



DE NPO

NATURE TRAIL LORETO AND EL CANFRANERO



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain

SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL LORETO AND EL CANFRANERO

1. The nature trail starts running along 4,6 kilometres of the old railway route connecting Huesca and Canfranc, known as 'Canfranero'. This stretch of the railway track was left unused when the alternative railway in Huesca was built in 2007, and its surface has been prepared for pedestrians and cyclists as a nature trail. Surrounded by lands and almond trees, it is a path that is usually visited by the people from Huesca for their daily walks.
2. A rest area has been created where the currently in-existent old Alerre station used to be. That is the starting point of one of the side-tracks of this route, which is 2,1 kilometres long and allows the traveller to get closer to the small town of Alerre.
3. The town of Alerre is a possible starting point of the nature trail thanks to the side-track coming from its old railway station. Alerre has been traditionally agricultural, and in the last years, the population has increased due to its closeness to the city of Huesca.
4. Surrounded by croplands, the trail reaches the small town of Huerríos, with 67 inhabitants, a great place to take a break and drink water from its fountain before resuming the itinerary on the paved road leading to Loreto.
5. The Sanctuary of Loreto is located in a dominant position over a large extension of land to the western area of the capital of Huesca. There you can resume your way back to Huesca, or take a second 2,7-kilometre long side-track of the nature trail leading to the reservoir of Loreto.



Sanctuary of Loreto

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 Loreto and El Canfranero 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:

- Tourism Office in Huesca: 0034 974 29 21 70



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6. The reservoir of Loreto is a wetland undeniable landscape interest, comprising an interesting natural ecosystem close to the city of Huesca. The route borders the reservoir via a lovely path worth taking in order to enjoy the beauty of the landscape, the panoramic views and the large number of waterfowls that find here a place where to feed themselves and to set their nets.

7. From the Sanctuary of Loreto, the traveller will go back to Huesca following the traditional Loreto trail which passes by the Monument to Santa Paciencia, a place that people from Huesca really love. According to tradition, it is the place where Santa Paciencia waited for her sons San Lorenzo and San Orenccio when they were returning from school.

FORMER RAILWAY HUESCA - CANFRANC

In December 2007 the new rail line that took the railway route out of the urban area of Huesca was inaugurated. It now runs towards Jaca, connecting a bit farther than the Alerre train stop. As a result, the railway route disappeared and it is now used as part of this nature trail.

The Alerre train stop was located 55 km away from Huesca, halfway between the towns of Huerríos and Alerre, and it was the first stop of the Huesca – Canfranc rail line, inaugurated on 1st June, 1893. Of their buildings, only some hidden ruins between the bushes remain.



Natural ecosystem of the reservoir of Loreto

A SANCTUARY NEXT TO LA ALBERCA

The Loreto and El Canfranero Nature trail begins at the city of Huesca, in Aragón, and runs along the most interesting places of its immediate surroundings. It has a 9,8 km-long main route and two side-tracks leading to the town of Alerre and to the reservoir of Loreto, respectively.

The route runs along the old railway track connecting Huesca and Alerre, on the stretch known as Canfranero, now prepared for pedestrians and cyclists. It also allows the traveller to know the history of the Sanctuary of Loreto and visit the nearby reservoir of Loreto, a beautiful natural area where waterfowls are plentiful.

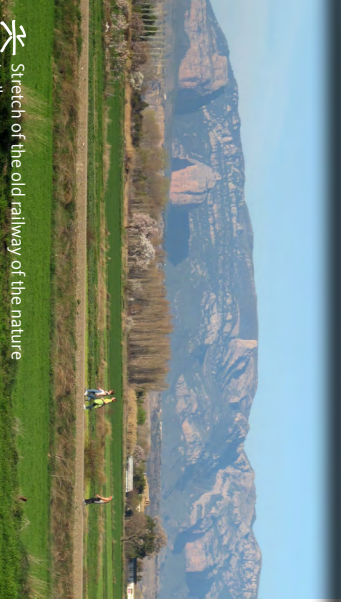


THE SACNTUARY OF LORETO

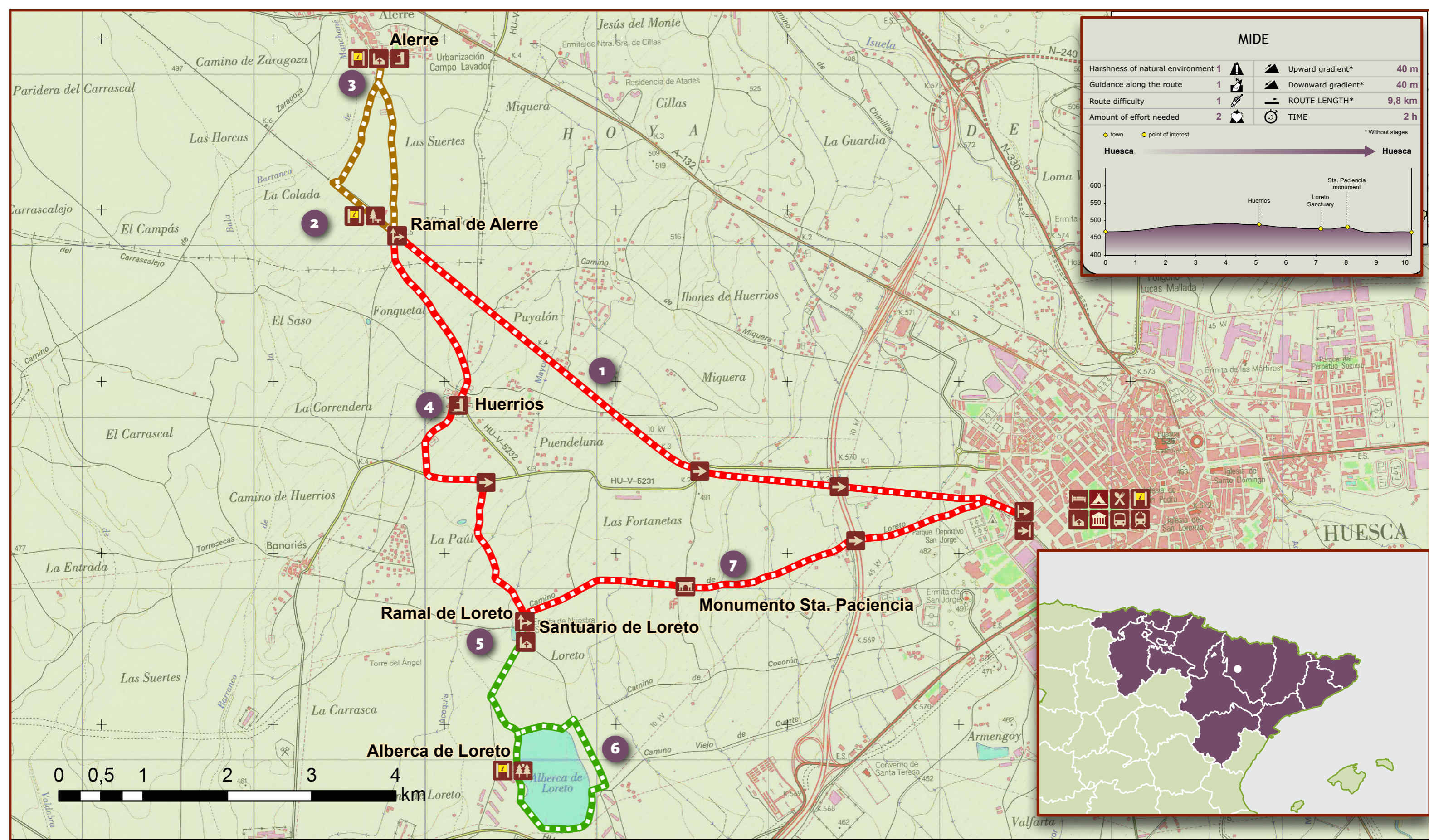
It was declared to be a Historic-Artistic Monument in March 1976 and, according to the tradition, the place where the current Loreto shrine is located is where the patron saint of the city of Huesca, Saint Lawrence, was born and raised to an important Christian family around the 3rd century.

It is documented since the 12th century. In the late 16th century, Felipe II assisted the foundation of a monastery for the order of the Agustinos Calzados, with a project by Francisco de Mora, whose construction works were directed by Jerónimo Bocanegra de Segura. The church we contemplate nowadays was built between 1748 and 1777 by Juan Antonio Torres.

It is the destination of several pilgrimages, such as the famous pilgrimage of Siete Lugares, which brings together the towns surrounding Loreto, Cuarte, Huerríos, Banarés, Alerre, Chimplillas, Banasás and Yéqueda, with neighbours from Huesca attending as well.



Stretch of the old railway of the nature trail



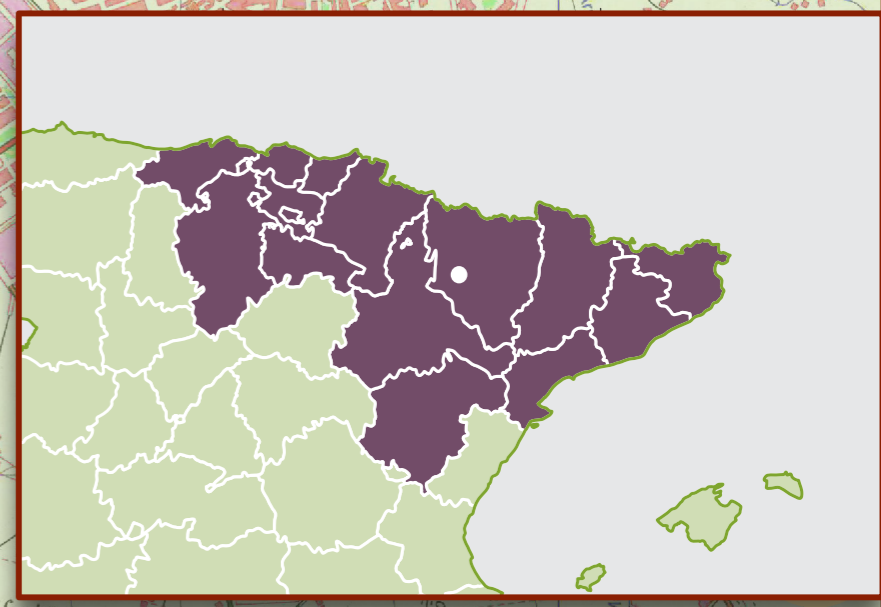
MIDE

Harshness of natural environment	1	▲ Upward gradient*	40 m
Guidance along the route	1	▼ Downward gradient*	40 m
Route difficulty	1	≡ ROUTE LENGTH*	9,8 km
Amount of effort needed	2	⌚ TIME	2 h

* Without stages

◆ town ● point of interest

Huesca → Huesca



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NATURE TRAIL LORETO AND EL CANFRANERO

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Rest area
- Religious building
- Information panel
- Fountain
- Underpass
- Detour
- Hotel
- Feature of environmental interest
- Camping
- Museum
- Monument
- Train station
- Bus station