

CAMINO DE LA CRUZ DE CARAVACA

BELIEVE IN THE EXTRAORDINARY



The Camino de la Cruz de Caravaca (Caravaca Way) is a strategic project that aims to promote pilgrimage, on foot or by bicycle, to the jubilee city of Caravaca de la Cruz, along the paths traced in previous jubilee years from different points across the region and the country.

The first Camino de la Cruz de Caravaca that has been implemented, taking advantage of major infrastructure prepared for non-motorized traffic, such as the Segura River's walkway and the Northwest Greenway, is the Camino de Levante (Eastern Way), which begins in Orihuela, in the Valencian Community. After passing through Beniel, the city of Murcia,

Molina de Segura, Alguazas, Campos del Río, Albudefite, Mula, Bullas and Cehegín, it reaches Caravaca de la Cruz, on a route stretching almost 118 kilometers and combining religion with culture, nature, gastronomy and the heritage of the Region of Murcia's inland areas.

There are other routes that make up the Camino de la Cruz de Caravaca, departing from various parts across Spain. The Camino de la Vera Cruz (The True Cross Way) is the longest, stretching over 900 km and running through Navarre, Aragon, the Valencian Community, Castile-La Mancha and the Region of Murcia.



REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE THE GRACE OF THE JUBILEE

REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN THE PLENARY INDULGENCE.

What is the plenary indulgence?
The Plenary Indulgence, also known as the Holy Jubilee, is the total remission before God of the temporal punishment due for sins, already forgiven, granted by the Catholic Church. The pilgrimage to Caravaca concedes this form of grace, but certain requirements must be met.

The granting of the Apostolic Penitentiary schedules the plenary indulgence on the following dates:

- On May 3 and September 14, the festivities of the Invention and Exaltation of the Cross.
- Once a year on a day freely chosen by the faithful.
- Whenever one complete a group pilgrimage out of devotion.
- At the celebrations of the solemn Opening and Closing of the Holy Year.
- On days when the diocesan bishop presides over a solemn rite.

Requirements to receive the grace of the Jubilee:

- Visit and participate in any celebration at the Basilica, and pray for the realization of the Supreme Pontiff's intentions.
- In the event that one is unable to participate in a celebration, a prayer for world peace and the fulfillment of the Pope's intentions will suffice (The Creed, Lord's Prayer).

-Sacramental confession and Eucharistic communion. It is not essential to receive these sacraments in the Basilica on the day of one's visit. They may be received a few days before, or after, at another church.

*Jubilee Station to welcome pilgrims. Every day at 11:15 a.m. in the Parroquia de El Salvador (Parish of the Savior), or wherever is indicated to the group, pilgrims will be welcomed at the Jubilee Station as the beginning of the last stage of their pilgrimages to the Basilica.

*Any group accompanied by their priest may request another time. To do this he should contact the Confraternity's Pilgrimage Office beforehand.

12:00 p.m. Pilgrim Mass every day. Other celebrations:

- Via Crucis from the parish of El Salvador to the Basilica, Monday to Friday at 5:00 p.m., and subsequent adoration of the Cross.
- Touchlight procession to the Basilica.
- On the first and third Saturday of each month at 6:45 p.m., and subsequent adoration of the Cross.
- Special catechesis, pending a request lodged with the Cofradía de la Santísima y Vera Cruz de Caravaca (Confraternity of the Most Holy and True Cross of Caravaca.)

HELPFUL TIPS FOR PILGRIMS

Health Documentation

-Spanish pilgrims should always travel with their healthcare card.

-If you are from another EU country, it is advisable to carry a European Healthcare Card.

-If you come from a country that is not a member of the European Union, be aware that there are countries that have agreements with Spain concerning healthcare for visitors, so it is important to obtain this information before starting your trip so that you can arrive with all your documentation in order.

People with disabilities

In addition to the general recommendations that every pilgrim must observe, they are to:
-Inform themselves before leaving regarding the difficulties that a pilgrim with a disability may encounter, and the accessibility conditions of the different services found on the Camino de Levante (hostels, catering establishments, etc.)



-Those with a hearing impairment should exercise extreme caution when crossing roads, and not walk alone if they have a visual impairment due to the crossings, detours and uneven terrain that they will encounter.

If you are traveling with animals

-Make sure that they have been duly vaccinated and dewormed, with this properly documented on their veterinary card, which you must carry.
-Plan your route and stages taking into account the existence of accommodations that will accommodate your animal.



Before starting the pilgrimage.

Carry out previous physical preparation, taking into account that you must plan the stages based on your physical capacities, pacing yourself and taking more or longer breaks in accordance with your fitness level.

-Don't go out too fast. Rather, take it slow and steady the first few days.

-It is essential to take proper care of your feet in order to prevent blisters. Wear comfortable shoes that have been broken in, and with thick and light rubber soles. Pilgrims are advised to wear two pairs of socks, which should fit well, feature good breathability (thread or cotton) and always be clean, dry, and snug in order to prevent chafing. At the end of the day, wash your feet with soap and water, and change your socks.

-Wear light and somewhat loose light-colored (reflective) clothing suitable for the time of year.

-Wear a hat and sunglasses, avoid the hottest hours of the day, and use sunblock.
-Drink water frequently, but make sure that it is potable. Do not consume water from streams, rivers, springs or any other sources if you are not certain it is safe. To prevent dehydration, drinking at least 2 liters of water daily is recommended. There are also isotonic drinks on the market whose sodium and potassium-based composition can be beneficial for healthy adults.



TO REQUEST THE PILGRIM'S CREDENTIAL

When planning your pilgrimage, you must obtain a Pilgrim's Credential. This is an official accreditation issued by the Diocese of Cartagena to those who intend to complete a pilgrimage, whether on foot, by bike, or on horseback, to the Basilica de la Vera Cruz (True Cross) de Caravaca.

It contains useful information for pilgrims: maps, links and spaces to obtain stamps along the pilgrimage's different stages.

Where is the Pilgrim Credential issued?

Paper credential
You can obtain the paper credential at the religious sites designated by the Diocese of Cartagena.

Digital credential
You can obtain the digital credential at: www.caminodecruzdecaravaca.es

STAMP STATIONS

During your pilgrimage, remember to always carry your Pilgrim's Credential with you.

All along the route, from Orihuela to Caravaca de la Cruz, you'll find emblematic churches and monuments that will inspire you to meditate and guide you along the way.

There are two types of stamp stations: ecclesiastical and complementary.

The complementary stamp stations are the Municipal Entities (Town Halls and Tourism Offices) and affiliated establishments (accommodations, restaurants, oenological sites, active tourism companies and others, such as small businesses that offer pilgrims special conditions).

In each locality a stamp station called the "12-hour point" has been established, which remains open 12 hours a day, when pilgrims tend to be passing through, and where you can get your credential stamped if you arrive outside the established hours.

La Caravacensis

The Caravacensis is the official certificate that verifies one's pilgrimage on foot, by bicycle or on horseback to the Vera Cruz (True Cross) de Caravaca.

-It can be obtained at the Basilica of the True Cross (Vera Cruz) if the following requirements are met:
-A pilgrimage of at least 50 km on foot or on horseback.

-A pilgrimage of at least 100 km by bicycle.
-The pilgrim's credential must have at least one stamp per day, in addition to an indication of the date on which the pilgrim received it.

-Pilgrimage to the True Cross of Caravaca out of Christian convictions or as part of a spiritual search.

BUS/CAR EXCURSION TO CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ

If you will be visiting the city by motor vehicle, you can also obtain a Diploma documenting your visit to the Basilica of the True Cross. This document is also reserved for those pilgrims that have travelled on foot, by bicycle or on horseback, but who do not meet the requirements established for the Caravacensis.

If you are going to visit the Basilica with a group of more than 15 people, contact the Confraternity (Cofradía) of the True Cross of Caravaca in advance so that they can prepare these diplomas in advance.



CAMINO DE LEVANTE
DE CARAVACA
DE LA CRUZ
CAMINO
DE LA CRUZ 2024
AÑO JUBILAR
CARAVACA



TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF INTEREST

ORIHUELA	
TOURIST OFFICE	965 304 645 / 965 302 747
BUS STATION/TRAIN STATION	912 320 320 / 672 219 292
TAXIS	966 740 202 / 966 739 144

BENIEL	
BENIEL CITY COUNCIL	968 600 161
TAXIS	669 637 770 / 677 445 633

MURCIA	
TOURIST OFFICE	968 358 600
BUS STATION	968 292 211
TAXIS	968 248 800

MOLINA DE SEGURA	
TOURIST OFFICE	968 388 522
BUS STATION	968 640 108
TAXIS	968 610 015

ALGUAZAS	
ALGUAZAS CITY COUNCIL	968 620 022
TAXIS	636 583 657

CAMPOS DEL RÍO	
CAMPOS DEL RÍO CITY COUNCIL	968 650 135
TAXIS	639 629 983

ALBUDEITE	
ALBUDEITE CITY COUNCIL	968 667 502
TAXIS	639 629 983

MULA	
TOURIST OFFICE	968 661 501
BUS STATION	968 292 211
TAXIS	629 779 358

BULLAS	
TOURIST OFFICE	968 652 244
BUS STATION	968 298 927
TAXIS	696 276 352

CEHEGÍN	
TOURIST OFFICE	968 723 550
BUS STATION	699 917 518
TAXIS	617 454 839 / 968 740 552 / 619 443 890

CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ	
TOURIST OFFICE/PILGRIM RECEPTION CENTRE	968 702 424
COFRADÍA DE LA SANTÍSIMA Y VERA CRUZ	968 707 528
BUS STATION	699 917 518
TAXIS	622 936 524 / 609 682 590 / 646 223 009 / 608 071 631 / 630 947 733

RENFE: 902 320 320
EMERGENCIAS: 112

More information:
caminodecaravacadelacruz.es
turismoregiondemurcia.es/en

CARAVACA: ANGELS, TRADITIONAL TREATS AND LEGENDS.

Caravaca de la Cruz is a city chosen by angels. It happened on May 3, 1231, when two celestial creatures, bearing a crucifix, descended to free a priest imprisoned in the dungeons of the fortress so that he could celebrate Mass.

Through a window of the fortress's main hall, the angels delicately placed a double-armed cross on the altar so that the Mass could be held. Awestruck, and the Almoahad king of Valencia and Murcia, Ceyt-Abu-Ceyt, converted to Christianity. Later it was verified that the cross that appeared was that corresponding to the breastplate of Robert of Nantes, the first patriarch of Jerusalem, made with the wood of the Cross on which Jesus Christ perished.

The Kingdom of Murcia was ruled by Ibn-Hud, who rebelled against the Almohads and dominated much of Al-Andalus. Thus, this miracle occurred in the midst of territory controlled by Muslims.

Perched on top of a hill, the city has since served as a reliquary safeguarding the famous two-armed cross, a marvel that has helped to preserve the grandeur, architecture, atmosphere, gastronomy and spirituality of the extensive region's medieval capital.

From the fortress, with a stunning wall featuring 14 towers, one can almost breathe in its history and culture. From any point along it one can take in views of a sea of adobe tiles tinging the historic quarter with color. Stones steeped in rich history on palazzos, coats of arms, manor houses and churches intermingle with elements of 20th- and 21st-century urban development. Above, between the walls of the fortress, the Church of the True Cross (Iglesia de la Vera Cruz) was built in the 18th century, a Baroque building erected with red marble from the neighboring city of Cehegín. As visitors ascend the slope to the castle, they should imagine the sight of it on May 2, when the city comes to life with the "Vine

Horses Race" celebration, when thousands of people cheer the horses, adorned with embroidery of gold and silk, and their handlers in one of Spain's most colorful and popular festivals. This celebration commemorates a historic feat in which food was run into the besieged city with the help of such horses, and is, undoubtedly, the highlight of the festivities commemorating the Most Holy and True Cross (Santísima y Vera Cruz).

The embroidered cloaks that adorn the horses are true masterpieces of traditional Caravacan workshops, as is the garb of the Moors and Christians. These pieces can be viewed in the Festival Museum, one of the four that have opened in the city on the occasion of the jubilee.

The festival's museum occupies the old Palace of the Marquis of San Mamés, a 16th-century building rescued from ruin for these events. Also refurbished is the Church of Solitude (Iglesia de la Soledad), which houses the Archaeological Museum, where important Iberian, Roman and Muslim pieces from an area rich in history are exhibited.

The refurbishment work on the castle and the church of the True Cross unearthed wall panels and hitherto-undiscovered towers of



the 11th-century fortress, as well as an Arab cistern, which now form part of a new museum, that of the True Cross, designed by Madrid architect Luis Feduchi, where everything related to the relic and the legend of its appearance is on display. As the visitor can see, there are many churches in Caravaca. But, if one were to stand out for its monumental nature, it would be the square, serene and massive building dedicated to the Savior, the finest temple of the Murcian Renaissance. In a land where the Baroque abounds, the harmony of the Renaissance-style (Iglesia de El Salvador) Church of the Savior emerges among narrow alleys, stunning observers with its four magnificent fluted Ionic columns supporting the Gothic ribs of its vault and monumental façade.



A visit to Caravaca is not complete, however, without discovering its cuisine. How? Strolling its Calle Mayor (Main Street), where visitors will find its yemas, a traditional treat, sweet liqueurs and coffee at the many eateries that line it. Then it's time to burn all the calories from those yemas by walking up and down the streets of the hilly Medieval Quarter. In Caravaca the hospitality industry emits the unmistakable aroma of homestyle cooking, so it is essential to enjoy the rich tradition of inland Murcia's cuisine.

CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ

- ACCOMMODATION
- PHARMACY
- DRINKING WATER FOUNTAINS
- TOURIST OFFICES
- HOSPITAL/HEALTHCARE CENTRE
- PARKING
- SANTUARIO DE LA VERA CRUZ
- BUS PARKING AREA
- HOSPITAL
- PILGRIM RECEPTION CENTRE

Polígono Cavila



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STAGE 1

ORIHUELA - MURCIA THE SEGURA RIVER GUIDES YOU ALONG THE WAY

Distance: 24 km
Walking: 6 hours
Cycling: 2.5 hours

The Camino de Levante (Eastern Way) to the Sanctuary of the True Cross of Caravaca (Santuario de la Vera Cruz) begins in Orihuela, just meters from the Cathedral of the Savior (Catedral del Salvador), a symbol of the religiosity of a city featuring other must-see elements, such as the Iglesia de Santos Justa y Rufina, the castle, Palmeral de San Antonio (Palm Grove), **Archaeological Museum** and the Miguel Hernández House/Museum. The **festivities of Holy Week and the Moors & Christians** are red-letter dates for passion and fun. Now, start the Way, ascending along the river until you reach the City Mill (Molino de la Ciudad) before crossing the

Tajo-Segura inter-basin diversion and, just 3 kilometers away, passing in front of Beniel, now in the Region of Murcia. An alternative route allows you to enter Beniel by crossing the river through the area of the twin waterwheels. Practically in a straight line to the southeast, you'll reach the hamlet of El Raal, with its **"Living Bethlehem" nativity scene**. Before arriving in Murcia, the regional capital and an essential stopover on the Camino de Levante, you can take a detour to visit the Casa del Belén, an 18th-century manor house converted into a center promoting Murcia's rich nativity scene tradition, in Puente Tocinos.

WHAT TO SEE

Orihuela
The **Cathedral of the Savior** (Catedral del Salvador), which dates back to the 13th century, is a must-see. In addition, there is the **City Mill** (Molino de la Ciudad) which served to grind flour and paprika; the **Palacio Episcopal** (BIC: Site of Cultural Interest), home to the **Museum of Sacred Art** (Museo de Arte Sacra), and the **Church of the Saints Justa and Rufina** (BIC), boasting one of the oldest docks in Spain (14th century). It features the second largest palm grove in Europe: El Palmeral de San Antonio. The town also honors the cultural legacy of its most famous poet, Miguel Hernández (1910-1942), in its **House-Museum**.

Beniel
Built in the 18th century following Baroque tenets, the **Church of St Bartholomew** (Iglesia de San Bartolomé) stands out for the paintings in its Chapel of the Rosary (Capilla del Rosario) by Antonio Villanueva. Another essential stop is **Los Mojones del Reino**, a set of limestone monoliths placed in 1304 to demarcate the crowns of Castile and Aragon.



STAGE 2

MURCIA-ALGUAZAS A WALK THROUGH MURCIA'S ORCHARDS

Distance: 26 km
Walking: 6.5 hours
Cycling: 2.5 hours

You're now leaving the city of Murcia as your experience of faith along the Eastern Way, the Way of the Cross, continues on this stretch to the town of Alguazas. After leaving behind **El Paseo del Malecón**, a historic construction designed as a levee against river flooding, you'll advance along the bank of the river, encountering traditional hamlets boasting often-overlooked sites capturing the history of Murcia and its orchard lands, such as its **Rueda de la Nora** waterwheel, and the hermitage of **Our Lady of Health** (Nuestra Señora de la Salud), on the other side of the river, just meters from the **Noria de Alcantarilla** waterwheel and the **Orchard Museum** (Museo de la Huerta). Plots, houses and inhabited areas dot the landscape of an area where farmers have historically planted crops, managing to take advantage of this land's water through traditions that have been passed down to the present day. Further on you will reach

the epicenter of the capital's water, Murcia's **Azud Mayor** dam, in an area known as the **Contraparada**, from which, ever since Muslim times, the major irrigation channels for Murcia's orchards have stemmed. It is the ideal place to stop and learn about the intense relationship that Murcia has had with water since ancient times. Your journey will continue a few kilometers to Molina de Segura, where, leaving the riverside walkway, you'll come to the hermitage of **Our Lady of Consolation** (Nuestra Señora de la Consolación). From there, you'll continue along the **Vía Verde del Noroeste** (Northwest Greenway), an old stretch of railway converted into an ecotourism route. The Greenway borders the city of Molina de Segura and then arches east, taking you to Alguazas, the end point of this stage and your final departure from the Vega del Segura plain towards the Northwest and the Sanctuary of the True Cross, until you earn your jubilee.

WHAT TO SEE

Murcia

A key building in the Spanish Baroque, Murcia's **Cathedral of St Mary** (Santa María) is the seat of the Diocese of Cartagena, 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 view the Baroque sculptural work in the **Salzillo Museum**, the **Monasterio de Santa Clara la Real** (a convent of the Poor Clares) and the **San Juan de Dios Complex**. Murcia, in addition, is a culinary capital in Spain for the quality of its tapas.

Molina de Segura

The **Hermitage of the Consolation** (Ermita de la Consolación) houses the patron saint of the city, its modern layout attributable to the architect Vicente Garaulet. Another site to visit is the **Church of Our Lady of the Assumption** (Nuestra Señora de la Asunción), created as a modest parish in 1266. Neither to be missed is the **Enclave de la Muralla Museum** (MUDEM), dedicated to preserving Molina de Segura's medieval al-Andalus wall, and the **Museo Horno Concejo**, a good example of popular 17th-century architecture.



STAGE 3

ALGUAZAS-MULA A PLACE OF CASTLES AND BADLANDS

Distance: 26 km
Walking: 6.5 hours
Cycling: 2.5 hours

This stage of the Camino de Levante will take you from Alguazas to Mula via the Northwest Greenway. With Alguazas behind you, the Way of the Cross heads west, where you'll cross typical Murcian rain-fed fields to the town of Campos del Río, traversing a unique landscape where the aridity of the **badlands** (produced by erosion) contrasts sharply with the leafy vegetation along the banks of the Mula River. Although it may not seem so at first, these badlands are home to a fascinating diversity of flora, fauna and geological elements. An alternative route starts from Los Rodeos and, by the Mula River, reaches the historic area of the town of Campos del Río. The road continues until you cross the **Postravase** (sluice), and from there it is on to Albufeite, with the **Church of Our Lady of Remedies** (Nuestra Señora de los Remedios) being an essential visit, where you can also use an alternative route that goes down to the

Mula River. On the third stage you'll gently turn north towards the old **Estación de Los Baños** (station), very close to the town of **Los Baños de Mula**, an excellent place to enjoy its thermal waters, which can provide you with a well-deserved rest for your body and soul. Continuing along the way, leaving the highway behind, you can take a detour to the **Los Villaricos Roman Village**, or to the village of **La Puebla de Mula**, featuring views of the **Castillo de Alcalá**. Finally, you'll reach the town of Mula, with its remarkable historic complex and the **Castillo de los Vélez**. The castles of Alcalá and Vélez are two very nearby fortresses evoking an era when this was a borderland dividing two peoples embracing different faiths. From there, your path of discovery will continue on to its final destination at the Sanctuary of the True Cross of Caravaca.

WHAT TO SEE

Alguazas

Eclectic and humble, the **Church of San Onuphrius** (Iglesia de San Onofre) mixes Mudéjar, Baroque and Neoclassical styles, making it one of the most unique buildings in the Spanish southwest. Also of note in the town is the **Hermitage of the Immaculate Conception** (Ermita de la Purísima Concepción) and the **Tower of the Bishop** (Torre del Obispo), which currently houses the **Ethnographic Museum**.

Campos del Río

Here the Baroque **Church of St John the Baptist** (San Juan Bautista) is located, which houses woodcarvings by Roque López, a disciple of Salzillo.

Albufeite

In the Church of our Lady of Remedies (Nuestra Señora de los Remedios) you can see the **Christ of Blood** (Cristo de la Sangre), a work by Francisco Salzillo.



STAGE 4

MULA-BULLAS BETWEEN LANDSCAPES AND VINEYARDS

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

Start the fourth stage of the Camino de Levante, between Mula and Bullas begins. There is still a way to go until Caravaca, but your goal draws ever closer. On this stage the path leaves the Mula River region, delving fully into the Northwest of the Region of Murcia, where your journey will grow increasingly forested and mountainous. Not far away is the Sierra Espuna Regional Park. After a few meters to the west, the road ascends northwards and around the Trascastillo Alto, always following the route of the Northwest Greenway and continuing in a westerly direction. You will then reach **El Niño de Mula**, an almost obligatory stop to enjoy a snack and visit its Sanctuary. Go in September, if your travel dates allow, to catch its

religious celebrations and traditional festivals commemorating when the Christ Child appeared to a local shepherd. Always to the west, crossing old and charming bridges and railway tunnels, you'll reach the **Estación de la Luz**, a former railroad station now converted into a hostel. On your tour you'll pass by a series of farmsteads reflecting the area's agricultural legacy, and upon reaching the municipality of Bullas you'll be surprised by the fields of grapevines there, an economic driver of an area that produces high-quality wine boasting Protected Designation of Origin status.

WHAT TO SEE

Mula

Crowned by the **Castillo de los Vélez** (castle), on the slopes of the hillside it is worth visiting the **Royal Monastery of the Incarnation**, where a **Holy Thorn** from the crown of Christ is displayed, and the **Saint Dominic** (Santo Domingo de Guzmán) **architectural site**. Special mention should be made of the **Santuario of the Christ Child of Balate** (Santuario del Niño Jesús) where there is a woodcarving of the Christ Child. For lovers of the Iberian period, the **El Cigarralejo Museum of Iberian Art** (Museo de Arte Ibérico de El Cigarralejo) is a must. A short distance away is the **City of Mula Museum** (Museo de la Ciudad de Mula), where you'll find a Bronze Age princess and a Visigothic sarcophagus.

Bullas

The municipality represents the past and future of its wines, made from the Monastrell grape. Its **Wine Museum** presents artisanal production and the most current methods to produce wine featuring Designation of Origin status. Highlights include the **Church of Our Lady of the Rosary** (Nuestra Señora del Rosario), **Casa-Museo Don Pepe Marsilla**, and the **Old Square** (Plaza Vieja) which hosts the **Mercadillo del Zacatín** (market) on the first Sunday of each month.



STAGE 5

BULLAS-CARAVACA END OF THE WAY, THE BASILICA OF THE TRUE CROSS

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

You'll leave Bullas, always following the Greenway, as your pilgrimage takes continues on the fifth stage of the Camino de Levante. Your goal is near, as your steps bring you closer to the Basilica/Sanctuary of Caravaca de la Cruz. This is the most mountainous stage of your pilgrimage to Caravaca, always above 500 meters, but without very steep grades, as you are travelling on an old railway route. After crossing the bridge over the Taibilla River, it is on to the site of the **Cristo del Carrascalejo**, an important place of worship for Bullenses. Its vineyards and pine forests capture the spirit of this area very well. Then, accompanied by some stretches of the Northwest Highway, which will appear on your left, you'll reach the municipality of Bullas. Sections full of forests and ramblas, dry riverbeds, such as that of Burete, mark the way until the **Ermita**

del Escobar (hermitage). A few kilometers further on the road will pass by the important ruins of **Begastri**, an ancient Roman city that was the episcopal seat in Visigothic times. Soon you'll be bordering Cehegin, a town that you shouldn't miss as it boasts an outstanding civil and religious heritage.

Your destiny is near: Caravaca de la Cruz. Through the natural entrance provided by the valley of the Argos River, and passing the last railway tunnel along the route, Caravaca welcomes the pilgrim as it has done since time immemorial. At the top of the hill, the Baroque façade of the Sanctuary beckons you and the thousands of visitors who come every year, like you, to venerate the True Cross and obtain the Plenary Indulgence.

WHAT TO SEE

Cehegin

Located in the heart of the northwest region, its **historic center** has been declared a **Historic-Artistic Site**. Highlights include the **Palacio de Jaspé** (now the Town Hall), the **Casino**, the **Church of St Mary** (Iglesia de Santa María) and the **Hermitage of the Conception** (Ermita de la Concepción). Be sure to visit the **Municipal Archaeological Museum**, located in **Plaza del Castillo**, where the popular **El Mesoncio** craft market is held.

Caravaca de la Cruz

A 17th-century fortress gave rise to the **Castle/Sanctuary of the Most Holy and True Cross**, which also houses the **Museum of the True Cross**. Other monuments to keep in mind are the **Church of The Savior** (Iglesia de El Salvador), the **Church of St Joseph** (Iglesia de San José) and the **Monastery of the Jesuits** (Convento de la Compañía de Jesús). The **House/Museum of the Wine Horses** (Casa/Museo de los Caballos del Vino), meanwhile, presents the history and development of this unique festival, deeply ingrained in the town's culture.



Colegio Diocesano de Santo Domingo, Orihuela



Catedral de Santa María, Murcia



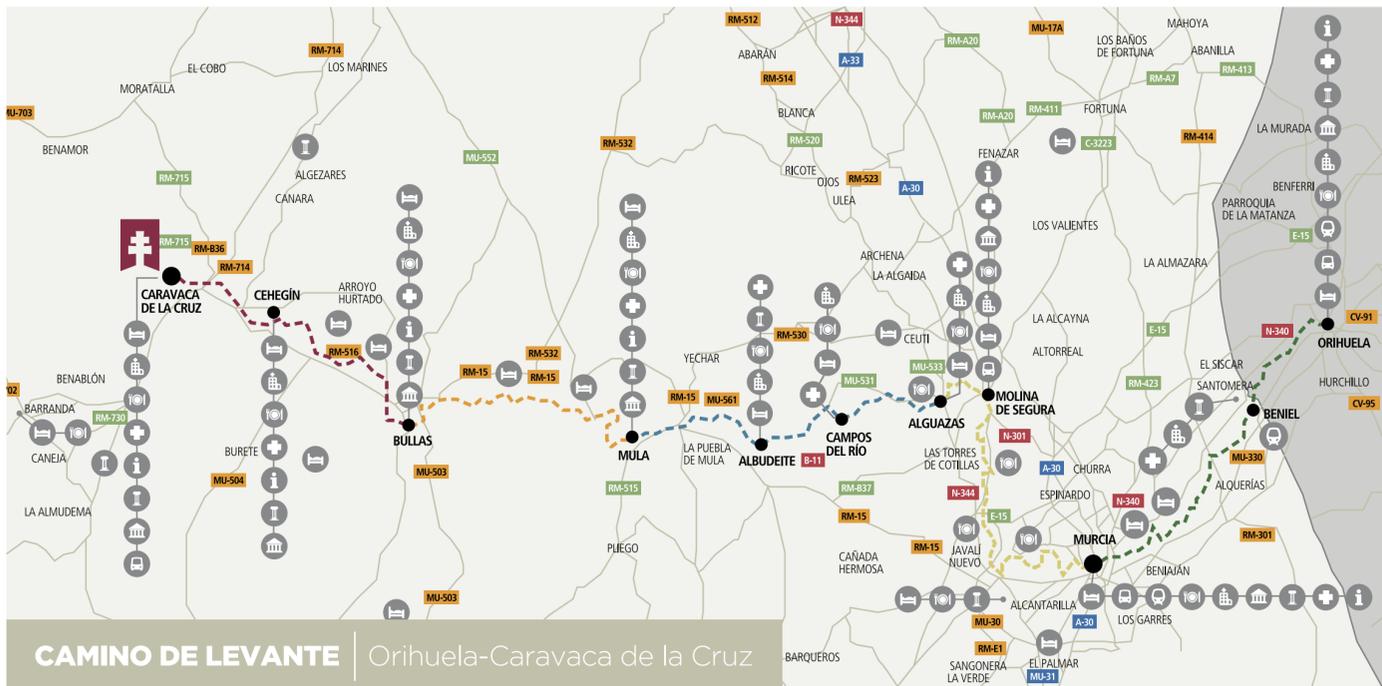
Torre del Obispo, Alguazas



Casa Pintada, Mula



Basílica Santuario de la Vera Cruz, Caravaca



CAMINO DE LEVANTE Orihuela-Caravaca de la Cruz



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