



# Garrovillas de Alconétar - Alcántara

Stage  
**07**

**42,9**  
km



# Ciclosenda del Tajo

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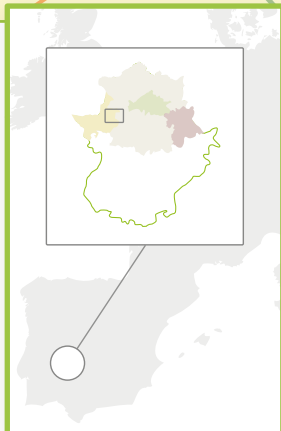


## Garrovillas de Alconétar - Alcántara

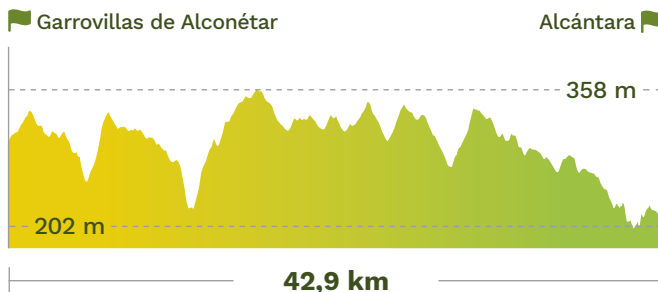
## Ciclosenda del Tajo

# Stage 07

🕒 Estimated time: 3h 50min	Route type: Linear
⚡ Minimum altitude: 218 m	⚡ Maximum altitude: 337 m
⬆️ Elevation gain: 750 m	⬆️ Elevation loss: -856 m
📈 Average gradient: 3,6 %	Difficulty: <b>Difficult</b>



- 01. La Cantera de Alcántara
- 02. Puente romano
- 03. Tourist Information Office
- 🔧 Bike repair kit



Almond, holm oak, olive and pine trees silhouette the first part of this stage of the *Ciclosenda del Tajo* (Tajo Cycle Route), which will end at the entrance of the Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, at the emblematic Roman Bridge of Alcántara. The history of this town, where vestiges dating back to the Palaeolithic have been found, is distinguished by its churches, chapels, convents, palaces and ancestral homes.

### What will you find on this route?

We bid farewell to the great Plaza Mayor of Garrovillas de Alconétar (main square) and the abandoned San Antonio de Padua Convent to undertake the seventh stage of the Ciclosenda del Tajo (Tajo Cycle Route), under a field teeming with almond trees.

We will continue bypassing creeks until reaching Mata de Alcántara along a dirt trail separated from the River Tajo Nature Trail. Along the way, the San Lorenzo Chapel, patron saint of the municipality, as well as numerous anthropomorphic tombs and other archaeological remains which these lands hold, can be seen.

Symbolic in Mata de Alcántara is the Renaissance church of Santa María de Gracia (16<sup>th</sup> century), which occupies the centre of the Plaza de España and has been declared a Site of Cultural Interest. Its interior preserves murals attributed to Juan de Rivera.



At the entrance of Alcántara the vegetation of the land changes. We are in front of the Alcántara Dam also known as the José María de Oriol Reservoir, a fantastic place for bird watching, among which the griffon vulture and the Bonelli's eagle, stand out. Of course, we can't forget its valuable Roman legacy, with its famous bridge, which was completed circa 104, a National Monument since 1924. The monumentality of Alcántara is underlying in buildings such as the Hospedería Conventual de Alcántara, which occupies the former convent of San Bartolomé (15<sup>th</sup> century) or in the Conventual de San Benito, among many others.

### Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve



This natural park of more than 25,000 hectares runs across eleven municipalities, between the Roman bridge of Alcántara and the Cedillo Reservoir Dam, forming a solitary extraordinary nature route.

An area of great significance thanks to the diversity of its flora and fauna. It is easy to spot the black vulture or the imperial eagle, which is why it is classified as a *Special Protection Areas for Birds, SPA* and Site of Community Interest. The valuable historical heritage of the area is added to its imposing landscapes to make this reserve a unique natural park on the border with Portugal, a country where it will continue to stretch across with the same characteristics but different management.