

THE VALLEY OF PENDUELES

ACCESS

- By car: From Unquera or Llanes: N-634 from La Borbolla (Valle Oscuro): LLN-18 (La Borbolla) and LLN-4 (Buelna to Pié de la Sierra), AS-343 (La Borbolla to Puertas de Vidiago).
- By bus: Bus stops in Buelna, Pendueles, Vidiago Riegu and Puertas de Vidiago. To check the timetables www.alsa.es
- By train: Stations in Pendueles and Riegu, (Vidiago station). In winter there are two trains from Llanes to Pendueles, one about 11.30 a.m. and the other about 6.15 p.m. The return trains are about 11.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. In summer there are more trains. To check timetables www.feve.es

ITINERARY

Before beginning the itinerary, it is useful to know that all the villages along this route form part of the coastal pathway which links Bustio, the last village in Asturias before the Cantabrian border, with Llanes. Nowadays the pathway continues up to Celorio. This route is also that taken by the Camino de Santiago, the pilgrim's route of St. James, as it crosses the borough.

The route begins in **Buelna**, and here it is possible to see various examples of traditional architecture, for example, stone houses with wooden balconies. There is also a Romanesque tower, which these days is situated next to the Council Centre, (a meeting place for the local people where they can discuss issues of importance to the village.) Next to the eleventh century church, there is the palace built in the eighteenth century; this was the property of the Count of the Valley of Pendueles. By the road side you can see an old shrine pertaining to the Camino de Santiago, the pilgrim's route of St. James. There are two sites which have been declared Natural Monuments in Buelna: El Compleju de Cobijeru (playa y cueva) the beach and cave at Cobijeru and the Bufones de Santiuste (Bufones are vent holes which have been eroded in the cliffs, through which sea water is forced under pressure at high tide. Huge jets of water rise spectacularly dozens of feet into the air, sometimes creating hissing and wailing sounds. The whole effect being very similar to a geyser). Both of these natural monuments are situated very close to the boundary with the neighbouring borough of Ribadedeva. Besides the beach at Buelna, there is also one solitary rock which rises up out of the water and is locally known as el Picón (the Great Peak). In **Pendueles** the church of San Acisclo is worthy of note. It still has remnants of Romanesque architecture. The Great House, or manor house of the Count of the Valley of Pendueles, which dates from the seventeenth to the eighteenth centuries, is worth looking at, as is the palace of the Duchess of Santa Engracia, which dates from the nineteenth century, the latter being an example of the so-called "Architecture of Iron". This was used as a hospital during the Civil War, although today it is in ruins and awaiting restoration. The beach at Pendueles is the site of many interesting rock formations.

On the way towards **Vidiago**, you pass through Playa de Vidiago. On arrival in Vidiago the beautiful buildings of the Indianos are immediately visible. The Palacio de la Cortina (Palace of the Curtain), of nineteenth century construction, the Palace of Villar, where the famous poet, José Zorrilla stayed are notable examples of this style. The

church too, is a beautiful building with its traditional porch-tower, crowned by a cupola. Continuing towards **Riegu**, you will find more examples of the Indiano influence in the Public Schools, since it was often the Indianos who financed the building of such institutions as well as all types of public infrastructures and services to improve the quality of life in the area their families originally came from. A good example of this would be the Grand House of the Indianos and the Chapel of San Pedro (St. Peter). And so you arrive at **Puertas de Vidiago**, the last village in the Valley of Pendueles on our route. The most interesting thing by far in the village of Puertas de Vidiago is the **Idolo Peña Tú**. This is a Neolithic monument, a huge rock situated on the Sierra Plana, above the village. Its surface is covered in prehistoric paintings and engravings. The Bufones de Arenillas, also merit a visit. These are on the coast and have been declared a Natural Monument. There are also some nice examples of Indiano architecture. At the entrance to the village is the church of San Juan (St. John).

