

Where to see *birds in Nerpio*

Pictures by Julia Jiménez, Heiko Menz, Mathias Putze and Sergio O. Pinedo.

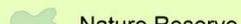
- ✦ **Reserva Natural Sierra de las Cabras** (*Cabras Natural Mountain Reserve*)
- ✦ **El Zarzalar**
- ✦ **Embalse de Taibilla** (*Taibilla Reservoir*)
- ✦ **Cañones del Taibilla** (*Taibilla Canyons*)
- ✦ **Choperas de Vizcable** (*Vizcable Poplar Groves*)
- ✦ **Huertas de Yetas** (*Yetas Fertile Regions*)
- ✦ **Muladar de Mingarao** (*Mingarao´s Vultures Feeding Ground*)
- ✦ **Sierra de Huebras** (*Huebras Mountain Range*)
- ✦ **Puntal de la Vieja** (*Puntal de la Vieja View Point*)
- ✦ **La Yegua**





Where to enjoy nature in Nerpio

SIMBOLOGY

	Monumental tree
	Parking
	Drinking Fountain
	Birds Observatory
	Viewpoint
	Bird places
	Asphalted roads
	Reservoir
	Rivers
	Nature Reserve



Sierra de las Cabras Nature Reserve

[Download how to get to the summit from WIKILOC](#)

Description

Natural protected area belonging to the Network of Protected Natural Spaces of Castilla-La-Mancha. High mountain area in which the “La Atalaya” peak can be found at 2084 metres, the second highest peak in the region.

Access

From go in the direction of Andalusia. Take the diversion to the left at the Cortijo Nuevo in the direction of Las Cañadas. Before you reach this hamlet, a track goes off to the left of the road which takes us into the Nature Reserve.

Species of birds

Residents: Bearded Vulture, Griffon Vulture, Black Redstart, Blue Rock-Thrush, Red Crossbill, Rock Sparrow, Rock Bunting, Red-billed Chough,

Wintering: Ring Ouzel, Fieldfare, Alpine Accentor, Yellowhammer.

Summer: Alpine Swift, Woodchat Shrike, Short-Toed Snake-Eagle, Booted Eagle, *Spanish Wheatear*.

Occasional: Spanish Imperial Eagle

In Migration: Black Kite, Red Kite, Honey Buzzard

Other points of interest

Presence of large number of endemic botanic types of the Sierras Béticas.. Geological formations of interest.. Route for going up to the peak of the Sierra. There is a signposted path which crosses the whole Nature Reserve.

Amongst the mammals the presence of the **Iberian Ibex or Spanish wild goat** (*Capra pyrenaica*) is of interest.



El Zarzalar

Description

This is a river canyon formed by the River Taibilla which passes through the centre of Nerpio town. Beautiful limestone rocks in which overhangs, roofs and caves predominate.

Access

On foot from Nerpio by following the path which runs parallel to the River Acedas. You have to go downstream the whole way until you pass the water treatment plant. From this point, the Acedas River joins the Taibilla River and 200 metres further down, the canyon begins. You can walk inside the canyon by following a narrow path which crosses the riverbed at two points using two improvised footbridges. The path ends at the foot of the rocks on the right side of the river. Do not go down the whole canyon as you have to return on the same path to the village.



Species of birds

Residents: Dipper, Cetti's Warbler, Black Redstart, Short-toed Tree-Creeper, Griffon Vulture, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Blue Tit, Great Tit,

Wintering: Eurasian Woodcock, Siskin, Hedge Accentor, Alpine Accentor, Wallcreeper

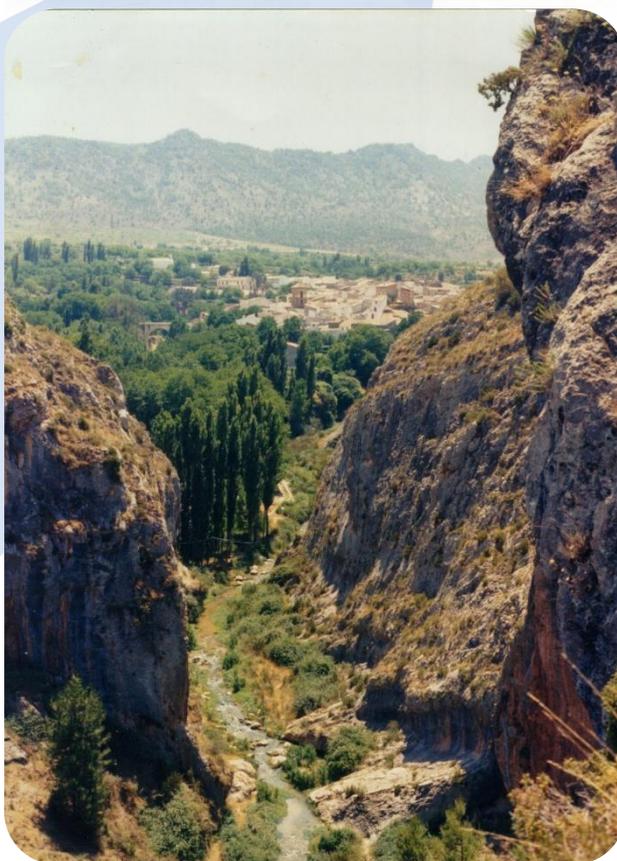
Summer: Common Swift, Alpine Swift, Eurasian Crag-Martin, Red Rumped Swallow, Short Toed-Snake Eagle, Booted Eagle

Other points of interest

Presence of the botanic endemism *Sarcocapnos baetica*.

Amongst the mammals the presence of the Iberian Ibex or Spanish wild goat (*Capra pyrenaica*) is of interest.

There is a climbing zone in the walls of the canyon with around 50 routes from grades IV to 8b.



Taibilla reservoir and canyons

Description

Artificial reservoir formed by the dam of the River Taibilla. This is the largest body of water present in the area and a concentration point of species of water birds.

Access

From Nerpio take the Caravaca road. There is a landscaped car park and a bird observatory next to the road with excellent views of the reservoir. From the bottom of the reservoir a road runs in the direction of the dam which goes around the whole reservoir. From the dam itself, you can take the Vizcable road which runs through the spectacular **Taibilla Canyons**. This section of the river is nestled in a very narrow river canyon. Access to the riverbed is practically impossible and there are dangers of floods due to water escaping from the reservoir. Between the dam and Vizcable there are various lay-bys where you can park the car and have good views of the canyons.

Species of birds

Residents: Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Moorhen, Coot, Mallard, Cirl Bunting, Southern Grey Shrike, Red-billed Chough, Griffon Vulture, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle.

Wintering: Great Cormorant, Common Pochard, Citril Finch, Grey Heron.

Summer: Oriol, Orphean Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Bee Eater, Woodchat Shrike, Short-toed Snake-Eagle, Booted Eagle, Common Nightingale, Alpine Swift, Crag Martin, Red Rumped Swallow

In migration: Purple Heron, Osprey, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, White Stork, Black Stork, Black-winged Stilt, Common Sandpiper

Other points of interest

You can walk along the riverside of the Taibilla following the flow of the river from the reservoir to the Turrilla country estate.

The dam is a good place from which to see mountain goats.

The reservoir is an intensive fishing preserve.

It is prohibited to swim or use a boat in the reservoir.



Vizcable poplar groves

Description

Area of abandoned allotments and poplar groves in the riverbed of the River Taibilla. At present, the wood from the poplar groves is not used so they have been colonized by various species of trees and the bushy stratum has been developed, forming a fairly dense riverside forest. These vegetation formations are an optimum habitat for the typical birdlife of the riverside areas. The ideal time to visit the poplar grove is in spring and summer as the density of the forest allows you to walk in the shade and enjoy a very pleasant temperature.

In the surrounding areas of the poplar grove the Mediterranean thicket and pine forests which also allows for the observation of typical species of these habitats.



Access

By road go from Nerpio to Yetas. After passing through Yetas, take the diversion towards Beg. Follow the road until it turns into a path and crosses the riverbed of the River Taibilla.



Species of birds

Residents: Cetti's Warbler, Sardinian Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Southern Grey Shrike, Short-toed Tree-Creeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hawfinch, Rock Sparrow, Rock Bunting.

Wintering: Siskin, Brambling, Redwing, Eurasian Woodcock

Summer: Scops Owl, Oriol, Orphean Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Bee Eater, Woodchat Shrike, Short-Toed Snake-Eagle, *Spanish Wheatear*, *Tawny Pipit*, *Wryneck*

In Migration: Iberian Chiff Chaff, Black Stork, White Stork.

Other points of interest: There is a marked nature trail and picnic area in one of the poplar groves. There are herds of cows in the area with individuals of the native Pajuna breed.

Allotments of Yetas

Description

Area of traditional terraced allotments with a large quantity of boundaries, hedges, thickets, gutters and irrigation channels which creates a mosaic habitat ideal for the reproduction of a large diversity of passeriforms.

Access

From Nerpio take the Yetas road. After 16 kilometres you will reach the small hamlet of Yetas, with only 40 inhabitants. From the bar in the hamlet, go down any of the streets until you reach the allotments area and the “Royo de la Zorrera”.



Species of birds

Residents: Cetti’s Warbler, Sardinian Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Southern Grey Shrike, Short-toed Tree-Creeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hawfinch, Rock Sparrow, Rock Bunting.

Wintering: Siskin, Brambling, Redwing, Eurasian Woodcock

Summer: Scops Owl, Oriol, Orphean Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Bee Eater, Woodchat Shrike, Short-Toed Snake-Eagle, Spanish Wheatear, Tawny Pipit, Wryneck

In Migration: Iberian Chiff Chaff, Black Stork, White Stork.



Other points of interest

The Yetas Ornithological Station organized periodic scientific bird ringing campaigns during spring and summer.

There is a marked path known as the “Sendero de las Encinas de Yetas” (Yetas Holm Oak Path). A museum and ethno-botanic allotment are being built where it will be possible to learn about the traditional uses of the plants of the Sierra del Segura.

Mingarnao Feeding Ground

[Download how to get there from wikiloc!!](#)

Description

This is one of the supplementary feeding grounds that the Autonomous Government of Castilla-La-Mancha has in operation in the Province of Albacete.

The scavenger birds are fed weekly so that their populations are not affected by the obligatory removal of carcasses from the countryside.

Access

From Nerpio take the road towards Yetas. After about three kilometres there is a road on the left which is signposted with an information sign. This takes you to the top of Mingarnao and the bird observatory.

Species of birds

Residents: Red-legged Partridge, Sardinian Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Black Redstart, Blue Rock-Thrush, Southern Grey Shrike, Crested Tit, Rock Sparrow, Rock Bunting, Red-billed Chough, Griffon Vulture, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle.

Wintering: Ring Ouzel, Citril finch, Fieldfare, Alpine Accentor.

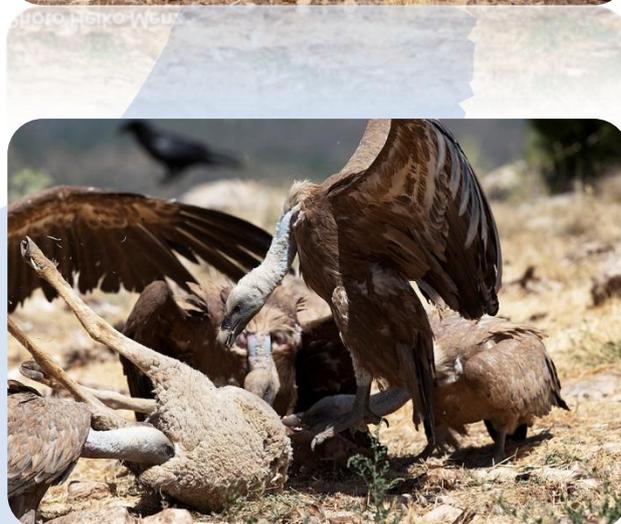
Summer: Orphean Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Woodchat Shrike, Short-Toed Snake-Eagle, Booted Eagle, Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, *Spanish Wheatear*, *Tawny Pipit*, *Egyptian Vulture*.

In Migration: Black Kite, Red Kite,

Accidental: Rueppell's Griffon

Other points of interest

In the surrounding area, there is an observatory and two bird photography hides. The access to the observatory is signposted with information and interpretation panels. At the top of Mingarnao there is a bothy with astronomy telescopes.



Huebras mountain range

Description

Parallel to the River Zumeta valley, the Huebras mountain range passes by on the east of the Municipality of Nerpio. Well conserved forests masses, humid ravines and limestone crests make this remote area of Nerpio one of the most promising areas for observing the elusive bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*).

Access

From Nerpio go in the direction of the hamlet of Pedro Andrés. From this point we have to go in the direction of Andalusia, after passing the hamlet of Los Poyos. The mountains to the east of the road form part of the Huebras Mountain range. There are numerous paths which cross the Sierra, the majority of which are in poor condition and can only be accessed on foot or in a 4X4.



Species of birds

Residents: Bearded Vulture, Griffon Vulture, Black Redstart, Blue Rock-Thrush, Southern Grey Shrike, Crested Tit, Red Crossbill Rock Sparrow, Rock Bunting, Red-billed Chough,

Wintering: Ring Ouzel, Fieldfare, Alpine Accentor.

Summer: Subalpine Warbler, Woodchat Shrike, Short-Toed Snake-Eagle, Booted Eagle, Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, Spanish Wheatear, Tawny Pipit, Egyptian Vulture.

In Migration: Black Kite, Red Kite.

Other points of interest

The Huebras mountain range has numerous humid ravines and shady spots in the pine forests. In autumn these areas are the best for mushroom picking.

Puntal de la Vieja

[Download this path from WIKILOC](#)

Description

Spectacular vantage point from which the highest peaks in the province can be seen. There is a signposted viewpoint above the Artuño mountain stream. In front of the viewpoint there is a limestone wall which is a rest place for big raptors and rupicolous birds.

Acceso

From Nerpio take the road to Andalusia which passes through Pedro Andrés. When you reach the crossroads at Cortijo Nuevo, turn left in the direction of Las Cañadas and la Fuente de la Carrasca. When you reach the highest point of the mountain pass, park on the level area which is on the right of the road. The parking area and access route to the Puntal viewpoint are actually signposted.

Species of birds

Residents: Peregrine Falcon, Griffon Vulture, Black Redstart, Blue Rock-Thrush, Rock Sparrow, Rock Bunting, Red-billed Chough,

Wintering: Ring Ouzel, Fieldfare, Alpine Accentor.

Summer: Subalpine Warbler, Woodchat Shrike, Short-Toed Snake-Eagle, Booted Eagle, Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, Spanish Wheatear, Tawny Pipit.

In Migration: Honey Buzzard,

Other points of interest

An access route to the Mirador del Puntal de la Vieja is signposted. A 5km walking path is also signposted in the Barranco de Artuño.



La Yegua

Description

High mountainous area in which the areas of pasture and the thorny thickets predominate. From the peak at 1700 metres of altitude you can see the main peaks of the Sierra Nevada (Granada) if the visibility conditions are good. The bearded vulture have been seen in this area several times.

Access

From Nerpio you have to take the road to Andalusia until you reach the cortijo de Pincorto. From here you can take a forest road which reaches the fire look-out cabin of La Yegua.

Species of birds

Residents: Bearded Vulture, Griffon Vulture, Black Redstart, Blue Rock-Thrush, Red Crossbill, Rock Sparrow, Rock Bunting, Red-billed Chough,

Wintering: Ring Ouzel, Fieldfare, Alpine Accentor,

Summer: Egyptian Vulture, Woodchat Shrike, Short-Toed Snake-Eagle, Booted Eagle, *Spanish Wheatear*.

In Migration: Black Kite, Red Kite, Honey Buzzard

Other points of interest

In the area around the look-out cabin you can sometimes see a tame fox which comes to eat the leftovers from the fire watchmen.

