

NATURE TRAIL

SENDA DEL PASTOREO




 Guide to the
Nature Trails
 of Spain

SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR


NATURE TRAIL SENDA DEL PASTOREO

This is a circular route, starting and ending in Arantzazu, with 485 km in length, distributed in 19 stages which run on the bordering provinces of Álava, Guipúzcoa, Vizcaya, Navarra and Burgos, linking mountain passes and pastures with a long cattle tradition.

1. The first stage starts at the Sanctuary of Arantzazu and will take you through the north side of the Egea mountain range, in the region of Alto Deba. This stage runs through the Aizkorri-Aratz Natural Park almost in its entirety. The second stage runs through the region of Zuia, between the dams of Lagutiano and Albina, towards the region of Duranguesado and the Urkiola Natural Park.
2. The third stage starts at the Sanctuary of Urkiola, at the very heart of Urkiola Natural Park. Crossing the mountain pass of Araban, the trail goes up towards the Gorbea mountains, ending in the plains of Araba, in the Gorbea Natural Park. The fourth stage runs through the Gorbea Natural Park, crosses the mountain pass of Altube and ends at Izarra.
3. The fifth stage goes up until reaching Mount Santiago, declared as a Natural Monument, belonging to the Merindades region, in the province of Burgos. From there, you can admire the source of river Nervión and its waterfall. The trail continues on the region of Burgos, in particular through the Losa Valley. The sixth stage runs through the Losa Valley going up the hills of Salvada mountain range, offering magnificent views over both valleys, that of Losa (in Burgos) and that of Ordúña (in Vizcaya). The last stretch goes back to Álava, ending in Boveda.

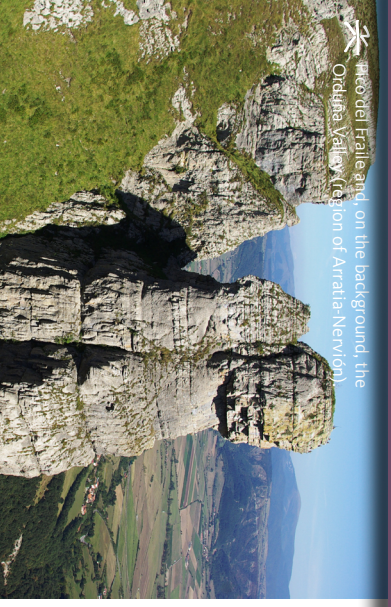

 The path to Bazarra, surrounded by pine forests



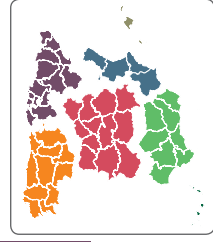

 Laxta sheep on the pastures of Peña Ordúña.



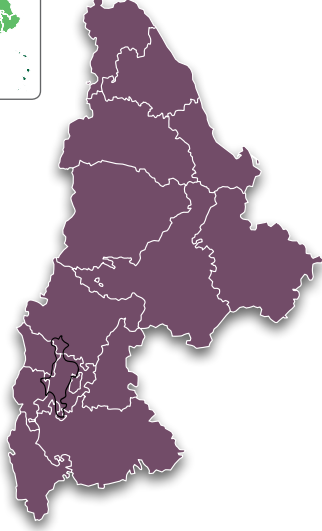

 Ordoña del Fraile and, on the background, the Ordoña Valley (region of Araratz-Nervión)



4. The seventh stretch enters the Valdelejo Natural Park, in Álava, following de canyon of river Purón, in the Arcena mountain range. At the river bank, you can see the remains of the abandoned village of Ribera. Until the end of this stage, the trail continues through the province of Burgos again, in the area of San Zadornil, classed as Montes Obarenes Natural Park.
5. The eighth stage runs on the municipality of Valdegovia, province of Álava, except for the first few kilometers, where you will encounter the village of Valpuesta, in Burgos. In this village, some manuscripts were found, known as the Cartularios de Valpuesta, which are the oldest documents with words in Spanish, together with the handwritten notes of San Millán de la Cogolla (9th century, La Rioja). Through this stage and part of the next one (the ninth stretch), the trail continues through the cereal crop fields of the basin of river Ormeillo, in the region of Valdegovia. It then goes up the Arkamo mountain range, separating the municipalities of Kuartango and Ribera Alta, which make up the "Valles Alaveses" region together with Valdegovia. The trail then descends to the bottom of the valley, arriving at Iruña de Oca.
6. The tenth stage runs through the peaks of the Mounts of Vitoria, separating the Plain of Álava and the county of Treviño, in Burgos. It ends at the village of Okina. The eleventh stage enters the county of Treviño, along the canyo of river Ayuda, and goes back to the territory of Álava, crossing the Izki Natural Park, which stretches almost up to Artoñoana.
7. The twelfth stage of the trail is short, ending in San Vicente de Arana. Here, the thirteenth stretch starts, which continues North through the mountains of Álava until reaching the Urbasa mountain range. From atop, you can admire the Plains of Álava again. The Entzia region is crossed, entering the



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a municipality of Valdegovia, in the region of Valles Alaveses.

Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture, Food and the Environment's Nature Trails Program aims to restore former transport infrastructures such as railway tracks, cattle trails and traditional routes, for public use and enjoyment.

These routes take us to the countryside to discover the biodiversity and beauty of our precious natural heritage, and discover the villages, sights, traditions and people that are part of the unique cultural landscape of our country.

We invite you to visit them and offer you the keys to enjoy the trip. In this brochure you will find a brief description of the Senda del Pastoreo Nature Trail and the map for the journey, along with recommendations to make the most of this experience. We only ask one thing of you: do not forget to leave everything as you found it. The conservation of these pathways is also your responsibility.

TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:
 • Álava Regional Government 0034 945 181 818

MILLENNARY PASTURES AROUND THE PLAINS OF ÁLAVA

The Senda del Pastoreo Nature Trail is a circular route through the mounts surrounding the Plains of Álava, a fluvial plain where the Zadorra flows and on which Vitoria-Gasteiz. It is located between two mountains ranges going from East to West.

The route will allow the trekker to discover one of the oldest human activities: shepherding. It links some of the main mountain pastures in the highest areas of the mountain ranges and which have been preserved for over 3,000 years thanks to the shepherding activity.

Most of the trail runs through protected natural areas, underscoring the importance of the ecological and scenic value of this route.

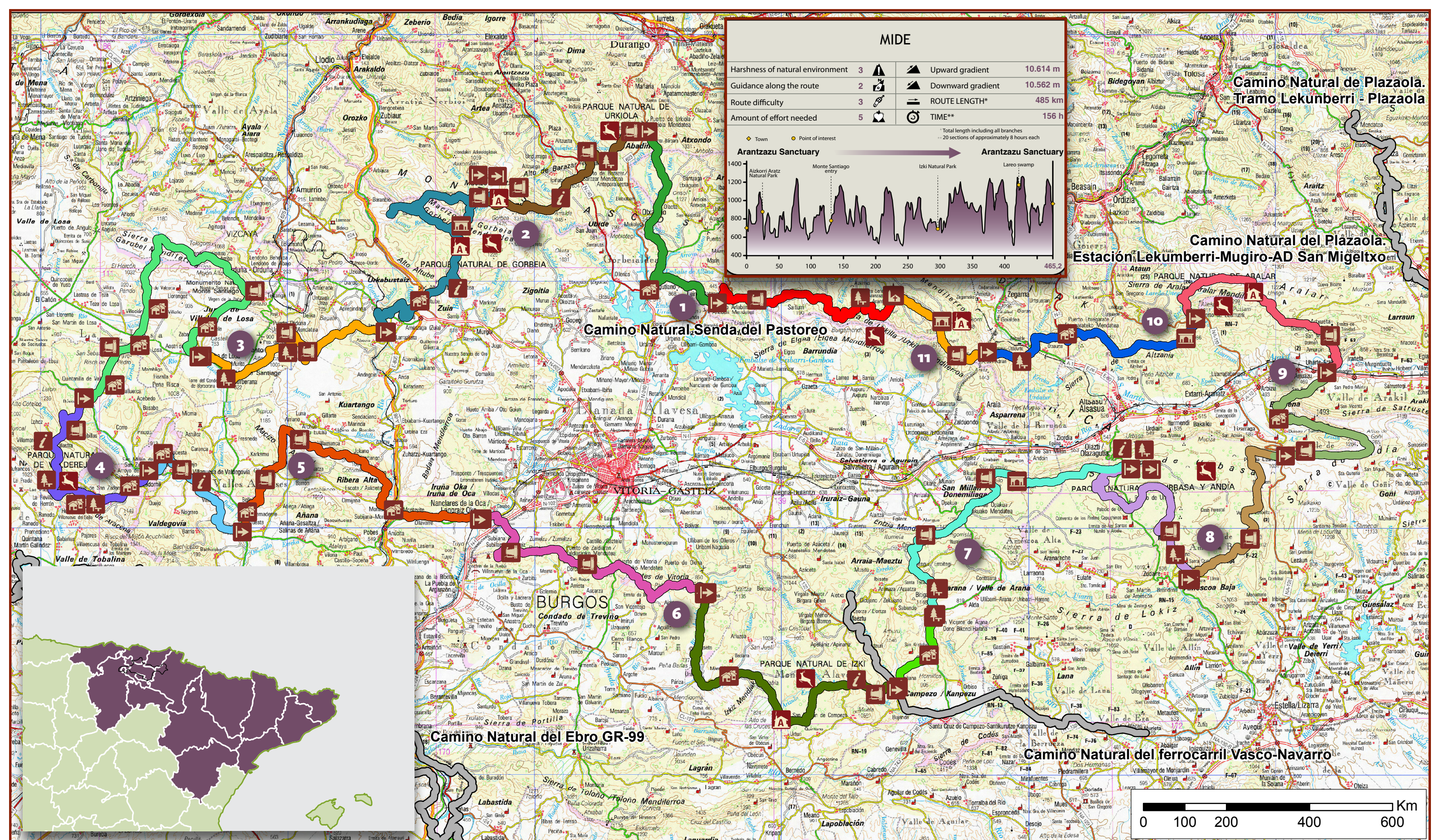


territories of Navarra towards the Mounts of Urbasa. This stage, and the next three stretches, run through the Urbasa and Andía Natural Park.

8. The fourteenth stage continues through the Urbasa mountain range, bordering the namesake plains, and going down the canyon where the river Urederra springs and towards the region of Améscoa, ending at Aratza. The fifteenth stage goes up, from Améscoa to the top or the Urbasa mountain range, ending at Puerto de Lizarraga, between the Urbasa and Andía mountain ranges.
9. The sixteenth stage is an easy stretch that will take you through the mountain passes of the Andía mountain range and then goes downhill to Uharte-Arakil. The seventeenth stretch starts with a steep slope going up to the Monastery of San Miguel de Aralar and continues West through the Aralar mountain range, entering the Aralar Natural Park, in Guipúzcoa. Then, the trail continues towards the Lizarrusti mountain pass, between Navarra and Guipúzcoa...

10. The eighteenth stage continues through mountain ranges between the provinces, bordering the Aralar Natural Park. After crossing the Etxegarate pass, it enters the Aizkorri-Aratz Natural Park and the regions of Guipúzcoa and Álava. The stage ends at the house of Mikelete, just before San Adrián tunnel, a natural passage through the mountain range with the peaks of Aizkorri and Aratz, where there are still remains of a Roman road and Roman settlements.

11. The last stretch (nineteenth) crosses the San Adrián tunnel and, following the remains of the Roman road and the Urqujilla mountain range, it reaches the Urbia pass. Then, it descends to the Sanctuary of Arantzazu through the beech woods of the high basin of the river Urkullu, ending at the Sanctuary of Arantzazu.



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- Religious building
- Viewpoint
- National/Natural Park
- Information
- Lodging
- Feature of environmental interest
- Monument
- Birds observatory