

# **NATURAL HERITAGE IN MÁLAGA, ANDALUSIA, SPAIN AND ITS INFLUENCE ON NATIONAL IDENTITY. (AMB)**

**(D1)** *Good morning and welcome to IES Huelin to all teachers and students of the different Erasmus+ accreditations.*

*We are going to begin with the work carried out by Spanish students to present the characteristics of our natural heritage and the influence on the identity of our society.*

## **(D2) SPANISH RED FROM THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE.**

Spain is the country with the most Biosphere Reserves in the world.

These territories are distinguished by UNESCO for making the conservation of spectacular natural spaces compatible with the socioeconomic development of their neighbors.

In these ecosystems it is intended to implement new sustainability measures, renewable energies and ecological agriculture.

**(D3)** On the map we can see the location of the 53 Biosphere Reserves, among which are 16 National Parks, the different Regional Parks and Natural Monuments.

## **(D4) ANDALUSIA IN THE WORLD**

**(D-5)** Specifically, in Andalusia we find 3 National Parks, 17 Natural Parks, 30 Natural Sites, 14 Natural Reserves, 21 peri-urban parks and 2 protected landscapes. Later we will see the characteristics of three of the most notable areas due to the environmental contrasts they present: Sierra Nevada, El Desierto de Almería and Doñana.

Let's stay for now in the protected areas of the province of Malaga:

## **(D6) MÁLAGA, PROTECTING NATURE**

We will focus on 4 of the protected spaces that we consider most interesting due to their ecological value and influence on the population. We will start with

**(D7)** EL TORCAL DE ANTEQUERA, UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve;

Then we will see the characteristics of the SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES Natural Park since 1989

Thirdly, SIERRA DE GRAZALEMA, the first Spanish Biosphere Reserve in 1977 and, since 1984, the first natural park in Andalusia. And finally, we will enter one of the most spectacular trails in the world where we can enjoy some of the most beautiful views of Andalusia, El Caminito del Rey.

## **(D8) EL TORCAL DE ANTEQUERA**

It is a natural site famous for its impressive karst landscape. Formed by erosion over millions of years, the area features unique and rugged rock formations, including spires, columns and ridges, creating a surreal and distinctive environment.

It is considered the greatest exponent of the European karst landscape. The site has gained recognition as a Natural Site and World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. Despite the challenging terrain, Torcal is home to a wide range of plant and animal life adapted to the rocky environment. In addition, the Torcal de Antequera is an ideal place for astronomical observation due to its distance from the city lights.

Here we have images of the most representative of this World Heritage of Humanity: La Peña de los Enamorados, of which one day I will tell you its legend and the Dolmen, the first forms of monumental architecture in European Prehistory, developed a few years ago. 6,500 years. used for ritual and funerary purposes.

**(D9)** And in this other one we see some images of the flora and fauna of the area.

Continuing our tour through the province of Malaga, we will now stop in the Sierra de las Nieves.

### **(D10) SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES**

It is located in the Serranía de Ronda and was declared a Natural Park in 1989 for its ecological richness as it is home to the largest and best preserved fir forests in southern Europe.

**D(-11)** Among all its specimens, the Las Escaleretas Pinsapo has been declared a National Monument for its size and longevity. In addition, gall oaks, holm oaks and cork oaks coexist with carob and chestnut trees.

Of the fauna, the wild cat, the golden eagle and the otter stand out, which has its habitat in the Verde River.

We will now head west and 57 km from this natural park, between the provinces of Málaga and Cádiz we will find the first Spanish biosphere reserve:

### **(D12) SIERRA DE GRAZALEMA.**

As we have just said, the Sierra de Grazalema was named Spain's first Biosphere Reserve in 1977 and in 1984 it became Andalusia's First Natural Park.

It has a typical karst morphology and a dense Mediterranean forest of fir, holm oak, cork oak and gall oak. The erosion produced by water has created canyons of great beauty, such as the Garganta Verde.

It is one of the places with the highest rainfall on the Iberian Peninsula, with more than 2,000 millimeters of water per year.

**(D13)** It is home to more than 130 species of birds, 44 of mammals, 24 of reptiles and 10 of amphibians.

We cannot finish our tour of the most important natural spaces in Malaga without stopping at one of the most dizzying trails in Spain, which is sometimes located more than 100 meters above the Guadalhorce River:

#### **(D14) THE KING'S ROAD (EL CAMINITO DEL REY) in THE GAITANES THROAT.**

The Caminito del Rey route runs through the Desfiladero de los Gaitanes Natural Area, a protected natural area, where the limestone rock, pine forest and Mediterranean vegetation have one of their best examples.

The duration of the complete route (section from the door of one walkway to another, plus the tracks or forest tracks to get to or leave the area) is between 3 and 4 hours over about 7 kilometers.

The Caminito del Rey is a series of wooden walkways that hang over the void 100 meters high.

This path, barely 1 meter wide and anchored in the walls of the gorge, was originally built at the beginning of the 20th century due to the need to connect the Gaitanejo waterfalls and the Chorro waterfall by the Chorro Hydroelectric Society and allow the population access the hydroelectric plant where the majority of the inhabitants worked.

After the works, King Alfonso XIII. Since then, the locals began to call that place "Caminito del Rey". ". A name that, as you can see, has continued to be used to this day.

It is located in the Desfiladero de los Gaitanes, an impressive canyon excavated by the Guadalhorce River, between the municipalities of Ardales, Álora, Campillo and Antequera, in Málaga.

This natural enclave has been a focus of influence for the settlement and development of human groups in the surroundings of the natural area of Gaitanejo and El Chorro from prehistory to the present day, documented by the abundance of archaeological sites.

It has been part of the Transcontinental Mediterranean Biosphere Reserve.

In recent times it has become a popular hiking destination and in 2016 it received the Europa Nostra Award in the Conservation category.

Among the fauna, mountain birds such as the Egyptian vulture, griffon vulture, golden eagle, numerous reptiles, mountain goats, foxes, rabbits, dormice, badgers and genets stand out.

Leaving the province of Malaga, in just two hours we will arrive at Sierra Nevada, located in the province of Granada.

#### **(D15) SIERRA NEVADA**

It is a mountain range with an area of almost 86,000 hectares distributed between Granada and Almería.

Its highest peak is El Mulhacén (3479 meters), it is the roof of the Iberian Peninsula. El Veleta (3,396 meters) is the second highest altitude in the Sierra Nevada National Park.

Parts of the mountain range have been included in the Sierra Nevada National Park, declared a biosphere reserve in 1986 and in 1999 it was declared a National Park due to the singularities of its flora, fauna, geomorphology and landscape.

Sierra Nevada has a Mediterranean climate, with cold, wet winters and hot, dry summers. This climate has different variations depending on the altitude.

It is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Spain, due to its high peaks that allow skiing in this beautiful landscape.

A few kilometers from this mountainous area we find a completely opposite environment, the Tabernas desert in Almería.

### **(D16) THE ALMERÍA DESERT**

Tabernas is the Almería desert, surrounded by three mountain ranges: Filabres, Alhamilla and, a little further away, by the Alpujarra de Almería and Sierra Nevada. Visiting the desert takes approximately 5 hours on the 14-kilometer trail and 3 hours on the 9-kilometer trail. The difficulty of traveling through it is low.

It is a place where only animal and plant species survive that have known how to adapt to the minimum humidity conditions since very little rain falls each year. Above all, this natural space is considered special protection due to the presence of numerous birds. Here we see images of the most abundant and we can hear their song.

**(D17)** The Tabernas desert became an immense setting for the filming of numerous films of the spaghetti western genre and other themes. In recent years, many people have come to Almería, attracted by the sets of "Game of Thrones", to take photographs in those places where some of the most legendary scenes of the series were filmed.

Returning to nature, in this slide we can contemplate the beauty of the *Euzomodendron bourgeanum* flower, the only representative of this genus, it is a relic from the Jurassic and is included on the endangered list of the Junta de Andalucía.

**(D18)** Additionally, I invite you to listen to the songs of some endemic species of this area.

**(D19)** Our tour of Andalusia and its Protected Natural Areas cannot end without entering another of the wonders of nature, the Doñana National Park, a mosaic of ecosystems that house a unique biodiversity in Europe where we can enjoy a great mosaic of landscapes made up of ecosystems as different as dunes, corrals, preserves and marshes and 27 kilometers of completely virgin beach.

### **(D20) DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK**

The Doñana National Park, declared in 1969, is one of the most important protected areas in the Andalusian territory and the largest ecological reserve in Europe. With 54,251 hectares, it is located in the southwest of the autonomous community, in the provinces of Huelva, Seville and Cádiz. It is the largest European ecological reserve with an area of 54,251 hectares.

**(D21)** A set of ecosystems such as beaches, dunes, preserves and marshes come together in Doñana.

We can see 450 species of animals in a year.

It is a Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site and is included in the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, along with Sierra Nevada.

Unique species live in the National Park, some in serious danger of extinction, such as the Iberian Lynx and the Iberian Imperial Eagle.

It highlights a very diverse and unique flora, more than 1,300 species have been cataloged, some in danger of extinction.

The lack of water, excess fertilizers, climate change, poaching and numerous pilgrimages sentence to death a unique space in southern Europe.

**(D22)** Here we have the image of various species in extinction, both animals and plants.

**(D23)** Without leaving the Peninsula, but located in a very different geographical location, we find Las Médulas, located in El Bierzo. Las Médulas is a stunning Spanish landscape environment formed by Roman gold mining. World Heritage Site since 1997.

## **THE MARROWS**

The Romans used the “ruina montium” technique, an engineering method in which the force of water is used to collapse large sections of a mountain. After two centuries of using this technique, the tailings resulting from the process were deposited and the hydraulic channels used in the process considerably altered the environment of the area.

Let's watch a short video about this impressive couple.

Now we are going to leave the peninsula to visit one of the most special natural spaces in Spain, the Teide National Park.

## **(D24) TEIDE NATIONAL PARK**

It is located in the center of the island of Tenerife.

It was the first National Park declared in the Canary Islands, in 1954, and is the largest of the Islands and a World Heritage Site since 2007. It is named after a volcano, Teide, the highest peak in Spain, with 3,718 meters of altitude and the Third highest volcano in the world.

It is the only high mountain subtropical area in Europe, which allows for great biological wealth; many of its species are exclusive to the Park. Most of the flora of the National Park is endemic, such as the Teide Violet.

**(D25)** The characteristics of Teide limit the settlement of fauna. Birds are one of the most important groups of vertebrates; some of them are endemic, such as blue tits and chiffchaffs.

It is the most visited national park in Spain and Europe and the fourth in the world. with 4,079,823 visitors in 2023.

## **(D26) COASTS OF SPAIN**

The greatest marine biodiversity in Europe is hidden under Spanish waters, along the 7,661 kilometers of coastline. Of them, nearly 6,000 kilometers correspond to the peninsular coastline. There are three sectors into which the peninsular coast is divided: Cantabrian coast, Atlantic coast and Mediterranean coast.

**(D27)** They are endowed with different geographical, geomorphological, climatic and ecological characteristics. Here you will find authentic underwater paradises, ecosystems of extremely high natural value.

**(D28)** In Spain there are 12 MARINE RESERVES that have certain characteristics that allow the improvement of the reproduction conditions of species of fishing interest. Of them, seven belong to the Mediterranean coast, such as the island of Alborán, Cabo Palos or the Columbretes Islands, and the other three are located in the Atlantic, specifically in the Canary Islands.

## **(D29) THE CANTÁBRICA COAST**

It is north of the Iberian Peninsula and runs parallel to the Cantabrian Mountains. It is a rocky and high coast, so cliffs, points and capes emerge. Rias, ancient river valleys occupied by the sea, emerge between the cliffs.

It extends from the tip of Estaca de Bares to the border with France and includes Galicia, Asturias, the coast of Cantabria and part of the Basque Country.

In this maritime area we find the MARITIME-TERRESTRIAL NATIONAL PARK OF THE ATLANTIC ISLANDS OF GALICIA. Cliffs, bushes, dunes and beaches, as well as different types of seabed (rocky, sandy, shells), create an impressive mosaic of ecosystems.

The Oyambre Natural Park, whose surroundings constitute a magnificent example of a coastal ecosystem, with cliffs, meadows, native forests, estuaries and rocky and muddy intertidal areas inhabited by a wide variety of the most spectacular aquatic birds.

The natural area of Urdaibai, in the province of Vizcaya, was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1984.

This variety of landscapes is home to a large number of different species: more than 200 types of algae that provide shelter and breeding for numerous fish and mollusks, and sea birds.

It is crucial for its influence on fishing, providing key marine resources. It also affects the climate of the region and is known for its beautiful coastal landscapes. The Cantabrian coast is witness to deep-rooted fishing traditions and is home to various marine species, contributing significantly to the cultural and economic identity of the area.

## **(D30) THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The Mediterranean is one of the largest seas on the planet, with an approximate surface area of 2.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, located between Europe, Asia and Africa. It connects with the Atlantic Ocean through the Strait of Gibraltar.

Regarding Spain, the Mediterranean coast extends along the east and south of the Peninsula, from the border with France to the Strait of Gibraltar, bathing the Balearic Islands and Ceuta and Melilla. It is the longest coast in Spain.

It has large flat areas that alternate with cliffs, such as the Costa Brava, the Costa Dorada, the Costa Blanca, the Costa Cálida and the Costa del Sol.

Let's see some images of the Mediterranean coasts.

On the Costa Cálida, in the Region of Murcia, is one of the Spanish marine reserves, Cabo de Palos-Islas Hormigas.

Returning to the Costa del Sol, the Mediterranean runs through more than 150 kilometers of coastline in the province of Malaga, of which the beach areas of Marbella, Mijas, Torremolinos and the cliffs of Maro or the Balcón de Europa in Nerja stand out. This region has enormous historical importance in the development of many cultures, such as Greco-Roman, Phoenician, Egyptian...

The Mediterranean Sea has always been of vital importance for the city of Malaga and its inhabitants. The Phoenicians who founded Malaka arrived through its waters, and received products from all over the world that supplied the people of Malaga.

### **(D31) OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN**

The Atlantic Ocean has great significance for Spain since it bathes a large part of its coasts. Notable features include the Gulf Stream, which influences the climate, and the rich marine biodiversity that supports vital fishing industries. Furthermore, the Atlantic has witnessed historic voyages of exploration and trade.

On the Atlantic coast there are:

1-The Atlantic coast of Andalusia, to the southwest. It extends from the mouth of the Guadiana River to Punta de Tarifa. It is a low and sandy coast. Cape Trafalgar and the Gulf of Cádiz stand out in their relief.

2- The Atlantic coast of Galicia, to the northwest, extends from the Estaca de Bares to the mouth of the Miño River. It is dominated by cliffs, with capes such as those of Finisterre and Ortegal, and estuaries, such as those of Arousa and Vigo.

We would also include the Canary coast.

### **(D32) MOUNTAINS OF SPAIN**

Spain is a country with some of the highest and most beautiful mountains in Europe. The 10 highest peaks in Spain offer stunning views of the surrounding landscape and are popular destinations for hikers, climbers and nature lovers.

Let's look at some of the most notable ones.

The most mountainous area of Spain is the Pyrenees, located in the northeast of the country. The Pyrenees stretch for more than 400 km along the border between Spain and France and are home to several of Spain's highest peaks.

The highest peak in Spain, as we have already said, is Teide, but it is not located on the Iberian Peninsula. Therefore, Mulhacén, located in the Sierra Nevada, is the highest in peninsular Spain, with 3,482 meters above sea level. It is a popular destination for hikers and climbers, offering stunning views of the surrounding landscape.

Aneto (Aragon), located in the Pyrenees in the Posets-Maladeta Natural Park, in the Benasque Valley, is the third highest peak in Spain, with 3,404 meters above sea level.

Monte Perdido is the fifth highest peak in Spain, at 3,355 meters, it is the highest limestone peak in Europe. There are many people who enjoy taking the one-day route to Monte Perdido from the Ordesa Valley, spending the night at the refuge to complete a unique adventure and enjoy a moment of relaxation in the mountains.

**(D33)** The Torre del Cerredo (Picos de Europa). From its summit you can see the Autonomous Communities of Asturias and Castilla y León.

The Moncayo Natural Park is one of the Protected Natural Areas of Aragon. Its highest altitude is located at the peak of San Miguel or Moncayo, which with its 2,315 meters constitutes the summit of the Iberian Mountain Range.

(The highest mountain in Malaga is La Maroma. This mountain measures 2069 meters above sea level. Located in the Malaga municipality of Canillas de Aceituno, it is part of the Sierra de Tejada, Almijara and Alhama Natural Park. From it you can see magnificent panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea. Although it is known as La Maroma, its original name is Tejada.

**(D-34)** Here we have some nice images of our mountains.

To finish, let's look at the influences of our natural environment on some aspects of Spain's cultural identity.

### **(D35) INFLUENCE OF NATURAL HERITAGE ON OUR CULTURAL IDENTITY**

The geographical location and the characteristics of the climate and natural environment of Spain and Andalusia have shaped our cultural identity in such important aspects as: agriculture, commerce and cultural diversity.

### **(D36) OLIVES AND WINES**

Firstly, the large fields of olive trees stand out in our landscape, which represent, along with wine, two of our hallmarks.

**(D37)** Spain is the main producer and marketer of olive oil and table olives in the world. In global terms, it could be said that one in every two bottles of olive oil and one in every four containers of table olives consumed on the planet originate in Spain. Specifically, Andalusia is the community that leads this sector with around 80% of national production, followed by Castilla La Mancha and Extremadura with 8% and 4% respectively.



**(D38)** Likewise, Spain is the first country in the world in terms of vineyard area for winemaking and the third largest wine producer in the world. Furthermore, an essential part of the Spanish wine culture are the designations of origin (DO) that guarantee the geographical origin and quality of the wines produced in a specific region.

**(D39)** But the importance of these two crops not only affects the economy, but they have also been part of culture and traditions throughout the centuries.

We see this in popular festivals, in mythological beliefs or in the consideration of olives and oil as symbols of generosity, hospitality and prosperity.

#### **(D40) SAILORS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

On the other hand, Spain is the meeting point of two continents, Africa and Europe, in addition to the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. This geographical location has given rise throughout history to the exploration of oceans, the discovery of new lands and contact with new civilizations and the exchange of cultures.

**(D41)** At the same time, we are also the gateway for immigrants to Europe, which has favored the multiculturalism that characterizes our society.

*At this point, we hope we have been able to convey the beauty of our natural environment and the love for our traditions.*

*Thank you very much for your attention.*