



Route THE SOUTHERN DEFENCE LINE

CAMINO DEL CID



Edition 2020

Ramblers route guide The Way of El Cid

www.caminodelcid.org



THE SOUTHERN DEFENCE LINE

Valencia - Orihuela (248 km)

The fire and blood of struggles

This route has two main plot lines: literary-based and historically-based. The literary plot is related to Valencia, which was where El Cid, according to El Cantar, married his daughters to the princess of Carrión. In addition, the area surrounding Valencia is said to have been the scene of several battles against the Muslim army, whose members fought to reconquer the city. El Cid obtained the Tizona sword during one of those battles; in particular, in the battle against the King Búcar.

The second plot type is of a historical nature. In November 1088, before conquering Valencia, El Cid moved from Xàtiva to Ontinyent to wait there for King Alfonso VI. The king was on his way in order to come in the aid of the fortress of Aledo. The armies never met each other and Alfonso exiled Rodrigo for the second time. El Cid spent Christmas Day in Elche: surrounded by enemies, he decided not to serve any knight and to act instead on his own account, imposing his own law along his way to Orihuela.

What there is to see?

This stretch is characterised by sharp contrasts: there are route stretches along residential areas, where the route runs largely on paved agricultural roads and green ways; but it runs also along lonely paths, in mountainous regions. You will come across large areas of fruit lands, purely Mediterranean mountain ranges, dry landscapes, palm groves and fertile valleys. Valencia has two environmental and social icons: Albufera and the orchards. There are eight harmonious heritage-rich towns, to the point that they have been declared Historic and/or Artistic Sites: Valencia, Alzira, Xàtiva, Ontinyent, Bocairent, Villena, Elche and Orihuela. You will see the spectacular castles of Xàtiva, Banyeres de Mariola, Biar, Villena, Sax, Petrer, and Cox. There are four Muslim towns that have been declared World Heritage Sites: Lonja de Valencia, Tribunal de las Aguas, El Misteri de Elx, and Palermal de Elche. Depending on the time of the year, you may have the chance to enjoy the traditional Moors and Christians Festivals: Bocairent, Ontinyent, Banyeres de Mariola and Villena have been declared places of national or international tourist interest.

Weather

The coast of Valencia offers one of the most benign climates of the Iberian Peninsula: the Mediterranean climate. Summers are dry and hot, winters are mild and autumns are rainy. It is at the beginning of autumn when the so-called Gota Fría (literally, "cold drop") occurs, causing heavy rainfall in the form of torrential storms. Average rainfall in Valencia is over 450mm, all of which falls in a period of 44 days. This means that the average number of days of sun is very high. Note, however, that in the stretches along

which The Way gets into the interior and climbs towards the heights, you will encounter areas where the climate is similar to the continental climate in the plateau; that is, tough winters and dry summers. Freezing may occur even during springtime and snow falls in the winter, though not heavily.

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 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)

Signposting

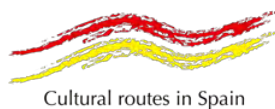
The stretch of route that runs along the province of Valencia is signposted as a GR 160 route (red and white markers), though it is currently in a pre-standardization phase. In the province of Alicante, a series of plates with painted markers (two red lines) have been provisionally fitted up throughout the route while the final GR signposting is being installed: note that these markers are not meant to replace official signposting, which is why we recommend that you travel with the topoguide. At any rate, a large part of the route along the province of Alicante runs along previously-existing routes (Camino de Santiago [Way of St. James] running along Levante, Vía Augusta, the poet's path, small-distance local hiking routes, etc.). That is the reason why if you carry your topoguide with you, you will have no orientation problems. In comparison to other routes along The Way of El Cid route, an important part of the Southern Defence Line route runs along paved driveways and amidst orchards.

Have a safe trip!

Monument in the main square of the city of Valencia to honour El Cid



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



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

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



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 september 2019) where you can obtain and stamp the Passport.



VALENCIA

ALFARRASÍ

AYUNTAMIENTO C/ Lepanto, 2 962297125

ALGEMESÍ

OFICINA DE TURISMO Museo de la Festa C/ Nou del Convent, 71 962018630

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. Mayor, 3 962019000

ALZIRA

OFICINA DE TURISMO Plaza del Reino s/n 962419551

BOCAIRENT

OFICINA DE TURISMO Pl. de Ayuntamiento, 2 962905085

CASA RURAL MIRADOR C/ Mirador, 19 678575488

H L'ÀGORA C/ Sor Piedad de la Cruz, 3 962355039

BUFALÍ

AYUNTAMIENTO C/ La Paz, 7 962390388

BAR CASA CULTURA C/ Virgen de Loreto, 13 626782778 / 962390388

MONTAVERNER

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. Mayor, 6 962297008

CENTRO INFORMACIÓN JUVENIL C/ Nou, 18 962297008

ONTINYENT

OFICINA DE TURISMO Plaza de San Roque, 2 962916090/962916303

CR LA MORERA CV-655 Fontanars-Ontinyent km.10 692670560/ 692670560

HOSTAL MONTERREY José Gironés, 1 647155879

SILLA

OFICINA DE TURISMO C/ Castell, s/n 961219797

VALENCIA

O.T. VALENCIA PAZ C/ Paz, 48 963986422

O.T. AEROPUERTO Planta de Llegadas Manises 961530229

O.T. AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. del Ayuntamiento, 1 963524908

O.T. ESTACIÓN J. SOROLLA C/ S Vicente, 171 963803623

O.T. VALENCIA PLAYA Paseo de Neptuno, s/n 963555899

MUSEO MILITAR C/ General Gil Dolz, 6 961966215

H CONQUERIDOR C/ Cervantes, 9 963522910

H MEDIUM VALENCIA General Urrutia, 48 963347800

H PATILLA C/ Pinares, 10 961830382

CAMPING DEVESA GARDENS El Saler, km. 13 961611136

HR CASUALVALENCIA DE LA MÚSICA Padilla, 4 963511284

HOSTAL EL CID C/ Cerrajeros (Manyans), 13 963922323

ACCOM HOSTEL PALACIOS C/ Daoiz y Velarde, 6 963629689/616352548

XÀTIVA

OFICINA DE TURISMO Pº de la Alameda Jaime I, 50 962273346

CR CASA DEL CIGRONER C/ Santo Domingo, 26 634514277

ALICANTE

BANYERES DE MARIOLA

OFICINA DE TURISMO Parque de Villa Rosario s/n 965567453

MUSEO DEL PAPEL Parque Villa Rosario, 2 965567770

MUSEO ARQUEOLÓGICO Carreró de la Torre, 6 966567896

H MESÓN EL CASTILLO C/ Alcoy 8 965566746

BIAR

OFICINA DE TURISMO C/ Cura Reig 965811177

MUSEO ETNOGRÁFICO MUNICIPAL C/ Mayor, 1 965812029

HOTEL RESTAURANTE LA FAÇANA Pl. Constitución, 2 965810373

CALLOSA DE SEGURA

OFICINA DE TURISMO C/ Mayor, 31 966198451

COX

AYUNTAMIENTO Plaza Glorieta, 1 965360000

POLICÍA LOCAL C/ La Acequia, s/n. 649864000

ELCHE

OFICINA DE TURISMO Plaza del Parc, 3 966658196

H**** HOLIDAY INN ELCHE Miguel Servet, 25 966651551

H**** HUERTO DEL CURA C/ Porta de la Morera, 14 966610011

H*** JARDÍN MILENIO C/ Prolongación Curtidores, 17 966610011

ELDA

OFICINA DE TURISMO C/ Nueva, 14 966980300

PUNTO DE INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA Pl. Sagasta, s/n 966980300

MONFORTE DEL CID

OFICINA DE TURISMO Pl. de España, 1 965626417

ÍBERO MUSEO DE HISTORIA Pl. Bonifacio Amorós, 10 966186345

POLICÍA LOCAL Plaza de España, 1 900161717

NOVELDA

OFICINA DE TURISMO C/ Mayor, 6 965609228

ECOALBERGUE LA MOLA Partida los Molinos, 151 965376231/965975754

ORIHUELA

OFICINA DE TURISMO CENTRO C/ Soleres, 6 965304645

OFICINA DE TURISMO PLAYA Pl. del Oriol, s/n Urb. Playa Flamenca 966760000 ext. 32

MUSEO DE LA MURALLA Campus de las Salesas, C/ del Río, s/n 965304698

SR REY TEODOMIRO Avda. Teodomiro, 10-1º 965300349/ 966743348

REDOVÁN

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. del Ayuntamiento, 1 966754025

BIBLIOTECA MUNICIPAL C/ San Jerónimo, 1 966754263

SAX

OFICINA DE TURISMO CEAHM Alberto Sols C/ Mayor, 30 966313351

CRUZ ROJA Asamblea Local, Avda. Reyes Católicos, 1 965474669

H FUENTE EL CURA C/ Regino Soler, 6 966969013

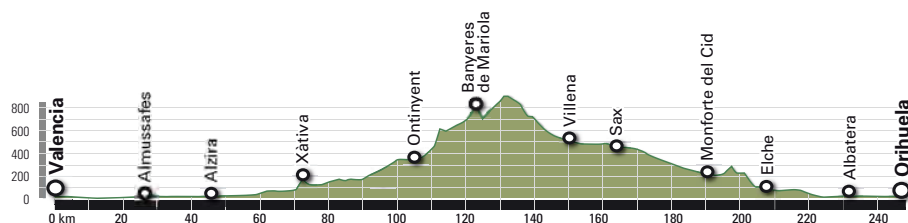
VILLENA

OFICINA DE TURISMO Pza de Santiago, 5 966150236/966150066

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. Santiago, 1 966150236

H SALVADORA Constitución, 102 965800950

P LA CASA DE LOS AROMAS C/ Arco, 1 965343566 / 666475612



Sections (248 kms)

1 Valencia – Almussafes (26,5 km)

2 Almussafes – Alzira (18,6 km)

3 Alzira – Xàtiva (25,5 km)

4 Xàtiva – Ontinyent (33,6 km)

5 Ontinyent – Banyeres de Mariola (18,2 km)

6 Banyeres de Mariola – Villena (27,4 km)

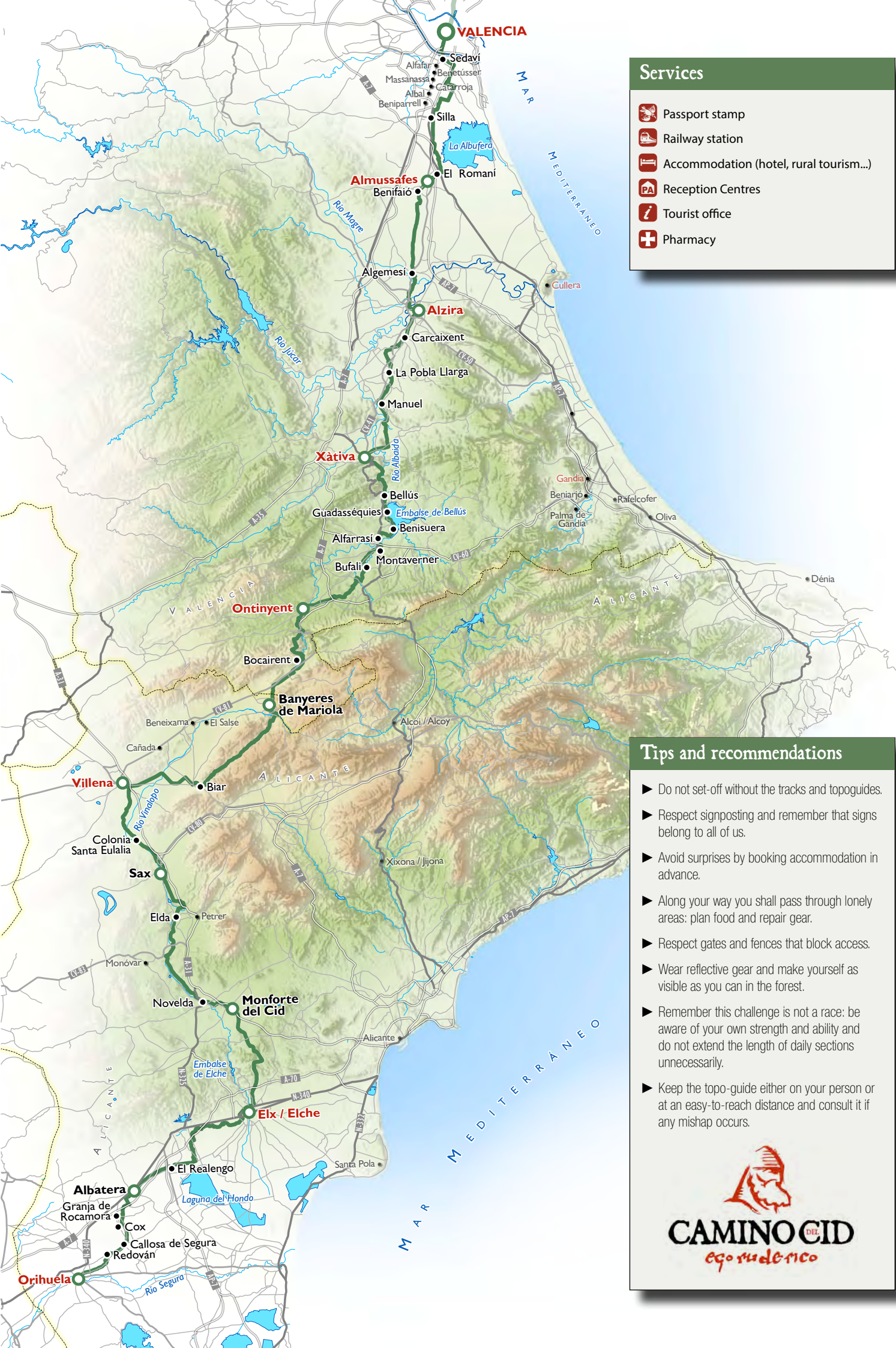
7 Villena – Sax (13,5 km)

8 Sax – Monforte del Cid (26,2 km)







9 Monforte del Cid – Elx/Elche (17 km)

10 Elx/Elche – Albaterra (24,7 km)

11 Albaterra – Orihuela (16,6 km)



Services

-  Passport stamp
-  Railway station
-  Accommodation (hotel, rural tourism...)
-  Reception Centres
-  Tourist office
-  Pharmacy

Tips and recommendations

- ▶ Do not set-off without the tracks and topoguides.
- ▶ Respect signposting and remember that signs belong to all of us.
- ▶ Avoid surprises by booking accommodation in advance.
- ▶ Along your way you shall pass through lonely areas: plan food and repair gear.
- ▶ Respect gates and fences that block access.
- ▶ Wear reflective gear and make yourself as visible as you can in the forest.
- ▶ Remember this challenge is not a race: be aware of your own strength and ability and do not extend the length of daily sections unnecessarily.
- ▶ Keep the topo-guide either on your person or at an easy-to-reach distance and consult it if any mishap occurs.



CAMINO DE EL CID
ego rudo ríco



Distance: 26,5 km
Maximum grade: 25 m

Cumulative ascent: 10 m
Cumulative descent: 20 m

Estimated time: 5h 00m
Physical difficulty: Medium



VALENCIA (population: 754.891) VIA AUGUSTA GR-160

Leave from *Plaza España*, which is situated next to **El Cid's monument**, walking along *Avenida de San Vicente Mártir*. Head southwards, away from the city centre. Continue walking straight along the same avenue and shortly after having crossed through *Bulevar del Sur*, turn into a street to the left, which crosses under the train lines. Follow straight along *Avenida Real de Madrid* (CV4001). After crossing through a bridge over road V-30 and over the *river Turia*, you reach a *neighbourhood called Torre*. At this point, join the old **Vía Augusta**. Turn to the left and walk along *Calle de Hellín* until the end. Then continue along *Calle del Pico Calderón* and *Calle García Lorca*. At *Calle García Lorca*, cross through a level crossing under the railroad and then turn right into *Avenida de Europa*. Follow until reaching **Sedaví**, which you access along *Avenida del País Valenciano* (CV407).

SEDAVÍ (population: 10.197) VIA AUGUSTA GR-160

Cross through **Sedaví** walking along *Avda. del País Valenciano* (CV407), where you can join a cycling path. This avenue comes out to a bridge over Highway V-31. Walk past a department store and you will then reach a roundabout. At this point, take the *path to Castellar*, which runs parallel to the highway. Cross the *road to Saler* (CV401) (km 6.8). Shortly after, you reach a crossroads (km 7). Follow straight. At the farming *cooperative of Massanassa* (km 7.9), take the paved path so as to join again **Vía Augusta**. At a crossroads, turn right (km 8.7). Shortly after, turn left into a path that runs away from the road. The path leads to *Torrent gully* (km 9.3). Cross through a ford and continue to your left, along an elevated path which runs parallel to the riverbed. After 1.2 km, you should turn off the raised track, taking a narrow footpath that runs through fields (km 10.5), which will bring you to a tarmacked stretch next to a series of buildings. Leaving Puerto de Catarroja behind you, carry straight on until you come to a crossroads where you should turn right (km 12.5). After passing by a group of farming buildings, turn left to a soil path (km 13.5). Cross *Picassent gully* and start walking again on a paved stretch. Pay attention to turns and follow the markers for **Vía Augusta**, along which you will reach the area surrounding **Silla** (km 15). At this point the GR-239 route joins the hiking path of The Way of El Cid (Camino de Santiago del Levante).

SILLA (population: 18.430) VIA AUGUSTA GR-160 y GR-239

Walk away from **Silla** along *Camí Vell de Russafa*, which runs southwards on a long straight line. When coming out to road CV-4008 (km 19.4), turn left and continue walking close to the road until reaching the railroad lines (km 20.4). Run alongside the railroad lines for a small stretch. Some metres after a curve to the left (km 20.9), turn again to the right. Pay attention to signposting, walking close to the train lines. Finally, you will reach a bridge over the railroad (km 23.9) that leads into **El Romani** (km 15). Cross through the town walking along *Calle del Molino* and then follow straight until reaching a level crossing over highway AP-7. You will soon reach the area surrounding **Almussafes**. Access the town, walking along *Calle del Romani* and continue until reaching *Calle de Valencia*.

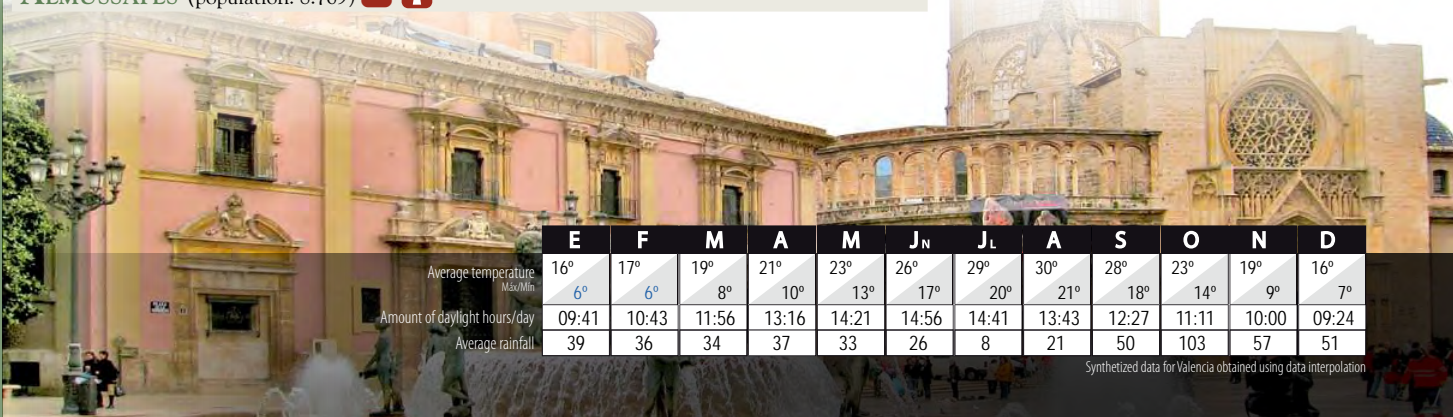
ALMUSSAFES (population: 8.769)

- Urban setting and industrialized areas
- Historical centre, Lonja, cathedral, towers and bridge of Serranos, palaces of Almirantes de Aragón and of Escrivá, Atarazanas, towers and Muslim wall, Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, beaches...
- Urban stretch of route
- When walking along La Torre neighbourhood you will see markers for Camino de Santiago [The Way of St. James] and for the GR-239 route, whose paths follow a different route when reaching the end of Calle Pico Calderón

- Fields of citric trees and of rice
- Paved path and stretches of route that run on soil paths with a good sub-base
- Walking through the gully of Torrent (km 9.3) may be difficult at certain times of the year. In such case we recommend that you use the alternative route along the industrial area until reaching the port of Catarroja (see map)

- Fields of citric trees, fields of rice and factories
- Marshlands of La Albufera, church of N.S. de los Angeles, Muslim tower, Palau house...
- Paved paths with a good sub-base
- Proceed with extreme care: stretches of route with vehicle traffic

Fountain of Neptuno and the cathedral of Valencia at the background



	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	16°	17°	19°	21°	23°	26°	29°	30°	28°	23°	19°	16°
Max/Min	6°	6°	8°	10°	13°	17°	20°	21°	18°	14°	9°	7°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:41	10:43	11:56	13:16	14:21	14:56	14:41	13:43	12:27	11:11	10:00	09:24
Average rainfall	39	36	34	37	33	26	8	21	50	103	57	51



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

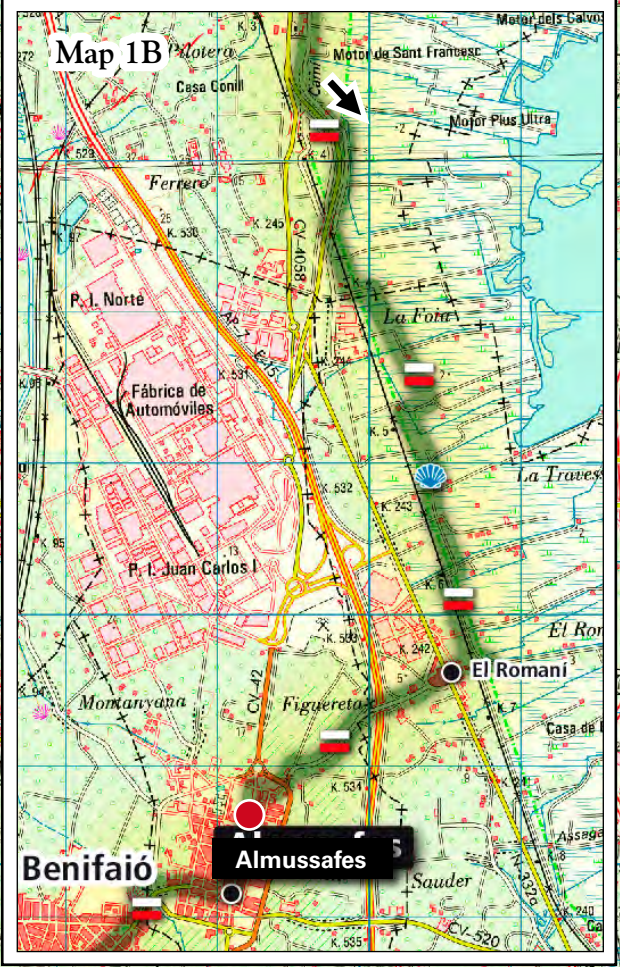
Type of surface

- Pavement, trail or cycle lane
- Rural path
- Footpath



Albufera National Park, Valencia

La Albufera de Valencia is a large freshwater coastal lagoon of great ecological value that has an average depth of 1 metre. A slim strip of coastline protects it from the sea, on which sand dunes have formed a pine grove. The cycling route runs along *marjal* paths, which are old plots of land that used to belong to the lagoon. Nowadays they are, however, devoted to growing rice. Note that it is a very changeable landscape. Depending on the season of the year, the area may be completely flooded, except for high footbridges. The whole area serves as a unique refuge for many species. Sighting of herons, little egrets, red crested pochards, northern shovelers or mallards is common.

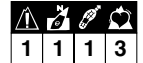




Distance: 18,6 km
Maximum grade: 30 m

Cumulative ascent: 30 m
Cumulative descent: 0 m

Estimated time: 3h 50m
Physical difficulty: Medium



ALMUSSAFES (population: 8.769) VIA AUGUSTA GR-160 y GR-239

The only distance between the towns of **Almussafes** and **Benifaió** is *Gulley Tramusser*. Cross through the town of **Almussafes** walking along *Calle Mayor*. Follow until reaching *San Bartolomé church*, which is situated next to *tower of Castillo*. Continue walking along *Calle del Castillo* and *Calle de Salvador Botella*, which leads out of the town. You will reach a roundabout that signals the entrance to **Benifaió** (km 0.5), which you should access walking along *Calle de Almussafes*.



Urban landscape



Muslim tower of Racef and La Albufera



Urban asphalt



1,6 km



11,5 km

BENIFAIÓ (population: 11.527) VIA AUGUSTA GR-160 y GR-239

Leave from the Town Hall of **Benifaió**, which is situated at *Plaza Mayor*. Walk along *Calle de la Ermita* and *Calle San Marcial* and follow until reaching *Plaza de Blasco Ibáñez*. Walk away from **Benifaió** along *Calle del Pintor Segrelles* and then continue along *Camí de la Mocarra*. The path leads close to the royal irrigation canal of the *river Júcar* (km 2.7), though ramblers should continue along the paved path, following the markers for **Camino de Santiago** [The Way of St. James] (yellow arrows). Ignore several right and left hand turns. When coming close to the railroad lines, take *Camí de l'Hort de l'Alemaný*. Walk straight along this path, which heads southwards. Cross through several roads (km 5.4 and 5.9), continuing on the same direction along the *Camino Viejo de Benifaió*. Walk always to the right of the railroad lines. At this point, there is a crossroads (km 9.7). Cross and shortly after, you reach a crossing under road CV42 (km 10.4). The path continues heading southwards, until reaching a road (km 11.3) and, some metres further, it comes out to the railroad line (km 11.5). You are in close proximity to **Algemesi**.



Agricultural meadow where citric trees, grapefruit trees and watermelons grow



Towers of Plaza and Mussa and undergrounds



Rural paved paths



5,4 km

ALGEMESÍ (population: 25.330) VIA AUGUSTA GR-160 y GR-239

Start at *Plaza Mayor*, which is situated next to *San Jaime Apóstol church* (km 13). Continue walking along *Calle de la Berca* and follow until reaching *Calle Parque de Salvador Castell*. Walk until the end of the street, which leads to an area close to the *river Magro*. Cross the river through a footbridge (km 13.5) and continue along *Camí de la Minyoneta*, walking past a *school called Virgen de la Salud*. Go straight at a crossroads (km 14.3). Continue until reaching a recently built industrial area (km 14.8). Cross through the industrial area and continue until reaching a roundabout (km 15.4) on road (CV42). Cross. Pay attention and remember to turn left into a path which passes by a second-rate shop and then crosses through the bridge over the *river Verde*. Before reaching a large roundabout (km 16.4), turn right. Walk into a path that gets close to the railroad lines and then crosses under the road. Walk past a paper bank and some metres further you will come out to a roundabout, situated next to a beautiful modernist building (known as "*la Cotonera*"). At this point, turn left into to a cycling path that runs alongside the margins of the *river Júcar* and then cross through a steel bridge to access the town.



Agricultural meadow and industrial area



Church of San Jaime Apóstol and sanctuary of Virgen del Castillo



Rural paths with a good sub-base and cycling path

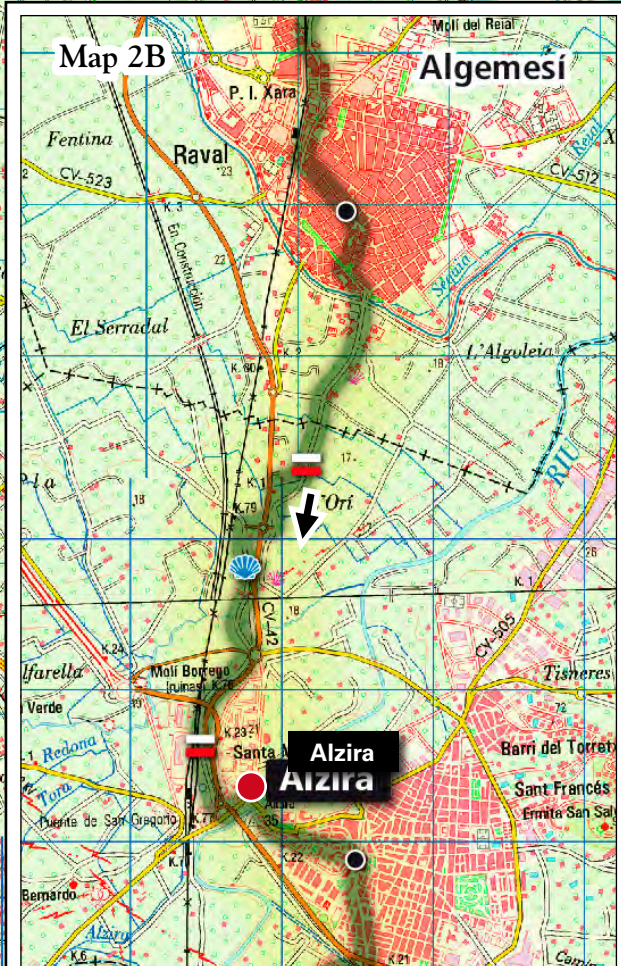
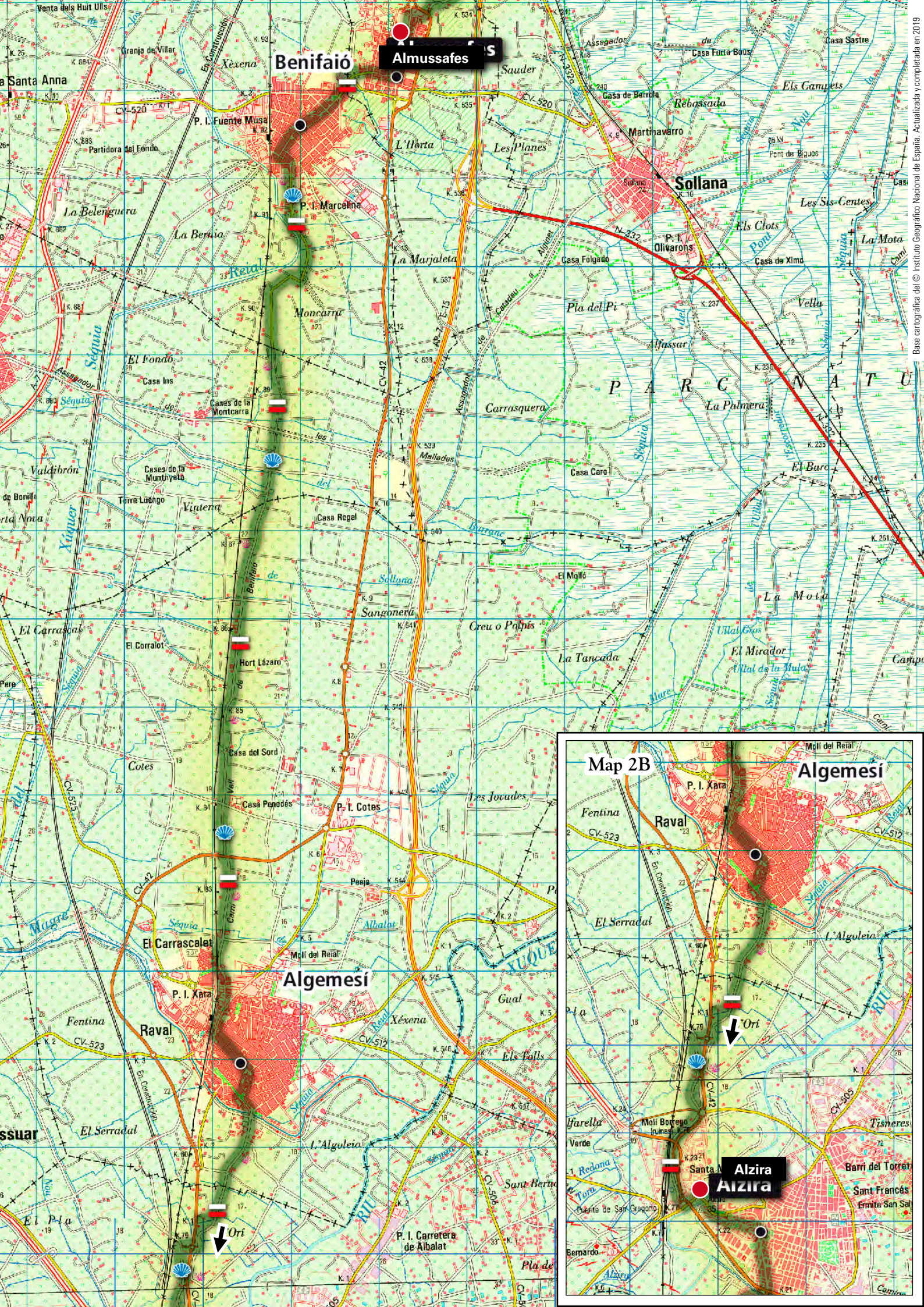


ALZIRA (population: 41.292) VIA AUGUSTA GR-160 y GR-239

Landscape made of never-ending fields of citric trees in the area surrounding Algemesi

	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature Max/Min	15° 5°	16° 6°	19° 7°	20° 9°	23° 13°	27° 17°	30° 19°	30° 20°	28° 18°	23° 13°	19° 9°	16° 6°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:41	10:43	11:56	13:15	14:20	14:56	14:40	13:42	12:27	11:12	10:01	09:25
Average rainfall	49	42	32	37	38	20	12	22	64	80	65	66

Synthesized data for Almussafes obtained using data interpolation





Distance: 25,5 km
Maximum grade: 85 m

Cumulative ascent: 110 m
Cumulative descent: 30 m

Estimated time: 5h
Physical difficulty: Medium



3,6 km



6,8 km



4,8 km



9,5 km



ALZIRA (population: 41.292) VÍA AUGUSTA GR-160 y GR-239

Leave from *Plaza del Reino*, which is situated next to the tourist office. Walk along *Calle de Colón* until reaching a tunnel that crosses under road CV-50 (km 0.5). Cross through it and follow straight. Immediately after crossing through the *gully of Casella*, turn into the first street to the right (*Calle Ben Jafacha*), which leads into an industrial area. Turn left and shortly after take *Camí de la Materna* (km 1.1). Follow straight along this path, which runs amidst fruit trees, passing by several large farming buildings (km 2.2). At the end, you reach a roundabout (km 2.8), which leads to **Carcaixent** along *Calle de Santa Bàrbara*.

CARCAIXENT (population: 19.317) VÍA AUGUSTA GR-160 y GR-239

Leave from *Plaza Mayor*, walking away from the town along *Calle de Prim*. Pay attention: immediately after crossing through the tunnel under the railroad (km 4), turn into a well-defined path to the left that runs in between the river and the train lines (do not cross through the bridge). The path leads into an industrial area and ends at a roundabout (km 5). Continue straight, heading towards **Cogullada**. When reaching the town, take the first street to your right (*Ravalet*) and then follow until reaching a footbridge (km 5.8) over road CV-41. Cross and turn right so as to walk along road CV-543 (*camí de San Roque*), heading towards the southwest (to your right). Before reaching San Roque chapel, walk off this road. Turn into a paved path to your left (km 6.5). Pay special care to signposts as you will come across a number of left and right hand turns. The path runs again into road CV-41 (km 8.9) and then turns right into a path that runs parallel to the road. Some metres further, you reach a level crossing under the road that leads into an industrial area. Follow straight through the industrial area, heading towards the southeast. Continue until reaching *Calle del Vall* (km 9.9), which leads into the city centre.

LA POBLA LLARGA (population: 4.426) VÍA AUGUSTA GR-160 y GR-239

Walk along *Calle Lorenzo Santa María* and then take *camí de Mont Florit* (km 10.9). The path crosses under the railroad lines and then turns to the right. Ignore a left-hand turn (towards *bridge l'Ase*), after which you will reach a roundabout that connects with road CV-561 (km 12.3). At this point, follow straight. Cross again under the railroad (km 13.1) and later, a little bit further on, under the road (km 14.6). The route reaches the outskirts of **Manuel**, which you access through *Calle Abad* (km 15.1).

MANUEL (population: 2.496) VÍA AUGUSTA GR-160 y GR-239

Resume the route walking along *Calle Joan Moreno*. When reaching a small park with a fountain (km 15.8), turn left and cross through the old railroad lines. Walk away from the town along *Calle Bona Vista* and road CV-575. Immediately after, walk off this road by turning to a path to the right (km 16.3). The path runs into road CV-578 (km 17.8). Turn right and walk along the road. At this point, turn left and walk into a path (km 18.5) that runs alongside several fields of citric fruits. Then turn left so as to walk again on a paved path (km 18.8). Pay attention to signposts and ignore all left and right hand turns. When reaching the crossroads that is next to the bridge over the railroad (km 20.1), continue towards the southeast, walking to the right of *mountain Puig*. At this point, you come out to road CV-600 (km 21.8). Continue along a path that is set out in front of you. Some metres further, you will reach another crossroads. This time turn right and, shortly after, turn left, so as to join again road CV-600. After crossing *river Albaida* (km 23.4), walk into **Xàtiva** along the *road to Simat*, passing by an industrial area. You will finally reach *Plaza de España* (km 24.9).

XÀTIVA (population: 27.768)

- Industrial area and fruit fields
- Historic-Artistic complex, monastery of La Murta, city wall, the walls of Casa Real, Town Hall, Santa Catalina church
- Asphalt
- Caution: stretches of route with vehicle traffic
- Agricultural meadow with fruit trees
- Palace of the marchioness, tower, La Asunción church, Aguas Vivas monastery, chapel of San Roque de Ternils, church of San Bartolomé (Cogullada).
- Rural paths with a good sub-base and asphalt
- Some of the stretches of the route do not coincide with Vía Augusta

- Agricultural meadow with fruit trees
- Roman bridge of l'Ase (Barxeta) gully
- Asphalt
- Caution: stretches of route with vehicle traffic

- Agricultural meadow with fruit trees
- Santa Ana church built in Tuscan style
- Road and rural paths
- The route runs along a path whose outlines are not well-defined and amidst fields of trees at several points along the stretch. Pay attention to signposting

Pont del Ulls over the river Verde; the Roman path Vía Augusta used to cross through this bridge

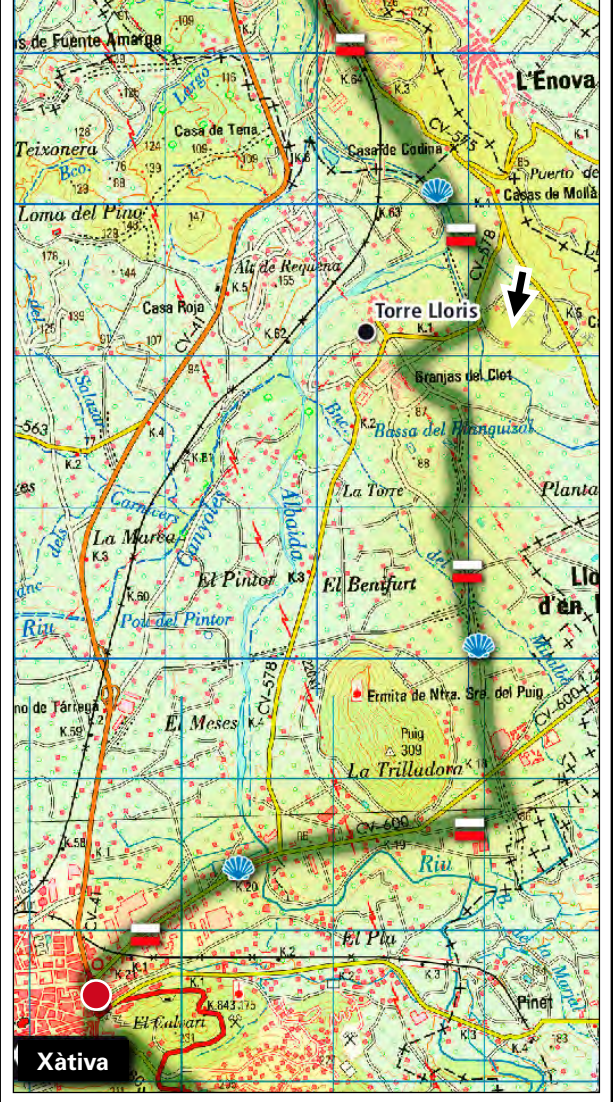
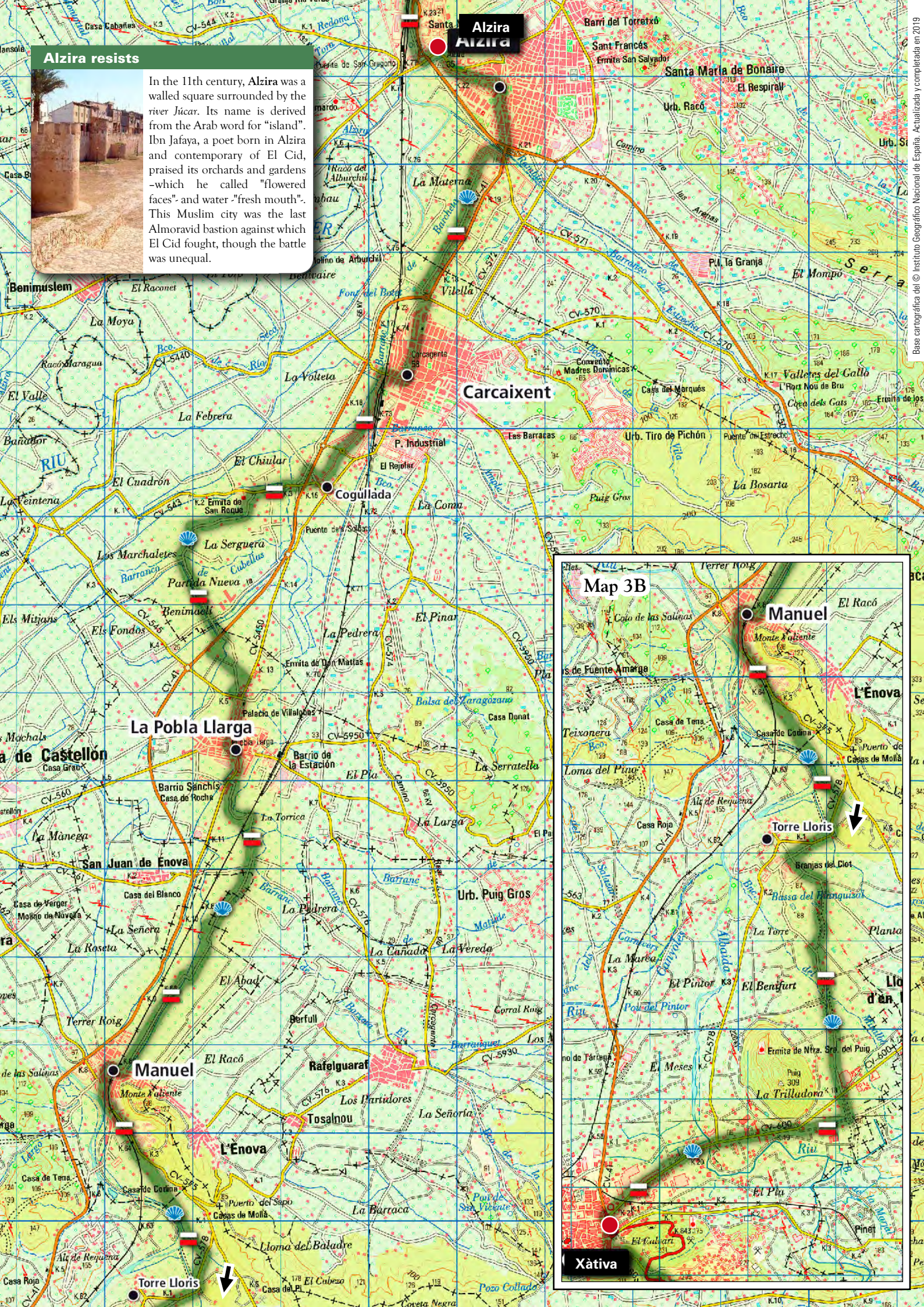
	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	16°	17°	19°	21°	24°	28°	31°	31°	29°	24°	19°	16°
Max/Min	7°	7°	8°	10°	12°	16°	19°	20°	17°	13°	9°	6°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:43	10:43	11:56	13:15	14:20	14:54	14:39	13:42	12:27	11:12	10:02	09:26
Average rainfall	72	54	47	47	45	24	9	19	72	112	95	86

Synthesized data for Alzira obtained using data interpolation

Alzira resists



In the 11th century, Alzira was a walled square surrounded by the river Júcar. Its name is derived from the Arab word for "island". Ibn Jafaya, a poet born in Alzira and contemporary of El Cid, praised its orchards and gardens—which he called "flowered faces"—and water "fresh mouth". This Muslim city was the last Almoravid bastion against which El Cid fought, though the battle was unequal.





Xàtiva – Ontinyent



Distance: 33,6 km

Maximum grade: 260 m

Cumulative ascent: 550 m

Cumulative descent: 320 m

Estimated time: 6h 50m

Physical difficulty: High

MIDE

**XÀTIVA** (population: 27.768)

ROUTE 4 (GREEN MARKERS) | GR-160

Leave from *Plaza de la Fuente*, which has 25 faucets, and take *Calle San Pascual*. The street, which becomes a small road closed to traffic (*climb to Bixquert*), climbs until coming out to road N-340 (km 0.9). Cross the road and then continue straight along a path. Follow until reaching a crossroads. At this point, go straight, climbing along a path, which comes again out to the road. After 100m, walk off the road and turn left into the *path to Alboi* (km 1.2). The path descends along a residential area, until reaching an *aqueduct* situated next to a fountain (km 2.8). Continue along a path that coincides with path PR-CV 78 and Route 4 (route to *Cova Negra*). The path reaches a wooden footbridge (km 4), where it turns into a comfortable path. This path runs alongside the *gorge of the river Albaida* and close to an old water channel. Walk close to *Cova Negra* (a shelter from Neanderthal times) and the recreational area of *Casa del Llum*. After walking past the *cave of Petxina* (climbing path and cave paintings), you reach a parking place (km 5.9). Continue along a path made of cement and soil, which passes by an abandoned farm (km 6.5) and crosses through a gully. It finally comes out to a road (km 7), at the entrance to **Bellús**.

Residential areas interspersed with forestry areas and river canyon

Historic-Artistic complex: aqueduct, churches and convents of S. Feliu, Sto. Domingo, Sta. Clara, S. Francisco and San Pedro. Castle chapel, etc. Sta. Ana and the old Hospital, city wall and castles

Paved driveways and set up trail



7,3 km

BELLÚS (population: 309)

ROUTE 2 (GREEN MARKERS) | GR-160

Start at the southern part of the town, walking along *Camino de Fanegas*. After crossing through a tunnel under the road (km 8.3), turn left. Keep heading southwards until reaching a road (km 9.1), in the area surrounding the reservoir. Walk some metres further along the road, heading towards the reservoir and take a path to the right, which will lead you to Guadasséquies without passing by the industrial area.

Vineyards and area surrounding the reservoir

Palace of Bellús

Rural paths



2,8 km

GUADASSÉQUIES (population: 431)

ROUTE 2 (GREEN MARKERS) | GR-160

Walk towards the pelota court, which is situated next to the roundabout that connects with road CV-613. Take a path so as to avoid walking on the road and continue until reaching **Sempere** (km 10.9). From that point onwards, continue along the road until **Benisuera** (km 11.5), where you should walk down *Calle Alta* and stop at the *Plaza Mayor*.

Esperanza church

Asphalt and rural path



1,5 km

BENISUERA (population: 178)

ROUTE 2 (GREEN MARKERS) | GR-160

Leave from the low part of the town, which is in an area situated next to a small park. The path turns to the right (it is not signposted with the green markers for Route 2 of *Vall de Albaida*) and then runs along an agricultural path whose surface is in good condition. It runs along the edge of the headwaters of the reservoir of Bellús and the river Albaida. From there, the path leads easily to **Alfarrasí** (km 14.6).

Palace-fortress of Bellús

Rural paths



2,6 km

ALFARRASÍ (population: 1.240)

GR-160

Leave the town walking along road N-340 and head towards **Montaverner**. After crossing through a bridge over road CV-60, you reach a roundabout. Go straight, walking along the old national road. Then cross through a beautiful iron bridge (km 16.4). After a curve, you will soon reach **Montaverner**.

Road



2 km

MONTAVERNER (population: 1.631)

ROUTE 2 (GREEN MARKERS) | GR-160

Leave the town walking along *Calle de Ontinyent* and then continue along road CV-6420. Cross the *river Albaida* (km 17.9) and then walk to the left of the river. The path crosses through *gully dels Barranquets* (km 18.6), after which it reaches a crossroads (km 20.3). Turn left and walk off Route 2. After crossing over *river Albaida*, you reach the pelota court of **Bufali** (km 20.9).

Meadow with fruit trees

Asphalt



3,7 km

BUFALI (population: 156)

GR-160

Walk on a road that runs along the southern part of the town and then continue until reaching a crossroads that is placed next to a Stop sign (km 21.1). Turn right. The paved path crosses through a bridge and then turns right (km 21). Continue straight. After passing by a large fenced field, turn right (km 22.7). After passing by a sewage treatment plant, you will come out to road CV-641 (km 23.3). Turn right and walk into the road. Shortly after, turn left into a paved driveway (km 24.1) and continue straight until reaching a crossroads. Follow straight, walking along a soil path (km 24.4). Continue on the main path until reaching a crossroads (km 25.5), at which you should turn left. The path turns soon into a paved path (*camí del Racó de la Bolta*). Ignore the crossing under the highway, so as to cross through a tunnel to its right (km 29.2) and then continue until reaching an industrial area. Cross through this large industrial area so as to reach **Ontinyent** (km 32).

Meadow with fruit trees

Rural paths and road



12,3 km

ONTINYENT (population: 30.194)

Castle of Xàtiva

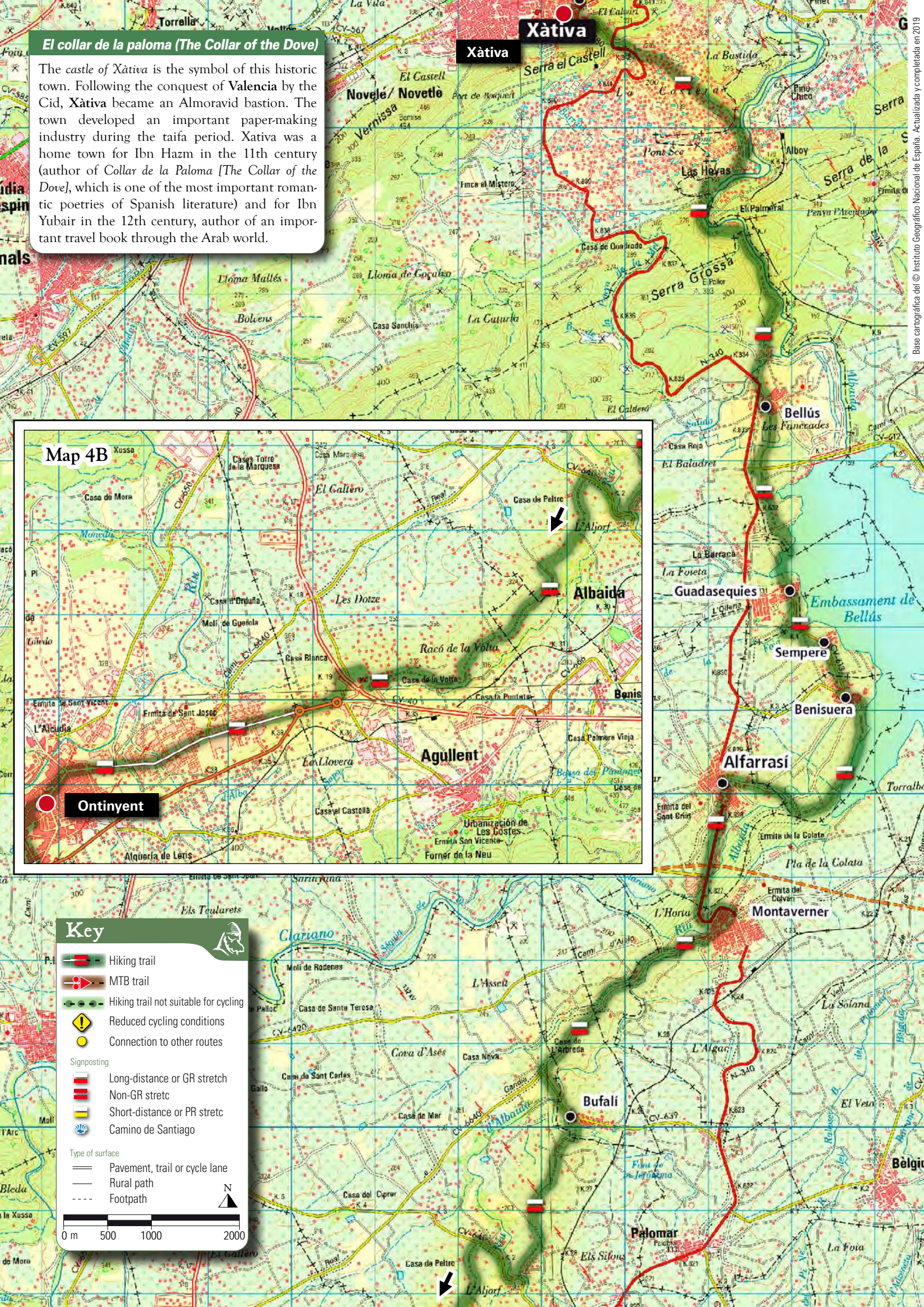
Photography: Emilio Cappa Segis

	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature Max/Min	15° 5°	17° 6°	19° 7°	21° 9°	25° 12°	29° 16°	32° 19°	32° 20°	24° 17°	24° 13°	19° 9°	16° 6°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:43	10:44	11:56	13:14	14:19	14:53	14:38	13:41	12:27	11:12	10:03	09:27
Average rainfall	59	48	57	54	46	29	7	18	53	105	71	71

Synthesized data for Xàtiva obtained using data interpolation

El collar de la paloma (The Collar of the Dove)

The castle of Xàtiva is the symbol of this historic town. Following the conquest of Valencia by the Cid, Xàtiva became an Almoravid bastion. The town developed an important paper-making industry during the taifa period. Xativa was a home town for Ibn Hazm in the 11th century (author of *Collar de la Paloma [The Collar of the Dove]*, which is one of the most important romantic poetries of Spanish literature) and for Ibn Yubair in the 12th century, author of an important travel book through the Arab world.



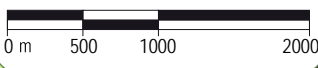
Xàtiva

Map 4B

Ontinyent

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





Distance: 18,2 km

Maximum grade: 365 m

Cumulative ascent: 545 m

Cumulative descent: 205 m

Estimated time: 3h 45m

Physical difficulty: Medium

MIDE



ONTINYENT (population: 30.194 hab.) ROUTE 6 | GR-160

Start this stage of The Way of El Cid at *Plaza Mayor* and walk along *Calle Comte de Torrefiel* and *Calle Sta. Teresa*. Follow until reaching the roundabout that is next to the sports centre (km 1.4). At this point, turn right and continue until reaching a larger roundabout (km 1.8) (Ronda Oeste / CV-660). Continue straight along *Camino del Llombo*, following the markers for Route MBT CR 02-01 and walking amidst a residential area. Continue straight paying attention to signposting, until reaching a signposted turning. Turn into *Senda de Alba*, which leads to *Pou Clar* (natural swimming-pools). Climb a staircase that leads to a parking space (km 3.8), which is situated next to a crossroads. Continue carefully along CV-81 walking towards *Villena* until reaching a turn to the right (km 4.3) that runs along *Tarongers gully*. This point marks the starting point of routes PR-V 122 and Route 6 of Vall de Albaida, whose signposting you should follow attentively. The path runs between the spectacular walls of the gorge, passing by a water supply building and a fountain. It finally comes out in the area surrounding *Molino de Patirás* (fence). Before reaching the windmill (km 4.9), turn to a path to your right that runs on the edge of the building and gets close to the gully, in a climbing area. A little bit further on, cross the gully and walk to the right of the remains of *Molino de Lluna*. The path continues running along the low part of the gully and it crosses over it several times. When it gets close to *windmill Pep Joan* (km 6.2), you will see a trail to your left. Ignore this turn and continue walking alongside the gully. A little bit further on, walk to the right of the remains of *Beneito house* (km 6.7) and then start climbing along a stony winding path, close to a gully on the side that leads you away from *Bocairent gully*. At the top of a hillock (km 8), cross through a forestry trail and start a short climb, following a trail with steps carved into the rock. There is a directional arrow (km 8.3) that announces the path for the PR-V 122 route to Ontinyent. Ignore this sign and continue along the descending path until reaching the chapel of San Antonio (km 8.6). At this point, turn right into a path that leads to **Bocairent** (westwards). When reaching a crossroads placed next to a group of cottages (km 9), turn left and descend along the path. Continue until reaching the impressive stone bridge of *Darrere la Vila* (km 9.4), which leads into the town.



Built area in the surroundings of Ontinyent and mountain gorge at Tarongers gully

Historic-Artistic complex; castle-palace of Duquesa de Almodóvar (16th-20th); arcades and towers of the old walls (13th-16th); remains; old bridge (16th); natural ponds of Pou Clar; cave paintings at *abrics de la Creu, de la fos y de la monja* and in *Balma de la fabriqueta*

Rural paths, road and footpaths



Road CV-81 has a very small hard shoulder, which is why you should proceed with extreme care when walking along it

10,2 km



BOCAIRENT (population: 4.018 hab.) PATH TO VERACRUZ | GR-160

Leave from the low part of the town and then walk through *San Blai bridge* (km 10.4), which leads to a road. Cross the road and continue to your right, towards the football field. Turn right and walk into *Calle Antiguo Ferrocarril*, which comes to an end at a road that leads to an industrial area. Continue on the other side, heading towards the southwest. At the entrance to the industrial area (roundabout on road CV-81), the route meets with the GR-7 route (km 12.5). Walk along this route for around 700m (km 13.2), until reaching a roundabout (the GR7 route runs along a different route, road CV-794 to Alcoi). Walk into *Calle Comarca dels Ports*. The industrial area comes to an end at another roundabout (km 14.2). At this point, continue on a paved path that is set out in front of you (*camí Vell de Banyeres*). After a long straight line, you reach San Antonio chapel (km 15.8), where the pavement turns into soil. The path heads southwards. Ignore several crossroads (km 16 and 16.1). Climb gradually alongside the hillside and the sub-base will soon get better, to the extent that it turns into asphalt. A road, leading to the recycling centre, joins the route at a crossroads (km 17). You will reach the road to Banyeres (km 17.3). At this point, follow straight along the paved driveway that is set in front of you (attention: continuing straight ahead is forbidden). This path leads directly into the higher part of **Banyeres de Mariola** (km 17.8).



Industrial area and fields

Historic-Artistic complex; *covetes dels moros* (10th-11th), bullring (1843); *Mas de Giner bridge* (11th) and *Pont de Darrere la Vila* (16th), medieval reservoirs, natural ponds, cave monastery of *Las Agustinas*; chapels of *Santo Cristo* and of *Sant Jaume* (16th); rock-art sites of the Mediterranean; Interesting *Fiesta: Moors and Christians Festival* (February)

Asphalt and path with a good sub-base

7,5 km



BANYERES DE MARIOLA (population: 6.959 hab.)

View of the country house of Ontinyent from the bridge over the river *Clariano*

	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature Max/Min	13° 4°	15° 4°	17° 6°	19° 7°	23° 11°	28° 14°	32° 17°	31° 17°	28° 15°	22° 11°	17° 7°	14° 5°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:44	10:45	11:56	13:14	14:18	14:52	14:38	13:41	12:27	11:12	10:04	09:27
Average rainfall	57	42	55	49	53	31	10	15	52	74	57	60

El Cid at Ontinyent



Ontinyent, which is famous because of its Moors and Christians festivals, preserves a nice early Middle Ages historical centre. The town is accessed through a 16th century-bridge over the river Clariano. In 1088, El Cid settled in Ontinyent, where he waited for the army of Alfonso VI, whose men aimed at laying siege to the Almoravides at Aledo, in Murcia.

Ontinyent

Ontinyent

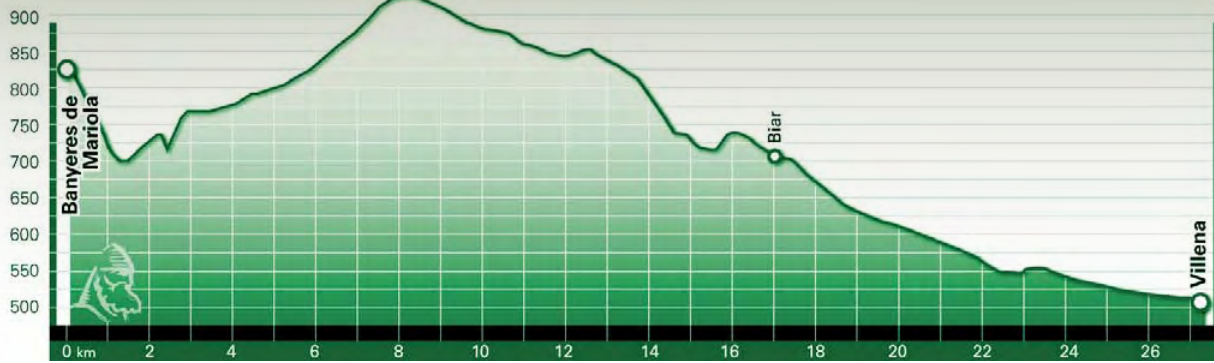
Bocairent

Pou Clar: A refreshing swim



At the exit from Ontinyent, path Alba leads to Pou Clar, an impressive spot made of a series of natural pools carved on limestone rock. Swim in its crystal clear waters and relax before undertaking the complex stretch to Bocairent, which is one of the most beautiful towns of all The Way of El Cid.

Banyeres de Mariola



Distance: 27,4 km
Maximum grade: 428 m

Cumulative ascent: 320 m
Cumulative descent: 645 m

Estimated time: 6h 45m
Physical difficulty: Medium



BANYERES DE MARIOLA (population: 6.959)

Start at *Avenida de la Constitución* and walk until reaching a roundabout, where you should turn left towards Alcoi. After 50m, walk off the road and turn right, descending towards a campsite (there is a *campsite area called Moli l'Ombria*). Take the path (km 1) that leads to the campsite's parking site, at the end of which there is a directional arrow that points to a path (PR-CV313) crosses through a small bridge over the *river Vinalopó* (km 2). After a steep climb through a pine grove, take a trail in good condition set out in your front, which comes out to a paved path (km 2.9). 1km further, the path for the PR-CV 313 route continues along a right-hand turn. You will soon reach a house in the country, where the pavement turns into a soil path in good condition. After 2.5km, there is a crossroads. Turn left into a path in worse condition. Pass to the right of a country house called *El Cosí* (km 7.1). After a short climb, the path gets better. Continue straight on the trail, walking towards the southwest. At the highest part of the route, you will notice that the pine grove is less thick. At a crossroads, continue straight towards *Cova Negra* (signpost). After 400m, you reach the forest recreational area of *Cova Negra* (km 11.8). Start a pleasant descent along a wandering trail, which you will find delightful. Ignore the turn (km 14.1), continuing straight on the descending trail. The stretch to **Biar**, which can be seen in the horizon, is covered in cement. When reaching the town, join again the PR-CV 55 route, which comes from *Lomas de Jara*. In 200m, it turns into pavement. Continue until reaching a crossroads (km 15.4). At this point, turn left and climb. In 200m, you will reach the *sanctuary of Ntra. Sra de Gracia*. Take the road that coincides with *Camino de Santiago* [Way of St. James], following the Stations of the Cross (path from Biar to the sanctuary). You will reach Biar shortly after (km 16.4).



Mountain area at the foot of Sierra de Mariola amidst crop fields



Santa María Magdalena chapel (15th); castle (13th-18th), tower of Font Bona (15th); Interesting fiesta: Moors and Christians (April)



Rural paths and forestry trails



BIAR (population: 3.435)

Cross through the town walking along *Calle Mayor* and then descend along *Calle País Valencià*. Continue until reaching *Calle Maisonnave*. Descend to a roundabout (km 17.6) and then turn right into road CV-807 (direction to La Canyada). You will soon walk into a cycling path which runs parallel to the road for almost 1km, until it disappears. At this point, cross the road and take a paved path to your left (km 18.9), which runs along *Vía Verde de la Chicharra*. This is a segment closed to traffic, which runs on long straight lines and has barely no gradient. The path runs along the shadow of pines, which makes the route more pleasant. At some stretches, you will see cuttings carved on the rock, which was the space along which the old railroad used to run. Cross through a bridge under the road (km 19.9). The path turns gradually, changing directions towards the west. From the crossroads onwards (km 21.9), the path is closed to motor vehicles due to the fact that it crosses through an old railroad bridge over the *river Vinalopó* (km 22.3). After turning to the left, ignore a turn (km 22.6) and continue towards the southwest along *Vía Verde*, which runs on a long straight line until reaching the entrance to **Villena**. At a sports centre, *Vía Verde* comes out to road CV-799 (km 25.8), next to a *neighbourhood called San Francisco*. Continue on *Avenida de Alicante*, which runs under Highway A-31 (km 26.8) and then access Villena through *Calle Nueva* (km 26.9).



Crop fields and meadow at the river Vinalopó



Old city centre, castle, aqueduct, town hall, melt ponds..



Green Route with stretches of soil and asphalt



VILLENA (POPULATION: 32.151)

Panoramic view of Banyeres de Mariola
Photography: Tourist Info Banyeres de Mariola

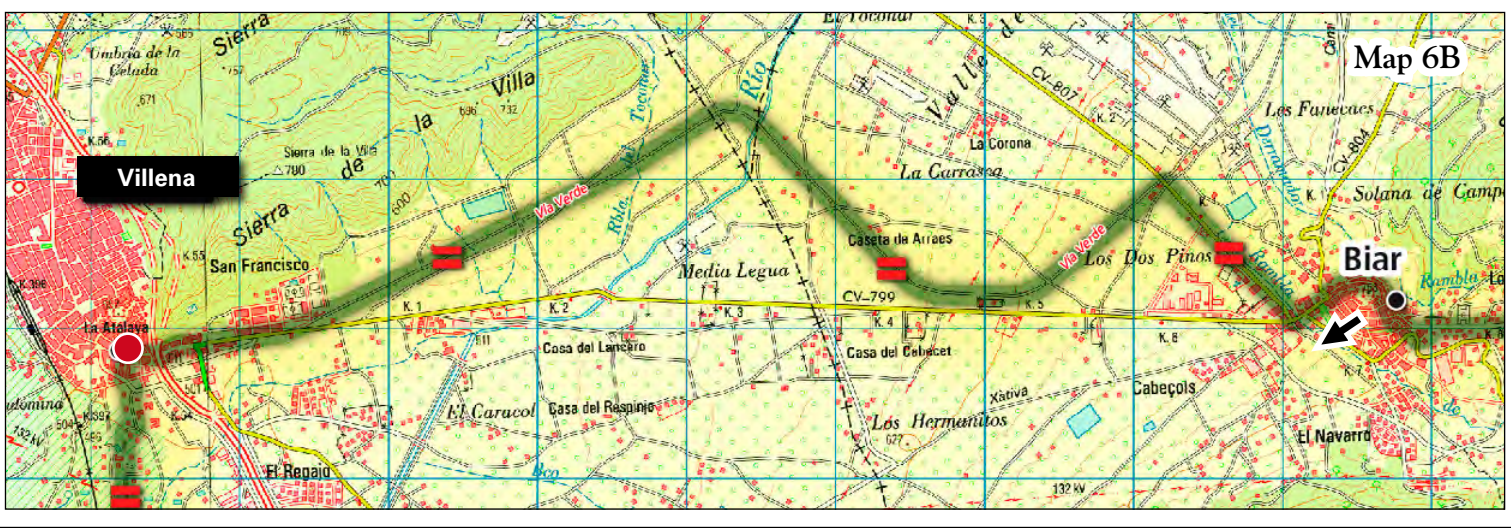


Sierra de Mariola



The route in between Banyeres and Biar runs into the foothills of Sierra de Mariola, which is a spectacular natural park. The park is outstanding because it is the home for a wide range of plants. It is, in addition, a very pleasant segment, running along a thick pine grove and easy forest trails.

Banyeres de Mariola





Distance: 13,5 km
Maximum grade: 45 m

Cumulative ascent: 5 m
Cumulative descent: 50 m

Estimated time: 2h 45m
Physical difficulty: Low



VILLENA (population: 32.151)



Walk along *Avenida de Elche* and continue until reaching *Calle Rosalía de Castro*, where there is a stone monolith that indicates the starting point of The Way of El Cid from **Villena**. This stretch coincides with **Camino de Santiago** [The Way of St. James] (in the opposite direction), which is why you will come across yellow arrows in the opposite direction. Continue walking southwards, passing by *Santa Fé high school*. The path for the PR-CV 371 route coincides with this stretch of route. The path runs on a paved surface to the sides of which there are numerous turns. Ignore them. Cross through a bridge over a small gully (km 1.5) and, some metres further, cross carefully through a level crossing without barriers (km 2.4). At a turn, where there is a signpost indicating a PR path arrow (km 3), walk off the main path and turn left to a soil path in good condition. You will now reach a channel (irrigation *canal of Rey*), which is close to a pine grove. Shortly after, at a crossroads (km 5.4), turn left and 80 metres further turn to the right. The path crosses through the dry riverbed of *river Vinalopó* (km 6.1) and, a little bit further, it crosses through a paved path (km 6.6). Pay attention. After a small bridge over the *river Vinalopó* (km 7.5), the PR-CV 371 route runs away. Join again the path for the PR-CV 197 route, and keep walking towards the southeast. Shortly after, you reach **Colonia de Santa Eulalia** (km 8.1).



Agricultural meadow and steppe-like landscape along the watercourse of the river Vinalopó



Historic-Artistic complex; Late-Gothic church of Santiago Apóstol (14th-16th); ruins of the castle of Salvatierra and castle of La Atalaya (11th-15th)



Well-preserved rural paths

8,1 km



COLONIA DE SANTA EULALIA



Continue the route walking along *Calle Santa Rita* and passing by the PR route. The route is the same than the one for **Camino de Santiago** [Way of St. James], though in the opposite direction. Note that this is a clue to avoid getting lost. The path, which is paved, runs towards the southeast, to the left of the *river Vinalopó*. In the horizon you can see the outline of the castle of Sax, which indicates the direction to follow. At a sharp curve, there is a turn to the right (km 11.7), along which the path for the PR-CV 144 route runs. You should, however, keep walking straight along the main paved path. You will reach a road in the area surrounding **Sax** (km 12.7). Turn left and ride on this road until reaching *Avenida de Don Jaime*, which leads to the city centre (km 13.3).



Agricultural meadow



Church and old theatre



Paved rural path

5,1 km



SAX (population: 8.711)



Bridge of the Vía Verde de la Chicharra over the river Vinalopó in Villena



	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	13°	14°	17°	19°	23°	27°	31°	31°	28°	22°	17°	13°
Máx/Min	0°	1°	3°	5°	8°	12°	14°	15°	12°	8°	4°	1°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:45	10:45	11:56	13:14	14:17	14:52	14:36	13:40	12:27	11:12	10:04	09:29
Average rainfall	31	21	35	40	46	36	6	16	47	55	38	35



Villena

Sax

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



Distance: 26,2 km

Maximum grade: 250 m

Cumulative ascent: 35 m

Cumulative descent: 295 m

Estimated time: 5h 25m

Physical difficulty: Medium

MIDE



SAX (population: 8.711)



Walk towards the bridge over the *river Vinalopó*, which is situated at the entrance to **Sax**. After crossing the bridge, take a paved path to your right (km 0.2) that runs close to the river margins and is signposted with yellow markers for El Camino de Santiago [The Way of St. James]. The surface turns into soil (km 0.9) and, shortly after, the path narrows, running alongside lavender-cotton and tamarisk. Vegetation growth may obstruct movement along the path (old path). Accordingly, turn left when getting close to a ford (km 1.8). Continue until reaching a path in better condition, which runs close to the train lines. Turn right (km 1.9). Follow walking parallel to the railroad lines and cross through a small residential area. The path ends when coming close to a group of houses. At this point (km 3.2), continue straight along a wider path that runs parallel to the train lines, alongside a large cutting carved on the rock. You will soon walk again into a path (km 4.4), which also runs parallel to the train lines. When coming out to a bridge (km 4.5), cross and continue straight, walking eastwards until reaching an electric substation (km 5.4). Follow until reaching a road (exit lane to highway A-31). Continue on this road, so as to cross over the highway through a bridge (using the sidewalk). Once on the other side, cross the road carefully. Then continue on another road that runs under the bridge and reaches a crossroads (km 6.2), situated in close proximity to a notice board announcing the path for the GR-7 route. At this point, take a soil path that crosses under the highway through a subterranean crossing. It then crosses the *river Vinalopó* and climbs up the road (km 6.7). At this point, turn left into the road and walk past the remains of an Iberian settlement. Follow until reaching a roundabout at the entrance to the town (km 7.2). From there, follow straight, walking along a newly built residential area, until reaching the linear park of the *river Vinalopó*.

- Agricultural meadow and steppe-like landscape alongside the watercourse of the river Vinalopó
- Castle (12th-14th), Asunción church
- Rural paths, footpath running alongside the railroad and road

9,2 km



ELDA (population: 50.995)



Continue walking alongside the linear park of the river, on its right side. Follow the markers for El Camino de Santiago [The Way of St. James] until reaching Novelda. Cross through the last bridge (*Calle del Centro Excursionista*), which is the point at which the park comes to an end. Make it to the other side of the river through a footbridge (km 10.1). Turn right into a street, which heads southwards. Houses have been recently built on its two sides. The street comes out to a paved path (km 10.4), in an area where there are cottages. Pay attention so as to walk off the pavement and turn right into a soil path (km 11) that descends towards the river and then continues to the right of the riverbank. Cross the river through a crossing (km 12.4), taking care not to get wet (pay attention when the river runs high). Afterwards, walk parallel to the other side of the river. You will get close to an industrial area. Cross through a bridge under the road (km 13.1) and, a little further on, pass by an industrial area (km 13.9). The path narrows, after which you should turn to your right and climb along an area with houses until reaching a stone factory (km 14.8). From that point, descend again towards the river. Cross through a footbridge (km 15.2). Further on, cross under the train bridge (km 15.6). Now cross under the impressive Spanish high-speed viaduct (km 16.7). The SL-CV 127 route joins our path (km 17.4). At this point, you reach an aqueduct over the *river Vinalopó*, which is in front of the *sanctuary María Magdalena* and of the *castle of Mola*. Pay attention, for you will have to walk off the main path and start walking on a path to your right (km 19.2). The path, which is wide and comfortable, runs close to the riverbed and is signposted with the markers for the PR-CV 311 route, which you should follow until reaching **Novelda**. You will reach a residential area (km 21.1). A little bit further, cross the river (km 21.2), at a point close to a stone manufacturing factory. Turn left into a path that runs across the residential area and comes out to road CV-382 (km 21.6). Continue to its left and, shortly after, you access **Novelda**.

- Outskirts of the urban area with industrial areas and a desert-like landscape alongside the bankshores of the river Vinalopó
- Castle, Santa Ana church, Aljafería, Town Hall and Iberian settlement of El Monastil
- Rural paths with a good sub-base
- The route wades across the river Vinalopó on two occasions, which may pose problems at certain times of the year, especially when the river runs high

13 km



NOVELDA (population: 23.544)



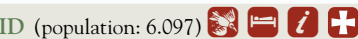
Leave from *Avda. del Vinalopó* and walk until reaching a roundabout over the river (km 23.4), which is placed next to a football field. Cross the river through the roundabout and turn right, walking parallel to the river (*Calle Antic Camí de Monforte*). You will see the markers for the Camino de Santiago [The Way of St. James] (opposite direction) all the way to **Monforte**, where the ramblers' route follows along a different path. The path reaches an industrial area. Continue walking until the end of the street, where you get close to the road (km 24.3). Turn left into a cycling path, which runs parallel to the street that crosses through the industrial area, and continue until reaching a roundabout (km 24.7). Walk off the cycling path and cross carefully through the roundabout, walking into the road to **Monforte del Cid**. Continue until reaching another roundabout, situated at the entrance to **Monforte** (km 25.6). Follow straight, walking along *Calle de Jorge Juan* until reaching the city centre.

- Outskirts of the urban area and industrial area
- Castle of Mola and Modernist sanctuary of María Magdalena, Modernist museum-house...
- Asphalt
- Proceed with extreme care when walking along the stretch of route along the road

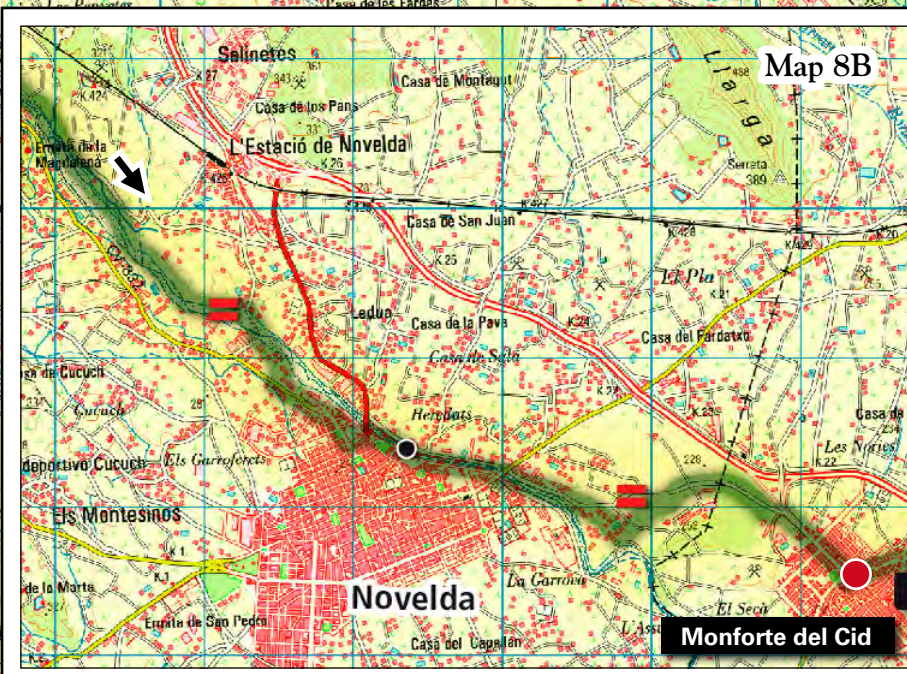
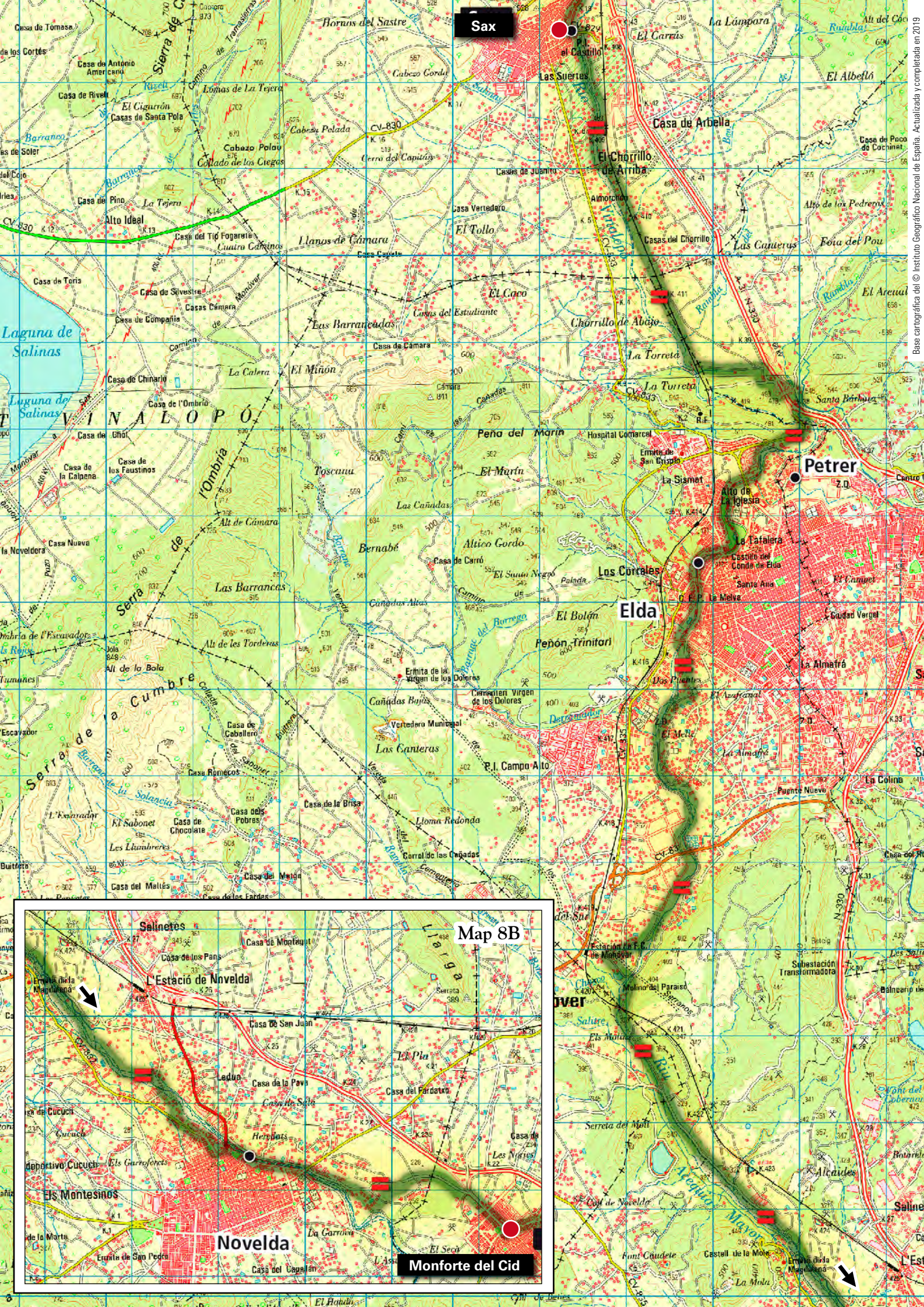
3,9 km



MONFORTE DEL CID (population: 6.097)



	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	13°	14°	17°	19°	23°	27°	31°	31°	27°	22°	17°	13°
Max/Min	3°	4°	5°	7°	10°	14°	17°	17°	15°	10°	7°	4°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:46	10:45	11:56	13:13	14:17	14:51	14:36	13:40	12:27	11:13	10:05	09:29
Average rainfall	25	21	30	36	35	32	6	13	35	47	32	31





Distance: 17 km
Maximum grade: 225 m

Cumulative ascent: 165 m
Cumulative descent: 285 m

Estimated time: 3h 40m
Physical difficulty: Low



MONFORTE DEL CID (population: 6.097)



Leave from **Monforte** walking along *Avenida de la Constitución* and continue until reaching a roundabout. At this point, turn right and walk along *Avenida de los Pinos*. You will soon reach a farming unit (km 0.6). At this point, turn right again and follow along *Calle Camino del Azagador*. Walk past a series of industrial units and then walk alongside a small gully (*the riverbed of Orito*), where the markers signalling the PR route disappear and the yellow arrows signalling the **Camino de Santiago** [Way of St. James] turn left. You should follow straight along the road, until reaching a residential area, where you will walk into a road (stop sign). Cross (km 1.8) and then continue straight along a paved path that is set out in front of you (*path to Llano*) and that runs southwards amidst vineyards. Ignore several left and right hand turns, walking straight along the main path (km 2.7 and 3.2). Cross through the Spanish high-speed railroad using a tunnel (km 3.7). At this point, the path moves directions, heading towards the southeast. Cross road CV-847 (km 5.3) and then continue along a paved path that is set out in front of you. Some metres further, you reach a crossroads. Turn right and continue along this path until reaching another crossroads (km 5.9). Then follow straight and start to climb along a relatively shallow gradient to the right of the fence of a private estate. When reaching the top of the climb, ignore two left and right hand turns (km 6.8). Continue straight and start a short descent. To your right, you can see a triangular water tank (km 7.1). Shortly after, you will get close to a golf course (km 7.4). Turn left into a road that leads towards the golf course and walk gradually away from a number of residential areas scattered throughout the region. At this point, you reach a crossroads (km 9.1). Walk off the main road and turn right into another road. The road runs along the southern face of *Sierra de Tabayal*, heading westwards. You will reach a small hillock, where the path starts a descent towards the south. Pay attention to a curve that is coming shortly. At this point, walk off the road and continue along a soil path with a good sub-base that is set out in front of you (km 10.6). This is the starting point of a signposted cycling path, along which you will walk for several kilometres. This descending path runs along the bottom of a gully, amidst hills covered with Mediterranean scrubland. At this point you reach a crossroads (km 11.9) that signals the entrance to a residential area. Continue straight, passing by two water pools and ignoring a right-hand turn that leads into another residential area (km 12.8). The path becomes paved again and shortly after you reach a tunnel (km 13.3), which crosses under highway A-7. The path runs along several residential areas, running southwards. Ignore several turns. After a Stop signal, join the path to the reservoir, which comes out to a roundabout (km 14.9), close to *Avenida del Bimilenario*. Cross through the roundabout and then continue straight, along *Avenida Camino del Pantano*. You will walk amidst a large palm grove and to the left of the university. When reaching another roundabout, turn right and walk into *Avenida del Ferrocarril*, which will lead you to the centre of Elche.



Vineyards and fruit trees. Steppe-like hills covered with scrubland, golf courses and palm groves



Old city centre, N.S. de las Nieves church, sanctuary of Orito



Roads and paved driveways and soil paths with a good sub-base



Proceed with extreme care when walking along paved stretches with passage for motor vehicle traffic

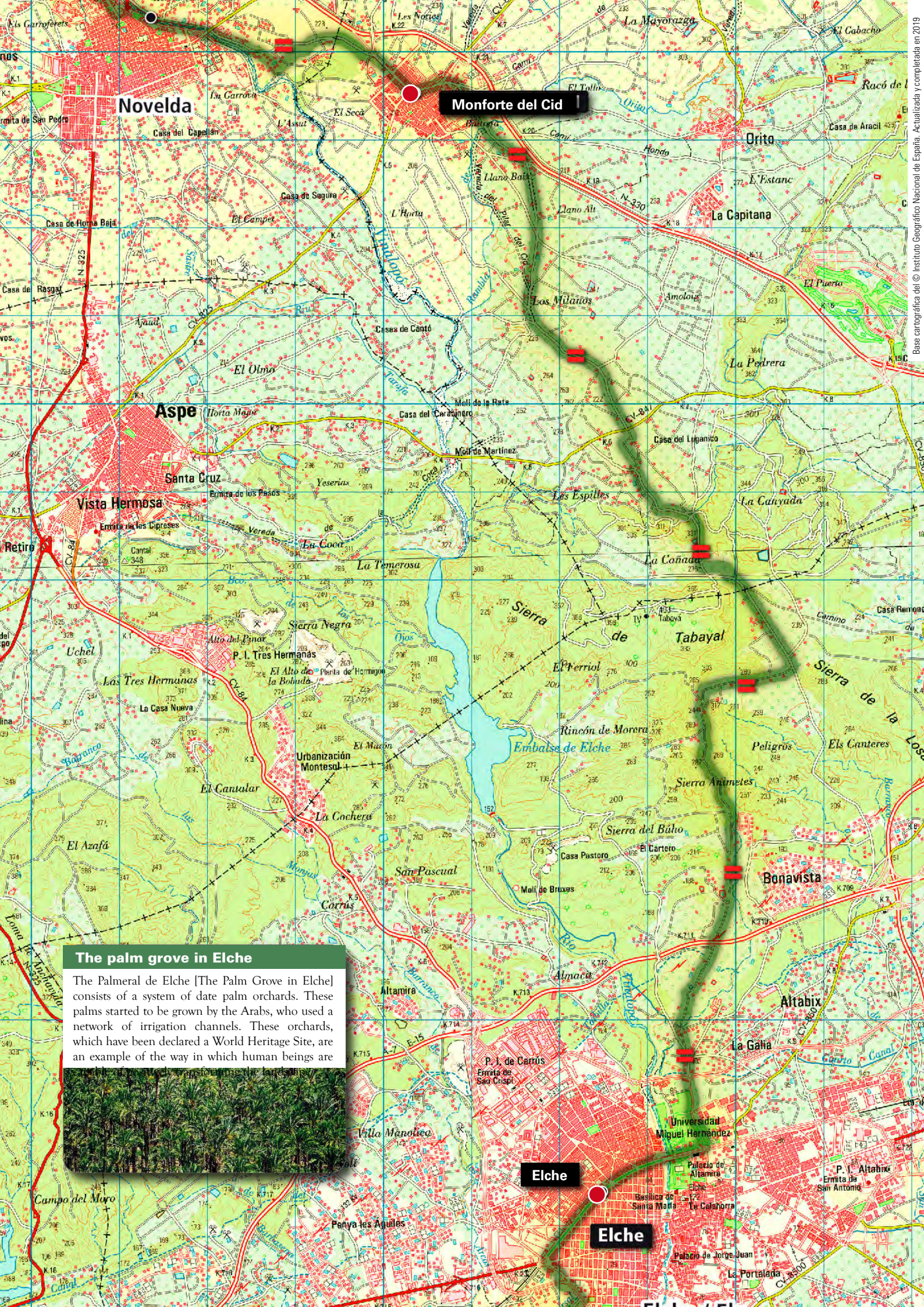


ELX / ELCHE (population: 189.370)



Panoramic view of the agricultural meadow of Monforte del Cid

	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature Max/Min	15° 5°	16° 6°	19° 7°	21° 9°	24° 12°	24° 16°	32° 19°	32° 19°	28° 17°	23° 13°	19° 9°	16° 6°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:46	10:46	11:56	13:13	14:16	14:50	14:35	13:39	12:26	11:13	10:05	09:30
Average rainfall	21	22	22	31	29	24	7	10	32	42	31	23



Novelda

Monforte del Cid

Aspe

Santa Cruz

Vista Hermosa

Elche

Elche

The palm grove in Elche

The Palmeral de Elche [The Palm Grove in Elche] consists of a system of date palm orchards. These palms started to be grown by the Arabs, who used a network of irrigation channels. These orchards, which have been declared a World Heritage Site, are an example of the way in which human beings are





Distance: 24,7 km
Maximum grade: 90 m

Cumulative ascent: 5 m
Cumulative descent: 95 m

Estimated time: 5h 00m
Physical difficulty: Medium



ELX / ELCHE (population: 189.370)



GR-125

Start at the centre of Elche, walking along *Avenida de la Libertad*, and head towards the southwest. The avenue comes out to a large roundabout (km 0.9). At this point, turn left and continue walking along another large avenue (ring road). Cross through another roundabout and then pass to the right of a department store. Turn right into *Calle Tónico Sansano Mora* (km 1.6), which leads to *Hospital de Vinalopó*. Continue along this street until reaching the end of the street (parking lot), where you will walk into another roundabout. From this point, take the *service road to Riegos del Levante* (km 2.2), which runs alongside a channel, *Canal del Elche* (covered). The path to **Orihuela** coincides with the path for the GR-125 Senda del Poeta route (built in the memory of Miguel Hernández). Continue walking parallel to the channel, along a paved path. Cross over a gully through a bridge (km 3.2). Immediately after, you will reach a residential area where you will run into several crossroads. Continue walking parallel to the channel. Cross through the bridge (km 4.6) over the railroad lines and then turn sharply to the left, so as to join the path that runs close to the channel, on the other side. Cross again over a gully through a bridge (km 5.8) and continue walking parallel to the channel, passing by several residential areas. Cross through a tunnel under highway A-7 (km 8.2) and follow until reaching a water pool. At this point (km 9.9), turn left into the road from **Crevillent**, which you may visit. It is only 2km away from the route. A little bit further, cross again over highway A-7 through a tunnel (km 10.1). Further on, after walking past the train viaduct, turn right and walk off the channel. After 500m, you reach a crossroads. Turn left and continue southwards, until reaching a level crossing (km 12.2) over the railroad, which is placed in a *neighbourhood called La Estación*. After passing by the railroad lines, continue straight until a roundabout (km 12.5). Follow straight, walking close to a bus stop. Pay attention. In less than 50m, turn right into a paved path that crosses through a residential area. The path curves several times and then comes out to the road (km 14.3). Carry straight on until you come to a crossroads (km 16) with another road (the junction with the GR-330) and carry straight on along an earthen path. The path comes out to the train lines (km 16.9) and then runs close to them for 200m. When reaching a curve to the left, walk away from the railroad lines to walk into **El Realengo** (km 17.5).



Fields of orange, pomegranate and lemon trees



Historic-Artistic complex: Arab baths, Muslim wall and towers (11th-16th), castle-palace of Altamira (11th-16th); World Heritage Site: El Palmeral de Elche and El Misterio de Elche (August); Interesting fiesta: Palm Sunday Procession



Path service along the channel of Elche, rural paths with a good sub-base and roads



Proceed with extreme care when walking along the paved stretches of the route



You may visit **Parque Natural de Laguna del Hondo** [El Hondo Nature Reserve] which is only 2km away from the road. Take the road after having walked past a neighbourhood called Estación de Crevillent (km 14.3 of the stage)



EL REALENGO (population: 249)

GR-125

Cross through the town walking along *Calle del Canal*, which leads to road CV-90 (km 18.2), in an area in close proximity to a bus stop. Turn right into this road and cross over the railroad. Walk until reaching a crossroads (km 18.7). Turn left and continue along a road that crosses through highway AP-7 (km 18.9) and, further on, over highway A-7 through a bridge (km 20.4). At this point, walk into the path for the GR-125 route, which runs parallel to the highway all the way to **Albatera**. The road runs straight, heading towards the southwest. Ignore all left and right hand turns and walk to the right of a cemetery. Pay attention because the road splits into two (km 22.9). Take the lane to the left, which leads to **Albatera**. Then continue walking along *Calle Conde de Plasencia* until reaching the city centre.



Fields of orange, pomegranate and lemon trees



Rationalist position on urban planning (colonization town)



Asphalt



Proceed with extreme care when walking along the paved stretches of the route



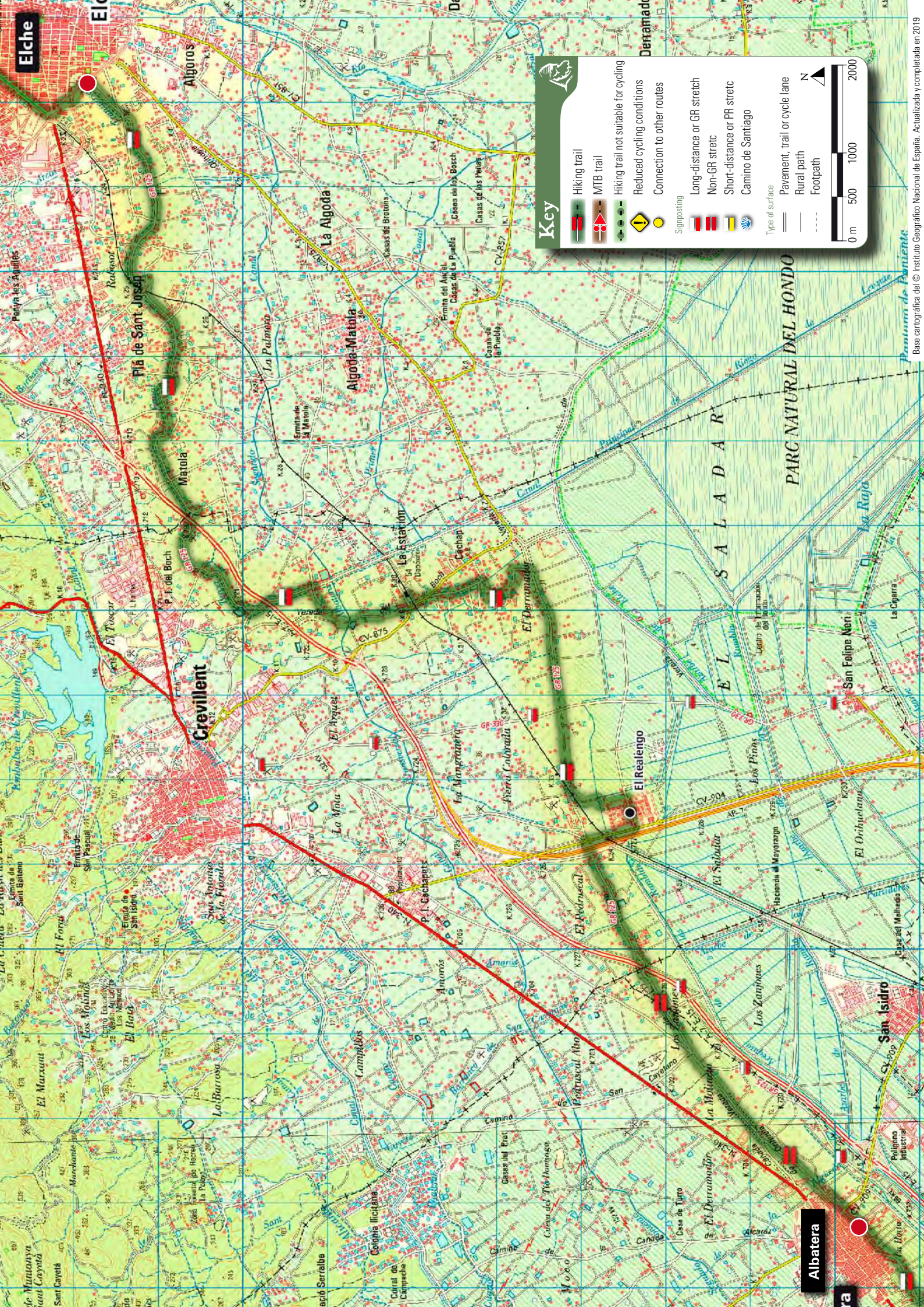
ALBATERA (population: 11.348)



Panoramic view of the palm grove of Elche in the area close to Palacio de Altamira and to Basilica de Santa Maria
Photography: Turisme Elx



	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	16°	17°	19°	21°	24°	28°	31°	29°	24°	24°	20°	16°
Max/Min	7°	7°	9°	10°	13°	17°	20°	21°	19°	15°	11°	7°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:47	10:46	11:57	13:12	14:16	14:49	14:34	13:39	12:26	11:13	10:06	09:30
Average rainfall	24	26	23	34	26	24	5	7	27	53	38	26



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

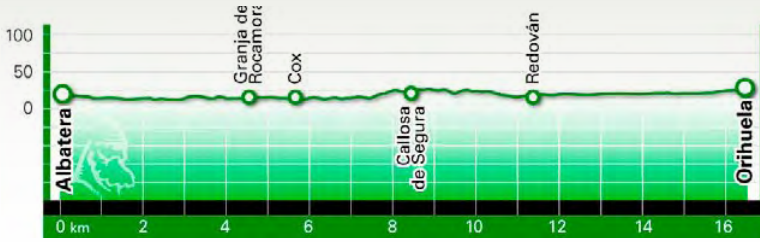
Type of surface

- Pavement, trail or cycle lane
- Rural path
- Footpath



PARC NATURAL DEL HONDO

S A L A D A R



Distance: 16,6 km
Maximum grade: 20 m

Cumulative ascent: 25 m
Cumulative descent: 5 m

Estimated time: 3h 00m
Physical difficulty: Low



ALBATERA (population: 11.348) CAMINO DE LA VERACRUZ | GR-125

Start at *Casa de Cultura de Miguel Hernández* and walk close to *Parque de la Huerta*. Then continue along *Calle de la Libertad*, heading towards the southwest. Follow until reaching *Calle de la Cruz* (km 0.5). Then walk away from the town, walking along a small road that runs amidst crop fields. The path to **Orihuela** coincides with the path for the GR-125 Senda del Poeta route, so follow the black and red markers. When reaching a crossroads (km 1.2), turn left and continue straight. Cross through the bridge (km 2) over highway A-7. Pay attention. Immediately after crossing through the bridge, turn right into a service path that runs parallel to the highway, heading towards the southwest. After 600m, walk off the path and turn left (km 2.9). Continue along a path until reaching *Calle Río Segura* (km 4), which is situated in an industrial area. You will then reach a road and a roundabout. Follow straight and continue until walking into a town called Granja de Rocamora, which is adjacent to **Cox**.

- Crop fields and fields of trees
- Parochial church of Santiago Apóstol
- Asphalt and path service running alongside the highway



COX (population: 7.134) CAMINO DE LA VERACRUZ | GR-125

Leave **Cox** walking along *Calle Vereda de las Balsas*. This street leads you away from the town, heading eastwards. Walk amidst crop fields and areas in construction until joining again the path for the GR-125 route. After walking past a small park (km 6.1), which is where the town comes to an end, continue along a straight paved path, walking amidst crop fields. Keep walking southwards and ignore a left-hand turn (km 6.4). You will soon reach the first buildings of **Callosa de Segura** (km 6.7), which are placed in an industrial area. Walk along *Calles Hugolino Roldán Baeza* and *Camino de la Serrana* and continue until reaching *Avenida de la Constitución*, which leads to the centre of **Callosa** (km 7.8).

- Urban setting next to an agricultural meadow
- Castle of Santa Bárbara and church of San Juan Bautista
- Asphalt



CALLOSA DE SEGURA (population: 16.941) C. DE LA VERACRUZ | GR-125

Resume The Way of El Cid starting at Plaza de España, which is placed next to the Town Hall and *San Martín church* (km 7.9). Then continue walking along *Calle Mayor* and *Calle de Salitre*, until reaching a roundabout (km 8.5). Go straight along *Avenida Ciudad Jardín*, walking to the left of a football pitch. Continue along the street, which turns into a road after passing by a cemetery (km 10.3). Proceed with extreme care, for this is a heavy traffic segment. You will soon reach a neighbourhood called El Rincón (km 10.5), which is situated within the municipality of Redován. From this point onwards, continue straight until reaching the town, which you access through *Avenida de Orihuela*.

- Meadow with fruit trees and urban landscape
- Castle of Segura, church of San Martín, sanctuary and chapels
- Paved rural paths and road



REDOVÁN (population: 6.920) C. DE LA VERACRUZ | GR-125

Pay attention and walk off the avenue when reaching a turn to the left. Then walk into *Calle Calvo Sotelo* (km 11.6). The street turns into road CV-919. Walk off the road when reaching a *neighbourhood called Media Legua*, where there is a chapel (km 12.9). From this point, continue along *Camino Viejo de Callosa* until reaching **Orihuela**. All along the road you will walk alongside cottages and country houses. At a crossroads (km 14), turn slightly to the right and, immediately after, turn to the left, so as to join again the road. Go straight through a roundabout (km 15.3). Shortly after, you will reach Orihuela's city centre, which you access through a small roundabout (km 16.1). Follow straight, walking along *Calle del Camino Viejo de Callosa* and then turn left into *Ronda de Santo Domingo*. Continue until reaching the city centre, which is the end of The Way of El Cid.

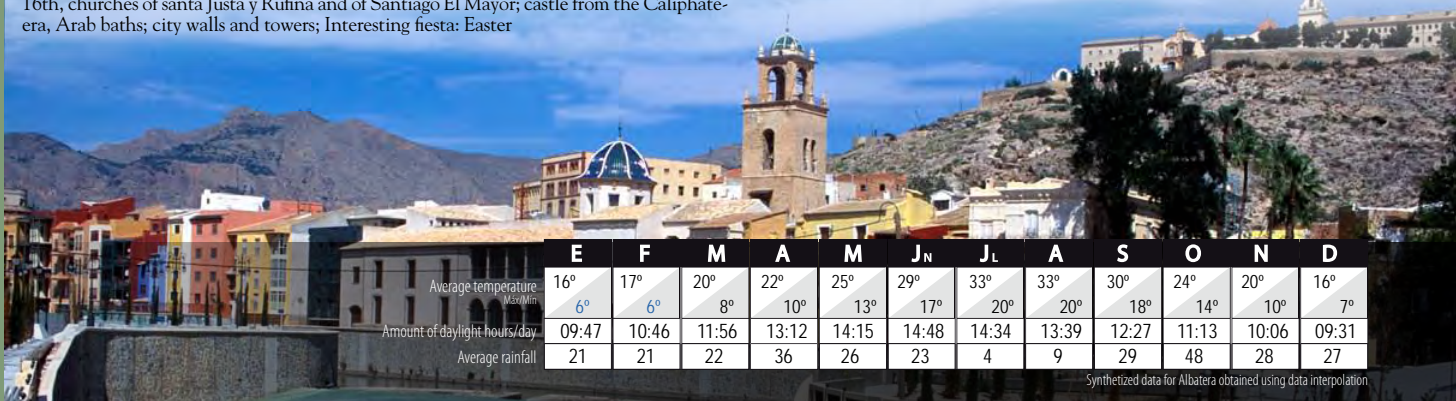
- Meadow with fruit trees and urban landscape
- Paved rural paths and road
- Proceed with extreme care when walking along the paved stretches of the route



ORIHUELA (population: 31.729)

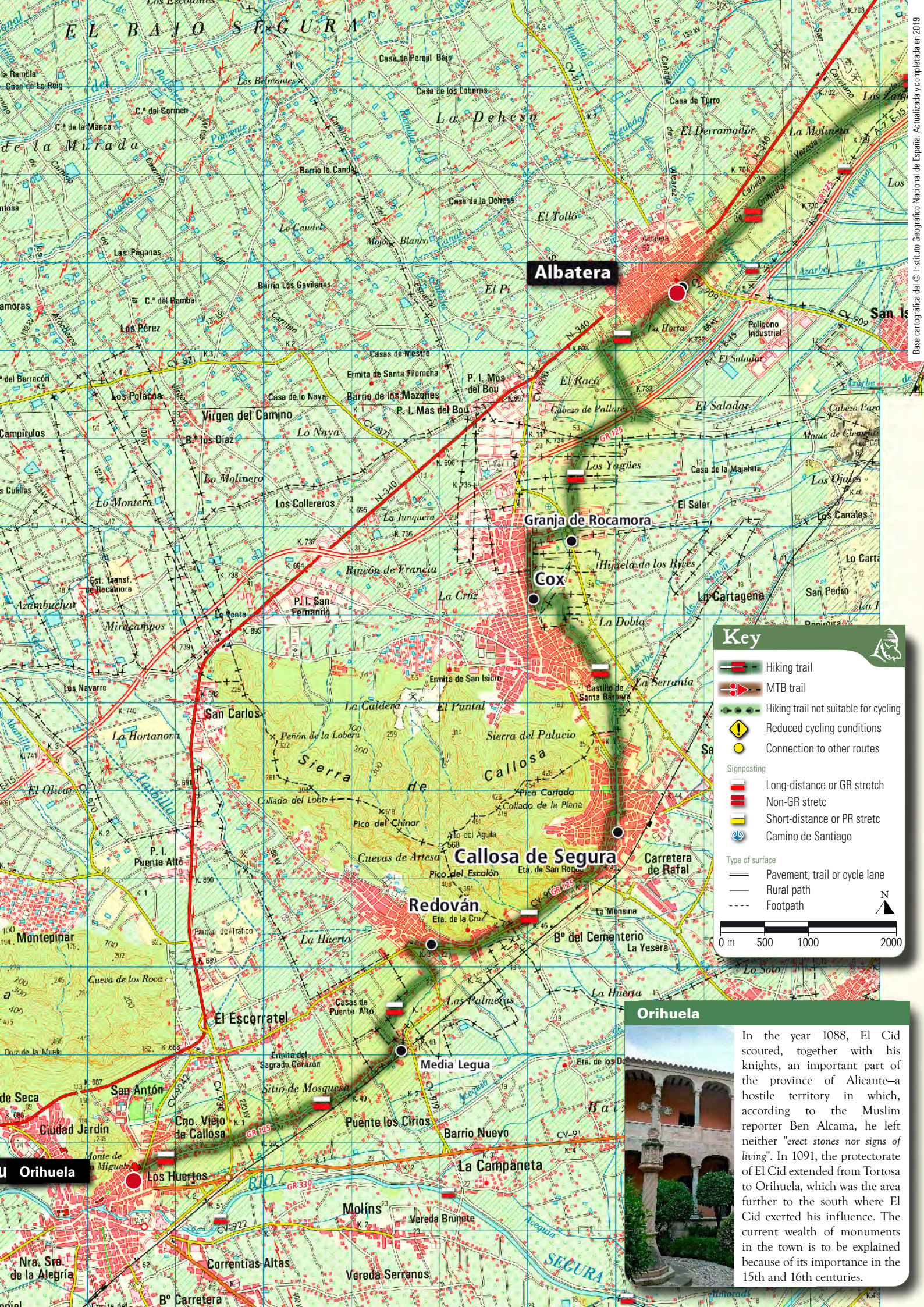
Historic-Artistic complex; Gothic cathedral and church of Salvador y Santa María (14th-16th, churches of santa Justa y Rufina and of Santiago El Mayor; castle from the Caliphate-era, Arab baths; city walls and towers; Interesting fiesta: Easter

The path of the river Segura along Orihuela
Photography: Diputación Provincial de Alicante



	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	16°	17°	20°	22°	25°	29°	33°	33°	30°	24°	20°	16°
Max/Min	6°/6°	6°/6°	8°/8°	10°/10°	13°/13°	17°/17°	20°/20°	20°/20°	18°/18°	14°/14°	10°/10°	7°/7°
Amount of daylight (hours/day)	09:47	10:46	11:56	13:12	14:15	14:48	14:34	13:39	12:27	11:13	10:06	09:31
Average rainfall	21	21	22	36	26	23	4	9	29	48	28	27

Synthesized data for Albatera obtained using data interpolation



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

Orihuela



In the year 1088, El Cid scoured, together with his knights, an important part of the province of Alicante—a hostile territory in which, according to the Muslim reporter Ben Alcamá, he left neither "erect stones nor signs of living". In 1091, the protectorate of El Cid extended from Tortosa to Orihuela, which was the area further to the south where El Cid exerted his influence. The current wealth of monuments in the town is to be explained because of its importance in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Orihuela