

Villuercas - Ibores - Jara

UNESCO Global Geopark

It's happening!



→ NATURALLY
SPEAKING

*Feel like a true
Appalachian*

Pag. 26



→ BLOGTRIP, WITH...
PILAR ARMERO

*Life shines at...
The Geopark*

Pag. 18



→ WAYS OF LIVING,
WITH... JOSÉ RAMÓN
ALONSO DE LA TORRE

Locals in the cool

Pag. 04



+10 **BONUS**
AMAZING
EXPERIENCES!

THE WHOLE GEOPARK

UNESCO TERRITORY
GUADALUPE MONASTERY

50 GEOSITES TO VISIT
+10 APPROVED ROUTES



DIPUTACIÓN DE CÁCERES
ÁREA DE RETO DEMOGRÁFICO,
DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE, JUVENTUD Y TURISMO

VILLUERCAS-IBORES-JARA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Editing

Diputación de Cáceres
www.turismocaceres.org

Design and Contents

www.laruinagrafica.com

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The quote

"The Geopark has it all: terrestrial energy in the mountains, placidity in the valleys, and a certain evocation of childhood in the villages".

Geoparque Mundial de la UNESCO
Villuercas - Ibores - Jara

Meeting point

🔍 IF NOT NOW, WHEN?



"Rivers, dams, reservoirs and mountain ranges with their valleys. Mines and minerals, fossils, geology to admire, caves, vegetation, fauna, history and prehistory... The Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark has it all".

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Geoparque Mundial UNESCO
Villuercas-Ibores-Jara

Instruction Manual

The action of geological processes has left gems such as the Castañar de Ibor Basin, which can be visited by prior reservation. Likewise, the activities of man have also left mines that can also be visited, like the Costanaza Mine: 210 m deep and comprised of 14 floors (two levels of galleries are covered during the visit).

The chestnut and oak forests are the ideal environment for mushrooms to grow with the autumn and spring rains. Mushroom picking is an increasingly popular activity in this region.



Villuercas-Ibores-Jara is a treasure of nature to the east of the Province of Cáceres. It shares its northern border with the Campo Arañuelo region, its eastern border with the Province of Toledo, in neighbouring Castile-La Mancha, its southern border with the Province of Badajoz, and to the west is the region of Miajadas-Trujillo. It is an area of mountains and valleys declared a Global Geopark by UNESCO due to the international value of its geological heritage. The mountainous relief stands out therein, Appalachian in nature, having begun to form about 300 million years ago, folding in materials that hid fossils and the history of the Earth from 300 million years earlier.

But the Geopark is not only a space for geology experts, the interpretation centres, routes, and guides explain this unique and spectacular landscape to all visitors. In addition, the region has monumental complexes such as the Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The oak and chestnut forests, as well as the rocks, are home to numerous species of birds that make this region a place of special ornithological interest. And to round off your days in Villuercas-Ibores-Jara, you must try the local gastronomic delights: honey, cheese, and wine with Designations of Origin, game meats, and the excellent black pudding from Guadalupe.

We will use this symbol to identify activities for children in the guide →



HOW TO GET THERE



Without a doubt, the option that gives you the most freedom to explore all of this region's corners is the car. The region is located in the east of the Province and its road network allows you to travel around comfortably by car or motorcycle.

"Villuercas-Ibores-Jara is classified as a Global Geopark by UNESCO. It was the fifth UNESCO figure in Extremadura after the Monumental City of Cáceres (1986); the Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe (1993); the Archaeological Site of Mérida (1993); and the Biosphere Reserve of Monfragüe (2003).

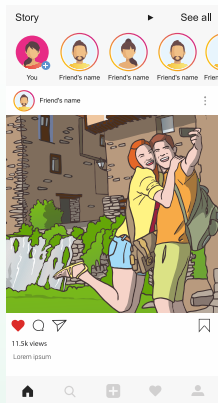
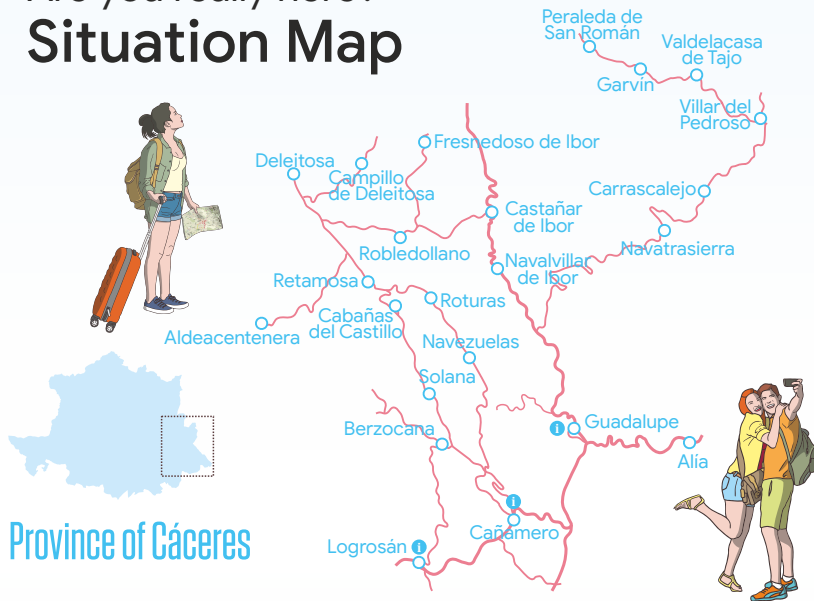
Desnivel.com

An infinite landscape
It is advisable to visit the Berrocal de Peraleda Boulder Area, Cancho Valdecastillo Rock, and the Castañar de Ibor Cave to see its incredible stalactite formations of aragonite crystals.

Lavanguardia.com

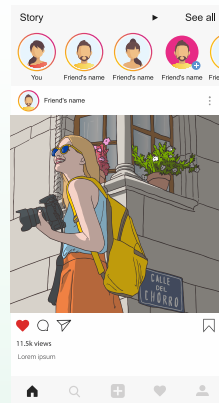
The great chestnut trees of Cáceres with their own, unique name and which are 500 years old. Autumn is the best time to walk the path that leads to the "Calabazas" chestnut trees (Castañar de Ibor).

Are you really here? Situation Map



Not without my stories

Use our hashtags and share information about us on your social networks. Here are some of the most popular ones for you to use whenever you wish:
#ColeccionaMomentos
#RinconesxDescubrir
#VilluercasIboresJara



The nearest airport is in Badajoz, 120 km away. Other recommended airports are Seville (300 km), Madrid (210 km), and Lisbon (400 km).



The Renfe train network connects the Province with the Communities of Andalusia, Castile-La Mancha, and Madrid.



BLOGTRIP: WAYS OF LIVING

#VilluercasIboresJara #CarreterasPaisajísticas #Geoparque
#MonasteriodeGuadalupe #Experiencias #Geositios #Sabores #Guadalupe

INTRODUCTION

***But, when do
people eat here?
Eat, swim,
and enjoy***

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BASICS

***The
Geopark
Charter***

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EXTRAS

***The Monastery
of Guadalupe:
you can't not go***

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THE PEOPLE

***Locals in
the cool of
twilight***

Pág. 08

Does the hustle and bustle of life throw you off and leave you not knowing what to do any more? Are you fed up with the treadmill of life? Well, get out of your routine; if you want to come, we've got a vacant spot for you. José Ramón Alonso de la Torre doesn't know if he's right, but he knows that he's here... and his journal highlights the best on the essence of the region and its people, its trades and its future, modernity and history, tradition, flavours, and knowledge. These are... ways of living.

*If not
now,
when?*





BLOGTRIP: WAYS OF LIVING · LOCALS IN THE COOL, BY ALONSO DE LA TORRE

“El Geoparque lo tiene todo: fuerza telúrica en las montañas, placidez en los valles y evocación de la infancia en los pueblos”



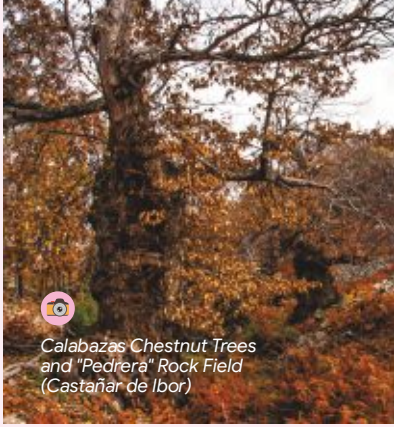
LOCALS IN THE COOL

The Geopark has it all

Faults, synclines, and anticlines... trace fossils...

Spectacular views from Deleitosa

La Puebla de Guadalupe



Calabazas Chestnut Trees
and "Pedrera" Rock Field
(Castañar de Ibor)



Orchids at Hospital del Obispo
(Villar del Pedroso)

One reads about the Geopark, becomes informed, and has the feeling that more than just a tourist trip will be needed to give him a geology lesson. The number of faults, synclines and anticlines, trace fossils, rock fields, bogs, crags, portholes, and conglomerate formations is incredible. You end up thinking it's unbelievable, as if you have to learn a lesson in Environmental Science, and you end up shouting: "But! when do people eat here!?"

Well, people eat. And people enjoy. And you can take a dip. And in the summer the temperature is five degrees lower than in Cáceres and Badajoz. And the villages are pretty and quiet. And if you take a selfie with a good background, you can tease friends and convince them that you've spent the summer in Appalachia.

Arriving to Deleitosa, one of the entrances of the Geopark, the terrestrial energy of the mountains can already be felt from a distance.

The European Geopark Network Charter says that a Geopark must contain geological sites of particular importance in terms of their scientific quality, rarity, aesthetic appeal, or educational value. All of that abounds in Villuercas-Ibores-Jara, a European Geopark since 2015. And water too; water also proliferates.

Ibor River Gorge as it passes through Castañar. The place is delectable: fresh, clear water, beaches of sand and →

Ways of living

Writer and Columnist

Our intrepid reporter and tireless traveller gives us the essential clues to getting to know the region.

🐦 @JRAdelatorre

By J.R. Alonso
de la Torre



Mudejar Cloister of the Monastery
(Guadalupe)

Culinary
powers

The cholesterol and
clear water route

stone, pleasant shade under the trees, thatched umbrellas at the foot of the river, tables, benches, and the inevitable beach bar with lots of life, where you can drink and eat well, sheltered from the sun by large trees.

The road that takes you from Robledollano to Fresnedoso de Ibor has not a single car on it, but you can see beehives on the sides thereof and herds of goats on the shoulder here and there – cheese and honey, culinary "greats" of the region. The lonely road invites travellers to stop, to breathe in the smell of the countryside at sunset, to contemplate the shadows playing on the mountains, to photograph the changing landscapes, to listen to a silence of chirps, buzzes, wind tangled in the trees.... And we go on, and we get to Fresnedoso, and the "village childhood" that we all have deep down inside comes over us – a labyrinth of side streets, squares, white, low houses... the long street, and everywhere, on every corner, groups of locals in the cool of twilight, sewing, speaking, looking at the stranger with a gesture of surprise that seems millennial.

Extramadura's people from the Geopark region: calm, family oriented, silent, beautiful. We continue until coming to the magnificent road that goes from Navalморal to Guadalupe and crosses the Raña de las Mesillas fanglomerate, between kilometres 43 and 47: fascinating reddish soils, pebbles, quartzites, and sandstones – all taken advantage of for rainfed crops. In the background, mountain ranges, folding and

"The road that takes you from Robledollano to Fresnedoso de Ibor has not a single car on it, but you can see beehives on the sides thereof and herds of goats on the shoulder here and there".





unfolding. And in the raña fanglomerate formation, olive trees in a row announcing the third gastronomic wonder of the region: olive oil.

We arrive at Castañar de Ibor and go up to the square: more locals in the cool air, seated on their straw-bottomed chairs; a bar; simple, humble, curious houses..... Along the road, a sidewalk that leads to the Fuente de la Cesta Fountain. The cholesterol and clear water route. We go up to the unique chestnut trees of the Calabazas rock field. Higher up, a waterfall ("chorrera") that impresses.

Further down the road, we cross an iron bridge and enjoy the view of Navalvillar de Ibor, with the successive mountains as the backdrop. Traditional dairies encourage you to stop and try the cheese. Later, the junction towards Navatrasierra and an unimaginable place called Hospital del Obispo ("Bishop's Hospital") because, they say, there was a Pilgrim's hospital there. English botanists roam the area investigating the flora, whose unforgettable star is the dazzling orchid.

On the road again, we stop at Guadalupe – as wonderful as ever, but even more so if you get to the town by the road that comes from Navalmoral. If you have never seen the monastery from that access point, do not hesitate to seek it out: you will once again be like a child in a trance, mouth gaping.

15,000 people live in the 19 municipalities of the park. There are five inhabitants per square kilometre. That is to say, there are no demographic pressures; 12 rivers, seven dams and reservoirs, and four mountain ranges with their valleys. Mines and minerals, fossils, geology to admire, caves, vegetation, fauna, history and prehistory... The Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark has it all.





A new colour in the chromatic spectrum to illustrate our Cultural Interest Assets:

STONE BLUE

#GeoparqueVilluercas #RealMonasterio #CaminosaGuadalupe
#Berzocana #Guadalupe #VillardelPedroso #CabañasdelCastillo

BONE, WOOD...

*The holy
relics of
Berzocana*

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GUADALUPE

*Much more
than a
monastery*

Page 13

CABAÑAS DEL
CASTILLO

*The Geopark's
most spectacular
outlier*

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VERRACOS ("BOARS")
AND THE MARCH

*Vettones and
Muslims south of
the Tagus*

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In this original proposal, illustrator Agustín Gallardo introduces us to some of the most relevant heritage elements of the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark. “Stone Blue” can be found on the streets, in squares, churches, and castles – always with peculiar characters who guide us through the region's history and architecture. Don't blink an eye during this unique perspective that shows us a Geopark full of curiosities and colour.



Mudejar Cloister of the
Guadalupe Monastery
(Guadalupe)

*If not
now,
when?*



Reiko y Takashi

The Sakuras are a retired couple from Kagoshima, Japan, and their favourite thing is religious and spiritual tourism. They are Shintoists and travel visiting temples. They tell us that the temples of the Geopark are nothing like their own and they just couldn't get enough of the Church of Berzocana.

BONE, WOOD

AND STONE

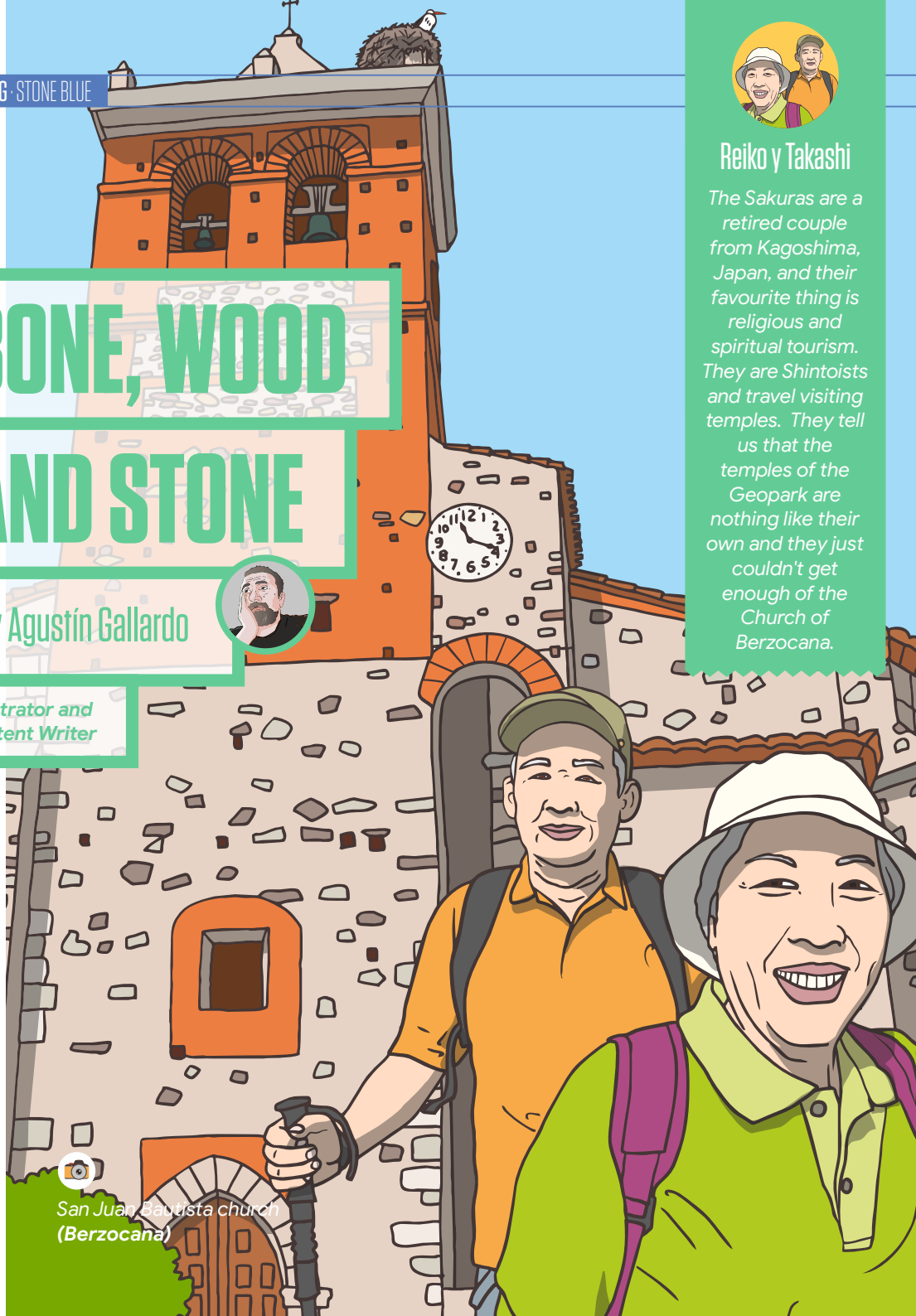
By Agustín Gallardo



*Illustrator and
Content Writer*



San Juan Bautista church
(Berzocana)



1
 Not everything in the Geopark is rock – a word and a concept very popular with geologists-- there is also bone, wood, and a lot of stone.



It may seem that rock and stone are the same, but they are not; stone usually refers to small fragments and not to outcrops, and it also can be used to speak of rocks or of minerals. However, it is the one that interests us here, because the attractive heritage of our Geopark is made of stone – amongst other things, as we will see. In the Church of San Juan Bautista ("St. John the Baptist"), for example, in Berzocana, the remains of St. Fulgentius and St. Florentina are kept. The history of these highly venerated saints, siblings of St. Isidore of Seville and Theodosia, wife of King Liuvigild, dates back to the 6th century with the conversion to Catholicism of the Arian Visigoth Monarchy. According to legend, their remains (transported by clergymen who fled from Seville in 713 after the Islamic invasion) were buried in these mountains next to a "brezo cano" ("heather plant"), which would explain the name of the town. The remains would be discovered in the 13th century by a peasant when his plough ran into the alabaster chest

that contained them. The remains later were part of a suit brought on by the City of Cartagena that claimed them, since the Saints were natives of Cartaganta. The claim was resolved by Philip II when he determined, much like King Solomon, that two large bones should go to El Escorial, two to Murcia, and the rest should remain in Berzocana, ordering that a chapel be erected for said purposes and donating the beautiful reliquary that houses them in this church of Gothic style and exquisite interior workmanship.

→ "Tiene Guadalupe hermoso"

The legend also says that the same clergymen who fled with the remains of the Saints carried with them another object that was even more valuable (if possible): an image of the Virgin that Pope Saint Gregory himself had given to the fifth brother, Saint Leander, Bishop of Seville. And the legend goes that they also buried the image in the vicinity of the Guadalupejo River. One thing led to the other and when – in the 13th century, after the Marian apparition to the cowboy Gil Cordero – the image was exhumed, the evolution of what we know today as the Royal Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe began. It is the architectural and spiritual jewel of the Province of Cáceres, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This famous place



must be visited sometime in your life, and not because of its long pilgrimage tradition (which led it to be the busiest temple in the ancient Kingdom of Castile) but because of the spectacle offered by its stony image atop the Villuercas Peak and the innumerable treasures that it houses inside such as the divine Mudejar Cloister, miniature books, Zurbarán's works, and the carving of the black Virgin.

"Pero tiene Guadalupe hermoso" ("But Guadalupe has beauty"), as the popular song goes, much more than the Monastery, as the town itself is a historical ensemble site with picturesque streets featuring the traditional two-story houses on chestnut beams that hang over the street creating arcades originally designed to showcase, and at the same time protect, the commercial activity linked to peregrination. And of even more beauty are other heritage elements like the famous

Humilladero Hermitage, where pilgrims like Cervantes himself knelt down when they first observed the mass of the monastic site from above. Or the rural ensembles of the Mirabel and Valdefuentes Farms, in reality palaces just a few kilometres from the town which, despite being cultural interest assets, cannot be visited because they are owned privately.

→ [The Castle of Cabañas del Castillo](#)

Cabañas del Castillo has, of course, a castle ("Castillo, after all, means "castle" in Spanish). Or, at least, parts of its castle are still standing, and it is so worth making the effort to climb the steep path up that we cannot forget to recommend it; it's probably, along with Villuercas Peak, the most spectacular outlier of the whole Geopark – both to observe its abrupt orography and to enjoy the numerous birds that inhabit the cliffs that surround it.



Tracey Jones Travel influencer

This tireless traveller is visiting all the UNESCO Global Geoparks. She has been kind enough to answer our survey:

A Picture

The views from the Castle in Castillo de Cabañas; they were just incredible.

An Unexpected Encounter

The Appalachian relief! I'm from Virginia and I was raised in the Appalachians and it's like I'm at home!

A Spotify Playlist

This is a Geopark: rock, rock, and more rock.

A "Must"

Guadalupe is a unique place in the world; I'm telling you, I've seen many (winks).

Tracey's selfies

This girl from Virginia is a full-fledged influencer. Her selfies in the most emblematic places of UNESCO Global Geoparks are trending. When she published this report about the Castillo de Cabañas, she had 87k likes! She insists that the Geopark's official website was very helpful in planning her trip.

www.geoparqueviluercas.es



Castle
(Cabañas del Castillo)



Sara Rodríguez

She is studying for a degree in archaeology and on her holidays she is visiting the vast territory of the ancient Vettones, following the tracks of these Celtiberian people. She was totally right to come to Villar del Pedroso!

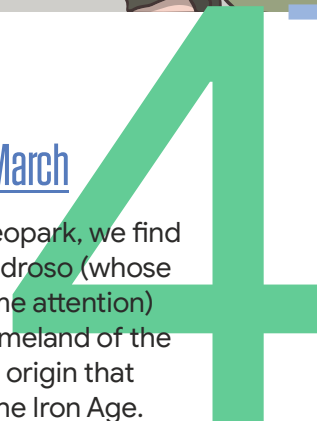


The "Toro Mocho"
Verraco Statute
(Villar del Pedroso)



Verracos ("Boars") and the Middle March

At the north-eastern border of the Geopark, we find other jewels: the village of Villar del Pedroso (whose magnificent church also deserves some attention) and a good part of La Jara was the homeland of the Vettones, a group of peoples of Celtic origin that inhabited the north of Cáceres from the Iron Age. This is demonstrated by the numerous stone "verracos" ("boar statues") that have appeared in the area. Some of them, like the "Toro Mocho", can be seen integrated into public fixtures in Villar del Pedroso. There is also another of these statutes in the town of Valdelacasa de Tajo and recently two more have been found that were not known of previously.



A ROUTE IN STONE

All the Points

1 **Cabañas
del Castillo** (km 1)

2 **Berzocana** (km 14)

3 **Guadalupe** (km 43)

A good option would be to add them to a GPS and create a route to visit them. 115.5 kilometres in total, 4 villages, two churches, a monastery, two fortresses, and a lot of stories.

5 **Villar del
Pedroso** (km 100,5)

4 **Fortaleza de Castros**
(km 113,5 + 2,3 · walking)

Likewise, the Al-Andalus Period was relevant here as the area was part of the defensive system designed to stop Christian advances on the Middle March south of the Tagus: watchtowers and fortresses that, along the river, served as refuge for the population while providing cover for Muslim raids on Christian soil; the Castros fortress was one of them, between the Tagus River and the Pedroso Gorge, a place that is a bit difficult to access but which is of spectacular beauty.

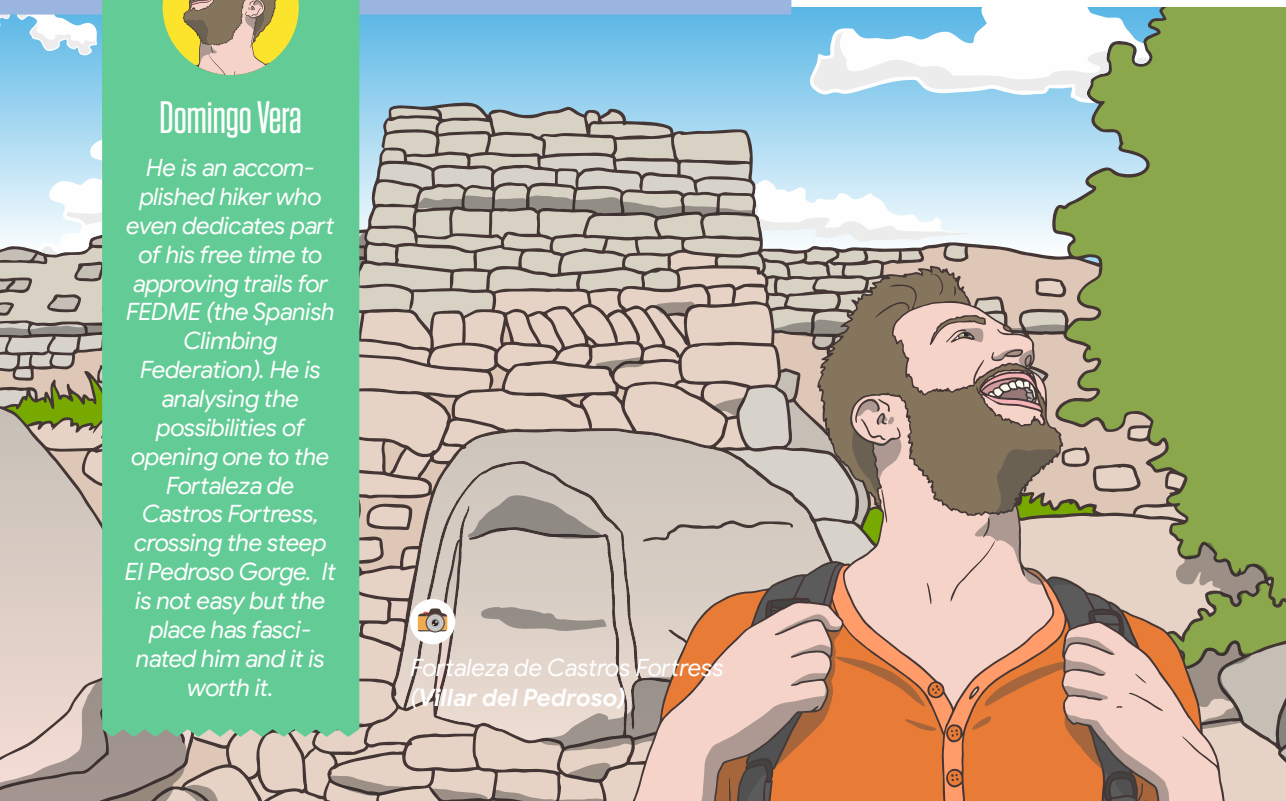


Domingo Vera

He is an accomplished hiker who even dedicates part of his free time to approving trails for FEDME (the Spanish Climbing Federation). He is analysing the possibilities of opening one to the Fortaleza de Castros Fortress, crossing the steep El Pedroso Gorge. It is not easy but the place has fascinated him and it is worth it.



Fortaleza de Castros Fortress
(Villar del Pedroso)





BLOGTRIP: LIFE SHINES

#Geoparque #CarreterasPaisajísticas #Lifestyle
#Bodegas #Experiencias #Guadalupe #SaboresdelGeoparque

THE GEOPARK

*Brilla la vida...
en Villuercas
Ibores Jara*

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YOU CHOOSE

*Oil, wine, honey,
cheese, meats,
mushrooms...*

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HANDICRAFTS


*Deco pieces
with their
own identity*

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FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

*A 7 day carnival.
What madness!*

Page 23



Adventure is guaranteed at the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark, one of the best destinations for family travel. Fossils galore await you, as well as caves and mines where children will feel like true explorers, local culinary products with three Designations of Origin, and a good dose of art with paintings by Zurbarán and El Greco in Guadalupe.

*If not
now,
when?*

Pilar describes the reserve to us in terms of its lifestyle. The best corners, gastronomy, TOP events.... Take note!

@piarmero



LIFE SHINES AT...

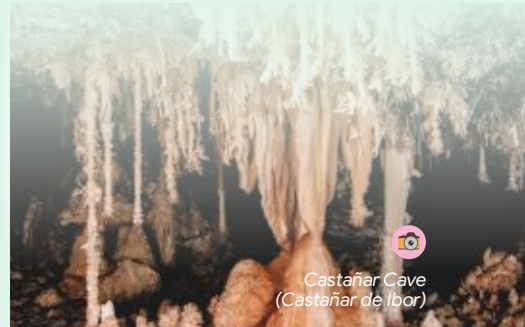
Geoparque Mundial UNESCO
Villuercas - Ibores - Jara

By Pilar Armero

Journalist and Blogger



“One of the Geopark's crowning jewels is the Castañar Cave, a Natural Monument in Castañar de Ibor. [...] There are also numerous shelters with rock paintings, like Cueva de la Chiquita in Cañamero”.



Castañar Cave
(Castañar de Ibor)

The Geopark:
A family destination

The crowning jewel:
the Castañar Cave

Go down and back up the
Costanaza Mine (Logrosán)



Cueva de la Chiquita Shelter
(Cañamero)



Visit to the Costanaza Mine
(Logrosán)

You can't leave the Geopark without going into a cave. The crowning jewel is the Castañar Cave, a Natural Monument in Castañar de Ibor. In order to visit it, you have to ask for an appointment because visits are controlled: between one visit and the next, at least five hours have to pass and no more than five people are allowed per group. That's what a geological treasure of this calibre needs in order to be cared for. Nevertheless, the site can be visited virtually from its Interpretation Centre.

There are also numerous shelters with rock paintings, like Cueva de la Chiquita in Cañamero.

You also have to venture into a mine. The best known one is the Costanaza Mine in Logrosán, with its dark room full of fluorescent fossils that will delight the kids, and a geological and mining museum. If you want more, there is the Navatrasierra Fossil Interpretation Centre and the Cañamero Visitors' Centre, with a photocall activity in which you can get your picture taken with the friendly and fossilised Mr. Trilobites and Ms. Cloudina.

WINE COSMETICS

The Geopark offers agritourism, with visits to livestock farms and dairies. Oleotourism, with a route through olive groves and ecological oil tasting events. And wine tourism, with a tour of wineries featuring the Ribera del Guadiana Protected Designation of Origin. There are companies that offer a sensory experience: blind tastings with blindfolds to enhance smell and taste.

The place where wine tourism is most developed is in Cañamero, due to its favourable microclimate for the grapevine, a potential that is also exploited by making cosmetics with the seed and the skin of grapes.

A wine-related curiosity is that the oldest wine treaty in the world was written in the Monastery of Guadalupe,

Handicrafts, always: baskets,
pots, embroidery, yarn...

Ánimas Carnival of
Villar del Pedroso

Hispanic Day Festival
in Guadalupe



Main Façade of the
Royal Monastery of
Our Lady of Guadalupe

where the Hieronymite monks (now the Franciscans are in the Monastery) produced up to seven different grape varieties. In its ancient Gothic cloister there is a guesthouse, restaurant, and cafeteria where you can sleep like a saint and sit at the blessed table of the region where dishes like tomato soup with figs, "monacal" ("monastic") cod, and chestnut desserts are prepared.

Villuercas-Ibores Protected Designation of Origin Honey and Ibores Protected Designation of Origin Cheese are the other two regional Designations of Origin used in dishes liked stuffed Iberian pork sirloin, cheese ice cream with honey, and the typical "rosca de muégado" dessert.

For authentic flavours, try the local Guadalupe black pudding, which is delicious when accompanied with baked bread. Other great dishes include kid goat, lamb, mushrooms, and game meat in this hunting area with spectacular landscapes where you can go on a hike in search of deer, roe deer, and wild boar and also gaze at the stars in the clear, local sky.

DECO PIECES WITH THEIR OWN IDENTITY

The handicrafts of the Geopark area feature pieces with their own identity, such as Alía's cabinetry and patchwork blankets, made with pieces of fabric and which are ideal for keeping yourself warm and for decorating; or the copper crafts in Guadalupe — a tradition started by the Hieronymite monks in the Monastery in the 15th century.

Chestnut and wicker basketry and delicate embroidery and yarn spinning are other remarkable handicrafts. Ask where you can see craftsmen and craftswomen working live.

"The oldest wine treaty in the world was written in the Monastery of Guadalupe [...] The monks produced up to seven different grape varieties."

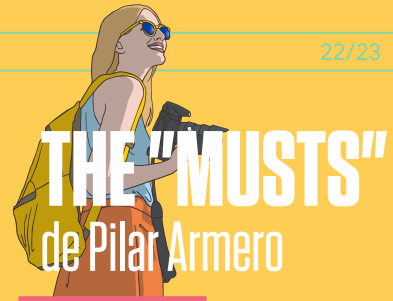
UN CARNAVAL DE ¡7 DÍAS!

One of the signature festivals of the Geopark is the Ánimas Carnival of Villar del Pedroso, which has been held for seven days since the 17th century. It even has its own Interpretation Centre and is one of the most unique carnivals in Extremadura, unlike any other. Its protagonists wear regional costumes and organise colourful parades that end with the popular "serengue" dance.

Another notable event is Hispanic Day in Guadalupe, a Festival of Tourist Interest in Extremadura which hundreds of horsemen from all over Spain attend every October 12. They gather in front of the monastery, which is an real jewel featuring treasures such as paintings by Zurbarán and El Greco, miniature books, fine embroidery, and sculptures that you really can't leave without seeing.



Ánimas Carnival
(Villar del Pedroso)



THE "MUSTS" de Pilar Armero

La Calera (Alía) has two points of interest: the Kilns of La Calera Interpretation Centre and the lime kilns themselves, no longer used but still standing and open to visitors.

At the Archaeology Interpretation Centre of Berzocana, you can see the replica of the Berzocana Treasure with its two golden torcs from the Bronze Age.

At the Castañar Cave Interpretation Centre, there is a 3D recreation of the interior of the cave. It allows you to take a virtual tour if you haven't reserved a visit to the cave itself.



Castañar Cave
Interpretation Centre
(Castañar de Ibor)

10 INSTAGRAMMABLE VILLUERCAS

Dear, have you brought the tourist guide?

...¡Oops!



Because I'm worth it

EVENTS AND MUSEUMS TO DISCOVER THE VILLUERCAS IBORES JARA GEOPARK

Pay attention here; these are the top ten events and museums of Villuercas Ibores Jara Geopark – the best way to get to know the region's traditions, its products, its customs, and –above all– its people. Fun is totally guaranteed.



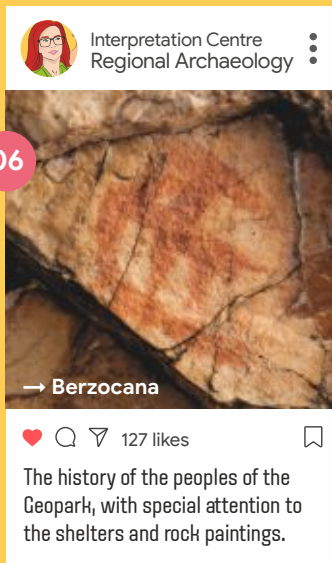
01



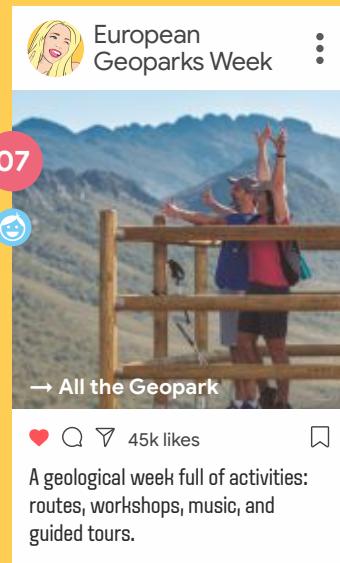
02



06



07



-IBORES-JARA GEOPARK MOMENTS

Events y museums Top



Hispanic Day Festival



03



→ Guadalupe (October)

❤️ 🔍 📌 24k likes

Do you speak our language? It doesn't matter, celebrate #Hispanic Day on horseback. Ciddy up!



Interpretation Centre Lime Kiln



04



→ La Calera

❤️ 🔍 📌 365k likes

Get into the oven and not to cook yourself, but to learn about the process of making lime. 😎



Interpretation Centre Cueva de Castañar



05



→ Castañar de Ibor

❤️ 🔍 📌 1,2k likes

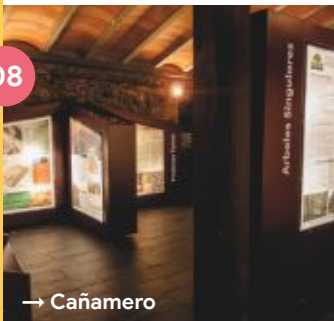
If you have not made an appointment to enter the cave, your best option is the 3D recreation found at Centre.



C.I. SPA Villuercas y Guadarranque



08



→ Cañamero

❤️ 🔍 📌 98k likes

Geology, flora, and fauna in the Ruecas Defile. It is only open for visits upon prior request. 🤩



Mining Museum & Costanza Mine



09



→ Logrosán

❤️ 🔍 📌 895 likes

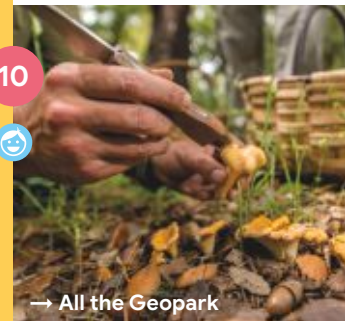
210 m deep and 14 floors, but only the top two can be visited. In a mining car, of course.



Mushrooms and Chestnut Week



10



→ All the Geopark

❤️ 🔍 📌 91k likes

Basket, knife, and.... what else? Oh yeah, knowledge about mushrooms. You'd better opt for the chestnut.



NATURALLY SPEAKING

**Do you want to have a blast?
Feel like a true Appalachian**

#Geoparque #MTB #Senderismo #Setas #UNESCO
#Birding #Geositios #VilluercasIboresJara #PiscinaNatural

GEOTOURISM

**More than 50
geosites to fall
in love with in
the region**

Page 28

HIKING AND MTB

**Royal and natural
paths, Geopark
routes, etc.**

Page 30

BIRDWATCHING

**We propose a TOP
NOTCH route for
you to see birds**

Page 32

OTHER EXPERIENCES

**Unique trees,
stargazing,
mushrooms and
water – lots of water**

Page 33

Villuercas, Ibores, and Jara have a terrain similar to that of the Appalachian Mountains of the United States, which take their name from a native tribe. More than 500 million years of geological history that come oozing out in the form of synclines, anticlines, faults, and stone formations. Is all that Greek to you? Well, it's not Greek... it's Appalachian, remember. And if you don't know about those things, don't worry. There are marked routes designed to be done on foot or by MTB for you to learn to speak the unique language of these unique geological features.

*If not
now,
when?*



THE GEOPARK IN DATA

50

Geosites

05

Geological
routes

10

Information
centres

TOURIST
EXPERIENCES



GEOTOURISM

Appalachian landscapes

that are hundreds of millions of years old



If you want to get an idea of the immensity of this place, it is best to go up to the Villuerca Peak, along the EX-118 motorway, and then along an old military track that is the highest pathway in all of Extremadura. From there you will be able to take it all in, from the synclines of the Viejas River and Santa

GEOLOGY SPECIAL

THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER GEOCENTRES

 **CARLOS DE RODRIGO**
JOURNALIST AND BLOGGER

*Hiking, MTB, museums,
gastronomy, curiosities...
All you need to know about
the Geopark alongside
Carlos de Rodrigo.*

→ migeoparquevilluercas.com



Risco de
la Villuerca
(Villuerca Peak)

Lucía to the anticline of the Almonte River. In fact, said river course has opened (over thousands of years) one of the most impressive geological spectacles in the region: a defile known as Apreturas or Portilla del Almonte and which you can access by means of the CC-22 highway, between Deleitosa and Berzocana.

In addition, you cannot miss the Castañar Cave Monument, in Castañar de Ibor, and the Costanaza Mine, in Logrosán.



GEOPARQUE
VILLUERCAS IBORES JARA



Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura



Villuercas-Ibore Jara
Geoparque
Mundial de
la UNESCO

01 VISITORS' RECEPTION CENTRE 

Cañamero · Your first contact with this region. They will help you to interpret the landscape and learn how to enjoy it.

02 MINING MUSEUM OF LOGROSÁN 

This was an important mining area. Review its history and enjoy the mineral exhibition.

03 CASTAÑAR DE IBOR CAVE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

The visit to the caves is by appointment. If you can't get an appointment, the Interpretation Centre will teach you all about this treasure of the Geopark.

04 FOSSIL INTERPRETATION CENTRE (NAVATRASIERRA) 

Meet the first inhabitants of Villuercas from 450 million years ago, and see the area's interesting collection of fossils.



www.geoparquevilluercas.es

TO WALK OR TO PEDAL, THAT IS THE QUESTION

HIKING AND MTB

WALKER, THE PATH IS MADE AS YOU GO

Three great trails run through the Geopark. The Alfonso Onceno Crossing, GR-117, measuring almost 60 km, the last 11 of which go between Navezuelas and Guadalupe –the most popular stretch– through the narrow valley of the Viejas River, an area of high ecological and geological value.

The Isabella I of Castile Route, PR-CC 242, measuring 13.7 km and connecting Cañamero and Guadalupe. The El Abuelo ("Grandfather") Chestnut tree can be found along this path – a tree in its last cycle of life. Legend has it that Isabella I of Castile rested under its shade on her visit to the Sanctuary of Guadalupe.

WHEN ALL ROADS LEAD TO... GUADALUPE!

Guadalupe was for centuries the most important Marian sanctuary on the Peninsula. Kings, nobles, writers, and all kinds of pilgrims wanted to kneel before the image of the Virgin. Many roads led to Guadalupe; we'd like to highlight two:

CAMINO REAL DE GUADALUPE

It connects Madrid and Guadalupe. Its last 63 km run through the Province of Cáceres from Puente del Arzobispo to the Sanctuary.

CAMINO DE LOS JERÓNIMOS

It runs from the Yuste Monastery and enters the Geopark by means of Bohonal of Ibor.

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE GEOPARK? DISCOVER IT ON TWO WHEELS

Two natural paths run through the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Global Geopark that are perfect for MTB. You will find two stages of the natural path of the Tagus (30 and 31), from Valdelacasa del Tajo to Peraleda de San Román and, from there, to Bohonal de Ibor in the neighbouring region of Campo Arañuelo. The first section is 11 km long and the second measures 21 km.

The Villuercas natural path connects Logrosán and the abandoned train station of Santa Quiteria, in the Province of Toledo. It goes through several towns, passing viewpoints and areas of high ecological value while linking the Gadiana greenway (to the west) with the La Jara greenway (to the east).

TURISMO MTB “MUSTS”



GR-119 CAMINO REAL DE GUADALUPE

This is one of the traditional pilgrimage routes to the Guadalupe Monastery. A demanding route due to its unevenness.

Itinerary: Puente Arzobispo - Guadalupe.

Length: 63 km.



TRAVESÍA DEL GEOPARQUE

You can cross the Geopark from north to south or vice versa and connect the Villuercas natural path with that of the Tagus.

Itinerary: Bohonal de Ibor - Guadalupe.

Length: 61 km.




Estrecho de la Peña
(Villuercas Natural Path)
(Camino natural de las Villuercas)



EN PLAN NATURAL · OTHER EXPERIENCES

ORNITHOLOGY / BIRDWATCHING

FLY WITH BIRDS

FIND THE AIR CURRENT... AND TAKE FLIGHT

The Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark is not only interesting from a geological point of view but it also has seven special protection areas for birds (SPA).

The numerous crags facilitate the nesting of rare species such as the peregrine falcon, Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian vulture, black stork... and you will see the omnipresent griffon vulture at any time of year. There are also steppe birds in the southwest, countless wintering cranes, and lots of forest birds.

So don't forget your binoculars and your bird guide – and if you don't have them, don't worry, hire one of the many local guides who will show you where to look.



A VERY ORNITHOLOGICAL ROUTE

Measuring 54 km in length, you can access it through the Birding in Extremadura APP. It is a mixed route of asphalt and dirt trails. We'd like to highlight some places of special interest along the way:



Download the APP

Birding in Extremadura, a complete application to discover the birds in the Geopark.



01 GUADALUPEJO RIVER

Area declared as an ecological and biodiversity corridor. You'll find the great spotted woodpecker, the European green woodpecker, and the lesser spotted woodpecker. Likewise, in the stream, the white-throated dipper.

02 PARAJE DE LOS HOYICIOS

Nacimiento del río Guadalupejo. En las peñas anidan halcón peregrino, alimoche y buitre leonado.

03 RISCO DE LA VILLUERCA

With its 1,601 metres of height, it is the perfect vantage point to observe the red-billed chough, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, griffon vulture, rock thrush, and accentors.

OTHER ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

UNIQUE TREES

The Calabazas chestnut trees, with specimens of up to 700 years old; the La Nava oak, 400 years old, and the Carrascalejo juniper, almost 350 years old.

STARGAZING AND BEYOND

Due to the good weather and the low levels of light pollution, this is an ideal place for observing the heavens, either on your own or with a local guide.

ALWAYS WATER

If you want a refreshing swim, we recommend the La Nutria Pond in Cañamero and the natural pools in Castañar de Ibor, as well as La Calera in Cabañas del Castillo.

THE WORLD OF MUSHROOMS

Don't forget your basket. The region is noteworthy for its mycological wealth.



Charco de la Nutria Pond
(Cañamero)

How cute. What breed is it?

A coywolf! Sorry, but we have to go to the Geopark. Would you like to come with us?



The list of all lists

THE BEST OF THE BEST: BY CATEGORY

We're going to show you seven themed categories in a display of technique and synthesis. In just a single glance, you'll be able to see "the best of the best" of each section: activities for children, weekend plans, gastronomy, hiking trails, cycling tourism, and our birds zone. Yeahh!

We clearly click on **ACCEPT**.

🔍 I LOVE LISTS



READY-MADE PLANS FOR A WEEKEND

If you come, you'll have things easy. Synchronise your calendar and note down the ideas we've prepared for you after days of intense debate. We've got it packed.



FRIDAY · Arrival and settling in

Afternoon – Puebla de Guadalupe
Initial contact has to be memorable. We recommend you visit Guadalupe by foot. The cat's pyjamas.



SATURDAY · Guadalupe to the max

Morning – Breakfast and monastery.
A basic plan: the guided tour of the monastery and its museum. And to finish up, the Humilladero Hermitage (views).

Afternoon – Climb to the Cabañas Castle. Getting to the top is a little difficult, but the 360° views you will have of the Geopark are priceless.



SUNDAY · Final plans

Morning · Castañar de Ibor Cave.
You have to book beforehand. Visiting it is a true geological delight.

Afternoon · Ascent to the Villuerca Peak. To wrap up your trip, there is nothing better than visiting the Geopark's highest peak, measuring 1,601 metres in height.

WHEN YOU LET THE KIDS DECIDE

Six activities that we know will leave a good mark on your little ones' childhood. Whether walking, by bike, or at night.



Explorer mode

With the rock paintings, they will be like Indiana Jones; Cueva de la Chiquita is ideal.



Geocaching

With the help of a GPS device, the little ones will have to search for a treasure. Really fun!



The night sky

This is an activity that children love. And in the Geopark there are thousands of stars.



Costanaza Mine

Learning and fun: descent to the mine, tourist train, and leisure area. If you come to visit us, this is a must.



Birdwatching

Take out your binoculars, on the quartzite cliffs you will see birds galore.



Other activities

Donkey rides, hiking, goat milking, home cooking...

DO YOURSELF A FAVOUR AND EAT IN FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

Local products and two typical dishes. That's right, to be able to make this information easy to digest for you, we've simplified the culinary offerings of the region.



STEWES AND 'MIGAS'

These are "prime time" for us. If you come, you have to try at least one. If you accompany your dish with wine from the area, success is guaranteed.



PARTRIDGES, VENISON, AND WILD BOAR

These are game dishes. In stews and roasts, these are full of flavour. Olive oil, garlic, water, and salt. To the table, please. Mmm..!



A NEVER-FAIL HIT: MUSHROOMS

The entire region is a true mycological paradise: chanterelle, boletus, Caesar's mushroom.... I never want to leave!



STAR PRODUCTS

Here's the shopping list: sweets, honey, PDO cheeses and wine, olive oil, mushrooms, and black pudding. Ready?

BIRDWATCHERS OF THE WORLD: PARADISE IS HERE

You'll be able to check a lot of birds off your list at the Geopark. You'll find the elusive white-throated dipper, the skilful honey buzzard, as well as the eagle, goshawk, and Egyptian vulture. Shall we go?



QUARTZITE CRAGS

Estrecho de la Peña, Aperturas del Almonte, and Peña Buitrera are the best places to see the Eurasian eagle-owl, griffon vulture, etc.



4X4 ROUTES AND GUIDES

Get in touch with local companies to go on 4x4 routes that will take you to inaccessible corners. For the whole family.



BIRDWATCHING ROUTE

The route proposed by Birding in Extremadura around the Villuercas Peak is quite interesting. A 54-kilometre route by car with four points of observation.



APP BIRDING IN EXTREMADURA

Complete list of 150 birds, songs, images, habitats, and the best routes for birdwatching in Extremadura.

CAMPING AND CARAVANNING ARE COOL. CASE STUDY:

Camping and caravanning are on the rise. Here are 6 keys to have a blast when travelling with your house. Do it yourself!



Guadalupe

UNESCO heritage site and historical ensemble site. A piece of advice: park across from the gas station (CC-171).



Caravan area

Logrosán and Deleitosa have places set up for campers and caravans. They are open all year round.



BBQ Special

Barbecues are a classic, but be careful with limitations on making a fire in the summer season.



Viewpoints

Estrecho de la Peña has a large parking area and it is an impressive viewpoint.



Where to Park

Like any other vehicle, you can park where parking is permitted.



Helpful Tips

Mountain and winding roads: here you can enjoy the beauty while driving slowly.

CYCLING TOURISM AND MTB COLLECTION PRESENT

The Geopark has beautiful routes for pedalling: Paths of Guadalupe, Natural Paths, and those of the Geopark itself.



ALFONSO ONCENO ROUTE

59 km from La Avellaneda to Guadalupe. Some sections are tough and very technical.



CAMINO REAL DE GUADALUPE GR-119

This is one of the traditional routes to Guadalupe. It begins in Puente del Arzobispo (Toledo) and runs 63 km.



CAMINO NATURAL DE LAS VILLUERCAS GR-116

From Logrosán to the Santa Quiteria Station (Toledo). A 76 km route with steep slopes.



CAMINO NATURAL DEL TAJO GR-113

It starts in Teruel and ends in Extremadura, running 850 km. The stage through the region is very interesting.

TRAILS AND ROUTES TO BREAK YOUR BOOTS IN

36/37

We have selected 4 trails that are top-notch, but there are more approved and signposted routes. Do you find that strange? For us, it's normal.



ALFONSO XI OF CASTILE ROUTE

This traditional route measures 11 km and connects Navezuelas and Guadalupe – it's a classic mountain route in the heart of the Geopark.



CLIMB TO THE CABAÑAS CASTLE

Start in the village of Cabañas and climb up a steep slope to the castle. Once up there, the views are beautiful.



ISABEL LA CATÓLICA (PR-CC 242)

13.7 km between Cañamero and Guadalupe. It goes through some of the most beautiful places in the region, such as the Ruecas Canyon.



BERZOCANA ROCK PAINTINGS (SL-CC 254)

A short route (1.3 km) to enjoy the landscape and rock art along the Cancho de las Sábanas bluffs.



'Make My Day' Special EXPERIENCES THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

The Villuercas Ibores Jara Geopark cannot be summarised with just ten experiences; if you come, you'll see what we're talking about. The time has come to put what we have learned into practice – we've chosen them for you sure that you'll have a blast.

It's time to travel!

Q VILLUERCAS IBORES JARA



01

A monumenta THE MONASTERY OF GUADALUPE: YOU CAN'T NOT GO

Coming to the region and not visiting Guadalupe is punished with a thousand years in Purgatory. Well, that may not be true, but it's hard to forgive something like that. Do not miss the two cloisters, the museum of miniature books, and the sacristy (paintings by Zurbarán).

02

A visit COSTANAZA MINE AND MINING MUSEUM

I'm a miner... and not in the Sierra Morena Mountain range but instead in the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark. Discover the area's rich past in mining operations in these two essential visits.

03

A discovery BIRDS AND MUSHROOMS

Two of the best things to do in nature. Gathering mushrooms and watching birds. Excellent!

04

History and art WALKING THE STREETS OF LA PUEBLA DE GUADALUPE

Guadalupe doesn't just live from its monastery. There is a self-guided tour that will take you to the most authentic corners of this town, declared a historical ensemble site.

05

A party ÁNIMAS CARNIVAL

One of the region's most curious carnivals. For one week, Villar del Pedroso celebrates with theatrical performances, popular dances, music, and gastronomic samplers – a military and religious festival that dates back to the 17th century.

06

Two geosites

CASTILLO DE CABAÑAS AND VILLUERCAS PEAK

In addition to belonging to the select club of geosites in the Geopark, these are two great viewpoints to see the Appalachian terrain, watch birds, and – of course– have a snack before heading back down.

07

A natural monument

CASTAÑAR CAVE

A "must" because of its mysterious and eccentric aragonite "flowers". Do not forget to reserve your visit in advance.

08

A trail

CAMINO NATURAL DE VILLUERCAS

All roads lead to Guadalupe. This one can also take you, but the best thing is that it links the greenways of La Jara and Las Vegas del Guadiana.

09

A gastro-experience

VISIT A WINERY OR AN OIL MILL

Get to know the wineries that are affiliated with the Ribera del Guadiana Protected Designation of Origin and enjoy their extraordinary wines. The oils are not far behind either.

10

A menu

SIT AROUND THE TABLE!

Black pudding from Guadalupe, cheeses, honey, and PDO wine, "migas" (a traditional breadcrumb-based dish), lamb stews.... Isn't your mouth watering? 🍷

HI! I'M ANA! 🧐

38/39



The office of... ANA MARÍA RUIZ, TOURIST GUIDE

With the great *"There are no longer tomatoes that taste like tomatoes"* in mind, we are bringing you the office of Ana to shed light on this and other questions.

A SUPERFOOD

This region conceived the idea of "superfood". I would go for the black pudding from Guadalupe, it's to die for with bread and wine.

A PLACE TO READ

My basics: Castillo de Cabañas and Apreturas del Almonte.

AN 'INDIANA JONES' EXPERIENCE

If you are lucky enough to be one of those chosen to visit it, the Castañar de Ibor Cave.

A PEACEFUL PLACE

If you want total relaxation there are two great places: La Villuerca Peak and Hospital del Obispo.

A PLACE TO HAVE A COFFEE OR TEA

I would choose the Parador patio. The play of light created there is magical.



Sometimes you have to get out to find what you're looking for

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Discover the extraordinary effects of travelling to the Villuercas Ibores Jara Geopark. Information, downloads, and helpful tips. And remember, true balance is in movement. That's it.

Q VILLUERCAS IBORES JARA



COMMANDMENTS OF THE RESPONSIBLE TOURIST

—
Prepare your trip well

—
Look for lodging with sustainable practices

—
Be picky when making reservations

—
Say goodbye to prejudices

—
Support the local economy

—
Choose transport wisely

—
Minimise waste

—
Be a responsible photographer

—
Respect the flora and fauna

—
Mingle with the locals

VISITORS' RECEPTION CENTRE

Cañamero
Tel. 927 369 429



FOSSIL INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Navatrasierra
Tel. 927 555 246



KILNS OF LA CALERA INTERPRETATION CENTRE

La Calera
Tel. 692 910 500



SIERRA DE LAS VILLUERCAS AND VALLE DEL

GUADARRANQUE SPA INTERPRETATION CLASSROOM

Cañamero
Tel. 675 061 982



GUADALUPE TOURISM OFFICE

Tel. 927 154 128

COSTANAZA MINE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Logrosán
Tel. 927 360 180



CASTAÑAR INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Castañar de Ibor
Tel. 927 554 635

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Berzocana
Tel. 681 264 319



ÁNIMAS CARNIVAL INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Tel. 927 555 002
Villar del Pedroso



GeoparqueVilluercas



VilluercasGPark

www.geoparquevilluercas.es

No matter what options you choose, don't forget to put some of these things in your suitcase or backpack:

01

VILLUERCAS IBORES JARA TOURIST GUIDE

02

TOILETRIES, BASIC FIRST, SWIMSUIT AND A FEW CHANGES OF CLOTHES

03

BOOKS FOR READING

04

ADD POINTS OF INTEREST TO GOOGLE MAPS

05

CÁCERES PROVINCE ROUTE GUIDE

06

CAMERA OR MOBILE PHONE WITH ENOUGH MEMORY



Download or view the car route through the Villuercas Ibores Jara Geopark



Space included in the Cáceres Province Network of Interpretation Centres



Villuercas-Ibores-Jara
UNESCO Global Geopark
Meetingpoint

Province of Cáceres

It's happening!

[Home](#) [Great Plans](#) [Blogtrip](#)

[I want to go!](#)



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Villuercas-Ibores-Jara
Geoparque
de Villuercas

Villuercas-Ibores-Jara
UNESCO Global Geopark

Meeting point

[Q IF NOT NOW, WHEN?](#)



DIPUTACIÓN DE CÁCERES
ÁREA DE RETO DEMOGRÁFICO,
DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE, JUVENTUD Y TURISMO

www.turismocaceres.org