



Remains of the old train station of Hontanares del Eresma.



The trail runs among poplars at the Eresma riverbank.



The Alcázar of Segovia seen from the viewpoint of the Alcázar and the two valleys.

Hontanares-Eresma station was part of the Segovia-Medina del Campo (Valladolid) railway line. Opened in 1884, this line remained in operation until 1993, when it was closed due to lack of profit. It is now being converted into a Greenway for rural tourism and sports activities.

The concession of the railway line was awarded on August 11, 1881 to Miguel Muruve, a Member of the Segovian Parliament, who later sold it to the Compañía del Norte. The railway was opened to service on June 1, 1884, he line had various stops and sidings starting from Segovia: Hontanares de Eresma (km 13.21), Ahu-sín, Yanguas de Eresma-Carbonero el Mayor, Armuña-Bernardos, Ortigosa de Peñafán-Santa María de Nieva, Nava de la Asunción, Coca, Ciruelos de Coca, Fuente de Santa Cruz, Fuente Olmedo, Olmedo de Adajá, Pozal de Gallinas and Medina del Campo.

SEGOVIA-MEDINA DEL CAMPO RAILWAY LINE

At the edge of the hamlet, the nature trail continues along a proper, signposted road that runs parallel to the old Medina del Campo-Segovia railway platform for a few metres. Poplars will be a constant companion as the trail heads towards the river. Near the village of Hontanares de Eresma, the route crosses the road at a pedestrian crossing near a horseshoeing stand. The village can be easily accessed from here. The Hontanares Park rest area is located across the road. The route skirts around a sports centre and continues through fields of crops to the Hontanares station rest area. Here ends the trail.

From Mirador del Alcázar, the route continues down a steep stone staircase leading to Eresma, where another sign next to the San Lázaro Bridge, near the river Eresma, indicates the distances to various points of interest. Without crossing the river, the road runs along the left bank, among cliffs and a typical gallery forest. After crossing the river Eresma, this part of the route runs parallel to the road where vehicles pass. On arriving at La Pilarcica rest area, next to the namesake chapel, the route crosses

the road, past an industrial estate, and turns onto a country road.

From here, the road passes through pastures and farmlands, with flocks of birds flying overhead every now and then, including starlings or vultures and an occasional kite. The agricultural landscape is interrupted by a small pine stand and several poplar groves that grow in places close to the river Eresma or on a rocky outcrop. Further on, an information panel indicates that to complete the nature trail, it is necessary to take the route along a rough dirt road. This alternative route will make a gradual, but continuous climb through fields of crop, with the protected holm oak grove of Lobones to the left, in the municipality of Valverde del Majano. The route now heads through public dirt roads (wrongfully closed and expected to reopen soon) to the holm oak grove of Lobones.

In a rest area opposite Segovia's hospital complex, is a stone cross and information panels on the route. The trail skirts around the motocross circuit along a clearly marked gravel path that leads to the riverbank; a protection fence runs along a steep embankment to the right of the path that is increasingly populated by conifers. Further on, an opening in the fence allows the route to descend through the trees, with interesting views of the ravine and the city of Segovia on one side, and on the other, the Cathedral and the Alcázar. Back on the trail, the route arrives at Mirador del Alcázar, with sweeping views of Eresma and Clamores valleys, the historic city centre of Segovia and the area of Zamarramala and Las Lastillas.

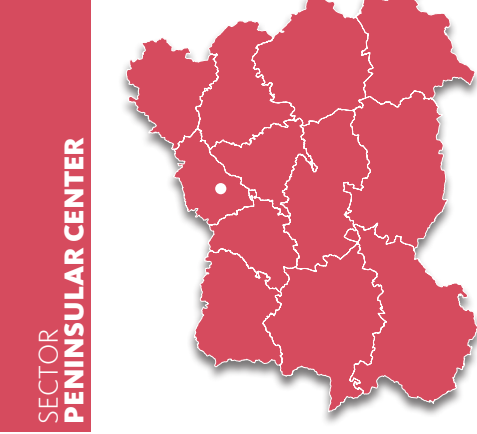
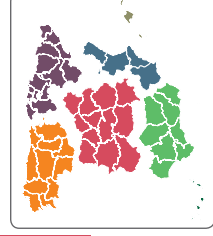
The route starts in *Altos de la Piedra*, an excellent vantage point overlooking Segovia and its main monuments like the Alcázar, the Cathedral and the Aqueduct. The old quarter of Segovia and its aqueduct were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.

SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER NATURE TRAIL RIVER ERESMA



FROM THE FOOTHILLS OF GUADARRAMA TO THE FIELDS OF CEREAL CROPS

The nature trail runs through several landscapes that create transition zones from the foothills of Sierra de Guadarrama to the fields of cereal in the Douro basin. The eight-kilometre route crosses through different zones, including riparian vegetation, reforestation and a protected holm oak grove. The route starts in the city of Segovia, descends to the floor of Eresma river valley, and continues to the vast floodplains where Hontanares de Eresma is located.



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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 river Eresma 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:
• Provincial Tourism Board of Segovia 0034 921 466 070

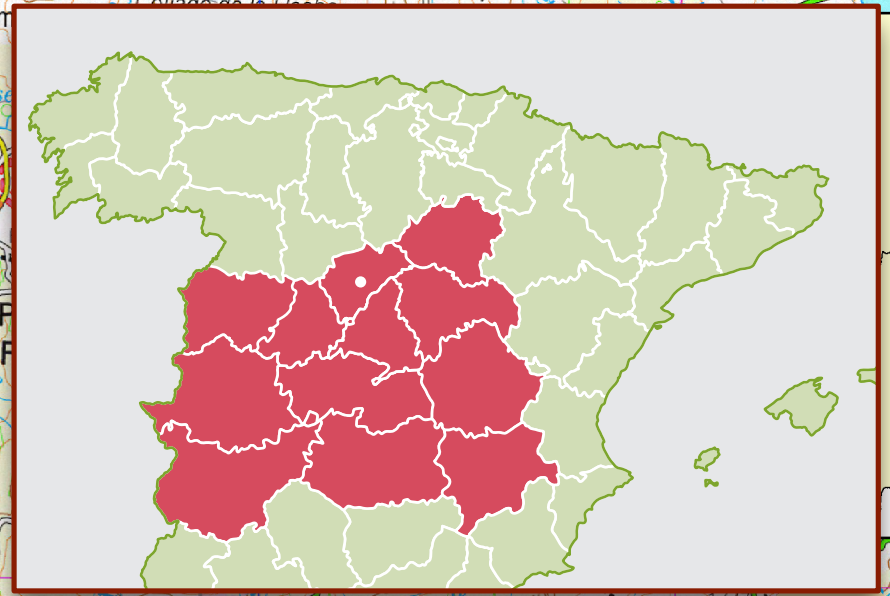
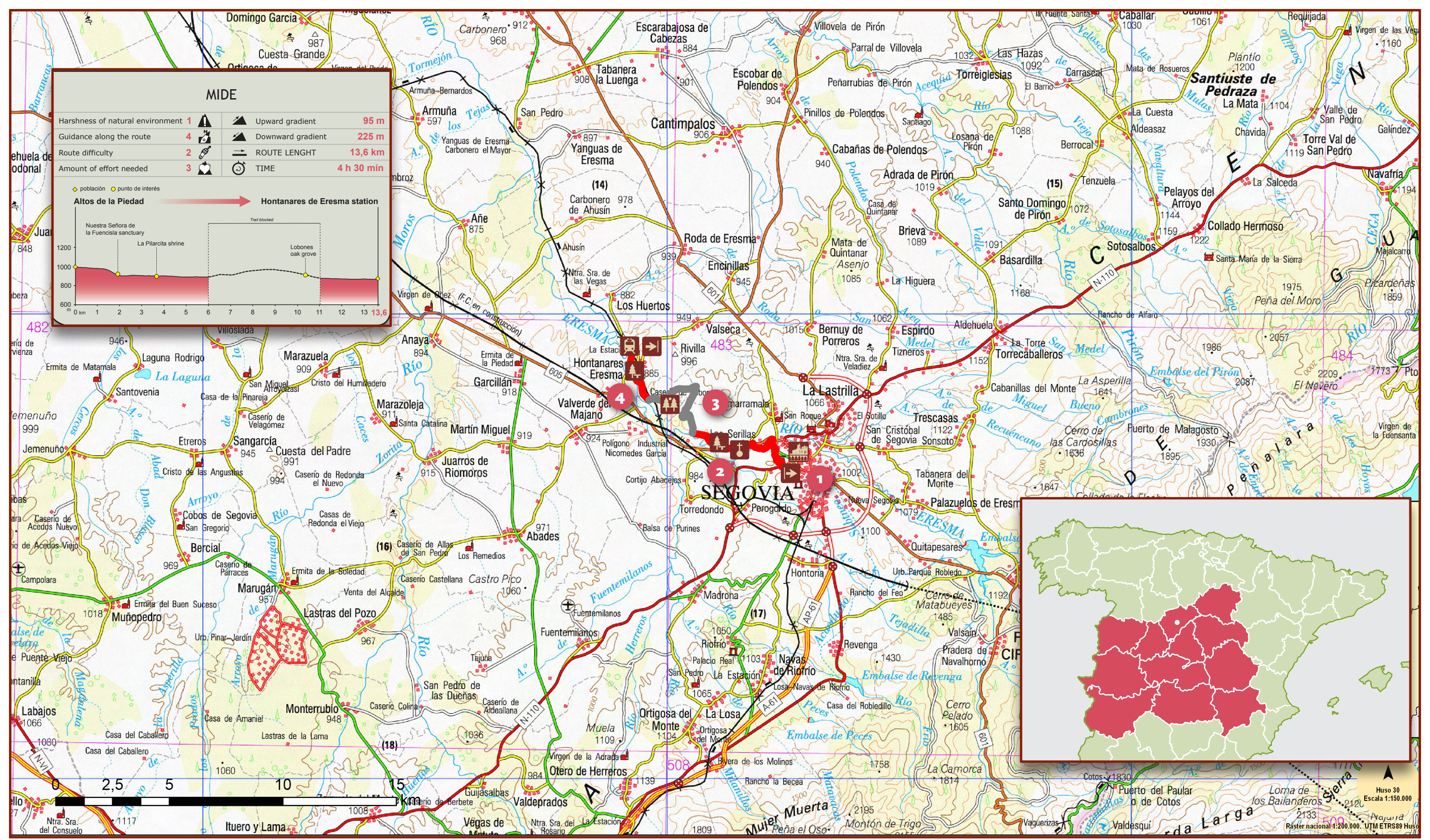
NATURE TRAIL RIVER ERESMA



MIDE

Harshness of natural environment	1	▲ Upward gradient	95 m
Guidance along the route	4	▼ Downward gradient	225 m
Route difficulty	2	≡ ROUTE LENGTH	13,6 km
Amount of effort needed	3	⌚ TIME	4 h 30 min

◆ población ● punto de interés
 Altos de la Piedad → Hontanares de Eresma station



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NATURE TRAIL RIVER ERESMA

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Rest area
- Shrine
- Train station
- Monumental area
- Feature of environmental interest