

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



CÁDIZ
MÁLAGA
PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de
Grazalema

MORE INFORMATION

Cortes de la Frontera Visitor's Centre. Av. de la Democracia s/n.
Cortes de la Frontera. Málaga. Tel. 952 15 45 99.

ventanadelvisitante



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

7,4 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

3 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track and Path

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Undulating relief with river and railway track. Mediterranean forest and riverbank forest. Railway line linking Ronda and Algeciras through the valley of the River Guadiaro, covering sharp gradients.

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Málaga / Benaoján and Jimena de Líbar

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1050 - Ubrique ; 1064 Cortes de la Frontera

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 39' 44,15"N – 5° 16' 43,14"O

36° 42' 45,91"N – 5° 14' 43,57"O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Jimera de Líbar, head towards the train station. Then cross at the level crossing and in a few metres you will reach a bridge over the river Guadiaro. The trail starts at this point.



PARKING

There is a carpark with some 20 places at the start of the trail in the village.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

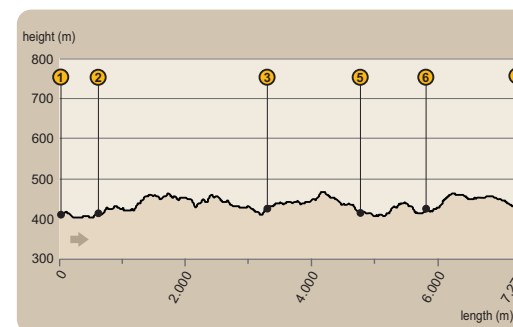
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are Los Amarillos (tel. 902 21 03 17) and Transportes Generales Comes S.A. (tel. 902 19 92 08). The nearest train stations are in Cortes de la Frontera, Jimera de Líbar, Benaoján and Ronda (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or by telephone on 902 24 02 02).



OTHER TRAILS

The route can be continued along the La Cueva del Gato Trail. Moreover, the nature park offers other nearby routes like Los Llanos de Líbar or El Pimpollar

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

65 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

467 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

402 m



THE IRON WAY

The construction of this section of the railway, between Rona and Alegegiras, was a complicated task due to the nature of the terrain and the gradients between villages. That's why the line follows an unusual path, turning back on itself before reaching the station in Arriate, after which it takes one of the sharpest curves in Spain's entire railway network. The railway line, which runs parallel to the Guadiaro, crosses the mountains through a series of tunnels.



The villages are some distance from the stations as the railway line runs through the Guadiaro valley while the villages are usually located in the hills, making it technically impossible for the line to cover the extensive undulations. Stations like Benaoján-Montejaque, Jimera de Líbar and Cortes de la Frontera are located on the banks of the river Genal, while the respective villages are a few kilometres further up in the foothills of the sierra.

CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA

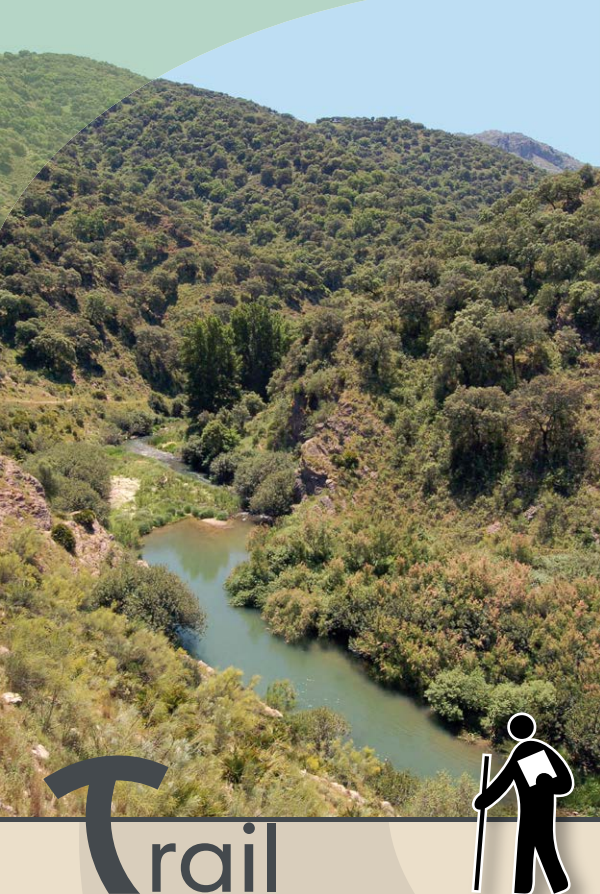
PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de
Grazalema

Trail

Río Guadiaro



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



Río Guadiaro

The trail connects the stations of Jimera de Líbar and Benaoján parallel to the river Guadiaro.

The river takes a sinuous course in search of the passes of least resistance between the mountains. Later, drovers' roads, paths and trails followed a similar course.

Finally came the railway, and while more challenging, engineers were able to adapt of the relief, albeit not without difficulty. We can enjoy the results on foot or indeed from the windows of the trains that still run on this route.

The river for company

Our route begins at Jimena de Líbar station, on the street that rises parallel to the railway line (See [1] on the map). At the end of the paved section of the trail, we pass through an area of orchards and a farm before approaching the railway line.



These areas are home to a wide array of birdlife, such as goldfinches, blue tits, great tits, European greenfinches and Eurasian jays.

The path rises gently to the left. Excellent views of the valley, sandwiched between the Sierra del Chaparral and the Sierra del Palo on our left and the banks of the Conio on the right. On the other side of the rivers is an area of dense vegetation [2], where a stream joins the Guadiario, discharging the waters infiltrating the limestone of the Sierra del Palo. In this area, known as Las Arzuelas, there is a water catchment that supplies the areas of Jimera de Líbar and Cortes de la Frontera. The railway line and the river remain below us at all times.

The trail adapts to the sinuous nature of the terrain under the thick Mediterranean mountain vegetation, including holm oaks, gall oaks, carobs and wild olives as well as dense scrubland associated with those species.



Las Angosturas

We cross a small wooden bridge over a dry stream [3]. The path takes us just above one of railway tunnels and on the other side of the river we can see a few screens above the cave of La Pileta [4]. Continuing on the path, we reach Las Angosturas [5], where the valley closes in, creating a fantastic riverside forest of poplar, elm, willow and ash trees.



Our route continues and we reach the ruins of an old estate [6] behind which is the source of the Arroyo de la Dehesa stream, which we cross over a small wooden bridge.



The River Guadiario discharges into the Mediterranean after covering 183 kilometres and a gradient of over 700 metres. It is one of the most important rivers of the southern river basing district. It begins at the confluence of the rivers Guadalquivir and Guadalquivir, close to Ronda, and forms the eastern boundary of the Sierra Grazalema Nature Park. Over its course, it collects the water from several streams, joining the river Genal at the height of the Casares and the River Hozarganta at the height of San Martín del Tesorillo, ending its journey at Torre de Guadiaro.

View of Benaoján

The path soon becomes a track whose surface improves as we advance. After a short, moderate rise we find ourselves surrounded by holm oaks and the odd gall oak. On the other side of the river we can make out the Sierra de Benaoján and the summit of Pico Ventana. Up ahead we can admire a panoramic view of the village of Benaoján.



The path follows the Cañada Real del Campo de Gibraltar, once important communications route, this section linking the villages of Jimera de Líbar y Benaoján.

The holm oak forest is also dotted with the off olive tree. Shortly, we pass a number of rural buildings and reach a bridge over the River Guadiaro near the station of Benaoján, where we reach the end of our route [7]. The return journey can be made by train.

At the station there is another spectacular trail, the Cueva del Gato, which takes us to the mouth of the cave of the same name, an enormous hydrogeological work of nature.



Trail

Río Guadiaro



- 1 Landmark (see text)
- P Parking
- 🏠 Visitable cave
- 🏛 Shrine
- ⚙ Mill
- 🏡 Farmstead
- 🏛 Town Hall
- 🍷 Picnic area
- 🚶 Walkway
- 🌉 Bridge

- Río Guadiaro Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Large Distance (GR-7)
- Livestock Track
- Nature park boundary
- Road
- Path
- Rail

0 600 1,200 m