



EXCURSIONS IN ANDALUCIA

Sierra Bermeja rules over the Golden Mile

Sierra Bermeja (Gebel Alhambra in Moorish) is a mountain range that forms the southwestern flank of the Serrania de Ronda, Spain, overlooking the Costa del Sol from Marbella to Estepona. Rich of Iron and Platinum. The color of the rocks gives its name to Sierra because Bermejo means red. The highest peak is called Royales and is 1449 meters above sea level.

Here is an unique vegetation due to rare geological rocks and its location between the Mediterranean and Atlantic. Cork oak forests predominate in the lowlands, pine forests in the highlands (Black Pine) and the endangered Pinsapares trees at the top. The area closest to the top is a protected area called El Pinsapares de Los Reales, with an area of approximately 1236 acres, is protected since 1989.



It has a large biodiversity that is reinforced by the movements of the birds makes spring and autumn. The peaks of the Sierra Bermeja are excellent opportunities to observe over 220 species, especially in times of migrations between Europe and Africa.

How do you get there?

On the top of Estepona's "hill" there is a path up the mountains towards Jubrique.



Half way up you find a view point with tables and benches. Perfect for refreshments.

From there it is a winding and partly steep road. Here and there are sources where people come to collect spring water. Once up you come to a crossroad. Here you can stop and enjoy the view and maybe take a break with a little Cava. To the left is the road Genalgaucil and to the right towards Jubrique.

Further to the left is a narrow road up in the conservation area. Take this road.

Road quality is partly poor and road just wide enough to meet car. Just take it easy, all are helpful if there is any trouble.

After a few kilometers climb, you are about 1200 meters above sea level and you get the reward - a stunning view of the Costa del Sol.

You can walk or drive all the way up to the top where the communication tower stands. But you get the best views from the Mirador.

Here lies a small "venta" which is open at least over the weekends with a rather rustic food. There is a fire place for cold days. There are plenty of picnic areas with tables and fixed benches and you can drink fresh spring water. There are also fixed fireplaces for BBQ.



Continue the way another hundred meters and you come to a turning area. Park your car and follow the path that goes south. It goes over the rugged mountain with its low-growing shrubs, and you get a reward. From the Mirador you can see all the way to Gibraltar and the African mountains.

We go back to the crossroad and take the road to Jubrique.

The road winds down along the mountain side. After a few kilometers you will come to road sign telling you to turn to the left to Genalgaucil. This is a village on the side of the mountain. Drive through the village and park on the other side of the village. Take a walk to the town square and enjoy all the artistic works. You can read more about this village on our web site. Follow the link to Adventures.



We turn back to the road to Jubrique.

The village is a typical white mountain village. The oldest part of town is at the center, just above the church and plaza. In memory of the Arab period are still preserved defensive walls. Look at the strange chimneys. Jubriqueñas have a strong personality and imagination. There used to be factories for rum, syrup, flour, and olive oil. There is a restaurant at the end of the village, but continue the way down to the river Genal. When you reach the bottom of the valley there is a small restaurant – Venta - where you will not meet any tourists.



It has a typical Spanish menu with a lot of tapas. If you started a little before eleven, you will arrive here at two just before the locals start to flow in. Share a number of Tapas as the Spainyards do as starters.

The Venta is located next to a campground, and why not take a hike up the river bed? Both exciting and provides exercise. Here you can see the little colorful Kingfisher if you're lucky.

After lunch, you continue to Gaucin. The village name comes from the Arabic word for strong rock "guazan". The village lies at the foot of the Sierra del Hacho and thanks to its strategic location already Romans put up a fortress here. The castle, Castillo del Aguila - Eagle Castle - on top of the mountain is from this time and has been enlarged by the Moors to the extent we see today.

To get back to the coast, you can either take left to Casares or continue to Manilva. Casares in a beautiful village on a hill top. You can park on the opposite side of the village and walk through streets over to the village. It has an interesting history so take your time..

On the way down to the coast there are several beautiful picnic spots to stop at and take rest.

An alternative way is to go to Ronda and take the road back to the coastal road.