

This is a demanding two-day route that runs along the Maestrazgo area in Teruel and Castellón. This vast region is characterized by its high mountain ranges and very well preserved medieval towns. Its two epicenters are as follows: Olocau del Rey, where El Cid is said to have placed an "eagle's nest"; and Morella, an unassailable fortress, which El Cid did not manage to conquer (but cyclists will be able to do so using their bicycles).

Morella, the unassailable fortress

El Cid is known to have visited the Morella area on several occasions, acting initially in the interests of the Taifa of Zaragoza and later in his own, although the lack of data prevents us from determining the exact locations. The legend surrounding this route revolves around **Olocau del Rey**: after being cast into exile by Alphonse VI, El Cid became the military leader of the Taifa of Zaragoza. This taifa was governed by al-Mutamin, who was at war with his brother al-Mundir, Prince of Lerida, and the Count of Barcelona, Ramón Berenguer II. In the light of this situation, the **Morella** region became an area of great strategic importance.

In 1083, whilst in the service of al-Mutamin, El Cid launched wave after wave of attacks against the territories belonging to the Taifa of Lerida. Additionally, he rebuilt Alolala Castle (possibly Olocau del Rey), which is situated just a short distance from Morella, and spent the winter with his men. During the same campaign he attacked Morella Castle, although he did not manage to conquer it. He returned to this area on several other occasions. In 1090, he faced the coalition formed by the Prince of Lerida and the Count of Barcelona in a battle fought in Tévar, from which he emerged victorious. This battle is considered one of the major events in the life of El Cid. Victory allowed him to extend his power and influence over lands that had been under the protection of the Count of Barcelona until then, further enhancing his reputation as a soldier. The Poem of the Cid also refers to this battle, dedicating numerous verses to the narration of this event. Although the exact location of the battle is unknown, many scholars believe that it took place in **the pine forest of Pereroles**, situated off our route some 25 km north of Morella, between La Pobra d'Alcolea and Monroyo.

What there is to see?


It is hard to find a route that matches El Anillo de Morella. Cyclists will encounter a vast wealth of history, nature and art packed into a fascinating 100 km-route. El Maestrazgo is one of the most spectacular and challenging areas for bicycle tourists on The Way of El Cid. This vast mountainous territory, which remained in the hands of the Moors until the 12th century, stretches out across the provinces of Teruel and Castellón. The monarchs of Aragon conquered these lands with the aid of the Knights Templar, who received them as their reward. As a result, they fell under the jurisdiction of the Grand Master of this order, hence their name. It is for this reason that the route is dotted with **castles steeped in the history of the Knights Templar**, such as those of Mirambel or Cantavieja.


This route reveals some of **the most fascinating towns of El Maestrazgo**. They can be accessed via quiet roads, which will surely delight even the most demanding cyclists. La Igluela del Cid, Cantavieja, Mirambel and Morella have all been declared **historic and/or artistic sites**. The breathtakingly steep and mountainous landscape seems to have been carved out of stone. Cyclists will also encounter grassland, meadows and scrubland dotted with pine groves and kermes oaks. Over the centuries the hand of man has tenaciously made its mark on the scenery: countless walls, terraces and huts have been built using **the ancient dry stone technique**. Nowadays, they are a further attraction for travellers.


Fact Sheet

 Distance 104 km

 Estimated time 2 días

 Cumulative ascent 2.420 m

 Cumulative descent 2.420 m

 Physical difficulty Medium

 Technical difficulty Low

Information for bicycle tourists

This nice touring cyclist stage includes a challenging climb between Cinctorres and Igluela del Cid.

Road surface condition and traffic

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

Weather

The fact that this is a high region together with its abrupt orography influences the mountainous Mediterranean climate of the Maestrazgo area. Winters are cold and tough. Snow falls frequently and it can last for several days. Summers are mild, with great day and night temperature difference. That is the reason why we highly recommend that you carry with you winter clothes and windbreakers. As a result of the closeness of this area to the Mediterranean Sea, rainfall is common in the Eastern watershed; it is especially heavy in the autumn and at the end of spring.



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Use this QR code to access website content relating to the road bicycle tour section of Morella Circular Route.

You can download all relevant information: maps, topo-guides, tracks, list of accommodations, passport stamping offices, tourist offices, etc.

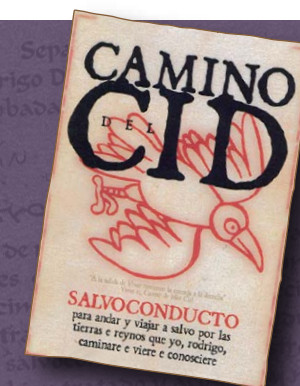


The Passport

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



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El Consorcio Camino del Cid es una entidad promovida y financiada por las siguientes Diputaciones provinciales:



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DIPUTACIÓN DE VALENCIA



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Morella Circular route 1

Bicycle Touring Guide for The Way of El Cid

La Iglesuela del Cid - Morella

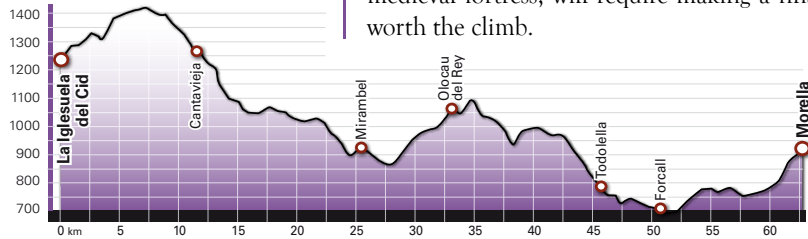
Stage

1

1. La Iglesuela del Cid - Morella

2. Morella - La Iglesuela del Cid

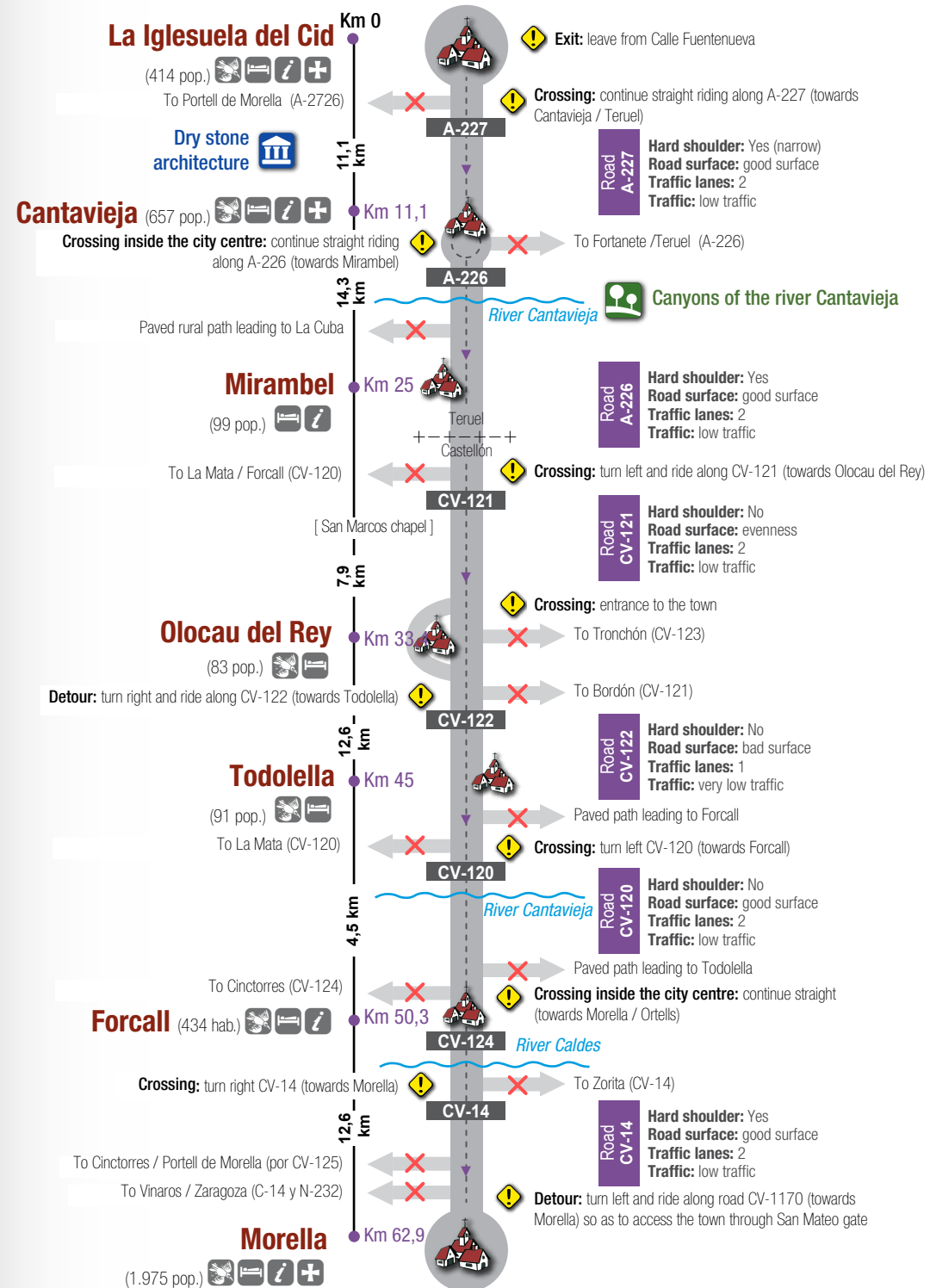
This route reveals some of the most fascinating towns of El Maestrazgo, which can be accessed via quiet roads. They will surely cause delight even to the most demanding cyclists. The breathtakingly steep and mountainous landscape seems to have been carved out of stone. The area has very salient features, which are indicative of its long history. Morella is the deferred compensation for effort; conquering its spectacular medieval fortress, will require making a final effort, which is worth the climb.



Fact Sheet	Distance 62,6 km	Cumulative ascent 1.150 m	Estimated time 6 h
	Difficulty Medium	Cumulative descent 1.500 m	Type of route Circular (2 stages)
	Signposting Yes	IBP Difficulty index 106 RDB	Road surface Asphalt pavement



View of the castle-palace of Todolella, in the high part of the town





Morella Circular route 2

Bicycle Touring Guide for The Way of El Cid

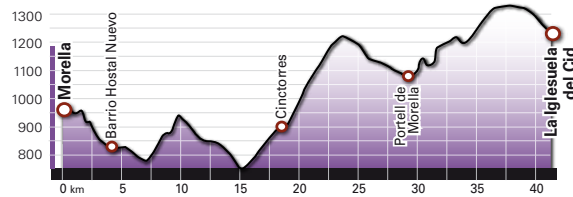
Morella - La Iglesuela del Cid

Stage

1. La Iglesuela del Cid - Morella

2. Morella - La Iglesuela del Cid

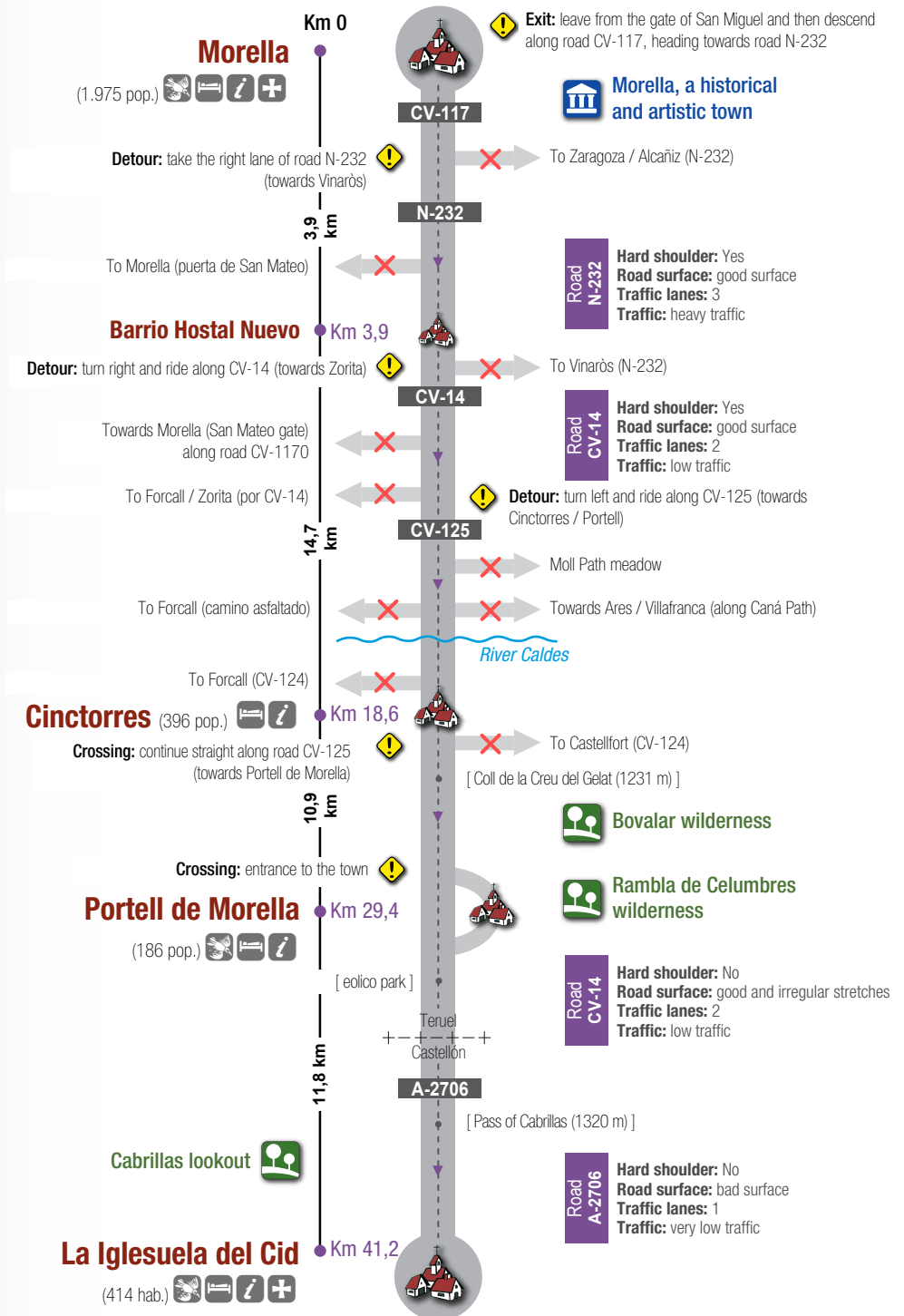
This is a short but demanding stage. There are steep slopes, which will force cyclists to ride more slowly. However, this allows enjoying the amazing views. The mountain landscape is made of grasslands, meadows and scrubland dotted with pine and kermes oak tree groves. Only the most flat and accessible areas are cultivated. You will see many drystone walls and terraces, which are a reminder that there was a time when terrace farming was used for cultivation purposes.



Fact Sheet	Distance 41,3 km	Cumulative ascent 1.275 m	Estimated time 4 h 50 m
	Difficulty Medium	Cumulative descent 950 m	Type of route Circular (2 stages)
	Signposting Yes	IBP Difficulty index 98 RDB	Road surface Asphalt pavement



Los muros de piedra seca forman parte del paisaje del Maestrazgo



The Way of El Cid

Bicycle Touring Guide

- Bicycle Touring route
- BTT / MTB route
- Camino de Santiago
- Singular roads
- Castle
- Church, chapel, monastery...
- National road
- Provincial road
- Local road

Scale 1:150.000
0 1 2 3 4 5 km

www.caminoelcid.org

Services

- Passport stamping offices
- Accommodation (hotel, hostel,...)
- Welcome point
- City information centre
- Chemist's
- Train station
- Repair shops

Passport offices

TERUEL

CANTAVIEJA

- OFICINA DE TURISMO: C/ Mayor, 14 - 964185414 / 678340228
- AYUNTAMIENTO: Pl. Cristo Rey, 1 - 964185001

LA IGLESUELA DEL CID

- OFICINA DE TURISMO: C/ Mayor, 1 - 964443325
- HOSPEDERÍA PALACIO DE LA IGLESUELA: C/ Ondevilla, 4 - 964185001

CASTELLÓN

CINCTORRES

- OFICINA DE TURISMO: Carrer Nou, 6 - 964181428

FORCALL

- OFICINA DE TURISMO: Pl. Mayor, 26 - 964171290
- HS AGUILAR: Avda. Tercer Centenario, 1 - 964171106
- H PALAU DELS OSSET: Pl. Mayor, 16 - 964171180

MORELLA

- OFICINA DE TURISMO: Pl. San Miguel, s/n - 964173032

OLOCAU DEL REY

- AYUNTAMIENTO: Pl. Constitución, 1 - 964178417
- HS MESÓN DEL REY: Pl. Constitución, 3 - 964178481

PORTELL DE MORELLA

- AYUNTAMIENTO: C/ Major, 8 - 964178779
- HS EL PORTELL: C/ Camino Maset, 1 - 651770895

TODOLELLA

- HS EL GUERRER: C/ Carretera, 7 - 964171056

