



Guara Somontano Incógnito



Ribera Alcanadre Route

Wild Orchids
Orchidaceae



Route information

▶ Circular Torres de Alcanadre 40 min 30 m KM 2,3



Height: 10-30 cm
Size of the flowers: 1-3 cm



In some cultures, it was believed that they had aphrodisiac properties due to the shape of their roots.



Although their flowers are not as large or exuberant as tropical orchids, they stand out for their beautiful combination of complex shapes and colors. Their typical structure includes a modified petal called the labellum, which acts as a 'landing platform' for insects.

The leaves, of a deep green color, are usually elongated and lance-shaped, grouping at the base of the plant. Their roots are tuberous and store nutrients that allow them to survive in harsh conditions. They are very ancient plants, with a fossil record dating back more than 100 million years.

The presence of orchids in an ecosystem is a sign of good environmental health, as they require very specific conditions to thrive.



All wild orchids are protected and should not be collected due to their difficulty in reproducing, as they depend on very specific pollinators (many are pollinated by a single species) as well as forming a mycorrhiza (a symbiotic association, usually mutualistic, between the root of a plant and certain fungi).

Did you know?

They are experts in the art of deception: the flowers of many of them imitate the shape, color, and even scent of the females of the animals that may come to pollinate them. In this way, the males go from flower to flower, unknowingly transporting the pollen.



Recommended time: Between spring and early summer.

Prior study: Learn to identify them, they are smaller than you think.

Recommended equipment: Macro lens (50-100 mm).

Tripod: Especially for long exposures.

Reflector: Helps control light and eliminate harsh shadows without using flash.

Remote shutter release: Reduces vibrations when taking the photo.

Aperture: Use a wide aperture: f/2.8 - f/5.6.

