

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

La Breña y
Marismas del Barbate

MORE INFORMATION

Barbate Information Point. Puerto Deportivo de Barbate s/n.
Barbate. Cádiz. Tel. 956 45 97 80

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
La Breña y
Marismas del Barbate



Torre del Tajo

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

2,1 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

45 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path with sandy surface

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Dense pine forest, accompanied by junipers, on a plain bordered by cliffs, on top of which stands the watchtower. Wide panoramic views of the Strait of Gibraltar.

• SHADE

Plentiful

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Barbate

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1073 - Vejer de la Frontera

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 11' 12,73"N – 5° 57' 18,76"O

36° 10' 44,08"N – 5° 58' 23,15"O



HOW TO GET THERE

To Vejer de la Frontera on the N-340 (Cádiz-Algeciras). Take the turn-off to Vejer de la Frontera/Barbate, at La Barca de Vejer, (A314). Take the A-2233 road, towards Los Caños. About 2.5 km from the port of Barbate, at kilometre point 19.5, there is a parking area on our left, the starting point of the trail.



PARKING

There is a car park with some 15 places at the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

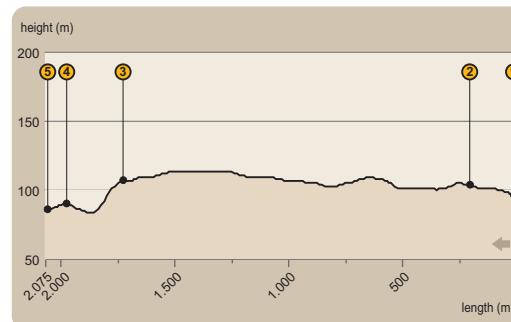
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Transportes Comes (902 19 92 08; www.tgcomes.es). Further information can also be obtained from the Comes office in Barbate (tel. 956 43 05 94)



OTHER TRAILS

At the end of the trail, you can continue along two others: Los Caños-Torre de Meca trail, to the west, and Del Acanilado trail, to the east.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

30 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

114 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

84 m

THE COAST IS CLEAR

Such must have been the watchword expected from the top of this watchtower, aimed at keeping watch and sounding the alarm before possible incursions by Barbary corsairs. From its height of more than thirteen metres, the fire at night, or the smoke by day, were the unmistakable signs of imminent danger. It is part of a defensive system that protected the entire Andalusian coast, especially reinforced for strategic reasons in this area of the Strait of Gibraltar, where abundant examples have been preserved.

Declared an Asset of Cultural Interest, it is also known as Torre Tembladera. It was built in the 16th century, renovated in the 18th century and recently restored to its imposing appearance. It is considered the second highest in the province in terms of altitude. Its thick walls house a single vaulted room six metres in diameter and seven metres high. A spiral staircase leads to the roof, where the horseshoe-shaped sentry box is located and where the lighthouse keeper found shelter from the harsh conditions of adverse weather.

From this privileged gateway to the Strait of Gibraltar, the nearby viewpoint allows us to recall episodes from an epic history of naval battles, such as Trafalgar, but also to see that today the Strait is a bridge between two continents.

A small, elongated and narrow window, known as an embrasure, stands out, being used for firing, with greater protection, through it.



CÁDIZ



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The pine forest: a refuge for plant and animal species

The access to the beginning of the path (check [1] on the map), as well as its transit, is not particularly difficult. The route is very well marked, and no other inconveniences are to be expected apart from the possible discomfort that walking on sandy terrain may cause at certain times, or excessive heat in summer. A couple of hundred metres into the walk, the path turns left, heading south, and brings us closer to a dense grove of trees and bushes with the invigorating fragrances of trees and shrubs, mixed with the smell of the sea, still invisible, but getting closer and closer.



The presence of chameleons in this area was one of the reasons for establishing it as a natural park. Classified as a vulnerable species, we will avoid disturbing it unnecessarily.

Almost the entire route runs through a lush pine forest of stone pines [2], a characteristic tree of this natural park, which provides shade for a great diversity of plants that make up the ecosystem, the most representative of this forest being the palmettos, mastic trees, wild olive trees, rockroses and brooms. Our silence will be rewarded by the sounds emitted by numerous small birds. There are also a large number of animals that live here that go unnoticed, but whose tracks are easily recognisable:

mammals such as foxes and mongoose, small rodents and numerous reptiles, especially the chameleon, which will change colour depending on the environment and its mood.

A magnificently preserved juniper tree

About one hundred and fifty metres after our previous detour, the path turns right and then continues straight ahead for a good stretch until it turns left again, barely fifty metres before crossing a firebreak. To our left the Acantilado path can be found, running from Barbate to the same destination: the tower and the steep coast. Juniper is now the main character of this coastal strip [3].



Juniper trees in this park represent the second largest extension of specimens in the Iberian Peninsula, only surpassed by those in Doñana. Its roots, adapted to these loose, sandy soils, contribute to soil fixation. Its wood is particularly resistant and flexible, which is why it is often used in construction (pillars, beams, lintels, etc.).

The viewpoint, a window to the Strait of Gibraltar

We finally reach the Torre del Tajo [4], and just behind it, the viewpoint of the same name [5]. From here, we can enjoy beautiful views over the Barbate inlet and the Retín and Plata mountain ranges.



The gash represents the break between the coastal zone and the land. Its ledges and hollows provide habitat for herring gulls, cattle egrets and, to a lesser extent, rock pigeons and black starlings.

From here, we can continue along the Acantilado Trail to the east and walk along the almost two kilometres of this cliff.



A brief tour that allows us to discover some of the most emblematic values that the natural park has to offer. In addition to a more than pleasant walk through the pine forest, at the end of the trail we will come across an outstanding heritage element that gives its name to the trail: the Torre del Tajo, which crowns a cliff over a hundred metres high on one of its walls.

From the nearby viewpoint, we will enjoy spectacular views. Other connected trails expand the opportunities for exploring a virtually untouched coastline.



Trail

Torre del Tajo

- 1 Landmark (see text)
- i Information point
- P Parking
- T Tower
- Recreational area
- Viewpoint
- Interpretive panel
- Fish market
- Bench

- Torre del Tajo Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Nature park boundary
- Path
- Recreational area