



BALUTIA 365

A LOOP AROUND THE ANCIENT FRONTIER OF BALUTIA
JUST YOU AND YOUR BIKE.

870 KM | +12.000 M

WWW.BALUTIA.COM

V.1

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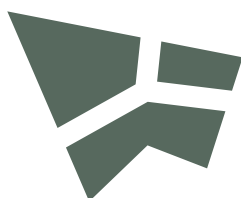
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FOREWORD

The borders of Balutia were not drawn overnight.
They were named by those who knew how to read the land:
the mountains and the valleys,
the holm oaks and the open plains,
the rivers that shaped the way through,
a blanket of Mediterranean woodland beneath an endless sky.

Fahs al-Ballut The Plain of Acorns
left its mark on both the landscape and its people,
and those natural boundaries became guides
long before they became walls.

Within that territory, accents, paths, and traditions blended together,
and even today, although administrative borders have changed,
you can still feel that the language and the way of life
spring from the same land.



Puente Cogolludo - Orellana Reservoir
Badajoz

0. FROM ADVENTURE TO LEGACY

Since its first edition in 2026, Balutia returns every spring with a new event.

For a few days each year, riders from different countries follow the ancient frontier of Balutia in a self-supported ultradistance event that crosses the regions of Andalusia, Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura. An 870-kilometre challenge with more than 12,000 metres of elevation gain, to be completed within the 133-hour time limit set by the organisation.

But Balutia is much more than a start line and a results sheet.

It is the excitement of the rider reception, where old friends meet again and new ones are made. It is shared anticipation, maps spread across tables, fully loaded bikes and conversations about routes, weather forecasts and distant horizons. It is the experience of crossing an extraordinary landscape alongside people who share the same way of seeing cycling and adventure.

Yet we know that not everyone can be on the start line. We also know that some riders prefer to travel without schedules, without rankings, and with no company other than the landscape ahead.

Balutia was created to tell the story of a land that has too often been overlooked. A remote, diverse and remarkable landscape that deserves to be discovered beyond the days of the event.

That is why Balutia 365 exists.

A way to ride the ancient frontier whenever you choose, at your own pace and on your own terms. No race numbers. No time limits. No objective beyond enjoying the journey. The same route that brings together dozens of ultracyclists every spring is now open to anyone who wishes to explore this land at any time of the year.

Because there is one week each year to share Balutia. And a whole year to discover it.



Camino de Fuencaiente a Solana del Pino
Ciudad Real

1. WHAT IS BALUTIA?

Balutia was an Andalusian province that, centuries ago, encompassed the regions that today belong to the provinces of Córdoba, Ciudad Real and Badajoz. Los Pedroches, the Guadiato Valley, the Alcudia Valley, La Siberia Extremeña, La Serena, and the Middle and Upper Guadalquivir all formed part of a single continuous territory, then known as Fahs al-Ballut, The Plain of Acorns.

Although these regions now belong to three different autonomous communities, Andalusia, Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura, they shared landscapes, routes and ways of life under the same name for centuries.

This route was created as a tribute to that ancient province. An 870-kilometre journey that follows its historic frontier, revealing some of the most remote and remarkable landscapes of the Iberian Peninsula. It is also an invitation to discover that history and territory pay little attention to today's administrative borders. Although these regions now belong to different autonomous communities, they remain deeply connected, a bond that can still be felt in their culture, gastronomy and even in the accents of the people who live here.

The name Balutia itself is a neologism coined by Francisco Manuel Quirón Gallardo, journalist and writer from Belmez. Through his blog, Región Balutia, which you can visit through [this link](#), he has published valuable historical research that inspired the creation of this route.

We pay tribute to Balutia by riding the ring that traces its historic frontier. But it is worth remembering that Balutia is everything enclosed within it: its people, its villages and its landscapes.





El Cerco Industrial
Pueblonuevo del Terrible, Córdoba

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR ADVENTURE

Balutia is a self-supported ultradistance adventure that passes through rural areas, remote sections and regions where services are limited. Proper planning and the right equipment are essential to complete the route safely.

In addition to the mandatory safety equipment (helmet, legally required lights and reflective clothing), we recommend carrying the following:

- GPS device with the route loaded and checked
- Mobile phone with sufficient battery and a navigation app as a backup
- Power bank or portable charging system
- USB-C cable for charging the tracker
- Headlamp or additional lighting
- Lightweight warm clothing (depending on the season)
- Basic bike repair tools
- Spare inner tubes or a tubeless repair kit
- Spare derailleur hanger
- Sleeping bag suitable for the expected weather conditions
- Sleeping mat or lightweight foam pad
- Capacity to carry at least 2 litres of water
- Emergency food for long sections without services
- Cash, as some rural businesses do not accept card payments



3. THE ROUTE

Balutia 365 is based on the GPX track of the first edition of Balutia, held in 2026.

870 km | 12,000+ m of elevation gain

Official Route: [see route in RideWithGPS](#)

IMPORTANT: The GPX track may be updated over time. Unlike the organised ultradistance event, Balutia cannot guarantee that the route will always reflect the latest changes when ridden in this self-guided Balutia 365 format. However, if you encounter any obstacles or issues along the route, we would greatly appreciate it if you let us know so we can keep the track up to date.

(As each edition of Balutia includes slight route changes, previous editions cannot be reviewed and maintained as frequently as the latest event route, which undergoes a thorough revision to ensure the smooth running of the event.)

Route Overview

Balutia is a long, continuous route with no major climbs, yet it remains demanding due to its cumulative elevation gain and a number of short but brutally steep ramps. It is a long journey through endless dehesas, rolling mountain ranges and wide open horizons, where the landscape changes almost imperceptibly while the effort steadily builds.

The route crosses quiet, little-travelled landscapes, linking gravel tracks, old roads, small villages and long stretches with few services. Here, success is measured not by speed, but by your ability to keep moving, manage your time and settle into the rhythm of the land.



Puente de las Doncellas, Montoro
Córdoba



El Cerco Minero - Pueblonuevo del Terrible
Acuarela de Floren Grande

3.1. Los Pedroches, Córdoba - Andalucía.

During the first 45 km, the route crosses much of the Los Pedroches dehesa, Europe's largest continuous dehesa landscape. Stone-walled tracks, endless holm oak woodlands and a rolling route of constant ups and downs create a steady accumulation of elevation gain. Along the way, the route passes near Villanueva de Córdoba and through the village of Conquista before crossing into Castilla-La Mancha.

In the final 60 km of Balutia, the route returns to the dehesa, heading west from Venta del Charco and Cardena. Passing once again through Villanueva de Córdoba, it finally reaches the finish line in Pozoblanco.

3.2. Valle de Alcudia, Ciudad Real - Castilla La Mancha

Upon entering the region of Castilla-La Mancha, the route passes through the former mining village of El Horcajo, now abandoned, via a public track that crosses the La Garganta estate. You may encounter estate rangers, who regularly patrol the area to prevent illegal hunting. There is no cause for concern, as this is a public right of way that is frequently used by hikers, cyclists and walkers.

To pass through the old railway tunnel, switch on your lights so you can both see and be seen should you encounter a vehicle inside.

Beyond the tunnel, the route enters the spectacular Alcudia Valley, a remote landscape of outstanding natural beauty. Fast-rolling gravel tracks and a smooth gravel road lead to Solana del Pino, home to Balutia Checkpoint 1.

The route then crosses the Montoro I Dam and the Tablillas Dam before reaching the city of Puertollano at kilometre 151.



La Serena Reservoir from Puebla de Alcocer Castle,
Badajoz

From here, the route turns west in search of narrow drove roads and winding scenic highways. This is a landscape of Mediterranean woodland and scrub, dotted with small villages and rural settlements.

After passing through Almadén, renowned for its historic mercury mines, and Chillón, the route reaches the provincial border between Ciudad Real and Badajoz.

3.3. La Siberia Extremeña and La Serena

The route enters the province of Badajoz through the La Siberia Biosphere Reserve. Vast open landscapes, thousands of Merino sheep and wildlife-rich wetlands accompany the ride through this remarkable corner of Extremadura.

After passing through the villages of Siruela and Sancti-Spíritus, the route reaches the immense La Serena Reservoir, dominated by the distinctive Cerro Masatrigo, a perfectly conical hill that is circled by road. The road forms a complete loop around the mountain, creating what is popularly known as Europe's largest roundabout.

Leaving Cerro Masatrigo behind, the route follows the shoreline of La Serena Reservoir towards Balutia Checkpoint 2, located at the Castle of Puebla de Alcocer. The final approach includes a steep climb to the upper parking area, where panoramic views stretch across the reservoir and the surrounding region. From there, the route briefly retraces its steps before descending towards Esparragosa de Lares via an ancient cobbled road.

A few kilometres later, the route reaches Orellana Reservoir, crossing open farmland on a track that has recently been paved with concrete, losing some of its original character. Even so, arriving at the historic Cogolludo Bridge offers one of the finest viewpoints over the reservoir.

After passing through Orellana la Vieja, a succession of gravel tracks and quiet rural roads alongside irrigation canals leads to Villanueva de la Serena and Don Benito, the two largest towns on the route through the province of Badajoz.



Puente Cogolludo - Embalse de Orellana
Badajoz

After leaving Don Benito, the route reaches Balutia Checkpoint 3, known as The Parthenon of Don Benito, an unusual structure inspired by the Parthenon of Athens. Visible from afar, it occasionally serves as a venue for cultural events.

From here, the route continues along fast, hard-packed gravel roads through the villages of La Haba, Magacela, with its hilltop castle overlooking the surrounding landscape, Campanario, and Castuera. Soon afterwards comes the short but demanding climb to Benquerencia de La Serena, another natural viewpoint offering sweeping views over both the terrain already covered and the route still to come.

The route then heads back towards the province of Córdoba, in Andalusia, crossing the Zújar River, whose course forms much of the natural boundary between the provinces of Badajoz and Córdoba.

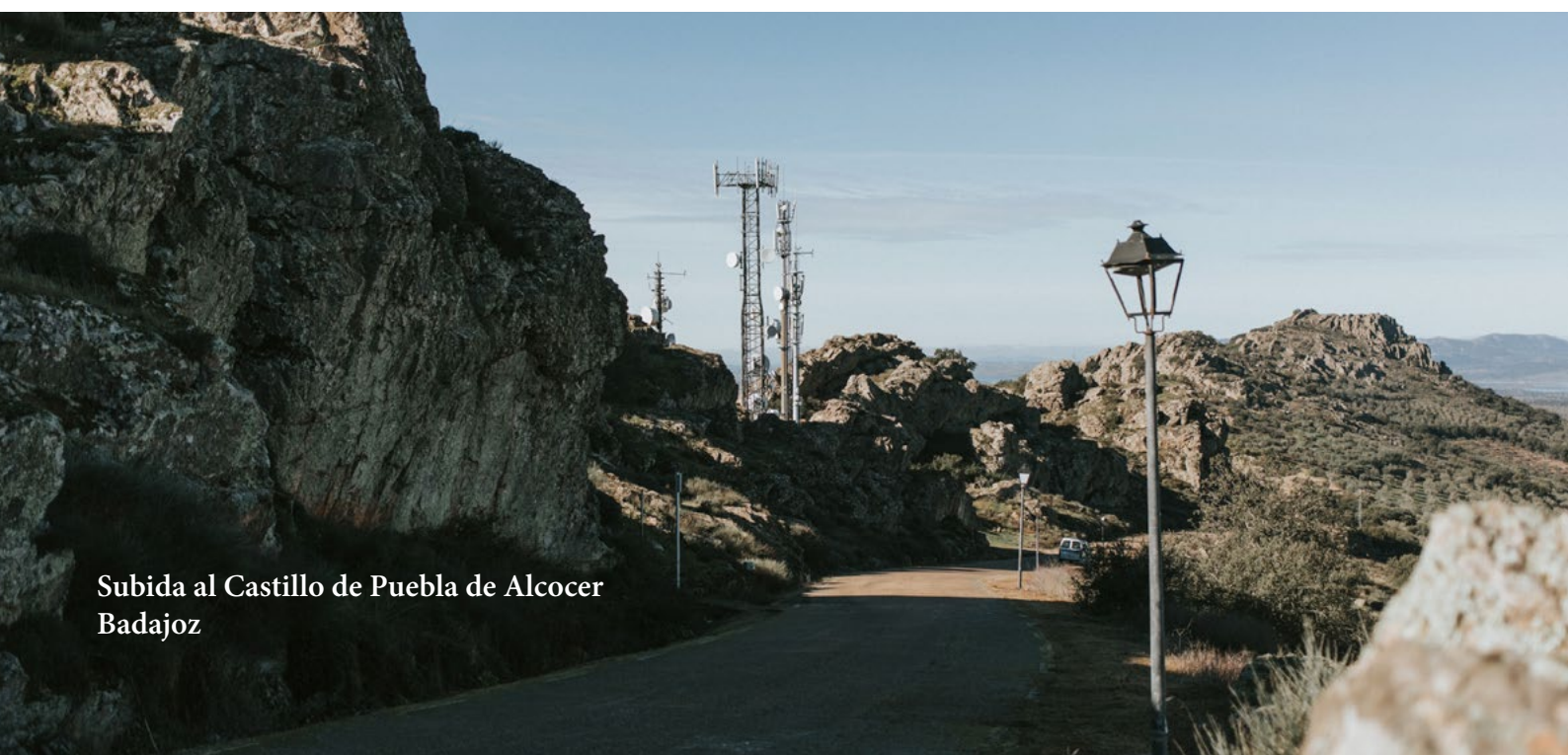
3.4. Valle del Guadiato, Medio Guadalquivir y Alto Guadalquivir

Before re-entering Sierra Morena, the route is welcomed by the wide-open landscapes of the Guadiato Valley. Fast gravel roads lead to Balutia Checkpoint 4, located at the Pueblonuevo del Terrible Mining Complex, a haunting industrial site that, despite its state of ruin, still preserves many of its original buildings, including its imposing chimneys. A place of remarkable industrial heritage and striking character.

From there, the route continues towards Fuente Obejuna, crossing Sierra Morena on winding roads that connect several small villages before reaching Checkpoint 5 in Hornachuelos, passing through the Sierra de Hornachuelos Natural Park, the southernmost point of the route.

From Hornachuelos, the route climbs back into Sierra Morena, heading towards the Obejo mountain range via Las Latas Pass and the Guadalmellato Reservoir, following an old gravel road that is now largely abandoned and in poor condition.

The towns of Adamuz, Algallarín and finally Montoro mark the route through the southernmost



Subida al Castillo de Puebla de Alcocer
Badajoz

section of the Upper Guadalquivir, where Mediterranean woodland gradually gives way to endless olive groves along a landscape shaped by a fading natural frontier.

Balutia Checkpoint 6, located at the Puente de las Doncellas in Montoro, offers a privileged view over the Guadalquivir River and the town's iconic tower, built from the distinctive local molinaza sandstone, renowned for its reddish colour caused by its high iron content.

From here, the route once again winds its way along the foothills of Sierra Morena, alternating quiet tarmac roads with cobbled sections that form part of the GR 48 long-distance trail.

Venta del Charco and Cardeña mark the return to the Los Pedroches region. Once again, the route crosses the dehesa on grassy tracks bordered by centuries-old holm oaks, where cattle graze freely. Along this section, riders will encounter several farm gates, all of which must be opened and carefully closed again after passing through.

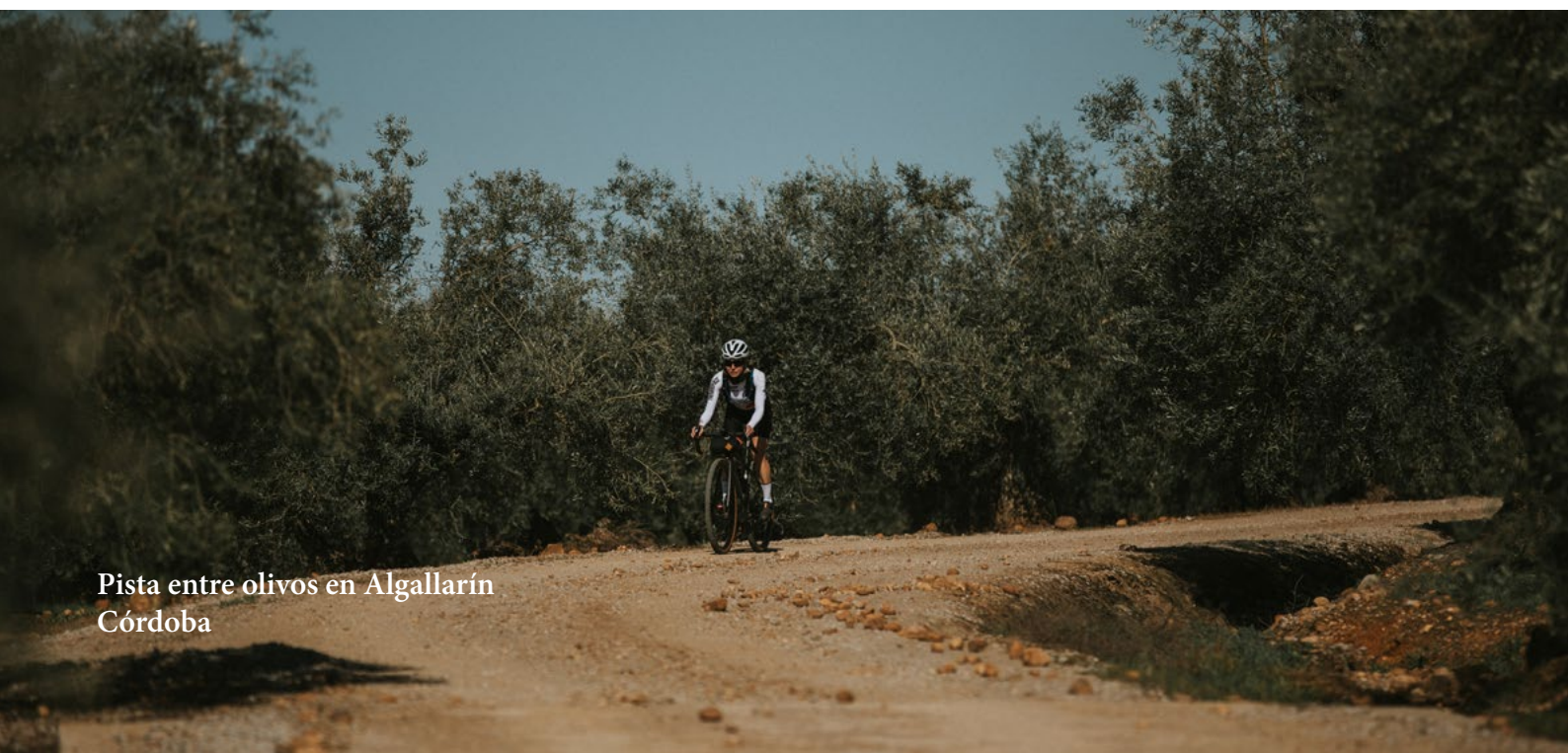
After passing through Villanueva de Córdoba, the route finally returns to Pozoblanco, where the finish line marks the end of the journey.

Beyond the Kilometres

Balutia is a long and demanding route, where every region presents a different challenge and each day becomes a small adventure within a much greater journey. Success depends not only on strength or speed, but on your ability to adapt, manage your time and keep moving forward.

By the time you return to Pozoblanco, you will have completed far more than a route. You will have crossed landscapes, stories and silences that have shaped this land for centuries.

Please note: Balutia can be ridden at any time of the year. However, we strongly recommend avoiding the summer months, as the extreme heat can make the route significantly more demanding and potentially dangerous.



Pista entre olivos en Algallarín
Córdoba

4. ROADBOOK

Below you'll find the Roadbook, an additional planning tool to help you prepare your ride. It includes most of the towns and villages along the route, together with information about bars, water fountains, supermarkets and accommodation.

This information does not mean that these are the only services available. It simply includes those that we have personally verified during our route inspections.

Likewise, we cannot guarantee that every business will be open when you pass through. Some operate on limited or seasonal opening hours.

Never take anything for granted, and always be prepared for the possibility that a service may be unavailable when you need it.

Many local accommodations are not listed on platforms such as Booking.com. We recommend searching for the property on Google and contacting them directly by phone.

We also recommend carrying a lightweight sleeping bag and sleeping mat. Hotels are scarce and may be fully booked when you arrive. Wild camping or bivouacking is generally straightforward along the route. If you choose to spend the night outdoors, please do so responsibly, leave no trace, and leave the area exactly as you found it.

The Route Notes include the kilometre point of each town or village, together with the distance between them. Study this information carefully, as several sections of the route pass through areas where no resupply is available for many kilometres.



Tablillas Reservoir
Hinojosa de Calatrava, Ciudad Real

KM	Δ KM	TYPE	LOCATION	SERVICES/NOTES
0	0	<u>START / CITY</u>	POZOBLANCO	
19	19	Dangerous crossing	VILLANUEVA DE CÓRDOBA	Caution. Fast traffic
20	1	Petrol station	VILLANUEVA DE CÓRDOBA	Bar in the petrol station
41	20	LITTLE VILLAGE	CONQUISTA	Bar
62	20	Tunnel	Lights on & Traffic light	Caution, bad sur face
75	13	Fountain	Fuente del Almirez	Water fountain
<u>102</u>	27	<u>CP 1 / LITTLE VILLAGE</u>	SOLANA DEL PINO	Bar
124	22	Reservoir Dam	Montorillo Dam	Montorillo reservoir
129	5	Reservoir Dam	Tablillas Dam	Tablillas reservoir
136,5	7	VILLAGE	HINOJOSAS DE CALATRAVA	Bar, water fountain
151	14	CITY	PUERTOLLANO	Bars, hotels, restaurants
158	7	VILLAGE	ALMODEVAR DEL CAMPO	Bars
170	12	Hike & Bike	Drovers' trail/cañada	Technical climb. May require pushing.
175	5	LITTLE VILLAGE	VIÑUELA	Bar (limited opening hours)
187	12	LITTLE VILLAGE	VALDEAZOGUES	Water fountain
202	15	LITTLE VILLAGE	FONTANOSAS	Water fountain
220	18	LITTLE VILLAGE	ALMADENEJOS	Bar
232	12	VILLAGE	ALMADÉN	Bars, hotels, restaurants
237	5	LITTLE VILLAGE	CHILLÓN	Bar
273	36	LITTLE VILLAGE	SIRUELA	Bar
291	18	LITTLE VILLAGE	SANCTI - SPIRITUS	
299	8	BIG BRIDGE	LA SERENA RESERVOIR	Cerro Masatrigo mountain
310	11	LITTLE VILLAGE	PUEBLA DE ALCOCER	Bar
<u>313</u>	3	<u>CP 2 / CASTLE</u>	PUEBLA DE ALCOCER CASTLE	Stunning views after a 22% wall
314	1	Old cobbled path	ESPARRAGOSA DE LARES	Caution. Uneven cobbled path
315	1	LITTLE VILLAGE	ESPARRAGOSA DE LARES	Bar
329	14	BRIDGE	Puente Cogolludo	Orellana reservoir
346	17	LITTLE VILLAGE	ORELLANA DE LA SIERRA	Bar. Apartments out of the track
372	26	LITTLE VILLAGE	ENTRERRÍOS	Bar (limited opening hours)
373	1	RIVER & BEACH	Zújar River and Beach	Bar-chiringuito out of the track
379	6	CITY	VILLANUEVA DE LA SERENA	Bars, supermarket, hotels
387	8	CITY	DON BENITO	Bars, supermarket, hotels
<u>390</u>	3	<u>CP 3 / PARTENÓN</u>	EL PARTENÓN DE DON BENITO	NO RESUPPLY - There is nothing

395	5	LITTLE VILLAGE	LA HABA	Bar, supermarket
415	20	VILLAGE	CAMPANARIO	Bar, petrol station
435	20	VILLAGE	CASTUERA	Bars, hotels, restaurants
443	8	LITTLE VILLAGE	BENQUERENCIA DE LA SERENA	Steep climb
451	8	LITTLE VILLAGE	PUERTO HURRACO	Water fountain
478	27	LITTLE VILLAGE	PERALED A DEL ZAUC EJO	Bar, water Fountain
486	8	River	ZÚJAR RIVER	Possible water crossing
507	21	LITTLE VILLAGE	VALSEQUILLO	Bar, apartments
512	5	LITTLE VILLAGE	LA GRANJUELA	Bar, hotels
523	11	VILLAGE	PEÑARROYA-PUEBLONUEVO	Bars, hotels, supermarkets
526	3	CP 4 / EL CERCO MINERO	PUEBLONUEVO	Old mining and industrial town
533	7	LITTLE VILLAGE	BELMEZ	Bar
558	25	LITTLE VILLAGE	FUENTE OBEJUNA	Bars
577	19	LITTLE VILLAGE	LA CARDENCHOSA	Bar
635	58	CP 5 / VILLAGE	HORNACHUELOS	Bars, hotels, supermarkets
686	51	VILLAGE	VILLAVICIOSA DE CÓRDOBA	Bar, hotel
707	21	LITTLE VILLAGE	EL VACAR	Bar
721	14	LITTLE VILLAGE	OBEJO	Bar (village out of track + 3 km)
745	24	Reservoir Dam	Guadalmellato Dam	Guadalmellato reservoir
746	1	Fountain	After the Dam	Few meters out of the track
760	14	LITTLE VILLAGE	ADAMUZ	Bars, hotel, supermarket
767	7	LITTLE VILLAGE	ALGALLARÍN	Bar
778	11	CP 6 / VILLAGE	MONTORO	CP 6 Puente de las Doncellas
811	33	LITTLE VILLAGE	VENTA DEL CHARCO	Bar, apartment
820	9	CP 7 / LITTLE VILLAGE	CARDEÑA	Bar, hostel
849	29	VILLAGE	VILLANUEVA DE CÓRDOBA	Bar, hotel, supermarket
868	19	OFFICIAL FINISH LINE	FINISH LINE	BEFORE A-424 ROAD
874	6	CITY / END OF TRACK	POZOBLANCO	End of the track

9 .PRACTICAL INFORMATION

EMERGENCY SERVICES: 112

In case of a medical emergency, call 112.

TAXI / VAN IN POZOBLANCO: +34 622 133 933 / +34 602 098 295

These companies operate in the area and can be contacted for route assistance and rider pickup, as well as for transfers to Villanueva de Córdoba AVE (high-speed rail) station, Córdoba, or the airports of Málaga and Seville.





Balutia 2026
Floren Grande - Watercolor

Balutia is much more than a route. It is an experience shaped by those who imagined it, those who call this land home, and those who choose to ride it.

Take your time. Prepare your journey well.

Once you set off, everything will depend on you.

The land will be waiting.

So will the challenge.



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