



·ceuta·

Donde se unen las emociones

 ENG



The nature of Ceuta from *another prism*

Nature tourism guide





FLORA

The flora of Ceuta is made up of about five hundred species, with a predominance of Mediterranean and Macaronesian elements, which together with the particular conditions of the environment of the Strait of Gibraltar, clearly reflects the type of **bioclimatic** influences of the region.

The mild and generally warm and temperate climate gives a predominant existence of plant species, typical of these climatic qualities.

Most of the plant species can be found mainly on **Mount Hacho** and **Mount Anyera**, where most of the terrestrial biodiversity is concentrated.

● CORK TREE

Quercus suber



It is a medium-sized evergreen oak. It is the main source of cork for wine bottle stoppers, sound and heat insulation, and other uses, such as cricket ball cores.

It is native to southwestern Europe and northwestern Africa.

In the Mediterranean basin the tree is an ancient species with fossil remains dating back to the Tertiary period.



● ANDALUSIAN OAK

Quercus canariensis

A robust deciduous tree that reaches 30 m in height, with a wide crown and dark brown bark.

It flowers in April or May and the male flowers appear in long yellowish filaments (catkins) that facilitate the dispersion of pollen by the wind.

The female flowers, when mature and fertilized, form acorns, which are born on short, thick stalks.





● LENTISK

Pistacia lentiscus

The mastic is a branched shrub, its mature bark is grayish, but in the branches and young specimens is greenish or reddish. Its leaves are leathery.

In addition, the leaflets have the entire margin, are elliptic or lanceolate, shiny, dark on the upper side, somewhat lighter on the underside and often ending in a non-prickly tip. The flowers are greenish or reddish, and the fruits are globose, not very fleshy and reddish at first, but then blacken as they ripen.



● PINE

Pinus halepensi

Large tree that can reach 40 m in height.

The trunk is thick and is characterized because its upper part acquires an orange tone, like that of salmon, losing the thick part of its bark and exposing the inner part that has a papery appearance. Even from a distance you can see this character and distinguish a Scots pine from other species.



● TOXIC OLEANDER

Nerium oleander



Also known as laurel blossom, laurel rose, balandre, wild pansy, or Roman laurel. It is a shrubby plant (of Mediterranean origin and therefore resistant to drought).

It is deep green and its leaves, flowers, stems, branches and seeds are all highly poisonous.



● EUROPEAN FAN PALM

Chamaerops humilis

It is popularly known as European fan palm, or dwarf palm.

It is one of the two species of the palm family, native to southern Europe.

It is distributed in North Africa, and southeastern and southwestern Europe.

It is the only palm species native to the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands.





FAUNA

Despite the small size of the territory, the fauna is rich and varied.

This is due to the geographical situation of the city, and to the complex geological history of the region, located in the inflection zone of the Betic-Rifeño arc, causing the conjunction of very diverse faunal elements.

We can affirm that the geographical situation of Ceuta is one of the reasons for its faunal richness, forming a diverse mix of species that changes throughout the year.



◆ NORTH AFRICAN SALAMANDER

Algyrian salamander



It has a slender body and a relatively long, laterally flattened tail. Black or dark brown background color, and yellow spots that do not follow any pattern.

Some specimens have red spots on the head and body. Males and females are of equal size.



◆ MAGHREBIAN FROG

Pinus halepensis

It is a medium to large frog, reaching up to 11 cm in length in females, although it does not usually exceed 8 cm.

It has a very variable green and brown coloration, with black spots, with a lighter green vertebral line, and without the characteristic temporal spot of brown frogs.



◆ RIVER SHRIMP

Chalcides colosii

Small to medium sized skink, with a head-body length between 64 and 114 mm, the average being about 85 mm.

Brownish dorsal coloration, presenting two longitudinal black bands on both sides of the body that go from the head to the hind limbs. Between these and the dorsum there is another band of lighter color, often of a dull golden hue. Limbs usually darker than the dorsum.



◆ PORCUPINE

Hystricidae Family

The term comes from the characteristic black and white barbs that cover its skin, which serve as a defense, and since they are not implanted in the skin, they can come off causing wounds to their enemies.

Despite their name, they are not related to pigs, in fact they are rodents. Neither should they be confused with hedgehogs or echidnas.



◆ **ATLAS OCELLATED LIZARD**

Timon tangitanus



The head is relatively large and is composed of large cephalic scales. The eyes are large, with a black pupil and a copper-colored iris. The eardrums are black and easily visible.

The body is robust. The dorsal area is covered with small granular scales while the ventral area is composed of larger and more or less elongated scales. It has strong limbs with long fingers that help it move at high speed.

◆ **RED ADMIRAL BUTTERFLY**

Vanessa atalanta

The vanessa or red admiral, popularly known also as atalanta (*Vanessa atalanta*) is a species of ditrisid lepidopteran of the family Nymphalidae native to Europe, Asia and North America.

In northern Europe it is one of the last butterflies to disappear before winter. Hibernating specimens are usually more intensely colored than the other generation. The butterfly also flies during sunny winter days, especially in southern Europe. In North America, it generally flies from March to October; it overwinters in Texas.



◆ HORSESHOE BATS

Rhinolophus hiposideros

It has large ears, with a more or less dark brown dorsal coloration and the ventral part somewhat lighter. The ears and wing membranes are always darker than the hair on the back. It is markedly cave-dwelling, preferring areas of shrub and tree cover, with the presence of surface water.

Reproduction occurs in colonies of mostly females, they have only one offspring per year and the females are fertile from the age of two years. They feed mainly on dipterans and nematocysts, although they sometimes capture prey on the ground.



◆ MORUNE PARTRIDGE

Alectoris barbara

A medium-sized terrestrial bird with a stocky appearance. It is similar to the red-legged partridge, but has duller tones, with dark forehead, crown and nape. It is endemic to North Africa, where it is widely distributed from Morocco to Libya, occupying coastal plains, semi-deserts and mountainous areas of the Atlas. It is also present in some Mediterranean islands (Sardinia). In Spain it is found naturally only in Ceuta and Melilla.



Length:
32-34 cm
Size:
46-49 cm

◆ PALE SWIFT

Apus pallidus



It has a crossbow-shaped silhouette, a short forked tail and long, narrow wings.

In general it is established in areas near the sea and inland populations are rare, where it usually inhabits urban centers. It is possible that its breeding area is larger, due to frequent confusion with other swift species. Of the three subspecies described, *brehmorum*, the darkest, is the one present in Spain. It winters in tropical Africa north of the equator.



◆ CORY'S SHEARWATER

Calonectris diomedea



It is a large seabird and the largest of the shearwaters present in Europe.

This highly pelagic and migratory seabird only comes to the coast to breed. After the breeding season, individuals of the subspecies *borealis* migrate from the Macaronesian islands to the western Atlantic coasts, first to the South American coast, and then back to the northern hemisphere. Similarly, the subspecies *diomedea* leaves the nesting sites after the breeding season, through the Strait of Gibraltar, to move to the coasts of South Africa.

◆ EUROPEAN OWL

Athene noctua

The little owl (*Athene noctua*) is a strigiform bird of the Strigidae family. It is widespread throughout the southern half of Europe and North Africa, as it is typical of Mediterranean ecosystems with an abundance of olive trees. It is about 25 cm long from beak to tail tip.

The flight of the little owl is undulating, with continuous descents and ascents and rapid flapping.



Length:
21-23 cm
Size:
51-54 cm

◆ DARK BUZZARD

Moorish Buzzard

This is a large, long-winged buzzard, which may resemble a small eagle in size. It is the largest bushbird in the western Palearctic, with a body length of between 50 and 70 centimeters and a wingspan of between 135 and 160 centimeters.

It often hunts from prominent perches, or from the ground in steppe or desert terrain, occasionally in more wooded areas but always in the vicinity of large open spaces.



Length:
50-70 cm
Size:
135-160 cm

◆ SENEGAL CHAGRA

Tchagra senegalus

This is a very rare bird, cited only once in the Peninsula and sporadically observed in Ceuta. It is a species of passiform bird, which usually inhabits areas of scrubland, scattered forests or crops. This medium-sized bird, with long tail and legs, is unmistakable. Its body is gray, and its wings, both closed and open, have a striking, contrasting brownish-brown color.



◆ ORANGE BULBUL

Pycnonotus barbatus

It is a bird similar in size to the common blackbird, with a long tail and thin bill, with brownish-earthy coloration in the dorsal regions and a rather dark head.

It is widely distributed - with several subspecies - throughout much of the Ethiopian region, where it reaches the southernmost parts of Africa. Within the western Palearctic it occupies Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and northern Chad, as well as the Autonomous City of Ceuta.



◆ TAWNY OWL

Strix aluco mauritanicus

Strix aluco is a medium-sized bird of prey of the order Strigiformes. As a rule, they build their nest inside hollows in trees.

This nocturnal bird of prey hunts mainly small rodents, victims of which are swallowed whole. The Tawny Owl is also capable of catching smaller owls, but can also be preyed upon by eagle owls, goshawks and foxes, the latter being the major killers of chicks of this species.



Length:
37-43 cm
Size:
81-96 cm

◆ RAVEN

Corvus corax tingitanus



Length:
64 cm
Size:
130-150 cm

The raven is a passerine bird of the corvid family, specifically its largest member.

The species inhabits the countryside of much of Europe, Asia, North Africa and North America.

Most European specimens are sedentary, although some migrate south during the winter.

They are not very sociable, which is why they prefer to breed in pairs. In winter they may form flocks of a few dozen individuals to feed.

◆ THEKLA LARK

Galerida thekla



Length:
17 cm
Size:
28-32 cm

A medium-sized, stubby and crested alaudid. It prefers warm areas, where it occupies steppes and moors with some shrub cover or sparse woodland. It is distributed throughout the Iberian Peninsula, Balearic Islands, North Africa and the Sahel. It is also found in a very localized way in the south of France. Six subspecies are recognized in the Palearctic.

Its diet is based on the consumption of seeds and small invertebrates (beetles, ants, spiders, bugs, grasshoppers, caterpillars, snails, etc.).

◆ CACHALOT

Physeter macrocephalus

The cachalote is the largest toothed cetacean in existence. Adult males can reach up to 20.5 m, and a weight of 57 tons.

At birth, both sexes are of equal size, but at maturity, males are 30 to 50 percent larger than females.



◆ BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

Tursiops truncatus

They are strict carnivores. They are among the most intelligent species inhabiting the planet. They are found relatively close to the coasts and often interact with humans.

They are between 2 and 8 meters long, with a fusiform body, a large head, an elongated snout, and only one blowhole or respiratory orifice at the top of the head.



◆ RISSO'S DOLPHIN

Grampus griseus

The grey squid or risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) is a species of odontocete cetacean of the family Delphinidae. It is widely distributed in tropical, temperate and subpolar seas around the world. It is found in deep oceanic and continental waters, steep, with slopes, canyons and trenches, at depths between 200 and 2,000 meters where they find one of their main foods, the squid.



◆ NORTHERN MINKE WHALE

Balaenoptera borealis



It has a large size, with adult specimens between 12 and 16 meters in length and 20 to 30 tons in weight. There are individuals up to 20 m long and weighing up to 45 tons. At birth, calves measure 4 to 5 meters. The northern minke whale resembles the Bryde's whale.

At sea, the most reliable distinction is the dive sequence.



◆ LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE

Caretta caretta

It is the only species of the genus *Caretta*, which belongs to the family Cheloniidae, within the super family of sea turtles, and is on the list of animals threatened with extinction.

It inhabits the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans, and a very important nesting area is the Eastern Mediterranean. Its length could reach approximately 120 cm and its weight 120 kg.



◆ BLUEFIN TUNA

Thunnus thynnus



The bluefin tuna, common tuna or Atlantic bluefin tuna, is an endangered tuna species belonging to the Scombridae family.

The bluefin tuna is native to both the western and eastern shores of the Atlantic, as well as the Mediterranean Sea. It is extinct in the waters of the Black and Caspian Seas.

Its large size, speed and strength as a predator has attracted the admiration of fishermen, as well as writers, sportsmen, bankers and scientists since ancient times.

◆ ORANGE CORAL

Astroides calycularis

It consists of a group of polyps, each of which is found in a stone cup known as a calyx. Its terminations or tentacles are stinging.

The colony grows by asexual reproduction, new polyps sprouting from existing polyps and secreting their own calyces.

It is a species listed in the National Catalog of Threatened Species.



◆ RED CORAL

Corallium rubrum



Corallium rubrum was first considered a mineral, then a plant, then an animal. It belongs to the class Anthozoa, literally “flower animals”, like the actinias. In fact, it has arborescences of flowering branches, decorated with numerous small polyps, which appear to the eye as tiny stars.

It has a porous exoskeleton that is extremely fragile. It is not a single animal, but a colony of animals. They form colonies, although they can live individually, however, they prefer to live in colonies together with other specimens in the reefs, where they protect each other and also protect the coasts.

They have a great need to live within a fixed temperature range, with very little oscillation (17-18 °C) and need a microenvironment that remains stable at all times.





HIKING

Do you like nature and walking?

Then you have come to the perfect place. Here you will find everything you need to prepare for the best trails and routes in Ceuta.

▶ AROUND MOUNT HACHO



Mount Hacho has a height of 204 meters and is crowned by a fortress with the same name.

The route will leave us magnificent views of the coast, and some cliffs that will delight our views.

Together with the Rock of Gibraltar, it is considered by some as one of the two columns of Hercules.

Not to be missed:

San Amaro Park, which includes botanical circuit with 120 native species in which highlights a wide diversity of tree species.

Starting from the center of the city of Ceuta, the distance to cover is about 11 km, being the first of them by totally urban area, until you reach the slopes of the mountain, where the road that surrounds it, has a lane of 6 km specially conditioned for passers-by, so that we can go around the mountain itself.

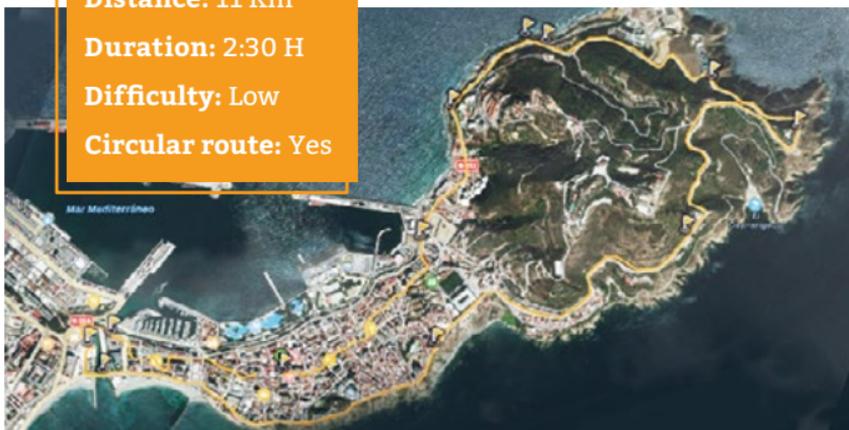
Santa Catalina Park, with 21,000 shrubs, 1,000 palms and 230 specimens of native trees such as palms and Canary Island pine. In the Valdeaguas Battery stands out an araucaria of almost twelve meters high.

Distance: 11 Km

Duration: 2:30 H

Difficulty: Low

Circular route: Yes





MOUNT ANYERA CEUTA'S ROOF

Mount Anyera is the highest peak in the territory of Ceuta with a maximum height of 349 meters.

On the route we will start from the port of Ceuta to go along the coast until you reach the first climb that will be the beginning of the ascent to the mountain.

During the route in addition to the magnificent views of the coast in the first sections and the lush forests once entered the mountain, you can see the various fortresses built.



Distance: 19 Km

Duration: 4:30 H

Difficulty: Medium

Circular route: Yes



▶ SHORT ROUTE OF THE FORTS



This route passes through some of the forts built in the 19th century to guard the border with Morocco.

FROM THE TOWER OF PINIERS TO THE ANYERA TOWER

This route first follows a track overlooking Morocco to go into the forest and reach the towers of Isabel II, and the Anyera Tower.

TO THE ANYERA TOWER TO THE BEACH

We leave the Anyera Tower with a steep descent along a path to reach the tower of Aranguren and, a few meters away, the Beliuñex viewpoint.

We continue a steady descent until we reach the beach of Calamocarro.

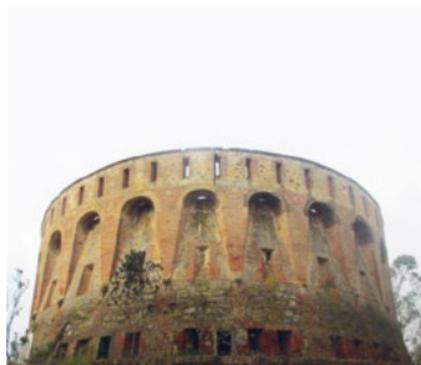
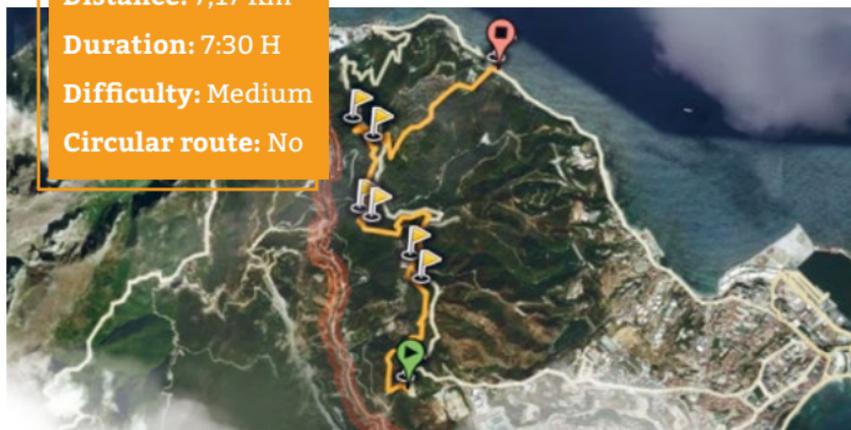


Distance: 7,17 Km

Duration: 7:30 H

Difficulty: Medium

Circular route: No





7 FORTS AND TURTLE MOUNTAIN

It is a spectacular route around Ceuta. Where you can see the fantastic seven neo-medieval forts, built to secure the border of the city.

- ◆ FORT OF LA BARRIADA
- ◆ TOWER OF MENDIZÁBAL
- ◆ PINIERS FORTRESS
- ◆ TOWER OF FRANCISCO DE ASIS
- ◆ TOWER OF ISABEL II
- ◆ TOWER OF ANYERA
- ◆ TOWER OF ARAGUREN



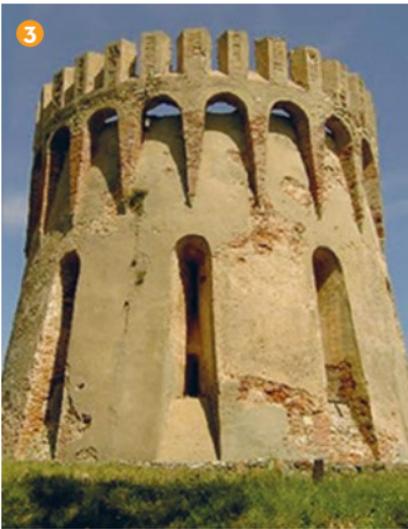
Distance: 12,02 Km

Duration: 3:00 H

Difficulty: Medium

Circular route: No





1 Fort of Prince Alfonso | 2 Tower of Aranguren | 3 Piniers Fortress
4 Tower of Isabel II | 5 Tower-Mendizábal | 6 Tower of Francisco de Asís
7 Tower of Yébel Ányera



ROUTE OF THE SEASIDE PATH

The route of the seaside path follows a path which was opened in 1719 and links the fortifications located to the south of Mount Hacho. This path was used to guard the castles, forts, forts and other fortifications that made up the southern maritime flank of El Hacho area.

In the past, most of this path was protected by long stretches of wall that gave cover to the defenders to prevent them from being attacked from the many coves along this stretch of the coast.

The seaside path route runs from the Sarchal Fort to the Desnarigado Castle and is 1,5 kilometers long.

Distance: 1,5 Km

Duration: 30 min

Difficulty: Low

Circular route: No





**NETWORK OF
NATURE TRAILS
OF CEUTA**

PR-CE1 AFRICA SQUARE - FRANCISCO DE ASIS TOWER



The PR-CE1 runs along the western half of the peninsula, also known as the “outer countryside” area. Bordering the coast and with spectacular views of the Strait of Gibraltar we reach the vicinity of the area of García Aldave where we begin the ascent to the first neo-medieval fort, that

of Aranguren where we continue through an area of ferns to the second fort, the largest of all that remain, that of Isabel 11 to finish in the fort of Francisco de Asís. Along the route we will again find areas of high historical, natural and scenic value.

Layout: Urban and rural

Distance: 12,2 Km

Duration: 3:30 H

Difficulty: Medium

Circular route: No





PR-CE2 AFRICA SQUARE - MOUNT HACHO



The PR-CE2 runs through the eastern half of the territory that has traditionally been called the area of the isthmus, Almina and Mount Hacho.

On a circular route and always following the line of the same, we will be able to observe aspects of great historical, scenic and natural interest.

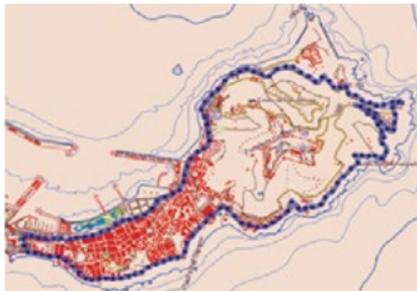
Layout: Urban and rural

Distance: 10,5 Km

Duration: 2:30 H

Difficulty: Easy

Circular route: Yes



SL-CE 1 RENEGADO RESERVOIR BYPASS



The track that circles the Renegado reservoir can be started from the parking lot next to the dam, which after crossing it continues along the edge of the reservoir under a shady forest of pines and eucalyptus that links with an asphalted road that we must go down to get back to the starting point.

During the descent we can also take the first detour to the right if we intend to cross the reservoir of hell.

Layout: Rural

Distance: 2,8 Km

Duration: 40 min

Difficulty: Easy

Circular route: Yes





SL-CE 2 RESERVOIR OF HELL BYPASS



This route can be complementary to the Renegado reservoir and/or vice versa. With less shaded areas than the Renegado, it makes for a pleasant walk at any time of the year.

The two routes (SL-CE1 and SL-Ce2) are very popular with running and mountain bike (MTB) enthusiasts.

Layout: Rural

Distance: 2,6 Km

Duration: 45 min

Difficulty: Easy

Circular route: Yes



SL-CE 3 CREEK OF CALAMOCARRO- FORT OF ARANGUREN



Wooded vegetation, eucalyptus and pine trees dominate the landscape of the territory, accompanied by more or less mixed formations of cork oaks, a species native to the area.

Centennial trees such as an impressive pine tree about 20 meters high and as many in diameter. A 32-meter elm stands majestically among eucalyptus, cork oaks and orange trees, a vestige of the time when the area was exploited agriculturally. Near the slender elm,

a group of chestnut trees over 400 years old.

An essential part of the ZEPA (Special Protection Area for Birds) Benzú-Calamocarro, in the Calamocarro stream, we have the possibility of observing practically all the species and subspecies of the Ceuti birdlife.

Faunal elements include the Porcupine “Endangered” according to the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), which has been detected in Ceuta in the basin of the Calamorro stream.

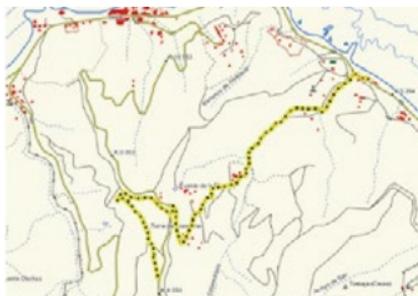
Layout: Rural

Distance: 2,8 Km

Duration: 45 min

Difficulty: Easy

Circular route: Yes





SL-CE 5 PICNIC AREA OF CALAMOCARRO- TRAIL OF LASTRA



We start from the picnic area of Los Hornillos, also known as Calamocarro and, ascending, we follow a wide lane that also allows the circulation of vehicles. The pine grove that surrounds us, gives way to eucalyptus and scrubland.

Just at the foot of the track of La Lastra ends this route, but those who still want to can continue along this lane to exit in front of the pine forest of Aranguren.

Layout: Rural

Distance: 2 Km

Duration: 30 min

Difficulty: Easy

Circular route: No



SL-CE 6 BYPASS AROUND THE FORTRESS OF EL HACHO



Crowning the top of Mount Hacho we find this fortress of ancient history and great strategic value, dominating both shores of the Strait of Gibraltar, currently still has military use, although it is possible to visit.

of imposing walls, punctuated by circular towers on all sides, offering an excellent view of the Strait of Gibraltar, the city of Ceuta and the mountains of Rifa as we go around it.

Starting the walk from its main entrance, better known as Málaga Door, the path runs at the foot

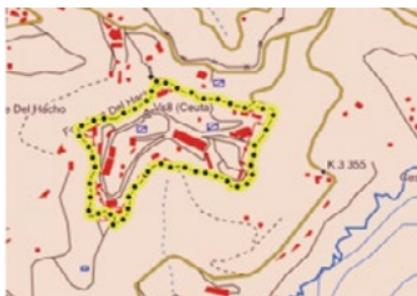
Layout: Periurban

Distance: 2 Km

Duration: 45 min

Difficulty: Easy

Circular route: No





E-4 AFRICA SQUARE- TARAJAL BORDER

The E4 European Path is one of the European Long Distance Paths that starts at the southernmost point of the European continent, in Tarifa (Spain), and continues through France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Cyprus.

The total length of the trail is about 10,500 kilometers.

The E-4 Europe Trail joins the African continent with the Africa Trail A-1 (Morocco-Sahara Border).

Tarifa, as kilometer 0 of the E-4/GR-7 trail was the starting point to carry out the union of the E4 trail (Crete-Ceuta) with the recently launched Africa A1 (Ceuta-Sahara).

Trazado: Periurban

Distance: 2 Km

Duration: 45 min

Difficulty: Easy

Circular route: No





Bicycle route



CLIMBS TO MOUNT HACHO

Route mainly by road doing the different climbs of the Hacho.

- ◇ ASCENT TO THE LIGHTHOUSE BY CEMETERY
- ◇ CLIMB UP TO THE OLD WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO THE FORTRESS
- ◇ ASCENT TO THE STEEP SLOPES OF SAN AMARO
- ◇ ASCENT TO THE LIGHTHOUSE BY SARCHA
- ◇ CLIMB UP THE STEEP SLOPE OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Distance: 34 Km

Duration: 2:00 H

Difficulty: High

Circular route: Yes



ROUTE OF THE FORTS



This is a 19 km long route through the mountains around Ceuta, through the woods near the border.

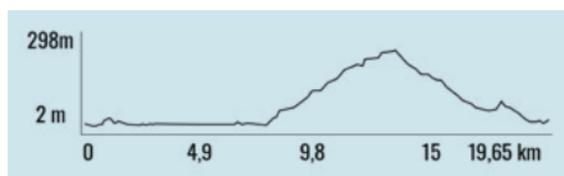


Distance: 19,64 Km

Duration: 1:27 H

Difficulty: Media

Circular route: Yes





KAYAK - CANOE

BELTWAY OF MOUNT HACHO



This route is recommended for its great scenic beauty, easily done by kayak.

From the marina, and crossing the artificial moat of San Felipe you access the bay formed by the beach of La Ribera and Chorrillo.

From there westbound to border Mount Hacho and return to port to the north.



Distance: 10 Km

Duration: 2:00 H

Difficulty: Low

Circular route: Yes









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Donde se unen las emociones.

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