### **GOOD PRACTICE**



The capture of animals is not permitted Starting fires is strictly forbidden



MORE INFORMATION El Bosque Visitors' Centre, Federico García Lorca nº 1. El Bosque, Cádiz, Tel. 956 70 97 33. ventanadel**visitante** 



PARQUE NATURAL

Sierra de

6

# Grazalema Llanos del Endrinal



# OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



# • ROUTE Circular

• LENGTH

3.1 km

# • ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour

 DIFFICULTY Average

• TYPE OF TRAIL Path or track

# LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Some carob trees at the start a of the trail anbd the ruins of the Marchalico Viñicas farmstead in the background. We climb up the plateau where there are some old areas for crops. We cross the plateau before descending and the valley area comes into view.

# SHADE

Frequent

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

 RECOMMENDATIONS Carry drinking water and wear suitable

clothing. Take a mobile phone with you Stony and rocky and firms. Wear boots or footwear o avoid slipping or straining.



### HOW TO GET THERE à

The trail begins at the carpark of the Tajo-Rodillo de Grazalema campsite on the A-372.

### PARKING P

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There is a 20-place carpark behind the Nature Park office.

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The bus company in the area is Los Amarillos (www.losamarillos.es/ tel. 902 21 03 17) The nearest train station is in Ronda (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 902 320 320).

# OTHER TRAILS

The nature park offers other routes and the last section is shared with the Puerto de las Presillas Trail. The Los Charcones, El Fresnillo, La Ermita and Calvario trails also begin in the surrounding area.

# PROFILE OF ROUTE





# REPOPULATIONS

The holm oak is the most important authoctonous tree in these mountains. Due to overexploitation of the holm oak groves in the past, mainly for coaling, the holm oak has disappeared from many areas.

A relatively rapid way to protect soil is to plant trees that grow quickly and adapt well to the terrain. Pine trees meet both these requirements but have their negative side.

While large fires rarely occur in mature autocthonous holm oak forests, as they resist the spread of fire and regenerate better, pine groves feed fire with resin and pine needles and, what's more, don't regrow, so in the wake of pine grove only scrubland will grow.

In areas repopulated with pines, there are plans for clearing and repopulation with autochthonous species to recover natural vegetation formations.



# Llanos del Endrinal

The trail runs through the Sierra del Endrinal mountains where we can discover a vast array of the karst formations typical of the limestone landscapes of the Sierra de Grazalema Nature Park. Sink holes, passageways, plains, grooves, large pavements with round-pointed pinnacles or towers, curious shapes produced by the dissolution of the limestone rock. It's a live geology class.

Between the crags we can find not only the select flora of the nature park but also one of the most iconic animals of the sierra: the mountain goat.



on the map) with a short parallel rise to the Tajo Rodillo campsite, and the first thing to attract our attention is the towering Peñon Grande outcrop crowning

our path. After passing through a grate we take a left at the crossing, running parallel to the fence of the campsite again.

Soon we begin to ascend between the repopulated pine groves, which serve to protect from the intense rain this area receives. Grazalema has one of the highest pluviometric indices in Spain. This is well reflected here, where naked rock dominates the landscape.

From here, among the rocks we find the most select flora of these mountains, with a wide variety of orchids in spring and in early summer, orange poppies and Grazalema poppies, a botanical rarity of the area. We may even find the odd Spanish fir along the route. Remember that this is unique flora and therefore must be respected. The only way you should take them home is on your camera.

The path crosses the pine grove, under which there is barely any vegetation, before exiting the cover of the pines and beginning the descent to a stony area, twisting to avoid some moderately steep sections. Here the terrain is open and it's



a glimpse of another inhabitant of these mountains on the cliffs; the mountain goat.

not unusual to catch

# The mountain goat

In 2010, a census was conducted, counting over 1,200 specimens of the mountain goat in the Sierra de Grazalema, making it one of the most

important enclaves for the species in all of Andalusia. These data show that the mountain goat is overcoming scabies epidemic that decimated the population. It's relatively easy to see small herds, especially early in the day or well into the evening if we move silently.



The landmarks are a great help in following the trail in mountain areas.

We rise through a craggy area until we reach the crown of a small saddle [2]. Behind us there are magnificent views with the Peñon Grande dominating. We enter another compact pine grove whose shade will be appreciated in the warm season. Within the pine grove we pass a number of crossings. They are well signposted so there's no confusion and all we have to do is follow the landmarks that mark the route. Among the pines, taking advantage of their protection during growth, the odd holm oak appears.



Limestone pavements are very common in these mountains.

From here, the trail changes direction and we soon emerge from the pine forest into an open area with limestone pavements and matagallo bushes. This is the Puerto del Endrinal [3], an area that offers excellent views of the peaks of the Sierra del Endrinal: Reloj, Simancón and Yedrales. And a karstic depression where we find the Llano del Endrinal plain.

# Llano del Endrinal

The Llano del Endrinal is a closed, elongated dpression of the terrain, a small almost triangular karst polje located at an altitude of 1,100 metres. It is enclosed by a stone wall and within there are pines that offer shade to the livestock. Alongside the plain is a well with a drinking trough.

From the pass we descen along a well marked path to the Llano del Endrinal [4], a beautiful spot is a truly spectacular setting. After descending the pain, we return the trail towards Puerto del Endrinal and we continue to the canyon alongside



The Peñón Grande is one of the park's free climbing zones.

the Peñon Grande on our left. The trail descends between the pines where we can see a restored era, which was used by the locals of Grazalema in the past and we soon reach a crossing we took coming in the other direction some hours ago. Further on we reach the start of the trail by the Tajo Rodillo campsite carpark.

Nearby there are several trails that offer the opportunity to enjoy the mountains, the Los Charcones trail that rises to Puerto del Boyar alongside a cedar forest and the Puerto de las Presillas trail which takes a more mountainous route.



