

## Technical data

- START / FINISH: Garden of the Church of Monteagudo
- PATH TYPE: circular.
- DISTANCE: 6,300 km.
- MAX. HEIGHT: 95 m.
- MIN. HEIGHT: 35 m.
- POSITIVE ACCUMULATED GRADIENT: 60 m.
- NEGATIVE ACCUMULATED GRADIENT: 60 m.

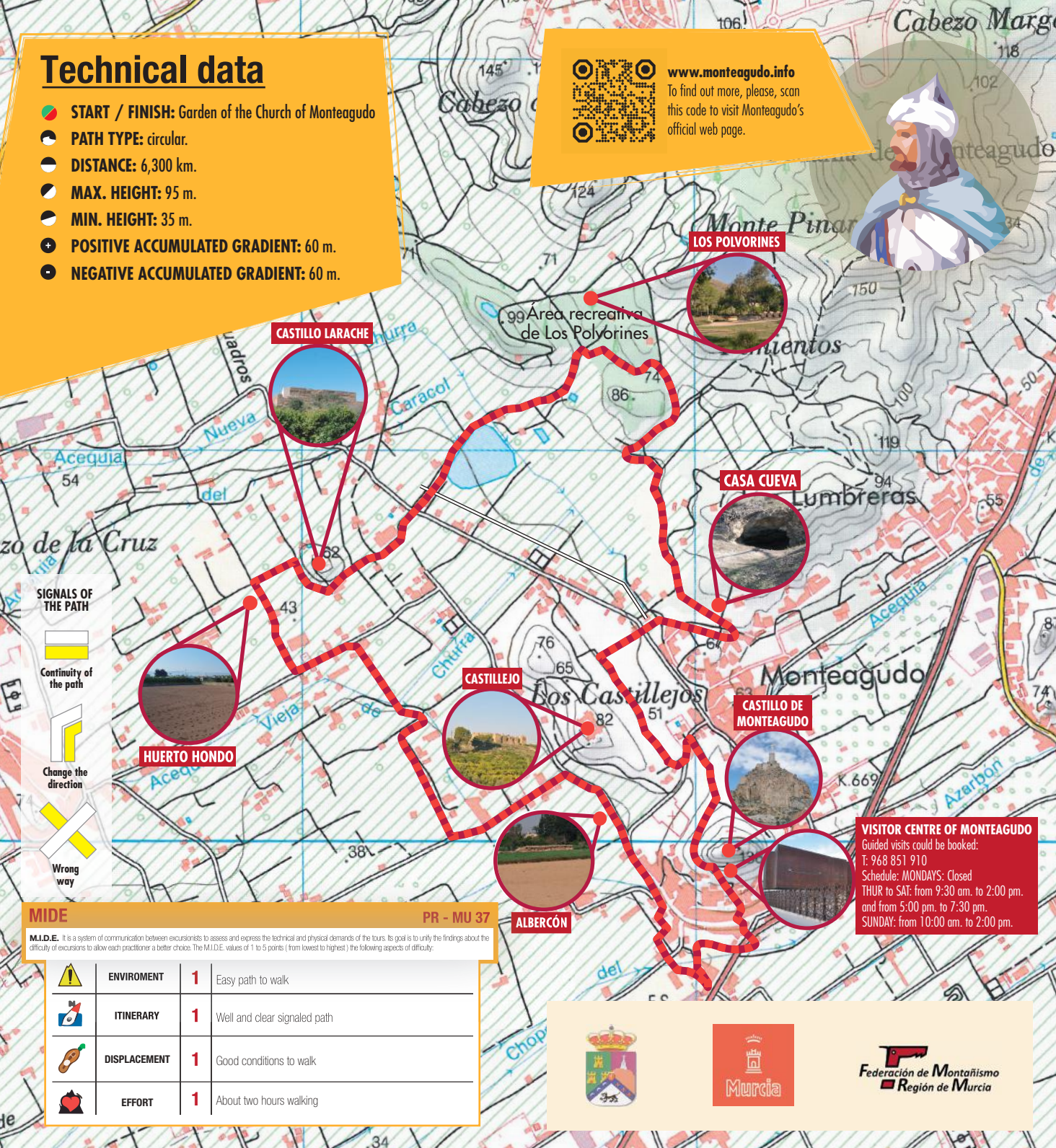


[www.monteagudo.info](http://www.monteagudo.info)  
To find out more, please, scan this code to visit Monteagudo's official web page.



# PR - MU 37

## Path Castles of Monteagudo



### SIGNALS OF THE PATH

- Continuity of the path
- Change the direction
- Wrong way

### MIDE

PR - MU 37

M.I.D.E. It is a system of communication between excursionists to assess and express the technical and physical demands of the tours. Its goal is to unify the findings about the difficulty of excursions to allow each practitioner a better choice. The M.I.D.E. values of 1 to 5 points (from lowest to highest) the following aspects of difficulty:

	ENVIROMENT	1	Easy path to walk
	ITINERARY	1	Well and clear signaled path
	DISPLACEMENT	1	Good conditions to walk
	EFFORT	1	About two hours walking

### VISITOR CENTRE OF MONTEAGUDO

Guided visits could be booked:  
T: 968 851 910  
Schedule: MONDAYS: Closed  
THUR to SAT: from 9:30 am. to 2:00 pm.  
and from 5:00 pm. to 7:30 pm.  
SUNDAY: from 10:00 am. to 2:00 pm.



Federación de Montañismo  
Región de Murcia







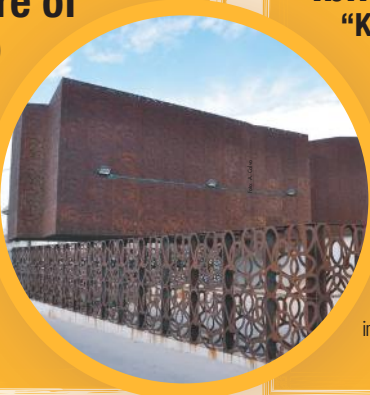
Foto: A. Calvo

## Castle of Monteagudo

The castle represents the eastern vanguard of the Moorish kingdom of Murcia with the neighbouring taifa of Denia. On account of its strategic position overlooking the valley of the river Segura, the crag of Monteagudo is the ideal site for a fortress. The building dates back to the eleventh century and was occupied by the Moors until the thirteenth century when it fell into the hands of the Christians and remained as a frontier outpost until the fifteenth century. It is composed of two concentric walled areas taking up over 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> of ground with strongly built walls. It was the prison where the first king of the taifa of Murcia, Ibn Tahir, was held before being deposed and the residence of King Alfonso X "The Wise" during his visits to Murcia.

## Visitor Centre of Monteagudo

Opened in 2013, the Monteagudo Visitor Centre displays the archeological sequence of the township's historical heritage, from prehistoric times until the Middle Ages, covering the Iberian, Roman and Moorish cultures. The building holds an interpretation of how the area was populated, with examples of the different architectural periods and objects which have been found locally. Inside we find large-scale illustrations showing the landscapes and ways of life typical of the different cultures, replicas of artefacts found nearby and of the dwellings dating back to the Argar culture which were discovered in 2008, with exact representations of the tools and burial ware found in them.



## El Castillejo Qasr Ibn Saad (7th Century)

The fortified almunia of *Qasr ibn Saad*, commonly known as El Castillejo, was built by "King Wolf" in the thirteenth century. Its name in Arabic means "the King's palace" and several chronicals of the time tell of its luxurious rooms and splendid gardens. El Castillejo was where the courtiers enjoyed their leisure, and was popular among the sages and writers who lent prestige to the reign of Ibn Mardanis. After many attempts to destroy it, the Almohade invasion finally managed to raze the palace and its surroundings to the ground in 1167.

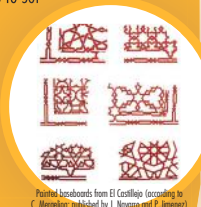


This is the QR code where you can find an artist's impression of its architecture:



## Ibn Mardanis, "King Wolf"

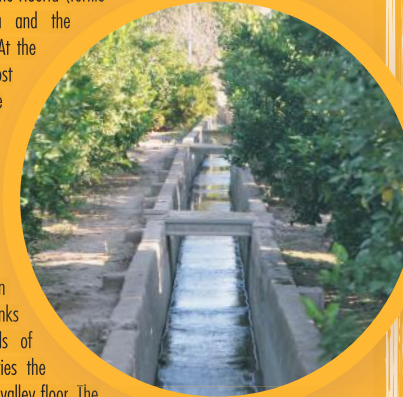
The impressive splendour of Monteagudo was due to the most noteworthy of the kings who governed the Kingdom of Murcia, Ibn Mardanis, known by the Christians as Rey Lobo (the Wolf King). Ibn Mardanis enlarged his dominion of eastern al-Ándalus from Murcia, holding back the advances of the Almohades who came from western Andalucía to try to take over the Andalusi and Christian kingdoms, with which they made pacts to set up trading relationships. Under his government, between 1147 and 1172, Mursiyya, present-day Murcia, underwent a period of cultural and economic splendour, as we can see from the striking remains still to be seen in Monteagudo and in Murcia itself. After his death in 1172 his descendants gave in and handed Murcia over to the Almohades.



Floor tiles excavated from El Castillejo (according to C. Murguía, published by J. Navarro and F. Jiménez).

## Water-based civilization in the Murcia river basin

Monteagudo stands midway between the Huerta (fertile market gardening area) of Murcia and the surrounding dryland fields and hills. At the foot of the castle crag some of the most important irrigation channels of the Huerta still flow, watering the fields farthest from the river Segura over the centuries. The Huerta forms a special landscape and ecosystem as far as culture and nature are concerned. It is one of the few surviving European Mediterranean "huertas", and has been preserved thanks to a network of irrigation channels of Moorish- medieval origins which carries the waters of the river Segura all over the valley floor. The flow is distributed in a well-organized manner among local landowners by means of the rules set down by the ancestral "orders and customs of the Huerta of Murcia".



One of the main irrigation channels which make up the Monteagudo irrigation network is the acequia of Churra la Nueva, which flows through the Heredamiento Mayor del Norte through the villages of Javalí Nuevo, La Ñora, Guadalupe, Espinardo, Churra and Monteagudo. The earliest documented references to this acequia date back to 1436. Its course crosses the northernmost area of the valley, and it would seem that it was built precisely to carry water to the fields which stand higher than the valley floor. The description of "nueva" or new differentiates it from the other lesser acequia of Churra la Vieja (old) which flows along almost parallel but further south, taking its water from the Aljufía, acequia mayor.



## Almunia de Larache

(12th and 13th Century)

Many researchers agree that the castle known as Larache was a fortified almunia built under the reign of Ibn Mardanis, while others attribute its origin to the tribes of Hudies or Almohades late in the twelfth or early in the thirteenth centuries. It is quadrangular in shape, standing on a plot of 2,160 m<sup>2</sup>, and

is made up of a residential building closely surrounded by walls, very similar to those of Murcia city with double defence works and a barbican.

The palace walls are over 80 cms thick and parts which still stand are 7 meters high.



El Albercón



## The water tanks of Huerto Hondo and Albercón

An alberca (from the Arabic *birka*, a water tank or pool) can either be dug out from the ground or built up using bricks, wattle and daub or stonework. It is used to store water either for irrigation or for decorative and leisure purposes. At Monteagudo magnificent examples of these large albercas can be found, such as Huerto Hondo, east of Larache, a large square area with sides measuring 58 meters long, which was probably used to store water for the irrigation of the almunia. Only the thick wattle and daub walls limiting its original area still stand. At the foot of the Castillejo crag the huge Albercón alberca stood, 160 by 135 meters in dimension. This area has now become a farm field.

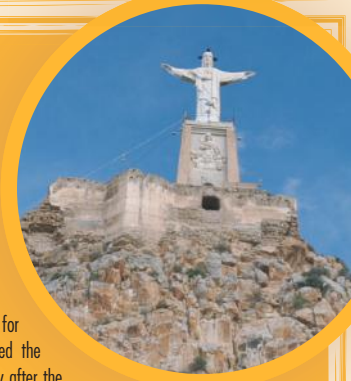
As can be seen from the proximity of these albercas to the almunias of Larache and El Castillejo, it is very probable that the large quantities of water stored in them were used for the crops and gardens belonging to the magnificent palaces.

La alberca del Huerto Hondo



## The Christ of Monteagudo

The Sacred Heart of Jesus of Monteagudo, commonly known as the Christ of Monteagudo, was built in 1926 by Anastasio and Nicolás Martínez. The élite of Murcia society contributed to funding the work, which probably cost 30,000 pesetas. Associations were set up in order to collect contributions and for over a year progression on the work occupied the headlines of the Murcia press. In 1936, shortly after the beginning of the Civil War, the Christ was demolished, to be re-erected in 1951. It stands 14 meters high, and was also sculpted by Nicolás Martínez Ramón.



Scanning this QR code you can see a recreation of the built of the wall of Medina Mursiya

