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*'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'*



## **Proposal of a Georoute through Cerro Gordo-Barranco Varondillo volcanic complex in Campo de Calatrava (Central Spain)**

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Campo de Calatrava Volcanic Region (CCVR) with 5,000 Km<sup>2</sup> located in Central Spain, is a monogenetic and polycyclic basaltic volcanism that has developed more than 300 volcanoes (spatter cones, cinder cones, maars). Their morphologies and associated deposits (spatter, ash, lava flows, pyroclastic flows, lahars...) form a rich volcanic geodiversity that offers this territory as part of its geoheritage, which can be exploited to develop sustainable activities as geotourism. The recent opening of the Interpretation Center of Cerro Gordo volcano (Granátula de Calatrava), the main landmark in CCVR and the first of its kind in Iberian Peninsula, reveals two facts: the geological/geomorphological, historical and Cultural importance of CCVR; the need to expand the offer of tourism resources, different to traditional (NPA's, Culture, History, Gastronomy, Festivities...), based on the volcanic geoheritage, and develop economically a territory traditionally linked to agriculture and livestock. The aim of this paper, is to propose a georoute through the eruptive complex Cerro Gordo-Barranco Varondillo (formed by magmatic and hydromagmatic morphologies) complementary to the interpretation center. Therefore, we selected nine geomorphosites within the eruptive complex connected by a 6 km long route, in which can be interpreted different morphologies of the complex, associated deposits, cultural/history issues and current use, extrapolated to most volcanoes in CCVR. The methodology used is based on scientific, cultural and use and management values of selected geomorphosites, to determine which features are most interesting for potential tourists visiting this volcanic complex. The development of this georoute will also serve for trekking, hiking, bird-watching, student visits or scientific tourism (geographers, geologists, ecologists, landscapers...), so it need a basic infrastructure: route signals, interpretive panels, brochures or digital resources (Bidi/QR, web information available on GPS, tablets, smartphones...). This depends on local



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government, and this will be an argument more to declare this volcanic complex as Natural Monument.

