

## 'Make My Day' Special

# EXPERIENCES THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE



The Biosphere Reserve 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!*

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

01

### A "Must!" **'TAJO INTERNACIONAL' NATURAL PARK**

In addition to being a biosphere reserve, it is the first international park in Europe. 25,088 hectares of Mediterranean forest and a border-zone culture that will surprise you.

02

### A walk **ROMAN BRIDGE AND VILLA OF ALCÁNTARA**

The first is the best preserved Roman bridge that exists at present and the second is a Cultural Interest Assets. In the books it's unparalleled, but in life it's even better.

03

### A visit **JEWISH GOthic QUARTER OF VALENCIA DE ALCÁNTARA**

This is the largest Jewish quarter in the region and it has also been declared a historical ensemble site. It has a self-guided route and informational panels so you don't miss any details. Are you in?

04

### A weekend **EL MAGUSTO FOLK FESTIVAL**

One of the festivals with the most personality on the folk scene. There is life beyond reggae; in addition, it's free, outdoors, and in Carbejo.

05

### A discovery **ROYAL WEDDING**

That's right: in Valencia de Alcántara the wedding between Infanta Isabel, daughter of the Catholic Monarchs, and Manuel I, King of Portugal, took place. A theatrical performance and loads of activities. Let's go!

06

### An event **ALCÁNTARA CLASSICAL THEATRE FESTIVAL**

Every summer Alcántara hosts its famous festival in the San Benito ("St. Benedict") Convent. The environment where it is held, the contents, and the related activities make it a classic of theatre.

07

### A celebration **RESERVE MONTH**

The reserve has a lot to do with people's happiness, that's why for a month (November) activities are scheduled to pay tribute to it: gastronomy, hiking, workshops.... Divine!

08

### An experience **BARCO DEL TAJO TOURIST BOAT**

Take your pleasure seriously and get on this ship of international waters. There are two routes available and a lot of things to observe: the Mediterranean forest and the black stork, for example.

09

### An exhibition space **DOLMEN CULTURE INTERPRETATION CENTRE**

An exhibition centre in the shape of a megalithic dolmen that explains the wealth of dolmens at the International Tagus. Even more than essential.

10

### A menu **SIT AROUND THE TABLE!**

Take note, I'm not going to say it again: game meat and Iberian pork, river fish soup, and partridge in Alcántara style.

## NATURALLY SPEAKING ARE YOU TRYING SOMETHING NEW?

Here there are cowboys, but not too many; the Merino sheep and Iberian pork products are more popular. Here, outsiders do not go around armed with pistols but rather with binoculars and cameras. Even so, you've come to the western frontier. The International Tagus Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve is made up of 428,000 hectares distributed on one side and the other of this river that, rather than separating Spain and Portugal, connects their natural spaces, cultures, and ways of life. *Bem vindo: welcome to one of the jewels of Extremadura.*

"Twenty-six approved trails run through the part of the reserve that is in Cáceres, with varying degrees of difficulty to suit any type of traveller. These routes will take you through a diverse landscape of Mediterranean forest, riverbanks, reservoirs, and plains with grains and extensive livestock".

### TAGUS RESERVE ROUTES

# 26

APPROVED TRAILS

# 09

LOCAL TRAILS (SL)

# 13

SHORT DISTANCE TRAILS (PR)

INFO + TRACKS



### 1 TAGUS NATURE TRAIL

We are talking about the mythical GR-113, which crosses the reserve (85 km) from Membrio to Cedillo over four major stages. If you want excitement, whether on foot or by bike, do not hesitate... this is your route.

### 2 TAGUS, THE RIVER OF LIFE

Experiencing the reserve from the river is one of the most interesting activities you can do. There are boats that give rides along the Tagus, accompanied by explanations about the environment its emblematic birds.

## Top Selection THE TRAILS OF THE REGION

01 MARI LOZA ROUTE (SL-CC 141)

A classic; perhaps the best known trail. And it's no wonder: this is the trail of greatest botanical interest at International Tagus.

02 NEGRALES ROUTE (SL-CC 137)

This trail starts in Herrera de Alcántara and it will show you all the beauty of this region with its extraordinary views over the Tagus (7.3 km).

03 BAJO EL PUENTE ROUTE (PR-CC 131)

In just 2.2 km, you'll see a very well preserved Roman bridge, a dam, and the town of Alcántara, a historical ensemble site.

## PLEASE, COME IN WITHOUT KNOCKING FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR CULTURE

"Along the old border that is the Tagus, it seems as if time has stopped and, with it, stone has also stopped, an element which endures and impresses. Ok, let's count: we have a Roman bridge (in Alcántara), three historical ensemble sites, Valencia de Alcántara and its Jewish Gothic Quarter, and dolmens and dolmens and more dolmens. Oh! And the Cabezo Menhir."



**Andy Lucas**

Things aren't always what they seem

Andy likes music, of course, but he doesn't sing well. He prefers photography, and has gladly answered our questionnaire.

### A PICTURE

The Alcántara Bridge, of course. There is nothing like it in the whole world.

### A RECOMMENDATION

A route through the three historical ensemble sites. That'll take you through the entire reserve!

### A "MUST"

Dolmens and more dolmens... impressive. Oh, and the Cabezo Menhir.

### AN UNEXPECTED FIND

Valencia de Alcántara was a discovery: the Jewish Quarter, the castle, the Rocamadour Church....

### DOLMENS IN THE RESERVE

The land of the reserve houses one of the most important European megalithic ensembles: just the municipality of Valencia de Alcántara has forty-one catalogued dolmens.

## EVENTS AND MUSEUMS

"Becoming familiar with the festivals and exhibition centres in the International Tagus Biosphere Reserve is the best way to get to know its traditions, its products, its customs, and above all its people. Fun is 100% guaranteed."



**Pilar Armero**  
Journalist and blogger

### BODA REGIA OF VALENCIA DE ALCÁNTARA

Historical re-enactment of the marriage in 1497 between Isabel, the daughter of the Catholic Monarchs and Manuel I. And, in addition: guided tours, the tapa route, concerts, a market, etc.

### 1 GASTRONOMIC DAYS

VALENCIA DE ALCÁNTARA - Border-zone cuisine and products are the stars at the International Tagus Gastronomic and Agri-Food Days.

### 2 INTERPRETATION CENTRES

ALCÁNTARA, SANTIAGO DE ALCÁNTARA Y CEDILLO - Megalithism, crafts, ethnography, and all the information about the reserve at the International Tagus Interpretation Centres.

### FILM FESTIVAL "PERIFERIAS"

The border-zone festival based on human rights, the environment, art, and culture. Open-air cinema in August in Valencia de Alcántara and Marvaó. → periferiasfestival.com

### BIRDWATCHING

## FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE TIPS FOR BIRD WATCHING

01 THE KINGDOM OF BIRDS OF PREY

The Sierra de San Pedro has one of the most important populations of black vultures and imperial eagles in the Peninsula. Visit them your way!

02 NEGRALES VIEWPOINT

A true paradise on the banks of the Tagus: golden eagles, short-toed snake eagles, ospreys, booted eagles; black storks, kites, goshawks....

03 FROM PORTUGAL

The Vulture Route from the Portuguese municipality of Salvaterra do Extremo, is an excellent place to see birds on the Ergas River, as well as the Peñafiel Castle of Zarza la Mayor.

04 ON YOUR OWN

A good option to get to know the reserve is to hire the services of one of the specialised companies that work in the area: guided tours, rental of bird hides and hydrohides, birdwatching experiences, etc....

Grab your camera and get ready to take your best nature photos.

The ornithological wealth of this area is as great as the zone's extension. The Sierra de San Pedro has one of the most important populations of black vultures and imperial eagles in the Peninsula. At the riverside, for example the Erjas River Valley, you will find Egyptian vultures, black storks, and Bonelli's eagle nesting. Cranes are on the plains of Alcántara and Brozas; and also steppe species like the little bustard, great bustard, pin-tailed sandgrouse, and black-bellied sandgrouse.

### ORNITHOLOGICAL WEALTH

We'll give you three examples. In the Erjas River Valley you will find the griffon vulture and Egyptian vulture; in the riverbanks you'll find the black stork; and in the plains you'll find the great bustards and little bustards.



## GASTRONOMY INTERNATIONAL TAGUS BIOSPHERE RESERVE: GRUB'S UP!

### Starters



**GOAT CHEESE:** One of the best entrées and it's even great for dessert, with aromas and flavours that are typical of the area.

### Partridge tapa cooked Alcántara style

Partridge stuffed with pork liver pâté and truffles. Macerated with olive oil, wine, and aromatic herbs. A local culinary classic.



### Star Products

Anything that has to do with Iberian pork and the dehesa (hams, sausages, and meats), but also extra virgin olive oil, of course.

### Main Dishes

#### Buche

A typical cured pork sausage made with meat, ear, bacon, rib, garlic, and paprika. It is accompanied with sprouts and rice.



#### Game Meat Dishes

The abounding large and small game allows for the preparation of dishes such as rice with hare, venison stew, and wild boar stew.

#### Seasonal mushrooms



\*NOTE: Accompany these dishes with Iberian ham from the region. It's the star product.

### Special "ADOPT A SWEET"



The Portuguese influence shines through: local pastries and desserts like tiselá, serradura, bollos de pascua, roscas bañas, fritos de boda, etc.

**ENJOY!**

Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve

# International Tagus

TOURIST MAP

+10 BONUS TOP-NOTCH EXPERIENCES

It's happening!



UNEXPECTED BEAUTY

NATURAL PARK  
JEWISH GOthic QUARTER  
DOLMENS AND A ROMAN BRIDGE  
+26 APPROVED ROUTES

English

I want to go!

Home Great plans Blogtrip

Province of Cáceres



International Tagus Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve

Meeting point

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

www.turismocaceres.org

DIPLUTACION DE CÁCERES  
ÁREA DE DEPT. DEPARTAMENTO DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE, INICIATIVAS Y TURISMO

10 experiences that will change your life: it's time to live like never before

Tourist map: Trails, information points, museums, bird watching...

# International Tagus

Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve

## Tourist map

### INSTRUCTION MANUAL

We are in the extreme southwest of the Province of Cáceres, at that sharp peak where Portuguese land is touched upon, a peak which forms the border with said neighbouring country. But to talk about the border here is almost meaningless, as the reserve affects, as its name indicates, both countries including fourteen municipalities in Cáceres and twelve Portuguese parishes of the Centro and Alentejo regions. The border is home to the International Tagus Natural Park, a cross-border park in two countries which forms one great brotherhood on either side of the river and presents some of the best preserved patches of Mediterranean forest in Europe, with endangered species such as the Iberian Imperial Eagle.

The Spanish part is, like the Portuguese, marked by its cross-border identity: a "rayana" region, as they say around here. It is also marked by centuries of management by the Order of Alcántara, whose name persists in many of the towns that make up the area. Also persisting is the Order's legacy in the form of a rich cultural and architectural heritage. The other characteristic that unites the territory is the impressive megalithic ensemble that it is home to, from the south in Valencia de Alcántara -whose Jewish Gothic Quarter, by the way, is another of its jewels- to the north in Alcántara, with some of the most spectacular dolmens that can be seen.

And, of course, in Alcántara there is the other great icon of the reserve: the magnificent and eternal Roman bridge which has made it possible for people and cattle to move over the Tagus for two millennia and in fact it continues to do the same. And the fact of the matter is that few places hide as many treasures as the International Tagus and in this case, those treasures are double on either side of the border; let's take a look.

*"The reserve sprawls fourteen municipalities in Cáceres and twelve Portuguese parishes. In the same way that it contains the natural parks of Tajo and Tejo Internacional".*

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### Interpretation/Information Centres

- 01 Alcántara Tourism Office
- 02 Brozas Tourism Office
- 03 Valencia de Alcántara Tourism Office
- 04 International Tagus Natural Park Visitors' Reception and Interpretation Centre
- 05 International Tagus Interpretation Centre
- 06 El Péndere Nature Interpretation Centre
- 07 Dolmen Culture Interpretation Centre
- 08 Valencia de Alcántara Interpretation Centre
- 09 Tourist Boat Dock

### Places of Cultural Interest

- 01 Alcántara Historical Ensemble Site
- 02 Brozas Historical Ensemble Site
- 03 Valencia de Alcántara Historical Ensemble Site
- 04 San Benito Convent
- 05 Santa María Church of Almocóvar
- 06 Peña Buraca Rock
- 07 Alcántara Bridge
- 08 Church of the Asunción
- 09 El Buraco Rock Paintings
- 10 Church of Nuestra Señora de Rocamadour
- 11 Puerto Roque Rock Paintings
- 12 La Conceja Fountain

### Places of Natural Interest

- 01 International Tagus Natural Park
- 02 Periurban Conservation and Leisure Park Brozas Pond
- 03 Sierra de San Pedro Regional Interest Area
- 04 Llanos de Alcántara and Brozas Special Area of Conservation
- 05 Canchos de Ramiro Special Area of Conservation
- 06 Arce de Abajo Reservoir Special Area of Conservation
- 07 Erjas River Special Area of Conservation
- 08 La Paloma Mine Special Area of Conservation
- 09 SPA - Lesser Kestrel Colonies in Brozas

### Trails

- 01 Bajo el Puente Trail (SL-CC 131) Circular / 2,6 km
- 02 Fuente de San Juan Trail (SL-CC 132) Circular / 4,8 km
- 03 Data Mato - La Pirula Trail (SL-CC 133) Circular / 4,5 km
- 04 Camino al Canero - Río Sever Trail (SL-CC 134) Linear / 9,5 km
- 05 El Pesquerón - Río Tajo Trail (SL-CC 135) Circular / 4,0 km
- 06 Puente Viejo del Cabrioso Trail (SL-CC 136) Linear / 6,8 km
- 07 Mirador del Negrale Trail (SL-CC 137) Linear / 7,8 km (ida y vuelta)
- 08 Las Viñas Trail (SL-CC 138) Circular / 6,0 km
- 09 Mari Loza Trail (SL-CC 141) Linear / 5,5 km
- 10 Montón de Trigo Trail (SL-CC 142) Linear / 8,8 km
- 11 La Miñola Trail Linear / 10,2 km (ida y vuelta)
- 12 Ruta Transfrontera Trail (PR-CC 88) Circular / 24,1 km
- 13 Caminos del Agua Trail (PR-CC 89) Circular / 27,0 km
- 14 Mirador del Rocho Trail (PR-CC 90) Linear / 13,6 km
- 15 El Candi Trail (PR-CC 91) Circular / 19,7 km
- 16 Pantano de la Jabalina Trail (PR-CC 92) Circular / 16,6 km
- 17 El Torrico de San Pedro Trail (PR-CC 93) Circular / 15,6 km
- 18 Puente del Infierno Trail (PR-CC 94) Circular / 14,4 km
- 19 Fuente de la Geregosa Trail (PR-CC 95) Linear / 14,6 km
- 20 Mirador de las Viñas Trail (PR-CC 96) Linear / 14,8 km
- 21 Molino de la Negra Trail (PR-CC 97) Circular / 15,6 km
- 22 El Salto del Caballo Trail (PR-CC 98) Circular / 15,6 km
- 23 Puente Romano de Alcántara Trail (PR-CC 105) Linear / 20,3 km
- 24 Cañada Real de Gata Trail (PR-CC 106) Linear / 18,6 km (one way)

### Other Itineraries

- Tagus Nature Trail (GR 113)
- Vía de la Estrella (The Star Route)

### Situation Map



### Birdwatching



The ornithological wealth of this area is as great as the zone's extension. The Sierra de San Pedro has one of the most important populations of black vultures and imperial eagles. At the riverside, for example the Erges River Valley, you will find Egyptian vultures, black storks, and Bonelli's eagle nests. And also steppe species like the little bustard and the great bustard.

### Museums and Interpretation Centres

Discover the events and museums of the region is the best way to get to know the region's traditions, its products, its customs, and above all its people. Fun is totally guaranteed.

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

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

The nearest airport is in Salamanca, 191 km away. Other recommended airports are Badajoz (200 km), Madrid (180 km), and Seville (400 km).

### Are you here?

The uniqueness of the small villages and hamlets of the border area, the freshness of the countryside in the summer evenings, and the water flowing to the Tagus, the mirror where this region is reflected and rediscovered as something beautiful, different, and attractive.

Download all the Materials



### High Quality Heritage

Ok, let's count: we have a Roman bridge (in Alcántara), three historical ensemble sites, Valencia de Alcántara and its Jewish Gothic Quarter, and dolmens and dolmens and more dolmens. Oh, and the Cabezo Menhir. High quality... what I was telling you!

### Tagus, the river of life

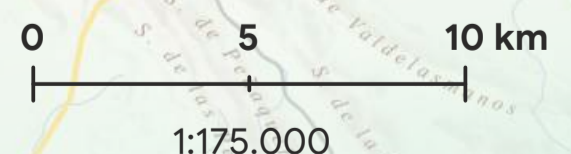
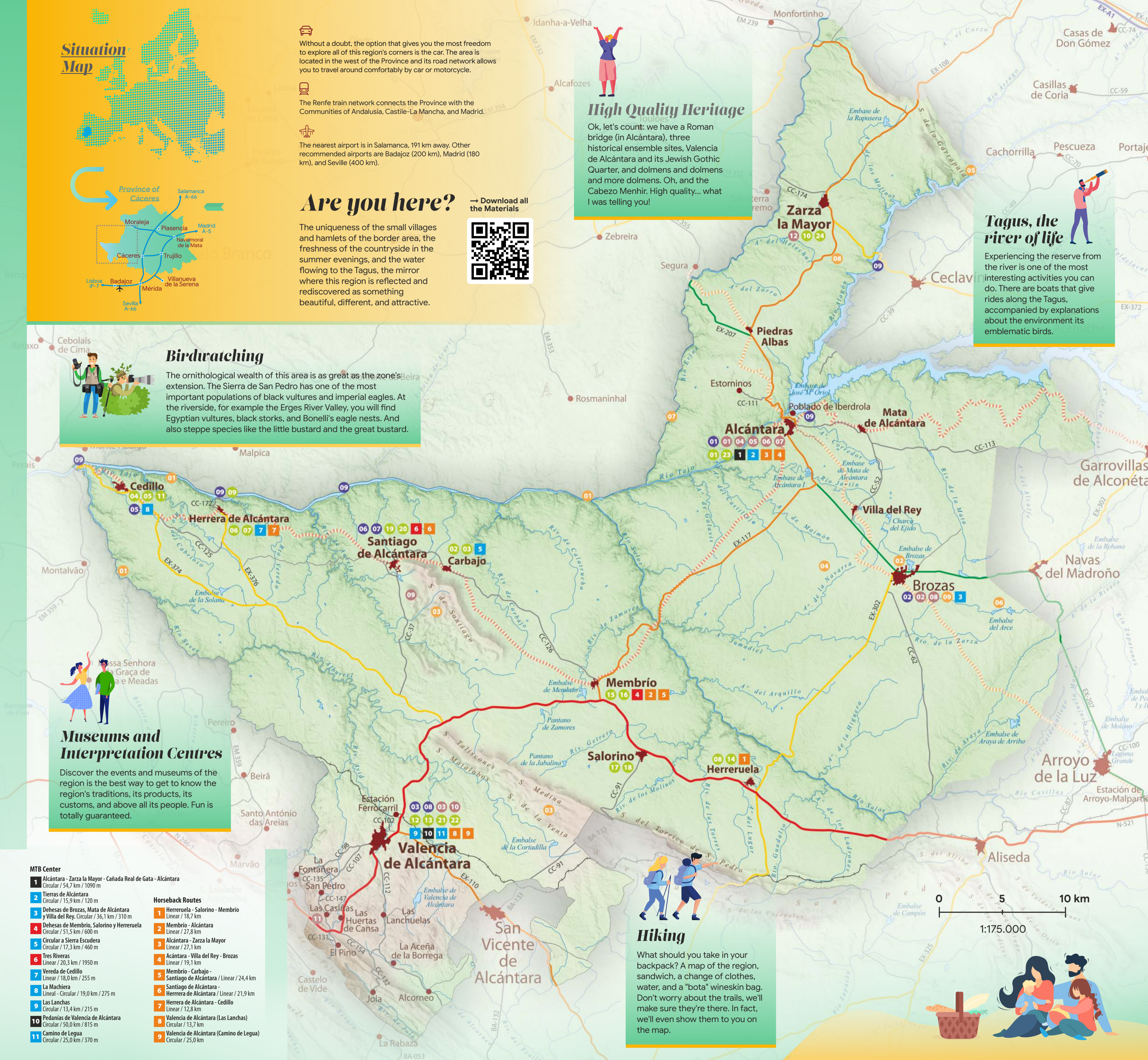
Experiencing the reserve from the river is one of the most interesting activities you can do. There are boats that give rides along the Tagus, accompanied by explanations about the environment its emblematic birds.

### Hiking

What should you take in your backpack? A map of the region, sandwich, a change of clothes, water, and a "bota" wineskin bag. Don't worry about the trails, we'll make sure they're there. In fact, we'll even show them to you on the map.

- #### MTB Center
- 1 Alcántara - Zarza la Mayor - Cañada Real de Gata - Alcántara Circular / 54,7 km / 1090 m
  - 2 Tierras de Alcántara Circular / 15,9 km / 120 m
  - 3 Dehesas de Brozas, Mata de Alcántara y Villa del Rey. Circular / 36,1 km / 310 m
  - 4 Dehesas de Membrijo, Salorino y Herreuella Circular / 51,5 km / 600 m
  - 5 Circular a Sierra Escudera Circular / 17,3 km / 460 m
  - 6 Tres Riberas Linear / 20,3 km / 1950 m
  - 7 Vereda de Cedillo Linear / 18,0 km / 255 m
  - 8 La Machiera Lineal - Circular / 19,0 km / 275 m
  - 9 Las Lanchas Circular / 13,4 km / 215 m
  - 10 Pedanías de Valencia de Alcántara Circular / 50,0 km / 815 m
  - 11 Camino de Legua Circular / 25,0 km / 370 m

- #### Horseback Routes
- 1 Herreuella - Salorino - Membrijo Linear / 18,7 km
  - 2 Membrijo - Alcántara Linear / 27,8 km
  - 3 Alcántara - Zarza la Mayor Linear / 27,1 km
  - 4 Alcántara - Villa del Rey - Brozas Linear / 19,1 km
  - 5 Membrijo - Carbajo - Santiago de Alcántara / Linear / 24,4 km
  - 6 Santiago de Alcántara - Herreuella de Alcántara / Linear / 21,9 km
  - 7 Herreuella de Alcántara - Cedillo Linear / 12,8 km
  - 8 Valencia de Alcántara (Las Lanchas) Circular / 13,7 km
  - 9 Valencia de Alcántara (Camino de Legua) Circular / 25,0 km



1:175.000

