

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. 950 160 435
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



Loma Pelada



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)

5,9 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

2 hour and 30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Path or track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Abrupt coastal strip of volcanic origin skirting volcanic domes, dominated by cliffs and ravines. Small coves, with or without beaches, distributed irregularly along the coast. Scant vegetation with colourful autochthonous (dwarf palm, *Periploca angustifolia*, acacias) or introduced (agave, prickly pear) bush species dotting the land. Historic military construction and coastal settlements linked to the fishing industry.

• SHADE

Little or none

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Almería / Níjar

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1060 - El Pozo de los Frailes

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 47' 34,14"N – 2° 3' 50,25"W

36° 45' 57,35"N – 2° 5' 34,85"W



HOW TO GET THERE

Los Escullos is reached on the AL4200, taking a short exit between Rodalquilar and Pozo de los which we follow south for a kilometre from the village where the trail begins.



PARKING

There is a carpark with some 20 places at the start of the trail. There are also parking spaces at the end of the trail, at Higuera cove.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

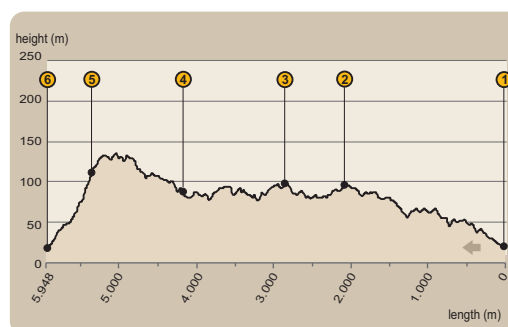
The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA - Alsina Graells (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es), Autocares Bernardo (tel. 950 25 04 22; www.autocaresbernardo.com) y Frahemar (tel. 950 26 64 11; www.frahemar.com).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has an extensive offering of signposted trails. Nearby trails include Escullos - Pozo de Los Frailes, Escullos - Isleta del Moro and Los Genoveses.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

120 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

136 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

16 m

MARINE RESERVES

The Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park was pioneering in its status as a protected marine and terrestrial space and the close relation established between the ecosystems on one side or the other of the diffuse shoreline. The natural park was declared in 1987 and eight years later the Spanish Government created a marine reserve for the protection of fishing resources, which extends along a stretch of coastline of 45 km between Carboneras and the tip of Cabo de Gata. Other international instruments of protection (Biosphere Reserve or Special Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)) were subsequently used to ensure protection of the surface of the coast, waters and the sea bed.



These sea beds alternate between rocky and sandy surfaces and are home to a number of communities of plants animals that might surprises visitors. Within the natural park there are more than a thousand on land and a similar number in the sea, including oceanic *Posidonia*, a plant that forms meadows that attract special ecological attention. In terms of the fauna, we must underline the presence of representatives of most of the marine invertebrate groups (sea sponges, polychaete worms, molluscs, etc.) and the presence among vertebrates of species as valued like the loggerhead turtle, several types of dolphins and pilot whales and even the common fin whale. Up to the 1970s the area resisted as one the last stronghold of the monk seal.



Los Escullos

We start the trail a kilometre south of Los Escullos, on the continuation of the road leading to the village from the AL-4200 (see [1] on the map).

Some two hundred metres from the coast, at the height of Cala Cortada, we advance parallel to the road, approaching the hill of Los Frailes, which we see rise ahead of us. At its 492 metres - one of the highest peaks of the natural park - it was formed by volcanic eruptions that make up the space. The humidity of the nearby sea helps maintain a relatively abundant vegetation of palm bush, *Periploca angustifolia*, bufalaga, spiny cocklebur and pink flabellina among other plants.



There is also an informative panel on the marine reserves created in the area and the landmarks of the rock visible from sea. After a kilometre, we walk between two small hills along the large collar [2], offering interesting views. It takes us from Cala Chica to Cala Grande. At the end of this path, we head a little further inland, at the height of Punta de Loma Pelada, to cross the Tollo ravine.

Cala Tomate

A little further on we encounter a quarry, with its bright and striking colours thanks to the material extracted, bentonite, which is a very fine clay formed by the alteration of the volcanic ash and which has many industrial uses.

Leaving the quarry behind we reach the Casa del Tomate [3], the ruins of an old Guardia Civil barracks. After taking a look, we continue on the path to the sea at Punta de la Hoya de la Torre until we reach a natural viewpoint of great beauty. It's quite normal for there to be rocks and debris to fall along the coastal sides, making it tough for plants to survive.



We return to our winding track over the materials that reveal, one way or another, the volcanic origin of the landscape. After a little more than a kilometre we reach the Cala Tomate ravine [4]. On our right are the remains of an old cobble quarry, which took advantage of the columnar disjunctions formed when the basalt material cooled.

Cala Higuera

After passing through this area of geological interest, we reach the Cerro Higuera and the trail continues, skirting the hill. We see that it is topped with a watchtower, dominating the spectacular rocks which we can see on the right from the trail, carefully looking out from the natural viewpoint on our left. We return to the train to continue through these beautiful surroundings, on the cliff's edge.



When the trail reaches the top of the hill and curves to round it [5] there is another viewpoint, located on at the highest point of the trail and offering views of San José, the Morrón de los Genoveses and Cala Higuera below. We enjoy the landscape and, after taking a breath, begin the descent towards the path [6] at Cala Higuera, also a perfect sport for enjoying the water and the views.

This simple and comfortable route is an opportunity to discover places and landscapes that are very representative of the Cabo de Gata- Níjar National Park. The trail sets off from the Castle of San Felipe, one of the last coastal defensive structure built in the 18th century.

There are different samples of the rich cultural and natural heritage of the area, making up attractive coastal landscapes that reveal the evolution of life forms and the exploitation of the natural resources over the years.



Trail

Loma Pelada

- Loma Pelada Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path
- Electricity line
- Landmark (see text)
- Information point
- Parking
- Tower
- Church
- Viewpoint