

## BEST PRACTICES



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked trails



Please respect private property



Please refrain from making noise



Capturing animal is not permitted



Starting fires is strictly forbidden



Release of exotic species prohibited



Plant collecting is prohibited

Emergency phone: 112

## CÓRDOBA

ZONA ESPECIAL DE CONSERVACIÓN  
Suroeste de la Sierra de Cardeña y Montoro

### MÁS INFORMACIÓN

**Venta Nueva Visitor Centre.** Link with road N-420 with the CO-510, km 79. Cardeña. Córdoba. Tel: 677 982 786.

**Territorial Delegation in Córdoba for Sustainability, Environment and Blue Economy.** C/ Tomás de Aquino, s/n. Edificio Servicios Múltiples, 7ª planta. Córdoba-14004. Tel: 957 734 106.

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



Junta de Andalucía  
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,  
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

ZONA ESPECIAL DE CONSERVACIÓN  
Suroeste de la Sierra de Cardeña y Montoro

# Trail

## Pizarranga



Junta de Andalucía  
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,  
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul

## OTHER CONSERVATION SCHEMES



### ROUTE

Linear walk

### LENGTH (ONE-WAY)

5 km

### ESTIMATED TIME (ONE-WAY)

1 hour and 30 minutes

### DIFFICULTY

Medium - Low

### TYPE OF TRAIL

Trail of compacted soil footpath

### LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Along the path you can enjoy an area of high quality olive groves, protected by the Montoro-Adamuz designation of origin, mixed with areas of Mediterranean scrubland, where you can see holm oaks and Portuguese oaks.

In the middle part of the route you will have a good panoramic view of the Natural Park Sierra de Cardeña and Montoro, where pine forest formations can be seen.

### SHADE

Scant

### SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

### PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Córdoba / Montoro

### SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

903 - Montoro

### START / END COORDINATES

38° 4'19.79"N - 4° 23'36.02"O

38° 6'17.01"N - 4° 24'39.75"O



### HOW TO GET THERE

To reach the trailhead, take the CO-510 provincial road, which starts at exit PK 54 of the National N-420. After about 3.5 km, heading north along the CO-5101 road, past the bridge over the Arenoso River, you will find a lane on your right with the Pizarranga footpath signpost.



### PARKING

Next to the trailhead there is a small esplanade with parking space for several vehicles.



### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

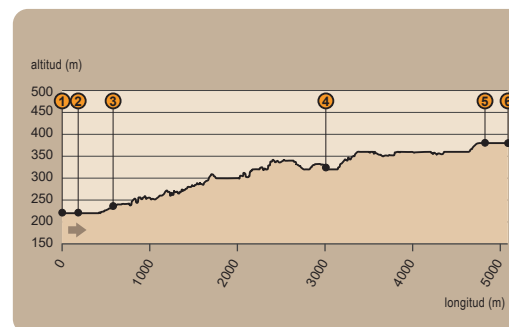
There is no public transport to the start of the trail. The company running regular bus routes in the area is Autocares Carrera (tel. 957 42 21 77; www.autocaresramirez.es) or Auto Transportes Ureña S.A. (tel. 957 40 44 79).



### OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has many trails to get to know it, among the closest to it are the El Madroñal trail or the La Cebadilla trail.

### PROFILE OF ROUTE



### MAXIMUM GRADIENT

161 m

### MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

376 m

### MINIMUM ALTITUDE

215 m

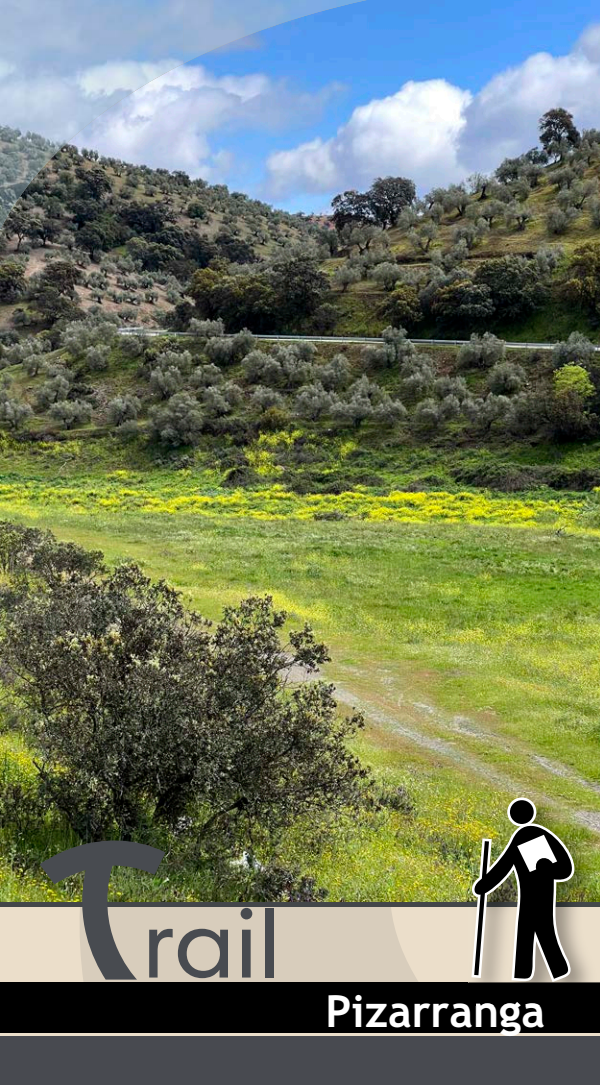


## MONTORO

Montoro is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful villages in Andalusia. Its location, its history, its monumentality and its unique peculiarities make it an obligatory destination for anyone visiting the Natural Park. There is a reason why it declared a Artistic-Historic Site in 1969 , a more than deserved recognition.

It is located in the foothills of Sierra Morena, on a group of hills embraced by a meandering Guadalquivir River, declared a Natural Monument in 2011 for its natural and scenic values. The great river separates Montoro from the district of Retamar and, therefore, the mountains from the countryside, hence the need, back in the 15th century, to build a great bridge to facilitate transit between the two banks: the bridge of the Donadas or Doncellas, made of local reddish *molinaza* stone and which has become one of the most recognisable hallmarks of Montoro.

Although these lands were previously inhabited by the native Iberian-Turdetsans, the foundation of the town is attributed to the Roman occupation, specifically in the time of Augustus, in gratitude for the support received by its inhabitants in the wars against Carthage. Its urban layout is typically Andalusian, although its monuments belong to later periods. In fact, you may be surprised by the profusion of remarkable buildings in a relatively small space, which has earned it the nickname of "the Andalusian Toledo".



## Pizarranga

The Pizarranga trail runs entirely along the Camino de las Cabañuelas, today a forest track that serves a large group of small farmhouses and olive groves dotted with remnants of the original vegetation of the area. Despite its steepness, it is a pleasant walk through the characteristic landscapes of the Sierra de Cardena y Montoro Natural Park, with magnificent views that will help to understand how these ecosystems that have been domesticated and adjusted to human needs for hundreds or perhaps thousands of years.

The trailhead is located on the old road that used to link Montoro with Cardena, the CO-5101, after crossing the Arenoso reservoir over a high viaduct. To get here, the best option is to take exit 54 of the N-420 national road and drive a little over 3 kilometres until you reach a small esplanade where there is a signpost with parking space for several vehicles [1].

### Arenoso Reservoir

The trail initially runs parallel to one of the tails of the Arenoso reservoir, a reservoir in the Guadalquivir basin built in 2008 that can hold up to 167 hectometres of water, mainly for irrigation and electricity production purposes. The views of the grasslands around the reservoir along this stretch are extremely plastic, especially in spring, when the lavender plants, which are abundant here, are in full bloom [2].

### Olive groves

Shortly after starting to walk, you will see the occasional crossroads that almost always lead to a nearby farmhouse. You must not



leave the main path marked with directional markers. After leaving on your right the crossing of the track that continues parallel to the Arenosillo Creek, you'll enter the olive groves on the right and left [3], which that grow practically throughout the entire route. These olive groves are protected under the Montoro-Adamuz designation of origin, one of the most important production sectors in the region and the one that gives it the area its greatest international projection.

### Mediterranean scrubland

The path ascends surrounded by olive groves although, on many occasions, it is flanked by Mediterranean scrubland species typical of the area, especially rockroses, Montpellier cistus, narrow-leaved mock privet, etc., which accompany holm oaks and kermes oaks. About a kilometre and a half from the start of the path you will leave the turning to the right towards the Pizarranga farmhouse, which gives its name to this path.

The climb continues with some steep slopes at times, but as you gain altitude the views increase in beauty. It is therefore worth stopping at each pass to enjoy the scenery and take a break at the same time. Approximately another kilometre and a half from the previous junction, you'll reach an elevated area in which olive trees have not been planted, possibly because of its inaccessibility or its steep slopes. This is the most natural area of your route and requires a short stop to contemplate the holm oaks, some of them good-sized, the Portuguese oaks and kermes oaks, as well as the whole cohort of accompanying scrub species. This is a pattern that is repeated a little further along the path, but which can also be seen in the nearby fields.

To check it on the spot, your best option is to walk a few metres further on when the path reaches almost the highest point and is situated on a kind of rope with simultaneous

views of both valleys [4]. From there you can see the mosaic of the landscapes of Montoro and the Alto Guadalquivir region. Specifically, olive groves dominate here, except in the higher areas, where the terrain is steeper, although a little further north of the end of the path, holm oak forests and even reforested pine forests predominate.

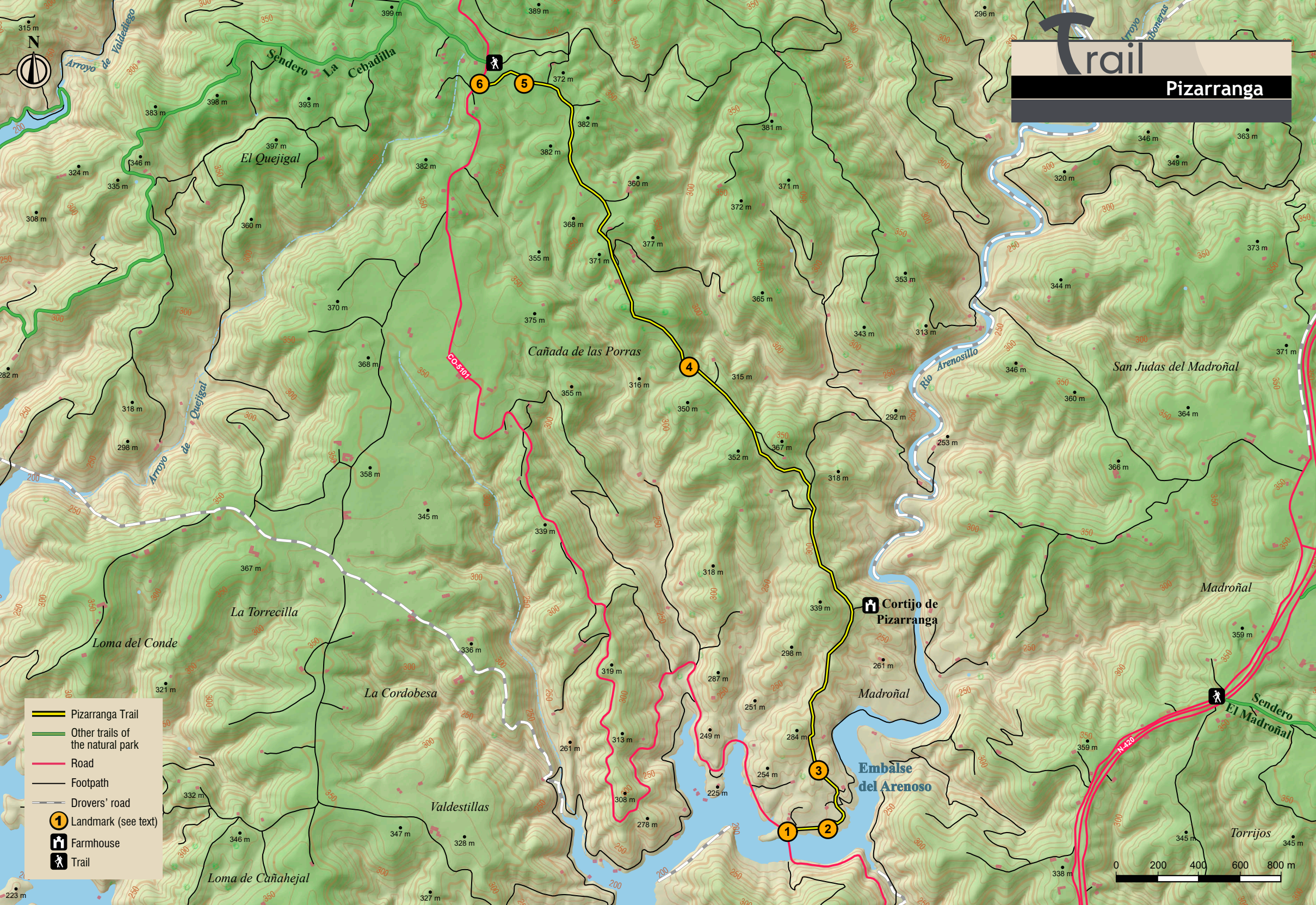
From this point the path practically flattens out or climbs very slightly until it reaches its end. Before this point, on a plateau to your left, you'll find the Torrecillas farmhouse [5], a group of houses with a disintegrated



structure and divided ownership which, back in the day, would have corresponded to the farmstead buildings, whose toponym reminds us of an architectural element of the old olive mills. After crossing the farmhouse, the path ends as it began, at a point on the CO-5101 road, Montoro-Cardena, as indicated by a small signpost [6] and just a few metres from the start of the La Cebadilla path.



# Trail Pizarranga



- Pizarranga Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Footpath
- Drivers' road
- Landmark (see text)
- Farmhouse
- Trail

