



The Álvar Fáñez route CAMINO DEL CID



Edition 2020

Ramblers route guide The Way of El Cid

www.caminodelcid.org



The Álvar Fáñez route

Villaseca de Henares - Guadalajara (73 km)

La algarada de Álvar Fáñez

This branch route commemorates the famous raid or surprise attack of Álvar Fáñez. According to El Cantar, whilst El Cid was laying siege to Castejón, his loyal vassal—accompanied by two hundred knights—plundered the banks of the River Henares, passing through Hita and Guadalajara and reaching as far as the gates of Alcalá de Henares. He returned with “herds of cattle and flocks of sheep” and “great quantities of other riches” to provide provisions for El Cid’s needy troops, who immediately set off in a north-easterly direction, heading for Zaragoza via Anguita.

What there is to see?

This small branch route takes ramblers through small towns and villages as far as Guadalajara. It is a relatively easy route through the meadows that line the River Badiel and it is dotted with areas of scrubland and cereal crops. It is also scattered with modest examples of rural Romanesque architecture in Villaseca de Henares, Utande and Muduex. Halfway along the route, the walled town of Hita nestles beneath its imposing castle—evidence of its twofold nature as a monumental town (it has been declared a historic and artistic site) and its literary connections (it is mentioned in the Poem of the Cid and is the birthplace of Arcipreste de Hita). The route continues as far as Guadalajara – an Arabic name meaning ‘river of stones’. Guadalajara was originally an Andalusian military post, close to the Duero boundary. Many of the armies marching from Toledo passed

through this point before continuing on their way to Atienza or Medinaceli. Even though its landmark monument is the Palace of El Infantado (15th – 16th centuries), it is also home to many medieval monuments such as the bridge built during the Caliphate-era (few traces remain of the original 10th century construction, for it was rebuilt in the 18th century) and to several interesting examples of Mudejar architecture and to the towers of Alamín and Álvar Fáñez (dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries).

Weather

In general, the climate is characterized by cold winters and dry and hot summers. Highest precipitation amounts occur in the spring and autumn. The best time to walk along this stretch of route is in spring and, especially in autumn, though hiking is an option all year through. In the file card for each stage, there is a climate chart showing average monthly temperatures, amount of daylight hours and average rainfall. Precipitation indexes are to be interpreted in the following manner:

- Dry season (range of 0-25mm per month)
- Low level of rainfall (range of 25-40mm per month)
- **Medium level of rainfall (range of 40-60mm per month)**
- High level of rainfall (> 60mm per month)

View of the valley at the river Badiel in Almadrones



Use this QR code on our website to access content in the ramblers' route section of Anillo de Galocanta Route. You can download all relevant information: maps, topo-guides, tracks, list of accommodations, passport stamping offices, tourist offices, etc.

The Passport (a modern letter of safe-passage)

The Passport is the identification used by travellers to collect stamps from the towns and villages along their way. If the identification is shown at any of the 200 accommodation facilities belonging to the route, you can get a minimum of 10% off.



The Passport is free and you can get one either at a Tourist Office or at our office. In the section below you will find the list of offices (updated for February 2017) where you can obtain and stamp the Passport.

CASTEJÓN DE HENARES

AYUNTAMIENTO: 49305341 PL. DE JOSÉ ANTONIO, 1.
CR LOS CHORRONES: 949897756 / 649337793 HUERTOS DEL CASQUERO, 16

GUADALAJARA

• **OFICINA DE TURISMO:** 681235234 GLORIETA AVIACIÓN MILITAR ESPAÑOLA, S/N TRYP GUADALAJARA: 949209300 / 949226410 AVDA. EDUARDO GUTIÁN, 7
H**** AC GUADALAJARA: 949248370 AVDA. DEL EJÉRCITO, 6
H* CAN-VIC: 949255028 / 949210961 C/ ZARAGOZA, 51
P OTERO: 949253810 AVDA. BARCELONA, 27ª
H IRIS GUADALAJARA: 949202080 C/ TRAFALGAR, 74

HITA

• **OFICINA DE TURISMO:** 949852763. C/ SAN PEDRO, 2

MUDUEX

BAR EL BADIEL: 949323500 C/ REAL, 4

TÓRTOLA DE HENARES

AYUNTAMIENTO: 949323020 PL. ESPAÑA, 1



The Way of El Cid Consortium is an entity promoted and financed by the following Provincial Councils:





Distance: 22,8 km
Maximum grade: 230 m

Cumulative ascent: 490 m
Cumulative descent: 510 m

Estimated time: 5h 20m
Physical difficulty: Medium



VILLASECA DE HENARES (population: 27)



The route starts at the low part of the town (southern part), where you will have to walk off the Main Axis of The Way of El Cid (The Three Taifa route) and the path for the GR-10 route. Take a paved path heading towards the southeast and walk alongside *the meadow at the river Dulce*. You will shortly after cross over the river through a bridge (km 0.2). At this point, you reach the road CM-1003 (km 0.6). Turn left and walk for 50 metres along the road. At a crossroads, take the road that heads towards **Castejón de Henares**. Pay attention. After 300m, walk off the road and turn right into a path (km 1.1) that runs parallel to the road and climbs alongside the small valley of *Arroyo de Castejón*. The path splits into two (km 1.6). Continue on the path to your right. You will soon reach the bottom of the gully. Pay attention, so as to take a right-hand turn (km 2) that crosses the gully and then turns left. The path winds through the shade of elm trees and old fruit trees and leads quickly to **Castejón**.

- Agricultural meadow at the river Dulce
- Romanesque façade and apse of San Blas church
- Paved paths, road and agricultural paths with a good sub-base



2,9 km



7,6 km

CASTEJÓN DE HENARES (population: 63)



Leave the town walking along *Calle José Antonio*, where there is an arrow (km 3.2) pointing towards a footpath. Walk past several fountains, and continue climbing along the path, which is bordered on both sides by kermes oaks. Turn right into a path (km 3.6). Shortly after, ignore a right-hand path (km 3.7). You will reach another crossroads (km 4.2). Follow straight, walking in the same direction. The path runs into small kermes oak groves and its outlines disappear when coming close to a large field (km 5.6). At this point, continue on the borders of a cultivated field, walking close to a kermes oak grove (note that there is no footpath). When reaching the other side of the field (km 6.2), join again the path, which runs into a forest. When reaching a main path (km 6.7), turn left. Follow straight until getting close to a breeder (km 8), which is surrounded by tires. Walk off the path and continue along a footpath that runs to the right of a breeder and then descends towards the *valley of Badiel* and reaches the *fountain of Arpilla* (km 8.3). The footpath turns to the right, passing by a water tank and then climbs halfway alongside the hillside. After walking past *fountain of Villar* (km 9), turn into a path that leads to the town.

- Crop fields and kermes oak groves
- Footpaths, rural paths with a good sub-base and the stretch that runs on the border of the cultivated field
- Proceed with care at crossroads and when walking on footpath stretches



5,1 km

ALMADRONES (population: 32)



Start at the northern part of the town, where there is an arrow (km 10.8). This is the starting point of the path, which runs along a footpath whose borders are not very visible. Note that the path descends towards the bottom of the valley. When reaching a path (km 11.3), follow straight and after crossing over the *river Badiel*, turn left. Ignore all left and right hand turns. Note also that the borders of the path are blurry due to ploughing in the surrounding fields. Continue straight, walking to the right of the river shore. A path to the right joins the path (km 12.5). The sub-base will gradually get better. You will finally reach the cemetery and *Soledad chapel* (km 15.3), which means that you have reached the area surrounding **Argecilla**.

- Meadow at the river Badiel
- Footpath, rural paths and paved stretches
- Pay attention to signposts when walking along the footpath



3,2 km

ARGECILLA (population: 62)



Resume the route starting at the threshing floors, where the street turns into a path (km 16). The main path descends towards the valley (km 16.4). Some metres further, take a cut, turning into the path to your left (km 16.5). Some metres further you will come out to the road (km 16.9). At this point, turn right (going in direction to **Valfermoso**). After a curve, walk off the road and turn into the footpath to your left (km 17.8), which runs alongside poplars. Shortly after, the path turns into a trail which leads to the entrance of **Ledanca** (km 18.5). Join the road.

- Meadow at the river Badiel
- Rural paths and footpath



3,8 km

LEDANCA (population: 59)



Descend along *Calle de la Soledad* and continue until reaching *Soledad chapel*, which is next to a fountain and a picnic area (km 19.4). Take the path to your left, which runs alongside the valley's left margin, amidst crops and small poplars. Pay attention. At a crossroads (km 20.7), walk off the path and take a turn to the right, which crosses the river and comes out to a road (km 20.8). Turn left, walking along the pavement for 1.8 km until reaching the monastery (km 22.7).

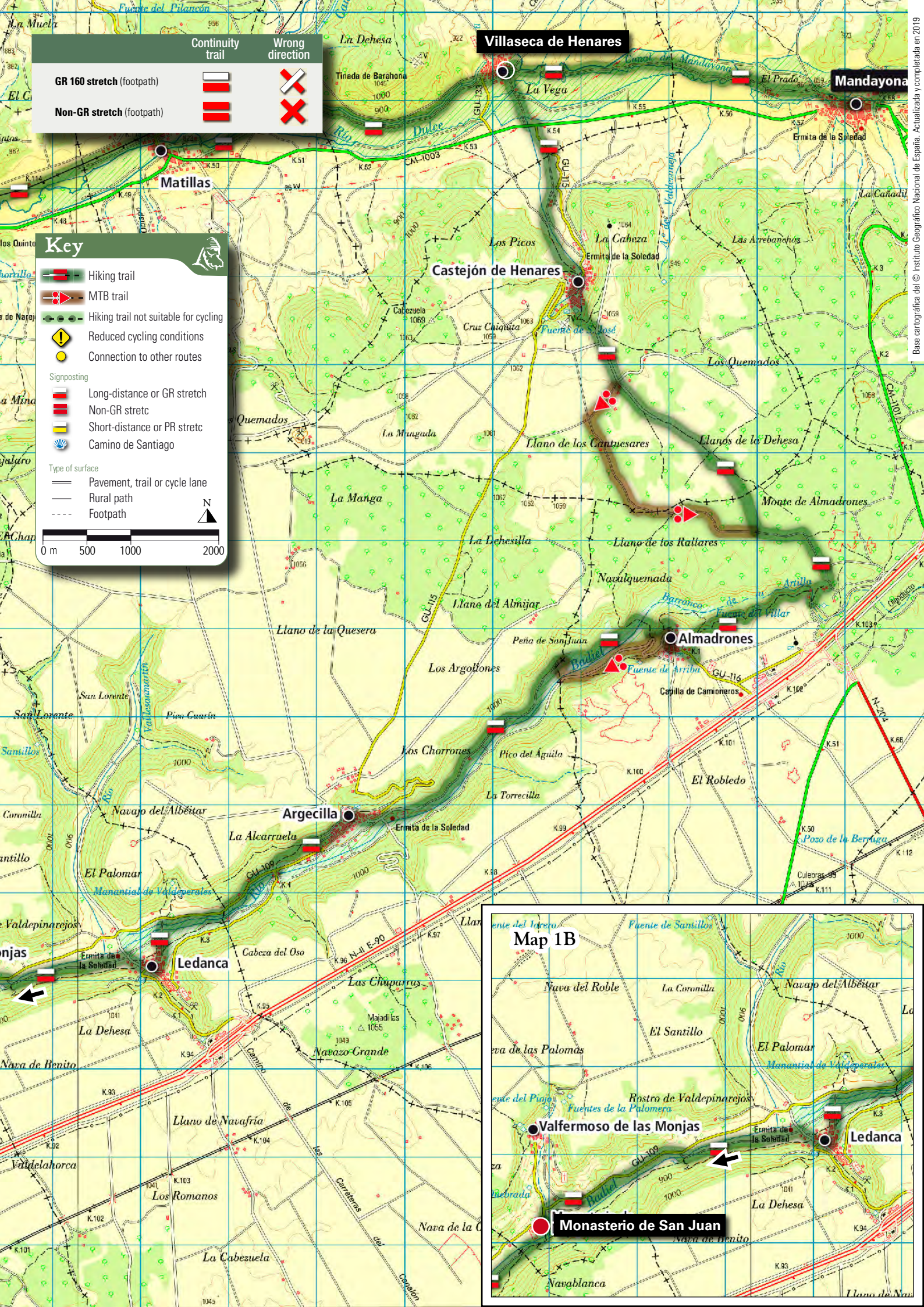
- Meadow at the river Badiel
- Rural paths and footpath



MONASTERIO DE SAN JUAN DE VALFERMOSO (Valfermoso de las Monjas: population: 15 hab.)

Panoramic view of Ledanca





	Continuity trail	Wrong direction
GR 160 stretch (footpath)		
Non-GR stretch (footpath)		

Key

- Hiking trail
 - MTB trail
 - Hiking trail not suitable for cycling
 - Reduced cycling conditions
 - Connection to other routes
- Signposting
- Long-distance or GR stretch
 - Non-GR stretch
 - Short-distance or PR stretch
 - Camino de Santiago
- Type of surface
- Pavement, trail or cycle lane
 - Rural path
 - Footpath
- 0 m 500 1000 2000

Villaseca de Henares

Mandayona

Matillas

Castejón de Henares

Almadrones

Argecilla

Ledanca

Map 1B

Valfermoso de las Monjas

Ledanca

Monasterio de San Juan



2 Monasterio de San Juan de Valfermososo – Hita

4

Ramblers route



Distance: 19,2 km

Maximum grade: 100 m

Cumulative ascent: 140 m

Cumulative descent: 120 m

Estimated time: 4h 15m

Physical difficulty: Medium

MIDE



MONAST. SAN JUAN DE VALFERMOSO (Valfermoso de las Monjas: 15 hab.) GR-160

After visiting the monastery and town of Valfermoso de las Monjas (just 1 km away), you should resume your route along the path leading from the monastery to the river Badiel and its bridge (km 0.2). Continue to the right, walking along a path that penetrates into a black poplar grove. Shortly after, the surface's path, which runs in between fields and low scrubland, gets better. At a point where the path divides into two, continue to the right (km 1.5). You will soon come out to the main path (km 1.8). Turn right, but turn to the left immediately after. Then cross through *San Bernabé bridge*. Continue along the path, walking close to the meadow at the river Badiel. Ignore several turns (kms 2, 2.5 and 4.1) and you will come gradually closer to **Utande**. In the area close to the cemetery (km 4.6), turn right so as to cross over the river through the bridge and reach the road (km 4.9), which is placed close to an oil windmill and a fountain.



Meadow at the river Badiel



Well-preserved rural path



5,1 km

UTANDE (35 hab.) GR-160

Leave the town walking along a paved path and heading towards the scales apparatus (km 5.4), which is placed opposite to a large farming unit. Continue along the path until coming out to road GU-107 (km 5.7). After 300 metres, you will reach a crossroads that connects with road CM-1000. At this point, follow straight, walking along a soil path (km 6). The path, which is in good condition, runs easily alongside fields and to the left of the river Badiel. After passing by a small hillock, you reach the cemetery (km 8.3) and the bullring of **Muduex**.



Meadow at the river Badiel



Church apse built in Romanesque style



Rural paths and road



3,5 km

MUDUEX (99 hab.) GR-160

Leave from the church (km 8.7), walking along a street that moves away from the town and passes by a small playpen and a fountain. Cross through the bridge (km 9) over the river, which leads to a pleasant park where there is a fountain. Turn right and continue walking some more metres. Then walk off and continue along a path that passes to the left of a pelota court. At this point (km 9.2), you will run into a crossroads. Turn right and continue along a path that keeps running alongside the valley of the river Badiel. Ignore all left and right hand turns (kms 10, 11.3 and 11.9), which, as you will notice easily, lead to the fields in the surrounding area.



Meadow at the river Badiel



Apse and façade built in Romanesque style in the church of Natividad



Well-preserved rural paths



4,4 km

VALDEARENAS (74 hab.) GR-160

Head towards the remains of the old church in **Valdearenas**, and then continue until reaching *Plaza del Olivar* (km 13.1). At this point, take a descending path that moves away from the country house. You will see the outline of **Hita** in the horizon. The path comes out to a main path (km 13.4). Turn left and walk alongside the valley of the river Badiel. You will come across several left-hand turns (kms 14, 14.5 and 15.2), though you should walk straight ahead, to the right of the river Badiel. After a curve (km 15.6), ignore a left-hand turn. Immediately after, you will reach the windmill of *Pinilla* (km 15.9). A little bit further on, cross through the river Badiel and shortly after you will come out to the road (km 16.2). Turn left and walk along the road for 200m. Now turn to the right into a path that climbs gradually alongside cultivated mounds, heading to **Hita**. The path comes out to road CM-1003 (km 18.8), which is at the entrance of the town.



Meadow at the river Badiel and large crop fields



Well-preserved rural paths

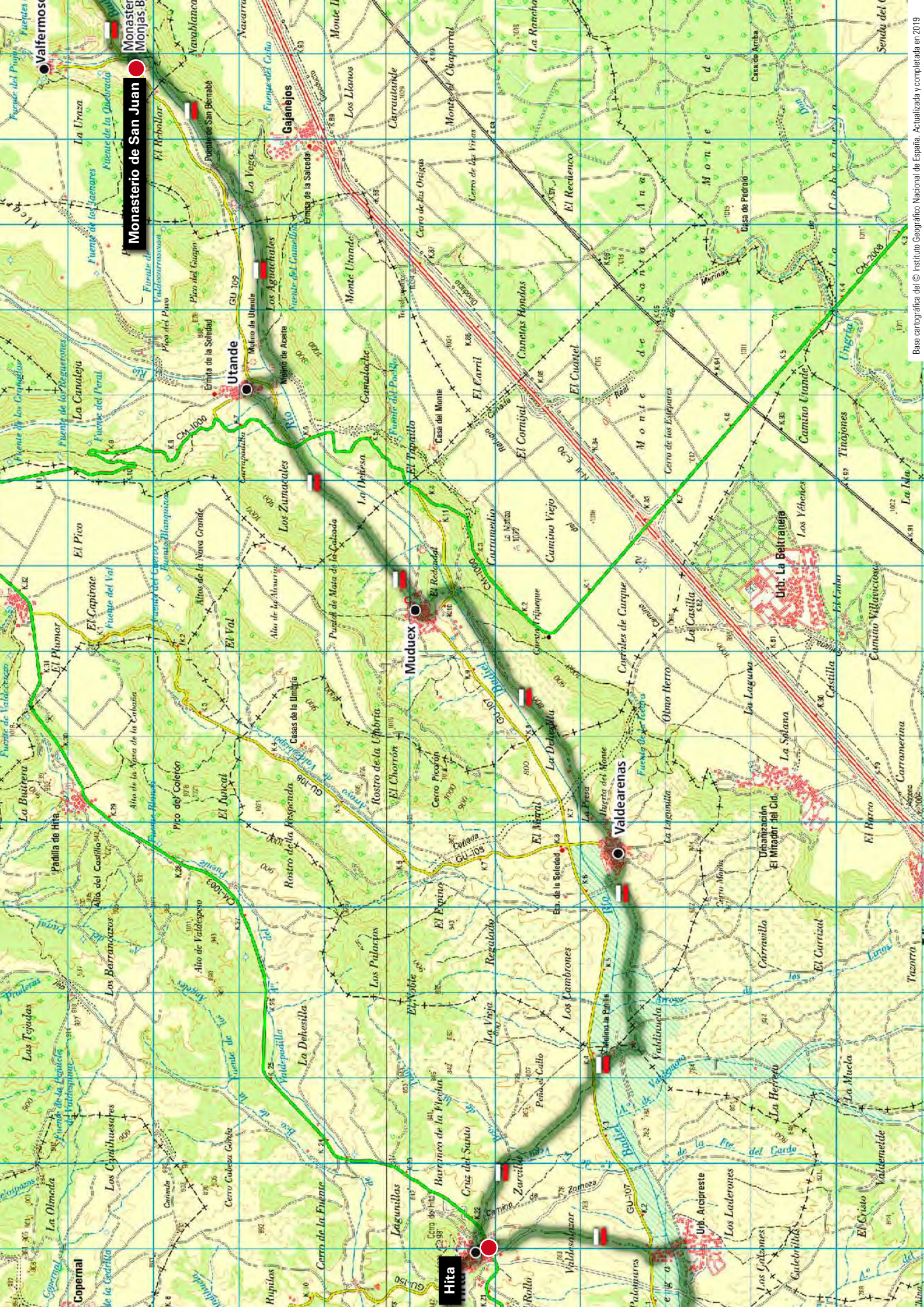


6,2 km

HITA (208 hab.)



Santa María arch and remains of the wall of Hita



Monasterio de San Juan

Hita

Valdearenas

Muduex

Utande

Gajanejos

Copernal



Distance: 31,6 km

Maximum grade: 190 m

Cumulative ascent: 370 m

Cumulative descent: 530 m

Estimated time: 7h 20m

Physical difficulty: High

**HITA** (208 hab.)

Leave from *Plaza del Arcipreste* walking along *Calle Real* and continue until reaching *Palenque*. Then descend until coming out to road CM-1003, which is next to the headquarters of Guardia Civil (km 0.3). Cross the road and continue walking along the path to Palomares, passing to the left of the headquarters. The path runs southwards, alongside large cultivated areas. At a crossroads (km 0.9), turn right. Continue easily until reaching road GU-107 (km 2.4), which is situated next to a residential area called **Urbanización Arcipreste de Hita**. Continue along the main path of the residential area and then cross through a bridge over the *river Badiel* (km 2.8). After 100 metres (plot number 42), turn right into a path that leads out of the residential area. Turn left into a main path (km 3.5). After 15 metres, take a right-hand path and ride westwards, alongside the *valley of Badiel*. At a crossroads (km 5), go straight. At the background, you can see the *remains of the monastery of Sopetrán*. After a short climb, you reach **Torre del Burgo**, which you access through a promenade to the sides of which there are trees (km 5.9). Walk into the town.

TORRE DEL BURGO (502 hab.)

Leave the town walking along the *path to the cemetery*, which runs into a crossroads (km 6.4). Turn left and then walk to the right of the cemetery. The path, which is comfortable, runs southwards until the end. When reaching a crossroad (km 7.6), go straight. You will reach another crossroads (km 8.5), at which the path from **Cañizar** joins the route. Follow straight. Continue walking along the path, ignoring several left and right hand turns (km 8.8 and 9.5). You will eventually reach the bridge over *Pozanco Stream* (km 10.2). From this point, you can see the town in the horizon. Continue until coming out to road GU-191 (km 11). Cross the road, so as to access **Ciruelas**, walking past the water through.

CIRUELAS (84 hab.)

After visiting the town, head southwards and walk away into the distance along a path. You will soon reach a path that divides into two (km 11.6). Take the path to the left and continue straight until coming out to a small road (km 12.8). Take the path to your left and walk for 200 metres. Then turn right into a path that climbs alongside fields and olive trees and to the left of a pine grove, which belongs to the residential area *Cortijos*. After crossing over the *stream Viñas* (km 14.7), the path turns to the right. Walk some metres and shortly after you reach a long straight line, to the sides of which there are almond trees. You will gradually come closer to **Tórtola de Henares**, which you access through an area close to a group of agricultural units (km 17.5). From this point, head to the cemetery (km 17.9) and then access the town.

TÓRTOLA DE HENARES (1.010 hab.)

Resume the route at *Calle Guadalajara* (road CM-1003), which crosses through the town and then turns into a road. At the town's exit, after passing by a slight curve, walk off the road and into a path to the right (km 18.8). Ignore a right-hand turn (km 19). Further on, when running into several crossroads, continue straight along the main path, which runs southwards. Walk into a major path (km 22.3) and continue for 250 metres. Then turn left and walk along a narrower path. At a crossroads (km 22.9), take the path to the left and later, at another crossroads (km 23), turn right. You will get close to Highway R2 (km 24.3). Cross the road through a tunnel. On the other side of the road, follow along a path that crosses over *Vega stream* (km 24.5) and then leads into **Taracena**.

TARACENA (564 hab.)

Leave walking along *Calle Camino de Iriépal*. Cross through a bridge under highway A2 and walk along the service road. You will then reach a crossroads. Follow straight, walking along a soil path with a good sub-base set out in front of you. 500m after, turn into a path to your left. You will reach the road to Iriépal. Turn right and walk along this road for around 200m and then turn to a path to your left. The path leads towards highway A2, which you should cross through a subterranean crossing. You come out in Guadalajara, in an area next to *Avda. de Aragón*. Continue along the gardened path, which runs parallel to highway A2, until reaching the *park of the stream Olmeda del Conde*. Afterwards continue until reaching the city centre.

GUADALAJARA (82.637 hab.)

Production area of cereals and meadow at the river Badiel

Gothic-Renaissance church of San Juan Bautista, Santa María gate and city wall; castle in ruins

Agricultural paths with a good sub-base

Large cultivated fields

Monastery of Sopetrán

Agricultural paths with a good sub-base

Cultivated fields

Agricultural paths with a good sub-base

Large cultivated fields

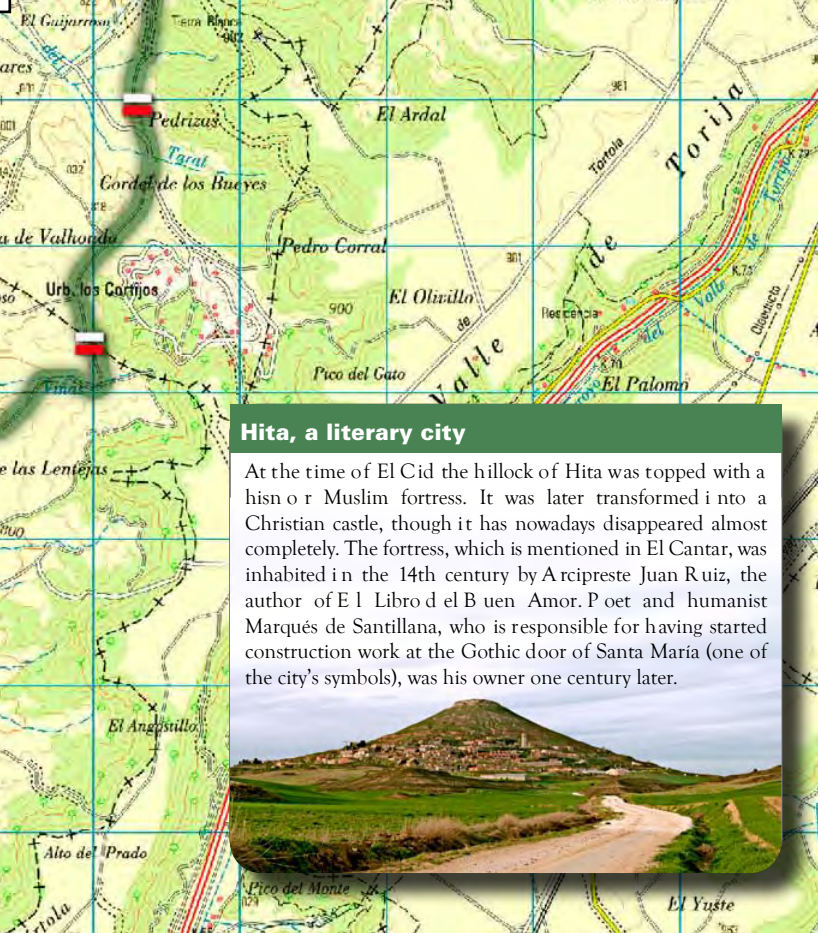
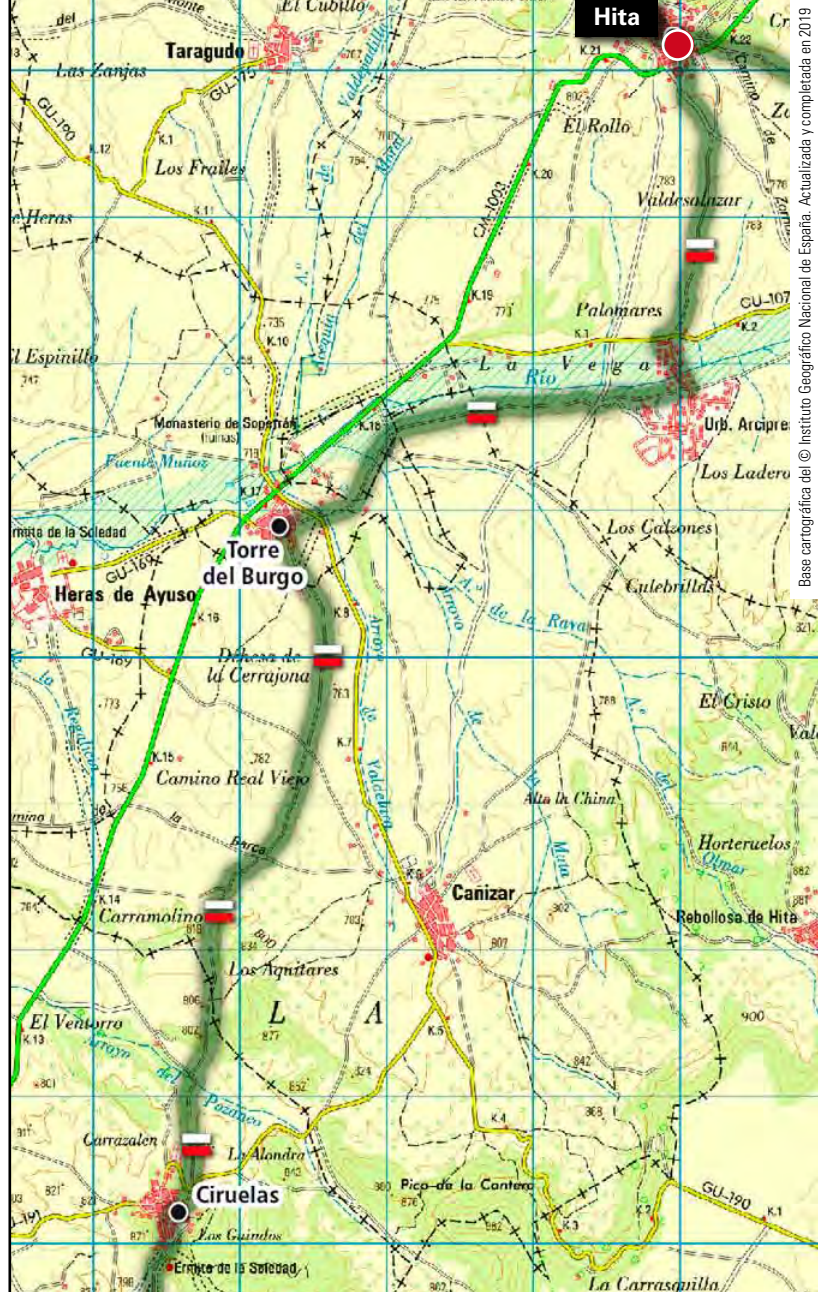
Agricultural paths with a good sub-base

Crop fields and urban landscape

Rural paths and road

Gallery on the higher part of *Palacio del Infantado* in Guadalajara





Hita, a literary city

At the time of El Cid the hillock of Hita was topped with a hisn or Muslim fortress. It was later transformed into a Christian castle, though it has nowadays disappeared almost completely. The fortress, which is mentioned in El Cantar, was inhabited in the 14th century by Arcipreste Juan Ruiz, the author of El Libro del Buen Amor. Poet and humanist Marqués de Santillana, who is responsible for having started construction work at the Gothic door of Santa Maria (one of the city's symbols), was his owner one century later.

