

WALKING IN CADIZ

THE GUIDEBOOK

12. RÍO MAJACEITE



ANNE MIDDELKAMP

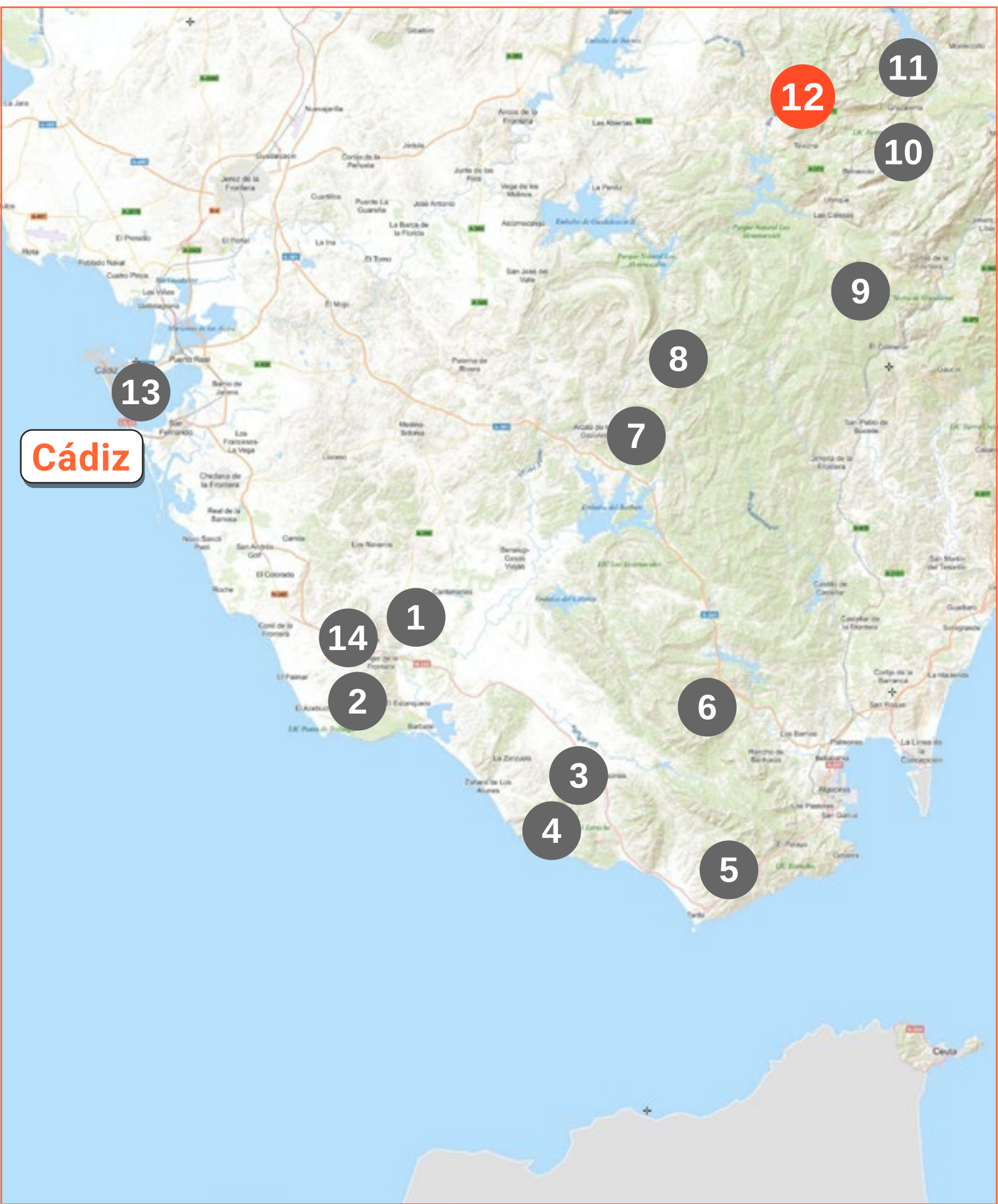
Walking in Cádiz

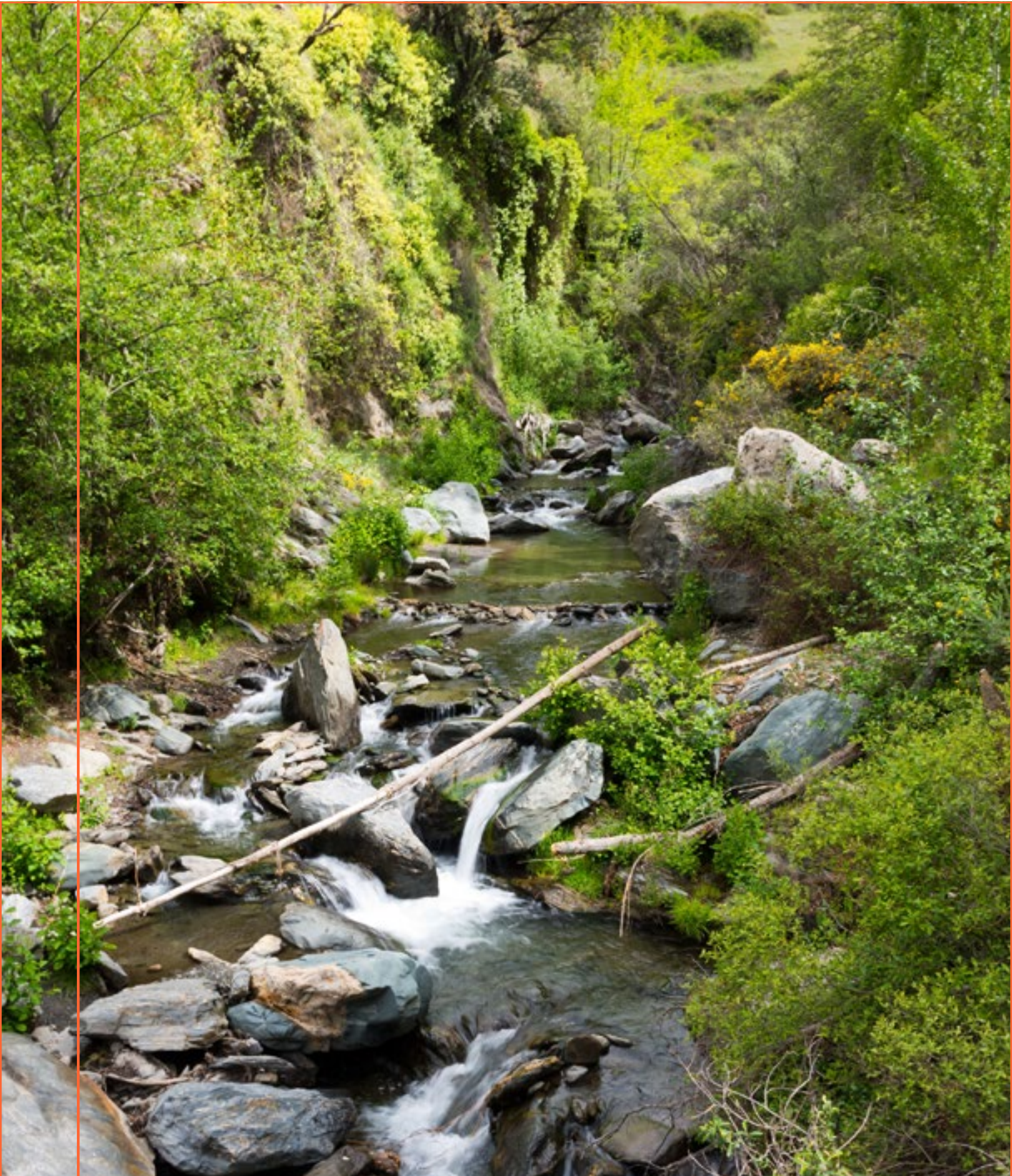
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Overview walks

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12. Sendero Río Majaceite

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The route

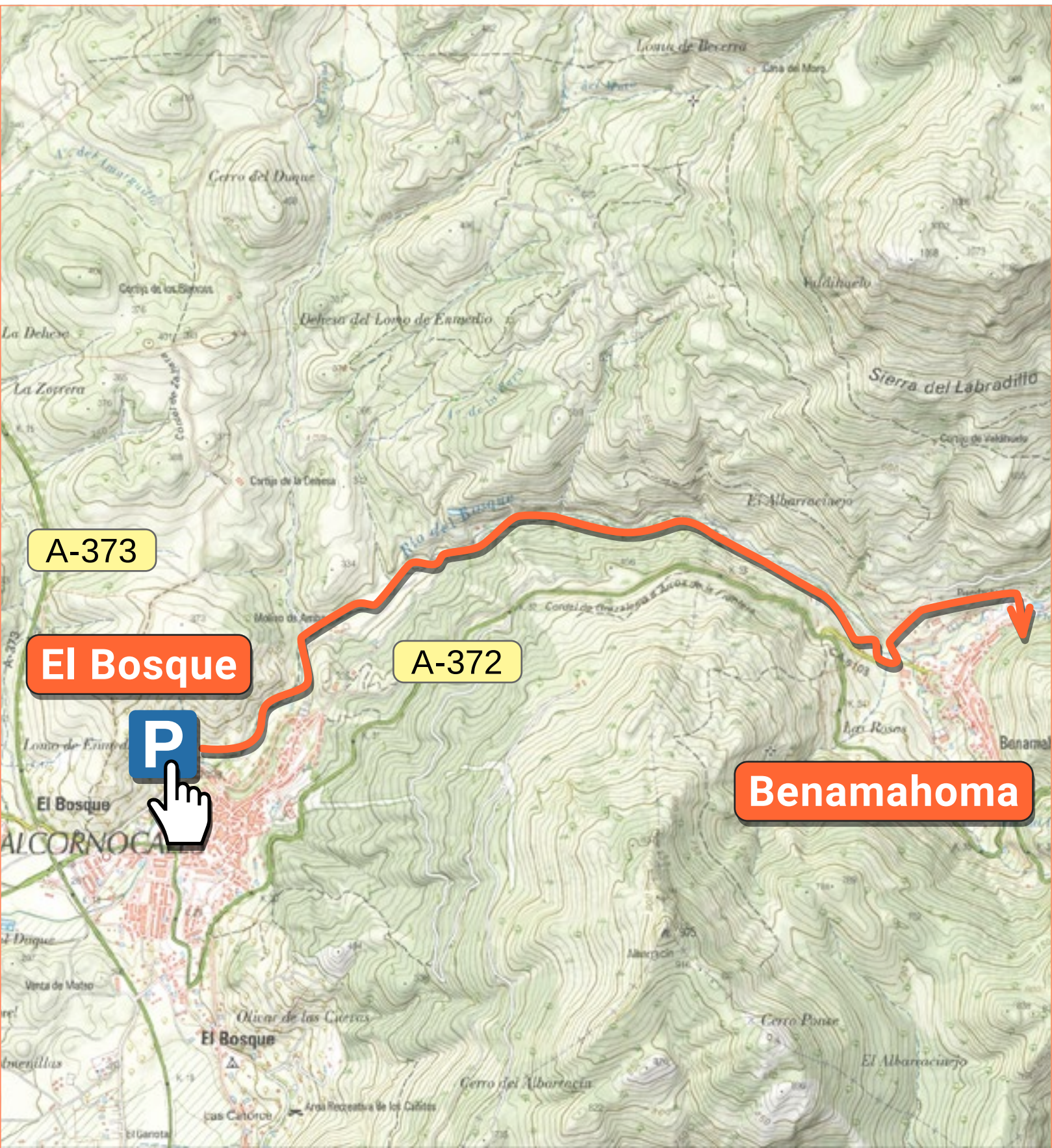
- Name: Sendero Río Majaceite
- Where: From El Bosque to Benamahoma
- Type of walk: Linear
- Length: 11 km out and back
- Duration: 4 hours round trip (without stops)
- Difficulty: Easy
- Shade: Abundant
- Highest point: 450 m
- Lowest point: 265 m
- Path type: Well-marked forest path along the Majaceite River



The starting point of the hiking trail is in El Bosque, one of the white villages in the Grazalema Natural Park. Near the visitor centre of the Natural Park on Calle García Lorca, where you can easily park your car, walk about 600 metres to the start, next to the youth hostel El Molino de Enmedio. You can also start the walk in Benamahoma, but we chose to do the uphill part first.



The map



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In short

Sendero Río Majaceite is a super easy but delightful walk along a babbling brook between the two white villages of El Bosque and Benamahoma (Benamahoma after the Arabic: Ibn Muhammad; 'sons of Mohammed'). It is situated between the Alcornocales Natural Park and Grazalema

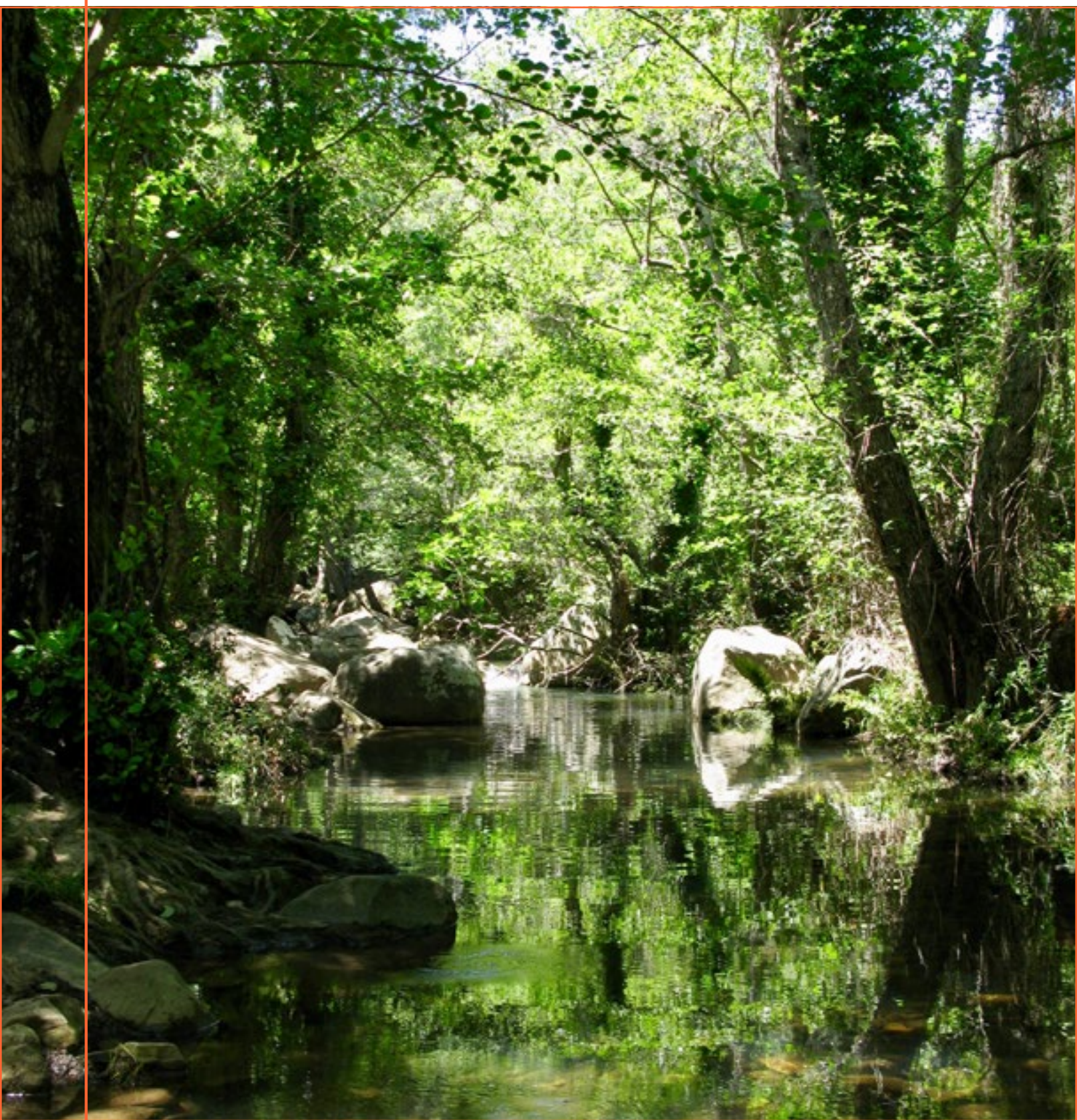


Natural Park. The Río Majaceite is the most southern river in Europe where trout swim and you can encounter otters too!

This is a popular walk and a lot of fun with kids, so it can be busy here on weekends and holiday periods. We walked this walk on a hot day in early September and met but a few walkers. We couldn't resist the temptation and plunged into the - ice cold - water a few times. Lovely and invigorating!



The walk



The walk starts on a wide track that runs parallel to the river.

At the beginning of the trail you come across a dam and halfway there's an old 'fábrica de luz', hydroelectric power station. It's a lovely section past rolling, green meadows, orchards with fruit trees and olive groves.

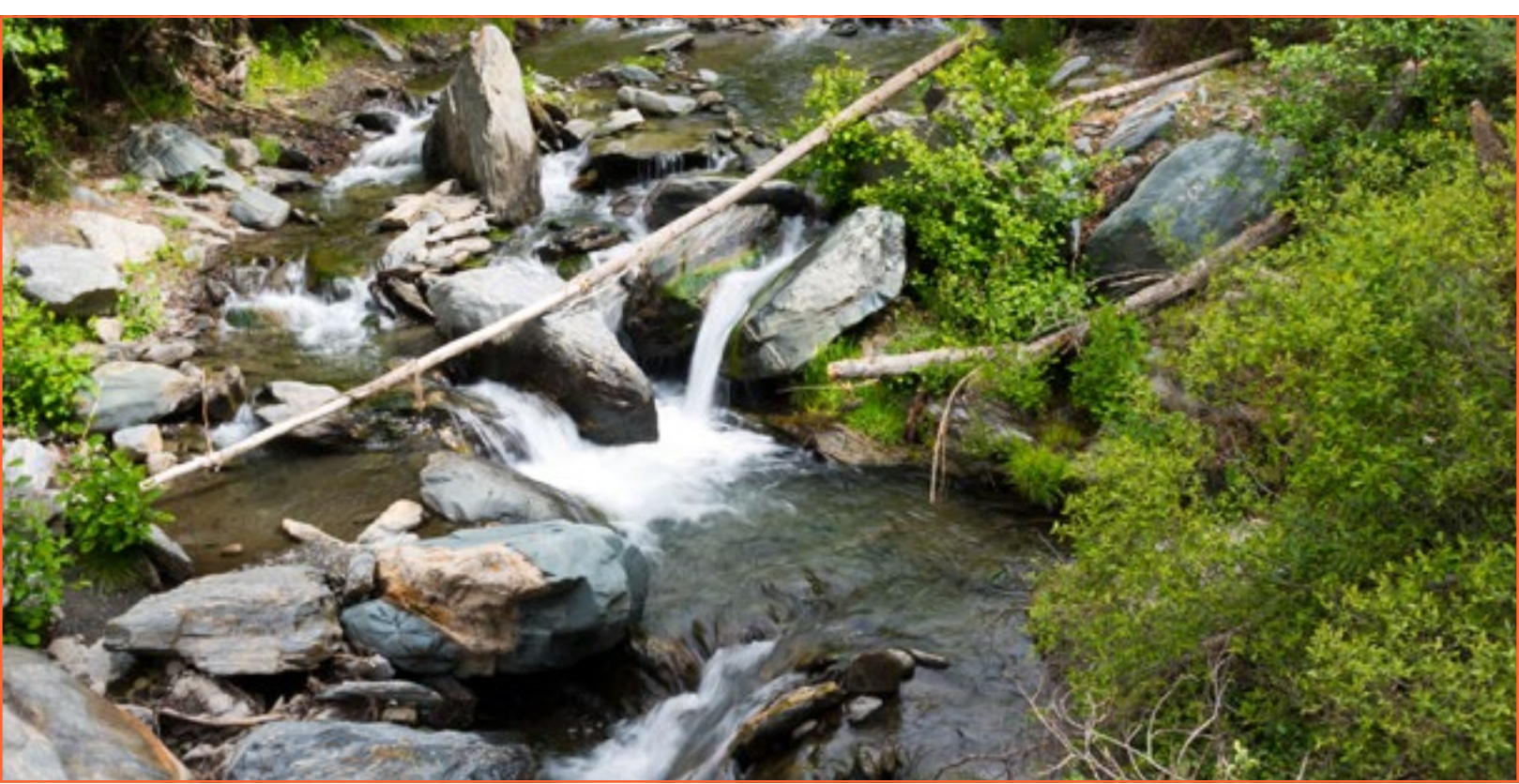


The fields are surrounded by mountains with the peak of the Albarracín being the highest, at 975 metres.

The relaxing sound of rippling water...

After a while you pass through the woods of poplar, willows, elm and ash. The dense vegetation of oleanders, blackberries, clematis and honeysuckle make the river inaccessible, but due to the course of the river dropping sharply you can hear the stream clearly all along this part of the walk. Even now, after summer, with no rain for months, there's





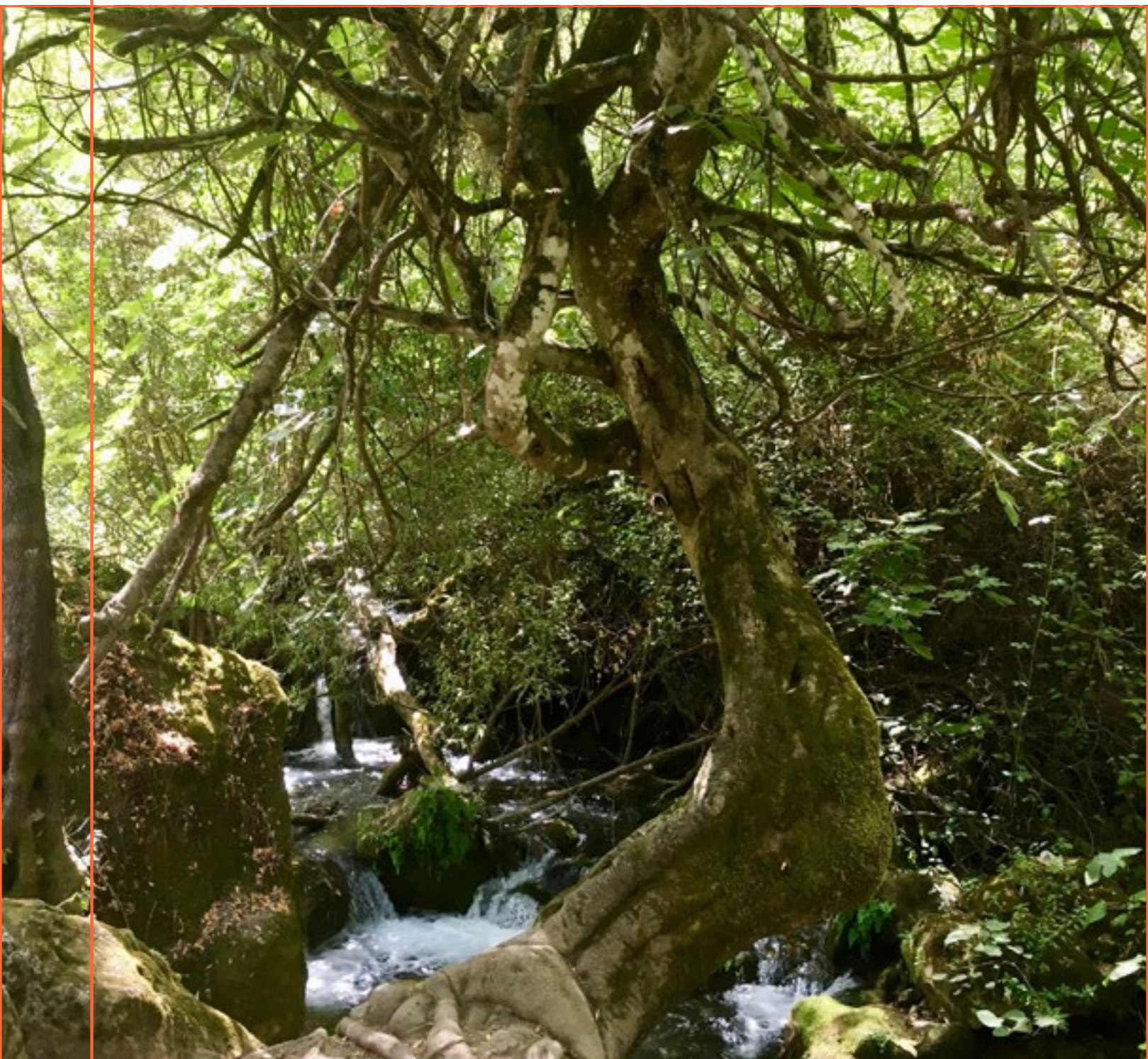
still a pretty powerful flow. I can listen to forest rivers for hours, its mesmerizing.

After a while the landscape opens up a bit and you pass a ruin of a watermill, one of the three in this area. Inside is a huge millstone that ground the grain. Further on you will come to a fulling mill. The world-famous Grazalema blankets were made in these mills.

After crossing the bridge to Majaceite, the Descansadero and Breña del Agua streams join the Río Majaceite. Follow the signs to the village if you are going for a bite to eat or a drink.

With our ever-hungry teenagers we entered the first restaurant we saw, La Tasquita del Majaceite, and that was just perfect because they had an outside terrace next to the stream. The menu had lots of classic dishes but we choose trout, which is fished on the spot! Only when serving the food, the waiter discovered our dog Tommie. Oh no, a dog!

This was not allowed at all!
“Ay, señor, es un perro muy bueno!” - Well, go on then as long as he stays beneath the table, out of sight.



Arcos de la Frontera

Arcos de la Frontera, Arx-Arcis, High fortress, in Latin, sits spectacularly on a bare, rocky 185 metre high cliff in a vast plain by the river Guadalete. You get the best views when you are approaching Arcos from the South. Leave your car at the bottom of town because the higher up, the steeper and narrower the streets get, a nerve-racking mission! This pretty old town has splendid monuments such as Palacio del



Conde del Águila and the Late Gothic Iglesia de San Pedro. At the Plaza del Cabildo are the beautiful Basílica de Santa María de la Asunción and the Parador of Arcos, a nice place to stay the night. You can also just go for a drink, from the terrace you have amazing views. At the Convento de Mercedarias Descalzas the nuns sell their famous biscuits through a turntable in the wall, to ensure that you can't see them!





Tips

Visitor Center El Bosque

For a number of hikes in the Sierra de Grazalema, you must obtain permission first from the visitor centre in El Bosque or the one in Grazalema. This can be done by phone or in person. This does not apply to the walks in this guide. If you want to take more challenging walks in the Sierra de Grazalema, the routes below are interesting. More information:

[El Bosque Visitor Centre](#)



Three grand walks in the
Grazalema Natural Park for
which you need permission:

1. Sendero Garganta Verde

The Garganta Verde is a
spectacular gorge formed by the
Bocaleones River ending in the
Cueva de la Ermita cave. The
gorge is home to a huge colony
of vultures.



2. Sendero El Torreón

El Torreón, at 1,654 metres, is the highest peak in the province of Cádiz. The climb to the top (about 780 metres ascent) is tough. Hike from Mediterranean forest up the bare rock with ibex and mountain goats on the way.

3. El Pinsapar

Beautiful walk of about 5 hours through the forests of Grazalema to Benamahoma high on the northern slope of the Sierra del Pinar. Beautiful views of Ronda and the Sierra de las Nieves.



Where to eat

La Tasquita del Majaceite

Benamahoma has only 400 inhabitants so there is not much to choose from but we had a decent meal at the above mentioned restaurant: La Tasquita del Majaceite.

[La Tasquita del Majaceite](#)



La Divina

In El Bosque you have a wider choice, La Divina in Calle Cádiz, is a pleasant restaurant with a variation on traditional dishes and good vegetarian options.

La Divina

Mesón El Tabanco

Mesón El Tabanco in El Bosque is more traditional and has an extensive menu: Tapas, various “revueltos” (omelettes) with asparagus or mushrooms to steaks and, in season, game.

Mesón El Tabanco



Social media



Contact



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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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