

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



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

El Aljibe Visitors' Centre

Ctra. CA-2112 Alcalá de los Gazules - Benalup Casas Viejas

Alcalá de los Gazules. Cádiz. Tel. 956 42 05 29

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OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE

Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

10,7 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

3 hours

• DIFFICULTY

Average

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Compacted track or path. Loose materials on the surface.

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Narrow and deep valleys (*canutos*), covered with gallery forests of the laurel forest type. Wide variety of vegetation (honey oaks or rhododendrons). Remains of ancient buildings and an anthropomorphic tomb. Wide panoramic views of the park.

• SHADE

Frequent

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

It is required. Request it from the Natural Park office

• RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Check that the water from fountains is safe to drink. Added difficulty on foggy days. The trail is sometimes closed for selective hunting or controlled hunting.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Alcalá de los Gazules
y Cortes de la Frontera

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1063 San José del Valle

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 31' 45,79"N – 5° 39' 00,69"O
36° 31' 18,90"N – 5° 35' 13,33"O



HOW TO GET THERE

On the A-2304 road (Alcalá de los Gazules-Ubrique) at km 13-14, you will find the El Picacho recreation area, where the trail begins.



PARKING

There is a car park with 40 parking spaces in the Saucedá recreational area and 15 parking spaces in El Picacho recreational area.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

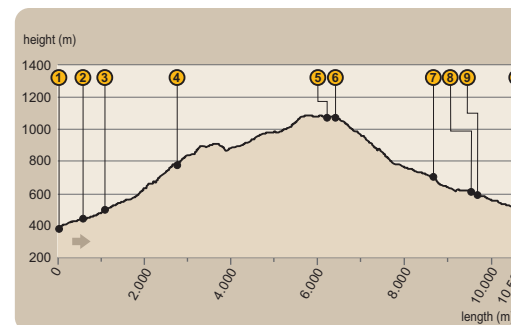
The principal company running regular bus routes in the area is Transportes Comes (tel. 902 19 92 08; www.tgcomes.es). The nearest train station is in Jimena de la Frontera (check services and timetables at www.renfe.es or tel. 902 24 02 02).



OTHER TRAILS

The Laguna del Moral trail starts at the La Saucedá recreational area and the Garganta de Puerto Oscuro trail starts at the El Picacho recreational area.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



• MAXIMUM GRADIENT

690 m

• MAXIMUM HEIGHT

1.080 m

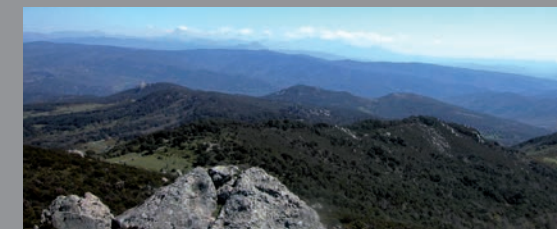
• MINIMUM HEIGHT

390 m



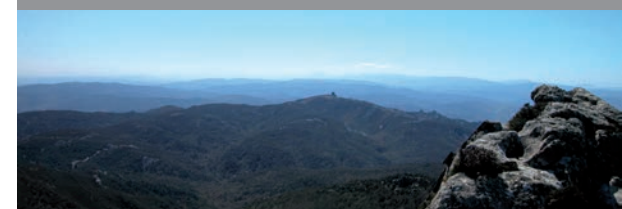
THE SUMMIT OF THE NATURAL PARK

The crossing of the Sierra del Aljibe mountain range is a journey through a large part of the main essences of the Los Alcornocales Natural Park. From the top, we can observe the distribution of vegetation according to altitude and soil characteristics. The green masses of the steeply descending gorges will attract our attention. These are the *canutos*, a refuge for the species that used to make up the laurel forests, which have now disappeared throughout the continent. From the summit of one of them, Puerto Oscuro, we



can observe the distribution profile of this vegetation: at the top, the resistant scrubland (rockroses and heather), followed by cork oaks and, lower down, gall oaks. Closer to the watercourse, hazelnut, honeysuckle and holly, which precede willows, alders and rhododendrons, providing shade and coolness to mosses, lichens and ferns.

If the abundant fog and strong winds allow us, we will observe the Barbate reservoir, and towns such as Benalup, Medina, Alcalá, Paterna, Arcos, Algar, Prado del Rey, El Bosque and Benaocaz, or the impressive mass of the Sierra del Pinar mountain range with the Torreón and the Salto del Cabrero, and, further away, the foothills of the Sierra de las Nieves.



CÁDIZ-MÁLAGA



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



PARQUE NATURAL
Los Alcornocales

Trail
Travesía del Aljibe



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



Trail

Travesía del Aljibe

A highly enjoyable forest

From the El Picacho recreational area (check [1] on the map) we will ascend to the lagoon of the same name [2]. From the lagoon, after a couple of hundred metres, we will cross the Garganta de Puerto Oscuro path, leaving an old bread oven on our right.



Barely three hundred metres further on, we will have to cross a wooden footbridge [3], and then continue parallel to the river until we reach a forest track that we will also cross to continue the climb that brings us closer to the Picacho.



There are pine trees to our right and a cork oak grove where we can see rhododendron specimens, accompany us during our ascent until we reach the sandstone outcrops that we will border, avoiding climbing directly up the rock.

The end of this climb leads to a pass [4] where you can catch your breath before continuing to ascend for a good stretch towards the summit of Aljibe. To our left the path that after about half a kilometre crowns the Picacho can be found.

Only vultures above us

We walk away from it until we come to a path that runs parallel to a stone wall, which marks the municipal boundaries of Alcalá de los Gazules and Jerez de la Frontera. A short descent through the scrub leads us to a hunting net, an enclosure installed more than a decade ago to favour the regeneration of the vegetation, protecting it from herbivores, the results of which can be seen in the existence of young but vigorous trees.



La Pilita de la Reina, carved into the sandstone, owes its name to legend: Queen Isabella the Catholic used it to take a refreshing and necessary bath during the supervision of the reconquest campaigns of these lands.

Once we have crossed the fence, we will continue ascending in a south-easterly direction until we reach the Aljibe peaks. Previously, we will find a promontory known as Pilita de la Reina [5], especially slippery if the rock is wet, and a foretaste of the highest point of this mountain range (1,092 m), from where the views, in good weather, will allow us to see a good part of this and other nearby natural parks [6].

La Saucedá, the end of the trail

After crossing the municipal boundary with Cortes de la Frontera, marked by a stone wall, a descending path will take us to a forest track, to then enjoy the views of our destination, in La Saucedá. Some waterfalls will slow down the walk, which requires less and less effort.



La Saucedá was a refuge for bandits. The first known of was Pedro Machuca, at the head of three hundred men, in the 16th century. But perhaps the most important event suffered by this village was the bombardment during the Spanish Civil War, the impacts of which can still be seen in the chapel, as it was believed to be a refuge for the Republican resistance.



We will reach the remains of an old mill [7], lost among the rocks, following the path that goes deeper and deeper into the Pasadalallana gorge. Portuguese oaks, willows and cork oaks accompany us to the remains of a hermitage [8]. Along the route we will also have been able to see an evergreen shrub, a true relic of these forests that resisted the change of climate millions of years ago: the rhododendron (etymologically, pink tree), up to four metres high, with purplish, pink or white flowers in bunches between March and May.

We cross the river over a bridge [9] to reach a group of huts: we have arrived at La Saucedá [10].

With just over ten kilometres that cross the Sierra del Aljibe, accompanied by sometimes intense vegetation, and with continuous traces of the ancient inhabitants of these lands, the path offers panoramic views over the natural park, its neighbouring Sierra de Grazalema, and the even more distant Sierra de las Nieves.

Along the way, we will cross forests and waterfalls, until we reach a summit of over a thousand metres high, over which vultures and birds of prey have set up their hunting grounds.

Trail

Travesía del Aljibe



- 1** Landmark (see text)
- P** Parking
- Site of ethnological interest
- Recreational area
- Interpretive panel
- Viewpoint
- Nature room
- Spring
- Bridge
- Camping area
- Shelter
- Hostel

- Travesía del Aljibe Trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path

