

A PARADISE FOR BIRD WATCHING.

The mountain slopes, riverbanks, crags and wetlands of Castilla-La Mancha offer an excellent wildlife refuge for birdwatching. These lands are also noteworthy migratory route corridors, making the region a world class area for ornithology. A low cost, outdoor activity suitable for everyone, which allows visitors to explore spots of exceptional natural wealth and variety. Many of these areas offer observatories and itineraries, and the chance to do guided tours. There can be no doubt, this is **nature at her finest.**



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Castilla-La Mancha



BIRDWATCHING





A BIRDWATCHING HAVEN

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Every year, millions of birds spanning hundreds of species fly through the sky on their migratory routes between northern Europe and Africa. Many find shelter and rest in the region's wetlands and along its riverbanks. If we factor in the many species that live here all year round -200 in total- it's easy to see how the region has become a unique haven for birdwatching. Furthermore, Castilla-La Mancha has 38 SPAs (Special Protection Areas for Birds), spots with high environmental value home to unique avifauna under threat of extinction.

FROM THE PARK TO THE LAKE

Birdwatching is a world unto itself: from little goldfinches, sparrows and swallows, which we can see in parks and gardens in towns and cities, to large, majestic birds of prey and aquatic birds, the region has treasures that are difficult to beat.

In the Cabañeros National Park -a stunning example of Mediterranean forest- we can see iconic species such as the black stork, golden eagle, cinereous vulture and the black-winged kite. The Toledo mountains and the Valle de Alcudia y Sierra Madrona Nature Reserve in Ciudad Real province are also fine spots for birdwatching. Furthermore, in the Sierra Norte de Guadalajara Nature Reserve and the unmissable Hayedo de Tejera Negra, or the Alcaraz and Segura mountains (Albacete) Darwin's finches, sparrowhawks, greenfinches and Eurasian blue tits can be seen. Bird lovers can also visit the national parks of Alto Tajo (Guadalajara), the Cuenca mountains and the Dulce river ravine (Guadalajara), all stunning spots for sighting numerous species.

The riverbanks and wetlands deserve a special mention. The importance of the Tablas de Daimiel National Park and the Lagunas de Ruidera Nature Reserve is globally recognised for the conservation of many aquatic bird species. The list is endless: great crested grebe, red-crested pochard, mallard, purple heron, black-necked grebe, Eurasian wigeon, cormorant, flamingos, cattle egrets, etc.

These two spaces are part of the Mancha Húmeda Biosphere Reserve, spanning a vast territory in a region with many remarkable lakes, well known by twitchers, which offer first-time visitors many surprises. The lakes found at Alcázar de San Juan, Villacañas, Lillo, Villafranca de los Cabañeros or Pedro Muñoz are just some of the most representative.

To enjoy this immense richness, many of these natural spots offer observatories, itineraries and the chance to take a guided tour with a local expert. All you need is a passion for nature, some binoculars and to respectfully enjoy your visit. 🌿



BIRDWATCHING IN CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

Cabañeros National Park / Ciudad Real-Toledo
Las Tablas de Daimiel National Park / Ciudad Real

Alto Tajo Nature Park / Cuenca-Guadalajara
Dulce River Ravine Nature Park / Guadalajara
Lagunas de Ruidera Nature Park / Albacete- Ciudad Real
Cuenca Mountains Nature Park / Cuenca
Sierra Norte Nature Park / Guadalajara

Alboraj Lake / Tobarra (Albacete)
Ruidera Lakes in Albacete / Ossa de Montiel (Albacete)
Arquillo Lake / Masegoso (Albacete)
Pétrola Lake / Pétrola (Albacete)
Sierra de Cabras / Nerpio (Albacete)
Ojos de Villaverde Lake / Robledo (Albacete)
Prado Lake / Pozuelo de Calatrava (Ciudad Real)
Michos Volcanic Lake / Abenójar (Ciudad Real)
Salicor Lake / Campo de Criptana (Ciudad Real)
Los Abardinales / La Solana (Ciudad Real)
Posadilla Lake and Volcano / Ciudad Real (Ciudad Real)
Maar de Hoya de Cervera / Almagro (Ciudad Real)
Alcázar de San Juan Lake Complex / San Juan Fortress (Ciudad Real)
Marquesado Nature Reserve / Marquesado Lake (Cuenca)
Hito Lake / El Hito (Cuenca)
Talayuelas Lake / Talayuelas (Cuenca)
Beteta Gorge and Mata Asnos Canyon / Beteta (Cuenca)
Arcas Lake Complex / Arcas del Villar (Cuenca)
Manjavacas Lake Complex / Mota del Cuervo (Cuenca)
Source of the Cuervo river / Vega del Codorno (Cuenca)
Palancares and Tierra Muerta / Palomera (Cuenca)
Pela Mountains and Somolinos Lake / Somolinos (Guadalajara)
Puebla de Beleña Lakes / Puebla de Beleña (Guadalajara)
Dulce River Ravine / Pelegrina (Guadalajara)
Tirez Lake / Villacañas (Toledo)
Peñahueca Lake / Villacañas (Toledo)
Albardiosa Lake / Lillo (Toledo)
Villafranca de los Caballeros Lake Complex / Villafranca de los Caballeros (Toledo)
El Longar, Altillo Grande and Altillo Chica Lakes / Lillo (Toledo)

