## GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the marked paths



Please respect private property



Fishing is prohibited



Plant collecting is not allowed

The capture of animals

is not permitted

Starting fires is

strictly forbidden

# **Emergency phone: 112**



CÁDIZ MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL Sierra de Grazalema

### MORE INFORMATION

El Bosque Visitors' Centre. Federico García Lorca nº1. El Bosque. Cádiz. Tel. 956 70 97 33. ventanadel **Visitante** 









#### OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION





• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

1.2 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Stony path or track

#### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Relief with undulations over limestone terrain with magnificent gall oak forest and Mediterranean scrubland. Views of the Sierra del Pinar and El Torreón, the highest peak in the province. Vestiges of traditional activities: cutlass for coaling and now-sealed quarries.

• SHADE

Plentiful

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

#### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Grazalema

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1050 - Ubrique

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 45' 20,63"N - 5° 27' 11,7"O

# (<del>A</del>

#### HOW TO GET THERE

From Benamahoma take the A-372 east towards Grazalema. After 2 km we find the Llanos del Campo recreation area, right at the start of the trail.



#### PARKING

There is a carpark with some 30 places at the start of the trail in the recreation area.



#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

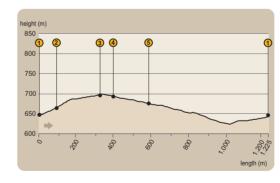
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are Los Amarillos (tel. 902 21 03 17) and Transportes Generales Comes S.A. (tel. 902 19 92 08). The nearest train stations are in Cortes de la Frontera, Jimera de Líbar, Benaoján and Ronda (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or by telephone on 902 24 02 02).



#### OTHER TRAILS

The route coincides with the Los Llanos del Campo recreation area and with the Arroyo del Descansadero y Llanos del Berral trails.

#### PROFILE OF ROUTE



#### MAXIMUM GRADIENT

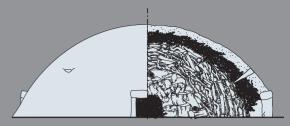
74 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

699 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

624 m



# MOUNTAIN FURNACES

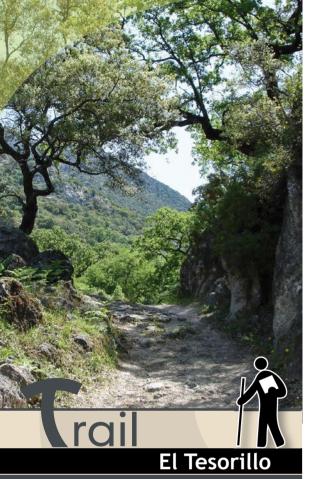
These forests supported the important human activity that, until a few decades ago, took place in the highlands. One of these activities, charcoal making, was particularly important until the arrival of electricity and butane gas in these mountain villages, as the cookers and heaters were fuelled by charcoal, the raw material for which is abundant in this area.



The shavings of the gall oaks were used for charcoal burning because of their hard, calorific wood.

The firewood was piled up in pottery kilns in landings like those we have encountered along the way. The bowling alley was then constructed in such a way as to allow air circulation.

It was then covered with green bushes and earth, but ensuring that the gases produced by burning for hours or days could escape until the wood was charred.



From the magnificent Los Llanos del Campo recreation area there are several trails to take allowing us to take short walk through this part of the nature park. The El Tesorillo trail takes us to beautiful, tranquil corners of the park where we can enjoy contact with nature. We take a path tread in the past by the inhabitants of this area. They included coalers, who knew how to exploit the resources in a time when coal was the energy needed in all homes and an industry that hasn't stopped us from enjoying its delights.

# From Llanos del Campo

The trail begins a couple of kilometres from Benamahoma, in the Llanos del Campo recreation area, located on the road between El



Bosque and Grazalema (see [1] on the map). After crossing the first access gate, look for a second on the stone wall where a sign explains the route.

After closing the gate behind us, there is a short gentle rise with an irregular surface and the odd step.



Due to the thick vegetation, these mountains are home to deer, mongoose and genets.

The vegetation is especially lush, as we can observe. Enormous holm oaks and century-old gall oaks offer some shade along our path. All the same, it's not too hard to find a small clearing with compacted earth and scant vegetation, known as an alfanje [2], a place used for the construction of coal furnaces.

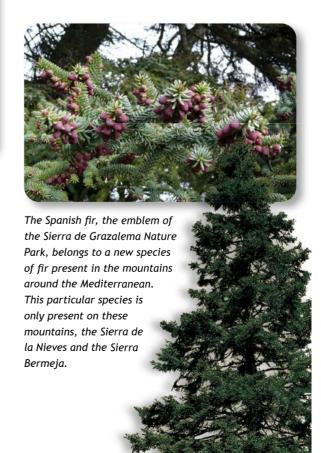
At the end of the short slope, on a mound of earth we can see a few abandoned buildings [3], evidence of another activity, livestock farming, which was also common in the sierra.

# Stony medieval road

We continue on the path until we reach a track.

Opposite us rises
the abrupt Sierra del
Pinar, and the highest
peak in the province of Cádiz, El Torreón,
penetrating the clouds that make these
mountains the rainiest area on the Iberian
peninsula.

We continue left along a stony path [4]. It is said that in medieval times this was used by the old inhabitants of the area to travel between Benamahoma and Grazalema. We continue our descent under the shade of enormous gall oaks and the occasional Spanish fir.



# A natural treasure

The trail descends gently and we encounter a stone bench where we can rest a few moments and take in our incredible surroundings [5].



The silence is only broken by the birds and the branches gently rustled by the breeze.

Following the path, we see a large white poplar tree on a curve on the road between Benamahoma and Grazalema. A signpost points us on the way back to the Llanos del Campo recreation area. But another possibility would be to take the Arroyo del Descansadero trail which takes us to the village of Benamahoma in half an hour, where we can visit the Eco-Museum of Water.



Another route within the network of trails in the park also starts at the recreation area, the Llanos del Berral trail.

We can observe an extensive array of birds fond of forest environments, including blue tits, great tits,

chaffinches, short-toed treecreepers, the Eurasian nuthatch, Eurasian jays, woodpeckers, long-tailed tits and firecrests. It is also common to spot griffon vultures circling in the sky above in search of prey.



