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MÁS INFORMACIÓN EN:

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Conoce el Parque Natural Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama



Discover the Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama Natural Park

The hilltops of the Sierras of Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Natural Park form a natural border between the provinces of Malaga and Granada. The specific characteristics of this natural space, which sits in the between mountain ranges and the Mediterranean coast, as well as its position, also in between the Guadalquivir and the Southern hydrological basins, together with the marked altitude gradient and its rich vegetation and wildlife make this space one of the most remarkable mountain natural areas in South-Eastern Andalusia. From the highest peak of Sierra Tejeda, the Maroma Peak (2068 m) one can enjoy a spectacular view of the Mediterranean coast and the surrounding sierras, and is a popular spot for trekkers and mountaineers.

Dolomitic and limestone marbles are the most representative element of the area's lithology and are responsible for its characteristic crests and ravines in white and grey hues. The erosion of these metamorphic rocks creates sandy soils on which the most prevalent ecosystems are formed: those dominated by Aleppo pines, black pines and even stone pines, maritime pines and wild pines. Other trees are also present, such as holm oaks, Portuguese oaks and cork oaks, and, in high and shadowy areas, Pyrenean oaks, maples and European yew.

In fact, the very name of Tejeda is derived from the Spanish name for yew, "tejo", showing how abundant yews were in the past. In the ascent to Salto del Caballo there is a wood of European yew, one of the most beautiful in Andalusia and the most southern yew wood in the entire Peninsula.

It is not difficult to spot large eagles, such as golden eagles or Bonelli's eagles, flying over this rocky landscape. A species of special interest is the Iberian ilex, an species endemic to the Iberian peninsula; one of the largest population of this species lives, precisely, in this Park.

The shape of the rock formation of this sierra has been carved by the many rivers and creeks that cross it, creating spectacular pools of clear water and waterfalls such as that of Árboles Petrificados, which is named after the petrified trees or ancient trees fossilized by the effect of precipitation of high carbonate content dissolved in the river water. Other noteworthy geological elements are the La Maroma folds, the Mesa de Fornes, the Cueva de Nerja and the Tajo del Alcázar, which has been granted National Monument status.

Although this area was populated by different cultures, the three sierras have a marked Arab heritage, with whitewashed villages of narrow, winding streets, scattered among hard-to-reach valleys and sierras. The southern slope, in the province of Granada, conserves the remains of the last Nazari settlements in Spain. Its cuisine is defined by the produce of its fertile soils, such as that of Otívar, which are even appropriate for growing tropical fruits. Some traditional dishes are hearty stews, game, goat meat dishes or artisan goat cheese. Alhama presents an interesting monumental and ethnographic ensemble of Roman, Arab and Morisco (Muslims forced to convert to Christianity) with whitewashed façades, arcades, staircases and towers that are absolutely not to be missed.

The Malaga section of the Axarquia, with a clear Arab background, has one of the most representative architectural examples in the Alminar Tower, in the village of Salares. Another attraction of this Malaga county is its muscatel wine made from dried grapes. The Noche del Vino is a good opportunity to enjoy these very special wines.

¿Dónde comer y alojarse?/Where to eat and where to stay?

Alojamiento y restauración/Accommodation and restoration

- Alojamiento Rural Zalia S.L. Alcaucín (Málaga). Tlf: 952 540 898. www.castillodezalia.com

¿Qué hacer?/What to do?

Turismo de naturaleza/Nature tourism

- Local Experiences - Ecoturismo y aventuras. Frigiliana (Málaga). Tlf: 675 647 355. www.localexperiences.es
- Natures Geoturismo y Medio Ambiente. Salteras (Sevilla). Tlf: 954 711 456. <http://www.natures.es/>
- Sierra Nevada Adventure, S.L. Arenas del Rey (Granada). Tlf: 656 613 837 / 659 104 013. www.sierranevadaadventureski.com

¿Qué comprar?/What to buy?

Alimentación/Food

- Cafetería pastelería Balada. Alhama de Granada (Granada). Tlf: 958 360 262. Email: cafeteriabalada@gmail.com



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