



Routes around Valdehierro Sierra

The mountain range of Madridejos is located within Sierra del Reventón that is a wide group of mountains belonging to the foothill from Los Montes de Toledo.

The Mediterranean forest we can admire is composed by holm oaks, gall-oaks and aromatic plants such as rosemary and lavender. Within the most humid areas such as streambeds and shady spots, we can find ashes, limes and the Montpellier maple. All this vegetation is surrounded by undergrowth composed by blackberries, wild rose bushes, rockroses and brooms.

Within this natural nucleus, you can enjoy a very rich and varied fauna such as roe stags, stags and wild boars belonging to the group of venery species and red partridge birds, hares, rabbits and foxes. Sometimes, up in the sky, it is possible to observe birds such as the Spanish imperial eagle, black vultures, falcons, owls and barn owls. Another natural treasure and unique of this mountain range is the existence of wildcats and the Iberian lynx.

The predominant climate is Mediterranean with typical features of interior areas such as long winters and hot and dry summers.

There are some rural accommodations within this municipality. Check the section Alojamientos.

Route of the bandit Castrola: nature seen by Castrola's eyes 150 later

This route encompasses a part of Virgin of Valdehierro chapel until the famous cave of the bandit Castrola. Within this cave we can find a unique ecosystem in this area; since there is an Atlantic microclimate with ferns, navelworts, maples of Montpellier, etc. Moreover, there is an excellent viewpoint from where you can admire Manchego hillsides, the castle "La Muela" and bordering villages.

CASTROLA'S STORY

Isidoro Juárez Navarro was Ascensión's and Castor's son (and that is the reason of his nickname Castrola). He was born on April, 5th 1851 in the village of Villarrubia de los Ojos. His misbehavior began when he was 19 and started to steal oil from a mill. He was sentenced together with other friends to serve 2 years and 4 months in the prison of Alcalá de Henares. He had to make the Compulsory Military Service while he was in prison; therefore he had to go back to prison at the end of each day of service. He claimed that his father was sick and poor and that he had to go back home in order to take care of him, but he was based in Africa. Before his departure, Castrola tried to run away and he ended up in a cell. After serving in prison, he was based in Ceuta but his father helped him to escape. For this reason he became a



fugitive and he lived in the cave in Madridejos that was named after him and that was just 12 km away from his hometown. As a consequence, on August, 6th 1873, the legend of the bandit Castrola commenced. He lived in that cave for eight years and it is said that he buried a treasure in the nearby area.

Castrola died in 1881 in Urda, in a place called El Puerto de la Gineta, in the Soriano Royal Narrow Pass and not far from La Galana valley. His cave was 8 km away from that place.

This bandit was considered the most terrible vermin in Los Montes de Toledo and that he was able to terrify even his mates –he killed three of them-, afterwards, he obliged some reapers to eat their lunch on the corpses of Castrola's mates.

- Distance: 2km
- Length: 2 hours
- Incline: 175 meters of climbing
- Difficulty: medium

Route from De la raña manchega black poplar to the hundred-year-old black poplar

This route will conduct you until the heart of Madridejos Sierra going through a valley between the two highest peaks of this Sierra. This path will guide you until Umbrion spring –a natural spring provided with water all year round and highly appreciated due to the excellent quality of its water-.

- Distance: 10km
- Length: 2 hours and 40 min
- Incline: 80 meters
- Difficulty: easy

COMMENTS

All these routes are highly recommended all year round by bike –except the ascent to Castrola's Cave- and walking. However, these routes are specially beautiful in spring and autumn. All of them are well signaled and the local government is working to create new routes focused on different groups such as disable people, people related with sports, agriculture, gastronomy and enterprises and trades in the area.

There are rural accommodations within this town; you can find both private and public ones. For more information, get in touch with the Tourism Office.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Do not throw away any type of waste
- Do not start any fire
- Obey the established paths
- Do not pick any plant or disturb the animals in the area
- Evaluate the route and check if it fits with the physical abilities of the participants
- Carry with you enough food and water for the day
- Do not go alone in the forest
- Check the weather forecast before your hike
- Wear appropriate clothes depending on the season
- In case of any problem call 112

Interest links and photo gallery:

www.madridejos.net

With the links below, you will access to one of the biggest photography collections online. This collection is focused on Madridejos; its people, traditions, festivities and much more.

- Albúm de la Sierra de Madridejos
- Albúm de la Flora y Fauna de Madridejos
- 100 años de fotografía 1915-2015 – Familia Moreno y Pérez-Olivares. Por José M^a Moreno García

If you go to Picasa's web <http://picasa.google.es/>, and type within the gallery browser "Sierras de Madridejos" you will see how many photography lovers are able to capture different instants of this beautiful setting.

In **Google**, you can find some videos searching "Sierras de Madridejos".

C.D. Deporsaburum. Within this link you will see how mountain bike lovers enjoy their way through Madridejos Sierra.

<http://sendasyasfalto.blogspot.com/2009/03/k.html>

There are more routes that any citizen can create on the Internet, as the one shown in the link below:

<http://sendaclm.es/ficha-senda/ermita-de-san-francisco-a-ermita-de-valdehierro-y-sierra-de>



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