



*The Butterfly Whisperer*



Butterfly sightseeing holidays

*Mariposa Mountain*

**Otivar, Spain.**

April to November 20/20

# YOUR TOUR GUIDE



## BACKGROUND

To those of you who don't already know me, my name is Taun, aka *The Butterfly Whisperer*. I did not set out in life to be a Butterfly Whisperer, in fact, up until very recently, I had no idea that there was such a thing, and yet, here I am surrounded by Butterflies. I discovered a gift that I did not know I had, and naturally, I felt like sharing that gift with others who are interested in the magical, mystical world, of Butterflies.

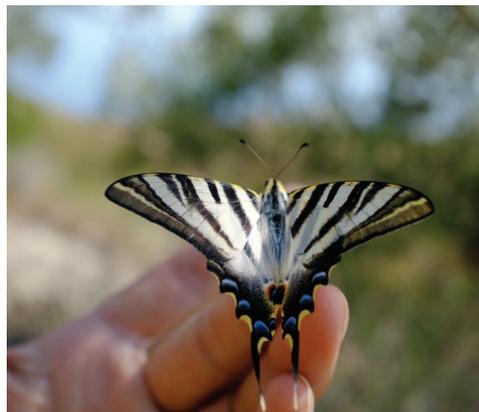
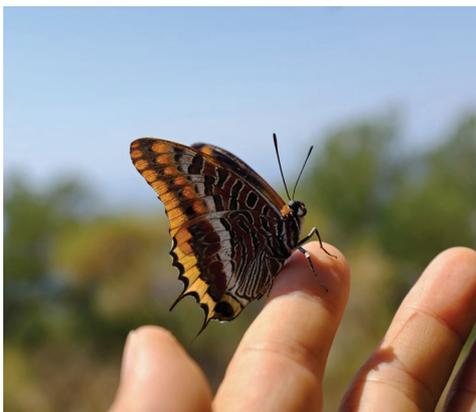


## LOCAL BUTTERFLY SPECIES

Mariposa Mountain is home to many different types of wild (but very friendly) butterfly species. The three main species of large exotics are (from left to right) the The Twin tailed Pasha (*Charaxes Jasius*), Scarce Swallowtail, (*Iphiclides podalirius*), and the Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio Glaucus*). Each species has it's own characteristics, and their own distinctive personality, Many of the butterflies that you see in my videos, have been filmed on Mariposa Mountain; The panorama provides a breathtaking backdrop for photogrpahers who want to go away from their holiday with something truly unforgettable to remember it by.

## LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA

The region surrounding Mariposa Mountain is part of the Costa Tropicale, a special area with it's own micro-climate which makes it perfect for growing all types of exotic fruits. The mountain top is covered in a wide variety of wild herbs, Sage, and Thyme are very common, there are also wild almond, and olive trees, scattered about. There is a track leading up to the top of the mountain but some legwork will be required to reach the peak. Once you are at the top, the views are spectacular. The Mediteranean Sea stretches out to the horizon, and the Sierra Nevada mountain ranges are behind. It's hard to take a bad photograph on mariposa Mountain.



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# INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION

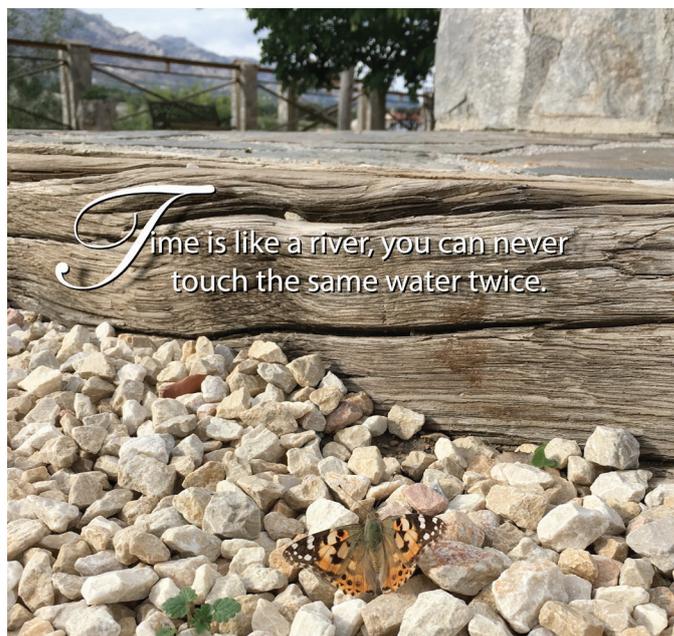
## THE REGION

The Costa Tropicale is a very special place tucked away in the heart of the vast mountainous region of the Sierra Nevada. The area is home to more than 1.300 recorded species of flora, 24 of which are exclusive to the territory.

The diversity of plant life, and the lack of intensive agriculture, have allowed local butterfly populations to thrive. You can expect to see exotic species like the scarce swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*) The Twin tailed Pasha (*Charaxes Jasius*) and the Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio Glaucus*).



Natural Park of Cazorla



Painted lady (*Vanessa Cardul*)

## THE NATIONAL PARKS

The Sierra Nevada is a vast mountainous region covering some 850 square kilometers, from Granada right up to Almeria. The area is full of hidden, natural treasures, which lay waiting to be discovered.

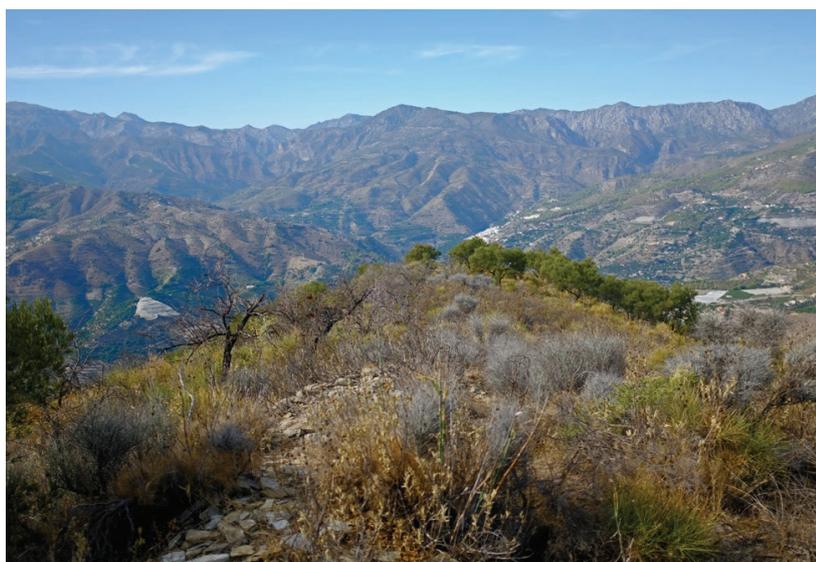
The region manages to stay green despite having to endure several months with no rain. The Sierra Nevada is the lifeline that keeps the whole place alive. As the ice melts it gives birth to many natural springs, and streams, which over the decades have created a vast network of natural pools and waterfalls, hence why the area has become a hotspot for the latest craze of canyoning. It is also quite common to see hang gliders circling in the thermal currents around the mountain top.

The National park is home to a wide variety of birdlife, animal life, and of course Butterflies too.

## NEAREST TOWNS AND CITIES

Mariposa Mountain is about an hours drive from Granada, the home of the famous Alhambra palace, and about 45minutes drive from Malaga. This gives visitors the option of using either Granada airport, or Malaga airport for their journey.

The pretty seaside town of Almunecar is close by, and there you will find many restaurants, and bars, to enjoy dinner and drinks on the beach front. The Town of Almunecar also has regular market days where you can buy some of the locally grown exotic fruits and vegetables. The local Mango growers begin harvesting in mid October and they are seriously, the best Mangoes I have ever tasted. Other popular local produce are the Lowquats and Custard Pear. as well as Avocado and Grape. The land is incredibly productive thanks to the water of life flowing from the Sierra Nevada.



Mariposa Mountain

Mariposa Mountain is a natural Butterfly reserve and offers spectacular views overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and the Sierra Nevada Mountains behind.



Time is like a river, you can never touch the same water twice.



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