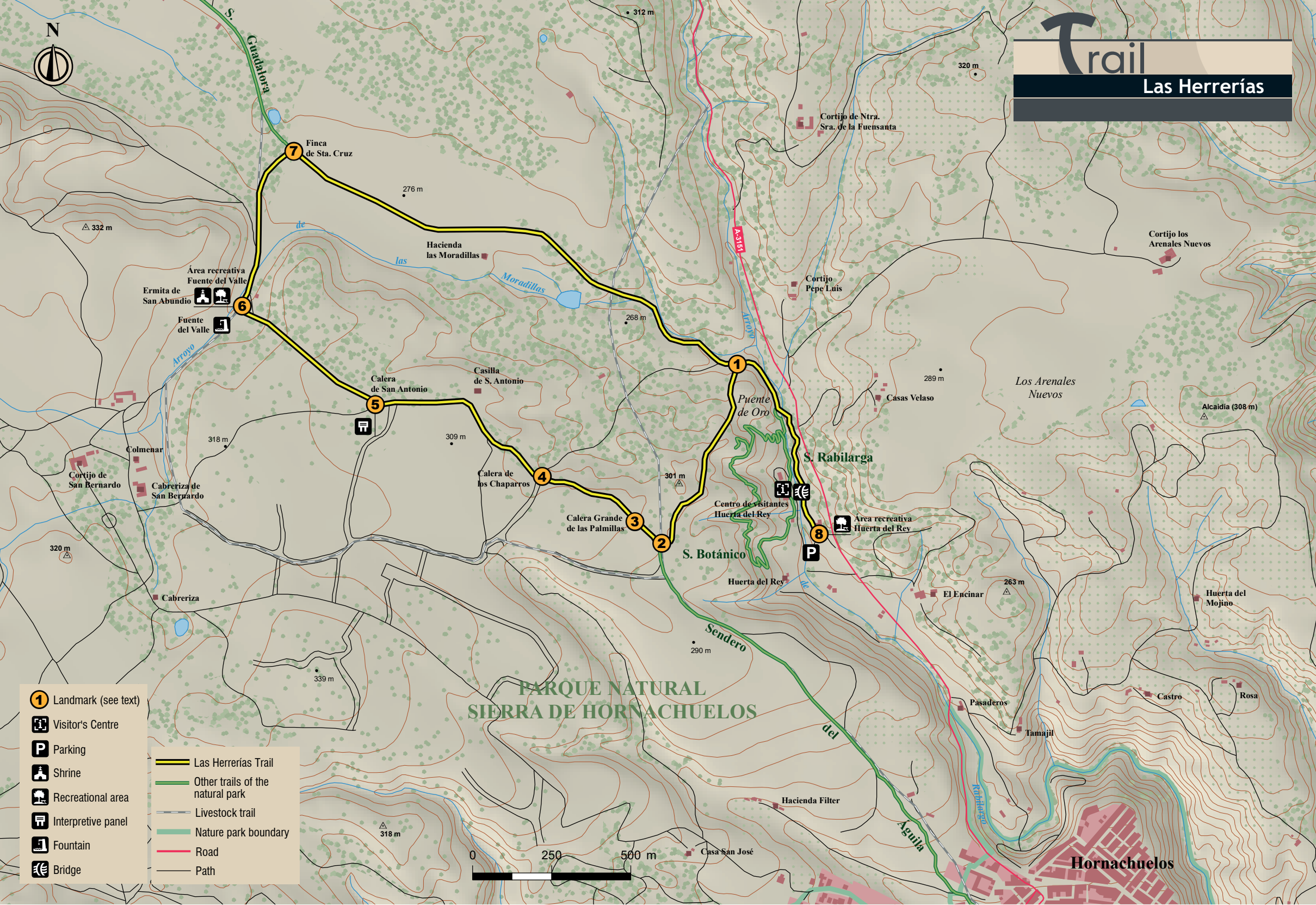
We turn northwards this time and continue among striking specimens of cork oaks until we reach the Camino de Torralba [7]. We take it to the right, heading east; the one to the left is the Guadadora path. About 700 metres away and once we have left the Moradillas estate on our right, croplands give way to the typical vegetation of the Mediterranean forest, with a predominance of cork oaks. Further on, if it has rained enough, we will hear the running of water in a short stream that hides the vegetation; this is the Moradillas stream, a tributary of the Rabilarga stream. Shortly afterwards, we will enter the Huerta del Rey recreational area, where the path ends [8], near the visitor's centre. If we continue along the Torralba path, we reach the Hornachuelos-San Calixto road.

This is a very accessible and pleasant route, which provides us with the opportunity of getting up close with natural landscapes and values that are representative of the Sierra de Hornachuelos Natural Park, such as pastures or the Mediterranean scrubland.

We can also appreciate other types of heritage values, cultural or historical, in the footprint that our ancestors have left on the land. One of them is the path itself, which is a former livestock trail from medieval times, connected to the Cañada Real Soriana (Soria's royal livestock trail).



Las Herrerías



1 Landmark (see text)

Visitor's Centre

Parking

Shrine

Recreational area

Interpretive panel

Fountain

Bridge

Las Herrerías Trail

Other trails of the natural park

Livestock trail

Nature park boundary

Road

Path

PARQUE NATURAL SIERRA DE HORNACHUELOS



Hornachuelos