

# Liébana: A Journey Into the Heart of Cantabria

An immersive guide to the peaks, villages, and sacred sites of a timeless land.

# Three Paths to Discover One Soul



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Liébana reveals itself in three distinct chapters. We will journey from the breathtaking scale of its natural wilderness, down to the vibrant culture of its storied villages, and finally into the deep historical and spiritual roots that anchor this land.

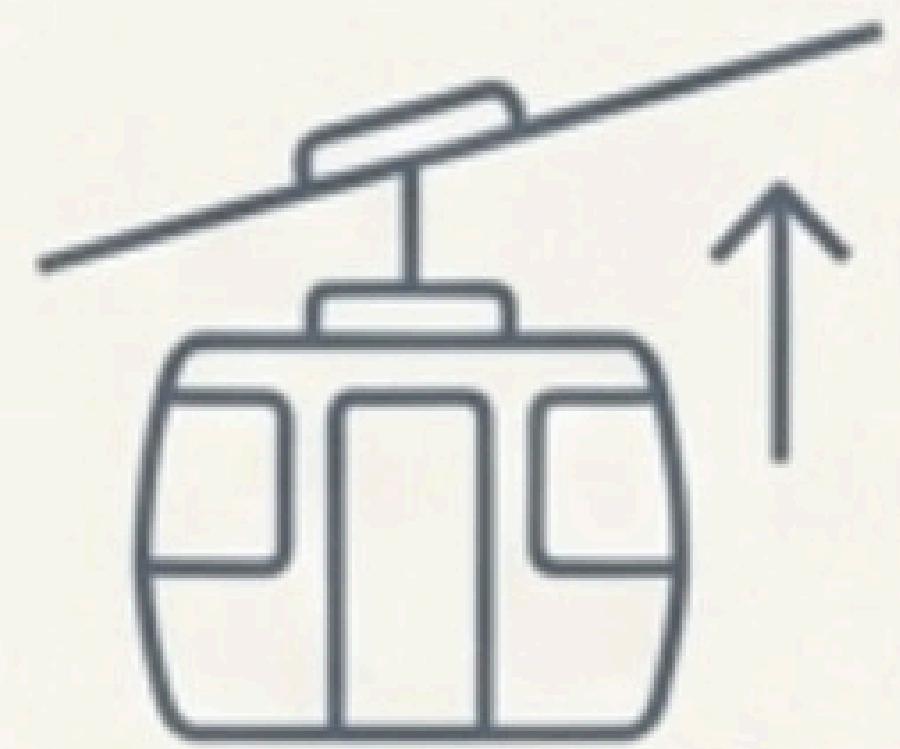
# PART I: THE CALL OF THE WILD

Where the majestic Picos de Europa command the horizon and adventure awaits at 1,823 meters.



# Ascend to the Roof of Cantabria at Fuente Dé

The Picos de Europa National Park is made astonishingly accessible by the Fuente Dé Cableway. This is your direct route to the heart of the mountains, offering unparalleled views and the starting point for unforgettable high-altitude routes.



Rise **753 meters** in just  
**4 minutes** to an altitude of  
**1,823 meters**.



# Choose Your Own Mountain Adventure



Beyond hiking, the peaks offer challenges for every thrill-seeker. Liébana is home to some of Spain's most spectacular Vias Ferratas—protected climbing routes that traverse stunning rock faces.

## Key Details

### Activities:

Hiking, Horse Riding, Biking, Quad Biking.

### Vias Ferratas:

Four distinct lines are located across the district: La Hermida (2), Camaleño (1), and Vega de Liébana (1). The Camaleño route is the easiest, perfect for beginners.

### Expert Advice:

'While access to the vias ferratas is free, it is always recommended to hire an expert who will guide and help you when required.'



## Sleep Among the Stars in the Heart of the Picos

For a truly intense experience, stay at the Hotel Áliva. A family-run hotel open exclusively in the summer season, it is found less than an hour's hike from the cableway station. Here, surrounded by mountains and meadows, you can set out for incredible hikes and recover your strength with delectable dishes prepared with original produce of Liébana.



# PART II: THE HEART OF THE LAND

Exploring the living culture, vibrant flavors, and  
fairytale architecture of Liébana's villages.



# Potes: The Town of Bridges and Towers

As the capital of Liébana, Potes is situated where the Deva and Quiviesa rivers meet. Its rich history unfolds in its charming narrow streets, largest houses with coats of arms, and in its defining medieval structures.

## Key Landmarks

- **Torre del Infantado (15th Century):** A formidable six-storey medieval building, once a prison and town hall, now hosting the permanent exhibition of the Beato de Liébana.
- **Orejón de la Lama Tower (15th Century).**

# A Taste of the Valleys

The gastronomy of Potes and Liébana is an essential part of the journey. From hearty mountain stews to celebrated artisan liqueurs, the flavors are as rich as the history.

## Must-Try Specialties

- **Cocido Lebaniego:** The culinary star, made with small, tender local chickpeas, cured meat, and cabbage.
- **Local Meats & Fish:** Prime quality big game (wild boar, roe deer) and trout and salmon from the Deva River.
- **Orujo & Tostadillo:** Famous artisan-produced liqueurs, celebrated each November at a Festival of National Tourist Interest.
- **The Monday Market:** A traditional meeting point with deep historical roots where all these products can be found.





# Mogrovejo: A Village from a Storybook

Situated on a commanding high point in the municipality of Camaleño, Mogrovejo is an idyllic spot that feels like a fairy tale setting. It preserves an important collection of traditional Lebaniego houses, where the silhouette of the Picos seems to stand out from the roofs of the houses.

Named one of “The Most Beautiful Villages in Spain” in 2020.

# The Architecture of a Mountain People

The character of Mogrovejo is written in its walls. The vernacular architecture is unique to the region, designed for life in the mountains.

## Defining Features

- **Lebaniegan Houses:** Upper floors are often open to the exterior, with walls made of 'interwoven branches, covered with a mud coating,' a space generally used as a hayloft.
- **Medieval Tower:** A square-plan tower dating from the late 13th century, topped with square battlements.
- **Unique Structures:** Look for semicircular bread ovens and raised granaries (*hórreos*) integrated among the houses.



# PART III: THE ECHOES OF TIME

Following a sacred path to discover the deep  
spiritual and historical foundations of Liébana.

# Two Sanctuaries on a Sacred Path



## Monasterio de Santo Toribio

A few kilometers from Potes lies this vital Gothic monastery. Its global importance is due to its role as the host of the *Lignum Crucis*—the largest known piece of the cross on which Jesus died. This relic makes it a holy site of pilgrimage.



## Santa María de Lebeña

The main pre-Romanesque monument in Cantabria, built in the so-called “Mozarabic style.” Legend holds that its noble founders were struck blind while attempting to move the remains of Santo Toribio here, their sight only returning when the relics were taken back to the monastery.

# Walk the Lebaniego Pilgrims' Route

Cantabria is the only Christian region with two UNESCO World Heritage pilgrim routes. The Lebaniego Route crosses the entire district over 72 kilometers, ending at the Monasterio de Santo Toribio. It is a journey that connects you to the most emblematic spots in Liébana.



## Trip Details



Distance:  
**72 kilometers**



Duration:  
**3 to 5 stages**



Destination:  
**Monasterio de  
Santo Toribio**

From the highest peaks to the echoes in ancient stone,  
Liébana is not a place you simply visit.  
It is a journey you inhabit.

Come and enjoy Liébana.