

NATURE TRAILS IN EXTREMADURA



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain

NATURE TRAILS EXTREMADURA

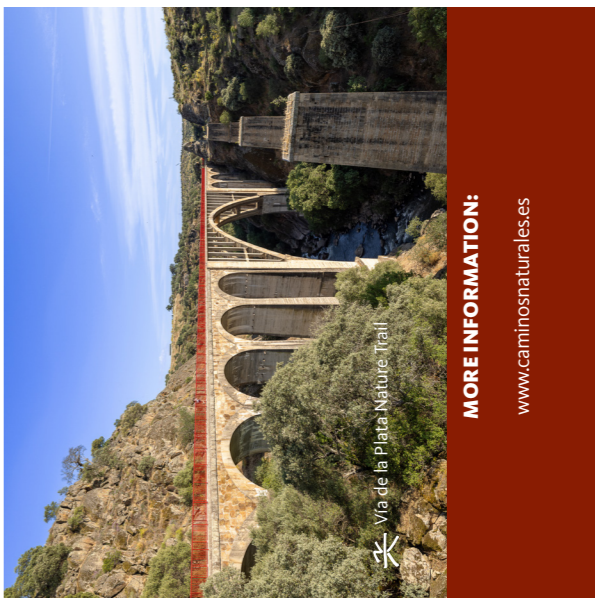
Here, the Nature Trails running through Extremadura are briefly described. Among them, middle distance routes, such as the Jayona or Monfragüe Greenways, longer trails such as Villuercas o Via de la Plata or really long trails, such as those that follow the rivers Guadiana and Tagus.

River Rivera de Acebo (Cáceres). This trail across the province of Cáceres is formed by seven paths which all have their starting point either in the El Jevero recreational area or in the paths that start there. In this point located 2 km away from Acebo, the traveller may enjoy a swim in the natural pools in the River Rivera de Acebo before of after the hike.

Cáceres- Badajoz corredor (Cáceres, Badajoz). This nature trail runs along 176,3 km, starting at the south of the city of Cáceres until ending west of Valverde de Leganés, approximately 30 km south to the city of Badajoz. Its layouts follows old cattle roads.

Vegas del Guadiana Greenway (Badajoz, Cáceres). This trail joins Villanueva de la Serena (Badajoz) and Logroñán (Cáceres) following an old railway line which had been planned to connect this area with Talavera de la Reina. Work was abandoned definitively with the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. Its layout over 57,2 km offers the traveller, besides the beauty of its landscape, the possibility of getting close to the largest wintering area for cranes in the Iberian Peninsula.

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WALKS THROUGH THE SOUTHERN MESA

The Nature Trails that are described in this booklet are located in the Autonomous Community of Extremadura. Two of the Spain's Great Rivers, Tagus and Guadiana, go through this region, which help to discover its heritage and the great contrasts of its landscapes, from the widely cultivated flood plains to infinite "dehesas" or mountain landscapes.



Since 1969 the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Nature Trails Program aims to restore former transport infrastructures such as railway tracks, cattle trails and traditional routes, for public use and enjoyment.

These routes take us to the countryside to discover the biodiversity and beauty of our precious natural heritage, and discover the villages, sights, traditions and people that are part of the unique cultural landscape of our country.

We invite you to visit the Nature Trails in Extremadura and offer you the keys to enjoy the trip. We only ask one thing of you: do not forget to leave everything as you found it. The conservation of these pathways is also your responsibility.

Las Villuercas (Cáceres, Toledo). This trail runs along the Las Villuercas region across the municipalities of Logroñán, Cañamero, Guadalupe and Alía, in the province of Cáceres, and the municipality of Puerto de San Vicente, in the province of Toledo. Its creation allows to link the Vegas del Guadiana Nature Trail (Cáceres, Extremadura) and the Jara Nature Trail (Toledo, Castilla-La Mancha), creating a trail of 185 km across an intensely beautiful landscape.

Guadiana (Albacete, Cuenca, Ciudad Real, Badajoz, Huelva). The River Guadiana, 818 km long, is the second longest river in the Iberian Peninsula. This nature trail covers this distance in 44 stages, and is interrupted when the river crosses into Portugal, going back to Spain, all along the Portuguese border, in the Huelva side, before reaching into the Atlantic sea.

Tajo (Teruel, Cuenca, Guadalajara, Madrid, Toledo, Cáceres). This trail forms a plural and diverse layout over more than 1,000 km heading to the Atlantic Ocean at the Western Coast of the Iberian Peninsula. From the Montes Universales, in the Sierra de Albarracín, where the source of the Tagus is located, the trail crosses the provinces of Teruel, Cuenca, Guadalajara, Madrid, Toledo and, finally, Cáceres. The trail ends here, but the Tagus continues across Portugal to Lisbon.

La Jayona Greenway (Badajoz). This trail, among olive groves and pastures of holm oaks populated by Merino sheep, passes along part of the railway line which transported products extracted from the many mines spread throughout the county of Llerena towards the province of Córdoba. The mine of La Jayona stands out above all, named as a Natural Monument in 1997, it lends its name to this Nature Trail.

Monfragüe Greenway (Cáceres). Located in the Monfragüe National Park and Biosphere Reserve transition area, this route makes the most of the Madrid-Valencia de Alcántara railway line, following close to the track that currently lends this service, among the oak and corn oak pastures in which the cattle and Iberian swine graze.

Via de la Plata (Cáceres, Salamanca, Zamora). This Nature Trail runs along the old Palazuelo-Astorga railway line, part of the "Via de la Plata" railway line. It takes its name from the popular denomination of the old Roman road which connected *Augusta Emerita* (Mérida) and *Asturica Augusta* (Astorga). Currently, it consists of different sections in the provinces of Cáceres, Salamanca and Zamora.



