

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

Emergency phone: 112

GRANADA



MORE INFORMATION

Puerto Lobo Visitor's Centre. Ctra. Víznar a Puerto Lobo km 43. Víznar. Granada. Tel. 958 54 04 26.
ventanadelvisitante



GRANADA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de Huétor



Fuente de los Potros



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



- ROUTE**
Circular
- LENGTH**
800 metres (plus a 135-metre stretch)
- ESTIMATED TIME**
20 min
- DIFFICULTY**
Low (trail accessible for persons with reduced mobility)
- TYPE OF TRAIL**
Compacted gravel walkway
- LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION**
Reforestation pine forest (black pine, maritime pine and Scots pine) with some holm oaks and an undergrowth of silver broom, wild lavender, common broom, rockroses, hawthorn and wild roses. Panoramic views over limestone cliffs.
- SHADE**
Frequent
- SPECIAL AUTHORISATION**
Not required
- RECOMMENDATIONS**
Bring drinking water, hiking shoes, a hat and sun protection.
- PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES**
Granada / Huétor de Santillán
- SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000**
1010
- START / END COORDINATES**
37°18'34"N, 3°27'54"W



HOW TO GET THERE

The trail starts at the Fuente de los Potros recreational area, which can be reached by following the signs after exit 264 of the A-92 motorway.



PARKING

The Fuente de los Potros recreational area has a large car park.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

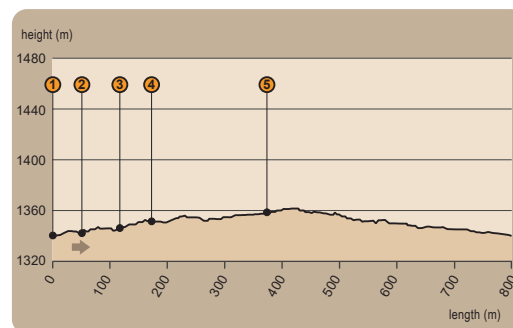
The trailhead cannot be reached by bus. Transport is provided by the Metropolitan Transport Consortium of the Granada Area (tel. 955 038 665). And the main operator in the area is the company Carlos Fernández de la Torre (tel. 958 54 30 76).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has other routes. Some of the closest trails to this one are the signposted Puerto Lobo - El Sotillo trails and the and Las Mimbres trail.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

23 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1362 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

1339 m



PEREGRINE FALCON

The peregrine falcon is one of the most powerful predators to cross the sky: a true feathered missile capable of flying at over 300 kilometres per hour. There is no faster animal in the world. The surprise effect of its speed and the force of an impact at such speed enable peregrines it to hunt down and kill any bird in flight in a single blow. Peregrines seem to put its own life in danger when doing their spectacular free-falls, but peregrine falcons are stunt specialists. Peregrines is the size of a crow and their compact, muscular anatomy is all about speed. Their prey are usually agile birds, that can fly in an energetic and ever acrobatic manner, and are usually able to outrun any other pursuer: pigeons, European turtle doves, Western jackdaws, Eurasian jays. It can also hunt small mammals such as hares, mice and squirrels.

Its name, "peregrine" alludes to the travelling character of some populations. Peregrine falcons are found practically everywhere in the world, wherever there are suitable cliffs and crags for nesting and roosting, although populations of this magnificent crepuscular bird suffered a drastic reduction in the last century as a result of being poisoned by the pesticides and other agricultural biocides accumulated in their prey. The peregrine falcon must have nested in the Tajo de los Halcones. Nowadays, it is possible to spot them it in the vicinity of the rocky cliff, scanning its prey over the extensive valley through which our trail runs.



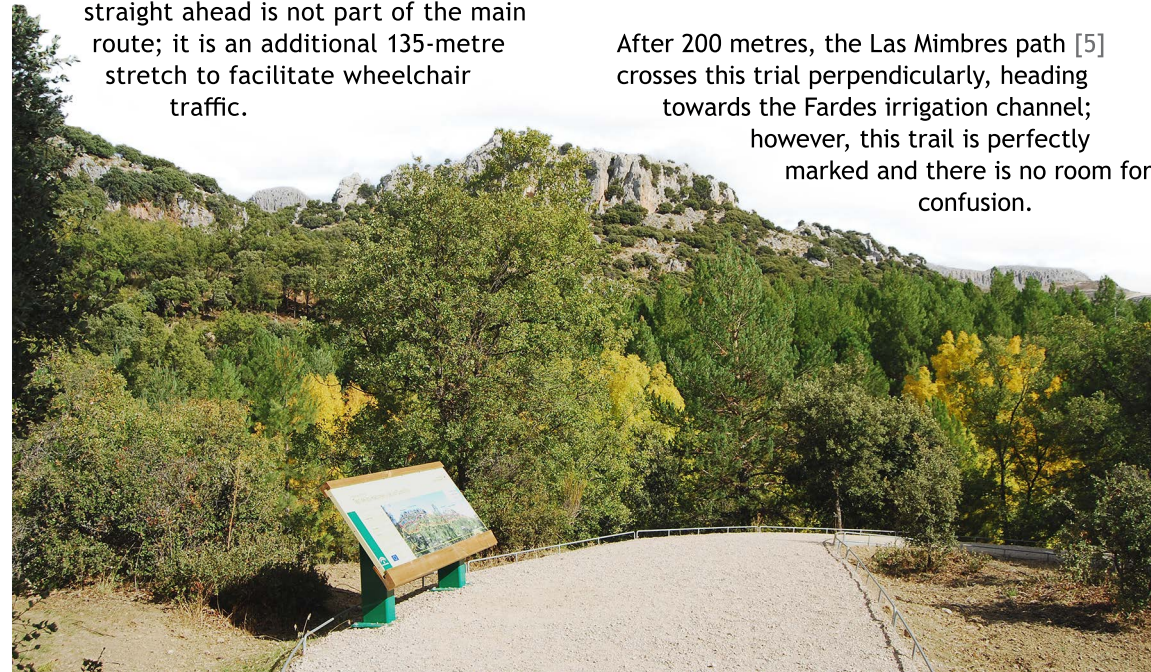
Trail Fuente de los Potros

The dialogue between water, stone and life is the hallmark of the Sierra de Huétor hills. On this path, which takes us through a reforested pine forest, we have the opportunity to understand this dialogue. Water from rain and snow eroded the rocks that make up the Natural Park and generate the rivers that flow through it, such as the Darro or the Fardes, the rocky cliffs that dot it, such as the Halcones and Garduñas ravines, and the characteristic karstic structures with their caves, needles, lapiaces, springs and fountains that allow life in these hills to thrive; an example of this is the Fuente de los Potros fountain.

Fuente de los Potros fountain

This trail is accessible for persons with reduced mobility. This trail starts [1] at the Fuente de los Potros recreational area, not far from the spring from which it takes its name and whose fresh, crystal-clear water flows at a rate of half a litre per second. This spout springs at the interface between calcareous materials, through which water flows after centuries of slowly dissolving the rocks, and the impermeable siliceous sediments below, which make water escape from the underground karstic mazes.

The path crosses a small stream and heads south through a reforested pine forest of black pine, maritime pine and Scots pine, interspersed with holm oaks and Portuguese oaks from the original forests and a rich undergrowth of silver broom, common broom, rockroses, wild lavender and rosemary that perfume the air with that peculiar “mountain scent”. The base of the path is made of compacted earth and the sides are protected by a metal buffer. After 40 metres the trails reach a junction [2], at which you’ll take the right path. The branch that continues straight ahead is not part of the main route; it is an additional 135-metre stretch to facilitate wheelchair traffic.

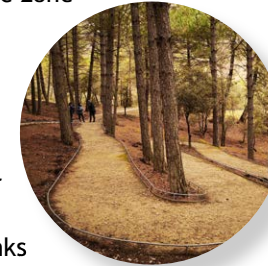


The Tajo de los Halcones rockwall and the Tajo de las Garduñas rockwall

After less than 100 metres we reach a clear space, where a revealing panoramic view opens up over two rock walls called Tajo de los Halcones and Tajo de las Garduñas [3]. Here you can appreciate the stark beauty of the limestone outcrops and the differences in the vegetation distribution: from the mix of native hardwood forest and there populated pines forest in the valley, to the isolated holm oaks on the frail soil of the rocky cliffs, and the holm oaks in the intermediate zone of the slopes.

After a small steep slope, you’ll reach the additional wheelchair section [4] which, after a series of bends that reduce the gradient, links up again with the main route. You must continue on the right. The trees come so close together on this part of the trail that walking by you’ll be able to stroke the rough trunks or the soft moss and lichen that cover it.

After 200 metres, the Las Mimbres path [5] crosses this trail perpendicularly, heading towards the Fardes irrigation channel; however, this trail is perfectly marked and there is no room for confusion.



In a few dozen metres, at the bend that marks the return of the path to the recreational area, the tree dome opens up again to an impressive view over the carbonate walls of the Tajo de los Halcones. This point is also the highest point on the trail. Here we find Portuguese oaks, wild roses, rockroses and hawthorns, all species adapted to the acid soils. The rest of the path runs practically downhill, winding through a shadier area.

Birds nesting in the pines

Far from the usual urban noises, the enveloping sounds of the forest invite us to let go of the burdens and troubles of everyday life. Yes if we sharpen our senses, in addition to the chirping of the blue tit, chaffinch or robin, we will hear the particular cooing of the wood pigeons, the strident call of the blackbirds or the versatile song of the jays. It is also possible to distinguish the red crossbill, which specialises in extracting pine nuts from pine cones with its twisted beak. Birdwatchers will enjoy trying to spot certain particularly beautiful and not-too-shy small birds, such as the Eurasian nuthatch, short-toed treecreeper, the common firecrest, or the coal tit, that fly from trunk to trunk or from branch to branch, ridding the forest of parasitic insects.

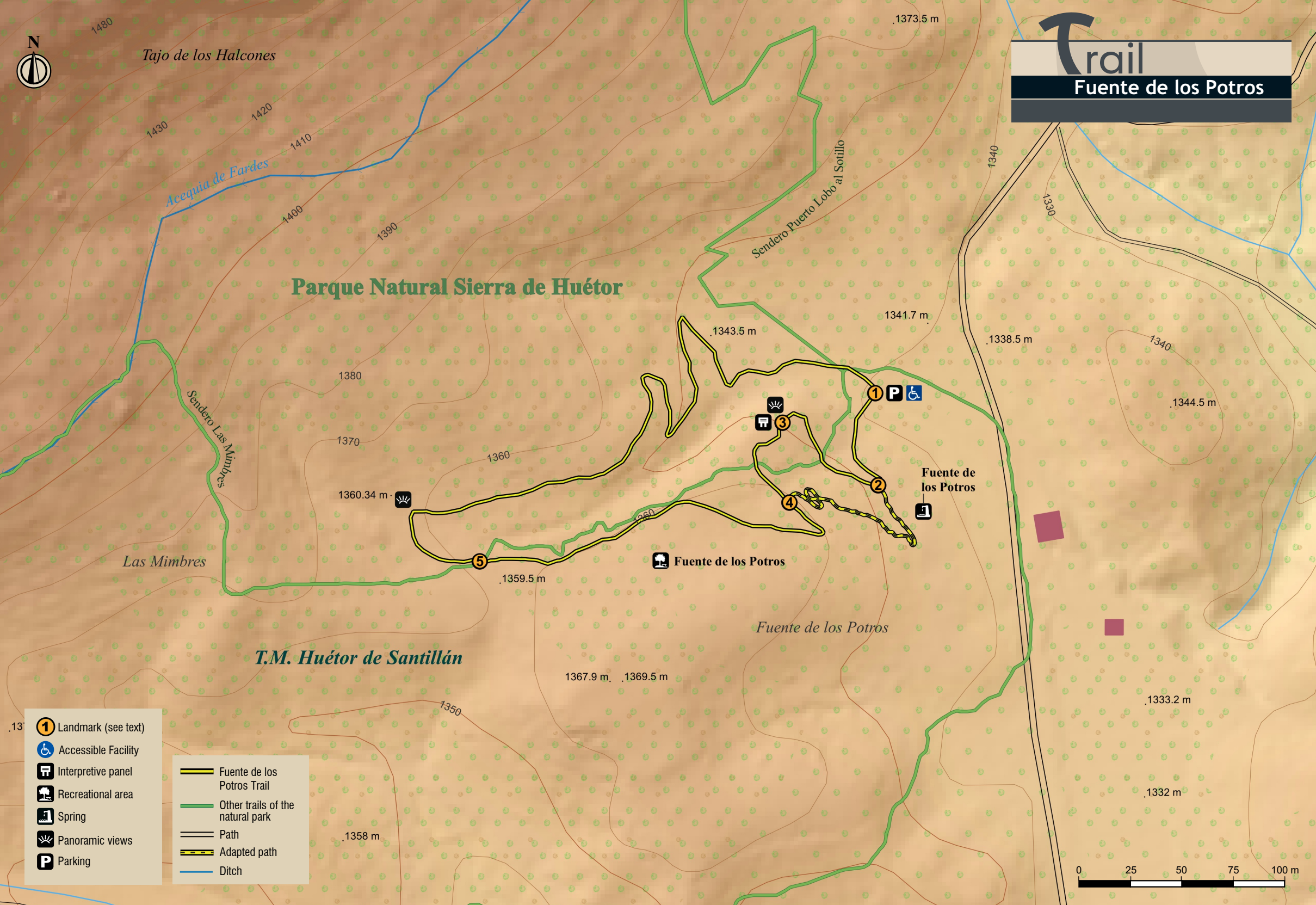


After less than 400 metres, you’ll reach the end of the path. Don’t forget to keep an eye on the clearings in the pine forest; it will not be difficult to spot golden eagles or peregrine falcons flying over the limestone cliffs of Los Halcones. And it’s not hard to spot the fleeting scurrying of squirrels, or at least traces of them, as they nibble pine cones to the point of leaving them as empty cobs on the forest floor.



Trail

Fuente de los Potros



- Landmark (see text)
- Accessible Facility
- Interpretive panel
- Recreational area
- Spring
- Panoramic views
- Parking

- Fuente de los Potros Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Path
- Adapted path
- Ditch

