

# CAMINO DE LA CRUZ DE CARAVACA

DISCOVER YOUR ROUTE



The Camino de la Cruz de Caravaca is a strategic project which aims to allow pilgrims to make their pilgrimages to the Jubilee city of Caravaca de la Cruz on foot or by bicycle, taking as a reference guide the routes which were designed in previous Jubilee Years from various places across Spain and the Region of Murcia.

The first Camino de la Cruz de Caravaca which has been given value by taking advantage of the existence of major infrastructures which have been upgraded for non motorised traffic, such as the Segura River Mota and the Via Verde del Noroeste (the literally the green route of the

north-west), is the Camino de Levante, which starts at Orihuela, in the Valencian Community, and after passing through Beniel, the city of Murcia, Molina de Segura, Alguazas, Campos del Río, Albudefite, Mula, Bullas and Cehegin until reaching Caravaca de la Cruz, in a route of approximately 118 kilometres which combines the religious character with culture, nature, gastronomy and the heritage of the hinterland of the Region of Murcia.



## CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE TRUE CROSS CRUZ JUBILEE

1. That the faithful worshipper be in a **state of grace**. It is recommended that the **sacramental confession** be made, either on the day of the pilgrimage, or in the days prior to same.

2. **Pilgrimage along the Camino de Levante** towards Caravaca de la Cruz: whenever one's physical fitness or health permit. For those who wish to receive the Pilgrimage Certificate, if they are over 18 years old: they will need to travel an approximate distance of 22 km (understood as that ranging between the municipalities of Bullas - Caravaca); and if they are minors: the approximate distance of 7 km is required (understood as that ranging between the municipalities of Cehegin - Caravaca).

3. That they participate in the **Eucharist** and receive **Holy Communion**. The ideal would be to attend the Pilgrim's Mass, if the pilgrim cannot attend mass, to receive the Communion as soon as possible, to participate in Eucharistic Adoration, with the prayer of confession of faith, The "Creed", an "Our Father" and an invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary ("Hail Mary").

4. To pray for the **Pope's intentions** with the jubilee prayer.

5. To **worship the Holy Relic**, the "Lignum Crucis".

6. To make a charity donation for the Jubilee action, a donation for charitable works to help the poor and needy, collaborating with the obligation of the pence which will be delivered to the Successor of St. Peter, the Pope.



## USEFUL TIPS FOR THE PILGRIM

The pilgrim's passport is the document in which are sealed the stamps of the locations through which the pilgrims pass and will serve to obtain the CARAVAQUENSIS (a document from the Diocese of Cartagena certifying the making of a pilgrimage for religious or spiritual reasons), and must substantiate having undertaken at least the last kilometres on foot or by bicycle (22 km for persons over the age of 18 and 7 km for those under the age of 18).

- Spanish pilgrims must always travel with the health card.

-In the event of coming from another member country of the European Union it is advisable that the pilgrim have the European health card.

- In the event that the pilgrim comes from country which is not a member country of the European Union, one should know that there are countries that have agreements with Spain, reason why it will be important to obtain this information prior to starting the trip and therefore arrive all the papers in order.



**People with disabilities**  
In addition to the general recommendations that every pilgrim must comply with, they should:

- Know prior to starting out, the difficulties which a pilgrim with a disability may encounter and the accessibility conditions of the different services available on the Camino de Levante (hostels, hostelry establishments etc.)

- Exercise extreme caution when crossing the roads if one is hearing impaired and always walk accompanied for persons with visual impairment, due to crossings, detours and uneven terrain.

When travelling with animals

- Ensure that all vaccines and de-worming shots are current, properly included in the health card, with which the pilgrim must travel.

- Plan and adapt the route and the stages to the availability of accommodations which permit one's access.



**Prior to starting the pilgrimage**  
Undertake a prior previous physical preparation, taking into account that one must plan the stages according to one's physical possibilities, saving one's strength and making frequent or longer stops, depending on the physical characteristics of each one.

- Once on one's way, one must not walk very fast during the first few days and keep up the same rhythm.

- It is fundamental to care for one's feet in order to prevent blisters, and to that end one must wear comfortable and used footwear, it is advisable to wear two pairs of shoes with thick and light soles, socks should be adjusted and have efficient breathability (thread or cotton), always clean, dry and properly worn in order to avoid chafing. At the end of the day, wash one's feet with soap and water and change shoes.

- Use light-coloured (reflective), lightweight and loose clothing, appropriate for the season.

- Wear protective headgear, and sunglasses, avoid the hottest hours of the day and use protective cream.

- Drink water frequently but ensure that it is drinkable; do not drink water from creeks, rivers, mineral springs or sources whose drinkability one is not sure about. To prevent dehydration, a minimum daily intake of 2 litres of water is recommended. Isotonic drinks are available on the market whose

composition is based on sodium and potassium can help a healthy adult.

- BE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

- Never leave the marked paths, avoid walking at dusk and obey the rules of the road. Whatever one does so by bicycle, remember that it is mandatory to wear a helmet and hi-visibility vest.

- Always walk along the left side of the road.

- If one is exhausted and is experiencing cramps rest in a cool place and drink plenty of fluids.

- Restock on energy along the way by eating high-energy foods (nuts, figs, chocolate etc.)

- One must carry their luggage: sleeping bag, a flashlight, a mobile phone and a small first aid kit.

- Carry a basic emergency first aid kit containing alcohol, dressing, silk bandages, Betadine, band-aids, sunscreen, needle and thread for the treatment of blisters, small scissors, Vaseline, mosquito repellent, antihistamines (for allergies) and aspirin.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR A PILGRIM'S PASSPORT

Every parish church in the Region of Murcia has copies of a document called "Application for a Pilgrim's Passport". Therefore, one's option is to go to one of these churches and pick one up.

1. Once the document has been filled out, it will be stamped by the parish priest - so that it can be taken to the See of the Diocese of Cartagena (Episcopal Palace) in Murcia.

- If a group or parish church wishes to request the passport for all the members of the group at the same time, an application form must be completed and submitted for each applicant.

- Groups or parish churches located outside the Region of Murcia, one can contact the Secretary General of the Diocese directly via email at [canciller@diocesidcartagena.org](mailto:canciller@diocesidcartagena.org) or by calling +34 968 221371

## STAMPING POINTS

In order to obtain the Pilgrim's Certificate (or "Caravaquensis") from the Diocese of Cartagena, pilgrims must collect stamps at the following locations:

1. All churches, Stations of the Jubilee (Iglesia del Salvador (Church of the Saviour)) in Caravaca), Places of Pilgrim Blessings (Iglesia de San Antonio (Church of St. Anthony)) Cehegin, Monasterio de Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación (Monastery of Our Lady of the Incarnation) in Mula, Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Rosario (Parish Church of Our Lady of the Rosary) in Bullas and Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de los Remedios (Church of Our Lady of the Remedies) in Albudefite) and important ecclesiastical monuments along the Camino de Levante such as the Cathedral or the Episcopal Palace in Murcia.

2. Tourist offices of the municipalities through which the Camino runs through or in Town Halls (in locations where there is no tourist office). These locations will be

identified by plaques bearing the words "Stamping Points".

3. The establishments adhered to the Camino de Levante (accommodation, restaurants, active tourism, small business ...) which offer special rates to pilgrims). These establishments are identified by plaques bearing the words "Affiliated Establishment".

**Important: In order to obtain the Pilgrim's Passport or "Caravaquensis", it is necessary for the pilgrim to walk, from at least as far away as Bullas, and Cehegin for children, and obtain at least 60% of the stamps sealed are available at religious establishments.**

For more information consult the: [diocesidcartagena.org](http://diocesidcartagena.org) [caminodelacruz.es](http://caminodelacruz.es)

## PILGRIMAGE BY BUS/CAR TO CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ

If one is going to visit the Jubilee city by car or bus, a **Pilgrim's Passport issued by the Cofradía de la Santísima y Vera Cruz de Caravaca** can be similarly obtained. Reservations for individual or group visits of this kind should be registered with the Cofradía itself by email ([cofradia@lacruzdecaravaca.es](mailto:cofradia@lacruzdecaravaca.es)) where one will be asked to supply details. If the reservation is made at one's Pilgrim's Mass in sufficient time beforehand the Passport will be ready to be picked up when one arrives.



## TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF INTEREST

<b>ORIHUELA</b>	
OFICINA DE TURISMO	965 304 645 / 965 307 747
AUTOBUSES	965 107 048 / 965 301 590 / 966 779 392
TAXI	966 740 202
<b>BENIEL</b>	
AYUNTAMIENTO DE BENIEL	968 600 161
TAXI	669 637 770 / 677 445 633
<b>MURCIA</b>	
OFICINA DE TURISMO	968 358 749
AUTOBUSES	968 292 211
TAXI	968 248 800
<b>MOLINA DE SEGURA</b>	
OFICINA DE TURISMO	968 388 522
AUTOBUSES	968 640 108
TAXI	968 610 015
<b>ALGUAZAS</b>	
AYUNTAMIENTO DE ALGUAZAS	968 620 022
TAXI	636 583 657
<b>CAMPOS DEL RÍO</b>	
AYUNTAMIENTO DE CAMPOS DEL RÍO	968 505 135
TAXI	639 629 983
<b>ALBUDEITE</b>	
AYUNTAMIENTO DE ALBUDEITE	968 667 502
ALBUDEITE	639 629 983
<b>MULA</b>	
OFICINA DE TURISMO	968 661 501
AUTOBUSES	968 298 927
TAXI	629 779 358
<b>BULLAS</b>	
OFICINA DE TURISMO	968 652 244
AUTOBUSES	968 299 048
TAXI	639 038 362 / 618 053 769
<b>CEHEGÍN</b>	
OFICINA DE TURISMO	968 723 550
AUTOBUSES	968 743 408
TAXI	617 454 839 / 968 740 552
<b>CARAVACA</b>	
OFICINA DE TURISMO	968 702 424
AUTOBUSES	699 917 518
TAXI	609 682 590 / 646 223 009 / 679 869 367 / 608 071 631 / 622 936 524

RENFE: 902 320 320  
EMERGENCIAS: 112

Further information for pilgrims in: [caminodelacruz.es](http://caminodelacruz.es) [turismoregiondemurcia.es](http://turismoregiondemurcia.es)

## CARAVACA: BETWEEN ANGELS, "YOLKS" AND LEGENDS.

Caravaca de La Cruz is a city chosen by the angels. It happened on 3 May 1232, the day when two heavenly creatures descended from heaven to free a priest imprisoned in the castle fortress dungeons who had been ordered to officiate a Mass, however the priest could not do so as given that he had no crucifix.

Suddenly through a window of the main chamber of the fortress the angels appeared carrying a double-armed cross which they delicately placed on the altar, so that the priest could officiate the mass. Before such a wonder and overcome by the vision, Ceyt-Abu-Ceyt, the Almohad king of Valencia and Murcia, fell to his knees and converted to the Christian faith. Later, it was verified that the cross appeared on the chest of the bishop Robert, first Patriarch of Jerusalem, made with the same wood from the true cross where Jesus Christ died.

Then, Ferdinand III the Saint reigned in Castile and Leon, and James I in Aragon. The Taifa kingdom (independent Muslim kingdom in the Iberian peninsula) of Murcia was ruled by Ibn-Hud, who rebelled against the Almohads and controlled much of Al-Andalus (Islamic Iberia). In this fashion this miracle occurred in deep Muslim territory and control.

Perched on top of a hill, the city has since served as a shrine and safeguards the famous four-armed cross. This 'jewel' has served to preserve the grandeur, architecture, ambience cuisine and spirituality inherent of the medieval capital of an extensive region.

From the fortress, an imposing 14 turret wall, one can practically smell its history and culture. From any vantage point one can discern a sea of adobe roof tiles which imbues colour to the historic quarter of the town. Stones of an ancient lineage are intertwined in mansions, coat of arms, stately manors or churches, next to the inherent town planning of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Above, between the walls of the fortress, the Iglesia de la Vera (Church of the True Holy Cross) was erected in the eighteenth century, a baroque building constructed with red marble from the neighbouring city, Cehegin. When a visitor climbs up the hill heading to the castle, it must be seen as it

would be on 2 May, a date on which the city and the world is turned on its head with the spectacular sight that exceeds all known limits such as Caballos del Vino (Running of the Wine Horses).

The horses adorned in splendid robes embroidered in silk and gold, where thousands and thousands of people applaud and cheer the teams in one of the most colourful and popular festivals in Spain. This fiesta recalls an ancient deed in which food and water was able to be smuggled into the besieged city with the help of the cavalry, and is, undoubtedly, the fulminating moment of the patron saint festivals of the Santísima and Vera Cruz.

The embroidered mantles which adorn the horses are true jewels of the caravaqueño artisan embroidery workshops, as well as the garments of the Moors and Christians, which can be visited in the Fiesta Museum, one of the four that have opened in the city on the occasion of the Jubilee.

The festival museum occupies the former palace of the Marquis of San Mames, a 16th century building salvaged from ruin for these festivities, as similarly was the Iglesia de la Soledad (Church of Solitude), home to the Archaeological Museum, where important Iberian, Roman And Muslim items from an area rich in history are displayed.



The restoration works of the castle and the Church of the Vera Cruz unearthed new rampart panels and unknown towers of the 11th century fortress, as well as an Arab reservoir, now part of a new museum, that of the Vera Cruz Museum, constructed according to the design of the Madrid architect Luis Feduchi, where everything related to the relic objects and the legend of its apparition are displayed.

As can be seen, there are many churches in Caravaca. But if one were to highlight a church due to its monumentality, it would have to be the square, serene and massive block of the Saviour, the best temple of the Murcian Renaissance.

Surprising in a baroque land, is the mellifluous and Renaissance shape of the Salvador church emerges among narrow



streets, with its four splendid Ionian fluted columns bearing the Gothic ribs of its vault and formidable façade. A way to one's heart is through the stomach and Caravaca is no different. How so? With a couple of "yolks" and sweet liquor or a coffee in any of the cafes which line the Calle Mayor (main street). Then, it is recommended burn off the "yolks" with subsequent walking up and down the streets of the medieval quarter.

In Caravaca the hotel trade has that oh so recognisable aroma of home-style cooking, therefore it is necessary to partake of the rich tradition of the hinterland Murcian cuisine.

- ALOJAMIENTO
- OFICINAS DE TURISMO
- SANTUARIO DE LA VER CRUZ
- FARMACIA
- HOSPITAL/ CENTRO DE SALUD



CAMINO DE LEVANTE  
**DE LA CRUZ**  
CAMINO  
ANO JUBILAR  
DE LA CRUZ 2024  
CARAVACA



CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ 2024 ANO JUBILAR



[caminodelacruz.es](http://caminodelacruz.es)  
[turismoregiondemurcia.es](http://turismoregiondemurcia.es)

## STAGE 1

### ORIHUELA-MURCIA THE SEGURA RIVER WILL GUIDE YOU ON THE CAMINO

Distance: 24 km  
Walking time: 6 hours  
Cycling time: 2,5 hours

The Camino de Levante towards the Santuario de la Vera Cruz de Caravaca (Sanctuary of the Vera Cruz of Caravaca) starts in Orihuela, a few metres from the Catedral del Salvador (Cathedral of the Saviour), symbol of the religion of a city which has other features of must visit places such as the Iglesia de las Santas Justa y Rufina (Church of Saint Justa and Saint Rufina), The Castle, the Palmeral de San Antón (Saint Anthony's Palm Grove), the Archaeological Museum or the Casa Museo de Miguel Hernández (Miguel Hernández House-Museum). Easter and the Moors and Christians festivals are special dates for passion and enjoyment. Starting now the

Camino heading upstream to the Molino de la Ciudad (town mill). Then crossing the Tajo-Segura water supply channel and only a few 3 kilometres further on one will pass in front of Beniel, now already in the Region of Murcia. An alternative route allows one to enter Beniel crossing the river by the area of the twin waterwheels.

Practically straight ahead line towards to the southeast one will arrive at the hamlet of El Raal, with its Living Nativity Scene in El Secano. Prior to arriving in Murcia, regional capital and must stopping point for the Camino de Levante, where one can deviate to visit the Casa del Belén in Puente Tocinos.

### WHAT TO SEE

#### Orihuela

It is imperative to visit the **Catedral del Salvador (Cathedral of the Saviour)**, dating back from the twelfth century. In addition, the **Molino de la Ciudad (town mill)**, which served for the grinding of flour and paprika.

Having the second largest palm grove in Europe just behind that of Elche: the **Palmeral de San Antón (Saint Anthony's Palm Grove)**. The municipality commemorates the cultural legacy of its most distinguished poet, Miguel Hernández (1910-1942), in the **House-Museum**.



## STAGE 2

### MURCIA-ALGUAZAS A STROLL THROUGH THE ORCHARD OF MURCIA

Distance: 26 km  
Walking time: 6,5 hours  
Cycling time: 2,5 hours

One is now leaving the city of Murcia. One's experience of faith experience on the Camino de Levante, one's Camino de la Cruz, continues on this stretch to the town of Alguazas. After leaving behind the Malecón, a historic construction designed to stop the pressure derivative from the flooding of the Segura River, proceeding along the left bank of the river and through one's visit one will find traditional boroughs which bear the secrets of the Murcian orchard, such as the Nora (waterwheel) and Ermita de Nuestra Señora de la Salud (Chapel of Our Lady of Health), on the other side of the river and a few metres away from the Nora de Alcantarilla (Alcantarilla Waterwheel) and the Museo de la Huerta. The featured plots of land, houses and inhabited areas are those which prevail over the landscape of an area in which the crops have historically coexisted and have known to harness water and land using traditions that have survived to the present day and age. Further on one will arrive at the heart of the water capital, the Azud

Mayor (weir) of Murcia in the Contrapareda landscape, from where the water leaves since the Muslim period, the largest irrigation ditches which irrigate the orchard of Murcia. A place to stop and learn about the strong relationship which Murcia has had from ancient times with water. One's journey will proceed for a few kilometres until Molina de Segura and, leaving the river, where one will be welcomed along the road to the Ermita de Nuestra Señora de la Consolación (Chapel of Our Lady of Consolation). From there, one will continue along the "Via Verde del Noroeste" (Green Route of the north-west), a former disused railway line converted today into an ecotourism tour. The Via Verde (literally "Green Ways or Routes") flanks the city of Molina de Segura and then traces an arc towards the east that will take one to Alguazas, the final point of this stage and the final exit of the Vega del Segura towards the Northwest, towards the Santuario de la Vera Cruz (Sanctuary of Vera Cruz), until gaining one's jubilee.

### WHAT TO SEE

#### Murcia

A key example of the Spanish Baroque, the **Catedral of Murcia** is the See of the Diocese of Cartagena and is located in the heart of the historic quarter, in the Plaza del Cardenal Belluga, where the **Episcopal Palace** is also located. It is essential to understand the baroque sculptural work which houses the **Salzillo Museum**, the **Monasterio de Santa Clara (Monastery of Saint Clara)** and the **Conjunto Monumental de San Juan de Dios**. Furthermore, Murcia is a **gastronomic capital** of reference in Spain for the quality of its tapas.

#### Molina de Segura

The **Ermita de la Consolación (Chapel of Our Lady of Consolation)** houses the patroness of the city, its contemporary outline must be attributed to the architect Vicente Garaulet. Another church to take into account is that of **Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (Our Lady of the Assumption)**, created as a modest parish church in 1266. A must see visit is the **Museo Enclave de la Muralla (MUDEM)**, which houses part of a medieval Andalusian wall, and the **Museo Horno Concejo**, an example of popular architecture of the seventeenth century.



## STAGE 3

### ALGUAZAS-MULA LAND OF CASTLES AND "BADLANDS"

Distance: 26 km  
Walking time: 6,5 hours  
Cycling time: 2,5 hours

This green stage of the Camino de Levante will take one from Alguazas to Mula through the Via Verde del Noroeste (green route of the north-west), a former disused railway line layout reinstated as an ecotourism route. With Alguazas behind one, the Camino de la Cruz turning westward through the typical dry fields of Murcia to the town of Campos del Río and runs through a singular landscape where the aridness of the badlands (the "bad lands" a product of erosion) with the leafy vegetation of the banks of the Mula River. Although not at first glance, these badlands harbour an interesting diversity of fauna and flora and geological values. An alternative route starts from Los Rodeos and, next to the Mula River, until arriving at the historic quarter of the Campos del Río. The road continues until the Postravase Channel and from here to Albacete, with the Nuestra Señora de los Remedios (Church of Our Lady of the Remedies) a must see visit, where one can also reach using an alternative route that goes down to the Mula River. In the third stage, turn slightly towards the former Estación de Los Baños, very near to the area of Los Baños de Mula, an excellent

### WHAT TO SEE

#### Alguazas

Inharmonious and humble, the **Iglesia de San Onofre (San Onofre Church)** blends the mudéjar, baroque and neoclassic styles, which makes it one of the most unique constructions in the southeast of Spain. Also noteworthy in the municipality is the **Ermita de la Purísima (Chapel of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception)** and the **Torre del Obispo (Bishop's Tower)**, which currently houses the **Ethnographic Museum**.

#### Campos del Río

Located here is the **Iglesia de San Juan Bautista (Church of Saint John the Baptist)**, of baroque style and which houses wooden statues of Roque López, a disciple of Salzillo.

#### Albudeite

In the **Iglesia Nuestra Señora de los Remedios (Church of Our Lady of the Remedies)** one can visit the **Crsto de la Sangre (The Christ of the Blood)**, work of Francisco Salzillo.



## STAGE 4

### MULA-BULLAS BETWEEN LANDSCAPES AND VINEYARDS

Distance: 21 km  
Walking time: 5 hours  
Cycling time: 2 hours

The fourth stage of the Camino de Levante starts between Mula and Bullas. There is still a stretch remaining until reaching Caravaca, but the finishing line is no longer so very far away. The road exits this stage of the region of the Mula River to fully explore the Northwest region of the Region of Murcia and that is why one's journey will continue with a landscape that will become increasingly more wooded and mountainous. Not very far away is the Regional Park of Sierra Espuña. After a few metres westward the road ascends to the north and surrounds the Trascastillo Alto, always following the path of the Via Verde del Noroeste (green route of the north-west) to continue in an easterly direction. Then arriving at El Niño de Mula, an almost compulsory stopping place where to take a break and stop for refreshments, for visiting its Sanctuary and for visiting in September,

if one's travel schedule should so allow, for the religious celebrations and traditional festivals which commemorate the apparition of the infant Jesus to a shepherd in the area. Always continuing westward, crossing old and new bridges and railway tunnels, one will arrive at the former Estación de la Luz Power Station), nowadays a shelter/refuge. In one's tour one will visit several farmhouses which define the agricultural personality of this area. When entering the municipality of Bullas one will be surprised with the cultivated fields of vines, the veritable economic engine of an area which produces a quality wine that even counts with its own Designation of Origin.

### WHAT TO SEE

#### Mula

Crowned by the **Castillo de los Vélez (Los Vélez Castle)** on the slopes of the hillside is well worth visiting the **Real Monasterio de la Encarnación (Royal Monastery of the Incarnation)** where a **Holy Thorn of the crown of Christ is displayed** and the architectural ensemble of **Santo Domingo de Guzmán**. Deserving of a special mention is the **Santuario del niño Jesús de Balate (Sanctuary of the Infant Jesus de Balate)**, where there is a wooden statue of the infant Jesus is located. For lovers of the Iberian period, the "El Cigarralejo" **Monographic Museum of Iberian Art** is a must stop, whilst lovers of contemporary art should opt for the **Casa Museo Cristóbal Gabarrón (Cristóbal Gabarrón House-Museum)**.

#### Bullas

The municipality represents the past and the future of wines made from the **Monastrell (or Mourvèdre)** grape. Its **Wine Museum** recaps the artisan production and the most up to date methods of certain wines which have the designation of origin. Noteworthy is the **Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Rosario (Church of Our Lady of the Rosary)**, the **Casa Pepe Marsilla** and the **Plaza Vieja (Old Square)**, which hosts the first Sunday of every month the **El Zacatín Flea Market**.



## STAGE 5

### BULLAS-CARAVACA END OF THE PILGRIMAGE, THE SANCTUARY OF VERA CRUZ

Distance: 21 km  
Walking time: 5 hours  
Cycling time: 2 hours

Leaving Bullas always following the Via Verde. One's journey of pilgrimage will take one into the heart of the fifth stage of the Camino de Levante, your objective is near completion, one's steps closer to the Basílica-Santuario of Caravaca de la Cruz. This is the most monumental stage of one's journey to Caravaca, always exceeding 500 metres of altitude but without very steep slopes, as it is not for nothing that one travels on by a former railway line which did not cater for many gradients. The tour will take one to the Taibilla water supply canal and, clearing it, the spot known as Cristo del Carrascalejo, a place of faith for bullenuses. The landscape of vineyards and pinewoods define the spirit of this area very well. Afterwards, alongside a certain section via the Northwest Motorway which will appear on one's left, one will arrive at the town of Cehegín. Landscapes full of forests and watercourses such as that of Burete marking the way to Ermita del Escobar (Escobar Chapel). A few kilometres further on the road one will

pass by next to the important ruins of Begastrí, an ancient Roman city which was episcopal seat in Visigothic era. Soon one will come upon Cehegín, a town which should not be missed out on seeing and which houses a noteworthy civil and religious heritage.

One's destination is only a hand's breadth away, Caravaca de la Cruz. Through the natural entrance provided by the valley of the Argos River, and passing the last railway tunnel of the route, Caravaca welcome the pilgrim as it has done so since time immemorial. At the top of the hill the baroque façade of the Sanctuary will await one to welcome one together with the thousands of visitors who each year, much like oneself, come to worship the Vera Cruz and attain Plenary Indulgence.

### WHAT TO SEE

#### Cehegín

Located in the heart of the north-western region, its historic centre was declared **Historic-Artistic Site. Artistic**. Noteworthy buildings are the **Palacio de Jaspe (Jaspe Palace)** (current Town Hall), the **Casino**, the **Iglesia de Santa María (Church of Saint Mary)**, or the **Ermita de la Concepción (Chapel of the Immaculate Conception)**. Do not forget to visit the **Municipal Archeological Museum**, located in the Plaza del Castillo, where the popular arts and crafts flea market "El Mesonico" is held.

#### Caravaca

A seventeenth century fortress which gave rise to the **Castle-Santuario de la Santísima y Vera Cruz (the Holy True Cross Sanctuary)**, which also houses the **Museo de la Vera Cruz (Vera Cruz Museum)**. Other monuments to take into account are the **Iglesia del Salvador (Church of the Saviour)**, the **Iglesia de San José (Church of Saint Joseph)** and the **Convento e Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús (Convent and Church of the Compañía de Jesús)**. The **Casa-Museo de los Caballos del Vino (Horses of the Wine House-Museum)** shows the history and development of this unique festival, which is part of the DNA of its inhabitants.



Río Segura, Orihuela



Catedral de Santa María, Murcia



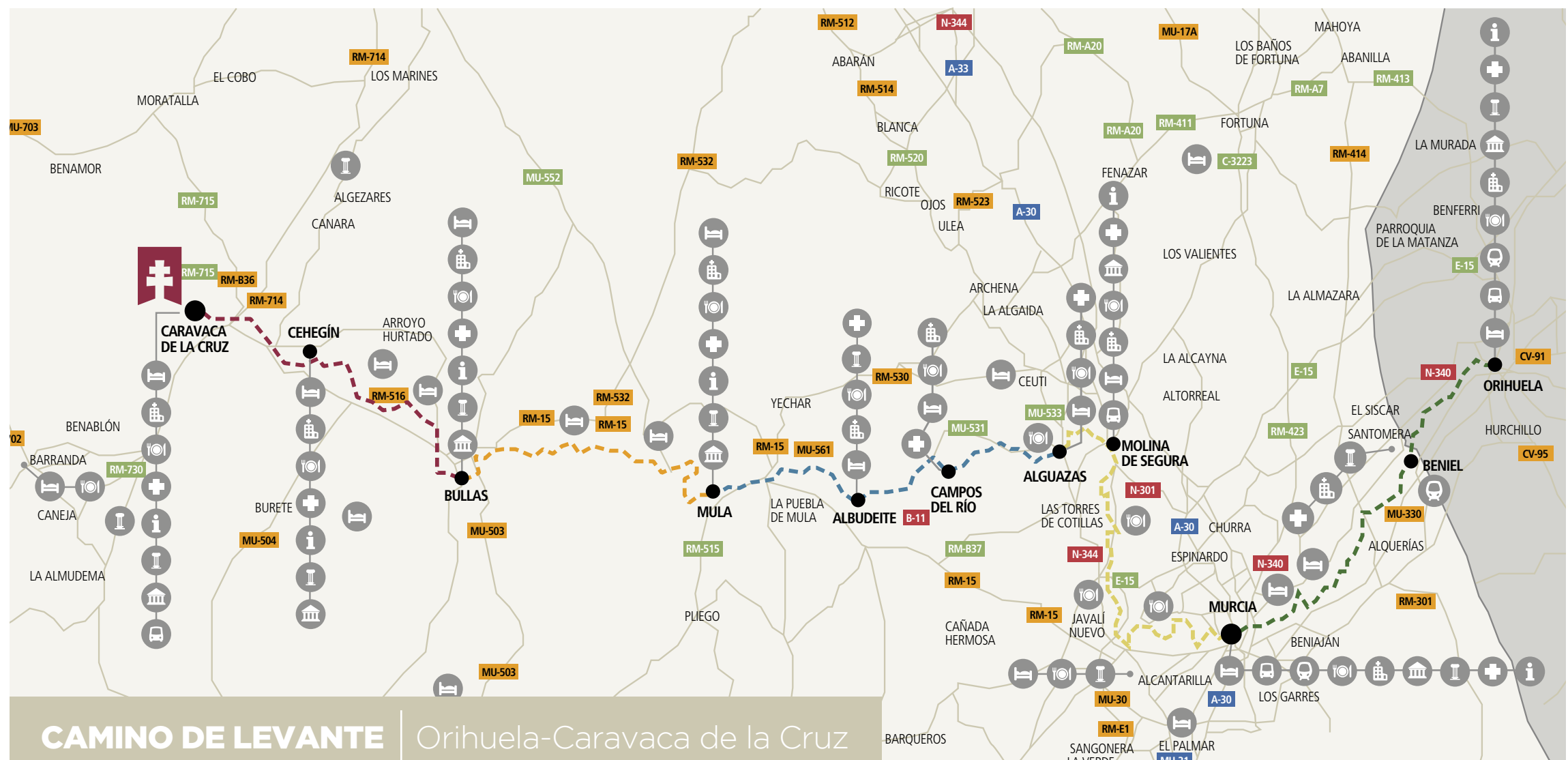
Real Monasterio de la Encarnación, Mula



Fuentes del Marqués, Caravaca



Santuario de la Vera Cruz, Caravaca



CAMINO DE LEVANTE | Orihuela Caravaca de la Cruz



- TRAIN
- BUS
- RESTAURANTS
- MUSEUM
- HOSPITAL/ HEALTH CENTER
- CHEMISTRY
- ACCOMMODATION
- MONUMENT
- TOURISM OFFICES

Camino de la Cruz de Caravaca  
+ Info:  
caminodelacruz.es  
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