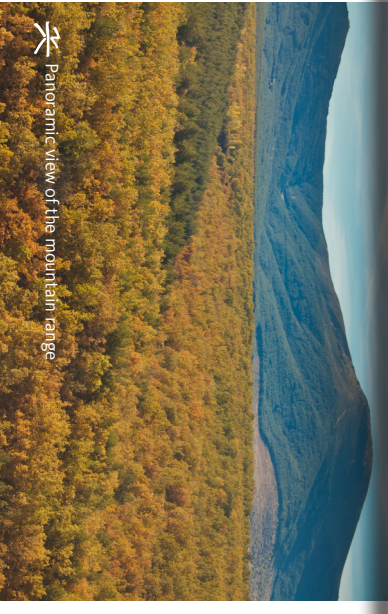




Cow drinking in River Piñón



Cañada Real Soriana Occidental milestone



Panoramic view of the mountain range

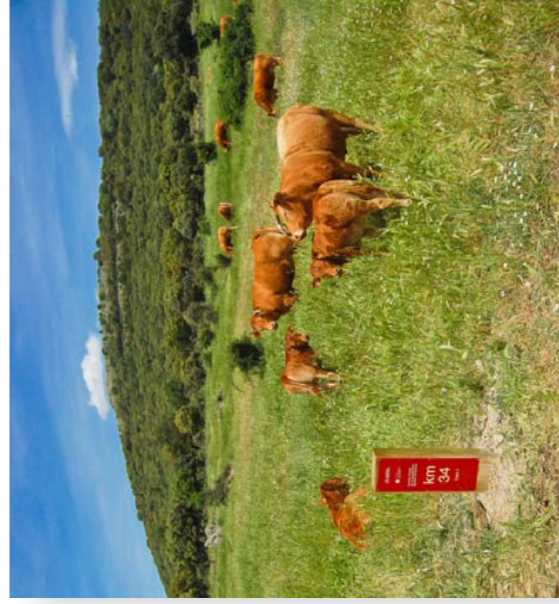
The Cañada Real Soriana Occidental is a traditional cattle road used for centuries by herds of Merino sheep in their search for pastures. Today, all cattle roads are regulated by Act 3/95, of 23 March, on Drivers' road, and constitute inprescriptible, inalienable, unattachable goods, formally owned by Regional Governments. The most important among cattle roads are the type called drovers' roads, due to the fact that they are 75 m wide. In Spanish they are called "cañada real", the mention of "real" ("royal") having been granted by King Alfonso XI of Castile due to the importance of these roads for the economy at the time. In current times, their use as cattle road has diminished and been complemented by other compatible uses, such as public and environmental uses. This drovers' way is one of the most important in the country.

## CAÑADA REAL SORIANA OCCIDENTAL DROVERS' WAY

reaching its final point in Riaza.

### Stage 8. Riaza-Ayllón

The last stage of this Nature trail is also the longest, being over 24 km long, but at the same time is a good reward for past efforts, since this stage consist on a mild slope, which almost always goes down. It starts in Riaza, one of the most stunning villages of the province of Segovia thanks, among other things, to its arched square, and ends in Ayllón, which is the perfect ending to this Cañada Real Soriana Occidental Nature Trail.

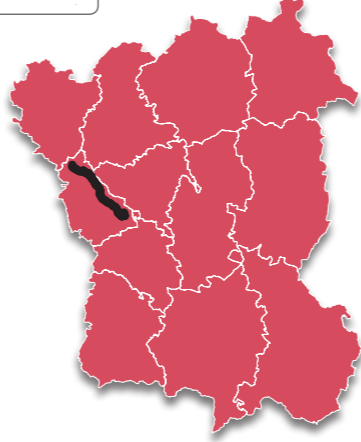


## REMINISCING TRANSHUMANCE BY THE MOUNTAIN RANGES OF SEGOVIA

This Nature Trail covers almost 150 km divided in 8 stages, preceded by a short "zero stage". This Nature Trail runs along the better part of the Cañada Real Soriana Occidental drover's way across the province of Segovia, from West to East, from the El Espinar Station to the town of Ayllón. Although it may be covered on foot, virtually all the route is perfect for mountain bikes; the only drawback are some steep sections, where prudence is advised.

In their trip, the travellers will visit towns such as El Espinar, Otero de Herreros, Sotosalbos, Collado Hermoso, Navafria, Arcones, Villarejo, Riaza and Ayllón, and a large part of the route is made across the Sierra Norte de Guadarrama Natural Park.

## SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER



## Guide to the Nature Trails of Spain



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 the Cañada Real Occidental 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:

- Dirección General del Medio Natural de la Junta de Castilla y León: 0034 983 419 936/ 0034 983 419 935
- Servicio Territorial de Medio Ambiente de Segovia: 0034 921 417 384

## SECTOR PENINSULAR CENTER NATURE TRAIL CAÑADA REAL SORIANA OCCIDENTAL.

### Stage 0: Estación de El Espinar-El Espinar

0. 7-km stage that joins Estación de El Espinar, the small neighbourhood where the train station is located, and the town of El Espinar. The way runs along the course of the River Guadillos until it turns towards the town of El Espinar near the Colada de la Soledad.

### Stage 1. El Espinar-Otero de Herreros

1. This stage, which runs over 13 km, starts by leaving behind the town of El Espinar. Before descending to the course of the River Moros, the path crosses a gate and accesses the Cañada Real Soriana Occidental drover's way, whose tracing it will follow across the entire province of Segovia. After leaving behind the town of Los Angeles de San Rafael, which is a main communication hub, and crossing the Sierra del Quintanar at a mid-slope level, the stage finishes when it reaches the Otero de Herreros Station.

### Stage 2. Otero de Herreros-Embalse del Pontón Alto

2. From Otero de Herreros, the path encounters several rivers (Milanillos, Pececes and Acebeda) and creeks (Viboras, Pedrona, Pedriza, Fuentecejas,...). The trail runs at mid-slope level across the Sierra de Guadarrama, allowing to enjoy its lush vegetation. This stage, which runs over 21 km, ends next to the dam of the Pontón Alto reservoir.

### Stage 3. Embalse del Pontón Alto – Collado Hermoso

3. This stage spans almost 20 km, from the dam of the Pontón Alto reservoir to Collado Hermoso. The narrow bridge of Merinas, the Rancho de la Marquesa and

the Descansadero de Torrecaballeros, a traditional resting area for herds, are tokens of a century-old transhumance tradition in the area. Before reaching the end of the stage in Collado Hermoso, a visit to the pretty village of Sotosalbos is well worth a visit.

### Stage 4. Collado Hermoso-Navafria

4. A short stage just under 10 km where the Cañada Real Soriana Occidental drover's way runs towards the N-10 road and which ends in the natural pool formed in the waters of the Cega River in the pretty village of Navafria.

### Stage 5. Navafria – Arcones

5. This fifth stage, which runs a little over 14 km, takes from Navafria to Arcones. The lush pastures and milestones such as the traditional resting area for herds of Descansadero de Gallegos and Descansadero Corral de la Mesta leave no doubt that the route runs along the Cañada Real Soriana Occidental drover's road.

### Stage 6. Arcones – Villarejo

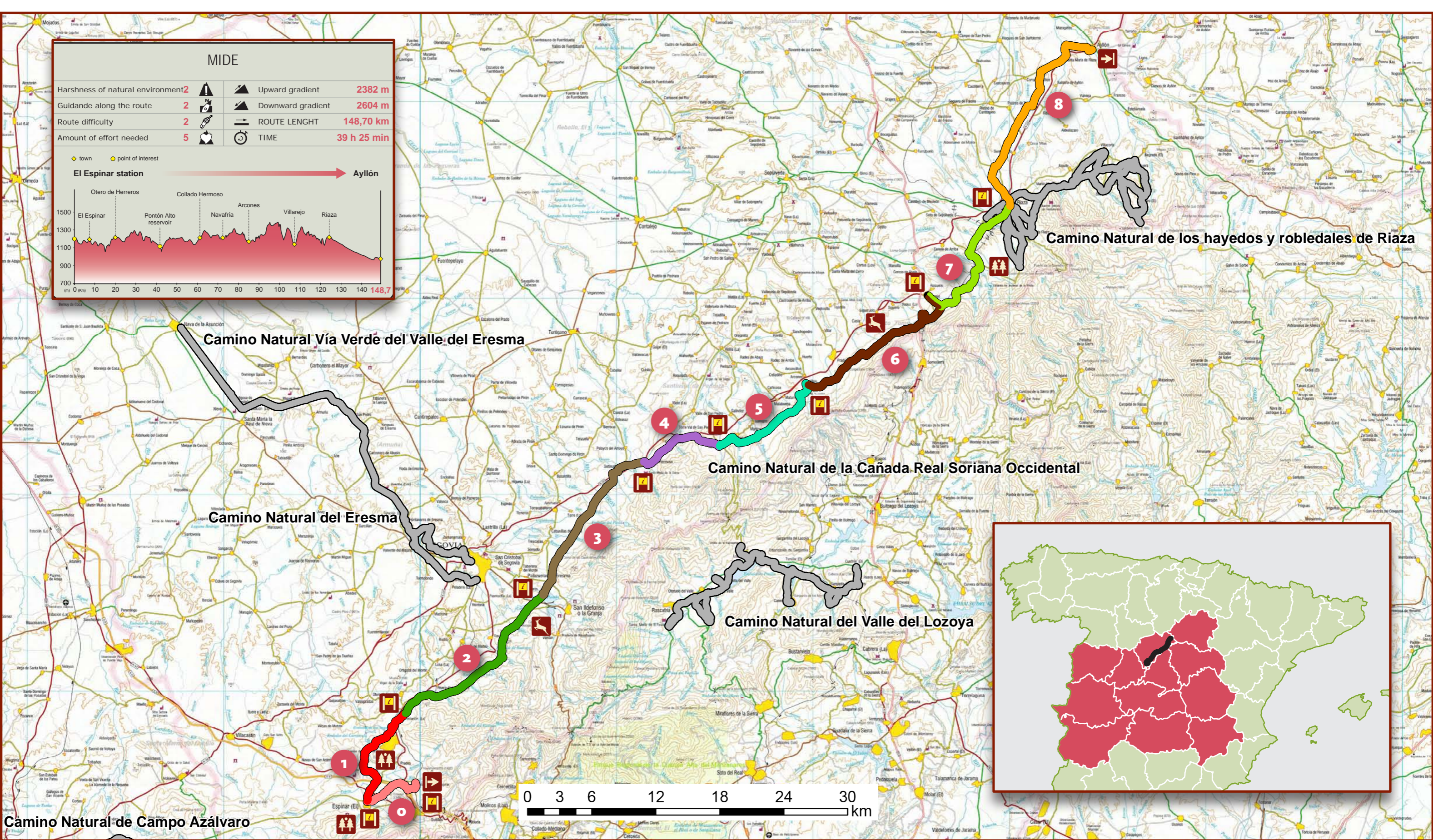
6. The hardest stage of the trail without a doubt, this section runs above 21 km. The beautiful woods of Spanish juniper, Scots pine and, at the other side of the A-1 highway, the pastures and the woods of Pyrenean oak are well worth the effort. The town of Villarejo marks the end of this stage.

### Stage 7. Villarejo-Riaza

7. In this 18 km seventh stage, the trail runs across Pyrenean oak and Scots pines from Villarejo to Riaza, leaving the ski resort of La Pinilla to the right before

MIDE			
Harshness of natural environment	2	▲ Upward gradient	2382 m
Guidance along the route	2	▼ Downward gradient	2604 m
Route difficulty	2	≡ ROUTE LENGHT	148,70 km
Amount of effort needed	5	⌚ TIME	39 h 25 min

◆ town    ● point of interest  
 El Espinar station → Ayllón



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# NATURE TRAIL CAÑADA REAL SORIANA OCCIDENTAL

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Informative panel
- Feature of natural interest
- Natural/National Park

