

The Essence of the Guadarrama Mountain

These places are more than an invitation:
They are gateways to memory, beauty, and identity in
the Guadarrama mountain.

They represent the most valuable aspects of its
natural, historical, and cultural heritage, while
opening the door to a land full of nuance, discovered
step by step.

Come, be surprised, and let the Guadarrama
mountain continue telling you its story.

Contact the Sierra de Guadarrama Booking Centre
and discover guided visits to the 14 Must-Sees

Guadarrama Mountain *THE 14 MUST SEES*





Guadarrama Mountain

The 14 Must-sees

Fourteen Ways to Be Amazed

In the Guadarrama mountain, every stone holds a story, every trail keeps secrets of the past, and every village hides a gem waiting to be discovered.

This guide is not just a list of places: it is an invitation to explore a living territory, rich in culture and nature, officially recognised as both a National Park and a Biosphere Reserve for its exceptional value.

The 14 Must-Sees presented here are far more than destinations: they are experiences that connect you with what is truly authentic.

A guide to discovering the essence of a unique land

Navacerrada

01 La Barranca Valley

A Fairytale Forest

Step into La Barranca Valley, a natural jewel in the heart of the Guadarrama mountain, where pine forests, crystal-clear waters and rich biodiversity create a dreamlike landscape. A paradise for hiking and outdoor activities, it enjoys the highest levels of protection: Biosphere Reserve, Regional Park, National Park and Natura 2000 Network. *Its beauty is matched only by its importance, help us care for and protect it.*

We also recommend

- Navacerrada is full of **charming shops** and boasts one of **the finest gastronomic scenes in the mountain**. Local butcher's shops sell **Guadarrama mountain Beef (PGI)**, a protected designation guaranteeing free-range, high-quality cattle farming.
- Don't miss **Navacerrada Honey**, a mountain honey with character, deep flavour and unique aromatic notes.
- Christmas** in Navacerrada has a special charm, with illuminated streets and traditional treats such as **picatostes with hot chocolate, churros, porras and fritters**.
- A walk around **Navacerrada Reservoir**, with stunning reflections of La Maliciosa, or an **autumn** stroll through the oak woods of La **Dehesa de la Golondrina** up to the San Antonio Hermitage Viewpoint, is pure serenity.

We recommend
three routes, each tailored
to different tastes and interests

Route to Fuente de la Campanilla

Low difficulty. Ideal for families.
Distance: 6 km (out and back). Linear route.
Starting point: La Barranca car park.

Ortiz Trail

Medium difficulty.
Distance: 10 km. Circular route.
Starting point: La Barranca car park.

Ascent of La Maliciosa via Collado del Piornal

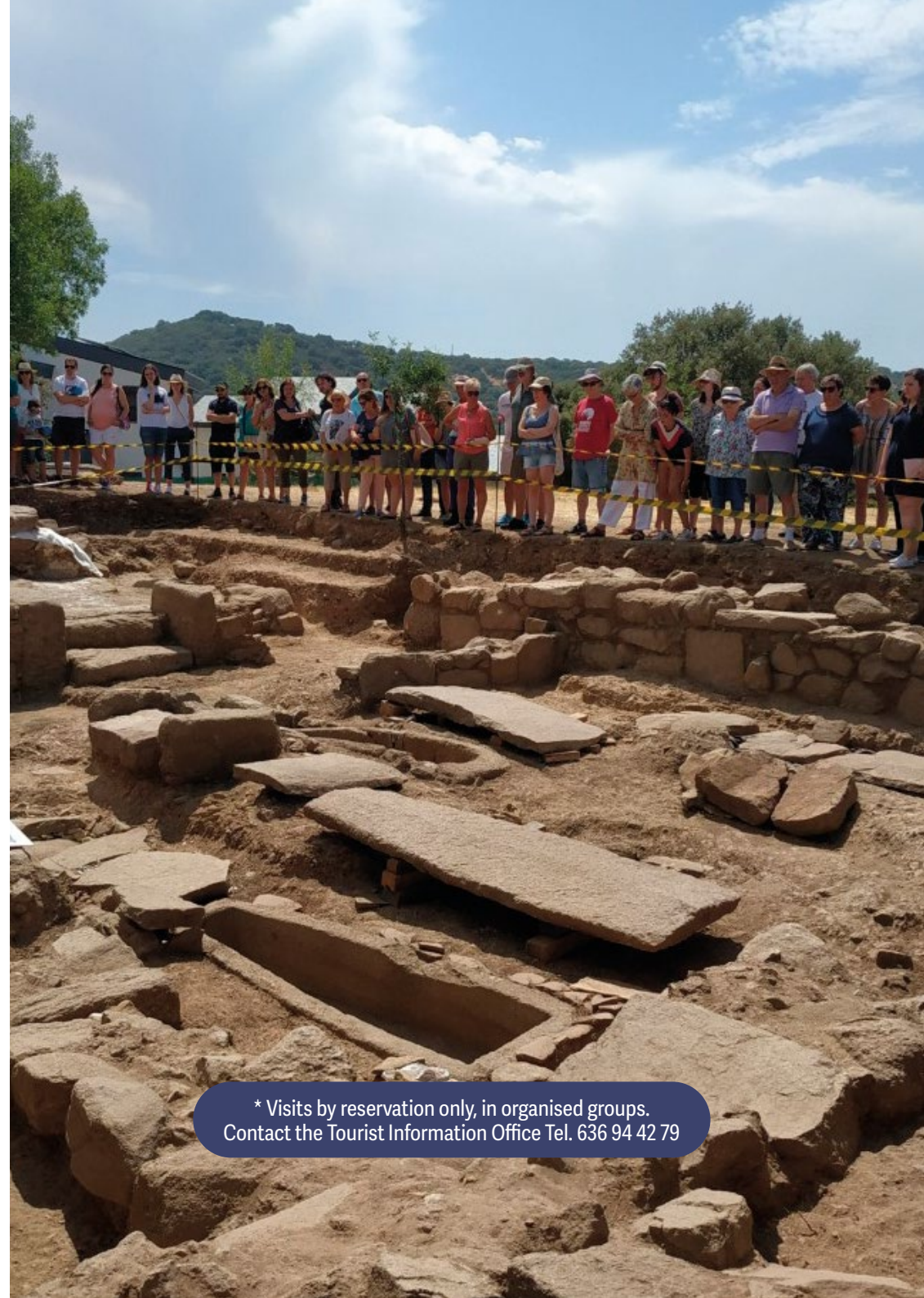
High difficulty.
Distance: 12 km (out and back). Linear route.
Starting point: La Barranca car park, up to Fuente de la Campanilla, where the final 3 km of steep ascent to the summit of La Maliciosa begin.

02 El Rebollar Archaeological Site

The past recovered

The El Rebollar site preserves unique remains from the 7th century: a Visigothic church and a necropolis discovered in the 1960s by local residents. Located beside the historic Cañada Real Segoviana, the site revealed rock-cut tombs, amphorae and coins, offering insight into early rural life.

Set within the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park, the natural surroundings enhance the experience. Guided visits reveal burial rituals and beliefs, blending history and nature in a peaceful and beautiful setting.



We also recommend

- Take time to explore **the historic centre of El Boalo** and enjoy its excellent **local gastronomy**.
- After a good meal, walk a section of the Camino de Santiago, which links El Boalo and Mataelpino with Manzanares El Real. This 4 km (one-way) stretch is gentle, easy, and a pleasure to walk.
- Enjoy **the Natural Route of the Villas**, a 13 km circular trail that takes you through ash-tree dehesas and traditional livestock landscapes.
- Make your way to Cerceda to visit the beautiful **Parish Church of Santa María la Blanca**, a 16th-century Ávila Gothic church, declared a Historic-Artistic Monument.

* Visits by reservation only, in organised groups.
Contact the Tourist Information Office Tel. 636 94 42 79

03 The Mendoza Castle

A Story of Power and a Storybook Castle

The Mendoza Castle is an icon of Castilian medieval architecture and a symbol of the power of this influential family. Commissioned by Diego Hurtado de Mendoza around 1475 and completed by his son Íñigo López, it was conceived as a statement of prestige. Its design, featuring Gothic details by Juan Guas, architect to the Catholic Monarchs, houses a beautifully preserved 15th-century noble palace.

Today, visitors can explore its rooms and discover how the Mendoza family lived during their golden age.

We also recommend

- ▶ This fairytale village invites you to **savour its local cuisine** and browse its **specialist mountain and outdoor gear shops**.
- ▶ Walk around **Santillana Reservoir** and stop at its viewpoint for one of the most iconic postcard views in the Community of Madrid, with the castle and La Pedriza as a backdrop.
- ▶ Visit the **La Pedriza Visitor Centre and El Rincón de La Pedriza – Climbing Museum**, a space that invites you to immerse yourself in mountain culture and discover the very soul of this dramatic granite landscape. Interpretation panels, memorabilia, and stories from the pioneers of climbing will connect you with a truly compelling history.
- ▶ Head up to **Cantocochino and Charca Verde**, an easy and rewarding plan for those seeking spectacular nature without complications. These routes are ideal to enjoy outside peak season, always respecting access regulations.
- ▶ Just 3 km from Manzanares El Real (one way), a gentle path leads to the **El Chaparral Viewpoint**, where sweeping views open up across La Cuerda Larga, La Pedriza, the Samburiel Valley, and Manzanares itself. Impossible not to stop for a photo... or two.



Opening hours, visits, and guided theatrical tours pending until the next reopening.

Soto del Real

04 The Green Ring of Soto del Real

A Walk Through Nature, History and Local Life

This 5.3 km circular route surrounds the town, combining urban and natural sections and following part of the historic Cañada Real Segoviana.

Along the way you'll find landmarks such as the Church of the Immaculate Conception, a medieval bridge, the Virgin of the Rosary Hermitage, and the riverside park.

The route also offers a rich variety of landscapes, ash groves, open meadows, and riverside vegetation and provides opportunities to spot local wildlife such as white storks and amphibians. It's an ideal setting for gentle outdoor activity, with sports areas, interpretation panels, and quiet corners perfect for switching off and reconnecting with nature.

We also recommend

- Strolling through its squares and streets is the best way to discover the essence of a welcoming town, where **tradition lives side by side with a varied gastronomic scene** — from charming restaurants to traditional butcher's shops where you can taste and buy **the renowned Guadarrama Mountain Beef**, a locally recognised product of outstanding quality.
- Don't miss **the Virgen del Rosario Hermitage Viewpoint**, a natural balcony offering sweeping views over **the surrounding countryside and the wide dehesa landscapes** stretching out at the foot of Soto del Real.

Practical information

- Start and finish:** Plaza de la Villa, the beating heart of the town.
- Approximate duration:** 1.5 to 2 hours at a relaxed pace.
- Difficulty:** Low.
- Accessibility:** Suitable for pushchairs, bicycles, and visitors with reduced mobility.
- Recommendations:** Wear comfortable footwear, bring water, and enjoy the walk at an unhurried pace.



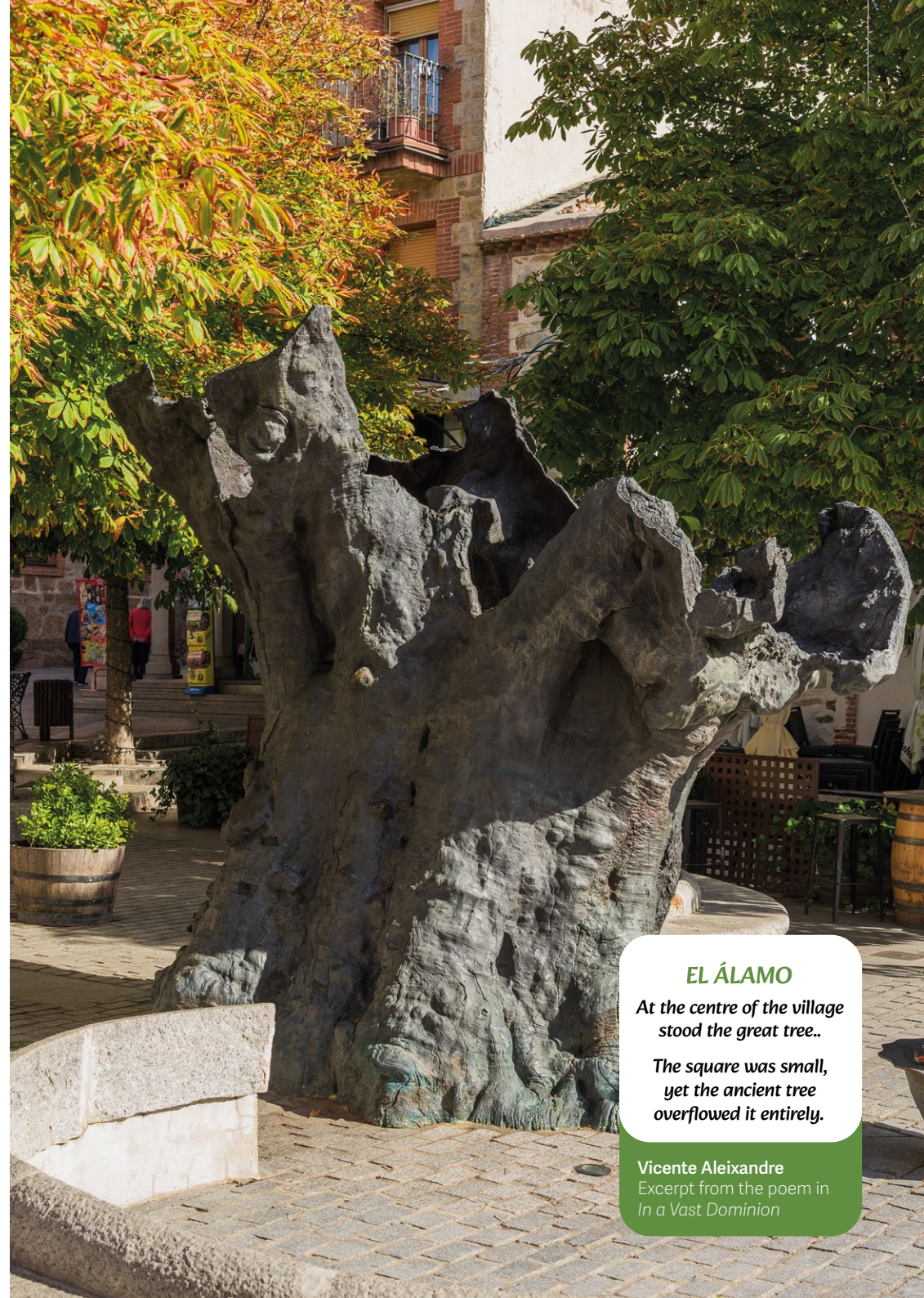
Miraflores de la Sierra

05 The Álamo Sculpture

An Encounter with Poetry

In the heart of Miraflores de la Sierra, Plaza del Álamo pays tribute to the old elm tree that for centuries was a symbol of identity, a meeting place, and a source of inspiration. Poet Vicente Aleixandre, Nobel Prize in Literature and a regular summer visitor to the village, dedicated a poem to it — now displayed beside the bronze monument that stands where the tree once grew, created by sculptor Fernando Jiménez. The elm died in 1990 due to elm disease (grafiosis), but its memory lives on in the square, also filled with fond recollections such as Doña Paula's sweet kiosk, a cherished part of local life.

With its poetic spirit and emotional resonance, the elm is far more than a tree: it is a symbol of identity, a place of collective memory, and a corner where nature, culture, and poetry continue to converse in the very heart of Miraflores de la Sierra.



We also recommend

- Wandering through its squares and streets reveals the soul of a friendly village, **where tradition blends naturally with a varied gastronomic offer**, from characterful restaurants to butcher's shops where you can taste and purchase the celebrated **Guadarrama mountain Beef**, a locally prized product of recognised quality.
- Step out onto **the Virgen del Rosario Hermitage Viewpoint**, a natural balcony with spectacular views over **the region and the broad dehesa landscapes** unfolding below Soto del Real.

EL ÁLAMO

*At the centre of the village
stood the great tree..*

*The square was small,
yet the ancient tree
overflowed it entirely.*

Vicente Aleixandre
Excerpt from the poem in
In a Vast Dominion

06 Pedrezuela Reservoir

The Many Lives of Water

Set within the Natura 2000 Network, Pedrezuela Reservoir is a sanctuary of biodiversity and a key spot for observing birds such as herons, cormorants, and white storks. It is especially popular for birdwatching, particularly during migration seasons.

The paths that encircle the reservoir including the historic Camino Mendocino — invite slow, contemplative walks. The Sailing Club also offers sustainable water-based activities such as sailing, kayaking, and paddleboarding.

It is a perfect destination for those seeking an authentic connection with nature, far from mass tourism.



We also recommend

- ▶ **Walk around the reservoir with binoculars in hand.** Follow the gentle trails along Pedrezuela Reservoir and discover a true paradise for bird lovers. In spring and autumn, hundreds of migratory birds turn this wetland into a vibrant spectacle of life and colour. Ideal for a morning of observation, calm, and nature.
- ▶ **Explore the historic centre and enjoy the local gastronomy.** Don't miss the iconic balcony of the Town Hall, featuring the figure of Pepe Isbert, evoking his immortal words: "As your mayor, I owe you an explanation..." This famous line comes from the film *Welcome Mr. Marshall*, which was shot here in 1952.

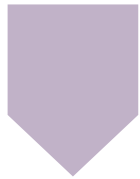


07 The Hispano-Visigothic Site of La Cabilda

The Visigothic mountain

La Cabilda, in Hoyo de Manzanares, is a 7th-century Visigothic archaeological site, discovered through community archaeology. It reveals granite structures and everyday objects that show how small, self-sufficient rural communities once lived.

The site features interpretation panels and guided tours led by archaeologists. Set in a privileged natural environment, it offers a unique opportunity to connect with the historical origins of the Guadarrama mountain.



We also recommend

- ▶ Hoyo de Manzanares is shaped by a granite landscape that defines its identity. Its **arcaded Plaza Mayor**, one of the most beautiful in the Guadarrama mountain, pays tribute to this noble stone that has served as shelter, stage, and witness to the passing of time.
- ▶ **Watch the sunset at Los Camorchos pond.** After enjoying the local cuisine, we suggest a short but magical escape: a walk to this peaceful wetland, where light and silence create a memorable moment.
- ▶ Enjoy **walks rich in history and wellbeing in the La Cabilda Natural Area.** Among holm oaks, junipers, and centuries-old cork oaks, time seems to stand still. Here stands the majestic **Singular Cork Oak, over 400 years old** and 12 metres high, a silent witness to generations gone by. **The Mens Sana, Corpore Sano routes** invite you to walk at your own pace, combining nature and health, and linking this historic woodland with the modern La Paloma park, where you'll find sports facilities and rest areas.



* Visits are by reservation only, in organised groups.
Contact the Tourist Information Office: Tel. 912 79 53 12

08 The Bullring

The festive soul of the Guadarrama mountain

Opened in 2005, the Moralzarzal Bullring is a striking blend of modern design and deep-rooted tradition in the heart of the Guadarrama mountain. Seating up to 6,000 people, it stands out for its bold contemporary architecture, innovative retractable roof and versatile multi-use spaces. Throughout the year it hosts bullfighting events, concerts, fairs and cultural gatherings, acting as a true social and economic hub for the town. The complex also features 19 small shops, beautifully kept gardens and centuries-old olive trees, creating a rich, sensory experience beyond the arena itself. One of its most distinctive features is the “eyelid-style” moving roof, a feat of engineering that allows events to take place in comfort all year round, whatever the weather, effortlessly adapting to different uses.



We also recommend

- Set among green dehesas (traditional grazing land) and with the Guadarrama mountain always on the horizon, **Moralzarzal** offers something increasingly rare: **the perfect balance of quality of life, unspoilt scenery and genuine local character.**
- After a **leisurely meal from the town's wide and tempting gastronomic offer**, enjoy an easy yet rewarding circular walk starting at the campsite and leading to the **La Solana viewpoint**. This natural viewpoint is a true balcony over the landscape, with sweeping views across the entire Guadarrama mountain and the rolling pastureland that surrounds the town. Perfect for a sunset escape or a relaxed morning stroll.
- Moralzarzal's history has always been closely linked to water. Follow the **Water Route** and discover centuries-old fountains such as **the Cuatro Caños spring**, the legendary **Fe Perseverante spring**, or the ancient granite channels of Matarrubia. It's a journey through water culture that weaves together Islamic heritage, vernacular architecture and landscapes steeped in memory.

09 Majalespino Reservoir

Becerril de la Sierra's secret

At the foot of the imposing La Maliciosa, one of the most iconic summits in the Guadarrama mountain, lies the Majalespino Reservoir, also known as the Maliciosa Reservoir. This peaceful, little-known spot captures the purest essence of mountain landscapes, far from the crowds.

Fed by the waters of the Peña Jardera stream, the reservoir not only supplies the town of Becerril de la Sierra but also offers one of the finest views of the transition between high mountain terrain and the gentle livestock plains that surround it. A natural lookout over a mosaic of ecosystems where meadows, pine forests, granite scree and time-sculpted rock formations coexist in perfect harmony.



We also recommend

- ▶ **Welcoming, calm and with a rhythm all its own,** Becerril de la Sierra is one of those villages that gets the balance just right between mountain tradition and a forward-looking spirit. **Right in the heart of the Guadarrama mountain,** it charms visitors with its relaxed atmosphere, carefully curated dining scene and pockets of outstanding natural beauty.
- ▶ For landscape lovers, **the Cerro del Hilo viewpoint** delivers a truly memorable panoramic experience. Simply turning on the spot reveals the four cardinal points of the range: from **La Maliciosa and the Bola del Mundo to the north, to Cerro de las Cabezas to the west.** From here, an easy 6-km trail leads down to the Majalespino Reservoir, although extra care is needed when crossing the M-607 road.
- ▶ Just **1.5 km from the reservoir,** one of the Guadarrama mountain's **most curious rock formations awaits:** a granite Tyrannosaurus Rex, affectionately known as "El Dinosaurio". This natural sculpture marks the gateway to the summit of La Maliciosa and has become a much-loved symbol for hikers and mountaineers alike. The route is of moderate difficulty and requires attention to spot the marker indicating the turn-off towards this iconic stone figure. A must-stop for those craving adventure... and unforgettable photos.

Collado Mediano

10 The Roman Site “El Beneficio”

Travelling back to Roman times

“El Beneficio” is a Roman archaeological site located beside the ancient road that once crossed the mountains via the Puerto de la Fuenfría. Active between the 1st and 4th centuries AD, it functioned as a mansio, a roadside inn for travellers, complete with a central courtyard, guest rooms and a thermal bath complex heated by a hypocaust system. A section of the original Roman road is still preserved today. The site also features an Interpretation Centre offering guided tours, where visitors can see, among other artefacts, a coin of Emperor Arcadius that helps date the period of occupation.

We also recommend

- Slip into the gentle pace of village life as you wander Collado Mediano’s streets, soaking up its welcoming atmosphere and **well-regarded local cuisine**. Keep an eye out for the artistic initiative “**Casas con Vida**”, an open-air gallery where walls become canvases depicting Roman-inspired scenes, cleverly linking past and present through creativity.
- Food lovers are in luck here too: **local shops proudly offer Sierra de Guadarrama meat with IGP status** (a protected geographical indication), a highly prized product that reflects the area’s long-standing livestock tradition.
- For keen walkers, Collado Mediano boasts routes that are both accessible and rewarding, such as the trails up **Cerro del Telégrafo** or across **the Sierra del Castillo**. Expect wide-open landscapes, far-reaching views and the constant whisper of the surrounding woodland.
- In **the Dehesa de La Jara**, one of the municipality’s most peaceful and beautiful natural areas, stands **a venerable cork oak** (alcornoque) estimated to be around 300 years old. Cork oaks are a rare botanical treasure in the Community of Madrid, and this magnificent specimen is among the most impressive.



* *Camino de los Entreterminos.*
Visits are guided and free
of charge, by reservation: 918 598 105

11 The Stonecutters' Museum

The language of stone

The Stonecutters' Museum of Alpedrete pays tribute to the age-old craft of stone masonry, deeply rooted in the granite that has shaped the town's identity since the 13th century. Stonecutters who arrived after completing work on Santiago Cathedral settled here, extracting granite later used in landmark buildings such as the Bank of Spain.

Located in the very heart of the village, the museum is also a gateway to the cultural landscape of the Guadarrama mountain and its distinctive piedra berroqueña granite. A walk through the old quarries feels like stepping into a living museum, where the skills of generations bound to stone still seem to echo.



We also recommend

- Alpedrete is a place where tradition and modern life sit comfortably side by side, and strolling its streets is a journey through time. **The Plaza de la Villa, with the imposing Church of the Assumption of Our Lady and the elegant Town Hall, or the old railway station**, are strong symbols of local identity, speaking of a **granite-built past** and a lively present.
- The **town's shopping area surprises with its mix of independent shops, bars and restaurants**, where you can enjoy everything from hearty, home-style cooking to inventive tapas and sweet treats. It's an ideal place to **browse at leisure and savour the area's genuine local character**.
- Follow the historic **granite quarries** that define Alpedrete's soul and venture into the **Dehesa Boyal**, an old oak woodland once used for charcoal production. Among holm oaks and footpaths you'll come across the **traditional stone washhouses**, built from local granite and offering a vivid glimpse into everyday life in the past. This was where village women once gathered to wash clothes, sharing conversation and cool running water. Today, the walk is a calm and evocative journey into the living memory of the mountain.

Guadarrama

12 Following the Footsteps of War

Alto del León battle

The Guadarrama mountain was the setting for some of the fiercest and longest-lasting clashes of the Spanish Civil War, particularly around the Alto del León, a key strategic mountain pass on the road to Madrid.

Today, this historic frontline can be explored via a self-guided hiking route using GPS or geocaching. The trail allows visitors to discover 132 documented military positions, out of more than 500 inventoried, spread across 21 locations within the municipality of Guadarrama. Along the way, you'll encounter an outstanding collection of defensive structures preserved in situ: stark, powerful reminders of the harsh realities of the conflict. Among the most notable remains of the Nationalist front are:



We also recommend

- Guadarrama is the gateway to a land rich in history and natural beauty. **Its granite-built squares and streets invite slow, unhurried strolls**, while the early-morning air is filled with the comforting aromas of traditional tahonas.
- The main square Porticada** is the beating heart of the town, where local life, gastronomy and mountain character come together. Here you'll also find the plaza's elm tree, a singular, centuries-old specimen and a natural treasure of the Community of Madrid.
- After a day in the Guadarrama mountains is the perfect place to unwind and **enjoy its wide-ranging culinary scene**, from hearty serrana classics to more contemporary, creative dishes.
- Surrounded by the pine forest known as **the Bosque de Plata (Silver Forest)**, **La Jarosa reservoir** is one of the mountain's most beautiful and peaceful spots.
- Easily accessible, the Guadarrama Viewpoint offers **sweeping panoramas of the range**, with iconic peaks such as **La Maliciosa and Cabeza Mediana**, as well as far-reaching views towards Cercedilla, Los Molinos and Guadarrama itself.

All maps, information and GPS coordinates are available on the official tourism website: <https://sierraguadarrama.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Guadarrama-tras-las-huellas-de-la-guerra-vweb.pdf>

Los Molinos

13 The Golden Bloom of the Cambroño

Where the land turns to light

Each spring, the cambroño, an emblematic shrub of Los Molinos, sets the hillsides ablaze with intense yellow, transforming the landscape into a dazzling natural spectacle. Visible along routes such as La Peñota, this annual bloom is the inspiration behind the Festival del Cambroño, a celebration of local culture, food and tradition. Once valued for its use as fuel and in folk medicine, the cambroño is now a proud symbol of the town's identity.

The Cambroño Blossom Route is a 12-km trail of moderate difficulty, passing landmarks such as the Irrios dam and the Hermitage of the Virgen del Espino. It's a walk that beautifully weaves together nature, tradition and scenic charm.



We also recommend

- ▶ **Los Molinos preserves its mountain authenticity in every corner.** It's an ideal place to slow down, soak up **luminous, almost romantic landscapes, and enjoy high-quality local cuisine.** Here, tradition and flavour meet in restaurants that turn every meal into a memorable experience.
- ▶ **Don't miss the house museum Julio Escobar.** More than a former home turned museum, this is a place steeped in history and emotion. It was here that **Julio Escobar**, writer from Ávila, known as "the novelist of Castile", spent his final years. He bequeathed his house, Las Angustias, to the town to preserve his memory and promote culture. The collection transports visitors to the rural Castilian world portrayed in his novels, blending literature, **heritage and feeling into a deeply human experience.**

Cercedilla

14 Paquito Fernández Ochoa Ski Museum

A meeting point with alpine sport

The Paquito Fernández Ochoa Ski Museum is a tribute to alpine sport and the history of skiing in Spain. Named after the Olympic champion born in Cercedilla, it also honours his sister Blanca, an Olympic medallist in Albertville. Through objects, photographs and interactive displays, the museum tells the story of skiing's evolution and Cercedilla's deep-rooted connection with snow since 1915. It's a space that celebrates sporting legacy and a lifelong love of the mountains.

We also recommend

- Cercedilla's mountain spirit is felt everywhere: **welcoming streets, vibrant scenery and a broad, varied gastronomic scene** where tradition and modernity coexist with ease. **Local butchers also stock the prestigious Sierra de Guadarrama meat (IGP)**, a hallmark of quality and flavour from the region.
- To say Cercedilla is to say "heart of the mountains". What you choose to do here depends on your sense of adventure: walking **the historic Roman Road**, cycling or strolling along the iconic **Carretera de la República**, or climbing up to **the Puerto de la Fuenfría** are just some of the options that make this a true paradise for hikers.
- On warmer days, there's nothing better than a **refreshing dip in the natural pools of Las Berceas**, set among pine forests in the Fuenfría valley, where nature itself becomes rest and relief.
- In winter, **the slopes of the Puerto de Navacerrada** offer the chance to **enjoy skiing** without leaving the Madrid mountains, keeping alive the tradition that made Cercedilla the cradle of winter sports in Spain.



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