

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



CÓRDOBA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierras
Subbéticas

MORE INFORMATION

Santa Rita Visitor's Centre
Ctra. A-339 Cabra-Priego km 11.2, Cabra, Córdoba
Tel. 957 50 69 86

ventanadelvisitante



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierras
Subbéticas



Trail

Las Buitreras



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

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Sierras Subbéticas
UNESCO
Global Geoparks

• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

17,4 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

5 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Moderate

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted ground track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Mountainous relief. Karst landscape: closed depression in the form of a valley caused by the action of water on limestone rock (polje). Wide panoramic views of Mediterranean forest and scrubland. Vultures.

• SHADE

Scant

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Check that the water from fountains is safe to drink. Bring binoculars.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Córdoba /
Luque, Carcabuey and Priego de Córdoba

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

967 - Baena ; 989 - Lucena

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 33' 19,53"N – 4° 17' 05,04"W
37° 27' 57,43"N – 4° 17' 18,73"W



HOW TO GET THERE

Go to Luque by means of the A-318 (Estepa-Úbeda). From there take the old CP-131 road (Carcabuey-Luque), towards Carcabuey, along which the trail has been laid out.



PARKING

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



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

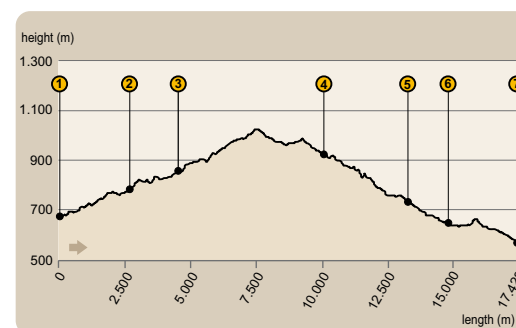
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Autocares Carrera (tel. 957 50 03 02; www.autocarescarrera.es). The nearest train station is in Puente Genil or Aguilar (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 902 24 02 02).



OTHER TRAILS

From Zuheros, there is a trail of great interest: La Nava. The Subbética Greenway is 56 km long between the River Guadajoz and Las Navas del Sepillar, passing through Luque, Zuheros, Doña Mencía and Lucena.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

459 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1.027 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

568 m

LAS BUITRERAS SETTLEMENT



Within the diversity of landscapes and resources offered by the trail, the cliffs of the rugged Abuchite slope are undoubtedly one of its most spectacular attractions. It is possible to stop here, by using good binoculars, to observe the largest colony of griffon vultures in the Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park.

The role of scavenger birds, such as the ones you can see flying overhead here, is fundamental to achieve an appropriate ecological balance in the natural environment. They clear the ground, even in the most inaccessible places, of carcasses that could potentially be sources of infection affecting other species or humans themselves. In addition to griffon vultures, visitors can also observe jackdaws and red-billed crows, which also nest on the walls of Las Buitreras. Other species that inhabit the surroundings are the wild cat, wild boar and fox among the mammals; the short-toed eagle, peregrine falcon and Eurasian eagle-owl among the birds; the snub-nosed viper and the jewelled lizard among the reptiles; and the southern frog and the red-crested toad among the amphibians.





Trail

Las Buitreras



Start in Luque

The path we are going to follow starts in the village of Luque, which is well worth a visit before starting the trail.



The start of the route starts at the western end of the town, near the municipal swimming pool (check [1] on the map). From here we follow the unpaved CP-131 road that links Luque with Carcabuey. The path first enters a landscape of olive groves, which are gradually joined by wild trees and bushes such as broom, hawthorn, mastic tree and the occasional scattered holm oak. Further on, as we go on, we come across numerous almond trees which, if we follow the path in February, will delight us with their white and pink blossoms.

After a slight descent we arrive at the Zurreón stream [2], the banks of which have given rise to ash, walnut and poplar trees, as well to small vegetable gardens. This area is home to the Almond Tree of the Trail of Las Buitreras, a tree catalogued by the Regional Ministry of the Environment due to its exceptional size. Following the path, we enter a more rocky terrain, where the olive grove is replaced by scrubland with a few oaks of arboreal size. In this section we can access a variant of the route: the Marchaniega path [3], which leads us to the Fuente del Espino, passing through the Cortijo de la Osa. In this variant we will find numerous gates that we will have to close as we pass through.



La Nava

After passing the Cortijo de la Nava, there is a detour [4] to Zagrilla Alta, but its route is only marked with milestones (an accumulation of pyramid-shaped stones). This area, which lies at the foot of the Esparragal peak (1,079 m), is covered by a thick holm oak forest. Walking uphill, we reach La Nava de Luque, where, nestled in the heart of the mountain range, we find an example of the karstic relief that dominates this area: a polje or closed depression with a flat bottom. The geological structure and the dissolution of limestone play an important role in its origin. It is surrounded by steep walls, unlike the long, open valleys that can be formed by any watercourse.



It is a good moment to rest after the climb while we contemplate, from the viewpoint on the left, the impressive views of the Hoya de Priego, Zagrilla, Carcabuey, Sierra de Albayate, Sierra Gallinera and Sierra Horconera [5], the latter of which is home to the Tiñosa, which at 1,570 m is the highest peak in the province of Cordoba. The vegetation of these mountain ranges is made up of a sparse scrubland of rosemary and thyme, as well as enormous holm oaks that provide shade to areas of grassland where sparto grass abounds.

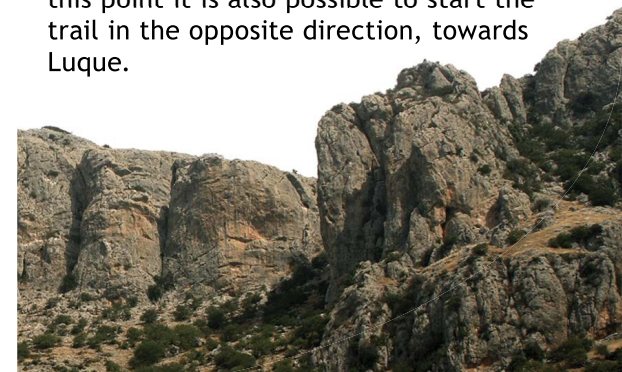
Las Buitreras

Continuing along our path, we will find a huge limestone cliff on our right, the southern slope of Abuchite. Its walls, known as Las Buitreras, are home to jackdaws and choughs, as well as the largest colony of griffon vultures in the natural park.



Peony fruit. The peony or Paeonia broteri is a curious plant that is very common in the valley

Following the path in a southerly direction we reach the Bernabé farmhouse [6]. At this point, a 500-metre track takes us to the Bernabé spring, a place of great beauty. The Bernabé stream has given rise to ash and poplar trees. The route ends near Carcabuey [7], next to the A-339 road. From this point it is also possible to start the trail in the opposite direction, towards Luque.



The crossing of the sierras of Carcabuey and Luque will allow hikers to enter a landscape modelled on the limestone rock, a landscape that will offer a great variety of nuances and some places of exceptional botanical and fauna interest, with particular attention to the rocky walls of the vulture nests, which give their name to the trail (Buitreras).

All this makes this trail, which can be taken in either direction, one of the most attractive and spectacular in the whole of the Sierras Subbéticas.

