

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



Open camping is not permitted



Plant collecting is not allowed



Fossil collecting is not permitted

Emergency phone: 112



MÁLAGA

PARAJE NATURAL
Torcal de Antequera

MORE INFORMATION

Torcal Alto Visitor's Centre, Km 3.5, on the asphalted forest track leading to Torcal Alto, from the A-7075 road, between Antequera and Villanueva de Concepción. A-7075, between Antequera and Villanueva de la Concepción. Tel. 952 24 33 24. Territorial Delegation in Malaga of the Regional Ministry of the Environment and Regional Planning. Av. de la Aurora 47 3ª a 7ª planta. Edif. Servicios Múltiples 29071. Málaga. Tel. 951 03 83 00 / 951 03 82 47.

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Production and photography: Grupo Entorno, Federación Andaluza de Montañismo and Environment and Water Agency



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

PARAJE NATURAL
Torcal de Antequera



Trail

Subida al Torcal Alto



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



ROUTE

Linear

LENGTH (OUTWARD)

3,6 km

ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour and 45 minutes

DIFFICULTY

Moderate

TYPE OF TRAIL

Path

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

As a grove we can find holm oaks and hawthorn, and as scrubland, gorse, palmetto and some endemic flowers of the scrophularia family. From the path we will have views of the interior of the axarquía, the valley that precedes the Torcal, which includes municipalities such as Villanueva de la Concepción and of course, the amazing karst formations that characterise the Torcal.

SHADE

Scant

SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

An ideal place for photography lovers, it is advisable to bring good equipment if you have it.

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Málaga / Antequera

SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1038 - Ardales

1039 - Colmenar

START / END COORDINATES

36° 57' 43,4" N – 4° 30' 54,6" O

36° 57' 12,97" N – 4° 32' 38,42" O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Antequera: Take the A-7075 road towards Villanueva de la Concepción, continue until you find a crossroads on the right-hand side of the MA-9016 road; do not take this crossroads and continue for 20m. Then you will find a parking area where the trail begins.



PARKING

Parking area properly signposted and conditioned, asphalted, each parking area marked out for parking at an angle. The trail starts from the same parking area.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

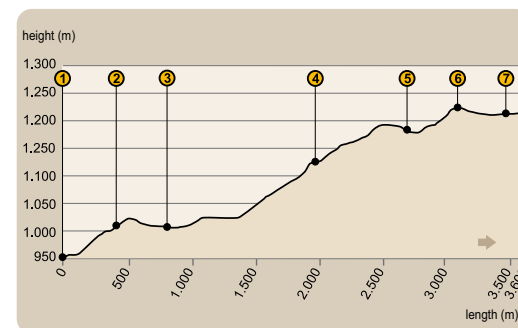
Málaga-Antequera: Automóviles Casado, S.A., (tel. 952 31 60 61, administración@automovilescasado.com)



OTHER TRAILS

The nature site offers other routes; Ruta Amarilla and Ruta Verde del Poqueira trails can be found nearby

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

269 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1.219 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

950 m

THE TORNILLO DEL TORCAL

In the Cañada de Tosaires [4] we will have the opportunity to observe how the limestones are translocated, some sunken with regard to other similar limestones of the same geological age but which are located at a higher level, displaced from the former. The telluric current of folding, the fracturing of materials and the sliding of blocks along faults can be sensed.

Almost at the end of the route we find the Natural Monument “El Tornillo del Torcal” [5], catalogued in 2001 for being the most representative example of the geomorphology of the site. The action of water and the differential dissolution of the rock at the contacts between layers of sediments of different composition have modelled these whimsical shapes.

Close to the Visitor's Centre, the “Agrío del Caracol” is a typical limestone pavement formation, an uneven rocky terrain that is difficult to walk on as a result of the millenarian process of karstification of the limestone.

The trail invites us to observe the Natural Monument “El Tornillo del Torcal”, symbol of the Natural Park.



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Geological characteristics

Its origins date back to the Secondary Era, some 150 million years ago, when the area formed an elongated marine corridor that connected the primitive Atlantic Ocean with the primitive Mediterranean Sea.

It was the Tertiary alpine folding that caused the limestone sediments deposited at the bottom of this oceanic arm to rise and emerge, giving rise to mountain ranges the summits of which adopted, as in El Torcal, a “mushroom” shape.

Ascent to the Torcal Alto

The Torcal Alto is a much-visited area which is often overcrowded, with the consequent threat to its natural values. For this reason, a car park has been created next to the A-7075 road, on the site of the now defunct Venta del Rosario, which prevents vehicles from parking in the Torcal Alto in an illegal, irresponsible and unsafe situation. In order to help users reach their destination if they choose not to use authorised vehicles, this trail was created, taking advantage of old paths and tracks used by livestock farmers and stonemasons. It is about 3.5 km long and has a gradient of just 250 m, crossing different areas and landscapes, and right from the start (check



[1] on the map) it advances over hills with views of the Campanillas valley and climbs upwards until it enters the depths of the Torcal. There has been a change from a mixed agrosystem to a

more rugged and rocky mountain system. One of the attractions of this trail is the variety of points of interest it offers us, some of which are related to human beings; we highlight the cattle shelter [2], the quarry [3], the cattle form [4], the Cañada de Tosaires fault [5], the Tornillo [6] and the snail’s sour [7]. Once past the quarry, the surroundings offer us the opportunity to enjoy a gentle ascent following a natural rainwater drainage line, welcoming us to the Torcal Alto thanks to the monumental limestone formations that, like lookouts, await us higher up.



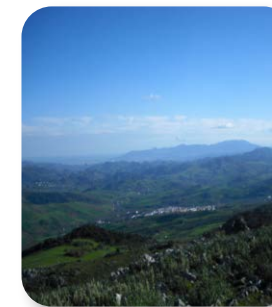
Trail milestones

Now that we know the reason for rehabilitating this old trail, let’s get to know more about it, starting with the first point of interest: the livestock shelter.

Formazo: rebuilt in the 1990s, it was a livestock farmers’ shelter where they slept together with the animals inside the enclosure, in a small stone hut with a vegetable roof made of branches that is barely visible anymore.



Livestock shelter: mixed building from the 1940s with a dwelling and a corral, which obtained water from the rain that fell on the roofs and then channelled it to zinc drums for storage.



It is a characteristic building of the mountain range in the 1940s, used as a family home, to which was attached the corral and the animals, usually sheep, were kept therein. Like other houses in the area,

and given the scarcity of natural springs, the system for obtaining water was based on the collection of rainwater that came down through roofs and gutters, for storage in zinc drums.

Following the path, we come across the abandoned quarries [3]. As expected, the material extracted here was limestone, but after the Torcal was classified first as a Natural Park and later as a Natural Site, production stopped.

Further up we find the formazo [4], a shelter made of rocks, wood and branches made by the livestock farmers themselves for shelter, which was rebuilt in the 1990s.

The Torcal de Antequera massif is made up of limestone rocks that together cover an area of more than 18 km². Geomorphologically, it comprises four distinct areas: the Sierra Pelada, the Torcal Alto, the Torcal Bajo and the cliff and hillside formations. It is precisely to the Torcal Alto that we head along this trail, following a route almost parallel to the asphalted access track to the Torcal Alto Visitor’s Centre.

Before finishing our route, we will make an obligatory stop at the Natural Monument El Tornillo del Torcal, since due to its original appearance it is used as the official emblem of the protected area.

Trail

Subida al Torcal Alto

Paraje Natural Torcal de Antequera



- Subida a Torcal Alto Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path
- Torcal de Antequera Natural Site
- Landmark (see text)
- Visitor's Centre
- Recreation area
- Viewpoint
- Natural monument
- Interpretive panel

