



10.

Gliding flight

Enjoying the landscape from a stunning bird's-eye view when you go paragliding, hang gliding or hot air ballooning is one of the most amazing sensation you can experience. However, technical skills, expensive equipment and adequate take-off and landing sites are required to practice these sports.

In the west end of the Serranía de Ronda, in the mountain range Sierra de Lijar (especially in the town of Algodonales and on the plateau of Acinipo), a perfect wind blows providing the ideal scenario to practice them. In fact, most of the regional offer is largely concentrated within this area, which is actually one of the most important flying sites in Spain.

If you take the plunge, it is probably recommended to start with a tandem paragliding flight with a professional pilot to enjoy soaring above the trees. There is also a great offer of all level courses to learn the techniques of paragliding or you are always invited to see the organized competitions. If you are thinking of learning to paraglide, you need to be aware



Hot air balloon rides. *Manuel García. PANGEA CENTRAL*



Tandem paragliding flight. *Discovery-8*

that self-training and away from the flying sites increase the chances of getting injured.

Qualified paragliding pilots with their own equipment can freely use the take-off and landing sites from the towns of Algodonales, Cañete la Real, Teba and El Bosque.

On the other hand, if you prefer a more peaceful activity, you should try hot air balloon rides relying on the wind direction. Taking the best aerial photographs of the city of Ronda and enjoying a spectacular panoramic view is only possible from the basket of the balloon. It is a memorable experience highly recommended for all ages and fantastic to share with friends and family.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Comfortable clothes and close-toed shoes.
- Warm clothing (according to the weather forecast).
- Camera.
- More technical equipment is provided by the company.

SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.discovery-8.com
www.zero-gravity.es
www.horizonaventura.com
www.al-qutun.com
www.gloventosur.com
www.lijarsur.com



10. GLIDING FLIGHT

TO FIND OUT MORE

Reference webpage for any type of gliding flight in Andalusia. Check out all the flying sites and technical sheets for the taking-off sites.

<http://www.andalucia.org/es/turismo-y-deporte/deportes/vuelo-libre/#en-el-aire>



Link to an interactive map in the webpage Paraglidingmap.com to find out more about the flying sites with a live weather forecast.

<http://www.paraglidingmap.com>



Interactive maps of the winds and flying sites in Spain.

<http://www.windfinder.com/weather-maps/spots/spain#7/36.897/-5.427>



VIDEOS

A picture paints a thousand words. Illustrative video about a paragliding course for beginners offered by the specialised company Zero-Gravity.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJYEbX_8c_w



The specialised company *Líjar-Sur* offers tailored-made courses to learn the techniques of paragliding and powered flights. Have a look at this video about one of their courses!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqGTDv7m8Zk>



ATTENTION

- ✓ 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. ■



Soaring above the Serranía de Ronda. *Discovery-8*



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*



