

The Bardena Negra Secret Guide

The most spectacular spots in the Bardenas Reales, the real food of the Ribera and our best tips for enjoying Sendaviva as a family.

10 MINUTES FROM THE HOUSE

1. Bardenas Reales: hidden corners and routes

The Bardenas Reales Natural Park is a semi-desert landscape unique in Europe and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Fustiñana is 'the gateway to the Bardena Negra': the edge of the park is about 10 minutes away, while the Bardena Blanca, the best-known area, is reached via Arguedas.

Must-sees

- **Castildetierra:** the most iconic rock formation. Go first thing in the morning or at sunset for the best light.
- **Bardena Blanca perimeter track:** about 25 km by car ($\approx$ 2 h with stops) through the best-known landscapes.
- **Barranco de las Cortinas:** a flat 1 km walk starting from Castildetierra, perfect with kids (avoid it after rain).
- **Sunset in the Bardena Negra:** plateaus and pine woods very close to the house, with far fewer people.

Tips from your host:

- Stop first at the Los Aguilares Information Centre (Arguedas): maps, track conditions and the day's notices.
- Bring water, a cap and sun cream: there are no water points or facilities inside the park.
- Stick to the signposted tracks, at 40 km/h maximum. The park is open from 8:00 until one hour before dusk.
- Some areas close during the breeding season (El Rallón, Pisquerra...). Check the notices at bardenasreales.es.

2. Where to eat: a mecca for vegetable lovers

The Ribera of Navarre is famous for its market gardens, watered by the Ebro: Tudela artichokes, asparagus, cogollos (crisp lettuce hearts) and menestra, the local vegetable stew.

Recommended restaurants

- **Enriqueta by L&lele (Tudela, Calle Rúa):** Mediterranean cooking with top-quality artichokes, peppers and seasonal vegetables.
- **Restaurante Remigio (Tudela):** a classic spot for authentic Tudela-style menestra and Navarre asparagus.
- **Asador Villar (Fustiñana):** right here in the village, for a good chargrilled chuletón (rib steak) without having to take the car.
- **Tapas and pinchos (Plaza de los Fueros and Calle Mercadal, Tudela):** an informal tapas crawl around the town centre.

Recommended wines: ask for a chilled D.O. Navarra rosé or a Garnacha red from local wineries.

3. Sendaviva: the perfect day out

About 30 minutes from the house you'll find Sendaviva, Navarre's big nature and theme park.

Practical tips

- **Check the official calendar:** it isn't open every day, and in high summer it usually closes on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- **Book tickets online, in advance:** the earlier you buy, the bigger the discount.
- **Arrive at opening time:** leave the house about 45 minutes beforehand to park close by and avoid the queues.
- **Don't miss the birds of prey display** and check the show times as soon as you arrive.
- **Water rides:** in summer, bring swimwear, a towel and closed water shoes for the children.
- **Food:** you can't bring outside food in, but there's an outdoor area for eating and you can go back in with a hand stamp.

4. Fustiñana with kids

- **Fossil footprints trail:** an easy 1 km walk to more than 800 footprints left 19 million years ago by a relative of the hippo.
- **Santa Lucía hermitage:** a 360° viewpoint on the edge of the Bardenas. Perfect at sunset.
- **El Verguizal birdwatching hide:** overlooking the Ebro's riverside woodland. Don't forget your binoculars!

5. Make the most of the house

- **Barbecue in the garden:** pop into one of Fustiñana's butchers for Navarre chistorra sausage and chuletón steak for your outdoor grill.
- **Room for everyone:** the living-dining room gathers the whole family around the table, and there are board games for long, lazy chats after meals.
- **Bicycles:** if you're bringing bikes to explore the Bardenas, there's a dedicated space to keep them.

Fancy coming back or recommending us?

Message us on WhatsApp on [+34 699 39 92 85](https://wa.me/34699399285): book direct and you'll always get the best price, with no middlemen.