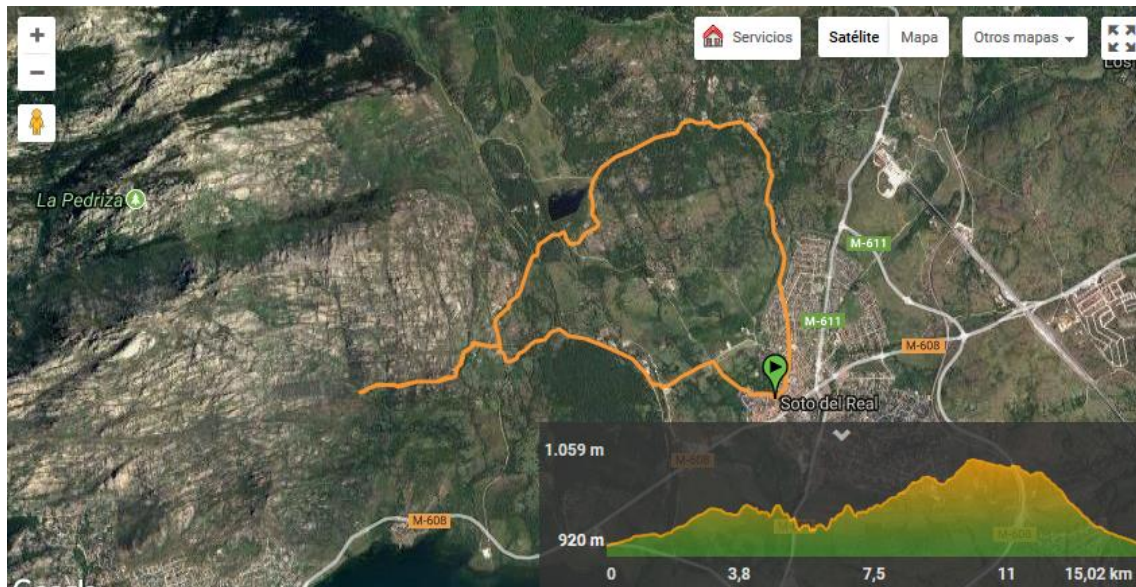


ARROYO DEL RECUENCO STREAM

Hiking- Mountain bike

Difficulty: Low

Time required: 3-4 hours



This route, due to its low level of difficulty, can be done by the whole family, because there are no steep slopes and it runs along paths or drovers' roads. Besides, some of the trail runs through quite unfrequented areas and the visitor can therefore relax and enjoy the peace and quiet of these idyllic settings.

You start from behind the church and follow the street that leaves the children's playground on the right. Around 400 metres further on, you turn right and soon after the tarmac road ends. To the right you will see a water tank rising up and you come to the Cañada Real Segoviana (Segovia Royal Drovers' Road). Turn left; 800 metres further on you cross the Mediano stream by the bridge. This may be in a bad state of repair, so you might have to cross the riverbed. You start to go up to the right, next to the stone wall of the Dehesa Boyal estate. The path gradually turns to the left; you leave behind you to the right the *Centro de Actividades Equestres y Medioambientales* (centre for equestrian and environmental activities) belonging to the Madrid Regional Govt. Continue until you come across a dirt road, which you take to the right. There is a small path to the left, which you must take. In the neighbouring estate, you can see the Canto del Berrueco, a huge boulder shaped by erosion and by the hand of man. Cross the Santillana stream over the stepping stones. Go straight on without taking any of the paths that turn to the left. On this leg of the route there are spectacular views of the rear part of the Pedriza (national park). You continue along a path that has been very much eroded by rainwater; you are now find yourself among a grove of Holm oaks.

Just under 2 kilometres after passing the Canto del Berrueco, you reach the end. Here is the source of the Recuenco stream. This is an idyllic setting where you will only hear the sound of running water, you also have a wonderful view over the Santillana reservoir. It is the ideal spot

to rest and while away the time. If you have any energy left, you can walk up towards the Yelmo, an emblematic mountain in the Pedriza. Alternatively, after a well-deserved rest you can follow the same path back to the Canto del Berrueco boulder. When you get there, take the sandy road that rises to the left. 300 metros after, a path goes off to the right. Take it and you will soon come across a cattle grid; 25 metres further on you must cross the Mediano stream. ATTENTION: when it has rained heavily, it may be difficult to cross here, so you will have to go upstream until you find a suitable crossing.

Leave the entrance to the Las Cabañas estate to the left and continue along the dirt road. Leave the Soto del Real reservoir to the left. If you want to end your walk, you only have to follow the road downwards until you come across the Cañada Real Segoviana (Segovia Royal Drovers' Road). If you have any energy left, 50 metres further on, a road turns to the left and leads to the reservoir; there, you have some wonderful panoramas. Once you are above the reservoir, take the path to the right, and you will cross a cattle grid. This dirt road leads to a tarmac road. To the left you will see the El Soto estate. Continue straight on until the tarmac ends and you will come to a crossroads. If you go straight ahead you will come out onto the road from Soto del Real to Miraflores de la Sierra next to the petrol station. If you take the dirt road to the left you will go to the San Blas Hermitage. But our route takes a small path to the right which passes a farm building built out of concrete blocks. The road is narrow and in bad condition but it quickly widens. At the start you have to negotiate the stream which runs along the centre of the road. Keep going down. Shortly after crossing the cattle grid, you will see the the Ermita de la Virgen del Rosario (Virgin of the Rosary Hermitage), the Patron Saint of Soto del Real, on your left. From here there are beautiful views of the area and of the Pico San Pedro hill: A little further down you connect once again with the Cañada Real Segoviana, and you will soon arrive in Soto del Real.