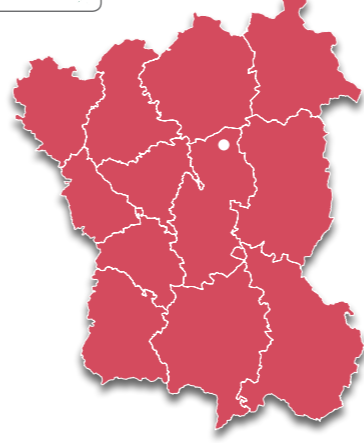




Guide to the  
**Nature Trails**  
of Spain



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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 Villacañas to Quintanar de la Orden Greenway (or Trenillo) 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:**

- City Council of Villacañas:

0034 925 56 03 42

DE

NPO

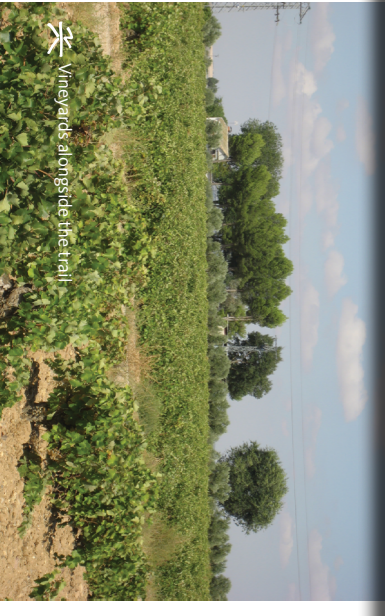
**WETLANDS BETWEEN VINEYARDS AND OLIVE TREES**

In the heart of La Mancha, in the province of Toledo, a railway was built in the early 20th century connecting Villacañas and Quintanar de la Orden, passing through Villa de Don Fadrique y Puebla de Almoradiel. The arrival of this train, popularly known as the "Trenillo," saw the gradual abandonment of scarcely-profitable cereal crops in the area, opening the way for wine production which continues to prosper today and which has contributed greatly to the socio-economic growth of the area. Although the railway line is much longer, at this moment a stretch totalling 26 kilometres has been converted into a nature trail.



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NATURE TRAIL  
**VILLACAÑAS TO QUINTANAR DE LA ORDEN**

1. The trail begins on the eastern side of Villacañas, close to the municipality's train station, where there is an information panel showing the route and the main features on the route of this nature trail, which runs parallel to the CM-410, connecting this area with the municipality of Quintanar.
2. Crossing the CM-3001 bypass, heading east, there are a number of industrial units that mark the end of the town. The trail crosses the Quijote Route which runs to the Laguna Larga and forms part of the Mancha Húmeda Special Protection Area (SPA) for Birds. Returning to the trail, the landscape is typical of La Mancha, with endless flatlands dotted with olive trees and vineyards to accompany the traveller along their way.
3. After crossing the Riansares River, there is a path that leads to one of the many hermitages of La Mancha: the Hermitage of San Gregario, a fine example of the religious passion of local inhabitants.
4. As it crosses road CM-3005, the trail leads us to Villa de Don Fadrique, crowned by the chimneys of its old distilleries and where we can either take a walk through the town centre or enjoy the landscape and fauna of the Laguna del Rey, north of the town itself and listed among the natural spaces that comprise the "Mancha Húmeda" SPA.
5. Returning once again to the trail, the route continues through vineyards and gradually past more and more



Vineyards alongside the trail

houses. Shortly before reaching Puebla de Almoradiel, a shrine to San Isidro stands out, built alongside the bridge of the River Ciguëla popularly known as the "Tahiero" bridge.

6. Reaching the town of Puebla de Almoradiel, the visitor can take advantage of the opportunity to visit the Church of San Juan Bautista or the ruins of the old water mill used to mill flour.

7. Leaving Puebla de Almoradiel behind, the trail enters its last section which leads straight to Quintanar de la Orden, the final point of the Nature Trail.

However, the route is not truly complete without a visit to the nearby village of Santiago de la Espada to enjoy the various tourist attractions it has to offer.

**THE SILOS**

Silos are traditional underground houses common in Villacañas since the 18th century. Some are still in use today.

They are houses built into the earth, whose façades and interiors were washed with lime to provide the most natural light. The inner rooms are fitted with "skylights" that serve to ventilate the house.

As the houses are underground, the temperature remains constant, providing their residents with some



Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, Villa de Don Fadrique

respite from the rigours of winter and the suffocating heat of summer.

At the Silo Ethnological Museum in Villacañas, you can visit these underground houses, unique in Europe as they are dug into flat land.

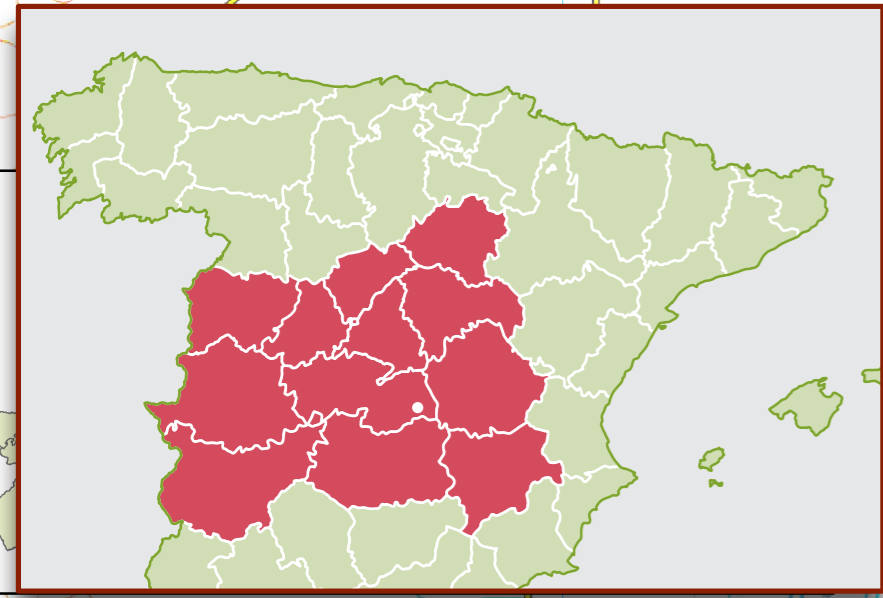
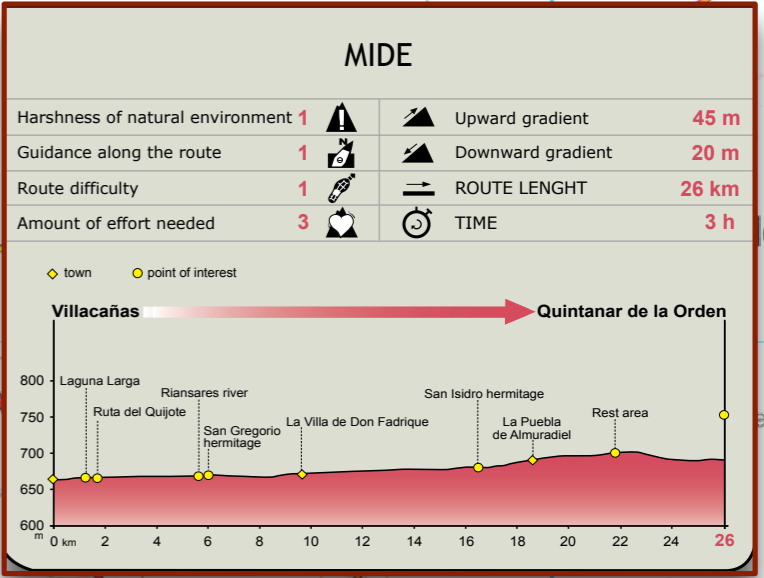
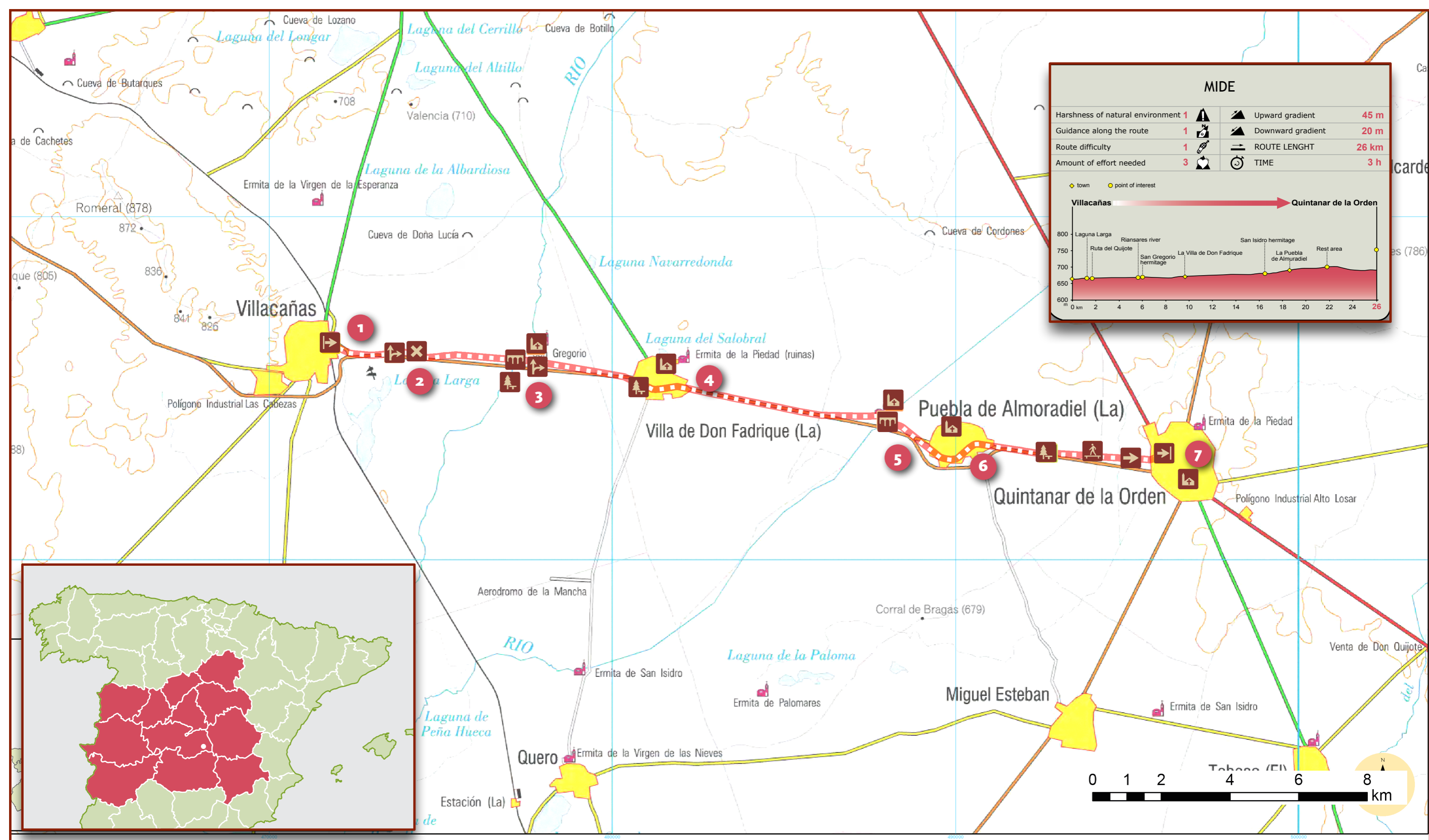
**LA MANCHA HÚMEDA**

The Laguna Larga, along with the nearby lagoons of Tirez and Peña Hueca, and the smaller Laguna Gramosa and Laguna de los Santos, complement the Mancha Húmeda Special Protection Area for Birds, which was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1981.

It is an obligatory stop to see such endangered species as the gull-billed tern, which chooses to spend the summer at this lagoon, as well as other striking and rare species such as the flamingo or the white-headed duck.



The trail near Puebla de Almoradiel



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## NATURE TRAIL VILLACAÑAS TO QUINTANAR DE LA ORDEN GREENWAY

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Rest area
- Junction
- Underpass
- Bridge
- Detour
- Walkway
- Religious building