

MORE INFORMATION Torre del Vinagre Visitor's Centre. Ctra. A-319 Cazorla - El Tranco km 45. Santiago Pontones. Jaén. Tel. 953 71 30 40 ventanadel**visitante**



Junta de Andalucía Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible

PARQUE NATURAL Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas

Puente de las Herrerías-Pino de las Cruces



OTHER CATEGORIES OF PROTECTION



• ROUTE Linear

• LENGTH (OUTWARD)

12,1 km

• ESTIMATED TIME (OUTWARD) 4 hour and 50 minutes

DIFFICULTY

High

• TYPE OF TRAIL

Track

• LANDSCAPE / VEGETATION

Mountain ranges with large limestone rock formations, where erosive processes have left their mark. Abundant vegetation, dominated by extensive pine forest formations, with black pines and Pinus pinaster.

SHADE

Plentiful

• SPECIAL AUTHORISATION Not required

RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry drinking water and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

• PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITIES Jaén / Cazorla- Peal de Becerro • SHEETS OF MTN MAP 1:50.000 928 - Cazorla

• START / END COORDINATES

37° 54′ 3,46″ N – 2° 56′ 18,65″ O 37° 50′ 51,73″ N – 2° 57′ 31,55″ O

HOW	то	GET	THERE

Take the A-319 road towards the town of Cazorla and continue along the JV-7105 for 250 m. Continue along the A-319 until the junction at Empalme del Valle, then take the JF-7091 road until the Vadillo junction and continue towards the Puente de las Herrerías campsite. Before crossing the bridge, the start of the trail is on the left.

PARKING

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There is a parking area for several vehicles; access to the silk shed via the Herrerías bridge and to the kiosk-bar is located a few metres away.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The principal companies running regular bus routes in the area are Alsina Graells (tel. 953 75 21 57), and Autocares Carcesa (tel. 953 72 11 42)

OTHER TRAILS

There is no nearby route of the Regional Ministry.

PROFILE OF ROUTE



MAXIMUM GRADIENT	
	658 m
• MAXIMUM HEIGHT	
	1.005 m
• MINIMUM HEIGHT	
	1.663 m

TIMBER USE

The Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas Natural Park is home to one of the largest pine forests in Spain, from which timber has been collected for a long time and has been widely praised and recognised for the quality of the timber extracted. Enrique Mackay brought great welfare to the inhabitants of Cazorla and the Natural Park by means of reforestation. Among other areas, he repopulated the nearby slope of the Peña de Los Halcones, a pine forest that for more than half a century has prevented the floods of water and stones that had historically destroyed the streets and houses of Cazorla. Among all the species present in these areas, such as the Aleppo pine, cluster pine and black pine, it is the latter that best combines the timber qualities mentioned above. Straight and wide shafts, and fairly resistant wood for a pine tree, entailed that until the 1970s a large number of trees were cut down in a regulated and orderly manner for use in the timber industry and later in the construction of railway tracks in a large part of Spain.



The Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas Natural Park is home to one of the largest pine forests in Spain.



Our trail begins next to the Herrerías Bridge, over the River Guadalquivir, the most important river in Andalusia, which rises in an area of great ecological value within the Natural Park. It is a cool and pleasant place, where ash, maple and hawthorn trees accompany the "the great river", as the Arabs called it, on its first section. According to the story, the bridge was built in a single night by the knights of Queen Isabella the Catholic, as they passed through these mountains, so that her troops could cross the river on their advance towards Granada and thus carry out their *Reconquista* (the Reconquest).

Crystal clear and pure waters

We start on the forest track on the left, before crossing the Puente de las Herrerías (check [1] on the map). The popular

legend about the origin of the bridge says that the Queen was on a campaign to conquer Baza and, having left Quesada in the morning, she spent the night in the place where the bridge now stands.



As the river was swollen by the autumn rains and it was impossible to ford it, the knights of the Queen's retinue built this bridge during the night.

It is also said that, throughout that night, the knights shod their horses backwards to confuse the Moors, who came in pursuit of the Queen, always walking along the path facing the mountain.

To our right we always leave the River Guadalquivir, which rises 8.5 km from this place and at an altitude of 1,350 m, in the spot known as Cañada de las Fuentes, in the municipality of Quesada. The young Guadalquivir flows between mountains and forest, conveying calm and peace in the place.





Continuing on our way, we walk along the water of the Arroyo de los Habares [2], which forms places of crystal clear and pure water. Further on, after crossing the stream, we turn right to start climbing up the forest track, with a gradual slope until we reach a viewpoint [3], where we can enjoy wonderful views and peace and quiet. The place we are contemplating is known as Sacejo. Its altitude gives it an unbeatable panoramic view of the surrounding area, where there are many hillsides full of pine trees, typical of this mountain range.

Environmental diversity

Here we will rest. Then, we will continue to a crossroads. The track is not difficult and there is no chance of getting lost. Trees, shrubs and flowers are spread along the route as a magnificent example of the Mediterranean forest. Despite the abusive logging of the past centuries, the current conservation of the environment means that this Natural Park can show a great diversity of flora.



Yellowish tones

We contacted the Amarillo Stream [4]. The materials of the terrain give the landscape light and yellowish tones where the stream flows. We cross over and continue ascending



The soil materials show yellow colours all along the stream bed

until we come to an almost lost crossroads, which we take to the left, along a path

that climbs gently and steadily. We continue walking until we come into contact with a forest track. From here, we will turn right until reaching another



until reaching another track.

The route in a linear direction ends at a majestic Laricio Pine, full of marks on its bark from the passage of history, called



"El Pino de las Cruces" [5]. The locals say that the muleteers used to mark this pine tree to communicate to their companions their passage through the site, as

the means of communication in these lands were difficult more than half a century ago.



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