

AYUNTAMIENTO DE BAÑOS DE MONTEMAYOR

(CÁCERES)

Registro de entidades: 01100247 CIF: P-1002500E

C/ Mayor, 78 C.P: 10750

Tfno. 927 48 80 12. Fax. 927 48 80 75

www.banosdemontemayor.es



ROUTES AND EXCURSIONS

Ruta de la Garganta

Taking the Town Hall Square as a point of reference to have access to Castañar neighbourhood and go uphill Cachiqué till crossing La Garganta road behind the aforementioned place. At first, take the Garganta road going up a chestnut tree wood which reaches about 20 metres above the deposit, and where some broom appears. Over a bend to the left, we go past a small oak wood near the way, in which there is a clearing with good views. We take a path to the right of the way in Béjar direction and start going along a very humid watercourse parallel to the railway track until we find the continuation of the road to La Garganta with oak and chestnut trees, very simple in this stretch. In this area, the road becomes lush and fresh going along a very wide road. We get to a road which goes out to the left and then down towards the river. It is worth pointing out the chestnut tree wood we go through. In this wood there is a lot of vegetation made up of honeysuckles, wild cherry trees which are small in the undergrowth. In this area near the river, there are plentiful walnut trees, wild cherry trees, oaks, wild plum trees, etc.

The road crosses Baños river through lots of stones and then goes on parallel to a plunge pool with a lot of clean water. After the plunge pool, we go up the road to the right and soon we go through some stone huts, which are a bit deteriorated, and the road becomes narrower in Benajarro area, where we are, after going through some oak lands and grasslands and two gates on the road which link them, we go through a poplar reforestation a little earlier (by the irrigation channel) and down the road, a pinus silvestris reforestation appears giving way to the place between Matagatos crag and de la Bota crag, where the road goes skirting and wonderful views of the village and the whole Ambroz Valle can be seen, there is a scenic overlook which is, though, a bit dangerous and windy. From this point, the road starts to go across successive reforestations in which some trees will appear almost on the road, which makes the route dangerous because of the hidden holes. Although the

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road goes on skirting above the railway track, at a certain moment it gets lost since it has taken a short cut from the railway track much nearer the tunnel and the road to the track has practically got lost. From the track in the area marked with two warning signposts of train crossing the road starts again and is now more passable and leading us to join the Roman road near Icona Fountain and the rest area by the road. Taking the road to the left, we go down towards the village watching it from the start southwards. There is another Icona fountain half way. Going on down the road we will join the Portajo crossing the Garganta road. There is a fountain there and we get into the street we want in order to go down to the bridge or the Town Hall Square, where the route started.

Mirador de la Estación (Station Scenic Overlook) and La Garganta

We go along the road in Salamanca direction, we get to a bend of 180° and just there, we will see the road sign "to the station", which leads us to the Mirador, about 2 km away. From there, we will be able to see excellent views of the village and the Baños marsh, besides drinking a little water from the marvellous fountain that is there. Another alternative starting point, if we don't want to go by road, is setting off from the centre of the village, by any of the slopes going upwards, and we will go out to the bend mentioned before.

This route can also be made by bicycle

Roman Road / Ermita del Humilladero (The Shrine)

Taking the previous bend of 180 ° as a point of reference, we can see that from that place onwards, parallel to the road, in Salamanca direction, the Roman road starts; it is about 1, 5 km long, ending again in the road in the border of the province. It is important to point out that at the start of the road, there is "La Cruz " (" The Cross ") an extraordinary corner, where we can stop and have a first survey of the village

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There is another stretch of the Roman road at the end of the village; we go along the road in Cáceres direction, we get to the football field, we go past and the mentioned Roman road starts a few metres further down. It is about 700 metres and starts next to a stone arch. When we have finished this stretch, before starting, or when finishing, we can make the most of it and visit the " Ermita del Humilladero " (The Shrine) , located opposite the football field.

El Calvario / Plaza de Toros (The Cavalry / The Bullring)

Placing ourselves at the door of the Balneario Hotel (Spa Hotel), we take the road opposite until we reach a point which forks; if we take the road on the right, we will get to a picnic spot, we go round it and we get to the Bullring, one of the oldest of Spain.

If, otherwise, we take the road on the left, we get to the Ermita de El Calvario (The Cavalry Hermitage), from where we can contemplate the whole village; as the road may seem hard, we can rest in some of the stone benches that are in the ascent. If we are not very tired, once we have reached this point, we can go on along a path that starts on the right side of the above mentioned Hermitage, and reach the Bullring. If we have chosen to do this stretch, we can go back going round part of the Bullring and going down by the picnic spot until we reach the village, and in this way we have entered through the initial road on the left, in the junction, and have gone out through the road on the right.

La Calamorcha/Pantano de Baños

This route is for the boldest ones, it is about 7 km long, between ups and downs, being able to have two exits:

On the outskirts of the village, along the road in Cáceres direction, we get into the football field, from where the trail starts. We go on 300 m approximately, and we reach a place called "Los Tres Caminos" ("The Three Roads"), which offers us three possibilities:

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1. Taking the road on the right until we get to the village. This is the shortest way
2. Taking the road on the left, which leads us to the tail of the Baños marsh, about 2 km, where the ones fond of the fishing rod can practise a bit, and even, if they are lucky enough, take dinner home
3. The last possibility is going straight on and walking along the whole trail until we get to the Bullring, so as to go back to the village from that point.

Placing ourselves at the door of the Balneario Hotel (Spa Hotel), we take the road that goes out head on, a few metres further, we take the road on the right, reaching the Bullring, where the trail starts and finishing in the football field. From there, making a little more effort, we will get to Baños.

Going out from Baños in Salamanca direction via the former N-630, we will find a very sharp bend and to its right a local road with a signpost : La Garganta, taking this local road and about 5 km away we will find the village called La Garganta de Baños, where we can admire, apart from its traditional architecture and beautiful mountain landscape, the so-called Pozo del Nevero (Nevero´s Well), a well used since the seventeenth century to preserve snow in summer, set in a spot of amazing beauty, it is reconstructed and fitted with explanatory boards about the activity.

Granadilla Excursion

Going out from Baños southwards via the former N-630, at about 8 km away we will find a petrol station with two roundabouts to take the A66, instead of going into the dual carriage-way, we will always choose Aldeanueva del Camino direction, where we can stop and admire the Roman bridge, still used , in the centre of the village. As soon as the village ends, we will take a local road on the right, indicating Abadía, before getting to the locality of Abadía, on our right, we will see Sotofermoso Palace, from the fifteenth century, it still preserves a lovely Renaissance garden (it is a private property and can only be visited on Tuesdays from 10 am to 1 pm). The road goes through Abadía and at the end of the village, as soon as we go past the bridge, we will see the

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signpost Granadilla, just follow that road and at about 8 km away approximately, we will find the medieval small town of Granadilla, currently uninhabited, but reconstructed almost entirely, founded in the ninth century by the Arabs, a marvellous tribute tower is still preserved, it dates back to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. From its top, we can enjoy wonderful views over the Gabriel and Galán reservoir and its surroundings, being also able to walk along the whole wall that encloses the town. Special mention should be made of the surroundings with a dense pine grove where it is possible to see species like deer, wild boars, foxes, etc and those who are fond of mycology can take milk caps in autumn.

Cáparra Excursion

We have to leave Baños southwards, taking the former N-630 about 20 km away, we will see a petrol station on the right side of the road, it is next to an abandoned railway station, as soon as we go past the petrol station, also about 20 km away and on the right, there is a local road indicating Guijo de Granadilla, taking this local road, about 3 km away and on the same road, a stone wall tells us that we have arrived at Cáparra, an old Roman town through which the Via de la Plata went by, we will be able to visit the excavation, admire the singular arch still preserved, and in the centre of the interpretation, we will see a scale model of the town, explanatory boards, several objects found in the excavation and a slide projection with an ideal reconstruction of the town. It is also advisable to follow the road that has taken us to Cáparra so as to admire a marvellous scenery made up by pastures of holm oaks and granite rocks ("canchos", kind of boulders) which will take us to Guijo de Granadilla where we can visit the Home Museum of the poet José María Gabriel y Galán (about 15 km from Cáparra)