



TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

Hostería de Castañeda

Puente Viesgo · Cantabria



Nature, soul and tradition in the heart of Cantabria

WELCOME

Welcome home



Thank you for choosing our house to spend a few days in the heart of Cantabria. We hope that, from the moment you step through the door, you feel that this place is a little bit yours too.

Here, time seems to move a little more slowly. Mornings invite unhurried breakfasts, the paths lead to landscapes that look frozen in time, and the afternoons drift by with the murmur of the river, the green of the meadows and the clean air of the Pasiegos valleys.

We have put this guide together with great care, to share everything we would recommend to a good friend coming to visit: places worth discovering, restaurants that never disappoint, walks we never tire of repeating and small tips to make your stay comfortable and special.

Welcome. Enjoy Cantabria... and make yourselves at home.

The essentials



We want your stay to be comfortable from the very first moment. Here you will find the most useful information about the house.

Keys

We leave you two sets of keys. One opens the little red garden gate and the other the main door of the house. On your departure day, please leave one set on the kitchen worktop and hide the other behind the leg of the wooden bench at the entrance.

Heating & hot water

The house warms up quickly. If you feel cold, switch on the thermostat on the wall opposite the washbasin, set it to 21° and you will soon have a pleasant temperature. You can also enjoy the fireplace, cold weather or not.

Kitchen

Fully equipped: crockery, utensils, coffee maker, toaster, microwave and everything you need to prepare breakfasts, lunches or dinners at your own pace.

Smoke-free space

If you smoke, we kindly ask you to do so outdoors only, using the ashtrays provided.

Pets

Pets are welcome in the house.

Need any help?

Ana · 645 220 908

Luis · 606 547 174

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

LOCATION

Where your journey begins

In the heart of Cantabria



Some places are chosen for their beauty, others for their location. Puente Viesgo is lucky enough to have both.

Set in the peaceful valley of the river Pas, in less than an hour you can go from walking along an endless beach to strolling through a centuries-old forest, visiting a medieval village, climbing into the mountains or enjoying a meal facing the sea.



From here you are roughly...

10 min Prehistoric Caves of Monte Castillo

25 min Cabárceno Nature Park

30 min Santander

30 min Santillana del Mar

35 min Comillas

35 min Llenres beaches

1 h Potes and the Fuente Dé cable car

Don't try to see everything. Cantabria isn't enjoyed by ticking places off a list, but by leaving time to sit on a terrace, get lost on a back road or stop to take in a view.



OUR VILLAGE

Puente Viesgo

The luxury of starting slowly



Some villages are visited in a hurry; others invite you to slow down. Puente Viesgo belongs to the latter. Here the star is neither a building nor a square: it is the river crossing the valley, the birdsong in the morning, the green that never seems to end and the feeling that, for a few days, there is no rush at all.

Our advice is simple: don't make big plans on your first day. Drop the suitcases, open the windows, breathe deeply... and simply go for a walk.

A perfect afternoon in Puente Viesgo

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 17:00 | A walk along the river Pas and the Vía Verde del Pas. Flat and perfect for getting to know the surroundings. |
| 18:30 | Stop for a coffee or an ice cream on one of the terraces in the village centre. |
| 19:30 | Head towards the spa and admire one of the most emblematic buildings in the valley. |
| 20:30 | Find a bench by the river. There is nothing else you need to do. |
| 21:30 | End the day with dinner at one of our favourite restaurants. |

*Some journeys are remembered for everything we did.
Others, far more special, for how they made us feel.*

Where to eat

Because travelling also means sitting down at the table



Every trip leaves different memories. Sometimes a landscape, sometimes a conversation. And very often, a flavour. In Cantabria, food is part of the journey.

We didn't want to make an endless list. Just to share the places we ourselves would go back to.

Restaurants in Puente Viesgo

El Marqués

€€€

Our recommendation for a special occasion

If you are looking for a higher-end gastronomic experience, this is, for us, the reference restaurant in Puente Viesgo. Quality produce, careful cooking and excellent service.

IDEAL FOR · COUPLES · CELEBRATIONS

Restaurante La Unión

€€

Traditional Cantabrian cooking

A village classic where you will find the most representative dishes of Cantabrian cuisine: stews, meats, fish and home cooking.

IDEAL FOR · FAMILIES · TRADITIONAL FOOD

Hotel La Terraza

€€

Breakfast heaven... and churros with hot chocolate

If there is one thing we recommend trying here, it is their famous chocolate con churros: for us, the best in Puente Viesgo. Don't leave without tasting them.

IDEAL FOR · BREAKFAST · AFTERNOON TREATS

Bar La Tropical

€

The classic spot for small bites... with a Canarian twist

Just a few steps from the house. Its new owners, who came from the Canary Islands, have added nods to their own cuisine without losing the essence of the place.

IDEAL FOR · TAPAS · GROUPS · CASUAL DINNER

Balneario de Puente Viesgo

€€-€€€

Two ways to enjoy the setting

Its restaurant, elegant and of great quality, ideal for a relaxed lunch. Its cafeteria, with sharing plates, salads and lighter dishes, perfect for something more informal.

IDEAL FOR · COUPLES · AFTER THE SPA

Mamá Pancha



A trip to Mexico without leaving Puente Viesgo

If you fancy a change of register, it offers flavourful Mexican food in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

IDEAL FOR · CASUAL MEAL · FRIENDS AND FAMILY

If your stay falls on a weekend or in high season, we recommend booking a table, especially at El Marqués and at the Balneario.

Good morning, Cantabria

The breakfasts we love most

Some say breakfast is the most important meal of the day. We believe that, on holiday, it can also be the most beautiful.

Waking up without an alarm clock, making coffee, opening the windows and listening to the silence... small luxuries we too often forget.



OUR FAVOURITE BREAKFAST

Freshly baked bread · Butter and homemade jam · Sobaos pasiegos · Quesada · Orange juice · Freshly brewed coffee

Simple. Unhurried.

Products worth trying

Sobaos pasiegos — the best-known sweet in Cantabria.

Quesada pasiega — milk, a soft texture, lemon and cinnamon.

Cantabrian cheeses — from cow, sheep and goat's milk.

Local honey — from small producers in the valleys.

Holidays begin the day you have breakfast again without watching the clock.

EXPERIENCES

The essentials

Ten experiences that make Cantabria special



We didn't choose these experiences because they are the most famous. We chose them because, time and again, they remind us why we fell in love with this land.

1

Walk along the river Pas at sunset

Start your trip unhurried. The riverside walk is the best way to tune into the calm rhythm of Puente Viesgo.

"Do it on the first day. It's the best way to leave the stress behind."

2

Step inside the Caves of Monte Castillo

Looking at paintings made more than 40,000 years ago is an experience that is hard to put into words.

"Book ahead. Places are limited and it is absolutely worth it."

3

Treat yourselves to a few hours at the spa

After walking, driving or discovering villages, few things are as tempting as warm water and quiet.

"If it rains, this would be our favourite plan."

4

Get lost in the Pasiegos Valleys

Don't set an exact destination. Drive slowly. Stop wherever you feel like it.

"Many of our favourite photos were taken where we hadn't planned to stop."

5

Watch the sunset by the sea

Pick a beach. Sit on the sand. And let the Cantabrian Sea do the rest.

"We love Valdearenas when the sun begins to dip."

6

Eat a cocido montañés on a cool day

Some flavours explain a land better than any museum. Cocido montañés is one of them.

"Don't think about the diet... you can pick it up again back home."

7

Buy freshly made sobaos

Not the supermarket ones. Find a small bakery. Take a box with you.

"Buy a few extra. They always disappear sooner than expected."

8

Wander Santillana del Mar without watching the clock

Don't rush it. Step into a shop. Have an ice cream. Sit in a square.

"We like it far more first thing in the morning or late in the afternoon."

9

Look up at the stars

If the night is clear, step out into the garden for a few minutes. You don't need to know astronomy. Just look.

"It's one of those moments that never make it into photos... but are always remembered."

10

Do nothing at all

Spend a morning at the house. Have a slow breakfast. Read. Take a nap. Listen to the wind in the trees.

"If you go home feeling you didn't have time to see everything, don't worry. It's the best excuse to come back."



LANDSCAPE

The Pasiegos Valleys

A landscape built slowly



Some landscapes impress by their grandeur. The Pasiegos Valleys win you over with something different: their harmony. Gentle mountains, deep green meadows, woods, crystalline rivers and hundreds of small stone cabins scattered across the slopes as if they had always been there.

For centuries, the Pasiego families lived following the rhythm of the seasons. They moved with their cattle from one cabin to another in search of the best pastures, a way of life known as la muda.

But perhaps the most valuable thing is not what you see. It is what you feel: the silence, the distant sound of cowbells, the scent of freshly cut grass, the mist that appears at dawn and slowly dissolves among the mountains.

The P siegos Valleys are not visited. They are travelled slowly.

Our favourite spots

- The La Braguía viewpoint
- Cabins between San Pedro del Romeral and Vega de Pas
- A bakery with freshly made sobaos
- The little bridges by the river
- A coffee with a view before heading home

Villages to discover



Santillana del Mar

30 MIN

The village that seems frozen in time

They call it 'the town of the three lies', because it is neither holy (santa), nor flat (llana), nor does it have a sea (mar). And yet, few places better capture the essence of Cantabria.

Go first thing in the morning or late in the afternoon, when there are fewer visitors.

Comillas

40 MIN

Architecture, sea and one of the most elegant villages

In just a few minutes you can go from admiring Gaudí's El Capricho to walking on the beach or wandering through charming streets.

After El Capricho, walk down to the beach and finish along the seafront promenade.

Liérganes

25 MIN

The village where legend walks the streets

The river Miera, its bridge, and the legend of the Fish Man. Perfect for a quiet outing and a terrace with nothing to do.

Bárcena Mayor

50 MIN

One of the most beautiful villages in Spain

Stone houses, wooden balconies and the sound of the river accompanying your walk. Right inside the Saja-Besaya Natural Park.

If you go at the weekend, try to arrive early.

Potes

The gateway to the Picos de Europa

Cobbled streets, medieval bridges, terraces and spectacular food. If you can, complete the trip by riding the Fuente Dé cable car.

If we had to pick one full-day trip for someone visiting Cantabria for the first time, it would probably be this one.



DAY TRIPS

Walks and beaches

45 MIN

Playa de Langre

A small natural spectacle. Sheltered by high cliffs, it is one of the most photogenic beaches in Cantabria.

45 MIN

Playa de Oyambre

Where the sea meets the mountains. On clear days you can see the peaks of the Picos de Europa.

35 MIN

El Sardinero

Santander's most elegant beach. More than a beach: history, gardens, terraces and landmark buildings.

OUR FAVOURITE SUNSET

There are many, but if we had to choose one, we would stay and watch the sun go down from Valdearenas beach. The sky never gives you quite the same colours. And that is exactly why it never stops surprising us.

The sea has a curious way of putting everything back in its place.

Remember to check the tide times before visiting some of the beaches.

When it rains, Cantabria changes colour

Don't cancel the day. Change the plan.



If you have come to Cantabria, at some point the rain will probably join you. Let us tell you a secret: we love it. The forests smell different, the rivers run stronger, the mountains are wrapped in mist and the villages take on a charm that is hard to explain.

The Puente Viesgo Spa

A rainy day is perfect for the thermal circuit: warm water, silence, saunas and hydrotherapy pools.

Churros with hot chocolate

Sometimes it is enough to sit by a window while it rains, at Hotel La Terraza.

The Caves of Monte Castillo

One of the most important sites of European cave art. Being indoors, the weather stops mattering.

An afternoon doing nothing

A coffee, a book, a game of cards, listening to the rain on the roof.

In Cantabria we don't wait for the rain to stop before living.

A GIFT BEFORE YOU GO

The mountain that holds us



There is something you may not know. The house you are staying in rests on the slope of Monte Castillo. If you walk around the garden, you will see the rock itself emerging from the earth in some corners. We did not remove it: we chose to keep it because we feel it is part of the essence of this house.

Monte Castillo has watched over life in this valley since long before the villages we know today existed. Inside it are preserved some of the oldest examples of cave art in the world.

A MINUTE OF CALM

If you feel like it, find a quiet corner of the garden. Sit for a few minutes. Rest your feet on the ground. Breathe slowly. Feel the air, the sounds of the valley and the solidity of the earth beneath you.

We like to think that mountains keep the memory of time.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

Thank you for coming

If you have reached this last page, your holiday may also be coming to an end. We hope that during these days you have discovered some of the places we love so much. But above all, we hope you have found something that is often hard to carry over from everyday life: time.

Time for unhurried breakfasts. To walk with no set destination. To linger in conversation after a meal. To listen to the river, the rain or the silence. Time for yourselves.

Thank you for taking care of this house, for filling it with life for a few days and for letting us be part, however small, of your journey.

The doors of this house will always be open to you.

Have a safe journey home... and until next time.

Ana & Luis

Hostería de Castañeda

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