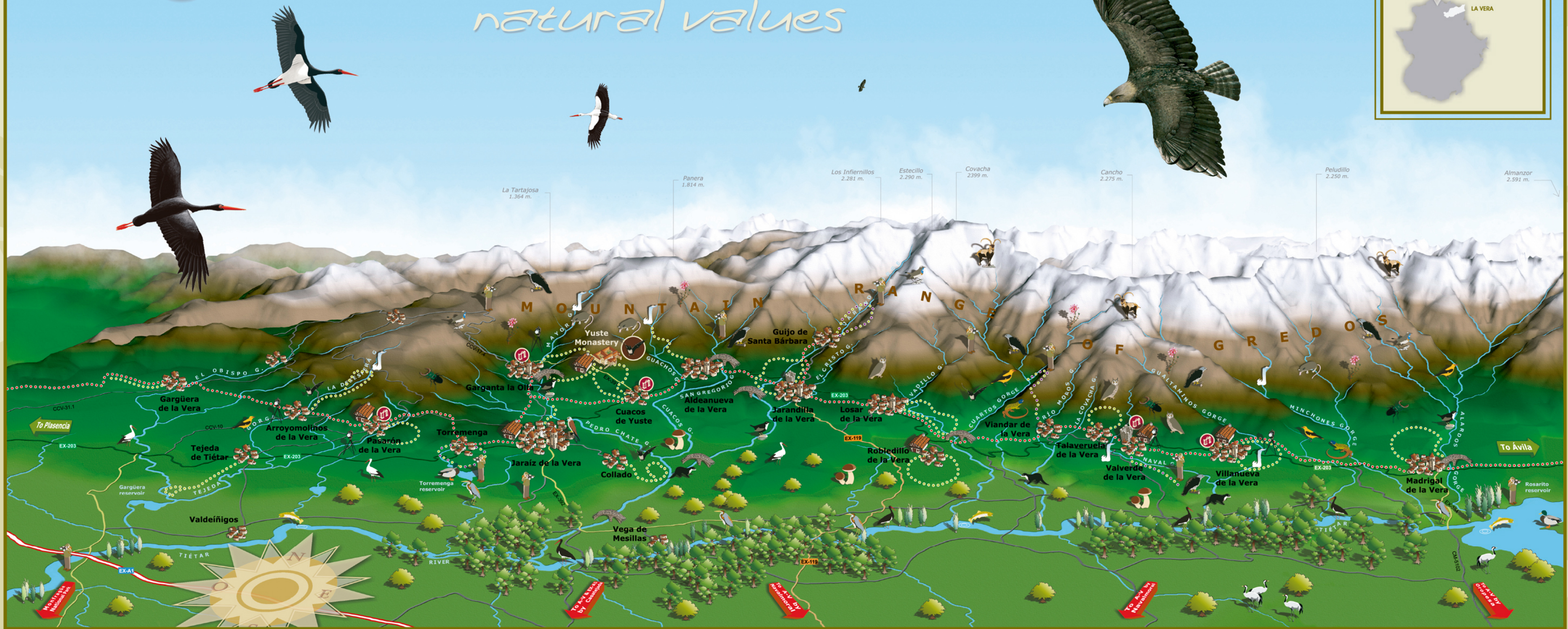


# Region of La Vera

natural values



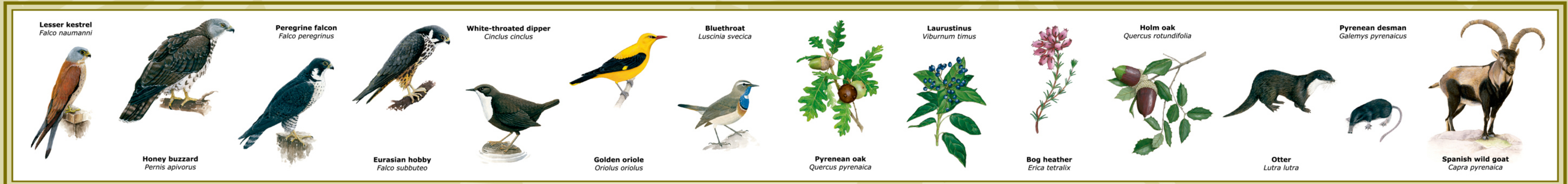
## CONVENTIONAL SIGNALS

[www.comarcadelavera.com](http://www.comarcadelavera.com)



Day bird of prey	Night bird of prey	High mountain birds	Waterbirds	White stork	Cranes	Otter	Bats colony	Schreiber's green lizard	Interest area for arthropod	Dehesas	Mycology interest area	Waterfall	Roman bridge	Landscape interest area	Town over 5000 inh.	Town between 100 and 1000 inh.	Long walking rout GR-111	Ecoeducational routs	Interregional Network	Local Regional Network
Lesser kestrel colony	Forest birds	Riparian birds	Herons	Black stork	Pyrenean desman	Bats	Spanish wild goat	Interest river fauna	Indigenous pine forest	Botanical interest area	Bird-watching interest area	Museum	Castle	Artistic and historical site	Town between 1000 and 5000 inh.	Other municipalities	Hiking routs	High-way	Basic Regional Network	Neighbourhood network

## REPRESENTATIVE SPECIES



diseño e ilustración: www.laninagrafica.com / fotomontaje portada: "Abejuncos", "Angel M. Romero y ADICOVER" / impresión: "Gráficas Romero" / traducción: "Atrix"

## NATURAL VALUES OF LA VERA

La Vera is a paradise of unique and sublime biodiversity with rich natural wealth. The level of the land varies by 2149 m up to the highest peak, affording a variety of stratum of plant life to hundreds of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and plants.

It is in an almost perfect state of conservation, thanks to its geographical isolation, caused by huge spurs. From the heights of the Golden Eagle's viewpoint the vast, beautiful and untouched landscape is really impressive. It is impossible to explain with words, La Vera causes a ton of emotions that make you lose all notion of time, reawakening childhood feelings; the capacity for amazement, the perception of the magic that surrounds the environment and an aroma of happiness, which will live on in your memory.

The southern slope of Gredos, with its excellent geographical location and a fresh and, at the same time, Mediterranean climate, places unique ecosystems with noteworthy biological values within the reach of all nature lovers or indeed anyone interested.:



Angel M. Romero

**Pinares del Río Tiétar Ecological Corridor**  
The River Tiétar is considered the third best conserved river in Spain as regards biodiversity, since it is purified by the crystalline waters of the gorges of La Vera. It is to the south, where La Vera is broken into gentle meadows of tobacco and peppers.

### Pie de Monte Verato, Mediterranean forest

This area has a height of between 270 m, where the meadows of the River Tiétar end, and 500 m, the height at which the villages lie. It is an area worth protecting due to its high level of conservation. There are **Cork oak** and **Holm oak** meadows, springs, pools, areas of scrubland, pine groves, hay fields, oak groves and hidden valleys through which the gorges flow in their middle sections, water being the most outstanding resource of this region.

### Laderas de Gredos, dense orchards

From a height of 500 m to 1000 m. Vast oak forests alternating with chestnut trees, areas of scrubland, some olive groves and cherry orchards. There is a huge variety of botanical species, some of which are foreign to these parts, such as the **holly**, **birch**, **English oak**, **rowan**, **yew**, etc. The slopes are criss-crossed by gorges of crystalline waters with gallery forests, which hide idyllic pools or natural swimming pools. Some true gems are linked to these mountain waters: the **Pyrenean Desman** **Iberian Muskrat**, **Schreiber's Green Lizard** and the **indigenous trout**.

### Cumbres de Gredos, the water's source

With winter snows and lands of **laburnum**, brooms, heathers, peat bogs and **junipers**, above which are the high mountain pastures, sharp granite rock faces and mountain passes. From 1000 m to the 2399 m of La Covacha, the highest peak in the region. This is the kingdom of the **Spanish Ixex**, **Golden Eagle**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and **Eurasian Griffon Vulture**.

## PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS OF LA VERA

### NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS IN EXTREMADURA

#### "Pinares del Río Tiétar" Ecological Corridor

The sandy plains of the left bank of the River Tiétar support some well-developed, indigenous groves of **Maritime Pine** (*Pinus pinaster*), which shelter a rich community of protected birds (**Black Stork**, **Goshawk**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Short-toed Eagle**, **Booted Eagle**, **Red Kite**, **Eurasian Honey Buzzard**, etc.) as well as some plant species which are rare in this Autonomous Community.

#### "Pino de Aldeanueva de la Vera" Exceptional Tree

This belongs to the species *Pinus pinea* L. and is within the town area. It is 25 m tall and the circumference of its trunk is 5,60 m. It is of great value due to its biometry or shape, greatly standing out amongst others of its species.

### NATURA 2000 EUROPEAN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK

#### "Río y Pinares del Tiétar" Spatial Protection Area for birds (SPA)

As well as expanses of **Maritime Pine** (*Pinus pinaster*), there are oak groves of **English Oak** (*Quercus robur*) and **Pyrenean Oak** (*Quercus pyrenaica*), **Holm Oak** (*Quercus ilex*) and **Cork Oak** (*Quercus suber*) meadows, patches of broom and heather and rock plants in the watercourses. There are mammals such as the **Pyrenean Desman** (*Galemys pyrenaicus*) and **Cabrera's Vole** (*Microtus cabrerae*), both endangered; **European Pond Turtle** (*Emys orbicularis*), **Spanish Terrapin** (*Mauremys leprosa*), **Schreiber's Green Lizard** (*Lacerta schreiberi*) and fish such as the **Iberian Nase** (*Chondrostoma toxipomus*), **Pardilla** (*Rutilus lemmingii*), **Spined Loach** (*Cobitis baioni*), **Iberian Minnow** (*Squalius alburnus*) and **Iberian Barbel** (*Barbus comiza*). Invertebrates include the **Great Carpet-beetle** (*Cerambyx cerdo*), **Southern Damselfly** (*Coenagrion mercuriale*) or the **Stag Beetle** (*Lucanus cervus*), considered the biggest beetle in Europe. Birds include **Egyptian Vultures** (*Neophron percnopterus*) and **Black Storks** (*Ciconia nigra*).

#### "Colonia de Cernícalo Primilla de Jaraíz de la Vera" SPA

Located within the town, this area shelters an important breeding colony of **Lesser Kestrel** (*Falco naumanni*). It is a vulnerable species due to the loss of its nesting habitat, due to the destruction of old buildings and roof repairs, and the destruction of habitats in which its prey live: insects and small rodents.

#### "Monasterio de Yuste" Site of Community Importance (SCI)

One of the biggest European breeding colonies of **Greater Horseshoe Bat** (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) and a large population of **Mehely's Horseshoe Bat** (*Rhinolophus mehelyi*) have been found in this 15th century monastery's stables.

#### "Río Tiétar" SCI

In this area there is an unsurpassable representation of forests of **ash trees** (*Fraxinus angustifolia*), gallery forests of **white willow** (*Salix alba*) and **white poplar** (*Populus alba*), dry heaths, oaks and a rare **four leaf clover**, the *Marsilea strigosa*.

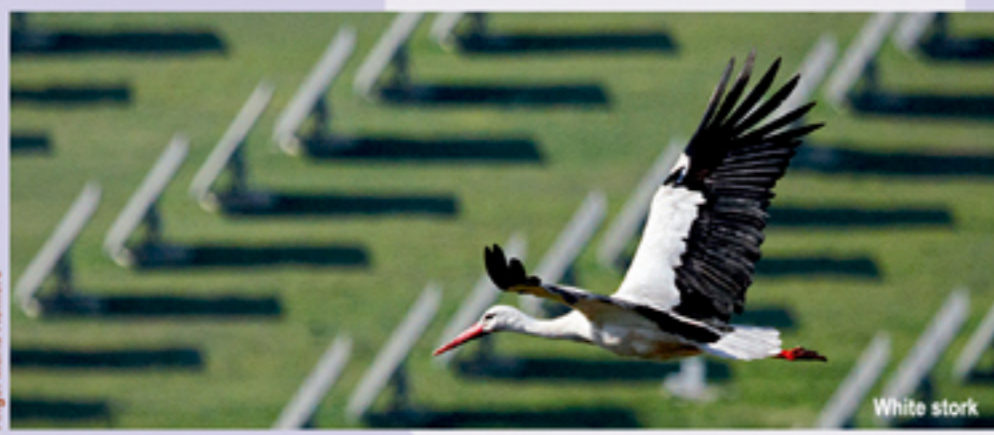
#### "Sierra de Gredos y Valle del Jerte" SCI

This is the area with the greatest diversity of habitats: a changing plant life of buttercups, heaths, mountain laburnum groves, juniper groves, grasslands, peat bogs, rocky pastures, oak groves and chestnut tree groves; with outstanding species such as the **Festuca Elegans**, **Isoetes Velata**, **spedwell** (*Veronica micrantha*) and **narcissus** (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus nobilis*). Invertebrates found here include the **Marsh Frillwing butterfly** (*Euphydryas aurinia*) or **dragonflies** such as *Gomphus grassini*, and among the mammals are the **Pyrenean Desman** (*Galemys pyrenaicus*) and **Cabrera's Vole** (*Microtus cabrerae*). There are up to five taxons of fish, as well as **Spanish Terrapins** (*Mauremys leprosa*), **Schreiber's Green Lizards** (*Lacerta schreiberi*) and **Iberian Rock Lizards** (*Lacerta monticola*).

The Regional Reserve of Caza "La Sierra" is also of note, covering 13,010 hectares. It spreads over various municipal areas in the region of La Vera and part of Tornavacas, in the Valle del Jerte. This reserve was created in order to preserve and manage, through hunting, the **Spanish Ixex** (*Capra pyrenaica*). The town of Guijo de Santa Bárbara houses the reserve's centre of interpretation.

## ROUTES OF INTEREST FOR THE LANDSCAPE, BIRDWATCHING AND ECO-EDUCATION

Nature tourism is possible in La Vera thanks to the existence of some magnificent ecosystems, from the "Pinares del Río Tiétar" Ecological Corridor, going through meadowland areas and then up towards the slopes and summits of Gredos. Natural environments coordinated by a large and interesting network of routes, classified as Short Routes (SR), Local Paths (LP), or Long Routes (LR). Due to the wide variety of routes and the diversity of the flora and fauna everyone can enjoy this region according to their expectations and abilities. The routes described below aim to capture and awaken the interest of all nature lovers. Their difficulty level is easy to moderate and most can be done all year round, except for a few which are not always suitable due to the weather.



Angel M. Romero

White stork

TOWN	NAME	DISTANCE	TIME
------	------	----------	------

Long Route (GR) over 50 km

Gargüera-Madrigal	GR-111	85,6 km	5 days
-------------------	--------	---------	--------

Short Routes (PR) between 10 and 50 km

Aldeanueva de la Vera	Chorrera de la Mora	5 km	2 h (one way)
Garganta la Olla	Antiguo Camino de Yuste	12 km	4 h
Guijo de Sta. Bárbara	Refugio de la Nieves-Camino de Castilla	11,8 km	4 h 30'
Madrigal de la Vera	Romartín	11 km	3 h
Robledillo de la Vera	Las Fuentes	12 km	3 h 30'
Tejeda de Tiétar	Chorrera de Matagarcía	9 km	2 h 40'
Viandar de la Vera	Cuaternos	7,3 km	2 h 30 (one way)
Tornavacas-Jarandilla de la Vera	Carlos V	24 km	9 h

Local Paths (SL) less than 10 km

Arroyomolinos de la Vera	Desesperá	9,7 km	2h 45'
Collado de la Vera	Las dos Juntas	7 km	2 h 30'
Cuacos de Yuste	Yuste	6 km	2 h 30'
Gargüera	Colada de los Majadales	5 km	1 h 30'
Jaraíz de la Vera	Lago	3 km	1 h (one way)
Jarandilla de la Vera	Los Puentes	4,5 km	1 h 20'
Losar de la Vera	Puente de Cuartos	5,8 km	1 h 45'
Pasarón de la Vera	Los Godos	4,6 km	1 h 45'
Talaveruela de la Vera	Las Vistas	2 km	0 h 45'
Torremenga	Los Cotos-Dehesa Boyal	6,5 km	2 h
Valverde de la Vera	Mirador Marrá de las Jaras	3 km	1 h (one way)
Villanueva de la Vera	Las Fuentes y los Enebros	9 km	3 h
Jarandilla-Cuacos de Yuste	Emperador	10 km	3 h

## ROUTE CUATERNOS (PR-CC 85)

### VIANDAR DE LA VERA

This route coincides with the livestock path "Colada de Viandar a Ávila por Cuaternos". It starts in the town, along the Mastrocán, towards Las Marradas, until reaching the Palo bridge. Over the gorge of the River Moro you can spot the cave of La Mora Encantada and the slope that protected the pre-Roman settlement. Follow the signposts towards Picotillo hill. This spot provides a good viewpoint southwards over the valley of the Tiétar and the oak forests and meadows, the hunting ground of the **Golden Eagle**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Short-toed Eagle**, **Booted Eagle** and **Sparrowhawk**.



Peter Antonio

"Las Tajas stream"-Viandar de la Vera.

Towards Los Cañejales you will see areas of dense oak woods and some meadowlands from where the views of the mountain range and the Cuartos gorge are spectacular. You can see forest birds such as the **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **European Green Woodpecker**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Robin**, **Nightingale**, **Fieldfare** and **Pied Flycatcher**. Follow the gorge downstream until you reach the house of Cuaternos, where the Cuaternos gorge joins that of Las Meñas. This is a perfect spot to see **Schreiber's Green Lizard**, **White-throated Dipper**, **Grey Wagtail**, with **luc marten**, **otter** and in winter **Spanish Ixex**; and **Bonelli's Eagle**, **Golden Eagle** and **Peregrine Falcon** riding the winds.

## ROUTE REFUGIO DE LAS NIEVES - CAMINO DE CASTILLA (PR-CC 83) GUJO DE SANTA BARBARA

Leave Guijo at the upper end of the town, passing the Corral del Concejo or plaza de Toros (bullring) and the Era del Llano. You will reach the viewpoint of Chinarral along a forest track, asphalted in the first section. Continue towards the hill of Las Escoronillas, through areas of oak and chestnut trees where **finches**, **Short-toed Treecreepers**, **Eurasian Nuthatches**, **Coal Tits**, etc. will fly out as you pass. Follow the signposts to Cuerta spring. Here you will see **Pied Flycatcher**, **Black Wheatear**, **Ortolan Bunting**, **Bullfinch**, **Spectacled Warbler**, **Black-eared Wheatear**, **Bonelli's Warbler**, etc. Continue along a mountain path, to the chapel-shelter of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves, the highest religious building in Extremadura. Here you can see some exceptional birds such as the **Bluthroath**, **Alpine Accentor**, **Duncock**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush**, **Common Redstart** and **Water Pipit**. Watch the flight of the **Peregrine Falcon** or **Golden Eagle**. It is an unsurpassable landscape with the mountain ranges of Gredos and Iborates, the lands of La Vera, meadows of Campo Arañuelo and also Iborates-Villuercas in the background in front of you and to the right Monfragüe.



Angel M. Romero

El Campanario, Guijo de Sta. Bárbara

Start your descent in front of the shelter and by the path on the right, towards the Campanario ravine. You will find a shepherd's hut and impressive blocks of granite rocks. On reaching the spot of Mosquito, cross the Jaranda gorge by the path of Castilla. Continue towards the old settlement of huts of Pimesaillo. Return to the town over your first steps and then, along the gorge, towards the mouth of the Viezo and Campanario ravines, where the water has carved pools out of the rock (Trabuquete and Estaca). On your way down you will see **Schreiber's Green Lizards**, **White-throated Dippers** and **Wagtails**, until you reach your destination.

## ROUTE MIRADOR MARRÁ DE LAS JARAS (SL-CC 60)

### VALVERDE DE LA VERA

This route coincides with the town square, following the irrigation channel to the Chapel del Santo Cristo. This area is a mosaic of orchards, olive groves, oak and chestnut tree groves and a few pine groves which are good spots to watch or hear **Scops Owls**, **Tawny Owls**, **Little Owls**, **Booted Eagles**, **European Green Woodpeckers**, **Azure-winged Magpies**, **Kestrels**, as well as to pick **Saffron Milk Cap** and **Caesar's Mushrooms** and other delights. Follow the signposts until you reach a medieval path that still preserves its original paving, where you will find beautiful views of **oaks**, **cork oaks**, **ash trees**, **strawberry trees**, **pin**es and meadows. Here you can see the **Short-toed Eagle**, **European Honey Buzzard**, **Hobby**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Common Buzzard**, **Kite** and **Bee-eater**. Next you will reach Jaras bridge, with a wealth of riverbank plant life, enjoyed by **Short-toed Treecreepers**, **Wagtails**, **White-throated Dippers**, **Kingfishers**, **Long-tailed Tit**, **Goldcrests**, **Winter Wrens** and the beautiful **Schreiber's Green Lizards**. You will be able to see the prints of **otters**. Follow the signposts and after passing Madroño spring, you will reach Jaras spring, the end of the route. Refill your water while enjoying the impressive view of the Sierra de Gredos, again spotting the birds mentioned above, particularly the Black Stork, a gem that flies around this area.



Emmanuel Casanova

La Jara landscape, Valverde de la Vera

## ROUTE LOS COTOS-DEHESA BOYAL (SL-CC 52)

### TORREMENGA

Start in the town's square, leaving by Calle Montera. Take the cement track that crosses small farms until it comes to a crossroads. Take the track on the left and follow it until you reach a cattle grid, turning right at this crossroad, then go by Tejoneras, where you can drink the fountain's water. When you reach the old road turn left, which takes you out onto the EX-203. Cross this road and follow the track, entering a lovely meadow of **Pyrenean Oaks**, where you can see **Bee-eaters**, **Azure-winged Magpies**, **Cuckoos**, **Great Spotted Cuckoos**, **Spanish Sparrows**, **Eurasian Hoopoes**, **Eurasian Jays**, **Shrikes**, **Robins**, **Pied Flycatchers**, **Stone-curlews**, **Nightjars**, **Black Kites**, **Little Owls**, etc. Next you reach the Robledo reservoir, where, in early spring, you can enjoy the mating season, with many pairs of grebes performing their synchronised head dance. **Black storks**, **White Storks**, **Grey Herons**, **Cormorants**, **Little Grebes**, **ducks**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Common Moorhens**, **Common Coots**, **Little Ringed Plovers**, **Common Sandpipers**, **Black-winged Stilts** regularly come to this pool and, if you are lucky, you might see the **Purple Heron** and **otter**. Leave the reservoir to the right.



Carlos Ochoa

Torremenga dehesa.

## AREAS OF INTEREST FOR BIRD WATCHING

### Collado del Brezo (Losar de la Vera)

This route goes up and down over 15 km and can be done on foot, by bike or by four-wheel drive car. You will be amazed by the mountain and valley landscapes and the extraordinary oak grove. Before you reach Brezo mountain pass, at a height of about 900 m, you will find a great density of **Pied Flycatchers**, you can also see **Shrikes** and uncommon birds such as the **Common Redstart**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Hobby** and, if you are lucky, **Golden Eagle** and **Peregrine Falcon**.

### Route of Carlos V above Aldeanueva de la Vera

Section between the road of Santa Bárbara and the mountain pass of Las Yeguas. This is a very uneven route that must be done patiently on foot. It's worth the effort for the magnificent scenery and untouched nature. You can enjoy the **Golden Eagle**, **Eurasian Griffon Vulture**, **Raven**, **Western Jackdaw**, **Black Kite**, **Common Buzzard**, lots of **European Honey Buzzard**, **Short-toed Eagle**, **Hobby**, **Eurasian Eagle Owl**, **Long-eared Owl**, and flocks of **White Stork** and **Lesser Kestrel** that come to these parts to gorge on the many and varied species of cicadas.

### Colonia de Cernícalo primilla en Iglesia de San Miguel (Jaraíz de la Vera)

There is a large colony of **Lesser Kestrel** in the old quarter of the city.



Angel M. Romero

Lesser Kestrel

**Puerto de Garganta la Olla to Piornal Road** that goes up from Garganta, crossing a magnificent oak grove towards the Piornal mountain pass, from where you can go to the mountain range along the track that leads to Piornal Reservoir and Peña Negra. You can see **Golden Eagle**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Eurasian Griffon Vulture**, **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush**, **Black Wheatear**, **Ortolan Bunting**, and other mountain birds.

### Dehesa boyal (Jaraíz de la Vera)

Along the track that starts from the industrial park you will reach a flat area with two large pools in which you can see **ducks**, **Little Egrets**, **Grebes** and **Little Grebes**, **Moorhens**, **Grey Herons**, **Little Ringed Plovers**, **Common Sandpipers**, **Lapwings**, **Snipes**, **White Stork**, and, if you are patient and have a bit of luck, the **Black Stork**, **Otter**, **Lesser Kestrel**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Short-toed Eagle**, **Booted Eagles**, **Black Kite** and, often, groups of **Eurasian Griffon** and **Eurasian Black Vultures** from the neighbouring Montaña.

## AREAS OF INTEREST FOR THE LANDSCAPE AND NATURE

### Castle and Church (Valverde de la Vera)

These medieval buildings date from the 14th century and make a pretty setting from where to watch urban birds that breed in them. During the day you will see the **Common Kestrel**, **Western Jackdaw**, **Common Swift**, **Black Redstart**, **Robin**, **Spotless Starling**, **Greenfinch**, etc. At dusk, with the splendid play of light over the buildings, you can hear or see **Barn Owls**, **Tawny Owls**, **Little Owls** or the odd **European Scops Owl**.

### Medieval bridges

Built over crystalline gorges, in areas of great beauty, these are perfect for enjoying the ecological and scenic values and to take a dip in summer (see map).

### Las Piletillas (Garganta la Olla)

Bathing area in the Mayor gorge, along the road towards Yuste monastery. This is an area of lush plant life which starts at the road bridge, with a short but pleasant path, among alders, ash trees, oaks and waterfalls, **Schreiber's Green Lizards**, **White-throated Dippers**, **Grey Wagtails**, **Robins**, **Winter Wrens**, **Short-toed Treecreepers**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **Eurasian Golden Oriole**, **Eurasian Jay**, **Long-tailed Tit**, **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**, etc. If you are lucky you might see the **otter** and **desman**.

### El Diablo water-fall (Villanueva de la Vera)

Viewpoint with a very beautiful waterfall, exceptional for its scenic and botanical value. It has excellent examples of **junipers**, **strawberry trees**, **terebinths**, **Eve Princes**, **oaks**, **alders**, **ash trees**, **chestnuts**, **cork oaks**, etc. It's a good spot to enjoy forest and water birds.



Angel M. Romero

El Diablo waterfall, Villanueva de la Vera.

### Nuestra Señora de la Blanca Chapel (Pasarón de la Vera)

This charming chapel is located at the crossroads that leads into this town from the main road in La Vera (EX-203). It has an interesting colony of **White Storks**, **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** and **Spotless Starlings**, **Swallows**, **Little Owls**, **Barn Owls**, etc.

### Arroyomolinos de la Vera Viewpoint

Located in Plaza la Atalaya. Magnificent views of meadowlands with **oaks** and **ash trees**, old stone dairies and old watermills over the Desesperá gorge.

## AREA OF INTEREST FOR BAT WATCHERS

There are endangered species such as the **yew tree**, others sensitive to changes in their habitat, such as the **English Oak** (*Quercus robur*), **Round-leaved Sundew** (*Dracopis rotundifolia*) and, at the heights of the mountain tops, the **Dragonillo de Gredos** (*Antirrhinum grossi*) and **Alpine Skulicap** (*Scutellaria alpina*). The **Prickly Juniper**, **holly**, **Montpellier Maple**, **birch**, **Rowan**, **Downy Oak**, **Campanula herminii**, etc. are catalogued as vulnerable. Interesting plants include the **Cross-leaved Heath**, **Dragon's Blood Tree**, **Field Gladiolus**, **Solomon's Seal**, **Star of Bethlehem**, etc. Beautiful orchids, particularly the rare *Ophrys tenthredinifera* var. *ficalhoana*, found only in the oak groves of La Vera, and the first appearance of the *Serapias strictiflora* in a meadow. These coexist with the pine grove orchids such as *Epiactis tremolsii*, and *Neotinea maculata*. The *Cephalanthera longifolia* and *Serapias lingua* are linked to the meadows and forests and more than five species of the genus *Orchis*.



Angel M. Romero

Yuste Monastery and Sierra de Gredos

## AREA OF INTEREST FOR BAT WATCHERS

The vast oak forests of La Vera are very important areas for the conservation of various endangered species of **bats**. The oak groves of La Vera are one of the best areas in Europe for various species such as **Bechstein's Bat**, in danger of extinction, and the **Barbastella**, **Greater Horseshoe Bat** and **Whiskered Bat**, which are sensitive to changes in their habitat. There are unusual species linked to water mines, wine cellars and old buildings, such as the **Greater Mouse-eared Bat**, **Lesser Mouse-eared Bat**, **Common Bent-wing Bat**, etc.

## AREA OF INTEREST FOR INSECTS

The most spectacular of the arthropods is the **stag beetle**. It lives in well-conserved oak groves, which has led to it being catalogued as threatened in Europe, and flies vertically during the mating season (June-July). The *cerambyx cerdo*, a large beetle with long antennae, is also rare for the same reason. Among the **dragonflies** and **damselflies** there are various vulnerable species such as *Coenagrion mercuriale*, *Macromia splendens*, or, of particular interest, *Gomphus grassini*. There are 90 species of **diurnal butterflies** in La Vera, which at certain times (May and June) and places create real symphonies of colours. The greatest number and density of species is found in oak groves between 700 and 1200 m high.



Vicente Eiroa

Chestnut forest

## AREA OF INTEREST TO MYCOLOGISTS

There are a variety of fungi in the region, made up of more than 150 noteworthy species. The unmistakable **Saffron Milk Cap** are numerous in the pine groves, but the following stand out as excellent for eating: **Caesar's Mushroom** (*Amanita caesarea*), **Charcoal Burner** (*Russula cyanoxantha*), **Green-cracking Mushroom** (*Russula virescens*), **Oyster Mushroom** (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), **Field Mushroom** (*Agaricus campestris* and *arvensis*), **Fairy Ring Mushroom** (*Marasmius oreades*), **Boletus aereus Mushroom** (*Boletus aereus*), **Cep** (*Boletus edulis*), **Summer Cep** (*Boletus reticulatus*), **Chanterelle** (*Cantharellus cibarius*), **Gurumelo Mushroom** (*Amanita ponderosa*), **truffles** (*Terfezia aenariensis* and *Terfezia leptoderma*) and the **Bay Bolete Mushroom** (*Xerocomus badius*). Rare species include the following: the **Phallus rubicundus** (a Stinkhorn), inedible and which only appears in Cáceres in Europe, in tobacco growing areas, or the edible **Red Boletus** (*Boletus erythropus*), which in La Vera appears below the **Queleus**, unlike in the rest of Spain.

European paradise of biodiversity



La Vera, environmental guide