

## GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked trails



Please respect private property



Please refrain from making noise



Capturing animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is prohibited

Emergency phone: 112



CÓRDOBA

PARQUE NATURAL  
Sierra de Cardena  
y Montoro

## MORE INFORMATION

Venta Nueva Visitor Centre.  
Enlace de la ctra. N-420 con la CO-510, km 79. Cardena, Córdoba.  
Tel. 677 98 27 86.

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía  
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,  
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

PARQUE NATURAL  
Sierra de Cardena  
y Montoro



Trail  
Vegeta del Fresno



Junta de Andalucía  
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,  
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## OTHER CONSERVATION SCHEMES



### • ROUTE

Linear walk

### • LENGTH (ONE-WAY)

6,4 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME (ONE-WAY)

2 hours and 30 minutes

### • DIFFICULTY

Medium- High

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Track with rocky surface

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Granite and pastureland determine the characteristic landscapes of Los Pedroches, which are well represented in the Natural Park. Starting from this grassy landscape, the path enters areas of Mediterranean woodland with abundant plant diversity, also reaching areas of reforested pine forests. It is worth mentioning the rich riparian forest found in the riverbeds along the entire route.

### • SHADE

Frequent

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Authorisation is required, which is obtained online through the web-based quota processing system: <https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/cupos-ciudadano>.

During the summer the path is closed due to the risk of forest fires.

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sunscreen and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Córdoba / Cardena

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

882 - Cardena

### • START / END COORDINATES

38° 15' 15.19"N - 4° 15' 9.92"O

38° 14' 44.54"N - 4° 12' 11,17"O



## HOW TO GET THERE

Several roads converge in Cardena: the N-420, which joins it with the Guadalquivir valley, the A-423 and the A-20. Once in Cardena, take the lane to Aldea del Cerezo, which passes under the N-420 by-pass. From Aldea del Cerezo, follow the signpost indicating the start of the path towards the valley of the River Yeguas. There is a sign at the beginning of the trail and a gate marking its start.



## PARKING

There are car parks in Aldea del Cerezo, very close to the start of the trail.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

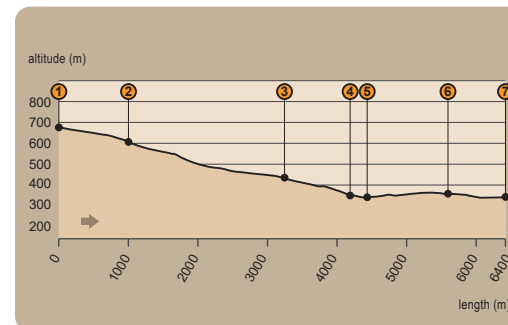
It is not possible to access this trail by public transport. The company running regular bus routes in the area is Autocares Carrera (tel. 957 42 21 77; [www.autocaresramirez.es](http://www.autocaresramirez.es)) or Auto Transportes Ureña S.A. (tel. 957 40 44)



## OTHER TRAILS

In Aldea del Cerezo three other signposted paths converge: Cardena - Aldea del Cerezo, Aldea del Cerezo - Azuel and Aldea del Cerezo - Venta del Charco. These in turn connect with other signposted trails in the Natural Park.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

340 m

### • MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

675 m

### • MINIMUM ALTITUDE

335 m



## IBERIAN LYNX

At the beginning of the 21st century, it was confirmed that there were only 94 lynx left in the world, in two isolated populations: Doñana and Sierra Morena, in the latter divided between the Jándula and Yeguas river valleys, in the Sierra de Cardena y Montoro Natural Park, and in the neighbouring Sierra de Andújar Natural Park.

Given the dramatic situation of the species, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared the Iberian lynx "critically endangered". After an ambitious effort to halt its extinction, in 2021 the Iberian lynx census exceeded 1,300 individuals, with new populations distributed throughout the southern half of the Iberian Peninsula and the surviving populations in Sierra Morena and Doñana having played a crucial role.

It is no coincidence that the logo of the Natural Park contains the figure of this big cat with its bushy ears. Its population growth, which has been remarkable in recent years, would be impossible without the existence of dams to sustain it, among other factors. Through this, the expansion of its main food, rabbit, has been supported. This explains the existence of the cairns, or artificial burrows, that we see along the path.

It is an elusive animal, very difficult to see. The traces they leave behind - footprints or droppings - are easier to discover and it is therefore a good idea to find out how to recognise them and their habits and customs.



# Trail

## Vegueta del Fresno

The destination of this trail is the area around the Yeguas River, one of the main nature sanctuaries in the Sierra Morena and in Andalusia as a whole. Species as emblematic of the Mediterranean mountains as the lynx and the imperial eagle are now recovering their populations in these privileged places, thanks to effective protection and increased public awareness. The descent from the characteristic pastures of the Los Pedroches region to the valley and riverside forests of the Yeguas is an authentic experience of getting close to nature in its wild state, which is difficult to enjoy in other places.

### Aldea del Cerezo

You will approach the village from Cardeña, along a track which is part of the signposted Cardeña-Aldea del Cerezo path, which you cross to the east to start the route. You can stop to visit the village, which, little by little, after its reconstruction, is recovering its pulse after having been abandoned in the sixties of the last century.



Four trails branch out from Aldea del Cerezo. The Vegueta del Fresno trail starts [1] on the outskirts, to the east of the town, and heads towards the valley through the wildest and most delicate area of the Natural Park, which is why it has special protection, and requires prior authorisation to be able to walk along it, as well as being closed during the summer period.

### Cantareras Stream

A little further on, cross a gate through an adjacent pedestrian crossing. The terrain becomes more dramatic and rapidly descends along a forest path that runs alongside the Cantareras stream. The song of the birds and the sound of the water will brighten your step. Further down, next to a wooden fence, the path suggests a stop on a strategically located small stone seat to enjoy the stream that flows through a rocky outcrop, magnifying and enhancing the magical music of the water [2].

### Mediterranean forest

The Cerro del Colchón to your left seems gain height as you descend. The flanking slopes are covered with a rich and dense vegetation, in which the scrubland is becoming more and more important. During most of the descent it is worth turning left towards the forest

clearings to observe the slopes where the granite boulders mingle with the most common species of the Mediterranean forests and scrublands of Sierra Morena, in a habitat that is highly appreciated by emblematic species such as the Iberian lynx. In case you miss it, an information sign [3] reminds you where to look and the species you should observe more closely.



After three kilometres of almost continuous descent, you will pass a firebreak and, shortly afterwards, on the left hand side, come across a unusual specimen of terebinth tree. Normally, terebinth are shrubs, but this one, which is catalogued as a unique tree, it is about ten metres high.

### Yeguas River

There are just over 500 metres of descent to go until reaching the bottom of the valley. The path takes a detour to the left [4] along a path that runs alongside the river until a signpost tells you to turn back [5]. However, from there you reach the Yeguas river on your own. This river is one of the jewels of nature in the Park and in the whole of the southern Iberian Peninsula. Its riverside woodland, with willows, poplars, ash trees and oleanders, covers a wide riverbed with large granite boulders that bear witness to its geological vitality.

Once you have regained your strength after enjoying the river, you will retrace your steps back to the forest track and continue walking downstream along the right bank of the Yeguas. You will soon find yourself on a real film set. Some outside scenes of the Spanish production “Entre Lobos” (Among Wolves) were filmed here. Specifically, you will be able to see the place of the “salto de

la cierva” (hind’s leap) from a large rock over the water, which has practically become a household name due to its popularity in the naturalist world [6].

The River Yeguas, a tributary of the Guadalquivir, serves as a boundary between two provinces - Cordoba and Jaén - and between two natural parks, Sierra de Cardeña y Montoro and Sierra de Andújar. It therefore runs through sparsely populated areas that have been able to safeguard its wildlife, typical of the Mediterranean forest, to a greater extent. Its waters, which are of exceptional quality, and its banks are home to a large number of aquatic or amphibious species, and many other terrestrial species come to them in search of the precious liquid.

The path continues along the forest track until a bend with exceptional views over the valley and an information sign invite you to stop [7]. It is the end of the trail and time to retrace our steps. On the way back it is highly recommended to look up at the skies from time to time because it is easy to spot the silhouette of two true jewels of the Iberian fauna, the imperial eagle and the golden eagle, both frequent in these mountains, together with other large birds of prey such as the black vulture and the griffon vulture.





-  Landmark (see text)
-  Trail
-  Unique trees
-  Vegueta del Fresno Trail
-  Other trails of the natural park
-  Path