



Territorio Cueva

Where to find us

The **Territorio Cueva** is found in Andalusia, in the south of Spain, specifically in the **Valles del Norte de Granada**. The origin of the **Cave Houses** is in the unique landform of the area, with wide depressions wedged between mountain ranges, full of natural corridors, passages and shelters that are a result of water erosion over millions of years.



The clay hills in the Granada areas of **Hoya de Guadix** and the **High Plateaus of Baza and Huéscar** are home to the **largest concentration** of cave houses in the Andalusian region. The most significant collection of **cave houses in Europe** is found in the Granada town of **Guadix**. It is the so-called **Barrio de Cuevas**, which is spread out forming a complex network full of nooks and crannies that houses up to two thousand caves. Without leaving the region, **Benalúa** stands out as the second town with most inhabited caves, **Gorafe**, in the middle of the canyon of the river Gor, with one cave per inhabitant and **Purullena** and, up in the High Plateau, the Troglodyte neighbourhoods of **Baza, Benamaurel, Galera** and **Huéscar**.

In the city of Granada, cave houses are distributed throughout the Valle del río Darro, where the neighbourhoods of **Sacromonte** and **Albaicín** are located. We can also find examples of this age-old underground architecture in **Alhama de Granada, Huétor Vega** and **Monachil** (all in the province of Granada), **Hinojares** and **Pegalajar**, in the Jaén region and in the Caves of the Almanzora and Pechina in Almería. Lastly, standing out due to their uniqueness and spectacular nature are the houses carved out of rock in the Cádiz town of **Setenil de las Bodegas** with an aesthetic very similar to that of the cave houses.



A lunar landscape

The landscapes that can be seen in the **Territorio Cueva** prove that the beauty of Nature cannot easily be exceeded by artificial things. Its unique **geology** gifts us picture-perfect views that take us to places as faraway as **Death Valley in California**, the **Grand Canyon in Colorado** or the 'wadis' of the deserts of Israel or Jordan.

With a bird's eye view, the **Hoya de Guadix-Baza** offers itself as a **very wide plain**, a thousand metres high, bordered by forest mountain ranges with exuberant nature, among them Sierra de Castril, Sierra de Baza and the Sierra Nevada National and Natural Park. On the ground it becomes a **mosaic of overflowing landscapes**, ravines, paleontological and archaeological sites, reservoirs with crystal-clear waters and lush forests.

But, without doubt, the most characteristic image is that of its **badlands**, thus named due to the aridity and rocky character they display, with the **Cárcavas de Marchal**, declared a Natural monument, like one of its reference points. The gullies become reddish in the area of Guadix, giving the spectacular **Desierto de los Coloraos** in Gorafe its name and they are a **more whitish colour** in Baza and Huéscar due to the levels of lake plaster that sometimes form **big crystals** that shine with the reflection of the sun.

Geopark Project of Granada

In the northern part of the province of Granada, you can find one of the most surprising and unknown spots of the Peninsula. It is the area of the **Geopark Project of Granada**", that is spread across 1,410 km² and 34 towns in the regions of Guadix y Marquesado and El Altiplano. It reflects the **geological history of a river and an internal sea** and the **evolution of the landscapes and the fauna of the Quaternary** over millions of years. Its characteristics make it unique in Europe. Here we can also find the areas with the **greatest concentration of cave houses in the whole of the province**.

It has a unique landscape of gullies and badlands, with **70 places of geological interest**, some of them of great international relevance, such as the outcrops of **seismites in Galera**, the **Falla de Baza**, the **gypsum** of Castelljéjar and the **badlands** in the Region of Guadix, among others.

Here you can also find the most extensive and chronologically broad collection of **paleontological sites of continental vertebrates from the European Quaternary developed in the open air**, without which, we would know little or nothing about many aspects of this spectacular and unique natural past. Therefore, it is essential to visit the **Valle del Río Fardes Paleontological Station**, in **Fonelas** and the **basin of the river Orce** with the **site of Venta Micena**, where the remains of the famous Orce Man can be found. Another essential stop is the **Yacimiento argárico de Castellón Alto** in Galera.

Other emblematic places of the future Geopark are the Valle del Río Gor, that houses the **Megalithic Park of Gorafe**, the **End of the World Viewpoint**, the beautiful reserve of the **Desierto de los Coloraos** (Gorafe) and the **Jabalcón Viewpoint**, that offers a spectacular 360° panorama over a large part of the northern province of Granada.

Directory

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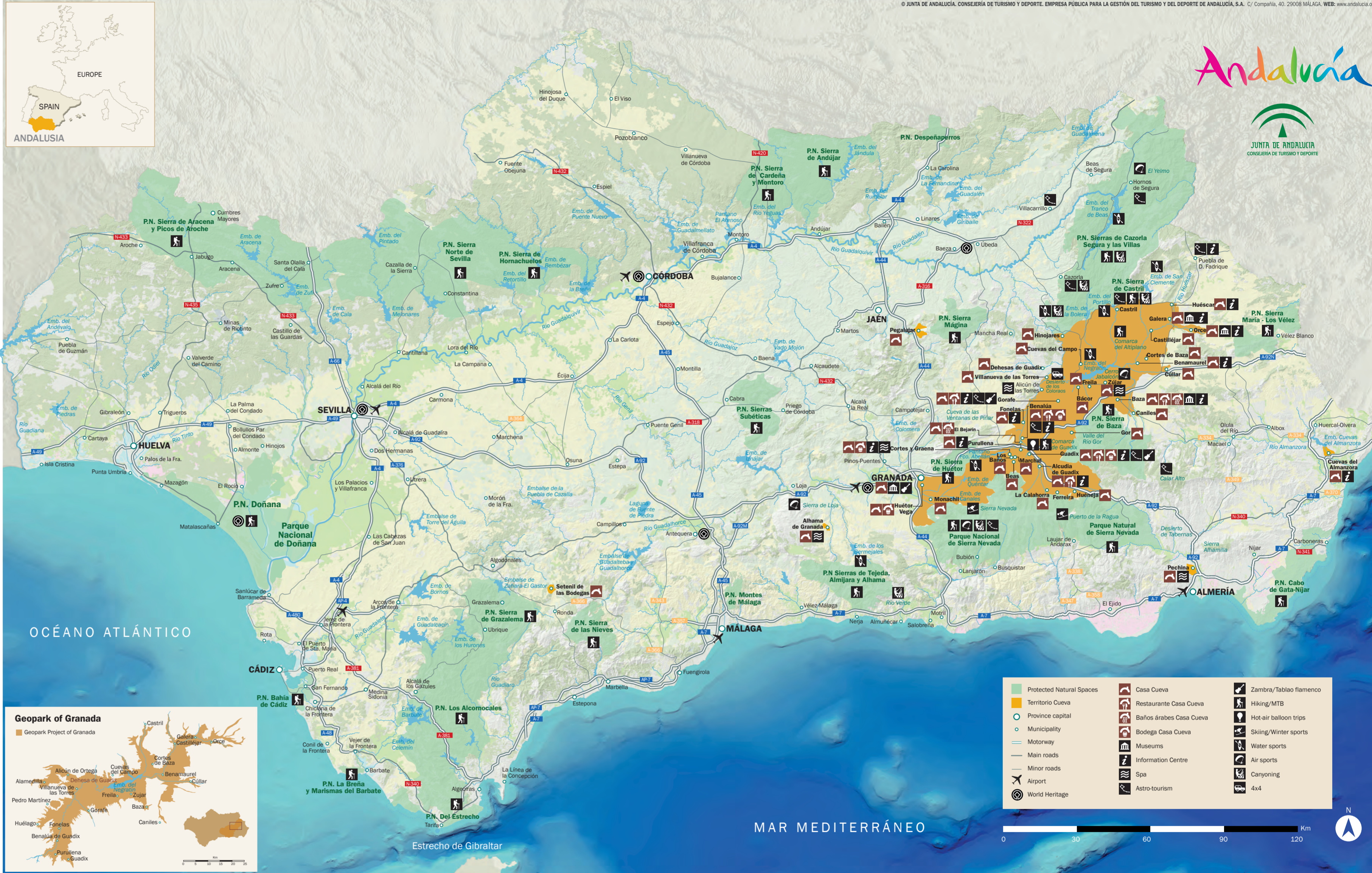
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Geopark of Granada

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