



## Silent Pass Route

This route explores the wild lands of the **Maestrazgo** and the mountains and valleys of the **Gúdar-Javalambre** region. These lands are home to remarkable historical legacy and a rich architectural and cultural heritage that gives the region its own unique character. The towns and villages of the Maestrazgo are perched on a rugged terrain marked by mountains, ravines, formidable buttes and narrow, fertile meadows. Its extensive pine groves, highlands, narrow riverbanks and bare rocky cliffs create an ample range of natural spaces with **significant ecological and scenic value**. The **Gúdar-Javalambre** region is marked by a mountain massif that belongs to the **Iberian System**: the Sierra de Gúdar and the Sierra de Javalambre. This is a truly stunning region home to picturesque walled medieval villages, Romanesque and Gothic churches and chapels, castles, and medieval bridges. A route along which every discovery is an unforgettable experience.





## Directions and points of interest

Congratulations, you are going to enjoy the slow driving route "**Silent Pass Route**". Follow the directions that we give you below and don't miss any of the details of these really marvellous places. **Let's go!**

## DEPARTURE

Mora de Rubielos is a historic village located in the heart of the Gúdar-Javalambre region in the province of Teruel. It is 45.4km from Teruel by the fastest route (A232 and N234 or A23). The Silent Pass route begins in this town.

## *Mora de Rubielos*

The village of **Mora de Rubielos**, designated a Spanish **Conjunto Histórico** (conservation area), is located in the *Sierra de Gúdar*, on the left bank of the *Mora river*.

One of its main monuments is the castle that presides over the village from the top of the promontory. This imposing **castle/palace** features Mediterranean Gothic civic-military architecture and is one of the best preserved buildings of its kind in Aragón. The 14th-century **Santa Maria church** is a Gothic-style architectural gem located just below the castle. The interior features a valuable work of art: the choir with its 15th-century screens. The village is also home to **five 17th-and 18th-century chapels**. Centuries of history have given **Mora de Rubielos** an unique old town with neighborhoods planned in a traditional medieval layout. There are buildings such as the **Town Hall**, a 17th-century Herrian-style building, and several houses with important artistic value. The best-conserved examples of the village's charming homes are found on Calle de las Parras. **Several hiking trails** through the *Sierra de Gúdar* start in **Mora de Rubielos**, the perfect way to enjoy the village's natural surroundings.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation, Petrol Station

## Point 1

Leave Mora de Rubielos by the A228 going north for 18.7km.

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## Alcalá de la Selva

**Alcalá de la Selva** is located in the heart of the *Sierra de Gúdar*, along the upper course of the *Alcalá river*. This beautiful medieval village is known for the scenic view provided by its terraced houses hugging a cliff over the valley. It is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful communities in the Sierra and the region as a whole.

Located at the top of the *Cerro Norte*, the **castle** is the town's most emblematic monument, notable for its restored **keep**. Along with the castle, the **parish church** is the building with the greatest historical and artistic value in Alcalá de la Selva. The building stands is noteworthy for both its size and its tower, whose silhouette stands out sharply in the main views of the village. Other buildings of interest are the *San Roque and Loreto chapels* (connected by the transept), *the shrine* (one of the few of this type in the Iberian Peninsula) and the *Sanctuary of La Virgen de la Vega*, with vaults painted with murals. *Calle Hispanoamérica* has several examples of the well-preserved popular architecture of **Alcalá**.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation, Petrol Station, Camping

### Point 2

Continue on the same road (A228 northwards) from Alcalá de la Selva for 6.6km before turning right to take the TE-V-8023 to Gúdar. The total distance is 10.3km.

## Gúdar

The town overlooks a rocky spur crowned by the *Peña Magdalena*, a spectacular viewpoint that offers stunning view of the *Alfambra river* valley. The abundance of pine forests and pastures that create this typical mountain landscape are dotted with picturesque spots and numerous springs.

The town, which hugs the foot of the hill, has several buildings of interest, including several *16th-century manor houses* with semicircular arches and ashlar voussoirs, wrought iron bars and wooden eaves. The *church dedicated to Santa Bárbara* is an 18th-century Neoclassic-style building with three naves and a belfry at either end; the Town Hall, a simple yet impressive building painted in white, is one of the buildings with the best views. Along with the rest of the *municipality of Gúdar-Javalambre*, the lack of light pollution in **Gúdar** makes it one of the best places in the northern hemisphere for **stargazing**.

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**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation

### Point 3

Re-join the A228 going north for 10.3km until you reach the intersection with the A226, where you turn right and enter Allepuz.

## Allepuz

**Allepuz** is perched on the side of a mountain between the *Sierra de Gúdar* and the *Sierra de Maestrazgo*, close to where the *Sollavientos river* meets the *Blanco river*. Allepuz features an old town with several stone buildings that evoke bygone eras, like the Casa Grande, a stunning 16th-century palace that now houses a Hospedería de Aragón. Also noteworthy is the *Town Hall*, a simple 18th-century Baroque building with a typical Aragonese arched courtyard on the ground floor that served as a space for socializing, a market and for “pelota” games.

But the largest building is *La Purificación church*, which occupies much of the square, as well as the Loreto chapel at the entrance of the town. The area around the village has exceptionally beautiful natural attractions. The “*Camino de los Pilonos (Pylon Trail)*” stretches from **Villarroya de los Pinares** to **Allepuz**. This historic road, a stretch of an old royal road that ran between **Teruel and Valencia**, is the only section of these characteristics in **Aragón** that has been fully preserved. The main feature on this 6 km-long trail are the large, 2.5-meter-high stone pylons (113 have been preserved) that mark the path and keep people from getting lost in blizzards, snow and fog.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation

### Point 4

Continue along the A226 eastwards from Allepuz for 8.4km until you reach Villarroya de los Pinares.

## Villarroya de los Pinares

Located along the upper course of the *Guadalope river*, in the *Sierra de Gúdar*, the majority of the urban area of **Villarroya** extends over a hillside on the left bank of the river. Villarroya was designated a

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Spanish **Conjunto Histórico** (conservation area) because of its well-preserved historical buildings, with the old town serving as a prime example of medieval and Renaissance architecture in the Maestrazgo.

Noteworthy is La Asunción church, a Gothic building renovated in Renaissance style by Francisco Peña in 1604. The former prison is attached to the church and is today used as an interpretation center for the Order of San Juan del Hospital in the Maestrazgo. Another historical building is located next to the town hall; this late 17th-century building has the traditional structure of the region's Guild Halls, with the peculiarity that it houses a gate of the now disappeared town wall. Other interesting buildings in the village are located along the periphery of the old town, like the renovated 15th-century defensive tower, used as a belfry, and two imposing Baroque palaces, Casa Peña and Casa Carreras, as well as examples of the popular architecture reminiscent of the village's rich past that was linked to wool production and trade.

**Villarroya's landscape** is diverse, with dense pine forest together with pasture lands. The region is home to the source of the *Guadalope river*, the quintessential **Maestrazgo** river.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation

## Point 5

Continue for 18.1km along the A226 eastwards for Fortanete.

## *Fortanete*

The village is located at the foot of a hill, surrounded by a large meadow in the center of the basin of the Rambla of Mal Burgo river, at the headwaters of the *Pitarque river*. The region is home to high pastures and extensive Albar pine forests.

The village, originally located under the shelter of the **castle**, was moved to the lower part of the hillside into buildings of great architectural quality, with numerous semicircular arches and overhanging wooden eaves, as well as coats of arms on the façades. The *old town* is located around *La Purificación church*, a Baroque building topped by a spectacular ashlar tower. Next door is the *Town Hall*, a Renaissance-style building with large coats of arms on the façade; it was built in the 16th century and used to open to a three-arched market. There are several noteworthy local *mansions*, including the home of the *Dukes of Medinaceli*, with its splendid Renaissance-style balcony, and that of the *Marquises of Villasegura*. A **stunning single-span bridge** with a lowered arch crosses the river.

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**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation

### Point 6

Leave Fortanete and continue for 8.2km along the A226 eastwards to the junction with the A1702, where you turn left and travel for 7.9km until you reach Cañada de Benatanduz.

## Cañada de Benatanduz

The village perches over a gorge of the Cañada river in Monjuí, a rocky spur that plunges into the ravine. Three other neighborhoods were formed as the area grew: *La Villa*, *San Cristóbal* and *Santa Bárbara*, located on less steep land.

**Monjuí**, the oldest, is home to **ruins of the town fortifications and the old church**, possibly of Romanesque workmanship. The adjoining **neighborhood of La Villa** is where the **most historically valuable buildings are located**: the large Baroque-style *La Asunción church*, the former *Guild Halls and the Hospital de los Pobres*. The location of the community in the heart of **Maestrazgo** provides impressive landscapes: abrupt cliffs, deep ravines and soaring peaks, along with dense pine groves and riparian forests. The *Cañada river* runs through the deep canyon that surrounds the town and, downstream in the direction of *Villarluengo*, creates one of the most stunning canyons in this area.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation

### Point 7

Leave Cañada de Benatanduz by the A1702 going north for 12.7km to Villarluengo.

## Villarluengo

**Villarluengo** is located in the center of the remote and rugged region of **Maestrazgo**. The town fortifications were located in the upper part of this site, and a gate and several sections of wall can still be seen today. The *Nuestra Señora de la Asunción* church is the most noteworthy building for both its size and the two towers that flank the façade. It was built in the Neoclassic style in the 19th century. The *Guild Hall*, which dates from the 16th century, located opposite, is attached to the *former butcher's*

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*shop*. The *Casa de los Beneytos* is located nearby; this is one of many houses that mark the village, as well as those of the *Temprados* and the *Garriga*. There are also many interesting buildings in the municipality, such as the large *San Bartolomé chapel* and the *Nuestra Señora de Monte Santo convent*, of which only ruins remain today. Other unique constructions include fortified farmhouses like the *Torre Gorgue* and the *Torre Montes Santo*.

Nearby, the Pitarque river passes through the town of the same name; this **crystal-clear river** has its source here, bubbling up through the rock through two **'eyes'**, also known as a karst spring. The river has carved a massive vertical-walled canyon over the years that today alternates deep pools of clear water and small waterfalls. **The calcareous rock cliffs, the power of the water and the lush vegetation create a beautiful display of strength and color** that is worth a visit in this beautiful wild corner of the **Maestrazgo**.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation

### Point 8

Leave Villarluengo by the A1702 and follow it for 8.3km to the natural monument of the Órganos de Montoro.

## Órganos de Montoro

This impressive natural monument is located in the eastern section of the *Iberian System*, in the municipalities of *Ejulve* and *Villarluengo*. The **Órganos de Montoro** is an impressive rocky outcrop created by massive calcareous rock needles over 200 meters high that jut out from the mountain. The geological feature is named for its resemblance to organ pipes.

These interesting rock formations are the result of the folding of the calcareous rock from the Upper Cretaceous that occurred during the Alpine orogeny, resulting in the vertical position of the rock. Water, ice, winds and fluvial erosion have shaped the rock over the years, chiseling out these strange formations. The **best view of Los Órganos** is from the **road** between *Ejulve* and *Villarluengo*, in the *Collado de Casa Mazuelos*, which has information panels that explain how this geological feature – one of the iconic attractions in the most rugged part of **Maestrazgo** – was formed.

### Point 9

Return southwards by the A1702, passing through Villarluengo and Cañada de Benatanduz, for 27.5km until the junction with the A226, where you turn left for Cantavieja. This total stretch is about 28km.

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## Cantavieja

**Cantavieja** is located at an elevation of 1,290 meters in a beautiful and abrupt landscape known for its large ravines. Although only several towers from its walled enclosure can still be seen today, the architectural value of the village is impressive. **Cantavieja** is a **Conjunto Histórico** (conservation area) and is ranked as one of the **most beautiful villages in Spain**.

The majority of this beautiful set of buildings are located around the **arcaded Plaza Mayor**, considered one of the most beautiful in Aragón. The plaza is presided over by the 16th-century *Town Hall*, a building with Gothic influences. The main hall features a magnificent wood paneled ceiling. *La Asunción de Nuestra Señora church*, the largest temple in the county, is located next door. The entire plaza is completed with the *Casa del Bayle* and the *Casa Zurita*. The upper part of the village is home to the Gothic-style *San Miguel church*, which houses the magnificent Gothic sepulcher of Gonzalo de Funes. Other buildings of interest are the mansions and the *Loreto chapel* located on the outskirts of the village.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation, Petrol Station, Motorhome Area

### Point 10

Go north from Cantavieja along the A226 for 12km for Mirambel.

## Mirambel

The beautiful **walled** village of **Mirambel** is located 900 meters above sea level. Its old town, known for his perfectly preserved set of historical buildings, is one of the most outstanding examples of medieval urban architecture in the entire country. This is attested by fact that the village has been designated a Spanish **Conjunto Histórico** (conservation area) and is also ranked as one of the **most beautiful villages in Spain**. The village was also awarded the **Europa Nostra gold medal**, the world's most prestigious award for outstanding projects in the defense of European cultural heritage.

The **walled enclosure of Mirambel** contains more than thirty buildings, urban spaces and defensive elements of major historical interest: imposing wall gates defended by towers, churches, the Augustinian convent, mansions topped by great wooden eaves and well-preserved iron grilles, manor houses, beautifully paved cobblestone streets...and one of its most unique characteristics is the fact

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that the entire village remains within the walls, anchoring its aesthetic in the Middle Ages, as it has been practically unaltered since then.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation

### Point 11

Leave Mirambel returning the way you came down the A226 to Cantavieja, from where you take the A227 southeast to La Iglesuela del Cid.

## *La Iglesuela del Cid*

**La Iglesuela** is located at the foot of a butte and is surrounded by one of Aragón's best landscapes of "architecture in dry stone". This landscape consists of about 150 small homes surrounded by dozens of kilometers of walls and roads, all declared a Spanish Bien de Interés Cultural (Heritage of Cultural Interest). The town, one of the highlights of the "Camino del Cid", is a Conjunto Histórico (conservation area), with a number of attractions that include a stunning set of civil architecture with exceptional buildings dating from the Middle Ages to the 18th century.

Visitors who take a stroll through the old town can see several palaces, cobbled streets, noble Renaissance mansions, as well as numerous examples of popular architecture. A beautiful semicircular archway leads to the *Plaza Mayor*, which is home to the Renaissance church, the *Casa del Blínque* and its unique porch, and the Gothic-style arcades of the Town Hall. The *18th-century Matutano-Daudén* palace is today one of the most beautiful inns of Aragón, featuring one of the best examples of an imperial staircase. The village is presided over by the "*Torre de los Nublos*", which was part of the old castle, and the church's Baroque tower. A can't-miss attraction is the Casa Aliaga or Casa Grande, the only Renaissance palace open to the public, and the *Nuestra Señora del Cid chapel*, declared a Bien de Interés Cultural (Heritage of Cultural Interest).

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation

### Point 12

Continue south on the A227 from La Iglesuela del Cid and enter the Community of Valencia, where you take the CV173 south until returning into Aragón where the road is now the A1701. Continue until you reach Mosqueruela; a total journey of 15km.

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## Mosqueruela

**Mosqueruela** is located in the *Sierra de Gúdar*, at an elevation of 1,471 m. and close to the border with the province of *Castellón*. The town is surrounded by pine forests, home to a rich and varied natural heritage, including a spot known as the *Pinar Ciego* (Blind Pine Forest) for its densely packed wild pines, and the *Rambla de las Truchas*, which has a well-preserved mixed forest. A stroll through the streets of Mosqueruela takes you by walls, towers, gates and beautiful eaves, as well as **16th- and 17th-century palaces**. This postcard-perfect view resulted in **Mosqueruela** being declared a Spanish **Conjunto Histórico** (conservation area).

The village is one of the best examples of **octagonal medieval walled layout** in the Teruel mountain ranges. But if the layout is exemplary, no less so is the quality of its architecture; a route to see the village's main attractions can be started by the *Plaza Mayor*, home to buildings like La Asunción church, a blend of Gothic and Baroque styles. Along with the one in **Mirambel**, the **wall** of Mosqueruela is one of the best preserved in Aragón and features five gates, most noteworthy the *San Roque*.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation, Petrol Station

### Point 13

Continue going south along the A1701 from Mosqueruela to Linares de Mora 17.1km away.

## Linares de Mora

Located in the *Linares river valley* in the heart of the *Sierra de Gúdar* and surrounded by mountains, the walled village of **Linares de Mora** is a Spanish **Conjunto Histórico** (conservation area). The town is crowned by the **castle** and, at its feet, is protected by a fortified wall, several sections of which are still standing, in addition to three gates. Also noteworthy is the Baroque-style *La Inmaculada church* and its bell tower, built in an unusual spot separate from the church. One of the details that make **Linares** a unique place are the white houses offset by red tile roofs.

Exploring the streets of this village is the perfect way to discover its most charming spots and some of its most outstanding buildings, with large wooden beams, eaves, balconies and iron grilles. The majority of the private homes are made of stone with a whitewashed facade. **Several chapels** are

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located in the surrounding area. The **medieval bridge** that crosses the *Linares river* is one of the oldest in the province. **Linares** is surrounded by a rich natural landscape dotted with broom pine and an exceptionally well-preserved river.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation

### End of route

Continue going south on the A1701 for 24.4km to Rubielos de Mora, passing through Noguera just beforehand. Rubielos de Mora ends the Silent Pass route and is one of the most beautiful villages in Spain.

## Rubielos de Mora

**Rubielos de Mora** is located on a rolling plain in the *Sierra de Gúdar* at an elevation of 929 m. The municipality features both splendid architecture and a surprisingly rich landscape: the *Mijares and Rubielos river* gorges, high moorlands on the buttes, farmhouses dotting the land...a stunningly beautiful area. A **Conjunto Histórico** (conservation area), it is also ranked as "**one of the most beautiful villages in Spain**".

Some of the must-see sights on a visit here include the *former collegiate Santa María la Mayor church* and its large 15th-century International Gothic altarpiece. The most historically valuable civil building is its exceptional Guild Hall, a stunning Renaissance-style building with a splendid market. A stroll through the streets of Rubielos is the perfect way to discover an endless number of **manor houses and small palaces** that feature stonework and forged iron. The village is also home to two convents: one of the *Carmelites*, with its impressive cloister and, outside the walls, one of *Augustinian nuns*. The entire village is framed by **walls** that once served as protection; two beautiful gate towers can still be seen today.

**Services:** Restaurant, Accommodation, Petrol Station

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