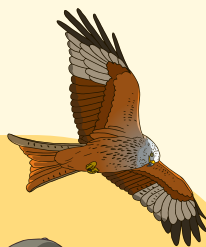




Extremadura
BIRDING



20
ROUTES

GUIDE TO BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

THE MOST COMPLETE GUIDE TO BIRDING IN THE REGION
MAP OF ROUTES AND PROTECTED AREAS ~ 20 ITINERARIES
BIRDS AND SEASONS ~ DOWNLOADABLE TRACKS

BIRDING IN EXTREMADURA CLUB

PUBLISHER

**General Directorate of Tourism
Junta de Extremadura**

Producto de Turismo Ornitológico
Birding in Extremadura Club
www.birdinginextremadura.com
www.turismoextremadura.com

TEXTS

Producto de Turismo Ornitológico
Birding in Extremadura Club

PHOTOGRAPHS

Atanasio Fernández
José Elías-Rodríguez
José Luis Bautista
Martin Kelsey
Rubén Cebrián
Dirección General de Turismo

ILLUSTRATIONS

Ferguson

DESIGN AND COORDINATION

FERGUSON® Estudio
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page

Information of interest, user manual of the guide and our code of ethics



page

Find the 20 birding routes of on our map of Extremadura

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

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24	64
28	68
32	72
36	76
40	80
44	84



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

Twenty routes for birding and enjoying the nature of Extremadura.

Ways to explore dehesas, mountains, Mediterranean scrub, valleys, plains, forests and rivers, reservoirs and wetlands, agricultural areas and urban environments, a



region with a diversity of landscapes spread over 41,600 square kilometres.

This guide gives you up-to-date information on the natural resources of Extremadura so that you can make the most of your birding experience, without missing out on interesting details and ensuring total respect for the environment. In each itinerary you will find the species that you can see at different times of the year, a map with the best birding sites, the most important habitats, a QR code with the route track and some notes on historical heritage, culture and gastronomy.

The Bird List of Spain, from SEO/BirdLife which gives the species that officially make up the entire Spanish avifauna, is updated annually and contributes to the knowledge of our biodiversity. Extremadura is shown to be one of the most fascinating destinations in Europe for birders, due to the richness and variety of its avifauna. Furthermore, in Extremadura, you can enjoy one of the areas of the Iberian Peninsula with the best populations of large raptors and steppe birds in Europe.

These resources, together with excellent conditions for birding, have led to the creation of a tourism sector highly specialized in supporting birding. The region is an international pioneer in this activity, and the first to develop a product

THE GUIDE: USER MANUAL

The routes have been designed with simplicity, but without compromising rigour in terms of their birding and other attractions. Each has the following information: an outline map, a table with the most representative bird species and the best time to see them according to the following categories:



Historic centre of Trujillo with the plains in the background

club, Birding in Extremadura, which was created in 2012. More and more companies and public entities are part of this initiative that offers a quality service to visitors concerned about nature conservation.

The effort and ongoing work of statutory bodies, professionals and volunteers from conservation organizations are essential in Extremadura to maintain its biodiversity and continue to be such an extraordinary place to enjoy birds. Through the participation of these organizations in national and international conservation projects, they contribute directly to the conservation of the wildlife of Extremadura, Spain and Europe, highlighting the most valuable resources of the region, its nature, its people, and the birds.

With the purpose of marvelling at their colours, songs and flight, we have produced this birding guide for you.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Location

and access: how to reach the starting point of each route.

Route description: with GPS coordinates of the fork sections or points of interest that will make it possible to get the most out of the route.

Ornithological values: the most notable species of birds on the route are detailed here, although there are many more species in the area that could be observed.

Timing of the route: the best time of year for the route or what can be seen in each season.

Other environmental and cultural attractions: additional information on other attractions in the area and that can be accessed as an option.

Resident: birds that are in the region all year round.

Summer visitors: breeding birds that will be in the region during spring and summer, migrating to their winter quarters at the end of the summer

Winter visitors: birds that do not breed in the area, but spend the autumn and winter months here.

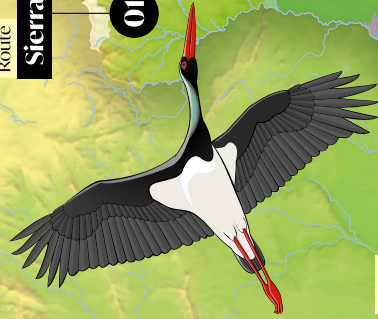
Passage migrants: birds that pass through the region on migration from their breeding areas in the north to their wintering areas further south.

ROUTES

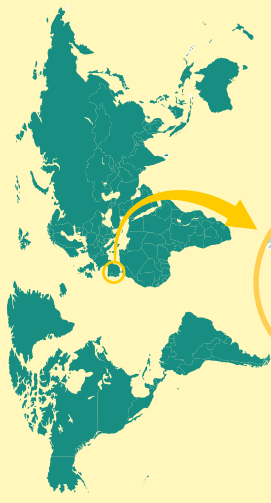
Birding in Extremadura

ILLUSTRATED MAP

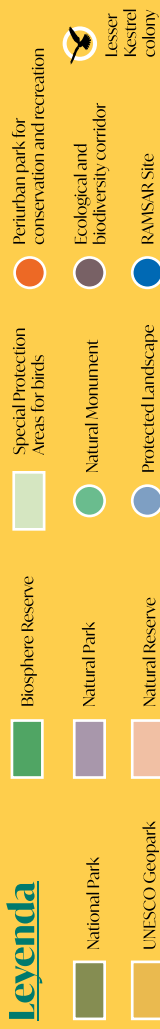
Thanks to the excellent state of conservation of its habitats, Extremadura is an ornithological paradise that has 71 SPAs (Special Protection Areas for birds) covering more than one million hectares - 26.15% of its surface area - in which to date, 340 species of birds (288 of them breeding) have been recorded.

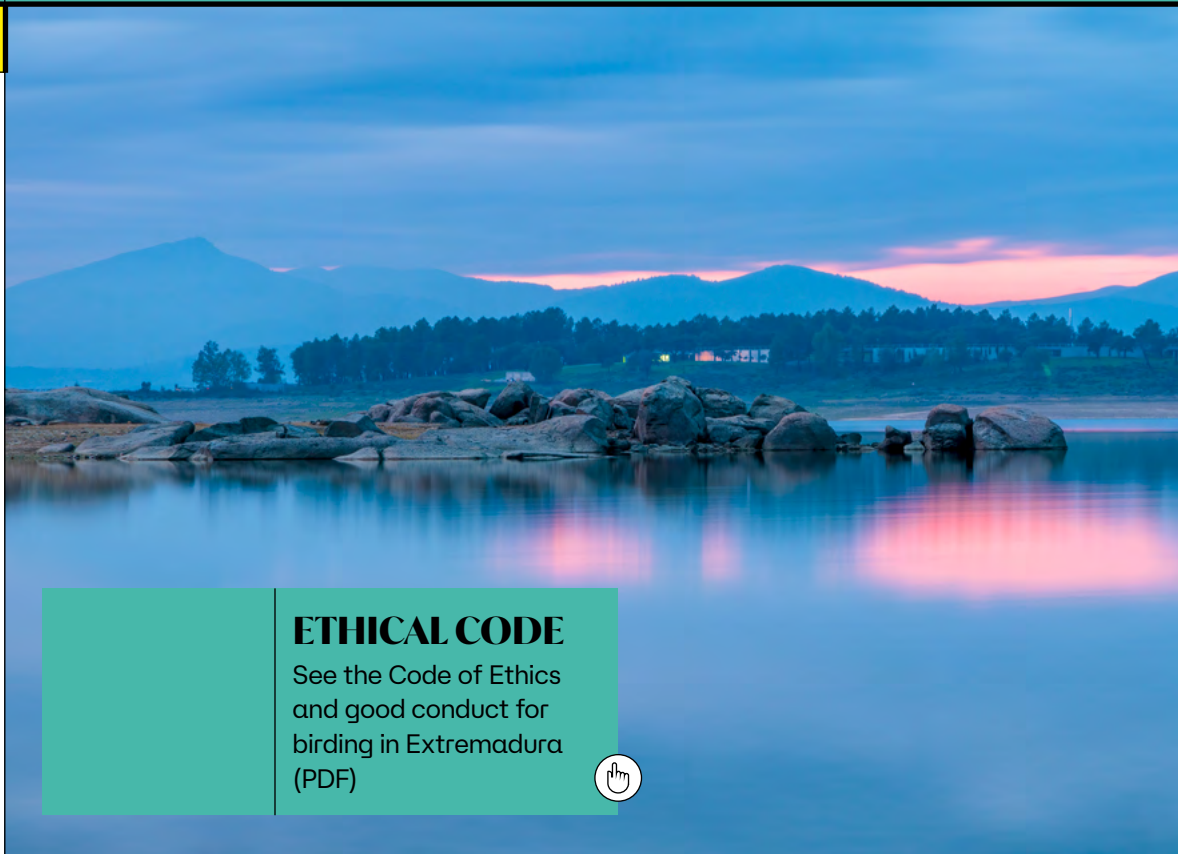


LOCATION MAP



Levenda





ETHICAL CODE

See the Code of Ethics and good conduct for birding in Extremadura (PDF)



MORE THAN 150 OBSERVATION POINTS

Along the 20 routes in the guide there are bird observation points.

Furthermore, along with the route map, you can look at the list of birds at each point. In the [QR code](#) that you will see on your right and within each route, you can expand the information on the birds that you might see there and go to the point with [Google Maps](#).

Simple, practical and easy.

15 WALKING TOURS AND MORE THAN 150 POINTS OF INTEREST

In addition to the birds that can be seen, we will also show you on the map of each route some suggested walking routes and the most notable points of heritage, natural and interpretive interest. Remember to expand this information in the QR codes to be able to download them or view them on Google Maps.



Gabriel y Galán Reservoir

GOOGLE MAPS

PROVINCE OF
CÁCERES

Ten routes with their
track and points of
interest.

GOOGLE MAPS

PROVINCE OF
BADAJOZ

Ten routes with their
track and points of
interest.

20 ROUTES

BIRDING IN EXTREMADURA



SIERRA DE GATA



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The Sierra de Gata is located in the northwest of the province of Cáceres, a mountainous area declared a special protection area for birds (SPA *Sierra de Gata and Valle de las Pilas*) and a special conservation area (SAC *Sierra de Gata*).



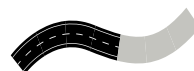
LENGTH

79,5 KM (VEHICLE)
+ 3 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

VEHICLE AND
ON FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT AND
DIRT TRACK

We will begin in Moraleja, touring the meadows, pastures and irrigated crops of the Alagón River towards the Rivera de Gata reservoir (o.p. 01) where the wintering population of **Common Crane** and **Black-winged Kite** stands out. Back on the Moheda road we will continue to the Borbollón reservoir to take a walk along the path that surrounds this water body (o.p. 02) that is home to **Eurasian Teal**, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Greylag Goose**, **Great Cormorant**, **Black-headed** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**...that use the islet of Parra Chica as a roost during winter; and breeding birds such as **White Stork**, **Little Egret**, **Cattle Egret** and **Grey Heron**.



Sierra de Gata



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



Tourist Office



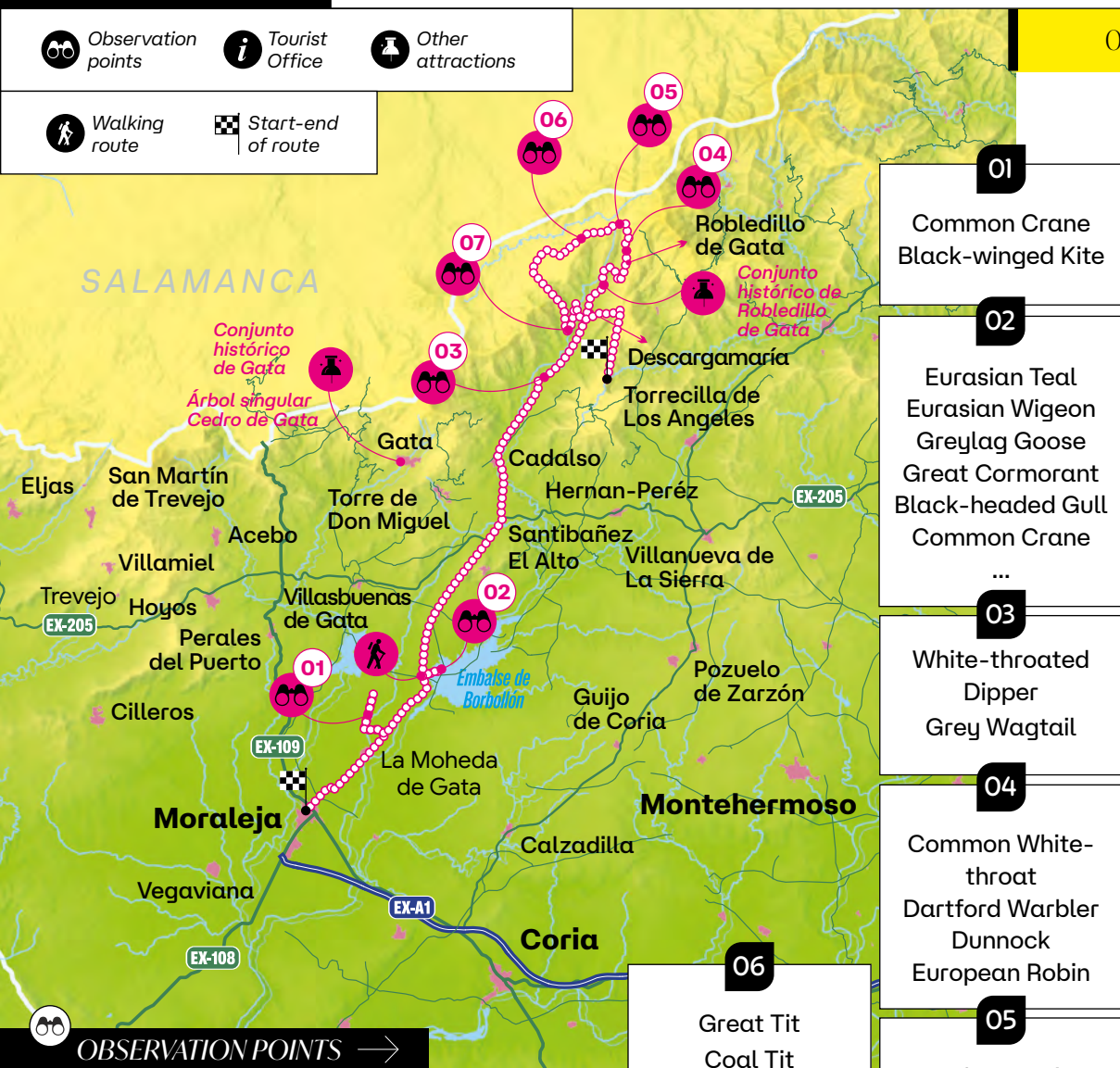
Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



→ Afterwards we go up the Árrago valley passing through the town of Cadalso, where the river runs between shady groves of ash and alder (o.p. 03) and where we can see **White-throated Dipper** and **Grey Wagtail**.

01

Common Crane
Black-winged Kite

02

Eurasian Teal
Eurasian Wigeon
Greylag Goose
Great Cormorant
Black-headed Gull
Common Crane
...

03

White-throated
Dipper
Grey Wagtail

04

Common White-throat
Dartford Warbler
Dunnock
European Robin

05

Ortolan Bunting
Northern Wheatear
Tawny Pipit
Yellowhammer
Cinereous Vulture
Griffon Vulture
Egyptian Vulture

06

Great Tit
Coal Tit

07

Cinereous Vulture

08

Griffon Vulture



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Scrub
Rivers and
streams
Mountain

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Cinereous
Vulture
Griffon
Vulture
Bonelli's
Eagle
Coal Tit
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Black Stork
Egyptian
Vulture
Ortolan
Bunting
Tawny Pipit
...

WINTER VISITORS

Dunnock
Yellowhammer
Eurasian
Bullfinch
Common
Crane

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

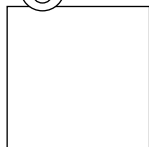


Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*)

We continue through Descargamaría and Robledillo de Gata, between mountains such as Bolla (1518 m) and Gomara (1167 m) and ascending to Puerto Viejo we will stop at the Lagartera viewpoint (o.p. 04) which offers a good view of the Árrago valley and its slopes covered by black pine, stunted holm oaks, Pyrenean oaks and enormous tree heaths: an ideal place to see **Dartford Warblers** and **Common Whitethroat**, **Dunnock**, **European Robin** etc. Before the Viejo pass, a forest track to our left allows us to explore this area of high peaks (o.p. 05) for summer visitors such as **Ortolan Bunting**, **Northern Wheatear**, **Tawny Pipit**... or wintering birds, even possibly **Yellowhammer**, of which there is only one record in this secluded enclave. Much more common here is the flypast of carrion feeders such as **Cinereous**, **Griffon** or **Egyptian Vultures**, and in the pine forests (o.p. 06) you can find **Great** and **Coal Tits**. We return to Descargamaría along a road that twists between steep valleys and slate ravines where the presence of **Cinereous Vultures**, with an important breeding population, becomes more frequent (o.p. 07), their activity concentrated in the northern slopes of Gomara.

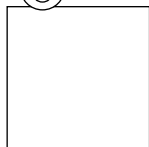
TIMING

In autumn and winter species such as **Common Cranes** and geese can be found on irrigated land, pastures and water bodies. In spring breeding birds such as **Black Stork**, **Egyptian Vulture**, **Booted** and **Short-toed Eagles**.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route

Once in Descargamaría we take the road to Robledillo again, to turn off to our right and ascend a dirt track towards the summit and the viewpoint of the impressive waterfall known as Chorro de los Ángeles (o.p. 08); The proximity to a feeding station (of the network authorized by the Extremaduran authorities) makes this place an ideal place for watching vultures, especially **Griffon Vultures** that breed in large numbers on the cliffs of the Sierra de los Ángeles.



Black-winged Kite (Elanus caeruleus)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

HISTORICAL SITES

Towns of Gata and Robledillo de Gata. Also, Hoyos, Trevejo and San Marín de Trevejo, in the western part of the region.

02

A FALA

Local language in use in the towns of San Martín de Trevejo, Erjas and Valverde del Fresno. Designated as an asset of cultural interest with the category of intangible heritage.

03

GATA-HURDES OIL

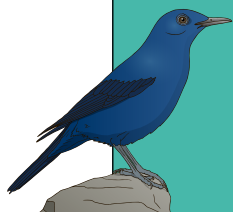
Local denominación de origen for extra virgin olive oil from the Manzanilla Cécereña variety of olives.

04

WATERFALLS

El Chorrituelo, Chorro de los Ángeles and La Cervigona.

TERRAS DE GRANADILLA / AMBROZ VALLEY



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

Tierras de Granadilla and Valle del Ambroz valley are located in the north of the province of Cáceres. This area is characterized by the great altitudinal range between the dehesas and the peaks of Tras la Sierra. The special protection area for birds (SPA) *Gabriel y Galán Reservoir*, the special conservation area (SAC) *Sierra de Gredos and Jerte Valley* or the protected landscape *Castañar Gallego de Hervás* are some of its natural treasures.



LENGTH

TIERRAS DE GRANADILLA
37,3 KM (VEHICLE) + 1,3 KM (ON FOOT)
VALLE DEL AMBROZ
17,5 KM (VEHICLE) + 3 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

VEHICLE AND
ON FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT AND
DIRT TRACK

The route through Tierras de Granadilla begins at Pitolero Peak (o.p. 01) where we can find **Dunnoch, Black Redstart, Spectacled Warbler, Common and Blue Rock Thrushes**. After descending through the Pyrenean oak forest, we head towards Guijo de Granadilla and enters a dehesa of holm oak and cork oaks reaching the small Fresnedilla reservoir (o.p. 02) where **Black Stork** can be seen all year round; **Eurasian Spoonbill** and **Great White Egret** on passage; **Northern Lapwing, Common Crane** and **European Golden Plover** in





MAP OF ROUTE

ROUTE 02: AMBROZ VALLEY · TIERRAS DE GRANADILLA

13



Observation points



Tourist Office



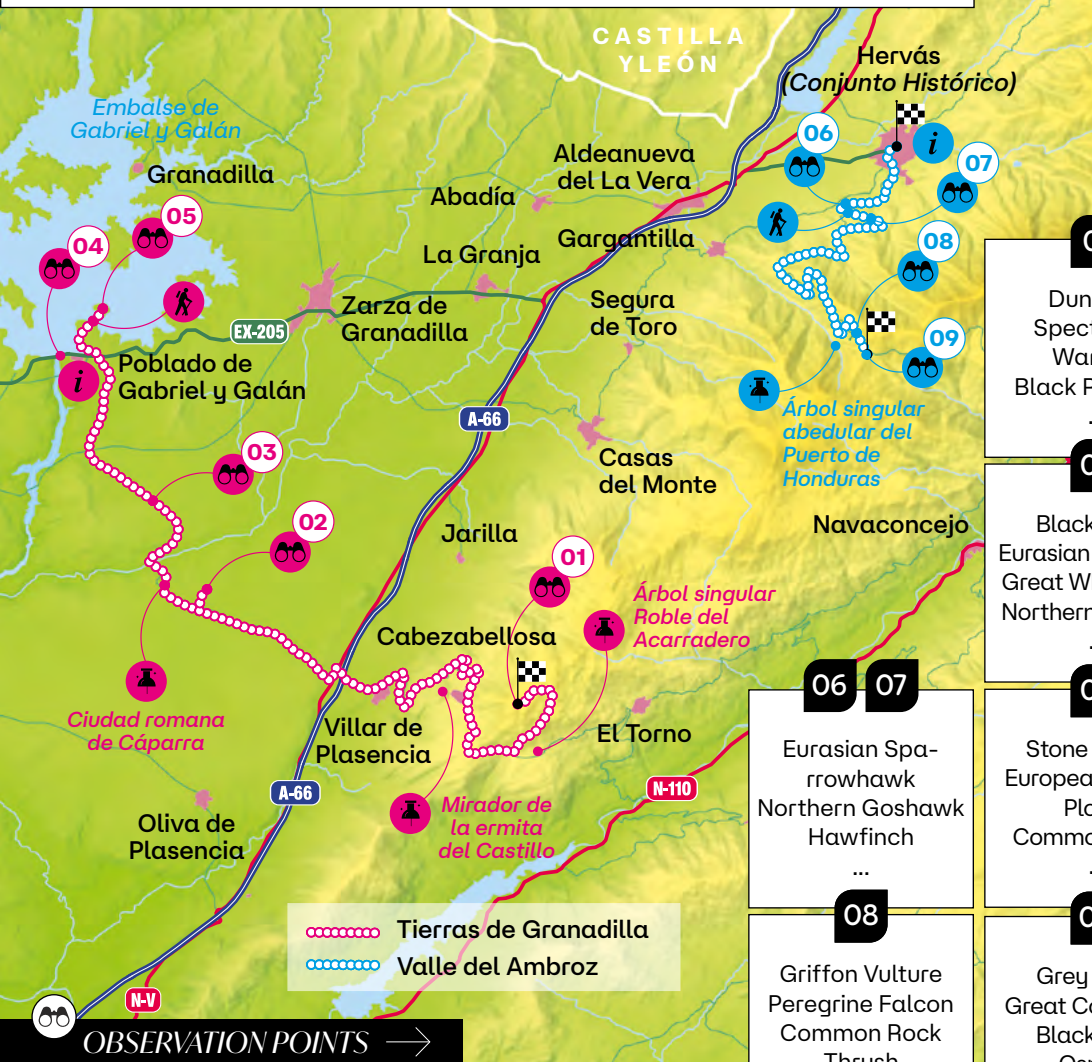
Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



..... Tierras de Granadilla
..... Valle del Ambroz

OBSERVATION POINTS →



winter, and **Common Rock Sparrow** in spring. Back on the road, continue to an open area (o.p. 03) where we can see **Stone Curlew**, **European Golden Plover** and **Common Crane** in winter.

At the dam of the Gabriel y Galán reservoir

01

Dunnock
Spectacled Warbler
Black Redstart
...

02

Black Stork
Eurasian Spoonbill
Great White Egret
Northern Lapwing
...

03

Stone Curlew
European Golden Plover
Common Crane
...

04

Grey Heron
Great Cormorant
Black Stork
Osprey

05

Common Crane
Eurasian Teal
Greylag Geese
Cinereous Vulture
...

06

Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Northern Goshawk
Hawfinch
...

08

Griffon Vulture
Peregrine Falcon
Common Rock Thrush
...

09

Dartford Warbler
Northern Wheatear
...



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Dehesa
Mountain

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENTS

Griffon Vulture
Northern Goshawk
Peregrine Falcon
Golden Eagle
Blue Rock Thrush
Dartford Warbler
Rock Bunting

SUMMER VISITORS

European Honey Buzzard
Golden Oriole
Pied Flycatcher
Western Bonelli's Warbler
Common Rock Thrush
Bluethroat
Dunnock
Common Whitethroat

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

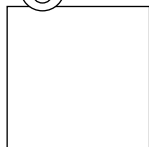


Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus)

(o.p. 04) there is a colony of **Grey Heron** in poplar trees that is also a winter roost for **Great Cormorant** and where you can also see **Black Stork** and **Osprey**. Finally we head to **El Anillo** (o.p. 05) where we can see the arrival of **Common Cranes** and **gulls** to their roosts, **Eurasian Teal**, **Greylag Geese** and **Great Crested Grebes** in the winter. **Cinereous Vulture**, which breeds north of the reservoir, are regularly seen overhead.

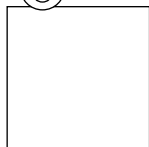
The route through the **Ambroz Valley** begins in **Hervás**, with a stop to take a walking tour of the **Gallego sweet chestnut grove** (o.ps. 06 and 07) with **forest birds** such as **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **Northern Goshawk**, **European Honey Buzzard**, **Hawfinch**, **Golden Oriole**, **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**, **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Eurasian Jay**, **Mistle Thrush**, **Pied Flycatcher**, **Western Bonelli's Warbler** etc. Returning to the road, we emerge from the woodland (o.p. 08) where we can see **species of rocky areas** such as **Griffon Vulture**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Golden Eagle**, **Common** and **Blue Rock Thrushes**, **Black Redstart** and **Rock Bunting**.

Finally, at the top of the **Honduras Pass** (o.p. 09) we can observe high-altitude **scrub birds** such as **Common Whitethroat**, **Dartford Warbler**, **Ortolan** and **Rock Buntings**, **Northern** and **Black-eared Wheatears**, **Dunnock** and **Woodlark**.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route

TIMING

The route through Tierras de Granadilla is very interesting in autumn and winter thanks to the presence of large numbers of wintering and resident birds on the pastures and the reservoir. The Ambroz Valley route is best during the summer, when the deciduous forests and peaks have the highest density of birds present.



Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

ROMAN TOWN OF CÁPARRA

Site and interpretation centre of this town associated with the Vía de la Plata.

02

VIEWPOINT OF THE CHAPEL OF THE CASTLE

Spectacular viewpoint on the Cerro del Búho at Cabezabellosa.

03

SINGULAR TREES

Birch at the Honduras Pass and Pyrenean oak at Acarreadero

04

HERVÁS

Historical town and important tourist and cultural centre in Valle del Ambroz.

COMARCA DE LA VERA / JERTE VALLEY



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

La Vera and Valle del Jerte are located in the northeast of Cáceres province, in the foothills of the Gredos Mountains. In the first, are the special protection areas for birds (SPA) the *Jaraíz Lesser Kestrel colony and River Tiétar and pine forests*. The latter also protects the water courses of the gorges of La Vera and is in turn an area of special conservation, as are the *Monasterio de Yuste and Sierra de Gredos and Jerte Valley*.



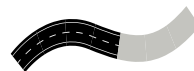
LENGTH

22,6 KM (VEHICLE)
+ 5,2 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

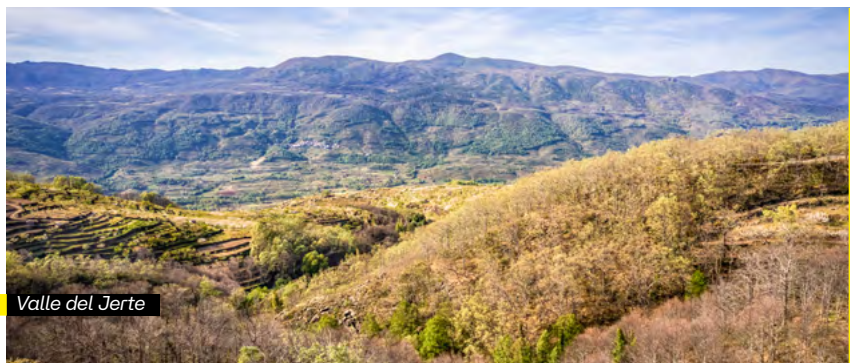
VEHICLE AND ON
FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT, DIRT TRACK AND
CROSS COUNTRY

C We begin the route in Cuacos heading to the Yuste monastery (o.p. 01) around which provides our first observations of forest birds: **Hawfinch, Golden Oriole, European Robin, Common Chaffinch, Great and Blue Tits, Short-toed Treecreeper, Eurasian Nuthatch, Eurasian Jay, Mistle Thrush, Long-tailed Tit, Blackcap, Carrion Crow...** Once we have passed the forest we enter an area of open country with low scrub (o.p. 02) where it is possible to see **Black-eared Wheatears**, and **Thekla Lark**, to then continue through cherry and olive groves, which in winter hold **Song Thrush** and **Redwing**, and occasionally **Brambling**. Further on we cross the Mayor Gorge (o.p. 03), ideal for looking for **White-throated Dipper** and **Grey Wagtail**.



Valle del Jerte



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



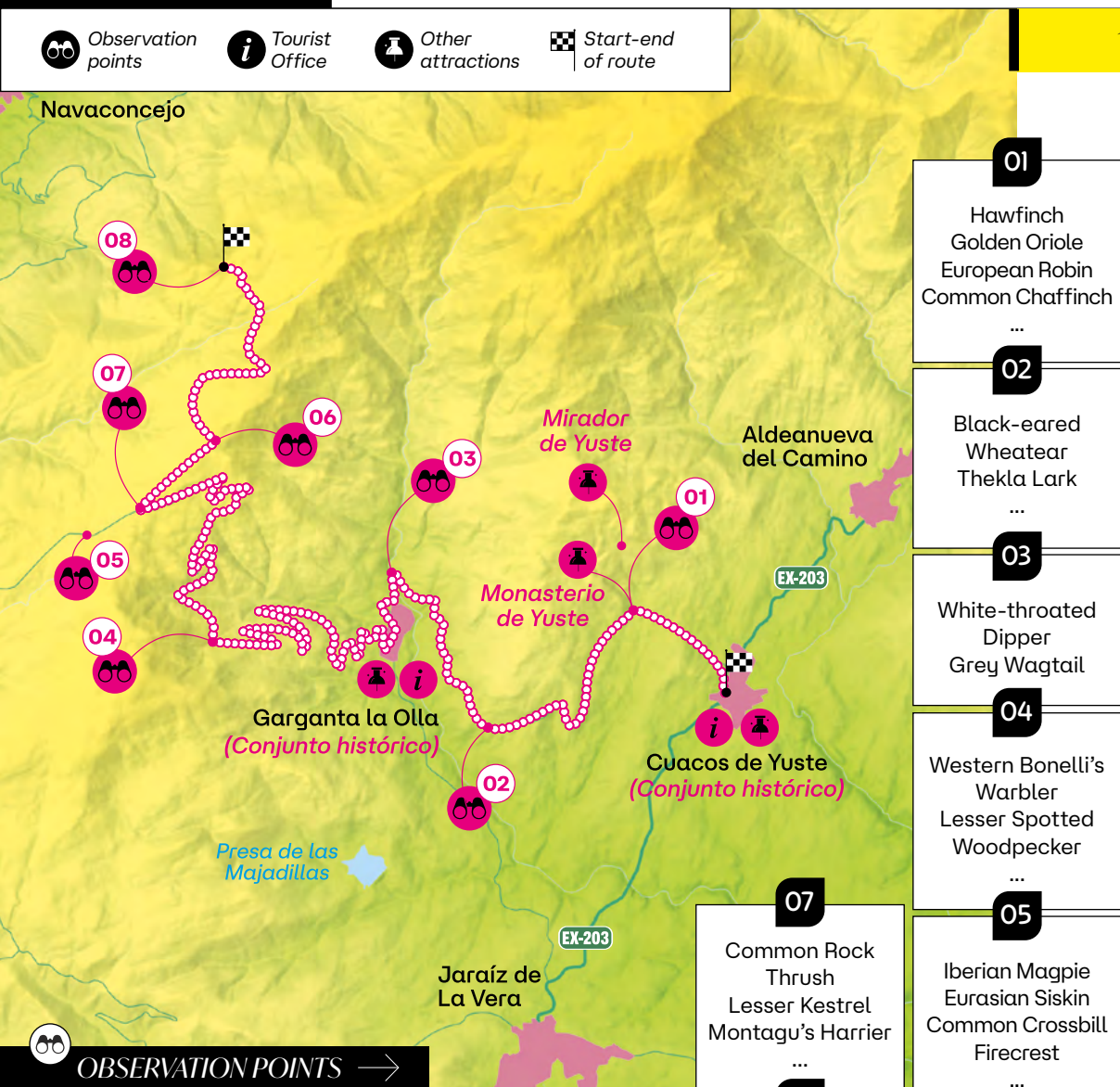
Tourist Office



Other attractions



Start-end of route



01

Hawfinch
Golden Oriole
European Robin
Common Chaffinch
...

02

Black-eared
Wheatear
Thekla Lark
...

03

White-throated
Dipper
Grey Wagtail

04

Western Bonelli's
Warbler
Lesser Spotted
Woodpecker
...

05

Iberian Magpie
Eurasian Siskin
Common Crossbill
Firecrest
...

06

Dunnock
Woodlark
Common
Nightingale
Eurasian Wren

07

Common Rock
Thrush
Lesser Kestrel
Montagu's Harrier
...

08

Common Rock
Thrush
Blue Rock
Thrush
Bearded Vulture
...



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ After the town of Garganta la Olla we continue towards Piornal along a winding road through Pyrenean oak forest. Above a certain altitude (o.p. 04) you begin to hear the abundant **Western Bonelli's Warbler** and the scarcer **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** and **Pied Flycatcher** (better



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Mountain

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Griffon Vulture
Eurasian
Sparrowhawk
Peregrine
Falcon
Lesser Spotted
Woodpecker
Thekla Lark
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Firecrest
European
Honey
Buzzard
Short-toed
Eagle
Common
Rock Thrush
Lesser Kestrel
...

WINTER VISITORS

Goldcrest
Song Thrush
Brambling
Eurasian
Siskin

PASSAGE MIGRANTS

Montagu's
Harrier cenizo

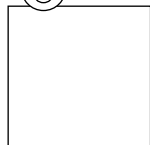


White-throated Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)

in areas with old trees), and birds of prey such as **European Honey Buzzard** or **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**. Once we reach the **Piornal Pass**, the section on foot begins on the first track on the right, crossing a cattle grid, although we can first visit the small pine forest (o.p. 05) located about 500 m to the left to look for **Iberian Magpie**, **Coal** and **Crested Tits**, **Firecrest** and sporadically **Common Crossbill** during the breeding season, and during the winter other species too like **Goldcrest**, **Eurasian Siskin** and occasionally **Brambling** and **Fieldfare**. Around the pine forest **Common Whitethroat** is also present and **Garden Warbler** and **Iberian Chiffchaff** have occasionally bred.

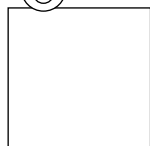
On the section on foot, we cross a landscape of heaths and brooms among scattered **Pyrenean oaks** (o.p. 06) where in spring it is easy to see **Dunnock**, **Woodlark**, **Common Nightingale**, **Eurasian Wren**, **Dartford**, **Western Subalpine** and **Melodious Warblers**, **Ortolan** and **Rock Buntings**. In front of the **Villa Martín house** (o.p. 07) you can find **Spectacled Warbler** and even **Common Rock Thrush** on the rocks to the south. In the summer, **Lesser Kestrels** come up to hunt in this area and in August and September, **Montagu's Harriers** pass through. From here the path to the left takes us to the **Piornal reservoir**, with the rock formation of **Peña Negra** (o.p. 08) to which we will ascend cross-country. There we can see **Common** and **Blue Rock Thrushes**, **Spectacled Warbler**, **Black Redstart**, **Common Kestrel** and perhaps other birds of prey such as **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **European Honey Buzzard**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Eurasian Hobby**, **Booted** and **Short-toed Eagles**.

There are an increasing number of sightings of **Bearded Vultures** thanks to the reintroduction programme in the Sierra de Gredos.



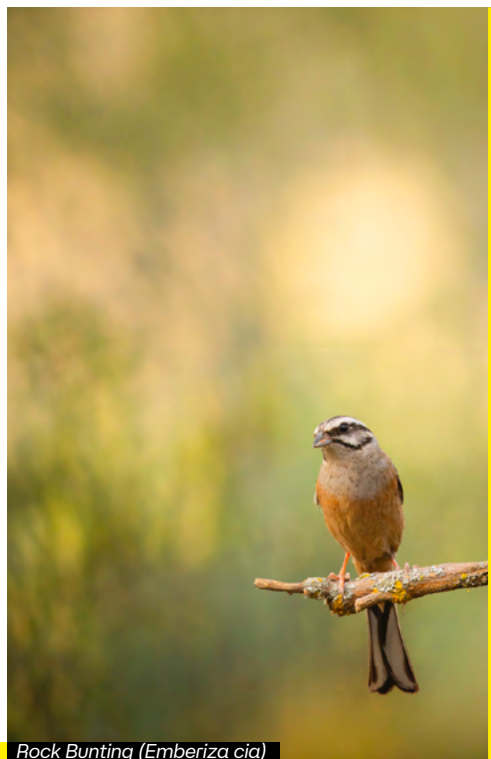
GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*)

TIMING

The best time to visit is from April to October, especially May, June and July. Winter is suitable for the first part of the route, although the final stretch on foot through mountain scrub usually hosts few species and the Piornal pass is usually closed to traffic in case of snow.



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

HISTORICAL SITES

In La Vera: Villanueva de La Vera, Valverde de La Vera, Cuacos de Yuste, Pasarón de La Vera and Garganta la Olla. And in the Jerte Valley: Cabezuela del Valle.

02

YUSTE MONASTERY

Located in the La Vera region is the Yuste monastery, known as the retreat of Emperor Charles V. Open every day.

03

GARGANTA DE LOS INFIERNOS NATURAL RESERVE

It is the best-known protected area in the north of Cáceres, with Los Pilones as its talismanic landscape.

04

JARRAMPLAS

Every year, on January 20, this ancient festival classified as being of national tourist interest is celebrated.

NATURAL
PARK
—
BIOSPHERE
RESERVE

TAGUS INTERNATIONAL

THE TAGUS RIVER AND GREAT EXPANSES OF
DEHESA AND MEDITERRANEAN FOREST



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

This route is in the southwest of the province of Cáceres, on the border with Portugal, which here forms the natural park and transboundary biosphere reserve of Tajo-Tejo Internacional. It is a landscape marked by the great river and the immense areas of dehesas and Mediterranean forest that surround it on both sides of the border.



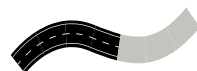
LENGTH

39,7 KM (VEHICLE)
+ 7,6 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

VEHICLE AND
ON FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT, DIRT TRACK
AND PATH

We begin in the town of Herrera de Alcántara, specifically on the banks of the Tagus River at the Fishermen's Houses, where the dock of the Balcón del Tajo tourist boat is located and the highly recommended Mari Loza botanical trail begins, which allows you to explore the spectacular riparian vegetation. On the way up to Herrera there is a viewpoint next to the road (o.p. 01) that overlooks the valley and the magnificent, shaded slopes that surrounds it, with the masses of strawberry tree, viburnum, false olive and olive groves on terraces that makes this a good place to see **Song Thrush**, **Hawfinch** and **Eurasian Bullfinch**, mainly in autumn and winter.



River Tajo



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



Tourist Office



Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



01

Song Thrush
Hawfinch
Eurasian
Bullfinch

02

Black Wheatear
Iberian Magpie
Thekla Lark

03

Golden Eagle
Cinereous Vulture
Griffon Vulture
Egyptian Vulture
Bonelli's Eagle
Booted Eagle
Short-toed Eagle

04

Griffon Vulture
Black Stork
Egyptian Vulture

05

06

Griffon Vulture
Blue Rock Thrush
Crag Martin
Bonelli's Eagle

→ After passing through Herrera de Alcántara we continue towards Santiago de Alcántara crossing narrow valleys such as the Aurela (o.p. 02) that twists between slate hillsides where you can find **Black Wheatear** and other species such as **Iberian Magpie** and **Thekla Lark**. Once in Santiago, leaving the town on the Carbajo road, we soon take a



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Mediterranean
forest
Dehesa
Rivers and
streams

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Griffon Vulture
Golden Eagle
Peregrine
Falcon
Bonelli's Eagle
Cinereous
Vulture
Black
Wheatear
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Booted Eagle
Short-toed
Eagle
Black Stork
Egyptian
Vulture
...

WINTER VISITORS

Song Thrush
Hawfinch
Eurasian
Bullfinch

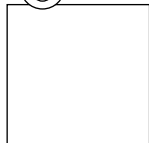
BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



Eurasian Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

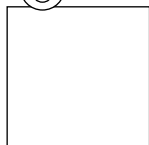
track to the left that will take us to the Las Viñas area (PR-CC 96 trail) where, after parking in the parking lot provided for this, we can ascend to a spectacular observation tower (o.p. 03) to admire the interesting landscape of the International Tagus (to enter the tower you must request the key in advance at the El Péndere interpretation centre in Santiago) as well as birds of prey such as **Golden, Bonelli's, Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Cinereous, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures**. Then we descend on foot to the viewpoint located on the riverbank (o.p. 04) to watch **Griffon and Egyptian Vultures** and **Black Storks** on the cliffs above the river.

Returning to Santiago we follow the signs for Batán from the Buraco tourist complex to reach on foot (1.3 km) the Los Barreros cliffs (o.p. 05) where there is a large colony of **Griffon Vultures** and where **Blue Rock Thrush, Crag Martin** and, with luck, **Bonelli's Eagle** can be seen. We finish the route on foot (2.5 km) ascending to the Buraco rock shelter (o.p. 06) where, in addition to its rock paintings and the spectacular views of this border region, you can see the same species as at the previous point.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)

TIMING

The characteristics of the park make this route interesting all year round: in winter spectacular flocks of Wood Pigeons and in spring breeding birds such as Black Stork, Egyptian Vulture, Booted and Short-toed Eagle... Summer is very hot, so avoid going out in the middle of the day, which is also the least favourable for bird watching. During this time, pre-migratory concentrations of Black Stork occur.



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

DOLMENS

we can learn about their relevance in the region by visiting the interpretation centre about megaliths in Santiago de Alcántara and visit nearby the Lagunita dolmens.

02

VALENCIA DE ALCÁNTARA

Historical complex that houses the Jewish Gothic neighbourhood, synagogue, fortress and temple of Rocamador.

03

THE DEER RUT

The spectacular rut of the deer in early autumn.

04

BALCÓN DEL TAJO BOAT

Tourist boat that runs through part of the natural park. Starting points in Cedillo and Herrera de Alcántara.

PORTAJE
RESERVOIRCANCHOS
DE RAMIRO

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The route is located in the central west of the province of Cáceres. The Canchos de Ramiro rise above the Alagón River and form, together with surrounding valleys and mountain ranges, the special protection area for birds (SPA) and special conservation area (SAC) *Canchos de Ramiro and Ladronera*. The Portaje reservoir is a small artificial wetland that hosts waterbirds of international importance according to Ramsar criteria.



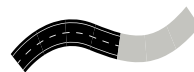
LENGTH

20,7 KM (VEHICLE) + 3 KM
(ON FOOT) + 9,2 (RAMIRO
CANYONS ROUND TRIP)



MODALITY

VEHÍCULO AND
ON FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT AND
DIRT TRACKS

We will begin by heading towards the Canchos (canyons) de Ramiro on foot (recommended) or by vehicle from the vicinity of Cachorrilla, through a dehesa (o.p. 01) where **Spanish Imperial, Short-toed and Booted Eagles, Cinereous Vulture, Red and Black Kites**, and small birds such as **Iberian Magpie, Eurasian Hoopoe, Blue and Great Tits**, and **Common Chaffinch** can be seen. We will reach Boquerón (o.p. 02), where there is a picnic area and a few metres below an ideal place to admire the Alagón River and the canyons themselves, with their large colony of **Griffon Vultures** and where **Golden and Bonelli's Eagles, Egyptian Vultures, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Common Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon and Black Stork** can be seen. In the



Canchos de Ramiro



MAP OF ROUTE

ROUTE 05: PORTAJE RESERVOIR • EMBALSE DE PORTAJE

25



Observation points



Tourist Office



Other attractions



Start-end of route



01

Spanish Imperial Eagle
Cinereous Vulture
Short-toed Eagle
Red Kite
...

02

Golden Eagle
Bonelli's Eagle
Egyptian Vulture
Eurasian Eagle Owl
...

03

Iberian Magpie
European Stonechat
Sardinian Warbler
...

04

Great Cormorant
Gadwall
Eurasian Teal
Common Pochard
...

05

White Stork
Grey Heron
Little Egret
Cattle Egret
...

06

Greylag Goose
Greater White-fronted Goose

07

Great Cormorant
Gadwall
Eurasian Teal
Common Pochard
...



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ waters of the Alagón we can also see **Grey Heron**, **Great Crested Grebe** and wintering birds such as **Great Cormorant**, **Common Pochard** and **Eurasian Spoonbill**.

Afterwards we will go to the town of **Portaje** to head towards its reservoir through a dehesa of holm oaks, to cross the **Fresnedosa**



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Dehesa
Reservoirs
and ponds
Rocky Areas

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Spanish
Imperial Eagle
Cinereous
Vulture
Red Kite
Iberian Magpie
Eurasian
Hoopoe
Blue Tit
Great Tit
Common
Chaffinch
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Short-toed
Eagle
Booted Eagle
Egyptian
Vulture
Black Stork

WINTER VISITORS

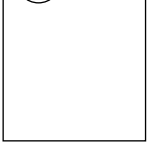
Great
Cormorant
Common
Pochard
Northern
Shoveler



Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

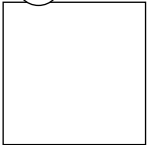
valley (o.p. 03) where small birds such as **Iberian Magpie**, **European Stonechat**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **Common Chaffinch** and **Eurasian Hoopoe** can be seen. We continue to the reservoir's dam (o.p. 04) to look for wintering birds such as **Great Cormorant**, **Gadwall**, **Eurasian Teal**, **Common Pochard**, **Northern Shoveler** and occasionally **Osprey** and residents such as the **Great Crested** and **Little Grebe**, **Mallard** and **Red-crested Pochard**, which has one of its few breeding sites in Extremadura here.

We will skirt the reservoir to its shallow end and a small observation hide (o.p. 05) where there are breeding colonies of **White Stork**, **Grey Heron**, **Little** and **Cattle Egret**. Throughout the summer there will be **Black Stork** and groups of **Eurasian Spoonbill**. A few metres further on, a path emerges on the left that allows you to explore part of the shore on foot (o.p. 06) where, especially during autumn and winter, a range of species such as **Greylag** and **Greater White-fronted Geese**, **Eurasian Curlew**, **Sanderling**, **Curlew** and **Wood Sandpipers**, **Pied Avocet**, **Black Tern**, **Common** and **Ruddy Shelducks** and even rarities like **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** or **Bar-tailed Godwit**. We can make a final stop on the other side of the reservoir (o.p. 07) to repeat the search for the species already mentioned.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route

TIMING

The routes can be done together or separately and at any time of the year thanks to the numerous and attractive resident species, although they are especially interesting during the breeding season with the arrival of the summer visitors and during winter.



Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

HISTORICAL COMPLEX OF CORIA

Walls, convents and palaces, castle, cathedral... the capital of Alagón is home to one of the most outstanding historical complexes in Extremadura.

02

LA ENCAMISÁ

December 7 in Torrejoncillo, a festival of national tourist interest.

03

MARMIONDA CASTLE

In the nearby town of Portezuelo, a fortress of Almohad origin.

04

BARCO DEL TAJO

Tourist boat with tours to the surroundings of the Canchos de Ramiro

NATIONAL
PARK

MONFRAGÜE



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

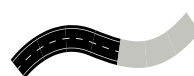
Monfragüe is located in the centre of the province of Cáceres, at the confluence of the Tagus and Tiétar rivers. It is the only national park in Extremadura and is also part of the UNESCO biosphere reserve bearing the same name, which occupies a much larger land surface around it. It is also a special protection area for birds (SPA) and a special conservation area (SAC).



LENGTH
27 KM.



MODALITY
VEHICLE



SURFACE TYPE
ASPHALT

We start the route at the **Bird Centre** in Torrejón el Rubio, heading along the EX-208 towards Monfragüe passing below the castle to reach **Salto del Gitano** (o.p. 01) in front of the impressive rocky cliff of **Peña Falcón**. Here is the largest viewable colony of **Griffon Vulture** in the park. **Black Stork, Spanish Imperial, Golden and Bonelli's Eagles, Peregrine Falcon, Egyptian Vulture** and **Eurasian Eagle Owl** can be seen here. Pay attention as well to small birds such as **White-rumped Swift** and **Black Wheatear**.



Peña Falcón



MAP OF ROUTE

ROUTE 06: MONFRAGÜE NATIONAL PARK

29



Observation points



Tourist Office



Other attractions



Start-end of route



01

Griffon Vulture
Black Stork
Spanish Imperial Eagle
Bonelli's Eagle
Peregrine Falcon
Egyptian Vulture
Eurasian Eagle Owl
Golden Eagle
...

02

Griffon Vulture
Egyptian Vulture
Bonelli's Eagle
Black Stork
White-rumped Swift
Iberian Magpie
...

03

Cinereous Vulture
Spanish Imperial Eagle

04

Cinereous Vulture
Black Stork
Egyptian Vulture
...

05

Griffon Vulture
Spanish Imperial Eagle
...



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ We continue along the road on the northern side of the ridge to Villarreal de San Carlos, where the park's visitor centre is located. We continue until we take a right turn on the road signposted Salto de Torrejón to proceed to the Tajadilla viewpoint (o.p. 02) close to the Torrejón-Tiétar dam, where there is a hide, picnic area and ample parking. Opposite is a cliff allowing good observations of **Griffon** and **Egyptian Vultures**, **Bonelli's Eagle**, **Black Stork** and **White-rumped**



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Dehesa
Mediterranean
forest
Rocky Areas

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Griffon Vulture
Cinereous
Vulture
Spanish
Imperial Eagle
Bonelli's Eagle
Peregrine
Falcon
Eurasian Eagle
Owl
Golden Eagle
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Black Stork
Egyptian
Vulture
White-
rumped Swift
Short-toed
Eagle
Western
Orphee
Warbler

WINTER VISITORS

Great
Cormorant
Duncock
...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

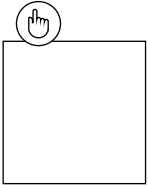


Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) y Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*)

Swift, as well as other small birds such as **Iberian Magpie** and **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**.

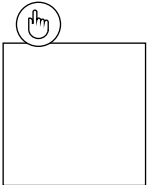
After crossing the dam of the Torrejón-Tiétar reservoir, we stop at the **Báscula viewpoint** (o.p. 03), a good place to see **Cinereous Vulture** and, with luck, **Spanish Imperial Eagle**. We continue to the **Higuerilla viewpoint** (o.p. 04) which provides a beautiful panoramic view of the Tiétar River. On the hillside opposite **Cinereous Vulture** breed and we may see **Black Stork** and **Egyptian Vulture**.

Finally, we arrive at the **Tiétar gorge** (o.p. 05), at the northeast exit of the park. Although more modest in size than Peña Falcón, it is the other hot spot in Monfragüe for **Griffon Vulture**, **Spanish Imperial Eagle**, **Eurasian Eagle Owl** (the best place in the park) and **Egyptian Vulture**. Although the proposed route ends here, we can continue to **La Bazagona** along this road that first runs through an old cork oak forest where **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** and **Iberian Chiffchaff** breed. Beyond that is an area of dehesa favoured by red deer during the rut and a colony of **White Stork** and **Grey Heron** to the west, beside the Tiétar River. The final part of **dehesas and irrigated crops** is of great interest in autumn and winter due to the presence of **Common Cranes** and occasionally **Brambling**.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route

TIMING

Although any time of the year allows you to see the characteristic species, the best is spring, although in autumn and winter non-breeding species are also present, sometimes including surprising rarities. In the months of July and August it is better to take advantage of the first and last hours of the day, as the middle of the day can be very hot and the birds slow down their activity. Between September and October the deer rut takes place.



Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

HERITAGE

Monfragüe Castle, Cardenal Bridge (sometimes submerged under the waters of the Tagus) and cave paintings, for which there are specific guided tours.

02

NETTLE-TREE OF LUGAR NUEVO

Unique tree next to Villarreal de San Carlos, in the Ojaranzo orchard, with a circular route and a small picnic area.

03

INTERPRETATION CENTRES

In Villarreal de San Carlos and in Torrejón el Rubio.

04

THE DEER RUT

The spectacular rut of the deer in early autumn.

ORNITHOLOGICAL
PARK

ARROCAMPO



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The Arrocampo reservoir is in the northeast of the province of Cáceres, within the Monfragüe biosphere reserve. It is a special protection area for birds (SPA) equipped with an ornithological park in the town of Saucedilla to facilitate your visit.

The route covers the two itineraries offered by the ornithological park: the first part is advisable to do on foot, while the second is a short trip by vehicle between Saucedilla and a nearby irrigation pond. Both begin at the park's information office, where they will give us the keys to the six hides.



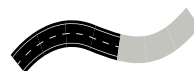
LENGTH

4,7 KM (ON FOOT) Y
3,5 KM (VEHICLE)



MODALITY

ON FOOT Y
VEHICLE



SURFACE TYPE

DIRT AND
ASPHALT TRACK

200 m from the beginning of the first route we find Hide No. 1 (o.p. 01), from which water birds like **Western Swamphen**, **Water Rail**, **Little Bittern**, **Savi's Warbler** and **Squacco Heron**. Towards the southwest you reach Hide No. 2 (o.p. 02), perhaps the most interesting, with the presence of **Great Bittern** and **Bluethroat** in winter, and **Purple Heron**, **Bearded Tit** and **Penduline Tit**.



Embalse de Arrocampo



MAP OF ROUTE

ROUTE 07: ARROCAMPO ORNITHOLOGICAL PARK

33



Observation points



Tourist Office



Other attractions



Start-end of route



01

Western
Swamphen
Water Rail
Little Bittern
Savi's Warbler
Squacco Heron

02

Great Bittern
Bluethroat
Purple Heron
Bearded Tit
Penduline Tit

03

White Stork
Great Cormorant
Eurasian Coot
Great White Egret
Great Crested Grebe
Mallard
Gadwall
Eurasian Teal
Northern Shoveler

04

Western Marsh
Harrier
Grey Heron
Great Bittern
Gull-billed Tern
Osprey

05

Great Cormorant
Great White Egret
Osprey

→ in spring. Further on southwest we reach Hide No. 3 (o.p. 03) with a wide view of open water of the reservoir and the interior wall, a nesting place for **White Storks** and a resting place for **Great Cormorants** and **herons**. It is also a good place to see **Eurasian Coot, Great White Egret, Great Crested Grebe, Mallard, Gadwall, Eurasian Teal** and **Northern Shoveler**. Returning to the east we reach Hide No. 4 (o.p. 04) located next



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Reservoirs
and ponds

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Western
Swamphen
Little Bittern
Squacco Heron
Great Crested
Grebe
Western Marsh
Harrier
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Purple Heron
Eurasian Bee-
eaters
Eurasian
Spoonbill
...

WINTER VISITORS

European
Golden Plover
Great Bittern
Bluethroat
Great
Cormorant
...

PASSAGE MIGRANTS

Bearded Tit
Great White
Egret

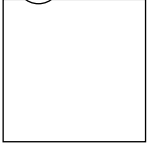
BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



Western Swamphen (Porphyrio porphyrio)

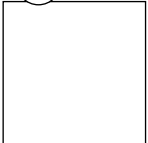
to the road bridge. Here the eastern view is of greater interest, a part of the reservoir favoured by **Western Marsh Harrier** and all species of heron. You can see birds in flight over the road such as **Grey Heron**, **Great Bittern**, **Gull-billed Tern** and **Osprey**.

Back at the information office we begin the second section, driving through Saucedilla to continue along an asphalt and dirt track that runs between crops, pastures and dehesas where it is possible to see **Black-winged Kite** and **Great Spotted Cuckoo** among other species. At the end of the route we reach Hide No. 5 (o.p. 05) overlooking the Cerro Alto pond, where you can see **Great Cormorant** and occasionally **Great White Egret** and **Osprey**. Although the route ends here, we can continue to the Dehesa Nueva pond and to another end of the Arrocampo reservoir to see more water birds; **Eurasian Bee-eaters** in the breeding season; **Greylag Goose**, **European Golden Plover** and **Stone Curlew** in winter, and various birds of prey all year round.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route

TIMING

Arrocampo can be visited throughout the year, although in July and August it is advisable to visit it at dawn and dusk because during the hottest hours the birds reduce their activity. In spring the greatest attraction is the breeding herons and marsh birds. In winter, due to the unique water temperature conditions, typically summer species can be found, while from August to October and from February to April, numerous birds on passage increase the bird richness of this wetland.



Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

BELVÍS DE MONROY CASTLE

Fortification originating from the 14th century, in the town of the same name.

02

CHURCH OF SAN PEDRO AD VINCULA

In Casatejada, declared an asset of cultural interest.

03

PUERTA DE MONFRAGÜE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

In Toril, all the information about the biosphere reserve.

04

SAUCEDILLA LESSER KESTREL COLONY

Declared urban special protection area for birds (SPA).

SIERRA DE SAN PEDRO



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The Sierra de San Pedro is located in the west of Extremadura, along the border between the provinces of Cáceres and Badajoz, a series of medium and low-altitude mountains with large extensions of Mediterranean forest and dehesas with river valleys supporting well-preserved native vegetation. It is a special protection area for birds (SPA) and a special conservation area (SAC).



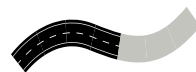
LENGTH

65 KM (VEHICLE)
+ 7 (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

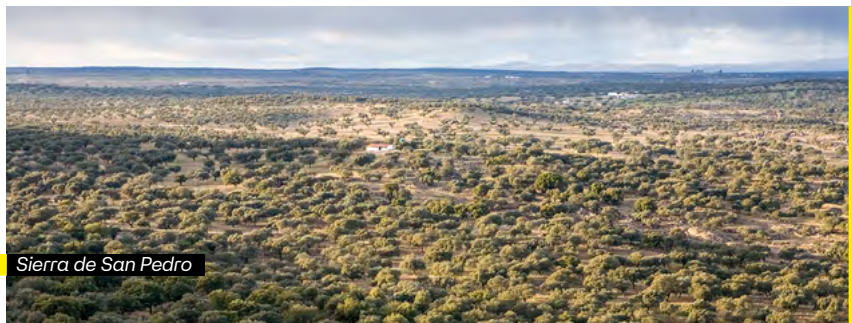
A PIE Y VEHICLE



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT, DIRT
TRACKS AND PATHS

We begin in Aliseda, at the viewpoint of its reservoir (o.p. 01), a good starting point to admire the landscape of rock outcrops on the small mountain ranges, areas of Mediterranean forest, large dehesas and riverine habitats, giving us the opportunity to see large carrion feeding birds such as **Griffon** and **Cinereous Vultures**. We continue along the EX-303 road to the sanctuary of Nuestra Señora del Campo (o.p. 02), located on a hill above the extensive dehesas, a good place to enjoy watching **Iberian Magpie** or rutting deer in September. Throughout the journey we will be able to observe family groups of **Common Cranes** feeding in the dehesas.



Sierra de San Pedro



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



Tourist Office



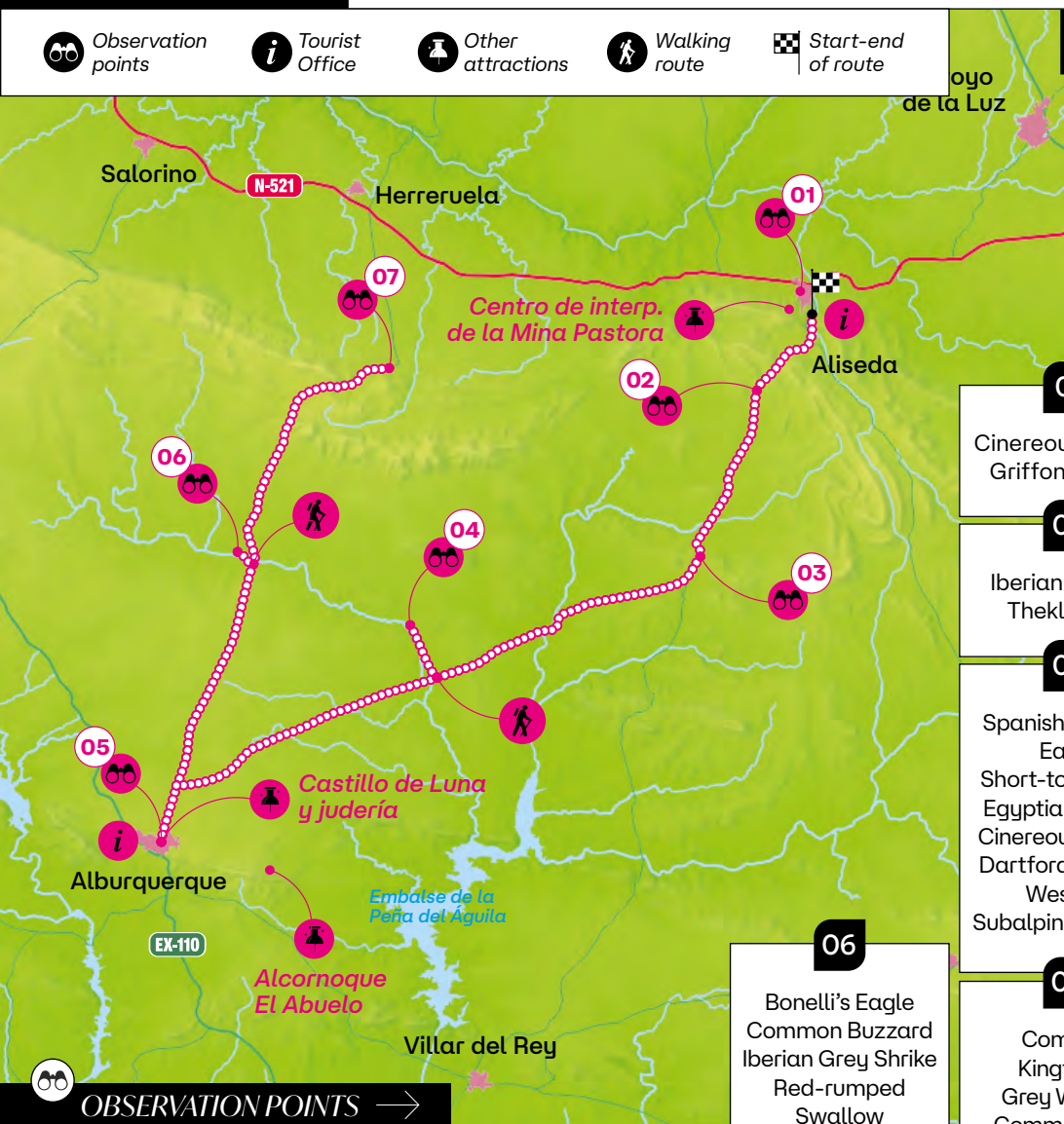
Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



01

Cinereous Vulture
Griffon Vulture

02

Iberian Magpie
Thekla Lark

03

Spanish Imperial Eagle
Short-toed Eagle
Egyptian Vulture
Cinereous Vulture
Dartford Warbler
Western Subalpine Warbler

04

Common Kingfisher
Grey Wagtail
Common Rock parrow
...

05

Lesser Kestrel
Pallid Swift
Common Swift

06

Bonelli's Eagle
Common Buzzard
Iberian Grey Shrike
Red-rumped Swallow

07

Golden Eagle
Spanish Imperial Eagle
Cinereous Vulture
Blue Rock Thrush



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ We continue in the direction of Alburquerque, until a track on the left that goes up to an observation platform (o.p. 03) where we will have a great view of the dehesas, low sierras and birds of prey such as **Egyptian Vulture**, **Spanish Imperial** and **Short-toed Eagles**; and in the rockrose scrub we can find **Dartford Warbler** throughout the



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Mediterranean
forest

Dehesa

Rocky areas

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Spanish
Imperial Eagle
Golden Eagle
Bonelli's Eagle
Cinereous
Vulture
Griffon Vulture
Common
Buzzard

...

SUMMER VISITORS

Lesser Kestrel
Short-toed
Eagle
Booted Eagle
Egyptian
Vulture
Pallid Swift

...

WINTER VISITORS

Common
Crane
Red Kite
Firecrest
Song Thrush

...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

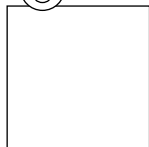


Iberian Magpie (*Cyanopica cooki*)

year and **Western Subalpine Warbler** during the breeding season. Onwards towards Alburquerque and before crossing the Albarragena riverbank we will take, preferably on foot, a dirt track on the right that will take us to the medieval bridge of Las Arenosas (o.p. 04), to look for **Common Kingfishers**, **Grey Wagtail** or listen to the song of **Common Nightingale**. And in the surrounding dehesas there are groups of **Common Rock Sparrow**, **Short-toed Treecreeper** and **Eurasian Nuthatch**.

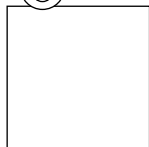
Back on the road we head to the town of Alburquerque following the EX-324, whose historic complex is also declared an urban special protection area for birds (SPA) due to the presence of **Lesser Kestrel**. The church of San Mateo (o.p. 05) has a colony of this species and we can also see **Pallid** and **Common Swifts** from March to August. Returning to the EX-324, now heading towards Herreruela, we will reach the Albarragena river again, where we can park and take a path that leaves before the bridge—and then passes under it—to walk to another old bridge (o.p. 06) located just over 600 m upstream. On this short walk we can see **the Iberian Grey Shrike**, **Zitting Cisticola**, **Red-rumped Swallow** and birds of prey overhead such as **Common Buzzard** or **Bonelli's Eagle**.

Finally, we continue to the old Herreruela railway station (o.p. 07), one of the best public places to enjoy the deer rut (September) which also offers great opportunities to observe birds of prey such as the **Spanish Imperial** and **Golden Eagles**, **Cinereous**, **Griffon** and **Egyptian Vultures**. In the breeding season, **Rock Buntings**, **Blue Rock Thrushes** and **Western Orphean Warblers** provide the soundtrack to this landscape.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



TIMING

The Sierra de San Pedro is one of the world's strongholds of the Mediterranean forest, whose main characteristic is the enormous biodiversity it houses throughout the year, with numerous species of resident birds such as the Spanish Imperial Eagle, Cinereous Vulture or Bonelli's Eagle. However, in the spring and summer, the frenetic reproductive activity always offers greater chances of sightings.



Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

MINA PASTORA

Interpretation centre and visit to this ancient and unique iron mine

02

CASTILLO DE LUNA

One of the most spectacular and best-preserved fortresses in Extremadura.

03

JEWISH QUARTER

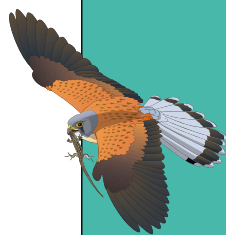
This old Jewish quarter and the other monuments in Albuquerque are declared an asset of cultural interest with the category of historical site.

04

GRANDFATHER CORK OAK

This old specimen of *Quercus suber*, with an estimated age of 350 years, is declared a unique tree.

CÁCERES PLAINS / TRUJILLO PLAINS



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

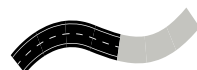
The route is located on the plains that extend between the cities of Cáceres and Trujillo, one of the areas of greatest ornithological importance in the region with four special protection zones for birds (ZEPA): *Llanos de Cáceres and Sierra de Fuentes, Magasca, Riberos del Almonte and Lesser Kestrel colonies in Trujillo and Cáceres.*



LENGTH
46,3 KM



MODALITY
VEHICLE



SURFACE TYPE
ASPHALT

We start at exit 35 of the A-58 towards Santa Marta de Magasca, making the first stop (o.p. 01) to take the paved track to our left and start looking for **Great and Little Bustard, European Roller, Montagu's Harrier, Lesser Kestrel, Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Stone Curlew** and other birds such as **Corn Bunting, Calandra and Thekla Larks and Spanish Sparrow**. Following the route we will stop at the entrance of another farm (o.p. 02) to look for the same species, as well as **Black-eared Wheatear, Greater Short-toed Lark, Eurasian Hoopoe, European Stonechat, European Bee-eater...** and due to the abundant livestock, perhaps **Griffon, Cinereous or Egyptian Vultures**.

The Tamuja River valley (o.p. 03) offers a wooded habitat where you can see **Common Buzzard, Booted Eagle, European Turtle Dove,**



Trujillo and plains



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



Tourist Office



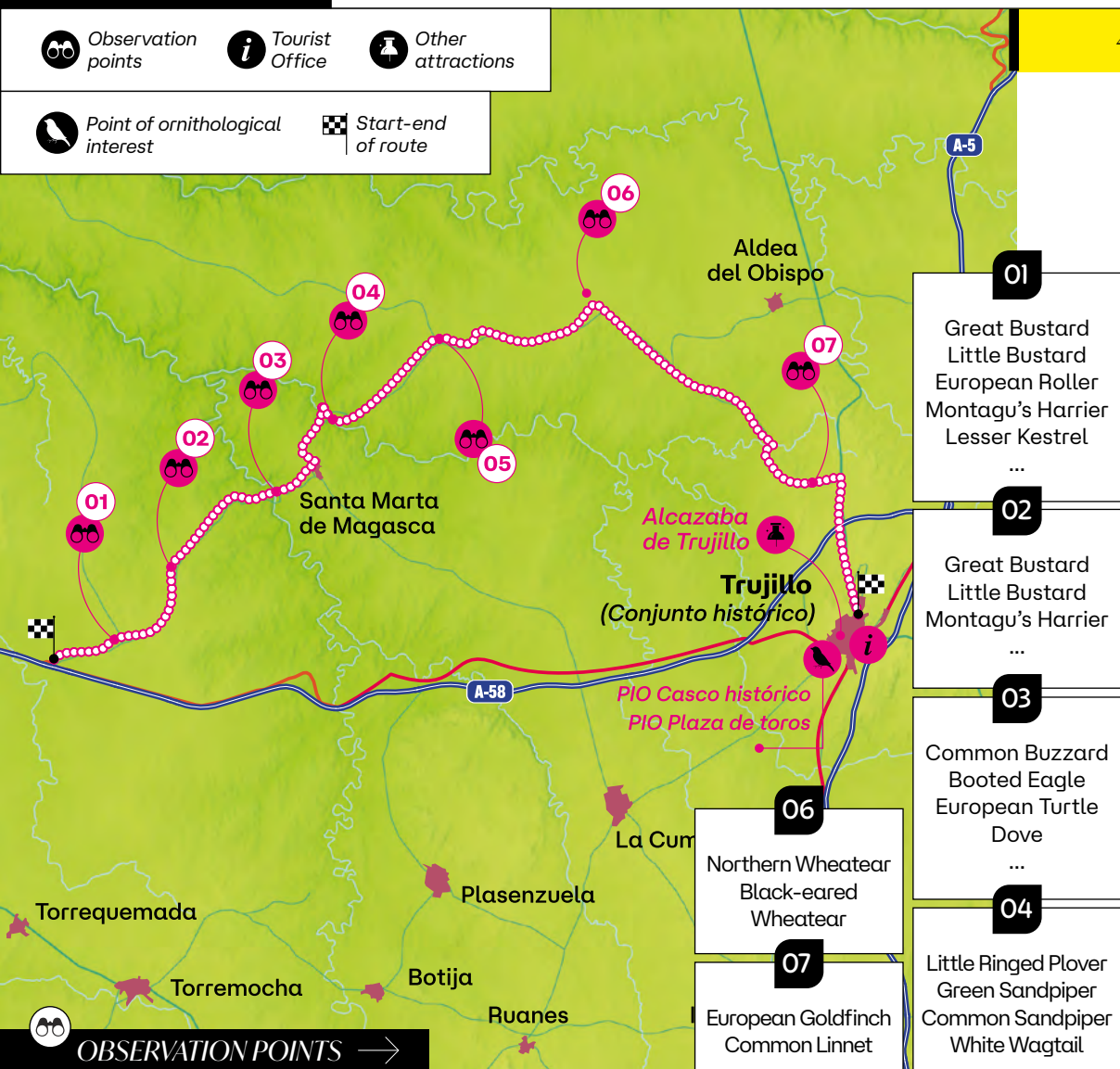
Other attractions



Point of ornithological interest



Start-end of route



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ **Iberian Magpie, Common Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Western Subalpine, Sardinian and Dartford Warblers, Blue and Great Tits and Common Cuckoo.** On the rocky outcrops there are **Blue Rock Thrush, Black Wheatear** and **Rock Bunting**. After the town of Santa Marta de

01

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
European Roller
Montagu's Harrier
Lesser Kestrel
...

02

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Montagu's Harrier
...

03

Common Buzzard
Booted Eagle
European Turtle Dove
...

04

Little Ringed Plover
Green Sandpiper
Common Sandpiper
White Wagtail
...

05

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Montagu's Harrier
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse

06

Northern Wheatear
Black-eared Wheatear

07

European Goldfinch
Common Linnet
...

08

Lesser Kestrel
White Stork
Pallid Swift
Common Swift
...



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Crops and
Grasslands

Towns and
Cities

Rivers and
Streams

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Pin-tailed
Sandgrouse
Black-bellied
Sandgrouse
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Lesser Kestrel
Montagu's
Harrier
...

WINTER VISITORS

Northern
Lapwing
European
Golden Plover
Meadow Pipit
...

EN PASO

Northern
Wheatear
Black-eared
Wheatear
...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)

Magasca we will descend to the Magasca River (o.p. 04) to take a short walk along its banks and look for **Little Ringed Plover**, **Green** and **Common Sandpipers**, **White** and **Grey Wagtails...** and other species that take advantage of the cover of the wooded valley sides such as **Black Kite**, **Short-toed Eagle**, **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **Eurasian Eagle Owl**, **Black Stork**, **Wood Pigeon**, **Eurasian Jay**, **Eurasian Wren**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Common Chaffinch** and **Melodious Warbler**.

We continue until the junction with the CC-128 (o.p. 05) where a path parallel to the road allows us to explore the area on foot to look for **Great** and **Little Bustards**, **Montagu's Harrier**, **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**, **Stone Curlew...** and given the proximity of Monfragüe, perhaps eagles. **Golden**, **Spanish Imperial** and **Bonelli's Eagles** use these areas as hunting grounds. Later, we will walk along the Puente Mocha trail (o.p. 06) where most of the species of the plains can be observed, during autumn passage also **Northern** and **Black-eared Wheatear**, **Pied Flycatcher**, **Tawny Pipit**, **Whinchat**, **Western Yellow Wagtail** and in winter **European Golden Plover**, **Northern Lapwing**, **Hen Harrier**, **Meadow Pipit**, **Eurasian Skylark**, **White Wagtail** and **Black-headed** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**.

Reaching the Calleja de la Breña (o.p. 07) we will take a short walk through this area of holm oaks and granite outcrops with **European Goldfinch**, **Common Linnet**, **European Greenfinch**, **European Serin**, **Little Owl**, **Eurasian Wren**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **European Stonechat**, **Zitting Cisticola**, **Spotless Starling**, **Iberian Grey Shrike**, etc. Finally, in Trujillo we will visit its historic centre (o.p. 08) and its breeding colonies of **Lesser Kestrels**, **White Storks**, **Pallid** and **Common Swifts**, etc.

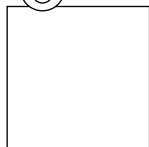


TIMING

The beauty of the plains and the contrast with the river valleys make this route recommended at any time of the year, even in summer if you avoid the hottest hours of the day. Spring is the most appropriate time to visit due to the numerous summer species, although in winter it can be just as interesting with the residents and the arrival of numerous wintering birds.

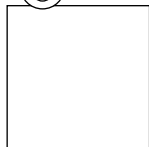


Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*)



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

CÁCERES

A monumental city declared a World Heritage Site for its excellent state of conservation.

02

TRUJILLO

It is also an important historical complex in which its castle stands out.

03

LOS HORNOS FAUNA RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Next to the town of Sierra de Fuentes.

04

URBAN BIRDS

Colonies of Lesser Kestrels and other species in Cáceres and Trujillo.

UNESCO
GEO-
PARK

VILLUERCAS IBORES JARA

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The Villuercas Ibores Jara region is declared a UNESCO world geopark due to its geological importance and is also a special protection area for birds (SPA).



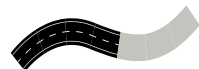
LENGTH

61 KM (VEHICLE)
12 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

VEHICLE AND
ON FOOT

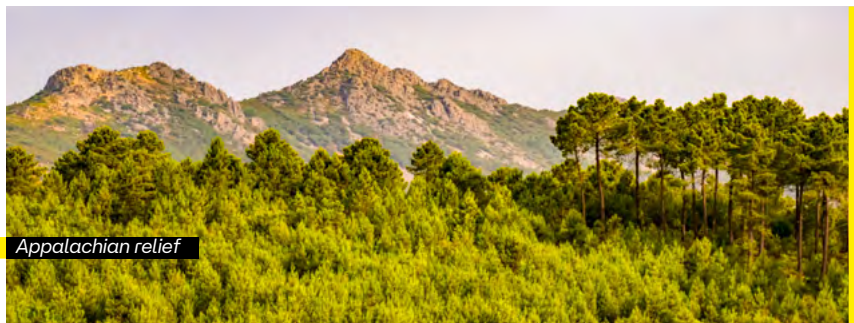


SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT, CONCRETE
AND PATH

We start at the entrance of the walking trail (o.p. 01) that leads to the sweet chestnuts and torrent of Calabazas. It hosts typical woodland species such as **Golden Oriole**, **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** and **Melodious Warbler**. The first section of the track is excellent for orchids and reptiles such as Schrieber's Green Lizard.

Returning to the car, continue on the EX-118 in the direction of Guadalupe, towards a picnic area (o.p. 02) looking across the Ibor valley. The olive orchards and patches of scrub have **Western Subalpine Warblers**, **Common Nightingales** and **Cirl Buntings**. **Short-toed Eagles** can be seen. Continue until the Collado del Humilladero (o.p. 03) that offers a view down to Guadalupe and where we can see **Long-tailed Tit**, **Eurasian Jay** and **Cirl Bunting**. We then drive up the road signposted for the Pico de Villuercas. The road climbs through belts of pines, sweet chestnut and finally Pyrenean oak, to a good spot (o.p. 04) to pause and see woodland species like **Western Bonelli's Warbler** and **Crested Tit**, as well as



Appalachian relief





MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



Tourist Office



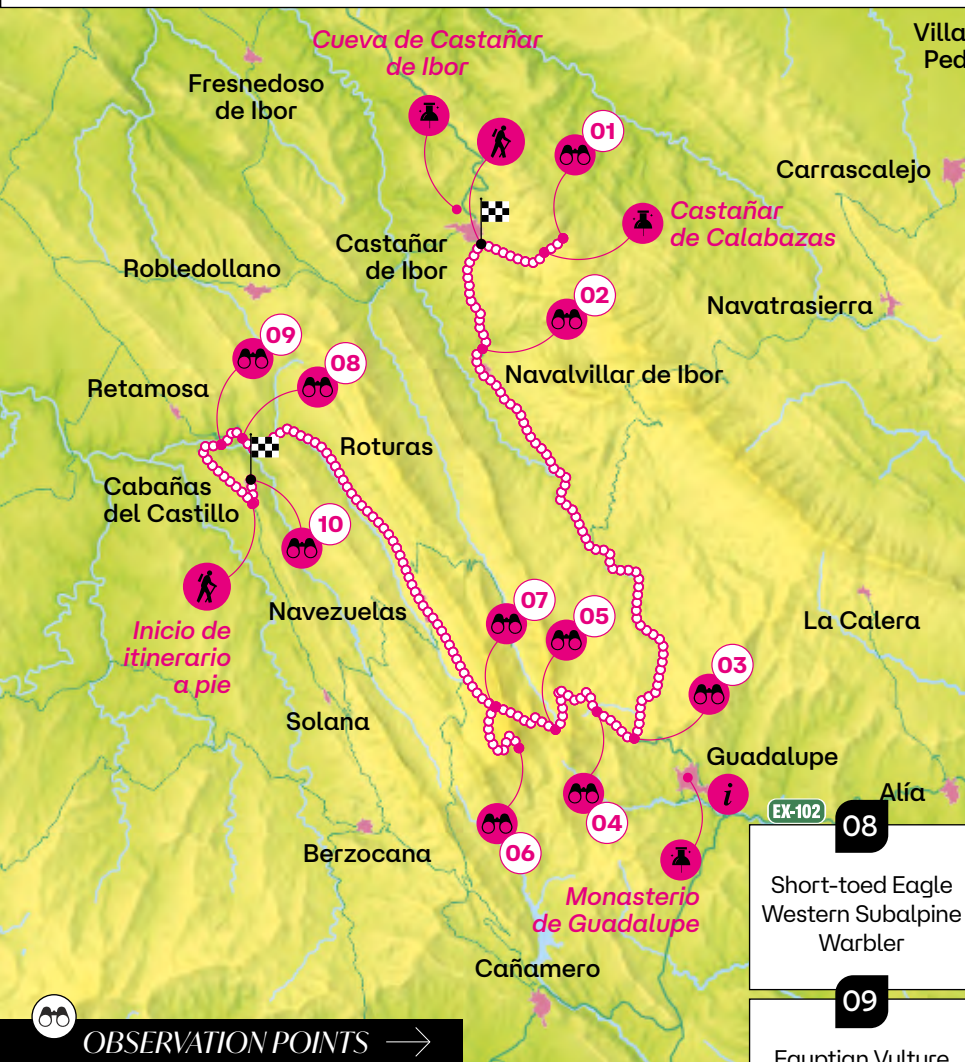
Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



OBSERVATION POINTS →



Eurasian Bullfinch in winter and **European Honey Buzzard** in the summer. Noticeboards along the road provide information about the geological features, as well as offering places to park and watch birds.

At the viewpoint of the Valle Sinclinal del Viejas (o.p. 05), **Red-billed Chough** can be

01

Golden Oriole
Common Nightingale

02

Short-toed Eagle
Western Subalpine Warbler

03

Cirl Bunting

04

Western Bonelli's Warbler
Crested Tit

05

Red-billed Chough
Spectacled Warbler
Dartford Warbler

06

Red-billed Chough
Common Rock Thrush
Blue Rock Thrush
Alpine Accentor

07

Dunnock

09

Egyptian Vulture
Alpine Swift
Cirl Bunting

10

Blue Rock Thrush
Peregrine Falcon
Black Stork

08

Short-toed Eagle
Western Subalpine Warbler



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Scrub
Mediterranean
Forest
Rivers and
Streams
Rocky areas
Mountain

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Bonelli's Eagle
Griffon Vulture
Cinereous
Vulture
Peregrine
Falcon
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Alpine Swift
White-
rumped Swift
Egyptian
Vulture
Short-toed
Eagle
Booted Eagle
...

WINTER VISITORS

Wallcreeper
Alpine
Accentor
Eurasian
Bullfinch
...



Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)

seen as well as **Dartford**, **Spectacled** and **Western Subalpine Warblers** in the scrub. A short walk leads you to a snow well. Continue onto the summit (o.p. 06) for views from the highest point in the Villuercas (1600 m) where we can look for **Common** and **Blue Rock Thrushes**, **Rock Bunting** and **Red-billed Chough**. In the winter, groups of **Alpine Accentor** can be present and **Wallcreeper** have been found here.

We return to take the small road of las Acebadillas signposted to Navezuelas (o.p. 07), a steep cement road down through a spectacular woodland of Pyrenean oak and cork oak, with scree slopes and past the source of the Almonte River. After passing through Navezuelas and Roturas we reach a picnic site (o.p. 08) which offers a view of the eastern side of the Aperturas del Almonte gorge. From the other side (o.p. 09) there is a spectacular view of the rock face, which is especially good in the afternoon to admire its **Griffon Vulture** colony, as well as **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Alpine** and **White-rumped Swifts**. The Almonte River here has **Grey Wagtail** and **White-throated Dipper**.

The route ends at the village of Cabañas del Castillo, ascending by foot to the castle (o.p. 10), which offers spectacular views and the possibility of seeing **Rock Bunting**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Egyptian Vulture**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Black Stork**.... and in winter **Alpine Accentor**.

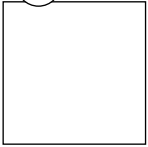


TIMING

In addition to the residents, numerous summer species choose the geopark to breed, both in its abrupt quartzite ridges and in its profuse forests and rivers, which makes this time especially interesting for birding. In winter, species which are unusual in Extremadura, such as Wallcreepers and Alpine Accentors, due to the altitude of these mountains.

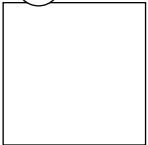


Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

CALABAZA SWEET CHESTNUT TREES

This spectacular grove of centuries-old sweet chestnut trees has been declared a unique tree of Extremadura.

02

CASTAÑAR DE IBOR CAVE

One of the six natural monuments of Extremadura, it is one of the caves with the greatest abundance and variety of spelothems in the peninsula.

03

ROYAL MONASTERY OF GUADALUPE

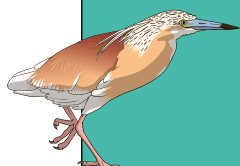
Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, next to the historical complex of the town of Guadalupe, it is an essential visit.

04

SNOW WELL

This old medieval structure was designed to supply ice to the monastic complex of Guadalupe.

RIVER GUADIANA WEIR



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The route is located on the Guadiana River as it passes through the city of Badajoz and has two different sections: one on foot along the left bank to the weir and another by vehicle along the right bank to the mouth of the Caya River. This section of the Guadiana is declared a special protection area for birds (SPA) *Azud de Badajoz*.



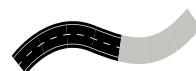
LENGTH

4,4 KM (ON FOOT, LEFT
BANK ONE WAY) Y 10,2 KM
(VEHICLE, RIGHT BANK)



MODALITY

ON FOOT AND
VEHICLE



SURFACE TYPE

URBAN, ASPHALT
AND DIRT ROAD

LEFT BANK

We begin at the Autonomía bridge, taking the river walk to the Old or Palmas bridge (o.p. 01) to look for birds such as **Great Cormorant**, **Eurasian Coot**, **Mallard**, **Gadwall**, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, a colony of **House Martin** and **Alpine Swift** that nest on the bridge. We continue until we pass the University bridge (o.p. 02) to observe waterfowl and, as on the entire route, **White** and **Grey Wagtails**, **Common** and **Green Sandpipers**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Common Snipe**. We will continue, passing the Royal bridge to find ourselves in front of some islands (o.p. 03) frequented by **Cattle** and **Little Egrets**, **Western Jackdaw**, **Spotless** and **Common Starlings**, with a roost of **Great Cormorant** on one of them in winter. In winter and on migration, we can also see **Osprey**



River Guadiana



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



Tourist Office



Other attractions



Start-end of route



OBSERVATION POINTS →



and **Squacco Heron**.

Finally we head to the weir (o.p. 04) to see the breeding colonies of **Cattle and Little Egrets**, accompanied by **Black-crowned Night Heron, White Stork, Grey and Purple Herons, Great White Egret** and **Western**

01

Great Cormorant
Eurasian Coot
Mallard
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
...

02

White Wagtail
Grey Wagtail
Common Sandpiper
...

03

Cattle Egret
Little Egret
Western Jackdaw
Spotless Starling
...

04

Cattle Egret
Little Egret
Black-crowned Night Heron
White Stork

05

Cattle Egret
Little Egret
Western Jackdaw
Spotless Starling
...

06

Cattle Egret
Little Egret
...

07

Sand Martin
European Bee-eater
...

08

Little Bittern
Water Rail
Common Moorhen
Great Reed Warbler
...



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Rivers and
Streams

Towns and
Cities

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Cattle Egret
Little Egret
Grey Heron
Eurasian Coot
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Eurasian
Reed Warbler
Great Reed
Warbler
Sand Martin
...

WINTER VISITORS

Lesser Black-
backed Gull
Black-
headed Gull
Common
snipe
...

PASSAGE MIGRANTS

Squacco
Heron
Wood
Sandpiper
...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



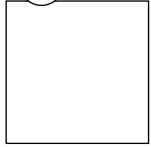
Squacco Heron (Ardeola ralloides)

Swamphen. In winter, **Squacco Heron** and large concentrations of **Black-headed** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** are present.

RIGHT BANK

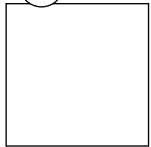
We start at a roundabout on Elvas Avenue, taking the exit to the Sancha Brava trail and passing under the Royal Bridge to our first stop (o.p. 04) to observe an island that in winter is a roost for **Great Cormorant** and frequented by **Cattle** and **Little Egrets**, **Western Jackdaw**, **Spotless** and **Common Starlings**. We will continue to the weir wall (o.p. 05) to see the breeding colonies of **Cattle** and **Little Egrets**, accompanied by **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **White Stork**, **Grey** and **Purple Herons**, **Great White Egret** and **Western Swamphen**. In winter, **Squacco Heron** and large concentrations of **Black-headed** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** are present.

We continue to a gravel pit (o.p. 06) where **Sand Martin**, **European Bee-eater** and **Common Kingfisher** nest in its banks. In the surrounding willow groves there are **Golden Oriole**, **Penduline Tit**, **Common Nightingale**, **Cetti's** and **Melodious Warblers**, **Eurasian Wren** and **Common Chaffinch**. From here to the end of the route at the mouth of the Caya River, passing through to the next observation point (o.p. 08), reeds and willows offer another very interesting habitat for **Little Bittern**, **Water Rail**, **Common Moorhen**, **Eurasian Reed** and **Great Reed Warblers**, **Red Avadavat** and **Common Waxbill**. In winter **Bluethroat** and **Common Chiffchaff** are present.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



TIMING

Any time of year is good to see birds around the weir, although spring is especially recommended because of the heron colonies and river thickets, where the songs of numerous species make the routes very rewarding. Winter is interesting for the roosts and the presence of wintering species.



Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

BADAJOS

Offers excellent culture and an interesting historical complex in which the citadel and the Plaza Alta stand out.

02

BADAJOS CARNIVAL

Among the most populous and fun in Spain.

03

AL-MOSSASSA BATALLYAWS FESTIVAL

In September, commemorating the founding of Badajoz by the Arabs.

04

MUSEUMS

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MEIAC), the Provincial Archaeological Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts (MUBA) stand out.

NATURAL
PARK

CORNALVO

WETLANDS

MÉRIDA

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

Cornalvo and the Mérida wetlands are located in the north centre of the province of Badajoz, a series of channels and reservoirs that include the special protection areas for birds (SPA) *Los Canchales Reservoir*, *Montijo Reservoir* and *Cornalvo Reservoir* and *Sierra Bermeja*, the latter declared a natural park.



LENGTH

68 KM (VEHICLE) +
8 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

VEHICLE AND
ON FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT, DIRT
TRACKS AND PATHS

We begin at the Roman bridge of Mérida (o.p. 01) crossing the Guadiana River, one of the urban areas of greatest ornithological interest in Extremadura where you can see **Little Bitterns**, **Western Swamphe**n, **Penduline Tit** and **Alpine Swift**, among others. From Mérida we begin the trip by vehicle heading towards Trujillanos, where the Cornalvo Natural Park interpretation centre is located. We continue to the Roman dam of the reservoir (o.p. 02) where we can take a circular route of about 6.5 km that completely surrounds it. During the visit, we will be able to observe, depending on the time of year, water birds such as **Great Crested Grebe**, **Eurasian Spoonbill** and **Red-crested Pochard**, and small birds such as **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Western Subalpine** and **Western Orphean Warblers**.

Returning to the dam, we continue by vehicle to the Las Muelas



Cornalvo Natural Park



MAP OF ROUTE

ROUTE 12: CORNALVO NATURAL PARK / MÉRIDA WETLANDS

53



Observation points



Tourist Office



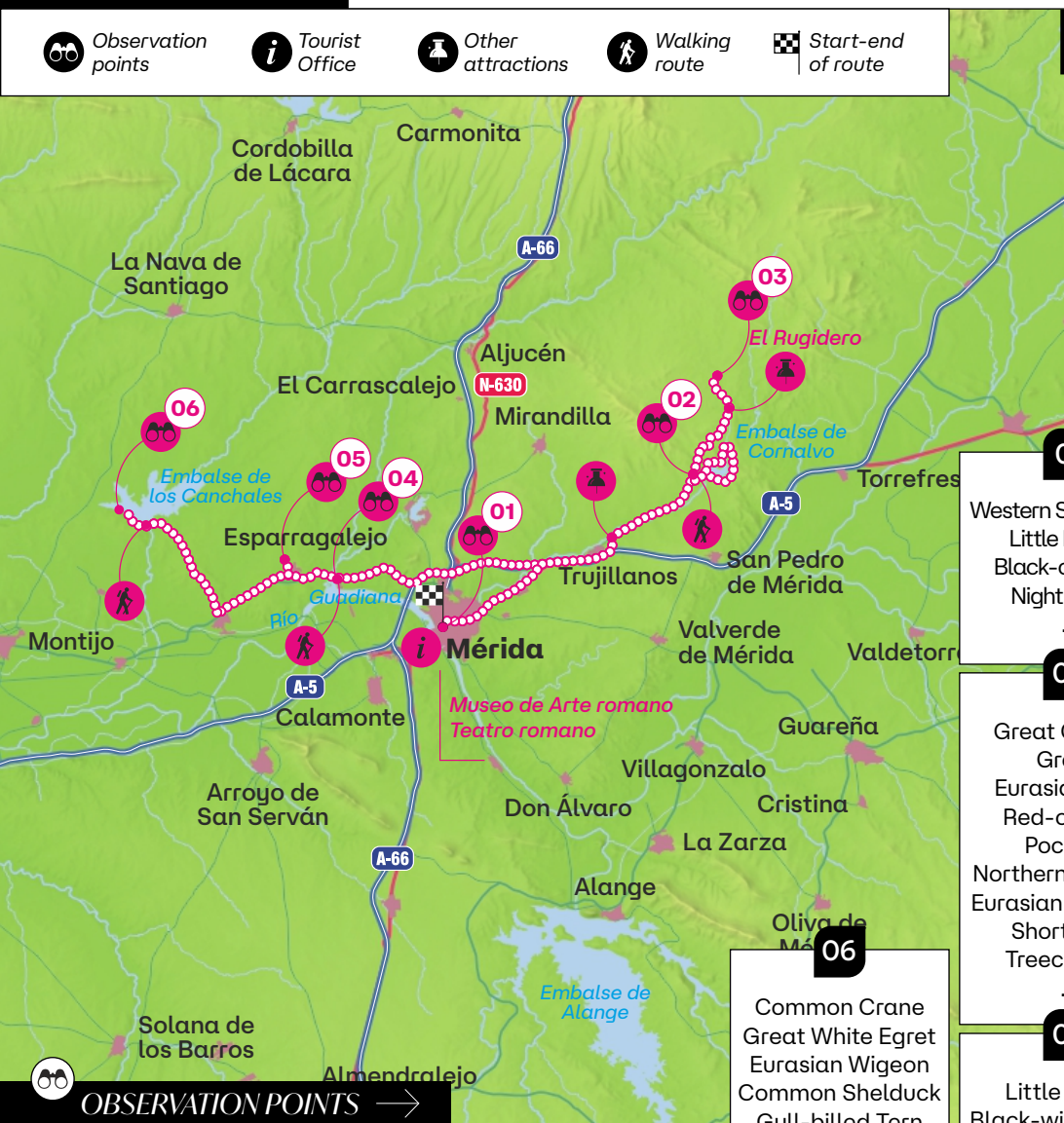
Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



01

Western Swamphen
Little Bittern
Black-crowned
Night Heron
...

02

Great Crested
Grebe
Eurasian Coot
Red-crested
Pochard
Northern Shoveler
Eurasian Nuthatch
Short-toed
Treecreeper
...

03

Little Grebe
Black-winged Stilt
Garganey
Grey Heron

04

Squacco Heron
Purple Heron
Water Rail

06

Common Crane
Great White Egret
Eurasian Wigeon
Common Shelduck
Gull-billed Tern
Osprey
Black-winged Kite

05

Glossy Ibis
Eurasian Spoonbill
Kentish Plover



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ reservoir (o.p. 03), a small wetland with a great diversity of water birds and waders, both breeding and non-breeders. From its hide it is easy to see **Little Grebe**, **Grey Heron**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Black-winged Stilt** and other waders. It is also a good place to find **Garganey** in the spring. In the natural park, **Griffon** and **Cinereous Vultures**, **Short-toed**



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Dehesas
Reservoirs
and Ponds

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Black-winged
Kite
Western Marsh
Harrier
Cinereous
Vulture
Griffon Vulture
Eurasian
Spoonbill
Glossy Ibis
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Alpine Swift
Purple Heron
Squacco
Heron
Short-toed
Eagle
Booted Eagle
Gull-billed
Tern
...

WINTER VISITORS

Common
Crane
Greylag
Goose
...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

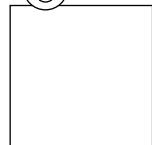


Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)

and **Booted Eagles** can be easily seen, among other birds of prey.

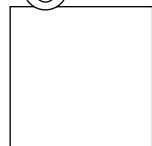
After leaving the park, we join the A-5 until the exit for Esparragalejo and before crossing the Aljucén river we will make a stop. A path will take us to the riverbank, next to an old submerged bridge (o.p. 04), where it is relatively easy to see **Squacco** and **Purple Herons** in the breeding season. We continue to Esparragalejo to visit its Charca Grande (o.p. 05), a small wetland that attracts a multitude of waders on passage and with a great diversity of birds at different times of the year, such as **Glossy Ibis** and **Eurasian Spoonbill**.

Finally, we visit the Canchales reservoir, one of the most important wetlands in Extremadura for birding, which we get to on a paved track just before reaching La Garrovilla. This leads directly to the dam parking area. Crossing it on foot we go to a hide (o.p. 06) in front of which many birds roost such as **Lesser Black-backed** and **Black-headed Gulls**, **Gull-billed Tern**, **Great Cormorant** and **Osprey** (between August and April). You can also enjoy a great diversity of waterfowl such as **Northern Pintail**, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Eurasian Teal**, **Common Shelduck**, **Greylag** and **Greater White-fronted Geese**, among others, with birds of prey such as **Western Marsh Harrier** and **Black-winged Kite**. One of the great attractions in winter are the large concentrations of **Common Cranes**, both during the day and coming to roost. We return to the car park along the same path or take a circular route through a very interesting scrubland area for small birds such as warblers, **Woodchat Shrike** and **Hawfinch**.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



TIMING

These wetlands have a greater diversity of birds in winter and late summer, making them especially interesting at these times. During spring and summer the surrounding forests and dehesas are very attractive due to the abundance of breeding woodland birds.



Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

HISTORICAL COMPLEX OF MÉRIDA

Roman theatre and amphitheatre, circus, aqueducts, temples... together with the Cornalvo dam, they are declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

02

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROMAN ART

International reference centre for Roman artefacts.

03

CORNALVO NATURAL PARK INTERP. CENTRE

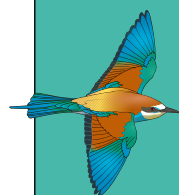
Provides information necessary to enjoy this important natural area of Extremadura.

04

EL RUGIDERO

With the rising waters, the Muelas stream “roars” between the large stones of its bed.

ALCOLLARÍN RESERVOIR / SIERRA BRAVA RESERVOIR



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

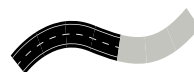
The first part of this route is located in the special protection area for birds (SPA) *Sierra Brava Reservoir and plains of Zorita*. For its part, the Alcollarín reservoir is one of the most important places in Extremadura for water birds.



LENGTH
24 KM.



MODALITY
VEHICLE



SURFACE TYPE
ASPHALT AND
DIRT TRACK

We begin at the Sierra Brava reservoir (o.p. 01) whose waters irrigate rice and maize fields that can be seen to the south. In winter there are flocks of **Common Cranes** in the stubble and surrounding dehesas, and species such as **Greylag Goose**, **Common Shelduck** and **Red-crested Pochard** on the reservoir. Depending on the water level, **Gull-billed Terns** may breed here in summer. In addition, the area is excellent for seeing **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, as well as **Little Owl** and **Black-eared Wheatear** in the rock cuts along the road.

We continue along the EX-355 and almost immediately to the left along the Campo Lugar road, crossing a flat area where you can park beside access gates to the farms (o.p. 02). This is a breeding area for steppe birds such as **Great** and **Little Bustards**, **Stone Curlew**, **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** and **European Roller**. We



(SPA) Sierra Brava Reservoir and plains of Zorita



MAP OF ROUTE

ROUTE 13: SIERRA BRAVA RESERVOIR / ALCOLLARÍN RESERVOIR

57



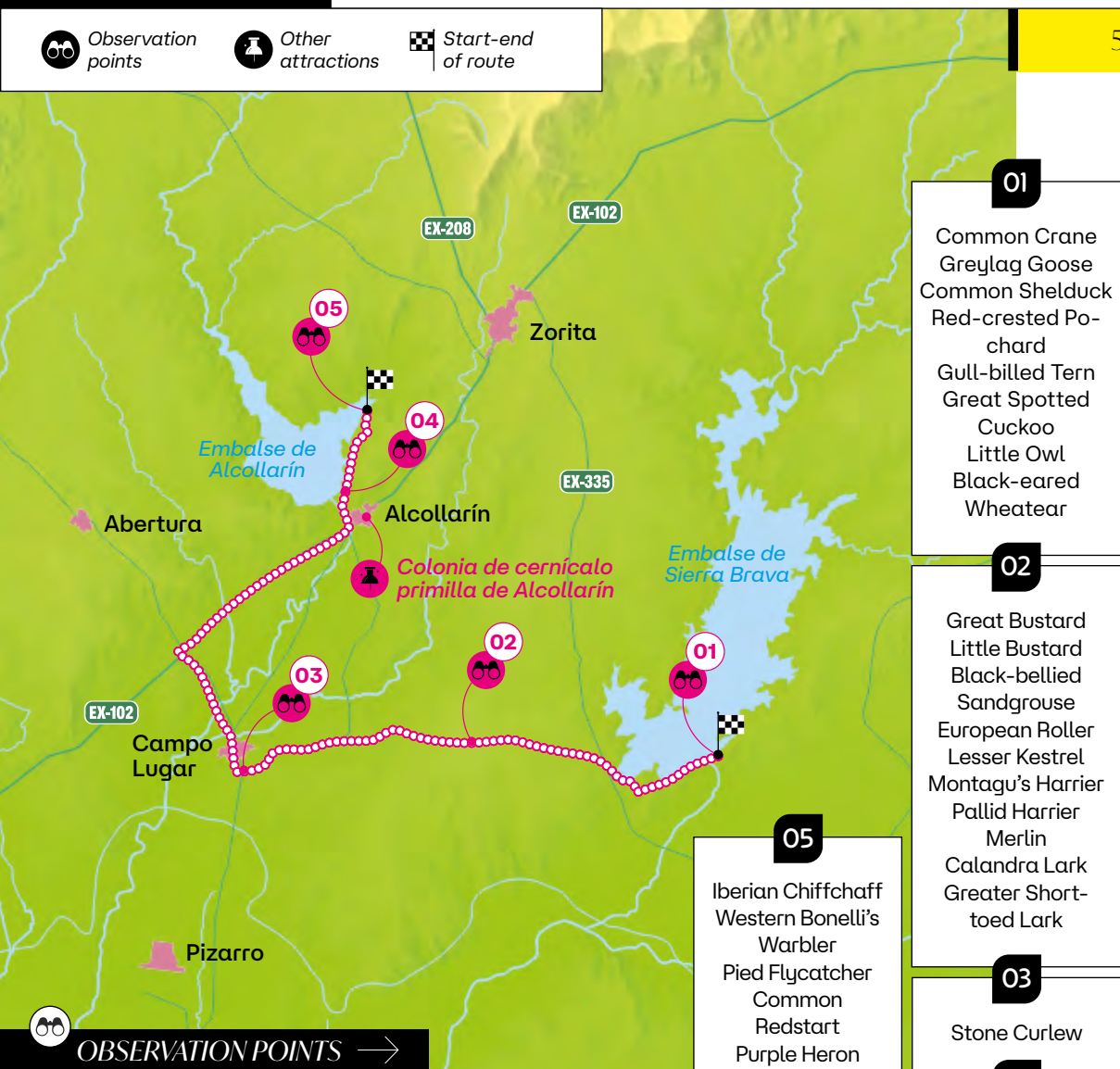
Observation points



Other attractions



Start-end of route



01

Common Crane
Greylag Goose
Common Shelduck
Red-crested Pochard
Gull-billed Tern
Great Spotted Cuckoo
Little Owl
Black-eared Wheatear

02

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Black-bellied Sandgrouse
European Roller
Lesser Kestrel
Montagu's Harrier
Pallid Harrier
Merlin
Calandra Lark
Greater Short-toed Lark

03

Stone Curlew

04

Black Stork
Black-necked Grebe
Little Tern
Collared Pratincole
Bonelli's Eagle

05

Iberian Chiffchaff
Western Bonelli's Warbler
Pied Flycatcher
Common Redstart
Purple Heron
Western Marsh Harrier
Great Reed Warbler
European Bee-eater
Thekla Lark
Woodchat Shrike



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ can also see **Lesser Kestrel**, which come from their nearby colonies to feed here, and **Montagu's Harrier** passing through in spring and autumn, while **Hen Harrier** and **Merlin** are winter visitors. There are good populations of **Calandra** and **Greater Short-toed Larks**.



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Reservoirs
and Pond

Crops and
Grassland

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Black-bellied
Sandgrouse
Stone Curlew
Bonelli's Eagle
Griffin Vulture
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Great
Spotted
Cuckoo
Purple Heron
Short-toed
Eagle
Booted Eagle
Gull-billed
Tern
...

WINTER VISITORS

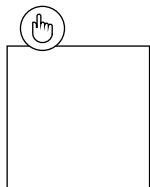
Greylag
Goose
Common
Shelduck
Northern
Shoveler
...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



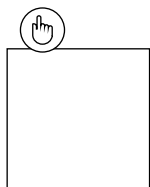
European Roller (Coracias garrulus)

To the south of the town of **Campo Lugar** (o.p. 03) we can find a winter roost for **Stone Curlew** in the fields. After crossing the town, we reach the intersection with the EX-102 and we head to Alcollarín. Just before the town take the second exit signposted to the dam of the same name. From its wall (o.p. 04) there is an excellent panoramic view of the Alcollarín reservoir, home to a large number of **ducks in winter**, as well as **Black Stork** and **Black-necked Grebe**, with **Little Tern**, **Collared Pratincole** and **waders in spring**. It is frequented by **Bonelli's Eagle** from the nearby mountains. From the dam wall, dirt tracks allow us to explore the western and eastern banks. Along the latter you reach the **weir** (o.p. 05) where there is a picnic area. **Purple Heron**, **Western Marsh Harrier** and **Great Reed Warbler** breed here. And the surrounding holm oak woodland can be **very good** for migrants in spring and autumn such as **Iberian Chiffchaff** and **Western Bonelli's Warbler**, **Pied Flycatcher** and **Common Redstart**. If we continue, we reach the shallow end of the reservoir, with **European Bee-eater** nests next to the track and abundant **Thekla Lark** and **Woodchat Shrike**. It is not possible to make a complete circuit of the reservoir, so we will return to the dam to continue along the western bank, where the light is better in the afternoon.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route

TIMING

In spring the plains are filled with activity with steppe species, both resident and summer visitors, while in winter the water bodies are especially attractive due to the large concentrations of ducks, as well as Black Storks in the Alcollarín reservoir. Also on the plains are winter groups of Little Bustards and large numbers of Northern Lapwings and European Golden Plovers.



Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

ALCOLLARÍN LESSER KESTREL COLONY

Declared urban special protection area for birds (SPA).

02

VÍA VERDE VEGAS DEL GUADIANA

58 km of trail accessible on foot or by bicycle along the old railway line.

03

FERNANDO EL CATÓLICO TOURIST COMPLEX

Exhibition on the life of the king of Aragon and Castile with a visit to the house of Santa María de Guadalupe, where the monarch met his death.

04

MASSA SOLÍS MUSEUM

The brilliant work of this painter from Miajadas is exhibited in the Palacio del Obispo Solís cultural complex.

THE
UPPER
FLOOD
PLAINS
OF THE

GUADIANA



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The area of the upper flood plains of the Guadiana brings together a wide diversity of habitats such as riverside forests, reservoirs, irrigated crops and dehesas. It includes various special protection areas for birds (SPA) such as *Arrozales de Palazuelo and Guadalperales*; *Vegas del Rucas, Cubilar and Moheda Alta*; *Acedera Lesser Kestrel Colonies*; *Orellana Reservoir* and *Sierra de Pela and Puerto Peña-Los Golondrinos*.



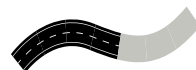
LENGTH

102 KM (VEHICLE) +
7 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

VEHICLE AND
ON FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT, DIRT TRACK
AND PATH

We start at the bridges of the Guadiana River in Villanueva de la Serena (o.p. 01). From the EX-351 we can access the southern bank of the river to walk through its riverine forest between the old bridge and the greenway viaduct for species such as **Common Kingfisher**, **Little Bittern**, **Purple Heron** and **Alpine Swift**. Returning to the vehicle, we continue along the Palazuelo road (o.p. 02) between rice fields, where mainly in autumn and winter thousands of **Common Cranes**, various species of **gull** and **heron**, **Glossy Ibis**, waders such as **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Dunlin**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Kentish Plover**, **Pied Avocet** can be seen.. and during the breeding season, **Collared Pratincole**.



Puerto Peña



MAP OF ROUTE

ROUTE 14: THE UPPER FLOOD PLAINS OF THE GUADIANA

61



Observation points



Tourist Office



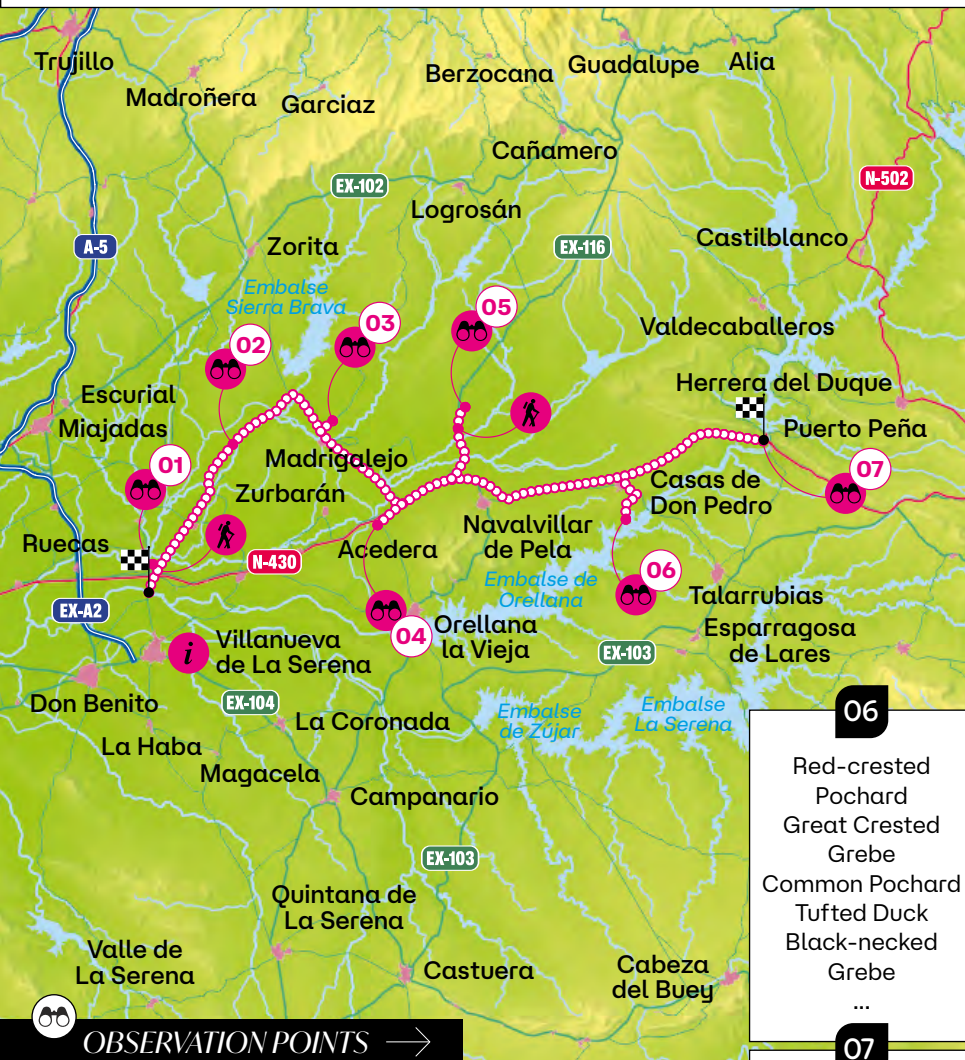
Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ We continue in the direction of Madrigalejo and before reaching the town we will take a paved track to the left that will take us to an old gravel pit (o.p. 03). In this small wetland we can see **Purple Heron, Little Bittern** and **Western Marsh Harrier** at close range and listen

01

Little Bittern
Purple Heron
Western
Swamphen
Common
Kingfisher
Penduline Tit
...

02

Common Crane
Kentish Plover
...

03

Purple Heron
Great White Egret
Little Bittern
Water Rail
...

04

Lesser Kestrel
White Stork

05

Greater Flamingo
Common Crane
Red-crested
Pochard
Northern Shoveler
Great White Egret
Western Marsh
Harrier
Pied Avocet
Black-winged Stilt

06

Red-crested
Pochard
Great Crested
Grebe
Common Pochard
Tufted Duck
Black-necked
Grebe
...

07

Griffon Vulture
Cinereous Vulture
Egyptian Vulture
Bonelli's Eagle
Peregrine Falcon
Short-toed Eagle
Black Stork
...



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Reservoirs
and Ponds

Dehesas

Irrigated Crops

Mediterranean
forest

Rocky areas

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Black-winged
Kite

Western Marsh
Harrier

Cinereous
Vulture

Griffon Vulture

...

SUMMER VISITORS

Alpine Swift

Purple Heron

Short-toed
Eagle

Booted Eagle

...

WINTER VISITORS

Common
Crane

Greylag
Goose

Northern
Pintail

...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

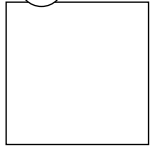


Great Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus arundinaceus)

to the elusive **Water Rail**. In the surrounding dehesas it is easy to see **Black-winged Kite**. Back on the EX-355 we continue to the N-430, on a route on which we can enjoy in winter large concentrations of **waders** and **Common Cranes** in the rice fields, to head to Acedera and visit its church (o.p. 04), a small Urban SPA with an important colony of **Lesser Kestrel** and **White Stork**.

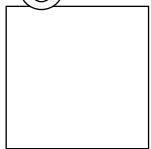
After visiting Acedera we proceed to Obando to see the Moheda Alta peri-urban conservation and leisure park, its interpretation centre and dehesa. By circular route on foot, or directly by road, we can get to a tower hide (o.p. 05) with views of an irrigation pond and look for **Greater Flamingo**, **Red-crested Pochard** and the arrival or departure of thousands of **Common Cranes** at roost. Returning to the vehicle, we continue towards Casas de Don Pedro to detour along the Dehesas canal and take a dirt track that will take us to another hide at the Paguillo weir (o.p. 06). In this small section of the Orellana reservoir we can see **Great Crested and Black-necked Grebes**, **Red-crested Pochard** and **Tufted Duck** in winter. And in the surrounding dehesas, during the breeding season, **Common Cuckoo**, **European Turtle Dove**, **Woodchat Shrike** and **European Bee-eater** among others.

Finally, we will end our route at the Puerto Peña viewpoint (o.p. 07), next to the García de Sola reservoir dam. From there we have views of the rockface where there is a colony of **Griffon Vultures**. **Black Stork**, **Alpine Swift**, **Bonelli's Eagle**, **Peregrine Falcon** and **Egyptian Vulture** also breed there.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



Common Crane (*Grus grus*)



TIMING

In autumn and winter you can see thousands of Common Cranes, geese and waders. In spring, breeding birds such as Collared Pratincole, Griffon Vulture, Black Stork and Short-toed Eagle.



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

GUADIANA GREENWAY

On the old railway line, the best option to explore the area on foot or by bicycle.

02

ORELLANA BEACH

The first freshwater beach in Spain with a blue flag. It also has a marina.

03

MOHEDA ALTA INTERPRETATION CENTRE

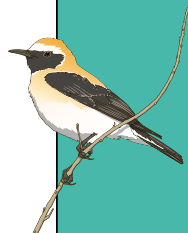
Information about this attractive area, where the Crane Festival is also celebrated every year.

04

PUERTO PEÑA ROCK BIRD INTERPRETATION CENTRE

With a viewpoint on its terrace and information about the birds of the Guadiana gorge.

LA SIBERIA



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The La Siberia biosphere reserve, in the northeast of the province of Badajoz, is a vast area of contrasts, with plains, dehesas, mountains and reservoirs of the Guadiana River, which includes the special conservation areas for birds (SPA) *La Serena Reservoir*; *Sierra de Siruela*; *Puerto Peña-Los Golondrinos* and the natural monument Cerro Masatrigo.



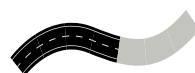
LENGTH

109 KM (VEHICLE)
+ 7 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

VEHICLE AND
ON FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT, DIRT
TRACKS AND PATHS

The route begins in the town of Talarrubias, whose Plaza de España (o.p. 01) offers us the first observations of **Lesser Kestrel**, **Common Swift**, **White Stork**, **House Martin** and **Barn Swallow**. Once in the vehicle we head towards Puebla de Alcocer, to stop at the Visitación convent (o.p. 02) to see its large **Lesser Kestrel** colony and the same species as in the previous point.

We continue to the La Serena reservoir and stop at Cerro Masatrigo (o.p. 03), a magnificent hill to look for water birds such as **Mallard**, **Northern Pintail**, **Red-crested Pochard**, **Little** and **Great Crested Grebes**, **Great Cormorant** and **Black-headed Gull**, and other species such as **Black** and **White Storks**,



Rocky areas and García de Sola reservoir



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



Tourist Office



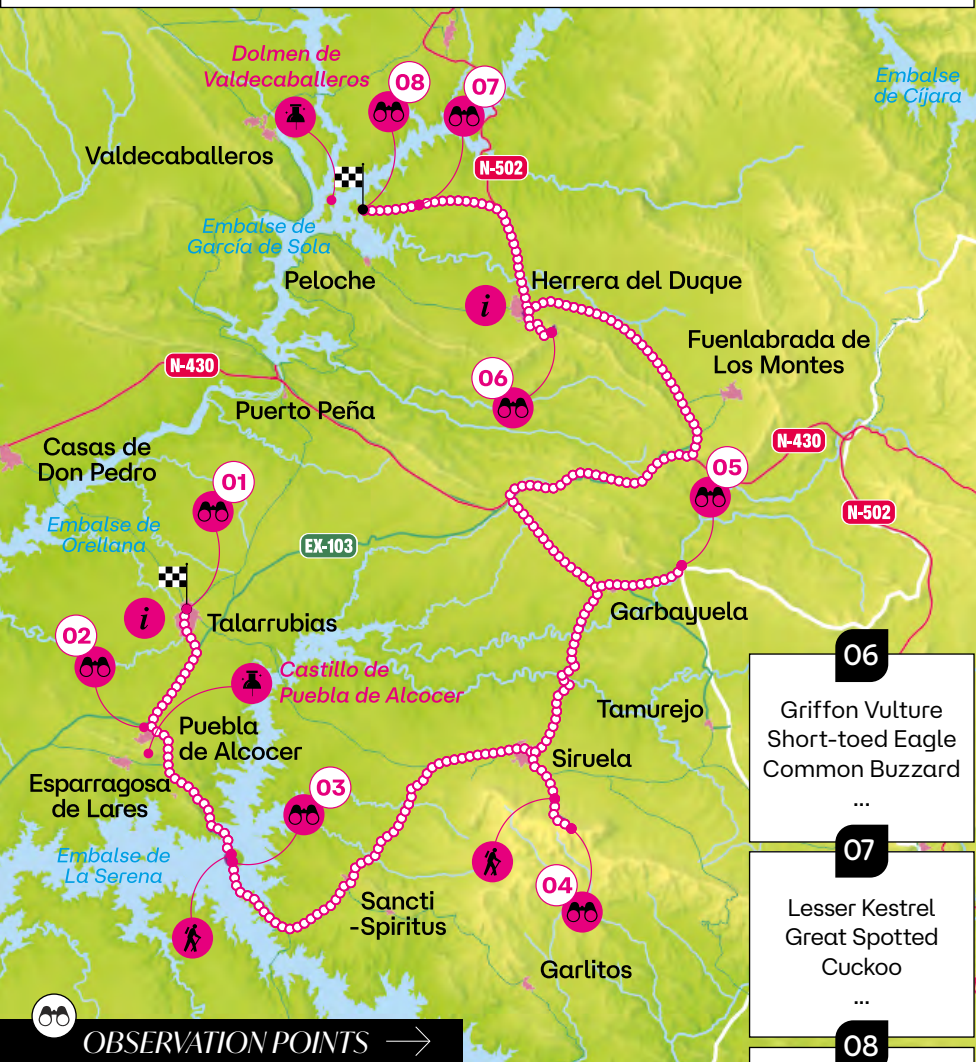
Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



OBSERVATION POINTS →



Common Crane during winter, and **Crag Martin** and **Blue Rock Thrush** if we walk up to the viewpoint. We continue to Sancti-Spiritus and then Siruela, to make a stop at the Altagracia chapel to climb on foot to a natural viewpoint in the Sierra de Siruela (o.p. 04), through a profuse

01

Lesser Kestrel
Common Swift
White Stork
House Martin
Barn Swallow
...

02

Lesser Kestrel
White Stork
Common Swift
...

03

White Stork
Black Stork
Mallard
Northern Pintail
...

04

Bonelli's Eagle
Golden Eagle
...

05

Griffon Vulture
Cinereous Vulture
Egyptian Vulture
Bonelli's Eagle
Spanish Imperial Eagle
Black Stork
Short-toed Eagle
Booted Eagle

06

Griffon Vulture
Short-toed Eagle
Common Buzzard
...

07

Lesser Kestrel
Great Spotted Cuckoo
...

08

Red-Crested Pochard
Great Crested Grebe
Great Cormorant
Black Stork
Egyptian Vulture
...



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Towns and
Cities

Reservoirs
and Ponds

Dehesa

Mediterranean
Forest

Rivers and
Streams

Crops and
Grassland

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Cinereous
Vulture

Griffon Vulture

Common
Buzzard

...

SUMMER VISITORS

Lesser Kestrel

Common
Swift

Pallid Swift

Booted Eagle

...

WINTER VISITORS

Common
Crane

Northern
Pintail

Red-Crested
Pochard

...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

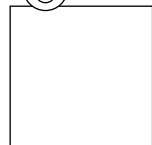


Eurasian Stone-curlew (Burhinus oedienemus)

vegetation of Portuguese oaks, strawberry trees and mastic trees with **Great Spotted Woodpeckers**, **Eurasian Jay**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Hawfinch** and **Eurasian Bullfinch** in winter. At the top, look for **Bonelli's**, **Golden** and **Spanish Imperial Eagles**, **Griffon** and **Egyptian Vultures**, **Black Wheatear** and **Blue Rock Thrush**.

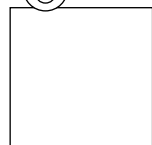
We continue to Garbayuela to visit Tabla Corta (o.p. 05), a natural pool in the Cañada Real of Segovia to see **Common Nightingale**, **Eurasian Reed Warbler**, **Iberian Green Woodpecker**, **Garden Warbler** and **Common Chiffchaff**, and overhead **Black Stork**, **Cinereous**, **Griffon** and **Egyptian Vultures**, **Bonelli's**, **Spanish Imperial**, **Short-toed** and **Booted Eagles**. Our next stop will be Herrera del Duque to visit its castle (o.p. 06) and look for **Griffon Vulture**, **Golden** and **Short-toed Eagles**, **Common Buzzard**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Black** and **Black-eared Wheatears**.

Finally we reach the Puerto de las Navas trail, north of Herrera, to make a stop on the plains (o.p. 07) to see **Lesser Kestrel**, **Thekla Lark**, **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, **Stone Curlew**, **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** and **Great Short-toed Lark**, ending at the shore of the García de Sola reservoir (o.p. 08) and look for **Great Crested Grebe**, **Red-crested Pochard**, **Great Cormorant**, **Black Stork** and numerous birds of prey that nest on the nearby cliffs of the Risco and the Peloché and Paniagua mountain ranges.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



TIMING

Autumn and winter are good times to observe the wintering cranes and waterfowl in the reservoirs. Spring and summer are interesting because of the breeding Black Stork and birds of prey in these mountains.



Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

PUEBLA DE ALCOCER CASTLE

Spectacular fortress, due to its state of conservation and its views of the biosphere reserve.

02

MIRADOR CELESTE

A small installation in Galizuela that interprets the night sky of the reserve.

03

CERRO MASATRIGO

A real icon of the reserve, this hillock is declared a natural monument.

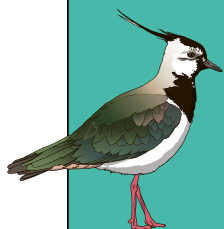
04

DOLMEN OF VALDECABALLEROS

Or tholos of Cerro de la Barca, a magnificent example of a large megalith.

PLAINS
AND
LAGOONS
OF

LA ALBUERA



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The plains and lagoon complex of La Albuera, south of the city of Badajoz, is an ornithologically important area declared a special conservation area (ZEC), a special protection area for birds (SPA) and included in the list of wetlands of international importance for water birds (Ramsar site).



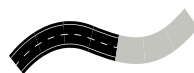
LENGTH

27,5 KM (VEHICLE) +
21 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

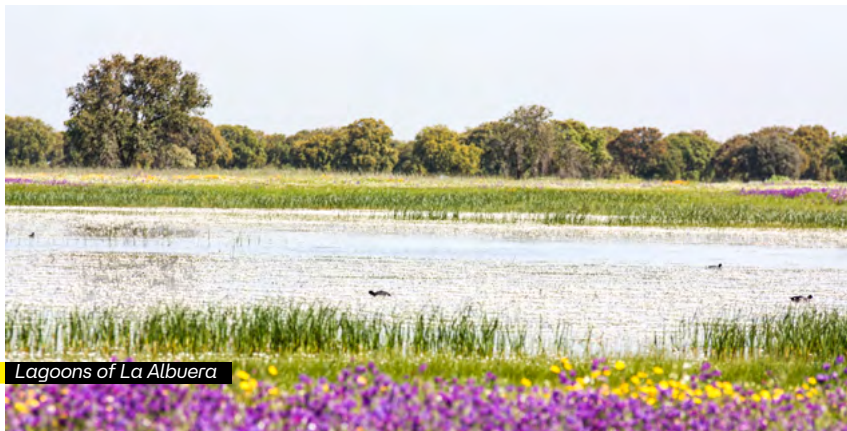
VEHICLE AND
ON FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT AND
DIRT TRACK

The route starts from the town of Valverde de Leganés with the first stop at the Campana farmhouse (o.p. 01) to look for **Lesser Kestrel** and further along **Great and Little Bustards, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Stone Curlew, European Roller, Montagu's Harrier, Calandra** and **Greater Short-toed Larks...** and in winter **Hen Harrier, Merlin, Northern Lapwing, European Golden Plover, Eurasian Skylark** and **Meadow Pipit**. In the scattered holm oaks there is a breeding population of **Black-winged Kites** and **Long-eared Owls**. We continue until we stop at the Conde track with two itineraries on foot: towards the north, to the Adobal irrigation pond (o.p. 02) of about 4 km one way; and/or towards the south, to the Campillo-Valdesevilla area (o.p. 03)



Lagoons of La Albuera



MAP OF ROUTE

ROUTE 16: PLAINS AND LAGOONS OF LA ALBUERA

69



Observation points



Tourist Office



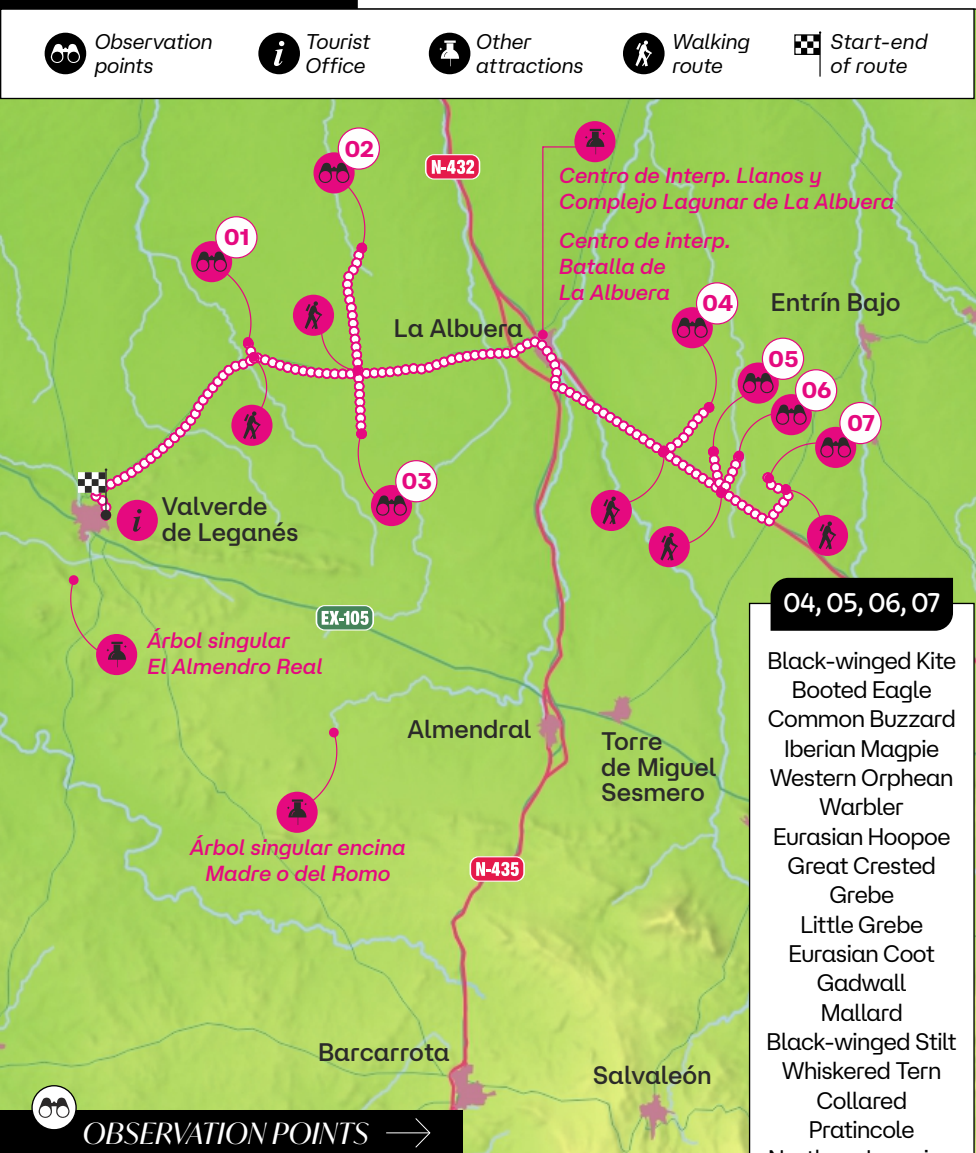
Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ of about 2 km. In both we can observe the same sequence of birds as at o.p. 01, with the addition of species such as **Mallard, Gadwall, Eurasian Coot, Grey Heron** etc. in the Adobal pond.

01

Lesser Kestrel
Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Black-bellied
Sandgrouse
Stone Curlew
European Roller
Montagu's Harrier
Calandra Lark
Greater Short-toed Lark
...

02

Lesser Kestrel
Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Black-bellied
Sandgrouse
Stone Curlew
European Roller
Montagu's Harrier
Northern Lapwing
Calandra Lark
...

03

Lesser Kestrel
Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Black-bellied
Sandgrouse
Stone Curlew
European Roller
Montagu's Harrier
European Golden Plover
Calandra Lark
...

04, 05, 06, 07

Black-winged Kite
Booted Eagle
Common Buzzard
Iberian Magpie
Western Orphean Warbler
Eurasian Hoopoe
Great Crested Grebe
Little Grebe
Eurasian Coot
Gadwall
Mallard
Black-winged Stilt
Whiskered Tern
Collared Pratincole
Northern Lapwing
Western Marsh Harrier
Greylag Goose
Eurasian Teal
Northern Pintail
Northern Shoveler
Eurasian Wigeon
...



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Reservoirs
and Ponds

Crops and
Grasslands

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Black-bellied
Sandgrouse

...

SUMMER VISITORS

Montagu's
Harrier
Lesser Kestrel
European
Roller

...

WINTER VISITORS

Common
Crane
Hen Harrier
European
Golden Plover

...

PASSAGE MIGRANTS

Eurasian
Spoonbill
Black Stork
Garganey

...

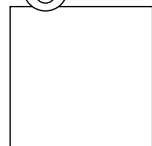
BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



Common Greenshank (Tringa nebularia)

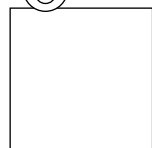
We continue to La Albuera to head along the N-432 to our next stop and go on foot, about 2 km, to the Burro lagoon (o.p. 04): in these holm oak dehesas, **Black-winged Kite**, **Booted Eagle**, **Common Buzzard**, **Iberian Magpie**, **Eurasian Hoopoe** and **Western Orphean Warbler** are frequent... and at the lagoon, during the breeding season, **Great Crested** and **Little Grebes**, **Eurasian Coot**, **Gadwall**, **Mallard**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Whiskered Tern**, **Collared Pratincole** and occasionally **Western Marsh Harrier**. During winter, **Greylag Goose**, **Northern Lapwing**, **Eurasian Teal**, **Northern Pintail**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Red-crested Pochard**, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Common Pochard** and **Common Crane** use the lagoon. On passage, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Black Stork**, **Garganey**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Ruff**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Pied Avocet** and **Common Greenshank** occur.

Back in the vehicle, we continue to the next stop to walk 1 km to Laguna Chica (o.p. 05) and then another 2 km to Laguna del Junco, on whose shore we will find a hide (o.p. 06). We will make our last stop to go on foot (1 km) to Laguna Grande (o.p. 07) where we will find two other hides. At all observation points and on the routes to them we can find similar birds as at o.p. 04.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



TIMING

This route can be done at any time of the year, except for the middle of summer when the lagoons usually dry out. The optimal times are spring and winter. Only in years with abundant rains in autumn and spring, do the lagoons remain filled with water.



Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

BATTLE OF LA ALBUERA

Annual recreation of the famous battle between Napoleon's French troops and the Anglo-Portuguese-Spanish armies, during the Peninsula Wars in 1811.

02

SINGULAR TREES

Royal almond and Madre or Romo holm oak.

03

INTERPRETATION CENTRES

Llanos and lagoon complex of La Albuera and Battle of La Albuera, both in the town of the same name.

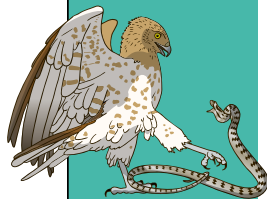
04

NOGALES CASTLE

Medieval fortress with a magnificent keep and spectacular views of the region.

SIERRA DE
HORNACHOS

ALANGE



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

Alange and Hornachos are located in the central area of Badajoz province; a group of small mountain ranges declared a special protection area for birds (SPA) *Sierras Centrales and Embalse de Alange* and area of regional interest (ZIR) *Sierra Grande de Hornachos*.



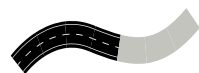
LENGTH

40 KM (VEHICLE) + 11,6 KM
(ON FOOT IDA Y VUELTA)



MODALITY

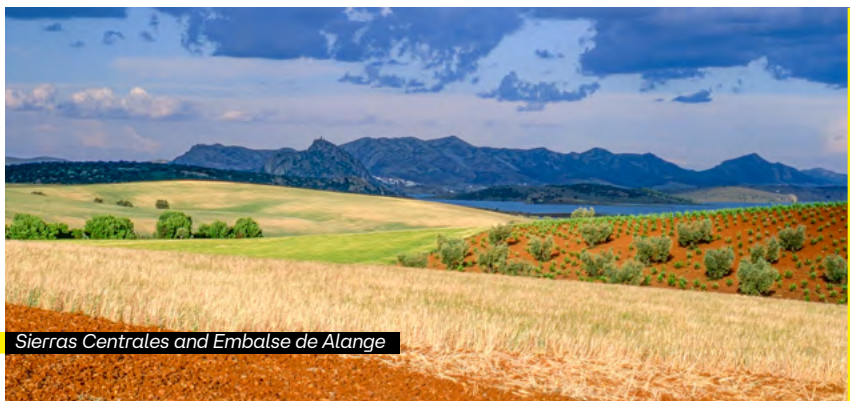
VEHICLE



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT, DIRT
TRACKS AND PATHS

We start at the Alange dam (o.p. 01) which has the largest colony of **Alpine Swifts** in Extremadura. From the car park we walk along the path below the outcrop to look for **Black Wheatear**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **White-rumped Swift**, a **Griffon Vulture** colony and **Egyptian Vultures**, that breed here. We continue to Alange to visit the spectacular colony of **Pallid Swift** at the church of Nuestra Señora de los Milagros (o.p. 02). From here we can continue to the end of Mesilla Street to take the round trip route on foot to the Jabata Valley and the Peñas Blancas mountain range, where we can see **Golden Eagle**, **Golden Oriole**, **Iberian Magpie** and **Black Wheatear** among other species. Another of its attractions is a small orchid reserve (o.p. 03) which is well-signposted.



Sierras Centrales and Embalse de Alange



MAP OF ROUTE

ROUTE 17: ALANGE AND SIERRA DE HORNACHOS

73



Observation points



Tourist Office



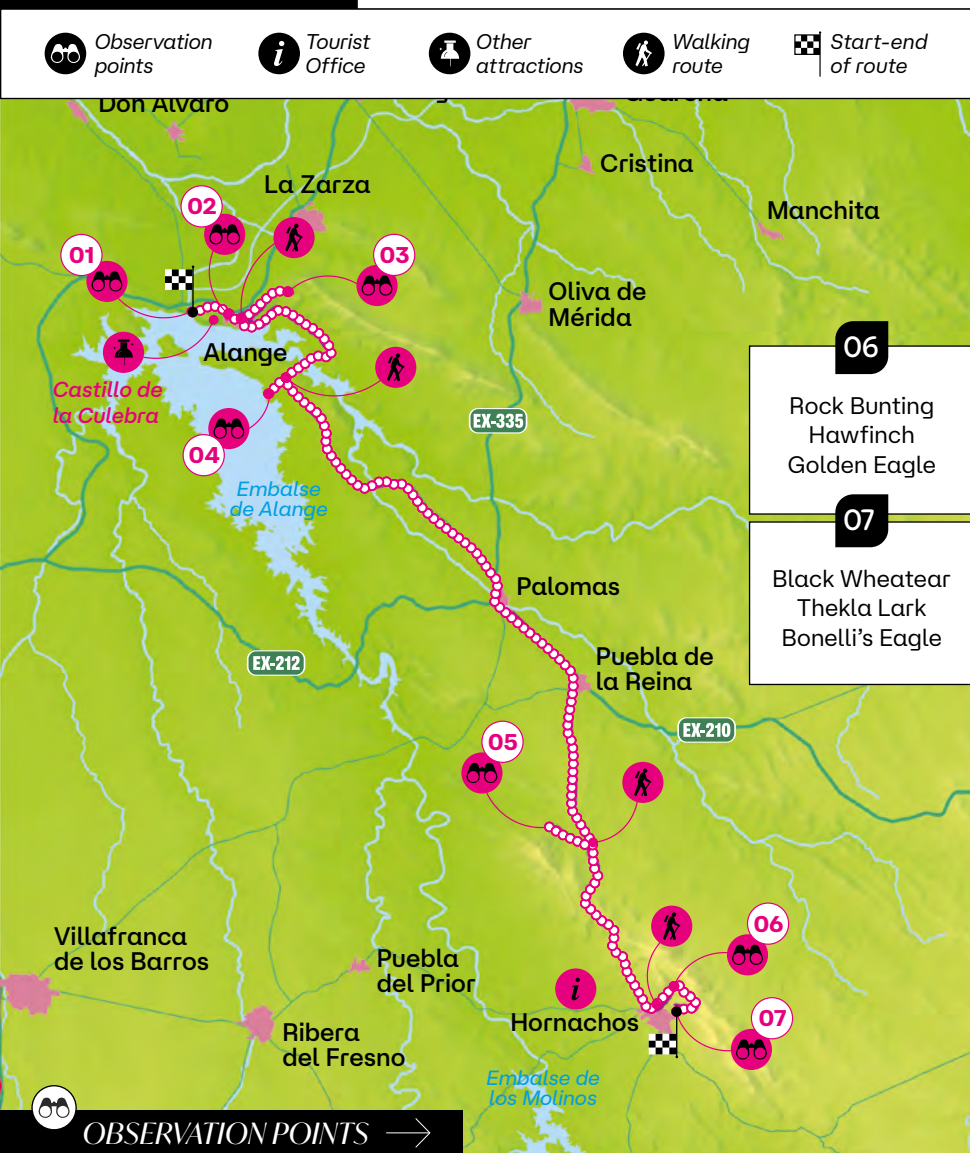
Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



OBSERVATION POINTS →



Returning to Alange we will continue along the Palomas road and after crossing the San Juan River bridge, we will take a track to the right that takes us directly to the Alange reservoir (o.p. 04), where we can observe water birds such as **Red-crested Pochard, Great Crested Grebe, Common Sandpiper, Little Ringed** and **Kentish Plovers** and important winter roosts for **Black-headed,**

06

Rock Bunting
Hawfinch
Golden Eagle

07

Black Wheatear
Thekla Lark
Bonelli's Eagle

01

Alpine Swift
Black Wheatear
Blue Rock Thrush
White-rumped Swift
Griffon Vulture
...

02

Pallid Swift

03

Golden Eagle
Golden Oriole
Iberian Magpie
Black Wheatear

04

Red-crested Pochard
Great Crested Grebe
Common Sandpiper
Little Ringed Plover
...

05

Bonelli's Eagle
Short-toed Eagle
European Turtle Dove



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Mediterranean Forest

Reservoirs and Ponds

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Black Wheatear
Golden Eagle
Bonelli's Eagle
Griffon Vulture
Rock Bunting
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Pallid Swift
Alpine Swift
Golden Oriole
Short-toed Eagle
Egyptian Vulture
...

WINTER VISITORS

Dunnock
Common Crane
Firecrest
Ring Ouzel
...

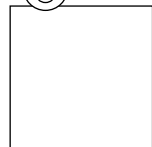
BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*)

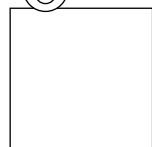
Lesser Black-backed and **Yellow-legged Gulls**, and **Common Cranes**. We continue along the Palomas road heading towards the Sierra Grande, but before reaching the town of Hornachos we make a stop to take a short walk in the lower area of the Sierra de los Pinos (o.p. 05), a good place to see birds of prey such as **Bonelli's** and **Short-toed Eagles**, and in the dehesas to see and hear **European Turtle Dove**.

At Hornachos we go to the Plaza de España, where the town hall and its **House Martin** colony are located, which in some years has remained active in the middle of winter. From there, we can start a circular route going up the valley of the Moors, where the Palomas pillar is located in the lower part and further on the laundry and the spring of the Moors (o.p. 06) where we can see **Rock Bunting**, **Hawfinch** as well as **Golden Eagle** overhead. We continue along the Carrascal path and return through the Christians valley, to access Hornachos castle (o.p. 07) to find species like **Thekla Lark**, **Black Wheatear** and **Bonelli's Eagle**.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)



TIMING

The route is interesting all year round, even in summer, avoiding the hottest hours when birds reduce their activity. In spring it increases its appeal due to the breeding activity of all species, although during winter it maintains its interest thanks to the arrival of numerous winter visitors and the residents. During migration, the reservoir especially, can offer other unusual species.



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

ALANGE ROMAN SPA AND BATHS

Declared a World Heritage Site and administering pleasure, health and well-being for more than two thousand years.

02

CASTILLO DE LA CULEBRA

Spectacular watchtower in Alange with the remains of the 9th century Muslim fortress.

03

CELESTIAL VIEWPOINT

in the Hornachos mountain range, very close to the town, a viewpoint with night communication support that interprets the night sky.

04

CHURCH OF CONCEPCIÓN

in Hornachos, this masterpiece of the Mudejar is declared an asset of cultural interest with the category of monument.

SIERRA DE
TIROS
LA SERENA

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

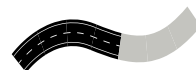
La Serena, whose main characteristic is its extensive grasslands, is located in the central east of the province of Badajoz. It is a special protection area for birds (SPA) and a special conservation area (SAC).



LENGTH
71,9 KM



MODALITY
VEHICLE



SURFACE TYPE
ASPHALT AND
DIRT TRACK

We start in the town of Campanario, heading towards the Guadalefra River (o.p. 01) to look for **Mallard, Little Ringed Plover, Green and Common Sandpipers, Common Kingfisher, White Wagtail, Little Egret, Little Tern, Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls...** We continue to a higher area (o.p. 02) where we can see birds perched on fences and quartzite outcrops such as **Thekla Lark, Black-eared Wheatear, Iberian Grey Shrike, Corn Bunting, Eurasian Hoopoe, Little Owl and Red-legged Partridge.**

We continue until the bridge over the Almorchón stream (o.p. 03), one of the branches of the Zújar reservoir, and look for **Mallard, Little Ringed Plover, Green and Common Sandpipers, Common Kingfisher, Little Egret** etc. A path on the other side of



Embalse de La Serena



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



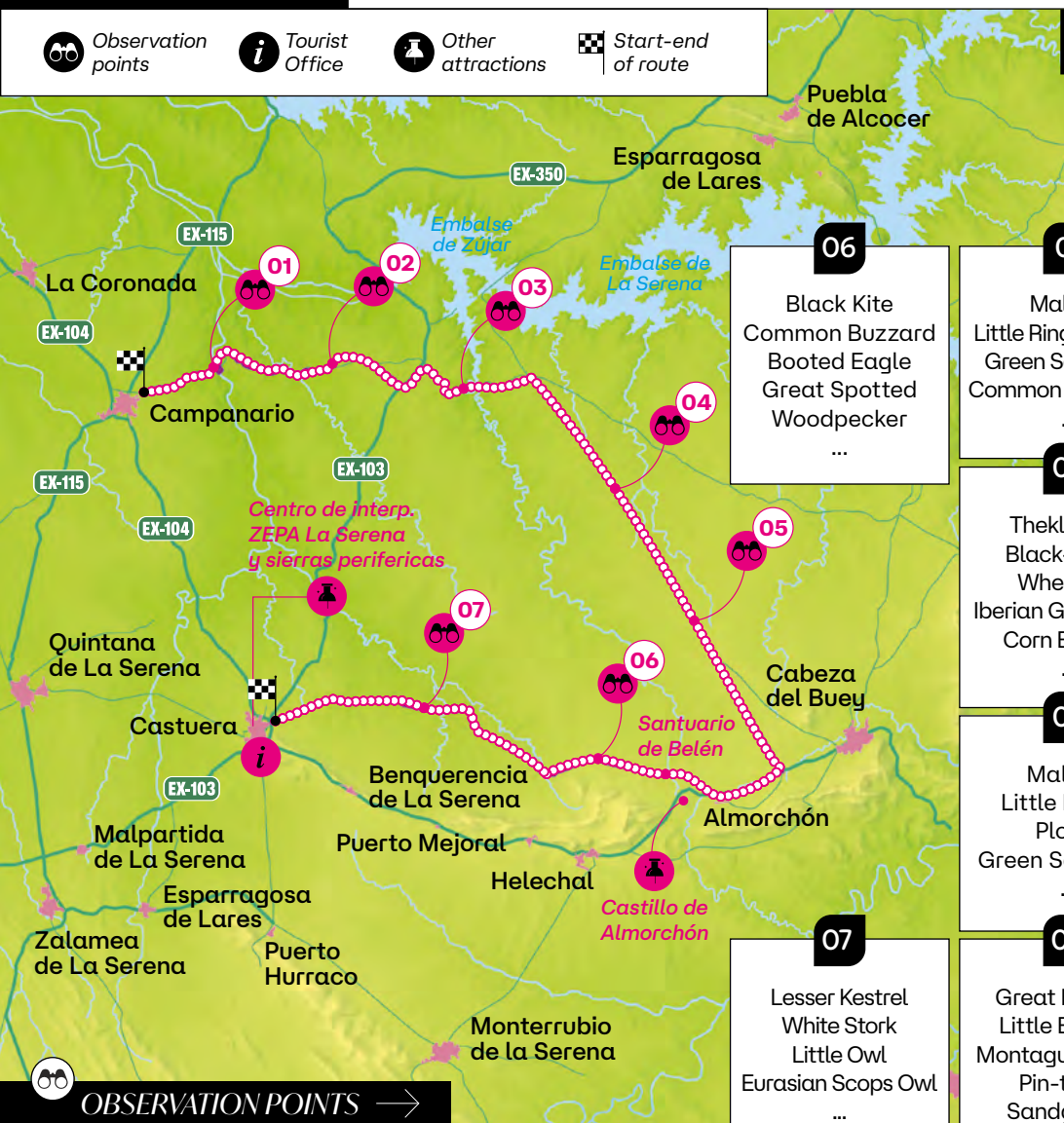
Tourist Office



Other attractions



Start-end of route



06

Black Kite
Common Buzzard
Booted Eagle
Great Spotted Woodpecker
...

01

Mallard
Little Ringed Plover
Green Sandpiper
Common Sandpiper
...

02

Thekla Lark
Black-eared Wheatear
Iberian Grey Shrike
Corn Bunting
...

03

Mallard
Little Ringed Plover
Green Sandpiper
...

04

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Montagu's Harrier
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse
...

05

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Montagu's Harrier
...

07

Lesser Kestrel
White Stork
Little Owl
Eurasian Scops Owl
...



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ the bridge allows you to take a short walk upstream, where the scrub of broom and tamujos is home to species such as **Eurasian Goldfinch, Common Linnet, Zitting Cisticola, European Stonechat, Rufous-tailed Bush Robin, Melodious, Spectacled, Sardinian and Western Orphean Warblers.**



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Crops and
Grasslands

Mediterranean
Forest
Scrub

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Pin-tailed
Sandgrouse
Black-bellied
Sandgrouse
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Black Stork
Egyptian
Vulture
Lesser Kestrel
...

WINTER VISITORS

Northern
Lapwing
European
Golden Plover
Common
Crane
...

EN PASO

Northern
Wheatear
Black-eared
Wheatear
...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



Great Bustard (Otis tarda)

On the Golondrinas road we will do two small walks: the Puerto Mejoral trail (o.p. 04) and the Miguel Ríos path (o.p. 05) to locate **Great and Little Bustards, Montagu's Harrier, Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Calandra and Greater Short-toed Larks...** and at dusk see or hear **Stone Curlew and Red-necked Nightjar**. In the small eucalyptus groves along the road, **Lesser and Common Kestrels, Common Buzzard, Short-toed Eagle and European Rollers** will perch. On the grasslands in winter important populations of **European Golden Plover, Northern Lapwing, Hen Harriers, Meadow Pipits, Eurasian Skylark, White Wagtail and Common Crane**, which roosts in small ponds, occur. On passage, **Northern and Black-eared Wheatears, Whinchat, Tawny Pipit and Willow Warbler** abound.

We continue to Almorchón to go to the Belén chapel and continue parallel to the train track until the forest limit of the Tiros mountain range (o.p. 06) whose holm oak and cork oak forests are home to **Black Kite, Common Buzzard, Booted Eagle, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Mistle Thrush, Common Nightingale, Eurasian Jay, Iberian Magpie, Woodchat Shrike, Eurasian Wren, Common Rock Sparrow, Common Chaffinch and Hawfinch. Bonelli's and Golden Eagles, Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Peregrine Falcon and Black Stork** nest on the crests of the mountains. Finally we head to Castuera, paying attention to the steppe birds and farm buildings (o.p. 07) that serve as nesting places for **Lesser Kestrel, White Stork, Little and Eurasian Scops Owls, European Roller, Western Jackdaw, Eurasian Hoopoe, Spotless Starling** and even **Red-billed Chough**.

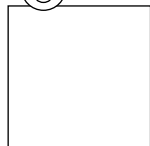


TIMING

It is an interesting route at any time of the year, although spring and winter will allow us to observe a greater number of species. The yellow and ochre tones of the grasslands in summer are also spectacular. During this time the birds are most active at dawn and dusk, so it is advisable to avoid the central hours of the day.

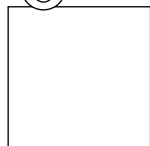


Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

INTERPRETATION CENTRE OF LA SERENA AND SURROUNDING SIERRAS

In Castuera, next to the Turrón museum, a typical product of this town.

02

ELMS OF THE BELÉN CHAPEL

A group declared a singular tree, some of the few surviving from Dutch elm disease.

03

CASTLES

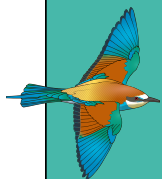
In Benquerencia de la Serena and Almorchón.

04

LA MATA SITE

Protohistoric site of the Tartessian culture, around the 4th and 5th centuries BC.

SIERRA SUROESTE



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

The region is located southwest of the province of Badajoz, comprising extensive landscapes of oak and cork oak dehesas, small mountain ranges and some reservoirs in the watershed of the Ardila River. The itinerary includes a visit to the special conservation areas for birds (SPA) *Dehesas de Jerez; Lesser Kestrel colonies in Jerez de los Caballeros and Valungo Reservoir.*



LENGTH

LENGTH: 67,2 KM (VEHICLE) +
24,2 KM (ON FOOT)



MODALITY

VEHICLE AND
ON FOOT



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT, DIRT
TRACKS AND PATHS

We begin at the Brovales reservoir, an interesting wetland for birds surrounded by a working landscape of small orchards and holm oak dehesas, through which we walk to reach the reservoir (o.p. 01) to see **Great Crested Grebe, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black Stork** and waterfowl. Returning to the vehicle, we head to the Valungo reservoir on the Ardila River, declared a SPA due to its importance for species such as the **Black Stork**, where we will walk along its shore (o.p. 02) to look for **Red-crested Pochard, Mallard, Eurasian Spoonbill** and forest birds such as **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker**.



Dehesa



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



Tourist Office



Other attractions



Walking route



Start-end of route



01

Black Stork
Eurasian Spoonbill
Great Crested Grebe
Great Cormorant
...

02

Black Stork
Grey Heron
Red-crested Pochard
...

03

Lesser Kestrel
Western Jackdaw
White Stork
Common Swift
...

04

Iberian Magpie
Eurasian Nuthatch
...

05

Booted Eagle
Red Kite
Common Buzzard
Iberian Magpie
Eurasian Hoopoe
European Bee-eater
Mistle Thrush
Woodchat Shrike
...

06

Grey Heron
Black Kite
Raven
...

07

Black-bellied Sandgrouse
Red Kite
...

08

Red Kite
Black Kite
Griffon Vulture
Cinereous Vulture
Spanish Imperial Eagle
...



OBSERVATION POINTS →



After visiting the reservoir we go to Jerez de los Caballeros, whose magnificent historical complex is also an urban SPA thanks to its important colonies of **Lesser Kestrel**. In the church of San Bartolomé (o.p. 03) several pairs breed as well as other urban birds such as **Western**



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Towns and
Cities

Reservoirs
and Ponds

Dehesa

Mediterranean
Forest

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Cinereous
Vulture

Griffon Vulture

Common
Buzzard

Red Kite

...

SUMMER VISITORS

Lesser Kestrel

Common
Swift

Pallid Swift

Booted Eagle

...

WINTER VISITORS

Eurasian
Wigeon

Northern
Pintail

Northern
Shoveler

Eurasian Teal

...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)

Jackdaw, Common and Pallid Swifts, and White Stork. Then we go to Valle de Santa Ana and after going through the town we turn right where we will leave the car. We continue on foot to a picnic area and an old wheat mill (o.p. 04) which we access after crossing a walkway over the stream. Throughout the route we can enjoy the riparian forest surrounded by dehesas seeing **Common Kingfisher, Iberian Magpies, Short-toed Treecreeper, Eurasian Nuthatch, Spanish and Common Rock Sparrows, and Sardinian Warblers.**

We will continue in the direction of Oliva de la Frontera until a track on the right that will take us into extensive dehesas (o.p. 05), dedicated mainly to Iberian pig rearing, where we can see **Booted Eagle, Red Kite, Iberian Magpie, Mistle Thrush, European Bee-eater, Eurasian Hoopoe and Woodchat Shrike.** Once in Oliva we take a path to the picnic area of the small Zaos reservoir (o.p. 06), to watch species that breed in the area such as **Black Kite, Grey Heron, Golden Oriole, Red-rumped Swallow and Cirl Bunting.**

Finally, we head towards Valencia del Mombuey and at kilometre post 8 we take a path to the right that will take us into the Oliva public dehesa (we have to open and close the entrance gate) to some rehabilitated huts (o.p. 08.) near a feeding station for carrion feeders, where we can watch **Red and Black Kites, Griffon and Cinereous Vultures, Spanish Imperial Eagle and Raven.** On the way there is another observation point for the station (o.p. 07), somewhat further away, where we can also see or hear **Black-bellied Sandgrouse.**

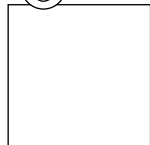


TIMING

Autumn and winter are good times to observe wintering waterfowl on the wetlands. Spring and summer are the times of greatest interest for breeding Black Storks and birds of prey such as Red Kite, Booted and Short-toed Eagles. It is also the best time to see colourful birds such as European Bee-eater, Golden Oriole, Iberian Magpie and Common Kingfisher.

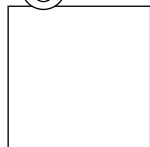


Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

TORIÑUELO DOLMEN

Spectacular megalith with corridor and tumulus in Jerez de los Caballeros. You have to ask for the key at the tourist office.

02

JEREZ DE LOS CABALLEROS

Its magnificent castle and the town centre have been declared an asset of cultural interest with the category of historical site.

03

LAS FRONTERAS INTERPRETATION CENTRE

In Oliva de la Frontera, it explains how the concept of border evolves to the reality it represents today.

04

OLIVA FEEDING STATION

One of the feeding stations for carrion-feeding birds created within the LIFE Eurokite project.

CAMPIÑA SUR



BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA

Campiña Sur is located southeast of the province of Badajoz, an area of wide plains dedicated mostly to cereal crops and pastures with small mountain ranges to the south. The itinerary includes the special protection areas for birds (SPA) *Campiña Sur-Arroyo Conejos Reservoir and Llerena Lesser Kestrel Colonies*, the Mina la Jayona natural monument and the Mina La Jayona greenway trail.



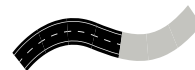
LENGTH

88.8 KM (VEHICLE) + 20 KM
(BICYCLE) ON A GREENWAY
(OPTIONAL)



MODALITY

VEHICLE AND BICYCLE
(OPTIONAL)



SURFACE TYPE

ASPHALT AND
GREENWAY TRAIL

We begin at the Jayona Mine natural monument (o.p. 01) visiting its interpretation centre and taking the guided tour of the site, in which a microclimate has been formed in which birds such as **Tawny** and **Eurasian Eagle Owls**, and **Red-rumped Swallow** live. Then we go to Llerena to visit its urban SPA, with an important colony of **Lesser Kestrel** in the church of Nuestra Señora de la Granada (o.p. 02) and other birds such as **Common Swift** and **Western Jackdaw**.

Leaving the town we follow a paved track that takes us to the Arroyo Conejos reservoir, through a landscape of cereal crops with good chances to see steppe birds such as **Montagu's**



Roman site of Regina (Casas de Reina)



MAP OF ROUTE



Observation points



Tourist Office



Other attractions



Start-end of route



OBSERVATION POINTS →

→ **Harrier, Great Bustard and Black-bellied Sandgrouse**, for which we can make a stop (o.p. 03) on the way. We continue to the reservoir dam (o.p. 04) where, depending on the time of year, various species of water birds can be observed, and there is a

01

Tawny Owl
Eurasian Eagle Owl
Blue Rock Thrush
...

02

Lesser Kestrel
Western Jackdaw
Common Swift
White Stork

03

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Montagu's Harrier
Black-bellied Sandgrouse
...

04

Common Crane
Mallard
Northern Shoveler
Eurasian Wigeon
...

05

Black-winged Kite
Booted Eagle
Iberian Magpie
Eurasian Hoopoe
...

06

European Roller
Lesser Kestrel
Montagu's Harrier

07

Little Bustard
Great Bustard
...

08

Black-bellied Sandgrouse
...

09

Lesser Kestrel
Western Jackdaw
...



ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Crops and
Grasslands

Towns and
Cities

BIRDS BY SEASON ON THE ROUTE

RESIDENT

Great Bustard
Little Bustard
Black-bellied
Sandgrouse
Stone Curlew
...

SUMMER VISITORS

Lesser Kestrel
European
Roller
Montagu's
Harrier
Common
Swift
Pallid Swift
...

WINTER VISITORS

Common
Crane
Eurasian
Wigeon
Northern
Pintail
Hen Harrier
Red Kite
...

BIRDING ROUTES IN EXTREMADURA



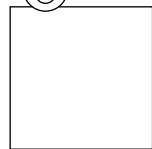
Calandra Lark (Melanocorypha calandra)

Common Crane roost in winter.

We return along the track to head to Maguilla, stopping at a road entrance (o.p. 05) to check the dehesa and look for some typical birds of this habitat such as **Iberian Magpie**, **Eurasian Hoopoe** and **Black-winged Kite**. Then we continue along the road and at the intersection with the BA-027 we head west for 3.5 km (kilometre post 13), where we can stop at the entrance of a road (o.p. 06) to see a power line to the south with pylons having nesting boxes occupied, during the breeding season, by several pairs of **European Roller** and **Lesser Kestrel**, and where **Montagu's Harriers** can also be seen.

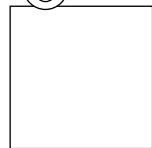
Returning to the BA-086 towards Maguilla, we go through the town to continue towards Azuaga, crossing an extensive area of cereal crops ideal for steppe birds such as the **Little** and **Great Bustards**, **Calandra** and **Greater Short-toed Lark** etc. We can stop at the entrances to the roads and then follow a dirt track (o.p. 07) in good condition that will take us to the BA-016, with good possibilities of seeing different steppe birds in the area, stopping again on the way (o.p. 08).

Once in Azuaga we visit the church of Nuestra Señora de la Consolación (o.p. 09), where there is an important colony of **Lesser Kestrel** and other birds such as **Common** and **Pallid Swifts**. Finally, we return towards Llerena to a rest area where the Jayona mine greenway begins.



GOOGLE MAPS

Follow the route directly in the navigator



TRACK OF THE ROUTE

Download the KMZ file and follow the route



TIMING

Autumn and winter are good times to observe steppe birds in large groups, as well as wintering raptors such as Hen Harrier, Merlin or Short-eared Owl. Spring allows us to enjoy the courtship behaviour and to see species that come to the area to breed.



Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*)



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

01

THE JAYONA MINE

In Fuente del Arco, natural monument with free guided tour.

02

HISTORICAL SITES

Llerena and Azuaga, two heritage jewels of the province of Badajoz.

03







MINA LA JAYONA GREENWAY

20 km on the old railway line enjoy by bicycle or on foot.

04

ROMAN SITE OF REGINA

Spectacular theatre and Roman city of Regina Turdulorum.

PDF	CATALOGUE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THE BIRD TOURISM CLUB BIRDING IN EXTREMADURA	PDF	LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN EXTREMADURA	88
				
PDF	THE CRANES IN EXTREMADURA MAIN NATURAL AREAS OF THE REGION AND CRANE OBSERVATION POINTS	PDF	ORCHIDS, DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES OF EXTREMADURA	
				
APP	APP URBAN BIRDING URBAN BIRD TOURISM	APP	APP BIRDING IN EXTREMADURA	
				



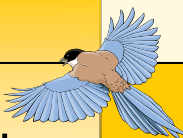
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he **Birding in Extremadura Club**

was created in 2012 with the purpose of offering excellent

services in bird and nature observation. In this initiative, a pioneer in Spain, public entities and private companies work together to establish Extremadura as one of the best birding destinations in the world. In this way, natural resources of extraordinary richness and diversity are combined with a highly specialized tourism sector.

Accommodation, nature guides, specialist photographic companies, travel agencies, activity companies, interpretation centres, tourist offices, conservation organizations and public agencies collaborate in the **Birding Club**, an initiative promoted by the General Directorate of Tourism of the Extremadura government.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM AND SPECIALIZATION

- It brings together the best birding services in Extremadura, with rigorously professional criteria.
- It creates a public-private alliance to manage and promote bird tourism in an ethical manner.
- It offers high quality services for discovering the natural heritage of Extremadura.

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