

# TERRITORY AND MEMORY

The Estepa Region  
as a cultural landscape

I stretch across the southeastern edge of Seville, where the Guadalquivir countryside opens up and meets the first foothills of the Subbetic mountain range, forming a threshold between lands. I am called the "Balcony of Andalusia" because from my vantage point, the agricultural plains unfold like a living tapestry, while on the horizon, the mountain ranges trace a faint line that invites contemplation and a deep understanding of the land.

Here, the landscape is not merely observed: it is interpreted, felt, and deciphered. I see myself as an open-air museum, where villages, roads, fields, and ancient water networks have patiently woven, over centuries, a history of adaptation, labor, and culture. In my territory, time does not stand still: it breathes, lingers, and continues to be written in every form of the landscape.

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## PANEL 1



### Territory and memory

A terrain that intertwines

I present myself as a constellation of intertwined landscapes in the southeasternmost reaches of the Guadalquivir countryside, where each settlement exists within my expanse as a singular unit.

Water, in its continuous flow through rivers and streams, shapes my soils and guides traditional uses; the Subbetic mountain range creates heights, hills, and valleys that generate a diversity of habitats; and human activity, accumulated over time, inscribes trades, crops, and historical paths across my surface. Pastures, orchards, mountain ranges, and floodplains are not isolated fragments, but threads of a living territorial system.

When explored, I reveal myself as a tapestry where geology, biodiversity, and culture intertwine, evoking balance, adaptation, and a shared history in constant transformation.

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## PANEL 2

### The origin of relief

A landscape born from time

Millions of years ago, when ancient seas covered this land, I began to slowly take shape under the force of earth, water, and time. I am part of the last foothills of the Betic Cordillera, uplifted by the collision of continents and later sculpted by the patient erosion of rain, sun, and ice. My limestone holds fissures, karst pavements, sinkholes, and hidden aquifers where water found refuge before emerging in springs like Roya. The memory of ancient marine creatures also remains in my rocks, their fossils still revealing the remote origins of this landscape. Every relief, every stratum, and every stone we see today is part of a deep geological history, slowly inscribed on my surface since time immemorial.

Tubes from left to right and numbered:

#### 1. THE EARTH IN MOTION

The deep origin of the Sierra

I was born from the collision between ancient continents; from the Betic Cordillera, I still retain the mineral memory of that terrestrial movement.

#### 2. LIMESTONE IN FORMATION

Slow landscape structure

I was the seabed before I rose up; my limestones and marls reveal the geological memory of the ancient ocean that inhabited me.

#### 3. KARST RELIEF

The mountain range in transformation

I, a karst mountain range, let myself be shaped by water, thus creating sinkholes, limestone pavements and scree slopes in geological silence.

#### 4. UNDERGROUND RESERVE

The secret flow of the landscape

I still hold within me aquifers, hidden deposits that sustain historic springs like Roya, still persistent and alive.

#### 5. LIFE IN ROCK

Mineral witnesses of the past

I have fossil remains that, incorporated into the rock, allow me to reconstruct past life and accurately date my geological strata.

