GOOD PRACTICE



Please leave rubbish in the bins provided



Walk on the



Please respect private property



Plant collecting is not allowed

The capture of animals

is not permitted

Starting fires is

Fishing is

strictly forbidden

Emergency phone: 112



CÁDIZ MÁLAGA

PARQUE NATURAL Sierra de Grazalema

MORE INFORMATION

El Bosque Visitors' Centre. Federico García Lorca nº1. El Bosque. Cádiz. Tel. 956 70 97 33.

ventanadel**visitante**



Junta de Andalucía Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería Perca y Desarrollo Sartenible





OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION





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• ROUTE

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

1,4 km

Linear

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD)

40 minutes

• DIFFICULTY

Low

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Laneway, rocky path with loose stones

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Gentle route with limestone relief and typical karst formations. Magnificent wild olive groves and dense masses of mastic. Waterfall on the Pajaruco stream. Views of the Tavizna valley and Aznalmara castel. Remains of caleras.

• SHADE

Little or none

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Cádiz / Benaocaz

• SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

1050 - Ubrique

• START / END COORDINATES

36° 42' 7,74"N - 5° 25' 42,16"O 36° 42' 32,89"N - 5° 25' 46,64"O

HOW TO GET THERE

From Benaocaz take the A-2302 north towards Ubrique. After 1km, turn off the right lane, towards Los Chozos. A few metres from it, the path begins.



PARKING

There is a small carpark at the start of the trail, beside the sports 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 or by telephone on 902 24 02 02).



OTHER TRAILS

The Salto del Cebrero trail reaches Benaocaz and ends in Ubrique.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT

552 m

MAXIMUM HEIGHT

717 m

MINIMUM HEIGHT

665 m

LA HEMBRA LO MÁS

There is a special charm to Benaocaz within the route of the White Villages. Founded by the Arabs and later conquered by Rodrigo Ponce de León, it's famous



for the local motto En Benaocaz, la hembra lo más (which we can roughly translate as "In Benaocaz, the female is great") which comes from the enthusiasm with which local women were said to have handed over the jewellery to finance the war against the Arabs. Walking its streets today, we can visit the Eco-Museum of the History of Man and the Mountain and the old Moorish Nazarí neighbourhood.



FRONTIER LAND

An extensive network of castles and watchtowers dot this part of the sierra. From the small viewpoint we can see one of these, the Aznalmara Tavizna Castle, a military construction from the late Middle Ages. This fortification rises some 540 m in height at the top of a hill with almost vertical sides, and fulfilled a defensive function in the time of the conquest. The fortress is today in ruins.





Benaocaz is always a good place to start. Its streets and the Nazarí neighbourhood make for an ideal preamble to the route and bear witness to its time as a frontier territory. Aznalmara Castle, an almost unreachable watchpoint can be see from the final section of the Ojo del Moro Trail. The route winds through stony, limestone terrain until we reach an abandoned limekiln. Carrying on, we discover the waterfall on the Pajaruco stream, which honours it name by offering shelter to the birds e can hear as we pass. Then it's back, once again, to Benaocaz, where we can take other trails.

To the start

A kilometre from
Benaocaz, at a
curve in the Ubrique
road, is a signpost
indicating the start
of this trail (See [1]
on the map). It is also
an ideal place to park before
taking the narrow lane that leads us to
an area with holiday homes and the odd
livestock and pig farm.

After a few minutes we reach the Los Chozos tourism complex on the rights and continue on a paved path to a bridge over the Pajaruco stream [2]. This is a seasonal stream and water only flows in rainy seasons, serving as a gully.



On the other side, we continue along a well marked path where we encounter a number of the trail's landmarks. We recommend that you wear hiking boots, as the surface is quite stony and may punish our ankles if they are not adequately protected.

We soon come across a wooden gate. Please close this gate behind you (a rule for this and all other trails).

The Pajaruco stream at our feet

A little further
on, we find an old
disused limekiln [3].
A panel installed here
explains the process
of obtaining lime paint or
whitewash, an widespread activity in these
mountains right up to recent decades. After
this stop, we continue on our path.

The trail continues and we pass through another gate. The valley opens up ahead of us, offering fabulous views as our route slowly drifts away from the source of the stream and rises in altitude. On our left is the Sierra Alta. On this part of the route we can observe the erosive strength of Pajaruco stream at out feet. On some sections of the stream there are waterfalls of more than ten minutes.



Limekilns were furnaces where limestone was turned into whitewash. The raw materials were plentiful in these mountains, as was the gorse that was used as fuel. The average limekiln needed over three thousand to fire.

Along our route we can spot the nightingale, blackbird, winter wren, common stonechat, goldfinch, European robin, black redstart, crag martin and house martin and several species of warbler."



From the viewpoint

We find ourselves in an area of dense vegetation, with some compact wild olive and mastic formations covering dozens of square metres.





After rising for a few metres, the terrain evens out [4]. Opposite us we can see the valley of the river Tavizna with Monte Higuerón, and the castle of Aznalmara dominating the landscape from the top of a steep hill. This is the finishing line of our simple and comfortable route. The return rout is back along the same path in the opposite direction.



