



- Álvar Fáñez route -**CAMINO GEID**

Bicycle Touring Guide for The Way of El Cid www.caminodelcid.org

From Villaseca de Henares head towards Castejón de Henares. This is the starting point of the Álvar Fáñez Route, which pays tribute to the riot instigated by one of El Cid's deputies, who plundered the lands of the area surrounding Henares.

The raid of Álvar Fáñez

This 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 plundered the banks of the River Henares accompanied by two hundred knights. They passed through Hita and Guadalajara and reached as far as the gates of Alcalá de Henares. This vassal returned with "herds of cattle and flocks of sheep" and "great guantities 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 short route takes cyclists through small towns and villages and reaches as far as Guadalajara. It is a relatively easy route alongside 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. The town has a twofold nature: it is a monumental town

(it has been declared a historic and artistic site) and it has literary connections (it is mentioned in the Poem of the Cid and it 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), Guadalajara 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)

Use this QR code to access website content relating to the road bicycle tour section of Alvar Fáñez Route. You can download all relevant information: maps, topo-guides, tracks, list of accommodations, passport stamping offices, tourist offices, etc.



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600

Cumulative ascent 725 m Cumulative descent 880 m

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Physical difficulty Low Technical difficulty Low

Information for bicycle tourists

The route runs largely alongside the watershed of the river Henares, so that it gives cyclists the opportunity to discover the features of the Alcarria landscape: large cultivated moorlands dotted with calcareous nodules and hills, like the one in Hita. The river Badiel has carved a beautiful valley. which opens gradually as it comes together with the river Henares. The stretch until Hita runs along easy roads, which provides cyclists the ability of enjoying the landscape. Before reaching Taracena, ride into highway A-2. Ride along its road service until reaching Guadalajara.

Road surface condition and traffic

This section contains information about hard shoulders. road surfaces, traffic lanes and traffic volume. Note that the condition of hard shoulders and road surfaces can vary depending on maintenance work, which means that there may be some improvements that are not recorded here. Traffic alerts are subjective for they are based on the authors' experience and may vary depending on the period of the year and the days of the week (for example, weekends and bank holidays).

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 cycle along this stretch of route is in spring and, especially, in autumn.



	E	F	М	Α	М	JN	J٢	A	S	0	N	D
Average temperature	9°	11°	14°	16°	6°	21º	26°	31°	30°	26°	19°	13°
Max/Min Total davlight time	0°	0°	4°	4°	4°	7°	11°	14°	14°	11°	7°	3°
for any day	09:33	10:38	11:55	13:19	14:28	15:06	14:48	13:48	12:29	11:08	09:54	09:15
Average rainfall	52	47	34	58	58	63	42	23	18	38	55	63

Monthly weather average for the village of Jadraque, which may be used as a reference

The Passport

The Passport is an identification card used by travellers to collect stamps from the towns and villages along their way. If this identification card is shown at any of the 200 accommodation facilities belonging to The Way of El Cid route, you can get a minimum of 10% off. The Passport is free and you can get it either at a Tourist Office or at our office:



Consorcio Camino del Cid C/ Madrid 24, 09002 Burgos info@caminodelcid.org Tel.: +34 947 256 240





