



GOOGLE MAPS 38.795790, -3.813951



[www.proyectogeoparquevolcanesdecalatrava.es](http://www.proyectogeoparquevolcanesdecalatrava.es)



Ayuntamiento de Aldea del Rey

PROJECT

# CALATRAVA VOLCANOES GEOPARK. CIUDAD REAL

## BAÑOS DEL BARRANCO AND LA FONTECHA



Magma

Mercury

Coal



Castilla-La Mancha





The Baños del Barranco and La Fontecha are two of the best known and most important *hervideros* (boiling-like pools) in the volcanic region of Calatrava. These *hervideros* are located on the right bank of the river Jabalón. The Baños del Barranco, correspond to a series of volcanic springs or *hervideros* of which at present there is only one conditioned for bathing, the Barranco Chico, with a circular pool about 1.8 m deep and a small "*pediluvium*" (footbath) that is more of a small pool enclosed by a stone wall.

The other *hervidero*, the Barranco Grande, is a natural pool, surrounded by reeds and rushes. It is located about 200 meters from the previous one, with a great profusion of carbon dioxide gas. It is probable that there were more hydrothermal springs emerging in this place, but, they have been lost with the passage of time.

These springs are locally known as *hervideros*, as the water that gushes out of the ground appears to be boiling, due to the high content of carbon dioxide that is released in the form

of bubbles. The water from these *hervideros* is ferruginous and rich in manganese - due to various ferromagnesian encrustations which are conglomerates formed by fragments of quartzite rocks cemented by these compounds - (Fig. 1); the water has a temperature of around 17°C and has traditionally been used as medicinal mineral water. In the *hervideros*, abundant ferruginous residues and a high quantity of carbon dioxide gas can be found, thus giving the impression that the water is "boiling".

The gas coming from inside the earth, mainly carbon dioxide, takes advantage of the fractures in the ground to rise to the surface and can drag water and dissolve some of the minerals in its path (Fig. 2). These fracture lines were formed by the movements and thrusts of the ground over the long geological history (Fig. 2). The main rivers and streams, such as the Guadiana and the Jabalón, are channelled along them. The Calatrava volcanoes also follow some of these alignments, as is the case of the nearby geosite of the Hoya de Cervera Natural Monument (Fig. 3).



Fig. 1

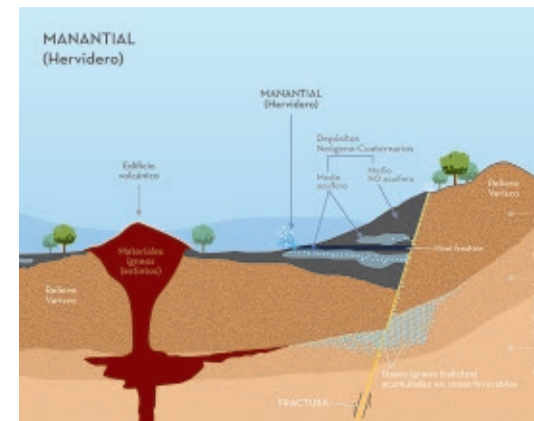


Fig. 2



Work derived from Mapa-LiDAR 2019 CC-BY 4.0 scne.es - Fig. 3