

Sierra Bermeja rules over the Golden Mile in Andalucia

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 the 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. It is a very winding road and steep. Not for those afraid of heights since you cannot enjoy the view over the coast and the valleys below. Here and there are sources where people come to collect spring water. Once up you come to a crossroads. Here you can stay and enjoy the view and maybe take a break with coffee or even a little Cava. To the left is the road - partly teach it not to be paved - to Genalgaucil and to the right towards Jubrique. But further to the left is a narrow crooked "sand" way up in the conservation area. Road_quality is very poor and the road just wide enough to get a meeting if you place your wheels off the road where it falls straight down. One must have a cool head, but all are committed, so it is not many people plunge into what I know.



When, after a few miles climbed finished, you are on top of about 1200 meters above sea level and you get the reward - a stunning view of the Costa del Sol.



Here lies a small “venta” which is open at least over the weekend with a rather simple food. Of course there is a fire ban, so they have arranged with barbecues. There are plenty of picnic areas with tables and fixed benches and you can drink fresh spring water.

Continues the way another hundred meters 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 there is a new reward. Views all the way to Gibraltar and the African mountains.



If you have not put the coffee in the wrong way, maybe you are getting hungry for some food. The road down to Jubrique is good with Spanish standards. The road winds down along the mountain side. 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 with 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 where you will not meet any tourists.



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. It 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 down to the coast, you can either take left to Casares or continue to Manilva. On the way down to the coast there are several beautiful picnic spots to stop at and take rest. A easier way is to go from Ronda to see the mountain villages on better roads, but without the excitement.