



NATURE TRAIL RIVER OJA



SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL RIVER OJA

1. This nature trail begins in the ashlar stone bridge in the town of Casalarreina, which crosses the Oja, and goes through the town centre towards Logroño, during its first stretch.
2. After turning right towards Zarratón through national road N-232, the trail continues towards a path located in the middle of a pear tree plantation, which can be seen to the right. Then, it crosses N-126 and continues straight on surrounded by crops. After going past several vineyards and a poplar forest, it meets two roads that exit the town of Castañares de la Rioja, crosses them both, and continues straight ahead through a dirt path.
3. The route continues straight, going through a recreational area, a road and several farm paths among crop fields. After passing national roads N-120 and N-102, the trail arrives at Santo Domingo de la Calzada. At this point, it crosses the street to the left towards a roundabout, where the right path is taken in a south-westerly direction through an industrial park until we reach the Oja Greenway once again. The trail continues through an area of scattered country houses and crops, in the presence of a landscape that lets the traveller admire the end of the valley and the beginning of the forests. From there, the trail crosses several paths, some roads and a green bridge over a stream.
4. After passing by an intersection with a road among houses, the trail enters a wooded area of maple, cherry,



Street from the town centre of Santo Domingo de la Calzada

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 the River Oja 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:

- Santo Domingo de la Calzada City Council: 0034 941 34 00 04



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5. From this municipality, the nature trail runs parallel to the river, going under a limestone wall where humidity favours the presence of holly trees. After that, it leaves a poplar forest with a recreational area to the left and, shortly after, it ends next to the trail leading to the hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Allende, patron saint of Ezcaray. From this point, it continues straight ahead towards the old railway station where, crossing the River Oja one last time through a bridge on the right, it reaches Ezcaray.

MONASTERY OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA PIEDAD IN CASALARREINA

This Dominican monastery started its construction in 1514 by order of Juan Fernández de Velasco, bishop of the dioceses of Palencia and Calahorra, at the request of his niece, Isabel de Guzmán y Velasco, daughter of Juan Alonso Pérez de Guzmán y Orozco and Isabel Fernández Velasco, after a concession made by Pope Julius II in 1509. It was inaugurated in 1522, when Pope Adrian VI spent the night there on his way back to Rome. It is the only Spanish monastery inaugurated by a Pope.



Monastery of Nuestra Señora de La Piedad in the town of Casalarreina

The River Oja begins in Sierra de la Demanda (Iberian Mountain Range), and during its north-easterly route looking for El Tiron to finally flow into the River Ebro, it crosses one of the most beautiful and monumental landscapes of La Rioja. This fertile land is ploughed by other parallel rivers, such as Najerilla, Iregua, Leza-Jubera, Cidacos or Alhama, but only the River Oja has the honour of naming this Autonomous Community, as its etymology is contracted resulting in a universally famous word: "Rioja".

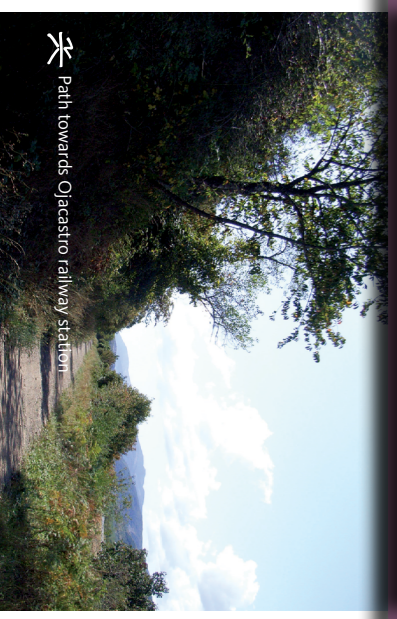
A ROUTE WITHOUT THIRST



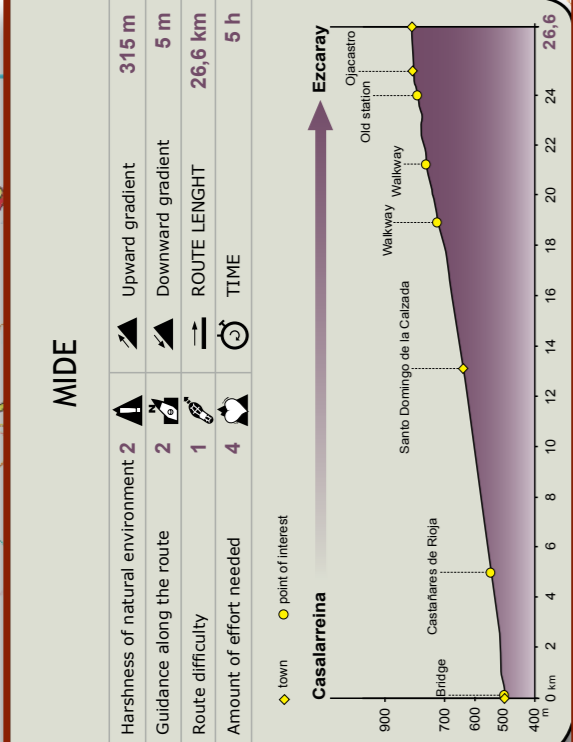
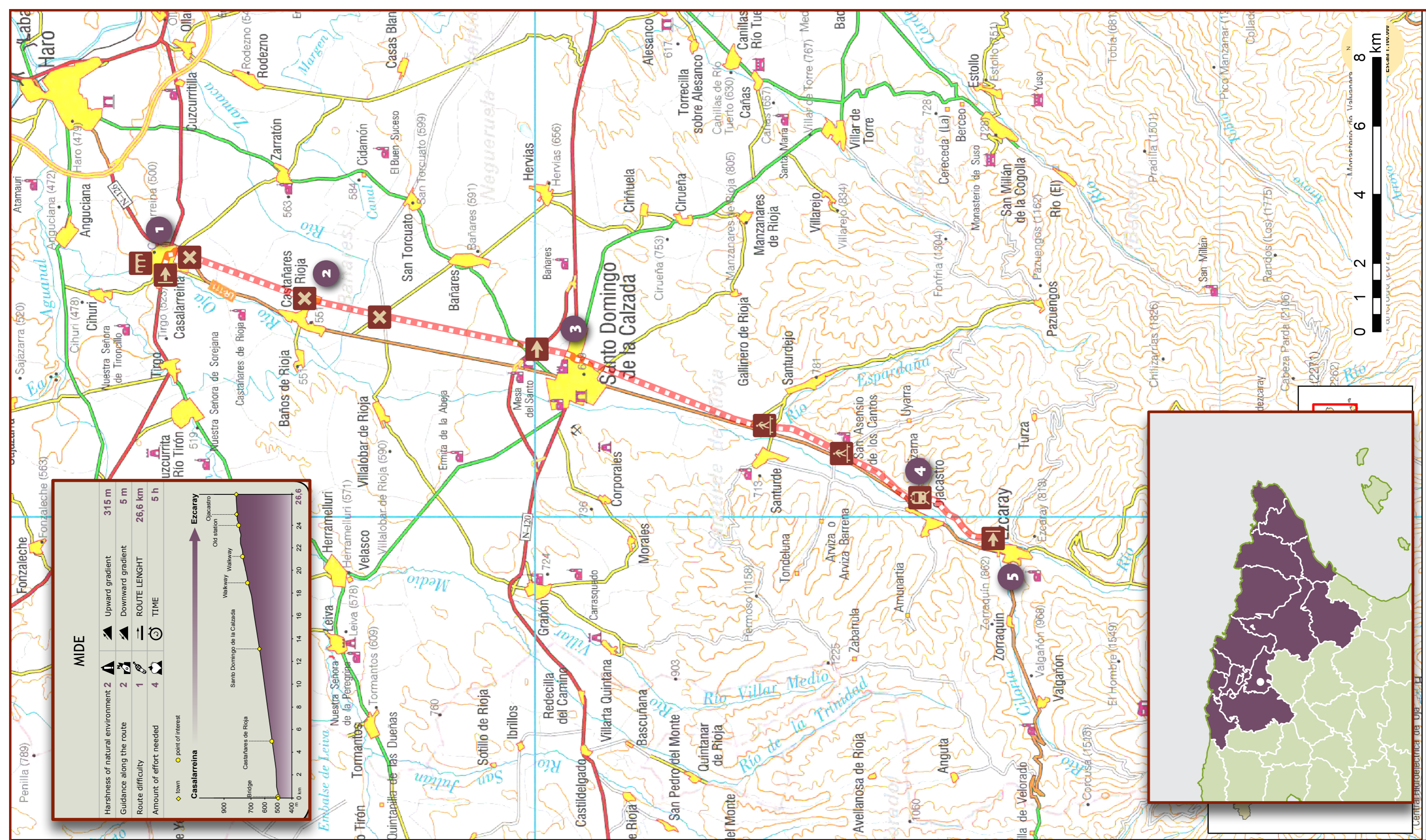
CATHEDRAL OF SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA

The current church started its construction in 1158, and it still preserves a great part of the old floor plan. Later, in the 16th century, the right part of the transept was lifted to house the sepulchre of Santo Domingo.

On the outside of this building, which was built as a pilgrimage church –since it is located on the “French Way” towards Santiago de Compostela–, there are some elements that stand out: its two façades, its Romanesque apse, which is decorated with beautiful moldings and stained glass windows, and the Baroque tower. Inside, the Romanesque presbytery, the choir, the chapel, the Gothic hen coop and, especially, the Renaissance altarpiece, one of the most magnificent works of the master of religious images Damián Forment, deserve special attention.



Path towards Ojacastro railway station



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- Starting point
- End of trail
- Train station
- Junction
- Underpass
- Bridge
- Walkway

