



Route The Borderlands

CAMINO DEL CID



Edition 2020

Ramblers route guide The Way of El Cid

www.caminodelcid.org



THE BORDERLANDS

Atienza - Ateca / Calatayud (265/282 km)

El Cid's first battles and conquests

Exiled by Alfonso VI, El Cid left Castile and reached in the night the territories of the Muslim taifa of Toledo, which are currently part of the province of Guadalajara. He kept clear of Atienza, which according to El Cantar is a "very strong" rock, and continued towards the valley of Henares. In need of supplies, the exiled took control over a fortress-town: Castejón de Henares, or it might have been Jadraque. He and his company passed by Anguita and continued towards the northwest, along the ravaged moorland of Layna, heading to the valley of Jalón. It was there that they fought against the native people in an attempt at conquering Alcocer, in the proximity of Ateca. El Cid and his knights were counterattacked by an army from Valencia, made of 3,000 cavalrymen. The latter won the battle and ran after the defeated generals, reaching the gates of the towns of Terrer and Calatayud.

This route also includes part of the journeys made by Jimena, his daughters and followers on their journeys to Castile and Valencia; its epicentre is the border fortress of Medinaceli.

What there is to see?

In medieval Spain it was a borderland territory and it is currently characterized by far-reaching regions and scarce population. It comprises four borderland towns which were important Muslim military bases in the 11th century: Atienza, Guadalajara, Medinaceli and Calatayud, whose Muslim wall is one of the most outstanding in Spain. It has medieval western scenery, combining river canyons and moorland gardens and meadows. It has Five Natural Protected Areas: Barranco del Río Dulce, Parameras de Maranchón and Layna, and Sabinas and Riberas del Jalón. The region is ruled by the evocative outline of the castles of Atienza, Jadraque, Pelegrina, Sigüenza, Medinaceli, Montuenga de Soria, Monreal de Ariza and Calatayud, among others. There are four towns which have been declared Historic and/or Artistic Sites: Atienza, Sigüenza, Medinaceli and Calatayud. The towns of the area are small and quiet (only 10 out of the 52 towns along the route have a population of over 400 people). The area has outstanding examples of the Mudejar art from Aragón, declared World Heritage.

The route is characterised by the diversity of the land, starting in Serranía de Atienza at 1,320m above sea level and ending on the river plains of El Jalón in Calatayud at 536 m above sea level. In general, the route follows the valleys formed by the Henares, Dulce, Tajuña and Jalón rivers, passing

through spectacular stretches with gorges and narrow valleys, which alternate with scrubland and crop fields. After Medinaceli, the countryside is more arid, typical borderland. Depending on the stage and time of the year, it will make you think you are in a medieval Western: large plains that turn into a fertile river plain, that of the Jalón, and, finally, a near moonscape of hills of gypsum and clay in Calatayud. The route crosses five protected natural areas: the Gorge of the River Dulce (an impressive limestone gorge with numerous birds of prey); the High Moorlands of Maranchón and Layna (extensive countryside with a wide variety of steppe birdlife, including Dupont's lark and the juniper forests and riverbanks of the Jalón).

Weather

In general terms, the region has a continental Mediterranean climate. It is thus characterised by harsh cold winters and dry and hot summers. The difference in height (it varies from 1,320m in Serranía de Atienza to 580m in Ateca) has a significant impact on the weather of each of the stages. It sweetens the severity of winters in the low areas and it increases rainfall in the high areas (it varies from an annual average rainfall of around 700mm in Atienza to 370mm in Calatayud). Although it often freezes in the winter, snow falls only very occasionally.

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

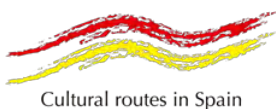
The Borderlands route is signposted throughout all its stages (with double red markers or red and white markers in the stretches recognized as GR). You may check the type of markers for each stage in the cards and maps. Note that some markers may not be visible during certain times of the year, which is why we recommend that you carry with you this guide and the GPS and mobile tracks.

Have a safe trip!



Use this QR code on our website to access content in the ramblers' route section of The Borderlands 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)		



Castle of Sigüenza

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.



GUADALAJARA

ANGUITA

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. Mayor, 1 - 949304417
 BAR EL CANTÓN C/ Ramón y Cajal, 6-12 - 949304615
 BAR TELECLUB C/ Carretera de Aguilar, 4 - 683424944

ARAGOSA

CR RÍO DULCE C/ Canalejas, 23 - 949305306 / 629228919

ATIENZA

OFICINA DE TURISMO: C/ Héctor Vázquez, 2 - 949399293
 AYUNTAMIENTO: Plaza de España, 11 - 949399001
 BAR HOGAR DEL JUBILADO: 630136798
 HS EL MIRADOR: C/ Barnuelo, s/n - 949399038/659643084
 H CONVENTO STA ANA: C/ Berlanga, 4 - 949399300/677994483

HIENDELAENCINA

CR LA PERLA: C/ La Perla, 29 - 616206156

JADRAQUE

OFICINA DE TURISMO C/ Jovellanos, 2 - 949890168
 AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. de España, 2 - 949890000

LUZÓN

BAR AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. Dr. Layna Serrano, 1 - 949839602

MARANCHÓN

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. España, 1 - 949839712
 CR LA AMISTAD C/ Subida a la Iglesia, 4 - 918730181 / 696924527
 EL RINCÓN DE LA FUENTE VIEJA Pl. de Juan Antonio Bueno, 9 - 619414327 / 606318727

MATILLAS

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. Mayor, s/n - 949305078 / 608019386
 HOSTAL RIJAJAMA Bº de la Estación, 3 - 949305102

MEDRANDA

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. España, 1 - 949892640

ROBLEDO DE CORPES

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. Mayor, 4 - 639063199
 BAR Pl. Mayor, 4 - 696016572

SIGÜENZA

OFICINA DE TURISMO C/ Serrano Sanz, 9 - 949347007
 H LABERINTO Pº De La Alameda, 1 - 949391165
 LA TRAVESAÑA C/ Torrecilla, 22 - 608111625
 HS PUERTA MEDINA C/ Serrano Sanz, 9 - 949391565
 HOSPEDERÍA PORTA COELI C/ Mayor, 50 - 949391875
 ALBERGUE HS SIGÜENZA C/ Mayor, 45 - 949393292 / 609378111

SORIA

ARCOS DE JALÓN

AYUNTAMIENTO Avda. Constitución s/n - 975320007
 HS NUMANCIA C/ Gerardo Diego, 4 - 975320079

LODARES

HS TORREMAR Ctra. Madrid-Barcelona, km 154 - 975326037 / 690616107

MEDINACELI

OFICINA TURISMO Campo San Nicolás s/n - 975326347
 LA ANTIGUA FONDA Pl. de la Estación, 4 - 975326393
 HS* RAFA Avda. Madrid, 32 - 975326453
 HS NICOLÁS Avda. Madrid, 46 - 975326004 / 660097308

SANTA MARÍA DE HUERTA

AYUNTAMIENTO Plaza del Ayuntamiento, s/n - 975327006
 MONASTERIO CISTERCIENSE C/ San Bernardo, s/n - 975327002
 BAR REMACHA C/ San Bernardo - 975327101
 CR MARQUÉS DE CERRALBO C/ Marqués de Cerralbo, 33 - 680658388

ZARAGOZA

ALHAMA DE ARAGÓN

OFICINA DE TURISMO Pl. Joaquín Costa, 4 - 976840136
 AYUNTAMIENTO Avda. Aragón, 17 - 976840018
 HOTEL TERMAS C/ Constitución, 20 - 902930938
 HR VILLAPACHITA Avda. Constitución, 26 - 976840152 / 620489645
 H BALNEARIO ALHAMA DE ARAGÓN C/ San Roque, 1-6 - 976879239

ARIZA

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. del Hostal, 18 - 976845095.
 HOTEL EL ARAL Autovía A-2 Madrid-Zaragoza km 197 - 976845736
 HOTEL LA CADIERA Autovía A-2 Madrid-Zaragoza km 197 - 976845154

ATECA

OFICINA DE TURISMO Pl. España, 5 - 976842005
 HS EL BODEGÓN C/ Goya, 32 - 676996640
 H CASTILLO DE ATECA C/ Castillo, 2 - 976842817/640653536

CALATAYUD

OFICINA DE TURISMO Pl. España, 1 - 976886322
 HOTEL POSADA ARCO DE SAN MIGUEL C/ San Miguel, 18 - 976887272
 H MONASTERIO BENEDICTINO Pl. San Benito, s/n - 976891500
 H MARIVELLA Autovía Madrid-Zaragoza, km 242 - 976881237

CASTEJÓN DE LAS ARMAS

AYUNTAMIENTO Pº Joaquín Costa, 1 - 976872000
 CR CASA RÍO PIEDRA Pº Joaquín Costa, 35 - 976872077 / 618812653
 CR EL RINCÓN DEL AGUA Pº Joaquín Costa, 33 - 976842455/ 636139836

CETINA

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. de la Villa, 4 - 976844095
 CR MIRADOR ESTRELLAS C/Cantarranas, 23 - 976844245/630147440
 ALBERGUE MUNICIPAL Avda. Zaragoza, 33 - 976844108

MONREAL DE ARIZA

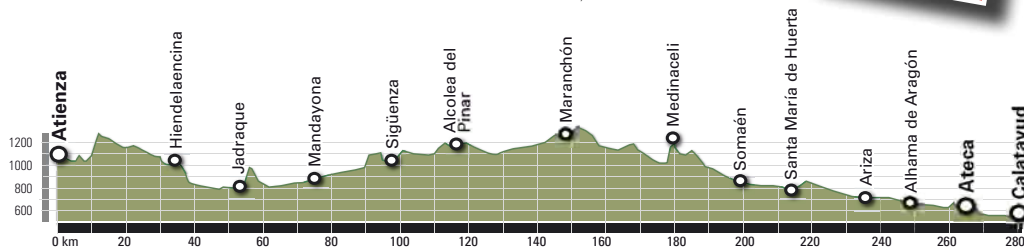
AYUNTAMIENTO C/ Mayor, 7 - 976845380

TERRER

AYUNTAMIENTO Pl. Bajo el Olmo, 1 - 976898002
 CR BAJO LOS HUERTOS C/ Estación, 24 - 649597287
 LA POSADA DEL CID Avda. Constitución, 30 - 671507176

TORREHERMOSA

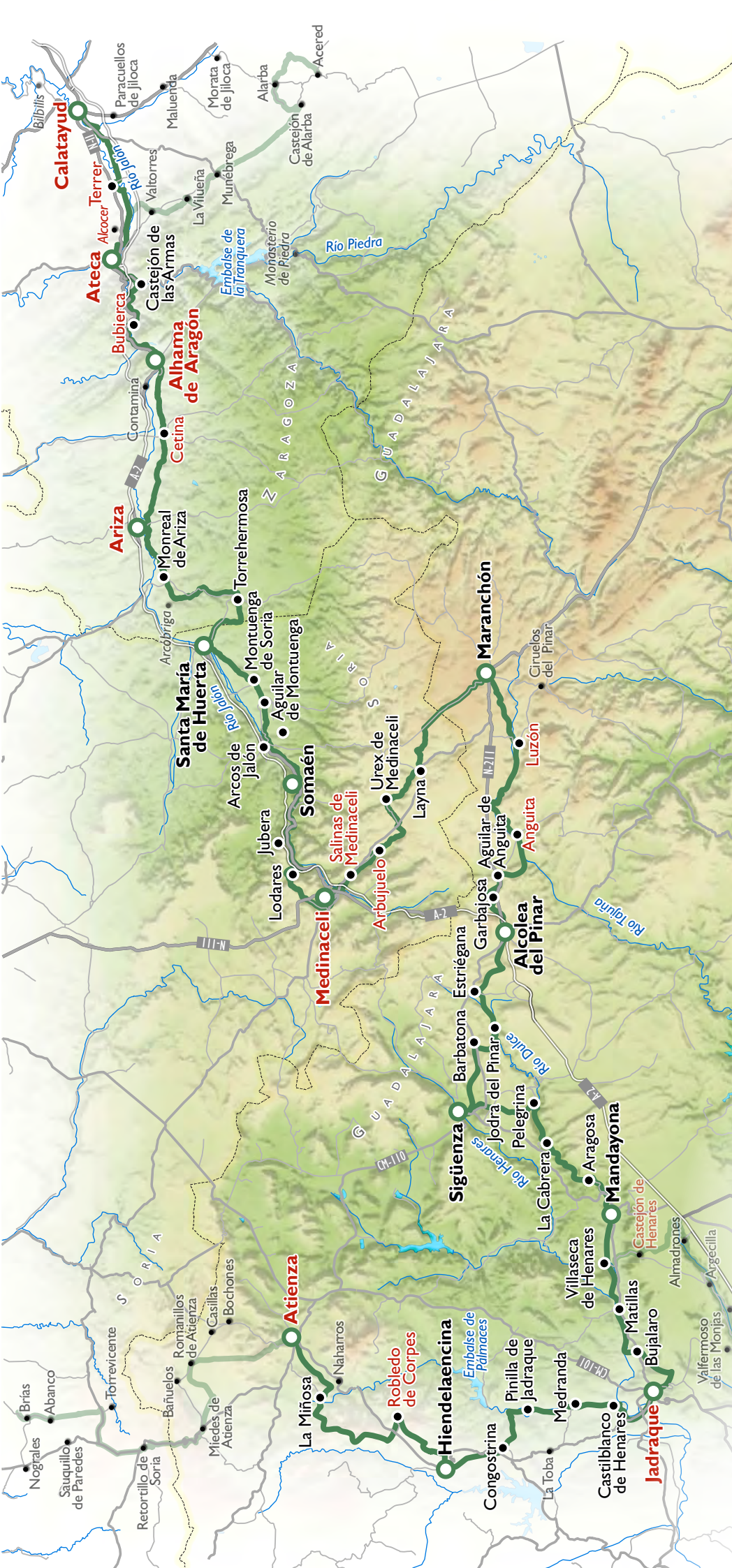
AYUNTAMIENTO C/ La fuente, 6 - 975327112 / 636469422
 CENTRO SOCIAL C/ La fuente, 6 - 975327112 / 636469422



Sections (281 kms)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Atienza – Hiendelaencina (28,4 km) 2 Hiendelaencina – Jadraque (25,5 km) 3 Jadraque – Mandayona (20,5 km) 4 Mandayona – Sigüenza (22,4 km) 5 Sigüenza – Alcolea del Pinar (20 km) 6 Alcolea del Pinar – Maranchón (31,7 km) 7 Maranchón – Medinaceli (31,5 km) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Medinaceli – Somaén (18,1 km) 9 Somaén – Santa María de Huerta (16,3 km) 10 Santa María de Huerta – Ariza (20,6 km) 11 Ariza – Alhama de Aragón (15 km) 12 Alhama de Aragón – Ateca (15,9 km) Enlace Ateca – Calatayud (15,8 km) |
|--|---|











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.



Services

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



Distance: 28,4 km

Maximum grade: 308 m

Cumulative ascent: 560 m

Cumulative descent: 640 m

Estimated time: 6h 45m

Physical difficulty: High

**ATIENZA** (POPULATION: 410) GR-160

The way starts in the lower section of the town (next to the Real Posada de San Salvador), following the old road to Ayllón. There is an arrow that points towards the southwest, to a path that shortly after runs into road CM-110 (km 1). Cross the road and follow straight, walking along *Camino de las Minas*. Pay attention to the crossroads, following straight along the main path until reaching the boundaries of the municipality. At this point, the path stretches and then turns to the right towards a *stream called Escobar* (km 4.9). Before reaching a poplar grove (km 5.7), there is an arrow (start of a MBT stretch) that points us along a path to the right that leads up a steep slope to a hillock (km 6.1), crossed by a short track (for overhead cables). Then the path continues ascending until reaching another *hillock* (km 6.8). Take a trail that starts a descent and follow until reaching a road that is in close proximity to **La Miñosa**.



Crop fields and hills covered with oaks, kermes oaks, rockroses and aromatic scrubland



Metropolitan area: Romanesque churches of Santísima Trinidad, San Bartolomé, Santa María del Rey and Santa María del Val, city walls and castle...



Rural path and mountain footpath amidst rockroses



Pay attention to the start of a MBT stretch (the footpath climbs along the hillside)

8,1 km

**LA MIÑOSA** (POPULATION: 8) GR-160

Leave **La Miñosa** walking along a road. Walk past a fountain, a pelota court and a black poplar grove and continue until reaching a small bridge over the *river Cañamares* (km 8.1). Start a sharp climb along a trail whose surface is in good condition and that runs alongside oaks. At a crossroads, you will reach a group of abandoned buildings. Leave the main path and turn to a path to the left (km 9.5). The path gets worse as you climb and its borders disappear among the rockroses. You will reach the highest point of the stage (1,320m) at the foot of *Alto de la Sierra*. At a crossroads (km 11.9), turn left. You will go past *Erilla* (km 12.4) and *Cerezo* (km 12.8) hillocks, before taking a well-surfaced trail (*Cañada Real Riojana*). Look out for the crossroads. You will eventually reach the road joining *Atienza* and *Hiendelaencina* (km 19.4). After crossing the road, follow along a path that runs into the road that leads to **Robledo de Corpes**, next to *Soledad chapel* (km 20.3).



Slate hills covered with scrubland, rockroses and kermes oaks



San Pedro church built in Romanesque style



Rural path, forest paths and footpath



Stretch with sharp ups and downs and gradient with uneven roadbed, whose borders are not visible at some times because of rockroses

13 km

**ROBLEDO DE CORPES** (POPULATION: 45) GR-160

Leave from *Calle Alta*. At the crossroads leading out of the town, turn right and head southwest along the path. At a crossroads (km 24.1), a MBT signposted stretch starts. Leave the main path and turn right to a path in worse condition. The path, which runs amidst rockroses, reaches a power tower (km 24.5). At this point, head again southwest. Follow straight, passing by other five power towers. After walking past the last power tower (km 26.1), start descending until reaching an old building and then turn right (km 26.6). After crossing a *stream called Diógenes* (km 26.8), the path climbs until reaching a small valley (km 27.3). Cross and then continue straight ahead, towards **Hiendelaencina**, which is already visible..



Slate hills covered with scrubland, rockroses and kermes oaks. Groves of oak trees and cultivated fields



Exemplars of black architecture



Stony rural paths and footpath



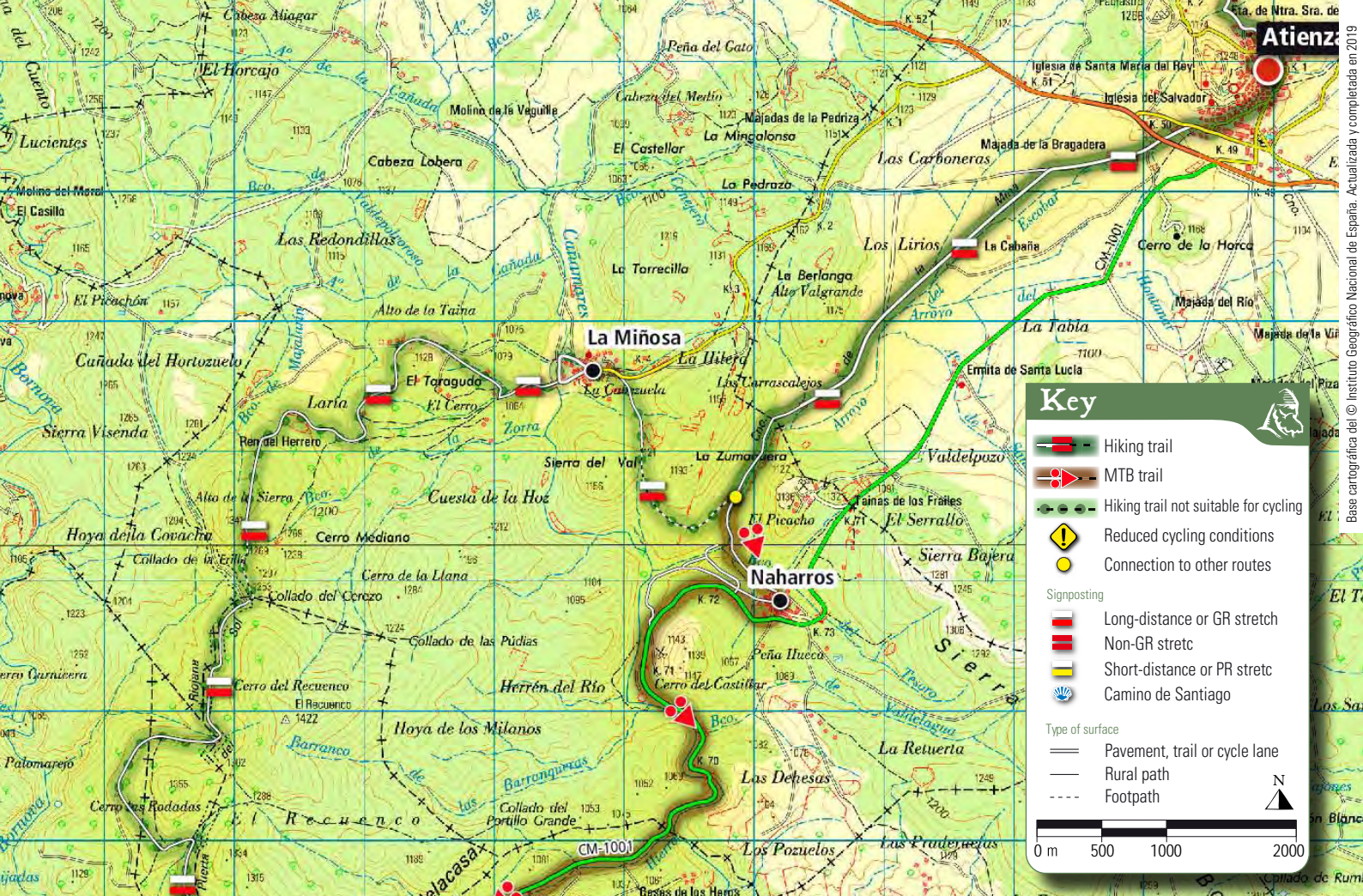
Pay attention to the start of a MBT stretch

7,3 km

**HIENDELAENCINA** (POPULATION: 118)

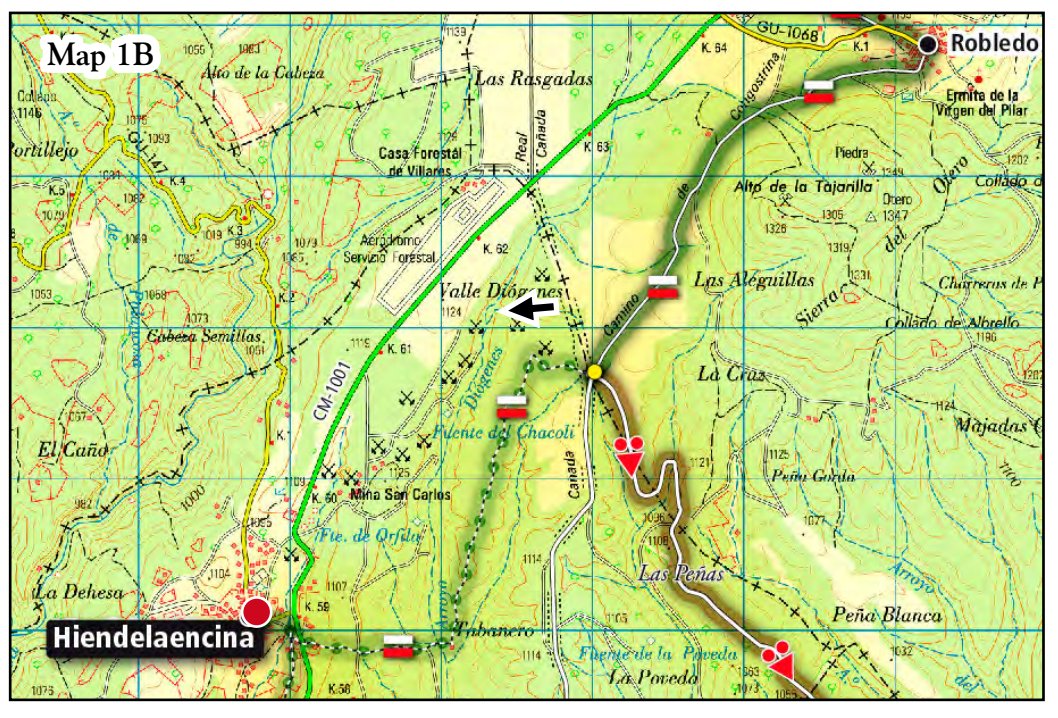
View of Atienza and of its castle taken from a point along The Way of El Cid

	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature Max/Min	8° -1°	11° -1°	14° 1°	17° 3°	21° 6°	27° 10°	32° 14°	32° 14°	27° 11°	19° 6°	13° 2°	9° -1°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:31	10:37	11:55	13:20	14:30	15:08	14:51	13:50	12:29	11:08	09:52	09:13
Average rainfall	65	57	51	66	75	59	29	27	50	64	80	73



TIERRAS DE FRONTERA (BORDERLANDS)

This route will lead you through borderland regions at the time of El Cid. The borderland was a far-reaching, scarcely populated and dangerous region, packed with Muslim military bases which controlled strategic frontier posts. The most important garrisons were located at Atienza, Guadalajara, Medinaceli and Calatayud. The three first garrisons were part of the taifa of Toledo and the latter was part of the taifa of Zaragoza. Welcome to the borderlands!





Hiendelaencina – Jadraque



Distance: 25,5 km

Maximum grade: 295 m

Cumulative ascent: 240 m

Cumulative descent: 495 m

Estimated time: 5h 45m

Physical difficulty: Medium



HIENDELAENCINA (POPULATION: 1.118) GR-160

Leave from *Soledad chapel*, walking along the same path you used to access the town, and then cross the stream. Continue until reaching an arrow, which points towards your destination. Take a farming path that heads southwards and passes by a dumping site and the *fountain of Aguas Calientes*. Cross through *Diógenes stream* over a bridge (km 1.7). After a climb, cross the *path to Aienza* (km 2.3). Follow straight towards the southeast, walking on a path that runs amidst oak trees. Cross another trail (km 2.8) and, shortly after, start a descent which leads to a path situated close to the road. Continue along a path whose borders are not easily visible and fords the stream (km 3.6), heading southwards as the path gradually becomes a country track until it reaches the road (km 5.3). Cross the road, which is close to *Soledad chapel*, and continue walking along an asphalt stretch of path that leads to **Congostrina**.

5,9 km



CONGOSTRINA (POPULATION: 16) GR-160

Leave the town, heading eastwards, towards *Sierra de los Lobos*. Walk by a series of wineries, a well with a post and a fountain. Then continue along a path that climbs and passes by a water tank (km 6.2). Start descending. Pay attention to the signposting for a *stream called Valdemanquillo* (km 8). The path crosses through the stream and climbs to the other side of the hillside. It then runs into an oak grove. Continue until you get close to the remains of the *monastery of San Salvador* (km 9.6). At this point, you will join the rural path along which a signposted MTB stretch runs. The path is easy to follow, for it runs straight to **Pinilla**. Before reaching the town, cross the *river Cañamares* through a bridge (km 10.8).

5,3 km



PINILLA DE JADRAQUE (POPULATION: 51) GR-160

Leave the town, walking along the entrance road. Immediately after crossing over the *river Cañamares* through the bridge, turn to a path to your left (km 11.5) which runs along a thick grove amidst the river and orchards. There are times when the route becomes a footpath, which is why you should pay attention to signposting. At this point, you come out to the road (km 13.1). Turn left and walk along this road and then, a little bit further, take a path to the left (km 14.2). The path runs close to the river until coming out to a road, which is very close to **Medranda**. Access the town walking along the road and crossing through a bridge. Follow until reaching a pleasant park (km 15.9).

4,7 km



MEDRANDA (POPULATION: 72) GR-160

Start at the park that is situated next to the bridge: walk along a soil path that runs parallel to the river. After passing a bend, you come out to a road, opposite to the cemetery (km 16.6). Walk southwards along the road before taking a path situated on the right-hand side (km 17.4). The path runs next to the *river Cañamares* until it comes out to the road leading to **Castilblanco**, next to the bridge (km 19.4).

3,7 km



CASTILBLANCO DE HENARES (POPULATION: 12) GR-160

Leave **Castilblanco** walking along a small path, which starts next to the church (km 19.7). This path climbs alongside the edge of a fence until reaching a path that runs close to the cemetery (km 20.4). Join this path, which is in good condition and heads towards the southwest. Follow until reaching road CM-1000 (km 21.6). Continue one more stretch along a path that runs parallel to the road. You will eventually join the road (km 22.8). Continue along this path until the entrance to **Jadraque**. Cross through a crossroads (km 23.2), then cross the *river Henares* (km 24) and finally the railway (km 24.3).

5,6 km



JADRAQUE (POPULATION: 1.420) GR-160

Hills covered with scrubland, groves of oaks and crop fields

Old silver mines, shephard huts

Rural paths, cattle crossings and footpaths

Be careful at the exit at Hiendelaencina (two-way traffic direction in a one-way stretch of route at the entrance of the town) and during footpath stretches

Oak groves, hills covered with scrubland and crop fields

Some exemplars of popular architecture

Rural paths, cattle crossings and footpaths

Pay attention to the stretches of route along footpaths

Grove at the river Cañamares and orchards

Anunciación church built in Romanesque style and remains of the monastery of San Salvador

Rural paths, footpath along the grove and road

Correct signposting, though vegetation growth may cause orientation problems at the groves along the river

Groves at the river Cañamares and orchards

Some exemplars of popular architecture

Paths and road

Meadow at the river Henares

Romanesque façade and gable at the parochial church

Paths and road

Panoramic view of a country house at Hiendelaencina

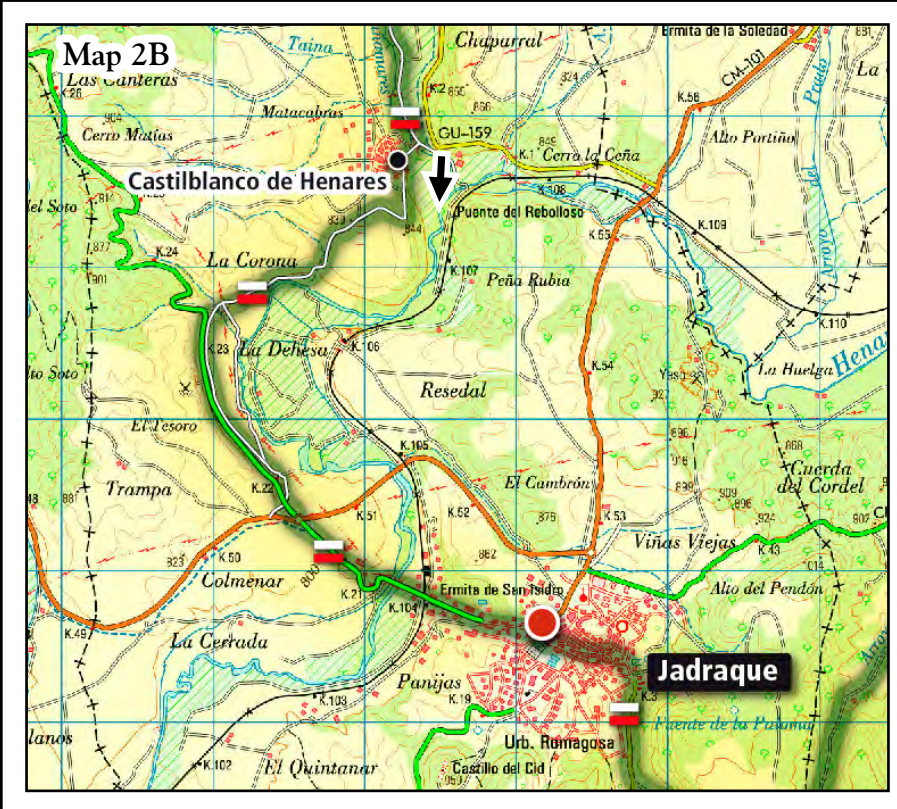
	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	7°	9°	13°	15°	18°	25°	30°	28°	24°	17°	11°	8°
Max/Min	0°	0°	2°	4°	7°	11°	14°	14°	11°	7°	3°	0°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:32	10:38	11:55	13:19	14:29	15:07	14:51	13:49	12:28	11:07	09:53	09:14
Average rainfall	56	52	39	64	75	19	22	18	40	55	56	75

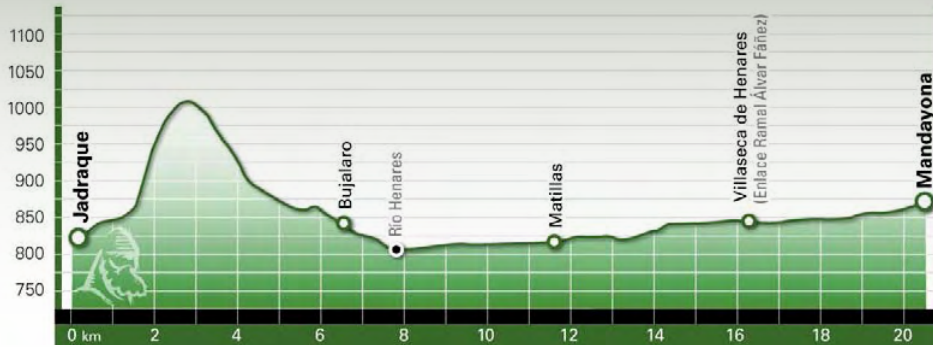
Synthesized data for Hiendelaencina obtained using data interpolation



HIENDELAENCINA AND THE SILVER RUSH

During the second half of the 19th century, this small farming town underwent transformation: it grew from a population of 300 to over 5,000, to the point that it vied with the capital of the province in terms of population. Following the chance discovery of silver in the subsoil, over 200 mines were opened, which, in turn, attracted the attention of thousands of fortune seekers from all over Spain. Mining companies specialized in manufacturing silver were built close to the mines and a large group of English people moved to the area, where a hospital and a school were built. Over the years, silver exhausted little by little, so that mining exploitation ended after the First World War. Nowadays, the sole indication of this part of history is the peculiar town planning and the large number of chimneys (breathers) that decorate the landscape.





Distance: 20,5 km
Maximum grade: 200 m

Cumulative ascent: 260 m
Cumulative descent: 190 m

Estimated time: 4h 40m
Physical difficulty: Medium



JADRAQUE (POPULATION: 1.420)

Walk through the town along Calle Mayor. After passing by the Church of San Roque, turn into Calle Domine which ends next to an arrow indicating the Route of El Cid (km 0.7) on the GU-222 road to Villanueva de Argecilla. Carry on along the road until you come to a left-hand turning (km 1.4). The path begins a gentle climb upto a ravine, and the surface gradually turns into an earthen track. At the top you will come to a crossroads with a country path situated in front of you (km 2.7). Follow this path for a few metres before taking a sharp left turn (2.9 km) in a northerly direction. The path leads directly to Bujalaro (km 6.5), after a descent alongside Fuente del Rey ravine.



Hillocks covered with brushwood and scrubland used for shepherding practices



Castle of El Cid



Road, rural path and footpath

6,4 km



BUJALARO (POPULATION: 43)

Start at the church, walking along *Martín Artajo*. Turn to a path to your right, which is next to the washing place (km 6.6). Get away from the town walking northwards, towards the train lines (km 8). Do not cross the train lines but rather continue walking along a path that runs parallel to the train lines and that leads directly to Matillas (km 11.6).



Fields and groves alongside the river Henares



11th century parochial church



Rural paths

5,3 km



MATILLAS (POPULATION: 106)

Starting from the station, turn to the right and cross the *river Henares*. After walking past the washing place, turn to the left into a street which passes next to a small park and then comes out to a road (km 12.4). Turn left, passing close to *Santa Lucía chapel* (km 13). Follow until reaching *Molino de Edancho* (km 13.2). Turn to a path to the right, walking close to the old light factory (km 13.4). From this point onwards, The Way runs amidst low scrubland and cultivated fields, parallel to the *channel of Mandayona* until reaching *Villaseca de Henares* (km 16.1).



Fields and groves alongside the river Henares



Church of Matillas "the old"



Rural paths

4,4 km



VILLASECA DE HENARES (POPULATION: 27)

Walk along the southern part of the town (*Calle Extramuros*), where you will encounter an arrow indicating the start of "*La Algarada de Álvar Fañez*" (km 16.5), which connects with *Guadalajara*. Follow some metres further until reaching a crossroads (km 16.6). Turn to the right so as to continue along a path heading eastwards. Walk parallel to the *river Dulce*, amidst crop fields and groves. Access *Mandayona* crossing over the river through a bridge (km 20.2).



Agricultural meadow at the low watershed of the river Dulce and grey and barren view of Alcarria



Romanesque façade and apse at San Blas church



Rural paths



The branch **route of Álvar Fañez** departs from Villaseca de Henares and reaches as far as Guadalajara

4,5 km



MANDAYONA (POPULATION: 268)

Spectacular castle of Jadraque



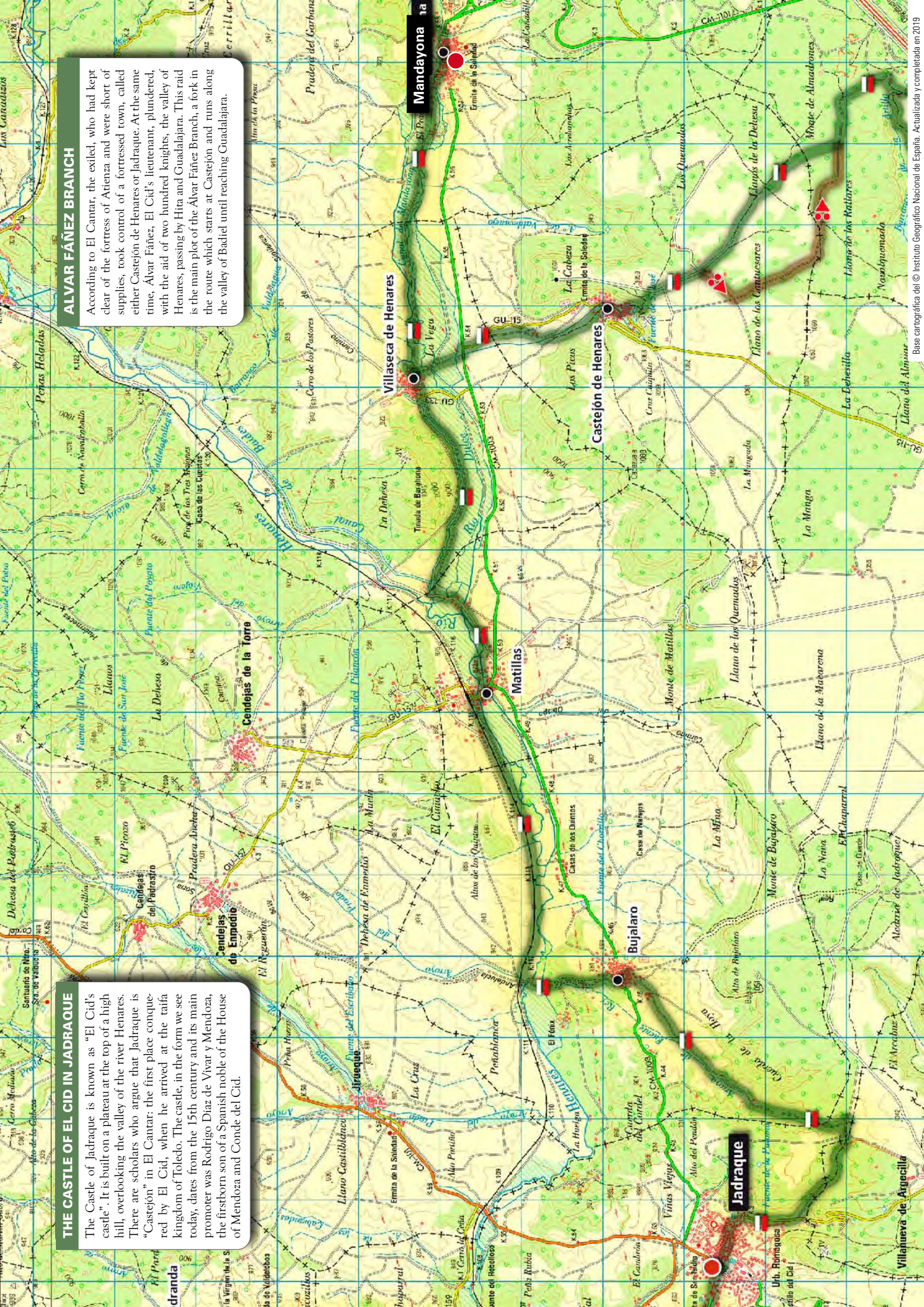
	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature Max/Min	9° 0°	11° 0°	14° 2°	16° 4°	16° 4°	21° 7°	26° 11°	31° 14°	30° 14°	26° 11°	19° 7°	13° 3°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:33	10:38	11:55	13:19	14:28	15:06	14:48	13:48	12:29	11:08	09:54	09:15
Average rainfall	52	47	34	58	58	63	42	23	18	38	55	63

THE CASTLE OF EL CID IN JADRAQUE

The Castle of Jadraque is known as "El Cid's castle". It is built on a plateau at the top of a high hill, overlooking the valley of the river Henares. There are scholars who argue that Jadraque is "Castejón" in El Cantar: the first place conquered by El Cid, when he arrived at the taifa kingdom of Toledo. The castle, in the form we see today, dates from the 15th century and its main promoter was Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar y Mendoza, the firstborn son of a Spanish noble of the House of Mendoza and Conde del Cid.

ALVAR FÁÑEZ BRANCH

According to El Cantar, the exiled, who had kept clear of the fortress of Atienza and were short of supplies, took control of a fortified town, called either Castejón de Henares or Jadraque. At the same time, Alvar Fáñez, El Cid's lieutenant, plundered, with the aid of two hundred knights, the valley of Henares, passing by Hita and Guadalaajara. This raid is the main plot of the Alvar Fáñez Branch, a fork in the route which starts at Castejón and runs along the valley of Badiel until reaching Guadalaajara.





Distance: 22,4 km
Maximum grade: 250 m

Cumulative ascent: 490 m
Cumulative descent: 315 m

Estimated time: 5h 25m
Physical difficulty: Medium



4,1 km



7,5 km



4 km



6,8 km



MANDAYONA (POPULATION: 268)

Starting from Calle Real, take the left-hand path out of town (on the way to Sigüenza), crossing the bridge over the river Dulce (km 0.2), leaving behind you the Chorrera fountain. At the old paper mill (km 0.3), turn to the right. At a crossroads, turn to the right again (km 1.2) and then walk close to the river. Walk into the road when reaching the crossroads at **Aragosa** (km 2.2). Continue on this road for 150 m. Turn to a path to the right and walk alongside a poplar grove. Walk again into the road (km 3.3) and you will soon reach **Aragosa**.

ARAGOSA (POPULATION: 17)

Cross through the town and continue along a winding path that runs parallel to the river, through the **Natural Park Barranco del río Dulce**. The late Felix Rodríguez de la Fuente shot several of his documentaries in this area. The route is easy to follow: it runs towards the northeast along a path on the bottom of the impressive gully, in between limestone walls. The path runs some metres away from a *country house* called *Los Heros* (km 8.5), which used to be a banknote factory (in ruins).

LA CABRERA (POPULATION: 6)

Cross over the *river Dulce* via the medieval bridge, which leads to the church. Starting at a former sports field, there is a path that heads eastwards out of the town. Before reaching the cemetery, you will come to a crossroads (km 11.8). Walk straight on, following the course of the river. Shortly after, the valley gets narrower (km 12.1). At this point, the condition of the path gets worse, though it continues running parallel to the river along its left bank. Pass by two bridges that cross over the river and continue along a path that runs in close proximity to an irrigation canal. The path runs into a bridge over the *river Dulce* (km 15.1). Cross through it and turn to the left. Follow until reaching a crossroads that connects with the path to the orchards, which are in close proximity to the town (km 15.5). Now leave the path for the GR-10 route and join Route 10 of the Don Quixote Route. From this point, you can walk to **Pelegrina**, which is only 200m away.

PELEGRINA (POPULATION: 13)

Leave **Pelegrina** from the low part of the town, walking in close proximity to the path through which the town is accessed. There is a notice board for Don Quixote Route (km 15.6) that indicates that this is the start of the route. The route moves away from the valley of the *river Dulce* and climbs towards the mountains, to *El Rebollar*. Continue walking along the path until reaching a farming unit. At this point, turn to the left (km 15.8). Walk along a footpath that climbs northwards. Cross through a trail (km 17.2) and then walk into an oak grove, following along the same trail. At this point (km 19.3), turn right to a path that runs into a road (km 20). Cross the road and continue walking along a trail. After a descent, you will reach another road (km 20.7). Walk 150m and then turn right. Follow until reaching a turn to the left. At a series of farming units, continue along a trail (km 21.1) that climbs some metres, halfway through the hillside: towards the castle of **Sigüenza** (km 22.3), which is at the outskirts of the town.

SIGÜENZA (POPULATION: 4.356)

Agricultural meadow and groves alongside the river Dulce

Renaissance church and remains of the castle

Rural paths with a good sub-base and road

Karst canyon with a flat bottom covered with crops and thick groves

Church built in Romanesque style and geology

Rural path

Fields, riverbank vegetation alongside the banks of the river and the limestone walls of the gorge

Romanesque church, river ecosystems alongside the river Dulce (Natural Park) and vulture nests

Rural path and footpath

Correct signposting. In the spring vegetation growth may obstruct movement along the path

Gorge of the river Dulce and grove of Pyrenean oaks

Castle, urban setting, Romanesque church, Natural Park and Varenosa cascade

Rural path, footpath and road

The borders of the path are not visible at stretches of agoforestry landscape (pay attention to signposting)

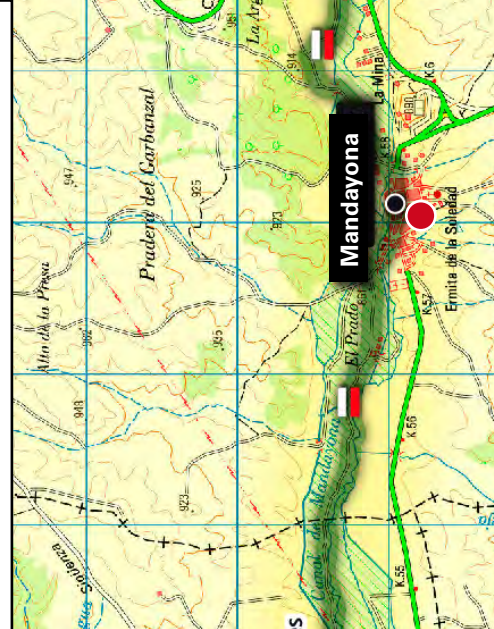
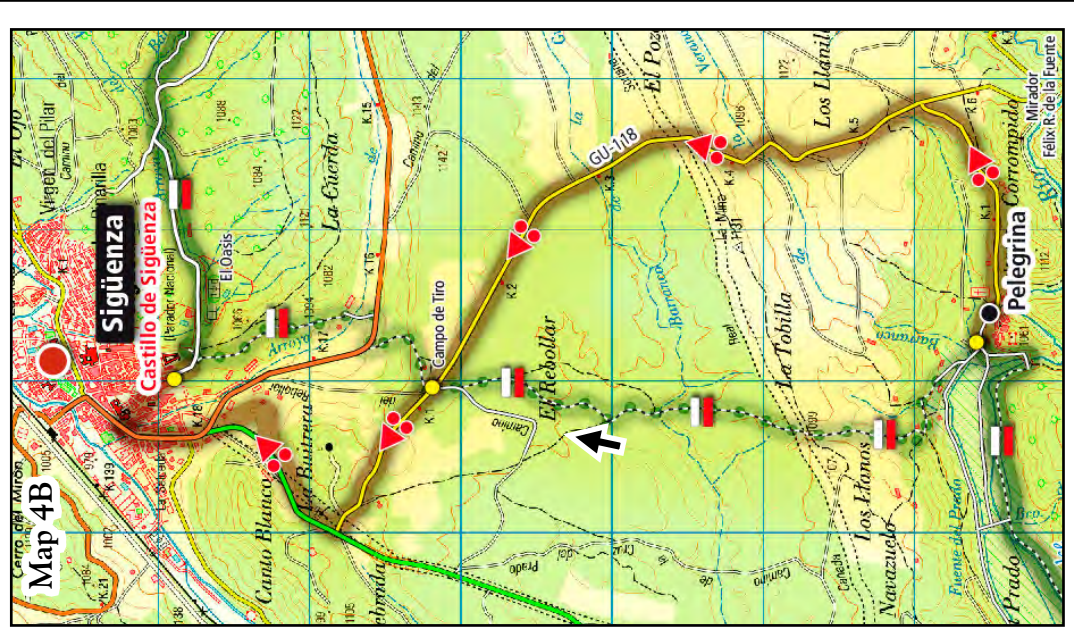
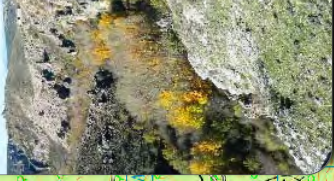
View of the low part of Pelegrina (exit arrow) and start of a signposted MBT stretch

Remains of Pelegrina castle, situated in the high part of the town

	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature Max/Min	8° -2°	10° -1°	13° 1°	15° 3°	20° 6°	25° 10°	31° 13°	30° 13°	26° 10°	18° 6°	12° 1°	8° -1°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:33	10:38	11:55	13:19	14:28	15:06	14:49	13:48	12:29	11:08	09:54	09:15
Average rainfall	52	46	36	61	71	46	24	20	38	52	61	59

The river Dulce: natural scenery

This beautiful canyon, carved on the limestone moorlands of the region surrounding Submeseta Sur, extends along one of the most suggestive routes of The Way. It was, additionally, the natural scenery where many of the recordings made by Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente were filmed. The clear water of the river creates the conditions that favor the thick groves, which grow alongside the riverbank. Furthermore, the limestone canyon walls are the home for a good number of nests, made by Egyptian vultures, eagles, vultures or crows.





Distance: 20 km

Maximum grade: 185 m

Cumulative ascent: 225 m

Cumulative descent: 160 m

Estimated time: 4h 25m

Physical difficulty: Medium

**SIGÜENZA** (POPULATION: 4.356) RUTA DEL QUIJOTE | GR-160

Start walking from the area just below the castle of **Sigüenza**. Descend westwards, until reaching a recreational area called *El Oasis* (km 0.4). From here, take the pleasant tarmacked path that runs along the bank of *El Vado* stream, through a dense pine grove with sandstone aggregates formed by geologic processes. At the crossroads (km 1.7), turn right and follow the uphill earthen path that crosses the stream. Pay attention: while walking along the pine grove, you will come across several crossroads. At this point, the *Don Quixote Routes* departs from the ramblers route. Continue along the *path to Lucio* (km 2), walking alongside the namesake gully. When reaching the main trail, turn left (km 3.5). Little by little, the trail moves away from the pine grove, heading eastwards until reaching the area close to **Barbatona**, next to the sanctuary (km 5.8).

- Pine grove with sandstone aggregates, hills covered with oaks and holm oaks and fields
- Cathedral and Gothic sepulcher of the Doncel, churches of San Vicente Mártir and Santiago built in Romanesque style, the house of the Doncel, castle...
- Well-preserved rural paths
- Pay attention to the crossroads

**BARBATONA** (POPULATION: 21)

Walk away from this small town heading towards road CM-110 (km 5.9). Cross the road and then continue southwards, walking along the path set out in front of you, which runs parallel to *stream Tejares*. Ignore several left and right hand turns. When reaching the *river Dulce*, cross through a bridge (km 8) and then start walking towards the northeast. The path runs alongside the river in between a beautiful gorge made of vertical walls. Walk away from the river and start a short ascent, until reaching **Jodra** (km 10).

- Mountain valley spattered with fields and scrub-covered steppe hillsides. Groves alongside the river Dulce
- Remains of a Muslim watchtower
- Well-preserved rural paths

**JODRA DEL PINAR** (POPULATION: 7)

Leave from the church of **Jodra**, descending along the town's entrance road. Follow until reaching *river Dulce*. Cross over the river through the bridge (km 10.3). Turn away from the road, taking a path to the right, which heads towards the northeast. The path runs to the right of the river alongside fields of crops. There is a crossroads (km 12.1) next to a bridge that crosses over the river. Turn to the left after crossing. The path runs towards the northeast, but the river is now to your left. Take the path which is in better condition (km 13), which shortly after links up with the road leading to **Estriégana**.

- Fields and riverbank groves alongside the banks of the river
- San Juan Bautista church built in Romanesque style
- Rural paths
- In the spring vegetation growth may obstruct movement along some stretches of the route

**ESTRIÉGANA** (POPULATION: 13)

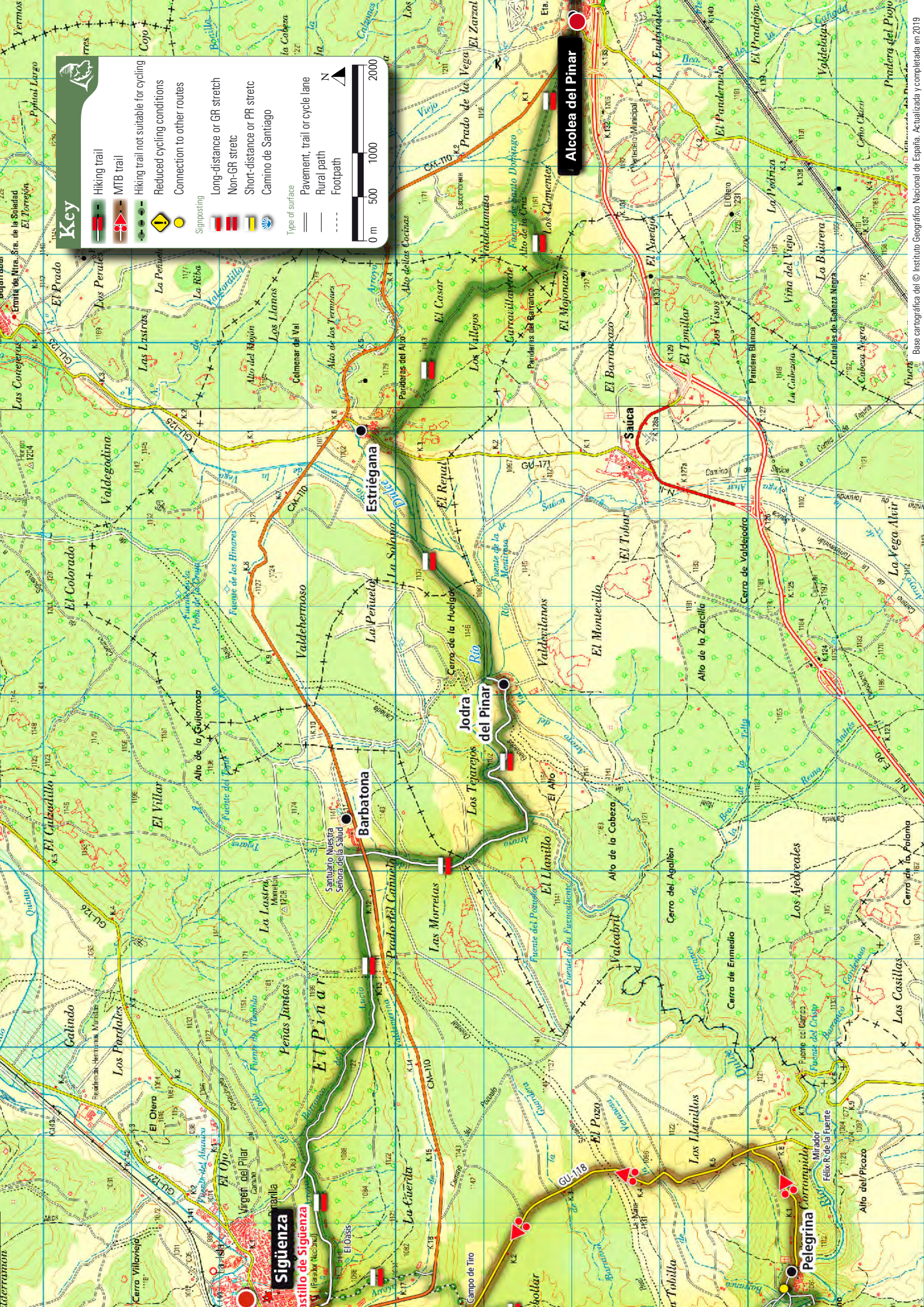
Resume the route at the entrance path to the town, starting at **Jodra**. Turn right to a path (km 13.5), situated next to several modern buildings. After 50m, you reach a stone wall, from where you should take an old bridle path that runs southwards, parallel to the wall. The path splits into two (km 13.7). Continue along the path to your left, walking towards the southeast. A path to the right joins the route (km 14.2). You will eventually come to hilly terrain dotted with kermes oaks, where the path occasionally disappears and you must take care not to lose your bearings. You will eventually reach a trail in good condition (km 16.7). Turn left and take this trail. After walking along a long straight line, you will reach a small pond (km 19.3), in an area in close proximity to **Alcolea del Pinar**.

- Fields and hills covered with kermes oak groves
- Romanesque church and Celtiberian necropolis
- Agriculture and bridle paths
- In the spring vegetation growth may obstruct movement along the initial stretch of the route

**ALCOLEA DEL PINAR** (POPULATION: 243)

Limestone canyon walls alongside the river Dulce (Jodra del Pinar)

	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	8°	9°	13°	15°	20°	26°	31°	30°	25°	18°	11°	8°
Max/Min	-3°	-3°	-2°	1°	5°	8°	11°	11°	8°	3°	0°	-3°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:32	10:37	11:55	13:20	14:30	15:08	14:50	13:49	12:29	11:08	09:53	09:14
Average rainfall	48	45	34	65	73	52	23	22	39	53	59	67



Key

- Hiking trail
- MTB trail
- Hiking trail not suitable for cycling
- Reduced cycling conditions
- Connection to other routes
- Supporting
- 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

Sigüenza
Castillo de Sigüenza

Alcolea del Pinar

Pelegrina
Mirador
Félix R. de la Fuente

Barbatona

Jodra del Pinar

Saúca

Estrigiana



Distance: 31,7 km

Maximum grade: 308 m

Cumulative ascent: 560 m

Cumulative descent: 640 m

Estimated time: 6h 45m

Physical difficulty: High

MIDE



4,8 km



2,5 km



5,5 km



12 km



7,1 km



ALCOLEA DEL PINAR (POPULATION: 243)

Leave Alcolea via Calle Real (the CM-110 road) and follow the road in the direction of Zaragoza. Taking great care (there is no hard shoulder on this stretch), take the link road to the N-211 that crosses the highway over a bridge until you come to a roundabout. From there, take the untarmacked path, which is used as a service area for the AVE [Spanish high-speed rail]. Further on cross through a level crossing over the rail lines (km 3.6) and then continue walking eastwards. At a crossroads (km 4.5), turn to the left and walk until running into a road, just at the entrance to **Garbajosa**.

GARBAJOSA (POPULATION: 8)

Cross through **Garbajosa** walking along the main street, which leads out of the town along a path that passes by the fountain and a washing place. At a crossroads (km 5.3), turn to the right. Continue on a straight road that runs alongside large crop fields. Before walking into the road, turn left into a footpath (km 6.6). Several paths join the route, but keep walking eastwards. After crossing over the gully through a bridge (km 7.2), you reach **Aguilar de Anguita**, which you should access through *Calle de los Berros*.

AGUILAR DE ANGUIITA (POPULATION: 13)

Walk out of the town. Follow until reaching road N-211 and then take the road to **Anguita**. At the first junction, fork right and follow the path (km 7.7), which starts a short ascent. You will pass to the left of the *Roman age settlement of La Cerca*. At a crossroads (km 10.8), turn right and then cross a *stream called Prado*, which is situated next to a poplar grove. The path heads towards the northeast, passing by the remains of *San Pedro chapel* (km 11.3). It then runs into the road just at the entrance to **Anguita**, in an area in close proximity to *Soledad chapel* (km 12.7).

ANGUITA (POPULATION: 99)

Leave from *San Pedro church*, walking along the road and heading towards road N-211. At the town's exit, turn to the right and walk into a soil path in good condition. After 200m, turn to the right and cross over the *river Tajuña* through a bridge. The path climbs alongside the river amidst an extraordinarily beautiful landscape. The river, which runs between steep banks, has surprising hollow spaces, while the path is shaded by thick black poplars. Cross over the river through a bridge. After a sharp curve in the path, cross the river once again and move slightly away from the riverbed. Now come close again to the river and cross over it once again. The valley, where crops grow, opens up gradually. Continue walking alongside the river, without diverting from the main path. Pass to the left of *San Roque chapel*, after which you will immediately arrive at **Luzón**. Walk towards the fountain and the old washing place.

LUZÓN (POPULATION: 64)

Leave Luzón walking along the road that connects with road N-211. Shortly after crossing through the bridge over the *river Tajuña* (km 25.1), turn to a path to the right. Although the path turns, follow straight along a small climbing path (km 25.3), which runs parallel to the telephone poles. Despite the fact that the road is closed at this point, continue walking on the path, which descends to the bottom of the valley. The path crosses through a field and then comes close to the river (km 25.8). Take a footpath that starts an ascent along the hillside and heads eastwards (wind farm). At this point, you reach a path (km 27.5) Continue along it for 100m and then turn to the right to take a footpath. After walking amidst a series of cultivated fields, you reach a broad path (km 28.7). From this point onwards, start climbing along a path until reaching a wind gauge (km 28.9). Then continue straight along a footpath that descends until reaching another path (km 29). The path brings you gradually close to Maranchón, whose outline on the horizon, to the northeast, serves as a guide when coming across turns to the right or the left. Access the town walking along the road (km 31.7).

MARANCHÓN (POPULATION: 199)

- Shrub-steppe and fields
- House made of stone
- Road and path
- Be careful on the stretch of route along the road

- Crop fields
- Parochial church
- Agricultural paths

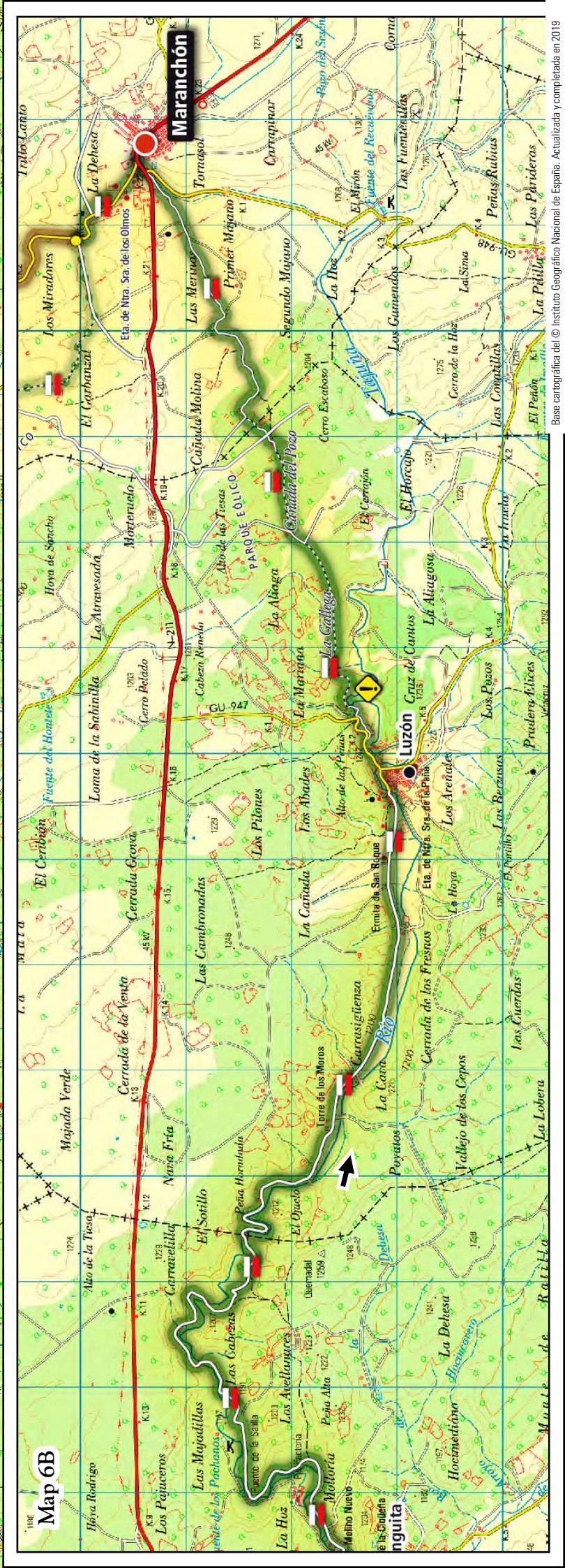
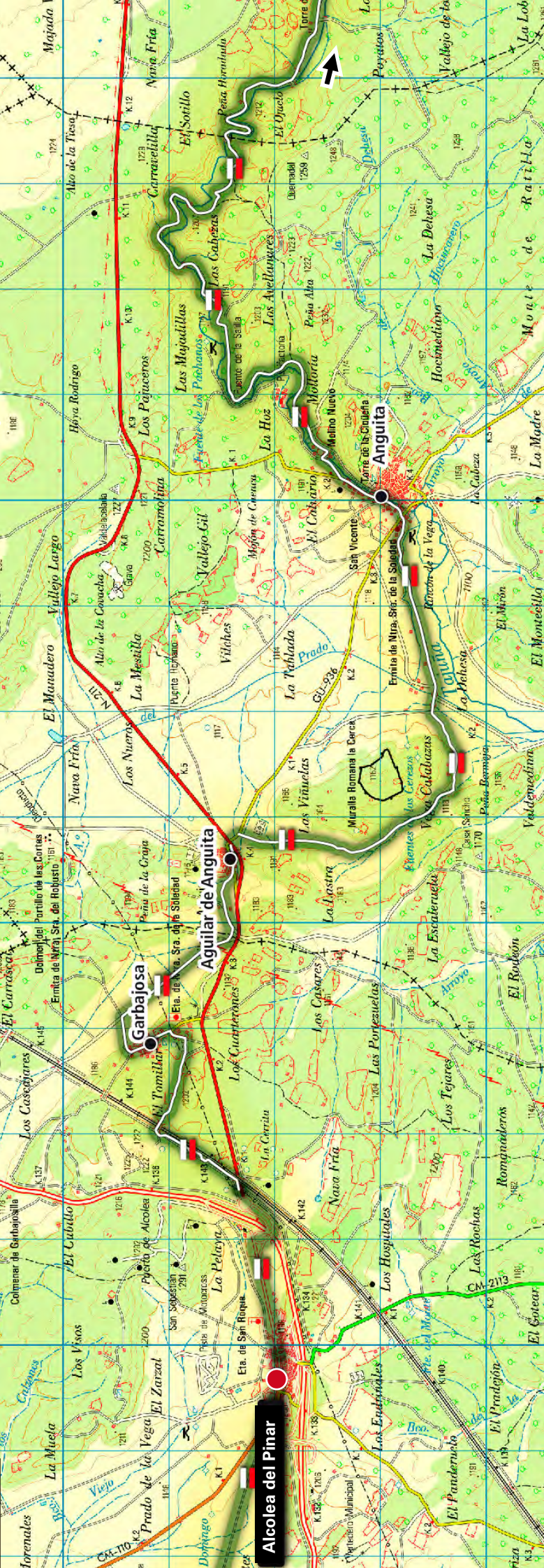
- Crop fields and barren hillocks
- Church, Roman bridge, sandstone dolmen, Roman age settlement and Celtiberian necropolis
- Agricultural paths

- Riverside forest alongside the river
- San Pedro church built in Gothic style, remains of a Muslim watchtower, caves of El Cantar
- Rural paths with a good sub-base

- Wind farm stretches across the barren hills
- San Pedro church, urban setting, milestones of Rodenal and Moros tower
- Agricultural paths and trails
- Be careful when walking along the stretches of footpath

	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature Max/Min	7° -2°	9° -2°	12° 0°	14° 2°	19° 5°	25° 9°	30° 12°	29° 12°	24° 9°	17° 5°	11° 1°	7° -1°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:32	10:38	11:55	13:19	14:29	15:07	14:51	13:49	12:28	11:08	09:53	09:14
Average rainfall	49	47	36	64	76	51	23	24	41	52	60	65

Views of the valley of the river
Tajuña from the entrance to the
town of Luzón





Maranchón – Medinaceli

Ramblers route



Distance: 31,5 km

Maximum grade: 330 m

Cumulative ascent: 375 m

Cumulative descent: 420 m

Estimated time: 7h 00m

Physical difficulty: High



MARANCHÓN (POPULATION: 199)

Start the stage walking along the road to **Arcos de Jalón**. Turn to a path that is to the left of the cemetery (km 0.3), which some metres further leads again to the road (km 0.7). After a couple of bends, an arrow (MTB stretch), indicates that you should turn off the road into a path situated on the left-hand side (km 1.1) that heads towards the wind farm. At the crossroads (km 1.9), turn right and follow the path that leads into a field (km 2.3), where there is another path that links up with the wind farm track (km 3.2). Turn right to the trail and when reaching a crossroads (km 3.6), turn left. Shortly after, walk off the trail and fork right to take a path in bad condition (km 3.9). When reaching the boundaries of Soria (km 6), the path turns into a footpath whose borders are hardly visible (the markers for the GR route turn into two red markers). The footpath, which is also in bad condition, starts a descent alongside the headwaters of *stream Blanco*, heading towards the northwest (km 7). At this point, you reach a large field (km 8.7). Continue along its left-hand border. After walking past a series of farming units and the river, you will reach the road (km 9.4). Follow straight until reaching **Layna** (km 11.8).

- Stepe in hillocks and moorlands
- Urban setting
- Rural paths, trails, footpath and road
- Some stretches of the route may cause orientation problems due to the blurry silhouette of the footpath
- Be careful when walking on the stretch of route along the road



12,1 km

LAYNA (POPULATION: 40)

Leave **Layna** walking along the town's high part, in the northern area. At the town's outskirts, move away from the buildings, walking on a stony path (km 12.4). Descend until reaching a crossroads (km 12.8). Turn to a path to the left that runs amidst orchards. Continue walking easily along a path that leads to **Urex** (km 16.6), to the right of which is the *river Blanco*.

- Meadow at the river Blanco and lonely moorlands
- Historical fountain and stone bridge
- Rural path
- Marvellous views at the valley of Pradejón
- Popular architecture and urban sculptures
- Road and path



4,6 km

UREX DE MEDINACELI (POPULATION: 7)

Resume the route starting at the church. Walk along the entrance road to the town, climbing alongside a small *gully called Val*. When reaching the road that connects **Medinaceli** and **Maranchón** (km 18.9), turn right. Walk into the road and then cross through the tunnel under the AVE train lines. After walking 300m, take a path to the left (km 19.3), which descends sharply alongside the source of the *stream Pradejón* and heads towards the northwest. You will soon reach a black poplar grove (km 22.3) and you will, immediately after, arrive at **Arbujuelo** (km 22.6).

- Agricultural meadow
- Exemplars of popular architecture
- Rural path



6,1 km

ARBUJUELO (POPULATION: 9)

Leave from **Arbujuelo** walking along the road. After 800m, walk off the paved road and turn to a path to the left (km 23.6). After crossing the *stream Pradejón*, turn to the right and continue walking alongside crop fields. The path runs towards the northwest alongside the meadow at the stream (in the spring vegetation growth may blur the outlines of the path). You will eventually reach **Salinas de Medinaceli**, which you access through a bridge (km 26.1).

- Valley of Jalón and salt mines
- Parochial church and salt mines
- Rural path, road and footpath in the ascent to Medinaceli
- Be careful when walking on the stretch of route along the road



3,9 km

SALINAS DE MEDINACELI (POPULATION: 44)

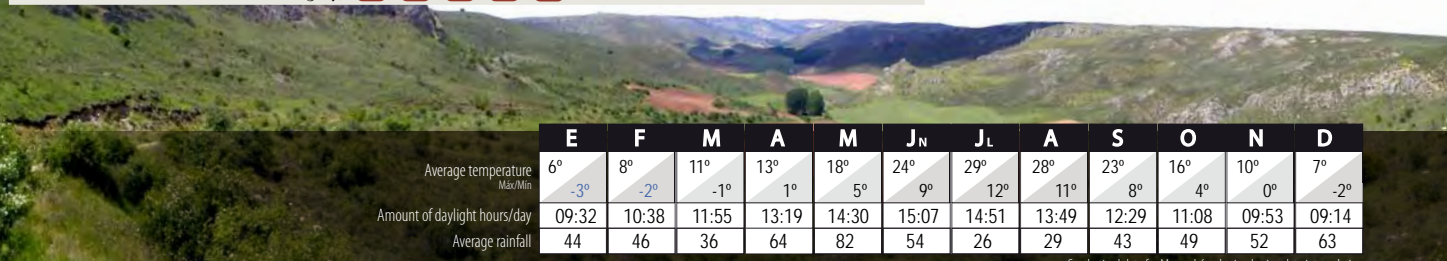
Walk across the town along the main street and continue until reaching the entrance road to the town. After walking past the last houses (km 26.7), turn to a path to your left. From here you can enjoy a spectacular view of the salt mine, which is to your right. This point connects with the road providing service to the highway (km 27.4). Turn to the right and walk 100m further. Then cross the highway through a subterranean passage (km 27.5). Turn right and continue until coming out to the road from Salinas (km 28). In order to avoid the train lines, continue walking on the road's hard shoulder. You will come out to an elevated rail line N-II, which is in close proximity to **Barrio de la Estación**. Continue walking towards Medinaceli. Start climbing along the road that leads to the town (km 29.1). In the first curve (km 29.8), turn to a footpath to your right, walking along a steep river bed that leads to the road (km 30.6), next to Humilladero chapel. The final stretch, which leads to the Roman arch (km 31.1) and the medieval town, runs along a road..

View from the headwaters of the valley at stream Pradejón



4,9 km

MEDINACELI (POPULATION: 517)

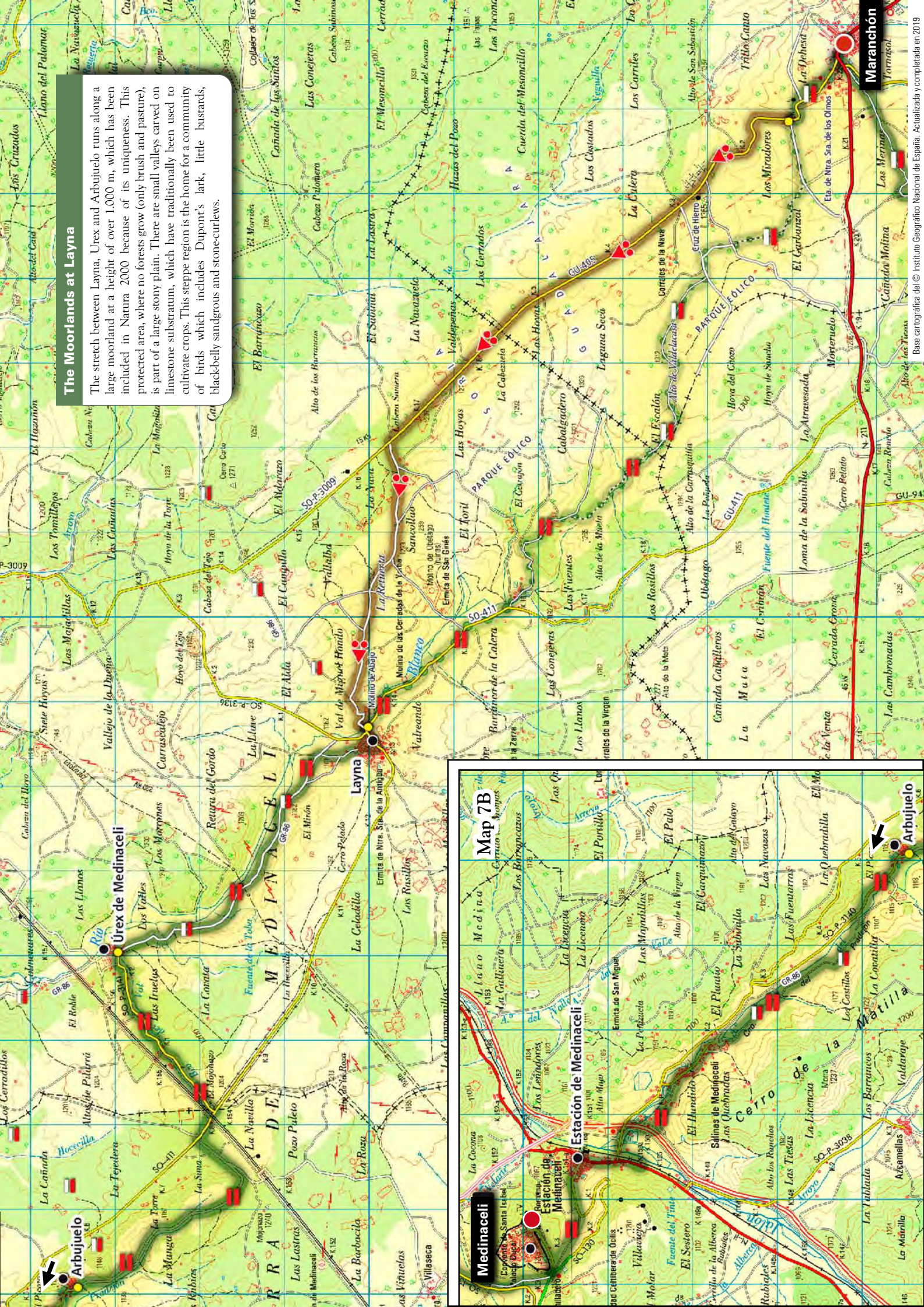


	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	6°	8°	11°	13°	18°	24°	29°	28°	23°	16°	10°	7°
Max/Min	-3°	-2°	-1°	1°	5°	9°	12°	11°	8°	4°	0°	-2°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:32	10:38	11:55	13:19	14:30	15:07	14:51	13:49	12:29	11:08	09:53	09:14
Average rainfall	44	46	36	64	82	54	26	29	43	49	52	63

Synthesized data for Maranchón obtained using data interpolation

The Moorlands at Layna

The stretch between Layna, Urex and Arbujuelo runs along a large moorland at a height of over 1.000 m, which has been included in Natura 2000 because of its uniqueness. This protected area, where no forests grow (only brush and pasture), is part of a large stony plain. There are small valleys carved on limestone substratum, which have traditionally been used to cultivate crops. This steppe region is the home for a community of birds which includes Dupont's lark, little bustards, black-belly sandgrouse and stone-curlews.



Map 7B





Medinaceli – Somaén



Distance: 18,1 km
Maximum grade: 360 m

Cumulative ascent: 160 m
Cumulative descent: 510 m

Estimated time: 3h 40m
Physical difficulty: Low



MEDINACELI (POPULATION: 517)

After visiting **Medinaceli**, leave from *Beato Julián square*. Descend along a path that leads to the road (km 0.7), next to *Humilladero chapel* (notice board for the GR-86 trail). From here, take the path that goes to the right from the Miño de Medinaceli road, walk down as far as the SO-131 road (km 1.5), and continue to the right. Follow walking until reaching a roundabout (km 3). Now, turn to the right and follow until walking into a bridge (km 3.5). Cross and follow along a path. After coming close to a roundabout, the path moves away from the highway and starts a short ascent amidst crop fields. Follow until reaching *Alto del Castillejo*, where there is a crossroads (km 5.2). Continue in the same direction, descending along the bottom of the *gully Hocino*. Follow until the entrance of an abandoned town called **Corvesín** (km 6.8). At a distance of less than 100m from the town's exit, there is a crossroads. Turn right. The path turns, leading towards the southeast. Turn right and walk into a path in better condition (km 7.4). Follow straight towards the highway. Pass by a gravel bed to your left and cross over the highway through a bridge (km 8.3). You will soon reach the low part of **Lodares**, which is next to the old N-II road (km 8.8).



Barren hills and dry farming



Historic-Artistic complex, collegiate, castle and city walls, three-arch Roman arch



Rural paths and road stretch



Be careful on the stretch of route along the road

8,8 km



LODARES (POPULATION: 10 HAB)

The stretch between **Lodares** and **Jubera** runs along the old N-II road. Leave from Lodares, walking along road N-II, and head towards the northeast. The path runs along an asphalt stretch, which is amazingly beautiful. The *river Jalón* runs in between steep high walls and the road and the train lines compete in their effort to conquer space. Walk carefully along the wide hard shoulder. At the entrance to **Jubera**, you will see a small country house scattered across the hillside.



River ecosystem and limestone canyon walls of the river Jalón



Some exemplars of popular architecture



Road



Be careful on the stretch of route along the road

3,3 km



JUBERA (POPULATION: 8)

Continue walking along the old N-II road. The stretch of route that extends to **Somaén** runs also along the road, which is why it poses no difficulty as far as directions are concerned. The road, which offers views of great beauty, wanders along the bottom of the gorge, carved by the *river Jalón* on the rock. The arrival at **Somaén**, perched on the crest of a scarp, is the cause of surprise for travellers, who access the town through a bridge over the *river Jalón* that leads to the city centre.



River ecosystem and limestone canyon walls of the river Jalón



Castle (ruins)



Road



Be careful on the stretch of route along the road

6 km

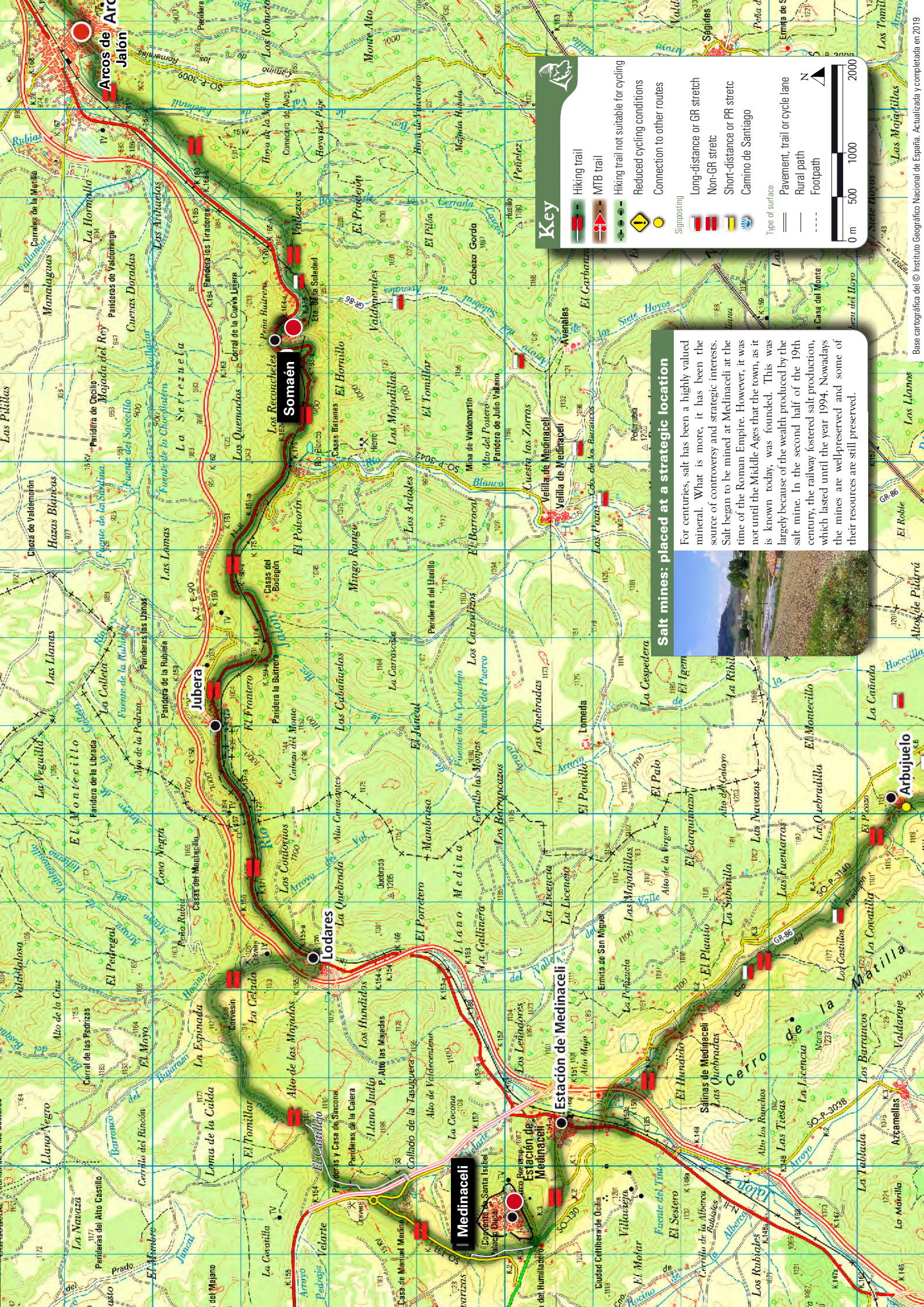


SOMAÉN (POPULATION: 28)

Panoramic view of the valleys Jalón and Pradejón taken from Medinaceli



	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	7°	9°	12°	14°	19°	24°	30°	29°	24°	17°	11°	8°
Max/Min	-2°	-1°	0°	2°	6°	9°	12°	12°	9°	5°	1°	-1°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:31	10:37	11:55	13:20	14:30	15:08	14:51	13:50	12:29	11:08	09:53	09:14
Average rainfall	40	40	33	60	70	47	22	25	37	46	54	54



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

Salt mines: placed at a strategic location



For centuries, salt has been a highly valued mineral. What is more, it has been the source of controversy and strategic interests. Salt began to be mined at Medinaceli at the time of the Roman Empire. However, it was not until the Middle Ages that the town, as it is known today, was founded. This was largely because of the wealth produced by the salt mine. In the second half of the 19th century, the railway fostered salt production, which lasted until the year 1994. Nowadays the mines are well-preserved and some of their resources are still preserved.



Distance: 16,3 km
Maximum grade: 125 m

Cumulative ascent: 140 m
Cumulative descent: 240 m

Estimated time: 3h 40m
Physical difficulty: Low

**SOMAÉN** (population: 28)

Start this stage at the bridge over the *river Jalón*, which is situated next to road N-II. Cross the bridge and then take the first turn on your left. Leave **Somaén**, passing by *Soledad chapel* (km 0.3). Continue along a path running amidst the train lines and the thick groves that grow along the *river Jalón*. Some metres further, ignore the path to your right (km 0.6), which is the path for the GR-86 route. Take care on the level crossing, as it has no barriers, as you make your way to a crossroads (km 1.1), before continuing on the right-hand side. You will then reach another crossroads (km 1.3). Follow straight, walking close to the river. After a curve, a path to the right joins the path (km 1.7), but you should continue straight, passing to the left of a building. The route to **Arcos de Jalón**, which runs along the same path, runs close to the meadow at the river Jalón, amidst fields of crops, heading towards the northeast. Ignore the right hand turn (km 3.8) and continue straight. Arcos is gradually closer. Access the town walking along *Calle Calvo Sotelo*, which is close to the road leading to **Maranchón** (km 4.9).



Agricultural meadow, riverbank vegetation and kermes oak trees



Castle, N.S. de la Visitación parish, popular architecture, natural pool in the area of the river Jalón...



Rural paths

5.2 km

**ARCOS DE JALÓN** (population: 1.157)

Resume the route starting at *Calle Mayor*. Leave the town walking along the road to **Aguilar de Montuenga**. After passing by the cemetery (km 6), continue along the road 200m more and then turn to a path to the right (km 6.2), heading eastwards. Pass to the left of a gravel bed (km 7). When reaching several crossroads (kms 7.2 and 7.4), follow straight. Pay attention; after walking past a series of cultivated fields, the path runs into a barren field. At this point, take a small path on your right (km 7.6). 100m further you will come out to a path in good condition (km 7.7). Cross the path and then continue straight along a path that runs amidst the borders of a series of plots of land. At this point, walk into a path (km 8.5) which runs close to a *stream called Segides*. Follow straight and keep walking eastwards. You will reach a road (km 9). Cross the road and climb to access the town (km 9.2).



Crop fields



Remains of a walled castle of the medieval world, tower of homage and Anunciación church



Rural paths



In spring vegetation growth may pose orientation problems along some stretches of the route

4 km

**AGUILAR DE MONTUENGA** (population: 24)

Cross through **Aguilar** heading to an area that is to the east of the town. Take an exit path, which is placed next to an arrow (km 9.5) and runs along unirrigated fields. The path is easy to follow because the skyline of **Montuenga** and its *castle* are visible. Ignore a turn to your right (km 10) and follow straight until reaching the road (km 10.5). Do not walk into the road, but rather continue straight until the crossroads that is next to *Santa Bárbara basin* (km 10.6). Follow straight, without changing directions; you will soon reach *Soledad chapel* (km 10.8), which is at the town's entrance.



Crop fields



Remains of a medieval tower



Rural path with a good sub-base

1.7 km

**MONTUENGA DE SORIA** (population: 101)

Start at the pelota court, situated next to the road. Walk along *Calle del Norte*, which runs into a path that goes along the edge of a hill on top of which there is a spectacular *castle*. Shortly after, a path to your right (km 11.4) joins the route (*royal drove road*). When reaching a crossroads (km 11.7), turn left. Follow straight along the path, walking towards the northeast. You will walk along crop fields. Ignore all left and right hand turns (km 12.6 and 14.6). Cross through a small stream (km 14.7), after which a path to your right joins the route (km 14.9). When reaching a newly built residential area, take *Calle de Belimbre* to access the town and continue until reaching the door of the *monastery* (km 16.3).



Soil on hills and farming moorlands



Remains of the castle and San Juan Bautista church

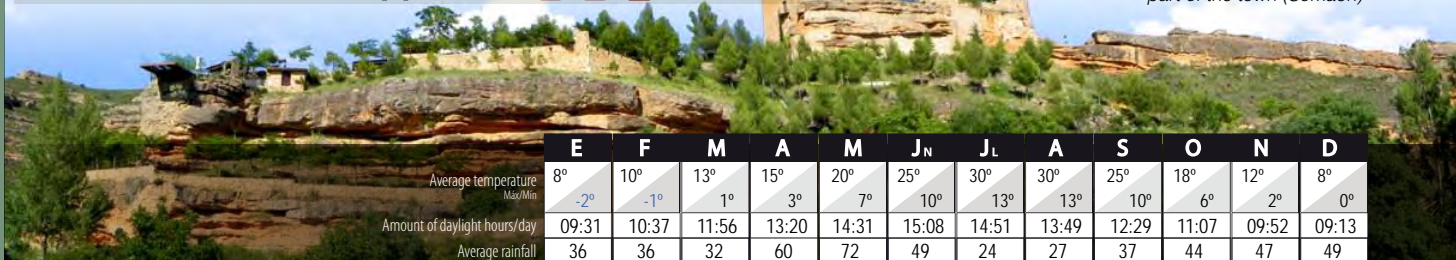


Rural path with a good sub-base

5.5 km

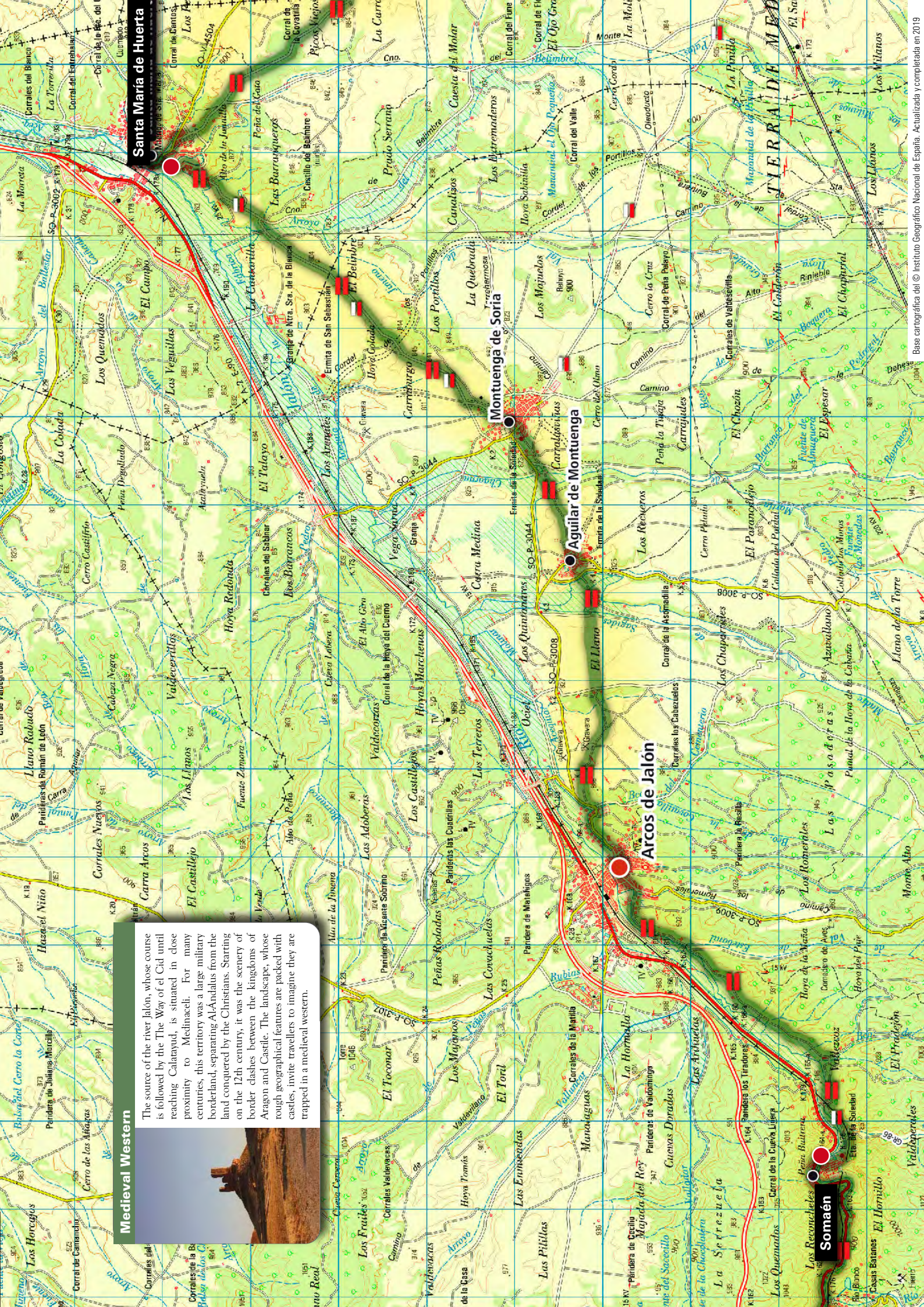
**SANTA MARÍA DE HUERTA** (population: 267)

View of the castle and of the high part of the town (Somaén)



Medieval Western

The source of the river Jalón, whose course is followed by the Way of el Cid until reaching Calatayud, is situated in close proximity to Medinaceli. For many centuries, this territory was a large military borderland, separating AlÁndalus from the land conquered by the Christians. Starting on the 12th century, it was the scenery of border clashes between the kingdoms of Aragon and Castile. The landscape, whose rough geographical features are packed with castles, invite travellers to imagine they are trapped in a medieval western.





Distance: 20,6 km

Maximum grade: 170 m

Cumulative ascent: 150 m

Cumulative descent: 230 m

Estimated time: 4h 30m

Physical difficulty: Medium



SANTA MARÍA DE HUERTA (population: 267) GR-160

This stage departs from the Monastery of Santa María de Huerta. Take the road to Torrehermosa (the SO-P-3010). Next to the information panels, turn right onto a path (camino de Alconchel) that will take you into the province of Zaragoza. Join a new path until you come to the crossroads with the Arcos path (km 4.2). Turn left to take this path. Follow straight, ignoring all left and right hand turns (kms 4.7 and 5.1), and walk eastwards. The path descends along a small valley until reaching a crossroads; to your right you can see part of a country house at **Torrehermosa**. At a crossroads (km 6.1), the path for the PR-Z 90 route joins the route. Turn to the right and continue until reaching the entrance to the town (km 6.3), where there are some original wineries.



Hills covered with crops



Cistercian monastery



Road and rural path with a good sub-base

▶ 6,7 km ▶



TORREHERMOSA (population: 63) GR-160

Cross through Torrehermosa walking along *Calle Real*, which descends towards the road, in an area in close proximity to the Town Hall (km 6.6). Follow straight, heading towards the swimming-pool. The PR-Z 90 route turns to the right (km 6.8). However, follow straight, walking past a swimming-pool. Continue until reaching another crossroads (km 6.9). Take the path on the left until you come to a road, which you must cross over before carrying straight on. The hard surface path runs northwards along the left-hand bank of La Cañada stream; take care not to stray off the route. At this point, you reach the road (km 10.4). Turn left and then cross a bridge. After 150m, there is a path to the right (km 10.6). Take this path and walk off the road. The path runs into a ploughed field (km 11). Walk on the edge of this plot of land and then follow along a footpath that climbs half-way through a hillock. Follow until reaching a path (km 11.4), situated next to a farming unit. The path turns to the right (km 11.8) and then crosses to the other side of the valley and forks to the left (km 11.9). You will reach a crossroads that connects with the path to Huerta (km 13.3). Turn to the right and keep walking towards the northeast until reaching the entrance to **Monreal de Ariza**, in the area close to the town's entrance road (km 15.1).



Agricultural meadow and scrubland



Medieval tower, parochial church and melt pond



Rural path with a good sub-base and footpath



Be careful when walking along the short stretch of footpath: the borders of the path are not clearly marked

▶ 8,9 km ▶



MONREAL DE ARIZA (population: 207) GR-160

Leave from **Monreal de Ariza** walking along *Calle Mayor*, which crosses through the town and runs parallel to the path for the PR-Z 90 route. Ignore a right hand turn (km 15.8), which leads to the cemetery, and continue until reaching a pillar (km 16), placed next to a dumping site. The path comes close to the meadow at the *river Jalón*, running amidst crop fields and low scrubland to your right. The PR-Z 90 route turns to the left (km 19.2), but you should follow straight. At a pine grove, there is a crossroads (km 20). Turn to your left and descend until reaching the Roman bridge (km 20.5), which crosses over the *river Jalón* and leads to **Ariza**.



Agricultural meadow at the river Jalón



Romanesque-Gothic church, Mont Regal castle, settlement of Arcóbriga...



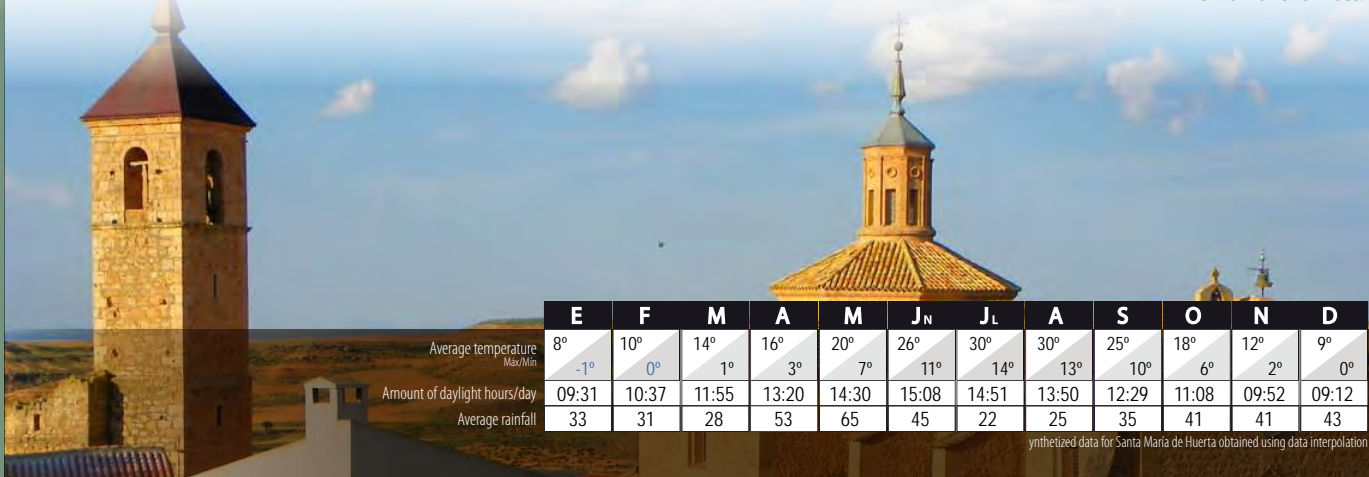
Rural path with a good sub-base

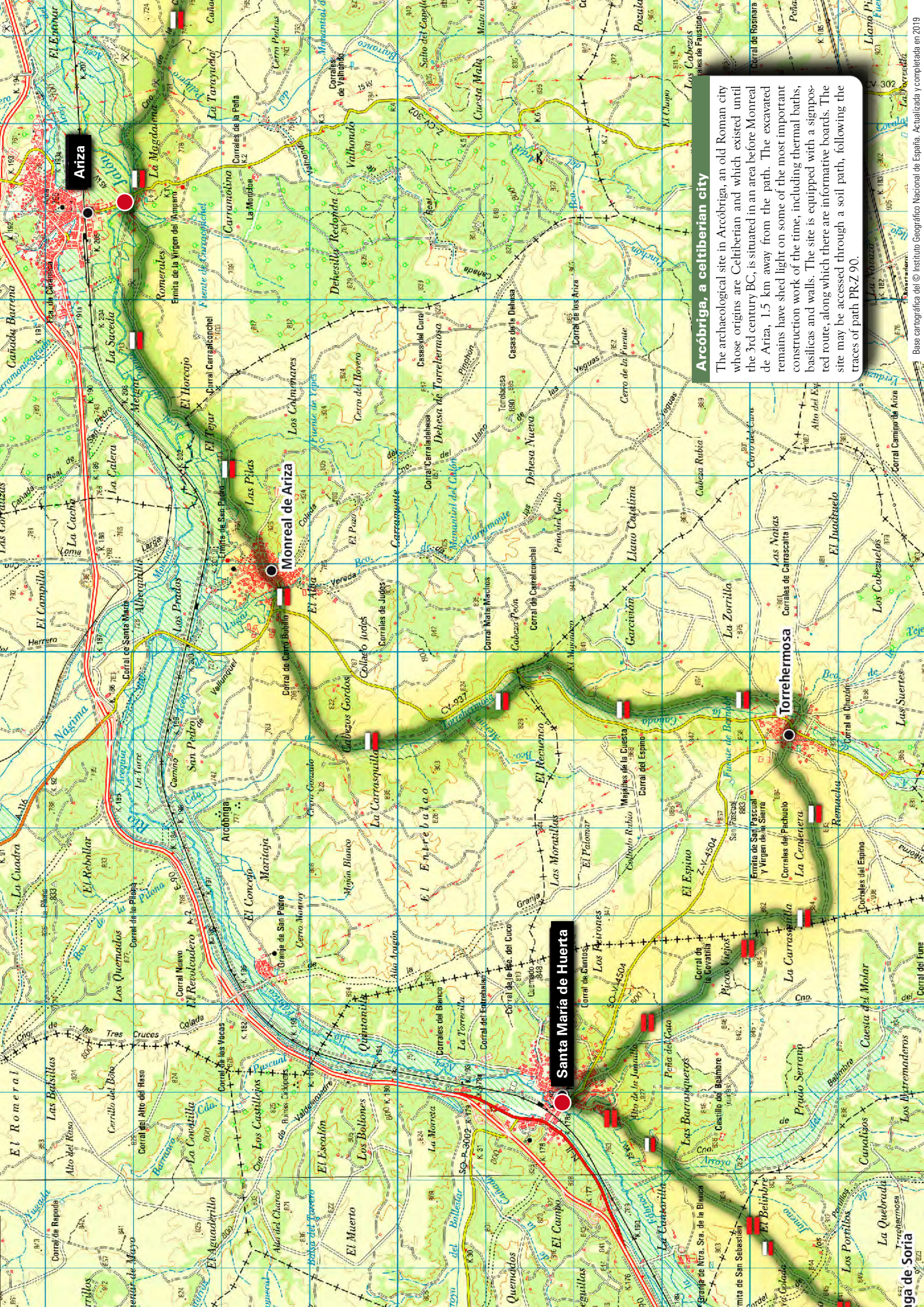
▶ 5 km ▶



ARIZA (population: 1.122)

View of Torrehermosa





Arcobriga, a celtiberian city

The archaeological site in Arcobriga, an old Roman city whose origins are Celtiberian and which existed until the 3rd century BC, is situated in an area before Monreal de Ariza, 1.5 km away from the path. The excavated remains have shed light on some of the most important construction work of the time, including thermal baths, basiliacs and walls. The site is equipped with a signposted route, along which there are informative boards. The site may be accessed through a soil path, following the traces of path PR-Z 90.



Distance: 15 km
Maximum grade: 75 m

Cumulative ascent: 95 m
Cumulative descent: 125 m

Estimated time: 3h 20m
Physical difficulty: Low



ARIZA (population: 1.122)



GR-160

After visiting **Ariza**, resume the route. Start at the Roman bridge that crosses over the *river Jalón*. Take a paved path, which shortly after comes out to the road to Cabolafuente (km 0.15). Cross the road and continue walking along a path on the other side, which heads eastwards. Follow straight without diverting from the main path until reaching a crossroads (km 1). Walk straight along a royal drove called *Cañada de la Zarza*, moving away from the meadow at the river Jalón. The route, which runs alongside crop fields and some bare scrubland, heads eastwards, until reaching **Cetina**. At *gully Pellejero* (km 1.8), a couple of trees are aligned along the riverbank. Continue on the main path, ignoring several left and right hand turns (kms 2.1, 2.8, 2.9, 4.6). At this point, the path climbs smoothly, until reaching the area close to *Puntal del Cuerno*. Ignore a turn to the left (km 5.6). Come gradually closer to **Cetina**, which is hidden behind a hillock. Walk past the cemetery (km 7.7), which is to your left, and climb along a group of old scattered farming buildings. Access to the town is along *Calle del Arrabal*, which is next to *San Juan Lorenzo chapel* (km 8.3).



Crop fields and hillocks made of fanciful colours and shapess



Late-Gothic church of Santa María La Real, medieval bridge, remains of the Roman road...



Rural paths with a good sub-base

8,6 km



CETINA (population: 582)



GR-160

Cross through the town walking along *Calle del Arrabal* and then continue along *Calle de la Señoría*, until reaching the road to Jaraba (km 8.8). Cross the road and follow straight along a path set out in front of you, which passes close to *Virgen de Atocha chapel* and the old washing place. This is now a visitor interpretation centre called *Contradanza de Cetina*. The path crosses through the dry riverbed of San Lázaro gorge (km 8.9). Ignore a right hand turn (km 9.2). After a short descent along a stony path, you reach the meadow at the *river Jalón* (km 9.3). From this point and all the way to **Alhama**, the route runs parallel to the river in between orchards and unirrigated fields. The railroad is to your left. You will gradually come closer to the rail lines, to the extent that you will eventually walk parallel to them (km 11.6). Immediately after passing by *gully Covatillas* (km 13), the path moves away from the rail line (km 13.2) and runs into the road that leads to the station of Alhama (km 13.7). Continue along the paved stretch and walk away from the *station's neighbourhood*. Follow until reaching the spa (km 14.5), which has made the town very popular.



Agricultural meadow alongside crop fields and scrubland



Castle-palace of Quevedo



Rural paths with a good sub-base

6,3 km



ALHAMA DE ARAGÓN (population: 1.029)



View of the town with the palace of Quevedo on the forefront (Cetina)



	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	10°	12°	15°	17°	21°	27°	31°	30°	25°	19°	14°	10°
Max/Min	0°	1°	2°	4°	7°	11°	14°	14°	11°	7°	3°	1°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:30	10:37	11:55	13:20	14:31	15:09	14:52	13:49	12:29	11:07	09:52	09:13
Average rainfall	28	25	23	49	63	43	21	26	34	37	34	35

Synthesized data for Ariza obtained using data interpolation



Ariza

Alhama de Aragón

Contamina

Cetina

Thermal waters

At Alhama there are several thermal springs, which are known to have been used since ancient times. It is precisely in this region where the sole thermal lake in Spain is located. Its waters, which are kept all the year round at a fixed temperature of 32° C, serve as the home for several species of endemic mollusks, which are adapted to the lake's water.





Distance: 15,9 km

Maximum grade: 100 m

Cumulative ascent: 135 m

Cumulative descent: 245 m

Estimated time: 3h 30m

Physical difficulty: Low

MIDE

**ALHAMA DE ARAGÓN** (1.029 hab.)

Start at the bridge over the *river Jalón*, which divides the town into two. Walk some metres along *Avenida de la Constitución*. Before crossing the railroad tunnel, turn to your right and walk into a paved path that runs parallel to the train lines. At a crossroads (km 1), turn right. Shortly after, there is another crossroads, placed next to a metal footbridge. Turn left and walk along a path that wanders to the side of the river. Cross the riverbed of the *river Monegrillo* (km 3.3), which at this point flows into the *river Jalón*. Walk again close to the rail lines (km 3.4). Cross the train lines through an underpass (km 3.8), which immediately after runs into road N-II. Turn right and continue walking on the road's hard shoulder (take extreme care). Do not cross through a small tunnel (km 5) but rather take a path to your right that joins the road again at the tunnel's exit. Follow straight until reaching **Bubierca**, which is in the high part of the town, next to the Town Hall (km 6.2).

BUBIERCA (60 hab.)

Leave from the Town Hall, situated next to road N-II. Walk along *Calle Pedro García*, which runs westwards along the edge of the town and passes close to a group of old wineries and farming units. When reaching the low area of the town (km 6.7), take a path towards the *river Jalón* and cross over it through a bridge (km 6.9). The path crosses a level crossing without barriers (km 7.15) and continues straight towards the river and its thick groves. Cross the train lines through an underpass (km 7.8) and, shortly after, cross the train lines once again (km 8). The path, which runs amidst abandoned fields, gets worse and worse. After reaching the train lines (km 8.5), continue on a path that crosses under the railroad bridge over the *river Jalón*. The limits of the path, which runs along the edge of abandoned fields, are not clearly traced, which is why it poses orientation problems on some stretches. Pay attention to an irrigation canal to your left, which serves as a reference along this stretch of route. This small path crosses over the irrigation canal and leads into an abandoned field, where you should take a new path (km 9.2) that runs close to the river. The path runs along a narrow valley amidst fruit trees. There is a crossroads (km 10.6) situated close to the highway's viaduct. Turn right and climb shortly. Cross through a bridge over the AVE train lines (km 11.4) that leads, shortly after, to the first buildings of **Castejón de las Armas** (km 11.6). The path descends from the town's high area towards the bridge over the *river Piedra* (km 12.2).

CASTEJÓN DE LAS ARMAS (90 hab.)

The route in between **Castejón de las Armas** and **Ateca** runs entirely along a stretch of road. Note that this is a narrow road with a narrow hard shoulder and many bends, which is why you should proceed with care and wear reflecting garment to make yourself visible for drivers. Leave from the bridge over the *river Piedra*, walking towards **Ateca** along a *promenade in honour to Joaquín Costa*. After a curve, the promenade turns into road A-1501, which is the point where you reach the town's exit. Walk under the impressive viaducts of the Spanish high-speed railroad (km 13.3) and the highway (km 13.5), walking to the left of the *river Piedra*. The road runs into the train lines (km 14.2) and then reaches a bridge (km 14.6). Walk to the left of the bridge, following straight along a paved path that runs parallel to the train lines. The path leads quickly to **Ateca** (km 15.4), which is accessed through *Calle la Serrada*, and then descends along *Calle Bodeguillas* until reaching a footbridge over the *river Jalón*.

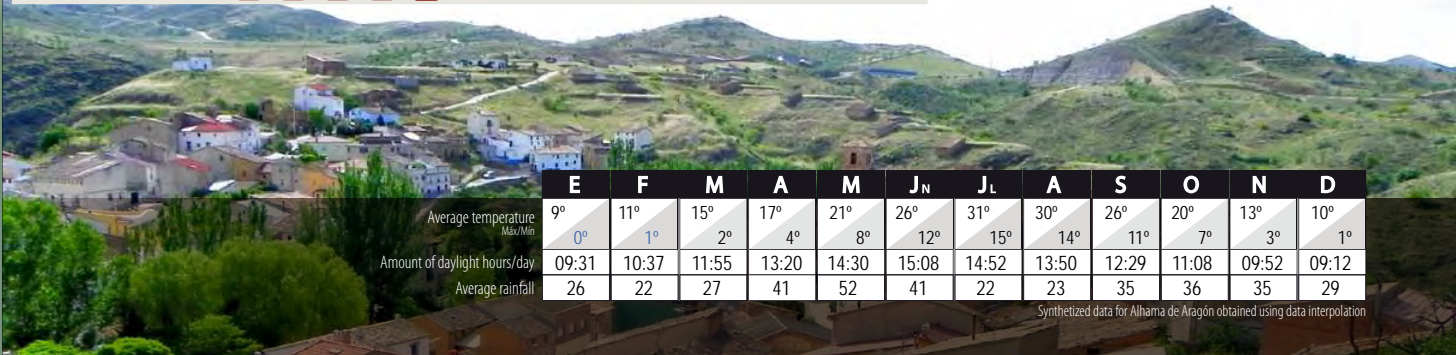
ATECA (1.780 hab.)

- Agricultural meadow and riverbanks alongside the river Jalón
- 19th-century spa and medieval tower
- Rural paths and road
- Be careful on the stretch of route along the road

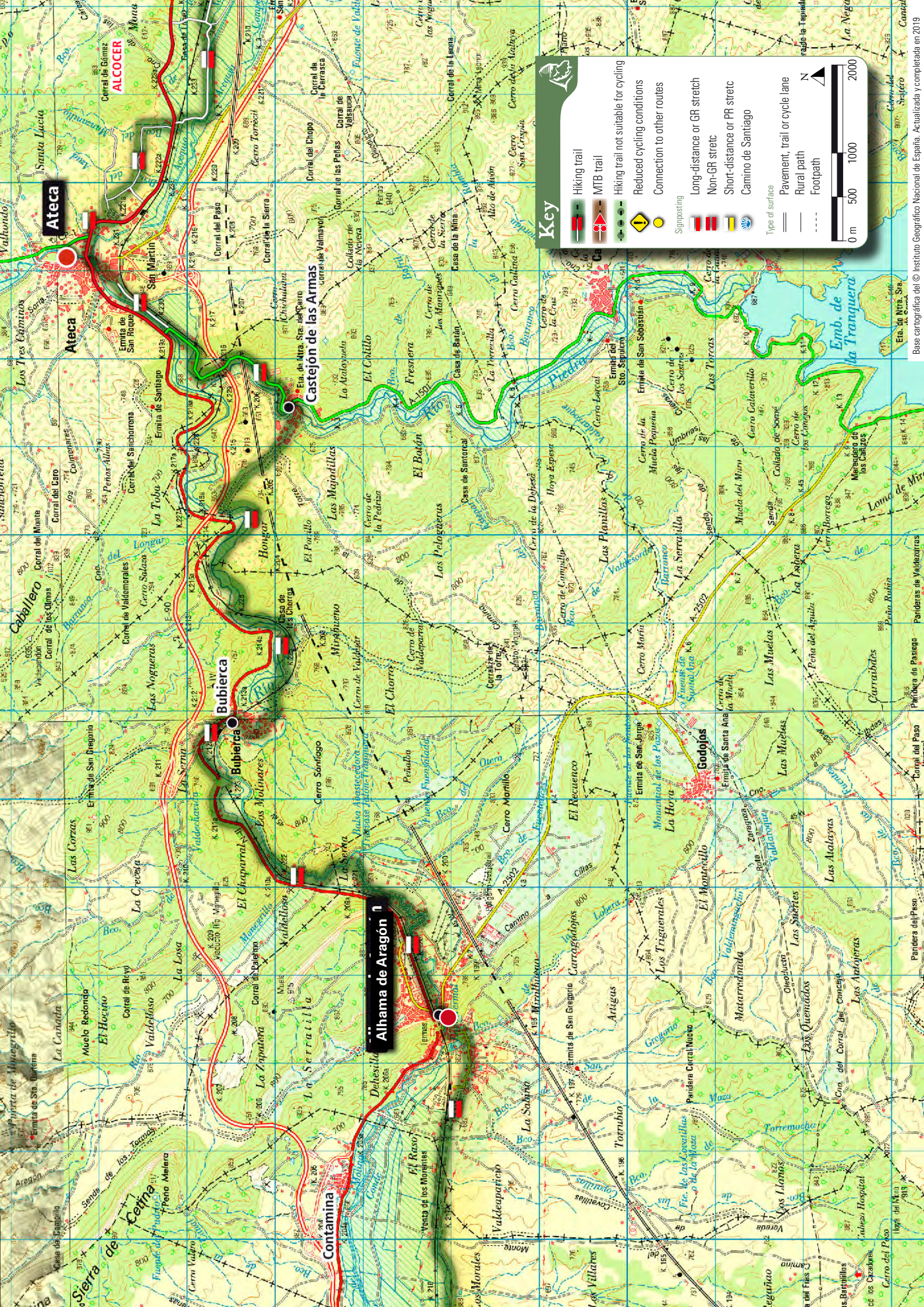
- Agricultural meadow and groves alongside the river Jalón
- Flour mill and groves
- Rural paths and footpath
- The stretch along the footpath may pose problems during some seasons due to vegetation growth

- Valleys of the rivers Jalón and Piedra
- San Salvador church, remains of the castle, chapel and river Piedra
- Road
- Be careful on the stretch of route along the road

Panoramic view of Castejón de las Armas



	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature Max/Min	9° 0°	11° 1°	15° 2°	17° 4°	21° 8°	26° 12°	31° 15°	30° 14°	26° 11°	20° 7°	13° 3°	10° 1°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:31	10:37	11:55	13:20	14:30	15:08	14:52	13:50	12:29	11:08	09:52	09:12
Average rainfall	26	22	27	41	52	41	22	23	35	36	35	29
















Ateca

Buberia

Alhama de Aragón

Castejón de las Armas

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: 15,8 km
Maximum grade: 85 m

Cumulative ascent: 30 m
Cumulative descent: 90 m

Estimated time: 3h 15m
Physical difficulty: Low



ATECA (population: 1.780)

Leave from **Ateca** walking along road N-II to **Terrer**. On your way out of the town, pass next to *San Blas chapel* (km 0.5). At this point, take a path with a wooden handrail that ascends towards the football field. Walk to your left, along the edge of the facilities, until reaching a leveled area that is used as a parking space (km 0.8). Take a paved path. After a bent in the route, walk to the left of the path to *Manzanilla*. The paved path reaches a crossroads after passing by a warehouse and then turns to the right (km 1.2). Step out of the paved path and follow straight on a soil path. The path reaches a small pine grove, at which it turns right, towards road N-II (km 2.4). Cross the road and then turn to a path to your left, which descends towards the train lines. Cross using a level crossing without barriers. At this point, you will come close to the *river Jalón*. After walking alongside its riverbank, the path leads again towards the railroad (km 4). Cross the train lines and follow straight if you want to visit the place where **Alcocer**, which is greatly important in *El Cantar de Mío Cid*, is believed to have been located. If you do not wish to visit this site, continue straight towards **Terrer**, walking along a path that runs parallel to the train lines. The final stretch of the route runs into a paved path which crosses under the Spanish high-speed railroad (km 5.5). Then turn left and continue along the path that serves as a service area. You will finally reach a crossroads at which the “Route connecting with Calatayud” [**Enlace de Calatayud**] starts (km 5.9).

Route connecting with Calatayud [Enlace de Calatayud]
Stage 1 of **The Three Taifas** (Ateca - Munébrega) turns to the right. However, continue straight, walking along the same path, which runs parallel to the Spanish high-speed train lines. Cross through a bridge over the train lines (km 7.7). Follow straight along a paved path until coming out to road N-II at **Terrer** (km 8.5).

TERRER (population: 470)
Leave from *Avenida de la Constitución* (road N-II). From this point descend to the river, walking along *Calle de la Estación*. You will reach a bridge over the *river Jalón* (km 9.6). Immediately after crossing through the bridge, turn left into a path situated next to the old station. The paved path runs parallel to the train lines along a very long straight stretch. Cross under two flyovers (kms 11.4 and 12.2) and walk on a footpath that joins again the soil path. The path gradually takes you away from the railway track and becomes a tarmacked road, leading to an industrial estate (km 13.5). Continue until reaching road A-202. After crossing through a roundabouts (km 14.1), walk along a path, parallel to the road. The path comes to an end, running into the road (km 14.6). Cross the road and continue walking along a path on the other side of the road until reaching the bridge over the *river Jiloca* (km 15). Take the road and cross through the bridge, continuing straight until reaching road A-202 (km 15.8), which is close to the entrance to **Calatayud**.

CALATAYUD (population: 19.753)

Places of interest in Calatayud:

Places of interest in Calatayud: Muslim fortified complex of Ayub castle, Gothic church of San Pedro de los Francos, Mudéjar architecture of Santa María collegiate (World Heritage Site), Roman city of Bilibis (3km away from Calatayud).

- Agricultural meadow and riverbanks alongside the river Jalón
- Mudéjar tower and church of Santa María, Reloj tower, Alcocer settlement, castle...
- Rural path with a good sub-base
- Possibility of visiting the place where **Alcocer** is believed to have been, in the area of Mora Encantada

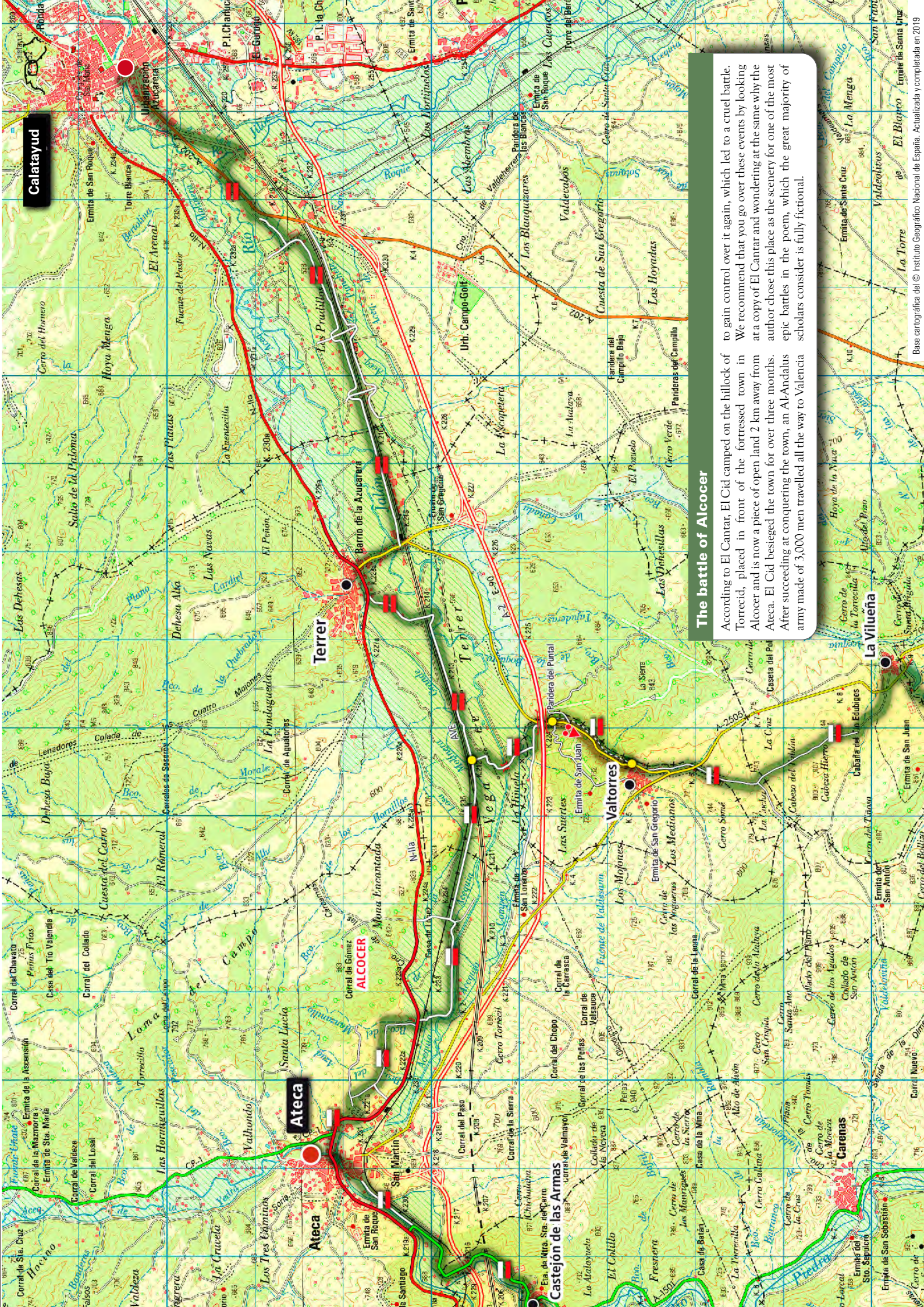
- Agricultural meadow
- Mudéjar church of Asunción and area of scattered industrial archeology
- Rural paths and road
- Pay attention to the crossroads. Be careful when walking on the stretch of route along the road

Puerta de Terror (Calatayud)



	E	F	M	A	M	J _N	J _L	A	S	O	N	D
Average temperature	10°	12°	16°	18°	22°	27°	31°	31°	27°	20°	14°	10°
Max/Min	0°	1°	3°	5°	8°	12°	15°	14°	12°	8°	4°	2°
Amount of daylight hours/day	09:30	10:37	11:55	13:20	14:31	15:09	14:52	13:49	12:29	11:07	09:52	09:13
Average rainfall	33	28	32	40	50	46	24	25	44	44	46	38

Calatayud



The battle of Alcocer

According to El Cantar, El Cid camped on the hillock of Torrecid, placed in front of the fortified town in Alcocer and is now a piece of open land 2 km away from Ateca. El Cid besieged the town for over three months. After succeeding at conquering the town, an Al-Andalus army made of 3,000 men travelled all the way to Valencia to gain control over it again, which led to a cruel battle. We recommend that you go over these events by looking at a copy of El Cantar and wondering at the same why the author chose this place as the scenery for one of the most epic battles in the poem, which the great majority of scholars consider is fully fictional.

Ateca

Ateca

Terer

ALCOZER

Valtorres

La Vilueña