



## Don't miss out

The **Sierra de Grazalema** is one of the most important natural treasures in Spain. As well as its environmental value, this enclave boasts great traditions and culture, and is home to some of the prettiest **white villages** in Andalusia.

### **Walks around the Sierra de Grazalema**

The **Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park** is recognised as a **Biosphere Reserve** by UNESCO, its diverse landscape making it the ideal place to go hiking on routes such as the **Spanish Fir**, the **river Majaceite** or the **Garganta Verde**.

### **The Spanish Fir, a relic from the Quaternary Period**

The **Spanish Fir** (*Abies pinsapo*), a Mediterranean spruce, the only one in the world, is a relic from the Quaternary Period, which can be seen in the hills of Grazalema in all its glory. This tree was described for science by the Swiss botanist **Pierre Edmond Boissier**, in his work *Voyage botanique dans le Midi de l'Espagne* (Botanical Journey Around Southern Spain) in 1838.

### Birdwatching

This natural enclave boasts **more than 200 different species of birds and other animal species**, which make it the ideal place for watching the Griffon Vulture, the Booted Eagle and even the small and vivacious Blue Tits, White Wagtails and Little Owls.

### Grazalema Old Town

**Grazalema** is one of the most beautiful villages of those that make up the **Route of White Villages**. It holds the **National Award for Beautification and Improvement**, and is a must-see if you like wandering through narrow, cobbled streets with white-washed houses sporting hanging baskets of geraniums and bougainvilleas.

### Recreation of Banditry

'Sangre y Amor en La Sierra' (**Blood and Love in the Sierra**), a historic reconstruction of the life of the bandit José María Hinojosa, **El Tempranillo**, usually takes place midway through October in Grazalema, where the inhabitants of the village become characters from the period.

## The best of the Sierra de Grazalema

Located in the heart of Andalusia, the **Sierra de Grazalema** is considered to be one of the most important natural parks in Spain due to its wealth of flora and fauna and its unbeatable landscapes. Nature lovers can enjoy these surroundings, declared a **Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO**, with numerous routes for all tastes:

(Distances calculated from the Hotel Fuerte Grazalema)

#### Route from the Hotel Fuerte Grazalema- Laguna del Río Campobuche

10 km route, low-medium difficulty, mainly flat, through a beautiful Cork Oak and Portuguese Oak tree wood. This route takes two and a half hours from **Fuerte Grazalema** and it crosses the river Campobuche and one of the largest Cork Oak trees in the park, 'el Alcornoque de las Ánimas' (**Cork Oak Tree of the Souls**). Recommended for walkers with children.

#### Route from the Salto del Cabrero (departure point 11 minutes away by car)

Spectacular views throughout the 9 km, mid-high difficulty due to the hard descent to Benaocaz. This route takes 5 hours, departing from **Puerto del Boyar** you will cover the Sierra Endrinal to the **Salto del Cabrero**, a hill of vertical sides over 80 m high separated by a gorge 50 m wide.

#### Llanos del Republicano Route (departure point 11 minutes away by car)

Simple 5 km route, low difficulty, which takes 2 hours covering different pasturelands, therefore it is very likely that you will come across goats and cows. It departs from **Villaluenga del Rosario** to the cave, where it is possible to spot birds of prey or investigate the different caves through which the valley can be reached, where streams abound.

**Roman Road Route** (departure point 11 minutes away by car)

This 2 hour walk departs from the viewpoint at Benaocaz and ends at the village of Ubrique, along an old Roman road which is still in good condition, as it has been repaired. This is a 5 km route, low difficulty, through a valley which ends at the Los Diez Caños fountain.

**Spanish Fir route** (departure point 15 minutes away by car)

This is one of the most beautiful routes in the park which crosses through the Grazalema Spanish Fir wood, the largest in the world. The views are impressive and it is common to spot Griffon Vultures and Roe Deer. It is medium difficulty due to its length (12 km) and duration (5 hours). This walk ends at the impressive **Benamahoma** spring.

For this walk **hikers should request a permit**, which can be applied for at the El Bosque Visitors' Centre (C/Fco. García Lorca s/n. 11670, El Bosque Tel.: 956 70 97 33) or at the Fuerte Grazalema hotel itself.

**Ascent to the El Torreón summit** (departure point 20 minutes away by car)

Even if it is a tough climb to the Summit, at 1654m above sea level, it is well worth it to enjoy the spectacular views (low-medium difficulty). The departure point is between **Benamahoma and Grazalema** and for the 2 hours 30 minutes the walk takes you can see mountain goats and birds of prey on this route through Portuguese Oaks and shrubs.

**Ojo del Moro Route** (departure point 20 minutes away by car)

This walk takes you along the Pajaruco stream, to a viewpoint with views of the river Tavizna and the Aznalmara Castle. It has a turnoff which consists of branching off to the right, connecting with the Salto del Cabrero Route and returning to Benaocaz crossing the Pajaruco stream again, passing an attractive old bridge. This turnoff is 4 km long, of low-medium difficulty and takes 1 hour 30 minutes.

**Llano del Rabel Route** (departure point 25 minutes away by car)

One of the most spectacular walks is the Llano del Rabel Route, 8 km long, taking 4 hours from Puerto de los Acebuches (round trip). It is an almost flat route which enables a complete beginner to see the heart of Grazalema Natural Park and the Spanish Fir wood. **Recommended for walkers with children.**

**Garganta Verde Route** (departure point 25 minutes away by car)

This walk, 3 km long and medium-high difficulty, has a magnificent view of the gorge through which the Bocaleones stream flows. It is a gorge about 400 metres deep with an enormous cave at its base. The descent is very steep and takes 3 hours from the departure point, in Zahara. It is a magnificent route for spotting vultures up close.

For this walk hikers should **request a permit**, which can be applied for at the El Bosque Visitors' Centre (C/Fco. García Lorca s/n. 11670, El Bosque Tel.: 956 70 97 33) or at the Fuerte Grazalema hotel.

**River Majaceite Route** (departure point 25 minutes away by car)

This walk is 5.3 km long and is a pleasant 2-hour walk from El Bosque to Benamahoma, following the course of the river Majaceite, home to otters and an excellent wood of poplars, ash trees and elms trees. Low difficulty route. **Recommended for walkers with children.**

**Walk from Benaoján to the Cueva del Gato** (departure point 30 minutes away)

Benaoján station is the starting point of this 5 km walk along the river Guadiaro to the Cañada Real del Campo de Gibraltar. This livestock trail links Ronda and Algeciras and is of low difficulty. The walk takes you to the impressive Cueva del Gato, where the water has created an extraordinary underwater world.

**Las Angosturas Route, from Benaoján to Jimera de Líbar** (30 min away by car)

This walk with a beautiful backdrop begins at Benaoján station and runs through the Guadiaro valley between Holm oaks and Portuguese Firs for 8 km to Jimera de Líbar station. It comes highly recommended for families, as there are no difficulties and it is possible to return to the departure point by train.

## Cycling routes

**Cycle route from Fuerte Grazalema-Llanos del Republicano**

Due to its low difficulty and great beauty, the Llanos del Republicano route (a 5 kilometre walk) is the perfect option for comfortable paced bicycle ride from the hotel **Fuerte Grazalema**.

**Vía Verde de la Sierra** (40 min away by car)

This 35 km route, medium difficulty, departs from Puerto Serrano and runs along an old unused railway infrastructure, parallel to the course of the river. For the three hours that the route takes you pass through places as spectacular as the Zaframagón Rock, one of the most populated vulture reserves in Europe.

## Horse riding routes

Grazalema offers the possibility to choose from many equestrian routes, riders thus being able to enjoy nature on horseback on a pleasant hack.

## The best of the old town

**Grazelema** is not just a **unique natural beauty spot in Spain**, it is also one of the prettiest villages of those that make up the **Route of the White Villages**. It holds the **National Award for Beautification and Improvement**, and is a must-see if you like wandering through narrow, cobbled streets with white-washed houses sporting hanging baskets of geraniums and bougainvilleas.

**Visits** (Distances calculated from the Hotel Fuerte Grazelema)

**Plaza de España and the Town Hall** (5 min away by car)

The streets in Grazelema are Arabic in their layout, and lead you to the heart of the town, **Plaza de España**, where the symbol of former glory still stands today, the **Nuestra Señora de la Aurora Church**. The Town Hall also stands out in this square, with its crowned arches and the typical Andalusian balconies with their own special charm.

**Nuestra Señora de la Aurora Church** (5 min by car)

This religious monument, from the 18th century, is known for its octagonal base and drum cupola. It is, without a doubt, the most important building of all the historic sites. Another must-see is the **San José Church**, with its medieval canvases.

**Viewpoints** (5 min by car)

From the different viewpoints in the village (Mirador de los Asomaderos, Mirador El Tajo, Los Peñascos and Villa Turística) you can see Grazelema's greatest treasure, its surroundings, the Natural Park.

**Museum of Textile Handicraft** (5 min by car)

It houses old tools used to work fabric, since in the 17th century Grazelema was famous for its textile goods, in particular for its blankets.

**Other visits**

**Spa** (5 min by car)

If what you want is to relax among nature, don't forget that in Grazelema you can visit the spa set in a privileged enclave.

**Blanket factory** (6 min by car)

An unusual visit in Grazelema is the traditional **blanket factory** where these pieces are made completely by hand.

## The best food options

**Grazaleta** (5 min by car and 30 min by foot)

Grazaleta offers a wide variety of specialties for lovers of the traditional flavours of the hills thanks to the quality of its products.

### Recommendations:

**Payoyo cheese:** Made with payoya goats' milk, it is one of the main ingredients in tapas dishes due to its exquisite flavour and delicate texture.

**Grazaleta Soup:** Made from a base of stock from stew mixed with the intense flavour of chorizo and the subtleness of mint.

**Meats:** Oven-cooked lamb and venison in sauce are the main dishes.

**Confectionery:** Acorn tart, *amarguillos* (made with almonds) and the famous *cubilettes* (filled with sweet pumpkin jam) are the most typical pastries from Grazaleta.

**Tapas:** Grazaleta is an ideal place for one of the most typical gastronomical traditions in Spain: **going out for tapas**. Below are a few recommendations:

- **La Posadilla (5 min by car):** Homemade food where you can try tapas and main courses without forgetting the *picadillo* soup (chicken and vegetable) in winter and the gazpacho in summer.
- **Zulema (5 min by car):** Charming tapas bar where as well as good food they also serve drinks.
- **Kiboca (5 min by car):** Known for its tapas and hamburgers, washed down with an exquisite local wine or a good beer.
- **Rumores (5 min in car):** A very well known bar on tapas routes for its quality and variety.

**Restaurants:** With regards to the best **restaurants** we can highlight:

- **El Simancón (5 min by car):** El Mesón El Simancón offers typical food from the Sierra in a rustic setting.
- **Torreón (5 min by car):** A restaurant which specialises in game and which stocks good wines.
- **Casa de las Piedras (5 min by car):** Restaurant serving traditional dishes.
- **Cádiz El Chico (5 min by car):** This restaurant offers dishes such as lamb or venison cooked in a wood-fired oven and Grazaleta soup (with chorizo and boiled egg).

- **Villaluenga del Rosario** (11 min by car)  
La Posada de Ana
- **Benaocaz** (16 min by car)  
El Refugio
- **Ubrique** (23 min by car)  
El Laurel  
El Plaza
- **Ronda** (30 min by car)  
El Tragabuches  
El Escudero  
Sol y Sombra  
Pedro Romero  
Tragatapas

## The best shops

If you visit the **Sierra de Grazalema** you can't leave without buying handcrafted typical products from the area. Both the cheeses and **textile and leather products** are a must for anyone passing through this area.

- **Grazalema** (5 min by car and 30 min on foot)  
El Duende, gifts and accessories.  
La Alacena, souvenirs from the sierra.  
Antojos, wooden toys, gifts and decorations.  
Blanket factory.  
Horizon, sports gear for hiking.  
Las Hazuelas, specialists in payoyo cheese.  
La Casa de Abuela Augustina, local products.  
Todo Sierra, local products..  
Supermercado Guillermo (supermarket) and Carnicería Mercedes (butchers), Iberian cured meats.
- **Ubrique** (23 min by car): Due to the artisan tradition of Ubrique the leather goods are highly recommended.  
Carla Sade  
El Potro  
Arte Piel  
Coronel Piel  
Piel Galván  
Maipe  
Miguel Durán



Cuero Ubrique  
Anago Piel  
Iloveleather  
Barad  
Piel de Ubrique  
Mari Paz

- **Ronda** (30 min by car)  
Shopping centre open on calle de la Bola  
Area around the bullring

## The best tours: Half day tours

### **Villaluenga del Rosario** (10 min by car)

This pretty enclave in the sierra de Grazaleta, Villaluenga del Rosario, houses the **Museum of Payoyo Cheese** and the largest factory of this exquisite flavoursome and high quality cheese.

### **Benamahoma** (20 min by car)

The village of Benamahoma is located in a privileged position where the presence of the water, its most valued asset, dominates the landscape. Must-see visits are the **Museum of Water** (located in the old mill at the source of the river Majaceite), the fish farm or **El Castillejo Botanical Gardens**.

If there is one important date on the Benamahoma calendar it has to be the first weekend in August, when the unusual **Moors and Christians Festival** is held. The village returns to the period of Arabic domination and the Christian reconquista.

### **Ubrique** (23 min by car)

Ubrique forms part of the route of the white villages, at the entrance of Grazaleta Natural Park and Los Alcornocales Natural Park. You can't leave without visiting the Museum of Leather, a look at the history of leather goods in Ubrique since its beginnings.

Don't forget to visit the **Roman archaeological site Ocuris**, 2 km from Ubrique in a place known as the salto de la Mora (leap of the Moor), from where you can see the natural pass to Benaocaz and the manga de Villaluenga (valley pass).

### **El Bosque** (25 min by car)

Located on the banks of the river Majaceite and at the foot of Albarracín hill, this pretty white village offers sulfurous springs and thick forests. Highlights are its cold meats and cheeses as well as the art of leather making and the manufacture of artisan furniture.

#### Montejaque y Benaoján (40 min by car)

The cave painting site **Cueva de la Pileta** is a prehistoric cave declared a National Monument in 1924. It is one of the most notable examples of cave painting on the Iberian Peninsula which attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world every year.

#### Setenil de las Bodegas (40 min by car)

The main attraction of this small village are its peculiar dwellings **built under the protection of the rocks**, in which unlike with other semi-troglodyte constructions, the rock is not excavated, instead the rocky wall is simply closed in and the dwelling is built lengthways.

## The best tours: One day tours

#### Ronda (20 min by car)

Ronda is a monumental town whose jewel is its imposing and famous gorge, and it is considered to one of the prettiest towns in Andalusia. As well as the gorge bridge, you will also be pleasantly surprised by its bullring, the Museum of the Bandit and its typical streets which you can ride through on a horse-drawn carriage. Take a trip to the **Acinipo** archaeological site, an old Roman town (20 kilometres from Ronda).

#### Ascari Circuit (30 min by car)

Lovers of speed and Formula One can visit the Ascari Circuit in Ronda.

#### Zahara de la Sierra "Beach" (35 min by car)

This is an artificial beach created in the heart of the natural beauty spot taking advantage of the course of the river in an expanse between allotments and fruit trees. This spot also offers you the chance to try canoeing.

One of the most noted festivals in the area is **Corpus de Zahara**, declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest, where the beauty of the streets and altars decorated with flowers are one of the highlights in this typical white Andalusian village.

#### Arcos de la Frontera (45 min by car)

Arcos de la Frontera is one of the prettiest and most unique villages on the route of the **White Villages**. It gets its name from the arches which shape its architecture, with narrow, whitewashed streets adorned with flowers. It also has an interesting collection of Visigoth, Roman and Arabic artifacts.



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**Jerez** (1.30 min by car)

Jerez is considered to be one of the **birthplaces of flamenco** in Andalusia, which also offers fascinating horse shows at the **Real Escuela Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre (Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art)** and interesting **wine tours** in the famous wine and brandy cellars in Jerez

**Cádiz** (1.49 min by car)

The charm of Cadiz or '**La tacita de plata**' ('The Little Silver Tea Cup'), as it is popularly known, is unbeatable thanks to the beauty of unique monuments such as the Teatro Falla where the carnival competition is held, the Oratorio de San Felipe, the Plaza de Abastos, the Cathedral, the **Caleta beach** and **La Viña** area.

**Sevilla** (1.50 min by car)

It is true that Seville is captivating and this is demonstrated by its monuments among which we can highlight the **Torre del Oro**, the Giralda, the Alcázar, the Archivo de Indias, the Palacio de San Telmo and the Tobacco Factory.

Seville also boasts one of the most original multi-adventure parks in Andalusia located in a hundred year old pine forest, '**El Bosque suspendido**' ('The Hanging Forest'), where you can have a fun-filled day out.

**Granada** (2.40 min by car)

The charming city of Granada houses **La Alhambra**, a World Heritage site and the most visited and most symbolic monument in Spain. The Albaicín and Sacromonte neighbourhoods fill the city with colour and charm, crowned by the peaks of the **Sierra Nevada**.



**Fuerte Grazalesma** is part of [responsible hotels](#). It's a hotel which makes the effort to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the positive ones on the environment and local community, that is, attempts to be as sustainable as possible.



**Social projects**

The hotel invests and is involved in projects that serve as an example of its commitment with the improvement of its economic, social and environmental impact as well as with its contribution for the local cohesion.



**Waste recycling**

The hotel separate waste and management of its residues removed, using methods of revaluing them (recycling and / or reuse) to achieve lower pollution impact on soil and groundwater.



**Local suppliers**

The hotel has declared to be making an effort to ensure the products it is provided with are as local as possible.



**Sustainable policy**

The property has a strong commitment to sustainability, which is reflected in a policy public to all its stakeholders. Through this policy the property transmits its core values on sustainable development.



**Renewable energy**

The hotel has renewable energy facilities obtained from natural sources and environmentally friendly. Its negative effects on the environment are significantly less than those of conventional energy. And they are almost always reversible.



**Fair trade**

The hotel uses Fair trade products, an alternative to conventional trade, in addition to economic criterion, taking into account ethical values that include social and environmental aspects.



**Healthy food**

The property offer food and beverage from organic production method by which agricultural production and livestock have a fundamental objective of obtaining high-quality food while maintaining soil fertility without using agrochemicals.



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