



## 05 Bullas - Caravaca: the end of the Camino de Levante, the Sanctuary of the True Cross

**Distance:** 21 km

**Walking time:** 5 hours

**Cycling time:** 2 hours

You are now just **one step away from achieving plenary indulgence** and marveling at the impressive sanctuary which stands atop the hill of Caravaca, but success still requires a final effort and is hard won. This is the case with the last stretch of this route, the final stage being the hilliest and the hardest, rising by 500 metres along its 21-kilometre length. Fortunately, your faith will fortify you and be your companion on the journey, helping you to complete the task ahead.

Again the route follows the old railway line, this time leading to the Taibilla water supply canal and then, flanked by vineyards and pine woods, to the spot known as Cristo Carrascalejo. This is the location of the oldest winery in Bullas, and at the same time is of religious as well as gastronomic importance as it is where the locals hold a ceremonial foot-kissing of the figure of Christ during Lent.

The Camino de Levante will introduce you to a large number of different locations in the Region of Murcia, and one of the last is **Cehegín**. Did you know that the characterful old quarter, or town centre, has been declared a historical monument? View its impressive civil and religious heritage by wandering through the narrow streets, and don't forget to find out about the ruins of Begastri, an ancient Roman city which was the centre of a Diocese between the 6th and 8th centuries.

At this point, almost without noticing, you have nearly reached **Caravaca de la Cruz**. Stop, take a moment to look up to the top of the hill, and there, just a few more minutes away is the Santuario de la Vera Cruz. There remains just one more push and you can join the thousands of pilgrims who are there to worship the True Cross. Without doubt, the journey and the effort have all been worthwhile!