

THE POUNDS ROUTE

Classification: Excursion.

Time: 3 hours (roundtrip).

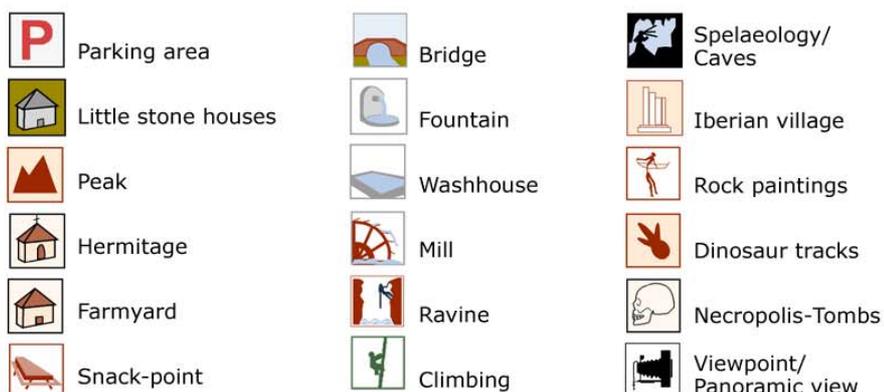
Dificultad: easy.

Etnografía: Traditional washhouses and ponds.



 possible access by car

 access possible only on foot



The route starts from the abovementioned Saint Michael's hermitage (ermita de San Miguel) and pond. Most of it follows a path of traditional washhouses, which made use of a channeled water stream from the pond, flowing into the Muela ravine. After crossing its bed, we will arrive at the barns at the foot of the hill. The path crosses the ravine again, this time through a poplar wood, and descends on the left side along a network of irrigation ditches. It brings us to the pond at the Vieja spring. Next, we will find the Alfara spring, which features a pond with flourishing vegetation. The flora here has colonized the streambed channeling its course. The Mortero ravine flows there as well.

Along the route we will see many stone walls supporting the terraces where the ravine used to be. The terraces are currently used for various cultivation including fruit and olive trees. Soon after is another pond, after which the descent starts to the bed of the ravine, through a path along an olive grove. This path leads to a well-preserved mill, which once used the water of the ravine to grind wheat and produce flour.

Lastly, the Pulgarillas pond, at the end of Oliete, collects water from the ravine which is also known as Regatillo, and which receives a permanent water flow from the springs we have seen. Close to this pond, a path junction will allow us to join the Iberian route to Oliete. From there we can go on to the San Pedro and Ariño area, or go back to Alacón by another marked path.

How to get there?

Go from Zaragoza to Lécera on A-222 and take the junction towards Alacón when near Ventas de Muniesa. This is around 10 kilometers from Lécera (TE-V-1101), and also crosses the Mortero ravine. Or, continue to Muniesa and take the junction towards Alacón and Oliete on A-1401.

From Montalbán, on A-222, passing through Hoz de la Vieja and Cortes de Aragón you will get to Muniesa. From there, take the junction indicated in direction of Alacón and Oliete.

From Albalate, following A-1401 and passing through Ariño and Oliete, you will get to Alacón.

Any marked path in the Park will allow visitors to access places of great ecological and environmental value and to see a number of rock paintings - World Heritage sites protected by law.

Please remember that everyone has not only the right to enjoy nature but also the obligation to preserve it.



The shelters with rock paintings and archeological sites feature a protection fence. Authorized guides are required for visits. Contact phone numbers can be found in the town halls, tourist offices or interpretation centers of the villages which constitute the Cultural Park.



Please contribute to the preservation of rock paintings. Don't touch or throw water on them and respect the protection fences. Please remember, they are part of the unique but frail heritage of the past; we have to protect them if we want to continue to enjoy them in the same environment in which they were created thousands of years ago.



Archeological and/or palaeontologic prospecting and excavation without the necessary permits is strictly prohibited, according to law 3/1999 of the Aragonese Cultural Heritage. Please contribute to the preservation of the historical, cultural and ethnographic heritage of the Park.



Please keep the place clean. Do not discard any garbage or waste material.



Please remember that lighting fires, throwing away cigarette butts and glass or any other objects that can cause fire is prohibited.



Please respect the environment. Do not uproot plants, do not dirty the water, and do not bother or attempt to capture any of the birds and animals. Many of them nest here.



If you intend to follow one of the routes, please remember to wear comfortable footwear (trainers or hiking boots). Although the trails are quite accessible, appropriate footwear will allow you to walk more confidently, avoiding falls and sprains.



Please bear in mind you are in a natural park and, although the routes have been adapted for visitors, do not forget to take precautions. Do not leave the marked path and pay attention when crossing areas with rocks or water, especially if traveling with children.