

SKIES OVER **SIERRA MORENA**

Protecting one of the darkest places in Europe

A wild place in southern Spain

Situated in southern Spain, Sierra Morena is a huge range of mountains and valleys consisting of dense forest of a mediterranean nature, being considered one of the more wild habitats in the Iberian Peninsula. The density of population is low, with few towns in a large area. This region has been considered as a natural barrier between the plains of Castilla and Andalusia for centuries, a land of bandits in the past and a natural paradise in modern times. This region includes six Natural Parks and one Biosphere Reserve.



370 km with more than 21.40 mag/arc sec²

Sierra Morena can be considered one of the darkest places in Spain and Europe, as in few other places can you drive more than 50 km with more than 21,40 mag / arc sec². Measurements taken in more than 1.800 km of driving in the region show that in fact it is difficult to find places under 21,20 in the whole range, reaching the stunning reading of 21,70 in many places. This resource has strong potential as a tourism source, which can be the key to conserve it in the longer term.

This sky deserves to be protected and enjoyed, not just for us but for following generations. In addition, many endangered species depend on natural cycles of light and darkness which must be conserved.

Conservation efforts

ADIT, (Spanish; Association for the Integral Territory Development of Sierra Morena) has funded a programme to preserve and value the resource of a dark sky during the night. Hubble Astronomy Association and Iberus Medio Ambiente S.L. have joined their efforts in a consortium called Dark Sky Advisors to co-ordinate this project.

This project seeks to protect the darkness of the sky making this resource a valuable asset for mankind. To achieve this goal the region has applied for Starlight Reserve Certification, and for that an enormous amount of monitoring of the sky is taking place in the region.

This project includes the following different actions:

- Courses and conferences centered on tourism businesses in the region.
- Meetings with local authorities.
- Scientific education.
- Public astronomical observations.



Meeting with mayors of Sierra Morena



For more information

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sierra **morena**



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IBERUS-AHUBBLE consortium