

Article written by Don Russell for the About Cabrera website

Cortijo Cabrera. A Magical and Peaceful Place.

You may think that trying to find adventure, peace and tranquillity in the same place would be an impossible task; however, a closer look at Cortijo Cabrera may just change your mind. It's a place like no other.



View in Cabrera

I have heard Cortijo Cabrera described as a pearl, with this in mind surely the Sierra Cabrera must be the oyster in which it so peacefully nestles. We are so fortunate in Cabrera in that we have natural spring water to drink and bathe in straight from our taps, incredible views of sea and mountains, abundant wildlife, beautiful sunsets, endless tranquillity and more often than not a spectacular cloudless view of the night sky, its predictable orbital majesty reassuringly familiar akin to a warm blanket when walking throughout the night; but how many people actually take advantage of this spectacular, magical wonderland? I suspect the number is surprisingly low; while many find to sit at one of the local bars immersing themselves in the peace and tranquillity that is Cabrera may be all that they desire, a few choose to venture into the Sierra Cabrera on foot. To explore the mountains around Cortijo Cabrera is to travel back in time, an adventure that may be as easy or as strenuous as your mood and time allow. The old caves and cortijo's are time capsules to a past age, the underground passages, shafts and caverns buried deep in the mountains along with subterranean waterfalls provide the adventurer with plenty of raw material to work with; in fact some of the scenes from the film 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade' were filmed locally.



Cave in Cabrera

Mountain Biking

For those that like adventure on two-wheels, well, you're still in the right place! There are hundreds of kilometres of tracks for the mountain biker and the same again for the more extreme 'single trackers'. Due to the geology of the area water supplies can be replenished from a myriad of fresh mountain springs if you know where to look.

Climbing, Bouldering and Scrambling

We must not forget the climbers. There are many areas around Cabrera that have bolted routes and the scope for 'free climbing' and 'bouldering' is almost endless; the rock being pleasantly warm for the vast majority of the time making climbing in shorts and a t-shirt pleasantly the norm. Scrambling is also plentiful among the many rocky ravines.



Old Mine

Diving and Snorkelling

If your passion is to scuba-dive or snorkel it will come as no surprise to find that we have that too only a few kilometres away; the beautiful Mediterranean being warm until November in nothing more than swimwear for snorkelling and a '3mm shortie' for dives down to 18m. The abundant marine life, cannon, old anchors and rocky gullies are all easily accessible with no more than a mask, fins and snorkel.

Cross Country Running

If you're into cross country running the Sierra Cabrera offers hundreds of extremely challenging routes throughout the year. The types of terrain are varied consisting of hard tight rock, dusty trails, loose stony tracks, narrow forestry trails and steep firebreaks. Training here is a pleasure (if you take away the pain) as the sun shines for over 3000 hours every year.

Hiking

Hiking in the Sierra Cabrera can offer a gentle stroll in the mountains to more challenging routes taking in the two 3000 ft peaks of Arraez (919m) and Cerro de la Mezquita (962m). A very pleasant excursion is to follow the Trans Cabrera route from Cortijo Cabrera over the mountains to Sopalmo, a small sleepy village situated on the road from Mojacar to Carboneras. Bar Sopalmo provides an excellent 'Menu del Dia' to round the morning off; after a long lunch you can either follow the same route back or arrange for a friend to pick you up. The distance to Sopalmo is around 16km and is easily achievable in 4 hours; the complete return route of around 32km will take around 10 hours allowing 2 hours for lunch. If you would like to take in the highest peak of Cerro de la Mezquita and take in the spectacular views allow a further 45 minutes. This is only one of many spectacular hikes that require no transport from the village.

Walking

Gentle walks around Cabrera taking in the incredible views, fruit trees, flowers and wildlife are a joy for everyone. A short drive away gives access to the pine forest; in the summer months the smell of hot pine is strong, occasionally being overwhelmed by the aroma of the many wild herbs. The fruit from wild pomegranate trees yield a refreshing drink on a hot day often with other natural delicacies not far away.

Not surprisingly Cortijo Cabrera is a place that seems to draw you back time and time again; the reason may be the peace and tranquillity, the wildlife, the spectacular setting or maybe it's that magical feeling that each new day is the start of another exciting adventure. It's magical. It's special... It's *Cabrera!*

Written by Don Russell

