

Bird watching tourism in Tierra de Campos



Great Bustard in Tierra de Campos



The plains or cereal farmland is attractive because of the evoking landscape of wide horizons which transmits peace and serenity for visitors to enjoy where time has no importance; this landscape of wide horizons generates a demand for those in search of relaxation with pleasant and out of the ordinary sensations.

The extensive landscape of Tierra de Campos is a great natural attraction, especially its bird life, consequently 38% of the area has been included in the Red Natura 2000.

So that you can get to know this natural wealth, Nature Interpretation Centres have been set up along with several different observatories and viewpoints. It is worth mentioning one of the first, the Bird Interpretation Centre at Monasterio de Vega.

The centre forms part of the European TRINO project (Rural tourism and bird watching), set in motion by 14 local action groups from Castilla and León, where you can

see the varied birdlife of the zone (Montagu's harrier, great bustard, kestrels...) as well as the symbiosis between agriculture and nature.

The Bird Interpretation Centre in Saelices de Mayorga forms part of the European Project for Tourism, rural planning and hunting called TORCAZ. Its

aim is to transmit the idea that «hunting is a sustainable activity moving away from the black legend that has surrounded it» and how agriculture and farming contribute to improving the biodiversity.

Additionally there are: the Observatory of the Tamariz de Campos lake; an astronomical viewpoint and observatory in Villanueva de La Condesa; the Lesser Kestrel Viewpoint in Cuenca de Campos; and the viewpoints at Torre de Santiago de Melgar de Arriba, the one at Torre de San Andrés in Villalba de La Loma and the one at Herrín de Campos.

European bee-eater



From the viewpoints you can see birds of prey like kestrels with small birds like Calandra larks and Steppe birds like the great bustard and the little bustard

The Trino Project (Rural tourism and bird watching) is the plan of thirty Local Action Groups, it has promoted bird-watching tourism in these territories together with the towns and villages in the area.

Different elements have been developed for bird-watching like the Bird Interpretation Centre in Monasterio de Vega, the Interpretation Centre of Hunting in Saelices de Mayorga as well as the Observatory of the Lagoon in Tamariz de Campos.

In the area it is also worth mentioning a viewpoint and observatory for star gazing in Villanueva de la Condesa, the Lesser Kestrel Observation point at Cuenca de Campos, the Viewpoint de la Torre de Santiago in Melgar de Arriba, the Torre San Andrés viewpoint at Villalba de la Loma and viewpoint and observatory in Herrín de Campos. At almost all these places you can see birds of prey like kestrels, black kites and Montagu’s harriers; small birds like larks; or steppe birds like the little bustard, the great bustard and the black-bellied sandgrouse.



TRINO

Little bustard



Land of wolves

In the territory of North Valladolid, from [Cooperation Project "WOLF: WildLife & Farmers"](#), has done some work to make available to any interested hiking trails and points of interest related to the wolf, both the animal and wildlife related and uses livestock and customs related to it. The European Union’s Habitat Directive of 1992 established the wolf population south of the Duero as a species of EC interest, designating conservation zones in order to protect it. To the north of the Duero, the situation is very different, and the wolf is considered a game animal.

In the last twenty years the wolf has come back to Tierra de Campos and it is surprising how this animal co-exists alongside humans and livestock, however the large mastiff dogs that keep the sheep put the wolves off attacking. So now in the twenty-first century we have this jewel of biodiversity that can be called “the Steppe wolf”.

Nature Areas



This district in the province of Valladolid has six protected areas: Five SPAs (Special protection areas for birds) and one SCI (Sites of Community Importance).

The Nava-Campos Norte (SPA). The landscape is mainly flat or slightly undulating (at 700 metres) practically unforested and mainly used for growing cereal crops. Several rivers and streams run through here.

La Nava-Campos Sur (SPA). The relief is flat or slightly undulating (the elevations are below 800 metres) and with marked deforestation, mainly used for unirrigated cereal crops. It is worth mentioning a group of small steppe type lakes.

Oteros-Cea (SPA). On the right bank of the Cea river. The whole area is lowland (700-800 metres). There are small seasonal lakes which have some interest for water birds.

Penillanuras-Campos Norte (SPA). Between the Cea and Valderaduey rivers. You can find some seasonal steppe type lakes.

Penillanuras-Campos Sur (SPA). A small area in the province of Valladolid between the Cea and Valderaduey rivers. A series of streams form small valleys where there are some poplar groves.

Ribera del Río Cea (SCI). The area includes and is marked out by the river and takes in 25 metres along each bank on both sides.