

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



Open camping is not permitted

Emergency phone: 112



ALMERÍA



MORE INFORMATION

Las Amoladeras Visitors' Centre.
Ctra. AL-3115 Almería-Cabo de Gata. km 7. Almería. Tel. 950 16 04 35
ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL
Cabo de
Gata-Níjar



Mesa Roldán



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

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura



Red
Española de
Reservas de
la Biosfera



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Cabo de Gata-Níjar
UNESCO
Global Geoparks

• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

1,9 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

1 hour

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path or track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Coastal plain of modest altitude with base with upper limestone cover. Terrain with significant gradient with ravines and scant vegetation, with some eye-catching dwarf palm shrubs, esparto grass, Anthyllis cytisoides, Periploca angustifolia and other bush species autochthonous to the region as well as some introduced species such as agave and prickly pear. Historic fortification and lighthouse.

• SHADE

Scant

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Almería / Carboneras

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1046 - Carboneras

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 57' 0,56"N – 1° 54' 18,24"O

36° 56' 32,08"N – 1° 54' 28,25"O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Carboneras take the AL-5106 southbound towards Agua Amarga. After 5km we find an esplanade with an information point, where we take a left to Mesa Roldán. The trail starts some 250m away on the right.



PARKING

There is a carpark close to the information point and the crossroads or the There are also options for parking at the end of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

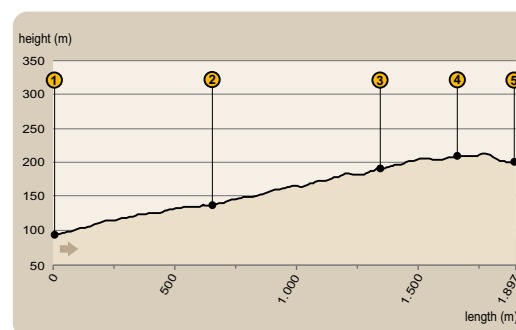
The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA - Alsina Graells (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es), Autocares Bernardo (tel. 950 25 04 22; www.autocaresbernardo.com) y Frahemar (tel. 950 26 64 11; www.frahemar.com).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has an extensive offering of signposted trails. Nearby trails included the Lucainena to Agua Amarga Greenway.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

119 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

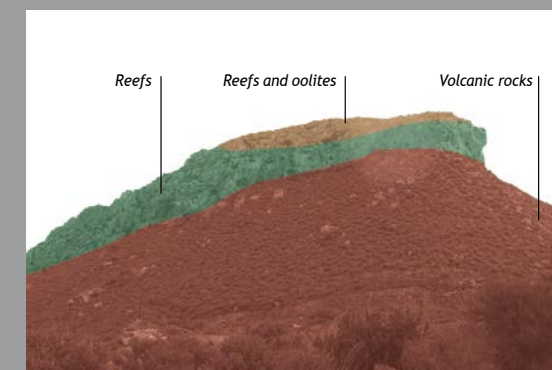
212 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

93 m

TROPICAL REEFS

The curious shape of the Mesa de Roldán plateau is explained by the geological history of the area marked by the volcanism. Some 8.7 million years ago, a volcanic dome formed, emerging from the sea like an island or reef. It is now the base of the plateau, with gentler sloping sides covered by shrub. The rocky crest that crowns the top of the plateau is the product of the colonisation of coral reefs in later times - some six million years ago - when there was a tropical climate in the region. We can differentiate the highest band with it oolites, which are small calcareous spheres that form in clean, warm and rough waters.



The exuberant life of tropical reefs provides sedimentation of various carbonated organic remains such as shells and skeletons which ultimately became rock masses in which it's quite easy to decipher clues as to their origin.





Mesa Roldán

Los Muertos

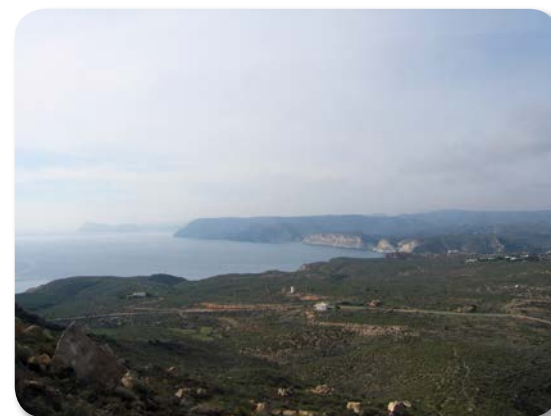
Some five kilometres to the south of Carboneras, taking the road to Agua Amarga (AL-5106). We reach an esplanade with an information point where the trail rises to the Mesa Roldán lighthouse also leading us to the Los Muertos beach carpark. Take the lighthouse path for two hundred and fifty metres to find a tack that veers off to the right where our trail begins (see [1] on the map). The vegetation in the environment is relatively abundant, formed by palm shrub and an esparto grass, among which aromatic plants like lavender and thyme and thorny plants like the acacia, wild asparagus and scorpion broom proliferate, as well as other autochthonous plants like *Phlomis purpurea*.



Some six hundred metres in we reach a shady area opposite a white-coloured reef limestone scarp in the rock of which [2] we can discern cavities characteristic of the processes of erosion. Underneath we can see darker materials of volcanic origin. The plants, always ready to take advantage of the slightest humidity, reveal the areas most favourable for growth.

The Tower

We continue around the plateau and climb up the side. Close to the surface of the plateau, as we reach the south-eastern side [3] impressive views open up before us to the south, with the coastal cliffs interspersed with the coves of El Plomo, Enmedio and Agua Amarga. We soon come across an interpretive panel of the view of the coast from the sea. From left to right we make out Agua Amarga, la Punta de la Media Naranja, Cala Sorbas below Mata Valiente, La Rellana, Cala Castillo below Mesa Roldán, the Mesa Roldán lighthouse and Punta de Los Muertos towards the Levante.



We continue around the plateau to the southern end, where there is a pronounced curve in the path [4], after which we go for the lighthouse on the surface of the plateau. About a hundred metres away is the Torreón de Mesa Roldán, a tower built in the 18th century as a part of a coastal lookout system. The tower is still fairly well preserved. The floor is hoof shaped and is built on the site of a previous tower of Moorish origin.

The Lighthouse

Alongside the tower is an excavated area, once quarries exploited in their day for the construction of the port of Carboneras. Past the tower we reach the surroundings of the Mesa Roldán lighthouse, natural watchtower where we finish our trail [5] taking in the splendid views on offer.



This lighthouse, inaugurated in 1863, was intended to reduce the blind spot between the lighthouse of the Cabo de Gata and Cabo Tiñoso near Cartagena, some sixty miles away. It became the highest lighthouse in Spain, with its 11 metres in height standing at an altitude of 222m. This record is now held by the neighbouring new lighthouse of Torre de Los Lobos, in Rodalquilar, which began operating in 1991 on an old 18th century watchtower.

It initially had a two-wick lamp which consumed olive oil, and a set of rotating lenses. It was not electrified until 1973, after other innovations. The process of automation began in 1986, and in 1992 the last lighthouse keeper moved in. Having served for five years, he later published a book on the lighthouse and its keepers in 2003.



The climb to the Mesa Roldán is an experience with something for everyone, from those with the most generic or local interests, especially landscapes, to the most specialised of experts, in geology or interpretation of different traces that explain the formation of the modern relief, both historical and cultural, because there is no shortage of interesting heritage elements along the way. Visitors attracted by the vitality of nature in all its possible manifestations won't be disappointed either, as the territory is noted for its biodiversity.

Trail

Mesa Roldán



A AGUA AMARGA

A CARBONERAS

Punto de información Los Muertos

Punta de los Muertos

MAR MEDITERRÁNEO

Cala castillo

Mesa Roldán

Faro de Mesa Roldán

Torreón de Mesa Roldán

73 m

91 m

91 m

94 m

225 m

207 m

211 m

189 m

189 m

AL-5106



Mesa Roldán Trail	Landmark (see text)
Road	Information point
Path	Parking
Electricity line	Tower
	Interpretive panel