



GR 48[®]

PROVINCE OF JAÉN

ANDALUCÍA

SIERRA MORENA PATH

5 Trail maps
Scale 1:30000 and 1:75000

Commissioned by and Copyright:

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INTRODUCTION

The *Asociación para el Desarrollo Integral del Territorio de Sierra Morena*, ADIT Sierra Morena, (Association for an Integral Development of Sierra Morena Territory) is a non profit organization established by the following bodies: *Asociación Grupo de Desarrollo Rural Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche*; *Asociación Grupo de Desarrollo Rural Sierra Morena Sevilla*; *Asociación para el Desarrollo Rural de Sierra Morena Cordobesa* and the *Asociación para el Desarrollo Rural de la Campiña Norte de Jaén*. The group also includes other public and private institutions from Huelva, Sevilla, Córdoba and Jaén provinces.

ADIT Sierra Morena is supporting many activities and projects around hiking. From an environmental and healthy position, this outdoor activity appears to be an important tool for introducing the highland regions to visitors. At the same time, hiking is seen as the fundamental outdoor activity on which many others are based and that will reinforce a proper growth of the region without compromising its cultural and environmental values.

The GR-48 'Sierra Morena Track' is a 590 kilometres of way marked route through the provinces of Huelva, Sevilla, Córdoba and Jaén in Andalusia. The starting point is Barrancos, a village located in Portugal at the border with Huelva province. The journey, described here from west to east, embraces an astonishing territory worthy of visiting or living in it.

This is a full colour essential hiking topo-guide to some of the blissfully undiscovered walks in southern Andalusia. It has been designed for better appreciate the natural beauty and cultural aspects exhibited throughout the walk. The guide provides texts, pictures, sketches and relevant maps in order to facilitate the walking. It also features information on estimated times, distances, route and elevation profile, and difficulty of the walk as well as on the most interesting historical, cultural and ethnographical features located on the route. The reading will help the walkers to pay atten-



INTRODUCTION

tion to different ways of countryside labour; to discover singular natural features; to perceive the footprint left on the natural environment; and to appreciate the many environmental features they may come across with at any season of the year. In addition, readers will find easier to understand the many shades between the provinces and regions where the trail goes through. This hiking topo-guide will certainly enhance the walkers' vision of the track as well as providing a complete picture of the journey.

Every section of the route is introduced with some general information about the natural world and how human beings have traditionally related to it in each province. Also included are detailed overviews of each the sites the walkers will find on their journey. We do believe that hiking stirs up complicity between the walker and the environment while uplifting the walker's interest and curiosity about the reality around them. The walk itself evidences the harmonious relation established through centuries between human beings and the land. It is an amazing way to discover how much tradition is still rooted in the small towns located along way. Moreover, it will give the walker the chance to find out about natural resources uses and costumes as well as other activities around those.

In general, this is an easy to follow route. Each section of the trial is suitable for mountain biking, horse riding or just walking. The technical difficulty of each section determines its length. Every stage of the route starts off and most finishes in a well-equipped small town, village or settlement where the hiker may find supplies such as food, drinks and accommodation for at least one night.

Certainly this is a much essential guide which cannot be missing from the backpack of those of culture and nature lovers.



PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION

HIKING

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GR-48 Jaén

Hiking is a non-competitive sporting activity which takes place on rural tracks and paths. These paths are mainly endorsed by the different national Mountaineering Federations. In Spain, *vías pecuarias*, local paths and riverside paths -all they of public uses- are preferably designated for hiking. This recently developed outdoor activity is becoming very popular since ramblers not only enjoy outdoor walking but also achieve a much deeper knowledge of the social, cultural, ethnographic and historical heritage of the places located throughout the trail.

Hiking is an activity which poses low impact onto the environment. In order to sustain the environmental conditions and natural heritage of the areas covered by the trail, a thoughtful system of regulated signs and marks is posed on countryside paths, animal tracks, rivers alleys and rural roads. This system also facilitates and ensures walkers safety. So far, it could be said that hiking is a most engaging and harmless way to discover both the environmental wealth of a country and the peculiarities of the people living in.

A BRIEF NOTE ABOUT HIKING

It seems to be in France where hiking was considered as an activity for visiting places. Shortly after the World War II, the FFRP (Fédération Française de la Randonnée Pédestre) was established and soon other countries as Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland started to promote hiking as a way for sporting and doing tourism up in the mountains.

In Spain, this outdoor activity is managed by the FEDME (Federación Es-



pañola de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada) the body in charge for the management of this outdoor activity. Hiking is seen as directly related to mountaineering at the time it does require of regulation about waymarked trails.

PATHS HOMOLOGATION AND SIGN POSTING

The FEDME is the body responsible for a footpath homologation. This means that the route are in place well marked and a system of registered trade mark signs. It does also mean that there is a writing topoguide where the route is thoughtfully described and that there is a legal body fully compromised to the path maintenance and care.

Wherever possible, a homologated path will avoid crossing or using tar-macs and traffic roads. It is a pedestrian path well equipped with direction signs such milestones or mileposts, direction arrows, paint marks and interpretation boards. Most footpaths are suitable for cycling and horse riding.

In Spain, footpaths are classified into SGR (long distance paths), SPR (short distance paths) and SL (local paths).

- **SGRs.** Those are tracks that run over 50 kilometres and link countries, regions or single sites really far away from each other. A SGR route is usually split into several sections for a much affordable journey. SGR routes that run through more than three European countries are classified as European International Path (E).
- **SPRs.** Half-day or one-day walks that cover any distance between 10 and 50 kilometres. These short journeys are designed for visiting specific and singular natural sites or for taking the walkers up to a location of interest.
- **SLs.** Those are easy walks which cover less than 10 kilometres.

• Señalización



Finger pointer



Milestone or Milepost



Continue straight



Trail turn



Wrong direction

RECOMENDATIONS

To maximize your enjoyment and minimize problems on the trail, before starting any outdoor activity, we need to carefully ponder over the stuff and equipment we are going to take with us. It is also worthy to give lengthy thought to prevent any unforeseen incidents they may occur along the route.

BEFORE THE WALK

Gather information and use accurate maps for planning on the route. Work out your time realistically. Take the advice culled by other hikers and ask to local people since they best know the area. Ramblers' experience enhances through vivid conversation with locals.

Get updated permissions from the environment department if you might trespass restricted areas. You may need to get especial permits for walking on restricted areas; certain protected sites of a natural park; for using cooking devices or lit a fire; and for using a mountain refuge or accommodation within the limits of protected areas.

Make sure your equipment is the right one. Boots are perhaps the most important tool when hiking. Get a pair of lightweight, over-the-ankle boots with a Gore-Tex lining that keeps rainwater from seeping in yet allows your feet to breathe. Your ankles will suffer a lot if your boots do not provide enough support and you may experience internal injuries such as sprains. Remember to break in your boots thoroughly before departure. Lightweight polyester hiking pants are preferable to jeans or heavy cottons, which can be uncomfortable in wet or warm weather.

Get a good quality daypack with enough capacity to tote your personal items. Better if it has bottle holders that keep precious water within easy reach. The following items are essential in your pack: a water bottle, the topoguide and useful maps, sunglasses, sun cream and lips moist, a brimmed hat, some energetic food, a Swiss Army knife, a hiking lantern or a mountaineering one and a basic first aid kit equipped for topical injuries.

Take a mobile phone with you even you might find yourself walking in low or no-signal areas. Remember the Spanish number for emergency calls: 112

ALONG THE WALK

Hiking may produce threats to personal safety. Even if you are in top condition, it is a good idea to combine techniques for hiking to your physical potential in order to mini-mize strenuous exercising.

It is important to start your walk to a slower pace and progressively increase your speed until you find yourself walking steadily. Matching your walking pace to the breathing will keep you better oxygenated. Avoid prolonged stops to prevent muscles cooling. A walking pace of 3 to 4 km per hour on flat appears to be a right walking rhythm.

Keep yourself well hydrated. Drink water frequently and, every now and then have an isotonic drink in order to prevent metabolic imbalances.



OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE

- Fire is perhaps nature worst enemy. Along the walk, surely there will be designates areas where you are allow to lit a fire. Obeying area regulations about seasonal restrictions on fire will reduce the risk of wildfire.
- Human waste is often a major source of environmental impact from hiking. A responsible hiker will take out their garbage and dispose it properly. When getting ready for the walk, it is important to think ahead

about the amount of garbage you may finish your walk with.

- Just like the unwritten standards established in the cities, a logical and sounded relationship is set up between nature and hiking. An emphatic relationship is often established among hikers and local people in the villages.
- Collecting living plants, animals or stones will have an adverse impact on the ecosystem. A picture will make an everlasting souvenir though.
- A good practice is keep country gates and railings closed behind us to avoid cattle and wild animals entering fenced-off areas.
- Personal pets should always go by our side and supervised.
- Dangerous hiking circumstances include losing the way. It is paramount to keep walking on the path and always keep an eye on it when we walk somewhere else. Missing the way may put at risk our safety and turn a joyful experience into a proper mare.

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MIDE. METODO DE INFORMACIÓN DE EXCURSIONISTA

WHAT IS MIDE?

MIDE is a communication system between hikers which inform about the technical and physical characteristics of a trail. It is aimed to evaluate and unify the findings hiking trails allowing each practitioner to make a better choice.

The MIDE system uses a scale designed to grade the difficulty of a specific hiking trip. By doing so, hiking trips are classified according to their difficulty and hikers will have a much accurate knowledge about the route. This tool has been designed by experienced hikers so other hikers may find the route that better suits to their physical condition and motivation. It is not all about information as the MIDE is also a tool for preventing accidents up in the mountains. The idea is that well informed walkers are likely of suffering less harm. (Information = safety).

WHEN MIDE WAS CREATED?

MIDE is a relatively recent tool. It was developed in 2002 within the framework of the programme 'Montañas Para Vivirlas Seguro'. Three years after the project started, some of the programme sponsors (Gobierno de Aragón -Protección Civil-, Obra Social y Cultural de Ibercaja y la Federación Aragonesa de Montañismo) pondered over the need for expert information to be put in Procedures Manual in order to prevent accidents in the mountain. In 2003, the MIDE Handbook is introduced to the public and therefore the MIDE method begins to be used.

WHAT SORT OF INFORMATION DOES MIDE PROVIDE?

The MIDE contains **background information** and **assessment information**. Background information is about informing on general aspects of a rated route. It gives information about where the track starts and finishes; about places where the track passes by; about both positive cumulative slope and negative cumulative drop for the whole route; horizontal distance for the entire route; and weather conditions for which the assessment applies.

Assessment information is about rating the following topics:

- Severity of the natural environment
- Guidance on the route about choosing and keeping good orientation.
- Difficulty in walking along the track (type of path, slopes, etc)
- Struggle required for accomplishing the route.

A numerical value (1 to 5) is given to the above topics in order to set down the degree of difficulty poses on the route.



Environment

- 1- The environment holds low risk
- 2- There is more than one factor of risk
- 3- There are several factors of risk
- 4- There are enough factors of risk
- 5- There are many factors of risk



Orientation

- 1- Well defined tracks and junctions
- 2- Paths or signposting showing the way
- 3- It requires precise identification of geographical features and of compass points
- 4- It requires walking out the track tracing
- 5- The track is obstructed by unavoidable obstacles –a river, a reservoir, etc, which must be skirted along.

Track features



- 1- The track runs on smooth surface
- 2- The track runs on bridle paths
- 3- The track runs on irregular surface and staggered paths
- 4- The use of hands and even jumping over obstacles is required to negotiate the track
- 5- The use of hands is required to progress



Struggle

- 1- Up to 1 hour walk
- 2- From 1 to 3 hours walk
- 3- From 3 to 6 hours walk
- 4- From 6 to 10 hours walk
- 5- More than 10 hours walk

Calculations made according to MIDE criteria for an average and slightly loaded hiker.

Hiking rated according to MIDE criteria for summers without snow.

12 Sample of a MIDE route rating:

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5	5	4	3

Más información:

www.euromide.info

www.fam.es

THE NATURAL WORLD

The GR-48 Trail may be seen as an almost uninterrupted natural site through this section of Sierra Morena Mountain Range. Moreover, the inescapable human factor has left in the region a rich cultural and historical heritage. We need to keep in mind that this is a continuous natural region where the natural environment is clearly attached to any other impressions.

GEOLOGY

The trail will most times skirt the mountain range and occasionally, it will go through the plain fields along the Guadalquivir River. Therefore, the predominant geological materials are from the Palaeozoic Era: slates, granite batholiths, greywackes, etc.

The trail will wind through the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park at the very first sections of the route. Here, the granite substrate has facilitated the fitting of many water streams and brooks into deep valleys with hills and mountains of massive granite blocks resulting from erosion. Therefore, we will see scattered clusters of 'berrocales' or enormous round granite boulders resulting from physical weathering which broke up the rocks. Once the rock has been broken down into smaller bits and sand are carried by streams and rivers towards the lower areas of the mountains and valleys. Together are areas resulting from contact metamorphism, at and near the contacts between the batholiths and the host rocks such as slates and quartzite rocks. It is at this aureoles where locate the mineral deposits of lead and iron which has been extracted or mined from ancient time.



Granite outcrops are very common along every stage of the route.

THE PLANTS WORLD

Undoubtedly, the main natural feature is the omnipresent Mediterranean forest and shrub, especially Holm Oak wood with shrub comprising all sorts of Rockroses, Tree Mastic and Wild Olive trees among others. The Sierra de Andújar buffer area and nearby Santa Elena village both are mainly covered on large Pine groves resulting from the reforestation which happened in the middle 20th century.

Traditional cattle breeding -especially of bulls for bullfighting- is well settled in large pastures of Holm Oaks and the plain areas surrounding Baños de la Encina and La Carolina towns.

Three good examples of riparian forest locate adjacent to the Arroyo de los Santos Brook on the first stage of the route; the Jándula River on the second stage and the Rio de la Campana River on the last one. All they are supporting an excellent range of riparian forest buffers of Alder trees and Ash-trees.



Desert Truffle (*Terfezia* spp.) and associated Rockrose

THE ANIMAL WORLD

Herpetologists and amateur herpetologist will find a good community of amphibians along the GR-48 Trail through the province of Jaen. The areas covered by the trail are home to many Iberian species such as the Painted Frog, the Southern Marbled Newt and the Western Spadefoot Toad.

Despite a great variety of mammal species in the area, hikers rarely will spot



Long-Tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

any other than Deer which exist in large amounts in the Sierra de Andújar mountain range. The region is home to Foxes, Otters, the Egyptian Mongoose and the Iberian Lynx which is one of the jewels of the Iberian wildlife. However, the Iberian Lynx is confined to the most remote natural sites, especially to those deep granite sites with abundant Mediterranean shrub which is home to rabbits, the Iberian Lynx's ideal food.

Nevertheless, birds will be the most common animal species which can be spotted as the trail winds through special areas for conservation and protection of birds. Big eagles such as the Golden Eagle, Spanish Imperial Eagle and the Bonelli's Eagle are very common in the most abrupt Mediterranean forests of the Sierra Morena de Jaén mountain range. Pine, Cork Oak and Holm Oak groves are home to the Northern Goshawk, the Beudouin's Snake Eagle and the Booted Eagle. Other common species such as the Common Buzzard and the Common Kestrel together with the less common Black-Winged Kite find shelter and food in open areas, plain fields and cultivated fields. Griffon Vultures and Black Vultures have their breeding colonies in the adjacent areas to the Valle del Yeguas Valley and to the Sierra Quintana Mountain Range which are ideal sites for birdwatching all year around.

In addition, patches of Mediterranean undergrowth are home to Moltoni's Warblers, Dartford Warblers, Melodious Warblers, European Turtle-Doves, Red-Legged Partridges, Common Nightingales and Thekla Larks. Then the rocky crests of the hills and mountains are ideal sites for birds such as the Eurasian Crag Martin, the Rock Bunting, the Eurasian Eagle-Owl, the Eastern Black-Eared Wheatear, the Blue Rock-thrush and the above mentioned Bonelli's Eagle and Common Kestrel. Colourful birds can be spotted at Riparian forests such as the Jándula River and river banks which gives shelter to the Kingfisher, the Golden Oriole, the Grey Wagtail and the European Bee-eater together with other bird species such as the Grey Heron, the Little Egret, the Red Junglefowl, the Common Snipe, the Mallard and the Cirl Bunting.

Finally, Hoopoes, Azure-Winged Magpies, Little Owls and European Greenfinches will be a constant companion to hikers when walking through pastures and by Olive groves.



Cattle and herds have left an undeniable footprint on this land

HUMAN FOOTPRINT

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Since the GR-48 Trail uses of many traditional cattle routes and paths, many are the different ethnologic elements that hikers will come across with. Some are closely related to the pilgrimage route to the Santuario de la Virgen de la Cabeza Sanctuary while others resulted from a former mining activity in the region, especially those located near La Carolina town and in Baños de la Encina surrounding area.

Bastions, watch-towers and castles still remain in this region which was border between the Muslim and Christian Kingdoms in the middle ages. Good samples of this legacy are the castles which locate in Baños de la Encina and in Las Navas de Tolosa towns.

Big game hunting and cattle breeding are also left a clear footprint in the region. Large private Country Estates fully devoted to big game hunting of Deer and Wild Boars cover the hills of the Sierra de Andújar mountain range while fighting bulls are bred in the pastures of Jaén where is the main character too. Certainly, hikers will find cattle grazing in the pastures along almost every single stage of the GR-48 Trail through Jaen province.

Finally, mention in here to healing waters which are the source for a large and rich cultural heritage in the region. Especially interesting is the Balneario de Aguas de Marmolejo, a large spa resort very much appreciated by the 'agüistas' (people who believe in the curative powers of mineral waters) because of the Sodium sulphate waters. The remains of a famous spa resort, La Aliseda, will be seen on the last stage of the route. This former spa resort which became very popular among aristocrats at the end of the 19th and the early 20th century has recently been converted into a recreation area where hikers will find a good relief after such an amazing adventure.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

MARMOLEJO



Altitude: 248 m

Population: 7.485 (2010)

Marmolejo is one of the towns and villages of La Campiña region which locates to the west of the Campiña area and at the border with the province of Córdoba. The northern half of this municipality is very mountainous and is fully integrated in the Sierra Morena mountain range while a large section is also part of the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park. On the other hand, the southernmost regions are covered by cultivated fields; mainly Olive groves while some important irrigated crops such as corn, cotton, alfalfa and other horticulture plants are cultivated in the Vega del Guadalquivir plain fields. Livestock is also important; mainly because of a large farm of dairy cattle which is farmed in 'semiestabulación' that is a combination between

open range and indoor farming. So therefore, the main activities are those related to agriculture and livestock together with big game hunting and hospitality to travellers of the nearby Autovía de Andalucía motorway.

The Guadalquivir River flows through the municipality while drawing two massive meanders in a zigzag with three almost plain rounded hills at both sides of the river.

A different landscape can be seen to the north of the Guadalquivir River and very close to it (the area surrounding the Jándula River). Cultivated fields are completely washed out of the landscape and Mediterranean woodland of trees and Rockroses

is the main feature on the ancient rocks that shape this section of the Sierra Morena mountain range. The site is itself a relatively important hillock, especially when seen from the plain areas, which highest peak is the Vértice 'Colodro' (704 m). This rounded hillock which dominates the central area of the municipality is also surrounded by many short and rapid water streams and brooks that flow down on quartzite rocks and slates and through Rockroses patches and pastures. To the northeast and east are the streams that come to water into the Jándula River; to the northwest and west those that water into the Yeguas River and to the south some small tributaries of the Guadalquivir River. Nevertheless, this mountainous landscape was also shaped by some actions of the Plan Jaén Programme. Over five thousand hectares were reforested and Pine trees were planted creating an artificial thick forest with the less number of trees on those steep slopes of the gorges carved on the rock by the streams.

Down in the valley, signs of an excellent economic development are the fertile cultivated fields, permanent water resources, the Madrid-Sevilla Railway and the IV National Primary A-road (aka Autovía de Andalucía Motorway).

Special mention in here to some celebrations and festivals which among others are: on January the 24th, the festival honouring Nuestra Señora de la Paz, saint patron of the town; on May the 27th is Marmolejo Independence Day; the first Sunday of June is the Corpus Christi, a religious celebration from ancient times; and between the 10th and the 15th of August are the celebrations honouring San Julián, the town's saint patron.

Source:

www.marmolejo.org

Town Hall

Plaza de la Constitución
953 540 126

Contemporary Art Museum Mayte Spinola. Youth Centre

C/Armando Palacio Valdés 8
953 540 126 ext. 41

Civil protection Service

Plaza Belén nº 4
953 540 737 / 629 455 497

Local Library

C/ Jesús, 35
953 540 126 ext. 45

Museum of Ethnology

C/ Jesús, 35
953 540 126 ext. 61

Español Theatre and Cinema

C/ Antonio Alcalá
953 540 126 ext. 49

Guardia Civil (National Guard)

Carretera de la Estación S/N
953 517 744

Local Police

630 870 905

EC

112

ER

061

Guardia Civil (National Guard)

062

National Police

091

Medical Centre

C/ Severo Ochoa

How to get here

- Estación de Autobuses
C/ General Brenan, s/n
- Bus Ramírez (Andújar-Córdoba route with one stop in Marmolejo town)
957 422 177 / 953 752 157
- Ureña (Andújar-Marmolejo)
953 220 116
- Taxi
953 540 132

ANDÚJAR



Altitude: 212 m

Population: 39.171 (2010)

Andújar locates at the Guadalquivir Basin, by the river and near the Autovía de Andalucía Motorway. A peculiarity about this municipality is its size as it is the tenth bigger in Spain. The natural environment comprises a large section of Sierra Morena mountain range, the lands along the Guadalquivir River and the 'campiña' (cultivated countryside) of Olive groves. In addition, a 60% of the municipal district is a protected natural site.

The municipality locates in the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park. The park stretches 74,774 hectares having its highest point in Sierra Quintana mountain range at 1,291 metres above the sea level and the lowest at just 196 metres. Within the limits of the park also locate Baños de la Encina, Marmolejo and Villanueva de la Reina municipalities. The most interesting and attractive feature is the animal world. Certainly, Sierra de Andújar mountain range is home to many species which have become critically endangered while having their population dramatically reduced in the last years. Some of those endangered species are the Iberian

Lynx, the Wolf, the Black Vulture and the Spanish Imperial Eagle.

However, big game hunting of Deer, Fallow Deer and Wild boar is so far the main natural resource in this mountain range. An adequate management and exploitation of this natural resource have proved to be paramount when working on the conservation of other species and habitats.

In the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park can be also found the wider patches of wild vegetation in Sierra Morena mountain range. Mediterranean forests comprising Holm Oaks, Cork Oaks and Portuguese Oaks together with Stone Pine reforested areas are the main woodland. Mediterranean scrub comprises different Rockroses and Broom species harmoniously interlocking with Wild Olive trees, Strawberry trees, Terebinth trees, Mastic trees, Kermes Oaks, Tree Germanders and a great range of aromatic herbs and plants such as Rosemary, Lavender, Wild Marjoram (Oregano), Thyme, etc.

Best Riparian forests within the park

are those along the Jándula River and the Yeguas River although good samples of riparian vegetation (Ash-trees, Alder trees, Oleanders, Elaeagnus Willows) can be also be found in ravines and along other smaller streams.

Finally, there are different recreation areas and campsites as well as picnic areas in the park which are managed by the Consejería de Medio Ambiente de Andalucía (Andalucía Environmental Agency). Any information about uses of those public utilities can be found in:

Viñas de Peñallana Visitors Centre

Ctra. J-6177, Km 13 (Andújar – Santuario Road). 953 549 030

Cercado del Ciprés

Sierra de Andújar Natural Park Information Office.

Parque Forestal Cercado del Ciprés

Camino de Los Rubiales s/n. Andújar 953 539 620

Picnic sites

Lugar Nuevo, El Encinarejo, La Recta, Jándula, El Jabalí, Entorno del Santuario and Selladores.

To visit:

‘Cercado del Ciprés’, Leisure Activities and Environmental Education

Olive oil and honey from Andújar and from the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park are very famous nationwide. Olive oil is a key product in Jaén province becoming the base for the economy and society in the region. Honey together with big game hunting is one of the most important natural resources in the region since Andújar is the second best producer of honey in Andalucía.

And for the local celebrations and festivals, the most important is the Romería de Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza (pilgrimage up to the Sanctuary of the Virgen de la Cabeza) which takes

place the last Sunday of April. This traditional pilgrimage is considered to be the oldest romería in Spain and of national tourist interest. The other important celebration is the Feria de Septiembre (local fest) which is held between the 7th and the 12th of the month. In addition, some neighbourhoods hold their own and very local celebrations being the most famous the Verbena de San Eufasio (on May the 15th) honouring the saint patron of both the town and the Diocese of Jaén. The Fiesta de la Aparición de la Virgen de la Cabeza (August 11th-12th) is another popular and traditional celebration.

Source: www.andujar.es

Town Hall

Plaza de España, 1. 953 508 200

Local Police

Plaza de España, 1
953 525 019 / 953 508 201

Tourist Information Office

“Torre del Reloj”
Plaza de Santa María, s/n.
953 504 959

ER phone number 112

National Police

953 515 260

Guardia Civil (National Guard)

953 512 176

Hospital

953 021 400

Medical Centre Andújar A

953 539 416

Medical Centre Andújar B

953 539 458

Civil Protection

Edificio Estación Autobuses
953 512840

Fire Brigade

Santa Úrsula. 953 515050

Antonio González Orea Museum of Plastic Art

C/ Calancha, s/n. Antiguo Convento de Capuchinas

953 505 903 / 953 510 231

Profesor Sotomayor Archaeology Museum

C/ Maestra, s/n

Palacio de los Niños de Don Gome

953 513 178 / 953 500 603

Hnos. Del Val Antique Car Museum

C/ Del Val, 2 (Junto al Hotel del Val, inicio de la Ctra. Del Santuario).

Necesaria cita previa. 953 506 100

How to get here

- Train Information: 902 240 202
- Local Bus (Mornings, every 15 minutos; Saturdays and evenings, every 30 minutes)

Andújar: 953 513 072

Jaén: 953 250 106

- Taxi

Station Plaza del Castillo

953 501 009

Station at Sector Sevilla 953 504 080

Station at 22 de julio Street 953 501 010

VILLANUEVA DE LA REINA



Altitude: 221 m

Population: 3.403 (2010)

Villanueva de la Reina locates to the northeast most and in the Campiña region, a privileged natural region by the Guadalquivir River. The town is some 42 kilometres from Jaén capital city and equally close to the province of Córdoba. It stretches the central area of the river (some 207, 12 square meters) which is from the valley by the river to the northern region of Sierra Morena mountain range. We will get there by following the A-4 Motorway and by the JA-3409, JA-3413, JA-3412 and JA-3410 roads.

The municipality has borders with Baños de la Encina, Bailén, Espeluy, Cazalilla, Fuerte del Rey, La Higuera and Andújar municipalities.

The municipal district together with Marmolejo, Andújar y Baños de la Encina municipalities stretches a large region within the limits of the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park. The park is located to the northeast of the province and at the heart of Sierra Morena mountain range. The area surrounding the town is flat since is really near

to the Guadalquivir River and in the valley with rich Riparian forests and vegetation. However, the northern region is very mountainous with great geomorphologic variations in shape and high. Thick and healthy Mediterranean forests of Holm Oaks, Portuguese Oak, Oak trees, Pine groves and scrub comprising Rockroses, Terebinth trees, Mastic trees, False Olive trees, Strawberry trees, Lavender, and Rosemary shrubs cover the mountains and hills. The region is also home to many animal species such the Iberian Lynx together with Deer, Fallow Deer, Wild Boars, Mouflons, the Egyptian Mongoose, Wolves and birds of prey such the Griffon and Black Vultures. The never ending Olive groves in the campiña region are home to insectivorous birds and other birds such Partridges, Turtle-Doves, Common Quails and Common Wood-Pigeons. Together with birds are some important mammals such Rabbits, Hares and Badgers. Finally, the southern area is very dry with scarce vegetation.

The main activity is agriculture of Olive groves since the fertile plain fields appear to be ideal for this crop. Other important agribusinesses are the production of asparagus and other horticultural products. Many farmers have recently begun to diversify into other forms of agriculture, especially indoor farming of asparagus which has turned to be a main exported product. In addition, farming is fairly complemented by other industry such textile and carpentry.

A natural site known as 'El Batanejo' locates near to the Guadalquivir River. The site which is covered by

a large number of Eucalyptus trees, is well equipped for picnics and other leisure activities since this is the area where is held a traditional pilgrimage, the Romería de Santa Potenciana, on the first Friday of May. The remains of a former 'batán' -a fulling mill- which used the water force of the Guadalquivir River to produce the movement of the loom. In the fulling mill, machinery was operated by cams on the shaft of the waterwheel and the cloth was beaten with wooden hammers in order to eliminate oils, dirt, and other impurities, and making it thicker.

Source: www.vreina.com

Town Hall

Plaza de Andalucía, 1
953 537 110 / 953 537 502
953 537 086

Local Police

Plaza de Andalucía, 1
679 489 805

Medical Centre

C/ Real
953 537 079
959710252

How to get here

Bus Ctra. Espeluy. Transportes Ureña, 953 220 116 (Jaén).

BAILÉN



Altitud: 348 m

Population: 18.763 (2010)

Bailén town locates in the north-westernmost corner of the province and at one of the busier hubs in what is known as La Puerta de Andalucía (The Gateway to Andalucía) which facilitates accessing to the town. The municipal district stretches some 118 square meters.

Visit Bailén is to go back 200 years in time. The town keeps the secrets of one of the most important battles that took place in Spain: La Batalla de Bailén (1808). The battle was the first major defeat of Napoleon's Grande Armée. Certainly, this first check to the hitherto unbeatable Imperial armies became a crucial event in the history of the municipality. Two interesting hiking routes through the municipality pass through and by most important sites where the battle took place: the Ruta de los Castillos y las Batallas and the Ruta del Legado Andalusi.

The nearby Dehesa de Burguillos is the ideal natural site where to spend a day out while breathing the purest fresh air. The site which is some 5.5 kilometers to the north of the town is a country estate managed by the municipal council. This pastureland used to be fully devoted to cattle breeding in the past although it has

been converted into a leisure area which is well equipped for outdoor activities. Six waymarked short distance routes have been designed for a better understanding and enjoyment of the natural features in the site.

However, if what we are looking for is tradition and cultural heritage, we should visit the town in July (17th to 22nd) when is held the Fiestas Conmemorativas de la Batalla de Bailén (Commemoration of the Battle of Bailén) which are classified as National Tourist Interest, an honorary title given to festivals or events taking place in Andalucía. Other interesting festivals and events are: on August the 5th, Festivals Honouring Nuestra Señora de Zocueca, saint patron of Bailén; and the last Sunday of September when is a pilgrimage to the Santuario del Rumbiar, a sanctuary which is located in Zocueca, a nearby small village.

Local development and tradition come together in Bailén when talking about three natural resources: olive fruit, grapes and clay. Accumulated traditional wisdom around craft production and trade has been passed along to current generations and now we can enjoy those excellent products in many ways.

For instance, ceramic industry has become the base for the local economy. The olive tree has deep roots here, where popular culture and art have for centuries revolved around the precious golden-green oil extracted from the unassuming fruits. The entire province of Jaén has the highest rate of olive production in the world and Bailén's production of Picual olive oil (the most important olive variety) has been awarded as Denominación 'Alimentos de Andalucía'. In addition, Bailén is one of the fewer towns and villages in Jaén province where we will find vineyards. In this case, wine is obtained from processing a local grape variety known as 'la molinera' grape.

Source: www.ayto-bailen.com

Town Hall

Plaza de la Constitución 1
953678540

Local Police

953 673 702
policia@ayto-bailen.com

Battle of Bailén Interpretative Centre

C/ Pérez Galdós, 19
953 678 394
turismo@ayto-bailen.com

How to get here

- Samar 953 67 00 72 Avda. del Parador, s/n.

BAÑOS DE LA ENCINA



Altitude: 450 m

Population: 2.733 (2010)

Beneath the Bury Al-Hamma Castle stretches this stately village which played a most important role when defending the site from the attacks of the Christian advance patrols in the medieval time. Today, the architectural and cultural heritage together with the excellent natural resources in the municipality is well cared and managed.

Baños de la Encina town is located to the southern foothills of Sierra Morena mountain range. Access to

the town is easy from the Autovía de Andalucía motorway. Population is settled either in the town or in El Centenillo small village, a nearby former mining site. Other small villages and settlements existed in the past although they are virtually abandoned and deserted today.

The municipality comprises two well different natural regions which are predominantly covered by pastures and meadows, a stripe of Olive groves to the southeast of the town and some

isolated patches of cereal fields. The southern region is in the valley and where the town locates. This is a region of rolling landscape with soft slopes. The northern region which is also the border to Ciudad Real province (Castilla-La Mancha region) is a more abrupt area where locate some of the mining sites that have shaped the history of this municipality. The western half stretches the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park where locate the higher mountains, some of them raising over 1000 meters such the Cerro de los Caballeros (1093 m). Other high mountains are Selladores (968 m), Peñón Jurado (932 m), Alarcones (762 m) and Moro (677 m).

Evidence of prehistoric human settlements (100000 to 30000 BC) has been discovered in the river terraces of the Rumbler River. Transition from the Neolithic Age to the Metal Age is well documented because of the many cave paintings discovered in the small caves and cracks in the northern mountains. At the middle section of the Rumbler River have been discovered the larger number of archaeological features from El Argar culture (Bronze Age) although there are also some good samples of the cultural and social development of other cultures such Iberian and ancient Roman. Agriculture developed strongly in the middle ages thanks to the Islamic occupation of the municipality. A thoughtful network of water channels, ditches and water wells was designed in order to water the many gardens and plots which surrounded the town. Therefore a growing economy based on irrigated agriculture flourished.

From 1969, the town is granted Conjunto Histórico-Artístico (National Historical and Cultural Assets) and also classified as Bien de Interés Cultural (Cultural Property) by the Junta de Andalucía (Andalusian Govern-

ment). In Baños de la Encina visitors will discover many interesting cultural features; some of them are registered in the Catálogo General del Patrimonio Artístico Andaluz (Andalusian Historical Heritage General Catalogue). In addition, many are the archaeological sites in the municipality which are recorded in the national catalogue. Finally, both the town and the municipality are part of different interesting walking routes such the Ruta de los Castillos y las Batallas (Route of the Castles and Battles), Ruta del Renacimiento (Renaissance Route) and the Rutas del Legado Andalusi (Routes of Al-Andalus Legacy).

Source: www.bdelaencina.com

Town Hall

Plaza de la Constitución, 1
953 613 004

Local Police

Plaza de la Constitución, 1
953 613 004

National Civil Guard

Avda. de la Picoza, 5. 953614002

Medical Centre

Consultorio, s/n
953 609 881

Bury Al-Hammam Castle

953 613 229 / 651 436 478
infoturismobdelaencina@yahoo.es

Museum of the Territory

630 921 531
torreon.reuerdo@hotmail.com

Tourist Information Office

C/ Callejón del Castillo, 1
953 613 229 / 651 436 478

How to get here

- Bus Station
Avda. José Luis Messías, s/n
953 693 607
- Taxi (Pedro Ramos)
C/ La Serna, 1
629 493 013

GUARROMÁN



Altitude: 345 m

Population: 2.909 (2010)

Guarromán locates at the Autovía de Andalucía Motorway (former National IV) and half way from both Madrid and Seville. The municipal district stretches the central area of the Norte de Jaén region which is to the south of Sierra Morena mountain range and between the Sierra de Andújar and the Despeñaperros Natural Parks, both of a great biodiversity and excellent samples of the Mediterranean forest. Some 30 kilometers to the east locate Úbeda, Baeza and Sabiote monumental towns which form the so-called Triángulo del Renacimiento Andaluz (Andalusian Renaissance Triangle).

Guarromán origins are back to the 18th century when many towns resulted from the Nuevas Poblaciones de Sierra Morena Programme, an Enlightenment project started in 1767 by Pablo de Olavide (Spanish Quartermaster to Carlos III King). Fruit of this peculiar colonization of the region is the central-European heritage in the municipality where still prevail many of the first settlers' German names and surnames. In addition, many traditional meals and deserts come from that period such Guarroman's

famous cakes known as 'los rubios' (the blondies), 'los alemanes' (the Germans) and the nationwide celebrated Guarroman's puff pastry cake. Pipirrana de pintahuevos is also a very famous traditional local dish with vegetables and eggs which is the main meal at the picnic that takes place on Easter Sunday.

Local festivals and celebrations are all year around in Guarromán town. The most celebrated are: Romería de San Isidro, a pilgrimage to Dehesa de Piedra Rodadera, a beautiful Holm Oak pasture nearby the Guadiél River (on Sunday and by the 15th of May); Pintahuevos Festival (June the 24th, celebration of Saint John); Corazón de Jesús Festival honouring the town's saint patron (off to Corpus Christi Day); El Día de La Pura Celebration honouring the Immaculate Conception of Mary, saint patron of the town (December the 8th); Fiestas del Olivar (Olive Groves Festival in July); San Antón Celebrations (January the 17th); and Fiestas de los Colonos y Fiestas de las Aldeas (The Settlers and the Villages Festival) which takes place on Sunday before October the 26th.

Source:

www.guarroman.net

Town Hall

C/ Iglesia, 18
953 615 004

Local police

C/ Iglesia, 18
953 615 004

Magistrates' Court

C/ Iglesia, 18
953 615 177

How to get here

- Bus
La Sepulvedana
953 615 284
Travimeta
953 657 762 / 953 657 802
- Taxi
Pedro Sánchez
953 616 167

CARBONEROS

Altitude: 403 m

Population: 670 (2010)

Three small villages (La Mesa, El Acebuchar and Los Cuellos –currently abandoned) give shape to this small municipality which locates to the southernmost slopes of the northern Sierra Morena de Jaén mountain range and by the Auto-*vía* de Andalucía Motorway.

The village is one of the five towns and villages resulting from the Nuevas Poblaciones de Sierra Morena Programme in Jaén province. As it happens in the nearby Guarromán, cultural heritage and gastronomy are deeply rooted in the first settlers' culture. Many citizens still have their German surnames and Pintahuevos, one of the most ancient central-European traditions, still is hold in this village.

Olive groves management and culture is the base of the economy which is also strongly complemented with related jobs in the nearby town La Carolina.

Landscape features large grassland and meadows with fewer trees which is mainly devoted to provide for livestock farming in open range and small game hunting. Best sample of Mediterranean forest and pasture can be seen near La Fernandina Dam where the large number of Holm Oaks benefices extensive livestock farming in the area. Slates are the most interesting geological feature in the municipality, thus.

The most significant landmark in Carboneros is La Inmaculada Concepción Church from the second

half of the 18th century. The most interesting architectural element of this neoclassical building is the large semicircular facade composing a tiny square in front of the church.

Carboneros most remarkable festivals are: festivals Honouring Inmaculada Concepción, Saint Patron of the village (December 7-9); Fundación Festivals are held at the beginning of August; San Isidro Pilgrimage is the weekend around the 15th of May and on Easter Sunday, the Pintahuevos Festival.

Source: www.carboneros.es

Town Hall

Plaza de la Constitución, 21
953 661 179 / 953 661 104

Medical Centre

Barrionuevo, 18
953 609 713

Magistrates' Court

Plaza de la Constitución, 21
953 661 179

LA CAROLINA



Altitude: 595 m

Population: 15.901 (2010)

La Carolina municipality stretches 270 km² at the heart of Sierra Morena mountain range to the north of Jaén province. The municipal district has boundaries with El Viso del Marqués in Ciudad Real province (Castilla-La Mancha region) and it surrounded by other municipalities in Jaén province: Santa Elena to the northeast; Vilches to the southeast; Carboneros to the south and Baños de la Encina to the west. La Carolina town occupies a strategic location near one of the most important communication hubs at the

Autovía de Andalucía Highway and the A-4 motorway and it is just 67 kilometres far from Jaén city and some 270 kilometres from Madrid capital city.

Many archaeological sites locate in the municipality, the most remarkable are: La Calera (Middle Stone Age, Copper and Bronze Ages) El Minado, El Ocho, Cortijo de Amalia, etc. There are also some interesting representations of Post-Paleolithic Cave Art (Schematic Style) in Doña Dama, El Puntal and El Guindo sites.

From the Roman period remain some mine sites such as Fuente Spis and El Guindo.

However, the historical event which has marked the cultural heritage of this town was Las Navas de Tolosa Battle (July the 16th, 1212). The Almohads army was severely defeated by the Christians causing years later the Almohad Empire disintegrated. The battle was fought not so far from the town and near Miranda del Rey village. Just some vestiges of the main tower remains of Las Navas de Tolosa Castle which located in the town and that is easily seen from the GR-48 trail at the last stage of the route.

Traditionally, the municipality has been closely related to mining activities and many features of the cultural heritage which locate near the town come from that mining past. The list of former mines and mining sites in this municipality is endless; just mentioning in here some interesting sites like El Guindo, La Manzana, La Urbana, El Manto, La Española, El Rafaelito, Sinapismo, Makrina, El Castillo, La Rosa and La Aquisgrana. In addition, there is a recreational area which includes some mining sites near La Campana River and no far from both the demolished Las Navas de Tolosa Castle and the town.

And for festivals and celebrations, the most interesting events

are: La Feria, by the 13th of May; Fundacion Festivals, the 15th of July; and festivals Honouring John of the Cross, Saint Patron of the town.

Source: www.lacarolina.es
www.pueblos-espana.org

Town Hall

953 660 034

ER Phone Number

061

Medical Centre (Emergency line)

953 661 150

Medical Centre

953 661 076

EC

112

Local police

953 660 034

National Guard

953 660 293

Fire Brigade

953 024 200

Civil protection

953 682 222

How to get here

• Taxi

953 660 327

• Autobuses Sepulvedana

953 660 335

SANTA ELENA



Altitude: 742 m

Population: 1.007 (2010)

Santa Elena locates at the northernmost region in Jaen having boundary to the north with Ciudad Real province (Castilla-La Mancha region). The municipality is called La Puerta de Andalucía (Gateway to Andalucía) since this is the first municipality when entering Andalucía region from the north and after crossing Despeñaperros Mountain Pass. Despeñaperros Natural Park stretches across the northern region, an area of breathtaking landscape and home to many protected animal and plants species.

Like many other towns and villages in the region, Santa Elena was built from scratch when the colonizing project Nuevas Poblaciones de Sierra Morena was commissioned to Pablo de Olavide, an enlightened advisor to King Carlos III. The urban planning reproduced the costume of the time, streets that cross at perpendicular angles and give way to symmetrical town blocks that extend to both sides of the main throughway. Sierra Morena former throughway run along Santa Elena and caused a larger urban plant comparing with other villages and towns of the project.

Agriculture is not really relevant in Santa Elena municipality and only 1% of the land surface is farming oriented. The forest-based economy encompasses forestry, hunting, mushrooms collection, and cattle breeding. However, hospitality has become a main source for economic growth due to the strategic location by the Autovía de Andalucía Highway and the inherent cultural and environmental values of Despeñaperros Natural Park which visit is largely demanded by schools and education centres from within and outside the region.

Despeñaperros Natural Park boasts beautiful natural sites and we would like to mention in here just some of the most attractive.

- Los Órganos: one of the most breathtaking sites of Despeñaperros Gorge which is also classified as Natural Monument in Andalucía.
- Abrigo de los Órganos: the most remarkable Cave paintings in the area. From here, we will have an astonishing view of the tree mass that is the Natural Park

with reforested Pine groves and the Underwood beneath comprising Cork Oaks, Portuguese Oaks, Holm Oaks and Strawberry trees.

- El Empedraíllo: a section of a Roman path that connected Cástulo (Linares), El Centenillo Galena Mine and Toledo city.

- Quejigal del Collado de los Jardines: a most outstanding natural site which boasts some of the best preserved plant species in the region such Portuguese Oaks, Cork Oaks, Mapple trees and other plants of wet Mediterranean forest. The site is also home to some of the most endangered animal species such the Wolf, the Iberian Lynx, the Otter, the Spanish Imperial Eagle, the Golden Eagle and the Northern Goshawk.

Despeñaperros Mountains and hills are nationwide recognized mushrooms areas. Many people travel to the region in autumn in the search for collecting mushrooms, especially the Saffron Milk Cap. Despeñaperros Natural Park Mycological Congress is held every year in November which gathers many international and national experts and mushrooms lovers.

Santa Elena most celebrated festivals are: Festivals Honouring Santa Elena, Saint Patron of the village (August the 18th). As it happens in other towns and villages of the Nuevas Poblaciones project, some festivals are marked by central European tradition and custom. That is the case of 'Rolahuevos' Celebration held on Easter Sunday. Other festivals are: San Antón Festivals in January and San Isidro Pilgrimage (May the 15th).

Source: www.santaelena.es

Town Hall

Plaza de la Constitución, 1
953 664 010

National Guard

Dr. Pérez Negro, 10
953 664 004 – 062

Local police

Plaza de la Constitución, 1
953 664 010

Medical centre

Avda. Andalucía, 43
953 664 146

Tourist Information Office

Oficina de Turismo Abades Puerta de Andalucía. Autovía A-4, Madrid - Cádiz, km. 262. Telf 953 66 43 58

Visitors Centre Puerta de Andalucía

Autovía A4, salida 257
953 664 307

La Batalla de las Navas de Tolosa Museum

Autovía A4 salida 257 a Ctra. Miranda del Rey, Km 0,2
953 664178

Despeñaperros Natural Park Interpretation Centre

Autovía A4 salida 250 a Ctra. Aldequemada, Km. 6,30 "Collado de los Jardines"

ALDEAQUEMADA



Altitude: 696 m

Population: 541 (2010)

Aldeaquemada municipality locates on the plateau that stretches across the southern area of the Hesperic Massif. The geology predominantly comprises slates and quartzite rocks from the Palaeozoic period.

Aldeaquemada village is one of the villages and towns which were built in the region according to the Nuevas Poblaciones de Sierra Morena colonizing project which took place under the reign of King Carlos III causing the characteristic urban plant of the village. Some citizens' surnames refer to those central-European first settlers, thus.

The topography of the municipal district establishes two clearly different areas. To the north, a gentle landscape comprising passable hills of 7 to 15% positive slope. In contrast, the southern region is shaped by gorges and ravines between hills and mountain ranges, some of them of over 30% positive slope.

Waterfalls along the Guarrizas River result from the different resistan-

ce of the river bed rocks together with some steep slopes resulting from the many faults. Especially remarkable is the 40 meters high La Cimbarra Waterfall which locates to the south and just 2 kilometres from the village. This beautiful natural feature is also classified as Paraje Natural (Natural Site of Special Value)

Aldeaquemada municipality displays a large array of lush vegetation within different environmental zones resulting from the interaction of topographic and edaphic factors, the peculiar weather conditions and human action. Stretching across the northern and central areas we will see some of the best preserved Mediterranean forests of Holm Oaks and Cork Oaks together with dense undergrowth comprising Strawberry trees, Wild Pear trees, False Olive trees, Rockroses and Rosemary shrubs. Reforested Pine groves and Black Pine groves locate to the southeast while the central area surrounding the village is totally occupied by Olive groves and some cereal fields. In addition, well preserved beautiful

Riparian forests grow on the river banks and river shores of many water streams. Perhaps, the most remarkable forests are those along the Guarrizas River.

And for the animal world, the municipality is home to many mammals which can be seen in other regions of Sierra Morena mountain range. The most emblematic animal species are the Rabbit, the Hare, the Deer and the Wild Boar together with some predators such the Fox and the Genet. Traditionally, hunting activity has reported great benefits to the local economy being big game hunting of Deer the most popular.

However, as in most wild areas the bird community is the larger in number of species and we could easily spot small birds such the Eurasian Crag Martin, the Blackcap Warbler and the Common Nightingale but also some of the most endangered birds such the Spanish Imperial Eagle, the Griffon Vulture, the Bonelli's Eagle and the Eurasian Eagle-Owl.

The aquatic wild life is also rich and varied. There exist up to four autochthonous fish species: the Barbel, the Iberian Nase, the Iberian-Roach and the Iberian-Chub. But rivers are also home to animal species other than fish like Otters and Newts which can be seen at the river banks and plain fields along the Arroyo de la Cueva Brook.

Finally, mention in here some of the most popular celebrations and festivals boasted in Aldeaquema all year around. Festivals honouring San Antón; La Candelaria Celebration; La Cuca on Easter Sunday; Festivals honouring San

marcos (April the 25th); Food festival in May; Veraneante Festivals (aka Sanmiguelillo Festivals); and the Patron Festival Honouring San Miguel (September 29th).

En cuanto a fiestas y tradiciones populares, Aldeaquema se caracteriza por la Fiesta de San Antón, la Candelaria, La Cuca (Domingo de Resurrección), San Marcos (25 de abril), las Jornadas Gastronómicas en mayo, Fiestas del Veraneante (o El Sanmiguelillo) y Fiestas Patronales de San Miguel (29 de septiembre).

Source: www.aldeaquema.com

Town Hall

Plaza de la Constitución, 8
953 669 003/42

National Guard

Avda. de Andalucía, 75
953 669 009

Medical centre

C/ Antonio Machado, 1
953 669 177

Pharmacy

Ldo. Angel Luis Barrionuevo Funes
C/ Concordia, 36. 953 669 010

Post Office

C/ Federico García Lorca, 18
953 669 035

How to get here

Autobuses Travimeta
953 657 802



GR-48.

**SIERRA MORENA TRAIL:
PROVINCE OF JAÉN**

34

GR-48 Jaén

STAGE 1:

MARMOLEJO/ VIRGEN DE LA CABEZA



This first stage of the GR-48 trail through the province of Jaén starts off at Marmolejo town and finished at the Virgen de la Cabeza Sanctuary. The trail matches the traditional path which is used throughout the year by the pilgrims and especially the last Sunday of April when is the celebration at the Cabezo Hill where the sanctuary locates.

The trail starts climbing up the hills from the very first section of the stage. The reward for such climbing is the astonishing view of the foothills and the Yeguas River valley which is the natural border between Córdoba and Jaén provinces.

Remember that at this very beginning of the route we will be entering the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park which is a natural region of

great ecological value and home to many endangered animal species. We must be very respectful with this delicate natural site.

We will have an excellent view of the landscape and natural features in this section of Sierra Morena mountain range from both Las Majadillas natural viewpoint and from Navalasno farmhouse. We will see many deep valleys with hills covered by Holm Oaks and Rockroses patches resulting from the strong action of the water streams and brooks on the granite bedrock.

This will be a most beautiful and rewarding stage of the GR-48 route although it is one of the most challenging because of the distance (over 30 kilometres) and the difference between positive and negative accumulative slope (over 300

metres). Nevertheless, hikers will not forget this beautiful climbing

up towards because of the natural beauty in the area.



Start: Marmolejo Town
Finish: Virgen de la Cabeza Sanctuary (Andújar)
Distance: 32 Km
Time: 12 horas

Suitability:



MIDE evaluation:



Environment:

Severity of the natural environment

2



Track Features:

Difficulty in following the track

2



Orientation:

Guidance on the route directions

3



Struggle:

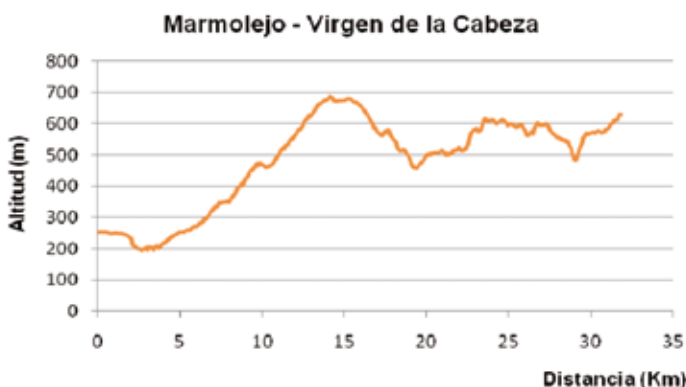
Struggle required for accomplishing the route

5

* Suitability: Walking, horse riding and mountain biking

This ascending section of the route is really hard and only suitable for very fit bikers.

The Autovía de Andalucía (E-05) Motorway connects to the J-5001 Primary-A road which passes through many natural sites of the mountain range by means of using any of the forest tracks that crosses through the natural park. Between the 16.5 kilometre (natural border of the park) and the 32.2 kilometre vehicles are not allowed and must be left at any of those mentioned kilometre marks.



ROUTE GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This stage of the route starts at the Plaza del Ayuntamiento Square in Marmolejo. From here, go into Francisco Calero Herrero Street and towards Iglesia de Jesús. Bend to the left at the cross with Jesús Street and towards the Balneario de Marmolejo Spa. We will leave the town at Calvario Street to connect to the A-420 road that leads to the Guadalquivir River. Marmolejo's impressive Spa will remain to the right before crossing over the Renaissance Bridge.



Stone made water trough at the beginning of the stage.

••• 2.75 km Renaissance Bridge at Marmolejo

Following the A-420 road and after crossing the Renaissance Bridge, the trail matches the forest track to the right which continues parallel to the river while climbing up towards La Aliseda and La Centenera country

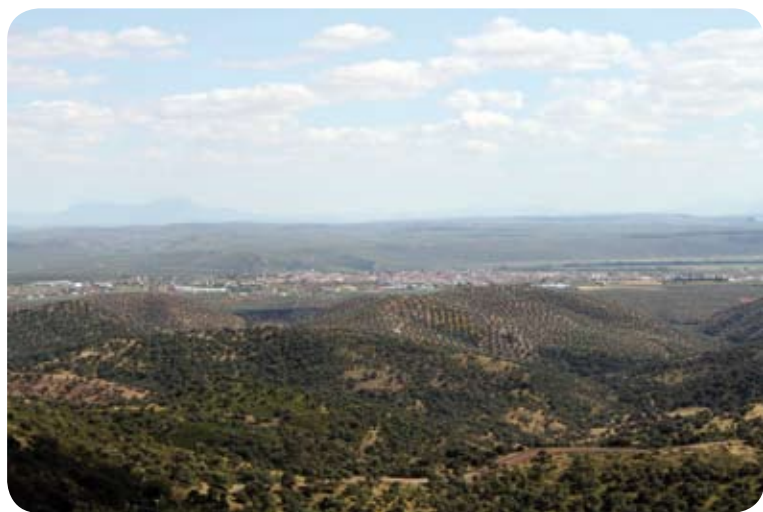
estates (J-5001 country road). Some water sources and springs flow out from the limy slopes where there are many ferns such the Maidenhair Fern, very common by water springs.

The trail splits into two near the electricity power plant. Ignore the track that runs by the Guadalquivir River and that is known as Sendero de la Ribera del Guadalquivir Path and continue walking onto the country road and towards La Aliseda Country Estate. From this point onwards, the trail skirts through the foothills while climbing up towards the highest slopes at La Centenera Country Estate.

As the trail starts ascending, slate rocks will replace the red sandstone and the scattering Olive groves and garden plots which can be seen on both sides of the trail will be replaced by pastures of young Holm Oaks. The countryside road will become a path by the shepherds' house of El Baldío Country Estate to the right and Valdeleches Country Estate to the left.

••• Km 9.6 Mirador de las Mijadillas Viewpoint

At this point, we have already hiked some 9.5 kilometres from Marmolejo town although almost 23 kilometres remain before coming to the Sanctuary. This natural viewpoint locates half way before reaching the top of the hill. From here, we will have an astonishing panoramic view of the southern region where Rockrose bushes and Holm Oak trees stretch



Panoramic view from the Mirador de las Mijadillas natural viewpoint.

across and to the Guadalquivir River valley. Some whitewashed villages and towns such Arjona, Arjonilla and Porcuna locate far away together with some irrigated fields near Marmolejo and Andújar towns. Finally, the horizon line is shaped by the silhouette of the Béticas mountain range,

the Peñón de Martos Rock, Jabalcuz and Sierra Mágina foothills.

The Mirador de las Mijadillas viewpoint locates in an area of granite bedrock. The natural erosion on the slope causes the bedrock being broken into large granite boulders.

On leaving behind the viewpoint, the trail winds through some reforested groves of Stone Pine trees and Eucalyptus trees which have replaced the mass of Mediterranean undergrowth and forest. At one twist of the trail, we will go across a bridge over a small brook. This is a good site where to stop and contemplate the slate rocks on the borders. Those are known as 'mosqueadas' because of the dark inlays on the rock surface resulting from contact (thermal) metamorphism which means that we are walking on the strip between the contact area (slates) and the unmetamorphosed country rock (granite rock).

The trail continues climbing up to the top of the hill. The reward for such steep climbing will be the view from one of the highest areas which is near the main access to Los Valles County Estate. From here we will enjoy the breathtaking view to the west of the Yeguas River valley. This natural site is at the time a natural border between Córdoba and Jaén provinces and where the river is tamed into the Yeguas Reservoir.



The reward after such steep climbing is an impressive panoramic view.

Espinola Country Estate where we will turn left and towards La Aliseda Country Estate. The trail will continue ahead and through reforested Pine groves which appear to eclipse a pasture where we may find the precious Saffron Mil Cap mushroom in autumn.

... Km. 16,5. Cancela de entrada al Parque Natural



Gate to Sierra de Andújar Natural Park

One kilometre after passing the junction at La Centenera the trail will come at the gate to the Natural Park. Only Authorized vehicles are allowed from this point onwards. We will enter the park through the access to the left of the gate to get back to the path which makes a sharp turn to the right just opposite to the rangers' station while starting climbing down through a steep gully known as La Fuente de la Perdíz.

As the trail climbs down, typical Mediterranean shady vegetation as Heath Trees, Tupertine Trees and Portuguese Oaks start covering the slopes while having to the right the Espinarejo ravine and La Parra hill. We will see to the north the steep foothills of Valquemado gorge which locates at the Yeguas River valley and even, in clear sunny day, we will spot in the far away distance the Sierra Madrona mountain range which is the border with Ciudad Real province in Castilla-La Mancha region.



Jándula River valley and Cerro del Cabezo Hill in the background

The path continues climbing down and through Holm Oaks and Cork Oaks pastures with some impressive Iberian Wild Pear trees which grow by the streams' fords. To the right, the steep and abrupt valley carved by the Arroyo Valdepeñoso Brook which waters into the Jándula River –at the very far away background- and the exceptionally well preserved Mediterranean forest covering the steep and beautiful hillslopes. At the very far away background are both the Cerro del Cabezo Hill and the Virgen de la Cabeza Sanctuary atop the hill.

••• Km 19.8 Cancela Cable del Espinarejo Gate

At the end of the steep climbing down, the trail comes into a natural site shaped by reforested Pine groves. Ignore any other paths and tracks and continue ahead and until a gate with two granite pillars and a thick wire which is blocking the path. On having crossed the gate, the path splits into two. Ignore the path to the right which is used by pilgrims' authorized vehicles and carts and continue walking onto the path to the left which is the one for hikers and pilgrims who walk up to the Sanctuary.

Pine groves bring a taste of forest to the site where we may spot some Deer and perhaps birds such the Eurasian Jay and the Great Spotted Woodpecker which may be singing on the treetops.

On having come to the junction at the path, we will need to pay attention



Waymarking signs at the vía pecuaria junction

to the waymarking signs in there. Ignore the path that climbs down and continue walking onto the path that heads up. Some two hundred meters after, we will eventually leave the path to continue walking onto another path which is a former cattle route (vía pecuaria) that leads to the Sanctuary. This waymarked path is suitable for walking, horse riding and biking although bikers may struggle when negotiating some steep slopes.

Soon after, we will come to a green country gate which is blocking the path and that must remain closed behind us. The path becomes rocky while fitting in a small yet hard ditch running down. Pine groves have been fully replaced by Rockrose bushes and scrub.

On having come to the top of the hill, the path connects to another path and the path's surface becomes smoother. The path climbs up slightly and towards a natural viewpoint from where we will enjoy the panoramic view of the Valle de la Cabrera valley and the Navallasno Nuevo County Estate, both located to the west. The silhouette of the Sanctuary atop the Cerro del Cabezo hill which locates to east appears to be closer to us.

••• Km 24.2 Navallasno Nuevo County Estate

On reaching the top of the hill, the path flattens and winds through an area where noble Mediterranean undergrowth thickens with many samples of Strawberry Trees, Junipers and Laurustinus shrub. Tracks of Deer and other mammals suck Foxes and Egyptian Mongooses may be spotted on the path. On both sides we will see small ponds 'bañas' resulting from the depression in the red sands and clay which are used by Wild Boars to remove parasites from inside the fur.



'Bañas' along the path produced by Wild Boars' action

As the walk progresses, the trail will come through a young pasture of Holm Oaks while passing by a small water trough to the right and a short-cut path used by pilgrims. Ignore this path and continue ahead on the path which now flattens. We will see some rose granite outcroppings resulting from water erosion of former stream beds. These rocky sites are ideal habitat for Juniper trees though.

Some meters ahead we should pay close attention to the direction marks. We will see a GR-48 waymarking sign together with another green and white sign that reads 'A la Virgen'. We will continue walking onto another path that branches off left while climbing down in the same direction as the stream bed to come to a former basin area -in the shape of a funnel- which locates between two wire mesh fences.

After fording a small brook with Reed and Round-leaved Mint bushes, we will continue onto another path that branches off right. Some five hundred meters after, the path will make a sharp curve where we will return to the original path to get to a green countryside gate which is the main access to La Navarra County Estate. From here, we will spot some Eucalyptus trees at the farmhouse's access which locates atop the hill.

The trail winds through the County Estate where a water well and two water troughs locate in a meadow. This site is used by pilgrims on their way up to the Sanctuary as animals may water and refresh in the troughs. Navalasno Viejo Farmhouse locates atop the hill, well guarded by large Eucalyptus trees.



Navalasno Farmhouse

••• Km 27.4 Navasno Viejo Farmhouse

This is a good site for breaking. In front of the farmhouse still can be seen the remains of both a former threshing area and a kiln and some scattering semi-ruined structures such former stables and animal pens around the farmhouse.

On having left behind and to the left the farmhouse and to the right a livestock building, we will continue walking along the firebreak track and to the east. After some six hundred metres, we will come at Fuencubierta Country Estate main access. After crossing the gate which should remain shut behind us, we will return to Lugar Nuevo Country Estate.

The trail winds through young pastures and meets another path that is perpendicular to the direction we are travelling. Ignore that path and continue ahead. Step by step the path will start descending towards another valley. Granite boulders will be a common natural feature as the path climbs down while many White Foxgloves give colour to the wild meadow, especially in spring.



White Foxglove, very common by granite boulders

The end of the slope may be harder for bikers since the path's surface becomes rocky and the slope steepens and even fits into the ground. The beauty of the site is a good reward though and especially at the Arroyo de los Santos Brook. The brook supports a beautiful lineal forest along the riverbanks with big samples of hundreds years old Ash-Trees whose thick trunks will be a surprise for hikers.

••• Km 29.7 Wooden Bridge

On having come to the brook, we will walk upstream and to go across a wooden bridge. Horse riders should use another bridge which is downstream though. After crossing the bridge, the trail continues ahead and winds through a Pine grove where we should pay attention to the way-marking signs. The path which now matches a 'vía pecuaria' slightly bends to the right while climbing up a steep slope with dry stone walls at some sections. The path will eventually meet the firebreak track where we will cross a gate which is blocking the track. This gate is shut although there is a sort of kissing gate on a side for hikers, bikers and riders.

The site we are walking through now is home to some wild animals. Hikers may even spot some big samples of Deer and perhaps any Fallow Game grazing between the Pine trees.



The wooden bridge over the Arroyo de los Santos Brook



Granite rocks take whimsical forms on this section of the stage

••• **Km 30.7 Track towards the Sanctuary**

Another path approaches from the right on this last section of the stage. This path which is known as either Camino Viejo or Cordel de los Molinos is a traditional path used by pilgrims when travelling from Andújar town to the Virgen de la Cabeza Sanctuary. The path is also classified as Tourism Interest in Andalucía. We may choose to come to the Mirador del Camino Viejo Viewpoint which locates some metres down this path and that is one of the most popular sites used by pilgrims when breaking. Then we should return to the trail to continue ahead with the GR-48 route.

The track climbs up and comes into a small ravine to the left where hikers will enjoy the whimsical forms of some big and fragmented granite rocks and boulders in the site. Pines groves have been replaced by Mediterranean undergrowth which appears to struggle when colonizing the cracks on the granite rocks and boulders.

The first brotherhood buildings (cofradías) will start showing at the top of the hill. Those are the houses for the pilgrims that located nearby the Sanctuary. The trail will eventually come near Marmolejo Brotherhood's Headquarter which is also the end of this stage of the route.

Marmolejo. Renaissance Bridge

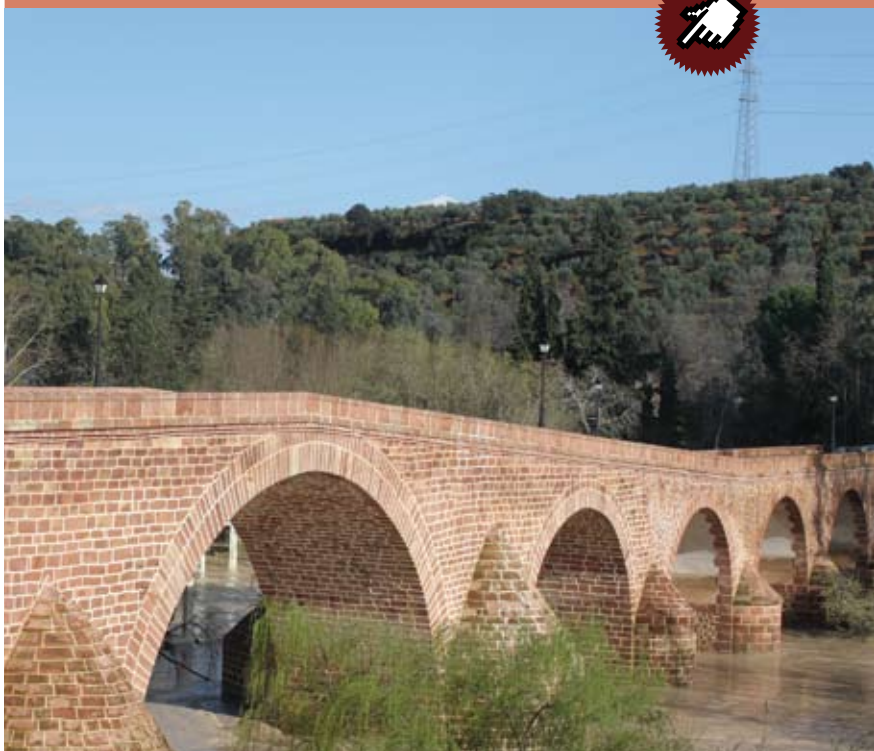
●●● The first historical review of the Renaissance Bridge is recorded in Benito del Castillo's last Will which is dated on May the 21th, 1600. The manuscript reads that this master stonemason was employed as a wage earner to build the bridge although the bill was still unpaid.

Even first works were done in the second half of the 16th century; the bridge was almost completely rebuilt in the 19th century. In the first decade of the 21st century, the Ministry of Public Works of the Government of Andalusia commissioned some restoring works which gave cultural value to the bridge.

The bridge has seven semicircle arches with a span of 125 meters and a rise of 25 meters at the cen-

tral arch. The three first arches from the right bank are from the 16th century while the other four were built in the 19th century.

The bridge is strategically located as for connecting the plain fields of the Guadalquivir Valley to the highlands up in the mountain range. This was especially important in the 16th century as many cattle routes passed through the region and livestock moving became a most important activity. For many centuries, the bridge was the pass for accessing to sites located up in the mountains such La Centenera or La Virgen de la Cabeza as well as the path which currently is the A-420 Road towards the Yeguas River and the Campana Bridge from where it follows up to the Pedroches Valley.



STAGE 2:**VIRGEN DE LA CABEZA/
VIÑAS DE PEÑALLANA**

The GR-48 trail continues ahead and through the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park in Jaén province. On this stage of the route, some sections of the trail will match other paths and tracks used by the pilgrims and carts when travelling from Andújar town to the Virgen del a Cabeza Sanctuary. Along this stage of the route, hikers will discover many cultural and religion features directly related to the pilgrims' fervour which can be breath in this mountain range.

In the first section of the stage, the trail clearly descends into the Jándula River valley and from there it will follow the serpentine A-6177 road while climbing up towards Viñas de Peñallana housing, a natural site to enjoy some breathtaking views of this rough and wild land. Hikers will also have the opportunity for a better understanding of the natural world around them because of the information boards placed in different natural viewpoints like the one at the Mirador del Peregrino Viewpoint.

Water streams are deeply fitted into the omnipresent granite bedrock while scouring out rough valleys and awesome granite boulders and rocks. Certainly, the region is the kingdom of granite rocks and Rockrose shrubbery, perhaps one of the last bastions for the Iberian Lynx recovering and survival.







Valle del río Jándula

This will be an easy walk which is suitable for hiking, biking and horse riding although it may harden when descending towards the Jándula River, near Encinarejo Dam. Last quarter of the stage is all about a soft and

easy climbing up to the top of the mountain range and the trail matches a comfortable mountain road.

Start: V. de la Cabeza Sanctuary
Finish: Viñas de Peñallana
Distance: 17,2 Km.
Time: 5 hours and 30 minutes

Suitability:



*Some struggle when climbing down to Encinarejo Natural Site

MIDE evaluation:



Environment: Severity of the natural environment

3



Orientation: Guidance on the route directions

2



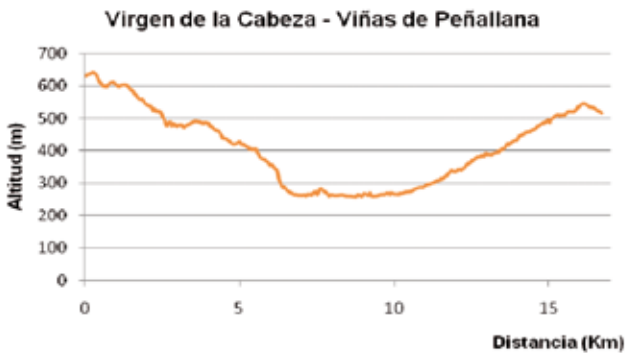
Track Features: Difficulty in following the track

2



Struggle: Struggle required for accomplishing the route

3



ROUTE GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The trail starts off at the Virgen de la Cabeza Sanctuary in Andújar municipal district. With a population of over 38000 people, the municipality which is the fourth larger in Spain stretches some 963 kilometres.

According to the traditional belief, on August the 12th, 1227 and in the early morning, the spirit of the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Alonso de Rivas, a young shepherd from Colomera –a village in Granada province. After healing the shepherd’s disable arm, Virgin Mary asked for a hermitage to be built after Her Name at the very exact place where the miracle happened, that is atop the Cerro del Cabezo Hill. Every year



Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza Sanctuary

since 1304, over 600000 pilgrims gather on the last Sunday of April to honouring the Virgin Mary which is locally known as 'La Morenita'.

Some 300 metres from an information board and towards the Sanctuary, the trail matches another path to the left that comes out from Alcala la Real Brotherhood buildings. Eventually, we will walk through the picnic area while having to the right the Cerro del Cabezo Hill before heading towards the Area Recreativa del Jabalí, a nearby recreation area.

••• Km 1.5 Sendero del Jabalí Path

As the Sanctuary and the surroundings areas remains to our back, the path starts descending through Pine groves and shrub and passes by a natural site known as Huerta de los Frailes. We will enjoy the breathtaking view of the valleys carved on the granite bedrock of the southern hills and the Cerro del Cabezo foothills. The valley which locates closer to us is the Arroyo del Membrillar Brook valley.

Ignore another path that crosses perpendicular and continue walking ahead. The path surface becomes slippery because of the granite sand known as 'saliega' resulting from a series of weathering actions. Granite rock has traditionally been used in local building. A good example of this is a former ruined country house which locates to the right and that still hold the charming features of traditional rock buildings. The views around us are particularly bucolic and hikers may be likely of spending some time in this natural site.

The path continues ahead and becomes wavy between great varieties of lush Mediterranean undergrowth. Rockroses and Mastic Trees appear to be competing for supremacy in the area and tracks of Deer and Wild Boars can be spotted on the sandy ground.

Gum Rockroses are well accompanied by their 'little sister' the European Frostweed (*Xolantha guttata*). This is an annual herb whose flowers are relatively large with five yellow petals which generally have a dark spot at the base. In Spanish, this plant is known as Hierba de la Patata de Tierra or Madre de las Criadillas since it is associated and live in symbiosis to rare fungi (Criadillas de Tierra) that grow underneath.

As the walk progresses, the path matches again the firebreak track while approaching to the Área Recreativa del Jabalí (recreation area) where reforested Pine groves and other conifer species are the main natural feature. The area near the road is well equipped with some picnic tables, benches and other utilities. The main feature is a sculpture carved in the rock which is locally known as El Jabalí Solitario (The Lonely Wild Board). The sculpture by Luis Aldehuela, a local artist from Andújar, represents the main character in Jaime de Foxá's novel, 'Solitario' (1961).



El Jabalí Solitario Sculpture

On leaving behind the recreation area, the path will head towards Sendero del Jabalí – Encinarejo Path that runs parallel to the road. After a kilometre or so we need to pay attention to the trail signs since we will leave this path to continue walking onto another firebreak track which is blocked by a countryside gate.

••• Km 4.42 Climbing down towards the Encinarejo Recreation Area

We access to the firebreak track after crossing a country gate that must be shut behind us. The track descends steeply. After some four hundred meters we will leave the firebreak track to make a 90° turn to the right and continue climbing down towards the stream bed which is the head of a

small seasonal brook that flows down and parallel to our path. Landscape is clearly dominated by Reeds and phreatic woody shrub which is a sign of the nearby phreatic level and of the seasonal nature of the water stream.

It is paramount to keep walking onto the waymarked path. Temporal enclosures for Rabbits locate along the path. Those are to provide food for the Iberian Lynx since the path winds through an area which is one with the highest density on the world of this most endangered big cat.



Boards along the path tell about Iberian Lynx existing in the area

As the walk progresses, meadows with Pine groves and Mediterranean shrub will remain behind us and the path turns to the left and away from the track to coming into a rougher area with great granite rocks and boulders outcropping on the slopes surface. We may now guess the Jándula River valley at the bottom of the hill. The hill is locally known as 'Loma de Vaciabolsas' perhaps the name is after any former bandit.

The climbing down hardens because of the steep and the slippery sandy path surface which now is curving and twisting like a snake in order to avoid granite rocks and boulders. Bikers must find this section of the path a bit more difficult.

After crossing other country gate, the path comes to the bottom of the hill and matches another track connecting an Electricity Power Station and



Big granite rocks and boulders along the descending path

Encinarejo Dam. The path bends to the right although hikers may choose to come and visit Encinarejo Dam which is really near and that has the shores turned into inland beaches in the summer season.

After walking up to the Dam, we will come back to the path leaving the dam behind and going downstream. We will enjoy the Jándula River companion for some 2.5 kilometres as it flows parallel to the left of the path.



Cauce del río Jándula

The large watercourse is also well protected by a continuous riparian forest of Ash trees on both riverbanks. The river water is really cold because it comes from the dam pipeline located at the lower section of the dam.

The area is part of Encinarejo Recreation Area and therefore is well equipped for better enjoying Nature. There are scattering picnic tables and benches along the riverbanks and a small birdwatching hut where we can watch for any bird like the Grey Heron which is very common in this site.

••• Km 9.58 the A-6177 Road (section)

Step by step we will leave the agreeable companion of both the Jándula River and Encinarejo Recreation Area to connect to the countryside road towards Viñas de Peñallana and Andújar towns. We will eventually find ourselves outside the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park after going across the bridge over the river.

From this point to the end of this stage of the route, the trail will match this serpentine road while gently climbing up to Viñas de Peñallana Housing. Despite of being walking along the road, the surroundings are really interesting because of the natural and ethnological features in the area; the later clearly related to the pilgrimage to the Cerro del cabezo Hill. Nevertheless, we should pay attention to the road and, especially if we are hiking on weekends and/or bank holidays when we can have some heavy traffic about.

It will be easy to spot some samples of Deer by the road as they are likely of being grazing in the meadows which are the natural border between the Pine groves and the road. The green mass of Pine groves will be suddenly cut by the Barranco de Valdeinfierno Ravine which locates to the left. As the path continues climbing up, Mediterranean undergrowth comprising Rockroses, Mastic Trees and Wild Olive trees is colouring the hillslopes.

On the hills we can observe many distinctively shaped large granite boulders. At the 16.7 kilometre, the trail passes by a large granite block which is known as 'La Piedra que Habla' (The Talking Rock). The rock is in fact a monument with a poem carved on the rock surface. The work was commissioned and fully paid in 1923 by José del Prado y Palacio, Marquis of Rincón de San Idelfonso and Minister for Public Instruction under Alfonso XIII reign. He also was the author of the poem.

The serpentine road continues climbing up and soon we will reach the Mirador del Peregrino, a natural viewpoint which locates by the road. This is a good place for breaking while looking at the landscape and admiring the moving sculpture representing a man pointing at the Sanctuary as showing the site to a child next to him.

The end of the stage is not far from here. After some few meters of soft climbing, the road comes near a cluster of houses by Viñas de Peñallana



La Piedra que Habla Monument

Housing which locates just before Los Pinos, a tourist resort. There is also the junction with Los escoriales Road (JH- 5002) which is the end of this stage of the route and the beginning of the next one.



Mirador del Peregrino Viewpoint

The Oldest Pilgrimage Tradition in Spain



●●● According to tradition, when Saint Eufrasio arrived to Spain, he brought with him a sculpture of the Virgin Mary to which he was devoted to. Later in the 8th century when Arabs occupied Andújar, the sculpture was hid in a most remote hill in Sierra Morena mountain range to keep it away from profanation.

Later on in the 13th century a most amazing event happened. In 1227, a shepherd called Juan Alonso Rivas from Colomera (Granada) who had a disabled arm was shepherding his flock in the valley near the Cerro del Cabezo Hill. That night the shepherd could see some glowing lights atop the hill and heard a tolling bell in the distance. He climbed up the hill in the middle of the night and found the sculpture hid between the granite rocks where he kneeled and at sudden his disabled arm recovered mobility and healed.

The shepherd fervently asked for a sanctuary to be built atop the hill and became a most important character in Andujar history. The sanctuary was finally built between 1287 and 1304 and thoroughly reformed at the end of the 16th century. On April the 20th 2010, the sanctuary was granted by law the title of Basílica Menor (Minor Basilica).

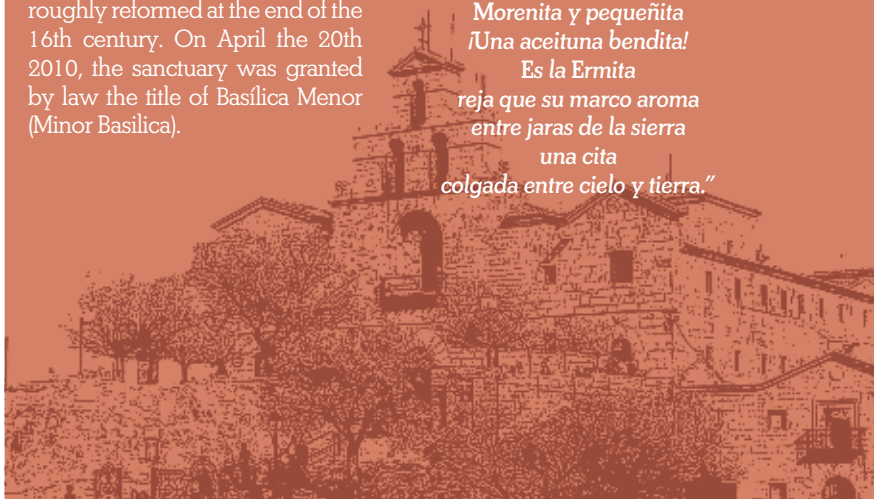
Over 600,000 pilgrimages from all over the country gather at the Cerro del Cabezo Hill on the last Sunday of April to honouring the Saint. This Saint Virgin is locally known as 'La Morenita', a nickname clearly referring to the dark colour of the sculpture and that is also the main theme of the official hymn.

*"Morenita y pequeñita
lo mismo que una aceituna,
una aceituna bendita,
Morena de luz de luna,
Meta de jiennense anhelo;
bronce de carne divina,
escultura en barro santo,
un chocolatín del cielo
envuelto por la platina
del orillo de su manto.*

*Es la Ermita
reja que su marco aroma
entre jaras de la sierra
una cita,
colgada entre cielo y tierra.*

*Morenita y pequeñita
la virgen su gracia asoma
entre el joyel que la encierra,
Morena de luz de luna,
desde el olivar del cielo
que en platas de hojas se cierra
cayó una aceituna al suelo,
rodó y se paró en la sierra.*

*Morenita y pequeñita
¡Una aceituna bendita!
Es la Ermita
reja que su marco aroma
entre jaras de la sierra
una cita
colgada entre cielo y tierra."*



STAGE 3:**VIÑAS DE PEÑALLANA/
BAÑOS DE LA ENCINA**

On this stage of the route the GR-48 will take us from Viñas de Peñallana to Baños de la Encina, a small highland town. The trail will mainly follow the trace of another traditional path which is used by people when travelling from Baños de la Encina to the Virgen de la Cabeza Sanctuary.

The trail continues winding through the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park although step by step we will leave behind this beautiful protected natural area. The main feature along the path will be the landscape comprising many pastures and meadows fully devoted to breeding Spanish toro bravo (fighting bull). Especially interesting are those near 'Los Escoriales', a former mining village totally deserted where still remain some characteristic features and parts of the former equipment used for mining activities.

The trail will take us from Pine groves and former vineyards which gave name to the site to private country estates, like Friscalejo Country Estate, which are excellent samples of the purest and lush Mediterranean forest where Deer and Wild Boars are the main reason for big game hunting. Finally, large pastures will be the natural substitute to such woodland; perhaps the most interesting is the Finca de Corrales, a large country estate comprising pastures and meadows which used to breed the mesteña sheep and that today is fully devoted to fighting bull breeding.

We will enjoy the most impressive landscape features and breathtaking views of the foothills and of the plain fields in Jaen province from the natural site where the first water source of the Gorgogil River locates. This is also a good site for breaking while enjoying the natural world at the very heart of Sierra Morena mountain range. A range of landscape features which will be complemented at the end of the stage with the view of the Rumberal Dam.



Panoramic view of La Nava in Andújar municipality

Start: Viñas de Peñallana
Finish: Baños de la Encina
Distance: 32,8 km approx.
Time: 9,30 horas

Suitability:



MIDE evaluation:



Environment:
Severity of the natural environment

2



Orientation: Guidance on the route directions

2



Track Features:
Difficulty in following the track

2



Struggle:
Struggle required for accomplishing the route

4

Viñas de Peñallana - Baños de la Encina



A long descending hike of over 30 kilometres which is quite easy and comfortable as most time the trail will match a countryside road and a large half section matching a dirt track in good surface conditions.

ROUTE GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This stage of the route starts off at Viñas de Peñallana which is an area of scattering houses within Andújar municipal district and where still remain some of the best preserved typical buildings of the region as the traditional houses of thick stone walls. Some of them are real historical buildings converted in businessmen' mansions while others are just either a second residence for some people from Andújar or modest rural accommodations for tourists.

The starting point is the junction at the A-6177 Road (Andújar – Puertollano) and the JH-5002 Road to Los Escoriales. Near the junction is Los Pinos Tourist Resort which could be a good place for provisioning before starting



Waymarking signs and direction signs at the starting point of the stage

the walk. In addition, if we follow some 2 kilometres up the A-6177 Road towards Andújar, we will get to Viñas de Peñallana Visitors Centre where we will find relevant information about the Sierra de Andújar Natural.

••• Km 0 A-6177 Road

59

The trail starts at this countryside road to Los Escoriales, the Jándula Dam and Cabeza Parda sites. The road is really narrow and all precautions must be considered when walking along it although this is a very comfortable walk under the fresh shadow of the Pine groves.

GR-48 Jaén



San José Hermitage

Still along the road there are some houses and plots together with former vineyards after which the site is named. On both sides of the road are also some rural buildings converted into tourist accommodation.

Step by step we will leave behind the Pine groves as the trail winds through pastures where the dominant natural elements are granite rocks of impossible shapes which appear to be defying gravity. A good sample of this can be seen to the left of the path where granite boulders and rocks seem to competing the vertical walls of San José Hermitage.

••• Km 3.92 El Reloj Natural Site

The road with many curves now continues ahead between Stone Pine trees and passes by the last houses and plots of Viña de Peñallanas. Pastures and meadows follow the Stone Pine forest and we will see livestock grazing in Los Llanos de Cuellar Country Estate. The trail passes by a cluster of houses at Los Cerrajeros Country Estate and wades across a brook with the same name before starts climbing the gentle foothills of Sierra Mosquilla mountain range.

60

As the level rises, the road makes a large curve to the right from where we will have a beautiful panoramic view to the east of Cerro del Cabezo Hill and the Sanctuary.

As we has said above, livestock is by large the main animal species that we will come across with at this stage. However, in peaceful natural sites like this one, it will be easy to listening to many different birds singing and especially to the Red-Legged Partridge which is very common in sites where pastures, granite rocks and patches of Mediterranean forest mix together.

As the walk progresses, the trail comes in to a dell through which La Garganta Brook runs and that keeps between Holm Oak trees a patch of plants more tolerant of wet soil. In spring time, Whitethorns shrubs and Wild Pear trees will paint in white the riverbanks of this seasonal water stream.



Wild Pear trees and Whitethorn shrubs blooming helps out Bee keeping in the region



Trail section between pastures and livestock at Los Escoriales

••• Km 9.96 Los Escoriales

The trail comes to a deserted village known as Los Escoriales. The settlement used to be a mining site which produced different quality ore such copper and iron. The name of the site is after the mining waste (escoria) which was generated and disposed in the site.

The path comes to a junction where different paths and tracks meet. The path to the right leads to the Mirador del Embalse del Jándula and the Mirador del Rey, two viewpoints located some 6.5 kilometres from the junction. However, we will continue walking ahead while passing by a tentadero which is an enclosure where calves and young bulls' bravery is tested. The path winds through different pastures fully devoted to fighting bulls breeding. Some 150 metres after the junction we should pay attention to the waymarking signs and continue walking onto another path known as Sendero del Rumblar that branches off right and to the south.

Walking on this new path turns to be very pleasant as the trail runs between large pastures where bulls are peacefully grazing. Man made granite features are very common since granite rocks are all over the area. We will see granite posts along the wiring fences, feeding troughs for cattle, different countryside buildings, etc. perhaps the most peculiar is a large feeding trough for cattle decorated with a roof and arches along the front.

Step by step we will approach to a beautiful pasture with Cork Oak trees. The path starts descending and the visual beauty of the Mediterranean undergrowth becomes the main natural feature. This is famous site for Deer and Wild Boar hunting and perhaps we are lucky enough to spot any of those ungulates by the path.



Long roofed feeding trough decorated with arches

••• Km 14 First Source of Gorgogil and Friscalejo Brooks

The path becomes wavy while skirting along the eastern foothills of Sierra Mosquilla mountain range. At a bend of the path locates a water spring which is the first source of the Gorgogil Brook. Although in the past water was channelled to Baños de la Encina village, today is just collected in a series of cisterns. (aljibes). This is a good site for breaking and where hikers may quench their thirst. Many Bracken Ferns grow around the spring adding a special and valuable beauty to the site.

On having come to the lower foothills of Sierra Mosquilla mountain range, the path comes into a large and open Holm Oak forest. There we will take onto another path that branch off to the left and that runs bordering a cluster of houses by the Gorgogil gardens.

As the level flattens, the path continues ahead and passes by a stone made water trough which is well protected by some Eucalyptus trees. Soon after, we will see some scattering country houses surrounded by fruit trees. Those are some farms and houses by the Friscalejo Brook. Landowners and local administration are working together to lower the impact onto an area which is home to the Iberian Lynx. Along the path we will see many boards informing about this.

As the walk progresses, the path runs through a large treeless plateau (nava) surrounded by soft rounded hills which is already in Villanueva de la Reina municipality and where many shooting estates and livestock pastures locate. The area is also home to many birds of prey such Short-Toed Eagles, Common Buzzards and Vultures.

... Km 19 Nava de Andújar or Santa Amalia Site

The path passes by and borders around a cluster of buildings which locate on a soft hill to the left. This impressive site is known as Nava de Andújar or Santa Amalia. The group of buildings comprises the country estate workers housing, farmhouses and even a school and a small hermitage.



Passing by Friscalejo Fountain

The site's surrounding area is a large meadow at 400 metres above the sea which is mainly devoted to horse breeding. Many fountains and water troughs serve for watering horses which can be seen peacefully grazing between fruit trees, like Almond trees.

There are also some Olive groves since the fertile substratum favours other plants growing and therefore land uses diversify. However, it is the large pasture land which provokes a warm sense of peace and harmony around us.

The path continues ahead and will wade across the Yeguas Brook which later will become Andújar Brook. This is one of the main water streams which drain the pastures and meadows in the area. Excellent samples of Tamujo shrub grow along the sandy riverbanks of the brook though.

After going across the bridge over the brook, the landscape turns more mountainous. The treeless plateau which is the Yeguas pasture will soon be replaced by the lush Mediterranean forest which covers Lomas de Mesonero Hills. As the path starts climbing down, we will approach to Rumblar Dam which is almost at sight.



Santa Amalia

••• Km 26.2 Rumblar Dam

On having come to the dam, the path becomes a countryside road that matches the JH-5044 Road.

The Rumblar Dam was built in 1941 to collect water for the region's irrigated fields. It is 65 metres high and collects some 126 Hm³. The dam shores and the watershed are home to many aquatic birds such as Grey Herons, Cormorants and the shy and rare Black Stork.



Ancient lineal pastures are a common feature along the path

Step by step we will leave behind the dam to continue walking ahead and towards the end of this stage of the trail. The path runs now between rocky rocks where clearly can be seen the distinctive rock strata and while supporting some good samples of Wild Olive trees and Wild Asparagus bushes.

The path starts climbing up although the level flattens immediately after passing by the Casas de la Confederación, a cluster of countryside buildings which locates to the left. This is a more humanized area and small Olive groves and plots will start showing at both sides of the path.

As the path approaches Baños de la Encina village, hikers will come across with some places' names such Minas de la Marquesa or Contramina which clearly evoke to a past time when mining activities were paramount in the area. We will eventually leave the road to continue walking onto a path that branch off to the left and leads to the village where this stage of the route finishes. Soon after, we will spot the impressive vertical wall surrounding Baños de la Encina Castle.



Rumblar Reservoir

Iberian Lynx

••• The Iberian Lynx is considered to be the world's most endangered wild big cat. Iberian Lynx species are on the verge of extinction, thus. Most breeding populations live in areas of Sierra Morena mountain range, such as Cardenera mountain range but especially in the Sierra de Andújar mountain range which is home to some 200 specimens, the largest breeding population in the country. The second largest breeding population remains in Doñana National Park (some 70 specimens). Because of the long distance, these two main areas are not connected which proves to be another threat posed onto this big cat.

The Iberian Lynx is native to the Iberian Peninsula being largely restricted to mountainous areas of Mediterranean forest and scrub. It is not easy to spot the Iberian Lynx since they are generally nocturnal creatures, with peak activity occurring at twilight. Even if you are a thoughtful expert, you will need a good dose of luck to see one of these animals in the forest.

Rabbits are closely related to Iberian Lynx since they are the main food resources. The decline of the Iberian lynx has been mainly due to the decline of its main prey, the rabbit. Therefore, conservation programmes consider ensuring the protection of this lagomorphs' habitat and preying conditions for the Iberian Lynx in order to avoid extinction.



STAGE 4:**BAÑOS DE LA ENCINA/
LA CAROLINA**

This stage of the route connects two highlands towns: Baños de la Encina and La Carolina. The trail will match two traditional paths: the cattle route known as Cordel de Guarromán on the first section of the stage and the former municipal path from Baños de la Encina to La Carolina.

In despite of being a long walk with some hard sections for hiking, walkers will enjoy the beautiful natural features and landscape along the path as well as the breathtaking panoramic views from the highest natural sites. Olive groves, Pine groves and pastures (dehesas) will follow each other as the path progresses along the foothills of the mountain range from where we will have some impressive views of the largest plain fields in the region.

The bucolic Rumblar Valley locates at the northern hills of the mountain range with slopes covered by Rockroses patches and thick Mediterranean forest which is the kingdom of Deer and Wild Boars. In addition, scatte-



Pozo de los Cuellos Water Well

ring mining sites and tailing disposal facilities not longer in use appear to fragment this impressive green carpet comprising a large range of Mediterranean plants.

Start: Baños de la Encina

Finish: La Carolina

Distance: 26 km

Time: 7 hours

Suitability:



*

*Some sections may be hard to accomplish on the bike though

Dificultad. Valoración según método Mide:



Environment: Severity of the natural environment

2



Orientation: Guidance on the route directions

2



Track Features: Difficulty in following the track

3



Struggle: Struggle required for accomplishing the route

5

Baños de la Encina - La Carolina



ROUTE GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This stage of the route starts off at Baños de la Encina Town Hall. From there, look for San Mateo Street to get to Linares Avenue. All the way from the Town Hall is a gentle descending walk until reaching the J-5040 Road outside the town. Soon after start walking along the road, we will see a service area to the left. In shortly we will leave the road to continue walking onto a path which winds through Olive groves and leads to the Virgen de la Encina Sanctuary and the Jesús del Camino Hermitage. This path also matches the PR A-289, a short distance path towards La Verónica Site.



The beginning of this stage outside Baños de la Encina town

••• Km 1 Majavieja Path and La Verónica Site

At this very beginning of the stage, the GR and PR paths match a traditional cattle route (vía pecuaria) on the way to the Virgen de la Encina. After some 500 metres we will leave the path to continue walking on another path to the left that leads to an open area with no Olive groves. There the path meets other paths at a junction from where we will bend to the right onto a serpentine path that gently climbs up to an area with Pine groves. The junction was in the past a 'descansadero', the area where shepherds and flocks came for resting and that used to be well equipped with some buildings and water facilities. In this one, still remain the traces of former garden plots, a former water well and the water trough under the shadow of some fruit trees. In addition, dry stone walls and Prickly Pear Cactuses appear to mark the borders of the path.



A serpentine path gently climbs towards Pine groves

The path continues ascending on slate substrates and towards this hill crowned with a large Pine grove. The area is rich in Brooms and Lavender bushes. From the highest slopes and looking backwards, we will have a beautiful view of the picturesque Baños de la Encina town and the Castilian style Wind Mill at the front.

The top of the hill is also the divortium aquarum, an imaginary line marking the boundary between two or more different watersheds. In this case, division is between the Rio Grande Valley to the north and Jaen's southern plain fields of never ending Olive groves. We will continue walking ahead to the east while bordering a dense Pine grove. The beautiful panoramic views are well complemented with the fresh smell of conifers and vivid flocks of birds such Azure-Winged Magpies.

The path starts descending towards the Rumblarejo Brook. A country estate fully devoted to fighting bull breeding locates to the right of the path where we will pay close attention to the waymarking signs at the junction since the PR A-289 path that leads to La Verónica Site moves away from the GR-48 trail.



Breeding horses in the open range is a common picture along the trail

If we feel like visiting LaVeronica Site, we will have to walk some extra 2 kilometres (going and back to the junction) and go across the watershed and follow up the firebreak track that climbs up next to the fencing. This archaeological site is a fortification from the Argar civilisation, back to the Bronze Age. The reward for the extra walk will be the breathtaking views of the Rumblar River Valley together with the Rio Grande River and the Pinto River.

••• Km 4.2 Rumblarejo Brook

From the junction, the path continues ahead and after crossing over a cattle grid will run parallel to Rumblarejo Brook. The Mediterranean forest will enrich with other riparian plants such Oleanders, Hawthorns and

Brambles which grow on the riverbanks.

FOTO: Oleanders



Adelfas

The green waymarking signs along this section of the path are for marking the vía pecuaria path which matches the GR-48 trail. We will wade across the brook by means of a small dyke known as Pantanillo which originally used to be a brick made channel dug to power the nearby Casería Manrique, an oil mill. Nevertheless, wading across the brook will not be very difficult because of the little brook flow.

The top of the watershed comprises large meadows and pastures which become muddy and with large seasonal ponds in the rain season where we could spot birds like Wagtails. The Olive grove that locates to the right and on the northern side of Cuesta de los Santos slope is a clear example of different uses of the land in order to maximize benefits reported from livestock breeding and agriculture.

The path continues ahead while looking for the head of the watershed. The vary habitat types in the area –cultivated fields, Mediterranean forest and undergrowth- cause many different bird species to come together and so we may watch many Passeriformes species (perching birds) such Goldfinches, Common Greenfinches, Blue Tits and Great Tits.

On having come to the head of the brook, the path will go across and into another watershed with an impressive granite site, locally known as Peñones de Chirite, and large granite boulders to the left causing a sandy granite floor. Many paths and tracks exist all over the site and many of them will come together while heading to the right where the head of another stream exists in a small valley and the first water source of Arroyo del Pilar Brook locates.

The brook flows down towards the campiña to the south while the path moves in the opposite direction and as it does the cattle route that joins to the left. We will find ourselves in a completely different natural environment after crossing a wiring gate that must remain closed behind us. The site is large Holm Oak woodland as the natural reception area of a most extensive one, Navarredonda pasture. The path runs parallel to the fencing to the right until it meets the path that leads to La Nava country house. Ignore that path and continue walking ahead and towards a rounded hill covered with Holm Oak woodland. From there the path starts climbing down sharply between rills resulting from water erosion while looking for the Parrilla Brook. Immediately before coming to the brook, we will leave the vía pecuaria path to come into Navarredonda pasture after crossing a wiring country gate which locates to the left of the path.

••• Km 9.5 Navarredonda Pasture



Navarredonda Pasture

After coming into Navarredonda Pasture, the path starts climbing until meeting another track which is the one leading to La Nava country house that we met earlier. There we will bend right and to the north. From here, we will have a beautiful view of this beautiful pasture land which is fully devoted to cattle breeding. Surrounded by the pasture is the cluster of barn, country houses and the main farmhouse.

The path surface is in better conditions now and the path continues ahead with gentle ups and downs through pastures of young Holm Oaks. The walk pace is pleasant along this section as marked by the distant sound of cowbells. The landscape turns wilder and bucolic and perhaps any bird of prey such Common Buzzards and Kites can be watched flying over our heads. As the path continues climbing up to the top of the hill, we will enjoy the



Black Kite

panoramic view of the valley and the tails of the Rumblar Reservoir to the north and to the left of the path. This is a rougher watershed covered by Mediterranean shrub and Rockroses patches which become a gift to the senses in the spring time when all plants are blooming.

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As the walk progresses, the path will split into two and we will continue walking onto the path to the left which will come out of Navarredonda Pasture after crossing a an iron countryside by a large Holm Oak tree. Then we will be entering La Parrilla Country Estate.

The path continues ahead while tracing up a large ascending curve. On both sides there are many granite boulders which cracks are home to many vertical White Asphodel plants that seem to competing in colour with some purple Lavender bushes.

The path passes by the Parrilla farmhouse and this seem to be a good site for breaking and recover after the climbing. From here we may also enjoy a panoramic view of valleys and hills. After a well deserved break, we will continue walking on the same path that soon will split into two. Then choose the path that branches off to the left and that runs parallel to the fencing. Again we will enjoy the panoramic views of the northern hills and watersheds and the tails of the Río Grande River, main tributary to the Rumblar River. The hills, fully covered with lush Mediterranean undergrowth and shrub, appear to be resonance boxes reproducing Deer grunts in autumn.

••• Km 13. Quinto de los Cuellos Pasture

On this section of the stage, the path winds through flat pastures. We will come across many country gates blocking the path. Remember, all country gates must remain closed behind us to prevent livestock and cattle

from trespassing on other land. Eventually, the Centillo path will join us on its way down from the northern regions.

After passing by Quinto farmhouses, the path leads to the east and until anew junction where we will bend right onto a path that winds through a large watershed and between meadows. We will be leaving this pasture-land after crossing another country gate located near a water trough.



Quinto farmhouse.

74

GR-48 Jaén

Water troughs turn to be extremely important to wild animals. Cattle Egrets make frequent use of them as amphibians and reptiles are complementary food to insects. On the other hand, amphibians such Midwife Toads, Western Spadefoot Toads and Salamanders lay their eggs in this artificial ponds. Birds of prey such Black Storks and Golden Eagles may be spotted when flying for hunting over the troughs.

On leaving behind and to the right the pond, the path continues ahead now matching a former path that links Baños de la Encina and La Carolina towns which is the one that we will follow up to the end of this stage of the route. Atop the hill is the watershed line that marks the boundaries between the extensive plain cultivated fields to the south and the northern hills and some scattering deserted mining sites.



Salamander

The path continues ahead and soon will be entering Carboneros municipality. After crossing a country gate which is blocking the path, we will come into a site with the typical enclosures for testing fighting bulls' bravery (tentadero) which will remain to the right of the path. There is also a small factory which resembles the local countryside buildings of stone and masonry.

After crossing another country gate, the path will come into Nava de los Cuellos. The site is a large and open plain field with fewer trees. The farmhouse which locates at the soft rounded hill is another beautiful example of rural architecture as uses slate rock masonry and beautiful buttresses. This bucolic site is complemented with a picturesque water well.

Together with other villages and towns in the region such as La Carolina, Carboneros, Guarromán and Miranda del Rey, Los Cuellos was one of the settlements established along the mountain range within the Nuevas Poblaciones de Sierra Morena housing plan, back to King Carlos III reign.



Enclosure for testing fighting bull's bravery

However, this colony failed to progress and settlers moved to other nearby villages remaining the site just as a cluster of farmhouses and barns.

The path passes between the farm buildings to continue ahead and after crossing another country gate. La Carolina town can be easily spotted from here yet another six kilometers remain to the end of this stage.

••• Km 19.5 Los Cuellos Path

The path surface is in good conditions along this section. The most interesting features will be the breathtaking views and the impressive landscape. On the foothills we will see many abandoned mining sites and mining facilities not longer in use; a silver-green sea of Olive groves stretching the southern watershed to the right; in bright sunny clear days, can be seen the foothills of Sierra de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas mountain range and Sierra Mágina mountain range on the westernmost horizon; and Los Vilches village which is half way from us and that can be easily spotted because of the Castle which locates



Panoramic view at the last section of the stage

atop a round hill. The castle has been converted into hermitage though.

We will continue ahead and pass by Los Ruices farmhouse which locates atop a hill to the right. There are some vegetable plots near the farmhouse and a brick made water well and trough locates opposite to them and by the path.

Cattle have been substituted by sheep, especially segureña race. Sheep flocks are travelled from the winter pastures located in Sierra Morena Highlands to the summer ones in Santiago de la Espada and Portones municipalities at the heart of Sierra de Segura mountain range.

Eventually, the path enters La Carolina municipality while passing by the impressive La Cerrada farmhouse which locates atop a hill to the right. This site is locally known as La Media Legua (half league) since that is the distance remaining from the site to La Carolina town.

The path makes a sharp curve and we will be facing a treeless and dry environment. However, this site is home to the Lesser Kestrel and other bird species associated to meadow-steppe habitats which may find their ideal food in this dry meadow. Following a conservation programme, Lesser Kestrel specimens were relocated in La Carolina municipality.

On the left side of the path we will see a most peculiar series of folds in granite layers which resemble semicircular arches. The Cerro de la Cruz Hill also locates to the left of the path. This is an impressive 650 metres high hill which is very popular among hikers and local occasional walkers because of the impressive views from the top of the hill.

Shortly after passing through this site, the path meets El Centenillo Road. There we will bend to the right to continue walking along the road until come into Virgen del Rosario Avenue, outside the town. At the roundabout, choose the road to the left that leads into the town by Camino de Baños Street where this stage of the trail finishes.

Baños de la Encina Castle

●●● Baños de la Encina is a Highlands town located in a most mountainous region where the impressive Burch al Hammam Castle majestically stands atop the nearby Cerro del Cueto Hill. The castle silhouette appear to be printed on the highlands landscape and even from far distance one can guess the intricate maze of streets which is the town as well as its rich cultural heritage.

The history of the castle goes back to the Muslim period in the Iberian land. The building was believed to have been built in the Caliphal period. However, late archaeological discoveries have helped to date the castle in the Almohad period (middle 12th century). This is one of Europe's best preserved Moorish fortresses as it has little deteriorated through centuries and still keeps its almost untouched original features.

Soon it will keep our attention the fourteen squared towers together with the pentagonal one that fits inside one of the walls corners. One

of the towers was restored during the Christian period and therefore has some characteristics which cannot be appreciated in other Moorish buildings. This tower looks upon the town and is known as either Torre del Homenaje or Almena Gorda because of its shape.

The main access to the castle locates to the east wing and it is well flanked by two towers. We enter the courtyard where there is a large cistern with a barrel-vault ceiling which splits into two different naves separated by pilasters.

The conquest of the castle was tough and evolved some legendary events. According to tradition, in 1189 the Queen of Castile visited the castle and there she gave birth to her first son Fernando III, the Saint who will finally conquest the castle to the Moors in 1225.

The castle was classified as National Monument in 1931, a just recognition to the historical and cultural values of this beautiful building.



STAGE 5:**LA CAROLINA/
SANTA ELENA**

This last stage of the route will take us through the mountains and hills in Despeñaperros when travelling from La Carolina to Santa Elena, two border towns with a strong tradition of hospitality and a region where important battles that changed the course of history were fought.

The GR-48 trail comes to finish this adventure after travelling over 500 kilometres from the westernmost spurs of Sierra Morena Massif at the border between Portugal and Spain to the natural 'Gateway to Andalusia' which is Despeñaperros Pass.

This is an easy with no struggle walk suitable for walking, horse riding and mountain biking. Hikers will enjoy breaking at the beautiful natural site known as La Aliseda Recreation Area which is half way to the end and that is well equipped with facilities for picnic and controlled barbecuing.

78**GR-48 Jaén**

Start: La Carolina
Finish: Santa Elena
Distance: 14,8 Km.
Time: 4 horas

Suitability:**MIDE evaluation:**

Environment: Severity of the natural environment .

3

Orientation: Guidance on the route directions

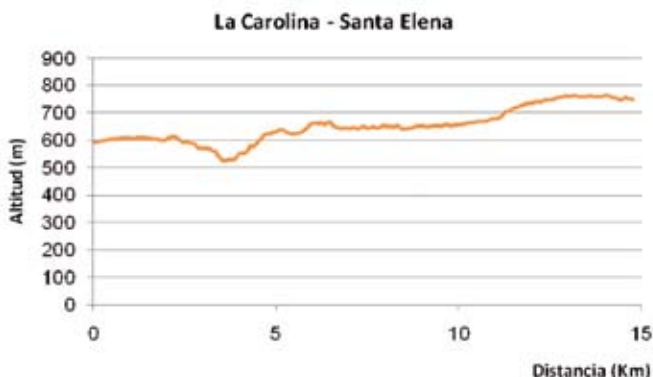
2

Track Features: Difficulty in following the track

2

Struggle: Struggle required for accomplishing the route

3



On the first section of this stage, we will travel through a land where most resources have traditionally been devoted to mining activities. Mining activity has also left a clear footprint in the region where the foundations of demolished mine buildings and other related structures such chimneys can be seen on the foothills and mountains as another landscape feature.

Then we will come into an area predominantly dominated by Mediterranean forests with mountains and hills fully covered with Pine groves near La Campana River Valley and La Aliseda Recreation Area. In the late 19th century, these two sites became very popular as healing retreats for members of the Spanish aristocracy.

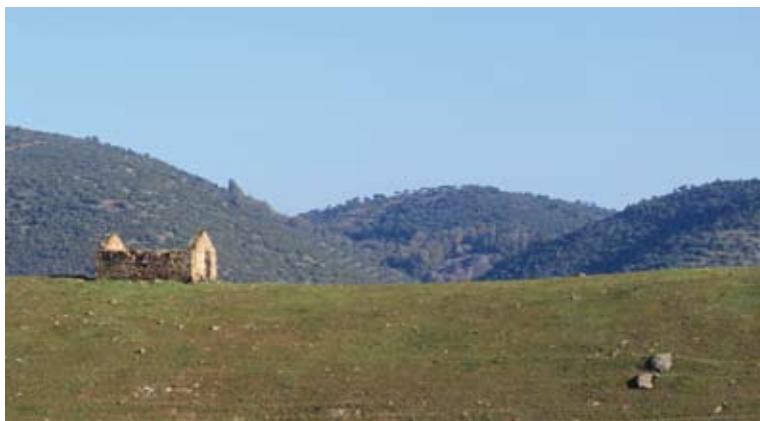
The GR-48 trail comes to an end in Santa Elena, a highland village surrounded by Despeñaperros Natural Park in Jaen province. Many traditional paths together with an interesting natural and cultural heritage will be the most attractive features of the last stage of the route.

ROUTE GENERAL DESCRIPTION

After leaving La Carolina town, we will walk parallel to the N-IV Motorway towards Santa Elena. On having passed by the industrial estate immediately before the cemetery, we will turn 90° to the left to come into Ministro Josep Piqué Avenue and the crossing of the industrial estate. Continue walking straight ahead and pass by the Fire Station before bordering the solar power plant. From there, the trail goes into a tiny country road that moves away from the urban fabric and towards La Aquisgrana Recreation Area where we will see some interesting vestiges of a mining past.

••• Km 2 Los Tramosos Gorge and the Castle

The walk goes ahead and we will soon have some breathtaking views of Sierra Morena foothills and La Campana River Valley which some Olive groves on the fertile slopes and patches of Mediterranean forest and shrub on the higher levels of the hills at the background and former mining buildings spattering everywhere.



The remains of a country house near Los Tramosos Gorge

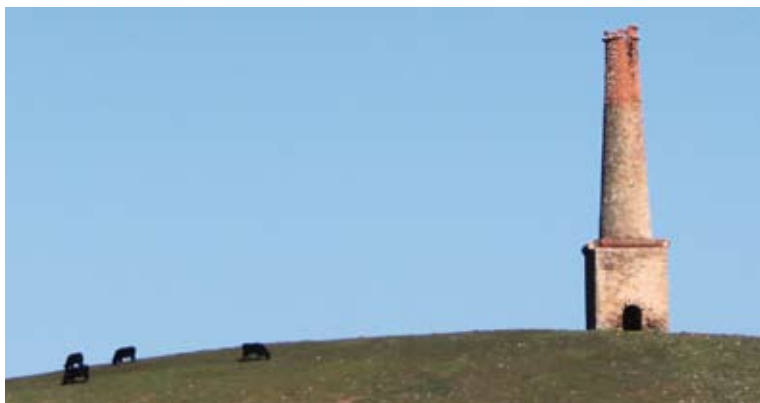
The path runs parallel to the wavy countryside road and winds through a treeless grassland area for cattle grazing. The remains of former shepherds' houses on the hills are some examples of the footprint left on the landscape by farming activities.

80

GR-48 Jaén

The descending path comes to an area where we should pay attention to the direction signs to leave the road after a curve. There we will find two country gates. Choose the one to the right and after crossing it we will come onto another path that leads to Los Tramosos Brook.

The path starts descending through this treeless meadow with some riparian vegetation of Oleanders and Brambles along the brook banks. After wading across the brook, the path passes by a country house well flanked by Eucalyptus trees. Immediately after, we will start climbing a hill where can be seen some abandoned buildings from a mining past such ruined chimneys, demolished country houses and other similar structures.



Livestock appears to be guarding former mine buildings

As we said before, the site supports scarce vegetation although approaching the top of the hill there is good samples of serial shrub of Common Thyme and Marjoram. This open meadow is also home to some bird species such the Corn Bunting, the Crested Lark and flocks of European Goldfinches.

The silhouette of the Castle framed by the rock behind is to our left. The castle which is also known as Torreón del Águila after the Muslim name (Hins-al-ugab) remains as a silent witness of a bloody past when many battles were fought in these hills. Today, Orellana Breeders' fighting bulls appear to be guarding the castle and the surrounding areas to Las Navas de Tolosa. The Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa took place in 1212 in Miranda del Rey, a nearby small village to the north. The crushing defeat of the Muslim army which was defending this natural access to Andalucía was an important turning point in the medieval history of Spain.

The path reaches the top of the hill crowned with a small pasture of Holm Oaks. There, it will join the Motorway service road. There, we will leave the path that bends right and towards Orellana Perdíz Hotel and the service area to continue walking along the fencing until we get access to another path to the left that leads to a modest livestock farm where we should cross another country gate which is blocking the path.

After bordering the farm that remains to the right, we will start climbing up and towards a Pine grove. The path continues ascending between Pine trees and Mediterranean Cypressess at the highest level but also some Olive trees to the right. Our sense of smell will be rewarded with the fresh smell of conifers as this pleasant walk progresses. Eventually, the path meets La Aliseda countryside road where we should go across the road and to the left to continue walking onto a firebreak track that runs parallel.

••• Km 6. La Aliseda Road

At the right side of the JA-7100 road we will continue walking ahead and towards La Aliseda. The path avoids a large curve and now and then comes into nearby granite areas with boulders. Lichens and moss grow on the rocks surface because of the moist in the site.

From these high lands we will have a most impressive view of La Campana River and the gorge. The castle seems to hanging over the valley from one of the roughest and watersheds. Holm Oaks and Mediterranean forest begins to show at the highlands.

The path meets the road again and we will see a waymarking sign that tells us to continue walking ahead and on this tarmac for about 2.7 kilometers. All precautions must bear in mind when walking on the road though.

The walk is pleasant on this section of the route. The Mediterranean forest



Panorámicas del entorno del Castillo de las Navas de Tolosa

of Holm Oaks enriches with Rockroses, Lavenders and Rosemary shrub growing on both sides of the road. The path goes through La Inmediata Country Estate where still we will see some abandoned shot towers to later come into another country estate, Las Cañadas from where it will run parallel to the road. The nearby river causes the fresh air and moist. Just before coming at the bridge over the river, we will leave the road behind us to continue walking onto another path that runs upstream and along the river.

••• Km 9.5 La Aliseda

The path will wind through a most interesting natural and historical site in this section of the route. As we walk upstream and along the river, we will see an excellently preserved lush riparian forest on the riverbanks with some great specimens of Ash-trees, Alders and Poplar trees.

Some fruit trees and great Walnut trees remain near the former spa resort and where used to be gardens plots. Despite the short flow, the river never dries which proves to be essential for some animal species living in the area as Deer and Wild Boars whose tracks can easily be spotted on the riverbanks.

Rapids, waterfalls and pools mark the course of the river at La Aliseda recreation area. A former public launderette or bag wash (formerly wash house) locates downstream just before a recreation area with facilities for picnic (benches, picnic tables, etc) where there is also a small viewpoint and some looking old Sweet Chestnut Trees with their peculiar twisted trunks.



Bridge over La Campana River

••• Km 11 Santa Elena former path

On leaving behind La Aliseda recreation area, the path will come by another bridge over the river to continue straight ahead avoiding going across the river. Soon after, the path will split into three different paths; one of them will run parallel to the river although we will continue walking onto the central one that slightly starts ascending a soft slope while bending to the right.

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While still climbing up between Pine groves and young Holm Oak trees, the path will sharply turn to the right to move away from La Campana River valley. Along the path grow some species of aromatic plants such Lavender and Marjoram shrub and the path surface appears to be paved by outcropping slate slabs on the bare substrate.

GR-48 Jaén



Riparian plants and trees give colour to the monotonous green in autumn

The path continues ahead and winds through Pine groves where we may enjoy the voices of different forest birds and even spot the Chaffinch or the Great Tit. The noise of birds amplifies with large flocks of Azure-Winged Magpie and especially with the colourful and noisy Eurasian Jay. All they will be very alert to our movements as we pass through the forest.

The path meets perpendicularly a firebreak track atop the hill. There we will bend to the left to continue walking along the firebreak while the path will move ahead. The firebreak track climbs down and almost meets the road although at sudden it will turn to the right to start climbing up again. Patches of Cork Oak trees begin to share ground with the still predominant Pine groves.

The track meets the road again and passes by the main access to Piedras Blancas Country Estate. We will walk a few metres along the path that runs parallel to the fencing until it makes a 90° turn and moves away.

The noise of cars travelling the nearby motorway becomes louder as we approach to Santa Elena. However, we will have some metres before coming into the town which also give us the chance to enjoy walking through a large Pine grove where we will discover the beauty of a rare tree species native to America, the Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*).

The path meets again the road to La Aliseda which leads to the pedestrian overpass above the highway -Autovía de Andalucía- to finally come into



A section of the trail runs under the shadow of Monterey

Pine trees

Santa Elena. This small highland town which locates at Despeñaperros Mountain Pass is at the time the end of the stage and of the GR-48 trail through Sierra Morena Mountain Range.

La Aliseda

●●● In the past, La Aliseda Spa resort comprised some twenty different mineral fountains and springs, all they considered to have curative powers. However, the site was internationally recognised for the healing properties of the mineral water from two fountains: San José and La Salud.

Generally, waters at La Aliseda were carbonated and nitrogen-containing waters and especially recommended for treating certain pathologies of the circulatory and respiratory systems. Similar healing properties were also found in mineral waters of other towns and villages such Villaharta, Marmolejo and Puertollano.

The beginning of the 20th century witnessed a great boom at La Aliseda. The medical benefits of the water together with the freshest and purest air in the highlands and nicer weather conditions attracted attractive to many bathers and therefore in the site were built facilities such a hotel, private and renting lodgings, and a retail shop; a large garden with fruit trees and garden

plots was designed too. Today the remains of the spa bath and other structures can be seen downstream and on the riverbanks to the right. Some great samples of old Sweet Chestnut trees and Walnut trees remain in the plain fields where probably used to be beautiful gardens and plots.

A well preserved riparian forest locates along the river banks where Ash-trees mix together with Poplar trees and beautiful patches of Alder trees which are key waterside trees and clear bio-indicators of a healthy and constant river flow.

In the river, small waterfalls and ponds built with natural stone masonry are home to many amphibian species such the Iberian Water Frog, the Iberian Midwife Toad and the Marbled Newt.

Certainly, the medical properties of the water cannot be the solely and not the most notable attraction at La Aliseda since this is a natural site of great environmental and ecological conditions under which a well preserved riparian ecosystem exist.



USEFUL INFORMATION

ALDEAQUEMADA

... Accomodation

APARTAMENTOS TURÍSTICOS LA ALDEILLA

Camino de la Aldehuela, Km. 0,8
23215 Aldeaquemada
618 547 153 / 618 547 152
www.laaldeilla.com

CASA RURAL LA CIMBARRA

Avenida de Andalucía, 32-A
23215 Aldeaquemada
636 006 190
www.la.cimbarra.com

86 CASA RURAL LA ALDEHUELA

Camino de la Aldehuela, s/n
23215 Aldeaquemada
699 222 579
www.casalaaldehuela.com

ANDÚJAR

... Accomodation

HOSPEDERÍA RURAL SANTUARIO DE LA VIRGEN DE LA CABEZA

Ctra. Andújar-Puertollano, Km. 33
Santuario de la Virgen de la Cabeza, s/n.
23740 Andújar
953 549 113
www.hospederiasantuario.com

HOTEL SIERRA DE ANDÚJAR

Ctra. Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza
23740 Andújar
953 549 118 / 953 122 530
www.logasasanti.com

COMPLEJO LA MIRADA

Ctra. Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza, s/n
23740 Andújar
953 542 111 / 669 934 389
www.complejolamirada.com

ALOJAMIENTOS RURALES "PARAJE SAN GINÉS"

Ctra. De la Cadena, Km. 11,5
23740 Andújar
657 803 944
<http://parajesangines.net46.net>

COMPLEJO LOS PINOS

Ctra. Santuario, Km. 14
23740 Andújar
953 549 076 / 953 549 079
www.lospinos.es

AULA DE LA NATURALEZA VILLA MATILDE

Viñas de Peñallana, 302
23740 Andújar
953 549 127 / 618 329 980
www.villamatilde.org

CASA RURAL LA CARACOLA

Viñas de Peñallana, 19-13
23740 Andújar
953 103 207 / 670 727 376
www.lacaracola.es

ALOJAMIENTOS RURALES SIERRA LUNA

Ctra. De la Alcaparrosa, Km. 6,300
23740 Andújar
620 454 935 / 953 041 009
www.sierraluna.com

HOTEL EL SOTO

Ctra. Autovía de Andalucía, Km 325,5. Salida 326.
23740 Andújar
953 501 127
www.lladelsoteles.com

HOTEL LOGASASANTI

C/ Doctor Fleming, 5
23740 Andújar
953 500 500
www.logasasanti.com

HOTEL DEL VAL

Hermanos del Val, 1
23740 Andújar
953 500 950
www.peraltahoteles.com

COMPLEJO EL BOTIJO

Autovía de Andalucía, Km. 324
23740 Andújar
953 501 008
www.elbotijo.org

... Travel Agencies

HALCÓN VIAJES, S.A

C/ Veintidós de julio, 4
23740 Andújar
953 511 214

NACETUR

C/ Doce de agosto, 20
23740 Andújar
953 515 796
www.viajesnacetour.grupoairmet.com

SAFE TOUR

C/ Doce de agosto, 4
23740 Andújar
953 890 650
www.safetour.es

VIAJES LUAN-TOURS

C/ Los Hornos, 50
23740 Andújar
953 515 466

VIAJES "EL CORTE INGLÉS"

C/ Los Hornos, 41
23740 Andújar
953 515 410

••• Restaurants

HOSP. RURAL SANTUARIO DE LA VIRGEN DE LA CABEZA

Ctra. Andújar-Puertollano, Km. 33
Santuario de la Virgen de la Cabeza, s/n.
23740 Andújar
953 549 113
www.hospederiasantuario.com

EL BUEN GUSTO

Ctra. Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza
23740 Andújar
953 549 118 / 953 122 530
www.logasasanti.com

LA MIRADA

Ctra. Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza, s/n
23740 Andújar
953 542 111 / 669 934 389
www.complejolamirada.com

ALOJ. RURALES "PARAJE SAN GINÉS"

Ctra. De la Cadena, Km. 11,5
23740 Andújar
657 803 944
www.parajesangines.com

LOS PINOS

Ctra. Santuario, Km. 14
23740 Andújar
953 549 076
www.lospinos.es

SIERRA LUNA

Ctra. de la Alcaparrosa, Km. 6,300
23740 Andújar
620 454 935 / 953 041 009
www.sierraluna.com

EL TOLEDILLO

Ctra. Santuario de la Virgen de la Cabeza, Km. 5
23740 Andújar
953 511 056
www.lladelsohoteles.com

LA CAÑÁ

Ctra. Del Santuario, Km. 1,2.
23740 Andújar
953 500 720

EL TROPEZÓN

Ctra. Del Santuario, Km. 3
23740 Andújar
953 506 921
www.restauranteeltropezon.es

EL PARRAL

Ctra. Del Santuario, Km. 1,7
23740 Andújar
953 505 127
www.restauranteelparral.com

CHOTO

C/ Pastor Juan de Rivas, 14
23740 Andújar
953 503 116

LA FUNDICIÓN

Vía de Servicios Autovía de Andalucía N-4, Km. 325
23740 Andújar
953 505 091

LA MINA

Ctra. De la Estación, 10
23740 Andújar
953 504 325
www.tabernalamina.es

CRISTIAN

Paseo de Joaquín Colodero, 23.
23740 Andújar
953 507 664

LOGASASANTI

C/ Doctor Fleming, 5
23740 Andújar
953 500 500
www.logasasanti.com

CASA GARRIDO

Polígono La Ceca, P-21
23740 Andújar
953 512 567
www.restaurantecasagarrido.com

CASA MANOLO

C/ San Vicente de Paúl, 27
23740 Andújar
953 504 381

MESÓN RURAL "LA CADENA"

Ctra. La Cadena, Km. 2
23740 Andújar
695 923 074
www.mesonrurallacadena.com

PALACIO DEL DRAGÓN

C/ Emperador Adriano, 9
23740 Andújar
953 511 027

TORTUGA AZUL

Polígono Empresarial Europa, s/n
23740 Andújar
953 512 823

ANDÚJAR II

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 316,7
23740 Andújar
953 510 998

COMPLEJO EL BOTIJO

Autovía de Andalucía, Km. 324
23740 Andújar
953 501 008
www.elbotijo.org

EL BUEN GUSTO II

C/ Doctor Fleming, 5
23740 Andújar
953 500 500
www.logasasanti.com

EL CHURRASCO

Corredera Capuchinos, 24
23740 Andújar
953 502 120
www.lladelsohoteles.com

LOS NARANJOS

C/ Guadalupe, 4
23740 Andújar
953 510 390

MESÓN PINCELÍN

C/ Alcalá Wenceslada, 6
23740 Andújar
953 511 154
www.lospincelines.com

DEL VAL

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 321
23740 Andújar
953 500 950
www.peraltahoteles.com

CASA JUANITO

C/ El Pino, 34
23740 Andújar
953 506 723
www.copaytapas.com/casajuanitoandujar

... Active Tourism

TURISMO VERDE GUÍAS DE NATURALEZA

C/ Historiador Antonio Terrano, 12. 7-M
23740 Andújar
629 518 345
www.lasierradeandujar.com

... Tourist Information Office

OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO DE ANDÚJAR

Torre del Reloj, Plaza de Santa María s/n
23740 Andújar
953 504 959
www.andujar.es

BAILÉN

...Accommodation

HOTEL GRAN BATALLA

C/ Sevilla, 92
23710 Bailén
953 670 219
www.hotelcuatrocaminos.com

HOTEL BAILÉN

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 296
23710 Bailén
953 670 100
www.hotelbailen.com

HOTEL SALVADOR

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km 296
23710 Bailén
953 670 058
www.hotelsalvadorbailen.com

HOTEL ZODIACO

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 294
23710 Bailén
953 671 058
www.hzodiaco.com

HOTEL EL CORDOBÉS

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km 291
23710 Bailén
953 673 388

HOSTAL EL PASO

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 294,500
23710 Bailén
953 671 050
www.hostalelpaso.es

HOSTAL LOS ÁNGELES

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 294,75
23710 Bailén
953 670 010

••• Restaurants

CHINO PEKÍN

C/ Sevilla, 78
23710 Bailén
953 673 869

94 LOS MANUELES

GR-48Jaén

Avda. Manolo Gómez Bur, 28
23710 Bailén
649 969 400

EL MIRADOR

Cat. De las Aguas, 1
23710 Bailén
953 673 055

EL ÁLAMO

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 293
23710 Bailén
953 672 842

EL CORDOBÉS

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 291
23710 Bailén
953 673 388

EL PASO

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 294,500
23710 Bailén
953 671 050
www.hostalelpaso.es

IDEAL

C/ Huertas, 12
23710 Bailén
953 670 264

LA TASCA

Ctra. Nacional IV, Km. 294
23710 Bailén
953 672 333

LOS ÁNGELES

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 294,75
23710 Bailén
953 670 010

SAN JOSÉ

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 298
23710 Bailén
953 671 201

RESTAURANTE HOTEL BAILÉN

Avda. del Parador, s/n
23710 Bailén
953 670 100
www.hotelbailen.com

SALVADOR

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km 296
23710 Bailén
953 670 058
www.hotelsalvadorbailen.com

ZODÍACO

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 294
23710 Bailén
953 671 058
www.hzodiaco.com

CASA ANDRES

C/ Sevilla, 92.
23710 – Bailén
953 673 038
www.restaurantecasandres.com

ABADES BAILÉN

Autovía A4, Madrid-Cádiz, km. 288.
23710 – Bailén.
953 635 545
www.abades.com

... Travel Agencies

MASVIAJES

Plaza General Castaños, 10
23710 Bailén
953 673867

MUNDO TOUR VIAJES

C/ Arroyo, 26 Bajo
23710 Bailén
953 676 124

VIAJES CALLES

Avda. del Parador, 3
23710 Bailén
953 672 802

VIAJES JACI TOURS

C/ Zarco del Valle, 16
23710 Bailén
953 678 507

VIAJES MAVI

C/ Rafael Alberti, 12
23710 Bailén
953 670 218

BAÑOS DE LA ENCINA

•••Accommodation

HOSPEDERÍA RURAL PALACIO GUZMANES

C/ Trinidad, 4
23711 Baños de la Encina
953 613 075
www.palacioguzmanes.com

HOTEL BAÑOS

Cerro La Llanada
23711 Baños de la Encina
953 614 068
www.hotelbanos.com

CR. LA TIENDA DE PACO VALLE I y II.

C/ Mestanza, 2
23711 Baños de la Encina
645 801 562
www.latiendadepacovalle.com

CR. TÍO LEANDRO I y II.

C/ La Cruz, 44 y 48.
23711 Baños de la Encina
615 602 703
www.eltioleandro.es

•••Restaurants

MIRASIERRA

C/ Bailén, 6
23711 Baños de la Encina
953 613 290

BAÑOS

Cerro de la Llana, s/n
23711 Baños de la Encina
953 614 068
www.hotelbanos.com

PALACIO GUZMANES

C/ Trinidad, 4
23711 Baños de la Encina
953 613 075
www.palacioguzmanes.com

... Oficina de turismo

OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO DE BAÑOS DE LA ENCINA

C/ Castillo, 1
23711 Baños de la Encina.
953 613 229
www.bdelaencina.com

... Otros servicios turísticos

CULMINA, SERVICIOS TURÍSTICOS Y CULTURALES, C.B

C/ Castillo, 1
23711 Baños de la Encina
953 613 229 / 651 436 478
www.culmina.es

CARBONEROS

... Restaurantes

CASA SALVADOR

C/ Álamos, 10
23211 Carboneros
953 661 214

JORMA

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 275
23211 Carboneros
953 660 003

COMPLEJO LOS PALOMOS

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 270
23211 Carboneros
953 682 121

GUARROMÁN

••• Alojamientos

HOTEL DIAM

Polígono Guadiel, s/n Parcela E, 7
23210 Guarromán
953 670 000

HOTEL YUMA

Ctra. N. IV. Km. 281
23210 Guarromán
953 615 036

HOTEL PALACIO DEL INTENDENTE

Avda. Andalucía, 35
23210 Guarromán
609 550 426
www.hotelpalaciodelintendente.com

HOTEL GUARROMÁN

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 282
23210 Guarromán
605 889 560

PENSIÓN CASA CHAVES

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz Km. 280
23210 Guarromán
953 615 160

PENSIÓN LOS MELLIZOS

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 280
23210 Guarromán
953 615 159

PENSIÓN LA MEZQUITA

Avda. Andalucía, 111
23210 Guarromán
953 615 182

... Restaurantes

CARLOS III

Antigua Carretera Nacional IV
23210 Guarromán
953 615 269

DON PEPE

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 303
23210 Guarromán
953 673 308

EL VENTORRILLO

Aldea El Ventorrillo, 19
23210 Guarromán
953 676 663

LA MEZQUITA

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 282
23210 Guarromán
953 615 182

ANDAMUR

Polígono Guadiel, 131
23210 Guarromán
953 676 249

CASA CHAVES

Autovía Andalucía, Km. 280
23210 Guarromán
953 615 160

CENTRO

Avda. Andalucía, 37
23210 Guarromán
953 616 001

DIAM

Polígono Guadiel, s/n Parcela 7 E
23210 Guarromán
953 670 000

GASOLINERA DE GUARROMÁN

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km 282, 8
23210 Guarromán
953 616 133

HOJALDRES MORENO

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 280
23210 Guarromán
953 615 071

VENTA LOS GRANAOS

Avda. Andalucía, 14
23210 Guarromán
953 615 284

VIRGEN DE ZOCUECA

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 303
23210 Guarromán
953 674 002

JAIMA-PARK

Ctra. Nacional IV, Km. 283,5
23210 Guarromán
953 615 497

LA CAROLINA

... Alojamientos

HOTEL GRAN PARADA

Avda. Lindez Vilches, 9
23200 La Carolina
953 660 275

HOTEL ORELLANA PERDIZ

Ctra. Madrid- Cádiz, Km. 265
23200 La Carolina
953 661 251

HOTEL ORELLANA PERDIZ II

Ctra. Madrid- Cádiz, Km. 265
23200 La Carolina
953 661 830

HOTEL ORELLANA PERDIZ NUEVAS POBLACIONES

Autovía de Andalucía, Km. 266
23200 La Carolina
953 680 684

HOTEL NH - LA PERDIZ

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 268
23200 La Carolina
953 660 300

HOSTAL NAVAS DE TOLOSA

Autovía de Andalucía, Salida 266
23200 La Carolina
953 660 627

PENSIÓN EL RETORNO

C/ General Sanjurjo, 5
23200 La Carolina
953 661 613

PENSIÓN LOS JARDINEROS

C/ General Sanjurjo, 1
23200 La Carolina
953 660 812

••• Restaurantes

CHINO FUXING

Avda. Juan Carlos I, 9
23200 La Carolina
953 660 574

ALSUR

Avda. Juan Carlos I, 2
23200 La Carolina
953 685 074

GRAN PARADA

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 270
23200 La Carolina
953 660 052

LA TOJA

Avda. Juan Carlos I, 2
23200 La Carolina
953 661 018

ORELLANA PERDIZ

Ctra. Madrid- Cádiz, Km. 265
23200 La Carolina
953 661 251

ORELLANA PERDIZ II

Ctra. Madrid- Cádiz, Km. 265
23200 La Carolina
953 661 830

ORELLANA PERDIZ NUEVAS POBLACIONES

Autovía de Andalucía Km. 266
23200 La Carolina
953 680 684

... Agencias de viajes

VIAJES BETULA, S.L

C/ Madrid, 6
23200 La Carolina
953 681 710

VIAJES KELBATUR

Plaza de España, 4
23200 La Carolina
953 660 746

VIAJES ROSATRAVEL

C/ San Juan de la Cruz, 4
23200 La Carolina
953 685 197

MARMOLEJO

... Alojamientos

HOTEL "GRAN HOTEL SPA"

C/ Calvario, 101
23770 Marmolejo
953 540 975
www.peraltahoteles.com

HOSTAL DE CIUDAD PLAZA

Plaza Amparo
23770 Marmolejo
953 540 156
www.hostalplaza.net

PENSIÓN VIRGEN DE LA CABEZA

C/ Gamonal, 9
23770 Marmolejo
953 517 617

... Restaurantes

ASADOR EL RINCONCILLO

Pasaje de Jesús, 1
23770 Marmolejo
953 540 073

EL RINCÓN DE MARIO

Polígono Industrial, s/n
23770 Marmolejo
953 653 714

GRAN BAR

Plaza del Amparo, 1
23770 Marmolejo
953 540 150

LA RIBERA

Autovía de Andalucía, Km. 335
23770 Marmolejo
953 517 231

... Agencias de viajes

VIAJES AURINGIS

Divino Maestro, 1
23770 Marmolejo
953 271 727

SANTA ELENA

105

... Alojamientos

CAMPING "DESPEÑAPERROS"

Ctra. Santa Elena
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 192
www.campingdespenaperros.com

CR MESA DEL REY

Paraje Mesa del Rey
23213 Santa Elena
953 125 055
www.santaelena.eu/crural

CR FINCA COLLADO DE LOS JARDINES

Finca Collado de los Jardines
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 153
www.parquenaturaldp.com

HOTEL EL MESÓN

Ctra. N-IV, Km. 257
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 100
www.hotelalfonsoviii.com

HOTEL ALFONSO VIII

Ctra. Nacional IV, Km. 258
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 100
www.hotelalfonsoviii.com

... Restaurantes

ABADES PUERTA DE ANDALUCÍA

Autovia A-4, Salida 262.
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 358
www.abades.com

AREA DE DESPEÑAPERROS

Autovia A-4, km. 259.
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 221

LOS JARDINES DE DESPEÑAPERROS

Ctra. Andalucía, Km. 246
23213 Santa Elena
953 125 306

RINCÓN DESPEÑAPERROS

Ctra. Nacional IV, Km. 254
23213 Santa Elena
953 125 335

ALFONSO VIII

Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz, Km. 258,8
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 231
www.hotelalfonsoviii.com

ÁREA DE SERVICIO 258

Autovía A-4, Madrid-Cádiz, km. 258.
23213-Santa Elena.
953 664 031
www.area258.com

CAMPING DESPEÑAPERROS

Carretera de Santa Elena, Km. 257
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 192
www.campingdespenaperros.com

EL MESÓN

Avda. de Andalucía, 91
23213 Santa Elena
953 623 100
www.hotelalfonsoviii.com

... Oficina de turismo

ABADES PUERTA DE ANDALUCÍA

Autovía A-4, Salida 262.
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 358

... Turismo activo

PUERTANATURA, C.B

C/ Carlos III, 22
23213 Santa Elena
953 664 307
www.puertanatura.vivesantaelena.com

VILLANUEVA DE LA REINA

••• Alojamientos

HOTEL RESTAURANTE PAYBER

Enlace Ctra. N-IV con Ctra J-232
23730 Villanueva de la Reina
953 537 050
www.hotelpayber.com

PENSIÓN CASA POSTAS

Autovía de Andalucía, Km. 310
23730 Villanueva de la Reina
953 537 217

HOSTAL SYSY

Ctra. Andújar, 4
23730 Villanueva de la Reina
953 548 032
<http://hostalsysy.com>

HOSTAL MESÓN ANDALUZ

Ctra. La Redonda, s/n
23730 Villanueva de la Reina
953 537 406
www.mesonandaluz-pr.es

HOTEL PAYBER II

Ctra. de Andújar, 4
23730 Villanueva de la Reina
953 537 050
www.hotelpayber.com

••• Restaurantes

SYSY

C/ Andújar, 4
23730 Villanueva de la Reina
953 548 032
<http://hostalsysy.com>

LIST OF SPECIES

THE PLANTS WORLD

•••Plants

Blue Bedder (*Echium plantagineum*)
Bramble (*Rubus ulmifolius*)
Broom (*Retama sphaerocarpa*)
Buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.)
Common Cattail (*Typha latifolia*)
Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
Common Smilax (*Smilax aspera*)
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
Flax-Leaved Daphne (*Daghe nidium*)
Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)
French Lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*)
Gorse (*Genista hirsuta*)
Greasy/Gum Rockrose (*Cistus ladanifer*)
Gurumelo (*Amanita ponderosa*)
Jerusalem Sage (*Phlomis purpurea*)
Laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*)
Lesser calamint (*Calamintha nepetta*)
Mastic Thyme (*Thymus mastichina*)
Mastic Tree (*Pistacea lentiscus*)
Mirtle (*Mirtus communis*)
Moss
Navelwort (*Umbilicus pendulinus*)
Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)
Peony (*Paeonia lactiflora*)
Pine Tree (*Pinus* sp.)
Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia ficus-carica*)
Rascavieja (*Adenocarpus telonensis*)
Reed (*Juncus* sp.)
Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
Sage (*Salvia*)
Steppe Rockrose (*Cistus albidus*)
Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*)
Tamujo (*Flueggea tinctoria*)
Terebint Tree (*Pistacia terebintus*)
White Rockrose/Sageleaf Rockrose (*Cistus salvifolius*)
White Spanish Broom (*Cytisus multiflorus*)
Wild Asparagus (*Asparagus acutifolia*)
Wild Carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus*)

...Trees

Almond (*Prunus dulcis*)
Ash-Tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*)
Common/White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)
Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*)
Eucalyptus Tree (*Eucalyptus globulus*)
Fig Tree (*Ficus carica*)
Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*)
Kermes Oak (*Quercus coccifera*)
Monterrey Pine (*Pinus radiata*)
Olive Tree (*Olea europea*)
Orange Tree (*Citrus sinensis*)
Pine Tree (*Pinus pinea*)
Pomegranate Tree (*Punica granatum*)
Portuguese Oak (*Quercus faginea*)
Sweet Chestnut Tree (*Castanea sativa*)
Walnut Tree (*Juglans regia*)
White Poplar (*Populus alba*)
Wild Iberian pear Tree (*Pyrus bourgaeana*)
Wild Olive Tree (*Olea europea silvestris*)
Willow Tree (*Salix alba*)

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THE ANIMAL WORLD

...Birds

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)
Bee-Eater (*Merops apiaster*)
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)
Blue Rock-Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)
Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)
Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*)
Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*)
Common Blackbird (*Turdus philomelos*)
Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)
Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)
Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)
Common Wood-Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
Corn Bunting (*Miliaria calandra*)
Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)
Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*)
Eurasian Eagle-Owl (*Bubo bubo*)

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)
European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)
European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)
Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)
Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)
Great Tit (*Parus major*)
Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)
Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)
Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)
Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)
Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)
Long-Tailed Tit (*Aegithalo caudatus*)
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)
Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)
Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)
Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)
Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)
Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)
Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*)
Rock Sparrow (*Petronia petronia*)
Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)
Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)
Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*)

•••Mammals

Badger (*Meles meles*)
Common Genet (*Genetta genetta*)
Deer (*Cervus elaphus*)
Egyptian Mongoose (*Herpestes ichneumon*)
Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)
Garden Dormouse (*Eliomys quercinus*)
Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardina*)
Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*)

...Fish

Freshwater white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)

Iberian Barbel (*Barbus bocagei*)

Iberian Nase (*Pseudochondrostoma polylepis*)

...Amphibians

Common Fire Salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*)

Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)

Iberian Water Frog (*Pelophylax perezi*)



Portugal	Córdoba
Barrancos	Hornachuelos
Huelva	Posadas
Encinasola	Almodóvar del Río
Cumbres de San Bartolomé	Santa María de Trassierra
Cumbres Mayores	Cerro Muriano
Hinojales	Villaharta
Arroyomolinos de León	Obejo
Cala	Presa del Guadalmejato
Santa Olalla del Cala	Adamuz
Sevilla	Montoro
El Real de la Jara	Jaén
Almadén de la Plata	Marmolejo
Cazalla de la Sierra	Santuario Virgen de la Cabeza
Constantina	Viñas de Peñallana
La Puebla de Los Infantes	Baños de la Encina
	La Carolina
	Santa Elena

The GR-48 'Sendero de Sierra Morena' Trail covers some 590 kilometers through the provinces of Huelva, Seville, Córdoba and Jaen in Andalucía although the route starts off at Barrancos, a small village in Portugal.

Four different rough guides have been produced for a better understanding and interpretation of this long distance trail. Each guide suits each one of the provinces covered by the GR-48 Trail.

This guide is about the 120 kilometers through Jaén province. This five stages trail matches a protected green corridor connecting the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park and Despeñaperros mountain range. The landscape comprises pure Mediterranean forests and pastures fully devoted to cattle breeding. A region where still remain some of the world's most endangered animal species such the Iberian Lynx, the Wolf, the Black Vulture and the Spanish Imperial Eagle. We will find some historic towns and villages where people incorporate natural values to their own lifestyle and personal development. Definitely, hiking in this section of Sierra Morena mountain range in Jaén province will be an unforgettable experience.