

WALKING IN CADIZ

THE GUIDEBOOK

11. CERRO COROS



ANNE MIDDELKAMP

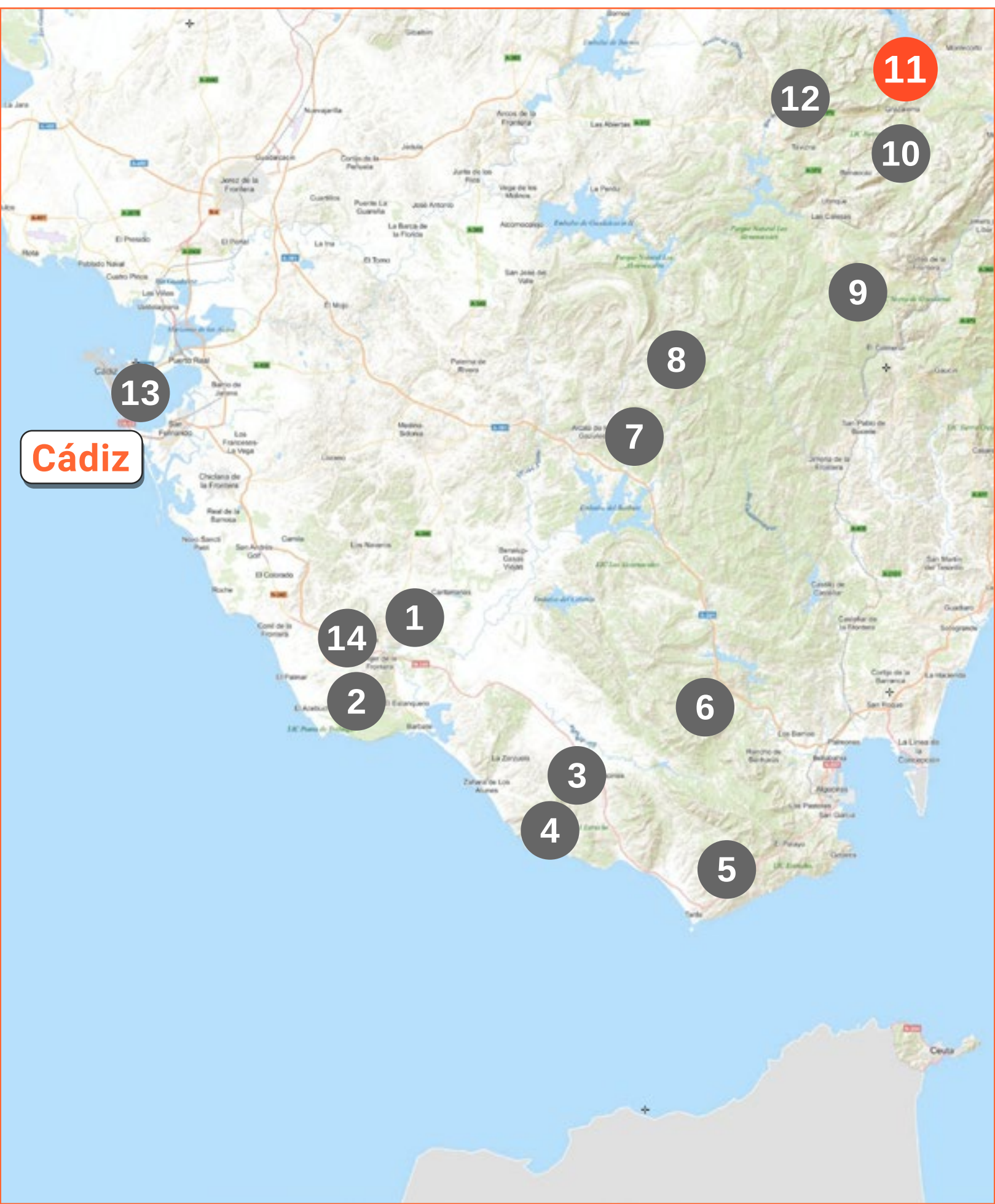
Walking in Cádiz

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Overview walks

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The route

- Name: Cerro Coros
- Where: Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema
- Type of walk: Circular
- Length: 3.5 km
- Duration: 1.5 hours
- Difficulty: Easy
- Shade: None
- Highest point: 1,326 m
- Lowest point: 1,191 m
- Path type: Unmarked but easy to follow (narrow) walking path, not suitable for small children

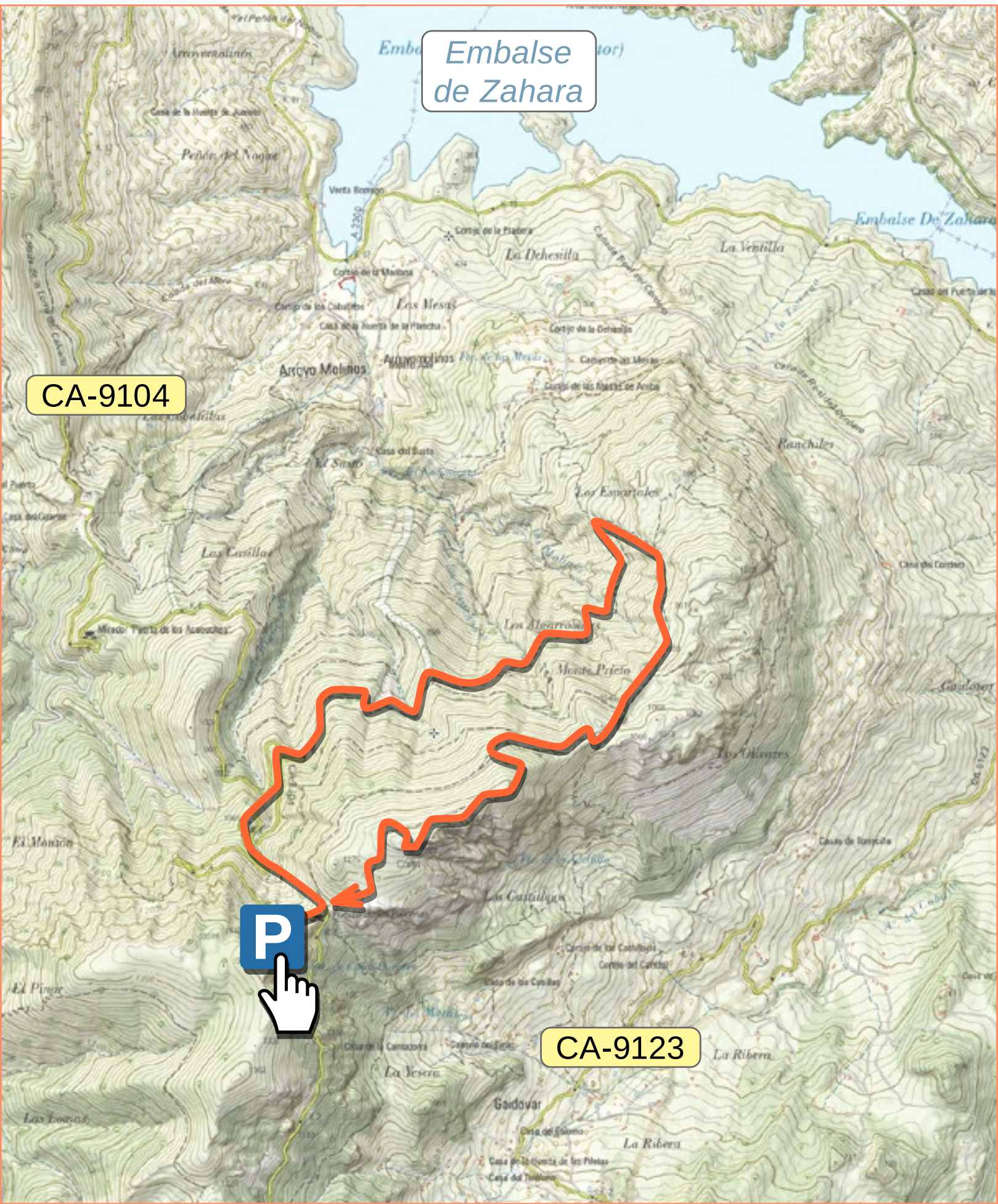
The starting point of this hike is at the parking area at the Mirador Puerta de las Palomas,



halfway along the CA9104 from Grazalema to Zahara de la Sierra. There is ample parking space on the right side of the main road. To the left of the road you can walk up to the Mirador, a viewpoint, with information boards, which is fun to do first. Then you go through a green metal gate on the left side of the parking lot. The trail starts right there and runs around the mountain top. There is nothing further to indicate the walk, only a white sign that says Coto privado de caza, private hunting area. But you are allowed to walk this trail, we checked on the spot!



The map



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In short

The CA9104, the narrow, winding road from Grazalema, to the picturesque Zahara de la Sierra that overlooks the azure lake is one of my favourite drives and we always leave our first time visitors in awe of the steep gorges, high peaks, magnificent views and countless vultures that nest on the grey rocks. Here we discovered a fairly uncomplicated but very rewarding trail!



The walk



This hiking trail, the Cerro Coros, is not indicated anywhere and so we have unknowingly passed by it on several occasions during our visits to the Sierra de Grazalema. It is a beautiful goat track, very easy to follow and with amazing 360 degree views. The path is narrow here and there and with reasonably steep drops, but very easy for hikers who don't have an excessive fear of heights. This walk is not suitable for very small children. It undulates a fair bit with rocky parts and patches of loose scree, but it is all very doable.



The Pinsapo and 580 vultures at the Garganta Verde

At the beginning of the path you will see a few specimens of the so-called primeval fir, the Pinsapo or Spanish Fir, and soon you will have magnificent views of Zahara de la Sierra and the large lake. Across the water you can see the village of Algodonales at the foot of the Sierra de Lijar. After about 20 minutes you get to a fork. Take the path to the right, which goes up slightly.

Down in the valley, on this side of the water, lies the Cerro de





Cambronera with the Garganta Verde gorge, home to one of the largest vulture colonies in Europe, about 290 pairs live in this natural park. The Garganta Verde is also the name of a splendid and famous hike for which permission must first be requested at the visitor centre in El Bosque. This hike is not accessible all year round and

the last, most spectacular part, through mountain crevices filled with water, can only be done under supervision.

‘Ramona’s bosom’

Across the lake of Zahara, a little to the right, you can see a mountain with two peaks, popularly called ‘Las Tetas de Ramona’ - the breasts of Ramona, but officially the peaks are called Tajo las Grajas (left) and Tajo Algarín (right). These mountains mark the boundary between the provinces of Málaga and Cádiz. A ridge further to the right, Cerro Malaver, has the village



of Montecorto at its feet. Behind it you can see the ‘Mesa de Ronda la Vieja’ in the distance with the Roman ruins and impressive amphitheatre of Acinipo at 999 metres. (Well worth a visit!)

[Archaeological Site Acinipo](#)

After an hour of walking, the path leads you through some prickly bushes. Keep to the right here, don't go left of the rocky mountain peak, which our children tried at first. This is not part of the trail and a bit risky. The track goes up through the bushes with a bend to the right and then leads down to the left over fairly flat terrain. After this you go past a small white building and after another 50 metres on an asphalt path you are back in the parking area.

Don't get blown away!

This walk was a real discovery!
Please note, this trail is not



recommended during strong winds because it is a very open landscape. We did this trek in August when, being high in the mountains, the cool breeze was a welcome respite. It was lovely and quiet, we did not encounter any other walkers.



The mighty griffon vulture

Griffon vultures. I love them. When you have bad eyesight like me it's not easy to distinguish birds but when these huge scavengers come sailing over our rooftop terrace in Vejer de la Frontera (and they often do!) I recognize them from a distance!

Interesting facts: The griffon vulture can grow up to 1 metre from head to tail. It has a wingspan of up to 2.8 metres.



This bird can weigh up to 11 kilos and is one of the largest flying birds in the world. Griffon vultures are monogamous and live in groups. They lay 1 egg per year and the chick stays in the nest for half a year. Many vultures migrate to Africa in the autumn, because in wintertime, more carrion can be found south of the Sahara desert. They gather at Tarifa, where the distance across the water is the shortest. Sometimes as many as a thousand vultures circle overhead, waiting for the right thermal wind to cross the Strait of Gibraltar. An amazing spectacle!







Tips

Zahara de la Sierra

The province of Cádiz has many beautiful white villages, but Zahara de la Sierra is a real gem. This fortress town was built in the early part of Al-Andalus, the Moorish era, which lasted over 8 centuries, from 711 to 1492, in this part of Spain. Zahara is built on a 500 metre high hilltop and has a castle even higher up. This 13th century castle has



been partly restored and can be visited. From up here you have a great view of the lake, the mountains of the Sierra del Jaral and the white town of Algodonales across the water. Zahara de la Sierra is a pretty, very compact village, with about 1,500 inhabitants, with lively squares and a maze of steep alleys, remnants of the Arabic streetplan. It's best to leave your car at one of the car parks outside the town and walk into the centre.



Where to eat

Restaurant Al Lago

Our favourite restaurant in Zahara de la Sierra is Al Lago, on the outer edge of the village, with a view of the lake and ample parking. It has an extensive and surprising menu, with beautiful vegetarian options. I ate a delicious, cool gazpacho of melon and roasted vegetables with goat's cheese. The Moroccan spiced chicken was also very tasty. There is very nice, although more traditional food to be had in the centre of the village.

Restaurant Al Lago



Where to stay

Hotel El Horcajo



You'll find a comfortable stay at very reasonable prices in 'El Horcajo', a charming rural hotel with 26 rooms, swimming pool and restaurant. El Horcajo is peacefully situated in a pretty valley a fifteen minutes drive from Ronda.

[Hotel El Horcajo](#)



€ 10,- Cashback



When you indicate with your reservation (directly at the hotel, not through agencies) that this is 'Anne's Walking in Cádiz tip' and show this ebook upon arrival you'll receive € 10 Cashback or a € 10 discount!



Social media



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Walking
in Cádiz



**We hope you enjoy
your walks in Cádiz!**

If you have any comments or additions to the routes or a nice tip in terms of food or activities, then I would love to hear that! Please send an email to:

info@walkingcadiz.com



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