

BEST PRACTICES



- Please leave rubbish in the bins provided
- Walk on the marked trails
- Please respect private property
- Please refrain from making noise



- Capturing animals is not permitted
- Starting fires is strictly forbidden
- Plant collecting is prohibited
- Release of exotic species prohibited

Emergency phone: 112

CÓRDOBA

ZONA ESPECIAL DE CONSERVACIÓN
Suroeste de la Sierra de Cardena y Montoro

MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Venta Nueva Visitor Centre. Link with road N-420 with the CO-510, km 79. Cardena. Córdoba. Tel: 677 982 786.

Territorial Delegation in Córdoba for Sustainability, Environment and Blue Economy. C/ Tomás de Aquino, s/n. Edificio Servicios Múltiples, 7ª planta. Córdoba-14004. Tel: 957 734 106.

ventanadelvisitante.



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Production and photography: Environment and Water Agency of Andalusia

OTHER CONSERVATION SCHEMES



• ROUTE

Linear walk

• LENGTH (ONE-WAY)

6.9 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (ONE-WAY)

2 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Moderate

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Forest trail and footpath

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

An area of olive groves where the typical Mediterranean vegetation can also be found. In your walk along the Arenoso River, you will come across several points with magnificent panoramic views over the valley formed by the river and the Sierra de Cardena y Montoro Natural Park.

• SHADE

Scant

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Córdoba / Montoro

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

903

• START / END COORDINATES

38° 6'20.29"N - 4°24'38.45"W

38° 6'19.05"N - 4°26'23.54"W



HOW TO GET THERE

From the national road N-420, take the provincial road CO-5101 at the PK 54 exit. After about 10 km, heading north along the CO-5101 road, you will find on our left a sign for the beginning of the La Cebadilla Trail, which coincides with the end of the La Pizarranga Trail.



PARKING

There is no parking area next to the path, you will have to leave your vehicle in an area close to the start. Please make sure that the vehicle is correctly parked.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

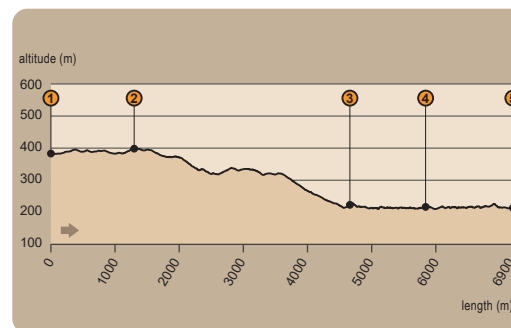
There is no public transport to the start of the trail. The main bus company in the area to Montoro is Autocares Ramirez (rafaelramirez@autocaresramirez.es - 957 422 177). Once there, you can get a taxi to the trailhead.



OTHER TRAILS

The Sierra de Cardena y Montoro Natural Park has other public trails available to discover the park, such as the La Pizarranga Trail and the El Madroñal Trail.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

191 m

• MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

397 m

• MINIMUM ALTITUDE

206 m



THE EGYPTIAN MONGOOSE

The Egyptian mongoose, the only mongoose in Europe, is one of the easiest to spot small carnivores in Mediterranean forests, not only because of the size of its populations, but mainly because it is a diurnal and, to a lesser extent, a crepuscular species.

Recent research has concluded that it was introduced to the Peninsula first by the Romans , and then massively by the North African Berber peoples who lived in Andalusia during the Middle Ages. Berber peoples had succeeded in semi-domesticating Egyptian mongooses and, as it is well known, taught them to hunt snakes, which are a hazard in many arid areas.

Egyptian mongooses mainly live in scrub formations, in which they can move easily thanks to its elongated form, with short legs and very small ears. They tend to walk in family trains, in a single file and close to each other. Most likely, this is the origin of the legend of the Mediterranean furry snake, that exists in many parts of the Iberian Peninsula.

Egyptian mongooses feeds on a diet of animals and plants, so varied that it can be considered an omnivore. Rodents, birds, lizards and Ophidia, invertebrates, fruits and mushrooms complete its diet. It is a non-hunting species.

CÓRDOBA

ZONA ESPECIAL DE CONSERVACIÓN
Suroeste de la Sierra de Cardena y Montoro

Trail

La Cebadilla



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Sostenibilidad,
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul



La Cebadilla

Olive groves

You will start the path at the junction of the road with a dirt forest footpath that leads to a group of small olive grove farms in the vicinity [1]. After a gentle initial ascent, the trail is mostly flat with small slopes. About 500 metres from the trailhead, there is an intersection on the right that you must not take. You will continue through holm oak groves and Mediterranean scrubland until the trail becomes surrounded by a mountain olive grove belonging to the Protected Designation of Origin Montoro-Adamuz. To your left there is a small detour that leads to the farmhouse of Cortijo de La Cebadilla, which gives its name to the path and to the traditional path that runs through it. A few metres further on, you may take advantage of the fact that you are at the highest point of the trail [2] to enjoy the panoramic views and the authentic landscape mosaic before your eyes, a mixture of human-managed forests and natural vegetation wisely distributed on the territory according to its relief, exposure or the history of ownership of the territory.



Arenoso Reservoir

From here, the path descends, sometimes very steeply, to the Arenoso Reservoir, crossing several olive groves and a few more farmhouses. Before reaching the reservoir tails, there are two more junctions on the left that you must not take, following the signs that indicate the correct direction to the end of the path and the distance we have covered (4.6 km).

About 80 metres from the last intersection, in an open area towards the reservoir, a complementary sign explains the characteristics of this vital infrastructure for the area's economy [3]. The reservoir is named after the Arenoso River, which flows down from the north of the province of Córdoba, marking the western boundary of the Natural Park for a stretch. It was built in 2008, with a maximum capacity of 167 Hm³, in order



to ensure water supply for the towns, to generate electricity and to supply irrigation water for agriculture in the Guadalquivir basin. Its water level suffers enormous seasonal variations, the differences between the maximum and minimum level of the reservoir mean that for a good part of the year, most of the tailings are dry, which prevents the establishment of vegetation on their banks. However, the areas that have been flooded for part of the year retain some of their moisture, and rich grasslands and meadows of great plastic beauty are established on them, especially in spring and early summer. The reservoir can be sailed with non-motor boats (using sails or rows) and is also considered suitable for angling.

You will continue our route along the tails of the reservoir, until you cross the Valdediego stream; then you have to go upstream for about 500 metres to find a pass across the river. It is precisely in this place [4] that it is worth stopping for a few minutes to enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us and which is far removed from what we have seen before. It is a reforested pine forest with Mediterranean scrub and holm oaks; a reservoir of fauna according to the remains and tracks that a keen ear and eye are able to find in the field. From small birds to birds of prey, from herbivorous mammals to small carnivores. You will walk in this environment for several hundred metres more, all the way to the reservoir again and practically to the end of the route [5], where we once again enter olive groves. You must remember that you still have the whole way back along the same road and that you must have enough strength to face a climb in which you'll gain around 200 metres in altitude.



The La Cebadilla Trail starts on the CO-5101 Montoro-Cardena road, just over 100 metres from the end of the La Pizarranga Trail, with which it shares some of its characteristics. Both are within the Specially Protected Area (SPA) of the Southwest of the Sierra de Cardena y Montoro, in the vicinity of the Sierra de Cardena y Montoro Natural Park, together with which it forms part of the European Natura 2000 Network. They are located in the municipality of Montoro and run through olive groves and holm oak woods. This trail is linear, runs along the Camino Rural de Cebadillas for almost 7 kilometres and goes from an area of olive groves and pine forests to the tails of the Arenoso Reservoir, where you can admire a sample of Mediterranean forest in a magnificent state of conservation.



Trail

La Cebadilla



- La Cebadilla Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Footpath
- Drovers' road
- Landmark (see text)
- Farmhouse