

Astronomical Guide

STARLIGHT RESERVES IN CÓRDOBA

English



PATRONATO PROVINCIAL DE TURISMO | DIPUTACIÓN

Astronomical Guide
STARLIGHT RESERVES IN CÓRDOBA

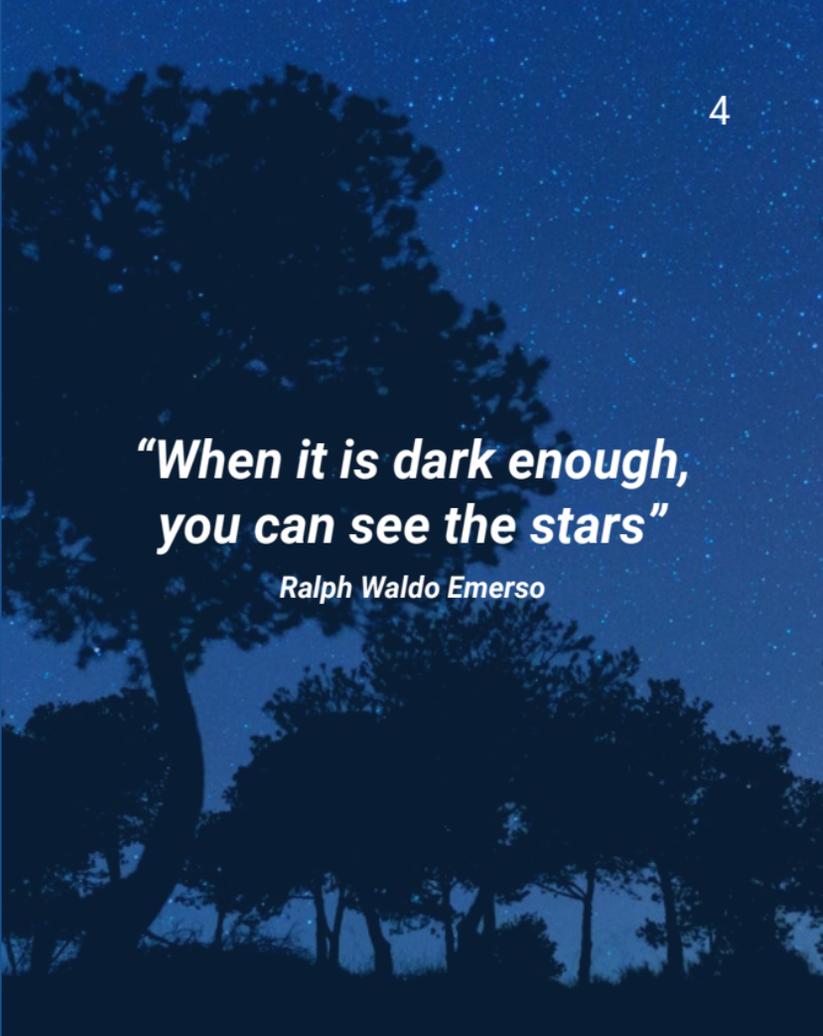
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Published:

Legal deposit:



***“When it is dark enough,
you can see the stars”***

Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Starlight Reserves in Córdoba

Sierra Morena and Los Pedroches are a paradise for all lovers of star gazing and astronomical observation. Their skies offer us a wonderful light show, a universe of stars, constellations and planets that appear before our eyes in a way that is both imposing and unique. It is to be enjoyed in all its immensity. These are two of the best places in the world to observe the night sky and this claim is supported by the award given by the Starlight Foundation, endorsed by Unesco and the World Tourism Organization.

This award guarantees that both areas offer optimal conditions for the observation of the night sky as there is hardly any light pollution as more than 60 percent of nights are clear and the darkness of the night sky is comparable to that of many international professional observatories.

Being a Starlight Reserve is a privilege that very few areas can boast and Sierra Morena and Los Pedroches areas are taking full advantage of this status by offering specialized services and putting in place an infrastructure to promote type of tourism.

They offer the visitor a wide range of activities of an astronomical leaning.

All this potential is very well summarised and compiled in this Guide, a publication that we at the Provincial Tourism Board are publishing, convinced that astrotourism is an up and coming activity which is beginning to engage thousands of people.

It is a sector in which we will continue to work and that we will continue to promote and support with all the initiatives and projects that we can. This is because we can see the many possibilities that it offers and the broad spectrum that is opening up before us.



Tourism is constantly evolving and we must take advantage of new proposals for leisure and free time activities that arise in our province. Private companies and public administrations have to work hand in hand to make progress in this area, to promote the resources that are available to us and to offer the tourist a wider choice.

Even if you do not recognize the stars or do not know the name of the constellations, observing the sky is a different activity that will surely provide you with a lasting memory.

Carmen M. Gómez Navajas

Regional Delegate for Tourism

Vicepresident of the Córdoba Tourist Board



INTRODUCTION

There is a turning point, a key moment after which looking at the night sky is never the same again. You can enjoy the great beauty of a myriad of twinkling lights, a star-studded night sky over the meadows and mountains of Cordoba. You can take it in as one more part of the landscape: bright, surprising, captivating, mysterious, and yes, it is a beautiful experience, a vision to remember, a sight that you will love and marvel at. But even the very concept of beauty has to be almost redefined at the moment when that beauty is understood, when you understand that those thousands of lights in the sky are suns, worlds, oceans of emptiness that cross a universe so incomprehensible that you can't help feeling vertigo. But there is no vertigo more beautiful nor fear more fascinating than that of going head-to-head with the cosmos. If there is one great quality that human beings possess, despite our many defects, it is that blessed gift of curiosity, that unstoppable desire to understand, to discover and to respond, to challenge a universe of which we are a part but which at the same time constantly challenges us. The famous astronomer and broadcaster Carl Sagan said that consciousness is the tool of the cosmos to understand itself. Maybe at the moment, ours are not the best of tools, nor the most complex, but of course the scientific advances that we are making, perhaps in order to satisfy the curiosity we feel for the cosmos that we serve, should make us proud, not only of our abilities, but of our will.

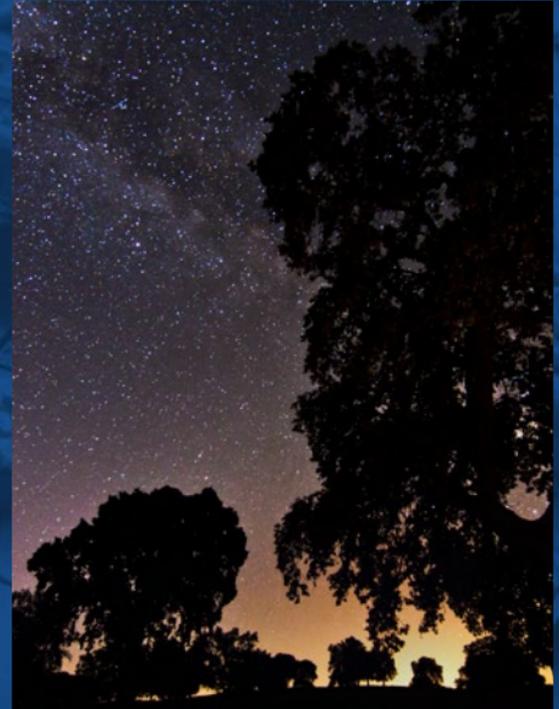
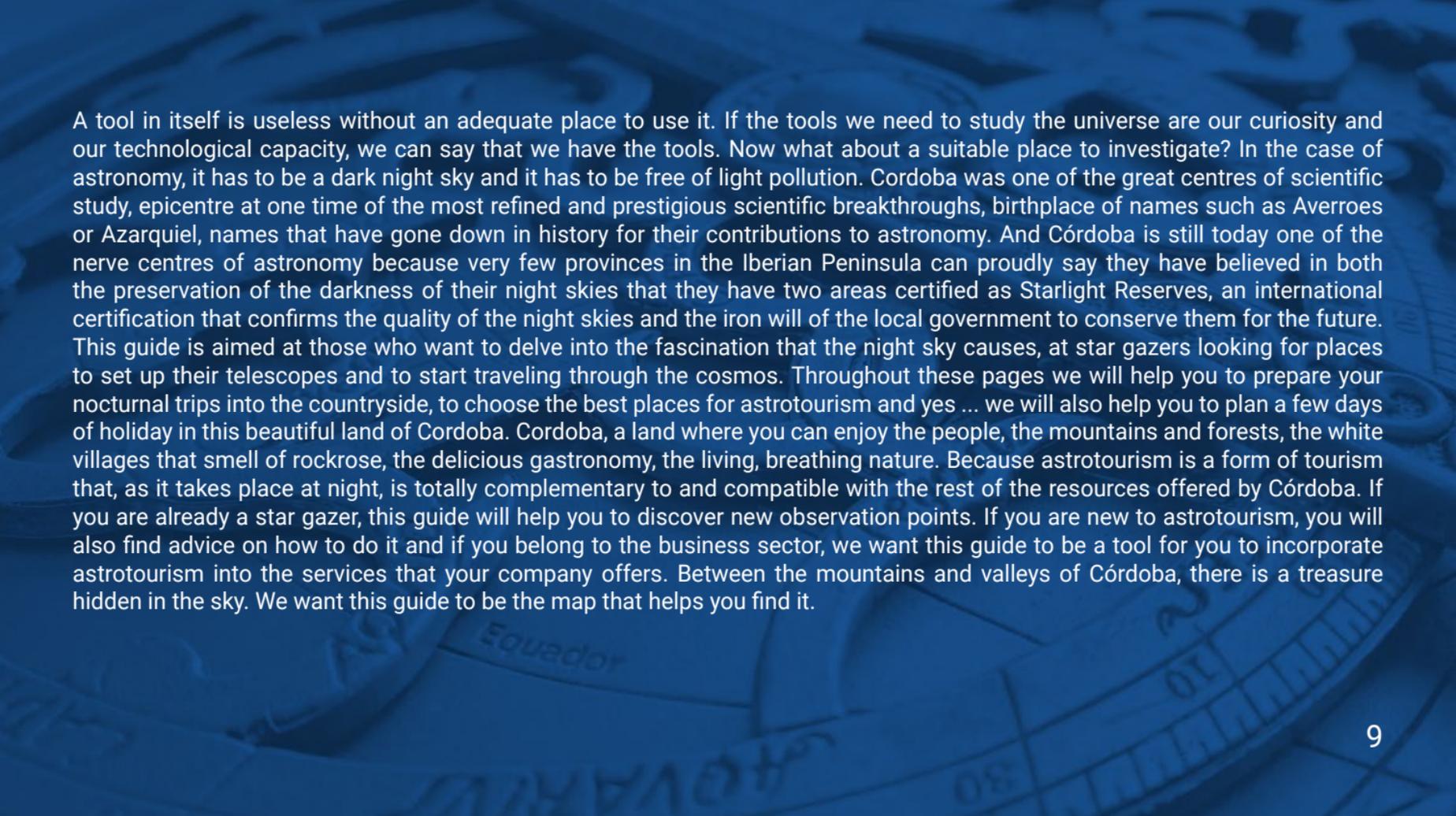


Photo | Dawn in the Cordoba meadow



A tool in itself is useless without an adequate place to use it. If the tools we need to study the universe are our curiosity and our technological capacity, we can say that we have the tools. Now what about a suitable place to investigate? In the case of astronomy, it has to be a dark night sky and it has to be free of light pollution. Cordoba was one of the great centres of scientific study, epicentre at one time of the most refined and prestigious scientific breakthroughs, birthplace of names such as Averroes or Azarquiel, names that have gone down in history for their contributions to astronomy. And Córdoba is still today one of the nerve centres of astronomy because very few provinces in the Iberian Peninsula can proudly say they have believed in both the preservation of the darkness of their night skies that they have two areas certified as Starlight Reserves, an international certification that confirms the quality of the night skies and the iron will of the local government to conserve them for the future. This guide is aimed at those who want to delve into the fascination that the night sky causes, at star gazers looking for places to set up their telescopes and to start traveling through the cosmos. Throughout these pages we will help you to prepare your nocturnal trips into the countryside, to choose the best places for astrotourism and yes ... we will also help you to plan a few days of holiday in this beautiful land of Cordoba. Cordoba, a land where you can enjoy the people, the mountains and forests, the white villages that smell of rockrose, the delicious gastronomy, the living, breathing nature. Because astrotourism is a form of tourism that, as it takes place at night, is totally complementary to and compatible with the rest of the resources offered by Córdoba. If you are already a star gazer, this guide will help you to discover new observation points. If you are new to astrotourism, you will also find advice on how to do it and if you belong to the business sector, we want this guide to be a tool for you to incorporate astrotourism into the services that your company offers. Between the mountains and valleys of Córdoba, there is a treasure hidden in the sky. We want this guide to be the map that helps you find it.

What is astronomy?

Astronomy is a science that studies everything related to the universe. Over the course of history, the definition of this discipline has had to change radically because at first astronomy was dedicated almost exclusively to studying the movement of the 'Astros' or stars (hence its name: 'Astro'= star, 'nomos'= movement). With the passage of time and above all thanks to the appearance of new instruments such as the telescope, the scope for study has reached quotas that until recently seemed unimaginable. Thus, thanks to the wide range of techniques and tools currently available, this science now studies, not only the movement of the stars we observe, but also their structure, their composition, evolution, origin or the physical laws that lie behind the how the cosmos works.

Also today we can obtain much more information thanks to space exploration, as today we have satellites, probes and spacecraft ploughing through our solar system to its outer reaches collecting information that helps us understand the functioning and characteristics of our environment and beyond.

It would be very tempting to end this section saying that we are going through a very exciting time in the history of astronomy and of science in general.



Photo | An Astrolabe, invented by the Cordoban astronomer Azarquiel



Photo | Night at the Shrine to the Virgen de Luna

Now we know that we can capture gravitational waves and listen to the cosmos, we are beginning to discover countless extrasolar planets and particle physics is helping us to decipher the very DNA of the universe. However, ... the reality is that all moments in the history of science are exciting. Imagine those people who looked for the first time through a telescope and saw the moons of Jupiter or the polar ice caps of Mars, the gigantic field of knowledge that opened up with electromagnetism, or the intellectual effort that was needed to understand something so complex but at the same time, wonderfully accurate as the Theory of Relativity. We invest all our effort and excitement in attempts to decipher a universe that was, is and will be all that we are capable of understanding and knowing, that embraces everything and nothing, we develop infrastructures and technologies just to answer some of those big existential questions that lie in wait for us: Where do we come from?

Where we are? Are we alone? Astronomy is the science that helps us answer these and many other questions. But all of this has had a side effect, peeking into the abyss of the cosmos has given us a dose of humility. We have gone from believing ourselves to be the centre of the universe to knowing that we are isolated on a small planet orbiting a tiny star on the outskirts of a spiral galaxy among dozens and tens of billions of other galaxies of all imaginable shapes and sizes. Looking at the sky fills our hearts with humility and our imagination with hope.

What is astrotourism?

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A technical definition would say that astrotourism is: people moving from one place to another in search of skies free from light pollution so that they can observe the stars either on their own or with the help of specialized companies. However, we do not want to limit it to this definition, we would like to define astrotourism as an example of a broader and more general trend which has seen tourism change radically. While in the past we travelled in order to see and do things, we now travel to experience and feel things. Astrotourism adapts to this new trend perfectly, because yes, many things are seen through a telescope but of course many more things are felt with experiences that fire the imagination. Any night spent under a Cordoba sky full of stars will allow you to see nebulae, galaxies and planets through a telescope. You may not see them but you will also fly among neutron stars, among black holes that collide with each other causing gravitational waves. You will imagine millions of neutrinos traveling through space and dream of millions of worlds, some remote and hostile, others ... maybe not.... for now, only your imagination has the answer.

Photo | Tourist enjoying a star gazing activity

The practice of astrotourism is directly linked to the presence of dark skies where the lighting of nearby towns has followed criteria regarding efficiency and environmental responsibility that have prevented too much light from being emitted towards the sky which would render it useless. Just as you cannot experience ornithological tourism where the wildlife has been mistreated, we cannot experience astrotourism in places that have been lit incorrectly.

Although in Spain we can boast of having many dark areas, the truth is that it is a fragile resource which has been lost in many regions. In Córdoba, despite assuming the historical and social circumstances that have led to some areas being more or less illuminated, the regional government is actively working to reduce the light in the night sky. There are many towns where lighting is being changed to protect the darkness of the sky whilst still adequately illuminating the centres population. This means that some parts of the province of Cordoba are considered to be true windows onto the universe, with tremendously dark skies where we can marvel whilst gazing at the constellations or at the Milky Way.



Photo | Nature workshop at la Virgen de las Veredas (Torrecampo)

What can I expect from astrotourism?

As in many other tourist sectors, the experience you have depends greatly on how you decide to enjoy the activity. You can go to any of the places that we are going to show you and enjoy the view of a stunning starlit sky. If you like photography you could have a fantastic night with your camera under the sky. You can also sign up for a trip with any of the companies that offer guided activities. On these trips you can look through telescopes, discover objects which are not visible to the naked eye and learn from an expert who will explain things and answer your questions and queries.

Astronomy is said to be a crushing hobby, because there is no more humbling experience, with our ridiculous pretensions of greatness, than to face the size, the age and the forces that govern how the universe function and to understand that, although it is a cliché, we are truly nothing. So what awaits you is an experience that many people who have experienced it for the first time say "is capable of changing your life". What awaits you could be a romantic night as a couple, a night in a group or with the family. A night of discovery that is both entertaining and cultural, both lively and deep. You will observe objects that are not only fascinating but beautiful, because although many of the photos that accompany this text are beautiful, they can't transmit the sensation of seeing the rings of Saturn, the craters of the Moon or the Orion nebula with your own eyes.



Photo | Astrotourism is a leisure activity to enjoy with friends and family



Why do astrotourism in Córdoba?

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Given that astronomy is a science of emotions, we cannot help but resort to them to explain that the observation of the sky cannot, nor should not, be understood as a purely observational activity, in which the whole experience is limited to what we see with our eyes. No, nothing could be further from the truth. A night in the countryside, under a starry sky will fill your senses beyond your mere sense of sight. The smell of wet rosemary. The fresh breeze through the branches of the oaks. The bellowing of the deer during the mating season that we can hear on so many autumn nights as we watch the giant Orion take his walk in the sky. Or even a sporadic visit from a lynx on the way to our observation sites. They are all experiences that come together with the Córdoba sky, experiences that go far beyond stars and that make up the whole set of experiences that we can have with astrotourism here, in Córdoba, and not elsewhere. People who are fond of astronomy know that observing from more than 2,000 meters up a mountain is a totally different experience to doing it in a Mediterranean mountain pasture where the lavender gives off a delightful smell at the same time as we are observing through a telescope.





But it is not only the range of emotions you feel when observing here that are the reason why we should take part in astrotourism in Córdoba. If we think about more practical things, the reality is that a lot has been done in the province so that tourists can enjoy their stay. The province has an infrastructure set in place for tourism, the mountain villages are easily accessible, there are information points, traditional restaurants, charming hotels, a well-kept cultural heritage awaiting visitors. All this makes your trip to enjoy Córdoba's skies an exceptional tourist experience. It is true that there are very remote places like the Sahara or Siberian desert where the night sky will be spectacular, but the experience of observing the stars after riding on horseback through oak trees after visiting the historic centre of a whitewashed town with its cobbled streets, having dined in a luxury restaurant and having rested in a wonderful hotel is simply something else.

Córdoba combines quality night skies and a first-rate tourist infrastructure, to ensure that your visit to our province leaves you with a pleasant, everlasting memory of an unforgettable experience under our skies, day and night.

Photo | Full moon over Córdoba

What is the Starlight initiative?

The Starlight initiative started in 2007 when the Canary Islands Astrophysics Institute devised a strategy not only to conserve but also to add value to the night sky of those areas that still maintain suitable levels of darkness and prime conditions for the observation and study of the sky. Since then, many areas have joined the movement that promotes the preservation of a resource which is both fragile and valuable, the natural dark of the night sky and aims to turn it into a valuable tourist resource and as a tool for the development of rural tourism.

Starlight is a certification system that rigorously and scientifically endorses that certain places meet the requirements as regards the quality of their night sky. Furthermore, not only is it responsible for technically validating the state of the night sky, but also tourist infrastructures are checked so that astrotourism or 'tourism of the stars' can be promoted.

Starlight certification processes are complex and require laborious field studies, measurements, reports and technical analysis of multiple parameters on scientific, cultural, political and environmental levels.

Due to the required standards, the Starlight certification is only available to those places that have a really dark sky and a very active political and social strategy for their conservation

Due to the demanding standards that have to be met, the Starlight certification is only available to those places that have a really dark night sky and are willing on a political and social level to maintain those standards.



Photo | An enormous shooting star crosses the sky at Cardeña



Conservation of the Night sky

It would seem logical to think that if a region wants to appreciate its night sky, the first thing to do is to conserve its darkness. Light pollution is the great threat that can put out the stars in our skies, not only where light is produced but also many miles away. The conservation of the night sky has to be understood as something that has to be applied nationwide. But ... How do we preserve the night sky?

When we talk about conserving the night sky we are not talking about keeping our cities and towns in the dark, quite the opposite. The population needs urban centres that are efficiently and logically well-lit. We need to direct light to those places where it is really necessary. So, we all agree that light is necessary on the ground and never in the sky, which is why many town halls are replacing street lighting so that light is directed downwards, below the horizontal plane. In Andalucia, we even have legislation in place that regulates this.

There is a false belief that associates development and modernity with excessive light, when what is really modern is to use resources in a logical and sensible way, because if we think about it carefully, maybe it is not necessary to have the same lighting at 9:00 p.m. as at 3:00 a.m.

Finally, another parameter to take into account is the colour we use to light up our villages, towns and cities. Not many people know that white lights are much worse than warm lights. White light is much more light-pollutant than warm light, more annoying to people, causing glare, attracting insects and what is worse, it can even be harmful to our health.



EXAMPLE OF NON-ADAPTED LIGHTING:

1. Part of the light is directed upwards where it is of no use.
2. The lighting is intense all night.
3. Uses cold tones above 3000K.



EXAMPLE OF ADAPTED LIGHTING:

1. All the light is aimed downwards.
2. Automatically dims the light after midnight.
3. Uses warm tones below 3000K.

Starlight in Córdoba

Córdoba is one of the provinces that is a standard bearer for the Starlight movement. This is because it has two certified areas. In 2013, the Sierra Morena region of Córdoba undertook, with its corresponding areas in Jaén, Seville and Huelva, a mammoth project to create the largest Starlight Reserve in the world, more than 320 kilometres long, from the border with Portugal to where the Sierra Morena borders with the foothills of the Sierra de Segura in Jaén.

In 2016, the area of Los Pedroches and its 17 towns joined the project. There is currently an ambitious program of adaptation going on to create astronomical viewpoints and to promote astronomical tourism which would add to its already rich and varied range of activities as regards leisure, culture, nature ... etc. In addition, we have the fantastic circumstance that we are talking about two areas that border each other, which means that the province of Córdoba has formed an astronomical reserve of enormous dimensions, where the measures that have been taken to reduce light pollution in one area benefit the other and vice versa. The joint efforts of both areas have produced a huge area governed by lighting regulations based on the conservation of its night sky. The results are spectacular and a reason for optimism. The night sky of the North of Córdoba is increasingly dark and attracts increasing numbers of people.



Photo | Shrine to San Benito in Obejo (Sierra Morena) with aurora



SIERRA MORENA STARLIGHT RESERVE and Tourist Destination



Photo | The Milky way above the horizon near Espiel

TECHNICAL FILE SIERRA MORENA STARLIGHT RESERVE

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CERTIFIED: Starlight Reserve, Starlight Tourist Destination

DEVELOPER: ADIT – GDR Sierra Morena cordobesa

WEB: www.astronomiasierramorena.com

BEST DARK SKY FIGURE: >21,60 mag/s arc2



Year certified: 2013

TOWNS: Montoro, Obejo, Adamuz, Villaharta, Espiel, Villanueva del Rey, Villaviciosa de Córdoba and Hornachuelos.

The Sierra Morena Starlight Reserve surprises the visitor for many reasons: because of its vast area, it is worth mentioning that it is the largest astronomical park in the world when we include the areas in the other provinces. Also because of its brown mountains covered with dense forest, where lynxes wander, eagles fly and deer graze proudly, proud to live in one of the natural hearts of Europe. But undoubtedly one of the treasures that has been jealously kept secret among the valleys of holm oaks and white farmhouses is the night sky. Now the secret is out, having been awarded Starlight status in 2013, it now offers a wide range of activities and options so that you can enjoy a night under the firmament.

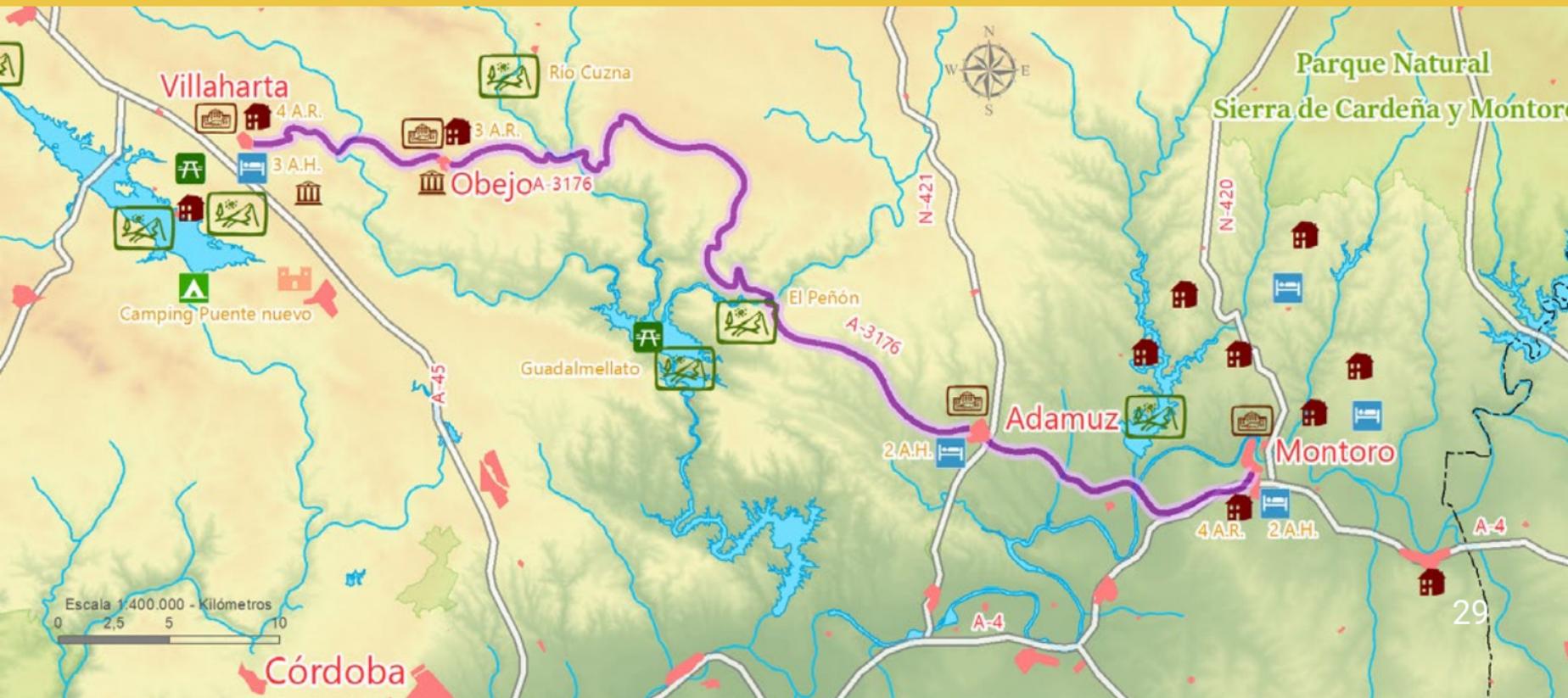
The Starlight Reserve and Tourist Destination of Sierra Morena is made up of 8 towns: Montoro, Obejo, Adamuz, Villaharta, Espiel, Villanueva del Rey, Villaviciosa de Córdoba and Hornachuelos. It also borders on two natural parks, Cardeña and Montoro and Sierra de Hornachuelos. This coincidence highlights the fact that we are talking about a unique place, where one can easily combine daytime tourist activities with tourism aimed at the night sky.





ITINERARY 1: MONTORO – ADAMUZ - OBEJO - VILLAHARTA

ITINERARY MAP



We can say many things about Montoro, that the houses hang over a red stone abyss by the waters of the river Guadalquivir, that the houses and narrow streets are intertwined in an urban setting that smells of garlic “sopeao” soup, of potatoes with cod or of venison, just some of their typical dishes. It can be said that its bell towers and bridges reflect the light of the sun that bathes the carpenter workshops in ochre tones, that when you catch sight of it from the distance you know you are entering a land full of history, and that is that Montoro is undoubtedly one of those places that has traditionally given a warm welcome to those who have come to discover the depths of Sierra Morena. This is why our itinerary starts here.

We invite our readers to visit the town of Montoro, to walk through its streets and to wander through its rich heritage. Do not forget to go to the tourist office and pick up some information on how to enjoy this vibrant and beautiful town.



Photo | Panoramic view of Montoro

The astronomical observation point that we recommend in the section “astronomical viewpoints” at the end of the information about this itinerary is about 8 kilometres east of the town, in the place known as Molino de la Nava. Among the Olive groves stand some old farmhouses and mills that by themselves constitute a rich heritage and a reason enough for a pleasant visit.

Astronomical Tip

A very astronomical procession. In the Real Cofradía de Ntro. Father Jesús Nazareno and Ntra. Sra. De los Dolores (Religious associations) they are very aware of the stars, specifically of our Sun, the king star, and every year the procession schedule is strictly governed by solar time. The procession sets off annually at 2:00 am in the morning. This is because the entire route is calculated so that at 6:00 a.m. the image is in a such a strategic position so that a ray of sunlight illuminates the face of the figure. The sunrise and sunset, the moon and other objects in the sky have been studied for millennia and have marked the location and orientation of countless monuments that are still preserved today. The procession of Padre Jesús in the Early Morning of Good Friday is a peculiar example of how certain astronomical parameters are directly related to festivities, events or with the local folklore of Sierra Morena.



Municipal Tourist Office

Tel. 957160089
turismo@montoro.es
www.montoro.es/turismo

MUSEUMS

Museo Arqueológico Municipal
Museo Pintor Rodríguez Luna
Tercias Catedráticas “Museo del Aceite”
Iglesia de Santiago “Museo de la Semana Santa y Cofradías de Montoro”

Tel. 957162300 / 654452157
museosdemontoro@uniges3.net
www.museodemontoro.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Ayuntamiento, Parroquia de San Bartolomé, Parroquia de Ntra. Señora del Carmen, Casa de los Palcos, Iglesia de San Juan de Letrán, Puente Mayor, Hospital de Jesús Nazareno, Iglesia de Sta. M^a de la Mota, Arco de la Torre Mocha, Ermita de Santa Ana, Iglesia de San Sebastián, Plaza de Toros, Torre de Villaverde, Casa de las Conchas, Patios Típicos, Talleres artesanales de la Piel (Casa Mohedo), Espartería Hnos. Hidalgo, Forja artística, Mazapanes La Logroñesa, Carnes Asenjo y Apícola de Montoro (empresas con la Marca Parque Natural), Aceite de Oliva Virgen Extra con D.O. Montoro-Adamuz, Molinos aceiteros centenarios, Rutas de senderismo y Parque Natural de Cardeña y Montoro, etc.

TOURIST VISITS, ACTIVITY AND NATURE TOURISM, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Quivirocio, Deporte y Aventura

Tel. 686876215 / 620536416
quivirocio@hotmail.com
info@quivirocio.com
www.quivirocio.com

Lynxaia, Servicios Culturales y Ambientales

Tel. 957160154/ 625512442
lynxaia@gmail.com
www.lynxaia.com

Uniges-3, Gestión de los Museos de Montoro y Paseos en Burro

Tel. 957162300 / 675566361
uniges3@uniges3.net
www.uniges3.net

MONTORO: Where to stay?

Hotel Mirador de Montoro

Tel. 957162803

reservas@hotelmiradordemontoro.es

www.hotelmiradordemontoro.es

Hotel Molino La Nava

Tel. 957336041 / 607743674

alojamiento@molinsonava.com

www.molinsonava.com

Hotel – Restaurante “La Molina Plaza”

Tel. 957336090

info@lamolinaplaza.com

Hostal Montoro

Tel. 957160792

hostalrestaurantemontoro@hotmail.com

www.hostalmontoro.com

Alojamiento Rural El Alboroque

Tel. 607734918

alojamientoelalboroque@gmail.com

www.alojamientoelalboroque.com

Alojamiento Rural La Molina de Mesías

Tel. 957160802 / 666301126

reservas@molinamesias.com

www.molinamesias.com

Alojamiento Rural Cortijo Molino San Juan

Tel. 957336259 / 609065959

reserva@cortijomolinosanjuan.com

www.cortijomolinosanjuan.com

Apartamento Casa Fabiola

Tel. 629359801

www.casa-fabiola.hotels-andalucia.com/es

Casa Rural Olivetum Colina

Tel. 648793134 / 665039842

info@olivetum-colina.es

www.olivetum-colina.es

MONTORO: Where to stay?

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Casa Rural Casa Maika

Tel. 957160273 / 636035552
informacion@casamaika.com
www.casamaika.com

Casa Rural Molino de Don Federico

Tel. 957492205 / 696932299
administracion@molinodedonfederico.es
www.molinodedonfederico.es

Casa Rural Finca La Molina

Tel. 659709852
lamolinamontoro@gmail.com

Hacienda La Colorá

Tel. 600813031
haciendalacolora@gmail.com
www.haciendalacolora.com

Refugio Rural Chiveras Bajas

Tel. 696495270 / 651471914
chiverasbajas@gmail.com

Casa Rural "Navallana"

Tel. 665765401
www.facebook.com/
navallanacasaruralmontoro

Apartamento Las dos brujas

Telf. 625263663
reservas.alojamientomontoro@
gmail.com
www.alojamientomontoro.es



Photo | Shrine to San Benito (Obejo) a night of high solar activity which produced airglow

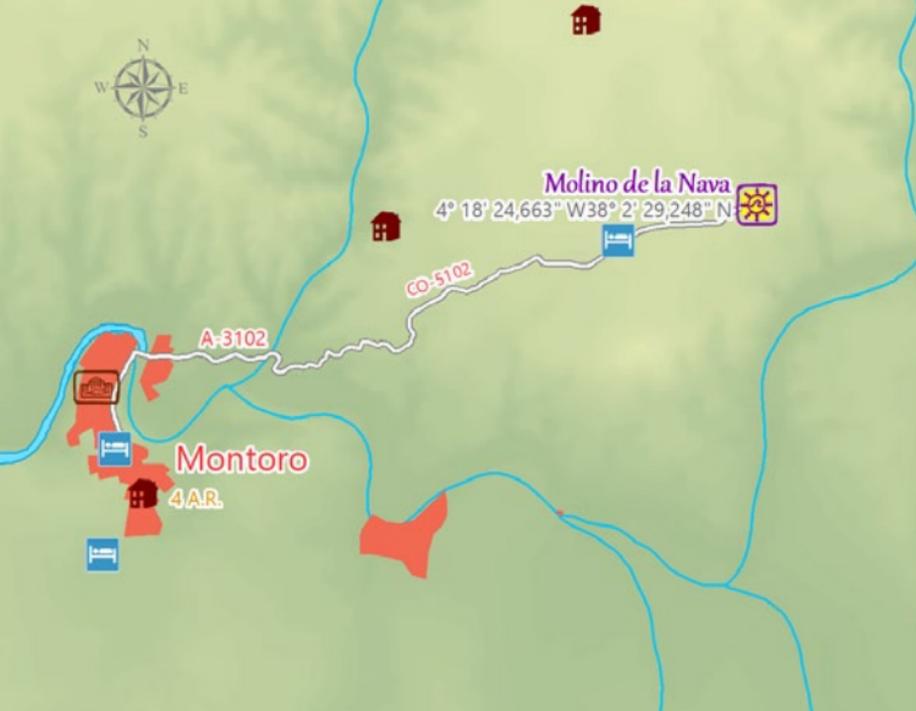


MONTORO: Paraje Molino de la Nava

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● ● ● ● ●  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from MONTORO: 10 km



Location: Montoro
Paraje Molino de la Nava



38°02'29.1"N
4°18'29.0"W



Because of its proximity to the town of Montoro, this is a point that is often used by companies who provide astronomical services. You can access it by the A-3102 road, in the direction of Cortijo del Molino de la Nava, which is well-signposted. After passing through the entrance to the latter, we continue 1.5 km until we find this small exit to the left. If you are going after it has rained, be careful, because it is a dirt track and there may be puddles.

You will see some trees to the east but in general it is an open area with an impressive sky, especially to the North, where there is no town for kilometres and kilometres.



Photo | Molino del Gollizno in Adamuz

From Montoro we set off for the town of Adamuz, to do so we take the A4 motorway in the direction of Córdoba. Just 4 kilometres later take the exit 364 to Adamuz. drive on a few kilometres and you will easily reach our next destination.

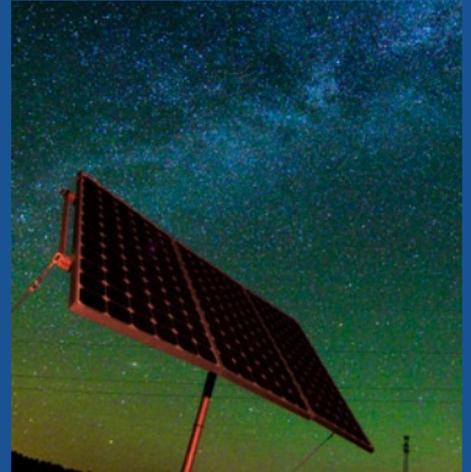
When you are on the roads you can begin to understand the magnitude of the Sierra Morena. First, you are among the centuries-old olive trees that produce one of the gastronomic treasures of the area, its olive oil. You can learn all about it at the Centre of the Olive Grove of Sierra de Adamuz. Later, patches of pine forests and Mediterranean forest begin to appear. They make up an impressive agricultural mosaic, the traditional landscape of the foothills of the Sierra Morena, where the people of yesteryear learned to use the land in harmony with nature.

Adamuz is an architectural jewel that, in addition to its grand houses, towers and churches, hides secrets of incalculable value such as a medieval trough, as well as numerous fountains and pillars.

Adamuz is a beautiful example of tradition, of folk going about their business, customs and authentic people who welcome the people who visit them. The expanse of pastureland and mountainside that extends towards the north is immense and includes one of the most famous places in Adamuz: its municipal mountain lands. We are speaking of an area which belongs to the town located about 20 kilometres to the north, an extremely dark place far from any source of light pollution. We will speak of it in the section of “astronomical viewpoints.”

Astronomical Tip

In the year 2012, airglow was recorded in the municipal mountain areas of Adamuz, a phenomenon so, so, so rare that it was not until 2 years later that its discoverers realized it. Airglow can be defined as a type of extremely thin aurora borealis, so tenuous that it is impossible to see it with the naked eye in normal conditions, although basically its origin is the same as that of the northern lights: energetically charged particles that come from the sun. When they come into contact with particles from our atmosphere, the contact makes some of them shine. The difference is that it seems that the particles that cause airglow are not influenced by the magnetic field of our Earth, as happens with those that cause the aurora borealis. As it is such a tenuous phenomenon, it is very difficult to get recorded cases, so much so that in the Iberian Peninsula there were no records for the year 2012. The first record was made in 2013 in the nearby hills of Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, a year after the same authors had carried out the work in the context of the Starlight certification process in Sierra Morena. The Cazorla photo appeared in numerous publications and the photo became famous as the first photographic record of airglow on the Iberian Peninsula. Curiously, two years later, reviewing the photographic archive, they found that, airglow had been captured already, in 2012, in the Adamuz municipal mountain area, although no one noticed at the time. So, and sadly it is not a widely known fact, the truth is that the first record of airglow on the Iberian Peninsula really took place in Adamuz, another example of the tremendous darkness and quality of these skies.



Tourist Information Office

Tel. 957006208 / 692157953
turismo@adamuz.es
www.adamuz.es

Museo Histórico

**Centro de interpretación y Recursos
del Olivar Sierra de Adamuz**

**Centro de Interpretación de Adamuz
Red de senderos de Montes
Comunales**

Contact Tourist Office
Tel. 957006208 / 692157953
turismo@adamuz.es
www.adamuz.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Montes comunales, Torre del Reloj, Ermita de San Pío V, Iglesia parroquial de San Andrés Apóstol, Ermita de la santísima Virgen del Sol o Ermita del Cerro, Ermita de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, Cruz de los Caídos, Mercado de Abastos, Pósito Municipal, Pozo de Santiago, Pilar del Mesón del Obispo, Piedra de los Muertos, Iglesia de San Felipe y Santiago (Algallarín), Fuente Cabrera, Cueva del Cañaveralejo, Ruta del Agua, etc.

ECOTOURISM AND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Alpasín, Ecoturismo – Birdwatching –
Fotografía de Naturaleza**

Tel. 633026176
infoalpasin@gmail.com
www.alpasin.com

ADAMUZ: Where to stay?

Hostal San Andrés

Tel. 957166238

grupochaparro.1957@gmail.com

www.elchaparro.com

Complejo Rural Montes Comunales

Contactar con Oficina de Turismo

Tel. 957006208 / 692157953

turismo@adamuz.es

www.adamuz.es/nuestro_pueblo/montes_comunales

Apartamentos Rurales Molino Almona

Tel. 957167174 / 652172088

info@apartamentosruralesmolinoalmona.com

www.apartamentosruralesmolinoalmona.com

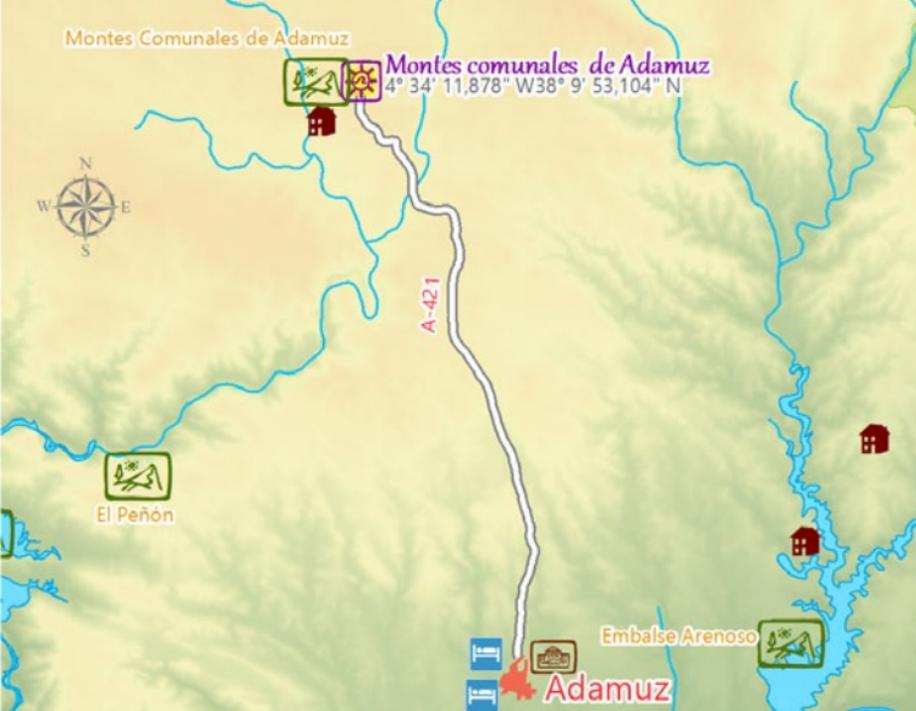


ADAMUZ: Montes Comunales

42

.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from ADAMUZ: **20.3 km**



Location: Adamuz
Montes Comunes

 38°09'53.3"N
4°34'12.4"W



Los Montes Comunes is a place that seems to have been made to measure for people interested in the night sky. It is a wide open space, with an open horizon, with houses for rent, with light sockets and easy access by the A-421 road leaving to the North from Adamuz. If the Town hall is notified, the few lights on the premises can be turned off. It is convenient to look for a tree or obstacle that blocks out the lights of the Forest Defence Centre (CEDEFO).

In order to go to the last point on this itinerary you must leave by the Calle del Mesón towards the A-3001 road, leading to Obejo. This route is one way of getting into the depths of the Cordoba Sierra Morena that borders the olive groves. It is a succession of oak covered hills and mountain olive groves that produce one of the most prized olive oils in Andalucia. It will take you about an hour and a half to travel the 47 kilometres that separate Adamuz from Obejo, but you'll probably take longer if you want to stop and enjoy these endless landscapes or places as unique as "el peñón", where a huge stone rises over a small country estate, one of the obligatory photographs of the trip. The further you travel, the more you will see forest formations and open grasslands because we are entering into the very heart of Sierra Morena. Just before you reach the town of Obejo, you will pass by the Shrine to San Benito, with its large forecourt. It is one of the best places to see the stars in the area.

After this journey we reach the town of Obejo, which, as it is perched on a hill, is an imposing sight that dominates the eternal succession of valleys, ravines and forest-covered mountains. Do not forget to go to the viewpoint located at the southern end of the town, from where you can see the whole town, its church with its Mudéjar style tower and the remains of the old castle.



Photo | Mudéjar style tower in Obejo

Photo | Night sky in Winter at Obejo



Obejo Municipal Office: (Copper Museum)

Museo del Cobre (Cerro Muriano)

Tel. 957350282

ADIT - G.D.R. Sierra Morena Cordobesa

Tel. 957350273

info@sierramorena.com

www.sierramorena.com

OTHER MUSEUMS

Iglesia de San Antonio Abad, Ermita de San Benito, Vestigios de la fortaleza de Ubal, S.IX, , S.XVIII, vestigios del Castillo - S. IX-XI, Vestigios del "Castil de Flores" - S.IX-XI, Iglesia de Santa Bárbara, Ermita de Ntra. Señora de los Pinares, yacimiento arqueológico del Cerro de la Coja, etc.



OBEJO: Where to stay?

Casas rurales “La boticaria” y “El jarote”

Tel. 606671778 / 664744276

laboticariayjarote@gmail.com

www.casarurallaboticariayeljarote.blogspot.com.es

Casa Rural Las Tinajas

Tel. 629162058



Casa Rural El Médico

Tel. 686892064

Hotel Santa María del Trabajo

Tel. 957350790 / 668579046

hotel-santa-maria-del-trabajo.negocio.site

Alojamiento la Casa del Brigadier

Tel. 957350188

Albergue Provincial Cerro Muriano

Contactar con Diputación Provincial de Córdoba

Tel. 957350719

El Pinar de Villa Carmina

Tel. 619533433 / 652558449

admin@naturalezacordoba.es

www.naturalezacordoba.es

OBEJO: Shrine to San Benito

.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from OBEJO: **2.5 km**



Location: Obejo
Shrine to San Benito



38°08'05.6"N
4°46'59.3"W



A few kilometres from the town of Obejo is the Shrine to San Benito, a wide open place from which you can delve into the wonders of the cosmos. Currently, you need to call in advance to ask for permission so that the Town hall can open the door and you can access freely by vehicle. If you can access at any time on foot through a side door from where you can bring telescopes in. Work is being done so that this place can become an astronomical viewpoint with all comforts and facilities.

Villaharta

50

Our last stop takes us to Villaharta, a town that is overflowing with nature wherever you look. Along its pleasant streets and around its impressive park, there are numerous stately homes that adorn squares and alleys. Villaharta is surrounded by extensive oak forests and is the starting point for numerous walking routes through the Sierra Morena. You can also visit some ancient fountains and the ruins of the famous spa at the Hotel Santa Elisa near the town.

To get to Villaharta from Obejo, take the A-3176 and continue on it for 13 kilometres.

In Villaharta you have an excellent place for observation at the Merendaos de Villaharta, just over 1 km from the town. It is a perfectly equipped and where the night sky shines impressively.



Photo | Streets of Villaharta



Photo | Night sky near Villaharta

VILLAHARTA: What to do and see?

52

Town Hall: Ayuntamiento de Villaharta

Tel. 957367061

ayuntamiento@villaharta.es

www.villaharta.es/turismo

OTHER RESOURCES

Fuentes de Agua Agria, Parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Piedad, Los grifos, Monumento a San Rafael y El Rey de la Cetrería de Aurelio Teno, Miradores de las Zahurdillas Altas y Bajas, Parque Elías Cervelló y Chinesta, Monasterio de Pedrique, etc.



VILLAHARTA: Where to stay?

Balneario Aguas de Villaharta

Tel. 625307044 / 957740088
info@aguasdevillaharta.com
www.aguasdevillaharta.com

Hostal Restaurante el Cruce

Tel. 957367233 / 679409279
www.elcruce.es

Nueva Casa de Gala

Tel. 618261962
ejgtorre2010@hotmail.com
ejgtorre.wix.com/
nuevacasadegala



Casa de Campo Bellavista

Tel. 627034049 / 600248177
casadecampobellavista@hotmail.com
www.casadecampobellavista.es

Casa Rural la Solana

Tel. 609985752
lasolana@live.com
<https://www.escapadarural.com/casa-rural/cordoba/la-solana>

Casa Rural Fuente Agria

Tel. 957274131 / 600 204 428 / 957367252
<https://www.escapadarural.com/casa-rural/cordoba/nueva-casa-de-gala>

VILLAHARTA: Merenderos de Villaharta

54

●●●●●  OBSERVATION SPOT



Merendero de Villaharta
4° 54' 32,472" W 38° 8' 56,602" N

CO-6410

Villaharta



Balneario Santa Elisa

Kiosko de la Fuente



Distance from VILLAHARTA: 1.9 km



Location: Villaharta
Merenderos de Villaharta



38°08'56.5"N
4°54'32.5"W



From the town of Villaharta, take the CO-6410 road towards Pozoblanco. After little more than a kilometre on the right we come to a parking area marked with roofed picnic areas. This is very easy to access, very dark and with all the facilities for astronomy.

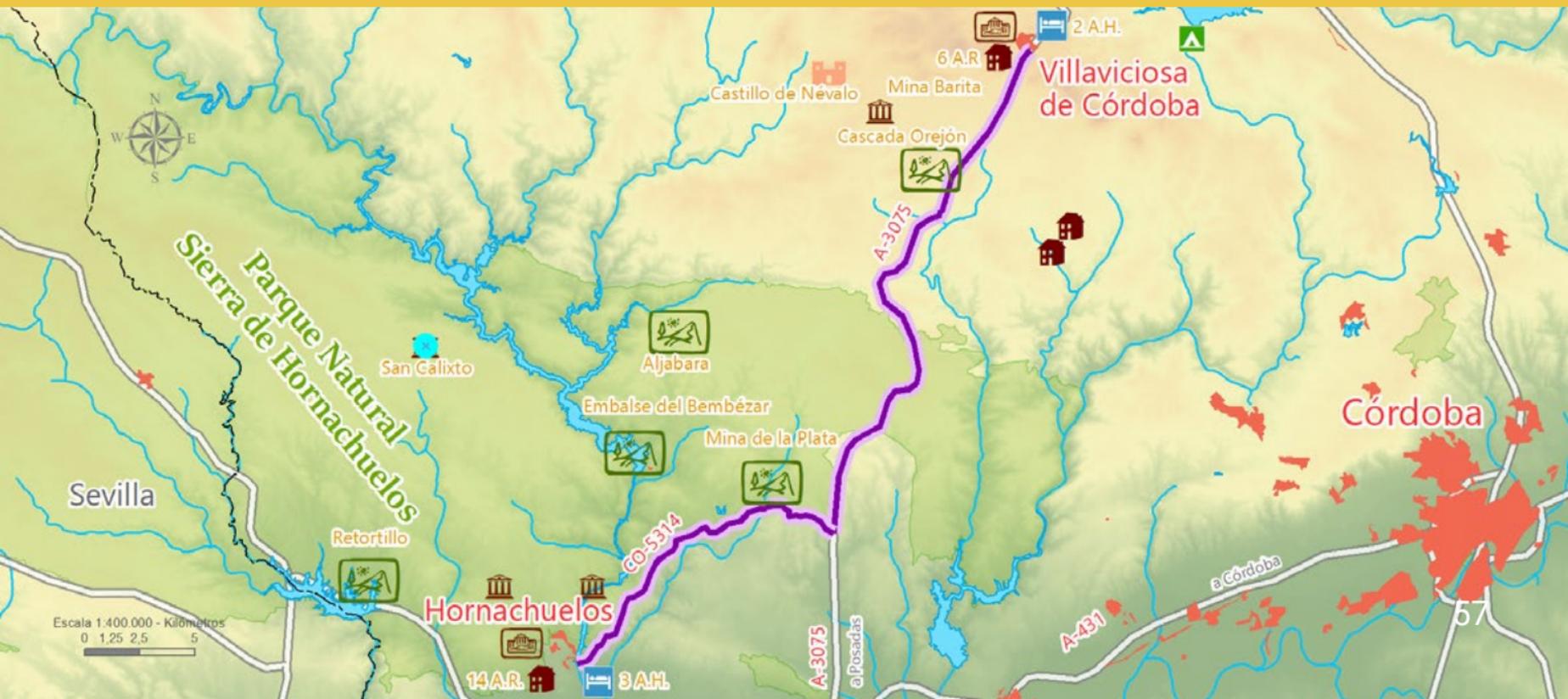


A photograph of a wooden structure, possibly a bridge or a large sculpture, under a starry night sky. The structure is made of dark wood and is illuminated from below, creating a warm glow. The sky is filled with stars, and the Milky Way galaxy is visible in the background. The structure consists of several vertical posts and horizontal beams, with some beams connected by ropes or cables. The overall scene is serene and captures a beautiful night sky.

ITINERARY 2: HORNACHUELOS – VILLAVICIOSA DE CÓRDOBA



ITINERARY MAPS



Our route begins in the town of Hornachuelos, gateway to what is undoubtedly one of the least inhabited areas of Andalucía, where you suddenly find yourself surprised by wild nature. In fact, the entire area to the north is part of The Natural Park of the Sierra de Hornachuelos.

The town itself hides numerous treasures, such as the tower of the church of Santa María de las Flores, the castle or the Town Hall, which is set between winding streets of traditional houses and squares full of trees. We can also walk to the monastery of Our Lady of Los Angeles, located on a steep slope next to the entrance to the Bembézar Reservoir.

Towards the north we find the Shrine to San Calixto, in the middle of an open pasture plain surrounded by ravines and canyons. Continuing towards the north we enter a more desolate land, where one can have the sensation of being in a place untouched by the hand of man. In the section of observation points we recommend a place to observe near here.

Make sure you find time to wander through the Natural Park, Hornachuelos. It has a tourist information office. There are numerous routes around this amazing space that is overflowing with biodiversity.



Photo | Hornachuelos Town hall

Photo | General view of the main square at Hornachuelos



Municipal Tourist Office

Tel. 957640786

turismo@hornachuelos.es

www.turismohornachuelos.es

Visitor Centre “Huerta del Rey” del Parque Natural Sierra de Hornachuelos

Tel. 957579656

cvhuertadelrey@reservatuvisita.es

www.ventanadelvisitante.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Castillo, Plaza de Armas y Recinto Amurallado, Iglesia de Sta. María de las Flores, Cuevas de las Carretas, Ermita del Salvador, Iglesia de San Calixto, Seminario Sta. María de los Ángeles, Iglesia de Bembézar del Caudillo, Iglesia de Mesas de Guadalora, Iglesia

de Céspedes, Iglesia de la Puebla de Parrilla, Monasterio de Santa M^a de las Escalonias, Palacio y Jardines de Moratalla, Puente Árabe, Posada de Arrieros del XVI, etc

ACTIVITY TOURISM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, BEEKEEPING, ETC.

Centro de Naturaleza Cañada Verde

Tel. 696375768

canadaverdeinfo@gmail.com

www.cañadaverde.com

Moramiel

Tel. 661889991 / 957641178

moramieloro.oficina@gmail.com

www.moramiel.com

Canoas del Bembézar

Tel. 957640059



HORNACHUELOS: Where to stay?

Hostal Restaurante El Álamo

Tel. 957640476

www.complejoelalamo.com

Hostal Cañada Verde

Tel. 696375768

www.cañadaverde.com

canadaverdeinfo@gmail.com

Hospedería Monasterio de las Escalonias

Tel. 957714578 / 648845065

escalonias@monasterioescalonias.org

www.monasterioescalonias.org

Pensión Emi

Tel. 957640098

Casa El Melojo I

957/640629

melojo@intercom.es

Casa Rural San Miguel

Tel. 957640823 / 676480535 /

685867534

info@casaruralsanmiguel.com

www.casaruralsanmiguel.com

Casa Rural Puerta de la Villa

Tel. 645537075

rafaeldamianmilajo@gmail.com

Casa Rural Zane

Tel. 685867534

Casa Rural Retamales

Tel. 957640327 / 617821431

casaruralretamales@hotmail.com

Casa Rural El Mirador de la Alcaidía

Tel. 616060222 / 957640039

acah2002@hotmail.com

www.miradordelaalcaidia

Casa Rural Huerta de la Cañada

Tel. 952783582 / 610741965 /

615995210

canadadela fuente@gmail.com

www.casaruralhornachuelos.webgarden.es

Casa Rural Majada Alta

Tel. 616673588 / 630465627

Hacienda Casa Rural San Ignacio

Tel. 699243946 / 608114384
/957640394

reservas@sanignaciorural.com
www.sanignaciorural.com

Casa Rural Huerta de las Mayas

Tel. 660652727 / 629509079

aedlmarisol@hotmail.com
www.casaruralhornachuelos.com

Vivienda Rural El Olivo del Moreno

Tel. 609289412

info@elolivodelmoreno.com
www.elolivodelmoreno.com

Casa Rural Las Marías

Tel. 646958989

Casa Rural La Sierra

Tel. 626436876 / 957640661
crlasierra@hotmail.com

Casa Rural La Amarja

Tel. 616418772 / 957640395

Casa Rural El Refugio

Tel. 663292274

Casa Rural El Bosque

Tel. 957640593

Casa Rural Finca Bramadero

Tel. 630969134

info@fincaelbramadero.com
www.fincaelbramadero.com

Casa Rural del Guadaluza

Tel. 957338176 / 649913954

Casa Rural La Pilarica

Tel. 957813806

Casa Rural El Refugio

Tel. 663292749 / 957714640

casaelrefugio@hotmail.com

Vivienda Turística Huerta de la Fuente

Tel. 658914498

Vivienda Turística Casa Santa Cruz

Tel. 677594548

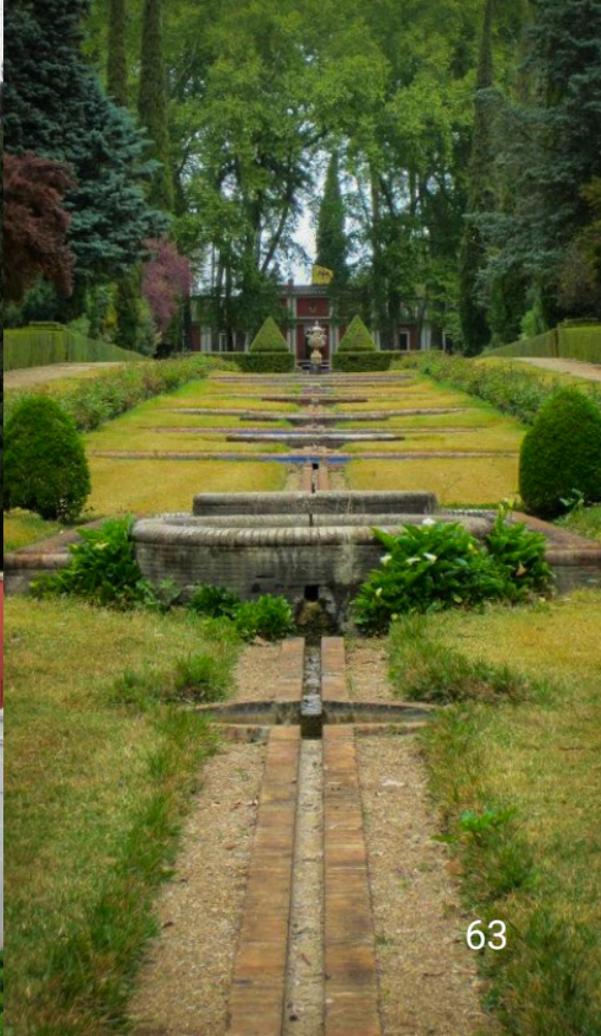
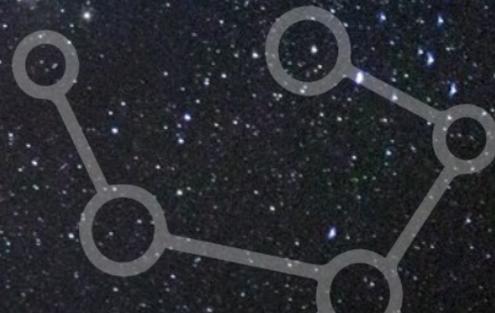


Photo | Palace and gardens of Moratalla

HORNACHUELOS: km 41 – A.3151

64

.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from HORNACHUELOS: **31 km**



Location: Hornachuelos
Km 41 from the A.3151

 38°01'07.1"N
5°23'14.7"W



If you have a large car capable of climbing a track with your telescope loaded in the back and you are looking for an outstanding night sky ... do not think twice. This is one of the most remote and isolated places in the Sierra Morena, but also (and precisely for that reason) one of the darkest. To get there, we set out from Hornachuelos. You have to take the A-3151 towards the Shrine to San Calixto. From there, go straight ahead along this same road until at km 41 you see a path that climbs a hill on the left. It is not far but it is not signposted, so you have to follow the indications of your GPS or your mobile phone closely so that you do not pass the access. We also recommend bringing water and food because there is nowhere to buy anything. If you do not want to go so far you can also observe from the Shrine to San Abundio.



Photo | Shrine to Nª Sra. De Villaviciosa de Córdoba

To get to our second stop on this route, take the road CO-5314 from Hornachuelos and continue until you reach a junction with the A-3075. Follow the signs until you reach Villaviciosa de Córdoba.

On the journey, of about 50 km, which takes about 2 hours by vehicle, you will find numerous places and obligatory stops such as the Silver Mines, in the municipal area of Posadas. It is a journey that runs among impressive barren lands, meadows and an infinite series of mountains and Mediterranean forest.

On arriving at Villaviciosa de Córdoba we will find a town with clean and well-kept streets where the Town Hall square, the church of San José and the shrine to Nuestra Señora de Villaviciosa de Córdoba stand out. One of the most outstanding things is the presence of two bridges of Arab origin, that of La Tejera and Puente de los Riscos. The Tejera is the second longest in the province of Córdoba.

Villaviciosa de Córdoba has numerous sports and leisure facilities, including its campsite, a place from which many astronomical observation activities have been carried out, as well as nocturnal routes around the surrounding area.

Another excellent point to see the stars is in the direction of Cordoba along the CO-3405. You will find more information in the observation points section.



Photo | Traditional patio at Villaviciosa de Córdoba

VILLAVICIOSA DE CÓRDOBA: What to do and see?

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Town Hall Villaviciosa de Córdoba

Tel. 957360021

www.villaviciosadecordoba.es/turismo

OTHER RESOURCES

Iglesia de San José, Ermita de N^a
Sra. de Villaviciosa, Puente Califal del
Guadiato, Puente sobre El Guadalupe,
Castillo de El Névalo, Recinto
fortificado de Cabeza de Vaca, Molinos
de los Pilonos, de la Apertura y de la
Tolva, Ermita de San Isidro, etc.

ACTIVITY TOURISM, OLIVE OIL TOURISM AND WINE TOURISM

Desarrollo de Villaviciosa (Camping Puente Nuevo)

Tel. 957360727 / 646346114

info@campingpuentenuevo.com

www.campingpuentenuevo.com

Almazara Agrícola Sierra Morena (Aceite ecológico)

Tel. 957360760

puertocarretas@hotmail.com

www.puertocarretas.com

Bodegas Gómez Nevado

Tel. 957360096

puertocarretas@hotmail.com

www.bodegasgomeznevado.com



VILLAVICIOSA DE CÓRDOBA: Where to stay?

Hotel La Alcoholera

Tlf. 694441419 / 957055195
hotelalcoholera@gmail.com

Hostal - Restaurante Sierra Morena

Tel. 957360674

Camping Puente Nuevo

Tel. 957360727 / 646346114
info@campingpuentenuevo.com
www.campingpuentenuevo.com

Casa Rural La Casa del Abuelo Martín

Tel. 957361192 / 654056492 /
667969304
info@casadelabuelomartin.es
www.casadelabuelomartin.es

Casa Rural Puerto Carretas

Tel: 957360760
puertocarretas@hotmail.com
www.puertocarretas.com

Casa Rural Mirabuenos

Tel. 957360434 / 670650912
nroldan40@yahoo.es

Casa Rural El Romerito

Tel. 957479653 / 675103258

Casa Rural El Cortijo de Camama

Casa Rural La Molina de la Campana
Casa Rural Isabel

Tel. 616408873 / 606883192
info@elcortijodecamama.com
www.elcortijodecamama.com

Casa Rural La Calera

Tel. 625484625
info@lacaleracasarural.com
www.lacaleracasarural.com



VILLAVICIOSA DE CÓRDOBA: Puerto del Aire

70

●●●●●  OBSERVATION SPOT



Villaviciosa de Córdoba



Distance from VILLAVICIOSA DE CÓRDOBA: 11.4 km



Location: Villaviciosa de Córdoba
Puerto del Aire

 38°02'30.1"N
4°56'03.2"W

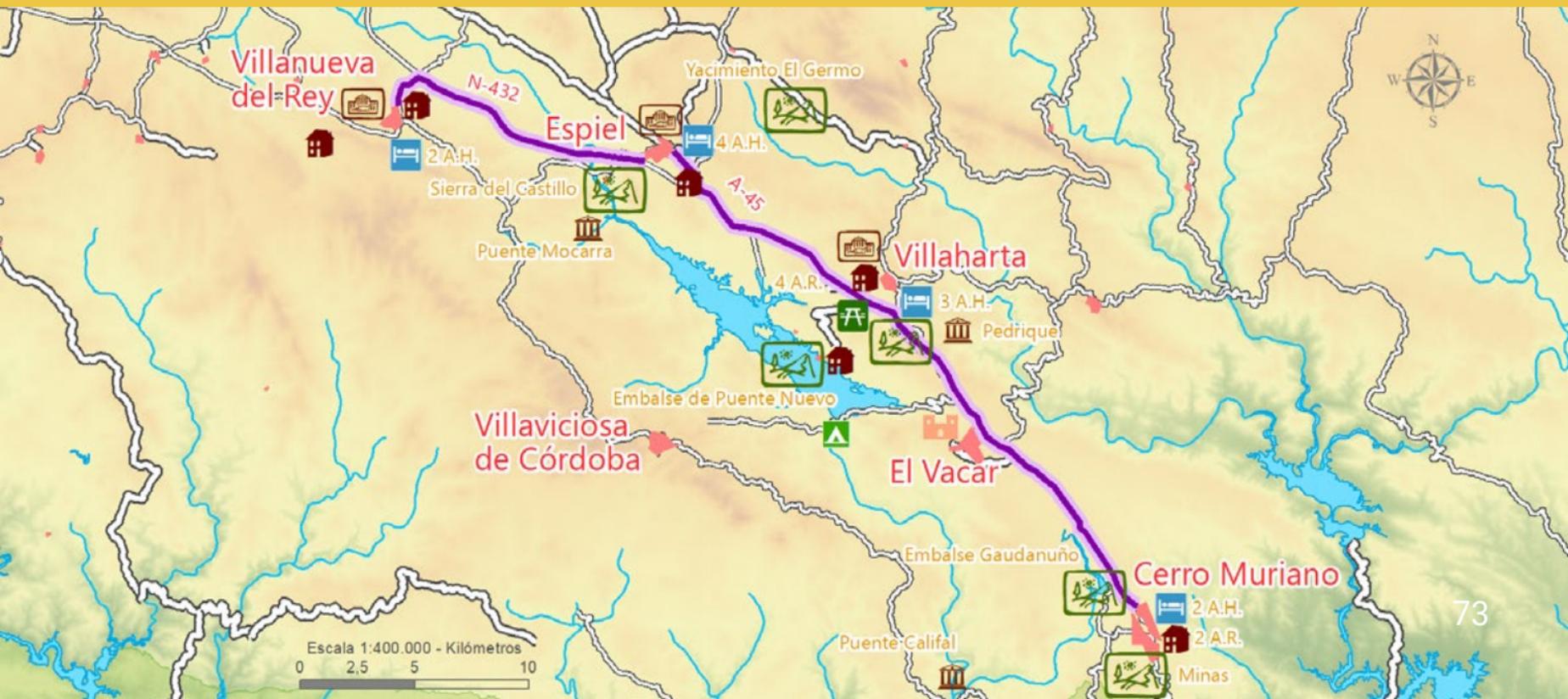


We take the CO-3405 from Villaviciosa de Córdoba for 10 km and after taking a turnoff to the right and continuing another kilometre, we come to a small extension where we can set up the telescopes. It is in the Sierra Morena but relatively close to Córdoba, which is why the quality of its sky is so surprising. It is one of the favourite places of the inhabitants of Villaviciosa de Córdoba to go on special nights like those of a meteorite shower.



ITINERARY 3: ESPIEL - VILLANUEVA DEL REY

ITINERARY MAP



Cerro Muriano – El Vacar

Our route begins in the neighbourhood of Cerro Muriano, which, although it is located within the municipal area of Córdoba and Obejo, is an excellent spot to begin our journey to our first stop in Espiel. Cerro Muriano is worthy of a stop to walk through the spectacular scenery of the copper mines, where you can see some old mining operations which are still in very good condition, or visit the small Guadanuño reservoir.

Continuing along the N-432 we arrive at El Vacar, a small hamlet in Espiel where we find a spectacular walled enclosure of the same name. The castle of “El Vacar”, caliphal in its origin, looks out over stunning views of this territory that represents the gateway ‘par excellence’ to Sierra Morena.



Photo | Castle at El Vacar



A few kilometres from El Vacar we arrive at Espiel, the first official spot on our route. Espiel, in addition to having one of the best astronomical observation points at “Nava de Espiel”, is a traditional town with white houses and a church, San Sebastian, which crowns the set of streets and squares.

Among its many tourist attractions, it is also worth mentioning the hostel located in the old railway station, starting point for numerous routes around the Sierra del Castillo, the shores of the Puente Nuevo reservoir that are full of wildlife, mills, abandoned farmhouses or old bridges like the one at Mocarra.

Espiel has a hidden jewel in its municipal area, a Visigoth basilica. The ground layout is still visible among the remains. This is to be found at the El Germo area.



Photo | San Sebastián Church Espiel

Photo | Old railway station at Espiel, currently a hostel



ESPIEL: What to do and see?

78

Town Hall Espiel

Tel. 957363022

www.aytoespiel.com

OTHER RESOURCES

Conjunto visigodo del Cerro del Germo, Parroquia de San Sebastián, Ermita de la Virgen de la Estrella, Castillo de El Vacar, arquitectura popular, etc.

ACTIVITY AND SPORTS TOURISM

Aventurocio, Gestora de actividades y Tiempo Libre

Tel. 957363589 / 627568412

info@aventurocio.com

www.aventurocio.com

Besport, Gestión de Servicios e Instalaciones Deportivas

Tel. 658467903 / 626531197 / 627527884

besportcb@gmail.com

www.gestionbesport.com



ESPIEL: Where to stay?

Albergue Rural de Espiel

Tel. 957363589 / 627568412
info@alberguedeespiel.com
www.alberguedeespiel.com

Hostal Andalucía

Tel. 957363385

Hostal Juan Carlos I (los Tres Sueños)

Tel. 651397024

Hostal Restaurante el Descanso del Volante

Tel. 957363098

Vivienda Rural El Puche

Tel. 678452294 / 690004282
info@elpuche.com
www.elpuche.com

Casa de Campo Puente Nuevo

Tel. 625464028
casasdecampo@hotmail.es
www.casadecampopuente-nuevo.
blogspot.com



ESPIEL: Llanos de Espiel

.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from ESPIEL: **4.9 km.**



Location: Espiel
Llanos de Espiel - 4.9 Km

 38°12'09.7"N
5°00'34.6"W



We leave Espiel on the old national road N-502 and after only 3 kilometres from the junction next to the cemetery, we find an excellent astronomical observation point. Shortly before the kilometre sign 388 we find a turnoff to the left that leads to a large esplanade without any trees with a completely open view of the night sky.

We are talking about a spot that is a must if you want to enjoy the spectacular sky. It is an excellent place to go on the nights of August to enjoy the shooting star showers so frequent at this time. It is also one of the most recommended places to go with a group of amateurs and set up telescopes as it is easy to park, convenient, wide open and completely flat.

Villanueva del Rey

82

Continuing on the N-432 we arrive at Villanueva del Rey, one of the first towns to adapt all its town lighting to avoid light pollution. It is still today one of the best examples of sustainable management of public lighting.

Villanueva del Rey is a pleasant traditional mountain village, surrounded by green pastures where sheep and goats roam. It has a historic centre of twisting streets, white houses, squares, shrines and churches, like the Immaculate Conception. The Town Hall Square has staged very popular astronomical observation activities. But if this town can boast anything it is its natural heritage, as its municipal area includes part of the huge public estate, Las Erillas. It has thousands of hectares, contains numerous tourist facilities and as an star observation place it is simply unbeatable.



Photo | la Inmaculada Concepción church. Villanueva del Rey



Photo | Town hall Villanueva del Rey

VILLANUEVA DEL REY: What to do and see?

84

Town Hall Villanueva del Rey

Tel. 957589001

ayto.villanuevadelrey@eprinsa.es

www.villanuevadelrey.es/turismo

OTHER RESOURCES

Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción, Plaza del Ayuntamiento, Pósito, Ermita del Apóstol Santiago, Yacimiento del Ermitaño, Sepulcros megalíticos, Castillo del Cerro de los Castillejos, Construcciones del Cerro de los Castillejos, Villar Dos Hermanas, Fuente la Membrillera, zona recreativa “Dehesa Boyal”, etc.



VILLANUEVA DEL REY: Where to stay?

Hotel - Restaurante Rural Las Monteras

Tel. 957589084

info@hotellasmonteras.com

www.hotellasmonteras.com

Hotel - Restaurante La Laguna

Tel. 957337011 / 607631101 /

670633343

hostalrestaurantelalaguna@hotmail.com

www.villanuevadelreyhotellalaguna.

wordpress.com

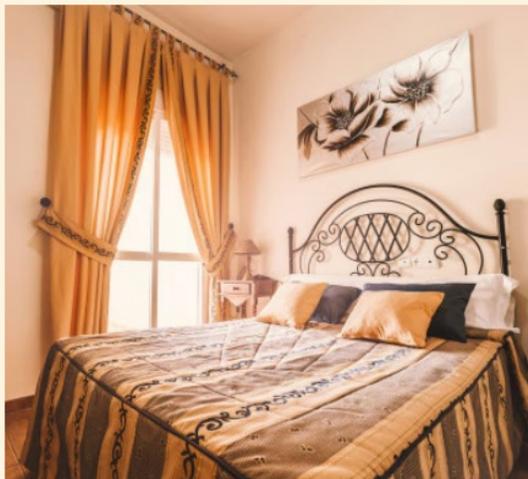
Casa Rural El Manantial

Tel. 957238297 / 696718329

www.ruralelmanantial.es

Casa Rural Huerta del Pasíl

Tel. 957589321 / 676939980



VILLANUEVA DEL REY: Las Erillas

86

.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Villanueva del Rey



camino
CO-7403



camino

Las Erillas

 5° 13' 41,792" W 38° 8' 37,290" N

Distancia from VILLANUEVA DEL REY: 12.2 km



Location: Villanueva del Rey
Las Erillas



38°08'37.3"N
5°13'41.6"W



The public estate of Las Erillas, in the town of Villanueva del Rey, has more than 12,000 hectares of Mediterranean forest, ecologically priceless. It is also one of the darkest places in the Sierra Morena Starlight Reserve. The fact that the municipality of Villanueva del Rey adapts all its lighting to avoid light pollution contributes to this. If you call the Town Hall in advance, you can access without problems and make astronomical observations at the beginning of the large estate, where on both sides of the main track there are several esplanades and large areas where the telescopes can be set up. There is also a classroom that can be used to give talks and soon there will be accommodation to rent.



Starlight
RESERVE LOS PEDROCHES



Photo | Cross in the hermitage of the Virgen de Luna. Pozoblanco - Villanueva de Córdoba

TECHNICAL FILE STARLIGHT RESERVE LOS PEDROCHES

90

CERTIFICATE: Starlight Reserve

DEVELOPER: Centro de Iniciativas Empresariales y Turísticas de Los Pedroches (CIET) y Mancomunidad de Municipios de Los Pedroches.

WEBSITE: www.lospedrochesreservastarlight.com

BEST DARKNESS FIGURE: >21,60 mag/s arc2

TOWNS: Cardeña, Conquista, Villanueva de Córdoba, El Guijo, Santa Eufemia, El Viso, Villaralto, Alcaracejos, Torrecampo, Añora, Pozoblanco, Pedroche, Dos Torres, Hinojosa del Duque, Fuente la Lancha, Villanueva del Duque and Belalcázar



Year certified: 2016

Located in the northeast corner of the province of Córdoba, Los Pedroches can be considered as one of those clear symbols which stamps its identity not only on this province but on all of Andalucía. Its extensive meadows are among the best preserved in the world, representing a priceless natural heritage. A place where towns, people and customs come together to form a magical space that is pure in its very essence. It is also a certified Starlight Reserve where the radiant sun, typical of the area shares the sky with an amazing blanket of stars that seems to fall onto the branches of oaks every night.

The Pedroches has numerous spots which are suitable for observing the stars, among which we can highlight the peri-urban parks, shrines or old mines that are scattered throughout the region which is made up of the 17 towns of Cardeña, Conquista, Villanueva de Córdoba, El Guijo, Santa Eufemia, El Viso, Villaralto, Alcaracejos, Torrecampo, Añora, Pozoblanco, Pedroche, Dos Torres, Hinojosa del Duque, Fuente la Lancha, Villanueva del Duque and Belalcázar.

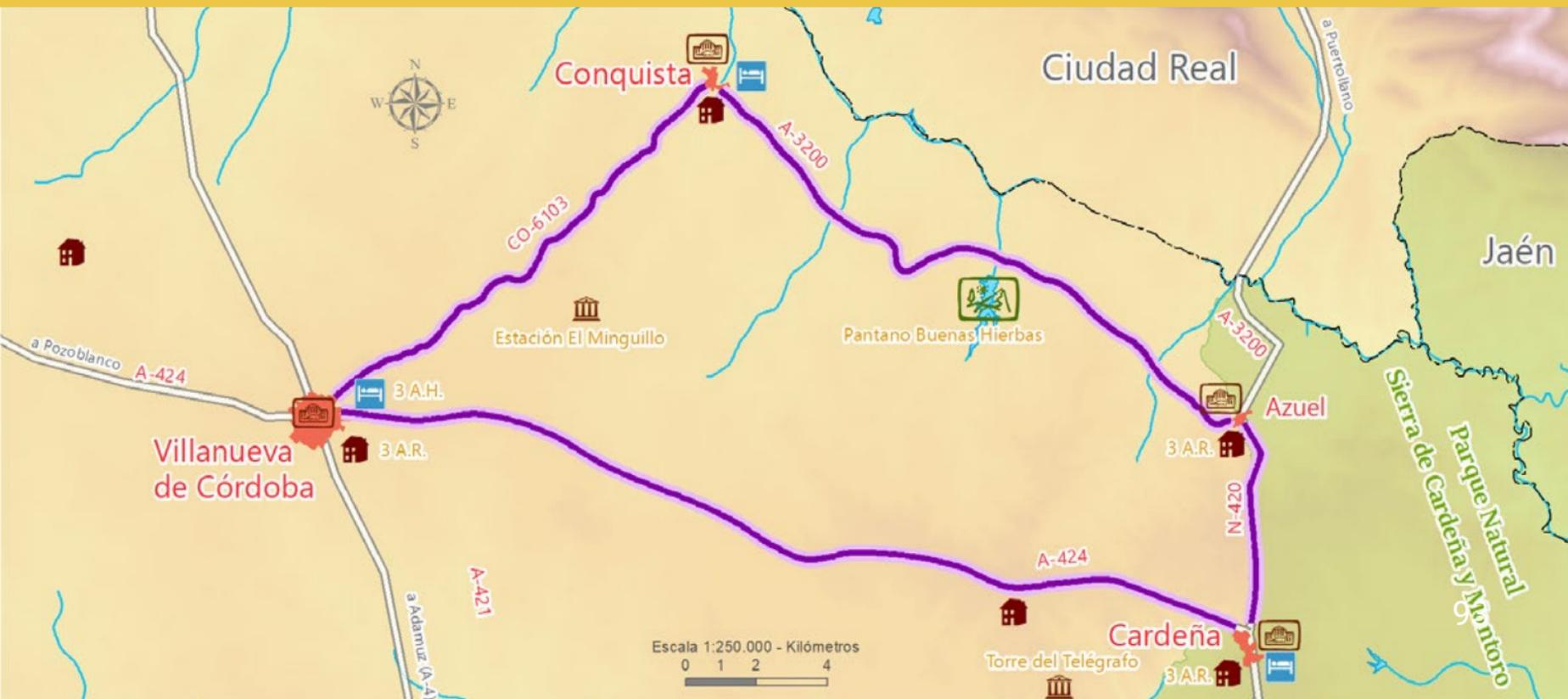
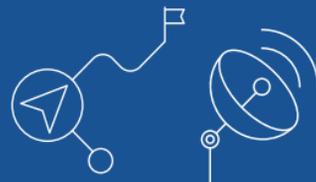




ITINERARY 4: CARDEÑA – CONQUISTA – VILLANUEVA DE CÓRDOBA



ITINERARY MAP



We start this circular route in the town of Cardeña located in the northeast corner of the province of Córdoba and which, in part, gives its name to the Natural Park of the Sierra de Cardeña and Montoro.

Cardeña is a small town with white streets where the parish of Nuestra Señora del Carmen stands out. The popular architecture, based on granite, led to the town being awarded the First National Prize for the Beautification of Towns by the Ministry of Tourism in 1968, among many other awards.

You will also be struck by the astronomical observatory located next to the southern entrance of the town. This was the first astronomical observatory in the district of Los Pedroches, and its presence is, in itself, a declaration of intention by a town that wants to look at the stars and take care of the darkness of its night sky.

Outstanding areas of Cardeña are its districts, Azuel al Norte and Venta del Charco. Cerezo village is one of the most recommended places as it is the best places to observe the stars. In fact, historically there have been numerous meetings and astronomical observations in groups there. In the observation points section, we will indicate how to get there and how to plan your observation.



Photo | Astronomical observatory Cardeña



Photo | Aldea del Cerezo. Cardena

Municipal Tourist Office

Tel. 957174138 / 639572090

turismo@cardena.es

www.cardena.es

Sala Expositiva "Arte de la Caza"

Observatorio Astronómico de Cardena

Ayuntamiento de Cardena

Tel. 957174138 / 639572090

turismo@cardena.es

Centro de Visitantes "Venta Nueva" del Parque Natural Sierra de Cardena y Montoro

Tel. 957336503 / 685957187

info@hylaeducacionambiental.com

www.ventanadelvisitante.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Parroquia Nuestra Sra. Del Carmen,
Aldea del Cerezo, Mirador de aves
del tejoneas, Jardín didáctico del
Mediterráneo, Parque Natural Sierra
Cardena y Montoro, etc.

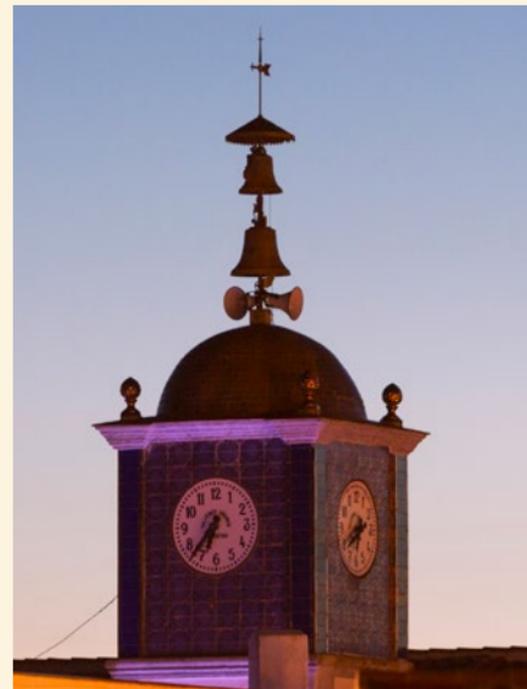
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND NATURAL TOURISM

Hyla Educación Ambiental

Tel. 685957187

info@hylaeducacionambiental.com

www.hylaeducacionambiental.com



CARDEÑA: Where to stay?

Casa Rural Rosalía

Tel. 617490221 / 957174068
casarosalia@yahoo.es
www.casaruralrosalia.es

Casa Rural Cortijo Tejoneras

Tel. 627395984 / 670219126
info@cortijotejoneras.com
www.cortijotejoneras.com

Casa Rural Ruedos del Robledillo

Tel. 680615305 / 630065093
info@ruedosdelrobledillo.es
www.ruedosdelrobledillo.es

Hostal La Posá La Encina

Tel. 652887919

Vivienda Turística Navalaperdiz

Tel. 686836064
navalaperdiz@gmail.com
www.navalaperdiz.com

Alojamiento Rural Casa San Antonio

Tel. 670431417 / 957411475
info@casasanantonio.es
www.casasanantonio.es

Casa Rural La Posada De Las Ventas (Venta del Charco)

Tel. 957174090 / 678676434
info@laposadadelasventas.es
www.laposadadelasventas.es

Apartamentos Rurales La Venta Del Charco (Venta del Charco)

Tel. 610004351
reservas@laventadelcharco.com
www.laventadelcharco.com

Casa Rural Charqueña (Venta del Charco)

Tel. 957173838 / 618040711 / 670574231
charquena@gmail.com
www.casaruralcharquena.com

Casa Rural Mirador De Los Tomillos (Azuel)

Tel. 957174525 / 637789559
info@casaruralmiradordelostomillos.com
www.casaruralmiradordelostomillos.com

CARDEÑA: Where to stay?

98

Casa Rural Río Yeguas (Azuel)

Tel. 667347896 / 956535930

casarural@rioyeguas.es

www.rioyeguas.es

Vivienda Rural Casa del Abuelo (Azuel)

Tel. 957487269

lacasadelabueloazuel@hotmail.com

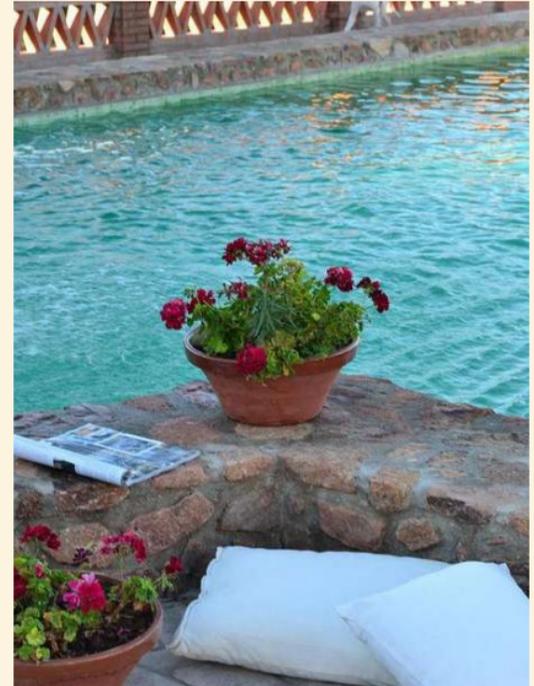




Photo | Cardeña, in the heart of the Natural Park, offers a great deal of accommodation and tourist resources.

CARDEÑA: Aldea del Cerezo

100

●●●●●  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from CARDEÑA: **10.3 km**



Location: Cardeña
Aldea del Cerezo



38°15'18.8"N
4°15'08.1"W



In the village of Cerezo we can find another one of those spots that are already more than well-known among people fond of astronomy. Proof of this is the fact that this observation spot usually brings together groups of people who come to enjoy the darkness of the skies and have a pleasant night. To get there, you will have to take the road to Aldea del Cerezo which leaves from Modesto Aguilera de Cardeña Street. Be careful because although the road is normally good, it is an unpaved forest trail in the Natural Park.



Photo | Old railway station at Conquista

About 30 km away on the A-3200, is the town of Conquista, a small town whose name refers to its origin in the sixteenth century. At that time there was an intense traffic of travellers and goods that flowed between Cordoba with the central areas and Madrid along the so-called Camino de la Plata. With them, came the ever growing presence of assailants and bandits in the area. Strolling along the streets, we can enjoy a landscape dotted with clay-brick houses, stone on the facade and lintels of old granite. In addition, there are some unique places such as the Plaza de Santa Ana, the water fountain of the la Garganta (Throat), the bridge of two arches over the Grande stream or the bullring. We move on, among holm oaks and herds of sheep and cows, following the Route of Navagrande, to arrive at the Shrine to San Gregorio in the Paraje de Navagrande, the first area of the village to be settled in ancient times and an excellent place to observe the stars.



Photo | Meadow and Mountain scenery in Conquista

Town Hall Conquista

Tel. 957159445

www.conquista.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Casa de Postas, Antigua carbonera del tren, Iglesia de Santa Ana, Mirador Puente Triangulo, Tumbas Mozárabes, La Fuente, Barrio de la Estación, Mirador Puente del Triángulo, etc.

Ruta de El Saladillo

Ruta de Navagrande



CONQUISTA: Where to stay?

Albergue Rural Posada Camino de la Plata
Tel. 678397302



CONQUISTA: Shrine to San Gregorio

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.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from CONQUISTA: **3.9 km**



Location: Conquista
Ermita de San Gregorio



38°26'18.8"N
4°30'41.8"W



Leaving the town of Conquista on the CP-314 in the direction of La Garganta, continue 1.5 km until you find a turnoff to the left marked as "Ermita de San Gregorio". Continue along this track for 2.5 km until you reach a spot where you will find a small asphalted circular area to place your telescope and enjoy a magical night. It is a wide open area although some oaks can partially block part of the sky.

After enjoying your visit to Conquista and travelling 16 km along the CO-6103 road, you will arrive at Villanueva de Córdoba, a town that appears in the middle in a sea of oaks where the Iberian Bellota Ham is the main motor for the economy and tourism. It is one of the great capitals of Los Pedroches, a vibrant population with multiple tourist facilities.

History is palpable as we walk its streets, full of emblematic buildings such as the parish church of San Miguel, the Audiencia, the current Town Hall, Cristo Rey Convent, Las Obreras Convent or the stately homes of the town centre. Granite, so abundant in the area, once again takes on a starring role, so much so that it is part of a highly recommended themed route on this material. After the visit to the Dehesa Interpretation Centre, the Civil War Refuge located in the Plaza de España or the Local History Museum, we head on to an enclave located 10 km from the town, the Sanctuary of the Virgen de Luna, patron saint of the Cordoba towns of Villanueva de Córdoba and Pozoblanco, at the foot of which lies the half-moon as a trophy and from which it gets its name. This is another recommended spot to observe the stars.



Photo | Iberian ham, star product in Villanueva de Córdoba

Photo | Parochial Church of San Miguel in Villanueva de Córdoba



Tourist office

**Centro de Interpretación de la Dehesa
Refugio de la Plaza de España
Museo de Historia Local (antigua
estación de ferrocarril)**

Visitas guiadas para grupos: secaderos
de jamones, almazara y ruta del
granito.

Tel. 957120603

turismo@villanuevadecordoba.com

www.villanuevadecordoba.com

OTHER RESOURCES

Ayuntamiento, Audiencia, Iglesia de
San Miguel, San Sebastián y Cristo Rey,
Convento de las Obreras y Capilla del
Dulce Nombre, Capilla Hospital Jesús
Nazareno, Plaza de Toros, Dólmenes
Megalíticos, etc.

AVE STATION IN LOS PEDROCHES

Villanueva de Córdoba – Los Pedroches

www.renfe.es



ACTIVITY, LEISURE NATURE AND CYCLING TOURISM

**Las Lagartosas Turismo Rural y de
Naturaleza**

Tel. 676344962 / 629708595

turismolaslagartosas@gmail.com

www.laslagartosas.es



VILLANUEVA DE CÓRDOBA: Where to stay?

Hotel La Casa del Médico

Tel. 957120247 / 699426729
info@hotellacasadelmedico.com
www.hotellacasadelmedico.com

Hotel El Volao

Tel. 957120157
reservas@hotelvolao.com
www.hotelvolao.com

Hostal Los Encinares

Tel. 957120700 / 744486842
reservas@hostallosencinares.es
www.hostallosencinares.es

Hostal El Volao

Tel. 957120157
reservas@hotelvolao.com
www.hotelvolao.com

Alojamiento Rural Casa Miqui

Tel. 671053864 / 673625165
casamiqui@gmail.com
www.casamiqui.es

Casa Rural Arroyo Judío

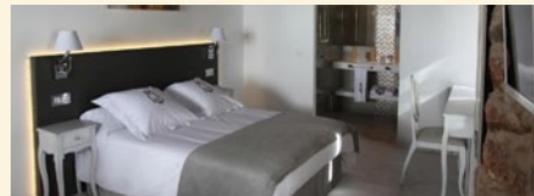
Tel. 687666338 / 648529111
mjesusllergo@gmail.com
www.casaruralarroyojudio.com

Alojamiento Rural Huerta Barberos

Tel. 661959258
huertabarberos@gmail.com
www.huertabarberos.com

Alojamiento Rural Cortijo Las Lagartosas

Tel. 676344962
turismolaslagartosas@gmail.com
www.laslagartosas.es



TELEPHONES OF INTEREST Taxis: 619321990 / 957120735 - 667259746 / 957121600 - 659118715 / 957121526 - 669633646 / .957123490 - 616483380 / 957120387 - 97505330 / 957120387 - 690937228 / 636019306 / 957123007

VILLANUEVA DE CÓRDOBA: Shrine to the Virgen de Luna

112

.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from VILLANUEVA DE CÓRDOBA: **13.2 km**



Location: Villanueva de Córdoba
Shrine to the Virgen de Luna



38°08'56.5"N
4°54'32.5"W



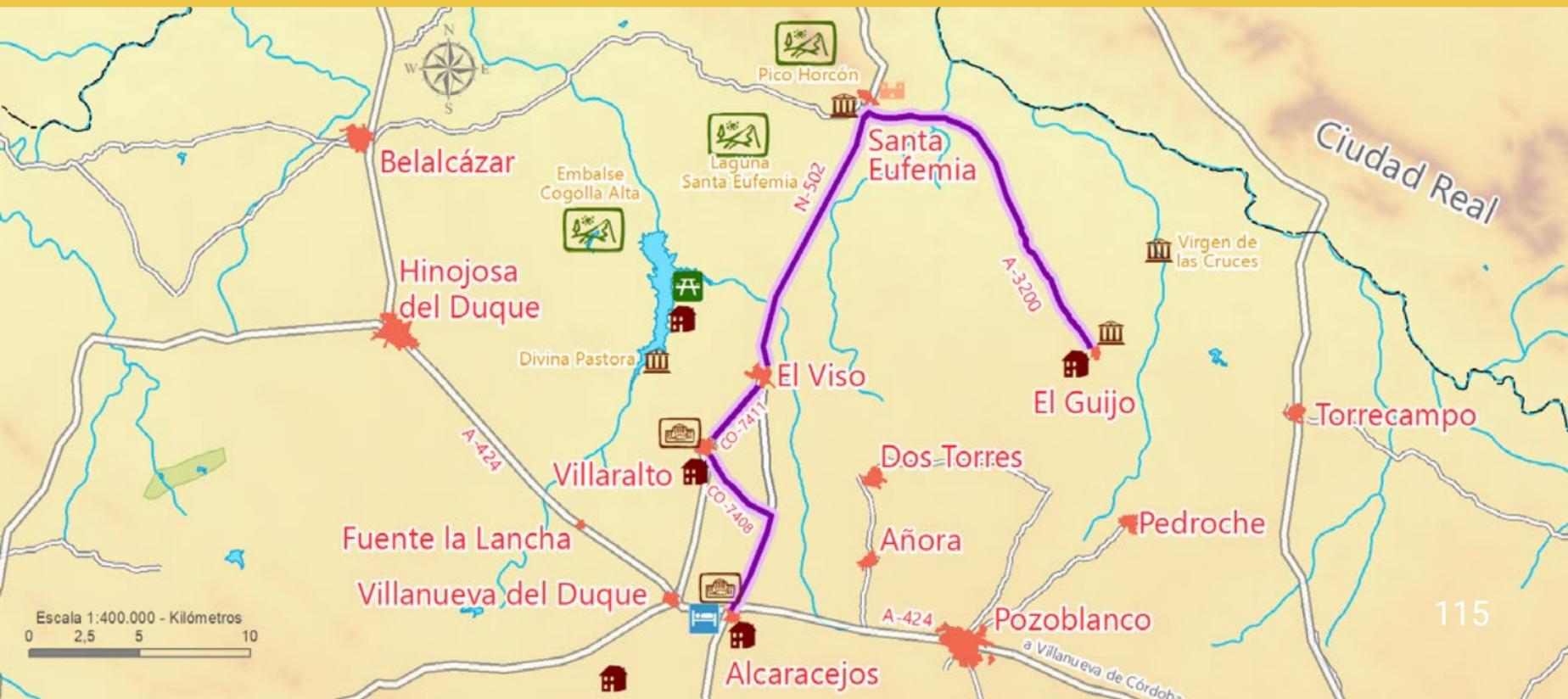
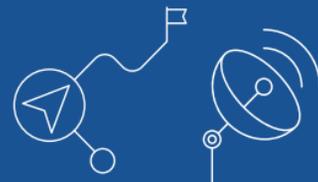
From Villanueva de Córdoba take the A-424 in the direction of Pozoblanco. Continue for about 8 km until you find a turnoff to the left towards the Ntra. Señora de Luna Sanctuary, where you will arrive after 3 km.

Here are you will find the best conditions for astronomical observation, a large and easily accessible site. In fact, this place is one of the places where the School of Astronomy holds its informative sessions and workshops for children and adults (you can get more information by calling the Town hall at Villanueva de Córdoba).

ITINERARY 5: EL GUIJO – SANTA EUFEMIA – EL VISO – VILLARALTO – ALCARACEJOS



ITINERARY MAP



This route begins in the town of El Guijo, whose name means “small stone”. It has quiet streets, cheerful squares and small corners where time seems to have stood still, El Guijo is a town of hospitable people and is famous for its popular festivals. A ‘must see’ visit are places like El Calvario, from where we can enjoy beautiful views of the town and the surrounding meadows and give it its natural charm and cultural identity.

One of the places of interest in this town is also the place that we recommend for astronomical observation. It is the Virgen de las Cruces Shrine, located 6 km from the city centre, in the El Soto area. In addition to the Shrine and the visitor centre, here we can find the Majadaiglesia archaeological site.



Photo | Architectural heritage in El Guijo

Photo | Shrine to the Virgen de las Cruces in El Guijo



**Town Hall El Guijo
Yacimiento Arqueológico Romano
de Majadaiglesia y Centro de
Interpretación**

Tel. 957159047

ayto-elguijo@hotmail.com

www.elguijo.es/turismo

OTHER RESOURCES

Parroquia de Santa Ana, Ermita Virgen de las Cruces, Paraje El Soto, Antiguos lavaderos, El Calvario, etc.

**Ruta del Arroyo Santa María
Ruta del Despeñadero**



EL GUIJO: Where to stay?

Casa Rural Cañadas Reales

Tel. 627917560 / 619079704 /
627410610

canadasreales@gmail.com
www.cañadasreales.es



EL GUIJO: Shrine Virgen de las Cruces

120

.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Virgen de las Cruces
4° 44' 56,401" w38° 32' 20,413" N



El Guijo



Distance from EL GUIJO: **6 km**



Location: El Guijo
Ermita Virgen de las Cruces



38°32'20.7"N
4°44'56.7"W



From the town of El Guijo take the CO-7100 road to the north, at kilometre 6 you will find the Shrine to the Virgen de las Cruces. Next to this Shrine, an interpretation centre has been built, which has a wide and flat area at the back, accessed by a gate. In addition, next to the archaeological site in the town, an astronomical viewpoint is being built, which will be ready soon.



Photo | View of Miramontes in Santa Eufemia

Our second stop is the town of Santa Eufemia, a town located right on the border of the province and noted for its castle that stands imposingly at the top. From the castle of Miramontes you can enjoy an exceptionally beautiful panorama. If there is anywhere you can appreciate the immensity of the pastures of this region is undoubtedly here. This is also a perfect place to enjoy a night of astronomy or astrophotography. It goes without saying that it is an especially attractive place to photograph at night.

To get to Santa Eufemia take the A-3200 road and continue straight ahead for a total of 21 kilometres.

On its streets we can find some real Moorish-Mudejar style jewels, such as the Church of Our Lady of the Incarnation, a homage to the past of what was the first settlement of the Kingdom of Cordoba, or the arch of the old wall, known as Puerta de la Villa.

Do not forget to visit other points of interest such as the Shrine to Santa Eufemia or the Castillo de Vioque Castle, located 8 km from the town centre.



Photo | Night view from the Miramontes castle at Santa Eufemia

Town Hall Santa Eufemia

Rutas de senderismo por la Sierra de Santa Eufemia:

Ruta de los negrillos y Ruta hacia la Ermita de la Santa y hacia el río Cigüeñuela y Ruta por la cuerda de la sierra (no señalizada).

Escuela de escalada Piedras Altas.

Antiguos refugios anti aéreos.

Tel. 957158229

ayuntamiento@santaeufemia.es

www.santaeufemia.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Parroquia de Ntra. Sra. de la Encarnación, Restos del Castillo de Miramontes, Arco de la Villa y Plaza Mayor, Restos de Murallas y Torreones, Antiguo pilar/lavadero, etc.



Photo | View from Miramontes Castle. Santa Eufemia



SANTA EUFEMIA: Miramontes Castle

126

●●●●●  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from SANTA EUFEMIA: **3 km**



Location: Santa Eufemia
Miramontes Castle



38°36'22.9"N
4°54'45.1"W



Near the town of Santa Eufemia we can find the iconic Miramontes Castle. We are talking about a spot located right on the border between Andalusia, Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura and very far from any population centre. The access road is a forest track, so access is limited to suitable vehicles or SUVs. The views from the top are impressive as it is one of the highest points in the region. The towns that can be seen are far below, so we can count on getting a tremendously dark sky from this spot.

Continuing on our route 17 km along the N-502 road we arrive at the town of El Viso, whose current name refers to the location of the town, located in a flat area, but somewhat elevated, flanked by two streams. This spot dominates the landscape and acts as a viewpoint.

The main architectural elements of the town on a religious basis are the Parish of Our Lady of the Incarnation (XVI century), the Shrine to Santa Rosalía and S. Isidro or the Shrine to Santa Ana and Christ of the Eras. The latter was mentioned in the novel Don Quijote of La Mancha. The numerous archaeological sites found in the municipality date from different periods, among them: Chalcolithic, Pre-Roman, Roman, Visigothic or Arabic.

The Viso is the starting point for numerous routes on bicycle or on foot. In both cases we are talking about trails that run through places of great scenic beauty. One of the astronomical observation spots that we recommend in this guide is located in the area surrounding La Colada reservoir, one of the best-known leisure centres in the Los Pedroches region.



Photo | Edge of the La Colada reservoir in El Viso

Photo | Old centre of town, El Viso



Town Hall El Viso

Aula de la Naturaleza “El Pocito”

Centro Museístico de los Reyes Magos

Refugio de la Guerra Civil

Zona Recreativa “La Colada”

Tel. 957127005 / 957127049

www.ayto-elviso.com

OTHER RESOURCES

Parroquia Ntra. Sra. de la Encarnación, Paraje “Huerta de los Frailes”, Puente sobre el río Guadamatilla, Ermitas, Presa de la Colada, Parque Multiaventura en la zona recreativa de La Colada, avistamiento de grullas, etc.

EQUESTRIAN TOURISM

Baedro a Caballo

Tel. 675314226

baedroacaballo@gmail.com

www.baedroacaballo.com



EL VISO: Where to stay?

Casa Rural la Colada

Tel. 687475132

info@casalacolada.com

www.casalacolada.com

Hotel Rural Casas de Don Adame

Tel. 957116571 / 672600947

www.eh-egaruhoteles.com

rafaelperez@prode.es



EL VISO: La Colada Reservoir

132

● ● ● ● ●  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from EL VISO: 7 km



Location: El viso
Embalse de La Colada

 38°31'15.9"N
5°00'04.2"W



La Colada reservoir in the town of El Viso offers a wide range of possibilities for activities related to the observation of the sky. In several places there are picnic areas and leisure areas and there we have several observation spots. One of the best is the recreational area of La Colada Reservoir, with wide open views and flat areas to set up telescopes. There are also picnic tables and a bar nearby. At present, this place is suitable as an astronomical viewpoint as an area is paved to place telescopes.



Photo | Picture of the fountain at Villaralto

Our fourth stop takes us to Villaralto, where we will arrive after traveling 5 km along the roads CO-9027 and N-502. Some of the attractions of this town are The Church of San Pedro Apostol which dates from the year 1564, the Shrine to Santa Rita from the year 1900 or the Shrine del Cristo de las Angustias. In addition, another surprise awaits in the town park in the form of some Visigoth sarcophagi from the El Baño estate. But it is not only worth visiting because of its beautiful narrow streets, Villaralto offers much more. If you like to enjoy pleasant walks or observe nature, we recommend you visit the fields and meadows that surround the town and that in winter host cranes and other birds.

In the area of the Divina Pastora, on the shores of the La Colada reservoir, you will find a shrine and a seating area that we recommend as a place to observe the stars of the Starlight Reserve of Los Pedroches.



Photo | Livestock is one of the main economic pillars in Los Pedroches

VILLARALTO: What to do and see?

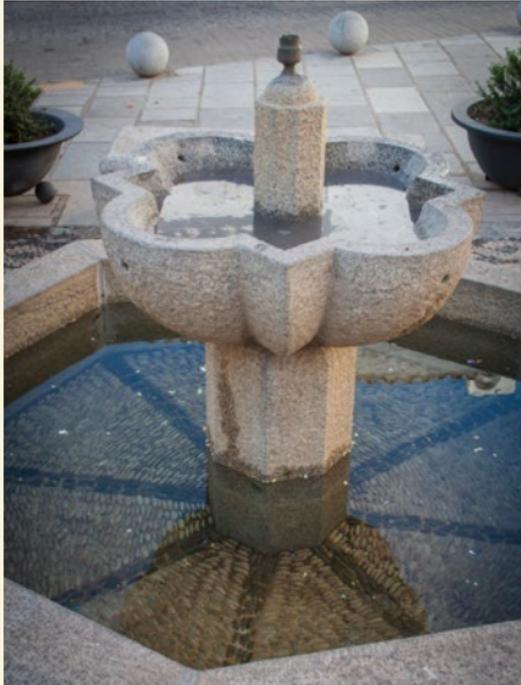
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Casa Museo Etnológico del Pastor Town Hall Villaralto

Tel. 957150163 / 957150104
ayuntamiento@villaralto.es
www.villaralto.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Iglesia de San Pedro Apostol, Ermita de Santa Rita, Ermita del Cristo de las Angustias, Sarcófagos Visigodos, etc.



VILLARALTO: Dónde dormir

Casa Rural de Belén

Tel. 663888929



VILLARALTO: Divina Pastora Shrine

138

●●●●●  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from VILLARALTO: **4.8 km**



Location: Villaralto
Divina Pastora Shrine



38°29'21.3"N
5°00'50.1"W



To get to this place you can go from the town of Villaralto. You head out in a Northwest direction on a rural road, or more easily, passing through El Viso and then taking the A-3281 in the direction of Hinojosa del Duque. Just before you arrive at the entrance to the La Colada reservoir, there is a turning to the South that leads to the chapel of the Divina Pastora. It is not a chapel itself, but an esplanade with a metal enclosure where the local pilgrimage is celebrated. It is a very large place with an interesting stand where we can sit or hold activities for large groups.

Alcaracejos

140

We finish the route in Alcaracejos, a town that is 9 km from Villaralto taking the CO-7408 road and then the N-502. We are at what could be considered the centre of the area of the Comarca de los Pedroches, an authentic crossroads. Its economy was based on agriculture and livestock until in the nineteenth century, mining displaced these two sectors and led to a major boom in the population.

Its municipal area houses important vestiges of the past and archaeological sites, among which we can highlight the Arab Windmill of La Gargantilla, La Atalayuela, El ladrillar or Las minas (mines) de Almadenes.

5 km from the town, the public picnic area “Pozo de la Benita” is a beautiful leisure area in the middle of a meadow where the residents of Alcaracejos and visitors enjoy their leisure time and celebrate their parties. Hiking trails like the interesting Los Molinos Route set off from this spot. It is also one of the astronomical observation points of the Starlight Reserve of Los Pedroches.



Photo | Old silo at Alcaracejos, currently a spa.



ALCARACEJOS: What to do and see?

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Regional Tourist Office

Tel. 957156102

turismo-mancomunidad@lospedroches.org

www.turismolospedroches.org

Tourist and Business Initiative Centre Los Pedroches

Tel. 957 156 102 / 675283698

info@cietlospedroches.com

www.cietlospedroches.com

Alcaracejos Town Hall Museo de la Matanza

Tel. 957156423 / 957156009

www.alcaracejos.es

Centro Termal Los pedroches

Tel. 609403017

info@centrotermalpedroches.com

www.centrotermalpedroches.com

OTHER RESOURCES

San Andrés Church, Plaza de Los Pedroches, Shrines de San Sebastián y la Magdalena, Fountains y Wells, etc.



ALCARACEJOS: Dónde dormir

Hotel Rural Miguel Ángel

Tel. 957774015 / 957156125
info@hotelruralmiguelangel.es
www.hotelruralmiguelangel.es

Hostal Las tres Jotas

Tel. 957156220
ferrerjuanjo82@gmail.com
www.hostaltresjotas.es

Casa Rural Los Rosales

Tel. 660695651 / 629946168
rocioiti1988@gmail.com
www.casalosrosales.com

Cortijo El Jaral

Tel. 627352381 / 627441992
info@elverdinal.com

Hostal César

Tel. 957156338

Hostal Restaurante El Parador

Tel. 674556137

Vivienda Turística Cortijo Santa Ana

Tel. 627550191 / 957771921



ALCARACEJOS: Pozo de la Benita

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.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from ALCARACEJOS: **6.6 km**



Location: Alcaracejos
Pozo de la Benita

 38°21'05.3"N
4°57'10.4"W



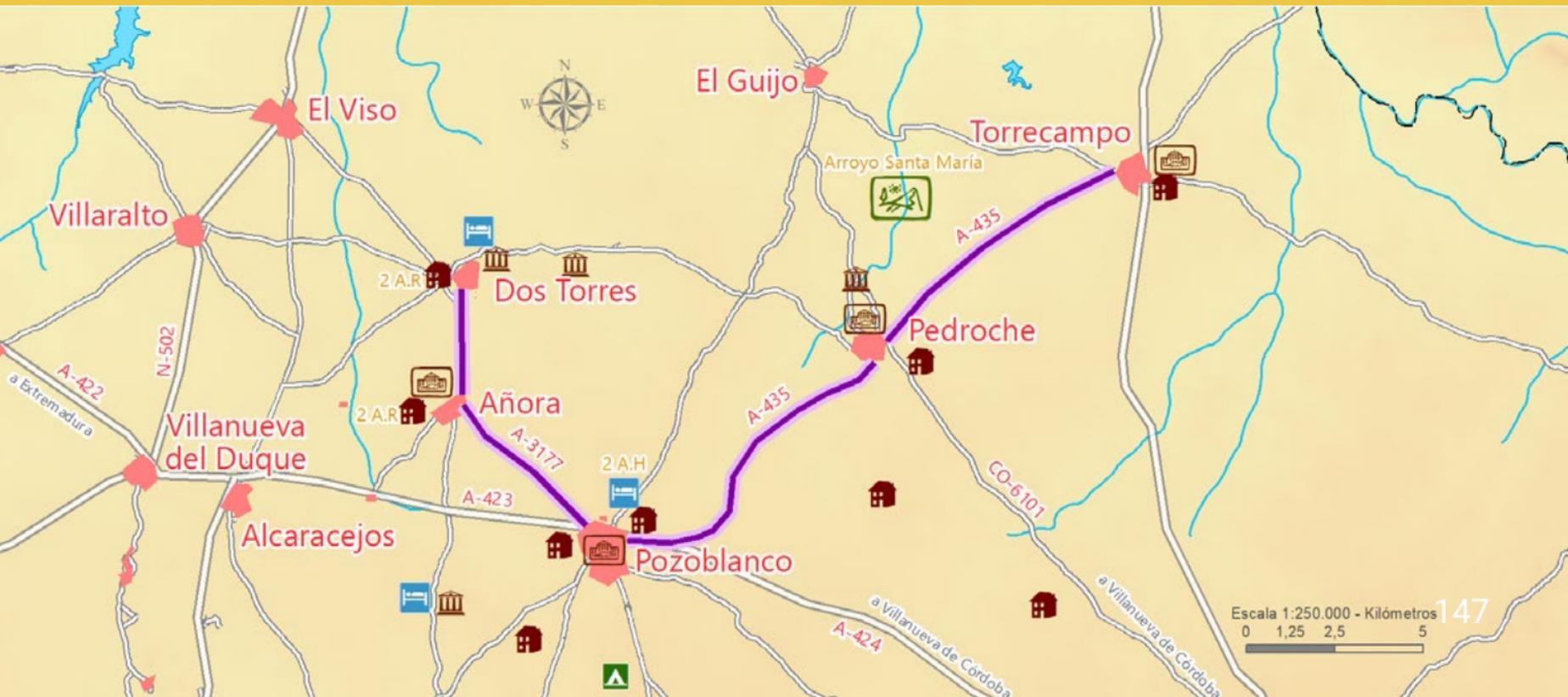
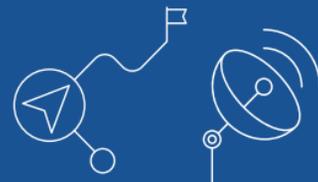
It is a remote place with a lot of charm. It is accessed from Alcaracejos on the N-502, after taking a turnoff to the right at km 368 and continuing for about 3.5 km to your destination. Upon arrival we will find a small shrine at the top with an esplanade at the back which you can access and set up telescopes. The shrine itself can be reached by bus, although to access the esplanade you have to travel by suitable car or 4x4.



ITINERARY 6: TORRECAMPO – PEDROCHE – POZOBLANCO – AÑORA – DOS TORRES



ITINERARY MAP



Escala 1:250.000 - Kilómetros 147
0 1,25 2,5 5



Photo | Remains at Torrecampo

This route begins in Torrecampo, a town of white, silent, narrow streets that invite you to take a stroll and to pay special attention to the lintel buildings that are scattered around the town and whose doorways of different architectural styles enrich the historical value of this unique enclave of the region. The rich heritage of Torrecampo is completed by the Shrine to Jesus of Nazarene and the Shrine to the Virgin of Grace, as well as the Sanctuary to the Virgin of the Veredas. In addition, this last location is a really exceptional place to set up your telescope and enjoy an unrivalled sky as we are in one of the most remote areas of the region and the sky echoes it. Its agricultural and livestock tradition has given rise to a wide variety of typical dishes which is why you cannot end your visit to the town without tasting some of its gastronomic gems such as 'cachorreñas' or 'migas abajás'.



TORRECAMPO: What to do and see?

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Casa Museo Posada del Moro

Town Hall Torrecampo

Tel. 957155001

ayuntamiento@torrecampo.es

www.torrecampo.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Pósito, Casa del Casino, Parroquia de San Sebastián, Ermita de Jesús Nazareno y Virgen de las Cruces, Santuario Virgen de las Veredas, etc.



TORRECAMPO: Where to stay?

Casa Rural Obejuelo

Tel. 629538360 / 957234493 / 957120467
reserva@casaruralobejuelo.com
www.casaruralobejuelo.com

Vivienda Turística Casa del Mentiras

Tel. 626170775
casadelmentiras@hotmail.com



TORRECAMPO: Shrine to Virgen de las Veredas

152

●●●●●  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from TORRECAMPO: 7.4 km



Location: Torrecampo
Shrine Virgen de las Veredas



38°31'26.5"N
4°38'47.3"W



At the north of the town of Torrecampo we can find the shrine to the Virgen de las Veredas. To get to there you have to leave the town on the CO-7103 until you find a junction to the right in the direction of Virgen de las Veredas Sanctuary on the CP-315. Once there, you will find a beautiful shrine with areas equipped with benches and tables, as well as a lot of open space. As all of the area is on a slope, our advice is to set up behind the washrooms on the right. You can reach this point well by car and it is a wide and flat place. Currently, work is being done to adapt this place and a small visitor centre at the top for those who want to star gaze.

Pedroche

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Leaving Torrecampo on the A-435 road to the southeast, after 10 km, we arrive at Pedroche, our second stop on this route. As we come closer, we can see the Renaissance tower of the Church of El Salvador, which is the most characteristic landmark of the town.

Sat on a hill and surrounded by fields of oak pastures, Pedroche is a place of great relevance in the history of the region. It was the reason for the setting up of a group of villages that were named the Seven Villas de los Pedroches and as capital of this union received direct influence from the Catholic Kings or the Great Captain.

This past splendour has left its mark in the present by means of a wide artistic and patrimonial wealth. Examples of this are the Church of El Salvador with its altarpieces or the shrines of Santa María del Castillo and Piedrasantas. This is a fabulous place to enjoy the night sky. To get more details about all of the town's landmarks, do not forget to go to the tourist office.



Photo | Bridge by Piedrasantas Shrine. Pedroche

Photo | Venus belt over the town of Pedroches



Pedroche Town Hall

Tourist Office

Centro de Interpretación de las Siete Villas

Tel. 957137397

ayuntamiento@pedroche.es

www.pedroche.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Iglesia El Salvador, Torre Renacentista, Convento de Ntra. Sra. de la Concepción, Cueva en el hogar del pensionista, Ermitas Piedrasantas, Sta. María del Castillo y San Sebastián.

ACTIVITY AND MULTI-ADVENTURE TOURISM

Tavabu Multiaventura

Tel. 634706191 / 618542447

info@tavabu.com

www.tavabu.com



PEDROCHE: Where to stay?

Casa Rural Cortijo el Mohedano

Tel. 633898008

cortijoelmohedano@gmail.com

www.cortijoelmohedano.es

Casa Rural Cortijo La Panadera

Tel. 957771585 / 678428923

palomardelamorra@gmail.com

www.cortijosydehesa.com

Vivienda Turística la Jamuga

Tel. 696963907

mjvalverdemanso@hotmail.com



PEDROCHE: Piedrasantas Shrine

158

.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from PEDROCHE: **2.4 km**



Location: Pedroche
Piedrasantas Shrine



38°26'40.8"N
4°46'06.2"W



From Pedroche take the CO-7102 road to the north, after 1.5 km take a turning to the right that will take you directly to our destination. A small shrine with an interpretation centre with large rooms and a small bar. Observations can be done in a large esplanade behind the interpretation centre, where you can get by vehicle to then unload the telescopes. Sometimes there is light in the bar, but only until certain hours and in any case you can ask them to turn the lights out without any problem.





Photo | landscape in Pozoblanco

10 Kilometres from Pedroche on the A-435 we reach the next stop: Pozoblanco.

With more than 17,000 inhabitants, Pozoblanco has gone from being a small town of white houses and cobblestone streets to becoming a town with many amenities, leisure and cultural activities. However, if this town can boast about anything, it is that it has grown in a way that has respected its very essence and tradition in an exquisite way. A town with narrow streets of stately homes and buildings of historical interest that offer visitors the chance to be transported back to a time of splendour.

For our purpose, there could be no more suitable place to observe the stars than the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Luna (Moon), not only because of its name, but also because it is a place halfway between Pozoblanco and Villanueva de Córdoba, far from any source of light and with a spectacular dark night sky.

Photo | Cross at the Shrine de la Virgen de Luna. Pozoblanco – Villanueva de Córdoba



Tourist office

Tel. 957132204 / 678758449
turismo@pozoblanco.es
www.turismopozoblanco.com

Ibéric Experience: Visit to a Country Estate and Ham cruring.

Olive Experience: Visit to a Olive Farming area and Oil Mill.
Golf Experience.
Easter Experience.

Town Experience: Visit the Plaza de Toros, Casa de la Viga y Peña Flamenca, Ayuntamiento, Teatro El Silo, Parroquia de Sta. Catalina y Capilla Ntro. Padre Jesús Nazareno.
Information and bookings:

Tourist Office:

Tel. 957132204 / 67875844

TOURIST VISITS, ACTIVITY AND NATURE TOURISM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OLIVE OIL TOURISM

Pedroches Wildlife

Tel. 636119575
Info@pedrocheswildlife.com
www.pedrocheswildlife.com

Ciudad del Ocio

Tel. 957132204 / 639539561
turismo@pozoblanco.es



POZOBLANCO: Where to stay?

Hotel HC Zoom

Tel. 957770019
reservas@hotelhczoom.com
www.hotelhczoom.com

Hostal Noriega

Tel. 957771370 / 957131070
hnoriega@hnoriega.es
www.hnoriega.es

Camping Ciudad del Ocio

Tel. 639539561 / 957132204 /
957132233
turismo@pozoblanco.es

Casa Rural El Palomar de la Morra

Tel. 957771585 / 678428923
palomardelamorra@gmail.com
www.cortijosydehesa.com

Casa Rural Encinar Portezuelo

Tel. 661612992
casacortijoelencinar@gmail.com
www.cortijoelencinarportezuelo.es

Cortijo Rural Ventorro de Sales

Tel. 957131475 / 625165891
turismo@ventorrosales.com
www.ventorrod-sales.com

Casa Rural El Vadillo

Tel. 687975022
info@elvadillorural.com
www.elvadillorural.com

Casa Rural Cortijo Charcollana

Tel. 678201098 / 607465350
cortijo@cortijocharcollana.es
www.cortijocharcollana.es

Casa Rural Antaño Andaluz

Tel. 957773110 / 689949028
vegasdeltiopedro@gmail.com
www.vegasdeltiopedro.com

POZOBLANCO: Where to stay?

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Las Vegas del Tío Pedro

Tel. 957773110 / 689949028
vegasdeltiopedro@gmail.com
www.vegasdeltiopedro.com

Cortijo Rural Cortijo Navalobos

Tel. 617280435 / 697587167
franciscoubeda@live.com

Viviendas Turísticas Rurales; Loma de Buena Vista, Casa Tío Antonio y la Era Grande

Tel. 957482915 / 617271033
info@lomadebuenavista.es
www.lomadebuenavista.es

Casa Rural Cortijo del Zoco Bajo

Tel. 630426391
info@zocobajo.com
www.zocobajo.com

Cortijo Rural El Chaparral

Tel. 627279695



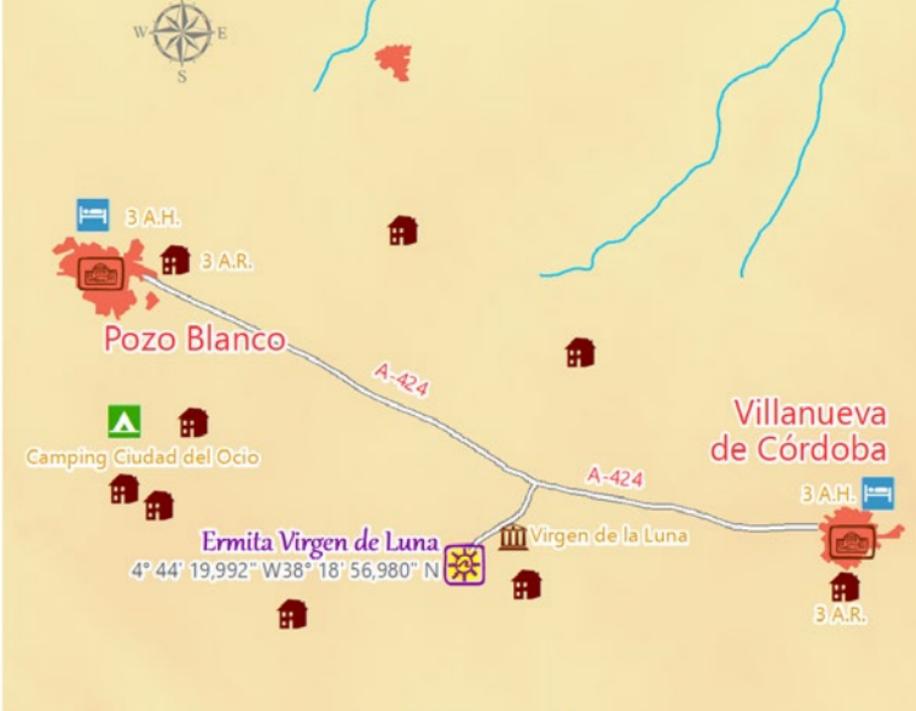


POZOBLANCO: Shrine to the Virgen de Luna

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.....  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from POZOBLANCO: **16.8 km**



Location: Pozoblanco
Shrine to La Virgen de Luna

 38°08'56.5"N
4°54'32.5"W



From Pozoblanco, take the A-424 towards Villanueva de Córdoba. At the km 37 point you will find a turning indicating the Ntra. Sra de Luna Sanctuary, which you must take for 3 km. You can also get there if you leave from the town of Pozoblanco from the opposite direction. The place is unmistakable and one of the icons of Los Pedroches, a place which is simply perfect for astronomy: it is wide open, easily accessible, with clear horizons and without any obstacle and will soon have electricity sockets so you can plug in your telescope. You can choose to set up the telescopes on the large esplanade outside or even set them up them in the courtyard of the chapel.

Añora is the next point on the route and it is just 8 kilometres northeast of Pozoblanco along the A-3177. This town, located in the centre of the Comarca de los Pedroches, is in keeping with the characteristic landscape of the area: extensive slightly lofty plains with plenty of holm oaks and small streams. A typical characteristic are the houses made of strips that can be found in different corners of the town and whose facades are one of the most individual traits which give the town its own personality. Before visiting its most important sights such as the Shrine to the Virgen de la Peña, the Bridge on the meadow which is of Roman origin or the Church Square, you can make a stop to taste the local specialities: Noriego filling, the famous Añora meatballs or try the pastries.

In Añora we have the Parque de San Martín, located to the south of the town and relatively close to Pozoblanco. It is an ideal place for the observation of the sky



Photo | Tourist photographing the stars in Añora



Photo | Shrine to San Martin at Añora

Centro De Interpretación de la Ganadería (Cattle Centre) y Aula de la Naturaleza (Nature Workshop) en el Parque San Martín
Añora Museum: Archeology, Etnográfico y de la Cruz

Añora Town Hall
Tel. 957151308 / 957151579 / 685508395
ayuntamiento@anora.es
www.parquesanmartin.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Casas típicas noriegas, Fachadas de tiras, Ayuntamiento, Ermitas y cruces de granito, etc.

ACTIVITY TOURISM

Quercus Aventura
Tel. 620450406
info@quercus-aventura.es
www.quercus-aventura.es



AÑORA: Where to stay?

Apartamentos Turísticos Rurales Parque San Martín

Tel. 957151308 / 957151579 /
685508395

reservas@parquesanmartin.es
www.parquesanmartin.es

Casa Rural el Vasar

Tel. 670881161
elvasar2016@gmail.com
www.elvasar.com

Casa Rural la Cruz de San Pedro

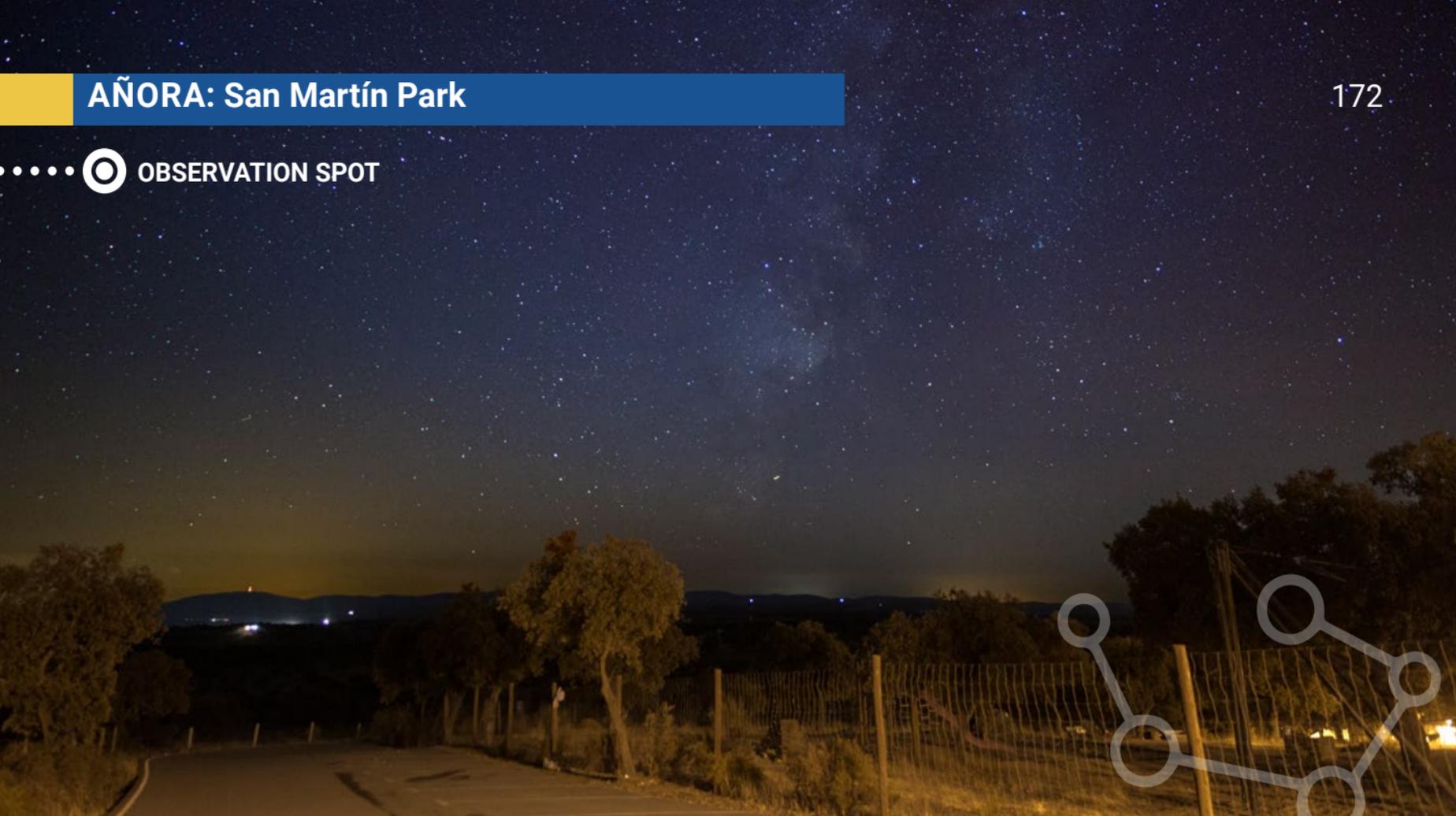
Tel. 665680608
info@lacruzdesanpedro.com
www.lacruzdesanpedro.com

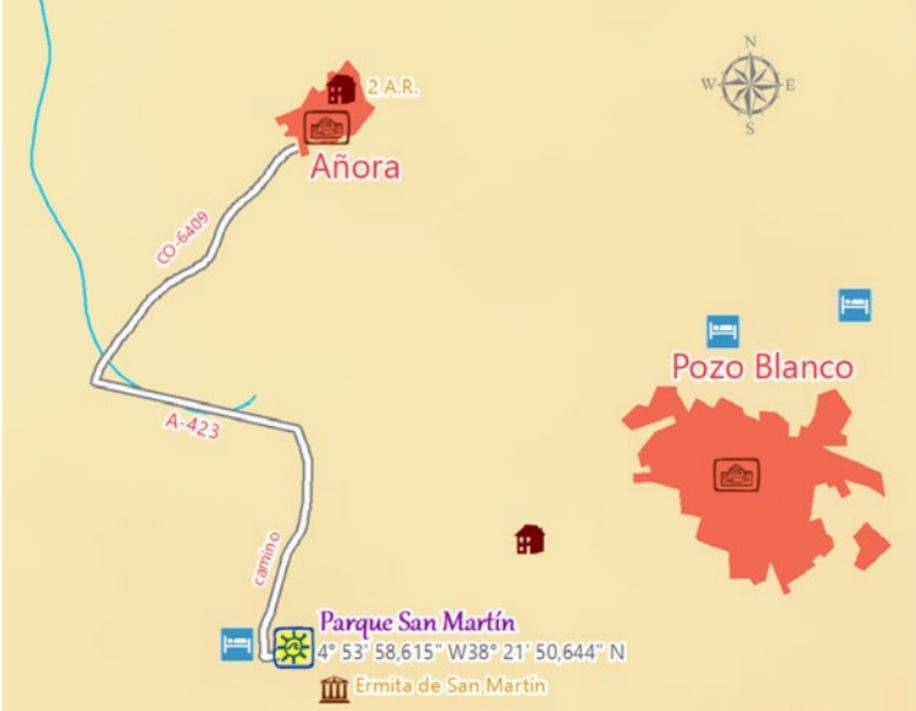


AÑORA: San Martín Park

172

●●●●●  OBSERVATION SPOT





Distance from AÑORA: **8.6 km**



Location: Añora
San Martín Park



38°21'49.1"N
4°54'03.6"W



To get there: take the south turnoff from the A-423 and follow the indications of your GPS. The Parque de San Martín itself has facilities for all kinds of activities, with parking, an asphalt road, picnic areas, rooms ... etc. At night it is usually illuminated, so we recommend any of the wide open spaces in the vicinity. For example, just 1.1 km to the west there is a very wide crossroads where you can enjoy an excellent view of the horizon.





Photo | facilities next to the Periurban Park, San Isidro. Dos Torres.

If we leave Añora and head north on the A-3177 road, we will come across the town of Dos Torres just 5 kilometres away. This route ends in this town. It is different from the rest by the uniqueness of the old town area which was awarded Historic Site status because of its value and the interest it arouses. In every corners of this town you will find something remarkable either for its natural beauty, its architectural attraction or its traditional atmosphere.

This town founded on Torremilano and Torre Franca, in the past was the birthplace of noblemen and gentry who left their mark on the type of housing, the streets are adorned with carved portals of manor houses and emblazoned shields that add to the historical value of Dos Torres, making the town one of the best examples of urban popular architecture in the north of the province of Córdoba. You can find more information about it in the Interpretation Centre of Popular Architecture and the Tourist Information Office.

The Periurban Park of San Isidro is a must-see spot to enjoy the view of the starry night sky.

Photo | Church and square at Dos Torres



**Municipal Tourist Office
Centro de Interpretación de la
Arquitectura Popular**

Tel. 957947330

oficinadeturismo@dostorres.es

www.dostorres.es/turismo

OTHER RESOURCES

Plaza Mayor de la Villa y Soportales,
Iglesia Parroquial Ntra. Sra. de la
Asunción, Pozo de la Nieve, Ermita
de Ntra. Sra. de Loreto, Ruta de
los Escudos (Portadas y Escudos
Blasonados), etc.



DOS TORRES: Where to stay?

Hotel Rural Los Usías

Tel. 957134000

reservas@hotelusias.com

www.hotelusias.com

Casa Rural Abuela Teo

Tel. 666212764

contacto@casaruralabuelateo.com

www.casaruralabuelateo.com

Alojamiento Rural Casa Balsera

Tel. 687793689 / 957151085

reservas@casabalsera.com

www.casabalsera.com



DOS TORRES: Shrine to San Isidro

178





Distance from DOS TORRES: **3.7 km**



Ubicación: Dos Torres
Shrine to San Isidro



38°26'41.4"N
4°51'37.1"W



At the shrine to San Isidro we will find everything we need for a perfect day: picnic, recreation area, parking ... etc. It is a place with facilities for several activities, and recently it has also become a suitable place from which to observe the sky of the Starlight Reserve of Los Pedroches, because right in front of the shrine there is a huge esplanade clear of vegetation and with a completely open horizon. If it has been raining recently you have to be careful, because although the track is in good condition, it is not paved.

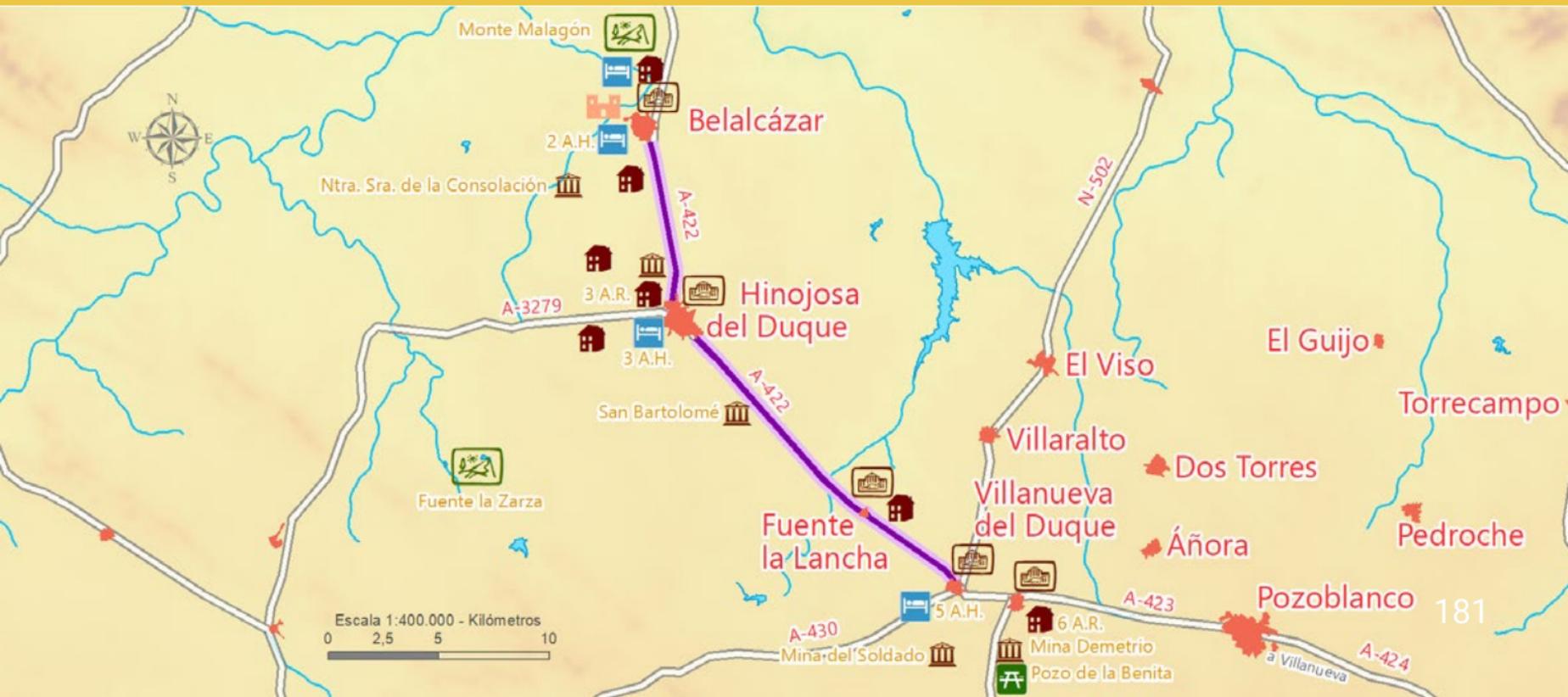




ITINERARY : VILLANUEVA DEL DUQUE – FUENTE LA LANCHA – HINOJOSA DEL DUQUE – BELALCÁZAR



ITINERARY MAP



Villanueva del Duque

182

The town of Villanueva del Duque is the starting point of this idea for a tourist route.

The main occupation in this town at the heart of the region has always been and continues to be agriculture, although mining played an important socio-economic role in the past. From this mining past we can highlight the remains of two foundries, the mines of Las Morras del Cuzna and the Mines of El Soldado, the latter is located 3 kilometres from the town and is our recommended spot for star gazing. On the horizontal plane of the town, the tower of the Parish of San Mateo Apóstol stands out. It is the most emblematic building of the town, together with the Chapel of the Virgin of Guía located on a plateau 750 meters to the north and considered to be a building of great artistic value in the Comarca de los Pedroches.

In addition to its heritage, Villanueva del Duque offers a wide range of activities centred on nature. If you want to enjoy the local gastronomy, do not hesitate to try the cachorreña soup, the roscos de pobre (poor man's doughnuts) or the typical gazpacho of the area, known as sobrehúsa.



Photo | Old station near the railway line / via verde.



Photo | Remains of the mines near Villanueva del Duque

(Museums): Museo Tallas Románicas
S.XIII Museo de la Molina
Minas del Soldado y Museo al Aire Libre
Vía Verde de la Minería
Astonomy Observatory and Caravan Area
Town Hall Villanueva del Duque
Telf. 957126003 / 957126004
info@villanuevadelduque.com
www.villanuevadelduque.com

Routes: Camino Mozárabe a Santiago de
Compostela
Ruta Palabras en el Agua Ruta Villanueva
Románica
Ruta Cruces de Villanueva, Ruta
Personajes Ilustres
Ruta de la Guerra Civil - Trincheras del
Viñón y Ruta del Aceite

OTHER RESOURCES

Parroquia de San Mateo, Shrine to San Gregorio, Shrine to Virgen de Guía, Crosses Wells and Fountains, etc.

ACTIVE TOURISM, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Villaduke es Aventura

Tel. 955323364
villaduke@esaventura.es
www.villadukeesaventura.es



VILLANUEVA DEL DUQUE: Dónde dormir

Albergue Rural Villanueva del Duque

Tel. 955323364

villaduke@esaventura.es

www.villadukeesaventura.es

Rural Pedroches, Casa Los Mineros

Tel. 629584491

info@ruralpedroches.com

www.ruralpedroches.com

Casa Rural El Verdinal

Tel. 627352381 / 627441992

info@elverdinal.com

www.elverdinal.com

Complejo turístico Rural El Soldado

Tel. 619516368

info@casaruralelsoldado.com

www.casaruralelsoldado.com

Cortijo Rural San Álvaro

Tel. 666975144

info@casasruralesramos.com

www.casasruralesramos.com



VILLANUEVA DEL DUQUE: Soldado Mines

186





Distance from VILLANUEVA DEL DUQUE: **3.3 km**



Location: Villanueva del Duque
Soldado Mines

38°22'03.0"N
5°00'09.7"W



From Villanueva del Duque take the road to Soldado until you reach the mining complex "El Soldado". Continue until you have passed the old mines and reach the station of the current Vía Verde (Nature trail). Just behind the large building there is an esplanade where you can set up the telescopes and enjoy a spectacular sky. The old mines and buildings offer more possibilities to take pictures of the night sky.



To reach the second stop of this route, you must take the A-422 or Los Pedroches bypass and head northwest until you reach the town of Fuente la Lancha. Fuente la Lancha is a quiet town, which enjoys its status as a link that connects the comings and goings of the inhabitants of the neighbouring towns. Here, the economy is based on agriculture and livestock, as you might expect, surrounded by holm oaks and meadows. We invite you to walk along its streets, visit its church of Santa Catalina and get to know its history, its Casa Partida or its square which has a medieval atmosphere. This town is endearing and cosy, due to its quiet but welcoming streets. You get a sense of the customs and traditions of the town wherever you go and you will see gardens or small enclosures with animals, wheat or barley that will show you the tradition for farming the land and looking after animals.

Outside the town is the Shrine to Santo Domingo, our recommended astronomical observation point in this guide.

Photo | Santa Catalina church in Fuente la Lancha



Fuente la Lancha Town Hall

Tel. 957126207

fuelle_lancha@hotmail.com

www.fuentealalancha.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Iglesia de Santa Catalina, Ermita de Santo Domingo, Olivo del Calvario, Cruz de Piedra, etc.



FUENTE LA LANCHA: Where to stay?

Casa Rural Luisa

Tel. 637824420 / 669049289

info@casaruralluisa.es

www.casaruralluisa.com



FUENTE LA LANCHA: Shrine to Santo Domingo

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Fuente la Lancha



camino



Ermita de Santo Domingo

5° 2' 46,732" W 38° 24' 43,475" N

Distancia from FUENTE LA LANCHA: **1.3 km**



Location: Fuente la Lancha
Shrine to Santo Domingo



38°24'44.6"N
5°02'47.5"W



From the town of Fuente la Lancha we head south following the GPS indications. After Just 1 km we will reach a chapel where there is a large wide open area just at the back. There is also a covered area and a place to park. During the day there are fabulous views of the surrounding area. At nightfall it is advisable to look for a place where there is no interference from direct light to enjoy the spectacular night sky.

Heading northwest again along the Los Pedroches bypass, the A-422 road, after 12 kilometres, we come across the third stop on this route, the town of Hinojosa del Duque. The vestiges of prehistoric cultures are plain for all to see around much of the town. However, it was during the Roman era when Hinojosa del Duque enjoyed its greatest splendor. In addition, the fact that the Cañada Real Soriana, a cattle route, passed nearby, turned the town into a destination for people and livestock. From that time there remain some landmarks such as the Fountain Pilar de los Llanos that was once a resting area for the cattle routes of la Cañada and a trough. Hence, as in the rest of the region, livestock and agriculture have always driven the local economy. The wealth of the town is linked to religion, with more than a dozen shrines scattered in different corners and on the outskirts of the town. The Parish of San Juan Bautista, better known as the Cathedral of the Sierra, is one of the architectural icons of Los Pedroches.

To delve deeper into the life style and history of the town, you have to visit the Ethnological Museum of Hinojosa del Duque, a centre that will show you the most important customs, trades and events in the town. In the same building, we can find the Tourist Information Office. The Fuente La Zarza Periurban Park is a special area for bird watching and is also an ideal place for astronomy, it has a parking area, picnic areas and large tree-free opening so that you can travel with your telescope to the cosmos.



Photo | Parroquia de San Juan Bautista or Mountain Cathedral

Photo | Known as the Mountain Cathedral, this is one of the most imposing religious buildings in the area.



Municipal Tourist Office

Museo Etnológico

Tel. 957141056

www.hinojosadelduque.es

Cultural centre

Tel. 957140050

Camino Mozárabe de Santiago

www.caminomozarabedesantiago.es /

www.caminomozarabe.es

OTHER RESOURCES

Catedral de la Sierra, Convento

Purísima Concepción, Convento Padres

Carmelitas, Fuente del Pilar de los

Llanos, Shrines Virgen del Castillo,

Santa Ana, Cristo de las Injurias, San

Isidro, San Sebastián, San Gregorio, etc.

ACTIVITY TOURISM

Club Deportivo Hípico "La Jara"

Tel. 680270123

rocio@cdhipicolajara.com

www.cdhipicolajara.com



HINOJOSA DEL DUQUE: Where to stay?

Hotel – Spa Rural Piedra y Luz

Tel. 957110806

a.manueljurado@eh-egaruhoteles.com

www.eh-egaruhoteles.com

Hostal El Cazador

Tel. 957140443 / 637573934

hostalelcazadorhinojosa@hotmail.com

www.hostalrestauranteelcazador.es

Casa Rural La Jara, Turismo Rural

Tel. 680270123

rocio@cdhipicolajara.com

www.casarurallajara.com

Pensión Ruda

Tel. 957140778 / 689636162

pifranco@hotmail.com

Casa Rural Dehesa del Chaparral

Tel. 957140548 / 615250523

Casa Rural Alameda

Tel. 678428919

casaruralalameda@gmail.com

www.casaruralalameda.com

Casa Rural Lantigua

Tel. 606856946

chus@lantiguacasarural.com

www.lantiguacasarural.com

Albergue del Peregrino Camino de Santiago

Tel. 975140050 / 957140021 /

957141056

www.caminosantiagoandalucia.org







Distance from HINOJOSA DEL DUQUE: 14.1 km



Location: Hinojosa del Duque
Fuente la Zarza

 38°26'22.4"N
5°14'47.4"W



The Fuente La Zarza Peri-urban Park, a special area for bird watching, in Hinojosa del Duque is also a brilliant area for astronomical observation. It has many covered picnic areas, large open spaces, easy access, a suitable parking area and most importantly, a good level of darkness in the sky. To get to this spot, take the CO-8406 road in the direction of Valsequillo. The area at the exit of Hinojosa del Duque is also classed as a "Periurban Park." After 8 kilometres you will find a turning to the right indicated as to the "Sanctuary of Our Lady of Antigua", ("Santuario Nuestra Señora de la Antigua") continue on this road until you come across another turning to the right where Fuente la Zarza is indicated. You will find a large closed gate, but access can be gained by calling the Town Hall (957140050).



Photo | Medieval trough and Castle at Belalcázar

To reach the last stop on this route, we must leave Hinojosa del Duque and head north on the A-422. Before we reach Belalcázar, we can take a turning to the Convent of Santa Clara de la Columna, one of the main attractions of our destination. This is one of the most important convent in the province of Córdoba and, as it has not undergone any major transformations, the buildings, courtyards and dependencies all maintain the original style.

Belalcázar is and will be eternally linked to the Castle of the Sotomayor and Zúñiga, one of the most imposing castles in all of Spain as it has the highest watchtowers. Strolling through the old town, you will wander the irregular, narrow and winding streets that will take you to other popular buildings such as the Church of Santiago el Mayor.

To the north of the town, there are the mountain area known as “Malagón” that is made up of a mass of pine and oak forests where you can find an exceptional place to gaze at that window that is the night sky.



Photo | With its rich heritage, Belalcázar is one of the most architecturally noteworthy towns in Los Pedroches

Tourist office

Tel. 957146004

ayuntamientodebelalcazar.blogspot.com.es

Museum: Museo histórico de Artes y Costumbres Populares de Los Pedroches

Tel. 957146004

Convent: Convento de Santa Clara de la Columna

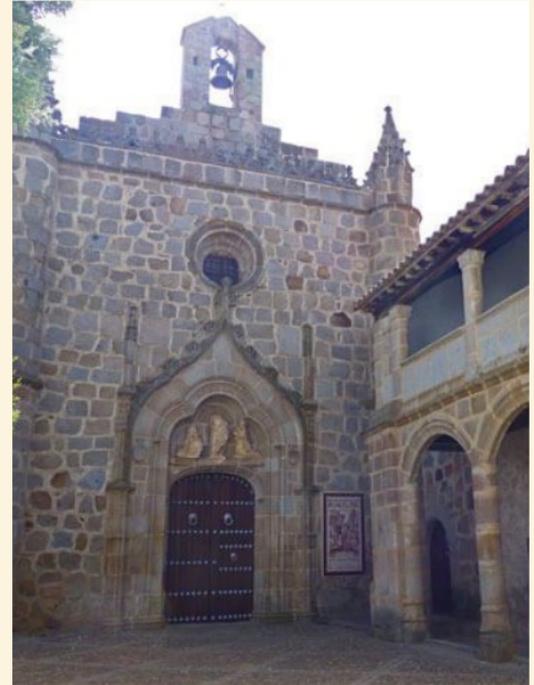
Visitas guiadas

Tel. 678690470 / 610968077

tureventos@gmail.com

OTHER RESOURCES

Castillo de los Sotomayor y Zuñiga, el Pilar, Plaza del Ayuntamiento, Antiguo Hospital de San Antonio, Parroquia Santiago el Mayor, Convento de San Francisco, Antiguo Pósito, Puente Romano, Shrines, etc



BELALCÁZAR: Where to stay?

Apartamentos Rurales Monte Malagón

Tel. 669583693

montemalagon@hotmail.com

montemalagon.blogspot.com.es

Albergue Camino de Santiago

Tel. 957146116 / 617715129

caminosantiagobelalcazar@hotmail.com

Hostal La Bolera

Tel. 639015935

Casa Rural Pozo la Torre

Tel. 647777920

Casa Rural La Alberca

Tel. 629521023

Vivienda Turística Rural Santa Clara

Tel. 639015770



BELALCÁZAR: Monte Malagón

204





Distance from BELALCÁZAR: **5.4 km**



Location: Belalcázar
Monte Malagón

 38°36'44.5"N
5°10'15.7"W

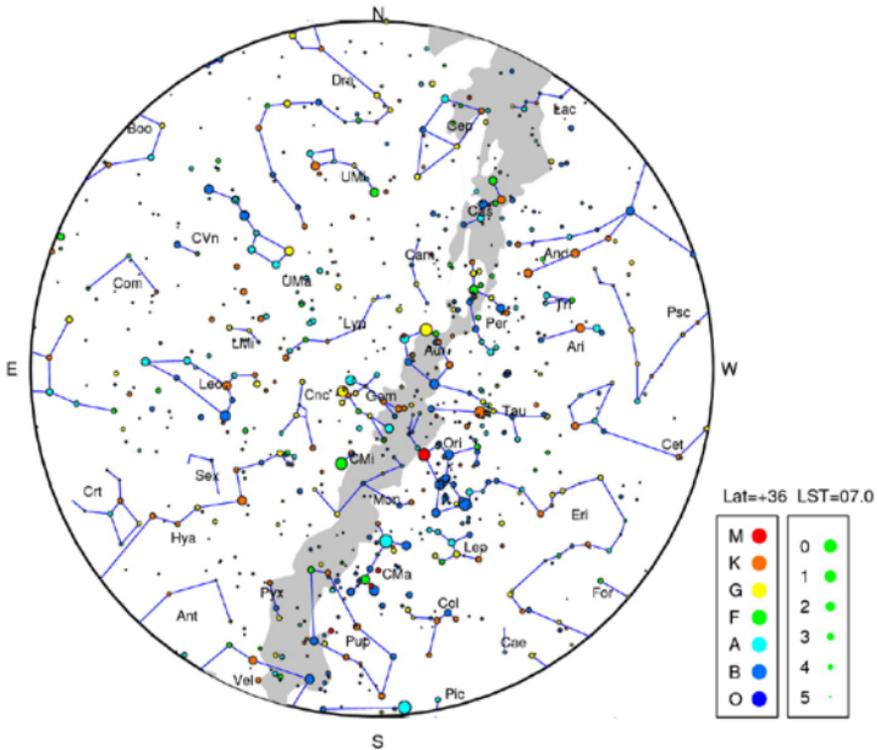


From Belcaldar we head north on the A-422, leaving behind us the imposing views of the castle. After you travel approximately 2.5 km, you will see a turning which indicates some rural apartments. Take that road and follow your GPS indications until you have slightly entered the farm area. Once you have passed the apartments and a stretch of pine forest you will begin to see broad grass plains where you can set up your telescope. It is surrounded by meadows with stunning views both by day and at night.

**The Sky Above the
PROVINCE OF CÓRDOBA**







Constellation recommended to the naked eye:

Orión



Object recommended with binoculars:

Las Pléyades (M45)



Object recommended with a telescope:

Nebulosa de Orión (M42)

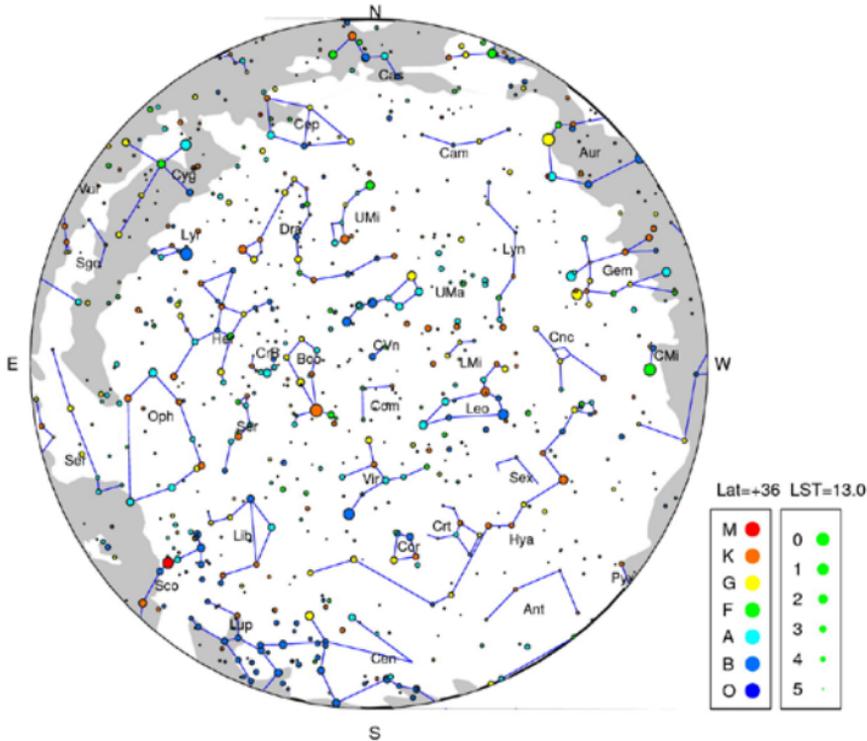
It is the time of year with the darkest skies due to the higher frequency of rain and frost that eliminate dirt from the sky, leaving it clean and transparent Who has not experienced the feeling of leaving home on a cold winter night and seeing the sky full of stars? In addition, it is the time of the giant Orion, of Sirius and the Canis Major. Do not think twice, wrap up warm up, grab a hot flask for a drink and enjoy the winter sky.

TIP: Be careful with moisture, optical equipment can fog up easily due to moisture. Do not forget to take a lot of warm clothes, frost can make the temperature plunge drastically.

THE SKY IN SPRING

210





Constellation recommended to the naked eye:

Leo



Object recommended with binoculars:

Cúmulo el Pesebre (M44)



Object recommended with a telescope:

Gran Cúmulo de Hércules (M13)

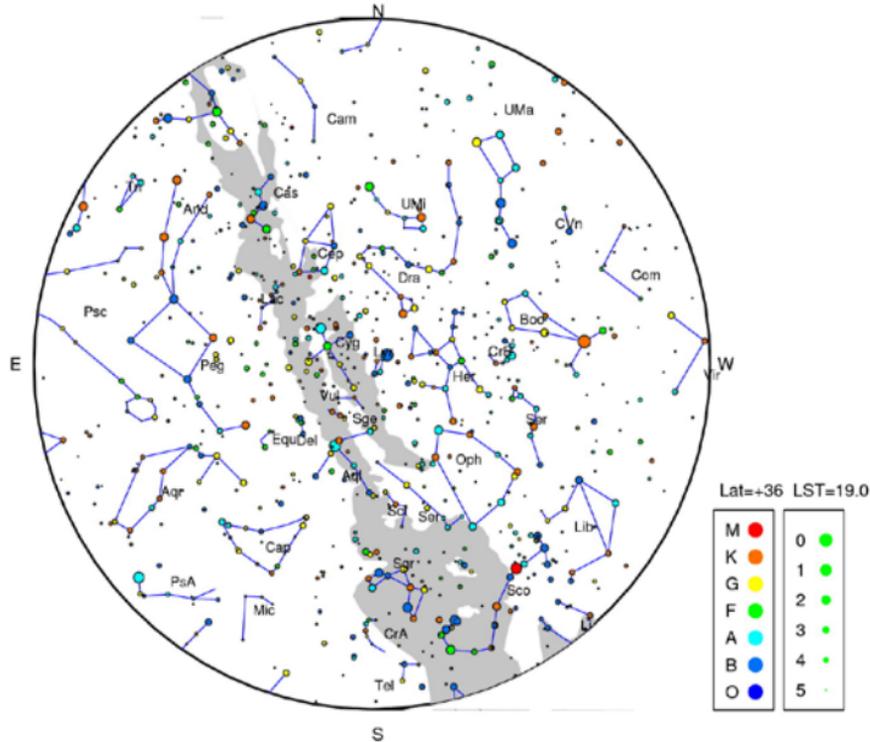
The nights start to be shorter, more pleasant and less cold. The enjoyment of a night of star gazing can be complemented with a day spent walking in the countryside and forests. In the sky, constellations such as Leo or Virgo stand out at nightfall and, in addition, we begin to see the central part of the Milky Way if we stay up late. No matter how many times you have seen it before, gazing at the Milky Way again after the last months of autumn and winter is like a reunion with an old friend.

Tip: Do not forget warm clothes, it can still be quite cold. Above all, check the weather forecast, because spring is a very changeable time.

THE SKY IN SUMMER

212





Constellation recommended to the naked eye:

Escorpio



Object recommended with binoculars:

Nebulosa de la Trífida (M8)



Object recommended with a telescope:

Nebulosa Omega (M17)

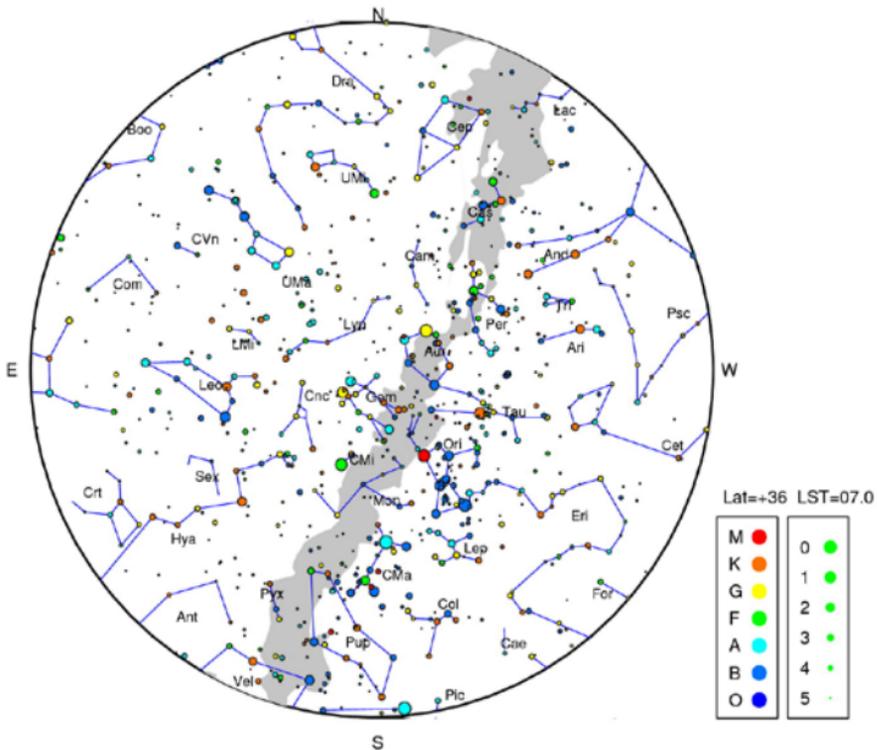
The nights start to be shorter, more pleasant and less cold. The enjoyment of a night of star gazing can be complemented with a day spent walking in the countryside and forests. In the sky, constellations such as Leo or Virgo stand out at nightfall and, in addition, we begin to see the central part of the Milky Way if we stay up late. No matter how many times you have seen it before, gazing at the Milky Way again after the last months of autumn and winter is like a reunion with an old friend.

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THE SKY IN AUTUMN

214





Constellation recommended to the naked eye:

Casiopeia



Object recommended with binoculars:

Doble Cúmulo de Perseo



Object recommended with a telescope:

Galaxia de Andrómeda (M31)

At the beginning of autumn you will still be able to enjoy the Milky Way at the beginning of the night but it is increasingly lower on the horizon. Besides, old friends such as The Pleiades begin to appear on the Eastern horizon. We also have Cassiopeia, Andromeda and Perseus high up in the sky, allowing us excellent opportunities for observations of the objects found in this area.

Tip: As it begins to get dark earlier, sessions can start much earlier so you don't have to get back home too late. After the summer heat goes, it starts to get cold at night so you should bring enough warm clothes.

**How to take
PHOTOS OF THE STARS?**



Photo | Two tourists taking night photos near Adamuz

Photographing the night sky

This is a section especially dedicated to those people who are passionate about photography, people who can spend hours looking for a frame or practicing a specific technique, for those who think that photography is the best way to capture the essence of a sight and a moment.

Night time photography is a very complex discipline because, after all, we are working in the most adverse of conditions that our photographic equipment can face. This is especially true as, even though it is night and even when there is no light we still want to get impressive images of monuments with an imposing night sky in the background.

Perhaps all astrophotographic technique can be summarized in the following premise: "every photon counts!".

Let's see some parameters to take into account for night photography.



Photo | Planetary arrangement in the sky seen from the Cordoba meadows

Photographic equipment

The world of photography is constantly changing and we have increasing numbers of tools and greater capacity. Even so, there are a number of instruments that we can consider basic when it comes to being able to take photographs of astronomical landscapes, although as mentioned before, nuances begin to appear.

DSLR REFLEX CAMERA: Reflex or DSLR cameras with interchangeable lenses are currently the type that is most often used in astrophotography because they usually have larger sensors. In addition, the fact that we can exchange the objectives gives us greater flexibility to make brighter and more focused lens. However, the emergence of the new mirrorless cameras, CSC-D, is beginning to play an important role in the world of astrophotography.

PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIPOD: To be able to take pictures of the night sky you will need long exposure photos, that is, the camera will have to spend several seconds capturing light so that figures, objects or the stars can appear. While the camera is taking in light you will need it to remain still and the best option is to use a good tripod.

SHUTTER: Pressing the trigger button of our camera transmits a vibration to the body of the camera that can ruin the photograph and make it move. For this there are two options, either a cable release or use the timer of the camera so that once the button is pressed the photo begins to be taken after 10 seconds, by which time the vibration of having pressed the button has already disappeared.

OBJECTIVE: This part is as crucial as the camera itself, since the ability to capture light will depend to a great extent on its quality and brightness. The brighter the lens, the less exposure time you will require.

Configuration of the camera



ISO SENSITIVITY: The ISO is a parameter that allows us to digitally modify the capacity of light captured by our camera. The higher the ISO that we set, the more light our camera will capture. It might seem logical to think that all we have to do is set the highest ISO available, but this is certainly not the case since there is a limitation that affects the quality of the image. The higher the ISO, the more light the camera will capture, but the quality of the image will be worse. Each camera supports a certain ISO value with a certain quality, so this is something that you should try with your own equipment and assess how much you can force it without damaging the image too much.

SHUTTER: The shutter is controlled by the diaphragm of the lens and is the hole through which the light passes until it reaches the camera's sensor. By means of this parameter we can make this hole larger or smaller. In general terms we can say that in astrophotography we are always going to use the largest aperture, this is the F / lowest possible parameter: F / 3.5 or even F / 2.8 or better still, F / 1.8 ... etc.

EXPOSURE TIME: It is the time that the camera spends capturing light to obtain the photograph. In 10 seconds the camera takes in more light than in 5 seconds, so the logical thing is to use the longest possible exposure time, usually 30 seconds. However, this also has a small catch.... the stars move. If you use a very high exposure time the stars will appear as stripes instead of points. How long do I have to set it for? This depends on the objective and the focal point you are going to use, the more zoom you make in the sky the more the stars will appear as stripes.

Astronomical Tip

THE RULE OF THE 500

In order to calculate the maximum exposure time that you can configure in your camera you can use the 500 rule. Example: for an objective of 18mm the maximum exposure time would be calculated in the following way:

$$500/18\text{mm} = 27.7 \text{ s}$$

If you are going to use a 50mm objective $500/50\text{mm} = 10 \text{ s}$

As you can see, more zoom with less time helps us to take the photo before the stars stop appearing as dots.

This trick is not completely inflexible, since cameras with higher resolution capture small movements in less time, so many people already do the same calculation using 400 instead of 500.



FOCAL DISTANCE: This parameter is closely linked to the exposure time as seen in the 500 rule. The higher the zoom, the more details of a specific area of the sky you will capture, but you can use less exposure time to take the photo. On the contrary, more general and wider views of the sky require less zoom and you can use more time, to capture more light and more stars





In this section we have shown some of the very basic aspects to begin to understand the parameters we need to take into consideration to be able to take pictures of the night sky, but this is only the beginning. We can delve much deeper and in general, each parameter or configuration has many exceptions and nuances, tricks or limiting factors. In addition, there are many techniques that drastically alter some of these parameters such as monitoring or the use of telescopes as telephoto lenses. We must also bear in mind that there is more equipment beyond cameras. Today, specialized cameras such as CCDs can be used, as well as sports cameras and even mobile phones!

The more sophisticated and sensitive the equipment is that we take out to the field to take our photographs, the more the photographs can be altered. The appearance of ultra-sensitive sensors provides an exciting future for night photography, much lower exposure times and even the ability to make videos in surprising detail.

TEACHING RESOURCES AND APPLICATIONS

Auto-scroll
Align

RA 14.41h HA 01.51h
Dec: -13.44°
Venus
(Planet)



Play voice instructions

Looking for
Jupiter

[View target](#)

Alt: 34.7° Azm: 208.0°
RA: 14.4h Dec: -13.1°
HA: 01.6h Δ 051.0°



Resources and applications to plan observations

Although we can state that the optical tools to enjoy a night under a starry sky, such as new ultra-sensitive cameras or better telescopes, have advanced enormously, we can also affirm that the wide variety of resources available today to improve the experience is truly spectacular. We have gone from paper maps and navigation charts to mobile phones with applications that show us the sky and inform us of the state of the atmosphere in real time. Below is a list of computer and mobile applications to help us enjoy astrotourism.



Stellarium: Stellarium is a free program that currently is considered one of the best existing simulators of planetariums. It can be installed on several operating systems and allows you to configure the location, date, time ... etc.



In-the-sky: It is a web page that, like Stellarium, although with worse graphics, shows you the sky in different locations, dates and times. Visit www.in-the-sky.org/skymap



Observation session generator: This is a French website that allows you to plan observation sessions. You enter your location, the date, hours, the optical equipment that you have and it generates a plan of objects and hours. Put in Google: 'univers astronomie generateur' and click on the first link.

Other sources of information:

In addition to the applications and programs, we want to recommend some websites for news, information, images, etc.

- **APOD (Astronomy Picture of the Day)**. On this website, NASA uploads a daily photograph with an explanation.
- **Space weather**. One of the best repositories of “live” images of the night sky. Every day dozens of users upload their photographs. It is an excellent way to know what is happening in the sky or what can be seen at a specific moment.
- give some websites about news, information, images ... etc.
- **Hubble Forum**. This is the largest astronomy forum in Spanish. Thousands of users interact daily sharing doubts, observations, purchase-sale of material ... etc.





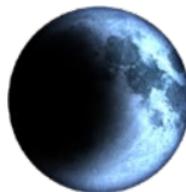
Google Sky Map: It is an app that is well-known among people who enjoy the sky. Using the position sensors of the telephone, this application helps you to recognize constellations, locate objects, stars and also has other very useful features.



Sky-Eye: Similar to the previous one but with many more features. It is an application which is more focused on people with greater knowledge of the sky. It allows to find more objects and has other more professional features. It is also free.



Moon phases: One parameter to take into account when preparing your observations is the state of the Moon. With a full Moon you will hardly be able to observe any objects because the sky will be too bright. With this mobile application you will be able to know what time our satellite appears in the sky, where it is located and in what phase it is in.



Night Filter: This is a very useful application for our mobile phone, because when it is activated, it makes the device work on a scale of red, so as not to dazzle us during an observation. Activating this filter, you can continue using your mobile and all applications without altering your vision.



Heavens - above: During any observation night you will see many satellites or even the International Space Station. With this mobile application you will be able to identify what they are or even set up alarms so that they can advise us when they can be seen.



Night Sky Tools: It is an especially useful application for people who are going to use telescopes during their observation because all the information that we need to calibrate and put our instruments in station is gathered in a simple and direct way, such as coordinates or the exact time among others.

ICONOGRAPHY: Observation points



View points:
Horizon with no obstacles



View points: Capacity for 1-10 people



View points:
Capacity for 10 - 25 people



View points:
Capacity for more than 25 people



Accessibility:
Accessible only by vehicle



Accessibility:
Accessible by bus



Accessibility:
Privately owned place.



Accessibility:
It is necessary to ask for permission to enter



Parking:
Parking spaces



Electricity:
Electricity sockets available.



Building:
Near to tourist facilities like accommodation, restaurant, or information points.

ICONOGRAPHY: Maps



Maps:
Landmarks



Maps:
Parks, Natural areas, Areas of ecological interest



Maps:
Rural accommodation



Maps:
Observation spot



Maps:
Castle



Maps:
Point of cultural interest



Maps:
Hotel



Maps:
Recreational area



Diputación de Córdoba



CÓRDOBA

PATRONATO PROVINCIAL DE TURISMO | DIPUTACIÓN

Andalucía



JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA