



ENGLISH EDITION

Parque Natural del

BARRANCO DEL RÍO DULCE

VISITOR'S GUIDE

Comenzar





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C O N T E N T S

NATURAL VALUES

• Relief.....	4
• Climate aspects.....	5
• Landscape.....	6
• Flora and vegetation.....	8
• Wildlife.....	10
• Geology and geomorphology.....	14
• Human activity.....	16

NATURALEA EL BARRANCO DEL RÍO DULCE

• Learn more and start your visit.....	20
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EXPLORE THE PARK

• Hiking trails.....	22
• Long distance trails.....	24
• Mountain bike (MTB) routes in the park.....	25
• Viewpoint and picnic areas.....	26
• Routes around the park.....	27

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

• Guided tours and other activities.....	31
• Regulations within the Natural Park.....	31
• Seafety, rules and recommendations.....	32
• Learn more.....	32



Parque Natural del **BARRANCO DEL RÍO DULCE**

The territory over which the Barranco del río Dulce (Dulce River Ravine) extends, in the north of the province of Guadalajara and in the westernmost foothills of the Iberian System, was declared a Natural Park on 27 February 2003, covering an area of 8,348 hectares. It has been integrated into the Natura 2000 network as a Special Area of Conservation (ZEC) and a Special Protection Area for Birds (ZEPA).

The high environmental value of this area is derived from a significant geological process: the excavation by the Río Dulce of a deep canyon in the limestone strata of the Alcarria plateau. The combination of vertical reliefs, a river with crystal-clear waters, and a rich fauna and flora, complemented by a valuable cultural heritage, make this Natural Park an environment of great value and beauty, ideal for connecting with nature and for environmental education and awareness.

The key elements for the conservation of biodiversity are:

- Cliff-dwelling birds of prey (Bonelli's eagle, golden eagle, Egyptian vulture, and peregrine falcon)
- Cliff and scree vegetation and thick-leaved formations
- Riparian forest (Mediterranean riverside ash forests and tree-lined willow groves)
- Fauna associated with river environments (otter, kingfisher, dipper, European bullhead, and brown trout)
- White juniper groves
- Black juniper groves
- Oak forests (holm oak, cork oak, and mixed stands)
- Other birds of prey (booted eagle, short-toed snake eagle, Montagu's harrier, merlin, and Eurasian eagle-owl)



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N A T U R A L V A L U E S



Hoz de Pelegrina / CG

The relief

Río Dulce is the axis that structures this natural space. Three structural units characterise it physiographically: on the one hand, the Alcarrian limestone plateau that configures a flat relief; on the other, the river canyon carved by Río Dulce, with vertical walls and ruin-like reliefs; and finally, the valley of Río Dulce and small lateral valleys of its tributary

streams, with hillside vegetated by forests and shrublands, and meadows and cultivations in the valley bottoms. The highest point of the Natural Park is located at 1,214 metres above sea level on the Cerro de San Cristóbal (Algora) and the lowest around 880 metres above sea level, at the point where the Río Dulce leaves the Park in Aragosa.

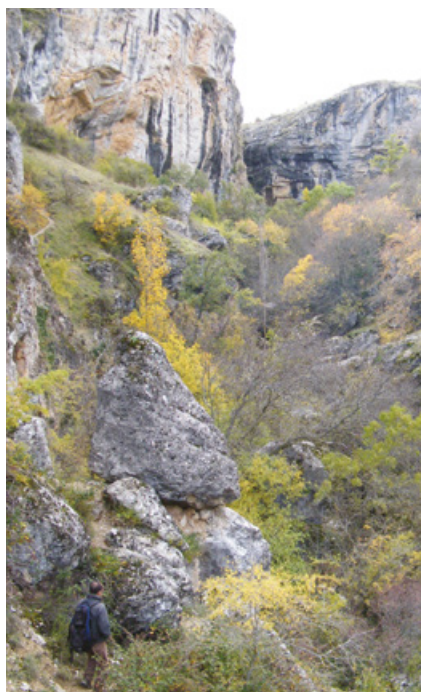


Gollorio waterfall / CG

Climate aspects

The climate of the Park, continental and relatively dry (with average annual rainfall of 510 mm), is influenced by its location in the interior peninsula and its altitude. Winters are cold and harsh, with the lowest temperatures typically occurring in January (averaging between 2 and 3°C). Summers, on the other hand, are short and not overly hot, with averages around 22°C.

At the bottom of the gorge, a microclimate is generated, facilitated by the protection provided by its unique morphology and orientation. As a result, the ravine is shielded from winds and sunlight, particularly on the shaded walls, creating a more humid environment that supports a distinctive flora and fauna.



Hoz de Pelegrina (gorge)/ NM



Landscape

The Natural Park visitors can enjoy varied and beautiful landscapes, a result of its rich geodiversity, the variety of its plant formations, and human activity. The limestone cliffs and rocky outcrops contrast with the flat and stony landscape of the Alcarrian high moorland; the hillside covered with holm oak, oak, or juniper, with the fresh riverbank groves; and the small villages of traditional architecture that the river Dulce connects as it winds through the ravine (Pelegrina, La Cabrera, and Aragosa), enhance the scenic value of the Natural Park.

All this creates a set of great chromatic richness and strong contrasts, which are accentuated by the changing seasons, especially in autumn, or with the budding of leaves in the groves and the blooming of guillomos in spring. ■



Hoz de Pelegrina (gorge)/ SA



Aragosa e / CG



Río Dulce / TA

Flora and vegetation

The territory of the Natural Park has a high botanical value. In the high plateau and on the slopes, holm oak and oak forests dominate, with varying thickness and height depending on the use of pastures and firewood to which they have been subjected. Among them, we find junipers and sparse shrubland of thyme and brooms, and in the shadier enclaves, Montpellier maples and guillomos.

On the slopes with poorer soils and exposed to sunlight, we can also find Phoenician juniper groves (*Juniperus phoenicea*), which grow on steep cliffs with little soil, along with blackthorns, buckthorns, and dogwoods. There is also an isolated thuriferous juniper gro-

ve (*Juniperus thurifera*) in the Natural Park that occupies the sunny slopes of El Prado, between La Cabrera and Pelegrina.

On the banks of the Río Dulce, where the soil depth and humidity are greater, a gallery forest of ash trees with dogwoods and various species of willows develops, where other tree species such as white poplars or native poplars appear, and even, in certain enclaves, linden trees.

In the more human-influenced areas near the river, deciduous shrub formations of thorny species develop, where hawthorns, blackberries, and sloes abound, and near the villages, fruit trees are interspersed with the river gallery, mainly walnut and cherry trees. Many orchards have been replaced by poplar



Maple of Montpellier / OG



European Spindle / OG



Saxifraga moncayensis / OG

plantations used for timber production. The rock vegetation is of particular value, formed by the rock communities that live on the rock walls themselves, and glericolous, which occupy mobile

scree or frost-shattered areas. Here we find protected plant species adapted to living in these harsh and unique environments, such as Saxifraga moncayensis or Sarcocapnos enneaphylla ■

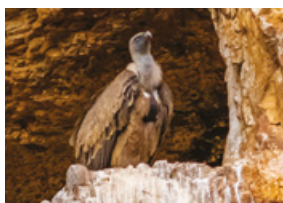


Bonelli's eagle

Pascal De Munck_Shutterstock



Alimoche_Felipe Nombela_shutterstock



Griffon vulture / DB



Peregrin falcon_ Burguete Blacksmith_Shutterstock

Wildlife

The great variety of habitats that coexist in very close spaces in the Natural Park results in a wide diversity of fauna species, many of them protected and the subject of conservation programmes.

The bird community is organised around five types of habitats: in the rocky areas,

Bonelli's eagles and golden eagles, peregrine falcons, Egyptian vultures, griffon vultures, Eurasian eagle-owls or red-billed choughs nest; in the forests, goshawks, sparrowhawks, short-toed snake eagles and other diurnal and nocturnal forest raptors such as tawny owls or little owls, as well as small forest birds of interest, can be found; in the river, it is possible to spot ▶

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE



In the case of the Bonelli's eagle, a species classified as endangered, annual monitoring of the breeding pair is carried out, adopting the necessary measures to prevent disturbances that could lead to reproductive failure, and action is taken on non-natural causes of mortality, such as correcting risky power lines to prevent electrocution. Annual breeding censuses are also conducted for peregrine falcon, Egyptian vulture, and golden eagle populations, with measures implemented to minimize disturbances during the breeding season.



Blue tit/ CG



Common Hawfinch/ CG



Alcaravan_Francisco Martinez
Lanzas_shutterstock



European Goldfinch/ CG



Roe deer_WildMedia_
Shutterstock



Badger_charlie davidson_shutterstock



Otter_miguellm_shutterstock

► white-throated dippers, common kingfishers or grey herons; in the moorlands and cultivated fields, among many other species, Montagu's harriers, stone-curlews and Eurasian thick-knees can be found, and finally, in the humanised environments, species such as the barn owl or the common swift find refuge.

Among the mammals, the varied community of carnivores stands out, with species such as the stone marten, the Eurasian badger, the common genet or the wildcat. The roe deer and the wild boar are abundant, and a valuable community of forest and cave-dwelling bats inhabits the area. In the waters of the Dulce River, species of interest such as otters, Cabrera's white-toothed shrew and water voles live.

The herpetofauna of the Natural Park is varied. Among the amphibians, the common midwife toad, the Iberian painted frog, the Iberian emerald lizard or the Spanish ribbed newt stand out, species that are highly threatened due to the fragility of their habitats, and among the reptiles, the ocellated lizard, the large psammodromus or the slow worm.

Regarding the fish, the population of common trout, with a high level of genetic purity, is valuable. Common barbel, Iberian chub and Iberian redfin also live in the Dulce River, and the community of aquatic invertebrates is important, with bioindicator species of the river's health status such as the diving beetles or the water scorpion. ■



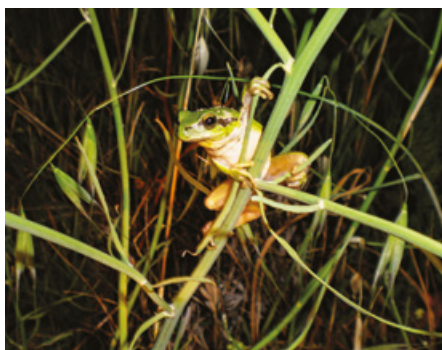
Common trout / JAG



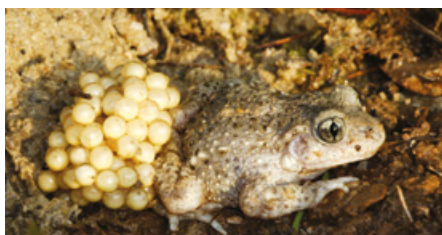
Common trout sample / AL



American mink control / AL



European tree frog_m.e.s.t.o.c.k-shutterstock



Common Midwife Toad / Coulanges_Shutterstock



Ditisco / Héctor Ruiz Villar_shutterstock

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR THREATENED WILDLIFE



In the Natural Park, programmes are developed to ensure the conservation of threatened species populations. In the Dulce River, annual surveys of the native trout population are conducted using electrical fishing techniques at sampling stations determined by the Regional Management Plan for this species. Additionally, trapping campaigns are carried out to eradicate the American mink, an invasive exotic species that has colonised a significant part of the river courses in the Park. On the other hand, regarding herpetofauna, a conservation programme for amphibians is developed, focusing particularly on the populations of the common midwife toad and the Iberian spotted newt. This involves installing enclosures in degraded ponds damaged by cattle trampling or conditioning sources and dams to facilitate amphibian breeding, among other actions.



Pelegrina sickle/ CG



Pelegrina sickle/ CG

Geology and Geomorphology

The geological processes have been particularly relevant in the configuration of the Río Dulce Ravine. During the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods of the Mesozoic era, the area was frequently covered by seas in which the limestones and dolomites that dominate the Natural Park were deposited. In the Tertiary, the Alpine Orogeny folded the limestone strata, creating new reliefs and spectacular folds, such as those visible from the Viewpoint Félix



Gollorío waterfall/ TA

in Pelegrina gorge. More recently, in the Quaternary, the Río Dulce has been dissolving these rocks and excavating the fluvial canyon that we can admire today.



Félix viewpoint/ CG



Río Dulce waterfall/ CG



Travertine dam / AL

The result is a very striking relief. It is characterised by the broad, high, and horizontal plateaus, interrupted by the cutting of the canyon of the Río Dulce and its tributaries, one of which originates the singular Gollo-río waterfall. The fluvial erosive process has created high vertical cliffs carved into the limestone rock, with striking orange and grey colourings. On the other hand, the intense dissolution of the limestones has created karst landforms such as canyons and deeply incised gorges, among which the Fragosa Canyon, the Portacho Narrows

and the La Cabrera Gorge stand out; spectacular needles, towers and stone arches; travertine dams and cavities such as caves, sinkholes and small dolines or torcas. Along the course of the Río Dulce, small travertine or calcareous tufa dams are also frequent, forming small waterfalls or beautiful cascades like the one at Aragosa. Another singular geomorphological element is the abandoned meander of La Cabrera, which shows the variations of the course of the Dulce River, as a consequence of its deep incision. ■



Pelegrina / DB

Human activity

The territory of the Barranco del Río Dulce and sheep farming are closely linked, and this is reflected in the landscape. Sheepfolds, watering places, enclosures with stone fences, sheepfolds and lambing pens in natural shelters are characteristic elements of the Natural Park landscape.

In the villages, limestone predominates in the buildings, and the layout of the streets is characteristic of medieval settlements typical of the area. Some villages have very small settlements, with curious examples of rural architecture, and are located in a setting of great natural beauty. This is the case of Pelegrina, La Cabrera, and Aragosa, nestled in the Barranco del Dulce.



Castle of Parador de Sigüenza / DB

Valuable cultural heritage

The architectural heritage of religious nature within the Natural Park is extraordinary. In most of its villages, there are magnificent rural Romanesque churches and hermitages (12th-13th centuries), with beautiful apses and courtyards asso-



Church in Jodra del Pinar: / CG

ciated, with the Church of Jodra del Pinar, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption in Saúca standing out among them.

These are joined by military and civilian buildings, such as the remains of Pelegrina Castle (12th century), the La Cabrera Bridge (18th century), or the remains of the Los Heros hamlet, the first paper money factory in Spain.

Furthermore, very close to the Natural Park lies Sigüenza, a candidate for a UNESCO World Heritage City, with a beautiful historical ensemble declared a BIC, comprising its cathedral, castle-parador, walled enclosure, medieval houses, and numerous churches and hermitages of various architectural styles. ■



Félix's hut / AL



LA HOZ DE PELEGRINA La Hoz de Pelegrina is an emblematic space for environmental outreach and education. Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente filmed many of the documentaries for his series 'El Hombre y la Tierra' (Man and the Earth) in this natural setting, which greatly contributed to raising our environmental awareness. In the hut where he stored his filming equipment, panels have been installed that detail the work of this great communicator of the natural world..





"Naturalear" is to immerse oneself in the natural world, to venture into the territory, to explore its paths, to peacefully enjoy its villages and nature. leaving behind no trace except that of the respect with which we do so.

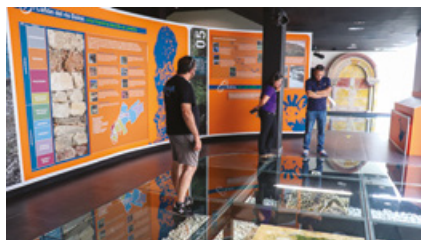
Map

 Natural park
website





Pelegrina visitor's centre/ AL



Mandayona visitor's centre/ AL

Learn more and start your visit.

In the final section of this guide, you can find more information about the Natural Park. Some practical tips to prepare for your visit are:

- Decide where to stay based on the activities you plan to do
- Choose companies and accommodations committed to sustainable tourism.
- Book activities or visits in advance.
- Anticipate the appropriate equipment and clothing beforehand.

Visitor's centre in the Park

Visitor centres are ideal places to start your journey. In them, you can get information, learn about the values of the space, and plan the details of your stay in the Park. Moreover, trails and itineraries that will take you into this territory depart from them.

The Barranco del Río Dulce Natural Park has two visitor centres that are open on weekends, holidays and long weekends from Easter until November. Before visiting, please check the calendar and other useful information on the park's website.

PELEGRINA VISITOR'S CENTRE



Located in the urban area of Pelegrina, from which many of the trails that traverse the Natural Park originate.

It is a two-story accessible building with a rooftop viewpoint, equipped with a comprehensive interpretive exhibition dedicated to the natural and cultural values of the Natural Park, as well as the range of trails and other outdoor activities in this area.

MANDAYONA VISITOR'S CENTRE



Located 1 km from the urban core of Mandayona, it shares a building with the local school. It is an accessible space that features a large exhibition hall, garden, and amphibian pond.

The interpretive provision is dedicated to the natural and cultural values of the Park, with a specific area dedicated to the figure of Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. ■

EXPLORE THE PARK

The Natural Park of the Barranco del Río Dulce has a comprehensive network of recreational areas, viewpoints and waymarked trails to explore the territory and discover it. They are distributed throughout the Park and oriented towards the different interests and abilities of visitors.

HELP US PRESERVE THEM

Should you come across any damaged or hazardous facilities or equipment, please send us a georeferenced image along with any relevant details to the email address pnriodulce@jccm.es

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 may entail

EASY TRAILS: for families with kids and inexperienced hikers.



3 Senda de la Hoz de Pelegrina:
● Pelegrina ↻ 4 km. 🌿 🏠

4 Senda del Mirador de la cascada del Gollorio
● Pelegrina ↻ 7 km. 🌿 🏠

7 Senda adaptada a discapacidad visual de La Cabrera (adapted for individuals with visual impairments):
● La Cabrera ➡ 1,5 km. 🌿 🏠



00 Trail number on the map

🌿 Environmental interest

🏠 Cultural interest

● Starting point

➡ Linear trail

↻ Loop trail



INTERMEDIATE TRAILS: For more experienced hikers. They require preparation for the journey and appropriate equipment. Trails that may fall into this category are easy paths with some challenging or slightly risky sections.

- 5 **Camino de Pelegrina a Sigüenza por el Quejigar**
 ● Pelegrina/Sigüenza ➡ 7 km.



- 6 **Camino de Pelegrina a La Cabrera y Aragosa**
 ● Pelegrina/Aragosa ➡ 11 km.



- 8 **PR-GU 08 Mandayona- Mirabueno- Aragosa**
 ● Mandayona
 (Visitor's centre of the Natural Park) ➡ 11 km.





LONG DISTANCE TRAILS

GR
10

FROM VALENCIA TO LISBON

It's the **grand hiking route in Spain, as it traverses the country from east to west, from Valencia to Lisbon**. It is part of the European trail E7, which goes from Constanza (Romania) to Lisbon (Portugal).

It covers over 300 km across the province of Guadalajara, where it is known as the **Sendero de la Miel (Honey trail)**. It con-

nects the three natural parks in the province, with six stages in the Alto Tajo Park, three in the Sierra Norte de Guadalajara Park, and one in the Barranco del Río Dulce Nature Reserve, which it follows for 21 km from Torremocha del Campo to Mandayona, passing through the towns of Pelegrina, La Cabrera, and Aragona. ■

GR
160

CAMINO DEL CID

One of the stages of this long-distance trail runs through the territory of the Natural Park and its Peripheral Protection Zone. It is the one that connects

Sigüenza with Alcolea del Pinar, passing through the towns of Barbatona, Jodra del Pinar, and Estriégana, with a total distance of 20 km. ■

1 GR 10 Etapa: Torremocha del Campo - Mandayona:

● Torremocha del Campo ➡ 21 km. (E) (C)

2 GR 160 Etapa: Sigüenza – Alcolea del Pinar

● Sigüenza ➡ 20 km. (E) (C)

00 Trail number on the map

● Starting point

(E) Environmental interest

➡ Linear trail

(C) Cultural interest

🔄 Loop trail



MTB ROUTES

MTB ROUTES THROUGH LOS CAÑONES DEL DULCE Y DEL HENARES

It is a route of moderate difficulty that, due to its length and gradient, requires appropriate equipment and prior experience. It connects the towns of Sigüen-

za, Barbatona, Pelegrina, La Cabrera and Moratilla de Henares and, for part of its route, runs through the Natural Park. ■

9

MTB Cañones del Dulce y del Henares

📍 Sigüenza 📏 32 km 🏔️ 🚴



Viewpoint Gollorío waterfall / SA

VIEWPOINTS AND PICNIC SITES

The Natural Park of Barranco del Río Dulce has four recreational areas, located in Pelegrina, Aragosa, Mandayona, and Mirabueno, ideal for family relaxation, equipped with picnic tables and benches, and in some cases, also with water fountains. It also features four viewpoints located in Mirabueno, Algora (Cerro de San Cristóbal), and Hoz de Pelegrina (Gollorío waterfall and Felix Viewpoint, the latter adapted for individuals with motor disabilities), as well as parking areas in its urban centers. Check their locations on the Natural Park map.



Félix Viewpoint/ DB

FRAGILE SPACE



The Hoz de Pelegrina is a fragile area. An excessive number of visitors can lead to overcrowding and cause disturbances to wildlife or damage to the flora. It has been estimated that the number of simultaneous visitors should not exceed 300 people.



Aragosa / CG

ITINERARIES FOR EXPLORING THE PARK

The most recommended way to start our journey through the Barranco del Río Dulce Natural Park is by visiting one of its two interpretation centres, located in the villages of Pelegrina and Mandayona. There, we will be assisted by environmental guides who will inform us about the natural values of the protected area and recommend zones to visit or hiking routes that suit our interests.

The best way to get to know this Natural Park, its ecosystems, its fauna and flora, and to enjoy the landscapes it offers, is to walk the stage of the GR 10 trail that connects the towns of Torremocha del Campo and Mandayona and runs through the Barranco del río Dulce following the course of the river, passing through

the villages of Pelegrina, La Cabrera and Aragosa. But if our choice is to alternate car journeys with walks along the Park's trails, we propose these options:

EASTERN SECTOR

If we access via the A-2 from exit 104, we can start our tour at the **Mandayona Visitor Centre** where we can get information about the values of the Natural Park. From here, the **PR-GU 08** trail departs, which climbs along a local road from Mandayona to **Mirabueno** passing by its numerous springs and its washhouse. In Mirabueno, we can make a stop at the **Pico viewpoint**, which has a picnic area and spectacular landscape views of Valle del Dulce (valley) and ➡



La Cabrera / AL



Hiking trail GR 10 / DB



Pico viewpoint / AL

► of all the mountain range Sierra Norte de Guadalajara. From here, the path descends to **Aragosa**, a village with a beautiful rural architecture and a church with a Romanesque apse, where we can rest in its picnic area by the banks of the río Dulce and admire the beautiful **waterfall of Aragosa** before, following the path back to **Mandayona** and visiting this village.




Félix viewpoint / CG



Church of Jodra del Pinar / CG

We can continue our journey along the CM-1101 road to **La Cabrera**, a lovely village by the Río Dulce with a small Romanesque church from where we can take a walk along the GR 10 trail to the hamlet of Los Heros and the **estrecho del Portacho** or, alternatively, following the course of the Dulce, we can head towards the **Pelegrina** trail. We can also continue our journey by car to Pelegrina.

WEASTERN SECTOR

If we access via the A-2 from exit 118, near Torremocha del Campo, our first stop will be the **Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente Viewpoint**, with spectacular views of the Hoz de Pelegrina, from where we can watch the flight of vultures and Egyptian vultures. The next stop will be the **Pelegrina** car park. A 800 m walk will take us to the village where the **Visitor's centre of the Natural Park** is located, where we can learn about its values and trails. We can walk the **sendero de la Hoz de Pelegrina**, an easy walk along the Río Dulce and its riverside groves, which allows us to contemplate the limestone cliffs with stone arches, needles, and towers, and rest next to **the Félix hut**. In this hut, where Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente stored his filming equipment, panels 



Pelegrina castle / CG

► have been installed that detail the work carried out by this great environmental educator. We can extend our walk along the branch that leads up to the **viewpoint of the Gollorío water-fall**, with beautiful views of the Hoz de Pelegrina from the highland. On the way back to Pelegrina, a visit to its small Romanesque church and the **ruins of the 12th-century castle**, is highly recommended.

Just a 10-minute journey from Pelegrina, we will reach **Sigüenza**, a city that is a must-visit, boasting a beautiful **historic ensemble declared a Cultural Heritage**

Site, comprising its cathedral, castle-hotel, walled enclosure, medieval manors, and numerous churches and chapels.

From here, we can head to Jodra del Pinar to visit the church of San Juan Bautista, a gem of rural Romanesque from the 12th century with a beautiful apse and associated atrium. We will continue towards Estriégana to see the sources of the birth of the Río Dulce and, from there, to Saúca to visit the beautiful Romanesque Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, the end of our journey. ■

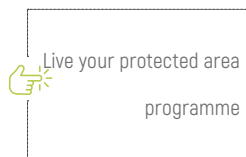
GUIDED TOURS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

'VIVE TU ESPACIO' ACTIVITY PROGRAMME OF THE NATURAL PARK

The 'Vive tu Espacio' (Live your protected area) programme of environmental activities in the Natural Park offers guided tours and other free activities for all visitors. Additionally, you can arrange guided tours of the Natural Park's interpretation centres and other activities for schools and cultural associations, through the 'Explora tu Espacio' (Explore your Space) Programme. Remember to book in advance. The eco-tourism and active tourism companies in the area have a varied selection of eco-tourism activities, nature workshops, guided hiking trails, cycling and mountain biking routes, etc



Guided tour. Hoz Pelegrina / SA



Regulation of activities within the Natural Park



/ DB

- **Hiking and cycling excursions:** de Individually, it is permitted throughout the park territory without the need for permission or authorization along public paths and trails (except for cycling access to the calderetas or the trail for people with reduced mobility). If it is an activity organized by a group, organization, or company, park authorization is required.
- **Contests (running races, mtb, etc):** Authorization is required.
- **Climbing and speleology:** Authorization is required.
- **Equestrian routes:** Authorization is required.
- **Driver-guided sightseeing tours:** Only authorised on paved roads.
- **Camping:** Is not allowed, except along the hike, which will require authorization.
- **Vivac:** Allowed, although for security reasons it is recommended to notify the Park.
- **Swimming:** Activity to be regulated in the PRUG.
- **Mushroom picking:** Permitted without commercial purposes, except in the municipalities where the activity is regulated and requires the obtaining of municipal permits.
- **Motorhomes:** Only in the designated and properly signposted areas.

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 urb 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: <https://areasprotegidas.castillalamancha.es/rap/espacios-naturales-prottegidos/enp-parque-natural/parque-natural-del-barranco-del-rio-dulce-43>

Email: pnriodulce@jccm.es



Natural Park website



Regulations of the
Natural Park



Online Registration for
Authorizations In the Park



Red Natura 2000 network
ZEC-ZEPA
Barranco del Río Dulce



Visitor's book guide of
the Natural Park



Touristic information
about Sigüenza





Gollorio
waterfall/ CG



DO YOU PRACTISE NATURALEAR?



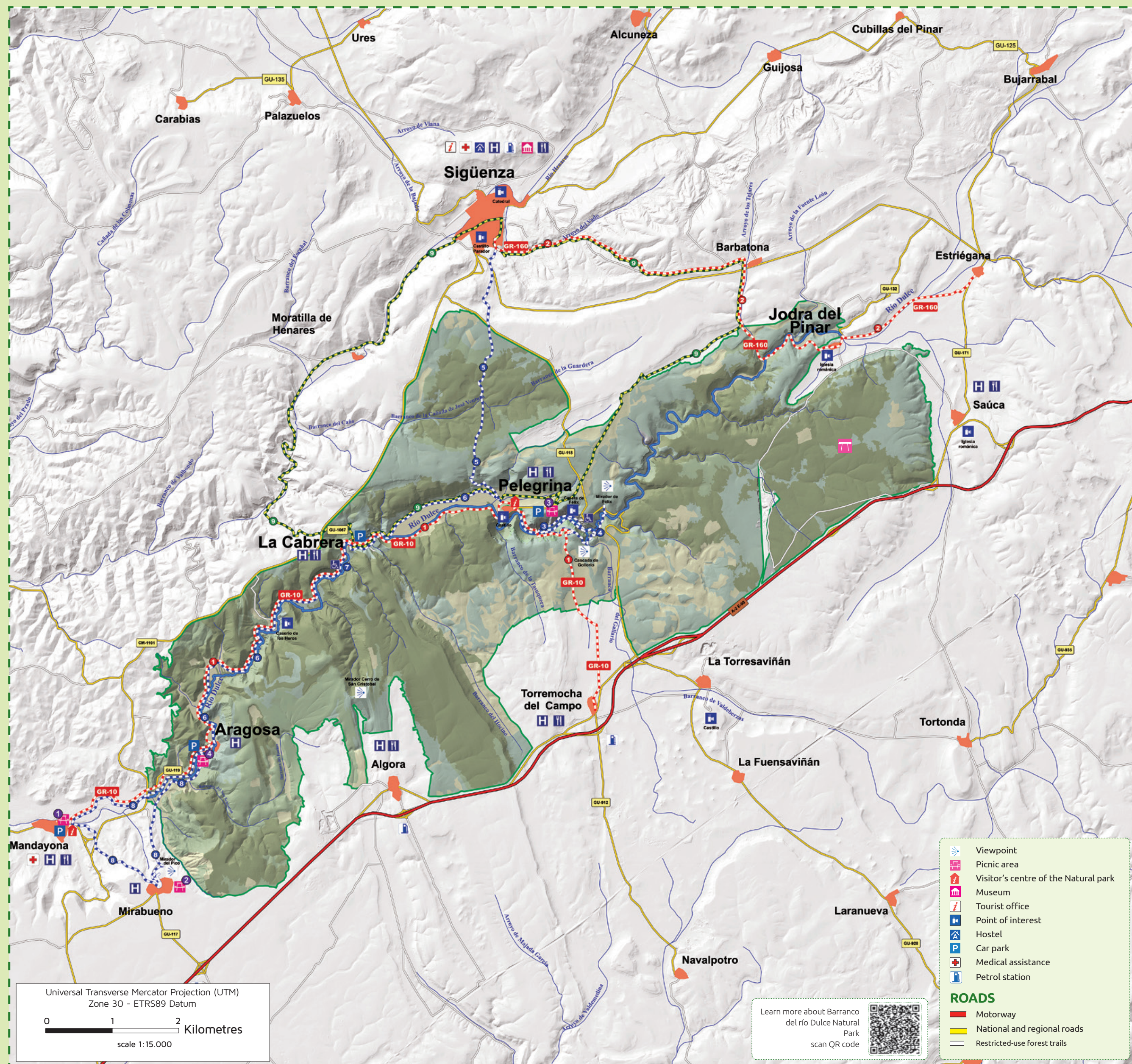
Learn more



PARQUE
NATURAL
BARRANCO
DEL RÍO DULCE
Red de Áreas
Protegidas de CLM



Castilla-La Mancha



- 1 VC DEL PARQUE NATURAL
- 2 MIRADOR DEL PICO
- 3 PELEGRINA)
- 4 ARAGOSA



- PELEGRINA VISITOR CENTRE
- MANDAYONA VISITOR CENTRE















- 1 GR 10 FROM TORREMOCHA DEL CAMPO TO MANDAYONA
- 2 GR 160 CAMINO DEL CID: TRAMO SIGÜENZA TO ESTRIÉGANA

10

- 3 SENDA DE LA HOZ DE PELEGRINA
- 4 SENDA MIRADOR DE LA CASCADA DE GOLLORÍO Y RAMAL DE LAS POZAS
- 5 CAMINO DE PELEGRINA A SIGÜENZA POR EL QUE JIGAR
- 6 CAMINO DE PELEGRINA A LA CABRERA Y ARAGOSA
- 7 SENDA ADAPTADA DE LA CABRERA
- 8 PR-GU 08 MANDAYONA – MIRABUENO – ARAGOSA

- ## 9 LAS PEDANÍAS DE SIGÜENZA MTB ROUTE

The Natural Park of Barranco del Río Dulce is a vulnerable area to any improper use or actions. Visitors are kindly requested to behave carefully towards the environment, respecting and ensuring compliance with the following basic rules:






-  Do not make noises disturbing the fauna or causing inconvenience to other visitors
-  Do not litter. Dispose garbage in the bins located the urban areas.
-  No fires permitted. Please do not throw burning cigarettes.
-  Free camping is not allowed.
-  Respect the wildlife, plants, and geology of the protected area. The unjustified collection of animals, plants, and minerals impoverishes the natural heritage of the Park. It is better to observe and go unnoticed.
-  Non-authorized drones are not allowed.
-  Prevent any activity that could alter the purity of river water. Using soaps and detergents is not allowed in natural water courses.
-  Do not introduce new species of wild fauna and flora.
-  Keep pets supervised at all times.
-  Try to avoid motor vehicles when possible When in use, maximum speed limit is 30 km/h on trails and paths. Driving on the track of Hoz del Río Dulce is not allowed.
-  Please obey all signs and indications from the park rangers and support staff of the protected area.
-  Parking out of designated areas is prohibited.
-  Respect the properties of the park's inhabitants, their culture and traditions.
-  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.*
-  *Using the trails and other equipment in the natural areas may entail some risks. Take necessary precautions to enjoy them responsibly.*
-  *Do not walk outside the existing paths in the Natural Park.*
-  *Do not transit through the park without sunlight or in fog. Do not do so in heavy snow without being adequately prepared.*
-  *Railings, handrails and similar infrastructures are elements to delimitate and to close the trails. They are not protective or security elements. Do not climb or lean on them to prevent falls*



HIKING TRAILS

3 SENDA DE LA HOZ DE PELEGRINA

Pelegrina 4 km.     



Distinctive features: A simple walk that starts from the village of Pelegrina and runs alongside the course of the Dulce River and its riverside grove with willows, ash trees, poplars, hawthorns, and dogwoods. We will also stroll in the shade of oaks and Montpellier maples, and next to orchards with walnut and cherry trees. This trail allows us to admire the limestone cliffs with stone arches, needles, and towers, where griffon vultures, Egyptian vultures, red-billed coughts, and Eurasian crag martin, accompanying us with their flights along the way. We can rest next to the hut where Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente kept his filming equipment. Panels have been installed there that tell the work carried out by this great environmental educator.

In Pelegrina, it is highly recommended to go to the Visitor Center of the Natural Park before walking the trail, as well as the small Romanesque church in this town and the ruins of its 12th-century castle.

Observations: Cars should be parked in the designated parking area adjacent to the access road to Pelegrina. A pedestrian path of 800m will take us to the village of Pelegrina, where the route begins.

ATTENTION. Access to the base of Gollorio waterfall is not permitted, as it is a high-risk area for falls and there is no equipped trail by the Natural Park.

HOZ DE PELEGRINA. A FRAGILE SPACE

The excessive number of visitors can lead to overcrowding and cause disturbances to the fauna or damage to the flora. It has been estimated that the number of simultaneous visitors should not exceed 300 people. The Pelegrina car park has been designed with a capacity that corresponds to this maximum number of visitors. Therefore, once the car park is full, we should direct ourselves to other areas of the Natural Park.

LONG DISTANCE TRAILS

1 GR 10. FROM TORREMOCCHA DEL CAMPO TO MANDAYONA

GR 10 Stage: Torremocha del Campo - Mandayona:

Torremocha del Campo

21 km.     



Distinctive features: This trail connects five settlements within the Natural Park: Torremocha del Campo, Pelegrina, La Cabrera, Aragosa and Mandayona. The section that runs through the Hoz de Pelegrina and the Río Dulce (river) canyon, already described in routes 3 and 6. It is joined by an initial stretch that departs from Torremocha del Campo and traverses the plateau, between cultivated fields and fallow land with thyme and gorse, until it connects with the path to the Gollorio waterfall and descends to the Río Dulce bed. In this first section, which lacks shade, we can observe steppe birds such as the Eurasian skylark, crested lark, and Montagu's harrier. The final section, between Aragosa and Mandayona, runs alongside the course of Río Dulce through the foothills of the river gorge and, from the intersection with the CM-1001 road, between cultivated fields and poplar groves until reaching Mandayona. During the trail, we can learn about the natural and cultural values of the protected area at the two visitor centres of the Natural Park, located in Pelegrina and Mandayona.

2 GR 160. FROM SIGÜENZA TO ALCOLEA DEL PINAR

GR 160 Stage: Sigüenza - Alcolea del Pinar

Sigüenza 20 km.   



Distinctive features: One of the stages of this long-distance hiking trail runs through the territory of the Natural Park and its Peripheral Protection Zone. This is the one that connects Sigüenza with Alcolea del Pinar, passing through the towns of Barbatona, Jodra del Pinar and Estriégana, in the headwaters of the Dulce valley. In Estriégana we can visit the sources of Río Dulce, and in Jodra del Pinar, a visit to



HIKING TRAILS

4 SENDA DEL MIRADOR DE LA CASCADA DEL GOLLORÍO

Pelegrina 7 km.     



Distinctive features: This route shares much of its path with the Hoz de Pelegrina trail, but extends the walk to ascend to the limestone plateau, with beautiful views of the Hoz del río Dulce. On the plateau, we will walk among junipers, oaks, and holm oaks with thyme and gorse scrub until we reach the viewpoint of the Gollorio Waterfall, a seasonal waterfall that usually freezes in winter. We can also explore a branch of the trail that leads us to the pools of the Dulce River, formed by travertine barriers (calcareous tufa) that dam the water.

ATTENTION. The section of the trail corresponding to the upper part runs near the vertical cliffs. It's not allowed deviate from the path. The crossing of the Gollorio stream must be carried out through the designated area without approaching the edge of the cliff.

5 CAMINO DE PELEGRINA A SIGÜENZA POR EL QUEJIGAR

Pelegrina/Sigüenza 7 km.     




Distinctive features: This path corresponds with a section of the Don Quixote route and a large part of its route runs through a well-preserved oak forest (Quercus faginea) and a juniper forest (Juniperus thurifera). We will find great diversity of small forest birds such as tits, blue tits, treehoppers or myths. The route allows you to get from Pelegrina to the medieval city of Sigüenza, where we can visit its beautiful historical complex: cathedral, castle-hotel, walled enclosure, medieval mansions and churches and hermitages of various architectural styles.

In Pelegrina it is recommended to visit the Visitor Center of the Natural Park, the small church Romanesque and the ruins of its 12th century castle. Romanesque church in this town and the ruins of its 12th century castle.



LONG DISTANCE TRAILS

 the Romanesque church of San Juan Bautista, from the 12th century, with a beautiful apse and associated atrium, is highly recommended. In the medieval city of Sigüenza, we can visit its beautiful historic ensemble comprising its cathedral, castle-parador, walled enclosure, medieval manor houses, and churches and hermitages of various architectural styles.

MTB ROUTES








9 BTT CAÑONES DEL DULCE Y DEL HENARES

Sigüenza 32 km    



Distinctive features: This route of BTT connects the localities of Sigüenza, Barbatona, Pelegrina, La Cabrera, and Moratilla de Henares. In the locality of Pelegrina, we can obtain information at the Natural Park Visitor Centre about the natural and cultural values of the protected natural space.

SYMBOLS FOR ALL ROUTES

-  Starting point
-  Loop trail
-  Linear trail
-  Visitor centre
-  Fountain
-  Shade
-  Viewpoint

HIKING TRAILS

6 CAMINO DE PELEGRINA A LA CABRERA Y ARAGOS

Pelegrina/Aragosa 11 km.    



Distinctive features: This route coincides with the section that runs through the canyon of Río Dulce on the GR 10 stage from Torremocha del Campo to Mandayona (route 1 on the map). It is a simple walk that runs alongside the course of Río Dulce and its riverside grove with willows, ash trees, poplars, hawthorns and dogwoods. We will also walk in the shade of holm oaks, junipers and downy oaks, and alongside poplar groves, orchards with walnut and cherry trees, and cultivated fields. This trail allows us to admire the limestone cliffs where griffon vultures, Egyptian vultures, red-billed coughts, and rock sparrows nest. Along the course of the River Dulce, we can observe the flight of Cascade wagtail, chiffchaffs, and water blackbirds. In the section between La Cabrera and Aragosa, we will pass by the ruins of the farmstead of Los Heros, the first paper money factory in Spain, and through the narrow passage of the Portacho.

In Pelegrina, a visit to the small Romanesque church in this locality and the ruins of its 12th century castle is highly recommended. In La Cabrera and Aragosa, there are also churches with Romanesque apses.

Observations: If we start the journey in Pelegrina, we should park our vehicle in the designated car park next to the access road to the village. An 800 m. walking path will take us to Pelegrina, where the route begins. It is recommended to visit the Visitor Center of the Natural Park before walking along the path.

7 SENDA ADAPTADA A PERSONAS CON DISCAPACIDAD VISUAL EN LA CABRERA (ADAPTED FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS)

La Cabrera 1,5 km.    

Distinctive features: It is a straightforward route that follows a path along the right bank of the River Dulce, shaded by poplars, willows, ash, and walnut trees. We will also pass through meadows and groves of holm oaks and cork oaks. The trail is equipped with Braille panels about the flora and



TECHNICAL SHEET

NAME: Parque Natural del Barranco del Río Dulce

AREA: 8.348 ha

PROVINCES AND VILLAGES INTEGRATED IN THE PARK: 6 municipalities in the province of Guadalajara: Sigüenza (Pelegrina and La Cabrera), Mandayona (Aragosa), Saúca (Jodra del Pinar), Mirabueno, Algora, and Torremocha del Campo.

SOCIOECONOMIC INFLUENCE AREA: composed by villages integrated in the natural park.

PERIPHERAL PROTECTION ZONE: 13.131 ha


LAW DECLARING THE PROTECTED AREA: Ley 5/2003, de 27 de febrero, declaring Parque Natural del Barranco del Río Dulce

OTHER TOOLS TO PROTECT AND RECOGNISE THE PARK: Red Natura 2000 network "ZEC-ZEPA Barranco del Dulce" ES0000166 Reserva Hidrológica-Reserva Natural Fluvial (Confederación Hidrográfica del Tajo)

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT: Plan de Ordenación de los Recursos Naturales (Natural Resources Ordinance Plan), approved by Decreto 47/2002, de 9 de abril. Management plan for the ZEC-ZEPA Barranco del Dulce, approved by Orden de 27 de diciembre de 2016, of the Consejería de Agricultura, Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Rural.

The Natural Park of the Barranco del Río Dulce aims to be a collective project that involves the local population, environmental agents, technicians, town councils, local associations, NGOs and many other entities that are committed to the conservation of the natural values of this territory, in harmony with its sustainable development and the enjoyment of its inhabitants and visitors.

HIKING TRAILS

 fauna of this natural area and plaques displaying the names of the tree species encountered along the way.

It is highly recommended to visit La Cabrera, with its Romanesque church, medieval bridge, and beautiful rural architecture. The village offers a charming glimpse into the region's history and traditional way of life.

8 PR-GU 08 MANDAYONA - MIRABUENO - ARAGOSA

Mandayona (Visitor centre)

11 km.    



Distinctive features: This trail starts at the Visitor Centre of the Natural Park in Mandayona, where we can uncover the extraordinary environmental and cultural values that the Park holds. The route connects three villages of the Natural Park (Mandayona, Mirabueno, and Aragosa), with beautiful traditional limestone hamlets.

In the section between Mandayona and Mirabueno, the trail traverses areas of scrubland alternating with cultivated fields and groves of large holm oaks, with various springs along the way. In Mirabueno, one can enjoy the spectacular views of Río Dulce Valley and the Sierra Norte de Guadalajara region that are offered by the viewpoint at the Pico, which features picnic tables.

Between the towns of Aragosa and Mandayona, the trail follows the route of the GR 10 (route 1), running alongside the course of Río Dulce through its riverside forest of poplars, willows, ash trees, and hawthorns. The area through which the route passes is the hunting ground of griffon vultures, Egyptian vultures, and Bonelli's eagles. In the surroundings of Río Dulce, one can spot the dipper, white-throated dipper, golden oriole, and other birds typical of the riverside forest. At the recreational area of Aragosa, visitors can admire the tufa waterfall of Río Dulce, amidst limestone rocks.

PUBLIC USE MAP

Parque Natural del BARRANCO DEL RIO DULCE

