

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



MORE INFORMATION

El Estrecho Information Point. Carretera N-340. PK 77,5. Tarifa. Cádiz. Tel: 697 95 55 40

ventanadelvisitante



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
Del Estrecho



Trail
Colada de la Costa
Huerta Grande



Junta de Andalucía
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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

Linear

LENGTH (OUTWARD)

16,3 km

ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

5 hours

DIFFICULTY

Average

TYPE OF TRAIL

Dirt road and footpath

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Pastures. Spectacular views of the Strait of Gibraltar and the African continent.

SHADE

None

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Caution with stray cattle. Binoculars are also recommended.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Tarifa

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1077 - Tarifa

START / END COORDINATES

36° 0' 43,66" N – 5° 35' 57,41" O
36° 4' 49,70" N – 5° 30' 21,80" O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Tarifa, leaving behind the Castle of Sancho IV or Guzmán El Bueno, the trail starts just past the maritime station.



PARKING

There is on-site parking for 3-4 vehicles and many other options in town.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

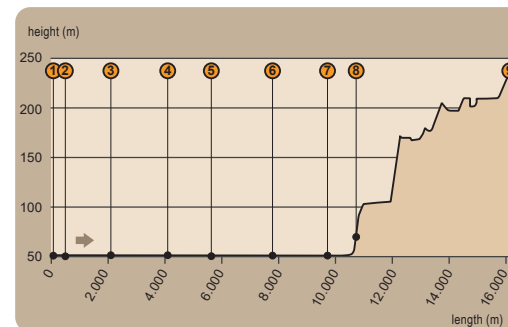
The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are: Transportes Comes (902 19 92 08; www.tgcomes.es), Portillo (902 14 31 44; www.ctsa-portillo.com) and Linesur (956 66 76 49; www.linesur.com). Algeciras has a railway station (956 63 20 87; RENFE customer service: 902 240 202; www.renfe.es) and a harbour station (956 58 54 63). Tarifa also has a harbour station (956 68 18 30).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park offers other routes for hikers, the closest being the Cerro del Tambor trail. The GR-7 international long-distance footpath starts in Tarifa and goes to Atenas.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

240 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

240 m

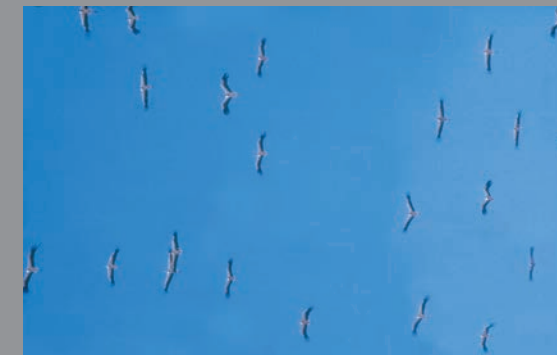
MINIMUM HEIGHT

50 m



THE PASSAGE OF THE STRAIT

The Strait of Gibraltar is a little less than fourteen and a half kilometres long at its narrowest part, between Oliveros Point - at the milestone [4] on our route - and Cires Point, near Tanger-Med. Tens of millions of birds of more than 150 species pass annually from one continent to the other, as do large populations of migrating seabirds, such as tuna between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.



Many of the migratory birds that cross the Strait are gliders, such as white and black storks, black kites, booted, short-toed and fish eagles, Egyptian vultures, Montagu's harriers, griffon vultures, sparrowhawks, kestrels and honey buzzards.

These birds take advantage of thermal updrafts -which only occur over land- to gain height and glide without moving their wings, saving effort.

Numerous migratory routes converge here, as they do in the Bosphorus Strait, producing spectacular concentrations of birds. For example, up to three black kites have been counted in a single day.



Colada de la Costa Huerta Grande

Tarifa

The trail begins next to the tower on the southeast corner of the castle wall, just three hundred metres from the maritime station, coinciding in this first section with the Colada de la Costa cattle track and the Algeciras road.



We take the road parallel to the coast (check [1] on the map), leaving the town behind. Momentarily we will move away from the coast to cross two small bridges over two streams [2], and we will return to the coastline, along which we will continue until we reach the mouth of the River Guadalmesí.



The vegetation around us is sparse, as it is an area of grassland subject to a severe wind regime. Even so, there are patches of woody plants such as oleanders and mastic trees in the stream and around the scattered ranches and houses, as well as some areas repopulated with eucalyptus.

We will pass close to Monte Camorro, where the emblematic building of the Zonal Rescue Coordination Centre is located, known as *Tarifa Tráfico*, which for almost twenty-five years now has been attending to the naval traffic and its safety in one of the most congested places in the world.

Barranco Hondo

We advance some seventy metres from the coastline under the cattle track that for centuries has made the transit of livestock between Algeciras and Tarifa easier. At the height of the Barranco Hondo farmhouse we join this track [3], along which we will follow part of the path.



Looking towards the coast we will see a semi-submerged rocky surface, of great environmental value. These are the so-called flyschs, a type of sedimentary rock composed of layers of hard rocks (limestones and sandstones) intercalated with softer rocks (marls and clays). The uneven erosion resistance of the materials gives rise to the abrasion platforms that we find along this path when they are not submerged.

Guadalmesí

Next to the Barranco de Oliveros we will find a farmhouse [4] and after passing several watercourses we will reach the stream of Las Viñas [5]. The trail continues until it reaches the River Guadalmesí, which means “women’s stream”. At its mouth, we will find the old watchtower built to defend the only point where boats could get fresh water [6].



A bird observatory reminds us of the possibility of contemplating the passage of the birds that cross the Strait of Gibraltar every year on their migratory journeys to and from the Strait of Gibraltar. Otters can also reach this privileged spot from the river’s headwaters.



Huerta Grande

We continue our route parallel to the coast, between mastic trees and spiny broom with spectacular views. We can find bunkers and other surveillance and defence constructions, as well as old Civil Guard barracks, such as Arenillas [7], where we can choose to link up with the Cerro del Tambor path, following a small path, or continue on towards Huerta Grande, linking up with the Cuesta or Marchenilla path, up to the Cañada de Botijo [8], where we start the climb, separating from the coastline until we find a track that will connect us with Huerta Grande [9].



Straddling the Strait and Los Alcornocales Natural Parks, the Huerta Grande ecotourism complex is more than a visitor centre, it is a space for leisure, knowledge and the enjoyment of senses, offering information, rural accommodation, active tourism activities and migration observation. You can also visit a bonsai centre and an ornithological park on a guided tour.

PARQUE NATURAL LOS ALCORNOCALES

Trail
Colada de la Costa
Huerta Grande

PARQUE NATURAL DEL ESTRECHO

MAR MEDITERRÁNEO

ESTRECHO DE
GIBRALTAR

- 1 Landmark (see text)
- Visitor's Centre
- Trail
- Cycle touring route
- Recreational area
- Rural House
- Parking
- Historical site
- Tower / Castle
- Farmstead
- Town Council
- Observatory

- Colada de la Costa - Huerta Grande Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Ruta cicloturística
- Nature park boundary
- Road
- Path

0 250 500 1.000
Metros

