

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



ALMERÍA

PARAJE NATURAL
Karst en Yesos
de Sorbas

MORE INFORMATION

Almería Territorial Delegation Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development.

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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Circular

• LENGTH

4,7 km

• ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour and 30 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track and Path

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Some carob trees at the start of the trail and the ruins of the Marchalico Viñicas farmstead in the background. The trail climbs up the plateau where there are some old areas for crops and crosses the plateau before descending and the valley area comes into view.

• SHADE

None

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Almería / Sorbas

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1031 - Sorbas

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 6' 29,44" N - 2° 2' 25,52" O

37° 6' 29,4" N - 2° 2' 25,27" O



HOW TO GET THERE

Drive by the A-7 in the direction of Murcia, taking the La Herrería exit, in the municipality of Sorbas, and then take the roundabout and drive under the highway as if you were driving back to Almería. A little before arriving, take the service road that goes uphill. After approximately 1 km, by the Marchalico Viñicas farmstead (cortijo) stands the trail start panel.



PARKING

There is car park at the start of the trail and there are also parking places nearby.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

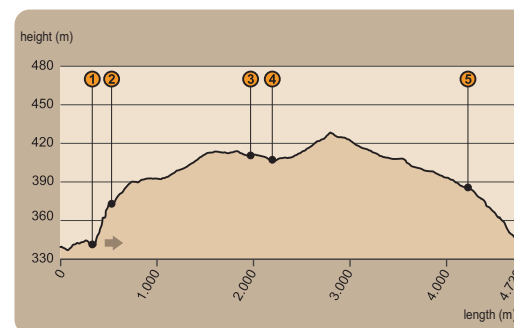
There is no public transport to this area.



OTHER TRAILS

There is no nearby route of the Regional Ministry.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

91 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

424 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

333 m



MARCHALICO VIÑICAS FARMSTEAD

This small settlement, which belonged to the municipality of Sorbas, lost its population due to the hard living conditions. Originally, the town was divided into two neighbourhoods, and between them stood the washhouses, next to the Cueva del Agua spring. At its heyday, the farmstead was home to twenty inhabitants, but in the 1950s and 1960s they had to leave and look for a better life elsewhere.

The few children living in the farmstead had to walk every day to and back from the school at Las Herrerías. Water was also a problem. Although there is a spring in Cueva del Agua, water from this spring was not drinkable due to its high content of dissolved salts. Water had to be brought from La Umbría on horseback.

The last family left the farmstead in 1969 for the nearby hamlet of La Huelga. Since then, the farmstead has been abandoned.

ALMERÍA



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARAJE NATURAL
Karst en Yesos
de Sorbas

Trail

Los Yesares



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



Marchalico Viñicas. Cueva del Agua

This trail starts at the entrance of the today ruined farmstead (*cortijo*) of Marchalico Viñicas, where there is a lovely view over the Aguas River valley. The trail runs along the ruined streets, which were built in gypsum blocks and mortar, using the gypsum prevalent in the area. The farmstead is divided into two neighbourhoods, built around the Cueva del Agua spring (see [1] on map) and the old washhouses. Walk up over gypsum crystals up to the end of the estate at the threshing floor. At your back, the Aguas River forms a wide valley in which the La Herrería hamlet stands out.



The rough gypsum retaining walls marked what used to be the crop fields

You will then arrive to a large plain, just above the Marchalico Viñicas farmstead, where the areas in which subsistence dry farming based on cereal, carobs, olives, and almonds, was practised. The path runs along the retaining walls, built in dry masonry with gypsum blocks, marks the old crop fields [2] today rewilded by weeds.



Plain in which ancient inhabitants practised subsistence dry farming

Tumulus and sinkholes

Afterwards, the trail runs across a dense esparto grass field featuring some of the vegetable species typical of gypsum-rich soils, such as yellow rockrose, winter thyme, gypsophila, *Coris monspeliensis*, etc. The soil becomes richer in gypsum and the esparto fields gives way to open thyme fields in which layers of moss and lichens of great ecological interest show growing in the clearings close to the substrate. As



the trail goes on, mineral elements dominate the landscape and abundant sinkholes appear. These sinkholes are small depressions in the

ground in which rainwater penetrates and runs down to deeper levels by means of a maze of underground galleries [3]. Besides, other characteristic geological elements are tumulus, which were first described for the benefit of the scientific community in this landscape.



Un túmulo, elemento singular y único de este paisaje

You will also be able to spot the entrance to different pit caves, such as the one though which you will access the Cueva del Agua, which forms a large complex over 8 km long which is still expanding today, or the Lapiaces, by means of which surface waters are filtered down to the depths of the earth. All these geological forms are explained in an interpretive panel [4].

A view over the valley of the Aguas River

The trail leads to a wider path appropriate for vehicles; at this point, turn right. To the left you will find a wire fence that marks the perimeter of the gypsum quarry, and to the right, the signposts that mark the limits of the Natural Landscape. The path goes gradually down and allows to appreciate the shape of the valley of the Aguas River down to its outlet in the Mojácar River [5]. Continuing along this same path, you will find the end of the trail, which is at the same point as the start, it being a circular trail.



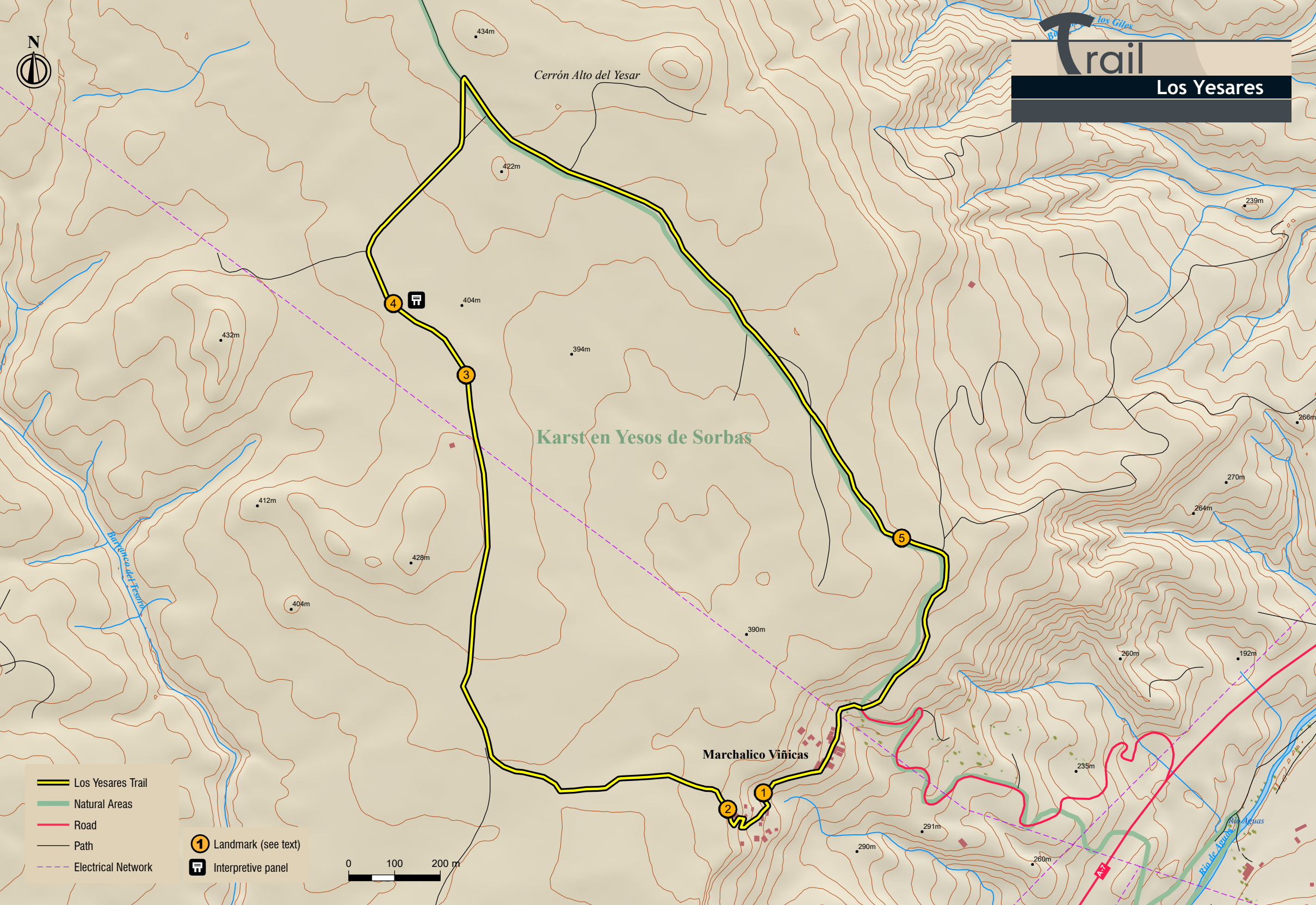
This is a circular trail with a high ecological and botanical value due to the many singular elements it contains. It starts at the abandoned Marchalico Viñicas farmstead and climbs to a plain across which most of the trail runs. There, you may observe certain geological interesting traits and species of plants adapted to gypsum-rich environments. On the way back you will be able to spot the basing of the Aguas River and the helmet of La Herrería.

The ideal seasons for this trek are spring, autumn and winter.



Trail

Los Yesares



- Los Yesares Trail
- Natural Areas
- Road
- Path
- Electrical Network

- 1** Landmark (see text)
- IP** Interpretive panel

