

# CUENCA

Official tourist guide



## Natural Space

MAIN ROUTES AND PATHS IN THE  
CITY AND SURROUNDING AREA

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SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO  
DE TURISMO

PLAN DE SOSTENIBILIDAD TURÍSTICA EN CUENCA

# NATURAL trails

Cuenca is nature, water,  
stone, wood, gorges, colour,  
smell and flavour.



In Cuenca, we can fill ourselves with energy thanks to the wide range of Active Tourism activities, among which HIKING stands out.

There is a varied menu of itineraries within our reach, suitable for all levels of public, each one of them rich in content, around the city and its neighbouring parishes.

You have at your disposal different routes in very varied environments dominated by rich vegetation, breathtaking panoramic views, lush forests and a mountain landscape where history and art ooze from all sides.





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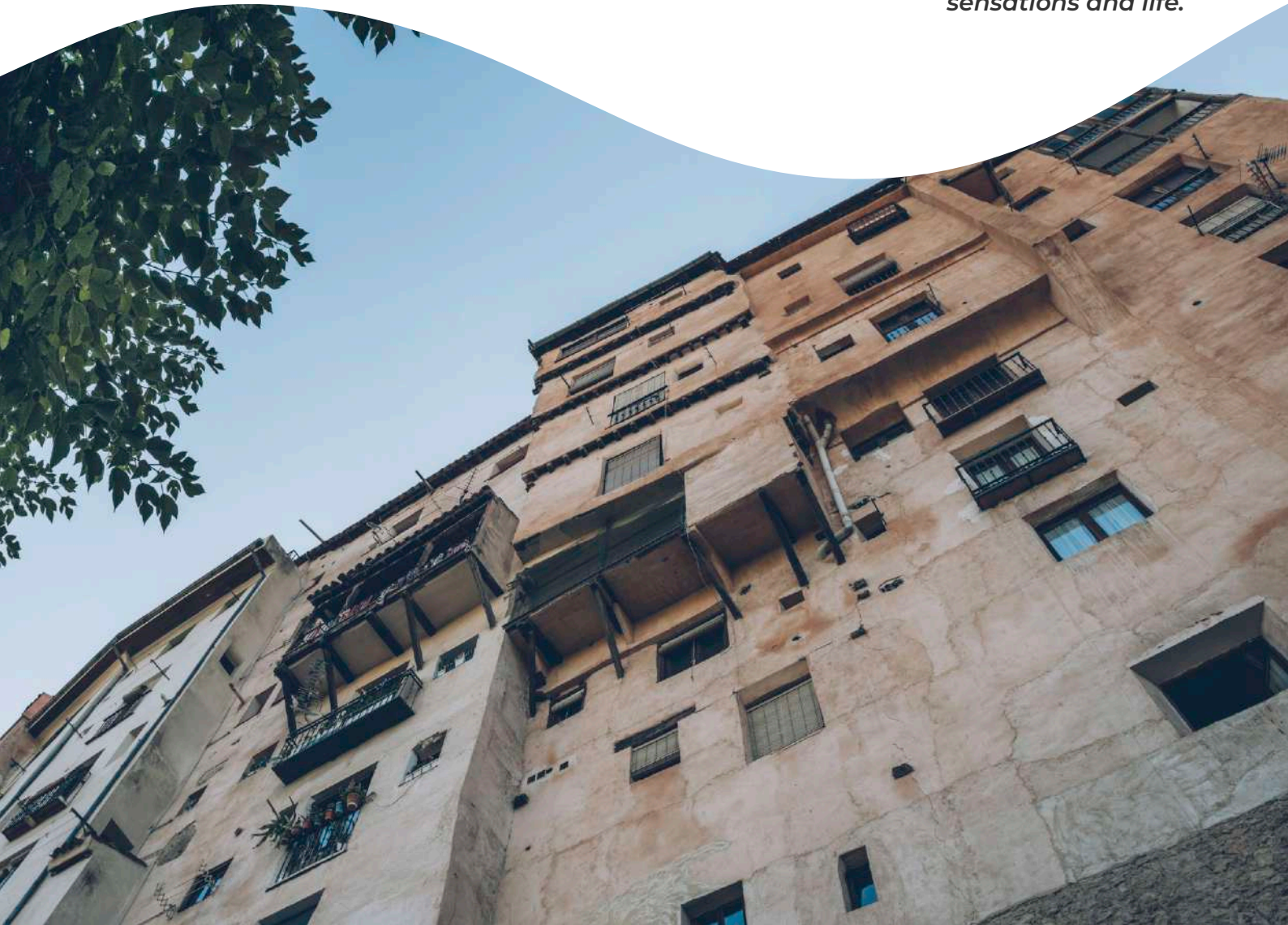


*A city that invites us to  
enjoy NATURE*

***Nature is integrated within the city. On our doorstep, we have the opportunity to fill ourselves with energy and lead a healthy life.***

*More than a city, Cuenca is history, legend,  
fantasy, feeling, height, harmony between man  
and space*

*There are routes for all levels, full of  
sensations and life.*



## Index of itineraries

# Cuenca

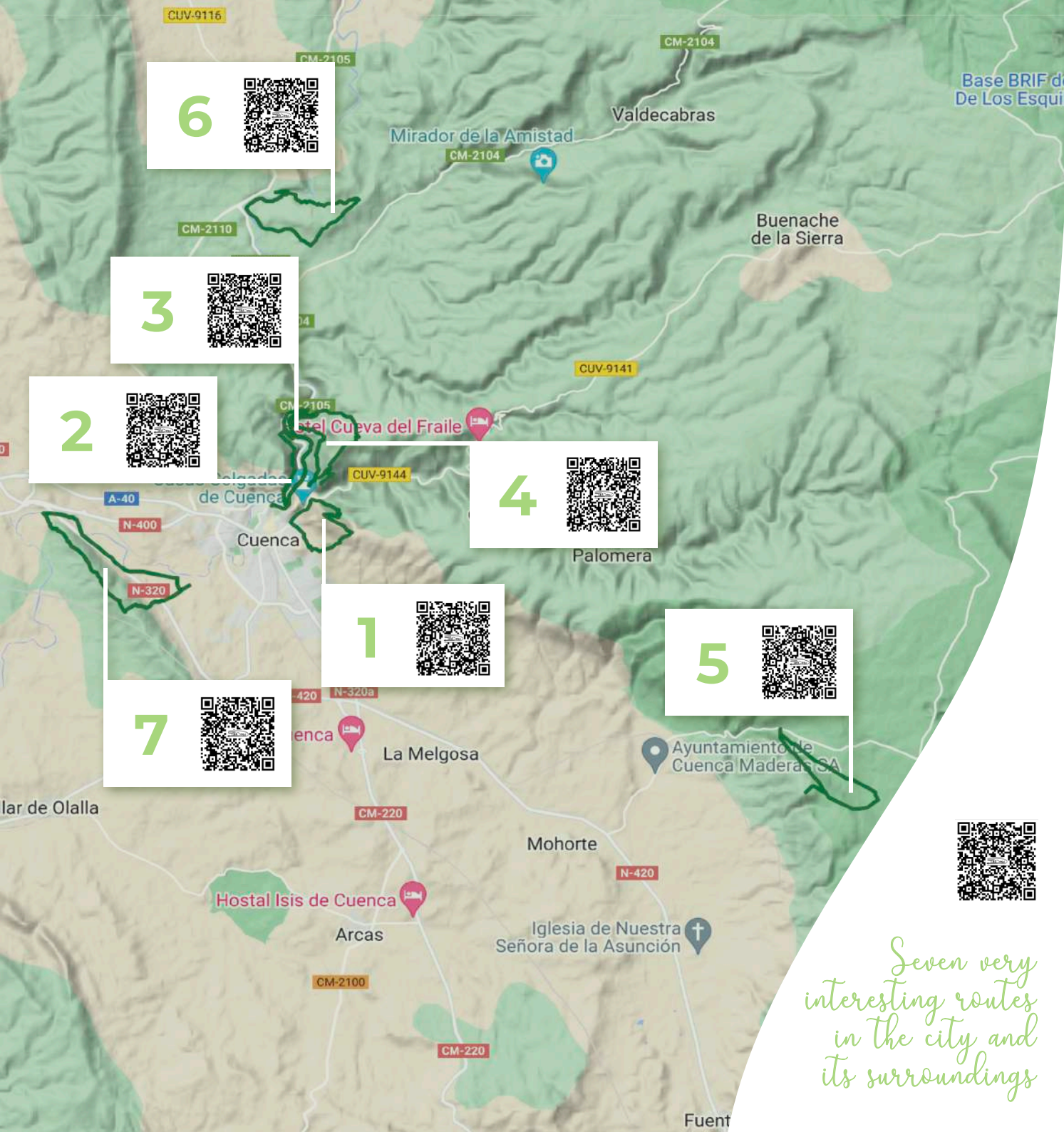
*A city in which to breathe energy and fresh air,  
and take physical exercise*

### Cuenca

1. Cerro del Socorro 4.8 Km
2. Júcar and San Julián 6.5 Km
3. Júcar and San Isidro 5.6 Km
4. Between dolomites 7.3 Km
5. Los Palancares 7.1 Km
6. El Chantre Bridge 7 Km
7. Optical Telegraph 9 Km

**TOTAL: 47.3 Km**

*In each of the itineraries, you will find all the information  
you need: map, profile, commentary, track,  
photographs, level of difficulty, etc. ...*



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Seven very interesting routes in the city and its surroundings

## Index of itineraries

# Parishes

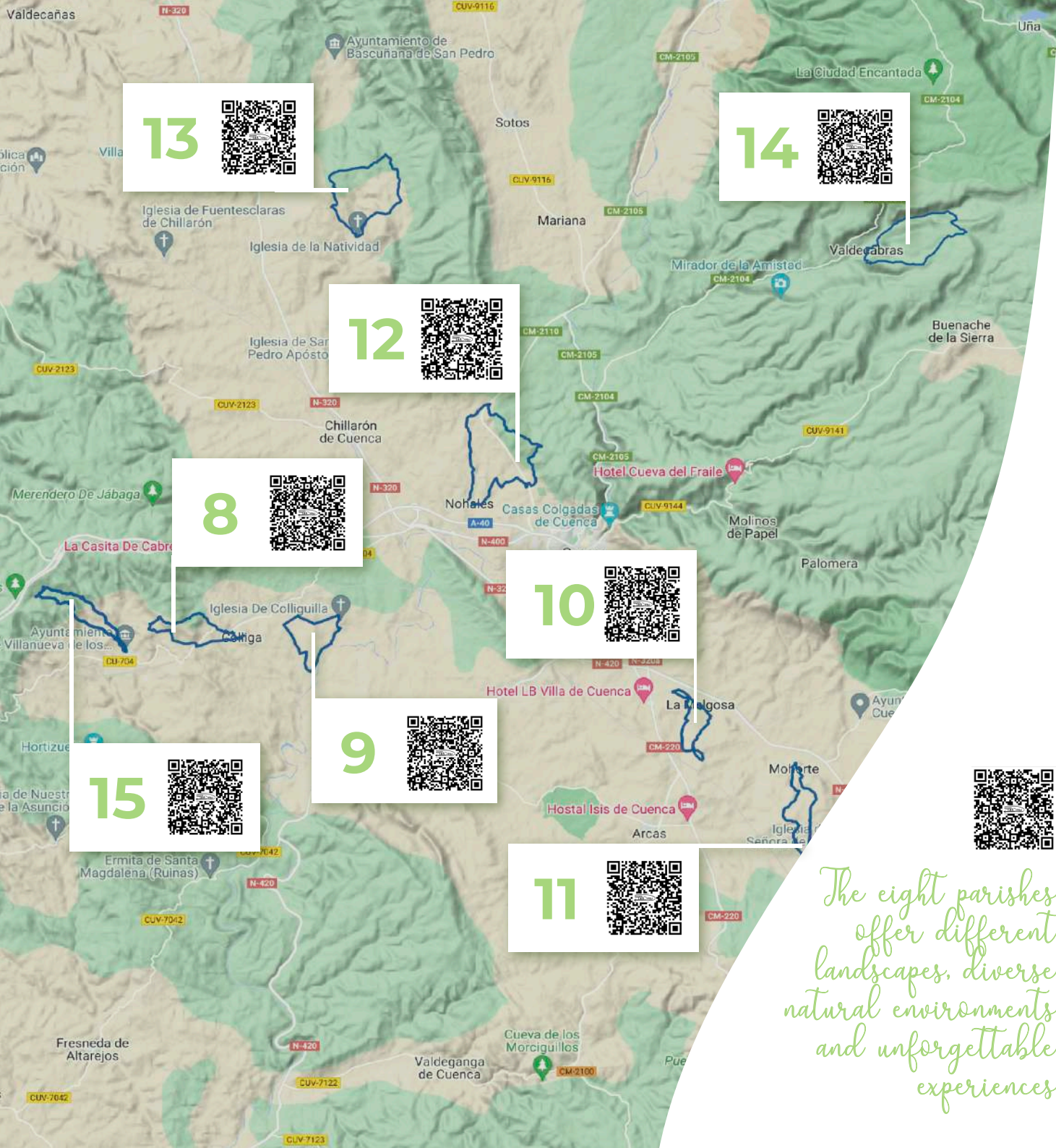
*The great variety of routes offers contact with nature at any time of the year*

Cólliga	8. Valdegonzalo	7.3 Km
Colliguilla	9. Cañada. Júcar	6.2 Km
La Melgosa	10. La Melgosa and its grassland	7.1 Km
Mohorte	11. From the grassland to la Atalaya via el Camino de la Lana	9.8 Km
Nohales	12. Cattle tracks and ridges	11 Km
Tondos	13. Nature at is purest	8.6 Km
Valdecabras	14. Ravines and heaths	8.8 Km
Villanueva de los Escuderos	15. On el Camino de Cabrejas like squires and Iberians	8.2 Km

**TOTAL: 67 Km**

*The information sheet for each itinerary contains all the necessary information (profile, commentary...) to allow a person to enjoy the route in independent fashion.*





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*The eight parishes offer different landscapes, diverse natural environments and unforgettable experiences*



# El cerro socorro

## Route 1

**STARTING POINT:** Auditorium "José Luis Perales" (Cuenca)  
**TYPE / LENGHT OF ROUTE:** Circular / 4.83 km  
**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 934m / 1154m

*We suggest that you follow the route in a clockwise direction*



From the "José Luis Perales" Auditorium in Cuenca we climb up to the Parador Nacional, contemplating the beautiful views of emblematic points of Cuenca such as the Hanging Houses, Saint Paul's Bridge and the old part of the city.

vistas from this high point are spectacular and provide unforgettable panoramic views of the old town of Cuenca. We start a steep descent through a reforestation pine forest. We pass the Fuente de El Canto fountain and the Castilla La Mancha Palaeontology Museum.



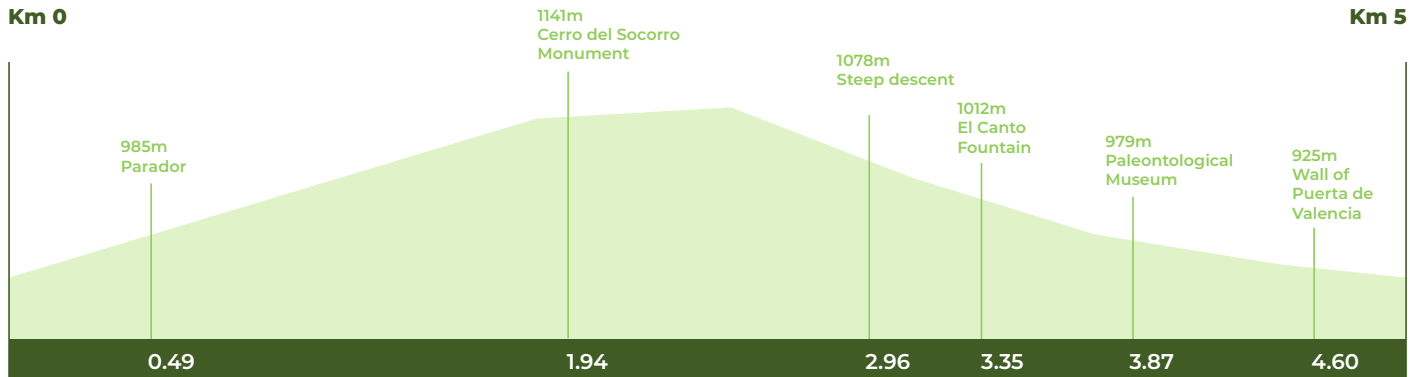
"José Luis Perales" Auditory

Along the Camino de la Lana we enter the charming Barrio de los Tiradores to reach the old wall of the Valencia Gate.

*"The vistas are spectacular and offer unforgettable panoramic views."*

After crossing the area where there are open climbing routes, the path turns into a trail that forms a via crucis of ascent to the Monument of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, known by the inhabitants of Cuenca as Cerro de El Socorro. The

The Paseo del Huécar (tributary of the Júcar) will take us to our final point.



## Did you know that...

During the 15th and 16th centuries, the textile industry flourished in Cuenca and its Bishopric, mainly due to the good wool of its cattle, raised in the valleys of the mountains of the Serranía de Cuenca.

*This growth meant that many families made a living from wool and all the wool production...*

especially in the capital, with the Tiradores neighbourhood experiencing the greatest demographic growth.

As a curiosity, on the banks of the Huécar - close to the capital and especially on the slopes of the Cerro del Socorro, pastel or glasto was sown, which was a grass two feet high and very bushy at the top, with blades ten inches long and one and a

half inches wide, shaped like a lance and festooned with clusters of yellow flowers. Its juice was blue and was used to dye wool in that colour, reducing it to a paste, from which the name pastel derives, and offering a typical pastel chromatism that attracted the attention of visitors and travellers.



Path of Cerro de El Socorro

Its cultivation extended from the Ossuary of the Moors - located behind the Hospital for the Poor administered by the Chapter of Santa Catalina del Monte Sinai -, next to the shrine of Cristo del Amparo, and from there to the Fuente del Canto (Fountain of Song).

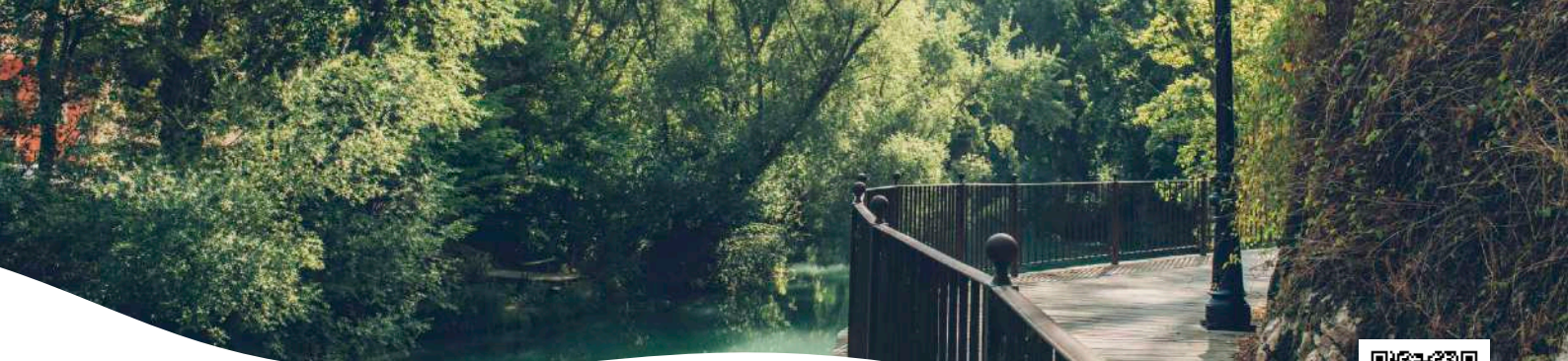
Hence the toponym of the Calle de los Tintes.

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	2
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	3
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	3
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	2
	SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY		<b>17</b>	<b>High average PRACTICABLE</b>



Cerro de El Socorro

<b>MIDE</b>			
TIME	2h 10'	2	SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
ELEVATION GAIN	250m	2	ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
ELEVATION LOSS	250m	2	DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	4.8km	2	AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA	



# Júcar and San Julián

## Route 2

**STARTING POINT:** Recreo Peral (Cuenca)  
**TYPE / LENGTH OF ROUTE:** Circular / 6.5 km  
**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 926m / 1041m

*We suggest that you follow the route in an anti-clockwise direction.*

From Recreo Peral we cross the bridge over the Júcar River and after crossing the CM-2105 road we start the path that is used as a pilgrimage route to reach the Hermitage of San Julián el Tranquilo, the patron saint of Cuenca. We continue over the dolomite with impressive views of Júcar Gorge.

We continue along the left bank of the Júcar, enjoying a landscape that enchants us, full of colour in autumn. We now walk along a path that is very popular with the people of Cuenca, passing points of interest such as the San Juan de la Ribera Hermitage, the artificial beach, the Descalzos Bridge until we reach our starting point.

*“A shorter variant can be used if time is short”*



Ascent to San Julián

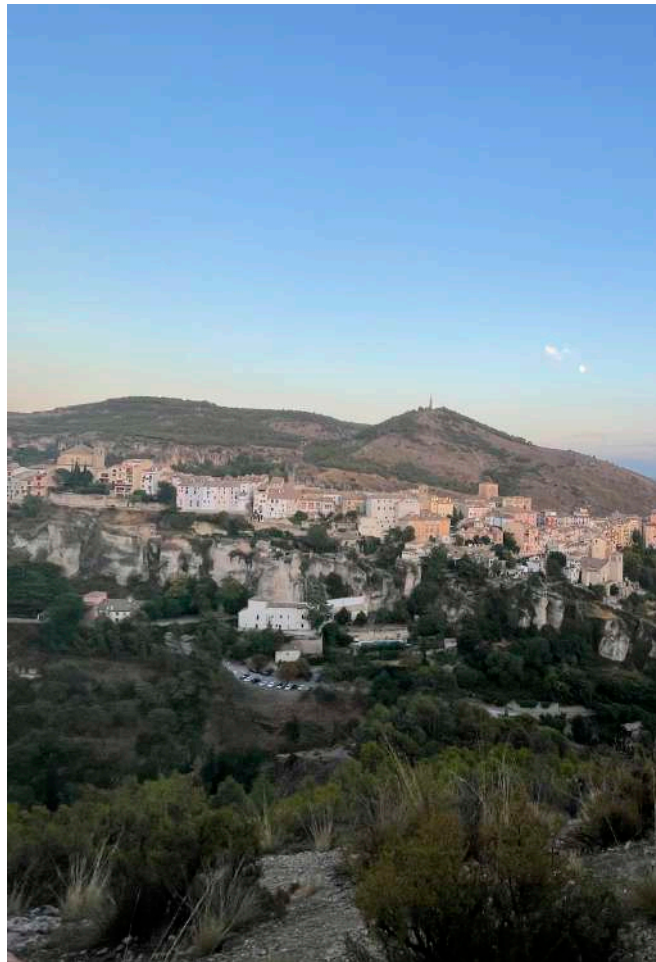
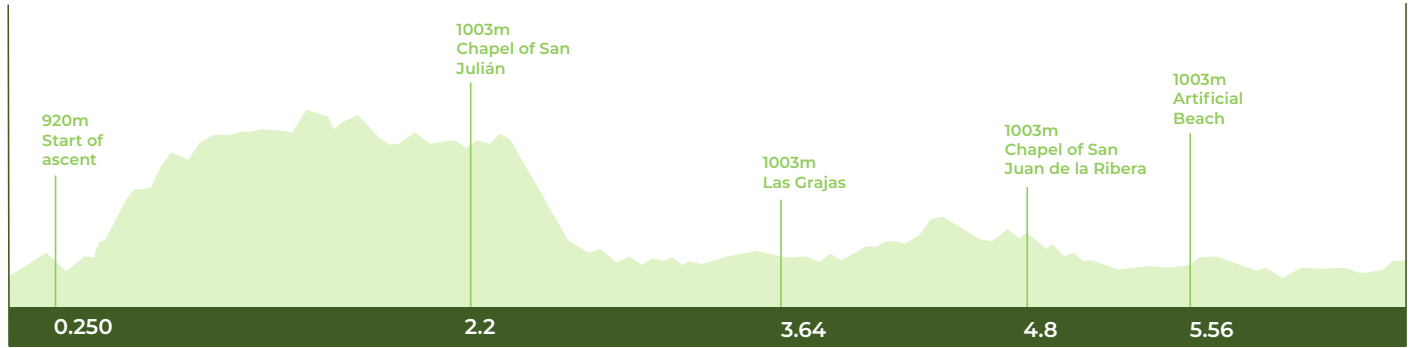
We carefully go down a flight of steps, lose height and reach a bicycle lane and pedestrian walkway next to the river Júcar to reach the Puente de Las Grajas. We are surrounded by sporting activities: climbing, kayaking, fishing, hiking, cycling of every type...

When we come down from the Ermita de San Julián el Tranquilo and reach the CM-2105 road and return along the pedestrian walkway and cycle path until we link up with the itinerary provided at the Puente de los Descalzos.



Km 0

Km 6



Júcar Gorge

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	2
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	2
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	2
SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3	
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY			<b>15</b> <b>High average</b> <b>PRACTICABLE</b>



Artificial beach

MIDE			
TIME	2h 20'	3	SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
ELEVATION GAIN	320m	2	ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
ELEVATION LOSS	319m	2	DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	6.5km	2	AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA	

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# Júcar and San Isidro

## Route 3

**STARTING POINT:** Recreo Peral (Cuenca)  
**TYPE / LENGTH OF ROUTE:** Circular / 5.65 km  
**MAXIMUM/MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 926m / 1059m

*We suggest that you follow the route in a clockwise direction*

This itinerary goes through one of the most appreciated places by the people of Cuenca. From Recreo Peral we walk along the left bank of the river Júcar, leaving all the points of interest to our left:

A wide range of sporting activities can be practised on this stretch: climbing, canoeing, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, road and mountain biking, running...

Puente de los Descalzos, Ermita de San Juan de la Ribera, Las Grajas.

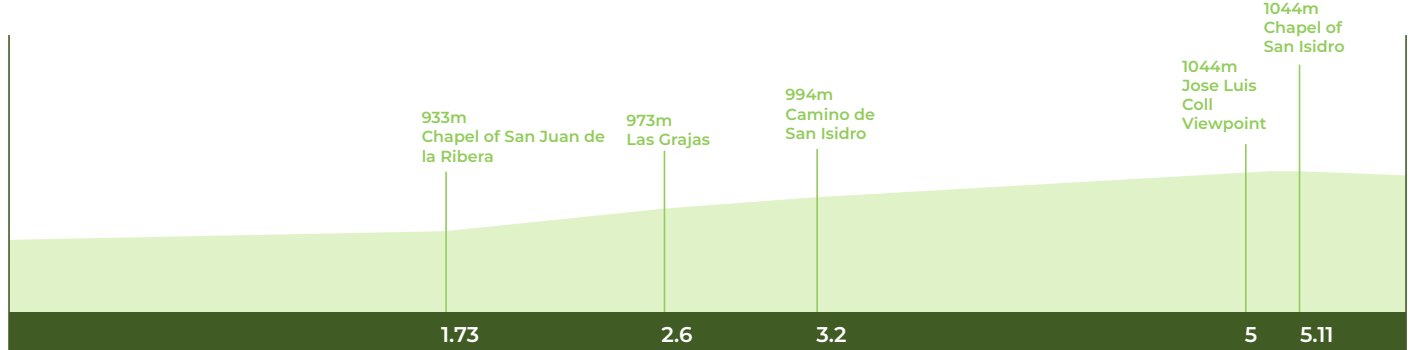
This route allows you to enjoy the Júcar Gorge from two very different perspectives, by the riverbed and from a bird's eye view along the Camino de San Isidro that leads to the San Isidro Hermitage, passing through different viewpoints with spectacular panoramic views.

*“We arrive at the Castle of Cuenca, which takes us into the old part of the city, a World Heritage Site”*



Camino de San Isidro





13th-century castle

## Did you know that...

The hermitage of San Isidro Labrador in Cuenca is located at the top of the Júcar Gorge and its construction began in 1729 thanks to the interest of the then Bishop of Cuenca, Don Juan de Lancaster, and the support of the canons Álvaro and Isidro de Carvajal.

However, the first proposal came from the Inquisitor Juan Francisco Luján Arque y Astelo, who wanted there to be a burial place in the upper part of the castle, where the canons and their descendants could be buried.

**“However, construction was halted for some time until the arrival of Bishop Flores Osorio in 1737.”**

Since 1980, the remains of Fernando Zobel, Antonio Saura, Bonifacio Alfonso, Luis Marco Pérez, Federico Muelas, Florencio Martínez Ruiz and Miguel Zapata have been buried in a part of the cemetery, now separated by a wall and fence, called the Cemetery of City Personalities.

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	1
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	2
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	2
	SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY		<b>14</b>	<b>High average PRACTICABLE</b>



Outdoor sports on the River Júcar

MIDE			
🕒	TIME	1h 35'	🚩 1 SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
⬆️	ELEVATION GAIN	268m	🗺️ 2 ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
⬆️	ELEVATION LOSS	179m	👣 2 DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
📏	HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	5.7km	🏃 2 AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
🔄	TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA



# Between Dolomías

## Route 4

**STARTING POINT:** Puente de la Trinidad (Cuenca)  
**TYPE / LENGTH OF ROUTE:** Circular / 7.26 km  
**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 925m / 1177m

*We suggest that you follow the route in a clockwise direction*



From the Puente de la Trinidad we descend to the mouth of the River Huécar in the Júcar and after enjoying beautiful views of the San Antón neighbourhood and the Ermita de Ntra. Sra. de la Luz, patron saint of Cuenca, we advance along the left bank of the Júcar along a walkway that at times takes us over the waters of the river itself. We arrive at what the people of Cuenca know as Recreo Peral, a leisure area where you can play the ancestral game of skittles.

Leaving on our right the ascent to the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de la Virgen de las Angustias, patron saint of the province, we continue our way along the same bank, at the bottom of the gorge, surrounded by large limestone rocky outcrops called dolomites.

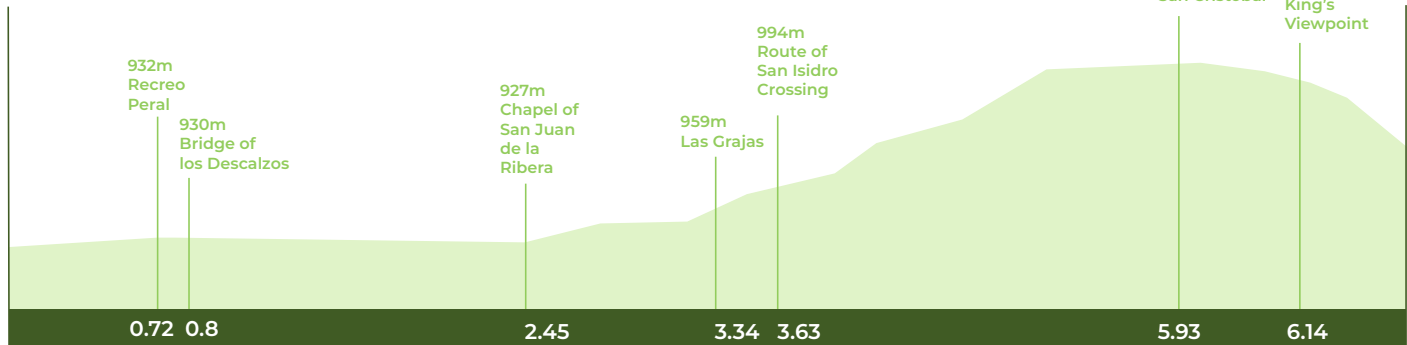
After leaving "la Playa" on our left and the ruins of the San Juan de la Ribera Hermitage at a bend in the river, we arrive at Las Grajas, 3.25 km, a small power station where we start the ascent along a narrow path and leave the river bank.

We pass a section of the river where it is easy to see a wide variety of sporting disciplines: canoeing, climbing, fishing, road and mountain biking, running, hiking and trekking...

We climb steadily up a beautiful, quiet and narrow ravine in a lovely pine forest until we reach the top of the Cerro de San Cristóbal, from where we have a beautiful and magnificent view of the city of Cuenca. It is well worth the climb for the excellent panoramic views of the city.



Km 0



## Did you know that...

*The starting point of this tour immerses us in the most curious past.*

The entire area that encompasses the mouth of the Huécar in the Júcar and a large part of the so-called Parque del Huécar and adjacent streets (Calle del Agua, Calle Calderón de la Barca and Trinidad Park), during the Islamic city of Al-Qunka, gave life to an albuheyra (albufera) where a large body of water prevented access to the city in Islamic times. When the city was conquered in 1177, it was drained over many years with filler land, brought from the slopes of the Santiago and Horca hills, giving life to a multitude of vegetable gardens that were cultivated there for a long time (the Palo bridge vegetable gardens).

At this starting point of the route, which is now the Trinity Park, was the Trinitarian convent, friars who occupied this space throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, later becoming the building that housed the Post Office, and later demolished to create space in the area and give life to today's park



Las Grajas

*The so called Recreo Peral houses in its past, the legend of the Abanico (fan),*

curious as such because it hints at a difficult love affair with carnal betrayal in which a forgotten fan may have been the proof of the affair and remained as a reference of the story, engraved on the fountain itself.

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	2
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	2
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	3
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	2
	SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY		<b>16</b>	<b>High average PRACTICABLE</b>

The descent from the hermitage of the Virgen de las Angustias was a regular route for the Barefoot monks who lived in the convent there, which is why the bridge that crosses the river is called the bridge of the Barefoot monks.

On the way to Las Grajas and before arriving at what is

known as Batán, are the blurred remains of a path that climbed from San Miguel to the river itself, where women came down to wash clothes, wool and utensils, crossing the Puerta de la Buharda, a fortified pass demolished by order of the Reeve, following reports of robberies and rapes.

MIDE			
🕒	TIME	2h 50'	🚩 2 SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
⬆️	ELEVATION GAIN	348m	🗺️ 2 ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
⬇️	ELEVATION LOSS	226m	👣 2 DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
📏	HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	6.6km	🏃 2 AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
🔄	TYPE OF ROUTE	Travesía	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA

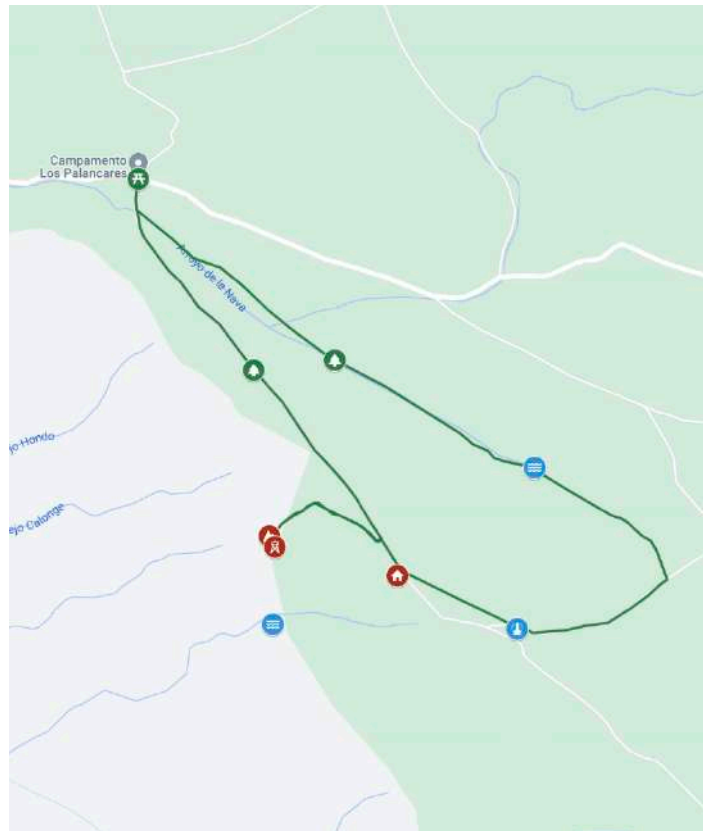


# Los Palancares

## Route 5

**STARTING POINT:** Los Palancares (Cuenca)  
**TYPE /LENGTH OF ROUTE:** Circular / 7.14 km  
**MAXIMUM/MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 1175m / 1295m

*We suggest that you follow the route in anti-clockwise direction*



We start the route from the Campamento de la Hispanidad in the middle of Arroyo de la Nava in a southerly direction and gently but steadily climb a path halfway up the slopes of Cueva Umbría and Cueva de Rufo (1296 m. altitude) where there is a fire watchtower, which we visit to see its structure and contemplate the beautiful views of the valley of the Río Moscas..

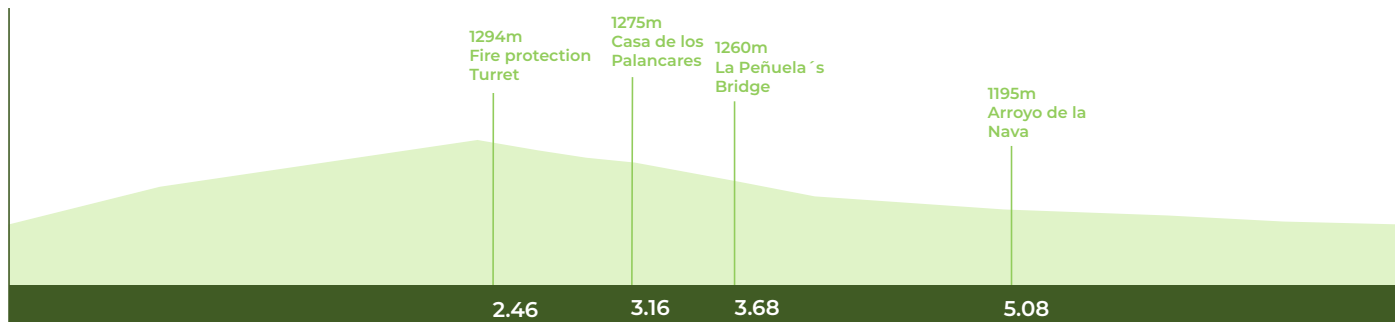
In front of us, we can also see the narrow and deep Hoz del Moro.

We soon reach the Palancares Forestry House, which is now in ruins. It still preserves the ashlar stones of the corner stones, which give an idea of the size of the building and its importance in the area. We follow the path in a south-easterly direction until we reach the Fuente de la Peñuela, where we turn north in search of the Arroyo de la Nava, which, through a pine forest, takes us back to the starting point.



*“This itinerary takes us into a magnificent pine forest”*

Los Palancares



Fire tower

thanks to the work of Cortázar and Botella of the Spanish Geological Institute, who attributed the phenomenon to subsidence of the Cretaceous limestone banks. In these foothills of the Iberian System, owned by the City Council of Cuenca since the 15th century, the area is crossed by the Cañada Real de la Cierva, part of the network of Cañadas Reales (Royal Cattle Drovers) ordered by the Mesta, and numerous legends have been sung and told in popular ballads.

## Did you know that...

Los Palancares is a toponym that comes from the name of its mountain, which has been declared of Public Utility since 1901. The 30 Torcas are located on an erosion platform, whose fluvial network flows to the outside through the so-called Fuente del Rollo.



Camino de Palancares

“These landforms were first described in 1873”

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	1
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	1
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	1
	SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY		<b>12</b>	<b>Middle-low PRACTICABLE</b>



Casa de los Palancares

MIDE			
🕒	TIME	2h 5'	🚧 1 SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
⬆️	ELEVATION GAIN	138m	🗺️ 1 ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
⬇️	ELEVATION LOSS	138m	👣 1 DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
📏	HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	7.1km	🏃 2 AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
🔄	TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA

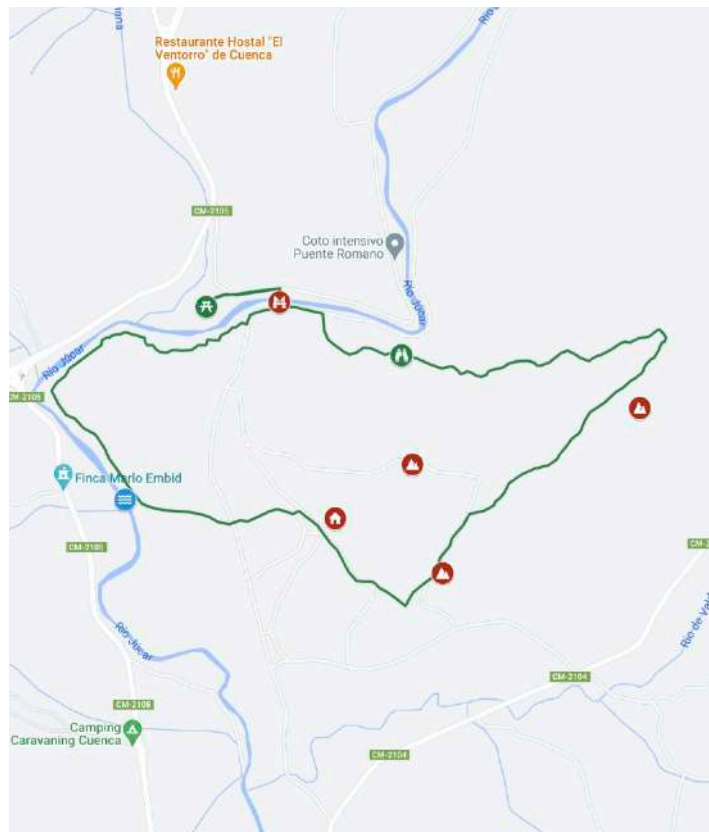


# El Chantre Bridge

## Route 6

**STARTING POINT:** El Chantre Bridge (Cuenca)  
**TYPE / LENGTH OF ROUTE** Circular / 7 km  
**MAXIMUM/MINIMUM HEIGHT::** 932m / 1061m

*We suggest that you follow the route in an anti-clockwise direction*



From the recreational area of El Chantre we start the route in an easterly direction towards the Chantre Bridge, which we cross, and on the right bank of the River Júcar we start a winding uphill path towards the Loma de las Covachas always surrounded by a predominantly black pine forest dotted with vegetation characteristic of Mediterranean forests (holm oak and gall oak in the main)

constructions in the past as a base for cattle farming.

We will advance along the left bank of the River Júcar through terrain that floods during periods of abundant rainfall.



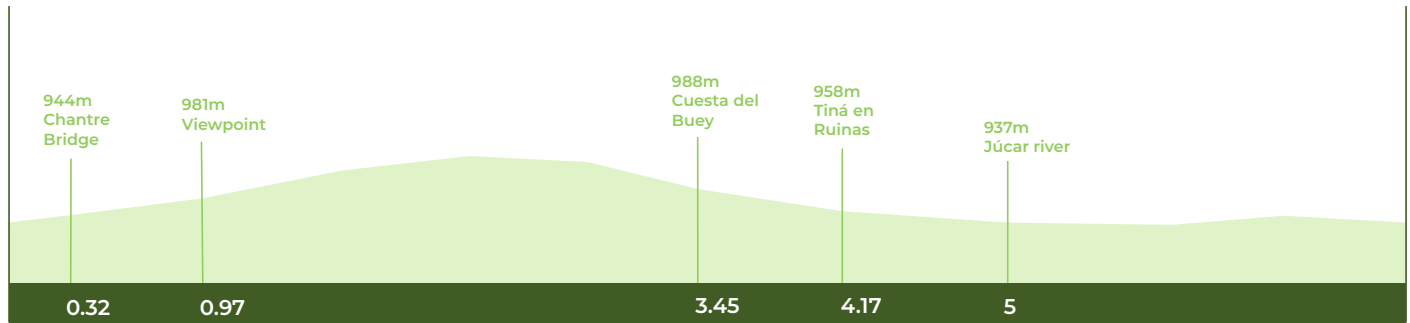
*Walking among pines*



*El Chantre Bridge*

We leave the Cerro del Portugués on our right and go down the Cuesta del Rey, and very close by we can visit some abandoned "tiná", which gives us an idea of the importance of these

***“This route links different ecosystems of high environmental value”***



## Did you know that...

*Origin of the bridge and Canónigo Álvarez de Osorio.*

The primitive Chantre Bridge over the river Júcar was built in the 15th century at the expense and initiative of Nuño Álvarez Osorio, doctor in Law, born in Fuente Encalada, who lived most of his life in Cuenca, as Chantre (hence the name), a Cathedral dignitary in charge of the good government of the choir.



Loma de las Covachas

*The figure and personality of this canon is to be found among the list of people who extended their efforts, economy and work on a larger scale than usual,*

and for the benefit of Cuenca. Together with the construction of the bridge that bears his name in the cathedral, he paid for the building of the hermitage of San Cristóbal, on the hill of that name, one of the eighteen outside the city centre; he founded the convent of the Benedictine nuns and the chapel of San Miguel in the cathedral, which has now disappeared. Also worthy of note in his humanitarian work was the support and upbringing of foundlings with the proceeds of his income.

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	1
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	1
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	1
SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3	
		TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY	<b>12 Middle-low PRACTICABLE</b>



Cuesta del Buey

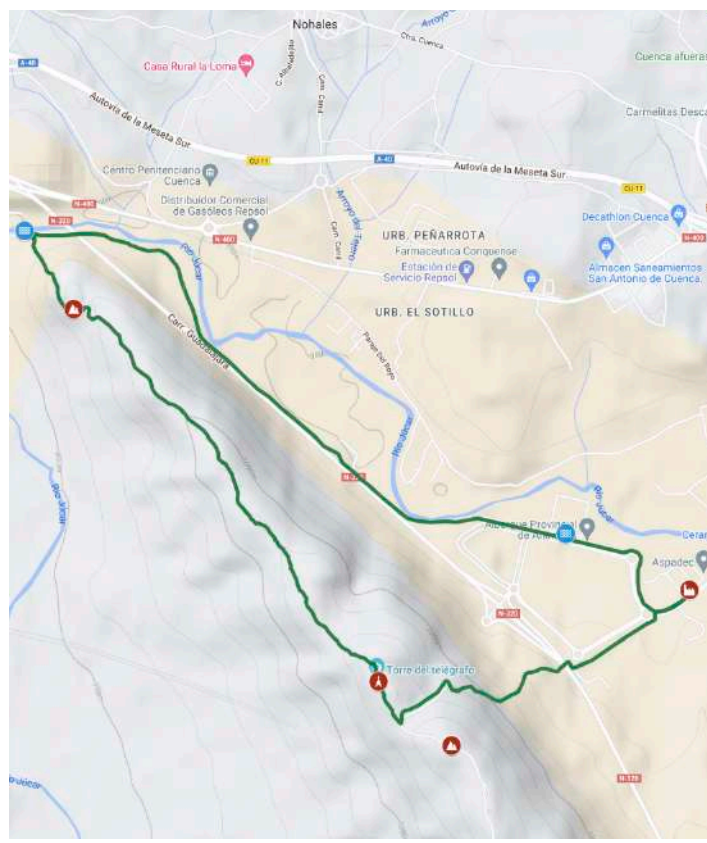
<b>MIDE</b>			
TIME	2h 5'	1	SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
ELEVATION GAIN	182m	1	ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
ELEVATION LOSS	182m	2	DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	7.0km	2	AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA	



# Optical Telegraph Route 7

**STARTING POINT:** Business Centre (Cuenca)  
**LENGHT ROUTE:** Circular / 9 km  
**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HEIGHT::** 903m / 1063m

*We suggest that you follow this route in clockwise direction*



From the Business Centre we head in a SW direction, crossing under the N-320. We begin a steep climb from where we can contemplate beautiful views of the city of Cuenca. We are surrounded by Mediterranean scrubland with holm oaks as the dominant plant. There are also a large number of aromatic plants (lavender, rosemary, thyme, gorse...) which, in springtime, make the walk a very pleasant experience.

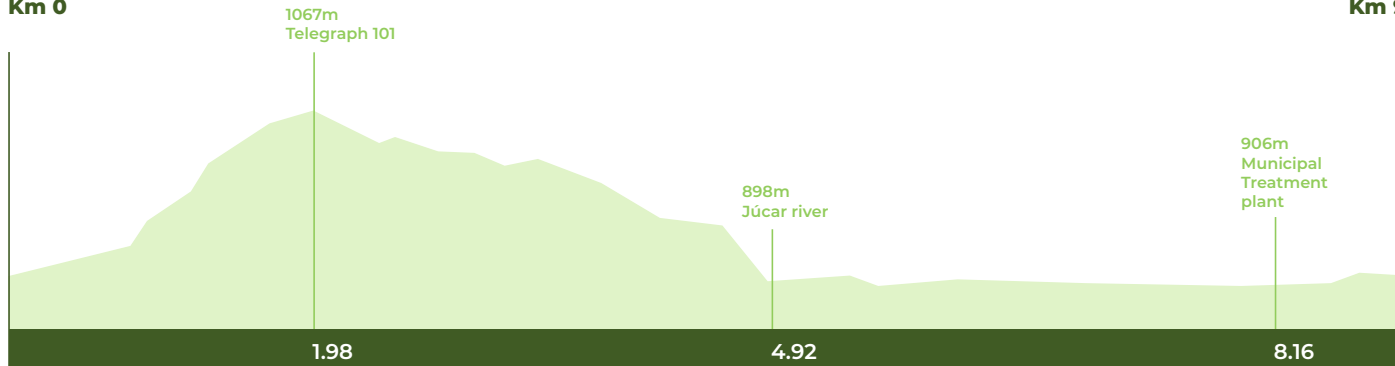
itinerary. A privileged panoramic spot because of the large area of land that is visible. We can see the city of Cuenca and its strategic enclave between the gorges of the rivers Júcar and Huécar and also, on the other side, we can see the fertile plain of the river San Martín near the town of Villar de Olalla and in the distance we can see the villages of Cólliga and Colliquilla, as well as the Altos de Cabrejas (1183 m. above sea level). We then head in a NW direction and gradually lose altitude until we reach the River Júcar..



Telegraph 101. La Mendoza

We gain altitude and when we reach Telegraph 101 "La Mendoza" we are at the highest point of the

*“We return to the starting point along the left bank of the river, enjoying the picturesque forest”*



Panoramic view of Cuenca

## Did you know that ...

*“This is the only place documented in the property of this military order that was sold to the Chirino “Albaladejito” family.*

Following the river upstream, we see the site of Albaladejito, now an agricultural and environmental training centre and once an Iberian settlement - according to the site of the settlement at the top of the

the hill of the same name, which covers 2.6 hectares, and which still preserves the remains of a defensive wall controlling the course of the River Júcar. It may have been a Roman oppidum where objects of pre-Roman origin were found: urns made of orejeta.

A Roman road secondary to the main road that went from Egelasta to Emérita, passing through Noheda and the cattle track that connected La Sierra with Monteagudo de las Salinas in the so-called Cañada de Andalucía, crosses the hamlet.

It first belonged to the jurisdictional district of Nohales, located to the left of the Camino Real from Madrid to our capital, with a hermitage annexed to Chillarón, bordering to the north with Chillarón, to the

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	2	
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	1
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	1
SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3	
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY		<b>13 Middle-low PRACTICABLE</b>	

east with Cuenca, to the south with Colliguilla and to the west with Jábaga.

It belonged to the Count of La Ventosa and from 1841 it was annexed to Nohales, of which a councillor was a member. In the 1940 census, both the hamlet of Molino Blanco and Albaladejito appear as belonging to Chillarón de Cuenca.



Ribera del Júcar

MIDE		
🕒 TIME	2h 45'	🚩 1 SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
⬆️ ELEVATION GAIN	229m	🗺️ 2 ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
⬆️ ELEVATION LOSS	229m	👣 2 DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
📏 HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	9.0km	🏃 2 AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
🔄 TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA

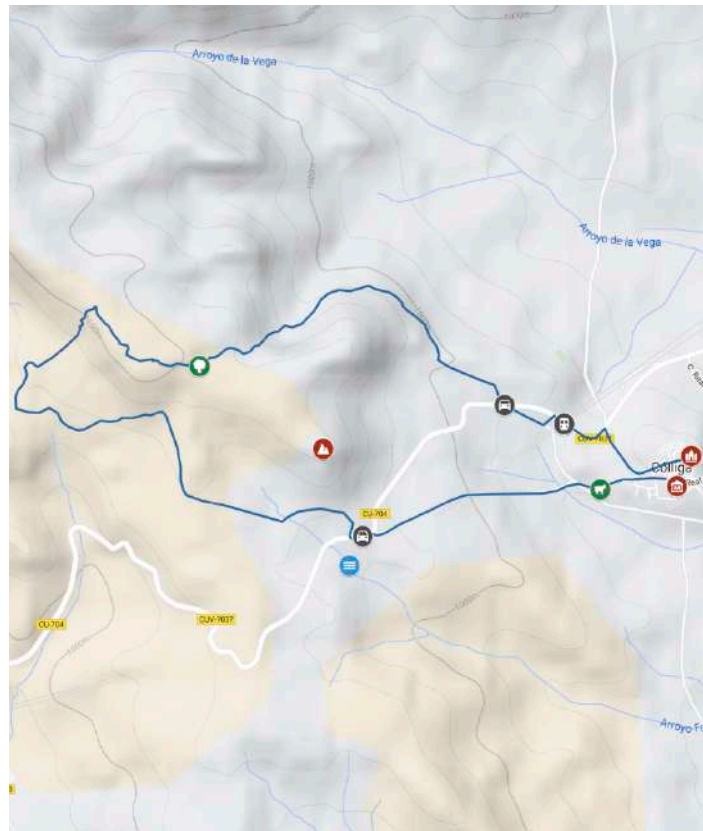


# Cónliga. Valdegonzalo

## Route 8

**STARTING POINT:** Cónliga (Cuenca)  
**TYPE / LENGHT ROUTE:** Circular / 7.28 km  
**MAXIMUM/MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 968m / 1109m

*We suggest that you follow the route in a clockwise direction*



Cónliga is located in what is surely an Iberian ophidium, in the middle of the Cañada Real de Rodrigo Ardaz, which confirms its close link with the pastoral economy.

attention and which merits a stop and a look.

From the square we leave the village along Calle Real towards the west and leave the last buildings and go down Calle de las Cañadas until we cross the Arroyo del Calvario and start a climb along the same Cañada Real amidst Mediterranean vegetation.

*“Very close to here is the Telégrafo 102 de Valdegozalo of the Cuenca telegraph line”*

Near the junction with the Arroyo Fuente de la Losa we cross the access road to the village and continue for about 200 metres before turning off onto the first road on our right. We soon leave the Cañada Real and start to ascend from the Loma de la Dehesa to the Corrales del Alto where there is an oak tree that catches our

We continue down a ravine among beautiful pine trees that discharges its waters into the Arroyo de la Vega.

We cross over the high-speed railway line on the same CU-704 road and from here we reach Cónliga again where we can visit the Parish Church of San Bartolomé, situated at the highest point of the village with wonderful views over the valley and from where we can see a large area of land.





## Did you know that...

Cólliga was a place of repopulation in the area around Cuenca, once it was reconquered by the troops of Alfonso VIII in 1177. Inhabited at the beginning by very few inhabitants, no more than five families, they were always peaceful people dedicated to farming and livestock raising.

Repopulated by the Charter of Cuenca, the Christian society adopted the dedication to San Bartolomé. A growing town, it maintains the memory of its hermitage of San Miguel and the place called el Badillo, as well as its watering place for livestock, its Casa del Cura of ancient beauty and its many fountains.

*“This place was inhabited by villagers dependent on the Medina al Qunca who were largely dedicated to the cultivation of esparto grass, used by the Arabs to make Islamic mats.”*



Telegraph 102. Valdegonzalo

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	2
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	2
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	1
	SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY		<b>14</b>	<b>High average PRACTICABLE</b>



Neo-classical 18th-century arch

<b>MIDE</b>			
🕒 TIME	2h 15'	🚩 1	SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
⬆️ ELEVATION GAIN	207m	🗺️ 2	ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
⬆️ ELEVATION LOSS	201m	👣 2	DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
📏 HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	7.3km	👤 2	AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
🔄 TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA	



# Colliguilla. Cañada. Júcar

## Route 9

**STARTING POINT:** Colliguilla (Cuenca)  
**TYPE / LENGTH OF ROUTE:** Circular / 6.2 km  
**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 883m / 930m

*We suggest that you follow the route in an anti-clockwise direction*

We start this route heading west to meet the Cañada Real de Rodrigo Ardaz (Ramal Poniente). This trail is surrounded by cereal fields watered by small, low-flowing streams. We are not going to cross large meadows or forests.

*“We enter Colliguilla via the Camino de Cañadahonda”*

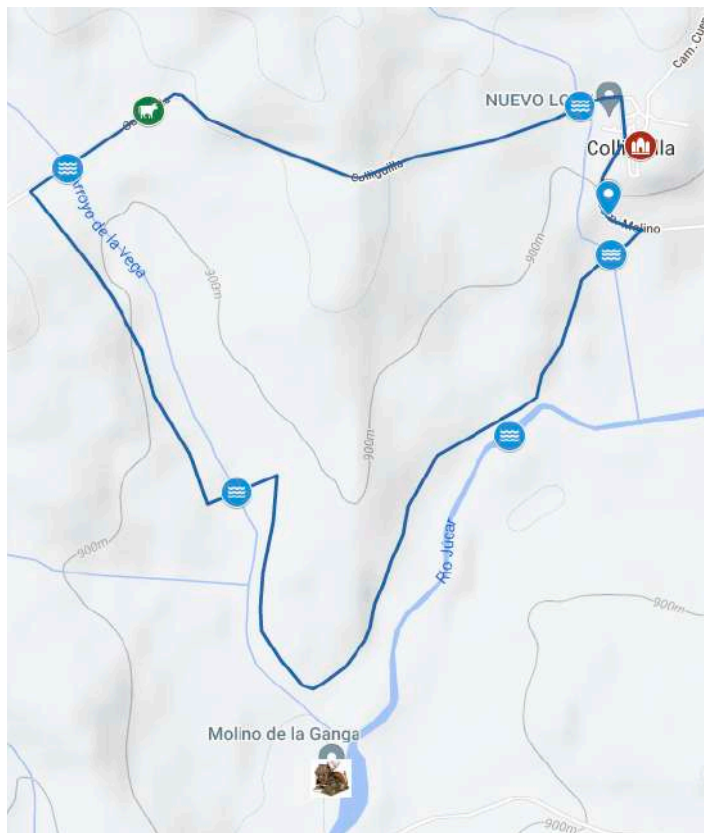
An interesting section is the stretch along the right bank of the river Júcar with a picturesque forest dominated by poplar trees, which creates a beautiful landscape in autumn.

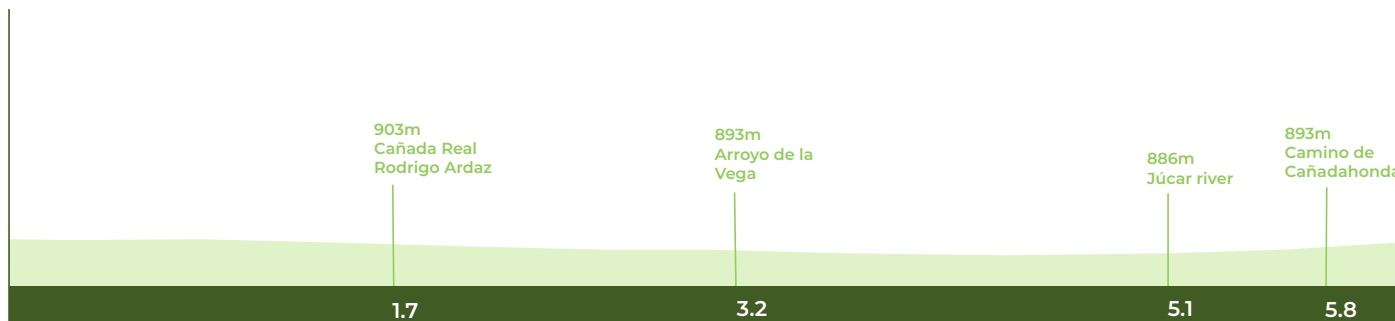


*Bridge over el Arroyo de la Vega*



*San Juan Bautista Church*





## Did you know that...

Colliguilla was born as a village in the Land of Cuenca, once this area had been repopulated by families arriving from the north of Castile, forming part of Alfonso VIII's army.



Cañada Real Rodrigo Ardaz

*“According to the old documents, this place is located between the boundary markers of Cotillas and Abengózar, villages and hamlets that were also born in that period of repopulation in the 13th century, once Alfonso VIII conquered the city of Cuenca and established its Alfoz (administrative district) and its Fuero (charter).”*

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	1	
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH		1
		UNEVENNESS		1
		TYPE OF TERRAIN		2
		LENGTH		3
		DANGER		1
	SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE		3
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY			<b>12</b> <b>Middle-low PRACTICABLE</b>	

The hermitage dedicated to Saint John the Baptist stands out, which in the 19th century appears as an annex to the parish church of Cölliga and among its natural sites, the Acequión, the Batán, very active in the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as the Vadopinto mill, which supplied

the town and for some time, the neighbouring villages.

In its municipal district, the Moratón hill and the areas of Pasaero 12 and the Dehesa Boyal gave life to the pastures of its livestock during times of migration.

MIDE			
TIME	1h 25'	1	SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
ELEVATION GAIN	72m	1	ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
ELEVATION LOSS	73m	2	DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	6.2km	2	AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA	

# La Melgosa and its pastureland

## Route 10

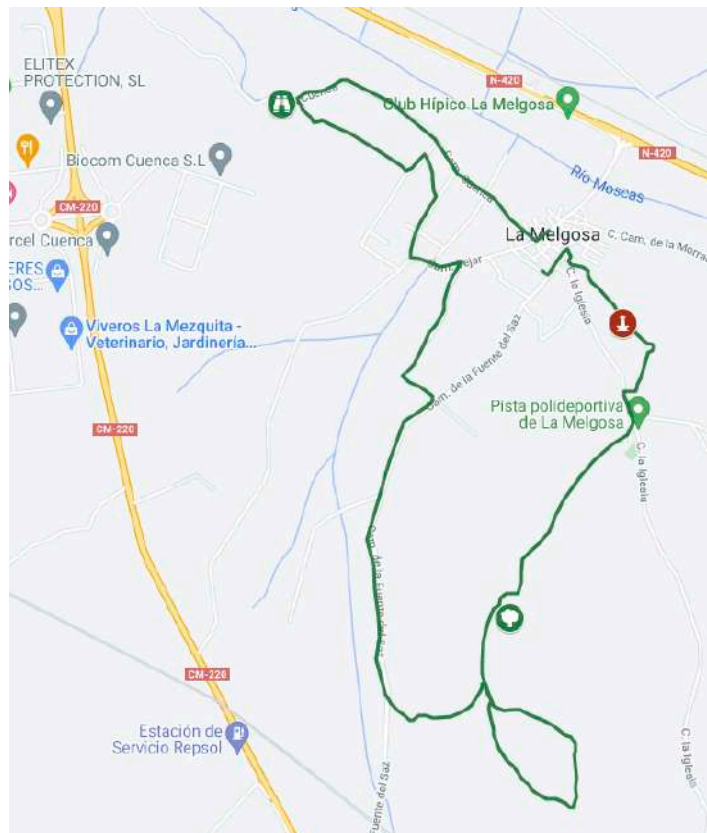
**STARTING POINT:** La Melgosa (Cuenca)

**TYPE / LENGTH ROUTE:** Circular / 7.08 km

**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 936m / 1009m



*We suggest that you follow this route in an anti-clockwise direction*



From the square we set off along the Camino de Cuenca along the left bank of the Moscas River and close to sandstone and conglomerate rock formations. From the beginning we follow the Camino de la Lana that links the southeast of Spain with Santiago de Compostela.

At km 1 from our departure there is a viewpoint that allows us to see the whole plain of the river and the nearby house of La Mota.

We return towards the village and after passing through a residential area we walk along part of the Camino del Tejar to reach the Camino de la Fuente del Saz and at the 3.7 km point we turn off to our left to enter a beautiful grassy area of Mediterranean forest. Before entering the village, we climb the Calvary from where we can see the best panoramic views of this walk.

*“We finish in the village where a visit to the Parish Church of Our Lady of the Assumption is a must”*

with an altarpiece consisting of a beautiful fresco by the painter and teacher Víctor de la Vega.



Calvary



## Did you know that...

La Melgosa, a district of the city of Cuenca, was once a repopulated village in the lands organised by Alfonso VIII. It lies at a crossroads, on one side the Palancares path through the rugged pine forests, thick with trunks and between two layers of green, and on the other the hamlets of Villar de Olalla.

At the top of the hill stands the Romanesque church, with apse and tower, and its interior decorated with a beautiful mural painting by Víctor de la Vega.

*“Curiously, in the 12th century, Leonor de Plantagenet, wife of Alfonso VIII, came here to rest during her pregnancy”*

And according to those old documents, this was the place of passage, in the 17th

and 18th centuries, where people from the textile basin lived, with several family workshops dedicated to wool and its manufacturing treatment for the rich Royal Tapestry Factory, and among its skills, craftsmanship wanted to open a school, but it did not succeed. New times came and among the inhabitants, Canon Manrique created a home and built a church that regenerated the Virgin of the Assumption next to the raised granary and, a little further away, its magnificent flour mill.



Church of Ntra. Sra. de la Asunción

In the first Carlist conflict (18th century), La Melgosa served as a centre where General Widham's English army made its headquarters while it was analysing the conquest of the town, which it would later carry out.

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	1
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	1
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	1
SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3	
		TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY	<b>12</b> Middle-low PRACTICABLE



Camino Cuenca

<b>MIDE</b>			
TIME	2h	1	SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
ELEVATION GAIN	110m	1	ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
ELEVATION LOSS	111m	2	DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	7.1km	2	AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA	

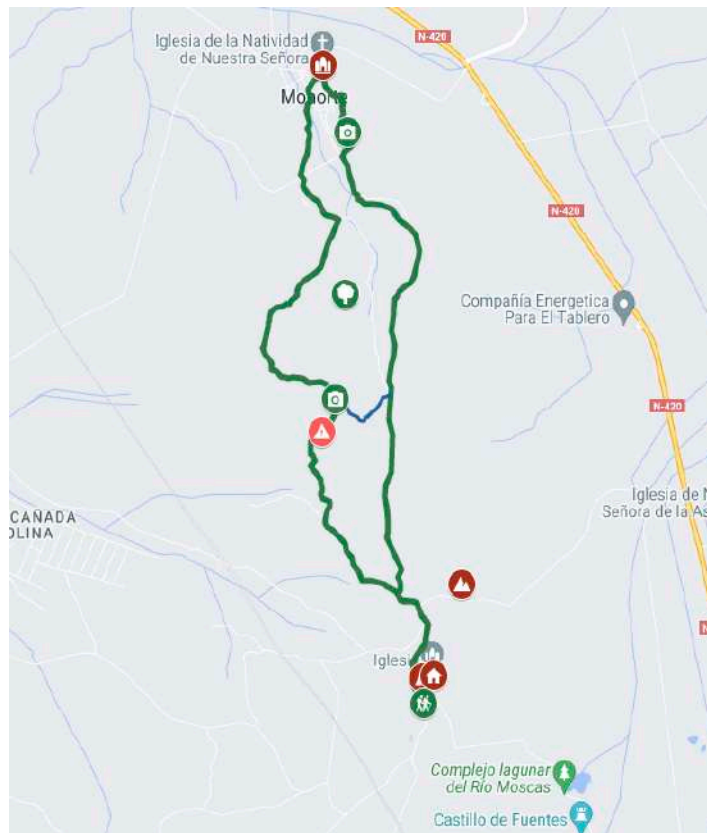


# Mohorte. From the pasture to the Watchtower

## Route 11

**STARTING POINT:** Calle de la Fuente de Mohorte  
**TYPE / LENGHT ROUTE:** Circular / 9.68 km  
**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HECHT:** 972m / 1069m

*We suggest that you follow this route in an anti-clockwise direction*



We leave the hamlet of Mohorte along the Calle de la Fuente and gradually gain altitude along an enjoyable path. We arrive at the Dehesa Boyal from where we have a viewpoint and begin to descend a very interesting ravine ("torrentera"). The predominant vegetation is gall oak (*quercus faginea*) with a sprinkling of pine trees. We also find a large number of junipers among other plants to be highlighted.

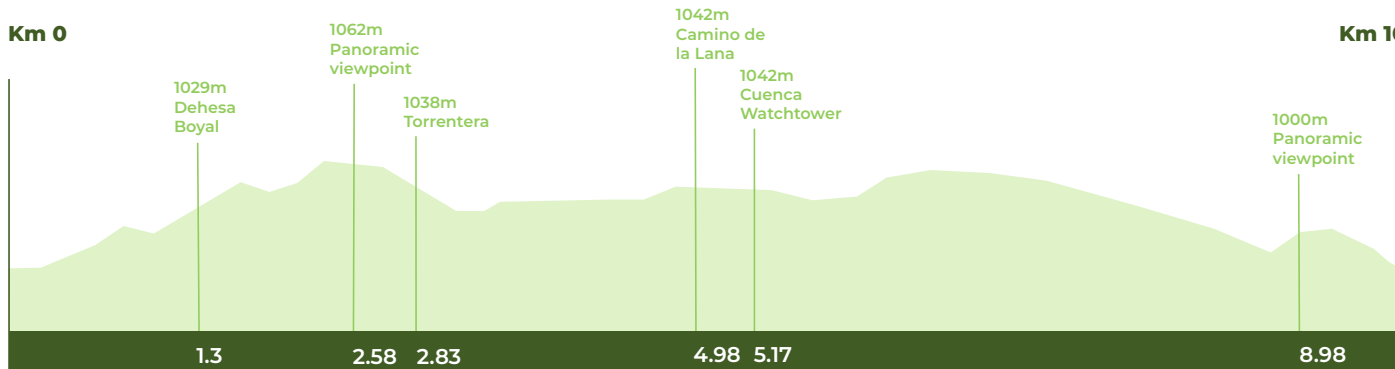
We arrive at the Watchtower of Cuenca, an old defensive bastion of the fortress of Cuenca that warned of possible enemy attacks from the east.

*"We connect with the Camino de la Lana that pilgrims follow from south-eastern Spain to reach Santiago de Compostela"*



*Camino de la Dehesa*

On this occasion, we play the role of pilgrims for a moment and return to Mohorte, but not before climbing up to the "castle" from where we can contemplate beautiful views of the valley of the Moscas River with the city of Cuenca in the background.



## Did you know that...

### Mohorte and its history.

The terminology of places that now belong to its municipal district but which in other times formed part of the "alfoz" of the Council of Cuenca, recently conquered by the troops of Alfonso VIII in 1177, leads us to the legend or the mysterious content that so often surrounds the history of our towns. Thus, the Fuente del Rey, located at the foot of "la Dehesa", covered with excellent oak trees, could have been, why not, a place of certain charm for Alfonso himself and his wife Leonor because of its good water and beautiful scenery.

The now ruined Castle quarter may have been named after a small fort that warned the inhabitants of the city of the danger of invasion; and on the other hand, popular oral tradition leads us to seek the origin of one of the meanings that some inhabitants attribute to the word Mohorte: Monforte, "strong

mountain", originally located in the vicinity of the first place mentioned as "el Tesoro".

### Curiosities of its history.

There are certainly no limits to the terminological interpretations of popular content, nor are there any limits to those legends that serve as a deep-rooted traditional heritage in the past of the people.

Monforte, or perhaps Mohorte for "Death", alluding to the horrible massacre that the troops of the Caliph Abderraman III, fighting against the Muslim rebel Calib-ben-Haf-sun, in the late 9th century, inflicted upon this region, ravaging villages bordering Cuenca., including the Zomas and Mohorte, as well as other places in the Sierra of Cuenca. What is certain is that Mohorte is a singular name, etymologically difficult to study and with a profound historical content, which began to appear in archival documents from the 13th century onwards as a place of repopulation, once the area was reconquered,

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	1
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	1
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
	DANGER	1	
	SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3
		TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY	<b>12 Middle-low PRACTICABLE</b>

with families from the north of the peninsula occupying its lands and territories.

Egelasta to Emérita, passing through Noheda and the cattle track that connected the Sierra with Monteagudo de las Salinas in what is known as the Cañada de Andalucía.

It first belonged to the jurisdiction of Nohales, situated to the left da of the

Camino Real that connected Madrid with our capital, with a hermitage annexed to Chillarón, bordering to the north with Chillarón, to the east with Cuenca, to the south with Colliguilla and to the west with Jábaga. It belonged to the Count of la Ventosa and from 1841 was annexed to Nohales. In the 1940 census, it appears as belonging to Chillaron de Cuenca, both the Hamlet of Molino Blanco and Albaladejito.

<b>MIDE</b>			
🕒	TIME	2h 50'	🚩 1 SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
📈	ELEVATION GAIN	214m	🗺️ 1 ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
📉	ELEVATION LOSS	214m	👣 1 DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
📏	HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	9.7km	🏃 2 AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
🔄	TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA



# Nohales. Via tracks and ridges

## Route 12

**STARTING POINT:** Nohales (Cuenca)  
**TYPE / LENGHT ROUTE:** Circular / 11 km  
**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 923m / 1083m

*We suggest that you follow this route in a clockwise direction*



We leave the village heading north along the Camino de Embid between the Aº del Curtido and the Aº del Tejero.

Casa de la Poveda to our right and continue to descend.

At km 2.6 we arrive at the Cañada Real de Rodrigo Ardaz and we have the opportunity to enjoy the surroundings for a kilometre and a half and to remember the importance that this artery of communication had for Cuenca in the Middle Ages. When we pass under the CM-2110 we leave the Cañada and make a 90 degree turn to our right to continue climbing the Loma de Casasola, which is characterised by its pine forest and Mediterranean woodland (holm oak, gall oak, kermes oak...).

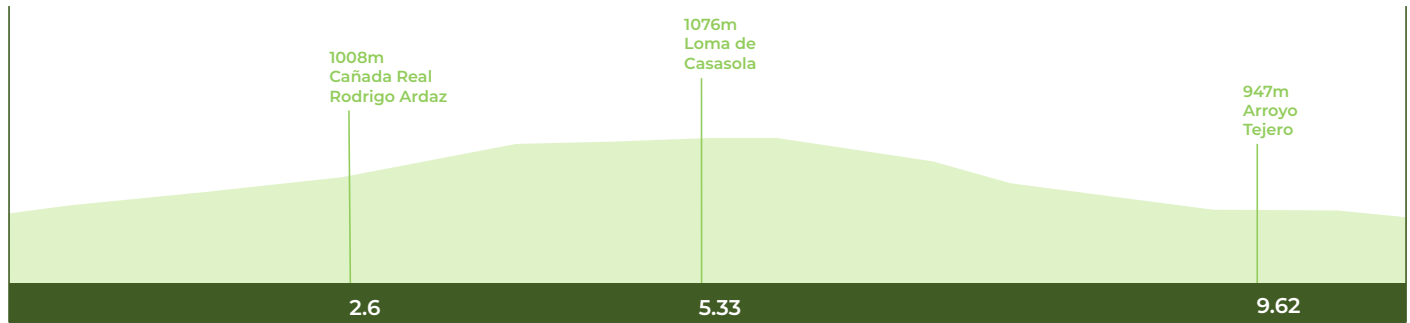
*“This itinerary goes through meadows and woods with interesting panoramic views”*

At km 6.3 we start to descend a ravine in a southerly direction. We will have the opportunity to pass by an old limekiln where we can see its shape and construction. We leave the



*Parish Church of el Santísimo Cristo de la Salud*





Camino de la Lana

## Did you know that...

Nohales is a village born from the repopulation of the alfoz of the city of Cuenca, once it was reconquered by the Christian troops led by the Castilian King Alfonso VIII.

*“Its proximity to the city would determine its dependence and its activity, in this case, livestock farming.”*

However, although chroniclers tell us of the possible abundance of walnut groves that would

give the place its name: Nohales (Nogales), this type of tree was not common.

Three important roads cross the area: on the one hand, the so-called Camino del Rey, used by Fernando VII and his entourage from the Madrid Court in the direction of the Solán de Cabras spa to ensure that the aromatic waters would be fertile enough in order to obtain the heir he dreamed of; the Camino de la Lana, crossing the so-called Cañada Real de Rodrigo Ardaz (Cattle Track from Zaragoza to Andalucía) through which the migrating livestock passed, which later gave rise to the famous Ruta de la Lana; and finally, the Camino de Arcos, used to transport the excellent Arcos stone from the quarry used for the construction of Cuenca Cathedral, begun in the time of Alfonso VIII and his wife Leonor de Plantagenet (1182)..



Dehesa

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	1
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	1
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	1
	SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY		<b>12</b>	<b>Middle-low PRACTICABLE</b>



Calera

<b>MIDE</b>			
TIME	1h 5'	1	SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
ELEVATION GAIN	208m	1	ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
ELEVATION LOSS	211m	2	DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	1.9km	2	AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA	



## Tondos. Nature at its purest Route 13

**STARTING POINT:** Fountain at entrance to Tondos  
**TYPE / LENGTH OF ROUTE:** Circular / 8.55 km  
**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 1002m / 1151m

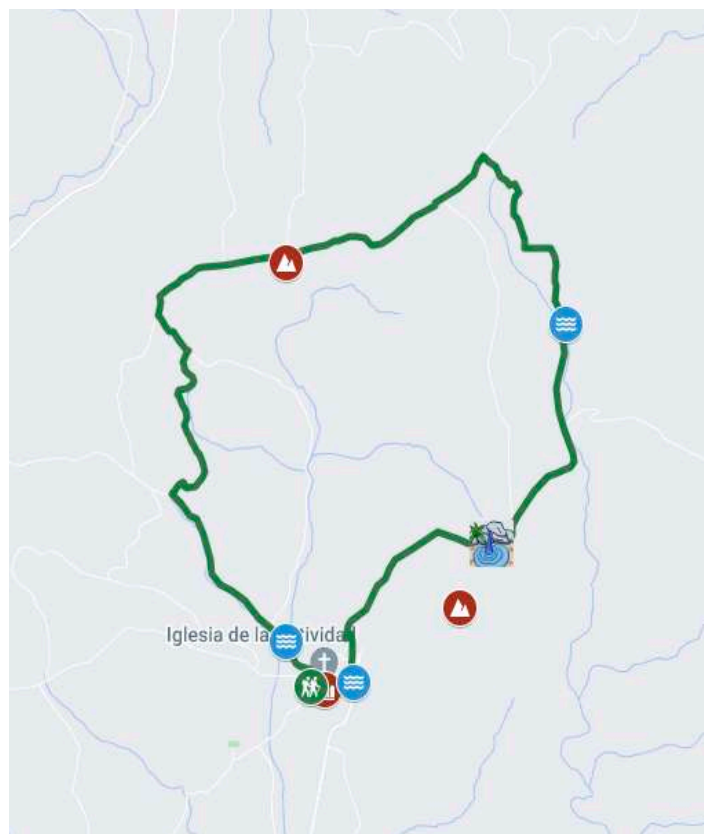
*We suggest that you follow this route in a clockwise direction*

From the fountain at the entrance to Tondos we go towards the church of the Natividad de Nuestra Señora and leave the village along the Camino de la Lana which, as we know, is the path that pilgrims follow from the south-east of Spain to Santiago de Compostela.

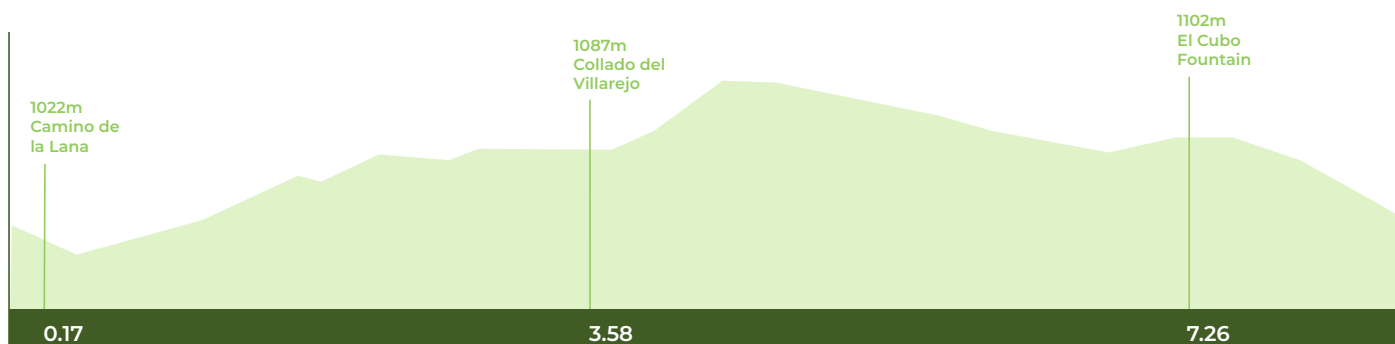
south and following the Arroyo de la Cañada, we arrive at the Fuente del Cubo, leaving La Muela on our left at an altitude of 1158 metres.

After a good number of metres on a northerly course we turn to our right to pass along the Collado Villarejo and further on, heading

*“We enter the village through the area where the caves are located”*



Caves of Tondos



## Did you know that...

### History of Tondos,

In 1181, King Alfonso VIII, once he had conquered Cuenca, gave this village of Tondos, with great solemnity, to Don Tello Pérez, together with half of Ocaña and some mills on the banks of the Júcar, near Cuenca, in exchange for the town of Malagón in Toledo.

### A month later, he decreed a

### charter for the whole of Cuenca and its municipal area

considering this land and 8 its Hamlet of Tondos to be within the so-called Sexmo de Chillaron, with around 800 inhabitants during those years of repopulation, many from Aragón and Navarra, including the surnames Peñalver, Page, Ferrer, de Julián, Pérez and García, joining those already there, Gil, Palomero and Moya, among others, all of whom grazed cattle and grew cereal.



Irrigation pond

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	1
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	1
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	1
SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3	
		TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY	<b>12 Middle-low PRACTICABLE</b>



Fountain washing-place

MIDE			
🕒	TIME	2h 35'	⚠️ 1 SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
⬆️	ELEVATION GAIN	202m	🗺️ 1 ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
⬇️	ELEVATION LOSS	199m	👣 1 DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
📏	HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	8.5km	🏃 2 AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
🔄	TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA

# Valdecabras. Ravines and heaths

## Route 14

**STARTING POINT:** Plaza de la Iglesia de Valdecabras  
**TYPE / LENGHT ROUTE:** Circular / 8.8 km  
**MAXIMUM/MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 1152m / 1375m



*We suggest that you follow this route in a clockwise direction*

We leave Valdecabras along a stretch that coincides with the GR 66 that crosses the province of Cuenca and the PRCU-49: Route of the Valle Dehesilla and Alto de la Nava.



Stone mushroom

Surrounded by forest and next to the waters of the Valdecabras River, we advance through the deep canyon carved into the mountain until we reach a Tejar, where we can learn about the ancestral work of tile-making. Nearby is the Fuente de la Morisca in a hidden spot that invites us to relax. We continue our walk until we reach a clearing in the forest where there is a fountain with watering troughs for the abundant cattle livestock in the area.

We leave the river bank and start a steep climb up to the Collado de la Nava to begin the route across a heathland.

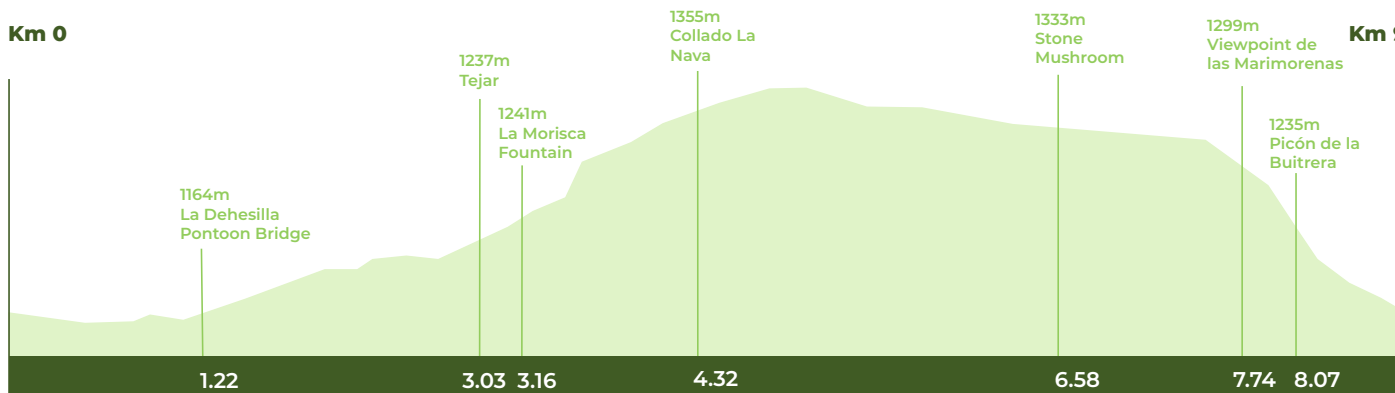
*“We pass by the Tiná Quemada, where we can contemplate stone “mushrooms”, small rocks of dolomite that acquire this curious and whimsical shape”*

We start a steep descent towards Valdecabras, but not without enjoying the magnificent views at the Marimorenas viewpoint and the Picón de la Buitrera.



Km 0

Km 9



## Did you know that... Valdecabras.

This locality is considered a district of the municipality of Cuenca. It has a long history, as it is the site of Verdelpino, the oldest centre of settlement in the province, dating back to the Palaeolithic period. Here, remains of the oldest pottery in Western Europe were found, the result of the first sedentary production of pottery by hunter-gatherers.

*“This locality has always been known for the curiosities of its history”*

The dependence on a lordship - still in force today -, the existence of a wolf hunter, dedicated to killing this animal when flocks and herds were numerous, several inquisitorial trials of local women and men, as a result of witchcraft and sorcery - never proven, but punished.-.



Fountain with trough

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	2
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	2
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	2
SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3	
		TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY	<b>15 High average PRACTICABLE</b>



Tejar

<b>MIDE</b>			
🕒	TIME	2h 45'	🚩 1 SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
⬆️	ELEVATION GAIN	273m	🗺️ 2 ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
⬇️	ELEVATION LOSS	272m	👣 2 DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
📏	HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	8.8km	🏃 2 AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
🔄	TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA

General information

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CUENCA Natural Space

37



# Villanueva de los Escuderos On el Camino de Cabrejas like squires and Iberians



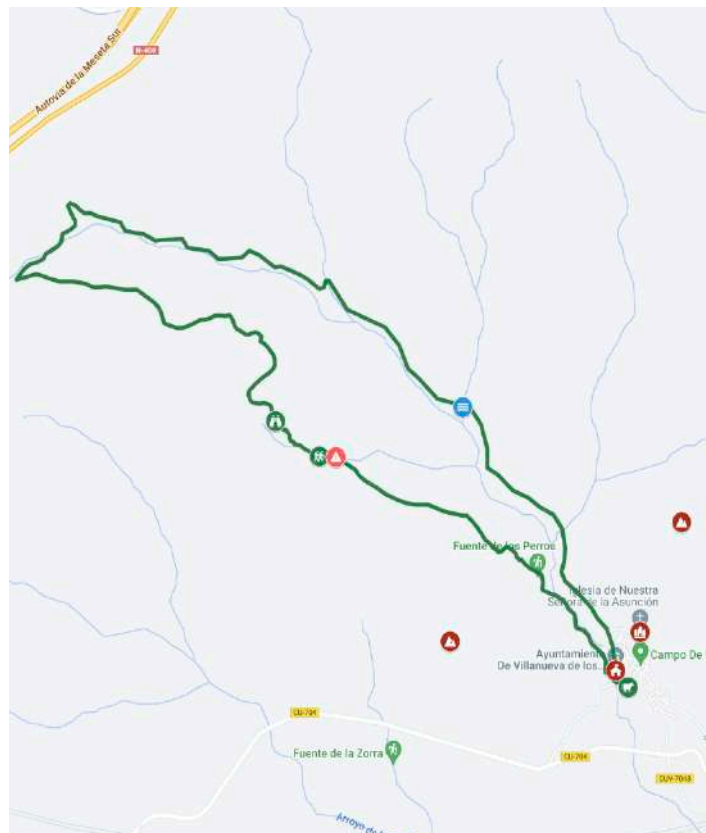
## Route 15

**STARTING POINT:** Plaza del Ayuntamiento

**TYPE / LENGTH OF ROUTE:** Circular / 8.2 km

**MAXIMUM / MINIMUM HEIGHT:** 975m / 1133m

*We suggest that you follow this route in a clockwise direction*



From the Plaza del Ayuntamiento of Villanueva de los Escuderos we head northwest along the Calle Plaza y Perchel as we leave the village in a north-westerly direction. On our right we pass the beautiful Cerro Pelado (1072 metres high), a former Iberian settlement. We head towards the Altos de Cabrejas following the left bank of the Arroyo del Egidillo surrounded by a fantastic pine forest dotted with beautiful specimens of the quercus family (gall oaks, holm oaks, kermes oaks...)

We arrive almost at the source of the Egidillo, where we turn south-east to return to the starting point. After enjoying some beautiful panoramic views from the top and passing some difficult descents, we reach the village which is in the middle of the Cañada Real Rodrigo Ardaz, leaving La Quemadilla (1051 metres above sea level) to our right.

In the village we will have the opportunity to visit the beautiful church of the Assumption, which has undergone innumerable alterations with its Romanesque doorway as the original element.

*“Inside the church, the most outstanding feature is the baptismal font decorated with a band framed in cords with floral motifs of leaves, crosses, spirals and rhombuses.”*



## Did you know that...

### History of Villanueva de los Escuderos.

This place arose after Cuenca was taken from the Muslims in 1177, on 7 June 1185. The Castilian king would hand over to the Order of Santiago a hamlet called "Villanueva", formerly known as "Foios Rotundus", located in the municipality of Cuenca between the villages called "Almerones" and "Casares de García Ramírez"

*During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, villages and settlements were established*

and, on the ruins and foundations of abandoned villages, new names of Castilian Romance terminology emerged,

"Hoyos Redondos", "La morrilla", "La fuente la Linda" and "Laza Conejo" then passing on to the village of "El Casuto", as has been evidenced by archaeological sites: tombs dug out of rock, coins, hermitage or chapel, etc., as far as Villanueva, as a result of the definitive settlement in the repopulated areas recovered throughout the Reconquista.

*Both King Alfonso VIII and the Council were concerned with extending the alfoz of Cuenca, and in 1201 they confirmed the agreement whereby "Valtablado" would remain for the Order of Santiago, and "Villanueva" for Cuenca.*

ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA	ACCESSES	ACCESSES	2
	ITINERARIES	SLOPE PATH	1
		UNEVENNESS	2
		TYPE OF TERRAIN	2
		LENGTH	3
		DANGER	1
	SIGNAGE	SIGNAGE	3
TOTAL LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY		<b>15</b>	<b>High average PRACTICABLE</b>

Villanueva is situated on a hillside, with a fertile plain and a river - the Ejillo stream - which has its source at "la Fuente de la Zarza" and is dominated by a defensive enclave, a walled enclosure with a semicircular archway and a crenelated front.

A hamlet of Cuenca in the 16th century, when it depended on the King and its population was "cien





vecinos" (about five hundred inhabitants), according to the Libro de Visitas del Partido de la Mancha, year 1579. It was enough of a neighbourhood to erect the architectural jewel of its church. Its name derives from the fact that its inhabitants served as "squires" or companions to the kings and nobles on hunting trips, which were very common in those times.

<b>MIDE</b>			
🕒 TIME	2h 30'	🚩 1	SEVERITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
⬆️ ELEVATION GAIN	202m	🗺️ 2	ORIENTATION ON THE ROUTE
⬆️ ELEVATION LOSS	202m	👣 2	DIFFICULTY OF DISPLACEMENT
📏 HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	8.2km	👤 2	AMOUNT OF EFFORT REQUIRED
🔄 TYPE OF ROUTE	Circular	CONDITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. TIMES ESTIMATED ACCORDING TO MIDE CRITERIA, WITHOUT STOPS. CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 2022 DATA	





## *Tourist office*

-  Oficina Municipal de Turismo. Ayuntamiento de Cuenca  
C/ Alfonso VIII, 2 Cuenca
-  (+34) 969 241 051
-  [www.visitacuenca.es](http://www.visitacuenca.es)
-  [ofi.turismo@cuenca.es](mailto:ofi.turismo@cuenca.es)

## *Ayuntamiento de Cuenca*

-  [www.cuenca.es](http://www.cuenca.es)

**CUENCA** es  
TURISMO

-  [www.visitacuenca.es](http://www.visitacuenca.es)

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**Design** Ankaa Studio

**Printing** GJ Print

**Texts** Francisco Javier Rodríguez Laguía

**Photographs** Ankaa Studio

Francisco Javier Rodríguez Laguía

# Natural Space



*Francisco Javier Rodríguez Laguía, who belongs to the field of education, and has detailed knowledge of the Cuenca's corners and surroundings...*

offers 15 itineraries with the necessary thoroughness that allows anyone to follow them independently and freely without requiring the support of a monitor. These routes in the surroundings of Cuenca complete the wide range of tourist attractions that this city offers to the traveller; a city intimately linked to nature, which blends with stone and water to the point of not knowing where it begins and where it ends.

Author of publications describing itineraries throughout the province and the region of Castilla La Mancha, Francisco Javier describes the value of each of the routes in a comprehensive manner, providing a multidisciplinary vision, presenting data on the geography, botany, traditions and culture of Cuenca's heritage.

The 15 routes in this guide have a brief explanation, profile, map and the necessary technical data (accessibility, MIDE data). Each itinerary includes brief history notes ("Did you know that...") provided by Miguel Romero Saiz, official chronicler of the City of Cuenca. They are divided into seven routes around the city of Cuenca and another eight in neighbouring districts, which are also part of the city, so closely linked to its history and which provide added value due to the variety of their landscape.

These routes have been tested with organised groups within the cultural and creative programmes developed by the Cultural Association "CuenCANP" over the years and have been very positively evaluated by the people who have participated.

These routes have a level of difficulty suitable for all ages and families, although it is true that a minimum level of physical fitness is required as we are talking about a mountain environment that requires basic equipment and there are specific points with steep slopes where care is needed and even support with walking sticks. The final satisfaction of the magnificent panoramic views and beautiful landscapes is the most gratifying thing for the hiker.

The result is a practical, useful, easy-to-use guide that focuses on the visual. This work is supported by technology and uses QR codes that take users to the world of information and communication through their mobile phone and which opens up an inexhaustible world that completes the information in the guide. Users can consult the map with their mobile phone where all the points of interest of each itinerary appear with the necessary observations and details.

A guide to the natural environment of the city of Cuenca.

SEE YOU ON THE WAY!



*+ Info about the "CuenCANP" cultural association*



**Cuenca, natural space.  
Main routes and paths in the  
city and surrounding area.**

Official tourist guide  
sponsored by:



AYUNTAMIENTO DE CUENCA



Castilla-La Mancha



PLAN DE SOSTENIBILIDAD TURÍSTICA EN CUENCA

**renfe**

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