



Stage

# 19 CAMPILLOS • GUADALHORCE RESERVOIRS

## THE STAGE IN SUMMARY

Water is the main attraction of this stage, thanks to the combination of a string of endorheic lakes (having no evident outlet) of the Campillos Lakes Nature Reserve, and the spectacular area of the Guadalhorce, Guadalteba and Conde de Guadalhorce reservoirs.

The terrain is fairly flat surrounding these bodies of water, just with some gentle slopes down to the reservoirs. It is mainly made up of earthy mounds with occasional limestone outcrops and hills, and less often gypsum rockfaces. The route starts off in a southerly direction from Campillos, twisting and turning its way between the lakes initially, and then again in the middle section to navigate the arable farmland and transport network.

This Stage visits three of the lakes and in doing so, along with those visited on previous stages, almost completes the full picture of lakes in this northern region of the province. The colourful and unexpected landscapes they provide, bounded by rainfed farmland, are well worth the effort. Its 23 kilometres run through the municipal area of Campillos. It links together uphill and downhill sections during the second half, with a fair stretch along country roads.

When you reach the area of reservoirs, you walk through the hills that separate the river basins of the Guadalteba and the Guadalhorce. This is also the upper reaches of the catchment area of the Rodahuevos and Juan Vacas streams. The sandstone rocky ridge populated by Pine trees that separates the reservoirs of Guadalteba to the west and the Guadalhorce to the east has impressive views. After a stretch of pathway considered ideal for hiking, you come to a bridge. This crosses over a stretch that both separates and joins the two expanses of water and aptly marks the end of the Stage, while offering yet more outstanding views. ►

**The Lake from Capacete in a setting of arable and livestock farming**



# 19. CAMPILLOS • GUADALHORCE RESERVOIRS

Campillos (SE) (470 m)

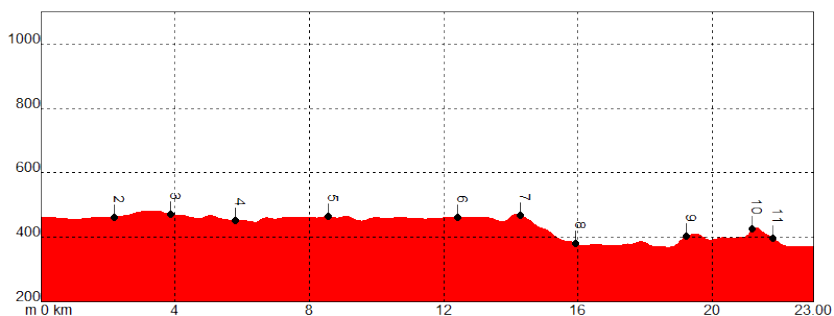


Bridge over the Guadalhorce and  
Guadalteba Reservoirs (360m)



23.0 km		5 h 15 min.		255 m		360 m		Linear			
On foot						3.0 km		17.3 km		2.7 km	

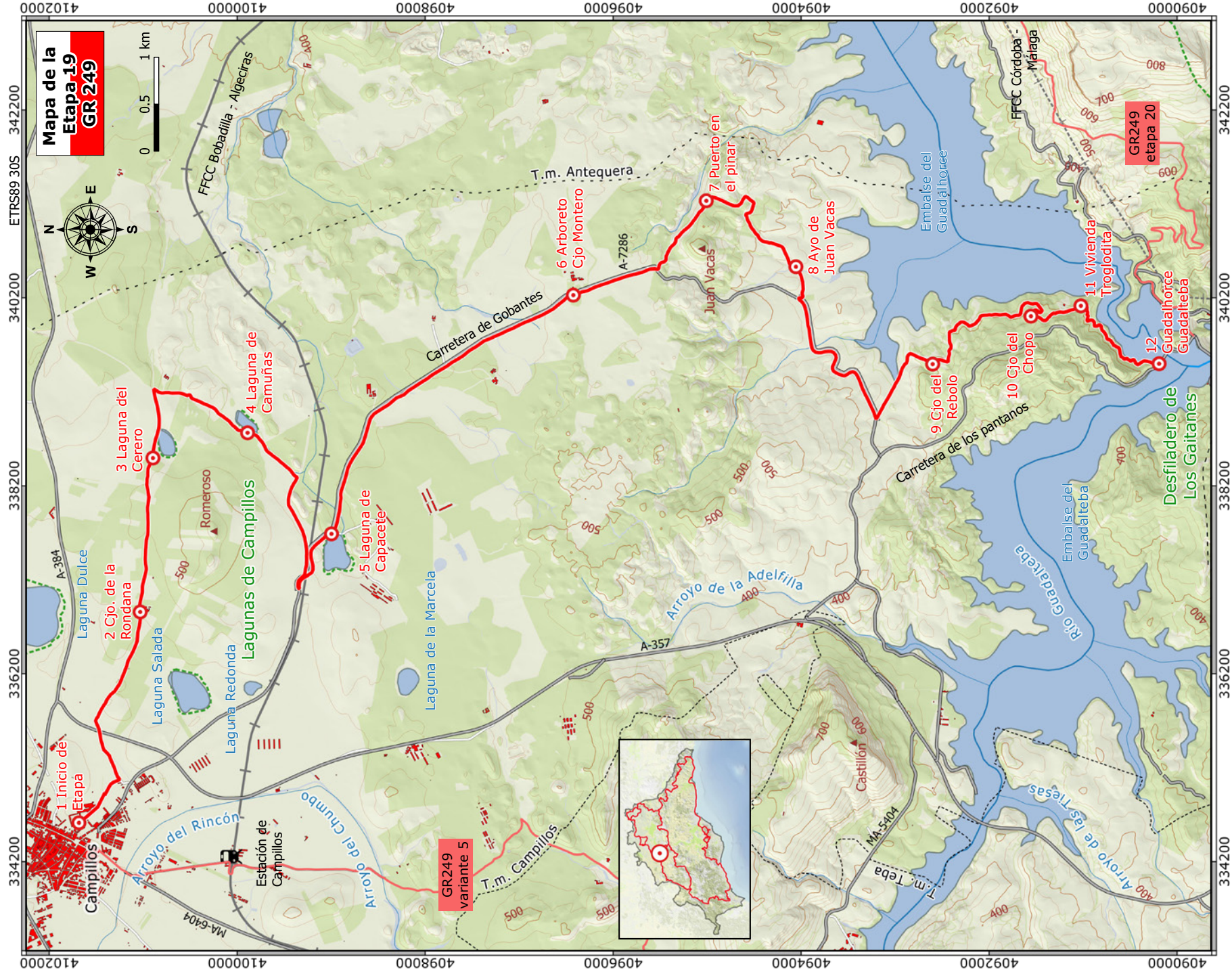
Environment hazards		1	2	3	4	5	Underfoot Conditions		1	2	3	4	5
Navigation		1	2	3	4	5	Physical Effort		1	2	3	4	5



- Road traffic circulating on the Gobantes road and the roads around the reservoirs
- Crossing the A-357 road

P O I N T	X	Y	HEIGHT ABOVE SL	DISTANCE
1.Stage start	334615	/ 4101685	/ 470 m	Km 0,0
2.Cortijo de la Rondana estate	336855	/ 4101030	/ 460 m	Km 2,2
3.El Cerero lake	338495	/ 4100895	/ 485 m	Km 3,8
4.Camuñas lake	338765	/ 4099890	/ 450 m	Km 5,8
5.Capacete lake	337690	/ 4098995	/ 465 m	Km 8,5
6.Cortijo Montero arboretum	340230	/ 4096425	/ 460 m	Km 12,4
7.Mountain pass in pine forest	341235	/ 4095010	/ 465 m	Km 14,3
8.Arroyo de Juan Vacas stream	340530	/ 4094055	/ 380 m	Km 16,0
9.Cortijo de Rebolo estate	339495	/ 4092600	/ 405 m	Km 19,2
10.Cortijo del Chopo estate	340005	/ 4091555	/ 425 m	Km 21,2
11.Cave dwelling	340115	/ 4091025	/ 395 m	Km 21,8
12.Guadalhorce & Guadalteba	339500	/ 4090190	/ 360 m	Km 23,0

STAGE 19 MAP



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

 **The Lakes of Campillos**  
 ➔ Up to km 8.5

The route advances along the long street named Calle Doctor Óscar Fernández in a south-easterly direction, between some relatively new housing estates on the right and industrial units on the left. Just as it turns into a track, it veers east, crosses the A-357 road and turns again slightly to take the Camino de Antequera, close to Velasco. Halfway between the Dulce and Salada Lakes, you pass the Cortijo de la Rondana country house on your right (km 2.2). The first lake, El Cerero is small, just on your right below the Romero hill and takes its name from the nearby country house, where there is a crossroads.

There is a sharp turn here, onto the southern branch of the Realenga (a word translated as belonging to the crown) de Carratraca. The dry and reddish land is home to young Olive groves, which have drip irrigation for the first few years. You will

The hillock of Juan Vacas with Almond trees



notice all around you many herrizas, the unfertile ground on top of rocky outcrops. Larger Holm oaks are less common here, but instead the younger trees are found in clumps of trees of a similar age. Equally, they are found in patches of shrubland, where Esparto grasses are also very common. These islands of autochthonous vegetation on rocky outcrops give the area a greater diversity and provide excellent refuge for wildlife, most notably the numerous species of game. Further on, you pass the Camuñas Lake on your left, which has a much smaller capacity than previous lakes. You soon come to an overpass to cross the railway line and the A-7286 road, one after the other.

Just next to and west of the crossroads by the country estate of Cortijo de Capacete (km 8.5), is the lake of the same name. Holding a larger volume of runoff water, it can last until the end of the summer. From here, you continue along the left-hand verge of the minor road.

 **The Gobantes Route**  
 ➔ Up to km 18

The first recognisable landmark among the Olive groves, rainfed land and clusters of Holm oaks is the country estate of El Toro on the left. To the right of the road is the generally dry lake, the Laguna del Toro. A very long and straight road to the south-east passes the century-old country house of El Montero (km 12.4) and its extensive gardens. It is precisely here where the livestock track of the Camino de Antequera, crosses at right angles. ▶

A little further on, the road begins to drop down and at the first bend, there is a momentary detour. The upper courses of the two streams that take their names from the two adjacent hills, run through this area. On the right, is the first hill, called Juan Vacas and its stream runs south, while the rockier and steeper hill up ahead is called Rodahuevos. This second stream, seen to the north, is very steep and its bed is laden with autochthonous plants.

The Almond groves in these wilder parts are very productive, being located in the deepest soils and mixed in among the Aleppo pines. It is here that the Path makes another change of course, this time to the south, where it descends steeply and passes a small wooded valley on the right. After a large field of Almond trees and others of cereals, with the reservoirs now in view, you cross the Juan Vacas stream (km 16), and reach the Gobantes road once again.

 **The Pine Forests of the Reservoirs**  
 ➔ To the end of the stage

Continuing south-west along the A-7286 road, which has little traffic, there is a sharp turn-off onto a country track. You pass two country houses on this stretch, the first is the Rebolo on the right, just before entering a Pine forest. As you progress through this woodland, it becomes denser and lush, just as the undergrowth gradually becomes more apparent. However, the best area to observe the diversity of plants that once existed here, is on a sandstone rocky crag which has escaped any reforestation. On the zigzagging climb up to the threshing floor and the ruins of the El Chopo country house (km 21.2), under the shelter of the crags, there is some



Fields of cereals recently harvested, with the reservoir in the distance

very interesting thicket with Savin Juniper, Thyme, Black Hawthorn, Mediterranean fan palms and Esparto grasses.

Along the way, there are a few good spots with panoramic views of the Guadalhorce reservoir. One of these is the threshing floor of the second country house. Going downhill from here, you pass below a cave dwelling and come to a crossroads where you leave the track to join a footpath. Just before the next lookout spot, there is a very different building in ruins at a bend in the path. This one took advantage of the hollows in the soft sandstone, both natural and excavated, to save on wall construction in the small house. The numerous layers of lime and bluish azulina rock can still be seen.

Once again, the views towards the Guadalhorce reservoir are spectacular, with an abundance of fauna due to very little human activity. The footpath follows an ideal and well-planned out route, following the contours of the forest and getting closer to the water's edge. It remains some ten metres above the water, until it reaches the road again, where the stage comes to an end. ■