

The Way of St. James in Madrid



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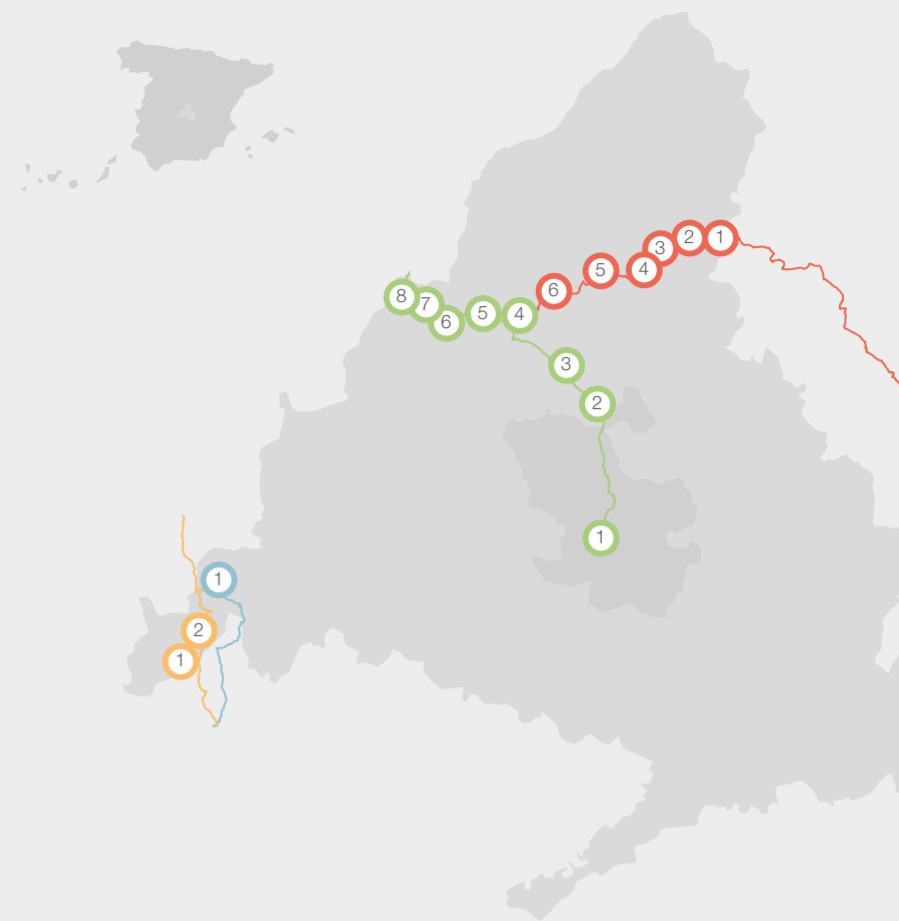
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Way of Madrid

Since the 9th century, the Way of St. James has been a path of discovery and culture, an avenue of communication between people and places. This is the case for the routes crossing the Community of Madrid. The Way of Madrid, the Mendocino Way, the Southeast way and the East Way are secondary trails that cross the peninsula, passing through our Community to join the French Way and the Silver Route.

These four trails are jam-packed with experience and activities, which you can enjoy whether you're a pilgrim, tourist or visitor. Fall in love with their stunning landscapes and natural resources, their historic and cultural gems, their culture and crafts, as well as their amazing cuisine while you enjoy the peace and quiet of places that are definitely off the beaten track.

Along the Way of Madrid, you'll find delightful gems such as the Castle of Manzanares El Real, the magnificent Sierra de Guadarrama National Park or the charming villages of the Sierra Norte of Madrid. You can enjoy the traditional crafts of Cadalso de los Vidrios and the winemaking tradition of San Martín de Valdeiglesias.

Although the popular saying is "de Madrid al cielo (from Madrid to heaven)", perhaps it's time to start saying "de Madrid a Santiago de Compostela (from Madrid to Santiago de Compostela)".

Buen camino (have a good journey)!



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◀ Royal Parish Church of St James and St John the Baptist, Madrid

▶ Manzanares El Real Castle with La Pedriza in the background

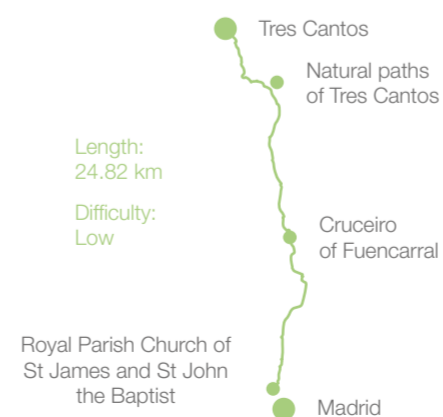
Way of Madrid

Start your adventure in the heart of Madrid, from the Royal Parish Church of St James and St John the Baptist, and continue your pilgrimage by visiting different places all over the Community of Madrid until you reach the Fuenfria mountain pass.

Madrid - Tres Cantos Stage

The Royal Parish Church of St James and St John is found in the vicinity of the Royal Palace and La Almdena Cathedral. It's considered the traditional starting point for the pilgrimage trail from Madrid to Santiago de Compostela. You can get your pilgrim's passport here and receive the Pilgrim's Blessing. In the old neighbourhood of Fuencarral, the first signs you'll see of the Camino de Madrid to Santiago are a quintessential Galician cruceiro (stone cross), a scallop shell and the inscription "A Santiago de Compostela 665 km (665 km to Santiago de Compostela)".

environmental interest that will let you discover and explore the municipality's natural and cultural heritage.



Tres Cantos - Manzanares El Real Stage

In Colmenar Viejo, the Basílica de la Asunción de Our Lady, named an Asset of Cultural Interest, is definitely worth a visit. It's an impressive church that was built in the 15th century under the rule of the lords of Manzanares El Real, the Mendoza family. One of the great things about this stage is the local cuisine. You simply must sink your teeth into some excellent Carne de la Sierra de Guadarrama meat. It's premium-quality beef or veal that has Protection Geographical Indication (PGI) status.

At the end of the stage, you can look forward to the sight of the impressive late mediaeval castle of Manzanares El Real, also known as Castillo de los Mendozas (Castle of the Mendozas), which sits on the banks of the Santillana Reservoir. All of this is set against a breathtaking backdrop of outstanding natural beauty: La Pedriza, which is part of the Sierra

de Guadarrama National Park. Active tourism companies in the area offer different options to go rock climbing.





◁ Historic trails of the Fuenfría Valley

▷ Church of St Peter the Apostle, Torremocha de Jarama

▷▷ Town of Torrelaguna

▷▷▷ Church of St Peter ad Vincula, Redueña

▷▷▷▷ Views from the El Anillo Verde hiking trail, Soto del Real



Manzanares El Real - Cercedilla Stage

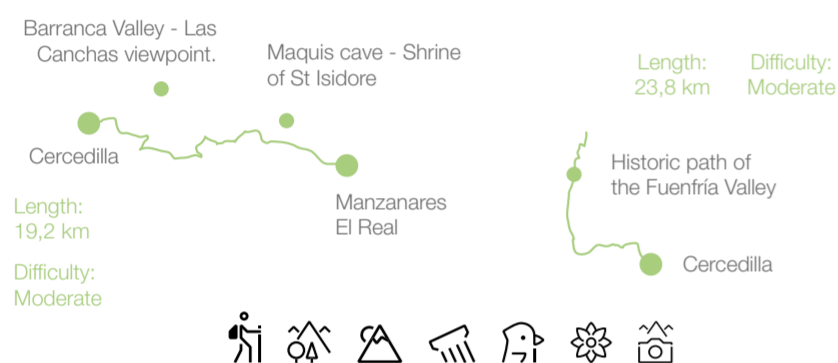
The trail sets out from the Mataelpino Town Hall and takes approximately four hours. There's a 9 km climb to La Maliciosa until you get to the Maquis cave, which offers dramatised tours. Along this climb, you'll find the Shrine of St Isidore, which sits on the slopes of El Boalo.

As you go up towards Navacerrada, get onto the path to La Barranca Valley – a natural setting of outstanding beauty – and enjoy this hiking trail for all ages. There are different view-

points, streams, birdwatching and wildlife watching spots, such as the excellent views from the Las Canchas viewpoint.

Cercedilla Stage

In the Fuenfría Valley, you can travel back in time to the Roman period by walking along the Via XXIV road, which was part of the network of roads built by the Roman Empire in Hispania. The so-called historic trails of the Fuenfría Valley originally linked Segovia to Miaccum, whose location within the Community remains unknown.



Mendocino Way

The Camino Occidental starts in the province of Guadalajara and passes through more than 40 km of the Community of Madrid brimming with history, legends and traditions. Once you've crossed the municipality of Soto del Real, the Camino Mendocino connects to the Camino de Madrid in Manzanares El Real to continue the pilgrimage towards Santiago de Compostela.

Torremocha de Jarama - Torrelaguna Stage

Named an Asset of Heritage Interest, the Church of St Peter the Apostle in Torremocha de Jarama is one of the few Romanesque churches found in the Sierra Norte of Madrid. Without leaving Torremocha, discover the creations of different artists and craftspeople that work at the Torrearte crafts centre.

The town of Torrelaguna, named a Historic-Artistic Site, was one of the Christian-Visigothic

fortified sites in the area of Jarama. There's a large number of buildings, aqueducts and access roads thanks to the presence of Canal de Isabel II. You can admire architectural buildings of outstanding beauty such as the Church of St Mary Magdalene, named an Asset of Cultural Interest. In the vicinity of Torrelaguna, you can go on a relaxing horseback ride and enjoy a delicious lunch – a brilliant idea for some quality family time together.



Torrelaguna – Soto del Real Stage

In Redueña, you'll find the Church of St Peter ad Vincula, built between the 14th and 15th centuries. It's a church in the Renaissance and Baroque styles that still has some Gothic remains. It's found next to El Molar ravine, just north of the town centre.

In this stage, you can give the wines from the Sierra Norte a try. The Vinos de Madrid Designation of Origin sub-area of El Molar includes wines from Venturada, where the tempranillo grape variety produces red wines of excellent quality.

In the Pedrezuela Reservoir, you'll find the Guadalix de la Sierra marina. Found in the



Tagus Basin, this reservoir supplies water to the area and provides a venue to practise water sports.

Soto del Real – Manzanares El Real Stage

The Anillo Verde hiking trail of Soto del Real is a circular route spanning 5.3 km that covers key points of interest in the municipality.

Setting out from Plaza de la Villa, you can walk towards the historic bridge built over the Chozas stream in the Middle Ages. On the other side, you'll find the Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception, which features several architectural styles. Its Baroque altarpiece is definitely worth a visit.



◁ San Juan Reservoir, San Martín de Valdeiglesias

▷ The Piedra Escrita site

Southeast Way

The Southeast Way crosses the peninsula from one corner to the other, starting in the province of Alicante until it connects to the Vía de la Plata in Benavente or the French Way in Astorga.

Cenicientos – Cadalso de los Vidrios Stage

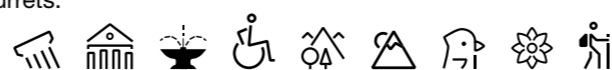
In Cenicientos, marvel at the Piedra Escrita site. When you walk along the Camino de Piedra Escrita, you'll come across the archaeological site with the same name. Dating back to the 2nd century, it's a rock sanctuary carved in granite with a Roman inscription on one side, which was restored and transformed in Christian times.

The Palace of Villena in Cadalso de los Vidrios is another must-visit. Originally built in the 15th century with a Romanesque style, it was subsequently renovated in the Renaissance style. It was in the 16th century when the gardens and the large stone pond on the Palace grounds were built.

At the highest point of Peña Muñana, you can find what appears to be a cistern and two towers joined together by a wall. This watchtower is Moorish in origin, but it later became Christian. It formed part of the defences along the Alberche River, together with the Fuente Lámpara and Alamin turrets.



It connects traditional crafts with nature. Cadalso de los Vidrios owes its name to the large glass factories that were found in town, which reached their height in the 16th and 17th centuries. As you leave the town centre, you'll find the Ruta de la Peña. This landscape is what makes Cadalso de los Vidrios a splendid natural botanic garden of incomparable value.



East Way

The Camino de Levante starts in Valencia and connects to the Vía de la Plata in Zamora. Pilgrims from all over the Mediterranean used to disembark in Valencia.

San Martín de Valdeiglesias Stage

Don't miss La Coracera Castle in San Martín de Valdeiglesias, which you can visit on your own or on a guided tour. From the tower, you can see the Sierra de Gredos mountain range, the countryside and the vineyards planted by the monks of the nearby monastery.

Take a break on Madrid's most popular beach. The San Juan Reservoir, also popularly known as "Madrid's beach", is found in the municipalities of San Martín de Valdeiglesias, El Tiemblo, Cebreros and Pelayos de la Presa.

In this stage, it's a good idea to pay a visit to the wineries in the Sierra Oeste. The Vinos de Madrid Designation of Origin (D.O.) sub-area of San Martín de Valdeiglesias comprises the municipalities of Cadalso de los Vidrios, Cenicientos, Colmenar del Arroyo, Chapinería, Navas del Rey, Pelayos de la Presa, Rozas de Puerto Real, San Martín de Valdeiglesias and Villa del Prado. Wines from this sub-area use grenache grapes to make red wine and a local grape variety – albillo real – to make white wine.



Information of interest

CHURCHES

- Royal Parish Church of St James and St John the Baptist
C/ Santiago 24, 28013 Madrid
- Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady
Plaza Ruiz Gutiérrez s/n, 28770 Colmenar Viejo

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

- Manzanares El Real Tourist Information Centre
C/ del Cura 5, 28410 Manzanares El Real
+34 91 878 01 96
www.manzanareselreal.org
- Navacerrada Municipal Tourist Information Centre
C/ Prado Jerez 20, 28491 Navacerrada
+34 91 856 00 06
www.aytonavacerrada.org
- Torremocha de Jarama Tourist Information Centre
C/ Torrearte 3, 28189 Torremocha de Jarama
+34 91 868 36 82
www.torremochadejarama.es
- Torrelaguna Tourist Information Centre
Plaza Mayor 8, 28180 Torrelaguna
+34 636 614 872 / +34 91 843 14 03 / +34 91 843 00 10
www.turismo.torrelaguna.es
- Soto del Real Information Centre
Plaza de la Villa 11, 28791 Soto del Real
+34 91 847 60 04
www.ayto-sotodelreal.es/rutas
- San Martín de Valdeiglesias Tourist Information Centre
Plaza del Castillo s/n, 28680 San Martín de Valdeiglesias
+34 91 861 13 08
www.sanmartindevaldeiglesias.es

- Cadalso de los Vidrios Tourist Information Centre
C/ Real, 52, 28640 Cadalso de los Vidrios, Madrid
+34 91 864 09 12
oficinadeturismocadalso@gmail.com
https://oficinadeturismocadalso.jmdofree.com/
- Cenicientos Tourist Information Centre
C/ de la Iglesia, 17, 28650 Cenicientos, Madrid
+34 91 864 26 60
www.cenicientos.es

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

- La Pedriza Visitor Information Centre
Camino de la Pedriza s/n, 28410 Manzanares El Real
+34 91 853 99 78
www.parquenacionalsierragadarrama.es
- Fuenfría Valley Visitor Information Centre
Ctra. de Las Dehesas km 2, 28470 Cercedilla
+34 91 852 22 13
www.parquenacionalsierragadarrama.es

TOWN COUNCILS

- Redueña Town Council
Plaza de la Villa, 2, 28721 Redueña
+34 91 843 32 30
redueña@madridsierranorte.com
www.turismoredueña.com
- San Martín de Valdeiglesias Town Council
Concejalía de Turismo
Plaza Real, 1, 28680 Madrid
Tlf: +34 91 861 13 08
Mov.: 670 640 313
ayuntamiento@sanmartindevaldeiglesias.es