



THE STRAITS

Classification: Excursion.

Duración: 4 h. (one way).

Difference in level : 45 m.

Difficulty: Medium. You must cross the river at several points.

Landscape interest: Path along the rocky lanes around the Martín river. Rock paintings.



	national roads		communication tracks
	regional road		tracks
	secondary road		paths
	other roads		end of the cultural park
	possible access by car		access possible only on foot



	Parking area		Bridge		Spelaeology/ Caves
	Little stone houses		Fountain		Iberian village
	Peak		Washhouse		Rock paintings
	Hermitage		Mill		Dinosaur tracks
	Farmyard		Ravine		Necropolis-Tombs
	Snack-point		Climbing		Viewpoint/ Panoramic view

The Straits' route starts from the Batán bridge of the Martín river. It lies about 11 km from the village in the direction of Ariño and is very close to the sanctuary of the Virgin of Arcos (santuario de la Virgen de Arcos) (XVII century). A number of open spaces at the sides of the road can be used for parking. For those intending to do the whole route, it is advisable to leave a car at the end of the path (on the road, about 7 km from Albalate).

The path follows the rocky lanes channeling the river and offers a broad range of landscapes. Along the path we will find several lookouts. Information boards there will help us get to know better and analyze this impressive and charming landscape. At the same time, the rock shelters with pre-historical - post-Paleolithic paintings (a World Heritage site) and the carved rituals with Christianization crosses (near the sanctuary of the Virgin of Arcos) testify to the sacredness of the territory from prehistory to date. In order to see the rock paintings, an authorized guide is required to open the protection fences. Along the way is a system of water canalization, sometimes underground, which parallels the path from the noria of the Batán river to the Rivera power station, and which is embedded in the retaining walls embanking the river.

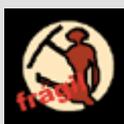
A park information point and a space provided with tables for snacks, etc. will be an ideal place to rest. From this point, in the middle of the route known as Los Chaparros, after crossing the river, we can opt for completing the visit of the painted shelters, or for returning to the starting point on the Batán bridge, which will take about 45 minutes. The painted shelters tour goes through the Rivera power station and follows a path with steep rock passages to the road. Increased caution is required.

Any marked path in the Park will allow visitors to access places of great ecological and environmental value and to see a number of rock paintings - World Heritage sites protected by law.

Please remember that everyone has not only the right to enjoy nature but also the obligation to preserve it.



The shelters with rock paintings and archeological sites feature a protection fence. Authorized guides are required for visits. Contact phone numbers can be found in the town halls, tourist offices or interpretation centers of the villages which constitute the Cultural Park.



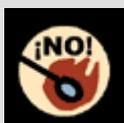
Please contribute to the preservation of rock paintings. Don't touch or throw water on them and respect the protection fences. Please remember, they are part of the unique but frail heritage of the past; we have to protect them if we want to continue to enjoy them in the same environment in which they were created thousands of years ago.



Archeological and/or palaeontologic prospecting and excavation without the necessary permits is strictly prohibited, according to law 3/1999 of the Aragonese Cultural Heritage. Please contribute to the preservation of the historical, cultural and ethnographic heritage of the Park.



Please keep the place clean. Do not discard any garbage or waste material.



Please remember that lighting fires, throwing away cigarette butts and glass or any other objects that can cause fire is prohibited.



If you intend to follow one of the routes, please remember to wear comfortable footwear (trainers or hiking boots). Although the trails are quite accessible, appropriate footwear will allow you to walk more confidently, avoiding falls and sprains.



Please bear in mind you are in a natural park and, although the routes have been adapted for visitors, do not forget to take precautions. Do not leave the marked path and pay attention when crossing areas with rocks or water, especially if traveling with children.