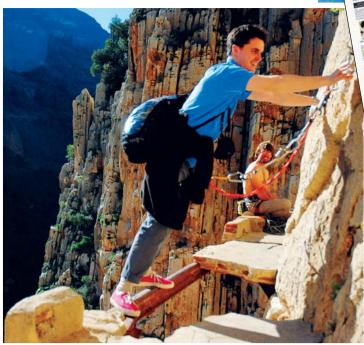
www.theolivepress.es



actly a year ago, that it had been added to the official government *boletin* as a key tourism project.

A strategy document seen by the paper, estimated that around 1000 people a day would pay three to five euros to travel along the path. They will be carefully moni-

tored by up to 100 employees with safety being of major importance.

There could even be special trains brought in from Ma-drid, just for the experience," revealed a local hotelier. The village of El Chorro itself is a peculiar outpost of several dozen houses perched between hydroelectric plants and imposing crags. Little would tell ar

an unsus pecting visitor that this hilly hamlet between Malaga and Antequera is a world-famous climbing hub. One of the main focal points for foreign climbers is undoubtedly the Olive Branch B&B run by Surrey expats Gary and Melanie Burns. On Boxing Day when I visited it, the B&B was packed with outdoor enthusiasts from around the world recovering from a large communal Christ-mas meal the night before.

Just bring a harness and chances are you'll meet someone to climb with here

"We took over this inn in 2008, without realizing it



crags

"The

routes," he continued. "You just need to bring a harness and chances are vou'll meet someone to climb with here. It's a very friendly

'Whatever grade you climb doesn't make it any more or less enjoyable. I ondoners Matt and Tom Williams, who came to El Chor-

ence " said Matt 25 "The climbing community is very welcoming, even if you

15 years

climbing experience

Thorough

haven't done much climbing. People are always trying to help you out."

the olive press - January 13 - 26 27

VERTIGO: Guide Martin approaches an obstacle, and (left) Londoner Tom Williams shuffles on the beam was right at the foot of the Las Encantadas crag, one of the best climbing locations in the world," said Gary. After a late communal break

Three Kings

come early

RE

fast, lodgers head off for the place. "If the sun is out, it's perfect conditions for a day of climb-ing. It's never too cold around

here," said my guide Martin. limestone rock here ro for a Christmas holiday, has plenty of nice holds and agree. there are loads of pre-made

"It's been a great experi-



Whether it is 'bridge-jumping' or 'canyoning', or 'paintballing' or 'sphering', there is so much on offer in Andalucia, as Anatoly Kurmanaev found out. Firm Experience Box organised his day out



OUNTAIN path traverses and climbing are just some of the exciting out-door activities on offer in inland Andalucia. While most holidaymakers come for

the Costa del Sol beaches and night-life, as most seasoned expats know, this mountainous region has much more in store.

In fact, inland Andalucia is an out-door heaven for activity lovers.

One of the best places to look for in-spiration is website *ExperienceBox*-Spain.com, which offers an incredible 250 activities in southern Spain. "There is so much to do here, peo-ple are often actually overwhelmed by the options," explains its Belgian boss Rob Magits, who is based in Estepona.

"That's why we've set up a voucher service so customers can spend them on the activities that suit their mood that day."

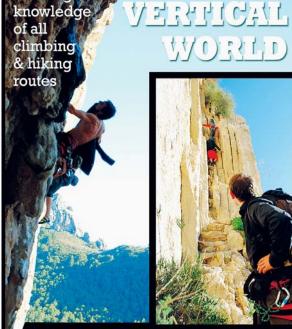
To try out the service, we assembled an adventure package ourselves. We began as close to the coast as possible, near Puerto Banus, in fact, where South Londoner Peter Smith rolls people down a 150-metre hill in a giant rubber ball at breakneck

speeds. Called 'sphering', it is certainly a





WET, WET, WET: Canyoning



1 PERSON: 50€ for half a day - 80€ for a full day 2 PERSONS (each): 40€ for half a day - 70€ for a full day MORE THAN 2 PERSONS (each): 30€ for half a day - 60€ for a full day All equipment provided

> Call Martin Heywood on 628 629 637 or email martin@verticalworld.es or visit www.verticalworld.es

FLASHBACK: How the **Olive Press first reported** the funding over a year ago