

The Oak Forests Lookout - The Island

Going up from Rascafría to Cotos Pass, we will find one of the best preserved landscapes in the Comunidad de Madrid.

Places of interest

1 The Palero Path

40° 52' 58" N
3° 53' 03" W

It is an old forest path which joins The Paular with Cotos Pass, beginning at M-604 road, near Las Presillas. Oak and pine forests go along the path, while it is getting deeper through the heart of The Paular Valley. It is an excellent place to contemplate an outlook of Peñalara, Carpetanos Hills, mountain streams that cross the forest, and eventually, it is possible to see the majestic black vultures flying.



2 Towards Carpetanos Hills

40° 52' 02" N
3° 54' 35" W

About 3 km. from the beginning of The Palero path, near a crossing gate, we will take the track on our right, for reaching Devil's Carriage, in five kilometres. From there, we can continue our climb to The Reventón Pass, following the Green Route 4 signposts. This track crowns The Carpetanos Hills range, with an incomparable view of the Castilian Plateau.



3 Towards Garcisancho and Peñalara

40° 51' 35" N
3° 54' 33" W

From here we can climb the Umbria Stream, through a fabulous Belgian Society owned pine forest, to get to "La Sillada de Garcisancho", 3,5 kms. further up, southern limit of The Guadarrama National Park. This impressive wild pine forest, with some amazing specimens of holly, birch trees, yews and different trees sprinkled around, makes this valley an enchanted retreat.



4 The Oak Forest Viewpoint

40° 51' 34" N
3° 53' 39" W

Privileged place within Guadarrama Range, located below Peñalara and with The Lozoya Valley at its feet. With exceptional views, it is the most suitable place to contemplate the green forest during the summer or the snowy peaks during winter. At the main meadow, there is a monolith in honour to The Forest Guard and a compass to discover the names of the hills around.



5 The Pradillo Dam

40° 51' 02" N
3° 53' 03" W

An astonishing waterfall spills the water of the Lozoya River from The Pradillo Dam. This one fed the old hydroelectric power plant of Rascafría, though a canal seen on the right side. Do not miss the reflection of the forest and mountains on the calm water, and if you are lucky enough to see the dam frozen and the ice stalactites shaped in the harsh winter, you will not forget it for a long time.



6 The Island

40° 51' 13" N
3° 53' 02" W

At The Island recreational area, you can rest for a while before continuing the walk. Located in the middle of a huge wild pine trees, it offers bars and restaurants to make your walk more pleasant. On this point, you can get the Lozoya River through a bridge over a significant water jump, characteristic of the fast-flowing mountain river.

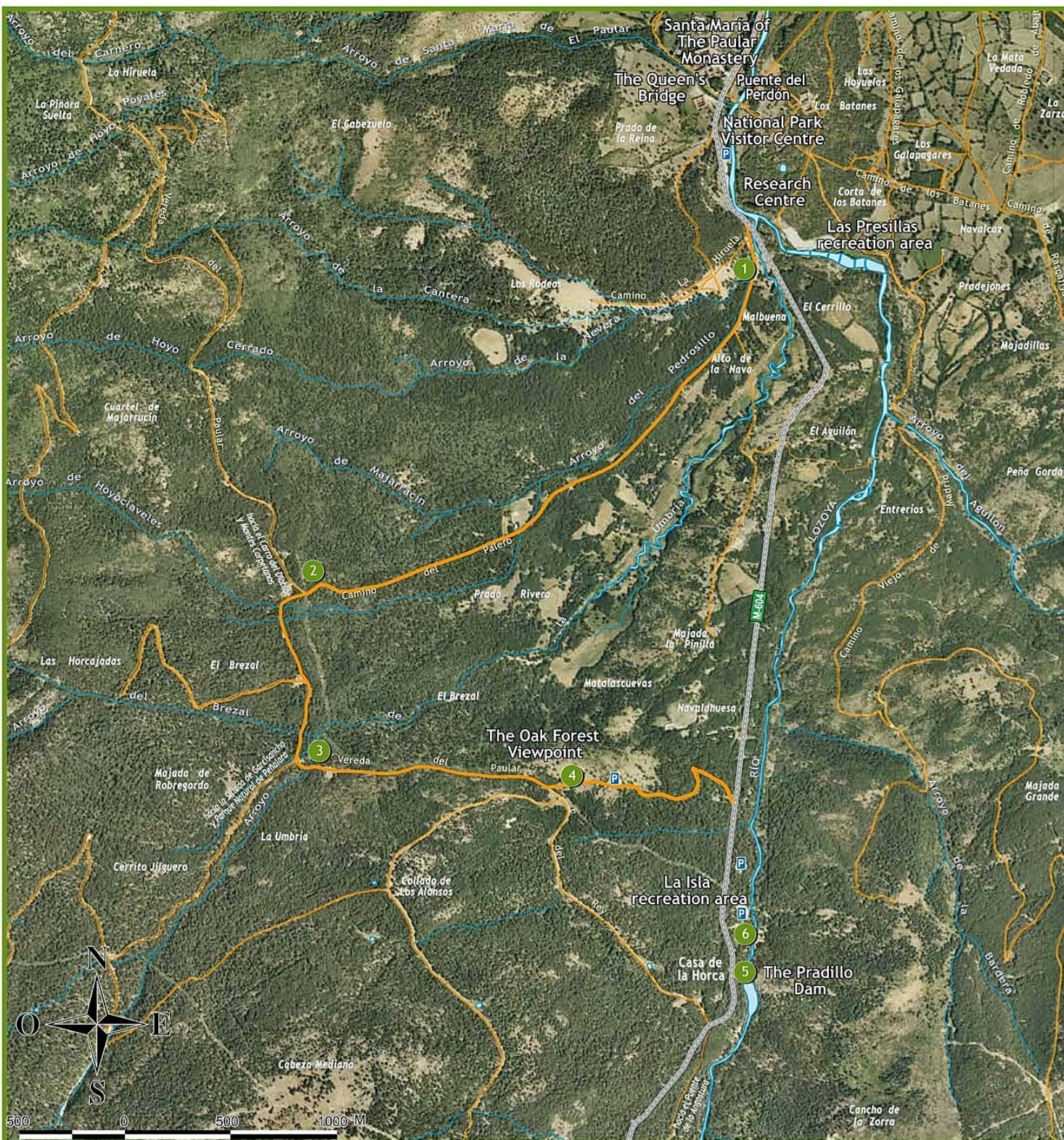


Scope and legend of the map



- 5 Places of interest
- Rivers
- Roads
- Tracks and Paths

Sketch of the main elements on the orthophoto.
Not all the ways and paths are reflected. Respect the property right and keep every gates in cross the path closed.





How to get

To get to Rascafría there are several choices:

By Car:

- From A1, taking in Lozoyuela (km69) the M-604 road.
- By M-611, Through Miraflores de la Sierra, crossing Morcuera Pass.
- By M-601, to Navacerrada Pass and Cotos Pass (M-604).
- By M-637, From Segovia, crossing Navafria Pass to Lozoya, linking with the M-604.

By Bus: Departing from Plaza de Castilla bus station, you should take the bus 194, that ends in Rascafría, or the shuttle bus 194A, starts in Buitrago del Lozoya and go over the Lozoya Valley.



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natural and cultural
environment*

www.rascafría.org
www.turismomadrid.es

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RASCAFRÍA

A gastronomic and accommodation offer for every taste, with leisure activities and active-tourism like alpine and cross-country skiing, hiking, equestrian routes, etc.

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Tours in Rascafría

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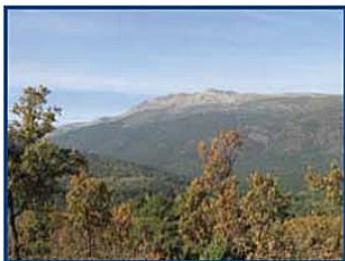


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A balcony to The Guadarrama Range between pine forests, in a valley carved by the clear Lozoya River water.

The sustainable use and the respect of the inhabitants to their natural environment, currently allow us to enjoy of these privileged surroundings.

At the feet of Peñalara Range, Guadarrama Range National Park jewel, oak and pine forests go with the young Lozoya River on its way from the mountain heights to the valley, where The Paular Monastery shape highlights.



A walk to The Paular Valley core, between spectacular pine forests and unique spots. Hills worked and looked after during centuries, which let us to admire some of the most singular flora and fauna species of the Guadarrama Range.



Sierra of Guadarrama National Park

The Sierra of Guadarrama National Park is the youngest of the Spanish National Park net. It was declared in 2013, because the significance of its cultural and natural values, which form an unique landscape. Its 33.960 hectares are distributed between the Madrid and Segovia provinces, being Rascafría one of the towns that more area provides to the Park.



Of its natural values, we must emphasize that it is probably the best representation of the high Mediterranean mountains, which stands in a relief of great geological diversity, with granite and gneiss as main support, as well as more recent sediment piles or the last glacier period marks. Its altitudinal range favours the existence of numerous environments, where cold and humidity host different species from the Mediterranean plateau. Peñalara Peak, with 2.428 meters of altitude, is the highest of Guadarrama Range and names the most alpine massif of this range, faced to The Oak Forests Viewpoint.

From this spot, natural watch tower, it is possible to contemplate the two mountain ranges that contain this part of the National Park, The Lozoya Valley. Cuerda Larga Range and Carpetanos Hills surround the Lozoya River and embrace a nice representation of the natural systems which have made it worth of the most important natural protection.

From here, we can see high mountain brushes and pastures, high woody steppes, high mountains relieves and formations, natural systems of glacier origin, oak, hay and birch forests, gall-oak groves, high mountain ponds and wetlands, water courses and riverbank forests. Without a doubt, a really emblematic diversity of ambients.

But The National Park is not just nature. Any reference to Guadarrama is incomplete without talking about its culture. On one hand, it has been the scenery of cultural landscapes in countless paintings and texts, but also place for thinkers, educators and architects who have left their mark. On the other hand, its residents have shaped the land with their work, use of natural resources through agriculture, cattle breeder, forest exploitation and traditions, to transform it to one of the most beautiful sceneries.

