

The Camino del Cid Route is a public initiative promoted and sponsored by the Provincial Councils of:

- Diputación de Burgos
- Diputación de Soria
- Diputación de Guadalajara
- Diputación de Zaragoza
- Diputación de Teruel
- Diputación de Castellón
- Diputación de Valencia
- Diputación de Alicante

CAMINO del CID ROUTE

Spain

A thrilling journey around Spain in the footsteps of a legendary hero



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English



HE TURNED AND LOOKED UPON THEM,
AND HE WEPT VERY SORE
AS HE SAW THE YAWNING GATEWAY AND THE ASPES WRENCHED OFF THE DOOR,
AND THE PEGS WHEREON NO MANTLE NOR COAT OF VAIR THERE HUNG,
THERE PERCHED NO MALTING GOSHAWK, AND THERE NO FALCON SWUNG,
MY LORD THE CID SIGHED DEEPLY, SUCH GRIEF WAS IN HIS HEART
AND HE SPoke WELL AND WISELY:
"OH THOU, THAT IN HEAVEN THAT ART, OUR FATHER AND OUR MASTER,
I NOW GIVE THANKS TO THEE,
OF THEIR WICKEDNESS MY FOEMEN HAVE DONE THIS TRING TO ME!"
THEN THEY SHOOK OUT THE BRIDLE REIN, FURTHER TO RIDE AFAR,
THEY HAD THE CROW ON THEIR RIGHT HAND,
AS THEY ISSUED FROM VIVAR...

(THE FIRST LINES OF THE SONG OF EL CID)



At the start of the 11th century...



...the military might of the Caliphate of Cordoba that ruled over the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) waned and eventually shattered into smaller Islamic principalities known as *taifas*. The Christian kingdoms and counties in the north of Spain took advantage of this weakness to extend their territories and increase their wealth by levying tributes, known as *parias*.



In 1081, a knight from Burgos called Rodrigo Diaz (also known as Cid the Warrior), was cast out from Castile by the King and, accompanied by a small group of loyal soldiers, was forced to roam around a Spain divided into numerous warring Christian and Moorish kingdoms, principalities and counties. The boundaries were constantly shifting, and the alliances were fragile and numerous in equal measure.



Either at the service of the Moorish princes of Zaragoza or on his own behalf, the Cid quickly earned an outstanding reputation as a warrior and strategist, fighting the Christians as well as the Moors. In 1094, after thirteen years in exile, he conquered the Moorish city of Valencia, where he would die as a prince in 1099.

After his death, El Cid's reputation grew in Christian territories, where his feats were recounted in the form of songs. In the late 12th or early 13th century, an anonymous poet immortalized the figure of the Cid in a poem that today is considered one of the finest examples of European epic literature: the *Song of the Cid*.

This literary work presents an idealised vision of the final third of the Cid's life, following his exile from Castilla until his final years, when he conquered Valencia. A medieval tale that you can now recreate in its original settings by following the Camino del Cid Route.

The Camino del Cid Route

The Camino del Cid (Way of El Cid) is a cultural and tourist itinerary that crosses Spain, retracing the steps of the Cid. It begins in Burgos, in the north of Spain, and ends on the Mediterranean coast in the autonomous community of Valencia.

Thanks to its signposted itineraries, the Route of El Cid takes you into the heart of inland Spain; a sparsely populated territory boasting a wide variety of breathtaking landscapes and vast natural areas, dotted with charming towns and cities with a wealth of cultural heritage and friendly and welcoming residents.



Due to its length -some 1,500 kilometres of paths and 2,000 kilometres of roads- the itinerary is divided into 11 themed routes of between approximately 50 and 350 km, which can easily be combined.

The Way of El Cid is managed by a not-for-profit public consortium, made up of the provincial councils of Burgos, Soria, Guadalajara, Zaragoza, Teruel, Castellón, Valencia and Alicante.



Travel the Camino del Cid

There are 4 ways of following the itinerary



- On foot**
Mainly along country roads and footpaths. 1,494 km, divided into 7 routes of between 49 and 308 km
- By MTB or cross-country bike**
Mainly along country roads. 1,507 km divided into 7 routes of between 49 and 312 km.
- By bicycle**
Mainly along B roads with little or practically no traffic. 2,030 km divided into 10 routes of between 66 and 362 km.
- By car or motorbike**
Along secondary roads and a few main roads. 2,014 km divided into 11 routes of between 44 and 357 km.

Signposting

All the routes are signposted.

On foot.

The hiking routes are indicated with a white and red stripe on the sections officially included on the "GR 160 Camino del Cid" long distance footpath. Non-certified stretches are indicated with two red bands.



By MTB.

The MTB route follows the hiking trail. Cyclists follow the same signposts except on specific MTB diversions, designed to avoid the more challenging stretches on foot. The MTB diversions are certified by IMBA Spain and have their own signposts and information panels.



By car, motorbike and road bike.

The roads are signposted at crossroads and other strategic points.



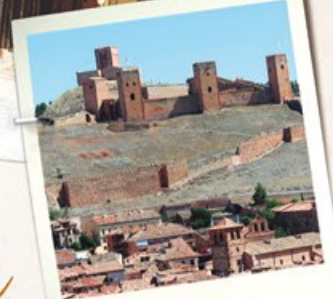
The Routes of the Camino del Cid

The Exile route

From Vivar Del Cid (Burgos) to Atienza (Guadalajara)

Hiking	286 km	15	Recommended Stages
Mtb	297 km	6	Recommended Stages
Cycling tourism	362 km	7	Recommended days
Car and Motorbike	357 km	4	Recommended days

Follow the Cid on his road into exile across the ancient kingdom of Castile, a mythical land dotted with delightful and hospitable small towns. The Gothic cathedral in Burgos, the monasteries of San Pedro de Cardeña and Silos, the river Douro with the magnificent Moorish fortress of Gormaz, are just a few of the landmarks that line this route.



The Border Lands route

From Atienza (Guadalajara) to Ateca-Calatayud (Zaragoza)

Hiking	282 km	12/13	Recommended Stages
Mtb	278 km	5	Recommended Stages
Cycling tourism	252 km	4	Recommended days
Car and Motorbike	254 km	3	Recommended days

Retrace the steps of the Cid and his men through the Moorish border territories of the 11th and 12th centuries. This dramatic route with its sharp contrasts has three main focal points: Atienza, Medinaceli and Calatayud. All three were Andalusí Arabic military outposts. Recreate the tribulations and battles fought by the Cid in inland rural Spain, boasting stunning natural areas, such as the Río Dulce ravine.



The Conquest of Valencia route

From Cella (Teruel) to Valencia

Hiking	248 km	12	Recommended Stages
Mtb	251 km	4	Recommended Stages
Cycling tourism	221 km	4	Recommended days
Car and Motorbike	202 km	3	Recommended days

A trail characterized by sharp contrasts that takes visitors from the uplands of Teruel and the rugged landscapes of Castellón to the Mediterranean coast. Mountain ranges, precipices, rivers and narrow straits, vast forests, orchards, saltwater lagoon is an area of outstanding natural beauty. Myriad settings that end in Valencia: you too can share the Cid's dream of conquering the city!



The Southern Defence route

From Valencia to Orihuela (Alicante)

Hiking	248 km	11	Recommended Stages
Mtb	249 km	4	Recommended Stages
Cycling tourism	249 km	4	Recommended days
Car and Motorbike	227 km	3	Recommended days

Explore the lands where the Cid fought out his bloodiest battles, attacking or defending himself from the fierce Almoravid warriors. Although the provinces of Alicante and Valencia are popular sun and sand tourism destinations, you'll be amazed by their picturesque inland towns and villages and the wealth of built and environmental heritage they boast, starting with the vast orchards of Valencia.

The Alvar Fáñez route

From Castejón de Henares (Guadalajara) to Guadalajara

Hiking	73 km	3	Recommended Stages
Mtb	71 km	1	Recommended Stages
Cycling tourism	66 km	1	Recommended days
Car and Motorbike	65 km	1	Recommended days

This route runs through peaceful valleys, retracing the famous attack by Alvar Fáñez. Whilst the Cid was battling to conquer Castejón, his faithful second-in-command, accompanied by some two hundred knights, plundered the banks of the river Henares as far as the entrance to Alcalá de Henares, passing through Hita and Guadalajara, some 60 km outside Madrid.

Gallocanta Ring

Entry and exit through Daroca (Zaragoza)

Hiking	49 km	2	Recommended Stages
Mtb	49 km	1-2	Recommended Stages
Cycling tourism	78 km	1	Recommended days
Car and Motorbike	78 km	1	Recommended days

A circular route that connects the ancient Moorish city of Daroca with Gallocanta lagoon, where the Cid is believed to have set up camp in order to dominate the surrounding lands. Gallocanta saltwater lagoon is an area of outstanding natural beauty; in winter it is a paradise for birdwatchers who come to observe the tens of thousands of migrating birds, including cranes, storks and a wide range of duck species.



Montalbán Ring

Entry and exit through Calamocha (Teruel)

Cycling tourism	145 km	2	Recommended Stages
Car and Motorbike	145 km	1	Recommended days

This circular itinerary crosses the mining areas of Teruel, offering a fascinating insight into the 10 day attack launched by the Cid from Gallocanta. According to the Song of El Cid, it was during this raid that the Cid plundered Huesa del Común and Montalbán. Montalbán lies at the heart of this circular itinerary, nestling in the Río Martín Nature Park.

El Maestrazgo Ring

Entry and exit through Rubielos de Mora (Teruel) or Montanejos (Castellón)

Cycling tourism	244 km	3	Recommended Stages
Car and Motorbike	241 km	2-3	Recommended days

This circular route offers fascinating towns, intriguing roads, breathtaking views and much more besides as it makes it way through the rugged Maestrazgo mountain range and the narrow straits that run along the banks of the river Mijares. Inhospitable lands that the legendary warrior travelled through at various points in his life. However, the highlight is Onda, which according to the poem, was conquered by the Cid.

Morella Ring

Entry and exit through La Iglesia de la Cid (Teruel)

Cycling tourism	104 km	2	Recommended Stages
Car and Motorbike	104 km	2	Recommended days

Vast upland landscapes and impeccably preserved medieval towns: the focal points are located in Olocau del Rey, where the Cid is thought to have installed an "eagle's nest", and the intriguing Morella, whose impregnable castle withstood the ferocious onslaughts of the Cid.



Castellón Route

From Sagunto (Valencia) to Castellón de la Plana (Castellón)

Car and Motorbike	44 km	1	Recommended days
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This coastal route retraces the steps of the literary and historic Cid, who conquered the castles of Sagunto and Almenara. Citrus fruit orchards, marshlands, beaches and mouth-watering gastronomy featuring rice and seafood dishes are the highlights of this route, which ends in the city of Castellón.

Olocau Route

Planned route from El Puig to Olocau (Valencia)

Hiking	28 km	1	Recommended days
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This itinerary will connect El Puig and Olocau via Serra. In the 11th century all three towns boasted a castle and were conquered by the historic Cid. El Puig played a particularly relevant role in the conquest of Valencia. Non-signposted route.



The Taifa of Valencia Ring

Planned route
Entry and exit through Valencia or Montaverner

Hiking	255 km		
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This historic circular route recalls the Cid's daring expedition with King Peter I of Aragón to Peña Cadiella castle in the Benicadell mountain range, one of the Cid's greatest incursions into the lands dominated by the Almoravids. The Battle of Bairén (Gandia) is one of his greatest exploits. A non-signposted route, apart from the 86 km that coincide with the Southern Defence route (between Valencia and Montaverner).



Tips for a successful trip

- Read up before setting out**
Our website at <https://en.caminodelcid.org> includes all the information you need to prepare your trip.
- Use the tracks and topo-guides**
Some signs may fall down or disappear during the course of the year. Download our tracks and topo-guides. They're free of charge.
- Book your accommodation**
You will be travelling through some Europe's least densely populated areas. You are advised to book your accommodation in advance, especially in the case of smaller towns.
- Get your letter of safe passage**
The letter of safe passage is free of charge and can be stamped in more than 200 towns and villages. It entitles you to discounts on accommodation and a number of other promotions.
- For adventurous cyclists and hikers**
Users of the Camino of El Cid should be in good physical shape. If you are unsure whether it is suitable for you, remember that you can also follow the route by car or motorbike.
- Other useful tips**
Here you will find other useful information about your trip, including languages, health and safety, etc.
- Contact us**
We are a Spanish public consortium and are here to help you. If you have any questions or require further information, write to us at info@caminodelcid.org



The CAMINO DEL CID ROUTE

THE WAY OF EL CID:
YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE
A JOURNEY THROUGH
MEDIEVAL SPAIN



EL CID,
A POPULAR
SPANISH
HERO

Together with Don Quixote and Don Juan, the Cid is one of Spanish literature's three greatest legends, although unlike the other two, the Cid was a real person.

What is the meaning of "El Cid"? It derives from an arabic word which means "The Lord"

Early writings from the 13th century onwards would turn him into a legend. In the 17th century, Corneille converted him into a character included in French theatre. The 19th century European Romantics would retrieve this character, and he would also receive the attention of the Impressionist composers.

In the 20th century, the 1961 film "El Cid", directed by Anthony Mann and starring Charlton Heston and Sophia Loren, would rekindle the flames of the legend of El Cid. Statues of this historic figure stand in Seville, New York, Buenos Aires and other parts of the world. Many Spanish streets are named after him.

The Cid is a source of endless fascination and is continuously being reinvented: retrace his footsteps as you follow the route!

VIVAR, THE STARTING POINT
Banished into exile by King Alfonso VI, the Cid abandoned his home in Vivar, "with tears in his eyes".

EVERYBODY TURNED THEIR BACK ON HIM
Nobody in Burgos was willing to provide him with shelter, for fear the king would "confiscate their possession and rip their eyes from their face".

SHELTER IN CARDEÑA
The Cid left his wife and daughters in the monastery of San Pedro de Cardena, where they were safe from the king's fury.

THE BATTLE OF ALCOZER
Alcozer was the site of one of the bloodiest battles narrated in the Song of El Cid, between the troops of El Cid and the Moorish army based in Valencia.

PAYMENT OF TRIBUTES
In order to provide for his men, the Cid collected tributes from the Moorish residents settled in the fertile meadows that line the river Jalon.

MISTREATMENT IN CORPES
In the surroundings of Castelljo, the Cid's daughters are mistreated by their husbands, the Infantes de Carrion. This occurred following the Cid's conquest of Valencia.

GOOD TIDINGS
In Navapalos he had a vision where the archangel Gabriel presaged that his adventures would come to a successful end.

THE RAID OF ALVAR FÁNEZ
After entering Moorish territory, the Cid attacked Casteljón whilst his second in command, Alvar Fáñez, launched a surprise attack along the river Henares.

THE HOSPITALITY OF AVENALBÓN
The Moorish Lord of Molina was a faithful ally of the Cid who provided shelter and protection for his daughters and knights.

THE CALL OF CELLA
According to the Song of El Cid, in Cella Rodrigo was joined by all the warriors eager to accompany him on his quest to conquer Valencia.

THE BIRTH OF A LEGEND
The Cid died in Valencia in 1099. His body was taken to the monastery of San Pedro de Cardena (Burgos), where the legend of the Cid was born.

SPAIN AS YOU NEVER IMAGINED IT

INLAND SPAIN
This route is lined with some of Spain's most picturesque towns and villages. No fewer than forty have been declared Historic and Artistic Sites by the Spanish Government. Most are small towns inhabited by friendly and hospitable people.

WORLD HERITAGE SITES
In addition to magnificent examples of Visigoth, Moorish, Romanesque and Gothic art, there are eight medieval sites included on the UNESCO World Heritage List: the Cathedral and the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Burgos; the Mudéjar Architecture of Aragón in the provinces of Teruel and Zaragoza; the Water Tribunal and the Silk Exchange in Valencia; the Maro de Déu de la Salut Festival in Algemesi; and the Palm Grove and Mystery Play in Elche.

WITH YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND
More than fifty protected natural areas form a mosaic composed of valleys, moorland, rivers and mountains leading down to the beaches of the Mediterranean, creating a fascinating and unique journey around the lesser-known areas of Spain.

RIGHT DOWN TO THE LAST CRUMB
Wild mushrooms, roast lamb, game casseroles, spectacular vegetables, cheeses, cod, sweet delights, Designation of Origin wines, horchata barley drinks, juicy citrus fruits... This route is inextricably linked to traditional cuisine; you can't begin to imagine the vast range of dishes and flavours you will encounter.

ONLY THE BRAVE
Quiet roads, small towns, hidden paths; we may be in the 21st century, but this route still offers a thrilling hint of adventure.

CASTLES AND VANTAGE POINTS
Much of the way crosses medieval border territories. More than two hundred fortifications have survived from this period, ranging from the ruins of a Moorish watchtower to truly imposing hilltop fortresses. Exploring them provides a fascinating insight into a period of Spanish history.

FIESTA!
Popular festivals are one of the best ways of getting to know the Spanish and their character. Holy Week, the Fallas celebrations, Moors and Christians festivals... In all, 22 festivals declared to be of National Tourist Interest and a dozen events and celebrations centered on the figure of the Cid.

THE PORT OF ALICANTE
The Cid set up camp in Olcaou del Rey, from where he launched ferocious attacks on the surrounding mountain ranges and valleys.

VICTORY IN TÈVAR
The Catalan Count Berenguer Ramón was defeated by the Cid and his "ill-shod" army in Tèvar pine forest (La Pobla d'Alcoia).

THE CONQUEST OF VALÈNCIA
After a terrible nine month siege and three years of non-stop fighting in the Levante region, the Cid finally conquered Valencia. There he would marry off his daughters to the Infantes de Carrion.

CASTELLÓN DE LA PLANA / CASTELLÓ DE LA PLANA
Castellon Way

CORSTAL ATTACKS
According to the poem, el Cid conquered Valencia's entire north coast: El Puig, Sagunto, Almenara, Burriana and Castellon.

THE EAGLE'S NEST
The Cid rebuilt the castle perched on the imposing Peña Cadiella crag, in the Benicadell mountain range, a strategic point for the defence of Valencia.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF
History has it that the Cid was exiled twice, the second time for treason in 1088. On receiving the news in Elche, he wrote four defence statements in an unsuccessful bid to soften the king's heart.

YOUR TRAVEL GUIDE
The codex of the Song of El Cid is one of the treasures housed in Spain's National Library. Eight centuries after it was written by an anonymous poet, the Song of El Cid continues to take readers back on a fascinating journey into the Middle Ages. Don't forget to pack a copy on your next trip!

All the information you need
The Route of El Cid consortium's official website (en.caminodecid.org) has all the information you need, including the travel topoguides, maps, tracks, tips, accommodation lists, tourism information offices, stamping points and places of interest, etc.

KEY

- Hiking
- Cycling tourism
- Car and Motorbike
- Route
- Branch
- Ring
- Towns along the Route
- Towns associated with the historic or literary Cid
- Historic-Artistic site
- Route
- Planned route (not signposted)
- Provincial boundary
- Protected Natural Areas

1 The Exile route
From Vivar del Cid to Atienza

2 The Border Lands route
From Atienza to Atoca - Calatayud

3 The Three Taifas route
From Atoca - Calatayud to Cella

4 The Conquest of Valencia
From Cella to Valencia

5 The Southern Defence
From Valencia to Orihuela

6 Alvar Fáñez route
From Castellón de Henares to Guadalajara

7 Calfoantea King
From / to Daroca

8 Montalbán King
From / to Calamocho

9 El Maestrazgo King
From / to Rubielos de Mora or Montanejos

10 Morella King
From / to La Iglesia del Cid

11 Castellon route
From Sagunto to Castellón

12 Olocau route
From El Puig to Olocau (planned)

13 The taifa of Valencia King
From / to Valencia or Montaverner (planned)