

Boating in Maro-Cerro Gordo and Punta de la Mona

Barcos Marina del Este

Anchoring zones, speed limits, distances and prohibitions · Summary of the official regulations, reviewed on barcosmarinadeleste.com · 958

1 October 2026

048 128



The essentials before you set off

Only anchor in the free anchoring zones. There are three in Maro-Cerro Gordo (Cantarrián, El Cañuelo and El Pino) and two at Punta de la Mona (east and west). In Maro-Cerro Gordo, daytime only, from sunrise to sunset.

Maximum 6 knots at Punta de la Mona. This is the limit for motorboats throughout the ZEC, which starts right as you leave Marina del Este harbour.

Keep away from beaches and cliffs. In Maro-Cerro Gordo, motorboats may not come within 200 metres of the beaches or within 50 metres of the rest of the coast. You also can't take the boat onto beaches, coves or cliffs.

Never over Posidonia. Anchoring on Posidonia or Cymodocea seagrass meadows is prohibited throughout the Spanish Mediterranean. Look for a sandy bottom and make sure the chain doesn't touch them as the boat swings.

No fishing. In Maro-Cerro Gordo, recreational fishing of any kind is prohibited. At Punta de la Mona, fishing from boats and spearfishing are prohibited.

The buoys aren't for you. The Junta de Andalucía buoys are only for boats supporting authorised diving. Don't moor to them.

No jet skis, no discharges. Jet skis are banned in both protected areas, as is any discharge from the boat.

Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo Natural Site (Paraje Natural)

Twelve kilometres of cliffs between La Herradura and Nerja, protected as a Natural Site (Paraje Natural), Special Area of Conservation (ES6170002), ZEPA (Special Protection Area for birds) and ZEPIM (Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance). The marine area extends up to one nautical mile from the coast. Its rules apply directly.

- You can navigate freely beyond 200 metres from the beaches and 50 metres from the rest of the coast. Within that strip, leisure navigation, motorboats, jet skis and towed devices are prohibited.
- Motorboats may not access beaches, coves or cliffs from the sea.
- Anchoring or drifting is only allowed within the three free anchoring zones, and only from sunrise to sunset (in daylight).
- Recreational fishing of any kind (from the shore, from a boat and spearfishing) and shellfish gathering are prohibited.
- Jet skis are prohibited, as is mooring to the buoys unless the boat is supporting authorised diving.
- Scuba diving, whale and dolphin watching from boats and sporting events require authorisation.

Free anchoring zone	Centre (lat, lon)	Area
Cantarriján Off Cantarriján beach, the end closest to La Herradura	36.73513, -3.77875	5.2 ha
El Cañuelo Off El Cañuelo cove, in the middle of the protected area	36.74274, -3.79210	10.9 ha
El Pino Off Las Alberquillas beach and Torre del Pino, towards Maro	36.74495, -3.80375	8.2 ha

Source: Decreto 6/2015 of 20 January, PORN (natural resources management plan) of the Natural Site (BOJA no. 52, 17/03/2015), sections 6.4.1, 6.4.6 and 6.4.7. <https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/boja/2015/52/8>

Punta de la Mona Cliffs and Seabed ZEC (Acantilados y Fondos Marinos de la Punta de la Mona)

The protected area around Punta de la Mona, between La Herradura bay and Almuñécar (ES6140016). It starts as you leave Marina del Este harbour, so you cross it every time you go out.

- Maximum speed of 6 knots for motorboats within the ZEC.
- Anchoring outside the two free anchoring zones is prohibited.
- Accessing cliffs and rocky shores from the sea is prohibited, as is the use of jet skis.
- Recreational fishing from boats and spearfishing are prohibited.
- Kayaks and similar craft need authorisation when in groups of more than 5.
- Any discharge from boats is prohibited.

Free anchoring zone	Centre (lat, lon)	Area
Punta de la Mona east Off Los Berengueles beach and Punta del Vapor	36.72255, -3.72562	2.0 ha
Punta de la Mona west At the north-western end of the ZEC, on the La Herradura side	36.72583, -3.73966	1.6 ha

Source: Orden de 7 de enero de 2025 (Order of 7 January 2025) of the Andalusian Regional Ministry for Sustainability and the Environment (BOJA no. 6, 10/01/2025), articles 2 to 6. <https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/boja/2025/6/23>

General rules along the whole coast

- **Posidonia.** Since 2 April 2026, anchoring on Posidonia or Cymodocea seagrass meadows is prohibited, as is anchoring on nearby sand if the chain or the boat's swing could affect them. (Royal Decree 191/2026 (BOE no. 64, 13/03/2026))
- **Bathing area.** Where there are no marker buoys, the bathing area extends 200 metres from beaches and 50 metres along the rest of the coast, with a maximum speed of 3 knots. (Reglamento General de Costas (General Coastal Regulations), article 73)
- **Maritime Authority (Capitanía Marítima).** No anchoring in bathing areas and a maximum of 3 knots in buoyed channels and harbours, among other seasonal rules. (Edict of the Capitanía Marítima de Motril (BOP Granada no. 61, 31/03/2026))

Useful phone numbers

- **Maritime Rescue (Salvamento Marítimo):** 900 202 202 · 112 · VHF channel 16
- **Motril Maritime Authority (Capitanía Marítima):** 958 60 10 87
- **Regional Office for Sustainability and the Environment in Granada:** 958 14 52 00
- **Public helpline of the Regional Ministry for Sustainability:** 954 544 438

Official sources

- PORN (natural resources management plan) of the Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo Natural Site (BOJA 52/2015)
<https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/boja/2015/52/8>
- Orden de 7 de enero de 2025 (Order of 7 January 2025), Punta de la Mona ZEC (BOJA 6/2025)
<https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/boja/2025/6/23>
- Royal Decree 191/2026 (Real Decreto 191/2026), protection of seagrass meadows (BOE)
<https://www.boe.es/eli/es/rd/2026/03/11/191>
- Official responsible behaviour map for the Punta de la Mona ZEC (Junta de Andalucía)
<https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/portal/documents/20151/40cf6033-eea9-f25c-220c-390eeb1e518d>
- Official information panel for the Maro-Cerro Gordo ZEPIM showing the anchoring zones (Junta de Andalucía)
<https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/portal/documents/20151/076bb6c9-d08f-f966-16c8-50a349915ff9>

An information summary prepared by Barcos Marina del Este based on the published regulations. In case of doubt, the official text of the BOJA and the BOE prevails; the authorities may change the rules or issue seasonal notices. Map: PNOA orthophoto © Instituto Geográfico Nacional; protected area boundaries: REDIAM, Junta de Andalucía (CC BY 4.0); anchoring zones according to BOJA 52/2015 and 6/2025. Puerto Deportivo Marina del Este, Local 3.02, 18697 La Herradura (Almuñécar), Granada.