



# Andalucía

Professional thematic guide

## Inner and Nature Tourism



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA  
CONSEJERÍA DE TURISMO Y DEPORTE

English  
| Inglés

# **TRAVEL GUIDE FOR INNER ANDALUSIA AND ITS NATURE**









MONUMENTO NATURAL  
El Tornillo del Torcal



# Monumento Natural

## El Tornillo del Torcal



# TRAVEL GUIDE FOR **INNER** ANDALUSIA **AND ITS NATURE**

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE. LEGEND OF SYMBOLS AND PICTOGRAMS\_\_\_6

INNER ANDALUSIA: GREEN AND ACTIVE\_\_\_10

## 1

### **NETWORK OF NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS**

THE NETWORK OF NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS IN ANDALUSIA:

THE RENPA\_\_\_18

THE RENPA: INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS\_\_\_22

#### **NATIONAL PARKS**

SIERRA NEVADA\_\_\_24

DOÑANA\_\_\_26

CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR\_\_\_28

SIERRA MARÍA-LOS VÉLEZ\_\_\_30

BAHÍA DE CÁDIZ\_\_\_32

DE LA BREÑA Y MARISMAS DE BARBATE\_\_\_34

DEL ESTRECHO\_\_\_36

LOS ALCORNOCALES\_\_\_38

SIERRA DE GRAZALEMA\_\_\_40

SIERRA DE CARDEÑA Y MONTORO\_\_\_42

SIERRA DE HORNACHUELOS\_\_\_44

SIERRAS SUBBÉTICAS\_\_\_46

SIERRA DE BAZA\_\_\_48

#### **NATURAL PARKS**

SIERRA DE CASTRIL\_\_\_50

SIERRA DE HUÉTOR\_\_\_52

SIERRA NEVADA\_\_\_54

SIERRA DE ARACENA Y PICOS DE AROCHE\_\_\_56

DOÑANA\_\_\_58

DESPEÑAPERROS\_\_\_60

SIERRA DE ANDÚJAR\_\_\_62

SIERRA MÁGINA\_\_\_64

SIERRAS DE CAZORLA, SEGURA Y LAS VILLAS\_\_\_66

MONTES DE MÁLAGA\_\_\_68

SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES\_\_\_70

SIERRAS DE TEJEDA, ALMIJARA Y ALHAMA\_\_\_72

SIERRA NORTE DE SEVILLA\_\_\_74

#### **NATURAL SITES**

KARST EN YESOS DE SORBAS\_\_\_76

DESIERTO DE TABERNAS\_\_\_78

TORCAL DE ANTEQUERA\_\_\_80

MARISMAS DE ODIEL\_\_\_82

**NATURE RESERVES\_\_\_84**

#### **PROTECTED LANDSCAPES**

CORREDOR VERDE DEL GUADAMAR\_\_\_90

RIO TINTO\_\_\_91

**NATURAL MONUMENTS\_\_\_92**

**LINEAL AREAS: CORRIDORS AND LARGE ROUTES**

LONG-DISTANCE PATHS\_\_\_95

NATURAL FOOTPATHS\_\_\_96

GREENWAYS\_\_\_97

## 2 SETTINGS

- HIGH MOUNTAIN\_\_102
- DEHESAS DE SIERRA MORENA\_\_110
- THE KARSTIC MOUNTAIN\_\_114
- THE MEDITERRANEAN FOREST\_\_122
- DESERTS AND ARID STEPPES\_\_130
- GULLIES AND CANYONS\_\_134
- LAKES AND RESERVOIRS\_\_140
- MARSHES AND ESTUARIES\_\_146
- BEACHES AND CLIFFS\_\_152
- SEABED\_\_162
- THE UNDERGROUND WORLD\_\_166

## 3 EXPERIENCES

**SNOW** | SKIING, SNOWBOARDING AND OTHER WINTER SPORTS\_\_176

**AIR** | HOT AIR BALLOONING\_\_184  
FREE FLIGHT, HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING\_\_188

**WATER** | KAYAK AND CANOE\_\_194  
RAFTING\_\_198  
SAILING\_\_200  
SURF, WINDSURF Y KITE SURF\_\_202  
BOAT TRIPS AND WHALE, DOLPHIN AND SEABIRD  
WATCHING\_\_206  
DIVING\_\_212  
FISHING\_\_216

**LAND** | HIKING\_\_220  
CYCLING\_\_232  
CLIMBING\_\_244  
CANYONING\_\_248  
SPELEOLOGY\_\_252  
EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES\_\_258  
4x4 VEHICLES\_\_262  
GEOLOGIC TOURISM\_\_264  
ASTRONOMIC TOURISM\_\_268  
BIRDWATCHING\_\_274  
WILDLIFE OBSERVATION\_\_282  
MULTI-ADVENTURE\_\_286

**EDUCA** | VISITORS' CENTRE\_\_290  
NATURE AND SEA CLASSROOM\_\_294  
ECOMUSEUM\_\_296  
BOTANICAL GARDENS\_\_298  
ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY CENTRES\_\_300  
COMPLEMENTARY EQUIPMENT\_\_302

## 4 ADVICE AND USEFUL INFORMATION

- GENERAL ADVICE\_\_308
- SPECIAL ADVICE\_\_308
- USEFUL ADDRESSES\_\_312
- OTHER ADDRESSES\_\_318
- INTERESTING WEBSITES\_\_318
- CREDITS\_\_319

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

## LEGEND OF SYMBOLS AND PICTOGRAMS

The Guide is divided into three main sections, which are intended to be useful independently, both for those who want to learn about the wonderful tourist potential of the **network of protected natural areas of Andalusia (section 1)**, for those who want to know what **natural settings** hide behind them (**section 2**), or for those who have still not decided what **experience (section 3)** they would like to do. If you are in the latter case, we suggest you choose your preferred **activity**, or that which you wish to do (**3**), then select a **setting** from among those available (**2**). Cycling in a desert is not the same as cycling between marshes, is the same activity, but certainly different experiences. Look below to see which **natural areas** have these settings and which offer the adventure you would like to do (**1**). You'll have to choose because there are many places to do all sorts of activities and enjoy.

1



The introductory section, **THE INNER ANDALUCÍA: GREEN and ACTIVE**, presents the Andalusian territory to the visitor as an area where you can live wonderful and unique experiences.





## INTERNATIONAL CATALOGING



Biosphere Reserve



Natura 2000 Network



European Charter of Sustainable



RAMSAR site



Natural World Heritage



European Geopark



Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance

# 1 NETWORK OF PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

Andalusia has a boundless, vast, large and impressive nature. This section is intended to give an overall view on the landscape identity of the various protected natural areas of Andalusia and since it would be almost impossible to refer to all of them in one guide, we shall only include those that have the necessary resources and equipment for tourist activities. When speaking about tourism activities carried out in nature, we must refer to the network of protected natural areas of Andalusia (the RENPA), the most extensive, varied and rich areas of all Europe, and within it, a special mention goes to **natural parks [2]**. They are beautiful spacious areas with a great scenic and cultural value, dotted with beautiful towns loaded with history and fabulous cuisine. These areas are above all, specially equipped to meet the most diverse tourism experiences, from extreme sports to the pleasure of walking with the family or friends among enclaves of prodigious natural beauty, from purely recreational leisure activities to others where the fun merges with personal enrichment, with the pleasure of learning about new things, learning from nature itself. We also suggest the most interesting experiences offered, according to the personality of each area, those that single them out, those which the visitor should not miss, because that same experience or a similar one in another area would not be the same.

## 2 SETTINGS

This second section presents the natural landscapes of Andalusia and indicates where to find them in the vast geography and in which natural, protected or unprotected spaces they are located. The nature in Andalusia is not limited to the boundaries of the network of protected natural areas. Beyond the cataloguing and environmental protection figures, parks, sites, reserves or monuments, the reality of the Andalusian landscape draws a mosaic of natural settings so rich and diverse difficult to find in any other territory of the same extension. High mountains, the highest of the peninsula, almost a thousand kilometres of coastline dotted with endless beaches and towering cliffs, estuaries and marshes of incalculable ecological value, lush **deserts [3]** with extreme geological beauty, deep river gorges and karst cliffs, wild mountain streams and reservoirs nestled between idyllic landscapes, strikingly beautiful caves and underground caves, thick forests, beautiful and extensive Iberian meadows, wetlands, lakes and ponds, countryside, steppes and olive groves... the largest mosaic of landscape diversity in Europe. It doesn't matter whether it is a park or a site, what is important is the setting, what it is like, where it is located and what type of experiences it offers.



3



4

### 3 EXPERIENCES

This is what the third section is about. To inform, for a significant catalogue of sporting and recreational activities, what areas are the most attractive and better equipped to carry them about, what settings offer which experience, those where success is guaranteed. Activities are structured to be presented by groups, depending on whether they are done in the snow, in the water, in the air, on the ground and others, which pursue educational objectives (educa). There are absolutely unique experiences, such as to photograph the red sunset of Doñana, dive in the seabed of the Subtropical coast, climb the Mulhacén, delve into the depths of the Sierra de Grazalema as a speleologist, follow the trace of the Iberian Lynx or see the bellowing in Sierra Morena, interpret the skies in the closest and cleanest skies of the peninsula, enjoy the wind in the sea at Tarifa, see whales and dolphins aboard a boat in the waters of Del Estrecho, fly in a hot-air balloon over the marshes or desert, travel down the TransAndalus trail on a **bicycle [4]**, attend a mycology class together with a wild-mushroom picking day, go on a cooking class and complete with a wild-mushroom tasting, climb the Desfiladero de los Gaitanes or **horseback [1]** riding through ancient routes ... Choosing which one is probably the hardest thing of all.

#### EXPERIENCES SYMBOLOGY

##### SNOW

Winter sports 

##### AIR

Hot air ballooning 

Free flight 

##### WATER

Diving 

Sailing 

Kayac and canoe 

Fishing 

Surf 

Boat trips and whale 

##### LAND


Climbing 

Cycling 

Hiking 

4x4 vehicles 

Rafting 

Canyoning 

Hunting 

Birdwatching 

Equestrian activities 

Speleology 

Wildlife observation 

Astronomic tourism 

Multi-adventure 

Geologic tourism 

##### EDUCA

Visitors' Centre 

Information point 

Ecomuseum 

Nature Classroom 

Botanical gardens 

### 4 ADVICE AND USEFUL INFORMATION



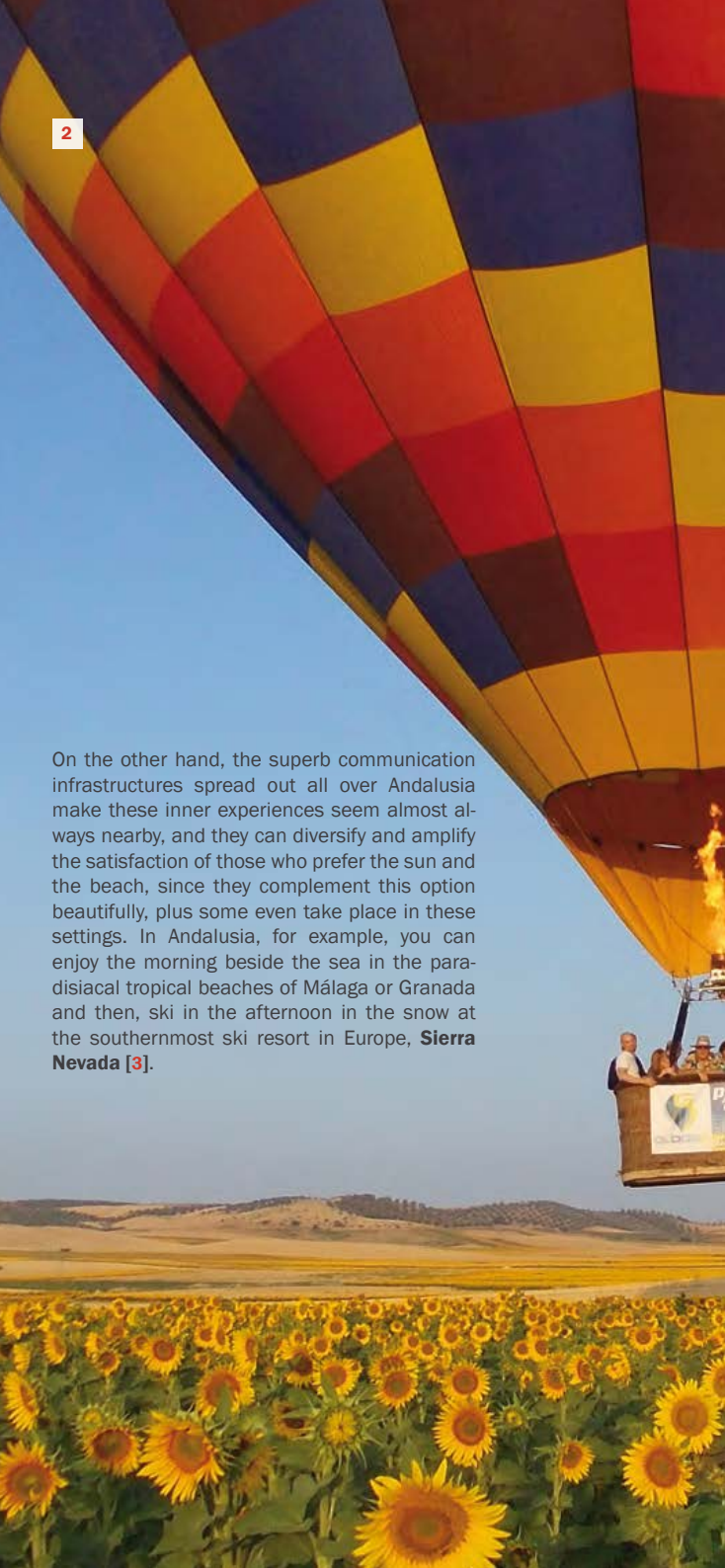


## **INNER ANDALUSIA: GREEN AND ACTIVE**

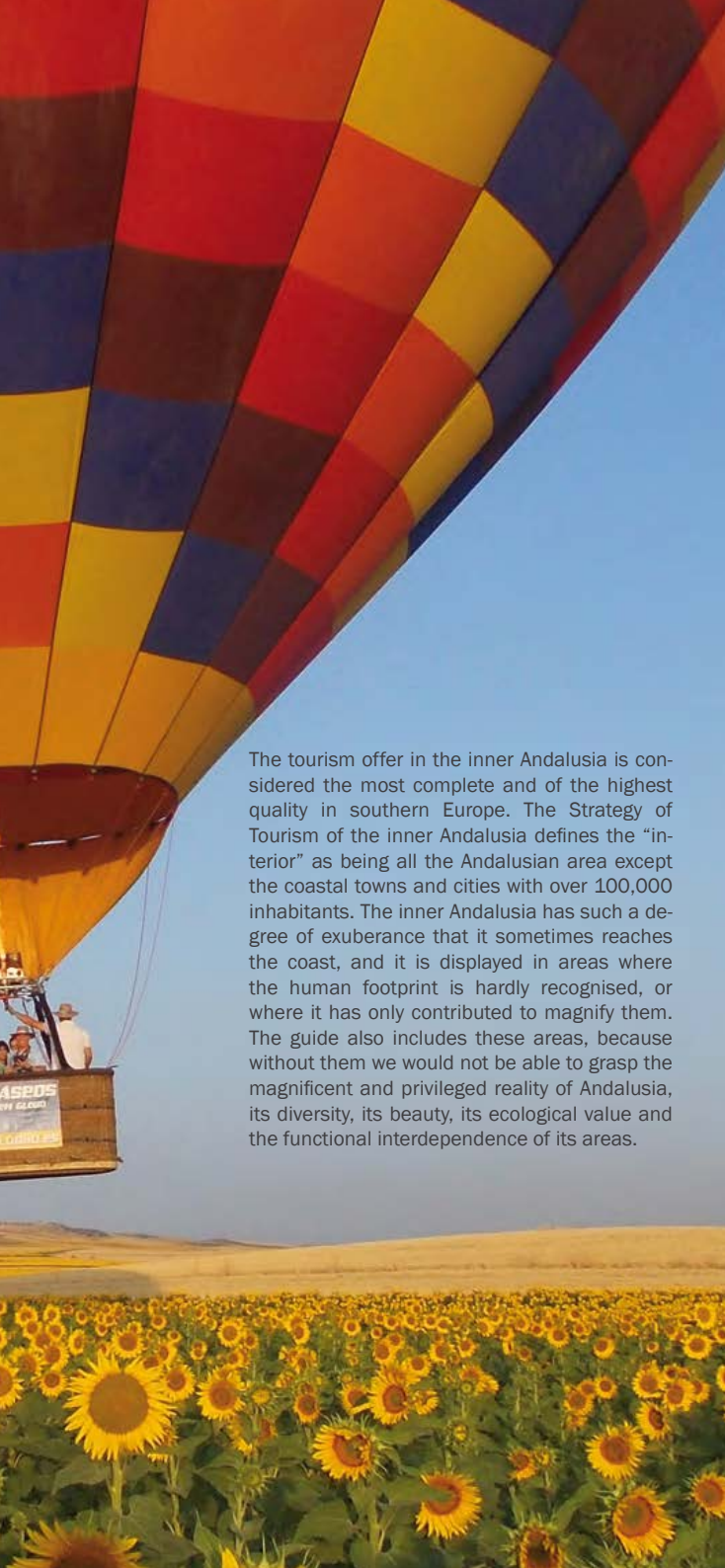
There is no doubt that Andalusia is an ideal place to enjoy unique and amazing experiences. This region is certainly wonderful and not only for its spectacular beaches, nestled under the warmest and sunniest skies of Europe, or the large monumental capitals, renown worldwide. Inner Andalusia is second to none in beauty and it also offers first-class tourism experiences: adventures that form part of a splendid variety of tourism services oriented to those who prefer to see places and experience new and evocative sensations.







On the other hand, the superb communication infrastructures spread out all over Andalusia make these inner experiences seem almost always nearby, and they can diversify and amplify the satisfaction of those who prefer the sun and the beach, since they complement this option beautifully, plus some even take place in these settings. In Andalusia, for example, you can enjoy the morning beside the sea in the paradisiacal tropical beaches of Málaga or Granada and then, ski in the afternoon in the snow at the southernmost ski resort in Europe, **Sierra Nevada** [3].



The tourism offer in the inner Andalusia is considered the most complete and of the highest quality in southern Europe. The Strategy of Tourism of the inner Andalusia defines the “interior” as being all the Andalusian area except the coastal towns and cities with over 100,000 inhabitants. The inner Andalusia has such a degree of exuberance that it sometimes reaches the coast, and it is displayed in areas where the human footprint is hardly recognised, or where it has only contributed to magnify them. The guide also includes these areas, because without them we would not be able to grasp the magnificent and privileged reality of Andalusia, its diversity, its beauty, its ecological value and the functional interdependence of its areas.

The nature of Andalusia is extensive, rich and diverse, one of the jewels of the European natural heritage. It is a bridge between two continents, Africa and Europe, and between two seas, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The diversity, size and wealth of the immense Andalusian landscape mosaic, its own terrain, is structured around the valley of the great Bético river, the **Guadalquivir [2]**, the vertebra from east to west separating the north of the **Sierra Morena [1]** and to the south of the Cordillera Bética. Within those three infinite landscapes there are multitude of spaces, enclaves of unparalleled beauty, from the roof of the peninsula, Sierra Nevada, to the extensive wetlands,



**THE GUIDE IS INTENDED TO HELP USERS  
DISCOVER THESE INNER HAVENS AND  
THE INCREDIBLE RANGE OF TOURISM  
EXPERIENCES ON OFFER.**

thick and shady forests, arid deserts or stretches of coastline with little trace of humankind. Much of this natural wealth is beautifully displayed in the Network of Natural Spaces of Andalusia, the largest and richest in Europe. It is mostly occupied by natural parks, scenes of overwhelming nature, full of wildlife, and also gifted and equipped to meet the most evocative tourist experiences, from extreme sports to the calmer days surrounded by nature and to finish, in any case, with the enjoyment of the pleasures offered attractive towns, full of history, culture and culinary delicacies.

3



1





# NETWORK OF NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS





## THE NETWORK OF NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS IN ANDALUSIA: THE RENPA

Andalusia is the largest autonomous community in Spain and the one with the highest number of natural protected areas, about 242 spaces covering a total area of about 2.74 million hectares. **National Parks, Natural Parks, Natural sites, Nature Reserves, Protected Landscapes, Natural Monuments, Peri-urban Parks**, along with other spaces bearing international cataloguing given by the **Network of Natural Protected Areas of Andalusia**, the **RENPA**. One same area may have several cataloguing tags. For example, the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park, as well as being a natural park, it is also catalogued as a Biosphere Reserve, a Natura 2000 Network, a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance, a Ramsar Site and a Geopark.

Natural Parks are areas that offer a wider range of uses and activities, as they are specifically designed as such. The quality of some of their services is recognised by the brand called **Parque Natural de Andalucía**, a guarantee of quality awarded to outstanding tourism products and services provided or produced within the Andalusian natural parks and areas of socioeconomic influence.



Very complete information of the RENPA, its areas and services can be seen on the **Ventana del Visitante**, a website where you will find all you need to know to plan a visit to any of these privileged territories.



[www.ventanadelvisitante.es](http://www.ventanadelvisitante.es)

## NATIONAL PARKS



## NATURAL PARKS



## NATURAL SITES



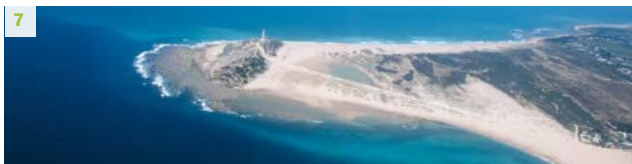
## NATURE RESERVES



## PROTECTED LANDSCAPES



## NATURAL MONUMENTS



## PERI-URBAN PARKS

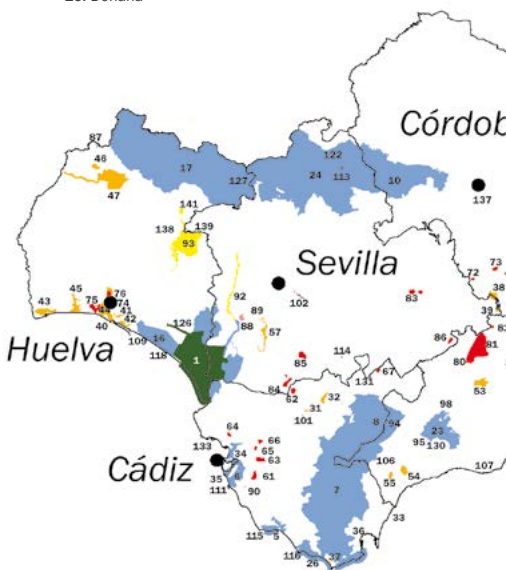


## NATIONAL PARKS

1. Doñana
2. Sierra Nevada

## NATURAL PARKS

3. Cabo de Gata-Níjar
4. Sierra de María-Los Vélez
5. La Breña y Marismas de Barbate
6. Bahía de Cádiz
7. Los Alcornocales
8. Sierra de Grazalema
9. Sierra de Cardeña-Montoro
10. Sierra de Hornachuelos
11. Sierras Subbéticas
12. Sierra de Baza
13. Sierra de Castril
14. Sierra de Huétor
15. Sierra Nevada
16. Doñana
17. Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche
18. Despeñaperros
19. Sierra de Andújar
20. Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and las Villas
21. Sierra Mágina
22. Montes de Málaga
23. Sierras de las Nieves
24. Sierra Norte de Sevilla
25. Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama
26. El Estrecho



59. Albufera de Adra
60. Punta Entina-Sabinar
61. Complejo Endorreico (C.E.) de Chiclana
62. C.E. Espera
63. C.E. Puerto Real
64. C.E. Puerto de Sta. M<sup>a</sup>
65. Lagunas de las Canteras y El Tejón
66. Laguna de Medina
67. Peñón de Zaframagón
68. Laguna Amargal
69. Laguna del Salobral
70. Laguna de los Jarales
71. Laguna del Rincón
72. Laguna de Tíscar
73. Laguna de Zóñar
74. Isla de Enmedio

75. Laguna del Portil
76. Marismas del Burro
77. Laguna Honda
78. Laguna del Chinche
79. Lagunas de Archidona
80. Lagunas de Campillos
81. Laguna de Fuente Piedra
82. Laguna de la Ratosa
83. C.E. La Lantejuela
84. C.E. Lebrija-Las Cabezas
85. C.E. Utrera
86. Laguna del Gosque
87. Puerto Moral
88. Dehesa de Abajo
89. Cañada de los Pájaros
90. Laguna de la Paja
91. Charca Suárez

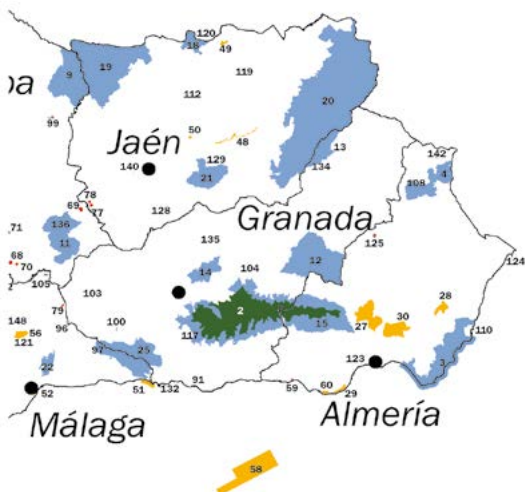
92. Corredor Verde del Guadiamar
93. Río Tinto

## NATURE RESERVES

## PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

## NATURAL SITES

- |                              |   |                                     |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 27. Desierto de Tabernas     | 40. Enebrales Punta Umbría                          | 50. Laguna Grande                   |
| 28. Karst en yesos de Sorbas | 41. Estero Domingo Rubio                            | 51. Acantilados de Maro Cerro Gordo |
| 29. Puntas Entinas-Sabinar   | 42. Laguna de Palos-Madres                          | 52. Desembocadura del Guadalhorce   |
| 30. Sierra Alhamilla         | 43. Marismas Isla Cristina                          | 53. Desfiladero Gaitanes            |
| 31. Cola embalse Arcos       | 44. Marismas del Odiel                              | 54. Los Reales de Sierra Bermeja    |
| 32. Cola embalse Bornos      | 45. Marismas del río Piedras and Flecha del Rompido | 55. Sierra Crestellina              |
| 33. Estuario río Guadiario   | 46. Peñas de Aroche                                 | 56. Torcal de Antequera             |
| 34. Isla del Trocadero       | 47. Sierra Pelada and Rivera del Aserrador          | 57. Brazo del Este                  |
| 35. Marismas de Sancti Petri | 48. Alto Guadalquivir                               | 58. Isla de Alborán                 |
| 36. Marismas río Palmones    | 49. Cascada de Cimbarra                             |                                     |
| 37. Playa los Lances         |   |                                     |
| 38. Embalse de Cordobilla    |   |                                     |
| 39. Embalse Malpasillo       |   |                                     |



- |                              |                                     |                                       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 94. Cueva del Gato           | 110. Isla de San Andrés             | 127. Encina Dehesa Francisco          |
| 95. Nacimiento río Genal     | 111. Punta del Boquerón             | 128. Quejigo del Amo                  |
| 96. Fuente de los Cien Caños | 112. El Piélago                     | 129. Pinar de Cánavas                 |
| 97. Tajos de Alcázar         | 113. Cerro del Hierro               | 130. Pinsapo Escaleretas              |
| 98. Mirador río Turón        | 114. Tajos del Mogarejo             | 131. Chaparro de la Vega              |
| 99. Meandro de Montoro       | 115. Tómbolo Trafalgar              | 132. Peñones S <sup>a</sup> Cristobal |
| 100. Tajos de Alhama         | 116. Dunas de Bolonia               | 133. Corrales de Rota                 |
| 101. Peña de Arcos           | 117. Falla de Nigüelas              | 134. Peña de Castril                  |
| 102. Ribera del Guadaira     | 118. Acantilado Asperillo           | 135. Cueva Ventanas                   |
| 103. Infiernos de Loja       | 119. Huellas dinosaurio             | 136. Cueva Murciélagos                |
| 104. Cárcavas del Marchal    | 120. Los Órganos                    | 137. Sotos de Albolafia               |
| 105. Falla Sierra de Camorro | 121. Tornillo del Torcal            | 138. Acebuche del Espinillo           |
| 106. Cañon Buitreras         | 122. Cascada del Huesna             | 139. Encina los Perros                |
| 107. Dunas de Artola         | 123. Arrecife posidonia             | 140. Bosque Bañizueta                 |
| 108. Sabina Albar            | 124. Islas de Terreros e Isla Negra | 141. Montera de Gossan                |
| 109. Pino Centenario Mazagón | 125. Piedra Lobera                  | 142. Cueva de Ambrosio                |
|                              | 126. Acebuches del Rocio            |                                       |

## NATURAL MONUMENTS

## THE RENPA: INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

The **Network of Natural Protected Areas in Andalusia** includes areas bearing international cataloguing and the most important are the following:

### NATURA 2000 NETWORK



**Natura 2000 Network** is regarded as an EU-wide network of nature protection areas and integrates, in addition to the areas catalogued by Andalusia, other natural habitats of interest considered to have maximum ecological value for the European Union as a whole. These areas are known as Site of Community Importance (SCI), which were later declared as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and the Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

### RAMSAR SITES

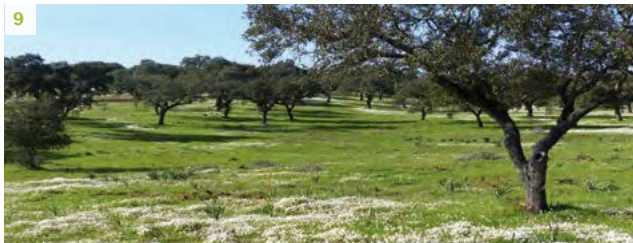


A **RAMSAR site** is a wetland of global importance. The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) is an international treaty that establishes the commitments made by the contracting parties, among them, Spain, for the conservation of Wetlands of Global Importance, 25 areas in the case of Andalusia.

### SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS OF MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTANCE



They are marine and coastal zones subject to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, within the international framework of the Barcelona Convention. They are extremely valuable marine and coastal areas.



## BIOSPHERE RESERVES



A **Biosphere Reserve** is a figure protected by the UNESCO, which recognises the ecologic and environmental quality of a certain natural space and the governmental efforts to preserve it in a compatible manner, together with strategies for sustainable development, responsible tourism, etc.

## GEO PARKS



**Geoparks**

A **European Geopark** is a territory that includes a particular geological heritage and a sustainable territorial development strategy intended to preserve and develop the area for tourism uses.



## WORLD HERITAGE



Doñana is the only protected natural area from Andalusia recognized internationally under the cataloguing of **World Heritage of UNESCO**, for their exceptional natural and cultural values.

## EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE

**EUROPARC**  
FEDERATION



CARTA EUROPEA  
DE TURISMO SOSTENIBLE  
EN ESPACIOS PROTEGIDOS

The **European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Natural Spaces (CETS)** is an initiative of the EUROPARC Federation which aims to promote sustainable tourism development in the protected natural spaces of Europe.







# SIERRA NEVADA NATIONAL PARK

1

## About it



SIERRA  
NEVADA

PARQUE NACIONAL

Other cataloguing



\*Legend of page 7



2

## What to do



3

Sulayr, the Mountain of the Sun, majestically stretches between Granada and Almería, exhibiting a superb watchtower relief composed of fifteen peaks that exceed 3000 m high. Among them, the **Mulhacén [1]** is the highest point of the Iberian Peninsula (3.482 meters). They are peaks that crown exceptional geological landscapes, shaped by glacial ice that reigned in these high peaks during the glaciations in the Quaternary cold periods. Large cirques, beautiful valleys and **glacial lakes [7]**, towering gorges, sharp edges and ridges, the domain of almost perpetual snow, the sanctuary of the **Spanish ibex [2]** and the kingdom of powerful eagles... Giant screes, rocks and crevices that shelter unique botanical species, plants that have succeeded in adapting to the rigours of the altitude. The endless hills and meadows become covered in violet and yellow tapestries upon the arrival of **spring [8]**. A geological, biological, ecological and scenic paradise recognised worldwide as a Biosphere Reserve, but, above all, a real fest for the senses.

Sierra Nevada, an area belonging to the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism, presents an excellent offer for sporting and nature activities, in unique settings. **The Recreational Station of the Puerto de la Ragua [3]**, located in the heart of the park, provides equipment to perform a full range of winter sports in all their Nordic modalities, skiing, cross-country skiing, trekking, snowshoeing, sledging, etc. As well as the traditional snow-related activities, nowadays, we can do a wide range of summer activities: hiking, **mountain biking [4]**, climbing, trekking, horseback riding and sightseeing routes. The Sulayr track is the largest circular track







1

# DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK

## About it



Other cataloguing



The meeting point of the Guadalquivir River and the Atlantic Ocean, rested and extensive, forms a beautiful flat land and water maze profiling marshes, ponds, caños, private plots and pine forests, seams and edges, **dunes** [8], endless pristine white sandy beaches and spectacular cliffs. Doñana is the great Guadalquivir estuary, one of the most important protected areas of Andalusia, the most important **wetlands** [1] across the continent and the largest nature reserve in Europe. Unique aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems; place of passage, breeding and wintering for thousands of European and African birds; over 150 species of birds; and also, a paradise for birdwatchers from around the world. Doñana is also the **habitat** [6] [7] of iconic species such as the **Iberian lynx** [5] and the imperial eagle, both endangered species. Nature in its pure state!

## What to do



Doñana, adhered to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, offers unique experiences. It is worth going to the Visitors' Centre Bajo Guía in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, where you can get informative material that will certainly make your visit easier. Walk-ing or cycling through a wide range of tracks is an excellent way to learn about the park. You can enjoy the excellent riparian forests by foot along the Acebrón path, **bird watching** [4] by following the itinerary of the Rocina, or do comfortable cycling routes, such as that which goes through Matalascañas or that which begins in the forest village of Cabezudos. The variety of activities related to the world of birds, with or without a guide, is more than outstanding. It is also possible to navigate on board **the Real Fernando vessel** [3], which travels down the Guadalquivir from Sanlúcar. You can also do **4x4 routes** [2] with a guide and under the





# CABO DE GATA-NIJAR NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



### Other cataloguing



It was the first protected marine-terrestrial space in Andalusia. Its unique volcanic character, its 50 kilometres of sheer cliffs, the best preserved Mediterranean coast and the diversity of its seabed give it an extraordinary ecological and geological value, recognised internationally as a Biosphere Reserve and Geopark. Old volcanoes, craters and lava flows form a unique landscape of African reminiscence and ochre, black and red colours that fascinate visitors. Its desert-like appearance hides peculiar forms of plant and animal life that have adapted to extreme arid conditions, generating endemic species unique to this area. Throughout its **seafront cliffs** [1], urban beaches such as San José and Aguamarga, beautiful natural beaches such as Mónsul and Genoveses, and hidden and inaccessible coves, like the Carnaje, or El Plomo, among others, seem to appear one after another.

## What to do

2



Its double “sea and land” nature allows for an extraordinary variety of activities. Diving in unique waters over meadows of seaweed or wrecks, boat tours, canoes or **kayaks** [3], accessing remote coves of rare beauty, surfing and endless water-based activities carried out in the most beautiful and natural landscapes of the Mediterranean coast. The network of marked trails offers **walking** [2], horseback or bicycle, boat and even submarine tours, and provide an insight into the enormous natural and cultural heritage of the park, with over a hundred items catalogued as being of Cultural Interest (castles and forts, cottages, mills and wells, reservoirs, etc.). Birdwatching in the Salinas de Cabo de Gata, scrutinising the stars from the Genovesas beach, performing night hiking or delving into the interesting geology of the Geopark



through their **guided routes** [4], complete quite an outstanding tourism and leisure offer.



*What not to be missed*

VISIT THE RODALQUILAR GOLD MINES



The Casa de los Volcanes Geotourism Centre provides interesting information on the geology of the park and the mining history of Rodalquilar. Visit the gold mines, the Spanish Gold, the mining town, now converted into an Ecotourism Centre and the surrounding landscape that will transport the visitor back to the days of the gold rush in Almeria.

DIVE BETWEEN POSIDONIAS AND WRECKS

Diving in the waters of the Isleta del Moro, El Ancla and Punta del Plomo allows you to enjoy the always-fascinating underwater landscape of the Posidonias, a submerged forest, among crustaceans, molluscs and fish. Visiting some of the wrecks is definitely a must for diving enthusiasts and is offered by several companies dealing with active tourism.



ON HORSEBACK DOWN THE ENSENADA DE GENOVESES



Cabo de Gata offers suggestive retreats and settings for horseback riding. There is a wide array of offerings, but one of the most unforgettable experiences is to do Ensenada de los Genoveses route, near the beaches of Los Genoveses and Mónsul, crossing the most natural Spanish scenery that hosts film shoots each year.



# SIERRA MARÍA-LOS VÉLEZ

## NATURAL PARK

1

### About it



Other cataloguing



The María, Mahimón and Muelas mountain range rises magnificently in the historic Corredor de Los Vélez, a natural corridor between Andalusia and the Levante. Large and abrupt limestone moles over two thousand feet high that become covered by snow, every winter... Limestone landscapes, rocks caves and karst reliefs that let out mighty springs... The slopes have a marked asymmetry. Those of the north sides are more humid with lush forest landscapes. Thick forests of oaks and pines, such as the El Pinar de la Alfahuara, have been well preserved ever since it became the private hunting estate of Philip II. There are forests and riverbanks that offer refuge to a great variety of wild fauna. The south side is more abrupt and broken, naked, with impressive crags and sheer drops over which eagles, vultures, owls and falcons glide.

### What to do



2

Fans of mountain activities, climbing, **caving** [3] and canyoning will find an interesting range of **activities** [2] here. The Cerro del Gabar provides a great take-off for free flight lovers. A dense network of viewpoints and marked trails, passable on foot, by **bicycle** [5] or on horseback, take the visitor to the interesting geology, botany, wildlife and archaeology of the area. Numerous manifestations of **rock art** [4] [8] are part of a cultural offer that complements **the Renaissance castle of Los Fajardo** [1], in Vélez Blanco, and the huge monuments of historic and artistic ensemble of Vélez Blanco and Vélez Rubio.









# BAHÍA DE CÁDIZ NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



### Other cataloguing



A beautiful shallow **bay** [1] sits on the old estuary receiving waters of the Guadalete and San Pedro Rivers. It smells of sea, salt and salt mines. It smells of Cádiz. Seascapes, beaches and dunes, salt mines, marshes, swamps and caños, today dedicated to the cultivation of “estuary” species, such as clams, oysters, sea bass, sole, mullet and shrimp, the basis of an exceptional seafood cuisine. Los Toruños, **Sancti-Petri** [7] and those of the Isla del Trocadero, are good examples of small natural wetlands that have remained almost intact. The two latter areas have been declared Natural sites. Its location, saddled between Doñana and Del Estrecho, make it a key piece in the migratory system of aquatic birds, to which the summering and wintering birds are added. Gannets, grebes, cormorants, gulls, terns, sandpipers, stilts, herons and avocets, flamingos, osprey and hundreds more species can also be found here.

## What to do

2



Exceptional beaches, such as Levante, Camposoto or Cachucha, and over 3,000 hours of sunshine ensure the ideal setting for boating on the bay, flying over the waves **windsurfing** [3] [5] [6], **kite surf** [4] or diving in the depths. Moreover, you can also enjoy unique experiences such as canoeing down the caños whilst learning about its rich natural and ethnographic heritage, visiting a working **salt mine** [2], or an old and unique tidal mill, and participating in traditional “despesques” in the estuaries. Back on dry land, a dense network of marked trails, passable on foot, bike or horseback, shows off the interesting avifauna of the bay from strategically placed observatories.







# DE LA BREÑA Y MARISMAS DE BARBATE

## NATURAL PARK

1

### About it



Other cataloguing



2

Barbate is nestled between an extraordinary **marine cliff [1]** and a marshland. The nautical mile that lies at the foot of the cliff, from Barbate to Los Caños de Meca, and inland towards Vejer de la Frontera, make up this small but attractive area, one of the three maritime-terrestrial parks of Andalusia. A mosaic of seabed, wild cliffs, pine forests and marshes... A dense pine forest crowns the summit of the impressive cliff, shelter to a large number of forest birds. The **Torre del Tajo [2]** appears at the edge, a privileged coastal surveillance vantage point, one of the watchtowers that warned of pirate raids in the XV and XVI Century. Subsequently, in 1805, it would be the privileged witness of the Battle of Trafalgar. Still today, it offers spectacular views over the blue waters of the Straits. Amazing fresh water springs appear at the base of the cliff discharging small inlets, known as Caños; the most famous are those of La Meca. The biodiversity and natural wealth of this area is multiplied in the marshes of Vejer, a strategic enclave for thousands of waterfowl in their transcontinental migration routes. Very close to Los Caños de Meca, we find the Natural Geological Monument of the Tómbolo de Trafalgar, a beautiful landscape that combines sand dunes, vast beaches and a rocky area comprising ancient fossil dunes, where an iconic lighthouse stands.

### What to do

The wide variety of things to do in this area, which incidentally, is adhered to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, is quite surprising. Paragliding and **hang gliding [4]** enthusiasts have ideal locations for these sports and there is even a free flight school in Vejer. A **boat trip [3]** from the port of Barbate is ideal





1

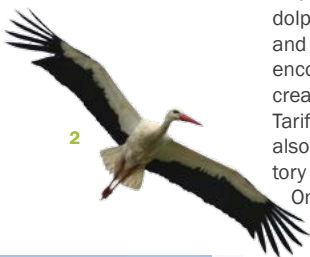
# DEL ESTRECHO NATURAL PARK

## About it



It extends down a coastline of over sixty kilometres long, with a width of one nautical mile offshore, between two continents, Europe and Africa, and between two seas, the Mediterranean and Atlantic. The centrepiece of this park is undoubtedly, the **wind [3]** that has shaped the land, defined the migration routes of birds and marine fauna and built beautiful dunes. Nowadays, not only does it provide environmentally friendly energy but it also makes the beaches of Tarifa, the European surfing capital, in all its modalities. The second protagonists are the birds, an ornithological diversity that grows bigger with the **passage of migratory birds [2]**, a show that can be enjoyed through the network of observatories throughout the park. The marine fauna is also rich and diverse: whales, dolphins, loggerhead turtles, porpoises, tuna and sharks swim through these waters. The encounter between the land and the water creates beautiful landscapes. On one side of Tarifa, fascinating cliffs and sea caves that also tell us about the exciting geological history of El Estrecho from millions of years ago.

### Other cataloguing



2

On the other, sandy beaches, such as Los Lances, catalogued as a Natural Site, or Bolonia, whose famous dune has been declared a Natural Monument. The exceptional archaeological complex of **Baelo Claudia [5]** is only the core of the extensive historical and artistic heritage of the park, both in its terrestrial and marine aspects, which hold a legacy of wrecks and remains of very significant shipwrecks.



3

## What to do

The Straits is a unique place to enjoy watching fauna, birds that regularly cross from one continent to another, and cetaceans that travel regularly between the Atlantic and the

**Mediterranean [6]**. So is diving, in one of the best **seabeds [7]** of Andalusia, or between legendary shipwrecks, and for sports such as surfing, windsurfing and **kite surfing [4]** in Tarifa, the wind capital. Back on land, the offer of leisure activities is extended with a network of trails down the line of coastal watchtowers, witnesses of historical naval battles and pirates raids, and excellent viewpoints. Special conditions for climbing in the nearby Sierra de San Bartolomé or the rich **archaeological heritage of Baelo Claudia [5]** complete the varied offer.



## What not to be missed

### THE ROMAN CITY OF BAELO CLAUDIA



5

The Roman city-factory of Baelo Claudia is rated as the most complete Roman settlement on the Iberian Peninsula. It is situated next to the beach and the Natural Monument of the Dunas de Bolonia. It has an interesting interpretation centre in the actual archaeological site.

### WHALE WATCHING

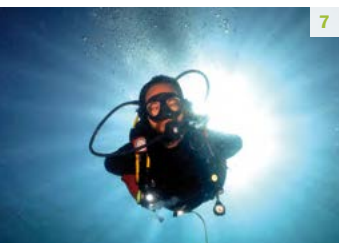
Numerous boat trips leave from Algeciras or Tarifa, especially between the months of April to October, to seek whales dolphins, sperm whales and orcas. The waters of the Straits are breeding and feeding areas for listed dolphins and bottlenose dolphins, which can also be spotted at any time of year. Such an exciting experience!



6

### DIVING IN THE STRAITS

The sandy seabeds are home to dense seaweed beds, such as the so-called seba, seaweed that grows up to 60 cm high. Further out, you can see brown and red algae forming clumps. Fish, sponges, jellyfish, shellfish accompany the visitor and almost unexpectedly, underwater archaeological treasures, shipwrecks, wrecks with legends appear in sight. Unique underwater landscapes that make this an unforgettable experience.



7



# LOS ALCORNOCALES NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



### Other cataloguing



2

The frequent fogs and rains washed away by the Atlantic winds irrigate the western highlands of Cádiz and Málaga favouring the existence of the most beautiful and extensive **cork oak groves [1] [8]** in the Iberian Peninsula, and around them, an ancient culture that has been kept until now, cork. This humid climate and narrow valleys form an exceptional natural spectacle: the canutos, cloud forests and a species of rainforest in a gallery that occupies narrow and **deep valleys [7]**. They are botanical relics of the Tertiary era; subtropical forests already disappeared in Europe, except in Turkey and Spain. Covered by the shade of alders, among aromas of Laurel, enjoying the beauty of the hornbeam and rhododendrons blossom, the elegance of the laurestine and holly bushes, with the singing of dippers, kingfishers skilful jumps and the elusive looks of the warblers and finches. The rich fauna of the park is extraordinary. The dense forests of cork oaks, gall-oaks and common oaks, are the hunting area of booted eagles, short-toed snake eagle, common buzzards, and northern goshawks, sparrowhawks and strixes. On the high **Aljibe sandstone rocks [2]**, whimsically modelled by the wind, lives the Iberian ibex. The native Moorish deer, emblem of the big game and deer scurry to hide among the bushes. The Griffon and the Egyptian vulture fly over the sheer drops. The seven reservoirs serve as a refuge for many waterfowl. Wherever there is limescale, the land becomes karstic and favours the development of grottoes and caves.

## What to do

The diversity of the park makes it possible to perform virtually any activity. The park offers activities ranging from mountain **climbing [4]** to the Aljibe or Picacho peaks to caving in the enclave of Ramblazo-Motillas or canyoning in









# SIERRA DE GRAZALEMA NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



### Other cataloguing



Steep **limestone mountains [1]** with abundant rock. Beautiful white villages perched on impossible enclaves. Patiently water-modelled limestone, sculpted in the form of deep and beautiful gorges and canyons. Drilled by a gigantic underground labyrinth of caverns and caves, among which we highlight the Hundidero-Gato, the longest in Andalusia and a real paradise for caves and bats, sheltering the largest bat colony of Spain, some 100,000. Others, like the **Cueva de la Pileta [6]** is known worldwide for its **cave drawings [6]**. Impressive drops custodied by majestic eagles. Gorges overflowed by the largest colony of griffon vulture in Europe. **Sharp rocky karsts [3]**, landscapes of poljes, **sinkholes [2]** and limestone karst formations, and the kingdom of the Iberian ibex. Stony substrates, with poor soils that hold dense forests of holm oaks, cork oaks and gall-oaks, and an emblematic tree, the **Spanish fir [8]**, which floods the shady side of the Sierra del Pinar, the wettest point of the Iberian Peninsula. This species descended from the Centre-European firs and formed large fir forests in the cold glacial periods of the Quaternary. Nowadays, these species only inhabit these areas and neighbouring areas of the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park and the Natural Site of Sierra Bermeja. In autumn, gallery forests of elms, willows and poplars turn the valleys in the upper course of the El Bosque River, in particular, the Majaceite, into reddish colours. In the clean riverbeds of these rivers, we can still find otters.



## What to do

A network of trails, including the GR-7 (Athens-Tarifa), provides the ideal infrastructure for hiking, horseback routes or mountain biking. Routes noted for their beautiful mountain



scenery, such as Los Llanos de Lívar and the Pinsapar, which allows identifying the singularities of this botanical rarity. The Majaceite River is the largest trout river in southern Europe and will delight fishing enthusiasts. The more energetic can practice free flight, hang gliding and paragliding in the Algodonales and the El Bosque stations, and water activities in the

**reservoir of Zahara de la Sierra [5].**

One of the most deeply rooted activities is caving, which can be done at the legendary **underground system of Hundidero-Gato [7]**, or any of their many chasms and caves, and always with professional guides. For canyoning, this area offers enclaves as suggestive as the **Garganta Verde [4]**. The climbers will enjoy multiple prepared areas: Peñón Grande, Aguja de las Palomas and Peñaloja, in Grazalema, Cortados de Montejaque and Benaoján, or in La Veredilla, La Diaclasa and Cintillo, in Benaocaz. It is a big game area and a paradise for bird and wildlife observation.



## What not to be missed

### THE CUEVA DE LA PILETA

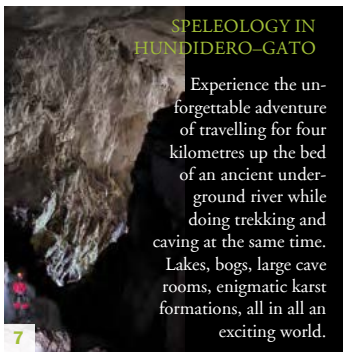


Since its discovery, for over a century, hundreds of experts from all around the world have been interested in cave paintings, the most important of the Iberian Peninsula being the Great Fish and the Horse. Entering these galleries is always a visit to the magical world of Prehistory.

### THE PINSAPAR

It is advisable to seek information before planning a visit to the Pinsapar, because in certain periods, access is controlled and restricted to small groups only, or you may be required to be accompanied by a guide. It is well worth a visit. Delving into these relict forests is an experience in itself.

### SPELEOLOGY IN HUNDIDERO-GATO



Experience the unforgettable adventure of travelling for four kilometres up the bed of an ancient underground river while doing trekking and caving at the same time. Lakes, bogs, large cave rooms, enigmatic karst formations, all in all an exciting world.





# SIERRA DE CARDEÑA Y MONTORO NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



## Other cataloguing



This enclave of Sierra Morena, which overlooks the valley of the great Bético river, the Guadalquivir, from the eastern end of the region of Los Pedroches was, until just over a century ago, an extensive and dense woodland, one of the main territories of the **Iberian lynx** [4]. Now, these old forests are interspersed with meadows on gentle young granitic reliefs with ridged forms, dotted with typical bowling landscapes, the **Berrocales** [1]. In these meadows, the Iberian pig appreciated and the no less valued “**retinta**” cows [2] co-exist in freedom. The landscape is only broken in the deep valleys of the rivers Yeguas and Arenoso, with a high degree of naturalness, enjoying the presence of otters, dippers and kingfishers. In the forests of holm oak, cork oak, gall-oak, wild olive tree and the Pyrenean oak, deer and fallow deer graze under the watchful eyes of the imperial, the Iberian and, the golden eagles, black and griffon vulture and the common and black stork. Deep in the forest abounds one of the major players in the park, the Iberian lynx, sharing territory with the badger, fox and genet. Land of big game hunting and the collecting the wild mushrooms, chanterelles, blue foot, *Macrolepiota konradii* and *terfezias* are the most common varieties, but the real mycological star of the park is the *Leccinum corsicum*.

## What to do



The park offers the possibility of a full range of activities from mountain climbing, canyoning to rafting, among others. A network of **trails** [3] allows you to enjoy exceptional natural landscapes, full of wildlife on foot, on horseback or bicycle. Observe of the bellow of the deer, large birds of prey and the lynx are just some of the attractions offered here. **El embalse de Tejoneras** [6] is an enclave of interest for waterfowl and water sports







# SIERRA DE HORNACHUELOS

## NATURAL PARK

1

### About it



### Other cataloguing



This sector of the Western Sierra Morena, a watchtower over the great valley of the Guadalquivir, offers a unique forest **landscape [1]**. Dense forests of holm oaks, cork oaks and gall-oaks, that become clearer towards Las Navas transforming into traditional pastures. This area forms part, along with Sierra Norte (Sevilla) and Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche (Huelva), of the Dehesas de Sierra Morena Biosphere Reserve. The title was not awarded by chance; the value of its fauna is impressive. It is home to the second largest colony of black vultures in Andalusia and to several colonies of **griffon vulture [3]**. The **golden eagle [2]** also nests here and shares its habitat with the endangered black stork. The ground is territory of the **Iberian lynx [4]** and the mon-goose, wolf and fox, which coexist with game species such as wild boar and deer.



4

These mountains are an important area for big game hunting and also offer the possibility of enjoying a natural spectacle, the bellow of the deer. The Bembézar, Guadiato and Retortillo Rivers run through the mountains encased between steep ravines of dark shale, giving shelter to beautiful riverside thickets formed by poplars, alders, willows, ash, hawthorn, ivy and oleander trees, inhabited by the demanding otter and the restless kingfisher. You can enjoy walking Guadolora path or round the nearby reservoirs of Bémbezar, Retortillo and Breña. The presence of water is a constant element in the landscape of Hornachuelos.



2



3

### What to do

The GR-48, one of the great Andalusian tours, runs through the park. The trails of this great ecological corridor, whose route connects







1

# SIERRAS SUBBÉTICAS NATURAL PARK

## About it



## Other cataloguing



2

The limestone heart of the Cordillera Bética has been patiently carved by water over millions of years, which has chiselled peaks, cliffs, gorges, canyons and numerous cavities, some as exceptional as the chasm of Cabra, as referenced in Don Quixote, or the **Cueva de los Murciélagos [8]**, declared a Natural Monument. Stone landscapes lined with holm oaks, gall-oaks and extensive olive groves; an idyllic mountain landscape exhibiting its geology, one of the three Andalusian **Geoparks [2]**. There are also large underground reservoirs that explode into powerful springs, like the Zambra, which in some cases energetically dig canyons as deep as the Bailón canyon. Others have been domesticated in the form of artistic and popular sources of water, like River in Cabra, or the monumental and centenary Fuente del Rey Priego. Sinkholes that are impossible to walk through, such as Los Lanchares, ascending to the Picacho de la Virgen de la Sierra, are excellent viewpoints to admire the landscape and geology. From this viewpoint, in addition to seeing virtually half of Andalusia, one can also see the **polje of La Nava [1]**, and on clear days, even the peaks of Sierra Nevada. The rampant Spanish ibex lives in these forests and rocky formations, overflowed by golden eagles, griffon vultures and peregrine falcons.

## What to do

An extensive network of **trails [7]** and bike paths connect the white villages of the Subbética region, formed by labyrinthine streets and loaded with history and heritage. Some **routes offer themed contents [5]**, such as the Picacho route, a real geological outdoor museum, or the Buitrera route, a glimpse into the world of birds. Speleology also has its place in exceptional geological scenarios such as the chasm of Cabra and climbing in the canyon of Zuheros, a town where you can enjoy visit-

ing the natural monument, the Cueva de los Murciélagos (The Bat Cave). Fans of mountain biking will love the **Subbética Greenway** [6], a former railway perfectly adapted for this sport. The Iznájar reservoir is nearby, ideal for water sports and **bird watching** [3]. Horseback riding and paragliding or ballooning complete the offer of tourist activities.



## What not to be missed

### CYCLING DOWN THE GREENWAY



The route of the old Tren del Aceite [Oil bearing train] becomes the Subbética Greenway for 58 kilometres and allows cyclists and walkers to enjoy the beautiful and historic town of Zuheros, Doña Mencía, Lucena and Cabra and the rich heritage and the natural landscapes that surround them.

### WANDER DOWN THE GREAT ROUTE

The mythical and international GR-7 offers several stages that run through the heart of the park, an excellent and healthy way to get to know its extraordinary natural and cultural extent on foot.

### THE CUEVA DE LOS MURCIÉLAGOS

In this geological and archaeological jewel, ideal for exploring the dissolved depths of the great karstic massif, we find numerous species of this interesting and beneficial mammal, the bat, together with Neolithic human remains. It is a natural monument that can indeed be visited.





# SIERRA DE BAZA NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



Other cataloguing



It rises imposingly from the white and arid steppes of the Altiplano de Baza, like a huge forest iceberg, a kind of giant green oasis between arid plains that has the effect of a great biological and climatic island. The Sierra de Baza offers a **mosaic of forest landscapes [1]** filled with wildlife. Holm Oaks dominate the lower areas, whereas gall-oaks, maple forests and pine groves have colonised the highest altitudes; and the native pine, broom and junipers grow in the ancient miner landscapes, where deer, martens, badgers and wild cats now stride past and where large prey such as the golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, the eagle owl and hawk fly. Some streams preserve typical riparian groves, formed by poplars, willows and ashes, offering breathtakingly beautiful landscapes, which turn red in autumn. The park currently has a high esteem amongst amateur nature photographers.

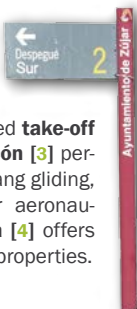
## What to do



This area has a network of marked trails and viewpoints that allow practising several different types of sports, such as hiking, biking and horseback riding, which all bring the visitor closer to the rich natural and ethnographic heritage and the old mining towns with quartzite and slate architecture. An example is the gorgeous **Aldea del Tesorero [2]**, formed by old farmsteads and charming villages with unique slate or mud-like roofs, water mills; and a singularity: the monumental **snow wells [8]**, some possibly used since Roman times. Autumns are spectacular for photography enthusiasts and nature lovers who like to pick wild **mushrooms [7]**. For the more adventurous, the peaks of Santa Barbara exhibit some excellent opportunities for climbing. Visitors can also practice a very complete range



of water sports on the nearby **Negratín reservoir** [5]. The valued **take-off stations of the Jabalcón** [3] permit doing free flight, hang gliding, paragliding and other aeronautical sports. **Zújar spa** [4] offers extraordinary relaxing properties.



### THE PRADOS DEL REY

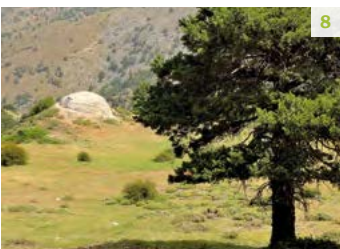


### What not to be missed

The track up to the Prados del Rey, the summit of the mountains, offers excellent views of the landscapes of the forest heart of the massif. At the top, gorgeous native black or cluster pines, different varieties of junipers and the Spanish broom greet visitors.

### AUTUMN AND THE WILD-MUSHROOM SEASON

With the arrival of autumn the park turns reddish and orange. It is the season for nature photography enthusiasts and, without a doubt, those who like picking wild mushrooms. The mycological richness of this area is well known.



### THE SNOW WELLS

Before industrial cooling, the Sierra de Baza supplied snow to the entire Baza region. Snow wells were built in enclaves where snow was abundant in winter, but not perpetual and practically everything was kept in there before being commercialised.





# SIERRA DE CASTRIL NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



Other cataloguing



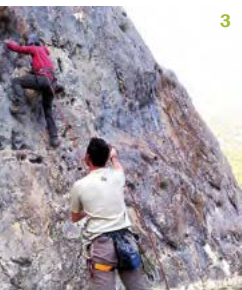
2



The **Castril River** [7] appears in spurts between vertical walls of limestone, as if it were the leaking hull of a ship. This prodigious natural spectacle generates a unique enclave for its beauty, in the heart of the park and at the foot of the Prados del Conde cliffs. The river valley opens up below, the vast turquoise artery of space, clear waters escorted by a magnificent riparian forest of elms, poplars, willows and ashes, where we can find native trout caught by otters and kingfishers. It is not the only natural spring; these mountains are a great **karstic massif** [1], a kind of large underground reservoir that is recharged by rainfall and snow in its high peaks, offering it later naturally in low points. Chasms, caves and galleries pierce their rocky depths, which are features that give it a remarkable geological and speleological value. The biological value is no less. In the high and cold mountain summits, the Spanish ibex lives in between black pines, brooms and several different types of junipers. Gall-oaks and maples populate the tops of the sharp ravines, over which we can spot the **bearded and griffon vultures** [2], the peregrine falcon and the Egyptian vulture. Birds of prey like the golden eagle, the short-toed or booted eagle live amongst the pines and oaks. Water rests peacefully in the **Portillo reservoir** [5] towards the park exit.

## What to do

3



This wonderful area is ideal for **hiking** [4], mountain biking, **climbing** [3], caving and canyoning. **Catch and release** [8] of the trout can be done in the Castril trout river. The Don Fernando Cave or that of El Muerto are both excellent subterranean environments for speleology activities. The Portillo reservoir offers the possibility of performing different **water**





# SIERRA DE HUÉTOR NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



Other cataloguing



This forest area extends in the form of medium height mountains covered with dense and cool woodlands just 20 kilometres from the historic and monumental city of Granada. Pines, common oaks, gall-oaks, scrubland and riparian forests comprise a valuable and dense ground cover. Its beautiful **mountain scenery** [1], the proximity to Granada, the dense network of trails and tracks that run through it and the interesting environmental and sports facilities make it one of the most visited parks by the people of Granada. Narrow ravines, streams, gorges and calcareous formations form a broken up relief, typically karstic. The fractured limestone reliefs facilitate the infiltration of water into the depths of the massif, developing galleries and caves that facilitate underwater storage. This is why generous springs adorn the mountain ranges, some historical, as **Fuente Grande** [3], which feeds the mythical Aynadamar Canal, while others lead to emblematic rivers such as the Darro or **Fardes** [2]. The karstic rocks are territory of the Spanish ibex, the cliff and the golden eagle and the forests, a paradise for **wild-mushroom** [8] lovers.



## What to do



The dense network of trails and viewpoints, some located on disturbing and surprising **trenches** [4], constructions of the Spanish Civil War, welcomes you to have a wonder into this area. Visitors can also **cycle** [7] through very well established routes and attend regional sporting events, or explore the area on horseback. Climbing and **caving** [10] are also very popular activities. The equipment to enjoy the **multi-adventure** [5] [6] site, zip lines, tree games or kite flying, will delight the little







1

# SIERRA NEVADA NATURAL PARK

## About it



Other cataloguing



EUROPARC  
RESEÑA  
CENTRO EUROPEO  
DE PARQUES NATURALES  
DE INTERÉS INTERNACIONAL

Encircling the snowy peaks of the national park in the form of a ring is the **Sierra Nevada Natural Park [1]**, widely spread out between Almería and Granada in the form of steep slopes and embedded mountain river valleys seeking the gentle uplands of the Hoya de Guadix, to the north, Vega de Granada, to the west, the Desierto de Tabernas, to the east, and the “tahas” of the Alpujarras and Lecrin Valley to the south. As a whole, it forms a rugged area of medium to high mountains, with abrupt appearance populated by dense pine, oaks, gall-oaks, chestnuts, walnut trees, yew and splendid riverside forests with willows, poplars, alders, wickers and rushes, all very rich in flora and fauna. However, the park hides other landscapes such as the Ruiniform reliefs of the Calares, hard limestone of whimsical forms, broken by the continuous action of freezing and thawing, and sectioned by deep, narrow canyons, described here as cahorros. The amazing erosive landscapes of southeasternside of the mountain, typical bad-lands, are linked to the erosive landscape of the neighbouring Desierto de Tabernas. There are wetlands, such as the lagoon of Pádul, a real bird sanctuary. The biological richness of this area is extraordinary: forests, water and steppe birds, mammals, with the Spanish ibex as the queen, unique insects, crystal clear mountain streams, with the rare presence of the trout, mineral springs and Natural Monuments of geological character. Charming **white villages [2]**, culture and an excellent gastronomy completes the attractions of this area.



## What to do

The unique towns located in the peripheral regions of the massif, Las Alpujarras, El Marquesado, Nacimiento or the cities of Granada







# SIERRA DE ARACENA Y PICOS DE AROCHE NATURAL PARK

1

## About it

Dark mountains of slate and quartzite that were once powerful mining districts, characteristic landscapes of Sierra Morena, form the Sierra de Huelva. Lush forests and ample **pastures [1]** with oak trees are the home to the **pig [2]** and the **ham [7]**. There are plenty of mountain villages full of history and heritage. It is the land of frontiers, castles and fortresses. Holm, pyrenean, cork and common oaks, together with chestnut trees dominate the steep slopes of the highlands; and poplars, ashes, willows and alders grow down in the riverbeds. This forest range provides an interesting and diverse fauna. The avifauna is powerful: vultures and eagles are the lords of the skies. This is where the increasingly rare black stork inhabits. Visitors may also have the change of seeing the Lynx, the most threatened carnivore in Europe, as well as the demanding otter, in the river. Wonderful tourist enclaves like the Gruta de las Maravillas in Aracena, or the water surges of the Peña de Arias Montano, Alajar can be visited.



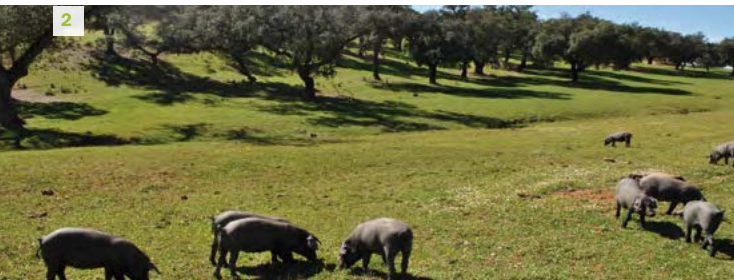
Other cataloguing



## What to do

Hundreds of kilometres of beautiful canyons, trails and cycling routes and the existence of multiple paths make this scenery an outstanding area to go hiking, biking or horseback riding. Visits to the La Gruta de las Maravillas and the **Peña de Arias Montano [3]** are a must. Those who like more action can go canyoning or climbing in the Risco de Levante in Santa Ana la Real or do canoeing,

2







# DOÑANA NATURAL PARK

## About it



### Other cataloguing



The Doñana Natural Park wraps the Doñana National Park, sharing its management and some of their wild nature landscapes such as the Bonanza Marshes, near the mouth of the Guadalquivir. It is the only one that still gets flooded with the tides and where the traditional salt mines can be seen crowded by flamingos and avocets. El Coto del Rey, the Abalarío and the pine forest of Algaida are all incorporated into this lavish patchwork of vast landscapes of pine forests and dense Mediterranean scrub, which provide suitable habitat to the emblematic Iberian lynx and several species of birds of prey such as the majestic Spanish imperial eagle. It also provides various sections of branches and caños of the Guadalquivir River, which once poured into the marsh and where birds come during the hardest times of drought. The photogenic **Asperillo Cliff** [6], a Natural Monument of geological interest finishes the coastline off towards Almonte. Further west, there are the lagoons of the Abalarío, a landscape dotted with small lakes surrounded by pine and eucalyptus trees. **The Rocío Pilgrimage** [2] also takes place here, in Almonte and it is one of the most famous cultural manifestations of religious character of Andalusia.



## What to do

The management of the natural park and the national park is carried out jointly and is under the figure of the “Natural Area of Doñana”. They, therefore share resources and **tourist services** [4]. This way, other activities are added to the exceptional offer of activities described for the national park. Some which are restricted there and which extend and complement the magnificent variety of tourist services of this unique territory. Among them, you can fly over Doñana, see it from a bird’s-eye view from a **hot air balloon** [8], doing hang









# DESPEÑAPERROS NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



Other cataloguing



## What to do



The Despeñaperros River enters Andalusia impetuously digging a surprisingly beautiful, wild and deep **gorge** [1]; a gorge, which has witnessed many epic events throughout history. The most memorable, perhaps, was the famous battle of Las Navas de Tolosa. Sceneries of this historic natural corridor have been the forced passage between the Castilian meseta and Andalusia for thousands of years and possesses a great cultural, prehistoric and historic heritage. The **Despeñaperros Mountain Range** [7], formed by large vertical layers of quartzite, and the **Cascada de Cimbarra** [6], a spectacularly beautiful waterfall, are natural enclaves among those of higher scenic interest. Dense forests of holm, cork, gall and pyrenean oak and pine trees, and an undergrowth of strawberry trees, heather, myrtle and kermes oak give refuge to species such as the wild boar and the deer, jewels of the consolidated hunting offer of this area, which share habitats with majestic birds of prey such as the Spanish imperial eagle and the vulture. Wolves and lynx pass sporadically through these mountains.

Despeñaperros is a paradise for **hikers** [5] and cyclists. Some of the trails one can find in this protected area are: La Cueva de los Muñecos, which deepens its historical legacy, the Barranco de Valdeazores, which offers outstanding botanical richness and a privileged enclave to spot the griffon vulture and the golden eagle flying over the Natural Monument of Los Órganos [mountains of volcanic origin]; and that the **Empedrillo** [3] that travels up the old medieval Roman road of Cástulo. It is famous big game territory and in autumn, you can also enjoy the natural spectacle of the bellowing of the deer. There are also very suggestive enclaves for climbing and canyoning.





# SIERRA DE ANDÚJAR NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



Other cataloguing



It lies next to the Cardeña y Montoro Natural Park, with which it shares traits and qualities. They are forest hills of quartzite and slate, **granite berrocales** [1] with meadow landscapes and fighting bulls, extensive forests of holm, cork and gall oaks, together with brambles, that paint the mountain yellow and blue in spring. Territory of big game hunting with deer, roe deer, mouflons, fallow deer and wild boars which share the habitat with the **lynx** [3] and the wolf. The rocky, inaccessible summits are the preferred nesting sites of the golden eagle. Above the forest you can distinguish the majestic flight of the Bonelli's and the Spanish imperial eagles that find one of their last refuges here. Owls, griffon and black vultures glide over these territories attracted by the abundance of food. The Yeguas and **Jándula** [5] Rivers retain beautiful riverside vegetation with willows, alders, hackberry, Ibero-African shrubby spurge and oleanders, and their banks generate enclaves and retreats of singular beauty.



## What to do



The GR-48, which connects this area with the rest of Sierra Morena through the territory of Cardeña and Montoro, and a comprehensive network of trails and viewpoints, provide an excellent infrastructure for hiking and photographic hunting. The park offers an ideal environment for observing wildlife. The transition from summer to autumn is the time to live the **bellowing of the deer** [6]. Several tour operators also offer guided tours of private estates to track down the trace of the elusive lynx. The Jándula and Encinarejo Reservoirs provide exceptional natural scenarios to practice water sports, kayaking and **canoeing** [4], as well as magnificent wildlife sightings. **Hunting** [2]







# SIERRA MÁGINA NATURAL PARK

## About it



Other cataloguing



Maybe its name says it all... The highest rock mass in the province of Jaén (2,167 m) rises majestically like a gigantic watchtower, between countryside of olive groves that look as big as the sea. The limestone nature of the rocks and the water facilitate the modelling of a landscape formed by rugged mountains, profuse in karst forms, sinkholes, torcales and dolinas. Above this, lies a Mediterranean vegetation formed by holm and gall oaks, maples and wild cherry tree in the lower parts, and black pines, junipers and creeping junipers on the highest peaks, which are cushioning plants huddled together to resist the effects of the cold winds and winter snow. There is a large population of Spanish ibex in the **Sierra Mágina [1]** and it is home to the wolf, lynx, bobcat, fox and genet. The golden and Bonelli eagles glide over this territory together with the griffon vulture in a very high degree of naturalness. The landscape diversity is increased by extensive **olive groves [8]**, interspersed with forests and crags. This territory was the natural border between Arab and Christian kingdoms during the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. The legacy is the peculiar medieval atmosphere of the narrow streets of its beautiful cities and a profuse presence of **castles [6]**, towers, forts and walls.

## What to do



The massif of Sierra Mágina exhibits excellent conditions to practice mountain activities, bicycle or horse riding. The climb up to the Pico Mágina, a classic, offers an interesting challenge for **hikers [3]** who like slopes. Well worth it, the views are breathtaking! There are also **regular activities [4]** such as caving in Cuevas de Baltibañas in Bélmez de la Moraleda and climbing with enabled tracks in the municipality of Torres. **Air activities [2]**, free





# SIERRAS DE CAZORLA, SEGURA Y LAS VILLAS

## NATURAL PARK

1

### About it



Other cataloguing



2

This forest area, the largest in Spain, has one of the highest diversity of plants in all Europe. Aleppo and Corsican **pine [1]** groves and forests of holm oaks, yews woods, boxwoods, oaks and maples dominate in low areas. The Corsican pine, a botanical park emblem, brooms and junipers colonise the high and cold mountains. In the riverbanks ashes, willows, poplars, reeds and cattails grow. The park hides endemic botanic jewels, as unique, such as the **Cazorla violet [3]**, the smallest botanical daffodil in the world. This dense vegetation covers the rugged Prebéticos reliefs, which are structured in a succession of abrupt and sharp limestone mountains, intensely karstified, which offer water on all of its sides. Here is where two of the most important Spanish rivers, the Guadalquivir and Segura are born. Springs, **waterfalls [2]**, enclosures, still waters in lakes and reservoirs are all a constant among these dense forest landscapes. The karst features model the limestone crags, slab mines, dolinas, navas, sinkholes, poljes, caves and potholes are very common. Bearded vultures and various species of eagles hover over these cliffs and forests. Nature in its wildest form!



3

### What to do

Its tourist offer is more than outstanding. It has an extraordinary offer for hiking, biking and equestrian activities. The GR 247, called Bosques del Sur, runs inside the park joining its historic and beautiful cities. This jour-

ney is passable virtually all the way. Ten birdwatching routes or the possibility of learning about the skies, climbing routes, caves prepared for caving or astronomical observation, from the Center for Astronomical Disclosure of La Fresnedilla or the Castillo de Hornos Cosmolarium. It also presents equipment for the practice of aviation activities in the Cornicabral aerodrome of and the Free Flight Station of El Yelmo. The extensive hydrographic network also enables canyoning, **rafting** [4] and other forms of nautical activities that can be done in the reservoir of El Tranco, sailing, boating, canoeing and kayaking. The offer on 4x4 routes is extensive, because they are done with guides. The **Borosa** [5], Aguasmulas, Guadalimar or Madera Rivers provide important fish diversity to delight fishing enthusiasts. Declared a National Hunting Park, it is well known for its hunting tradition, supported by populations of wild goat, deer, fallow deer, mouflon and wild boar, species that can also be enjoyed in semi-liberty in the wildlife park of Collado del Almendral in Coto Rios.



## What not to be missed

### THE ROUTE OF THE BOROSA RIVER

One of the most interesting routes to meet the diverse landscape of the park is the Borosa River. There are lagoons, enclosures, ponytail-shaped waterfalls, underpasses and tunnels, bridges and flown passages, an authentic adventure.



### THE SOUNDS OF THE PARK

Autumn is the best season to experience the park, not only for the colours of the landscape, but also for the variety of sounds. The first rains announce the arrival of the bellowing deer, a show for the ears that keeps the deer hoarse in October, and the rut of the mouflon and Iberian ibex in November.

### THE BIRTH OF THE GUADALQUIVIR AND SEGURA RIVERS

The Guadalquivir River, symbol and emblem of Andalusia and the Segura River were both born in two places of singular beauty. By the riverside landscapes of the first few kilometres of its course we can enjoy the black pine forests, typical here, and the flight of birds. It is advisable to take binoculars with you!





# MONTES DE MÁLAGA NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



Other cataloguing



The eastern slope of the Guadalmedina River was always a large Mediterranean forest, until processed for planting vines in the XVI century. Moreover, it was a beautiful and prosperous wine valley, which has left an interesting ethnological heritage in the form of **presses** [5] and aromas of sweet wine from the mountains of Málaga, in their culture and traditions. In the early twentieth century these mountains, close to Málaga, were reforested again. Nowadays, these **extensive Aleppo pine groves** [1], where we can also find the Corsican pine and stone pine are the green lung of Málaga, just 5 km from the city, and exercise, in fact, the functions of a suburban park. A clump of low and medium mounts of ridged peaks, broken by steep valleys and with a clear forest vocation. With extensive pine, oak and cork oak groves and Mediterranean scrub, there are lots of birds of prey such as the short-toed or booted eagle, owls and goshawks, foxes, badgers and genets. There is also a curious and illustrious inhabitant, a quite rare and endangered species, the **chameleon** [2], the only lizard that lives in Andalusia strictly on trees and shrubs, and which, incidentally, is not uncommon to see if you have a sharp eyesight.

2



## What to do



The proximity to the city of Málaga makes this a regular forest area for leisure and recreation activities. Its proximity facilitates combining beach and mountains within the same wonderful holiday. Splendid panoramic views off the sea and five marked trails with encourage a stroll, a walk or to lose oneself in the beauty and silence of nature. Moreover, the existence of two **bicycle paths** [3] [7], the Picapedrero-Boticario and the Lagar de Contreras, another **marked trail** [4], makes it an







# SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES NATURAL PARK

1

## About it



### Other cataloguing



Set in the Málaga Mountains, this mountainous territory offers evocative landscapes of beauty, modelled on limestone and on a very unique and exclusive rock called the peridotite. The limestone offer fascinating landscapes and **karstic rock [1]** formations, cut by deep precipices and spectacular gorges, like that of La Caina, with a drop of over 100 meters. Numerous caves and chasms pierce their very depths, including the mythical GESM chasm, the third most deepest of the world. Many springs drain the flooded depths of the karstic massif and there are some, very unique ones, such as the sulphurous water of Tolox, feed a superb spa peridotite, rare magmatic rocks of reddish and greenish colours, rich in nickel and metal ores, provide the particular soil needed by the largest forest of firs, a rare species of fir, a botanical relic of the cold glacial periods of the Quaternary, today exclusive of these areas of the Cordillera Bética and others in the Yebala region in the north of Morocco. Some of these trees are around 500 years old, like the **Escalere-ta [2]**, declared a Natural Monument. Holm oaks, cork oaks, gall-oaks, chestnut trees and locust trees complete the wooded tapestry over which flocks of birds of prey fly. In the cold summits, those that honour its name, the mountain clarifies and gives way to junipers, creeping juniper, blue broom, crawling cherry trees and thorny bushes in the form of pillows. Is it a National Hunting Reserve and hosts a crowded population of mountain goat.

2



## What to do

Fascinating mountain scenery and a remarkable infrastructure and equipment that facilitate performing virtually any type of **activity [3]**. Hikers and cyclists have a wide range of



# SIERRAS DE TEJEDA, ALMIJARA Y ALHAMA

## NATURAL PARK

1

### About it



Other cataloguing



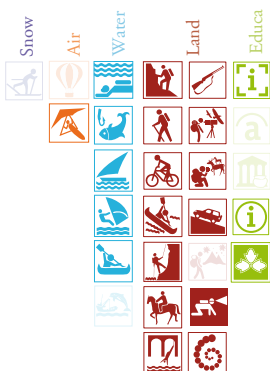
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These **mountains** [1] rise precipitously as a great backdrop to the infinite turquoise sea of the coast and separated from the fertile plains of the interior. Moreover, it does so from the underwater cliffs of **Maro-Cerro Gordo** [2] up to 2065 meters of the Tejeda peak, on broken and steep shale and white and grey marble reliefs. On the first, on steep terraced slopes almost impossible to design, there are blooming tropical fruits, mangoes, avocados and custard apples; and on the second, extensive Aleppo, Austrian and Corsican pines or stark crags reigned by mountain goats and overflowed by eagles. Oak trees and maple trees are preserved in the more shady areas, together with a small yew grove, the southernmost of Europe, heir to the vast yew groves that settled and gave the mountain its name. On the slopes, perched on impossible places, beautiful white villages full of history, with a lime scent and the taste of the Mudejar and Moorish, of raisins and sweet wine white. The steep slopes also invade rivers and streams, generating gorges that delight canyoning fans from all around the world. Other of the most remarkable geological features is the impressive **Cueva de Nerja** [8], declared a National Monument.

### What to do

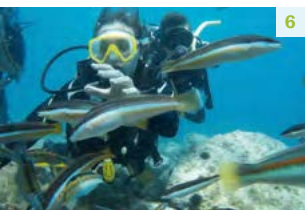
The tourism office cannot be any more complete. One of the star activities of this park is canyoning, where visitors will encounter the Chorreras de Canillas or Cachorros del Chillar in the **Río Verde** [7], offering exceptional conditions for this sport. Also **caving** [5] in the Cueva de Fájara or on the summit of the Maroma. The Maroma peak offers spectacular

routes for climbing. The views from the summit are truly impressive. Visitors will be able to choose between different marine scenarios either **diving** [4] in the Maro-Cerro Gordo and Nerja coast or inland, enjoying the **hot springs of Alhama de Granada** [3]. Hunting is also a deep-rooted and established sports activity.



## What not to be missed

### DIVING IN THE MARO-CERRO GORDO CLIFFS



The park overlooks the sea from the cliffs of the Natural Park of Maro-Cerro Gordo, whose seabed and caves allow you to enjoy some of the most natural and beautiful sceneries of the Mediterranean Sea for diving.

### TRAVEL DOWN THE RIO VERDE CANYON

The Río Verde offers wonderful scenery to practice canyoning, especially for beginners or those who would like to live their first experience. The can do so in unique places such as the waterfalls of Las Chorreras or that of the petrified trees.



### THE CUEVA DE NERJA

It is considered one of the cathedrals of prehistoric art and a jewel of nature, one of the most beautiful tourist cavities worldwide. It has been declared a National Historic-Artistic Monument and Property of Cultural Interest. Every year, in July, it hosts an international music and dance festival.







1

# SIERRA NORTE DE SEVILLA NATURAL PARK

## About it



### Other cataloguing



3

It may seem unusual, but yes, you can fish for trout in Sierra Norte de Sevilla, specifically in the **Ribera del Huesna [3]** and the Viar River. It is one of the many surprises hidden in this beautiful park, nestled in the Sierra Morena, on the granitic batholith landscapes of Los Pedroches. Beautiful cattle pastures, with holm and cork oak trees, bulls and Iberian pigs, all combined with Mediterranean forest vegetation, vines and olive trees. They are gentle sloping mountains that shelter botanical treasures, such as the only remaining Pyrenean oak in the province or beautiful chestnut trees together with geological treasures, such as the fascinating **Karst of Cerro del Hierro [1] [3]**, probably one of the most beautiful and gigantic sinkholes known. Besides its indescribable beauty, it has the distinction of being carved out of the oldest limestone in Andalusia, formed 550 million years ago, in the Cambrian, the beginning of life. This and other elements of geological interest, such as the **jellyfish fossils [2]** of Piedra Escrita or the tree trunks fossils of the Viar Basin, identified as a Geopark. Iberian imperial, royal and golden eagles fly across the sky of the park, together with scavengers, such as the griffon and black vultures and black storks. The lynx and the wolf also transit this area, testimony of the natural interest of this territory.



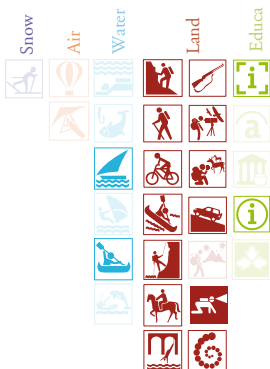
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## What to do

The quality of tourism falls short of its natural settings. The soft hills encourage hiking and biking on any of its eighteen marked trails,



especially the **Greenway** [4]. This network is also exceptional for bird watching, collecting wild mushrooms, observing the bellowing of the deer in autumn and for learning about its interesting geology and rich cultural heritage. For the more active, climbing and caving in the Cerro del Hierro Karst are very interesting, where canyoning is also possible. Water sports (sailing, kayaking, canoeing) in the reservoir of El Pintado are indescribable. Equestrian activities are also well rooted here. Last but not least, we must mention that is the land of hunting and river fishing.



..... **What not to be missed**

**THE GREENWAY OF THE SIERRA NORTE**



4

The Karst landscape of Cerro del Hierro is linked to the Cazalla-Constantina station through the Greenway, one of the most beautiful tours of the park. It runs along the old railway branch of the mining area of Cerro del Hierro. Its 19 kilometres offer a great route, on foot or biking, between Mediterranean mountain landscapes and thick shore side forests of La Huesna, displaying another Natural Monument, the travertine waterfalls.

**THE CERRO DEL HIERRO**

Giant sharp limestone teeth emerge as if embedded in bright red clay gums, the insoluble residue from the dissolution of limestone over millions of years, the Terra Rossa, exploited from the Neolithic to make the first paintings, the beginning of what we know as art. It is probably the most unique karst landscapes in Spain. It has been declared a Natural Geologic Monument, an ideal place for climbing.

**THE BERROCAL**

The Montes de Las Navas-Berrocal are another magnificent example of a stellar landscape in the park, the quarry stone areas, the meadows of granitic batholith substrate are some of the great features of Pedroches. Huge granite pieces dot the landscape clear from oaks like giant hailstones that have been fossilised after a titanic storm.



5



6



# KARST EN YESOS DE SORBAS

1

## NATURAL SITE

### About it



Other cataloguing



Under the arid Almería steppe lies one of the most fascinating underground landscapes of Europe, an invisible world carved from plaster, one of the geological jewels of Andalusia: the **Karst en yesos de Sorbas** [1]. Over a thousand sinkholes on the surface and many other underground cavities make the interior of the karst into a giant underground maze of **halls** [4] and galleries, with incredible and delicate stalactites, stalagmites, columns and hundreds of suggestive natural forms modelled in plaster, corals, plaster **rings** [2] and **balls** [3]. World-renowned cavities are well-known among caving enthusiasts, such as the Cueva del Agua, whose 8 km consolidate it as the largest; the Covadura system being the deepest at 120 m or the Cueva del Tesoro, perhaps the most beautiful. On the surface, along with unique natural forms, such as mounds, the gypsiferous substrate provides a very peculiar soil composition, where only very singular plants grow. The site is crossed by the river Aguas, which transforms a dry ravine into a continuous flow of water, on its course towards the Los Molinos Canyon, where the karst gives way to the waters stored inside, creating a wonderful wetland, an oasis with pools of water, lush riparian vegetation and **waterfowl** [7].

### What to do

Sorbas Caves offer unique activities in the Andalusian tourism. Visitors have the chance of caving in spectacular underground settings,

4







# DESIERTO DE TABERNAS NATURAL SITE

1

## About it



Other cataloguing



It is the **southernmost desert in Europe** [1], a tremendously stimulating and startling landscape and one of the top-rated **movie sets** [4] of the Peninsula. The soft nature of the sediments that have filled the Tabernas sea basin over the last 8 million years and the arid climate that has characterised this territory during the Quaternary (that is, the last two million years, now emerged from the sea basin, have favoured the modelling of one of the most spectacular **erosion landscapes** [3] of the European continent. **Geological landscape of African reminiscences** [2] that has caught the attention of geologists, biologists, landscape designers, photographers and filmmakers alike. Wide ravines that rarely carry water, similar to the African wadis, bad-land slopes, in an endless succession of deep gullies and sharp edges. The landscape is called *bad-lands*. However, to the extraordinary landscape and geological interest of these areas, we add a high botanical and wildlife value. Its scrubland, of an extraordinary scientific interest, blooms in spring, leading to one of the most beautiful and ephemeral natural spectacles to be seen: the flowering desert. The bushes shelter the birds that just fly over them or nest in these arid areas. These are steppe birds, small, usually with bad flight and discreet colours to blend in with the ground.



2

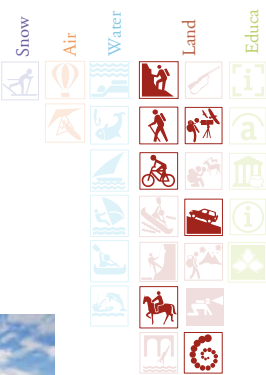
## What to do

The beauty of the desert should be savoured either on foot, walking through the ravines, its moors. Although, it can also be done by bike, on horseback or **4X4** [5], but in the latter



3





cases only on authorised routes. The setting of the film villages that one can visit also offer the start of marked pedestrian routes that bring the hiker to sites of great geological, botanical and landscape value. Observation of steppe birds and going on guided geological routes are other attractions of this area.



**What not to be missed**

**THE BEAUTY OF THE RAMBLAS**



Delve into the ravines of the desert a foot is an authentic spectacle for the senses. A mosaic of forms, textures and colours upholster the banks. Enclaves of unparalleled beauty, small oasis of greenery, canyons and gorges, river cliffs and a thousand other natural forms dotted on its route.

**THE SALT MINES OF THE DESERT**



One of the most amazing sites in this area is the desert salt mine, also known as salt travertines. Right in the heart of the desert, the deep salt-laden waters ascend through the fractures up to the surface and slowly extend to then precipitate in crystalline forms, reminiscent of cavity speleothems. It is well worth a visit.

**CINEMATOGRAPHIC VILLAGES**

In the heart of this desert landscape, remarkably reminiscent to those of the Wild West genre, you can visit the film sets, together with several other activities from horse riding to participating as an extra on the set of a Western film.







# TORCAL DE ANTEQUERA

## NATURAL SITE

1

### About it



Other cataloguing



2

### What to do



3

The water from rainfall and melted snow has very patiently carved out one of the most unique and beautiful **karst landscapes** [1] known on old limestone rich in marine fossils, testimony of those Jurassic seas that flooded the land over 200 million years ago. A giant labyrinthine structure of karst corridors, passageways that connect sinkholes, torques of singular beauty, potholes that lead to cavities, improbable rock formations, and beautiful limestone cliffs with chiselled **sinkholes** [2] of a thousand different shapes and sizes and impossible limestone pavements; a stone city, impossible to cover in its colossal size if it is not from a bird's eye view. It is a place that already attracted the attention of man from prehistoric times, who have also left rich testimonies of their presence here. In the landscape, holm oaks, gall-oaks, service trees or maples intermingle with plants well adapted to the cracks of the rocks. There is a very diverse fauna, with birds such as griffon vultures and eagle owls.

Climbing and caving are two of the most popular sporting activities, since the site offers multiple and evocative enclaves to practice both. There is an interesting **astronomical observatory** [3] [7] at the Visitors' Centre of El Torcal Alto, which explores the dark, clean, crisp sky of the site. Frequent activities are organised around this activity. Although, without a doubt, the most fascinating experience is to learn about the stony surface landscapes, to loose oneself in the epidermis of the karst or to get carried away along the Callejón Oscuro or the Callejón del Tabaco, two of the hundreds of passages caused by the dissolution of the rock leading to the fractures. Rock outcrops are a real museum of natural scultures, some



# MARISMAS DE ODIEL

## NATURAL SITE

1

### About it



### Other cataloguing



In the surrounding areas of the city of Huelva, the Tinto and Odiel Rivers meet with the Atlantic Ocean, in a beautiful **marsh [1]**, a point of encounter for fresh and salt water, with traditional salt mines, spacious and nutritious intertidal areas full of birds, extensive ever-changing-sandy areas, lagoons, islands, gorges, history, culture and heritage. It is believed that the ancient city of Tartessos settled in these parts. From the Romans there are remains of their salted fish industries and from Muslims, the archaeological site of Salthish in the Saltés Island, a major city that was the capital of the Taifa kingdom of Baikrís in the tenth and eleventh centuries. The remains of the Alcazaba, walls, houses and streets can be discovered on the marked trail of El Almen-dral. Part of the history of this territory can also be seen in the tidal mills, such as that of Aljaraque or the mineral-loading bay of the Tinto River. The Bacuta salt mines are examples of these traditional uses.

### What to do

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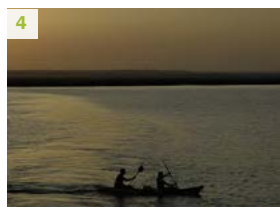
One of the main attractions of this area is the diversity of its fauna, in terms of birds above all. Thousands of birds stop here on their migratory routes between Europe and Africa. The Island of Enmedio, declared a Nature Reserve, is home to one of Europe's largest breeding colonies of **spoonbills [2]**. Spoonbills are endangered species that build their nests with mud and various natural elements to form small platforms in these **marshland environments [3]**, protected by salicornias

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and espartinas (halophilic plants that live in salty environments). Grey herons, little egrets, great crested grebes, cormorants, flamingos, various species of gulls and waders, such as common redshanks, curlews and stilts complete the ornithological diversity of the area. The Almendral beach, the lagoons of Batán and Taraje, and the forests of El Almendral, El Acebuchal and Cascajar also enrich the great landscape diversity of this natural site. Hiking, biking, bird **watching**, [5] **boating** [6], **canoeing** [4], kayaking are the most promising activities of this marvellous natural setting.



*What not to be missed*



**BIRDWATCHING**

This authentic bird sanctuary is a wonderful spot for bird lovers and is specially equipped with great observatories. Flamingos, spoonbills, cabochons, osprey, red-knobbed coot, purple herons and up to 350 different species of birds, will delight fans.

**THE MARSHES ON BOARD A BOAT**

There are several docks that offer the possibility of taking boat excursions (half day or full day) through the bay, the estuary and the marshlands, on typical routes or a la carte excursions in smaller boats. It is an attractive and different way of getting familiar with the site. Note: sunsets are impressive!



**THE WHARF OF THE CARAVELS**

Just a couple of minutes away from the capital city of Huelva, at La Rábida, you can visit the Wharf of the Caravels, an interesting museum thematically dedicated to the discovery of America. Here, you can see a historical re-enactment of society, the environment and the circumstances that lead to Christopher Columbus' voyage, including the famous caravels.



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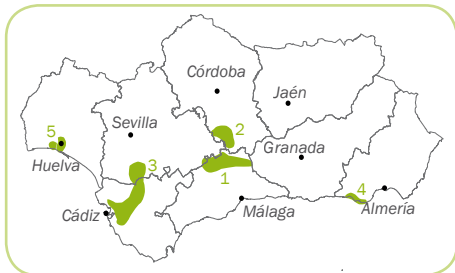
## NATURAL RESERVES

Nature Reserves in Andalusia are enclaves of high ecological value and high fragility. All but the Peñón de Zaframagón, are wetlands, sometimes ephemeral, seasonal, other stable as coastal or inland lagoons, of saltwater, brackish or fresh water, but all essential for the survival of waterfowl, their nesting or to rest on their migratory journeys. They are often set up to allow the Bird watching with pedestrian footpaths and strategically placed observatories. They are places of silence, of respect towards wildlife, almost shrines and do not usually allow for any other uses.

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The Andalusian network is extensive. In large parts of Andalusia, in the plains of Antequera, the countryside of Sevilla or the coast of Cadiz, are all almost flat lands and the presence of low permeability substrates and the climate, semiarid regime, favours the development of endorheic areas, low-lying concave shapes of very variable extension where rainwater and runoff accumulates. Some permanent, some seasonal but all with high salinities!



### Environments where there is a concentration of Nature Reserves:

1. Antequera Countryside
2. Southern Cordoba
3. The Endorheic Complexes of Sevilla and Cadiz
4. The Almería Coastline
5. The Huelva Coastline



## 1. ANTEQUERA COUNTRYSIDE

- 1.1 Laguna Fuente de Piedra
- 1.2 Lagunas de Campillos
- 1.3 Lagunas de Archidona
- 1.4 Laguna del Gosque
- 1.5 Laguna de la Ratosa



3



The largest in Andalusia, six kilometres long, and one of the most attractive and popular is undoubtedly the nature reserve of **Laguna de Fuente de Piedra** [3], a unique enclave within the wetlands of the Western Mediterranean. Located in the Llanos de Antequera, among olive groves and fields of grain, it hosts the largest colony of **flamingos** [2] in the Iberian Peninsula and the second largest in Europe, after the one in Camargue (France) and over one hundred seventy other species of birds primarily aquatic species. The ringing of birds brings together hundreds of volunteers, who work on this scientific activity each year. The neighbouring **Campillos** [4] and the **Ratosa** lagoons, or the **Gosque** lagoon have similar features but the nearby lagoons of **Archidona** has a different origin and characteristics. They all act in a complementary way with Fuente de Piedra in maintaining waterfowl communities of this vast region of Malaga and southern Sevilla.

4



## 2. SOUTHERN CORDOBA

- 2.1 Laguna de Zóñar
- 2.2 Laguna Amargal
- 2.3 Laguna del Rincón
- 2.4 Laguna del Solobral
- 2.5 Laguna de Tíscar
- 2.6 Laguna de los Jarales



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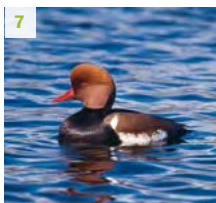


Another important area is the concentration of wetlands to the south of Córdoba. Also among olive groves and grain fields, we have the **Zóñar [5], Amarga, Rincon, Salobral [1], Tiscar and Jarales** Lagoons which generate a network of ecosystems bearing different salinities that foster the maintenance of an extraordinary variety of waterfowl. The Zóñar, the largest, has itineraries and **bird observatories [11]**.

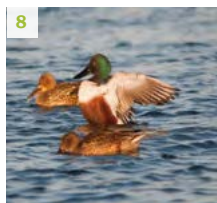
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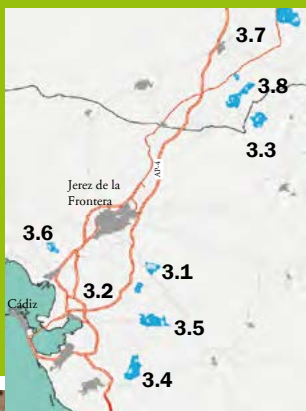


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### 3. THE ENDORHEIC COMPLEXES OF SEVILLA AND CADIZ

- 3.1. Laguna Medina
- 3.2 Las Canteras y Tejón
- 3.3 Complejo Endorréico de Espera
- 3.4 Complejo Endorréico de Chiclana
- 3.5 Complejo Endorréico Puerto Real
- 3.6 Complejo Endorréico Puerto de Santa María
- 3.7 Complejo Endorréico de Utrera
- 3.8 Complejo Endorréico de Lebrija-Las Cabezas



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**Laguna Medina, Las Canteras** and the **Tejón** and the Endorheic Complexes of **Espera, Chiclana, Puerto Real** and **Puerto de Santa María**, in Cádiz, or those of **Utrera** [10] [14] and **Lebrija-Las Cabezas**, in the countryside of Sevilla, are part of this extensive network of enclaves of ornithological interest.

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## 4. ALMERIA COASTLINE

- 4.1 Albufera de Adra
- 4.2 Punta Entina-Sabina



Beautiful freshwater lakes, originating from the extensive Mediterranean lagoon landscapes, still remain in the Almería coast, particularly, in the **Albufera de Adra [15]** or **Charcones of Punta Entinas-Sabinar**, or **Portil Lagoon** in the Atlantic coast, in Huelva.

Marshland areas such as the **Marismas del Burro [17]** or **Isla de Enmedio**, both in the Odiel Marshes, in Huelva, complete the large network of Andalusian Nature Reserves.

## 5. HUELVA COASTLINE

- 5.1 Laguna del Portil
- 5.2 Marismas del Burro
- 5.3 Isla de Enmedio



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## PROTECTED LANDSCAPE

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## CORREDOR VERDE DEL GUADIAMAR

### About it



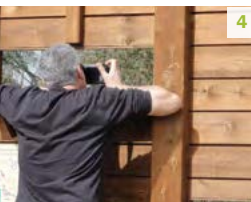
The river of the Wadi-Amar Princes, the Guadimar, is the last major tributary of the Guadalquivir before its mouth. This **natural ecological corridor [1]** has a route of 70 km that runs down the banks of the Guadimar, from its birth in Sierra Morena to its mouth. It is passable on foot, on bicycle or horseback and runs, in sections, between beautiful landscapes of oaks and meadows, Mediterranean forest and olive groves, fields and rice paddies. People, history, heritage, nature, birds, suggestive enclaves, they are all linked together on this natural route.

### What to do

There are **trails [5]** that run through the area, which can be done either on foot, by **bicycle [2]** or on horseback. There are also strategically placed observatories to enjoy **watching the birds [4]**.



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# PROTECTED LANDSCAPE

## RIO TINTO

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### About it



In the upper basin of the **Rio Tinto** [1] we can find the largest open-pit mine in Europe; a unique location in the world, both for its chromatic beauty and for its exceptional environmental conditions. The **waters** [1] [3], naturally acidic and red, are home to a wide variety of microorganisms adapted to extreme habitats, many of them still uncatalogued.



The site was chosen by the US space agency, **NASA** [2], to study these life forms, due to the similarity of their environmental conditions with Mars.

### What to do



2

In the **Rio Tinto Mining Park** [4] [5] you can enjoy a great adventure, learn about the interesting mining history of the region, enter a mine or explore its incredible alien landscapes on a fun **mining railway** [6].



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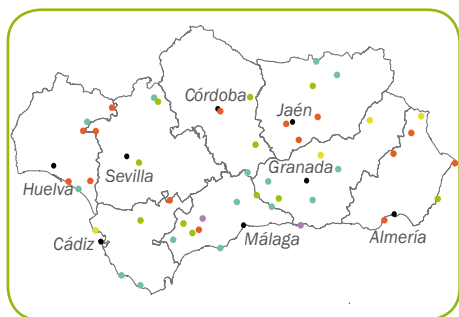


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## NATURAL MONUMENTS

In addition to the wide and open spaces (parks, sites and reserves), Andalusia has many small enclaves of extraordinary natural and cultural, geological, biotic, landscape, ethnographic interest, etc. **Natural Monuments** are an extensive network of representative elements of the Andalusian nature and culture developed by man on this beautiful natural scenery throughout history.



### Monumentos Naturales

- Geological
- Biotic
- Geographic
- Eco-cultural
- Mixed natural monuments

## GEOLOGIC

The most singular sites are the bad-lands of **Marchal** [1], **Falla de Niguelas** [2], Tómbolo de Trafalgar, **Tornillo del Torcal** [3], Órganos de Despeñaperros, **cañón de Alhama** [4], and the Cañón de las Buitreras, the **Dunas de Bolonia** [5], Tajos de Mogarejo, the Asperillo cliffs or the Cueva de los Murciélagos.





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## BIOTIC

Biologic monuments, alive, such as the millenary **Spanish fir of the Escaleretas** [9], the **centenary Sabina Albar de Los Vélez** [8], the wild **olive trees of El Rocío** [7], the Quejigo del Amo, or the **underwater forests of Mediterranean Posidonia** [6].

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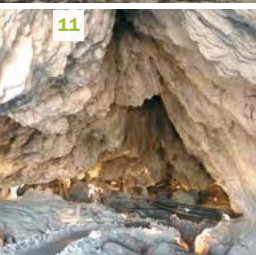
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## ECO-CULTURAL

Eco-cultural monuments, such as the **Corrales de Rota** [10], the **Cueva de las Ventanas** [11] and the **Peña de Castril** [12].

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## GEOGRAPHIC

Geographical landmarks such as the **Peñones de San Cristóbal** [13].

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## LINEAL AREAS: CORRIDORS AND LARGE ROUTES

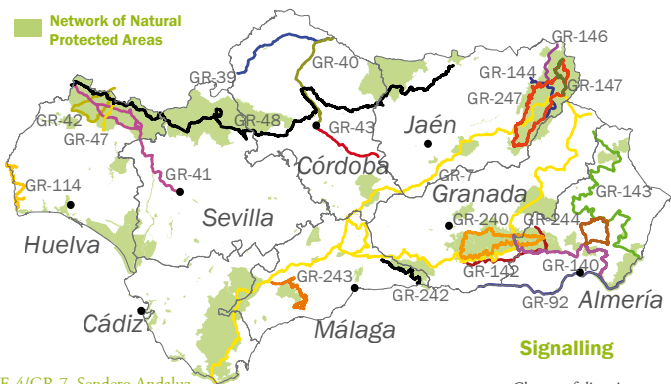
In addition to a network of unique and extraordinarily rich and diverse natural areas in Andalusia we can also make amazing linear itineraries, tours specially designed for the practice of activities such as **hiking** [2], **cycling** [3] and **equestrian activities** [4], which do not only involve an approach to natural areas, populations and landscapes of interest but also serve as a link between them. The vast majority of the routes run along the old railway platform, rural roads, cañadas reales, trails or sidewalks, or riverside paths. They all run through places of great beauty, and intersect with other linear paths forming a complete and extensive web of infrastructure, suitable for hiking, biking or horseback riding and which also facilitates carrying out other activities in the natural environment, such as bird watching, geological or astronomical routes, outdoor sports, etc.



# LONG-DISTANCE PATHS (GRs)



Andalusia has numerous **long-distance paths**, all in excess of 50 kilometres, that cross and link protected natural areas and tourist districts. **The GR-7 long-distance path** was the first long-distance footpath authorised in the Iberian Peninsula. It forms part of the European E-4 path, from the Peloponnese (Greece) it runs along the Mediterranean coastal mountains of coastal countries to end in the town of Tarifa Cadiz, with an approximate total length of 6,000 km. Nowadays, Andalusia has **21 long-distance paths**.



## Signalling

Change of direction



Harsh change of direction



Wrong way



Continuity of the footpath



- E-4/GR-7, Sendero Andaluz
- E-12/GR-92, Arco del Mediterráneo
- GR-39, Cañada de la Mesta
- GR-40, Cañada Real Soriana
- GR-41, Cordel de las Buenvas
- GR-42, Cañada Real Leonesa Occidental
- GR-43, Cordel de la Campiña
- GR-47, Camino de las Minas
- GR-48, Sierra Morena
- GR-114, Camino Natural del Guadiana
- GR-140, Puerto de la Ragua-Cabo de Gata
- GR-142, Sendero de la Alpujarra
- GR-143, Sendero entre Sierras
- GR-144, Transhumance Route
- GR-146, Monte y Olivo Route
- GR-147, Sierra Profunda
- GR-240, Sulayr
- GR-242, Sierra Tejeda-Almijara
- GR-243, Sierra de las Nieves
- GR-244, Sendero de las Pueblos del Interior
- GR-247, Bosques del Sur



For more information: Andalusian Mountain Federation  
[www.fedamon.com](http://www.fedamon.com)

# NATURAL FOOTPATHS

Other very interesting routes are called **Natural Footpaths**, a network supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment in collaboration with the Junta de Andalucía. They are specially designed for hiking, biking or horseback riding and they promote these natural areas, sites and populations of great natural, cultural and tourist interest. Old railroad tracks, hydraulic channels, old farm roads, trails, paths and even former public roads are used once again, with the appropriate information signs, sometimes even interpretative ones, and dotted strategically along the footpath in rest areas, recreational areas, playgrounds and sports areas, picnic areas, etc.



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- 1 Vía Verde del Guadiana
- 2 Vía Verde del Litoral
- 3 Los Molinos del Agua
- 4 Entre Ríos
- 5 La Campiña
- 6 La Sierra
- 7 Vía Verde de Rota
- 8 Vía Verde de la Subbética
- 9 Vía Verde del Aceite. Tramo Jaén-río Guadajoz
- 10 Vía Verde del Hierro
- 11 Vía Verde del Aceite. Tramo Moriles-Campo Real
- 12 Vía Verde del Guadiamar
- 13 Guadiana



Official website for Natural footpaths  
[www.magrama.gob.es](http://www.magrama.gob.es)

Network of Natural Protected Areas



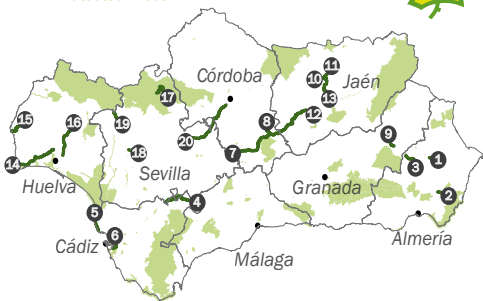
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# GREENWAYS



They result from the actions undertaken by the Ministry of Environment, Government of Andalusia and various local authorities, under the Greenways Programme, which the **Spanish Railways Foundation (FFE)** program coordinates and streamlines since 1993. Currently, there are **2,100 kilometres** of Greenways operating in Spain, of which **20 itineraries** are located in Andalusia, which have a total length of about **500 km**, representing around 22% of the total.

## Network of Natural Protected Areas



- 1 VV Alanzora. Tramo Olula del Río (1,16 km)
- 2 VV Lucainena de las Torres (3,44 km)
- 3 VV Alanzora. Tramo del Hierro (11,94 km)
- 4 VV La Sierra (32,02 km)
- 5 VV Costa Ballena (11,92 km)
- 6 VV Puerto Real-San Fernando (7,87 km)
- 7 VV Subbética (65,38 km)
- 8 VV Guadajoz-Subbética (7,74 km)
- 9 VV Sierra Baza (6,45 km)
- 10 VV Linares (7,99 km)
- 11 VV Vadollano (6,82 km)
- 12 VV Aceite (54,36 km)
- 13 VV Guadalimar (15,27 km)
- 14 VV Litoral (48,38 km)
- 15 VV Gadiana (16,66 km)
- 16 VV Molinos Agua (34,01 km)
- 17 VV Sierra Norte (19,50 km)
- 18 VV Itálica (2,76 km)
- 19 VV Ronquillo (9,22 km)
- 20 VV Campiña (68,52 km)



Official website for Spanish Greenways  
[www.viasverdes.com](http://www.viasverdes.com)

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## Greenways signalling

### Informative noticeboards



### Directional signs



### Kilometre markers



### Informative signs



### Prohibition signs





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# SETTINGS

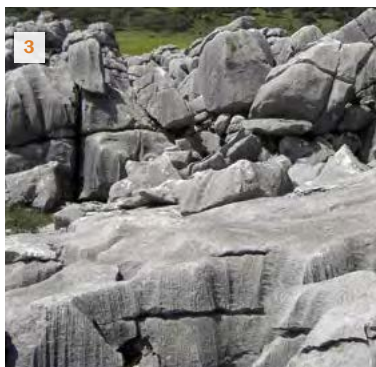




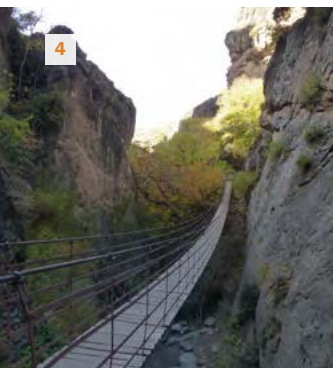
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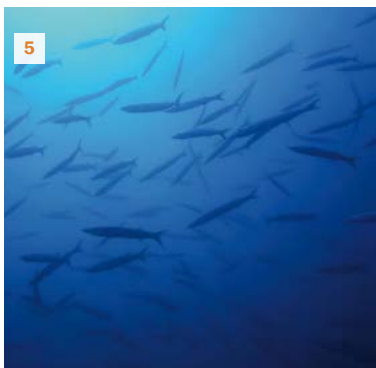
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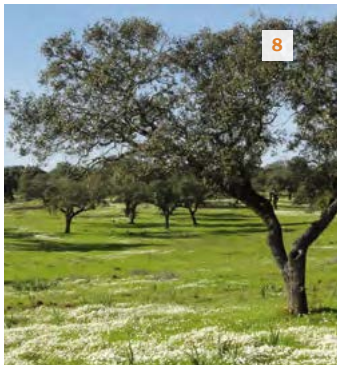
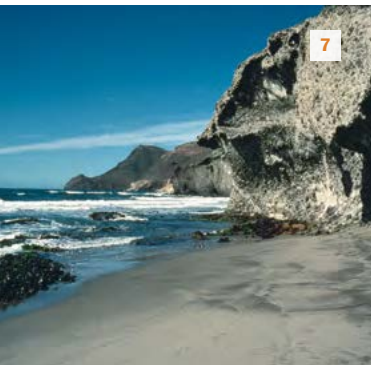
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The landscape and cultural diversity of Andalusia, including its ecological wealth, transcends from the protected natural areas, although it is these areas and the environments where the offer of activities is amplified thanks to the quality of its resources and settings. Behind the nomenclature that defines the different types of protection, the Andalusian reality sets, in any case, a mosaic of not only extremely attractive, but natural settings, often unique in Europe. In this region, not only can you choose what to do, but most of the time also where and in what setting. There are multiple proposals, from the highest peaks of the Peninsula, snowed over six months a year, to the warmth of the subtropical coasts. In the vast





Atlantic wetlands, marshes and estuaries of incalculable ecological value, the geological beauty of the Almeria desert or the arid steppes of the Guadalquivir and the Granada plateau, are also unique in the continent. Hardwood forests, extensive Iberian meadows, stark but beautiful pastures, karst mountains, gorges and canyons, mountain streams, quiet reservoirs in beautiful natural environments, large caves and cavities, wild coastal cliffs, endless white sand beaches, lagoons, ponds, arrows coastal dunes and a seabed unique for its richness. Another territory may offer more quality and landscape diversity as far as natural settings are concerned, but it would have to be the size of a continent!





# HIGH MOUNTAIN

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Beautiful, unique, also bare, but it can sometimes be dangerous, if no heed is taken. The high peaks of **Sierra Nevada [1]** behave like a cold desert, harsh, extreme, seemingly barren, but at the same time full of life. For nearly six months a year, these reliefs are covered in snow, but when spring comes, the first miracle happens: water seems to sprout out from everywhere, in the form of **waterflights and streams [3]**. Its murmur intensifies as the day goes on, leading to the most beautiful **mountain lagoons [2]**. These lagoons awaken after long icy winters to form a puzzle of tiny icebergs and the valleys bring out their spectacular green **meadows [5]**. It is definitely the best time of the year for the high mountains.

2





1 Sierra Nevada National Park





Plants go unnoticed in this stony landscape, not only when they are under snow but even without it, until a little after the melting starts, with the onset of late spring. It is then when the second miracle occurs: the mountain becomes covered in a carpet of colours. **Plants [4] [6] [7]** blooming urgently, because they know that good weather here is nothing but a sigh and they must be extraordinarily beautiful to fulfil their fast life cycle.





Up to 2,800 m, the **Spanish broom** [6], combined with different varieties of juniper trees, is responsible for the spectacular colour palette.

Above this height, only grasslands, peculiar and typical of the area, can survive the climatic rigours. In fact, half of these typical species are unique to Sierra Nevada. This fleeting biological beauty overlaps the wild and lasting beauty of their geological landscape. The southernmost glacier in Europe modelled the highest reliefs of the peninsula during the cold periods of the Quaternary glaciations. The morphological elements of these majestic landscapes are circuses and glacial valleys, beautiful **high mountain lakes** [5], towering cliffs and gorges, sharp rocks and scree formed by gigantic blocks. Only eagles, the **Spanish ibex** [8] and mountaineers travel through these landscapes.

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Visitors from all over the world come each year to enjoy the dense network of inland **trails** [9] [10], the great **Sulayr** [12] path, which offer the possibility of walking through the most beautiful landscapes of regions like the Alpujarras, in Granada and Almeria, the Nacimiento, or the mountain ranges of the Marquesado and Granada. You can also do the Transnevada **bike** [11] path, a circular route of 450 km distributed in eight stages that skirts around the massif along the perimeter track that defines the national park, between 1,500 and 2,000 m altitude. This is a paradise for both rock and **ice climbing** [17], but only for expert climbers. The canyons of Sierra Nevada are exceptional scenarios for fishing and canyoning.

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The ski resort of Sierra Nevada, overlooked by the Veleta peak, offers amenities for all types of snow sports and leisure activities: skiing in all its modalities, snowboarding, sledging and other **snow games** [14] [16]. The recreational station of Puerto de la Ragua, in the heart of the national park, at 2,000 m high and halfway between Granada and Almeria, complements the services for **Nordic snow sports** [15] [18] [19], offering activities such as cross-country skiing or routes on snowshoes. Lovers of the starry skies will find an extensive programme of summer activities to observe and interpret some of the closest and cleanest skies in Europe. Sierra Nevada also offers specialised thematic routes for geology, botany or wildlife enthusiasts, as well as being big game territory. The reservoirs facilitate the practice of a wide range of water sports and the unevenness, air sports.

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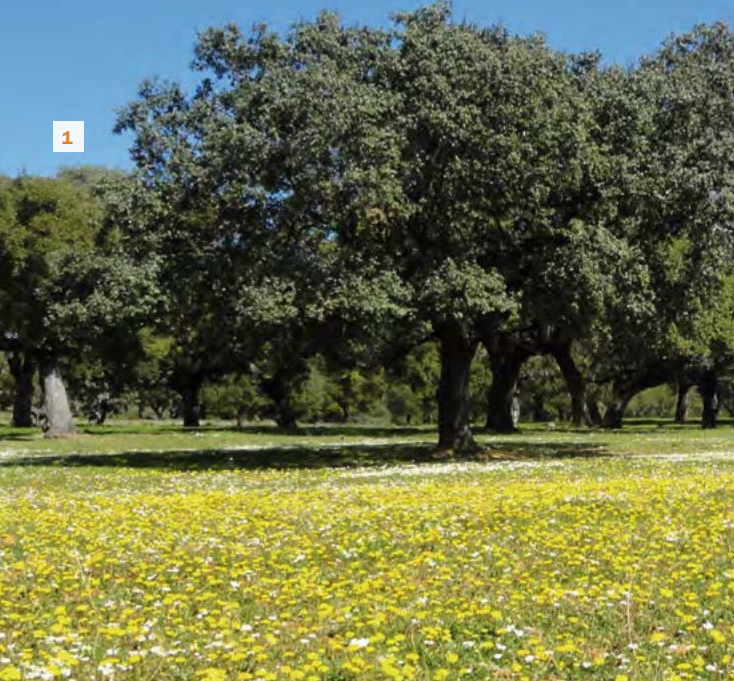


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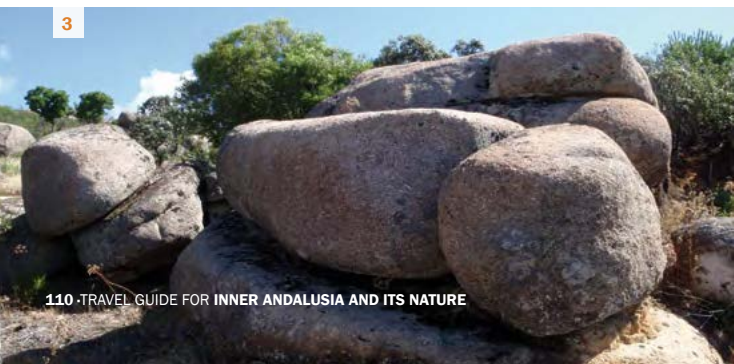
## DEHESAS DE SIERRA MORENA



2

Rumour has it that it received its name because of the dark colour of its rocks and substrate; an old and dark metamorphic schist of the great meseta crossed by magmatic masses originated millions of years ago from the deep bowels of the earth and which surface in the form of arrogant granite landscapes, the **Berrocales** [3] in Los Pedroches and the **Iberian Andalusian pastures** [1] in Sierra Morena. Others affirm that its name has more to do with the majestic blackness of the sky and its captivating starry nights. There are even some who say the name comes from the colour of the **fighting bulls** [2]. Who knows? It can also even a mixture of everything.

3





1. Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche Natural Park
2. Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park
3. Sierra de Hornachuelos Natural Park
4. Sierras de Cardena y Motoro Natural Park
5. Sierra de Andújar Natural Park
6. Despeñaperros Natural Park



In all reality, it is a vast and wonderful part of Andalusia that extends like a great ledge of the old Iberian meseta overlooking the great Bético valley, with rivers that hastily leave the meseta and plummet down seeking the soft descent of the Guadalquivir valley. An immense forest landscape occupying the northern provinces of Huelva, Sevilla, Córdoba and Jaen, in which extensive and beautiful **Iberian pastures** [4] intersperse with dense Mediterranean holm and gall-oak forests.

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The western half of the meseta forms the Dehesas de Sierra Morena Biosphere Reserve, located in the natural parks of Aracena and Picos de Aroche, Sierra Norte de Sevilla and Sierra de Hornachuelos. To the east, these beautiful landscapes extend into the natural parks of Cardeña y Montoro, Sierra de Andújar and Despeñaperros, where the forest occupies larger territories. Forest landscapes where the lynx graze and the **large endangered birds of prey fly [6]**. Ancestral landscapes where mankind has lived for millennia in harmony with nature, almost in symbiosis. Cultural landscapes that hide archaeology, prehistory, history, ethnography, **heritage [9]**, culture. Livestock territory, of **Iberian pigs [7]** and **brave bulls [2]**. It is big game hunting and a superb photographic area. Smelling of autumn and **wild mushrooms [9]**; of wild **nature [5]**; of horses and hunting; and of the best ham in the world, the Iberian ham.



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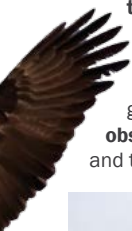


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These are natural areas that also offer an extraordinary range of tourist services, virtually all of them, on the **ground** [12], in the **water** [11] and in the air. Although certain tourism experiences stand out for being very interesting, such as collecting wild **mushrooms** [9] and the bellowing of the deer in autumn, **astronomical observation of the dark starry skies** [13], big game hunting and photographic hunting, equestrian activities, **observation of forest birds** [10] and its rich and varied wildlife, and the adventure of seeking out the lynx.





## THE KARSTIC MOUNTAIN

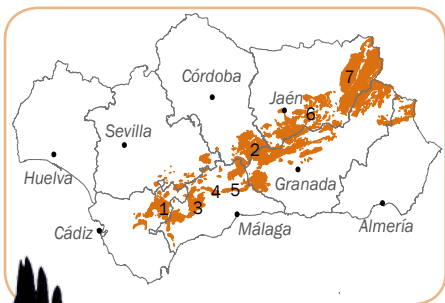
At the south of the Guadalquivir valley, another great Andalusian scenery opens up: the limestone heart of the Cordillera Bética, a great line-up of mountain ranges stretching from Cádiz right down to Jaén. The natural parks of **Sierra de Grazalema [2]**, (Cádiz), Cordoban Sierras Subbéticas, the **Sierra de las Nieves natural park [7]** and the **natural sites of the Defiladero de Los Gaitanes [9]** and the **Torcal de Antequera [4]**, (Málaga), and the natural parks of Sierra Mágina and the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, in Jaen, are the main protagonists.

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A photograph of a brown ibex leaping over a rocky ledge. The ibex is captured in mid-air, with its front legs tucked and back legs extended. The background shows a rugged, rocky landscape with green vegetation and distant mountains under a clear sky. A small number '1' is visible in the upper left quadrant of the image.

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- 1 Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park
- 2 Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park
- 3 Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park
- 4 Defiladero de los Gaitanes Natural Site
- 5 The Torcal de Antequera Natural Site
- 6 Sierra Magina Natural Park
- 7 Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas Natural Park





The summits are rocky karstic formations, difficult to trespass, the kingdom of the **Spanish ibex [1]** and the hunting territory of large **birds of prey [3]**. The woods are composed of holm oaks, cork oaks and dense Mediterranean scrub interspersed with livestock landscapes, around beautiful white villages perched on rocky ledges and impossible headlands or interlocked like pearls among seas of olive trees. It is precisely their natural calcareous character trait that determines their marked personality with strong geological connotations. Beautiful stone landscapes, a common and characteristic feature of them all. The predominant rock in these mountain ranges are limestone, deposited as organic sludge on the bottom of past seas millions of years ago, before the formation of the mountain.







They have two features, one of tremendous scientific interest, recorded, as in an old logbook, the history of life, the planet Earth and its evolution. The pages of the logbook are now old strata of **limestone** [4] [7], and the text, exceptional content of **marine fossils** [5] [6]. Creatures made of stone that tell us what the geography, climate and life were like through the evolution of our world.





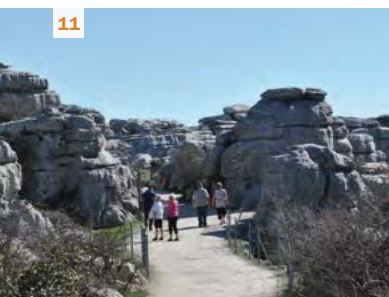




The other quality is that which determines the peculiar physiognomy of these landscapes. The limestone dissolves slowly when attacked by rainwater or melted snow, and dissolves very slowly. So much so that it goes unnoticed at human scale, but its continued action over hundreds of thousands, millions of years almost always produces a natural wonder, the karst landscapes. Water patiently and whimsically modelled impossible rock formations, dug deep ravines and narrow **defiles** [9], sculpted small sinkholes and extensive flat lands, modelled poljes and the skin of the limestone wrinkled up shaping beautiful sinkholes. The dissolution of limestone also affects the interior, burrowing into **chasms and caves** [10] forming labyrinthine underground structures where running water penetrates into the core of the massif, and that, sooner or later, will sprout out in the form of **generous springs** [8] at the foot of the mountains. The richness of the water is another constant element in these landscapes.



The Andalusian karst mountain is the paradise for those who enjoy mountain activities, especially **climbing** [14], **caving** [12], **canyoning** [13], **rafting** [16], **hiking** [11], mountain biking and horse riding. Its terrain also encourages the practice of **air sports** [17], and a dense network of mountain reservoirs ensures the adequate infrastructure for water sports. In terms of hunting and fishing, these are also privileged areas valued worldwide, particularly, the mountain ranges of Jaén.



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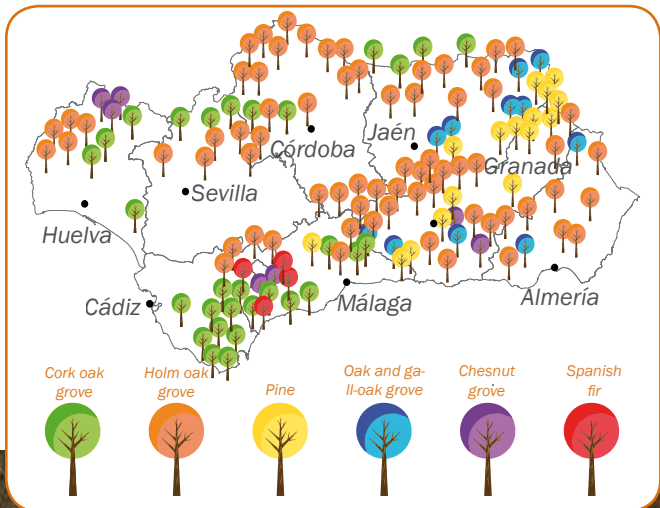


## THE MEDITERRANEAN FOREST

Much of Andalusia, just over one third, is still occupied by dense forests. Most of them are genuine beautiful forest areas, full of wildlife, with wonderful landscapes that change appearance, odour and colour with the seasons. Places and retreats where you can enjoy the sounds of the birds, the murmur of water, the silence and spiritual peace that comes from trees, the magic of the forest.

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Two magnificent trees dominate the Andalusian forest landscape: the **holm oak** [2] and the **cork oak** [1]. They are both leafy species very adapted to the rigours of dryness, which cannot afford to renew their small, leathery and tough leaves each year, but their insistence stain the Andalusian mountains in a green colour throughout the year. Under their protection we can find beautiful peony bushes, the **butcher's broom** [4] or fragrant lianas, such as the **honeysuckle** [3]. The landscape is completed with forests full of **deciduous species** [6] such as the maple, gall-oak, Andalusian gall-oak, common oak and chestnut trees; and relic forests of Spanish fir; while in environments of extreme cold or dryness a great diversity of pine trees grows. In the highest mountains like Sierra Nevada, Sierras de Tejada, Almirajara and Alhama, and the Beticos and Prebetico reliefs of Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, Sierra de Castril, Baza and Maria-Los Velez, **high mountain pine forests** [5] grow accompanied by a cold undergrowth, creeping junipers, mountain brooms and other thorny bushes.



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There are real botanical jewels, habitats and species that contribute towards the biodiversity of the planet within this vast forest floor. Breathe in these landscapes thanks to excellent tourist facilities! The

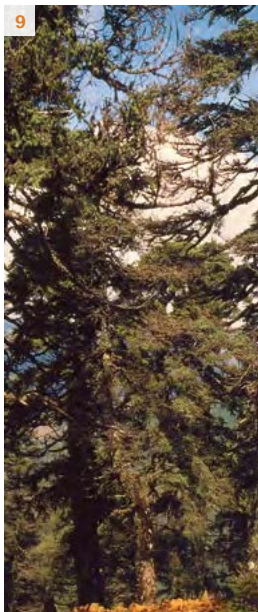
Natural Park of Los Alcornocales houses the world's largest expanse of cork trees, around which the ancient culture of the cork survives.

There are also relic habitats, the so-called canutos where heat and rainfall come together in one of the rainiest regions of Spain, resulting in a kind of gallery forest in the bottom of the valley, where plants such as laurel, **hornbeams [8]**, durum and holly grow at will.





The mountains of Cádiz and Málaga offer unique, **Spanish fir groves** [7], which can only be seen in the natural parks of Sierra de Grazalema and Sierra de las Nieves and in the Los Reales Natural Site in Sierra Bermeja. This small area of Andalusia and some enclaves in Northern Morocco are two of their last habitats on the planet's entire surface. They are a rare and beautiful type of fir tree, the **Spanish fir** [9], another relic, but in this case of the cold forests that existed at the time of glaciations. The mixed forest of evergreen and deciduous species is a real botanical rarity and the natural parks of Sierra Nevada and Sierra Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama, have some of the most prominent and beautiful **deciduous forests** [10] of the peninsula.





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Those who have visited the Alpujarra in autumn know this well. Pyrenean oaks, **chestnut trees [10]**, ashes, elms, maples, cherry trees, yews, rowans and black poplars are some of the most prominent and representative species of these forests. These areas are perfect spaces for those who love trails, who like to see animals, collect wild mushrooms in autumn, capture magical moments on a camera, biking or riding **horses [12]**, scanning the night sky, or for those who simply prefer **climbing [11]** or descending into ravines between dense Mediterranean forests full of life.



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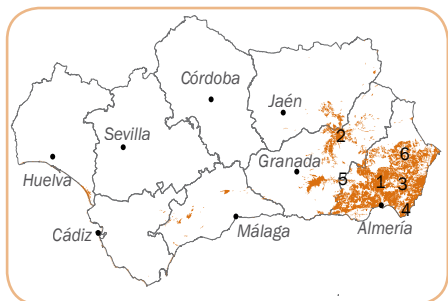






## DESERTS AND ARID STEPPES

The southeast of Andalusia, especially the eastern Almería, Almería itself, **Tabernas [1]**, the Almanzora Valley and the **Hoya de Guadix-Baza [2]** in Granada are the only desert territories in the all the European continent. They offer tremendously suggestive landscapes that sometimes can even be quite startling. Very special geological features, erratic rainfall that does not reach 250 mm per year and above-average temperatures of 17°C, have contributed to the formation of a strong geological landscape with strong geological connotations, with a striking erosive character, known as the “**bad lands**” [1] [2]



- 1 Desierto de Tabernas Natural Site
- 2 The Region of Guadix-Baza
- 3 Karst formations in yesos de Sorbas Natural Site
- 4 Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park
- 5 Sierra Nevada Natural Park
- 6 The Almanzora river valley



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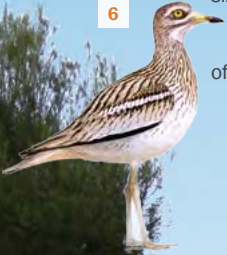


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To the extraordinary landscape and geological interest of these areas, we add a high botanical and wildlife value. Apparently desolate and barren by the harshness of its features, these landscapes, hidden inside a world of unique biodiversity, rich in **flora** [4] and fauna, are singled out for their rarity, many of them unique in Europe and even in the world. The highly-exclusive **steppe birds** [5] [6] are worth a mention, generally small sized species and with bad flight, of ochre, grey and brown colours that blend in with the land, perfectly adapted to the rigours of the desert.

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Exotic **desert landscapes** [3], reminiscent of Africa, interior oasis of rare beauty, top-rated movie sets, outdoor **geology classroom-museums** [7], natural and animal adaptation laboratories, unique scenarios to practice ground activities, hiking, **horse-riding** [12], biking, geological and ornithological routes, and to enjoy its exciting landscape at a bird's eye view: **ballooning** [8], **hang gliding** [9] and paragliding.

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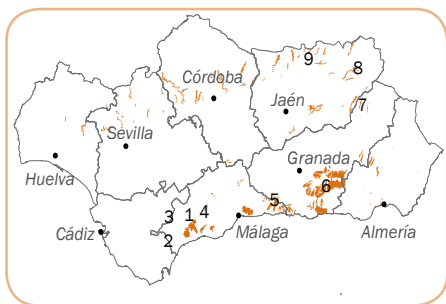
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## GULLIES AND CANYONS

The Andalusian terrain is very steep in the Bético reliefs. Many mountain streams descend from the summit, tumbling down the steep impetuous rocky slopes looking for the calmness of the sea or the gentle and soft valleys of the great Bético valley, the valley of the great river called the Guadalquivir. To achieve this, the streams must cross resistant mountains and important geological features that water has patiently ensured to eliminate or circumvent and even dig vertical and deep canyons, narrow gorges and narrow passes, during millions of years.

- 1 Defiladero de los Gaitanes Natural Site
- 2 Cañón de las Buitreras Natural Monument
- 3 Garganta Verde (Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park)
- 4 Barranco Majales (Júzcar)
- 5 Río Verde (Sierra de Tejada, Almijara and Alhama Natural Park)
6. Poqueira and Trevélez Rivers (Sierra Nevada National Park)
- 7 Barranco de Túnez (Sierra de Castril Natural Park)
- 8 Barranco de Chorrogil (Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas Natural Park)
- 9 Despeñaperros Natural Park



They are natural enclaves of wild beauty. Some of them are declared natural sites or natural monuments. Others are located in beautiful parks. They are the preferred habitats of many birds, both large and small that make the most of the inaccessible and secure leverage cavities of the mountain walls to nest. It is also a paradise for climbers and for those who like to travel along the same path as the waters descending through the ravine. All are accessible and have splendid viewpoints, for those who prefer to simply contemplate the beauty of its scenery.

One of the most fascinating is the natural setting of Defiladero de los Gaitanes, an open gorge as if slit by a knife by the passing of the Guadalquivir River at a place known as El Chorro; a three kilometre long limestone and dolomitic canyon with drops of up to 300 meters and widths of less than 10 meters. Golden eagles and vultures nest at the peak. It offers more than 500 climbing routes, some with temporal constraints in periods of nesting birds. A fascinating cantilevered walkway hanging 105 feet over the ground, called the **Caminito del Rey [1]**, which has now been fully renovated, runs through the site. Certainly not something to be missed!











The Guadiaro River has also forged an impressive gorge at **El Cañón de las Buitreras [2]** (declared a natural monument), shaping the karstic limestone hills of the mountains of the Alcornocales and Grazalema. A large colony of vultures build their nests within these mountains. This is an exceptional place for canyoning, but note that this activity is only permitted between 15 July and 15 December. The Garganta Verde Canyon, in the natural park of Sierra de Grazalema, is another favourite for canyoning and climbing lovers. There are many other sites, such as the Río Verde Canyon and the Almachares, both in the Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Parks, or the beautiful landscapes of **Cahorros de Monachil [3]**, the Poqueira and the **Trev-eléz Canyon [4]** in Sierra Nevada. The mountain riverbeds of the high Guadalquivir, which drain off from the Despeñaperros Natural Park and the Sierra de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, excavate natural wonders visible in the Cerrada del Utrero, in the Barranco de Chorrogil, Guazalamanco, Linarejos or the Bolera, among a dozen others and in the ravines of Magdalena and Tunez, in the Sierra de **Castril [6]**.

Visitors can enjoy the beauty of these natural landscapes in a more relaxed manner from excellent viewpoints, such as the Bailon River canyon built on the route of the Ammonites in the Sierras Subbéticas Geopark in Córdoba. In the west of Granada, at the very feet of Loja, the Genil River carves the natural monument of Los Infernos. In this retreat, water descends in the form of ponytail-looking waterfalls, with rapids and whirlpools. It is also possible to see this at a bird's-eye view since Loja is an international reference for practicing free flight. Overlooking the natural monument of the Tajos de Alhama, we find the monumental town that gave it its name, very well known for the goodness of its thermal waters and located in the Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Natural Park. The medieval trail of Los Angeles passes through the sandstone cliffs, which give access to the old flourmills standing within picturesque canals and alleys. The historical and tourist towns of Ronda and **Arcos de la Frontera [7]** have beautiful sheer drops, which further enhance the beauty of their extraordinary settings.



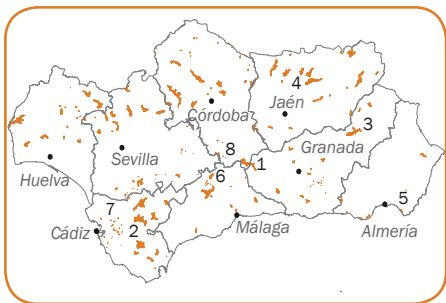


## LAKES AND RESERVOIRS

The Andalusian geography has a large number of small wetlands of very diverse origin and extension. Sometimes they are lakes with an endorheic origin, without draining off into the sea, others are coastal lagoons and others even areas created by man, such as **reservoirs [1]** or tails of reservoirs and salt mines. Some are permanent, others, temporary, fresh or brackish, deep or shallow, but they all have one thing in common: they are a living and vital means for a large **population of birds [2]**. Nestled among olive groves, cereal fields and sunflowers, these wet enclaves play an essential role as an environmental support of the migration routes of birds. During the winter, they welcome species that move from northern Europe seeking warmer climates, or serve as a simple resting place for species that take a break in longer travel itineraries and for others, the wetlands are their chosen location for nesting. **Flamingos [7]**, purple and grey herons, egrets, cranes, terns and storks, malvasias, shovelers, mallards, pochards, coots, moorhens, cabochons, loons, avocets, plovers and hundreds of birds make up this varied ornithological universe.



- 1 Iznájar reservoir
- 2 Guadalcaacín reservoir
- 3 Negratín reservoir
- 4 Reservoirs on the upper Guadalquivir
- 5 Albufera de Cabo de Gata
- 6 Laguna de Fuente de Piedra
- 7 The endorheic complexes of Sevilla and Cadiz
- 8 The endorheic complexes the southern Cordoba





A wide landscape featuring a large body of water in the middle ground, surrounded by lush green reeds and grasses in the foreground. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

3

All lakes and lagoons are protected under some form of protection and most are nature reserves. Some of the enclaves can be visited, such as the Laguna de Padul in Granada, the **Albufera de Cabo de Gata** [4] and the Albufera de Adra, in Almería, the Laguna de Fuente Piedra in Málaga, the Laguna de Zóñar in Córdoba or the Portil, in Huelva. They all have good infrastructure to enjoy the world of birds. There are footpaths that run between rushes and reeds, cattails and bulrushes, or between salt marshes, with strategically placed **observatories** [5] [8]. They are places to enjoy the silence, the peace that nature offers and no other uses are permitted.

A landscape view of a large lake or lagoon with several small, vegetated islands in the water. The foreground is filled with dense, green and yellowish vegetation. In the background, there are large, rounded mountains under a clear sky.

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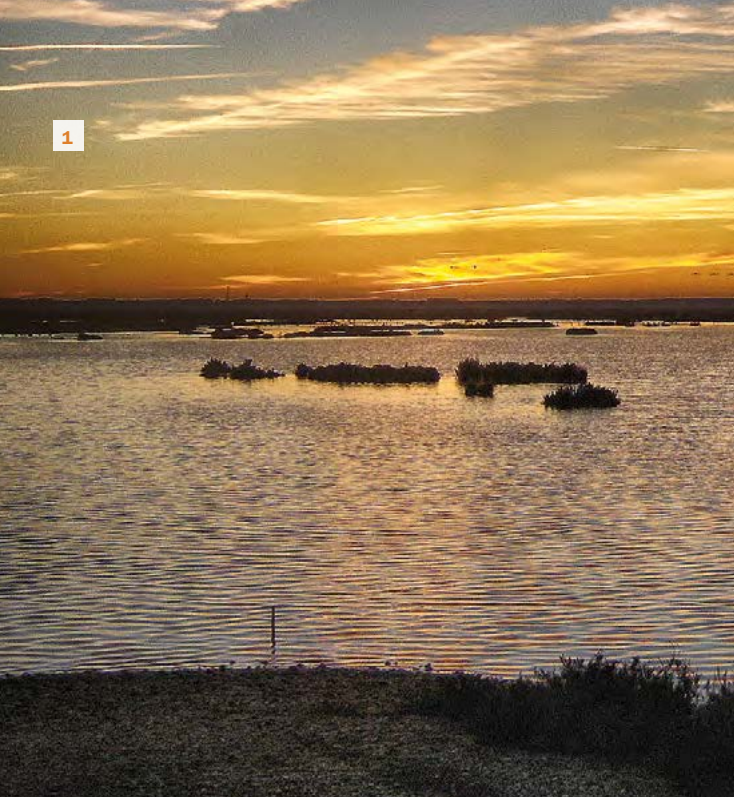
In the vast plains and fields of Antequera, lies the **Fuente de Piedra [6]** lagoon, the largest in Andalusia and one of the largest of all Spain. Only this lagoon and the immediate environment support more than one hundred and seventy different species of birds. It is internationally known for its spectacular flamingo colony. The endorheic complexes of Chiclana, Puerto Real and Puerto de Santa María, and the lagoons of Medina, Las Canteras and El Tejón are near the Bay of Cádiz. Further north, lies the Cola Embalse of Arcos and Bornos and the endorheic complex of Espera. The province of Cádiz is a real treat for the birds. The endorheic complexes of Lebrija-Las Cabezas and Utrera in Seville, the lagoons of southern Córdoba, Zóñar, Rincón, Amarga, Tíscar, the Farales and the Conde, the reservoirs of Cordobilla and Malpasillo and the **reservoirs on the Upper Guadalquivir [3]** (Jaén), complete the vast network of lakes, lagoons and reservoirs.



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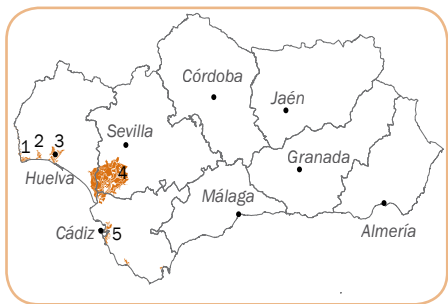


## MARSHES AND ESTUARIES

The meeting of the Atlantic Andalusian rivers with the sea has shaped wonderful coastal areas. The low countryside of the Bético valleys are softened even more to become extensive coastal ocean plains, which are mixed in a constant and eternal swing of tides, sea salt waters and inland freshwater. These are the large Atlantic estuaries, kingdom of the marshes. The **marismas de Isla Cristina [2]**, those of the Piedras River, those of **Odiel [1]**, those of Doñana and those of the Bay of Cádiz, are still preserved natural landscapes of this vast expanse of wetlands that the Phoenicians would have known between the current populations of Ayamonte and Cádiz. They are beautiful scenarios defined imprecisely between the ocean and the mainland that give riches to one or the other. Since ancient times, these areas were used as fishing, shell fishing and salt manufacturing areas, a treasure in some civilizations. They were also used as strategic logistical enclaves for intercontinental flights of the **birds [3]** between Europe and Africa, something like the “Grand Central Station” of the Euro-African migration route for birds of all sizes and colours.



- 1 Marismas de Isla Cristina Natural Site
- 2 Marismas del río Piedras Natural Site
- 3 Marismas de Odiel Natural Site
- 4 Doñana National Park
- 5 Bahía de Cádiz Natural Park



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Endless mazes of caños, lucios, estuaries, river sources, islands, branches of water that all flow into the sea between stretches of **sand dunes** [5] and arrows that close and protect the marsh itself and the boundless sandy beaches. A complete mosaic of aquatic landscapes with large **brambles and pine forests** [5], which set the dunes to the landscape, extensive rice fields and white salt mines.



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These landscapes are best seen on foot, cycling or on horseback, feeling the salt on your face, hearing the sounds of the birds and delighting yourselves with its beautiful sunsets. This from the ground, because it can also be enjoyed from the water, in a **canoe** [6] or kayak down some of the caños, envisaging the rich ethnographic heritage it hides, visiting some of its curious tidal mills and discovering the salt flowers.



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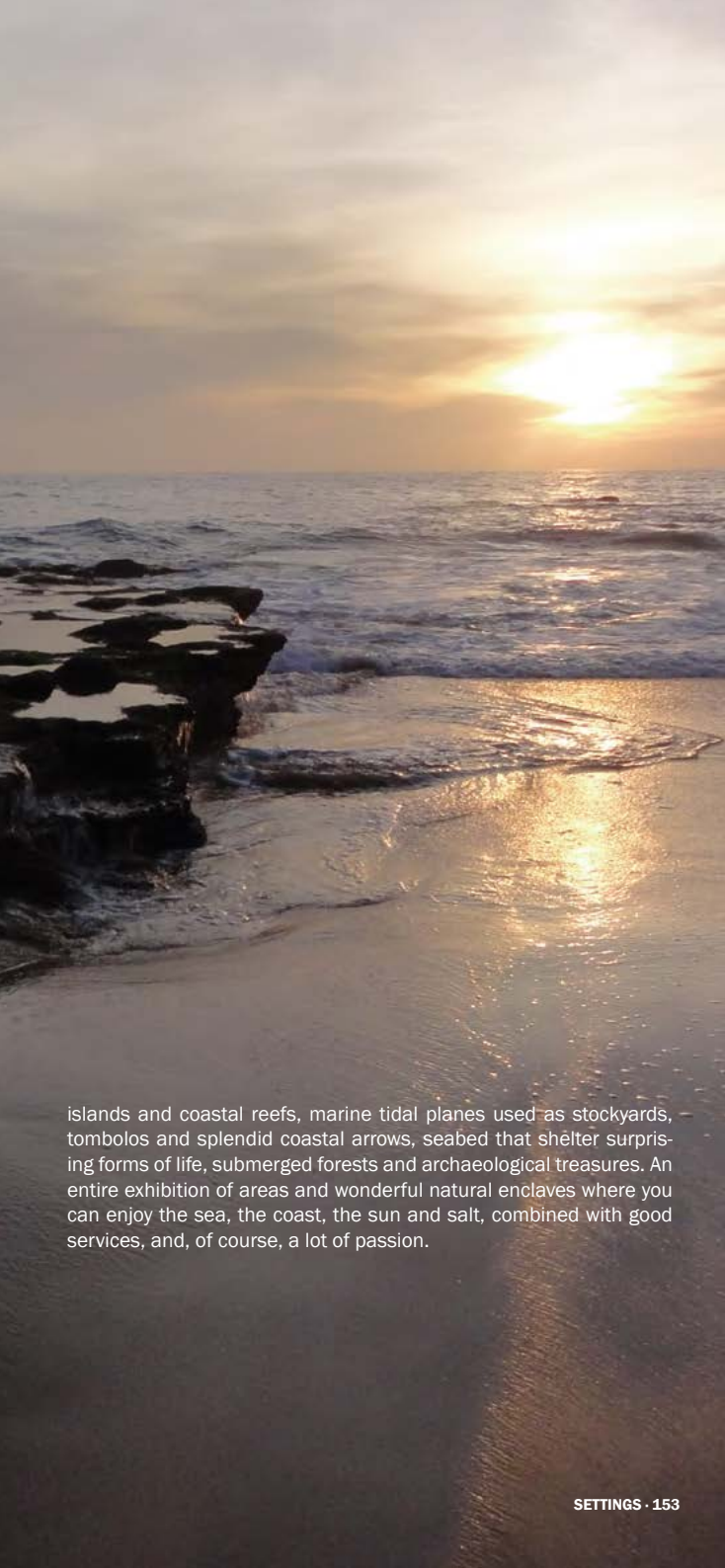
The flat and infinite horizon of the marsh landscape prevents its magnitude from being seen at a glance, but its immensity is certainly contemplated in full from a bird's eye perspective. From the air, the marshes are drawn as **fractal images [7]**, those in which the basic, fragmented or irregular structure of a geometric object or form, is repeated at different sizes, similar to those seen through a kaleidoscope. Hot air ballooning over these landscapes ensures the experience of discovering something never seen before. Livestock is another element of the landscape. **Horses [8]** were once essential for people to get around in these places, but nowadays, they have become more than just a passion. Equestrian activities are extremely rooted in the marsh culture. These landscapes are sublimely fragile and some of their enclaves have restricted access, especially, those that lie in the heart of the Doñana National Park. However, you may also get to know some of these natural wonders through tour operators with authorised guides. An unforgettable experience if you ever get the chance.

8



## BEACHES AND CLIFFS

Costa de la Luz, Costa del Sol, Costa Tropical and Costa de Almería, all have names that say it all, first class global tourism references. Kilometres of coastline, with the best climate and the most hours of sunshine in Europe, dotted with charming coastal towns, marinas and yacht clubs with excellent services and facilities to practice every imaginable sport and recreational activity to do with water: water skiing, scuba diving, sailing, fishing, surfing... It is also full of hidden wonderful enclaves, wild cliffs and paradisiacal natural beaches, estuaries, marshes and wetlands full of wildlife, dotted with small



islands and coastal reefs, marine tidal planes used as stockyards, tombolos and splendid coastal arrows, seabed that shelter surprising forms of life, submerged forests and archaeological treasures. An entire exhibition of areas and wonderful natural enclaves where you can enjoy the sea, the coast, the sun and salt, combined with good services, and, of course, a lot of passion.



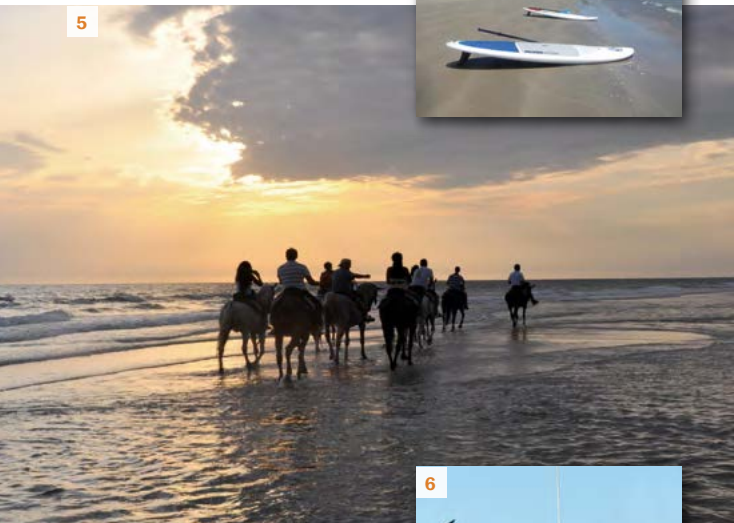
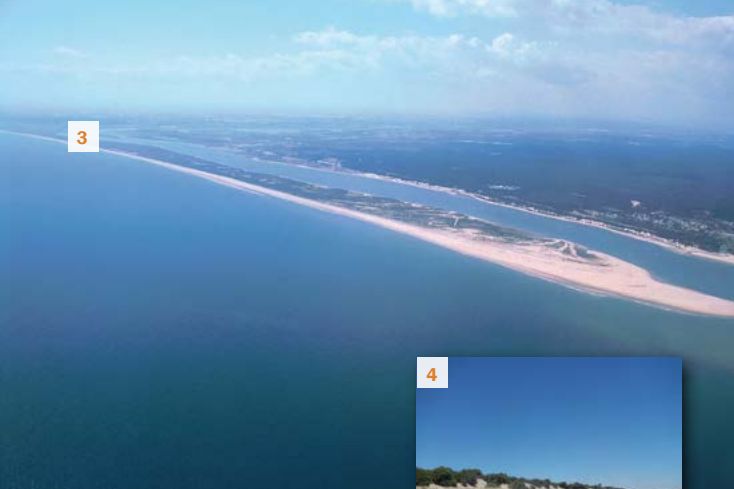


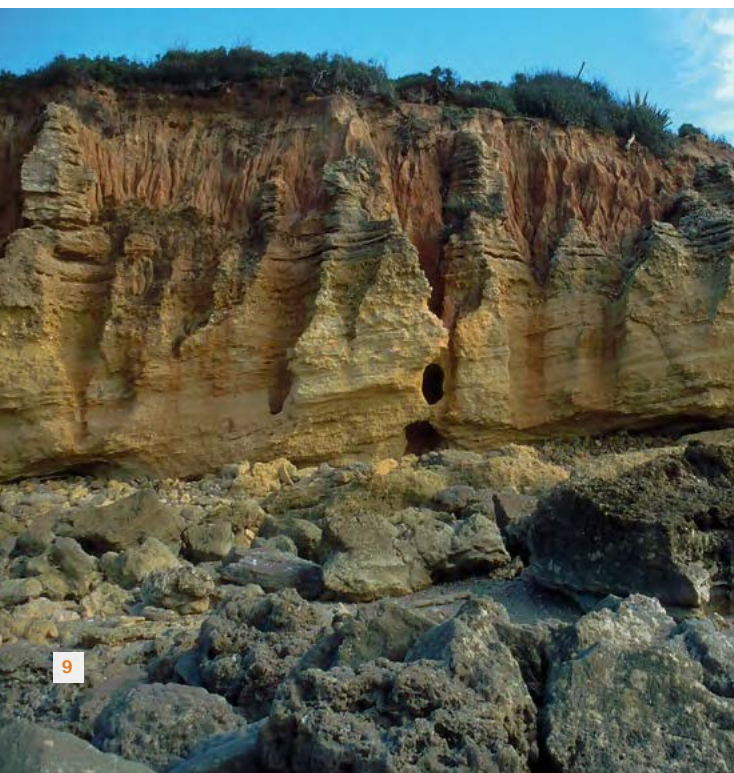
- 1 Costa de la Luz Huelva
- 2 Costa de la Luz Cádiz
- 3 Costa del Sol
- 4 Costa Tropical
- 5 Costa de Almería

The Costa de la Luz offers endless **white sandy beaches** [1] [2] between the mouths of the Guadiana and Guadalquivir rivers. Ayamonte, Isla Cristina, Lepe, Cartaya, Punta Umbria, Mazagon and Matagorda are fishing villages of the yesteryear and today they have become extraordinary tourist places. The Marshes of Isla Cristina, **the marshes of the Piedras River and the Rompido Arrow** [3], the Odiel marshes, **Doñana** [7], an archipelago of wetlands that generates the low sandy coast of highest ecological value in all Europe. A rendezvous place for **birds and ornithologists** [6] of several continents!

2











However, the Costa de la Luz does not end in Huelva; it extends down the Cádiz coast, the southernmost point of the entire peninsula, coveted by Tartars, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, and Arabs. Sanlúcar, Rota, Puerto de Santa María, Chipiona, Puerto Real, **La Barrosa** [9], Chiclana, Conil, Barbate are all places whose name recalls heroic seafaring exploits. 200 kilometres of coastline where beaches of fine golden sand and spectacular sea cliffs intermingle, from the Guadalquivir river to the beautiful Bay of Cádiz and from the Pearl of Cádiz to the **legendary Strait coastline** [8], where the powerful coastal mountain range plunges into the Atlantic Ocean. Sea/wind sporting enthusiasts from all over the world are called to Tarifa and its surroundings, known as the **surfers' paradise** [10] [11]. A sport that can be done in all its forms and during any season of the year. It is also the meeting place of those who enjoy the spectacle of sighting the **large cetaceans** [12] and dolphins who travel through this narrow passage, between two seas, between two continents.



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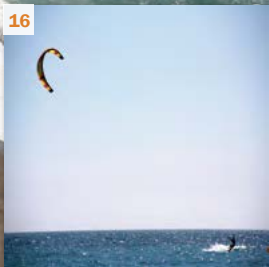


As regards to the natural quality of its scenery, the Costa del Sol (Málaga) offers the best retreats of the east end, in the vicinity of Nerja and the **Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs** [15], just a step away from the Costa Tropical of Granada. A stretch of cliffs and wonderful seabed are the delight of **scuba divers** [14] and **water sports lovers** [13] all year round.

15



In Granada, the Costa Tropical does not only offer 320 days of sunshine a year and an average temperature of 20°C, but their best-known resorts, Almuñécar, **Salobreña [18]**, Motril, Castell de Ferro or La Rabita are suitable places for sports such as **windsurfing [16]** [17], scuba diving, fishing, sailing and other water sports. The proximity of Sierra Nevada, at only 40 kilometres from the coast, is a real privilege for those who enjoy combining sea and mountains, both in winter and summer, as the mountain resort of Sierra Nevada also offers a wide range of exciting summer activities.




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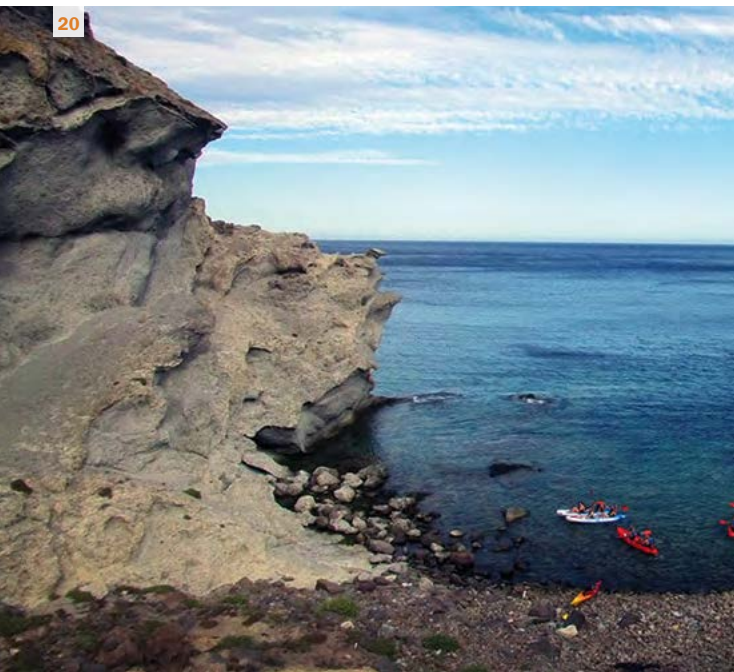
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An aerial photograph of the Cabo de Gata coastline in Almería, Spain. The image shows a rugged, rocky coastline with steep cliffs and a deep blue sea. A large, rounded headland is visible in the background. The water is clear and deep blue, with some white foam from waves crashing against the rocks in the foreground.

In the warm coast of Almería shines one of Andalusia's natural jewels, **Cabo de Gata [19]**, a tropical paradise with pristine and deserted beaches and clean water to enjoy diving, **canoeing [20]** or windsurfing. Volcanic scenarios of exotic beauty, with clear African influences, that can only be traversed on foot, bike or horseback.

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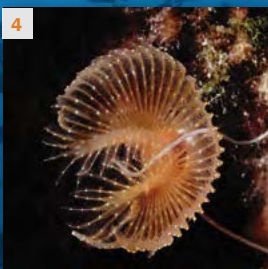




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## SEABED

From Pulpí, Almería, the door of the Andalusian Mediterranean coast, to the Rock of Gibraltar, the Bético mountain range plunges into the sea in a very rocky offshore platform whose depths still retain an extraordinary biological richness and marine habitats of high ecological and geographic value.



The **Almeria coast** [1 to 5] offers five sections of seabed listed as being of Community interest: those of the west of Almería, those of the Island of San Andrés, those of the Cabo de Gata, the Punta Entinas-Sabinar and Bajos de Roquetas. These enclaves and the cliffs of Maro-Cerro Gordo, located between the provinces of Granada and Málaga, are where the best-preserved posidonia meadows of the western **Mediterranean** [6] are located. These areas alternate between extensive sandy and rocky seabeds, which will delight scuba divers.







6

Meanwhile, the Guadalquivir, in the great Bético valley, addresses its encounter with the ocean in the form of gentle reliefs, generating immense and endless sandy beds, among which we can find some of the richest and most diverse ecosystems known to man, such as the curious mud volcanoes in the Gulf of Cádiz. On the sandy seabed off Costa de la Luz, rest interesting archaeological remains, **wrecks** [7] full of legends, which lie near the mythical ports of the coast of Huelva and Cádiz. A real experience for diving enthusiasts too!



7





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## THE UNDERGROUND WORLD

Large clumps of Andalusian mountain hide the most beautiful karst cavities in their depths. Subterranean worlds of fascinating beauty, which, if visited, take us back to the silence and darkness experienced by the first settlers, who have left an exquisite artistic legacy in some of them. A very particular specialty, speleology, halfway between a sport and a scientific activity is that which,



**using special techniques, focuses on exploring these enigmatic worlds. From speleology to touristic caving... A large number of highly specialised tour operators offer the chance to visit and learn about these fascinating underground areas, regardless of the degree of difficulty or a la carte. Other beautiful cavities are already specially equipped for sightseeing.**





*Speleology caves*

- 1 Karst de Sierra de las Nieves
- 2 Karst del Cerro del Hierro
- 3 Torcal de Antequera
- 4 Karst en Yesos de Sorbas
- 5 Karst de Sierra Gorda
- 6 Karst Sierras de Cazorla, Segura, Las Villas y Castril
- 7 Hundidero-Gato
- 8 Sima del Republicano
- 9 Sierra de María-Los Vélez
- 10 Sierra de Gádor
- 11 Sima de Cabra
- 12 Complejo Motillas
- 13 Sierra Mágina



*Tourist caves*

- 1 Cueva de Nerja
- 2 Gruta de las Maravillas
- 3 Cueva de los Murciélagos
- 4 Cueva de la Pileta
- 5 Cueva del Yeso de Baena
- 6 Cueva del Tesoro
- 7 Cueva de las Ventanas
- 8 Cueva del Agua de Iznalloz
- 9 Cueva de Ardales

One of the largest provinces with a strongest caving tradition is certainly Málaga. We can highlight the importance of the Sima GESM, the **Hundidero-Gato [2] [3] complex**, the **Cueva de Nerja [4]**, Tesoro and La Pileta. The last three can be visited. The same limestone reliefs extend into the mountains of Cádiz, with the Motillas complex and the chasm of Villaluenga del Rosario, which are perhaps the cavities that stand out most. In Jaén, the karst massifs of Cazorla, Segura and Villas are notable for the presence of cavities, including the Sima del Pinar Negro and the birth of the Segura River, a major penetrable upwelling, and the Hoyo Hundido in the Sierra Mágina.









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The karst of Cerro del Hierro, in the Sierra Norte de Sevilla, also offers a fascinating underground world. In the province of Córdoba, lies the historical Cabra chasm, the Cueva del Yeso and **Cueva de los Murciélagos [1]**, the latter two are fully suitable to be visited. In Granada, the Cueva del Agua in Iznalloz and the Cueva de las Ventanas at Piñar can also be visited. In the province of Huelva you can enjoy the Gruta de las Maravillas, very spectacular for the beauty of its formations and underground lakes. The **Karst in Yesos de Sorbas [5]**, in Almería, offers a unique, fascinating and labyrinthine underworld carved into powerful gypsum formations.



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# EXPERIENCES





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# Snow



# Water



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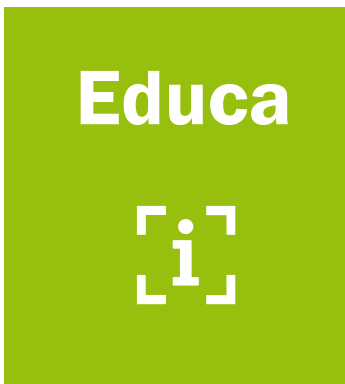


# Land



Andalusia is an extremely attractive destination for those looking to experience different forms of active tourism, practising all kinds of sports and leisure activities, and a privileged one, if you like to carry these activities out in nature and always in close contact with nature in unique urban environments. The magnificent weather, over 3,000 hours of sunshine per year, the quality of its natural surroundings, surpassing even the largest network of rich natural protected areas





in Europe and the variety and quality of the equipment and facilities, make it a paradise for those who enjoy moving around, those who choose Andalusia for their valued moments of leisure, in the snow, in the water, in the air or on land... Enjoy over a thousand different fun experiences, in family, in a group, as a couple, for those who are up for a challenge and for those who simply prefer to learn while enjoying the nature at the same time.



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## SKIING, SNOWBOARDING AND OTHER WINTER SPORTS



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30 kilometres from the monumental and historical city of Granada, the Alhambra, the Sacromonte and the Albaycín, lies the southernmost ski resort in Europe [1] [2]. Inserted in the natural park of Sierra Nevada and bordering the national park, it is one of the crown jewels of Andalusian and Iberian nature. The only Andalusian enclave prepared for the practice of alpine snow sports is situated in an idyllic white landscape, the realm of ancient glaciers, beside the Veleta and Mulhacen, the roof of the Iberian Peninsula. Sierra Nevada has 116 ski slopes, more 100 kilometres of descents, 70% of sunshine a year and ski [4] seasons lasting up to up to 6 months.





Snowboarders also find their own paradise in the **Sulayr Park** [3] [5] [7], the longest snow park in Europe that attracts riders from around the world. The conditions for snowboard crossings, jumps and modules, slopestyle, for beginners and experts, and 165 meters of the **half-pipe** [6] place it among the top scenarios for snowboarding and freestyle. The less adventurous, and especially children, can also enjoy fun activities with the snow, on sleighs, skids, snowmobiling, **slides** [12], **ski-bikes** [8], **ski-chairs** [13] and an endless list of other fun **games** [9] [10] [11].





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The Nordic winter sports, on their part, find perfect accommodation in the facilities of the **recreation station of Puerto de la Ragua [15]**, in the heart of the national park. It offers three **cross-country routes [16] [19]** and one for sledges, together with **trekking [14]**, **snowshoeing [18]** and even dog sledging routes.



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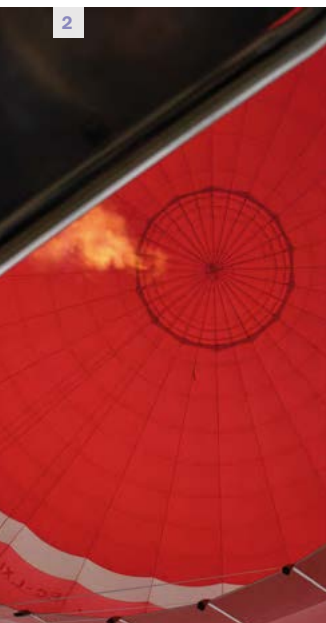
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## HOT AIR BALLOONING



One of the oldest dreams of humankind was to be able to **fly [1]** and one of the most attempted manners of doing this was to try flying with a device that weighed less than air. They were called aerostats, but the most popular, fun and romantic way is, without a doubt, the hot air balloon. Since being used for the first time in the early eighteenth century until now, the only things that have changed have been the materials used and the piloting techniques, substantially improving safety and comfort, but not the degree of adventure involved.

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**Hot air balloons [2]** travel on the air currents. It consists of a base, a large basket or cage, usually made from wicker, which is attached to bag-shaped sails made of fire-proof fabric. The feeling of flying is a serene experience and landscapes appear to dwarf as it rises. The balloon gains height, until it reaches a thousand meters. It even seems that the Earth becomes enlarged, because with this perspective visitors can begin to sense its immensity and the experience is definitely thrilling. More and more amusement and adventure companies include ballooning within their services, given the growing demand.



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You can fly from virtually any spot in Andalusia. Flying over towns can be really fascinating, especially flying over historical villages. The great monuments are seen from another perspective. Cities and landscapes are spatially related. It is a real spectacle for urban photography enthusiasts. Balloon rides over Sevilla, **Granada** [3], Córdoba, Málaga, Jaén, Almería, Guadix, **Ronda** [4] and Antequera are quite popular.



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You can also choose to fly over unique natural scenery: exclusive coastal areas of Cabo de Gata, Doñana or The Straits; bright meadows such as those of Sierra Morena in Arcena, Cardena and Montoro, in the Sierras de Andújar and Hornachuelos; rugged mountains and thick forests, like **Sierra Nevada [6]**, Grazalema, Sierra de las Nieves, Subbéticas, the Alcornocales, Sierra Magina, Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas or Sierra de Baza. Fly over beautiful reservoirs, such as that of **Arcos de la Frontera [7]** or those of the Guadalhorce Valley; or over unique and inspiring landscapes, such as those of the Sevilla coalfield, the mountain greenway, the countryside of the Guadalquivir, **the Guadix Basin [5]** or the Granada meadows.



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An experience for yourself or as a witty and funny gift for someone else!

## FREE FLIGHT, HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING

Flying like a bird, floating in the air with absolute freedom, the dream of so many children and adults. Nowadays, this dream comes true, through the sporting activity called free flight. Paragliding and hang gliding are both forms of free flight based on the impulse provided by thermal currents generated by heated air masses, the same used by the birds when they glide. Experts and amateurs say that the Andalusian terrain looks as if it had been carved precisely to facilitate performing these air sports. High but accessible mountains surrounded by meadows, wide valleys and countryside generate the appropriate slopes.

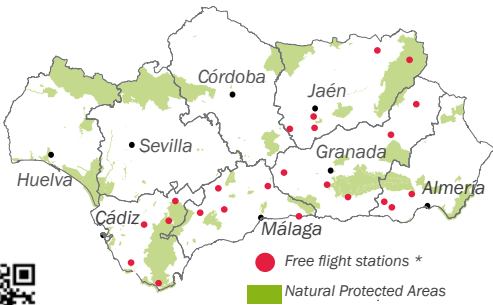


The Andalusian weather is another factor contributing towards making Andalucía one of the best destinations for free flight: the wind, low humidity, low but temporarily concentrated rainfall, mild winters and hot summers. This fact conditions the presence of hot days with strong sunlight, which are the best conditions to do free flight. Andalusia has over 3,000 hours of sunshine annually in every region.





All these circumstances permit Andalusia to count with a powerful and extensive **network of flight stations [2]** to the delight of free flight fans, twenty-three to be exact. The best known are in the towns of Algodonales (Cádiz), El Yelmo (Jaén), **Loja [4]** (Granada), Dalías (Almería) and **Valle de Abdalajís [6] [7]** (Málaga), though the rest do not detract but quite the contrary, they diversify and qualify the offer. National and International competitions have been held in all these sites, which also have schools, flying clubs and active tourism companies perfectly prepared for this sport.



\* Complete information on each of the stations can be seen in the *Guide on Andalusian Flight Stations*.

The province of Almería concentrates its free flight stations in the balconied outcrops of the Sierra de Gador, in Berja and Dalías, towards the south and west façades; in Huécija-Bentarique, to the north and southeast and which allow a final flight towards the sea, the volcanic landscapes of Cabo de Gata, fantastic carved reliefs of the bad-lands of the Desierto de Tabernas or the agricultural landscapes of low Almería Alpujarra.



Free flight stations in the province of Cádiz functionally succeed one after another in the form of stages beginning from the wettest massif of the Iberian Peninsula, the Natural Park of the Sierra de Grazalema, to the Del Estrecho Natural Park on the Atlantic Coast or de la Breña y Marismas de Barbate. The stations of Algodonales, El Bosque, San José del Valle, Sierra de Fates and **Vejer de la Frontera [3]** allow visitors to discover the fascinating rocks and forests of the mountains of Cádiz and the flat landscapes of their evocative and beautiful coastline, dotted with natural monuments, beaches and cliffs, all at bird's eye view.



Granada also offers excellent and varied landscape. To the north, take-offs from Huéscar or **Zújar-Jabalcón [5]** allow you to glide over the fascinating white and red bad-lands of the vast plain of the Granada highlands. From Orgiva-Soportújar, in the heart of the Alpujarra and the suntrap of the massif of **Sierra Nevada [8]**, the highest levels of the Iberian Peninsula alternate with deep valleys and ravines, with dense forests that are dyed red in autumn. From Padul, enjoy the fertile landscapes of the Valle de Lecrín, perceiving the scent of orange blossoms of orange groves in spring, or enjoying the natural beauty of the lakes of Padul, one of the RAMSAR sites in Andalusia. Finally, **Loja Station [4]** allows visitors to fly over the scenery of Western Granada, the meadows between wild reliefs crowned with watchtowers, towers and fortresses.

The high altitudes of province of Jaén lead to natural areas of with extraordinary environmental quality, such as the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas Natural Park. You can fly over these areas from the emblematic Yelmo Station, in the heart of the park, or Chiclana de Segura. The countryside of the Guadalquivir offers an endless tapestry of oaks and olive groves which can be seen from the stations of the southern highlands, Alcaudete, Pandera or Villares.



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Málaga displays itself exuberantly and diversely. Fly over the fertile and high plains of Antequera and Archidona, from the stations of Villanueva del Trabuco or the **Abdalajis Valley** [6] [7]; over the steep slopes of the mountains and valleys Béticos of the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park and Genal valley from Ronda la Vieja and Casarabonela; or over the waters of Guadalteba and Guadalhorce from Teba and Alora, or fly between the coast and the reliefs of the Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Natural Park, from Calaceite Torrox.

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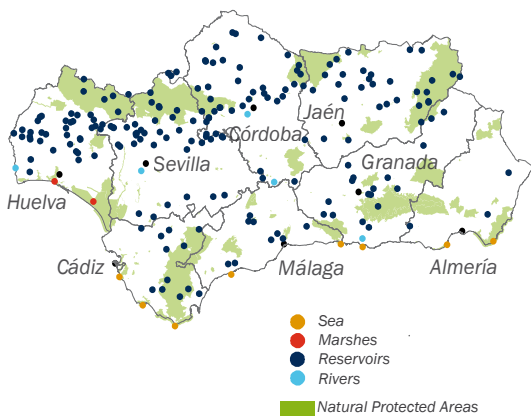




## KAYAK AND CANOE

Like all water navigation systems, elements and artefacts, canoeing came about from the need of humans to travel on water. Nowadays, it has become a sport for adventurers, travellers and hiking enthusiasts who love, feel and experience nature in a special way.

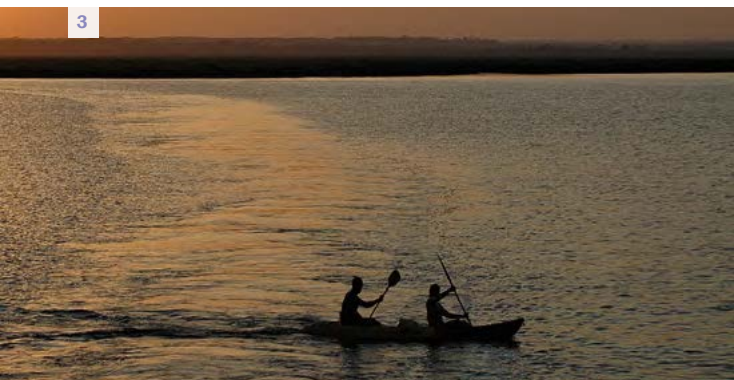
There are many different modalities and they all have their place in the Andalusian waters, either in the sea or inland waters; on calm or white waters; in a kayak or canoe; or even on a tourist trip. Andalusia, in addition to the almost one thousand kilometres of coastline, has numerous rivers and reservoirs, so it is not difficult to understand the reason behind the growing popularity for this entertaining, fun and complete sport.



**Sea** canoeing is offered along the entire coast, although some enclaves are especially demanded by the quality of their natural settings, such as the beaches of **Cabo de Gata [2]**, or in the vicinity of the wild sea cliffs of Maro-Cerro Gordo or Barbate in the Straits and Doñana, or on the west coast of Huelva.



Quite different and evocative landscapes to practice this activity are the **marshes**. Navigate between the open sea and coastal arrows, between arrows and the marshes; delve through the caños up towards the marsh landscapes; enjoy the birds; experience the world of traditional salt mines; or visit the old tide mills. These are all curious experiences to be lived in the Odiel marshes, in the **Doñana Natural Park [3]**, or the Bay of Cádiz.



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Reservoirs are another favourite for canoeing or kayaking. They are usually nestled among beautiful mountain scenery, between forests and meadows, where you can also enjoy observing birds and other species of wildlife. The most popular in this regard are the reservoirs of Sierra de Andújar, Sierra de Cardena and Montoro, Sierra Norte in Sevilla, Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche, Sierra de Grazalema, Los Alcornocales, Sierra Nevada, Sierra de Hornachuelos, Sierra de

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Las Nieves, Sierra de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama, **Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas [4]** and the Sierra de Castril. Canoeing can also be done in the reservoirs located in the semi-desert landscapes of unique beauty, such as the Negratín, nestled among beautiful landscapes of *bad-lands*, in the heart of Granada highlands

As for river scenarios, choose between quiet or white-water rivers, wide channels of serene waters in middle and lower sections, or the energetic mountain torrents. Numerous rivers like the **Guadalquivir, Genil [5], Guadiaro [6]**, Palmones or Guadalfeo, among others, offer both modalities. The Guadalquivir also offers fascinating tours visiting the most beautiful riverfronts of cities like Sevilla and Córdoba, and Granada through the Genil.

White-water enthusiasts will also find unbeatable scenarios in the high Guadalquivir, in the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, in the high Genil, Sierra Nevada or the beautiful and lush channels of the Genal Valley, Sierra de las Nieves, Sierra de Hornachuelos, Sierra de Aracena, Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama, and Sierra de Castril.

Various activities are held in areas where canoeing is well established throughout Andalusia. The Palmones River descent or the Oil Route in the Guadalquivir from Écija to Sanlúcar de Barrameda, or the annual concentration at the Torremembrillo river beach in Puente Genil are recommended activities.





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## RAFTING

Rafting is both a sport and recreational activity that involves descending the course of rivers on rafts. An adrenalin rush and a real team adventure! The rivers have a designated degree of difficulty depending on the speed of the current, the water turbulence, the presence and strength of whirlpools or the existence of rocks in the course of the river. It is advisable to be informed of the degree of difficulty before starting the adventure and to do this activity with good professional guides. One form of rafting is the hydrospeed, which is performed individually on an artefact, called the hydrobob, equipped with fins and controlled by leg movement.

Many parks in Andalusia offer mountain streams with adequate conditions for rafting, including the Alcornocales, Sierra de Baza, Sierra de Cardeña and Montoro, Sierra Nevada, Sierra Hornachuelos, Sierra de Huétor, Sierra de Castril, Sierra de las Nieves, Sierras de Tejeda, Almjara and Alhama, Subbética, Valle del Guadalhorce, Sierra de Aracena and Sierra de las Nieves. Among them, some of the most popular sites are located in the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, in Sierra Nevada, in the **Guadalfeo [1]**, and **Genil rivers [2] [3]** and in some sections of the long course of the Guadalquivir through the provinces of Jaén, Córdoba and Sevilla.

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# SAILING

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First, there was the need to travel further, to the other shore, and this was how the sailboat came about. Then, it was a matter of seeing who got there first, and this is how the most popular racing competition was created. Many competitions are held in our seas, but perhaps sailing is the most popular. The Andalusian coast provides wonderful scenery to enjoy this activity all year round with excellent services and facilities. Andalusia has a dense **network of marinas [4]** and they all offer the possibility of sailing or learning how to sail, because, believe it or not, this sport has its own technique. Having said this, not everything has to be competition, or coastlines; nowadays, we also have the possibility of sailing in **reservoirs [1] [2]** located in spectacular mountain sceneries, unique locations hidden in the inner nature.

The beautiful mountain reservoirs located within the Sierra Norte de Sevilla, Sierra de los Alcornoques, Sierra Subbéticas, Sierras de Cazorra, Segura and Las Villas, Sierra de Grazalema, Sierra Nevada, Sierras de Tejada, Almirajara and Alhama are the most renowned scenarios for sailing, among dense forests, sharing the landscape with wildlife and above all, enjoying the birds and the surrounding environment.

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If you prefer sailing in secret and wondrous marine scenes, with or without a port facilities, the Andalusian coast offers areas of indescribable beauty, like the volcanic coastal landscapes of Cabo de Gata, the cliffs of Marro-Cerro Gordo or those of Barbate, El Estrecho, the **Bahía de Cádiz** [3] [5] [6] [7] or Doñana. Indeed a luxury for the senses!

Some tour operators also offer the possibility of sailing cruises complemented with other activities such as scuba diving, bird watching or whale and dolphin sighting. An unforgettable day out on the high seas!

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A kite surfer is captured in mid-air, performing a trick above the ocean waves. The surfer is wearing a blue wetsuit and is holding onto the kite's control bar. The background shows a vast blue sea with several other kite surfers visible in the distance under a clear sky.

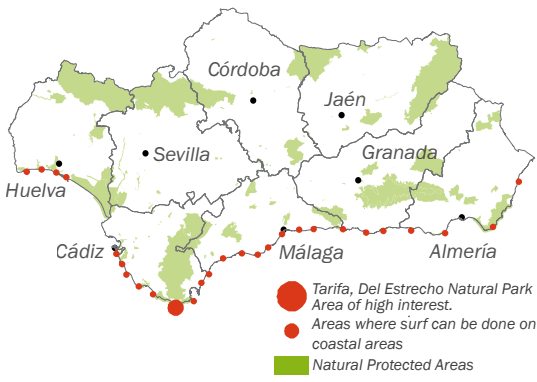
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## SURF, WINDSURF Y KITE SURF

Sail with the waves, or fly and sail at the same time, a dream that can come true, with patience, perseverance and determination. It is not as easy as it seems. Once you manage it, the prize is wonderful: being able to enjoy the south of Spain, **windsurfing** [2] or **kite surfing** [1] [3] along the 945 kilometres of the wonderful Andalusian coast, in the scenarios that have most hours of sunshine a year in all Europe. The South of Spain is one of the most touristic regions of the third most touristic country in the world. This coast of Cádiz is also a deference of the God Eolo for the best-known coastal winds of these latitudes.

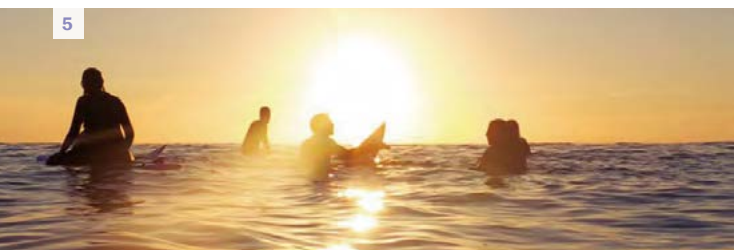
A surfer is riding a large, curling wave. The surfer is wearing a white t-shirt and dark wetsuit pants. The wave is breaking over the surfer, creating a large amount of white spray. The water is a deep blue-green color. The sky is overcast and grey.

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Five of the eight provinces of Andalusia have coastlines, so you can surf in virtually any of them and in any of the modalities, provided that the sea offers appropriate waves. However, Málaga and Cádiz are the most visited provinces to practice this sport. In fact, **Tarifa [4]** located in Cádiz, is considered the Spanish birthplace of surfing. Tarifa offers a lot of very diverse services related to these sports and it is where the highest number of national and international championships and events are held.



**Surf** is all about gliding over the waves standing on aboard with nothing more than a keel and the body acting as a rudder. Its huge acceptance leads to there being multiple modalities: boogieboard, kneeboard and bodyboard. The best scenarios for this sport are located on the beautiful beaches of El Estrecho, the **Bahía de Cádiz [5] [6] [7] [8]**, Costa de la Luz (Huelva), Cabo de Gata-Nijar, Costa del Sol, Costa de la Luz (Cádiz), Costa Tropical and Doñana.





**Windsurfing [9]** is a sport that combines surfing and sailing. Windsurfing is about surfing the waves atop a board which has a hinged sail, allowing rotation on one point at the foot of the mast, to be able to manipulate it according to the direction of the wind. Kite surfing is a fun sport derived from traditional surf, which is very nearly considered a risky sport. Kite surfers slide over the surface on a surfboard propelled by a sail or kite. The athlete holds the kite with 30-meter cables and uses the wind to move and perform spectacular stunts.



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The latter two methods do not require the presence of waves, but do require considerable wind and water, natural resources that also coincide in some of the most beautiful and extensive reservoirs located in the mountainous interior and countryside. Especially, in **reservoirs [10]** located within or in the vicinity of some natural parks, like the Sierras de Tejada, Almirajara and Alhama, Sierra Nevada, Sierra de Arcena and Picos de Aroche, Alcornocales and Sierra de Grazalema.

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## BOAT TRIPS AND WHALE, DOLPHIN AND SEABIRD WATCHING

More people seem to be attracted to the fascinating world of the sea every day and not just for the beach. The best way to get to know the area, to fully enjoy it, is the classic way, that is, by boat [4]. Enjoy the sun, the wind, the salt and the beauty of the ever-changing coastal scenery from the sea, authentic unpublished coastal scenery overlooked by the steep coastal mountains. Above all, be a witness to the sea life that surfaces in the form of fabulous spectacles of surfing dolphins, whales, orcas, sperm whales or fin whales, and see the gliding seabirds and flying fish. Each species appears in a particular time of year and cannot all be seen at the same time. Some are residents or nearly so, others are only seen during their migrations, when crossing El Estrecho, either swimming or flying.





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One of the most common species that can be seen in summer is the **orca** [5] [7]. This animal that comes to savour the Atlantic Bluefin tuna that travel through the Straits in their migrations. **Pilot whales** [1] [3] [6] [17] and **dolphins** [2] [8] can be spotted all year round. They are residents or semi-residents and some species even live in the Algeciras Bay all year round. Bottlenose dolphins are very curious and swim at high speed near the bow of the boat, performing great stunts to get attention.



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Gigantic sperm whales, these with largest teeth of the Earth, and fin whales, the second biggest animal in the world after the blue whale, which can grow up to 25 meters long and reach 75 tons of weight can be spotted in spring, summer and autumn.







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Birds are another spectacle offered by The Straits [15]. Not only can we see seagulls flying over the water, but also hundreds of species that plough through the sky during the migration period. Gliders, such as **storks** [9], **spoonbills** [11], kites, vultures, honey buzzards, booted eagles and short-toed snake eagle traveling on the thermal currents. From among the seabirds, there are **shearwaters** [13], **gannets** [10], Atlantic puffins, razorbills, **common terns** [12], white-winged terns and **seagulls** [14], which almost always come about the boat to see what is happening.



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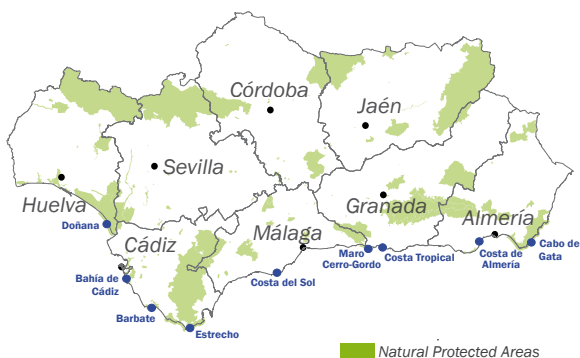


The most privileged area to enjoy these wonders of nature is logically in the heart of El Estrecho. From the port of Tarifa, Barbate and Atunara attractive boat tours are offered for visitors to enjoy this exciting activity, which can also be combined with underwater dives if requested. Larger vessels up to 150 passengers, or smaller boats, from 10 to 15 seats also navigate in these areas. Excursions can also be taken on sailboats and even traditional fishing boats. Excursions scheduled during the months of July, August and September by various operators aboard a **sailboat [16]** from the port of Tarifa are particularly recommendable. The activity can be done from other port areas, such as from San Jose in Cabo de Gata, the Cádiz ports of Algeciras and Chiclana, or Málaga, Benalmadena and Marbella.



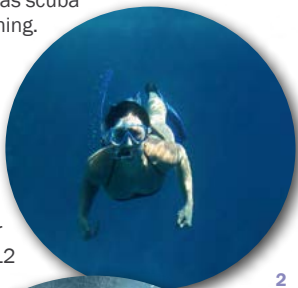
# DIVING

The Andalusian, Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts are among the best coasts for diving and enjoying the other enigmatic and surprising world that lurks in the deep sea. The volcanic depths or posidonia meadows of Cabo de Gata-Níjar, the submerged cliffs and sea caves of Maro-Cerro Gordo, the depths of the Bahía de Cádiz, the El Estrecho Natural Park or the cliffs of Barbate are just some of the extraordinary Andalusian scenery suitable for diving. Diving can be done in any season and not only in summer, because the climate on the Andalusian coast certainly allows it. Diving can also be done in broad daylight or seeking the magic of the night scenes, which, as on land, offer different landscapes and ways of life.



There are several different modalities, free diving, snorkelling (or with **breathing tube [2]**) and **scuba diving [3] [4]**, which allows a greater degree of autonomy. In certain areas, underwater spear fishing is allowed, subject to the conditions regulated for that particular area, but only in the free dive modality, as scuba diving is strictly prohibited for spear fishing.

Diving is generally a risky sport, especially when combined with scuba diving. It requires having qualification to do so. In addition, if you choose to dive in an area listed in any of the protected natural areas, you will need to apply for a permit. The minimum age to start is 12 years and there is no maximum age, the only requirement is to be in good shape. It is best to enjoy this activity by contacting one of the many clubs that offer professional excursions. They already have the appropriate permissions and know the depths better than anyone.



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By the way, the Andalusian coast is not only full of life **fish** [1], **flora** [9], **starfish** [8], sponges, **sea plumes** [10], **corals** [5] and a thousand other curious forms of marine life it also has history and coastal seabeds rich in archaeological remains and **wrecks** [6]. The remains of those shipwrecks were the protagonists of battles and legends and can also be visited.





**Before diving into the water, one must always and without exception, check and test all the equipment, plan the diving times in advance and, of course, never dive alone.**





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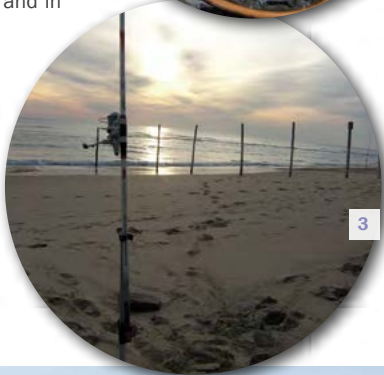
## FISHING

**Sport fishing [2]** is a traditional activity in Andalusia. Andalusia offers highly valued and extraordinary settings and enclaves to go fishing in any of its modalities and both in **marine [4]** and continental environments and in rivers or **reservoirs [1]**.

**Sport fishing [3]** is practicable from any of the marinas in the dense Andalusian port network, distributed along its nearly 1,000 kilometres of coastline.



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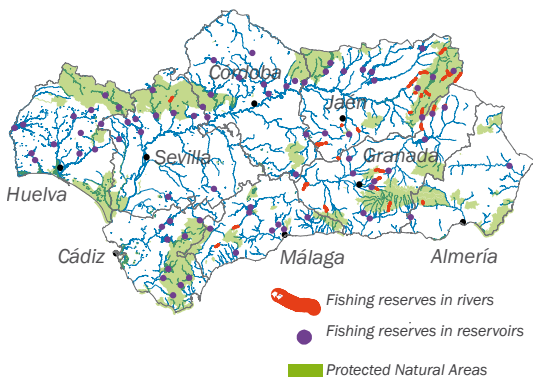


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The areas that are legally authorised to practice continental sport fishing are called “**fishing reserves**” [5] [7] and they are regulated annually by specific legislation, which determines which species you are authorised to fish, the number of catches allowed, the minimum size of the fish, authorised baits and the fishing periods. The most popular fishing reserves are the trout reserves, where you can enjoy fishing

for highly valued species such as the **common trout** [6] and the rainbow trout.



6



7



In cyprinid reserves, usually located in the reservoirs, the most common catches are **carps** [10], **barbels** [9], northern pikes and black bass. In most cases, the close or fishing season opens in mid-March and lasts until late August or September, although there are reserves where you can fish all year round.



As regards the trout reserves, experts say the best venues are located in the mountain streams of Jaen and Granada. In the province of Jaén, most mountain trout reserves are located in the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas Natural Park. You can fish for trout in such extraordinary places such as the Borosa River, the Peralta Stream, the Trance and Bolera reservoirs, and in the vicinity of iconic locations such as Segura de la Sierra, Santiago Pontones, or La Iruela. Activity is permitted all year round in the Arroyo Peralta and the Charco de Cuna, in Santiago Pontones. Other river enclaves in Jaen that offer good trout sections are the Guadalbullón River, near the Sierra Mágina Natural Park, the San Juan River in Alcaudete, or Velillos near Alcalá la Real.



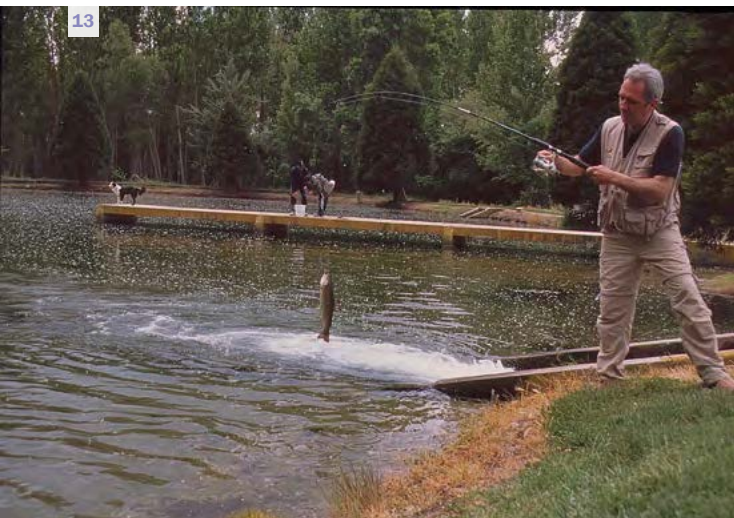
In Granada, the natural park of Sierra Nevada also offers special enclaves for river fishing, in various sections of high Genil and the Trevélez River. Not to mention, the Fardes River in the Sierra de Huétor Natural Park; and the Cacín and Alhama Rivers in the Sierras de Tejera, Almijara and Alhama; and Riofrio.

12



In Almería, the best fish sections are at the high Andarax, in the vicinity of the town of Laujar; in Cádiz they are located in Los Acornocales and Sierra de Grazalema. In Málaga, they are located in the valley of the Genal and the Sierra de Las Nieves; and in Sevilla, in the Sierra Norte Natural Park, in the environment of Cazalla and Constantina.

13



14



# HIKING











Being able to choose from among any natural setting, in the best climate in Europe and the specially designed, marked and certified infrastructure network, which frames the splendid network of Andalusian natural areas, support there being an exceptional variety for hiking, in nature, on trails that link beautiful towns full of gastronomy, history and culture. Certainly, a fun and healthy way to get to know Andalusia! The dense network of trails, both short and long distance, complete with Greenways and trails, allows going hiking. There are trails for everyone, no matter your level: for the most experienced to casual hikers, from the federated athlete to a group of friends, couples, families, children and elderly people. There are also tours tailored to people with disabilities. One way of learning while enjoying this sport are the thematic trails aimed at observing the birds and other wildlife, or geotourism or cultural routes.

2









The extensive network of protected natural areas offers a very dense network of trails within the parks, sites, reserves and protected landscapes. See the very complete offer of activities for each natural area on the “Ventana del Visitante” on the website of the Council of Environment and Spatial Planning. Most of the trails that pass through a protected area are small routes (SR), less than 50 km, but there are also long-distance (LD) routes inside natural areas. Others connect different natural spaces through green corridors.





www.fedamon.com

## SHORT DISTANCE FOOTPATHS



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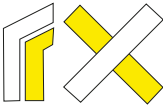
### SD signalling

Continuity of the path      Harsh change of direction



Change of direction

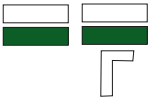
Wrong way



## LOCAL FOOTPATHS

### LF signalling

Continuity of the path      Harsh change of direction



Change of direction

Wrong way



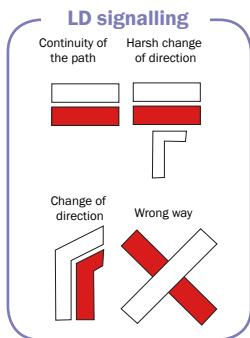
6







## LONG-DISTANCE FOOTPATHS



The **GR 7**, also called the European E-4 Path, is the longest in Europe and starts in the Temple of Delphi in Greece and ends in Tarifa. Today, it has become the first intercontinental trail. It crosses half of Andalusia.

The Mediterranean **GR 92** trail runs along the entire coastline from the French border to its link with the GR 7 in Tarifa. The route covers four Autonomous Communities. In Andalusia, the path starts at San Juan de Terreros (Almería) and reaches Tarifa (Cádiz).

The **GR 140** Puerto de la Ragua-Cabo de Gata joins the long-distance paths of GR 7 and GR 92. Throughout its 169 km, it takes visitors from the peaks of Sierra Nevada, in the Puerto de la Ragua, situated at 2000 m in the national park to the beautiful beaches of Cabo de Gata, crossing the landscapes of the Alpujarra in Almería.

The **GR 243** Sierra de las Nieves, runs from north to south, through almost all the municipalities of the Biosphere Reserve, a true natural paradise.

The **GR 242** Sierras de Tejeda-Almijara is the backbone of a network of marked short distance trails of the beautiful Axarquía. It begins its journey in Periana and ends with the wonderful Cueva de Nerja, descending from the mountains to the sea.

**Sulayr**, the mountain of the sun, as the Arabs called Sierra Nevada, was the name chosen for the largest circular trail in Spain, the GR 240. Its 300 km circular route through the national park and nature reserve Sierra Nevada are divided into 19 stages, each one more beautiful.



The **GR 114** Natural Trail of the Guadiana runs down the banks of the Guadiana on Spanish land since its birth in the Ruidera Lagoons to its mouth in Ayamonte. A journey of 850 km divided into 44 stages, the last few descend from the majestic Sierra de Aracena by the Western Andévalo to the Guadiana estuary.

To the south of the province of Cordoba, the **GR 43** Cordel de la Campiña begins its journey through the Vereda de Granada, a Roman road connecting the towns of Corduba and Ategua and then, in time of Caliphate, it joined Cordoba and Granada, crossing part the eastern countryside between cereal steppes, sunflower fields and olive groves.

The **GR 247** Bosques del Sur runs inside the wild forest landscapes of the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas Natural Park.

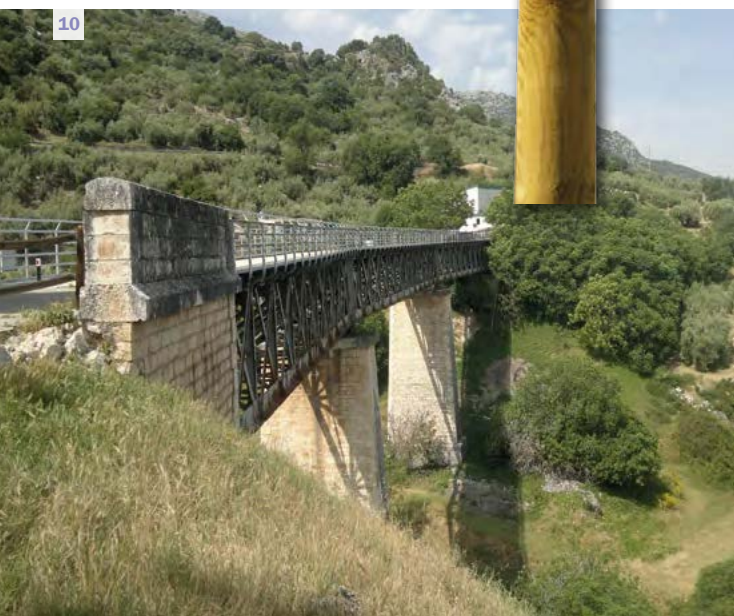
The Path of the Alpujarra (**GR 142**) runs through the provinces of Granada and Almeria, and crosses the south side of Sierra Nevada through the villages of the Alpujarra, boasting an admirable popular architecture.

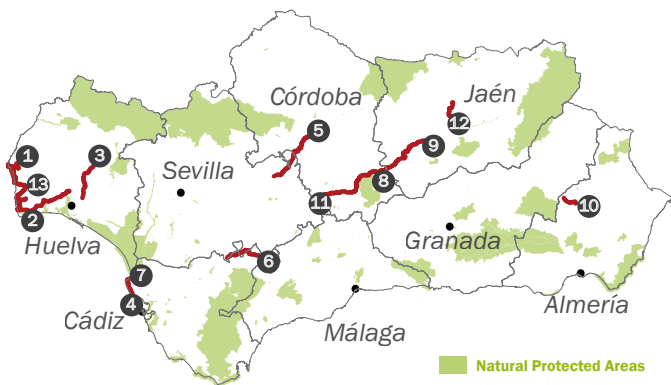
The Path of the Pueblos del Interior (**GR 244**) joins ten municipalities of the Almeria regions of the Sierra de los Filabres, the Desierto de Tabernas and Sierra Alhamilla, indeed 109 km of contrasting scenic routes.





The natural paths referred to in the chapter on mountain bike routes represent other short and long-distance paths that lead visitors into nature.





- 1 Vía Verde del Guadiana
- 2. Vía Verde del Litoral
- 3 Los Molinos del Agua
- 4 Entre Ríos
- 5 La Campiña
- 6 La Sierra
- 7 Vía Verde de Rota
- 8 Vía Verde de la Subbética
- 9 Vía Verde del Aceite. Tramo Jaén-Río Guadajoz
- 10 Vía Verde del Hierro o Ferrocarril Guadix-Almendricos
- 11 Vía Verde del Aceite. Tramo Morines-Campo Real
- 12 Vía Verde del Guadiamar
- 13 Guadiana

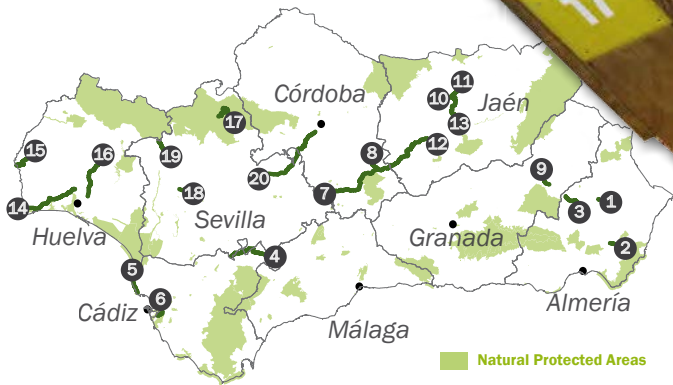




# VIAS VERDES

Greenways are other extraordinary short and long-distance routes to enjoy nature on foot and in these cases, less rugged and mountainous, but equally as beautiful.





- 1 VV Almanzora. Tramo Olula del Río (1,16 km)
- 2 VV Lucainena de las Torres (3,44 km)
- 3 VV Almanzora. Tramo del Hierro (11,94 km)
- 4 VV La Sierra (32,02 km)
- 5 VV Costa Ballena (11,92 km)
- 6 VV Puerto Real-San Fernando (7,87 km)
- 7 VV Subbética (65,38 km)
- 8 VV Guadajoz-Subbética (7,74 km)
- 9 VV Sierra Baza (6,45 km)
- 10 VV Linares (7,99 km)

- 11 VV Vadollano (6,82 km)
- 12 VV Aceite (54,36 km)
- 13 VV Guadalimar (15,27 km)
- 14 VV Litoral (48,38 km)
- 15 VV Guadiana (16,66 km)
- 16 VV Molinos Agua (34,01 km)
- 17 VV Sierra Norte (19,50 km)
- 18 VV Itálica (2,76 km)
- 19 VV Ronquillo (9,22 km)
- 20 VV Campiña (68,52 km)



[www.viasverdes.com](http://www.viasverdes.com)









## CYCLING

Everyone who has experienced it says so. The most fascinating way, besides being healthy, to get to know a place, a region or a territory, is by bicycle. Fast enough to move with agility through landscapes and unique natural scenery but slow enough to enjoy them, as they deserve. The Andalusian sun invites you to discover hidden and wonderful places, landscapes and people from the comfort of your bike, through nature trails or Greenways, which are sometimes far from the traditional tourist circuits.



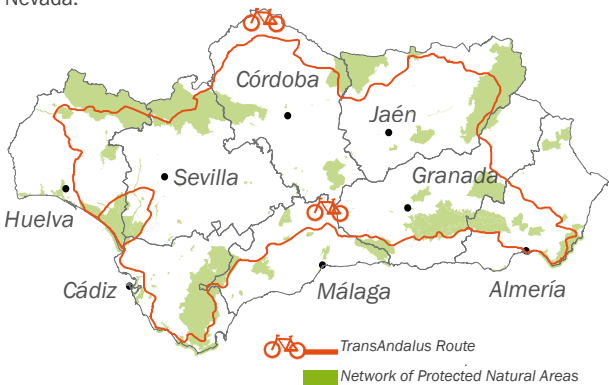
The offer for cyclists in Andalusia is extraordinary. Its varied landscape allows going from steep mountains to the gentle countryside or beaches to the desert in just a day of pedalling. All parks offer mountain bike routes. The more adventurous bikers can opt for long-distance routes, such as the TransAndalus, Transnevada or Bosques del Sur and enjoy the authentic saddlebag tourism. The BTT centres of the Alcornocales (Cádiz) and Nevada (Granada) schedule specially designed routes with different levels of technical difficulty. There are numerous events organised throughout the year and all over the country, including the famous "KDD Hangouts" that schedule dates to tour some of the routes of the important existing framework. The more adventurous will find an amazing **Bike Parks [2]** in summer in **Sierra Nevada [1] [3]** with over 30 km of marked paths and a Minibike Park for beginners. Finally, for touring cyclists families, the Andalusian Greenways are a good choice, they present affordable tours and some are even adapted to people with disabilities and they organise fun activities people of all ages, in natural spaces with overwhelming nature.

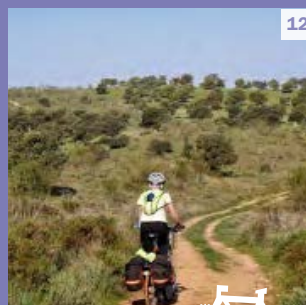
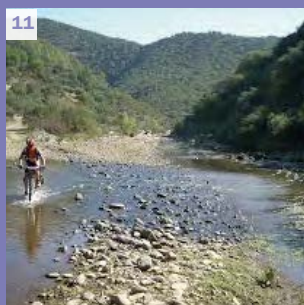






**The TransAndalus [4 to 12]** is considered as the best cycling route of the Peninsula by the most experienced bikers. It is a circular mountain bike route of about 2000 Km that crosses the eight provinces of Andalusia. The beauty of the route gives an idea of the relationship between the protected natural areas it crosses: Cabo de Gata, Gypsum Karst in Sorbas, Sierra de Baza, Cazorla, Despeñaperros, Andújar, Cardena y Montoro, Sierra Norte, Aracena and Picos de Aroche, Doñana, El Estrecho, Los Alcornocales, Sierra de Grazalema, Sierra de las Nieves, Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama and Sierra Nevada.







# TRANSNEVADA

13



## Transnevada

Granada - Almería

**Transnevada [13]** is a circular route for mountain bikers measuring 450 km and distributed in eight stages that skirt around the natural area of Sierra Nevada, primarily along the perimeter track that defines the national park, at an altitude of between 1,500 and 2,000 m.





www.ventanadelvisitante.es

### Signalling of the Transnevada Route



Indication of the direction to take



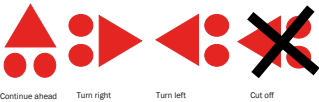
Identifies a one-day route  
The colour indicates the degree of difficulty of the section

Indicates the current stage of the Transnevada.  
The colour indicates the degree of difficulty of the section

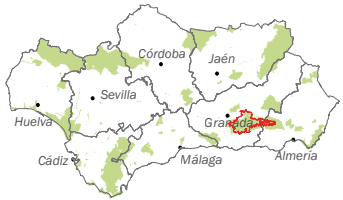


C D E F

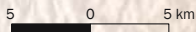
Green: Very easy  
Blue: Easy  
Red: Hard  
Black: Very hard



Continue ahead    Turn right    Turn left    Cut off



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Stage 1: Güéjar Sierra - Lugros                   | Stage 5v: Puerto de la Ragua - Juviles     |
| Stage 2: Lugros - Abrigo de la Solana             | Stage 5i: Posada de los Arrieros - Juviles |
| Stage 3: Abrigo de la Solana - Collado del Espino | Stage 6: Juviles - Casa Forestal de Cañar  |
| Stage 4i: Collado del Espino - Posada de Arrieros | Stage 7: Casa Forestal de Cañar - Dílar    |
| Stage 4v: Collado del Espino - P. de la Ragua     | Stage 8: Dílar-Guéjar Sierra               |





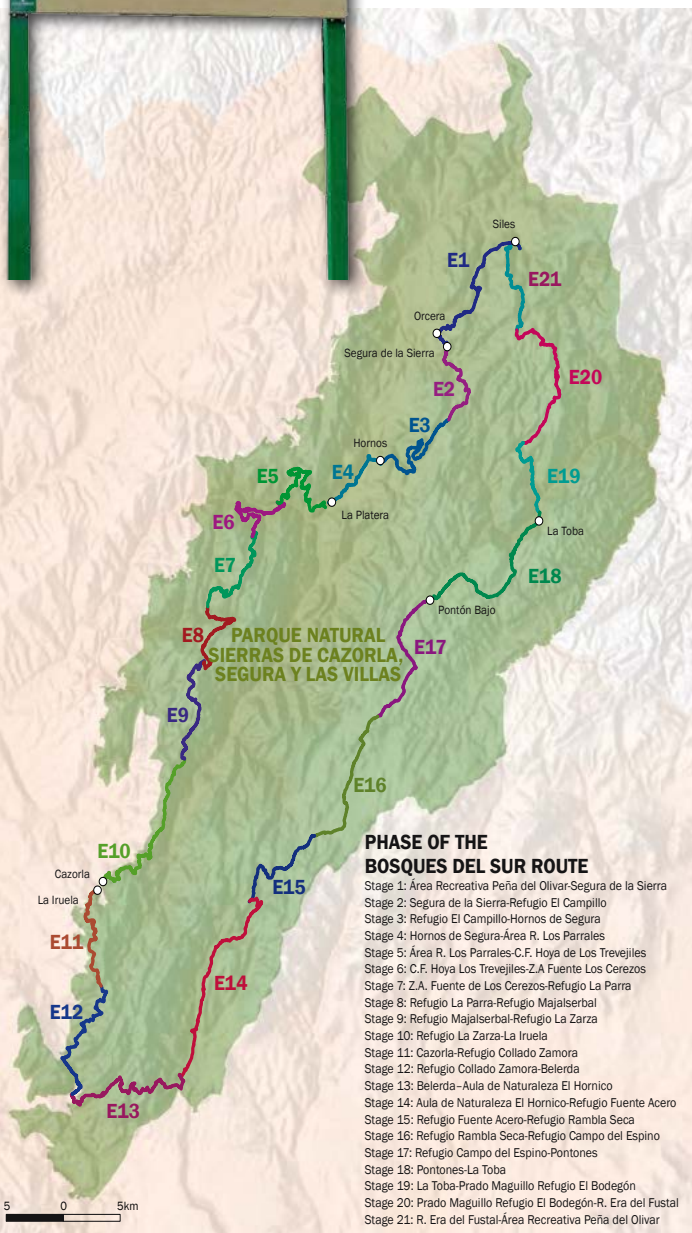
## BOSQUES DEL SUR



The bike path along the **GR-247, Bosques del Sur [14]**, internally bypasses the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas Natural Park, a fascinating succession of mountains, valleys, forests, rivers, streams, springs, canyons, rocks, towns, etc.



[www.sierrasdecazorlaseguraylasvillas.es/gr247/](http://www.sierrasdecazorlaseguraylasvillas.es/gr247/)



### PHASE OF THE BOSQUES DEL SUR ROUTE

- Stage 1: Área Recreativa Peña del Olivar-Segura de la Sierra
- Stage 2: Segura de la Sierra-Refugio El Campillo
- Stage 3: Refugio El Campillo-Hornos de Segura
- Stage 4: Hornos de Segura-Área R. Los Parrales
- Stage 5: Área R. Los Parrales-C.F. Hoya de Los Trevejiles
- Stage 6: C.F. Hoya Los Trevejiles-Z.A Fuente Los Cerezos
- Stage 7: Z.A. Fuente de Los Cerezos-Refugio La Parra
- Stage 8: Refugio La Parra-Refugio Majalserbal
- Stage 9: Refugio Majalserbal-Refugio La Zarza
- Stage 10: Refugio La Zarza-La Iruela
- Stage 11: Cazoria-Refugio Collado Zamora
- Stage 12: Refugio Collado Zamora-Belcerda
- Stage 13: Belcerda-Aula de Naturaleza El Hornico
- Stage 14: Aula de Naturaleza El Hornico-Refugio Fuente Acero
- Stage 15: Refugio Fuente Acero-Refugio Rambla Seca
- Stage 16: Refugio Rambla Seca-Refugio Campo del Espino
- Stage 17: Refugio Campo del Espino-Pontones
- Stage 18: Pontones-La Toba
- Stage 19: La Toba-Prado Maguillo Refugio El Bodegón
- Stage 20: Prado Maguillo Refugio El Bodegón-R. Era del Fustal
- Stage 21: R. Era del Fustal-Área Recreativa Peña del Olivar





[www.viasverdes.com](http://www.viasverdes.com)

# VIAS VERDES

For those who prefer more peaceful bicycle tours, with less slope or suitable for the whole family, there are Greenways that have been specially developed for cycling and hiking. The Olive-oil Greenway starts in Jaén and leads to the border with the province of Córdoba. From there, the route follows the famous Subbética Greenway, with a total of 100 km of route. **The Greenway of the Sierra Norte de Sevilla [15]**, an old railroad spur that linked the Zafra-Sevilla line with the mines of Cerro del Hierro, recently recovered for the enjoyment of all, offers nearly 20 km of low difficulty. The Greenway of the Sierra, in mountains near Ronda, runs through gorgeous 36 km and 30 tunnels that were never used by the railway company that built them.





16

The Natural Path of the Guadiana travels down the riverbanks of the Guadiana River on the Spanish side touring through beautiful landscapes as from the west coast of Huelva to Andévalo and the Sierra de Aracena. For those who prefer cycling between the smell of the sea and salt, **the Greenways of the Litoral [16]**, Matagorda, Puerto San Fernando and Entreríos from Rota to Sanlúcar, passing by Chipiona are recommended and offer spectacular views of the coastline of the Bahía de Cádiz.

[www.magrama.gob.es](http://www.magrama.gob.es)

#### TIPS FOR TRANSPORTING BICYCLES ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

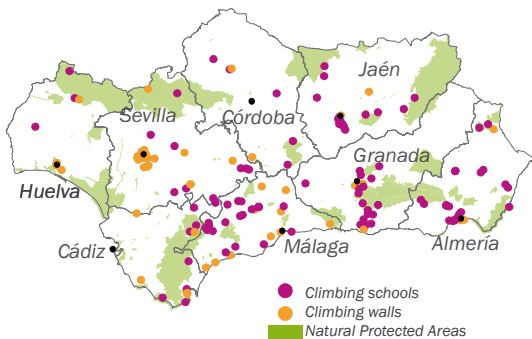
You may find that to access some of the starting points of the BTT routes you need to take your bike on public transport. You should know that bikes are accepted as baggage on buses, but you will always have to dismantle it. In intercity trains, bicycles are very problematic, unless the bike is completely dismantled and transported as baggage in a carry bag. You will be able to take your bike on regional or commuter trains, but you should inquire before, as some lines restrict bikes in certain peak times.

# CLIMBING

The topography and climate conditions combined with the excellent resources and tourist services of the climbing settings, make Andalusia a paradise for all forms of **climbing** [1] [2]: free, classic, ice, sports, urban, in block, interior, etc., and all but ice climbing can be done all year round.



There are many natural areas that offer suggestive areas for climbing, but all the protocols of use must be verified beforehand, because, in some cases, you must obtain permission beforehand or there may be temporary restrictions on the use of some routes. If you are not an experienced climber, it is recommended you contact one of the many climbing schools or one of the local operators from the wide network of active tourism operators.



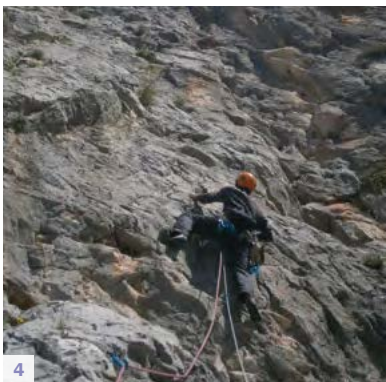
The geological diversity of Andalusia allows climbing on all types of substrates, ice, limestone, volcanic rock, sandstone, mica schist and quartzite. You can climb at any altitude, from the warm cliffs of Cabo de Gata, Barbate or Maro-Cerro Gordo to the highest peak of the peninsula, the **Mulhacén** [3], in Sierra Nevada, which offers other mythical scenarios to practice ice climbing in the north faces of the Alcazaba and Veleta, among many others three-thousanders.







The limestone scenarios are the most common and within them the star is definitely **El Chorro [4]**, in the **Desfiladero de Los Gaitanes**. It is probably the best known Andalusian enclave among climbers; an incredible 3 kilometres pass with vertical walls of over 300 meters, with over 500 routes. The karst landscapes of the Sierra de Grazalema, Sierra de las Nieves, **Torcal de Antequera [10]**, Sierra Subbética, Sierra de Maria, Los Velez, Sierra de Castril, **Sierra de Huétor [5]**, the **Cahorros de Monachil [6]** in Sierra Nevada or the Cerro del Hierro, in the **Sierra Norte de Sevilla [7]** offer landscapes and privileged enclaves for karstic rock climbing.



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The sea cliffs and volcanic domes of the San José environment provide different and suggestive scenarios to climb volcanic rock in some of the most cinematic Andalusian scenarios: the sea cliffs of the **Mónsul [8]** and Genoveses beaches.

The fetishist are also able to climb in the most beautiful and historic steep cliffs in Andalusia, such as those of **Ronda [9]** or contemplating the two continents in one glimpse from the Sierra de San Bartolomé, in El Estrecho, or the highest peak of the Iberian Peninsula, the Mulhacén.



Other interesting places are located in Córdoba, in the Espiel area; in Jaén, the Castillo de Santa Catalina and its surroundings; in Almería, the Cañarete cliffs; in Granada, the canyon of the Guadalfeo River; and in Málaga, the Cala del Moral, Sierra de Mijas and Sierra de Archidona.



## CANYONING

Many mountain currents, beautiful streams that can be seen in the spacious, high mountains of Andalusia make their way through wild, lush and beautiful nature, sometimes almost forcefully. Canyoning is one way to fully enjoy this privileged scenery, albeit with a certain degree of risk. It is an extraordinarily attractive semi-aquatic sport, which combines caving and mountaineering elements and techniques. Canyoning consists in descending into a ravine, regardless of whether it carries water or not, passing natural obstacles of varying difficulty. According to the terrain, these obstacles can be canyons, ravines, gorges, waterfalls, natural rock slides or narrow and vertical walls, which require the use of specialised techniques such as abseiling and precision when jumping. The scenarios are classified in different levels of difficulty, from basic descents for beginners, to extreme descents for the most experienced. There are also several levels of intermediate difficulty, which adapt the difficulty of each section to the experience and skill of the person.











All parks in Andalusia offer canyoning. From the lush forest enclaves of Sierra Morena and the rugged Béticas mountain ranges to the beautiful arid and desert landscapes of Cabo de Gata or the Hoya de Guadix. Some of the most visited places are in the Garganta Verde in Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park (Cádiz), in the Verde River in Granada, and the Almachares in Málaga, both in the **Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Natural Parks [5]**. Other highly-valued experiences are descents into the Diablo chasm, in the valley of the Genal River or the Guadalmina River, located south of the **Serranía de Ronda [1]** (Málaga), the Genilla River in the Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park in Córdoba, the Barranco La Bolera and other channels of the **Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas Natural Park [2] [3] [6] [7]** (Jaén) or the Barranco de Calzadillas in the Sierra Norte in Sevilla





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This sport is regulated in all the natural protected areas and requires prior authorisation. As always, especially in sports like this, it is best to do it with professional guides through any of the available tour operators.

## SPELEOLOGY

Never-ending vertical wells, deep chasms, hidden labyrinthine galleries, intricate cornices, narrow passages, monumental chambers, underground rivers and lakes, real insights into the birth of splendid springs together with rock formations drilled by water in all sorts of whimsical shapes and indescribable beauty all form the underworld; a hidden world of beauty, primeval darkness and silence. Great places that surpass anyone's imagination and that provide important information on the origin of the Earth and life, hiding secrets from the



past that help us understand the present. Speleology is a science shared by geologists, archaeologists, anthropologists, biologists and other scientists, who find their particular laboratories in the depths of the Earth. Speleology has transcended to society purely as a sporting activity, first, and then as a wonderful divertimento later.







The extensive and Andalusian mountainous terrain offers a wide variety of underground spaces to go caving no matter how experienced you are. Many tour operators develop this entertaining form of active tourism. Iconic and world renowned enclaves, such as the **Hundido-ro-Gato System [2]**, the depths of the Republicano System, that of Cabra, Cacao or La Cueva del Agua, have indeed contributed towards popularising and extending this activity, which can be done in virtually any natural area in Andalusia.





Natural parks modelled on the great limestone massifs of the Andalusian Subbético axis, the Alcornocales, Sierra de Grazalema, **Sierra de las Nieves** [5] [6], Sierra de María-Los Vélez, Sierra Subbética, the Torcal de Antequera, Sierra Magina, or Prebéticos reliefs of the Sierras de Cazorla, **Segura and Las Villas** [4] and the Sierra de Castril [3], are all exceptional areas to enjoy caving. The innermost region of the Cordillera, such as Sierra Nevada, Sierra de Huétor, Sierra de Baza or coastal mountains of Tejeda, Almirajara and Alhama are also recommended areas for caving. There are some other unique sites, such as the Natural Site of the **Karst in Yesos de Sorbas** [1], a fascinating and very beautiful wrought underworld, not the usual limestone, but plaster.



A photograph of a cave interior, showing numerous stalactites hanging from the ceiling and stalagmites rising from the floor. The lighting is warm and focused on the rock formations. A small white box with the number '7' is in the top left corner.

7

Andalusia also has beautiful and monumental caves expressly authorised for tourism use such as the **Cueva de Nerja [7]**, the Guta de las Maravillas (Aracena), **Cueva de los Murciélagos (Zuheros) [11]**, the Cueva de los Yesos (Baena), the Cueva del Tesoro (Rincón de la Victoria), the Cueva del Agua (Iznalloz) and the **Cueva de las Ventanas (Piñar) [10]**.

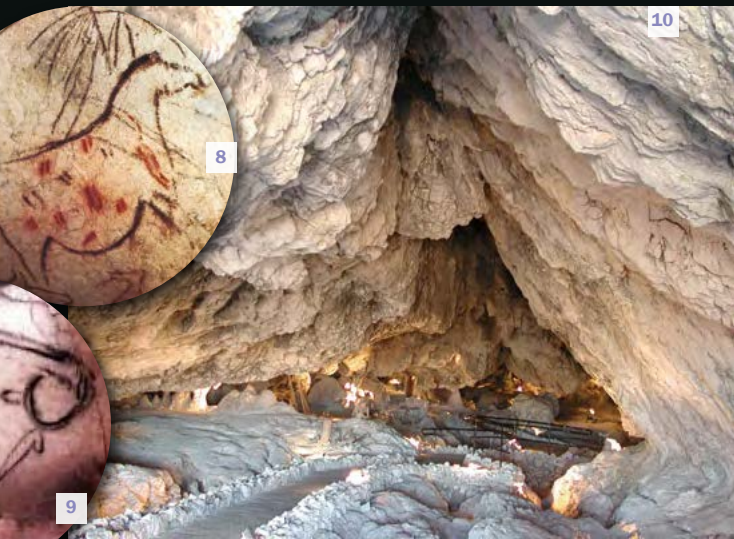
Some cavities, protected by the secrecy of the underground world, have been the refuge of other civilizations and cultures. The Cueva de las Ventanas recreate the scenes of the cave habitats of the first settlers. Other caves, like the **Cueva de la Pileta [8] [9]**, minimally equipped for visits, offer an insight into the fascinating and enigmatic world of prehistoric art.

It is a team sport and activity and entails a certain degree of risk, so it is absolutely necessary to do it with guides and professional experts.

A photograph of a cave interior, showing numerous stalactites hanging from the ceiling and stalagmites rising from the floor. The lighting is warm and focused on the rock formations. A small white box with the number '11' is in the top left corner.

11





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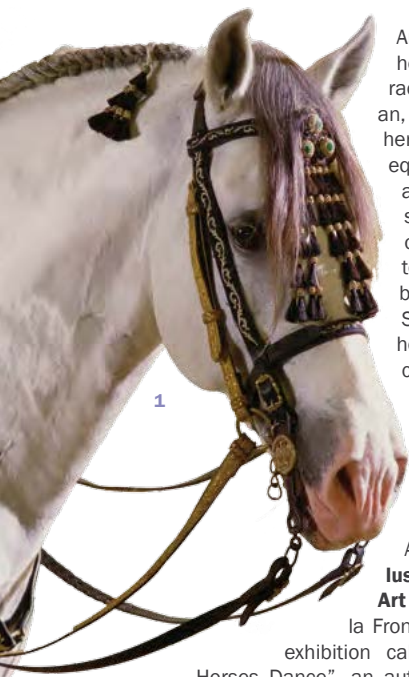
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## EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES



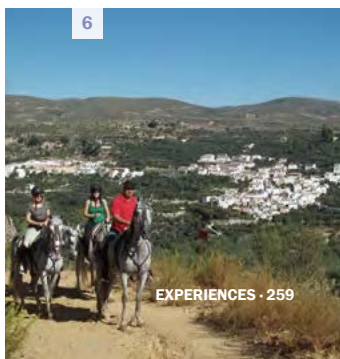
Andalusia is the land of the horses, it even has its own races (Arabian, Anglo-Arabian, Hispano-Arabic and English herds of horses), in addition to, equestrian schools that train and prepare magnificent specimens in different styles of dressage. It is also home to one of the most popular breeds in the world, the pure Spanish race, the Andalusian horse, whose exceptional conditions and exploits are reflected in epic pages of history.

You can enjoy colourful and interesting equestrian events in many parts of Andalusia. **The Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art [1][2]** is located in Jerez de la Frontera and provides a unique exhibition called “How the Andalusian Horses Dance”, an authentic equestrian ballet to the rhythm of Spanish music. **Horse racing on the beaches of Sanlúcar de Barrameda [3]** is internationally renown not to mention it being a spectacle of unparalleled beauty. The Sacada de las Yeguas of Almonte, is a spectacle in which farmers celebrate the annual Cattle Fair bringing mares and foals collected during the day in Doñana into the village. The Pilgrimage of El Rocio in Almonte or the Virgen de la Cabeza in Andújar gathers horse lovers each year from all around the world. Another interesting activity is visiting the Yeguada de la Cartuja-Hierro del Bocado, the most important reserve of Andalusian Horse, Cartujano lineage, worldwide.





Moreover, in all Andalusian provinces can find a wide range of places to enjoy these magnificent animals, because the livestock tradition is very rooted in Andalusia. Some establishments, located in rural environments, in beautiful country houses and estates, offer the possibility of staying over and enjoying wonderful hotel facilities. These establishments offer horse-riding activities through unique natural environments. They can be short and/or medium-distance routes. All the natural parks in Andalusia have these services and routes, specially designed to enjoy their beautiful scenery, its wildlife and its nature **on horseback** [4]. However, there are areas where the horse is a symbol, an emblem, and these places are **Doñana** [5] [7], Jerez, the coast and the mountains of Cádiz, Grazalema, Ronda, Sierra de las Nieves, the Caorla, Segura y las Villas, **Sierra Nevada** [6], the Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche, the Sierra Norte de Sevilla, the de Cardena y Montoro and the Sierra de Andújar. All these regions are where the horse is a real trademark. In others, such as Cabo de Gata, the horse has more recently become an eco-friendly, fun and extremely functional manner to discover the fascinating volcanic landscape.



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It is also possible to enjoy unique and fun experiences on **camels** [9] and dromedaries in Doñana, or **donkeys** [8], through the beautiful surroundings of Monda, or Mijas. Visit a pony-club, which will surely delight the little ones; take rides on a horse & carriage through the monumental cities of Andalusia; take riding lessons at any level or watch horse spectacles and carriage exhibitions.

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For good amateurs, several operators perform various equestrian long distance routes inside many natural areas, or linking some of these parks through natural corridors (see Linear Corridors in block 2). All of them pass through beautiful scenery, “Cañadas reales” [Old Castilian tracks used in the transhumance], cattle tracks, paths and riverbanks. Experiences as intense and interesting as travelling on horseback accompanying real farmers through some of the sections of transhumance routes, in Sierra Morena, Doñana or **Sierra Nevada** [10].

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## 4x4 VEHICLES

The use of **4x4s** [1] [4], cars, motorcycles or **quads** [3], is a widespread and established practice in Andalusia, which has fantastic scenery for this activity. These sports are usually restricted to specially authorised routes inside the protected natural areas.

Vehicles can be hired without drivers so that the visitor can plan their routes at will, or hire the services of a specialised company with **professional drivers/guides** [2] who know the terrain perfectly and have access to the most remote, beautiful and unknown places.

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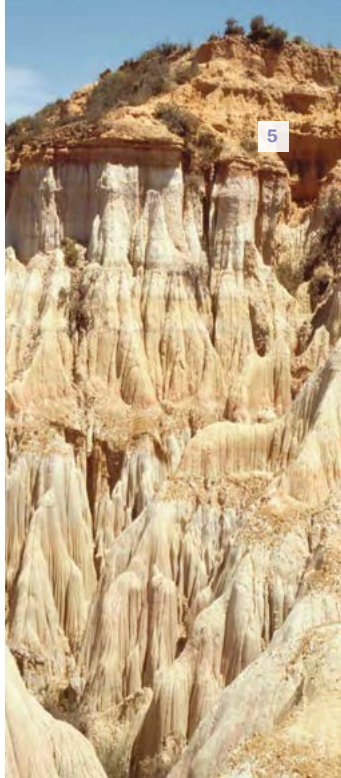


## GEOLOGIC TOURISM

The beautiful **Andalusian countryside** [1 to 7], its mountains, its marshes, deserts, canyons and gorges hide fascinating geological stories. The geological diversity of Andalusia is as immense as its territory and geological tourism has established itself as an emerging activity in close contact with nature. Geological landscapes, natural forms and processes reveal pieces of a story dated hundreds of millions of years ago: the history of life.









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Andalusia has three Geoparks, natural spaces of geological interest, which transcends from the purely scientific scope to tourism. **Cabo de Gata-Níjar [8]**, the **Sierras Subbética cordobesa [10]** and the **Sierra Norte de Sevilla [9]** provide equipment, marked and interpreted routes and geological entertainment and leisure activities. They are not the

only natural areas or sites of geological interest. We also have the Karst in Yesos de Sorba, the Desierto de Tabernas, the Torcal de Antequera, Sierra de Grazalema, Los Alcornocales Natural Park, Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, Sierra Nevada or Del Estrecho Natural Park, all with really fascinating geological stories, together with the estuaries and the large marshlands of Doñana, the Bahía de Cádiz and the Marismas de Odiel. Wonderful tourist cavities such as the Cueva de Nerja, the Gruta de las Maravillas, the Cueva de las Ventanas or the Cueva de los Murciélagos, also reveal the internal processes of Andalusian karst massifs. Several different tour operators offer interesting thematic routes with geological character through the mentioned areas, or combined routes where geological interpretation superbly complements other activities carried out in the natural environment, such as bird watching and caving.



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Some of the major tourist geological attractions are part of the network of Natural Monuments of Andalusia, the Karst of the Cerro del Hierro, the bad-lands of Marchal, the Falla de Niguelas, the Dunas de Bolonia, the Tómbolo de Trafalgar, the Asperillo cliffs, the dinosaur footprints of Santisteban del Puerto, the Torcal, the Despeñaperros mountains, the Buitreras Canyon, the Huesna waterfall, the canyon of Alhama de Granada or the Infiernos de Loja, among others. All enclaves are perfectly equipped for public visits and their enjoyment. The Geotourism Centre **La Casa de los Volcanes [15]** in Rodalquilar, Cabo de Gata, and the Visitor Centre of the Natural Park of the Karst in Yesos de Sorbas, are two of the specialised geological interpretation centres for the areas in which they are located.



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## ASTRONOMIC TOURISM

Astronomical starlight tourism is a form of entertainment that combines entertainment and science, positioned in the last decade as emerging tourism. The observation of the sky and stars has drawn the attention of mankind since the very beginning, and still continues to do now. Andalusia boasts almost unique and exceptional conditions worldwide for the observation and interpretation of the starry





skies. Its low latitude, the low light pollution of its rural areas, the high number of clear nights per year and the wide range of existing equipment contribute towards practicing this activity. All these circumstances position Andalusia as a major starlight destination.





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A Starlight Reserve is a protected natural area where an undertaking is established to defend the quality of the night sky and the access to starlight. Its function is to preserve the quality of the night sky and its cultural, scientific, astronomical, scenic and natural values. Currently, two of the six Starlight Reserves certified by the Starlight Foundation and endorsed by UNESCO and the World Tourism Organization that exist in the world are in Andalusia: the **Sierra Morena reserves [1] [3] [7]** and the **region of the Sierra Sur in Jaén [2]**. At the same time, these two reserves were also reported by the same organisations as ‘Starlight’ tourist destinations, thus forming part of the only four reserves that hold both certifications in the world.

Proposals for Starlight Reserves and destinations in the Sierra de los Filabres (Almería) and Sierra Nevada (Granada) are currently being developed. These natural spaces have two major astronomical observatories in the region, the **Astronomical Spanish/German Centre of Calar Alto [5]** in the Sierra de los Filabres (Almería) and the **Astronomical Observatory of Sierra Nevada [4]** (Granada).



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Other parks also have excellent infrastructure for the practice of this form of active tourism: the Sierras de Cardeña y Montoro Natural Park and the **Torcal de Antequera** [6] [8] [9] Natural Site. Both have their own astronomical observatories.

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These facilities, along with the planetariums spread across Andalusia, thirteen in all, allow astronomy lovers excellent infrastructure to observe and interpret the skies.







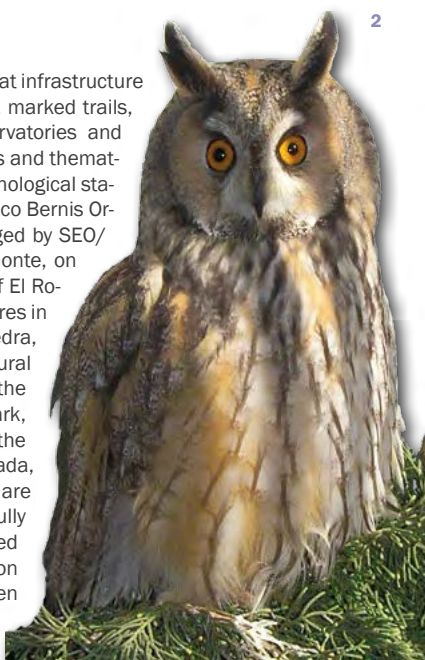
## BIRDWATCHING

The passion for observing and identifying birds has always been present in the life of humankind ever since prehistoric times. It went from being a pure necessity, because there were edible and non-edible ones, to scientific curiosity, and from there, to becoming something personal and vital not only for those who love nature, but those who enjoy living it. Ornithological tourism or birdwatching is not new; the same term existed back in the nineteenth century, but in Spain they did not start to develop until 1954, when the Spanish Ornithological Society, now called the SEO / BirdLife Society was born. Today, ornithological tourism, understood as being leisure activities in nature and related to ornithology, is one of the most established tourism segments of Andalusia. The observation and identification of birds flying over the Andalusian rich and diverse nature, getting closer to their habitats and ecosystems do not only interest the ornithologist tourist, for which birds are the main and sometimes only motivation for the trip, but all visitors in general, for which the avifauna is an extraordinary and wonderful complementary and added incentive to those who may enjoy visiting a natural area. Andalusia is the first Iberian destination for professional and amateur bird watching, which is tantamount to saying that is the main destination of the continent. Being the largest network of protected natural areas in Europe, its extraordinary landscape diversity, the mosaic of habitats, the naturalness of their ecosystems and nearly 400 different bird species listed in the Andalusian catalogue support that privilege. From the large forests and meadows of Sierra Morena which are home to **forest birds and birds of prey** [2] [6 to 10] to the coastal and marine birds of the infinite Andalusian coast. Birds from all over the world cross this strategic station on their migratory intercontinental routes. From the semi-arid steppes of the agricultural countryside of the Guadalquivir and the deserts of Almeria and Guadix and Baza, home to unique populations of **steppe birds** [19 to 22] and the last bustards in southern Europe, to the marshes of the Guadalquivir and Doñana, where hundreds of thousands of **waterfowl** [12] [14] [15] spend the winter.



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All these spaces have a great infrastructure to enjoy the world of birds, marked trails, viewpoints and bird observatories and even ornithological stations and thematic tourist centres. The ornithological station of Doñana, the Francisco Bernis Ornithological Centre, managed by SEO/Birdlife and located in Almonte, on the edge of the marshes of El Rocio, and ornithological centres in the Laguna de Fuente Piedra, Tarifa, in El Estrecho Natural Park, the Ornipark near the Alcornocales Natural Park, the Laguna del Padul, in the natural park of Sierra Nevada, and Albufera de Adra, are some of the additional fully equipped areas to be visited and which have observation programmes, tours and even bird ringing campaigns.



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The forests of Sierra Morena, those of Aracena, the Sierra Norte de Sevilla, Hornachuelos, the Cardena y Montoro Mountain ranges, Andújar and Despeñaperros, offer an extraordinary refuge for forest birds and large birds of prey, not to mention the Betico massifs of Grazalema, Alcornocales, Torcal de Antequera, Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, Sierra de Castil, Baza, Huétor and Sierra Nevada.

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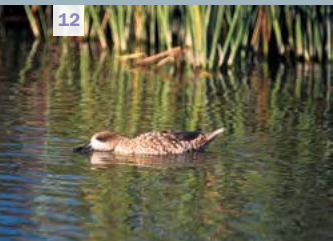






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The main area for waterfowl in Andalusia, which is already a natural ornithological park itself, is undoubtedly Doñana, a conservationist bastion of European scientific and social movement. These areas, together with its neighbouring areas (the Marismas de Odiel, Bahía de Cádiz, El Estrecho Natural Park and the Marismas de Barbate), form a giant paradise for waterfowl from all over the world.



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Another group of lesser known birds, but no less attractive, are the steppe birds, which have colonised semi-desert areas such as the steppes of Cabo de Gata, the Desierto de Tabernas, the high plateau of Granada, the Guadix-Baza or the extensive countryside of the Guadalquivir valley in Sevilla, Córdoba and Jaén.



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## WILDLIFE OBSERVATION

In addition to the thrilling experience of spotting whales and dolphins from a boat off the shores of the Straits or enjoying watching the great ornithological diversity of natural areas, estuaries, wetlands, marshes and mountains, Andalusia offers wildlife lovers the opportunity to learn about other fascinating tourist experiences. The old menageries with sad and melancholic animals are gradually giving way to a new generation of Nature Parks, which are much more than simple places of confinement and exhibition of wild animals; they are true conservation centres. Open environments are created in the attempt to recreate the natural habitat of each species, carrying out important work to recover and protect those at risk. Jerez Zoo, one of the best in Spain, actively collaborates in the captive breeding program of the Iberian lynx and the northern bald ibis for example, two endangered species. Other facilities function as nature reserves or wildlife theme parks where animals live in open spaces and enjoy a life of semi-liberty, such as the Selwo Aventura Park (Estepona), Bioparc (Fuengirola), Wildlife Reserve Castillo de las Guardas (Sevilla) or the zoological reserve of the Desierto de Tabernas (Almería).

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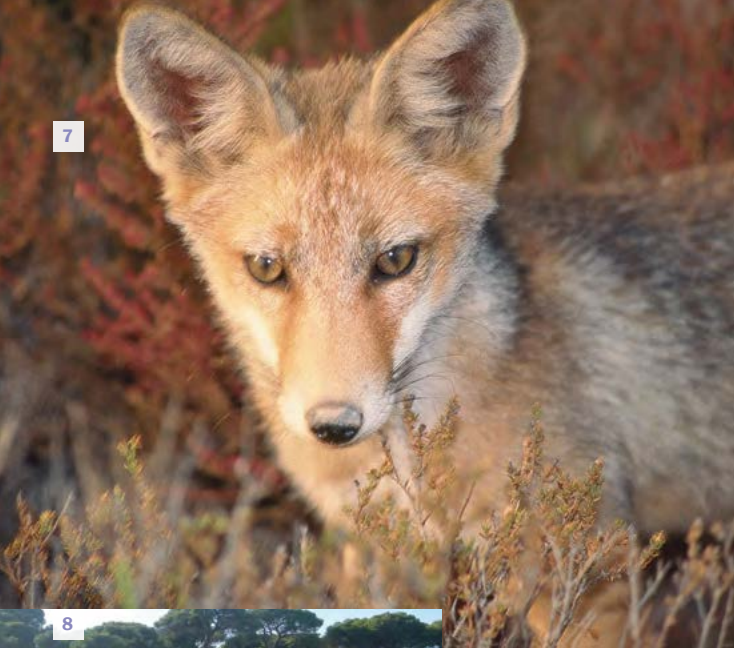


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Deer, fallow deer, mouflon and ibex, in semi-captivity can easily be seen in the Collado del Almendral wildlife park, located in the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas Natural Park.

Most parks have specialised tour operators who are licensed and specifically accredited to take visitors on 4x4 routes through restricted areas. They are areas where wildlife sightings are very frequent. One of the most followed events in Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, in the vicinity of the Tranco reservoir, in Despeñaperros or the Sierra de Andújar is the bellowing

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deer. In the high and cold rocks of Sierra Nevada, Sierras de Tejada, Almirajara and Alhama, Sierra Magina, Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas Grazalema and Sierra de las Nieves one can enjoy the always-majestic realm of the Spanish ibex, their habitat and their wonderful specimens. Visitors might even be lucky enough to spot **foxes [7]**, genets and mongooses. Tour operators offer 4x4 tours inside private estates of the Sierra de Andújar, touring the best territories where the Iberian lynx, the world's most endangered feline, hunts and lives. Getting to know their habitat, their customs, seeking out their trail, and who knows? Maybe even taking the best photo of your **life [3]** Lastly, the meadows of the Sierra Morena, offer an insight into the world of the fighting bull in the wild, in their own environment, cohabiting with wildlife. A **culture [9]** that is also worth learning about!







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## MULTI-ADVENTURE

The network of natural areas in Andalusia offers a mosaic of unique beauty and attractiveness to perform activities surrounded by nature, both for the younger ones or the entire family.

There is a great tourist offer focused on adventure parks that allow enjoying a full day of entertainment while performing multiple activities. Up in the mountain there are via ferratas, rappelling, zip lines, bungee jumping, orienteering, rope bridges, tree games, archery; all fun activities that are complemented with water games in the fresh reservoirs or warm beaches in the summer months.



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The Network of Protected Natural Spaces of Andalusia, the most extensive, diverse and rich in Europe, offers the possibility of a wide range of activities in which leisure and entertainment merge with learning. Learning while having fun right in the countryside, amongst wonderful landscapes. The RENPA offers users interested in this type of tourism a comprehensive network of facilities and infrastructure for public use resources to raise awareness and enjoy the natural values of these areas.

If you are interested in learning about the equipment and facilities for public use and the tourist services offered in different natural areas, the planned activities, etc. visit the Ventana del Visitante, a website that provides all the information needed to plan visit to any natural area.



[www.ventanadelvisitante.es](http://www.ventanadelvisitante.es)

The public facilities serve four functions: reception and general information, educational, recreational and support or complementary.

## Reception Facilities and information



**Visitors' Centre**



**Information point**



**Ecomuseum**

## Educational equipment



**Botanical garden**



**Nature classroom**

## Recreational equipment



**Recreational area**



**Viewpoint**



**Observatory**



**Wildlife Park**



**Marked trail**

## Complementary equipment



**Camping area**



**Refuge**



**Endangered species recovery centre**



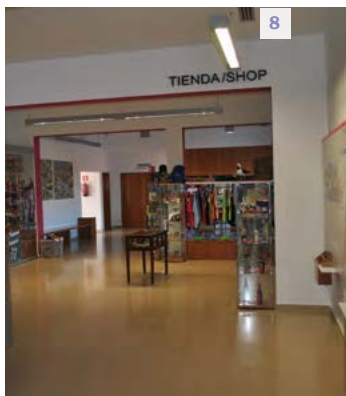


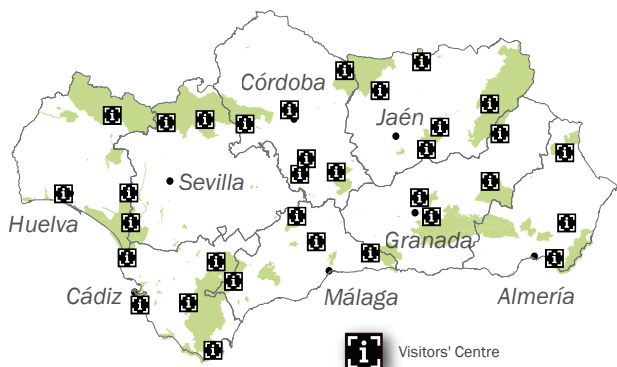
## VISITORS' CENTRE

They are regarded as the main facilities of reception and information regarding the protected natural spaces and they offer several different services:

- **Showroom:** a sample of the area is displayed here with the purpose of learning about the history and characteristics of the space and the influence of human activities.
- **Personalised attention:** to obtain information on what to see, where to go and how to access the most interesting places of the area in question.
- **RENPA Hall:** they collect and describe the main Andalusian ecosystems, to raise awareness about the natural environment of the region.
- **RENPA NET Area:** using computer applications you can get more information about the facilities and the services that are offered, together with information on the fauna, flora and relevant data regarding the Andalusian environments.
- **RENPA Store:** are where visitors can buy handicraft products with the "Brand Natural Park of Andalusia" and souvenirs (publications, shirts, children's items, and so on.)

Seek information regarding the opening hours and services available from the Visitors' Centre before going.





Visitors' Centre

Almería		
Sierra Nevada Natural Park	Laujar de Andarax	950 513 548
Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park	Las Amoladeras	950 160 435
Sierra María-Los Vélez Natural Park	Mirador Umbría de la Virgen Almacén del Trigo	950 527 005
Kars at Yesos de Sorbas Natural Site	Los Yesares	950 364 563
Cádiz		
Natural and National Park of Doñana	Ice Factory	956 386 577
Los Alcornocales Natural Park	Huerta Grande El Aljibe	679 157 543 856 587 508
Del Estrecho Natural Park	Huerta Grande	679 157 543
Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park	El Bosque	956 709 733
Natural Park Bahía de Cádiz	Bay of Cádiz	956 243 474
Córdoba		
Sierra de Hornachuelos Natural Park	Huerta del Rey	957 579 656
Sierra de Cardena y Montoro Natural Park	Venta Nueva	957 015 936
Sierra Subbéticas Natural Park	Santa Rita	957 506 986
Los Villares Peri-urban park	Los Villares	697 953 735
Laguna de Zóñar Natural Reserve	Laguna de Zóñar	957 335 252
Granada		
Sierra de Baza Natural Park	Narváez	670 943 910
Sierra de Castril Natural Park	Castril	958 720 059
Sierra de Huétor Natural Park	Puerto Lobo	958 540 426
Sierra Nevada National and Natural Park	El Dornajo	958 340 625
Huelva		
Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroches Natural Park	Cabildo Viejo	959 129 553
Natural and National Park of Doñana	El Acebuche La Rocina El Acebrón Los Centenales	959 439 629 959 439 569 671 593 138 959 439 620
Marismas de Odiel Natural Site	Anastasio Senra (La Calatilla)	959 524 334 959 524 335



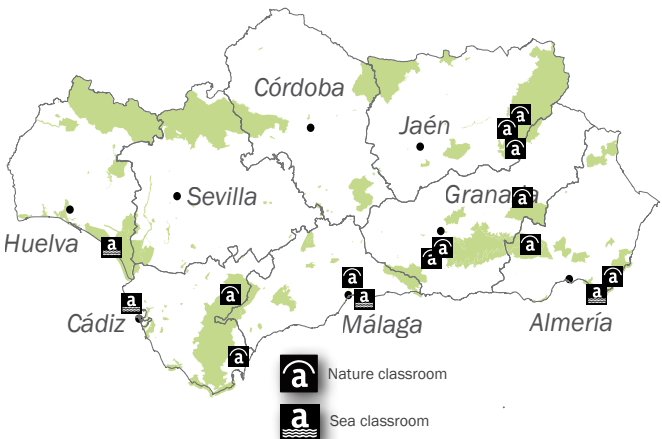
Jaén		
Sierra de Andújar Natural Park	Viñas de Peñallana	953 549 030
Despeñaperros Natural Park	Puerta de Andalucía	953 664 307
Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Viñas Natural Park	Torre del Vinagre Río Borosa	953 713 017 953 124 235
Sierra Mágina Natural Park	Castillo de Jódar Mata Bejid	953 787 656 953 120 894
Málaga		
Los Alcornocales Natural Park	Cortes de la Frontera	954 042 100
Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park	Cortes de la Frontera	
Sierra de Las Nieves Natural Park	Cortes de la Frontera	
Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Natural Park	Sedella	646 733 418
Torcal de Antequera Natural Site	Torcal Alto	952 243 324
Laguna de Fuente de Piedra Natural Reserve	José Antonio Valverde	952 712 554
Sevilla		
Natural and National Park of Doñana	Dehesa Boyal	955 756 000
	José Antonio Valverde	671 564 145
Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park	El Robledo	955 889 593
	Cortijo El Berrocal	678 436 728
Green Corridor of the Guadiamar Protected Landscape	Cortijo El Berrocal del Guadiamar	954 497 043 675 438 975





## NATURE AND SEA CLASSROOM

The RENPA also has a Network of Nature Classrooms. They are resources that allow the development of edutainment activities in nature. The Nature Classrooms of Tavizna, in the Sierra de Grazalema, Narvaez in the Sierra de Baza, The Aguadero, Paredes and Ermita Vieja, in Sierra Nevada, the Acebuche in Doñana, El Hornico, the Cantalar and Vadillo, in Cazorla, Segura and Villas and Las Contadoras in the Montes de Málaga are the educational centres located in the heart of the RENPA.

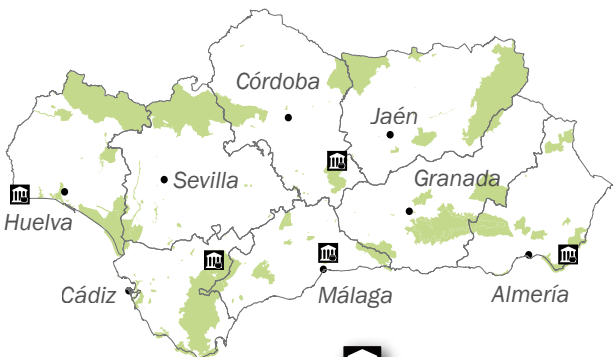






## ECOMUSEUM

An Ecomuseum is a museum intended to inform visitors about the natural and cultural identity of the territory in which it is located. Andalusia has many of these facilities, usually run by organisations and local institutions. The natural areas have some of them, specifically aimed at informing about the resources of their environment, in general, or about some of them in particular. The water eco museum called the Molino de Benamahoma in Sierra de Grazalema; the tidal mill one called The Pintao, in the marshes of Isla Cristina; the Lagar de Torrijos, in the Montes de Málaga; La Casa de los Volcanes, in Cabo de Gata and the eco museum of the Cueva de los Murciélagos in the Corbdoban Subbetica are noteworthy.



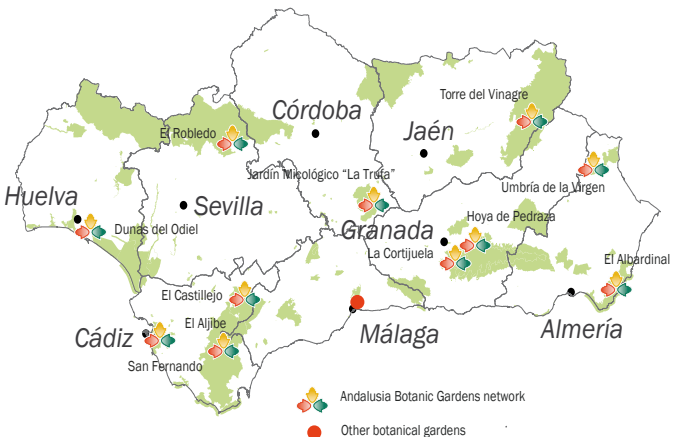






## BOTANICAL GARDENS

Andalusia has an interesting network of Botanic Gardens associated to RENPA. They are didactic and educational areas, which also develop an important task in terms of conservation and environmental awareness, dedicated to the world of botany, plants and fungi.

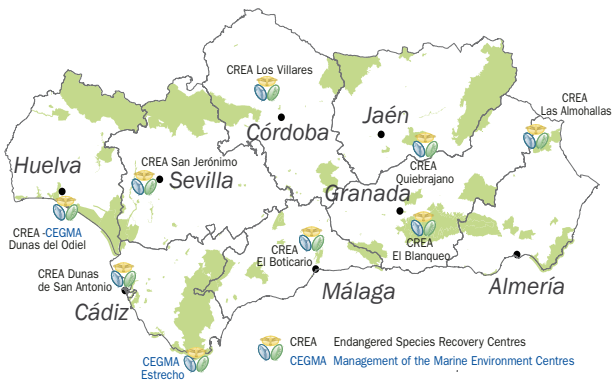






## ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY CENTRES

Every year thousands of wild animals are found wounded, sick or debilitated. These animals require a very different attention, from a mere resting and feeding, to delicate surgeries before being returned to their natural habitat. In order to recover the incapacitated specimens of endangered and protected species, for their subsequent release in their natural habitat, the Andalusian Endangered Species Recovery Centres (CREA) was created in 2001. In addition to its essential function, which is to treat and recover species in need, these facilities perform environmental education tasks scheduled with colleges and institutions. There are eight centres, one for each of the Andalusian provinces.







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## Recreational area

They are outdoor spaces, which often have water supply and services, and fitness circuits and a playground area. In most cases, they also have a picnic area with tables, benches, barbecues, waste paper bins and a fountain.

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## Marked trail

They are itineraries marked with approved signalling placed along nature trails, especially planned to bring the walking visitor closer to the environmental and cultural heritage of the area.

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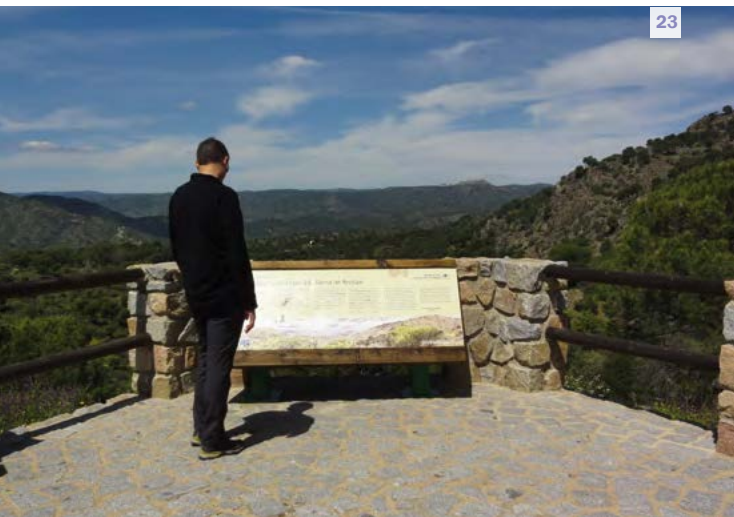




## Viewpoint

Enclave of scenic interest, specially adapted to facilitate the contemplation, and sometimes interpretation, of the panoramic views or unique landscape elements they offer.

23



## Observatory

They are structures used for the observation of wildlife and allow the concealment of visitors so as to not disturb the animals. They sometimes incorporate interpretive or informative panels.

24





## Information point

They are located at the main entrances to natural spaces, as a seasonal complement to the visitors' centres or as the only information equipment.

25



## Wildlife Park

They are specially equipped areas to facilitate the lives of wild animal species in semi-captivity and their observation with a certain degree of comfort.

26







## Refuge

Structure to house and allow the rest or the overnight stay of hikers and mountaineers located on difficult routes or high-mountain areas where weather conditions can change extremely quickly.

27



## Camping area

They are defined and equipped areas, which allow the installation of tents for short periods of time, endowed with hygienic and cleaning services and waste collection.

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**ADVICE AND  
USEFUL  
INFORMATION**





## GENERAL ADVICE

- Certain activities, such as canyoning, rafting, climbing and even hiking through some marked trails inside natural protected areas sometimes **require permits**. It is advisable to do these activities through **tour operators**, who already have the appropriate consents.
- Before visiting places and facilities for public use, check the information regarding availability, timetables, regulations and terms of use.
- Do not interfere with the livestock and do not feed the animals, as this could be dangerous.
- It is illegal to remove or collect organisms, live or dead, animals, plants, fossils or archaeological remains.
- When making use of transportation means (4x4, bicycle, horse, etc.) the driver must reduce speed and give way in the presence of walkers.
- Watercourses must not be forded, and if you must, please do so in the authorised crossings.

## SPECIAL ADVICE



### DIVING

- It is a risky sport. Always dive with diving centres and their accredited instructors, never on your own.
- When diving, control your floatability during the descent so as to not fall abruptly because you could damage the flora and fauna.
- Always respect the safety distance to the floor or wall, avoiding contact with your fins and hands. Point, do not touch.
- Underwater fishing is prohibited with autonomous diving equipment.



## FISHING

- When fishing at the seashore, ensure keeping a distance of 100 metres from areas frequented by swimmers.
- You will be fined for collecting animals from the coastal platforms, such as sea cucumbers or *Holothuria*, *Archaeogastropoda*, snails, etc., to be used as bait, for instance.
- Before fishing in trout reserves and reservoirs, seek information regarding the regulations in terms of captures, seasons and fishing areas that are regulated annually.
- Underwater fishing is prohibited with autonomous diving equipment.



## KAYAK, CANOE AND PIROGUES

- It is not advisable to do this sport alone; it is much better with a guide or instructors, through accredited tourist operators.
- Respect the areas where navigating is not permitted, 200 metres in bathing areas and 50 meters along the rest of the coastline.
- If you are going to navigate in natural protected areas, ensure this is permitted and seek information on the rules that govern this activity.
- In the event of an accident or if you get lost, never abandon the canoe by trying to reach the riverbank swimming. Stay on it, even if it has capsized and make signals with your arms or your oars, or make acoustic or luminous signals.



## EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES

- Avoid doing routes through areas or ecosystems vulnerable to the trampling of the horses, such as wetlands, peat bogs, quarries, etc.







## BICYCLE

- If you plan to use a means of public transport to take you bicycle to the starting point of a journey, seek information on the requirements before you begin your journey. They can vary from one means to another, and even depend on their schedule.
- A helmet is recommended at all times, but it is mandatory in towns.
- During night-time routes, wear a vest, reflective belt or harness.
- Only authorised mountain routes can be used inside protected natural areas.



## HIKING

- Avoid hiking on secondary paths parallel to the principal or open new paths for shortcuts.
- Respect the boundaries of private estates and try not to cross through orchards or planting areas.
- In high mountain areas, ensure you are always be prepared for bad weather, even in the middle of summer.
- 



## SPELEOLOGY

- Avoid transiting areas with evidence of animal activity, especially regarding bats.
- Ensure your backpacks and items are as small as possible and try not to use them in very vulnerable caves or ramifications of the main galleries.
- Stay on marked paths, be careful where you tread and place your hands for support, given that speleothems, stalactites and stalagmites are very fragile.
- Do not shine torches directly on the flora or fauna.
- Report any findings to the authorities.



## CLIMBING

- Respect the relevant regulations in each area, to avoid harming the fauna and flora. Special attention must be taken in bird breeding seasons.
- Respect parking and camping areas. If you camp in unauthorised areas, ensure the impact on the environment is minimum.



## 4X4 VEHICLES

- Never leave the network of tracks where 4x4 vehicles are authorised.
- Do not drive through riverbeds or streams, with or without water.



## FREE FLIGHT, PARAGLIDING AND HANG GLIDING

- Certain flight areas are subject to specific regulations or have particular limitations. Always seek information from the competent authorities:

**AESA—Agencia Estatal para la Seguridad Aérea**

[www.seguridadaerea.gob.es](http://www.seguridadaerea.gob.es)

**Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio. Junta de Andalucía**

[www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente)



## USEFUL ADDRESSES

### ALMERÍA



www.ventanadelvisitante.es

#### Parque Natural Sierra María-Los Vélez

• **Centro de visitantes Almacén del Trigo**

Avda. Marqués de los Vélez s/n. Vélez Blanco.

Tel. 950 415 354

• **Jardín Botánico Umbría de la Virgen**

Ctra. A-317 (María-Orce) junto a Ermita Virgen de la Cabeza. María.

Tel. 697 956 046

• **Centro de Recuperación de Especies Amenazadas (CREA) Las Almohallas**

Antigua Casa Forestal Las Almohallas Camino Las Almohallas, Vélez Blanco.

Tel. 670 94 45 92

#### Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Níjar

• **Centro de visitantes Las Almoladeras**

Ctra. Retamar-Pujare Km. 7. Almería.

Tel. 950 160 435

• **Punto de información Rodalquilar**

Calle Fundación s/n. Rodalquilar (Níjar).

Tel. 950 389 820

• **Punto de información Las Sirenas**

Faro de Cabo de Gata. Níjar.

Tel. 950 380 299

• **Punto de información Noria del Pozo de los Frailes**

Ctra. Al-P-202 junto Pozo de los Frailes. Níjar.

Tel. 950 380 299

• **Punto de información Isleta del Moro**

Mirador Isleta del Moro. Níjar.

Tel. 950 004 246

• **Punto de información Los Muertos**

Ctra. Carboneras-Agua Amarga, Carboneras.

Tel. 950 004 246

• **Aula de la Naturaleza El Bujo**

Avda. de la Estación 1. Níjar.

Tel. 950 004 246

• **Aula del Mar El Corralete**

El Faro s/n. Cabo de Gata.

Tel. 950 224 653

• **Jardín Botánico El Albardinal**

Calle Fundación, s/n Rodalquilar, Níjar.

Tel. 671 561 226/950 004 240

#### Paraje Natural Karst en Yesos de Sorbas

• **Centro de visitantes Los Yesares**

Calle Terraplén s/n. Sorbas.

Tel. 950 364 563

#### Espacio Natural Sierra Nevada

• **Centro de visitantes Laujar de Andarax**

Ctra. Alcolea. Laujar de Andarax.

Tel. 958 340 625

• **Punto de información La Ragua**

Ctra. La Calahorra-Cherín km. 11,6. Bayarcal.

Tel. 950 524 020

• **Aula de la naturaleza Paredes**

Pista Forestal km. 5. Abrucena.

Tel. 950 521 069

**Parque Natural Los Alcornocales****• Centro de visitantes El Aljibe**

Ctra. Alcalá de los Gazules-Benalup Casas Viejas, km 1.  
Alcalá de los Gazules.

Tel. 956 420 529

**• Jardín Botánico El Aljibe**

Ctra. Alcalá de los Gazules-Benalup-Casas Viejas. km 1,  
Alcalá de los Gazules

Tel. 956 420 529

**Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema****• Centro de visitantes El Bosque**

C. Federico García Lorca s/n. El Bosque.

Tel. 956 727 029

**• Ecomuseo del Agua Molino de Benamahoma**

C. Nacimiento s/n. Benamahoma.

Tel. 956 727 105

**• Ecomuseo Histórico de Benaocaz**

C. Jabonería, 7. Benaocaz.

Tel. 956 125 500

**• Aula de naturaleza Higuera de Tavizna**

Ctra. El Bosque-Ubrique. Benaocaz.

Tel. 956 234 211

**• Jardín Botánico El Castillejo**

El Castillejo, s/n - Barriada La Feria. El Bosque

Tel. 902 525 100

**Parque Natural Del Estrecho****• Centro de visitantes Huerta Grande**

Ctra. N-340, km 96. Algeciras.

Tel. 956 673 161

**• Centro de Gestión del Medio Marino Andaluz (CEG-MA) del Estrecho**

Dársena del Saladillo s/n 11207-Algeciras.

Tel. 956 673 835/697 958 785

**Parque Natural Bahía de Cádiz****• Centro de visitantes Bahía de Cádiz**

Salina Santa Leocadia. San Fernando.

Tel. 956 203 187

**• Jardín Botánico San Fernando**

Avda. Pery Junquera s/n, San Fernando

Tel. 956 203 186

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Tel. 670 94 61 98

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Tel. 956 381 635

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**• Complejo de uso público La Forestal**

Avda. de la Diputación, s/n. Rota.

Tel. 956 815 500



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#### • Centro de visitantes Santa Rita

Ctra. A-339 Cabra-Priego km 11,2. Cabra.  
Tel. 957 33 4 034

#### • Ecomuseo Cueva de los Murciélagos

Ctra. Zuheros-Cueva de los Murciélagos.  
Tel. 957 001 300

#### • Jardín Botánico La Trufa

Carretera CO-8211, km. 7,25 - De A-339 A Fuente Alhama por Zagrilla Baja y el Esparragal. Priego de Córdoba  
Tel. 671 599 562

### Parque Natural Sierra de Hornachuelos

#### • Centro de visitantes Huerta del Rey

Ctra. CO-142 Hornachuelos-San Calixto km 1,5. Hornachuelos. Tel. 957 641 140

### Parque Natural Sierra de Cardeña y Montoro

#### • Centro de visitantes Venta Nueva

Enlace ctra. N-420 con CO-510 km 79. Cardeña.  
Tel. 957 015 923

### Reservas Naturales Lagunas del Sur de Córdoba

#### • Centro de visitantes Laguna de Zóñar

Ctra. A-309 Aguilar-Puente Genil km 77,6. Aguilar de la Frontera. Tel. 957 335 252

#### • Punto de información Laguna del Rincón

Ctra. Aguilar-Puente Genil km 96. Ctra. 760 hacia Moriles. Aguilar de la Frontera.  
Tel. 957 33 5 252

### Parque Periurbano Los Villares

#### • Centro de Visitantes Los Villares

Ctra. del Parque Los Villares km 7,5.  
Tel. 957 33 0 145

#### • Centro de Recuperación de Especies Amenazadas (CREA) Los Villares

Carretera Obejo-Córdoba. Tel. 670 94 79 01

## GRANADA

### Espacio Natural Sierra Nevada

#### • Centro de visitantes El Dornajo

Ctra. Granada-Sierra Nevada km 1. Güéjar Sierra. Tel. 958 340 625

#### • Punto de información Pampaneira

Plaza de la Libertad s/n. Pampaneira.  
Tel. 958 763 127

#### • Aula de la Naturaleza Cortijo Balderas

Camino de Padules km 5. Güéjar Sierra.  
Tel. 958 340 550

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Ctra. de la Sierra km 5. Padul.  
Tel. 958 026 300

#### • Aula de la Naturaleza Ermita Vieja

Camino de la Central Hidroeléctrica km 4, Dilar.  
Tel. 958 340 472

#### • Jardín Botánico La Cortijuela

Ctra. Antigua de Sierra Nevada Km. 7 18191 Pinos Genil Tel. 958 980 246

#### • Jardín Botánico Hoya de Pedraza

Ctra. Sierra Nevada Km. 27 18193 Monachil  
Tel. 958 980 246

• **Centro de Recuperación de Especies Amenazadas (CREA) El Blanqueo**

Antigua carretera de Sierra Nevada km 7 entre Pinos Genil y Cenes de la Vega. Tel. 670 94 56 99

**Parque Natural Sierra de Baza**

• **Centro de visitantes Narváez**

Autovía A-92, salida km 324. Baza.  
Tel. 958 002 018

• **Aula de la Naturaleza Narváez**

Autovía A-92, salida km 324. Baza.  
Tel. 958 002 018

**Parque Natural Sierra de Huétor**

• **Centro de visitantes Puerto Lobo**

Ctra. Víznar-Puerto Lobo km 43. Víznar.  
Tel. 958 540 426

**Parque Natural Sierra de Castril**

• **Centro de visitantes Castril**

Ctra. Castril-Pozo Alcón km 0,2. Castril.  
Tel. 958 720 059.

**Parque Natural Sierras de Tejada, Almirajara y Alhama**

• **Punto de información La Resinera**

Finca La Resinera. Antigua Fábrica Unión Resinera Española. Arenas del Rey. Tel. 951 040 058

• **Punto de información Alhama**

Paseo Montes Jovellá. Alhama de Granada.  
Tel. 958 360 686

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Ctra. El Rocío-Matalascañas km 12. Matalascañas, .  
Tel. 959 439 629

• **Centro de visitantes La Rocina**

Ctra. El Rocío-Matalascañas km 2. El Rocío (Almonte).  
Tel. 959 439 569

• **Centro de visitantes El Acebrón**

Ctra. El Rocio-Matalascañas km 2. El Rocio (Almonte) .  
Tel. 959 506 162

• **Centro de Visitantes Los Centenales**

Parque de los Centenales. Hinojos.  
Tel. 959 439 620

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Parque Dunar. Ctra. Matalascañas-Mazagón. Matalascañas (Almonte).  
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Tel. 959 128 825

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• **Centro de visitantes Anastasio Senra**

Ctra. de Dique Juan Carlos I km 3.  
Tel. 959 509 011

• **Jardín Botánico Dunas de Odiel**

Carretera N-442 Huelva-Mazagón, Km 13.7. Palos de la Frontera Tel. 902 525 100

• **Centro de Recuperación de Especies Amenazadas y Centro de Gestión del Medio Marino Andaluz (CREA-CEGMA) Marismas del Odiel**

Carretera Dique de Juan Carlos I km. 3  
Tel. 671 569 081

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Tel. 953 713 040

#### • Centro de visitantes Río Borosa

Ctra. A-319 Cazorla–El Tranco, km. 45. Desvío a Río Borosa–Loma de Mariangela, km. 1,5. Santo Tomé.

Tel. 953 124 235

#### • Jardín Botánico Torre del Vinagre

Carretera A-319 (Cazorla–El Tranco), km. 48,5 - Sierra de Segura. Santiago-Pontones

Tel: 953 368 800

#### • Punto de información Cerrada del Utrero

Ctra. Cruce del Valle–Puente de las Herrerías, km. 7. Vadillo Castril.

Tel. 953 124 235

#### • Aula de naturaleza El Cantalar

Ctra. A-319 Cazorla–El Tranco, km. 39,5. La Iruela.

Tel. 953 124 121

#### • Aula de naturaleza El Hornico

Camino de Guazalamanco, s/n. Pozo Alcón.

Tel. 953 124 137

#### • Complejo de educación ambiental Vadillo

Ctra. JF-7091, Vadillo Castril.

Tel. 953 727 105

#### • Parque de fauna silvestre Collado del Almendral

Ctra. A-319 Cazorla–El Tranco, km. 45. Santiago Pontones.

Tel. 953 713 040

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Tel. 953 549 030

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Tel. 953 012 400

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Tel. 670 946 263

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Tel. 953 765 142

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Tel. 952 154 599

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Tel. 951 040 058

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#### • Centro de visitantes Torcal Alto

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Tel. 951 040 058

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#### • Centro de visitantes José Antonio Valverde

Cerro del Palo, s/n. Fuente de Piedra.

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### Parque Natural Los Alcornocales

#### • Centro de visitantes Cortes de la Frontera

Avda. de la Democracia, s/n. Cortes de la Frontera.

Tel. 952 154 599

### Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema

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Avda. de la Democracia, s/n. Cortes de la Frontera.

Tel. 952 154 599

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Ctra. Constantina-Pedroso km 1. Constantina.

Tel. 955 881 597

#### • Centro de visitantes Cortijo El Berrocal

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5,5. Almadén de la Plata.

Tel. 955 952 049

#### • Jardín Botánico El Robledo

Ctra. Constantina- el Pedroso Km 1, Constantina

Tel. 955 889 690/671 568 659

#### • Centro de Recuperación de Especies Amenazadas

#### (CREA) San Jerónimo

Carretera San Jerónimo-La Rinconada km. 1,5. Vivero

San Jerónimo

Tel. 670 94 15 92

### Paisaje Protegido Corredor Verde del Guadiamar

#### • Centro de visitantes del Guadiamar

Ctra. Antigua de Pilas, s/n. Aznalcazar.

Tel. 955 004 400

### Reserva Natural Peñón de Zaframagón

#### • Punto de información Zaframagón

Antigua Estación de Ferrocarril de Zaframagón. Coripe.

Tel. 955 004 400

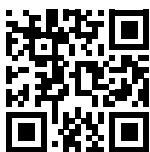
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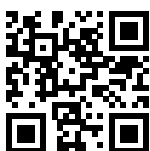
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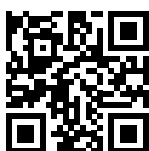
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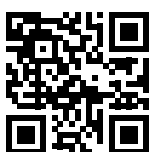
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**Almería**

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**Algeciras**

Paseo Río de la Miel s/n  
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**Cádiz**

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Tel. 956 203 191

**La Línea de la Concepción**

Avda. del Ejército  
Tel. 956 784 135

**Córdoba**

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**Huelva**

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Tel. 600 140 660

**Baeza**

Plz. del Pópulo, s/n  
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**Jaén**

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Tel. 953 190 455

**Úbeda**

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**Málaga (International Airport)**

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**Málaga**

Plza. De la Constitución 7  
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## Ronda

Paseo Blas Infante s/n  
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## Sevilla

Plaza del Triunfo, 1  
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Abén Aljama Martínez: 113-12, 227-8; Agustín Pérez Amil: 44-2, 283-4; Antonio José Herrera: 9-4, 72-1, 102/103-1, 107-10, 107-13, 109-17, 109-19, 140/141-1, 183-19, 245-3, 246-4, 261-10, 284/285-9, 305-27; Aurelio Morales: 208/209-5; AYUNTAMIENTO DE AROCHE: 57-4; AYUNTAMIENTO DE PEGALAJAR: 64-2; AYUNTAMIENTO DE PIÑAR: 257-10; AYUNTAMIENTO DE ZUHEROS: 166/167-1, 228-10, 256/257-11; AYUNTAMIENTO EL GRANADO: 228-9, 229-11, 230/231-12; C. Abad Ferrer: 165-7, 214-6; Carolina Nieto: 150-4; CENTRO ASTRONÓMICO HISPANO ALEMÁN: 273-5; Diego Moreno Lampreave: 93-6, 164-5, 165-6, 214-8, 214-9; Dimas López: 237-8; Elaine y Ned Griffin: 237-12; Enrique López: 45-7; Enrique López Carrique: 8-3, 78-2, 86-7, 88-16, 101-7, 130/131-1, 278-12, 281-21, 284-7; F Wilhelmi: 238-13, 240-14; FUNDACIÓN DE LOS FERROCARRILES ESPAÑOLES (FFE): 97-8, 230-13; FUNDACIÓN REAL ESCUELA ANDALUZA DEL ARTE ECUESTRE: 258-1, 258-2; Hector Garrido: 82-1, 148/149-3, 151-7; Ignacio Henares: 128/129-10; Inmaculada López Ramón: 30-2, 31-3, 31-4, 31-5, 31-6; INSTITUTO GEOLÓGICO Y MINERO DE ESPAÑA: 73-3; JM Caballero: 37-6; Jabier Les: 76-1, 76-2, 76-3, 76-4, 101-9, 171-5, 252/253-1; Javier Herrera: 64-1, 66-1; José Bayo Valdívila: 19-5, 28-1, 86-6, 87-12, 87-13, 160/161-19, 266-8, 280-19, 281-22; José Jiménez Garrido: 113-13, 268/269-1, 270-2; 270-3, 272/273-7; José Manuel Caraballo: 83-4, 83-6, 146/147-1, 195-3; José Manuel López Martos: 278/279-14; José María Montoro: 100-1, 217-6, 219-14, 288-3, 300/301-19; José Miguel Molero: 219-12; José Rodríguez Fernández: 49-7, 57-6; Juan Carlos Braga: 23-10, 116-5, 116-6; Juan Carlos Rubio: 51-8, 216-1, 216-2, 218-11; Juan Domingo Santos: 243-16; Juan Pablo Olmo: 72-1; JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA: 19-3, 32-1, 39-8, 57-5, 70-2, 74-2, 84-1, 88-15, 89-17, 93-9, 93-10, 93-11, 118-8, 119-10, 254-4, 257-9, 266-10, 304-26; Lorenzo Arribas: 218-8; Lourdes García: 134-1, 302-22; Luis Cano: 237-5; Manuel de la Varga López: 259-3; Manuel González Ríos: 254-3; Mariano Ángel: 237-6; Mayca Gómez: 33-4, 37-4, 204/205-4; Miguel Aguilar: 237-9; Miguel Ángel Baltanás: 236-4, 237-10; Pablo Gil Calderón: 35-3; Pablo Rivas Palomo: 267-12, 267-14, 267-15; Pascual Rivas Palomo (Call): 133-11, 133-12, 133-13, 133-14; PATRONATO PROVINCIAL DE TURISMO DE ALMERÍA: 29-7; PATRONATO PROVINCIAL DE TURISMO DE GRANADA: 24-3, 109-16, 158-15, 158-16, 159-17, 159-18, 182-14, 183-17, 191-5, 202-1; PATRONATO PROVINCIAL DE TURISMO DE JAÉN: 63-7, 263-5; Pepe León: 237-11; PROGRAMA DE CONSERVACIÓN EXSITU DEL LINCE IBÉRICO: 27-5, 43-4, 44-4, 63-3, 283-3; Richard Bartz: 50-2; Roberto Travesi: 104-3; Rubén Rodríguez Olivares: 32-2, 84-2, 86-8, 86-9; SEO/BIRDLIFE: 26-1, 275-3, 279-15; Toñi Flores Cebrán: 35-5.

### COMPANIES AND TOUR OPERATORS:

AIAME: 119-9; AIRBORN ADVENTURE: 35-4, 121-17, 188/189-1, 190-3, 190-4, 192/193-6, 192-7; AKTIVJAEN: 63-4, 65-4, 67-4, 113-11, 120-13, 183-18, 194-1, 196/197-4, 250-3, 250-4, 286-3, 287-4, 287-7; ALAVENTURA: 94-2, 122/123-1; AL-MIHRAS TURISMO ACTIVO: 28-2, 55-3, 107-12, 109-18, 220/221-1; ARIBEN: 47-8; ASOCIACIÓN TRANSANDALUS: 237-7; ATLÁNTIDA MEDIO AMBIENTE Y MARISMA 21: 32-2; AULA DE NATURALEZA EL AGUADERO: 278-13, 294/295-11, 295-12, 301-20, 303-24; AVENTURA MARINA: 157-12, 206/207-1, 207-2, 207-3, 211-17; AVENTURA SPORT SLU: 108-15, 120-12, 259-4; CABO DE GATA ACTIVO: 29-3, 29-6, 160/161-20, 195-2; CADIZ SURF CENTER: 33-3, 33-5, 33-6, 157-11, 202-2, 204-5, 204-6, 204-7, 204-8; CAMPAMENTO DE LA ALFAGUARA: 53-5, 53-6; CETURSA SIERRA NEVADA: 14/15, 18-1, 25-6, 55-6, 102/103-2, 106-9, 107-11, 108-14, 172/173, 174-1, 176/177-1, 176-2, 177-3, 176-4, 178-5, 178-6, 179-7, 180-8, 180-9, 180-10, 180-11, 181-12, 181-13, 232/233-1, 234/235-2, 235-3; CLUB VUELO JABALCÓN: 49-3, 133-9; CONNY REITEN ANDALUSIEN: 6-1, 71-7, 94-4, 129-12, 174-3; DOÑANA ACTIVA: 58-3, 59-4, 59-5, 150-6, 155-4, 284-8; DOÑANA SPOONBILL TRIPS: 36-2; 68-2, 276/277-1, 282-18, 284-2; ECOACTIVA TURISMO: 50-3, 51-5; EDUCARE AVENTURA: 73-4, 158-13; ESCUELA DE ESPELEOLOGÍA DE MONTEJAQUE: 41-6, 41-7, 168/169-2, 170-3, 254-2, 257-8; ESTACIÓN NAÚTICA SUBBÉTICA LAGO DE ANDALUCÍA: 200-1, 200-2; ESTACIÓN RECREATIVA PUERTO DE LA RAGUA: 182-15, 182-16; FARO DEL SUR: 259-5; FUNDACIÓN CUEVA DE NERJA: 73-5, 73-8, 171-4, 254/257-7; GEÁNDALUS: 267-11, 267-13, 287-6; GLOOBO: 12/13, 59-8, 90-3, 186-6; GLOVENTO SUR: 133-8, 175-6, 184-1, 185-3, 185-4, 186/187-5, 187-7; GLUGLU: 100-5, 163-2, 163-3, 163-4; GRUPO DE ESPELEÓLOGOS GRANADINOS: 53-10; GUALKAYAK: 121-16, 175-5, 250-2, 251-6, 251-7; HIPICA EL PASODOBLE: 155-5, 260/261-7; IBERNATURE: 39-4, 94-3, 198-3; IBERUS MEDIO AMBIENTE: 39-5, 47-3, 65-5, 75-5, 175-4, 283-6; SURF EMBALSES: 205-10; J126: 29-4, 222-2; KLS TARIFA: 36-3, 205-9; MALCAMINOS: 78-1, 79-4, 79-5, 79-9, 263-2; MANOLO EL DE NEGRATIN: 49-5; MICOGEST: 112-9; MUNDOPOSIBILIDADES: 156/157-8; NATURASPORT: 77-5; NATUREDA: 27-7, 276-5, 277-8, 282-1; NOVOJET: 200-3, 201-4, 201-5, 201-6, 201-7; OBSERVATORIO ASTRONÓMICO DEL TORCAL: 80-3, 81-7, 272/273-6, 272-8, 273-9; PALMALLAS CABALLO: 259-6; PANGEA ACTIVE NATURE: 73-7, 120-15, 197-6, 247-9, 248/249-1, 250-5, 255-5, 255-6, 287-5; PARAISO ANDALUZ: 286-2; PARQUE MINERO RIO TINTO: 91-5, 91-6; SALTARIOS: 196-5, 198/199-1, 198-2; SCUBAZUL: 37-7, 73-6, 158-14, 162/163-1, 174-2, 212-1, 213-3, 213-4, 214-5, 214/215-7, 215-10; SPORTMOUNTAIN: 71-3, 120-14, 128-11, 286-1; SUBBETICA BIKE: 47-6; THERMOS: 44-3; TURMARES: 207-4, 211-16; VIPANANA: 157-10, 203-3; WHY NOT FLY: 33-9; ZUMAYA: 43-5, 47-4, 47-5, 47-7, 112-7, 113-10, 120-11.

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