



## THE ARCOS MOUNTAIN RANGE

**Classification:** Excursion.

**Time:** 4 hours.

**Difference in level:** 100 m.

**Difficulty:** Easy.

**Historical and landscape interests :** suspension

bridge, medieval necropolis, Los Baños, sanctuary of the Virgin of Arcos (Santuario de la Virgen de Arcos) in Albalate del Arzobispo.



	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

Starting from the Escuriza river bridge, we will find (on the edge of the road towards Oliete) a series of dinosaur tracks tracing back to the lower Cretaceous period. From here, passing through the mining area along the road and crossing another bridge, this time over the Martín river, we will start on a path along the banks of that same river. This route parallels the road towards Albalate and will lead us to los Baños, where we'll find excellent thermal springs with recently recovered pools. A parking lot is available nearby. After crossing the Martín river we will observe from the lookout in front of the springs. An information board there details the origins, geology and the pre-historical setting of the environment.

From the lookout, and following the right bank of the river (which is protected by the rocky wall of the Arcos mountain range) we will get to an abandoned power station and then to the suspension bridge of Ariño . This is one of the most emblematic elements of the local, connecting the right bank to the Albalate-Ariño road. There we can opt for crossing the bridge to get to the recreation area "la casilla," or to continue along the path on the right riverbank. "La casilla" features a playground for children, a soccer field, snack-points, grills, springs and a parking lot. From there we can observe interesting geological structures and continue on the path to the sanctuary of the Virgin of Arcos.

The other option continues along the right bank and includes a recreation-cultural area on a terrace under the suspension bridge. From here the path goes up to a necropolis of tombs hollowed out in stone and traced back to the christian-medieval period. From the necropolis, protected by the idyllic mountain range, we can enjoy a beautiful panorama of the river and the sanctuary of the Virgin of Arcos on the opposite bank. On the Arcos mountain range we will probably have the chance to see ibexes, as well as many other birds of prey. Following a marked path from the necropolis, we will get to the Batán bridge, and to the route of the straits of Albalate del Arzobispo.

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

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

Following the road from Albalate towards Ariño, we will arrive at the Batán bridge, at the sanctuary of the Virgin of Arcos and at the other points of interest. There are parking lots and options for entering at different points of the Arcos mountain range route (including at the recreation area "la Casilla," the suspension bridge, Los baños and Ariño).

You can also go from Zaragoza to Lécera on A-222 and take A-223 at the junction in Lécera towards Albalate del Arzobispo. Or, from Zaragoza , go to Lécera and Muniesa, to Oliete and Ariño via A-1401.

**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.