

# EXTREMADURA

## LANDSCAPE OF STARS

### DESTINATIONS FOR STARGAZING

- Celestial viewpoints of the night sky
- Night Trails
- Observatories and planetariums

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OBSERVING THE STARS

- Tips
- Resources
- Mobile apps
- And much more...

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Extremadura is the **perfect place to observe the night sky**, due to the very low light pollution, the low population density and the territorial distribution around small and medium-sized towns. This fact is combined with the high environmental quality, with more than 60 natural areas and 1,500 kilometres of fresh water, and the favourable weather conditions we enjoy for most of the year.

The exceptional condition of Extremadura's skies is a differential, singular and exclusive resource that can be enjoyed by astronomy enthusiasts and those who want to start thinking about the sky and **discovering the wonders of the universe**.

Extremadura has a network of resources that make this region an exceptional destination for Astrotourism: in addition to its network of Celestial Viewpoints, it has a network of Night Paths and various infrastructures and services, such as the Monfragüe Observatory, with an interpretation centre on the universe in the same building. It is also home to the Trujillo Planetarium, the Interactive Experimental Centre in the town of Llerena (Badajoz), and the La Cocosa Resource Centre in Badajoz, different astronomical groups and associations, and even companies that specialise in astronomy which, together with many other professionals such as astrophotographers, specialised accommodation and guides for experiential activities related to the observation of the skies and the sensations of the night in Extremadura, are managing to position Extremadura as a unique destination for **Astrotourism**.

In recognition of this work of care and attention to our region's night sky, the Starlight Foundation has certified **two Starlight Tourist Destinations**, the Monfragüe National Park and Biosphere Reserve and the Gran Lago Alqueva environment, in addition to different accommodation and guides.

The Regional Government of Extremadura, in coordination with other institutions and organisations (Provincial Councils, FEMPEX and REDEX), has developed the project "**Extremadura, buenas noches**" in order to highlight the night skies of the region. This is an ambitious project that aims to position this highly valued resource that the people of Extremadura have, as well as the sensations provided by the night, in a natural environment. It is therefore a strategy of experiential, innovative and inclusive tourism for the revitalization of the territories, aligned with the Sustainable Development Objectives included in the framework of the promotion of the green and circular economy of Extremadura 2030.





# EXTREMADURA

## IS ASTROTOURISM

### RESOURCES

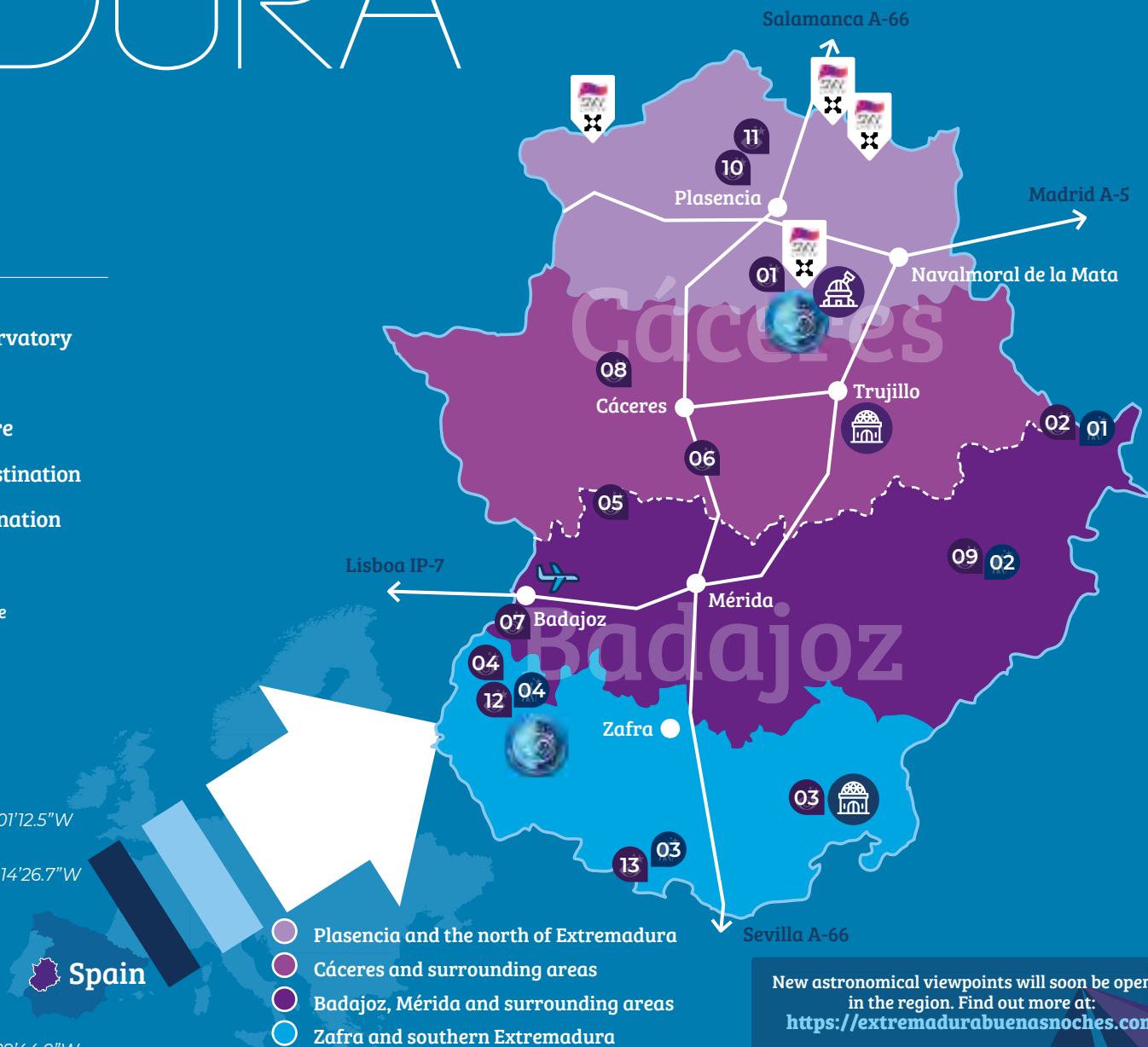
#### CELESTIAL VIEWPOINTS

- 01** Parque de Monfragüe hospedería. Torrejón El Rubio  
Latitude: 39°46'51.0"N Longitude: 6°00'58.9"W
- 02** "La Berrea" visitor centre. Helechosa de los Montes  
Latitude: 39°19'22.1"N Longitude: 4°57'02.5"W
- 03** Campiña Sur. Alcazaba de Reina  
Latitude: 38°11'22.6"N Longitude: 5°57'23.7"W
- 04** Olivenza. Villarreal Sport Port  
Latitude: 38°44'07.8"N Longitude: 7°13'50.3"W
- 05** Los Chozos de la Dehesa. La Roca de la Sierra  
Latitude: 39°06'13.3"N Longitude: 6°39'48.2"W
- 06** Montánchez. Montánchez castle  
Latitude: 39°13'29.7"N Longitude: 6°09'19.1"W
- 07** La Cocos Centre. Badajoz  
Latitude: 38°45'19.7"N Longitude: 6°59'03.9"W
- 08** Dehesa de la Luz. Arroyo de la Luz  
Latitude: 39°30'57.9"N Longitude: 6°37'01.5"W
- 09** Galizuela. Esparragosa de Lares  
Latitude: 38°56'56.1"N Longitude: 5°13'39.1"W
- 10** Roman city of Cáparra. A66 motorway. Exit 455  
Latitude: 40°09'52.0"N Longitude: 6°05'58.4"W
- 11** Granadilla town  
Latitude: 40°16'12.7"N Longitude: 6°06'15.1"W
- 12** Alconchel. Miraflores castle  
Latitude: 38°31'24.2"N Longitude: 7°04'08.7"W
- 13** Fuentes de León. Fuentes de León Natural Monument Caves  
Latitude: 38°01'32.6"N Longitude: 6°29'44.0"W

-  **Monfragüe astronomical observatory**
-  **Trujillo planetarium**
-  **Experimenta interactive centre**
-  **Monfragüe starlight tourist destination**
-  **Alqueva starlight tourist destination**
-  **Portal Sky Live TV – Open Sky**  
Parque de Monfragüe guesthouse  
Conventual Sierra de Gata guesthouse  
Valle del Ambroz guesthouse  
Valle del Jerte guesthouse

#### NIGHT TRAILS

- 01** Helechosa de los Montes  
Latitude: 39°22'15.0"N Longitude: 5°01'12.5"W
- 02** Esparragosa de Lares  
Latitude: 38°57'20.2"N Longitude: 5°14'26.7"W
- 03** Fuentes de León  
Latitude: 38°01'32.1"N Longitude: 6°29'48.8"W  
'Cueva del Agua' route  
'Del Cielo a la Tierra' route
- 04** Alconchel  
Latitude: 38°01'32.9"N Longitude: 6°29'44.0"W



# INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OBSERVING THE EXTREMADURA SKY

## NETWORK OF CELESTIAL VIEWPOINTS



*Photo: D. Padrón*  
The network of viewpoints promotes the cultural and scientific dissemination of the night sky, a network that is once again committed to experiential tourism and from which the sky appears spectacular at first sight. It is a resource based on the quality of Extremadura's skies, where day and night complement each other perfectly. You will have an unforgettable experience.

**WHAT ARE THE CELESTIAL VIEWPOINTS?**  
They are backlit panels made of artificial stone. Their aim is to show the main constellations and stars that can be spotted each season.



**CELESTIAL VIEWPOINTS. ESPARRAGOSA DE LARES**  
*Photo: RN Fotógrafos*

**HOW DO THEY WORK?**  
They work like magic! For two hours at night, from 10pm to midnight, a special lighting system will show the star map that is hidden under the heart of this great white stone.

**WHERE CAN WE FIND THEM?**  
Celestial Viewpoints have been set up all over Extremadura.

In addition, the Celestial Viewpoints have a “**Mi-Nio**” (**Meteo Nano Observatory**), a multifunction instrument for the measurement of atmospheric parameters (light pollution and cloud cover) and the environment, which allows the quantitative verification of the quality of the skies where the Celestial Viewpoint is located.

## NETWORK OF NIGHT TRAILS



**WHERE CAN WE FIND THEM?**  
In the province of Badajoz you can contact the town halls to get all the information:

**1.- TOWN OF GUADISA**  
HYDROGRAPHIC CONFEDERATION OF GUADIANA  
(Alía - Helechosa de los Montes)  
Latitude: 39°22'15.0"N, Longitude: 5°01'12.5"W

**2.- GALIZUELA (Esparragosa de Lares)**  
Latitude: 38°57'20.2"N, Longitude: 5°14'26.7"W

**3.- FUENTES DE LEÓN**  
Latitude: 38°01'32.1"N, Longitude: 6°29'48.8"W

➡ Ruta Cueva del Agua, guided tour of various nearby caves such as Los Postes, Los Caballos or the Masero Cave (Cueva Masero), where you will also enjoy an open-air rock display, as well as various interpretative panels of the entire area and the night-sky observatory.

➡ Del Cielo a la Tierra runs parallel to the Montemayor River and ends in the largest of the Fuentes de León caves, the Water Cave (Cueva del Agua), a karstic temple occupied by a large lake 200 m long.

**4.- ALCONCHEL**  
Ascent to the Castle of Miraflores  
Latitude: 38°01'32.9"N, Longitude: 6°29'44.0"W

*Photo: RN Fotógrafos*

The night time of our planet is not completely dark. Starlight, zodiacal light, atmospheric light or the light from the moon naturally illuminate the night, creating a great variety of nocturnal landscapes. **The Night Trails**, integrated within the “Extremadura, buenas noches” strategy, have been designed for people to enjoy places of great interest, illuminated almost magically through the natural lighting offered to us by the night sky.

**WHAT ARE THE NIGHT TRAILS?**  
They are trails and routes that have been designed to be followed under the night sky of Extremadura, where we can also enjoy scents and sounds that only the night can make perceptible.



# ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY OF MONFRAGÜE

Photo: J. C. Casado

The **Monfragüe Astronomical Observatory** is located in the town of Torrejón el Rubio, in the heart of the Monfragüe National Park and Biosphere Reserve. It is located within the South Visitor Centre of the Park, it has an information office, four interpretation centres, a Mountain Bike Centre and a picnic area.

In the same building we will find the **Monfragüe Sky Visitors' Centre**, which aims to show the curiosities about the creation of the universe, the solar system with its planets and satellites, and the interactions between the sun, the earth and the moon, as well as showing us the world of galaxies, star clusters and the life of stars. This is a government building of the Municipality of Torrejón el Rubio.

## EQUIPMENT

Dome with capacity for 10 people and different automated telescopes for night and day observations, guided by a professional guide for the observation of the night skies in urban and natural environments by the Extremadura Employment Service.

## BOOK YOUR VISIT

Through the Tourist Office of Torrejón el Rubio or by phone +34 927455292 or +34 637 301 189; or by email : [observatorioastronomico@torrejónelrubio.es](mailto:observatorioastronomico@torrejónelrubio.es) [astromonfrague@gmail.com](mailto:astromonfrague@gmail.com) [www.centrosurmonfrague.com](http://www.centrosurmonfrague.com)

# TRUJILLO PLANETARIUM

Font: [www.planetario.ceta-ciemat.es/](http://www.planetario.ceta-ciemat.es/)

Located in the historic building of the 16th century Conventual de San Francisco, in the heart of the historical centre of the town, the **Planetarium of Trujillo** was created with the aim of bringing science and technology closer to all audiences. It is the result of the project led by the Extremadura Centre for Advanced Technologies (CETA-CIEMAT) and the Trujillo Town Hall.

Likewise, the Planetarium can be moved to any town in the national territory for any outreach event.

## EQUIPMENT

Mobile planetarium with a diameter of 12 metres and a capacity of up to 50 people; the inside of the dome is 6.5 metres high and 8.9 metres in diameter; the seats are designed to support the weight of the visitors and also allow them to recline to complete the projection safely and comfortably.



## BOOK YOUR VISIT

To reserve a visit you can call the Trujillo Tourist Office: +34 927 322 677. [www.planetario.ceta-ciemat.es](http://www.planetario.ceta-ciemat.es)





## LA COCOSA RESOURCE CENTRE

Photo: RN Fotógrafos

The Rural Development and Sustainability Area of the Badajoz Provincial Council, together with “Extremadura, buenas noches”, are carrying out an ambitious project that aims to turn this location into a reference centre for the protection of the night sky.

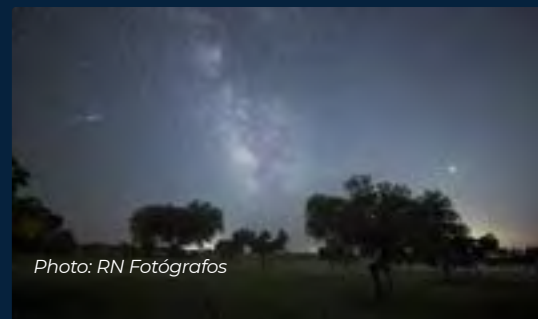


Photo: RN Fotógrafos

### SOON...

- ➔ An astronomical observatory that will have different types of telescopes and instruments.
- ➔ An Astronomical Garden that integrates different measuring instruments that have been used throughout history. In short, it will contain a series of objects that will allow the visitor to explore freely using several interactive modules.
- ➔ Illuminated Night Trail that will connect the different services for observation inside the La Cocosa enclosure.
- ➔ Museum of the Chozos area. Spaces for the interpretation of the sun and the stars.

### BOOK YOUR VISIT

To visit the centre you can check the official website of Rural Development and Sustainability of the Provincial Council of Badajoz [www.desarrolloruralysostenibilidad.dip-badajoz.es/lacocosa](http://www.desarrolloruralysostenibilidad.dip-badajoz.es/lacocosa)

## EXPERIMENTA INTERACTIVE SCIENCE CENTRE



Experimenta-Interactive Science Centre is a centre located in the town of Llerena (Badajoz province). This is a space dedicated to the popularization of science, where visitors will discover science and technology in an active and very enjoyable way.

If you visit Experimenta-CIC, you will have the option of enjoying guided tours, workshops, exhibitions and conferences. Due to this centre's didactic approach, it is ideal for bringing science closer to young people.

### BOOK YOUR VISIT

To visit the centre go to the website: [www.experimenta-cic.com/horarios/](http://www.experimenta-cic.com/horarios/) where educational visits are scheduled. Also you can send an email to [experimenta@experimenta-cic.com](mailto:experimenta@experimenta-cic.com) or call for information on +34 924 026 562 and +34 627 142 881.

### WHAT YOU WILL FIND AT EXPERIMENTA CIC

- ➔ A planetarium with a dome measuring 8 metres in diameter.
- ➔ An interactive room dedicated to the exhibition of more than 50 interactive modules with different scientific contents.
- ➔ A room of light and colour, a magical and special room where you will discover amazing events to experience with light and darkness.
- ➔ It's not magic... It's chemistry! Where you will be able to make experiments of this amazing science.
- ➔ The Planet Earth Room, where you will discover curious data on geology and palaeontology, among other things.
- ➔ Science and life, a tour of curious experiments related to living beings.
- ➔ The senses of science, a scientific workshop on sight and smell.
- ➔ Physics that moves the world, where you will discover the general principles of physics in a pleasant and visual way.
- ➔ Fun maths, through fun games.



## EXTREMADURA SKY – LIVE TV • OPEN SKY

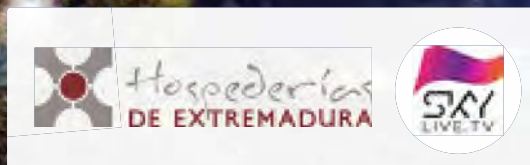


Photo: D. Padrón

This is a project through which high-sensitivity cameras have been installed in some of the Hospederías in Extremadura, together with the Viewpoints of the night sky, which allow the visitor to appreciate Extremadura's stars in all their splendour and whose images can be followed through the Sky Live portal ([www.sky-live.tv/opensky](http://www.sky-live.tv/opensky)). Furthermore, from the SKY LIVE TV portal of the "Extremadura, buenas noches" initiative, different celestial shows (equinoxes, solstices and meteor showers) are broadcast from interesting locations in Extremadura.

Through [www.extremadurabuenasnoches.com/directo/](http://www.extremadurabuenasnoches.com/directo/) you can visualize the environments where the Viewpoints of the night sky are located.

### WHICH HOSPEDERÍAS HAVE THIS SYSTEM??

- ⇒ Hospedería Parque de Monfragüe (Torrejón el Rubio, Cáceres)
- ⇒ Hospedería Conventual Sierra de Gata (San Martín de Trevejo, Cáceres)
- ⇒ Hospedería Valle del Ambroz (Hervás, Cáceres)
- ⇒ Hospedería Valle del Jerte (Jerte, Cáceres)

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



Photo: RN Fotógrafos

MIRADOR DE LA MEMORIA  
EL TORNO, CÁCERES



# WHERE TO OBSERVE THE STARS IN EXTREMADURA

## PLASENCIA AND THE NORTH OF EXTREMADURA

If you want to travel to a destination where you can enjoy a multitude of experiences, the north of Extremadura will undoubtedly be a good choice. We suggest a visit to its beautiful natural sites, such as the **Monfragüe National Park and Reserve of the Biosphere**; the **Meandro Melero** and the **Gasco volcano**, declared **Site of Scientific Interest** in Las Hurdes; the **Natural Monument of Garganta de los Infernos** and the **cherry trees in flower** in Valle del Jerte; or the **Protected Landscapes of Castañar Gallego** in Valle del Ambroz. But we can also enjoy its culture, history and tradition: visit some of the **most beautiful villages in Spain** in the Sierra de Gata, also declared a **Site of Cultural Interest** (Gata, Trevejo, Hoyos, Robledillo de Gata and San Martín de Trevejo), as well as the villages of La Vera, with its numerous **historical-artistic centres** (Pasarón de la Vera, Villanueva de la Vera, Valverde de la Vera, Cuacos de Yuste or Garganta la Olla) or the Ambroz Valley, where a walk through the **Jewish Quarter of Hervás** will take you back to another era. Don't forget to visit Granadilla, which today has been completely rebuilt. This is a land of impressive monuments, such as the **cathedrals of Coria and Plasencia**, and of places with notable Roman importance, such as the **site of Cáparra**. All places where you can bathe in its many natural pools or where you can practice water activities in its reservoir of Gabriel y Galán in the International Centre for Sports Innovation, El Anillo.

### DID YOU KNOW...?

**A fala is spoken in Sierra de Gata** - It is an original language of the inhabitants of San Martín de Trevejo, Eljas and Valverde del Fresno in Sierra de Gata. A language that is considered to be derived from medieval Galician-Portuguese and which is, without doubt, the identity of these towns of northern Extremadura.

**Heritage Jewels: Yuste Monastery** - This is the site where Emperor Carlos V decided to spend his last days and which is currently part of the National Heritage network. You can find it near Cuacos de Yuste, in the beautiful region of La Vera.

### YOU CAN'T MISS IT...

**The Gabriel y Galán reservoir** is a backwater for the waters of the Alagón River. It is named after the poet José María Gabriel y Galán (1805-1905). Its waters are conducive to fishing and water sports, such as sailing or canoeing.



**Monfragüe astronomical observatory**

Lat: 39.773176 / Long: -6.079218

01

**Hospedería Parque de Monfragüe. Torrejón el Rubio**

Lat: 39°46'51.0"N / Long: 6°00'58.9"W

02

**Roman city of Cáparra. Autovía A66, salida 455**

Lat: 40°09'52.0"N / Long: 6°05'58.4"W

03

**Granadilla town**

Lat: 40°16'12.7"N / Long: 6°06'15.1"W

### YOU CAN'T MISS... LOS BUJÍOS DE CECLAVÍN

They are tourist huts in the middle of the Dehesa Boyal. There are 3 lodgings (Vega, Deneb and Al-tair) and each one has a telescope for observation. To make your reservation, contact the Ceclavín Town Hall. Town hall contact: [aytoceclavin@gmail.com](mailto:aytoceclavin@gmail.com) - 927 39 30 02.

Photo: J. C. Casado

### ERMITA DE DIOS PADRE

Photo: J. C. Casado

### SOON...

A Celestial Viewpoint will be installed in Sierra de Gata, specifically in the town of Trevejo.

### ALMENARA. GATA

Photo: J. C. Casado

## SIERRA DE GATA

**Trevejo Castle**, where light pollution is almost non-existent because there are no villages in the area, is a perfect place for astrophotography, with the Milky Way and the ruins of the castle in the background. **The Dios Padre chapel** is a Visigothic monument whose nearest town is Villanueva de la Sierra. **The Rivera de Gata Reservoir** in the town of Villasbuenas de Gata also shows us an incomparable starscape.



# STARLIGHT TOURIST DESTINATION MONFRAGÜE NATIONAL PARK AND BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Monfragüe National Park and Biosphere Reserve was the first destination in Extremadura to obtain the Starlight Foundation Certification “Starlight Tourist Destination” in 2016 and it covers the towns of Torrejón el Rubio, Serradilla, Casas de Millán, Malpartida de Plasencia, Mirabel, Cañaveral and Pedroso de Acím. It has an

Astronomical Observatory and an Interpretation Centre on astronomy. It will not be difficult to find idyllic places for stargazing, such as the Castle of Monfragüe, the Observatory itself, the Viewpoint located in the Hospedería de Monfragüe or the Portilla del Tiétar or the Salto del Gitano.

Photo: J. C. Casado



## DID YOU KNOW...?

In the town of Casas de Miravete, the spot called Cerro de los Santos is one of the best observation points in Monfragüe. Here you will find various information panels on the solar system, the moon, celestial objects and the mythology of the constellations, as well as a night or nocturnal clock (an instrument used to determine time according to the position of a given star in the night sky) and a constellarium, which allows you to locate more than 50 constellations visible throughout the year in the northern hemisphere. Reservations through the Monfragüe GeoCentre (+34 927 542 530 or through [geocentromonfrague@gmail.com](mailto:geocentromonfrague@gmail.com)).

## YOU CAN'T MISS... THE TORREJÓN EL RUBIO OBSERVATORY AND ITS MONFRAGÜE SKY INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Reservations: Torrejón el Rubio Tourist Office or by phone +34 927 455 292 or +34 637301 189 or by email: [observatorioastronomico@torrejonelrubio.es](mailto:observatorioastronomico@torrejonelrubio.es) [astromonfrague@gmail.com](mailto:astromonfrague@gmail.com)



Font: [www.centrosurmonfrague.com/observatorio-astronomico-monfrague/](http://www.centrosurmonfrague.com/observatorio-astronomico-monfrague/)



SALTO DEL GITANO

Photo: J. L. Quiñones



MONFRAGÜE

Photo: J. C. Casado



OBSERVATIONS WITH THE NAKED EYE - MONFRAGÜE CASTLE

Photo: J. C. Casado



# VALLE DEL JERTE AND LA VERA

In Valle del Jerte we have the observation points of **Puerto de Tornavacas**, **Puerto de Honduras** in Cabezuela del Valle and the **Caozo** and **Peña Negra** waterfalls, both in Piornal. In neighbouring La Vera you can also enjoy landscapes that are essential for stargazing, such as on the outskirts of the town of Cuacos de Yuste.

Photo: RN Fotógrafos

SOON...

A viewpoint will be installed in the town of Piornal. In the neighbouring region of La Vera, near Cuacos de Yuste, you can also find another Celestial Viewpoint.

CHERRY TREES IN BLOOM

Photo: RN Fotógrafos

MONUMENT TO MOUNTAINEERS

Photo: J. C. Casado

# VALLE DEL AMBROZ, CÁPARRA AND GRANADILLA

Photo: JC, Casado

One of the main star observation points in **Tierras de Granadilla** is **El Anillo International Sports Innovation Centre**, located on a small peninsula in the Gabriel y Galán reservoir with restricted access

Other points of observation in this region are the medieval village of **Zarza de Granadilla** and the **Roman city of Cáparra** in Guijo de Granadilla.

In the **Valle del Ambroz**, the main observation area is in **La Garganta**, in the **Corral de los Lobos**.

SOON...

Two Celestial Viewpoints will be installed in this area: one in the town of La Garganta and another in the International Centre for Sports Innovation El Anillo.

ROMAN CITY OF CÁPARRA

Photo: J. C. Casado

GABRIEL Y GALÁN RESERVOIR

Photo: JC Casado

CORRAL DE LOS LOBOS VIEWPOINT

Photo: RN Fotógrafos



# WHERE TO OBSERVE THE STARS IN EXTREMADURA

## CÁCERES AND SURROUNDING AREAS

This is an area full of monumental wealth, with various **World Heritage Sites**, such as the **Monumental City of Cáceres** and the **Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe**, and impressive historical sites such as the city of **Trujillo**, the **Roman Bridge of Alcántara** and the **dolmen complex of Valencia de Alcántara**, declared a Site of **Cultural Interest**, all of which are well worth a visit. In this same town you will be able to discover its **Jewish Quarter**.

In addition to its impressive heritage, this area is also rich in natural resources. There are two destinations here that have been recognized by UNESCO: the **Biosphere Reserve Tajo Internacional**, with its more than 25,000 hectares of riverbanks with Mediterranean forest that are crossed by the river; and the **UNESCO World Geopark Villuercas-Ibores-Jara**, the perfect destination for geotourism, since we are in front of a place composed of unique geological spaces, of Apalachian relief. We cannot forget the **Natural Monument of Los Barruecos**, where you can also visit the original Vostell Museum, and the **Holm Oak of La Terrona** in Montánchez, declared a Singular Tree and which is about 800 years old. In the city of Cáceres we have an **urban SPA** that houses colonies of kestrels.


### DID YOU KNOW...?

**You are going to visit a movie destination!** The series *Game of Thrones*, *La Catedral del Mar*, *Still Star Crossed*, *Isabel, mi reina*, *Inés del alma mía* or films such as *La Celestina* or *Teresa: el cuerpo de Cristo*, were filmed in such idyllic landscapes as Los Barruecos, the Monumental City of Cáceres or the monumental city of Trujillo.



### YOU CAN'T MISS...

**The Vostell Museum** in Malpartida de Cáceres. Its creator, Wolf Vostell, is also the father of the Décollage technique, the European Happening, the Fluxus Movement and video art. His work gives off a special spark, a touch of unmistakable originality. [www.museovostell.org](http://www.museovostell.org)

- 01** Montánchez castle  
Lat: 39°13'29.7"N / Long: 6°09'19.1"
- 02** Dehesa de la Luz. Arroyo de la Luz  
Lat: 39°30'57.9"N / Long: 6°37'01.5"W
-  **Trujillo planetarium**  
Lat: 39.45869978 / Long: -5.88103087

## MONTÁNCHEZ AND BARRUECOS

One astronomical observation that you cannot miss is the one that we can see from the **Castle of Montánchez**, where one of the **Celestial Viewpoints** of this network that covers the entire geography of Extremadura is also installed. The location of this 11th century fortress, together with the quality of its skies, make this an idyllic spot for observing the sky. Another idyllic picture is left by the observation from the **Monastery of Santa Lucía del Trampal** in Alcuescar, very close to Montánchez. Similarly, another privileged place to see the stars could be the **Los Barruecos Natural Monument**.

Photo: RN Fotógrafos

### DON'T FORGET TO VISIT...

**The Trujillo Planetarium.** To reserve a visit you can call the Trujillo Tourist Office: +34 927 322 677. [www.planetario.ceta-ciemat.es](http://www.planetario.ceta-ciemat.es)

#### INTERIOR CASTLE OF MONTÁNCHEZ



Photo: RN Fotógrafos

#### HOLM OAK LA TERRONA. MONTÁNCHEZ

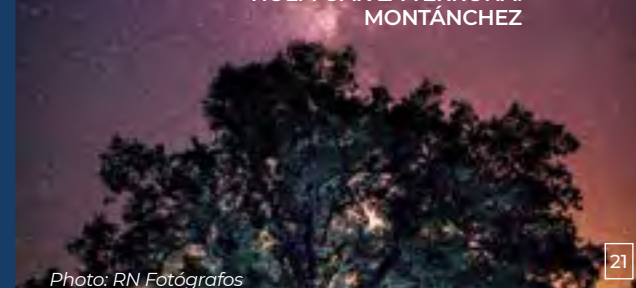


Photo: RN Fotógrafos



# TAJO INTERNACIONAL BIOSPHERE RESERVE

An exceptional place for observation is the environment of the **Tajo Internacional Biosphere Reserve**. The recommended spots to enjoy the sky at night are the Dolmen de los Mellizos, located in Valencia de Alcántara, or the Tapada de Anita, also in the vicinity of this town. The Menhir del Cabezo in Alcántara is also worth admiring. Or the Castle of Azagala in the heart of the Sierra de San Pedro, already in the municipality of Alburquerque. In general, the whole **Tajo Internacional Biosphere Reserve** is ideal for astrotourism, as there is hardly any light pollution. In addition, the observation is accompanied by sensations such as the aroma of its Mediterranean vegetation or the sound of the nocturnal animals that live there.

Photo: D. Padrón

### DON'T MISS...

**The bellowing of deer and stargazing:** The bellowing of the deer is a spectacle worth living once in a lifetime. It takes place every year at the end of summer and, in particular, in this area it occurs earlier than in other areas of Extremadura.

### SOON...

You will be able to enjoy a new Sky Viewpoint in the area of the **Tajo Internacional Biosphere Reserve**.

### DID YOU KNOW...?

In the UNESCO World Geopark there are qualified professionals for the observation of the night sky. In addition, you can complete the journey with a visit to the Geopark at sunset, where the sunset is something to behold.

# UNESCO VILLUERCAS IBORES JARA WORLD GEOPARK

The **UNESCO Villuercas-Ibores-Jara World Geopark** is one of the destinations with the darkest skies in Extremadura, which can be reached through a recently renovated road which is very easy to access. The most recommended points for observation are, among other sites, the **Humilladero Shrine** and the **Pozo de las Nieves** in Guadalupe; also the **risco de La Villuerca**, which is the highest point in the Geopark (1,601 m), and the **Dehesa Navatrasierra**.

Phot: J. C. Casado

### SOON...

A Celestial Viewpoint will be installed in the towns of Logrosán and Garciaz.

### MELLIZO DOLMEN



Photo: D. Padrón

### ZAFRA DOLMEN



Photo: D. Padrón

### HUMILLADERO HERMITAGE

Photo:  
J. C. Casado

### LAS NIEVES WELL

Photo:  
J. C. Casado

### YOU CAN'T MISS...

A view of the exterior of the **Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe at nighttime**. With its recently-introduced lighting, you will be surprised by the beauty of this spectacular monument, now also at night. This lighting, which combines the use of LED technology with night-time glow control, is the result of a project by Iberdrola, which has worked on over forty monuments in Spain.



# WHERE TO OBSERVE THE STARS IN EXTREMADURA

## BADAJOS, MÉRIDA AND SURROUNDING AREAS

We begin our tour in **Badajoz**, best known for its imposing **Alcazaba**, built by the Almohads in the twelfth century. From the top of the city we can admire one of the most beautiful sunsets in Extremadura. **Mérida**, home to the **National Museum of Roman Art** and whose archaeological site was declared a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**, is a must-see. Very close to the capital of Extremadura you will find the area of **Tierra de Barros**, whose capital is **Almendralejo**, and well known for its vineyards. **Medellín** is also well worth a visit, for its Castle and Roman Theatre, as well as the castle of **Puebla de Alcocer**, the site of **Cancho Roano** and the **Magacela dolmen**.

With impressive natural resources and located very close to Mérida, we can visit the **Natural Park of Cornalvo**, a place of great beauty full of holm and cork oaks. Very close to this site, the **Sierra Grande de Hornachos** was declared a **Special Conservation Area**. In Badajoz we have the “**Azud de Badajoz**” **urban SPA (Special Protection Spa)**, which is bathed by the Guadiana River.

We highlight in particular the regions of **La Serena** and **La Siberia**, which will offer you a multitude of experiences to enjoy. Recently named a **Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO**, **La Siberia** is one of the most interesting destinations in Extremadura: bird watching of a wide variety of birds is possible at the **Zújar reservoir**, and the **Cijara hunting natural reserve** offers visitors more than 25,000 hectares of Mediterranean forest and scrub. There you will find the **Cijara reservoir**, where you can also enjoy the deer's bellowing during rutting.

### DID YOU KNOW...?

Every year the **Costa Dulce Beach in Orellana la Vieja** has had the honour of obtaining the **Blue flag** for the quality of the water, the cleanliness and the services offered by this bathing area. It was the first interior destination to earn this badge in 2010. In addition, this municipality has the distinctive “**Blue Flag Marina**” (the only one in the interior of the country) and “**Blue Flag Pathway**”.

### DISCOVER...

**The Pueblos de Luz.** Of the 63 towns of colonization that exist in Extremadura, there are numerous localities distributed across Vegas del Guadiana. Destinations where you can stop and discover its white architecture and light, and relax and enjoy its nature, bird watching and, of course, its night sky.



- 01** La Cocossa Centre. Badajoz  
Lat: 38°45'19.7"N / Long: 6°59'03.9"W.9"
- 02** Los Chozos de la Dehesa. La Roca de la Sierra  
Lat: 39°06'13.3"N / Long: 6°39'48.2"W
- 03** Galizuela. Esparragosa de Lares  
Lat: 38°56'56.1"N / Long: 5°13'39.1"W
- 04** C.I. de “La Berrea”. Helechos de los Montes  
Lat: 39°19'22.1"N / Long: 4°57'02.5"W

## BADAJOS AND DEHESA BOYAL

Badajoz is the largest province in Spain and its light pollution is almost non-existent, so we can say that it is a perfect place for astrotourism. We propose reference points such as the surroundings of the towns of **Alburquerque** and **La Codosera**, as well as **Dehesa Boyal** in **La Roca de la Sierra**, where there is also a **Celestial Viewpoint**. Another interesting place for stargazing is the **Dolmen de Lácara**, located in the town of **La Nava de Santiago**.

Photo: RN Fotógrafos

### YOU CAN'T MISS...

A visit to the **Finca La Cocossa**, near Badajoz, where in addition to a **Celestial Viewpoint**, you can enjoy an astronomical observatory, among other astronomical activities. Reservations and information: [www.desarrolloruralsostenibilidad.dip-badajoz.es/lacocosa/](http://www.desarrolloruralsostenibilidad.dip-badajoz.es/lacocosa/)

### LA CODOSERA

Photo: RN Fotógrafos

### LÁCARA DOLMEN

Photo: J. C. Casado



# MÉRIDA AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Points such as **Medellín Castle** or **Cornalvo Natural Park** are strategic locations for night sky observation, due to their low light pollution and good atmospheric quality. Similarly, and now in Tierra de Barros, we find the **Sierra Grande de Hornachos**, declared a SPA area, PCI (Place of Community Importance) and ARI (Area of Regional Interest).

Photo: RN Fotógrafos

SOON...

A Celestial Viewpoint will be installed in the town of Don Benito



TEMPLE OF DIANA.  
MÉRIDA  
Photo: D. Padrón



MEDELLÍN CASTLE  
  
Photo: D. Padrón

# LA SIBERIA, LA SERENA

It is because of its low light pollution and excellent weather conditions that **La Siberia** offers a simply spectacular starscape. In addition two **Celestial Viewpoints** have been installed in the region, one of them in the **Interpretation Centre of "La Berrea" in Helechosa de los Montes**, and a multitude of activities related to astrotourism, stargazing or talks on astronomy are offered.

A little further south we can also enjoy the **second Celestial Viewpoint**, that of **Galizuela in Esparragosa de Lares**. In these two locations two **Night Trails** have also been created. Another optimal place for observation is the town of **Magacela** in La Serena.

Photo: RN Fotógrafos



LA BERREA VISITOR CENTRE.  
HELECHOSA DE LOS MONTES.  
  
Photo: RN Fotógrafos

YOU CAN'T MISS IT...

Take two of the Night Trails proposed by "Extremadura, buenas noches". For further information you can contact the project initiative at [proy.transversales@juntaex.es](mailto:proy.transversales@juntaex.es)

DID YOU KNOW...?

**La Siberia is the Spanish region with more kilometres of freshwater coastline** than any other in the country and is considered to be one of the best in the province for Astrotourism, in addition to many other activities with which to accompany your stay, such as water activities or bird watching.



MAGACELA DOLMEN  
  
FPhoto: J. L. Quiñones



# WHERE TO OBSERVE THE STARS IN EXTREMADURA

## ZAFRA AND SOUTHERN EXTREMADURA

Continuing our journey through the south of the province of Badajoz, we will first stop off in **Zafra**, one of the most fascinating destinations in Extremadura, with its well-known **Plaza Grande** and **Plaza Chica**, among many other monuments. Worth mentioning is the peculiar monument known as the **Capricho de Cotrina** in the town of Los Santos de Maimona. Further south we will stop at impressive castles such as those of **Burguillos del Cerro**, a town declared a Historic Site, **Salvatierra de los Barros**, **Feria** and **Alconchel**, among many other medieval sites that are also well worth a visit.

Unique villages such as **Olivenza**, **Jerez de los Caballeros** and **Fregenal de la Sierra** are also worth a visit. And also two of the “Hidden Treasures of Extremadura”: the **Monastery of Tentudía** in Calera de León and the **Ermita de Nuestra Señora del Ara** in Fuente del Arco. But this area is also rich in nature. We have one of the **most extensive pastures in Europe**, with **Natural Monuments** such as are **La Jayona Mine** or the **Caves of Fuentes de León**. We cannot forget the **Gran Lago Alqueva**, which bathes many towns in southern Badajoz along with many others in neighbouring Portugal.


### DISCOVER...

The white villages of southern Extremadura, such as Llerena, capital of the Campiña Sur and full of life: Fregenal de la Sierra, with its charming square and Templar castle; Jerez de los Caballeros, also a town with a Templar past and with its conglomerate of streets and towers; or Olivenza, a town that forms part of the network of the most beautiful villages in Spain and which is surprisingly mixed with the culture of our neighbouring country Portugal.

### YOU CAN'T MISS...

A walk through the **Pastures of the Sierra Sur**, with its holm and cork oaks, one of the most important ecosystems in Europe and where the world-famous Iberian pigs are bred. From Jerez de los Caballeros to Monesterio, passing through charming towns such as Oliva de la Frontera, Zahinos, Fregenal de la Sierra and Higuera la Real. In short, it is a walk through nature in its purest form.



- 01 Campiña Sur. Alcazaba de Reina  
Latitude: 38°11'22.6"N Longitude: 5°57'23.7"W
  - 02 Olivenza. Sendero - Corredor  
Latitude: 38°44'07.8"N Longitude: 7°13'50.3"W
  - 03 Alconchel. Miraflores Castle  
Latitude: 38°31'24.2"N Longitude: 7°04'08.7"W
  - 04 Fuentes de León. M. N. Caves of Fuentes de León  
Latitude: 38°01'32.6"N Longitude: 6°29'44.0"W
-  Experimenta Interactive Science Centre

## TENTUDÍA AND CAMPIÑA SUR

To observe the stars in this area we can go to **Alcazaba de la Reina**, where one of the **Celestial Viewpoints** is located and where light pollution is almost non-existent. A tour where we will also enjoy an open-air rock sample table. A memorable observation of the stars from the **Monastery of Tentudía** or the **Castle of Segura de León** will also be a must, as well as the natural areas of Cabeza la Vaca and Fuentes de León.

Photo: J. L. Quiñones

### YOU CAN'T MISS...

A walk along two of the **Night Trails** proposed by “**Extremadura, buenas noches**” in Fuentes de León. To book, contact the town hall of this town. Fuentes de León Tourist Office [turismo@fuentes-deleon.es](mailto:turismo@fuentes-deleon.es) Telephone: 924 724 174

### SOON...

Two Celestial Viewpoints will be installed in this area: in the Monastery of Tentudía, in the town of Calera de León and in the town of La Lapa.

### MONASTERY OF TENTUDÍA



Photo: RN Fotógrafos

### REGINA THEATRE

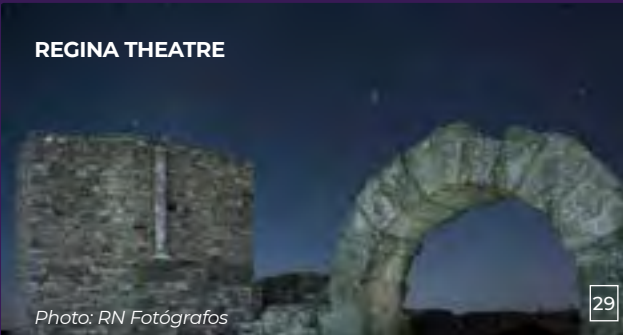


Photo: RN Fotógrafos



# STARLIGHT TOURIST DESTINATION SURROUNDING THE GRAN LAGO ALQUEVA



This is one of the best areas for night sky observation in Extremadura, the surroundings of the **Gran Lago Alqueva**, certified as a **Starlight Tourist Destination**. The first five municipalities to be recognised by the Starlight Foundation in 2018 were: Olivenza, Cheles, Alconchel, Táliga and Villanueva del Fresno; in 2019 more towns belonging to the Sierra Suroeste were added to this recognition: Fregenal de la Sierra, Higuera de Vargas, Higuera la Real, Jerez de los Caballeros, Oliva de la Frontera, Valencia del Mombuey and Zahinos.

One of the observation points that we highlight here is **Castro Capote** in **Higuera la Real**, where, thanks to its

strategic position with clear horizons in all directions and with hardly any light pollution, it is ideal for making astronomical observations. Other very interesting points for observation are the pastures of **Oliva de la Frontera** and **Zahinos**, which have hardly any light pollution and are idyllic spots to enjoy their skies, such as the surroundings of San Isidro area in both towns. Of course, an unmissable event is the **Alqueva Theme Park**, where the most fascinating spots for observation are the **Cheles**, **Villanueva del Fresno** and **Villareal Embarcadero** in **Olivenza** as well as the **castle of Alconchel**. In the latter two locations a Celestial viewpoint is also installed.

## ¿DID YOU KNOW...?

The **Gran Lago Alqueva** is the first cross-border certification in the world, as it covers the countries of Spain and Portugal.

### SOON...

Two new Celestial Viewpoints will be installed both in the Sierra Suroeste region and more specifically in the Ruinas Capote, in Higuera la Real and in Valencia del Mombuey

### YOU CAN'T MISS...

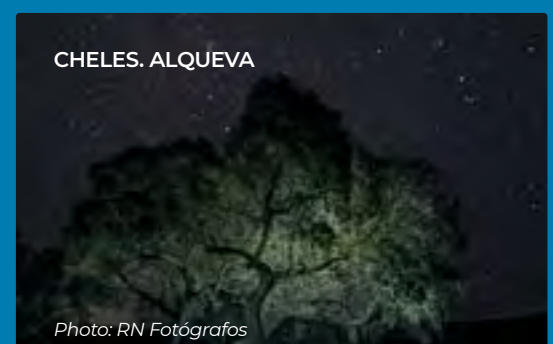
Taking two of the Night Trails proposed by "**Extremadura, buenas noches**" on the way up to the Castle of Miraflores in Alconchel. For further information you can contact the project initiative [proy.transversales@juntaex.es](mailto:proy.transversales@juntaex.es)

Photo: RN Fotógrafos & Annais Pascual



CASTLE OF ALCONCHEL

Photo: RN Fotógrafos



CHELES. ALQUEVA

Photo: RN Fotógrafos



OLIVENZA

Photo: Annais Pascual



MILKY WAY OVER THE MEADOWS

Photo: J. L. Quiñones



# ASTROTURISM COMPANIES


## IN EXTREMADURA

### Activity companies:

 **ADALBERTI**  
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# TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OBSERVATION

Planning an astronomical observation is extremely important, to the extent that good planning will lead us to love the sky or, on the contrary, to have an experience that is not as positive as expected. Therefore, some good tips for observing the skies of Extremadura are the following:

➔ Know the night sky. It is good to know the atmospheric conditions of the place of observation. Some factors to take into account are, for example, the cloud cover or the number of clear nights we have in a year, as well as the seeing or transparency of the atmosphere. It's a good idea to check the weather forecast. And also take into account the types of clouds: high clouds are more annoying than low clouds, as they take up more space in the sky.

➔ Warm clothing and insulating footwear. Because Astrotourism can be practised at high latitudes, and it can get cold. It is advisable to wear closed shoes, as you never know what nocturnal animals may prowl the grounds in the area (scorpions, snakes, etc.).

➔ A dim red light.

➔ Take some food and water with you.

➔ Reference material, such as a planisphere with the objects to be seen on the night of the observation.

➔ Chairs according to the observation. A deck chair for long hours of observation is usually something quite common, or chairs for when looking through the telescope.

## RESOURCES, MATERIALS AND APPLICATIONS

- ➔ Real-time information on the photometer network in Extremadura
- ➔ Live images from the Star Viewpoint Network
- ➔ Geolocation night photographs in Extremadura
- ➔ Conferences, courses, observations and activities related to star tourism
- ➔ Informative brochures of the Stargazer and Celestial Trails
- ➔ Guide to Sundials in Extremadura
- ➔ Mobile applications useful to interpret the Celestial Vault
- ➔ Videos and multimedia materials
- ➔ Blog

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

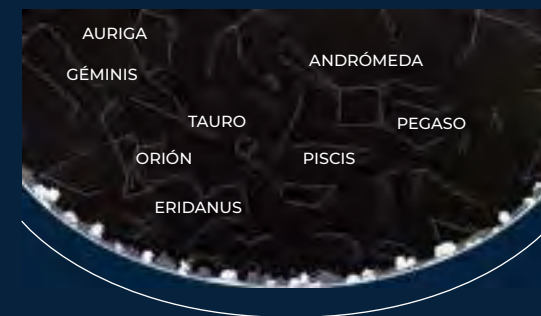
[www.ideex.es/buenasnoches](http://www.ideex.es/buenasnoches)

More information:  
[proy.transversales@juntaex.es](mailto:proy.transversales@juntaex.es)

# WHAT TO OBSERVE (BY SEASONS)

## WINTER

DECEMBER 21 | 22:00 | ORIENTATION 'S'



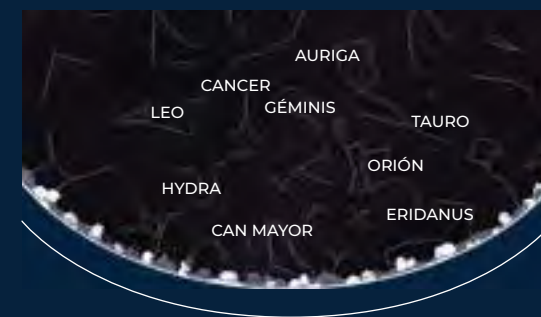
## SUMMER

JUNE 21 | 23:00 | ORIENTATION 'S'



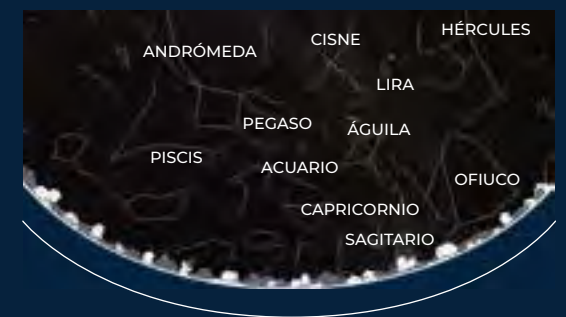
## SPRING

MARCH 21 | 22:00 | ORIENTATION 'S'



## AUTUMN

SEPTIEMBRE 21 | 23:00 | ORIENTATION 'S'







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