

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 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

Huerta Grande Visitor's Centre

Ctra. N-340 km 96. El PELayo. Algeciras. Cádiz. Tel. 956 67 91 61

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

© / Editing / Coordination: Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development / Environment and Water Agency
Production and photography: Grupo Entorno, Federación Andaluza de Montañismo, CÁDIZ JOB archive and Juanjo González

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

6.6 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

2 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted track or path. Loose materials on the surface

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Narrow and deep valleys (canutos), covered with gallery forests of the laurel forest type. Wide panoramic views of both sides of the Strait of Gibraltar. Strategic location for migratory birds. Signal tower.

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Check that the water from fountains is safe to drink. An area of ornithological interest, we suggest you bring binoculars or a telescope for birdwatching.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Tarifa

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1077 - Tarifa; 1078 - Pelayo

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 04' 21,12"N – 5° 30' 59,90"O



HOW TO GET THERE

At km 93 of the N-340 (Cádiz-Algeciras), you will find the El Bujeo recreational area, the starting point of the trail.



PARKING

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



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

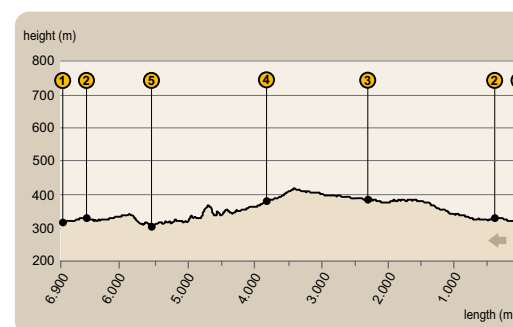
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Transportes Comes (tel. 902 19 92 08; www.tgcomes.es). The nearest train station is in Algeciras (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 902 24 02 02).



OTHER TRAILS

The trail of River de la Miel can be found nearby, where you can observe a new *canuto*.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

114 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

417 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

303 m



THE MOUNTAIN RANGES OF THE STRAIT BREAK THE WIND

The mountain ranges of the Strait of Gibraltar become an obstacle for the clouds dragged by the clouds. The former, better known for their intensity and frequency, cause fog (*barbas* or *monteras*) in the valleys and on windward-facing ridges, which alleviates the summer drought, while on the leeward side they become the hot east wind, which punishes the countryside.



On the other hand, the westerly Atlantic winds, which blow in the opposite direction, carry humidity that turns into rain when they ascend the mountain ranges.

The River Guadalmesí takes advantage of these circumstances. It rises in the south of the Luna mountain range, and after a drop of more than six hundred metres in just seven kilometres, it flows into the Mediterranean sea. As it passes through, it creates canyons in which the dominant vegetation is known as laurel forest, typical of the subtropical forests that disappeared in Europe after the climatic changes of the last glaciations.

CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL Los Alcornocales



Río Guadalmesí



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



Trail

Río Guadalmesí

A bird's eye view of the two shores

Our route starts at the El Bujeo recreational area (check [1] on the map). The forest track that starts on our left takes us along the slope of the sierra from where we can enjoy views of the Guadalmesí basin. In addition, on clear days, we can observe the Strait of Gibraltar [2], from which the Yebel Musa peak emerges on the other side, at more than eight hundred metres, even closer from the mouth of the river, with its watchtower and bird observatory. But our trail does not take us that far.



The mountain ranges of the Strait of Gibraltar, a wall separating the Mediterranean sea and the Atlantic ocean

We leave the forest track just before crossing the bridge to take a path that takes us into the *canutos* [4], oases and refuges of species that have disappeared from the rest of the European continent. Afterwards, the colours and textures of the vegetation will not go unnoticed by our eyes, changing according to the season of the year, or the place where they find their best conditions: bright green alders and gall oaks in summer contrast with the dull green of the cork oaks on the slopes; while in winter the bare branches of the trees, close to the water, contrast with the dark green of the kermes oak, higher up.



Moving away from the shore

As we move away from the river, we can observe that the cork oak grove has been transformed into mid-mountain scrub [5], very common within the natural park, where degraded soils emerge that have lost the depth and freshness that the demanding kermes oak needs.



The Guadalmesí tower had to defend the only possible water supply source that was maintained throughout the year.



The flight mechanism of gliding birds is to take advantage of updrafts to take altitude and glide with minimal energy expenditure. The absence of these currents at sea forces them to look for the narrowest passages between the European and African continents: the Gibraltar and Bosphorus passages. Waiting for favourable conditions for the crossing brings together large numbers of birds in this area, with up to three black kites being counted in a single day (such as the young bird in the photograph).



The scrubland is made up of species such as rockrose, spiny broom, mastic and heather. They are very common in high densities. They have a high degree of regeneration, are well adapted to the strong prevailing winds of the area and play an important role in fixing the soil against erosion.

Near the end, the path splits in two: one branch heads towards some houses, while the one on the left, ours, climbs a steep slope that leads us back to the forest track at the start, recovering height and once again enjoying the impressive views.



From the highest points of this trail we can enjoy views over the Strait of Gibraltar that will amaze us.

The skies will be brightened by the flight of migratory and resident birds passing between continents or scanning their hunting grounds, a spectacle worth contemplating. Afterwards, we will go down to the riverbed to visit one of the most accessible canyons in the natural park.

From cloud forest to laurel forest in just a few minutes.

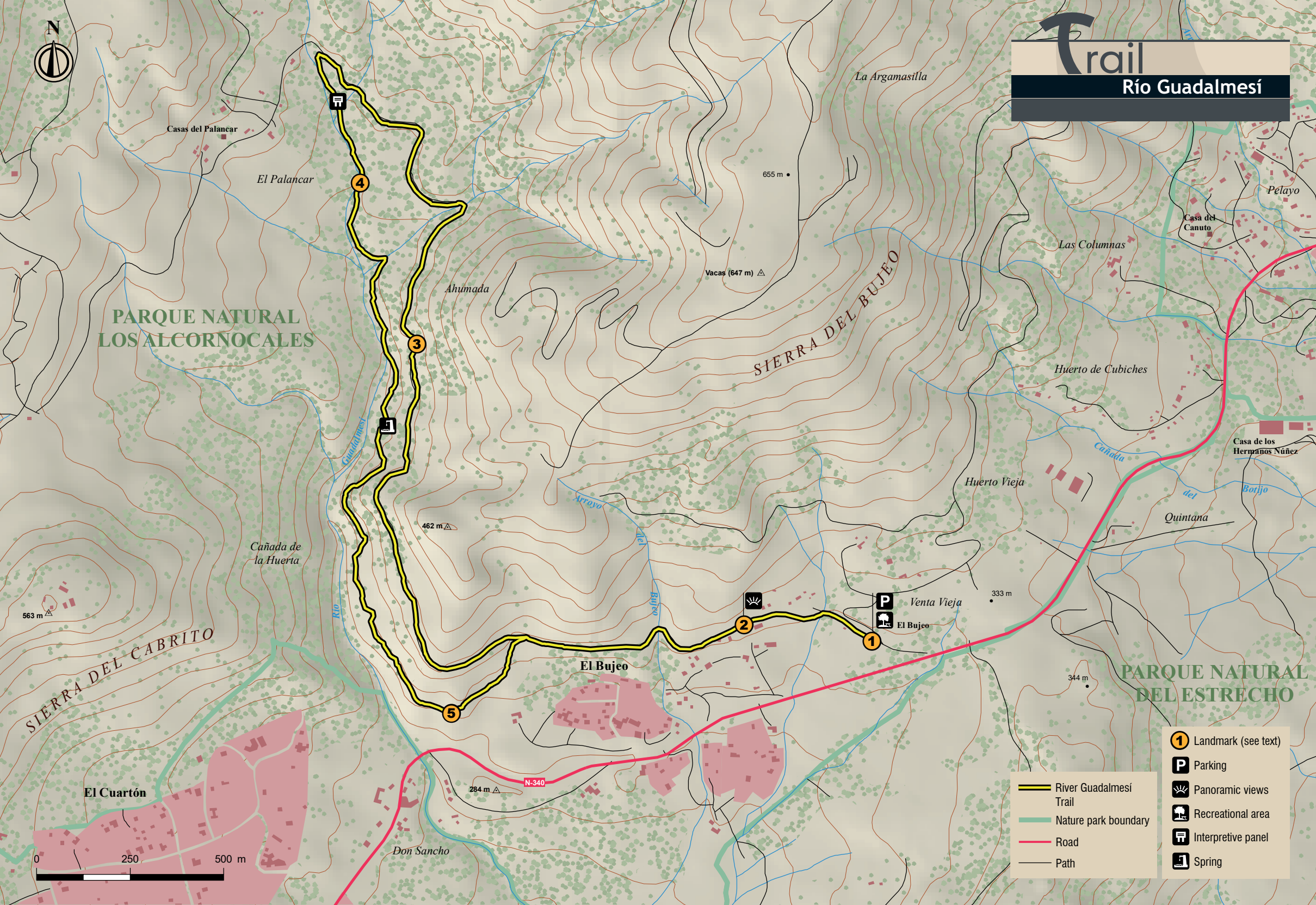
The area we are travelling through [3] is a hunting ground frequented by birds of prey and an obligatory stop on the migratory routes of birds, which allows us to observe many of them, such as the red kite, a resident species, considered to be one of the most elegant of all those that inhabit the peninsula due to its fascinating and acrobatic flight.





Trail

Río Guadalmesí



PARQUE NATURAL
LOS ALCORNOCALES

SIERRA DEL BUJEO

PARQUE NATURAL
DEL ESTRECHO

SIERRA DEL CABRITO



- Landmark (see text)
- Parking
- Panoramic views
- Recreational area
- Interpretive panel
- Spring

- River Guadalmesí Trail
- Nature park boundary
- Road
- Path

Casas del Palancar

El Palancar

Ahumada

El Bujeo

Don Sancho

La Argamasilla

Pélayo

Casa del Canuto

Las Columnas

Huerto de Cubiches

Casa de los
Hermanos Núñez

Huerto Vieja

Quintana

Venta Vieja

El Bujeo

Cañada de
la Huerta

Arroyo
del Bujeo

Cañada
del Borjo

655 m •

Vacas (647 m) ▲

462 m ▲

563 m ▲

333 m

344 m

284 m ▲

N-340