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La Resinera

INFORMATION POINT



WELCOME TO LA RESINERA INFORMATION POINT

La Resinera is an information point in the mountain range of Tejeda, Almirajara and Alhama. Here you can request information to organise your visit and discover firsthand the activities you can do in this unique natural enclave.

La Resinera Information Point is located in what was the chapel and school for workers of the old resin factory, the *Union Resinera Española*, which closed in 1975. The great number of resin-producing pine trees in the area made pine resin an important source of income for local residents.

Traditionally, in addition to the resin from the towering pine trees, charcoal and firewood made from their wood, livestock grazing and hunting in the mountains, and even the snow from the peaks in favourable years or the esparto grass from the rocky slopes, contributed to the livelihood of the inhabitants of this mountain range.

Their history and many more stories related to this surprising natural area await you at the mountain range of Tejeda, Almirajara and Alhama exhibition.



Drop in and enjoy the experience

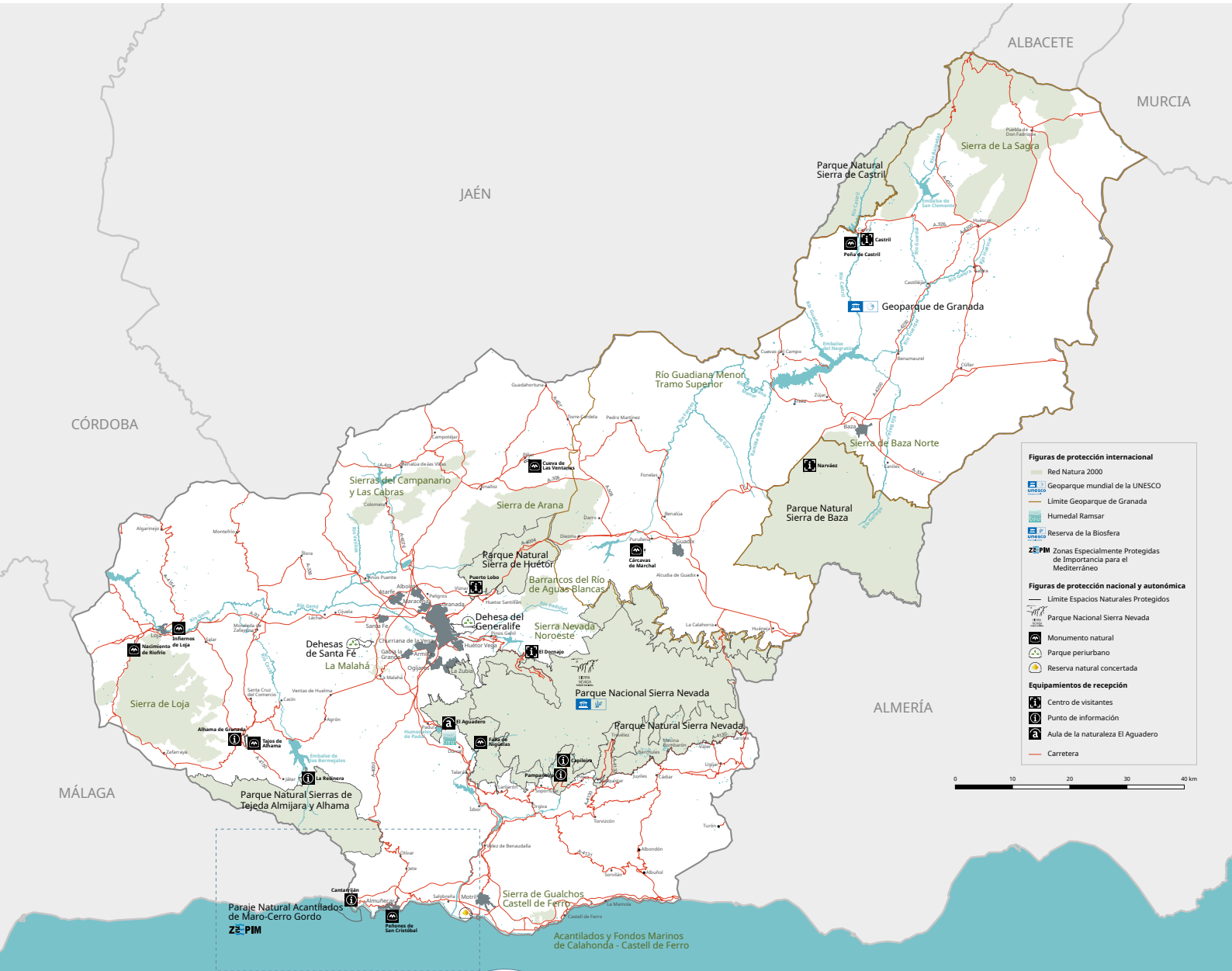
NATURA 2000 NETWORK IN GRANADA PROVINCE

The province of Granada is rich in landscapes, plants and animals and the protected natural areas of Granada are an exceptional example of Mediterranean biodiversity. To guarantee their sustainability, like the mountain range of Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama, the protected areas of Granada are part of the Natura 2000 network, a European ecological network of protected areas for biodiversity.

This Network is made up of the most valuable ecosystems in the European Union, known as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to protect habitats and Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs).

From the rarity of the flora of the high peaks of the Sierra Nevada, the coastal cliffs and seabeds of Maro Cerro Gordo, the unique wild pine forests of the Sierra de Baza, the complex karst reliefs of the Sierra de Huétor to the fluvial landscapes shaped by the water of the Sierra de Castril, all form part of the extensive and varied natural heritage of the province of Granada.





Find out more:
[ventanadelvisitante.es](http://www.ventanadelvisitante.es)

THE NATURAL PARK OF SIERRAS DE TEJEDA, ALMIJARA AND ALHAMA

The Natural Park, an area between two provinces, is home to a set of ecosystems representative of the Mediterranean environment.

A mountainous outcrop which has always been a natural border and now includes two neighbouring districts, the Axarquía in Malaga and the Alhama in Granada.





The hills of Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama belong to the Béticos mountain ranges this. This range, with diverse characteristics, extends from the town of Jerez de la Frontera (Cadiz) to the cape of La Nao (Alicante).



CERRO DE LOS MORISCOS O LUCERO FROM EL PUERTO DE FRIGILIANA

THE “TWO THOUSANDS METER” MOST SOUTH-WESTERN PEAK IN THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

A huge rocky outcrop, These hills are the highest and most southerly of the Béticas mountain range. From here, the east (A-xarq) up to the west coast (Al-grab) there are no other higher peaks.

Water collecting!

These hills capture the humid winds coming from both, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean sea, causing abundant rainfall and snow. They have a high altitude (the Maroma peak reaches 2065 metres) and are located less than 20 km from the sea.

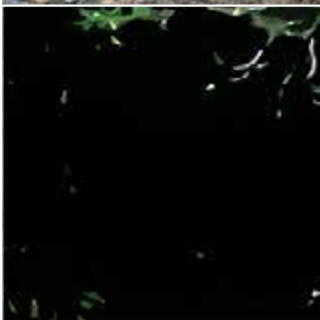


SIERRAS DE ALMIJARA Y TEJEDA FROM EL PICO NAVACHICA

RIVERS, STREAMS, WATERFALLS AND TORRENTS...

There is a constant presence of water in these hills. Many rivers and streams, some of them with high and spectacular water levels, flow through the park.

These hills act as a reservoir: because the water filters through the alkaline and carbonated soil, creating an important aquiferous of the Axarquía area; helping life and biodiversity.



WATER IS LIFE

...AND MOLDS TO THE LANDSCAPE

OF SPECTACULAR LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE

The huge differences in altitude, in such a small area, creates incredible steps, deep ravines, and outstanding peaks with long steep slopes at the edge of the plateau... that sharply break the calm of the horizon.

THE SILHOUTTES AND THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAINS

We are looking at Spain's greatest dolomitic marble massif. It offers a very singular landscape, with an arid appearance, dominated by grey and white shades and a very special vegetation where endemic plants are abundant.



ENVIRONMENTAL DIVERSITY = SPECIES DIVERSITY, REFUGE OF BIODIVERSITY

OBSERVE AND SEARCH, DISCOVER AND LISTEN

An enormous variety of living beings exist in these hills. What species are you able to find or identify?

NARROW VALLEYS AND DEEP RAVINES

Crystalline waters start in the heights, and meander through dense Mediterranean scrubland which flourishes in hot summers and warm and mild winters. Rivers and streams have carved into the rock, making sculpture-like shapes and creating a world of vertical walls and cliffs.



RAVINE IN THE SIERRA ALMUJARA



COLD MOUNTAIN PEAKS, HIGH ANDALUSIA MOUNTAIN

Between 1750 – 1900 m above sea level the weather conditions are harsh, typical of the high Mediterranean mountains. Stunted bushes, thorny and with a cushion-like shape, grow having adapted to the intense sunlight, the strong wind and the weight of the frequent snow. A great variety of small plants grow in rocky cliffs under humid conditions...

Lower down, between 1400 and 1700 m above sea level, trees like Maple, Yew, Corsican and Scots Pine and Pyrenean Oak, cover the slopes creating unique and beautiful small woods.



SUMMIT SCRUB IN CERRO DEL FUERTE, FRIGILIANA



HOLLY GROVE WITH MUSTARD, OAK AND YEW TREES BETWEEN "LAS LLANADAS" AND MALASCAMAS HILL



DENSE FOREST CLIMBING THE (MOUNTAIN) SLOPES

Between 800 and 1300 m above sea level, forests of Holm Oak wood with a mixture of Portuguese Oak and occasionally Cork and Pyrenean Oak grow on some of the slopes. The pine woods of Negral or Resin Pine, with Phoenician and Common Juniper spread out across most of the land; together with a variety of very rare plant species specific of these sandy areas with such dry and poor soil.



RESIN PINE FOREST IN THE RAVINE OF AÑALES



RESIN PINE FOREST, ALMENDRÓN GORGE IN THE BACKGROUND



LIVING UNIQUE EXAMPLES IN THE PARK

THE MOST VALUABLE TREE

Witnesses from past times,... The yew (*Taxus baccata*) is a conifer tree typical of a damper and cooler climate than the Mediterranean one. It arrived during the ice periods, remaining in these mountains after the recession of the ice. Small yew woods as well as isolated trees that have survived here gave their name to these hills.

The yew tree offers food and shelter to an enormous variety of species in the coldest part of the winter.

One of the oldest trees on the earth, approximately a million years old

Did you know that this tree can live for more than 1000 years?

In the past it was considered a sacred tree with curative and supernatural properties

ARENARIA RACEMOSA WILLK
SIERRAS DE TEJEDA, ALMIJARA Y
ALHAMA ENDEMISM



ANTHYLLIS TEJEDENSIS SUBSP.
PLUMOSA BOISS
BETIC ENDEMISM



BOTANICAL JEWELS

The richness of the flora of this Natural Park is one of the most outstanding of the Iberian Peninsula. Sharp changes in altitude, a mountainous environment that makes some plant communities isolated; the proximity and influence of the sea; different soil types.... these are all environmental factors that produce a very high diversity of plants.

More than 1500 plant species, 11 of them are endemic to these mountains, with numerous endemic plants also present in the Béticas mountain range. Some species are considered relics (typical from older eras or other places). Many of them are regarded as endangered species.

LINUM SUFFRUTICOSUM SUBSP.
TEJEDENSIS L.
BETIC AND NORTH AFRICAN
ENDEMISM



IBERIS GROSII PAU
SIERRAS DE TEJEDA, ALMIJARA Y
ALHAMA ENDEMISM



THYMUS LONGIFLORUS BOISS
BETIC ENDEMISM

PINE GROVE AND RESIN



In the past, each 'resinero' – skilled resin extractor - , had a plot of about 5000 pine trees assigned to him. During the winter the 'resineros' were responsible for clearing the ground and collecting firewood for the factory ovens.



Autumn: the large pitchers were carried by the muleteers, on carts or mules, to the resin factory.



From the beginning of Spring, until the end of Autumn, 'Los picadores' used to scratch the bark of the pine to extract the resin, which would slowly run from the cut bark down to clay pots.



Summer: Every 30-35 days the 'remasadores' used to empty the clay pots, which could hold between 700 cubic centimetres, into large pitchers.

MAKING USE OF THE WOOLAND RESOURCES

One of the principal resources of these mountains has traditionally been the extraction of resin. 'Los resineros', - skilled resin extractors - walked these white, sandy hillsides where the negral pine (*pinus pinaster*, subspecies *acutisquama*) or 'resinero andaluz' grows.

Many people had to live like this for long periods, in small houses or huts scattered across the 'sierra'.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE RESIN FACTORY

The place where we are now, used to be a distillation resin factory, called 'La Resinera', built in 1902. A living settlement with homes, a school and a church was built near the factory for the many employees and their families. About 300 people from nearby villages made their living from work relating to resin and the resin factory. This factory became one of the biggest producers of turpentine in the whole of Spain.



FROM THE RESIN TO THE TURPENTINE WHAT DID THEY DO WITH THE RESIN?

In the past resin was used to make pitch to waterproof roofs and boats. The industrial use of the essence of resin, started in the 18th century by a process of distillation passing through various boilers in order to eliminate all types of impurities and produce the turpentine which is used as a solvent for paints and varnishes. Nowadays the turpentine is obtained by a chemical synthesis using other products.



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ALMOST A CENTURY OF SPLENDOUR

RICH HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



SCAPING INTO THE WOODS

A territory of frontiers and boundaries mountain ranges with few passes; crossings and commercial routes, often used by muleteers (and occasionally smugglers) carrying goods from one mountain slope to the other: fish and raisins from Malaga or wheat from Granada.

An inhospitable place, no-ones land, home for those who decided or were “pushed” into escaping to the woods”, like the “maquis” or anti- Franco “guerrillas” who, during the 40s and 50s, were hidden and kept fighting in this territory. It became their last stronghold in Spain, which was the reason for the high number of Civil Guard headquarters, scattered in the mountain passes and peaks of these hills.



LEGACIES ON THE PAST

The term “Almijara” probably came from the Arabic word Almihyaara, which can translate as: the stony site or quarry, but could also mean the vessel, drainer, or slopes.... The name “Alhama” means: water or hot baths. The abundance of water in these rocky hills has allowed, from the Neolithic period until now, the settlement of a large number of villages and a diversity of cultures in the region...

...The people living in these mountains have, over the centuries, adapted to living off the environment – mountain agriculture, shepherding both sheep and goats, hunting large and small game, making charcoal collecting timber, firewood, esparto (‘Spanish’ grass), resin, aromatic plants, honey, cork, minerals, stones, snow....

... The cultures, especially the “andalusi”, have left us a rich legacy of customs and habits, of art and beauty.

ANCIENT ISLAMIC BATHS IN ALHAMA DE GRANADA



قُلْ لِلْحَبِيبِ الَّذِي يُرْضِيهِ سَفَكُ دَمِي
دَمِي حَلَالٌ لَهُ فِي الْحِلِّ وَالْحَرَمِ
إِنْ كَانَ سَفَكُ دَمِي أَقْصَى مُرَادِكُمْ
فَمَا غَلَتْ نَظْرَةٌ مِنْكُمْ بِسَفَكِ دَمِي

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC OF THESE LAND...FROM TIMES PAST?

*Tell my love
that he shouldn't doubt to shed my blood
because I owe my blood to him anyway
if your last wish is to shed my blood
in return I want a glimpse of you.*

Sanaá de a Nuba Garybat al Husayn. Anonym

The small whitewashed villages in the steep mountain slopes between: the scrubland and the water together with lines of almonds trees, wild vineyards, rough crops fields and earthy olive groves created a beautiful landscape ... alive and changeable depending on the seasons. Nowadays the low profitability of cultivation, has helped to retain this landscape, complete with its traditional architecture and natural values.



WHITEWASHED MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

NEW TIMES



The traditional way of life, linked to livestock farming, forestry and hunting, still remains. It stands side by side with modern agricultural practices such as the irrigation system in the valleys and the river banks, together with honey production, cork management and fungi picking...



NEW ACTIVITIES



Keeping in touch with the nature of these hills, every day new outdoor leisure activities arise, such as: trekking, ravine climbing, camping, paragliding...



PLANING FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTENIABLE DEVELOPMENT

THE FOREST FIRES

In the Mediterranean areas, like the “Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama”, the natural environment and the ecosystems are threatened year after year by the forest fires.

The forest fires cause damage to the natural and economic resources for a long period of time. This is why we must be extremely careful when practising different activities in the countryside..

At the “Resinera”, there is a Control Centre for the Prevention of Forest Fires (CEDEFO)



THE SPANISH IBEX AND ITS HUNTING MANAGEMENT

Hunting is one of the most important resources in the area, the Spanish ibex being the most outstanding big game species in these hills.

... After nearly a century of intensive and unauthorised hunting; in 1973 Sierras de “Tejeda and Almijara” was declared a Hunting Reserve (nowadays belonging to the Andalusian Environmental Department), helping to protect the ibex population and increase it from 200 to more than 2000, within twenty years.

The management of the Natural Park as well as managing and regulating the commercialisation of its natural resources; tries to bring the Park values closer to the people, encouraging them to enjoy and conserve it.

In order to achieve this they have provided different resources: recreational areas, path networks, information points etc. This contributes to their awareness and knowledge.

Because KNOWLEDGE IS THE STARTING POINT FOR CONSERVATION



