

DE NPO

TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:
 • Community Villuercas-Ibores-Jara: 0034 927 15 98 12

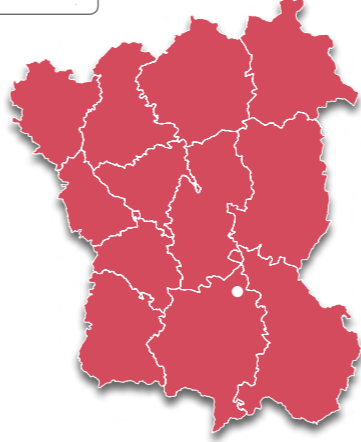
NATURE TRAIL LAS VILLUERCAS



Guide to the
Nature Trails
 of Spain



SECTOR
PENINSULAR CENTER



FROM THE PLAINS OF THE GUADIANA TO LA JARA AMIDST DEEP VALLEYS AND RUGGED MOUNTAINS

The region of Las Villuercas takes its name from the surrounding mountains. Located between the valleys of the Tagus and Guadiana rivers, this county is famous for its unique geology with distinctive features, both hydrological and botanical.

This nature trail, which connects Vegas del Guadiana Nature Trail with La Jara Nature Trail, allows the traveller to discover the interesting heritage of Las Villuercas, both natural (La Lorera de la Trucha, "Río Guadalupejo" Green and Biodiversity Corridor or Sierra de las Villuercas SPA), and historic-artistic (Guadalupe Monastery – a World Heritage Site – or the largest concentration of rock paintings in Extremadura).

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 Las Villuercas 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.

SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER NATURE TRAIL LAS VILLUERCAS

The trail, more than 70 kilometres long, is divided into six stages, 5 of them between the Logrosán and Santa Quiteria stations and a fork to Guadalupe:

STAGE 1: LOGROSÁN TO CAÑAMERO

1. The route starts at the abandoned station of Logrosán, town that has been closely linked to mining since ancient times. This stage runs along gravel roads also used by vehicles, through vegetable gardens, olive groves and holm oak meadows. The route crosses over the EX-102 road via a walkway in order to follow down the road towards the shrine of Santa Ana. This section ends after a steep climb, after traversing the town of Cañamero, leaving the town hall and the church of Santo Domingo de Guzmán behind.

STAGE 2: CAÑAMERO TO COLLADO DE GAITANEJOS

2. Before starting the descent towards the Pimpollar mountain range, there are several forks that allow the traveller to access different places where the rich historical heritage of the town of Cañamero can be discovered, from the remains of the Arab fortress Alchanat to the rock art in Risco de las Osas.

3. After admiring Las Villuercas gorge, the trail goes down towards the Ruceras river, and, once it has been crossed, the traveller will climb up until Collado de Martín de Blasco, leaving the shrine of Nuestra Señora de Belén behind. From the rest area of Balcón de Puertollano, impressive viewpoint

STAGE 3: COLLADO DE GAITANEJOS TO GUADALUPE

of the mountain range, the trail descends amongst restoration pines first, and pastures and holm oak meadows further on, towards the rest area of Collado de Gaitanejos.

4. From the rest area, the trail starts a gentle but continuous climb among holm and cork oak meadows. Before heading down the Guadalupejo river valley, olive groves begin to dot the landscape, and in the distance, the town of Guadalupe appears with its impressive viaduct. The route descends to the roundabout where the roads EX-380 and EX-102 meet; after crossing them, the trail continues up along the river first (passing under the aforementioned viaduct) and among vegetable gardens and olive groves after, until it reaches the town of Guadalupe, a town that houses a monastery that was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

STAGE 4: COLLADO DE GAITANEJOS TO ALÍA

5. The trail heads towards Alía from the rest area through a landscape dominated by pastures and holm oak meadows dotted with rockrose and broom patches. It crosses the Guadalupejo river (a side-track can be taken to the Route of the Mills here) and heads to Alía, a town of Arab origin, evidenced by the typical Moorish architecture of its streets and buildings, such as the church of Santa Catalina.

6. This stage of the nature trail starts at Alía and continues among holm oak meadows until it meets the EX-102 road. Starting from this point, the itinerary runs parallel to the road along an area with beautiful views until it reaches the Guadarranque river.

STAGE 5: ALÍA TO PUERTO DE SAN VICENTE

7. After a rest area, the trail crosses the river via a wooden walkway, leaving aside a fork towards the protected nature area of Lorera de la Trucha. Without staying too far from the EX-102 road, the trail begins a steady climb until it crosses the road. After a steep descent, the route starts another challenging climb up Sierra de Altamira until it reaches Puerto de San Vicente. The trail crosses the road again once it reaches the province of Toledo via a metal walkway before this stage finds its end at a rest area within the town.

STAGE 6: PUERTO DE SAN VICENTE TO SANTA QUITERIA STATION

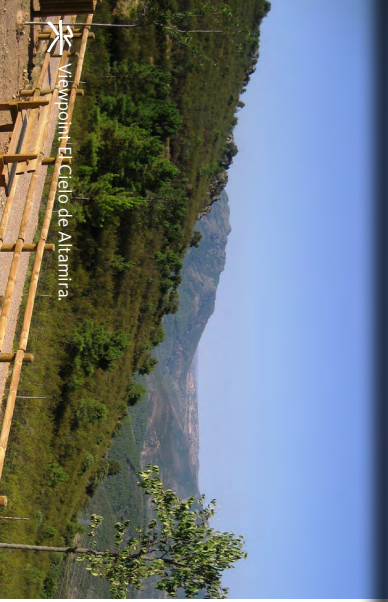
8. Barely venturing into the town of Puerto de San Vicente, the trail starts along a paved road (shared by motor vehicles) from which several dirt roads branch off. The trail continues on a slightly uneven landscape dominated by oak meadows and thickets, until it reaches a side-track that leaves the railway platform on one side. From this point, the traveller will follow a dirt road leading to the endpoint of this stage and of the nature trail, next to the Santa Quiteria station.



Viaduct to Guadalupe which was never used by Trains.

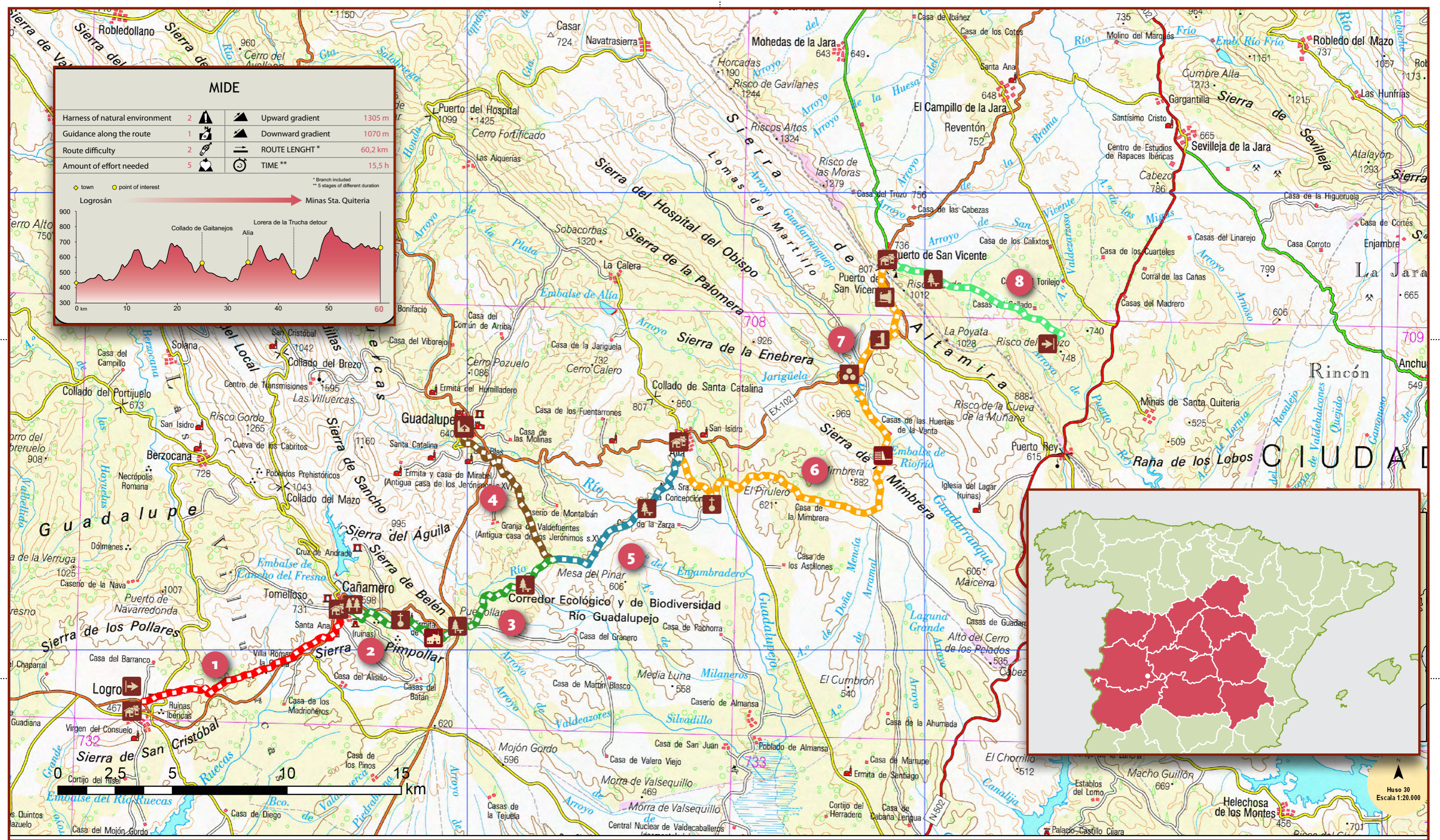
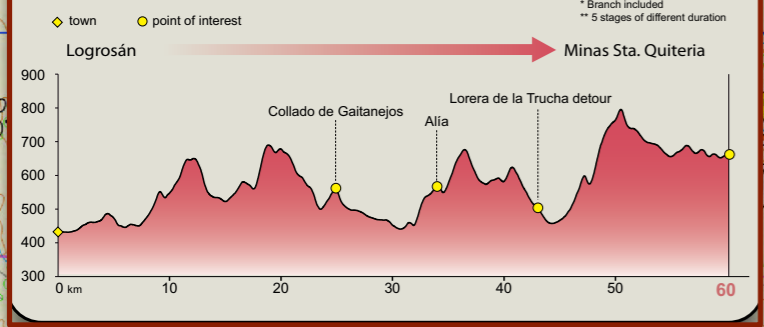


Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Belén



Viewpoint "El Cielo de Altamira"

MIDE			
Harness of natural environment	2	▲ Upward gradient	1305 m
Guidance along the route	1	▼ Downward gradient	1070 m
Route difficulty	2	≡ ROUTE LENGHT*	60,2 km
Amount of effort needed	5	⌚ TIME**	15,5 h



SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER



NATURE TRAIL LAS VILLUERCAS

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Rest area
- Rural cottage
- Hermitage
- Fountain
- Religious building
- Town
- Ruins
- Other sights of interest