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¡Oh Sierra de Ronda, y Ronda de yedra empeñada en el aire, herida en la piedra!

¡Qué amor, viajero, tú corazón al andar caminos adentro!

¿Y la encina? ¿Y el olmo? ¿Y el agua...? Genal, Guadiaro entrando a tu cuerpo.

¡Qué amor, viajero! ¡El mirlo y su canto en naranja de cielo!

Antonio Viñas



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Presentation

ctive tourism is a travelling philosophy with more and more followers everyday and which brings you closer to nature. This new philosophy is promoted due to the need to lead a healthier way of life, to the great range of activities that you can enjoy and to the different levels of technical knowledge and physical condition required. No matters what you are looking for, nice and quiet walks with the family or more adventure outdoor pursuits, you will find it in this complete guide. It will help you to organise your stay in the Serranía de Ronda and to create lasting memories.



Generally, one of the main disadvantages of guides is that they become out-dated easily but in this guide you will always find up-to-date information due to all the links to web pages where you could ask for more details and download different resources. QR codes have also been added to allow you to check out images and videos and on the top of that, this guide goes far deeper introducing pursuits like Geocaching or Orienteering with an educational approach to practise with family.

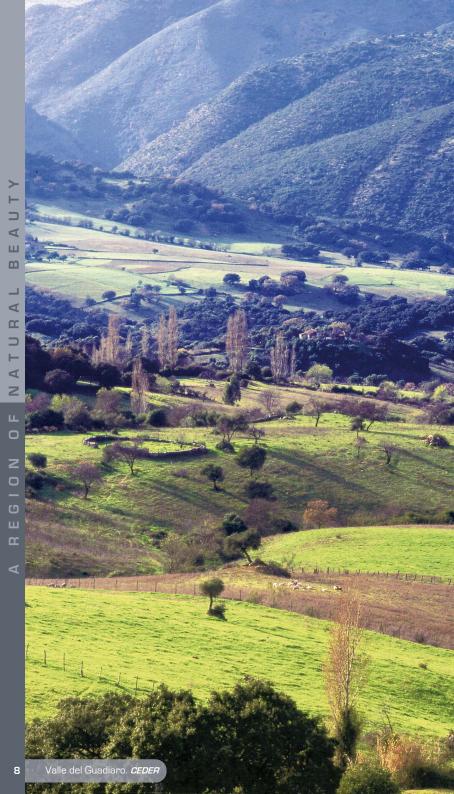
The Serranía de Ronda has become the perfect place to enjoy your holidays where you could climb, hike or glide thanks to the hard work and help from many people, companies, organizations and administrations throughout more than twenty years. It stands out the grit and determination shown by the Centre for Rural Development in the Serranía de Ronda and the twenty one town halls in the region. Last but not least, the Plan to Promote Tourism in the Serranía de Ronda, after five years of hard work and investments, has ensured the consistency of this work, enabling the publication of this complete catalogue of active tourism activities in this enchanting spot.

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A **region** of natural **beauty**

he mountain range of the Serranía de Ronda is located at the west end of the province of Malaga, bordering the province of Cadiz. It has an area of 1,536 km² where you can find twenty one municipalities, being Ronda the biggest of the region, with a population of 36,000. On the contrary, it is Atajate, the smallest municipality of the region and even of the province, with a population of only 146.



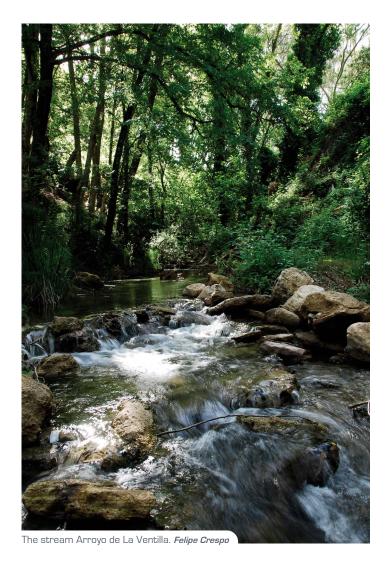
Regarding the geographical situation, Serranía de Ronda lies in the heart of the Baetic Cordillera, which has given rise to a remarkable mountainous landscape. The topography consists of a combination of rugged mountain ranges and steep hillsides which become gentler in the borders of Gibraltar, Costa del Sol or Llanos de Antequera.

Despite the landscape type shaped by the mountain ranges of Malaga and Cadiz, the wilful rivers flowing from Sierra de las Nieves, the highest mountain range in Malaga, divide the site into three areas with broad variations discernible. On the one hand, it is found a plateau, which is the highest area of the region,



where the municipalities of Ronda, Arriate and Montecorto are settled. It is the most populated area of Serranía de Ronda and its economy is mainly based on agricultural activities, especially on Mediterranean crops such as cereals, olive trees or grapevine. This area is protected at the northeast end by the mountain range Sierra de las Nieves, which dominates the landscape, and it is an irresistible attraction for hikers, horse-riders and mountain bike riders (especially if you go to the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park, Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO). In the west end, we find the depression Valle del Guadalquivir, where a warm and steady wind blows providing the perfect scenario to enjoy gliding.





Several streams from the peaks of Sierra de las Nieves flow downhill to form the three main rivers of the region: Guadalteba, Guadiaro and Genal.

Guadalteba River flows through the northern part of the Serranía along the towns of Cuevas del Becerro and Serrato and along terrace valleys where cereals and olive trees are cultivated. It flows into Guadalteba reservoir, one of the main water reservoirs in Malaga.

The Guadiaro River has two major tributaries: the Guadalevín and the Guadalcobacín Rivers. Guadalevín, which carves out the steep canyon El Tajo in the city of Ronda and flows under the famous bridge Puente Nuevo, meets Guadalcobacín River to form

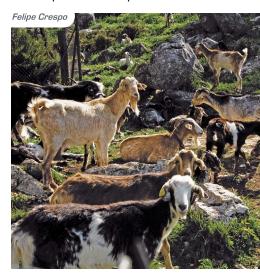
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▶ Guadiaro River. This river travels along the Serranía de Ronda from north to southeast through the towns of Montejaque, Benaoján, Jimera de Líbar and Cortes de la Frontera and once it is flowing in the province of Cadiz, it turns to the East. It is then, when it meets the Genal River to discharge into the Mediterranean Sea at the level of Sotogrande. The Valle del Guadiaro is an open valley, flanked by limestone mountain ranges, with a mild weather and fertile soil. The river is an excellent water source for agriculture but it is also ideal to practice water sports, especially canoeing (between Benaoján and Cortes train stations) and canyoing (in the Cañón de las Buitreras (Vultures' Canyon), the most coveted canyon for those who practice this sport in South

Spain). Furthermore, the valley and especially the mountain ranges are ideal to practice hiking, climbing and Iron Ways.

Genal River, as the other three rivers, is sourced in Sierra de las Nieves, but it travels southwards, without visiting Ronda city, until it stretches into a narrow and deep valley flanked by chestnut woods and traditional small vegetable gardens where it becomes nearly



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invisible. It weaves back and forth as if it wouldn't like to leave its own paradise. We are talking about the Valle del Genal, a thick, craggy and age-old valley where autumn shows off a riot of yellow and ochre colours, becoming one of the most spectacular places in Europe. Although much to its regret, Genal River must leave the vegetable gardens, ditches, plots and mills behind to arrive promptly to its appointment with the Guadiaro River, in the province of Cadiz, where, exhausted, they travel together the last kilometres, under the name of Guadiaro River, until flowing into the sea.

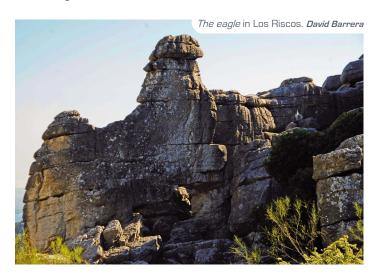
Genal River flows alongside the towns of Igualeja, Pujerra, Parauta, Cartajima, Júzcar, Faraján, Alpandeire, Atajate, Benadalid, Benalauría, Algatocín, Benarrabá, Jubrique, Genalguacil and Gaucín. Hiking fans will be thrilled by a real





paradise with rough hillsides and chestnut and cork oak woods whereas high limestone summits where vegetation is scarce are ideal for climbing and Vía Ferrata.

The variety of landscapes and ecosystems that are found in Serranía de Ronda is due to the rugged topography, fluvial valleys and different types of soils. On the top of that, the weather fronts from the Atlantic ensure a perfect humidity level to maintain the dense cork oak, holm oak, pine and chestnut woods. Therefore, the Serranía de Ronda is one of the most unpredictable and beautiful places in Andalusia to practice a wide range of outdoor activities.



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SERRANÍA DE RONDA. **A walk** through the **history**

ue to the geographical situation of the Serranía de Ronda, it became an important crossroad in the past. It was already during **prehistory** that the communication between the *Homo Neanderthalensis* and *Homo Cro-Magnon* from North Europe and South Spain was through the safest and shortest path, the Intrabaetic Basin. The region of Guadalteba and Serranía de Ronda are a rich source of parietal art in Andalusia (**Cueva de Ardales** and **Cueva de la Pileta** are two of the highlighted caves in this area).



In the **Roman period**, the Serranía was still an important crossroad due to its strategic position between the Iberian Peninsula and Mauritania travelling through the Pillars of Hercules (Strait of Gibraltar). Relying on the documented information, these first trade routes, called Roman roads, linked different settled areas in the Serranía: *Vesci* (Gaucín), *Saepo* (Cortes de la Frontera), *Ocurri* (Ubrique), *Laecipo* (Casares), *Arunda* (Ronda) and especially **Acinipo** (nowadays archaeological ensemble of the Andalusian Regional Government).

▶ This Roman roads network, apart from being the origin of some of the current villages, was used for trading and especially for the hunt of metal. In fact, *Acinipo* was in the middle of the two major mining areas in the Iberian Peninsula: Cartagena-Almería and Huelva. It is known that *Acinipo* was abandoned in the 1st century A.D. when **Arunda** (current city of Ronda) became the most important city in the Serranía.



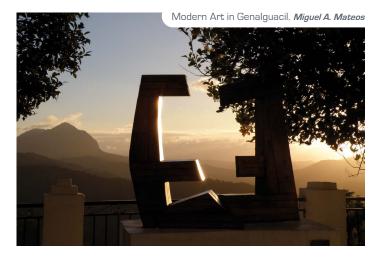
After the **Moorish conquest** in the 8th century, the organization of the territory changed, although some elements, such as the Roman roads or bridges, were preserved because they were really useful. The route through the Strait was maintained as a secondary road as the route through the Valle del Guadalquivir was an easier way to arrive from Algeciras to Córdoba, which became the first capital of Al-Andalus. Moreover, the route through the Serranía was really important during the occupation of the territory as it was used as a linking road for the Berber groups settled in the area and the one in North Africa. After five centuries, at the beginning of the 13th century, the Iberian Christian Kingdoms joined together to fight against the Almohads who were occupying half of the Peninsula at that time. The Christian victory in the Battle of Navas de Tolosa (1212) forced the Muslim to move south. The later conquests of Murcia and Almería, in the north of Al-Andalus, and of Algeciras, in the south, left isolated the last Muslim stronghold in Europe. Mohammed I ibn Nasr, the founder of the Nasrid Dynasty, decided after all these changes, to settle the south frontier in this region.



After a hundred of years of settlement, it is found important remains of castles and observation towers as well as the permanent traces still visible nowadays in architecture, local culture and place names.

In 1482, the Muslim army from *Izna-Runda* (Ronda) took the Christian fortress of Zahara de la Sierra causing a war between the Castilians and the Kingdom of Granada. In 1485, the city of Ronda and the whole region was conquered and it was just seven years after that the kingdom of Granada surrendered. It ended with the defeat of the Alhambra in 1492.

The Catholic Monarchs reached an agreement with Boabdil, the last king of the Nasrid Dynasty, to guarantee a set of rights to the Moors in return for conversion to Christianity. Those who did not accept the conversion had to exile to Africa while those who stayed became known as *Moriscos* and lived together,



despite the obvious difficulties, with the Christians. However, this apparently calm period did not last long. In 1609, after several revolts in the Alpujarra Mountains and the Serranía de Ronda, the Moriscos were expelled from the Peninsula. As a result of the expulsion, many regions like the Serranía de Ronda populated especially by Moriscos lay torn and desolate. Despite the continuous and unsuccessful efforts to replace them by Christian settlers, most of the villages in Valle del Genal were abandoned. These villages are called deserted Morisco villages.

During **the 16th and 17th century**, the Serranía de Ronda lived a calmed period where all current villages settled in. The nobility benefited from the distribution of the conquered Muslim properties, enhancing their houses and financing some reforms for churches. Civilians left another important legacy to us, churches, fountains or washing places were built up in a very specific style: the rural Baroque.

If Romans already took advantage of the geology in the Serranía as it is a great source of metals, it is normal that some centuries after, other people travelled across the region looking for iron to study it scientifically and systematically. In the **18**th **century**, the Real Fábrica de Hojalata de San Miguel (Tin factory) was built by the Genal River in the municipality of Júzcar. However, the main industrial inversion in the Serranía, which consisted of the iron deposits from the valley, went bankrupt twenty years after it was funded.

Thanks to the strategic situation of the Serranía de Ronda, it became a crucial point at the end of **the Peninsular War**





(1808-1814), which was a military conflict against French occupation. Napoleon's troop forced the Regency Government to retreat to Cadiz. The route to travel to Algecira, the same that Neanderthalensis and Cro-Magnons had used in the past, was now controlled by the Guerrillas from the Serranía who were settled in the Castle of Gaucín. In 1810, Ronda fell into French insurgence hands and the three years after, there were continuous fights with extreme brutality between the French and the Guerrillas. It was in 1812 when the Spanish Constitution was drafted and adopted in Cadiz; in 1813, French troops were retreated to France and in 1814, Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, abdicated. Due to their loyalty to the Spanish crown, the king Fernando VII granted to the villages in the Valle del Guadiaro and Genal the title of Villas and thus they became independent from Ronda, forming the current administrative organization of the Serranía.

Hydroelectric plants built in the early **20th century** along the Guadiaro River were more successful than the mining deposits and the Hydroelectric Plant of San Miguel in the Molinos del Tajo (Mills of the Tajo) was the first one producing electricity for the whole region. There are some Hydroelectric plants built at that time still opened such as the Hydroelectric Plant of las Buitreras or of Corchados. The current hydroelectric plant in the Molinos del Tajo dates from 1949.

Between 1888 and 1892, it was built the current **railway Bobadilla-Algeciras**, which travels from north to south of the region across the Valley of Guadiaro River. Due to the influence

of this railway and its stations, four new villages were developed: Estación de Benaoján, Estación de Jimera, Estación de Cortes and Estación de Gaucín.

The basis of the current **road network** was built along the dictatorship period of Primo de Rivera (1924-1930), although it was not until the Spanish Civil War that cars could circulate along every town. This was the last big infrastructure built in the Serranía which has finally shaped the communication routes and thus its economy.

It is worth it to visit the valuable cultural heritage made over the time by men in the Serranía de Ronda. The great effort carried out to restore the public pathways with an outstanding regional signposting to hike and to bring back the past history. That is the reason why you will discover in the Serranía not only an amazing place to go on holidays but also a place where you will enjoy learning and visiting a real Cultural Area.



G I I 0



How to use the guide



he Serranía de Ronda is a great place for active tourism with a wealth of possibilities within your reach. This guide delves into fourteen of the main activities and each of them has a different icon and colour to make searching easier. Each pursuit is divided into different sections to organise the wide range of information offered. These sections are:

• **DEFINITION.** It consists of a general description of the activity as well as the most interesting tourist attractions and resources available in the Serranía de Ronda to practise it. It is been considered convenient to include an information sheet **>**

for some activities such as Iron Way, climbing, canyoning and the network of viewpoints with extra details. All the other pursuits have been considered as a whole.

- REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. It has been specified compulsory
 equipment for a personal protection and technical requirements
 to practise the activity. If you decided to rely on a specialised
 company, it will provide the necessary equipment.
- TO FIND OUT MORE. It is a section with a wide variety of essential bibliography about the activity in the Serranía de Ronda as well as with links to specialised web pages to find out more information.
- VIDEOS. It is a collection of links to check out institutional and private videos which will show you the different experiences you can live in the Serranía de Ronda before plunging into it.
- SPECIALISED COMPANIES. It is a full list of specialised companies focused in active tourism.
- ATENTION. It is a summary of rules and advices which need to be taken. They could be general rules, like litter collection, or more specific advices, as checking on the weather forecast before practising canyoning.





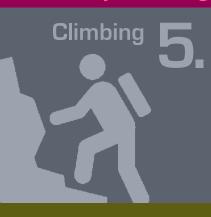
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%// 1. Hiking

iking is the most popular sport in the Serranía de Ronda. This is because the region boasts of thousands of kilometres of signed routes, scarce population and different and beautiful landscapes, becoming one of the most attractive spots for those who love hiking in the solitude of nature.

This guide doesn't intend to fully delve into all different routes. However, there are a large number of specialised guides focused on hiking in the Serranía (see the most popular in the annex). Nevertheless, it is important to recognise the four different types of trails available:

Local trails or Senderos locales (SL) in Spanish. Generally, they are short routes of less than 10 kilometres with the start and end at a town. They are marked in white and green.

Short-distance trails or Senderos de pequeño recorrido (PR). They are linear walks which link towns within a distance of 10 to 50 kilometres. They are marked with yellow-and-white slashes.



Long-distance trails or Senderos de gran recorrido (GR). They are long routes, from 50 to thousands of kilometres. They are signposted in red and white.

Other trails. They are traditional paths of generally short distances which are not officially approved trails. They use their own trail marking. It is important to consider some key factors before choosing a trail to hike:

Circular or linear trails. In circular trails the given distance is what you will end up walking. On the contrary, in linear trails, if you do not plan a transport link ahead to come back to the point of departure, you will have to walk back, doubling the kilometres of the route.

Distance. Number of kilometres from the start to the end of the route. Considering that an average person speed on flat ground is 5km per hour, you can roughly estimate the hiking time.

Slope. Number of metres, in an inclined surface, from the point of departure to the point of arrival. The slope could be either positive, if it is uphill, or negative, if it is downhill. A positive slope will require more energy and time to hike and it is important to bear in mind that, both in circular or linear trails, all the metres you have ascended you will need to descend.

Climate. The easiest hike may become challenging in poor weather conditions. Therefore, it is very important to check out the weather forecast and make sure you have the necessary equipment for the route you are planning. Furthermore, you will need to take extra precautions against sun exposure in summer and ensure you have enough water and food.

MIDE System. (Spanish scale which provides information about the trail). It is a useful system that describes the difficulty of the route and the technical skills and physical condition required. It is sometime found along with the information of the trail.

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• Hiking boots • Suitable clothes based on the season and the route • Long trousers • Warm clothing • Hat or cap • Map or a guide of the route • Water • Food • Mobile phone with a spare battery • Torch • First-aid kit

TO FIND OUT MORE

Official website of Federación Andaluza de Montañismo (the Andalucian Hiking Association) where you could free download useful information about all the officially approved hiking trails.



http://www.fedamon.com/index.php/home-6

Link to the *Pasos Largos* website, the most important hiking association in this region with plenty of useful information about the trails and trips available in the Serranía de Ronda. www.pasoslargos.com



Link to a blog of a local hiking group *Grupo Extremo*, where you could find valuable maps, detailed descriptions of the trails and other sports around the Serranía de Ronda.



http://grupoextremo.blogspot.com.es

Link to the offical webiste of the *trail GR-249 Gran Senda de Málaga* with information about the different routes, distances, videos and more.



www.gransendademalaga.es

The company specialised in map-making Ronda Cartográfica offers a wide range of trail maps, available as free downloads, in Google Earth and Oruxmaps from the Serranía de Ronda and Sierra de Grazalema.



http://rondacartografica.es/descargas.html



BOOKS

- Serranía de Ronda. Guía de Senderos. CEDER Serranía de Ronda. Editorial La Serranía 2007.
- Gran Senda de Málaga. Topoguía del GR-249. Diputación de Málaga 2014.
- Walking in the Ronda Mountains. 30 Half-day walks in Andalusia. Tony Bishop, Eva Monika Bratek. Editorial La Serranía 2011.
- Walking in Andalucía. Guy Hunter-Watts. Santana Books 2009.

VIDEOS

Great selection of promo videos about the *Gran Senda de Málaga*, a circular trail along the province of Málaga.

http://www.gransendademalaga.es/4268/com1_bs-Gran%20senda/videos



Link to the video of the hiking trail Sendero de las Eras, an astonishing circular trail around the Riscos, the most spectacular limestone rock formation in the Serranía de Ronda.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 05FMJlrPx-w





SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.pangeacentral.com
www.sierraventuraronda.es
www.aventuraronda.com
www.alandalusactiva.com
www.rondabout.com

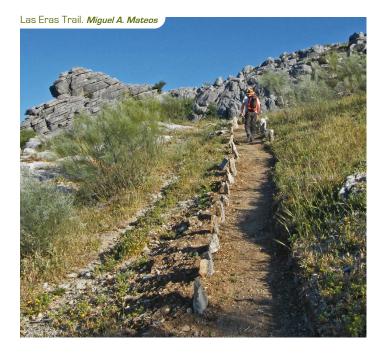
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- ✓ Before the hike, especially in short and long distance trails (PR and GR), it is necessary to check out the itinerary and be aware of our hiking skills, resistance and orienteering knowledge.
- ✓ Take notice that it is very common to find the signposting in bad conditions or even missing. It is recommended not to rely only and exclusively on it.
- ✓ Please, obey all warning signs.
- ✓ Give yourself enough time to finish the route.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.





GR-141 Gran Senda in the Serranía de Ronda

ong-distance trails or Senderos de gran Itinerary (commonly known by the abbreviation GR). They are long routes officially approved and signposted with a minimum length of 50km (see the Section *Hiking* of this Guide of Active Tourism). This region boasts four long-distance trails:

GR-7 Tarifa-Andorra-Temple of Apollo. Long route across Spain linking the town of Tarifa and Andorra. It is part of the E4 European long-distance path, which ends in the Temple of Apollo in Greece. The GR-7 traverses the Serranía de Ronda from south to north along the valley Valle del Guadiaro, in the plateau of Ronda.

GR-249 Gran Senda de Málaga. It is composed of 35 separate routes along the most beautiful coastal and inland landscapes. GR-241 crosses the valleys Valle del Guadiaro and Valle del Genal in the Serranía de Ronda.

GR-243 Long-distance trail in Sierra de las Nieves. Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park and its enchanting villages can be discovered by hiking this circular trail.





GR-141 Gran Senda de la Serranía de Ronda. It is a circular trail composed of 6 separate routes along a large part of the Serranía de Ronda.

GRAN SENDA DE LA SERRANÍA DE RONDA

It is perfectly well known that you will enjoy unforgettable landscapes exploring the region off-road. Unlike other regions with a gentler orography, this fact becomes especially true in the Serranía de Ronda because modern roads were not built, for technical reasons, along ancient paths which used to link different villages. Thus an unexplored world with stories and tales, fountains, abandoned *alquerias* (old farmhouses), mills and *cortijos* (typical Andalucian country houses) is out there awaiting a doughty explorer to discover it. You will need

to park your car, put your hiking boots on and follow the route. The Gran Senda de la Serranía de Ronda is waiting for you.

You will not feel alone at any time as the trail goes through most of the small villages in the Serranía where you can have a well-deserved rest in bars and restaurants, buy food for the hike and even stay overnight in a cottage or a small hotel.



2.GRAN SENDA

ROUTE 1. Ronda-Jimera de Líbar

The point of departure of GR-141 is from the square Plaza del Campillo, in the old town of Ronda. The route drops down into the gorge el Tajo and from there to the valley Valle del Guadiaro, where the railway and the river will become your soul-mates along the whole route.

You will be walking close to the cave Cueva del Gato and going through the towns of Benaoján, Estación de Benaoján, Estación de Jimera and, finally, Jimera de Líbar, a sunny town where you could have a rest.



ROUTE 2. Jimera de Líbar-El Colmenar

Once you have left Jimera de Líbar and its ancient washing place behind, the route goes through the left bank of the river crossing open woodland scattered with cork oak, olive groves and cortijos with superb views to the mountain range Sierra de Líbar.

In Laguna Honda you can rather walk to the nearest village Caña del Real Tesoro (also called Estación de Cortes), ideal to have a good rest break and take in hot food, or keep walking to your destination. Both paths meet a few metres after the village where it stretches leading to the canyon Cañón de las Buitreras through the bridge Puente de los Alemanes. This is one of the most impressive and beautiful spots in the valley. It is very common to come across with canyoners wearing their wetsuits ready to practise canyoning.



It is then when the route crosses the river and goes along the right bank, passing by the Charco del Moro and a spectacular suspension bridge. Finally, you will arrive to the end of the second route in the quiet village El Comenar (also called Estación de Gaucín).

ROUTE 3. El Colmenar-Benarrabá

In this route you will leave the Valle del Guadiaro behind and will discover the Valle del Genal. Once you have walked through the village El Colmenar and crossed the Guadiaro River again, you will hike uphill on the left bank of the river across open woodlands and agricultural fields towards the other valley. It seems impossible that after having walked a few kilometres you can be delighted with such a different and beautiful landscape. It is worth visiting the village of Gaucín, where you will find all necessary services and enjoy the magnificent castle with sweeping views to the Strait of Gibraltar.

The route leaves Gaucín behind and goes along the right bank of the Valle del Genal. The river becomes nearly invisible weaving back and forth through it. At the end of this route, the village of Benarrabá starts to show up in the distance with its characteristic white houses surrounded by cork oaks and chestnuts. It is time to enjoy your well-deserved rest.





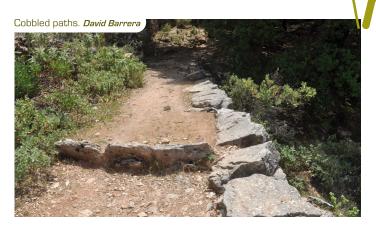
ROUTE 4. Benarrabá-Benalauría

This route will allow you to discover the Genal River, a secret paradise frozen in the past which will not disappoint you. When you leave the village of Benarrabá you will reach the river meander called Llano de la Escribana, a popular place to take a dip. From there you will penetrate into the valley, walking through the left bank of the river and some suspended footbridges will let you arrive to a popular swimming area called Venta de San Juan where you could have a rest and enjoy a delicious meal.

The route crosses the river again and it is then when, much to your regret, you will say goodbye to this paradise. If you keep walking uphill on the right bank you will arrive in Benalauría, which will become the best reward after this difficult route.



2.GRAN SENDA



ROUTE 5. Benalauría-Alpandeire

After Benalauría, the route is easier and is dotted with beautiful villages, each of them boasting marvellous views to the valley and their own traditions: Benadalid and its castle; Atajate and its grape must.

It is exactly in Atajate where you will turn sharply to the east and descend again to the valley looking for the inscrutable and shy Audalázar River, a right tributary of the Genal River. If you take your boots off in the ford of the river, you will experience an exceptional

relief after five days of hike thanks to its refreshing water. You will then visualize how five centuries ago the alqueria of Audalázar was prominently erected in this area before it was abandoned, as many other villages, when the Moors were expelled from the Kingdom of Granada.

It is time now to return to the route where you will need to face a difficult ascent along the left bank of the river to arrive in Alpandeire, the end of the route.



2.GRAN SENDA



ROUTE 6. Alpandeire-Ronda

Having the opportunity to wake up in Alpandeire is a real gift. From there you can predict the hesitant course of the river joining the Genal River, name that they will take to flow together and discharge into the Mediterranean Sea at the level of Sotogrande. However, our next destination is another one: Ronda.

You will walk back to the same route but this time you will turn off and hike uphill through the small valley Valle del Audalázar. You go through the canyon and walk along pasture lands and cortijos frozen in the past. It is impossible to know how ancient the cobbled path is but you can observe how centuries ago it was marked out with burial mounds for the ancestors: the dolmens of La Mimbre, Los Monteros and Encinas Borrachas. And it is precisely here where you will leave the Valle del Genal behind and after looking back for a while; you will walk along a gentler route towards Ronda.

Nevertheless, the Gran Senda de la Serranía de Ronda has a last surprise for you. The route stretches leading to a spectacular rocky gorge called Tajo del Abanico before arriving in Ronda through the neighbourhood El Barrio de San Francisco.

It is the end of a route that has shown, in return for the effort, the well-kept secrets of the Serranía. A region of natural beauty.



REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

• Hiking boots • Suitable clothes based on the season and the route • Long trousers • Warm clothing • Hat or cap • Map or a guide of the route • Water • Food • Mobile phone with a spare battery • Torch • First-aid kit

TO FIND OUT MORE

Official website of Federación Andaluza de Montañismo (the Andalucian Hiking Association) where you could free download useful information about the GR-141 Gran Senda de la Serranía de Ronda.



http://www.fedamon.com/index.php/home-6

Official website of GR7 along Andalusia.

http://www.andalucia.org/es/rutas/senderoeuropeo-peloponeso-tarifa-gr-7-e-4/



Link to the offical webiste of the *GR-249 Gran Senda de Málaga* with information about the different routes, distances, videos and more.



www.gransendademalaga.es

BOOKS

- Topoguía del GR-141 Gran Senda de la Serranía de Ronda.
 Rafael Flores Domínguez. Editorial La Serranía 2014.
- Topoguía del GR-249 Gran Senda de Málaga.
 Carlos Guerrero. Editorial La Serranía 2014.



VIDEOS

Great selection of promo videos about the *Gran Senda de Málaga*, a circular trail along the province of Málaga.

http://www.gransendademalaga.es/4268/com1_bs-Gran%20senda/videos



SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.pangeacentral.com
www.sierraventuraronda.es
www.aventuraronda.com
www.alandalusactiva.com
www.rondabout.com

ATTENTION

- ✓ Before the hike, especially in short and long distance trails (PR and GR), it is necessary to check out the itinerary and be aware of our hiking skills, resistance and orienteering knowledge.
- √ Take notice that it is very common to find the signposting in bad conditions or even missing. It is recommended not to rely only and exclusively on it.
- ✓ Please, obey all warning signs.
- ✓ Give yourself enough time to finish the route.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.



3. MTB Bicycletouring

mountain bike (MTB) is a bicycle created for rough off-road cycling. Therefore, they are made of resistant materials and wide knobbly tyres to maximise the grid. They also boast other technical features which differ from other road bikes. This type of sport, although it may entail some risks, allows you to ride quietly along the countryside, even with children, staying away from the danger of roads.

The Serranía de Ronda is a region with numerous open spaces where many of the emblematic places can only be discovered by bike or on foot. Although it exists thousands of kilometres of signed trails in the region, only cycling routes and lanes have been considered in this guide of active tourism to practise MTB, avoiding those trails where riding would be very difficult or even impossible. Nevertheless, professional bike riders should get more information of other options available.

If you enjoy new challenges, you will love travelling around Andalusia along the route TransAndalus with more than 2,000km mountain bike route. You can find more information about the tracks of this important route in the following webpage: www.transandalus.org.





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Depending on your level of experience and adventurous spirit, you should give **MTB Down Hill track** in Algatocín a try. This track along the Barranco de la Loma runs across 4.3km with stretches of nearly 40% gradient. It is a technical descent with all type of obstacles finishing in the Genal River at the popular restaurant Venta de San Juan.

The secondary roads in the Serranía de Ronda, which are quiet and traffic-calmed roads, are a great option for those who love **road bikes**. For more information about bicycle touring,

have a look at the section To find out more!

In the event you do not have a bike or you prefer not to bring it with you, you can check out the bike rental companies in the Serranía de Ronda where you could also rent the necessary equipment as well as a guide if you need it!

Have a look to the index below to some of the MTB trails in this region. Moreover, in the mentioned websites and books, you will find all MTB tracks and even route planners for most of these trails.

Open woodlands in Jimera de Líbar. *Manuel García. Pangea Central*



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3. MTB/BICYCLETOURING

| STA | RT | of t | he |
|-----|-----|------|----|
| | Roi | ute | |

| | | Route | | |
|---|------|--------|---------|----------|
| MTB Tracks | Km | х | у | Туре |
| Pujerra-Puerto del Madroño | 10,5 | 307580 | 4054007 | Linear |
| Júzcar-Pujerra | 3,5 | 306027 | 4055282 | Linear |
| Faraján-Alpandeire | 3,5 | 304370 | 4054692 | Linear |
| Benalauría-Cañada del Real Tesoro | 6,5 | 296697 | 4052361 | Linear |
| Algatocín-Benarrabá | 3,5 | 295832 | 4049563 | Linear |
| Genalguacil-Los Reales | 17,5 | 300226 | 4046773 | Linear |
| Gaucín- Cañada del Real Tesoro | 10 | 292829 | 4044575 | Linear |
| Montejaque-Cortes de la Frontera | 16,5 | 298588 | 4067806 | Linear |
| Ronda-Benaoján | 11 | 305977 | 4069452 | Linear |
| Faraján-Jubrique | 13 | 304542 | 4054550 | Linear |
| Jubrique-Benalauría | 10 | 301777 | 4048982 | Linear |
| Ronda-Pilar de Coca | 9 | 308318 | 4069705 | Linear |
| Ronda-Puente de la Ventilla | 6 | 308520 | 4069848 | Linear |
| Ronda-Ermita Virgen de la Cabeza | 2 | 306314 | 4066970 | Linear |
| Ronda-Molinos del Tajo | 6 | 306496 | 4068018 | Circular |
| Benaoján-Estación de Jimera | 7,5 | 299393 | 4065311 | Linear |
| Montecorto-El Gastor | 6 | 294814 | 4077108 | Linear |
| De Conejeras-Castaño Santo | 17,5 | 312770 | 4059627 | Linear |
| Conejeras-Río Verde | 40 | 314372 | 4059875 | Circular |
| Peñón del Berrueco-Puerto de la Calderona | 39,5 | 282904 | 4054992 | Circular |
| Peñón del Berrueco-Garganta de la Pulga | 31 | 282904 | 4054992 | Circular |
| Paseo por la Estación de Cortes | 6 | 291714 | 4052415 | Circular |
| Montejaque-Refugio de Líbar | 10 | 299300 | 4068591 | Linear |
| Mirador de África-Ventorillo de las Corchas | 18,5 | 326192 | 4073338 | Circular |
| Júzcar-Pujerra | 28,5 | 306133 | 4055491 | Circular |
| Faraján-Jubrique | 13,5 | 304648 | 4054764 | Linear |
| Paseo por el Puerto del Monte | 30 | 309503 | 4079299 | Circular |
| Por el Llano de la Cruz | 16,5 | 306337 | 4071286 | Circular |
| Por la Meseta de Ronda | 25 | 308502 | 4069701 | Circular |
| Circular por Ronda | 17 | 308640 | 4070055 | Circular |
| Ruta MTB Down Hill de Algatocín | 4,3 | 295653 | 4048812 | Linear |

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Bicycle Helmet Sunglasses Gloves Suitable footwear
- Coulotte and maillot Map or a guide of the route Water
- Mobile phone with a spare battery First-aid kit Tools

TO FIND OUT MORE

Link to the fantastic website Andalbike where you could free download information about MTB and bicycle tourism trails and tours along Andalusia.



www.andalbike.com

Comprehensive website with all information about the route *TransAndalus*, a circular trail with more than 2,000km along the eight provinces of Andalusia.



www.transandalus.org

The company specialised in map-making Ronda Cartográfica offers a wide range of trail maps, as free downloads, to Google Earth and Oruxmaps from the Serranía de Ronda and Sierra de Grazalema.



http://rondacartografica.es/descargas.html

Link from Wikiloc to the MTB Down Hill track in Algatocin.



http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=6582115

BOOKS

- Rutas en BTT por la Serranía de Ronda. Manuel Perujo Villanueva y José Eugenio Sierra Velasco. Editorial La Serranía 2012.
- Rutas de Cicloturismo por la Serranía de Ronda. Cristóbal Bernal Caparrós y Juan Carlos Bernal Caparrós. Editorial la Serranía 2011.

GUIDE: ACTIVE TOURISM IN THE SERRANÍA DE RONDA

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3. MTB/BICYCLETOURING

VIDEOS

The village of Montejaque has become a favourite travel attraction for mountain bikers. If you click here, you will find out the reason.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Plb68eFbRMc



Promo video of the Andalucian Cycling Experience for those who love off-road cycling.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOPUboYv6Jc

The secondary roads of the Serranía de Ronda, which are quiet and traffic-calmed roads, are a great option for those who love bicycle tourism. Have a look at this promo video of the Andalucian Cycling Experience!.





SPECIALISED COMPANIES:

www.andaluciancyclingexperience.com www.pangeacentral.com www.sierraventuraronda.es www.aventuraronda.com www.cycleronda.com www.bicicletasjesusrosado.com

ATTENTION

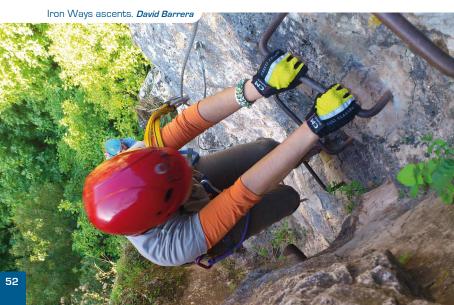
- Please, obey all warning signs.
- ✓ It is recommended to enjoy MTB trails in groups.
- Beware of other trail users. Moderate your speed when visibility is poor.
- ✓ You will need to avoid long sun exposure during sunny days.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.



ACTIVE TOURISM

ron Ways allow people with little technical knowledge to feel the excitement of other outdoor sports such as climbing and mountaineering. An Iron Way consists of a line of rungs fixed to the rock which are used to ascend in the same way as if you were using a ladder. Along the rungs, a steel cable periodically attached to the rock is provided. You will climb up clipped into the safety cable using a lanyard which is an energy-absorbing system in the event of falling.

It is sometimes possible to add an extra level of difficulty and excitement to an Iron Way with monkey bridges (a cable



for each hand and a cable for each foot) Tibetan bridges (a cable for each hand and a cable for both feet) zip-lines (inclined cables used to be propelled) or suspended ladders, thus the technical difficulty and physical condition required can differ according to the route. For this reason, it is very important to be aware of the difficulty level that you are going to undertake as well as of the required equipment that it will be needed.

The most important Iron Way Park in Spain can be found in the Serranía de Ronda as well as one of the most prepared companies of active tourism to practise this sport in which safety is the paramount.

| Iron Way | Rungs | Money bridge | Tibetan bridge | Suspended ladder | Zip-lines | Difficulty |
|---|---------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Atajate | | | | | | D |
| 2. Benadalid | | | | | | VD |
| 3. Benalauría | | | | | | D |
| 4. Benaoján | | | | | | D |
| 5. Gaucín. Castillo del Águila | | | | | | VD |
| 6. Gaucín. El Hacho | | | | | | VD |
| 7. Igualeja | | | | | | D |
| 8. Montejaque | | | | | | VD |
| 9. Tajo de Ronda I | | | | | | D |
| 10. Tajo de Ronda II | | | | | | E |
| 11. Infantil de Benaoján | | | | | | VE |
| VD: Very Difficult D: Dif | fficult | E: 1 | Easy | VE: Very Easy | | ısy |

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Harness
 Zipper
 Helmet
 Gloves
 No sliding shoes
- Suitable clothes based on the season Water Mobile phone with a spare battery First-aid kit

TO FIND OUT MORE

Official website of *Diputación de Málaga* (the Provincial Council) with reliable information about all the Iron Ways in this province. http://www.malaga.es/es/turismo/naturaleza/ds-0/tp-59/



Check on Wikiloc for the Iron Way routes in the Serranía de Ronda available in different formats to free download.

http://es.wikiloc.com/rutas/viaferrata?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&a=viaferrata&q=serrania+de+ronda



VIDEOS

Great video outlining the highlights of the Iron Ways in the Serranía de Ronda, the most important Iron Way Park in Spain.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHvOsP-UZjYferratas/com1_md1_cd-157639/vias-ferratasserrania-ronda



SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.pangeacentral.com www.sierraventuraronda.es www.aventuraronda.com www.alandalusactiva.com

ATTENTION

✓ Do not use Iron Ways in the opposite direction. ✓ Keep the safe distance. ✓ Please, obey all warning signs. ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature. ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire. ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.





iron 1. Atajate

Municipality. Atajate Nearest town. Atajate

Coordinates. x: 299662 y: 4057370

Difficulty. Difficult **Itinerary.** 87 m

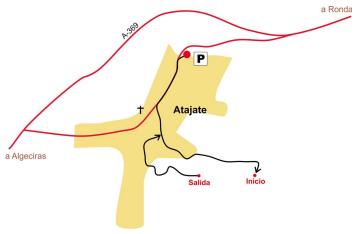
Slope. 40 m

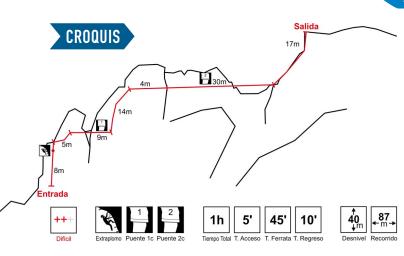


PHOTO. *AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA*

Estimated Return Time: 1 hour from the car park.

Access. You can access from the car park located in Atajate next to a huge sign referred to the grape must (*Mosto*), one of the most important cultural and economic activities in this municipality.





Brief review. This Iron Way is very accessible from the car park as well as very varied and entertaining as it boast a monkey bridge and a Tibetan bridge. The greatest difficulty is an overhang at the beginning of the route.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d =&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de +atajate





www.youtube.com/
watch?v=EWDsm2u4PuYVideos







RON 2. Benadalid

Municipality. Benadalid Nearest town. Benalauría

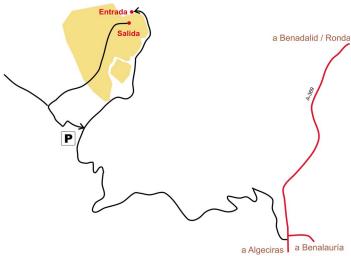
Coordinates. x: 296438 y: 4053060

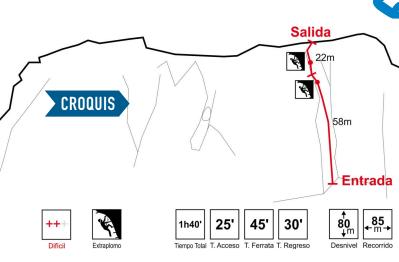
Difficulty. Difficult Itinerary. 85 m Slope. 80 m

Estimated Return Time: 1hour 40mins from the car park.

Access. On the crossroad between the road A-369 and the local road to Benalauría, you will see a path towards the mountain range. You can nearly arrive at the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría, where the route starts and it will lead you to the Iron Way which is under the wall.

The return will be along the marked path on the left side from the end of the Iron Way towards the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría.





Brief review. It consists of an aerial Iron Way where a good physical condition is required as you will find tough overhangs, especially for amateurs or climbers in poor physical shape. It is not recommended to anyone with severe fear of heights.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d =&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+benadalid



VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=cwYttTme-B8&list=UUET9u-B18fMZU-StKsOi7QQ







IRON 3. Benalauría

Municipality. Benadalid Nearest town. Benalauría

Coordinates. x: 296414 y: 4353005

Difficulty. Difficult **Itinerary.** 97 m **Slope.** 80 m

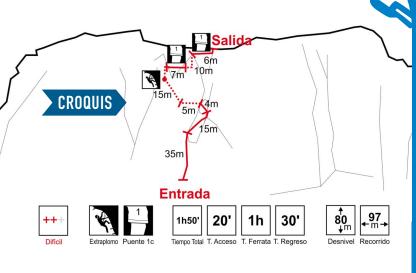
Tiempo total estim.: 1hour 50mins from the car park.

Access. On the crossroad between the road A-369 and the local road to Benalauría, you will see a path towards the mountain range. You can nearly arrive at the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría, where the route starts and it will lead you to the Iron Way which is under the wall.

The return will be along the marked path from the end of the Iron Way, on the left side, towards the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría.



4. IRON WAY: BENALAURÍA



Brief review. It is a very easy as well as technical Iron Way as you will need to tackle two monkey bridges. It is the favourite route for amateurs as it is a great combination of difficulty and easiness with astonishing views.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d=&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+benalaur%C3%ADa





www.youtube.com/watch?v=3txwbR1gkcU







ron <mark>4. Benaoján</mark>

Municipality. Benaoján

Nearest town. Montejaque

Coordinates. x: 299098 y: 4066122

Difficulty. Difficult **Itinerary.** 90 m **Slope.** 70 m

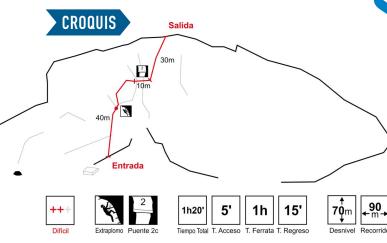
Estimated Return Time: 1 hour 20 mins from the car park.

Access. You can park your car rather on the left side of the road close to the village Estación de Benaoján or on the right side, just before the entrance to the town Benaoján if you are coming from Ronda. In any case, it will not walk further than 5-10mins to the beginning of the route. The road will be left behind after a small curve, where you will start with a small rock step which will lead you to the beginning of the Iron Way. The end of the Iron Way will be on the left side towards Benaoján leading to the same place where the car is parked.



En plena subida

4. IRON WAY: BENAOJÁN



Brief review. The Iron Way in Benaoján is the most ancient in the Serranía de Ronda, as it was the first iron way fixed in this area. It is a short but very demanding Iron Way due to a tough overhang located at the beginning of the route together with the Tibetan bridge. Apart from these two obstacles the route becomes quite accessible.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d= &lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+b enaoj%C3%A1n



VIDEO

www.youtube.com/ watch?v=61ZovM8Zpig&list=UUET9u-B18fMZU-StKsOi7QQ







ron 5. Castillo del Águila

Municipality. Gaucín Nearest town. Gaucín

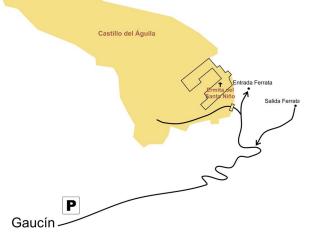
Coordinates. x: 293093 y: 4044915

Difficulty. Very difficult

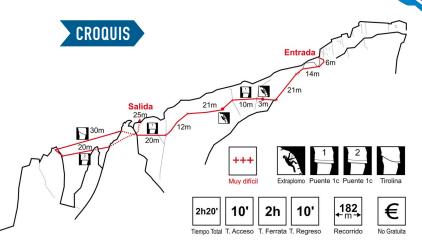
Itinerary. 182 m **Slope.** It is a practically horizontal route.

Estimated Return Time: 2h 20mins from the beginning of the Iron Way.

Access. You can leave your car in Gaucín, in the car park located close to the beginning of the route to the castle Castillo de Águila. You will need to walk along a beautiful cobbled path which weaves back and forth and which leads you to the door of the castle, exactly where the Iron Way starts. Once you have finished, you will need to walk up a bit until you find the castle path again, a few metres away from the entrance.



4. IRON WAY: Castillo del Águila



Brief review. This Iron Way is the most difficult one found in the Serranía de Ronda. It requires a very good physical condition and a high-end technical knowledge, as you will need to tackle a monkey bridge, two Tibetan bridges and a zip-line. You will enjoy excellent views to the valley Valle del Genal and to the Nature Reserve in Sierra Bermeja.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d= &lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+c astillo+del+gauc%C3%ADn



VIDEO

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC2wtMiUh_E







WAY 6. El Hacho

Municipality. Gaucín Nearest town. Gaucín

Coordinates. x: 280761 y: 4068206

Difficulty. Very difficult

Itinerary. 300m

Slope. 100m



Cable stairs. Miguel A. Mateos

Estimated Return Time: 3 hours 30 mins from the car park. **Access.** You can access from the road which links the village El Colmenar (Estación de Gaucín) to the road Ronda-Algeciras, approximately at the kilometre 2.5. In a curve to the right, you will find a path on the left side which will take you to a typical

a El Colmenar

Entrada Ferrata

Salida Ferrata

a Gaucín

MA-9300

Andalusian country house el Cortijo del Peso. Just before you arrive to this cortijo, you will come across another widen path on the right where you could park your car. You will walk along the marked path towards a forest house and then to the rock walls where the Iron Way starts.

The return will be along the left side towards the forest house and the car park.

Brief review. This Iron Way is quite difficult as a very good physical condition is required to tackle the two overhands as well as the cable stairs fixed in the middle of the Iron Way. Once you have achieved these stairs, you will reach the peak El Hacho with any difficulties.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d=& lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+del+Hac ho+de+gauc%C3%ADn



VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwZWVvc7rDQ







Nay 7. Montejaque

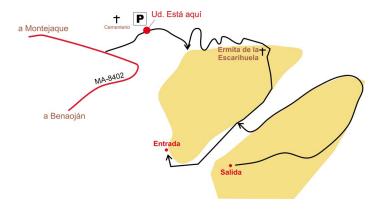
Municipality. Montejaque Nearest town. Montejaque

Coordinates. x: 299814 y: 4068206

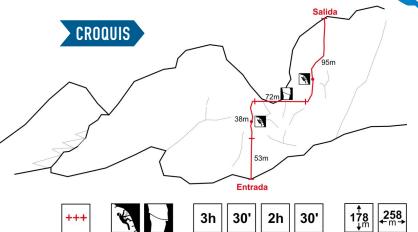
Difficulty. Very difficult Itinerary. 258 m Slope. 178 m

Estimated Return Time: 3hours from the car park.

Access. You can access from the car park located in cemetery of Montejaque, at the end of the town towards Benaoján. You will need to walk up along the cobbled path which leads to the chapel Ermita de la Escarihuela. Once you have arrived at the chapel, you will leave the main path and turn right looking among the rocks for another path. This new path will take you to a separation in the rock walls and after an abrupt descent, you will arrive at the beginning of the Iron Way.



4. IRON WAY: MONTEJAQUE



The return will be along the marked path on the left side towards a plain where then you will need to walk around, on the left side again, and finally you will arrive at the chapel and at the car park.

Brief review. The Iron Way El Hacho is considered as very difficult due to two tough overhands and, especially, to a spectacular zip-line stretched over 70 metres which links the two walls. It is not recommended to amateurs and it requires technical equipment to tackle the zip-line.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property, respect the path and the signs.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d =&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+ Montejaque



VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FZAbz yUMn8





^{IRON} <mark>8. Igualeja</mark>

Municipality. Igualeja Nearest town. Igualeja

Coordinates. x: 310784 y: 4056394

Difficulty. Difficult **Itinerary.** 94 m

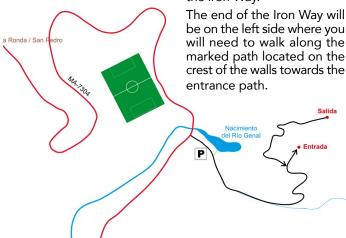
Slope. 28 m

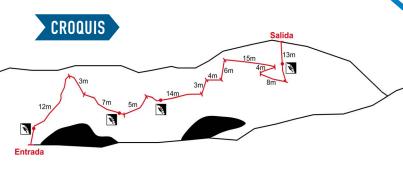


PHOTO. **AL-ANDALUS ACTIVA**

Estimated Return Time: 1 hour 30 mins from the car park. **Access.** You can park your car in the water spring Nacimiento de Igualeja, close to the entrance of the town. You will leave behind the water spring and go upriver along the path towards

the Iron Way.



















Brief review. The difficulty of this Iron Way is due to the two overhands and, especially, due to the route where some acrobatic moves are needed.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d =&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de +igualeja



VIDEO

igualejahttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v= IS3IVVaZriI







ron <mark>9. Tajo de Ronda I</mark>

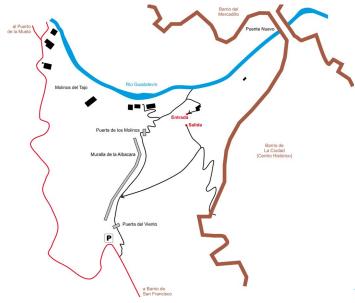
Municipality. Ronda Nearest town. Ronda

Coordinates. x: 306582 y: 4068377

Difficulty. Difficult **Itinerary.** 74 m **Slope.** 56 m

Estimated Return Time: 40mins from the beginning of the Iron Way.

Access. You can park your car in the cobbled path which descends to the ancient mills Molinos del Tajo from the neighbourhood el barrio de San Francisco in Ronda. Any side of the path close to the Arab wall's gate la Puerta del Viento is suitable to leave your car. Then you will have to walk through this gate and



along the wall Muralla de Albacara towards the gate Puerta de Cristo or also known as Puerta de los Molinos. You will need to go through this gate and walk down the narrow path in the direction of the Molinos. This path takes you close to the river Río Guadalevín. You will finally find a path on the right side which goes up towards the walls of the Iron Way.

The return will be found on the right side along the path which will lead you to the historic city centre of Ronda towards the Molinos and Puerta del Viento.

Brief review. In general, this is not a very technical Iron way. Nevertheless, a small but though overhand will be found in the first stretch and that is the reason why it is generally classified as difficult. Moreover, in the second stretch, a less tough overhand is also found.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d= &lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+ Tajo+de+Ronda



VIDEO

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4i6Z5Nposo &list=UUET9u-B18fMZU-StKsOi7QQ







iron 10. Tajo de Ronda II

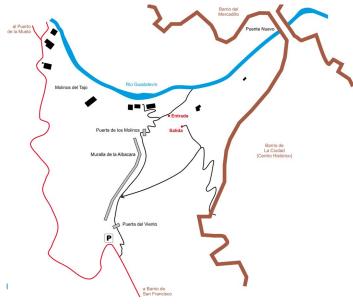
Municipality. Atajate Nearest town. Atajate

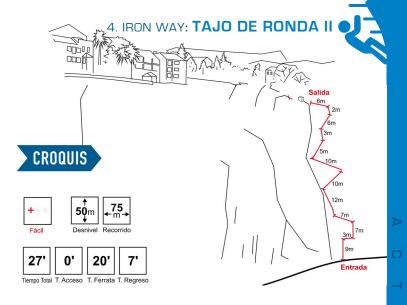
Coordinates. x: 306574 y: 4068371

Difficulty. Easy **Itinerary.** 75 m **Slope.** 50 m

Estimated Return Time: 27 mins from the beginning of the Iron Way.

Access. You can park your car in the cobbled path which descends to the ancient mills Molinos del Tajo from the neighbourhood el barrio de San Francisco in Ronda. Any side of the path close to the Arab wall's gate la Puerta del Viento is suitable to leave your car. Then you will have to walk through this gate and along the wall





Muralla de Albacara towards the gate Puerta de Cristo or also known as Puerta de los Molinos. You will need to go through this gate and walk down the narrow path in the direction of the Molinos to find the beginning of the Iron Way.

The return will be found on the right side along the path which will lead you to the historic city centre of Ronda towards the Molinos and Puerta del Viento.

Brief review. This is the second Iron Way located in this spectacular spot of Ronda. It is fixed in parallel to the Iron Way Tajo de Ronda I but this one does not have any major difficulty.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied.



TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d= &lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=va+ferrata+de+ Tajo+de+Ronda





iron 11. Benaoján (children's)

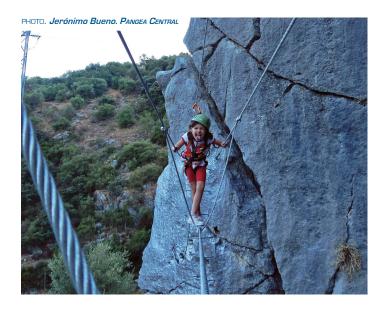
Municipality. Benaoján

Nearest town. Estación de Benaoján

Coordinates. x: 299662 y: 4057370

Difficulty. Very easy

Access. You can park in the road Ronda-Benaoján up to Estación de Benaoján Road, next to a fountain.





5. Climbing

limbing is a sport in which participants climb up or across craggy rock formation or rock walls using their hands and feet to ascend.

The most common type of climbing is **sport climbing**, a form of rock climbing that relies on permanent anchors and bolts fixed to the rock for safety. The rope is tied into the climber's harness in order to ascend the route and the loose end of it is handled by a belayer to protect him in the event of a fall.





In **traditional climbing**, the first climber attaches quickdraws to the most suitable bolts, and then clips the rope through the hanging end of the quickdraw, while the belayer 'belays' him holding the rope. It is then that the second climber starts to ascend through the route already set up by his fellow climber who belays him now from a safe point.

Nowadays, you can practise several Type of climbing such as bouldering, where climbers have to climb up boulders in a medium high without the use of security ropes or harnesses.

All Type of climbing require high technical knowledge, a good specialised equipment and very good physical and psychological condition to practise them.

The Serranía de Ronda's topography, where limestone with no vegetation is abundant, becomes a real paradise for those who love climbing, especially for those who practise sport climbing with different levels of difficulty rather than ascending big rock walls or summits. For this reason, there are hundreds of sport climbing routes, those routes with permanent anchors and bolts fixed to the rock for safety, ranging from easy to difficult.

Due to space limits, this guide only offers an information sheet of each climbing area with useful details such as the number of routes or the difficulty level. Further information about the climbing area can be found in the section To find out more!

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The companies engaged in active tourism offer all the necessary equipment and professional climbers to help you with all the basic techniques to ascend and descend.

| Climbing area | Position | No. of routes | Difficulty | |
|--|-----------|------------------|------------|--|
| 1. El Hondón | Southwest | 8 | 7° | |
| 2. Tajo del Abanico | Southeast | 12 | 6°-8° | |
| 3. Puerto del Viento | East | 65 | III-8° | |
| 4. Gran Atún | South | 30 | V-7° | |
| 5. El Hundidero | Various | 51 | 6°-8° | |
| 6. Las Banderas | East | 14 | IV-VI | |
| 7. Benaoján | Various | 72 | IV-7° | |
| 8. Peñón de Benadalid | East | 90 | IV-8ª | |
| 9. El Poyato de Benalauría | South | 12 | 6° | |
| 10. Gaucín. Castillo del Águila | Various | 24 | IV-7° | |
| 11. Igualeja | Southwest | 12 | 6°-7° | |
| Difficulty scale: (Easy) III IV V 6° 7° 8° (Extremely Difficult) | | | | |

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Harness • Helmet • Rock Climbing Footwear • Rock Climbing Ropes • Belayer • Descender • Wire Express • Locking carabiners • Suitable clothes based on the season
 Water • Mobile phone with a spare battery • First-aid kit

\cdot to find out more $\dot{}$

Link to the webpage zonasdeescalada. com where you could find out valuable information about the most important climbing areas in the province of Málaga.

http://www.zonasdeescalada.com/busqued aavanzadaescuelas?title=&field_comunidad_ciudad_tid=192&field_escuela_calidad_zona_tid=All&field_escuela_mejor_epoca_tid=All&field_tipos_de_escalada_tid=All&field_escuela_roca_tid=All&field_escuela_Access_con_ninyos_value=All



Link to the renowned blog *Sotoclimb* with useful information about the climbing routes in the Serranía de Ronda. You will find out photos and sketches of the different climbing areas.

http://www.sotoclimb.blogspot.com.es/search/label/Croquis%20Serran%C3%ADa%20de%20Ronda



SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.pangeacentral.com www.sierraventuraronda.es www.aventuraronda.com www.alandalusactiva.com





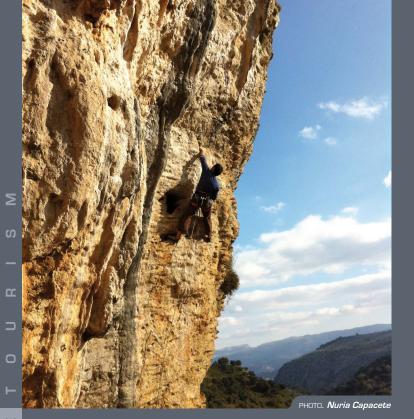
• ATTENTION

- ✓ You will need to avoid long sun exposure during sunny days.

 You can check the position of each area on the information sheets.
- ✓ Most of the climbing areas are in private properties, in many cases, containing livestock. Consequently, respect the fences and the property itself and remember to keep your dog on a short lead.
- ✓ Some areas have temporary restrictions due to the nesting period of some species. For further information you can ask the regional Department of the Environment of the Andalucian Regional Government about these periods.
- ✓ Please, obey all warning signs.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.







CLIMBING 1. El Hondón

Municipality. Ronda Nearest town. Ronda

Coordinates. x: 301069 y: 4072649

Direction. Southeast Sectors: Only one sector: El Hondón

Assessment of the route: Good.

Number of routes: 8 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing dominated by overhanging walls.

Recommended season: All seasons, except in winter when the walls are wet.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route | Route | Route | Route |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | grade 5° | grade 6° | grade 7° | grade 8° |
| - | - | - | 100 % | - |

C

Access. If you drive from Ronda, you will need to take the road A-374 towards Seville and after nearly 10 kilometres you will see a swimming area and a restaurant called El Hondón on the right side. You can park your car there. Next to the restaurant, you will find a path which will lead you to the climbing area after a five minutes' walk.

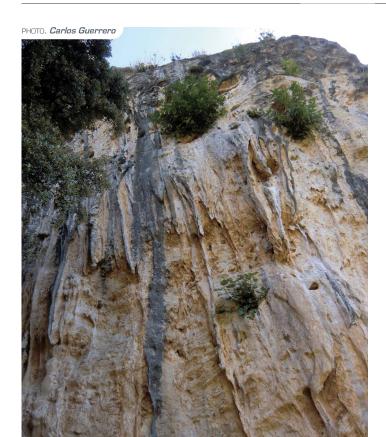
Brief review. This climbing area is highly recommended for those who love routes of 8°. The sector is dominated by overhanging walls with a good grip.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

TRACK

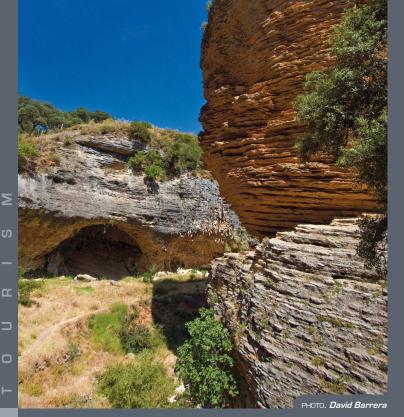
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CLIMBING 2. Tajo del Abanico

Municipality. Ronda Nearest town. Ronda

Coordinates. x: 304554 y: 4064941

Direction. Southeast. Area protected from the sun.

Sectors: Only one sector: Tajo del Abanico.

Assessment of the route: Good.

Number of routes: 12 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing. It is dominated by overhanging walls and arches.

Recommended season: All seasons. Be aware that the wall could be wet in winter.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route | Route | Route | Route |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | grade 5° | grade 6° | grade 7° | grade 8° |
| - | - | 8 % | 68 % | 24 % |



Access. If you come from Ronda, you will need to find the path towards the chapel Virgen de la Cabeza. Just at the beginning of the path, you will need to take the SL-40 from Ronda to Tajo del Abanico. You can drive your car until the end of the paved path. Then, you will need to walk along a path, sometimes cobbled, for about 15 minutes.

Brief review. This climbing area presents rough routes with 7° and 8° where it is normally practised speed climbing in arches.

Restrictions. There are no restrictions applied in the gorge Tajo del Abanico. Therefore, you can freely climb. It is recommended to park the car in the car park so you will not obstruct any private properties entrance.

TRACK

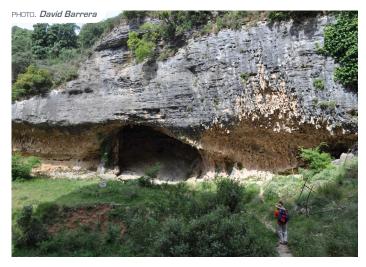
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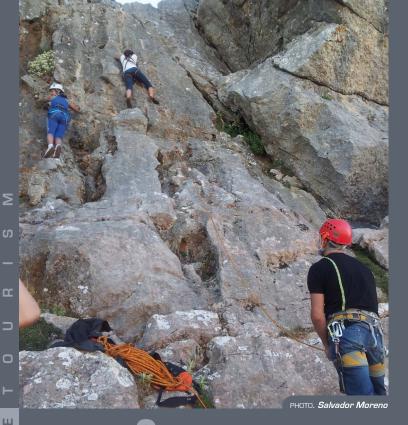




www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzjcdf51nJM







CLIMBING 3. Puerto del Viento

Municipality. Ronda Nearest town. Ronda

Coordinates. x: 317315 y: 4073591

Assessment of the route: Reasonably good for the oldest routes, good for the new ones. **Direction.** South and east

Number of routes: 65 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing with slabs, off-widths and overhanging walls. Traditional climbing can also be practised in a spectacular environment and with routes easy to belay. There are plenty of possibilities to practise bouldering as well.

Recommended season: All seasons, except during the hottest months in summer.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route grade 5° | Route grade 6° | Route grade 7° | Route grade 8° | Traditional climbing routes |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 % | 19 % | 28 % | 11 % | 2 % | 10 % |

5. CLIMBING: PUERTO del VIENTO

Sectors.

- 1. Diedro Rojo. 5 routes of V, 6° and 8°. Height: 40m.
- 2. Nido de Viboras. 3 routes of traditional climbing. Height: about 40m.
- 3. Placa Juana. 9 routes, most of them are 6°. Height: about 50m.
- 4. Espolón Falo. 5 routes, most of them are V. Height: about 35 to 50m.
- 5. Bulder. 4 routes of 6°. Height: less than 10m.
- 6. Vientos del Sur. 5 routes, most of them are 6°. Height: 35m.
- 7. Luna Llena. 2 routes of 6° and 7°. Height: 35m.
- 8. Cristal de Roca. 7 routes of III and IV. Height: less than 25m.
- 9. Puertecito. 3 different routes. Height: less than 20m.
- 10. Siddharta. 3 routes, most of them are 6°. Height: about 20m.
- 11. Gran Techo. 4 routes, most of them are 6°. Height: more than 60m.
- 12. Estrella Fugaz. 1 route of traditional climbing. Height: 50m.
- 13. Crespúsculo Rojo. 1 route of traditional climbing. Height: more than 70m.
- 14. El Centinela. 6 routes of 7° and one of 8°, Height: more than 20m.
- 15. Colmillo Blanco. 1 route of 6°. Height: 15m.
- 16. Espolón Santi. 3 routes, most of them are 6°. Height: more than 40m
- 17. El Hueso. 3 different routes. Height: 20m.

Access. If you are driving from Ronda, you will need to take the road A-366 towards the town El Burgos to arrive at the mountain pass Puerto del Viento, where you can park your car. You will then walk up along the path for about 15 minutes to reach the climbing area.

Brief review. This climbing area is the most traditional in the Serranía de Ronda. Different Type of climbing and routes with a wide range of grades are offered within the 17 sectors as some of the routes were set up in the 80's.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property. If you intend to set up new routes, it is important to notify it to the personnel of the climbing area so you do not destroy the already set up routes.

LINKS

http://www.manuelsuarez.org/INFOMONT/ resesescalada/Deportiva/Andalucia/ Puerto%20del%20Viento.pdf



http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=3034769







CLIMBING 4. Gran Atún

Municipality. Ronda Nearest town. Montejaque

Coordinates. x: 300644 y: 4070728

Direction. South Sectors: Only one sector: Gran Atún

Assessment of the route: Good.

Number of routes: 30 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing dominated by slabs and overhanging walls.

Recommended season: All seasons, except the hottest month in summer.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route | Route | Route | Route |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | grade 5° | grade 6° | grade 7° | grade 8° |
| 1 % | 10 % | 66 % | 17 % | 6 % |



Access. Once you have arrived in Montejaque, you will take the road MA-8403 towards the road Ronda-Seville. On the 3.5 kilometre, you will find a path which will lead you to the entrance of the cave Cueva del Hundidero and to a big esplanade where you could park your car. You can guess from there that the climbing area is located behind the crops. You will walk for about 5 minutes from the car park to reach the climbing area.

Brief review. It consists of a varied climbing area, dominated by slabs and edges and some overhanging walls. Most of the routes have a middle height, no more than 20 metres. It boasts very good 6°'s.

Restrictions. Although it is located in the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park, there are no restrictions applied.

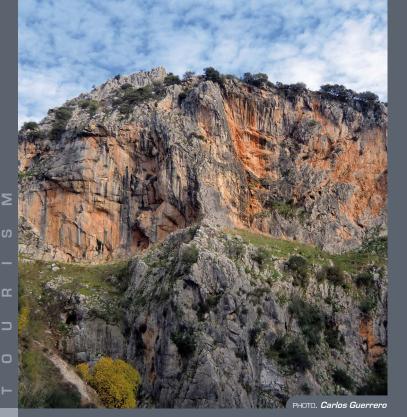
You will need to jump a fence, which protects the livestock. It is really clear the place where it must be done. You need to be respectful with the property and the cattle. Remember to keep your dog on a short lead.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=3008577







CLIMBING 5. EL Hundidero

Municipality. Montejaque Nearest town. Montejaque

Coordinates. x: 300495 y: 4070130

Direction. South, Southwest.

Assessment of the route: Good.

Number of routes: 51 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing dominated by slabs, overhanging walls, roofs and arches.

Recommended season: All seasons except the hottest months in summer.

Climbing grading system:

| Route | Route | Route | Route | Sin graduar |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| grade 5° | grade 6° | grade 7° | grade 8° | |
| - | 16 % | 30 % | 16 % | 38 % |

5. CLIMBING: EL HUNDIDERO

Sectors.

- Sector Placa Gris. 11 routes dominated by slabs and slightly overhanging walls. It boasts very good 6°'s.
- 2. Sector El Corral. 9 routes. It is a very rough area dominated by 8's. When this guide was written, there were nine new routes planned.
- 3. Sector Churril. 6 routes with a grade higher than 7b. Two more routes without grades also found. It is dominated by overhanging walls.
- **4.** Sector Bovedita. 7 routes dominated by arches and overhanging walls. There are two new routes planned with a grade of at least 7a.
- 5. Sector Buena Pal Piel. 13 routes dominated by 8's. The rest are rough routes of 7's with slabs and overhanging walls. One of the routes has two pitches long. Some of the routes have no grades.

Access. Once you have arrived in Montejaque, you will take the road MA-8403 towards the road Ronda-Seville. By the 3.5 kilometre, you will find big terrace where you could park your car. You will then walk down along a path which will lead you to the entrance of the cave Cueva del Hundidero until you could see the red walls on the left side. You will walk for about 5 minutes from the car park to reach the climbing area.

Brief review. It consists of a climbing area with five sectors which boast very good 7°'s. It is constantly changing and improving so the information on guides can be out-dated.

Restrictions. Although it is located in the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park, there are no restrictions applied.

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CLIMBING 6. Las Banderas

Municipality. Benaoján Nearest town. Benaoján

Coordinates. x: 299157 y: 4067188

Direction. East **Sectors:** Only one sector: Las Banderas **Assessment of the route:** Good.

Number of routes: 14 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing. It is dominated by slabs with a good grip.

Recommended season: All seasons, except during the hottest month in summer.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route | Route | Route | Route |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | grade 5° | grade 6° | grade 7° | grade 8° |
| 7 % | 29 % | 64 % | - | - |

Access. Once you have arrived in Benaoján, you will drive towards Montejaque. Immediately after Benaoján, approximately 100m after the crossroad of Cortes de la Frontera, you will find a wider part in the road where you could park your car. You will then cross the road and you will have arrived at the climbing area.

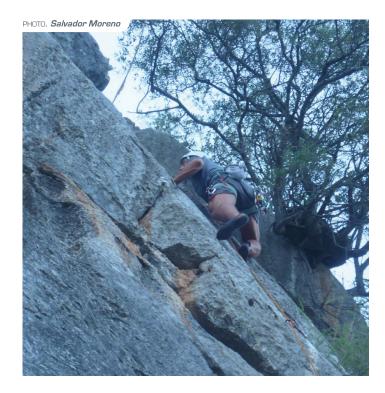
Brief review. This climbing area is located in Benaoján. It consists of a small but very comfortable sector, with easy routes available for all type of climbers.

Restrictions. Although it is located in the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park, there are no restrictions applied.

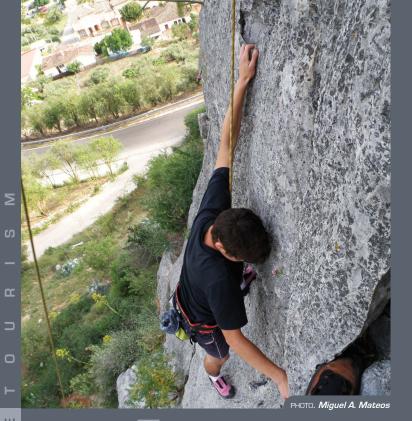
TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=3008883





GUIDE: ACTIVE TOURISM IN THE SERRANÍA DE RONDA



CLIMBING 7. Benaoján

Municipality. Benaoján

Nearest town. Benaoján y Estación de Benaoján

Coordinates. x: 299246 y: 4065704

Direction. South and southeast

Assessment of the route: Good.

Number of routes: 72 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing with slabs, overhanging walls

and roofs... a little bit of everything. **Recommended season:** All seasons.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route | Route | Route | Route |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | grade 5° | grade 6° | grade 7° | grade 8° |
| 13 % | 26 % | 45 % | 15 % | 1 % |



Sectors.

- 1. Cueva del Zuque. It is a tougher sector dominated by middle grades.
- 2. Las Banderas. It is ideal for amateurs and families and it is dominated by slabs of IV. Some short routes of 6° can also be found.
- **3.** Bóveda. This is the most difficult sector of this climbing area with routes of 7° and 8°, although this one is unconfirmed.
- 4. Cuevas de Pepe. Small sector with three technical routes of 6c and 7a.
- Norte. It is a sector dominated by routes of V° with big sections, ideal for amateurs.

Access. The road MA-8400 is next to the pitches. There is 5 minutes from the car park to the climbing area.

Brief review. It consists of a varied climbing area, with pitches dominated by hard slabs and overhanging walls and other ideal pitches for amateurs and families. It offers walls in different angles, arches, overhanging walls...

Restrictions. Climbing is permitted during the whole year. If you intend to set up new routes, it is important to notify it to personnel in the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park.

LINKS

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/imgServer.do?id=1264455



http://www.manuelsuarez.org/INFOMONT/ resesescalada/Deportiva/Andalucia/ Benaojan.pdf







CLIMBING **8.** Peñón de Benadalid

Municipality. Benadalid Nearest town. Benalauría

Coordinates. x: 296355 y: 4052391

Direction. East. Assessment of the route: Good.

Number of routes: 90 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Bouldering, sport climbing, half trad climbing and traditional climbing. Routes normally have between one to three pitches long. It is dominated by vertical walls and slabs with off-widths. It is an ideal climbing area for amateurs in traditional climbing.

Recommended season: All seasons. The most recommended one are spring and autumn.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route grade 5° | Route grade 6° | Route grade 7° | Route grade 8° | Vías de Clásica |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 3 % | 10 % | 45 % | 14 % | 3 % | 25 % |

5. CLIMBING: PEÑÓN de BENADALID

Sectors.

- 1. Electrobuggy. 2 routes. Sport climbing.
- 2. Diente. 12 routes. Sport climbing, except one of traditional climbing.
- 3. Placas Este. 7 routes. Sport climbing.
- 4. Diedro Cruzcampo. 5 routes. Sport climbing. 1 Iron Way.
- 5. Placas Centrales. 8-9 routes. Traditional climbing.
- 6. Torreón y Aguja Tarifa. 7 routes. Sport and traditional climbing. 1 Iron Way.
- 7. Aguja hiedra. 4 routes. Sport climbing.
- 8. La Raja. 3 routes. Sport climbing.
- 9. Placas del Circo. 8-9 routes. Sport climbing.
- 10. Espolón Fabiola. 5 routes. Sport and traditional climbing.
- Pared Oeste. 24 routes. Sport climbing, half trad climbing and traditional climbing.

Access. On the crossroad between the road A-369 and the local road to Benalauría, you will see a path towards the mountain range. You can nearly arrive at the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría, where you will see a path. You will need to walk for 5 minutes along this path, which is under the walls, to reach the climbing area.

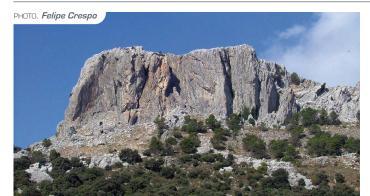
Brief review. This climbing area consists of eleven well differentiated sectors, some larger than others. Good quality and grippy limestone with a medium to hard hardness dominates in this area. You can practise sport climbing and, especially, traditional climbing and half trad climbing. The routes vary in distances; the climbs are between 10m with three pitches long and 100m in distance, and in difficulty grades; there are routes suitable for amateurs and routes of 8°. This climbing area is constantly changing, so the information in guides can be out-dated.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property. If you intend to set up new routes, it is important to notify it to personnel of the climbing area so you don't destroy the already set up routes.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=3008588



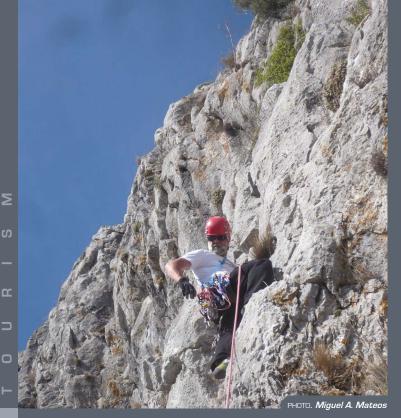


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CLIMBING **9.** Poyato de **Benalauría**

Municipality. Benalauría Nearest town. Benalauría

Coordinates. x: 296275 y: 4052455

Direction. South and southeast **Sectors:** Only one sector: Poyato

Assessment of the route: Good.

Number of routes: 12 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing. It is dominated by slabs.

Recommended season: All seasons, except during the hottest month in summer.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route | Route | Route | Route |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | grade 5° | grade 6° | grade 7° | grade 8° |
| - | - | 100 % | - | - |

Access. On the crossroad between the road A-369 and the local road to Benalauría, you will see a path towards the mountain range. You can nearly arrive at the mountain pass Puerto de Benalauría, where you will see a path. You will need to walk for 5 minutes along this path, which is under the walls, to arrive at the climbing area.

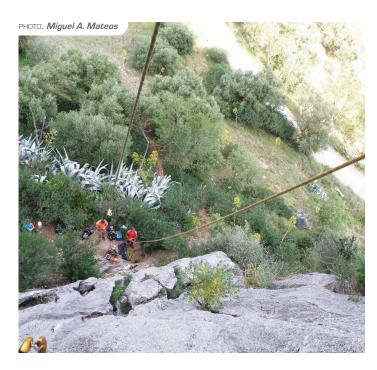
Brief review. It consists of a climbing area with a few sport routes set up in the 90's. The climb is dominated by slabs, some off-widths and slightly overhanging walls. A single-pitch trad route is found.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.

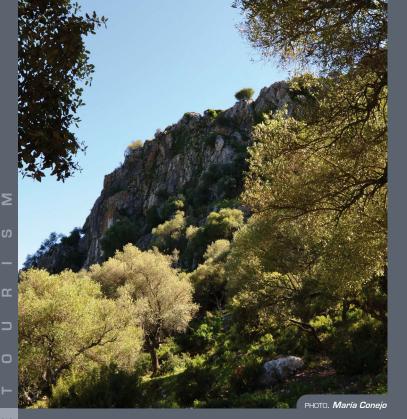
LINKS

http://sotoclimb.blogspot.com





GUIDE: ACTIVE TOURISM IN THE SERRANÍA DE RONDA



CLIMBING 10. Castillo del Águila

Municipality. Gaucín Nearest town. Gaucín

Coordinates. x: 293148 y: 4043942

Direction. East **Sectors:** Only one sector: Gaucín

Assessment of the route: Good.

Number of routes: 24 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing dominated by slabs and some isolated overhanging walls.

Recommended season: All seasons.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route | Route | Route | Route |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | grade 5° | grade 6° | grade 7° | grade 8° |
| 16 % | 21 % | 50 % | 13 % | - |

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Access. Once you arrive in the town Gaucín, you will need to find the signs towards the castle Castillo del Águila, where you could park your car. After parking the car, you will walk for about ten minutes along the returning path of the Iron Way, which will lead you to the climbing area.

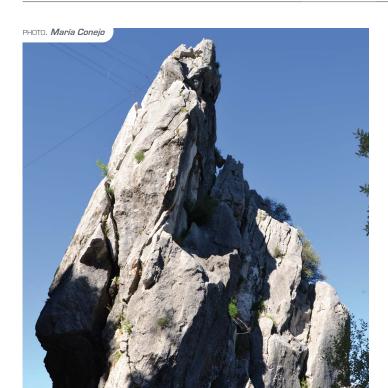
Brief review. This climbing area boasts a spectacular mountainous environment, even if Gaucín is really close, perfect for a superb climbing. Thanks to its direction, it is really nice to climb even in hot days. Limestone with a good grip is found. A great range of grades are offered with a domination of slabs and spires.

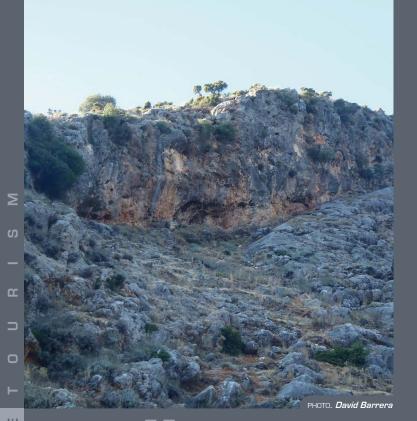
Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, as the Iron Way in this area has no restrictions applied, the climbing area should be the same.

TRACK

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=3031582







climbing 11. Igualeja

Municipality. Igualeja

Nearest town. Igualeja

Coordinates. x: 311471 y: 4058406

Direction. South Sectors: Only one sector: Igualeja

Assessment of the route: Good.

Number of routes: 12 routes when this guide was written.

Type of climbing: Sport climbing. It is dominated by slabs.

Recommended season: It is not recommended in summer.

Climbing grading system:

| Up to 5° | Route grade 5° | Route grade 6° | Route grade 7° | Sin graduar |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| - | - | 33 % | 33 % | 34 % |

C

Access. This climbing area is located next to the road MA-7304 towards the town Igualeja. You can park your car in a wider part of the road just after a pronounced curve on the right, two kilometres away from the crossroad of the road Ronda-San Pedro. From that curve, you will need to walk up along a gentle slope and in less than five minutes you will arrive at the climbing area.

Brief review. This is a small climbing area but that it is constantly growing. Therefore, the guides may present out-dated information. It is dominated by routes of 7° with slabs and edges.

Restrictions. No restrictions are applied, although it is necessary to be aware that it is a private property.



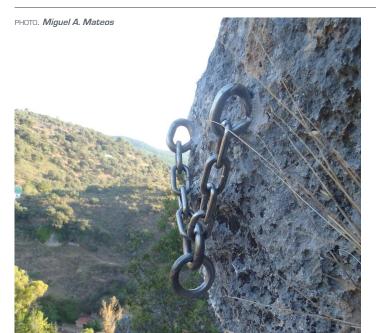
http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=3008892





https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=jYQAnAFHwbY





6. Canyoing

anyoing consists of travelling through a river bed in a rugged area using a variety of techniques of other sports such as hiking, swimming and caving.

High water flow, hypothermia, difficult obstacles and steep descents, where abseiling is required, might entail a significant risk and it is probably one of the most hazardous sport you can practise in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, appropriate equipment and a weather check for rainfall ensuring it is not a heavy rain period are a must and it is also recommended to practise it in groups.





Thanks to a land with steep descents, you can enjoy superb canyons. The water produces a characteristic erosion in river beds, carving deep canyons or gorges with a round shape.

All necessary conditions for excellent canyons are gathered in the Serranía de Ronda and the most well-known is El Cañón de las Buitreras (Vulture's canyon), considered as Andalusia's Natural Monument by the Regional Government of Andalusia.

The canyons that you can enjoy in the Serranía de Ronda are the following. For further information about them, see the corresponding information sheet.

- 1. Cañón de las Buitreras
- 2. Tajo de Ronda
- 3. Sima del Diablo
- 4. Arroyo Majales
- 5. Garganta Verde
- 6. Río Grande o Zarzalones

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Wetsuit Neoprene socks and gloves Special harness
- Lanyard and locking carabiners
 Descender
 Helmet
- Static rope Torch/ Headlamp First-aid kid Mobile phone Waterproof container Food Water

BOOKS

Sierra de las Nieves: simas, cuevas y barrancos.
 Manuel J. Guerrero Sánchez. Editorial La Serranía 2004.



Link to the complete guide *Guía Rebufos*, with technical information of the canyons in the Serranía de Ronda.

http://es.scribd.com/doc/118231491/Guia-Rebufos-2011



Link to the webpage actionman4x4.com, specialised in some extreme sports. Have a look at the information sheets of the canyons in the Serranía de Ronda.

http://www.actionman4x4.com/canones ybarrancos/canonesybarrancos.htm



Barranquismo.net is a useful browser for canyons. You will find out most of the canyons in the province of Málaga.

http://www.barranquismo.net/BD/buscador.php?buscando=
M%C1LAGA.%20ESPA%D1A



Spanish Facebook group for canyoners called Descenso de Barrancos. They will help you out with all your doubts. https://www.facebook.com/groups/

168769827431/



SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.pangeacentral.com www.sierraventuraronda.es www.aventuraronda.com www.alandalusactiva.com

ATTENTION

- ✓ Remember that water levels can rise quickly and violently in canyons. Check on the most up-to-date information before practising this sport.
- ✓ When planning the canyon, it is important to consider the experience of the participants and the overall group to calculate the estimated time.
- ✓ Relying on local companies will guarantee thrilling experiences.
- ✓ Please, respect the signs.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock. ■



canyon I. Arroyo Majales

Municipality. Júzcar

Coordinates. x: 305578 y: 4056312

Estimated time: About 2 hours.

Longest abseil. 12 metres long

Itinerary: Approx. 2,000 metres long with a descent of 160 metres.

Transport link. A transport link is not necessary. You can park your car at the end of the canyon.

Recommended season. The canyon is quite dry except in the rainy season.

Regulations: No regulations applied.

Nearest town. Júzcar

Number of abseils: 6.



6. CANYOING: Arroyo MAJALES



Brief review. It is considered ideal for amateurs as it is a very interesting, easy and opened canyon, which allows you to leave at any time. It also boasts outstanding views and a great variety of abseils. A long wetsuit is not necessary in hot season although wetsuit trousers should be worn.

LINKS

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d= &lfr=<o=&src=&act=&g=Majales



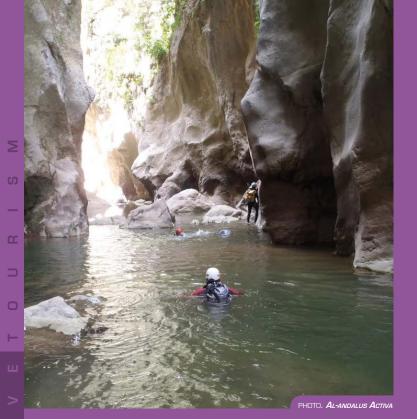
http://www.barranquismo.net/paginas/barrancos/barranco_de_majales.htm



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= OlqmQ1MoJKU







CANYON 2. Cañón de las Buitreras

Municipality. Cortes de la Frontera **Nearest town.** El Colmenar **Coordinates.** x: 287921 y: 4048880 (Estación de Gaucín)

Estimated time: About 5 hours.

Longest abseil. 10 metres long

Itinerary: Approx. 1,600 metres long with a descent of 80 metres.

Transport link. It is not completely necessary a transport link although you can drive your car and park it in the electricity power station. You will then walk less than five kilometres along the path GR-141 towards the bridge Puente de los Alemanes.

Recommended season. Summer and autumn before the rainy season.

Number of abseils: 4.



6. CANYOING: Cañón de las BUITRERAS



Regulations: It is important to obtain the previous permission from the Andalucian Department of the Environment. It is being discussed to turn it into a public canyon but it is not confirmed yet. Regardless of what it is written in many other guides, it is completely forbidden, under severe penalty, to walk along the railway.

Brief review. It is doubtless the most important canyon in this area and it clearly stands out in Andalusia. It is a long distance watercourse canyon with narrow stretches and some siphons. It will be a unique experience if the water level is the appropriate but if it rises it could become extremely hazardous. A long wetsuit is required even in summer.

LINKS

http://es.scribd.com/doc/118231491/Guia-Rebufos-2011



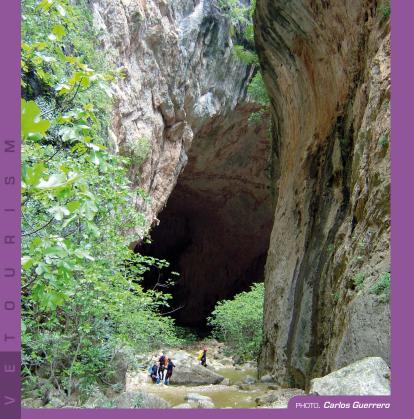
http://www.actionman4x4.com/canonesybarrancos/Itinerarys/guadiaro1.htm



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= CyhxwFMJ13E







CANYON 3. Garganta Verde

Municipality. Zahara de la Sierra (province of Cadiz)

Nearest town. Zahara de la Sierra

Coordinates. x: 285621 y: 4076902

Number of abseils: 5.

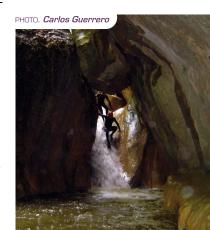
Longest abseil. 10 metres

Itinerary: Approx. 2,500 metres long with a descent of 180 metres.

Transport link. A transport link is necessary.

Recommended season. During all seasons it is accessible, but especially after the rainy season.

Estimated time: About 4 relaxed hours.





Regulations: It is important to obtain the previous permission from the Andalucian Department of the Environment.

Brief review. This canyon is the most popular one in Cadiz. It is mainly based on a watercourse, although it depends on the water level. You will find short and easy abseils and a largely easy course which becomes ideal for amateurs. Be aware that the first stretch is normally dry.

LINKS

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?q=garganta+verde+cadiz



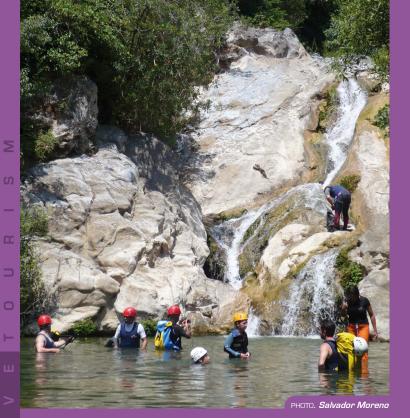
http://www.barranquismo.net/BD/buscador.php?buscando=C%C1DIZ.%20ESPA%D1A



http://www.actionman4x4.com/ canonesybarrancos/Itinerarys/garganta_ verde.htm







CANYON 4. Zarzalones Inferior

Municipality. Yunquera

Coordinates. x: 327639 y: 4065696

Estimated time: About 3 hours.

Number of abseils: 3.

Longest abseil. 27 metres, although it can be avoided if you walk along the handrail.

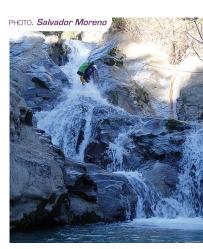
Itinerary: Approx. 1,000 metres long with a descent of 50 metres.

Transport link. A transport link is not necessary.

Recommended season. All seasons.

Regulations: No existe Regulations.

Nearest town. Yunquera





Brief review. This canyon is ideal for amateurs. It keeps a constant water level during the whole year thanks to an upwelling placed some metres above the end. You will enjoy a great range of abseils, slides, narrow stretches, jumps... A long wetsuit is required even in summer.

LINKS

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?q=zarzalones



http://faecanyon.blogspot.com.es/2013/04/topografia-de-zarzalones.html



http://www.barranquismo.net/paginas/barrancos1/barranco_zarzalones.htm



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bUCbKED9rY







CANYON 5. Sima del Diablo

Municipality. Júzcar

Nearest town. Júzcar

Coordinates. x: 305877 y: 4055000

Estimated time: From 2-3 hours including the last stretch along

the river Río Genal.

Number of abseils: 3.

Longest abseil. 10 metres.

Itinerary: Approx. 1,500 metres.

Transport link. A transport link is necessary otherwise you will need to walk uphill for 30 minutes.

Recommended season. All seasons except when water level rises after a downpour.

Regulations: Any regulations applied.



6. CANYOING: Sima del DIABLO



Brief review. It is one of the most popular canyons in the Serranía de Ronda as it keeps the water level more or less constant along the whole year. It is ideal for amateurs due to the water level as well as great range of slides, abseils, jumps and lowers. A long wetsuit is not required in hot season.

LINKS

http://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/find.do?t=&d =&lfr=<o=&src=&act=&q=sima+del+diablo



http://es.scribd.com/doc/118231491/Guia-Rebufos-2011



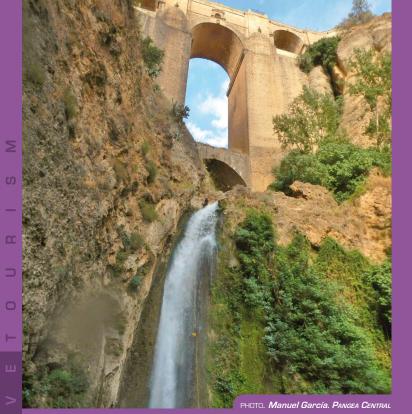
http://www.actionman4x4.com/ canonesybarrancos/ltinerarys/sima_del_ diablo.htm



https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=c7qkegvfal8







canyon **6.** Tajo de **Ronda**

Municipality. Ronda

Coordinates. x: 307007 y: 4068327

Estimated time: About 2 hours.

Longest abseil. 35 metres long.

Itinerary: Approx. 600 metres long.

Transport link. It is not completely necessary a transport link. You could get by car to the ancient mill Molinos del Tajo and you will need to walk from there to the canyon (20 mins).

Recommended season. All seasons depending on the water level

Regulations: Any regulations applied.

Nearest town. Ronda

Number of abseils: 2.



6. CANYOING: Tajo de RONDA



Brief review. This is a short distance canyon which is located in an astonishing and unique spot, the gorge Tajo de Ronda, in the city centre. The first abseil is exceptional as it is found just under the bridge Puente Nuevo.

It consists of an entertaining descent with two main abseils which could become risky when water level rises. It is not necessary to wear long wetsuit in summer although thermal clothing is required.

LINKS

http://es.scribd.com/doc/118231491/Guia-Rebufos-2011



http://sulayraventura.blogspot.com. es/2009/09/barranco-del-tajo-de-rondanocturna.html



https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=STmFbvrlpC0





Caving

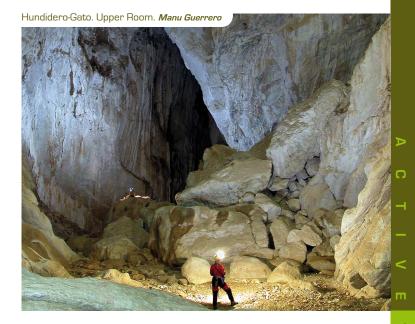
Ithough exploring wild cave systems started as a scientific study in a cross-disciplinary field combining the knowledge of geology, zoology, botany and archaeology, it soon became popular as a sport due to the challenges and inner beauty involved in caving.

In the Serranía de Ronda you will discover and enjoy an amazing underground world. The development along millions of years of one of the most spectacular landscape, the karst landscapes, is mainly due to the characteristic erosion



Manuel García. PANGEA CENTRAL

caused by the atmospheric agents combined with the dissolution of the limestone in the Serranía. Some of the most important karst formations are the underground caves where the water flows abundantly along the mountain ranges. A breathless landscape with lunar features is carved in the summits, becoming a real paradise for climbers and cavers. It is important to make a difference between the different types of caving as if the hole in the earth's surface is more vertical than horizontal you will be practising potholing rather than caving.



Most of the caves in the region are forbidden for amateurs as they are extremely dangerous. One of the most popular and deepest pothole in the world is Sima GESM (Gesm-Sima de la Luz) with more than 1000m depth. You will have the possibility of discovering it with the help of expert instructors who will provide you with a professional assistant and the required equipment.

However, if you have a good physical condition, the superb 4000m Hundidero-Gato through trip is a must. It is important to obtain the previous permission from the regional Department of the Environment. Other extraordinary caves are Cueva de las Excéntricas, Cueva del Susto, Cueva del Gato, Cueva de la Fuensanta or Cueva de la Limosna.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Wetsuit Special harness for caving Helmet Static rope
- Torch/ headlamp First-aid kit Waterproof container •
 Food Water Change of clothes

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TO FIND OUT MORE

Link to the interesting and complete website Espeleoclub Pasos Largos, where you could check out all type of information about caves and potholes in the Serranía de Ronda.



www.espeleoclubpasoslargos.com

- Centro de Interpretación de la Espeleología. Avenida Andalucía. Montejaque. Tels. 952 167551-952 167196.
- Mirador del Karst (Camino del Mirador, from Plaza de la Constitución, Montejaque).

BOOKS

 Sierra de las Nieves. Cuevas, Simas y Barrancos. Manuel J. Guerrero Sánchez. Editorial La Serranía, 2004.

VIDEOS

Promo video of Centro de Interpretación de la Espeleología de Montejaque (the Caving Interpretation Centre in Montejaque). An entertaining and interesting approach to the underground world in the Serranía de Ronda. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=



UVWOYFx9pEs



7.CAVING



Mirador del Karst (Karst viewpoint) is located in the the highest part of Montejaque. You can enjoy amazing views from Montejaque and the karst landscape.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= QEBlty5JemE



Superb video of the pothole Sima Gesm-Sima de la Luz, one of the deepest pothole in the world.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= w3A2N58GfB8



The cave Cueva del Hundidero-Cueva del Gato is the most spectacular accessible cave in the Serranía de Ronda.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= aRoeCqVvqqk



SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.pangeacentral.com www.sierraventuraronda.es www.aventuraronda.com www.alandalusactiva.com

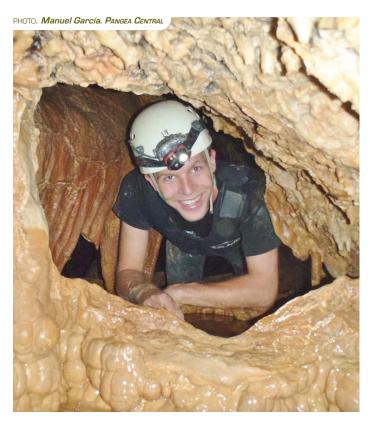


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ATTENTION

- ✓ Double check the weather forecast before caving.
- ✓ Never cave alone, without considerable technical knowledge or suitable equipment.
- ✓ Please, obey all warning signs.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.





Section 20. Canoeing

anoeing is a water sport which is practised with a lightweight boat, like rafts, canoes, kayaks... As many other sports, other sub-varieties are classed according to water conditions and required equipment.

Sprint Canoeing takes place on straight courses with calm waters such as lakes, reservoirs and steady rivers. From the tourism and leisure perspective, it can be described as a peaceful travel on board a boat.

White water Canoeing requires higher technical skills and experience to carry it out as you will paddle along challenging moving waters with rapids and ripples. It typically takes place in rivers but it can be also practised in artificial white water canoeing courses.

The Serranía de Ronda offers a wonderful variety of waters to choose from placid waters in the Zahara Reservoir (Pantano de Zahara) to challenging white water descents in the Guadiaro River when the river level rises.





Trip along the Zahara Reservoir. Manuel García. PANGEA CENTRAL

ZAHARA RESERVOIR

Zahara reservoir is located in Zahara de la Sierra and it stores water from the Guadalete River, which is sourced in the mountain range Sierra de Grazalema. This large reservoir is shared between the towns of El Gastor and Montecorto and its size is ideal to go around exploring the banks during a quiet day with the family or to use it for canoe sprint training.

GUADIARO RIVER

Guadiaro River is formed by two major tributaries, the Guadalcobacín River, which flows across the town of Arriate, and Guadalevín River, the river of Ronda. It is in the village La Indiana where they meet forming Guadiaro River which discharges into the Mediterranean Sea at the level of Sotogrande (in the province of Cadiz).



8. CANOEING



Thanks to the significant rainwater volume, Serranía de Ronda boasts navigable rivers with calm waters in small reservoirs or with white waters, especially during rainy periods. In summertime, it becomes perfect for short walks along well-preserved woods. The descent conditions can vary according to the rainfalls. Nevertheless, two main stretches can be distinguished:

Estación de Benaoján-Estación de Jimera

Guadiaro River has two main sources: Guadare River which after pouring the water out of the cave Cueva del Gato meets Guadiaro River in the village Estación de Benaoján and the water from the spring Nacimiento de los Cascajales which meets the Guadiaro a few metres away from this town. This guarantees enough water to practise canoeing during the whole year.

You will begin in a small reservoir in the village Estación de Benaoján called Charco de la Barranca. From here on, rapids, obstacles and narrow stretches of the river always covered with exuberant vegetation will come up in your descent towards the Canoeing Centre, Vagones de Jimera.





Estación de Jimera-Estación de Cortes

The second stretch leads us from the mooring in the village Estación de Jimera to the village Estación de Cortes (also called Cañada del Real Tesoro). It is an opener stretch with rapids where risky backwaters are frequent. You will need to avoid them walking along the bank or jumping them off depending on water level and your experience.

The Canoeing Centre. Vagones de Jimera is a water sports centre located close to the Railway Station in Jimera de Líbar. It consists of three old wooden train coaches, refurbished and restored as a tourism information office about the Guadiaro River, as changing rooms and as a boat storehouse.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Boat Oars Life vest Suitable clothes Sun cream
- Cap First-aid kit Water and food Mobile phone
- Dry change of clothes

TO FIND OUT MORE

Link to the webpage *embalses.net* which offers a wide range of technical information in real time of the reservoir in Zahara-El Gastor.



http://www.embalses.net/pantano-463-zahara-elgastor.html



A small sample of the Nautical Jimera Líbar. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= B8MtQjALWFI



SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.pangeacentral.com www.sierraventuraronda.es www.aventuraronda.com

ATTENTION

- ✓ Keep in mind that water levels affect noticeably this sport.
- ✓ It is highly recommended to rely on local companies for these types of sports, thus you enjoy a safely descent.
- ✓ Please, obey all warning signs.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.





Horse-riding

orse-riding is referred to the ancient sport of riding and driving a horse. For this purpose, it is needed an extensive and suitable area; exactly what the Serranía de Ronda offers. It boasts a network of trails marked with different categories: local trails, short-distance trails and long-distance trails (see *Hiking* section).

In most of them, horse-riding is permitted for those amateurs with their trained horses and necessary equipment. Nevertheless, there are plenty of people who enjoy the extraordinary experience of riding a horse without a saddle or technical equipment thanks to the riding schools in the Serranía de Ronda which offer a tailored choice of courses for riders of every level as well as ride outs with experts.





REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- HelmetLong trousersWater
- Boots or, at least, close-toed shoes

SPECIALISED COMPANIES

Ronda Dressage • Info@rondadressage.com • Tel. 607 702 621 www.reservatauro.com www.sierraventuraronda.es www.haciendapuertodelasmuelas.com





ATTENTION

- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.





400. Gliding flight

njoying the landscape from a stunning bird's-eye view when you go paragliding, hang gliding or hot air ballooning is one of the most amazing sensation you can experience. However, technical skills, expensive equipment and adequate take-off and landing sites are required to practice these sports.

In the west end of the Serranía de Ronda, in the mountain range Sierra de Líjar (especially in the town of Algodonales and on the plateau of Acinipo), a perfect wind blows providing the ideal scenario to practice them. In fact, most of the regional offer is largely concentrated within this area, which is actually one of the most important flying sites in Spain.

If you take the plunge, it is probably recommended to start with a tandem paragliding flight with a professional pilot to enjoy soaring above the trees. There is also a great offer of all level courses to learn the techniques of paragliding or you are always invited to see the organized competitions. If you are thinking of learning to paraglide, you need to be aware





that self-training and away from the flying sites increase the chances of getting injured.

Qualified paragliding pilots with their own equipment can freely use the take-off and landing sites from the towns of Algodonales, Cañete la Real, Teba and El Bosque.

On the other hand, if you prefer a more peaceful activity, you should try hot air balloon rides relying on the wind direction. Taking the best aerial photographs of the city of Ronda and enjoying a spectacular panoramic view is only possible form the basket of the balloon. It is a memorable experience highly recommended for all ages and fantastic to share with friends and family.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Comfortable clothes and close-toed shoes.
- Warm clothing (according to the weather forecast).
- Camera.
- More technical equipment is provided by the company.

SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.discovery-8.com www.zero-gravity.es www.horizonaventura.com www.al-qutun.com www.gloventosur.com www.lijarsur.com m

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Reference webpage for any type of gliding flight in Andalusia. Check out all the flying sites and technical sheets for the taking-off sites. http://www.andalucia.org/es/turismo-y-deporte/deportes/vuelo-libre/#en-el-aire



Link to an interactive map in the webpage Paraglidingmap.com to find out more about the flying sites with a live weather forecast. http://www.paraglidingmap.com



Interactive maps of the winds and flying sites in Spain.

http://www.windfinder.com/weather-maps/spots/spain#7/36.897/-5.427



VIDEOS

A picture paints a thousand words. Illustrative video about a paragliding course for beginners offered by the specialised company Zero-Gravity.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= NJYEbX_8c_w

The specialised company *Lijar-Sur* offers tailored-made courses to learn the techniques of paragliding and powered flights. Have a look at this video about one of their courses! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqGTDv7m8Zk



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241 211. Orienteering

rienteering is an outdoor sport in which participants are only given a topographical map and a compass and need to find some control points. Orienteering races are organized regularly and competitors need to navigate from arranged point to point moving at speed. Despite these races are part of organized leagues such as Liga Andaluza, Liga Española or Circuito Provincial de Málaga, anyone is eligible to participate in any of them.

These races require a specially prepared orienteering map with extra details to help the competitor to navigate through the competition area and to find the control points. You can check the event calendar on this webpage www.clubcoma.org to find out more information about the scheduled races in the province of Malaga.





Permanent orienteering courses which have permanent control points are set up to practise this sport without having to wait for an organized event. There are two permanent courses in project. One in the pine wood in Montecorto and the second in Jimera de Líbar. More information about the maps can be found in the Town Hall.

It is an ideal sport to practise with the family, without the pressure of the competition, as you will develop the orienteering and map-reading skills, basic knowledge to practise safely any other outdoor activity. Furthermore, this is a golden opportunity to interact with nature.

Technical maps are currently available to practise orienteering in the open woodland called Dehesa del Mercadillo (Ronda) and in the villages of Montecorto, Arriate, Jimera de Líbar, Cortes de la Frontera, El Colmenar (Cortes de la Frontera), Genalguacil y Benarrabá.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- CompassFirst-aid kit
- WaterMobile phone
- Orienteering map
- Clothes based on the season of the year.

SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.clubcoma.org www.fedo.org J

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11.ORIENTEERING

VIDEOS

Video called La Orientación en la Educación (Learning in orienteering) from the Federación Española de Orientación (Spanish Orienteering Association) with an interesting educational approach to this sport.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifLev2-xHqs

Video about the orienteering race called Bandoraid 3.0, the Spanish Championship of adventure sports (Campeonato de España de Raids de Aventura) held in the Serranía de Ronda since 2012.





ATTENTION

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- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
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12. Geocaching

eocaching is an outdoor activity in which participants use puzzle-solving clues or GPS coordinates to hunt caches hidden in unexpected places.

You will need to create an account, where username, password and email address are required, on this webpage www.geocaching.com to experience the exciting treasure hunting adventure. Once you have joined in, you can browse all the cache listings with the localization and difficulty level.

Caches are containers, with different shapes and sizes, where you can find a paper and a pencil to enter your username and, generally, they contain small trinkets for trading.





When you return the cache to the same coordinates, you need to record your find online. Finally, it is the time to look for a new cache with the help of the world geocache map available on the website.

As it is a unique adventure, it is an ideal activity for families and it is also a new way of discovering places.

Nowadays, there are more than eighty caches hidden in the Serranía de Ronda and the number is increasing every day. On the webpage you can find their coordinates and, if you are inspired to create your own cache, it is very easy and fun.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Smartphone with GPS and any GPS App (or the specific App for Geocaching) or a GPS with a specific software to practise this activity.
- Spare batteries (highly recommended)
- Small trinket to interchange (optional)
- Pen to sign
- Torch (some the caches are hidden in small holes)
- Camera
- Clothes based on the season
- Water
- First-aid kit

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www.geocaching.com www.geocachingspain.com www.geocaching-hispano.com

VIDEOS

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But... what is geocaching? Interesting and explanatory video with all the answers. It is worth a watch if you are interesting in this activity.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= tsRYm9L9ma0



Find out more helpful information in this video about the different types of geocaches and how to find them. It will help you to develop your skills as a geocacher.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= sj31U_z9MFA&list=PL939C3CBDC2F2F385



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- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.



613. Birdwatching

Birdwatching is a recreational activity in contact with the environment easy to carry out. Although it is important to bear in mind some recommendations to fully enjoy this easy activity, which may present difficulties as birds move fast and are quite shy.

A great amount and diversity of birds can be found in the Serranía de Ronda for two main reasons: the wide range of ecosystems available in a few square kilometres and migratory birds flying across the region in their migration to or from Europe and Africa. Therefore, it is considered as a Special Protection Area (SPA) by the Andalucian Regional Government and as an Important Bird Area by the Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO/Birdlife).

It is essential to have a well chosen equipment and technology but especially you will need a bit of patient and stealth.





You can start going to the countryside with binoculars and an easy field guide to identify local birds, planning ahead the watch point as not every bird prefers the same location. You can find different types of **habitats** depending on the area:

- ✓ Pasture-rocky area
- ✓ Conifer area
- ✓ Lush area
- √ Fluvial area
- ✓ Agricultural area

Other aspects important to consider are the **season of the year**; in springtime, a wide range of birds can be observed whereas in winter you can watch migratory birds. Generally, birds are more active at **dawn** and **dusk**. All this information and additional details can be found in the field guides and, if you prefer, there are some companies specialised in this kind of tourism in the Serranía de Ronda (see the section *Specialised Companies*).



If you drive through the road which links the villages Cortes de la Frontera with El Colmenar (or Estación de Gaucín), you will discover a feeding point for carrion birds where you could observe with the naked eye vultures, eagles, corvidae and Egyptian vultures.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Binoculars

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- Discreet clothes
- Water and food
- Bird guide
- Comfortable shoes
- Photographic equipment with zoom and tripod (if you intend to take photos of birds)

TO FIND OUT MORE

Facebook group called *Comedero de Aves de Cortes*, where all your doubts about the feeding point for carrion birds in the Serranía de Ronda will be sorted out.



https://www.facebook.com/comederodeaves.decortes?fref=ts

BOOKS

- Las Aves de la Serranía de Ronda.
 Juan Oñate García (coordinador).
 Editorial La Serranía 2007.
- Sierra de las Nieves. Guía del observador de aves. Marta Oñate Gutiérrez y Juan Oñate García. Editorial La Serranía 2011.
- Aves del Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema. Orni Tourl S.L. 1999.
- Birds of the Serranía de Ronda.
 Peter S.D. Jones.



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VIDEOS

Fantastic video recorded from inside the hide settled in the feeding point in the village Cortes de la Frontera.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= j5NNbViyDWw



You can easily observe vultures, Egyptian vultures and eagles from the observatory of carrion birds in Cortes de la Frontera.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= BUaQd3kHzBY



SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.aventuraronda.com

www.spanishnature.com

Observatorio de Aves Carroñeras de Cortes

José Macías. Tel. 656493745. Email: avescortes@hotmail.com



GUIDE: ACTIVE TOURISM IN THE SERRANÍA DE RONDA

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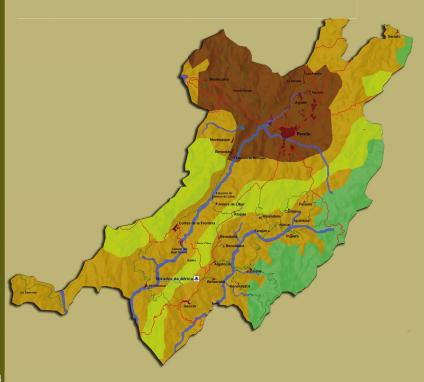
13. BIRDWATCHING

ATTENTION

- ✓ It is strictly forbidden to approach the nest and touch the birds' eggs. You can normally find information about the nesting period in the field guides.
- ✓ Please, obey all warning signs.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock.

HABITATS IN THE SERRANÍA OF RONDA:

Agricultural / Scavenger Birds / Coniferous Forest / Rivers / Leafy Forests / Migratory Birds / Rock Formations & Pasturelands





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200 Most common birds of Serrania de Ronda

| English | Latin |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alpine Accentor | Prunella collaris |
| Alpine Swift | Apus melba |
| Barn Owl | Tyto alaba |
| Bee-eater | Merops apiaster |
| Black Redstart | Phoenicurus ochruros |
| Black Stork | Ciconia nigra |
| Black Tern | Chlidonias niger |
| Black Wheatear | Oneanthe leucura |
| Black Woodpecker | Dryocopus martius |
| Blackbird | Turdus merula |
| Blackcap | Sylvia atricapilla |
| Black-eared Wheatear | Oenanthe hispanica |
| Black-headed Gull | Larus ridibundus |
| Black-necked Grebe | Podiceps nigricollis |
| Black-winged Kite | Elanus caeruleus |
| Black-winged Stilt | Himantopus himantopus |
| Blue Rock Thrush | Monticola solitarius |
| Blue Tit | Parus caeruleus |
| Bonelli's Eagle | Hieraaetus fasciatus |
| Bonelli's Warbler | Phylloscopus bonelli |
| Booted Eagle | Hieraaetus pennatus |
| Brambling | Fringilla montifringilla |
| Calandra Lark | Melanocorypha calandra |
| Carrion Crow | Corvus corone |
| Cattle Egret | Bubulcus ibis |
| Cetti's Warbler | Cettia cetti |
| Chiffchaff | Phylloscopus collybita |
| Cinereous Vulture | Aegypius monachus |
| Coal Tit | Parus ater |
| Com. Grasshopper Warbler | Locustella naevia |

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13. BIRDWATCHING

| Common Buzzard | Buteo buteo |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Common Chaffinch | Fringilla coelebs |
| Common Crossbill | Loxia curvirostra |
| Common Greenshank | Tringa nebularia |
| Common Pheasant | Phasianus colchicus |
| Common Redshank | Tringa totanus |
| Common Reed Bunting | Emberiza schoeniclus |
| Common Ringed Plover | Charadrius hiaticula |
| Common Sandpiper | Actitis hypoleucos |
| Common Snipe | Gallinago gallinago |
| Common Starling | Sturnus vulgaris |
| Common Whitethroat | Sylvia communis |
| Coot | Fulica atra |
| Cormorant | Phalacrocorax carbo |
| Corn Bunting | Miliaria calandra |
| Crag Martin | Ptyonoprogne rupestris |
| Crested Lark | Galerida cristata |
| Crested Tit | Parus cristatus |
| Cuckoo | Cuculus canorus |
| Dartford Warbler | Sylvia undata |
| Dipper | Cinclus cinclus |
| Dunnock | Prunella modularis |
| Eagle Owl | Bubo bubo |
| Egyptian Vulture | Neophron percnopterus |
| Eurasian Bullfinch | Pyrrhula pyrrhula |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | Streptopelia decaocto |
| Eurasian Dotterel | Charadrius morinellus |
| Eurasian Hobby | Falco subbuteo |
| Eurasian Reed Warbler | Acrocephalus scirpaceus |
| Eurasian Skylark | Alauda arvensis |
| Eurasian Stone-curlew | Burhinus oedicnemus |
| Eurasian Teal | Anas crecca |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow | Passer montanus |
| Eurasian Woodcock | Scolopax rusticola |
| European Nightjar | Caprimulgus europaeus |
| | |

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| European Turtle Dove | Streptopelia turtur |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fan-tailed Warbler | Cisticola juncidis |
| Fieldfare | Turdus pilaris |
| Firecrest | Regulus ignicapillus |
| Garden Warbler | Sylvia borin |
| Goldcrest | Regulus regulus |
| Golden Eagle | Aquila chrysaetos |
| Golden Oriole | Oriolus oriolus |
| Goldfinch | Carduelis carduelis |
| Goshawk | Accipiter gentilis |
| Great Crested Grebe | Podiceps cristatus |
| Great Reed Warbler | Acrocephalus arundinaceus |
| Great Spotted Cuckoo | Clamator glandarius |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | Dendrocopos major |
| Great Tit | Parus major |
| Greater Flamingo | Phoenicopterus roseus |
| Greater Short-toed Lark | Calandrella brachydactyla |
| Green Sandpiper | Tringa ochropus |
| Green Woodpecker | Picus viridis |
| Greenfinch | Carduelis chloris |
| Grey heron | Ardea cinerea |
| Grey Wagtail | Motacilla cinerea |
| Griffon Vulture | Gyps fulvus |
| Gull-billed Tern | Gelochelidon nilotica |
| | Coccothraustes |
| Hawfinch | coccothraustes |
| Hen Harrier | Circus cyaneus |
| Honey Buzzard | Pernis apivorus |
| Ноорое | Upupa epops |
| House Martin | Delichon urbica |
| House Sparrow | Passer domesticus |
| Iberian Earbler | Phylloscopus brehmii |
| Jackdaw | Corvus monedula |
| Jay | Garrulus glandarius |
| Kentish Plover | Charadrius alexandrinus |



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13. BIRDWATCHING

| Kestrel | Falco tinnunculus |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kingfisher | Alcedo atthis |
| Lapwing | Vanellus vanellus |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | Larus fuscus |
| Lesser Kestrel | Falco naumanni |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | Dendrocopos minor |
| Lesser Whitethroat | Sylvia curruca |
| Linnet | Carduelis cannabina |
| Little Bittern | Ixobrychus minutus |
| Little Bustard | Tetrax tetrax |
| Little Egret | Egretta garcetta |
| Little Grebe | Tachybaptus ruficollis |
| Little Owl | Athene noctua |
| Little Ringed Plover | Charadrius dubius |
| Long-eared Owl | Asio otus |
| Long-legged Buzzard | Buteo rufinus |
| Long-tailed Tit | Aegithalos caudatus |
| Mallard | Anas platyrhynchos |
| Meadow Pipit | Anthus pratensis |
| Mediterranean Gull | Larus melanocephalus |
| Merlin | Falco columbarius |
| Mistle Thrush | Turdus viscivorus |
| Montagu's Harrier | Circus pygargus |
| Moorhen | Gallinula chloropus |
| Night heron | Nyctycorax nyctycorax |
| Nightingale | Luscinia megarhynchos |
| Northern Pintail | Anas acuta |
| Northern Shoveler | Anas clypeata |
| Northern Wheatear | Oenanthe oenanthe |
| Nuthatch | Sitta europaea |
| Olivaceous Warbler | Hippolais pallida |
| Orphean Warbler | Sylvia hortensis |
| Ortolan Bunting | Emberiza hortulana |
| Osprey | Pandion haliaetus |
| Pallid Swift | Apus pallidus |

13. **BIRDWATCHING**



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| Pied Avocet | Recurvirostra avosetta |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pied Flycatcher | Ficedula hypoleuca |
| Purple Heron | Ardea purpurea |
| Raven | Corvus corax |
| Red Kite | Milvus milvus |
| Red-billed Chough | Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax |
| Red-footed Falcon | Falco vespertinus |
| Red-necked Nightja | Caprimulgus rufucollis |
| Red-rumped Swalow | Hirundo daurica |
| Redstart | Phoenicurus phoenicurus |
| Redwing | Turdus iliacus |
| Richard's Pipit | Anthus richardi |
| Ring Ouzel | Turdus torquatus |
| Robbin | Erithacus rubecula |
| Rock Bunting | Emberiza cia |
| Rock Dove | Columba livia |
| Rock Sparrow | Petronia petronia |
| Rock Thrush | Monticola saxatis |
| Rose-ringed Parakeet | Psittacula krameri |
| Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin | Cercotrichas galactotes |
| Rüppell's Vulture | Gyps rueppellii |
| Sand Martin | Riparia riparia |
| Sardinian Warbler | Sylvia melanocephala |
| Scops Owl | Otus scops |
| Sedge Warbler | Acrocephalus schoenobaenus |
| Serin | Serinus serinus |
| Short-eared Owl | Asio flammeus |
| Short-toed Eagle | Circaetus gallicus |
| Short-toed Treecreeper | Certhia brachydactyla |
| Siskin | Carduelis spinus |
| Southern Grey Shrike | Lanius meridionalis |
| Spanish Imperial Eagle | Aquila adalberti |
| Spanish Sparrow | Passer hispaniolensis |
| Sparrowhawk | Accipiter nisus |
| Spectacled Warbler | Sylvia conspicillata |

GUIDE: ACTIVE TOURISM IN THE SERRANÍA DE RONDA



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13. BIRDWATCHING

| Spotless Starling | Sturnus unicolor |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Spotted Flycatcher | Musicapa striata |
| Squacco Heron | Ardeola ralloides |
| Stock Dove | Columba oenas |
| Stonechat | Saxicola torquata |
| Subalpine Warbler | Sylvia cantillans |
| Swallow | Hirundo rustica |
| Swift | Apus apus |
| Tawny Owl | Strix aluco |
| Tawny Pipit | Anthus campestris |
| Thekla Lark | Galerida theklae |
| Tree Pipit | Anthus trivialis |
| Water Pipit | Anthus spinoletta |
| Water Rail | Rallus aquaticus |
| Western Marsh-harrier | Circus aeruginosus |
| Whimbrel | Numenius phaeopus |
| Whinchat | Saxicola rubertra |
| White Stork | Ciconia ciconia |
| White Wagtail | Motacilla alba |
| White-rumped Swift | Apus caffer |
| Wilow Warbler | Phylloscopus trochilus |
| Winter Wren | Troglodytes troglodytes |
| Wood Sandpiper | Tringa glareola |
| Woodchat Shrike | Lanius senator |
| Woodlark | Lullula arborea |
| Woodpigeon | Columba palumbus |
| Wryneck | Jynx torquilla |
| Yellow Wagtail | Motacilla flava |
| Yellowhammer | Emberiza citrinella |
| Yelow-legged Gull | Larus cachinnans |

GUIDE: ACTIVE TOURISM IN THE SERRANÍA DE RONDA



14. Network Viewpoints

he network of viewpoints built in the Serranía de Ronda is an original initiative which allows visitors to see emblematic places from the region. Otherwise it would be difficult to observe them in any other way. For that purpose, some of the best geographic spots in the region have been chosen to enhance the viewpoints, which are traditionally considered as high places from where you can appreciate stunning panoramic views.

These viewpoints have been dotted not only with traditional explanatory panels of the landscape with the main spots (mountain peaks, rivers, towns...) but also with a second-type panel where you can learn more about events or representative places of regional interest such as:





Peridotite in the mountain range Sierra Bermeja. Carlos Guerrero

Nasrid Borders
Alpine ibex
Peninsular War
Migratory birds
Griffon Vulture
Karst landscape
Chestnut grove
Spanish fir tree
Cork

Romantic travellers

Most of the viewpoints are easily accessible by car except the viewpoint overlooking the Karst, where a short distance needs to be walked and the viewpoint of the Viajeros Románticos (Romantic Travellers), which is situated just under the bridge El Tajo.

Apart from the regional network of viewpoints, there are other spots with stunning views where you could enjoy enchanting landscapes of the Serranía.

The scenic road which links Ronda and Algeciras boasts a wide range of viewpoints and the one called Mirador del Genal in the village of Algatocín is a must-stop.

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- Birds of the Serranía de Ronda. Peter S.D. Jones.
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 Editorial La Serranía 2008.
- El fin de al-Ándalus en la Serranía de Ronda. Virgilio Martínez Enamorado y José Antonio Castillo Rodríguez. Editorial La Serranía 2008.
- Bandidos, bandoleros y contrabandistas en la Serranía de Ronda. Francisco Garrido Domínguez.
- La naturaleza en la Serranía de Ronda. José Manuel Tierno de Figueroa. Diputación de Málaga. CEDMA 1999.

TO FIND OUT MORE

www.cederserraniaderonda.com www.turismoderonda.es www.laserrania.org

ATTENTION

- ✓ Please, respect the signs.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire.
- ✓ Do not set any fire.





VIEWPOINT 1. The Nasrid Frontier

Municipality. Ronda Nearest town. Montecorto Coordinates. x: 293512 y: 4076041

The Emirate of Granada was established in the 1236. Since then the Serranía de Ronda has been the most western bastion of the Nasrid Kingdom and one of the most strategic areas due to its position with regard to the Strait of Gibraltar and the Kingdom of Castile. This characteristic would be accentuated when the bereber Marinid dynasty – dynasty that controlled the Maghreb since the 13th century – occupied the city of Ronda when coming from the North. The area of Ronda exercised considerably autonomy within the Kingdom of Granada, even if it had the peculiarity of having one food on each side of the Strait, risky issue for the interests of Castile.

The particular topography of the region enhanced this autonomy even further. The Serranía and specially the plateau of Ronda have been considered for a long time as a natural border area with the Guadalquivir valley, and especially

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14. VIEWPOINT: The NASRID Frontier



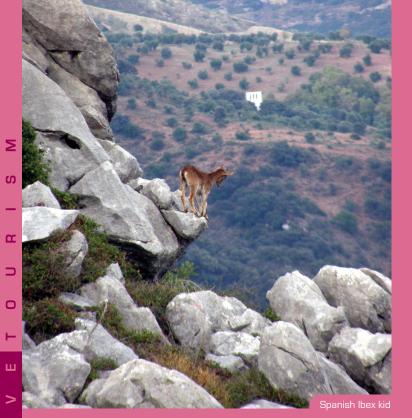
permeable to the constant human contacts. Set the borders by this geographic element, the limits were practically the same for much of the 15th century. From the Castilian side, the borders were defended by Gibraltar, Jimena, Castellar, Zahara, Olvera, Pruna, Cañete, and Teba. On the other side, the Nasrid borders were defended by Gaucín, Cardela, Grazalema, Setenil, Ardales, Audita, and Montecorto, where we are now. In the middle, there was a no one's land that in periods of peace became an everybody's land.

Each side of this wide strip had its own system of fortifications: watchtowers and fortresses. You can see good examples at all the places mentioned above and here in Montecorto you can visit the Audita tower and El Moral castle. Further, you can see different constructions that worked as visual link among the towers.

The reconstruction of the Zahara fortress done by the Ronda Nasrid troops in 1481 unleashed the final offensive of the Castile Crown against the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada. The first step was the conquest of Grazalema, Setenil, Audita and Montecorto to isolate the Zahara fortress that was finally conquered on 28th October 1483. Lately, on 22nd May 1485, Ronda fell into the Christian hands.

Seven years after that, in 1492, the Catholic Monarchs entered into the Alhambra of Granada, putting an end to eight centuries of Islamic control in a great part of Andalusia.





VIEWPOINT 2. The Spanish Ibex

Municipality. Ronda Coordinates. x: 317316 y: 4073695 Nearest town. Ronda

One of the most emblematic animals of the mountainous region of the Serranía de Ronda is the Spanish Ibex (Capra pyrenaica hispanica). It is a wild hoofed endemic of the Iberian Peninsula, which was on the point of extinction half a century

Peninsula, which was on the point of ago. Four of the described ibex subspecies, two are considered to be died out, the third one can be found in La Sierra de Gredos, and the forth one, which is seen in Andalusia, is commonly called as Ronda ibex, because this region is one of the natural shelters of the species and pioneer in the preservation of this lbex as a hunting species.

Its adaptation to the mountain environment is spectacular; it moves with amazing easiness through crags



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14. VIEWPOINT: The SPANISH IBEX

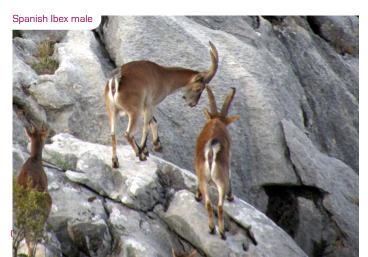
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and cliffs, being a symbol of adaptation to the roughest and wildest life. 30,000 out of 40,000 Spanish Ibex are located in Andalusia. It is calculated that 4,000 specimens live in this place, a 10% of the whole population.

The ibex are animals with gregarious character, which form herds by sex; on the one hand, males with different ages, and on the other hand, females with their litters. Males' herds are more numerous, with more than 100 specimens, and in autumn, during the rut period, they look for the females' herds. When the mating period arrives, the fights between males' ibex consist of crashing their horns, which can be up to one metre long, to dissolve the reproductive capacity of the rival.

The species show differences between males' and females' ibex, in other words, sexual dimorphism. The female specimen is smaller (40 kg as against 75 kg of the male one), their horns are shorter (about 25 cm) and their fur does not have the characteristics black spots that the oldest male specimens have. Both of them can reach 20 years old; the age can be seen in the number of horn growth rings. Young goats are born after five months of pregnancy, between March and June, when grass is more plentiful and tender.

Nowadays, the Spanish Ibex is more numerous and dispersed, settling on new territories. They have not almost any natural predator but there is an illness, called sarcoptic mange, which has killed many goats. Overcrowding and poor health conditions increase the virulence of the illness. The suitable density of these herbivores is one specimen in each hectare, in order to have a good recuperation of the vegetation and to be able to support a healthy population. For that reason, the species is considered as Vulnerable according to the Spanish National Catalogue of threatened Species (Catálogo Nacional de Especies Amenazadas).



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Spanish war of Independence

Municipality. Gaucín

Coordinates. x: 291501 y: 4044085

Nearest town. Gaucín

In 1808, making use of the power vacuum motivated by the disputes between the King Carlos IV and his son Fernando VII, Napoleon Bonaparte convinced the first in order to ally with him

against Portugal. Once his objective was reached, the Napoleonic troops invaded Spain and the Emperor Napoleon proclaimed José Bonaparte the new King. It was the beginning of a war that lasted six years.

After two years and despite the help rendered by England, the Spanish troops had to withdraw into the South and the Serranía de Ronda became thus a strategic point when the French attempted a coup to seize the Regency Council (Consejo de Regencia) entrenched in San Fernando (Cádiz).

Napoleon's Troops. Jesús Balsa

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14. VIEWPOINT: SPANISH WAR of Independence

The 10th February 1810, a French military detachment of 6,000 soldiers occupied the city of Ronda. Shortly after José Bonaparte would settle in this city at the Moctezuma Palace in order to drive the battle. In the meanwhile, the region was in the hands of José Serrano Valdenebro, named Head of the Troops and the Guerrilla forces of the Serranía de Ronda; he had his headquarters in Gaucín.

At the end of February, French started to make their way to Gibraltar, but the guerrilla from the Serranía attacked the French troops a few kilometres from Ronda, nearby the Fuente de la Piedra – within Alpandeire territories. As they were not prepared for this type of battle, they had to withdraw and take refuge in Ronda again.

French overcame some difficulties and managed to get into Gaucín on 22nd February; they forced the guerrilla to leave the castle. This situation unleashed an ardent reaction and 700 members of the different guerrillas of the Serranía came to Gaucín. The night of the 28th, Gaucín Square was again in hands of the guerrilla. Within 27 months, French entered into Gaucín up to six occasions, being especially violent that of the 8th July 1810. They killed every neighbour in their passing, burnt 165 houses and the town archives, and threw the image of Santo Niño (Saint Child) to the Castle cliffs.

In 1812, Lord Wellington is appointed as the Major General to lead the English-Spanish troops against the French. He won great victories as in Arapiles-Salamanca (July, 1812), then in Madrid (August, 1812), and Vitoria (June, 1813). Finally, he forced José Bonaparte to leave the country. On 6th February 1814, Napoleón abdicated in favour of the Spanish Crown at Fontainebleau, giving back all its territories.

Napoleonic troops said that the Serranía had "embittered them and that it was the French cemetery" due to the hard harassing the guerrilla had subjected them for almost three years.

Collection of photos taken from the viewpoint called Mirador de la Guerra de la Independencia in the village Gaucín. Excellent views overlooking this beautiful Spanish village and its castle.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oh-ihVy6RPE



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VIEWPOINT 4. Viewpoint of Africa

Municipality. Benarrabá

Coordinates. x: 294571 y: 4047733

Bird migration is one of the greatest world's natural phenomena. Every year millions of birds migrate to and from Europe and Africa flying thousands of kilometres. There are mainly two migration periods one that takes place mainly during March and April while the other is in August to September. Therefore, migratory birds spend the spring and summer in Europe while in autumn and winter they move south to Africa, in general, made in response to the weather and food resources.

Many of the smaller birds migrate at night as well as during daylight hours and they cross over the Mediterranean Sea through any route; that is the reason why migration is difficult to observe. However, different species can be seen in the Serranía because it provides a temporary home to rest and feed before continuing the migration.

14. VIEWPOINT OF AFRICA



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On the contrary, soaring birds, storks and birds of prey fly thanks to the sun energy, taking advantage of thermal updrafts caused by the uneven heating of air near the earth's surface. They tend to fly during daylight avoiding large stretches of open water as water absorbs rays of sunlight. For this reason, most of the soaring birds migrate across Spain funnelling through the Strait of Gibraltar, where you can observe numerous concentrations of these birds in migration periods.

Wind is another factor which affects considerably migratory birds as they fly according to the wind direction. With an easterly wind, it is nearly impossible to observe migratory birds in the Serranía de Ronda. However, it would be completely different if a westerly wind blows as the sky of the Serranía will be covered with birds flying from or to Africa.

The migratory birds of prey which can be observed in the Serranía are:

- Black Kite
- Booted Eagle
- Egyptian Vulture
- Sparrowhawk
- Osprey
- Eurasian Hobby

- Honey Buzzard
- Short-toed Eagle
- Griffon Vulture
- Common Buzzard
- Lesser Kestrel, Kestrel
- White Stork, Black Stork
- Montagu's Harrier, Western Marsh-harrier, Hen Harrier





VIEWPOINT 5. The Griffon Vulture

Municipality. Benaoján Nearest town. Benaoján

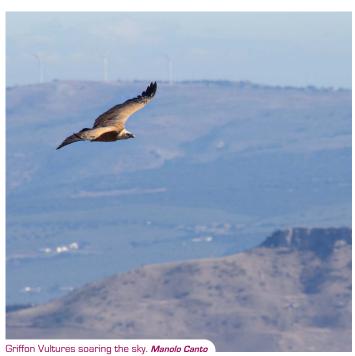
Coordinates. x: 298046 y: 4063895

Griffon vulture is, due to its size and behaviour, one of the most spectacular birds flying over the region. You can easily observe big groups of this specie flying in circles in search of food or in the carrion bird feeding point in the town of Cortes de la Frontera.

Its scientific name is *Gyps fulvus*, although it is commonly known as griffon vulture due to its similarity to the mythological animal. The griffon vulture is one of the biggest birds in the world with approximately 280cm wingspan and a weigh up to 8kg for an adult specimen. They live in colonies and nest amid the high crags. These security measures are taken to protect the only egg laid from other predators and it also

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helps them to undertake the flight, something quite difficult for such a big bird.

Vultures have a really good sense of smell but it is mainly thanks to their highly developed sense of sight that they successfully find carcasses in their daily flights, going as far as 90 kilometres away from their nest.

They are scavengers, feeding mostly from carcasses of dead animals. When they find them, they soar in circle to the place where the carrion is, making sure there is no danger around and that they can gain height once finished. In the 60s, the control of certain "vermin" species brought the griffon vulture to the brink of extinction. Nowadays, more than 300 reproductive pairs are found in the Serranía de Ronda.

You can easily observe vultures, Egyptian vultures and eagles from this observatory of carrion birds.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= BUaQd3kHzBY



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VIEWPOINT 6. The Karst

Municipality. Montejaque Nearest town. Montejaque Coordinates. x: 299106 y: 4076041

The situation of the Serranía de Ronda in between of two continents and two seas makes of this region one of the most complex areas of Europe. In only 1,260 km2 we can find sedimentary rocks characteristic of the karts formations, metamorphic rocks in the Genal Valley and even intrusive igneous rocks at Los Reales in Sierra Bermeja. This geological heritage outstands on the landscape, offering excellent views and sensations.

The karst is a relief of ruiniform aspect that has created some landmarks in the region: El Gato cave, Buitreras canyon, Balastar stream, Los Riscos... Beneath your feet, real underground cathedrals delight the most adventurous: The Hundidero-Gato system or the GEMS abyss is among the most unique and spectacular formations in Spain. Other caves which are more accessible to tourists are El Gato or La Pileta, cave painting sanctuary.

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The name of this formation comes from the Karst region, situated in the North-eastern Italy and Western Slovenia and Croatia. This is a limestone region similarly to the Serranía, where there was an important progress on the study of this type of formations, shaped by the dissolving action of water in the lime rocks.

The limestone is composed of calcium carbonate (CaCO₂). Rainwater (H₂O) dissolves this type of rock to form soluble calcium bicarbonate (Ca(HCO₃)₂). This way, century after century, the rainwater produces differential erosion, since softer rocks are eroded more rapidly than others, creating majestic formations both in the surface and underground; this is the karst relief.

For having a general view of these geological formations and phenomena, we invite you to visit the Centro de Interpretación de la Espeleología (Speleology Interpretation Centre) from Montejaque.

Collection of photos taken from the viewpoint called Mirador del Karst in the village Montejague, with superb views overlooking the town and the astonishing surrounding.









7 Spanish Chestnut Grove

Municipality. Pujerra **Nearest town.** Pujerra **Coordinates.** x: 307902 y: 4054380

The Spanish chestnut grove plays a vital role for the Serranía de Ronda from different points of view: environment, culture, and finance. The values of this type of formation go from the amazing landscaping value to the financial support that different trades and traditions have, passing through the value as food product and, as tourist attraction for those who enjoy the pleasures of nature, when chestnuts paint of yellow and ochre-colored the landscapes. Luckily, it is long away when the chestnut was the "bread of the poor".

During winter, the Valley, leaves naked, is filled of small smoke columns. This is the prune burning, which makes the chestnut grove fall asleep. After the spring rains, the

trees become green again and the chestnut grove turns bright green, colour of the new leaves. In June, the tree blooms and during summer the burrs grow to protect the chestnut. After summer, autumn comes and burrs fall from the tree. They open and the fruit is shown. Then expert hands from the whole family, especially women's, carefully extract the chestnut. However, transportation and commercialization is done by men.



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14. VIEWPOINT: SPANISH CHESTNUT Grove

The harvest campaign finishes by November. It is when the traditional festival of "Tostones" takes place; chestnuts are roasted and consumed with anis, eau-de-vie and other typical liquors. This festival brings all the neighbours and many visitors together around this important fruit for the Serranía de Ronda.

It currently exists around 4,000 ha of chestnut grove in the Genal Valley. They are in the acid soils orientated to the North, where humidity is preserved. The average productivity is high: 1,000 kg/ha. Only a 10% of the groves does not exceed the 500 kg/ha, and about a 2% obtains more than 3,000 kg/ha. As the campaign begins earlier than in Europe, the selling price at the beginning of the campaign (October) is quite good. However, prices go down quickly when the rest of the productive areas start their businesses. For all this, the chestnut grove is a key financial pillar as well as an important additional income for the families of the Valley.

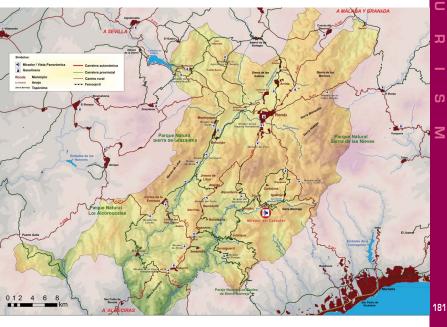
It is easy to taste dishes cooked with chestnuts in many of the restaurants of the Serranía de Ronda. In the season, you can also buy them raw, and during the whole year, tinned.

In the *Museo de la Castaña* (Chestnut Museum) from Pujera, you can know further about this tasty product.

Collection of photos taken from the viewpoint *Mirador del Castañar* in the village Pujerra with great views of the valley Valle del Genal. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHvOsP-UZjY



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VIEWPOINT 8. The Spanish fir

Municipality. Ronda **Nearest town.** Montecorto **Coordinates.** x: 300460 y: 4046798

The Spanish fir (Abies pinsapo boiss), is a relic of the Tertiary period that has suffered many climate fluctuations all along its history. This fir as many other Mediterranean firs was isolated in the rough areas after the glacial periods.

The Spanish fir is an endemic species of this Andalusian mountains that have formed unconnected populations of different extension. The habitat of this fir is the grey limestone mountains of Ronda and Grazalema, existing high concentrations on the shady sides of the Nature Reserves of Sierra de las Nieves (Ronda) and Sierra del Pinar (Grazalema). It also grows in soils of peridotite (intrusive igneous rock formed deep in the Earth's crust that paints the mountains red) in Los Reales of Sierra Bermeja. From here, Félix Haenseler, botanist native from Málaga, extracted the first samples

for his herbarium. Then, in 1838, the Swiss botanist, Pierre Edmond Boissier, announced this species to the world.

The Spanish fir grows in rocky, shallow, sloppy soils, at altitudes of 1,000 to 1,800 m and punctually it can appear at the fresh bottom of a ravine of 350 m. This fir highly resists the dry summers, but similarly to other fir species, it



14. VIEWPOINT: The SPANISH FIR

needs an annual precipitation above the 1,000 mm. It has an elegant trunk with a deep crown that is narrowly conical in young trees but irregular in older trees. This fir can be around 20 m high and the main difference with other firs eradicates in the leaves. They are spirally arranged, spreading radially and perpendicular to the branchlet, which remains the form of a tube cleaning brush.

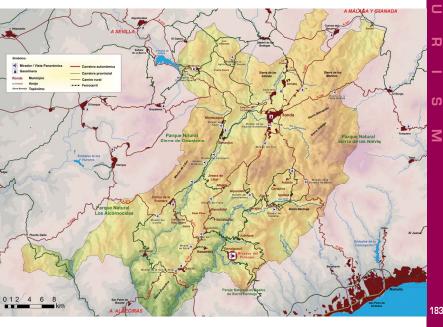
The male flowers of dark red colour are placed in the lower branches although the female ones, future pine cones, are on the upper part of the tree. This position makes the dispersion easier by the wind. It blooms between April and May and the pine cones mature about September or October.

This botanical peculiarity is an example of tenacity and resistance against all the elements: drought, fire forests, plagues and illnesses, the threat of the livestock, the use of its wood for building purposes and the men's neglect behaviour. Nowadays, big efforts are being performed to make that this species dresses our shady sides of the mountains of Serranía de Ronda with its dark green, bluish, and silver clothes.

Short documentary from the Andalucian programme El Tiempo de CanalSur TV, where it is explained the peculiarities of this species of fir tree and its habitat conservation in the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2i7vV_sR2k



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VIEWPOINT 9. The Cork

Municipio. Cortes de la Frontera

Pueblo cercano.

Cortes de la Frontera

Localización. x: 299020 y: 4053315

The Nature Reserve of Los Alcornocales stretches out from the crossroads of El Colmenar, few meters from here, to the Strait of Gibraltar. It is a forest stand of 170,000ha, one of the main forests in Andalusia and the largest cork oak forest in the world.

The cork oak (Quercus suber) is a tree in the holm oak and the Portuguese oak family, characterized by its highly prized bark for the bottle stoppers production among other uses in decoration and housing air conditioning.

The cork oak bark is completely renewed every nine years. For this reason, farms are divided into nine plots so they ensure a yearly income thanks to the cork sale. Cork extraction is divided into three steps:;

Cork bark peeling or opening. This process that can only be done by specialists is intended to mark the planks in the trunks by cutting the cork with axes. These planks are then separated from the trunks. The planks are divided into equal pieces and stacked in piles.

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Transportation. In this second step, mule skinners are a key factor. Helped by the mules, they are responsible for the transportation of cork planks from the deep forests to the yards. When mules are trained, they are able to transport the heavy and bulky loads from the forest to the yard even without the guide of the mule skinners.

Weighing and warehousing. In the yards, once planks are unloaded, they are weighed and stacked in different piles depending on the thickness and quality. At this stage, piles are sold or auctioned and then transported to their final destination to be transformed.

Cork exploitation is not only an important source of incomes for owners and town halls, as the one of Cortes de la Frontera, but it also helps to keep the forests clean, preventing from forest fires and allowing other uses as livestock, honey production or heather or mushrooms harvest.

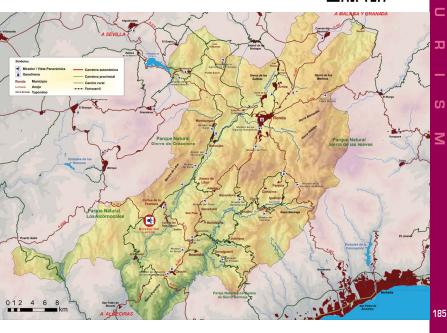
In each stopper that we have at home, there is a thousandyear-old tradition and an example of sustainability between human and forest, which has helped to keep the latest Mediterranean forests virgin. At the Centro de Intrepretación del Corcho (Cork Interpretation Centre), in Cortes de la Frontera, many cultural aspects of the cork industry as well as other curiosities are shown.

Collection of photos taken from the viewpoint Mirador del Corcho in Cortes de la Frontera.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrqYtu-wkEg



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VIEWPOINT 10. Romantic Travellers

Municipality. Ronda **Nearest town.** Ronda **Coordinates.** x: 306644 y: 4068483

In the 18th and 19th centuries, many countries from the North of Europe went through the process of industrialisation. This process provoked the destruction of many natural spots and rendered the contemporary men a rootless being due to the constant population movements from the countryside to the cities.

The loss of that natural paradise made young upper-class people to undertake an unprecedented travel, the so-called *Grand Tour*. They were on the search of the roots of civilization and continued with this ritual until well into the 20th century. The archaeological remains – the ruins – from Greece and Italy, the incredible landscapes of the European mountains or the picturesque Spain were the preferred destinations for this Tour. Far away from the Age of Enlightenment and the dominance of the reason, sensations provided by the reality were the main attractive element.

In descriptions, adjectives such as sublime, great, lavish, spectacular, etc. were highly used. Artists and writers used these terms to describe their idealized landscapes. These romantic travellers made the rich Europe from the North to look at the

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14. VIEWPOINT: ROMANTIC Travellers

South countries and see the landscapes that we can enjoy here, which are a piece of the lost paradise. Their works – novels, poetry, guide books, and illustrations – contributed to the creation of clichés that are even still alive today; clichés centred on bullfighters, majas* and romantic bandits. They also taught us to appreciate our heritage and traditions. Thanks to their impassioned testimony, hundreds of tourists came to our cities, then they were thousands and nowadays millions. Let us use this text as a humble honour to those first tourists.

There are many names of romantic travellers that have contributed to make from Andalusia and Ronda one of the preferred tourists' destinations for many Europeans. In England, Germany or France, we can highlight some works that have definitely influenced on tourists as "Tales of the Alhambra" written by Washington Irving (1832), "A Handbook for travellers in Spain" by Richard Ford (1844) or "The Bible in Spain" by George Borrow (1843), which inspired works as Carmen by Merimée lately adapted to the opera by Bizet.

In the 20th century, universal well-known people fascinated by the art of bullfighting as Ernest Hemingway and Orson Wells have certainly ended up creating the image of an unchangeable and romantic Ronda.

* Spanish lower-class people with a sense of style in dress and manners.

50 Maravillas de Ronda

Photographic report of the book called 50 wonders of Ronda (50 Maravillas de Ronda). It is a comprehensive summary of the main historical spots in the city of Ronda.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWvFKThvJHk



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Acknowledgements

he Serranía de Ronda boasts a large group of people with different backgrounds, hobbies and ideologies but they all have something in common, their passion for the nature and, especially, their love for this beautiful region. They are hikers, cavers, naturalists, climbers, photographers, historians, cyclists, writers... or all at the same time.

I really appreciate your hard work, contributions, photos or knowledge which enable the publication of this guide. This is my especial tribute to you all for so many years of silent work.

Although this list only mentions the names of those who participated directly in the writing of this guide of active tourism in the Serranía de Ronda... There are many more!

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José María Guerrero

José Sierra

Juan Luis Muñoz

Juan Oñate

Juan Sánchez

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Manuel Guerrero

Manuel Perujo

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Active Tourism The SERRANÍA DE RONDA

- 1. Hiking
- 2. Gran Senda de Málaga
- 3. MTB Bicycletouring
- 4. Iron Ways
- **5.** Climbing
- 6. Canyoning
- 7. Caving

- 8. Canoening
- 9. Horse-riding
- **10.** Gliding Flight
- 11. Orienteering
- 12. Geocaching
- 13. Birdwatching
- 14. NETWORK OF Viewpoints