



## THE STAGE IN SUMMARY

**Variante 249.5:** This Alternative, which splits off from the main route of the Great Malaga Path, sets off from between Stages 18 and 19, to the south of Campillos. It gradually displays the trend that will continue throughout the 60 kilometres of this Alternative Route. This consists of a mainly south-westerly direction along a gently sloping corridor between the many small, very rugged but low-lying mountain ranges. As you progress, the woodland of Holm and Gall oak and the traditional Dehesa pastureland cover a larger area, until the route enters the hills of the Serranía de Ronda. It joins up again here with the original route of the Great Malaga Path, at the junction of Stages 23 and 24.

**Stage 1:** This particular stage encounters a significant incline through rural landscapes with intense human activity. At other times, it negotiates rugged mountain ranges almost untouched by human activity. At other moments, it passes through a mosaic of woodland being regenerated and interspersed with farmland. On few stages can one experience such a broad array of environments in such a short distance. This is a result of the gradual change of the area's geography from the plains around the city of the lakes to the challenging ridges on which the famous Castillo de la Estrella stands.

The beginning is in a decidedly agro-industrial area, with the main agricultural activities being the production of olives, cereals, pork and poultry. The change of municipal district from Campillos to Teba takes place at kilometre 3.6, in the interesting mixed landscape as mentioned above. Olive groves cover the gently sloping hills, crowned by limestone ridges and fairly extensive, but still quite young Holm oak forest.

It starts off in a southerly direction, but deviates slightly to cross the Morales stream. It links various public pathways and tracks together, each made up of very different surfaces. From the La Espada plains onwards, and after fording the La Venta River, the last third of the trail enters the Sierra de Teba and turns west. It first goes along the shady areas of edges of Gordo hill and then climbs the Tardarriba incline, cutting the Sierra de la Camorra hills in two.



La Venta river, upstream from the mouth of the Tajo del Molino

# GR 249.5 STAGE 1: CAMPILLOS • TEBA



Campillos (S) 455 m



Teba (E) (535 m)



12.1 km



4 h 00 min.



210 m



130 m



Linear



On foot



1.7 km



7.9 km



2.5 km



Environment hazards



1

2

3

4

5

Underfoot Conditions



1

2

3

4

5

Navigation



1

2

3

4

5

Physical Effort



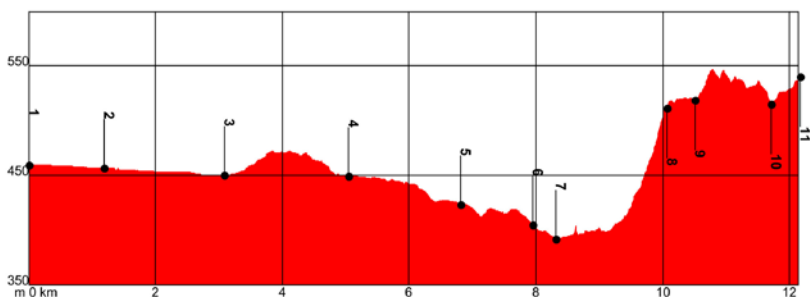
1

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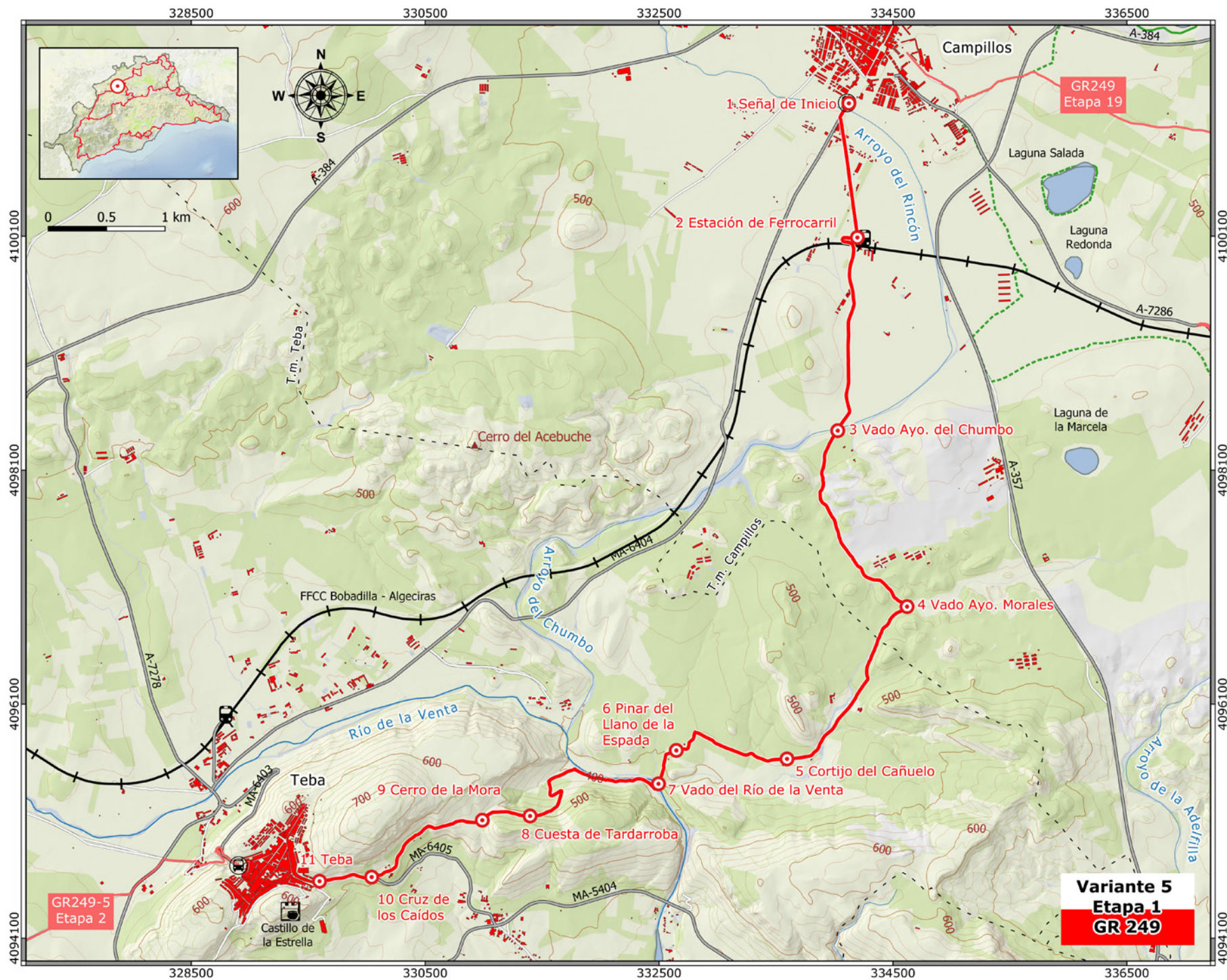
- Road traffic circulating on sections of tarmac
- Crossing El Cañuelo stream at km 6.4 and La Venta river at km 8.3
- Level crossing with a barrier

GR 249

the Great Malaga Path, overlap at start with the final part of Stage 18, and the start of Stage 19

P O I N T	X	Y	HEIGHT ABOVE SL	DISTANCE
1.Start point in Campillos	334120	/ 4101235	/ 455 m	Km 0.0
2.Railway station	334195	/ 4100090	/ 455 m	Km 1.2
3.Crossing El Chumbo stream	334030	/ 4098440	/ 450 m	Km 3.1
4.Crossing Morales stream	334620	/ 4096935	/ 445 m	Km 5.1
5.El Cañuelo estate	333595	/ 4095635	/ 420 m	Km 6.8
6.Pine forest of La Espada plains	332650	/ 4095705	/ 405 m	Km 8.0
7.Crossing La Venta river	332495	/ 095420	/ 390 m	Km 8.3
8.Tardarroba slope	331400	/ 4095145	/ 500 m	Km 10.1
9.La Mora hill	331000	/ 4095110	/ 510 m	Km 10.5
10.Cross of Los Caidos	330040	/ 4094625	/ 505 m	Km 11.7
11.End point in Teba	329600	/ 409460	/ 535 m	Km 12.1









## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

### Campillos' plains of cereal fields

→ Up to km 3.1

The stage begins south of Campillos, on the Teba road (MA-468), which you continue along for 300 metres. Cross the channelled Arroyo del Rincón stream and then go along La Estación road, which passes by a factory of leather goods. The tree-lined avenue ends at the level crossing (with barriers) close to the railway station on the Algeciras to Bobadilla line (Km 1.3). This railway line runs alongside much of this Alternative Route and makes a useful way of accessing the route. The silo on the right was built in the late 1960s by the National Cereals Service, and often attracts many birds.

Once on the other side of the track, continue straight on along the gravel track of the Camino del Cañuelo, which meets numerous other tracks. You pass a farm's large sheds and cross the area known as Los Prados, now used for cereals and young Olive groves. Once you reach the first hill on the right, which is barely 50 metres higher than the surrounding plains at 450 m above sea level, you come to the small stream of La Miel. It is a tributary of Los Chumbos stream, which you cross further on.

### The clumps of woodland in an agro-industrial landscape

→ Up to km 8.3

On either side of you are hills with Olive and Almond trees groves and scattered clumps of Holm oak with Kermes oak and Esparto grasses. Cross over the *Cañada Real*, an ancient livestock track from Ronda to Granada and go straight on, avoiding another track. Next to the warehouses belonging to the country estate of El Chumbo, you reach the top of a first pass. From here, go downhill through Olive groves, and arrive at a junction of multiple tracks and turn south. There is a collection point for Category 2 waste (organic but not fit for animal consumption).

At changing municipality from Campillos to Teba (km 5.5), the path loops round, leaving the main track for a secondary track that crosses the Morales stream and its pools in the red clays. Antequera's *Cañada Real* travels through this valley from the east, which you now join. Passing a shaded area with Holm oaks on your left, you go down and follow the stream, with the Casarón country estate on the left and that of El Cañuelo up ahead.

From here onwards, the route turns progressively west. The source of El ►

305

306



The sheer rockface of the Tajo de Torrox (or del Molino), through an arch of two Holm oaks trees

Cañuelo is above the next concrete ford, and the vegetation on the banks of the stream channel becomes more diverse with Poplars, Willows and Elms. After the Olive trees around the ruins of the El Cañuelo New House, you soon drop down onto the La Espada plains, leave the main track and head towards a clump of Stone pines.

### The peaks of the Sierra de la Camorra

→ To the end of the stage

Going between two mature Holm oaks, you come to the river of La Venta, with caution signs on both sides and which cannot be crossed in times of flooding. To the south is now the impressive rockface of Tajo de Torrox, a lead-in to the ravine of the Tajo del Molino (or Tajo de la Venta).

The river on the right has hardly any tree covering overhead, however it does have Reeds, Bulrushes and Watercress. To the left, the rocky slopes of Gordo y La Molinilla Hill, again have little tree covering but have young patches of thicket and a scattering of older Holm oaks. When you reach a small stream with a number of

stone dykes, within sight of the Gangarilla mill, the path does not cross this, but turns just by a solitary Pine tree.

Continuing up the kilometre-long Tardaroba slope with thick Esparto grasses, you take a minor track that keeps the El Bandolero cave and rockface to the north. La Retama pass is the high point surrounded by arable farmland (km 11, at a height of 535 m), while La Mora hill is on the left and the level plains of La Camorra on the right. The path enters the sun-drenched foothills of the Sierra de Teba, known as El Hoyo del Paraíso (Paradise Basin). There are views of the Guadalteba reservoir to the south and La Estrella castle up ahead, while some very high cliffs tower over you on the right. The abandoned terraces on the barren slopes are an equally as surprising sight. A little further on, the pathway leads down to some rural cottages. When you reach the commemorative cross of La Cruz de los Caídos, you come to the MA-6405 at kilometre 1.5. Be very cautious for traffic here, but the end of the Stage is only 400 metres further on. ■

Fields of cereals being harvested with Campillos in the background, from the start of the Stage

