

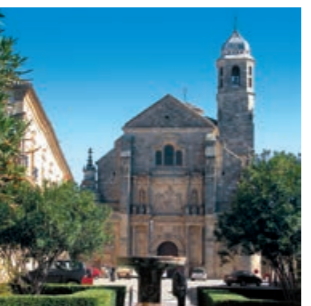
# Jaén



# Routes Jaén

## Art and Culture Handicrafts Festivals and Traditions Gastronomy

In an area which has been inhabited since prehistoric times, it was the **Iberians** who left the most important early vestiges. Examples include the **cave sanctuary in the Cueva de la Lobera** (Castellar), the **archaeological site of Cástulo** (Linares), the **Heroico del Pajarillo Sanctuary** in Huelma, and the **Cerrillo Blanco** necropolis in **Porcuna**. This was a land that marked the frontier between the **Muslims and Christians**, and as a result numerous defensive structures were built. These now form part of a fascinating cultural itinerary, the **Castles and Battles Route**, which features the settings of famous confrontations throughout history including the **Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa** (1212) between the Christians and the Moors, or the **Battle of Bailén** (1808) which was fought against the forces of Napoleon. The whole kingdom of Jaén and particularly the towns of **Úbeda** and **Baeza**, both of which have been declared **World Heritage Sites**, contains an unprecedented level of artistic and cultural splendour thanks to the great protagonist of the **Renaissance** style, **Andrés de Vandelvira**, and above all, to the **patronage** of wealthy families such as the **Cobos** or the **Molinas**. The **Cathedral** of Jaén, the **Church of San Francisco** in Baeza and the **Sacred Chapel of El Salvador** in Úbeda are the finest examples of this architectural style.



Jaén has always been important for the production of **pottery**, a craft which is very much alive in towns like: **Bailén** with its typical glazed ceramic cooking pots; **Andújar** which produces its "grutesque" jugs and blue and white ceramic whistles; **Úbeda** with its unusual pieces decorated with white almagre; and **Arjonilla**, with their miniatures and reproductions of famous names.

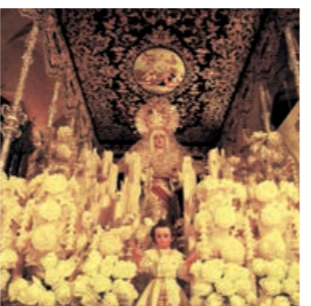


In places such as **Los Villares** or Peal del Becerro there are a number of workshops producing **cane**, **wicker**, and **esparto** objects whose unique combination of traditional techniques and more modern materials and designs have brought considerable renown to the local crafts sector. **Metalwork** is also in good health in the province, with the finest examples being the popular glass and tinsplate **lanterns** produced in Úbeda, as well as the artistic **wrought iron work** and cast iron bells which are typical of **Torredonjimeno**. Other crafts include **stained glass window making**, **leatherwork**, and high quality **taxidermy**, a process which is thriving in Andújar thanks to the considerable amount of hunting which takes place in the province.

**Easter week** celebrations in the province are characterised by the **solemnity of the processions** and the **great artistic value** of the effigies carried on the floats. The most notable examples can be seen in the three great towns and cities of the Andalusian renaissance (Jaén, Úbeda, and Baeza), as well as in Linares and Alcalá la Real. During the spring there are numerous **pilgrimages**, including that of the **Virgen de la Cabeza**, in **Andújar**, which attracts more than half a million pilgrims to El Cerro del Cabezo in the very heart of the Sierra Morena. Other interesting celebrations include the **Moors and Christians festivals**, **Candlemas**, the **May Crosses**, the **fiestas to commemorate the Battle of Bailén**, and **Santa Lucia**. The province's calendar of cultural activities includes a number of interesting **musical events** including the prestigious **BluesCazorla**, which is held every year and features internationally known bands and soloists like Little



**Etnosur** (Alcalá la Real), the **"Ciudad de Úbeda" Jazz festival**, the **Torreperogil Rock & Blues Festival**, the **Gazpacho Flamenco** festival in Andújar, and the **Aire El Yelmo International Film Festival** which is held in Sierra de Segura.

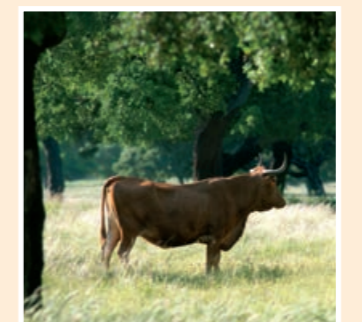


The most essential element in Jaén's gastronomy is its range of **olive oils** produced from the **picual variety of olive** which are protected by five different **denominations of origin**: "Sierra de Cazorla", "Sierra de Segura", "Sierra Mágina", "Campiñas de Jaén", and "Jaén Sierra Sur". Jaen's "golden liquid" is present in traditional vegetable **stews**, such as **alboronía**, as well as in a wide variety of **cured meats**, and salads such as the popular **pipirrana** (prepared with green peppers, tomatoes, and garlic) and **ajilimójili**. There are also a number of delicious dishes which are simply prepared with flour and olive oil, and combined with a variety of vegetables or even leftovers. These include **garbanzos "mareaos"** (mashed chickpeas), **ajoharina**, garlic potatoes, **gachamiga**, **andrajos**, and scrambled eggs with garlic shoots. Also popular are dishes prepared with **big and small game** or the outstanding **trout** or **segureño lamb**. These should ideally be accompanied by the **cuerva**, a type of sangria with slices of peach which is typical of the area. Olive oil is also one of the essential ingredients of numerous **confectionery products** and the **traditional cakes and pastries** made in the **province's convents**, such as the delicious **ochios** with salt and paprika, the tortas de masa with aniseed, and the **hornazos**, amongst others.



### The Condado Route

This route covers the area between the **River Guadalimar** and the province of Ciudad Real, and is especially notable for its extensive **olive groves** and the **hillsides** which provide a habitat for the **wild bull**. The more mountainous area to the north, with abundant species of **small game**, contrasts with the beauty of the typical Mediterranean hillside landscape to the south. Of particular interest is the **Huellas de Dinosaurio Natural Monument** in Santisteban del Puerto, with its 24 dinosaur footprints.



### The Campiña Route

The Campiña area is situated in the northern part of the **Sierra de Andújar Nature Park** (at the heart of the Sierra Morena) which is particularly popular with **hunters**. Apart from the **Sanctuary of the Virgen de la Cabeza (Andújar)**, with its deeply rooted and extremely popular **pilgrimage**, this route offers visitors the chance to see two important archaeological sites featuring remains of the **Iberian culture**: the **Oppidium de Maquiz** in Mengibar, and the



Cerrillo Blanco necropolis in Porcuna, with its valuable collection of sculptures.

### The Sierra de Segura Route

The **Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas Nature Park**, and the **El Tranco Reservoir** form an area of beautiful landscapes which, due to their topography has become a mecca for lovers of **aerial sports** - so much so that the El Cornicabral aerodrome in **Beas de Segura** has become one of the busiest in Andalusia. Also of considerable interest are the **castles of Hornos** and **Segura de la Sierra**, the latter being in the village where poet **Jorge Manrique** was born.



### Route of la Loma and Las Villas

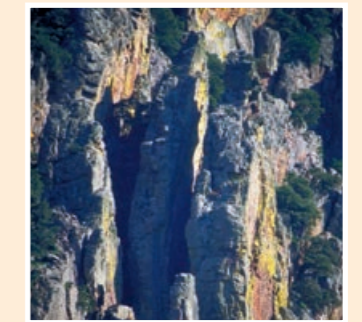
This route takes the visitor to the seat of **Renaissance and Humanist thinking** in Jaen, the towns of **Baeza** and **Úbeda** (both declared **World Heritage Sites**), which contain emblematic buildings such as the **Jabalquinto Palace** (Baeza) or the



Sacred Chapel of El Salvador (Úbeda). Also of interest are the renaissance fortified palace of Sabiote or the Canena Castle which is very near to the Laguna Grande nature area.

### The Northern Area Route

This route combines both **campiña and sierra** and is split between the **Despeñaperros Nature Park** and the **Cascada de la Cimbarra nature area**. Tourists should take the



the **Arabic castles** in places such as **Bémez de la Moraleda**, **Jódar**, **La Guardia de Jaén**, and **Huelma**.

### Jaén and its surroundings

This area covers the campiña to the south of the **river Guadalquivir** and boasts the natural beauty of the **Sierra Mágina**



**na Nature Park** and the **Peña del Águila** peak (Mancha Real), and the **olive groves** seem to reach the horizon in every direction. In the city of **Jaen**, capital of the Holy Kingdom, the most important monuments are the **Castle of Santa Catalina** and the **Cathedral of La Asunción de la Virgen**, one of the finest works by **Andrés de Vandelvira**, whose sepulchre lies in the church of San Ildefonso.

opportunity to visit the **archaeological remains of Cástulo** (Linares), the **Caliphal Castle of Baños de la Encina**, and **La Carolina** with its typical colonial style architecture.

### The Upper Guadalquivir Route

This is a route which perfectly combines **nature and art**. The visitor can enjoy the natural beauty of the **Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas Nature Park**, and the range of



**active outdoor pursuits** it has to offer, whilst also appreciating the **Templar Castle of La Iruela** or the de la **Yedra Castle** in **Cazorla**.

### The Sierra Sur Route

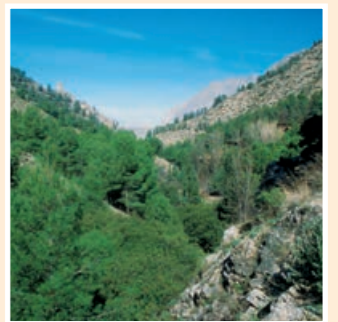
Set between the **mountainous landscape** and the **olive groves** are picturesque villages with a **rich historical legacy**. These include **Alcalá la Real** with its



**De la Mota fortress**, **Alcaudete** with its **castle**, and **Martos**, with its defensive walls.

### The Sierra Mágina Route

A route which is especially attractive for lovers of the untamed nature which is typical of the **Sierra Mágina Nature Park**. This was a frontier area in the battle between Moors and Christians as can be seen by



the **Arabic castles** in places such as **Bémez de la Moraleda**, **Jódar**, **La Guardia de Jaén**, and **Huelma**.

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# Jaén

Historically a natural link between the Castilian plateau and the region of Andalusia, the province of Jaén is well connected with the rest of Spain via the A-44 which joins the A-4 (Cádiz-Madrid) to the north and the A-92 to the south (Granada and Malaga).

Its climate is softened by the Atlantic breeze which blows through the Betica depression, creating warm summers and temperatures ranging between 4 and 6°C during the winter.

This frontier land boasts a great variety of landscapes with the extensive olive groves which produce the enormously important olive oil, as well as numerous protected natural areas,

renaissance towns which have been declared World Heritage Sites, valuable

vestiges of the Iberian

culture, and castles from the

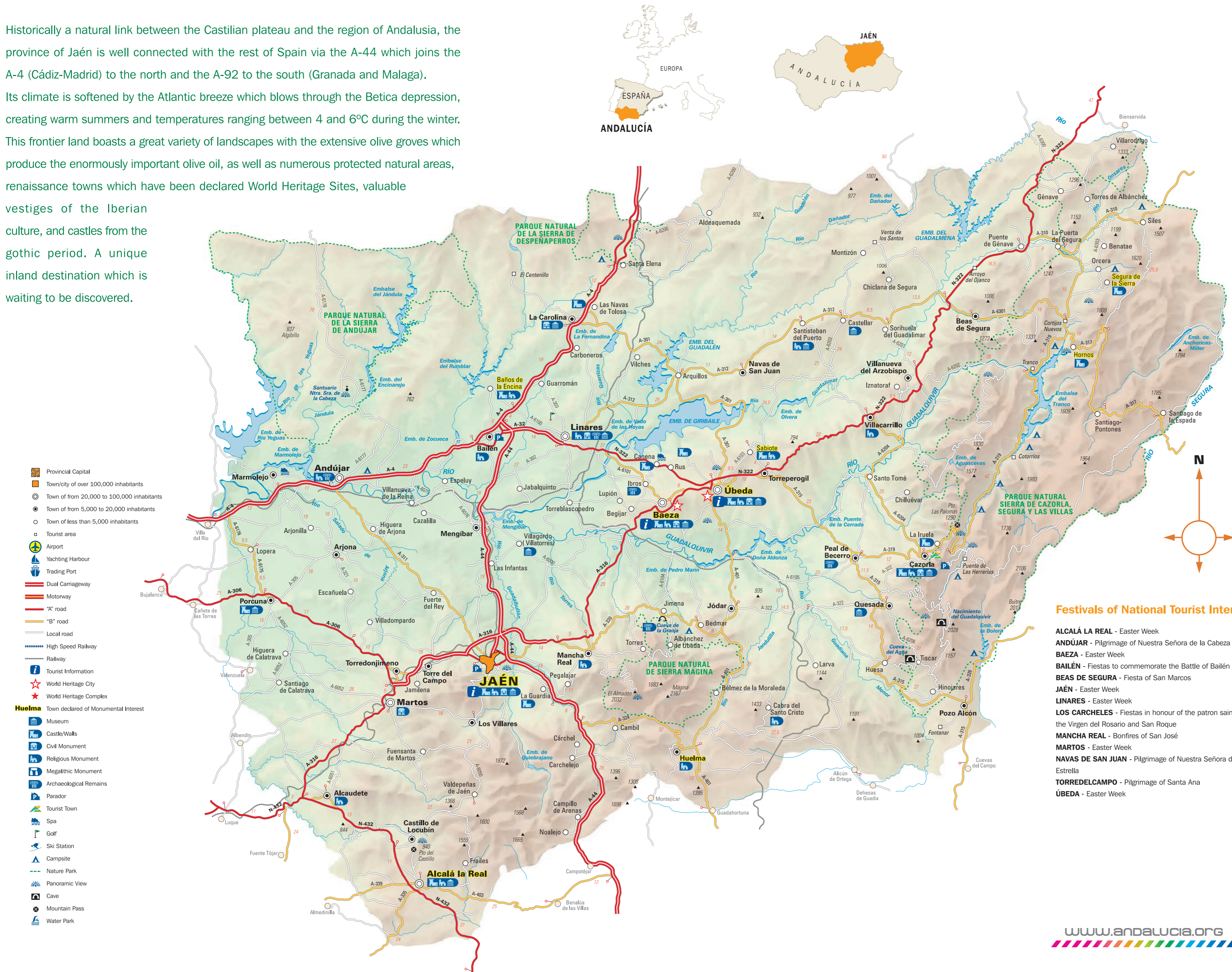
gothic period. A unique

inland destination which is

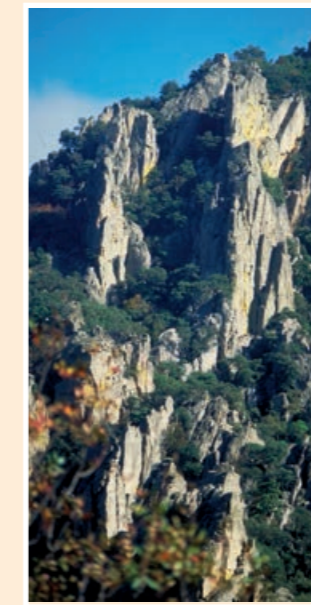
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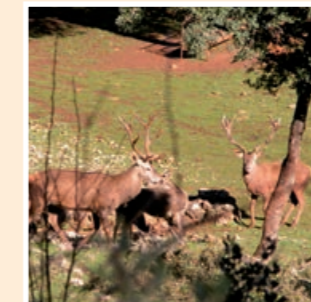


## Nature and Active Tourism

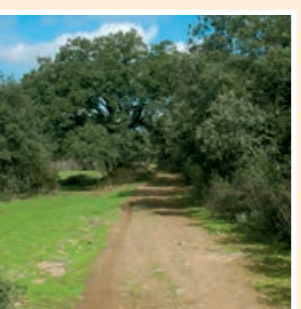
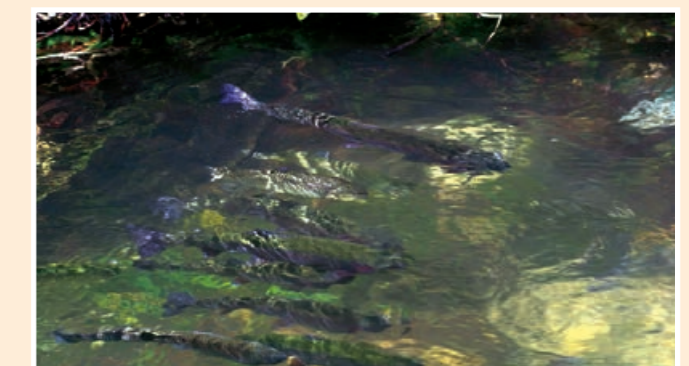
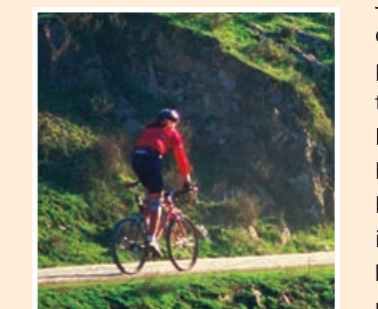


Jaén is the Andalusian province with the largest area of protected zones, thanks to the 214,300 hectares of the **Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas Nature Park**, which is the biggest and most visited in Andalusia. Declared a **Biosphere Reserve**, the park provides a habitat for the Spanish **ilex** and **game species** such as deer, wild boar, and mouflon, which can be seen in a semi-natural state in the **"Collado del Almendral" game park**.

Jaén also boasts other popular **nature parks** including: the **Despeñaperros**, historically the only natural point of access to Andalusia from the Castilian plateau; the **Sierra de Andújar** (a magnificent example of Mediterranean ecosystem); and the **Sierra Mágina**, which has the highest peaks in the province. Nature reserves such as **Laguna Honda** and **Laguna del**



**Puerto, El Piélagos** complete the impressive natural heritage of the province. All these areas are ideal for a wide range of outdoor pursuits, including **walking and cycling**, and the **Vía Verde del Aceite green route** (which follows the old railway tracks between Jaén and Campo Real) is a favourite amongst lovers of active tourism.



Jaén also offers a wide range of possibilities for **hunting** and particularly **fishing** in its more than 20 trout fishing reserves. Its numerous reservoirs are home to carp, barbell and black-bass, etc. and are also ideal spots for **water sports, bird watching, and photography**.

### Festivals of National Tourist Interest

- ALCALÁ LA REAL** - Easter Week
- ANDÚJAR** - Pilgrimage of Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza
- BAEZA** - Easter Week
- BAILÉN** - Fiestas to commemorate the Battle of Bailén
- BEAS DE SEGURA** - Fiesta of San Marcos
- JAÉN** - Easter Week
- LINARES** - Easter Week
- LOS CARCHELES** - Fiestas in honour of the patron saint, the Virgen del Rosario and San Roque
- MANCHA REAL** - Bonfires of San José
- MARTOS** - Easter Week
- NAVAS DE SAN JUAN** - Pilgrimage of Nuestra Señora de la Estrella
- TORREDELCAMPO** - Pilgrimage of Santa Ana
- ÚBEDA** - Easter Week

### Tourist Offices

<b>ANDÚJAR</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza de Santa María, s/n, Torre del Reloj ☎ 953 504 959	<b>CORTIJOS NUEVOS</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Carretera de Orcera, s/n ☎ 953 496 420	<b>LA PUERTA DE SEGURA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Doctor Viguera, s/n ☎ 953 487 006	<b>SEGURA DE LA SIERRA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Paseo General Navarro, s/n ☎ 953 480 280
<b>BAEZA</b> OFICINA DE TURISMO DE LA JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA Plaza del Pópulo, s/n ☎ 953 779 982	<b>JAÉN</b> OFICINA DE TURISMO DE LA JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA Maestra, 8 ☎ 953 190 455	<b>ORCERA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Plaza de la Iglesia, 1, Ayuntamiento ☎ 953 480 154	<b>ÚBEDA</b> OFICINA DE TURISMO DE LA JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA Baja del Marqués, 4, Palacio del Marqués de Cortadouro ☎ 953 779 204
<b>CAZORLA</b> OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO Paseo de Santo Cristo, 17 ☎ 953 710 102			

