



DIPUTACIÓN DE CÁCERES



TOURIST GUIDE

# MONFRAGÜE

## Biosphere Reserve



15 villages

17 walking trails

14 exhibition centres

More than 30 sites of interest





TOURIST GUIDE

# MONFRAGÜE

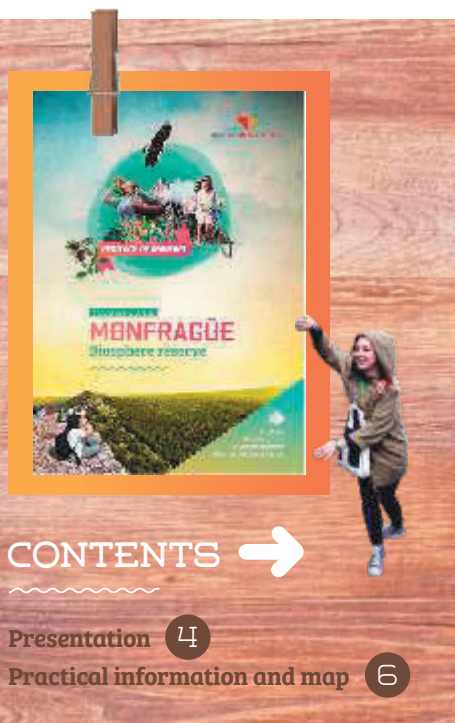
## Biosphere Reserve

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*I was alone one day. A golden eagle flew by, and not only did it amaze me with one of its powerful hunting flights, but it also performed the most amazing acrobatics along with its partner. The eagle! The male and female were high in the sky for five or ten minutes, who knows!... I was captivated by their wings! I wanted to become a bird!*

**Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente (1928-1980)**

*Naturalist and scientific author*



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## CREDITS

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TOURIST GUIDE

BIOSPHERE RESERVE

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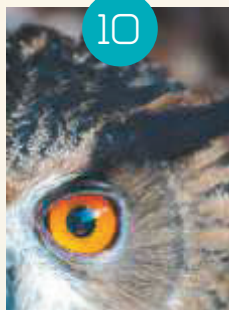
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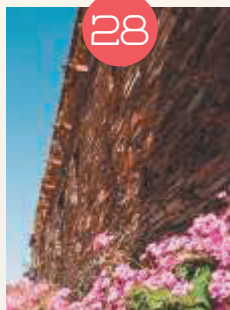
### MONFRAGÜE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

A symbol of  
biodiversity and  
conservationism



### THE VILLAGES OF THE RESERVE

15 villages connected  
by their cultural and  
natural wealth



### BIRDWATCHING IN MONFRAGÜE

Birdwatching is in  
fashion and  
Monfragüe is the  
place to do it



### MUSEUMS AND INTERPRETATION CENTRES

14 centres to discover  
the cultural and  
natural wealth







## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Decades of experience  
in raising environ-  
mental awareness

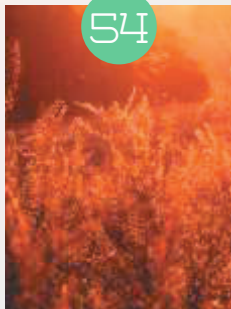
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## SMELLS AND SOUNDS

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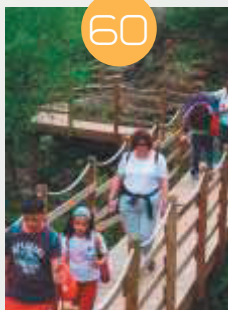
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to be part of the  
activities



# Visit Monfragüe!

In 2003 Monfragüe and its surrounding areas were named by UNESCO's MAB programme as a Biosphere Reserve. The specialised agency of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) decided to add almost 90,000 hectares of the surrounding areas to the 17,852 hectares of the then natural park. A few years later, in 2007, Monfragüe was definitively upgraded to the category of National Park, becoming part of the exclusive group of fifteen natural areas holding this recognition throughout Spain. If we add to that the categories of protection of the European Natura 2000 Network as Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or the fact that, in turn, part of the south-east area of the reserve is included within the Villuercas Ibores Jara Geopark, we can easily conclude that very few areas in Europe have a higher level of protection and recognition. And when we visit it is clear that these facts correspond to the reality, because Monfragüe is simply and clearly a spectacle of nature. What you see is surprising, because observing the flora and fauna at such close quarters and in such an important geological area seems impossible. But what you don't actually see is also surprising, because Monfragüe smells of rock rose, French lavender and rosemary; of fireplaces and of meadows. And you can hear the bellowing of the deer, the cranes in winter, the eagle owl at dusk and nomadic flocks as they pass by. Monfragüe is... In this guide we'll give you some tips so that you can discover all that it has to offer and you'll be inspired to visit. So, start reading and visit Monfragüe!

*Monfragüe is simply and clearly a spectacle of nature*



*...very few areas in Europe have a higher level of protection and recognition*

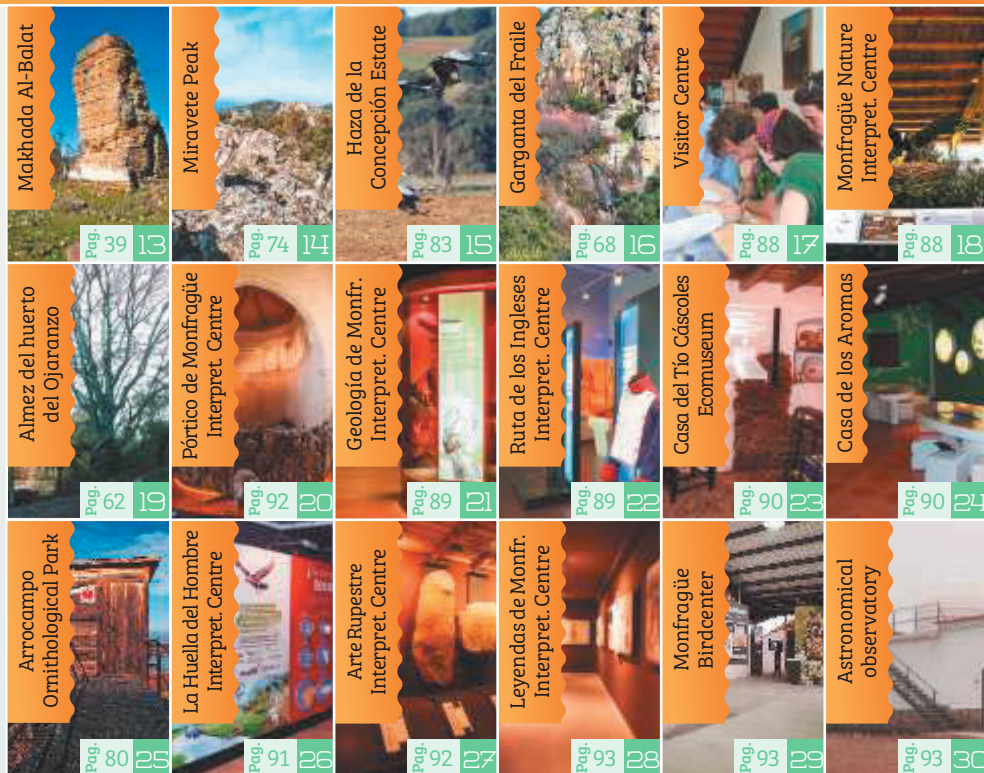
*If you still haven't visited you will love it, and if you have already visited you will certainly want to return; there is a lot to see*



## 30 TOP SPOTS IN THE RESERVE

There are many reasons why the Monfragüe biosphere reserve is a must-see destination. On this page we list 30 of the best spots to visit: look out for this symbol to find them in the guide.

PUNTO  
TOP



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## LOCATION MAP

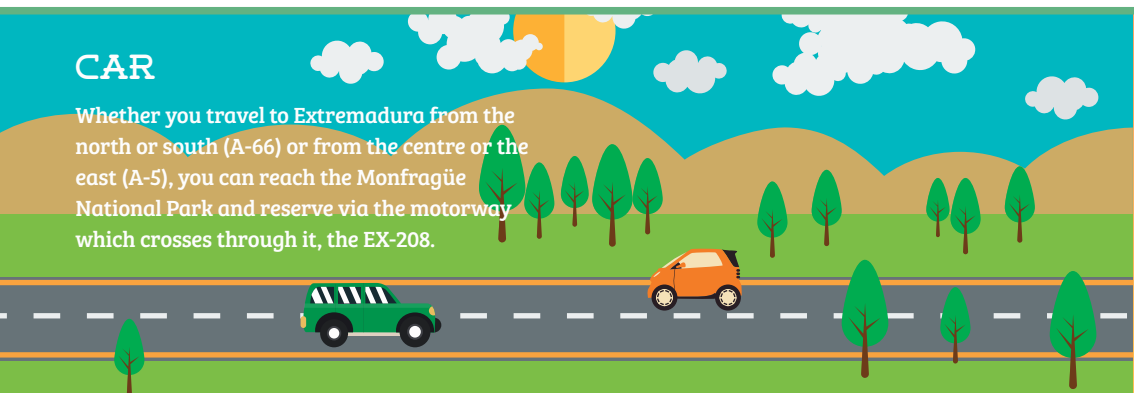
## HOW TO GET THERE

Monfragüe is located in the centre of the province of Cáceres (Extremadura), in the triangle formed by Plasencia, Cáceres and Trujillo. Villarreal de San Carlos is at the heart of the Monfragüe National Park and is where the visitor centre is located.



## CAR

Whether you travel to Extremadura from the north or south (A-66) or from the centre or the east (A-5), you can reach the Monfragüe National Park and reserve via the motorway which crosses through it, the EX-208.



## BUS

Buses leave Plasencia towards Torrejón El Rubio and Villarreal de San Carlos (from Monday to Friday).

Plasencia bus station. Tel. +34 927 414 550





## THE RESERVE IN FIGURES

- ▶ **Surface area of the Monfragüe National Park**  
18.396 hectares.
- ▶ **Surface area of the Biosphere Reserve**  
116.160 hectares.
- ▶ **Villages in the Biosphere Reserve**  
14 villages (approx. 13,000 inhabitants).
- ▶ **Climate**  
Continental. 35° - 20° summer / 15° - 5° winter.
- ▶ **Categories of protection and recognitions**  
National Park (2007)  
Biosphere Reserve (2003)  
Special Protection Area for Birds SPA (ZEPA / 1994)  
Special Area of Conservation (ZEC / 2015)  
European Charter for Sustainable Tourism ECST (2011)
- ▶ **World's largest colony of black vultures:** 316 pairs
- ▶ **Home to 70% of Spain's protected species**
- ▶ **Unique trees:** 5
- ▶ **Walking trails:** More than 30

## EL PAÍS

### The Monfragüe National Park and sustainable development

*"It has 80% of Europe's endangered species, specifically the world's largest colony of black vultures"*

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

### Monfragüe, among the eight best National Parks in Spain

*"It has become one of the most important birdwatching destinations in Spain"*

## TRAIN

The Renfe train network provides a transport service to the Monfragüe National Park. The train station is located around 14 km from Villarreal de San Carlos (Plasencia taxi service +34 629 523 623).

[www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) | Tel. +34 902 320 320



## PLANE

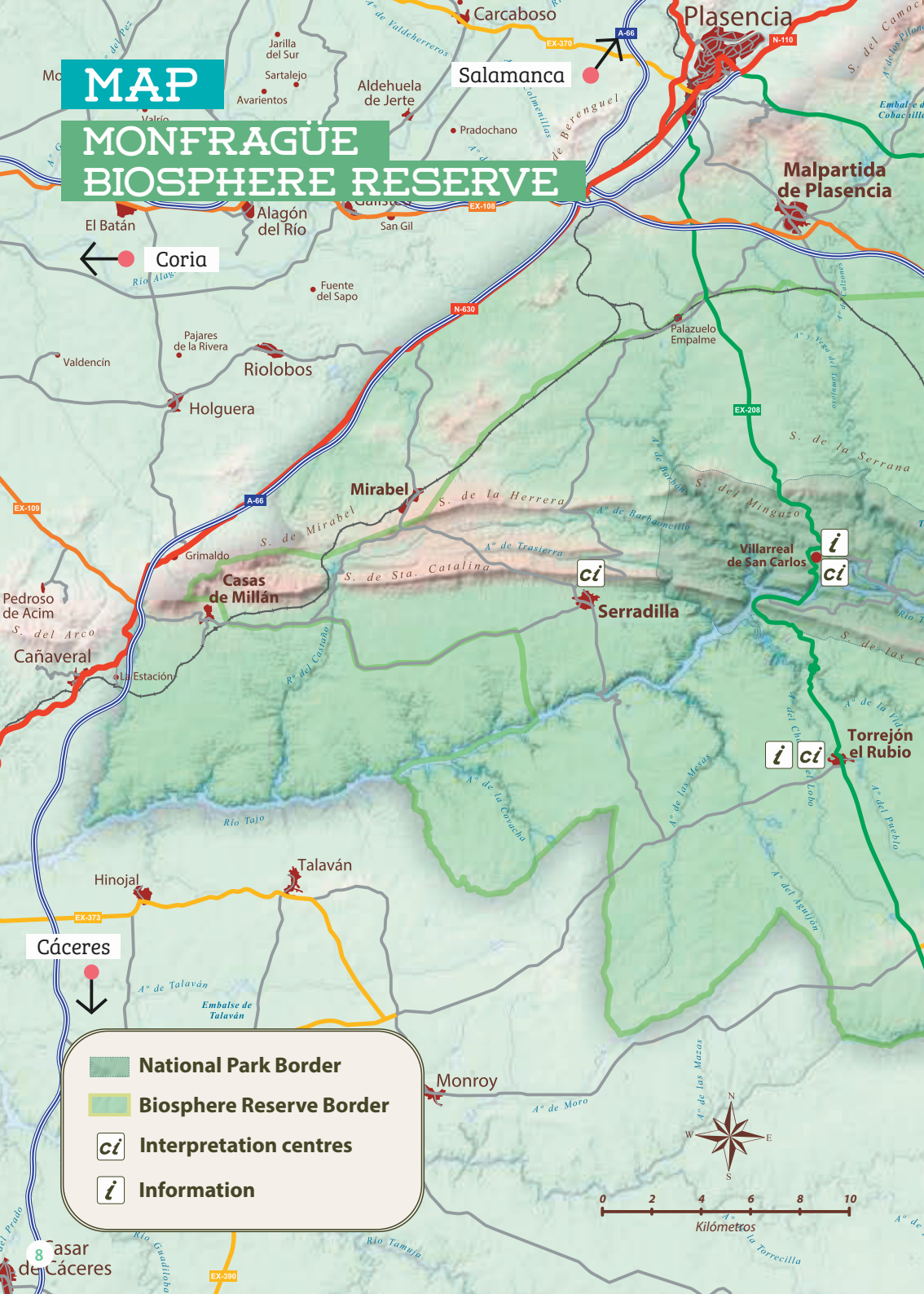
The airport of Badajoz, located 14 km from the town centre, offers regular flights to Madrid and Barcelona. Villarreal de San Carlos (Monfragüe National Park) is 190 km away by road.

[www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)



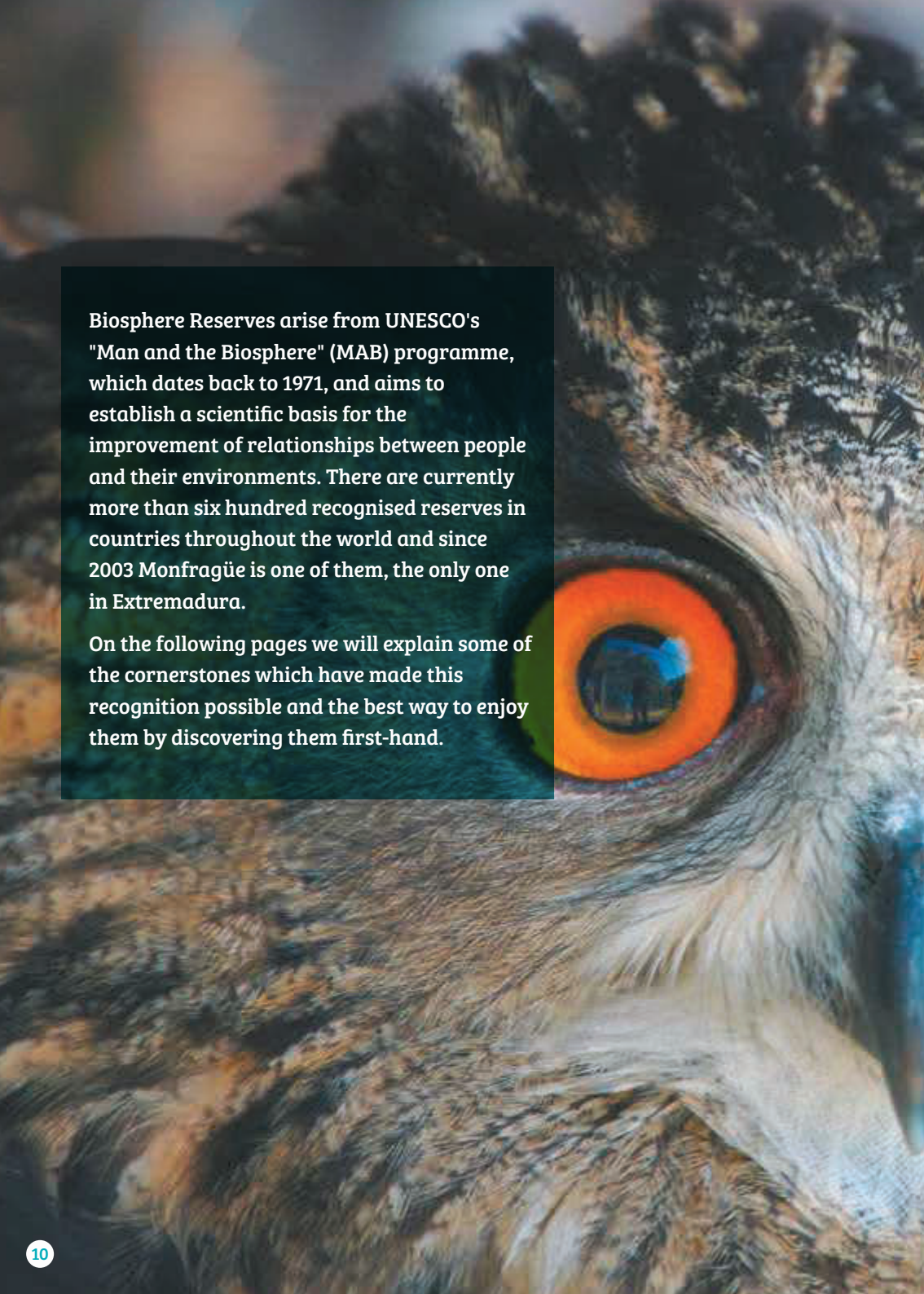


# MONFRAGÜE BIOSPHERE RESERVE







A close-up photograph of an owl's face, focusing on its large, orange-brown eye. The eye has a dark pupil and a bright orange iris. The owl's feathers are dark brown and grey, with fine details visible. The background is blurred, showing some green and blue tones.

Biosphere Reserves arise from UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere" (MAB) programme, which dates back to 1971, and aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. There are currently more than six hundred recognised reserves in countries throughout the world and since 2003 Monfragüe is one of them, the only one in Extremadura.

On the following pages we will explain some of the cornerstones which have made this recognition possible and the best way to enjoy them by discovering them first-hand.



# **Monfragüe**

## Biosphere Reserve

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Read on and  
discover the reserve



# WHY MONFRAGÜE?

→ The natural values of Monfragüe were acknowledged when it was declared as a natural park in 1979, and later upgraded to the category of National Park in 2007. Furthermore, its surrounding areas, with a total of 116,160 hectares, including the 18,396 hectares of the park itself, are one of the special protection areas for birds included in the European Natura 2000 Network and they coincide with the area declared as a biosphere reserve, in recognition not only of its natural values but also of the positive relationship between human activities and the environment.

The abundance of *dehesas* (pastureland) covering the area and the lush maze of vegetation of the mountain ranges bordering its river banks, mean that human activities are focused on agriculture and livestock farming on the basis of sustainability, enabling the stability of a habitat which is crucial for the local fauna and flora: the Mediterranean forest and shrublands.



▲ Watch the presentation video of the Monfragüe National Park (1:31 min.)



PARQUES NACIONALES

The logo identifying the Network of National Parks was created in 1998 by Eduardo Chillida, the brilliant artist from San Sebastián.





Extraction of the cork

## The heart of the matter \*

Thanks to the determination of the naturalist Jesús Garzón in the 70s and the support of figures such as Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente and Joaquín Araujo in their campaign to save the area from logging plans, today Monfragüe is a national symbol of biodiversity and conservationism.

◀ Monfragüe is an example of coexistence between the natural environment and human activities, and also of conservationist values. ▼



Making "picón"



Beekeeping

◀ Charcoal, known as "picón" is used for braziers, a traditional activity in the reserve.



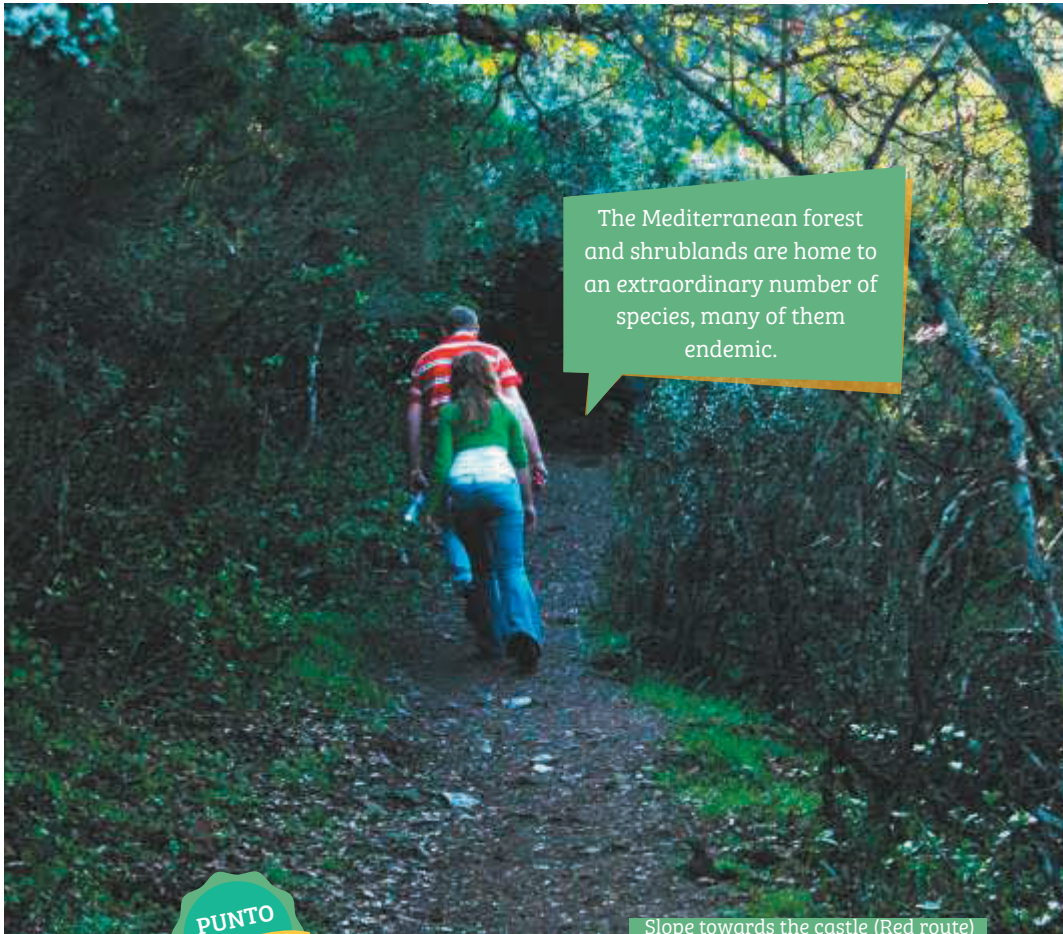
# NATURE MEDITERRANEAN

➔ *Dehesas* of holm oaks and cork oaks, Mediterranean forest and shrublands, impressive quartzite crags, rivers and streams form the heart of a surprising biodiversity. Just in terms of fauna, in Monfragüe you can find up to 280 vertebrates, with some of the most representative species of Spain's wildlife such as the Iberian imperial eagle, the black stork, Bonelli's Eagles, griffon and black vultures... or mammals such as the wildcat, the genet and the otter. And the flora is every bit as impressive:

More than 1,500 plant species, including several different varieties of orchids and a long list of plants and shrubs such as myrtle, laurustinus, honeysuckle, butcher's broom, mastic, strawberry tree and different types of rock rose and montpelier cistus. Add to that more than 200 types of mushrooms and around 600 invertebrates and you'll get an idea of how extremely natural Monfragüe is.



*Monfragüe has the most extensive and best-preserved Mediterranean forest in the world, which is no mean feat.*



The Mediterranean forest and shrublands are home to an extraordinary number of species, many of them endemic.

PUNTO  
TOP

Slope towards the castle (Red route)

## ▲ Slopes

The slopes of the reserve's mountains have lush vegetation, at times creating authentic plant canopies. Some routes allow you to experience this marvellous habitat first-hand: especially the slope towards the castle, on the Red Route; but also the Breña route, in Deleitosa, or the Barbechoso Slope route, in Mirabel.



Panoramic view from the castle

- ▲ The forest which covers the park and the reserve can be best appreciated from the castle of Monfragüe.



# 10 STARS OF THE MONFRAGÜE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

As you already know, you can see a large number of species of fauna and flora in Monfragüe, with relative ease. However, here we highlight ten of its main stars.



## IBERIAN IMPERIAL EAGLE

*Aquila adalberti*

The jewel in the crown: one of the most endangered species which has its sanctuary here with 12 pairs



## BLACK STORK

*Ciconia nigra*

The shiest of the bunch, although you'll soon see that some of the pairs that breed on the reserve are not so shy...



## BLACK VULTURE

*Aegypius monachus*

With a wingspan of almost three metres it is the biggest bird of prey on the reserve



## OTTER

*Lutra lutra*

The most playful: you may see them having fun as a family in places such as the Portilla del Tiétar viewpoint

5

**DEER***Cervus elaphus*

Its bellows can be heard throughout the entire mountain range; it's the reserve's biggest mammal

**OCELLATED LIZARD***Timon lepidus*

The largest of the European lizards. It can grow up to almost one metre!



7

6

**IBERIAN MIDWIFE TOAD***Alytes cisternasii*

Endemic species of the Mediterranean forests on the Iberian peninsular, a model father

8

**ORCHIDS***Orchidaceae*

Numerous species and abundant in quantity; in the *Ophrys tenthredinifera*

9

**HOLM OAK***Quercus ilex*

Along with the cork oak it dominates the Monfragüe landscape; its acorns are the delicacy of the forest

10


**CAESAR'S MUSHROOM***Amanita caesarea*

The mushroom par excellence, the most sought after



# TRANSHUMANCE

➔ Transhumance is an ancient practice whose origin is connected to animal migration and the emergence of shepherding, and it basically consists in the passage of livestock and their guides from their winter pastures to their summer ones, and vice versa. In medieval Spain this activity was regulated in the 13th century with the emergence of the Honourable Council of Shepherds, promoted by king Alphonso X the Wise, leading to a system of public roads which were called cattle trails, connecting the north to the south. These roads were in turn divided into trails, paths, walkways and tracks and, despite the decline in this practice, today they are still defined and remain active, enabling both their traditional use along with others such as hiking, horse riding and mountain biking.

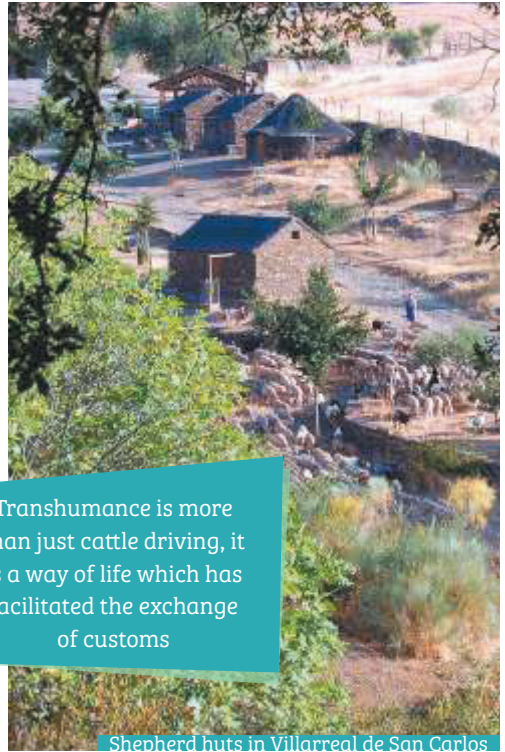


*There are various existing cattle trails on the reserve: the two main ones are the Cañada Real Trujillana, which passes through the reserve from north to south through the centre and the Cañada Real del Puerto de Miravete, which joins various paths, tracks and walkways*

The huts of Villarreal de San Carlos, which have now been restored, can be traced back to the transhumance tradition in Monfragüe.

## Albalat bridge\*

This magnificent construction was built in the 16th century by the Council of Shepherds, to avoid the severe losses of cattle while crossing the River Tajo in barges, which is where the Cañada Real del Puerto de Miravete trail used to, and still crosses. It is very easy to visit and is well worth it. You just have to go to kilometre 200 of the N-V road.



Transhumance is more than just cattle driving, it is a way of life which has facilitated the exchange of customs

Shepherd huts in Villarreal de San Carlos



Albalat Bridge and River Tajo



# LEGENDS AND TRADITIONS

➔ As in the majority of areas with steep mountain slopes and deep valleys, legends and traditions go hand in hand in Monfragüe, blurring the line between legend and history. Ancient romances, hardened bandits, ancient stories about wolves... stories that are told by the fireplace on cold winter nights.

Inspired by the fragrant mountains, local traditions are scented with wild flowers and fruits in secular weddings and religious offerings, also giving rise to a wide range of folk songs, local dialects such as Serradillanu, sayings and proverbs which you are sure to hear when you get to know the locals or by visiting the "Legends of Monfragüe" interpretation centre in Torrejón el Rubio.



*The legend of the castle of Monfragüe includes a princess, a dashing Christian captain, betrayals, a nocturnal attack and a curse. On stormy nights the spirit of Noeima can be seen crying in the corners*



Until a few decades ago wolves inhabited these mountains, leading to a large number of tales and characters such as Uncle Coraza, Monfragüe's ultimate wolf hunter.

El Cabrerín was a very real bandit from Serradilla in the 14th century, who has now become the star of the film "Territoriu de Bandolerus" (Territory of Bandits),

made with the participation of the village's residents.



Scene from the film "Territoriu de Bandolerus"

## **Salto del Gitano \***

This is probably one of the most well-known legends in Monfragüe, giving the "Salto del Gitano" viewpoint its name, one of the most visited and recognisable spots. The legend tells how a gypsy bandit who operated in the mountains jumped from this spot to the other side of the Tajo while fleeing from a Civil Guard.



Salto del Gitano



# CUISINE

## A table, please!

### Local products in Monfragüe

You will find a wide variety of these products, particularly in the irrigated areas of Tiétar.

1

The slaughtering of the pig, which still occurs in the villages of the area, is a key part of the household economy.

2



Meadow-bred iberian pig

3



Monfragüe's cuisine is authentic, rural, consistent, traditional and uses natural resources and seasonal products.

*"The shepherd culture significantly enriched life in the Monfragüe area".*

Typical dishes of the cuisine of Extremadura emerged under this philosophy, such as exquisite garlic soups and stews, chickpea stews, *migas*, a dish made with fried breadcrumbs, *gazpacho*, *ratatouille* and oyster thistle omelette.

### Designations of Origin

The reserve also has products which are protected by the exclusive Designations of Origin of Extremadura: *Queso de los Ibores* (cheese), *Miel Villuercas-Ibores* (honey), *Pimentón de la Vera*, *Jamón Dehesa de Extremadura* (ham), *Ternera de Extremadura* (veal) o *Cordero de Extremadura* (lamb).





#### Honey and cheeses

These are two of the area's main products, due to the fact that beekeeping and shepherding are two of the reserve's main activities: don't leave without a good cheese or a delicious jar of honey.



4



5

Goat milking and fresh cheese

#### Shepherd's cuisine

It is clear that the area's cuisine is strongly connected to the transhumance lifestyle. Dishes such as migas or Extremadura fritters were created by the shepherds.



7



#### Exclusive meats

There is a wide range of meats in the area's cuisine, with delicious dishes such as lamb chops, pork loin, goat stew and venison chorizo.



8



#### Handmade confectionery

There is a long tradition of confectionery making.

Visit a bakery or confectioners and try the typical pastries, buns and cakes...



6



# FIRST INHABITANTS

➔ The fascinating world of cave art is of increasing interest. And Monfragüe is no stranger to this world, as within its borders one of Spain's biggest collections of schematic paintings can be found; an exceptional case which has aroused the interest of many.

Monfragüe has a large number of caves - shelters and small caves - containing valuable cave paintings. We encourage you to discover these paintings and to decipher their hidden meaning.



Monfragüe is considered as a specific destination within the European Cultural Route "**Prehistoric Art Routes**". The park has 107 caves with very well-preserved schematic paintings and engravings.  
[www.prehistour.eu](http://www.prehistour.eu)





## Arte rupestre de Monfragüe Interpretation Centre \*

Monfragüe has one of the most important collections of prehistoric cave art in the Iberian peninsula. Organised in 4 huts, the interpretation centre located in **Torrejón El Rubio** will show you the habitat of the first inhabitants, their way of life, the techniques they used and their systems of representation.



### The stelas of Monfragüe

Today, their meaning is still a mystery. However, these large decorated stones in Monfragüe show human figures with **decorations and different objects** such as bracelets, weapons, brooches and necklaces.



#### Did you know...?

- 1 The whole family lived in the same living space, which was used as a bedroom, kitchen and storeroom.
- 2 Paint brushes were made of sticks by pounding the point with a stone.



Arte rupestre de Monfragüe Interpretation Centre



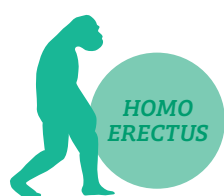
## THE NATIONAL PARK OF CAVE ART



### Location of the main areas with cave art in the Monfragüe National Park.

- 1 Sierra de Santa Catalina
- 2 Arroyo de Barbón
- 3 Sierra del Mingazo
- 4 Puerto de la Serrana
- 5 Arroyo Calzones
- 6 S. de Monfragüe - Corchuelas
- 7 Sierra de la Canaleja
- 8 Sierra de Pintones
- 9 Portilla arroyo del Cubo
- 10 Salto del Corzo
- 11 Sierra de la Parrilla
- 12 Sierra de Navacalera
- 13 S. de Miravete - La Calera

## Human evolution in Monfragüe



### LOWER PALAEOLITHIC

More than 1 million years

The presence of hominids at the time has been determined by the tools found along the **banks of the River Tajo**, such as bifaces, cleavers, chippings, etc.

Their definite settlement is clear due to the amount, variety and quality of the pieces found.

### MIDDLE PALAEOLITHIC

150,000 - 35,000 B.C. approx.

It is characterised by the presence of the **Homo Neanderthalensis**, a species which coexisted with the **Homo Sapiens**.

A site from this period has been located in Torrejón el Rubio.

### UPPER PALAEOLITHIC

35,000 - 10,000 B.C. approx.

This period is characterised by a hominid from Africa, the **Homo Sapiens**.

The main skills of the Homo Sapiens included the **art of fire** and the advancement of **stone tools**.

## The artist of Monfragüe

### 1. Cave of El Castillo



### 2. Cave of El Mirador



### 3. Cave of El Paso



### Cave of El Castillo

Without a doubt it is the most interesting site, due to the quality of its paintings and the amount of schematic motifs.



Cave of El Castillo

## Keys to understanding schematic painting

3

The main motifs are human or animal figures and symbolic objects.

- 1 One of its main characteristics is the basic representation of motifs, with linear and simple strokes.



- 2 The predominant colour is red, which was created with iron oxide and fatty materials.



### NEOLITHIC

10,000 - 4,000 B.C. approx.

During this era man became sedentary and started to practice agriculture and the first schematic paintings. In this way, the first settlements in the area were detected, such as the cave of **El Sapo** or that of **La Canaleja** (Romangordo), where ceramic remains and stone tools were discovered.

### CHALCOLITHIC - METAL AGES

4,000 - 2,000 B.C. approx.

Copper was the most important aspect of this era. Furthermore, during this era, **one of Spain's largest schematic art pieces was created here**. In the actual National Park there are 107 coves with paintings, such as that located near to the castle of Monfragüe, an interesting collection created with different techniques, types and colours.

### MEGALITHIC ART

From the Neolithic era and up to the Bronze Age some interesting megalithic constructions can be found in the area of the reserve, such as dolmens and menhirs. The most important sites can be found in **Malpartida de Plasencia, Torrejón El Rubio and Serradilla**.

CASAS  
DE MILLÁN



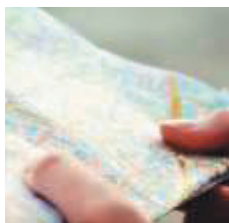
CASATEJADA

MALPARTIDA  
DE PLASENCIA



SERREJÓN

MIRABEL

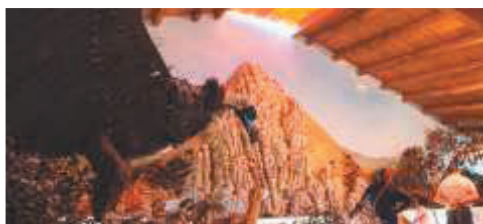


DELEITOSA



HIGUERA DE  
ALBALAT

SAUCEDILLA

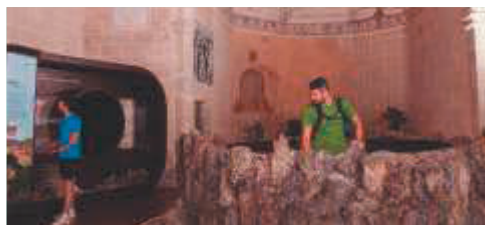




CASAS DE  
MIRAVETE



ROMAN-  
GORDO



VILLARREAL  
DE SAN  
CARLOS

TORIL

# THE VILLAGES OF THE MONFRAGÜE BIOSPHERE RESERVE



JARAICEJO



TORREJÓN  
EL RUBIO



SERRADILLA

# CASAS DE MILLÁN

The reserve's most western municipality. The village has **abundant landscape and great botanical and ornithological wealth** which you can discover on the Tebas hermitage route or by taking the Camino Natural de Tajo, or natural path, which passes alongside the village.



Church de San Nicolás



Plaza de España

## VISIT OF INTEREST



### CHURCH OF SAN NICOLÁS DE BARI

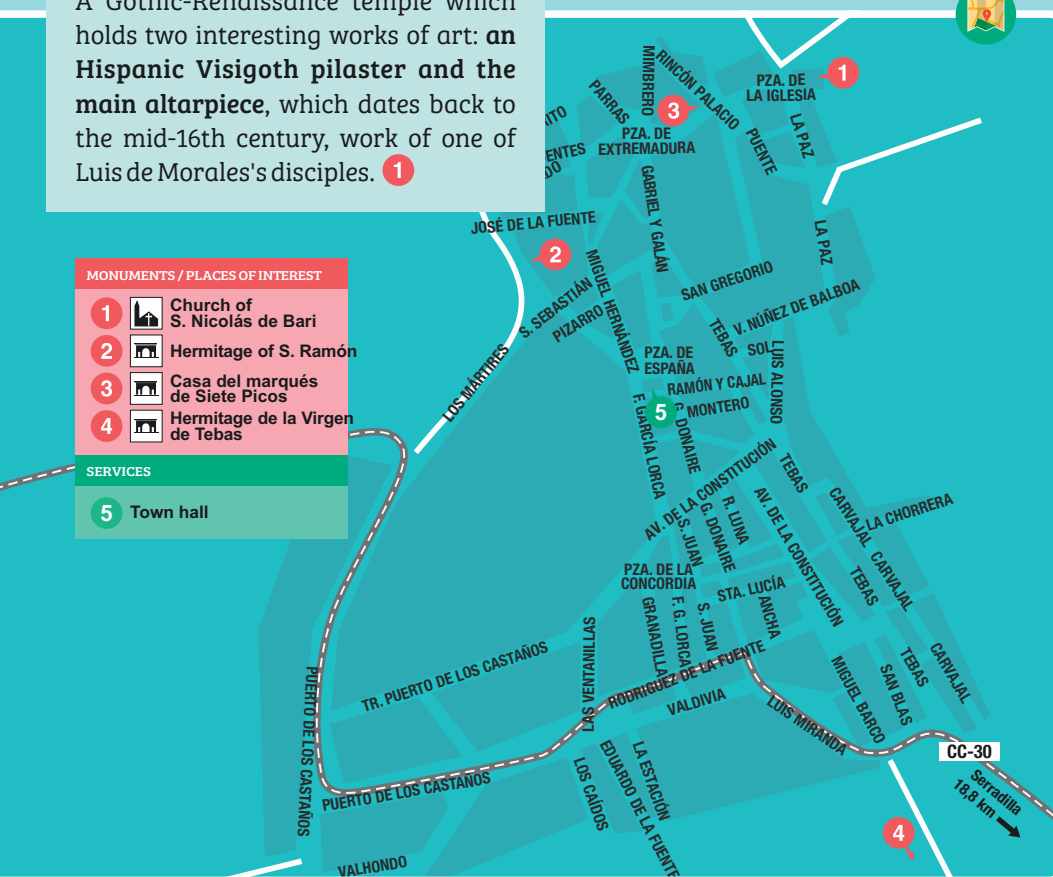
A Gothic-Renaissance temple which holds two interesting works of art: **an Hispanic Visigoth pilaster and the main altarpiece**, which dates back to the mid-16th century, work of one of Luis de Morales's disciples. 1

#### MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Church of S. Nicolás de Bari
- 2 Hermitage of S. Ramón
- 3 Casa del marqués de Siete Picos
- 4 Hermitage of la Virgen de Tebas

#### SERVICES

- 5 Town hall



## CASAS DE MIRAVETE

The strategic location of this village, at the foot of the **Miravete peak** (831 m), resulted in continual disputes to occupy the territory. First the **Arabs** who erected a castle in the 11th century and then the **French** (19th century), with the fortification of the old citadel, which today is in ruins.

### VISIT OF INTEREST

#### LA GEOLOGÍA DE MONFRAGÜE 2 INTERPRETATION CENTRE

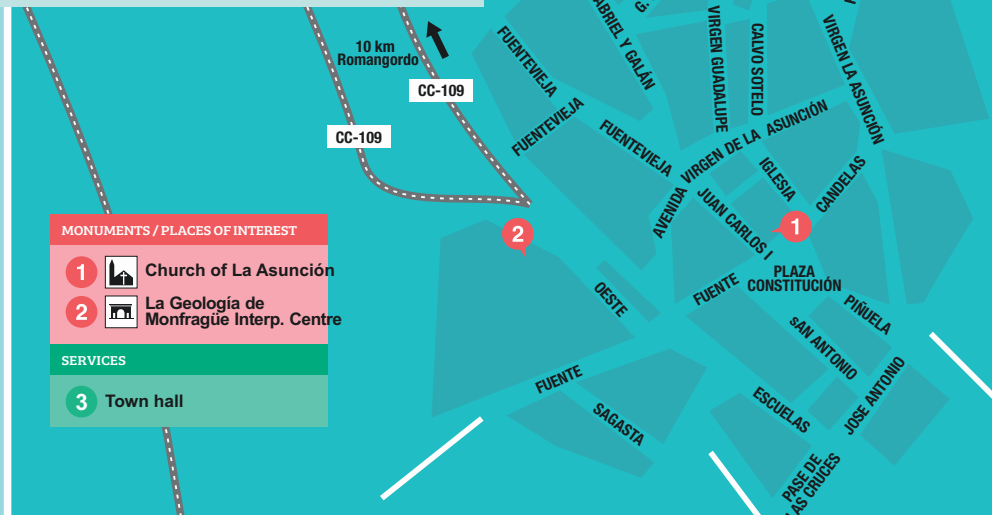
This centre is the **geological and geomorphological benchmark of the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve**. Different exhibition rooms teach us about the formation of landscapes over time, along with a children's workshop and a nearby viewpoint where spectacular views of the surroundings can be enjoyed.



Geología de Monfragüe Centre



Cañada Real Leonesa Occidental



#### MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Church of La Asunción
- 2 La Geología de Monfragüe Interp. Centre

#### SERVICES

- 3 Town hall



## CASATEJADA

Important figures such as **Ferdinand the Catholic** and **Philip V** have visited Casatejada. In 1808 French Napoleonic troops looted the village, destroying 75% of the homes. Later, in the 20th century, at the nearby palace of Las Cabezas, Francisco Franco and Juan of Borbón maintained contact in order to reach an agreement about restoring the Spanish monarchy.

### Palace \* of Las Cabezas



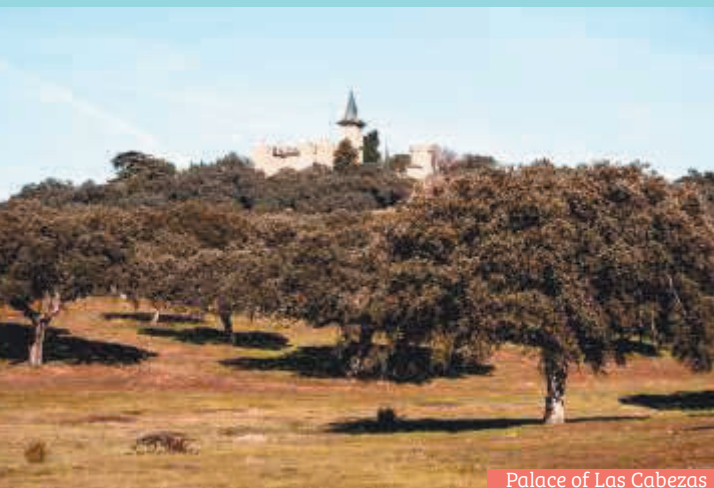
On several occasions, this palatial residence was the scene of meetings between **Don Juan of Borbón and Francisco Franco** to agree on the succession of the Spanish monarchy. Today it is one of the most elegant private country mansions located in the countryside of Extremadura, with a Central-European style.

→ [www.casatejada.es](http://www.casatejada.es)



Church of San Pedro Ad Vincula and Hermitage of La Soledad

◀ The church and the hermitage are both particularly noteworthy in this village. The latter boasts a remarkable 16th century Baroque altarpiece.



Palace of Las Cabezas



▲ Hermitage of Las Angustias.

## VISIT OF INTEREST



## CHURCH DE SAN PEDRO AD VINCULA

This temple, built in the 16th century, was declared a **Site of Cultural Interest** in 1965. Its chancel and the two entry doors are particularly noteworthy. **1**



CC-17.1

# DELEITOSA

The reserve's most eastern village, which in turn is part of the Villuercas Ibores Jara geopark, it was immortalised by the photographic report carried out by the photographer **William Eugene Smith** for the **LIFE** magazine in 1951.



## Panoramic and surroundings



LIFE magazine. Report by W. E. Smith

## VISIT OF INTEREST





## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION 2

Located at different town council offices, this exhibition permanently hosts more than 300 photos from the collection of the American **W. Eugene Smith**. They are all part of the report, named ***Spanish Village***, that he carried out in Deleitosa.

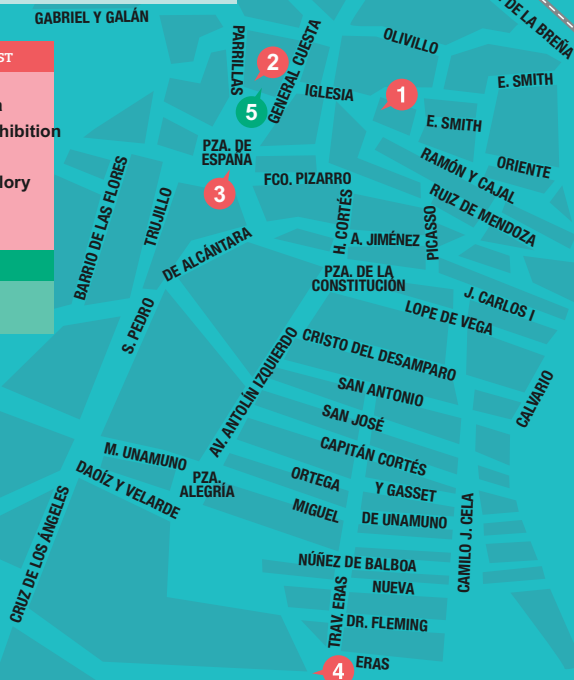


**MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST**

- 1  Church of San Juan Evangelista
- 2  Photographic Exhibition Eugene Smith
- 3  Jurisdictional pillory
- 4  Recycling point for caravans

**SERVICES**

- 5  Town hall





# JARAICEJO

Surrounded by an extensive and beautiful dehesa, it is well worth visiting Jaraicejo to discover the **church of La Asunción** and the **bridge over the River Almonte**, both declared as Sites of Cultural Interest, or the remains of the castle next to its beautiful square.

## VISIT OF INTEREST

### CHURCH OF LA ASUNCIÓN 1

A visit to this church is a must due to its artistic value and unquestionable historical character. When Queen **Isabel the Catholic** died, her body was transferred to Granada. During this journey she passed through Jaraicejo, where the coffin was laid in the church for one night.

Funeral ceremonies were held and as a mark of respect, the door through which the coffin was taken was covered so that it would not be used again.



Bridge over the river Almonte



Church of La Asunción

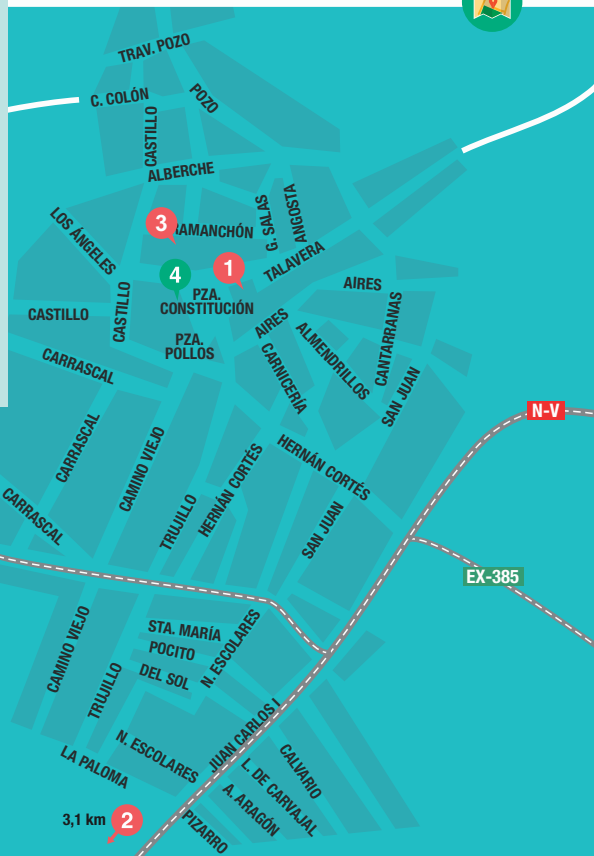


#### MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Church of La Asunción
- 2 Almonte bridge
- 3 Castle

#### SERVICES

- 4 Town hall



## MALPARTIDA DE PLASENCIA

This is the largest village on the Biosphere Reserve and the most northerly. The extensive territory comprises different landscapes, such as the Mediterranean forest, large areas of *dehesas* and oak groves to the north of the municipality. The village offers a wide range of tourist and birdwatching activities.

### Walking\* trails



There are a total of **seven walking trails** in the municipality of Malpartida. The Blue Route (Villarreal de San Carlos - Malpartida), the old path of Gargüera and the Canchal de la Lobera route.

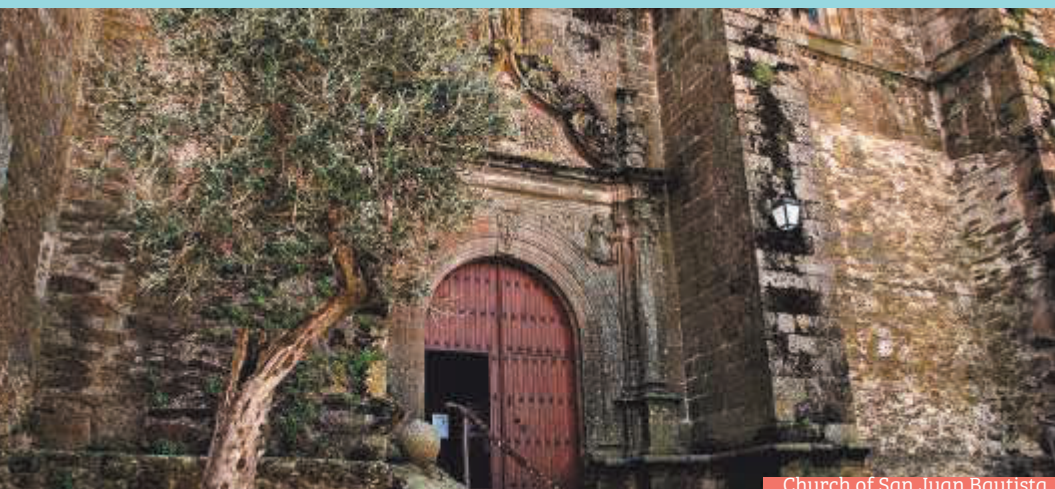
#### Hermitage of San Gregorio ►

An 18th century religious building. Its main altarpiece, its exterior granite cross and its Renaissance-inspired façade are of particular interest.

- ▼ The inhabitants of Malpartida are known by the nickname of "**chinatos**". Apparently, the inhabitants of Malpartida brought the statue of Saint John the Baptist from Plasencia. When the inhabitants of Plasencia tried to take the statue away from them, they were kept away with stones and pebbles, called "*chinas*" in Spanish, hence the name.



Hermitage of San Gregorio

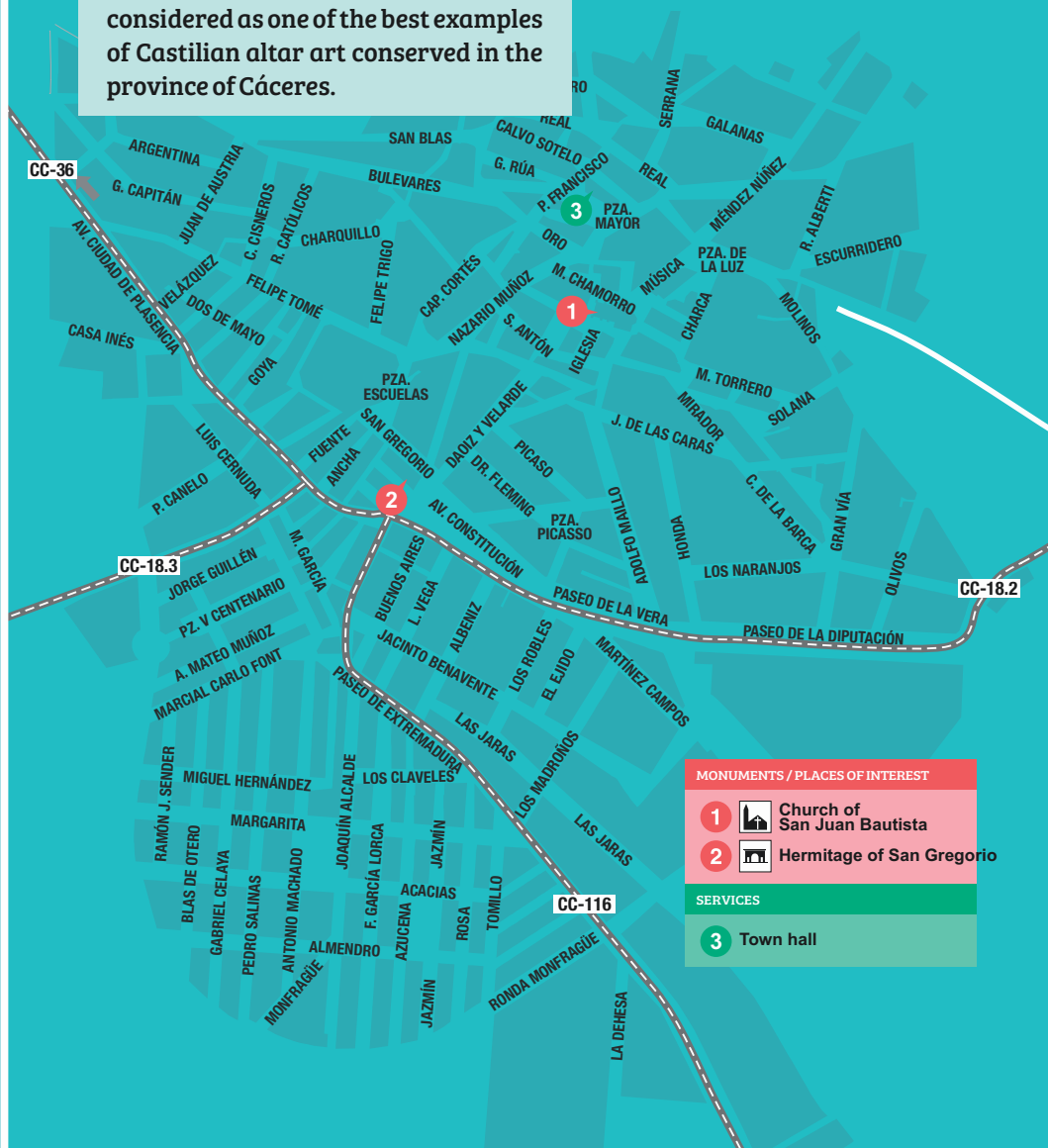


Church of San Juan Bautista

## VISIT OF INTEREST

**CHURCH OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 1**

It is one of the best examples of 16th century Extremadura architecture. Its extraordinary 17th century altarpiece was created in Valladolid and it is considered as one of the best examples of Castilian altar art conserved in the province of Cáceres.



## MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

1



Church of San Juan Bautista

2



Hermitage of San Gregorio

## SERVICES

3



Town hall



## MIRABEL

This community still conserves buildings from the times of the nobility and of the marquessate which gives its name to the village. Therefore, the castle and summer palace used by the Marquises of Mirabel can still be observed.

A walking trail, known as the **Barbechoso Slope** route, leaves from the castle and covers areas of outstanding natural beauty.

### VISIT OF INTEREST

#### CHURCH OF LA ASUNCIÓN 1

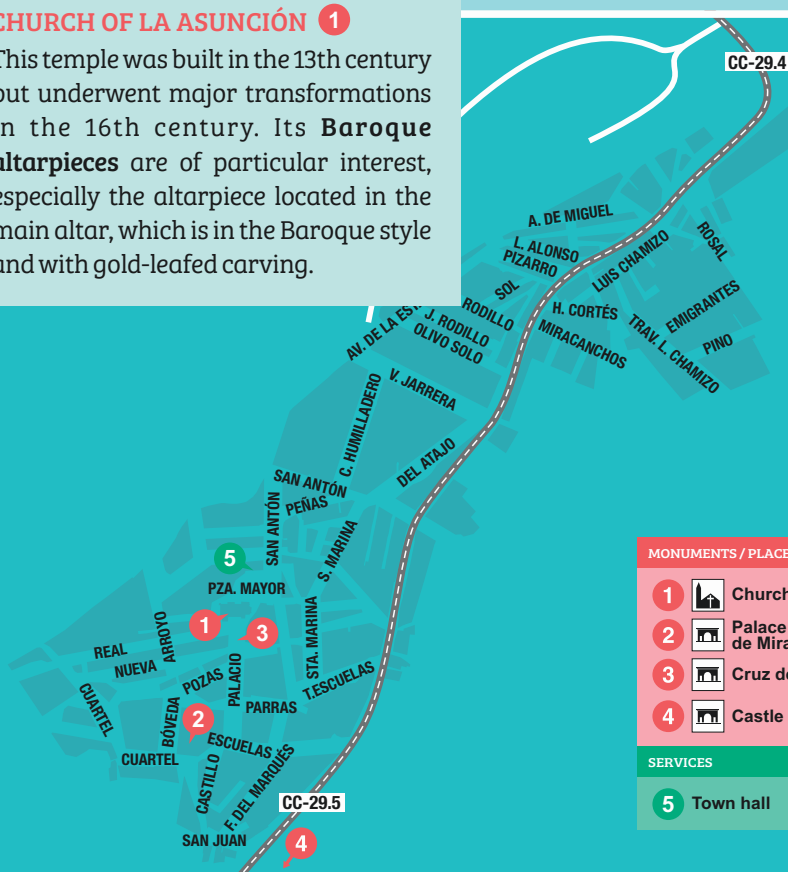
This temple was built in the 13th century but underwent major transformations in the 16th century. Its **Baroque altarpieces** are of particular interest, especially the altarpiece located in the main altar, which is in the Baroque style and with gold-leafed carving.



Ascent to the castle of Mirabel



Church of La Asunción



#### MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Church of la Asunción
- 2 Palace of Marqués de Mirabel
- 3 Cruz del Humilladero
- 4 Castle

#### SERVICES

- 5 Town hall

## ROMANGORDO

Despite its small size it has an excellent tourist and cultural offer, such as **La Casa de los Aromas** and the **Casa del Tío Cáscoles Ecomuseum**.

Interestingly, archaeological pieces found at the site near to **Makhada Albalat** were displayed to the world at the Louvre museum in Paris in 2014.



Church of Sta. Catalina



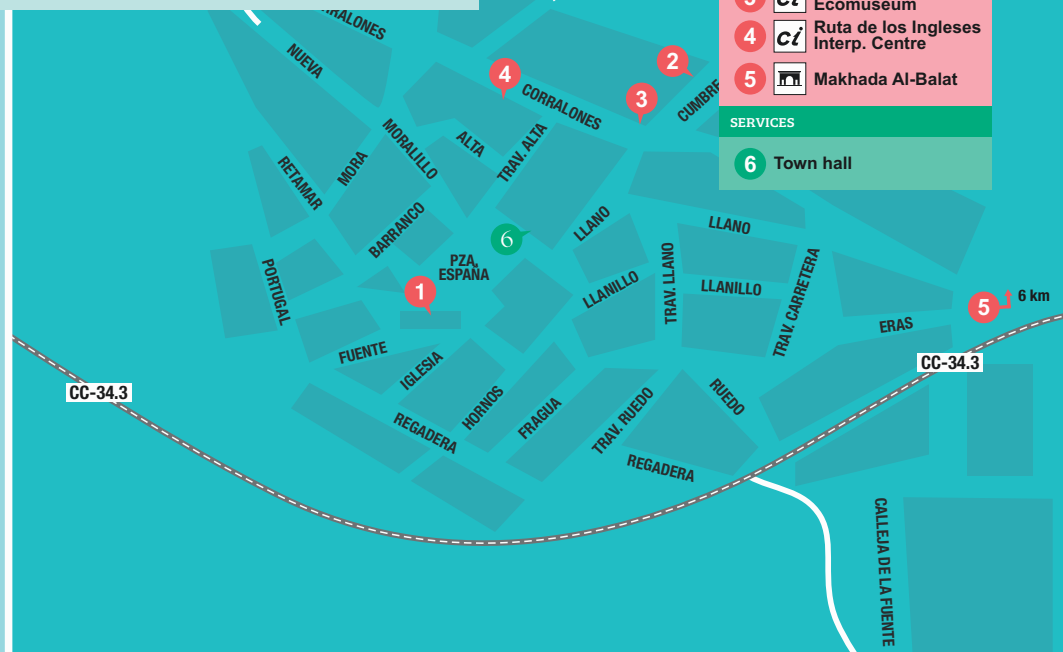
Makhada Albalat



### VISIT OF INTEREST

#### CHURCH OF SANTA CATALINA 1

This temple is the village's historical and artistic gem. It is worth noting its chancel and particularly its Mudejar coffered ceiling, **one of the region's best examples**.



#### MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Church of Santa Catalina
- 2 La Casa de los Aromas
- 3 Casa del Tío Cáscoles Ecomuseum
- 4 Ruta de los Ingleses Interp. Centre
- 5 Makhada Al-Balat

#### SERVICES

- 6 Town hall

## SERRADILLA

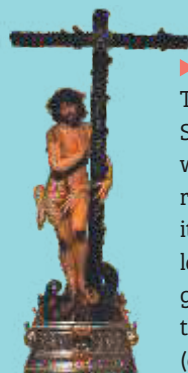
To the south west of the Monfragüe National Park are the large *dehesas* of Serradilla, a **unique environment within the Mediterranean ecosystem**.

But not only will you find nature, the village holds other treasures to be discovered.

- ▼ The **route of the hermitages and fountains** of Serradilla visits the village's 8 most important resources. A good way to discover its heritage!



Church of La Asunción



Replica

## The Serradilla treasure \*



This is a collection of 24 pieces of gold considered as one of the best samples of gold work from the Oriental period. It dates back to the 5th century B.C. and was found in 1965 in an olive grove near to the village, inside a vessel. Today it can be seen in the Provincial Museum of Cáceres.



- ▶ The **Cristo de la Victoria** of Serradilla is a Baroque statue which is greatly honoured by residents and visitors alike, and it has been credited with a large number of miracles. It gives its name to the convent of the Augustinian Recollect Nuns (declared a **Site of Cultural Interest**) where it is held.



La Huella del Hombre de Monfragüe Interpretation Centre



- ▲ The **Mirador de la Sierra** viewpoint is part of the Garganta del Fraile circular route.







## 2

For centuries it was one of the most important villages of Upper Extremadura.



- MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1  Church of La Asunción
- 2  La Huella del Hombre de Monfragüe Int. Cent.
- 3  Monastery of Cristo de la Victoria
- 4  La Victoria Flour Mill

## SERVICES

- ### 5 Town hall

# SAUCEDILLA

On the broad *dehesas* and wetlands of Saucedilla you will find abundant landscape and great natural wealth, especially at the **Arrocampo Ornithological Park**, a privileged environment which is perfectly equipped for bird-watching within the Biosphere Reserve.

## VISIT OF INTEREST

### CHURCH OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA

It was declared a **Site of Cultural Interest** in 1993. It dates back to the 16th century and is in the Renaissance style. Particularly noteworthy are its dimensions, its main altarpiece in the Baroque style, several polychrome statues and the pulpit.






Church of S. Juan Bautista



Pond near to the Arrocampo reservoir



#### MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1  Church of San Juan Bautista
- 2  Jurisdictional pillory
- 3  Ornithological Park

#### SERVICES

- 4  Town hall

# SERREJÓN

A large part of the territory, where the landscape is made up predominantly of dehesas and scrubland, along with market gardens and farms, **is located within the Monfragüe National Park.**

Along with the church of San Ildefonso, the cave of Bermeja is worth noting, a site of schematic cave art which was refuge to the Maquis during the Spanish civil war.



Church of San Ildefonso

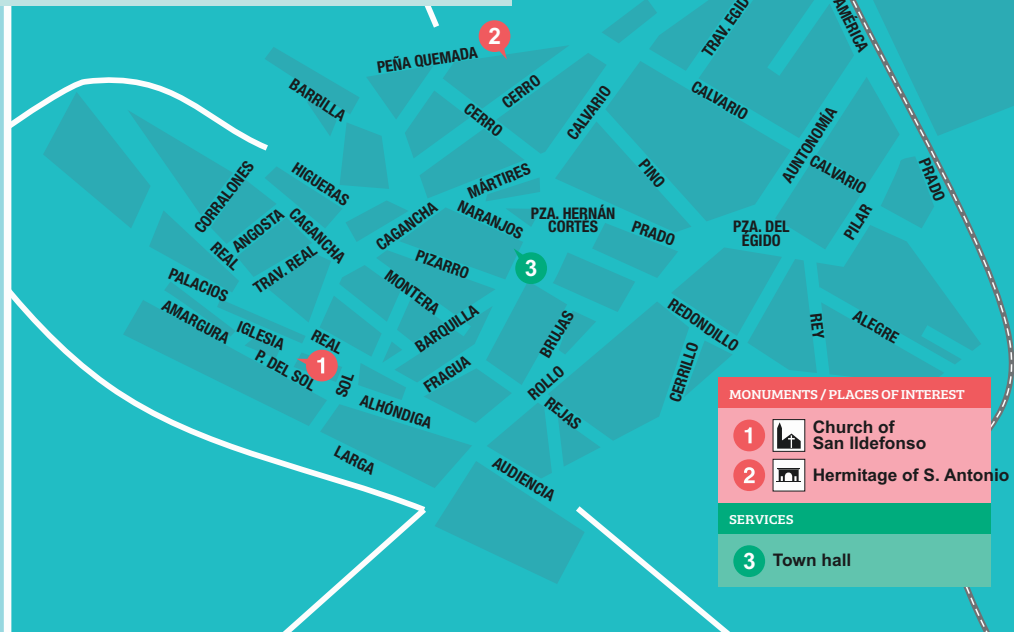


Hermitage of San Antonio

## VISIT OF INTEREST

### CHURCH OF SAN ILDEFONSO 1

Its most important heritage. Constructed in the 16th century and of the Renaissance style, it stands out due to its simplicity, the Baroque-style side altarpieces and the statue of San Ildefonso.







A photograph of the interior of the Monfragüe Interpretive Centre. On the right, a large digital screen displays a video of two people in a natural setting. To the left, a series of informational panels are mounted on a dark wall, each featuring a small circular icon. The lighting is warm and focused on the display area.

Leyendas de Monfragüe Interp. Centre

## Leyendas de Monfragüe Interp. Centre



MTB Centre

## PUNTO TOP

## MOUNTAIN BIKE CENTRE IN TORREJÓN EL RUBIO

Torrejón's Mountain Bike Centre is located next to the information office, where you can receive information about routes and even hire equipment and bikes. It also has shower facilities.



## TORIL

The extensive livestock farming in this small village and the careful treatment of the lands by man mean that it is the Biosphere Reserve's habitat par excellence, with one of the best expanses of *dehesas* of holm oaks and cork oaks.

### VISIT OF INTEREST

#### PÓRTICO DE MONFRAGÜE INTERPRETATION CENTRE 2

Located in the village's old church, this modern centre is devoted to the characteristic ecosystem of the Biosphere Reserve: the *dehesa*.



Pórtico de Monfragüe Centre

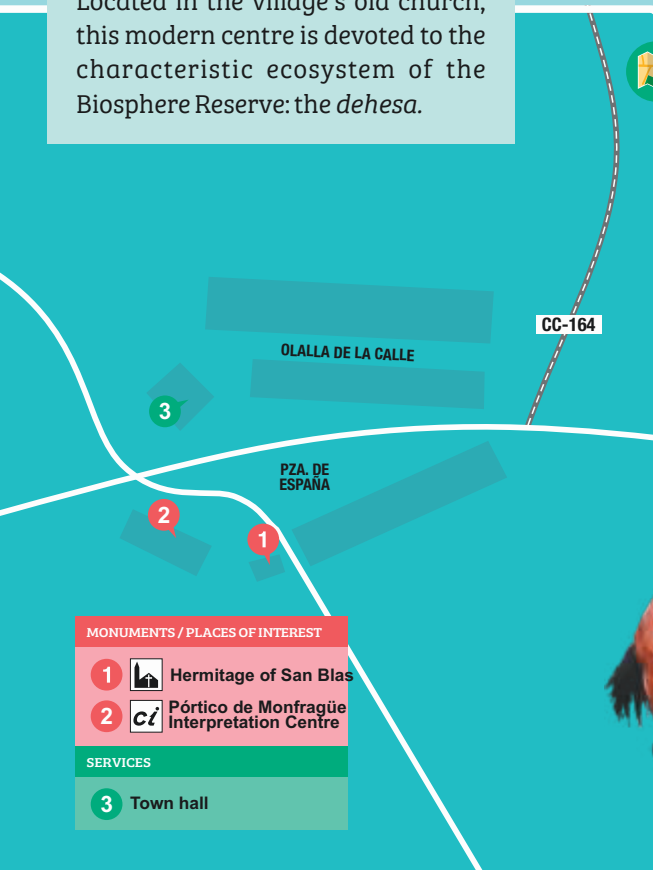


Town Hall



### Horse \* racing



Jockeys and horses from different points of Spain gather in Toril, during the celebrations in honour of San Blas, in the most important race in Extremadura.



#### MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1  Hermitage of San Blas
- 2  Pórtico de Monfragüe Interpretation Centre

#### SERVICES

- 3  Town hall





## VILLARREAL DE SAN CARLOS

It is **the only village located within the Monfragüe National Park**, making it the park's main point of information for tourists.

The village, the hamlet of Serradilla, has a suitable infrastructure for observing nature, enabling environmental education programmes to be carried out.

It is a must when visiting Monfragüe.



FIO Extremadura 2015



Naturaleza de Monfragüe Interpret. Centre

### FIO\* Extremadura



Discover why almost one hundred exhibitors and **more than 10,000 visitors travel to the heart of Monfragüe**. The fair brings together the best of nature tourism and ornithology, in an open forum.



### VISIT OF INTEREST



#### NATURALEZA DEL P.N. MONFRAGÜE INTERPRETATION CENTRE 3

This centre gives us the opportunity to contemplate, experience and discover Monfragüe in a thought-provoking and unique way. It is a visit which must not be missed to understand the ecological and environmental importance of the park.


EX-208

#### MONUMENTS / PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Church of Nuestra Señora del Socorro
- 2 Multiple Use Centre
- 3 Naturaleza de Monfragüe Interpret. Centre
- 4 Centre for Documentation and Research

#### SERVICES

- 5 Visitor Centre

A close-up photograph showing a pair of hands planting a small green seedling into dark, rich soil. The hands are positioned on either side of the seedling, with fingers gently holding it in place. The soil is dark brown and appears moist. In the background, there are some dry, brown leaves and twigs, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting. The overall tone of the image is warm and focused on the act of planting.

Environmental education is one of the main objectives of the National Park and Biosphere Reserve. This education helps us to achieve a better understanding and awareness with regards to looking after the environment, along with social values and the necessary skills to resolve environmental problems.

Developing a sense of responsibility and raising awareness of the urgent need to pay attention to environmental problems is one of Monfragüe's essential and educational tasks. Ultimately, they are objectives that are worth pursuing.



▲ How to plant a tree  
(2:02 min.)



A close-up photograph of a person's hand planting a small green seedling into a bed of dark brown mulch. The seedling has several green leaves, some of which show signs of being eaten by insects. The mulch consists of small, dark brown wood chips. The background is a soft-focus view of the mulch.

# Environmental education

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11 environmental  
education programmes



**PROGRAM****GET TO KNOW MONFRAGÜE**

A day in which primary and secondary pupils involved in the programme can visit the Monfragüe National Park. It includes a visit to the interpretation centres in Villarreal de San Carlos, along with visits to viewpoints and observatories.

**CONTENTS**

- 1 Natural and cultural values of the park and the planet's environmental issues.
- 2 Endangered wildlife.

**Mario Rodríguez**

*Wow, I didn't know there were so many different types of vultures... and that they're so big.*

SHARE

Monfragüe

**PROGRAM****DISCOVER MONFRAGÜE**

The objective of the *Discover Monfragüe* programme is to learn about the Monfragüe National Park for a day. It is also possible to spend a night in the huts of Villarreal de San Carlos.

**OBJECTIVES**

- 1 To learn about the natural and cultural values of the Monfragüe reserve.
- 2 To raise awareness on the need to conserve nature and to create conservationist habits.

**María J. Torrejón**

*Wow! I've finally been able to see a pair of black vultures.*

SHARE

Monfragüe

## PROGRAM THE SURROUNDINGS OF MONFRAGÜE

A day visit to the Monfragüe National Park.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1 To learn about the natural and cultural values of the Monfragüe reserve.
- 2 To create conservationist habits.

**Carla Montero**

*I'm so glad we brought the children to Monfragüe. We'll be back!*

SHARE



## PROGRAM MONFRAGÜE FOR ALL

A day visit to the Monfragüe National Park.

### TARGET GROUPS

Pre-school and first and second year primary pupils and people with functional diversity.

**Julián Maeso**

*The puppets are so cool! I can't wait to tell my friends.*

SHARE



## PROGRAM TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions related to the Monfragüe National Park and to the environment in general.

\* For all types of visitors.

**Fernando Jiménez**

*It's a great experience to see the birds so close. Some of them are so big!*

SHARE





## PROGRAM

WORK EXPERIENCE  
IN MONFRAGÜE

Participation in and development of educational, occupational and/or scientific activities related to the park.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1 To train for working life.
- 2 To encourage team work.
- 3 To create conservationist habits.
- 4 To raise environmental awareness.

## Alfonso Puerto

*Carrying out work experience in Monfragüe has been the experience of my life.*

SHARE

Me gusta



## PROGRAM

WALKING IN  
MONFRAGÜE

Guided walking tours in the National Park, with an educational character.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1 To raise environmental awareness.
- 2 To create conservationist habits.

## Teresa González

*An excellent route. And having a guide to explain everything is priceless.*

SHARE

Me gusta



## PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL  
VOLUNTARY WORK

Participation in and development of logistic, educational and/or scientific activities related to the park.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1 To raise environmental awareness and create conservationist habits.

## Alonso Torres

*It's a real privilege to be an environmental volunteer in Monfragüe.*

SHARE

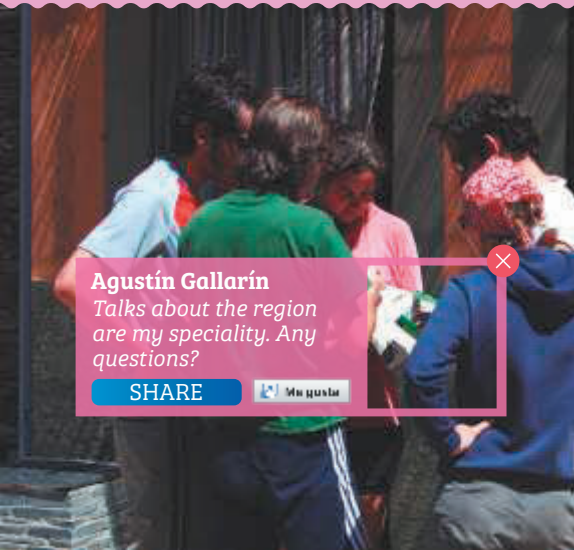
Me gusta





**PROGRAM****MONOGRAPHIC TALKS**

Specific themed talks held in the Monfragüe National Park to cater for the specific demands of groups with educational needs.



**Agustín Gallarín**

*Talks about the region are my speciality. Any questions?*

SHARE

Mu gusta

**PROGRAM****RECYCLING IN MONFRAGÜE**

Waste collection programme and recycling education.

**OBJECTIVES**

- 1 To reduce human-induced waste and raise awareness about recycling.



**Livia Calero**

*Today we've learnt how to recycle plastic bottles. How fun!*

SHARE

Mu gusta

**PROGRAM****EDUCATIONAL CONSERVATION**

Transversal programme aimed at handling the park's management in an educational manner.

**OBJECTIVES**

- 1 Understanding and commitment to sustainable development.



**María Soler**

*Today we learned to differentiate the main plants Monfragüe.*

SHARE

Mu gusta

Smells and sounds are certainly something that characterise Monfragüe. Throughout all seasons of the year they can be discerned by our senses but there are two seasons which are of particular interest: spring, with the burst of the fresh fragrances of the Mediterranean forest, and autumn, with the guttural and primitive sound of the bellowing of the deer.

The specific sounds of the dehesa, the acoustic amplification of the majestic birds of prey on the rocky crags of the rivers Tiétar and Tajo or the rhythmic and measured pass of the sheep during transhumance demonstrate that we are in a blessed land: the spectacular mountain.



▲ Discover the sounds of "The Door to Monfragüe" (2:49 min.)





# **Smells** and ...sounds



A world  
of emotions



# The smells

## of the Biosphere Reserve

An explosion of natural smells which are sure to impress you. In spring, when the countless species of the Mediterranean forest are in blossom, it is especially evocative.



Since ancient times aromatic plants have been used by man due to their properties. We have selected 12 of Monfragüe's most representative plants.

**TOP**  
12

### Aromatic plants in Monfragüe



French lavender

Present in perfumes, air fresheners and cleaning and disinfection products.



Fennel

Its essential oil is used to make soaps and perfumes.



Gum rock rose

Muy aromática. Se utiliza para extraer esencia de ládano.



Pennyroyal

The entire plant contains essential oil. It is widely used due to its digestive properties.



Rosemary

It is the queen of the aromatic plants. The Greeks considered it as a sacred plant.



Sage

Used in perfumery and in gardens due to its pleasant aroma.



## La Casa de los Aromas \*

La Casa de los Aromas is a cultural complex with a small market garden in the village of Romangordo, within the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve.

It is divided into a beautiful garden and several interpretation rooms regarding the area's flora. (See page 90).



### Chamomile

Highly valued for its medicinal and aromatic qualities.



### Lemon balm

They say that it has relaxing and calming qualities just by smelling it. It has a pleasant lemon scent.



### Oregano

A widely used aromatic herb. Antioxidant and digestive properties.



### Houseleek

Its flowers are used for decoration purposes. When dried, they protect clothes against moths.



### Thyme

The Romans used it for its invigorating properties. It is widely used as an air freshener.



### Violet

Sweet and relaxing, its fragrance is used to make sophisticated perfumes.



# The sounds of the Biosphere Reserve

Listening to nature and discovering the source of such varied sounds is one of the attractions of Monfragüe. A sensory escape to a soundscape which is marked by the harmony of the *dehesa*, the nocturnal rhythm of the rivers Tajo and Tiétar and the echo of the large birds of prey on the cliffs.

⊕ Via the following links you will find the sounds of Monfragüe and much more. Scan the **QR code** with your smartphone to listen to them.



## The sounds of Monfragüe



The bellowing



The eagle owl





## THE BELLOWING



With the first rains of September, around 15,000 deers go into heat marking the start of the bellowing at the reserve, one of the most amazing sounds of nature that you will ever experience.

## TRANSHUMANCE



In the past, each particular type of livestock was recognised depending on the sound of its bells: goats, sheep, cows, dogs and shepherds all come together to create the sound of transhumance.

## THE DEHESA



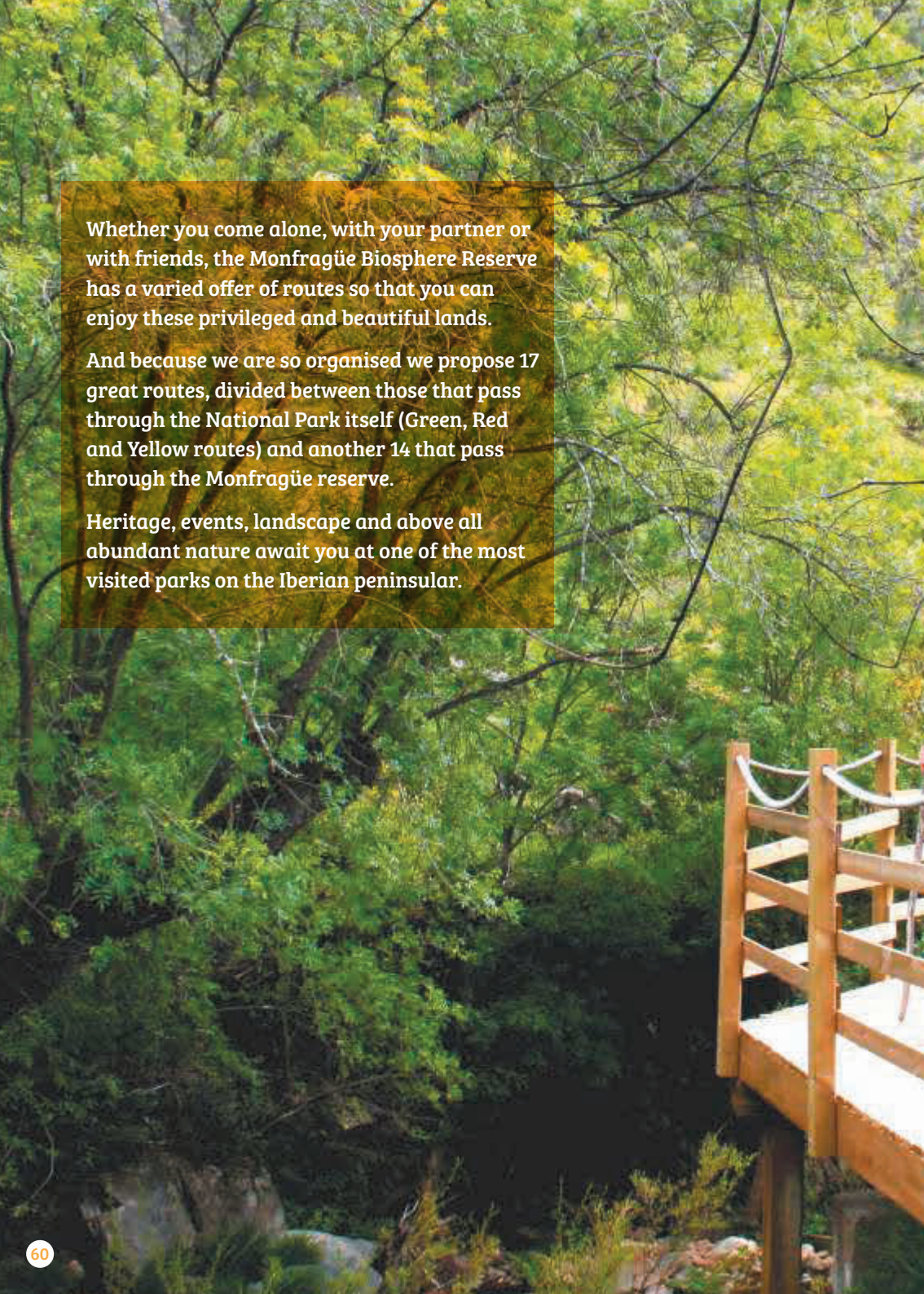
In the kingdom of Mediterranean vegetation there are sounds all around: herds of Iberian pigs, the song of countless forest birds and the thunderous sound of cicadas in summer will be a constant reminder of where you are.

## LARGE BIRDS OF PREY



Two special places where you can hear the sounds of the large birds of prey are the Salto del Gitano viewpoint (see page 78) and the Portilla del Tiétar viewpoint. The sound of the eagle owls at dawn is especially breathtaking.



A photograph of a lush green forest. In the foreground, a wooden walkway with a railing made of vertical posts and horizontal rails is visible, leading into the woods. The trees are dense and have vibrant green foliage. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Whether you come alone, with your partner or with friends, the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve has a varied offer of routes so that you can enjoy these privileged and beautiful lands.

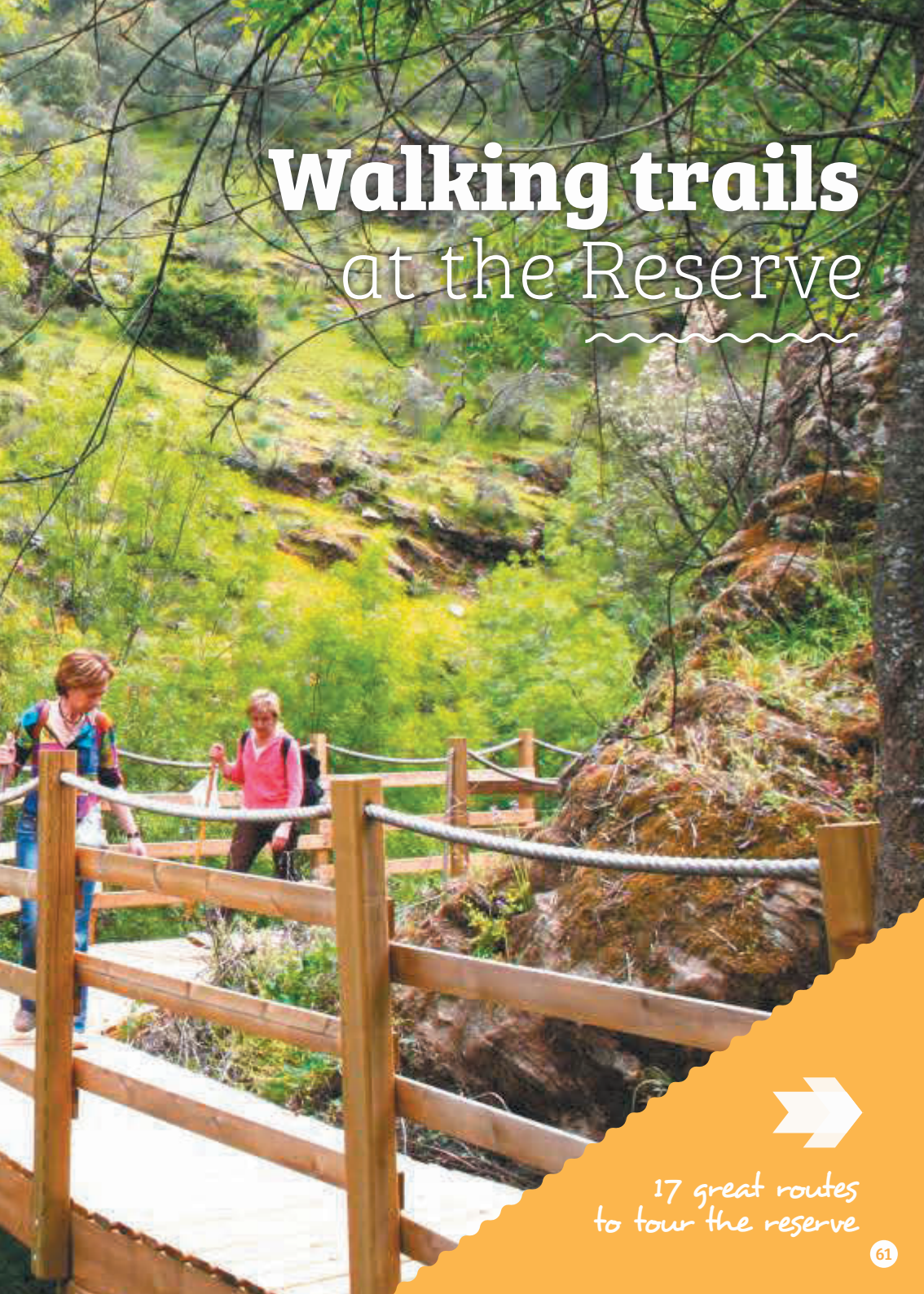
And because we are so organised we propose 17 great routes, divided between those that pass through the National Park itself (Green, Red and Yellow routes) and another 14 that pass through the Monfragüe reserve.

Heritage, events, landscape and above all abundant nature await you at one of the most visited parks on the Iberian peninsular.



# Walking trails at the Reserve

---



17 great routes  
to tour the reserve



# THE 3 GREAT ROUTES

## OF THE MONFRAGÜE NATIONAL PARK



GREEN Route

RED Route

YELLOW Route



### GREEN Route

→ 8,8 km

⌚ 2 h and 30 min

↻ Circular

The green route, or that of the Gimio hill, is one of the park's many surprises. The route is simple, the only difficulty being the 1.5 km climb up the hill, but the views are certainly worth it. There are many sites of interest on this route such as the stone bridge, the Malvecino stream and the Gimio hill itself. An all-round green route!

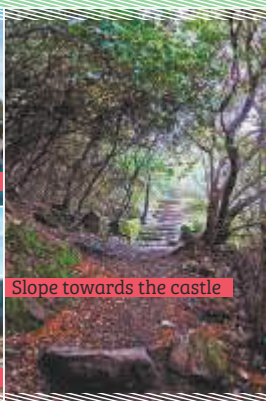
*A route of great natural beauty The views from the Gimio hill are well worth the effort ”*



Salto del Gitano



Castle



Slope towards the castle



#### PROFILE AND DOWNLOAD

► Download the route onto your device for full details.



### YELLOW Route

→ 9,2 km

⌚ 3 hours

↻ Round trip

An extremely interesting walking trail. Its main attractions are located in Huerto del Ojaranzo, where you will find a unique tree (the hackberry of Lugar Nuevo), the Fuente de los Tres Caños and the Tajadilla viewpoint. This route invites you to enjoy the shade, the water and the sound of several birds, such as azure-winged magpies, vultures and hoopoes.

*This route is superb to enjoy the landscape and surrounding wildlife and doesn't include any steep climbs ”*

*The real park is not at plain sight, you have to walk around it and enjoy it. Therefore, we propose three great routes which will allow you to see the National Park in its purest state ”*

## FREE GUIDED TOURS

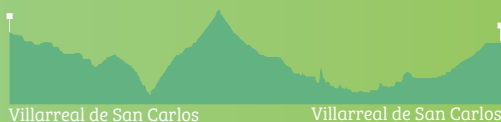
Visitors can cover stretches of the Green and Yellow routes accompanied by a professional guide (only weekends). On the tours you will learn about the history of the Monfragüe National Park, its vegetation and its wildlife.

To sign up: **Information and visitor centre**  
Villarreal de San Carlos | Tel. +34 927 199 134



### PROFILE AND DOWNLOAD

► Download the route onto your device for full details.



→ 14 km

⌚ 4 h and 10 min

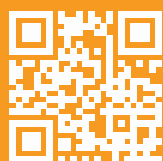
↻ Circular

**RED** Route

PUNTO  
TOP

*Despite its 14 km, it is one of the most interesting routes in the park, with several must-see spots ”*

This route leaves from Villarreal de San Carlos and ends with the ascent to the castle of Monfragüe. It covers more than 10 kilometres with sites of interest such as the Cardenal bridge, the fuente del Francés (Frenchman's fountain), the Salto del Gitano viewpoint and the castle itself. Relive the journey of the shepherds on the Cañada Real Trujillana cattle trail.



### PROFILE AND DOWNLOAD

► Download the route onto your device for full details.



# 14 ROUTES THROUGH THE MONFRAGÜE BIOSPHERE RESERVE



- 01 ERMITA DE TEBAS ROUTE
- 02 LA PIÑUELA ROUTE
- 03 LAS MESTAS CIRCULAR ROUTE
- 04 LA BREÑA ROUTE
- 05 LA GARGANTA NOGALES ROUTE
- 06 LAS FUENTES ROUTE
- 07 EL ROBLEDO ROUTE
- 08 LA UMBRÍA DE BARBECHOSO ROUTE
- 09 LA GARGANTA DE LA CANALEJA ROUTE
- 10 ARROCAMPO ORNITHOLOGICAL PARK ROUTE
- 11 LA GARGANTA DEL FRAILE ROUTE
- 12 EL CERRO TEJONERA ROUTE
- 13 LAS DEHESAS DE MAULIQUE ROUTE
- 14 MOLINO DE LA HOYUELA ROUTE

*14 equipped routes so  
you can chose the one  
that best suits you*



## Casas de Millán

## ERMITA DE TEBAS ROUTE

→ 10,4 km ⌚ 2 h and 45 min ↻ Round trip

This route, which leaves from Casas de Millán, travels through scrubland, with typically Mediterranean vegetation. It is an easy route as it is practically all level ground. It concludes at the Tebas hermitage, a temple with a large popular following.

## ESSENTIAL

The Tebas hermitage and the old water mills at the Ribera del Castaño reservoir.



Ermita de Tebas

Difficulty ○○○○ Low



Casas de Millán

Casas de Millán

## Casas de Miravete

## LA PIÑUELA ROUTE

→ 11,5 km ⌚ 3 hours ↻ Circular

The route covers large expanses of holm oaks and cork oaks. During the route you can see what is left of the old church of Santiago de la Piñuela, which was damaged after the War of Succession in the 18th Century.

## ESSENTIAL

Monfragüe Geology Interpretation Centre and ruins of the church of Santiago de la Piñuela.



Iglesia de S. de la Piñuela

Difficulty ○○○○ Low



Casas de Miravete

Casas de Miravete

## Casatejada

## MESTAS CIRCULAR ROUTE

→ 20,1 km ⌚ 5 h and 30 m ↻ Circular

It leaves from the village of Casatejada and delves into the extensive *dehesas* of Toril. You will find a large variety of ponds on the way where you can see waders such as plovers or sandpipers, spoonbills and grey herons.

## ESSENTIAL

Church of San Pedro (Casatejada) and ponds with wading birds.



Caños de la Dehesa

Difficulty ○○○○ Low



Casatejada

Casatejada

## Deleitosa

## LA BREÑA ROUTE

→ 7,5 and 10 km ⌚ 2/3 hours ↻ Circular

This route has two different possibilities: a 7.5 km itinerary on the La Breña path through sloped areas with chestnut trees and gall oaks, etc. and another 10 km itinerary through Cruz de la Garganta, with riverside vegetation. Both routes lead to the same spot.

## ESSENTIAL

The La Breña hermitage, observing birds of prey and observation of the appalachian relief.



Sierra de la Breña

Difficulty ○○○○ Moderate



## Higuera de Albalat

## GARGANTA DE LOS NOGALES ROUTE

→ 7,3 and 8,7 km ⌚ 2/3 hours ↻ Circular

It runs through the Los Nogales gorge and La Gargantilla stream, between highly interesting riverside vegetation with groves of alders and ash trees. It also passes by the old lead mine, known as La Norteña and by interesting remains of water mills.

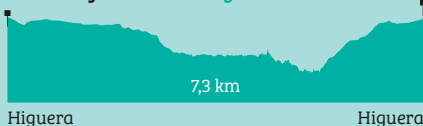
## ESSENTIAL

Islamic site (10th/11th Cent.), ruins of the electricity plant and riverside vegetation and wildlife.



Path to the gorge

Difficulty ○○○○ High



## Jaraicejo

## LAS FUENTES ROUTE

→ 7 and 16,7 km ⌚ 2/5 hours ↻ Circular

Like previous routes, this route offers two different itineraries. However, it is of a low difficulty as the land is practically level. It is interesting to look up from time to time to observe the large birds of prey in flight.

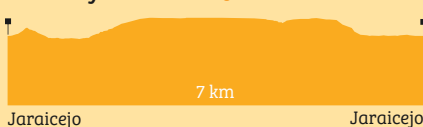
## ESSENTIAL

Church of La Asunción (Jaraicejo), popular fountains, birds of prey and *dehesas*.



Fuente de los Castaños

Difficulty ○○○○ Baja



## Malpartida de Plasencia

## EL ROBLEDO ROUTE

→ 14,5 km    ⌚ 4 hours    ↻ Circular

As the name suggests, this is one of the few routes on the reserve which passes through oak groves, with small expanses of holm oaks and hawthorns. Countless birds can be observed at the two reservoirs which you will pass on the way, especially waterfowls.

## ESSENTIAL

Birdwatching, anthropomorphic tombs and fort of the sierra del Camocho.



Anthropomorphic tomb

Difficulty ○○○○ Moderate



Embalse de las Cobachillas

E. de las Cobachillas

## Mirabel

## UMBRÍA DE BARBECHOSO ROUTE

→ 10,5 km    ⌚ 3 h and 30 min    ↻ Circular

It covers areas of outstanding natural beauty such as the cattle dehesa and the Barbechoso slope itself, where there are abundant chestnut trees, strawberry trees, holm oaks and pine trees. Imperial eagles and vultures can be seen.

## ESSENTIAL

Castle of Mirabel, areas with chestnut trees and the Barbechoso slope.



Castle of Mirabel

Difficulty ○○○○ High



Castillo de Mirabel

Castillo de Mirabel

## Romangordo

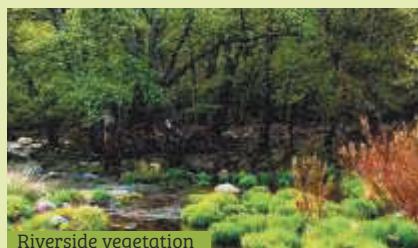
## LA GARGANTA DE LA CANALEJA ROUTE

→ 9,6 km    ⌚ 3 hours    ↻ Circular

This route covers beautiful and botanically diverse landscapes, alternating between areas with chestnut trees, farms, Mediterranean shrublands and riverside vegetation.

## ESSENTIAL

The Romangordo interpretation centre, traditional mills and riverside vegetation



Riverside vegetation

Difficulty ○○○○ Moderate



Romangordo

Romangordo



## Saucedilla

ARROCAMPO ORNITHOLOGICAL  
PARK ROUTE

→ 5,5 km    ⌚ 1/2 hours    ↻ Circular

The park's 3 routes start at the information centre. Thanks to its five observatories and the unique characteristics of this wetland, it is of particular interest for birdwatching.

## ESSENTIAL

Variety of lake birds such as the reed warbler, the purple heron, the bittern and the mallard.



Observatory

Difficulty ○○○○ Low



## Serradilla

## LA GARGANTA DEL FRAILE ROUTE

→ 8,7 km    ⌚ 2 h and 45 min    ↻ Circular

A route of low difficulty through *dehesas* and areas of Mediterranean shrublands. It is easy to see birds of prey such as griffon vultures and Bonelli's eagles which nest on nearby cliffs.

## ESSENTIAL

Observing large birds of prey, Mediterranean vegetation and the traditional mill.



Garganta del Fraile

Difficulty ○○○○ Moderate



## Serrejón

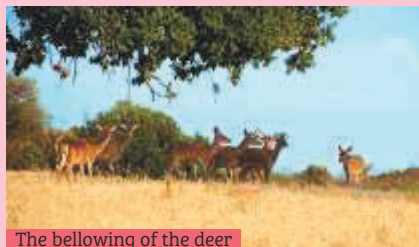
## EL CERRO TEJONERA ROUTE

→ 20,1 km    ⌚ 6 h and 15 min    ↻ Ida y vuelta

This route is set within the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve and reaches the border of the National Park. A magnificent example of the ideal Mediterranean forest location to see and hear the bellowing of the deer at the end of summer.

## ESSENTIAL

Panoramic views of the Tejonera hill and the bellowing of the deer at the end of summer.



The bellowing of the deer

Difficulty ○○○○ Moderate



## Toril

LAS DEHESAS DE  
MAULIQUE ROUTE

→ 23 km ⌚ 6 h and 45 min ↻ Circular

Spectacular *dehesas* of cork oaks and holm oaks, which are excellently preserved, enabling the observation of forest birds such as azure-winged magpies, hoopoes, finches, treecreepers, etc.

## ESSENTIAL

Pórtico de Monfragüe Interpretation Centre (Toril) and the *dehesas* of Maulique.



Pórtico de Monfragüe Interpret. Centre

Difficulty ○○○○ Low



Toril

Toril

## Torrejón el Rubio

## MOLINO DE LA HOYUELA ROUTE

→ 6 km ⌚ 2 hours ↻ Circular

The route starts near to the attapulgit mine of Torrejón El Rubio and covers interesting *dehesas* and riverside areas. During the route there are unbeatable views of the castle and of the Salto del Gitano viewpoint.

## ESSENTIAL

Attapulgit mine, area of the mill of La Hoyuela and observing large birds of prey.



Puente de pizarra

Difficulty ○○○○ Moderate



Torrejón El Rubio

Torrejón El Rubio


## ROUTES

Birds, heritage, *dehesas*, villages full of history and tradition... 17 routes to rediscover Monfragüe's inner beauty.  
**Visit Monfragüe!**

¡MONFRAGÜÍZATE!







The relief which can be observed in Monfragüe is the result of a long geological history which dates back to the Paleozoic era, around 500 million years ago, when the entire area was covered by the sea.

The large landscape forms are in the shape of peaks and valleys, resulting in an appalachian type relief, with overhangs in the form of ridges. This succession of ridges and U-shaped valleys is intertwined with meadow vegetation, with large expanses of holm oaks and cork oaks and Mediterranean undergrowth with thickets and heaths. Here we propose several different alternatives so that you can learn about this geology.





# Geology in Monfragüe

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*A geological  
journey through the  
heart of the reserve*

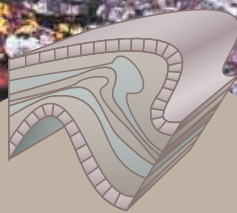


## GEOLOGICAL ROUTES

➔ These three routes are intertwined with others in order to discover the geological attractions of the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve. They have been designed for motor vehicles or bikes, as all of the routes run along roads and tracks which are in excellent condition, with several stops which are duly signposted.

Keep in mind that the routes cover the reserve's most interesting spots not only in the geological sense, but also in regards of biodiversity, so while you are learning about the geological aspect, you can also enjoy the biodiversity: griffon and black vultures, golden and imperial eagles, black storks, Egyptian vultures, eagle owls and countless other protected species will accompany you on the way.

### Scheme of disharmonic folds



The Portilla viewpoint is one of the best places in Europe to observe large birds of prey: here you can see large griffon vultures and imperial eagles. Furthermore, you can see spectacular geological formations such as these disharmonic folds.

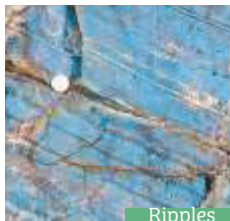
+Info. Page 79



01

MONFRAGÜE  
ROUTE

**39,1 km**  
(including the  
climb to the castle)

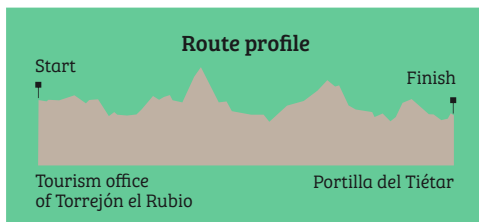


Ripples

On this route you will be able to observe the park's most representative geological formations. From the spectacular Armoric quartzite rocks of Peña Falcón, to the fossil record and the impressive folds of the Portilla del Tiétar viewpoint.



**3 h and 20 min**



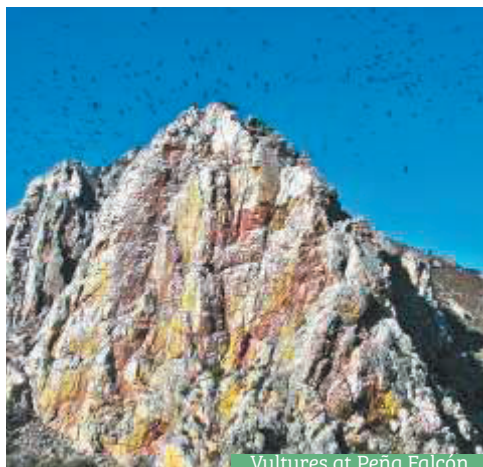
The route covers the park's most interesting spots in terms of biodiversity



**4 h and 45 min**



**9 stops with  
geological  
interpretation**

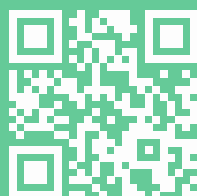


Vultures at Peña Falcón



Quarries at the Sierra de Monfragüe

Scan the QR code and download the track (KML) of the route to your device





# 02

## CAMPANA DE ALBALAT ROUTE



**45,7 km**  
(including round trip to La Norteña)

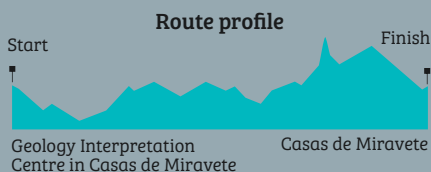


Pico Miravete

The route runs through the municipalities of Higuera de Albalat, Romangordo and Casas de Miravete. You will be able to observe karst phenomena, thickets, the Armorican quartzite rocks of the appalachian relief and you will also be able to climb the Miravete peak, the reserve's highest point.



**4 h and 30 min**



You can complement the route with a visit to the Geology Interp. Centre in Casas de Miravete.

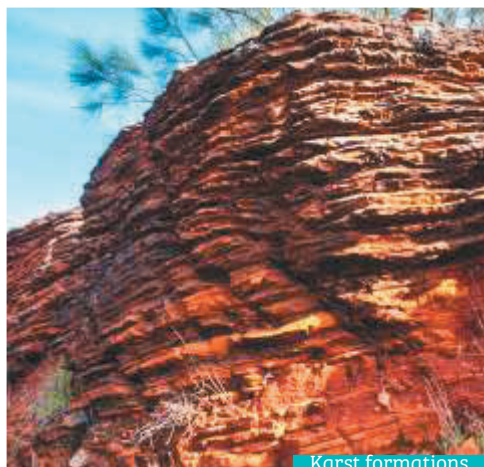
The route passes by the interesting Muslim site, *Makhada Al-Balat*



**5 stops with geological interpretation**

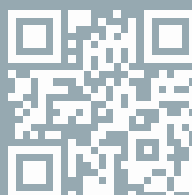


Zincite crystals in La Norteña



Karst formations

Scan the QR code and download the track (KML) of the route to your device



03

MINERALS  
ROUTE

34,1 km

(including round trip  
to Sierra de la Cueva)

Quiastolitas

Running through the municipalities of Mirabel and Serradilla, where you will be able to appreciate the appalachian relief, the Armorican quartzite rocks of the Sierra de la Cueva and the chialstolites (*lapis crucifer*) of Mirabel.



3 h and 05 min

## Route profile



We highly recommend a visit to the Mark of Man Interpretation Centre and to the castle of Mirabel.



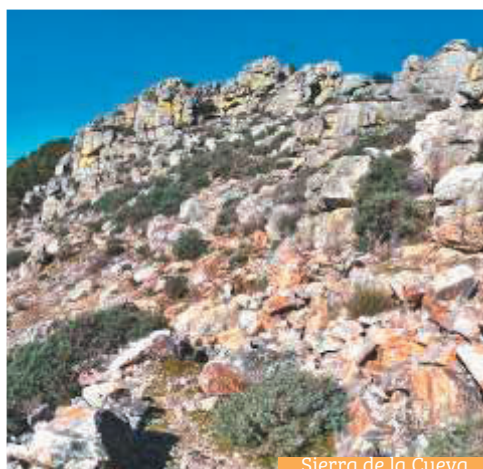
4 h and 30 min



2 stops with  
geological  
interpretation

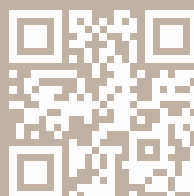


Castle of Mirabel




Sierra de la Cueva

Scan the QR code  
and download the  
track (KML) of  
the route to your  
device







Birdwatching is in fashion and Monfragüe is the place to do it; the observation of birds in the wild as a leisure activity is one of the most popular with our Spanish and international visitors, who devoutly make their pilgrimage to this sanctuary for all feathered creatures that is the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve. If you still haven't done so you are just in time to find out what flying is all about. Don't miss this great chance!

The immediacy of the natural park, which occupies the centre of the reserve, guarantees like no other place in the Iberian Peninsula the presence of large birds of prey that will appear as you pass time and time again: black, griffon, and Egyptian vultures, and imperial, golden, Bonelli's, and short-toed eagles... Winter or summer visitors, residents or birds of passage; small, medium, or large; there are birds everywhere. However, let us spell out for you some of the keys to birdwatching in Monfragüe.





# Birdwatching

at the Monfragüe  
Biosphere Reserve



The best reserve  
for birds

# SALTO DEL GITANO

➔ The symbol of Monfragüe is Peñafalcón, the rocky mass at the defile of the Salto del Gitano viewpoint on the banks of the River Tajo, which acts as a huge gate to the natural park. Its viewpoints are among the best places in Spain to see large birds, mainly griffon vultures with some five hundred individuals but also Egyptian vultures, black storks, peregrine falcons... But size isn't everything and we must also pay attention to the small birds: the blue rock thrush, black vulture, white-rumped swift, crag martin, and even some wallcreepers in winter. Any time is a good time to enjoy this enclave, but the early hours of the day and at dusk are particularly spectacular periods with so many vultures taking off and landing.



+Info. Page 21



The viewpoint at this location is one of the best places in the Iberian Peninsula to observe large birds. From it the massive griffon vulture can be seen. The spectacular colonies of this species are well worth a visit.



The two star observation points of the National Park are **Peñafalcón** and the **Portilla del Tiétar**.  
Enjoy your birds!

## Monfragüe Castle \*

Climb up to the castle and relax. Whatever the time of year, take your time and enjoy the landscape around you... You will soon hear the sound of the vultures' feathers cutting through the air when they pass so close to you that you won't believe it. This is a **unique experience that you will never forget**.

PUNTO  
TOP

## Star species!

### Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

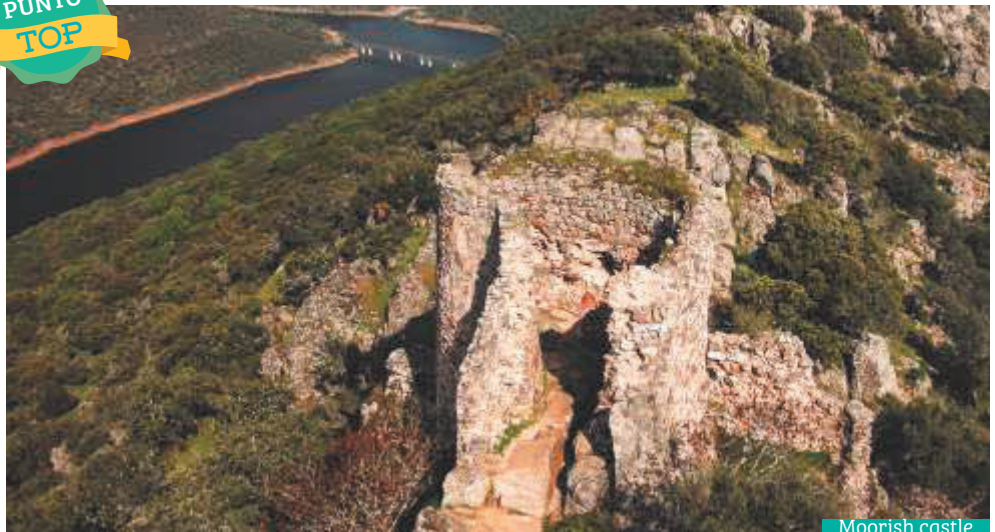
One of the birds most frequently observed by ornithologists. You can easily see it at Peñafalcón, its favourite spot.



### Imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*)

The jewel in the crown; one of the most endangered species which has its sanctuary here with 12 pairs.

Another of the park's top locations is the **Portilla del Tiétar** viewpoint. There you can see the majestic imperial eagle.



Moorish castle



# ARROCAMPO ORNITHOLOGICAL PARK

➔ Located near the village of Saucedilla, the Arrocampo reservoir has become one of the ornithological reference points of the reserve and the region. It holds species as exciting and unusual in Extremadura as the water rail, bittern, purple heron, spoonbill, squacco heron, purple gallinule, bearded tit, penduline tit, and osprey.

The information centre is located at the entrance to the park on the road to Saucedilla. It will give you plenty of information and the keys to the 5 observatories on the two recommended routes. The experience here is not only visual; the symphony of sounds from rails, ducks, herons, and other marsh birds is impressive and varies according to the time of year.



+Info. Page 91



Arrocampo has become one of the ornithological reference points of the reserve and of the region. Moreover, two short routes leave the park's information centre and link the 5 observatories of this ornithological complex.

## Bird observatories\*

Of the 5 outstanding observatories, number 2 is perhaps the most interesting as it gives you the chance to see the bluethroat and the rare bittern in the winter, and the purple heron, bearded tit, and penduline tit in spring. But you do need patience; a good flask of coffee and something to eat will make the wait easier.



## Lesser kestrel

The Church of San Juan Bautista in the village of Saucedilla has been declared a Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA) because of its lesser kestrel colony.



Wetland

▲ In the wetlands of the ornithological park you can observe many species. Always have your binoculars to hand.

## Star species!

### Purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Some 50% of the rather small Extremadura population of this summer visitor breeds at Arrocampo.



### Penduline tit (*Remiz pendulinus*)

Easy to recognise with its striking black face mask. It weaves extremely elaborate balloon-shaped nests.

### Bearded tit (*Panurus biarmicus*)

Arrocampo is practically the only place in Extremadura where this rare and beautiful species can be seen.



# THE KINGDOM OF THE CRANES

➔ As we have mentioned, a birdwatching visit to the reserve is interesting at any time of the year. Each season has its own possibilities, but if you come here in winter or late autumn the cranes represent without a doubt one of the greatest spectacles to be found on the dehesas.

From any of the secondary roads of the reserve you can observe groups of these magnificent birds which visit us every year from central and northern Europe. They feed on croplands and dehesas and are accompanied by lapwings who also search for food on the ground. Here and there you can come across other winter visitors such as the bullfinch, dunnoek, siskin, or the elusive firecrest.



Birdwatching on the reserve is interesting at any season, but the return every year of thousands of cranes to spend the winter with us is always a special moment. A spectacle of nature that is not easily forgotten.





## Haza de la Concepción Estate \*

The cranes are everywhere, but the publicly-owned Haza de la Concepción estate is one of the best places to see them. This estate maintains traditional agricultural practices on *dehesas* of evergreen oaks and irrigation crops. The entrance to it is at kilometre 34 of the EX-118 road near La Bazagona; it includes other attractions such as the tobacco interpretation centre.



The cranes "V" formations are characteristic. On their journey to Extremadura they travel 4,000 km from northern Europe in search of the best pastures.

## Star species!

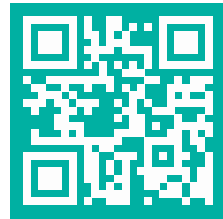
### Common crane (*Grus grus*)

Each year some 130,000 cranes flee the low temperatures of northern Europe and travel to Extremadura to spend the winter here.



### Black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)

The bird with the biggest wingspan on the reserve: almost 3 metres with its wings outstretched! Can be observed all year round.



Scan the code and access "*The cranes of Extremadura*", a *Biodiario* report on Radio Televisión Española (RTVE) lasting 4:56 min.

# LET YOURSELF GO

➔ It is true that birdwatching in Monfragüe can be enjoyed by anyone but perhaps your ornithological knowledge is rather limited or you simply want to have a more in-depth experience. In that case it is a very good idea to contract the services of one of the numerous specialised companies operating in the area; you can be sure that they will help you discover secrets know only to the few.

The best way to contact them is through the Birding in Extremadura Club, a product club that brings together and identifies the best qualified professionals of ornithological tourism in the region.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.birdingnextremadura.com](http://www.birdingnextremadura.com)



Monfragüe and its reserve offers a wide range of ornithological services. Specialised guides, travel agencies, or accommodation agencies cover a wide sector with considerable experience that is continuously evolving to meet current demands.



### ▲ FIO Extremadura \*

Discover what makes dozens of exhibitors and over 13,000 visitors (2015) travel to the heart of Monfragüe. The Extremadura Birdwatching Fair (FIO), which is held in late February in Villarreal de San Carlos, brings together professionals from the tourist sector and birdwatching enthusiasts.

*Ornithological routes in an all-terrain vehicle!*




Peñafalcón is one of the main observation points of the park; hire a guide so you don't miss anything.



- ▲ The hides are the main points for watching birds in their habitat without disturbing them. Whether in the company of a professional or on your own, you will find a number of them in the reserve.





The Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve has 14 interpretative and information centres where you can get to know at first hand the rich natural and cultural heritage of this surprising territory.

Museum and interpretation centres that offer guided tours, activities, experiences... that you can take part in as a group, as a couple, or individually. Our centres adapt to suit you and suggest new ways of showing you our environment.



# Museums and interpretation centres

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*A journey to the  
centre of knowledge*



PUNTO  
TOPVISITOR  
CENTRE

Theme: Information



10695 Villarreal de San Carlos

Admission free | Tel. +34 927 199 134

<http://reddeparquesnacionales.mma.es>

*Before you start to visit the park and the reserve it is highly recommendable to drop in at the Visitor Centre.*

Theme: Information

10695 Villarreal de San Carlos

Admission free | Tel. +34 927 199 134

<http://reddeparquesnacionales.mma.es>

*Here you can find temporary exhibitions, activities, and lectures*

MULTIPLE USE  
CENTRENATURALEZA DE  
MONFRAGÜE  
INT. CENTRE

Theme: Nature



10695 Villarreal de San Carlos

Admission free | Tel. +34 927 199 134

<http://reddeparquesnacionales.mma.es>

*Getting to know the Monfragüe Nature Interpretation Centre is a very interesting experience.*

Nature in its purest form: this is what you will find if you decide to enter Monfragüe's star centre. **A must to understand its environmental significance** from the very heart of the park.

+INFO: page 47





Theme: Geology

10360 **Casas de Miravete** (C. Las Escuelas)  
Admission free | Tel. +34 927 576 581  
[www.casasdemiravete.com](http://www.casasdemiravete.com)

*A place to understand the geological structure of the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve.*

The centre represents an attractive and original way of getting to know the various aspects of the geological history of Monfragüe. This entertaining and didactic visit is **ideal if you intend to follow the geological routes through the reserve** described in this guide.

+INFO: page 31

## LA GEOLOGÍA DE MONFRAGÜE INTERP. CENTRE

PUNTO  
TOP

Temática: Historia

10359 **Romangordo** (C. Corralones)  
Admission free | Tel. +34 927 576 581  
[www.romangordo.org](http://www.romangordo.org)

*An epic battle that precipitated the events of the Peninsular War.*

This modern interpretation centre recreates the important battle that took place near Romangordo between the French army on the one hand and an English and Portuguese coalition on the other. **Learn all the details and get to the heart of the battle.**

+INFO: page 106

## RUTA DE LOS INGLESES INTERP. CENTRE

PUNTO  
TOP

PUNTO  
TOP

## LA CASA DEL TÍO CÁSCOLES ECOMUSEUM



Theme: Ethnography



10359 Romangordo (C. Corralones, 16)

Admission free | Tel. +34 927 576 581

[www.romangordo.org](http://www.romangordo.org)

*This visit is very enlightening. The house recreates and interprets the life of a postwar family in Romangordo.*

The Casa del tío Cáscoles was the private house of Lázaro and Juliana, whose nickname was “Cáscoles”. The house retains its original structure and contains an ethnographical and architectural ecomuseum.

+INFO: page 39

PUNTO  
TOP

## LA CASA DE LOS AROMAS INTERP. CENTRE



Theme: Botany



10359 Romangordo (C. Las Cumbres, s/n)

Admission free | Tel. +34 927 576 581

[www.romangordo.org](http://www.romangordo.org)

*If you like smelling plants or discovering their aromatic or medicinal properties, this is the place for you*

This unusual centre is the place to find the aromas and essences of Monfragüe. In addition to its interpretative rooms it has a beautiful garden with the most representative plants of the reserve so you don't miss anything.

+INFO: page 57



Theme: Ornithology

10390 **Saucedilla** (Ctra. Saucedilla - Casatejada)

Admission: Consult us | Tel. +34 927 544 037

[www.saucedilla.es](http://www.saucedilla.es)

*A paradise for marsh birds in the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve: a privileged environment for ornithologists.*



The Arrocampo Reserve is an important asset for aquatic and marsh birds in Extremadura. The park has this **information centre and five hides** that can be reached by following two routes designed for the purpose.

+INFO: page 80

## ARROCAMPO ORNITHOLOGICAL PARK INFORM.

PUNTO  
TOP



Theme: History

10530 **Serradilla** (Calle Cuatro Lobos, 4)

Admission free | Tel. +34 652 504 927

[www.serradilla.es](http://www.serradilla.es)

*An outstanding place to discover the archaeological and ethnographical heritage of the Biosphere Reserve.*



Several rooms immerse us in **the ancient history of this land**: objects, cave paintings, and photographs will help us to understand it. There is even an interactive space for children.

+INFO: page 41

## LA HUELLA DEL HOMBRE INTERPR. CENTRE

PUNTO  
TOP





PUNTO  
TOP

## PÓRTICO DE DE MONFRAGÜE INTERP. CENTRE



Theme: Nature



10521 **Toril** (Plaza de España, 1)  
Admission: 2€ (+18 years) | Tel. +34 927 577 191  
[www.porticodemonfrague.com](http://www.porticodemonfrague.com)

*A church that has been converted into a source of knowledge on one of the treasures of Monfragüe: the dehesa*

This modern centre, which is located in the former Church of San Blas, tells us of the **ecosystem of the dehesa**. It has an impressive design and provides audiovisual resources and varied activities for both adults and children.

+INFO: page 46

PUNTO  
TOP

## ARTE RUPESTRE DE MONFRAGÜE INTERP. CENTRE



Theme: History



10694 **Torrejón el Rubio** (C. Paso, s/n)  
Admission free | Tel. +34 927 455 292  
[www.torrejonelelrubio.com](http://www.torrejonelelrubio.com)

*Monfragüe has one of the best collections of schematic cave paintings in the Iberian Peninsula*

This interpretation centre is organised in the form of huts that recall the habitat of these early settlers. Once inside we can get to know aspects such as the **way of life of the artists who executed the paintings**, the techniques they used, and the systems of representation.

+INFO: page 25

PUNTO  
TOP

## LEYENDAS DE MONFRAGÜE INTERP. CENTRE

Theme: History



10694 **Torrejón el Rubio** (Paseo de Pizarro, 1)  
Admission free | Tel. +34 927 455 292  
[www.torrejonelrubio.com](http://www.torrejonelrubio.com)

*Located next to the tourist office, it explores stories and legends in an enjoyable manner*

In the form of audiovisuals and panels it tells stories of **Noemia, Zaida, Alfonso VI, Florinda la Cava, and Don Rodrigo**, among many other personages that fill the memory and history of Monfragüe.

+INFO: page 45



Theme: Ornithology

10694 **Torrejón el Rubio** (C. Paso, s/n)  
Admission free | Tel. +34 927 455 292 (by appointment)  
[www.torrejonelrubio.com](http://www.torrejonelrubio.com)

With the symbolic silhouette of a bird as part of its architecture, this centre analyses the ornithological values of Monfragüe. The building is completed with an **area for exhibitions, interpretation, training, and lectures**.

+INFO: page 45

## MONFRAGÜE BIRDCENTER

PUNTO  
TOP

*The most complete ornithological centre in Monfragüe. A meeting point for bird professionals and enthusiasts.*

PUNTO  
TOP

## ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY

Theme: Astronomy



10694 **Torrejón el Rubio** (Calle Paso, s/n)  
Admission free | Tel. +34 927 455 292

*A 4-metre dome and a high-performance telescope to observe Monfragüe's starry sky.*

Located outside the town next to the Birdcenter, this centre is a **privileged spot** for star and planet lovers owing to its excellent night observation conditions.

+INFO: page 97

The starry landscape is another spectacle of nature. How long has it been since you last enjoyed the magnetism of an authentic starry sky? Many people have been born and raised in urban areas. Many children have never seen a truly dark night sky, the Milky Way, a shooting star or the break of dawn.

Monfragüe is on the list to become a Starlight Tourist Destination, a certification granted by the Starlight Foundation and supported by UNESCO. These destinations comprise areas with excellent qualities to observe the starry sky as they are protected from light pollution, and Monfragüe meets such conditions.



▲ Discover the best time-lapse of the Monfragüe National Park. (1:13 min.)



# The stars of **Monfragüe**

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*Experience the  
sky in Monfragüe*

# STARLIGHT

## THE CLEAR SKY OF THE MONFRAGÜE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

WE GIVE YOU THE KEYS TO  
ENJOY THE STARS

*A Starlight Reserve is "a site where a commitment to defend the night sky quality and its associate values has been established, whether they are cultural, scientific, astronomical, natural, or landscape-related".*

### MONFRAGÜE STARLIGHT RESERVA

The National Park aspires to become a Starlight Reserve, a quality tourism seal which distinguishes areas where the sky can be observed with no light pollution. What are you waiting for? **Come and discover it for yourself!**





## MONFRAGÜE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY



This important centre is located only 200 metres away from Torrejón El Rubio. This observatory has a four-metre dome and a high-performance telescope in order to observe the starry sky of Monfragüe.

► **Prior appointment:**  
Observatory Torrejón > Tel. +34 927 455 292



*Places such as Monfragüe are some of the few sites where certain criteria have been met to avoid light pollution, such as not casting light towards the sky and not over-illuminating the ground.*

## TOURIST ACTIVITIES COMPANIES



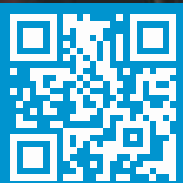
Different activities, such as **night observations and astrophotography**, are held at the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve, thanks to tourist companies operating in the area.

If you want to remain active and discover new experiences, this activity is for you. Go to page 115, under the services of interest section, and sign up.





With the dramatic increase in tourism in natural protected areas in recent years, the demand for these activities from people with reduced mobility has increased at the same rate. For some years now the Monfragüe National Park has been carrying out overall accessibility studies to convert the area into a point of reference for all these users.



▲ Video: Monfragüe  
in a Joëlette  
RTVE local news  
(3:08 min.)

# Accessible Monfragüe



Nature for all



# MONFRAGÜE, NATURE FOR ALL

➔ The project “Nature for All in Monfragüe”, coordinated and financed by the Global Nature Foundation and the La Caixa Benevolent Fund, allows people with reduced mobility to enjoy hiking routes through the Monfragüe National Park. With this aim a network of volunteers is being promoted to support the development of adapted ecotourism. This is a new form of caring citizen participation among people who are environmentally and humanistically sensitive.

Joëlette, volunteers, and passengers come together with a single aim; to enjoy the Monfragüe Natural Park together.



The Global Nature Foundation, which was created in 1993, promotes the conservation, accessibility, protection, and planning of the environment. It has coordinated and co-financed the Nature for All project in Monfragüe since 2013.



Several picnic areas have been adapted for people with reduced mobility. They are located between the bridge known as the Puente del Cardenal and Villarreal de San Carlos.

Discover the nature of Monfragüe: in our park with Joëlette wheelchairs limits no longer exist.

### The Joëlette wheelchair \*

The Joëlette is a wheelchair that has been designed for hiking in all kinds of terrain, even over rough ground. It involves a new kind of caring citizen participation as this activity requires volunteers.



## Adapted itineraries and rest areas:

1

### Fuente del Francés Route

- Length: 500 metres
- ⛶ Rest areas: Three
- i Info: Posters in Braille and guide posts

2

### Arroyo Malvecino Route

- Length: 250 metres
- ⛶ Rest areas: Two
- i Info: Posters in Braille and guide posts



Frenchman's Fountain adapted route



Route with Joëlette wheelchairs through the Monfragüe National Park

To make your visit complete we suggest you take part in several events. One that has become essential is the Extremadura Birdwatching Fair (FIO Extremadura) held in Villarreal de San Carlos, in which the nature photography competition FOTOFIO, lectures, workshops, and other activities complete the most important ornithological fair in southern Europe.

But there are also many other events that shouldn't be missed, such as the Route of the English, the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve BTT race, the Toril horse race, the Serradilla Dialect Day, the Malpartida cultural week, the Serrejón Openlab, or the Riberos del Tajo half marathon. Come on over, you have a date.





# Events

You have a  
date in Monfragüe





## ·FIO EXTREMADURA·

➔ The year 2006 saw the first edition of the Extremadura Birdwatching Fair (FIO Extremadura), which has now become what some consider to be the most important ornithological fair in southern Europe.

The professional photography workshops and talks of FOTOFIO, the prestigious nature photography competition (with more participants every year), the FIO lectures (given by expert international naturalists) and the multitude of other activities organised for adults or for children complete an event that welcomes over 10.000 visitors each year.



▲ Discover the video that summarises the 2015 FIO (3:46 min.)



*The Extremadura Birdwatching Fair, which is held in Villarrreal de San Carlos, has become a European point of reference for bird lovers.*

One of the most attractive activities of the fair is **FOTOFIO** with its workshops led and lectures given by expert Spanish and international photographers.

**FOTOFIO**

The **NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION** has become one of the points of reference of the fair and is extremely popular.

**FIO CONFERENCES**

The **FIO CONFERENCES** bring together naturalists, ornithologists, biologists, researchers, and illustrators from a number of countries every year.

**NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

Guided tours, children's workshops, and interactive talks complete the **ACTIVITIES** of this international fair.

**ACTIVITIES**

Nature professionals and enthusiasts come together in Villarreal de San Carlos in an event that brings you the best in ornithological tourism.

**EL PAÍS**  
El Viajero

## OFFICIAL FIO POSTERS



Poster 2013



Poster 2014



Poster 2015

## ·THE ROUTE OF THE ENGLISH·



The Route of the English recreates the battle (1812) in which the French were defeated by English troops at **Lugar Nuevo** (Romangordo).



- Start: Casas de Miravete
- Finish: Romangordo
- Distance: 16 km.
- Includes a historical recreation of the battle at the end of the route



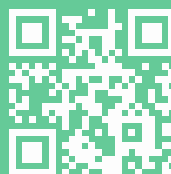
### RUTA DE LOS INGLESES INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Don't miss the modern interpretation centre of the battle between the English and the French in Romangordo. A real delight.



“ We have proposed to remember the Route of the English next year when the time of the battle comes around. ”

Blog/web:  
[www.andandoextremadura.com](http://www.andandoextremadura.com)



Extremadura, witness to the  
Napoleonic wars (1:55 min.)



# ·MTB ROUTE THROUGH BIOSPHERE RESERVE·



This race, with a significant section of its route running through the **Monfragüe National Park**, has become an essential MTB event.



## Routes:

- Short (50 km)
- Long (78 km)
- Short + P.N. (62 km)
- Long + P. Monfragüe (aprox. 90 km)



The event crosses the *dehesas* of **Serrejón**, **Casatejada**, and **Toril** and includes free activities during the races, such as practical workshops and exhibitions.



## The inscription includes:

- Short-sleeved jersey
- Food and provisioning
- Arm warmers and magazine
- Free activities
- Insurance and a lot more...

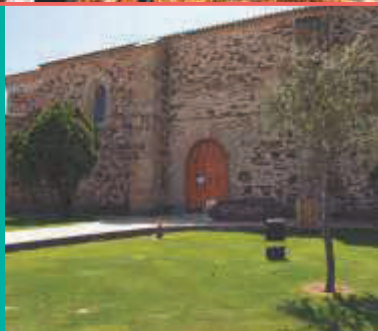


2015 Monfragüe  
MTB Official Video (8:49 min)

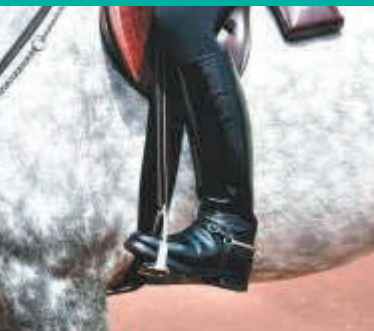
## TORIL HORSE RACE



Riders and horses from different parts of Spain gather in Toril for the most important race in Extremadura.



On the Saturday of San Blas the small village of Toril multiplies the number of its inhabitants by 15 and welcomes **over 3,000 people**.



### PÓRTICO DE MONFRAGÜE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

This modern and well-equipped interpretation centre on the **nature of Monfragüe** is in the centre of the village.



**“** *The Toril horse race is one of the **six best in Spain**. An unusual event included within the Reserve.* **”**

Blog/web:  
[www.elviajerofisgon.com](http://www.elviajerofisgon.com)



The race has two categories, thoroughbreds and crossbreeds, and awards different sums of prize money to the winners.





## OTHER INTERESTING EVENTS



### MONFRAGÜE FILM FESTIVAL

The International Shorts Festival has become consolidated as the event with the highest regional participation with over 500 works.



### RIBEROS DEL TAJÓ HALF MARATHON

One of the most attractive races on the regional and national circuit as it runs through the heart of the Monfragüe Natural Park.



### SERREJÓN OPENLAB

Estands de productos locales, artesanía, rutas senderistas, talleres y exposiciones se dan cita en un evento muy concurrido.



### SERRADILLANA DIALECT DAY

In August tribute is paid to a peculiar dialect that has been maintained as part of the popular heritage of this village, el serrailanu.

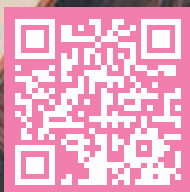


Don't miss your chance and take part in one of our events. if you do, you'll be back for more.

**Are you going to  
be last?**



Travel to  
the Montfragüe  
Biosphere Reserve



▲ Visitors' Guide  
Routes, recommendations,  
equipment...

### Legend used:



Member of the  
Birding in Extremadura Club



A Commitment  
to Quality Tourism

# Useful information and services

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Take note and  
plan your trip



## WHERE TO SLEEP

### CASATEJADA

#### Casa rural El Botánico

Pz. España, 5 | Tel. 927 547 325  
www.casaruralelbotanico.com

#### Hostal \* El Nogal de Casatejada

Ctra. de Navalmoral, Km. 9,7  
Tel. 927 547 325  
www.elnogaldecasatejada.com

### DELEITOSA

#### Casa rural Llano del Pino

Ctra. EX-386 (Deleitosa-Casas de Miravete), Km. 6,5 | Tel. 659 962 323  
www.llanodelpino.com

### JARAICEJO

#### Alojamiento Rural Finca Las Abubillas

Ctra. EX-385, km. 2 | Tel. 608 311 286  
www.extremadura-espana.es



#### Hostal Mont Blanc

Ctra. Madrid-Lisboa, km. 226  
Tel. 927 336 030 | www.mont-blanc.es

### MALPARTIDA DE PLASENCIA

#### Alojamiento Turístico La Chinatina

Avda. Diputación | Tel. 927 459 307  
www.lachinatina.com

#### Apartamentos rurales La Solana

C. Muñoz Torrero, 31  
Tel. 927 404 270 / 676 961 976  
www.casarurallasolana.com



#### Camping-Bungalows Monfragüe

Ctra. EX-208, km. 10  
Tel. 927 459 233 / 927 459 220  
www.campingmonfrague.com

#### Apartamento y casa rural del Corral

C. Serrana, 3  
Tel. 927 459 522 / 636 144 910  
www.crdelcorral.com

#### Casa rural Encantos de Monfragüe

Travesía Gran Vía ,3  
Tel. 609 917 397 / 625 601 036  
www.encantosdemonfrague.com

#### Casa rural La Posada de Amonaria

C. Nª Sª de la Luz, 7  
Tel. 927 459 446 / 608 702 070  
www.amonaria.com

#### Casa rural Majalón

Finca Majalón  
(Ctra. Estación de Monfragüe)  
Tel. 672 426 573 / 608 504 019  
www.casaruralmajalon.com

#### Casa rural Tía Tomasa

C. Juego de las Caras, 6  
Tel. 696 634 156  
www.tiatomasa.com

#### Cortijo El Carrascal

Ctra. EX-108 (Salida Km. 42 EX - A1)  
Tel. 620 941 778 / 927 459 475  
www.monfraguevivo.com

#### Hostal \* Los Rosales

Paseo de la Constitución, 21  
Tel. 927 404 636 | www.hotelmalpartida  
deplasencialosrosales.com

#### Hotel \*\* Santa Marta

Ctra. N-630, km. 494  
Tel. 927 453 260 / 927 453 416

## ROMANGORDO

### Granja Escuela Puerta de Monfragüe

C. La Cumbre, 2 | Tel. 927 576 581  
www.romangordo.org

### Casa rural La Canaleja

C. La Cumbre | Tel. 927 338 388

## SERRADILLA

### Casa rural La Almazara del Cristo

C. Liberato Alonso, 21  
Tel. 927 407 090 / 636 495 283  
www.almazaradelcristo.com

### Casa rural La Sierra de Monfragüe

Ctra. EX-208, km 13 (La Sierra)  
Tel. 927 199 004 / 676 450 921  
www.lasierrademonfrague.com

## SERREJÓN

### Casa rural La Parrilla

Finca La Parrilla, s/n  
Tel. 607 749 122  
www.greenextremadura.com

## TORIL

### Apartamento El Abuelo

C. Olaya de la Calle, 1  
Tel. 927 577 191 / 927 577 021  
www.torilalojamiento.com

### Apartamento La Montanera

Plaza de España, 24  
Tel. 927 577 191 / 927 577 021  
www.torilalojamiento.com

### Hotel Puerta de Monfragüe

Ctra. Bazagona-Embalse de Torrejón, km 10  
Tel. 605 940 878 | www.hotelrural  
puertademonfrague.com

## Chozo Turístico

Junto al merendero municipal  
Tel. 927 577 191 / 927 577 021  
www.torilalojamiento.com

## TORREJÓN EL RUBIO

### Albergue La Dehesa

Fundación Global Nature  
C. Gabriel y Galán, 17  
Tel. 927 455 178 / 679 171 432  
www.fundacionglobalnature.org

### Apartamentos Monfragüe



C. Corchito, 27  
Tel. 927 455 079 / 699 229 922  
www.apartamentosmonfrague.es

### Apartamentos rurales La Cañada

C. Cordel, 2 | Tel. 927 455 295 / 620 818 967  
www.apartamentosruraleslacanada.com

### Apartamentos rurales Natura

C. Travesía de Pizarro, 16  
Tel. 927 311 677 / 679 475 955  
www.ruralnatura.es

### Apartamentos Sierra de Monfragüe



Plazuela de Pizarro, 8  
Tel. 927 455 205 / 699 729 500  
www.sierramonfrague.com

### Aula de Naturaleza Monfragüe - Los Chozos

Parcela La Rata, s/n  
Tel. 927 455 118 / 689 840 076

### Casa rural Babel Monfragüe



C. Cervantes, 8 | Tel. 699 769 177 / 655 027 891  
www.casababel.es

### Casa rural La Cañada

Avda. Virgen de Guadalupe, s/n  
Tel. 927 455 288 / 678 330 598 / 927 455 161  
www.monfraguecasarural.com



**Casa rural Palacio Viejo de las Corchuelas**

Ctra. EX-208, km. 32,1 | Tel. 608 821 961

[www.lascorchuelas.com](http://www.lascorchuelas.com)**Casa rural Peña Falcón**

C. Brezo, 21

Tel. 927 455 184 / 620 978 624

[www.p-falcon.org](http://www.p-falcon.org)**Casa rural Posada El Arriero**

Paseo de Pizarro, 22

Tel. 927 455 050

**Hospedería Parque de Monfragüe\*\*\*\***

Ctra. EX -208, km. 39

Tel. 927 455 279 / 927 455 278

[www.hospederiasdeextremadura.es](http://www.hospederiasdeextremadura.es)**Hotel\* Carvajal**

Paseo de Pizarro, 54

Tel. 927 455 260 / 646 758 138

[www.hotelcarvajal.es](http://www.hotelcarvajal.es)**Pensión Avenida**

C. San José, s/n

Tel. 927 455 050

**Pensión Monfragüe**

Paseo de Pizarro. 25

Tel. 927 455 026 / 680 356 771

[www.alojamientomonfrague.com](http://www.alojamientomonfrague.com)**VILLARREAL DE SAN CARLOS****Apartamento rural Al-Mofrag**

C. Villarreal, 28

Tel. 927 199 205 / 686 454 393

[www.casaruralalmofrag.com](http://www.casaruralalmofrag.com)**Aptos. rurales El Mirador de Monfragüe**

C. Villarreal, 10

Tel. 637 83 75 52 / 610 415 572

[www.elmiradordemonfrague.com](http://www.elmiradordemonfrague.com)**Casa rural Al-Mofrag**

Cañada Real, 19

Tel. 927 199 205 / 686 454 393

[www.casaruralalmofrag.com](http://www.casaruralalmofrag.com)**Casa rural El Cabrerín**

C. Villarreal, 15

Tel. 927 199 002 / 927 199 191

[www.elcabrerin.com](http://www.elcabrerin.com)**Casa rural Monfragüe**

C. Villarreal, 3

Tel. 927 199 002 / 927 199 191

[www.monfraguerural.com](http://www.monfraguerural.com)**WHERE TO EAT****CASAS DE MILLÁN****Restaurante Los Niños**

C. Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente, 1

Tel. 927 306 222

**CASATEJADA****El Nogal de Casatejada**

Ctra. de Navalmoral, km. 9,7

Tel. 927 547 325

**DELEITOSA****Asador El Majano**

Ctra. de Retamosa, km. 6,5

Tel. 927 540 336

**Restaurante Mirabreña**

Ctra. de Retamosa, s/n

Tel. 927 540 249

**Ventilla del Camionero**

EX-A1, km. 219

Tel. 927 198 229

## JARAICEJO

### Hostal Mont Blanc

Ctra. Madrid-Lisboa, km. 226  
Tel. 927 336 030

### Hotel rural Montefragoso

Plaza de la Constitución, 15 -16  
Tel. 927 336 189 / 666 431 055

## MALPARTIDA DE PLASENCIA

### Camping Monfragüe

Ctra. EX-208, Km. 10  
Tel. 927 459 233 / 927 459 220

### Hostal Los Rosales

Paseo de la Constitución, 21  
Tel. 927 404 636

### Hotel ATH Cañada Real\*\*\*

Ctra. EX-108, km. 42 | Tel. 927 116 022

### Restaurante Asador Las Habazas

Ctra. Ex-208, km. 8 | Tel. 927 404 581  
(Junto a la estación de Empalme)

### Venta El Caldero (Área de servicio)

Autovía A-66, km. 494  
Tel. 927 453 260 / 927 453 416

## ROMANGORDO

### Campana de Albalat

Ctra. de Higuera, s/n  
Tel. 927 576 581 / 608 913 228

## SAUCEDILLA

### Bar-Restaurante Piscina Municipal

Avda. San José Glez. Amezqueta, s/n  
Tel. 661 867 893

## SERRADILLA

### Hotel Laurel

C. Paijua, 17 | Tel. 927 407 481

### Restaurante La Parada

Paseo de Extremadura, 72  
Tel. 927 407 138

### Restaurante La Piscina

Paseo de San Agustín, 1  
Tel. 609 040 027

## SERREJÓN

### Restaurante La Piscina

Avda. de América, 10 | Tel. 654 918 935

## TORIL

### Puerta de Monfragüe

Ctra. La Bazagona-Embalse  
de Torrejón, Km. 10  
Tel. 605 940 878

## TORREJÓN EL RUBIO

### Hospedería Parque de Monfragüe

Ctra. EX -208, Km. 39 | Tel. 927 455 279

### Hotel Carvajal

Paseo Pizarro, 54  
Tel. 927 455 088 / 927 455 260

### Posada El Arriero

Francisco Pizarro, 22 | Tel. 927 455 050

## VILLARREAL DE SAN CARLOS

### Restaurante Monfragüe (Casa Paqui)

C. Villarreal, 13  
927 199 002 / 927 199 191



## TOURISM COMPANIES

### CASATEJADA

#### Green Extremadura

Tel. 609 880 812 / 607 749 122  
[www.greenextremadura.com](http://www.greenextremadura.com)

### DELEITOSA

#### Ganatur

Tel. 633 133 989 / 619 876 537  
[www.ganatur.es](http://www.ganatur.es)

### MALPARTIDA DE PLASENCIA

#### Centro de Turismo Monfragüe Vivo



Tel. 927 459 475 / 620 941 778  
[www.monfraguevivo.com](http://www.monfraguevivo.com)

#### En-Ruta "Naturaleza y Aventura"



Tel. 927 404 113 / 605 898 154  
[www.rutaspormonfrague.com](http://www.rutaspormonfrague.com)

#### Monfragüe Natural



Tel. 638 520 891 | [www.monfraguenatural.com](http://www.monfraguenatural.com)

#### Monfragüe Treasures



Tel. 677 32 97 69  
[www.monfraguetreasures.com](http://www.monfraguetreasures.com)

#### Naturlingua

Tel. 638 915 465 | [www.naturlingua.es](http://www.naturlingua.es)

### SERRADILLA

#### Laurel Ecuestre (Horse Riding)

Tel. 927 407 481 / 625 496 971  
[www.hotelaurel.com](http://www.hotelaurel.com)

### TORREJÓN EL RUBIO

#### Albergue La Dehesa y Guías de Naturaleza

Tel. 927 455 178 / 679 171 430 / 679 171 432  
[www.fundacionglobalnature.org](http://www.fundacionglobalnature.org)  
[www.centroladehesa.info](http://www.centroladehesa.info)

#### Centro Ecuestre "El Manantío" (Horse Riding)

Tel. 670 600 626 / 647 219 424

#### Extremadura Wildlife

Tel. 699 769 177 / 655 027 891  
[www.extremadurawildlife.es](http://www.extremadurawildlife.es)

#### Iberian Nature - Guías de naturaleza



Tel. 676 784 221 | [www.extremadurabirds.net](http://www.extremadurabirds.net)

### VILLARREAL DE SAN CARLOS

#### Al Mofrag. Auto Rutas por miradores de Monfragüe



Tel. 927 199 205 / 696 618 875

### USEFUL ADDRESSES

#### Visitor Centre (Villarreal de San Carlos)

Tel. +34 927 199 134  
<http://goo.gl/vjsEOz> (Magrama)  
<http://goo.gl/70x4zY> (Extremambiente)  
[info.monfrague@gobex.es](mailto:info.monfrague@gobex.es)

#### Torrejón el Rubio Tourist Office

C. Madroño, 1  
 Tel. +34 927 455 292  
[www.centrosurmonfrague.com](http://www.centrosurmonfrague.com)

#### Arrocampo Ornithological Park (Saucedilla)

C. Juan J. Glez. Amezcua, 1  
 Tel. +34 673 440 008

#### Emergency

Tel. 112



## YOUR NOTES



Natterjack toad  
*Epidalea calamita*



Hoopoe  
*Upupa epops*

## YOUR NOTES

Bee-eater  
*Merops apiaster*



**Fire salamander**  
*Salamandra salamandra*

YOUR NOTES



Red deer  
*Cervus elaphus*



Hawfinch  
*Coccothaustes coccotharustes*



## YOUR NOTES

Black stork  
*Ciconia nigra*

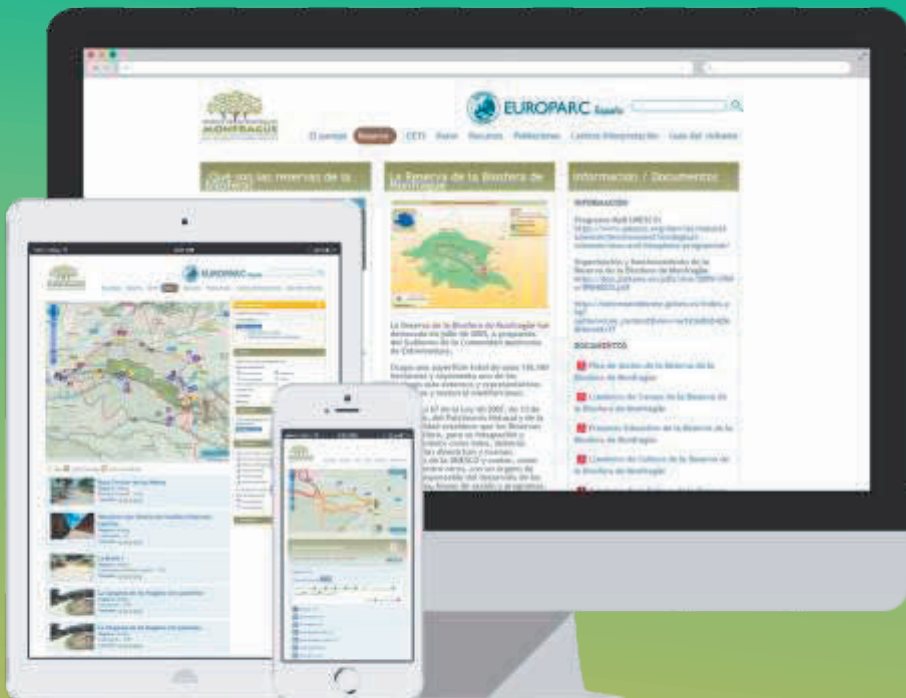


Long-tailed tit  
*Aegithalos caudatus*

# Visit our website

## www.reservabiosferamonfrague.es

You will find all the information you need on the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve. Restaurants, accommodation, museums, monuments, transports, events, routes...etc.









DIPUTACIÓN DE CÁCERES

ÁREA DE DESARROLLO Y TURISMO SOSTENIBLE



[www.turismocaceres.org](http://www.turismocaceres.org)

[www.reservabiosferamonfrague.es](http://www.reservabiosferamonfrague.es)

“The Monfragüe National Park and surrounding areas are considered as one of the five best-preserved spots of the Mediterranean basin”

El País



“The ultimate bird of prey paradise”

“Monfragüe, among the eight best national parks in Spain”

National Geographic

