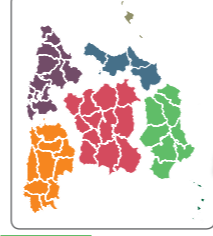




NATURE TRAIL LA CAMPIÑA



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain



SECTOR
SOUTHERN PENINSULAR



SUN BETWEEN THE OLIVE GROVES

This trail follows part of the old Córdoba-Marchena railway line which fell out of use in the 1970s, crossing sunflower fields and grain fields and between olive groves. It is particularly beautiful in springtime when the colours of the different plots that cover the flat landscape contrast spectacularly.



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 La Campiña 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:

• Écija City Council:

0034 955 90 00 00

SECTOR SOUTHERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL LA CAMPIÑA

1. The starting point of the trail is in Valchillón, alongside the A-3051 motorway some 17 kilometres from Córdoba and beside a large silo. Shortly afterwards, it crossed the River Guadalquivir, in excellent conditions of conservation and with a forest on the riverbank. The trail continues, surrounded by a series of embankments and reeds that provide shade, particularly necessary on hot days. It is also possible to observe the birds typical of this steppe landscape.
2. After passing through the Las Tablas Tunnel, the only one on this trail, one can see the town of Almodóvar del Río on the left, with its hilltop castle, declared a Site of Cultural Interest and open to the public.
3. After crossing the Redondo stream, and later the La Torvisca Bridge, with views of Guadalquivir, the trail continues before reaching a rest area, located on the site of the old Guadalquivir station. After crossing road CO-3304, you'll find the only point on the trail to top up on drinking water. Further on, after crossing La Marota Bridge, there is a change in the landscape. The relief in this area allows for Mediterranean vegetable plots native to the area to be maintained to this day. The trail reaches a fork, taking the right as far as a peri-urban park complete with picnic tables.
4. The trail then continues between olive groves to the Las Pinedas de La Carlota rest area, where the old drinking troughs and a farm school can also be found. The

trail then crosses the Guadalquivir stream and arrives at the A-445 motorway very close to La Fuencubierta, another parish of La Carlota. From here it is necessary to cross the motorway and continue along a rural track as far as the province of Seville. Just after crossing the motorway, the route reaches the site of La Carlota station, crosses an allotment area and then passes under the Madrid-Sevilla high-speed AVE railway line.

5. The trail continues to Navalagrulla station, now in ruins but with a small rest area. Further on, it crosses the road to Palma del Río.

6. After crossing road A-8203, there is another rest area alongside a pedestrian bridge over the A-453 motorway, with panoramic views of the city of Écija, one of the most important historic and artistic centres in all of Andalusia. We recommend a stop here to walk through its historic centre and visit one of its fine palaces, convents or churches. The trail crosses a bridge and enters the municipality of Écija, where it becomes a cycle lane. From here it continues along Avenida de la Estación, going through a series of roundabouts before reaching a towering silo, from where the trail continues along Calle Boabdil and leaving the municipality.

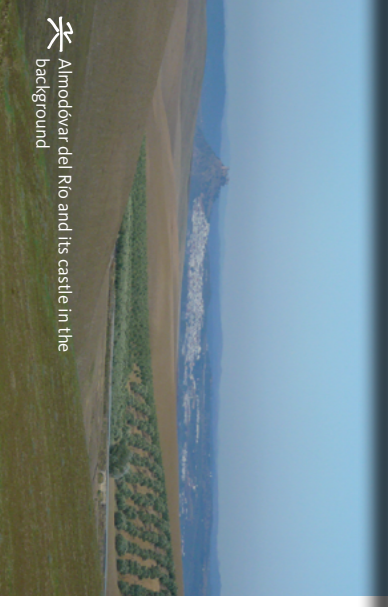
7. Once again, a countryside landscape of sunflower and grain fields accompanies the traveller on this final section towards Villanueva del Rey where there is a rest area and the Nature Trail comes to an end.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LA CAMPIÑA

The steppes are landscapes dominated by wide open spaces, without any steep gradients and with a rich biodiversity adapted to the special conditions of the environment: birds such as the lark and others as spectacular as the white-quilled bustard, stone-curlew and the sandgrouse. Many of these species are unique in Europe and are currently in danger of extinction, mainly due to the intensification of farming taking place in the countryside.

ÉCIJA: THE CITY OF SUN AND TOWERS

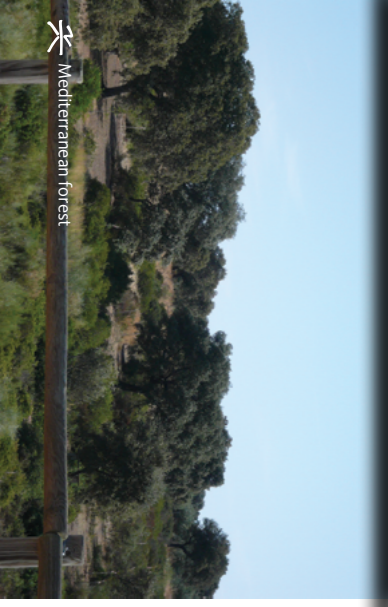
The city of Écija, declared an historic-artistic site, is also popularly known as the "City of Sun" or the "City of Towers," on account of the eleven towers that dominate its skyline alongside nine steeples atop the numerous churches. The old town, rich in palaces and viewpoints still boasts vestiges of Roman, Visigoth and Moorish settlements. Since 1996, it has enjoyed official status as an Historic-Artistic Site.



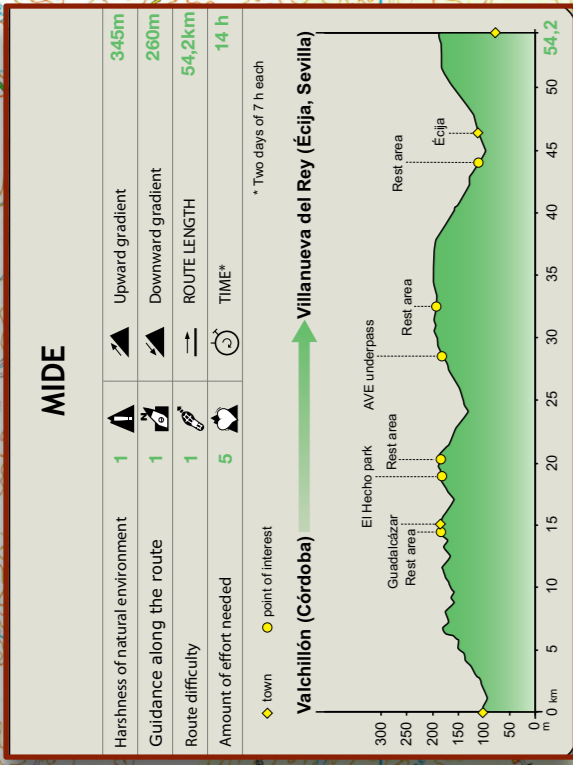
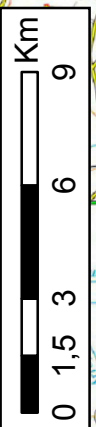
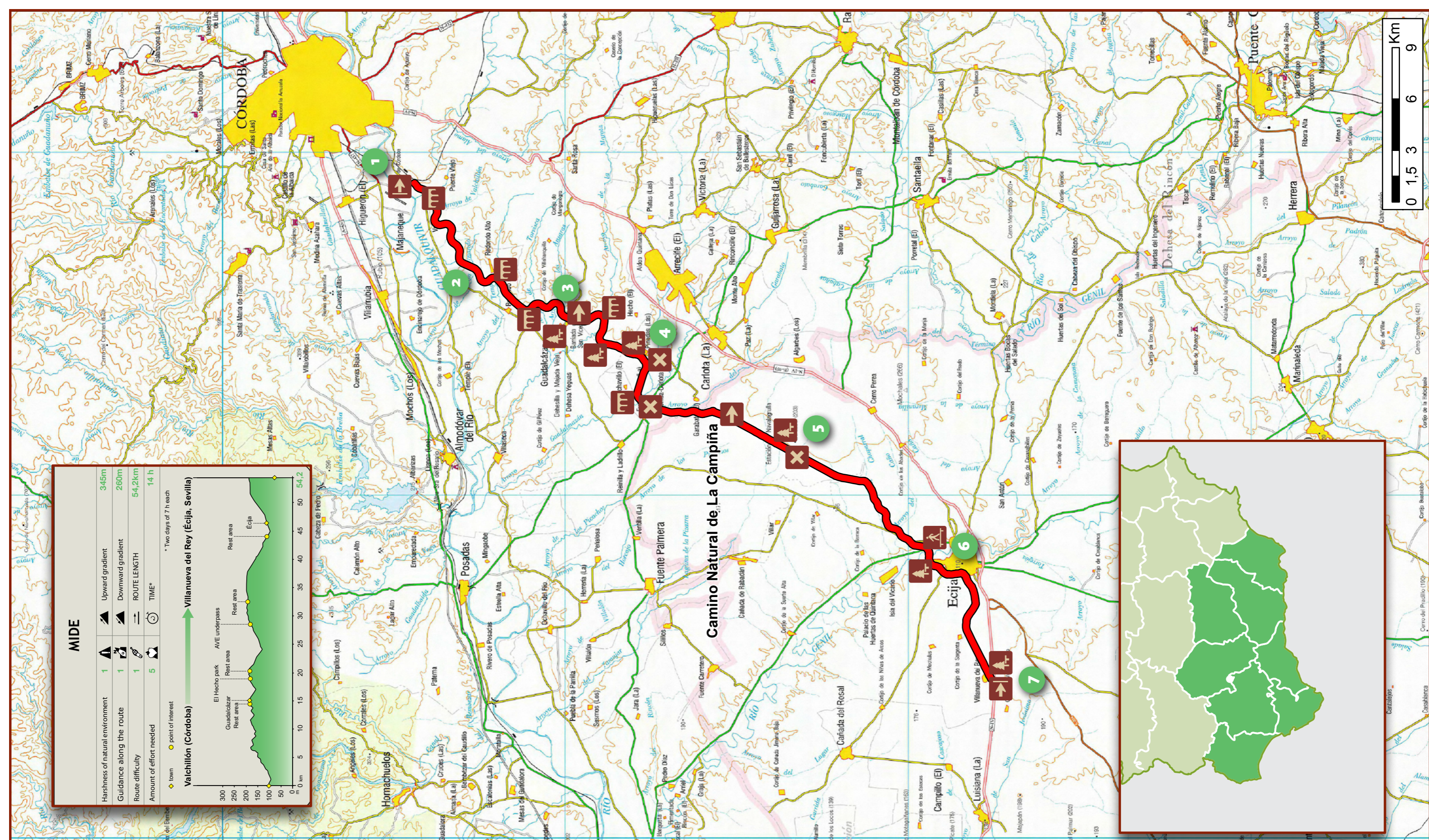
Almodóvar del Río and its castle in the background



Panoramic view from La Marota bridge



Mediterranean forest



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NATURE TRAIL LA CAMPIÑA

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Rest area
- Junction
- Underpass
- Walkway
- Bridge