

The Andalusian Network of Botanic Gardens in Natural Areas is firmly committed to support the development and efficient application of the World Conservation Strategy for Nature and the Convention on Biological Diversity. As centres for conservation, recovery and reintroduction of wild species, the Network takes part in the conservation strategy of the Regional Ministry for the Environment and coordinates actions with other regional, national and international organizations and institutions, such as the International Association of Botanic Gardens (IABG) or the Iberian-Macaronesian Association of Botanic Gardens (AIMJB).



Botanical Garden Network distribution
Biogeographic regions

EL ALJIBE BOTANIC GARDEN

This garden showcases the flora and the vegetation of The Aljibe Sector, an area characterised because of its soil (the sandstones of El Aljibe) and the special conditions of its climate, with abundant rain and fog, and mild temperatures which allow for the development of exuberant vegetation. The last jungle in the South of Europe has mainly cork oak woodland and Portuguese oak woodland, as well as ravines (with headwaters and streambeds of rivers and streams). Typical species of subtropical forest and other eras, like some ferns, remain there. El Aljibe is a great place to enjoy these marvellous examples of plants, to understand their value and get to know about the actions that are being carried out in order to ensure their conservation.



RED ANDALUZA
JARDINES BOTÁNICOS
EN ESPACIOS NATURALES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISITORS

- Please keep all areas clean and use the bins provided.
- Respect all plants in the garden.
- Follow the signposted routes.
- Taking photographs, drawing or simply observing are the best ways to enjoy your visit.
- If you walk in silence, you will be able to hear many different sounds.
- If you have any questions, please ask a member of staff.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

e-mail: info@caucenatura.com

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Regional Ministry for the Environment
Provincial Office of Cádiz
Plaza Asdrúbal, 6. Edificio de la Junta de Andalucía
11071 Cadiz
Tfno. 956 008 700 / 671 591 501
Fax. 956 008 702

El Aljibe Botanic Garden
e-mail: jbotanico.aljibe.cagpds@juntadeandalucia.es

SYMBOLS USED

The plants are identified with plaques which include the following information: Common name in Castilian Spanish and scientific name (in Latin, followed by the name of the authors that wrote the description), botanic family, geographical distribution and level of threat, which is shown using the following icons:

- In danger of extinction ●
- Vulnerable ●
- Of special interest ●



Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible

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EL ALJIBE

Andalusia's prime location, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, as well as between two different continents, allows for a huge range of ecosystems and environments, with a great variety of climates and terrains, where a rich botanical and mycological heritage has developed. The region has around 4,000 different species of higher plants and around 3,500 species of fungi. Many of these species are endemic to Andalusia and some of them are endangered due to several factors.



● Current network

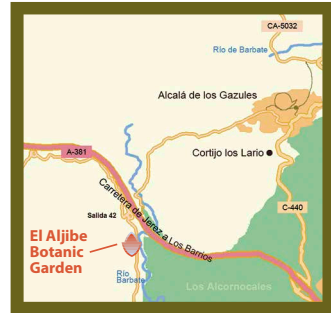
Botanic and mycological gardens contribute to the conservation of this natural heritage. For this reason, a Network of Gardens has been set up. They are organised according to ecological criteria, to improve awareness, to promote conservation and to exhibit plants and fungi which make up the Mediterranean Forest of Andalusia. Each of the different gardens in the network is dedicated to local flora and vegetation, paying special attention to rare and endangered flora, in coordination with all the other gardens. The Mycological Garden is a regional showcase of fungi in Andalusia.

Junta de Andalucía



Location

El Aljibe Botanic Garden is located beside the visitor centre of the Los Alcornocales Natural Park, at the A 2228 road, Km 1, which goes from Alcalá de los Gazules to Benalup-Casas Viejas. Access is via exit 42 (Alcalá de los Gazules) of the A-381 motorway, Jerez-Los Barrios.



The Garden

CORK OAK WOODLAND

Because of its size, it is the most important formation of the biogeographic sector. Its main use is the extraction of cork, which is carried out every 9 years (helping to clean forests and prevent fires). This woodland is also used for grazing and for hunting. Heathers, Cistus and some fern can also be found with cork oaks. In more humid areas, the understorey can be mistaken with the one from Portuguese oak woodland, and in dryer areas with the understorey of wild olive tree woodland.



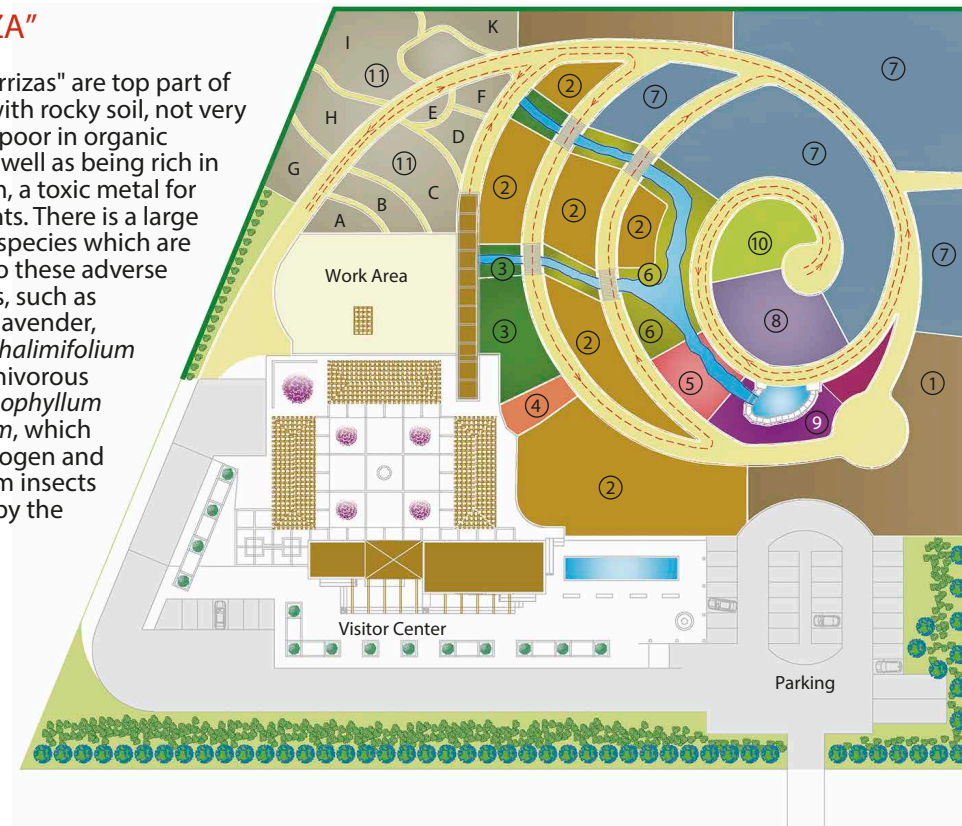
Oak

OAK WOODLAND

Oaks in this mountain range are the most southern oaks in Europe. They prefer colder climates, because of this they can be found at the top of mountains and streambeds. They share the area with "robledillas" (*Quercus lusitanica*), heathers and other species found in the "herriza". Because of their rarity, they are considered of special interest for conservation.

"HERRIZA"

The "herrizas" are top part of the hills, with rocky soil, not very deep and poor in organic matter, as well as being rich in aluminium, a toxic metal for many plants. There is a large variety of species which are adapted to these adverse conditions, such as heathers, lavender, *Halimium halimifolium* or the carnivorous plant *Drosophyllum lusitanicum*, which needs nitrogen and gets it from insects captured by the plant.



- ① "Herriza"
 - ② Quercus woodland
 - ③ Ravine ("canuto") and foggy forest
 - ④ Oak woodland
 - ⑤ Tamarisk shrubbery
 - ⑥ Gallery forest
 - ⑦ Cork oak woodland
 - ⑧ "Bujeo" pastureland
 - ⑨ Pond
 - ⑩ Wild olive tree woodland
 - ⑪ Rockery
 - A. Tarifa flagstone
 - B. Marine cliffs
 - C. Coast sandstone
 - D. Gneiss
 - E. Leucogranite
 - F. Serpentes
 - G. Calcarenes
 - H. Marly limestone
 - I. Limestone
 - J. Gypsum
 - K. Ophites
 - ⑫ Area of temporary exhibitions
- Vegetation wall
 — Paths and roundabouts
 - - - Recommended route

PORTUGUESE OAK WOODLAND

It can be found in streambeds and places with a high level of humidity. The most characteristic species is the *Quercus canariensis*, along with other species such as laurestines and *Arbutus unedo*. It is usually covered with moss, lichen and epiphyte plants (who live on top of other plants) such as navelwort, *Davallia canariensis* and *Polypodiaceae*. It is mainly used for firewood and for making charcoal from it.

RAVINE ("CANUTO") AND FOGGY FOREST

The high level of humidity in these places, where hardly any light goes in and there is a constant presence of water (because of streams or fog), allows for the existence of plants belonging to other latitudes such as common rhododendron, hollies, laurels, alder buckthorn and several species of fern which can only be found in these areas. From a botanical point of view, we are in one of the most valuable and sensitive places in the biogeographic sector and with the highest interest for conservation.

POND

Ponds in the area do not depend on any watercourse, but on precipitation, even getting dry during the summer. This is why the species found in these places are adapted to these conditions. Tamarisk and oleander on the sides, bulrush and common reed deeply rooted in not very deep water, and mints, rushes and a large number of annual species are the most representative vegetation of the outline.



Holly



Pond

"BUJEO" PASTURELAND

It is formed by clay accumulated in low areas. "Bujeo" pastureland is a terrain of great productivity traditionally used for grazing. They are open spaces, cleared by humans, with very little trees or bushes, which result in pastureland with a great diversity of species and with many different colours during the spring.

WILD OLIVE TREE WOODLAND

Wild olive trees are found on clay soil in warm areas along with European fan palms, mastic trees and myrtle plants amongst other species. This is a vegetation formation which is rich in species with fleshy fruit, hence why many animals come here for refuge and food.

ROCKERY

Even though most of the soils are classified as sandstones of El Aljibe, other rocky outcrops can also be found: calcarenites, marly limestone, ophite, gypsum, gneiss, etc., which in part determines the different vegetation species living on them and the diversity of species present in the biogeographic sector.



Diplazium caudatum



Hedysarum coronarium



Cork oak woodland