

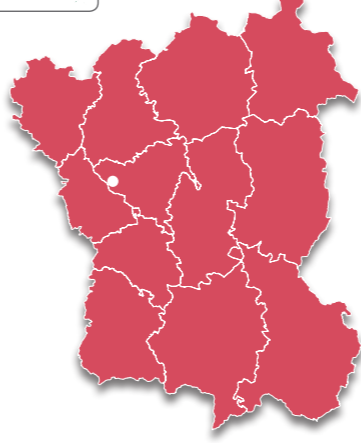
# NATURE TRAIL LOZOYA VALLE



Guide to the  
**Nature Trails**  
of Spain



SECTOR  
**PENINSULAR CENTER**



## A WALK THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS OF MADRID

This Trail consists of a main route, and six additional itineraries, which provide the opportunity to discover the southern slopes of Sierra de Guadarrama, in the northwest of the Community of Madrid. It traverses through a valley dotted with shrines hidden in centennial pine forests, accompanied throughout by the Lozoya River. Its rich biodiversity includes endangered species like the imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) or *Graellsia*, a moth unique in the world.

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 Lozoya Valley 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:**

- Mancomunidad Valle del Lozoya
- Villa de Rascafría town council:

0034 918 694 279  
0034 918 691 117

SECTOR  
**PENINSULAR CENTER**  
NATURE TRAIL  
**LOZOYA VALLEY**

1. The Trail begins at Puente del Perdón in front of the Monastery of Santa Maria del Paular, near KM 27.6 of M-604, in the municipality of Rascafría. From this point you can take another itinerary, that runs parallel to M-604, passes by the monastery and close to the Giner de los Rios arboretum, a miniature botanical garden of exotic tree species, and ends next to a bridge over the river Lozoya, where it meets the main road.
2. After crossing the bridge, the main route enters a poplar grove where one can enjoy the peacefulness of the valley. At the ruins of an old school, the route passes through a gate and continues to Rascafría through agricultural farms and grazing lands.
3. After crossing Artinuelo Brook, the route heads down Cascajales Avenue, which runs parallel to the brook. After a short tour of the village, the route crosses the road from Puerto de la Morcuera (M611), passing next to a cemetery and continues along a trail through "Los Grifos" housing development, towards Oteruelo Valley.
4. At Oteruelo the Nature Trail forks, providing an opportunity to continue along the main route to Alameda del Valle, or take the second itinerary to the shrine of Santa Ana. The route to the shrine of Santa Ana starts at the end of Real de Oteruelo del Valle Street, traverses a rest area, crosses the river Lozoya and continues until a livestock enclosure, from where it heads towards a small bridge with a cattle grid.
5. A few kilometres further on, the Trail narrows into a winding path that crosses over Santa Ana Brook, and reaches an esplanade where the shrine sits.
6. At the shrine, the route returns to a wide road marked by a cross to honor the shepherds, and continues towards Alameda del Valle, passing next to a helipad and a park, and from there to Pinilla del Valle where it joins the main route.
7. The road skirts Pinilla along Embalse Street, whence the first views of the nearby reservoir can be seen. Nearby is one of three Pleistocene deposits that exist in the municipality. The route moves on to the town council, where the Church of San Miguel Arcángel is worth a visit, and from where we can take another secondary trail to the shrine of La Concepción.
8. After leaving Pinilla, the Trail moves away from the river and towards the reservoir, along whose side it runs until Lozoya, traversing through an inviting corridor of centennial Pyrenean oaks.
9. From this point it is possible to take a loop path to Ermita de la Fuensanta. This requires venturing into the village, to the Church of San Salvador, and taking a steep street.
10. The Trail continues around the Pinilla reservoir, and then turns on to a small paved section that gives access to the facilities of the dam. Here the Trail heads towards the medieval bridge of Canto or Congosto.
11. As the Trail advances, the slopes became steeper, though not insurmountable. It borders Lozoya and continues to the old Matarrales Bridge, from where another secondary itinerary can be accessed, leading south to the town of Canencia.
12. Back on the main route, the Trail cross the M-629 to Canencia Mountain Pass, and continues along a stretch, before Garganta de los Montes, where the rising terrain provides views of the River Sequillo Reservoir.
13. Before reaching Garganta de los Montes, the traveler can choose between heading directly to El Cuadrón, and taking the secondary trail to visit the shrine of Los Prados.
14. This branch, called the Route of La Ermita de los Prados, continues south until a cattle grid, where it turns onto a fenced path that leads to the shrine. Close to the shrine, the recreational facilities allow the visitor to take a rest before continuing the route.
15. This branch ends at the edge of Garganta de los Montes, and joins the main route, moving from there to El Cuadrón.
16. After passing a steeper stretch with fewer trees, where the landscape has abundant shrubs, typical of the highlands, the Nature Trail heads to El Cuadrón Tourism Office, the endpoint of this Trail.



Shrine of Santa Ana



Puente del Perdón



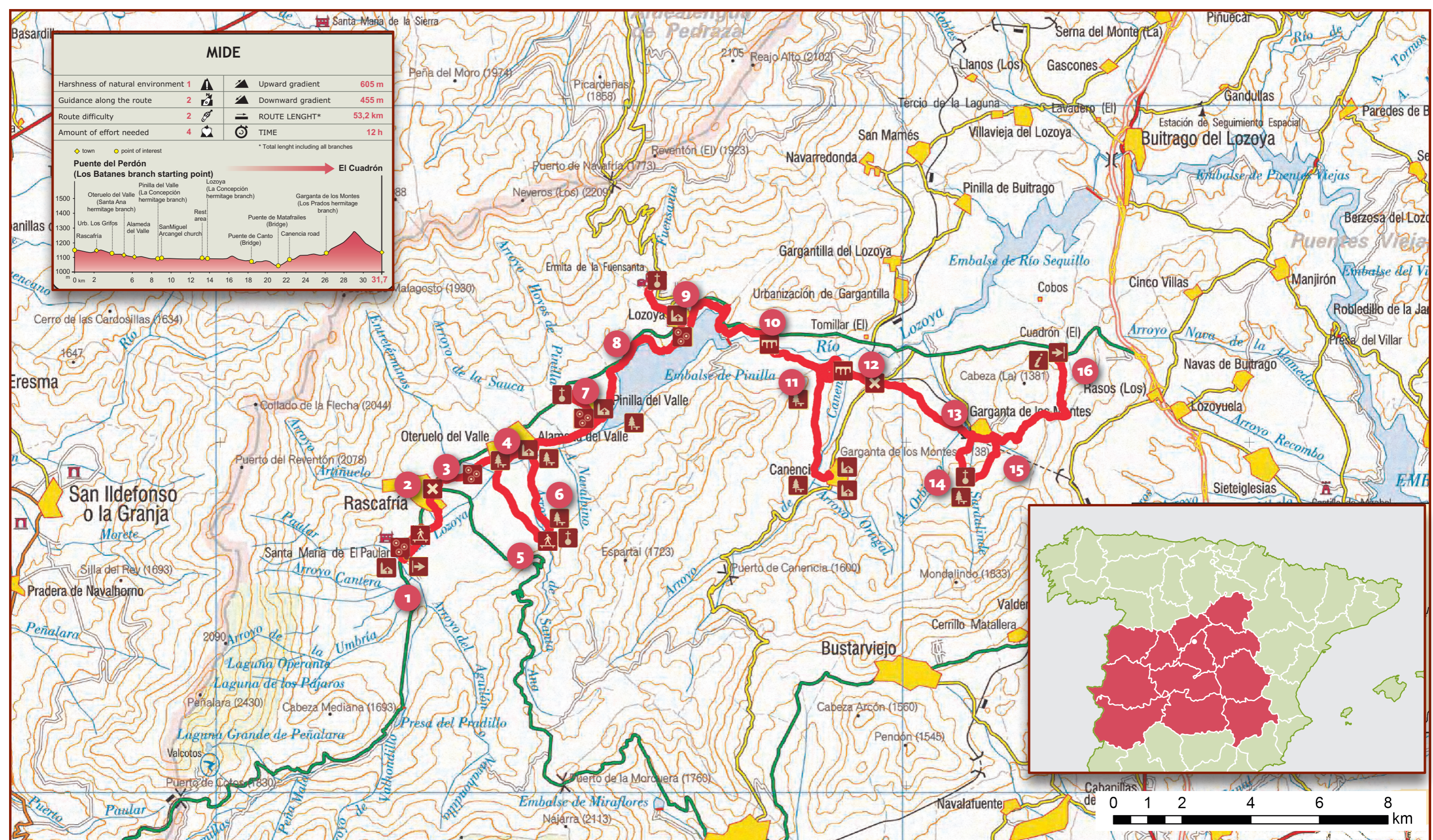
River Lozoya

### MIDE

Harshness of natural environment	1	▲ Upward gradient	605 m
Guidance along the route	2	▼ Downward gradient	455 m
Route difficulty	2	— ROUTE LENGHT*	53,2 km
Amount of effort needed	4	⌚ TIME	12 h

● town    ● point of interest  
 \* Total length including all branches

**Puente del Perdón (Los Batanes branch starting point)** → **El Cuadrón**



SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER



## NATURE TRAIL LOZOYA VALLEY

- Route starting point
- End of route
- Rest area
- Information
- Church
- Hermitage
- Walkway
- Bridge
- Junction
- Other sights of interest