

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



ALMERÍA
PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra María-
Los Vélez

MORE INFORMATION

Mirador de la Umbría de la Virgen Visitor's Centre
Ctra. AL-317 María-Orce km 2,7. María. Almería. Tel. 950 52 70 05.
ventanadelvisitante.



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

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra María-
Los Vélez

trail
Pinar de la Alfahuara

© / Editing / Coordination: Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development / Environment and Water Agency
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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

8,3 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

2 hour and 30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Moderate

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path or trail

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Carved on limestone rock. Forest of native and reforested pines. Holm oak forests. Panoramic views from viewpoints.

• SHADE

Abundant

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Almería / María

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

951 - Orce

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 42' 12,55"N – 2° 12' 29,58"W

37° 42' 18,52"N – 2° 14' 28,44"W



HOW TO GET THERE

From Vélez Rubio take the A-317 road to the north towards Vélez Blanco. After about 18 km and past María, the trail branches off to the left of the road.



PARKING

There is a car park at the start of the trail and there are also places nearby to leave your vehicle.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

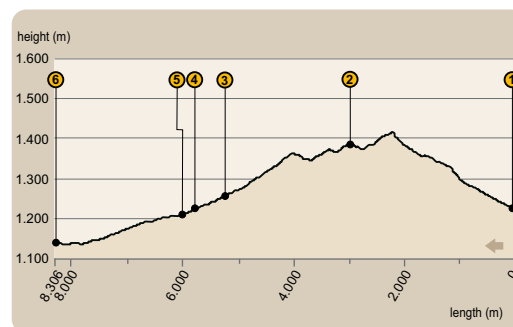
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area ALSA (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es)



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park offers a number of routes for hikers. Nearby trails are the Umbría de la Virgen and the Umbría del Maimón trail.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

116 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1.279 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

1.163 m



A DIVERSE WILDLIFE

The habitat diversity in Sierra María, including forests, screes, rocky crags and outcrops, allows for a rich and diverse wildlife, especially of birds, of which over a hundred species, between sedentary, wintering and summer, have been identified.



Northern goshawk, sparrowhawk and booted eagle are especially noteworthy of these pine areas. Golden eagles, peregrine falcons or Eurasian eagle-owls make their nest on the cliffs.

Other species typical of agricultural fields are the crested lark, the calandra lark or the meadow pipit.



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Pinar de la Alfahuara

This trail will bring you closer to a beautiful synthesis of the natural and cultural history of the area.

The trail allows to admire, among other attractions, one of the few native pine woods still existing in the province of Almería, as well as knowing interesting aspects of the social and economic history of the park, always linked to the use of natural resources supplied by Mediterranean forests.

La Aduana

At the foot of the road AL-832, which goes from María to Orce, you will see the ruins of an old shed: it is the spot known as La Aduana, Spanish for “customs house”, which had the functions of supervising the exploitation of forest resources by locals. This is where the trail starts (see [1] on the map). You will start by turning left in a well-signalled crossing. Once you are set on the trail and a few metres afterwards, you will meet the only challenging point in the trail: a 140 m slope.



At the beginning of the trail, the old customs building of La Aduana speaks of a wealthy past in which surveillance over the exploitation of forest and hunting resources was carried out by local nobility: the marquises of Los Vélez. Since then, La Aduana was the only entrance point to this specific area.

During the first section of the trail, which runs southwards, you will find yourself under a canopy of Aleppo pines with an underground of rockroses, holm oaks, Genista cinerascens and juniper. When the trail turns west, the trees become short, shrubby holm oaks with some patches of cluster pines.

Puntal del Morral

The trail continues to the viewpoint called Puntal del Morral [2], from which it is possible to enjoy a view over a landscape rich in contrasts: wide crop fields on one side, a fine example of Mediterranean scrub in the other. If you look up, you may see specimens of griffon vulture, short-toed snake eagle or booted eagle hovering over your head.



Panoramic over the Morral viewpoint. A privileged spot to admire the views and survey the abundant wildlife.

After a well-earned rest in the viewpoint, continue your trek by going down to the Los Alamos recreational area. Poco Gradually, the trail penetrates the Agrio gorge [3], from which you may contemplated the woods of holm oaks that cover the western slope of Puntal del Morral, as well as the deciduous forest in the upper part of the gorge, including, among others, maple trees, whitebeams and laurestine. From this place you may spot the impressive limestone peaks with clear traces of dissolution, a fine example of the complex karst system that rules the range.



Los Alamos

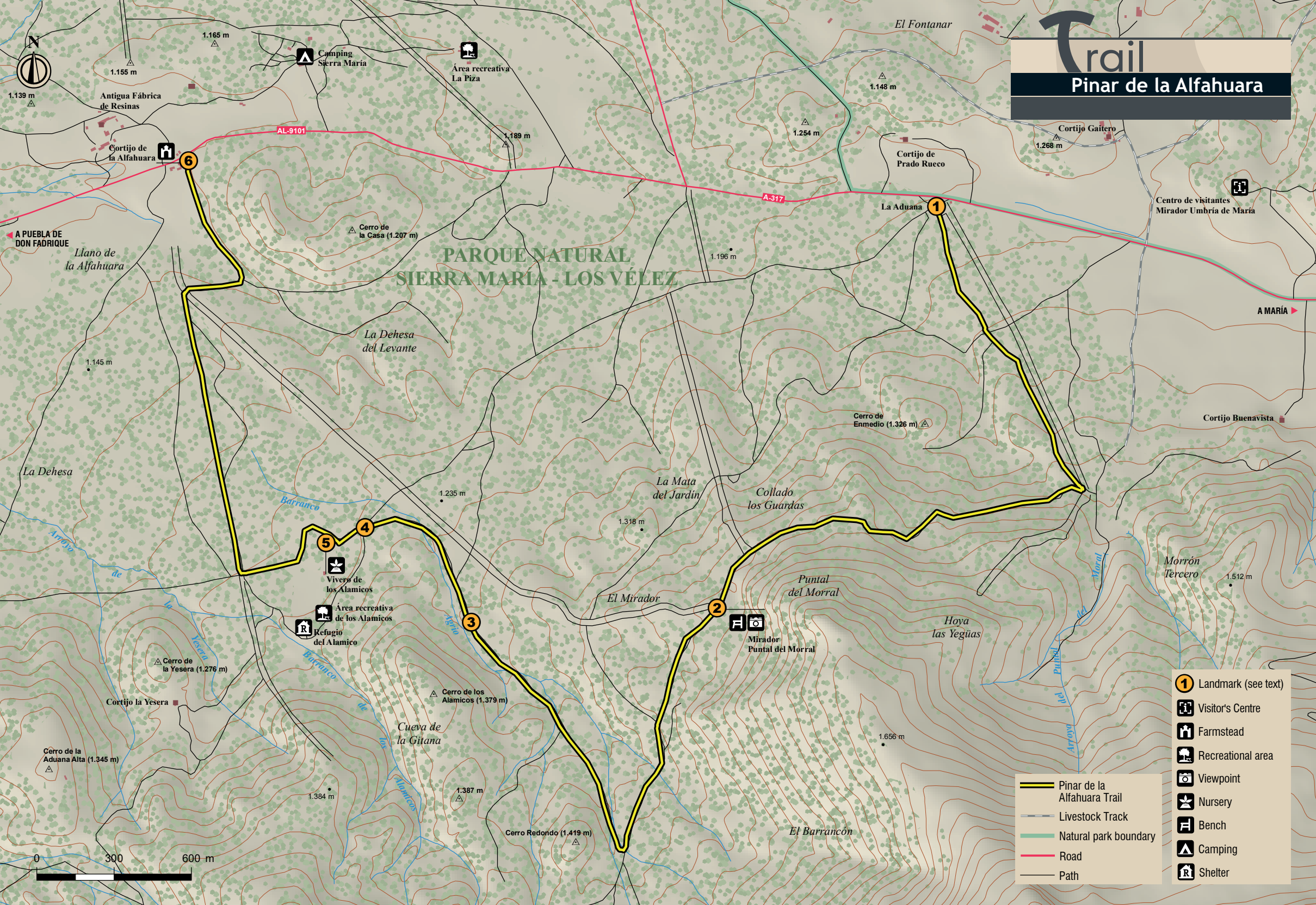
After crossing the Agrio gorge, the trail continues along the other bank, starting a slow descent to the crossing with the forest path of Los Alamos [4]. Once there, you may take a break in this recreational area, which includes wooden tables and benches, fountains and currently closed mountain shelter.



In order to continue along the trail, go back to the crossing and cross the path that leads to the Los Alamos tree nursery [5], from where all plants used in reforestation initiatives were obtained. This path marks the limit between public grounds and the private estate of the dehesa. It is interesting to note that, in spring, orchids bloom in this area, adding spots of red to the green pines.

You will get gradually close to La Alfahuara, the final point of the trail [6], where, in the 1940s, a factory that processed the resin obtained from the Aleppo pines in the area stood beside the now-ruined houses.





Trail

Pinar de la Alfahuara

- 1 Landmark (see text)
- Visitor's Centre
- Farmstead
- Recreational area
- Viewpoint
- Nursery
- Bench
- Camping
- Shelter

- Pinar de la Alfahuara Trail
- Livestock Track
- Natural park boundary
- Road
- Path