

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

La Breña y
Marismas del Barbate

MORE INFORMATION

Barbate Information Point. Puerto Deportivo de Barbate s/n.
Barbate. Cádiz. Tel. 956 45 97 80

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
La Breña y
Marismas del Barbate



Trail
del Acantilado



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

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



ROUTE

Linear

LENGTH (OUTWARD)

7,2 km

ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

2 hours

DIFFICULTY

Low

TYPE OF TRAIL

Path with sandy surface

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Gentle relief bordering the cliffs of Barbate with water springs and shelters and hollows (aviaries for various birds). The watchtower and the coastal landscape with a dense pine and juniper forest stand out.

SHADE

Frequent

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Do not confuse it with other trails that run very close to the cliff edge.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Barbate

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1073 - Vejer de la Frontera

START / END COORDINATES

36° 11' 11,68"N — 5° 56' 15,36"E

36° 11' 14,56"N — 6° 00' 33,52"E



HOW TO GET THERE

To Vejer de la Frontera on the N-340 (Cádiz-Algeciras). Take the turn-off to Vejer de la Frontera/ Barbate, at La Barca de Vejer, (A314). Head for the Hierbabuena beach in Barbate, near the port. The trail has two possible starting points: on the beach of Hierbabuena in Barbate, near the port, and on the A-2233 about 1 km from Barbate.



PARKING

There is a car park with some 50 places at the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

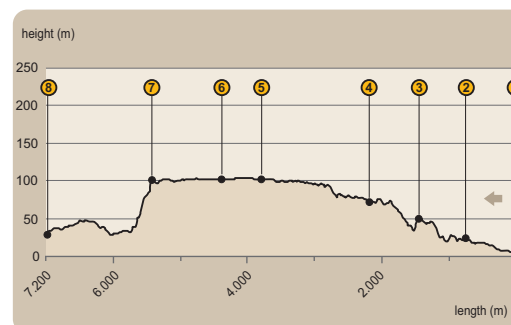
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Transportes Comes (902 19 92 08; www.tgcomes.es). Further information can also be obtained from the Comes office in Barbate (tel. 956 43 05 94)



OTHER TRAILS

The trail connects with the Torre del Tajo. Los Caños de Meca is the starting point of another very interesting trail: Los Caños-Torre de Meca.

PERFIL DEL RECORRIDO



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

99 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

104 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

5 m

THE CLIFF

If the meeting of land and sea is peaceful on the beach of Hierbabuena, now, on the cliff, both forces are an impregnable barrier only accessible to a fauna and flora much more abundant than it might seem.

This wall, with a drop of more than a hundred metres at its highest point, is constantly shaped by the effects of an open sea and an easterly wind that have created numerous shelters and hollows, turning it into a privileged aviary overlooking the sea. The water springs that emerge from it, are another element helping to create small shelters in which to take refuge, and whimsical shapes such as the one known by the locals as the *piedra aislá* [4].



Almost hidden, the nests are built on small platforms supported by vegetation that is also adapted to inclement weather. From them, yellow-legged or herring gulls, pigeons and jackdaws, and other small birds take flight.

Both from land and from the sea, the cliff is one of the most symbolic landmarks of this small natural park, although, it is breathtaking.



Towards the beach

The Hierbabuena beach (check [1] on the map) is one of the starting points of this trail. The other, from the CA-2233 road [1], will soon merge with the first. From the beach, a palisade leads us to start the route on our right. In the moving dunes of this beach we can find plants typical of the Andalusian Atlantic coast, such as the European beachgrass, with its graceful movement like a wave, or the sea lily, with small white flowers at the end of July perfuming the sand when the heat does not prevent it from opening its petals.



The Hierbabuena beach has been favoured by the construction of the Barbate breakwater, which causes a greater accumulation of sand, thus gaining ground from the sea.

Broom, mastic trees and one of the most important populations of junipers in Andalusia mark the ascent to this great fossil dune, to soon find the first pines [2], which almost drag their crowns along the ground. The dune hides water sources, retained by impermeable materials that lead it to wells [3], such as the one that can be found in ruins, and pipes that give their name to some settlements in the area, such as Caños de Meca, where we are heading.

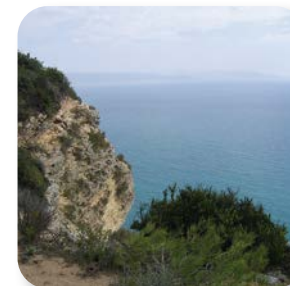
From the top

On our right there is the Torre del Tajo path, which meets the path where we are, becoming one to the west. The pine forest finally opens up to the sea, as we continue to gain height to enjoy the wide views. The cliff walls continue to draw whimsical shapes of different colours and textures in the vicinity of the Torre del Tajo [5], a beacon built in the 16th century.



The Torre del Tajo is located at the highest point of this cliff. This tower, the second highest tower in the province, was part of a defensive system against the threat of Berber raids. Like a watchtower, from its rooftop, the flames at night or the smoke during the day was the warning signal.

From the nearby viewpoint, we can see, to the east, the coastline with villages such as Barbate and Zahara de los Atunes; lighthouses and headlands, such as Punta Camarinal, and in front, Africa, emerging on the other side of the Strait.



Los Caños, getting closer and closer

From here, the highest point, we begin the descent through the young pine forest of La Breña [6], the purpose of which, in the 1950-60s, was to stop the advance of the sand and increase the humidity of the terrain. The star product of this natural park is obtained from it: the pine nuts, seeds that are shot by pine cones in case of fire, so that the pine forest grows again.



But the pine forest must be protected against any possible contingency. This means that there are firebreaks, deforested tracks which, in some cases [7], open up our path to the sea and provide us, to the west, the view of the Trafalgar tombolo, a sandy area that joins the island to the mainland, resulting from the opposing Mediterranean and Atlantic currents, and listed as a natural monument.

The route ends at Los Caños de Meca [8], a settlement famous for its beaches, where we can continue along the trail called Caños-Torre de Meca.

The Breña y Marismas de Barbate Natural Park has a second protected area: the marshes of Barbate. A path of the same name runs through this area, which contrasts sharply with those that run along the coast of Barbate.

The sea, with its immense views, and the rugged coastline of Barbate are the real main characters of this trail. We will find particular settlers who, fighting against the harsh conditions of salt, sun and wind, find in these places the most favourable environment to continue to live without the threats resulting from a misunderstood progress.

Barbate and Caños de Meca are united by this cordon, like an immense dune, which we will fully enjoy.



Trail del Acanilado

PARQUE NATURAL LA BREÑA Y MARISMAS DEL BARBATE

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- 1 Landmark (see text)
 - i Information point
 - P Parking
 - H Tower
 - Recreational area
 - Viewpoint
 - Fish market
 - Bench
 - Beach
 - Camping
- Del Acanilado Trail
 - Other trails of the natural park
 - Nature park boundary
 - Road
 - Path

0 500 1.000 m