

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 *Bornova*, 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*.

MIDE³ data:

- 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

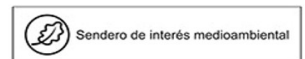


VADEO RÍO

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

RESPECTEN 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

2nd PANEL OF GR 167 IN PRADENA DE ATIENZA

PRÁDENA DE ATIENZA

STAGE 1 GR 167 PRADENA DE ATIENZA - CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA

We start from *Prádena de Atienza*, heading the west behind the church, going up the valley of the *Pelagallinas* river, dominated to the south by the *Alto Rey*. The path takes us to a certain height through a clear but rocky landscape, until we reach *La Cueva del Oso* (the Bear's Cave), where we change direction towards *Albendiego*, taking the path that leads north through *Prado de las Anchuras* (Anchuras meadow), bordered by pine trees.

Changing valleys, the way through the pine forest becomes a path and we descend along *La Ren del Carretero* to the river *Condemios*, which we ford just before it joins the *Bornova*. We go up the latter, pass the mill of *El Callejón*, and then near the church of *Santa Coloma*. In *Albendiego* we head west towards the *Condemios* villages. Along *La Ren de los Perez* path, backed by red sandstone, we reach of *Condemios de Abajo* among wasteland and groves. Through *Arrenes de las Puentes*, we cross the streams that form the *Condemios* river and -through meadows next to a pine grove- we reach *Condemios de Arriba*.



MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 531 m.
- Descent: 395 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 2
- Amount of effort required: 3
- Route length: 18.4 km.
- Time: 5 h 35' / **brisk walking 4 h 55'**.



BORNOVA CIRCULAR ROUTE: GR 167.1 Variant (Prádena-Majadas Bornova) - Start of Stage 1 (Majadas Bornova-Pelagallinas-Prádena)

We leave *Prádena de Atienza* next to the hermitage of *Calvario* to the north, we take the path between fences into the oak grove which will take us to *Collado de las Eras* (hill of the threshing floors) next to the road to *Cañamares*. We start the descent in front of the communal cattle shed and along the bridle path that led to *Atienza* through



Valdecanal. We go up a small hill before the river mouth and look out over the *Majadas del Bornova* (Folds of the *Bornova*), cross the river over the road bridge and continue along its left bank, go up another hill over the mill to negotiate the first gorge. We then descend along the river bed, which looks like a fairytale, and walk close to the *Bornova*, enjoying the wild valley until we reach the *Manadero* footbridge, where we can link up with *El Camino del Cid*⁴ (the route of El Cid) -GR 160- or cross to the right bank, where we reach the rivers meeting point -the lowest point of the route at 1040 m-. We ascend the *Pelagallinas* river valley to a certain height and return to *Prádena*. On our way we will see the winding gorges of the river at our feet, the ridges of *Alto Rey* in front of us and finally, in a widening of the valley, the village of *Prádena de Atienza*.

MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 1
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 461 m.
- Descent: 467 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 2
- Amount of effort required: 3
- Route length: 9.7 km.
- Time: 3 h 25' / **brisk walking 2 h.**

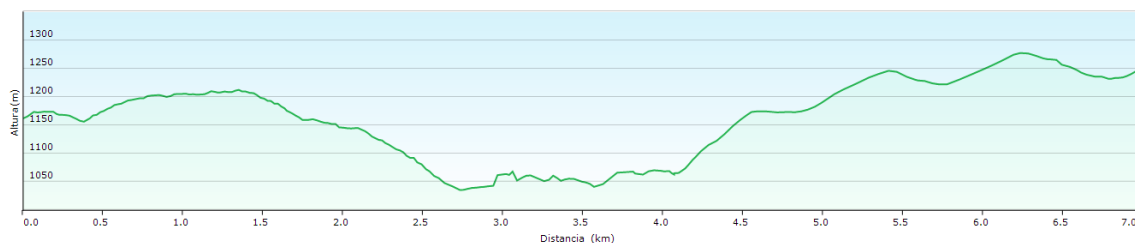


⁴ *El Cid* is the nickname of a popular 11th century folk hero of the Spanish *Reconquista*, His real name was **Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar** and he was popularised after his death by the epic poem, *Cantar de mio Cid*, which presents him as the ideal medieval knight: strong, valiant, loyal, just, and pious.



CONNECTION GR 167-GR 160, PRÁDENA DE ATIENZA - CAMINO DEL CID

We leave *Prádena de Atienza* along the *Moral Alto* street, along the *Cuento del Mojón* path, we cross the road to continue along the path that takes us halfway along the *Pelagallinas* valley towards its mouth in the *Bornova*. The path goes through a wild landscape, the river embedded in winding twists and turns up to *Junta de los Ríos* (the confluence of the rivers), and without going down completely, on the last crest we descend to the *Bornova* going up north. Through the meadows on the right bank we reach the *Manadero* footbridge. Crossing it we leave the bottom of the valley and the GR 167, to climb the *Parancana* hill towards *Sierra Visenda* to the east. Arriving at the pass we join the *Cañada Real* (Royal Cattle Route) and following it to the south we reach *Collado del Cerezo* (Pass of the Cherry Tree) after 7 km, at which point we reach the *Recuenco de Atienza* and join *El Camino del Cid* (the route of El Cid) which comes from *Atienza* -after 14.2 km- to join the *Cañada* towards *Robledo de Corpes* and *Hiendelaencina* -after 14.3 km-.



3rd PANEL OF GR 167 IN ALBENDIEGO

ALBENDIEGO

SECTION 1.a GR 167 ALBENDIEGO - MAJADAS DEL BORNOVA

We leave *Albendiego* to the south, pass near the Romanesque church of *Santa Coloma*, cross the road and enter the *Sierra Norte* Natural Park. Next to the river *Bornova*, we enter the narrow slate pass of the mill of *El Callejón*. The valley changes direction at the confluence with the river *Condemios*, which we ford to continue our route to the south, climbing the rocky slope on the right bank towards *La Ren del Carretero*. We go along the pass through pine trees. Through *Prado de las Anchuras* (*Anchuras meadow*) we enter the valley



of the *Pelagallinas* river, at the foothill of *Alto Rey*. It is possible that this is the route followed by *El Cid*⁵ in his exile and that this is the place where he rested after crossing the border. Turning eastwards opposite *La Cueva del Oso* (the Bear's Cave), the path on the left bank of the river takes us to *Prádena de Atienza*. We pass this pretty village to look for the *Bornova* again, either by the direct variant to the *Majadas del Bornova* or by the *Pelagallinas*, enjoy the panoramic view of the *Junta de los Ríos* and now go up the beautiful course of the river to the *Majadas del Bornova*. There is also the possibility of linking up with the GR 160, *El Camino del Cid* (route of El Cid).

MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 462 m.
- Descent: 567 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 2
- Amount of effort required: 3
- Route length: 16.5 km.
- Time: 5 h 10' / **brisk walking 4 h 35'**.



⁵ *El Cid* is the nickname of a popular 11th century folk hero of the Spanish *Reconquista*, His real name was **Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar** and he was popularised after his death by the epic poem, *Cantar de mio Cid*, which presents him as the ideal medieval knight: strong, valiant, loyal, just, and pious.

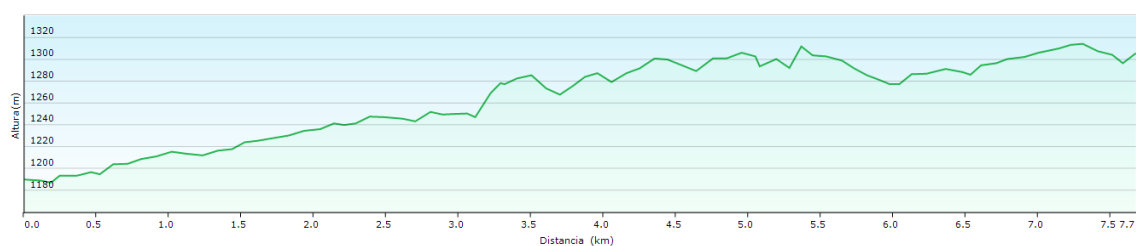


SECTION 1.b GR 167 ALBENDIEGO - CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA

From *Albendiego* to the *Condemios* villages the path runs westwards, at the foot of the northern plateaus, between fields and holm-oaks, with the landscape of pine forests and the *Alto Rey* mountain range to the South. From *El Camino de la Fragua* (Smithy's Way) we walk to the old path of *La Ren de los Perez*, at the backed by red sandstone up to *Peña Hueca* (Hollow Crag). We reach the boundary of *Condemios de Abajo*, taking the path of *La Fragua* before *La Chorrera* (The Cascade). We reach this village between wastelands and groves, finding fountains before and after the village. We cross the streams that form the *Condemios* river by *Arrenes de las Puentes*. After passing the stone footbridge on the road to *Aldeanueva*, we continue through the meadows between the pine grove and the *Poyato* stream, which we cross again by the road bridge to take the path that takes us northwest to *Condemios de Arriba*.

MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 211 m.
- Descent: 101 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 2
- Amount of effort required: 2
- Route length: 8 km.
- Time: 2 h 20' / **brisk walking 1 h 55'**.



4th PANEL OF THE GR 167 IN CONDEMIOS DE ABAJO

CONDEMIOS DE ABAJO

SECTION GR 167 CONDEMIOS DE ABAJO-PRADENA DE ATIENZA.

From *Condemios de Abajo* this path first heads east, passing through *Albendiego* and from there to *Prádena de Atienza*. The path goes through wastelands and groves with some fountains, and the plateaus of *Sierra de Pela* to the north. Past *La Chorrera* (The Cascade), through the spot of *Peña Hueca* (Hollow Crag), we descend to the old path of *La Ren de los Perez*, backed by red sandstone, between fields and holm-oaks, with the landscape of pine forests and the *Sierra del Alto Rey* to the South. We return to the path of *La Fragua* (The Smithy's), arriving at *Albendiego*, which we cross heading south, passing near *Santa Coloma*. Next to the river *Bornova* we enter the narrow slate pass of the mill of *El Callejón*. The valley changes direction at the confluence with the river *Condemios*, which we ford to continue southwards, climbing the rocky slope on the right bank towards *La Ren del Carretero*. We cross the pass between pines, through *Prado de las Anchuras* (Anchuras meadow) we enter the *Pelagallinas* valley, at the foot of the *Alto Rey*. We turn eastwards opposite *Cueva del Oso* (the Bear's Cave) and the path on the left bank of the river takes us to *Prádena de Atienza*.

MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 444 m.
- Descent: 585 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 2
- Amount of effort required: 3
- Route length: 15.9 km.
- Time: 5 h / **brisk walking 4 h 15'**.



SECTION GR 167 CONDEMIOS DE ABAJO-VALDEPINILLOS

From *Condemios de Abajo* we leave along the path that leads to the fountain between walls of orchards. Crossing the road we head towards *Arrenes de las Puentes* where we negotiate the streams that form *Condemios* river and after the stone footbridge of the *Aldeanueva* way- we continue through the meadows, between the pine forest and the *Poyato* stream, which we cross again over a



bridge and take the path that leads us to the northwest to *Condemios de Arriba*. Next to the road we head towards *La Dehesa* near *La Majada* stream, passing by the sculptures made of dry Scots pine trunks. We begin a gentle ascent along the pine forest track to head towards the hill that separates the municipalities of *Condemios de Arriba* and *Galve de Sorbe* and through *Peña del Abanto* (Abanto Crag) to reach *La Común*, a ridge from which we can see the peaks of the *Ayllón Massif*, the *Alto Rey*, *Urbión* and even the *Moncayo*, which is the highest point of the route at 1697m. We leave the upper *Bornova* basin to enter the *Sorbe* basin, passing near *Cervequilla*, and under *Cerrajo* we descend along the pine forest path to *Valdepinillos*, with the *Ocejón* in front of us, on the other side of the *Sorbe* valley.



MIDE data:

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 686 m.
- Descent: 686 m.
- Difficulty of the journey: 3
- Amount of effort required: 3
- Route length: 12.64 km.
- Time: 4 h 35' / **brisk walking 3 h 30'**.

5th PANEL OF THE GR 167 IN CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA

CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA

STAGE 1 GR 167 CONDEMIOS DE ARRIBA - MAJADAS DEL BORNOVA

We leave towards the *Alto Rey* until we reach the stream of *Poyato*, which we cross by road, descending between the pine forest and the stream until we reach *Arrenes de las Puentes*. The path takes us to *Condemios de Abajo*, where we head towards *Albendiego* by road. We pass *La Chorrera* (The Cascade), at *Peña Hueca* (Hollow Crag) we turn off the path to *La Fragua* (The Smithy's) to look for *La Ren de los Perez* path -which is backed by sandstone rocks-. The way through a holm-oak wood, with views of the pine woods, and the *Alto Rey*, leads us to *Albendiego*.

We pass near *Santa Coloma* and enter the *Bornova* at the slate stretch of the mill of *El Callejón*. We join the river *Condemios* which we ford to go up to *La Ren del Carretero*, through *Prado de las Anchuras*



(*Anchuras meadow*) we enter the valley of *Pelagallinas* at the foot of *Alto Rey*, turning off in front of *La Cueva del Oso* (Bear's Cave), the path on the left bank of the river takes us to *Prádena de Atienza*. We pass this pretty village to look for the *Bornova* again, either by the direct variant to *Majadas del Bornova* or by the *Pelagallinas* river, enjoy the panoramic view of *Junta de los Ríos* (Confluence of the Rivers) and go up the beautiful course of the *Bornova* to *Majadas*.

MIDE data: (route map page4 of this document)

- Severity of the natural environment: 2 (winter 3)
- Route orientation: 2
- Ascent: 739 m.
- Descent: 960 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'**

