



# 7.

## Caving

**A**lthough exploring wild cave systems started as a scientific study in a cross-disciplinary field combining the knowledge of geology, zoology, botany and archaeology, it soon became popular as a sport due to the challenges and inner beauty involved in caving.

In the Serranía de Ronda you will discover and enjoy an amazing underground world. The development along millions of years of one of the most spectacular landscape, the karst landscapes, is mainly due to the characteristic erosion

caused by the atmospheric agents combined with the dissolution of the limestone in the Serranía. Some of the most important karst formations are the underground caves where the water flows abundantly along the mountain ranges. A breathless landscape with lunar features is carved in the summits, becoming a real paradise for climbers and cavers. It is important to make a difference between the different types of caving as if the hole in the earth's surface is more vertical than horizontal you will be practising potholing rather than caving.



Las Excéntricas.

Manuel García, PANGEA CENTRAL



Hundidero-Gato. Upper Room. *Manu Guerrero*



Most of the caves in the region are forbidden for amateurs as they are extremely dangerous. One of the most popular and deepest pothole in the world is Sima GESM (Gesm-Sima de la Luz) with more than 1000m depth. You will have the possibility of discovering it with the help of expert instructors who will provide you with a professional assistant and the required equipment.

However, if you have a good physical condition, the superb 4000m Hundidero-Gato through trip is a must. It is important to obtain the previous permission from the regional Department of the Environment. Other extraordinary caves are Cueva de las Excéntricas, Cueva del Susto, Cueva del Gato, Cueva de la Fuensanta or Cueva de la Limosna.

### REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Wetsuit • Special harness for caving • Helmet • Static rope
- Torch/ headlamp • First-aid kit • Waterproof container •
- Food • Water • Change of clothes



## 7. CAVING

### TO FIND OUT MORE

Link to the interesting and complete website *Espeleoclub Pasos Largos*, where you could check out all type of information about caves and potholes in the Serranía de Ronda.

[www.espeleoclubpasoslargos.com](http://www.espeleoclubpasoslargos.com)



- **Centro de Interpretación de la Espeleología.** Avenida Andalucía. Montejaque. Tels. 952 167551-952 167196.
- **Mirador del Karst** (Camino del Mirador, from Plaza de la Constitución, Montejaque).

### BOOKS

- **Sierra de las Nieves. Cuevas, Simas y Barrancos.** Manuel J. Guerrero Sánchez. Editorial La Serranía, 2004.

### VIDEOS

Promo video of *Centro de Interpretación de la Espeleología de Montejaque* (the Caving Interpretation Centre in Montejaque). An entertaining and interesting approach to the underground world in the Serranía de Ronda.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVWOYFx9pEs>



Hundidero-Gato. Great Stalagmite. *Manu Guerrero*



Hundidero-Gato. The lake. *Manu Guerrero*



*Mirador del Karst* (Karst viewpoint) is located in the the highest part of Montejaque. You can enjoy amazing views from Montejaque and the karst landscape.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEBItY5JemE>



Superb video of the pothole *Sima Gesm-Sima de la Luz*, one of the deepest pothole in the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3A2N58GfB8>



The cave *Cueva del Hundidero-Cueva del Gato* is the most spectacular accessible cave in the Serranía de Ronda.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRoeCqVvqqk>



## SPECIALISED COMPANIES

[www.pangeacentral.com](http://www.pangeacentral.com)

[www.sierraventuraronda.es](http://www.sierraventuraronda.es)

[www.aventuraronda.com](http://www.aventuraronda.com)

[www.alandalusactiva.com](http://www.alandalusactiva.com)



## 7. CAVING

### ATTENTION

- ✓ Double check the weather forecast before caving.
- ✓ Never cave alone, without considerable technical knowledge or suitable equipment.
- ✓ Please, obey all warning signs.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock. ■

PHOTO. *Manuel García. PANGEA CENTRAL*







Unforgettable experience. *Manuel García. PANGEA CENTRAL*





# How to use the guide

David Barrera



The Serranía de Ronda is a great place for active tourism with a wealth of possibilities within your reach. This guide delves into fourteen of the main activities and each of them has a different icon and colour to make searching easier.

Each pursuit is divided into different sections to organise the wide range of information offered. These sections are:

- **DEFINITION.** It consists of a general description of the activity as well as the most interesting tourist attractions and resources available in the Serranía de Ronda to practise it. It is been considered convenient to include an information sheet ►



for some activities such as Iron Way, climbing, canyoning and the network of viewpoints with extra details. All the other pursuits have been considered as a whole.

- **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT.** It has been specified compulsory equipment for a personal protection and technical requirements to practise the activity. If you decided to rely on a specialised company, it will provide the necessary equipment.
- **TO FIND OUT MORE.** It is a section with a wide variety of essential bibliography about the activity in the Serranía de Ronda as well as with links to specialised web pages to find out more information.
- **VIDEOS.** It is a collection of links to check out institutional and private videos which will show you the different experiences you can live in the Serranía de Ronda before plunging into it.
- **SPECIALISED COMPANIES.** It is a full list of specialised companies focused in active tourism.
- **ATTENTION.** It is a summary of rules and advices which need to be taken. They could be general rules, like litter collection, or more specific advices, as checking on the weather forecast before practising canyoning. ■

Cherry Blossom. *Felipe Crespo*



