

GOOD PRACTICE



Please avoid making noise



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked paths



Please respect private property



Open camping is not permitted



The capture of animals is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is not permitted

Emergency phone: 112

CÁDIZ
MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de Grazalema

MORE INFORMATION

El Bosque Visitors' Centre. Federico García Lorca nº 1.
El Bosque. Cádiz. Tel. 956 70 97 33.

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



NATURA 2000



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



Red Española de Reservas de la Biosfera

ROUTE (OUTWARD)

Linear

LENGTH (OUTWARD)

3,2 km

ESTIMATED TIME

2 hours

DIFFICULTY

Moderate

TYPE OF TRAIL

Stony mountain path and track

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Mountain path with impressive views of the valley and mountains. Karst landscape, limestone pavements, dolines, Salto del Cabrero gorge. Vegetation of rocky environment.

SHADE

Scant

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Livestock on several parts of the route

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Benaocaz y Grazalema

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1050 - Ubrique

START / END COORDINATES

36° 42' 15" N - 5° 25' 23" W

36° 43' 31" N - 5° 25' 58" W



HOW TO GET THERE

On the northern edge of the village of Benaocaz, at the end of Calle Pajaruco.



PARKING

It is possible to park in the area around the path, within the village of Benaocaz.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

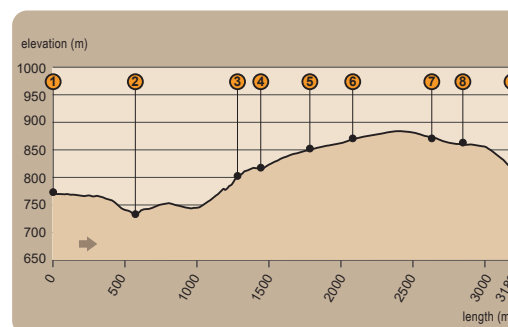
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are Los Amarillos (tel. 902 21 03 17) and Transportes Generales Comes S.A. (tel. 902 19 92 08). The nearest train stations are in Cortes de la Frontera, Jimera de Líbar, Benaoján and Ronda (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or by telephone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



OTHER TRAILS

Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park offers several trails to discover the park. The nearest trails are the Benaocaz, Ojo del Moro and La Calzada Romana trails.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

153 m

MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

884 m

MINIMUM ALTITUDE

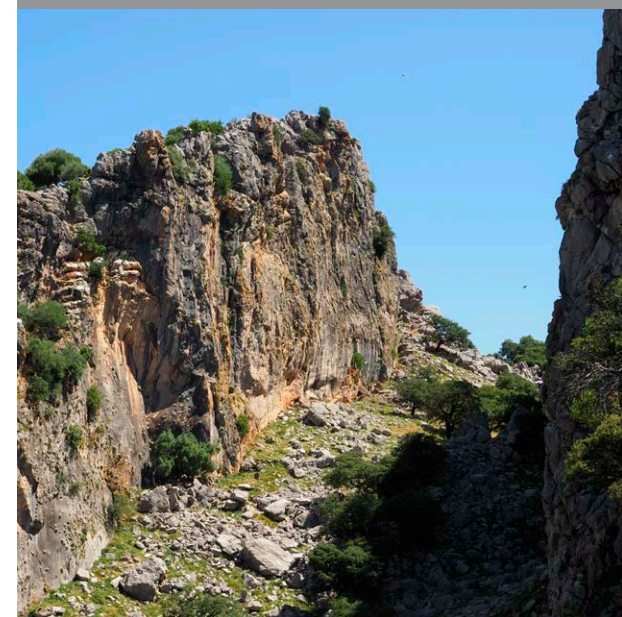
731 m



THE GORGE

The limestone imposition of these mountains has created a landscape of caves, chasms, galleries and faults and the Salto del Cabrero gorge. The collision of the tectonic plates millions of years ago generated tremendous pressure on these materials resulting in a series of parallel fault lines, tearing the earth and cutting the mountain in two. The walls of the gorge reach heights of up to eighty metres, with the gap between them not exceeding fifty metres. The incalculable cavities in the rock are home to numerous birds, especially raptors.

The highest peak of the Salto del Cabrero is 934 m. From here, you can observe the Sierra de la Silla and El Picacho and the peak of El Aljibe, inside Los Alcornocales Natural Park.



CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de Grazalema

Trail

Salto del Cabrero



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



Trail

Salto del Cabrero

Known as the “Camino del Puerto de Don Fernando”, the Salto del Cabrero trail runs along the old road connecting the villages of Benaocaz and Grazalema. The route takes us into the mountains and to a spectacular geological formation, a tear of colossal proportions that fragmented the mountains in several fault lines millions of years ago.

The history and legends of the inhabitants of the area were closely linked to the paths, streams and accidents of the relief. Visitors can see that this was a land of conflict and borders, that the Catholic Monarchs passed through this land, and that something happened in the port. It is also a land of goats and goatherds, and good cheese and good steaks. We'll tell you all about it.

El Pajaruco

The trail begins in the village of Benaocaz, at the end of Calle Pajaruco [1], at the northern end of the village. The first few metres run between stone walls that mark the boundary of the adjacent properties, along a lane where you might encounter hens, goats or even the odd pig with their snout in the earth. Make sure to close all gates you pass through.

After a little over five hundred metres, we reach a stone bridge [2] over the Pajaruco stream, which channels the waters from the Sierra del Caillo and the Sierra del Endrinal. Robins, chaffinches, blackbirds, goldfinches and other birds give the stream its name and the mountains their song. After crossing the bridge, the trail rises through stony, limestone terrain which offers panoramic views of Benaocaz [3]. The area, with its Moorish past visible in its layout architecture, has been declared an Historical-Artistic Site. As the border between Christian lands and the kingdom of Granada, the relief of the mountain forms part of the territory's defensive structure.



A karstic relief

Millions of years ago, there was an immense sea here which led, through the sedimentation of marine organisms, to the limestone nature of the mountains.

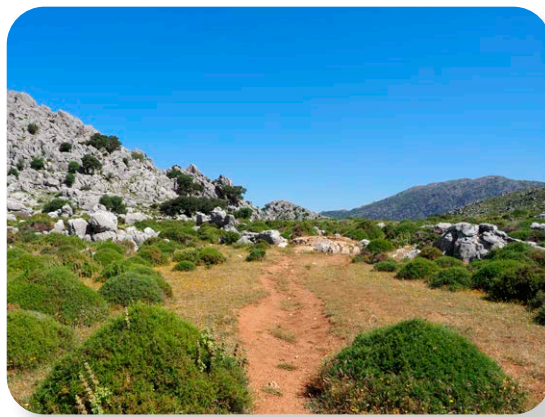


Water dissolves and penetrates the materials, creating karstic forms such as the limestone pavement [4] which crosses a rocky area with a multitude of grooves, orifices and sharp edges.

Some vestiges, such as the limekiln [5] we encounter further on, attest to the knowledge the old settlers had of their environment. Taking advantage of the limestone rock of the mountains, they build circular structures in which to cook the rock to obtain lime, or whitewash. They used this lime to whitewash their houses (Benaocaz is one of the famous “white villages” of Andalusia) and disinfect walls, stables and even water.



It is a hard relief, with high peaks and pronounced gradients, very exposed to the sun, the wind and low temperatures where few species of vegetation can survive. Among the plants that have adapted to the rocky environment of these peaks, cushioned or spiny forms are prominent, allowing them to better combat the wind and cold, such as hedgehog plant and broom [6].



These inhospitable crags also provide a home for some very unique birds, such as the alpine swift, the Egyptian vulture, the booted eagle, the short-toes eagle and the griffon vulture which, if you keep your eyes peeled, may surprise you by flying right over the valley and the gorge.

About half a kilometre from the broom grove, we reach the mountain pass of Puerto de Don Fernando [7] where, tradition has it, the Catholic Monarchs made a stop. It was also where the women of Benaocaz offered their ornaments and jewellery to support the cause of the Christian reconquest of the land.



We soon find ourselves facing an impressive doline [8]; another structure typical of karstic relief common to rocks comprised of limestone and clay (loam). This is an oval-shaped depression formed by the dissolution of the terrain, with the base waterproofed with clay released by the rocks; this decalcifying clay, or *terra rosa*, makes for very fertile soil. What you see before you is a plain surrounded by mountains, more or less green and more or less waterlogged, known as the Llano del Callejón.

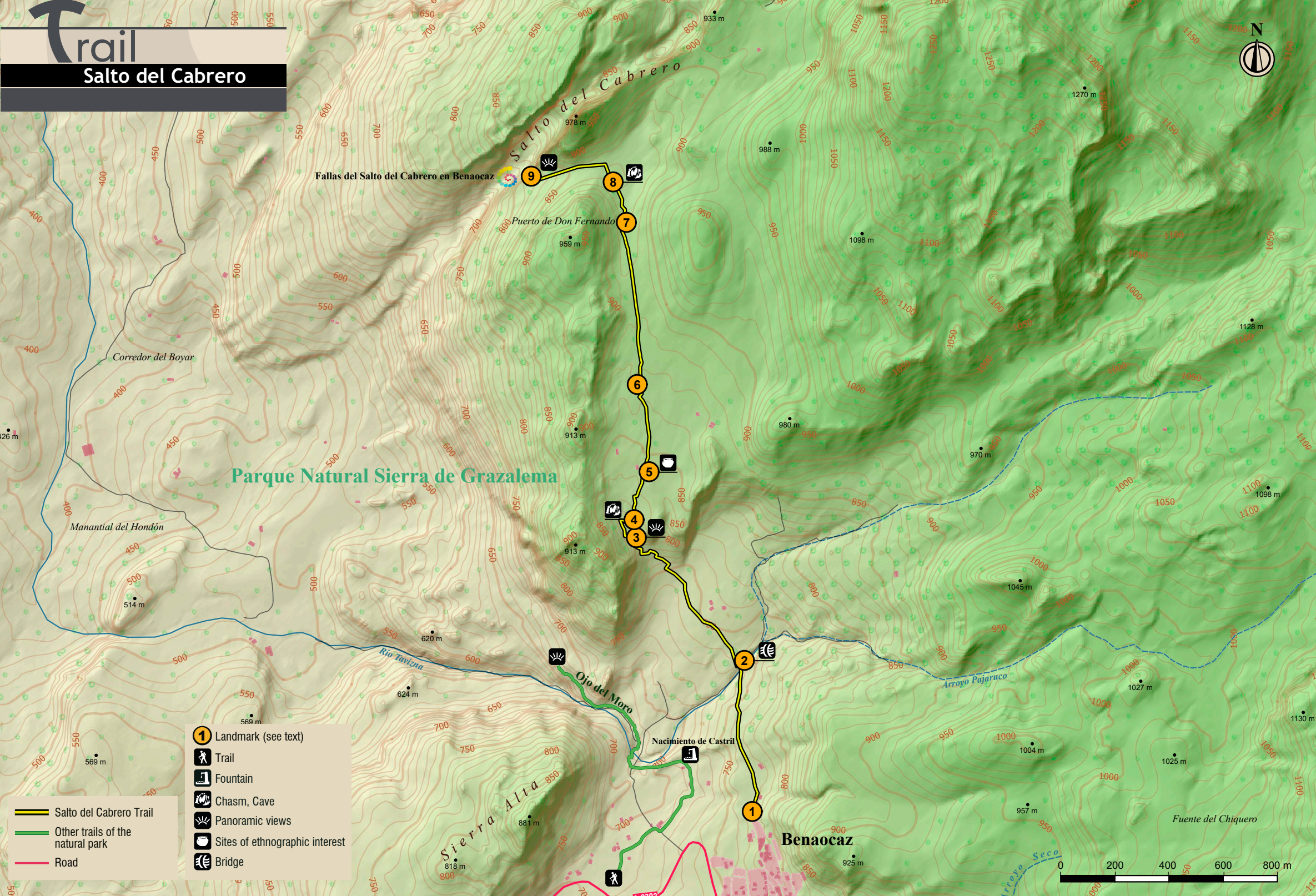
Before leaving the doline, corrals and stone walls remind us that we are in the territory of goatherds.

El Salto del Cabrero

A downhill track takes us to the very edge of the wall, where a panel marks the end of the trail [9] but also the highlight of the whole route. If you look southeast, you can enjoy marvellous views of the sierra. If you look north, you will finally see the Salto del Cabrero. There are several legends as to the popular name of this geological phenomenon, regarding a shepherd and an epic jump. There is no doubt, however, that what you are looking at is a direct manifestation of the mammoth strength of the land, which fragmented the mountain due to the movement of the tectonic plates that make up the earth's crust. Enjoy it!

Trail

Salto del Cabrero



- Landmark (see text)
- Trail
- Fountain
- Chasm, Cave
- Panoramic views
- Sites of ethnographic interest
- Bridge

- Salto del Cabrero Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road

