

CYCLING SELF GUIDED

# El Maestrazgo CYCLING TRAILS

8 DAYS/7 NIGHT. GRADE: MODERATE. HALF BOARD.  
PRICE: 595 €

tel: 00 34 636 520 746

[www.maestrex.es](http://www.maestrex.es)

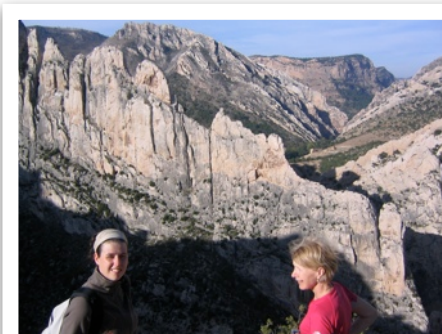
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*Cañada de Verich - Cuevas de Cañart -  
Montoro  
de*

*Mezquita - La Cañada de  
Benatanduz - Cantavieja -  
Morella*

## MAESTRAZGO CYCLING TRAILS



### 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*



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.

### Price includes

- Half board on twin share accommodation.
- Hybrid bike.
- Luggage transport.

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

### Not included

- Transport to local start point.
- Start and last day lunch.
- Picnics
- Vehicle support non whilst riding



## 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)

Middle mountain road itineraries, with few travellers and never longer than 45 km per day. Some sections, between 3 and 6 km, may be level 2. No height changes greater than 300 m.

### Moderate (B)

Middle mountain road itineraries, with few travellers and never longer than 70 km per day. Some short sections may be level challenging. No height changes greater than 600 m.

### Challenging (C)

For any ride at this level, fitness is important. C-grade requires confidence in your own ability and physical condition. Some short sections are gradual climbs and descents be level challenge.

### The route

Moderate B and some sections C.

The suggested cycling mainly follows very quiet tarmac roads, past villages, farms, forest areas, very contrasted landscapes. Maestrazgo is a middle Mediterranean mountain range, so be prepared for some ascents and descents along the way.



### Luggage transfer

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



## Clothing & gear-Climate

Clothing & gear:  
Comfortable clothes  
(polar, Gore-Tex

jacket, etc) r training  
shoes, rucksack, bottle  
of water or camel back.

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



(Cañada de Verich, Molinos, Cuevas Cañart) to 800 in the highest (Villarluengo,, 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.

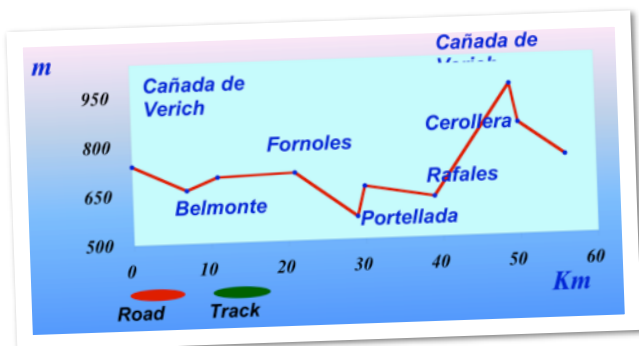
## Program

### Day 1st: Meet up in Cañada de Verich:

Transfer to village of Cañada de Verich. Welcome. Meeting with local contact to explain last details or maybe hire the bike.

### Day 2nd. Cañada de Verich tour.

Cycle into the region of Bajo Aragón-Matarranya, through lonely villages in the middle of Mediterranean forest. Enjoy Belmonte de San José and Rafales villages. Return to Cañada de Verich.

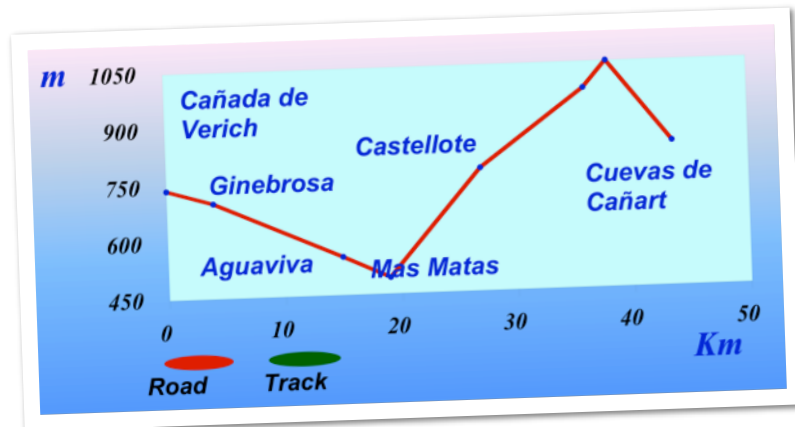


**ALTITUDE +: 476 m.**  
**ALTITUDE -: 476 m.**  
**TOTAL TIME : 6 h.**  
**REAL TIME : 3 h. 45'**  
**DISTANCE: 56 Km.**  
**DIFFICULTY: Moderate**

Dinner and night in Cañada de Verich.

## Day 3rd Cañada de Verich-Cuevas de Cañart

Leave Cañada de Verich between the olive and almond groves. Follow to the south towards Castellote. Time to stop and visit the templar castle. Ending up and relax on the end: wellness-spa in Cuevas de Cañart. You will feel engulfed with solitude. Labyrinth of silence.

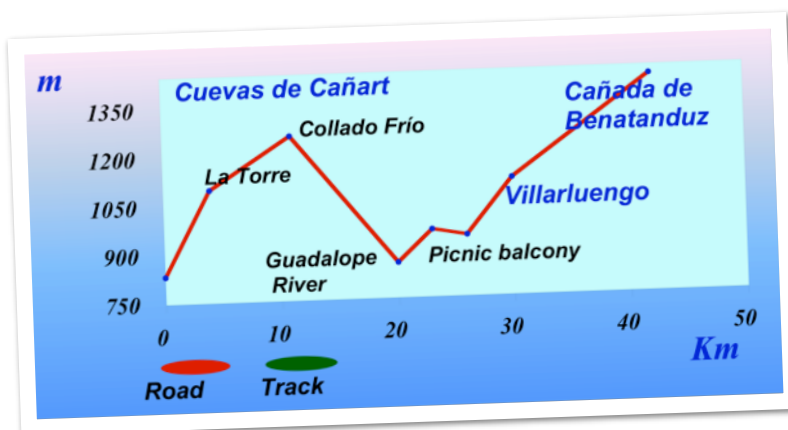


**ALTITUDE +: 556 m.**  
**ALTITUDE -: 461 m.**  
**TOTAL TIME : 5 h.**  
**REAL TIME : 3 h. 30**  
**DISTANCE: 44 Km.**  
**DIFFICULTY: Moderate**

Dinner and night in Cuevas de Cañart.

## Day 4th Cuevas de Cañart-Cañada de Benatanduz

The entrance of Maestrazgo region. Climb up to the moorland landscape and karstic polje. The way goes up and down passing beside Montoro Rocks. Excellent sceneries. Optional: ride to Pitarque crossing the gorge of Pitarque river. Follow to Villarluengo perched at the cliff and eventually reaching Cañada de Benatanduz.



Dinner and night in Cañada de Benatanduz

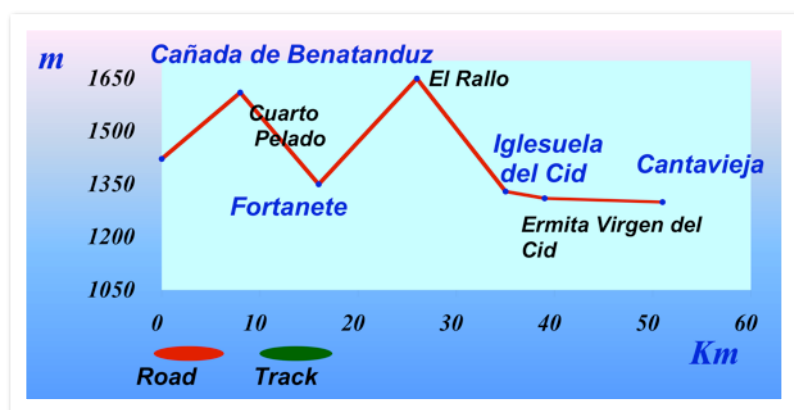
**ALTITUDE +: 988 m. ALTITUDE -: 400 m. TOTAL TIME: 6 h.**  
**REAL TIME: 4h 45 min. DISTANCE: 42 km. DIFFICULTY: Moderate**

## Day 5th. Cañada de Benatanduz - Cantavieja.



A gradual climb to Cuarto Pelado mountain pass among pine forest. Descend to Fortanete village and again ascend to the highest point Tarayuela 1.738 m. Continuing to Iglesiasuela del Cid (The Cid country). The villages' wealth came from XVI century and is reflected in its streets and in the many noble houses of Aragonese style with their elegant, beautifully carved

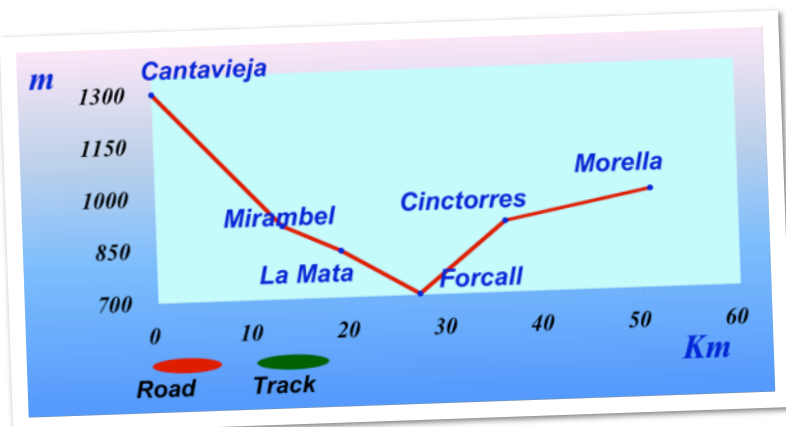
wooden eaves. Enjoy spectacular views to Cantavieja.



**ALTITUDE + : 488 m.**  
**ALTITUDE - : 611 m.**  
**TOTAL TIME: 6 h.**  
**REAL TIME: 4h 45 min.**  
**DISTANCE: 51 km.**  
**DIFFICULTY: Moderate**

Dinner and night in Cantavieja

## Day 6th. Cantavieja-Morella.



**ALTITUDE + : 282 m.**  
**ALTITUDE - : 596 m.**  
**TOTAL TIME: 5h 15min**  
**REAL TIME: 4 h.**  
**DISTANCE: 51 km.**  
**DIFFICULTY: Moderate**

beautiful medieval stone buildings. Cantavieja valley take us to the beautiful town of Morella.

Dinner and night in Morella



### *Day 7th Morella.*

Rest day. Visit the walled Morella. Explore the narrow winding medieval streets and beautiful architecture. Shopping if interested in. Optional: cycling La Tinença de Benifassa.

Dinner and night in Morella.



### *Day 8th Morella.*

Transfer to bus connection or car. Farewell.