

**Route:**

Isla Plana–Rambla del Cañar–Tallante, 10 km.

Duration:

From 3 to 4 hours.

Difference in ground level:

Maximum height above sea level 338 m. collado de la Cruz, minimum 20 m. starting point.

Level of difficulty:

An easy route.

Trekking tips:

We would suggest that you take two vehicles along in this route. You can leave the first car at las Casas de Tallante, which can be accessed by the N-332 Cartagena-Mazarrón, road at km.16. You can leave the second vehicle at Isla Plana, beside the starting point.

ROUTE:

You can start the walk from either Isla Plana or Tallante. We will describe the route starting from Isla Plana, a coastal town which is accessed by the MU-6095 Cartagena-Isla Plana road. Leave the vehicles 1.5 km. from Isla Plana, beside the camping site of «Los Madriles». Start out along a small road, the first part of which is surfaced with asphalt, for 1.1 Km. north eastwards. Tomato and glass houses are dotted along both sides of this road. 2 Km. from the starting point, go deeper into the Rambla del Cañar. The landscape changes and you will find yourselves in a valley skirted by mountains. The road is now a stony track watercourse, flanked to the east by the cabezo de la Panadera (370 m.) and to the west by the top of the Cabezo Hornos (304 m.). This area is surrounded by cypress trees, eucalyptus trees as well as pine trees and on the mountain slopes, there are European fan palms (*chamaerops humilis*) and numerous aromatic plants such as thyme, lavender and rosemary mainly in the sunnier areas; in the shaded areas you will find kerms oak, pine trees and rock plants. The watercourse turns left and higher up, you will come across the great vault of the cueva del Caballo (Cave of the Horse). The bed of the watercourse is abundant in gravel and sand, which is a sign of how heavy flooding can be. 4 km. away is a spring abounding in pine trees, poplars, cypress trees and relics of holm oaks, the remains of the old Mediterranean wood, reeds and oleander (baladre), all of which are signs of the presence of several watercourses, which also supply water to crops such as lemon trees, pomegranate trees, carob trees and fig trees. The watercourse narrows. Cross the small aqueduct of one water pipe, and from this point to the

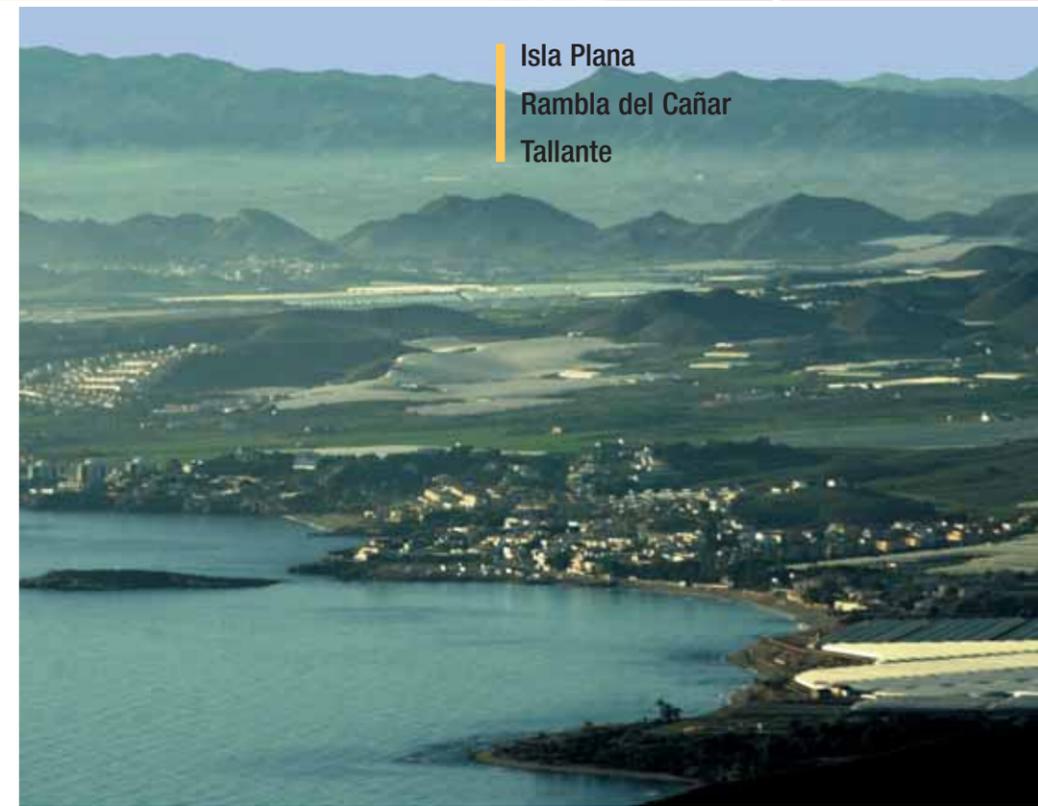


east you get a panoramic view of the faces of the Carrascas hills, famous for their highest peak, Peñas Blancas, 629 m, the highest point above sea level in Cartagena. This is a favourite spot for climbers, and birds of prey which usually nest here. From this point of the track, you can go down as far as the peak of Peñas Blancas (629 m.) and join the PR 12 route between cuestas del Cedacero and Peñas Blancas. Beyond this point, there is a small village of cube-shaped houses and a chapel. These buildings are characteristic of the Campo de Cartagena, raised with natural materials from the earth: limestone and lime mortar, with flat reed roofs waterproofed by slate, known as láguena roofs. In this chapel the traditional Cañar romería takes place on the first Sunday of every January. The track follows the different curves of the watercourse passing over narrow streams. You will come across another water source on the left side and a solid asphalt ramp leads you out of the watercourse bed. You reach the collado de la Cruz (338 m.), the maximum height of this walk. If you stand between the slopes of the Campo de Cartagena and the Rambla del Cañar, you get an interesting view. The Campo de Cartagena endows this area with a landscape of cultivated dry fruit trees such as almond trees, fig trees and carob trees, which stand on the terraces of the mountain slopes to benefit from the scarce rain and soil in such a way as to make the vegetation adapt to these very severe conditions. You pass by the first houses of el Rincón de Tallante, a small town typical of the Campo de Cartagena region and you get to las Casas de Tallante. You have now come to the end of this route.

We would recommend that you try the local cuisine in the traditional restaurants of this area, which are on the side of the N-332 road. Why not try the following: pork products such as longanizas, morcillas, blanco ham, or rabbit rice all accompanied by the regional wine, topping up with the ubiquitous café asiático. Bon appétit!



Isla Plana
Rambla del Cañar
Tallante



Concejalía de Turismo
AYUNTAMIENTO
DE CARTAGENA



