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Located in the extreme west of Andalusia, just 14 km from Morocco. this area is the bridge that links the two sides of the Straits of Gibraltar. The Campo de Gibraltar region is home to the longest coastline in the whole of Andalusia and is the only coastal zone that is washed by the waters of both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, where beaches of fine sand stand shoulder to shoulder with forest land. Worthy of note in this respect is Los Alcornocales Natural Park, which, as one of the few surviving areas of tropical vegetation in Europe, is of immense ecological value. Because of its location among two seas, it is easy to see different kind of dolphins, the killer whale, the sperm whale, as well as being a stopover for a lot of migratory birds.

The interior route



Our route begins in Los Barrios, whose boundaries stretch from the mountains of Los Alcornocales Natural Park to the sea. The area is irrigated by the River Palmones, and the reservoir known

as Charco Redondo lies just



a few kilometres away. A must for the tourist are visits to the cave paintings in Bacinete, the vantage points at "Hovo Don Pedro", which offer spectacular views and trips through El Quejigal and Arroyo de San Carlos del

Also worthwhile are a walk through the village itself and a visit to the Natural History Museum in the Casa del Pósito (1974) the Cultural Centre

Casa de las Doncellas, San Isidro Labrador Church (1769), the Town Hall and "La Montera" bullring, not to mention a stroll along the Palmones promenade, where we can admire the Entreríos watchtower (XVII century)



Castellar, a mediaeval village dominated by its castle. From here, we can enjoy spectacular views of the reservoir of the River Guadarranque, the Bay of Algeciras and Gibraltar, In fact, on a clear day it is possible to see as far as the coast of Africa and the White

Next, we head on to old

The typical old houses of the old village centre are currently being renovated for use as rural accommodation, though there are already houses for rent within the castle walls in which the visitor can enjoy





estate can be toured in an all-terrain vehicle or on horseback. Most

of Castellar itself lies within the boundaries of Los Alcornocales

The date of the earliest human settlements here is witnessed by the

cave paintings at Laja Alta, which include the only maritime scenes

Natural Park

Continuing along the road

between the Sierra de los

Melones and Cerro Gordo, and

passing through Manchenilla

and Los Ángeles, we come to

Jimena de la Frontera. Jimena

marked the boundary between

Nazari and Christian territory

for many centuries, and a visit

majestically at the top of the village, is a must.

to the castle, which stands

of the Hispanic Bronze Age.

Also well worth a visit is Reina

de los Ángeles Chapel, which

is two kilometres from the town

itself and is popularly known

as "the Convent", the mediaeval

church of La Misericordia or the

Royal Artillery Factory (XVIII

century).

ere moved to the newer

is the Almoraima estate, with

its expanse of green forests

and fields rich in crops, Within

Convent, which has now been

the estate, we can find the

XVII-century La Almoraima

converted into a hotel. The

Castellar de la Frontera,

situated on the plain. Another interesting port of call





The coastal route



This begins at La Línea de la Concepción, surrounded by the Bay of Algeciras, on an isthmus between the Sierra Carbonera and the Rock

of Gibraltar. Places of interest include the parish church of La Inmaculada Concepción, the Bullfighting Museum, the Bullring, and the Istmo and Cruz Herrera Museums, A little way outside the town centre are El Fuerte ruins and Santa Bárbara Castle, the remains of the line of fortifications after which this relatively new town is named. We can also enjoy the



marvellous beaches of fine sand to be found on the town's two coasts. Poniente and Levante, the latter being home to a watchtower dating

For golf lovers. Línea de la Concención boasts an 18-hole course next to Alcaidesa beach.

Continuing around the bay and slightly inland, we come next to San Roque, sitting atop a small hill with its steep streets and whitewashed houses fronted by grilles and balconies with their cool, typically-Andalusian inner patios, Historically the capital of the region, San Roque it is still home a number of items of interest, including the Banner of Gibraltar, which, tradition has it, was embroidered by



the XV century.

The monuments of the old centre of San Roque have been officially declared to be of Historical and Artistic Importance, and it is well worth taking a stroll through the streets to admire the building fronts and visit the local churches, the Governors' Palace, the Bullring and the vantage point dedicated to the

poet Domingo de Mena, which affords breathtaking views of the Rock of Gibraltar, the Bay of Algeciras and North Africa and the archaelogical site of Carteia. Golf enthusiasts can play at a number of courses. notably Valderrama, another course located within the grounds of the Sotogrande



esidential development and La Cañada. There are also facilities for polo and other equestrian pursuits.

Heading on, directly opposite the Rock of Gibraltar, we come to Algerias, the gateway hetween two continents. Furone and Africa, with its busy port. one of the most important on the Mediterranean in terms of both passenger, freight and fishing activity. The highlights of the

monuments on show here are the Chapel of Nuestra Señora de Europa. the parish church of Nuestra Señora de Palma, which date back to the XVII and XVIII centuries.

Also worthy of mention is the Plaza Alta, Ingeniero Torroja Market, the Plaza de Andalucía and the San Isidro district. Nor should visitors miss the chance to bathe at El Rinconcillo and Getares, two beaches of fine sand and peaceful waters which typify a city that is inexorably linked to the sea.



Our journey next takes us to Tarifa, an attractive town whose highlights are the splendid Caliph's Castle and the typical Muslim-style architecture



of the town's narrow, winding streets.

Also worth visiting are the church of San Francisco and San Mateo (XVI century) and the chanel dedicated to the town's patron saint.

Nuestra Señora de la Luz, which is located 2 kilometres from Tarifa itself.

Tarifa is home to the one of the largest eolic parks in Europe. Its location and climatic conditions make it ideal for windsurfing on its long beaches the best of which is the cove of Valdevagueros, known as

"Windsurfing Paradise" Viewed from the gigantic dunes, the hundreds of sails propelled by the wind are an impressive sight. Also a must is a visit to the spot known as

Punta Paloma, a haven of pine trees, dunes and crystalline

Nearby are the Roman ruins of Baelo Claudia in Bolonia, a town that appeared in the II century B.C. as a result of trade with North Africa and which was the port that connected Spain with the city that was to become present-day Tangiers.

Campo de Gibraltar

Active tourism



alike and dolphins and whales watching. It also caters for equestrian activities and routes on horseback, as well as being a paradise for scuba diving, sailing and, of course, windsurfing and kitesurf.

Cuisine



Fish and seafood dishes are the order of the day local specialities including fideos con coquinas. almejas al gabarrón, urta a la tarifeña and voraz a la esnalda Another key ingredient is game meat, particularly venison, wild boar, partridge and rabbit, A wide range of typical cakes is also on offer, including borrachuelos and the piñonate of Jimena.

Handicrafts

These include pottery (large making, carpentry and articles made from cork and wood /hoohiyoe benches and flowerpots).









