



Guara Somontano Incógnito



Ribera Alcanadre Route

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis



Route Information

Circular
 Torres de Alcanadre
 40 min
 30 m
 KM 2,3



Length: 16-19 cm
Wingspan: 24-26 cm



In certain cultures, the kingfisher is seen as a symbol of good luck and prosperity due to its ability to fish successfully.



It is a light bird weighing between 30 and 45 grams, depending on the time of year and its diet. Small, with a short neck and an upright posture, its long and straight beak measures around 4 cm, ideal for catching fish in the water. Its plumage stands out with striking metallic blue on the back and wings, with intense orange tones on the chest and belly.

It prefers to live near calm freshwater bodies, rarely disturbed by human activity, and is an excellent fisherman, basing its diet on small fish, aquatic larvae, and small crustaceans. In flight, it can reach speeds of up to 40-50 km/h: if you see a bright blue "flash" flying above the river, it is very likely to be the kingfisher.



Its call consists of a series of sharp, brief, fast, and repetitive sounds. These sounds are usually more noticeable during the breeding season, when the male seeks to attract a female and defend its territory.



It is currently not considered endangered globally, but in some local areas, it may be threatened due to various factors that destroy its habitat.

Did you know?

It doesn't usually eat everything it catches immediately: if it catches more fish than it can eat, it stores the excess food at the bottom of its nest or nearby until it is needed.



Recommended time: Early spring during the first hours of the morning.

Perches: It usually fishes from perches near the shore (branches, rocks, etc.).

Recommended equipment: Long-range telephoto lens (at least 300 mm), preferably with a large aperture.

Shutter speed: 1/1000 s or faster to freeze the movement.

Silent mode: If your camera allows, enable this function to avoid sounds that could scare it off.

Keep your distance: Use the telephoto lens to avoid interfering with its natural behavior.

