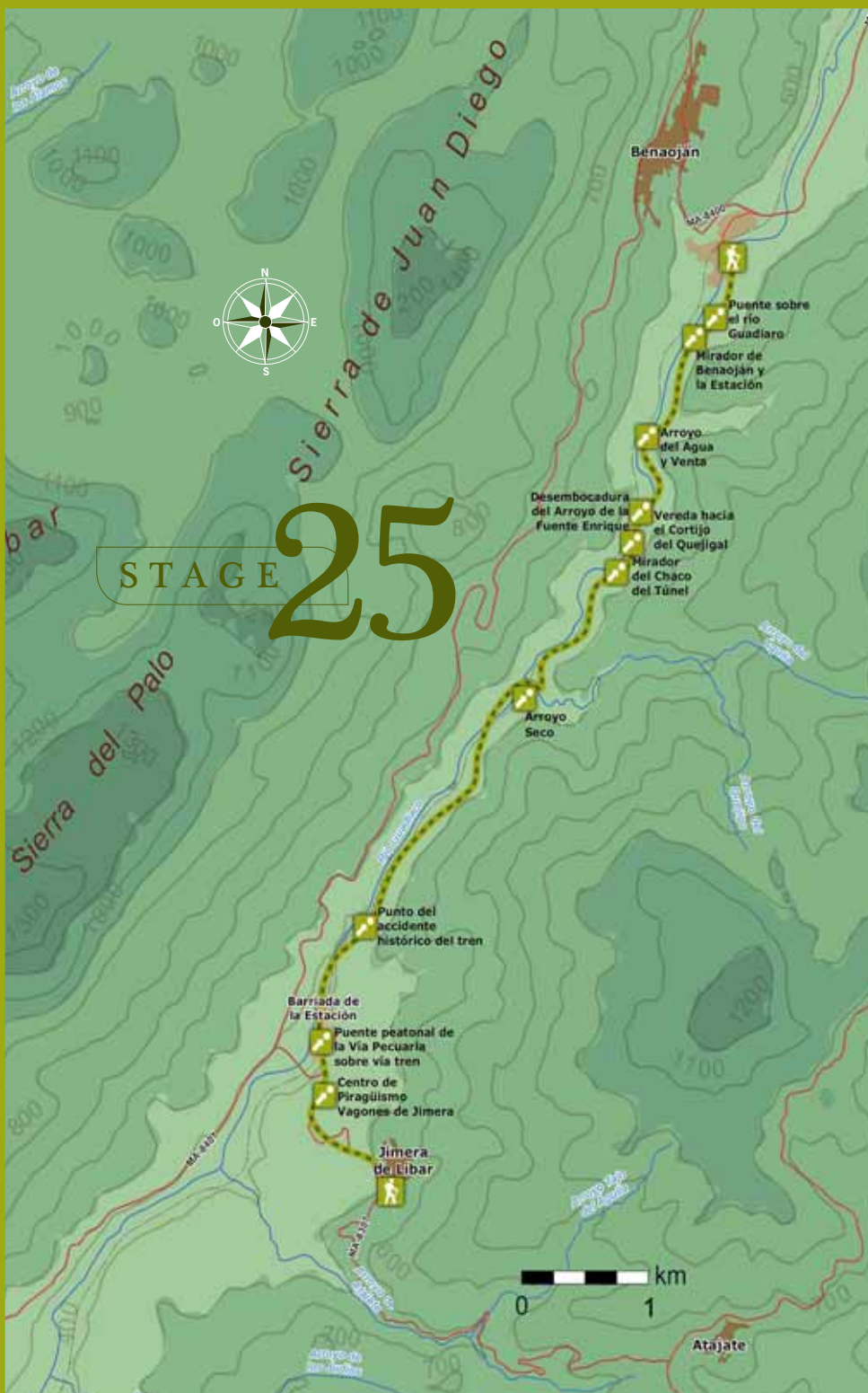


STAGE

# 25



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# STAGE 25

## Estación de Benaoján-Jimera de Líbar

### LOCATION

The shortest of the Great Malaga Path stages starts at the train station of Benaoján. The **9,7 km** long walk leads across the narrow passes of Río Guadiaro and along a path parallel to the train line, ending in Jimera de Líbar village.

### DESCRIPTION

#### ABOUT THE BIRDLIFE:

The presence of the river clearly marks the type of bird species you can see at the beginning of Stage 25, species which then give way to a community of forest birds in the uphill stretches leading through holm oaks.

### HIGHLIGHTED SPECIES

At the starting point you can see urban dwellers, such as Eurasian Collared Dove,



Golden Oriole. PHOTO: JLM

Pallid and Common Swift, Barn Swallow, House Martin, Black Redstart, Common Starling, House Sparrow and, at the same time, species typical of riverside woods, including Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Common Sandpiper, Eurasian Collared Dove, Scops Owl, Kingfisher, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Great Spotted Woodpecker, White and Grey Wagtail, Nightingale, Cetti's Warbler, Wren, and Golden Oriole. Besides, the vegetable plots and scrubland at the first part of Stage 25 hold the European Robin, Common Blackbird, Song Thrush, Black-eared Wheatear,

### DID YOU KNOW?

The **Golden Oriole** is a migrating species which spends its winter south of the Sahara desert. This bird is much easier to hear than to see. Its song resembles its scientific name, *Oriolus oriolus*, which the bird repeats constantly during the breeding season. April is the time when Golden Oriole's song fills the forests and river banks where the bird lives. If you want to try to see its vivid yellow plumage, you must focus on the foliage in the highest tree tops. TEXT: ARM



View of the rocky environment of Stage 25. PHOTO: ARM

Spotted Flycatcher, Woodchat Shrike, Great Tit, Goldfinch, Serin, Greenfinch and Cirl Bunting. These birds, together with rock-dwelling species such as Alpine Swift, Crag Martin and Blue Rock Thrush, create one of the most diverse birdlife starting points of all the stages along the Great Malaga Path.

In the holm oak woods you can find Common Wood Pigeon, European Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Green Woodpecker, Song and Mistle Thrush, Blackcap, Firecrest,

Blue Tit, Short-toed Treecreeper, Nuthatch, Eurasian Jay, Goldfinch and Cirl Bunting, whilst in the shadiest spots with Portuguese gall oaks, Bonelli's Warbler occurs, and you can see flocks of Long-tailed Tits.

The river, present virtually along the whole stage, allows for the presence of large birds such as Grey Heron and even Great Cormorant in winter, on top of the already named typical riparian species of birds.

Blue Tit. PHOTO: JLM





Firecrest. PHOTO: JLM

Stage 25 is highly suitable for watching birds of prey, with such notable species as Griffon Vulture, Northern Goshawk, Short-toed, Booted, Golden and Bonelli's Eagle, Common Buzzard, Common Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon. Additionally, during migration passage periods you can frequently observe Black Kite, Honey Buzzard, and Hobby. As far as nocturnal raptors, the Eagle Owl is present, plus Tawny Owl and Scops Owl. Stage 25 also holds Common Linnet and Rock Bunting, which, together with Zitting Cisticola and Crested Lark occurring in cultivated areas, make up which quite an impressive set of species for such a short stage.

### T I M I N G

Stage 25 can be walked year round. Whilst breeding species are substituted with wintering species, according to their status in this particular studied area, spring brings higher diversity of birds.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You can walk this stage and then return by train, either direction, which,

together with the short length and the beauty of its landscape makes Stage 25 especially attractive. In *Natural Values* section of Stage 24 you can find information about Cueva del Gato, a cave located very close to the starting point of Stage 25. Moreover, it is recommended to read the *Did you know?* section of Stage 34, where you can find information about swifts. ○

Booted Eagle, dark morph. PHOTO: JLM

