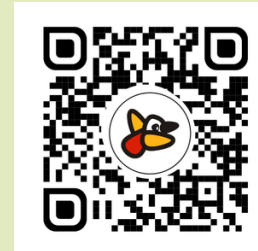




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PROTECTED LANDSCAPE SIERRA ESCALONA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS



don't enter
private properties



Don't light fire



Don't collect plants



Don't capture animals



Deposit garbage in
containers



Avoid making noise

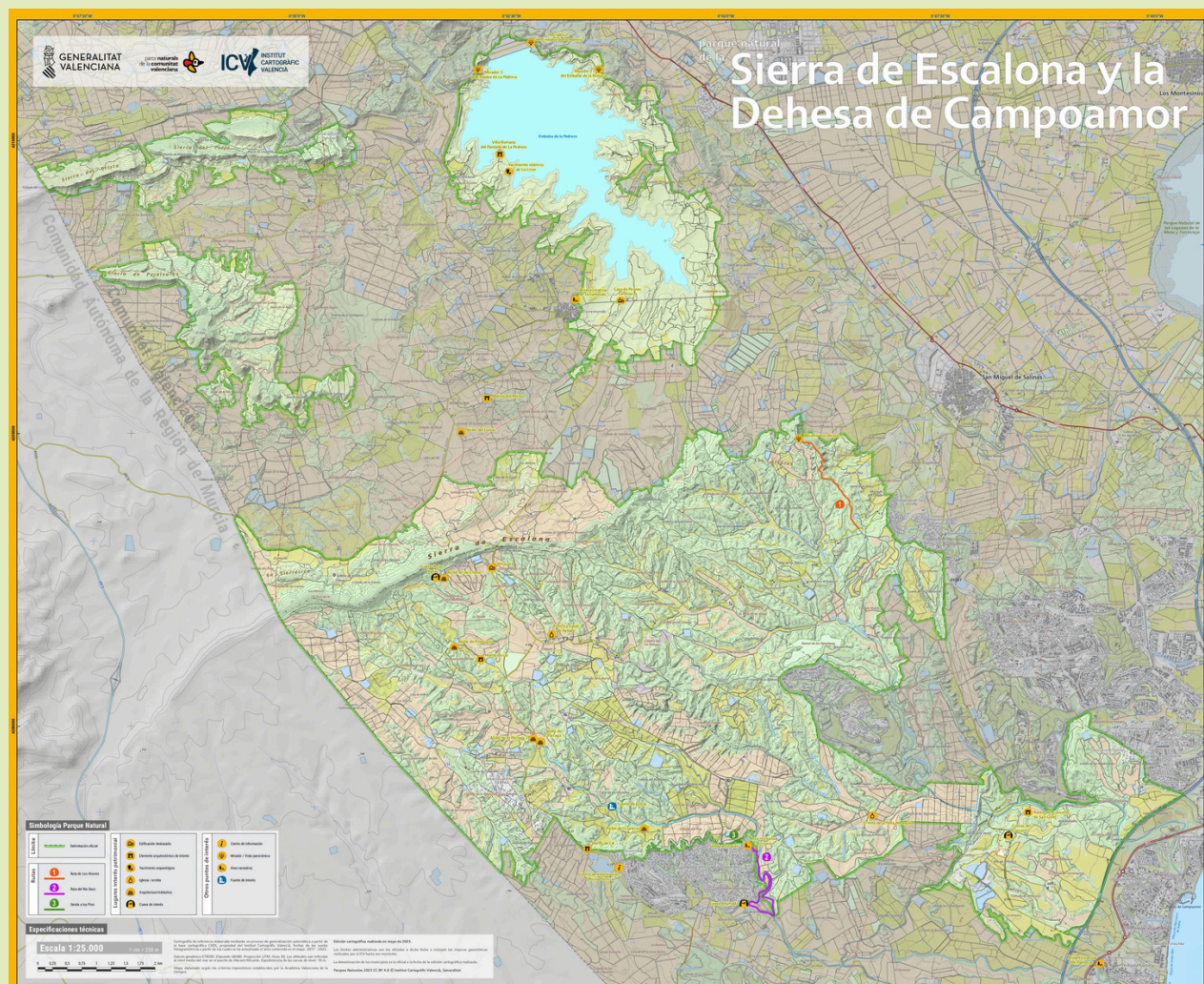


Lead dog on a leash



Stay on the roads





Sierra de Escalona y la Dehesa de Campoamor

The Protected Landscape of Sierra Escalona and its surroundings is located to the south of the Valencian Community, in the region of Vega Baja del Segura, occupying part of the municipal districts of Orihuela, San Miguel de Salinas and Pilar de la Horadada. This area concentrates numerous ecological, environmental and landscape values, to the point of constituting one of the most relevant areas in the context of the Valencian Community, for which it was declared a Protected Landscape on October 19, 2018. It is recognized as SPA (special protection area for birds) and as SCI (Site of Community Interest) within the Natura 2000 network, and wetland.

With an extension of 18.107,35 ha, it includes as main elements of the landscape: low elevations (Sierras Escalona, Pujálvarez and El Cristo), a flat surface (dehesa de Campoamor) crossed by a notable drainage network (Río Seco and Río Nacimiento) and a humid area (La Pedrera reservoir) which, together with rainfed and irrigated crops, form a very characteristic mosaic.

The Landscape offers elements that are difficult to access, as well as open spaces: ridges, rocky outcrops, caves, pine forests and thickets, as well as rivers, streams and ravines next to crops.

Vegetation

The natural formations are basically made up of Mediterranean scrub (kermes oak, mastic) with pine forests (Aleppo pine).

The boulevards and rivers present a vegetation typical need permanent water (cattails) along with species that only require a certain degree of moisture in the soil (tarays). The rainfed agricultural areas show carob trees, olive and almond trees and irrigated crops are mainly represented by citrus.

This mosaic of vegetation is a habitat for vital importance for many species of birds of prey, which find here the necessary conditions for both for nesting, in forest areas, as for feed in the wide cultivated areas.

Fauna

Fauna represents one of the most important values of the area, being one of the few areas of dispersal of the Bonelli's eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) in the peninsula. Bird of prey communities also stand out, such as the short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) or the eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*).

Among the predators we have the presence of the wild cat (*Felis silvestris*), which in Escalona has a of the best genet (*Genetta genetta*) and the badger (*Meles meles*).

In addition, the wet area of the Pedrera reservoir notably enriches the fauna with the large amount of bird species (pochard, mallard, red duck...).

Several elements of high heritage value also deserve mention, among which the remains of the monastery of San Ginés from the s. XVII, an aqueduct of the s. XVII-XVIII and numerous cisterns of dry stone, dating from the 19th and 20th centuries.

