

PR-CC 228 "Between Sierras, Oaks and Chestnuts" Garcíaz, Cáceres



TECHNICAL SHEET

-Date of approval FEDME: 27-X-09

-Type of trail: Short route

-Name: PR-CC 228 "Between Sierras, Oaks and Chestnuts"

-Province and municipality: Cáceres and Garcíaz

-Course: Circular

-Kilometric distance: 17.7 km

-Accumulated height difference: 900 meters (450 m up and 450 m down)

Maximum height -> 1128 meters

Minimum height -> 644 meters

-Difficulty: Medium

-Walking hours: 5 hours

-Type of terrain: Road, track and trail

-Cycleability: Yes

INTRODUCTION

Garciaz is one of the most beautiful enclaves in the region due to its biodiversity.

Ideal to come at any time of the year, the Garciaz mountain range is located between the elevations of the Villuercas and the Trujillo peninsula. Its municipal district stands out for its scenic beauty and exuberant nature, and it is easy to find abundant fauna along the way. Deer, wild boar and numerous birds find food in these beautiful and solitary forests.

The Marellos swamp is another interesting place, since it is dammed up in a thick forest, which is a refuge for a wide range of species.

As for flora, along the route we will witness the great variety, admiring forests of chestnuts, oaks, pine trees and a varied cast of fungi.



If we decide to look at the geodesic vertex (Pico Venero 1128 meters) we will have an unbeatable view of the surroundings, seeing several towns and swamps.

The path also passes through the main points of cultural interest in Garciaz; within the municipality by the pillory, the chapel of Charity, the Church of Santiago Apostle and two small bridges.

Outside the municipality visit the quarry, where if it has rained we will admire a

beautiful waterfall, and the Hermitage of the Conception, rightly restored by the local Consistory.

DESCRIPTIVE TOUR

We start this trail in the Plaza Mayor, next to La Picota. If we look at one of the facades we see a heraldic shield.



We take the Avenida de la Glorieta to the right of the coat of arms. After a few meters we turn left on the slope of Granados Street where we see the Church of Santiago in the background. Before passing by it, we turn right on Calle del Tomillo to visit the Ermita de la Caridad.

We continue and turn left taking the Calle del Paso to the monumental Church of the town that stands out for its large dimensions. We arrive at Santa Ana Street, bordering on the right the religious building. Soon we found to the left a heraldic shield and when lowering we arrived at a point where there is a house of popular architecture with the N° 2; this makes corner and divides our footpath PR "Between Sierras,

Robles and Castaños" of the SL "La Dehesa Boyal de Roble".

We take the street on the left of the house and leave the village between small olive tree plots on a cobbled road.

We arrive at a small bridge that passes over a stream. The first oaks appear on the right as we start to climb a small hill, leaving a fountain on the right. Later on the chestnut trees will appear, which will accompany us for most of the route. In a short time we reach the Collado de Juan Serrano where we find some pine trees. We continue upwards to the Maruelos reservoir. We will go up to its prey to border it and to admire the beautiful picture of the dense forest that shows us.



We continue and make a sharp turn, taking the first path on the right where we find an open gate. If it is closed, after entering we close it again to prevent the cattle from escaping. Then we will pass two houses and arrive at a thick oak grove where there is an abundance of fern.

Soon we see the entrance of the chestnut grove, a beautiful haven of peace where we find an idyllic path among abundant chestnut trees. We continue walking leaving behind a huge old chestnut tree.

Once we leave the chestnut grove, we turn sharply to the left and continue upwards towards El Venero Peak, which is 1128 meters high and marked with a geodesic vertex. This will be the last big climb of the day. Once we have the geodesic vertex in our field of vision, to continue we must take the path on the left that is a few meters before reaching it.

Already losing height, we continue until we reach a well aligned chestnut grove for the best human use. When we reach a small ditch we continue on the right.

We leave the chestnut grove and the landscape gradually changes. We leave behind the thick forest and enter an area where on both sides of the path we will see pines and then bushes. All along the Martín Herrero and Las Viñas ropes we will find on the right unbeatable views of Las Villuercas, with the Villuercas Peak crowning such an exceptional mountain set. Further on we find on the left a spectacular image of Garciaz with the hill of Pedro Gómez behind it.

Just before reaching the paved road to Berzocana we have to turn left to take a path that loses height between wire boundaries.

This path without loss goes to the Cantera and then to the Ermita de la Concepción which houses a sgraffito with the theme of the Annunciation.

We finish the route entering Garciaz through a bridge, by the Calle de los Perales, where the Town Hall is and instantly the Plaza de España where we start this interesting mid-mountain path.

INTERPRETATIVE TABLE

(Note: Extract from the interpretative table that we can find on the path. Its purpose is to deepen in the cultural aspects that allow us to know the route).

"The nature of Garciaz"



The richness of this municipality lies in its geographical location. It is an enclave of transition between the Villuercas Mountain Range and the Trujillo Peninsula, and it has a very varied vegetation in a few square kilometres (holm oaks, oak groves, jarales, chestnut groves...). In the territory of this town the waters that go to the Guadiana River are divided from those of the Tagus River, its main watercourse being the small Garciaz River that borders the town.

Possibly the chestnut grove is the set that more calls our attention by its exuberance in the zone and shortage in all the region. It is

located mainly in the nucleus of the old property called "Roble de Juan Gil". Nowadays it is divided by his heirs, keeping the beauty of the set.

It is the habitat of a great number of species that find here food and shelter; the chestnut grove is based on the use of its wood of remarkable quality and on the collection of the chestnut. This fruit, rich in carbohydrates, has been suitable for human and animal consumption since ancient times.

The elders of Garciaz remember the effort made in their cuts, getting up to twenty beams from a single tree, and all with small hand axes.

PR-CC 234 "Sierra Brava Reservoir Zorita, Cáceres



TECHNICAL SHEET

- Type of trail: Short route
- Name: PR-CC 234 "Sierra Brava Reservoir"
- Province and Municipality: Cáceres and Zorita
- Round trip: Linear to and from
- Kilometric distance: 13.7 km
- Accumulated height difference: 220 meters (110 m up and 110 m down)
- Maximum height -> 414 meters
- Minimum height -> 329 meters
- Difficulty: Low
- Walking hours: 3 hours
- Type of terrain: Road
- Cyclability: Yes

INTRODUCTION

This path takes us into the heart of the Z.E.P.A. (Special Bird Protection Zone) Llanos de Zorita and Sierra Brava Reservoir. We will see a large number of birds, especially aquatic ones that rest in the calm waters of the reservoir.

If we come in autumn-winter, a large number of cranes pass through this welcoming spot in search of the abundant acorn of the holm oaks here.

The majority of the route is along the Madrigalejo Range, an old livestock route used for transhumance purposes, with considerable historical value.

On both sides of the cord we find beautiful examples of holm oak that form a splendid pasture well used by man.

On the banks of the Sierra Brava reservoir we will find strategically located several bird observatories, from where we can admire the birds in their natural environment with total discretion.

To access the interior of the bird observatories you must request the keys from the Zorita Town Hall.

Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 15:00: +34 927340002

Weekends: +34 678616473

DESCRIPTIVE TOUR

We start the route in the Madrigalejo range, next to the EX355 Zorita-Madrigalejo road, between km.25 and km.24. Once on the road, we will always continue southeast until we reach the Sierra Brava Reservoir.



A few metres from the start there is a crossroads, ignoring the directions on our left.

Little by little we enter a pasture of oaks, well used for agricultural purposes. To our left we find the Sierra de la Peña, the Sierra de Guadalupe and the rest of the Villuercas.

We see on the right the entrance of a property

where it says "Casa Torres"; we follow the main path (the one on the left according to the direction we are going).

Our path continues passing by a Canadian one, finding a crossing where we take the path on the right. We immediately begin to have the first views of the blue and shining waters of Sierra Brava.

A Canadian one next to two signs allows us to enter the protected area of the reservoir.

Carefully so as not to scare off the birds if there are any, we visit the bird observatories strategically located at the points of greatest traffic (one on our right and two on our left).

We will return to the same place we left, after having enjoyed an interesting ornithological day.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The main destination for wintering birds in the interior of the peninsula, the Sierra Brava reservoir is located entirely in the municipality of Zorita.

This Natural Protected Area was granted the status of "Special Protection Areas for Birds" in 2003. Natura 2000 Network".

The Reservoir is also included under the figure of "Important Bird Areas" (IBA) number 284, "Sierra de Pela and Orellana-Zorita Reservoir".

On the way to becoming a world ornithological reference, the spectacular numbers of visiting birds have placed it as the third destination for birds at a national level; comparable to areas with a great ornithological tradition such as Doñana or the Ebro Delta.

Its wealth is sustained by the biodiversity provided by its two predominant environments, the pseudosteppe and the wetland area.

The dam was finished in 1996 and meant the creation of a space of 1650 ha. The waters that fill this area come from the Pizarroso stream, which later pours its waters into the Ruecas river, a tributary of the Guadiana.

The construction of the reservoir meant the disappearance of an important steppe area, but at the same time it achieved a significant increase in the biodiversity of the area, by attracting a multitude of aquatic species to this wetland.

To protect themselves, the birds use the different bends and the tail areas of the reservoir, especially during wintering. The gentle banks of Sierra Brava have hardly any aquatic vegetation, except for the scant protection provided by the branches of the old sunken holm oaks.

In Sierra Brava any season is good for observation, but the most active time is winter, when the wetland receives a varied cast of migratory birds (up to 150,000 specimens censused by the SEO Bird/Life)



The conservation status of the steppe environment is due to the extensive cattle raising and the abandonment of crops, favouring the species that inhabit this environment such as the Little Bustard or the Great Bustard. Passerine species are also abundant in this area, as are the Cranes.

Some of the birds that we will see most easily within this SPA will be the Mallard, Teal, Spoonbill, Great Crested Grebe, Stonechat, Fritillary Duck, Pochard, Black-headed Goose or the Coot.

PR-CC 229 "Mirador de la Serrezuela" Herguijuela, Cáceres



TECHNICAL SHEET

-Type of trail: Short route

-Name: PR-CC 229 "Mirador de la Serrezuela"

-Province and municipality: Cáceres and Herguijuela

-Round trip: Linear to and from

-Kilometer distance: 11 km

-Accumulated difference in level: 520 meters (260 up - 260 down)

Maximum height -> 791 meters

Minimum height -> 463 meters

-Difficulty: Low

-Walking hours: 3 hours

-Type of terrain: Cemented road, path and track.

-Cycling: No, the beginning would be somewhat uncomfortable as there is too much of a slope for the bike, and in the final stretch we would be forced to get off the bike.

INTRODUCTION

The town of Herguijuela is of great scenic interest as it is surrounded by mountains.

On our journey we will enter the Sierra de los Lagares, a land with a strong attachment to oil and wine as we will see in the various buildings that we will find, known as Lagares.

Along the way we will witness the important concentration of high quality rural houses, fundamental infrastructures to satisfy the needs of the tourist.

The path arrives at the unknown "Mirador de la Serrezuela", from where we will appreciate a magnificent view of the natural environment that surrounds the small and well situated town of Herguijuela.

If we walk the path during the flowering season, we will find the colourful almond tree flowers or the fleshy fruits of the strawberry tree in the highest parts of the mountain range.

DESCRIPTIVE TOUR

The trail starts in Herguijuela (Road EX-208 Trujillo-Logrosán), next to the Rural House "La Moranta". We leave by the cemented path that goes up to the Sierra de los Lagares between small olive tree plots.

Going up a steep slope we reach a sign with "CR Lagar la Florentina", here we turn left. If we look back, we can see the first views of the wonderful surroundings of Herguijuela.

We continue our way, finding the Rural House "La Florentina", the house "Los Almendros", an old wine press with old vats of wine, and the back of the "Bodegas Granadas Coronadas" that cultivates here the appreciated grape with which it makes its famous wines.

When we reach a large isolated pine tree, we turn left and arrive at the well-kept Finca El Azahar. We pass by the reception and after passing the car park we will be ready to make a sharp left turn.

Once we have entered the new path, we will look to our left, finding the vineyards and almond trees that are grown at Finca El Azahar.

Between cork oak groves we continue to gain height through a narrow alley. We continue climbing, seeing an interesting picture of the Pago de San Clemente and the noble village of Trujillo.



We pass two ruined wine presses, and when we find the third one (located in a separation of paths), we can lean out to the left to appreciate the magnificent views that this interesting place offers us. From here we can see the municipality of Madroñera, the "Bodegas Granadas Coronadas", the Sierra de Pedro Gómez, the Sierra de Garciaz, the Sierra de Matavacas and the Zoriteña "Sierra de la Peña".

We return to the previous point, taking now the wide street on the right that will take us to the desired viewpoint. After a short descent the path ascends unstopable reaching a sinkhole, this indicates that we are already close to the destination. We continue the ascent until we reach the end of the route next to a fence that delimits a cattle ranch. From the surroundings of this point, the views are superb; in our field of vision, there is a beautiful natural environment made up of thousands of holm oaks. The Sierra de Santa Cruz is remarkable for its sharp silhouette, which breaks up the whole area, giving the place a special charm.

After having enjoyed the landscape, we return to the starting point along the same route as the outward journey.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(Note: Its purpose is to deepen the cultural aspects that allow us to know the route).

"Los Lagares"

The press is defined as the container where the grapes are pressed to obtain the must, and by extension the building where the press is kept.



These buildings are typical constructions of Extremadura, La Mancha and Asturias (called Llagares there and destined to the crushing of cider apple and espichas).

In Extremadura they were dedicated to the production of wine and later of oil, two essential products rooted in the Mediterranean culture from the antiquity.

The presses had different parts or rooms common to all of them:

-El Majuelo. It was the land near the winepress dedicated to the cultivation of vines.

When the grapes from the vines were in optimum condition, the harvest festival (grape collection)

was held.

-The oil mill. It was the place where the fruits were squeezed or crushed. This is where the must was collected (the first stage of winemaking) and then stored in the cellar. Normally they had an entrance to unload the grapes brought directly from the haystack.

-The Winery. It is the room dedicated to the storage and maturation of the precious liquid extracted from the fruits. Traditionally it was made in terracotta jars.

-Dependencies of the Lagarero. The Lagarero was the person in charge of carrying out the whole process of making wine and oil. He usually lived in the press with his family and dedicated himself, apart from the production, to the care of the estates and rooms related to the press. In the Sierra de los Lagares where we are now, there were up to seven presses at full capacity. The abundant number of these constructions is due to the optimal climatic conditions for cultivation in this small mountain range.

In the 19th century, around 1868, the vineyards of Europe were destroyed by a terrible plague called Xilofera. The cause of this terrible disease is an aphid (*Phylloxera vastatrix* Planchon) that lives on the roots, from which it absorbs the sap through bites until the vine dies.

This plague has destroyed very old vineyards, generating a change in the use of the wine presses in the area. From this moment on, they will be dedicated to the production of oil, adapting their infrastructure and land to the production of the so-called "liquid gold".

Today in ruins or dedicated to tourist purposes or second homes, the presses are a historical legacy that has been evident here forever.

To speak of the Sierra de Los Lagares is to speak of good wine, and this is the best legacy that our ancestors have been able to leave us.

PR-CC 241 "Camino del Roble" Conquista de la Sierra, Cáceres



TECHNICAL SHEET

-Type of trail: Short route

-Name: PR-CC 241 "Camino del Roble"

-Province and Municipality: Cáceres and Conquista de la Sierra

-Course: Circular

-Kilometric distance: 13.7 km

-Accumulated difference in level: 960 meters (480 up and 480 down)

Maximum height -> 753 meters

Minimum height -> 442 meters

-Difficulty: Medium

-Walking hours: 4 hours

-Type of terrain: Road, path, bridle path

-Cycleability: Yes, although it has some technical section for the two wheels after passing the Casa de Cerro Mesao, on the bridle path.

INTRODUCTION

The trail is a beautiful mid-mountain route that takes us into the thickness of the unknown and beautiful Sierra de Matavacas.

The work done in the recovery and fitting out of the ancestral paths of this trail is remarkable. Such was the previous state of abandonment that some of the rehabilitated paths did not appear on the usual topographical maps.

Along the itinerary we will enjoy bridle paths, wonderful mountain landscapes and views of extensive meadows in the surrounding plains.

A section of the path is made by the cattle track of the Miajadas Cattle Range; the beauty of this part of the itinerary stands out because we are in the oak tree domain.

Also noteworthy is the strong attachment of this welcoming municipality to the Extremaduran conqueror Francisco Pizarro; here we find the ruins of what was one of his most unique palaces.

DESCRIPTIVE TOUR



We start from the Plaza del Llanillo, where we find a quadrangular well in the middle. We left the town heading southwards along Merdero Street, soon arriving at the cemetery and later at a recreational area. At this point, we make a sharp turn to the left towards the Sierra de Matavacas, passing in front of a pond.

Between stone streets and holm oaks we pass a gate and then another, from which we see the house of Cerro Mesao where we are going. All the fences we pass during the tour we will leave them as we find them.

We follow the path that leads us to the vicinity of the house, leaving a Canadian step to the right. Further on we pass a windmill near the house, leaving it on our left.

If we look back from here we will enjoy a complete panoramic view of the Sierra de Santa Cruz, Sierra de Montánchez and the extensive pastures of the region.

We continue in ascending sense by a way that goes stuck to the limit of the property happening two fences. After passing the second fence we will reach another gate and make a sharp turn to the right, taking a descending path that turns to the left. We will soon leave it, taking to our left the beginning of the bridle path that among the dense forest leads us to the Cañada de Ganados de Miajadas, in the highest part of the mountain range.

This stretch is especially beautiful, as we gain height comfortably by winding up the slope of the Sierra de Matavacas. The bridle path leads to a firebreak, where we turn left and leave it instantly through a fence on the right, leading to a new path.

After a small descent, we turn left and take the cattle track of the Cañada de Ganados de Miajadas. Heading north, we will go along it for almost 3 kilometers, crossing two Canadans and finding a beautiful and lonely pond.

As we leave the cattle track we make a sharp left turn and find a small pond and a well with piles. We take the path on the right towards the Collado de Boca de Valle through an interesting path that goes halfway up the slope, losing height comfortably. After passing a fence we continue losing height, walking near a stream. This path goes to the "Cortijo de Jerrysanchez". We leave the farmhouse on our right and continue our journey with the first views of Conquista de la Sierra, which is getting closer and closer. In the place of Las Hoyuelas, we leave the path that we bring and take a path that comes out to our right. This path takes us back into the town through the ruins of the Pizarro Palace, reaching the starting point after this interesting mid-mountain path.

INTERPRETATIVE TABLE

(Note: Extract from the interpretative table that we can find on the path. Its purpose is to deepen in the cultural aspects that allow us to know the route).

"The Pizarro Palace"

It presumably began in 1533, coinciding with the payment of the ransom of the Inca Atahualpa in the Americas. It was built with the purpose of being one of the residences of the illustrious conqueror from Extremadura and the Inca princess Inés Yupanqui Huilas. Finally this fact did not take place, and it would be Hernando and Francisca Pizarro Yupanqui who would dwell in it while they built in Trujillo the other great palace, the magnificent Palace of the Marquis of the Conquest in the Plateresque style.



The building has the characteristics of a fortress. Of rectangular structure and three heights, it is formed by thick walls of granite stone joined with mortar, lime and other cements. On the facades, doors and windows there are lowered arches that are decorated with red granite ashlars. The coat of arms of the Pizarro family is preserved, and the basement with a barrel vault can be distinguished. In the past there was a drawbridge that connected the palace with the defensive tower of the homage.

The tower has a square base, a spiral staircase and a vault in a half sphere decorated inside. It has nine battlements or pinnacles crowned with four corbels. Today one of the side walls has collapsed, exposing the interior.

Unfortunately the whole monument is in ruins, finding except for the roof its structure almost intact.

PR-CC 239 "Cañada Real Leonesa"

Santa Cruz de la Sierra - Abertura, Cáceres



TECHNICAL SHEET

-Date of Approval FEDME: 12-XII-09

-Type of trail: Short route

-Name: PR-CC 239 "Cañada Real Leonesa"

-Province and municipality: Cáceres and Santa Cruz de la Sierra - Abertura

-Route: Linear one way

-Kilometric distance: 14.4 km

-Accumulated difference in level: 125 meters (37 meters up and 88 meters down)

Maximum height -> 457 meters

Minimum height -> 390 meters

-Difficulty: Low

-Walking hours: 2:40

-Type of land: Path, road and local road.

-Cycleability: Yes

INTRODUCTION

This path links two important towns in the Miajadas-Trujillo region, Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Abertura.

Most of the itinerary runs through the ancestral Cañada Real Leonesa, fortunately recovered and preserved.

Along the whole itinerary we enjoy the beautiful picture that offers us the Sierra de Santa Cruz, which stands with supreme elegance on the plain.

On both sides of the road we will find extensive livestock farms where it will be easy to identify a good number of birds.

In the surroundings of Abertura we will pass by an old watering hole of the Cañada Real Leonesa, rightly habilitated as a recreational area.

DESCRIPTIVE TOUR

The meaning we propose is intended to be realized without return. It starts at the Plaza de España in the historical town of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, birthplace of the conquistador Ñuflo de Chaves, founder of Bolivia.

We are located next to the portals of the Church of Vera Cruz, next to the well-known Casa del Conde. Heading north, we left the town along Costanilla Street. Soon we arrive at the regional road of Herguijuela, where we will travel most of the way on sidewalks for about 500 meters; until we leave by a path that comes out to our right. Before that, we will pass in front of a stone cross, the municipal swimming pool and a pottery on "El Real de las Eras".



On the way, we change direction to the east, soon entering a narrow path that will take us back to the Herguijuela road. Once there, we turn right and in about 100 metres we come out onto a wide path that appears to us on the right.

Soon we cross a gate that splits the road. After crossing it, we will leave it as we found it. After 100 metres we turn left, and after passing over a small bridge and through a gate, we reach the wide Cañada Real Leonesa.

We turn right, putting what is left of the road to the south until we reach Abertura. During this cattle route we enjoy the different panoramic views that the Sierra de Santa Cruz offers us, and we cross extensive cattle plots where the cattle graze in a relaxed way.



After about 9 kilometres we reach a crossroads leaving the dirt track. We continue straight on a paved road, passing a watering hole rehabilitated as a recreational area. Later, on our left, we see the Cruz del Pilar (located on a field), and the panel that marks the beginning of the town of Abertura.

After passing under a bridge and between stone boundaries we enter the town of Abertura through General Mola Street. This will leave us in the Plaza de España, thus ending this peaceful itinerary.

*** ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ***

(Note: Its purpose is to deepen the cultural aspects that allow us to know the route).

"Transhumance and the cattle routes"

Transhumance is the seasonal movement of livestock following established regular routes (cattle routes). This practice allows the optimal use of different complementary seasonal subsystems, exploiting to the maximum the pastures that grow naturally throughout the year in different points of our geography.

Ever since man became a transhumant shepherd in ancient times, the need to move livestock from summer to winter pastures led to the development of routes that, taking advantage of the most practicable passages (mountain passes, river fords, etc.), weaved a complex network of communications in the Iberian Peninsula century after century.

Therefore, the cattle routes that we can travel today are a cultural, natural and historical



heritage of incalculable value.

It is estimated that in the peninsula the extension of these ancient communication routes is around 100,000 kilometers, finding 7,000 kilometers in Extremadura territory.

Throughout this extensive network a large number of infrastructures were created such as watering holes, rest areas and sheepfolds.

Within the term livestock track we have to make a classification based on the width of the road, calling:

- Gullies, to those roads whose width does not exceed 75 meters.
- Ropes, when their width does not exceed 37.5 metres.
- Trails, to those whose width does not exceed 20 metres.

The track we will use in part of our itinerary will be the Cañada Real Leonesa Oriental. With a total of 700 kilometres, it starts near Riaño, crosses León, Palencia, and goes through the provinces of Segovia, Ávila, Toledo, Cáceres and Badajoz.

PR-CC 238 "Between Puentes, Llanos and Berrocales" Trujillo, Cáceres



TECHNICAL SHEET

- Date of approval FEDME: 16-V-09
- Type of trail: Short route
- Name: PR-CC 238 "Between Bridges, Plains and Watercourses"
- Province and Municipality: Cáceres and Trujillo
- Course: Circular
- Kilometer distance: 12.7 km
- Accumulated height difference: 240 meters (120 m up and 120 m down)
- Maximum height -> 535 meters
- Minimum height -> 425 meters
- Difficulty: Low
- Walking hours: 2:45
- Type of land: Path, road, highway and track.
- Cycleability: Yes

INTRODUCTION

The monumental city of Trujillo is a guarantee of satisfaction for the visitor. This route offers us in several points of the tour a view of the historical-artistic set of the walled city that from inside cannot be appreciated.

Walking through the Trujillo's berrocal is very interesting; among big and eroded granite domes of capricious forms.

The path uses two bridges to cross the Magasca River, which stands out for the beauty of its protected banks. Of special interest is the Roman bridge from the 2nd century, located in the Cañada del Puerto de Miravete, a cattle track that we will walk on for a third of the way.

Another third approximately we will realize it by the interesting cattle route of the Colada de los Berrocales.

In the ravine of Puerto de Miravete we will find the abandoned Ermita de Santa Ana, where we can see its coat of arms and a beautiful view of Trujillo with its imposing Arab castle dominating the entire peninsula.

We will also find some old zahúrdas, in which the always appreciated Iberian pig was raised in the past.

Ornithologically our tour will show us in a relaxed way two Special Areas for the Protection of Birds; the ZEPA Llanos de Trujillo and the ZEPA Riberos del Almonte, in which the banks of the Magasca are framed.

This area is very rich in steppe species such as the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*). Other species that abound in this open space, dedicated to cereals or to pastures for the cattle, are the Bustard, the Alcaraván, the Montagu's Harrier, Gangas and Ortegas, etc.

At the end of the tour, we recommend that you go to the monumental area of Trujillo to see the abundant colony of Lesser Kestrel that lives there.

DESCRIPTIVE TOUR

The beginning of this path is located in the vicinity of the old silo of the town. We will be located in front of the nearby industrial park.

Once on the cattle track known as Colada de los Berrocales, we head south, passing a petrol station behind us. A few meters away we find a well with a large stone ridge and a structure of granite ashlar.



We continue our journey through the Berrocal, enjoying each time more as we move away from the view of the monumental set of Trujillo. The path is very interesting, as it goes through large granite pebbles that offer a pleasant peri-planar landscape.

We follow the path and we find some ruins and next to them some old zahúrdas among the

vegetation. After the construction, the path widens and crosses the Arroyo de los Negros.

Once we leave the laundry, we continue south until we reach the vicinity of the Magasca River, where we head east towards the two bridges we see.

The landscape of berrocal disappears progressively, giving place to the extensive peneplain dominated by the grass, habitat of a great variety of pseudosteppe species.

We arrive at the "Venta del Magasca". At this point we have to carefully cross the N-V road, to pass in front of the "Venta de Magasca Restaurant" and walk over the old bridge that crosses the river.



After passing the crest of the bridge we make a sharp turn to the left, walking westwards, always parallel to the riverbed.

We cross a small stream through some walkways and then with the first views of the magnificent Roman bridge we arrive at the "Cañada del Puerto de Miravete".

We pass over the second century bridge, where it is advisable to stop and enjoy this cosy natural environment. It will not be difficult for us to observe

the Royal Kite or the Montagu's Harrier flying over the banks of the Magasca.

We continue northwards along the wide ravine, passing a small cobbled section and again passing through a pleasant landscape of bermuda.

We then pass under the bridge of the A5 motorway and arrive at the abandoned Ermita de Santa Ana, from where the views of the walled city of Trujillo stand out.

We continue our itinerary entering the town again through the Industrial Park, arriving at the starting point and ending this complete and varied circular route through the extensive lands of Trujillo.

INTERPRETATIVE TABLE



(Note: Extract from the interpretative table that we can find on the path. Its purpose is to deepen in the cultural aspects that allow us to know the route).

The peneplain is a very old and evolved relief, characterized by extensive and gentle undulations. It is located at an average altitude of 450-500 metres, and its natural limits are the Almonte River to the north, and from east

to west the Las Villuercas, Guadalupe, Montánchez and San Pedro mountain ranges.

The Berrocal trujillano appears to us as a localized stain of granites (berruecos and bolones) on

this extensive penillanura of pastures and cereals.

From the geological point of view, it is integrated within the Trujillo-Cereña penillanura, located in the Central Iberian zone of the Herciniano Zócalo. Its materials are of Precambrian origin from the Schist and Gravaca Complex, made up of outcrops of slate and gravel. Likewise, the outcrop of rocks of igneous nature (mainly granite) is produced, forming among others the batholite of Trujillo; contributing to the place a differentiated relief that breaks with the monotony of the periplanar landscape.

We understand by the term Berrocal, the area in which a great quantity of berrocco or bolones are presented. The nature of granite is that of an impermeable and hard rock, but sensitive to chemical alteration. This decomposition of the stone is produced by Hydrolysis, reacting the water with the feldspar and mica of the granite through the network of fissures that run through its thickness.

Therefore, this chaotic piling up of pebbles moulded by nature, is the result of the weathering of a granite formation through the vertical, horizontal and oblique lines of diaclases it presents, and the subsequent displacement of the altering materials. If the process of alteration and evacuation of the alterite continues (as in this case), a morphology of beryllium is formed.

Another area where we can observe this spectacular landscape apart from where we are, is in Los Barruecos (Malpartida de Cáceres, Cáceres) where scenes from the popular series "Juego de Tronos" were recorded.

SL-CC 251 "Mirador de la Peña"

Zorita, Cáceres



TECHNICAL SHEET

- Type of trail: Local Trail
- Name: SL-CC 251 "Mirador de la Peña"
- Province and Municipality: Cáceres and Zorita
- Round trip: Linear to and from
- Kilometer distance: 8.5 km
- Accumulated height difference: 530 meters (265 m up and 265 m down)
- Maximum height -> 738 meters
- Minimum height -> 440 meters
- Difficulty: Low
- Walking hours: 2:30
- Type of terrain: Road
- Cyclability: Yes, although the last few ramps may be too hard for the two wheels.

INTRODUCTION

The municipality of Zorita is considered a Z.E.P.A. zone, Llanos de Zorita and Sierra Brava Reservoir, so bird watching is more than guaranteed. Its topography is not exclusively flat, as can be seen in this path that goes into the Sierra de la Peña, the foothills of the Montes de Toledo and adjacent to the villuerque Sierra de Guadalupe.

The main attraction of the route is the excellent views that we will have from the "Mirador de la Peña", with Zorita as its central point located on the plain.

It is very common to see the griffon vulture roaming this high spot.

We should also add that the proposed route begins and ends next to an old grain silo, used in the past to store grain.

DESCRIPTIVE TOUR

The route starts next to the EX-102 road. We set a course for the Silo, bordering it on the right.



We turn to the right and see on our left the local football field and later the tiny Laguna de la Sangre with the Sierra de Santa Cruz in the background. From this point we can already see our objective and the path that leads to it, always taking the rocky Peña del Castillo as a reference.

In the plots adjacent to the path we may well find cattle and sheep, which feed on the grass growing on the plains.

We continue until we reach a fork in the road, taking the path on the left and gradually ascending the slope of the mountain range where there are olive trees.

Soon we arrive at the Peña del Castillo, a rocky outcrop that stands out in the landscape of olive trees.

We continue to ascend along our livestock route, with increasingly better views of the Sierra Brava reservoir in the distance. On a small landing we find the "Mirador de la Peña", from where we have excellent views of the town of Zorita and its surroundings.

After enjoying the views, we start the return trip from the same place we left, enjoying the magnificent scenery on the way back.

INTERPRETATIVE TABLE

(Note: Extract from the interpretative table that we can find on the path. Its purpose is to deepen in the cultural aspects that allow us to know the route).

"The Sierra de la Peña and the Central Sierras Extremeñas"

The Sierra de la Peña is part of the so-called central Extremaduran mountain ranges. Extending towards the west of the Montes de Toledo, the common characteristic of this whole group of mountains is their eroded reliefs; medium and low altitude elevations that follow each other from east to west.

These mountains begin in the east of Extremadura, in the nearby Villuercas-Ibores, where the highest elevation of the group stands out, Villuercas-I Peak (1595 m). Later, a division takes place, losing part of it towards the Serranías de Monfragüe, Sierras de Arco and Sierra de la Garrapata. The other part continues through Sierra de Guadalupe, Sierra de la Peña (799 m), Sierra de Pedro Gómez (1002 m), and Sierra de Santa Cruz. Then the whole of Sierra de Montánchez rises, and finally at its western end Sierra de San Pedro, thus closing this natural set.

In terms of its geomorphology, the whole complex is of primary origin, which emerged at the end of the Paleozoic Era during the so-called Hercinian Orogeny. These accumulated materials emerged and were destroyed during the Mesozoic period, forming the penillanura. Later, in the Alpine Orogeny of

the Tertiary Age, this group will be rejuvenated by new tectonic movements.

Z.E.P.A "Llanos de Zorita and Sierra Brava Reservoir" area

This Natural Protected Area obtained in 2003 the figure of "Special Protection Areas for Birds. Natura 2000 Network".

The Reservoir is also included under the figure

of "Important Bird Areas" (IBA) number 284, "Sierra de Pela and Orellana-Zorita Reservoir".

Its richness is sustained by the biodiversity provided by its two predominant environments, the pseudosteppe and the wetland area.

By way of protection the birds use the different bends and tail areas of the reservoir, especially during wintering. The gentle banks of the Sierra Brava have hardly any aquatic vegetation, except for that provided by the branches of the old sunken holm oaks.

In Sierra Brava, any season is good for observation, but the most active time is wintering, when the wetland receives a varied cast of migratory birds (up to 150,000 specimens censused by the SEO Bird/Life).

The steppe is home to species such as the Little Bustard or the Great Bustard. The number of Cranes that can be found in this area during the winter is very high (up to 29,000 individuals).

Some of the birds that we will see most easily within this SPA will be the Mallard, Teal, Spoonbill, Great Crested Grebe, Stonechat, Frieze Duck, Pochard and the Coot.



SL-CC 249 "Lagares y Serranías de Madroñera"

Madroñera, Cáceres



TECHNICAL SHEET

-Date of approval FEDME: 8-VI-10

-Type of trail: Local Trail

-Name: SL-CC 249 "Lagares y Serranías de Madroñera"

-Province and municipality: Cáceres and Madroñera

-Course: Circular

-Kilometer distance: 9.7 km

-Accumulated height difference: 484 meters (242 up - 242 down)

Maximum height -> 824 meters

Minimum height -> 576 meters

-Difficulty: Low

-Walking hours: 2:30

-Type of land: Path, country road, road.

-Cycleability: Yes, although for the two wheels it has some technical section during the first part of the tour.

INTRODUCTION

This path takes us into the fields of the town of Madroñera where we will find a good example of Mediterranean forest.

It starts from the Plaza del Rollo, in the centre of which stands the 16th century pillory or "mona del rollo" as it is popularly known. We will also find the "Casa Palacio de los Santa Cruz" which stands out for its Renaissance facade and a noble coat of arms.

The route, once it gains height among olive groves, offers us views of high landscape value of the town of Madroñera and the extensive domains of Trujillo.

From the spot known as Dehesa del Agujal we will enjoy an interesting view of the Sierra de las Villuercas and the Sierra de Gredos which rises in the distance.

DESCRIPTIVE TOUR

We start the route in the Plaza del Rollo, under the pottery that tells us the name of this historic square. We take the San Gregorio Street that goes down with a view to the Soterraña Chapel, arriving soon at the bridge over the Hornillo Stream thus leaving the urban area.

From the bridge we start a continuous ascent among olive trees and vines. In the Valdecardos Hill we will find several country houses and we will enjoy distant views of Madroñera and Trujillo.

We go out to the local road that goes to Aldeacentenera, at the beginning we will avoid it by a path that goes parallel to it, and then we will walk over it 400 meters to leave it by a path that goes to the right, passing over a Canadian one.

The itinerary now runs along a good path in a flat area dedicated to pastures. In this place we will find excellent views of the Sierra de las Villuercas and the distant Gredense peaks. We pass first a Canadian one and then another one, making a sharp turn to the right changing to the south.

We reach a gate, open it to pass and leave it closed to prevent the cattle from escaping.



From here the path always runs through a beautiful Mediterranean forest where it is interspersed with oaks and bushes. On our way we find a pond and later we cross another fence again.

We continue straight ahead, arriving at a crossroads where we will continue straight ahead, passing over a Canadian

one. Here the forest thickens, enjoying an entertaining path.

We continue the route arriving to an old and long barrack. In this lonely place we can appreciate a

beautiful view of the Cerro de Pedro Gómez (1002 meters) and its populated oak hillsides. This didactic view shows us how the vegetation is distributed in floors according to the height, finding in the lowest part oaks and bushes and in the highest part the dense oak grove.

Only 200 meters away we find the last fence we have to cross. After leaving it closed, we make a sharp turn to the right changing the course to the northwest.

Progressively we lose height between olive groves and vineyards, contemplating again the views of Madroñera where we are going.

Once there, we enter the town along Alfonso X el Sabio Street, arriving once again at the beautiful and unique Plaza del Rollo.

INTERPRETATIVE TABLE

"The Sierra de Pedro Gómez and the Sierras Centrales Extremeñas"

The Sierra de Pedro Gómez is located in the transition area between the Trujillo peninsula and the continuation of the central Extremaduran mountains. Extending towards the west of the Montes de Toledo, the common feature of this whole group of sierras is their eroded reliefs; medium and low altitude elevations that follow each other from east to west.

These mountains begin in the east of Extremadura, in the nearby Villuercas-Ibores, where the highest elevation of the group stands out, Villuercas-I Peak (1595 m). Later, a division takes place, losing part of it towards the Serranías de Monfragüe, Sierras de Arco and Sierra de la Garrapata. The other part continues through Sierra de Guadalupe, Sierra de la Peña, Sierra de Pedro Gómez (1002 m), and Sierra de Santa Cruz. Then the whole of the Sierra de Montánchez rises, and finally at its western end the Sierra de San Pedro, thus closing this natural complex.

In terms of its geomorphology, the whole complex is of primary origin, which emerged at the end of the Paleozoic Era during the so-called Hercinian Orogeny. These accumulated materials emerged and were destroyed during the Mesozoic period, forming the penillanura. Later, in the Alpine Orogeny of the Tertiary Age, this group will be rejuvenated by new tectonic movements.

Naturally, these central mountain ranges established the division of waters of the Tajo and Guadiana river basins; the two main watercourses that cross Extremadura from east to west.

The fauna is of the Mediterranean type. Among the mammals, deer, wild boars, partridges, hares, rabbits, foxes, jins, badgers...

Ornithologically it is a very rich space, as the environment is in an excellent state of natural conservation. The crane feeds in these places from the abundant acorns that the pasture offers. We can also find various birds of prey flying over this space in search of food. Species such as the black vulture, griffon vulture, golden eagle, imperial eagle, kite, kestrel, etc.

As for its vegetation, the Sierra de Pedro Gómez and its surroundings are extraordinarily rich, being in a transition zone between the peneplain ecosystem and the high mountain environment.

At its highest elevation, the Cerro de Pedro Gomez (1002 m) we especially differentiate the plant series according to the orientation and altitude values.

On the southern slope and flat areas, which are hotter and have less water, the extensive holm oak woodlands predominate. As we gain altitude the slope is lush with cistáceas (rockroses of various kinds) and different species of scrubland (chaparros, heathers, brooms...).

On the northern slope, with a higher humidity gradient and more benign temperatures; in the upper and middle parts, we find extensive and leafy groups of oak melojo (melojares) and madroños (strawberry trees). Once we return to the flatter areas the environment is transformed again, dominating again the space of holm oaks.

Route 'La Presa del Marqués Conquest of the Sierra, Cáceres



TECHNICAL SHEET

- Total distance: 3 km (round trip)
- Type of walking: Linear
- Duration: 45 min (without stops)
- Level: Negligible
- Difficulty: None
- Recommended season: Spring, Autumn, Winter
- Medium of Locomotion: Hiking
- Drinking water: Supply in population
- Observations: Special interest days after rains.
- How to get there: from Trujillo: Access through the Ex208 to Conquista de la Sierra

*****DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE*****

We start the route in the Church of San Lorenzo, then we go to the square, where we see the Town Hall and we set out for the Pizarro Palace, where we will enter the estate to see the ruins and the Pizarro tower, in a good state of conservation.

Then we leave and head for the Casa de la Marquesa, which is currently inhabited.

We continue along the road to Garciaz for 500 metres, observing the generous landscape, until we reach the beginning of the slope, where we turn right to enter the finca de las pilas. We have to open a gate which we will leave closed.

Once inside we follow the path until we reach the stream, where we can see the piles, forming small waterfalls. If we are lucky and it has rained before, the watercourse is generous.

We can see the mill, which we will enter later, now we continue to climb and see the Marqués dam in the background, here there is a beautiful waterfall.

We pass over the dam to go to the Mill, and climb the wall to see the two large stones for grinding the grain that are preserved inside.

Once visited, we will return by the same place of the going.

*****NATURAL HERITAGE*****

Conquista de la Sierra is located in a privileged enclave, since it borders the Sierra de Garciaz to the northeast of the municipality.

The vegetation is made up of beautiful extensions of oaks and it is a zone where the hunting grounds abound.

*****ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE*****

-Church of St Lawrence:

It is a work of the 16th century, made of ashlar and ashlar reinforcements, it has had important reforms. It is a building with a central nave covered with a barrel vault with lunettes and another smaller nave to the left of the temple.

-Palace of the Pizarro family:

Built in 1533, it was destined to be the residence of the conqueror and of the Inca princess Ines Yupanqui Huilas, but it would be Hernando and Francisca Pizarro Yupanqui who would live in it while they were building the other palace in Trujillo, the Palace of the Conquest.



The palace has the characteristics of a fortress, with a rectangular structure, granite stone walls joined with mortar, lime and other cements form masonry walls that in facades doors and windows with lowered arches, are decorated with red granite ashlar, the Pizarro coat of arms is preserved, a three-storey building, with a barrel vault basement; through a drawbridge it communicated with the keep. It is currently in ruins and its structure is almost intact with the exception of the roof which has collapsed.

-Tower of the Pizarro family:

The tower that dominates the Palace has a square base, a spiral staircase, a vault in a half sphere decorated inside. It has nine battlements or pinnacles crowned by four corbels.

-House of the Marquise or Marquises of Orellana:

A stately house owned by the descendants of the Pizarro family.

WALKS AROUND LA SIERRA DE LOS LAGARES

Not only does the Sierra de los Lagares provide an excellent rural tourism base to explore Extremadura, but the hills themselves offer attractive walks, taking one through a variety of habitats and affording some superb views across the province of Cáceres and beyond. The three walks in this guide are all relatively easy, between four to seven kilometres in length, along small country 'artes and grassy tracks.

Walk A: Circuit of the Los Lagares

(Length 6 km, duration between two to three hours)



Apart from short steep ascent and descent between Loma La Negra and Cerro Gurugu, this is a generally easy walk, following the contour around the northern spur of the Sierra de los Lagares.

The best direction to take clockwise, walking west from La Higuera bar for about half a kilometre with the village to one's right, until one reaches a junction.

Take the left turn, following the dirt road past an old olive oil mill, before taking the right hand fork beside the entrance to the Lagar La Merced.

One climbs with olive groves on each side of the track until reaching the pass (just after the entrance to Las Mimosas).

The view eastwards to the distinctive peak of Santa Cruz and beyond is spectacular.

From here one descends, passing Buenavista on the left and taking the right turning at the junction at El Zorzal.

From here the lane heads northwards on the eastern side of the hill, through the edge of dehesa with evergreen oak.

As one swings round to the northern slope, the landscape is more open. with fine views across to Trujillo and on a clear day to the Gredos mountains



After passing the Hotel Rural Viña Las Torres, take a right turn the fork, which takes one past the church and back to the village.

Walk B; Barrio de la Redondilla

(Length: 4.5 km, duration about one hour)

This shorter walk takes one from the valley to a ridge and then back to the village.

The best direction to take is clockwise, walking west from the bar La Higuera for about half a kilometer with the village on the right, until you reach a junction.

Take the detour to the left, following the dirt road, passing an old and abandoned oil mill, before taking the fork to the right next to the entrance of Lagar La Merced.

Just before the climb to the Mimosas pass, take a left turn on the track next to the entrance to La Encina.

There is a line of pine trees just before this crossing.

You go up a grass track, with olive trees on both sides. At the top of the ridge there is an excellent view of the southern slopes of the Sierras.

The track improves along the top of the ridge as one heads east, eventually the track curves sharply to the left and drops sharply back to the village.

Walk C: The peak of Los Lagares

(Length 7km, duration between two and three hours)

This walk is on a grassy track for most of its length and climbs to the highest point in the Sierra de los Lagares (791 metres above sea-level).



From the bar La Higuera, take the village road to the main road.

Before reaching the main road, there is a detour to the right that indicates the Spirituality Center (a religious retreat).

Take this turn, passing the entrance to the retreat and continue on the track, passing the entrance to the Lagar de la Paz.

Here the track opens, you turn south, passing the entrance of the Lagar El Estudiante, and then entering the Finca El Azahar.

Guests at Finca El Azahar can walk around the property, taking a track through the almond trees, vineyards and olive groves to the cluster of pines at the top of the property. Otherwise, continue along the track, turning right at the T-junction (there is a large vineyard in front).

Pass the Las Granadas winery, following the lane, passing the entrance to La Micaela, until a wooden sign indicates the start of a grass path on the right. Go up the grass path and pass the group of pines at the top of Finca El Azahar

Those who come from the Finca will use an upright on the stone wall.

The path ascends in a southwesterly direction.

It passes by the old ruined houses on the left, with wonderful views in all directions.

The path ends in a ruin with a group of pine trees.

This is the highest point of the mountain range and one can wander through this area of olive, cistus and lavender trees. One will find evidence of wild boar rooted in the soil in this area.

Going down the same path one can admire the views to the east through the mountains behind Madroñera and Herguijuela.

Be careful when walking on the ground near the ruins, as there may be unmarked wells.