

# Museums and Info centers of the European Geoparks Network

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CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR

## THE VOLCANOES HOUSE INTERPRETATIVE GEODIVERSITY CENTER

### INTRODUCTION

"The Volcanoes House" geotourist center is situated at Rodalquilar, a village of southeastern Iberian Peninsula originally linked to gold mining activities. After a hard rehabilitation work, the Environmental Administration Offices of the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark/Natural Park were set up here.

Rodalquilar is located at the geographic center of the Geopark/Natural Park area, 50 kilometers far from the city of Almería, and 40 kilometers far from an international airport.

The geotourist center is an old smelting building with a surface area of 520 m<sup>2</sup> that has recently been restored. This is the first center in Andalusia with these particular features.



The geotourist center at the Rodalquilar valley, not very far from the coastal strip and close to abandoned cleaning tanks where a solution rich in gold was obtained



Geotourist center with the old mining installations on its back



Partial view of the halls



Outlook from the geotourist center of the post-volcanic sediments of La Molata de las Negras, an important georesource

### EXHIBITIONS

"The Volcanoes House" opening day is dated for this year 2007, coinciding with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park designation.

This new Center is conceived as a didactic and geotourist interpretative equipment of the general Andalusian and detailed Cabo de Gata geodiversity. It is organized in five halls:

Hall 1: World and European Geoparks Network

Hall 2: Andalusia, a walk through the Andalusian geological landscapes

Hall 3: Cabo de Gata: Volcanoes, dunes and fossilized reefs

Hall 4: Rodalquilar, a mine of stories

Hall 5: Audio-Visual hall. The outstanding features of the exhibition will be projected here

The building also has a reception hall, public toilets and a geoshop.

The interpretation of the different halls will be implemented with posters, models, reproductions and diverse exhibitors in order to improve the understanding and to attach importance to the georesources of this Andalusian Geopark.

### ACTIVITIES

In the reception hall there will be an information point where the visitors will be able to reserve guided georoutes. The geoshop will boost the marketing of the geoproducts that own the reference brand.

### PROJECTS

At moment the implementation of the center is being developed and collaborations agreements are being carried out with the landowners and stakeholders for the development of the guided georoutes about the volcanic history and the gold mining, alum (alunite) and paving blocks exploitations.

### Contact

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