

# SUSTAINABLE ROCK CLIMBING



Photo: Juan L. Muñoz



# EL CHORRO

**DESFILADERO  
DE LOS GAITANES  
NATURAL AREA**



diputación de Málaga

Medio Ambiente  
Turismo Interior  
Cambio Climático

COLLABORATE:



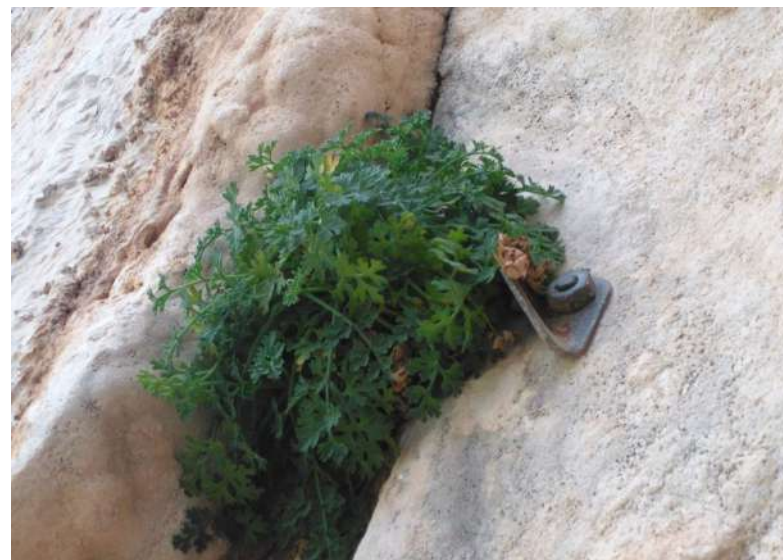
**JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA**  
CONSEJERÍA DE AGRICULTURA, GANADERÍA,  
PESCA Y DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE

## CLIMBING AND NATURE CONSERVATION

**R**ock climbing is becoming more popular at international level and the Province of Málaga has plenty of areas with excellent climbing routes. Therefore, Desfiladero de los Gaitanes Natural Area, where El Chorro Climbing Area is placed, is an attractive destination for climbers from this country and from Central Europe. There are plenty of climbing routes, some of which are highly demanding and require skilled and fit climbers.

Recently increased number of climbers, climbing areas and routes, has provoked conservation problems regarding plant and animal life which is sensitive to human actions in some areas that used to be inaccessible for people. Particularly, birds that nest on rocks (rupicolous birds) live in areas with no human presence so they are easily affected by their activities.

This document is meant to raise awareness of the need for rock climbing that is environmentally friendly, and for informing climbers about the rules to be followed during this activity in Desfiladero de los Gaitanes Natural Area.





## DESFILADERO DE LOS GAITANES NATURAL AREA

This nature site was protected under the Law 2/1989 by the Andalusian Parliament. It is a conservation area due to its natural value that includes stunning landscapes, such as the Desfiladero de los Gaitanes Gorge, with important colonies of animals that live in rocky habitats. There are rather peculiar plants as well, such as endangered species *Rupicapnos africana* subsp. *decipiens*, which only lives in Andalusian and Moroccan limestone mountains. Moreover, there is a great number of birds that nest on rocks, and plenty of breeding pairs of griffon vultures, red-billed choughs, Alpine swifts, and less common golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and some endangered species like the Bonelli's eagle or the Egyptian vulture.

These outstanding natural values can be seen in areas with an intensive activities, above all, hiking along El Caminito del Rey path and rock climbing. In order to protect the unique natural heritage in these mountains and

make possible for people to enjoy activities and sports that are done in natural surroundings, there are regulations for the use and activities in protected areas established according to the Natural Resources Regulatory Plan. The regulations that are to be followed in the case of rock climbing in this Natural Area were set in 2018 as part of the above plan.

Photo: Pepi Arroyo



## GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

1. You must go camping to campsites. It is forbidden to camp at the car parks. Camping in a bivouac is not allowed in this Natural Area.
2. Do not light a campfire except in designated places. It is forbidden to light a fire at any place between the 1st of June and the 15 of October. Put out and keep your cigarette stubs.
3. Do not enter private properties. You need to ask for permission to access them and close the gates behind you if they were closed.
4. Do not cross signposted fenced areas with endangered plants and avoid climbing rock and cliffs where they grow.
5. You must keep out of the plants on rocks. There are endangered species at this site.
6. You must park at designated places. This way you will avoid bothering other visitors. It is forbidden to drive vehicles along the dirt road in Haza del Río mountain in order to access climbing routes up the Front Walls (Paredes Frontales).
7. When accessing the routes, go along the existing paths and ways.
8. You cannot access the climbing routes through the railway Málaga-Bobadilla, as it can be risky.
9. Please do not make unnecessary noise and keep your pets on a leash in order not to trouble the wildlife.
10. You need a permission by this Natural Area for the following cases:
  - Opening and preparing new climbing routes.
  - Use of drones. They can be harmful for birds that live on cliffs of the gorge.
  - Making videos and taking photos for professional purposes.
11. There is to avoid painting on the routes, leaving material such as maillons or quick links, carabiners, and so on. Leave no trace behind you.
12. Do not drop litter in the countryside.





## CLIMBING REGULATIONS IN THE NATURAL AREA

The resolution adopted on 11th July 2018 by the Regional Government of Andalusia establishes regulations to be followed while climbing in the Natural Area in question. This resolution was adopted after a series of meetings and visits to the nature site by the protected area's management team and representatives of climbers association, and study of all the available information and documents related to the spot.

According to these regulations, protected areas than can or cannot be used for climbing are determined and divided in three: access land or free access climbing area, restricted access areas where climbing must be permitted by the landowner, and area where climbing is forbidden. The above regulations must be followed at all times, except in the area named 'El Corral', which can only be accessed between 1st of October and 28th February of the following year.



## CLIMBING REGULATIONS IN THE NATURAL AREA

### FREE ACCESS CLIMBING AREA

Climbing Area	Comments
Southern Part of the Gorge, Southern Side of Cerro Cristo hill and Placa de Los Venenos Crag.	Climbing is not allowed on the walls above El Caminito del Rey path and the existing trails on the vertical layers of the southern slope of Cerro Cristo.
Northern Part of the Gorge	Free access climbing area under El Caminito del Rey path and on the eastern walls (Bañeras and Bufones sections).
Albercones Bajos (Lower Albercones)	
Front Walls (Paredes Frontales)	
Central area with layers: Placas de Atrás	
Los Cotos	
Makinódromo	



Southern Part of the Gorge, Southern Side of Cerro Cristo y Los Venenos

Foto: Juan J Jimenez





## Southern Part of the Gorge

Foto: Rafael Haro





## Northern Part of the Gorge

Foto: Pepi Arroyo





## Albercones

Foto: Rafael Haro





## Front Walls (Paredes Frontales)

Foto: Rafael Haro





## Los Cotos

Foto: Rafael Haro





## Makinódromo

Foto: Rafael Haro



## CLIMBING REGULATIONS IN THE NATURAL AREA

### RESTRICTED ACCESS AREAS WHERE CLIMBING MUST BE PERMITTED BY THE LANDOWNER

Climbing Area	Comments
Las Encantadas	
El Corral	Allowed only from 1st October to 28th February of the following year.
Donde and Rocabella	
Western area with layers: Placas de Atrás	
Eastern area with layers: Placas de Atrás	





## Las Encantadas, El Corral, Donde and Rocabella

Foto: Rafael Haro





## Placas de atrás

Foto: Rafael Haro





## CLIMBING REGULATIONS IN THE NATURAL AREA

### PLACES WHERE CLIMBING IS FORBIDDEN

Climbing Area	Comments
Southern Side of the Gorge and Placa de Los Venenos Crag	Climbing is not allowed on the walls above El Caminito del Rey path and the existing trails on the vertical layers of the southern slope of Cerro Cristo.
Easter Wall of the Southern Part of the Gorge	
Northern Part of Cerro Cristo	
Tajos del Almorchón Cliffs	
Petit Desfiladero	
Northern Part of the Gorge	It is forbidden to climb above El Caminito del Rey path.
Belladona	
Tajo de Ballesteros (Cliff)	
Los Albercones Medios(Middle Albercones)	



## Northern Part of Cerro Cristo

Foto: Juan J Jiménez





## Tajos del Almorchón Cliffs

Foto: Rafael Haro





## Tajos del Almorchón Cliffs 2

Foto: Rafael Haro





## Petit Desfiladero

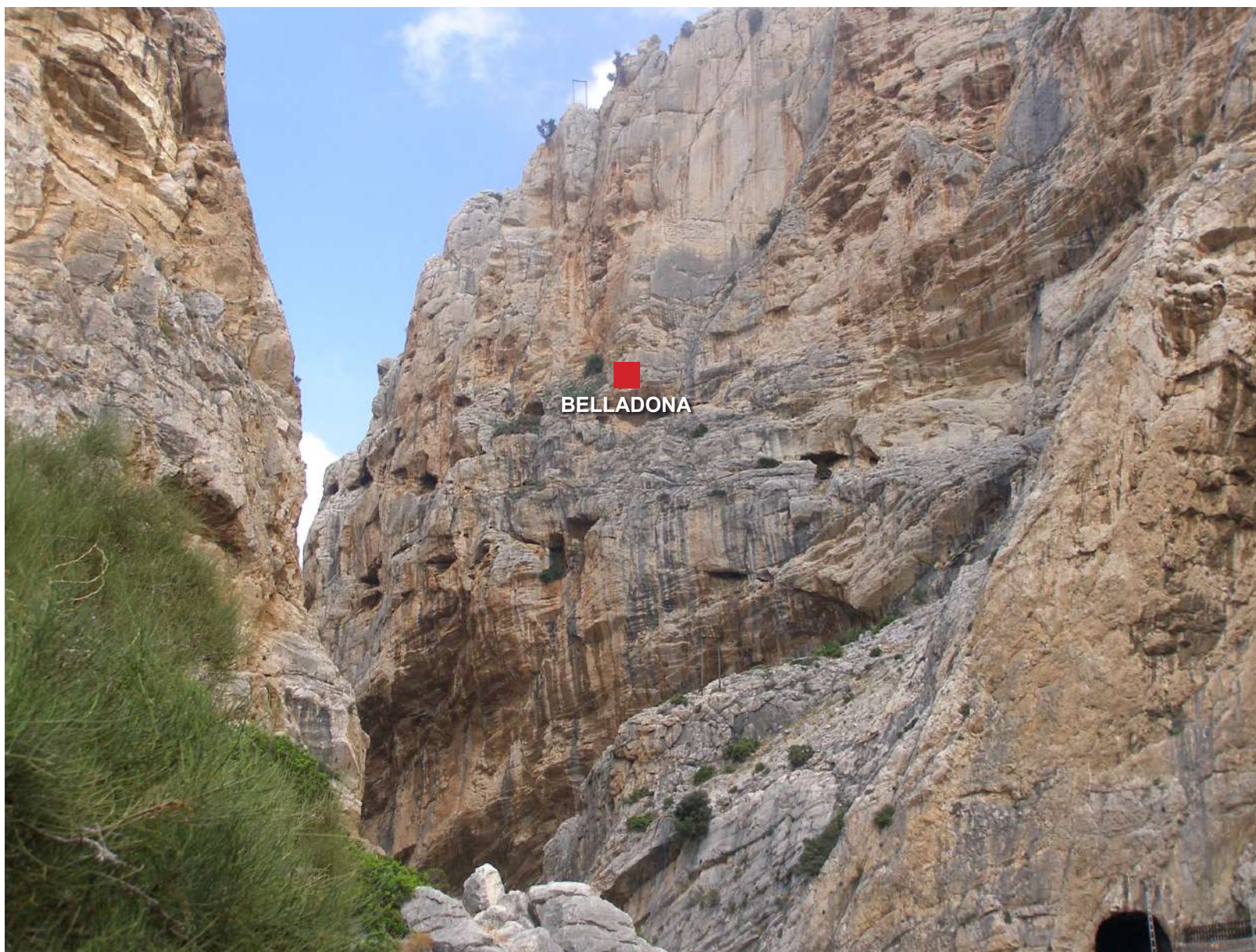
Foto: Rafael Haro





## Belladona

Foto: Rafael Haro





Tajo de Ballesteros (Cliff)

Foto: Rafael Haro





## Southern Part of the Gorge

Foto: Rafael Haro





## BIRDS OF PREY THAT NEST ON ROCKS

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* - 280 cm



Egyptian Vulture (Endangered Species)  
*Neophron percnopterus* - 171 cm



Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetus* - 227 cm



Bonelli's Eagle (Vulnerable Species)  
*Hieraetus fasciatus* - 180 cm



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* - 110 cm



Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* - 75 cm



SUSTAINABLE ROCK CLIMBING

Griffon Vulture Photo: Juan J Jiménez



# EL CHORRO

**DESFILADERO  
DE LOS GAITANES  
NATURAL AREA**



diputación de Málaga

Medio Ambiente  
Turismo Interior  
Cambio Climático

COLLABORATE:



**JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA**  
CONSEJERÍA DE AGRICULTURA, GANADERÍA,  
PESCA Y DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE