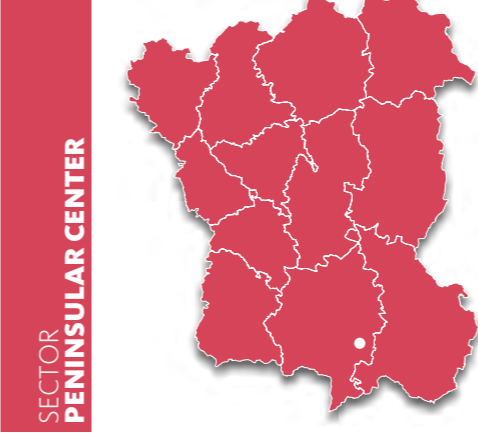


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NATURE TRAIL CÁCERES-BADAJOS CORRIDOR



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain



SECTOR
PENINSULAR CENTER

PONDS, OAKS AND GRANITE



The Cáceres-Badajoz Corridor Nature Trail runs along 176.3 km, starting at the south of the city of Cáceres until ending west of Valverde de Leganés, approximately 30 km south to the city of Badajoz. This nature trail is divided into two routes. The first one follows a 50 km circular route that runs around the south of the city of Cáceres, and the second, 126.3 km long and with a linear layout, joins the cities of Cáceres and Badajoz and continues south to the vicinity of Valverde de Leganés. This nature trail, for most of its layout, makes use of cattle roads of different categories, from the most important of which are the Drovers' Roads.

Both routes have their starting point at the outskirts of the Cáceres neighbourhood of Aldea Moret, a couple of kilometres away from the Cáceres railway station. To get to the starting point, you must leave the neighbourhood taking the Merinas cattle road from the Avenida del Río Tíber.

Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture, Food and the Environment's Nature Trails Program aims to restore former transport infrastructures such as railway tracks, cattle trails and traditional routes, for public use and enjoyment. These routes take us to the countryside to discover the biodiversity and beauty of our precious natural heritage, and discover the villages, sights, traditions and people that are part of the unique cultural landscape of our country.

We invite you to visit them and offer you the keys to enjoy the trip. In this brochure you will find a brief description of the Cáceres-Badajoz Corridor Nature Trail and the map for the journey, along with recommendations to make the most of this experience. We only ask one thing of you: do not forget to leave everything as you found it. The conservation of these pathways is also your responsibility.

TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:
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SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER NATURE TRAIL CÁCERES-BADAJOS CORRIDOR

FIRST ROUTE: Cáceres – Cañada Puerto del Pico - Cáceres

1a. This route starts heading southeast, leaving behind Cáceres and crossing Aldea Moret. After crossing the Cáceres-Valencia de Alcántara railway line tracks, the trail continues to the east following the Cañada Real de Casar drover road. Later on, it crosses the N-630 road and continues along this road, crossing it occasionally until reaching Valdesalor, where the trail briefly runs along the *Vía de la Plata* or the Silver Way, in fact passing next to the Pilgrims' Hostel. After crossing the River Salor by the *Puente Viejo de la Mochá* bridge, the trail turns southwest, following the *Cañada Real del Puerto del Pico y Miravete* drovers' road. Further down the road, the trail turns west, crosses the Cáceres-Mérida line railway tracks and goes on until reaching the EX-100 road. At this point, both routes that compose this nature trail converge.

1b. The trail continues along the road, and heads to Cáceres along the Engrada y Segura cattle road, crossing the Campo creek, taking a deviation to at the crossroads with the Luz creek and the Lavadero de Lanás cattle road. The trail continues crossing the Dehesa de los Mogollones and passing by the ruins of an old watchtower, until reaching the Seguras creek. The trail continues to the northwest until reaching the Malpartida cattle road or the Lavadero de Lanás cattle road, which crosses the River Salor by a bridge.

1c. After crossing the Cebadilla irrigation canal, this cattle road reaches the interpretation centre for the Los Barruecos Natural Monument, which lies to the right of the road. To the left, next to the Barrueco de Abajo Pond, you may find the Lavadero de Lanás (a public washhouse for washing wool) which lends its name to the cattle road that has taken us here. Today, the actual washhouse has become the Vostell Malpartida contemporary art private museum. After crossing the Lugar creek, the road reaches Malpartida de Cáceres.

1d. The road circles the town on the southeast, crossing the Las Arenas Industrial Park, until reaching the N-521 road, from Trujillo to Valencia de Alcántara. The trail continues parallel to this road, heading east, and it crosses to the Valencia line railway, turning south afterwards, shortly before entering the city of Cáceres and reaching its end at the same point where it started. (Due to the construction of the A-66 highway, this last section of the road is interrupted. You may go back to the starting point by following the road you took to cross the railway lines, which crosses over the highway and traverses the Dehesa del Junquillo before ending about 600 m south of the starting point of this nature trail)

SECOND ROUTE

Cáceres – Puebla de Obando

2a. This route starts at the same point as the first route and runs along the Engrada y Segura cattle road, heading southwest. It crosses the Cáceres-Valencia de Alcántara line railway tracks and continues, following this cattle road, until reaching the road EX-100. Then, the trail continues along this road, crossing it four times. In total, up to the intersection with the first route, which stands at the crossing with the Cañada Real del Puerto del Pico y Miravete drovers' road. Continuing along this drovers' road, the trail crosses the River Ayuelo and overcomes the mountain range of Sierra de San Pedro by the Clavin mountain pass until reaching the banks of the Gavilán or Gaítán creek.

2b. The drovers' road steers away from the main road and heads southeast, and after going through a dehesa of oaks in Sierra Gorda and crossing the CC-140 road, enters the municipality of Puebla de Obando, which is already located in the province of Badajoz. After passing by the recreational area located next to the Shrine of San Isidro, this route arrives at the village centre, where the traveller may visit the parish church of San Ildefonso (16th century).

Puebla de Obando – Villar del Rey

2c. The trail continues south by the Puerto del Zángano mountain pass, where it coincides again with the EX-100 road and briefly runs parallel to it before turning west to join the Cañada Real Santa Brava drovers' road, where the road continues until the end of the route.

After crossing a dense oak grove, the trail crosses the BA-15 road shortly before arriving to Villar del Rey. Once in this town, the parish church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario (16th century) is worth a visit.

Villar del Rey - Badajoz

2d. The trail heads southwest, leaving the village it by the Villar del Rey local road (EX-325). Then, it continues parallel to the road, which it crosses sometimes, and to the River Zapator. At a certain point, this road leads to the EX-100 road and continues running parallel to this road until crossing the Morrijo canal next to the town of Valdebotra. In Calatraveja, this trail meets, and runs briefly parallel to, the River Guadiana Nature Trail, until it steers away from it in the following stage. When approaching the city of Badajoz, the trail passes under the highway to Madrid, crosses the River Gévora and continues south along the EX-100.

2e. Circling the hill atop which the Fuerte de San Cristóbal fort is perched, the trail crosses the River Guadiana by the Puente de la Autonomía bridge, and goes down along the riverside walk on the left bank until reaching the Puente de la Universidad bridge.

Badajoz – Piedra Aguda Reservoir

2f. The route continues until reaching the weir on the River Guadiana, whose shed is a perfect spot for birding. Continuing along the Cañada Real de Santa Brava drovers' road, the route separates from the River Guadiana Nature Trail, which steers away to the west. After crossing the EX-107 road, the route turns east, until crossing another road, the EX-3010, which runs from Badajoz to Valverde de Leganés, as well as the Calamón creek, running parallel to this creek in direction south, passing by the last houses of the Dehesilla de Calamón development and crossing an oak dehesa. After crossing again the River Calamón and the EX-100 road, the road runs parallel to the road before crossing it again, changing its direction to the southwest and running between pastures and agricultural lands.

2g. The last stretch of this route passes by an aerodrome and crosses a grove of scattered oaks, and continues up the Olivenza valley to the end point of this route, next to the Piedra Aguada reservoir and 4.1 km west of Valverde de Leganés.



Panoramic view of Cáceres



Iberian pigs grazing on a dehesa



The trail crossing an oak patch

