

## THE VALLEY OF SAN JORGE (ST. GEORGE)

### ACCESS

- **By car**

From Llanes and Ribadesella AS.263.

From Cangas de Onis AS-334 (Corao-Nueva).

- **By bus**

Bus stops in Villahormes, Cardoso, Nueva. To check the bus timetable [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)

- **By train**

Stations in Villahormes and Nueva. To check train timetables [www.feve.es](http://www.feve.es)

### ITINERARY

Many of the villages on this route are also to be found on the **Camino de Santiago**, the pilgrim's route of St. James.

The route which runs through the Valley of St. George begins at the **Monastery of San Antolín de Bedón**, on the beach of San Antolín. The monastery, wrapped in legends, was built in the eleventh century and was rebuilt and extended in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. It is one of the best examples of Romanesque architecture in the area.

In **Naves** you can find magnificent examples of **Indiano architecture** and from the road AS-263 or from the beach of San Antolín you can get to the amazing Gulpiyuri. This is effectively a beach in the middle of a field. Originally a doline, which has collapsed, it can be accessed from the road. It has been granted the status of Natural Monument because of its beauty and special geological characteristics. From Naves continue towards Villahormes where you can find the group of buildings related to the Palace de la Espriella. Interestingly, the construction of the palace and its buildings was ordered by the Inquisitor of Palermo, Domingo de la Espriella. The group of buildings comprises a Grand House or Manor House and a church. It was built in the seventeenth century and repaired in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. You can also find the beach at Huelga, which is extremely beautiful.

In **Villahormes**, take the turning for Hontoria, where you can see the church of San Miguel (St. Michael.) This still has parts from the Romanesque period. There is a triumphal arch in the entrance as well as an undecorated archivolt. Here simple carvings of human faces can be seen.

As well as some nice examples of traditional architecture, there is a Grand House from the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth. It has been subject to various rebuilding processes, but it still retains the original layout. The stables and outbuildings are next to the main building.

From Villahormes, continue on towards the village of Hontoria where there is a beautiful house of the Iyana style of architecture. Here some beautiful old windows have been preserved, they are arched and divided in the middle by a vertical column.

From **Hontoria**, continuing along the road, you arrive in Cardoso, where there are some remains of the old Casa de Iyana. It was a medieval palace and still has some beautiful tall arched windows, divided vertically by columns.

Follow the AS-263 to **Nueva, capital of the Valley of St. George**. Here in the village you can see the palace of the Conde de la Vega del Sella, which dates from the eighteenth century. It is a square shaped building and comprises a basement and two storeys. During the construction of the building the tower of the family Aguilar de San Jorge was enclosed within the surrounding walls of the palace. This was one of the oldest medieval towers in the borough, documented in the year 1032 as the Castro de Aguilare. In addition to the tower and the palace, Nueva also has the Hermitage of Christ, from the Baroque period, dating from the late seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries. It comprises a central nave whose layout is rectangular. From the seventeenth century there is also the Grand House of the Marquises of Argüelles, in the quarter La Fuente (the fountain.) Dating from the eighteenth century is the Grand House number 234 in the Plaza. Its construction is traditional and was a part of the oldest section of the village, together with the group of buildings situated around the parish church of St. George (nineteenth century.) These buildings used to form part of the rectory complex.

If Nueva stands out because of anything, it is the variety and beauty of its Grand Houses and palaces, built at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries. In the Avenida de la Estación there is a chalet in the mountain style; the modernist chalet “Villa Concha”, built in 1908, is in the same street. A group of buildings from the beginning of the twentieth century in the Plaza are also excellent examples. One kilometre from Nueva is the beach Playa de Cuevas del Mar (the caves of the sea.) Here there are splendid caves and arches in the rock, due to the erosion of the limestone by the sea.

From Nueva you go on to Ovio, which is best known for the beauty of its coast and the panoramic views it affords. On a clear day, the Picos de Europa can be seen from here. Close by is the beach at Playa de San Antonio (St. Anthony’s beach.) a beautiful little cove in a lovely natural setting, which can be reached on foot.

Nearby the beach at **Cuevas del Mar** there is a road which leads towards the area of Pría, a village well known for its traditional architecture. The coast hereabouts too, is of high ecological value and is a place of rare natural beauty. Also very well worth a look is the parish church of Santo Domingo, a magnificent building from the nineteenth century.

When you arrive at **Villanueva**, a must see is the beach at Villanueva or Del Canal. This is so called due to its canal like shape on the inland side, one of the strangest sites in the borough of Llanes. After Villanueva, you move on to **Garaña**, best noted for its beautiful palace of the Marquis of Arguelles, built at the end of the nineteenth century, and notable for its use of glass and iron as its principal elements of construction.

Continuing along the route, you come to Llames, where without a doubt, the beach **playa de Aguadamia** merits a visit. Also spectacular is the field of **bufones**. The Route of Bufones starts from here and runs across the coastal area towards the beach at Cuevas del Mar, later returning via Villanueva and Garaña. From Llames you head towards **La**

**Pesa** where various Grand Houses from the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth century can be found. Travelling on, you arrive at **Piñeres** to visit the **Municipal Hostel** for the Pilgrims of San Rafael. Further on, at Silviella you can see a lovely Grand House from the seventeenth century whose facade carries a family shield or crest, probably from the family of Buergo or Huergo. Belmonte marks the boundary of the borough of Llanes.

In order to return to Nueva, take the AS-340 (Nueva- Corao.) After a few kilometres, you come across **Llamigo y Riensena**. In Llamigo there is the hermitage of Our Lady of Loreta, in whose honour the fiesta of the 9th of September, with a highly popular “Wine War”. In Riensena some good examples of horreos or grain stores (wooden constructions on stone pillars) can be found. The most outstanding aspect of the area is, however, the beautiful panoramic views. Savour the opportunity to take in the scenery, green, mountainous, totally rural and preserved exactly the way it was centuries ago.

