



Gallocanta Circular route

CAMINO DEL CID



Edition 2020

Ramblers route guide The Way of El Cid

www.caminodelcid.org



Gallocanta circular

Daroca - Gallocanta - Daroca (49,2 km)

The campsite at Allucant

This short yet challenging circular route starts in Daroca. El Cid is known to have camped in this city for several days in 1090, and it was here that he signed a treaty with the Catalan Count Berenguer Ramón II, shortly after defeating him at El Maestrazgo. El Cantar de mío Cid also refers to Daroca, claiming that the city paid tribute to El Cid, whose men had subjugated the entire area. However, there is little historical evidence to confirm the historical reliability of this belief. According to El Cantar, El Cid set up various camps from which he launched his raids in order to impose his will. Perhaps the most famous of these is said to have been in Poyo del Cid (Teruel) and the other in Allucant. Although it is not known exactly where this place is, a number of scholars suggest that it is in fact Gallocanta—a town which was known as Allucant back in the 13th century. This possibility has led to the creation of a delightful circular route of great historical and ecological value; the perfect choice for a weekend excursion..

What there is to see?

Nature is the main feature of this route. Starting at Daroca, it makes its way through the picturesque Santa Cruz Mountain Range along well-surfaced rural paths as far as the town of Gallocanta. Daroca, which was founded by the Yemeni Moors in the 8th century, is a monumental town. Daroca boasts a rich and varied artistic heritage that reflects its long history. The best way of discovering its secrets is to wander around the streets, losing yourself amidst the alleys, courtyards and picturesque spots. The town's Moorish past is also in evidence in its gastronomy, especially in its sweets and pastries. Delicacies include the *trenzas mudéjares* – almond and walnut pastries or *almojábanas* – and delicious aniseed ring-shaped pastries.

Gallocanta Lagoon is currently a magnificent series of lagoons, whose shores are dotted with small villages. It is one of Western Europe's largest saltwater lagoons and boasts a wealth of flora and fauna. Each winter this ecosystem is visited by thousands of cranes and other migratory birds which stop here on their long flight from northern Europe to Africa. Together with the large numbers of other water birds, steppe

birds and birds of prey (more than two hundred species) that live here, they form a truly spectacular sight. In that sense, Gallocanta is one of Europe's ornithological paradises.

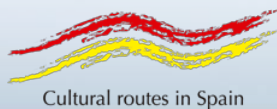
The first documented settlement in the region dates back some 4,000 years. This is a fertile land and the salinity of the lagoon is greater than that of the sea. As a result, since ancient times it has been a site of salterns and iron mining. The mines required large amounts of wood, which led to the deforestation of the territory and the emergence of arable and pasture lands. This rich and fertile land is sheltered by mountain ranges with two major natural passes leading to the Valley of Jiloca and Molina de Aragón. Since ancient times, the settlements have been fiercely defended, which explains the large number of castles to be seen in this area, including Santed, Gallocanta (in ruins), Berruco, Tornos, etc. Most date back to the Middle Ages, although they stand on the site of earlier fortifications.

The weather

Winter weather is the harshest of all four seasons: temperatures are low, it freezes at nights and snow occurs frequently. However, it is the time of the year when the most spectacular migratory birds can be seen. In spite of difficult weather conditions, the hiking trail offers a good reward. Be that as it may, the environmental richness of this circular route makes it a recommendable hiking choice at any time of the year.

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)



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

View of the Gallocanta lagoon



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

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





Daroca – Gallocanta



Distance: 22,7 km
Maximum grade: 440 m

Cumulative ascent: 500 m
Cumulative descent: 240 m

Estimated time: 5h 30m
Physical difficulty: Medium



DAROCA (population: 1.978) CAMINO DE LA VERACRUZ GR-160

Start a **Daroca**, which is the starting point for stage 4 of the **Three Taifa route of The Way of El Cid**. During the first 4.4 km of the route, follow the signposting of this route, which is marked as a GR-160 route. Leave **Daroca** walking along *Avenida Madrid* which then turns into road A-211. Cross over the river Jiloca through a bridge and ignore a right-hand turn (road). You will soon reach the buildings situated next to the *old station*. At this point, turn left and walk off the road, so as to take a path that runs alongside the *meadow at the river Jiloca*. Ignore all left and hand right turns, and follow straight along the main path. At a crossroads, walk off The Way of El Cid (GR-160) and follow the directions of a triple arrow. Continue walking along a paved path and walk to the right of *Valdehorna gully*. After a soft climb, you will reach **Valdehorna**. At the entrance to the town, in its low part, you will walk past a *pillar built to honour San Juan Bautista*.



Agricultural meadow at the river Jiloca



Historic-Artistic complex, castle, wall remains, churches built in Romanesque or Mudejar style, palaces and popular architecture...



Paved paths or paths with a good sub-base

6,1 km



VALDEHORNIA (population: 30)

Cross through **Valdehorna** and continue walking until reaching *Calle Camino de San Martín*, where there is a multipurpose social centre. Continue along a rural path in good condition that climbs slightly. There is a branch line to the left. Take a paved stretch, which leads to the cemetery. You will reach another pillar, *San Roque pillar*, which is a sign that you are in close proximity to **Val de San Martín**.



Fields of fruit trees



Church built in Mudejar style



Rural paths with a good sub-base

3,7 km



VAL DE SAN MARTÍN (population: 64)

Cross through **Val de San Martín** walking along *Calle Baja*. You will come out to a path situated next to a fountain, which leads to the mountain ranges. Walk parallel to the gully, until reaching a crossroads. At a sharp curve, turn to the left. A climb starts. At this point, walk off the path for the PR-Z 20 route, which runs along a path that you will join later on. The trail, which is in good condition, climbs amidst kermes oaks until reaching a crossroads, where it turns to the right. You will soon see an arrow, which signals the start of an alternative signposted cycling route. When reaching the highest point of the stage, ignore a right-hand turn. Some metres further, turn right and start descending. At a crossroads, which is placed next to a building site, go straight and continue until coming out to another path. Turn left. After crossing through a gully, turn sharply to the right at a crossroads. You will come gradually closer to the road. Shortly after, you will start to see the outline of the *castle of Santed*. Cross the road and walk some metres in parallel to the road, until reaching the road at the entrance to **Santed**.



Mountains and crop fields



Church built in Mudejar style



Rural paths with a good sub-base



At a point along the stretch of the route, there is an option to join an alternative cycling route to Castejón de Tornos that runs on a path in good condition

8,3 km



SANTED (population: 61)

Cross through **Santed** walking along *Calle Lucas Traid*, which crosses all through the town. You will come out to a pillar built in the honour of San Pedro, which has been recently repaired. Join the path for the PR-Z 19 route, and continue along this route until reaching Gallocanta. Continue on the paved path until coming out to road A-211. Cross the road and continue some metres further on the old road, until reaching the start of a path to your right. Immediately after, turn to the left and start a short climb until reaching the shooting range. The path runs alongside kermes oaks and then turns into a clearly visible path. Take a new path and continue riding southwards at all crossroads. The *pillar of Santa Bárbara*, which is at the entrance to **Gallocanta**, welcomes visitors. Take a new path and continue walking southwards at all crossroads. The *pillar of Santa Bárbara*, which is at the entrance to **Gallocanta**, welcomes visitors.



Mountains and crop fields



Castle and chapel of Pilar



Rural paths and a small stretch of route along a small path

4,7 km



GALLOCANTA (population: 154)

Castle of Santed



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.

BERRUECO

AYUNTAMIENTO C/ MAYOR, 8. HORARIO: MI: 12 A 14H. 976803032

DAROCA

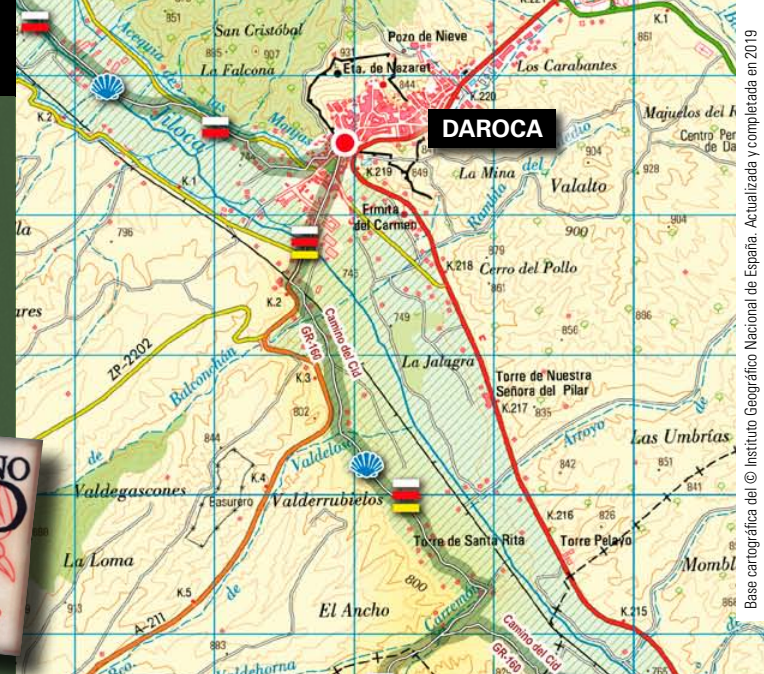
• OFICINA DE TURISMO MUNICIPAL Y COMARCAL C/ MAYOR 44 976 800 129
 POSADA DEL ALMUDÍ C/ GRAJERA, 7 976800606
 HA MELIAH HOTEL-APARTAMENTOS C/ MAYOR, 76 976800194 / 691483947
 H CIENBALCONES C/ MAYOR, 88 976545071

GALLOCANTA

• OFICINA DE TURISMO CTRA. GALLOCANTA - BERRUECO S/N. 976803069
 ALBERGUE ALLUCANT C/ SAN VICENTE, S/N. 976803137

VILLANUEVA DE JILOCA

AYUNTAMIENTO PL. MARQUÉS DE MONTEMUZO, 1 976800701 / 693005813
 CLUB SOCIAL C/ MARQUÉS DE MONTEMUZO, 2



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

0m 500 1000 2000





Distance: 26,5 km
Maximum grade: 380 m

Cumulative ascent: 315 m
Cumulative descent: 550 m

Estimated time: 6h 40m
Physical difficulty: Medium



4,2 km



3,7 km



10,8 km



GALLOCANTA (population: 154)

Cross through Gallocanta walking along *Calle Mayor* and then leave the town walking along *Calle Arrabal* and heading towards the cemetery. Turn right into an agricultural path and then walk eastwards alongside cultivated fields and scattered trees. Although you will walk into several major crossroads, follow straight, in the same direction. The path runs through a kermes oak grove and then turns right. Walk along the foothill of the *hillock Mediano*, amidst fields and low scrubland. You will reach *gully Trascastillo*. The town of Berrueco is hidden by the hillock and the castle on its top. However, you will walk close to the ruins of a series of old buildings, signalling that you are not far away from the town, which you will access along *Calle Mayor*.

BERRUECO (population: 33)

Cross through **Berrueco** walking along *Calle Mayor* and then leave the town on its eastern side. An arrow to your left points the way out, which runs on the path to **Castejón de Tornos** and on the same path than for the PR-TE 15 route. The route runs alongside a narrow cultivated valley in between two hillocks. At a crossroads, turn right and cross to the other side of the valley. After a slight climb, the traces of the path become blurred, to the point that the path turns into a barren land in the area coinciding with the province borderland. Continue some metres further until reaching an arrow that points to the left, along a descending path. You will then reach a small irrigation canal that may cause movement problems during the rainfall period. You will come across a crossroads where there is an original fountain. Continue easily until reaching the road, at the entrance of **Castejón de Tornos**.

CASTEJÓN DE TORMOS (population: 62)

When leaving **Castejón de Tornos**, head towards the start of *Calle del Horno*, which is situated next to the road. A directional arrow points towards a path to the north, which is in good condition and is placed next to a farming unit. Ignore a right-hand turn and continue until reaching a *pillar*. The route runs straight, so that it is easy to follow. Two paths to the right join the path at a curve. When walking past the curve, you will reach an arrow that points to a turn to the right. This is the starting point for the signposted cycling route alternative, along which you can join the stretch of route in between **Val de San Martín** and **Santed**. This alternative route runs on a good sub-base and it is a way of avoiding the footpath stretch that runs along the mountain hills. The path descends gradually until reaching a curve, where its outlines become blurry. Note, however, that it continues on the border of a large field with a gradient. You will reach an arrow that signals the starting point of a footpath. Resume the route along *Val gully* and follow until reaching a point where the path crosses over the gully. At this point, a climb starts alongside a hillside covered with slate boards. The footpath runs into a small pine grove, on the edge of the borderlines for the province, and then a dizzying descent starts. You will reach a new path. It heads towards the northeast. Walk past *casas de la Falcona* and then ignore a left-hand turn. Continue. Now you will walk past *Falcona gully*, after which you will join a new path. This path then leads into a bigger path. The route comes to an end in the main axis of The Way of El Cid (the stretch running in between **San Martín del Río** and **Báguena**), which is only 600 metres away from **San Martín del Río**.

SAN MARTÍN DEL RÍO (population: 148)

From this town it is possible to continue walking back to **Daroca**. You will go by Villanueva de Jiloca walking on The Way of El Cid in the opposite direction. You may rather continue on The Way of El Cid, heading towards **Báguena** and climbing alongside the *river Jiloca*.

- Crop fields and oak groves in the area surrounding the lagoon
- Church, chapel of San Pedro, Interpretation centre...
- Rural paths with a good sub-base
- Oak groves and crop fields
- Castle
- Rural paths
- During the rainfall period the irrigation canal carries water that may cause movement problems
- Hills covered with slate boards stone and scattered pine groves and cultivated hillsides
- Church and pillars
- Agricultural paths and stretch of footpath along the mountain
- This stretch of path poses big problems for cyclists which is why a signposted cycling route has been set up

Panoramic view of the watershed of the river Gallocanta from the castle of Berrueco

