

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
Los Alcornocales

MORE INFORMATION

Natural Park Office Los Alcornocales
Pza. San Jorge n.º 1. Alcalá de los Gazules. Cádiz. Tel: 956 41 86 01
Huerta Grande Visitor's Centre
Ctra. N-340 km 96. El Pelayo. Algeciras. Cádiz. Tel. 956 67 91 61
ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



NATURA 2000



Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura
Red Española de Reservas de Biosfera

• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

6,1 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

2 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Ancient Roman road. Cobbled path. Road section

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Views of the medieval fortress. Outlying mountain foothills of the Campo de Gibraltar, with large reservoirs and open views towards the Bay of Algeciras and the Mediterranean sea. Remarkable vegetation cover.

• SHADE

Scant

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Castellar de la Frontera

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1075 - San Roque

• HOW TO GET THERE

36° 18' 39,96"N – 5° 27' 20,57"O

36° 19' 17,61"N – 5° 27' 17,12"O



HOW TO GET THERE

To Castellar de la Frontera on the A-405 (San Roque-Jimena de la Frontera). From there, take the CA-9201, in the direction of the castle, leaving the Venta La Jarandilla on your right, the starting point of the trail.



PARKING

There is car park at the start of the trail and there are also places nearby to leave your vehicle. Venta La Jarandilla is an option to consider.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

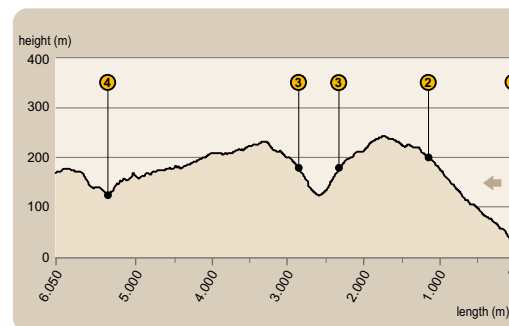
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Transportes Comes (tel. 902 19 92 08; www.tgcomes.es). The nearest train station is in Jimena de la Frontera (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 902 24 02 02)



OTHER TRAILS

The trail coincides for a large part of its route with the GR-7 Long-distance trail, which links Tarifa with Andorra, and continues on to the Greek Peloponnese. From Castellar it continues towards Jimena de la Frontera and Ubrique to the north, and towards Los Barrios and Tarifa to the south.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

220 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

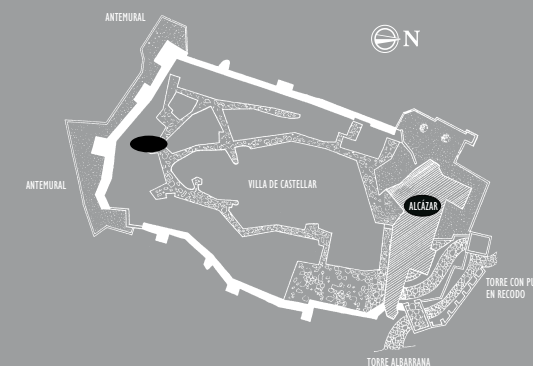
244 m

• MINIMUM HEIGHT

24 m

STROLLING THE FORTRESS

Castellar was one of the links in the chain of fortresses of the Nasrid kingdom, visually linking the Tower of Palmones with the Bay of Algeciras to the south, and to the north with Jimena de la Frontera. Its construction dates back to the 13th and 14th centuries, with a structure and details in the towers and gates characteristic of the Kingdom of Granada. Later, in the Christian period, from the 15th to the 17th centuries, it had a wall, towers and the palace-fortress. The enclosure is partly crenellated and protected by towers and barbicans (front walls). Once inside the fortified enclosure, we can observe narrow streets, houses with one or two gabled Arabic tiles, white walls, wooden doors and windows protected by portholes and simple wrought iron grilles.



A walk through it is more than just a lesson in medieval defensive architecture; it is to remind an era and a history in a harmonious setting, maintained by the effort and initiative of its unyielding inhabitants and their unwavering will to keep it alive.

The complex, declared a Historic-Artistic Monument in 1963 and which today forms part of the General Catalogue of Andalusian Historical Heritage, houses inns and restaurants where we can stop our visit.



PARQUE NATURAL
Los Alcornocales



La Calzada Dehesa Boyal



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



Trail

La Calzada Dehesa Boyal

Ancient echoes

After passing the inn and on the right side of the road (check [1] on the map), this cobbled path emerges, probably a Roman road laid over a previous path.

This section is one of the best preserved in the area. The locals used it regularly, and it remained in perfect condition until the population moved further downstream, due to the construction of the reservoir, and Castellar Nuevo was founded in 1971.



During our tour we will often observe the flight of one of the several birds of prey that live in this area. The altitude of this mountain range and the ancient fortress are strategic conditions for the construction of nests and shelters, from which to launch themselves into the overflight of their hunting grounds. Some of them, such as the kestrel, take advantage of the hollows in the walls, towers or façades of the medieval complex of the old Castellar de la Frontera.

We will stop at the viewpoint over the causeway [2], where we will understand the reason for the strategic location of the castle and its fortress, overlooking the waters of River Guadarranque and River Guadiaro, in a rugged territory where the Christian-Muslim border was stabilised for several centuries.



Always reaching better views

The sweeping views of the Gibraltar countryside, with Castellar Nuevo and its immense municipal area, one of the largest in the province because it includes the old La Almoraima estate, are truly spectacular. To the west, on the other side, the silhouette of the castle stands out and accompanies us during the climb.

The trail now runs parallel to the road until it reaches the information point of the natural park, located outside the walls. From here, access to the medieval enclosure is through the gateway in a bend, watched over by the watchtower and the Alcázar del Conde, the main defensive redoubt.



The origin of the Fuente Vieja seems to be linked to the time of the construction of the fortress. With a solid stone structure, a staircase leading to the spring is located under its barrel vault. Its access is narrow to prevent access by animals, thus avoiding pollution of water.

Just outside the villa-fortress there is a signposted path that runs along its northern and western façades, leading to the Fuente Vieja [3].



Even further back in time

In the vicinity of the castle we will be able to see anthropomorphic tombs [4] from the pre-Roman period, carved in the rock. To get there, after about 1,500 metres, we must follow the road northwards, towards Puerto del Cardo, until we come to the relevant signpost. The route is now circular, always starting and finishing on the CA-0527 road.



Due to the relative ease of modelling of the sandstone, this type of deposit is frequent in the natural park. They used to be placed in prominent and slightly inclined locations, allowing the head to be higher than the feet, to give the impression of dominating the surrounding space.

However, if we want to walk further, we could go through the municipalities of Tarifa, Los Barrios, Castellar and Jimena de la Frontera; or much further, through the natural parks of El Estrecho, Los Alcornocales and Sierra de Grazalema; or even much, much further, through the entire GR-7, which joins, after more than ten thousand kilometres, Tarifa with Greece, and since 2006, the two continents.

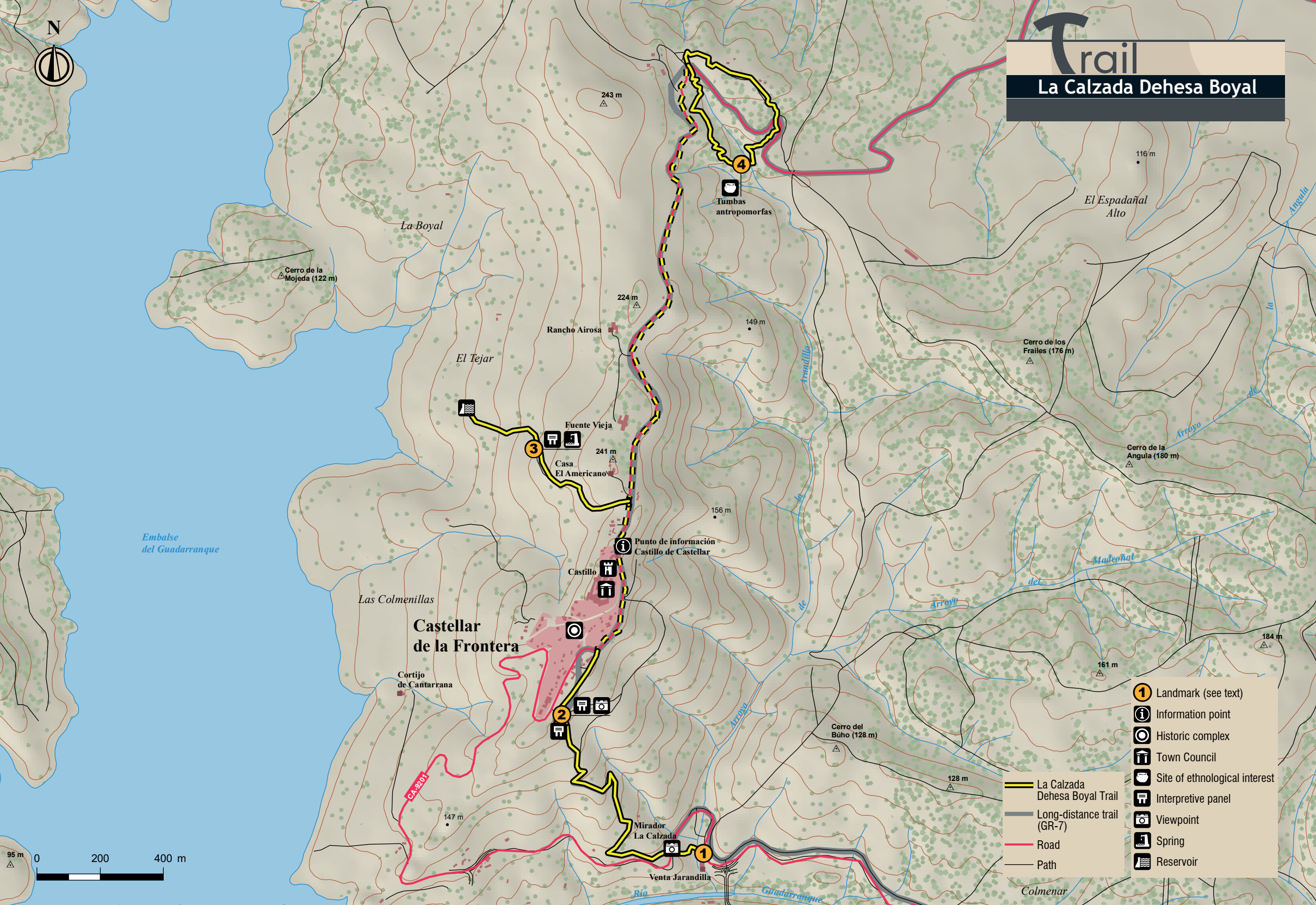
This trail, which is barely 2,600 metres long, takes us along an ancient Roman road to the top of the medieval fortress of Castellar de la Frontera, and its nearby archaeological site, always with wide views over the rugged countryside, between valleys and cork oak forests that have always been really relevant in this area.

It is a small part of a Great International Trail, the GR-7, which starts in Tarifa and goes all the way to the Greek Peloponnese and even to the other side of Africa.

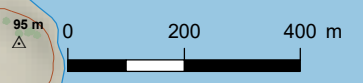


Trail

La Calzada Dehesa Boyal



Embalse del Guadarranque



- Landmark (see text)
- Information point
- Historic complex
- Town Council
- Site of ethnological interest
- Interpretive panel
- Viewpoint
- Spring
- Reservoir

- La Calzada Dehesa Boyal Trail
- Long-distance trail (GR-7)
- Road
- Path

Castellar de la Frontera

Venta Jarandilla

Colmenar