Sierra Norte de Sevilla Greenway

Mining deposits do not always mean desolate landscapes. Sometimes mining takes place in areas of outstanding natural beauty. This is the case of the Cerro del Hierro mining area, in the heart of the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park.

Access to this area is now provided by the old railway line, recently developed by the Department of the Environment of the Regional Government of Andalusia. It follows a route through a surprisingly green landscape, given that we are in the province of Sevilla.

**TECHNICAL DATA**

**CONDITIONED GREENWAY**

The most evocative journey in the northern ranges of Seville.
LOCATION

Between the Cazalla- Constantina station and the “Cerro del Hierro”
SEVILLA

Length: 15 Km of Greenway + 4 Km of connection between the railway station and the Greenway

Users: 🚴‍♂️ 🚴‍♀️ 🚶‍♂️

Type of surface:
Mixed: asphalt with “slurry” treatment

Natural landscape:
Natural Park os the Sierra Norte de Sevilla. Biosphere Reserve. Mediterranean oak forest, gall oaks and cork trees. Riverbank forests

Cultural Heritage:
Mineral deposits and mining town in San Nicolás del Puerto

Infrastructure:
Greenway 1 tunnels. 2 gateways

How to get there:
Cazalla Station: Medium and short distance RENFE services
(*) Please ask the conditions of bike admittance in Renfe trains

Connections:
Cazalla-Constantina station: 94kms to Seville

Maps:
Military map of Spain. 1:50,000 scale 920 sheet

More information on the Greenways guide Volume I
DESCRIPTION

Km. 0 / Km. 5.5 / Km. 10 / Km. 16

**Km 0**

The Greenway starts from an area known as Los Prados, next to the junction of the old mining railway with the active Renfe line. To get there we first need to find Cazalla-Constantina Renfe station from where we have various options. We can abandon the railway line and take the former Camino de San Nicolás del Puerto (now the local SE-168 road, which has very little traffic). Then, at a recreational area called Isla Margarita, we cross the Rivera de Huéznar river to meet up with a local Green Corridor on the other side. Or we can go a few hundred metres along the A-455 Constantina-Cazalla road and cross a bridge over the Rivera de Huéznar where, directly on our left, is the start of the same Green Corridor.

The above mentioned Green Corridor is some 4.5 km long, bordered by a leafy gallery forest on one side and holm oak groves and pastureland on the other. At the end of the corridor we cross the Rivera de Huéznar again by a practicable ford and reach the Vía Verde, after first crossing under the first stretch of the mining railway in the area we mentioned before, Los Prados.

Another way to get to the start of the Greenway is by the SE-168 ring road. We continue along the road towards San Nicolás del Puerto and look out for the first level crossing on the line (after the one at Cazalla station) between the active Renfe railway and the road.

**Km 5.5**

From now on our adventure continues on the rail bed of the old mining line. For the first few metres we run alongside the cooling waters of the Rivera del Huéznar, a travelling companion for part of our journey through the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park.

A little further on we cross the San Nicolás del Puerto road by a level crossing. Recent work to this and similar crossings has reintroduced a distinctly railway flavour: railway sleepers have been embedded in the surface which, apart from encouraging cyclists to slow down, also remind us of the time when trains
used to run on our Greenway route. Cork oaks, holm oaks, and rockrose thickets border this first section until Km 5.5 when we arrive at the second level crossing with the same road.

Once over the road we encounter one of the most idyllic spots on our route, where the trail crosses the river by one of the two bridges that have been rebuilt specifically for the Greenway. From there we continue along the old railway route up the Huéznar valley. The climb becomes steeper, and there are 2.5% (1 in 40) inclines for stretches of over 2 km, easy for any walker but a hard climb for the steam locomotives of the past. The climb has its reward: from the top of the valley we can enjoy a superb view of the Rivera del Huéznar river and its surrounding area.

Km 10

At the Los Molinos tunnel (Km 10) our trail parts company with the river. This tunnel (114m long with no lighting, although visibility is not a problem) leads us into an area of gentler countryside of pasture and meadowland as we head towards the village of San Nicolás del Puerto. The station building (Km 11) stands at the entrance to the village and from there we can make a detour into the village itself. We can also take the opportunity to make use of the recreational area next to the source of the river Rivera de Huéznar, which is also an alternative starting point on our Greenway.

The rest of the route runs through a gentle landscape of Mediterranean pasture woodland for five more delightful kilometres.

Km 16

The remains of hoists, slag heaps, and other mining equipment signal our arrival at the mining area of Cerro del Hierro (Km 15.5). But first we pass through the old mining village, now part of the municipality of San Nicolás, where some of the miners who used to work the mines still live.

Just after entering this area, on our right we can see the local chapel school, which is very British in appearance, no doubt because it was a Scottish company, William Baird & Co. Ltd. of Glasgow, which first mined these deposits in the early 19th century. Engineers and managers of the company used to live close to the mines, as is
evidenced by the remains of a number of old houses, which also have a colonial English look to them and are known locally as "The houses of the English".

However, from a natural beauty point of view, the highlight of this journey (and also the third possible entry point to the Greenway), are the limestone crags of Cerro del Hierro, which rise majestically to form a spectacular landscape of fanciful rock formations, all angles and sharp edges. The result is an almost magical area, which 550 million years ago was still under the sea.

The area is rendered even more fascinating by the long-abandoned remains of mining operations, with loading platforms, railways, ramps, slag heaps, etc. Thus the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Greenway not only gives users an opportunity to have fun and adventure while increasing their knowledge of the environment, but also adds an element of industrial archaeology to their experience.
RAILWAY HISTORY

Like all mining railways, this line has a very modest history. The rich deposits of iron in the hills near San Nicolás del Puerto prompted some astute British investors (as was so often the case back then) to acquire the mining rights over the area in the late 19th century. In order to take the ore to market, they built a railway along the Rivera de Huéznar river to link up to a nearby broad gauge line 15 km downstream.

Work on this spur line was started and completed in 1895, and unlike other mining railways it was built in broad gauge. This was an advantage when it came to operating the line, which was first transferred to MZA (standing for Madrid, Zaragoza and Alicante) and later to Renfe, owners of the main line further down the valley.
No passengers were ever carried nor were any goods other than the iron ore from the mine, although there was a great deal of interest from the towns and villages through which the line passed and a number of attempts were made to introduce other services. Finally, in 1970, a circular to Renfe employees announced the closure of services on the Río Huéznar to Cerro del Hierro spur line. The company informed that the tracks and other railway infrastructure would be left in place for the time being pending a possible revival of the mining operations that the spur line served. Such a revival never occurred.

**INTERESTING DATA**

1. Festivals and holidays
2. Accommodation
3. Eco-tourism
4. Managing Authority
5. Town Councils
6. Emergencies
7. Coaches & buses
8. Railway

**Festivals and holidays**

**Cazalla de la Sierra**
July 16
Fiestas de la Virgen del Carmen

1st fortnight in August
Feria y romería de la Virgen del Monte

**Alanís**
Last Sunday in May
Romería de San Pedro

2nd fortnight in August
Feria

September 8
Fiestas patronales de Nuestra Señora de Las Angustias

December 7
Fiestas de las Candelitas
San Nicolás del Puerto
2nd Sunday in May
romería de San Nicolás del Puerto

Weekend nearest to July 25
Feria

November 13
Fiestas patronales de San Diego.

Constantina
2nd fortnight in August
Feria

Last Sunday in September
Fiestas patronales de Nuestra Señora del Robledo

Accommodation

Cazalla de la Sierra
Hotel Posada del Moro**
Tel. 95 488 48 58

Hospedería La Cartuja
Tel. 95 488 45 16

Casa Rural El Paraíso del Hueznar
Tel. 95 5954203
www.paraisodelhueznar.com

Cortijo Las Navezuelas
Tel. 95 488 47 64

Cortijo El Berrocal
Tel. 95 488 44 22

Casa Rural Dehesa del Prado
Tel. 95 488 41 75

Casa Rural Palacio de San Benito
Tel. 954 88 3336
www.palaciodesanbenito.com
info@palaciodesanbenito.com

Alanís
Área de Acampada El Martinete
Tel. 95 588 66 28
San Nicolás del Puerto
Cámping y Casa Rural
Bátán de las Monjas
Tel. 95 595 41 63 / 95 588 65 98

Constantina
Albergue Juvenil
Tel. 95 588 15 89

Hospedaje La Casa
Tel. 95 588 02 82

Casa Rural Fuente Castaño
Tel. 95 588 17 14

Los Pozos de la Nieve
Tel. 95 566 92 66 / 680 411 428
www.lospozosdelanieve.com

Eco-tourism

Cazallla de la Sierra
Alquiler de Bicicletas "Bicicletas verde vía" Tel. 609 512 579
www.bicicletasverdevia.com
Granja Escuela El Remolino. Tel. 95 488 49 02

Constantina
Oficina de Turismo Rural. Tel. 95 588 12 97
Centro de Visitantes del Parque Natural de la Sierra Norte
Tel. 95 588 15 97.
Granja Escuela La Sierra. Tel. 95 595 40 98
Granja Escuela El Remolino. Telfs. 954 88 29 05 / 954 88 49 02
www.educa.org/cn_er.htm
remolinoeduca@educa.org

Portal de Sierra Norte de Turismo. www.sierranortedesevilla.es

Managing Authority

Parque Natural Sierra Norte de Sevilla
Ctra. Constantina - El Pedroso, Km.1
Constantina
Tel: 955 00 44 00

Elena Yufera. ASociación Turismo Sierra Norte
e-mail: eyufera@hotmail.com
Tel: 661 845 647
**Town Councils**

**Cazalla de la Sierra**  
Tel. 95 488 40 25

**Alanís**  
Tel. 95 488 50 04.  
San Nicolás del Puerto  
Tel. 95 58865 00

**Constantina**  
Tel. 95 588 07 00

**Emergencies**

URGENCIAS: Tel. 062

**Coaches & buses**

Alanís, San Nicolás del Puerto y Constantina  
La empresa Linesur realiza el servicio a Sevilla. Tel. 95 490 80 40

**Railway**

Cazalla de la Sierra  
RENFE. Estación de Cazalla-Constantina. Cercanías de Sevilla y Regionales  
Tel. 902 24 02 02. [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)

**LINKS**

[www.juntadeandalucia.es](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es)  
Web page of the Department of the Environment of the Regional Government of Andalusia on the P.A.N. European Project where you can find useful information about the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park.

[www.sierranortedesevilla.es](http://www.sierranortedesevilla.es)  
Information Portal of Sierra Norte de Sevilla. Here you will find all the information you may need on rural tourism, activities, events, businesses and more. Page Spanish, English, German, French.

[www.dipusevilla.es](http://www.dipusevilla.es)  
Extensive information about the Sevilla Provincial Government: organs of governance, organization, towns and villages in the province, publications, citizen services...
www.turismosevilla.org
The idea web page for those wishing to get the most out of the province of Sevilla. Where to go, what to see, where to eat, and where to stay for a trouble-free trip.

www.turismosevilla.org
The idea web page for those wishing to get the most out of the province of Sevilla. Where to go, what to see, where to eat, and where to stay for a trouble-free trip.

MULTIMEDIA

VÍDEO - Serie Vive la Vía

En pleno corazón del Parque Natural de la Sierra Norte de Sevilla, entre alcornoques, jarales y dehesas bañadas por las aguas del Huéznar, discurre la Vía Verde descrita en este capítulo de Vive la Vía. Un antiguo ferrocarril minero transformado en camino suave para ciclistas y caminantes, nos conduce hasta las mágicas formaciones del yacimiento de Cerro del Hierro, un monumento de la naturaleza y de nuestra historia viva.

Parte 1 de 2
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KahfTT86IFw&feature=player_embedded

Parte 2 de 2
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xL3fMNYr48&feature=player_embedded