

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
- Fishing is prohibited
- Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112



MORE INFORMATION

Castril Visitors' Centre.
Ctra. A-326 a Pozo Alcón km 0,2. Castril. Granada.
Tel. 958 72 00 59
ventanadelvisitante.



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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

540 metres

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

20 min

• DIFFICULTY

Low (trail accessible for persons with reduced mobility)

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Wooden walkway

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Poplar grove, river, and riverbank forest

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Wear suitable clothing and footwear

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Granada / Castril

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

929 - San Clemente (Huéscar)

• START / END COORDINATES

37°50'39"N, 2°46'27"W



HOW TO GET THERE

The path starts at the Puente de Lézar recreational area, which is accessed via the track leading into the natural park that ends at the Cortijo del Nacimiento farmstead, before the track crosses to the other side of the river.



PARKING

There is a car park at the beginning of the trail, with a capacity of about 8-10 spaces.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

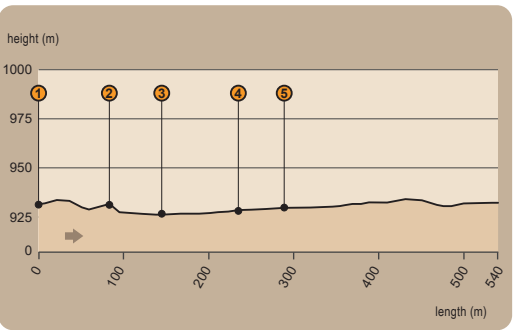
It is not possible to access the start of this trail by public transport. The main companies running regular bus routes in the area is Alsa (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park includes other trails, duly signaled. Among the nearest trails to the Natural Park are: Cerrada de Lézar gorge, Cerrada de la Magdalena gorge and Hoyos de Moreno - Barranco de Canalejas ravine.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

8 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

933 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

925 m



Small tortoiseshell

THE BUTTERFLIES OF SIERRA DE CASTRIL

More than a hundred species of butterflies find their home in the rugged escarpments and rocky outcrops that plummet over the Castril river valley, as well as in the agricultural plain and the high mountains of the Natural Park. Each species has its unique adaptations to relate to the environment; some are adapted to the vegetation, and others to the rocks, surrounding animals, altitude, water, land use, sunlight or seasons.

Some are unique to this area, such as the Sierra Nevada blue (*Polyommatus golgus*), which is only found in these mountains and in the Sierra Nevada massif and is locally known as the "Sierra Nevada Girl". Others, conversely, are cosmopolitan species, such as the painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), known as the cosmopolitan in some areas due to the fact that it is found on every continent except Antarctica, and is capable of covering, with its apparently fragile and whimsical multicoloured flutter, the 14.000 kilometres that separate northern Europe from western Africa (in 6 generations).

Traditionally symbols of beauty and purity, butterflies are the adult stage of a group of insects called Lepidoptera. The caterpillar and chrysalis are the previous two stages in the extraordinary life of these animals. Butterflies contribute to pollination and survival of plants, and are an exceptional indicator of the health of an ecosystem. Their extreme sensitivity to weather variations makes them a valuable marker of changes in climate and other changes affecting ecosystems, such as the crisis in traditional agriculture and livestock farming.

GRANADA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de Castril

Trail
Puente de Lézar





Trail

Puente de Lézar

Guarded by the limestone walls of the mountains of Sierra Seca and Sierra de Castril and a few hundred metres away from the Portillo reservoir, this trail offers the opportunity to get to know one of the main assets of the park by walking a comfortable, short and accessible hike. Over a wooden footbridge, the route runs along the banks of the river Castril through a poplar forest. It is so close to the river that floods have even inundated the area. Storms aside, this is a totally safe trail, which is equipped with rest areas for people with reduced mobility and toe boards for the visually impaired.

Riverside forests

This trial starts [1] in the car park of the Puente de Lézar recreational area. The trail starts under a canopy of trees and among the trills of robins, greenfinches and great tits, and then heads south to follow the path in a clockwise direction. Poplars are the dominant species, but there are other riverside vegetation such as willows, ash trees and rushes, as well as scattered oaks, junipers, aromatic plants and, in spring, various species of the sophisticated orchid family.

As the rising murmur of the water confirms, we are getting closer to the river. After 80 metres from the start, the path turns 180 degrees to the right [2]. Should we continue straight on, we would leave the wooden pavement, which at this point turns into a dirt track and heads towards what is left of the old bridge. Instead, we continue over the footbridge looking for the river, the noise of which is getting louder and louder.



The beat of life in the river

The first rest area is located next to a group of willow trees [3]. The fast-flowing waters of the Castril River run between pebbles and glitter like snow where they swirl.

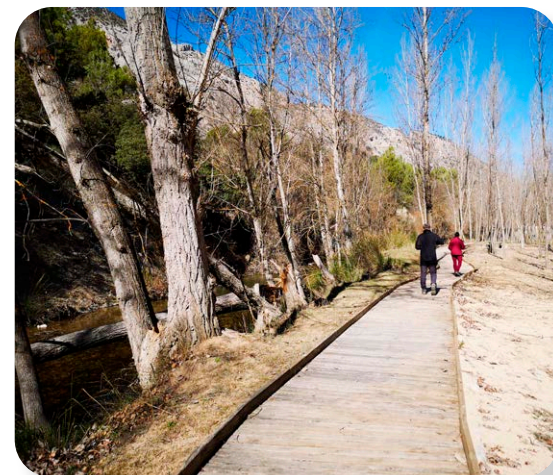


These clear, cold and oxygenated waters are the ideal habitat for numerous species, including the brown trout. Castril River is, indeed, one of the most important trout rivers in southern Spain.

And where there are trout, there are also otters, grey herons and kingfishers, which are their natural predators. Along with them, many other animals inhabit this privileged riverbank: white-throated dippers, grey wagtails or robins, small mammals, whose footprints can be seen on the fine sand that the river floods leave in the poplar grove, together with those of amphibians, reptiles and a multitude of insects and invertebrates.

Poplar grove

In a few metres, on the riverbed, we find the remains of an irrigation channel. That is explained by the fact that this poplar grove is born on an old plantation, and poplars were originally planted for their wood. Ditches and canals, such as the one to the left, were used to collect water from the karstic springs on the hills to irrigate the plantation. This wood was used to make utensils and various handicrafts in Castril.



The trail continues along the walkway, and you'll walk either on a crunchy carpet of leaves, or under a green or multicoloured blanket. Regardless of the season, you may appreciate a series of holes in the tree trunks, opened in the wood by a singular, albeit very tenacious, bird: the woodpecker. In addition to building their nests, these birds bore into tree trunks to catch insects, larvae and the tree's own sap with their sticky long tongue.

In less than 100 metres, you'll find the second rest area [4]. And very close by, after passing some stone benches and tables, you'll find the third [5], which is the last of the landings next to the riverbed.

The predominant sensation on the route is, of course, the thundering and fresh influence of the river, but it is not the only one. If you pay attention, and depending on the season, you will feel on our skin the warmth of the sun's rays sneaking through the poplar grove, the watery cold of the snowflakes, or the the caress of the air that sneaks through the branches and leaves with its own melody.

After passing the bend in the path that leads us back, and as we move away from the river, other sounds come to the fore. With the croaking of frogs and the chirping of warblers and finches, we reach a bed of aromatic plants, enclosed by a stone wall that extends to the car park. In this section, the trees are closer to the platform and we can feel their trunks, covered with moss and lichen. At the end of the trail, next to the starting sign, a panel tells us about the habitats and habits of a fragile and valuable animal, "whose flapping can be felt on the other side of the world" and whose more than one hundred species are represented in Castril.





1016 m

1022 m

1013 m

1025 m

T.M. Castril

Sendero Cerrada de Lezar



Puente de Lézar

1 Fuente de Pedro García

Parque Natural Sierra de Castril

Puente de Lézar



Camino de Castril a Santiago de la Espada

Río Castril

Barranco del Buitre

Colada de Pino Hermoso

Barranco de Pedro García

- Puente de Lézar Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Path
- Livestock Track

- 1** Landmark (see text)
- Recreational area
- P** Parking
- Spring
- Accessible Facility

