



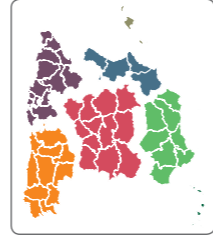
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**TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:**  
• City Council of Almudévar : 0034 974 25 00 02

# NATURE TRAIL PEDRO SAPUTO



Guide to the  
**Nature Trails**  
of Spain



SECTOR  
**NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR**



## SURROUNDED BY WATER



Presided over by the old Muslim castle of Almudévar at the top of a hill, the remains of which house the Cistercian chapel of Virgen de la Corona, this trail runs parallel to the Monegros Canal and the La Violada irrigation canal. These infrastructures used to service the surrounding areas with water originating in the Gállego and Cinca Rivers and are included in the Irrigation Plan of High Aragón which has endeavoured to improve the economy in the area since the 19th century.

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 Pedro Saputo 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.

## SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL PEDRO SAPUTO

1. The trail begins at the boundaries of the town of Almudévar and is well marked. There is an informative panel that announces the length and main features of the trail.
2. Only a few metres away there is the Tres Caños fountain, of Muslim origin, whose water is used for irrigation, alongside a recreational area where there is an information board about Pedro Saputo, a fictional character from 19th century literature and born in Almudévar.
3. As the trail continues, it becomes closer to the right bank of the Monegros Canal, protected from erosion by a pine copse. This section offers enjoyable views of the surrounding Pre-Pyrenean mountain ranges and crosses several access paths leading to private properties, but the old boundary stones placed by the Ebro River Basin Authority provide easy guidance for hikers. The glimpse of Alcalá de Gurra outlined on the horizon indicates that the end of the first trail section is near, where several information points reveal the secrets of local flora and fauna.
4. Approximately at kilometre 7, the trail changes direction and crosses the Monegros Canal and its often busy service road to reach the La Violada irrigation canal that will run parallel to the trail almost until the end.
5. The trail runs past a solar park and composting plant and skirts the town of Valsalada along a sinuous route without major changes in the even landscape.
6. Further on, the trail reaches the water irrigation pond of La Magdalena and a new resting area. There is also a fruit tree experimentation area nearby. There are several information boards scattered along the trail which provide information about the birds that can be seen and the basic features of the irrigation system, of vital importance for the area. In fact, water irrigation ponds ("balsas") used to store stormwater constitute one of the most representative structures in agricultural areas.
7. Hikers who decide to do this trail by bike can access the bicycle motocross circuit nearby or move forward to the Mirador del Pirineo viewpoint, where an information board indicates the names of the different mountain ranges within sight. During the descent from the Viewpoint, the trail splits in two, offering two alternatives: following the Geological Corridor, the only section of the trail that runs in a cutting so visitors can see the soil profile, or taking the Aromatic Corridor, a smooth path with plenty of thyme, rosemary, lavender and other aromatic plants.
8. Walking past the only sloping stretch, the trail moves away from the Channel toward the town of El Temple, a colonization town –urban communities created by the Franco regime in the 50s for the repopulation and exploitation of newly irrigated lands. The last stretch of the trail leads to the outskirts of the town, where there is another information board.

## IRRIGATION PLAN OF HIGH ARAGÓN

The Irrigation Plan of High Aragón is an ambitious project that started in the late 19th century and whose main goal is still to encourage progress in the arid lands of Aragón by irrigating lands through the construction of two canals: the Cinca Canal and the Monegros Canal. The former allowed the water flows of the Cinca and Gállego rivers to merge and therefore enabled the increase of agricultural lands in the region. The works started in 1915 and are still under progress.

The Monegros Canal starts at the Sotonera reservoir and is 133 km in length. It comprises several sections, the first one of which merges with the Cinca Canal, 90 km in length, in the so-called "Tardienta embrace" (abrazo de Tardienta). Among its main water flows, the 37-km La Violada irrigation canal is a highlight.

In spite of the years elapsed since its commissioning, the Plan remains incomplete. The construction will be considered complete when the water can be conveyed to the southernmost area of Monegros, an issue which is yet to be worked out.

Castle of Almudévar



Irrigation pond of La Magdalena



"Fuente de los Tres Caños", rest area

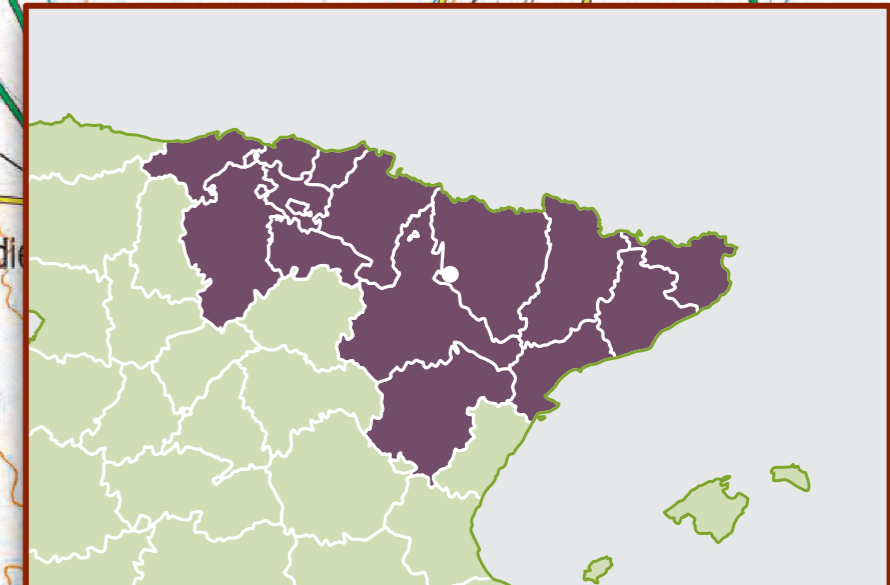
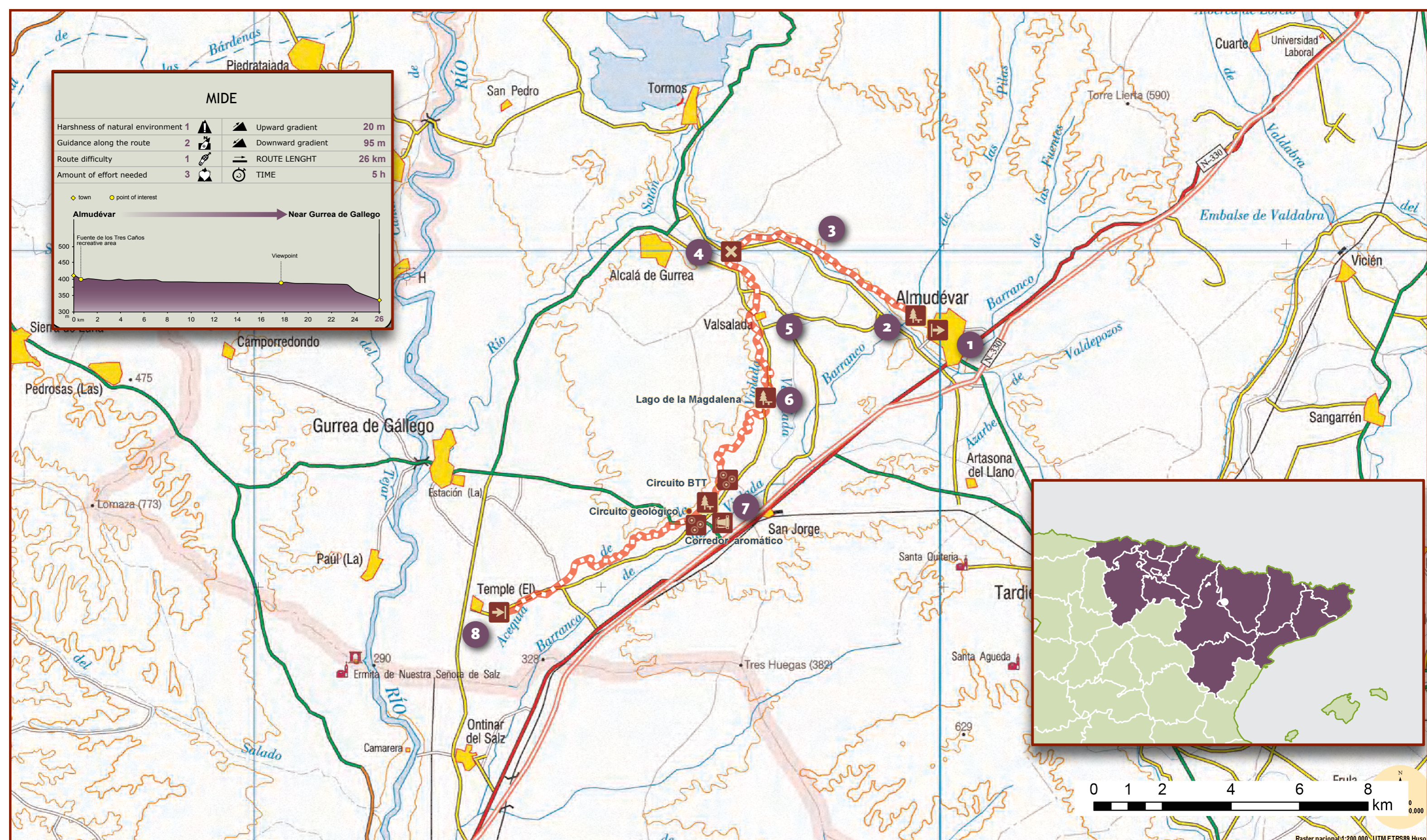


**MIDE**

Harshness of natural environment	1	▲ Upward gradient	20 m
Guidance along the route	2	▼ Downward gradient	95 m
Route difficulty	1	≡ ROUTE LENGHT	26 km
Amount of effort needed	3	🕒 TIME	5 h

◆ town    ● point of interest

Almudévar → Near Gurrea de Gallego



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**NATURE TRAIL  
PEDRO SAPUTO**

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Rest area
- Viewpoint
- Junction
- Other sights of interest