

*Parque Natural del*  
**ALTO TAJO**  
*Visitor's guide*

*To start*







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# C O N T E N T S

<b>NATURAL VALUES</b> .....	4
• Landscape .....	4
• Flora and vegetation .....	6
• Wildlife.....	8
• Geology and geomorphology .....	10
• Alto Tajo and human activity .....	12
<b>NATURALEA EL ALTO TAJO</b> .....	14
• Learn more and start your visit .....	16
<b>Explore the Park</b> .....	18
• Hiking trails .....	18
• Long-distance trails.....	20
• Mountain bike (MTB) routes in the Park .....	22
• Picnic sites.....	23
• Routes around the Park.....	23
• Resources and sites of interest.....	27
<b>SUSTAINABLE TOURISM</b> .....	29
• Companies and accommodations integrated in ECST .....	29
• Regulation of activities within the Natural Park .....	30
• Safety, rules and recommendations .....	32





Salto de Poveda

# *Parque Natural del* **ALTO TAJO**

By protecting the territory, we are recognizing how important it is this gorge system, the largest in the region and one of the most important ones in Spain, given the wide diversity of geological formations and wildlife and flora species. This natural protected area enjoys an excellent state of conservation, representing the best in terms of biodiversity of Castilla-La Mancha region. Key elements of its biodiversity are the following ones:

- Black pine forests
- Riparian forests
- Juniper forests of *Juniperus thurifera*
- Eurosiberian forests
- Wet meadows, peat bogs and upland wetlands habitats
- Rocky boxwood woodlands
- River (Italian) crayfish
- Forest and cliff-nesting raptors
- Egyptian vulture



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# N A T U R A L   V A L U E S

## *Landscape*

The Natural Park owns an exceptional landscape composed by its hydrographic network, especially with canyons and gorges. It also has unique slope formations, such as crevices, jagged peaks and monoliths on mainly limestone and red sandstone,

where pinewoods and riparian forests surround the river courses. High moorlands covered with juniper and pinewoods are remarkable too.

This highly unexploited territory creates unique and gorgeous landscapes. ■



Tajo river view



Chequilla view



**PARK VIEWPOINTS** This Park offers a wide network of viewpoints and observation spots. Please, check them in the public use map or scan the QR code.







Tajo river view  
from Zaorejas  
viewpoint

## Flora and vegetation

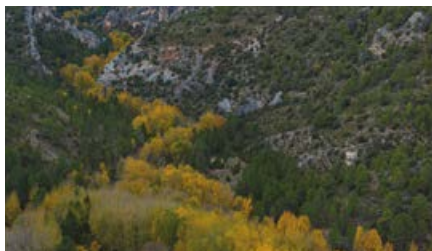
The Park treasures a wide flora diversity, as this territory is home to around 20 % of the total number of Iberian flora species. A flora mix is found here. Thanks to the variety of ecological niches, it is possible to find typical Eurosiberian species, as well as species from the South and East of Spain.

As an example, there are vast pinewoods composed by Scots pine (*Pinus silvestris*), black pine (*Pinus nigra subs. salzmannii*) and resin pine (*Pinus pinaster*). There are also shorter yet highly valuable areas with Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*). Gall oaks (*Quercus faginea*), holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) and Pyrenean oaks (*Quercus pirenaica*) are also found in pure forests or pine-mixed forests.

In the central sector of the Natural Park, high moorlands with limestone are populated by Spanish juniper forests (*Juniperus thurifera*), some of them offering some of the best preserved forests in Europe of this species.

Other areas are also remarkable: Riparian forests with white poplars, aspens and willows, and Eurosiberian remnant forests with lindens, common hazels, whitebeams, wych elm, yews and holly plants, among others.

In addition to those forests with a wide variety of bush species, there are several other species which found a safe haven in salt ponds, peat bogs, ponds, lakes, rock formations and narrow gorges in the Park.



From left to right, in the top *Drossera rotundifolia* and riparian forests in autumn, in the bottom, *Tilia sp* and *Juniperus Thurifera*







From left to right:  
*Primula farinosa*, *Hippurus vulgaris*  
y *Atropa baetica*.

**ENDANGERED FLORA SPECIES:** Given the wide diversity of habitats in the area, plus its great conservation status, the Park is home to a diverse range of endangered flora species and EU species of interest with different ecological preferences, such as lakes, wetlands, peat bogs, salt ponds, river banks, rock formations, Eurosiberian refuges, cluster pinewoods and siliceous and limestone mountains.





Albert Baakhof, Shutterstock



Nadezda Murnakova, Shutterstock



From left to right, brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), deer (*Cervus elaphus*), badger (*Meles meles*) and Spanish moon moth (*Graellsia isabellae*)



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Andreas Weitzmann, Shutterstock

## Wildlife

The Park stands out for its wide variety of habitats, with animal populations in an excellent conservation status.

The numerous stone walls at the top of the river canyons are home to many population of cliff-nesting raptors, such as Bonelli's eagle (an endangered species), golden eagle, peregrine falcon, Egyptian vulture, Griffon vulture and eagle-owl. It is easy to spot Spanish wild goats in this rock walls.

Spotting cinereus vultures and bearded vultures is more and more frequent, meaning that it is possible to find the four Iberian vultures feeding together.

Close to many wooded areas, we will find large populations of forest birds: goshawk, sparrow hawk, booted eagle, short-toed snake eagle, common buzzard, Eurasian jay, Iberian green woodpecker and great spotted woodpecker,

along with, small birds, such as red crossbills, Eurasian blue tits, crested tits, great tits, chaffinches and citril finches, among others. Wildcats, badgers, martens, weasels and even common genet live in the area and surroundings. Plenty of red deers, fallow deers, roe deers and wild boars, commonly used for stalking, can also be found.

High quality water courses in the Park, with a good conservation of its banks and depths, contribute to foster one of the largest population of otters in the region. They are also home to trouts, bogas, and barbels among other aquatic species. Finally, in some of the most unexplored water courses, we still find the last endemic populations of River (Italian) crayfish, which are strongly falling in number both in the region and in the country. ■





Buitres  
leonados en  
La Escaleruela,  
Zaorejas



Jesus Graldo Gutierrez Shutterstock

## ENDANGERED WILDLIFE SPECIES

From left to right:  
in the top, river  
(Italian) crayfish  
(*Austropotamobius  
pallipes*) and Egyptian  
vulture (*Neophron  
percnopterus*).

Bottom, Bonelli's  
eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)  
and common genet  
(*Genetta genetta*).



Pascal De Munk Shutterstock





## *Geology and geomorphology*

By the Plan de Ordenación de los Recursos Naturales (Natural Resource Management Plan), prior to its declaration as nature park, it was stated how important its geomorphic elements were. Among them, El Campillo tuff formations and waterfall, close to San Pedro bridge, and block stream in Sierra del Tremedal (Orea) stand out because of its international significance.

The before mentioned resources are classified in these groups:

**Stratigraphic series:** representatives of Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras. We find a set of outcrops with a remarkable scientific interest, making Alto Tajo as a stratigraphic reference locally, nationally and even internationally.

**Paleontological wealth:** there are deposits of graptolite fossils (Paleozoic



### **UNESCO Global Geopark**

Given the significance of these resources, Alto Tajo was declared a Worldwide Geopark by UNESCO, with the name Comarca de Molina-Alto Tajo geopark.





To the left, Peña Horadada (Riba de Saélices), under these lines La Escalaruela (Zaorejas), Checa Dropstone and Enebral block stream (Orea)



sea animals), as well as marine species fossils from the Jurassic and Triassic eras.

### Geomorphological elements:

- Karst river and and gorges, such as Tajo and Hoz Seca rivers.
- River canyons on red sandstone, such as Arandilla and Gallo canyons.
- Karst formations, such as cavities, sinkholes, polje, karst springs, and stone villages. Tornero cave, with an explored stretch longer than 11 km, is an example. Travertine formations (tuff) and large waterfalls, as the ones in Sand Pedro bridge and La Escalaruela.
- Salt ponds, peat bogs, screes like block stream such as Enebral creek in Orea and other periglacial environments formations. ■



## Alto Tajo and human activity

It is a well-preserved area where humans and nature coexist in harmony. The area covering part of Guadalajara, Teruel, Zaragoza and Soria provinces was named Celtiberia by the Romans.

The first human traces in the Natural Park date back from Palaeolithic period. The use of wood, firewood, beekeeping, fishing, hunting and livestock breeding resources were the reason for the human presence in the territory, developing the landscape as we know at present and creating a wealthy historic and ethnographic heritage.

Some examples of this tangible heritage are deposits of prehistoric cave art (Cueva de los Casares and Cueva de la Hoz), Celtiberian deposits (Castros de Olmeda de Cobeta and Checa), medieval constructions as Buenafuente del Sistol monastery, ethnographic constructions as Armalla and Saélices de la Sal salines and the chozones sabineros (popular and highly beautiful constructions made of juniper wood and limestone,

scattered along the juniper forest in Parque Natural del Alto Tajo). These last constructions are believed to date back from the Middle Age, clearly used for livestock purposes.

Intangible cultural heritage, equally important, comprises oral traditions, social costumes, festivities, natural knowledge, know-how and techniques related to traditional craftwork and professions now gone such as *ganchero*. *Gancheros*, in charge of transporting log in the river, inspired José Luis Sampedro in his *El río que nos lleva* novel. *La maderada*, the wood obtained from the vast forests, was transported by Tajo river up to Aranjuez.

**The population in Alto Tajo Natural Park** is around 2560 inhabitants (INE 2020 data) with a population density lower than 3 people per km<sup>2</sup>, one of the lowest in Europe. This depopulation has contributed to its high degree of naturalness and the excellent state of conservation of its natural resources. ■



**GANCHEROS OF ALTO TAJO.** Every year, in the last weekend of August, neighbours portray this gone profession in an itinerant festivity involving the five *gancheros* villages: Peralejos de las Truchas, Taravilla, Poveda de la Sierra, Peñalén y Zaorejas.





On top, *chozón sabinero* (huts made of juniper wood) and under these lines, left to right, Cueva de los Casares, Virgen de Montesinos Hermitage, Buenafuente del Sistol monastery and Armalla (Tierzo) Saltworks.



# NATURALEA EL ALTO TAJO

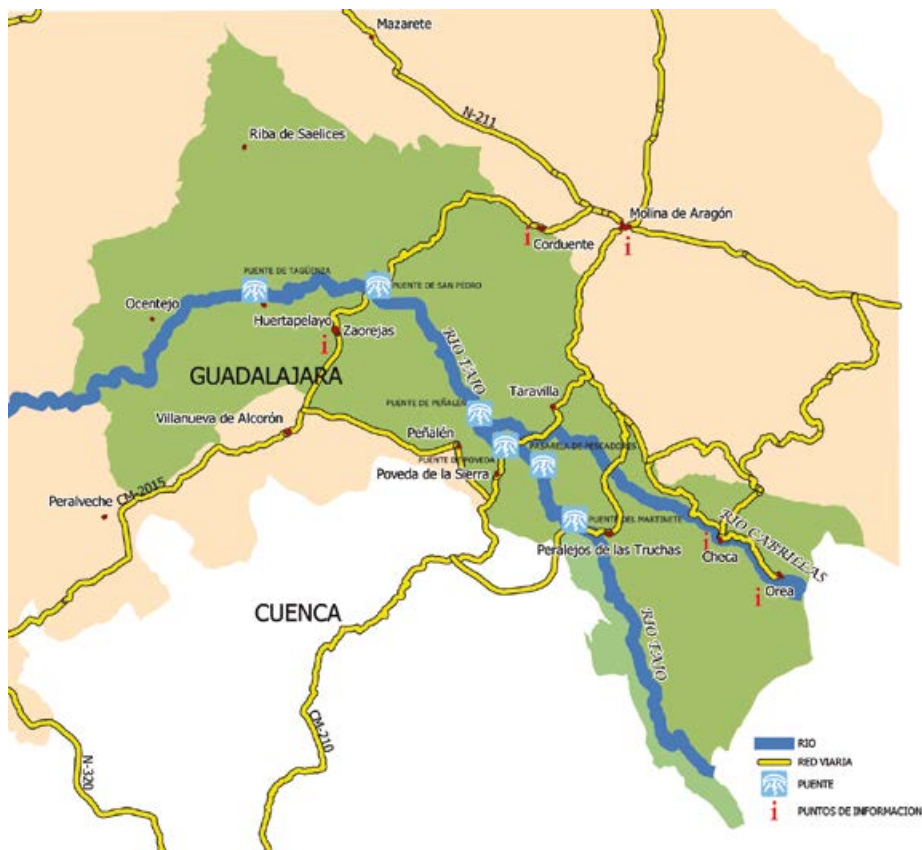


“Naturalea” is to explore the territory, walk its trails, enjoy its calm villages and nature surroundings without leaving any mark, but our respect for what we are doing.

Access the public use map of the park in pdf format here:

[Mapa](#)

[Información](#)



## From Guadalajara

- The northern sector of the Park can be accessed from Molina de Aragón to Corduente, Taravilla, Peralejos de las Truchas, Checa and Orea, via the N-211 road with an access near Alcolea del Pinar, in exit 135 of the A-2.
- We can also go via A-2 road to

Almadrones (km 103) to take CM-204 road up to Cifuentes towards Trillo, Villanueva de Alcorón, Zaorejas, Peñalén and Poveda de la Sierra, or towards Ocentejo.

- We can also access Zaorejas, Peñalén and Poveda de la Sierra, from Guadalajara via N-320 towards Cuenca.





Barranco de la Hoz,  
cañón fluvial labrado  
por el río Gallo

### From Cuenca

The southern sector of the Park is accessed via the N-320 to Cañizares, Bete-ta, Poveda de la Sierra, Peralejos de las Truchas and the Monumento Natural del Nacimiento del Río Cuervo (Natural Mo-nument of Cuervo river spring).

### From Teruel

On the A-23 highway, take A-1511 exit and keep going on CM-2111 road up to Orea and Checa. Traffic finds a natural bar-rier, which is the Tajo River, but it is pos-sible to cross over through the different walkways and bridges on our way. ■



## Learn more and start your visit

At the end of this guide, you will find more details about the Natural Park. By organizing your visit appropriately, you will make the most out of it. Some pretasks before your visit are:

- Choose your accommodation depending on your activities
- Choose companies and accommodations committed to sustainable tourism, identified by the Park.
- Book activities or visits in advance
- Anticipate the appropriate equipment and clothing beforehand

Visitor's centres are the ideal spot to start your visit. They will provide you with more information, values of the Park and will help you to plan further details of your stay. In addition, many trails and routes start from them.

Parque Natural del Alto Tajo has four visitor centres opening during weekends, bank holidays and long weekends, from Easter to October. Before visiting, please check the opening days and other details in the park website.



### VISITOR'S CENTRES IN THE PARK

They are open during weekends, bank holidays and long-weekends from Easter to November. Please, check opening days in the park website. Under section VISIT AND ENJOY.



### Dehesa de Corduente visitor's centre

It is located in the northern sector of the Natural Park, 2 km away from Corduente, pk 85 in CM-2015 road connecting Corduente with Zaorejas, 10 km away from Molina de Aragón village.

It is a centre with cutting-edge architecture, combining wood in both the outside and the inside, glass and bush-hammered limestone, in a search to integrate the centre in the tree-lined surroundings. It is two-story building. Outside, there is a garden area, a picnic shaded site with tables and benches, and play area for kids.

The interpretative team is dedicated to study natural and cultural values of this Natural Park.





**Sequero de Orea visitor's centre.** It is located in the urban area of Orea, 2 Camino del Río street.

This centre is dedicated to Alto Tajo inhabitants and their traditional professions. It was built in a renovated sequero, a construction which was used to dry products, in Orea. Its main purpose is to explain and observe the ethnographic heritage and the traditional human activity developed in the territory.



**Museo de la Ganadería Tradicional visitor's centre** is located in Checa, 1 Lorenzo Arrazola square, next to the town council. Its exhibition is focused

on how traditional livestock breeding was developed for centuries in Alto Tajo. It shows the significance of extensive farming in increasing biodiversity, due to scavenger birds and the creation of pastures. It also studies how the resources were optimized through different types of shepherding, like transhumance, leaving a mark in many villages within the Natural Park.



**Río Tajo visitor's centre.** It is located in the urban area of Zaorejas. It is focused on the explanation and observation of the Tajo river: its geological background, different species and vegetation living in gorges and canyons in the Tajo, the influence of the river in the culture and the relationship between mankind and the river. It also describes its whole trajectory, from its spring to its estuary in Lisbon. ■

# EXPLORE THE PARK

Parque Natural del Alto Tajo has a comprehensive network of picnic sites, viewpoints, shelters and marked trails to get to the heart of the territory

















and explore it. They are disseminated throughout the Park, depending on the different interests and skills of the visitors.

## HIKING TRAILS

We can find walking trails with different levels of difficulty and length offering an active yet healthy way of

getting to know the Park. You must act responsibly, given the risks and difficulty that they may entail.

**EASY TRAILS:** for families with kids and inexperienced hikers. Low slope

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1</p>       | <p><b>Ocentejo- Hundido de Armallones</b></p> <p>● Ocentejo</p> <p>➔ 6 km</p>   | <p>9</p>        | <p><b>Puntal de la Cabeza</b></p> <p>● Lebrancón</p> <p>➔ 8 km</p> |
| <p>5</p>       | <p><b>Los Chozones sabineros de la Loma</b></p> <p>● La Loma</p> <p>➔ 10 km</p> | <p>11</p>       | <p><b>Barranco del Horcajo</b></p> <p>● Beteta</p> <p>➔ 6 km</p>   |
| <p>6</p>       | <p><b>From Huertapelayo to Tajo</b></p> <p>● Huertapelayo</p> <p>➔ 7,6 km</p>   | <p>15</p>       | <p><b>Piedras Rojas trail</b></p> <p>● Chequilla</p> <p>➔ 2 km</p> |
| <p>7</p>   | <p><b>Caleras trail</b></p> <p>● Villanueva de Alcorón</p> <p>➔ 6 km</p>        | <p>16</p>   | <p><b>La Espineda</b></p> <p>● Checa</p> <p>➔ 5 km</p>             |

On the back of the map of this guide, you will find detailed information of each trail.

### HELP US PROTECT THEM:

If you find any damage or any potential risk in the facilities or the equipment, please send us a georeferenced image with appropriate indications, if needed, to [pnaltotajo@jccm.es](mailto:pnaltotajo@jccm.es)



Long distance



Environmental interest



Geological interest



Historic-artistic interest



Starting point



Linear trail



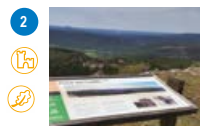
Loop trail





## INTERMEDIATE TRAILS:

For experienced hikers. You are required to prepare the trip and appropriate equipment in advance. Easy trails with a complicated or slightly dangerous stretch might be included in this category.



### Senda del Castillo

● Valtablado del Rio  
🕒 9 km



### La Rambla del Avellano

● Arbeteta  
🕒 Distance: 12 km



### El Valle Los Milagros

● Riba de Saélices  
🕒 5 km



### El Rodenal de Corduente

● Corduente  
🕒 9 km



### El Salto de Poveda

● Laguna de Tarabilla  
🕒 5 km



### Cabrillas river trail

● Megina  
🕒 8 km



### La Laguna de la Salobreja (short trail)

● Orea  
🕒 4 Km

## DIFFICULT TRAILS: for highly experienced hikers.

They take longer hiking sessions, as well as a guidance system in areas without cellular coverage (GPS or maps).



### La Laguna de la Salobreja (long trail)

● Orea  
🕒 16.6 Km



### El Arroyo del Enebral

● Orea  
🕒 18 Km



GR113:  
Camino Natural  
del Tajo

## LONG-DISTANCE TRAILS



GR  
10

### GR10: FROM VALENCIA TO LISBON

This is the great hiking trail in Spain, crossing the country east-west, from Valencia to Lisbon. It is part of the European E7 trail, from Constanza (Romania) to Lisbon (Portugal).

In Guadalajara province, there is a 300 km stretch, crossing Parque Natural del Alto Tajo from Orea and then penetrating into the plateau area, with some matching sections with GR-113 trail. Afterwards, it continues to Parque Natural del **Río Dulce**, to finally penetrate via Cogolludo, Tamajón and Retiendas, into Parque Natural de la **Sierra Norte de Guadalajara**.

#### Stages in Parque Natural del Alto Tajo.

● Orea

● Carrascosa de Tajo

➔ 136 km (in the park) Level: intermediate

**Stage 18:** Orihuela del Tremedal (Teruel) - Orea (Guadalajara) (7 km)

**Stage 19:** From Orea to Peralejos de las Truchas (25 km)

**Stage 20:** From Peralejos de las Truchas to From shelter Fuente de las Toba (Peñalén) (30 km)

**Stage 21:** From shelter Fuente de las Toba (Peñalén) to Villar de Cobeta (23 km)

**Stage 22:** From Villar de Cobeta to Huertapelayo (17 Km)

**Stage 23:** From Huertapelayo to Oter (30 km)

GR  
113**GR113: CAMINO NATURAL DEL TAJO**

This long-distance trail, longer than 1000 km, follows Tajo river from its spring in Sierra de Albarracín (Teruel) to the Portuguese border in Cedillo (Extremadura).

**Stages in Parque Natural del Alto Tajo**

● Checa

● Trillo

➡ 141 km (in the Park) Level: intermediate

CHECK  
HERE

**CAMINOS NATURALES (NATURAL TRAILS).** Trails included in the programme Caminos Naturales of the Spanish Ministry of Environment, so the ministry is in charge of marking it and keeping it in good conditions.

GR  
66**GR66: CASTELLANO MANCHEGO TRAIL**

This trail traverses north to south the region in the most eastern limit. It penetrates Guadalajara province from Milmarcos village, with a detour to Mesa river valley, up to Peralejos de las Truchas, a more than 90 km long stretch.

**Stages in Parque Natural del Alto Tajo**

● Corduente

➡ 95 km

Level: intermediate

**Stage 3:** From Corduente to Cobeta (26 km)**Stage 4:** From Cobeta to shelter Fuente de la Falaguera (20 km)**Stage 5:** From shelter Fuente de la Falaguera to Casas del Salto (Poveda de la Sierra) (28 km).**Stage 6:** From Casas del Salto (Poveda de la Sierra) to Masegosa (Cuenca) (30 km)GR  
00

Long distance



Environmental interest



Geological interest



Historic-artistic interest



Starting point



Linear trail



Loop trail





## MOUNTAIN BIKE (MTB) ROUTES IN THE PARK:

### EASY TRAILS

Less than 22 km trails for families and amateurs

1



#### Valtablado Del Rio MTB route

● Valtablado Del Rio

🕒 21 Km

### INTERMEDIATE TRAILS:

Appropriate equipment and previous experience are required because of its length, high slope or type of soil.

3



#### La Muela

● Taravilla

➡ 31 Km

2



#### Los Miradores Del Tajo

● Taravilla and Lebrancón

➡ 55 Km

4



#### La sierra

● Checa

➡ 70 Km



## PICNIC SITES

Parque Natural del Alto Tajo has a vast and well-preserved network of picnic sites, which are perfect for families to rest.

They have picnic tables, and sometimes, further equipment as fountains, barbecue grill (not available during fire season) shelters and children's playground. Check their location in the map of the Natural Park.

## ROUTES AROUND THE PARK

You will find different routes by car, with some stretches to go by walk, providing with a better understanding and perspective of the park. For more information, scan the QR code

### GEOLOGICAL ROUTES OR GEO- TRAILS



You will find predetermined routes, with stops to observe different geological resources. Each *in vivo* resource will be accompanied by an observational and informational board.

**Geo-trail 1:** Inside a canyon (Ocentojo-Inespereda Saltworks).

**Geo-trail 2:** Rocks, vegetation and landscape. *Valle de los Milagros-Saélices* (Riba de Saltworks)

**Geo-trail 3:** Mankind and geological resources. *Cobeta-Barranco del Arandilla* (Cobeta)

**Geo-trail 4:** Water: a landscape sculptor. San


Pedro bridge - *Zaorejas viewpoint* (Zaorejas)

**Geo-trail 5:** A trip towards to the sea. *Barranco de La Hoz - Cuevas Labradas* (Corduente)

**Geo-trail 6:** A complicated balance. *Villanueva de Alcorón - Peñalén* (Villanueva de Alcorón)

**Geo-trail 7:** Water paths. *Laguna de Taravilla - Salto de Poveda-Peralejos* (Poveda de la Sierra)

**Geo-trail 8:** Hidden secrets in the rocks. *Checa - Chequilla* (Checa)

**Geo-trail 9:** A geodiversity mosaic. *Sierra de Orea* (Orea) 

## ETHNOGRAPHIC ROUTES.

You will find predetermined routes with different stops to observe ethnographic resources, such as *chozones sabineros*,



Middle Age constructions, for livestock purposes, all along this territory, especially in high moorlands. Lime kiln were a kind of ovens in which limestone was turned into lime which would be later used as a base for the concrete in construction works.

The *in vivo* resource will be accompanied by an informative board.

**Chozones de Ablanque route**

(Ablanque)

**Chozones de Escalera route**

(Valhermoso)

**Caleras de Villanueva route**

(Alcorón)

## SITES AND RESOURCES OF INTEREST

Parque Natural del Alto Tajo is a vast area. Exploring it in a few days will be complicated, but it is full of hidden places and sites to satisfy everyone's curiosity and interest, when going little by little.

### IN THE NORTHEASTERN SECTOR OF PARQUE NATURAL DEL ALTO TAJO,

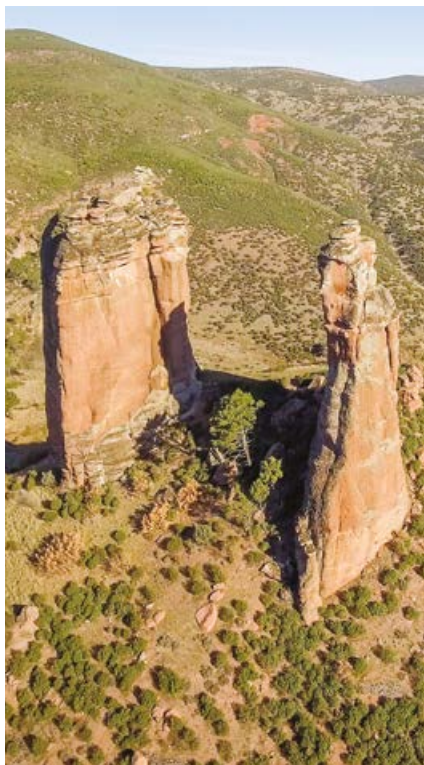
we will find unique spots such as **Barranco de la Hoz**, with its stratigraphic deposits, cliff-nesting raptors, such as Egyptian vultures and some peregrine falcons, and botanical distinctive features or **La Virgen de la Hoz sanctuary**. In Corduente, you will find the Visitor's centre of the park. *El Rodenal* hiking trail starts from here, towards Barranco de la Hoz, after passing by a spectacular viewpoint with the same name.

*Georoute 5: A journey to the sea* starts in a pleasant picnic site at the beginning of Barranco de la Hoz, in front of the Monument to the Forest Ranger, with a small parking lot and picnic tables.

### Riba de Saelices

From Riba de Saelices picnic site, where **Casares cave** is located, *Valle de los Milagros trail* starts going up the Linares river by walk. Then, we enter into **Los Milagros**, natural sculptures and one of the many symbols of the Park. Depending





on the season, it might be needed to cross the river barefooted.

### In Ocentejo

From the Park information point, *Ocentejo - Hundido de Armallones* georoute will take us by walk into the spectacular Tajo canyon.

### In Zaorejas

In the road connecting **Zaorejas with Molina de Aragón**, **San Pedro bridge** is located in the confluence of **Tajo and Gallo** rivers. In summer, it is very popular for swimming.

## ARCHITECTURAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

In **Molina de Aragón** tourist information office, you will find more information about the different accesses, opening hours and further details to organize your visit.

**Santiuste castle** dating back to 15th century is located just a kilometre away of Corduente and Cobeta tower, but both are closed to the public.

**Casares cave** is a magnificent example of a castle made of rocks whose walls raise following the shape of the rock and is surrounded by a deep moat. It is free for the public. **Santa María Cistercian monastery in Buena Fuente del Sistol** (Villar de Cobeta): it is only possible to visit the Romanesque church at specific opening hours. The rest is an enclosed monastery.

In **Casares cave** is possible to visit the remains of a former Hispanic-Muslim settlement dated back to 10th century. When booked in advance, you will see the Palaeolithic cave paintings inside the cave. Booking request must be via email: [red.arqueologica.CLM@tragsa.es](mailto:red.arqueologica.CLM@tragsa.es). Phone: +34 620396326

### From Taravilla

*Febrero cave, Pie y medio and Puntal del Pancho viewpoints* can be reached by bike, following the *Miradores del Tajo route*, starting in Taravilla.

**Taravilla lake** is a beautiful lake originated by the growing process of a tuff wall which holds the water. Even though, a stream ends in the lake, it feeds mostly by groundwater. Thanks to the favourable weather conditions of the lagoon, it is home to a wealthy ecosystem. There is a parking lot, a picnic site and a trail around the lake.

*Salto de Poveda* route is a 5 km loop hiking trail, starting from **Taravilla lake**, up to **Salto de Poveda** spot. This place was created when the wall of an old hydroelectric dam collapsed. *La Muela route*, by bike, will take you to some of the best viewpoints around Taravilla lake and Peralejos de las Truchas, such as *El Cachorrillo and Pie Molino viewpoints*.

There are picnic sites areas around Tajo river and in the canyon itself, where visitors will rest and cool off near the banks of the Tajo while gazing highly beautiful backwaters and landscapes. ■





La Virgen de La Hoz  
sanctuary (Corduente)

### IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTOR OF THE PARK

In the surroundings of **Peralejos de las Truchas** and in many stretches throughout the Park, Tajo river flows squeezed in gorges, canyons... In this area, calcareous steep slopes limiting the canyon are particularly developed. **Martinete bridge**, near Cuenca province border, is a good place for observation.

In this village, there are several picnic sites, such as El Vado; climbing areas or sections for canoeing; hiking trails, as *Barranco de Horcajo* one; or stunning viewpoints, such as *Pie Molino*.

Towards **Chequilla, Checa, Alcoroches y Orea**, cold and extensive pinewoods can be explored through various routes and itineraries on foot, by MTB and some of them by vehicle. Visitors will find a place to rest in the calm picnic sites found in these forests: *La Fuente de los Vaqueros and Prado de la Becea* in Checa; in Orea, *Fuente la Jícara, Fuente la Rana*, Cerrillo Herrero and La Canaleja; in Alcoroches, *El Angosto* picnic site has a beautiful stream and artificial lake and covered picnic tables.

Hiking trails: *La laguna de Salobreja* (13 km) is an easy loop trail descending ➡





Chequilla  
view

➡ to the lake, but a difficult trail when taking the loop path starting in Orea. This trail provides a good understanding of the natural resources in the area.

Other easy hiking trails: *Piedras Rojas route*, starting in Chequilla and La Espineda starting in Fuente de los Vaqueros picnic site *in Checa*. Both are perfect for families and inexperienced hikers.

*Sierra route (68 km) and Arroyo del Enebral route (16 km)* travel through a trail in good conditions and both are suitable by bike (MTB). Extensive forests, spotting animals easily and low exploitation of this area of the Park will not leave you indifferent.

In addition, its rich geological resources stand out, with **Chequilla Enchanted City**, dropstone, graptolite deposits or

**Aguaspeña** in Checa. In Orea, we find **Rio de Piedras**, with its little **Enchanted City** and **Callejones de Peñas Rubias**.

*Georoute 8: from Checa to Chequilla and Georoute 9: La Sierra de Orea* will take you to these outstanding treasures, also by bike.

**Checa** is one of the most charming villages in Guadalajara province. It is built between gullies in **Genitoris river**, from Aguaspeña, crossing the village and flowing into Cabrillas river. At first glance, we find white houses as a reminiscent of Andalusia, due to transhumance. During this period strong links were established with these southern territories, adopting some of their customs.

In the village main square, visitors will find Museo de la *Ganadería Tradicional*, which is also a Natural Park visitor's centre. ■

# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



ECST COMPANIES

Parque Natural del Alto Tajo is integrated in the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (ECST). This tool aims to

bring closer to companies committed to tourism sustainability to the management of the Park, establishing requirements in relation to its environmental sustainability.

## Companies and accommodations integrated in ECST

### ACCOMMODATION

- El Mirador de Oter country house (Oter, Cifuentes)
- Dehesa común de Solanillos rural inn (Mazarete)
- El Descansillo hostel (Escalera)
- Casas del Salto country houses (Poveda de la Sierra)
- El Bú country house (Peralejos de las Truchas)
- Chon Alto Tajo rural apartments and houses (Peralejos de las Truchas)
- La Gerencia hotel (Checa)
- El Portón de la Sierra hotel and apartments (Orea)

- El Portón de la Sierra restaurant-bar (Orea)
- Corrinche restaurant (Alcoroches)

### ECOTOURISM AND ACTIVE TOURISM

- Dehesa común de Solanillos Environmental Education Centre (Mazarete)
- Trillo Aventura (Trillo)
- Asdon Aventura (Poveda de la Sierra)
- Sentir el Alto Tajo (Peralejos de las Truchas)



### RESTAURANTS

- Casas del Salto restaurant-bar (Poveda de la Sierra)



## GUIDED TOURS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES



CLICK HERE

The Park activity program offers guided tours and other free activities for all visitors. Please, book in advance.

Local ecotourism and active tourism companies offer different activities:

- Hiking trails
- Ecotourism activities
- Water activities
- Ciclotourism and MTB routes and bike renting



## *Regulation of activities within the Natural Park*

- **Hiking and bike tours:** they are allowed individually in all the Park, without permits or authorizations. For group, business or companies activities, authorization from the Park is mandatory.
- **Driver-guided sightseeing tours:** authorization from the Park is required.
- **Running races:** authorization is required.
- **Water and sport activities.** Check PRUG (Master Plan for the Use and Management of the Park).
- **Overnight stay in shelters:** allowed for only one night.
- **Free camping:** not allowed.
- **Climbing:** is only allowed in the designated areas. Check PRUG.
- **Swimming:** allowed except for Valtablado del Río lake and in Arandilla river. Swimming areas regulated and supervised by Consejería de Sanidad are located in the area of San Pedro bridge, in Zaorejas.
- **Mushroom picking:** regulated in many villages. Appropriate permits are required.





PARK WEBSITE



(PRUG) (MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF  
THE PARK)



MUSHROOM PICKING  
PERMIT



ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR  
AUTHORIZATIONS IN THE PARK

- **Vivac.** Up to 10 people, official guided tours are allowed. More than 10 people tours require authorization.
- **Camping with tents for groups:** The Park has some campsites managed by local governments in Alustante,

Corduente, Peñalén, Peralejos de las Truchas, Poveda de la Sierra, Torremocha del Pinar and Zaorejas. Authorization from corresponding local government is required. ■

## Safety, rules and recommendations

### Help us protect the Park!

- Using the trails and other equipment in the natural areas may entail some risks. Take necessary precautions to enjoy them responsibly.
- Do not make noises disturbing the wildlife or causing inconvenience to other visitors.
- Help us keeping the natural area clean. Do not litter; only dispose litter in the bins located the urban areas.
- No fires permitted. Please do not throw burning cigarettes.
- Free camping is not allowed.
- Please respect flora, wildlife and protected area.
- Using soaps and detergents is not allowed in natural water courses.
- Keep pets supervised at all times.
- Please obey all signs and indications from the park rangers and support staff of the protected area.
- Try to avoid motor vehicles when possible. When in use, maximum speed limit is 30 km/h on trails and paths.
- In order to prevent problems of soil erosion and for your safety, do not leave designated paths and trails.
- Extreme temperatures can be reached both in summer and winter, please dress accordingly. Appropriate footwear is required all year round.

## Learn more

Park website: [areasprotegidas.castillalamancha.es/alto-tajo](http://areasprotegidas.castillalamancha.es/alto-tajo)

Email: [pnaltotajo@jccm.es](mailto:pnaltotajo@jccm.es)

Trillo, Cifuentes and Molina de Aragón Tourist information.



**MOLINA DE ARAGÓN**  
TOURIST INFORMATION



**MUSEO COMARCAL**  
MOLINA DE ARAGÓN



**ACCOMMODATION:**When looking for accommodation, choose some of the rural places integrated in the ECST, as they will improve your experience in the Park.



**PARQUE NATURAL DEL ALTO**  
TAJO GEOLOGICAL GUIDE



**GEO PARK**



**ESPACIO RED NATURA 2000**



**GEO PARK TOURIST GUIDE**



**VIDEOS OF THE PARK**







DO YOU PRACTISE NATURALEAR?



Learn more







<b>1 VALTABLADO DEL RIO</b> ● Valtablado Del Río ➡ 21 Km <b>Level:</b> Easy <b>Distinctive features:</b> Panoramic views of Tajo river, Barranco de la Rambla and Tetás de Viana.		
	<b>2 LOS MIRADORES DEL TAJO</b> ● Taravilla ➡ 55 Km <b>Level:</b> Intermediate <b>Distinctive features:</b> Stunning panoramic of the park • Birds raptors.	
<b>3 LA MUELA</b> ● Taravilla ➡ 31 Km <b>Level:</b> Intermediate <b>Distinctive features:</b> Stunning panoramic of Tajo canyon • Deers and different species of forest and cliff-nesting birds.		
	<b>4 LA SIERRA</b> ● Checa ➡ 70 Km <b>Level:</b> Intermediate <b>Distinctive features:</b> Scots pine forests • Mountain pastures • Different species of raptors and forest birds • The best deer populations in the park.	

SYMBOLS FOR ALL ROUTES

● Starting point

➡ Loop trail

➡ Linear trail

At least 50% of this route is shaded

<b>6 FROM HUERTAPELAYO TO TAJO</b> ● Huertapelayo ➡ 7,6 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> Easy <b>Distinctive features:</b> Pine forests, riparian forests, ungulate fauna and its footprints.		
	<b>7 LAS CALERAS DE VILLANUEVA DE ALCORON</b> ● Villanueva de Alcorón ➡ 6 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> Easy <b>Theme:</b> Lime-made traditional ovens, oak forest.	
<b>8 EL RODENAL DE CORDUENTE</b> ● Corduente ➡ 9 Km <b>Level:</b> intermediate <b>Distinctive features:</b> Pinares de rodено, Santuario Virgen de la Hoz, Gallo river gorge and formations of sandstones and conglomerates.		
	<b>9 EL PUNTA DE LA CABEZA</b> ● Lebrancón ➡ 8 Km <b>Level:</b> Easy <b>Temática:</b> Pine Forests, large juniper trees, traditional livestock constructions ( <i>chozones sabineros</i> ).	
<b>10 EL SALTO DE POVEDA</b> ● Poveda de la Sierra ➡ 5 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> intermediate <b>Distinctive features:</b> Travertine system of Taravilla lake and its tufa gorge draining to Tajo, birds species found in rock cliffs.		
	<b>11 BARRANCO DEL HORCAJO</b> ● Peralejos de las Truchas ➡ 6,5 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> Easy <b>Distinctive features:</b> Limestone defile with tufa formations and copses with lindens and hazels.	

<b>1 OCENTEJO-HUNDIDO DE ARMALLONES</b> ● Ocentejo ➡ 6 Km <b>Level:</b> Easy <b>Distinctive features:</b> River canyon, cascade-tuff formations, riparian forests, wide diversity of birds.		
	<b>2 SENDA DEL CASTILLO DE VALTABLADO DEL RIO</b> ● Valtablado del Río ➡ 9 km <b>Level:</b> Intermediate <b>Distinctive features:</b> Riparian forests, traditional constructions, castle remains and landscape.	
<b>3 LA RAMBLA DEL AVELLANO</b> ● Arbeteta ➡ 12 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> Intermediate <b>Distinctive features:</b> 15th century castle, pine forest, exokarst formations.		
	<b>4 EL VALLE DE LOS MILAGROS</b> ● Riba de Saelices ➡ 5 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> Intermediate <b>Distinctive features:</b> Riparian forest, monoliths and rocks in tower shape formations (milagros).	
<b>5 LOS CHOZONES DE LA LOMA</b> ● La Loma ➡ 10 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> Easy <b>Distinctive features:</b> Traditional livestock houses (chozones sabineros), holm oak forests.		

<b>12 RIO CABRILLAS</b> ● Megina ➡ 8 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> Intermediate <b>Distinctive features:</b> Pine forests, riparian forests, cliff-nesting raptors, Cabrillas river.		
	<b>15 RUTA DE LAS PIEDRAS ROJAS</b> ● Chequilla ➡ 2,5 Km <b>Level:</b> Easy <b>Distinctive features:</b> Rodeno stone pinnacle towers and bull ring with a natural rodено stone enclose.	
<b>16 LA ESPINEDA</b> ● Checa ➡ 5 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> Easy <b>Distinctive features:</b> Vast areas of black pines, La Espineda stream waterfall.		
	<b>17 LA LAGUNA DE LA SALOBREJA</b> ● Orea ➡ 13,5 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> Intermediate (up to the lake), Difficult (complete route) <b>Distinctive features:</b> Karst lake, Hoz Seca river, with a unique vegetation and hydrological functioning, Callejones de Peñas Rubias.	
<b>18 EL ARROYO DEL ENEBRAL</b> ● Orea ➡ 18 Km 🌿 Sí <b>Level:</b> high <b>Distinctive features:</b> Vast but enclose areas of black pine, fountains, picnic sites, ascent to San Cristobal hill.		

		<b>GEO→RUTA 5 A TRIP TOWARDS THE SEA</b> <b>1 Start:</b> Barranco de la Hoz. <b>2 End:</b> Road to Zaorejas, near Cuevas Labradas. <b>Duration:</b> 3-4 hours. Route to do partially by walk and partially by bike or vehicle. <b>Distinctive features:</b> folds, fossils, river canyon and rock originated in former rivers, beaches and seas.
<b>GEO→RUTA 6 A COMPLICATED BALANCE</b> <b>1 Start:</b> Sima de Alcorón. <b>2 End:</b> Peñalén. <b>Duration:</b> 3 hours. Trail to be done mostly by vehicle or bike. <b>Distinctive features:</b> chasms, karst formations (enchanted cities) and former sand and kaolinite mines		
	<b>GEO→RUTA 7 WATER COURSES</b> <b>1 Start:</b> Taravilla lake <b>2 End:</b> Martinete bridge. <b>Duration:</b> 4 hours. Route to do partially by walk and partially by bike or vehicle. <b>Distinctive features:</b> lake with tuff reservoir, river canyon, folds, landslides and an abandoned meander.	
<b>GEO→RUTA 8 HIDDEN SECRETS IN THE ROCKS</b> <b>1 Start:</b> Checa. <b>2 End:</b> Chequilla. <b>Duration:</b> 3-4 hours. Trail to be done mostly by vehicle or bike. <b>Distinctive features:</b> folds, fossils, tufa formations, a poljé, sandstone enchanted cities and a dropstone.		
	<b>GEO→RUTA 9 A GEODIVERSITY MOSAIC</b> <b>1 2 Start and end:</b> Orea. <b>Duration:</b> 3-4 Route to do partially by walk and partially by bike or vehicle. <b>Distinctive features:</b> stone runs, peat bogs, karst lake, sandstone and volcanic rocks contours.	

		In Parque Natural del Alto Tajo, you will find nine GEOROUTES, which are predetermined itineraries to get to know the outstanding geological richness of this Natural Park. All nine routes are marked, with information. In each QR code, you will find more details about the trail, its leaflet and download route track.
<b>GEO→RUTA 1 INSIDE THE CANYON</b> <b>1 Start:</b> Ocentejo. <b>2 End:</b> Hundido de Armallones. <b>Duration:</b> 4 hours. Trail to be done mostly on foot or by bike. <b>Distinctive features:</b> river canyon, folds, cascade tufa formations and landslides.		
	<b>GEO→RUTA 2 ROCKS, VEGETATION AND LANDSCAPE</b> <b>1 Start:</b> Riba de Saelices. <b>2 End:</b> Saelices de la Sal. <b>Duration:</b> Route to do partially by walk and partially by bike or vehicle. <b>Distinctive features:</b> monoliths, rocks in tower shape formations, salt ponds, contrast of formations.	
<b>GEO→RUTA 3 MANKIND AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b> <b>1 Start:</b> Cobeta. <b>2 End:</b> Barranco del Arandilla. <b>Duration:</b> 3-4 hours. Route to do partially by walk and partially by bike or vehicle. <b>Distinctive features:</b> river canyon, tuff and other types of rocks and minerals, such as gypsum, aragonite and jacinth.		
	<b>GEO→RUTA 4 WATER: ESCULTORA DEL PAISAJE</b> <b>1 Start:</b> Pedro bridge. <b>2 End:</b> Zaorejas viewpoint <b>Duration:</b> 3 hours. Trail to be done mostly on foot. <b>Distinctive features:</b> large tufa formations and the Tajo river canyon.	

<b>TECHNICAL SHEET</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NAME:</b> Parque Natural del Alto Tajo</li> <li><b>SUPERFICIE:</b> 105.721 ha</li> <li><b>PROVINCES AND VILLAGES INTEGRATED IN THE PARK:</b> In Guadalajara province, 35 villages integrated (14 local government included): Ablanque, Alcoroches, Alustante, Anguita (Santa María del Espino , Villarejo de Medina), Arbeteta, Armallones, Baños de Tajo, Checa, Chequilla, Cifuentes (Carrascosa de Tajo, Oter), Cobeta, Corduente (Cuevas Labradas, Lebrancón, Torete, Ventosa), Esplegares, Fuembellida, , Huertahernando, Megina, Ocentejo, Olmeda de Cobeta, Orea, Peñalén, Peralejos de las Truchas, Pinilla de Molina, Poveda de la Sierra, Riba de Saélices (La Loma, Ribarredonda), Sacecorbo (Canales del Ducado), Saélices de la Sal, Selas, Taravilla, Terzaga, Tierzo, Torremocha del Pinar, Valhermoso (Escalera), Valtablado del Río, Villanueva de Alcorón y Zaorejas (Huertapelayo, Villar de Cobeta). In Cuenca province, 2 villages: Beteta and Cuenca.</li> <li><b>SOCIOECONOMIC INFLUENCE AREA:</b> composed by villages integrated in the natural park.</li> <li><b>PERIPHERAL PROTECTION ZONE:</b> area 68.824 Ha.</li> <li><b>LAW DECLARING THE PROTECTED AREA:</b> Ley 1/2000, de 6 de abril, declaring Parque Natural del Alto Tajo</li> <li><b>OTHER TOOLS TO PROTECT AND RECOGNISE THE PARK:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red Natura 2000 network "SAC-SPA Alto Tajo ES4240016-ES0000092"</li> <li>Microreserva Prados Húmedos de Torremocha del Pinar.</li> <li>Comarca de Molina-Alto Tajo geopark</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Plan de Ordenación de los Recursos Naturales (Natural Resources Ordinance Plan)</b>, effective by Act 204/1999 approving Parque Natural del Alto Tajo PORN.</li> <li><b>Plan Rector de Uso y Gestión (Master Plan for the Use and Management of the Park)</b> ,effective by Order 04-04-2005, of Consejería de Medio Ambiente, approving Plan Rector de Uso y Gestion of Parque Natural del Alto Tajo, amended by Order 29-03-2006, of Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Rural (D.O.C.M. [Castilla-La Mancha region official journal] no. 73 of 6-04-2006) and by Order 22/04/2010, of Consejería de Industria, Energía y Medio Ambiente.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

PUBLIC USE MAP

Parque Natural del

ALTO TAJO