

Located about 55 kilometres from Seville city, the UNESCO Global Geopark Sierra Norte de Sevilla presents a strong contrast with the Guadalquivir Valley and the south of the province. Mounds, hills and mountain ranges with a landscape of meadows of holm oaks and cork oaks, Mediterranean scrub areas and forests of gall oaks, oaks and great fluvial valleys with riverside forests and varied crops: olive groves, vineyards, orchards and chestnut groves.

Mixed in these landscapes transformed by man throughout history, you will find a rich heritage: geodiversity, biodiversity, mines, archaeology and monuments, with rocks of very old ages showing 700 millions of years of Earth's history. Among the multiple places of geological interest of this territory, stand out impressive rock morphologies produced by the action of the atmosphere and water: karsts, crag lands, waterfalls, gorges, canyons...

Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark



WHAT IS A GEOPARK?

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in relation to all other aspects of the natural and cultural heritage of the area, to improve awareness and understanding of those key issues faced nowadays by society,

such as the sustainable use of natural resources, the mitigation of climate change effects and the risks reduction of natural hazards. By raising awareness of the importance of the geological heritage of an area to history and modern-day society, UNESCO Global Geoparks give the local population a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the territory.



Global Geoparks

UNESCO GEOPARKS NETWORK | www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks/
 GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK | www.globalgeopark.org
 EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK | www.europeangeoparks.org
 SPANISH GEOPARKS FORUM | www.geoparques.eu



Geodiversity Strategy

Since the turn of the century, Andalusia has had public policies of conservation and protection of its geodiversity and geological heritage. The first work carried out to protect this heritage was to its identification, through the **Andalusian Inventory of Geo-resources**, which includes the most representative, unique and exclusive elements of the geological record of Andalusia.

The approval in 2010 of the **Andalusian Strategy for the Integrated Management of Geodiversity** was a great boost to these policies of conservation and promotion of geotourism.

YOU HAVE TO COME TO...



See up close how water and time have created a gorge inside a dike

Walk inside a karst of more than 500 million years old



Walk through the granite rock forests in the crag lands



Gaze at the Geopark mountain ranges from its highest point: La Capitana Hill



Taste our gastronomy: Iberian pork, hunted meat, wines, mushrooms, desserts...

THINGS TO DO IN THE GEOPARK



Walking, cycling or skating on Sierra Norte Greenway



Go all over the Geopark rivers, seeing its riverside forests, canyons and waterfalls



Enjoy the splendid meadows



Play canyoning

Know its magnificent historical and ethnographic heritages



Stargazing: the Geopark is part of Sierra Morena Starlight Reserve

The Geopark is home to several companies that will help you explore every part of its natural territory, making your experience an unforgettable one.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AT YOUR DISPOSAL

- El Robledo Visitor Center**
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Phone: (+34) 610 663 214
email: cvelrobledo@reservatuvisita.es
- Visitors Center Cortijo El Berrocal**
Cordel Almadén de la Plata - El Pedroso 41240 - Almadén de la Plata, Sevilla
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- Information Point Cerro del Hierro**
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- 9 Viewpoints**
- 15 Trails**
- 11 Geo-routes**



El Pintado Reservoir

Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark

Cerro del Hierro

The Geopark extends over 10 municipalities: Alanís, Almadén de la Plata, Cazalla de la Sierra, Constantina, El Pedroso, El Real de la Jara, Guadalcanal, Las Navas de la Concepción, La Puebla de los Infantes and San Nicolás del Puerto.

A territory with a characteristic Mediterranean flora and fauna that is included in the Dehesas de Sierra Morena Biosphere Reserve.

An intense human history from the Paleolithic that reflects the link between the north of Spain and the Guadalquivir Valley.

More than 700 million years of Earth history in 1,775 km² of varied elements and landscapes of great beauty and singularity: mountain ranges, karsts, crag lands, forests, canyons, gorges.

GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark is located in the western area of Andalusia, north of the province of Sevilla, on the mountainous alignments of the central region of Sierra Morena.

Most of its rocks are aged between end of Precambrian (635 to 541 million years ago) and the end of Paleozoic (541 to 250 million years ago) and show intense deformation.

The most abundant are sedimentary rocks; including those of Cambrian age (541 to 485 million years). There are several sedimentary formations of this period, but the most significant sedimentary unit is the Capas de Benalija Formation, due to its great surface extension, abundant sedimentary and tectonic structures and their significance in the landscape: the carbonate rocks of this formation, more resistant to erosion, compose most of the mountain highs.

Locally, over this base of deformed rocks, appear the remains of post-orogenic continental basins, filled with fluvial and lagoons sediments and with volcanic deposits, in a period between the Upper Carboniferous and the Permian, and perhaps even Lower Triassic (between 300 and 250 million years ago).

The relief of the Geopark is a succession of soft hills, mountains and valleys from northwest to southeast direction, with a range of heights between 100 meters over sea level to about 1,000, because the erosion to which this region has been subjected for more than 300 millions of years.

Multiple fossils have been found in the rocks of the Geopark: stromatolites, archaeocyatids, trilobites, graptolites, jellyfish fossil imprints, etc. Moreover, in the post-orogenic basins there are fossils of plants and large trunks.

The Geopark has three Natural Monuments of Andalusia, two of geological nature: "Huéznar Waterfalls" and "Jellyfish fossil imprints of Constantina", and the third of geological, biological and ecocultural characters: "Cerro del Hierro" (Iron Hill).

The actual Geopark's Geosites Inventory comprises 39 geosites, but most outstanding are marked on the map: the places of greatest scientific and / or pedagogical importance, most singular and beautiful landscapes, and the most significant places to understand the interaction of the humans with the territory throughout history.



Fossil trunk in the Visitors Centre Cortijo El Berrocal



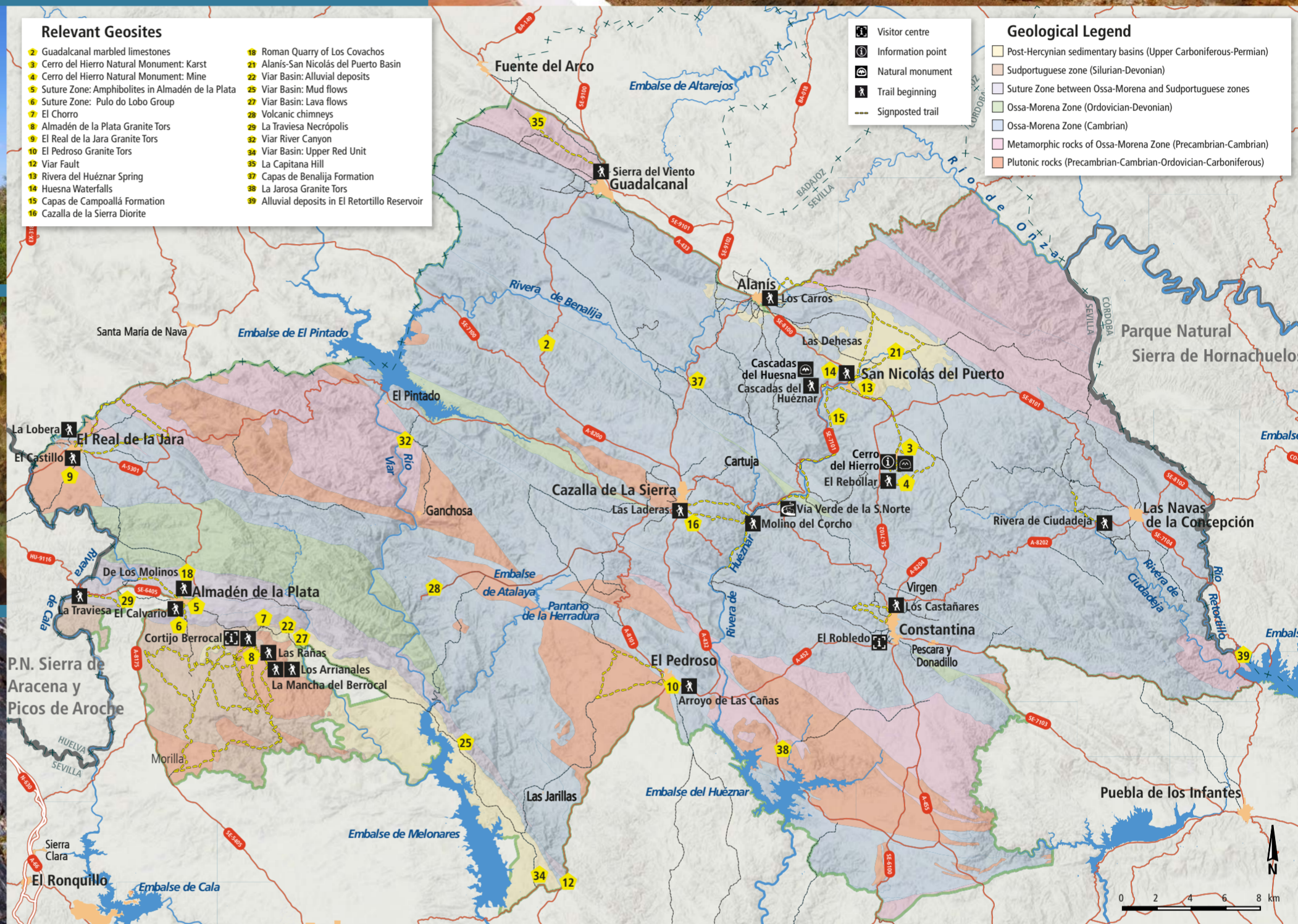
Cerro del Hierro



Huénzar Waterfalls



Jellyfish fossil imprints of Constantina



ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES



The territory of Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark is part of the largest Andalusian Biosphere Reserve; Dehesas de Sierra Morena, integrated by three Natural Parks of the northwestern Andalusia: Sierra de Hornachuelos, in Córdoba, Sierra Norte de Sevilla and Sierra de Arcena and Picos de Aroche, in Huelva.

This territory is composed mainly of extensive wooded grasslands, which formed for centuries the basis of the economy of the area, with an exemplary and sustainable farming exploitation model.

The Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark is defined by a landscape of meadows, predominantly of holm oaks and cork oaks, a valuable ecosystem resulting from the work of man over the old Mediterranean forests. It is mixed with scrub areas and forests of holm oaks, cork oaks, gall oaks or oaks; and fluvial valleys with important riverside vegetation, which in the cases of Rivera de Ciudadaja and Rivera del Huéznar rivers constitute beautiful gallery forests.

We also find some crops, mainly the olive groves, and vineyards, fruit trees and orchards in a lesser extent. The chestnut groves of the Geopark are special, since they are cultivated to obtain wood for sticks, guardians, posts, etc.

The Robledo Botanical Garden, near Constantina, serves as representation and reference of the most representative vegetation of Sierra Morena, from Huelva to Despeñaperros (Jaén). The different botanical species are arranged around an itinerary through the most representative vegetative units, simulating an ascent route from the border of Guadalquivir Valley to the highest parts of Sierra Morena, and then go down through the different species that we can find in the sections of a river, from its source to the mouth. In addition to the large units: wild olives, thickets, oaks, cork oaks, gall-oak grove, oak grove and riparian forest, appreciation is given to species that have been of great importance to humanity: the aromatic plants and fruits trees.

You can also enjoy the environmental values of the Geopark with the practice of hiking on multiple trails, cattle trails and public roads, the practice of climbing in Cerro del Hierro, and water sports activities (canyoning), cycling ...



Chestnut groves in Constantina

ETHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The history of the Geopark territory is extensive and long in time. Human activity has left a vast heritage of cultural character.

There are references that first inhabitants arrived in the Middle or Upper Palaeolithic, although have been found only remains materials from the Neolithic. These early settlers left material evidence of their presence in various caves, and there are various necropolises, dolmens and burial mounds from the Bronze Age, being able to visit the Archaeological Group of La Travesía Necropolis.

Among the pre-Roman peoples that inhabited the region, the Celts founded Alanís. And with same age are Almadén de la Plata, Constantina, Guadalcanal and El Pedroso villages.



A cist in La Travesía Necropolis



Torruca (shepherds hut) in La Capitana Hill

Through this territory have passed the main communication ways between western Andalusia and Castilla, which produced the development of their population centres and the formation of an important cultural legacy.

Across Almadén de la Plata and Real de la Jara municipalities goes the Roman road to from Sevilla to Merida, which would be resourceful centuries later as the Mozarabic route of Santiago's Way.

Two of the routes of the Camino Real del Azogue (Mercury Royal Path) for the crossing of Sierra Morena to Sevilla Port during the XVI to XVIII centuries, passed through Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark: the eastern wagon route and the mule path, both essential for the supply of mercury to the silver mines of South America.

In the Geopark there is a set of military fortifications: the castles of El Real de la Jara, Almadén de la Plata, Cazalla de la Sierra, Alanís, Constantina and La Puebla de los Infantes, known as the Galician Belt.

Also highlights several religious constructions: the Mudejar hermitage of Santa Ana, the baroque hermitage of San Benito, and the historical centres of Guadalcanal, Cazalla de la Sierra and Constantina are declared of Cultural Interest.



More information

ventanadelvisitante.es
reservatuvisita.es

www.medioambienteand.wordpress.com/

https://www.facebook.com/PNSierraNorteSevilla

www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/
sierranortedesevilla.geopark



Viar River valley and Melonares Reservoir