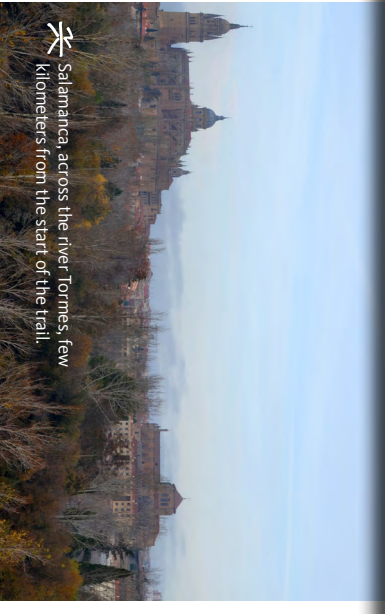
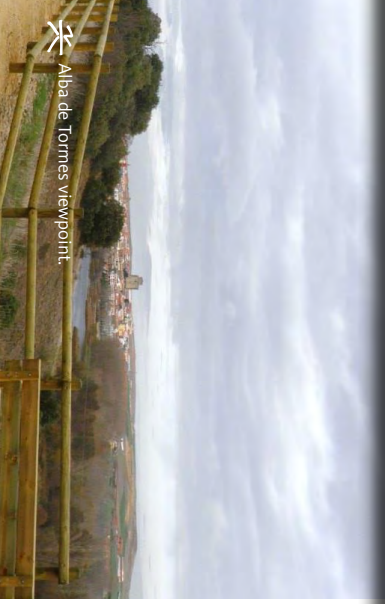




The Arapiles hills



Salamanca, across the river Tormes, few kilometers from the start of the trail.

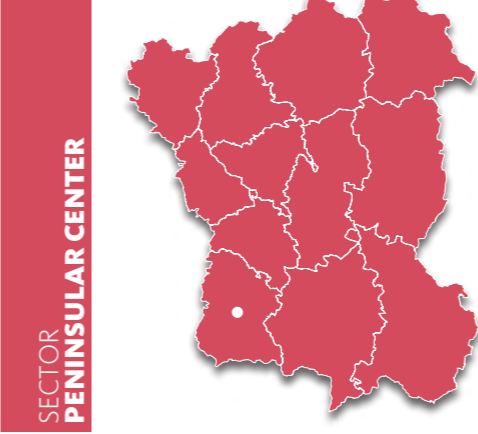


Alba de Tormes viewpoint



WALKING ON THE FIELDS OF SALAMANCA AMONG THE REMAINS OF THE FORMER RAILWAY PLASENCIA-ASTORGA

The Nature Trail of Via de la Plata passes the area where the railway Plasencia-Segovia used to run until the late 1980s, after one century of use. This first stretch, from Carbajosa de la Sagrada and Alba de Tormes, crosses prairies and crop fields. Among them, two monadnocks (isolated hills on an otherwise plain area, remains of an ancient platform that has been eroded) rise. These are known as the Arapiles and watch over the prairies where wild livestock grazes. All of these are perfect examples of the landscape of this area of the province of Salamanca.



SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER



NATURE TRAIL

VÍA DE LA PLATA

CARBAJOSA DE LA SAGRADA TO ALBA DETORMES

TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:

- Alba de Tormes City Council 0034 923 30 00 24
- Carbajosa de la Sagrada City Council 0034 923 20 80 19
- Arapiles City Council 0034 923 28 87 79

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 Via de la Plata 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.

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NATURE TRAIL VIA DE LA PLATA

CARBAJOSA DE LA SAGRADA TO ALBA DETORMES STRETCH

1. This trail starts at the industrial park of Carbajosa de La Sagrada (in particular, at calle Vertical I), a few kilometers far from the capital of the province. An information panel marks the start of this stretch, where you can see, on your left, the former platform of the train going to Salamanca.
2. In this first stretch, the trail goes under road SA-20, and, then after Salamanca street, leaving the local graveyard on a side. Along this route, you will have several chances to go to the center of Carbajosa through different paths, until you finally leave this town behind and walk among crops and fields.
3. This landscape of crops, fallow lands and pastures will accompany you for a good part of the trail. It only changes when the trail crosses the ditches carved for the railway to go through, where it meets with other paths giving access to lands, and the presence of monadnocks.
4. Two of those hills are a must-see that you can enjoy while taking advantage of the rest area to the right of the trail. They are called the Arapiles (the Arapil Chico on the left, the Arapil Grande on the right). The Battle of Salamanca took place here during the Peninsular War. From this spot, the Arapil Grande can be accessed. Atop the hill, there is a monument commemorating the

5. After the branch going to Calvarrasa de Arriba, the landscape completely changes, taking you through a holm-oak wood (*Quercus ilex* subsp. *ballota*), which gets thicker as you walk on. The trail continues, with many intersections with other paths giving access to private properties, among which an abandoned brick factory next to the Maza de Alba halt, which is used for livestock today.
6. Still in the holm-oak wood, a nearby rest area allows the walker to admire the landscapes of Salamanca, with the help of an information panel. Then, you will pass by another ditch with naked slopes allowing you to see the peculiar colors of the rocks, and you will cross the bridge giving access to La Maza plot land.
7. At this point, the trail reaches its highest altitude, and the holm-oaks grow scarcer and scarcer, giving way to flowering plants and bushes (Spanish lavender -*Lavandula stoechas*-, rosemary -*Rosmarinus officinalis*- and thymes -*Thymus zygis*-) where the soil has not been used to grow cereal. Going back to the crop fields, the presence of wooden fences on the sides of the trail becomes common when it crosses a stream or path. Near the path giving access to Teradillos is the only fountain in the nature trail.

8. The trail continues among crops and, shortly after the bridge over road DSA-106 to Alba de Tormes, the sparse holm-oaks and ditches surround it again. This way among slopes is only interrupted by a couple of streams, where the viewpoints (and their information panels) allow us to admire the views on Alba de Tormes and the river after which this village is named.
9. A traffic light once used for regulating the trains marks the end of the last ditch, which is almost the end of the trail itself, next to a rest area, a parking space and the information panel on the Nature Trail of Via de la Plata that you have just completed. Nearby, it is easy to discover the remains of the old railway to Alba de Tormes, the switches, stretches of train tracks and caution signals marking the crossings.

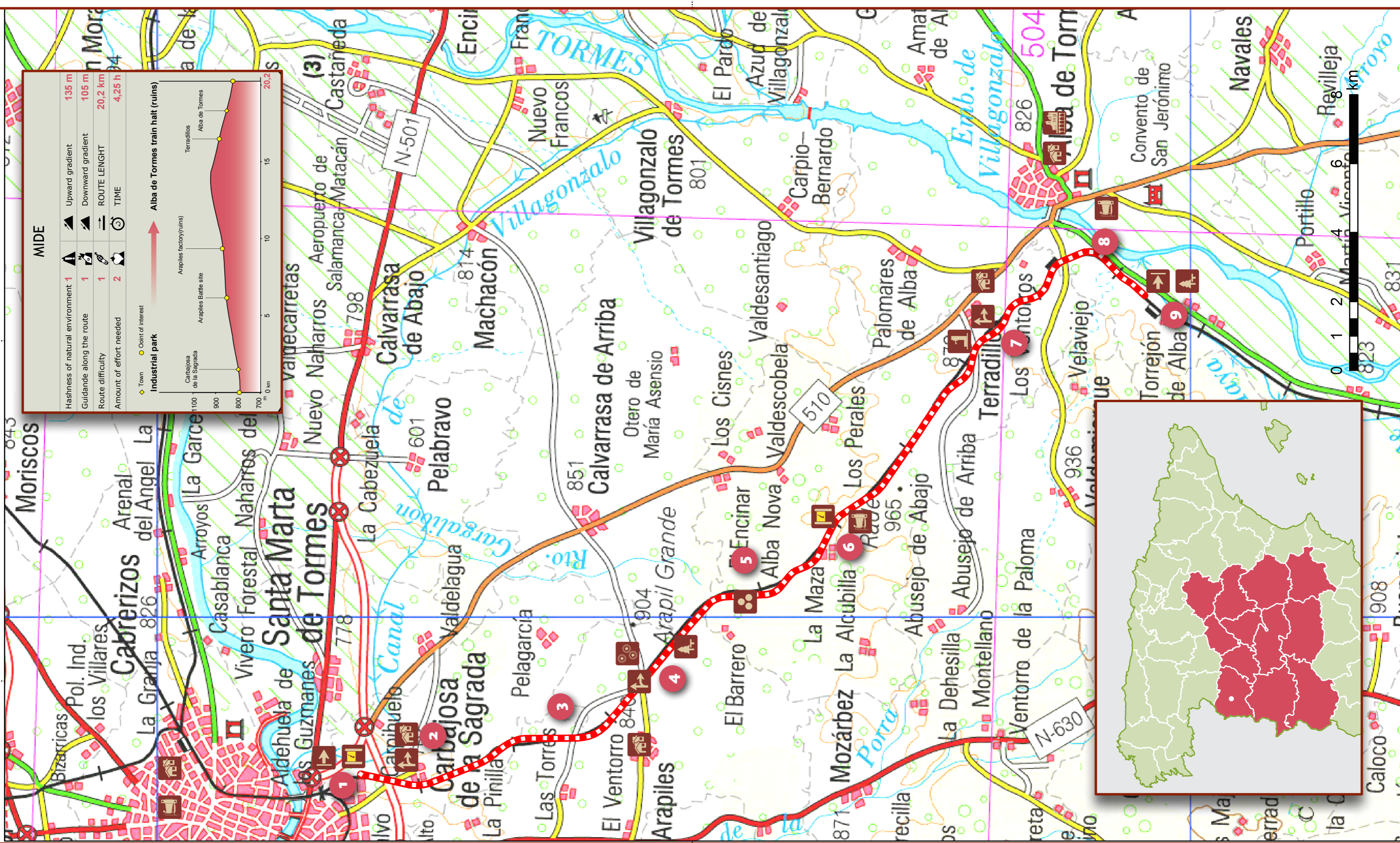
Red kites (*Milvus milvus*), short-toed snake eagles (*Circus cyaneus*) and magpies (*Pica pica*) are easily spotted flying over the station, on their way to the nearby river Tormes.

MIDE

Hashness of natural environment	1	▲	Upward gradient	135 m
Guidance along the route	1	▲	Downward gradient	105 m
Route difficulty	1	≡	ROUTE LENGTH	20,2 km
Amount of effort needed	2	⌚	TIME	4,25 h

Town ●
 Count of interest ●
 Industrial park →

Alba de Tormes train halt (ruins)



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NATURE TRAIL
VÍA DE LA PLATA

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Rest area
- Information panel
- Town
- Monumental area
- Viewpoint
- Detour
- Fountain
- Ruins
- Other sights of interest