

## Parque Natural de las Sierras Subbéticas (Carcabuey)



The creation of the Natural Park by the 1988 Decree responds to the intention of orienting and ordering a region that has special natural and socio-cultural values. Its objective is the protection and conservation of the landscape and the natural associations of flora and fauna; that is to say, to preserve from deterioration those areas that are worthy of being conserved. The many nuances that adorn its landscapes bear witness to a deep-rooted tradition, embodied in a rural environment and its agricultural uses characteristic of these mountain ranges. On the one hand, there are genuine representations of the karst landscape, endemisms are frequent and, in addition, there is a great diversity of flora. On the other hand, this Park is a privileged habitat for species such as the peregrine falcon, the Cabrera shrew and the crayfish. The typical vegetation is that of the Mediterranean environment and is characterized by the existence of few tree species and of little elevation, a great variety of shrub species and an underdeveloped herbaceous layer. The holm oak and the gall oak are the protagonists, although the wild olive and almond trees are also important, as well as the poplars and the ash trees existing on the riverbanks. Among the species that form part of the underbrush and the bushes, the coconuts, strawberry trees, junipers, savines, heathers and mastics stand out. At the lower level, asparagus, sarsaparillas, ivy, gorse and thyme are abundant. Due to their special beauty we have to mention the peonies and due to their exceptional relevance we highlight the existence of endemisms. The protected area is made up of a group of rocky massifs, with steep slopes and with altitudes that sometimes exceed 1500 metres. These geographical characteristics make them stand out from the rest of the territory that frames and surrounds it. This is where the highest rainfall rates in the province are found. The Natural Park of the Sierras Subbéticas is located in the northwest of the province of Córdoba, making it the geographic center of Andalusia. It extends over 32056 hectares of the Betic mountain range. The municipalities of Córdoba included in the area of socio-economic influence are Cabra, Carcabuey, Doña Mencía, Iznajar, Priego de Córdoba, Rute, Luque and Zuheros. The Sierras Subbéticas contain in La Tiñosa the highest peak in the province with 1,570 meters