

WALKING IN CADIZ

THE GUIDEBOOK

9. LA LAGUNA DEL MORAL



ANNE MIDDELKAMP

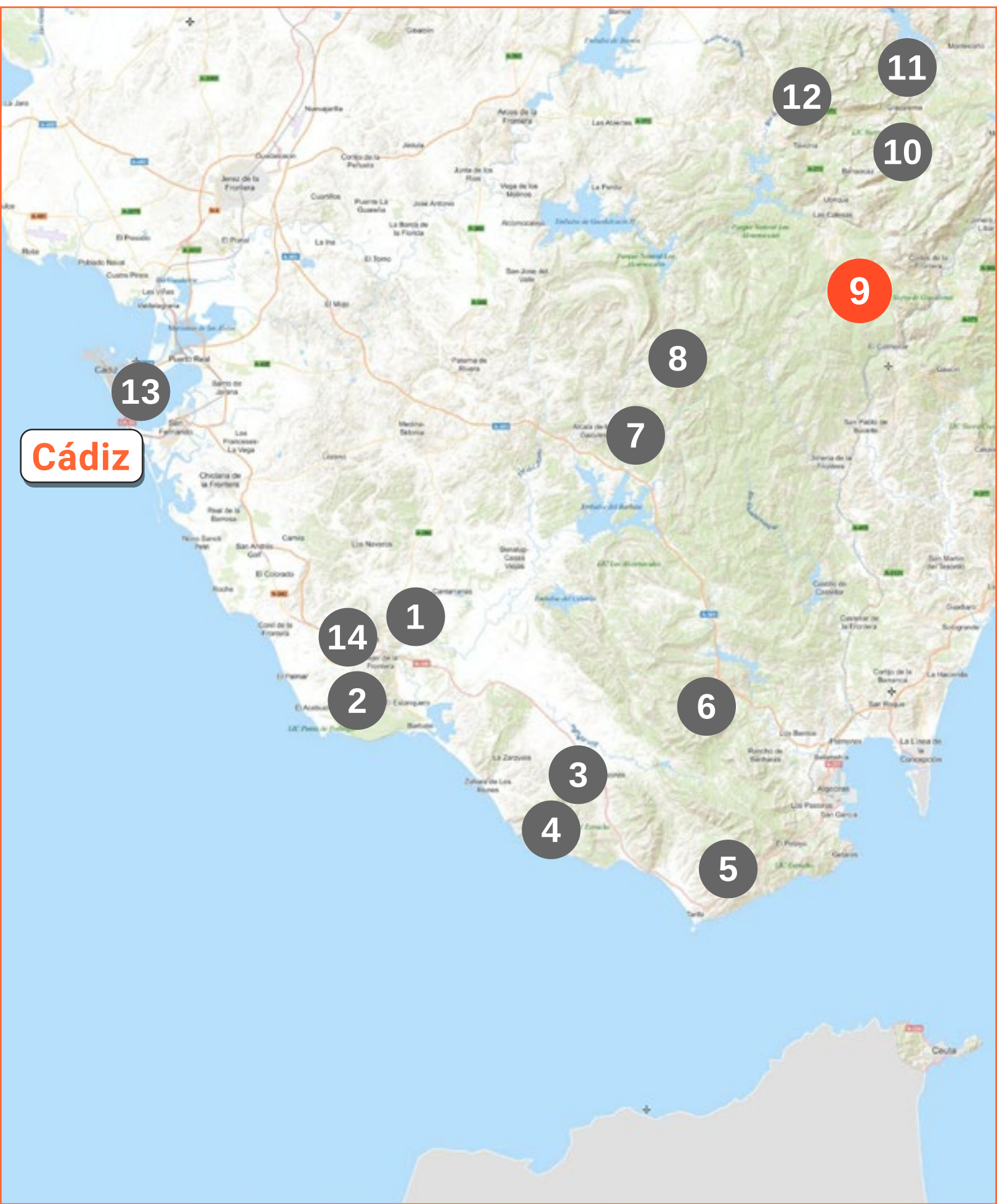
Walking in Cádiz

www.walkingcadiz.com

info@walkingcadiz.com

Overview walks

© INSTITUTO GEOGRÁFICO NACIONAL





9. Sendero La Laguna del Moral

Content



The route 6

The map 8

In short 9

The walk 10

Tips 21

Social media 26

Contact 27



The route

- Name: Sendero La Laguna del Moral
- Where: La Saucedá, Cortes de la Frontera
- Type of walk: Circular
- Length: 6 km
- Duration: 3 hours (without stops)
- Difficulty: Easy
- Shade: Just over half of the walk
- Highest point: 685 m
- Lowest point: 503 m
- Path type: Well marked paved forest path



The starting point of the hike is in the municipality of Cortes de la Frontera, near Puerto de Gáliz. From Ubrique, Alcalá de los Gazules and Cortes de la Frontera it is about a 45 minute drive. From Puerto de Galiz take the C3331/CA8201 towards Área Recreativa La Sauceda. After about five kilometres you will arrive at the La Sauceda recreation area. The walk starts here. There are approximately 20 parking spaces at the recreation area. About 30 - 40 metres to the right of the Nucleo Recreativa Ambiental you will find a sign to the beginning of the walk. This is just after the bend at a casa forestal, a farm.

The map



© INSTITUTO GEOGRÁFICO NACIONAL





In short

This walk takes you to an enchanting part of the Alcornocales Nature park, a green valley with a fairytale lagoon and ancient trees, great views of the mountains, up to the Sierra de Grazalema, but also silent traces of a tragedy from the Spanish civil war: the ruins of a village that was destroyed by the German Luftwaffe.



The walk



The first part of the walk, to the lagoon, gradually ascends along a wide dirt road. On your right you have beautiful views to the Sierra de la Nieves and the Grazalema Natural Park with the peak of the Torreón, 1,654 metres high. On either side of the road is pasture where cattle graze on the black ‘bujeo’ field. You pass twice through a gate and at junctions there are clear signposts to the laguna. A little higher up, the forest starts and the path narrows. During this walk, notice the amazing, ancient and whimsically shaped





gall and cork oak trees that remind you of the talking trees, Ents, straight out of the Lord of the Rings.

After about an hour's walking you arrive at the lagoon that is surrounded by quejigos, Portuguese oaks. The lake is named after the giant mulberry tree (moral) that once

stood here. In the spring you can hear the croaking of frogs and spot newts. There's a fence around the lake to protect it from the goats and cows that roam here. The pond is not fed by a river or source and usually dries up completely in the summer.

After the lake you continue on the descending path to the left. Here the landscape is more open, with low scrub, huge ferns and small meadows. To the left of the trail is a fence that marks private farmland. From the higher parts you have some impressive views over the Sierra, the mountains. Scattered along the path you can find

remnants of old buildings, their walls overgrown with weeds.



La Saucedá

The village of La Saucedá was bombed in the civil war in 1936. A large number of cottages were restored in 1989 and are now used for rural tourism with basic, communal facilities. In a clearing, an idyllic setting in the middle of the forest you come



across the first group of thatched cottages, called Casas de los Dornajos. Next to them are the ruins of the Ermita. The façade, a solemn witness, is almost intact. This church must have been beautiful once.

The trail continues, over a bridge and along the remains of the flour mill 'La Menda'.

Then there's a second group of houses, Casas de la Huelas and a larger building that serves as a shop and information centre. Next you cross a wooden bridge over the Pasadallana River and after a beautiful stretch through the gorge you return to the starting point.



It is such an idyllic corner, in these magic forests. A fantastic location for rural tourism, but learning about what happened here, I look at it through different eyes.



La Saucedá, the 'Guernica of Cádiz'

La Saucedá, a mountain top hamlet with its strategic location between two mountain ranges, was one of the last strongholds of republican resistance to the military coup of July 18, 1936 and was destroyed in the fall of 1936 by 4 bombers of the Condor Legion of the German Luftwaffe, the same legion that was responsible for the bombing of Guernica a few months later.



In 1936, La Saucedá had about 500 inhabitants and a socialist mayor in 1936. The village was growing and the construction of a road to Jimena de la Frontera had just commenced when the Civil War started. La Saucedá then became a refuge for republicans fleeing from Franco's forces. At that time the village had two schools, three bread ovens, a flour mill and a church. After the bombing, rebel troops arrived, who then looted the village and set the rest of the remaining buildings on fire. Many of the residents were captured, tortured and killed at the nearby Cortijo de 'el Marrufo',





an execution centre and one of the largest mass graves in Spain. In 2016 the 'Casa de la Memoria', a documentation and memorial centre, was opened in Jimena de la Frontera.

[Casa de la Memoria](#)





Tips

Jimena de la Frontera

Jimena de la Frontera, formerly Oba, was a sought-after stronghold because of its strategic location and fertile agricultural land between the two rivers the Guadiaro and Hozgarganta. On-site cave paintings are evidence of human habitation in the Bronze Age. The Roman fortified city, Oba, was so important that it had its own currency.



In the city you can find stones with Roman inscriptions. The Moors changed the name to Xemina. The heyday of the robust Islamic castle high above the river was in the 13th - 15th centuries, but its origins are much earlier. The castle is worth a visit. At the entrance is an 18th century weapon factory. You can drive almost to the top by car or climb up from the village on foot.



Where to eat

Restaurant La Estación

San Pablo de Buceite is only a small village but has a famous restaurant! La Estación, in the former train station, has even been listed by the Guardian in a top 10 of train station restaurants!

[Restaurant La Estación](#)



Restaurant Platero & Co

A delightful discovery is restaurant Platero & Co in Gaucín, run by the Dutch Barry and Hellen. fabulous, international cuisine prepared with finest local products (chestnuts, cherries, mushrooms, goat cheese, figs). From the terrace you have fantastic views over the Sierra de Grazalema.

Restaurant Platero & Co



Where to stay

El Diplomático Feo (No Cashback)

Some 30 kilometres south of La Saucedá, near the village of San Pablo de Buceite, Canadians Bruce and Ingrid run a charming guest house with a pool and fantastic views: El Diplomático Feo. They are both keen hikers and can give you excellent tips about the area.

[El Diplomático Feo](#)



Social media



Contact



Ardanza Travel & Media BV

PO Box 1089

1400 BB Bussum

The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)6 278 63 776

info@walkingcadiz.com

www.walkingcadiz.com

www.ardanza.nl

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



Walking in Cádiz

First edition, 2020

Self-Published

© 2020 Ardanza Media

Author: Anne Middelkamp

Photography: Nikki Schuurman,

Anne Middelkamp, Karen Brand

Bird photography: Javier Elorriaga,

Birding The Strait

Design & layout: Nathalie Harsono,

[Studio Fijnbesnaard](#)

English Editor: Ed Milsom

With special thanks to my

proofreaders: Jennie & Chris

Moore



Cover: Walk 3, Loma de San Bartolomé

ISBN 978-90-8258-272-7

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an automated database and / or made public in any form or by any means, whether electronic, mechanical, by photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission.

The ebook “Walking in Cádiz” has been created with the greatest possible care. Ardanza Media is not liable for damage resulting from any inaccuracies. Participation in the walking routes described in this walking guide is entirely at your own risk.



ISBN 978-90-8258-272-7



**Walking
in Cádiz**



www.walkingcadiz.com