

TREKKING SELF GUIDED
El Maestrazgo
LABYRINTH OF SILENCE

9 DAYS/8 NIGHT. GRADE: EASY-MODERATE. HALF BOARD.
PRICE: 505 €



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Molinos - Cuevas de Cañart - Montoro de Mezquita - Pitarque - La Cañada de Benatanduz - Cantavieja - Mirambel

LABYRINTH OF SILENCE

Without a doubt, one of the most treasured values of the Maestres Area is its tranquillity and solitary character which often gives the hiker the impression of being the first person to set foot on these paths.

Far from the main roads, the Heart of Spain finds in these lands a true example of abandoned landscape, surroundings and, at the same time, a delicate balance between nature and man. But the landscape is also memories; it reconstructs memories and casts shadows from other times: villages lost in history, kilometers



of walls of dry stone, the remains of the splendor of livestock farming, country houses left to an uncertain fate in the middle of the countryside, innumerable places where the silence speaks. The population density is currently at 2.5 persons per square kilometer, which the European Union defines as deserted.

GOOD REASONS

The territories offer you fabulous opportunities to come into close contact with landscapes and people.

Anybody looking for an intense experience where intimacy and the sensation of being completely isolated are still highly prized.

A very warm welcome.

Great contrasts of landscape



Price includes

- Half board on twin share accommodation.
- Second day transfer.
- Luggage transport.

- Info cart.
- Assistance and travel insurance.
- VAT.

Not included

- Transport to local start point.
- Start and last day lunch.
- Picnics



Difficulty and physical fitness

What they do require is an adventurous spirit and Basic fitness. You can choose to opt out on any given day and go on by car with luggage transfer.

Easy (A)

You would normally walk for 2 to 6 hours during the day. Easy treks are short at altitudes (less than 400 m). Experience is not necessary at this level. Anyone who is in good health can manage an easy grade.



Moderate (B)

A walking day would normally be between 4 to 7 hours long. Altitude gain is 600 m. Experience is not necessary at this level but you need to be in good health and reasonably fit.

The route

The route often follows the route of long distance path GR-8. You will walk on footpaths and drovers routes used for generations by villagers and farmers. The paths are of good quality but rough underfoot in places. There are no vertiginous sections.



Luggage transfer

Your bag is transferred for you daily to your next hotel so that you can enjoy the walking with just a day pack.



Clothing & gear-Climate

Clothing & gear:
Comfortable clothes
(polar, Gore-Tex
jacket, poncho, etc)

walking boots or
training shoes,
rucksack, bottle of
water or camel back,

trekking poles. Don't
forget your solar cream
and hat. In summer the

short trousers and bath
suit are very useful

Climate

The climate, cold and
dry, except in the areas
near the Mediterranean
Sea, is profoundly linked
to the geographic
characteristics of the
province, with a high
elevation. Its location in
the Iberian Mountain
Range is the reason that
approximately 62% of
its territory is above 1000
meters elevation, in some
zones reaching 2.000 m.

It is, then a Mediterranean
climate of mid-sized
mountains/continental
Mediterranean. This
means contrasts in
temperature depending
on:



- The elevation
- The time of the day,
on the same day
- Exposure: sunny or
shady zones

Generally speaking, we
can say that:

In winter, the most
extreme minimum
temperature can reach
20 degrees below zero,
although normally the
temperature oscillates
between -4 to 13 above
zero.

Springs are mild with
sunny mornings and
cool afternoons when
the sun sets. The

temperatures range
from 18 to 22 degrees
Celsius.

The warmest months
extend from mid-June
until almost the end of
August with
temperatures that can
reach 38 degrees in the
sun. This temperature is
milder at higher
elevations (above 1000
meters), in the evening
and of course, near the
sea. September and
October are very similar
to April and May,
although cooler and less
sunny.

Rain

In general, they are
scant, with the most
rainfall in the months

of April and May and
at the end of October
and November. In
summer there may be
heat storms at the end
of the day. In some
cases, these are brief
but torrential.



In any case, rainfall
ranges from 400 mm in
the lower zones
(Beceite, Molinos,
Montoro) to 800 in the
highest (Villarluengo,
Ares, Cantavieja).



Accommodation

Our accommodation has been especially chosen to give you an authentic experience of the real rural Spain. All are government registered and are located in villages, with one in a small town. They are a mixture of small rural hotels and Casa Rurales, these are old buildings that have been converted for tourist accommodation. Dinner is included every night (wine included) in the hotel or a local restaurant. All rooms feature a bath or shower, and W.C.

Programme

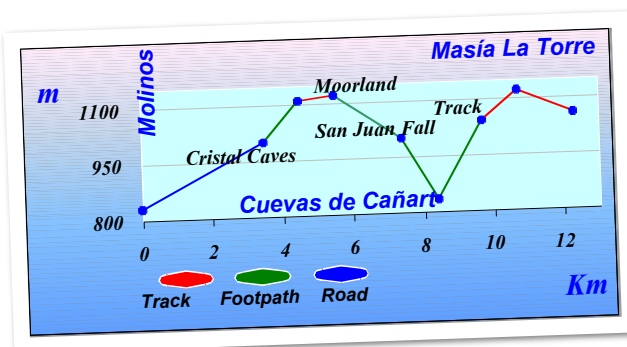
Day 1st: Meet up in Molinos:

Welcome. Explore its gothic little square and church (15th century). Accommodation and dinner.

Day 2nd. Molinos-Cuevas de Cañart-Masía La Torre:

Breakfast at 9:00 h.

Hike up to the Templar village of Cuevas de Cañart follow GR 8. Visit to the Crystal Caverns (Grutas de Cristal). Lunch and visit the village.



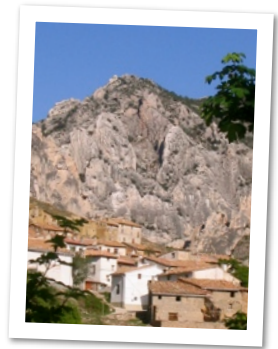
ALTITUDE +: 576 m.
ALTITUDE -: 346 m.
TOTAL TIME: 7 h. 30'
(includes Cristal Cave visit)
REAL TIME: 5 h.
DISTANCE: 12,5 Km.
DIFICULTY: A EASY

After leaving Cuevas de Cañart ascent with excellent views. End up beside Masía de La Torre polje. Twenty minutes transfer to Molinos.

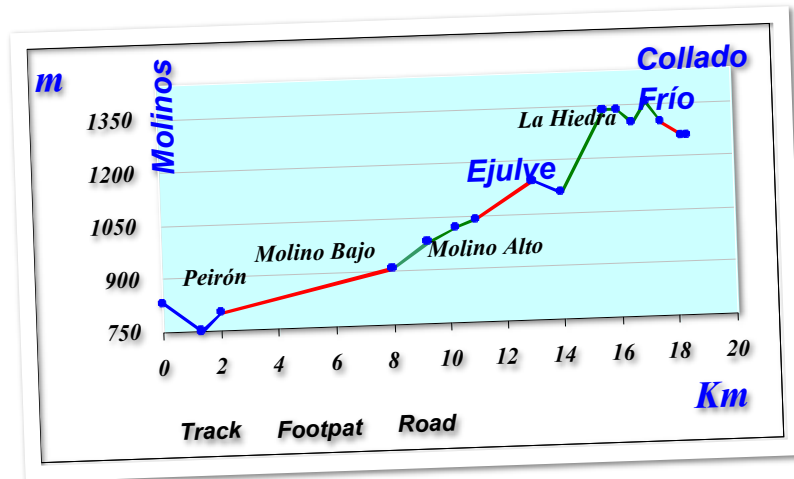
Dinner and night in Molinos.

Day 3rd Molinos-Ejolve-Montoro de Mezquita

On foot to Montoro de Mezquita village (10 inhabitants, above Vallore cliffs). Breakfast at 9:00 h. This is the transition between the low and the high Maestrazgo: The lonely hillsides are covered densely with thyme, rosemary, lavender, and mixed forests of pine and oak. Walk through the ravine of the river Guadalopillo to Ejolve village, with its old mills of flour now in ruins.



Dinner and night in Montoro de Mezquita.



ALTITUDE + : 633 m.
ALTITUDE - : 250 m.
TOTAL TIME: 6 h.
REAL TIME: 4h 45 min.
DISTANCE: 19 km.
DIFFICULTY: A/B EASY-MODERATE

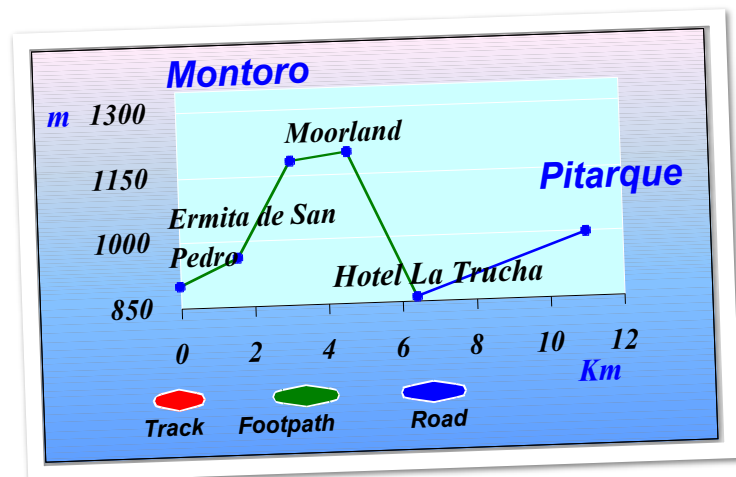
Day 4th Montoro de Mezquita

Free day in Montoro in order to enjoy its peace and scenery. Facultative walking day.

Dinner and night in Montoro de Mezquita

Day 5th. Montoro de Mezquita-Pitarque.

Breakfast at 9:00 h. The walk starts on the pilgrimage route to the Hermitage of San Pedro de la Roqueta, an ascent the local villagers committed to make after receiving rain after 7 years of drought. You cross mountain ranges running parallel with each other and intersected with little valleys and streams, with short but steep ascents and descents. You will feel engulfed with solitude. Labyrinth of silence You reach San Pedro de la Roqueta on 40 minutes. Then you find strong ascent until moor land. Climb down to the bottom of the Pitarque Valley. Carry on easy stage alter



ALTITUDE + : 531 m.; ALTITUDE - : 340 m.; TOTAL TIME: 5 h.
REAL TIME: 4 h.;DISTANCE: 11 km.DIFFICULTY: A EASY

La Trucha Hotel towards Pitarque village. Excellent sceneries. Dinner and night in Pitarque.

Day 6th. Pitarque-La Cañada de Benatanduz.

Hike along the River Pitarque Ravine through a shady Mediterranean forest (. Get Pitarque Source after 1h.20 minutes.

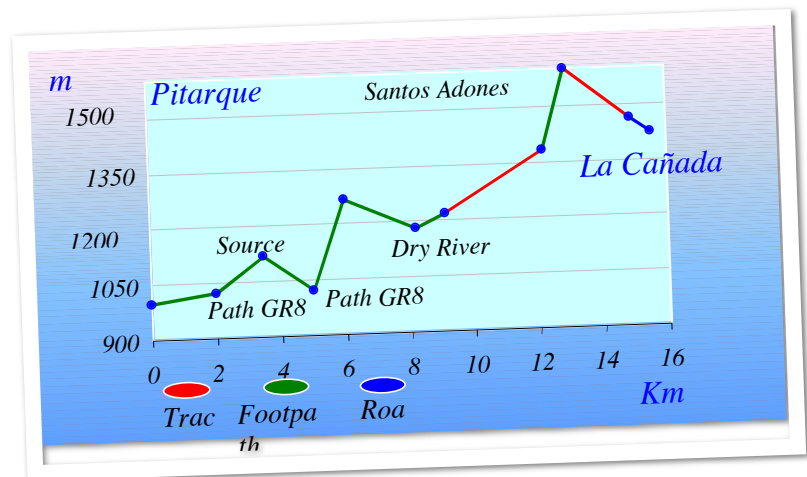


Pitarques path is a shady gully (cliff) to the source of the river Pitarque. Maples, walnuts, hazel trees constitute one of best Mediterranean river bank forest of the area. In their journey the walker will find a small power station with its defensive outpost, which remember of the attacks of the maquis - resistance against Franco which fought from

1949 to 1954.

After Pitarque Source come back and follow GR8 in strong ascent (40 min) to the plateau. Go on towards de Santos Adones top 1625 m. You can see La Cañada village from here.

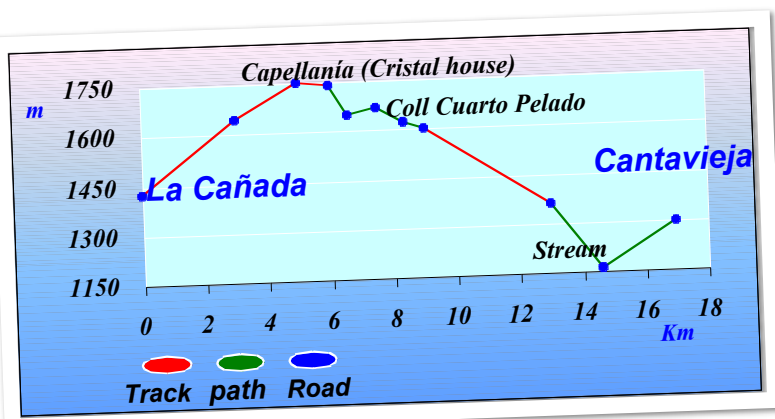
Dinner and night in La Cañada de Benatanduz



ALTITUD + : 787 m., ALTITUD - : 223 m.; TIEMPO TOTAL: 6h 30min
TIEMPO REAL: 5 h. 45'; DISTANCIA: 15,5 km; DIFICULTAD: A/B
Moderate

Day 7th La Cañada de Benatanduz-Cantavieja.

On foot from Cañada de Benatanduz to Cantavieja. Visit to Cantavieja, a Templar village and stronghold of the soldier Ramón Cabrera, The Tiger of El Maestrazgo



The High Maestrazgo with altitude about 1800 m. GR 8. Leave the village towards Capellania top 1725 m and 1h easy ascent. Go on to Cuarto Pelado. Landscape is painted by pine forest and alpine grass. On the other hand it is the most monumental area in the district, in which we find six municipalities declared of Historical-artistic interest. Towns highlighted by their medieval architecture

and by the indelible prints that history has left in them.

Dinner and night in Cantavieja..

**ALTITUD + : 467 m.; ALTITUD - : 590 m.; TIEMPO TOTAL: 6,5 h.
TIEMPO REAL: 5 h.; DISTANCIA: 17,5 km.; DIFICULTAD: A/B**



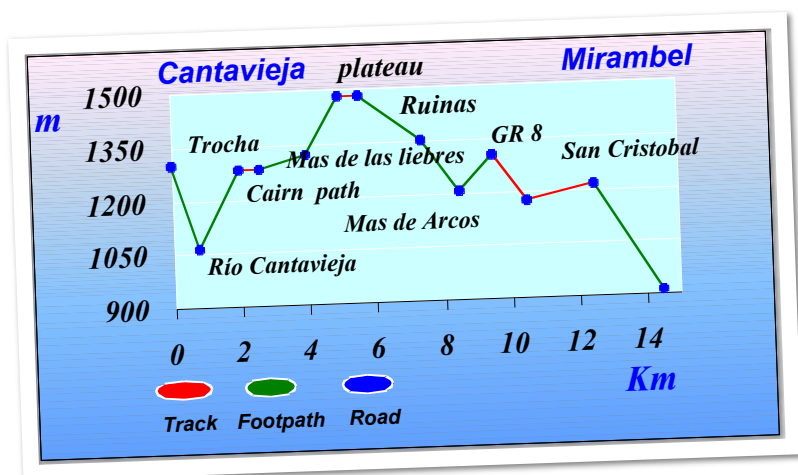
Day 8th Cantavieja-Mirambel.

Breakfast at 9:00 h.

On foot to the walled village of Mirambel GR8 and PR (yellow and white).

The landscape this day is devoid of wood or forest as they were cut down in the XVI century to provide more pasture for sheep as the area was thriving economically from wool. Your destination is Mirambel, a village full of beautiful medieval stone buildings, decorated with bold wooden eaves, a village which has often been used as a film set

Dinner and night in Mirambel.



**DESNIVEL + : 562 m.; DESNIVEL - : 950 m; TIEMPO TOTAL: 5h 45 min.
TIEMPO REAL: 4h.45 min. ; DISTANCIA: 15 km.; DIFICULTAD: A/B
Fácil/Moderado**

Day 9th Cantavieja-Mirambel

Transfer to bus connection. Farewell