

Serantes routes



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The Serantes Forts



Engineers Corps Colonel, 1825.

The Serantes is a signal mountain and a magnificent observation point over the Bay of Biscay and the mouth of the Abra. This is the reason why Down through history, a series of military buildings have been built down through history. The oldest of those still standing is the "Torreón", built on its peak in limestone around 1868. It had two storeys, and housed the well that supplied the troops who were billeted on the mountain.



"Cornites" Pilgrimage

Every Easter Monday since the beginning of the 19th century the "Cornites" pilgrimage has been held on the Serantes. It is not held in dedication to any patron saint or in relation to any chapel or sanctuary but rather in relation to the mountain peak, in the area around the "Torreón". It is a festive congregation of local residents where it is traditional to have a "cornite", a roll of bread stuffed with egg and a piece of chorizo meat.



"Cornite" roll

In around 1880, the two stepped ridges on Serantes' eastern side were fortified. The "Polvorín", a powder and arms warehouse, was built on the El Mazo side.

Further up, on the path to the summit, are the ruins of the "Fuerte", a pentagonal shaped construction, 6,800 m², which had a moat, four pavilions for the troops, and one with two storeys for the officers and the governor. In 1898, following the declaration of the "War of Cuba" between Spain and the United States, the "Fuerte" and the "Polvorín", just like other coastal bastions, were reinforced with batteries of cannons, in order to prevent any possible invasion from the States.



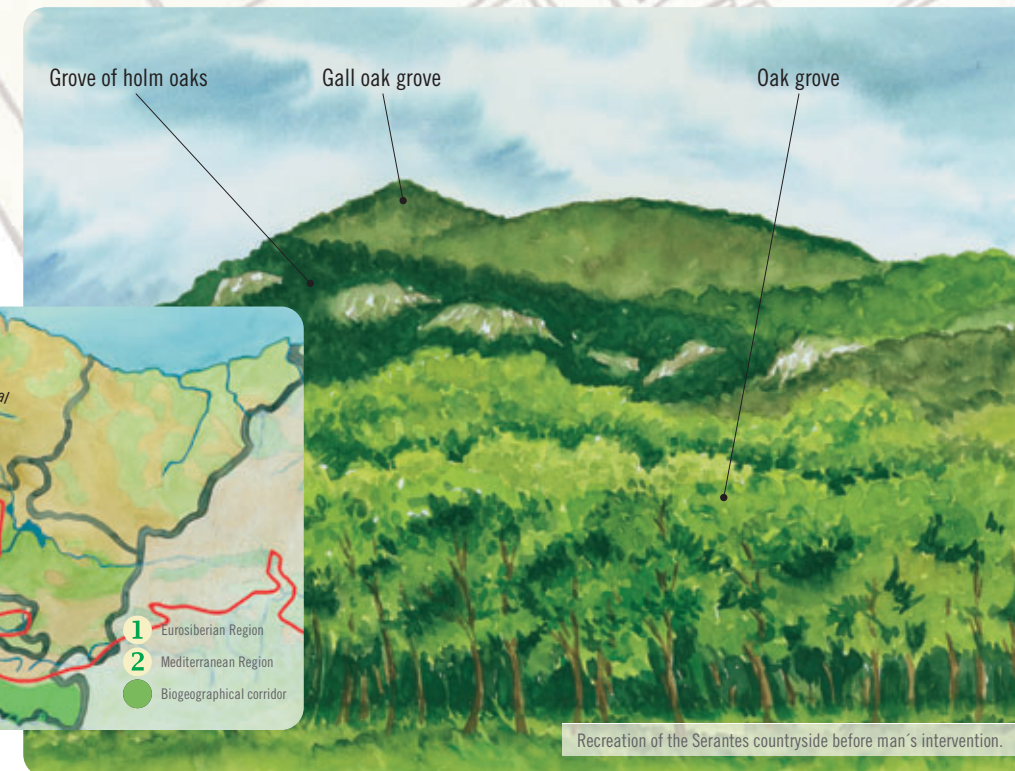
1. Troop pavilions
2. Official pavilions
3. Tools and accessories pavilion



Flora and Fauna of the Serantes

A large number of species typical of the Mediterranean region live in the area around the Serantes, on the Atlantic coast. This means that the territory between the mouths of the Ibaizabal and the Barbadun has significant biodiversity, making it worth conserving.

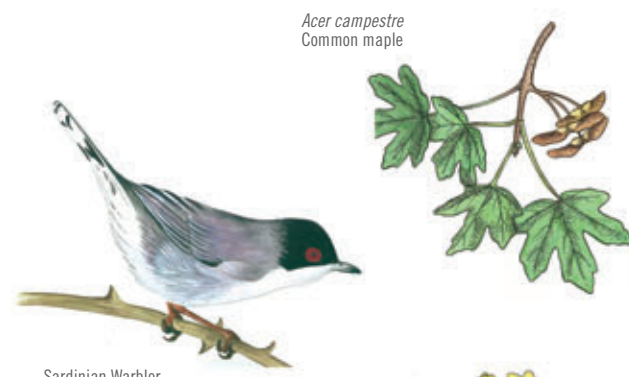
It is favoured by the particular living conditions existing, due to the biogeographical corridor running along the Nervion valley, through which species typical of more southern environments reach the Biscayan coast.



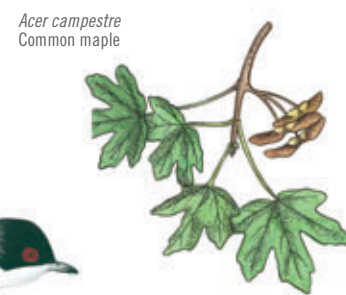
Recreation of the Serantes countryside before man's intervention.

Plants and animals typical of ancestral Atlantic oak groves are still found in the hedges of valley bottoms, including the ash or the great spotted woodpecker as well as the pedunculate oak, which dominated the countryside of old.

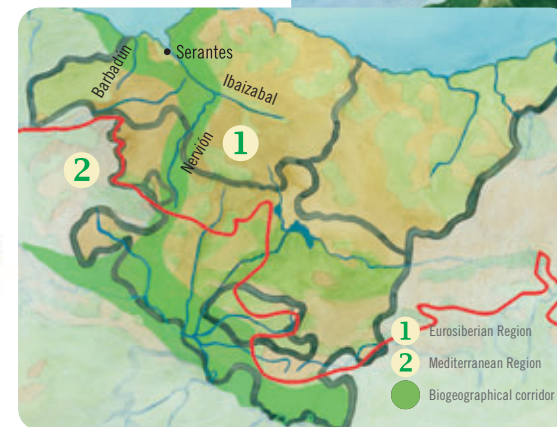
In the sun traps, the loamy, limestone soils still hold holm oak stands and oak galls in the broom thickets, in which typically Mediterranean species are plentiful, among them particularly striking, due to their rarity, are the kermes oak or the Dartford warbler.



Sardinian Warbler



Acer campestre
Common maple



1. Eurosiberian Region
2. Mediterranean Region
3. Biogeographical corridor



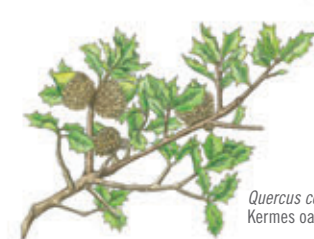
Quercus ilex
Holly oak



Genista occidentalis
Petty whin



Great Spotted Woodpecker



Quercus coccifera
Kermes oak



Quercus faginea
Portuguese oak



Crataegus monogyna
Common hawthorn



Quercus robur
Pedunculate oak



Dartford Warbler



Red-backed Shrike



Fraxinus excelsior
Common ash

- Always tell someone where you are going.
- Always wear clothing and footwear suitable for the type of route and the time of the year.
- Walk slowly, watching and listening quietly. You will find that this enhances your enjoyment of the sounds, smells and landscapes to be found on your walk.
- Learn to love nature and do your part to help walkers, cyclists and other users to share the green belt around Santurtzi in harmony.
- Do not frighten animals: noise upsets them enormously.
- Do not pick flowers or plants: leave them for others to enjoy.
- Do not light fires. Take care always to put out cigarettes and matches properly.
- Do not take your car onto pathways or into fields: it damages the natural environment.
- Do not drop litter: take it home with you.
- Close all gateways after you pass through. Respect private property.

Enjoy and Respect what Nature has to offer

1

3 Km. / 00.48 h.

Santurtzi • Mamariga • Serantes

From Santurtzi park, heading between the town hall and the church of San Jorge, we proceed through Barrio Mamariga to reach the Grupo Nafarroa district which we cross using its pedestrian street, until we come to the reservoir ① on the left hand side (14'). We go around this and up the concrete road until a lattice fence that runs along the right hand side, at which point we take the track to the left which ascends the embankment and saves us a loop of the road. • We cross the road and continue up the track which will lead us to the group of houses ② and bar called El Pastor (13') • Just as we pass the houses and bar and re-cross the concrete road, we will find another trail right in front of us which leads to ③ El Llano (6') • Ascending straight ahead along the narrow path between wire fences, we will reach, on a curve in the road, ④ the fenced-off pit called El Capitán (3') • We can reach the Fort ⑤ directly from here (2') • To get to the peak we only have to keep going up the steep path that runs alongside the fence (6').

2

3,1 Km. / 00.51 h.

Santurtzi • Kabiezes • Serantes

We take J. M. de Barandiarán street from Santurtzi Park as it starts to the left of the Town Hall and leads us to the ① Plaza de Kabiezes (8') • We carry on along the road to the right past the San Jorge football ground and the Emilia Zuza y San Jorge educational centers, until we get to ② the Residence called Nuestra Señora de Begoña (10') • We keep on along the path to the left of the Residence and cross the motorway overpass and then turn right, skirting the Somo and Alto de San Pedro hills until we get to the Los Llanos ③ rest area (14') • From Los Llanos we can resume the climb following the path to the left that runs around the slope to the summit ④ of Nueve Cruces (10') and from here we take the track that ascends to the right and leads us directly to ⑤ the Fort (3') • We can see the summit and the straight, steep path that leads there from the fort (6').

3

3,2 Km. / 00.45 h.

Santurtzi • Mamariga • Bullón • Residencia • Serantes

As in route nº 1, we first head for the Barrio Mamariga, and descend to the left near the church towards the ① Bullón district (13') continuing along the route of the stream Arroyo de Oyancas (now subterranean) towards ② the Residence (7') from whence we continue on after a steep hill • We continue along the pathway to the left of the Residence and then cross the freeway overpass between the environmental protection barriers, and turn to the right, to face a steep climb with the Somo and Alto de San Pedro hills on our right hand side. We follow the same path until we get to ③ the Los Llanos information area (15') • From here we continue the climb following the path on the left that runs up the slope to ④ The Nueve Cruces summit (10') Then we climb the path to the right to arrive immediately at ⑤ the Fort (3') • From the Fort we can see the summit and the straight, steep trail that leads there (6').

4

3 Km. / 00.43 h.

San Fuentes • Los Heros • Peñalba • Serantes

Our starting point will be ① the San Fuentes district which we will cross keeping Santa Lucía to the left and crossing the motorway by the bridge to climb towards the remaining houses that used to be ② the quarter of Los Heros (10') • A track starts at the point where the road ends and climbs up the ③ east slope of the Cotillo and Pico Emilio hills, later joining the ④ path that comes from La Cuesta along the ridge of the Portal peak and then leads on to the Peñalba pass. There is a group of ruined hovels here. We reach the ⑤ Peñalba rocks directly (14') • We can then go up the path that leads off straight ahead towards the tower to reach the summit of Serantes (10') or, if we prefer, take a short detour following the path on the left that climbs up to ⑥ Cueva Mayor on the route that goes up from Zierbena and then along the summit crest to the summit itself (14').

5

13 Km. / 03.15 h.

Santurtzi • Cueva Mayor • La Cuesta • Punta Lucero • Zierbena • Santurtzi

Following route nº1 we can get to ① El Capitán pit (34'), from whence we take the road until we get to a 180° curve where we take the well-marked path that follows the slope to come out at ② Cueva Mayor (14'), which is situated on the ridge which descends steeply until we come to the entrance to ③ a small disused quarry (25') • We cross the Zierbena road and continue along a concrete road that runs beside the stream ④ called La Canal (4') and then climbs up to take us to ⑤ La Cuesta (7') • We cross La Cuesta to arrive at a bus stop, in front of which we will find a pathway with a sign indicating La Calleja. Following this path we will come to a small plaza provided with a children's play area and where the red and white marks on a lamp post indicate that to the left between the walls of two houses we will find the path that climbs to Punta Lucero. • This track is well marked at first but later suffers erosion. It takes us to a bifurcation where we take the right hand fork until we get to ⑥ the pass (15') between the La Vista and Punta Lucero hills • Following the route along the ridge to the left amongst remains of military facilities we will reach Punta Lucero (15') • We then descend by the same route to La Cuesta (26') and then to Zierbena ⑦ and shortly to Santurtzi (65') by following the road that runs along the coast.

6

12,6 Km. / 03.00 h.

Santurtzi • Peñalba • La Cuesta • La Serna • Serantes • Santurtzi

To start this route, we follow route nº 3 to ① Nueve Cruces (48') • Then we head up along the crest to ② Peñalba (9') , and on down, following the pass and around the right-hand side of Pico Emilio, to the crossroads ③ on its pass (14'). We take the right-hand fork and follow the broad path down the ridge towards the district of La Cuesta ④, where it becomes a paved road (12') • Just before the cemetery, we take the path on the right, which leads to ⑤ Valle (8') • From the square in Valle we head towards the hilltop, passing by the bar on our right and taking a tarmac road which soon becomes a dirt track, heading towards the visible upper part of an abandoned quarry. The path passes beneath the spot known as La Serna and then winds up ⑥ to the hilltop (14') • From there, we follow the same path on to the summit of Mount Serantes (45'). From there, we head back down towards Santurtzi (30') following route nº 1.

