

Visitors Guide

Visitor Centre

Los Villares



Visitor Centre
Los Villares

Crta del Parque de Los Villares km 7,5
Córdoba

Information number : 957 015 936

Delegación Provincial
de Córdoba

Information number : 957 001 300

Ventana del visitante website:
www.ventanadelvisitante.es





Plot distribution

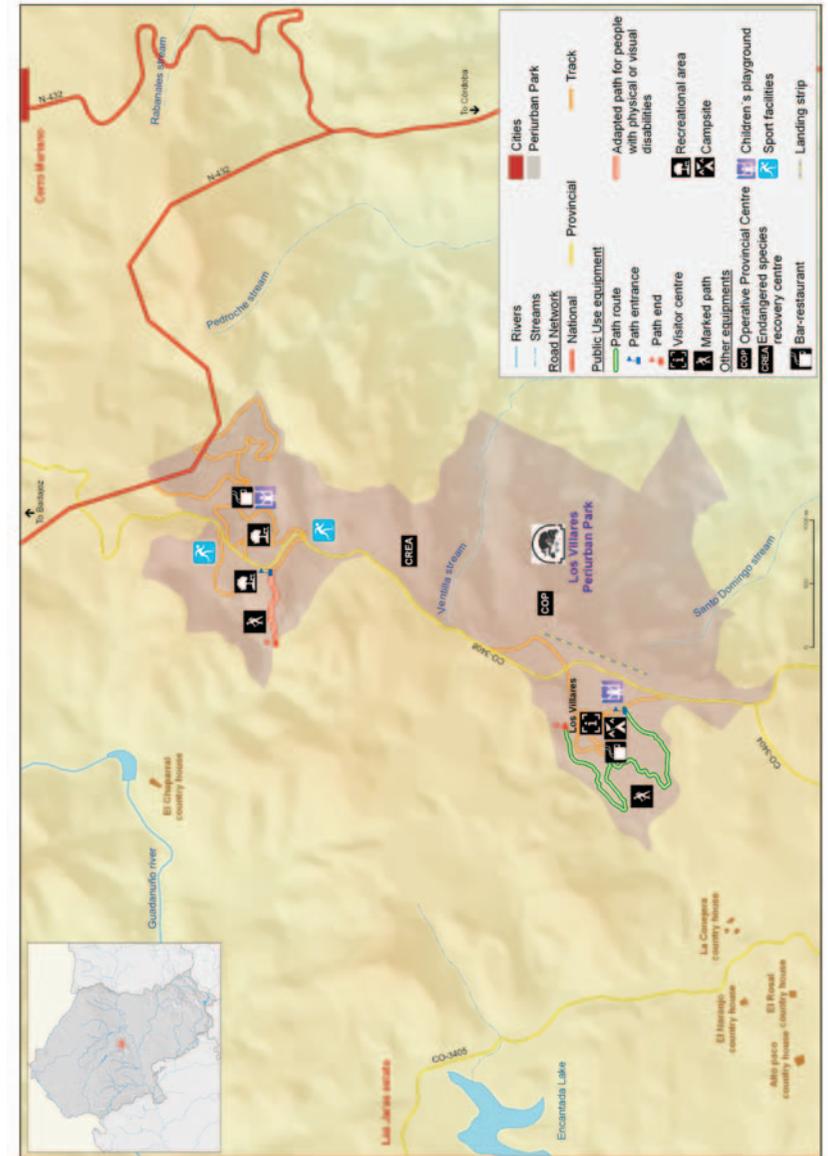


- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Visitor Centre | | Campsite |
| | Parking | | Children's playground |
| | Bar restaurant | | Disabled parking |
| | Path/Footbridge | | Marked path |
| | Viewpoint | | Paths network |
| | Education for conservation | | Footbridge |

Remember:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | |
| Please, be quiet | Accesible | Please, throw rubbish in bins |
| | | |
| Respect goods and private property | The capture of animals is not allowed | Picking plants is not allowed |

Park services





Los Villares Periurban Park is situated in the province of Cordoba and is only 10 Kilometres from the capital. It was declared a protected area on the 5th of February 1990.

This area is the city's main green lung and also provides the inhabitants of Cordoba with a meeting point to celebrate deep rooted festivals such as the Day of San Rafael.

Out of its 485.41 hectares, 60 hectares of recreational area stand out. This natural area provides educational and leisure infrastructures that urban visitors can enjoy without having to travel long distances.

This Periurban Park, where city and nature meet, also has a Visitors Centre which aims to promote the knowledge of the different Natural Protected Areas within the province.

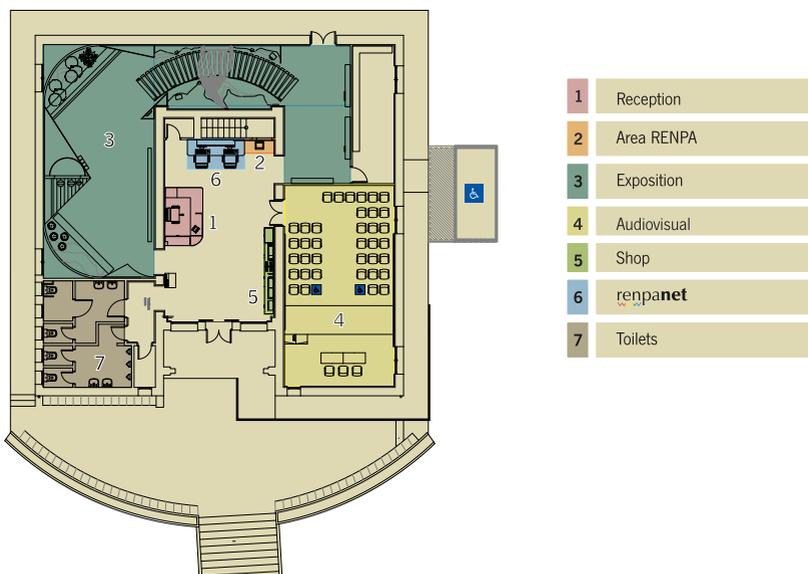
The vegetation that the visitors will find walking around the paths is characteristic of a mediterranean forest, however include pine tree and eucalyptus plantations surrounded by strawberry trees, rockroses, mastics and kermes oaks.



The Centre...

Los Villares Visitor Centre is built on a hill called Los Villares Bajos. The Centre belongs to the Regional Ministry of Environment and is managed within the area of Public Use by RENPA (Network of Protected Natural Areas of Andalusia)

Due to the large amount of people who visit the protected area, this Park has the intention of reducing the gap between visitors, nature and RENPA services in Cordoba.



...and its areas

The Centre, with 276.41 square meters has these functional areas:



Exhibition room



RENPA area



Cave



Multi—purpose room



Reception



Path



Children playground

Reception. In this customer service area the visitor will find information about the different services in the Periurban Park.

Shop. The visitor can buy gifts and souvenirs here.

RENPA net room. There are two computers with access to different query applications of the Regional Ministry for the Environment.

RENPA area. The area is made up of an informational board about RENPA in Andalusia, as well as an interactive information point where visitors can improve their knowledge about this network.

Exhibition room. Here there are a variety of informational displays (dioramas, smell boxes and a cave simulation) which allow visitors to learn about the province natural areas.

Multi-purpose room. The visitor can go for an audiovisual walk around the different ecosystems in Cordoba and its Protected Natural Areas. In addition, this room has been designed for temporary exhibitions, talks and presentations.

Outside the room there is a children playground where younger visitors can discover the province's natural areas.

The starting point of a marked footpath is by the access path to the visitor centre. Along its 2.2 km, visitors will find signs that identify plants of the area and information boards.

A mosaic of natural values...

The province of Cordoba has a natural heritage of invaluable richness.

Such a rich nature holds unique sights, like the hypnotic courtship dance of Great Bustards, prowling Lynxes, or the regal glide of the Black Vulture and the Imperial Eagle. Also amusing is the acrobatic courtship of the White-Headed Duck (endangered until recently).

Great Bustard



Spanish Imperial Eagle



Black Vulture



White-Headed Duck



Diverse fauna...



...and geology.

This area, as well as other countless unique and extraordinary landscapes found within the limits of this province, has been declared as a protected space within RENPA (Andalusian Network of Natural Protected Spaces).

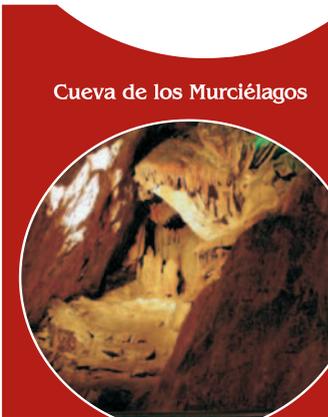
The 18 spaces present in the province of Córdoba are a firm bet towards the preservation of this rich natural heritage.



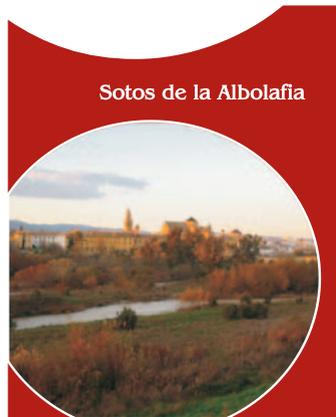
Lapiáz de los Lanchares



Poljé de la Nava



Cueva de los Murciélagos



Sotos de la Albolafia

...and in its geology.

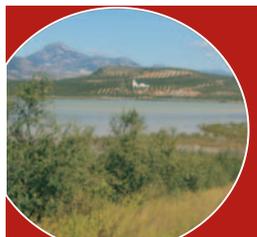
Real oasis full of life.



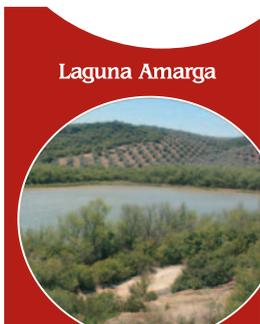
Laguna del Rincón



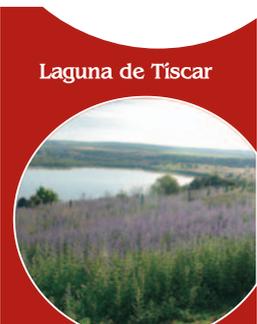
Laguna de los Jarales



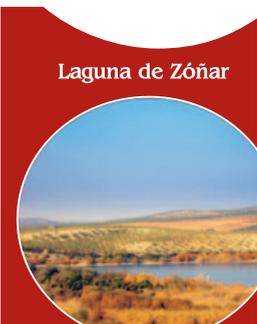
Laguna del Salobral



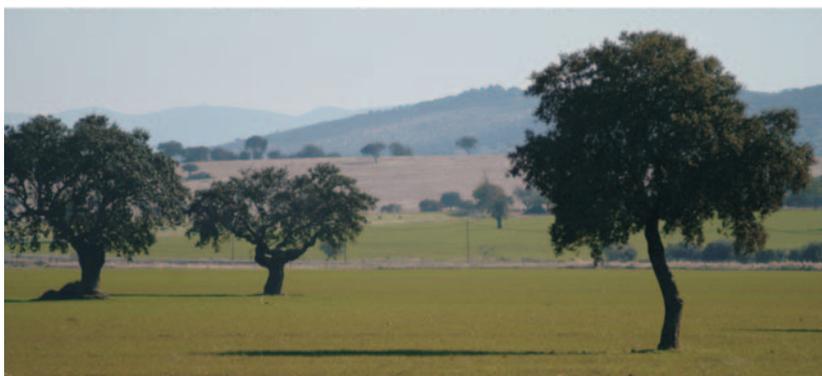
Laguna Amarga



Laguna de Tíscar



Laguna de Zóñar





... and, most importantly, a sanctuary for birds.

The most relevant feature of these lagoons is, without a doubt, their value for fowl, which uses them as a place to breed, winter and even as a sporadic stop.

On an international scale, the lagoons of Cordoba will always be linked to the recovery of the White-Headed Duck, since this area was an active participants in recovering this bird from extinction.

Invasive species like the Ruddy Duck can put the genetics of the White-Headed Duck in danger by means of hybridization.

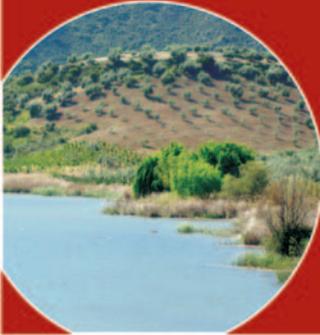


REPRODUCTIVES					
 White-Headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	 Red-Crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	 Purple Swamphen <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	 White-Headed Duck	 Ruddy Duck	 Stiff tailed Duck hybrids
REPRODUCTIVES			WINTER SPECIES		SPORADIC
 Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	 Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	 Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	 Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	 Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	 Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>
 Common Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	 Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	 Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	 Coomon Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	 Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	 Caribbean Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
					 Coomon Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
					 Wild Goose <i>Anser anser</i>
					 Ferruginous duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>
					 Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>
					 Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i>

Artificial wetlands with great ecological significance

There are two lagoons near the natural reserves that are inhabited by diverse species of water fowl.

Embalse de Malpasillo



Embalse de Cordobilla

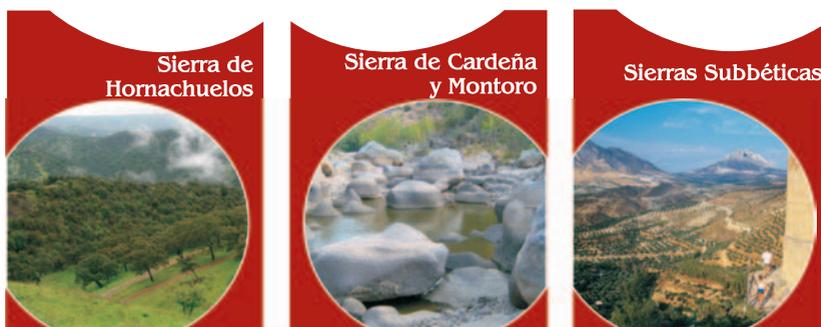


Natural Parks

The Natural Parks of the province of Córdoba cover regions of important natural and scenic richness.

These regions also possess a great quantity of cultural values which reflect the history of the province through the centuries.

Some activities that symbolize the perfect equilibrium between humans and nature have been maintained with in them.



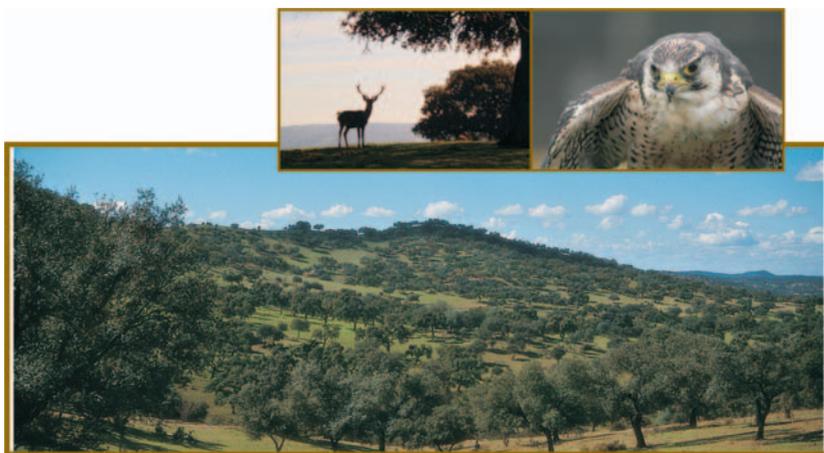
Sierra de Hornachuelos Natural Park

A Biosphere Reserve with an exceptional conservation.



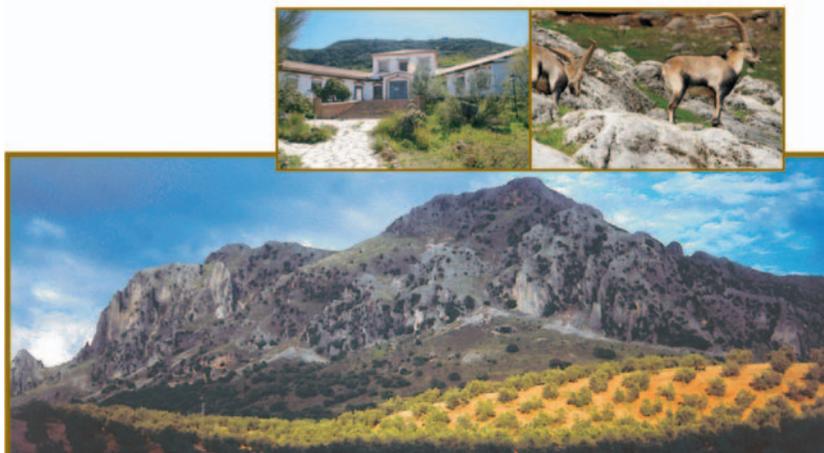
Sierra de Cardaña y Montoso Natural Park

Sierra de Cardaña y Montoso receive quite select hosts.



Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park

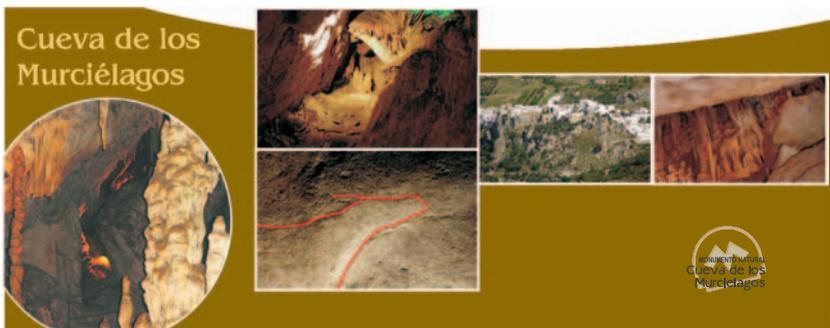
Natural made monument.





Cueva de los murciélagos:

The extraordinarily beautiful limestone formations show proof of the past on its walls. This cave, within the S.S.N.P., has geological, natural and archaeological importance. Evidence of its importance can be seen in its bat colony and archaeological site.



Sotos de la Albolafia:

Nature and History are joined in this little urban paradise. The exuberant riverside vegetation of this group of islets is used for hundred of birds to take refuge.

In addition, Sotos are placed in a privileged environment surrounded with many buildings of great cultural significance like waterwheel and windmill remains from ancient periods. a.





Nature close to everyone

Periurban Parks tries to combine nature and urban places. Situated near cities, the areas are equipped for the leisure in nature.

There are five periurban parks in Cordoba: Fuente Agria, Fuente La Zarza, La Sierrezuela, Los Cabezos and Los Villares.



Fuente Agria



La Sierrezuela



Los Villares



Fuente La Zarza



Los Cabezos