

GOOD PRACTICE



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



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

Emergency phone: 112



MORE INFORMATION

Cercado del Ciprés Information Point. Camino de los Rubiales S/N. Andújar, Jaen. Teléfono: 662 97 40 12 / 617 86 10 52.
Viñas De Peñallana Visitor's Centre. Ctra. Andújar-Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza, Km 13. Andújar, Jaén. Tel. 953 53 96 28.
Natural Park Office Sierra de Andújar. Tel. 953 10 33 00.
 ventanadelvisitante.



PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de
Andújar

trail
Santuario-Jabalí



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• **ROUTE**
Linear

• **LENGTH (OUTWARD)**
1,8 km

• **ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)**
45 minutes

• **DIFFICULTY**
Low

• **TYPE OF TRAIL**
Forest trail and path

• **LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION**
Pine forests, oak pastures and Mediterranean scrubland. The celebrated Basilica and Sanctuary of the Virgen de la Cabeza is located here, along with a several related buildings and sites.

• **SHADE**
Scant

• **SPECIAL AUTHORISATION**
Not required

• **RECOMMENDATIONS**
Take care not to slip on small hills in the sand. Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• **PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES**
Jaén / Andújar

• **SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000**
883

• **START / END COORDINATES**
38° 11'1" N, 4° 1'53" W
38° 11'0"N, 4° 0'59"W



HOW TO GET THERE

From the Sanctuary of the Virgen de la Cabeza, take the Sanctuary path in the opposite direction, starting at the crossing with Membrillejo path. Approximately a kilometre from the Sanctuary, after a sharp curve and just before a pine forest, our trail begins.



PARKING

There is a no parking at the start of the trail. You can leave your vehicle in the immediate surroundings of the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

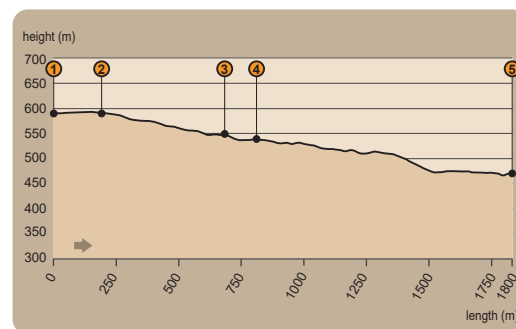
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA (tel. 902 42 22 42), Transportes Ureña (tel. 953 50 09 44) and Transportes Marcos Muñoz (tel. 953 50 09 82). The nearest train stations are Andújar and Marmolejo (www.renfe.es; tel. 902 24 02 02).



OTHER TRAILS

In the Natural Park, not far off the trail, we can find the sign-posted El Santuario trail, the Jabalí - Encinarejo trail and the Control de la Cabrera - Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza trail.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| • MAXIMUM GRADIENT | 128 m |
| • MAXIMUM ALTITUDE | 594 m |
| • MINIMUM ALTITUDE | 466 m |



THE WILD BOAR

The wild boar is one of the most adept game species in Spain. The scientific name, *Sus scrofa*, means “pig”, as it is indeed related to the domestic pig. Jaime de Foxá immortalised it in his novel *Solitario: andanzas y meditaciones de un jabalí* (Solitary: Wanderings and Meditations of a Wild Boar).

However, the wild boar is a more sociable animal than the title of de Foxá's book suggests. They usually travel in matriarchal societies of several interrelated females and their young. They eat fruit, roots, invertebrates, mice, rabbits, bulbs, truffles, acorns and anything else they can find. Partial to a daytime siesta, they can trot significant distances overnight. In the words of Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente: “The wild boar is a mysterious animal. They don't like to walk by day. They don't like to be seen”.

The absence of the wolf, their principal natural predator, the abandoning of the countryside, their reproductive efficiency and their capacity for adaptation make them dangerously abundant. Responsible hunting, carried out in accordance with regulation, helps control the population of this fierce, beautiful animal. Signs of their presence include their characteristic hoofmarks, their globe-like, clustered excrement and uprooted land on the edges of the path.



Trail

Santuario-Jabalí

Between the pines, oaks, Mediterranean scrubland and granite, and under the ceremonious and mystic influence of the Sanctuary of the Virgen de la Cabeza, this trail leads us two kilometres into the habitat of such impressive species as the Iberian lynx, the wolf, the black vulture and the Iberian imperial eagle. A rugged and wild habitat, which is also a site of congregation, devotion and tradition; which we can see, smell, listen and feel with our own skin and touch with our own hands as we cross its belly to the El Jabalí recreation area.

From the sanctuary to the scrub

The trail begins [1] on a forest track, just after a curve around a granite outcropping at the foot of the Cerro del Cabezo hill. On the right, at the top of the hill rises the magnificent Sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin. The trail takes us 200 metres deep inside a resin pine forest, continuing along a track that turns right off the forest track [2]. The detour is signposted from the trail itself. The sign had to be moved to allow carriages to pass during the pilgrimages.



From the pine forest, we enter an area dotted with holm oak across a mantle of rockrose, mastic, thyme, lavender and other Mediterranean scrubland species.

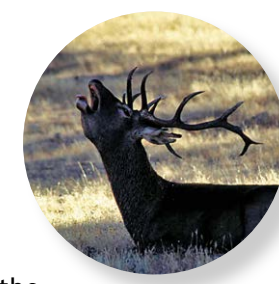


On the horizon we can make out the characteristic undulating form of the Sierra Morena mountain range. We descend to an uncovered area to granite relief, with great rocks of granite that, due to their rounded shape that have been nicknamed skittles.

Quartz, feldspar and mica: a stone and sand path

The granite skittles accompany us along most of the path. Some of these rocks look like gigantic stone coins due to the effect of erosion which has varying effects on the quartz, feldspar and mica that makes up the granite. The weathering process sees them sink into the ground and the surface can become sandy and slippery so proceed cautiously in this section. These sands are an ideal habitat for rabbits, the preferred prey of the lynx so if there's any where we might surprise this big cat it would be here. As we descend, the view extends across the shade of the valley of Jándula. Overlooked by two tall granite skittles so integrated into the landscape that we barely realise they are there until they are in front of us, we find a well conserved old sheepfold [3] which, like so many elements in the landscape, bears witness to our ancestors' agricultural use of these mountains.

From here, the view opens up again and we are met with a panoramic view of the lush pine forests of Lugar Nuevo, flashing a primeval and untamed emerald in the background.



Life on the scrubland

Wrapped in the fragrance of the land, the pines, the rosemary and the scrub, we make our way along a path carved out of the granite rock. Partridges, chaffinches, warblers and robins brighten the mood with their song. If we're lucky, we'll hear the penetrating call of the imperial eagle and in early autumn the guttural, whining roar of the stags, proclaiming their virility to the four winds, claiming ownership of their territory and the maximum possible number of females.

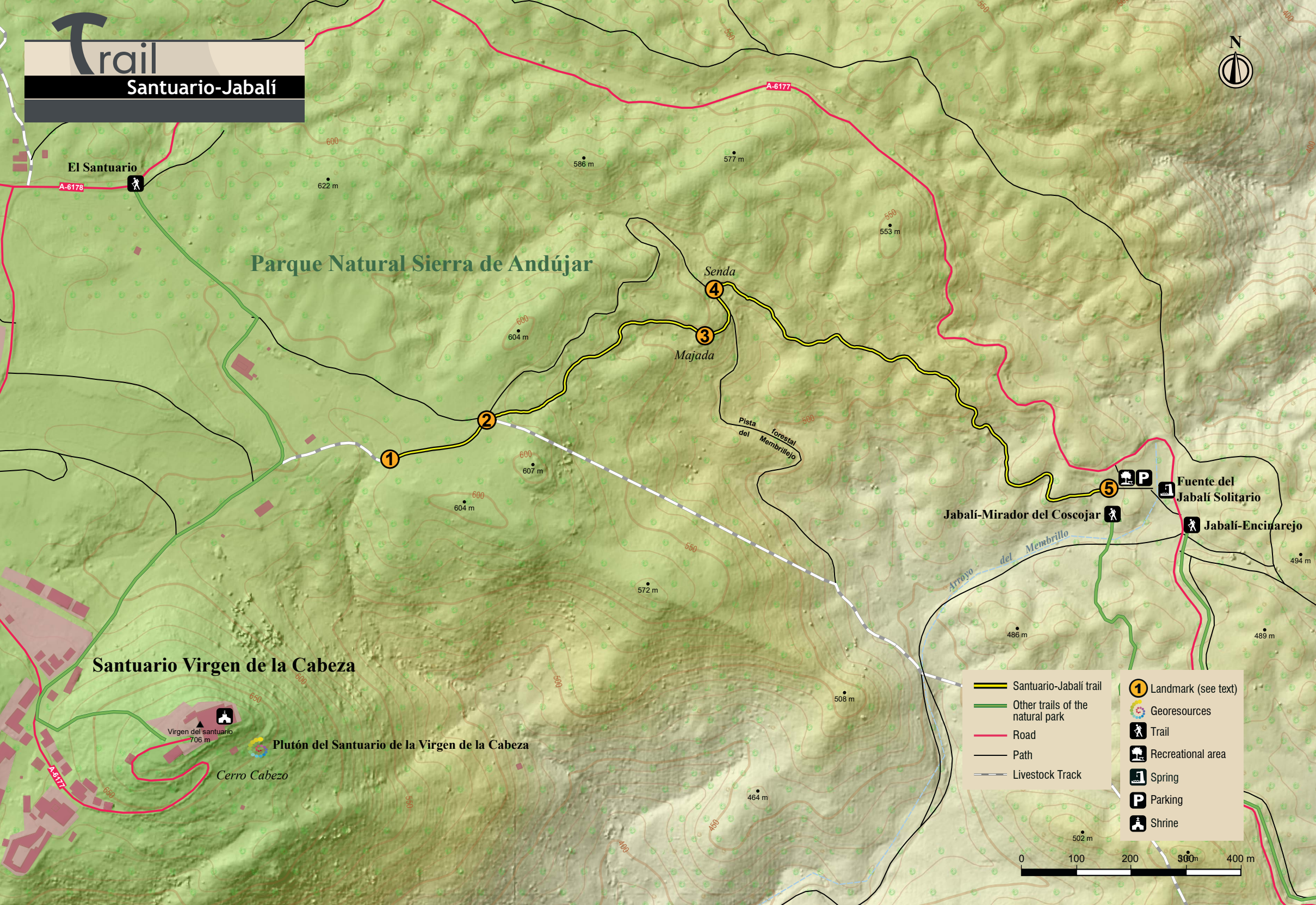
A wooden railing guides us to the Membrillejo forest track, where the Andújar and Marmolejo roads rise during the celebration of the pilgrimage. We turn to the left and follow a track some 60 metres, following the markers. The trail continues along a path to the right [4].



The final kilometre runs between great skittles of rock. The trail snakes over granite sands like the source of a stream, crossing a stone pine forests and ends at the El Jabalí [5] recreation area, featuring, of course, a granite wild boar.

Trail

Santuario-Jabalí



El Santuario

Parque Natural Sierra de Andújar

Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza

Virgen del santuario
706 m

Plutón del Santuario de la Virgen de la Cabeza

Cerro Cabezo

Senda

Majada

Pista forestal del Membrillejo

Jabalí-Mirador del Coscojar

Fuente del Jabalí Solitario

Jabalí-Encinarejo

Arroyo del Membrillo

- Santuario-Jabalí trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path
- Livestock Track
- Landmark (see text)
- Georesources
- Trail
- Recreational area
- Spring
- Parking
- Shrine

