



# Villavieja del Lozoya

## Tourist Guide



Ayuntamiento de Villavieja del Lozoya

Comunidad de Madrid

### Location of Villavieja del Lozoya: visit and enjoy our town

Villavieja del Lozoya is located in the middle valley of the Lozoya, in the foothills of the Central System, which in this mountain sector is known as Montes Carpetanos and form the limit of the Sierra Norte of the Community of Madrid with the province of Segovia. The village is located 1.066 meters above sea level, and reaches 2.022 meters at its westernmost point, just in contact with the province of Segovia and the neighboring Navarredonda and San Mamés. Arriving at Villavieja del Lozoya on the M-634 road from Buitrago del Lozoya, you can see the profile of the town, highlighting the cubist volumes of its houses, cut out on the sky of the Sierra de Madrid, with a lush riverbank forest.

The village of Villavieja is compact and concentrated on a small, almost circular surface. The rocky promontory known as "El Cerrito" has shaped its urban design: the houses, stables, barns and other rural buildings have been built on it. The steepness of the terrain forces, on occasions, to build on the living rock, accommodating the constructions without much planning in the past, taking advantage of to have as much land as possible for farmland and pasture for livestock.



These characteristics, with different levels of ground level saved with staircases carved in the stone, offer us, at present, corners of the most picturesque.



### How to get (from Madrid):

Private vehicle: Highway A-1 up Buitrago del Lozoya (km. 74) and take the detour to the town by the road M-634.

Public transport: bus from Madrid (Castilla's square) to Buitrago de Lozoya (line 191, departures every hour)  
From Buitrago there are four daily buses (lines 191 A and 191 B) that pass through Villavieja.

### The traditional mountain house

Adapted to the mountain climate, the houses in Villavieja were constructed with the smallest number of possible holes, and these, always of small dimensions, which constituted a good natural insulator before the thermal extremes of the mountain climate. The main materials in its construction were those found in its environment: stone, wood, adobe and mud. The houses continued building in the same way until very advanced the twentieth century, when the civilians were able to access more materials modern as cement and brick.



Traditional construction detail

The kitchen was the nerve center of the house and was dominated by a large fireplace whose fire served both to prepare meals and to warm up in cold weather.



Traditional oven Villavieja de Lozoya

As for the furniture was minimal and austere, a small wooden table and an oak bench, with round seat and three legs, so that women could cook without crouching, since the fire was made directly on the ground.

The houses used to have their own oven, in some cases attached to the house and in a semicircular shape, like the one we see in the image that survives in our town. The oven was lit from time to time to bake the bread for one or two weeks, or even for longer periods of time and to make roasts on special dates, since turning the oven was very expensive. With few exceptions, in Villavieja the house was not shared with the cattle (something that was usual in the towns of the region): it was kept in small blocks or "cortijos".



Example of traditional kitchen with utensils (the llares were chains with hooks to hang the cauldron to the fire) and door to the furnace.

### 8 The forge of Villavieja del Lozoya

The forge of Villavieja del Lozoya is the old blacksmith's shop of the town: place of meeting of the men of Villavieja del Lozoya when the time did not allow to dedicate itself to the agricultural and cattle workings. There horseshoes were made of the horses and the "callos" of the cows, in addition to arranging different tools of farming and household tools. Iron was a luxury in the postwar period, anything of this metal that could be found in the field they took to the blacksmith, who with him made from car wheels to rivets for frying pan bored by use.

The essential elements of the blacksmith's work are conserved in the forge: the bellows, the anvil and the cooling stack and pieces such as lamps for the lighting, some curious shoes made with rubber, a simple straw doll ... Currently it also houses a small ethnographic museum with pieces that tell us what everyday life was like in a mountain village (for example, useful for working flax, a crop of great importance until the 19th century)



Opening hours and visit La Fragua: Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 12:00 to 14:00 h.



During the restoration of a dilapidated house in the highest part of the town, called "El Cerrito", the remains of a previous building were discovered with two Mudejar-style arches, possibly dating from the 13th-14th centuries. One of them, in perfect state of preservation, is in the dining room of the El Arco hostel, from whose windows you can see a splendid panorama of the walls of Buitrago and the foothills of Somosierra. The arch, unique in its style in the northern mountains of Madrid, presents the typical elements of Mudejar art: the horseshoe arch, the alfiz that frames the whole and the use of bricks cut in sawtooth. On the original construction it is believed that it could be a country house owned by the Jewish family Mose de Cuellar, neighbor of Buitrago in the fifteenth century and owner of many properties in the area and the mill where neighbors grind, necessarily, the grain. Other hypotheses have been considered, but the only certainty is that it was a civil and non-religious construction



### The Mudejar Arch 3

### Natural values of Villavieja del Lozoya

The 1.000 meters of unevenness within the municipality and the different uses and soils, offer us varied and very important landscape units from the environmental point of view:

- Piornales and Junipers:** the piornales, with a bright yellow coloration from May to July, and the junipers, are in the highest parts of our municipality and in the area of summits of the Sierra de Guadarrama.
- Mountain pine forests:** above the melojares appears a strip occupied by pine forests of pine (Pinus sylvestris), which can be seen very well with the naked eye, thanks to the dark green color it has throughout the year (since the pines they do not lose the leaves).
- Melojares:** many slopes of the Sierra de Guadarrama are covered by a dense forest of melojo (Quercus pyrenaica), a type of oak. Its deciduous leaves, green during spring and summer, turn ochre-yellowish in autumn, before falling.



- Fresnedas:** areas of lower altitude, where livestock often graze, are occupied by ash dehesas (Fraxinus angustifolia). Fresnedas make up one of the most characteristic landscapes of the municipality. They are deciduous trees.
- Riparian vegetation:** along the banks of the rivers and streams that run through the municipality (such as the streams of Los Robles and La Trinidad), a narrow and valuable strip of vegetation grows: the riparian forest, formed by willows and ash trees above all.

- Holm oak forest:** in the lowest and warmest areas of the municipality, around the Ermita de la Trinidad, appears the oak forest, the most widespread and representative forest of the Community of Madrid. They also form pastures, such as the fresnedas, where the cattle graze. Many hillsides of the Sierra de Guadarrama are covered by a dense forest of melojo (Quercus pyrenaica), a type of oak. Its deciduous leaves, green during spring and summer, turn ochre-yellowish in autumn, before falling.

### The lagoon de El Tercio

The lagoon "El Tercio" is a sheet of seasonal water, which forms a unique ecosystem throughout the municipality, where there is no other wetland of these characteristics. The fauna and vegetation present in this lagoon have a great value. It is also very fragile and sensitive to any alteration, especially for its inhabitants: mainly amphibians (Toad runner, common toad Sapillo pintojo, San Antonio frog, Common frog, Spur toad, Gallipato, Triton mottled) birds (Grebe Common, Blue Mallard, White Stork, Griffon Vulture, Black Kite, Buzzard Bustard, Common Swallow, White Wagtail, European Robin, Paperbose Mosquito Net, Iberian Osprey) and Invertebrates (Dragonflies, Damselflies)



The environment of the El Tercio Lagoon was restored and protected in the year 2.017 by the City Council of Villavieja de Lozoya, creating a perimeter interpretive path with information panels and lecterns, landscape tables and a wildlife observation post

### Tourist Services / General Information

#### Spaces of cultural, historical and ethnographic heritage

El Lavadero  
Reguera street, 28



La Fragua  
Barco street, 29



Opening hours and visit (both centers):  
Saturdays, Sundays and holidays  
12:00 to 14:00 h.

#### Restoration, activities and services

Restaurant-Hotel "El Arco"  
Arco street, 6  
91.868.09.11  
www.hospederiaelarco.es



Bar Duende  
Pino street, 3  
675.864.169 / 630.510.596  
www.hospederiaelarco.es



Signatur Ecoturism  
Olmo street, 11  
918680372 / 699203766  
www.signaturweb.com



Quiosco "Parque el Sauquillo"  
Fraguas street w/in  
Recreational area "El Sauquillo"  
628.771.351 / 625.558.415



Pharmacy  
Pino street, 17  
91.868.14.11



More information: [www.villaviejadellozoya.es](http://www.villaviejadellozoya.es)

### 7 The traditional laundry

Opening hours and visit El Lavadero (Traditional Laundry):  
Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 12:00 to 14:00 h.



### Did you know...?

According to legend, the word "soap" came from Mount Sapo, where animal sacrifices were made in ancient Rome. The rainwater mixed with ash from the altar produced a bleach that combined with the melted residues of animal fat formed a soapy substance. Accidentally, the Romans discovered that their clothes were cleaner when washed in the soapy waters near the altars. In the thirteenth century, the French learned to perfume soaps with infusions of floral oils, and tried to replace sebum with olive oil producing a softer soap: the origin of our current toilet soap.



### 4 The foal to shoe

The foal to shoe is a very typical element of the mountain culture and hallmark of the cattle people. Its origin dates back to the Middle Ages, and some have been used well into the twentieth century. It was used to immobilize and shoe the cows, and sometimes it was also used to practice cattle care.



It consisted of the following elements: stone pillars, with smaller stones that served as support for the bent leg of the animal, known as "donkeys", a wooden yoke to hold the head of the animal and a crossbar where the straps to immobilize it.  
At present, as in almost all the neighboring mountain villages, both their presence and their maintenance have a cultural and tourist purpose that evokes the ways of life of the past

### Did you know...?

In relation to poultry is famous the tribute of chickens that was maintained for centuries until the disappearance of the seigneurial regime in 1833, and that in Villavieja ranged between 26 and 32 copies.

### 5 The boar court

It was the place where the village pig was kept, available to cover the sows owned by all the neighbors. He was fed among all according to the number of sows (gorrinas) of which he had and in the days in which he had to do it. The inhabitants of the town had a measure, the bushel, which went from house to house and determined the amount of food that had to be given to the boar.



# Villavieja del Lozoya



## LINEN PATH

Tipe: Circular

Distance: 6,3 km

Level: Easy

Time: 2 h.



The route runs through the lower areas of the area, among orchards, linars, meadows and meadows of great historical, landscape and environmental value. In its first section is called "Lino" for being linked to the cultivation and treatment of this plant of great importance for the economy of the town from the fifteenth century until the early twentieth century, being replaced by the potato and being place names as linars, stream of the pools or Linera harbor. Today only a few linars are used and for other crops (vegetables), the rest are meadows of cattle pasture.

La Dehesa Boyal de Villavieja is a fresneda or "hollow mountain" of about 80 hectares, completely surrounded by a dry stone wall. Just over half the surface, about 50 ha. It is irrigated by means of a gutter or caz that the neighborhood takes care of cleaning annually to supply the necessary water. The centennial ash trees of the Dehesa Boyal are topped with thick trunks and small cups.

## Recreative Area "El Descansadero"



Next to the Boyal Dehesa de Villavieja del Lozoya, one of the enclaves of greater natural wealth of the municipality, to the southwest of the town is located a recreational area "El Descansadero" at only 750 mts. from the town center, located within the Senda del Lino, it is ideal for the rest of walkers and cyclists and visitors or for recreational use.



This area was prepared in the years 2015-2016, and has several wooden and stone tables, several of them covered, as well as paper bins and information stands and a source of drinking water. This is a perfect place to enjoy magnificent views and an environment of great environmental value, surrounded by magnificent ash trees among which the cattle graze.

## 2

## LINERA MOUNTAIN PASS PATH

Tipe: Lineal

Distance: 10,6 km

Level: Medium-high

Time: 3,5 h.



The route to the mountain pass of Linera is an ascent from the town to 1.834 meters of altitude in the rope of the Mountain range of Guadarrama in the municipality, in this mountain sector that receives the name of Montes Carpetanos. To reach the port, the route first crosses vegetation areas of the Los Robles stream (examples of riverside forests with willows and ash trees), and then takes height through low scrub and pasture (due to the exploitation of wood) and to expose it to solana, to end up penetrating in the pine forest of Tablaillo, a formation of wild pine of reforestation, characterized by its slenderness and the asmonmonados trunks of color of its trees. We can find specimens of holly, yew, birch, broom and soap trying to reconquer that mountain of human planting.

From the high areas of this route, where the pine forests give way to the rocky and mountain pastures as they can not stand the rigors of the temperatures, the wind and the snows of winter; we can contemplate, if the day is clear, a great panoramic of the Sierra Norte from the northern slope of the Sierra de La Cabrera, passing through the middle course of the Lozoya River and all its basin with the reservoirs of Riosequillo (the closest) and The Atazar more to the South.



Cal y Canto bridge

Panoramic of Villavieja with Sierra de Guadarrama

Bulrubsíde El Tercio de la Trinidad

## 3

## MATAMBRE PATH

Tipe: Circular

Distance: 11,3 km

Level: Medium

Time: 3,5 h.



The path of Matambre runs along the Zarzoso stream, which flows into the stream La Garganta. The Matambre valley was originally known as "paradise valley", and later as "beautiful gorge", which gives us an idea of the beauty of its landscapes. In the 16th century the entry of cattle was prohibited, as well as of cowboys with tools for "browse" to protect the acebeda of La Garganta, whose holly trees are protected by law since 1983, and of which we can still see some copy.

Halfway through the route, there is the stone of the thousand men, because according to legend, a thousand men climbed up from the river to place it where it is making a wall. The dry stone walls are a vestige and patrimonial that dot the whole mountain range to protect the fields and meadows of the cattle.

## LA REGUERA PATH

Tipe: Circular Distance: 6,6 km

Level: easy Time: 2,25 h.



In this tour we will go through the Arroyo de Los Robles from the village, advancing along its throat, in the company of the riverside vegetation associated with the riverbed and being able to admire traditional elements of human use of the water of the stream: both for irrigation, supply, for energy and for bath. We have a magnificent example in the place known as "the caz": at this point Los Robles stream is the pool, bathing place of the villagers and where the linen was formerly washed and, at the time of slaughter, the intestines of the pork. The name of "caz" is because the gully was near the water that carried the mill to grind wheat, barley, carob and rye. Many of the structures and systems of water use are inherited from the Arab culture in our peninsula.



## Local trails maps



Buitrago de Lozoya

Las Eras

San Juanes

San Mamés

Navarredonda

Pinilla de Buitrago

El Raso

El Morillo

El Tercio de la Laguna

El Tercio de la Laguna

El Tercio de la Laguna

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