

## 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



Plant collecting is not allowed



Open camping is not permitted



Dogs must not be kept loose

Emergency phone: 112



CÁDIZ

PARQUE NATURAL  
Bahía de Cádiz

## MORE INFORMATION

Bahía de Cádiz Natural Park Visitor's Centre.

Carretera de la Playa de Camposoto. Antigua Salina de La Leocadia. San Fernando. Cádiz. Tel. 956 24 34 74.

ventanadelvisitante.



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL  
Bahía de Cádiz

CÁDIZ

Trail

Punta del Boquerón



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

## OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



### • ROUTE

Linear

### • LENGTH (OUTWARD)

2,6 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

45 minutes

### • DIFFICULTY

Low

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Path with sandy surface, equipped with footbridges in some sections.

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

End of a sandy arrow between the marshes of the Sancti-Petri channel and the Camposoto dune system. Vegetation conditioned by soils, climate and tides. Remnants of batteries and bunkers. Panoramic views of the islet.

### • SHADE

Little or none

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / San Fernando

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1068 - San Fernando

### • START / END COORDINATES

36° 25' 05,92"N – 6° 13' 26,73"W

36° 23' 57,18"N – 6° 12' 43,90"W



## HOW TO GET THERE

From San Fernando, take the road to Camposoto beach. At the end of the road the trail begins.



## PARKING

There is a car park with some 30 places at the start of the trail.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

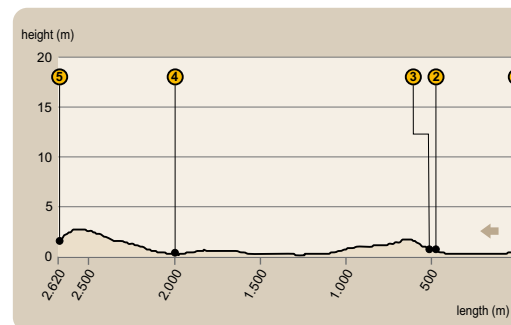
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Transportes Comes (tel. 902 19 92 08; [www.tgcomes.es](http://www.tgcomes.es)). The Consorcio de Transportes Bahía de Cádiz can also be found therein (tel. 902 45 05 50; [www.cmtbc.es](http://www.cmtbc.es)). The nearest railway stop is the Valdelagrana halt (consult services and timetables at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) or on tel. 902 24 02 02).



## OTHER TRAILS

From San Fernando there are two other trails of great interest: the Salina de Tres Amigos - Río Arillo and the Salina Dolores.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

3 m

### • MAXIMUM HEIGHT

3 m

### • MINIMUM HEIGHT

0 m

## TEMPLE OF HERCULES

The so-called castle of Sancti Petri sits on an islet that was once connected to the coast by a road of which some traces remain. According to Roman geographers, it was the site of the temple of Hercules, a mythical sanctuary that guarded the buried remains of this hero. In search of its protection, figures such as Hannibal or Julius Caesar would have visited this place, and made offerings to the fire, permanently maintained by the priests devoted to its cult.

Other sources place an even more remote origin: the temple was erected by the Phoenicians during the Trojan War (12th century BC) in honour of the god Melkart, and its position, at the entrance to the estuary formed by the Sancti Petri channel, would have favoured the sailors who sailed these waters to offer their sacrifices, thus causing its continued use.

From the 1st century BC onwards, detailed descriptions of this building, the rituals performed there and its ornate decoration, including the reproduction of the famous labours of Hercules, have survived to the present day. It was also valued for the existence of freshwater wells in its interior.

Its abandonment since the Visigothic period, the destructive action of the sea and the successive pirate attacks and bombardments during the French invasion, led to the virtual ruin of the defensive bastion built on the site of the church between the 16th and 18th centuries, including the lighthouse.

It has been declared a site of cultural interest and is in a good state of conservation.







## Punta del Boquerón

### Riding through the dunes

Our route starts at the end of the Camposto beach road, in San Fernando (check [1] on the map). Once we have passed the beach access bridge, we must follow the wooden walkway, which allows us to move quickly over the sand. To our right there are extensive dune systems [2], in a good state of conservation, on which grow white broom and European beachgrass, species adapted to sandy soils thanks to their long roots.



*The Punta del Boquerón, a natural monument, is a geographic element of high geomorphological and landscape relevance. It constitutes the end of a sandy bar, known as arrow because of the speed with which it grows and evolves*

The dune systems, which are fundamental to the balance of these ecosystems, act as reserves to refill sandy beaches when storms erode them in winter.

To our left, we can observe how the marshland has taken over the old abandoned salt marshes. This is an intermediate space between the land and the sea where a horizontal, flat landscape predominates, subject to the dynamics of the tides, but teeming with life.

In the marshes of the nearby Sancti Petri channel it is easy to see flamingos, herons and a great variety of waders such as sandpipers, plovers, curlews, oystercatchers, avocets, storks, etc.



*Marshlands are one of the most biologically productive ecosystems. It is essential for the reproduction and spawning of fish and invertebrates of the coast: clams, wedge clams, crabs, sea bream, sea bass, mullets, shrimps, etc. It is also important for waders, both for wintering and for raising their chicks*

Vegetation [3] is distributed depending on the degree of soil inundation and their adaptation strategies are subject to extreme conditions such as high salinity, high insolation and strong winds.

### A place that has always been strategic

Just beyond the marshes, we can observe the largest pipe in the Bay of Cádiz, the Sancti Petri, which separates Cádiz from the rest of the continent.

The footbridge can be found intermittently between a very marked path in the sand. After a bend, the path ascends a few metres and we find a panel at a small viewpoint, which tells us about the history of Sancti-Petri Castle [4].

Following the path, we turn away from the coast and head into the dunes. In a short time we reached some ruins. This is the Urrutia battery [5], the architecture of which is abandoned and shrouded in undergrowth.



The battery was responsible for the defence of this important strategic point. It was built during the 18th century to defend the entrance to San Fernando from the sea through the Sancti Petri canyon, together with a string of batteries that extend along the entire length of the canyon.



Our trail ends in this area. Opposite us, on the other side of the river, we see Sancti-Petri, a former tuna fishing village, with its small port full of boats, almost all of which are now sporting boats.



We can return along the same path, or go round the end of Punta del Boquerón to walk along the beach along an unmarked route, as has been the case until now.





## GOLFO DE CÁDIZ

