

1 trail of the Dinosaur tracks in La Griega

LA GRIEGA BEACH - ICHNITES

This short and nice walk through La Griega beach will take us close to a striking site where we can find dinosaur fossil tracks from the Jurassic era.

Route

The trail starts on the east side of **La Griega beach** and leads us to a staircase that goes down to the cliffs' area where one of the sites is located. It is a grey limestone stratum that contains **ichnites of quadruped and biped dinosaurs**. The tracks of bipeds are fewer and harder to recognise. The rock surface is quite altered due to the large number of tracks and cross-cutting fractures.

The current limestone used to be the calcareous mud at the bottom of a coastal pond 150 million years ago. Small invertebrate organisms lived in it, and its fossilized remains appear now in rock.

The more or less rounded large depressions that we can observe on the rock correspond to the footprints of a sauropod dinosaur of great dimensions. The diameter of some of them reaches 125 cm, making these prints some of the biggest tracks found so far. Its external bulky outline corresponds to the mud that overflowed at the moment of the print's making. On the same surface we can see a **set of eight prints about 5 m long**, which can be attributed to a small sauropod dinosaur, of the brontopodus type. Six of those eight prints correspond to feet and have an oval shape, whilst the two others correspond to front extremities, have a crescent shape and are placed slightly forward.



1,5 km 

125 m 

30 min 

easy 

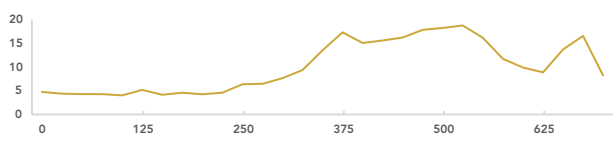
If the tides allow it, we will come back walking on the beach where, 150 m away, we will find a sole red sandstone block with two ichnites on its surface. These ichnites correspond to **quadruped sauropods**, and are preserved as counter molds facing opposite directions. One of them is a footprint, it has an oval shape and we can see vague imprints of very short fingers. The other ichnite has a crescent shape. Continuing for about 500 metres, we will reach the starting point of the route.

Sauropod ichnites (J.F Sánchez Díaz)





POINTS OF INTEREST
 Ichnites of sauropod dinosaurs
 (Jurassic era)



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**Dinosaur tracks in
 La Griega**

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