

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
- Open camping is not permitted

Emergency phone: 112



ALMERÍA



MORE INFORMATION

Las Amoladeras Visitors' Centre.
Ctra. AL-3115 Almería-Cabo de Gata. km 7. Almería. Tel. 950 16 04 35
ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
Cabo de
Gata-Níjar

ALMERÍA



trail
Cortijo del Fraile
Montano - Hornillo



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

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura



Red
Española de
Reservas de
la Biosfera



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Cabo de Gata-Níjar
UNESCO
Global Geoparks

ROUTE

Circular

LENGTH

7,7 km

ESTIMATED TIME

3 hours

DIFFICULTY

Low

TYPE OF TRAIL

Track or path

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Flat cultivated lands and hills barely covered with steppe vegetation, dotted with eye-catching dwarf palm shrubs, esparto grass, Anthyllis cytisoides, Periploca angustifolia and other bush species autochthonous to the region as well as some introduced species such as agave and prickly pear. Emblematic farmstead.

SHADE

Scant

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Almería / Níjar

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1046 - Carboneras

START / END COORDINATES

36° 51' 56,26"N – 2° 4' 28,68"W

36° 51' 56,26"N – 2° 4' 28,68"W



HOW TO GET THERE

Located halfway between Rodalquilar and Los Albaricoques, take the north exit to the farmstead of Cortijo del Fraile where the trail begins.



PARKING

There is a carpark with about 20 spaces beside the Cortijo del Fraile.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

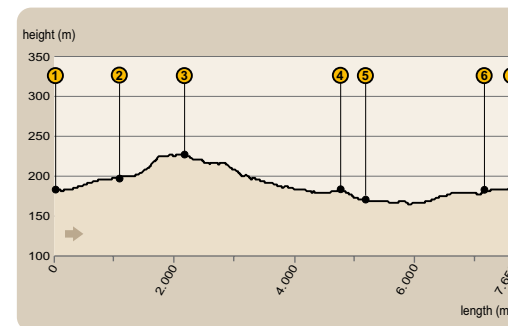
The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA - Alsina Graells (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es), Autocares Bernardo (tel. 950 25 04 22; www.autocaresbernardo.com) and Frahemar (tel. 950 26 64 11; www.frahemar.com).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has an extensive offering of signposted trails. Nearby trails include the Requena and Cerro del Cinto trails.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

64 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

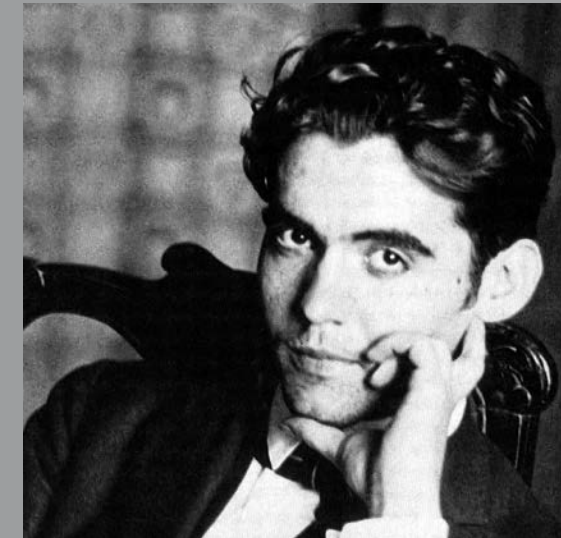
228 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

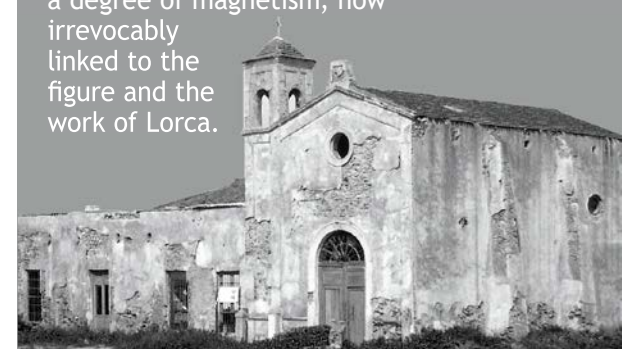
164 m

BLOOD WEDDING

The farmstead of Cortijo del Fraile was the main scene of the Níjar Crime, on 22 July 1928, infamous after inspiring Federico García Lorca to write one of his most popular plays, *Blood Wedding*, and which Carmen de Burgos made her own with the novel *Puñal de Claveles* (A Fistful of Carnations). The events in question were driven by a mixture of love, rage and death, as Lorca's work attests; and also envy, greed, solitude and impotence under rather grim life conditions.



The protagonists of the story lived discreetly right to the transition to democracy in the late 1970s, avoiding the many interview requests from journalists and writers from all over the world. The story is universal and timeless, and so the farmstead maintains a degree of magnetism, now irrevocably linked to the figure and the work of Lorca.





Cortijo del Fraile Montano - Hornillo

The farmstead of Cortijo del Fraile owes its infamy to crime that occurred here in the 1920s when the bride-to-be fled from an arranged marriage as guests travelled on mules by night to avoid the daytime heat. The hard life of the peasant farmers of the time, one of work, isolation and poverty, left its mark on the landscape, which has continued to evolve with the arrival of roads, irrigation, organic farming and tourism. The steppe-like natural environment is the backdrop of this historic path and for many it is undoubtedly the main attraction of the trail.

Cortijo del Fraile

We start from the Cortijo del Fraile farmstead (see [1] on the map), one of the most popular areas of the natural park thanks not only to its literary fame but its architectural and historical value. We reach it from a path linking Rodalquilar and Los Albaricoques. About halfway between the two villages, take a turn-off to the north, straight and lined with agaves, giving the flat farmland some picturesque brush strokes. We continue for a kilometre and a half to the farmstead and the start of the trail.



The farmstead is an extensive complex of buildings including houses, a chapel, patios, storage sheds, wells and cisterns. There are also two threshing floors at the northern end and we head there to start the trail. The surrounding fields explain the presence of the farmstead. There is a striking contrast between the decaying buildings and the revaluation of agriculture with organic, irrigated crops. Alongside the threshing floors there is a fork in the path. Stay right for now and we'll return by the other path.

Between the hills

We pass the mining operations of St. Joe, which were built in the 1980s to extract gold using new metallurgical technologies, from minerals with ore grades of a little over one gramme of gold per tonne. In 1990, these operations ceased along with those at the gold mines of Rodalquilar.



After the first kilometre we encounter a large cistern and a trough [2], once constructions of great strategic value in such an arid landscape. The underground cistern has a rectangular floor and barrel vault ceiling. Behind it we find the rainwater decanter that feeds it.

We continue in the same direction, north-east, past several tracks turning off to one side or the other. We eventually reach the hills that have been on our horizon from the outset. After passing the Cerro Blanco hill on our left, and Cerro del Huevo, we join another path [3] that takes us to the left. Here we have the opportunity to get a close look at old terraces with supporting stone walls called balates.

Old farmsteads

We head for the farmstead of Cortijo Montano, some two hundred metres from the crossroads. On the left there is the small olive grove we passed earlier. At the farmstead is an interpretive panel on the popular architecture of the area and there is an interesting display in this inhospitable environment.



Leaving the farmstead behind, we advance between the hills to the south-east, along the Cañada de Rubio, until we reach the flatlands some two kilometres on and we approach the Hornillo farmstead [4], which we pass from about a hundred metres on our right as we continue our southward journey. We leave the path to take another to the left [5], for our return journey.

The contrast of irrigation and spontaneous vegetation (esparto grass, palm shrub, prickly pear, agave and brooms) is noticeable along the way. Some six hundred metres before the Cortijo de los Frailes we arrive at another crossing [6], which we take to the right towards the end of the trail.



Cortijo del Fraile Montano - Hornillo



- 1** Landmark (see text)
- P** Parking
- H** Farmstead
- I** Interpretive panel

- Cortijo del Fraile-Montano-Hornillo Trail
- Path

Cortijo del Payo

Cortijada El Hornillo

Los Manueles

Escarigüela

La Capellania

Cortijo de la Capellania

Cerrillo Pascual (219 m)

Cerro Loma Pelada (250 m)

El Fraile

Cortijo del Fraile

Instalaciones mineras St. Joe

Cerro Montano (315 m)

Cerro Blanco (309 m)

Cortijo de Montano

La Umbria

Cerro Rincón de la Cueva (316 m)

Cerro del Huevo (304 m)

Risco de la Chimba (322 m)

Las Escarigüelas

Cerro del Cinto (389 m)