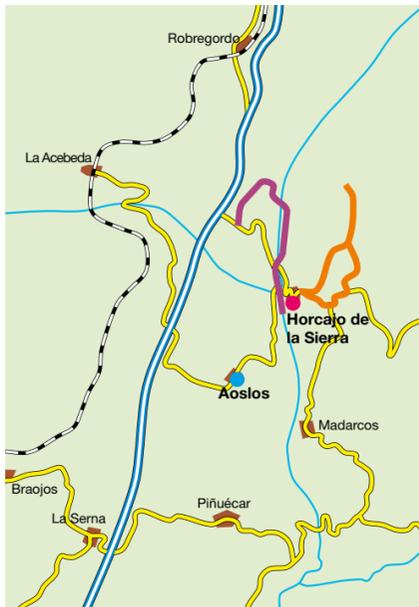


INFO SHEET:

**Access:** take the A-1 road until exit 85. Continue on the M-141 road to Horcajo de la Sierra. To reach the San Pedro in Cathedra church keep going until you reach the lower area of the village.  
**Itinerary:** linear.  
**Difficulty:** easy.  
**Distance:** 355 m.  
**Duration:** 45 minutes.  
**Recommended time of de year:** year-round.



- Urban route through Horcajo de la Sierra
- Discovering Aoslos strolling down the Calle Real
- Del Valle Creek hike
- The dehesa boyal in Horcajo de la Sierra

From here you can begin the urban walk that will let you discover Horcajo de la Sierra going in a south-north direction. The route starts at the lower southern node where the settlement first started, the San Pedro in Cathedra is a church landmark that must be visited, since it is the most notable architectural sight in the municipality. From there we can meander our way to number 62 of Calle de la Carretera, where we will see "La Casa del Médico", the old doctor's house. This street is the continuation of the M-141 road and the main access from the A-1 highway. Walking along the Calle Mayor the visitor can clearly appreciate how the sheep ranching roots and the rugged orography influenced the shape and aspect of the village. The streets are short, narrow and winding. The buildings, which sprouted without formal planning, form a maze that sometimes closes around little unexpected squares and plazas attesting to the picturesquely anarchic construction style.



Guía Turística

# Horcajo de la Sierra

Walking along the municipality

Urban route through Horcajo de la Sierra and Aoslos



Descúbrelo en [www.madrid.org](http://www.madrid.org)



La Suma de Todos  
Comunidad de Madrid  
[www.madrid.org](http://www.madrid.org)

## DISCOVERING AOSLOS STROLLING DOWN THE CALLE REAL

INFO SHEET:

**Access:** take exit 83 of the A-1 highway and continue on the M-136 road to Aoslos.  
**Itinerary:** linear.  
**Difficulty:** easy.  
**Distance:** 332,5 m.  
**Duration:** 30 minutes.  
**Recommended time of de year:** year-round.



- Discovering Aoslos strolling down the Calle Real
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The urban center of Aoslos grows around the Calle Real, which is also the M-136 road that connects the A-1 to Horcajo de la Sierra. This street is the main artery of a small and picturesque village made of winding streets where typical rural constructions from the XVIII and XX centuries mingle easily with modern houses, grain barns, cattle pens and vegetable gardens. Following it to the San Isidro church the visitor will see the most popular sights, such as the Plaza de la Plazuela (literally "the Square of the Little Square"), the Pilón de la Reguera (a cattle drinking trough), and an old sun dial, the shoeing frame and forge, all devices that attest to the cattle ranching origins of Aoslos, a heritage that continues almost intact to this day.

## The municipality

Horcajo de la Sierra is located in the southern foothills of the Sierra de Ayllón, in the Sierra Norte Region of Madrid. It perches on a cornice overlooking the Del Valle Creek, although the main water course of the area is the Madarquillos River, where trout (*Salmo trutta*), barbel (*Barbus sp.*), carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and several frog species can be found. The municipality occupies a 20,600 km<sup>2</sup> area comprised by two urban settlements, Horcajo de la Sierra and Aoslos. As is the case with many of the villages of the Middle Lozoya River Valley, their history was determined by the Señorío de Buitrago history.

Although the exact date of the first settlement is unknown, it is probable that the decision to settle the area was for defensive –as it is perched on a hilltop overlooking the valley and what was then the only roadway communicating the region with the northern part of the Iberian peninsula– and ranching purposes, given the abundant rich pastures of the region. In fact, during the XIII century, the communally held pastures were under the rule of the Villa de Buitrago. The territory is criss-crossed by eight royally endowed sheep drover's roads –the most representative being the Cañada Real Segoviana or "Segovian Merino Sheep Road", the Cañada de la Risca and the Cañada del Cerro– and by an extensive network of rural ways that are now used as paths by hikers, bicyclist and horse riders. These paths traverse areas of great natural beauty and incalculable ecological value. The rugged orography characteristic of the terrain creates marked differences in altitude in a relatively small area that provide for an abundant and significant diversity of flora and fauna. The predominant vegetation is *Quercus pirenaica*, the characteristic "robles melojos" oaks clustered in extensive woodlands, and the native walnut tree (*Juglans regia*). There are some centenary specimens, such as the "Nogal del Cruce" (the Crossroads Walnut Tree), declared Singular Tree by the Madrid Regional Government. The landscape is a mosaic of forest, agricultural and pasture lands delimited by hedges made of the remnants of the original holm oak and gum cistus association (*Quercus ilex* and *Cistus ladanifer*).

Sheep ranching, however, was the force that shaped both the landscape and popular architecture, determining the urban development trends of the settlements in this area, characterized by short and windy streets flanked by one story houses, corrals, hay barns and cattle pens made of the typical drywall masonry made of granitic gneiss –the local stone– roofed with clay tiles. The very characteristic shoeing frames still standing also attest to the cattle ranching past of the area.

Horcajo de la Sierra developed around the San Pedro in Cathedra Church located at the southern end of the original settlement. The church is also made of drywall and brick trimmed by ashlar stone corners and was built in the XV century. It has a linteled entrance, a nave with elevated choir on the narthex end and a polygonal apse abutting the belfry tower. As the village continued expanding southwards, developing an urban center along the Calle Mayor, the old town was left on the north side, something that was made more evident when the Calle de la Carretera –the current access to the A-1 highway– was opened.

Three kilometers southeast, on a plain surrounded by meadows dotted by ash trees (*Fraxinus angustifolia*), rustic melojo oaks and orchards lies Aoslos, the other village. The first written historical reference to Aoslos dates back to 1752, when Horcajo residents settled the site. It grew along the Calle Real, which continues to be its vertebrating axis and where the San Isidro church was built in 1936 with irregularly cut limestone. The church has the traditional rustic aspect of the area of the local architecture and it is topped by a belfry.

For more information: [www.horcajodelasierra-aoslos.es](http://www.horcajodelasierra-aoslos.es) - [www.horcajodelasierra.org](http://www.horcajodelasierra.org)



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## Establishments

**La Casa del Médico rural apartments**  
 Carretera, 62  
 28755 Horcajo de la Sierra  
 Tel. 91 868 65 43 / 649 542 037  
[www.lasonrisadelgnomo.com](http://www.lasonrisadelgnomo.com)  
[info@lasonrisadelgnomo.com](mailto:info@lasonrisadelgnomo.com)

**Las Escuelas rural apartments**  
 Carretera, 40  
 28755 Horcajo de la Sierra  
 Tel. 91 868 65 43 / 649 542 037  
[www.lasonrisadelgnomo.com](http://www.lasonrisadelgnomo.com)  
[info@lasonrisadelgnomo.com](mailto:info@lasonrisadelgnomo.com)

**El Descanso rural apartments**  
 Real, 10  
 28755 Aoslos (Horcajo de la Sierra)  
 Tel. 91 868 65 43 / 649 542 037  
[www.lasonrisadelgnomo.com](http://www.lasonrisadelgnomo.com)  
[info@lasonrisadelgnomo.com](mailto:info@lasonrisadelgnomo.com)

**El Pajar de Aoslos apartments**  
 Plazuela, 2  
 28755 Aoslos (Horcajo de la Sierra)  
 Tel. 645 830 718  
[www.elpajardeaoslos.com](http://www.elpajardeaoslos.com)  
[sierramadrid@elpajardeaoslos.com](mailto:sierramadrid@elpajardeaoslos.com)

**Ronrehondo restaurant**  
 Mayor, 1  
 28755 Horcajo de la Sierra  
 Tel. 91 868 66 23

**Los Cerezos hotel and restaurant**  
 Ctra. Madrid-Irún, km 87,800  
 28755 Horcajo de la Sierra  
 Tel. 91 869 90 06  
[www.grupocerem.com](http://www.grupocerem.com)  
[info@grupocerem.com](mailto:info@grupocerem.com)

# Urban route through Horcajo de la Sierra

**11** UTM: E 450932 N 4546608  
On number 40 of Calle de la Carretera we will see the Old Municipal School that has now been converted into rural vacation apartments. The building, constructed with granite stone during the postwar era is has a rectangular floor plan covered with a hip roof.

**10** UTM: E 450925 N 4546590  
We will turn right in the Calle de la Carretera.

**9** UTM: E 450915 N 4546544  
Right after the Town Hall building the street parts in two. We will take the left branch, the Travesía Mayor.

**8** UTM: E 450901 N 4546534  
A few steps, on the left the scene opens up to the Plaza de Pedro Uceda, the main square where we will see the Town's Hall building, a lumber and stone construction recently erected respecting the traditional architecture of the municipality.

**7** UTM: E 450897 N 4546520  
On number 12 of Calle Mayor we find a one spout granite fountain dating back to the 50's.

**6** UTM: E 450812 N 4546507  
After 25 meters the Calle Mayor widens. On the right side on the corner with the Madarcos Travesía we can see another ranching construction.

**5** UTM: E 450891 N 4546487  
On the second crossing we also continue straight ahead on our way.

**4** UTM: E 450883 N 4546473  
A little further on, on number 22 of Calle Mayor we can see a clear example of a traditional ranching construction.

**3** UTM: E 450864 N 4546443  
We will find a crossroads after about 37.5 m and we will continue straight ahead.

**2** UTM: E 450875 N 4546404  
From the lower area of Horcajo de la Sierra, the cradle of the settlement, we begin our walk up the Calle Mayor.

**1** UTM: E 450900 N 4546398  
The walk begins at the San Pedro in Cathedra church, the most notable building of the municipality, built in gothic style in the XV century, in drywall and brick and one sole nave and a square tower.

**14** UTM: E 451040 N 4546612  
The route ends at "La Casa del Médico", the old doctor's house, located on Calle de la Carretera 62. This house dates back to 1957 where housing was still built in the traditional architectural style of the area. It has now been converted to rural vacation apartments that keep the flavor of the original building.

**END**

**START**

Distances between stops: 20 m, 42,5 m, 17,5 m, 17,5 m, 7,5 m, 25 m, 12,5 m, 37,5 m, 37,5 m.

# Discovering Aoslos strolling down the Calle Real

**11** UTM: E 450005 N 4545299  
Here is an opportunity to observe the excellent conservation of both the Aoslo's shoeing frame and forge.

**10** UTM: E 450017 N 4545312  
Walking further on Calle Mediodía we reach on the right a small side street that opens to a cobblestoned esplanade crossed by the town's irrigation ditch.

**9** UTM: E 449992 N 4545323  
Looking up to the façade of number 3 on Calle Mediodía we will spot a stone sun dial. It was elevated so everyone could see it, as its function was to regulate irrigation shifts for the multitude of vegetable patches and meadows tended by the villagers.

**8** UTM: E 449876 N 4545322  
Continuing on the Calle Real we take the first street on the right, Calle Mediodía.

**7** UTM: E 449855 N 4545312  
After about 50 m of walking up this street, we can see on the left, on the crossing with the Calle de la Cañada and coinciding with the irrigation ditch ("La Reguera") that crosses Aoslos the Pilón de la Reguera, another cattle drinking trough built during the postwar era.

**6** UTM: E 449871 N 4545289  
Coming back to the Calle Real from the square, we continue ascending on the right.

**5** UTM: E 449867 N 4545253  
In the Plaza de la Plazuela we can also see a two spout granite fountain flowing on a rectangular basin built to supply water for the sheep, cows and poultry, raised in the village.

**4** UTM: E 449836 N 4545256  
Continuing on the Calle Real to the Plaza de la Plazuela on the right we can stop to observe more examples of the characteristic traditional mountain village architecture.

**3** UTM: E 449903 N 4545219  
When we reach numbers 114-120 and 94-100 of the Calle Real we will see two of the best examples of cattle ranching architectural compounds still standing in Aoslos.

**2** UTM: E 449876 N 4545187  
From the San Isidro church, take the Calle Real, again, coinciding with the M-136 road layout in the direction of Horcajo de la Sierra.

**1** UTM: E 449876 N 4545187  
The itinerary begins at the San Isidro church located on the 124 of the Calle Real. Built in 1936 of irregularly dressed limestone it has the traditional rustic aspect of the religious architecture of the region. Its most characteristic element is the off-center belfry tower topping the main facade.

**13** UTM: E 449889 N 4545359  
The itinerary concludes on number 36 of Calle Real. A prime example of mixed construction homestead meets our eye. Of particular note is the typical Segovian oven protruding from the main façade.

**END**

**START**

Distances between stops: 15 m, 30 m, 5 m, 15 m, 50 m, 12,5 m, 7,5 m, 37,5 m, 35 m, 75 m.