

MONFRAGÜE NATIONAL PARK

ILUSTRATED MAP 
JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

MAIN INTERESTING SITES IN THE PUBLIC USE AREA

Bonelli's Eagle
Hieraetus fasciatus

The visitor can find in the Area of Public Use a lot of sites distributed over the network of routes, which are spatial landmarks and privileged view-points, suitable to watch and enjoy the natural and cultural richness of Monfragüe. These are the points of greatest interest which must be visited during a stay in the National Park:

1 VILLARREAL DE SAN CARLOS

This small village belonging to the township of Serradilla is the only inhabited place inside the National Park. It is the core of the Public Use Area, having available several Information and Showing Centres which are the best starting points to visit Monfragüe..

4 CAVE PAINTINGS

Below the Castle there is a small rocky shelter decorated with cave paintings, very well preserved, which are among the best examples of this art in Extremadura. A reservation for visit may be requested

3 CASTILLO DE MONFRAGÜE

The Keep of this Castle (of Arabic origin, later rebuilt by the Christians, XIth-XVth) offer a spectacular panoramic view of the landscape of Monfragüe and its surroundings, being a main point to watch the flights of Vultures and other raptors.

2 SALTO DEL GITANO

This place is undoubtedly one of the most attractive spots of Monfragüe. A magnificent cliff gorge crossed by the river Tajo. Prime view-point for bird-watching.

WHAT IS OUTSTANDING IN THE NATIONAL PARK OF MONFRAGÜE?

The National Park of Monfragüe comprises an area of 18.396 ha. stretching along the river Tagus, and surrounded by large extents of oak-covered parkland (dehesas), being an unique refuge for the most representative species of the Mediterranean wildlife. Due to its well preserved woodland and scrubs and to the presence of endangered fauna, this is a great treasure of biodiversity, and one



Iberian Lynx
Lynx pardinus

Nowadays, the Park harbour a population of more than 250 Black Vulture breeding pairs, the biggest colony for the species World range, as well as Spanish Imperial Eagles, Black Storks and formerly Iberian Lynx, all of them threatened at World level.

Black Stork
Ciconia nigra



Black Stork
Ciconia nigra

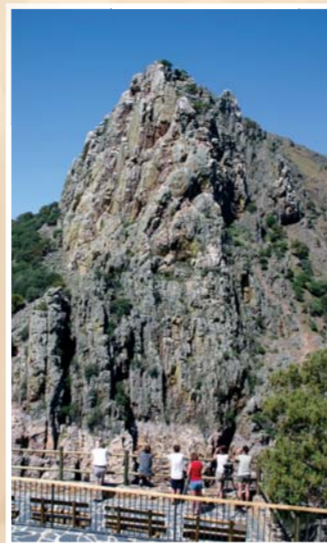
of the most remarkable areas for nature in Europe

WHAT CAN WE WATCH IN THE NATIONAL PARK?

The larger part of the National Park is very vulnerable to visitors, due to the presence of a rich community of sensitive fauna. In order to allow the people to enjoy this unique natural region, the Public Use Area was established since the Park was designated in 1979, with its core in the village of Villarreal de San Carlos, which is surrounded of spectacular places, as the rough cliffs of Salto del Gitano and Portilla del Tiétar, as well as the Castle of Monfragüe. The roads Trujillo-Plasencia and Villarreal-La Bazagona are the main ways to access to these points.

In a typically Mediterranean landscape, composed of slopes covered of pristine woodland and scrub, and large Oak parkland (dehesas) in the plains around, are enclosed the river gorges which are a refuge for a great variety of avifauna. Griffon Vultures are the most abundant, although it is easy to see also Black and Egyptian Vultures, Golden, Bonelli's, Booted and Short-toed Eagle, Black and Red Kite, Eagle Owls, Black Storks, Grey Herons, Cormorants and many other bird species, which

make Monfragüe a true sanctuary for birdwatchers.



THE PUBLIC USE AREA OF MONFRAGÜE

Blue Rock Thrush
Monticola solitarius

Within the Public Use Area, there are a set of routes showing the whole variety of landscapes and all the species of flora and fauna which can be found in the National Park.

Being patient and lucky, the visitor can encounter true wildlife jewels. A good planning of the travel and following the suggestions of the Park's Staff, will facilitate to enjoy the stay in Monfragüe.



A VARIETY OF WAYS TO ENJOY MONFRAGÜE

Walking tracks with variable length, duration and degree of difficulty (from half one hour to full-day).

Two drives by car over roads, with interesting view-points:
1. Villarreal-Castillo (8 km)
2. Villarreal-Saltos de Torrejón-Portilla del Tiétar (12 km)

Cycle or horse riding around the Biosphere Reserve, neighbouring of the National Park.

Walks and interesting sites in the villages around the Park.

ADVICES FOR VISITORS



Do not forget:

- Monfragüe is a mountainous area with hot summers and cool winters, and thus, it is important to bring the adequate clothing to each weather: winter clothes, a raincoat or a cap to protect you from the heavy sun.
- Appropriate shoes to walk over rough tracks.
- If we chose a long itinerary, a water bottle and a packed meal is necessary.
- Binoculars are indispensable to watching birds.

Recommendations:

- There is a Camping close to the National Park, in



Common Hawthorn
Crataegus monogyna

Malpartida de Plasencia, in the road from Villarreal de San Carlos to Plasencia. Free camping is not allowed in any other place.

- By using the litter bins, you contribute to maintain clean the Park. Please, do not forget to take your residues up to the nearest dustbin.
- Fire is very dangerous. Do not light any bonfire, and be extremely careful if you are smoker.
- By cutting or pulling up wild plants, you are preventing other people from enjoying its beauty.
- Getting out of the signposted roads is inadvisable, because you may get tired, and probably the tangle will obstruct your course.
- Being silent, you will be able to watch and listen wild animals, and also you avoid to disturb them.
- The equipments of the National Park has been provided to help the visitors. Please, make a good use, since many people will need them.
- Graffiti on walls, signals or other surfaces is a thankless behaviour which leave a bad memory of a visitor, and should be punished.

Communications

BUS:
Plasencia-Trujillo, Monday and Friday.
Torrejón-Plasencia from Monday to Friday with stop in Villarreal de San Carlos.

From Madrid,
Auto-Res Madrid-Cáceres, with stops in Navalmaral de la Mata, Trujillo, Madrid-Navalmaral de la Mata.

Madrid-Moraleja and Madrid-Acebo with stops in Malpartida de Plasencia and Plasencia.

Bus stations. Phone numbers
Plasencia +34 927 41 45 50,
Trujillo +34 927 32 12 02 / 927 32 05 00,
and Navalmaral de la Mata +34 927 53 05 55/927 53 33 00.

RAILWAY
Several trains coming from:
Madrid, Sevilla, Badajoz, Lisboa, Cáceres and Plasencia
Arriving to the Station of Monfragüe, situated 18 Km. from Villarreal de San Carlos.
Phone: +34 902 240 202.

SOME USEFUL PHONES AND ADRESSES

Information Centre
10695 Villarreal de San Carlos (Cáceres)
Phone: +34 927 19 91 34. Fax: +34 927 19 82 12.
e-mail:
parquenacionaldemonfrague@juntaextremadura.net
web:
<http://www.extremambiente.es>
<http://reddeparquesnacionales.mma.es/parques>



JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA
Consejería de Industria, Energía y Medio Ambiente

How and when to visit Monfragüe?

The National Park may be visited at any hour of day. It is recommendable to start from the Reception Centre of Villarreal de San Carlos, open mornings and evenings, every day, even holidays.

The visit is free and self-guided. The routes, of variable duration and easiness are fully signposted to facilitate the walks. Moreover, if you are interested in a guide service or other activities, you may request a list of local enterprises.

For organized groups, it is recommended to arrange previously the visit by calling to the Information Centre (Phones: 927199134 - Fax 927198212) in order to facilitate a better service by the staff of the National Park.

Where to have a meal and where to sleep?

In the neighbourhood of the National Park there are a lot of restaurants and lodgings offering a broad variety of services. A list can be taken in the Information Centre. Besides, in the Public Use Area there are available several picnic spots and drinking fountains.



7 CERRO GIMIO

From the top of this prominent hill, the visitor can look at a singular panoramic view of the Tajo, the cliffs of Salto del Gitano and the Castle of Monfragüe. There can be seen remains of an antique fortress. This is a privileged place for watching Black Vultures.

Eagle Owl
Bubo bubo

9 LA TAJADILLA

This is a spacious viewpoint and breaking area situated over the banks of the river Tiétar, and facing a craggy cliff where there are many nests of birds of prey.

11 LA PORTILLA DEL TIÉTAR

Steep cliff falling on the river Tiétar, where can be sighted many nesting bird species. This is a famous site among birdwatchers because the great diversity of species (Black Stork, Eagle Owl, Otter, Spanish Imperial Eagle...)



10 LA HIGUERILLA

High observation point over a wide meander of the river Tiétar, with the far view of the mountain range of Sierra de Gredos. Suitable for watching waterfowls.

Great Crested Grebe
Podiceps cristatus

12 EL SERRANO

Vantage point over the mouth of the river Tiétar into the Tajo, facing the Cardinal's Bridge (Puente del Cardenal, XVth).



Route "Dehesas de Toril y Serrejón"

Country road crossing extensive pasturelands with oaks ("dehesas"), in part devoted to raising of wild cattle. From the road Villarreal-La Bazagona, the route arrive at the villages of Toril and Serrejón.

Route "Camino forestal"

This route go on a country road connecting the villages of Malpartida de Plasencia and Serradilla, through areas of pine afforestation and well preserved dehesas.

Route "Cañada Real del Puerto de Miravete"

Going over this main cattle track (still used by the herds of cattle on the move between seasonal pastures), the visitor may travel across the Eastern side of the Biosphere Reserve, from the Tajo river up to its tributary the Almonte.

All these routes can be travelled on foot or by bicycle. Weather and topography should be taken into account, since they could affect the degree of difficulty. Some of these itineraries are near or partly coincide with roads where driving cars is allowed.

Route "Cañada Real Trujilana o Vizana"

This major cattle track run between Torrejón el Rubio and Malpartida de Plasencia, crossing the National Park in a long itinerary. A passage permit is required to go from Villarreal de San Carlos to Torrejón el Rubio, which may be requested in the Information Centre of the National Park (Villarreal) or in the Tourism Office of Torrejón el Rubio.

Route "Villarreal-Serradilla"

Itinerary connecting the National Park with the village of Serradilla, passing through a variety of landscapes.

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EDICIÓN: MAYO 2009

Realización: ag@antoniogarcera.com



Routes by MONFRAGÜE



Walking routes	Visitors Centre	Singular tree of Extremadura
Round-trip distances	Interpretation Centre	View point
7.5 CERRO GIMIO	Rural Accommodation	PARKING
16 EL CASTILLO	Restaurant	Car
8.5 LA TAJADILLA	Picnic area	Bus
	Fontain	Car and Bus
	Information point collaboration	

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Name: Monfragüe.
 Expanse: 18.396 hectares.
 Location: Confluence of the rivers Tajo and Tiétar.
 Altitude: Between an altitude of 220 and 773 metres. The altitude raise from West to East.
 Protection body:
National Park (Law 1/2007, of March 2).
 Other Protection bodies:
SCI (Site of Community Importance). Year 2000.
 Expanse: 18.396 hectares.
SPA (Special Protection Area) "Monfragüe y dehesas del entorno" Year 2004. Expanse: 116.160 hectares.
Biosphere Reserve. Year 2003. Expanse: 116.160 hectares.

	VISITORS CENTRE
	INTERPRETATION CENTRE
	TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES
	Camping
	Gas station

	Jaraicejo-Garganta del Cubo
	Casas de Miravete-Pico Miravete
	Serradilla-Villarreal
	Toril-Serrejón
	Torrejón-Villarreal
	Malpartida-Villarreal