

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



MORE INFORMATION

Natural Park Office Los Alcornocales

Pza. San Jorge n.º 1. Alcalá de los Gazules. Cádiz. Tel. 956 41 86 01

Huerta Grande Visitor's Centre

Ctra. N-340 km 96. El Pelayo. Algeciras. Cádiz. Tel. 956 67 91 61

ventanadelvisitante.

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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

2,4 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

50 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted track or path. Loose materials on the surface

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Narrow and deep valleys (canutos), covered with gallery forests of the laurel forest type. Wide panoramic views of farmhouses, orchards, riverside woodland with Mediterranean scrub and cork oak groves. Remains of old hydraulic flour mills.

• SHADE

Plentiful

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

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

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Algeciras

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1078 - La Línea

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 07' 02,68"N – 5° 28' 36,99"O

36° 06' 42,82"N – 5° 29' 56,43"O



HOW TO GET THERE

From El Cobre, a neighbourhood of Algeciras, about three hundred metres from the old aqueduct known as the Arcos del Cobre, there is a lane to the left, close to the Santa María del Cobre school, the starting point of the trail.



PARKING

There are no park cars in the area. We will park in the lane, leaving the access to the entrance gate free.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

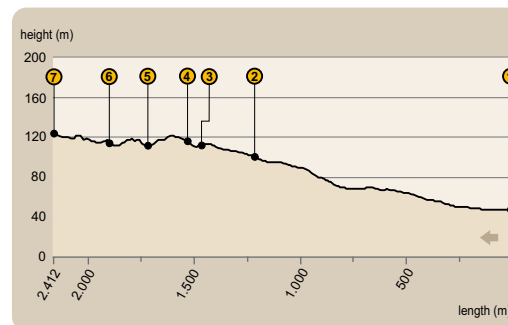
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Transportes Comes (tel. 902 19 92 08; www.tgcomes.es). The nearest train station is in Algeciras (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 902 24 02 02).



OTHER TRAILS

The trail of River Guadalmesi can be found nearby, where you can observe a new canuto.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

78 m

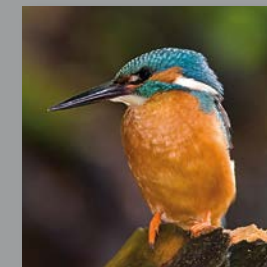
• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

125 m

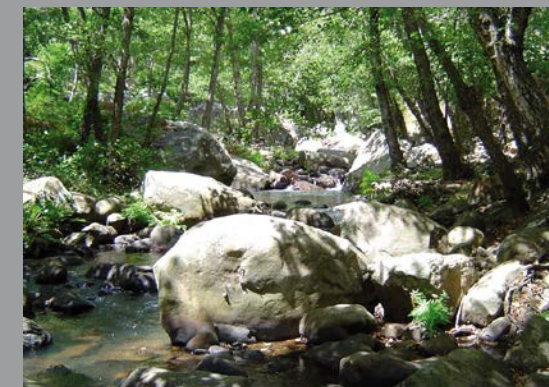
• MINIMUM HEIGHT

47 m

OUTSTANDING VEGETATION AND CLIMATE



This path allows us to get to know one of the best alder groves in the park. Alder trees stand out from the rest of the vegetation because of their lush green leaves, which are particularly sticky in spring. Before they grow, the alder flowers allow pollen to spread more easily. But what is most striking are its fruits, small cones that remain on the tree for a long time after the seeds have been released. They are known as *chillaeras* or *pitaeras* and were used as lures to hunt rabbits and other animals, or to make black dye. The shallow roots of the tree reach down into the soil, enriching it with nutrients thanks to their association with bacteria, from which both benefit.



The density of the vegetation in these riverside forests forces numerous climbing plants to become entangled in the trunks, seeking the light they need and building a plant canopy that provides exceptional shade and coolness. This special climate (warm and humid) has allowed the survival of species that have disappeared from the rest of the European continent, such as the rhododendron or *ojaranzo*, a true relic of the past preserved in these *canutos*. These narrow gorges are also home to holly, hazel, laurel, laurustinus, etc., making these forests similar to tropical rainforests.

CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA



Río de la Miel



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



Trail



Río de la Miel

Away from the hustle and bustle

From the Barriada del Cobre (check [1] on the map) and, along a forest track closed with a gate that only allows pedestrians to pass, after farmhouses and orchards, the sunny trail enters a landscape that, little by little, takes us away from the intense industrial activity of Algeciras and its bay.

Heather, gorse and other species form a typical Mediterranean scrubland. The cork oaks, some of which are hundreds of years old, could not miss our appointment [2]. By showing their bare trunks, they remind us of a very traditional activity in the area: debarking to obtain cork.



The abundance of water led to the construction of flour mills in these gorges, which made use of clean energy to make the hydraulic machinery work: the water was driven to an impeller, a kind of wheel with blades that, as it rotated, transmitted the movement to the grinding stones (millstones) which, by friction, ground the grain.

The Cerro de las Esclarecidas Bajas can be found on the other bank. Above it we can observe birds of prey soaring through a sky that is sometimes dangerous for them, due to the high-voltage cables that cross it.



Following the watercourse

It is at the Escalona mill [3], one of the few remaining working mills in the park, where we finally reach the riverbank and its continuous shadow.

Behind it, as if we were travelling back in time, we unexpectedly come across a narrow, steeply sloping, medieval-style stone bridge [4]. This will serve as our first approach to the river, where a very well-preserved alder grove awaits us.

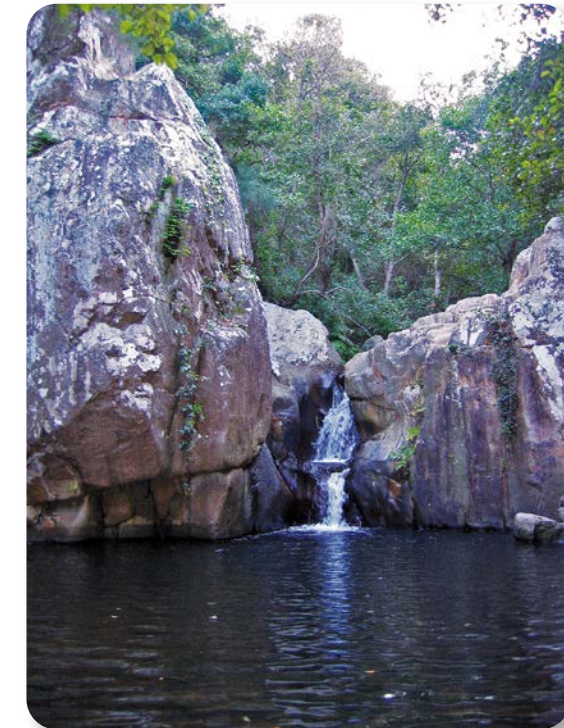


This bridge was the inevitable pass for travellers and horses that travelled from the Bay of Algeciras to the Bay of Cádiz or to Medina Sidonia. Numerous legends of bandits and smugglers have been woven around this road. They would take advantage of the thick forests to perpetrate their misdeeds and hide their treasures and booty.



Leaving the bridge behind, we continue along the water through a shady riverside forest.

Shortly after, we will come across the Fuente de las Niñas [5] with water all year round. Although not chlorinated, it is an ideal spot to cool off. Rhododendrons and holly trees can be found in the vicinity.



The Águila mill, the last mill in ruins, [6], bears witness to the importance of these waters for the development of this industry. Built in the 18th century, the activity was complemented by the cultivation of the orchard, as can be seen in the plain planted with orange and lemon trees.

The sound of the water accompanies us to the end of the trail, where a small waterfall takes us away and holds us [7].

Trail

Río de la Miel



PARQUE NATURAL
LOS ALCORNOCALES



- Landmark (see text)
- Shrine
- Mill
- Interpretive panel
- Spring
- Bridge
- Bench

- Río de la Miel Trail
- Nature park boundary
- Road
- Path

