


La Siberia

A region waiting to be discovered





La Siberia

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La Siberia is a region located in the north-east of Badajoz province in the foothills of the Montes de Toledo range. It borders with Cáceres, Toledo and Ciudad Real provinces.

A considerable variety of habitats and landscapes are found within La Siberia's vast territory. From the extensive plains in the south to the woodlands in the north and large stretches of water that cross the region; all are home to a wide diversity of environments, ideal for observing a **wealth of flora and fauna**. La Siberia is heaven for nature lovers, particularly birdwatchers. The region has 17 **natural spaces** that are part of the European Natura 2000 network, which represents 50% of its territory.

Very few places in Europe offer as many high-quality nature experiences in such sublime conditions as La Siberia: walking trails, BTT bike routes, fishing, bird-watching, wild mushroom foraging, water sports, climbing, photography trails, etc. Almost five hundred vertebrate species inhabit the area; some are Iberian Peninsula specialities, such as Black Stork, Griffon Vulture, Black Vulture, Golden Eagle and Spanish Imperial Eagle, to mention a few.

You really cannot miss this exceptional natural environment: La Siberia in Extremadura. Breathe in the fresh air and take in the beautiful landscapes, they will no doubt leave you breathless. **Come and discover La Siberia! We know you'll leave planning your next trip!**

Protected Areas:

Pages 5 to 15

After dedication and commitment, locals of La Siberia in Extremadura succeeded in conserving the region's **natural areas**, which are included in the protected natural areas of Extremadura network (**RENPEX**) and the **Natura 2000 network**. La Siberia is, therefore, a region that every nature lover should visit.

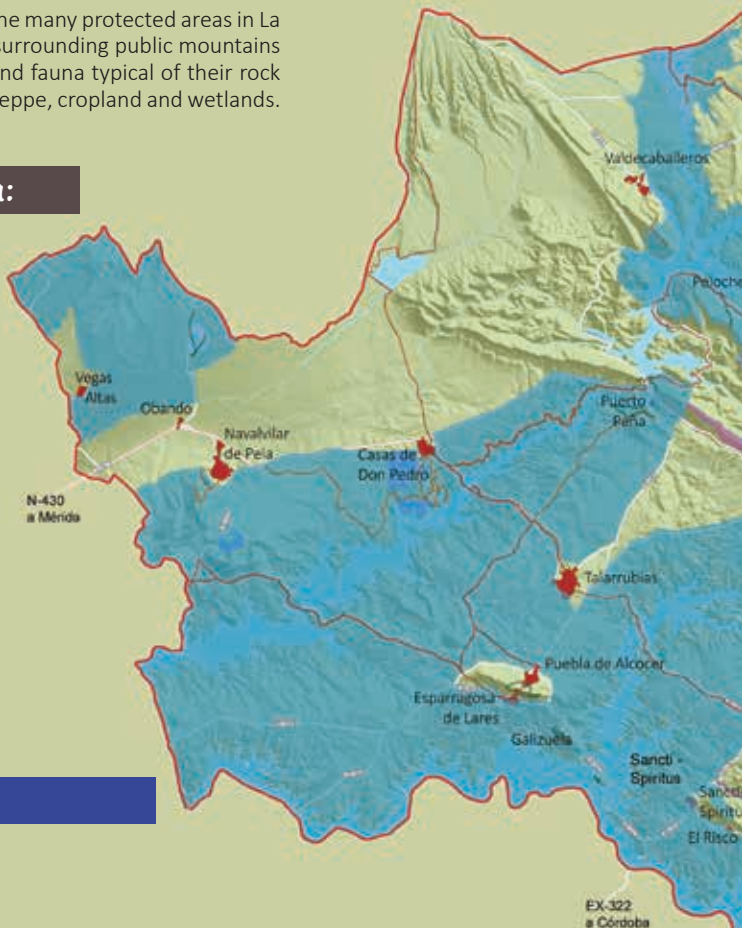
We would love for you to explore the many protected areas in La Siberia, the Cíjara reserve and its surrounding public mountains and discover the variety of flora and fauna typical of their rock formations, woodlands, dehesa, steppe, cropland and wetlands.



Villages in la Siberia:

Pages 16 to 33

La Siberia is a region where water takes precedence. As well as enjoying its natural areas, visitors are recommended to **explore the region's villages**, abounding in vernacular architecture and traditions with interesting fiestas, and sample the local gastronomy.



Nature Activities:

Pages 34 to 37

Visitors can enjoy the region's plentiful nature and all of the creatures that live in its habitats. La Siberia offers a range of **water sports** on the river Guadiana and its reservoirs all year round: boat rides, swimming, canoeing, sailing, etc. Moreover, there is a whole host of **outdoor activities** available in exceptional settings and environmentally-friendly experiences where you can marvel at stunning sceneries and uncover the environment's ecological importance.

This section includes a wealth of possibilities that will make your trip to La Siberia a unique experience.

Discover the region through its GR trails:

Pages 38 to 53

If you are **visiting La Siberia** for several days, this section recommends the main trails so that you can really discover the region. The **Grandes Rutas** are long-distance trails that can be enjoyed by car, four-by-four and/or bicycle. You'll see all the main natural attractions such as bodies of water, countryside, flora and fauna.



La Siberia Trail Network:

Pages 54 to 113

For those who love walking or biking, La Siberia has a number of **s locales (SL)**, local footpaths and **pequeños recorridos (PR)**, short trails, which are part of the **La Siberia Trail Network**. This guide will provide you a brief description of each trail, a map, starting points and the highlights that you will discover. **More information and tracks** available in Spanish: ~ <http://goo.gl/zyiRnU>

Practical Information:

Pages 114 to 116

This section provides **more detailed information** that will help you plan your trip to La Siberia, including accommodation, restaurants, interpretation centres, tourist information offices, health centres, etc. More information (in Spanish): www.comarcalasiberia.com

How to use the guide

The following pages describe the **protected areas** dotted throughout the La Siberia region, and includes information about their flora and fauna, highlights, recommended season to visit, trails, viewing points, etc. It also recommends **villages** worth visiting and extensive **bodies of water** that cross the region. The region champions **rural and active tourism** and offers a range of leisure activities, which allow you to enjoy but respect nature. Moreover, the guide offers a network of trails with information about how to access them, viewing points, birdwatching observatories, recreational areas to take a break, reservoir beaches, jetties, climbing areas, as well as visitor and information centres where you can find additional information for your trip.

The guide is **easy-to-use** with an index map at the start, with a brief explanation of the page numbering and geographical details about the natural spaces and trails across La Siberia.

At the end of the guide is a comprehensive list of accommodation, restaurants and places of interest, such as tourist information offices and interpretation centres. The list also includes companies that offer nature activities, many of which also provide transport throughout La Siberia.

Lastly, visitors should be reminded that there are some restrictions in place for protected areas, Public Mountain areas and reservoirs, with the aim of conserving their flora and fauna:

The Guadiana Hydrographic Confederation regulates **sailing and boating** on the region's reservoirs. You can find more detailed information (in Spanish) on the following page: <http://goo.gl/nS0Nxr>

Special care should be taken not to disturb birds along the shores or on small islands from 1 January until 31 July.

When walking or hiking, you must always keep to the **trails** described in this guide, especially in mountainous areas. Avoid climbing quartzite rocks, especially from February to June, when species are nesting and you are likely to disturb mating.

Hunting season is from 12 October until 28 February. You are therefore recommended to call the General Environment Manager or Natural Environment Agents to find out if there are any restrictions in place in the area. You should also take extra precautions from 1 June until 30 September as there is a higher risk of fire, and you should find out whether there are any restrictions in place from the Natural Environments Agency.

Mountains, plains, wetlands

RENPEX, NATURA 2000 NETWORK (SPA and SAC) and RAMSAR

Area: 42,609 ha

Villages: Navalvillar de Pela, Casas de Don Pedro, Talarrubias, Puebla de Alcocer, Esparragosa de Lares, Campanario, Orellana de la Sierra and Orellana la Vieja

More information:

www.extremambiente.gobex.es



Flora:

Holm oak forests predominate the area and are occasionally accompanied by cork trees and gall oaks. Rolling dehesa pastures cover the hillsides and flatter areas. Seral vegetation that grows among degraded holm oaks includes kermes oak, rockrose, ahulaga (*Genista hirsuta* Vahl) and jaguarzo (*Cistus clusii*) shrubs, mastic and strawberry trees.

The latter two are also plentiful on the plains and sun-drenched south-facing hillsides, as well as wild olive, gall oak, heather, laurestine and rosemary.

Riparian vegetation consists of oleander, tamujo broom, tamarisk and hawthorn. There are also woodland and pasture areas.

Interesting fauna:

Golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian vulture and blue rock thrush are some of the bird species that can be spotted circling the mountains. A wide range of birds populate the steppes, including great bustard, little bustard and black-bellied sandgrouse. Large roosting populations of crane and a variety of ducks, geese, swans and waders can be observed in and around water habitats.

Facilities and resources:

Interpretation centre:

Puerto Peña Rock-Dwelling Fauna Interpretation centre / Talarrubias Tourist Information Centre. Along the N-430, Exit 167 Puerto Peña — Talarrubias.

Open: Wednesday-Sunday.

Trails:

Orellana Reservoir and Puerto Peña Drive (page 38)

1 Gadiana Nature Trail (page 42)

36 La Mora Cave Trail (page 100)

38 Las Dehesas Canal Trail (page 102)

39 The Waterwheel Trail (page 104)

40 Puerto Peña—Talarrubias Trail (page 95)

41 Arroyo Hondo Trail (page 108)

46 The Reservoirs Trail (page 52)

47 Cerro de las Cruces Trail (page 112)

Viewpoints:

El Chorrero

Cogolludo

Arroyo Hondo dam observatory

Canal de las Dehesas observatories

Puerto Peña Rock-Dwelling Fauna Interpretation centre

Puerto Peña Viewpoint

La Visitación convent (Puebla de Alcocer)

Phenology:

Spring is the most recommended time to visit as most of the summering birds arrive during this season, and many plants are in bloom. However, the reservoir accommodates more species during the post-nuptial migration and winter.

A host of water sports are on offer in summer.

“Moheda Alta” DEHESA PERIURBAN CONSERVATION AND LEISURE PARK

Dehesa, wetlands

Flora:

Although there is a wide variety of flora and fauna, the park is renowned for its holm-oak and cork-tree dehesa, as well as thickets and bushes, such as gum cistus, jara negra (*Cistus salviifolius*), Spanish lavender, flax-leaved daphne, wild rose and common hawthorn. The abundance of *Serapias perez-chiscanoi* orchid is also noteworthy. The park is surrounded by rain-fed cereal fields, pastures, olive groves, irrigated crop lands and riparian woodland areas.

Interesting fauna:

This wonderfully varied landscape favours the presence of numerous wild fauna species; the dehesa and its surrounds are home to one of the largest crane populations on the Iberian Peninsula. Raptors (black-shouldered kite, Montagu's harrier and golden eagle) and long-legged birds (white stork, black stork and grey heron) are also common.

Facilities and resources:

Interpretation centre:

Periurban Conservation and Leisure Park Interpretation Centre: exhibitions on cranes and the dehesa.

EX-116, Villanueva de la Serena — Guadalupe road, Kilometre mark 4.8.

06760 Navalvillar de Pela

Open: October-March; Wednesday-Sunday, 09.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

RENPEX NETWORK - Periurban Conservation and Leisure Park

Area: 157,54 Ha

Village: Navalvillar de Pela

More information:

<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>

Other services:

A hostel with several bedrooms, traditional thatched cottages, restaurant, communal dining room, toilets and showers, all of which are accessible for disabled guests.

Trails:

There are several trails for all ability levels; the longest trail does not exceed 5.5 km.

Viewpoints:

Four observatories have been built in the park so that visitors can watch the cranes' day-to-day movements, and observe the long-legged species swoop in to their roosting sites from their feeding sites in the dehesa, stovers and rice paddies.

Phenology:

Crane is the most common species, and can be spotted during autumn and winter, alongside others that spend the winter season in the park's pools, and wintering raptors. Spring is recommended to witness the arrival of the summering species and the plant life in bloom.



Wetlands, woodlands, dehesa

RENPEX NETWORK - Wildlife Corridor

Area: 2.075,55 Ha

Villages: Castilblanco, Valdecaballeros, Alía and Guadalupe

More information:

<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>

Flora:

This area possesses extremely important plant formations, such as thermo-Mediterranean, riparian gallery forests, including white willow and silver poplar gallery forests, ash woodland, residual alluvial forests and Mediterranean meadows of tall grasses and reeds.

Interesting fauna:

The corridor accommodates a plethora of species, the most important being: otter, shrew, wildcat, beech marten, black stork, Eurasian eagle owl, Eurasian scops owl, booted eagle, short-toed snake eagle, red kite, common kite, black-winged kite, goshawk, sparrowhawk, lesser kestrel, as well as many aquatic birds, such as great crested grebe, great cormorant, little grebe, black-winged stilt, grey plover and little ringed plover.

Facilities and resources:

Trails:

21 Guadalupe Pilgrim Trail (page 82)

27 The Levante Guadalupe Pilgrim Trail (page 48)

Phenology:

The corridor can be visited at any time of year, however spring is the most interesting season with the return of summering birds (black stork, booted eagle, short-toed snake eagle). During migration period, the river becomes a migratory crossroad where, as well as the usual species, you can spot other, less common ones that are passing through. It is a birdwatching bonanza at this time of year given the birds' mating behaviour. However, the bare trees of winter also allow us to observe birds more easily.



Woods, rock formations, wetlands

NATURA 2000 NETWORK (SPA and SAC)

Area: 33.031,16 Ha

Villages: Fuenlabrada de los Montes, Herrera del Duque, Puebla de Alcocer, Talarrubias, Valdecaballeros and Castilblanco

More information:

<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>



Flora:

The primeval forest of holm oak occupies scarce spots on the south-facing shaded slopes and the high and inaccessible areas of the sierras. Holm oak forests predominate the area and are occasionally accompanied by cork trees and gall oaks. Rolling dehesa pastures cover the hillsides and flatter areas. Moreover, riparian vegetation, pine reforestations, strawberry trees are accompanied by heather, peony, laurestine, butcher's broom, gum cistus and jaguarzo (*Cistus clusii*) shrubs.

Interesting fauna:

There is a considerable concentration of birds, especially rock-dwelling and forest species, including red kite, griffon vulture, Egyptian vulture, short-toed snake eagle, Spanish imperial eagle, golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, booted eagle and Eurasian eagle owl. You may also observe a considerable number of white stork and black stork in postnuptial flocks. Common crane spend the winter in the dehesa and work fields.

Facilities and resources:

Interpretation centre:

Puerto Peña Rock-Dwelling Fauna Interpretation Centre / Talarrubias Tourist Information Centre.
N-430, Exit 167 Puerto Peña -Talarrubias

Open: Wednesday-Sunday.

Trails:

Puerto Peña and Sierra de los Golondrinos SPA Drive (page 40)

1 Guadiana Nature Trail (page 42)

11 Arroyo de la Garguera Trail (page 66)

13 Portillo del Cíjara Trail (page 70)

15 Cíjara Palace Trail (page 72)

22 El Paredón Trail (page 84)

23 Collado de los Alguaciles Trail (page 86)

24 Arroyo Pelochejo Trail (page 87)

25 Collado de Consolación Trail (page 88)

26 Los Golondrinos Trail (page 89)

Viewpoints:

Portillo del Cíjara

Arroyo de los Golondrinos spring

Mirador del Sotillo

Mirador de las Fraguas

El Embarcadero

Phenology:

The SPA can be visited at any time of year. Spring is a good time for spying summering birds, such as black stork and Egyptian vulture. Wintering birds like common crane frequent the area in autumn and winter. Summer is **ideal for swimming** and water sports, such as canoeing, sailing and boating.





Flora:

The Sierra de Siruela is a mountain formation of quartzite origin, populated by Mediterranean vegetation (holm oak, cork tree, gall oak, juniper and wild olive). Another prominent feature is the chestnut forest in the valley of the La Celada stream. Several watercourses run through this area; they originate in the foothills of the Sierra de Siruela and run into rivers Zújar, Esteras and Siruela. In their headwaters, you can observe small thalwegs consisting of rañas (quartzite and clay). They accommodate several orchid species (*Ophrys tenthredinifera*, *Serapias lingua*, *Orchis papilionacea*, *Serapias perezchiscanoi*, *Orchis laxiflora*, *Serapias cordigera*).

The river Esteras is the protected area's main watercourse; it is the perfect example of a well-conserved river in a Mediterranean environment, where the mountain areas come into contact with riparian formations, comprising ashes and a dense thermophilic vegetation, including tamujo broom, oleander, wild vines, mastic trees, water lilies and reeds.

Interesting fauna:

The protection offered by the quartzite rock formations and dense woodlands favours the presence of several rock-dwelling bird species (Bonelli's eagle, golden eagle, griffon vulture,

Woods, rock formations, dehesa

NATURA 2000 NETWORK (SPA and SAC)

Area: 6.677,91 y 2.709,08 ha

Village: Baterno, El Risco, Garlitos, Tamurejo and Siruela

More information:

<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>

Eurasian eagle owl, Egyptian vulture and black stork), as well as other species more common to forest areas (black vulture, goshawk and red kite). The abundance of game (rabbit, hare and pigeon) encourages the Spanish Imperial Eagle to frequent the area during periods of dispersal.

Facilities and resources:

Trails:

33 Sierra de Siruela Trail (page 96)

34 La Celada Trail (page 98)

35 The Miners' Guadalupe Pilgrim Trail (page 50)

Viewpoints:

La Motilla

Mirador de La Celada

El Azorejo hill

River Esteras

Phenology:

The Special Protected Area can be visited at any time of year. Spring is a good time for spying summering birds, such as black stork and Egyptian vulture. Wintering birds like common crane can be spotted in the area in autumn and winter. **La Celada valley** is especially recommended in autumn given the hues of the chestnut trees and the falling of their leaves. In Spring, the **river Esteras** area offers bright colours with blossoming plant species.



“La Serena” SAC, “La Serena and Sierras Periféricas” SPA, “Embalse de la Serena” SPA and “Embalse del Zújar” SPA

Steppes, dehesa, rock formations, wetlands

NATURA 2000 NETWORK (SPA and SAC)

Area: 148.159; 154.973; 15.877 y 1.521,65 ha

Villages: Casas de Don Pedro, Esparragosa de Lares, Garbayuela, Garlitos, Puebla de Alcocer, El Risco, Sancti-Spiritus, Siruela, Talarrubias and Tamurejo, as well as many villages in La Serena region.

More information:

<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>



Flora:

Many of these protected areas are sub-steppes, natural pastures with priority classification in the Habitats Directive, and Mediterranean holm oaks and gallery forests.

Interesting fauna:

This area is the most extensive protected space in Extremadura, which accommodates a large number of bird species, as well as fish, reptiles and mammals.

La Serena and Sierras Periféricas SPA has one of the richest and most diverse steppe bird populations, not only regionally, but in Spain and even in Europe. The following species can be spotted: great bustard, little bustard, black-bellied sandgrouse, European roller, stone-curlew, Montagu's harrier, marsh harrier, hen harrier, lesser kestrel, greater short-toed lark, common golden plover, collared pratincole, Eurasian dotterel and a considerable number of crane.

Rock-dwelling birds can also be spotted, such as Egyptian vulture, golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle and black stork.

Eurasian wigeon, osprey, and breeding colonies of little tern and collared pratincole are among the aquatic birds that roost in the **SPA's La Serena reservoir**.

Zújar reservoir SPA specialities are Bonelli's eagle and aquatic bird communities of crane, greylag geese, northern pintail, red-crested pochard and tufted duck.

Facilities and resources:

Trails:

- River Guadalemar Drive (page 41)
- 32 Cañada de las Urracas Trail (page 94)
- 35 The Miners' Guadalupe Pilgrim Trail (page 50)
- 42 Cerro de Masatrigo Botanical Trail (page 108)
- 43 Fortaleza de Lares Trail (page 109)

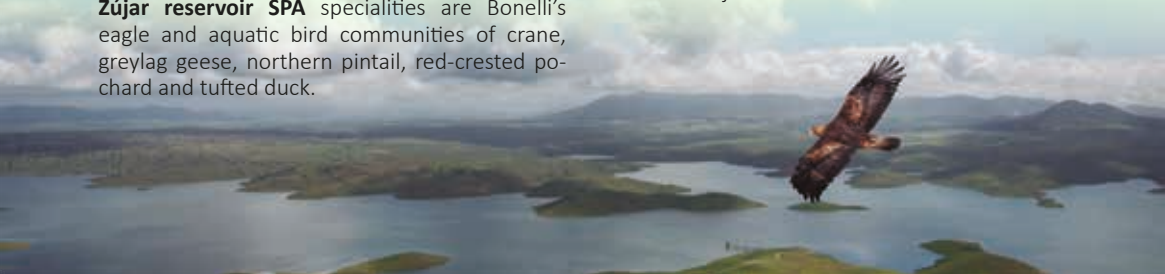
Viewpoints:

- Tamurejo hill
- Fernán Núñez dehesa
- Masatrigo hill
- Fortaleza de Lares fortress
- Puebla de Alcocer castle
- Valfrío

Phenology:

Any time of the year is recommended, but spring and autumn are especially suitable for observing the area's flora and fauna. The great bustard courtship period, between April and May, is marvellous, as rings of males strikingly perform displays.

Summer is great for **practising water sports**, such as canoeing, motor boating and sailing on either the Zújar or La Serena reservoirs.



Woods, rock formations



NATURA 2000 (SAC) NETWORK

Area: 663,30 y 500,91 ha

Villages: Garbayuela, Talarrubias and Puebla de Alcocer

More information:
<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>

These south-eastern and north-eastern facing sierras are an extension of the Sierra de los Villares and Sierras de Mirabueno.

They are part of an important natural corridor that connects Córdoba and Ciudad Real provinces with the Embalse Orellana and Sierra de Pela SPA.

Flora:

The typical habitat consists of siliceous rock formations with rock-clinging plants as well as Mediterranean thickets mainly, as well as heaths, Iberian gall oak forests and endangered flora species, such as prickly juniper.

La Sierra de Villares–Balbuena trail is also noteworthy for the number of orchid species on its fresh, shaded slopes.

Interesting fauna:

The protection offered by the quartzite rock formations and dense woodlands favours the presence of several rock-dwelling bird species, such as Bonelli's eagle, golden eagle and griffon vulture. You may also spy many game animals, such as red, roe and the odd fallow deer as you walk along the area's footpaths.

Facilities and resources:

Trails:

- 29 La Molinera—Tablacorta TRAIL (page 92)
- 30 Peñón del Búho Trail (page 93)
- 31 El Castro Trail (page 91)

Viewpoints:

- El Castro
- Peñón del Búho peak
- Sierra de los Villares fire watchtower

Phenology:

Any time of the year is recommended, but spring and autumn are especially suitable for observing the area's flora and fauna.



Woods, wetlands, rock formations

NATURA 2000 NETWORK (SAC)

Area: 7.866,06 y 373,22 ha

Villages: Helechosa de los Montes, Fuenlabrada de los Montes, Garbayuela and Siruela

More information:

<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>

Flora:

The holm-oak woods hold great importance in the **Río Estena** SAC, as do the galleries of willow, silver poplar and ash in the depths of the valley. Galleries of willows and silver poplars are also found in the **Río Guadalemar** SAC, but Mediterranean riparian thickets, gall oak and holm oak are most common.

Interesting fauna:

Autochthonous fish species, such as Iberian arched-mouth nase, ide, bogue and calandino (*Squalius alburnoides*) are common. Other interesting fauna are otter, marsh fritillary butterfly and a good representation of amphibians and reptiles, including Iberian painted frog, and European and Spanish pond turtle.

The Río Estena SAC's proximity to the Cabañeros National Park transforms it into the feeding and dispersal ground of many bird species more commonly associated with the Mediterranean mountains, such as black stork, Spanish imperial eagle, black vulture and Egyptian vulture.

You can also spy game animals such as red and roe deer.



Facilities and resources:

Trails:

- 6 The Cabañeros Guadalupe Pilgrim Trail (page 44)
- 27 The Levante Guadalupe Pilgrim Trail (page 48)
- 28 Embalse del Guadalemar Trail (page 90)
- 29 La Molinera—Tablacorta Trail (page 92)
- 30 Peñón del Búho Trail (page 93)

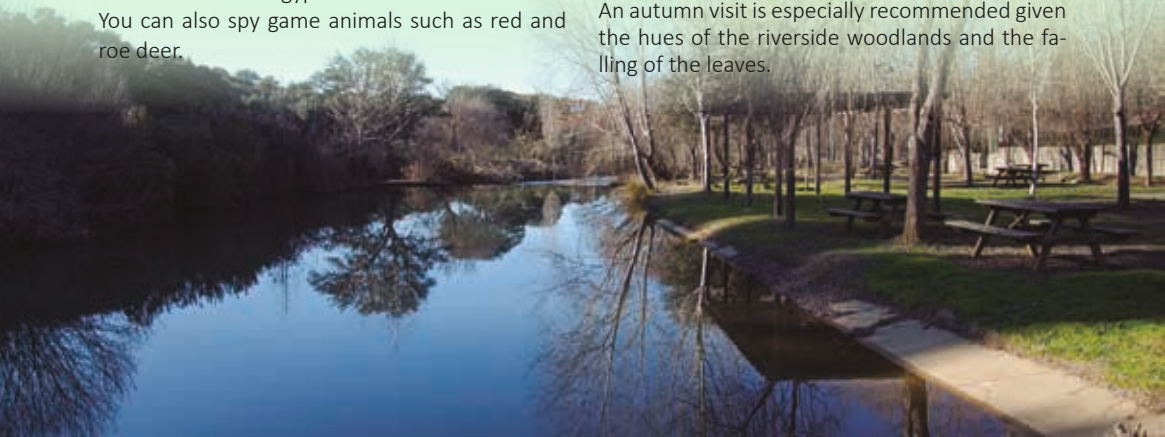
Other facilities:

Recreational area with bathing area in the river Guadalemar and the Guadalemar reservoir. Bathing and recreational area at Tablacorta, close to the Garbayuela village.

Phenology:

The SACs can be visited at any time of year. Spring is a good time to visit because all of the plants are in bloom.

An autumn visit is especially recommended given the hues of the riverside woodlands and the falling of the leaves.



Wetlands, cropland, woods and steppes

NATURA 2000 NETWORK (SAC)

Area: 14.226,39 y 7.442,74 ha

Villages: Navalvillar de Pela and other villages

More information:

<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>

This space is included in the Moheda Alta Periurban Conservation and Leisure Park.

The rivers Cubilar, Gargáligas and Rucas, and Romero, Carbonilla, La Quebrada streams cross these areas.

There is a vast range of habitats, including extensive dehesa pastures, cropland, riparian habitat and wetlands, such as the Cubilar reservoir.

Flora:

Mediterranean humid grasslands, oak dehesa pastures, riparian galleries and shrubland, orchids such as *Serapias perez-chiscanoi* and vast rice fields to the south of the area populated by common crane.

Interesting fauna:

The wetlands, such as the Cubilar reservoir, accommodate important aquatic bird populations (collared pratincole and little tern).

Among the steppe bird varieties are great bustard, Montagu's harrier, western marsh harrier and black-winged kite. The common crane, common greylag geese, black-tailed godwit, northern pintail and even black stork can be spotted dur-

ring winter. Forest raptors can be seen circling above, including Bonelli's eagle, golden eagle, Montagu's harrier and lesser kestrel.

The area's waters are inhabited by otter and fish species, such as calandino (*Squalius alburnoides*), Iberian long-snout barbel and river bogue.

Facilities and resources:

Interpretation centre:

Periurban Conservation and Leisure Park Interpretation Centre: exhibitions on Crane and the dehesa.

EX-116 Villanueva de la Serena — Guadalupe road, Kilometre mark 4.8. 06760, Navalvillar de Pela.

Open October-March; Wednesday-Sunday 09.00 a.m.- 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.- 5.30 p.m.

Viewpoints:

Moheda Alta Periurban Conservation and Leisure Park Observatories.

Cubilar dam

Phenology:

Spring is perfect for spotting summering bird species like black stork, booted eagle, Montagu's harrier, European bee-eater and birds of passage. Blossoming plants can also be admired in this season, especially orchids.

Wintering birds roost in these areas during autumn and winter, including common crane, greylag geese, lapwing, black-tailed godwit.



Mountains, woods, plains, wetlands

RESERVA REGIONAL DE CAZA DEL CÍJARA

Area: approx. 25.000 Ha

Villages: Herrera del Duque, Fuenlabrada de los Montes, Helechosa de los Montes and Villarta de los Montes

More information:

<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>

The Reserve currently occupies a surface area of around 25,000 hectares with a 180 km perimeter.

Flora:

The flora's physiognomy is under constant evolution, starting with the 1950s and 1960s reforestation with stone pine and maritime pine, as well as eucalyptus reforestation in some areas. The transformation has continued in recent years with silviculture treatments tending to create mixed areas of conifer and typical Mediterranean species, such as holm oak, cork oak, gall oak and strawberry trees mainly. The following shrubs can be found in the area: heather, rosemary, peony, laurestine, butcher's broom, gum cistus, jaguarzo (*Cistus clusii*), terebinth, mastic, spurge olive and Spanish lavender.

Interesting fauna:

Among the rich and varied fauna, red, fallow and roe deer and wild boar, are the most common mammals. You may be able to see the following fascinating bird species: golden eagle, black vulture, griffon vulture, Egyptian vulture, black stork and red-legged partridge, among others. Hunting is regulated by the Extremaduran government and only authorised game species may be hunted.

Facilities and resources:

Trails:

- 2 La Lobera Trail (page 54)
- 3 Garganta de los Acebos Trail (page 56)
- 4 La Grajera Trail (page 57)
- 5 Los Acebos Trail (page 58)
- 7 El Cuervo Trail (page 60)



- 8 Los Batanes Trail (page 62)
- 9 Los Robledillos Trail (page 64)
- 10 Las Nueve Hoces Trail (page 63)
- 11 Arroyo de la Garguera Trail (page 66)
- 12 Las Mesas Trail (page 68)
- 14 Mirador del Cíjara Trail (page 67)
- 16 Reserva del Cíjara Drive (page 46)
- 17 La Muela Trail (page 74)
- 18 Sotillo Pass Trail (page 76)

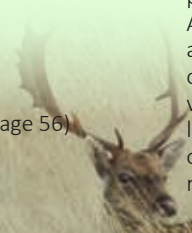
Viewpoints:

- Sotillo
- Portillo del Cíjara
- Valdemoros Deer's Bellow Observatory
- Las Moralejas Observatory
- El Robledillo
- Cantos Negros
- Los Chopos
- Los Robledillos Deer's Bellow Observatory
- Las Poyatas
- Azorejo
- La Grajera

Phenology:

The reserve can be visited at any time of year. In summer, visitors can enjoy the arrival of summering species and blossoming plants, especially peonies.

At the beginning of autumn, you can observe and especially hear the deer's bellow (berrea) of stags and fierce ruts resonating through the valleys and mountains. Hunting season then follows, which lasts until the end of winter. The end of autumn is the perfect time to forage for wild mushrooms, especially saffron milk caps.



Woods, plains, wetlands

PUBLIC MOUNTAINS

Area: Approx. 45.000 Ha

Villages: Herrera del Duque, Fuenlabrada de los Montes, Helechosa de los Montes and Villarta de los Montes, Garbayuela, Navalvillar de Pela, Casas de Don Pedro, Garlitos and Puebla de Alcocer.

More information:

<http://extremambiente.gobex.es/>



Most of the Public Mountains in La Siberia share land with the Cíjara Regional Hunting Reserve.

Flora:

Despite not surpassing 800 m (except La Montilla on Sierra de Siruela), the mountains stretch across several hills, all of which boast wonderful panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes, mainly consisting of maritime and stone pine afforestations. You can also find holm oak forests, gall oak and cork oak trunks, chestnut trees, Pyrenean oak and shrub species that belong to the Mediterranean mountains. Riparian plants, such as poplars and ash trees can be observed alongside streams and in gorges.

A wide variety of wild mushrooms also grow in these mountainous areas, especially saffron milk cap, Caesar's mushroom, boletus, parasol, wood blewit and common mushroom.

Interesting fauna:

There is a host of game species, such as roe, red and fallow deer and wild boar and protected raptors, such as Spanish imperial eagle, black vulture, golden eagle, Egyptian vulture, black stork, among others.

Facilities and resources:

Trails:

- 1 Guadiana Nature Trail (page 42)
- 19 Pretura del Benazaire Trail (page 78)
- 25 Collado de Consolación Trail (page 88)

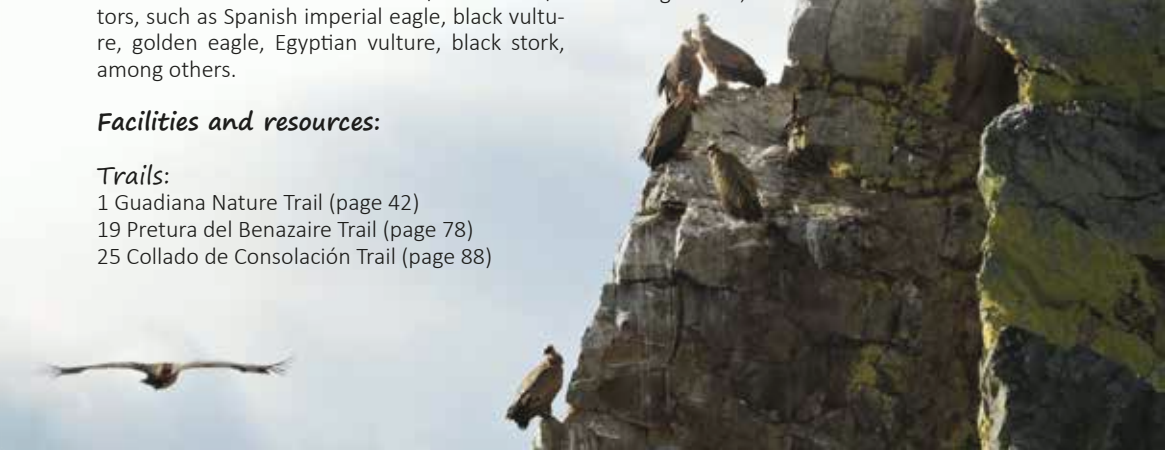
- 26 Los Golondrinos Trail (page 89)
 - 30 Peñón del Búho Trail (page 93)
 - 33 Sierra de Siruela Trail (page 96)
 - 34 La Celada Trail (page 98)
 - 38 Canal de las Dehesas Trail (page 102)
 - 41 Arroyo Hondo Trail (page 106)
- As well as all of the trails in the Reserva del Cíjara.

Viewpoints:

Pretura del Benazaire
Estrecho de las Hoces
El Manzano
La Motilla
La Celada

Phenology:

This area is recommended at any time of year as visitors can enjoy its landscapes and flora and fauna species. In summer, visitors can witness the arrival of summering species and blossoming plants, especially peonies. Autumn is great for foraging for wild mushrooms and the start of the hunting season, which lasts until the end of winter.





Baterno sits on an undulating relief at the foot of the Cerro del Moro hill.

The village itself is centred on the main road that runs along the old route towards La Mancha, which makes it long and slender. The river Esteras is Baterno's most important watercourse and is surrounded by idyllic natural spots, which are perfect for fishing and hunting wild boar, deer, pigeon and partridge. Vultures and eagles nest in nearby Sierra del Morro and Sierra de la Umbría, making both of the areas worth visiting.

WHAT TO SEE

- San Andrés parish church (1517).
- Virgen del Fuego chapel (18th century). The village's most important place of worship, set away from the village centre.
- Corredores de Siruela—Río Estera SAC. The river Esteras is this area's main watercourse; it is the perfect example of a well-conserved river in

a Mediterranean environment, where mountain areas meet riparian formations, comprising ashes and a dense thermophilic vegetation, including tamujo broom, oleander, wild vines, mastic trees, water lilies and reeds. The river's meanders alternate between rapids and pools, which swell during the summer months.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

Baterno's most typical dishes are: ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream), migas (fried breadcrumbs with garlic, chorizo and pancetta), caldereta de cordero (lamb stew), and pisto (ratatouille). Chapurrao is a popular drink, which consists of coffee, almond or saffron liquor with aguardiente. The most popular sweets and pastries are: gachas, or puchas, as they are locally known (oats mixed with milk, water, sugar and cinnamon), candelillas (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a cake formation), canutos (pastry cylinders, fried and dipped in sugar) and buñuelos (fritters).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Día del Pino - Pine tree day (Saturday before Easter Sunday). On this day, the young people who have come of age (called quintos) head to the mountain to look for the tallest, most robust pine tree. They cut it down and carry it to the road that leaves the village, where they leave it. It is very typical to eat candelillas during this fiesta.
- Feast of Our Lady of Fire (20-23 August).
- Feast of Saint Andrew (30 November). The following activities take place during this celebration: procession of the saint's sculpture, open-air party, theatre performances, drawing and handicraft competition.





Casas de Don Pedro is close to the Orellana reservoir and sits on the right bank of the river Guadiana. The village's layout is centred on two main landmarks: the square where the town hall is located and neighbouring Plazoleta del Coso. Wandering through the village's streets, you will discover fine examples of vernacular architecture, large manor houses, decorative wrought iron works and outstanding coats of arms. Natural spots worth visiting close to the village are: El Rostro peak, Valdehornos crag and Punto de Mira. The shores of Orellana reservoir are also nearby, where you can swim or relax at the Playa de los Calicantos beach.

WHAT TO SEE

- San Pedro Apóstol church (14th century).
- Los Remedios chapel (16th century).
- Calvario chapel (16th century).
- San Sebastián chapel (18th century).
- Ancestral houses (18th and 19th century).
- La Charneca del Cuquil (Pistacia lentiscus) a unique tree next to the Cuquil stream.
- Valdehornos valley and El Risco.
- Embalse de Orellana and Sierra de Pela ARI. The abundance of water encourages a great variety of ducks, geese and swans and other aquatic birds to settle in this area.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.
- Playa de Calicantos beach.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

The village's most common dishes are: migas (fried breadcrumbs with garlic, chorizo and pancetta), ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream) and recipes using game. Many of the village's sweets and pastries are drenched in honey, such as flores (delicate flower pastries) and candelilla (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a cake formation), as well as gachones (egg and breadcrumbs fried and soaked in milk) almendralillos (almond and potato cakes), sweet almond cheese, egg custard and bollos de los Santos (decorative sweet breads).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Carnival (February).
- Las Candelas, Candlemas (2 February).
- Saint Isidore the Labourer pilgrimage (15 May).
- Corpus Christi (beginning of June). The village streets are decked out with majestic altars and wide carpets of coloured salt.
- Feast of Saint John (24 June).
- Feast of Our Lady of Los Remedios (15 August), the village's patroness saint. It is the most important celebration held in the village and holds both religious and folkloric importance.
- All Saints' day (1 November).





The village is sandwiched between rivers Guadiana and Guadalupejo (awarded Wildlife Corridor status), and perched on a hill, lending it the local nickname El Cerro. It boasts a wonderful collection of Moorish and Jewish vernacular architecture, especially in the Perchel and Picocerro neighbourhoods. Castilblanco is surrounded by spectacular landscapes and its location between Cíjara and García de Sola reserves means that it exudes peace, mystery and harmony between man and nature.

WHAT TO SEE

- San Cristóbal church (15th century).
- San Matías chapel (16th century over a former Mesta sheep herders stopping place).
- Vernacular architecture.
- Puerto Peña–Sierra de Los Golondrinos SPA and SAC.
- Río Guadalupejo Wildlife Corridor. The lower reaches are particularly interesting with its rich ecosystem, comprising riparian and gallery trees and aquatic plants (typha, water lilies, reeds).

The area is home to a variety of ecologically-important fauna, such as raptors (golden eagle, Spanish imperial eagle, black and white stork, black and griffon vulture and Eurasian eagle owl) and mammals (badger, Egyptian mongoose, wildcat, otter, etc.).

- Walking trails and viewpoints.
- River Guadiana and river Guadalupejo. There are bathing areas, close to the bridges.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

The village boasts a host of dishes, the most representative being rabos de calabacín (courgette ‘tails’ covered in honey) and jilimoje (pork crackling, liver and blood) as well as many wonderful artisan cheeses, made using raw goat’s and sheep’s milk. La Gloria is also typical; it is a home-made drink made using aguardiente, mosto and coffee beans.

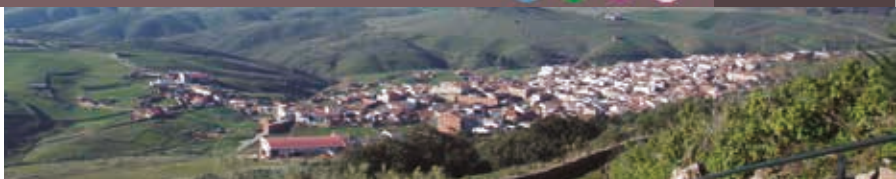
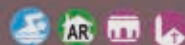
INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Auto de Reyes (5 January). A re-enactment of the arrival of the Three Kings is performed, which has been in existence for over a century and includes songs and Christmas carols.
- Las Candelas, Candlemas (2 February).
- Carnival (February)
- Easter Week.
- Los Ranchos (First weekend in May). A three-day pilgrimage to the San Matías chapel, which culminates with a Procession of Saint Matthew’s

sculpture, a sweet and pastry auction (called a Redoma), as well as a bid to choose who will carry the Saint, and a carriage competition.

- Feast of Saint Christopher, the village’s patron saint, and main fiesta (first week of August), which includes the running of young bulls, fishing, card games and swimming competitions, etc.
- Jesus Christ of Light celebration (15 September).
- All Saints’ day (1 November).





The village is nestled on the southern slope of the Sierra de Lares, at the foot of Puebla de Alcocer castle. It is close to the wonderful Sierra del Castillo, El Calderón and Cerro Masatrigo elevations and opens out onto the vast Valle del Zújar plains. Thanks to its location, the village boasts beautiful natural landscapes and architectural heritage denoting its historic importance, which you can discover meandering through its streets.

Close to the village and on the shores of La Serena reservoir is Galizuela, a hamlet close to Alcozarejo pass once used by Mesta shepherds.

WHAT TO SEE

- Santa Catalina de Alejandría church (15th century).
- Virgen de la Cueva chapel (18th century).
- Casa del Santero pilgrims' refuge.
- San Sebastián church in Galizuela.
- Sierra de Lares. The remains of the castle (aljibe well, towers and wall) built by the Moors sit on the Sierra's peak, where spectacular views of the Serena reservoir and Masatrigo hill can be admired.
- La Serena and Sierras Periféricas SPA and Embalse de la Serena SPA. The pasture land and the particular way it is used for agricultural exploits and cattle raising have encouraged a variety of open-land fauna to settle in the area, especially steppe bird communities, being important regionally and nationally.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.
- Playa de los Llanos beach at the La Serena reservoir.

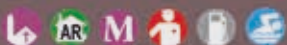
TRADITIONAL DISHES

The most typical dishes are: gazpacho (chilled tomato soup), lettuce and tomato salads, caldereta de cordero (lamb stew), cocido extremeño (beef, pork and chickpea stew), as well as home-made sweets and pastries, high-quality goat's and sheep's cheese and honey.

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Jueves lardero or día del gallo (last Thursday before the start of Lent).
- Our Lady of Lares pilgrimage (in Galizuela). (25 March, but always held on the closest Saturday).
- Feast of Our Lady of the Cave (15-19 August), the village's patroness saint, and main fiesta. Mass is held on 15 August, the day of the Virgin Mary, followed by regional dances and fireworks. Days of bulls and orchestra.
- Feast of Saint Catherine (25 November). The fiesta includes competitions, games for the children, traditional matanza pig slaughtering, procession of the Saint's sculpture, bonfires, dancing.





Fuenlabrada de los Montes is bordered by several sierras, sandwiched between dehesa and maquis scrubland and gall oak. One of the most beautiful natural spots in the village overlooks the river Guadalemar, and is called La Pretura del Molino, where you can enjoy tench fishing and beautiful walks. This village is well-known for its exquisite artisan honey and is nicknamed the “honey capital” because honey and its by-products represent 80% of the town’s and 10% of Spain’s production.

WHAT TO SEE

- Rollo or Pingote de Santa Ana, a column-monument in homage to Saint Anne (13th century).
- Nuestra Señora de la Asunción church (16th century).
- Santa Ana chapel (16th century).
- Puerto Peña–Sierra de Los Golondrinos SPA and SAC.
- River Guadalemar SAC. The riverbanks are mainly populated by gallery forests.
- Pretura del Molino recreational area on the shores of the river Guadalemar.
- Cijara Regional Reserve–Deer’s Bellow viewpoint. Red and fallow deer can be spied all year, given the exceptional conditions that the Reserve offers for this species. Bellow season is the second fortnight of September and the beginning of October.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.
- Apitourism centre, located in Sierra de los Castrejones.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

This village’s most typical dishes are: tomato soup, cocido de carnaval (stew prepared with ham, boiled egg, garlic and parsley), tasajo de ciervo o jabalí (venison or wild boar jerky), and gachas (oats mixed with milk, water, sugar and cinnamon). Many artisan sweets and pastries are made with the village’s famous honey, such as buñuelos (fritters), pestiños (sesame-flavoured pastries), flores (delicate flower-shaped pastries), piñonates and candelillas (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a square or ring cake formation), canutos (pastry cylinders, fried and dipped in sugar) and rosquillas (doughnut-shaped pastries, dipped in honey or sugar).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- La Candelaria, Candlemas (2 February).
- Carnival (weekend following Ash Wednesday).
- La Granja (Easter Sunday).
- Corpus Christi (June). This festivity is held two consecutive weekends: the day of the Señor Grande and the day of the Señor Chico. A procession is held on each weekend in a different part of the town.
- Feast of Saint Ambrose, patron saint of beekeepers.
- Feast of Saint Roch (16 August), the village’s patron saint and therefore the most important fiesta.
- Leño de los Quintos (31 December).





Garbayuela is seated on a crossroads, and is the village where the Segovian drove road that used to join the north and south once passed. It is a spot located in the midst of dehesas and pine forests, surrounded by the river Guadalemar, under the protection of the Sierra de Mirabueno and Sierra de los Villares. The Sierra's summit, crowned by an ancient Celtic fort, overlooks La Siberia's vastness. The area boasts uniquely beautiful landscapes, one of the most important being the Tabla Corta with its shallow pools of water.

WHAT TO SEE

- San Pedro parish church (16th century).
- Sierras de Villares—Balbuena SAC. Some of the most beautiful natural spots are: Sierra de los Villares, Umbría del Puerto del Zamorano (a shaded pass on the north-facing slope), Valle de Doña Emilia pine forest and Peñón del Castillo on the Sierra de Mirabueno. This area also home to several orchid species in its fresh, shaded areas. The most common habitats are heaths, oak forests and siliceous rocks.
- La Serena and Sierras Periféricas SPA and SAC. Forest birds are abundant in Las Mesas areas and Guadalemar stream.
- Río Guadalemar SAC; close to the village along the stretch of the river next to the Segovian drove road, you can visit the Tabla Corta recreational area and Don Zenón pools.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.
- Public Mountain areas.

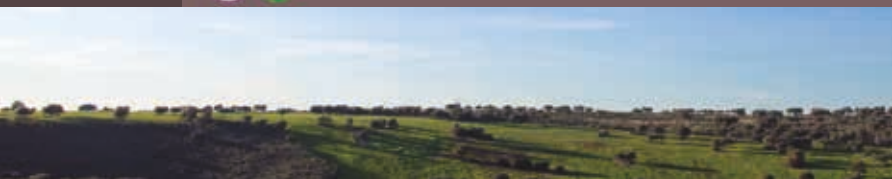
TRADITIONAL DISHES

The village's traditional cuisine is extremely varied, including asadillo (roasted peppers with vinegar and salt), sopa de cachuela (a soup made during the matanza pig slaughtering season consisting of entrails, seasoned with cumin, paprika and garlic), potaje stew during Easter Week, rabbit in tomato sauce, stewed pigeon and an array of dishes with venison and wild boar. The most typical drink is Chapurrao, a coffee, almond or saffron liquor with aguardiente, and popular sweets and pastries include sweet or savoury empellás, bollos de los Santos (decorative sweet breads), and canutos de San Blas (pastry cylinders, fried and dipped in sugar).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- La Candelaria, Candlemas (2 February).
- Feast of Saint Blaise (3 February). The Paloteo stick dance is intriguing to watch; choreographed movements are made with an emphasis on the sound of hitting wooden sticks, and originated in León.
- La Enramá (Easter Sunday). The village is decorated with arches wrapped in pine branches, foliage and colourful paper flowers.
- Feast of Saint Peter (29 June-1 July).
- Bullfighting and Emigrant fiestas (first weekend in August). A time of reunion for locals who moved away from the village with games and competitions.
- La Aurora rosary (October).
- El Bollo (1 November All Saints' Day).





Garlitos is the most southern village in the La Siberia region. It has a rugged landscape with considerable altitudes, such as Sierra de Siruela, Cerro de Galizuela and Cerro de Masatrigo. The village centre consists of two very different areas: the older area has an irregular and cramped structure and is found perched on the higher part of the village; the other, more modern area is larger but seated on flatter land. Surrounding pine and holm oak forests and Zújar and La Serena reservoirs and lakes lend the village a beautiful landscape.

WHAT TO SEE

- Schematic cave paintings (Palaeolithic).
- Roman funerary stelae. Reference to the ancient Roman town Miróbriga can be observed through these stelae, some of which were reused on the walls of the Nazaret chapel and the façade of the old town hall.
- San Juan Bautista church (16th century).
- Nuestra Señora de Nazaret chapel (13th century).
- Sierra de Siruela SPA-SAC. Holm oak, cork oak, gall oak, juniper and wild olive trees are promi-

nent features of the landscape, as well as imposing rocky shelves where several bird species dwell.

- Corredores de Siruela SAC. The river Esteras is the protected area's main watercourse; it is the perfect example of a well-conserved river in a Mediterranean environment, where the mountain areas meet riparian formations.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.
- La Serena reservoir.
- Public Mountain areas.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

The main ingredient of the Garlitos' cuisine are the products owing to the traditional matanza pig slaughtering, which give way to a host of cured and dried sausages. Migas (fried breadcrumbs with garlic, chorizo and pancetta), ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream) and caldereta (stew) are also common.

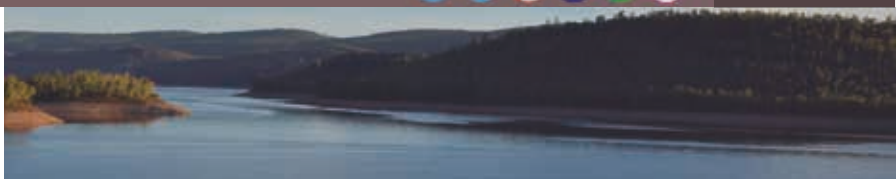
Fish caught in the rivers and La Serena and Zújar reservoirs also make excellent fish stews.

Artisan sweets and pastries are also typical, especially flores (delicate flower-shaped pastries), perrunnillas (biscuits), canutos (pastry cylinders, fried and dipped in sugar), roscas de fideos (thinly rolled sugar-coated pastry pieces in a ring cake formation), orejas de fraile (honey fritters) and mantecados (crumble cakes).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Feast of Saint Anthony (17 January).
- Feast of Saint Roch (15 August).
- Feast of Our Lady of Nazaret, the village's patroness saint, and main fiesta (beginning of September).





Helechosa de los Montes is located in the north-east of La Siberia and bordered by the Cijara reservoir. Visitors can enjoy beautiful landscapes of serene waters that envelope rugged sierras and rolling dehesa. The village takes on a traditional physiognomy, abounding in façades covered by attractive sgraffitos and paintings. Hunting, fishing, water sports and sampling the village's varied cuisine are just some of the activities that can be enjoyed by visitors. Bohonal de los Montes, a hamlet belonging to Helechosa de los Montes, boasts beautiful natural surroundings and is located between Sierra de la Dehesilla and Sierra del Estena.

WHAT TO SEE

- Nuestra Señora de Altagracia church.
- San Juan Bautista parish church in Bohonal (16th century).
- Cijara Regional Reserve. Red and fallow deer can be spotted all year, given the exceptional conditions that the Reserve offers for this species.
- Public Mountain areas.
- Los Robledillos Deer's Bellow observatory. Bellow

season is the second fortnight of September and the beginning of October.

- Walking trails and viewpoints.
- Río Estena SAP.
- Cijara reservoir is surrounded by the Cijara reserve, which offers a host of leisure activities.
- La Naciente natural swimming pool.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

The village surrounds offer a wealth of fishing, hunting, wildlife, and grazing and cattle breeding areas. The most typical dish is a 'salmorejo' of river-caught fish, which has been grilled or braised in onion and vinegar. The most prized products resulting from the traditional matanza pig slaughtering are chorizos malditos (extra-large chorizo sausages), pestorejo en adobo (pig cheek), morcilla del cura (blood sausage), trabao con pringue (a broth made using smoked ribs, chorizo and crackling and served with potatoes) and torreznos (fried pancetta).

Gazpacho (chilled tomato soup) and ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream) are also very popular in Helechosa de los Montes, as are home-made sweets and pastries, such as candelilla (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a cake formation), canelones (sweet cannelloni) and canutos (pastry cylinders, fried and dipped in sugar).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Kings' Day service (5 January).
- Feast of Saint Blaise (3 February).
- Calva competition (Easter Week). It consists of a game invented by shepherds, similar to boules, where the aim is to hit the wooden calva with cylinders of iron.
- Saint Isidore pilgrimage (15 May).
- Corpus Christi and Diablucos procession (June). Several men dressed as devils perform a dance around the village to the sound of the banging of

the drum and castanets as a prelude to the Corpus Christi mass and celebrations.

- Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Bohonal (29 June).
- Emigrant fiestas (second weekend in August). A time of reunion for locals who moved away from the village with games and competitions.
- Feast of Our Lady of Altagracia (8 September), the village's patroness saint, and most important fiesta.
- CITUR (Tourism, Hunting and Fishing Fair).





Herrera del Duque rests upon a plain surrounded by hills and is very close to the García de Sola reservoir. In the refuge of its fortress, the traces of the village's past can be experienced through important monuments of indisputable artistic value. The village's surrounds are well known among hunters and fishing enthusiasts. Peloeche is very few kilometres away from the village on the shores of the reservoir, which is extremely popular among water-sports fans and for sampling the village's most famous dish: escarapuche (pork loin with tomato and onions).

WHAT TO SEE

- La Panda schematic paintings (Bronze Age), in the Sierra de los Golondrinos near Peloeche.
 - Castle-Fortress (awarded site of cultural interest status).
 - La Purísima Conception Franciscan convent.
 - San Juan Bautista church (14th century).
 - La Consolación chapel (15th century).
 - Old bridge (Medieval era).
 - Puerto Peña-Sierra de Los Golondrinos SPA and SAC.
 - Walking trails and viewpoints.
 - Sierra de los Golondrinos.
 - Cijara Regional Reserve.
 - Public Mountain areas.
 - García de Sola reservoir and Playa de Peloeche beach.
- The reservoir offers some fantastic settings for water sports.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

The village's most typical dishes are: migas (fried breadcrumbs with garlic, chorizo and pancetta), ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream), winter gazpacho (tomato broth with boiled egg and potatoes), caldereta de cordero (lamb stew), tomato soup, venison in gravy and escarapuche (pork loin, onion, tomato, olive oil, vinegar and salt). The village has many popular sweets and pastries too, especially chaquetía, typical on All Saints' Day, almendradillos (almond fairy cakes) and candelilla (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a cake formation).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Feast of Saint Anthony (Patron Saint of Peloeche, 17 January).
- Carnival (February).
- Easter Week.
- Our Lady of the Hawthorn in Peloeche (beginning of May).
- Corpus Christi (June).
- August fairs and celebrations (12-16 August).
- Day of the Emigrant (15 August). A time of reunion for locals who moved away from the village with games and competitions.
- The Jubilee, the village's main fiesta (8 September).
- Cattle show and farming fair (May).
- Las Luminarias bonfires (night of 12 December).





Navalvillar de Pela rests on a plain, sheltered by the Sierra de Pela, a natural gateway to the north-east La Siberia route. Not too far away, on the present-day Cogolludo hill, the ancient Roman city of Laci-murga Constantia Iulia once flourished. Meandering through the village centre, observe how the villa-ge's traditions are preserved in the form of small, one-storey white-washed houses and the renowned Feast of Saint Anthony celebrations, locally known as the Encamisá. The village does however also champion modern industry and other services experiencing growth. Dependent hamlets Vegas Altas and Obando came into existence with the Badajoz Plan.

WHAT TO SEE

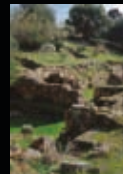
- Virgen de la Caridad chapel (17th century).
- San Antón chapel (17th century).
- Santa Catalina de Alejandria parish church.
- Cogolludo bridge and Roman ruins from Laci-murga, which can be visited.
- Sierra del Bravo (Public Mountain area). This area is equipped with picnic benches and a wonderful viewpoint overlooking the Orellana reservoir.
- Embalse de Orellana–Sierra de Pela ARI, SPA, SAC.
- Moheda Alta Periurban Conservation and Leisure park and Interpretation Centre on Cranes and the Dehesa.
- Vegas del Rucas, Cubilar–Moheda Alta SPA, De-hesas del Rucas–Cubilar SAC.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

The village offers a wide range of traditional dishes, with olive oil being one of the main local ingredients. The main local dishes are: masmarria (garlic, bread and egg mixed into a paste), gazpacho (chilled to-mato soup), ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream), and a host of salads. The village also produces many matanza-related pork products, with a variety of cured and dried sausages using family recipes, such as chorizo, salchichón and various blood sausages. The main sweets and pastries on offer in the village are buñuelos del Santo (fritters served on All Saints' Day), roscas de rabo de rata (ring-sha-ped pastries), bollos dormios (sweet bread gifted to Godchildren at Easter).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Encamisá, also known as Saint Anthony's race, awarded Festival of Regional Touristic interest status. (16–19 January). Horses, jinetes (horsemen), music and fire commemorate the victory of the locals against the Moors during the times of the Reconquista.
- Carnival (February).
- La Rosca (last Thursday before Lent). Children are gifted a ring-shaped bread.
- La Gira Campestre (Easter Monday). Locals head to the countryside to eat traditional dishes.
- August Fair in honour of Our Lady of Charity (14–17 August).
- Festival de Las Grullas (end of November). A festival to celebrate the return of the cranes in the Dehesa de Moheda Alta PERIURBAN CONSERVATION AND LEISURE PARK.





This village is located on the northern side of the Sierra de Lares in a spectacular natural setting. It boasts one of the most outstanding atalaya towers in Extremadura and unbeatable sweeping panoramas can be viewed from the peak. Puebla de Alcocer itself is worth admiring: it sits there nestled in the mountainside, while the silhouette of its sober Mudejar castle, which dominates surrounding lands, breaks the skyline.

WHAT TO SEE

- Castle-Mudejar fortress (12th century, rebuilt in 15th century). Awarded site of cultural interest status.
- Santiago Apóstol parish church (11th-12th century).
- San Francisco convent (16th century).
- La Visitación convent (16th century).
- Dukes of Osuna palace-house.
- Buen Grado palace (15th century). It was once flooded by the Orellana reservoir.
- Ancestral houses.
- Embalse de Orellana-Sierra de Pela ARI.
- La Serena-Sierras Periféricas SPA, Embalse de la Serena SPA.
- Sierra del Escorial SACs.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

Puebla de Alcocer's traditional dishes use the following main local ingredients: pork, lamb, fish and foraged fare (desert truffles, wild asparagus and thistles). Visitors should sample caldereta de cordero (lamb stew), ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream), estofado de cardillos (thistle stew), marinated carp, revuelto de espárragos (asparagus and scrambled egg), partridge stew, etc. For the sweet tooth cajones de almendras, candelilla (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a cake formation), flores (delicate flower-shaped pastries), buñuelos (fritters) are just some of the artisan sweets on offer in the village.

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Easter Week.
- Las Luminarias de San Sebastián (bonfires in honour of Saint Sebastian (19 January).
- Las Candelas, Candlemas (2 February).
- Feast of Saint Joseph (19 March).
- Feast of Saint Isidore (15 May).
- Corpus Christi (June); the streets are decked out with carpets of flowers, coloured sawdust and salt.
- Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (16 July).
- Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the village's patroness saint, and main fiesta (first two weekends during August).
- All Saints' Day, locally known as Chaquetía (1 November).





Found on the southern side of a sierra, the name Risco refers to the rugged crag on which the village is perched. Most of which extends across uneven land covered by pastures, holm oaks and maquis. The buildings are typical of the Extremaduran mountains and are suitable for the surrounding environment. The village boasts several extremely beautiful natural areas, such as the Valle de la Fuente del Corcho, where the Pozo de la Hornia is located. It is believed to be bottomless pit and strong gusts of wind can blow up in the area.

WHAT TO SEE

- San Blas parish church (19th century).
- Nuestra Señora de la Buena Dicha chapel (18th century).
- Embalse de la Serena SPA. An exceptional natural setting for nesting steppe birds and wintering birds.
- La Serena–Sierras Periféricas SPA is the most extensive protected space in Extremadura, which

is home to a large number of bird species, as well as fish, reptiles and mammals.

- Embalse de la Serena The reservoir's drainage basin is vast and surrounded by an undulated, treeless plain, which forms part of the Serena steppe lands. Fishing and water sports are typical.
- Sierra de Siruela–Corredor de Siruela SPA.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

The village's traditional dishes are: migas (fried breadcrumbs with garlic, chorizo and pancetta), tomato soups, marinated fish, caldereta de cordero (lamb stew) and escabeche de patatas y pescado eaten over Easter (marinated fish and potatoes). Common sweets and pastries include gachas (oats mixed with milk, water, sugar and cinnamon), flores (delicate flower-shaped pastries), fideos (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry) and rosquillas (doughnut-shaped pastry, dipped in honey or sugar).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Easter Week.
- La Candelaria, Candlemas (2 February).
- Feast of Saint Blaise, the village's patron saint,

and main fiesta (3-5 February).

- Our Lady of La Buena Dicha celebrations (21-24 August).





This village rests on the shores of La Serena reservoir, close to Sierra del Cuchillo. Sancti-Spiritus village is a collection of small traditional-style buildings interspersed with grandiose constructions adorned with Baroque façades.

Its closeness to the reservoir makes it a perfect base for fishing enthusiasts, as there is an abundance of carp, pike, Iberian long-snout barbel and black bass.

WHAT TO SEE

- Parish church, dedicated to the Holy Spirit.
- The viejo rollo column monument, which remains in its original position in the church grounds.
- Embalse de la Serena SPA. An exceptional natural setting for nesting steppe birds and wintering birds.
- La Serena-Sierras Periféricas SPA is the most extensive protected space in Extremadura, which is

home to a large number of bird species, as well as fish, reptiles and mammals.

- Embalse de la Serena. The reservoir's drainage basin is vast and is surrounded by an undulated, treeless plain, which forms part of the Serena steppe lands. Fishing and water sports are typical.
- River Guadalemar Trail.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

The village's most typical dishes are: migas (fried breadcrumbs with garlic, chorizo and pancetta), ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream), aubergine and courgette ratatouille, caldereta de cordero (lamb stew), and cochinillo (suckling pig). Rosquillas (doughnut-shaped pastry, dipped in honey or sugar), flores (delicate flower-shaped pastries) and borrachuelos (pastry drenched in sweet wine and honey) or canutos (pastry cylinders fried and dipped in white wine and honey) are just some of the sweets and pastries on offer in Sancti-Spiritus.

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Feast of Saint Gregory (9 May).
- Feast of Saint Anthony (13 June). During the celebration the Head of the Brotherhood pays for all of the brothers to enjoy chocolate and

home-made sweets and pastries.

- Feast of the Holy Spirit (during June).
- Holy Christ of Solace celebrations (13-15 September).





Siruela is perched on the shaded side of the Sierra de Siruela, very near to the river of the same name. The village is nestled among holm oak forests and is very close to the La Serena and Zújar reservoirs. The village's main source of income is cereal farming and sheep herding, boasting the largest flock in the area. The heights of the Motilla peak or the Virgen de Altagracia chapel grounds, with abundant poplars, chestnut and fruit trees, are some of the village's most beautiful natural spots. Fascinating raptors can be sighted circling, especially vultures, golden eagles and black storks.

WHAT TO SEE

- La Antigua church (14th century). The church's architectural style corresponds to the Romanesque transition, tending more towards Gothic.
- Clarist convent (16th century).
- Altagracia chapel. (16th century). The chapel houses the village's patroness saint and is located outside of the village.
- Calvario chapel (17th century).
- San Francisco hospital (16th century).
- La Serena—Sierras Periféricas SPA and SAC. Fernán Núñez dehesa.
- Embalse de la Serena SPA; the stretch of the river Guadalemar that is dammed.
- Sierra de Siruela SPA and SAC. Holm oak, cork oak, gall oak, juniper and wild olive trees are prominent features of the landscape, as well as imposing rocky shelves which serve as a dwelling for several bird species.
- Corredores de Siruela—Río Siruela SAC.
- Public Mountain areas.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

Siruela's most common dishes are: gazpacho (chilled tomato soup), ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream), sopa de leche (paprika-flavoured milk soup), tomato soups, migas (fried bread-crumbs with garlic, chorizo and pancetta) and caldereta de cordero (lamb stew). The most delicious sweets and pastries are natillas (egg custard) and gachas (oats mixed with milk, water, sugar and cinnamon), perrunas (cinnamon and sesame biscuits), suspiros de almendra (almond meringues), rosca de fideos (thin pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a ring cake formation), canutos (pastry cylinders, fried and dipped in sugar), canelones (sweet cannelloni). But the most loved are bodigos (bread stuffed with pork, boiled egg and almonds and covered in sugar) and tejas made by Clarist nuns.

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Saint Isidore pilgrimage (15 May).
- Las Cruces cross celebration (3 May).
- Feast of Our Lady of Altagracia, the village's patroness saint, and main fiesta (mid-August).
- Día del Bodigo (1 November). The entire village goes to the countryside with bodigos, bread stuffed with pork, boiled egg and almonds, covered in sugar.
- Cattle fair (First weekend in June).





Talarrubias is located in the middle of a plain bordered by rivers Guadiana and Zújar and Sierra de los Golondrinas and Sierra de las Chimeneas.

The vernacular architecture on display in the village centre is a fine example of a wonderful legacy that dates back to the Palaeolithic, which left remains of schematic paintings in the La Panda caves.

WHAT TO SEE

- Santa Catalina de Alejandría parish church (16th century).
- Carmen de los Mártires chapel (18th century).
- San Roque chapel (16th century).
- Casa del Patio (former Franciscan convent; 18th century).
- Virgen de la Coronada chapel (16th century).
- Embalse de Orellana–Sierra de Pela ARI The reservoir offers a range of water sports. The imposing Peñón de Puerto Peña crag is one of the area's most breathtaking natural spots, where

you can spy many rock-dwelling birds. It is also an ideal for rock climbing.

- Puerto Peña–Sierra de Los Golondrinos SPA. The reservoir offers some fantastic settings for water sports.
- Puerto Peña Interpretation Centre and surroundings.
- Sierra del Escorial SAC.
- La Serena–Sierras Periféricas SPA.
- Playa de Puerto Peña beach.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

The most traditional dishes in Talarrubias are: migas (fried breadcrumbs with garlic, chorizo and pance-tta), gazpacho (chilled tomato soup), ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream), caldereta de cordero (lamb stew), manos de borrego (lambs' hooves) and salt-cured mutton, called salón.

Fish-based dishes (oven-baked or marinated), river crabs in sauce and oven-baked carp are also popular. The variety of exquisite traditional sweets and pastries is impressive and includes gachas (oats mixed with milk, water, sugar and cinnamon), torta de chicharrones (sweet biscuits with pork crackling pieces), candelilla (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a cake formation), arrope (grape syrup), rosquillas (doughnut-shaped pastry, dipped in honey or sugar) and mantecados (crumble cakes).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Carnival (February).
- Feast of Saint Joseph (19 March).
- May Cross celebrations (3 May).
- Farmers' market (second weekend in May).
- Los Rincones (end of August). A fiesta that

opens the village's most charming and picturesque spaces to the public.

- Feast of Our Lady the Crowned, the village's patroness saint, and main fiesta (end of August).





A traditional Mediterranean settlement, Tamurejo appears to be in perfect harmony with its surrounding landscapes and is an exemplary mountain village with its quaint little squares and vernacular architecture. The village is nestled on a hillside inhabited by dehesa and maquis.

Tamurejo is surrounded by several beautiful natural spots: the Paraje del Ejido; la Dehesa, a vast holm oak pasture; the Peña del Águila, a unique rock formation that resembles an eagle's head; the Mirador del Morro viewpoint and El Molino mill.

WHAT TO SEE

- Santo Toribio de Liébana parish church.
- Nuestra Señora del Rosario chapel.
- La Serena-Sierras Periféricas SPA is the most extensive protected space in Extremadura, which is home to a large number of bird species, as well as fish, reptiles and mammals.
- Sierra de Siruela-Corredores de Siruela SAC.
- Tamujoso stream.
- River Siruela.
- Paraje El Molino.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

Locals traditionally make the popular dish migas con torreznos (breadcrumbs fried with garlic and pancetta), as well as gazpacho (chilled tomato soup) and ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream). The most typical sweets and pastries are: candelilla (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a cake formation), bodigos (bread stuffed with pork, boiled egg and almonds and covered in sugar), canutos (pastry cylinders, fried and dipped in sugar), flores de miel (honey-drenched, flower-shaped pastries) and buñuelos (fritters).

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Easter Week.
- Feast of Saint Turibius, also known as Día del Tizne (Soot day) (16 April). Several bonfires are lit throughout the village and locals playfully smudge soot on one another.
- Las Enramás (2 May). The village is decorated with arches wrapped in pine branches, foliage and colourful paper flowers.
- Corpus Christi (June).
- Feast of Saint Pantaleón, the village's patron saint, and main fiesta (7-11 August).
- Our Lady of the Rosary celebrations (first weekend in October).
- Christmas Eve, Las Gavillas procession (24 December).





The name Valdecaballeros is owing to the Valley of the Knights Templar, a hunting area belonging to the Royal Dehesas de los Guadalupes of San Lorenzo del Escorial. The village is located on the right bank of the river Guadiana and nestled upon rolling hills. The area boasts extremely beautiful natural spots: the Cerro de Las Viñas on the shores of the García de Sola reservoir and the Sierra del Risco, a crag that lends sweeping panoramas of several villages contrasting against the immense bodies of dammed water. Neighbouring Baños de Valdefernando is well-known for its medicinal waters.

WHAT TO SEE

- San Miguel Arcángel parish church (15th century).
- Cerro de la Barca hilltop (also known as Cerro de la Isla). A pre-Roman walled fortress crowns this hill, which could date back to the same century as the tilework that was also found on this spot (3rd century BC-8th century BC).
- The Valdefernando Balneario spa was built at the start of the 20th century and is set amid beautiful countryside.
- Ermita de Baños chapel, close to the spa.
- Puerto Peña-Sierra de Los Golondrinos SPA and SAC.
- Río Guadalupejo Wildlife Corridor.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.
- River Guadalupejo.

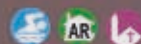
TRADITIONAL DISHES

The village's most typical dishes are: caldereta de cordero (lamb stew), migas (fried breadcrumbs with garlic, chorizo and pancetta), gachas (oats mixed with milk, water, sugar and cinnamon), gazpacho (chilled tomato soup), ajoblanco (almond and garlic-based chilled cream), tomato soup and sopa de cachuela (a broth prepared with pork liver, entrails, paprika, garlic and cumin). It also has a long-standing sweet and pastry tradition; the most delicious being: rosquillas (doughnut-shaped pastry, dipped in honey or sugar), flores (honey-drenched flower-shaped pastries), empanadas (sweet pies), rosca de candelilla (small pieces of rolled, sugar-coated pastry in a ring cake formation), barquillos (wafer rolls), perrunillas (biscuits) and unique, delicious fairy cakes.

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Easter Week and Los Quintos fiesta. The Arco de los Quintos is celebrated on Easter Saturday.
- Las Candelas, Candlemas (2 February).
- Saint Isidore pilgrimage (Saturday closest to 15 May).
- Corpus Christi (June).
- Feast of Saint Anthony (13 June).
- Emigrant fiestas (last weekend in June).
- Feast of Saint Michael Archangel. This is the village's patron saint and main fiesta (29 September). The Valdecaballeros cattle fair and farmers' market also take place on this date.
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel celebrations (16 July).





This village is set in a valley surrounded by olive groves, in the foothills of the Sierra de la Umbría not far from the Cijara reservoir. The most western point of Extremadura, Villarta de los Montes affords unbeatable views of the surrounding landscapes. Nature enthusiasts, especially birdwatchers, will fall in love with the must-see spots: the Valle de Castaña excavated out of quartzite rock, through which the babbling Castaño stream runs, creating small waterfalls and natural swimming pools, the Hoces del Guadiana and the Robledillo area. All of these areas afford the perfect backdrop for easily spying species such as red deer, wild boar, Eurasian eagle owl and Egyptian eagle as you walk through their natural habitat.

WHAT TO SEE

- Nuestra Señora María Magdalena parish church (16th century).
- Nuestra Señora de la Antigua chapel (15th century).
- Medieval shepherds' bridge. The bridge was once the most used by herdsmen in Spain, as it was the main entrance for shepherds bringing their flocks from Castile and León to graze on the pastures of Extremadura during winter. It is currently under water from the Cijara reservoir.
- Cijara Regional Reserve. Red and fallow deer can be spotted all year, given the exceptional

conditions that the Reserve offers for this species.

- Public Mountain areas.
- Cijara reservoir.
- Straight of the Hoces del Guadiana gorges. A beautiful ravine where its imposing rocky walls—some of which are over 100 m tall—flank both riverbanks, giving way to a breathtaking landscape.
- Castañar natural swimming pool.
- Walking trails and viewpoints.

TRADITIONAL DISHES

Villarta de los Montes is known for game, especially *tasajo de ciervo* o *jabalí* (venison or wild boar jerky) and venison chorizo. 'Salmorejo' of river-caught fish, which has been grilled or braised in onion and vinegar, is also a common delicacy.

INTERESTING FESTIVALS

- Easter Week.
- Fiesta del Tizne (Soot day) (19 January).
- Feast of Saint Blaise. This is the village's patron saint and main fiesta (3-5 February).
- Fiesta de las Alabardas. In the evening the Baile de los Ciegos takes place (during Carnival).
- Misa Villa (15 May).
- Feast of Our Lady of La Antigua (15 August).



Outdoor recreational activities have become popular throughout La Siberia in recent years, with new nature activities emerging, such as walking, mountain biking, water sports and birdwatching, etc.

La Siberia offers a wide range of tourist, recreational and sporting activities in exceptional natural settings, thanks to the region's landscape and the wealth of heritage and natural resources.

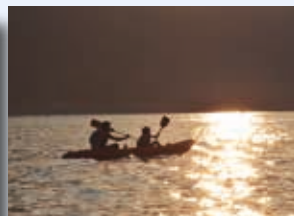
Water activities:

La Siberia, the land of water, boasts five large reservoirs that emerged as a result of the Badajoz Plan in 1952 based around the river Guadiana, which drastically changed the region. Today, the **area has the most kilometres of freshwater coastline in Spain** and is ideal for fishing pike, carp and black bass, with no shortage of natural swimming pools, streams and springs.

Along the lengths of our coasts are remarkable spots to stop for a swim, train or enjoy a host of water sports.

DISCOVER OUR INLAND SEAS

Embalse del Cíjara reservoir
Embalse de García de Sola reservoir
Embalse de Orellana reservoir
Embalse de Valdecaballeros reservoir
Embalse de La Serena reservoir
Embalse del Zújar reservoir



Bathing:

Relax and take a dip in the pure, crystal-clear waters of our natural swimming pools. Take a swim in our reservoirs surrounded by unforgettable landscapes.

Water Sports:

Enjoy a wealth of water sports beyond summer thanks to our mild springs and autumns.



OUR BEACHES AND BATHING AREAS

Playa de Pelоче at the Embalse de García de Sola reservoir.

Playa de Puerto Peña at the Embalse de García de Sola close to the dam.

Playa de los Calicantos on the road between Casas de Don Pedro and Talarrubias, next to the bridge that crosses the Orellana reservoir.

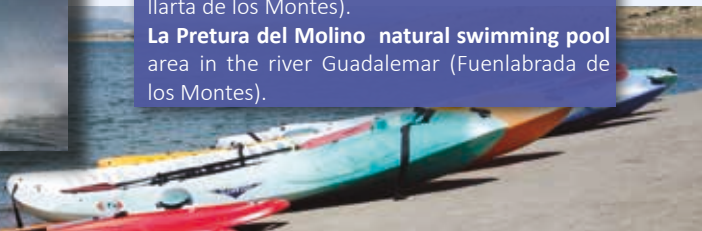
Playa de los Llanos at the La Serena beach. The beach can be accessed via a track from Esparregosa de Lares.

El Castañar natural swimming pool in Robledillo stream (Villarta de los Montes).

La Naciente natural swimming pool in the river Los Huertos (Helechosa de los Montes).

Guadiana bathing area in the Hoces' gorges (Villarta de los Montes).

La Pretura del Molino natural swimming pool area in the river Guadalemar (Fuenlabrada de los Montes).



The beaches and fishing areas on our reservoirs are equipped with jetties and slipways.

If you are looking to relax, why not take a boat ride to admire the vulture colonies and nests among the rocky crags or listen out for the deer's bellow from the middle of one of the reservoirs in autumn? Or why not simply sit back and enjoy the landscape and the reservoirs' beautiful settings?

If you want to really discover our inland seas, water sports like **canoeing, paddle boarding or hiring a pedalo** could be your best option. Material can be hired on many of our beaches, or find out more information about guided tours that are on offer.

You can also practice **sailing and jet-skiing** on our reservoirs, too.



Fishing:

The abundance of fish (pike, black bass, carp and barbel) that swim in our reservoirs and rivers makes La Siberia perfect for fishing enthusiasts. Several national championships are held in the region, where the sport is encouraged from a young age at children's fishing schools.



RECOMMENDED FISHING AREAS

Embalse del Cíjara: Cíjara village, Cíjara dam, Helechosa de los Montes, La Barca and Villarta de los Montes bridge.

Embalse de García de Sola: Peloché, Herrera del Duque–Castilblanco bridges; river Guadalupejo, Valdecaballeros, Sierra de la Zarza and García de Sola dam.

Embalse de Orellana: Cogolludo bridge, los Calicantos and the Arroyo Hondo waterwheel.

Embalse de La Serena: Galizuela–Esparragosa de Lares bridge, Cerro de Masatriga and Talarrubias–Siruela/Sancti-Spíritus bridge.



Nature Activities:

The possibilities are endless and the region's mild climate means that a plethora of activities can be enjoyed throughout the year. The region offers a wide range of active tourism and nature activities, suitable for all tastes, from the most adrenaline-driven adventure racing and climbing to more family-friendly walks. A wide network of long and short trails, mountain biking along cattle and forest tracks, and even horse riding and four-by-four routes are waiting to be explored. Visitors can also delve into our history and enjoy our beautiful landscapes along our drove roads, mountainsides and through our forests. We can also interpret the region's nature, taking a closer look at the flora and fauna as we walk through some of the La Siberia's protected areas.

Hiking:

The sheer number of walks and hikes on offer in La Siberia is impressive. The region boasts a network of footpaths signposted by the rural development centre (CEDER), trails officially approved by the Extremaduran mountaineering and climbing federation (FEXME) and other short trails for the most daring and expert trekkers, who can use the tracking and/or maps available. The next sections will provide more information about the walks and trails.

Cycling and mountain biking:

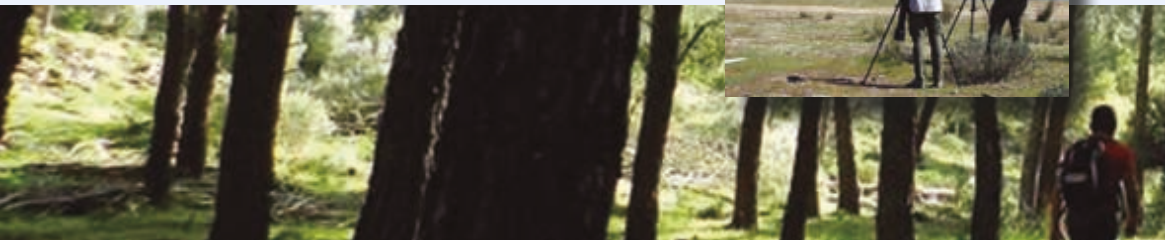
La Siberia offers a wide range of mountain biking paths. The region's geographical diversity makes it perfect for any type of adventure. There are more and more activities and events on offer with local clubs organising mountain bike trials and competitions.

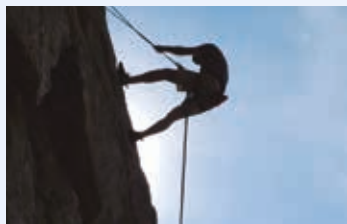
Adventure racing is also gaining ground in La Siberia, with regional trials taking place, given the region's fantastic natural settings and bodies of water.

Birdwatching:

La Siberia is heaven for bird watchers as it boasts a wealth of species thanks to the varied ecosystems that coexist in the region.

Rock formations, woods and wetlands are home to some of the more sought-after species for birdwatching tourism: Spanish imperial eagle, black vulture, black stork, golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian eagle, goshawk, great bustard, little bustard, crane, among others.





Climbing:

The region offers all grades of difficulty from beginners' climbing walls to challenging outdoor climbs, making use of the natural resources on climbing routes on Puerto Peña and Castillo de Herrera rock formations.

Climbing spots: Pedriza de Puerto Peña (climbing is only permitted from the beginning of September until the end of December) and Castillo Herrera del Duque climbing school.

Climbing walls: Peloché, Garbayuela and Navalvillar de Pela.



Four-by-four safaris:

Discover La Siberia from behind the wheel of a four-by-four and spot game (red, fallow and roe deer and wild boar) and numerous bird species (golden eagle, stork, vulture, crane, Egyptian eagle and many others).

Hunting:

Our region is perfect for hunting given its excellent natural resources, encouraging a wide range of game and quarry. La Siberia and the rest of Extremadura is home to the largest population of big game animals, which translates into a rich selection of activities for enthusiasts.

Sustainable activities:

Sustainable activities encourage locals to participate in experience exchanges with visitors, classifying these activities as being environmentally friendly and in tune with cultural and social values. The objective of these activities is to look after and recognise La Siberia's natural significance and ecological importance.

Agricultural-related experiences available in La Siberia include: beekeeping, organic farms, cattle farms and olive groves, drove roads and forestry activities in Public Mountain areas: resin, pine cones, timber merchants and wild mushroom foraging, especially saffron milk cap, boletus, Caesar's mushroom, parasol, wood blewit and common mushrooms.





Sections:

Section 1: Casas de Don Pedro—Puerto Peña.

Section 2: Puerto Peña—Puebla de Alcocer.

Section 3: Puebla de Alcocer—Cogolludo—Orellana la Vieja.

Section 4: Orellana la Vieja—Puebla de Alcocer.

Text and information taken from *Birding in Extremadura*. More information:



Description:

The trail is extremely appealing to birdwatching enthusiasts and **starts in Casas de Don Pedro**, where you should take the BA-137 that goes around the village to the east, continuing on towards Talarrubias. Barely 1 km after you pass the last houses of the village you reach a junction with a tarmac road that runs parallel to the Las Dehesas canal.

You can make a small diversion from the trail and turn right at the junction, to Casas de Don Pedro diversion dam, an interesting place to spot water birds. This spot can be reached by taking the canal service road for about 2250 m (by foot or bike) until you reach a dirt track on the left (opposite one of the regulation sluice gates) that goes down to the diversion dam.

Then go back to the junction on the BA-137 and continue all the way along the canal service road (for at least 15 km), until you reach a junction at which you can return to the N-430 or go to Puerto Peña campsite. Next to the campsite you find the Puerto Peña Rock-dwelling Fauna Interpretation Centre, which offers interesting information panels and remote-control cameras to observe the birds nested in the rocky crags. Continue along the trail, leaving the Las Dehesas canal behind you, towards Valdecaballeros on a road that crosses under the N-430. Immediately after this you reach the Puerto Peña viewpoint, a must for watching the rock-dwelling birds of the Puerto Peña mountain pass.

Section 2: Puerto Peña—Puebla de Alcocer. After the viewpoint, continue towards Pelоче—Herrera del Duque, crossing the García de Sola dam wall. Then 200 m later bear right onto the BA-138 towards Talarrubias. Without going into the village, continue until the road joins the EX-103 towards Puebla de Alcocer. In the outskirts of Puebla de Alcocer, on the left-hand side of the road (800 m after the petrol station) are the ruins of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción convent, which houses a spectacular colony of lesser kestrel. You could also go for a walk around the village and up to the castle, where you are likely to spot many birds, and can take in the impressive panoramic views of La Serena and La Siberia.

Section 3: Puebla de Alcocer—Cogolludo—Orellana la Vieja. Continue along the EX-103 towards Orellana la Vieja and Castuera. About 3.8 km from Puebla de Alcocer you reach a dirt track in a good condition that leads off to the right, just after you pass the junction for Esparragosa de Lares. Keep on this track and, about 12 km later, you reach the area of Cogolludo, where a bridge crosses the Orellana reservoir. Continue on for another 8 km until the road that connects Navalvillar de Pela and Orellana la Vieja (EX-115), where you should turn left and carry on until you reach the latter village.





Section 4: Orellana la Vieja—Puebla de Alcocer. From Orellana la Vieja take the EX-115 towards Campanario and La Coronada, going past the Orellana reservoir dam wall. After about 5 km, you reach the junction with the EX-103 that goes straight to Puebla de Alcocer. If you wish, you could also take the drove road that leads off from the same junction and runs parallel to the EX-103.

Highlights:

All the suggested sections are within the **Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de Pela Area of Regional Interest (ARI)**.

Casas de Don Pedro's diversion dam (**first section** of the trail) is well worth visiting, where large numbers of water birds, particularly duck, geese and swans, gather in summer and winter. There are man-made islands for colonial species to nest on and in spring you can find little tern, gull-billed tern, black-winged stilt, collared pratincole and little ringed plover in this area. The trail along the Las Dehesas canal towards Puerto Peña mountain pass mainly crosses areas of dehesa and pastures, where you can spy typical species such as black-shouldered kite, common buzzard, Bonelli's eagle, booted eagle, black kite, common crane, among others. There are excellent views of Orellana reservoir at all times from the canal road, including the tail section (which looks like a river when the water level is low) and some interesting islets. This first section ends at Puerto Peña observatory, one of the most spectacular sites in Extremadura for birdwatching.

There is very little traffic in the **second section** of the trail so you can enjoy a quiet drive until you reach Talarrubias, going past diverse habitats (dehesa, olive groves, pastures).

The **third section** of the trail leaves the road for a quiet track that goes through pastures and dehesa until it reaches Cogolludo, a curious spot where the course of the river Guadiana squeezes between two mountain ranges, with a bridge connecting both banks. It is in the surrounds of Cogolludo where you can visit the La Cimurga Roman ruins.

The **last section** is the best for spotting steppe species, as most of the trail along the EX-103 goes through areas of natural pastureland and cereal fields. During breeding season, you can easily see such emblematic birds as great bustard (you may even catch a glimpse of individuals displaying), little bustard, lesser kestrel and Montagu's harrier; the latter has a large breeding colony that can be seen from the road.



Description:

This scenic 80-kilometre drive covers almost all of the Puerto Peña—Sierra de los Golondrinos special protected area (SPA) and skirts around the García de Sola reservoir.

Section 1: Puerto Peña—Peloche. The drive is a circular route and starts from Puerto Peña, where the García de Sola Dam is located. However, before setting off or even at the end of the drive, you should pay a visit to the Puerto Peña Rock-dwelling Fauna interpretation Centre, admire the views from the viewpoints, take a walk along one of the many footpaths or stop for a while at the recreational area next to the dam, where you can enjoy a swim, take a boat ride or simply relax and take in the surroundings.

From the dam, take the BA-138 towards Peloche with some spectacular views of the reservoir, which you can admire from the viewpoints along the last kilometres of this section. You can take a rest in Peloche and enjoy a swim or water sports.

Section 2: Peloche—Herrera del Duque. Continue towards Herrera del Duque along the same road as before. On arriving at the village, climb any of the small streets up to the castle, where you can take in the stunning panoramic views.

Section 3: Herrera del Duque—Castilblanco. Take the N-502 towards Castilblanco, crossing over the reservoir, until you reach the village, where you can meander through its streets or complete any of the trails that start from Castilblanco.

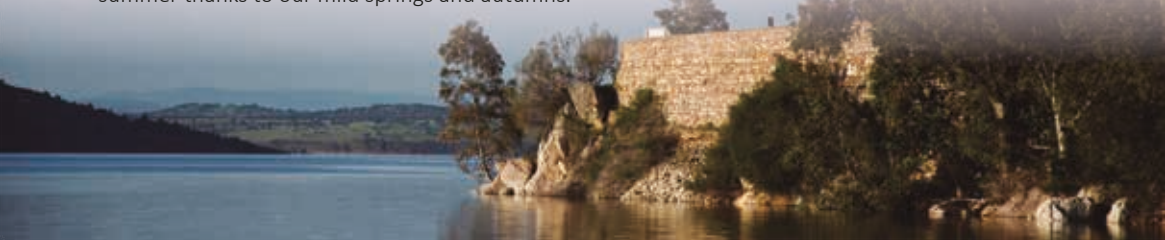
Section 4: Castilblanco—Valdecaballeros. Go past the first exit to the village and take the EX-316 towards Valdecaballeros. This road leads you over the river Guadalupejo, which is extremely popular with fishing enthusiasts, and continues on to Valdecaballeros, where you can take a break, walk around the village and its surrounding countryside along one of the waymarked trails or enjoy the water sports available in the jetty area.

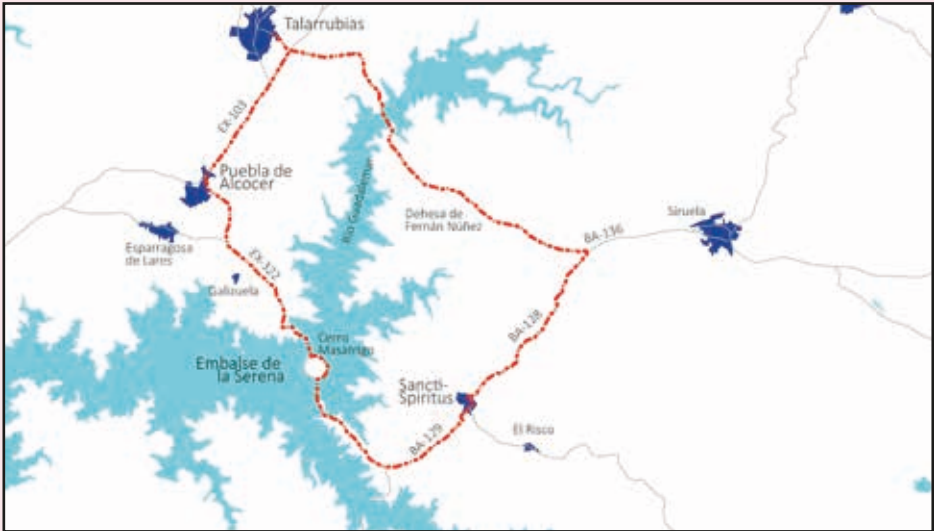
Section 5: Valdecaballeros—Puerto Peña. Leave the EX-316 and head towards Talarrubias. Expect some amazing views of the reservoir, this time from the other side of the road towards Puerto Peña.



Highlights:

This drive passes through the **Sierra de Los Golondrinos—Puerto Peña Special Protected Area**, making it ideal for spotting raptors, rock-dwelling and forest birds, as well as many other species. The area was awarded special protection status given the sheer quantity and quality of bird species. The reservoir's landscape is impressive: it is sandwiched between rocky mountainscapes, such as the Puerto Peña rock face, with several crests dotted around its perimeter. The abundance of water means that it is a perfect spot no matter the time of year. A wealth of water sports can be practised long beyond summer thanks to our mild springs and autumns.





Description:

This scenic 70-kilometre drive circles the confluence of the river Guadalemar with La Serena reservoir. **The river Guadalemar, which is dammed at La Serena reservoir**, is the geographical heart of the drive, which includes the following interesting places: Plaza de la Constitución in Talarrubias, La Visitación convent and castle in Puebla de Alcocer, Masatrigo hill and Fernán Núñez dehesa.

You can start the drive in Talarrubias, on the EX-103 heading towards Puebla de Alcocer. From Puebla de Alcocer, continue towards Cabeza del Buey along the EX-322 and once you pass Masatrigo hill and cross the bridge over La Serena reservoir, turn off towards Siruela on the provincial roads BA-129 and BA-128, passing through Sancti-Spíritus. When you are 4 km away from Siruela, you reach a junction with the BA-136. Take the road towards Talarrubias and drive through Fernán Núñez dehesa.

Highlights:

The drive passes through **La Serena SPA and SAC**, a perfect place for spotting rock-dwelling, water and steppe birds.

Take a break in Talarrubias and Puebla de Alcocer where you can spot urban bird colonies, especially white storks perched on the church and convent. Puebla de Alcocer's castle and Masatrigo hill both offer far-stretching views across the region and La Serena reservoir. The extensive Fernán Núñez dehesa is the destination and feeding place for populous groups of cranes in winter.





Sections through La Siberia:

- Section 15. Puebla de Don Rodrigo—Refugio de Valhondillo (17 km)
- Section 16. Refugio de Valhondillo—Villarta de los Montes (22 km)
- Section 17. Villarta de los Montes—Helechosa de los Montes (21 km)
- Section 18. Helechosa de los Montes—Poblado de Gaudisa (22 km)
- Section 19. Poblado de Gaudisa—Castilblanco (20 km)
- Section 20. Castilblanco—Herrera del Duque (17 km)
- Section 21. Herrera del Duque—Peloche—Puerto Peña (26 km)
- Section 22. Puerto Peña—Casas de Don Pedro (21 km)
- Section 23. Casas de Don Pedro—Puebla de Alcocer (21 km)
- Section 24. Puebla de Alcocer—Orellana la Vieja (28 km)

Text and information from Caminos Naturales: Guía del Camino Natural del Guadiana. More information (in Spanish):



Description:

The **GR 114** trail follows the course of the **river Guadiana** as it runs through the provinces of Albacete, Ciudad Real, Cáceres, Badajoz and Huelva. The Guadiana Nature Trail crosses protected **natural spaces and areas that are part of the Natura 2000 network and shares footpaths, drove roads and via verdes (disused railway lines used as hiking paths) with other routes and trails.**

The trail connects **Cijara, García de Sola and Orellana reservoirs**, and passes through wonderful Mediterranean woodlands, gallery forests and quartzite rock formations: the habitats of a diverse range of fauna.

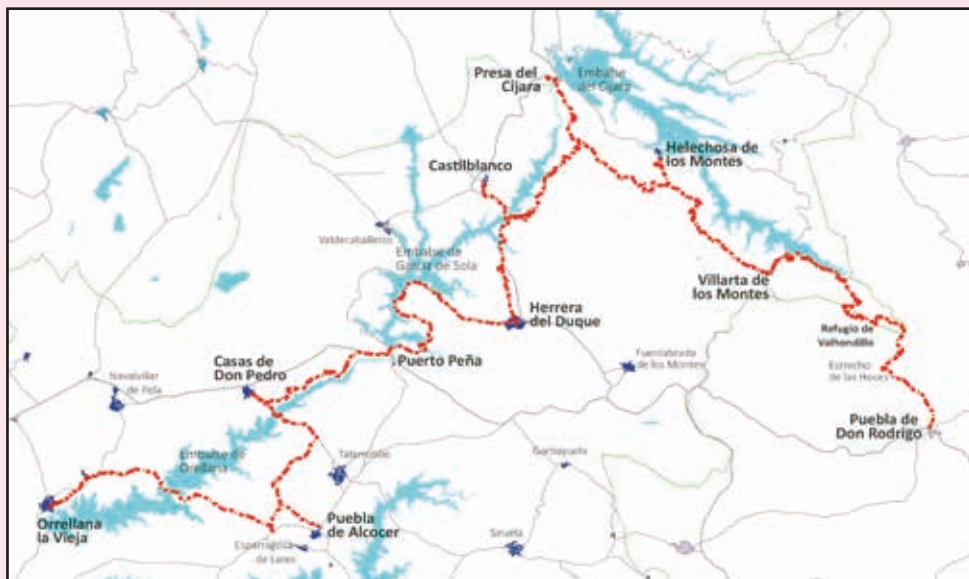
The La Siberia stretch of the GR 114 starts at Section 15 from Ciudad Real with the stunning landscapes surrounding the **Estrecho de las Hoces**, a beautiful gorge that was etched into the river Guadiana during the Palaeozoic and is one of the most spectacular spots in the region. Rocky peaks flank both riverbanks along the gorge, some of which reach dizzying heights of 100 m. This stretch of the river is also perfect for bathing.

Continue downriver towards Cijara reservoir (sections 16-18), surrounded by **Cijara Regional Hunting Reserve and wild landscapes of the Public Mountains**; its woodlands and spectacular rock formations provide shelter for red, fallow and roe deer, wild boar and otter, and some of the bird species most sought after by birdwatchers (Spanish imperial eagle, black vulture, black stork, golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian eagle, goshawk, among many more).

After Cijara dam, the river Guadiana continues and makes a 90-degree turn to García de Sola reservoir (sections 19-21). Take a break on the banks of the reservoir at either **Valdecaballeros or Peloche, which offer jetties, beaches, restaurants and rock climbing walls**, as well as some of the best sunsets behind the silhouettes of the craggy peaks.

Our reservoirs are suitable for recreational catch-and-release fishing, with pike, black bass, carp and barbel being the most common species in our reservoirs and rivers. Several national and international competitions are held in the area.





García de Sola dam (end of section 21) makes use of the rift between Sierra de la Chimenea and Sierra de Puerto Peña, where the river Guadiana crosses. This spot is one of La Siberia's most emblematic, dominated by **Puerto Peña crag**, which affords spectacular views and great opportunities to spot rock-dwelling birds. One of the most extraordinary sights is the large colony of griffon vultures — the largest in Badajoz — as well as pairs of black stork, Bonelli's eagle and Egyptian eagle.

The area's tourist appeal is perfectly rounded off by Puerto Peña beach, where you can go for a dip, take a boat ride, hire canoes and pedalos and rock climb.

The **Puerto Peña Rock-dwelling Fauna Interpretation Centre** is worth a visit (section 22). It is located downriver from the dam and houses displays on the rock-dwelling birds and the ecological diversity of the **Sierra de los Golondrinos—Puerto Peña SPA** and Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de Pela ARI.

Once the river Guadiana crosses Puerto Peña, it runs into the **Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de Pela ARI**. Together with **La Serena reservoir**, which sits further south, it is the most popular ornithological destination in Extremadura and one of Spain's main sites, given the variety of steppe and wetland species. The area offers unique natural settings, viewpoints and beaches on the shores of the vast bodies of water, not to mention its wonderful landscapes, such as **Sierra de Lares** and **Puebla de Alcocer** castle (section 23). You can even enjoy a swim on the **Calicantos beach** in Casas de Don Pedro or **Los Llanos** beach in Esparragosa de Lares.

Highlights:

Guadiana basin accommodates a wealth of endemic plant and animal species. A staggering number of winter birds also take shelter in the area during cooler months, where the riverbanks are key to the increase in flora and fauna diversity. During this part of the trail through La Siberia you also cross important protected spaces and witness the ecological and environmental interest of the area surrounding the river Guadiana.

**Sections:**

- Section 1. Alcoba—Horcajo de los Montes (19 km)
- Section 2. Horcajo de los Montes—Bohonal (13 km)
- Section 3. Bohonal—Anchuras (28 km)
- Section 4. Anchuras—Puerto Rey (19 km)
- Section 5. Puerto Rey—Alía (32 km)
- Section 6. Alía—Guadalupe (13 km)

Text and information from Caminos a Guadalupe proyecto Itinere 1337. More information (in Spanish):

**Description:**

The Cabañeros trail sets off from the present-day **Cabañeros National Park**, which gives the trail its name and is set within the Montes de Toledo mountain ranges. Most of the trail runs through this area of medium-sized mountains and rañas (quartzite and clay lands) and **starts off in Alcoba**, a small village nestled in the Montes de Toledo mountain range, which belongs to the ancient Estados de Duque since 1542.

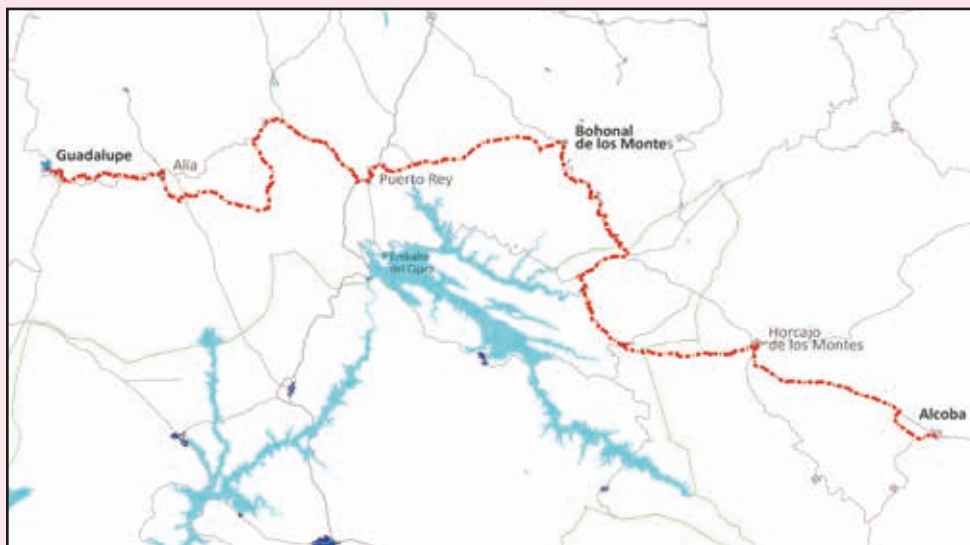
After Alcoba, you can observe the devotion that these villages show towards Our Lady of Guadalupe. Such fervour and the increasing numbers of pilgrims that head to Extremadura resulted in the construction of a small chapel dedicated to the black Virgin Mary in **Horcajo de los Montes**.

Leaving Horcajo de los Montes and the lands of Castile-la Mancha behind you for the moment, you now go deeper into Extremadura. Continue until you reach **Bohonal**, a small village belonging to **Helechosa de los Montes**. It is set the middle of a stunning natural environment and represents the gateway to the **Cijara Regional Hunting Reserve**. A curious fact about Bohonal: it is the Spanish village furthest from its provincial capital, which is Badajoz at 244 km away.

From Bohonal, the trail returns to Castilian soil, firstly heading to **Huertas de Sauceral** and then **Anchuras**. The latter of the two became well-known towards the end of last century as it was part of a fierce battle against the introduction of an air force shooting range on its outskirts, which was originally headed for Cabañeros park.

The trail continues through **Minas de Santa Quiteria**, a village that came into existence thanks to the lead mine close to an old hamlet called La Cordobilla. Continue until you reach **Puerto Rey**, back within the boundaries of Extremadura. The name of the village (literally translated as King Port) comes from the anecdote that King Alfonso XI ordered the land to be levelled out in order to make it easier for his retinue to travel through. Three passes open out from north to south at this point: the Rey, the Viejo and the Virgen. All three connect Sevilleja with Alía in Cáceres province. Alía is the last village that you visit before reaching the old pilgrims' trail until **Guadalupe and its monastery**.





Highlights:

Most of the trail runs along the **Montes de Toledo**, a collection of sierras and medium-sized mountains, modelled on a very consolidated and ancient crag, mainly consisting of layers of slate and quartzite. Its enduring vegetation and fauna is widespread, and creates a mountainscape with an extraordinary wealth of plant and animal life.

Cabañeros National Park is found in this area, which is named as such after the thatched huts that were traditionally used by shepherds and coalmen as temporary shelter from their work in the fields. The park is actually one of the most important protected areas on the Iberian Peninsula and even in Europe. It provides refuge for large raptors, such as rare Spanish imperial eagle, griffon and black vulture, golden eagle and many other endangered species, including timid black stork.

Other environmentally interesting spots on this trail include important protected areas, such as Cuenca Media del Guadiana y sus Laderas Vertientes Special Protected Area (SPA), Sierra de las Villuercas—Valle del Guadarranque and Horcajo and Alcoba de los Montes lakes, which are Sites of Community Importance (SCI). The **Río Guadalupejo Wildlife Corridor**, **Río Estena SAC** and **Cijara Regional Reserve** are located within **the region of La Siberia**. There are very few trails that cover such diverse and outstanding natural areas along almost every part of the trail.





Description:

The start of the trail is on **Los Badenes** farm between the villages Fuenlabrada de los Montes and Villarta de los Montes, on the road that goes from this village to the N-430.

You pass the farm in the first few metres, which boasts a large farmhouse that you can see close up. After passing a cattle grid, you go deeper into one of the lungs of Extremadura: Cijara Regional Hunting Reserve. This section crosses an ecologically-important oak wood, which lends the area marvellous landscapes reminiscent of northern Spain. In the depths of the oak forest, you reach the **Robledillo forest warden's lodge**, called such because "roble" means oak in Spanish.

The trail also passes through pine forests, the fruits of the reforestations that took place in the 1960s. Continue along the main track towards Cijara.

Cross Sierra de la Rinconada until you reach a wide valley, which holds a small reservoir, where the **Valdemoros Deer's Bellow Observatory** is located.

From here, continue until you reach Puerto Lobo, where you take a footpath that leads to Helechosa de los Montes. The trail is waymarked with wooden signs at each intersection.

Continue along the footpath surrounded by vast pine forests, which is mostly flat as it passes over a plateau. Enjoy the stunning views of the Cijara reservoir until you reach the Helechosa de los Montes and Herrera de Duque intersection. Make the most of the Cruce de las Mesas picnic area for a rest and a snack.

After a few kilometres, you reach a fork, but you need to continue along the track that leads to the junction with the Cijara track. You can easily identify this section because you can see the old electricity poles as you reach the junction, which are no longer in use. Casa del Cijara is also located on this fork.

This is the final section before you arrive at the **Cijara dam**, with cork trees and heaths to your right and rolling cattle fields and dehesa pastures to your left.





Highlights:

The trail crosses **Cijara Regional Hunting Reserve**, which gives the trail and the Public Mountain their name. Spontaneous vegetation is mainly represented by holm oaks and cork trees, which lends a beautiful natural landscape and serves as a source of food for animals. The areas denude of trees, were mainly replanted with pines, a species that has been creating soil to naturally make way for oaks. An abundance of shrub vegetation is also observed, represented by strawberry trees, terebinths, mastics and spurge olives. Gum cistus, white and yellow heather, rosemary and Spanish lavender contribute to the area's wild appearance and provide shelter and food for animals.

Among the rich and varied fauna, red, fallow and roe deer and wild boar are the most common mammals. The most sighted birds are golden eagle, black vulture, griffon vulture, Egyptian vulture, black stork and red-legged partridge, among others.

In the first section you cross an ecologically-important **oak wood**, which lends the area marvellous landscapes and runs along the **Robledillo stream**. When you reach the Robledillo forest warden's lodge, you leave the stream's side and go deeper into the pine forest; many of the trees are now felled for resin. This section shares the main track, where you can spot some old milestones along the way. You can take a break in the **Valle de Valdemoros** at the **Valdemoros Deer's Bellow Observatory** (featured on left page). The station is used for observing stags towards the end of the summer during the rut, with their extraordinary belling. Other game can also be spotted throughout the year, such as red and fallow deer and wild boar, given the reserve's exceptional conditions for these species. There is a picnic area on the observatory grounds, making it an ideal place to stop.

The end of the trail takes you to the Cijara dam, where you should climb up to the **Portillo del Cijara viewpoint**, nestled in a rocky promontory, where you can admire the wonderful views below. There is an information panel and wooden handrail, which overlooks the García de Sola reservoir's tail in the river Guadiana to the west.

**Sections:**

Section 1. Saceruela—Agudo (25 km)

Section 2. Agudo—Fuenlabrada de los Montes (24 km)

Section 3. Fuenlabrada de los Montes—Castilblanco (29 km)

Section 4. Castilblanco—Guadalupe (36 km)

Text and information from
Caminos a Guadalupe
proyecto Itinere 1337.
More information
(in Spanish):

**Description:**

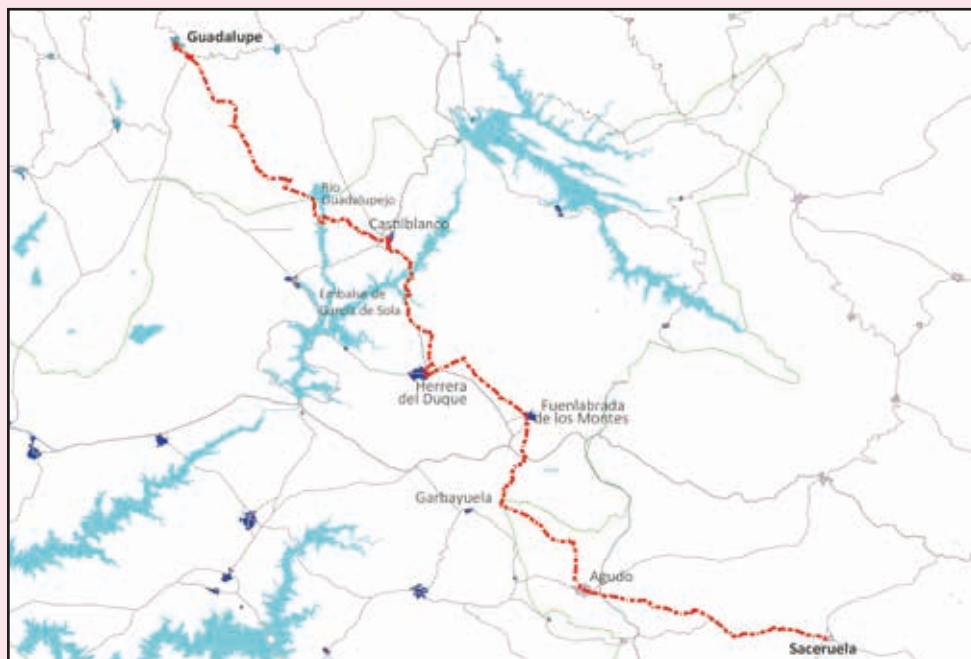
The Levante Guadalupe Pilgrim Trail is valued as being culturally and ecologically interesting and crosses unbeatable landscapes. **It starts in Saceruela**, in Ciudad Real province, a village located on an important intersection of footpaths. As well as its traditional connection with the Guadalupe Trail and its pilgrims, the **Real Merina drove road** also goes through the village, which is one of the most important migration paths on the Iberian Peninsula. The trail continues until **Agudo**, a small village that would belong to the Greater Encomienda of the Order of Calatrava from the 13th century and was historically associated with the commercial thoroughfares between the north and south and east and west.

From here, the trail progresses towards Extremaduran lands, penetrating deeper into La Siberia until **Fuenlabrada de los Montes**. This village lies within the boundaries of **Cíjara Regional Hunting Reserve**: an immense untamed wooded area with a large hooved animal population, including red, fallow and roe deer. The village is very well known for its artisan honey. From Fuenlabrada de los Montes, head towards **Herrera del Duque**, the very heart of La Siberia. There are very few historical villages like Herrera del Duque, as proven by the imposing octagonal castle that dominates the land from its atalaya tower. Then head to **Castilblanco**, a village believed to be of Templar origin and whose castle —no longer in existence— possibly shielded the **Guadalupejo valley**. After this last village, you find yourself in Las Villuercas region in Cáceres province, your last destination before reaching Guadalupe monastery.

Highlights:

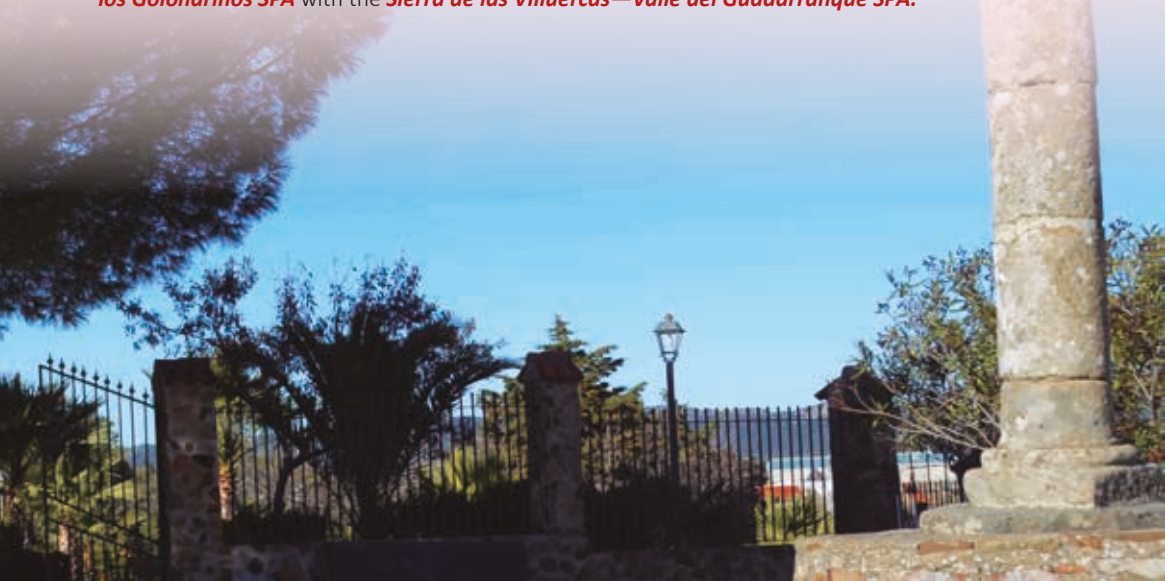
The trail is permanently in contact with nature, traditions and centuries-old customs, excellent rural gastronomy, meticulous local craftsmanship and a historical and artistic legacy pervaded from the cultures and villages that enriched this area's historical development.





The contrasting landscapes is one of the most pleasant surprises for pilgrims that venture along this trail. Expect rugged mountainscapes but no excessive heights, surrounded by dehesa woodland and pastures.

The trail crosses important natural areas, such as the outstanding **García de Sola reservoir**, the river Guadiana and the **Río Guadalupejo Wildlife Corridor**, which connects the **Puerto Peña—Sierra de los Golondrinos SPA** with the **Sierra de las Villuercas—Valle del Guadarranque SPA**.



35 “The Miners” Guadalupe Pilgrim TRAIL



Sections:

- Section 1. Almadén—Garlitos (24 km)
- Section 2. Garlitos—Siruela (19 km)
- Section 3. Siruela—Talarrubias (20 km)
- Section 4. Talarrubias—Casas de Don Pedro (14 km)
- Section 5. Casas de Don Pedro—Guadalupe (47 km)

Text and information from Caminos a Guadalupe proyecto Itinere 1337. More information (in Spanish):



Description:

This trail came into being around the same time as the exploitation of the mercury mines in **Almadén** (Ciudad Real province), which is the start of this pilgrim trail.

From here, **the trail progresses towards Extremadura, going deeper into La Siberia**. You can observe several references to the Virgin Mary along the way towards Guadalupe, especially from villages Garlitos, Siruela, Talarrubias, Casas de Don Pedro and Valdecaballeros.

From **Garlitos**, head to **Siruela**, a village closely related to the monastery. Many local figures associated with Our Lady of Guadalupe were born in Siruela, such as José Moreno Nieto, a famous 19th-century legal specialist who studied in the monastery, and Brother Juan de Siruela, one of the most distinguished priors to have led the monastery and Guadalupe village (1519-1524). The Gothic cloister and the pharmacy cloister are both works of his.

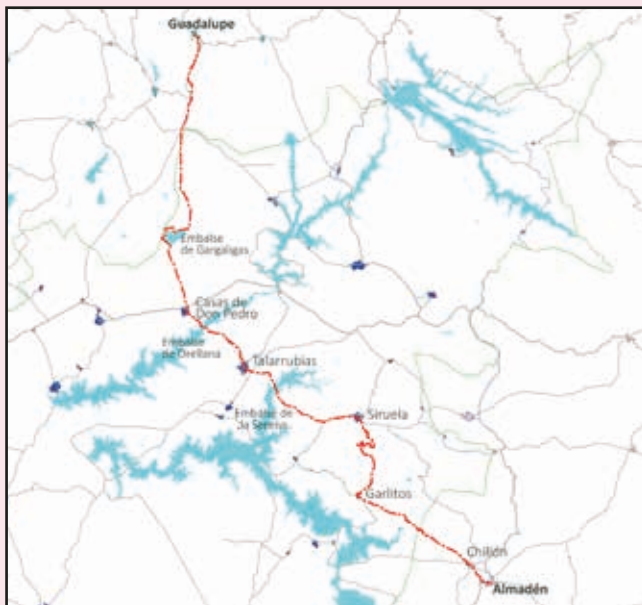
Then head to **Talarrubias** until you reach the Casa del Patio, a 17th-century, former Franciscan convent, whose friars were moved to the sanctuary in Guadalupe in the 20th century. The ancient Hospital del Carmen is also found in this village; a building that was built in the 16th century as shelter for pilgrims en route to Guadalupe, the sick and needy, and shepherds who moved their flocks via the Mesta drove road. A chapel was added to the original hospital building in the 17th century, dedicated to Our Lady of Peace and Saint Ildephonsus. The hospital has been restored to accommodate pilgrims who are on the Los Caminos Trail to the Villuercas monastery.

You can also observe Marian relics in **Casas de Don Pedro**, whose Calvario chapel was often frequented by pilgrims on their way to Guadalupe, and several dehesa near **Valdecaballeros**, which once belonged to the monastery.

Highlights:

The trail crosses some wonderful natural spaces across the diverse regions, Almadén, La Siberia and las Villuercas, which represent fine examples of different ecosystems.





Furthermore, **the area's geomorphology and landscape are undoubtedly interesting**; an exceptionally high-quality habitat for a vast number of Mediterranean animal and plant species, which is noteworthy for its unique floral species and valuable biological diversity.

First-time pilgrims or hikers are pleasantly surprised by the number of spaces suitable for meditation along the pilgrims' trail to Guadalupe. As you pass through the different villages, you encounter the prominent, diversified Special Protected Areas (SPA) and Sites of Community Interest (SCI), which display their variety of plants and

animals. **La Serena and Orellana reservoirs and Sierra de Siruela and Sierra de Pela** are particularly outstanding.

Most of the trail passes through Extremadura's Siberia, made up of beautiful landscapes, which alternate between rugged crags, deep valleys and rolling pastures. The most remarkable feature in this region is its huge quantities of dammed water.

Discover the unique landscape at every step of the way; dense, rugged and harmonious with an impressive display of hues, shapes and volumes, which delight any pilgrim. The wild flora and fauna that you observe before delving deeper into Las Villuercas are exemplary of Extremadura's biotope — **the Mediterranean woodland**— and constitute some of the best communities of plants and animals, in terms of quality and quantity, in Badajoz. The area's particular ecological characteristics have encouraged birds common to open lands to settle, with a notable presence of great bustard, little bustard, black-bellied sandgrouse, stone-curlew and Montagu's harrier. The reservoirs are home to large concentrations of white stork, seagulls and cranes, but the most populous group consists of ducks, geese and swans such as mallard, gadwall and teal.



**Sections:**

Orellana la Vieja—Orellana La Sierra—Esparragosa de Lares—Puebla de Alcocer
Total distance: 38.80 km

Text and information by Diputación de Badajoz. More information (in Spanish):



<http://goo.gl/7iX1dM>

Description:

Start at the **Playa de Costa Dulce** and cross the village **Orellana la Vieja** until you reach the crossroad for the EX-115 with BA-105. Take the BA-105 500 m towards Acedera, but bear left and take the Real Leonesa drove road until you reach the Encinas Altas area. Turn right to cross the road and then reach the former Orellana la Vieja wash house, where you can take a break.

Then go past the Cerro Talangón and Caño de la Sierra and take the Mombuey path, leaving Risco de la Mona mountain to your left, until you reach **Orellana de la Sierra**. Go through the village and head for the Chorrillo natural site, walking through olive trees and vineyards until you come to the EX-115. After some metres, take the Huerta del Rey track until you reach the **Cogolludo** natural site, next to the **Roman city of Lacimurga**, where you cross the **river Guadiana**.

Continue along the same track, among pastures and dehesa, until you reach an intersection with the Serrano cattle path close to the EX-103. Cross this road, leaving Puebla de Alcocer's Sierra del Castillo behind you to your left, and you reach the village **Esparragosa de Lares**. From this village, take the trail that leads to the chapel so that you can cross the Sierra del Castillo and reach the other slope. From here, you can head up to **Puebla de Alcocer's castle** and take in the unbeatable views or go down to the village to end the trail.

Highlights:

The Reservoirs Trail is perfect for enjoying Extremadura's nature in its purest form, since it goes through a protected natural space and allows you to discover several of the region's reservoirs. Along the trail, you can experience almost every type of ecosystem, all of which are well-conserved and are home to uncountable plant and animal species.





As you pass through the different villages, you encounter the prominent, diversified Special Protected Areas (SPA) and Sites of Community Interest (SCI), which display their diversity of plants and animals. The ***Embalse de Orellana–Sierra de Pela SPA, La Serena–Sierras Periféricas SPA, Embalse de la Serena SPA and La Serena SAC*** are particularly noteworthy.

The trail covers four villages in regions La Serena and La Siberia and has other attractions worth visiting: ***Puebla de Alcocer boasts*** a remarkable castle and the ***Virgen de la Cueva chapel***; you can walk alongside the ***Roman ruins from Lacimurga in Cogolludo***, a curious natural site where two sierras make the course of the ***river Guadiana*** narrower and a bridge joins both shores. The Sierras, covered by dense holm oak, cork, wild olive and strawberry trees are crowned by quartzite rock formations where you can spot Eurasian eagle owl, Egyptian eagle, black stork, golden eagle and Bonelli's eagle. The bridge lends excellent views of the reservoir and its birds.



2 “La Lobera” TRAIL

PR BA 264



Start:

The trail starts from the road that connects Helechosa de los Montes and Villarta de los Montes, approximately 11 km from the Helechosa de los Montes bridge.

Description:

The walk starts on **Navacerradilla saddle**, right on the border between Helechosa de los Montes and Villarta de los Montes. The first 2 km are also the end of the walk through the outskirts of the latter village. When you are back in Helechosa de los Montes, you reach a fork in the path. First head towards **Azorejo hill** and then walk parallel to the gorge of the same name until you reach the **Poyatas viewpoint**.

You come back into Villarta de los Montes and walk along **La Lobera hillside** until you are back at your starting point. The trail is circular and the only difficulty lies in the distance and having to overcome some steep slopes, however, most of the trail goes along dirt tracks that are in good condition, which also makes it perfect for mountain bikes.



Area: Cijara Reserve—El Arenal Public Mountain (PM No. 11) and Las Navas and Puerto Lobo para Allá (PM No. 09)

Grade: Low

Coordinates: 39°17'07.0"N 4°46'00.4"W

Distance: 18,70 km

Ascent: 191 m

Estimated time:

4h40m  1h30m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/wGV5p3>

Highlights:

The trail goes through stone and maritime **pine woodlands**, except in quarry areas where original vegetation has endured, including holm oak, cork, gall oak, strawberry trees and shrub species such as rockrose, heather and rosemary. The same occurs in the valley that forms the **Azorejo gorge**, which affords beautiful views and well-conserved luxuriant areas.

There is a good chance of **spotting red deer and wild boar** throughout the trail but especially in the Azorejo area and from Las Poyatas viewpoint. From here, you can easily spy **raptors in full flight** (golden eagle, griffon vulture, black vulture, short-toed snake eagle, Egyptian eagle, Bonelli's eagle) and other species such as black stork or red-billed croucher. Many other bird species are easily spotted in the area too: azure-winged magpie, thrush, wood pigeon, black wheateater,



red-rumped swallow and jays.

The surrounding landscape is this trail's **best asset**. The Poyatas viewpoint —perched on a rocky formation over the river Guadiana— lends sweeping panoramas of Azorejo gorge and Sierra de la Lobera, especially the Hoja de la Lobera area, where you can trace the landscape to the south of the Cijara reservoir's tail.



3 “Garganta de los Acebos” TRAIL

SL BA 243

Helechosa de los Montes

Start:

Both trails start in Boyerizas de Majadavieja within the Helechosa de los Montes district. The starting point is on the road that connects Helechosa de los Montes and Villarta de los Montes, around 8 km from the Helechosa de los Montes bridge. It is next to the tourist accommodation that was built over an old building once used to keep the oxen that carried out forestation works on the public mountains.

Description:

This linear trail is short and the only difficulty lies in that one of the paths is made up of loose stones. In any case, it is not dangerous and is fitted with a wooden handrail in the most difficult areas. The trail is perfect for walking.

The trail runs alongside the **Acebos gorge** on a path that is practically covered by abundant riparian vegetation. At the end of the trail is an information panel about the Garganta de los Acebos. Following the wooden handrail, you reach the foot of the acebos (holly trees) that lend the gorge and this trail their name. The holly trees are the star of this environment as it is usually difficult to find this species in such southern areas and are even classified as vulnerable in Extremadura.

Area: Cijara Reserve—Las Navas and Puerto Lobo para Allá PM (No. 09)

Grade: Low

Coordinates: 39°17'58.0"N 4°47'26.9"W

Distance: 1,69 km

Ascent: 77 m

Estimated time:

0h50m 

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/OaWU5j>

Although this point is considered to be the end of the trail, you can continue some metres up to another panel about wild vines, which stands at the foot of a beautiful **waterfall**, where the water gushes over the quartzite ledges. If you choose to do so, be sure to tread carefully as there are loose stones under foot.


Highlights:

The purpose of the trail is to enjoy the plant life in this area. In addition to the **gallery forests** of poplar, ash and willow, the trail passes between gall oaks, hawthorns, mastics, rosemary, strawberry trees, terebinths, alder buckthorns, holly trees, climbers, such as wild vines, and beautiful **peonies** in spring.

You can also spot forest birds, such as long-tailed tit, blue tit, robin, great spotted woodpecker and golden oriole and even small mammals, such as weasels, beech martens and genets. The water and the cool, shaded gorge make this trail especially appealing in summer months.





Area: Cíjara Reserve—Las Navas and Puerto Lobo para Allá PM (No. 09)
Grade: Low
Coordinates: 39°17'58.0"N 4°47'26.9"W
Distance: 2,70 km
Ascent: 62 m
Estimated time: 1h20m 
Trail type: Linear
<http://goo.gl/BmBCR2>

Description:

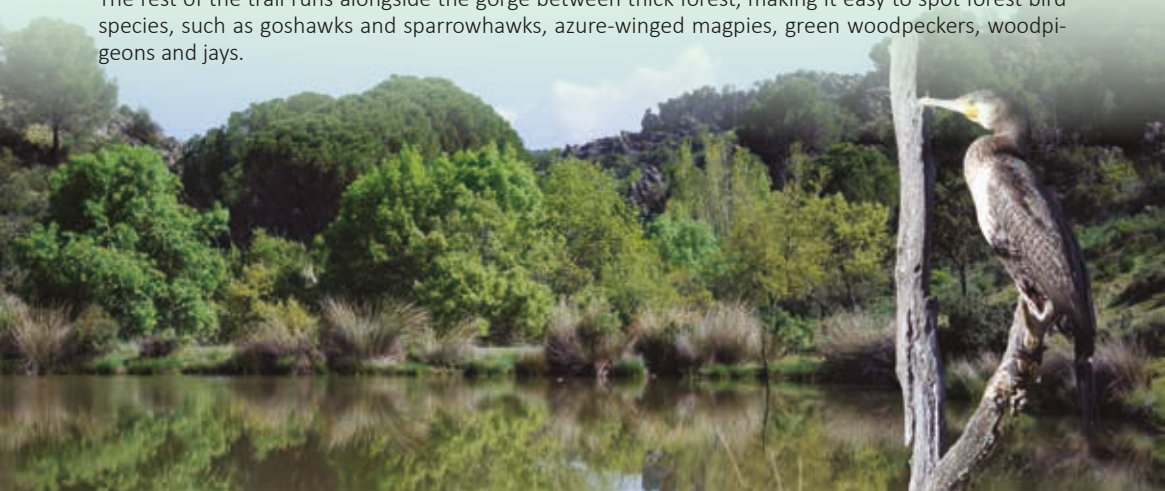
This linear trail is short and the only difficulty lies in that some parts of the path are overgrown and not very well marked out. However, you are in no danger of getting lost as you only need to follow the **course of the Acebos gorge** until you reach the point where it joins the **Encinarejo stream**.

The trail is only suitable for walking. It runs alongside the Acebos gorge, in the opposite direction to the Garganta de los Acebos Trail, which also leaves from Boyerizas de Majadavieja. The trail ends in a clearing at the foothills of the **Grajera crags**, where you can take in **beautiful views and spy on the birds** that live among the quartzite ledges. You can also spot raptors in full flight, including Egyptian eagle, griffon vulture, Bonelli's eagle, black stork and red-billed chough.

Highlights:

Many sections of the footpath pass through gall oaks, holm oaks, hawthorns, mastics, rockroses, strawberry trees, terebinths, heathers, and beautiful **peonies** in spring.

The rest of the trail runs alongside the gorge between thick forest, making it easy to spot forest bird species, such as goshawks and sparrowhawks, azure-winged magpies, green woodpeckers, woodpeckers and jays.





Start:

The trail starts in **Boyerizas de Majadavieja** within Helechosa de los Montes district. The starting point is found on the road that connects Helechosa de los Montes and Villarta de los Montes, around 8 km from the Helechosa de los Montes bridge. It is next to the tourist accommodation that was built over an old building once used to keep the oxen that carried out forestation works on the public mountains.

Description:

An information panel marks the start of the walk. Take a path until you reach a large, rectangular trough. From here, take a **narrow path on the left bank of the stream**, which leads you through a pine forest until you reach a large rock formation, surrounded by holly trees (*Ilex aquifolium*, classified as vulnerable in Extremadura). Skirt around the rock to the right.

Return to the side of the stream, but do not cross it. Walk through a thick pine forest and follow the stream's course until you reach a forest track. Bear left until a sharp curve, where you find some large huts. The workers who replanted the forest midway through last century lived here, making them anthropologically interesting.



Area: Cijara Reserve—Las Navas and Puerto

Lobo para Allá PM (No. 09)

Grade: Low

Coordinates: 39°19'20.9"N 4°57'01.1"W

Distance: 8,40 km

Ascent: 264 m

Estimated time:

3h45m  0h40m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/oUBAA8>

Leave the track to the left and take a path that goes up towards the **Azorejo peak** (768 m) and its watchtower with excellent views. Continue along the track for a few metres until you come to a fork. Bear right and continue round to the top of Azorejo hill and come back down through the pine forest. Take a path to your left for a few metres until you reach a saddle where you should continue along the left track. After 50 metres, you reach another fork. Take the right and start going downhill. There is another fork near the bottom of the hill. This time take the left. After zigzagging down, you reach the road, where you can see your point of departure in Bollerizas de Majadavieja to your right.

Highlights:

You pass through pine forests, Pyrenean oaks and Mediterranean mountain areas, where you can observe interesting geological formations inhabited by protected flora and fauna species.



**Start:**

The trail starts at **La Barca** (Cíjara nautical club) on the shore of the Cíjara reservoir, on the road that connects Helechosa de los Montes and Bohonal, before crossing the bridge over the river Guadiana. The trail is not completely circular but the start and the end points are close to one another. This is to avoid having to walk along busy roads and therefore ensure that the trail can be officially approved. If you wish, you can make the trail circular by continuing 3 km on the roadside back to La Barca. However, you must bear in mind that this stretch is not waymarked. The trail's only difficulty lies in the distance, as there are no steep slopes and the dirt tracks are in good condition. It is therefore also perfect for mountain bikes.

Description:

The start of the trail is waymarked by an information panel next to **La Barca jetty**. Take the ramp up to the road. Take the road towards Helechosa de los Montes for 400 m until you reach a fork. Take your left, which is the **El Hoyo track**.



Helechosa de los Montes

Area: Cijara reserve—Las Navas and Puerto Lobo para Allá PM (No. 09) and Baldíos, Dehesa Boyal—Egido PM (No. 06)

Grade: Medium - Low

Coordinates: 39°18'30.2"N 4°51'53.3"W

Distance: 16,80 km

Ascent: 260 m

Estimated time:

4h48m  1h50m 

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/qVbPZK>

Highlights:

Most of the trail goes through **stone and maritime pine woodlands**, although some sections conserve autochthonous vegetation, including gall oak, holm oak, cork and strawberry trees and even junipers and typically associated shrubs, such as rosemary, rockrose and Spanish lavender. The entire trail offers **great opportunities to sight deer**, especially around the Cuervo crags, and **raptors in flight**, such as golden eagle, griffon vulture, Egyptian eagle and other species like **black stork** and blue rock thrush.

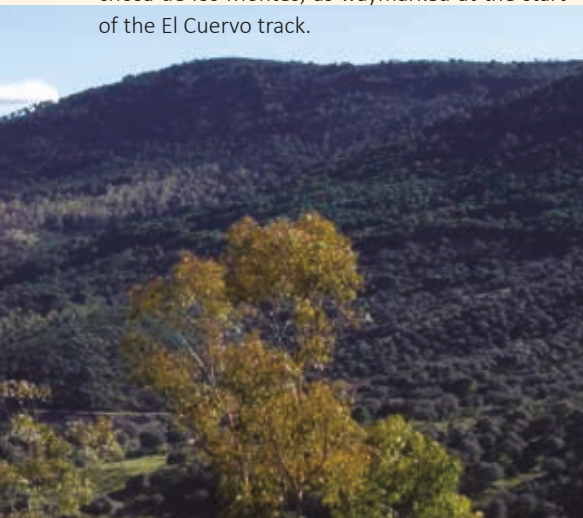
Other birds can also be easily spotted, such as azure-winged magpie, green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker, chaffinch, wood pigeon, long-tailed tit and robin.

The landscape is possibly the most attractive aspect of the trail, given the stunning views you are rewarded with at the top of Maribarba pass: the **river Guadiana**, the **Arroyo del Charco Hondo valley** and the **Cuervo crags**. The last stretch of the trail also overlooks Helechosa de los Montes and the Cijara reservoir.

After a few metres, you reach a cattle grid, which marks the entrance to the **Cijara reserve**. The first section of the trail is slightly downhill along the El Hoyo track. The start of the track runs parallel to the **Cijara reservoir** and offers beautiful views, especially if you stop at any of the natural viewpoints.

The track turns to continue parallel to the Arroyo del Charco Hondo valley until Maribarba saddle, where you reach a junction with the Reserve's main track. Leave the main track to your left to angle right along the El Cuervo track. This downhill section goes through pine forests and you are very likely to spot deer.

As you continue, you reach the **Cuervo crag**, which awaits with stunning views of Cijara reservoir and Helechosa de los Montes. The trail ends on the road where you started, but close to Helechosa de los Montes, as waymarked at the start of the El Cuervo track.



Area: Cijara Reserve—Baldíos o 1ª PHC, Dehesa Boyal—Egido PM (No. 06) and Los Chopos PM (No. 09)

Grade: Low

Coordinates: 39°19'18.1"N 4°54'06.4"W

Distance: 9,72 km

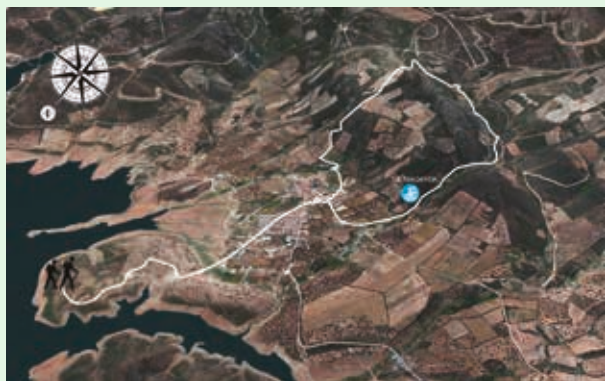
Ascent: 196 m

Estimated time:

2h26m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/Z4ezYz>



Start:

The trail sets off from Los Cerrillos, one of the tourist accommodation complexes that is part of the project to enhance the resources available in the Cijara area. It is located on the shores of the reservoir, very close to Helechosa de los Montes.

Description:

The trail is circular, although you retrace the first 2 km between Los Cerrillos and Helechosa de los Montes at the end of the trail. The only difficulty lies in having to overcome some steep slopes as it covers dirt paths and tracks that are in good condition. The only downhill section (800 m) is through the Sierra de la Fuente until Fuente Vieja, an old spring, and does not pose any danger. Most of the trail runs between rock walls and dense vegetation, and is relatively steep. It was once the route taken by the cavalry to Fuenlabrada de los Montes.

The trail runs alongside the shores of the reservoir until Helechosa de los Montes, where it takes the Herrera del Duque path up the Arroyo de los Huertos valley. Along this stretch, you pass some beautiful waterfalls and the **natural swimming pools** in the lower part of the valley in **Helechosa de los Montes**, which are ideal for summer months. The trail leaves the Herrera

path and continues along the natural swimming pool La Naciente, in the area known as Los Batanes. It runs alongside the stream with beautiful **riparian vegetation** and **spectacular quarries**. Willows, ashes and poplars inhabit the shores and shrub species are plentiful on slopes, such as laurestine, rockrose, mastic, rosemary, heather and flax-leaved daphne. Lastly, the trail joins the Fuenlabrada path, passing through olive groves, until you turn off back onto the original path. This is one of the most beautiful sections, as the path descends to Helechosa de los Montes, and is surrounded by vegetation typical of north-facing shaded slopes: gall oak, cork and strawberry trees and large areas of laurestine, white heather and Mediterranean buckthorn.

Highlights:

Although the most interesting feature of the trail is the **plant life** that you observe, you may also be able to **spot red and roe deer**, as well as **rap-tors circling above** (golden eagle, black vulture, griffon vulture and other species such as the black stork). Many other birds can also be spotted in the area: azure-winged magpie, thrush, wood pigeon, serin and warbler, among others.



Area: Cíjara Reserve—Los Chopos PM (No. 09) and Los Robledillos PM (No. 27)

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°19'20.9"N 4°57'01.1"W

Distance: 6,30 km

Ascent: 164 m

Estimated time:

1h35m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/h9JkLe>



Start:

The trail starts from the Cíjara Reserve Interpretation Centre at the **Robledillos natural site**, which also boasts a deer's bellow observatory. It is located on the BA-077, which connects the Cíjara dam and Helechosa de los Montes.

Description:

The trail is circular, although you retrace the first 500 m at the end of the trail. The majority of the trail is along forest paths that are in relatively good condition and there are no excessive slopes. However, around 400 m of the trail covers a rocky path through the Arroyo de los **Malos Pasos gully**, making it slightly difficult.

The trail goes along the Arroyo de las **Nueve Voces valley** on an old path between Helechosa de los Montes and Castilblanco. First, you reach the Los Robledillos pool recreational area and then the dyke across the stream.

Continue a little further and turn 90 degrees in search of the Arroyo de los Malos Pasos stream bed and go deeper into the gully that the stream carved into the rock.

Highlights:

The trail goes through stone and **maritime pine woodland**, except in the gully area and downstream, where you can observe vegetation native to these sierras: holm oaks, cork, gall oak and an abundance of Mediterranean shrubland. The combination of the vegetation and the **gully's rock formations** make for an impressive landscape.

The rock formations, which have eroded over

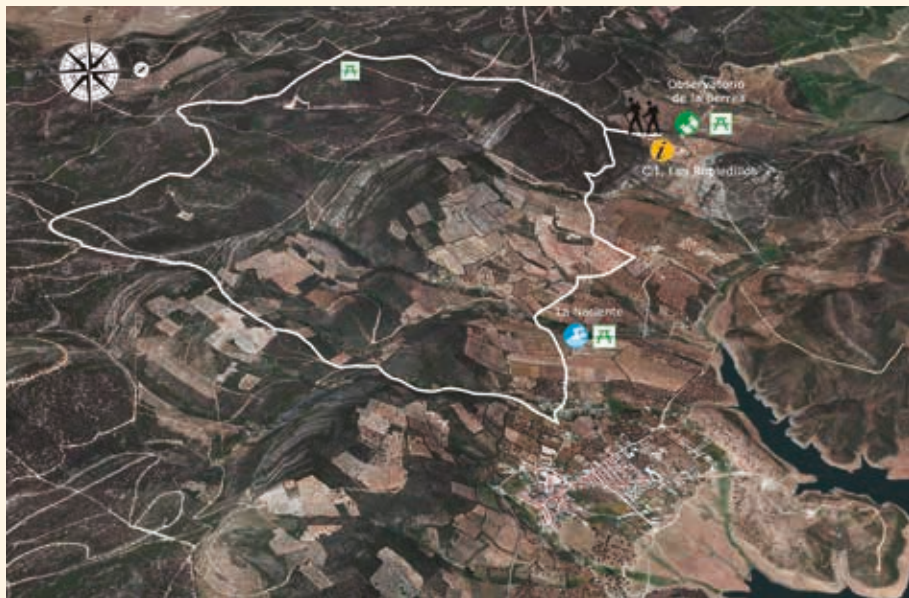
time, are perfect for **sighting large raptors**, such as Bonelli's eagle, golden eagle, griffon vulture, Egyptian eagle and Eurasian eagle owl. Other birds also inhabit the area, such as the red-billed chough, blue rock thrush, black wheatear and even timid black stork.

Forest bird species like the azure-winged magpie, golden oriole, warblers, woodpeckers and jays, and game such as red, roe and fallow deer and wild boar can also be spied in the area.



9 “Los Robledillos” TRAIL

PR BA 263



Start:

The trail starts from the **Cijara Reserve Interpretation Centre** at the Robledillos natural site, which also boasts a **deer's bellow observatory**. It is located on the BA-077, which connects the Cijara dam and Helechosa de los Montes. The trail is circular and the only difficulty lies in the distance and having to overcome some steep slopes, as the rest of the trail goes along forest dirt tracks that are in good condition.

Description:

Start at the Interpretation Centre and follow the trail waymarks into the **Cijara reserve**. Leave a drinking trough to your right until you reach an intersection after a few metres. Take the path to your right. This section runs alongside the **Nueve Voces stream** until you reach the reserve's main track, at the Cruce de las Mesas, which is shared by the **Guadiana Nature Trail**. Take this main track to the left towards Valdemoros and its deer's bellow observatory.



Helechosa de los Montes

Area: Cijara reserve—Los Chopos PM (No. 09), Los Robledillos PM (No. 27) and Baldíos o 1ª PHC, Dehesa Boyal—Egido PM (No. 06)

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°19'20.9"N 4°57'01.1"W

Distance: 14,90 km

Ascent: 264 m

Estimated time:

3h45m  1h10m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/HqUXhl>

After 4 km, take a left and start going downhill towards Helechosa de los Montes, using the old Herrera del Duque path until the village, where you leave the main track. Although this stretch is steep, it is one of the most beautiful along the trail as Los Batanes slope and Los Huertos stream offer some remarkable views. Along this last stretch, you pass some beautiful waterfalls and some metres below Helechosa de los Montes's natural swimming pools, which are ideal for summer months.

Highlights:

The higher part of the trail goes through stone and **maritime pine forests**. Meanwhile, the vegetation surrounding the **Nueve Voces and Los Huertos streams**—where the Helechosa de los Montes **natural swimming** pools are located— is mainly gallery forests of willow, ash and poplar. There are abundant shrub species along the banks, including rockrose, mastic, rosemary, heather and flax-leaved daphne. The same occurs in the areas clo-

se to the road between Helechosa de los Montes and Robledillos, with alternating olive groves and gall oak and holm oak woodlands.

There is a good chance of spotting wildlife on the trail, including **red, roe and fallow deer**, and observing **raptors in flight**: golden eagle, black vulture, griffon vulture, short-toed snake eagle, Egyptian eagle, and other species such as **black stork**. Many other birds are common to the area too: azure-winged magpie, thrush, wood pigeons, stonechats, warblers and great tits.



Area: Puerto Peña—Los Golondrinos
SPA and SAC—Cijara Reserve—Cijara

PM (No. 38)

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°18'56.1"N 4°58'51.6"W

Distance: 5,80 km

Ascent: 118 m

Estimated time:

1h20m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/pWN7VN>



Start:

The trail sets off from the **Casa del**

Cijara holiday accommodation in Herrera del Duque, at the foot of one of the Cijara Regional Hunting Reserve's main tracks.

Description:

The trail is circular and crosses the **Garguera stream valley**, offering a pleasant landscape of autochthonous woodlands. The trail is very easy as it is fewer than 6 km, takes a dirt track that is in good condition and there are no excessive slopes, meaning that it is also suitable for mountain bikes.

The start of the trail goes downhill in a north-easterly direction towards the old road that was used before Cijara reservoir was built. After around 650 m, change direction and take a forest track to the left of the one you are on.

The track is slightly downhill, and then takes a gentle upward slope as you head towards the Garguera stream, which you leave to your left. You can see the shaded slopes of Castellón del Lomo to your left, which mark the Cijara Public Mountain (No. 38) border with private farmlands. The change in land ownership is denoted by different vegetation: conifer forests sit on the Public Mountain and Mediterranean forests on private farmlands.

After crossing the stream, you reach a saddle, which is fondly nicknamed by locals “**Uncle Alejandro's hut**”. The spot is very well known in the area as many footpaths cross here, the most noteworthy being the old path from Helechosa de los Montes to Castilblanco.

From the saddle, turn 180 degrees and change direction, heading **uphill between pine trees** until you reach your point of departure: Casa del Cijara.

Highlights:

The trail's main appeal is the area's **plant life**, which is native to these mountains, and some stands of **cork trees**, some of which are of staggering proportions. Dense **gallery forests** inhabit the banks of the stream; gall oaks, cork trees and shrub species such as strawberry trees, terebinth and climbers rest on the hillsides. You can spot **forest raptors**, such as sparrowhawks or goshawks, and several birds native to this habitat, such as crested tit, long-tailed tit, Eurasian nuthatch, azure-winged magpie, serin and green woodpecker.

You also have plenty of opportunities to observe different game animals, such as **red, fallow and roe deer and wild boar**.



Helechosa de los Montes

Area: Puerto Peña—Los Gollondrinos SPA and SCI—Cijara Reserve—Cijara PM (No. 38) and Umbrías de Malcasadillo PM (No. 06).

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°22'22.4"N 5°00'51.5"W

Distance: 2,67 km

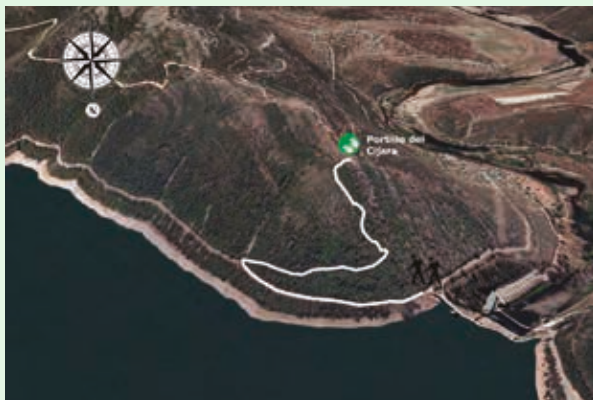
Ascent: 135 m

Estimated time:

0h40m 

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/uZXYvv>



Start:

The trail sets off from the **Cijara dam gardens**, on the left bank of the river Guadiana, on the road heading towards Helechosa de los Montes.

Description:

Start walking along the **road** towards Helechosa de los Montes, which was built over the rock formations that skirt the Cijara reservoir. After around 500 m on the right side of the road, you can see a panel indicating the start of the trail.

The start of the footpath is smooth and runs through **Mediterranean woodland**, typical of north-facing shaded slopes. Follow the footpath slightly uphill in the opposite direction that you were going along the road, until you are level with the Cijara dam. This section of the path zigzags up through holm oaks gaining height and boasts more **spectacular views** with every step.

You then reach an area with sparse vegetation, where you pass several **stone trenches**, which were used as redoubts during the Spanish Civil War. They are well preserved and surrounded by rockrose and heather. After a few metres, a stone tower comes into view, used as a fire lookout tower.

The views from this point are incredible: you can admire large stretches of the dammed **river Guadiana**, **Sierra de Guadalupe** and the mountains near Anchuras.

The end of the trail is at the top of the footpath. You must retrace your footsteps to return to the starting point.

Highlights:

The best part of the trail is the old watchtower **viewpoint**, which is equipped with an information panel, and boasts stunning views over the **Cijara pass**.



**Start:**

The trail starts from the **Cíjara Reserve Interpretation Centre at the Robledillos** natural site, which also boasts a deer's bellow observatory. It is located on the BA-077, which connects the Cíjara dam and Helechosa de los Montes.



Helechosa de los Montes

Area: Cijara reserve—Los Chopos PM (No. 09) and Los Robledillos PM (No. 27)

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°19'20.9"N 4°57'01.1"W

Distance: 10,10 km

Ascent: 202 m

Estimated time:

2h35m  0h50m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/5ZSGrW>

Description:

The trail is circular, although you retrace the first 3 km at the end of the trail. The trail is very easy as it is around 10 km; it takes forest footpaths and tracks that are in good condition and there are no excessive slopes. The trail is perfect for mountain bikers, given the distance and the track surface quality.

Almost all of the trail passes through **pine forests of different species**, and is clearly influenced by water as it climbs **Las Nueve Voces stream valley** on an old path between Helechosa de los Montes and Castilblanco. First, you reach the Robledillos pool recreational area and then the dyke across the stream.

The uphill path takes you from the Los Robledillos Public Mountain (PM) (No. 27) to Los Chopos PM (No. 9), owned by Herrera del Duque council. As you start along the main track at the Cruce de las Mesas, take a left, where the track is shared by the **Guadiana Nature Trail**. Go past a pond between pine forests on the **Malos Pasos stream**. After around 1500 m on the main track, take the left path. You cross the stream again before you go back on the old path from Helechosa de los Montes to Castilblanco, which takes you back to Los Robledillos natural site.

Highlights:

The **vegetation** along the stream banks is **riparian** and gall oaks appear in the quarries. However, most of the trail passes through stone and maritime **pine forests**, which makes it easy to spot different **forest bird species**, such as tree-creepers, bramblings, great spotted woodpecker, crested tit, nuthatches and jays, as well as **rap-tors**, such as sparrowhawks and goshawks. Vultures, Egyptian eagles and black storks soar above the clearer part of the main track.

Game animals, such as red, fallow and roe deer are also easy to spy, especially in the area close to the Mesas pond, as they stop to drink water.



**Start:**

The trail sets off from the **Casa del Cíjara** holiday accommodation in Herrera del Duque, at the foot of one of the **Cíjara Regional Hunting Reserve's** main tracks.

Description:

The trail is circular and very easy as it takes a wide forest track in good condition. Although most of the trail is accessible to mountain bikes, there is a stretch that is not, making the bike trail linear. Bikers are therefore recommended to start at Casa del Cíjara and end at the **Portillo viewpoint**, via either of the two tracks.



Herrera del Duque

The highlight of this trail is the two **viewpoints**. The first, **El Búho** viewpoint, is set upon a rocky headland and is equipped with an information panel and a wooden rail and overlooks the **Gar-cía de Sola reservoir's** tail towards the west. The second is the **Portillo de Cíjara** viewpoint, in the northern part of this trail, which is an old watchtower equipped with an information panel and boasts stunning views over the Cíjara pass.

The trail sets off to the north via the main track, which you continue along for around 10 km until you reach the Portillo del Cíjara viewpoint at the reservoir dam. After this point, you should take extra care while walking as the trail becomes a little more difficult. The downhill path (around 600 m) from the Portillo viewpoint to the old N-502 road (now a track with few tarmac sections) is relatively steep.

Go along the old road through holm oak woodlands for 7.5 km until you reach a fork. Take the uphill path to the left. Continue along this new forest track for 1400 m to **Casa del Cíjara** where you started.

Area: Puerto Peña—Los Golondrinos SPA and SAC—Cíjara Reserve—Cíjara PM (No. 38)

Grade:

Medium - Low

Coordinates:

39°18'56.1"N 4°58'51.6"W

Distance: 19,40 km

Ascent: 257 m

Estimated time:

4h50m  2h10m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/vnJOzi>

Highlights:

There are many **beautiful landscapes** along the trail, as the main track runs through mountains that offer picture-perfect views.

Most of the trail covers vast stone and maritime **pine forests** and well-conserved copses native to the quarry areas, including cork trees, holm oaks, strawberry trees and gall oaks and thick shrubland comprising rockrose, heather, rosemary and Spanish lavender. The trail lends plenty of opportunities for **spotting raptors**, such as griffon vulture, black vulture, golden eagle, Egyptian eagle and red kite, as well as many forest birds, including great spotted woodpeckers, jays and even black storks.

There is a chance of spying different **game animals** too, such as red, fallow and roe deer and wild boar.





Start:

The trail sets off from the **Cijara dam**, on the left bank of the river Guadiana, on the Helechosa de los Montes road.

Description:

The first section is downhill via an old road with cattle farms to your right and woodland to your left. Continue until you reach the path from Helechosa de los Montes. Turn right and go through private farmlands with **vast dehesa pastures** covered in wild olive trees. For the first few kilometres of the trail you have to cross stone bridges over streams.

You can admire **stunning views of the river Guadiana**, especially the García de Sola reservoir's tail. After a few kilometres, you reach a steep downhill slope, which leads to the Cijara palace, an occupied fortress, which still conserves its two turrets.

The next few kilometres are relatively more difficult with twists and turns and uphill and downhill stretches, and at some point you reach the riverbank. The trail continues to zigzag until you reach the bridge on the N-502, which connects Herrera del Duque and Castilblanco.



Herrera del Duque

Area: Puerto Peña—Sierra de Los Golondrinos SPA and SAC

Grade: Medium

Coordinates:

39°22'22.4"N 5°00'51.5"W

Distance: 22,20 km

Ascent: 120m

Estimated time:

5h00m  1h45m 

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/8xSWMG>

Highlights:

This trail was frequently used in bygone years as it was once the main road to Madrid.

The trail is waymarked throughout and is shared by section 21 of the Guadiana Nature Trail. It is perfect for mountain biking and **sighting large hoofed animals, black storks and aquatic bird species.**

The trail goes through young dehesa pastures of holm oaks and wild olive trees, where red and fallow deer can easily be spotted in the neighbouring farmlands. Expect to be surprised by the 19th-century Cijara palace.



Start:

The trail sets off from **El Robledillo mountain**, located in Villarta de los Montes, set in the Cijara Regional Hunting Reserve. The starting point is on the road that connects the N-430 and Villarta de los Montes and cuts off onto the main track at the Los Badenes natural site.

Area: Cijara Reserve—El Robledillo PM (No. 17)

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°12'20.7"N 4°50'02.9"W

Distance: 12,50 km

Ascent: 170 m

Estimated time:

3h10m 

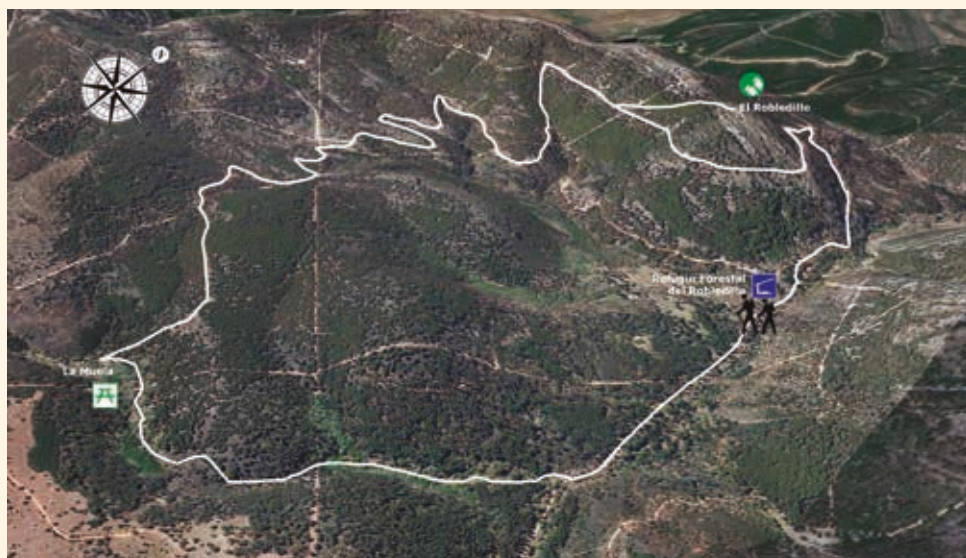
Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/7dtA7L>

Description:

Set off from the car park next to the **El Robledillo forest warden's** lodge beside the main track. Continue along this forest track, which is also the Segovian drove road. Take a path to the right alongside a calm stream to reach an old, decrepit house. From here, the path is slightly uphill until the **La Muela** troughs, the start of a **dense Pyrenean oak forest** populated by centuries-old trees where you can enjoy the sound of trickling water. Go through the pine forest via the firebreak, then start downhill on the forest track and go past the watering place for game animals.





After around 4 km, continue downhill following the course of the stream, and then up the slope through a pine forest. Then take the right track, called La Peña, which is flanked by sizeable cork trees. If you wish, you can take a detour from the trail to visit the fire lookout tower and admire the **stunning views** below. Down the forest path you can reach another **viewpoint overlooking the Robledillo stream** and its surrounds. Lastly, go down to the main track where you started the trail. Turn right on this track to reach the end of the trail.

Highlights:

On this trail you pass pine, Pyrenean oak, gall oak, holm oak forests and Mediterranean mountain areas populated by strawberry trees, heather, rosemary and other shrub species. The most noteworthy vegetation is Pyrenean oak with ferns in the undergrowth, often frequented by deer during fawning periods. There are also interesting geological formations, which you can catch a closer look at if you take care.

Goshawks, jays, woodpeckers, rock doves and countless passerines populate these natural spots.

You are very likely to observe any of the abundant red, roe and fallow deer and wild boar along the trail as it passes through the Cijara Regional Hunting Reserve.



**Start:**

The trail takes the Fuenlabrada de los Montes—Cíjara Regional Hunting Reserve public footpath until the Sotillo pass.

Description:

Start at the **Puerto del Sotillo** car park. Take a small path to your left, which is surrounded by rockrose until you reach some temporary installations, used for detecting forest fires.

Walk along the mountain path until you reach a new saddle and a forest track to your right. After descending, you reach a junction. Continue along the track in front of you. Continue downhill until you reach a new track to your right. Take this track, which goes around a pond and leads to a fork. Leave the main track and continue along a track used by fellers.

On a waymarked curve (the start and end section of the trail), take your left and make your way downhill via a small path through the pine forest, which leads you to another section of forest track.

Area: Cíjara Reserve—Valdemoros PM (No. 40)

Grade: Medium - Low

Coordinates:

39°10'02.1"N 4°55'09.1"W

Distance: 16,20 km

Ascent: 260 m

Estimated time:

5h25m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/tcRML0>

Now you are back on the track, head to the right and go downhill until you reach the **Sotillo stream recreational area**. Walk downstream with the stream on your left, surrounded by woodland. At the end of this section, you reach a curve with sparse vegetation. Take a left. After a stretch of fire-break, take another left. You reach a fork, where you can see a sign that reads “Estanque del Sotillo” (Sotillo Pool) and a lodge “**El Refugio de Andrés**”. This is a great spot to take a rest and have a drink from the water fountain. From the lodge, go back in the opposite direction that you came from. The trail is waymarked by small arrows on the Sotillo footpath signposts and are only visible in the direction that you are now walking.

Continue along this stretch until you come to the end of the forest path. Then cut left along a lane until you reach a fork on a plain in the forest. Take a right, until you reach a new track to your left. Continue until you leave the Reserve, going over the cattle grid, and enter the car park.

Highlights:

The trail is populated by pine, gall oak, holm oak forests and Mediterranean mountain areas with strawberry trees, heather, rosemary and other shrub species. The highlight of the trail is the **Sotillo stream with ferns** in the undergrowth, often frequented by deer during fawning periods. There are also interesting geological formations, which you can catch a closer look at if you take care.

This area is interesting towards the end of autumn when **foraging for wild mushrooms**, especially saffron milk caps, is common.

Goshawks, jays, woodpeckers, rock doves and countless passerines populate these natural spots.

You are very likely to observe any of the abundant red, roe and fallow deer and wild boar along the trail as it passes through the Cíjara Regional Hunting Reserve.





Start:

The trail starts from **the Cubo forest warden's lodge**, which you can reach from Herrera del Duque via the tarmac track at the Navas pass after the water bottling factory.

Description:

From the forest warden's lodge, cross the main track and take the footpath towards the recreational area next to **Benazaire stream**. Cross the stream using the footbridge. Then continue downhill along a path that runs parallel to the river. The dehesa pasture fence and Benazaire stream remain on the left-hand side until you reach the **La Pretura diversion dam**. Stay on the path, which follows the course of the stream for some metres. This path is passable but you may brush past leaves, flowers and twigs that grow alongside it. As you approach the centre of La Pretura, the path becomes a lot narrower and you can observe a series of quartzite rock formations on the other side. When you reach **La Pretura, you can make out a rocky peak** crowned by a demolished castle and some ruins believed to be pre-Romanesque, set off by a stunning backdrop. Retrace your footsteps to return to the start of the trail.



Herrera del Duque

Area: Las Navas—Puerto Lobo para Allá PM (No. 9)

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°12'40.4"N 4°57'07.2"W

Distance: 6,54 km

Ascent: 20 m

Estimated time:

1h40m 

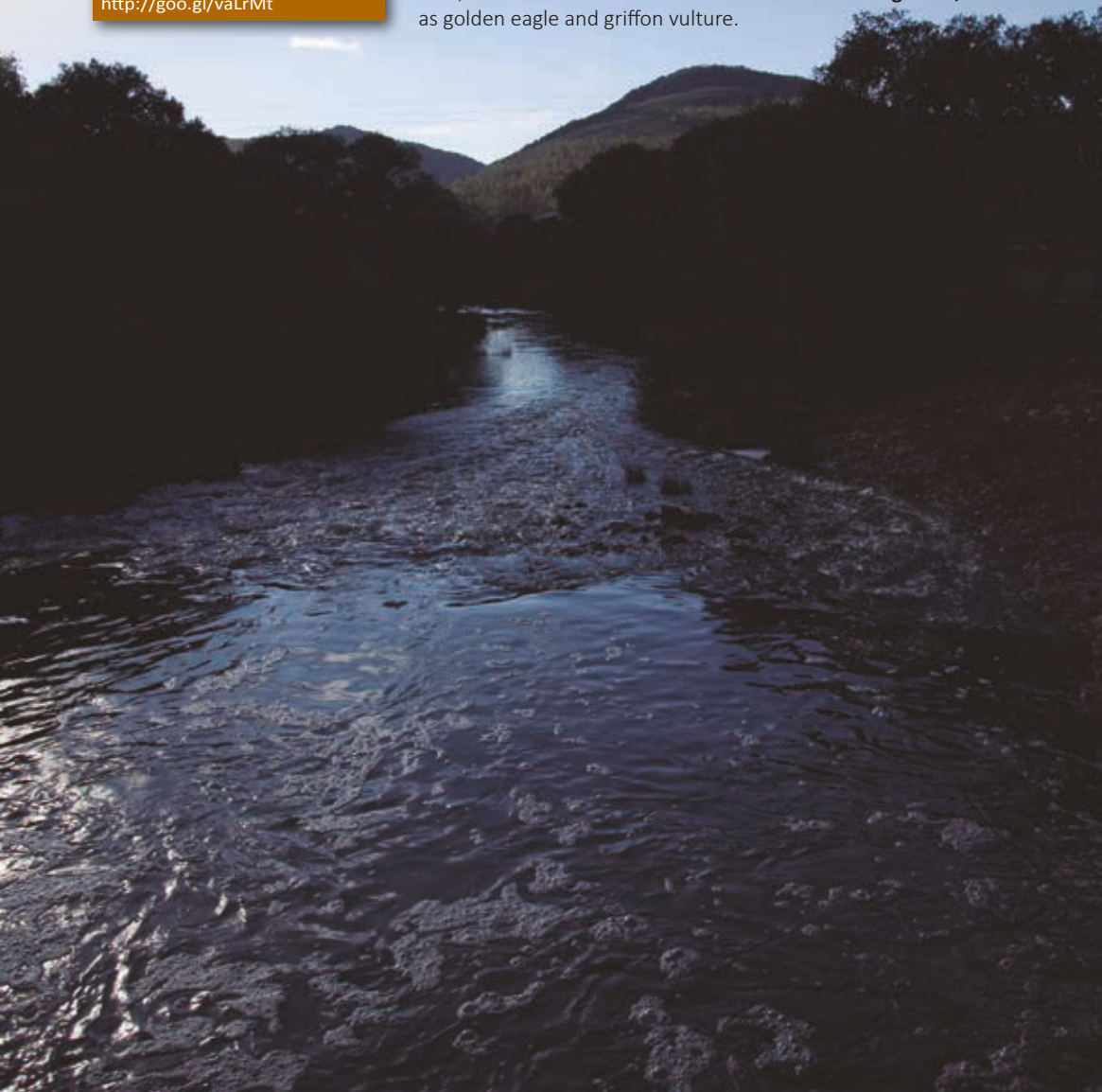
Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/vaLrMt>

Highlights:

Vegetation consists of dense maquis, holm oak, corks, kermes oak, poplars, ashes, (typical riparian trees that should be protected because they are used to make casserole dishes). You can also spot tamujo broom, rockrose, strawberry trees, gall oaks, hawthorns, water lilies, and an abundance of ferns.

Many **animals** can be spotted along the trail, including otters, river crabs (in crystal-clear waters), stags, wild boar, roe and fallow deer, foxes and numerous **dehesa and rock-dwelling birds**, such as golden eagle and griffon vulture.



Grade:

Low

Coordinates:

39°17'02.2"N 5°05'18.4"W

Distance: 9,15 km**Ascent:** 72 m**Estimated time:**

2h15m



0h45m

**Trail type:** Circular<http://goo.gl/tqU60s>**Start:**

From Castilblanco village centre.

Description:

Start the trail by leaving the village via a steep footpath that leads you to **La Vega del Arroyo Grande**. Cross a small, narrow bridge and bear right onto a path among holm oaks until you are close to the Fuente de la Cañada de Garrido, a spring along the Garrido drove road. Just before the spring, take a left onto the Camino de los Lobos path, which goes uphill via the drove road and encounters an abrupt slope until the plateau. From here, the path is almost completely flat and passes through a swathe of olive trees and broom shrubs. At the end of this straight stretch, take the Garrido drove road downhill along a quartzite and clay raña path until you reach the Anchuras path.

This stretch offers you a great insight into autochthonous plant life and stunning views of the surrounding landscapes as the path is on a north-facing slope surrounded by a wide range of plant species with no evidence of significant impact. Once on the Anchuras path, and after around a hundred metres, you reach an area that **overlooks the Guadiana valley**. From here, start your descent and reach **the raña slope between cork trees, heather and strawberry trees** until you return to the spring. From this point, take the same path back to Castilblanco.



Highlights:

This trail offers one of the best opportunities to **enjoy a quartzite and clay raña footpath** and is clearly defined along two stretches:

The first stretch is on the Solana plateau with vegetation native to this area, including broom shrubs, pastures and olive trees. From this point, olive trees are scattered and the path abruptly descends down the north-facing slope until you return to Castilblanco.

This second stretch is more interesting from an environmental point of view with perfect examples of Mediterranean woodlands and **excellent panoramas of Puerto Peña reservoir and Cijara palace**.



**Start:**

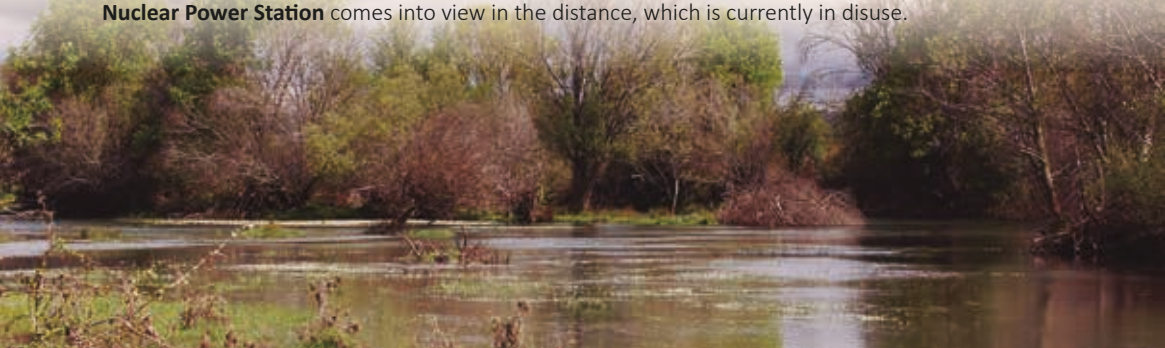
The trail starts at the **San Matías hostel**, close to the San Matías chapel in Castilblanco village.

Description:

Cross the **N-502** and enter the Mohedas de la Cruz dehesa between the two wire fences (one on each side of you), which act as your guide.

You pass through several gates along the trail; don't forget to close them behind you! They also help waymark the trail with red and white stripes to indicate the **Levante Guadalupe GR** footpath, which shares this section of the trail.

You pass several farmhouses, but take a left before you reach the Cortijo del Herradero farmhouse, which is directly in front of you. After a few metres, you reach a waymark on your left to the right of the path, to continue along the **Leonés cattle path**, which is waymarked. Later, you reach a cattle grid, where you cut right and head down a slight slope towards the river. The imposing **Valdecaballeros Nuclear Power Station** comes into view in the distance, which is currently in disuse.



Area: Río Guadalupejo Wildlife

Corridor—Puerto Peña—Los

Golondrinos SCI and SPA

Grade: Low**Coordinates:**

39°16'49.9"N 5°06'05.6"W

Distance: 17,20 km**Ascent:** 80 m**Estimated time:**4h05m  1h20m **Trail type:** Linear<http://goo.gl/BOFaOI>

This final stretch takes you to the confluence where the rivers Guadalupejo, Silondrillo and Moñigoso meet. From here, turn left to reach the **river Guadalupejo**.

Return to your point of departure by taking the same path that you came along until you return to the hostel.

Highlights:

The trail offers great opportunities to spot wildlife: herons, storks, cranes, fallow deer, wild boar among the riparian vegetation, which earned the area its **"Wildlife Corridor"** status.



**Start:**

The trail starts in **Valdecaballeros** village centre, in the recreational area on Calle de Arriba. The starting point is easily recognisable as there is a huge, white iron cross close to a milestone on the outskirts of the village.

Description:

The trail starts off on the same path as the **Castillejo Trail**, but you bear left 50 m after the trio of signs. Walk along old orchard paths that are now populated by olive groves. After slightly more than a kilometre, head towards the right, where you go deeper into the beautiful cork forest.

When you leave the forest, the **path is flanked by rocks, loose stones and a variety of plants** until you return to the track. Continue up a steeper slope, which is a fire-break.



Area: Puerto Peña - Los Golondrinos

SPA

Grade: Medium - Low

Coordinates:

39°14'18.9"N 5°11'15.5"W

Distance: 7,90 km

Ascent: 299 m

Estimated time:

3h10 m 

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/RZi375>

Then take a left along a **path** that runs almost parallel to the sierra, until you reach a **saddle**. Continue alongside the stream, where you can admire **wonderful views** from either side. You reach the Paredón de Valdecaballeros at the top in no time. This impressive site lends sweeping panoramas and the chance to spot birds circling above in the sky.

Retrace your footsteps to your point of departure.

Highlights:

The summit and **panoramas of the García de Sola reservoir** are spectacular. Along the trail you pass pine, wild olive, strawberry trees, juniper, hawthorn, holm oak, honeysuckle and other **Mediterranean woodland plants**. There is a good chance of spotting an abundance of birds, such as griffon vulture, Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian eagle, black stork and woodpeckers, among many others.



Area:

Puerto Peña—Los Golondrinos
SPA

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°11'05.4"N 5°07'54.3"W

Distance: 3,18 km

Ascent: 226 m

Estimated time:

1h00m 

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/Lw6487>

**Start:**

The trail starts in Peloche on the Herrera del Duque road.

Description:

The trail starts before reaching Peloche, next to a drinking trough/basin. After walking a few metres along a tarmac stretch, cut right on to a track in good condition. After around 700 m, you reach a fork. Take the right path and after another 400 m, leave the path for a track to the right.

This small **track** goes up to **Alguaciles saddle** and through dense mountain woodland. Continue uphill through ashes, chestnut trees, gall oaks, and rocky areas with dense strawberry trees, laurestine, false olives and terebinths.

The path zigzags up to the **rocky saddle**, where you can admire the **beautiful landscape and sweeping views** of Herrera del Duque, Peloche

and the river Guadiana. Given that the trail is linear, you must retrace your steps to return to your point of departure.

Climber plants, such as honeysuckle and smilax, are striking as they make the heights to the top of the trees. You can also observe fern and moss, and a wide variety of plant species on the sierra's north-facing, shaded slope, which is cooler and more humid.

Highlights:

The trail goes through a uniquely beautiful and dense Mediterranean woodland.

The path is relatively steep but you pass some rich **ecological areas** and the **views from the top of the saddle** make it all the more worthwhile. Furthermore, it is perfect for watching birds and animals native to this area.



Herrera del Duque



Area:

Puerto Peña—Los Golondrinos
SPA

Grade: Low


Coordinates:

39°10'19.9"N 5°02'50.6"W

Distance: 9,79km

Ascent: 71 m

Estimated time:

2h25m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/hPlty9>

Start:

The trail starts on the N-502 crossroad approaching Herrera del Duque from Castilblanco.

Description:

As you leave Herrera del Duque, go down to the **Puente Viejo**, a medieval bridge, and follow the stream downstream until you reach the Herrera del Duque water-treatment plant, where you pass below the N-502. Keep the stream to your right and after around 200 m, cross to the other side. Walk around 3 km and pass several **windmills** and a **waterfall**. Retrace your steps for the first 2 km of the trail to return to your point of departure. Then take the track to your right to Herrera del Duque, which leads to the rounded Morro hill, outside the cemetery.

The trail is waymarked with wooden posts and yellow arrows.

Highlights:

Interesting sites are the Puente Viejo, built in the Middle Ages with stone and bricks, and several adobe, brick and stone windmill ruins.

Pelochejo stream runs between slate, which came to the surface given the water pressure and passing of time. An impenetrable stretch of **tamujo broom grow** on the banks of the stream, which have adapted to the fluctuating water conditions. Thyme, retama broom and elm trees also line the trail.

The most typical wildlife is the Sardinian warbler, Spanish pond turtle, European bee-eater, and great spotted cuckoo, among others.



Area: Puerto Peña—Los Golondrinos**SPA****Grade:** Low**Coordinates:**

39°09'46.8"N 5°03'32.8"W

Distance: 13,50 km**Ascent:** 192 m**Estimated time:**3h25m **Trail type:** Circular<http://goo.gl/hv1kpP>**Start:**

Herrera del Duque village centre.

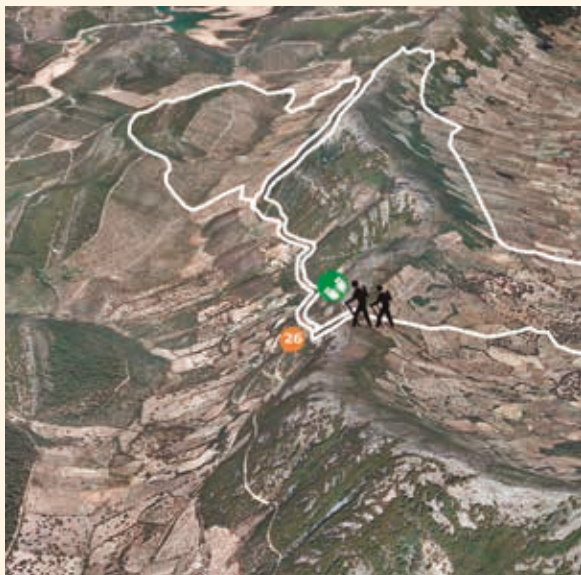
Description:

The trail is linear from Herrera del Duque over the **Sierra de los Golondrinos** to the Consolación chapel and back.

The trail starts in Herrera del Duque along a tarmac track for 2.5 km. Leave the tarmac track and start going up the north-facing slope of the Sierra de los Golondrinos until you reach the peak. Continue along a path surrounded by cork trees, which for the first 2 km leads to olive groves up a gentle slope. When you reach the junction, angle left to continue uphill. After 700 m, leave the path and continue the final uphill section up to the saddle, which affords **fantastic views** of the region from **Puerto Peña to the Cijara Hunting Reserve**. Go down towards **Los Golondrinos valley** via a narrow footpath until you reach a forest track; cross the track. Continue along the footpath in the same direction you were going until you reach a second forest track. Take the left, leaving the Paniagua country house to your right (Valles del Juez farmhouse).

You pass a spring and a viewpoint and continue amid pine trees to the Consolación pass, before which you can cut away from the path to visit the **Virgen de Consolación chapel**.

Once you reach the pass, start going downhill



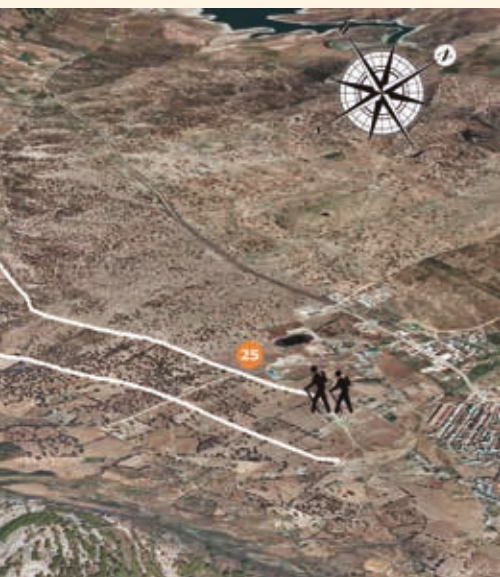
along a path coming off to the left of the tarmac track. Then after around 700 m, take a right to continue straight back to your point of departure.

Highlights:

The first stretch offers landscape typical of **dehesa pasture** in Extremadura: holm oaks, cork trees and gall oaks. As you make your way uphill, vegetation changes to olive trees and **Mediterranean forest** consisting of strawberry trees, terebinths, heather, rockrose, thyme, laurestine, among others. The downhill path leads through stone pine forests scattered with eucalyptus trees that are being substituted for autochthonous vegetation.

The trail is within a special protected area (SPA), which is why Golondrinos hill is ideal for spotting raptors, insectivores, European goldfinch, hoopoe, common magpie, Eurasian eagle owl, as well as weasels, ferrets, mongooses, genets, rabbits, hares, wild boars and deer, and many more.

Herrera del Duque



Start:

From Herrera del Duque to **Puerto de Consolación** pass via the tarmac track.

Description:

The trail starts at the Puerto de Consolación pass on a tarmac public footpath, which leads to the **Consolación chapel**. Once you have passed the chapel, continue along the forest track, covered by stands of pines and olive groves. Continuing on the south-facing slope, go through a stone gateway onto the Public Mountain and the start of a luxuriant pine forest. The track leads to the **Castaño spring**, surrounded by shade trees. As you leave the slope towards the valley, you head into a wooded area, where pine, mixed with holm

Area: Puerto Peña—Los Golondrinos

SPA

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°08'50.5"N 5°04'17.8"W

Distance: 12,20 km

Ascent: 195 m

Estimated time:

3h05m

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/hfgqQ9>

oak and cork trees, have replaced the former eucalyptus plantation.

There is a recreational area in the valley, where you can drink water and rest in the shade. Next to this area is an old kiln, which is in almost perfect condition and can be visited.

Then start going uphill along the **Sierra de las Víboras** range to the fire lookout tower. The view from this point consists of the south-facing slope with a sprawling expanse of thick woodland. From here, go downhill through the maritime pine forest until you reach **Los Golondrinos valley**. Then go over the south-facing slope and return on the same tracks you took at the start until the Consolación pass, where the trail ends.

Highlights:

The Castaño spring flows all year round and is recognised for its quality and clear waters. Next to the spring is La Solana viewpoint, where you can look out across the **Golondrinos valley**. **Las Víboras viewpoint** and the **quartzite headlands** are typical of this sierra's crests.



Area:

River Guadalemar SAC

Grade: Low**Coordinates:**

39°05'12.5"N 4°55'21.1"W

Distance: 3,78 km**Ascent:** 21 m**Estimated time:**57 m **Trail type:** Circular<http://goo.gl/OLkFKI>**Start:**

The trail starts and ends at the dam on the small La Pretura reservoir in Fuenlabrada de los Montes, around 8 km from the village centre on the N-430.

Description:

The trail starts next to the **river Guadalemar** where it joins the La Pretura trail, which comes from Fuenlabrada de los Montes. From here, go along the right bank of the river Guadalemar until the **La Pretura dam**. Continue on this side along a footpath with the reservoir to your right.

After 2.4 km, cross the river Guadalemar to cut right and continue along the left bank of the reservoir, among holm oak dehesa until you reach the dam. Cross the dam; from its crown, you can

see the **La Pretura recreational area** and **the botanical trail** to your left and the reservoir to your right.

Highlights:

The trail goes through a temperate ecosystem: the river Guadalemar and the reservoir created by La Pretura dam. **Dehesa**, mountain and Mediterranean shrubland **ecosystems** can also be found on the banks of the reservoir, which considerably enrich the footpath's environment and allow you to experience several ecosystems.

La Pretura picnic area is perfect for outdoor activities. It is **equipped** with picnic tables, a natural swimming pool, car parks, a botanical trail and other facilities. A flour mill is also on display, which is proof of the region's farming culture.



Garbayuela



Area:

Sierras de los Villares–Balbuena
SAC

Grade: Medium

Coordinates:

39°03'04.2"N 5°00'13.9"W

Distance: 6,28 km

Ascent: 288 m

Estimated time:

3h00m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/2YHpHU>

Start:

The trail starts from San Blas chapel on the road into Garbayuela, where you can spot the trail information panel.

Description:

Take the path to your right until a small road that angles to the right and alongside a cattle shed.

Take the paved path closely surrounded by **olive trees and holm oaks**. The stone walls gradually disappear and a section of wide track starts, continuing uphill until the **Zamorano pass**. Leave the track to your right and take another uneven track. You gradually ascend and approach some quartzite rock formations, where El Castro —an ancient hill fort— stands.

Kermes oak and Scotch brooms have invaded the remains of this ancient village; the walls of some of the houses and aljibe wells can still be recognised. Moreover, the **views** from this site are **wonderful**.

Now start your descent via a **steep path be-**

tween rocks. The first downhill section passes terraces and some stone constructions, built by shepherds as shelter.

After this first stretch, the path covers swathes of forest, quarries and old, peculiar olive groves standing upon rocky land. You reach a narrow street between stone walls and olive trees, which widens as you reach closer to the bottom, but is never more than three metres wide. The paving is exquisitely preserved along some stretches.

You find yourself back at San Blas chapel at the end of the small street, which is also the end of the trail.

Highlights:

The vegetation consists of olive trees and holm oaks, some of which are of staggering proportions. From the Zamorano pass, you can observe Mediterranean shrubland, pine and some cork trees.

There is an **abundance of birds**, especially griffon vulture, Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian eagle, black stork and woodpeckers, among others.



Area: Sierra de los Villares—Balbuena and Río Guadalemar SACs

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°03'03.3"N 4°59'35.5"W

Distance: 6,68 km

Ascent: 140 m

Estimated time:

1h40m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/iWorxd>

Start:

The trail starts at the bullring in Garbayuela village centre.

Description:

Set off from the bullring until you reach the Calleja del Lavadero. Continue along this path, ignoring two paths that cut left. Take the third left, called La cuesta de la Molinera (the millerwoman's hill), a slope that is especially steep nearer the top.

At the top is the Corchada pass, which affords some incredible panoramas. The path continues straight until some green gates. Take the path to your right (the only one heading downhill).

Continue straight until a chalet comes into view and a path bears right.

After around 100 m along this path, angle right. This path ascends slightly, then descends again until Tablacorta, Garbayuela district's natural swimming pool. After the river Guadalemar, take the tarmac track until the end of the trail: the bullring in Garbayuela.



Highlights:

The trail passes through **two Special Areas of Conservation: Sierra de los Villares—Balbuena and Río Guadalemar**, with Mediterranean woodlands, undergrowth, conifer forestation and olive groves being the main vegetation in the area. Thermo-Mediterranean riparian gallery forests play an important role among these habitats, with ash, willow, broom, reed, among other plants.

Three interesting fish species can be found in the **river Guadalemar**: Iberian arched-mouth nase, calandino (*Iberocypris alburnoides*) and colmilleja (*Cobitis paludica*), as well as otters and Spanish pond turtles.



Garbayuela



Area: Sierra de los Villares—Balbueno and Río Guadalemar SACs

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°03'03.3"N 4°59'35.5"W

Distance: 10,50 km

Ascent: 134 m

Estimated time:

2h35m

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/zzi9cG>

Ignore the path to your right and after going uphill another path appears to your right. Take this path to the **Peñón del Búho**, which is just a few metres away, past the Valdecabezas forest warden's lodge on your left. At the Peñón del Búho, take the footpath with the same name. The forest wardens would have used this footpath to reach the shelter in Valdecabezas before cars could climb up.

When you come to the end of the path, bear right and continue. After 200 m following a sharp bend, you reach a fork. Take the right path. Continue until you reach Tablacorta, Garbayuela district's natural swimming pool. From here, cut right onto a tarmac track. After around 3 km, you reach the end of the trail: the bullring in Garbayuela.

Highlights:

You can observe Mediterranean woodland, undergrowth, olive trees and gallery forest and also enjoy this area's fauna; if you are lucky, you may be able to spot red, roe and fallow deer, as well as wild boar.

Start:

The trail starts at the bullring in Garbayuela village centre.

Description:

Set off from the bullring until you reach the Calleja del Lavadero. Continue along this path, ignoring two paths that cut left. Take the third left, up a steep slope called **La cuesta de la Molinera** (the millerwoman's hill). Amazing views await at the top: dehesa, the river Guadalemar, several sierras in the horizon, and if you look very carefully, you can make out the tarmac track that leads to the end of the trail.

Continue straight to reach some green gates, which belong to the Cuatro Valles farm. Once here, continue along the path that runs parallel to the farm's fences.



Area: La Serena SAC—La Serena—Sierras Periféricas SPA

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

38°58'55.31" N 5°02'23.94" W

Distance: 8,20 km

Ascent: 91 m

Estimated time:

2h05m 

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/MzScNv>



Start:

You can start this trail from Tamurejo or Siruela, but this walk is described from Siruela.

Description:

The trail starts in Siruela and takes the **Merinas drove road** all the way to Tamurejo.

The first third of the trail is between ancient stone walls that separate the drove road from the private properties. After 2.5 km, you reach the **Tamujoso stream**, a tributary of the river Siruela; cross the stream at the ford, leaving the river Siruela's valley to your right.

Then cross the Almagro and Sanillos streams (also branches of the Siruela) and reach a very well-conserved dehesa, with extensive sheep and cattle farming, with no notable impact.

Before arriving at Tamurejo, you reach the track that goes through the Dehesa and past the **Senda stream**, from which you can make out **Pinguta del Morro** hill. A viewpoint has been built at this natural site, which overlooks most of the dehesa and the trail you came along.

The animal holdings are a perfect example of a humanised ecosystem that is well-conserved thanks to sustainable resource use, as is the case of Extremaduran dehesa.

Highlights:

This provides an insight to the **dehesa ecosystem** and reminds visitors of the region's important cattle tradition. The **drove road** has borne witness to many flocks being brought to spend the cooler months in Extremadura given the area's mild weather and abundant winter pastureland.

Hikers can also experience wetland ecosystems common to this area as the trail runs along the left bank of the **river Siruela**, crossing several of its tributaries. The maquis close to the Siruela watercourse are a clear and well-conserved example of La Siberia's fluvial ecosystem.



Talarrubias

Area: Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de Pela SPA, SAC and ARI

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°07'27.7"N 5°10'40.6"W

Distance: 14,20 km

Ascent: 118 m

Estimated time:

3h33m  1h05m 

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/pgIAS5>

Start:

The trail starts in Puerto Peña next to the Talarrubias road.

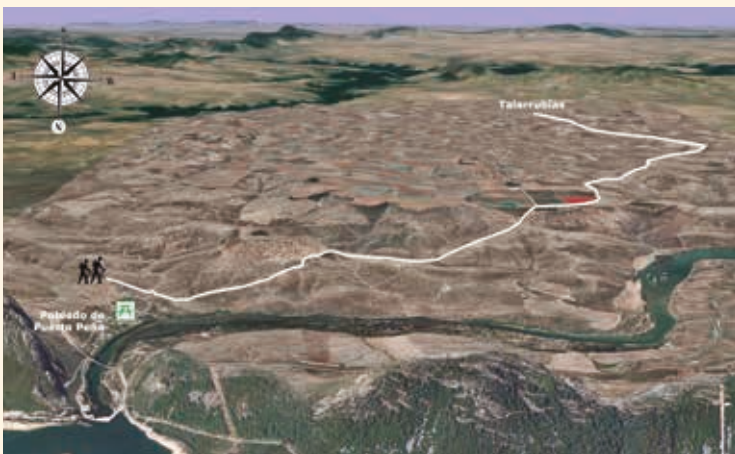
Description:

The trail starts at the last chalet in the village along the road to Talarrubias, on a path that starts on this road.

The first section is slightly downhill, but soon starts to ascend the Cerro de la Cabeza hill. Leave this hill to your left, as you bear right to take the Casas de Don Pedro—Garbayuela path. This path eventually leads to Casasola farm, where you can admire some **wonderful views of the river Guadiana** as you walk parallel to the river for several kilometres.

Then start your ascent to Zuhilla Baja farm, eventually reaching Zuhilla Alta farm further up. From here, the rest of the trail goes through olive groves.

The next few kilometres are along a flat path with very few ups and downs. In this section, the **Laguna Redonda** lake comes into view to your left. Then follow the course of the stream bed,



where the Fuente del Hortezeulo spring flows. Now take the Cruz Chica path.

The Laguna del Alandre lake is the highlight along this stretch, where, depending on the time of year, you are sure to spot **steppe birds**, such as little or great bustards and a roost of kites among the eucalyptus trees.

After a few kilometres, you reach the Los Bonales path and then take a tarmac track that leads to the Talarrubias cemetery.

Highlights:

This area is classified as the **Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de Pela SPA**. This means that it is perfect for birdwatching and you are sure to spot many riparian species (ducks, little egrets, cranes, herons, grebes) and **steppe species** (little bustards, great bustards, harriers, kites). The sheer number and quality of species has earned the area ecological protection status.



33 “Sierra de Siruela” TRAIL

PR BA 175

Area: Sierra de Siruela SPA and SAC—
La Celada A PM (No. 24)

Grade: Medium

Coordinates:

38°58'32.3"N 5°02'57.1"W

Distance: 18,70 km

Ascent: 500 m

Estimated time:

6h15m



2h05m



Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/kGNGKk>





Start:

The trail starts from Siruela village centre.

Description:

This trail starts in Siruela. Once you leave the village centre, head towards the Nuestra Señora de Altagracia chapel.

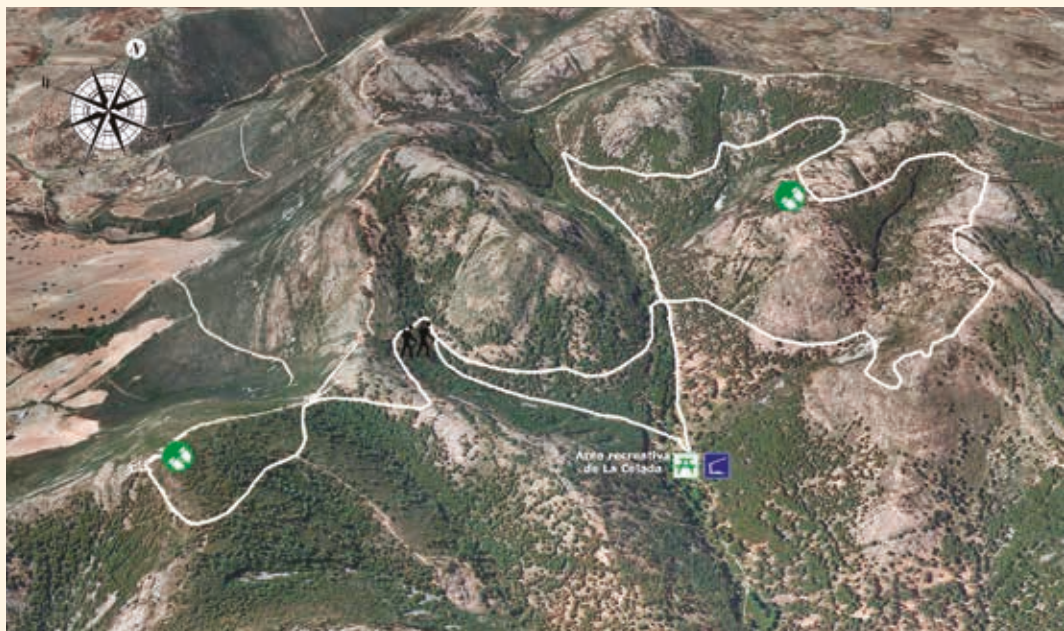
Leave the chapel to your right and head up to **Motilla hill**. The peak sits on an elevation of 940 m and is surrounded by **chestnut trees**, mastic, cork, strawberry and spurge olive trees. It is crowned by a pine forest, where you bear right to skirt around Chinatos hill (900 m altitude) to reach the **source of the Celá stream** on Lastrilla hill.

Now start your descent with the Celá stream always on your left until you reach **a picnic area next to the Celá spring**, surrounded by a poplar forest with ferns, strawberry trees, cork trees and dense valley floor vegetation.

Continue towards Garlitos leaving the quartzite and clay rañas of the Agudo and Romanos paths. Continue and cross the Celá stream until you reach **Nuestra Señora de Nazaret chapel** in Garlitos, where the trail ends.

Highlights:

The trail crosses **Sierra de Siruela SPA**. It represents a very rugged area between La Serena reservoir and river Esteras, which is surrounded by the lower stretch of the river Guadalemar. You pass pine, gall and holm oak forests and Mediterranean mountain areas, and observe the different geological formations inhabited by protected species.



Start:

The trail starts on the Siruela—Talarubias road via a tarmac track to the left before the petrol station, which leads to **La Celada A public mountain in Garlitos district.**

Description:

The trail starts in the car park for the track set in Serrano saddle, where the track to the Sierra de Palo watchtower leaves from. You will see a **trio of signs**. Take your left towards Los Castaños valley. Go through a **stone gateway** to the Public Mountain. Just before you make your way down to the valley, you pass a hillock with a path to the right. Do not take this path as it would lead you back to the pass and the end of the trail, making it circular.

Once you pass this point and after going down the forest track, you reach the La Celada stream, which is flanked by stands of **large chestnut trees** on both banks. Cross the stream and you reach a fork. Take the left path. You start going slightly uphill until you reach another fork. Take the right along a forest track that skirts around La Celada mountain. This section is around 2.5 km, and you can leave the track on two occasions to admire sweeping panoramas of La Celada valley and views of Siruela shortly after.



Area: Sierra de Siruela SPA and SAC—

La Celada A PM (No. 24)

Grade: Medium - Low

Coordinates:

38°55'48.8"N 5°03'02.0"W

Distance: 11,00 km

Ascent: 200 m

Estimated time:

3h40m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/W6bs5m>

The first deviation from the track is via a path to the right that leads to **La Celada viewpoint**; the **second deviation** —only 700 m from the first— takes you some metres from the track to your left until the Cura pass, followed by **Motilla hill**. After visiting both sites, return to the track that you were on and continue until you reach a **hunting path** to the right of the forest track. This path runs along a wide spur with few swathes of forest and good views.

Follow the path, which starts to descend along a rocky section denude of vegetation, passing a **waterfall**, until you reach another pine forest. Go through the forest until you reach the **Valle de los Castaños** forest track that you took at the start of the trail. This time, cut left along the track that runs parallel to **La Celada stream** and its chestnut trees until you reach the **La Celada forest lodge**. This is a good spot for a rest and drink before starting the last stretch of the trail. Behind the lodge, take a path that crosses the stream over a wooden bridge and follow the waymarks. Continue along the path marked out on the wooded slope, surrounded by pines, gall oaks and Mediterranean shrubs. You reach the forest track on the hillock, where you start your descent through Castaños valley. Take a left until you reach the car park where you started the trail.

Highlights:

You pass **pine, chestnut, gall oak, maples, junipers** and Mediterranean mountain areas, and observe the different geological formations inhabited by protected species.



Area: Embalse de Orellana–Sierra de Pela SPA, SAC and ARI

Grade: Medium - Low

Coordinates:

39°08'41.9"N 5°10'42.8"W

Distance: 2,56 km

Ascent: 197m

Estimated time:

1h00m

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/7OhORU>

Start:

The trail starts in **Puerto Peña** in the car park next to the Herrera del Duque road and the roundabout onto the Talarrubias road.

Description:

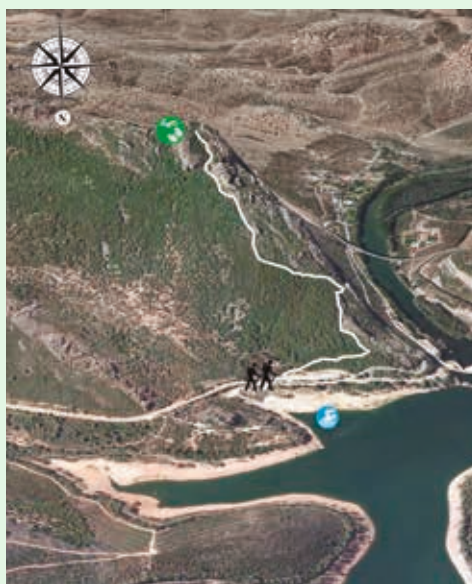
From the car park, go up a path until you reach a footpath to the right. Follow this straight, uphill footpath to the end of the replanted forest and some **caves** that were used during the Spanish Civil War.

After going up some rock steps, which take you into the native forest, continue slightly uphill.

Following the waymarks, you reach a rugged spur consisting of loose rocks, which were part of the military defence. Follow the stone walls to your right until you reach a **rocky spur** that you have to cross. The trail now passes through a forest section with fewer trees and more bushes, and you leave rock walls up to 30 m tall to your right.

Further uphill you reach a large step that leads to the **Mora cave**.

This site overlooks the García de Sola reservoir and the start of the valleys. Continue uphill between rock walls and



sparse trees. You reach a small woodland of gall oaks and wild olives. The end of the uphill section is on the other side of the forest, and offers an **exceptional panorama**.

Return by the same path downhill back to the car park.

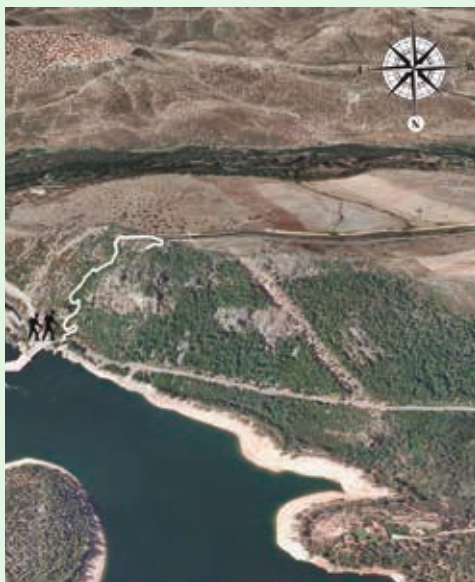
Highlights:

The main highlights on this trail are the Mora cave, the panoramic views from the summit and the Civil War defences.

You pass maritime pine, wild olive, strawberry trees, hawthorn, holm oak, gall oak, honeysuckle and other plants native to the **Mediterranean forest**, such as foxgloves, where an **abundance of birds** including griffon vulture, Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian eagle, black stork and woodpeckers live.



Talarrubias



Start:

The trail starts at the new **Puerto Peña** viewpoint, around 50 m from the García de Sola dam on the Valdecaballeros road.

Description:

Cross the road and climb the steps built to access the steep slope. The path goes into a **forest on the north-facing slope**, populated by strawberry trees, pines, privets, honeysuckles and other shade-tolerant species.

The first section is relatively rocky and leads you to a rock wall and a water tank used by Guadiana Hydrographic Confederation for watering the dam gardens.

Grade:

Medium

Coordinates:

39°08'40.2"N 5°11'11.0"W

Distance: 1,33 km

Ascent: 130m

Estimated time:

0h55m 

Trail type: Linear I/V

<http://goo.gl/9evhvJ>

Having passed this site, the path becomes somewhat steeper, zigzagging through dense scrubland, eventually reaching a hill-like mound between rocks. The vegetation is a lot sparser in this section, making it easier to **admire the views of the reservoir and its surrounds**.

Continue walking through a swathe of pine trees, until you reach a hill topped by a large holm oak surrounded by bushes. Turn right to reach a collection of rocks, which you must climb to finish the trail.

Return to the bottom via the same path.

Highlights:

The views from the **summit are the most spectacular highlight** on this trail.

You pass maritime pine, wild olive, strawberry trees, juniper, hawthorn, holm oak, honeysuckle and other **Mediterranean woodland plants** where an **abundance of birds**, such as griffon vulture, Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian eagle, black stork and woodpecker live.



Start:

The trail starts from **Puerto Peña**, close to kilometre point 168 on the N-430, at the start of the road from the Puerto Peña campsite next to the **trio of signs**.

Description:

Start by walking towards Casas de Don Pedro on the road that runs alongside the canal. Most of this section is practically flat, meaning that it is also suitable for bikes.

The first few kilometres run alongside both sides of a hunting reserve, where you are sure to spot wild boar or red deer. The **river Guadiana** and the Orellana reservoir’s tail come into view to your left.

After 7.5 km of the Dehesas canal trail, you reach the **observatory** where you can spot a wealth of birds native to this SPA, where this trail passes. After 15 km, you reach an intersection with the road that connects Talarrubias and Casas de Don Pedro. Continue on the Canal de las Dehesas path; you can see the village to your right. There are still some **bunkers from the Spanish Civil War** along this stretch of the trail.

After 18 km, you reach a path to your left that goes down to the **Laguna de Arroyo Hondo** lake. The **observatory** next to the dyke is a great spot to take another break, **watch birds** roosting and admire the beautiful views.

Return to the canal road. After 3 km you reach a fork. Bear left, following the road that now runs parallel with the Navalvillar de Pela canal.

Continue along this tarmac road for 32 km, where you start a section with **marvellous examples of cork trees**. After a few more kilometres, take a track that leads to Navalvillar de Pela’s high school. This is the end of the trail. Return by the same route back to your point of departure.

Area: Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de Pela SPA, SAC and ARI

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°08'18.6"N 5°11'34.4"W

Distance: 32,40 km

Ascent: 90 m

Estimated time:

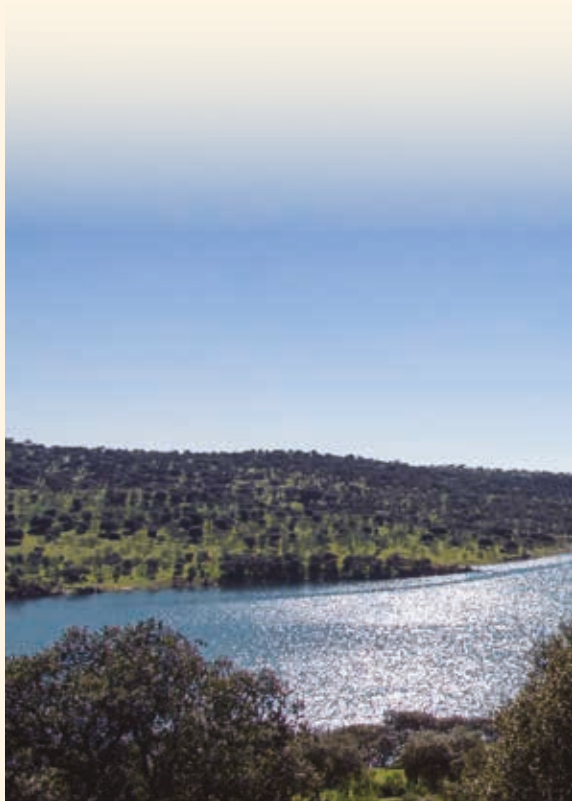
3h00m 

Trail type: Linear

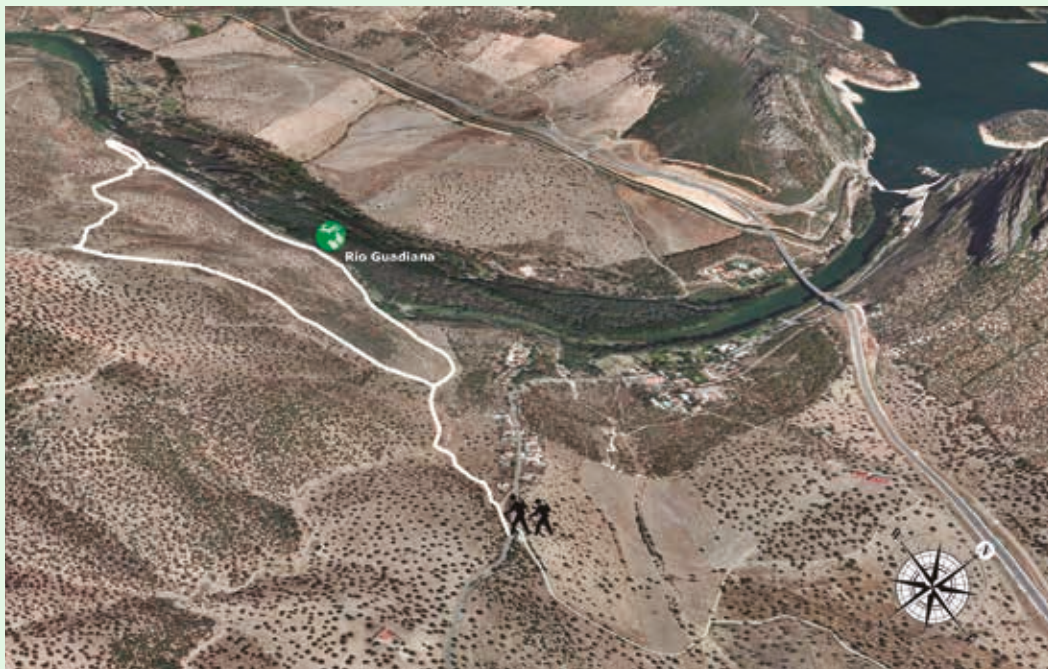
<http://goo.gl/HKcxxO>

Highlights:

The Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de Pela ARI, SPA and SAC is exceptional for watching riparian birds, such as ducks, little egrets, cranes, herons, grebes, among others. The sheer number and quality of species has earned the area ecological protection status.





**Start:**

The trail starts from **Puerto Peña** on the Talarrubias road after Puerto Peña village centre, on a path to the right, waymarked by a **trio of signs**.

Description:

The trail starts at the last chalet in the village along the road to Talarrubias, on a path that starts on this road.

The first section is slightly downhill until you reach a stream. Follow the stream along its left bank until you reach the mouth of the **river Guadiana**. After around 100 m you reach a house and a decrepit mill.



Area: Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de Pela SPA, SAC and ARI

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°10'19.9"N 5°02'50.6"W

Distance: 5,86 km

Ascent: 82m

Estimated time:

2h00m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/G633ht>

This section is **narrower and more stunning** as it takes a steep slope on the left bank of the river. After you pass a second **bridge**, which crosses the mouth of a stream, the path continues very close to the course of the river Guadiana. The uphill path takes you through a dehesa, which serves as a **balcony over the river Guadiana**. After you pass a couple of bridges, you reach an **old waterwheel**. Continue along a section even closer to the river, where you can **observe the area's wildlife**. From this old waterwheel, you can opt to return on the same path or take the Merinas cattle path that runs alongside the irrigation canal. Follow this cattle path until you reach a lane, which starts next to a stone wall and a small, roofless house. Start your steep descent, passing through a gate that you must close behind you. After you leave the drove road, you reach an intersection close to the river. To your right is the first bridge on the trail. Return to the car park by the same route.

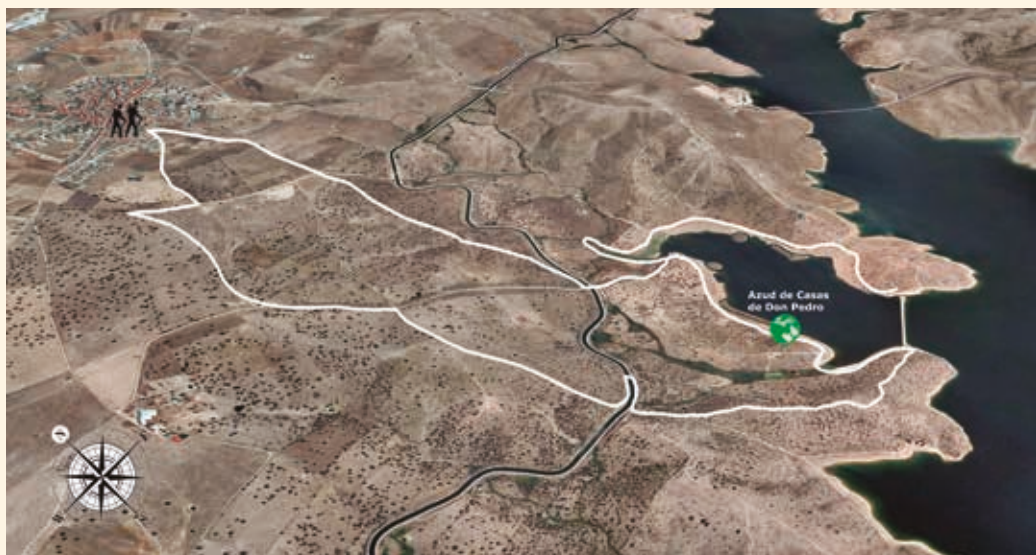
Highlights:

The best part of this trail are the sections that run alongside the banks of the river Guadiana.

You can observe several types of plants along the trail, including rockrose, broom, holm oak, wild olives, hawthorns, poplars and other **plants native to the riverside and dehesa**.

Wildlife is plentiful, particularly the bird population, including grey herons, egrets, mallards, kingfishers, and black and white storks. There is also a large community of otters, and all types of amphibians and fish.





Start:

The trail starts from the Virgen de los Remedios public school in Casas de Don Pedro.

Description:

The trail starts from the public school on Calleja de las Pozancas. You reach a crossing with the old Colada de las Eras drove road, which must have been important in its day, as its name indicates that it was the “cattle run to the countryside and vegetable patches” that were on the outskirts of the village. Bear right here until you reach a path that has been resurfaced and is in good condition. Turn left into the dehesa and continue south towards **Orellana reservoir**.

The next sections of the footpath are increasingly narrow and more uneven until it reaches the **Las Dehesas canal**. Cross the bridge over the canal, skirt around it for about 150 m and then bear left. When you are on the other side of the canal, take a downhill path.

After a few metres, you reach a gate. Continue along this path until you reach another gate, which is the entrance to the **bird observatory**, which sits on the shores of the reservoir, close to the dyke of the **artificial lake**. It is frequented by herons, storks and several duck and geese species.



Casas de Don Pedro

Area: Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de

Pela SPA, SAC and ARI

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°06'06.3"N 5°19'46.4"W

Distance: 12,20 km

Ascent: 70 m

Estimated time:

3h05m  0h55m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/Gpl5SB>

The trail *skirts the Arroyo Hondo* lake until you reach a small road to your left, which takes you back to the canal.

Cross the bridge over the canal and take an uneven, uphill road. This was the old Puebla de Alcocer path, which leads to a junction with the Colada de las Eras cattle path. Cross this path and after a short time the village comes into view in the distance. Finally, you reach your point of departure close to the school.

Highlights:

This trail is most spectacular at sunrise.

The highlight is the view of the **Casas de Don Pedro dam**, where **large numbers of water birds**, particularly ducks, geese and swans, gather in summer and winter. There are man-made islands for colonial species to nest on and in spring you can spot little tern, gull-billed tern, black-winged stilt, collared pratincole and little ringed plover in this area. The trail along the Las Dehesas canal towards Puerto Peña mountain pass mainly crosses areas of dehesa and pastures, where you can see typical species such as black-shouldered kite, common buzzard, Bonelli's eagle, booted eagle, black kite, common crane, azure-winged magpie, hoopoe, woodchat shrike, thekla lark, among many others.

There are **excellent views of Orellana reservoir** at all times from the canal road, including the tail section (which looks like a river when the water level is low) and some interesting islets.



Area: Embalse de la Serena
SPA

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

38°56'09.7"N 5°12'41.9"W

Distance: 2,00 km

Ascent: 119 m

Estimated time:

1h00m 

Trail type: Linear

<http://goo.gl/jHtk0E>



Start:

The trail starts from the EX-322, which connects Puebla de Alcocer and Cabeza del Buey, and ends at the base of the hill.

Description:

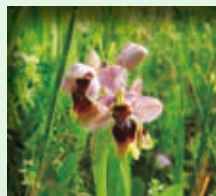
From the car park, cross the road and start your ascent up Masatrigo hill. There are two trail options for this section. Both finish in the same place and are similar in length but are notably different grades of difficulty. The first trail skirts around the hillside, about halfway up, and is therefore fairly flat. The second trail takes the fastest route practically straight up until the crown of the hill. The ascent is therefore fairly high grade, making it relatively difficult. On the way up to the crown, there are viewpoints perfect for stopping for a break and enjoying the landscape that surrounds Masatrigo hill.

Highlights:

There are several hypotheses surrounding Masatrigo's toponymy. Locally, it is believed that

the name comes from the mounds of grain that would be piled up in the fields, and was therefore nicknamed “the most raised hill” (el cerro más alto in Spanish), which evolved to Masatrigo. Others believe it was named after an ancient flour mill of the same name that stood close to the confluence between river Guadalemar and river Zújar and was flooded by the water from La Serena reservoir in 1990.

Masatrigo hill is a very striking geological formation, given its almost perfect pyramid shape. Its location is also interesting: after La Serena dam was constructed it became an islet in the middle of the reservoir and is now a strategic place between La Siberia and La Serena.



Esparragosa de Lares



Area: La Serena—Sierras Periféricas SPA, La Serena SAC

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

38°57'34.2"N 5°14'24.4"W

Distance: 3,15 km

Ascent: 166 m

Estimated time:

1h40m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/7wJtdo>

Start:

The trail starts from Galizuela, next to the trail information panel.

Description:

Take the small road to the left, which still conserves some of its old paving.

The road is very narrow and is flanked by stone walls and smallholdings with large olive trees. The wall to your right, which separates the olive groves and the sierra, acts as your guide.

Continue uphill in a south-east to north-west direction, where you can **make out** La Serena reservoir and **Masatrigo hill's** perfect conical form. You eventually reach the perimeter walls of the **Lares fortress**.

After you pass the walls, continue following the sierra's dividing line.

The area is relatively flat with slight ups and downs until you reach a small narrowing. You can still make out the **track that was once used by the animals and carts** that gave life to the fortress, nestled in an exceptional and impregnable spot on the slope opposite the one you came up. From here, continue slightly downhill until you reach a stone wall next to some rocks, which remains to your right until it joins the small road you went up at the beginning of the trail.

Highlights:

There is a wonderful view of **La Serena reservoir** throughout the trail, which contrasts with the **rocky formations** and vegetation found on the nearby slopes.

You also pass the **Lares fortress ruins** on the trail, which are Templar in origin.



Grade: Low

Coordinates:

38°58'39.2"N 5°16'01.7"W

Distance: 4,16 km

Ascent: 153 m

Estimated time:

1h10m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/IBWMrE>

Start:

The trail starts at the Cristo del Consuelo chapel, close to the public school in Esparragosa de Lares.

Description:

The trail starts on a paved track until a small road before the **Casa del Santero** pilgrims' refuge. You can see the chapel to your right, set into the rocks. Continue along this small, practically even road, **flanked by stone walls**. At this height, skirt around the **castle** until you leave the small road.

Start your ascent via a footpath until a small hill, where you reach a stone wall. Continue with the wall always on your right. You eventually reach the castle's Puerta del Sol, which is called such because it faces the sunrise.

There is a restaurant next to the castle, where you can grab a bite to eat and drink. Continue walking down this road until a very sharp bend. Leave the road here and take the paved track to your left.

This path leads to a **saddle** that offers **wonderful views** of the two nearby villages: the south

of Esparragosa de Lares and the north of Puebla de Alcocer.

Continue downhill along the paved track, which remains in perfect condition, until you reach the one you went up at the beginning of the trail. Then bear right to find the Cristo de Consuelo chapel after a few metres, where you started the trail.

Highlights:


The Cristo de Consuelo chapel, Casa del Santero pilgrims' refuge, La Cueva chapel and Puebla del Alcocer castle are all interesting to visit.

La Serena reservoir's landscape is remarkable as it contrasts with the rocky formations and vegetation found on the nearby slopes.



Puebla de Alcocer



Grade: Low
Coordinates:
 38°58'43.1"N 5°15'24.1"W
Distance: 3,74 km
Ascent: 141 m
Estimated time:
 0h54m 
Trail type: Circular
<http://goo.gl/m4ICS6>

Start:

The trail starts at the beginning of the road that goes up to the castle, in the upper part of the village Puebla de Alcocer, as indicated by the trail information panel.

Description:

Take one of the streets in the upper part of the village that joins a path among olive groves. Then at the first intersection cut left, heading uphill among terraced olive groves along a track that is paved at the start and skirts around the north/northeast-facing slope.

As you climb further, the track narrows and becomes a small road with patches of vegetation native to the area.

On completing the ascent, you reach the saddle with the water tanks, where you cross the rocky formations that make up Puebla de Alcocer's Sierra del Castillo.

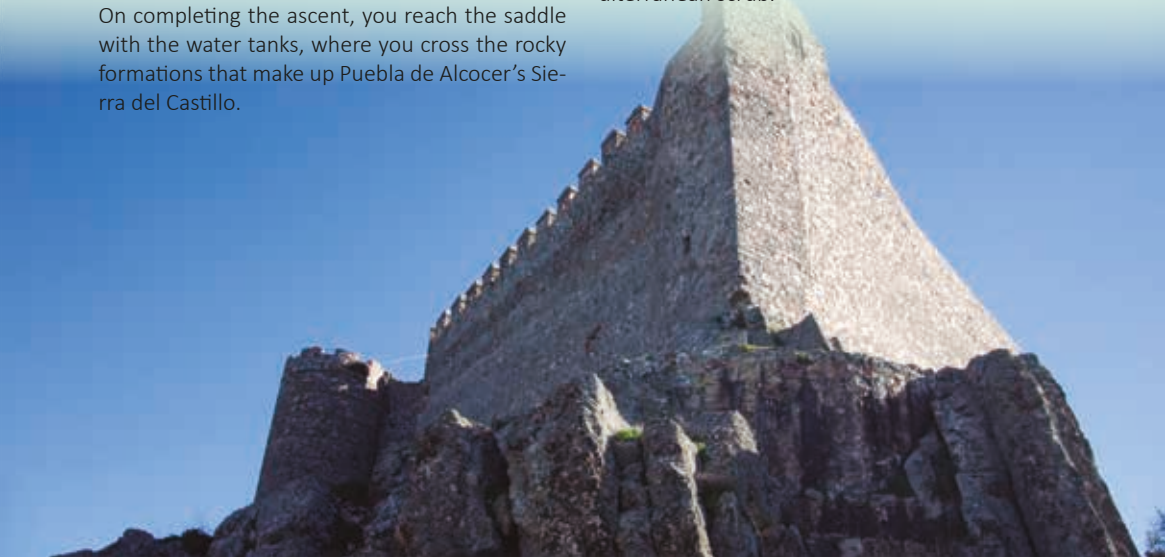
Continue along this small road, now heading downhill with **great views** of Esparragosa de Lares, La Serena reservoir and Galizuela, a hamlet belonging to Esparragosa de Lares. The terraced olive groves come into view once again. You reach a fork, and take the small uphill road to the left among gall oaks. It is narrower than the last one and leads to the pass above the small Juan Cántara cave. Now take the last stretch of the road that goes up to the castle. When you reach **Puebla de Alcocer's castle** you can explore the inside of it and take in the wonderful views. Now go down a small road at the left of the castle's entrance, which leads you to a **Moorish tower** on the outskirts of the village. From here, continue until you reach your point of departure.

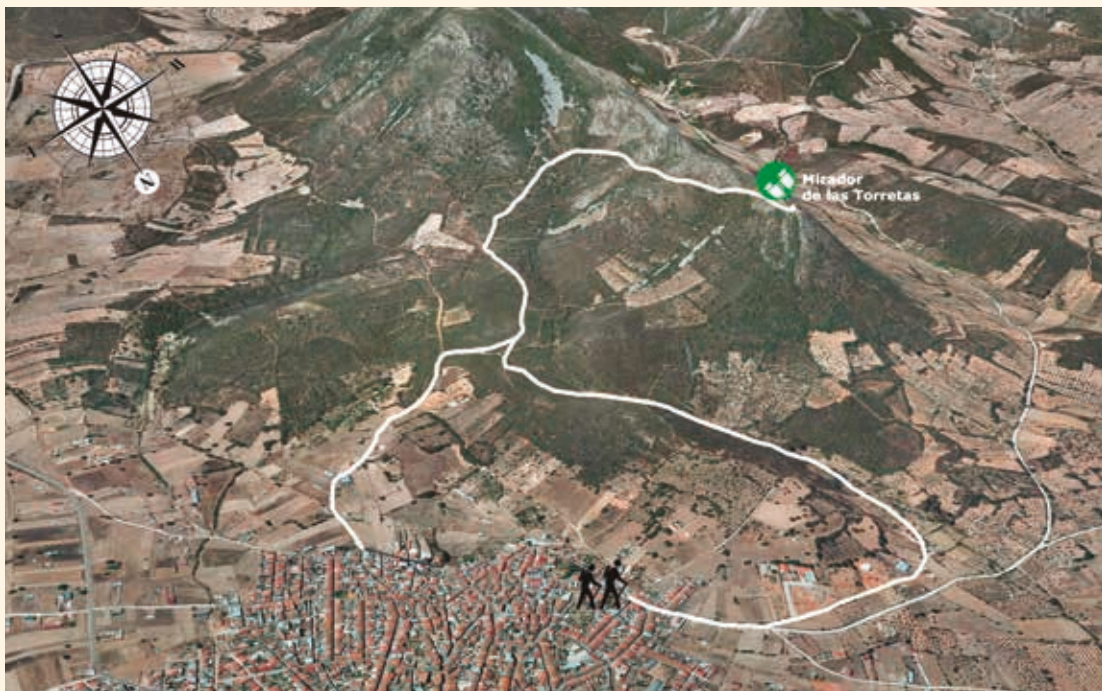
Highlights:

Wonderful views of La Serena landscape await at the **Sierra del Castillo** and the castle with vast plains towards the south and La Siberia and its mountains to the north.

You can also **spot steppe birds**, including black-shouldered kite, common buzzard, booted eagle, black kite, common crane, azure-winged magpie, hoopoe, thekla lark, among others.

The castle surrounds are populated by olive and wild olive trees as well as different species of Mediterranean scrub.



**Start:**

The trail starts in Navalvillar de Pela village centre.

Description:

The trail starts at the end of Calle Fuentes, as indicated by the trail information panel. Start along a wide track where you reach a fork with the main waymark. After a few metres, take the track to your left, which is marked.

It is a beautiful walk flanked by large **cork trees** and the **Posada stream** to your right throughout the trail. After a few metres, take a wide path to your left that leads up to **Las Cruces hill**, atop which stand **three granite crosses**, and where you can take in stunning views of the landscape.

From this hill, you have two options: retrace your footsteps back along the same path or take a short, downhill path marked out by crosses to Navalvillar de Pela. Retrace your steps down the original track, reaching a fork where you can choose between two options:



Area: Embalse de Orellana—Sierra de Pela SPA, SAC and ARI

Grade: Low

Coordinates:

39°05'22.5"N 5°28'27.0"W

Distance: 6,85 km

Ascent: 200 m

Estimated time:

1h45m 

Trail type: Circular

<http://goo.gl/PBjYf7>

The **first** option is to take a left and continue along the original Cerro de las Cruces track; the **second** option is to continue straight and go up to the **Valdelosilla ridge**. The second option is recommended and is described below.

You reach an intersection; take another uphill path, ignoring paths and tracks to your left and right. Continue uphill until you reach the Valdelosilla ridge, dominated by two enormous antennae, with an excellent **sweeping view**.

Start your descent retracing your footsteps until you reach a fork. Take the same track that you came along before. Take a right and after a few metres, you reach the Cerro de las Cruces path.

Go down this path ignoring small paths and tracks to your left and right. Take care on this downhill path because the stones are loose underfoot. After a few metres, you pass pastures with grazing animals and Navalvillar de Pela comes into view, which is only a few minutes away.

Highlights:

The trail's highlights are the Cerro de las Tres Cruces (the hill crowned by three crosses) and the **sweeping panoramas** from Valdelosilla ridge, which reach as far as Sierra de las Villuercas, Sierra de Pela, El Rucas, Cubilar and Moheda Alta plains and Sierra Brava reservoir.



TOURISM SERVICES

ACCOMMODATION

CASAS DE DON PEDRO

CR Lares

Capacity: 7 guests
Tel.: +34 924 864 027 /654 211 578

HS Venta D. Julián

Capacity: 16 guests
Tel.: +34 638 604 230

CASTILBLANCO

CR Los Huertos

Capacity: 8 guests
Tel.: +34 924 864 027/654 211 578

CR Finca Serena

Capacity: 16 guests
Tel.: +34 924 983 085

Hostel Castilblanco

Capacity: 54 guests
Tel.: +34 626 197 669/924 654 115

ESPARRAGOSA DE LARES

CR A Cántaros

Capacity: 14 guests
Tel.: +34 677 458 175

FUENLABRADA DE LOS MONTES

CR El Portezuelo

Capacity: 7 guests
Tel.: +34 686 071 233

GARBAYUELA

CR El Morro del Escudero

Capacity: 12 guests
Tel.: +34 677 413 632

GARLITOS

AR Casa de La Fuente

Capacity: 6- 8 guests
Tel.: +34 678 228 156

HELECHOSA DE LOS MONTES

CR "El Ahijón de Ayuso"

Capacity: 12 guests
Tel.: +34 924 658 318/699 044 428

CR "Los Montes"

Capacity: 8 guests
Tel.: 617 680 226

CR "Casa del Guarda"

Capacity: 8 guests
Tel.: 617 680 226

AR "Las Abuelas"

2 apartaments
Capacity: 6/4 guests
Tel.: 679 609 009/+34 924 658 283

HS "La Paloma"

Capacity: 16 guests
Tel.: +34 924 658 281

HERRERA DEL DUQUE

HS * "Carlos I"

Capacity: 44 guests
Tel.: +34 924 650 877

HS * "Los Pacos"

Capacity: 56 guests
Tel.: +34 924 650 801

HS * "El Fogón de Felisa"

Capacity: 24 guests
Tel.: +34 924 650 148

CR "La Huerta de los Nogales"

Capacity: 18 guests
Tel.: 686 798 848/+34 924 650 189

CR "La 3 Jotas"

Capacity: 22 guests
Tel.: +34 642 028 095/924 145 039

AR "Los Aperos"

Capacity: 6 guests
Tel.: 616 055 691

Campsite "Alfredo Rivas"

Capacity: 130 guests
Tel.: 620 880 644

NAVALVILLAR DE PELA

H ** Don Juan

Capacity: 46 guests
Tel.: +34 924 860 606

H ** Las Dehesas

Capacity: 34 guests
Tel.: +34 924 860 515

CR La Lozana

Capacity: 8 guests
Tel.: +34 924 860 428/670 324 749

Hostel Moheda Alta

Capacity: 47 guests
Tel.: +34 682 152 025/924 861 800

PUEBLA DE ALCOCER

H * La Codorniz

Capacity: 25 guests
Tel.: +34 924 620 110

State-run hostel

Capacity: 100 guests
Tel.: +34 924 620 001/157

CR La Casa de los Templarios

Capacity: 15 guests
Tel.: +34 669 936 927/924 620 011

CR La Botica

Capacity: 10 guests
Tel.: +34 620 91 00 30/610 374 524

SIRUELA

CR La Pajarona

Capacity: 24 guests
Tel.: +34 667 67 59 49

HS Los Amigos

Capacity: 20 guests
Tel.: +34 924 626 087

TALARRUBIAS

State-run hostel El Hospital

Capacity: 26 guests
Tel.: +34 924 630 100/150

H * Plaza Talarrubias**

Capacity: 36 guests
Tel.: +34 924 630 413

HS * Calderón

Capacity: 9 guests
Tel.: +34 924 630 503

HS * Nuñez

Capacity: 6 guests
Tel.: +34 924 630 309

Premier Campsite Puerto Peña

Capacity: 324 guests
Camping and 3 Bungalows

Tel.: +34 924 63 14 11
Season: from 1/03- 31/10

AR La Casa de los Maestros

3 apartments
Capacity: 6/6/ 6 guests
Tel.: +34 618 073 192

VALDECABALLEROS

HS * La Vaguada

Capacity: 25 guests
Tel.: +34 924 643 426

CR Casa Valdecaballeros

Capacity: 14 guests
Tel.: +34 607 39 36 04

CR Valdexpacio

Capacity: 14 guests
Tel.: +34 646 696 082/924 643 297

VILLARTA DE LOS MONTES

CR Balmontes

Capacity: 14 guests
Tel.: +34 924 641 514

RESTAURANTS**CASAS DE DON PEDRO****Tapas bar Extremadura**

Tel.: +34 666 928 810

Tapas bar El Parral

Tel.: +34 924 864 351

CASTILBLANCO**Restaurant Albergue Castilblanco**

Tel.: +34 626 197 669/924 654 316

ESPARRAGOSA DE LARES**Tapas bar El Paraíso**

Tel.: +34 924 654 071

HELECHOSA DE LOS MONTES**HS- Restaurant La Paloma**

Tel.: +34 924 65 82 81

Bar Alicia

Tel.: +34 924 658 307

HERRERA DEL DUQUE**Restaurante Salones Ismael**

Tel.: +34 924 642 101

Restaurante El Fogón de Felisa

Tel.: +34 924 650 148

Boarding house-Restaurant**Carlos I**

Tel.: +34 924 650 877

Boarding house-Restaurant Los**Pacos**

Tel.: +34 924 650 801

Restaurant Espolon Club

Tel.: +34 600 343 174

NAVALVILLAR DE PELA**Restaurant-Hotel Don Juan**

Tel.: +34 924 860 606

Restaurant Las Dehesas

Tel.: +34 924 860 515

Restaurant Acordeon

Tel.: +34 661 922 053

Restaurant Palermo

Tel.: +34 924 824 229

Restaurant Bocapizza

Tel.: +34 924 860 077

Restaurant-brasserie La Torrez-
nera

Tel.: +34 636 016 774/652 028 712

Coffee and wine bar María (Obando)

Tel.: +34 625 168 554

PUEBLA DE ALCOCER**Restaurante El Anafre**

Tel.: +34 661 243 560

Tapas bar La Alacena del**Castillo**

Tel.: +34 626 057 594

Restaurant La Codorniz

Tel.: +34 924 620 110

Tapas bar La Huerta

Tel.: +34 924 620 162

Tapas bar Los Caballos

Tel.: +34 678 10 34 64

SIRUELA**Boarding house Los Amigos**

Tel.: +34 924 626 087

Event hall Lujan

Tlfn: +34 654 050 891

TALARRUBIAS**Boarding house Calderón**

Tel.: +34 924 630 503

Tapas bar Mesón Carlos

Tel.: +34 924 63 15 26

Tapas bar El Aperitivo

Tel.: +34 924 631 549

Tapas bar Rivera

Tel.: +34 924 630 158

Restaurant-Hotel Plaza

Tel.: +34 924 630 413

VALDECABALLEROS**Restaurant El Tejar**

Tel.: +34 924 643 179

Restaurant La Vaguada

Tel.: +34 924 643 328

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY COMPANIES**HERRERA DEL DUQUE****Transiberiana4x4**Four-by-four safaris through La
Siberia

Tel.: +34 629 256 011

Alfredo Rivas campSporting, leisure and active
tourism activities

Tel.: +34 620 880 644

Espolon Club leisure centre

Water sports and climbing wall

Tel.: +34 600 343 174

Jamal: Guided walks and inter-
pretive trails in La Siberia

Tel.: +34 661 522 660

El Valle Ecologico. Agritourism -
Organic allotments

Tel.: +34 656 958 797

NAVALVILLAR DE PELA**Guías Siberia. Active tourism**

Tel.: +34 690 350 884/630 418 306

PUEBLA DE ALCOCER**Global Motor Sur S.L.****Hot air balloon rides and boat**
rides on reservoirs

Tel.: +34 924 221 185/608 297 982

SIRUELA**Siberia Taurina: Bull tourism at**
Finca Las Mesas

Tel.: +34 625 412 895

TALARRUBIAS**Puerto Peña Extrem leisure cen-**
tre: Water sport and outdoor
equipment hire

Tel.: +34 638 310 641

TIENDAS ESPECIALIZADAS**HERRERA DEL DUQUE****La Virgen de Extremadura****Natural honey and by-products**

Tel.: +34 924 650 982

Entredelicias**Local products**

Tel.: +34 686 105 390

PUEBLA DE ALCOCER**Excelencias de Extremadura****Local products and specialties**

Tel.: +34 924 620 546

TOURIST OFFICES

HERRERA DEL DUQUE

Herrera del Duque tourist office
C/ Feria, 59
Tel.: +34 924 642 214
<http://herreradelduque.com/turismo/>

TALARRUBIAS

Talarrubias tourist office
Ctra. N-430, salida 167 Puerto Peña-Talarrubias. Open Wednesday-Sunday
Tel.: +34 924 631 151
http://puertopeña.com/oit_talarrubias@hotmail.com

INTERPRETATION CENTRES

FUENLABRADA DE LOS MONTES

Apitourism centre
Entrance via Camino del Zumajo
Tel.: +34 639 069 190

NAVALVILLAR DE PELA

Moheda Alta Dehesa Periurban Conservation and Leisure Park Interpretation Centre
EX-116 Villanueva de la Serena - Gualupe road, kilometre mark 4.8
Open October-March; Wednesday-Sunday
Tel.: +34 636 362 047
mohedaalta@gmail.com

TALARRUBIAS

C.I de la Fauna Rupícola de Puerto Peña
Ctra. N-430, salida 167 Puerto Peña-Talarrubias
Open Wednesday-Sunday
oit_talarrubias@hotmail.com
Tel.: +34 924 631 151

CEDER LA SIBERIA

(La Siberia rural development centre)

Herrera del Duque
Avda. del Ejército, 26 Bajo
Tel.: +34 924 65 07 68

EXTREMADURA GOVERNMENT

Regional Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment and Energy Department Office
Herrera del Duque
Tel.: +34 924 01 94 33

USEFUL INFORMATION

Natural environment agent offices

Helechosa de los Montes
Tel.: +34 924 65 81 11
Herrera del Duque
Tel.: +34 924 01 94 33
Talarrubias
Tel.: +34 924 01 99 68

HOSPITALS

REGIONAL SIBERIA-EAST SERENA HOSPITAL
Talarrubias
Tel.: +34 924 648 100

HEAL CENTRES AND DOCTORS' SURGERIES

Baterno
Tel.: +34 924 633 139
Casas de Don Pedro
Tel.: +34 924 864 474
Castilblanco
Tel.: +34 924 654 153
Esparragosa de Lares
Tel.: +34 924 633 512
Fuénlabrada de los Montes
Tel.: +34 924 656 624
Garbayuela
Tel.: +34 924 635 676
Garlitos
Tel.: +34 924 636 126
Helechosa de los Montes
Tel.: +34 924 658 061
Herrera del Duque
Tel.: +34 924 650 281/924 651 032
Navalvillar de Pela
Tel.: +34 924 860 536
Puebla de Alcocer
Tel.: +34 924 620 161
El Risco
Tel.: +34 924 624 052
Sancti-Spíritus
Tel.: +34 924 624 052
Siruela
Tel.: +34 924 626 180
Talarrubias
Tel.: +34 924 631 094
Tamurejo
Tel.: +34 924 633 031
Valdecaballeros
Tel.: +34 924 643 209
Villarta de los Montes
Tel.: +34 924 641 705

CRUZ ROJA

Herrera del Duque
Avda. Juan Carlos I
Tel.: +34 924 650 240

FIRE STATION

Herrera del Duque
Avda. Juan Carlos I
Tel.: +34 924 650 240

PETROL STATION

Casas de Don Pedro
ES Cepsa
Tel.: +34 924 864 660
Castilblanco
ES Saipes
Tel.: +34 924 654 143
Herrera del Duque
ES Cepsa
Tel.: +34 924 642 253

ES Lorenper
Tel.: +34 924 642 210
Navalvillar de Pela
ES Repsol
Tel.: +34 924 860 471
ES Carrasco
Tel.: +34 924 861 109
Puebla de Alcocer
ES Repsol
Tel.: +34 924 620 048

Siruela
ES Siruela
Tel.: +34 924 626 475
Talarrubias
ES Otisa
Tel.: +34 924 631 482
Valdecaballeros
Es Iberdoex
Tel.: +34 924 643 054

GUARDIA CIVIL (POLICE STATION)

Casas de Don Pedro
Tel.: +34 924 864 005
Castilblanco
Tel.: +34 924 654 133
Fuénlabrada de los Montes
Tel.: +34 924 656 009
Helechosa de Los Montes
Tel.: +34 924 658 202
Herrera del Duque
Tel.: +34 924 650 002
Navalvillar de Pela
Tel.: +34 924 860 028
Puebla de Alcocer
Tel.: +34 924 620 013
Siruela
Tel.: +34 924 626 002
Talarrubias
Tel.: +34 924 630 007
Valdecaballeros
Tel.: +34 924 643 10



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Candidatura
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LA SIBERIA



JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA