

64th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM - IAVS MADRID, 2022

Pre-Symposium Excursion (21-26 June), approx. 1500 km - 5 nights

This program could be adapted or changed if necessary

** Madrid - Andújar (Jaén) / June 21

* Itinerary (approx. 400 km):

- Madrid - Yepes (Toledo) - Lillo, Villacañas (inland salt pans)
- Villacañas - Fuencaliente (Ciudad Real) (oak 'dehesas' in Sierra Morena, prehistoric cave paintings)
- Fuencaliente - Andújar

We will move away from the city of Madrid towards the south crossing a landscape underlain by Miocene clay and evaporitic (mainly gypsum) deposits, witness of a lacustrine geological past. These peculiar substrates house a very singular, interesting, and highly adapted flora and vegetation. Despite the ancestral use of the territory, almost entirely deforested, near-unaltered places can be studied within the wide array of locally protected areas that harbor rare and to a great extent understudied landscape. Small valleys without natural drainage 'saladares' (inland salt pans) are areas of high botanical and ornithological interest due to the environmentally extreme conditions of high salinity, extreme temperature, seasonality, and rapid cycles of inundation-desiccation. Good examples of these singular and speciose habitats will be visited in Yepes, Lillo and Villacañas (Toledo). Continuing south through the region of La Mancha we will reach the Hercinian mountain block of Sierra Morena composed of quartzites and slates. This mountain range, which holds great significance in the Spanish popular imagination is vegetated by pure and mixed oaks formations that have framed human evolution and cultural development since prehistoric times. As an example, at the surroundings of Fuencaliente (Ciudad Real) we will have the opportunity to contemplate the original prehistoric cave paintings of Peña Escrita.

** Andújar - Ronda (Málaga) / June 22

* Itinerary (approx. 235 km):

- Andújar - Córdoba
- Córdoba - Osuna
- Osuna - Ronda

We will depart from Andújar towards Ronda, in the heart of the Sub-Baetic mountains. During this trip we will pass through the once Moorish capital of Cordoba making a technical stop.

** Ronda- Granada / June 23

* Itinerary (approx. 180 km):

- Ronda - Sierra de las Nieves National Park (easy hiking, calcareous and dolomitic substrates)
- Granada

Starting at Ronda we will visit (easy hiking) the most emblematic places of the Sierra de las Nieves National Park where 'pinsapo' forests (*Abies pinsapo* Boiss.) grow extensively. Pinsapo is an endemic fir restricted to these calcareous southern Iberian mountains. However, it represents a geobotanical puzzle, since it also reaches Sierra Bermeja by the coasts of Malaga, developing also dense forests on ultramafic soils (peridotites). We will study these unique gymnosperm formations throughout the day. At the end of the day we will visit the 'Torcal de Antequera' a spectacular example of peculiar karst morphology at the summit of the Sub-Baetic mountains that houses a very characteristic chasmophytic vegetation and offers breathtaking views of the underlying valleys, coasts and in clear days, Northern Africa. After the visit to the Torcal we will proceed towards Granada.

** Granada - Granada / June 24

* Itinerary (approx. 80 km):

- Granada - Sierra Nevada National Park

Granada sits under Sierra Nevada, the highest Iberian mountain range reaching over 3400 m asl. but only 40 km from the Southern coast hence allowing for a steep gradient of plant communities from the lower, thermic, and xeric sparse pastures through evergreen and deciduous forests at mid-altitude, to cryo-xerophilous pastures at the year-round snow-clad summits. Here we will develop an integral study of the Veleta Massif at the summits of the Sierra Nevada National Park. This is an exceptional day devoted to the study of the high mountain vegetation of the Veleta territory that houses a unique 'Baetic' flora with a high index of endemism accompanied by arctic-alpine and boreo-alpine disjunctions. This excursion is supported by the kindness of the authorities of the National Park, that will allow us to ascend by bus to the summit of Veleta Peak (third highest summit of the Iberian Peninsula with 3396 m asl) and easily descend from there admiring the local botanical jewels.

** Granada - Linares / June 25

* Itinerary (approx. 240 km):

- Granada - Baza (Sierra de Baza, dolomites)
- Baza - Linares (Jaén)

We will head from Granada to Baza, in an inland depression surrounded by high mountains. We will spend the day studying the altitudinal catena of the vegetation in the Sierra de Baza, with dolomitic substrates, from the foothills to the summit areas. This mountainous massif presents a flora of exceptional interest due to its steep environmental gradients, geological diversity, and its crossroads position

from a biogeographical perspective. From there we will return to the 'Sierra Morena' mountains before returning to Madrid.

** Linares - Madrid / June 26

* Itinerary (approx. 300 km):

- Linares - Madrid (trip back to Madrid)

We will spend the morning on a return trip to Madrid. We will make the trip with the minimum stops to reach Madrid in the early afternoon.

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Inland salt pans at La Mancha (Toledo)



Oak formations ('dehesas') at Sierra Morena



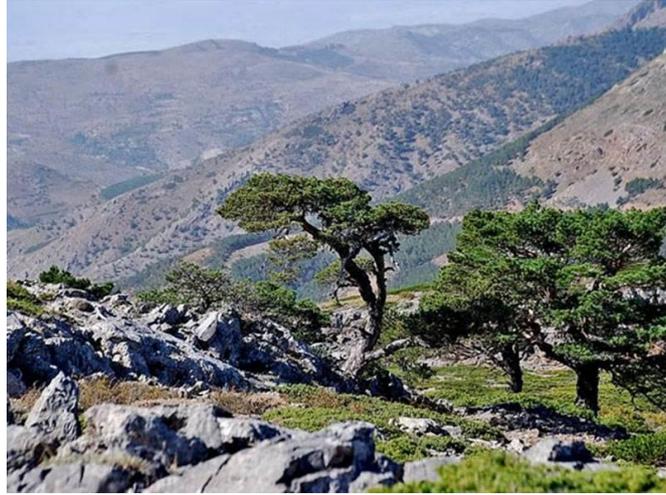
Pinsapo forests (*Abies pinsapo*) at Sierra de la Nieves



Winter view of Sierra Nevada (Granada)



Veleta Peak (3396 m asl) at Sierra Nevada



Pine formations at Sierra de Baza (Granada)