

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

ALMERÍA



Río Alías



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

Circular

LENGTH

4,2 km

ESTIMATED TIME

2 hours

DIFFICULTY

Low

TYPE OF TRAIL

Path, track or trail

LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Course of the walk over relatively bumpy terrain, with moderate gradients and height. Channel encased between rocky outcrops. Abundant vegetation in the bed formed by reeds, rushes, stalks and oleander with scan vegetation in the arid areas with some dwarf palm shrubs, esparto grass, Anthyllis cytisoides, Periploca angustifolia and other bush species autochthonous to the region as well as some introduced such as agave and prickly pear. Traditional crops and building.

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° 59' 40,21"N – 1° 58' 30,17"O

36° 59' 40,21"N – 1° 58' 30,17"O



HOW TO GET THERE

From Carboneras, take the N-341 eastwards. After 7 km we take a right towards El Argamasón. Before reaching the village there is a bridge over the River Alías and two hundred metres before that there is a road down to the river where our trail begins.



PARKING

There is no parking available at the start of the trail.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

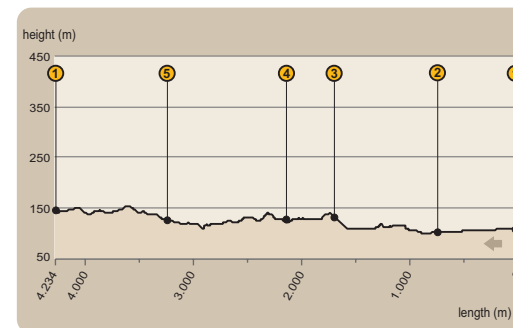
The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are ALSA - Alsina Graells (tel. 902 42 22 42; www.alsa.es), Autocares Bernardo (tel. 950 25 04 22; www.autocaresbernardo.com) and Frahemar (tel. 950 26 64 11; www.frahemar.com).



OTHER TRAILS

The natural park has an extensive offering of signposted trails. Nearby trails included the Lucainena to Agua Amarga Greenway, and San Pedro - El Plomo -Agua Amarga.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

53 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

154 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

101 m

RIVER OR RAMBLA?

The arid and dry climate of the south-eastern corner of the Iberian Peninsula doesn't gift the area with rivers in the strictest sense, or even streams or continuous currents of water that remain dry during certain times of year. The ramblas or ravines are the area's drainage system where water only runs during rain with flows directly proportional to the rain.

As we know, rain is infrequent but torrential downpours are common, causing major flows in the *ramblas*, aided by the lack of any vegetation capable of retaining water. The broad beds of the *ramblas* are flooded with surging waters that will take wash away anything built there on the basis of the false stability of the climate.



The River Alías, which enters the sea at Algarrabico beach, is the most important water course in the Natural Park, but by no means in exception in local area's hydrogeography. While there is almost permanently water running along the bed and this is sufficient reason for it to be considered a river in the toponymy, but perhaps it shouldn't be considered such if applying strict hydrographic criteria. In fact, the riverbed and its morphology are very similar to some *ramblas*, with the specific feature of more abundant and leafy vegetation.



The River Alías is the most important water course in the natural park, the only one called a river, because its waters are almost permanent. The rest are ramblas or ravines where waters only flow on rare occasions when it rains.

The trail runs along of the most interesting sections of the riverbank, with areas in which the riverbed widens as is frequently the case of the ramblas, and other areas where it takes the form of a gorge. The unusual vegetation and refuges that offer the rocks are home to an abundance of animal life.

El Argamasón

The trail begins by the bridge over the River Alías of on the road that leads to El Argamasón from the N-341, a half kilometre from the village. Two hundred metres from the bridge, there is crossroads where we turn right for the descent to the river which is some hundred metres away. From here (see [1] on the map) we head in the opposite direction to the flow of the river, towards, the bridge, and we pass under.



From the outset, visitors will notice the uniqueness of the area with respect to the environment it finds itself in. The River Alías and its broad, irregular flow, also boasts a vegetation that could be described, without exaggeration, as exuberant. Reeds, tamarisk, oleanders, reeds, rushes and many other plants form a leafy backdrop that attracts and shelters a variety of animal life.

We can safely assume that we won't always find the same flow of water. Over the year it varies between startling maximums and minimums that make one wonder if it really does have a permanent flow. The stony bed means the water can be hidden and in the dry season there are only discontinuous trickles visible.

A refuge for fauna

We continue south-easterly along the river, some two hundred metres past Argamasón. A little further on, on our left we find a scarp formed by river itself [2]. The vertical surfaces attract many birds, including raptors like sparrow hawks and harriers. The surrounding pools are also a refuge for fauna, in this case amphibians, reptiles and insects like dragonflies.



Alongside the next meander we pass the old Abajo mill on the left. Continuing to the north-west we soon reach the area in which the river narrows [3] and our route leaves channel for the upper part of the scarp. The exposed surface bear witness to the many geological processes that have moulded these landscapes through the ages. The yellowish deposits or loam were formed in a deep-sea environment; the calcarenites in a shallower environment and the conglomerate in coastal areas. Around the Abajo mill we find the geological feature Megartesas del Argamasón, a curious formation of strata on the sides of the channel.

Mills

The rambla's channel opens up again and we descend to the same level. We soon find an ideal spot to cross it [4]. On the right bank we double back on the route taken, rising to the higher ground of the scarp and heading for the mill we saw from the other side, past a small olive grove.

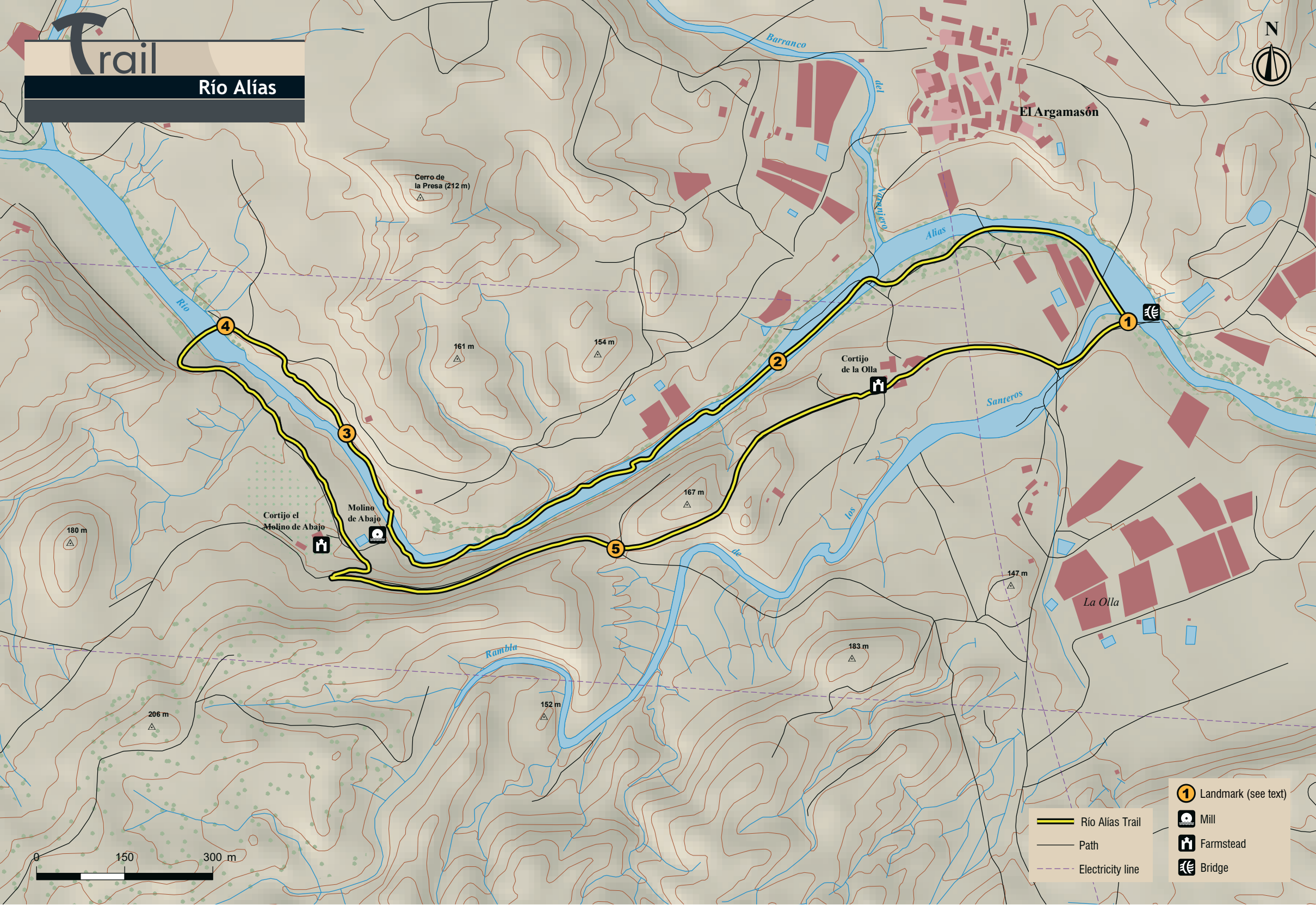


A little further on from the spot where we crossed the rambla is another mill, sensibly enough called the Arriba (Upper) mill, some eight hundred metres from the Abajo (Lower) mills. Both remain standing although their waterwheels haven't turned in some time. There are also a number of different devices and works that were essential to their operation.



We turn back along a track that runs between the river and the Santeros rambla. We stay on the river side as we pass a fork in the road [5].

After six hundred metres we find ourselves beside the Olla farmstead and an asphalted section of path that takes us back to our starting point.



Cerro de la Presa (212 m)

161 m

154 m

167 m

180 m

Cortijo el Molino de Abajo

Molino de Abajo

5

Cortijo de la Olla

Santeros

147 m

La Olla

Los

183 m

Ramba

152 m

Barranco

del

Alías

206 m

150

300 m

- Río Alías Trail
- Path
- Electricity line
- Landmark (see text)
- Mill
- Farmstead
- Bridge