

## GOOD PRACTICE



- Please leave rubbish in the bins provided
- Walk on the marked paths
- Please respect private property
- Please avoid making noise



- The capture of animals is not permitted
- Starting fires is strictly forbidden
- Plant collecting is not allowed
- Access with motor vehicles is not permitted
- Collecting fossils, minerals and rocks is not permitted

Emergency phone: 112

SEVILLA

PARQUE NATURAL  
Sierra Norte  
de Sevilla

## MORE INFORMATION

**Cerro del Hierro Information Point.** Casas de los Ingleses, next to Cerro del Hierro car park. San Nicolás del Puerto. Sevilla.

**El Robledo Visitors' Centre.** Ctra. A-452 Constantina-El Pedroso km 1. Constantina. Sevilla.  
ventanadelvisitante.

© / Editing / Coordination: Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development / Environment and Water Agency  
Production and photography: Environment and Water Agency



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural



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

PARQUE NATURAL  
Sierra Norte  
de Sevilla



trail  
Cerro del Hierro



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

## OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



MONUMENTO NATURAL  
Cascada del Huesna



Reserva de la Biosfera



Global Geopark

### • ROUTE

Circular

### • LENGTH

2,7 km

### • ESTIMATED TIME

1 hour

### • DIFFICULTY

Low

### • TYPE OF TRAIL

Loose gravel path

### • LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Abrupt landscape of karst relief and mining activity. Remains of mining infrastructures and natural plant colonisation.

### • SHADE

Scant

### • SPECIAL AUTHORISATION

It is not necessary in order to walk the trail. A permit is necessary however to travel through the heart of the Natural Monument.

### • RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and sun protection in summer and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

### • PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES

Sevilla/ San Nicolás del Puerto

### • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000

920

### • START / END COORDINATES

37°57'18.19"N, 5°37'28.02"W



## HOW TO GET THERE

At the 5 km point on the SE-7102 road (Constantina-San Nicolás del Puerto), take the turn-off in the direction of the town of Cerro del Hierro. When you arrive at the level crossing over the Green Way, take the right-hand lane as far as Cerro del Hierro Information Point car park. The signpost of the start of the trail is nearby, on the greenway itself.



## PARKING

There is a car park with about 25 parking spaces next to the beginning of the trail. Overnight stays in campervans are prohibited.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

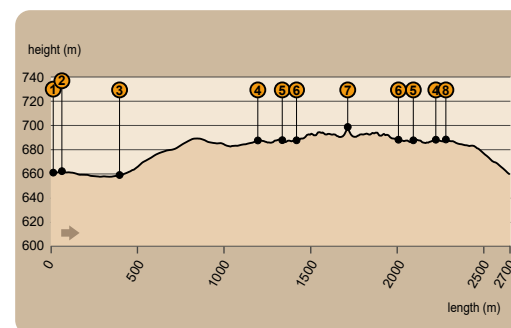
There is no public transport at the start of the trail. You can reach San Nicolás del Puerto by bus (the main bus company for this route is [www.monbus.es](http://www.monbus.es) -982 29 29 00). The starting point of the trail is approximately 5 km away. You can also get as far as Cazalla-Constantina station by train. Call 902 320 320 or go to [www.renfe.com](http://www.renfe.com) and from there you can get there by foot or bicycle along the Sierra Norte Greenway of Sevilla. The distance to the Cerro del Hierro Natural Monument is about 18 k.



## OTHER TRAILS

The Natural Park has an extensive network of marked trails, among the closest to it are the El Rebollar trail, the Cascadas del Hueznar trail, and the Las Dehesas trail, among others, in addition to the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Greenway cycle lane.

## PROFILE OF ROUTE



### • MAXIMUM GRADIENT

40 m

### • MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

698 m

### • MINIMUM ALTITUDE

658 m



## MINES DATING BACK THOUSANDS OF YEARS

The Cerro del Hierro has been an iron mine and, to a lesser extent, a barite mine, whose origin is believed to pre-date Roman times. Mining reached its apogee between 1893 and 1970, and ceased definitively in 1985.

The extraordinary capacity of life to make its way even in the most extreme conditions, together with the intense mining activity that, in its eagerness to extract the veins of minerals embedded in the masses of limestone, freed the ancient karst from the subsoil and shaped the present-day landscape of Cerro del Hierro. History and nature came together to form this abrupt relief of needles, pinnacles, alleys, defiles, hollows and a multitude of forms of karst modelling, in the midst of the natural environment of oaks, cork oaks, and gall oaks, and where the traces of mining activity have been set in stone.

And on those footprints, the new uses are overlaid: first, knowledge; because geological interpretation allows us to understand the past, present and future of the Earth and of life. Pure enjoyment, intangible and indescribable, of the contemplative beauty of the landscape. The enjoyment also of walking or cycling along the route that ran along the old mining railway, transformed today into a greenway. And the conversion of the old buildings and the mining town itself for educational and recreational uses and for the enhancement of the region's natural and human heritage.



The Cerro del Hierro is a spectacular geological landscape, in whose stony nature the ancestral memories are recorded not only of the mountains and its inhabitants, but of the entire region. It is a very ancient karst, a paleokarst, uncovered by mining. They were excavated to gain access to iron ore which, since Roman times and until the end of the twentieth century, they brought to light. It was declared a Natural Monument in 2003. And on this trail we give you the keys so that you can read and enjoy its story in the expressive power of the landscape.

The starting signal is located on the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Greenway [1], which follows the route of the old mining railway that transported the ore from the Cerro del Hierro mine to Cazalla-Constantina station on the Seville-Merida line; although we will only take a few steps along it. Next to a leafy cork oak, a marker that points eastward shows the way forward. Behind it are the Information Point and Las Casas de los Ingleses. In just forty meters, we reach a crossroads [2]. Right there, without a roof or paint any more, but standing proud in the face of the inclement passage of time, are the walls and facade of some old warehouses that once supported the mine. Behind the buildings, one can make out the steep outline of the limestone pavement that cuts up the horizon with its pinnacles. Limestone pavements are elongated cavities separated by more or less pointed partitions and constitute the most abundant karst morphology of Cerro del Hierro. Later, we will look at them more closely and understand them better.

### The mining settlement

Taking the turnoff on the left, we head north, towards the old mining town of Cerro del Hierro [3]. The town was built between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and housed the miners and their families. It came to have many more inhabitants than the town of San Nicolás del Puerto itself. Today, some retired miners who were born and worked in the mine still live in the town.

Right there, next to the houses, we leave the main gravel lane and take a track that goes to the right. The trail rises, zigzagging between mounds of reddish overburden heaps, small groves of cork oaks and the

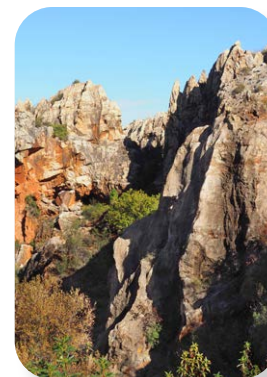


sweet smell of the rockroses. Eight hundred metres later and already in descent, it connects again with the main lane [4]. At this point, next to a bench strategically located under the shade of a cork oak, we turn 90 degrees to the left and continue towards the viewing point [5].

### Paleokarst

In a curve of the road, the view suddenly opens on a large mining cut, plunging us fully into a stark landscape: a rugged relief of needles, dead ends, gorges and the infinite forms of karst modelling, carved about 540-520 million years ago, in a tropical environment, which dissolved limestones into these characteristic morphologies shortly after sedimentation. From the viewpoint you can see the immense limestone pavement, with the light colours, and the dark colours of the iron minerals, which dye the holes of the karst with ochre. And one can also observe, in the gigantic steps of the quarry faces, the tremendous bite that the open pit exploitation took out of El Cerro.

In a few metres, we cross a footbridge [6] that hangs between two short mines, bridging the huge gap of the mine and entering more and more into the geological landscape. A landscape whose origin dates back to Cambrian times, more than half a billion years ago, when very ancient tropical organisms swarmed in the waters of a



shallow sea. The limestones that surround it were formed with the remains of those animals. Next to the path, in the fresh cut of some walls, it is possible to make out the fossil footprint of those prehistoric animals. These extraordinary

footprints are called stromatolites and are one of the oldest fossil evidences of life on the planet that has come down to our days.

### The mine inhabitants

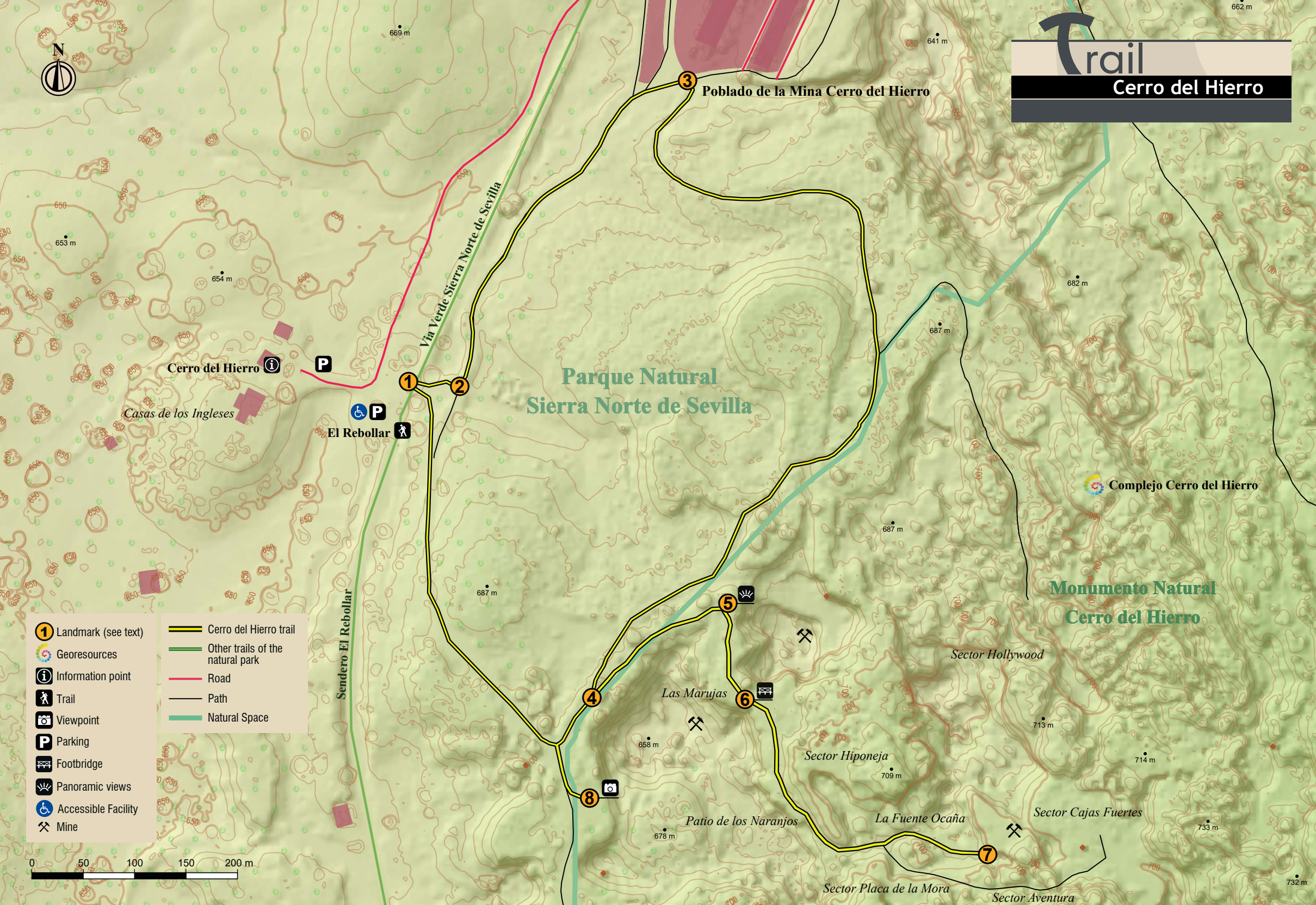
The trail continues towards the interior of Cerro del Hierro, winding between the intricate forms of the relief, whose complexity fosters a diversity of microclimates and habitats. We find this from the sophisticated orchids, which adorn the Hill in spring, to the resistant rockrose, which abound everywhere. In the places of greater humidity, the ancient ferns, the emblematic laurustine and species such as oleanders and fig trees, which accompany them taking advantage of the respite of the shadows. Among the animals that find shelter in the Hill, it is possible to identify the blue rock thrush, the Daurian swallow or the elusive black stork; but also small carnivores, a multitude of reptiles and even amphibians.

We continue along the lane without deviating, leaving behind remains of the mining facilities: a transformer, a compressor, a tank, which give an idea of the intense activity that took place in this place. A sign indicates the end of this section, which is the adapted path [7].



We now retrace our steps, enjoying the new perspective of the environment, to the bench under the cork oak of the landmark [4]. We continue south to a fork. The path on the left takes us in 60 meters to a new viewing point [8] on the karst, where the contact of the limestones with the slates that covered them is evident. We return to the junction and turn left, descending to the starting point, where the trail ends.





# Trail

## Cerro del Hierro

- ① Landmark (see text)
- Georesources
- i Information point
- Trail
- Viewpoint
- P Parking
- Footbridge
- Panoramic views
- Accessible Facility
- Mine

- Cerro del Hierro trail
- Other trails of the natural park
- Road
- Path
- Natural Space

