

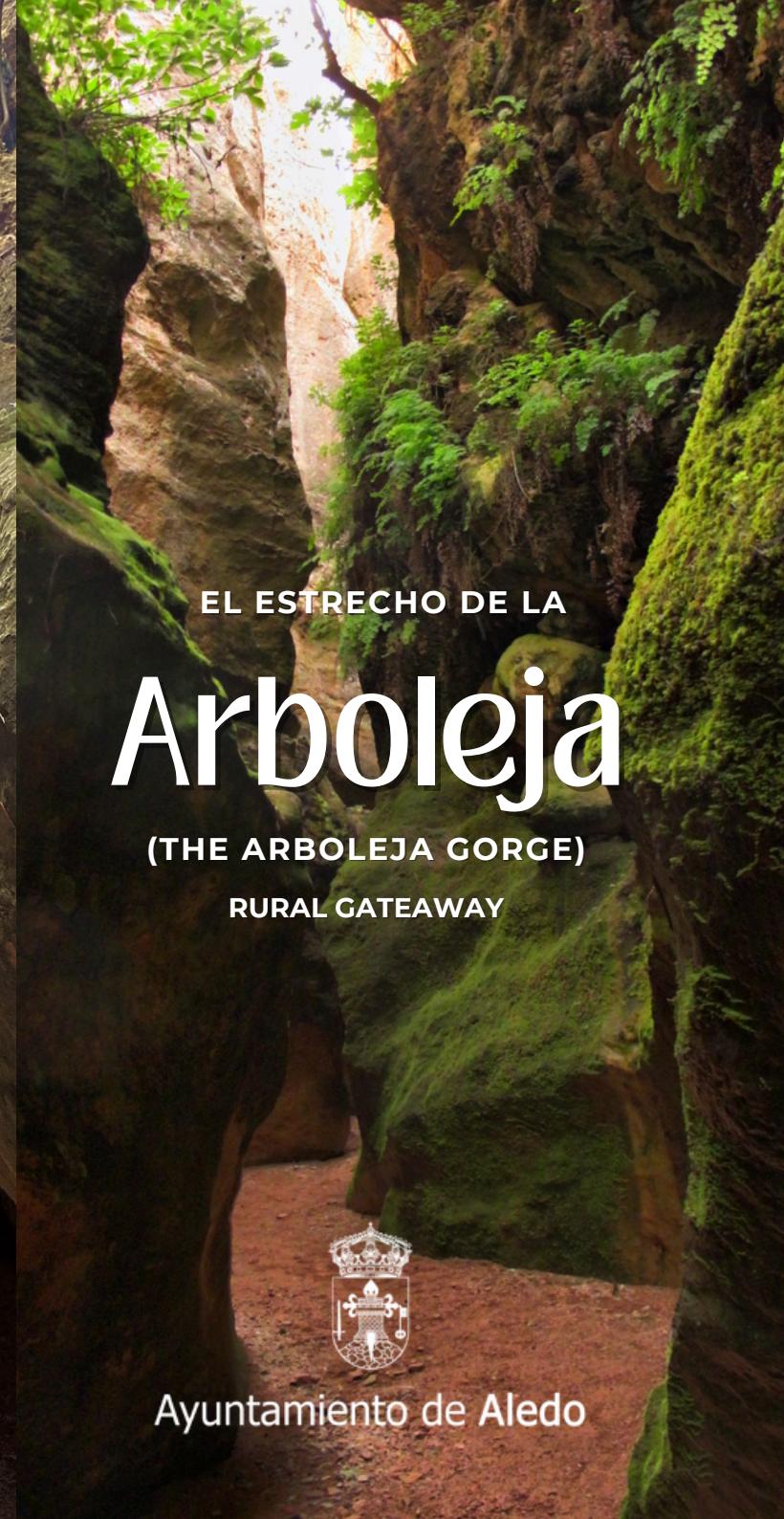
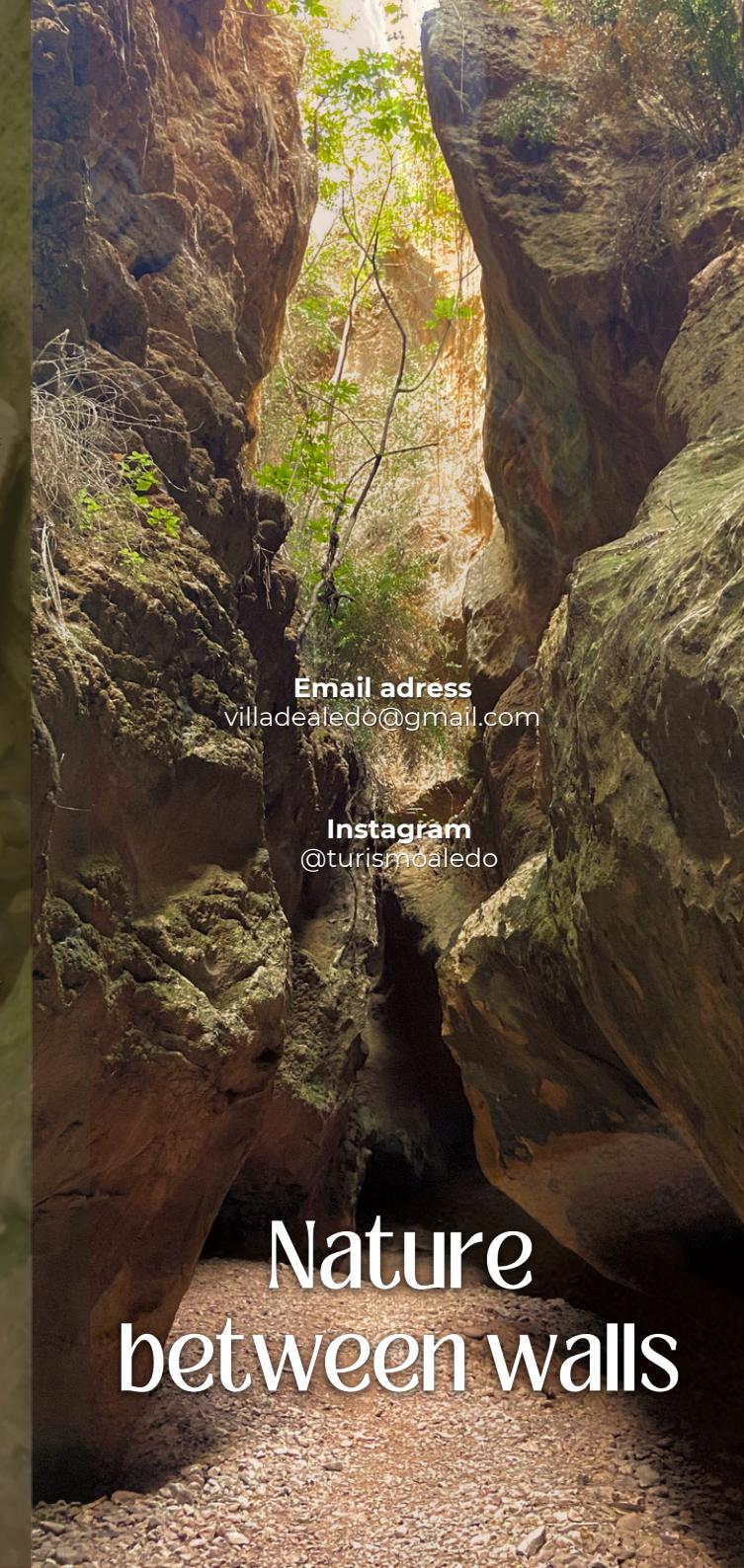
A TREASURE SCULPTED BY WATER

Arboleja Gorge (Estrecho de la Arboleja o Agualeja) is an impressive natural formation thanks to 9 millions of years of water erosion. The flow of **the Lébor watercourse** has carved the permeable calcarenites and sandstones that shape this gorge, giving it its current appearance.

With an approximate length of **450 meters**, its vertical walls reach **10 to 15 meters**, creating a singular geological landscape that has been designated as a **LIG** (Site of Geological Interest).

As we enter it, we get the feeling of **travelling to another world**, thanks to its **cool and humid microclimate**, which contrasts with the arid scenery that surrounds it.

It is a unique space to **enjoy geology, nature and silence**.



EL ESTRECHO DE LA
Arboleja
(THE ARBOLEJA GORGE)
RURAL GATEAWAY



Ayuntamiento de Aledo

TRADITIONAL USES OF GEOLOGY

As we follow the watercourse down through the gorge, we are accompanied by an aqueduct dating back to the early **18th century**. It was carved into the rock and it has **suspended bridges**, as well as a **reservoir**—now empty—that once stored the extracted water.



FOSSIL RECORD

The **sedimentary materials** that form the gorge walls (sandstones) were deposited in a **shallow, warm and quiet marine environment**.

This environment was home to **numerous species of marine fauna**, many of which can still be observed today in **fossilized form**: echinoderms (*Clypeaster* sp.), bivalves (*Ostrea* sp.), corals (*Tarbellastraea* sp. and *Porites* sp.) and clam remains.

FAUNA



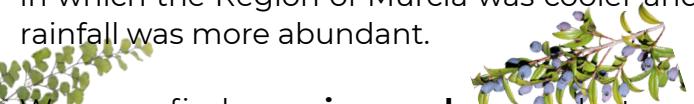
A rich diversity of animals lives in this landscape. In humid corners, amphibians such as the common frog and common toad find refuge. Among the birds, **red-billed choughs** or **black wheatears** stand out, both characteristic of this surrounding rocky terrain. Mammals like **foxes** or **wild boar** often go unnoticed, while **bats** dwell in cavities and underground galleries. **Butterflies** and other insects add colour and movement, reflecting the vitality of this natural environment.



FLORA



The **humid refuge** that is the gorge allows the survival of a very special kind of **unique vegetation**. It gives us a glimpse about a past in which the Region of Murcia was cooler and rainfall was more abundant.

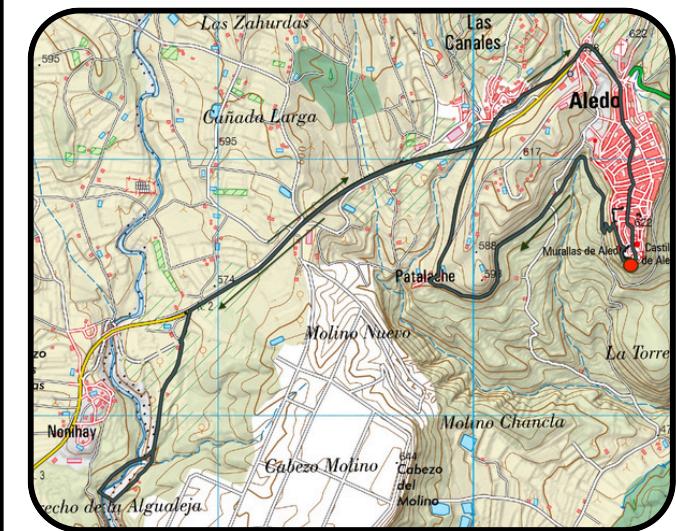


We can find **species such as** ash trees, willows, venus maidenhair fern, hackberries, elms, terebinth, myrtles or emborrachacabras (redouls), which, without the **protection of this geological jewel**, would find it more difficult to appear in our municipality.



THE 10,000 STEPS ROUTE

This **route**, besides **taking us** to our destination, **the Arboleja Gorge**, this route allows us to enjoy **other spots** and landscapes of cultural and natural interest in the municipality.



 Scan the QR code
and follow the route
on Google Maps.

