

# WALKING IN CADIZ

THE GUIDEBOOK

## 2. SENDERO DEL ACANTILADO



ANNE MIDDELKAMP

# Walking in Cádiz

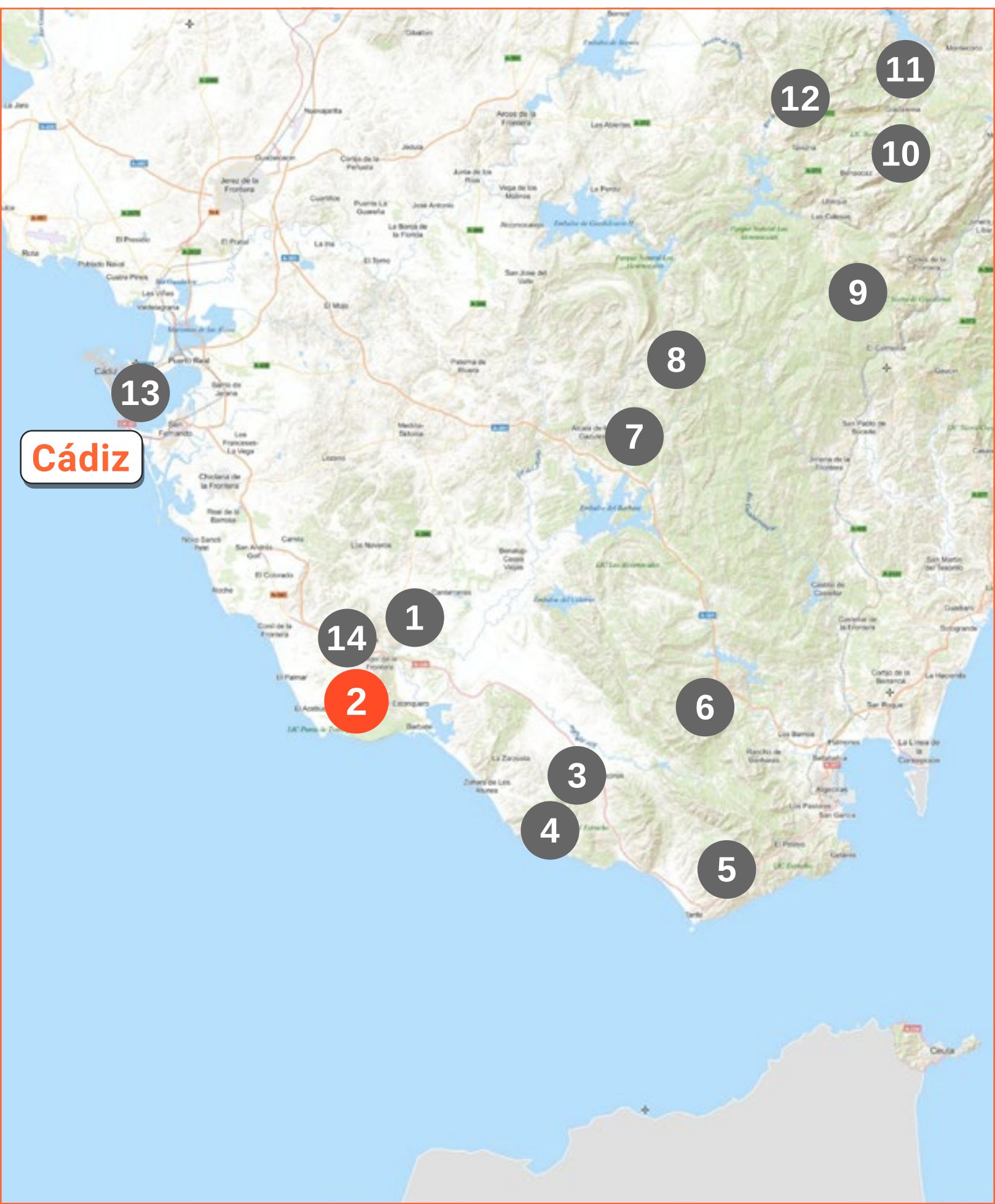
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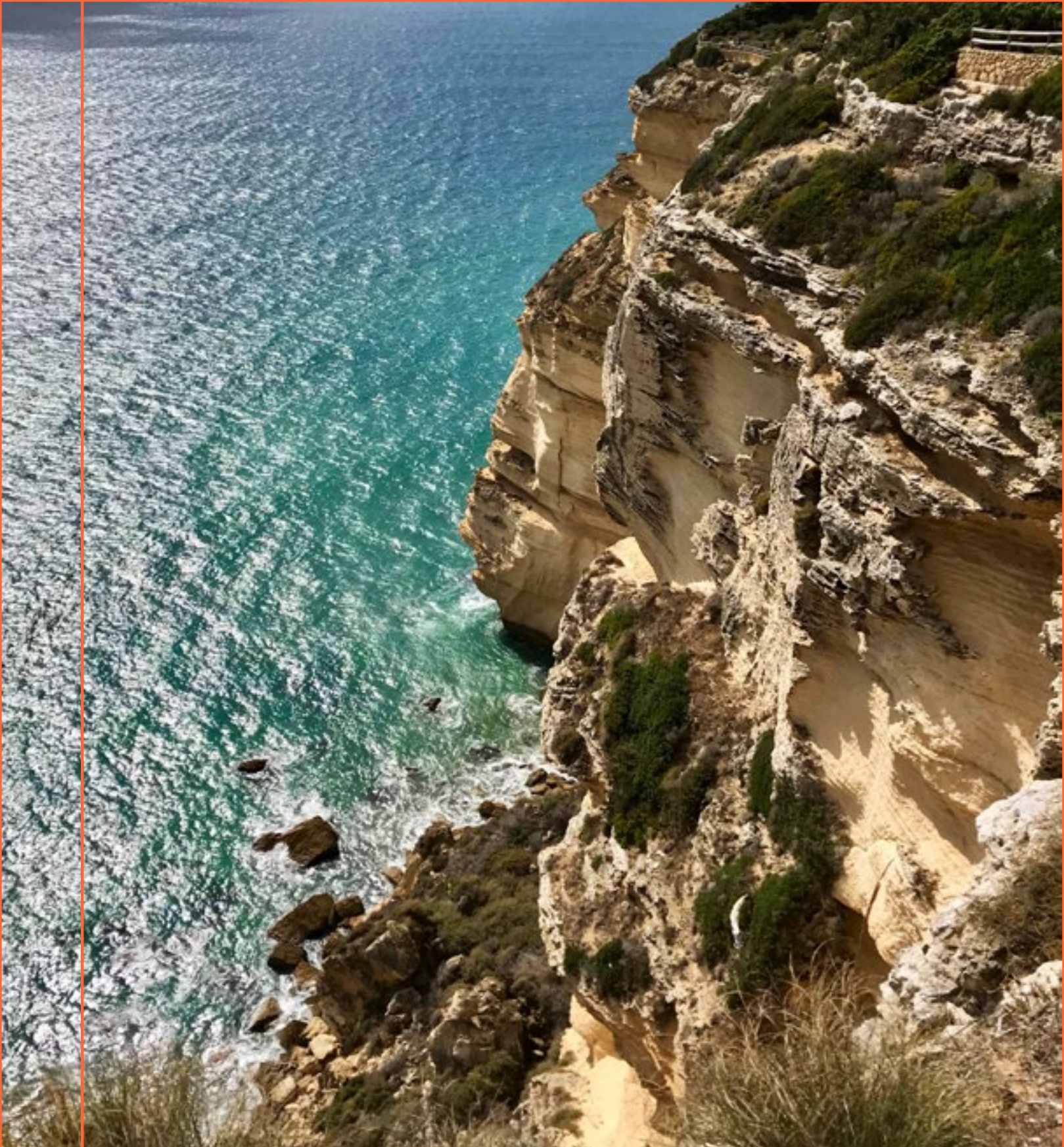


# Overview walks

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# 2. Sendero del Acantilado



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# The Route

- Name: Sendero del Acantilado
- Where: Parque Natural La Breña y Marismas del Barbate
- Type of walk: Linear
- Length: 14 km out and back
- Duration: 3 – 3.5 hours (without stops)
- Difficulty: Easy
- Shade: About a quarter of the walk
- Highest point: 104 m
- Lowest point: 5 m
- Path type: Marked. First half paved dirt road, the rest forest- and sandy track



Starting point: The nicest way to do this walk is from Barbate to Caños de Meca (and back). Drive through the centre of Barbate and keep the sea to your left. Go past the beach called Hierbabuena. After about a kilometre, almost at the top of the hill, park your car in the first parking area on your left. There's room for at least 20 cars and this is where the marked trail starts.



# The map



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# In short

Sendero del Acantilado is an excellent walk along the cliffs between Barbate and Caños. Along the way you have spectacular sea views towards Tarifa and Africa. I love the combination of pine forest, expansive views and ocean breeze! At the end a few beautiful coves await in Caños de Meca, the perfect spot for a picnic. Along the walk you have some dizzying views from the cliffs that reach up to 100 metres high. There are railings so it is safe, but do keep an eye on your child, dog or lemming!





2. ACANTILADO

1. ABEJARUCO





# The walk



This is one of the longer walks but very enjoyable, with very little height difference, it's only steep at the end when you have to descend all the way to the beaches of Caños de Meca (and back up again!). The first half of the trail, up to the Torre del Tajo is a paved road, which is also no problem with a buggy. There is no shade on this section. This is a popular hike on weekends and holidays.

Halfway along the trail you will reach the highest point; the Torre del Tajo, the watchtower from the 16th century built with the purpose of spotting approaching invaders and pirate ships.





This tower was witness to the famous and bloody naval battle led by Lord Nelson; The Battle of Trafalgar, in 1805. Lord Nelson, the greatest naval hero in British history, was killed here and his body was shipped back to England.



You can take a moment to ponder at the foot of the Torre whilst enjoying the views over the ocean and the dramatic cliffs. The walk continues westwards through the fragrant pine forest. There are several trails, both footpaths and horse trails that intertwine, but if you keep the sea on your left you can't get lost. After about a total of 1.5 hours of walking you will reach the west side of the cliffs. Again one of my favourite views: Cabo de Trafalgar, the peninsula with the lighthouse. At this side of the hill there's beautiful, irregularly shaped juniper bushes, bent with the





wind. Head down to the seaside village of Caños de Meca. At low tide you can walk along the small coves flanked by high rocks and take a refreshing dip. Note that at high tide, these intimate bays are barely accessible.



## The Battle of Trafalgar

The famous Battle of Trafalgar took place on October 21, 1805. The British Navy defeated the combined French-Spanish fleet here at Cabo de Trafalgar, thereby gaining Britain's sovereignty over the sea. Admiral Horatio Nelson, the greatest naval hero in British history, was killed in the sea battle. The French-Spanish fleet had nearly 3,400 deaths and 1,160 injured. Sixteen ships

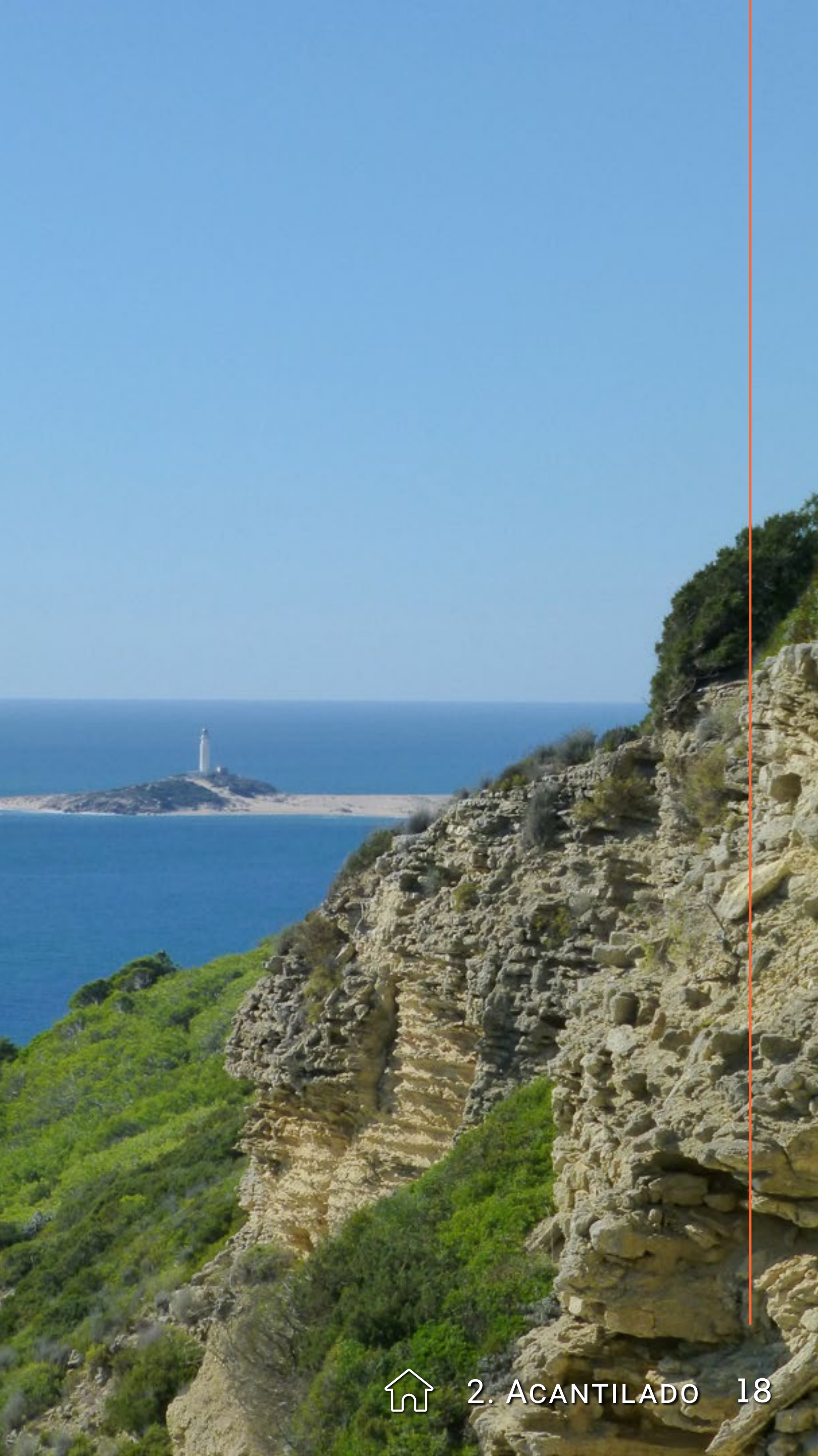




were destroyed, nine returned to Cádiz, four sailed to Gibraltar and four escaped. The English fleet suffered only 469 deaths. The message that Nelson was killed gave the English a hero they badly needed at the time. This British victory had consequences well into the twentieth century.

Read more about:

[The battle of Trafalgar](#)





## Tips

### The largest dovecote in Europe

Inland from the coast, tucked away behind the pine forests of La Breña y Marismas del Barbate Natural Park, lies the 'Palomar de la Breña'. This is the largest dovecote in Europe! It is well hidden so it would not be discovered and plundered by pirates. Thousands of pigeons once lived in this huge 18th century building, in more than





7,700 nests. The birds were kept for their meat as well as for the production of gunpowder (made from the pigeon droppings). The dovecote can be visited free of charge. At the Palomar is a small hotel with a bar where you can get a drink and a tapa and where they'll be happy to give you more information about this quirky place.

### Palomar de la Breña

## To the lighthouse

When you drive to Conil or Vejer de la Frontera through the pine forest and Caños de Meca it's worth visiting the famous



lighthouse of Cabo the Trafalgar and stopping for a bite or a cold beer at Las Dunas, a cute bar resembling a goblin dwelling with a huge garden, open all year round.

A few kilometres past Caños de Meca, take the first exit to the left with the sign: 'Faro de Trafalgar / Playa. Las Dunas is located at the end of this dead end road. From here it is a lovely, fifteen minute walk to the lighthouse along the beach.

[Bar Las Dunas](#)





# Where to eat

## Restaurante Castillejos

There are several restaurants in the small town of Caños the Meca, but only a few of them are open all year round. One of our favourites is Restaurante Castillejos with its tempting menu and friendly, professional staff.

### Restaurante Castillejos



# Where to stay

## Casas Karen



One of the ‘pioneers’ that built a small-scale, eco-friendly rural complex here in the 1970s is Karen Abrahams. ‘Casas Karen’ with its colourful cabañas is famous with travellers that seek an authentic refuge off the beaten track. Glamping but different!

### Casas Karen

## Palomar de la Breña



A lovely place to spend the night on the other side of the





pine forest is the Palomar de la Breña, at the famous dovecote. Beautiful and quiet location with a view of the forest and rolling hills.

### Palomar de la Breña

## Hotel Madreselva



Hotel Madreselva lies at a minutes' walk from the pretty beach in Caños de Meca, with views of the Trafalgar lighthouse. The Hacienda-like hotel has a lovely garden, swimming pool and rooms with private terraces. All you need for a romantic getaway!

### Hotel Madreselva



# € 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:

[info@walkingcadiz.com](mailto:info@walkingcadiz.com)



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