

EN

El Robledo

VISITOR CENTRE

EXHIBITION GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Sierra Morena de Sevilla Natural Park is located in the northern part of the province of Seville, in a region of gently sloping, low mountains interrupted by watercourses.

The Sierra Morena mountain range is characterized by a variety of ecosystems: holm oak and cork forests, rangeland spotted with trees (dehesas), riparian forests and others, which endow this Protected Natural Area with a rich array of different landscapes.

The broad diversity of this landscape is the product not only of natural phenomena, but of the way that the territory has been used through time. Numerous historical vestiges are found in the area, silent witnesses to the passage of important cultures through the region.

Consequently, the landscape of Sierra Morena de Sevilla Natural Park is the result of the interaction between natural elements and variations in land uses by humans in the course of history. Awareness of this interaction provides the key to understanding the Park as a changing, dynamic landscape. Once one comprehends how this land has evolved until it reached its present state, one can appreciate it, understand it and respect it, which is the most promising way to ensure its conservation.



The main goal of the Visitors Centre is to present the natural heritage of this protected area to visitors in a clear and easily understood way.

This guide provides information about the current exhibition of the Centre, which should enhance visits by enlightening and informing visitors.

SieRRa MoReNa de SeViLLa

a CuLTuRaL

CroSSRoadS



Bridge over the Galindón River

The arrival of the Romans marked a time of prosperity for the region. New towns were founded and engineering projects like roads and bridges were undertaken.



Cerro del Hierro

This territory has seen numerous civilizations whose people sought, from the very earliest times, the valuable natural resources of this land. From Paleolithic times to the present, different cultures have left their mark on the landscape, thus contributing to the important natural and cultural heritage that we enjoy today.



Castle of Alanís

The Arabs built walled defenses in different places and made important contributions to agriculture. With the reconquest by the Christians, many old Arab fortresses became castles, reflecting the new dominant power in the region.

The mines of Cerro del Hierro in San Nicolás del Puerto have been worked for more than 2000 years. Mining operations were carried out in the open air and, mining activities eventually exposed the capricious forms originated by the erosive effect of water on limestone.

Between the 14th and 19th centuries, the landscape experience major transformations that made the region into what it is now. At that time, large extensions of forests were cut to create pastures for grazing cattle and the extension of the dehesas was increased.

Midway through the 20th century, farm work was mechanized, which dramatically reduced the need for manual labor. As a result of this change, much of the populace of Sierra Morena immigrated to cities in search of work. Many farms were abandoned and eventually were overgrown with brush.

The region is only now recovering due to a renewed appreciation of its natural and cultural treasures and typical products.



Groves of holm oak

“the NaTuRaL PaRK ToDaY”

Sierra Morena mountain range that we now contemplate (Natural Park) is the result of natural and cultural processes that took place over centuries. However, we should not forget that the region is still subject to dynamic forces, processes continue to unfold, and what is now happening in Sierra Morena de Sevilla will be reflected in its future.



Detailed view of Cerro del Hierro

The landscape is dynamic; it has changed over the years and is still changing. After all, the landscape is the outcome of an intense relation between humans and nature.



Huesna river waterfall

SieRRa MoReNa de SeViLLa: a MoSaiC of LaNDSCaPes

We find ourselves in a space containing extremely diverse natural settings that coexist with others that have been transformed by the traditional land uses of humans. The result is the rich array of landscapes that can now be seen in Sierra Morena de Sevilla.



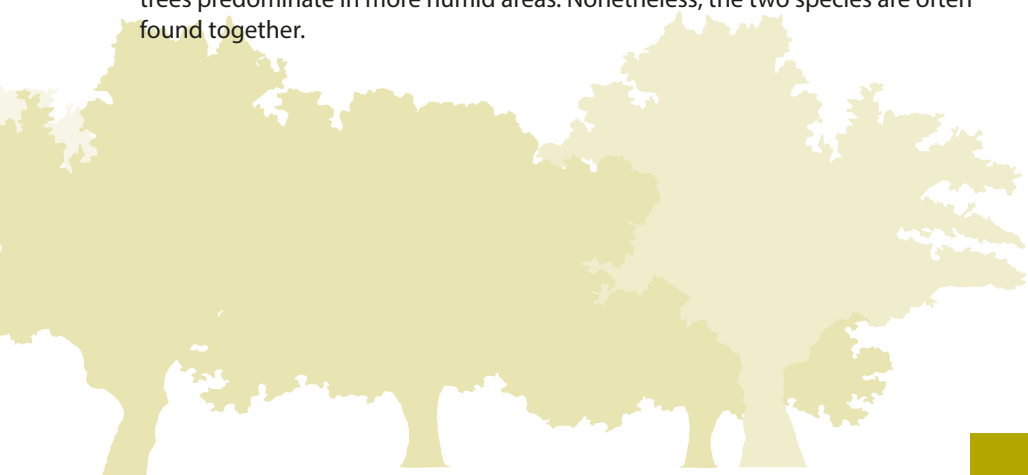
Groves of holm oak, cork trees, Pyrenean oak, Lusitanian oak and riparian forests have survived the passage of time thanks to their harmonious coexistence with humans. One of the most characteristic manifestations of this coexistence is **the dehesa**, which many would accept as an emblem of the Park landscape.

a WaLK through a MeDiTeRRáN FoReST



Dense holm oak and cork forests were once part of the original forest of Sierra Morena. These forests are interspersed with large areas of rock roses and Kermes oak, which have great ecological importance.

In general, holm oaks are predominant in the hottest and driest zones, whereas corks trees predominate in more humid areas. Nonetheless, the two species are often found together.



SaDoWs on WaTeR: RiVeRBaNKs

Dense, shady forests grow along rivers and streams, which are known as riparian forests. These areas where land meets water are used by many animals as a place of refuge, where they can raise their young and feed.



Otter



Marsh fritillary



Kingfisher

The dehesa is an excellent example of a finely-tuned balance between nature and the use of natural resources by humans. In addition to providing numerous products for economic development, it sustains a diverse community of fauna and flora.



The traditional management of the dehesas of Sierra Morena de Sevilla has allowed the economic development of the region and, at the same time, conserved the natural heritage for future generations. The dehesa exemplifies the expression "Sustainable Development." This characteristic landscape has been responsible for the inclusion of the Sierra Morena de Sevilla Natural Park in the Biosphere Reserve "Dehesas of Sierra Morena."

a ReGion BouNTiFuLLY eNDoweD with ReSouRCeS, aCTiViTieS and NaTuRaL PRoDuCTS

Sierra Morena de Sevilla offers abundant resources to local inhabitants, some of which have been used for centuries while others constitute new sources of income today.

In addition, these mountains are the lungs for the entire province, providing pure water and clean air, recreational opportunities and improving the well-being of all.



The economy of the region has been based traditionally on cattle and farming



Tourism and recreational activities are one of areas in which the possibilities for development in Sierra Morena de Sevilla are enormous because a growing number of visitors come to this mountain range in search of beautiful landscapes, clean air and rest.

FRuiTs of the EaRTH



Wines from this region were famous until wine-making practically disappeared in the 17th century. At that time, distilled liquor became important and “**cazalla**”, a local liquor, became famous. Cazalla production still continues according to traditional practice. **Oil and wines** from the region are of good quality because production processes have been improving. **Local cheeses, sausages** and **honey** are of high quality and are marketed as artisanal products.

El RoBLedo



