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# Ciclosenda del Tajo



*Reacquaint yourself with the Tagus*



# Higuera de Albalat - Villarreal de San Carlos

Stage  
**03**

59,7  
km



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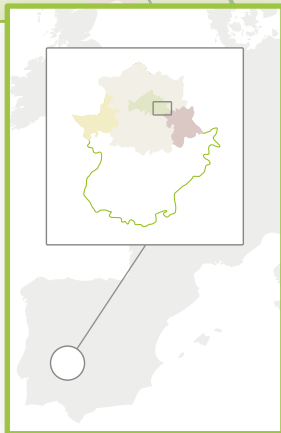
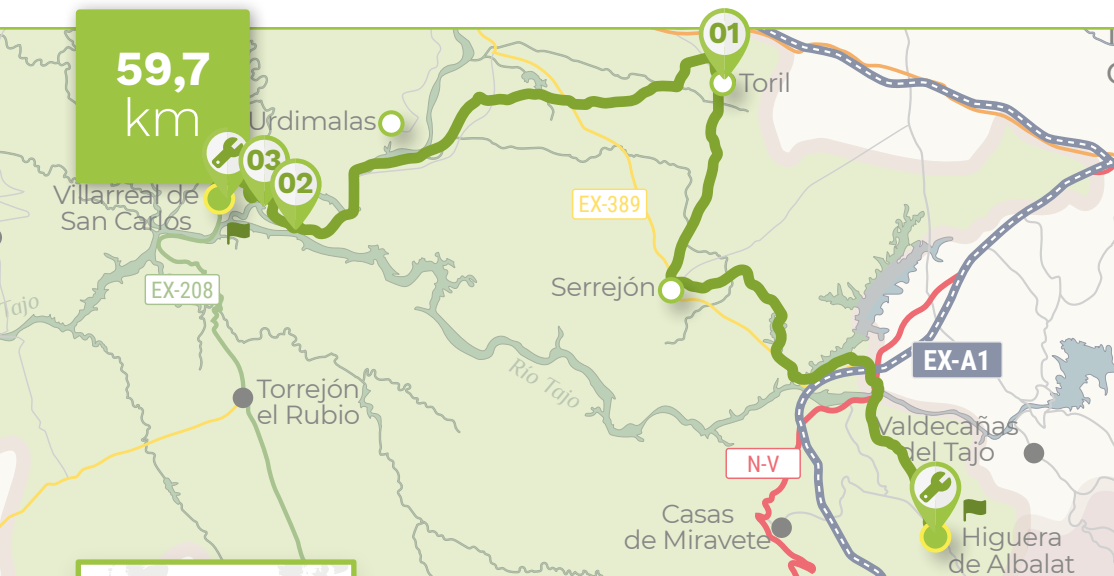


# Higuera de Albalat - Villarreal de San Carlos

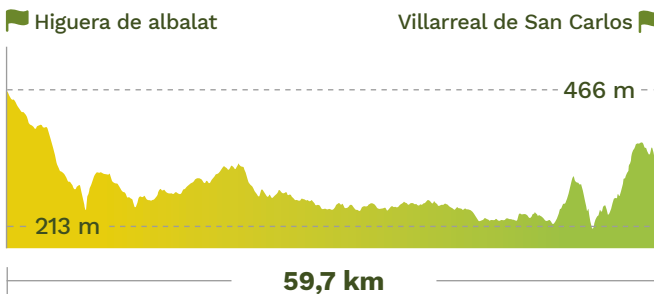
## Ciclosenda del Tajo

### Stage 03

 Estimated time: <b>5h 10min</b>	Route type: <b>Linear</b>
 Minimum altitude: <b>213 m</b>	 Maximum altitude: <b>466 m</b>
 Elevation gain: <b>758 m</b>	 Elevation loss: <b>-909 m</b>
 Average gradient: <b>2,3 %</b>	Difficulty: <b>Difficult</b>



- 01. C.I. Pórtico de Monfragüe**
- 02. Mirador Portilla del Tiétar**
- 03. Mirador La Báscula**
-  **Bike repair kit**



The first section of this stage is characterised by holm oaks and cork oaks which silhouette the pasturelands of Extremadura. Further on, the reservoirs join the landscape defining one of the routes where the untamed nature is more present, particularly thanks to the National Park and the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve, where much of the route runs under the watchful eye of the great birds that fly over it.

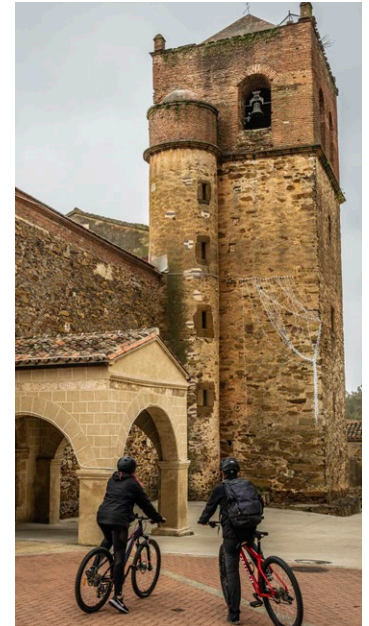
### What will you find on this route?

We leave Higuera de Albalat, but not before visiting its *Centro de Actividades sobre las Abejas y la Biodiversidad*, CASAB (Centre of Activities on Bees and Biodiversity, CASAB). Immersed in the pasturelands of Extremadura colonised by cork oaks and holm oaks, we will find the Tagus River. To cross the river we must cross the Albalat Bridge.

A few kilometres to the north is **Serrejón**, located between the plains of Campo Arañuelo and the mountains of Monfragüe. Once in Serrejón, it is possible to visit the San Ildefonso Church, whose construction began in the 15th century and was not completed until the 18th century. In the vicinity we will also find the *Mirador de los Canchos* viewpoint, from where to observe the majestic natural surroundings, and the Bermeja Cave, whose interior still preserves valuable cave paintings.

On the way to **Toril**, the next stop, the landscape combines wetlands and pasturelands. In Toril, the San Blas Chapel and the “Pórtico de Monfragüe” Biosphere Reserve Interpretation Centre, an excellent place to organise a visit to the territory, stand out. The route continues along dirt trails interspersed with roads.

**Villarreal de San Carlos** is the end of this third stage. Among sites to visit are the Socorro Chapel or the Monfragüe National Park Interpretation Centre.



### Monfragüe National Park and Biosphere Reserve

Declared Biosphere Reserve in 2003 and National Park in 2007, Monfragüe is one of the most extensive and best preserved examples of Mediterranean forest, which combines with continental and Atlantic fragments, bringing together a very diverse nature among which endangered species such as the Iberian lynx can be found.

Furthermore, this unique reserve is an extraordinary sanctuary for the sighting of Spanish imperial eagles, black storks, vultures and other large birds.

