

WALKING IN ANDALUCIA

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This guidebook explores six of Andalucía's most beautiful Natural Parks – the Sierra Nevada regions of Aracena, Grazalema, Los Alcornocales and Gaucín, La Axarquía, the Alpujarras and Cazorla – along the great belt of the Cordillera Bética mountains. The 36 half- and full-day walks are mostly circular, ranging in length from 4 to 21km, and are evenly divided among these six regions. Walks are graded easy to medium/difficult: some involve steep ascents and descents but all are within the capabilities of a reasonably fit walker.

The Cordillera Bética offers some of the finest year-round walking in Europe. Towering above the Mediterranean, mainland Spain's highest mountains rise to almost 3500m, and wrapped within this mighty range are some of Spain's most beautiful villages and trails.

The routes are based around the villages of Aracena, Grazalema, Jimena de la Frontera, Cazorla, Bubión and Cómputa, all of which lie within protected nature reserves. They are best enjoyed March–June and September–October, although the higher Natural Parks of Cazorla and La Alpujarra are still comfortable in high summer. The guidebook includes detailed route descriptions, clear mapping, notes on the history of Andalucía and its plants and wildlife, practical information about travel, food and drink, language and communications and recommendations for places to stay.

Key marketing points

- Varied walking in six of Andalucía's Natural Parks
- Year-round walking - best between March-June and September-October
- 8.5 million visitors/year visit Andalucía, of which nearly half a million visit to enjoy walking and the natural surroundings

About the author

Guy Hunter-Watts has lived and worked in Andalucía since the 1980s. After studying at the universities of Santiago and Salamanca he taught English in South America before moving to the Ronda mountains, where he has been leading guided walks for almost 25 years. His work as a walking guide and freelance journalist has taken him to many corners of the planet including India, Namibia, Tanzania, Latin America and Mongolia.

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