

## 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
- Plant collecting is not allowed

Emergency phone: 112



CÁDIZ  
MÁLAGA  
PARQUE NATURAL  
Sierra de  
Grazalema

## MORE INFORMATION

El Bosque Visitors' Centre. Federico García Lorca nº 1.  
El Bosque. Cádiz. Tel. 956 70 97 33.  
ventanadelvisitante.

© / Dirección / Coordinación: Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible / Agencia de Medio Ambiente y Agua de Andalucía. Realización e imágenes: Grupo Entorno, Federación Andaluza de Montañismo, CAGPYDS archive and Javier Andraed



CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL  
Sierra de  
Grazalema



Río Majaceite



## OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



### • ROUTE

Linear

### • LENGTH (OUTWARD)

5,3 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

2 hours

### • DIFFICULTY

Low

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Trail with earth path or stones.

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Gentle descent on the riverbank between riverside forests. Starting point at Breña del Agua, Eco-Museum of Water and fish farms. Remains of mills, fulling mills, weir and old hydroelectric station.

### • SHADE

Plentiful

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. During periods of heavy rain, there may be some mudslides of stones from the sides of the trail, as the material can break up easily.

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / El Bosque and Grazalema

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1050 - Ubrique

### • START / END COORDINATES

36° 46' 3,61"N – 5° 27' 45,33"W  
36° 45' 42,02"N – 5° 30' 28,71"W



## HOW TO GET THERE

The trail begins in the north-eastern part of Benamahoma, the lowest part of the village. Beside Venta El Bujío. Can be accessed via Calle La Cuesta de la Venta



## PARKING

There is a car park at the start of the trail in Benamahoma, and in El Bosque at the El Bosque Visitors' Centre.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

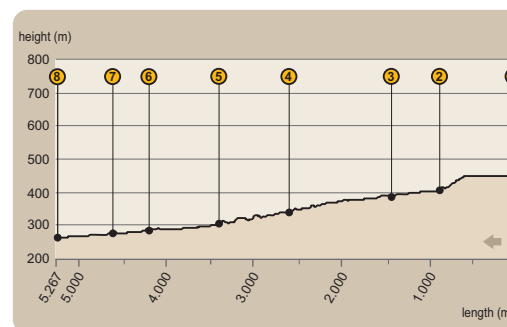
The main companies running regular bus routes in the area are Los Amarillos (tel. 902 21 03 17) and Transportes Generales Comes S.A. (tel. 902 19 92 08). The nearest train stations are in Cortes de la Frontera, Jimera de Líbar, Benaoján and Ronda (check services and timetables at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) or by telephone on 902 24 02 02).



## OTHER TRAILS

The El Pinsapar trail ends at the Eco-Museum of Water From Benamahoma starts from the Arroyo del Descansadero.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

185 m

### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

450 m

### • MINIMUM HEIGHT

265 m

## THE ECO-MUSEUM OF WATER

The Eco-Museum of Water is housed in the old *Los Capitalistas* or *El Nacimiento* Mill, the Eco-Museum of Water offers the opportunity to discover the ingenious machinery that made milling possible at the many mills in this area of the Sierra.

It harvested the flow from the source of the *Breña del Agua* or *Nacimiento*, the bed of which drops more than twenty metres on a hundred-metre long stretch, sharing the flow with an old fulling mill located where we today find a fish farm, starting at the the channel water. In the upper part of the building's exterior, we can see how the water was channelled through an irrigation canal called a *cao* to the cistern (external deposit, in the form of a well with a narrow outlet opening). From there, through a network of keys and pulleys actioned from within, the pressure of the water jets forced the blades of the mill wheel (*rodenco*) to turn, housed in the vault of the lower part of the mill (*cárcavos*) from where it was returned to its source.



The rotation of the wheels transmitted the motion to the interior of the room, to an axis from which the millstone (*volandera*) was suspended, which, using friction with another fixed stone, ground the grain added from a wooden hopper that can be observed in the milling room.

The proximity of the water allowed this activity to be combined with the cultivation of vegetables and keeping domestic animals for self-sufficiency. All of this mean that the miller was truly multi-skilled. As well as the work of carving millstones and the maintenance of the rest of the machinery, they also performed wood and metal repairs, produced bread and grew vegetables.





## Trail Río Majaceite

### Mills, caos and batanes

We begin the trail alongside the Venta El Bujío, where after crossing a wooden bridge we are met with the sound and burst of fresh air from the river that runs alongside us over the course of the route. This river is also known as El Bosque river.



The Majaceite begins near the Eco-Museum of Water, the Benamahoma mill (see [1] on the map) at Nacimiento de Benamahoma and benefits from the waters from the Breña del Agua and Pinar streams. Alongside the Eco-Museum there was once an old fulling mill where wool was treated and woven, producing the famed Grazalema blankets. Today, it is the site of a fish farm for breeding trout.



*The Majaceite is the most southerly trout river in Europe.*

It was the water, constant all year round, that allowed the machinery of the fulling mill and flour mill to function. Today, that water offers us fresh air and a riverside forest as we gradually make our way on the trail.

After crossing the bridge [2], the Majaceite accepts the waters of the Descansadero stream. The trails takes us past another fulling mill [3], and not much further, an old mill that still houses the original millstone used to grind the grain.



### Through the gallery forest

We soon encounter a gallery forest, we find ourselves within a gallery forest, so called because it grows on both sides of the river, rising above and meeting to form a fresh tunnel of vegetation of great beauty. The poplars, willows, oleanders, sarsaparilla, rosebushes, brambles and honeysuckle compete for space to make the riverbanks impenetrable and providing a safe refuge for the abundance of fauna it is home to. In the water we see barbels, trout, water snakes and, if we're lucky, may catch a rare sight of the elusive and wary otter, the true star of the river life.



*Over the course of the route we can see and hear many birds such as the oriole in spring and summer; the common blackbird, grey wagtail, blackcap, European robin and hear the powerful song of the nightingale all year round. If we're lucky we may even catch a glimpse of a kingfisher.*

The trail winds between the mountains of the Sierra del Albarracín (997 m) on the left and the Sierra del Labradillo (1,109 m) on the right, where we where we can make out a scree [4] and a canal halfway up the bank where the waters were held back by a dam. From here, the water runs through a metal pipe with the falls harnessed to produce electricity at the hydroelectric station we encounter along the trail [5]. The station ceased operating in the year 1963.

### Among the mills of El Bosque

From the Hydroelectric Station, the trail connects with another path that leads to the botanic garden of El Castillejo where all the flora of the nature park is represented. Meanwhile, we continue along the path, following the course of the river, entering a plain as the thick vegetation gives way to fields of crops although some elm and ash trees remain along the banks.



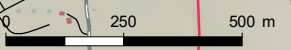
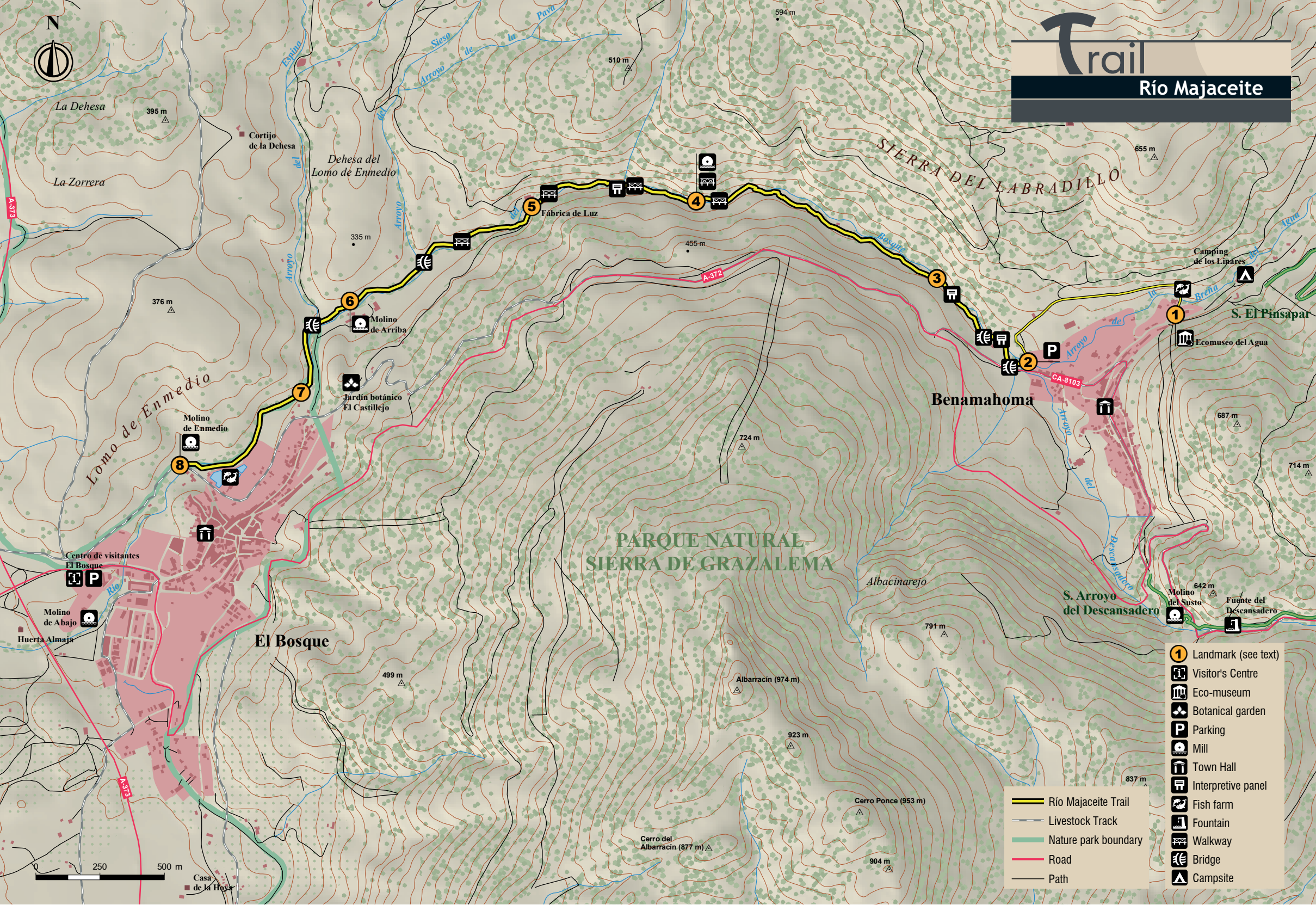
On the left bank, a large house comes into view; the Arriba Mill [6]. As the river vegetation clears we can observe the dehasas, olive groves planted on the right bank and orchards on the left. We pass a zúa [7] that still fulfils its function as a reservoir of water, directed through canals (caos) to the fulling mills and flour mills to harness its powerful force.

The houses soon appear more frequently, indicating our arrival in the village. Another trout fish farm welcomes us to El Boque. At the end of the trail we reach the old mill of Molino de Enmedio, today a hostel [8]. There is also a third mill and the only one featuring a working mechanism and open for visits; the Molino de Abajo, located just off the route.



# Trail

## Río Majaceite



- Landmark (see text)
- Visitor's Centre
- Eco-museum
- Botanical garden
- Parking
- Mill
- Town Hall
- Interpretive panel
- Fish farm
- Fountain
- Walkway
- Bridge
- Campsite

- Río Majaceite Trail
- Livestock Track
- Nature park boundary
- Road
- Path

### PARQUE NATURAL SIERRA DE GRAZALEMA

Benamahoma

El Bosque

S. Arroyo del Descansadero

SIERRA DEL LABRADILLO

La Dehesa

La Zorrera

Dehesa del Lomo de Enmedio

Lomo de Enmedio

Centro de visitantes El Bosque

Molino de Abajo

Huerta Almaja

Molino de Enmedio

Molino de Arriba

Jardín botánico El Castillejo

Fábrica de Luz

Camping de los Lináres

S. El Pisuerga

Ecomuseo del Agua

Molino del Susto

Fuente del Descansadero

Albacinarejo

Albarracín (974 m)

923 m

Cerro Ponce (953 m)

Cerro del Albarracín (877 m)

904 m

837 m

791 m

724 m

455 m

335 m

376 m

395 m

510 m

594 m

655 m

687 m

714 m

Casa de la Hoya