



Guara Somontano Incógnito



Sotos del Río Cinca Route

Great Spotted Woodpecker
Picus sharpei



Route information

Round Trip **Castejón del Puente** **2 h y 30 min** **70 m** **KM 9,6**



Length: 37-42 cm
Wingspan: 70-80 cm



In some cultures, it was seen as a protective amulet that brought luck or warded off negative energies.



Its plumage color is made up of greenish and gray tones with some dark markings, which allows it to blend well with trees and the ground. Its belly has fine lines that make it difficult to spot among the vegetation, but its red stripe on top of its head stands out. Unlike other woodpeckers, it doesn't drill into trees but feeds on ants, larvae, beetles and other insects that it extracts mainly from the bark of tree trunks or from the ground using its long, sticky tongue. Its flight is so distinctive that it is hard to confuse it with that of another species, as it makes marked undulations with ascents and descents every time it opens or closes its wings along its body. Although it typically prefers to move through trees by walking and hopping between branches and the ground. It inhabits open forests and areas of mixed vegetation.



It has a high-pitched, typically repetitive, monotonous call with a somewhat metallic tone.



It depends on open forest habitats or shrublands with old trees where it can find cavities to nest and sources of insects for food. Deforestation and the loss of these suitable habitats can negatively impact local populations.

Did you know?

Its neck rotation allows it to observe its surroundings with unique precision, especially when it is alert while searching for insects on the bark of trees or on the ground.



Recommended time: During spring, especially during the courtship and breeding season, early in the morning.

Camouflage: Use neutral colors and avoid sudden movements.

Recommended equipment: Long-range telephoto lens (at least 300 mm), preferably with a large aperture.

Shutter speed: Try to keep it fast (at least 1/400 s or faster).

Silent mode: If your camera allows, enable this function to avoid noises that might scare it away.

Keep your distance: Use the telephoto lens to avoid interfering with its natural behavior.

