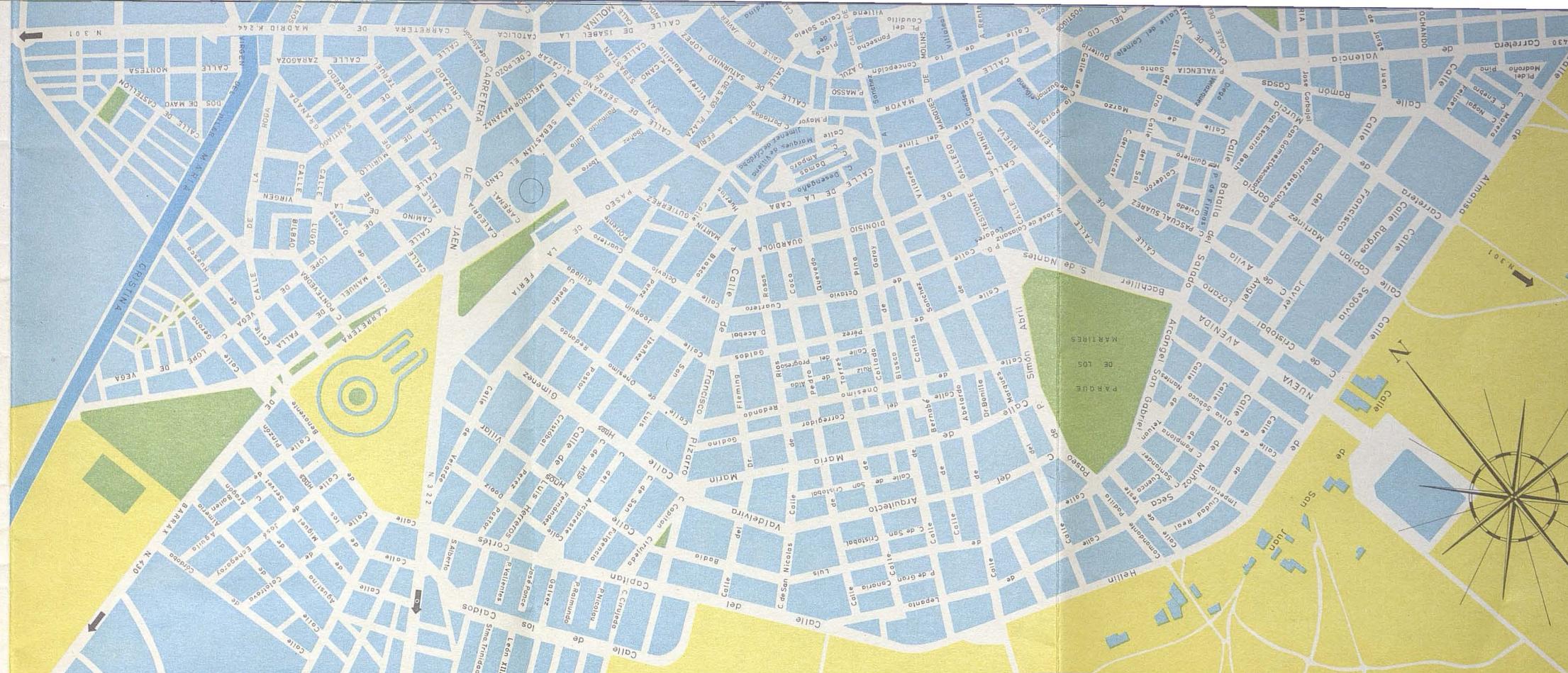


A factor of sleepiness or live lime seems to have marked the towns, great and small, in this large province. Once again, the situation of each in the plains or in upland districts conditions the character of these communities. Nestling in the mountains, Alcaraz gives an unforgettable impression with its air of nobility, its golden lumious Plaza Mayor (a national monument), its steeply sloping streets, the coats-of-arms on the stone fountains, the beauty of the church of La Trinidad with its gothic doorway, the Tower and the Aduanas Gate. Close by is Riopar, at the source of the River Mundo, a spot of great enchantment with its waterfalls among the sheer rock. And Molinicos, Ayna and Yeste in wild, picturesqueness, a good lunch at any of its renowned restaurants serving traditional «marchegao» fare. Fourteen Kilometres farther on lies Chinchilla de Monteagudo, seat of the old marquisate of Villena, with the Gothic church of El Salvador and that of Santo Domingo, a masterpiece of Moorish style; the castle of the Marquis of Villena is an important sight. Another town with a historic castle is Almansa, on the border of the province of Valencia, with vestiges of gothic and baroque. Nearby is the little town of Alpina where can be admired the cave paintings of La Cueva de la Vieja. In the transition area towards the Murcian border lying to the south east, sixty Kilometres from Hellín, an example of the blending of two characters is the town of Hellín, a town of the Moors and of the Moors.

a dream of stone and lime: the towns

The city has a population of 75,000 and stands at 679 metres above sea level, at a distance of 245 kms. from Madrid, 168 from Alicante and 144 from Murcia.

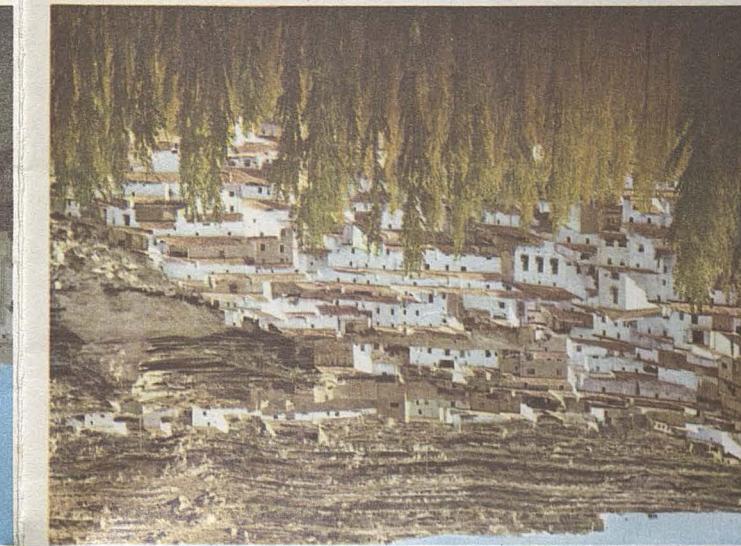
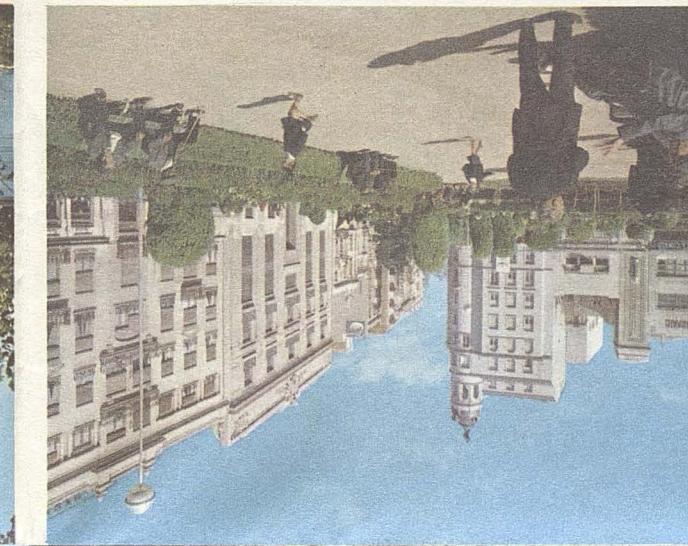
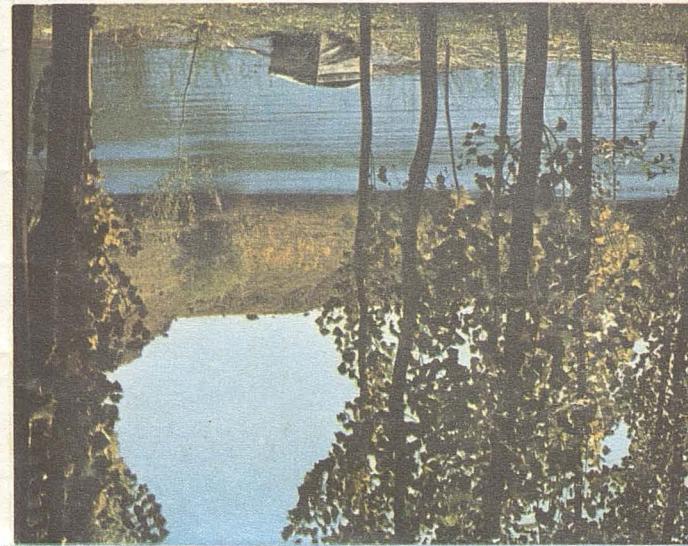
NO name could be more appropriate than «AL-BASITI» (THE PLAIN), given to this part of Spain by the Moors. The city of Albacete, one of the capitals of the region known as «La Mancha», spreads out in an urban prospect of wide open streets, for the most part flat and straight. On any corner, in any square, one captures once again that feeling of a far horizon that is so much a part of life in La Mancha, and that seems to be in all parts. It is a peaceful sensation. Albacete becomes more cordial and relaxed, that uncertain moment returns home with the game he has shot, when the hunter splendor in the late afternoon or evening, when the hunter seems immersed in light which achieves its moment of greatest splendor in the light which achieves its moment of greatest splendor in the late afternoon or evening, when the hunter returns home with the game he has shot, when the hunter



Sera Lakes

Gaudílio, Albaçete

Calà del Júcar



spain



ALMANSA CAS



Trout Poem

Strategically situated between Castilla (Castile), Andalucía (Andalusia) and the lands of Spain's southeast and Levante, Albacete offers a curious variety of scenery, people and customs. Arriving in this part of the country is like entering a world of wide open spaces and rugged peaks. The pine woods and rivers with the open farmland are a live expression of the beauty of nature. In this countryside, the birds, light roads and the naked rocks are full of life and significance. In one's mind looms the silent spectre of Don Quixote, and watchful among the furrows.

the pl

Arrival in Albacete from Madrid means passing through the countryside of ruddy soil, vineyards and fields of wheat scattered with the lighter golden shades of the three floors. Roads become lost in the distance, more often than not leading to the townships that squat in the plain with whitewashed walls standing out in stark relief. Towns with high bell-gables and rough cobbled streets off which there are wide gateways leading into the corrals. There can be seen the farm wagons, the shafts of the carts, the stables housing the teams of mules and the barns. Over the hills and fallow lands a bevy of partridges is liable to be discovered at any moment, for game-fowl are one of the leading attractions in these parts. Amid the fields rise «majas» small hillocks of boulders that stand out with their ungainly forms, blending strangely with the evergreen oaks. To such a scene scented with thyme and sage beneath a pale blue sky the hidalgo Don Quixote rode with his dreams, breathing in the pungent air and basking in the atmosphere of the plains and the far horizon.



Countryside. Alcar