



03 Alguazas - Mula: castles and the "badlands"

Distance: 26 km

Walking time: 6 hours 30 minutes

Cycling time: 2 hours 30 minutes

Each stage of the Camino de Levante has its own character, and this one is marked by the un-irrigated cropland, which will test your mental strength and help you to realize that happiness can be found in the small things in life. Between Alguazas and Mula you cross the "badlands", a harsh and hostile landscape formed by water erosion, although nowadays water. However, travelers are well advised to carry plenty of water in their backpack, tackling a 26-kilometre section to the next port of call.

Pilgrims can also take an **alternative route**, which not only enriches them spiritually but also helps them to widen their personal and cultural horizons. This detour heads towards **Los Rodeos, next to the River Mula**, and takes in the ancient settlement of Campos del Río, with its typical village houses and special charm. From here follow the path to Albudeite, where the next church awaits: this one is dedicated to Nuestra Señora de los Remedios, and is unusual in that it is built over the remains of a mosque.

There are plenty of **Roman ruins** in the Region of Murcia, and many lie along this third stage of the journey to Caravaca de la Cruz. Once you cross the motorway, after Los Baños de Mula, there is the option of taking another detour to the Roman Villa of Los Villaricos, and from there to La Puebla de Mula. This is the site of the Castillo de Alcalá, a fortress where religious beliefs are safeguarded, and once here you can congratulate yourself on having reached the end of the stage in Mula. The Sanctuary of the True Cross is getting closer now...