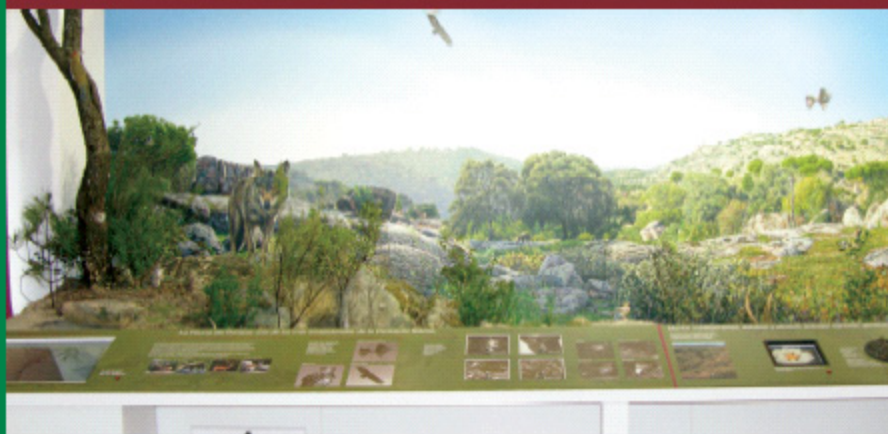


A visitors' guide

Viñas de Peñallana Visitors' Centre

PARQUE NATURAL
Sierra de
Andújar

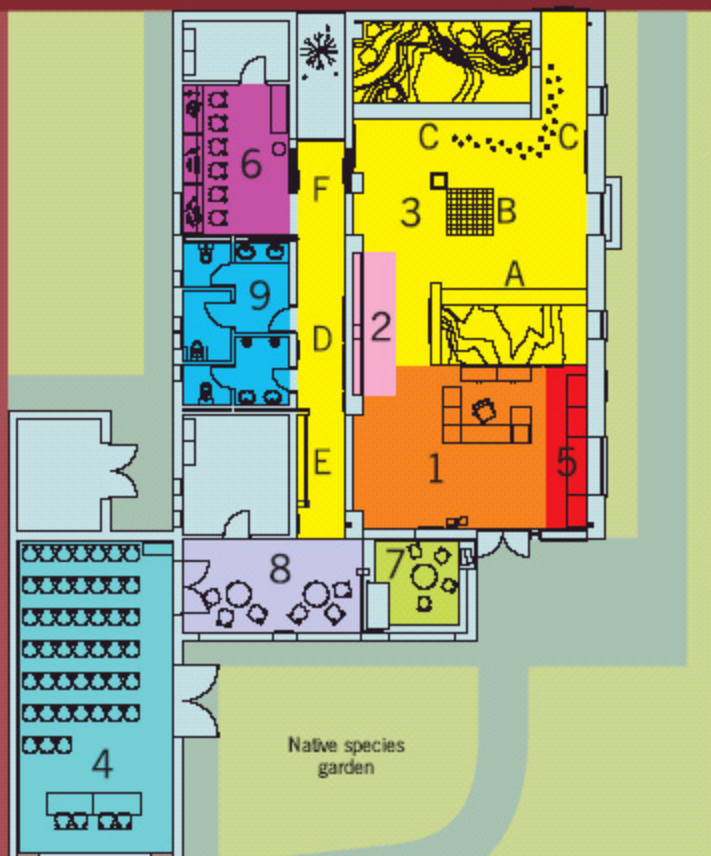


"Viñas de Peñallana" Visitors' Centre

Your Introduction to the Natural Park

About the Centre

The Sierra de Andújar Natural Park is located in the heart of the Sierra Morena Mountains. It encompasses and protects a large territory covered by Mediterranean scrubland. It is home to a rich diversity of fauna, including emblematic species such as the Wolf, the Iberian lynx, the Black vulture, and the Iberian imperial eagle. It was declared a Natural Park on July 18, 1989, and covers a surface area of 74,774 hectares within the municipalities of Andújar, Baños de la Encina, Marmolejo, and Villanueva de la Reina.



1 Reception

2 RENPA area

3 Permanent exhibition about the "Sierra de Andújar Natural Park"

A: "The natural environment in the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park"

B: "The region and the Park"

C: "Lynx territory"

D: "Conservation management for the enjoyment of nature"

E: "Sierra de Andújar Natural Park and mankind"

F: "Mediterranean flora"

4 Audiovisual

5 Natural Park shop

6 renpanet

7 Children's area

8 Lounge

9 Toilets

The main goal of the "Viñas de Peñallana" Visitors' Centre is to promote public use of the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park. The Visitors' Centre provides information to visitors, gives directions and recommendations for visiting the Natural Park, and promotes knowledge about the natural resources of this area.

The Visitor's Centre offers the following services:

Reception area

In the entrance hall you will find the **Reception Room** -a welcoming area which provides basic information about this Natural Park, and where you will be able to plan your visit with advice given by the well-trained staff .

In this area you will also find the **Natural Park Shop**, where you will be able to buy locally-made products.

The **Lounge** and the **Children's area** are close to reception. The Children's area provides games for children between 4 to 8 years old (though our young visitors should always be accompanied by an adult).

The **RENPA area** provides information about the Network of Protected Natural Areas of Andalusia, and especially the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park.

For those interested on learning more about this subject, the **RENPA NET zone** has a computer room, where you can access specialised bibliographic and digital information about the Protected Natural Areas of Andalusia.

Exhibition area

From the **RENPA area**, you have access to the **permanent exhibition**, the main room of the Centre. The exhibition focuses on the Mediterranean scrubland and the biodiversity of the Sierra de Andújar .

Here you will discover the richness of local natural resources as well as the cultural and historic heritage of the area, with the help of large dioramas, tactile models, interactive screens, and other exhibition displays.

An informative and entertaining **audiovisual presentation**, showing the highlights of this singular area, will help you learn more about the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park.

At the end of the visit, a walk around the outdoor gardens will allow you to become familiar with some of the native flora.

A) The natural environment of the Park

A world to be discovered

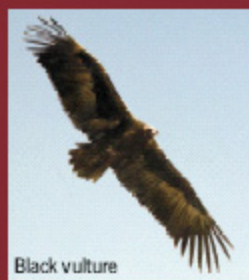
The Sierra de Andújar belongs to the Sierra Morena Mountains, and is formed by igneous and metamorphic rocks (granite, quartz and slate). The area possesses a wide landscape of hills and ravines covered by Mediterranean vegetation.

The Natural Park is bordered by two main rivers, the Jándula and the Yeguas, into which other small streams flow as tributaries. Water levels drops dramatically in summer season.



Mediterranean scrubland, a refuge for life

Woods and "dehesas" (open evergreen oak woodland) are home to rich and varied fauna, which include wild game such as Deer and Wild boar, many different kinds of raptors, and carnivorous mammals such as the Wolf, the Stone marten, the Wild cat, and the Egyptian mongoose.



Black vulture



Wolf



Iberian imperial eagle



Red deer



An exhibition panel shows you the physical environment of the Park, and a large diorama and mural display the characteristic landscape of the Park: scrubland, "dehesa" (open evergreen oak woodland), and pine forest. Models of animals and plants will introduce you to some of the Park's inhabitants. The interactive panel allows you to discover footprints and tracks, get inside a wolf's den, smell the scent of the scrubland, feel the bark of the cork tree...



B) The Region and the Park

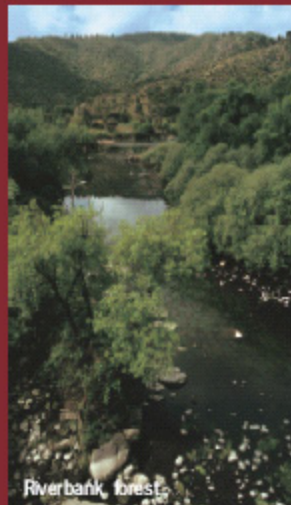
Studying and understanding the landscape

Local variations in climate, soils, and topography, together with human modifications, have through history given rise to the different habitats present in the Park today.

The Park protects a complex biological mosaic, where Mediterranean forests and riverbank forests (landscapes transformed slightly by humans) are mixed with other more man-made landscapes, such as pine forest and "dehesas" (open Evergreen oak woodland). Scrub vegetation appears where the soil is poor, and sometimes as a result of past fires.



Stone pine forest



Riverbank forest

Getting to know the villages

The villages of Andújar, Villanueva de la Reina, Baños de la Encina and Marmolejo have a rich historical and cultural heritage, and produce a diversity of locally-made goods and crops from lowland fields.



Baños de la Encina



Villanueva de la Reina



Marmolejo



Andújar



An information kiosk with three exhibition panels informs you about the Region, its landscapes and its villages. Through the help of a tactile three-dimensional map (designed with blind visitors in mind), you can explore and get to know the main habitats of the Park.



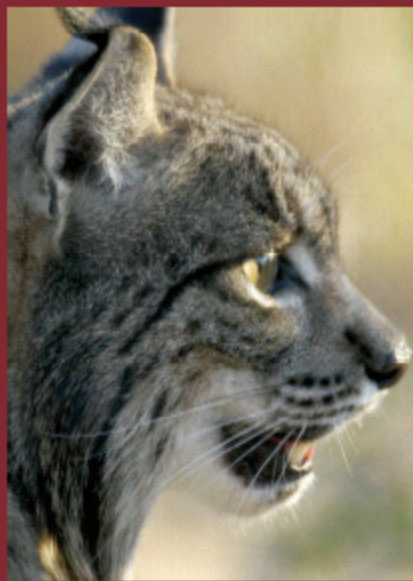
C) Lynx territory

Iberian lynx and the Sierra de Andújar Natural Park: one of their last refuges

Iberian lynx are medium-sized felines, endemic to the Iberian Peninsula, who specialise in rabbit hunting. Only two viable populations are known in the world: one in the Sierra de Andújar and the Cardena-Montoro mountains, and the other in Doñana.

Iberian lynx are one of the most threatened felines in the world. Their population decline has been caused by loss and fragmentation of habitats, traps, illegal hunting, and road accidents.

A Conservation Strategy is currently underway in Andalusia, and includes the following programs: restoration of habitats, reduction of the non-natural mortality rate, breeding in captivity, introduction of individuals into established populations, reintroduction of lynx into areas where they have disappeared, monitoring the populations of lynx and rabbits, and public awareness campaigns.



A magnificent diorama and mural show other valuable zones of the Park, such as the riverside ecosystem and the lynx habitat. Here you can observe some of the region's most characteristic fauna and flora. The interactive table will help you to learn about them, to feel their footprints as well as the texture of local terrain and rocks, and to get closer to the lynx and their habits.

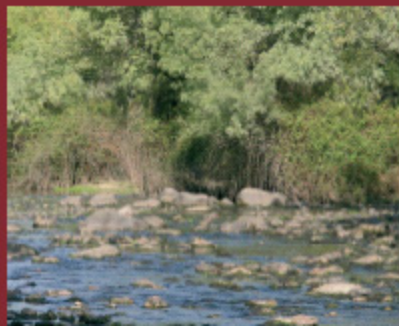
Following the lynx's tracks, you will be able to see a lynx litter, and together with the panels of this exhibition room you will get to know more about this unique feline.

Finally, a comprehensive panel shows you the importance of plant and animal biodiversity and its conservation.

Rivers and riverbank forests

Riverbank or "gallery" forests are well adapted to wet soil conditions, and are formed by Willow, Ash, Alder, Oleander, and "Tamujos" (an endemic Thorny bush).

Rivers and forests are home to a great diversity of animals, which include unique species such as the "Bogardilla" (an endemic freshwater fish), the Pygmy marbled newt, the Black stork and the Otter.



Biodiversity and singularity

The biodiversity of a territory refers to the variety of life which lives in it. The biodiversity of an area includes the genetic diversity found within each species, the number of different species which inhabit it, and the variety of local ecosystems.



Otter



Azure-winged magpie



Gum cistus and bee



Stone marten

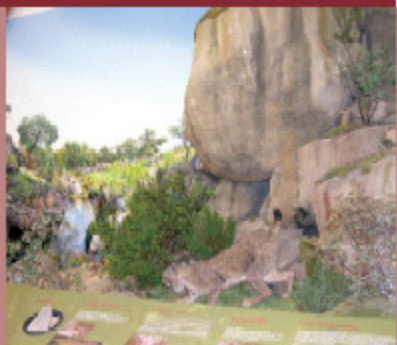
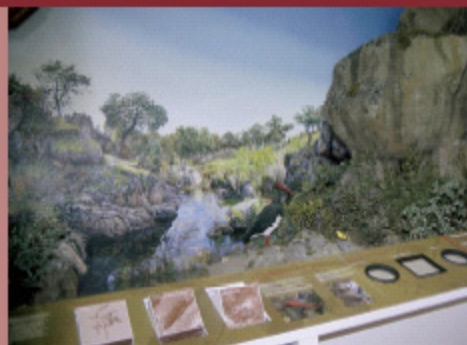
Why is biodiversity important?

- *Biodiversity makes ecosystems more stable.*

If a species becomes extinct, its disappearance affects the life of other species and the stability of their whole ecosystem.

- *Biodiversity is a natural resource important for social and economic development.*

When a species becomes extinct, we lose sources of food, energy and medicine, not to mention other uses and applications still to be discovered. The loss of biodiversity endangers our quality of



D) Conservation management for the enjoyment of nature

Objectives of the Park Management programme:

- Conservation of natural resources.
- Promotion of the sustainable development within the villages of the Park.

Working in the territory for a living Park

The Regional Environmental Department is currently involved with the following projects in the Park: Conservation Programmes for the Black vulture, the Iberian imperial eagle, the Wolf, and the Iberian lynx.

- Desertification and erosion control through reforestation.
- Monitoring the different forms of forest use: hunting, firewood collection, mushroom and pinecone gathering, animal grazing...
- Public Use programmes for visitors and residents: marked footpaths, scenic overlooks, picnic areas, educational visits...



Monitoring field studies of the imperial eagle



Leocadio, a livestock farmer of the Park



Environmental education for students

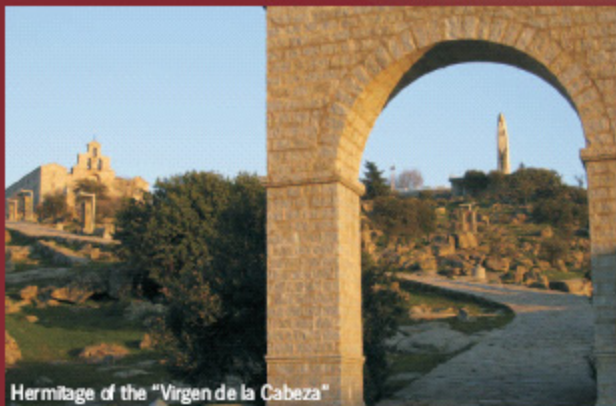


Two large panels show current projects being carried out in the Park.



E) The Sierra de Andújar Natural Park and mankind: a shared history

The richness of the resources within the Sierra de Andújar has, over time, encouraged many different communities to settle here from as far back as the Neolithic period. Still today, the Park continues to provide valuable resources.



Hermitage of the "Virgen de la Cabeza"

These settlers have left behind an important archaeological heritage: cave paintings, abandoned mines, burial grounds, and shrines...

Today, hunting, herding, honey production, cork production, and mushroom and pinecone collection, are sustainable forms of forest use. This use of the land is still part of a traditional way of life, and all of these activities are compatible with the conservation of the natural resources of the Park.



Sheep herding



Cork harvesting



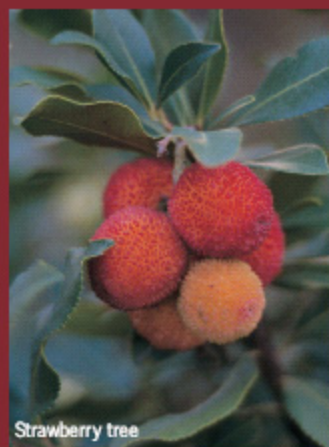
An interactive mural shows you the vital relationship between human beings and this valuable area. A touch screen with four itineraries teaches you about the ancient inhabitants of the Natural Park, and by following their tracks you can enjoy a game of questions and answers. You can also see a cork oak forest in three dimensions, look inside a beehive, and smell the scent of hay.



F) Mediterranean flora

Fruits and flowers: beauty in the scrubland of the Park

The Strawberry tree, the Wild jasmine, the Butcher's broom, the Peony, and the Myrtle are just a small sample of the magnificent Mediterranean scrubland plants found in the Park, which blossom in spring and provide juicy fruits to local fauna during the autumn.



An exhibition panel invites you to get to know and learn how to identify five different species of the Mediterranean flora of the Park. You can test your skills by looking through a window to a small indoor garden.



Guide Map



Public Resources offered by CMA (Regional Environmental Department)

- Visitor's Centre
- Signed footpath
- Scenic Overlook

Other amenities in the Park

- Trail or footpath
- Scenic Overlook
- Picnic area

Places of interest

- Hermitage or church

How to get there



Addresses and telephone numbers

"Viñas de Peñallana" Visitors' Centre
Ctra. A-6177, P.K. 13
Andújar (Jaén)
Tlf. +34 953 54 90 30 · +34 953 53 96 28

Natural Park Office
Parque Medioambiental Cercado del Ciprés.
Camino de los Rubiales s/n, Andújar (Jaén)
Tlf. +34 953 539 620

Local Office of the Regional Environmental Department
C/ Fuente del Serbo, nº 3
23071 JAÉN
Tlf. +34 953 012 400
Fax +34 953 012 508
Email: pn.andujar.cma@juntadeandalucia.es
www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/site/web/

Emergency telephone number 112

PUBLIC USE GUIDELINES



Stay on the footpaths



Camping is prohibited



Driving vehicles outside of the signed path is prohibited



Put all your litter in the rubbish bins



Collecting minerals and stones is prohibited



Lighting fires is prohibited



Respect boundaries and private properties



Picking flowers is prohibited



Capturing wild animals is prohibited



Avoid making noise



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo
de Desarrollo Regional



Andalucía
al más sano