



Visitor's Guide

Sedella

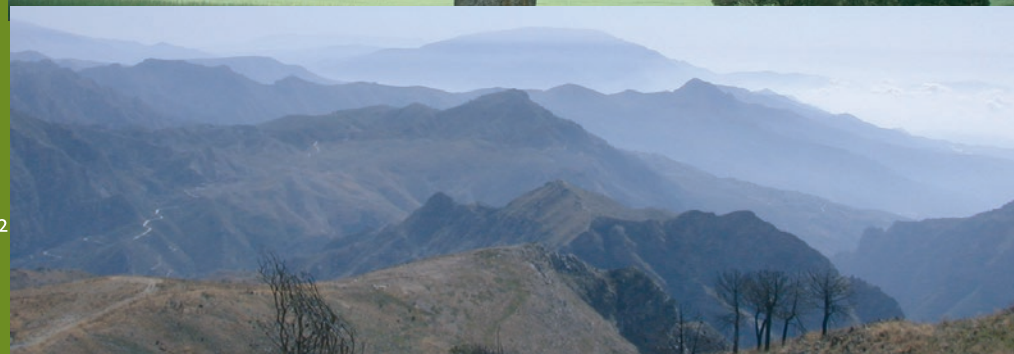
Visitor Centre

A landscape full of contrasts

The Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama Natural Park



This outstanding protected area straddles two of the Andalusian provinces that offer the greatest contrast in terms of landscape and nature: Málaga and Granada, which exemplify the enormous differences found between coastal and high mountain zones here.

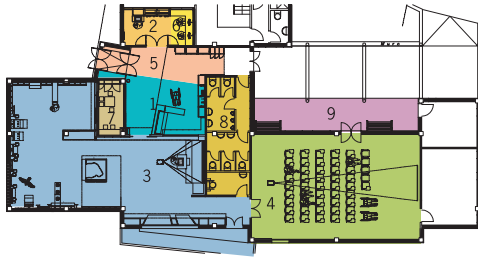




Sedella Visitor Centre

Sedella Visitor Centre is the ideal place to learn more about the outstanding value of this protected area, its role as part of the Andalusia Network of Protected Natural Spaces (RENPA) and its importance to nature conservation in Andalusia.

Visitors to the centre will find: a central space containing the Natural Park reception area and shop, where they can obtain information and buy souvenirs from the Park; an information area devoted to the Network of Protected Natural Spaces; and a small area where younger visitors can enjoy themselves.



1	Recepción / Reception	6	renpanet
2	Zona RENPA / RENPA Area	7	Área Infantil / Children's Area
3	Exposición / Exhibition	8	Aseos / Toilets
4	Audiovisual	9	Zona de Descanso / Lounge
5	Tienda del Parque Natural / Natural Park shop		



Facilities at the Centre also include an interactive model and a picture window, as well as a series of museum exhibits of different types enabling visitors to learn more about life in the Natural Park. These exhibits introduce the visitor to different landscapes, from the lower lands to the windswept heights. Information is also provided about human settlement here, highlighting the main historic moments, and about the rich historic and cultural heritage to be found here.

A visit to the centre, then, provides the ideal starting point for the adventure of walks around some of the many beauty spots in what is a truly remarkable site: the Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama Natural Park.

A landscape full of contrasts



The Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama Natural Park is a diverse world in which the senses are constantly surprised. Here are great mountains and narrow valleys; gentle streams and roaring torrents; cool peaks and warm coast; a diversity of rocks, minerals and soils; vast pastures and inaccessible woods; unique flora that grows nowhere else in the world... A world of contrasts, of fascinating nooks and crannies, just waiting to be discovered.

Life beside the water

The many rivers and streams that flow through the Natural Park often create veritable tunnels of vegetation, known as riparian galleries or woods. Besides poplars, here too grow several different species of willows, which fill the autumn months with colour. Not only that, but many animals also make their home in the shelter of these rivers and streams.



A world full of aromas

In the Mediterranean-type zones in the Park, where summers are particularly dry, we find many patches of scrub and brushland. Here, the most commonly-found plants are rosemary, thyme, white broom, leadwort, rock rose, box... These areas are also inhabited by a diversity of small animal life, particularly insects, birds and reptiles.



The original woods



Originally, most of the woods in what is now the Natural Park were formed by trees in the oak family (Pyrenean oak, Portuguese oak and holm oak) and by pine woods in which juniper and ephedra grew. Many of these woods were later replanted, the original trees replaced by pines, which now occupy much of the protected area.



Small game hunting is an important activity here, both in these woods and in other, more open areas. The most important game animals are rabbit, partridge, pigeon and thrush.

A tree swathed in magic



The yew tree (“tejo” in Spanish), which gives Sierra Tejada its name, is a tree typical of northern latitudes. The Park is one of the most southerly points in Europe where yews still grow: some 300 natural exemplars, distributed in various stands of trees, always higher than 1,500 metres. The yew is a real survivor from the Ice Age: when the snow melted away, these trees continued to grow in the mountains as if these were cool, fresh islands. Yew trees tend to live with other species, though without forming woods. In the Natural Park, yew is generally accompanied by beam, maple, Portuguese oak and pine trees.





Woods shaped by the hand of man

The pine wood, which is the most common landscape in the Natural Park, includes species with such different needs for life as Aleppo pine and Scots pine, as well as Italian stone pine, Austrian or European black pine and even Cambria pine. Even though the Aleppo pine is the most common of these species, the European black pine is also of considerable interest due to the important resin industry once found in the Park area.

The activity that traditionally went on in the Park with regard to the pine trees here was the extraction of resin. For much of the 20th century, there was a resin distillery in Arenas del Rey, known as “La Resinera”, and which now houses an information point.



Life in the heights

A vast community of small plants grows at the highest points in these sierras, their roots growing down into the tiny cracks in the rock. Many of these are endemic species, unique exemplars that live only in highly specific areas.

Great birds of prey make their nests in the heights, or soar through the sky in search of food for their young.

The Spanish Ibex, without doubt the most emblematic animal species in the Natural Park, is an important game species, and is an important local source of income. For this reason, its habitat has long been protected and conserved as a Hunting Reserve.



Battling against the wind

In the heights of the Sierra, plants such as different species of juniper also fight against the wind as they attempt to grow, forming veritable natural bonsais in their struggle to leave the ground. These juniper shrubs share their habitat with various species of pine.





The history of these lands is reflected in every village, in every nook and cranny

The lands now occupied by the Natural Park have been inhabited by humans since the Stone Age. People have always found refuge and sustenance to survive in these harsh conditions. Many civilisations have also left their mark here for posterity, important cultural heritage that takes myriad shapes, from civil and military architecture to culinary specialities and place names.

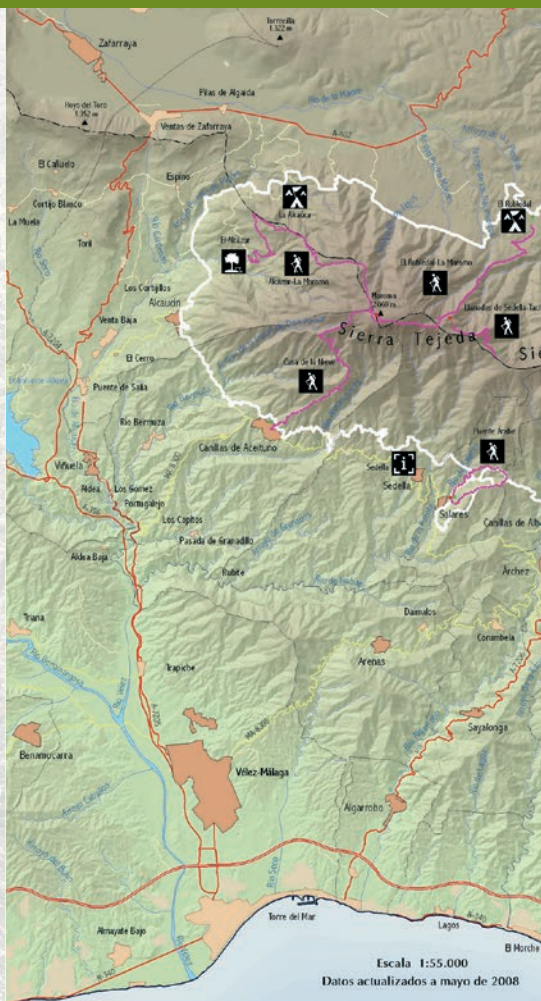
These mountains have always been rich in history and legends about uprisings, smuggling, poaching and resistance, stories that have circulated through the few passes communicating either side of the mountains.



The Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama Natural Park

The mountains of the Tejeda and Almijara Sierras form an impressive rocky massif that acts as a border between the two provinces. On the Málaga side lies La Axarquía county, whilst on the Granada side we find the fertile lands of Alhama and Almuñécar district. The tiny villages that perch on the sides of the mountains as they slope down towards the coast, in both the Granada and Málaga sections of the park, conserve much of their popular architectural heritage, the living evidence of almost 800 years of Moorish rule: shimmering whitewashed walls and brick towers.

The name “Tejeda” alludes to the many yew trees (“tejos”) that once populated the sierra. There are countless features that help to make this Natural Park a truly special place to appreciate and enjoy outstanding natural and cultural beauty: plant diversity, great birds of prey gliding across the sky, Spanish Ibex amid the craggy rocks... all set against picture-postcard scenery featuring white villages and other sights left by the Moorish heritage.



Public facilities managed by the Autonomous Government Environment Ministry



Visitor centre



Information point



Ecomuseum



Signposted path



Viewpoint



Picnic area



Camping area



Beginning of path



End of path

Facilities owned/managed by other bodies



Cave visits

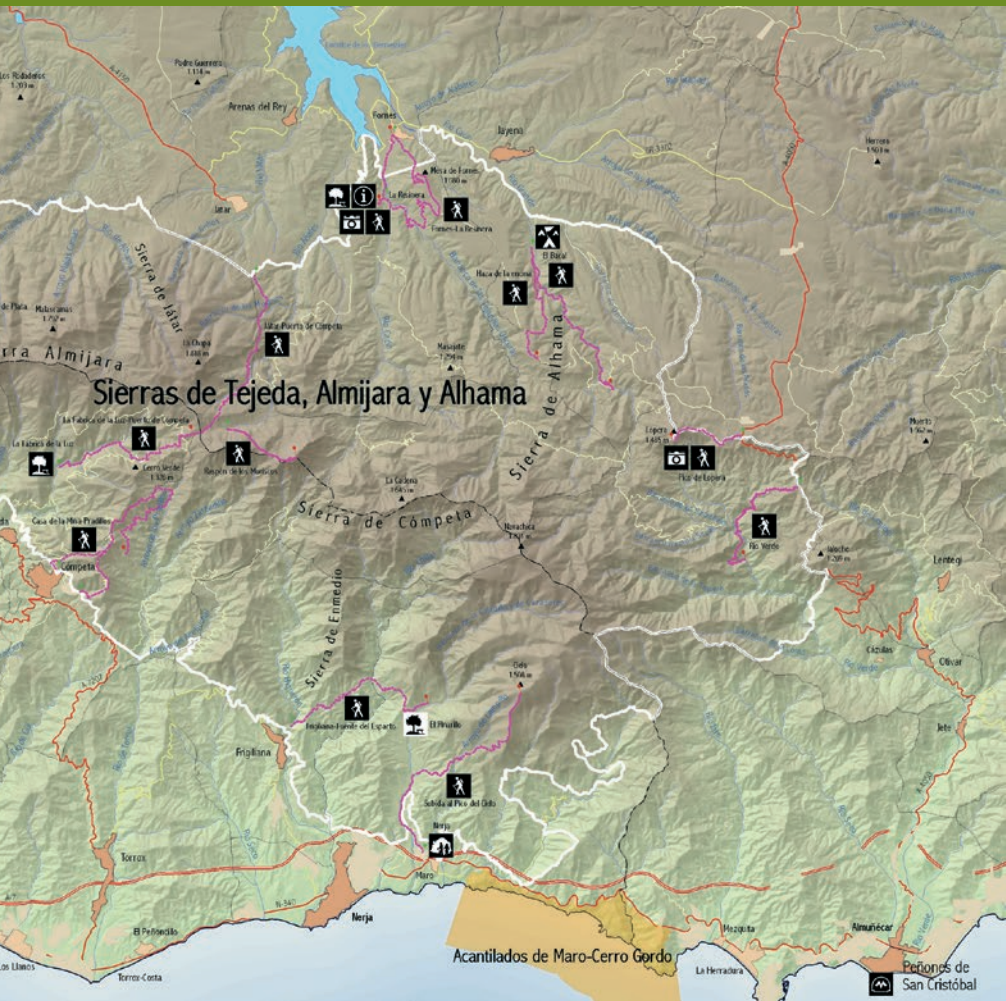
International conservation



ZEPIM



ZEPA



Andalusia Network of Protected Natural Spaces



Natural Monument



Nature reserve



Limite of the Boundary of
Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama
Natural Park

Basic information

Provincial boundary

District boundary

Municipal boundary

Main centre of population

Secondary centre of population

Residential area

Dual carriageways

Main roads

Secondary roads

Paths

Rivers

Water bodies

Mountain peaks



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www.juntaandalucia.es/medioambiente/ventanadelvisitante

Emergencias: 112



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