

# WALKING IN CADIZ

THE GUIDEBOOK

## 1. CERRO DE ABEJARUCO



ANNE MIDDELKAMP

# Walking in Cádiz

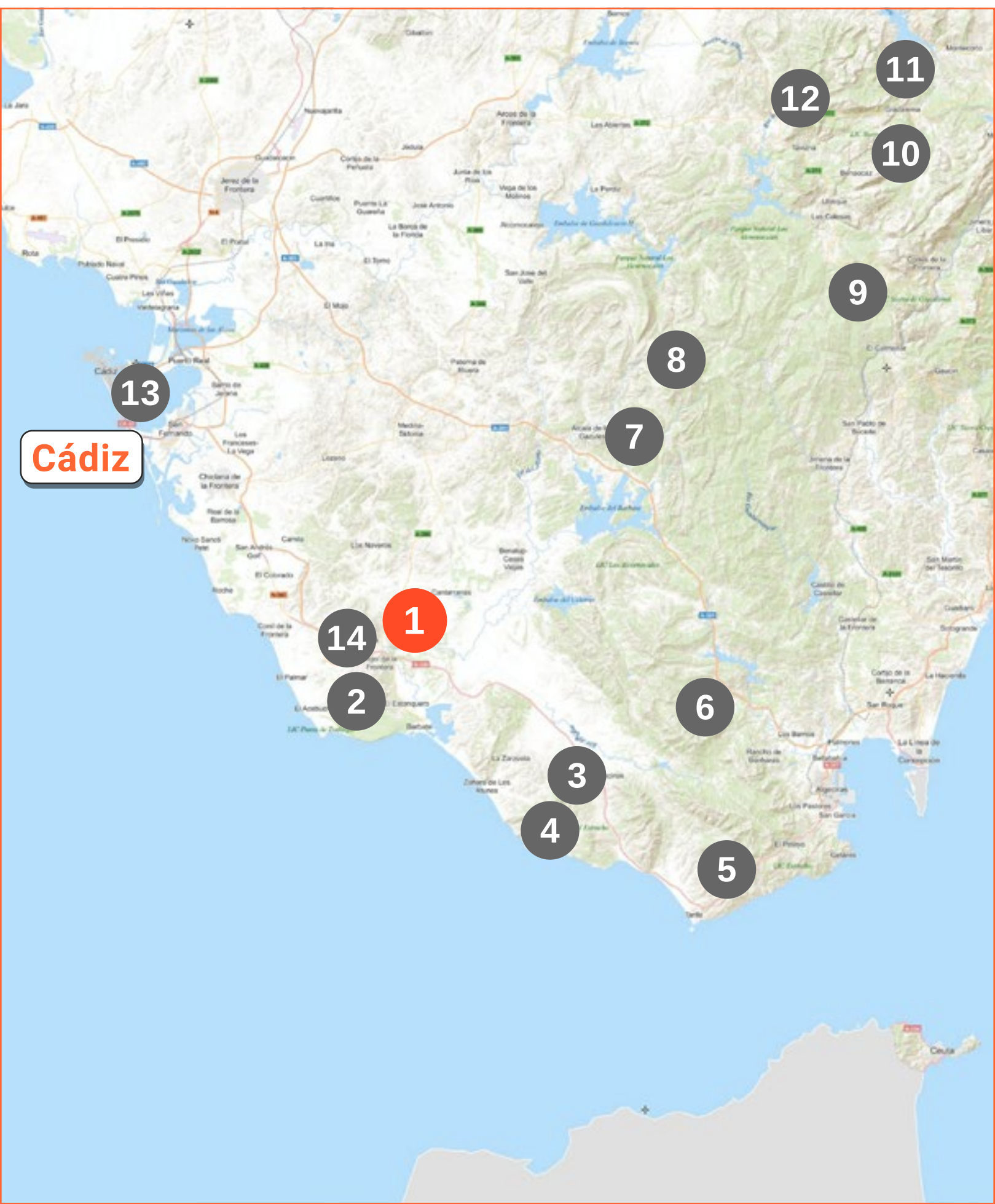
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# Overview walks

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# 1. Cerro de Abejaruco

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# The route

- Name: Cerro de Abejaruco
- Where: Vejer de la Frontera, between Cañada Ancha and Libreros
- Type of walk: Circular
- Length: 4.5 km
- Walking time: 1.5 hours (without stops)
- Difficulty: Easy
- Shade: Little
- Highest point: 115 m
- Lowest point: 10 m
- Path type: Marked, mostly paved sandy path



Starting point: On the N340 near Vejer take the A396 towards Medina Sidonia. After 500 metres take the 1st exit to the right, at Venta El Rayo and the round Picadero (equestrian centre). Drive for about three kilometres on a narrow, winding road alongside the Río Barbate. After you pass a house with four chimneys and a dip in the road, there is a clearing on the left with a somewhat washed-out information board. You can leave your car here. There are no markings for the first ten minutes of the walk.





# The map



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## In short

This is my favourite walk in the immediate vicinity of Vejer, where I live. It is a marked path around the Cerro de Abejaruco, a 143 metre high hill. Along the way you have fantastic views of the pretty village of Vejer, the rice paddies, marshes and the former lagoon of La Janda. In the distance you can spot the peaks of the Alcornocales



Natural Park. On a clear day you can see across the glistening ocean as far as Africa. If you are lucky you might meet a meloncillo, an Egyptian mongoose, which lives in the area.

This is where I used to live. A unique place that I thoroughly enjoyed. I loved the quietness, the views, the birds, the millions of sunflowers in the summer. But staying here was not doable with two children, it was too remote, we had no drinking water, the road was inaccessible during wintertime. After two years we moved into the village of Vejer de la Frontera.





# The walk



This hike starts along the narrow, winding road to Libreros. From the parking place with a information board, take the track. You'll pass a few cortijos (farms). Go straight on. After about 500 metres, on your right you'll see the remains of an old Roman oven, closed-off with a metal fence. To the left of this oven, a narrow path descends to a well. This is where we used to collect all our drinking water for 2 years! Return to the main track and follow it straight ahead, at the fork in the road there is the first signpost, a white arrow on a red background which marks the path.





This route takes you through rolling hills and fields. The view is vast and the sky feels open and endless.

In spring and autumn you can see thousands of storks on their migration to and from Africa. There are often vultures and with a bit of luck you can spot the abejaruco, the bee-eater, after which this area



is named. This colourful bird is so small and fast that I mainly recognize it by its sound and the way it flies, a funny kind of up and down dancing dive.

Halfway through the walk there is a fairly steep descent, part of this path is tarmac. From up here you have a beautiful glimpse of Vejer, and to your right views of the villages of Santa Lucía, La Muela and Cañada Ancha. At the bottom of the junction, take a sharp turn to the left, and walk the same distance back up! (Ouch, that's not fair!). But you're rewarded with wonderful views of Vejer, the prettiest village in the world!





At the top, the path at one point turns to the right, but you have to go straight ahead, along a trail flanked by bramble bushes and fields to your left. In the spring the grass grows knee high here and after rain it's turns quite marshy. After about a hundred metres you will see a bright



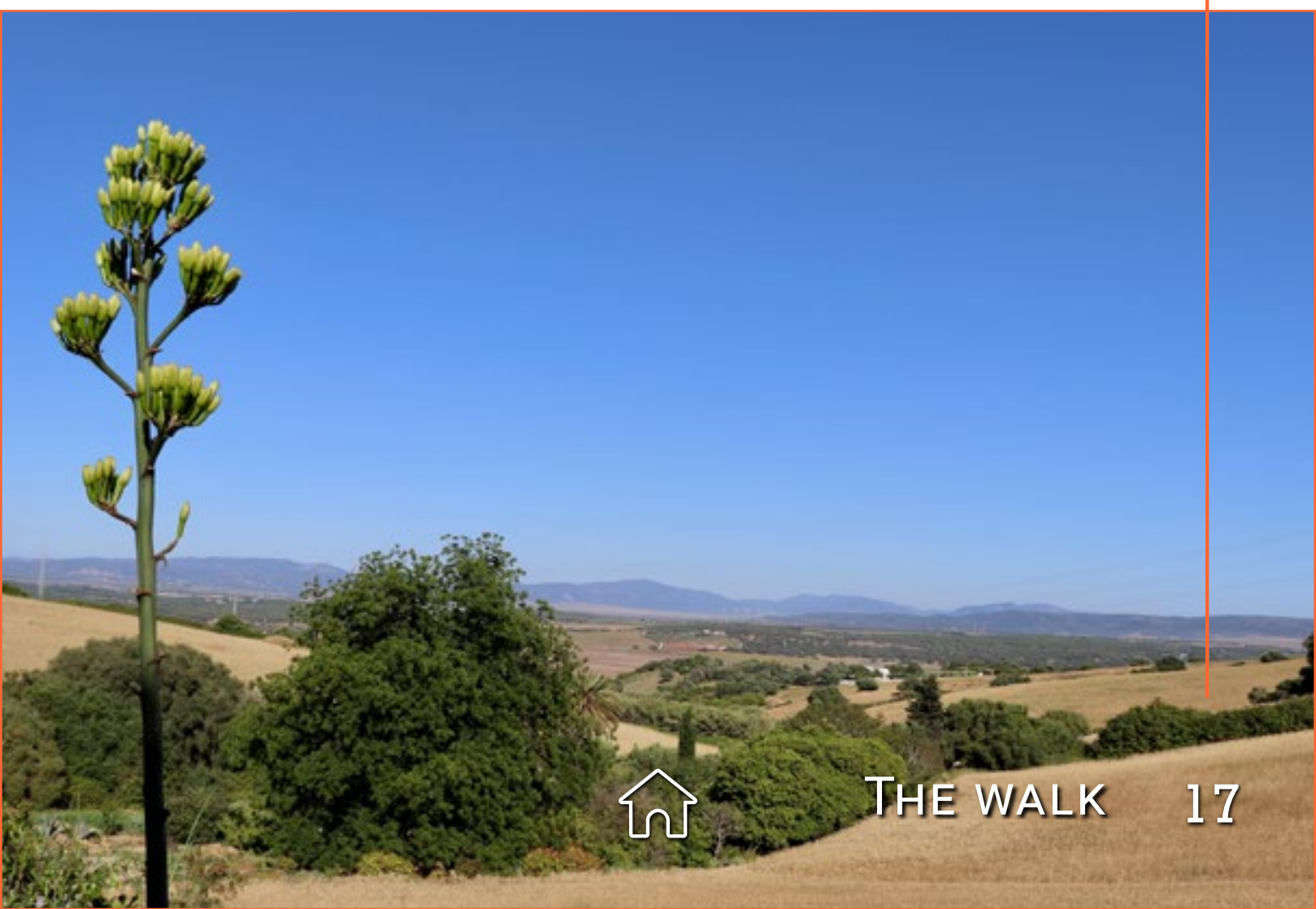
white holiday home (our former house is along the lane to the right of it). Continue down the trail with bamboo growing high on both sides along with huge, three metre high cacti. At the junctions take the right. The last 10 minutes of the walk is back on the same stretch on which you started.

Many edible things grow along this walk! You will find olive trees, figs, orange and almond trees, mulberries, blackberries and medlar, next to holm oaks, broom and mastic trees. Partridge is hunted here in the autumn and stray wild boars wander





about in the undergrowth. A very special resident, which we sometimes saw slinking around is the meloncillo, the Egyptian mongoose. This rodent predator resembles a huge long-tailed weasel. It hunts rabbits, rodents, birds and insects during the day, but is best known for being immune to snake venom. It can grow up to 60 cm long, and give you quite a startle when you



stumble upon it! Birds that live in this area, in addition to the bee-eater are partridges, the black kite, summer doves, goldfinches, storks and swallows.

Tip! In this [short video](#) about the magnificent birds in this region you'll also meet the meloncillo!



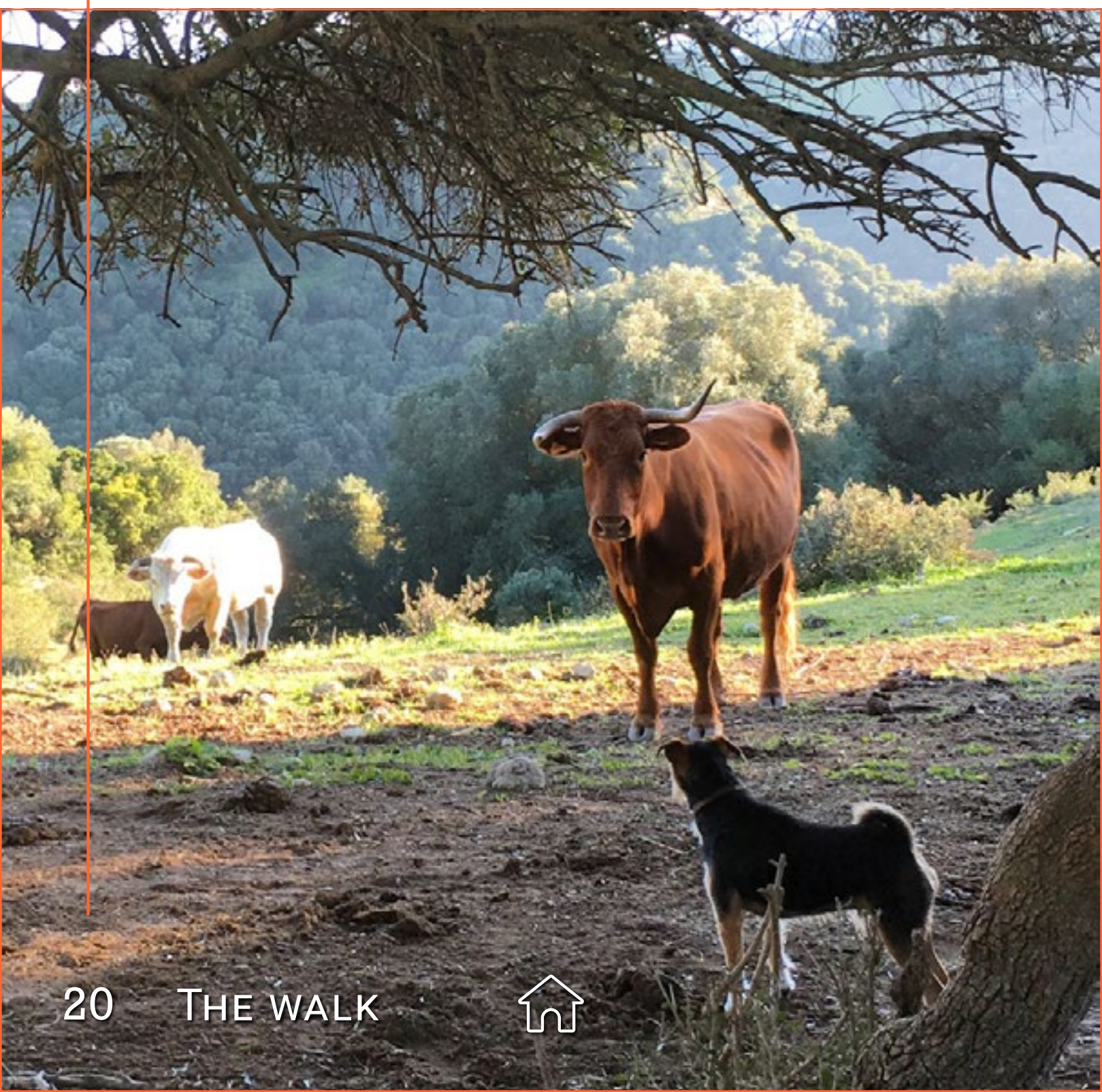
## Sparkling water in Santa Lucía

Santa Lucía is a special, secluded village at the foot of Vejer de la Frontera. Access by car to the village from the N340 is only allowed with a turn to the right, you cannot take a left turn! On the main road into the village, you drive past a big power station and next come upon a veritable oasis. Bamboo, lush plants, amazing flowers, birdsong and the murmuring water of burbling streams. Marvellous! Santa Lucía has a Roman aqueduct, which





was restored in 2019, and no less than five watermills. There's a nice walk near the aqueduct, ending at a small freshwater pool - highly recommended! Kids love it here, the perfect spot for a summer splash!



# Tips

## Where to eat

### Venta el Toro

For a traditional Spanish breakfast of 'Media tostada con tomate' or an uncomplicated lunch you will be warmly welcomed at the oldest bar in Cádiz: Venta El Toro in Santa Lucía. The setting could not be more perfect with a nice terrace beside the river and colourful





decor of, yes, toros and toreros; bulls and bullfighters. It's located on the only road in the hamlet so you can't miss it. The 'signature dish' of Venta El Toro; 'Patatas con huevos fritos' is famous for miles around.

### Venta el Toro

## Restaurante Patria

A truly delightful spot for lunch and dinner and our family's favourite restaurant is Restaurante Patria owned by the amiable Thomas and Åse Donsø from Denmark. Their restaurant is located a 10 minutes drive from Vejer





and has an attractive garden and terrace with fantastic views of the coast. There is an innovative menu of Mediterranean cuisine with a touch of Denmark. Great salads and delightful vegetarian dishes, too. Booking ahead is recommended.

Restaurante Patria

## Where to stay

Finca La Hijuela 

A great spot from which to explore the Costa de la Luz are the lovely holiday houses of Carin and Carlos: Finca la Hijuela, in the rural village La Muela. Hidden in the forest at

the end of a country road, it's the perfect place to put your feet up!

Finca la Hijuela holiday houses

## La Botica de Vejer

In the old town of Vejer de la Frontera we like Hotel La Botica, tucked away in a quiet street behind the Plaza España. From its spacious roof terrace you have amazing views of the town and the area.

La Botica de Vejer



# € 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



# 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:

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