



Pantano de San Juan

Water Tourism in the Madrid Region

This brochure is prepared in accordance with environmental sustainability measures ISO 9001, ISO 14,001, ISO OR PEFC, ECF (Chlorine Free) and ISO 18,001

Infographic Symbols

- Ecotourism, active tourism and nature tourism
- Water Tourism
- Family Get Aways
- Viewpoint
- Old Hydraulic Structure
- Accommodation (Hotel, hostel, holiday let)
- Garden / Historical Source
- Birdwatching
- Hiking
- Activities and Water Sports
- Archaeological Sites

Download the Tourism App for the Community of Madrid



www.turismomadrid.es
www.madrural.com
www.comunidad.madrid/servicios/urbanismo-medio-ambiente

Discover how to navigate the Madrid Region in an environmentally conscious way:
<https://www.crtm.es/>
www.ciclamadrid.es

Photography by:
Front page: © Amador Toril
© Paconi (CC)
© Belén Imaz
© Rafael Abad

© Photographic archive of Dirección General de Turismo y Hostelería de la Comunidad de Madrid

Legal deposit code: M-12553-2024
Publication year: 2024



Authorized bathing area

- | Sierra Oeste | Sierra Norte | Sierra de Guadarrama | Vegas y Alcarria |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Santa María de la Alameda-Valdequemada | 5. Rascafría - Pinilla del Valle | 10. Upper Manzanares River Basin Regional Park | 16. Estremera |
| 2. Aldea del Fresno - Villamantilla | 6. San Mamés - Somosierra | 11. Guadalix de la Sierra reservoir | 17. Fuentidueña de Tajo y Villamanrique de Tajo |
| 3. San Martín de Valdeiglesias - Pelayos de la Presa | 7. Buitrago del Lozoya, Cervera de Buitrago | 12. Water Route (Moralzarzal) | |
| 4. Navas del Rey | 8. Patones, Torremocha de Jarama | 13. Majalespino Reservoir | |
| | 9. El Berruoco Water and Quarrying Museum | 14. El Valle de la Barranca | |
| | | 15. Molino de la Hoz Reservoir | |

Water Tourism

These are a series of activities that place water at the centre of the visitor experience. These include hiking routes following rivers in the depths of the Madrid mountains, inland beaches with a blue flag and water sports such as canoeing or sailing.

Explore Madrid's waters. From north to south and from east to west, you will see great contrasting landscapes. These include landscapes perfect for science fiction formed by ravines, green and shady river paths, waterfalls with impressive drops into springs and large spaces where you can spend the day. You will also get to see the region's rich cultural and astronomical heritage.

Water is a significant tourist attraction, with beaches, rivers, hydraulic constructions, waterfalls and bodies of water appealing to visitors with their natural beauty and the opportunity to enjoy nature to the full. But we must not forget that this is a finite natural resource that must be protected. The full potential of responsible tourism is realised when we can reconcile the enjoyment derived from it with respect for our water resources.

In our region, there are five officially registered bathing areas, where water quality is monitored periodically throughout the summer. The following bathing areas are monitored for water quality: Las Presillas, Los Villares, El Muro, Virgen de la Nueva and Playa del Alberche.



< Cofio River Route. Photo: Esetena

> Pantano de San Juan. Photo: El Equipo

Sierra Oeste

Inland beaches



San Martín de Valdeiglesias - Pelayos de la Presa
The region boasts fourteen beaches and 50 kilometres of coastline... Yes, you are in Madrid. You're in the heart of Sierra Oeste. The area offers a variety of activities, including swimming, sailing, hiking, climbing and relaxation in the sun.

Pantano de San Juan boasts more than 50 kilometres of coastline and 14 beaches. Its formation was made possible by the retention of the waters from the Alberche and Cofio rivers. This is the only reservoir in the Community of Madrid where bathing and motorised water activities are permitted.

The most well-known recreational areas are El Muro (Pelayos de la Presa) and the Virgen de la Nueva area (San Martín de Valdeiglesias). The most popular tourist attractions are the Cerro de San Esteban, situated on the right bank, and La Lancha del Yelmo, located on the left.

El Muro and Virgen de la Nueva are officially registered bathing areas. The latter is the only beach in the Community of Madrid to have been awarded the Blue Flag for inland waters, in recognition of the quality of its waters.

Santa María de la Alameda - Valdemaqueda
Join us at one of the most secluded locations in Madrid to explore two of the region's most hidden rivers: the Aceña and the Cofio, bathing mountain valleys. The weekend trip offers the opportunity to unwind in the picturesque villages of the Sierra Oeste de Madrid. The itinerary includes two mornings dedicated to exploring the area's simple routes, which are ideal for families.

Hornillo Waterfall. The walk takes place in the shade of a well-preserved riverside ecosystem, offering a tranquil setting. The route descends along the impressive Aceña river valley.



Cofio River Route. The Roman Bridge is an ideal location for a unique summer experience, offering a tranquil setting in the shade and surrounded by a pine forest.

Aldea del Fresno - Villamantilla
You are currently located in SPA 56 (Special Protection Area for Birds), which is one of the main bird reserves in the Madrid Region. If you look up, you will see eagles and vultures flying over your head. In addition to resting on the Alberche beach and taking the unusual Pereales River Ravines route, we suggest that you explore the area further by visiting Chapinería to see the El Águila Environmental Education Centre.

Alberche Beach. The sandy river beach, situated at the confluence of the Alberche and Pereales rivers and the Berciana stream, is in the middle of a wooded area of Aldea del Fresno. The area offers convenient parking, making

it an ideal destination for families. Guests can easily store towels and umbrellas, and the water is usually not covered. Please be advised that dogs are permitted on the premises, provided they are kept on a lead and muzzled.

Perales River Gullies The municipality's primary environmental asset is its protected environment, which is integrated into the Encinares de los Alberche SPA and Cofio rivers. The road is good for the first stretch. As we approach the ravines, the route becomes more complex and winding, with dense riverine vegetation.

Navas del Rey
Navas del Rey is situated in a region where numerous streams flow into the Alberche river, as well as the river Cofio, which borders the municipality to the northwest. The latter gives way to the San Juan reservoir, from where we can appreciate the area's unquestionable ecological value.



< The Purgatorio waterfall. Photo: ADESGAM

> Chorrera de San Mamés. Photo: Juan Cesar Jover

>> El Atazar reservoir. Photo: BY 3.0 es (CC)

>>> Ravines of el Pontón de la Oliva. Photo: Luis Antonio Carrasco (CC)



Sierra Norte

The Lozoya River in all its forms.

Rascafría - Pinilla del Valle

Rascafría offers a variety of water-based activities, from the tranquil setting of Las Presillas to the impressive Purgatorio waterfall. For those wishing to enjoy water activities, we would like to recommend the Pinilla reservoir, where you can go canoeing and paddle surfing

The Purgatorio Waterfall is a magnificent waterfall formed by the Aguilón stream due to the narrowing of the rocky walls that channel it. The route, which commences at the Puente del Perdón bridge, also encompasses heritage attractions such as the Real Monasterio de Santa María de El Paular and natural attractions such as the Giner de los Ríos arboretum. This route is suitable for the whole family and can be enjoyed at any time of year.



Las Presillas natural bodies of water. The area offers a variety of recreational activities, including extensive green meadows and a bathing area with natural pools formed by small dams in the river Lozoya. The facilities are fully equipped for bathing and include all the necessary services.

Canoeing in Pinilla reservoir. Pinilla reservoir is situated at the foot of the Sierra de Guadarrama, an idyllic location offering uninterrupted views of the natural park. A tranquil setting offering breath-taking vistas for canoeing and paddle surfing.

San Mamés - Somosierra

A few days of intense activity are ahead.... The first stop is La Chorrera de San Mamés, one of

the most beautiful waterfalls in our region. Following this, take a break in the middle valley of the Lozoya River to immerse yourself in the joys of canyoning from Somosierra.

Chorrera de San Mamés. Medium-level route. The ascent is richly rewarded by the impressive waterfall formed by the Chorro stream. An alternative option would be to make the round trip from San Mamés.

Canyoning. Somosierra canyon is the closest canyoning site to Madrid, offering a variety of abseils and a 9-metre slide. This canyon provides an excellent introduction to this world, with a duration of approximately four hours.

Buitrago del Lozoya - Cervera de Buitrago

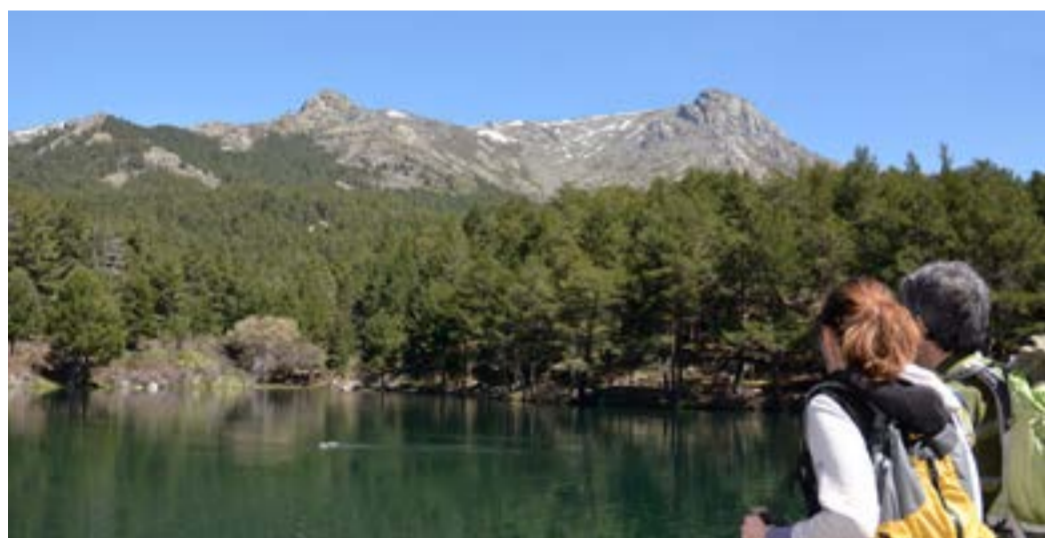
The Lower Lozoya Valley is once again showcasing the Lozoya River in all its natural splen-

dour. Start your day with a unique experience: canoeing along the Lozoya River to see Buitrago from a new angle and its imposing walls. Spend the afternoon relaxing in the large Riosequillo natural pools.

Riosequillo Natural Pool. The Riosequillo natural pool, one of the largest in the Community of Madrid, is near Buitrago del Lozoya, next to the Riosequillo reservoir and surrounded by spectacular scenery. It boasts a capacity for two thousand people in a well-equipped recreational area.

Water Activities at the El Atazar Reservoir.

Twenty-five years ago, Cervera de Buitrago made the strategic decision to diversify its tourism offerings by capitalising on the significant tourist resource that is El Atazar Reservoir. Marina facilities are the only nautical area that allows access to the El Atazar reservoir,



< Valle de la Barranca © ADESGAM

> Tagus River as it passes through Fuentidueña. Photo: Benjamín Núñez González

Water Route (Moralzarzal)

Moralzarzal has a long history of associating waters with healing properties. One example is the “Manantial de la Fe Perseverante” (“Spring of Persevering Faith” in English), which was believed to have healing powers for tuberculosis patients. The popularity of the water led to a significant number of visitors travelling from Madrid to drink it. The first fountains in Moralzarzal were constructed as early as the beginning of the 17th century. One notable example is the “Fuente de los 4 Caños,” which features granite as a key material in this impressive hydraulic work.

Majalespino Reservoir

The Maliciosa reservoir is a popular destination for mountaineers on the traditional route to the Sierra de Guadarrama. The reservoir was created by damming the Peña Jardera stream. Its location and surrounding beauty make it an ideal spot to appreciate the landscape of the Sierra de Guadarrama.

El Valle de la Barranca

Valle de la Barranca is a unique and beautiful location, ideal for hiking and active tourism. The area is a biosphere reserve, regional park, national park, and Natura 2000 network. Valle de la Barranca is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, with water being the main protagonist. The area is characterised by pine trees and riverside forests, which provide habitats for a multitude of animal species.



Sierra de Guadarrama

Nature at its purest

Upper Manzanares River Basin Regional Park

The route, previously known as the “Camino de las Canteras”, has been renamed the “Senda del Agua” (Water Path) due to its status as the pipeline route from the Berceas reservoir to the Cercedilla water tanks. The canalisation can be observed along the route due to erosion. This route offers several panoramic views of the valley and the surrounding mountain villages. The route from Cercedilla along the Camino del Agua is straightforward and most of the route runs through an area with a high tree coverage. The route is approximately 2 hours long and covers an area of 10 kilometres.

Guadalix de la Sierra Reservoir

Guadalix de la Sierra reservoir is part of the Natura 2000 Network and is one of the best locations in the Community of Madrid for ob-



serving aquatic birds. Several roads provide convenient and secure access, including the historic Camino Mendocino, which borders the area.

For decades, the reservoir has also been the site of a sailing club. The main activities on offer at this location are sailing, kayaking, windsurfing and paddlesurfing. These activities provide the perfect opportunity to learn and enjoy this body of water. This location offers an excellent vantage point from which to appreciate another perspective of the Sierra de Guadarrama, particularly from the high mountain passes of Canencia and La Morcuera.

Guadalix has a unique offering for film enthusiasts: the 1953 film Bienvenido Mister Marshall by Luis García Berlanga was filmed entirely on location in the town.

Useful Information

Sierra Oeste

- **San Martín de Valdeiglesias Tourist Information Centre**
Castillo de la Coracera, Plaza del Castillo, s/n, Telephone: 669 95 79 20 / 670640313
<https://www.sanmartindevaldeiglesias.es/municipio/turismo/>
- **Villamantilla Tourist Information Centre**
Plaza de España, 18, Villamantilla, Telephone: 91 813 72 95 - 91 813 75 23
- **Santa María de la Alameda Tourist Information Centre**
Plaza de la Constitución, 1, Santa María de la Alameda 28296 Madrid Telephone: 91 899 90 12 - 91 899 90 81
- **El Águila Environmental Education Centre**
C/ Rodetas, nº 18 28694 Chapinería Telephone: 91 865 20 98
<https://www.comunidad.madrid/centros/centro-educacion-ambiental-aguila>

Sierra Norte

- **Rascafría Tourist Information Centre**
Avda. de El Paular, 3228740 Rascafría Telephone: 91 869 18 04
turismo@rascafria.org
- **Buitrago del Lozoya Tourist Information Centre**
C/ Tahona, 19 28730 Buitrago del Lozoya Telephone: 674 38 12 44 - 918 680 056
turismo@buitrago.org

- **Torremocha de Jarama Tourist Information Centre**
C/ Torrearte, 3. 28189 Torremocha de Jarama Telephone: 91 843 16 96

- **Patones Tourist Information Centre**
Plaza del Llano nº 1 28189 Patones de Arriba Telephone: 91 843 29 06
turismo@patones.net

- **Sierra Norte de Madrid Reservations Centre**
<https://reservas.sierranortemadrid.org/>

Sierra de Guadarrama

- **Sierra de Guadarrama National Park**
Telephone: 918520857
www.parquenacionalsierraguadarrama.es/es/naturaleza/acuaticos
- **Sierra de Guadarrama Reservations Centre**
<https://sierradelguadarrama.com/>

Vegas y Alcarria de Madrid

- **Vegas y Alcarria de Madrid**
<https://vegasyalcariamadrid.com/>

AETAM (Association of Active Tourism and Ecotourism Companies of the Region of Madrid)

- <https://aetam.es/>

Madrural

- <https://www.madrural.com/>

