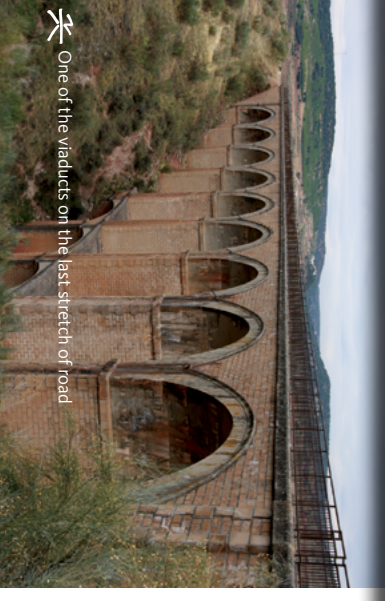


Majanos (traditional agricultural structures)



Crossroads when exiting the second tunnel



One of the viaducts on the last stretch of road

10. Next to the abandoned station you reach a new recreation area: at this point of the trail you don't cross the railway track but use the stone bridge. Upon reaching the following crossroads, continue ahead and a green fence appears, after which you have to take the right. Bordering the road and leaving it on the left you will

6. By continuing along the trail and through the next tunnel, which is the biggest one on the route, you reach a resting area on the right. Ahead, at the height of

11. It will be necessary to pass under another bridge before arriving at a water fountain (not drinking water), until a short tunnel appears. After passing through it you will reach a recreational area and another tunnel that merges into an abandoned station. Three tunnels appear soon after.

5. After crossing kilometre point 54, and before entering the next tunnel, a detour to the right gives you the opportunity to visit Los Chospes, a town where you enjoy the Laguna del Arquillo, of Karst origin and declared a Natural Monument. From the Laguna de los Ojos de Villaverde it is easy to observe a large variety of water birds.

12. A few metres ahead the trail starts to resemble a wide left curve that leads to two impressive viaducts. Once you have crossed them, the track continues under another bridge where you can see the wind turbines from a wind farm.

9. After reaching the following bridge, you will see the crossing on the left that signifies you have reached the town of Robledo. The trail continues straight and continues under a stone bridge, at its highest point at kilometre 64, reaching an area with poplars on each side, which is especially pretty during the autumn.

4. A short while after you cross another tunnel, after which the wooden fence reappears.

8. The hiker passes three other bridges before reaching kilometre point 61. Soon after you reach the resting area situated next to a rural lodge. The trail continues and crosses the road by an underpass, the exit of which begins the stretch by wheat fields and pastures of holm oaks and Spanish junipers among stone walls, where typical "majanos" or accumulations of stone can be observed, which the farmer has extracted from the ground.

3. On exiting this tunnel you reach kilometre 51 and a fork where you turn right. A few metres ahead, the walker passes by a recreational area, to their right. After, the walker faces a ruined house, whilst on the other side of the road you will be able to see the town of Villaverde.

7. At the end of the walk and on the right, you can see the population of El Cudillo, the municipality that the visitor can best observe from the resting area reached by ascending the stairs located next to the following bridge that crosses the trail.

kilometre 57, you can observe a cattle farm and hunting enclosure.

2. After that, the trail reaches an area of river banks 50 kilometres in, followed by a bridge and a small tunnel at its end.

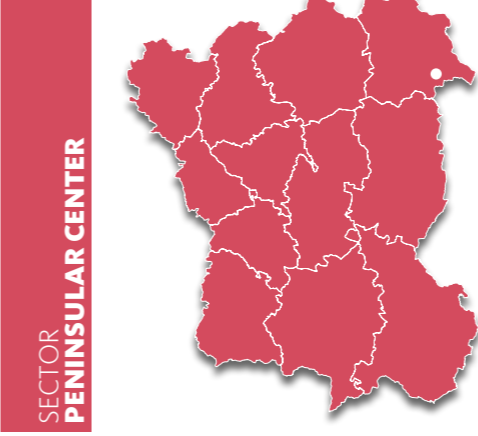
1. This nature trail begins by the exit of a tunnel, next to a resting area close to the population of El Jardín. Following the track in the direction of Villaverde, another tunnel appears and, after this, a stretch bordered by poplars and wooden fences on both sides of the trail.



OLD RAILWAY LINE ADAPTED FOR WALKING

The Sierra de Alcaraz Greenway Nature Trail is located fifty kilometres away from Albacete. It starts in the parish of El Jardín, after crossing the river of the same name, and ends in the sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Cortes, five metres from Alcaraz, one of the most beautiful historic and artistic sites in the province.

The route uses the old Baeza-Utiel railway line that formed part of the continuous rail network. This big railway project aimed to join Andalucía and France through eastern Spain. Its construction began in the year 1927 and was abandoned thirty years later, before any train was able to use it. Today, part of the ancient track has been made into a nature trail for hikers and cyclists.



SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER



Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, 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 Sierra de Alcaraz Greenway Nature Trail. El Jardín-Santuario de Cortes section 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:

- City Council of Alcaraz:

0034 967 38 02 42

NATURE TRAIL SIERRA DE ALCARAZ GREENWAY. EL JARDÍN- SANTUARIO DE CORTES SECTION

