

THE VALLEY OF MIJARES

ACCESS

- **By car:**

From Unquera: N-634 and LLN-2 (Cué-Andrín)

From Llanes: LLN-2 (Cué-Andrín) LLN-8 (Porrúa)

ITINERARY

The villages on this route form part of the Coastal Path which you can also take time to enjoy as you do this route.

In **Cué** the parish church dates from the end of the eighteenth century. There is some interesting rural architecture as well, stone cottages of very small proportions with the stairs for getting to the upper floor on the outside of the house.

The beach at Ballota is a beautiful sandy stretch which you have to leave on the right as you continue going up towards the **Mirador at Boriza**. This is next to the municipal **golf course**. From the mirador you can enjoy some magnificent views of the **beaches of Ballota and Andrín**. Also, if the sea is a little rough, you can enjoy the spectacular **Bufón de Ballota**. Bufones are cracks in the cliffs, produced by erosion and on days when the sea is rough, these cracks emit huge jets of water, forced upwards by the power of the sea. They rise up tens of metres and look very much like geysers.

If you continue on the route, you arrive in **Andrín** where you can find the Tower of Andrín, a large medieval tower. There is also the Grand House of the Beltrán family, which was built during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and can be found at the entrance to the village. The Grand House of the Count de la Vega dels Sella is sadly nowadays in ruins after having been burnt down. There are also other grand houses notable for their traditional architecture as well as a group of traditional village houses made of stone with wooden corridors (a glazed balcony). Next to the church of San Juan (St. John), you meet the road again which leads towards the beach.

From Llanes you take the road towards **Pancar**, passing close by The Palace of the Altares and the Chapel of the Virgin of Health. Both of these buildings are from the middle of the seventeenth century. There are lots of examples of traditional architecture, some with interesting carvings of crosses or suns. Continuing through Pancar, you arrive at the turning for Porrúa. There is another entrance if you travel through the village of Celorio. Porrúa was awarded the prize of “Exemplary Village of Asturias” in 2005. The village is located about 2km from the coast and is a predominantly rural village, where agriculture and cattle farming are the commonest occupations. In the last ten years, however tourism has begun to make its presence felt in the local economy. Although it must be said that this has been limited to the “rural” aspect of tourism, so evident the the borough.

The **Ethnographic Museum of the East of Asturias** can be found in **Porrúa**. This is an excellent place to learn about the life, customs and traditions of the rural areas which comprise the borough of Llanes and is without doubt worth a visit. You can also find examples of traditional architecture and the odd example of Indiano architecture. In the last week end of august the people enjoy “**The Porrúan Market**”, a historical re-enactment of times past with traditional crafts, an ox roast, traditional entertainments, dances and traditional food on sale. This is an exceptional experience and a must for anyone who wants to learn more about the area, the people and their life.

The villages of **La Galguera and Soberrón** are still to be visited on the route. They are to be found on the skirts of the Sierra del Cuera. They can be reached from the main road, the N-634, which goes from Llanes to Unquera. In these villages the main activities are agriculture and cattle farming. The villages have numerous examples of traditional architecture. In Soberrón you can also see the chapple of San Felipe (St. Philip).