



GR¹ 167 SIERRA NORTE DE GUADALAJARA (NORTH MOUNTAIN RANGE OF GUADALAJARA): BETWEEN THE SORBE AND THE BORNOVA RIVERS

1st PANEL 1 OF GR 167 IN MAJADAS DEL BORNOVA (BORNOVA SHEEPFOLDS) (PRADENA)

GR 167 : BETWEEN THE SORBE AND THE BORNOVA RIVERS

The path runs through surroundings of singular beauty, through the valleys to the north of the *Alto Rey*, to the south of the *Sierra de Pela* and the eastern part of the *Ayllón Massif*, following old bridle paths. *La Arquitectura negra*² (black architecture) is the most visible human trace of the ethnographic and cultural heritage that we find from *Prádena de Atienza* to *Cantalojas* -showing a strong imprint of the pastoral and agricultural past, with enclosures, mixcrop, threshing floors, huts and mills- but not the only one, as jewels such as the Romanesque church of *Santa Coloma de Albendiego*, other temples and houses on the mountains, also enrich the route.



Nature is enhanced by wide horizons where rock formations and vegetation create different landscapes, passing through alder groves, meadows, thickets and forests. We enter the upper basins of the rivers *Sorbe* and *Borno*, along paths that pass through *Junta de los Ríos* (the point where the two rivers merge), and their slate and quartzite gorges, from one end of *Sierra de Alto Rey* to the other. As the region is sparsely populated, herds of goats in *Prádena*, sheep in *Albendiego* or cows in the meadows and pastures of the *Condemios* villages, *Valdepinillos* or *Cantalojas*, will often be the only encounters on the route when leaving the villages. The highlands of the *Sierra Norte de Guadalajara* will not leave you indifferent.

¹ **GR routes** are a network of long-distance footpaths in Europe, mostly in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain. The abbreviation GR stand for Grande Randonnée. Many GR routes make up part of the longer European walking routes which cross several countries. Trails are blazed with characteristic marks consisting of a white stripe above a red stripe. These appear regularly along the route, especially at places like forks or crossroads.

² **Black architecture** is a type of popular architecture that uses slate as the main construction element. It is a technique traditionally used in some Spanish areas such as *Sierra de Ayllón* and *Sierra and de Alto Rey*, where slate is an abundant material and, moreover, in the past, due to the precarious means of communication, where no alternative materials were available.

We start next to the river *Bornova*, opposite the old shepherds' village of *Majadas del Bornova* and descend through its wild valley. We cross the river on a wooden footbridge and on the right bank we reach *Junta de los Ríos* (the confluence of the rivers), the lowest point of the route at an altitude of 1040 m. We go up the valley of the river *Pelagallinas*, passing through *Prádena de Atienza*, a beautiful village with black architecture in the valley dominated by the *Alto Rey*. Upstream we reach *La Cueva del Oso* (the Bear's Cave) and then head north through *Prado de las Anchuras* (Anchuras meadow) towards *Albendiego*.



Changing valleys between pine woods we cross the river *Condemios* just before it joins the *Bornova*, which we now go up past the mill of *Callejón*, then near the church of *Santa Coloma*, and in *Albendiego* we head west towards *Condemios*. Along *La Ren de los Perez* path, backed by red sandstone, we reach the border of *Condemios de Abajo*, which we reach between wasteland and wooded copses. In *Arrenes de las Puentes* we cross the streams that form the *Condemios* river next to the pine grove and through meadows we reach *Condemios de Arriba*.

MIDE³data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 960 m.
- Descent: 739 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 2
- Amount of effort required: 4
- Route length: 24.5 km.
- Time: 7 h 55' / **brisk walking 6 h 30'**

³ **M.I.D.E.** is an acronym used in hiking to describe the level of difficulty of a route. It was created in 2002 by the Spanish Government of Aragon and gives information on a scale from 1 to 5 (in increasing level of difficulty) about:

- Medium: Risk level of the route
- Itinerary: Level of signposting of the itinerary
- Displacement (movement): Difficulty of the route- Effort: Duration of the route

We leave *Condemios de Arriba* towards *La Dehesa*, passing by the sculptures made of dry trunks of Scots pine, we enter the pine forest head for the hill that separates the municipalities of *Condemios* and *Galve de Sorbe* and through *Peña del Abanto* (Abanto crag) to reach *La Común*, from where we can see the peaks of the *Ayllón Massif*, the *Alto Rey*, *Urbión* and even the *Moncayo*, being the highest point of the route at 1697 m.



We pass from the upper basin of the *Bornova* to that of the *Sorbe*, descending through pine forests to *Valdepinillos*, a mountain village that overlooks the *Ocejón*, on the other side of the *Sorbe* valley. In this village we change direction to follow the *Sorbe* towards *Cantalojas*, first passing through the ruins of *Mata la Boda* and the slope

over the *Sorbe* valley, the *Sonsaz* and its peaks. Along a track we reach *Junta de los Ríos* (the confluence of the rivers), from where we go up the *Sorbe*'s rough course along the path of the *Sierra* below *Peña del Osar* (Osar Crag) to the mill of *Malecilla* and the *Castillo de Diempures* (Diempures Castle), arriving at *Cantalojas* through wide meadows, bordered to the west by *Tejera Negra*.

MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 1288 m.
- Descent; 1281 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 3
- Amount of effort required: 4
- Route length: 25.8 km.
- Time: 9 h / **brisk walking 7 h 15'**.

Etapa 2 de la GR 167 : 26 km

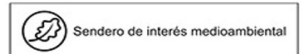


Etapa 1 de la GR 167 : 25 km



VADEO RÍO
En temporadas de lluvias, estos ríos aumentan su curso en exceso. Recomendamos la vuelta en caso de no poder realizar el vadeo con seguridad.

RESPETEN AL GANADO. No te acerques a los mastines, no son perros de compañía y pueden tener reacciones agresivas.
 - Si van hacia ti, no te asustes ni corras. Continúa tu camino, rodeando al ganado. El mastín se irá cuando ya no sienta amenaza.



Teléfono de emergencias **112**

WADING RIVER

In the rainy season, these rivers increase their flow excessively. We recommend the return in case you cannot wade safely.

RESPECT THE CATTLE

Do not approach mastiffs, they are not companion dogs and can have aggressive reactions.

If they come at you, don't panic or run. Continue on your way, surrounding the cattle. The mastiff will leave when he no longer feels threatened.

5th PANEL OF THE GR 167 IN CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA

CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA

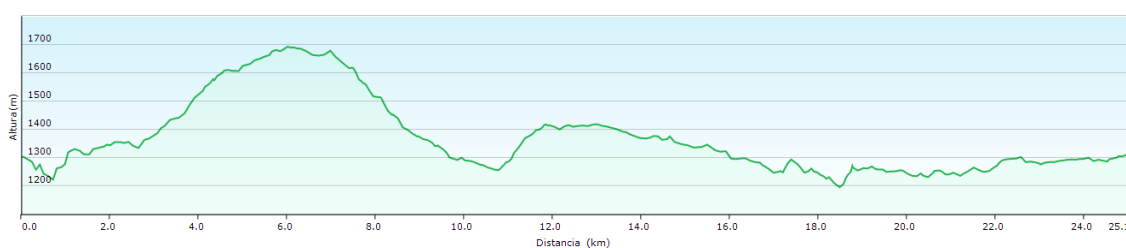
STAGE 2 GR 167 CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA - CANTALOJAS

We leave *Condemios de Arriba* towards *La Dehesa*, passing by the sculptures made of dry trunks of Scots pine, we enter the pine forest to go to the hill that separates the municipalities of *Condemios* and *Galve de Sorbe* and through the *Peña del Abanto* (Abanto crag) to reach *La Común*, a ridge from where we can see the peaks of the *Ayllón Massif*, the *Alto Rey*, *Urbión* and even the *Moncayo*, being the highest point of the route at 1697 m.

We pass from the upper basin of the *Bornova* to that of the *Sorbe*, descending through pine forests to *Valdepinillos*, a mountain village that overlooks the *Ocejón*, on the other side of the *Sorbe* valley. In this village we change direction to follow the *Sorbe* towards *Cantalojas*, first passing through the ruins of *Mata la Boda* and the slope that leads us to the *Sorbe* valley, the *Sonsaz* and its peaks. We then



follow the track to the *Junta de los Ríos*, from where we go up the *Sorbe*'s rough course along the *Sierra* path below *Peña del Osar* (Osar Crag) to the *Malecilla* mill and the *Castillo de Diempures* (Diempures Castle), arriving at *Cantalojas* through wide meadows, with *Tejera Negra* standing out to the west.



MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 1288 m.
- Descent: 1281 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 3
- Amount of effort required: 4
- Route length: 25.8 km.
- Time: 9 h / **brisk walking 7 h 15'**.

6th PANEL OF GR 167 IN VALDEPINILLOS

VALDEPINILLOS

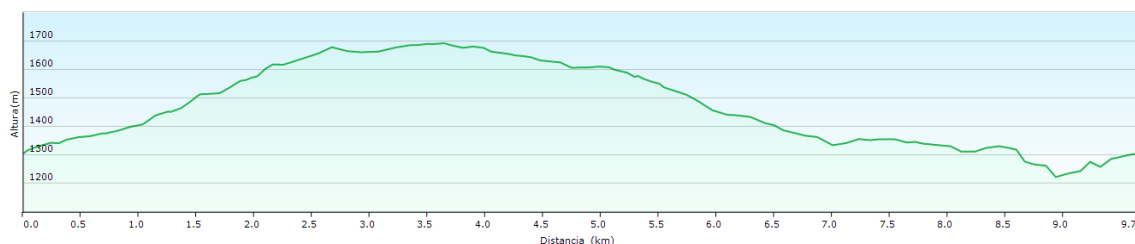
SECTION 2.a GR 167 VALDEPINILLOS - CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA

We climb the steep streets of *Valdepinillos* to take *El Camino Real* (Royal Way) that used to lead to the village before the present road existed. At the second crossroads we follow the path that goes up the hill and then climbs through the pine forest along the southern slope of *Cerrajo* to its pass with *Cerveguilla*. A track takes us near *La Común*, which then goes straight on towards *Condemios* through the forest, but we turn off following the mountain path of *La Común*, the highest point of the route -with 1697 m and wide horizons, with views of the peaks of the *Ayllón Massif*, *Alto Rey*, *Urbión* and even the *Moncayo*- which make this route more attractive as it follows the rocky ridge where the ancestral Scots pine forest reaches, with some extremely beautiful specimens. Following the hill between *Galve* and *Condemios* to *Peña del Abanto* (Abanto Crag), we start the descent through pine woods, at the foothills we return to the forest track until we turn off onto the *La Ruta de las Esculturas* (The Sculpture Route) near *La Majada* stream. After enjoying the carvings in the dry pines and fording the stream, the pine forest opens up as we reach the mill on the plain of *Condemios de Arriba*, a village we reach by road.



MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 531 m.
- Descent: 513 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 3
- Amount of effort required: 3
- Route length: 9.94 km.
- Time: 3 h 55' / **brisk walking 2 h 45'**.

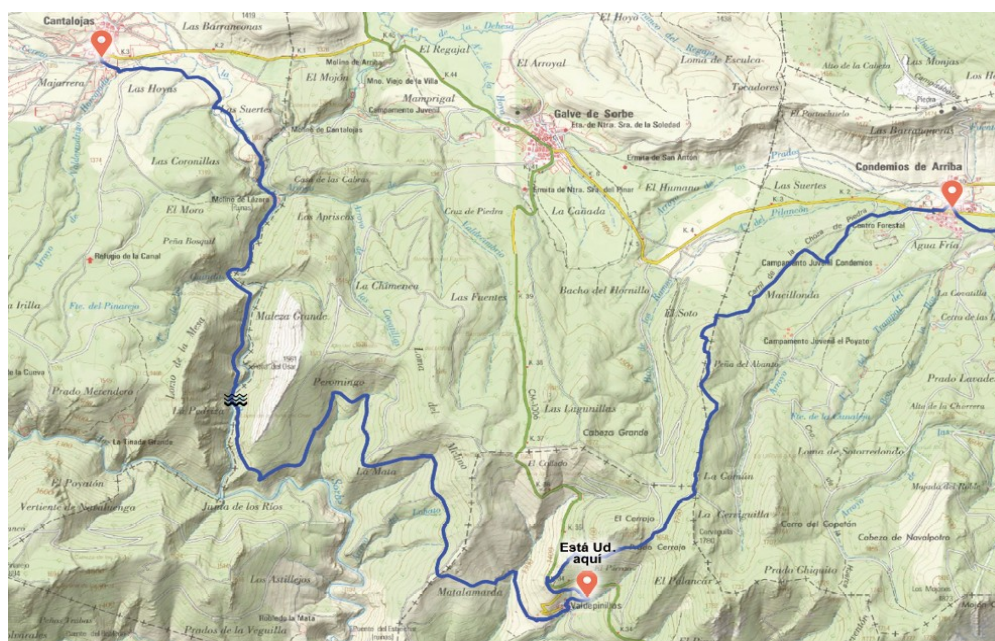
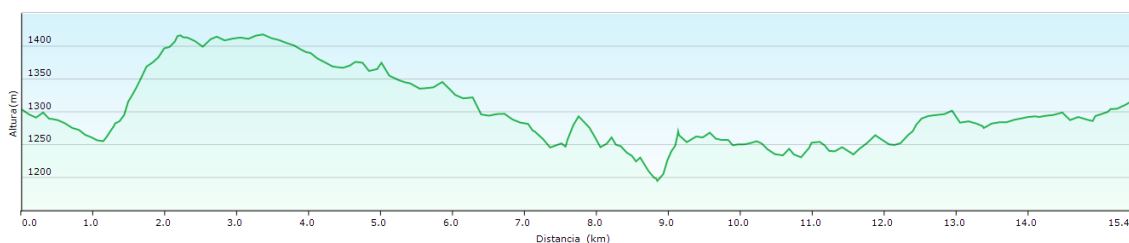


SECTION 2.b GR 167 VALDEPINILLOS - CANTALOJAS.

In *Valdepinillos*, a mountain village facing the *Ocejón*, the path starts its route from the *Sorbe* valley towards *Cantalojas*. It leaves through *La Dehesa* to the west, passing by the ruins of *Mata la Boda*, follows *La Cuesta* (the slope) towards *Baldíos de Valdepinillos* and enters the municipality of *Galve de Sorbe*, overlooking the *Sorbe* and *Sonsaz* valleys, with the peaks of the *Sierra del Robledal* to the west. Along a forest track that passes through the abandoned village of *Peromingo* we reach *Junta de los Ríos* (Confluence of the Rivers), the *Sorbe* and *La Hoz*, from where we go up the *Sorbe*'s rough course along the path of the *Sierra* below *Peña del Osar* (Osar Crag), where we ford the river passing to the bank of *Cantalojas*. After passing the ridge of *Lomo de la Mesa*, at *Umbría de la Casa* we join the GR 167.2 variant which follows the path to *Valverde*. We continue up the beautiful course of the *Sorbe* up to the mill of *Malecilla* and past the ford of the *Horcajada* stream on which *Castillo de Diempures* (Diempures Castle) stands, with easy access from the path. You reach *Cantalojas* through wide meadows, with the village on its plain and the foothills of *Tejera Negra* standing out to the west.

MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 504 m.
- Descent: 497 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 3
- Amount of effort required: 3
- Route length: 15.86 km.
- Time: 5 h / **brisk walking 4 h 30'**.



7th PANEL OF THE GR 167 IN CANTALOJAS

CANTALOJAS

STAGE 2 GR 167 CANTALOJAS - CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA

We leave *Cantalojas* by the stone walkway towards the meadows next to the *Horcajada* stream, after *La Loma del Castillo* (the hill of the Castle) we descend along the beautiful path of the *Sorbe*, towards the path of the *Sierra*, fording the river below *Peña del Osar* (Osar Crag), we leave the closed valley before *Junta de los Rios* (confluence of the rivers). A track passes by the ruins of *Peromingo*, with views of the deep *Sorbe* and the elevations of the *Sierra del Robledal*. After the pass of *Baldíos de Valdepinillos* -through a holm-oak wood- we descend to *Mata la Boda*, an abandoned farmhouse near *Valdepinillos*. Among oak trees and through *La Dehesa*, we reach this mountain village that overlooks the *Ocejón*.



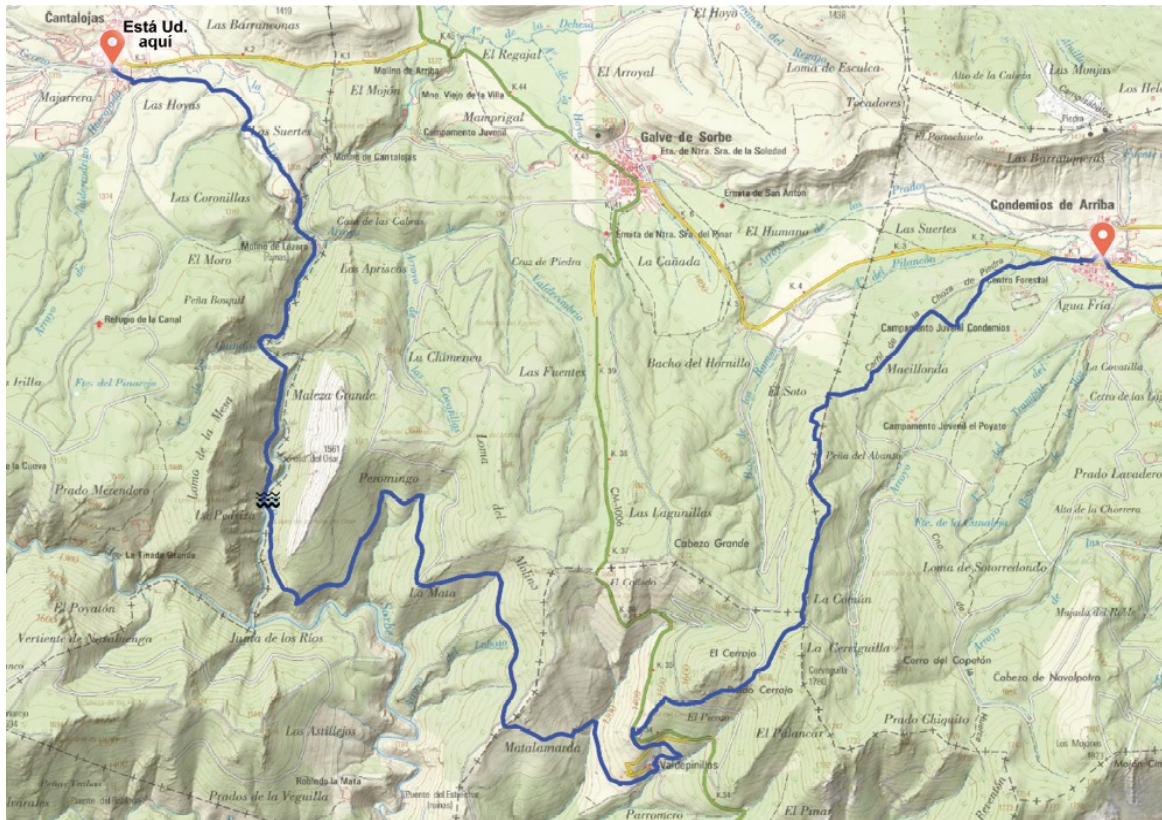
We take *El Camino Real* (The Royal Way) and then go up the path through the pine forest to the *Cerrajo* pass. A track takes us to *La Común*, the highest point of

the route at 1697 m with wide horizons and views of the peaks of the *Ayllón Massif*, *Alto Rey*, *Urbión* and even *Moncayo*. Following the ridge to *Peña del Abanto* (Abanto Crag) we start the descent through pine woods, at the foot of which we follow a forest track until we turn off onto the *La Ruta de las Esculturas* (the sculpture route) next to *La Majada* stream. The pine forest opens up on the plain of *Condemios de Arriba*.

MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 1281 m.
- Descent: 1288 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 3
- Amount of effort required: 4
- Route length: 25.8 km.
- Time: 9 h / **brisk walking 7 h 15'**.



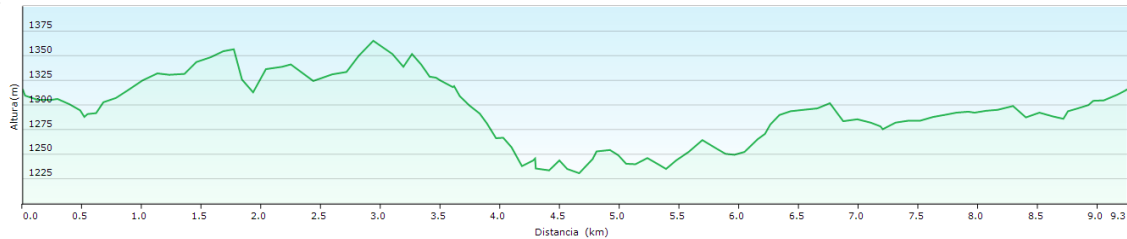


CIRCULAR ROUTE OF THE SORBE RIVER: GR 167.2 - Variant (Cantalojas-Sorbe) - End of Stage 2 (Sorbe-Cantalojas)

We leave *Cantalojas* by the stone footbridge over the *Horcajada* stream, but we go uphill on the GR 167.2 to the southern meadows, following the path of *Valverde*. Down in *Pozo Calderón* the pine forest begins and along the way we enter the high forest. We gain some height in order to look out over the *Tainas de la Mata* at the *Sorbe* valley, dominated by *La Peña del Osar de Galve* (Osar de Galve Crag). We descend along the path between oak trees towards the river, which we reach by crossing the *Guindos* stream, already next to the *Sorbe*. We can look out over the pass of the ridge that descends from the *Lomo de la Mesa* and enjoy the great gorge. We go up the course of the *Sorbe* from *Umbría de las Casas* to the *Malecilla* mill and after the ford of the *Horcajada* stream we go up the hill of *Castillo de Diempures* (Diempures Castle), where it is worth climbing to enjoy one of the best views of the whole *Sierra de Guadalupe*. We continue through the meadows of *Las Suertes*, to head back to *Cantalojas* through the wide meadow next to the stream.

MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 1
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 395 m.
- Descent: 400 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 2
- Amount of effort required: 3
- Route length: 9.5 km.
- Time: 3 h 10' / **brisk walking 2 h 45'**.



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