

Sierra del Jobo

STAGE

10

Area de Descanso

Alfarnate

Alfarnatejo

Sierra de Rey

Nacimiento del Río Borbollón

Doña Ana

La Molina

Pulgarín Alto

Pulgarín Bajo

Huertecillas

Riogordo





STAGE 10

Alfarnatejo - Alfarnate

LOCATION

Stage 10 begins in Pulgarín Alto (Alfarnatejo municipal district) and the first section of the stage leads uphill along the side of the road. Next, the walk leads downhill towards the cliffs called Tajo de Gómer and Tajo Doña Ana. Stage 10 connects the Colmenar-Periana corridor with the Alfarnate depression. You will be passing through Alfarnatejo and then arrive in Alfarnate having walked in total for **18, 1 km**.

DESCRIPTION

ABOUT THE BIRDLIFE:

You will be walking by many rocky outcrops during Stage 10 which determine the type of bird-life during this stage of the walk. Olive groves, both new and centuries old, together with stretches of grain fields and formations

of holm oak and pine, create an environment capable of supporting a high diversity of species.

HIGHLIGHTED SPECIES

The beginning of Stage 10 is marked by the presence of olive groves up to the section leading along the road, which you will need to follow for a while until you come to a dirt track again. In this type of environment, where there are olive trees with trunks thick enough to provide nesting



Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin. PHOTO: TT

DID YOU KNOW?

The Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin is one of the least known species in the Iberian Peninsula; however people familiar with this stage of the walk know which bird we are talking about. Its habit of cocking its tail till it almost touches the bird's back makes it easy to recognise. If you walk this stage between May and August you will have a chance to see this species and if you learn to recognise its song it will make detecting the bird much easier. Unlike other species, the Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin is not an early riser and it can be heard more often during the mid-morning than at dawn. This species is highly appreciated by birdwatching tourists coming from Central and Northern Europe. TEXT: ARM



Rock Bunting. PHOTO: JLM



Birdwatching from the footpath. PHOTO: ARM

spots for many species of birds, you can see Hoopoe, Robin, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, Common Blackbird, Song Thrush, Sardinian Warbler, Blackcap, Common Chiffchaff, Great Tit, Woodchat Shrike, Common and Spotless Starling, Common Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Serin, Greenfinch and Red-legged Partridge, among other

species. Once you start walking through the retama bushes and farmland the most common species get to be the Barn Swallow, House Martin, Crested Lark, Meadow Pipit, White Wagtail, Common Stonechat, Black-eared Wheatear, Zitting Cisticola, House Sparrow and Corn Bunting. At the Cortijo de Auta you will cross a

The view of Gomer and Doña Ana cliffs. PHOTO: ARM





The cliffs in the background. PHOTO: ARM

stream where birds congregate in order to find water and where you will be able to see Cetti's Warbler and Grey Wagtail. At this point you are walking among crop fields again which then are replaced by a holm oak wood leading to the Alfarnatejo valley. During this stretch you are close to the cliffs and you can mainly see such species as Griffon Vulture, Bonelli's Eagle, Common Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Eagle Owl, Rock Dove, Crag Martin, Black Redstart, Black Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush, Common Rock Thrush at the top of the rocky outcrops, Rock Sparrow, Raven and Red-billed Chough.



Dunnock. PHOTO: JLM





Tajo Bermejo. PHOTO: ARM

Once you are in the holm oak wood, which will pretty much continue keeping you company till the end of Stage 10, you



Woodchat Shrike. PHOTO: JLM

can spot Common Wood Pigeon, European Turtle Dove, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Black-eared Wheatear, Bonelli's Warbler, Common Firecrest, Blue Tit, Southern Grey Shrike, Common Linnet, Eurasian Siskin and Cirl Bunting. Other species occurring at Stage 10 are Short-toed Eagle, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Woodlark, Western Orphean Warbler, Short-toed Treecreeper and Rock Bunting which is especially abundant at the old quarry, nowadays serving as a tip, just before you get to the Alfarnate water-treatment plant. Other species which are present occasionally and irregularly in winter are Brambling, Eurasian Bullfinch and Yellowhammer.

TIMING

Spring and the first weeks of summer are recommended for walking Stage 10, a time when the diversity of birds species is at its highest.



A stretch of the path. PHOTO: ARM



NATURAL VALUES

Until recently the Otter was absent from this part of the Malaga Province, however, since the beginning of this decade, it has started occupying in a stable manner some of the watercourses in the eastern sector of the province. The Vélez and La Cueva rivers support Otters along their low and middle sections and if you look carefully around the stream which flows by the Cortijo de Auta you may be able to find paw prints and other signs of this species. ◉

In spring you can see the Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin and other long-distance migrants whilst in winter the bird community is remarkably boosted by the arrival of species coming from Northern Europe.



Ring Ouzel. PHOTO: JLM



Before the climb to holm oak wood. PHOTO: ARM