



Before going on a Greenway it is advisable to be well documented about the route in order to fully enjoy it: detailed maps, altimetric profiles, surface types, the location of natural and historic attractions, fountains, accommodation and restaurant services, etc. Information is available on the FFE website at

www.viasverdes.com, An English version is available. Don't forget to see the sections "Visit our Travel Guides", and "watch our videos in YouTube". Also, in the Spanish Greenways Guide (Vols. 1, 2 and 3 published in Spanish by FFE with Anaya Touring), Television Series DVD, and through councils and specific management bodies for each route. The Greenways are also depicted in the Official Road Map of Spain published by the Ministry for Public Works.

Live the Greenways!





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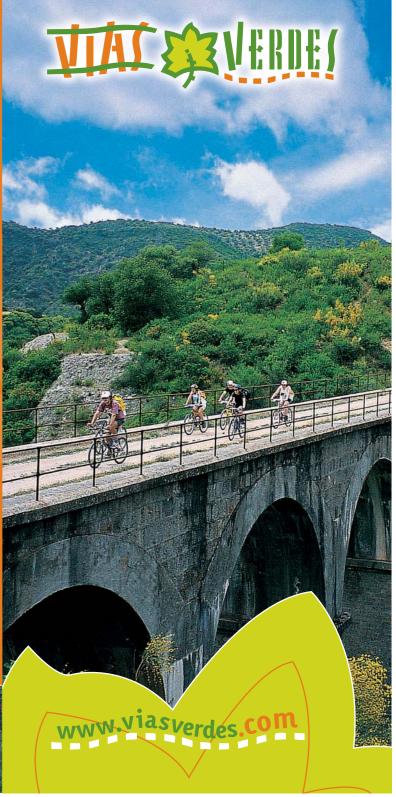
Further information:

Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles

Dirección de Actividades Ambientales

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What are Vias Verdes / Greenways?

"Vías Verdes" are old railway lines in disuse recovered as non-motorized routes for ramblers and cyclists. Of over 7,600 km of disused railway lines that existed in Spain in 1993, nearly 1,900 km have been converted into 90 Greenways running across Spain, a number that grows by the day. They make an attractive and sustainable resource for the public to enjoy our natural environment and rich railway heritage. Greenways make easy the practice of active and healthy leisure pursuits and encourage a change of mentality in favour of sustainable mobility.

The Greenways network is designed to make use of the railway lines on which they run, offering maximum ease and comfort in their routes to ensure universal accessibility, including those with reduced mobility. The ban on motorized traffic makes them very safe.

www.viasverdes.com



"VÍA VERDE" is a quality brand, restricted in Spain to the use of routes running over old railway lines. All the Spanish Greenways are easily identified by their distinctive logo and signposting. But the "Greenway" concept goes much further. The package also takes in the restoration of old stations which are being rehabilitated for the installation of related services and equipment, such as restaurants, accommodation, bicycle hire, information centres, museums, etc.

Main promoters of the Greenways Programme include the Ministry for the Environment, principal investor in the development of the infrastructures, the **Spanish Railway Foundation (FFE)**, responsible for the national coordination and promotion of the project, and the major owners of public railway land: the Railway Infrastructure Manager-Adif and Feve (Spanish Narrow Gauge Railways). The active involvement of the Regions and the Provincial and Town Councils, as well as the enthusiastic contribution of cycling associations, ecological and cultural orgnizations, have made it possible to set the programme in motion and give life to 1,900 km of Greenways.

The development of the Greenways extends beyond the Spanish frontiers. In 1998 the European Greenways Association (EGWA) was created in Belgium, being chaired by the FFE until 2004. From 2009 Secretariat and executive office held in Madrid, in the Spanish Railways Foundation (FFE). Currently 37 member organizations from 10 countries support EGWA.

www.aevv-egwa.org

