

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
- Open camping is not permitted

Emergency phone: 112



CÁDIZ
MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL
Los Alcornocales

MORE INFORMATION

Natural Park Office Los Alcornocales

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

El Aljibe Visitors' Centre

Ctra. CA-2112 Alcalá de los Gazules - Benalup Casas Viejas
Alcalá de los Gazules. Cádiz. Tel. 956 42 05 29

ventanadelvisitante.

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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000



Reserva de la Biosfera

• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

1,6 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Rocky path. Loose materials on the surface

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Hilly relief with outcrops of cliffs and slabs, habitat of griffon vultures. Dense vegetation of wild olive trees and thorn scrub. Remains of old hydraulic flour mills.

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Alcalá de los Gazules

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1070 - Alcalá de los Gazules

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 27' 48,59"N – 5° 39' 28,33"O

36° 27' 44,29"N – 5° 38' 30,48"O



HOW TO GET THERE

At the end of the CA-6201 road (Alcalá de los Gazules-Patrite), you will find the start of the trail.



PARKING

There is a car park with some 5 places at the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

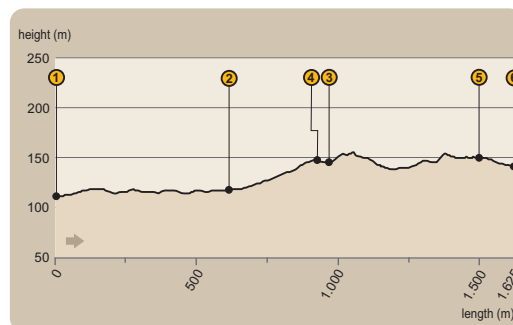
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Transportes Comes (tel. 902 19 92 08; www.tgcomes.es).



OTHER TRAILS

Near Alcalá de los Gazules, from the recreational area of El Picacho, there are other trails of interest: The gorge of Puerto Oscuro, the ascent to the Picacho and the ascent to the Aljibe.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

44,5 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

154,5 m

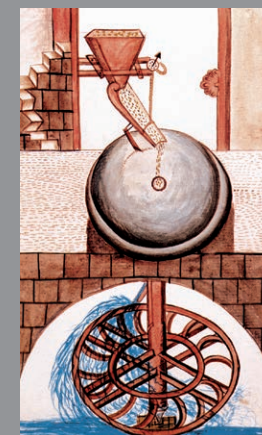
• MINIMUM HEIGHT

110 m

MILL WITHOUT MILLSTONES, MOUTH WITHOUT TEETH

The area through which this trail runs is home to a large number of watermills. The existence of a watercourse suitable for this industry allowed the mills of Castro de Arriba, Castro de Abajo, del Canto, de los Partidores or del Olivar, etc., among others, to operate.

The mill harnessed the energy of the water, which was channelled from the riverbed through an irrigation channel called a cao to a well or reservoir. From here the stored water was released and directed under pressure onto a wheel with blades (*rodezo*), which by means of an axle transmitted the rotation to a mobile stone (*corredera* or *volandera*), above a fixed one (*solera*). The grain, poured between the two through a hopper (a kind of funnel), was ground by the friction of the two stones (millstones), on which grooves were carved to expel the flour.



These grooves, subject to considerable wear and tear, had to be reworked frequently, which required another equally curious ingenuity: the *cabria*, a kind of crane that allowed the upper stone to be tipped and the fixed stone to be accessed, an operation which, given the weight of the grinding wheels, required more skill than strength.

The miller's trade was a usual motif in literature and in expressions of popular speech. Such is the case of Don Quixote addressing Sancho Panza exalting the good care of the teeth, which gives the title to this text, as well as the sentence "molino parado no gana maquila" (part of flour or grain that the miller received for his work) or numerous other pieces of Spanish proverb: "agua pasada no mueve molino" (water under the mill does not move the mill); "quien primero viene, primero muele" (he who comes first, grinds first); "mientras tiene agua el molino, el molinero bebe vino" (while the mill has water, the miller drinks wine)...

CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL
Los Alcornocales



Patrite



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad
y Medio Ambiente



Patrite

The reason for its name

Our trail begins at the end of the asphalted section of the CA-6201 road that was once intended to link Alcalá de los Gazules with Jimena de la Frontera (check [1] on the map). Before reaching this point, we will have passed the old mills of Acebuchal, El Nogal and El Olivar on our right, as a foretaste of those we will be finding.



The area preserves abundant evidence of the large number of mills that made use of the watercourses in these sierras. An information panel, before entering the path, explains how these mills work.

A pedestrian gate and a first information panel mark the beginning of the trail, which is often shaded by wild olive trees, and sunny the rest of the way.

The path runs with hardly any gradient and parallel to the River Rocinejo and the cao, or canal, that supplied water to the mills, where the bare sandstone and a solitary specimen of stone pine become a new landmark. When we reach a little higher up, we can see the ruins of the Castro de Arriba mill on the right bank of the river [2]. Further on, on the other side and behind a large eucalyptus tree, we can see the remains of the Castro de Abajo [3].

A path carved out of the rock

The path leads away from the river bed to flank a gorge on the left. The route carved into the rock [4] will attract our attention, giving us an idea of the intense activity of people and horses that this route once had.



The rocky cliffs (tayones) and the thin, smooth stone slabs stand out from the landscape due to their hardness, emerging among the dense vegetation and providing a perfect habitat for the refuge and nesting of numerous birds, especially the most important bird of prey in these mountain ranges: the common or griffon vulture.

The existence of a large livestock population makes the griffon vulture one of the most representative species of the natural park. Its spiral flight, with its legs spread out, is the signal with which it announces to the rest of the specimens the location of a carcass, carrion that will be devoured in a short time.



A last mill to finish the trail

We will finally arrive to the Montero stream, the end of the route, by means of the Vereda de Patriste a Jimena de la Frontera cattle track [5], used for transporting livestock, for cork removal or for charcoal burning, and so many other usual activities in these mountains.



This cattle track, demarcated and demarcated only in the municipality of Alcalá de los Gazules, connects, already in the municipality of Jimena de la Frontera, with the Vereda de Gamero, to be demarcated. Its width, twenty-one metres, led to an old project for paving it (visible in the first section, and in the piles of stones accumulated on its banks). Today, it is common to find the passage of Retinto cattle on it.



After climbing a hill and, between wild olive trees and a thorny scrubland that is very well adapted and characteristic of these mountains, we will come across a signpost next to a wire fence that indicates the end of the route, right at the ruins of another mill and its adjoining house [6]. Upstream, other mills also took advantage of the watercourse for their operation.

The Montero stream continues its course, now drawing a meander, and then collecting in its descent the waters of the gorges and streams that we have been finding. Later, it will merge with the Rive Rocinejo, which accompanied us at the beginning of this trail, to finally pay tribute to the River Barbate, which from the nearby Picacho irrigates the western area of the natural park.

This is a great walk along the authentic route that saw a continuous movement of people and beasts of burden (charcoal burners, cork removers, livestock farmers and, above all, millers); a good attraction thorough this path.

The abundance of streams led to the intense development of the milling industry, of which we can find numerous vestiges: ditches, millstones and mills, in locations that forced the creation of paths and trails that we can enjoy today in full contact with nature and history.



Mogea Escobar



Trail

Patrite

A ALCALÁ DE
LOS GAZULES

Venta
Patriste

Molino Acebuchal

Molino del Nogal

Patrite

Molino del Olivar

△ Cerro Arenoso (217 m)

203 m •

206 m △

Tajillos Colorados

2 Resto Molino
Castro de Arriba

Resto Molino
Castro de Abajo

△ 221 m

△ 161 m

Las Esperillas
Bajas

183 m △

Los Tallones

Tajo Amarillo

Los Herreños

Tajo de los Aguiluchos

△ Cerro de Peralta (171 m)

0 100 200 m

1 Landmark (see text)

P Parking

Archaeological remains

Mill

Site of ethnological interest

Interpretive panel

Patrite Trail

Road

Path