

GOOD PRACTICE

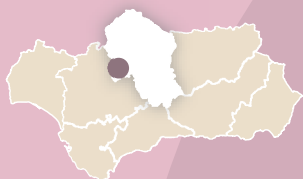


- Please leave rubbish in the bins provided
- Walk on the marked paths
- Please respect private property



- 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 57 96 56

ventanadelvisitante.



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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

6,1 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

2 hour and 20 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Moderate

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path or track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Dehesas, pastures or olive groves on the initial high plateau. Mediterranean and riverside forest in the valley of the Guadalora river, of which there are wide panoramic views before descending to the river.

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Required (obtained at the Provincial Delegation for the Environment in Cordoba or at the Huerta del Rey Visitor's Centre). Trail closed from 1 June to 1 October due to fire danger.

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Check that the water from fountains is safe to drink. Use extreme caution when crossing the River Guadalora at fords that can be dangerous if the river is swollen. It is suggested to bring binoculars for bird watching.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Córdoba / Hornachuelos

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

921 - Las Navas de la Concepción

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 51' 18,58"N – 5° 16' 40,16"O

37° 50' 13,28"N – 5° 18' 42,31"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 a kilometre from the village. Once in the centre, follow the signs, which take you along the Las Herrerías trail for the first 400 metres.



PARKING

There is a car park at the start of the trail in the recreation area.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

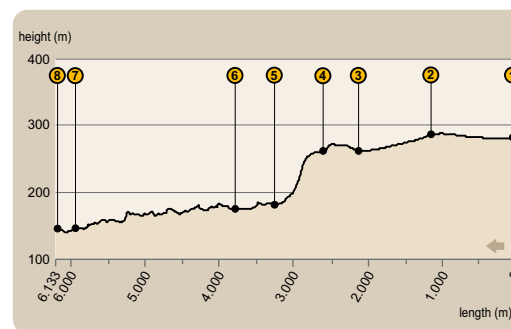
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Auto Transportes San Sebastián S.A. (tel. 957 42 90 30).



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: Las Herrerías, de la Rabilarga, Botánico and del Águila. The latter is an option to return to the visitor's centre. The Bembézar trail starts at the dam of the Bembézar diversion reservoir, also near Hornachuelos.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

147 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

287 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

140 m



THE ALDER GROVE OF THE GUADALORA

The alder grove is one of the most botanically and ecologically interesting types of riverside woodland. The River Guadalora has been catalogued as a singular grove due to its peculiarity, state of conservation and because it is an area of relevant size (6.4 hectares).



Moreover, it is located in a very well-preserved Mediterranean forest and scrubland environment, and, in a certain sense, the fact that part of the alder grove crosses calcareous soils is strange, as it is more common for this type of plant community to develop on siliceous substrates.



CÓRDOBA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de
Hornachuelos



Guadalora



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



Trail

Guadalora

Fuente del Valle

The path starts in the vicinity of the Fuente del Valle recreational area (check [1] on the map), from where we will find signs to follow the trail.



We are in the first foothills of the Sierra Morena, which here borders the River Guadalquivir, and we are already surrounded by meadows, a fundamental part of its most characteristic landscapes. Between a grove of cork oaks, we advance a little over a kilometre in a north-westerly direction, until about a hundred metres before reaching the Cortijo del Alcornoque, when we take a perpendicular path on our left [2], which leads us to an olive grove.

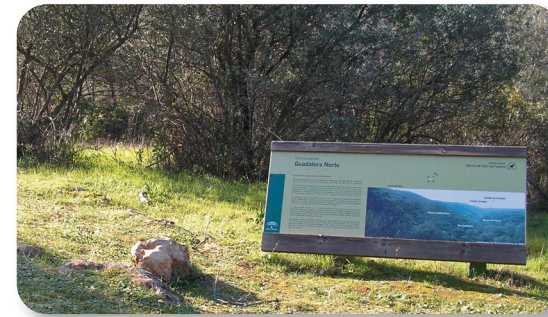


We go round the olive grove until we find the Fuente del Conejo [3], and a small irrigation pond behind it. Under the shade of one of the beautiful holm oaks in the surrounding area we can make a stop, take out our always essential binoculars and try to observe the flight of birds of prey such as the kestrel, peregrine falcon, Bonelli's eagle or golden eagle, and with luck the black or griffon vulture. In the olive groves we can find blackbirds and shrikes.



Descend to the river

We walk some 600 metres with olive trees on either side, until we reach a point where we start a steep descent down the escarpment we had been skirting. Before starting the descent, we cannot miss the contemplation of the northern part of the Guadalora valley following the indications of the interpretative sign [4]. We descend some fifty metres along a zigzagging path and can enjoy the panoramic view of the southern part of the valley thanks to another interpretative sign. Little by little, we have entered a Mediterranean forest of holm oaks, cork oaks, kermes oaks, laurestines, strawberry trees and many other species of plants, some of them aromatic. We should not be surprised to come across a deer or any other of its inhabitants.



Two information panels help us to interpret the landscape facing north and south, respectively. Place names, vegetation or geographical features are part of the heritage that deserves to be known.

The descent, sometimes uncomfortable, offers us breathtaking panoramic views. This gives us a clearer view of the course of the river, which is highlighted by the leafy riverside woodland that surrounds it. Behind it, on the left, in the shady areas, leafy gall oaks grow, while on the right slope, with more sunlight, holm oaks and wild olive trees can be found.

Alder grove

Once we have finished our descent [5], we begin to hear the murmur of the water, which announces the proximity of the Guadalora, and to enjoy the imposing alder grove that accompanies it; a gallery forest with alder as the dominant tree, although mixed with ash, hackberry, elm and willow trees. A short distance away we find the Molino de La Paloma [6], an old installation that used the power of the torrent to grind cereals that were grown on the plateau from which we came.



The path, following the meanders, crosses the riverbed several times, sometimes approaching it and sometimes moving away from it. While the river calms down in some places, forming beautiful pools. A few metres from the end we find an old limestone quarry

[7] from which material was extracted for the construction of the road leading to the nearby Retortillo reservoir. We finish at the Puente de la Esira bridge on the CO-5310 road [8], next to the Pasada de Algeciras.



Trail Guadalora



- 1** Landmark (see text)
- Visitor's Centre
- P** Parking
- Vegetation of interest
- Panoramic view
- Shrine
- Mill
- Farmstead
- Recreational area
- Interpretive panel
- Fountain
- Bridge

- Guadalora Trail
- Other trails in this Natural Park
- Livestock trails
- Nature park boundary
- Road
- Path

