

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



ALMERÍA



MORE INFORMATION

Las Amoladeras Visitors' Centre
Ctra. AL-3115 Almería-Cabo de Gata. km 7. Almería. Tel. 950 160 435
ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
Cabo de
Gata-Níjar

Trail

Escullos
Pozo de los Frailes



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura



Red
Española de
Reservas de
la Biosfera



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Cabo de Gata-Níjar
UNESCO
Global Geoparks

• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

4,7 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour and 50 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Sea-facing landscape with undulating surface between moderate hills of volcanic origin. Scant vegetation that varies in places, dotted with striking shrubbery. Terracing for cultivation, now abandoned. Historical military structures, hydraulic engineering and farmsteads.

• SHADE

Little or none

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Almería / Níjar

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1060 - El Pozo de los Frailes

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 48' 13,45"N – 2° 3' 51,77"O

36° 47' 27,08"N – 2° 6' 32,39"O



HOW TO GET THERE

We reach Los Escullos by way of the AL4200, taking a turn-off between Rodalquilar and Pozo de los Frailes. The trail begins at a cross roads entering the village, heading in the opposite direction.



PARKING

There is a carpark at the start of the trail and other options in Los Escullos and surroundings.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA - Alsina Graells (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es), Autocares Bernardo (tel. 950 25 04 22; www.autocaresbernardo.com) and Frahemar (tel. 950 26 64 11; www.frahemar.com).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has an extensive offering of signposted trails. Those nearby include the Escullos - Isleta del Moro, Loma Pelada and Caldera de Majada Redonda trails.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

76 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

82 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

6 m



THE WATER ECONOMY

The first settlers had to tackle an arid, semi-desert land of the Cabo de Gata. Water is a rather scarcer resource here than in other settled areas and its economy is vital. The strategies for the search, storage, saving a defence of water, and for using it efficiently, which the plants here have used successfully, have evolved with technological knowledge.



The first settlers settled near channels or meanders, learning to optimise resources with mines, encimbrados, pools, wells and waterwheels. The Moors first introduced the wheel and after they colonised dry spaces with the use of boqueras, shut-offs, pools and, of course, cisterns and storage tanks.

More recently, reservoirs were built, although some projects failed. Engines are now used to extract previously inaccessible water from the aquifer, there are transfers and desalination plants have been built. As a result, there is more water for immediate consumption, which is not always synonymous with an economical use.



Trail

Escullos Pozo de los Frailes

Los Escullos

The trail starts as we enter Los Escullos, coming from AL-4200 (see [1] on the map). At the crossroads, take the road in the opposite direction to the entry to the village, taking a dirt track that skirts the volcanic domes of Los Frailes, which are the sharp hills ahead.



Around us we see replanted forests with species like olive trees, palm shrub, acacias and esparto grass. In less than five hundred metres we reach a fork [2], taking the path to the right. There's an information panel about the volcanic domes, allowing us to discover the geological evolution of this environment, including a period when the volcano was an island.

In another five hundred metres we join another path [3] that runs through the Rambla de Majada Redonda, along the left bank. Further on we join another rambla, La Capitana, through which we continue the trail. Between both courses is the Los Escullos campsite, which we pass by on our right. In the rambas themselves we can encounter local vegetation formations like reed beds and tamarisk.

Cortijos Grandes

We continue west between agricultural and livestock farms, some of them oriented towards forestry use which have been repopulated with various species indigenous to the area and climate like olive trees, palm shrub and lentisk. In the channel of the rambla we can also observe volcanic structure common in the natural park, called volcanic agglomerates, formed by fragments of rock at angles caused by the flow of lava from volcanic eruptions.



We approach the AL-4200 until it is only about two hundred metres away and then advance in parallel towards Cortijos Grandes [4], a farmstead surrounded by an extensive agricultural area with agaves along the boundaries of plots and houses. There we can read an informative panel on culture of water that explains the traditionally difficult economy of this resource. A little further on we find the structure of an old animal-driven waterwheel. We can also see a great variety of balates or stone walls that serve to level the terrain and maximise water retention. Towards the road is a restored windmill, reminding us of the importance they had in other times.

Pozo de los Frailes

From the farmstead we again separate ourselves from the road, heading south-east. We pass alongside an old well and take a path between the agaves until we reach the highest point of the trail.



On the left we continue to observe the hills of Los Frailes where we can see old cereal fields and well and troughs for livestock.



We reach a crossroads, [5] ignoring the path leading to the Cortijada de las Puertas to stay left in the direction of Pozo de los Frailes, some four hundred metres away and marking the end of the trail [6].

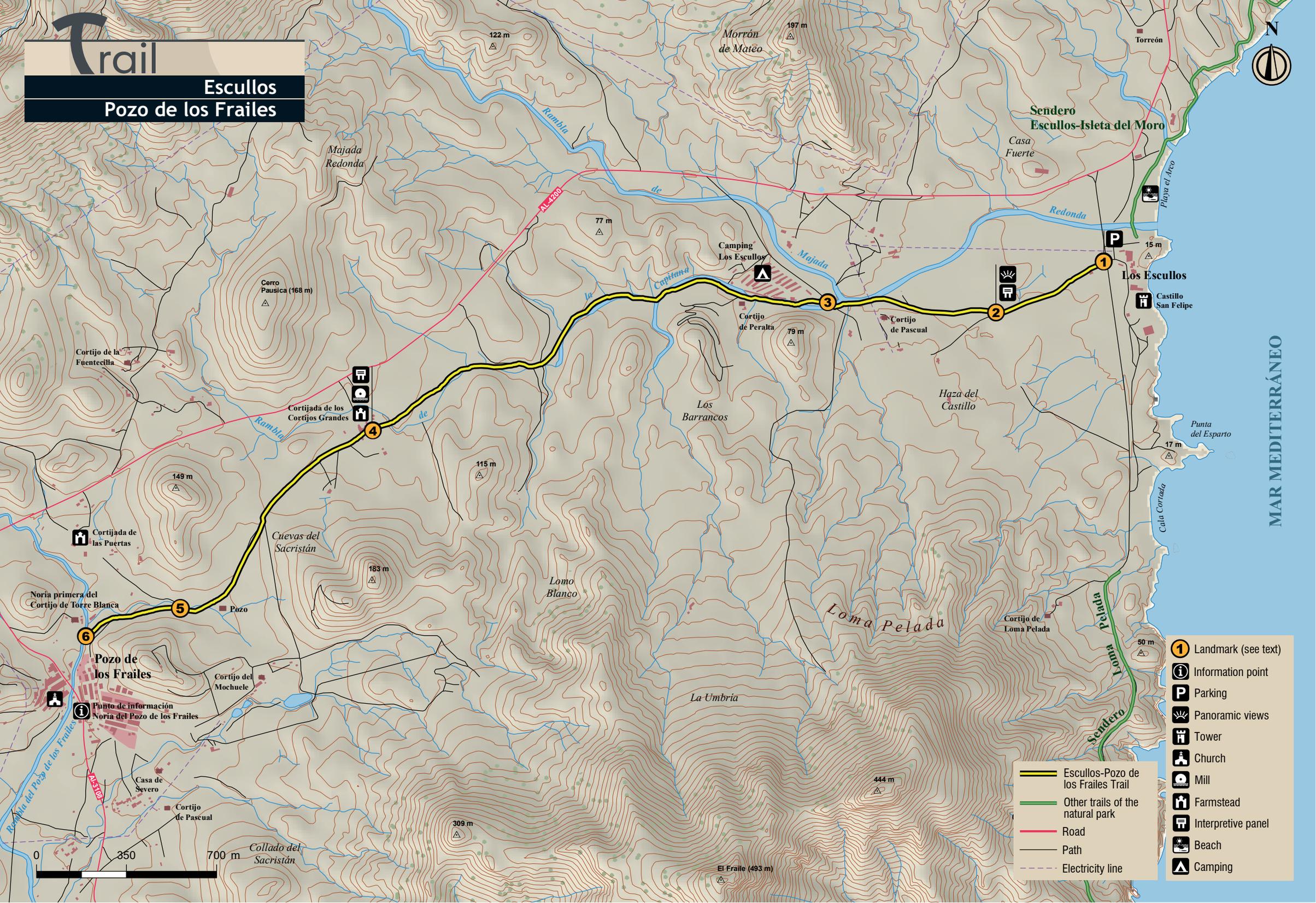
Entering the village, we can see the Noria del Pozo on our right, a restored old hydraulic system, making us reflect on man's age-old struggle to survive in places like this.

The trail is a route along the interior of coastline at the foot of the volcanic domes of Cerro del Fraile, which is always in view. These are volcanoes formed eight million years ago under the sea, whose craters were covered with the solidification of the lava, today the highest peak of the Sierra del Cabo de Gata.

It's attractive from a geological perspective but also from a biological perspective; the flora and fauna are a continuous source of surprise for the attentive observer and there's plenty for those with an eye for historical and cultural heritage.

Trail

Escullos Pozo de los Frailes



- 1** Landmark (see text)
- i** Information point
- P** Parking
- 🌅** Panoramic views
- 🏰** Tower
- 🏪** Church
- 🏠** Mill
- 🏡** Farmstead
- 📖** Interpretive panel
- 🏖️** Beach
- 🏕️** Camping

- Escullos-Pozo de los Frailes Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path
- - -** Electricity line



MAR MEDITERRÁNEO