

Seville's unmarked village with the province's highest peak

This Seville village is located near Cadiz, 116 kilometres from Seville.

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Much of Seville province stretches along the Guadalquivir lowlands, making many villages look like a vast plain with not too many geographical features. Nevertheless, the Guadalquivir lowlands are bordered by two mountain ranges, the Sierra Morena and the Cordillera Subbética. It is next to the latter that lies one of Seville's most unknown villages, but which nevertheless has the highest peak in the province.

This is the village of Algámitas, located in the Sierra Sur de Sevilla, which has barely more than 1,000 inhabitants. This village lies at the foot of El Peñón, the symbol of this place and the location of the province's highest point: the peak of El Terril. The mountain range, known in the past as a hiding place for bandits, has now become a tourist attraction, especially for nature lovers

History

The first settlements inhabiting this area date back to the Neolithic period, something that has been proven thanks to the discovery of remains such as polished stone axes. During the Roman period, the population of present-day Algámitas was scattered along the banks of the Corbones river, while during the Arab period they settled near the Membrillar river. Although it is not entirely clear when the municipality was founded, the general view is that its origins lie in a Turdulo settlement (a class of Iberians) that had spread its settlement from what is now the village of Pruna to the vicinity of the Corbones river. This settlement was called Callet. In Roman times, it was called Silicens, as a reference to its topography. During the Islamic period, however, Algámitas was a rural, agricultural and livestock hamlet.

After the recapture of the Pruna castle, which is in perfect condition today, the town of Algámitas was granted by King Enrique IV to the knight Rodrigo de Rivera and then sold in 1482 to the Marquis of Cadiz, Rodrigo Ponce de León, for 4 million maravedíes. These lands belonged to the marquis until the abolition of jurisdictions in the 19th century. Isabel II granted the title of villa (independence) to Algámitas on 27 March 1852.

The highest peak: El Terril

El Terril, located in the Sierra del Tablón, more precisely between the towns of Algámitas and Pruna, is the highest peak in the province of Seville at 1,129 metres. This peak is also known as El Monigote and, like most peaks, has a geodesic point on its summit, installed by the National Geographic Institute.

Besides the attraction of nature tourism in this town, Algámitas has other attractions, such as the 18th-century church Dulce Nombre de Jesús, the church square, where most of the town's fiestas are held, and the natural surroundings, with a series of hiking trails to explore all the spots in the area. Some are organised by the campsite in Algámitas itself and can be done on foot, by bike or on horseback.

A lesser-known spot is the so-called Bosque de las Hadas (fairy forest). The path to it is very pleasant, especially in spring because of the flowering vegetation. And finally, there is the Bandit Route, where you can 'travel' back to the 19th century to discover how these bandits lived in the natural caves of the Peñón de Algámitas.

Another tourist attraction of Algámitas is its gastronomy, including pork rind, olive oil, omelette with asparagus, 'porra' and boiled tomato soup. All this makes this town a perfect place to spend a few days and enjoy the tranquillity of a small village in the middle of nature.