



Natural Park Mountain range  
 Countryside Meadows  
 Reservoirs  
 Valleys  
 Inland marshes

WALKING TRAILS

TRAIL  
 GR  
 341

CAMINOS  
 DE PASIÓN

Alcalá la Real • Baena • Cabra • Carmona • Écija • Lucena  
 Osuna • Priego de Córdoba • Puente Genil • Utrera

## CAMINOS DE PASIÓN GR 341 TRAIL

Caminos de Pasión offers visitors the opportunity to discover in depth the way in which a population that is attached to its land, roots and customs lives and understands the world.

To do so, this great trail has been created, this great route, through rural paths that will take us to some of the noteworthy natural, historic and ethnographic locations of each of the towns it passes through.

More than **320 kilometres** stretching across 3 provinces and **25 towns** throughout its **11 stages**, with the option of **travelling by foot, bike or on horseback**. Trails that offer us the opportunity to sense first-hand the enormous variety of landscape of the heart of **Andalusia**.

### NATURAL DIVERSITY IN INLAND ANDALUSIA

The entire natural Andalusian heritage, with its rich geodiversity and biodiversity, blend together with human activity in this space to show us endless combinations of colours, shapes and textures which, in each case, address a why, a series of reasons and motivations, both natural and artificial, which enable us to enjoy the elements in the environment exactly as we can see them today. Just by closely observing a landscape, we will be able to obtain more information about the history, nature, ethnography, culture and traditions of its population than we could imagine at first.

For these reasons, for a brief overview of all of the elements of interest that are located throughout this trail, considering it in terms of the landscape is extremely enlightening and intuitive. A brief introduction of the main landscape units that this trail takes us through will help us to appreciate the values in relation to nature and human life, which can, in other circumstances, can go unnoticed.



### STAGE 1

Alcalá la Real (Jaén)  
 Priego de Córdoba (Córdoba)

The olive grove in Andalusia is understood and admired among nature lovers as the largest artificial forest in the world. Hence, in order to enjoy and observe this setting properly, there is no better location than this, taking a trip between the two provinces with the highest density of this type of forest on the planet, Córdoba and Jaén. These hilly terrains sometimes reveal steep slopes from where we can delight in the harmonious monotony of the landscape, majestically clashing with the castles, such as the La Mota Fortress (Fortaleza de la Mota) in Alcalá la Real, or with the whitewashed buildings which serve as places to rest, not just for visitors, but also the day labourers that work here.



On our journey we will come across river courses, such as the Almedinilla river, fountains that channel springs, such as those in Fuente Alamo or Sileras, and which have led to the formation of small towns around them.

In the final section, as we travel across the Sierra de los Judíos mountain range, our senses will awaken to the Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park, with unbeatable panoramic views of the Tiñosa Peak, the highest point in the province of Córdoba, in addition to the town centre of Priego de Córdoba, taking a look from its imposing Balcón del Aadar viewing point.

### STAGE 2

Priego de Córdoba (Córdoba)  
 Baena (Córdoba)

This stage offers us the possibility of discovering the Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park in more depth, showing us many of the values that have led to its protection, in addition to it being declared as a Geopark. To do this, we will use some of the most important public paths, tracks that have enabled the communication between the towns that form part of this protected natural space since time immemorial.



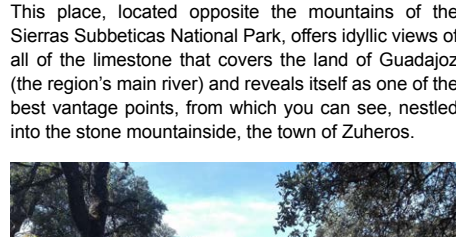
The views of El Hoyo de Priego and the Horconera mountain, walking near to vertical gorges with the constant presence of griffon vultures flying above, Califal Bridge (Puente Califal) in Carcabuey, the mixed forests of holm oaks and gall oaks, the whimsical shapes of the karst morphology or the walk through La Nava de Luque and the surroundings of the Cortijo de Lastra country house, where we will be able to reach its origin and dolmen of the same name, all make this stage one of the most attractive.

Passing the town of Luque, we will venture into the Cordoban countryside, following a section of the greenway (via verde) which links with the town of Baena. Here we will find some interesting excuses to deviate from the marked path and visit some natural relevant places that are situated inside the municipal area, such as the Vadomojón Reservoir (Pantano de Vadomojón), the Gypsum Cave (Cueva del Yeso) or the Guadajoz river, a tributary to the Guadalquivir.

### STAGE 3

Baena (Córdoba)  
 Cabra (Córdoba)

From Baena, the area of Los Manchones, situated at the top of a mountain, serves as a border with the neighbouring town of Doña Mencía, where the olive groves haven't reached and the original natural vegetation remains.



From our walk-through Doña Mencía, we will join up with the Olive Oil Greenway (Via Verde del Aceite) which will take us to Cabra, travelling the northern part of the Natural Park. Along this section, we will cross various geographical features, using old bridges and tunnels, so we will be able to see some interesting limestone rock outcrops with fossil remains.

Additionally, we will discover some of the main places belonging to this natural space and the town, including La Sima ravine (one of the Park's main caves) or the Picacho de Cabra (declared Geographical Centre of Andalusia).

We will reach Cabra at the town's Train Station, which has now been redeveloped into a hostel.

### STAGE 4

Cabra (Córdoba)  
 Lucena (Córdoba)

Cabra is one of the gates to the Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park and this stage takes us through the Greenway (Via Verde), following the western boundary of it. A short distance from the exit, we will visit one of its most important natural springs, known as Fuente del Río, where the natural grandeur combines with landscaped surroundings which invites people to walk and enjoy themselves. From this point, and continuing towards Lucena, we will have the chance to see limestone pavements, vertical gorges of pink rocks and voids that offer a glimpse between some of the cracks that were left exposed when they opened up the railway.



As we get further away from the Natural Park, the vegetation will gradually change, giving way to the extensive olive groves. However, we will be surprised along our journey to see it dotted with beautiful holm oaks, gall oaks, cornicabra olive trees or riparian vegetation, and the lavish forest situated around the Alamedal stream; also known as the Valley of the Fossils (Valle de los Fósiles) thanks to the large number of limestone nodule outcrops, rich in the stone remains of ammonites, belemnites and other Jurassic molluscs.

The last section will take us to the edge of the town centre of Lucena, until we reach the town's old Train Station.

### STAGE 5

Lucena (Córdoba)  
 Puente Genil (Córdoba)

Most of the route between Lucena and Puente Genil takes place among olive groves, some vineyards, and fields of cereal crops, following the track of the old railway that once linked both towns, which is today the Greenway (Via Verde). Among this vast expanse of crops, there are still some stands of native bush vegetation which are home, mainly, to fauna species that live alongside agricultural activity. In addition, we can also see small natural "gardens", formed by native species of aromatic plants which are situated around the rest areas, where we will find species like lavender, rockroses, mastic trees and broom.



The journey through the Lucentine parish of Navas del Selpillar will take us to a viewing point where we can observe the landscape of the olive grove and the different machinery associated with the old train line.

We will leave the Greenway (Via Verde) at the old Campo Real station, now in Puente Genil, although to reach its centre we will need to walk along a series of paths through the olive groves that will take us by the Genil-Cabra irrigation canal.

### STAGE 6

Puente Genil (Córdoba)  
 Estepa (Sevilla)

Departing very near to the bridge that gave the town of Puente Genil its name ('puente' means bridge), this stage uses the ancient Herrera path to climb from the riverbank of the Genil river to this Sevillian town. Olive groves and hilly areas will lead us to the halfway point of the route. Shortly before arriving we will need to cross the AVE high speed train line.



This route presents the uniqueness of walking along, or crossing, ancient cattle tracks and local roads that have long linked these towns in the heart of Andalusia. So, to the Herrera path, we will add La Vereda de la Trocha in Puente Genil, Osuna's Cañada Real and Granada's Cañada Real. In these large open areas, peppered with olive trees, we will take shelter under one of the hundred-year-old holm oaks that are left from the imposing Mediterranean forest that once dominated this area.

The final section will be marked by the constant presence of Estepa, situated at the foothills of its mountain, marking our destination point.



### COUNTRYSIDE

One of the largest landscape units of the Centre of Andalusia, encompassing most of the land which is used for agriculture, regardless of the type of crop grown. They are spaces where the natural life of the vegetation and wild fauna blend with the human adaptations required to fulfil their production needs.



### VALLEYS, MEADOWS AND INLAND MARSHES

Landscape belonging to the areas that are heavily affected by major river basins. In them, the watercourses have, over thousands of years, eroded the materials they flow through to create morphologies characterised by areas of vast plains, fertile soils for agriculture, generally rich in water and, often, with a tendency to suffer flooding by forming lakes.



### MOUNTAINS OF THE MIDDLE MOUNTAIN REGIONS

The elevation of the Baetic System (Cordillera Bética) was caused by the tectonic movements produced during what is known as the Alpine Orogeny. This is when the sedimentary materials deposited on the seabed were compressed, folded and lifted. This is the origin of the unique morphology of the mountain landscapes through which the trail passes, where we will be able to enjoy the enormous geological heritage, of fauna and vegetation, of mountain formations such as the mountain area to the Southwest of Seville (Serranía Suroeste Sevillana) or, in particular, the Subbaetic System of Córdoba (Sierras de la Subbética Cordobesa), which was protected as a Natural Park and declared a Geopark, one of the few with this distinction in Andalusia and in Spain.



### STAGE 7

Estepa (Sevilla)  
 Osuna (Sevilla)

During this stage, the elevations of the mountain area to the Southwest of Seville (Serranía Suroeste Sevillana) will reveal to us all its splendour.

Throughout this first part of the stage, among the mountains of Estepa and Gilena, we will visit some outstanding and unique places such as the Manantial de Royá spring, the Tajillos trail, the ancient Roman road that travels along the bottom of Tajo Montero, the forest of Sierra de Gilena or the start of the Rincón del Ojo park and garden.



The fauna that inhabits these areas include bird species such as the Bonelli's eagle, blue rock thrush, Eurasian eagle-owl, or red crossbill; mammal species such as the garden dormouse, Iberian ibex or fox; and reptiles such as the ladder snake, horseshoe whip snake or the ocellated lizard. Among its main plant species, to name a few, we will see the Aleppo pine, holm oak, hawthorn or fan palm. In the final part of the walk we will meet the Blanco river, a watercourse with an abundance of riparian vegetation and a considerable flow which has become an important point to observe fauna. From here, we will reach Osuna along the Ipora trail, an ancient cattle track named after a farm of the same name.

### STAGE 8

Osuna (Sevilla)  
 Écija (Sevilla)

An interesting route through the Sevillian countryside that will take us into the area of influence of the Endorheic Complex of La Lantejuela (Complejo Endorreico de La Lantejuela). In both the municipal area of Osuna and Écija, there are numerous natural spaces of environmental importance, many of them associated with the presence of water. However, the Endorheic Complex stands out from them all and encompasses both towns.



Formed by seasonal lakes and ponds which accumulate rainwater, the Endorheic Complex of La Lantejuela (Complejo Endorreico de La Lantejuela) is protected and part of Andalusia's Network of Natural Spaces (RENPA) for its designation as a Special Bird Protection Area (ZEPA). A multitude of birds flock here each year to rest on their migratory routes.

Fringoes, geese, grey herons and the near-extinct ruddy duck, are some of its famous visitors.

For all of these reasons, passing through the imposing Laguna de Ruiz Sánchez (lake), within the town of Écija, is one of this stage's main attractions.

### STAGE 9

Écija (Sevilla)  
 La Campana (Sevilla)

The Countryside Greenway (Via Verde de la Campiña) will guide us towards Fuentes de Andalucía, passing through La Luisiana and the Ejica parish of Villanueva del Rey, making up the intermediate points of this stage.

Flat lands and crop diversity on one side and on the other side there is a former railway line turned sports and leisure infrastructure, although the olive groves continue to be prominent.



Shortly before we reach Fuentes de Andalucía, we will cross the Madre de Fuentes stream. This watercourse, called Guadalbardilla river by the Arabs, preserves an interesting ecological flow all year round which enables the presence of species of flora and fauna that are native to these surroundings.

In the area where its route meets the greenway (via verde), a backwater enables it to widen and form a semi lake.

The final part of the trail will coincide with a bridle path which will take us to La Campana, connecting historic farmhouses and local roads covered in shrub vegetation and stone pines which grow on land with sandy soils.

### STAGE 10

La Campana (Sevilla)  
 Carmona (Sevilla)

A notably agricultural stage in which we will discover the vast Sevillian countryside in the heart of the Guadalquivir valley. The climbs up and down will be continuous within a hilly landscape where the natural vegetation is reduced to ditches or isolated copses among the immense crop fields.

Of all of the spots with natural ecosystems present, the Corbones river stands out, one of the province's main rivers, declared an LIC (Place of Community Interest) for a significant proportion of its length because it houses interesting riparian ecosystems.



Just before we reach Carmona, we will have the chance to visit some of the archaeological remains that show us the transit of the ancient civilisations through this town. The first of them will be Batida Cave (Cueva de la Batida), an ancient Roman quarry which was active until the 18th century and which, in turn, is home to what is known as 'Morabito' (the grave of a Muslim Holy Man).

At the same time, the climb up to Carmona, in addition to the impressive views of its old quarter from looking out over the hill, we will also walk along the ancient Roman road to the town and go over one of the town's ancient bridges.

### STAGE 11

Carmona (Sevilla)  
 Utrera (Sevilla)

The main natural elements of this stage are formed by three landscapes: los Alcores, la Vega de Carmona and las Terrazas. Los Alcores are a tertiary formation with a triangular structure which cover the elevations of terrain and run in a northeasterly-southeasterly direction, being home to the towns of Carmona, Mairena del Alcor and El Viso del Alcor. La Vega is a plain situated between the Corbones and Guadaira rivers, where the olive tree is the typical vegetation that we can see near to the municipal area of Alcalá de Guadaíra.

Finally, Las Terrazas (terraces) stagger over 20km between the hills of Los Alcores and the shores of the Guadalquivir river where it joins the Corbones and we can see the start of the stage in the distance.



Lastly, our arrival at Utrera will take us through authentic green corridors colonised by natural vegetation, which is native to these lands, ancient cattle tracks that have been used to transport livestock and people between the local towns, whether in search of pastures or to trade them.

Each landscape has its own why, due to the convergence of a range of natural and/or human factors throughout history until it shows us what we can see today. This stage shows us many of them, enriching our journey.



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