

This route combines several sections of paths in mountains of medium height, which are demanding for cycling tourists, and tracks with compact or tarmacked surfaces, level or descending, such as the Ojos Negros Green Way and Xurra Way, towards Valencia. Set out on the conquest of the city El Cid dreamt of, and don't forget to bathe on any of the beaches on the shore!

### The conquest of a city to dream of

The literary route begins in **Teruel**, near **Cella**, where El Cid called on those who wished to accompany him on the conquest of Valencia, and continues along the course of the River Palancia, with **Jérica**, which was conquered by El Cid, and then **Segorbe**, where 3000 Muslim knights rested and later fought him in Alcocer. The route inevitably leads to the Mediterranean; first to **Sagunto**, where El Cid set up his headquarters for three years, according to the Cantar poem, and **El Puig**, a strategic point 15km from Valencia. Historically, El Cid conquered the city in 1094, after a siege that lasted months. It is said that after the conquest he went up the tower of the Alcazar to overlook his possessions. Modern travellers can commemorate that moment by going up the Miquelet and recalling the verses in the Cantar: "How great is the joy than runs through the place / when my Cid won Valencia and entered the city" ..

### What will you find?

Charming villages with a medieval air. In the upper part of the route, **fascinating scenery and large mixed Mediterranean forests**, natural pools where you can bathe, rivers and ravines; in the lower part, impressive **orchards and vegetable gardens, sea marshes and the warm Mediterranean beaches**. Three **World Heritage Sites**: Mudejar

Architecture of Aragon; Valencia Silk Exchange; and the Water Tribunal. Seven **towns listed as Historical and/or Artistic sites**: Teruel, Mora de Rubielos, Rubielos de Mora, Jérica, Segorbe, ancient Sagunto and, of course, Valencia. **Natural Places**, like the juniper wood in Escandón Pass, between Teruel and Puebla de Valverde, the spectacular Estrechos de Mijares, between Olba and Montanejos, the middle course of the River Palancia, between Caudiel and Algar de Palancia, and Moros salt-marsh, a wetland between Sagunto and Puçol. This marsh is a reminder of the proximity of the Mediterranean and the almost unavoidable opportunity of refreshing our tired bodies on any the beaches bathed by the warm waters of the Mediterranean in this area.



Download from our website all the updated information: maps, topoguides, tracks, accommodation, stamping points, etc.



Download the Way of El Cid travel app. It is free and is ready to work in places with no wifi signal.



#### FILE



Distance 206 km



Estimated time 3/4 days



Accumulated climb 2.600 m



Accumulated descent 3.500 m



Physical difficulty Medium



Technical difficulty Low

### Route and signposting

We have designed a route that is perfectly adapted to gravel bikes, along rural tracks with a firm surface, comfortable lanes, tarmacked tracks and lonely roads. It is not signposted precisely for gravel bikes, but the route coincides largely with the MTB and hiking ways, so you should pay attention to the signposting in those sections. **We recommend you download the track or the app.**

	Continuity mark	Wrong direction
<b>GR 160 section</b> (hiking and MTB routes)		
<b>Non-GR section</b> (hiking and MTB routes)		
<b>MTB section</b> (MTB route)		

### Road sections

Part of the route follows secondary roads with little or sometimes no traffic. In any case, do not forget to ride carefully and make yourself visible to vehicles.

	E	F	M	A	M	J <sub>N</sub>	J <sub>L</sub>	A	S	O	N	D
Mean temperature Max/Min	12° 2°	13° 2°	15° 4°	17° 6°	21° 9°	26° 13°	30° 16°	29° 16°	26° 13°	21° 9°	15° 5°	13° 3°
no. of hours of light per day	09:38	10:40	11:56	13:17	14:24	15:01	14:45	13:45	12:28	11:09	09:58	09:20
mean rainfall	15	14	17	40	48	39	20	33	40	36	36	30

Data for Montanejos: a town on the boundary between climates, half way along the Conquest of Valencia route



▲ Sierra de Espina (Caudiel), a last challenge before reaching the coast

The Way of El Cid Consortium is promoted and funded by the following provincial deputations:

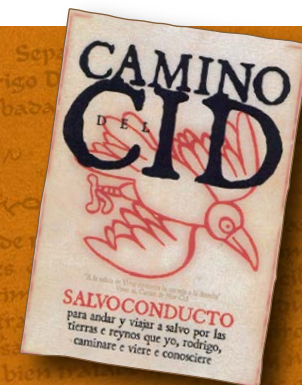


### The Letter of Safe Conduct

the Letter of Safe Conduct is the record card on which travellers collect the stamps of the towns they go through. It is free and can be obtained in Tourism Offices or in our head office:



Consorcio Camino del Cid  
C/ Madrid 24, 09002 Burgos  
info@caminodelcid.org  
Tel.: 947 256 240





## Services

-  Passport stamping offices
-  Acomodation (hotel, hostel,...)
-  Wellcome point
-  City information centre
-  Chemist's
-  Train station
-  Repair shops

## Stages (206 km)

1. Teruel - Montanejos (89,8 km)
2. Montanejos - Segorbe (50,1 km)
3. Segorbe - Valencia (66,1 km)

## ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

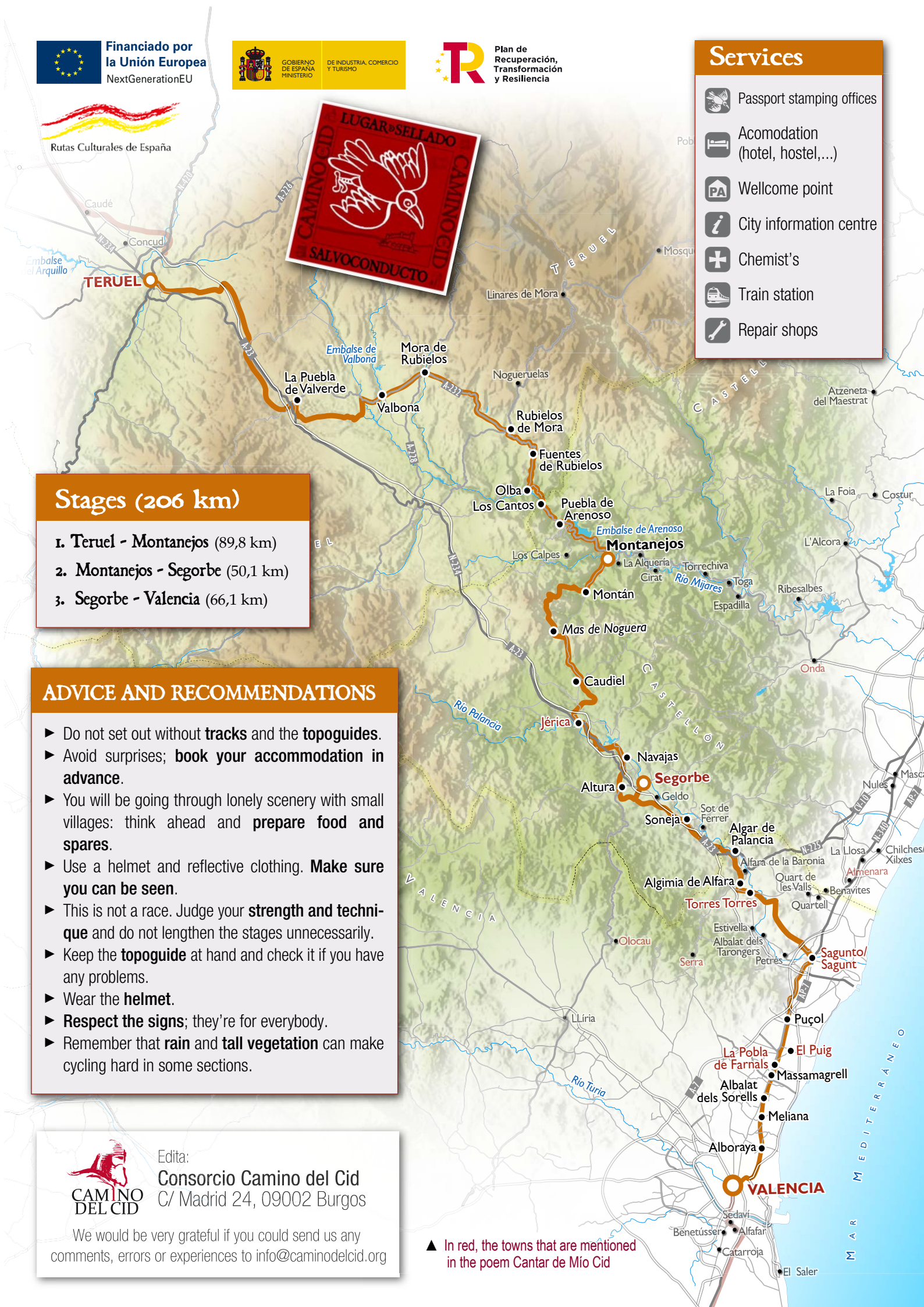
- ▶ Do not set out without **tracks** and the **topoguides**.
- ▶ Avoid surprises; **book your accommodation in advance**.
- ▶ You will be going through lonely scenery with small villages: think ahead and **prepare food and spares**.
- ▶ Use a helmet and reflective clothing. **Make sure you can be seen**.
- ▶ This is not a race. Judge your **strength and technique** and do not lengthen the stages unnecessarily.
- ▶ Keep the **topoguide** at hand and check it if you have any problems.
- ▶ Wear the **helmet**.
- ▶ **Respect the signs**; they're for everybody.
- ▶ Remember that **rain** and **tall vegetation** can make cycling hard in some sections.



Edita:  
**Consorcio Camino del Cid**  
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We would be very grateful if you could send us any comments, errors or experiences to [info@caminodelcid.org](mailto:info@caminodelcid.org)

▲ In red, the towns that are mentioned in the poem *Cantar de Mio Cid*





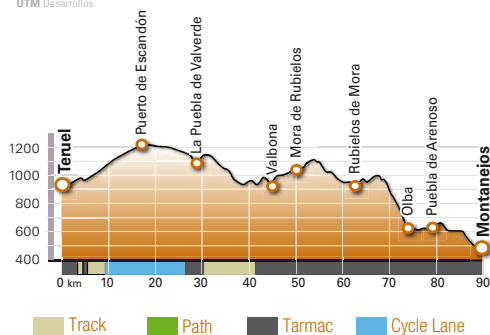
## The Conquest of Valencia

Gravel travel guide

## Teruel - Montanejos

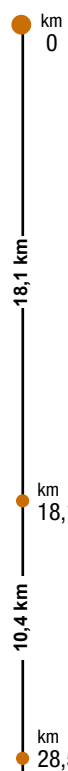
May 2025

UTM Desarrollados



This is a demanding stage as regards the distance, but with hardly any problems with the road surfaces. After Teruel, which you can't miss visiting, we start a long but comfortable climb up the *Green Way* to *Escandón station*, and continue along it to *Puebla de Valverde*. The section along paths to *Valbona* reveals the unique scenery of the *Alto Mijares*. When we return to the tarmac, we can keep up a good speed on level or descending roads to *Arenoso reservoir*, in an outstanding natural environment.

FILE	Distance 89,8 km	Accumulated climb 1.250 m	Earth / Tarmac / Cycle Lane 18 / 63 / 19%
	Physical difficulty Medium	Accumulated descent 1.680 m	Signposting in hiking and MTB sections
	Technical difficulty Low	Estimated time 6 h 12 m	IBP Difficulty index 82

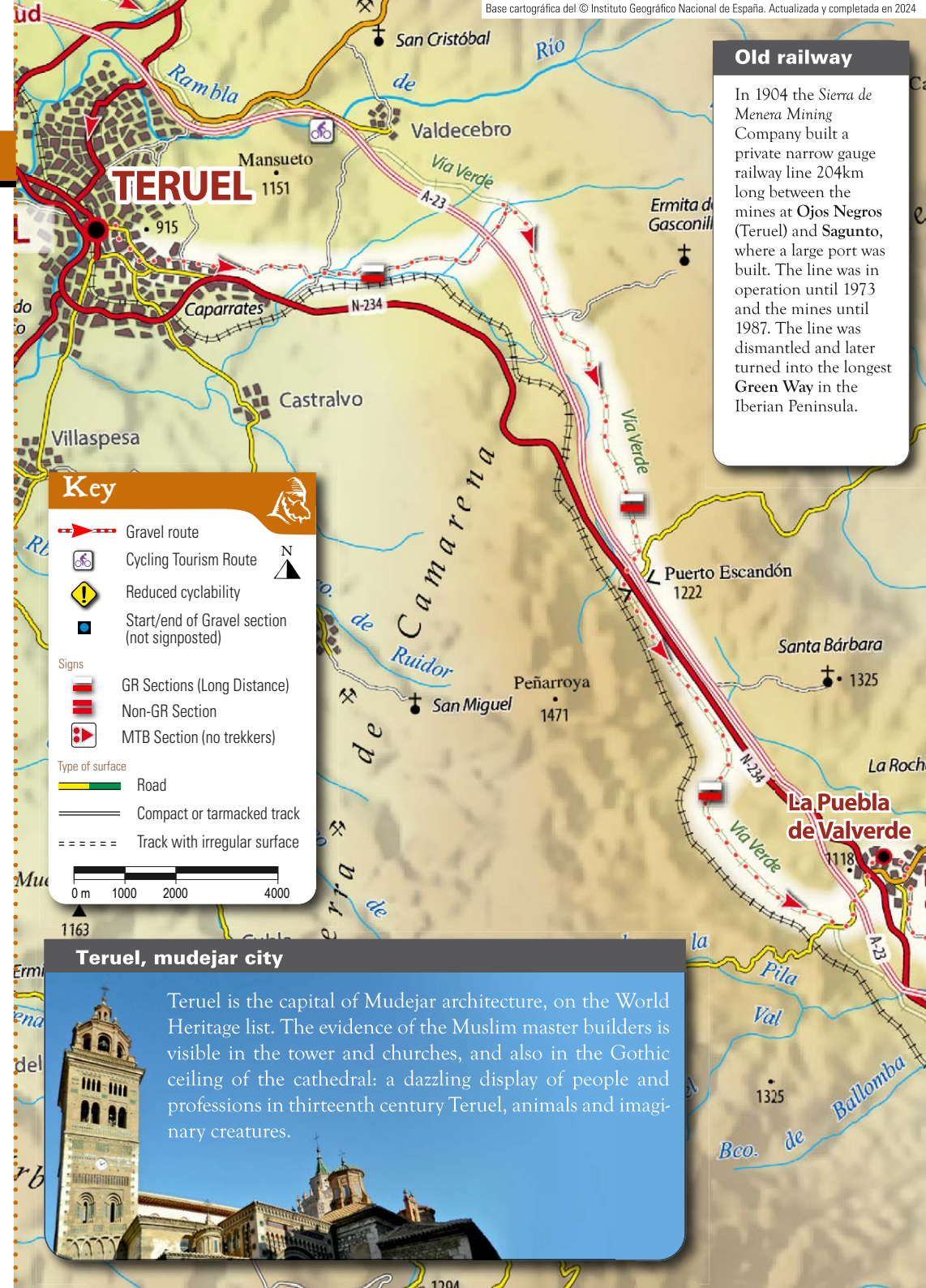
TERUEL  
(36.267 hab.)

Estación del Puerto  
de Escandón  
(edificio sin servicios)

La Puebla de  
Valverde  
(470 hab.)

After the unmissable visit of **Teruel**, we go to *Paseo de Óvalo*, cross the viaduct and go along *Sagunto Avenue*, which will take us to the exit from the city, next to *Dinopolis*. An arrow in the car park points to a track parallel to the *N-234 road*, which soon starts a descent to the area of *Fuente Cerrada*. The tarmac disappears, but we go on along a comfortable track between pine trees (*Las Suertes track*) and go up *Valdelobos ravine*, which we shouldn't leave until we reach the unmistakable viaduct on the **Ojos Negros Green Way**, which we join. The **Green Way** climbs steadily among vast pine and juniper forests, with spectacular cuttings in the rock and several tunnels. Near the farmhouse at Escandón Pass, the *Green Way* changes route and continues along a track that goes through a tunnel under the motorway, near **Puerto de Escandón station**, where the old steam engines used to rest and cool down before the tough climb to the pass. The building is now a passenger station with a stop on the regional railway.

We return to the **Ojos Negros Green Way** opposite the **station** and it slowly distances itself from the motorway along large moors covered by juniper, with impressive cuttings carved in the rock. Shortly after crossing the **Camarena de la Sierra** road, we reach *Puebla de Valverde station*, where we leave the **Green Way** along a tarmacked track next to the *Station Inn*. We take the road on the right briefly as far as the service station on the *A-23 motorway*, which we cross over a bridge. Continue carefully along the *A-232 road*, which goes down to a roundabout, near **Puebla de Valverde**.



## Old railway

In 1904 the Sierra de Menera Mining Company built a private narrow gauge railway line 204km long between the mines at Ojos Negros (Teruel) and Sagunto, where a large port was built. The line was in operation until 1973 and the mines until 1987. The line was dismantled and later turned into the longest **Green Way** in the Iberian Peninsula.

## Key

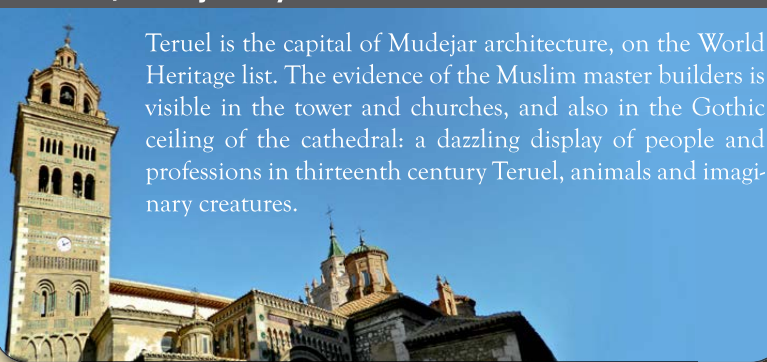
- Gravel route
- Cycling Tourism Route
- Reduced cyclability
- Start/end of Gravel section (not signposted)

- Signs
- GR Sections (Long Distance)
- Non-GR Section
- MTB Section (no trekkers)

- Type of surface
- Road
- Compact or tarmacked track
- Track with irregular surface

0 m 1000 2000 4000

## Teruel, mudejar city



Teruel is the capital of Mudejar architecture, on the World Heritage list. The evidence of the Muslim master builders is visible in the tower and churches, and also in the Gothic ceiling of the cathedral: a dazzling display of people and professions in thirteenth century Teruel, animals and imaginary creatures.



## 4 La Puebla de Valverde (470 hab.)



km 28,5



16 km



## Valbona (192 hab.)



km 44,5



## Mora de Rubielos (1.568 hab.)



km 50



We go down the **A-232 road** and, across a bridge at a junction, we take another road that, after a 1km climb, we leave along a track on the left. The track crosses the GR8 and goes down comfortable earth tracks with a compact surface between crop fields and oak and juniper woods that connect old buildings (*Molinero corral, Gordo house and Gálvez farm house*). We continue to the bottom of *Cubillo ravine*, where a **signposted MTB** tracks starts, and leave the **hiking route** temporarily, as it goes along sections that are difficult for bikes.

### ▶ Start of MTB route (5,5 km)

⚠ **Avoid crossing the ravines when water levels are high.**

Cross the bed of the ravine, which is usually dry and continue opposite along the track that you stay on and ignore side turnings. After 200m, cross another ravine and start a climb through the oak wood without turning off until you come to a crossroads at the top, where you turn right towards *Mas del Señor*. You reach the **A-232 road**, which you take on the right, and in a little over 3km you come to **Valbona**.

☐ **Section without signs:** the route abandons the signposted hiking and MTB routes

Leave from the park next to the road that goes through the town and continue on the road (**A-232**) to **Mora de Rubielos**. It climbs gently, but it is wide with a hard shoulder and soon takes us to the entrance to **Mora de Rubielos**, where we briefly re-join the **hiking route**. From the *Soledad Hermitage*, go along a street on your right as far as the bridge over the *river Mora*, next to *Ibáñez Martín Avenue*.

## Mora de Rubielos (1.568 hab.)



km 50



12,2 km



## Rubielos de Mora (627 hab.)



km 62,2



6,1 km



## Fuentes de Rubielos (169 hab.)



km 68,2



We set off again from the fountain at the start of the avenue and continue along it to the exit from the town, near the secondary school, where it becomes the **A-232 road**. The **hiking and MTB route** soon turns off along a track on the right, but we continue on the road.

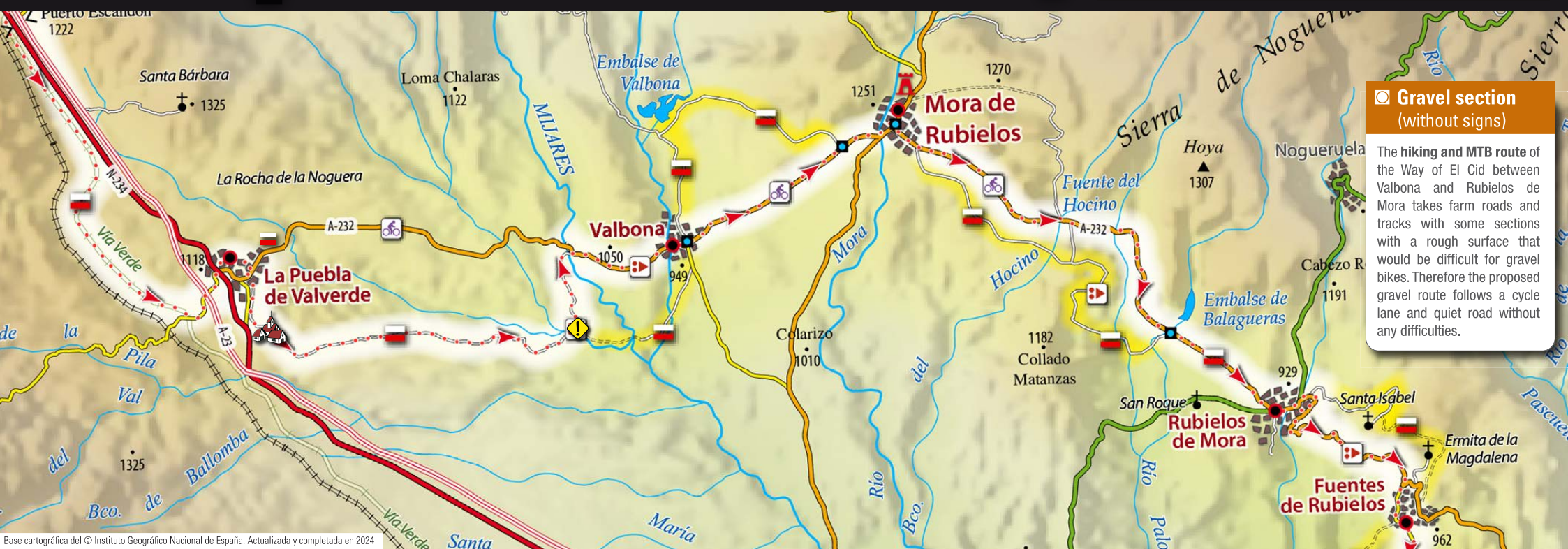
☐ **Section without signs:** the route abandons the signposted hiking and MTB routes

The road climbs slowly in a 4.5km section to reach the area of the *Hocino spring*, where we can take a break to cool down. The road then descends rapidly and approaches **Rubielos de Mora**. In the last kilometre before reaching the town we re-join the **hiking and MTB route**.

We leave **Rubielos** from the *Carmen Gate* along a pedestrian way to a crossroads. The **hiking and MTB route** follows a track next to a wall, but we opt for continuing along the road. After crossing the bridge over the *River Rubielos*, an arrow points to the start of an **MTB section**, as the **hiking route** goes up a section that is difficult for bikes.

### ▶ Start of MTB route (26,5 km)

Go straight ahead on the **A-232 road** and be careful with the traffic (narrow hard shoulder). After 1km we come to *La Cruz lookout point* and continue to a roundabout where we turn to the right (towards *Olba*). After a descent we come to **Fuentes de Rubielos**, next to the arrow signpost where we meet the **hiking route**, which we should ignore.



### ☐ Gravel section (without signs)

The **hiking and MTB route** of the Way of El Cid between Valbona and Rubielos de Mora takes farm roads and tracks with some sections with a rough surface that would be difficult for gravel bikes. Therefore the proposed gravel route follows a cycle lane and quiet road without any difficulties.



## 5 Fuentes de Rubielos

(169 hab.)

km 68,2

4,5 km

## Olba

(279 hab.)

km 72,7

6,1 km

## Puebla de Arenoso

(169 hab.)

km 78,8

11 km

## Montanejos

(603 hab.)

km 89,8

We continue on the road when we leave **Fuentes de Rubielos**. The **hiking route** goes along a very difficult path for bicycles and therefore we follow the road.

**Take care: road with a very steep descent.**

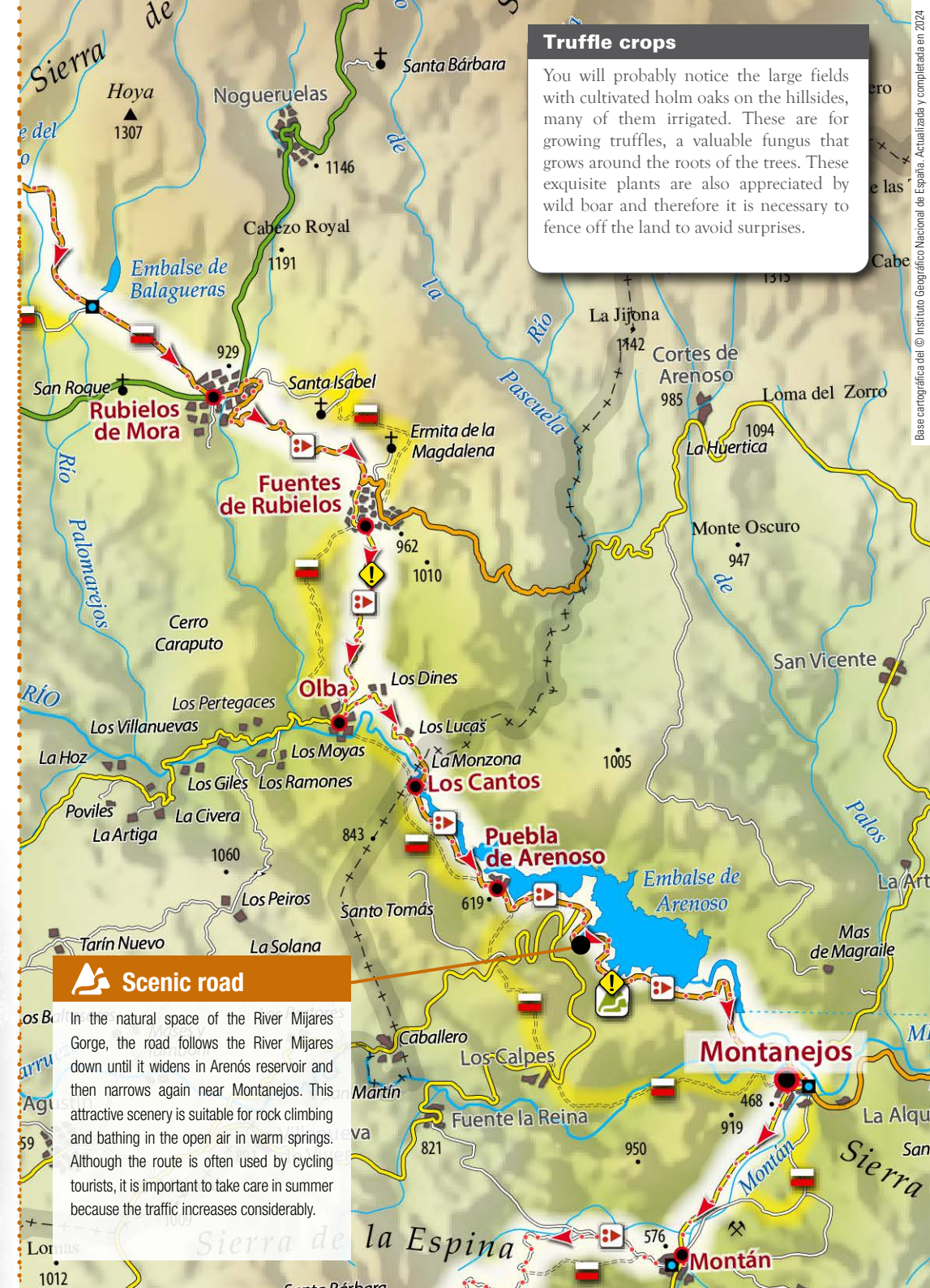
The road descends steeply to **Olba** (270m in little over 4km) and therefore we should control our speed while enjoying the *lovely Mijares scenery*. The road ends at a junction in the upper part of the town, next to the cemetery, where we cross the **hiking route**.

The signs for the **hiking route** point to the town centre, but we should follow the road on the left towards **Puebla de Arenoso**. As it drops slowly following the *river Mijares*, we will discover on the way several disperse villages that have survived the passage of time: **Los Dines, Los Lucas, La Monzona** and **Los Cantos**. When we enter the *Province of Castellón*, the road surface rapidly improves. We soon come to a bridge that crosses the end of *Arenoso reservoir* and, with hardly any difficulty as we enjoy the spectacular environment, we reach the town of **Puebla de Arenoso**.

The sign and arrow of the **hiking route** in **Puebla de Arenoso** point to the cemetery along an uphill track, but we should follow the **CV-20 road** to **Montanejos**.

**Take care: road with heavy traffic in summer.**

The road is level at first with the reservoir on our left until we come to the junction with the *Los Calpes road*, which we don't take. The downhill section to **Montanejos** allows us to enjoy the landscape of the *river Mijares*. Once we leave behind the reservoir dam, the valley becomes a deep canyon where the road goes through cuttings and tunnels. Shortly before **Montanejos** we go by the famous natural *bathing areas in the river Mijares* that will be the reward for our adventure.



### Truffle crops

You will probably notice the large fields with cultivated holm oaks on the hillsides, many of them irrigated. These are for growing truffles, a valuable fungus that grows around the roots of the trees. These exquisite plants are also appreciated by wild boar and therefore it is necessary to fence off the land to avoid surprises.

### Scenic road

In the natural space of the River Mijares Gorge, the road follows the River Mijares down until it widens in Arenós reservoir and then narrows again near Montanejos. This attractive scenery is suitable for rock climbing and bathing in the open air in warm springs. Although the route is often used by cycling tourists, it is important to take care in summer because the traffic increases considerably.



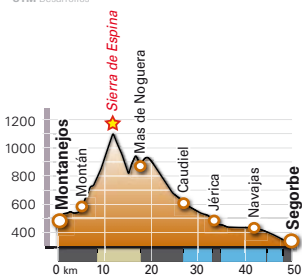
# The Conquest of Valencia

## Gravel travel guide

### Montanejos - Segorbe

May 2025

UTM Desarrrollat



Track Path Tarmac Cycle Lane

Distance	50,1 km	Accumulated climb	1.075 m	Earth / Tarmac / Cycle Lane	19 / 43 / 38%
Physical difficulty	High	Accumulated descent	1.200 m	Signposting	in hiking and MTB sections
Technical difficulty	High	Estimated time	3 h 40 m	IBP	Difficulty index 92

This is undoubtedly the finest stage in the gravel route because of the change in height, its toughness and its natural beauty. It's an **unforgettable experience** although not suitable for everyone because there are some hard sections that require patience, skill and physical strength. Before starting, read the guide, assess your strength, the weather and the gentler alternatives that you can take at several points in the stage. The difficulties disappear in Mas de Noguera and Caudiel, in the descent along the Ojos Negros Green Way to Segorbe.

#### Montanejos

(603 hab.)



0 km  
4,9 km

#### Montán

(399 hab.)



4,9 km  
12,8 km



We set off in *Fuente de Baños Avenue*, which connects with the *Valencia road*, until we go past the petrol station and meet the signs for the **hiking and MTB routes**. We continue on the CV-195 and can opt for a cycle/pedestrian lane in the first part.

**Section without signs:** the route abandons the signposted hiking and MTB route

After the initial climb (option of the cycle lane), the road becomes level until we come to the lower part of **Montán**. Here we re-join the **hiking and MTB route**, and enter the town by *Bajo Castillo Fountain*.

From *Servitas Convent*, leave **Montán** along *Tejería Street*, which becomes a tarmacked track. You soon come to a junction next to *Tejería fountain*, where we leave the **hiking route** for an **MTB section**.

#### Start of MTB section (3 km)

Continue straight ahead on the tarmacked track and start a long climb to cross **the Sierra de la Espina** (540m climb). After 2.5km the tarmacked section ends and we take a track on the left with a compact surface and concrete sections that continues to climb steeply. After 1km, the **hiking route** joins us and accompanies us to **Mas de Noguera**.

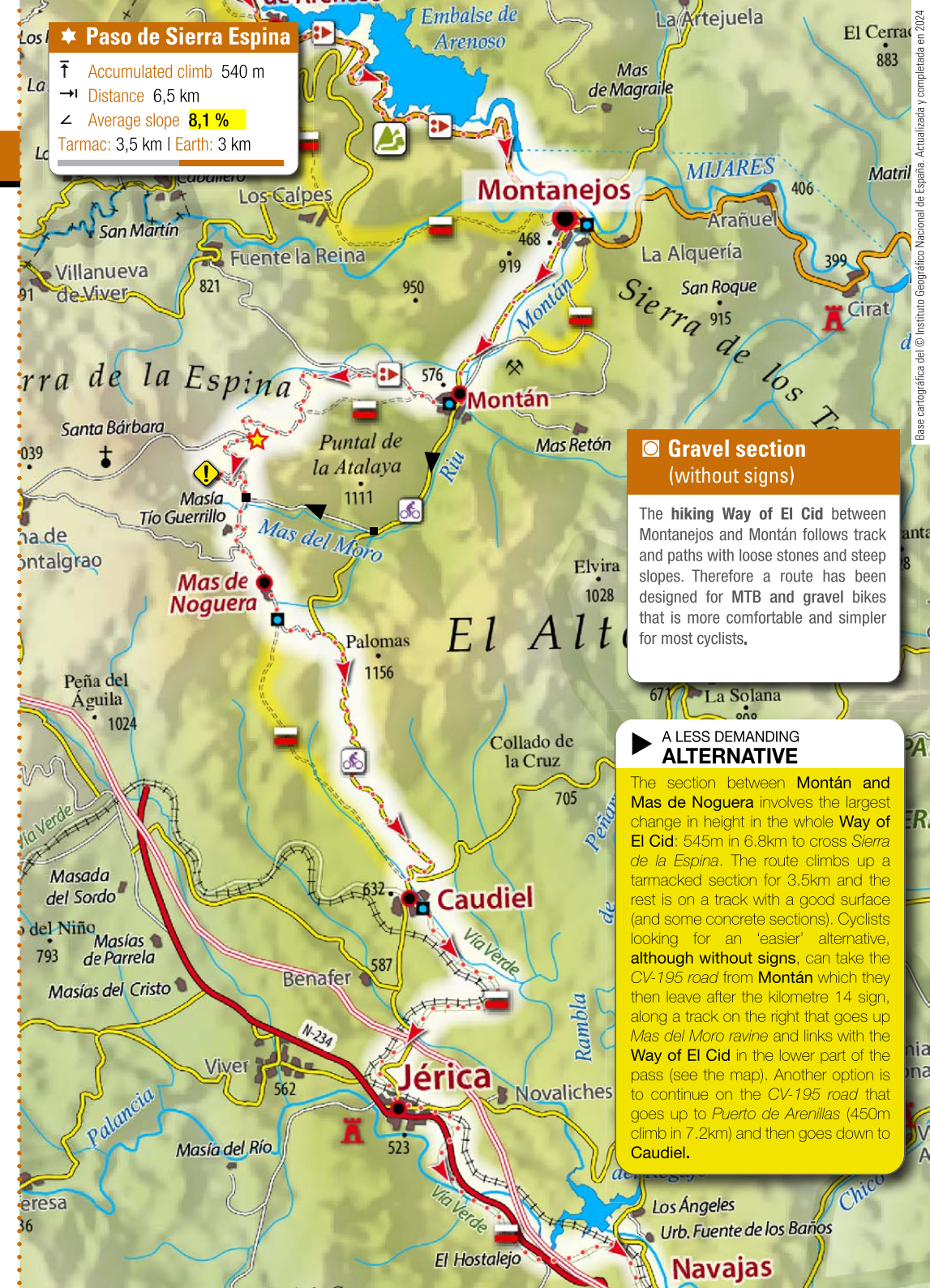
The earth track rises without a break to the spectacular col of *Alto de Pino Rey* (1,107m) where, after catching our breath, we get ready for a steep descent to *Mas del Moro Ravine*.

**Steep downhill slope with sections with loose stones.**

We turn right and start a new climb that will test our legs, to a crossroads. From there we go downhill on a comfortable track to **Mas de Noguera**.

#### Paso de Sierra Espina

Accumulated climb 540 m  
Distance 6,5 km  
Average slope 8,1 %  
Tarmac: 3,5 km | Earth: 3 km



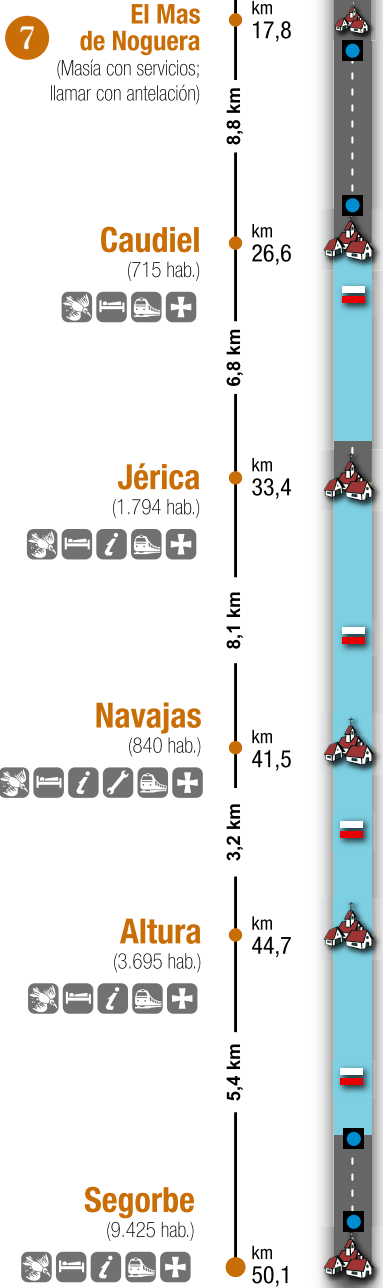
#### Gravel section (without signs)

The **hiking Way of El Cid** between Montanejos and Montán follows track and paths with loose stones and steep slopes. Therefore a route has been designed for MTB and gravel bikes that is more comfortable and simpler for most cyclists.

#### A LESS DEMANDING ALTERNATIVE

The section between **Montán** and **Mas de Noguera** involves the largest change in height in the whole **Way of El Cid**: 545m in 6,8km to cross **Sierra de la Espina**. The route climbs up a tarmacked section for 3.5km and the rest is on a track with a good surface (and some concrete sections). Cyclists looking for an 'easier' alternative, although without signs, can take the CV-195 road from **Montán** which they then leave after the kilometre 14 sign, along a track on the right that goes up *Mas del Moro ravine* and links with the **Way of El Cid** in the lower part of the pass (see the map). Another option is to continue on the CV-195 road that goes up to **Puerto de Arenillas** (450m climb in 7.2km) and then goes down to **Caudiel**.





**Section without signs:** the route abandons the signposted hiking and MTB route

We leave **Mas de Noguera** behind on the tarmacked access track and after 300m the **hiking and MTB route** turns on to an earth track on the right. We stay on the tarmac to reach the **CV-195 road** in the upper part of **Puerto de Arenillas**, and we join it to start a quick and enjoyable descent to **Caudiel**.

We return to the track from the **Carmelite Convent**, and go down to the stream next to the *old washing-place*, where we re-join the **Ojos Negros Green Way** in its **Castellón** section. The route is quite clear as it follows the **Green Way** with an ideal surface for our bikes. We make swift progress in a gentle descent through spectacular cuttings carved into the rock and a couple of tunnels with lighting (one of them 520m long). At the entrance to **Jérica** we leave the **Green Way**; turn right through a tunnel under the road and go straight ahead to the town.

We go through the town following the signs for the **Green Way** as far as the *cemetery* where we take a cycle lane parallel to the road. After the sewage works, we go back on to the **Green Way** next to the old railway engine shed. The route descends comfortably without any surprises and offers lovely views of the bridge over the *river Palancia* or *Regajo reservoir*, as well as some interruptions, such as a couple of illuminated tunnels and a rest area. We reach **Navajas camp site** where the **Alto Palancia MTB Centre** is located and from where we can access the village.

Continue along the **Green Way** next to the camp site. Cross the **Navajas road** and continue at a good speed on our cycle lane that goes under a road and the motorway. As we approach **Altura**, we stay on the **Green Way**, which shares some sections with motor vehicles, and finishes on the way out of the village, in a park next to a *camp site*.

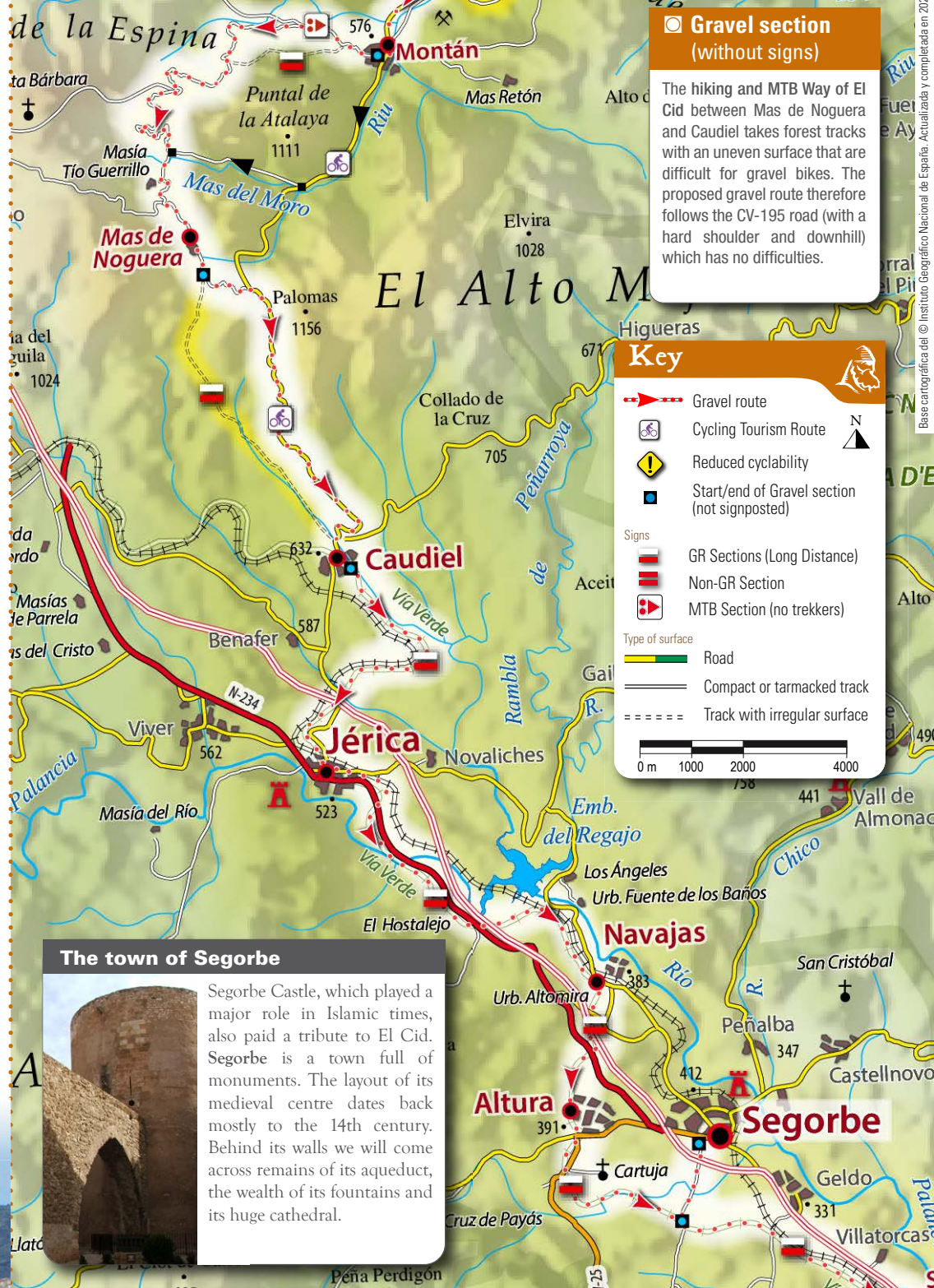
We go on our way from the camp site, again on **Ojos Negros Green Way**. We reach *Monteros stream*, next to which there is a *rest area*. A few metres after the bridge over the stream, a sign invites us to visit the old *Carthusian monastery of Vall de Crist*. We soon come to a pine wood near the *Masia Valero*, where we must leave the **Green Way** and the **hiking and MTB route**, to reach **Segorbe**.

**Section without signs:** the route abandons the signposted hiking and MTB route

The way to **Segorbe** (2km) is quite clear. It goes along a tarmacked track near some plant nurseries and, after going under the motorway and crossing a bridge over a stream, we enter the lower part of **Segorbe** through a new housing estate.

**Jérica castle**

In Islamic times and until the 13th century, **Jérica** and **Segorbe** castles, in the **Alto Palancia**, overlooked the way that led to **Valencia** from the plains of **Jiloca** in **Aragon**. **El Cid** went this way several times and imposed a harsh tribute on its castle.





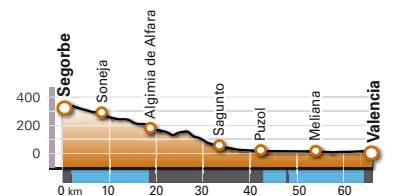
# The Conquest of Valencia

## Gravel travel guide

### Segorbe - Valencia

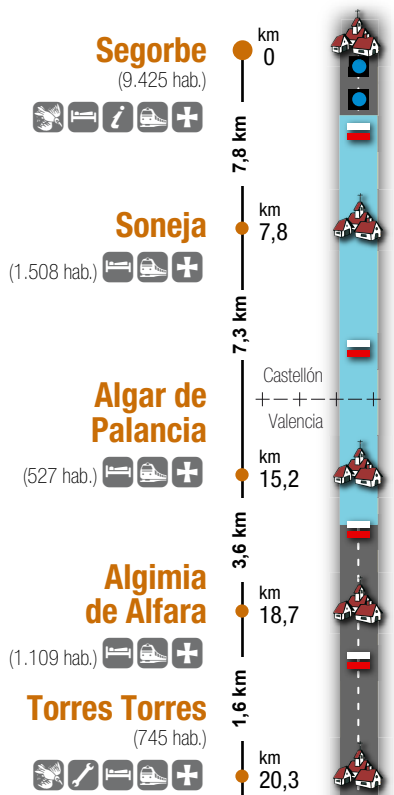
May 2025

UTM Desarrollos



Track Path Tarmac Cycle Lane

Distance	66,2 km	Accumulated climb	200 m	Earth / Tarmac / Cycle Lane	0 / 43 / 57%
Physical difficulty	Low	Accumulated descent	500 m	Signposting	in hiking and MTB sections
Technical difficulty	Low	Estimated time	4 h	IBP	Difficulty index 23



This is a simple stage gently downhill or level on which we'll find the reward for the hard work of the previous days with the **discovery of the sea**. Much of the route goes along sections of a **Green Way** or **cycle lane** that will give our muscles and the mechanics of the bike a rest, after so many punishing kilometres. The other sections are along tarmacked country lanes that will allow us to make good progress while we enjoy the beautiful Valencian market gardens and the orange orchards.

We set off from **Segorbe** and return to the **Ojos Negros Green Way** in the area of **Masia Valero**, along a tarmacked track that connects with the previous stage. We can make good speed without any problems and enjoy the environment. After crossing a bridge over the **Rovira streambed**, the **Green Way** approaches the railway line. We continue parallel to it as far as a small signposted turning from where we can go to **Soneja**.

We carry on along the **Green Way** from the **Soneja** turning. The design of the motorway has eliminated part of the **Green Way** and so we continue on a signposted service road by some gypsum quarries and a lovely artificial lake. From there we go back to the **Green Way**. We soon come to a rest area with a lookout point over **Sot de Ferrer**. When we come to the motorway, the **Green Way** is interrupted momentarily to go underneath it. We go under a road bridge and quickly come to the access to **Algar de Palancia** (after about 400m).

The **Green Way** continues without complications through orange orchards, which start to dominate the scenery. Near **Algimia de Alfara**, we leave the **Green Way** along a tarmacked track on the left that goes under the railway line and leads to the town.

Continue along **Muntanya Street**, which crosses **Futur Street** (road) and goes down to a country lane between citric fruit orchards in the valley of the **river Palancia**. After a distance of less than 20m, take the first turning on the right along a track heading south that after a couple of bends reaches an irrigation channel. We go on with the channel on our left until it disappears near **Torres Torres**. We enter the town by taking **Mayor Street** on the left as far as a small square next to a fountain.



! Tarmacked farm tracks  
**TAKE CARE**

The route through Castellón and Valencia crosses densely populated areas where many of the country lanes have been tarmacked. Be careful because these are usually narrow lanes and the traffic can be heavy at times.

#### Key

- Gravel route
- Cycling Tourism Route
- Reduced cyclability
- Start/end of Gravel section (not signposted)
- GR Sections (Long Distance)
- Non-GR Section
- MTB Section (no trekkers)
- Type of surface
- Road
- Compact or tarmacked track
- Track with irregular surface

#### Orange orchards



The scenery in Valencia cannot be understood without the aroma and colour of these evergreen fruit trees. However, at first the orange was an ornamental tree because the fruit was bitter and unappetising. It is said that it was not grown in Spain for its fruit until the 18th century thanks to experiments with sweeter varieties in Carcaixent.



9

## Torres Torres

(745 hab.)



## Sagunt / Sagunto

(21.027 hab.)



## Puçol

(20.732 hab.)



## El Puig

(8.992 hab.)



## La Pobla de Farnals

(8.699 hab.)



## Massamagrell

(16.766 hab.)



## Albalat dels Sorells

(4.158 hab.)



## Meliana

(10.918 hab.)



## Alboraya

(25.792 hab.)



## VALENCIA

(754.891 hab.)



km 20,3  
13,1 km  
km 33,4  
8,6 km  
km 42,1  
3,7 km  
km 45,8  
3 km  
km 48,8  
1 km  
km 49,8  
3,2 km  
km 53  
1,7 km  
km 54,6  
3,5 km  
km 58,2  
8 km  
km 66,2



We leave the town along *Iglesia Street* on a tarmacked track that zigzags between citric fruit orchards in a maze of lanes until we come to the *CV-320 road*, which we take on the left with great care. The road crosses the *river Palancia* and when it comes to a pinewood, we leave the **hiking and MTB route** and continue on a tarmacked track to the right (*Vell de Terol track*).

**Section without signs:** the route abandons the signposted hiking and MTB route

The country lane goes down the side of the *river Palancia valley* and connects endless small housing estates among citric fruit orchards and pinewoods. The silhouette of **Segorbe** is seen on the skyline as we come to the *CV-324 road* next to the motorway, and we take the road to the town.

We leave along *Paz Street* to the *cemetery*, where we join the **hiking and MTB route**, which coincides with start of the **Via Augusta**. Follow the road next to the cemetery wall (*Lliria track*), which then goes under the *railway* line and crosses a bridge over the *A-23 motorway*. The road goes through the vast plain of the Valencian market gardens with a fence of the right, until it reaches the *AP-7 motorway*, which we cross over a bridge. We soon have to turn left at a junction and go through a tunnel under the *AP-7* and the *V-23*, which will take us to the outskirts of **Puçol**.

Leave **Puçol** along *Vicente Ros Avenue*, at the end of which you'll find the start of the **Via Churra**, a **cycle lane** that reaches **Valencia** across the whole area of gardens north of the city. The **cycle lane** is very well prepared and does not pose any orientation problems. We go on at a good speed to a junction with the road to **El Puig**, next to the *Carthusian monastery of Ara Christi*. There you can turn off the **Via Churra** on to the road to visit **El Puig** (a town with monuments linked to the *Cantar de mio Cid poem*), which is only 1km away.

After returning to the **Via Churra** (or *Xurra*), next to the arrow where we turned off to visit **El Puig**, we do not leave it until we reach **Valencia**. The **Green Way** crosses under the *CV-300 road* and continues parallel to it, to a roundabout at an industrial estate near **La Pobla de Farnals**.

The way stays on the cycle lane of the **Xurra Green Way**, parallel to the *CV-300 road*. On the exit from the town, we again enter an industrial area that forms a continuous urban zone as far as **Massamagrell**, which we soon come to among an area of detached houses.

The route follows the cycle lane on the **Xurra Green Way** with the *CV-300 road* on our left. As soon as we leave the town behind at a roundabout (access to **Musseros** and **Massalfassar**), we again find ourselves in an industrial area. Go past a couple of roundabouts and the landscape of market gardens dominates the environment once more until we reach the roundabout at the access to **Albalat dels Sorells**, along *Mar Street*.

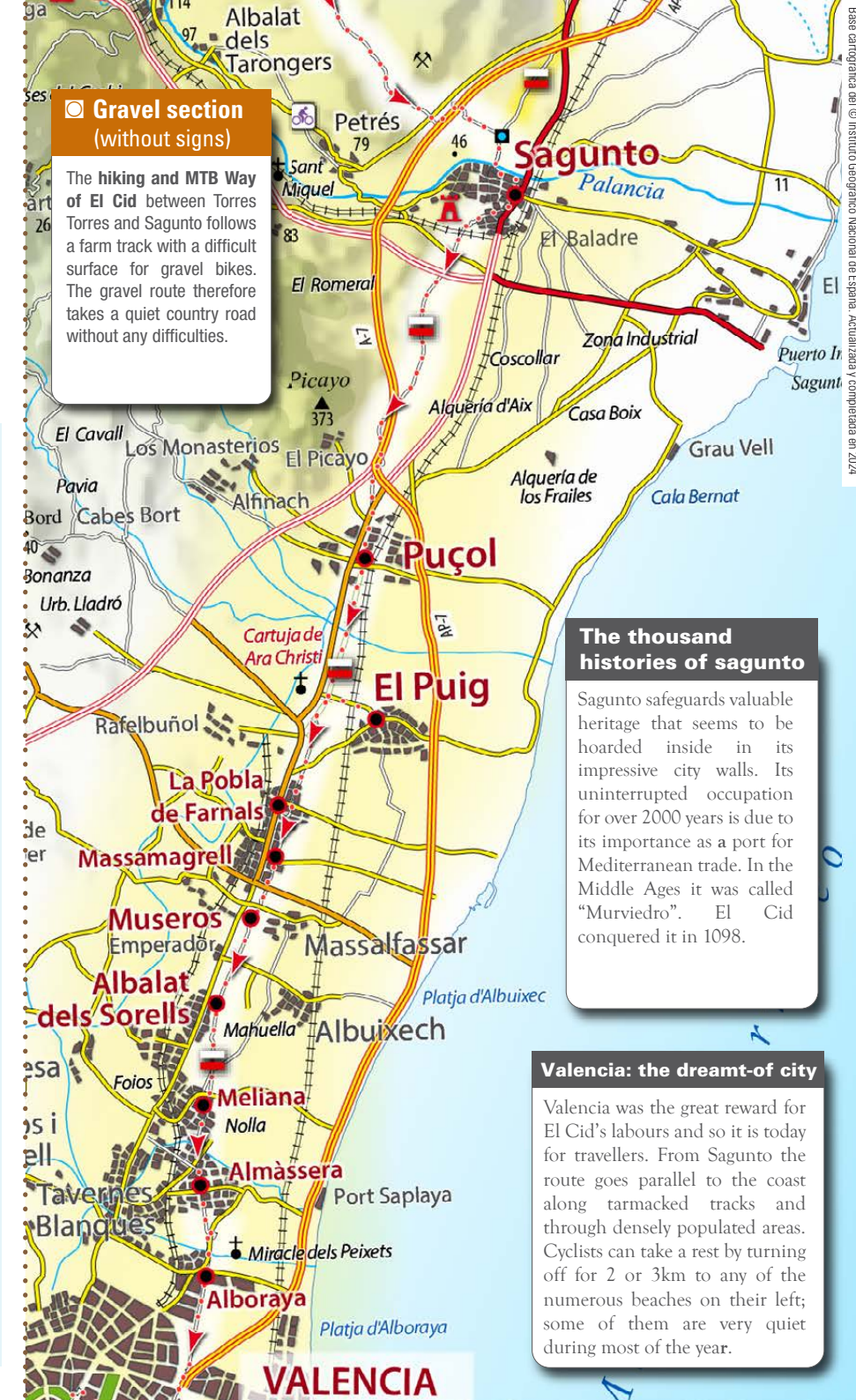
Continue on the route by following the **Xurra Green Way** (cycle lane). After 600m you come to the last roundabout in this section, where we finally leave the *CV-300 road*. The **Green Way** goes along a track with a compact surface and, after crossing a road, you enter **Meliana** on *Blasco Ibañez Street*.

The cycle lane goes through Meliana from one side to another on *Aragon Street*, and joins the **Via Augusta**. The **Via Xurra** exits the town, enters the famous gardens north of Valencia and goes past some traditional almond milk (*horchatería*) shops where you can take a break. Cross *Carraixet ravine* over a footbridge and enter **Alboraya**.

We continue on the cycle lane next to *Ronda Este Street*, which goes through the town from north to south. At the end of the street, the cycle lane goes on through the Valencian gardens. We soon come to **Valencia**, at the roundabout in *Cataluña Avenue*, near the *Polytechnic University*, where the **Via Xurra** ends. The city route in **Valencia** mostly uses the city's network of cycle lanes, along *Cataluña Avenue* and *Aragon Avenue*. It takes the old course of the *river Turia* as far as the *Torres de Serranos*. From there we can reach the *old town of Valencia*, by going past the *Cathedral* to finish in *España Square*, where we find the *equestrian statue of El Cid*.

### Gravel section (without signs)

The **hiking and MTB Way of El Cid** between Torres Torres and Sagunto follows a farm track with a difficult surface for gravel bikes. The gravel route therefore takes a quiet country road without any difficulties.



### The thousand histories of sagunto

Sagunto safeguards valuable heritage that seems to be hoarded inside in its impressive city walls. Its uninterrupted occupation for over 2000 years is due to its importance as a port for Mediterranean trade. In the Middle Ages it was called "Murviedro". El Cid conquered it in 1098.

### Valencia: the dreamt-of city

Valencia was the great reward for El Cid's labours and so it is today for travellers. From Sagunto the route goes parallel to the coast along tarmacked tracks and through densely populated areas. Cyclists can take a rest by turning off for 2 or 3km to any of the numerous beaches on their left; some of them are very quiet during most of the year.