



## RUTA DE SAINT JOSEPH HÍJOS PLATES

**Classification:** Paseo circular.

**Time:** 1 hour.

**Difficulty:** Easy.

**Archaeological interest:** Visigothic-medieval necropolis.



	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

Near Albalate, following the local road towards Ariño, and after passing the beautiful and recently restored hermitage of Saint Joseph (ermita de San José ), a path can be found on the left side of the road. The route follows a rocky plate-shaped platform locally known as Saint Joseph 's plates (lastras de San José ), surrounded by traditional barns and farmyards.

Along the plates are water-hallowed areas-channels and pots-probably related to obscure water rituals. Other much longer and deeper channels flowed into flat areas for the purposes of natural irrigation or into deep wells to store water. The wells are surrounded by a construction meant to protect the water against dirt and dust. In the same area we can also find a large number of human-shaped medieval and visigothic tombs hollowed out in the rock. A series of thematic notes, maps and information boards will help us become acquainted with this rich environment.

### **How to get there?**

Go from Zaragoza to Híjar to Alcañiz on N-232 and take the junction towards Albalate del Arzobispo (A-224) when near Híjar.

From Albalate, following A-224 towards Ariño, you will get to the Batán bridge and to the sanctuary of the Virgin of Arcos (santuario de la Virgen de Arcos).

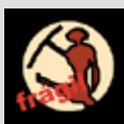
You can also follow A-222 (Zaragoza-Lécera) and take A-223 at the junction in Lécera towards Albalate del Arzobispo.

**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.



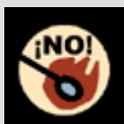
Please contribute to the preservation of rock paintings. Don't touch or throw water on them and respect the protection fences. Please remember, they are part of the unique but frail heritage of the past; we have to protect them if we want to continue to enjoy them in the same environment in which they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