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Please leave rubbish in the bins provided Walk on the

marked paths Please respect



**Emergency phone: 112** 



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 Cortes de la Frontera Visitor's Centre Av. de la Democracia s/n. Cortes de la Frontera. Málaga. Tel. 952 15 45 99

ventanadel**visitante** 



Junta de Andalucía

Ċ DIZ-MAL

PARQUE NATURAL os Alcornocales

The capture of animals

is not permitted

Starting fires is

Fishing is

prohibited

not allowed

strictly forbidden

Plant collecting is

PARQUE NATURAL

# Vereda Ubrique

Asomadillas



# • ROUTE

Circular

LENGTH

7,2 km

# • ESTIMATED TIME

3 hour and 30 minutes

# • DIFFICULTY

Average

# • TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted lane or cobbled path. Loose materials on the surface.

## LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

The valley of the River Hozgarganta, with slopes covered with dense vegetation. Wide panoramic views of the Strait of Gibraltar.

# 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. In times of heavy rain, the footbridge may flood, so we will not be able to cross the river. It is advisable to visit the information point in Jimena de la Frontera (C/ Misericordia, s/n tl. 956 64 05 69).

PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES
Cádiz / Jimena de la Frontera
• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000
1071 - Jimena de la Frontera
• START / END COORDINATES
36° 26' 30,86"N — 5° 27' 31,56"O

#### HOW TO GET THERE à

At the end of the street Fuente Nueva in Jimena de la Frontera, at the exit of the village, at the intersection with the road CA-8201 (Jimena de la Frontera-Puerto Galis), our trail starts.

#### PARKING Ρ

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There is car park at the start of the trail and there are also places nearby to leave your vehicle. Jimena de la Frontera is an option to consider.

# 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

From Jimena de la Frontera the River Hozgarganta starts. The GR7 long-distance trail, which links Tarifa with Andorra, passes through Jimena de la Frontera. From here it continues towards Los Barrios and Castellar to the south, and towards Ubrique and Benaocaz in a northerly direction.

# **PROFILE OF ROUTE**



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT	
	248 m
MAXIMUM HEIGHT	
	278 m
• MINIMUM HEIGHT	
	30 m

# THE LAST UNSPOILT RIVER IN ANDALUSIA

Along its thirty-five kilometre course, the River Hozgarganta collects the waters of the eastern foothills of the Aljibe mountain range.

Its frequent gorges and its almost continuous flow, not subject to regulation by any dam or reservoir, make it a wild river full of life. These circumstances create ideal conditions for the preservation of numerous species of insects, birds, amphibians and fish.

But also associated with the river we find a valuable cultural heritage, reflected in the large number of mills that used its waters as a source of energy, as well as the Royal Artillery Factory, a steel industry located downstream.

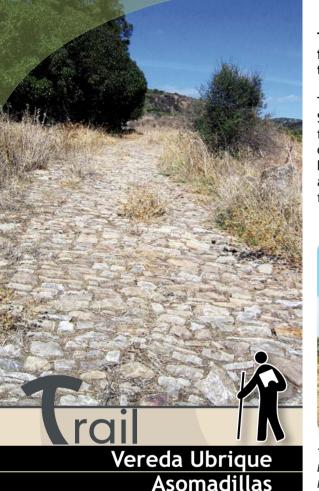


# A RIVER THAT HAS BECOME A REFUGE FOR **UNIQUE SPECIES**

Among the numerous fauna, the otter stands out as an indicator of the quality of the water and of well-preserved



watercourses, with groves and typical riverside vegetation, where this mammal finds its most demanding conditions satisfied. Fish, frogs and other animals that it catches in its mouth serve as food.



Before descending to its waters, this path offers beautiful views over the River Hozgarganta basin, the mountain ranges of the park, the Rock of Gibraltar and, even further on, Africa.

Its waters, not retained by dams or reservoirs, descend from the foothills of the Aljibe mountain range between rugged gorges and canyons, to reach the middle course, bordering the Asomadillas hill with a meander that this path allows us to discover and enjoy from its banks. The Way of Seville, from Jimena to Ubrique

This old Way of Seville, paved in its first stretch (check [1] on the map), leads us, between wild olive trees

and various bushes, to a bush track  $\left[ 2\right]$  and a forest track that we must cross.



The bujeos are clay soils, not very permeable, which become waterlogged in winter and crack in summer. In them the wild olive tree is the main character. Its intensive use for grazing and agriculture means that there are virtually no shrubs to cover it.

During our ascent, flanked by stone walls, we will follow the path of a firebreak until we come across the first stone pine trees on our left, with which this mountain range was repopulated.

A new forest track will be the signal to turn off to our left and enter the pine forest, along which we continue southwest to the nearby viewpoint of Las Asomadillas [3]. From the viewpoint we can observe, in good weather conditions, the Rock of Gibraltar and the peak of Yebel Musa, in Morocco, overlooking the River Hozgarganta. Further up we can observe the Lomas de Cámara, and, in the background, the summit of Aljibe, the highest peak in the natural park, which is also the reason for other signposted trails.

# Several benefits result from afforestation: reduction of erosion, increased $CO_2$ capture and oxygen release, and therefore climate change mitigation, better regulation of the hydrological cycle, increase and improvement of habitats for different plant and animal species...



The descent to the river

Once we have left the viewpoint, we must cross the CA-8201 road with caution, and look for a path that enters the pine forest with its regenerated scrub (heat rockrose, myrtle, hawthorn

its regenerated scrub (heather, mastic, rockrose, myrtle, hawthorn, lavender, etc.) and sinuously descends the slope to the Hozgarganta riverbed. Stony, rockhewn road

Between boulders we cross the river by a path [4] that will lead us to the path known as La Maestranza, which runs



downstream, practically parallel on its right bank.

In this stretch, there is a notable absence of riverside woodland. This is due to the strong floods that the riverbed endures during the rainy season, preventing the establishment of species other than the resistant oleanders that grow among its boulders.



We will often find the path dug into the sandstone [5], which shows how busy this path was in the not too distant past. When we reach a house, we must turn left to cross the river and walk along a cobbled path that will take us to the ruins of an old mill [6].

From there, the castle is already visible and all that remains is to walk along a gravel track which, after a climb, takes us back to our starting point.





