Located in the east of the province of Málaga, the Axarquía region is nestled on geographical boundaries by the Sierra de Comares, El Tajo, Aruma y Tejeda in the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, the Sierra de Almijara to the east and the Málaga Mountains to the west. Its landscape is painted with contrasts: on the one hand, the highlands feature mountain peaks that reach altitudes in excess of 2,000 m (La Maroma is 2,057 m high), while the lowlands are home to terraces of tropical crops which are made possible by the warm, mild climate; and, on the south, the beaches are lapped by the warm waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

This area has been witness to the arrival of a number of different cultures since prehistoric times. Proof of this is to be found in the caves of Neja and El Taramay, and the Pechelbron, roman and arabic monasteries that can be found in practically all of the Axarquia’s towns and villages.

The Axarquia is an ideal location for all manner of wonderful and equalled-adventure sport, leisure and cultural activities. The visitor will enjoy the region’s customs and traditions, which include fairs, pilgrimage festivals and, of course, Holy Week, not forgetting the chance to sample some typical Axarquia fare.

The Sun and Wine route

We begin our journey in Algarrobo, an agricultural white village where we will enjoy a series of magnificent views, not forgetting a visit to the charming old Motril-Muñóz church. Where a stroll through the charming old Motril-Muñóz centre is a must, taking us back across centuries of history.

The Raisin route

This route takes us across an area rich in vineyards, where the grapes are dried out in the south-facing passers to produce delicious raisins.

The Mudéjar route

We set off from Ararada, which lies in a small basin and where a visit to Bentenmo Castle, built by the Franks on the site of a former Berber settlement, is a must. Our next port of call is the beautiful village of Ararada and Saleres, in the south of the Sierra Almijara, with its cultivated slopes and narrow streets where traffic cannot be too heavy. From here, we head towards the village of Sierra Almijara, whose Mudéjar origins are emphasized by the processes of oil in an Arabic tank next to the Hocesúndez Fountain and a bell-tower known as the Caño de la Reina Mora. We can also visit the Fajara Cave, go hiking in Ranjo National Beauty Sport, or climb to the top of the area’s highest peak, the 2,046-metre-high Maroma.

The Oil and Mountain route

The main protagonist of this route is the olive tree, the “vendita” variety, which is used to produce one of the finest olive oils. The route is also ideal for hiking and camping enthusiasts. Our journey begins in Vélez, which owes its origins to a monastery on the way from Málaga to Granada which was a popular stopping point for pilgrims in a key town. Heading