



CONSEJERÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE

PARQUE NATURAL  
Sierras de Tejeda, Almirajara y Alhama  
Information Centre of  
La Resinera



Information Centre of La Resinera

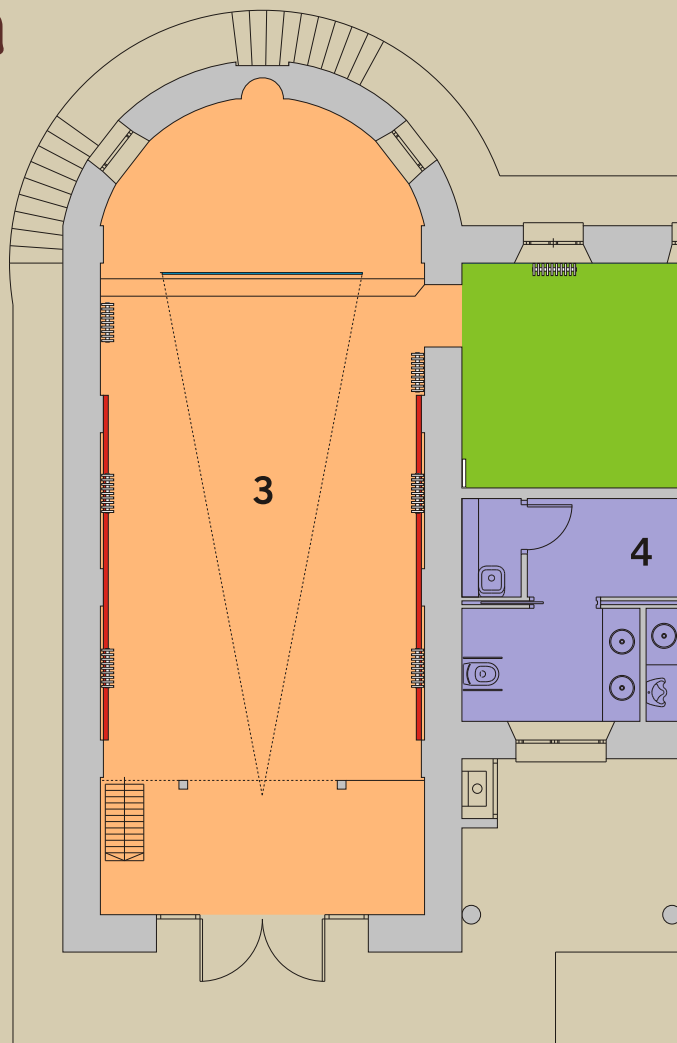
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*Contigo, Andalucía vive*



# Punto de Información La Resinera

"The Natural Park of Tejeda, Almajara and Alhama", located between the provinces of Granada and Malaga, forms a rocky outcrop that has always been a natural border and nowadays comprises two neighbouring areas: The **Axarquía malagueña** and the **tierras granadinas de Alhama**. This Natural Park has a surface area of 40.633 hectares and an altitude of 2.068m - at its highest point. The "Maroma Peak" is home for a group of Mediterranean ecosystems, being the pine forest of "**negral pine**" or resin pine on **dolomitic marble**, all the more unusual because of the abundance of endemic plants.



1 Recepción / Reception

2 Exposición / Exhibition

3 Audiovisual Exposición temporal /  
Audiovisual Exposición temporal

4 Aseos / Toilets

The **Information Centre of La Resinera** is a public centre that offers information and services aimed at improving the awareness of the Natural Park, for both the visitors and the local population. It was set up to act as a reference centre and meeting point for the local population, in order to give support to other activities of local interest, citizen participation, new initiatives, etc.

# The forest in flames... the end of an era



On the 20th August 1975, a fire started that during 6 days destroyed 5000 hectares of pine forest which, added to the low profitability of resin processing compared to the chemical synthesis of turpentine, meant the closure of 'La Resinera', the 'resineros' either leaving or having to become agricultural workers, and the end of an era in the area.

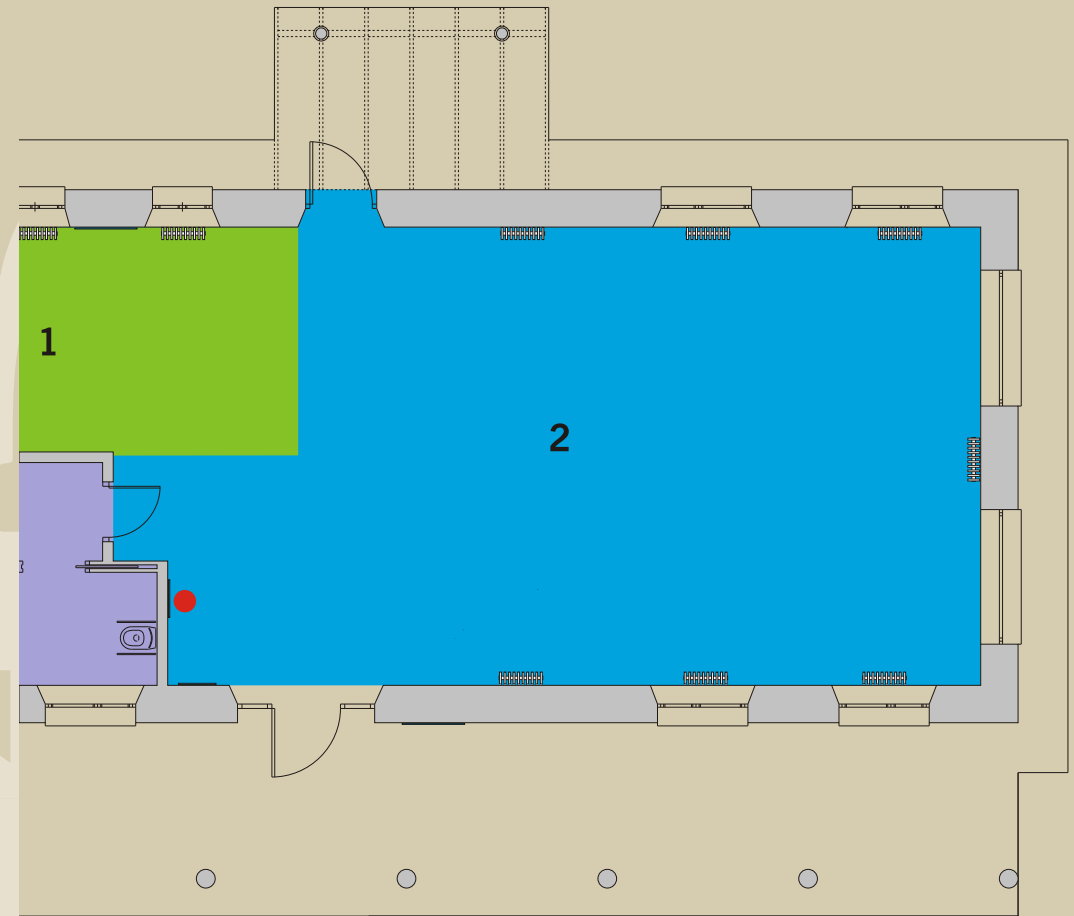
In the meantime, the Junta de Andalucía (Provincial Council of Andalucía) acquired ownership of the 'La Resinera' estate, the largest public estate in the Autonomous Community and began a social regeneration project for the forest landscape of these mountains.





# Life in 'la resinera'

The richness of these mountains for resin exploitation brought about the establishment in 1902 of a resin collection and distillation industry and the construction of the factory named 'La Resinera' in the municipal district of Arenas del Rey, near the town of Fornes. **A real settlement** with homes, school and church was built near the factory for the many employees and their families, and around 300 people from villages nearby made their living from work related to resin and the resin factory.



The Information Centre at La Resinera used to be the old school and chapel, part of a settlement built near the Resinera factory (for the conversion of resin into turpentine) by the "Union Resinera Española". It was a living settlement with homes, school and church built for the many employees and their families, until its closure in 1975.

## Areas and Services provided by the Information Centre.

**Reception:** Public information point for the RENPA (Andalusia Protected Natural Areas Network)  
**Natural Park Shop:** Commercial outlet for the sale of both local products and products made by the Environmental Department.

**RENPA Area:** A more detailed information outlet for RENPA.

**Permanent Exhibition Area:** An exhibition concerning the main characteristics and peculiarities of the natural and social environment of the Park.

**Multifunctional Exhibition Area:** Audiovisual and temporary exhibition rooms as well as meeting and conference rooms.

# The Exhibition Synopsis

Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama: From the high Mediterranean mountain range to the "tropical" coast; this is an extraordinary landscape, where the water, retained by the mountain range, helps to mould a peculiar relief of siliceous schist and dolomitic marble. This created a varied environment and landscape, with unusual and endemic species; allowing human settlement throughout the history of the area. It also allowed the exploitation of the natural resources with the people from the mountain and the skilled resin extractors, living and working in these hills..... A true enclave of biodiversity and a rich cultural heritage.

## RENPA Zone

A Network of Protected Natural Areas of Andalusia  
Protected Natural Areas of Granada and Malaga  
The Natural Park of Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Mountain Range

## Multifunctional exhibition Area

**Temporary exhibition:** the resin and the Resin Factory. The history of skilled work linked to the exploitation of the natural resources of the mountains. Legacy of a recent past.



# To 'la resinera'. Mules and carts, the muleteers



The '**remasadores**' emptied the clay pots (which can hold between 600 and 800 cubic centimetres and take between 30-35 days to fill up) into large pitchers carried by the **muleteers** on carts or mules to loading points or to the actual resin factory.

# The transformation process at the factory



Although resin has been used since ancient times to make pitch with which to waterproof roofs and boats, **its** industrial use and the distillation of **turpentine or pine resin** started in the 18th century. The process **tre**ats the resin via distillation, passing through various **bo**ilers named large, autoclave and decanter in order to **el**minate all types of impurities.





# The life of the 'resineros'. Working and sleeping in the mountains



Many people had to live like this for long periods, in small houses or huts scattered across the 'sierra' and having to endure hard conditions difficult to withstand, especially in coldest winter.

*"After scratching the bark off the pine trees, Manuel started chipping at them with the "gubia" axe. To chip the pine tree involved making small cuts in the trunk taking out small shavings to encourage the tree to continue dripping resin. This was the most common task for the "resineros" skilled resin extractors as the pine tree produces the resin for a period of six days. Every six days each "resinero" should have chipped the five thousand trees of his assigned plot. Nearly a thousand pine trees every day, peanuts!. Antonio, apart from chipping at the trees, collected the broken clay pots and the fallen tin cans, and nailed them to the trunks to collect the resin. He also put up special tin sieves "lata de barracar" to stop the wooden shavings from falling into the clay pots, and mixing with the resin because afterwards, at the Resin Factory the price would be lower if the resin was not clean..."*

**Abstract from the tale "Los Resineros".  
"The skilled resin extractors" by Jesús  
Cuartero and Antonio Sánchez**

## Exhibition Zone

**Interpretation Area or Thematic area A:** "The water moulds the relief of the territory" (the geographical or physical environment of the Park):

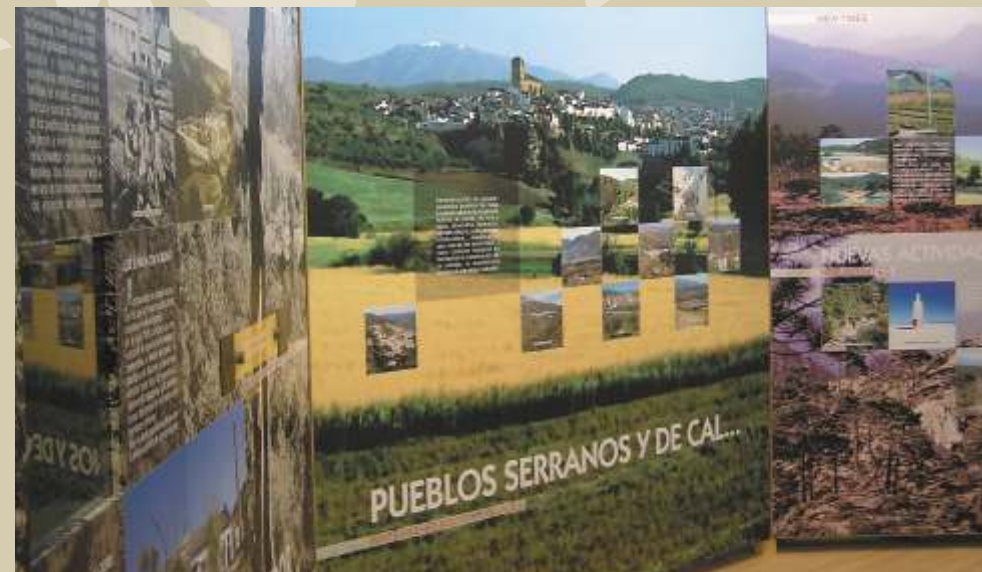
- The natural framework, the morph-structure of the Penibéticas mountain range, the mountain "collecting" the water.....
- The most southwelly "two thousand (metres high)" in the Iberian peninsula
- Water is life ...and moulds the landscape, the internal and external relief and the heart of the mountain range
- Spain's greatest dolomitic marble massif

**Interpretation Area or Thematic Area B:** "The biodiversity of the life within the Park" (water generates diversity):

- The natural environment - valleys and ravines, peaks and slopes. Environmental diversity = species diversity, refuge of biodiversity
- Living singularities of the park. Endemic species - threaten, rare and emblematic:
  - Botanical jewels
  - The most valuable tree

**Interpretation Area or Thematic Area C:** "At the back of ones' mind, the human settlement throughout the years":

- Human use of the natural resources of the mountain, the resin extraction world
- The resin and the resin factory, the transformation process at the resin factory
- The legacy of a rich heritage from the past. The way of life of the people working and living in the mountains throughout the years
- The villages nowadays. Remains from the past?
- The villages in the future. Future perspectives in the area. Uses and activities
- The management and the conservation programs in the Natural Park





# Exploiting natural resources

The people and their settlements in these mountains have, over centuries, adapted themselves to **living off their environment** mountain agriculture, shepherding sheep and goats, large and small game hunting, making charcoal...

And the collection of timber, firewood, esparto ('Spanish grass'), resin, aromatic plants, honey, cork, minerals, stones, snow....



## ... mountain industries



One of the principal resources of these mountains has traditionally been **the extraction of resin**. 'Los resineros', - skilled resin extractors - walked these white, sandy hillsides where the **negral pine** (*Pinus pinaster*, subspecies *acutisquama*) or '**resinero andaluz**' grows. The tree's trunk has to have a girth of at least 29 centimetres for resin extraction done over 25 to 30 years to begin without impeding the tree's growth. Each 'resinero' had a predetermined group of trees assigned to him, his 'cuartel' or plot, each of between 4000 and 5000 pines that he was responsible for keeping in top condition for resin extraction. In order to do this, the 'resineros' were responsible for clearing the ground and collecting firewood between November and February for the factory ovens.

# Resin extraction



With the arrival of Spring, when the pine is growing and the sap flows, the main tasks for resin extraction begin. '**Los picadores**' chip or scratch the bark of the tree using a small axe specially made for the purpose, 'la escoda'. Once done, the resin slowly runs from the cut bark down to clay pots which are periodically collected by those responsible, 'los remasadores'.

## Methods and types of resin extraction



Traditionally, only the '**Hugues Method of Resin Extraction**' was used in these mountains and consists of cutting ever deeper into the trunk using strong, precise blows of the 'escoda'. However, the '**pica de corteza**' system or 'scratching the bark' became the norm and was done by using chemical stimulants whose advantage lay in retaining the commercial value of the trunk. Resistance from the 'resineros' to using this new technique was enormous, partly due to the fear of their clothes being ruined by the acid used, this before the arrival of synthetic fibres. Use of this method was made obligatory from 1969 on.