

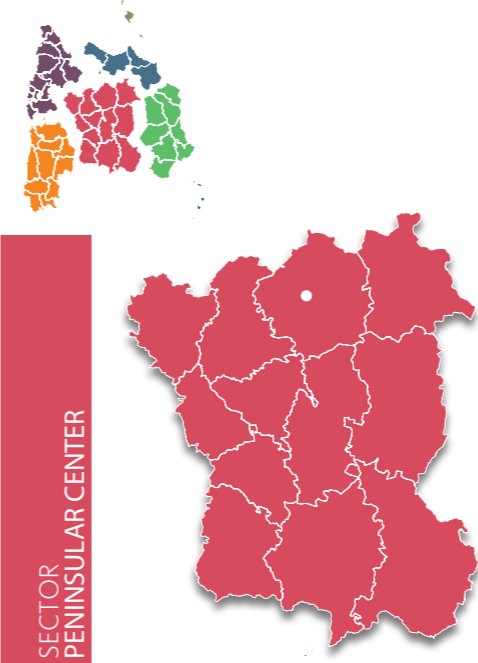
DE INPO

NATURE TRAIL JÚCAR



Guide to the Nature Trails of Spain

SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER NATURE TRAIL JÚCAR



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Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food'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 Júcar 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:

- Serranía de Cuenca Natural Park: 0034 969 17 69 84
- Cuenca Tourism: 0034 969 24 10 51

THE JÚCAR RIVER SHAPES A VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES, FROM ENDLESS PINE FORESTS IN THE MOUNTAINS TO FERTILE PLAINS COVERED WITH CROPS, THROUGH BEAUTIFUL GORGES AND WINDING MEANDERS.



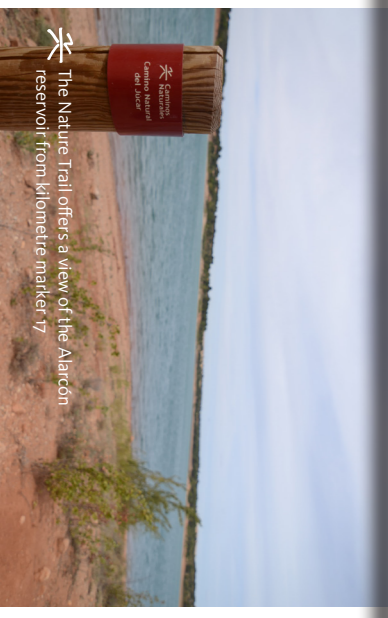
In addition to the stunning landscapes of the Serranía de Cuenca and the gorges and meanders carved out by the river, the Nature Trail offers the opportunity to explore the cultural and architectural treasures of the area. The monumental Cuenca (a World Heritage Site since 1996) and the town of Alarcón (a Property of Cultural Interest in the category of Historic-Artistic Site since 1981) are the main points of reference.

The Júcar River (Xúquer in Valencian) is the travelling companion along practically the entire Nature Trail. It is known by the Romans as Sucro and by the Arabs as Xuqr. It originates at the Infierno strait and only occasionally strays from its course.

- 1. Stage 1 Source of the Júcar River - Tragacete:** The undisputed protagonist of this Nature Trail is the Júcar River, especially its source. You'll get to enjoy some amazing attractions such as Estrecho del Infierno, Estrecho de San Blas, and Molino de la Chorrera waterfall, all located in the heart of Serranía de Cuenca Natural Park.
 - 1.1. Branch of stage 1: Tragacete - Source of the Júcar River:** A branch that originates in Tragacete allows for an opportunity to experience the source of the Júcar River.
 - 2. Stage 2 Tragacete - Huéllamo:** At the start and end of this stage, you can explore the charming villages of Cuenca. Hikers will be delighted by the excellent pine forests and the stretch along the Cordel de Huéllamo, where the Almagro river meets the Júcar river.
 - 3. Stage 3 Huéllamo - Molino de Juan Romero Recreational Area:** A stage where you can experience the typical pine forests of the Cuenca highlands. In this environment, wildlife roams freely amidst springs and natural pools, with the Juan Romero Recreation Area serving as the perfect finishing touch.
- 3.1. Branch of stage 3 Molino de Juan Romero Recreational Area - Molino de Juan Romero Recreational Area:** This circular route begins next to the Júcar River at the Juan Romero Recreational Area. It surrounds both the Peña del Castellar and the Cerro del Noguerón.

- 4. Stage 4 Uña- Villalba de la Sierra:** This stage hides and connects various landscapes, including the viewpoints of Uña and Villalba de la Sierra. A significant portion of the route passes through the iconic Ciudad Encantada, revealing its lesser-known and more secluded features.
 - 5. Stage 5 Villalba de la Sierra - Cuenca:** The path runs alongside the Júcar River, offering views of its waterworks and bridges, including El Chantre, before eventually entering the Júcar gorge.
 - 6. Stage 6 Cuenca - Villar de Olalla:** The route begins with a brief stretch that offers stunning views of the impressive Cuenca from the banks of the Júcar River. It then ascends to the Mirador de Cuenca in the Sierra del Bosque before passing through farmland to reach Villar de Olalla.
 - 7. Stage 7 Villar de Olalla - La Parra de las Vegas:** The stage moves away from the river and passes through the villages of Villar de Olalla, Valdeganga de Cuenca, and La Parra de las Vegas.
 - 8. Stage 8 La Parra de las Vegas - Villaverde y Pasaconsol:** Accompanied by crops in flat areas and pine forests in more remote regions, this stage follows the course of the Júcar River.
 - 8.1. Branch of stage 8 Connection Stage 8- Castellar Bridge:** A path leads to the Júcar River, near the El Castellar bridge, a monumental structure dating back to the 15th century.

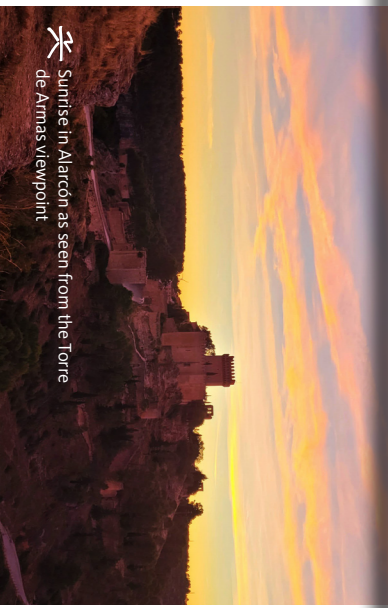
- 9. Stage 9 Villaverde y Pasaconsol- Valverde de Júcar:** This stage marks the meeting of the Júcar Nature Trail with an element of the landscape that will be a constant feature for much of the route: the Alarcón reservoir.
 - 10. Stage 10 Valverde de Júcar - Buenache de Alarcón:** This stage marks the entrance of the Júcar Natural Way into the La Manchuela region of Cuenca. The route mainly follows rural roads flanked by crop fields.
 - 11. Stage 11 Buenache de Alarcón - Alarcón:** Upon returning to the banks of the Alarcón reservoir, the Nature Trail follows the reservoir's edge through an agricultural landscape with scattered patches of Mediterranean scrub, holm oak, and pine forests.
 - 12. Stage 12 Alarcón - El Picazo:** This section follows the Júcar gorge in Alarcón, passing through moorlands covered with Mediterranean forest and alternating with tree and cereal crops. The route returns to the vicinity of the Júcar River after passing over the canal of the Tajo-Segura water transfer. It follows the river until almost the end of the route at El Picazo.
 - 12.1. Branch of stage 12 El Picazo - provincial border Cuenca- Albacete:** The Júcar Nature Trail offers the opportunity to explore the riverbanks in a predominantly agricultural setting, including the provincial boundary between Cuenca and Albacete.



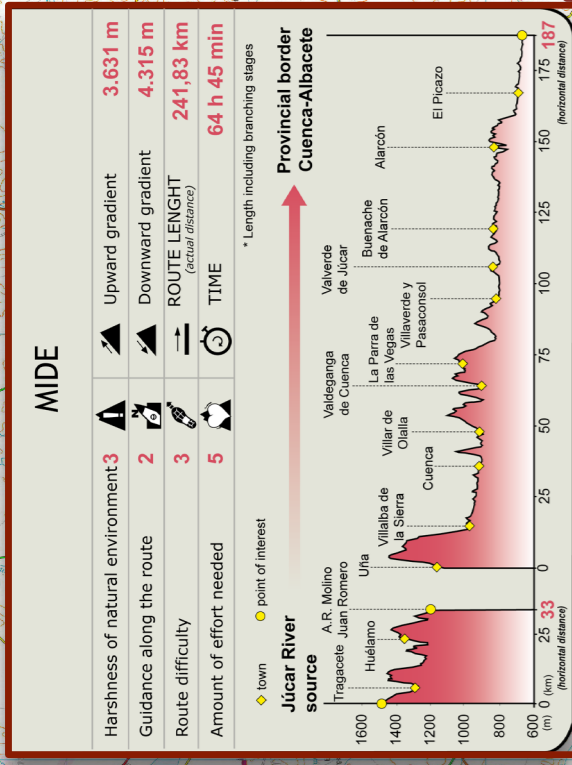
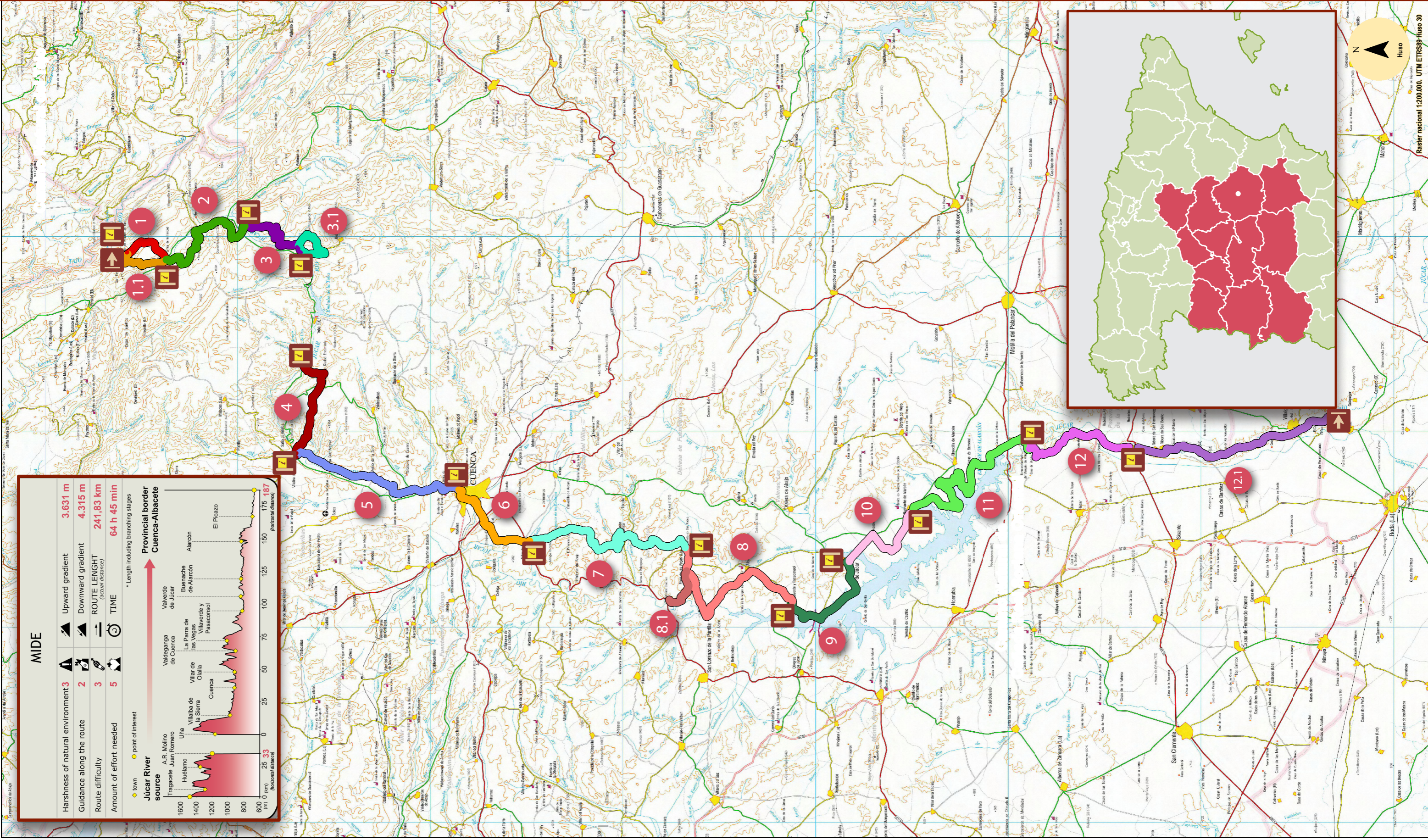
The Nature Trail offers a view of the Alarcón reservoir from kilometre marker 17



Almagro River flows into the Júcar River



Sunrise in Alarcón as seen from the Torre de Armas viewpoint



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- Trail start
- Trail end
- Information panel