

PUBLIC SPACE AND SAFETY REGULATIONS **FOR THE PATH EL CAMINITO DEL REY**

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Regulations that are to be followed during public visit to the path El Caminito del Rey (The King's Little Pathway) are supposed to allow the citizens to use public space and take pleasure in it, and to protect the spot at the same time. For this purpose, there is to consider that it is placed in the middle of nature; that it is hazardous, and that certain physical effort and skillfulness are necessary to go across it. These characteristics make of it an ideal active tourism resort.

Out of consideration for the environment and other visitors, there is to behave properly during the visit. Above all, it is necessary to avoid crowd formations, racing, noise, and to keep from leaning over the rails. Any other acting that can put in danger the animal or plant life of the area or the visitors' safety is forbidden.

Consequently, **it will be necessary to learn and accept the use regulations in order to obtain the tickets.**

Visitors will be able to travel across the protected natural environment and its surroundings. Therefore, all the signs are going to be created according to the Natural Spots Signs Manual of the Andalusian Government, and all the indications given by the security staff, Environmental or Civil Guard officials will have to be followed.

COMPULSORY REGULATIONS

1) Entrance tickets to the path El Caminito del Rey will be available after its booking, and will be free for six months after the official opening.

2) Tickets shall be obtained on telematics platform of the path's website, www.caminitodelrey.com, and its regulations must be accepted and fulfilled.

You will be issued with the ticket only after having accepted the above conditions and regulations. On that occasion, you will be given an access code that can be read by telematics equipment. Visitors should come 30 minutes before given time at the entrance, which is 25 minutes walking distance from El Kiosko restaurant at the Conde de Guadalhorce Reservoir.

3) Adults and minors with responsible adults must have their ID, passport or corresponding identification document at all times in case they are asked to show them by the personnel of El Caminito del Rey.

4) Person in possession of ticket will have civil liability insurance that will cover any accident along the trail except those provoked by failure to comply with established regulations or those that are visitor's fault.

5) Visitors who have previously booked their tickets need to arrive at the access points at least half an hour earlier than written on the booking receipt so groups could be formed.

6) Visitors with tickets shall go directly to the trail through the corresponding entrance placed in the Municipalities of Álora or Ardales. These will be indicated by signs. It will only be possible to access the path at the authorized places, while the entrance at any other spot, especially along the railway, is absolutely forbidden. The County Council and the corresponding organization in charge of the spot will be absolved from any responsibility in the case of that kind of actions.

7) The spot is open from Tuesday to Sunday, except on December 24th, 25th and 31st, and January 1st. As well as on Mondays and days or periods when it has to be closed.

8) Visitors are obliged to put on correctly the safety equipment they will be provided with at the entrance and wear it during the entire visit.

9) Everybody should walk on the right side of the trail, above all, along the boardwalks. When two people get across each other, there is to be careful when walking next to the rail that protects from falling down the gorge in order to avoid hazard.

10) Those who would like to go climbing will have free entrance to the path. For that purpose, they need to show their updated permission issued by the federation at the access points, and to register and accept the regulations and conditions of the nature reserve in the case of this activity. They must access the path early in the morning and abandon it before its closing time.

11) Climbing is allowed only on the walls that have been approved for that purpose by the responsible environmental consultancy, which is also meant to authorize any climbing competition.

It is banned to jump over the rails in order to access the climbing areas, or to anchor on the boardwalks.

12) Visitors, climbers and other people who come to El Caminito del Rey Path, and the nature reserve Desfiladero de los Gaitanes have to obey these norms as well as those established by the responsible environmental consultancy.

IMPORTANT ISSUES AND SUGGESTIONS

1. El Caminito del Rey is a structure that has been refurbished so to be adapted for active tourism surrounded by nature and peculiar terrain. Because of this, it is hazardous, and certain physical effort and skillfulness are required of visitors who decide to take up the challenge.

2. The way between the entrance and exit points of the trail is 2,955 m long. It is divided into sections: 1,550 m of the boardwalks, and 1,405 m of the path or the forest walkway.

3. **Estimated time for the full length of the route** (this is the way that comprises the two boardwalks, and the paths and the forest walkways that serve as the entrance to the area or its exit) is **between four and five hours**. Visitors should mind the long distance and the steep slopes that are to be covered in order to access the boardwalks.

For safety's sake, visitors must consider daylight hours when estimating the necessary time for crossing the trail.

3.1. Coming from Ardales, through the tunnel at the Count of Guadalhorce's Reservoir, by Kiosko restaurant, or from the chair of King Alfonso III to the control cabin at the Hydroelectric Power Station Gaitanejo (there is a sign of the route on downhill part), you may take 50 minutes.

3.2. It is 10 minutes distance from the control point to the access to the boardwalks.

3.3. Total length of the inland route, in the controlled area: boardwalk – Hoyo Valley – boardwalk, takes 150 minutes to be crossed.

3.4. From the boardwalk exit at El Chorro (Álora) to the control cabin: 15 minutes.

3.5. From the control cabin (Álora) to the train station: 15 minutes

4. Consequently, we recommend visitors to take with them:

- a) Only water or some other energy drink;
- b) Only chocolate bars, energy bars, nuts, and fruit;
- c) Sun cream and a hat, above all, in summer;
- d) Appropriate clothes for the current season, and hiking boots.

5. Visitors are supposed to plan their lunch and take sandwiches or other prepared meal because there are no places arranged for it on the boardwalks, nor it is advisable to stop to eat there in order not to influence the flow of visits. Therefore, please have your meal before or after coming to the boardwalks.

6. Visitors should know there are no toilets along the path.

7. Due to the length of the route and the sections of significant elevation, which are properly indicated at the beginning and the end of the route (elevation profile), this path is not recommended for people who are not fit enough, or might suffer from dizziness (this is because the boardwalks are quite narrow, very high and there is a hanging footbridge in Álora). The route is neither appropriate for people who have heart disease, respiratory illness or mobility disorder, or are receiving a medical treatment and the medicines are to be taken during the walk which might provoke side effects related to respiratory, locomotive or heart system.

Moreover, children and dependent minors must be under supervision of parents or a legal guardian at all times during the route.

8. As this activity is to be carried out in protected natural environment surrounded by mountains, you must watch out for a possible rockfall.

PROHIBITIONS

Considering that the route is in protected natural environment, and it stretches along narrow and high walkways, especially the boardwalks, and also for safety reasons, it is forbidden:

- a) To use footwear which is unsuitable for hiking, above all flip-flops, high-heeled shoes or any other kind of shoes which is inappropriate for this sport or can lead to some injuries or accidents. There is also to wear suitable clothes, according to the season.
- b) To carry a child or other person, no matter their age is, at any part of the boardwalks.
- c) To use a harness or to be tied to a cable on the boardwalks, as this might put obstacles in the way of other people who transit it and can make them fall down the precipice.
- d) To carry backpacks, bags or any other big object. It is also forbidden to bring selfie sticks, canes or crutches.
- e) Not to use properly security equipment that is given at the access points to the boardwalks.
- f) To come with an umbrella. You must use a raincoat, cagoule or other waterproof clothes when it rains.
- g) To drop litter.
- h) To make a fire.

- i) To smoke.
- j) To consume alcohol or have any kind of food which is not mentioned in the above suggestions.
- k) To take photos or videos with a tripod or to use cameras and equipment that can block other visitors' way.
- l) Use drones or similar machines, except when authorized by the correspondent environmental consultancy, as this natural beauty spot is an important bird sanctuary.
- m) To come with animals.
- n) To swim in the river or its ponds.
- o) To go to the tunnels that form part of the canals and are not open to pedestrians.
- p) To leave the path which is in use in Hoyo Valley because there is the risk of landslide.
- q) To pull up plants or its parts.
- r) To shout or listen to loud music.
- s) To take your clothes or shoes off and to lie down.
- t) To damage rocks or other geological elements such as fossils.
- u) To paint or write on structures or natural elements.
- v) To scatter deceased people's ashes.
- w) To come with a pram, baby carriage or stroller, pushchairs or similar.
- x) To come with children younger than eight.
- y) To sell and resell tickets or booking receipts or its forgeries. All visitors to the path have to follow these regulations, as well as those rules brought by the personnel due to some unexpected or unforeseen circumstance.
- z) Come or stay in the spot after its closing time or when it is not open to the public.

SPECIFIC RULES FOR GROUPS

Regarding organized group visits, besides the previous regulations, there is to know that maximum number of people per group is 55 more a person who is responsible of the group or an official guide. This person will be in charge of fulfillment of all the rules by the group, during the whole route. It is compulsory for the guide to show the tickets of the group members before entering the boardwalks.

FINAL RULES

a) At the access points and during the visit, the rules are to be followed by everyone, as well as the indications given by the staff from the Control and Information Section and from the security guards. Please, take necessary measures to prevent falling down and keep the area clean.

- b) People and vehicles can only move in the areas which are authorized and indicated for that purpose. Therefore, you have to respect the banning and information signs.
- c) Those who do not respect the above rules can be expelled from the area by the responsible personnel or authorities.
- d) The corresponding organization has the authority to close, limit or temporarily suspend visits, even during the opening hours and days, for safety's matters, and in order to preserve the place, or because of refurbishment works, weather or some circumstances beyond anybody's control. There are no rights of compensation for the people affected by these changes.
- e) Nonetheless, regulations, rules or suggestions given by the employees who manage the trail, environmental agents, or state security officers are compulsory.
- f) All the information related to this active tourism infrastructure, as well as changes, alterations, or incidents at the access area will be shown at the path's website.