



Route:

Los Belones–Calblanque–Cala Reona: approximately 10 Km.
Alternative route: Los Belones–the salterns of Calblanque–Cobaticas–Los Belones: approximately 9 Km.

Duration:

Main route: between 3-4 hours. Alternative route: between 3-3 1/2 hours.

Difference in ground level:

max. 145 m., min. 0 m.

Level of difficulty:

Easy. Trekking tips: We would advise you to cover the main part of the route in two vehicles, one of which you can leave in the Cala Reona parking area and the other in los Belones, just beside the starting point. The alternative route is a circular route starting and ending at the town of los Belones (La Fuente). You are advised to wear trekking boots, and bring along water, a pair of binoculars, a camera and in the summer, a sun hat and cream with a good sun protection factor.

ROUTE:

Main route (Los Belones -Calblanque -Cala Reona)

The best way to reach los Belones is by the MU-312 road, El Algar-Cabo de Palos. Exit the fast lane and enter the old road that passes through the village. At the fourth crossing on your right there is a road leading to the source of La Fuente, under the mountain peak of the same name. You can park here and fill your bottles with water. From here the track deviates to the right around the mountain peak, passing by several traditional hamlets of Campo de Cartagena, towards the sea. An old abandoned barracks of the «Guardia Civil» is your reference point as this is the highest point, standing at 145 m. above sea level. As you continue eastwards, the path narrows and goes downhill towards the beaches, flanked on either side by a vegetation of thicket, European fan palms (*chamaerops humilis*) and the odd halapensis pine tree. To your left, rising up from a terrain of bluish grey slate, you will see the massif of La Fuente with superb views of its southern faces. The path leads on to Punta Negrete, near the sea. Continue eastwards



around the fine sand dunes replete with plant species such as the sea lily, endemic to this region. A track traverses the Playa Larga (Long Beach) one of the largest beaches, which shortly becomes a road for vehicles. Continue along this track as you are now in a natural park and pedestrian zones should be respected. As you go down a hillock you will see a big car park in which there is an information point where you will be informed about the natural park and its characteristics. Continue along the track and you will soon come across the Calblanque salterns and the lakes of Rasall, which you should go around, taking care as you approach since this is a bird breeding area. As you leave behind the chirping of the chicks, go east towards Calblanque beach. Now the track goes up the mountains that extend right down to the sea and you will come across an area of old mines and mineshafts. You are now right in the midst of industrial architecture so be extremely careful. The track rises and skirts a coastline of spectacular cliffs (take special care here and stay on the path, unless of course you can levitate!). Right opposite is a magnificent view of Cabo de Palos (Cape Palos) and its beautiful lighthouse:

«that was built by the Catalans and they say it will last as long as the seas last».

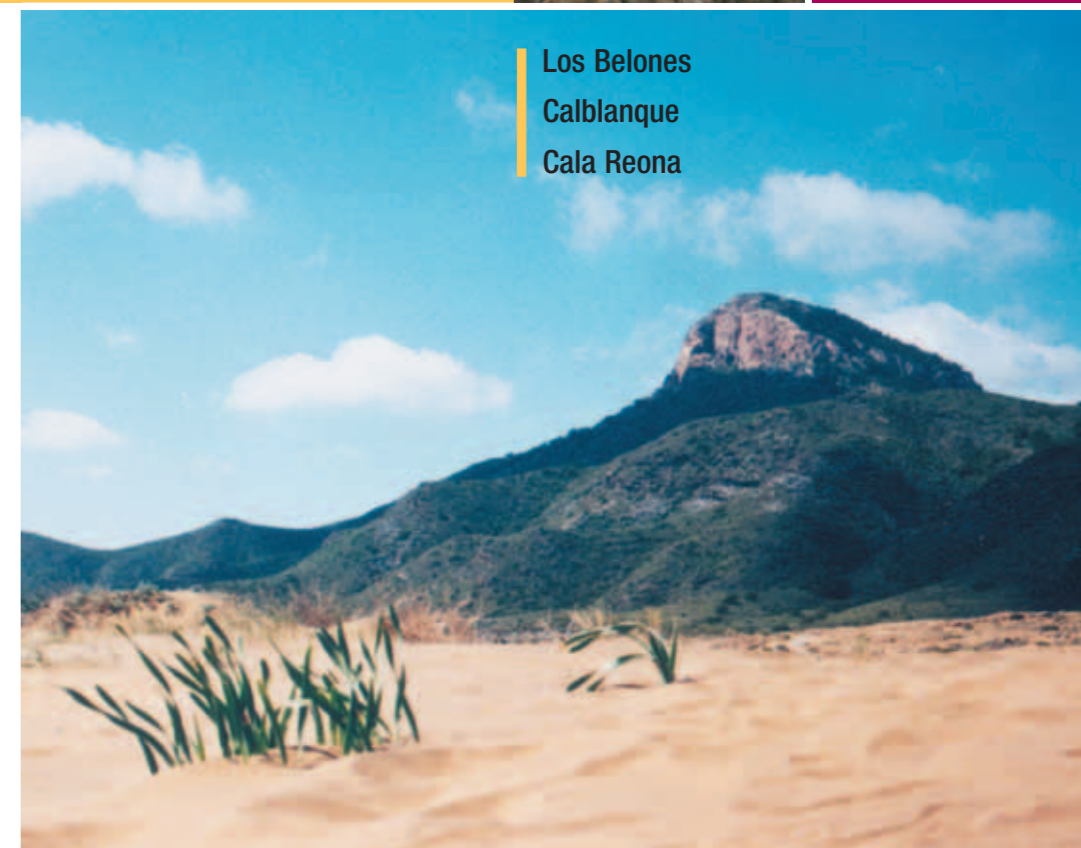
Now you are reaching the end of the route. Go down the track skirted by a huge rock fall of mines. Be warned of unstable terrain. You will get down to Cala Reona quickly and the route ends in this little cove. Now you can have a swim and relax on the beach!

Alternativerote (Circular (C)):

LOS BELONES – SALINAS DE CALBLANQUE – COBATICAS – LOS BELONES.

This alternative gives you the option of completing a circular route starting and ending at the same place. It skirts the massif of cabezo de La Fuente (the peak of La Fuente) and goes down to the beaches skirted by European fan palms as well as pine trees, and rises again westwards towards Cobaticas, la Jordana, offering panoramic views of the Mar Menor and part of the Campo de Cartagena. This route starts at the same point as the main route and spans the same places as far as the saltern area of Calblanque, where it reaches a junction on the track and proceeds northwards up a watercourse. Follow this path until you reach the hill. Once you get to the top, continue along westwards around the massif until you get to the hamlet of Las Cobaticas. Continue along the track in the same direction right around the massif of La Fuente towards la Jordana until you reach La Fuente itself, the starting and finishing point of this route.

Other alternative routes: In this area there are numerous tracks going along the mountains and especially along the entire coastal zone. We would ask you to stay on course following the signs since this is a protected natural space and every attempt must be made to minimise any kind of environmental deterioration.



Los Belones
Calblanque
Cala Reona

1ª edición
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