

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 16 04 35
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
Los Genoveses

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

2,3 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour and 30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path or track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Inlet enclosed by hills of volcanic origin of modest height. Beach, fossil dunes and plains or cultivated fields. Scan vegetation dotted with pines, eucalyptus, palm shrub, prickly pear and other natural and introduced plant species. Few buildings, although some of historic and cultural interest such as the windmill, farmsteads, cisterns etc.

• SHADE

Scant

• 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° 45' 20,92"N – 2° 06' 57,78"W

36° 44' 16,76"N – 2° 07' 07,95"W



HOW TO GET THERE

Head for San José on the AL-3108 which runs south-west through the centre of the village to reach the Mónsul trail. After three hundred metres of earth, we find a path on the right close to the Los Genoveses mill. The trail starts at this crossing.



PARKING

There is carpark or around 20 spaces at the crossing with the asphalted road, 150 metres from the panel marking the start of the route.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

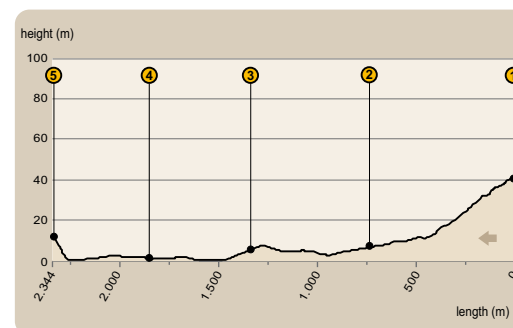
The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA - Alsina Graells (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es), Autocares Bernardo (tel. 950 25 04 22; www.autocaresbernardo.com) y Frahemar (tel. 950 26 64 11; www.frahemar.com).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has an extensive offering of signposted trails. Nearby trails include the Loma Pelada and Vela Blanca trails.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

41 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

41 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

0 m

GENOVESES

The Moors enjoyed a presence on the Iberian Peninsula for some eight centuries before eventually conquering Almería, which means it was one of the last strongholds for much of the time of the Nasrid kingdom.



However, there was an interruption to Muslim rule between 1147 and 1157, ten years of Christian occupation by a coalition of Aragonese, Genovese and Pisans led by Alfonso VII, King of Castilla y León. Pope Eugene III supported the crusade.



A fleet of Geneveve remained hidden at this inlet during the assault on the city of Almería. It was a shrewd strategy as when the crusaders laying siege appeared to retreat, the defenders left the city unprotected, an opportunity seized by the Genovese for the definitive assault.

The Genovese thus managed to extend their commercial network across the Mediterranean coast of Andalusia and their legacy is evident not only in local place names but also in the cross that appears on the coat of arms of the city of Almería and in certain surnames found in the area to this day.



San José

The road reaches San José from El Pozo de los Frailes from the north (AL-3108) and continues around the village that marks the start of the Mónsul Trail to the south-east. About three hundred metres ahead the asphalt path ends and a track runs right close to the Los Genoveses mill. At the crossroads the path begins (see [1] on the map). The restored windmill was built from stone masonry and lime or plaster. Its upper level is covered with a steeple or canopy of wooden boards which house part of the machinery for the transmission of wind energy to mill cereal.



We continue south-east, at the foot of Ave María Hill, rising 133 metres to our right. Along with sign indicating the start of the trail, there is an interpretive panel on view from the hill if we want to save ourselves the climb. The hill is the northern end of the inlet that's home to the Los Genoveses beach, used for anchoring. At the opposite end, to the south, stands the Morrón de los Genoveses, protruding into the sea. Inland there is the fossil dune, Cerro del Barronal and beyond the flat plains of El Romeral the volcanic mountains of Cabo de Gata. The vegetation is varied in such an open space, giving an impression of a continuation of the landscape of North Africa.

Los Genoveses Beach

We start by walking along a narrow path that takes us towards the beach. Some seven hundred metres away we find a crossroads [2] with swathes of pines to each side, striking plants between the treeless common lands, with vegetation of bush (palm bush, *Periploca angustifolia*, bufalaga, spiny cocklebur, agave and prickly pear) and fleeting herbaceous plant at favourable times of year.



Further on, very close to the beach, we pass the mouth of the small rambla where the odd eucalyptus tree grows. Our attention is also drawn to the curious plantations of prickly pear on the balates of the fields of the El Romeral farmstead.

We continue until we reach the ruins of an old bunker [3] on the edge of the beach, which has a series of fixed and mobile dunes where typical vegetation grows, comprised primarily of beach and cotton grass. We can also make out a more depressed area ahead, prone to flooding, where many plants have adapted to the saline environment (halophytes), among them tamarisk.

Morrón de los Genoveses

We continue along the beach along a track that's barely defined between the sands. On our right is the Campillo de los Genoveses and on our left the Mediterranean Sea. After about five hundred metres along the beach, we reach a stony area [4], with whitish-yellow colour that is none other than a fossil dune.



A little further on, at the end of the beach the trail ends alongside the Morrón anchoring area [5], the location where the Genovese safely disembarked in the famous episode of 1147, forever etched into the toponymy of the region.



It's worth climbing the Morrón de los Genoveses to reach the volcanic viewpoint, 74 metres up and surround by the park's six marine reserves, and where we can look back at the route taken. These clear waters are home to communities of vegetation and animals of great significance to the Mediterranean environment, such as the meadows of *Posidonia*.

The historic arrival of the Genovese fleet in the 12th century left a profound mark on the local topography. The inlet has one of the most iconic beaches of the natural park, sought out and loved by tourists from all over who appreciate the landscapes and rich natural and cultural heritage of the area as well as sun and sand.

The trail runs north to south along the beach from the Ave María hill to the Morrón de los Genoveses, two accessible climbs that offer beautiful views of the coast.



Trail

Los Genoveses



1 Landmark (see text)

P Parking

Castle

Farmstead

Interpretive panel

Beach

Los Genoveses Trail

Path

Electricity line