

# NATURE TRAILS IN CASTILE-LA MANCHA AND MADRID



Guide to the  
**Nature Trails**  
of Spain

## NATURE TRAILS IN CASTILE-LA MANCHA, MADRID AND EXTREMADURA

Here, the Nature Trails running through Castile-La Mancha are briefly described. Among them, middle distance routes, such as the Trenillo Greenway, the Sierra de Alcaraz or Guadalimar, longer trails such as Villuercas o Jara or really long trails, such as those that follow the rivers Guadiana and Tajo.

**María Cristina Canal and its branches (Albacete).** The five branches of this Nature Trail follow the layout of the most important branches of this important civil work. Works on the canal started in 1804, to drain water from the marshes that surround Albacete, which allowed to create more agricultural lands and improved the town's sanitary conditions. Today, it has lost its original function due to the drop of water levels, except for in the city of Albacete.

**Cañada Real Soriana Oriental (Madrid).** This route goes through the southeast of Madrid, following the layout of the Cañada Real Soriana Oriental droves' road, one of the nine Cañadas Reales or Royal Drovers' Road in the Peninsula, allowing the traveller to enjoy this agricultural landscape all the way to Fuentidueña de Tajo and to the province limit.

**El Trenillo Greenway. Villacañas to Quintanar de la Orden (Toledo).** In the heart of La Mancha, in the province of Toledo, the railway line spanning the 26 km between Villacañas and Quintanar de la Orden was inaugurated at the beginning of the 20th century. The arrival of this train, known as the "Trenillo," saw the gradual abandonment of scarcely-profitable cereal crops in the area, and opened the way for wine production which continues to prosper today, contributing greatly to the socio-economic growth of the area.

NIPO: 013-17-167-6



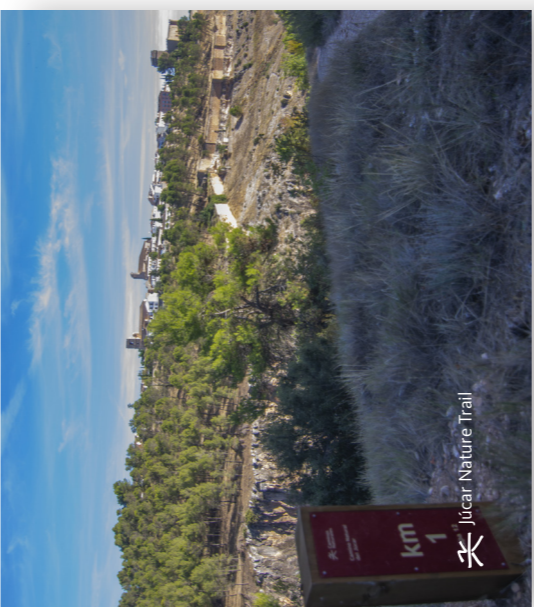
Tajo Nature Trail

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.camino.natural.es](http://www.camino.natural.es)

## WALKS THROUGH THE SOUTHERN MESA

The 11 Nature Trails that are described in this booklet are located in a large area covering two Autonomous Communities (Madrid and Castile-La Mancha), which is vertebrated by its two main rivers, River Tago and River Guadiana. This large area hides many landscapes and secluded areas, both natural and historical, for the walker to enjoy.

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Júcar Nature Trail

**Guadiana (Albacete, Cuenca, Ciudad Real, Badajoz, Huelva).** The River Guadiana, 818 km long, is the second longest river in the Iberian Peninsula. This nature trail covers this distance in 44 stages, and is interrupted when the river crosses into Portugal, going back to Spain, all along the Portuguese border, in the Huelva side, before reaching into the Atlantic sea. This Trail is traversed through 44 stages, separated by the Portuguese section of the river.

**La Mancha Wetlands (Ciudad Real, Cuenca, Toledo).** The trail follows a 150 km route along a series of disperse lagoons with great natural value, located in the northeastern part of the province of Ciudad Real and the southeastern part of the province of Toledo. These lagoons are unique in terms of their botanical and zoological value, where a large number of birds and other animals, live, breed or rest. For this reason, these areas enjoy protection at several levels, both regional and international.

**Júcar (Cuenca).** Following the course of the River Júcar from its source, this trail passes through the uneven landscapes of the northeast of Cuenca until the agricultural plains of La Mancha in the south of Cuenca and the north of Albacete, passing through places of interest such as the Enchanted City or the capital of Cuenca itself.

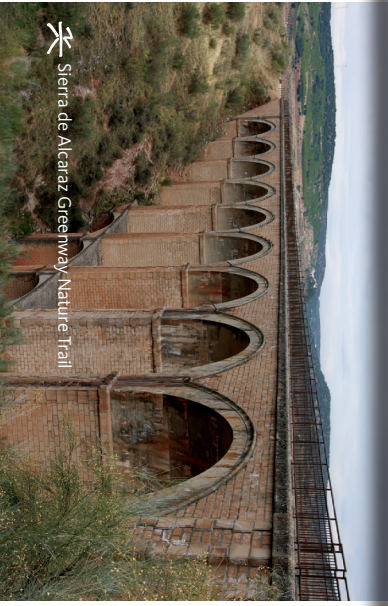
**La Jara Greenway (Toledo).** This 51 km trail runs along the railway line that connected Calera and Chozas with Santa Quiteria, a line that was never operative. It was projected under the rule of Alfonso XIII and it was built to connect Extremadura to the centre of the Peninsula by creating a railway line to make a shorter route between Madrid and Badajoz, passing by Talavera de la Reina (Toledo) and Villanueva de la Serena (Badajoz). The works were definitively abandoned in 1962.

**Las Villuercas (Cáceres, Toledo).** This trail runs along the Las Villuercas region across the municipalities of Logroñán, Cañamero, Guadalupe and Alía, in the province of Cáceres, and the municipality of Puerto de San Vicente, in the province of Toledo. Its creation allows to link the Vegas del Guadiana Nature Trail (Cáceres, Extremadura) and the Jara Nature Trail (Toledo, Castilla-La Mancha), creating a trail of 185 km across an intensely beautiful landscape.

**Sierra de Alcaraz Greenway (Albacete).** This trail follows the layout of the Baeza-Utiel railline, which was part of a continuous rail network intended to connect Andalusia and France by Eastern Spain. The trail is dotted by dryland and irrigation crops characteristic of La Mancha, scrubland as well as important wetlands.

**River Tago (Teruel, Cuenca, Guadalajara, Madrid, Toledo, Cáceres).** This trail forms a plural and diverse layout over more than 1,000 km heading to the Atlantic Ocean at the Western Coast of the Iberian Peninsula. From the Montes Universales, in the Sierra de Albaracín, where the source of the Tago is located, the trail crosses the provinces of Teruel, Cuenca, Guadalajara, Madrid, Toledo and, finally, Cáceres. The trail ends here, but the Tago continues across Portugal to Lisbon.

**Lozoya Valley (Madrid).** This 31,7 km long nature trail is composed by five different hikes or complementary routes by which the traveller may know the southern side of the Guadarama, a valley dotted with shrines hidden among century-old pines and in which the River Lozoya is a constant presence. Among its rich biodiversity, severely endangered species such as the Spanish imperial eagle or the nocturnal Spanish moon moth (*Graellsia isabellae*) stand out.



Sierra de Alcaraz Greenway Nature Trail



Cañada Real Soriana Oriental Nature Trail



La Mancha Wetlands Nature Trail



