



Caceres, the great bird observatory of Europe

Caceres has become the European region with the best and most varied conditions for the practice of birdwatching. The 70% of the surface of the Extremadura territory is perfect for birds, from which a 34% has any type of protection. Nowadays it counts with 69 Zones of Special Protection for Birds (ZEPA) with more than a million hectares.

The province of Caceres hides uncontaminated corners that become for the travelers a real ecologic paradise. Any season is good to travel to this amazing Extremadura enclave. Stunning nature that has the immortal greens of the northern valleys (el Ambroz, el Jerte, Sierra de Gata, la Vera, las Hurdes) and the southern (Ibores and Villuercas), the immense prairies of the countryside in Arañuelo, not forgetting the ecologic jewel of Caceres: the National Park of Monfragüe.

The Vía de la Plata and the cross-border zone of La Raya are other zones of special tourist interest. The Mediterranean climate, with Atlantic influence, generates hot summers and affable winters and favors the existence of a great variety of unaltered natural spaces. In the region there is a great part of bird species almost disappeared in other regions of the continent, such as the monk vulture, the black stork, the Spanish imperial eagle, the Spanish sparrow or the bustard. The central part of Caceres, in

the surroundings of the capital, is protected by the declaration of Zone of Special Protection. Every year, thousands of British, Dutch and even American, search in the regions such as Llanos de Caceres and Miajadas-Trujillo a privileged destiny for the observation of birds. Las Villuercas, Los Ibores and the stretch of Tajo Internacional are other Zones of Special Protection for Birds.

Monfragüe
In the northwest of the province we



MONFRAGÜE AND AMBROZ
In the previous page, a birdwatching group in Monfragüe. In this page, amazing autumn tonalities in the forests of chestnut trees of the Valle del Ambroz, in the north of Caceres.



MEDITERRANEAN FOREST

Up, surrounded by the Tajo, and crossed by the Tiétar, we find Monfragüe, the best sample of Mediterranean forest of Spain, due to its extension and conservation. In the 17,852 hectares of the National Park, hundreds of vertebrate find their homes, among which we must highlight tens of threatened species, such as the Iberian lynx, the imperial eagle, the black stork (left photo), the griffon vulture and monk vulture. In the following page, medieval village of Granadilla.



find the National Park of Monfragüe, organized around the course of the rivers Tajo and Tiétar, which converge in the park. It is set in two parallel mountain ranges that show all the charm of the Mediterranean forest. The most outstanding thing, besides its beauty, is the great biodiversity. The singularity of species the park holds has no comparison in Europe. In fact, it is the zone that concentrates the largest colony of monk vulture and imperial eagle of the World, with more than 200 and 11 couples, respectively. Two of the most privileged corners are the Salto del Gitano and the Peña Falcón. This last, holds an important colony of predatory that fly over the margins of the river Tajo.

Los Barruecos

Another enclave of special landscape interest is the place named Los Barruecos, declared Natural Monument. This singular enclave, placed in the southwestern part of the Province, shows curious rocky

outcrops packed between granites, numerous pools and ancient dams.

Llanos de Cáceres

In the central zone, we find the named Llanos de Cáceres. A Zone of Special Conservation crossed by the mountain range of Montánchez, which combines meadows, urban areas and mountain, but attracts numerous bird species.

Mountain ranges of the North of Cáceres

The mild climate and the exuberant vegetation of the northern mountain ranges are nowadays the biggest call of the north of Cáceres. The named Hurdes, the Sierra de Gata, the valley of Ambroz, el Jerte and La Vera are the regions that form these mountain ranges. They are green lands, rich in water and with abundant vegetation that provides to the riverside landscape a matchless beauty. Autumn is a perfect season to travel to these valleys. A festival

of unlikely colors and experiences take place in places such as the valley of Ambroz, las Villuercas e Ibores, la Jara or el Jerte.

info

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