

Valdeón

EIGHT VILLAGES, HUNDREDS OF MOUNTAINS

www.valdeon.org



 VALLE DE VALDEÓN
Picos de Europa - León



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LAND OF THE EAGLES

To you, my dear reader, if you already stand on this land, I may tell you that you are in the heart of "Picos de Europa", closely guarded by Torre Santa, Llambrión's group of mountains, Torre Cerredo and a wide range of endless peaks and rock faces with notches and edges where the only escape route, if you do not want to climb, is the Cares Gorge that will lead you to the sea if you are looking for a quick get away. There are neither gentle slopes nor wide valleys in this region, however there are peaks and escarpments, and also trails and

paths that really challenge your balance. Vertical unevenness that does not allow any lack of attention, these mountains were the last strong hold of the Cantabrian tribe when fighting against the Roman Emperor Octavian Augustus.

Epicenter of the central and western massifs, Valdeón Valley is, and was, the starting point for the first mountaineers and for all those who wanted to climb through the deep and narrow passes hidden in the mountains. Wilhem Schultz, Casiano de Prado, the Count of Saint-Saud, Paul Labrousche, the

Marquis of Villaviciosa and countless other distinguished mountaineers had to make their own way to be able to reach the most emblematic summits through the passes that pour their waters into the valley. Those who boast of perfectly knowing "Picos de Europa" have already left their traces in many of the surrounding passes such as: Remoña, Chavida, Asotín, Capozo, Moeño, Mesones, La Jerrera, Trea, Arria, Pambuches, etc... Here, my friend, you are in a wild land that brags about being the heart of "Picos de Europa", the land of the eagles.





LOCATION

Valdeón Valley is located in the northeast of the province of León, by the Cares River and surrounded by the central and western massifs of "Picos de Europa". The whole valley is included within the Picos de Europa National Park and represents a 25,62% of its total area. Their ecosystems have achieved the highest national and international protection standards such as: Biosphere Reserve, Natura 2000 Network, SPAB (Special Protection Areas for Birds), LIC (Place of cultural interest), etc. The valley is guarded by high peaks that, probably, give them the honor of being the most abrupt in Spain. Given this special location, the access has to be done through

mountain roads that provide and surprise the visitor with amazing and unexpected views. It also has to be outlined that the northern border of the valley is only 24 km (15 miles) away (in a straight line) from the Cantabrian Sea which makes the climatology benefit from the marine influence, allowing a more tempered weather condition.

DESCRIPTION

Valdeón is not a traditional valley "per se". It is a hollow surrounded by the Cantabrian mountain range on two sides and by the central and western massifs of Picos de Europa on the other two, just as legend claims it was the result of a titan punch on the ground

bleeding its waters towards the Cares River. It is not surprising that the special mountainous features of the landscape made this place to be the last strong hold of the Cantabrians against Rome or the first homeland in the Christian Reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula, as mentioned in the chronicles written by Alfonso III "The Great". It is an almost insurmountable land that tests the courage of the chamois. This is the place to climb and suffer where everywhere there are peaks, escarpments and impossible passes. When you get to know Valdeón, you will be able to say that you have been in the heart of Picos de Europa. By the way, it is Leonese land, did you know?

THE CARES RIVER

The Cares River is one of the symbols of the splendour of this land. Its deep and impressive riverbed divides the powerful and huge limestone blocks of Picos de Europa central and western massifs, opening a pass between the high mountains that goes up to 2.000m (6,561ft) of unevenness in some sections.

The "Cares Gorge" route is divided into two separate sections:



Section 1: Posada de Valdeón (930m – 3,051ft) – Caín (460m – 1,509ft)

Time needed: 3 hours

Decline of 480m (1,575ft)

Distance: 9 km (5mi 1,042yd)

Section 2: Caín (460m -1,509ft) – Puente Poncebos (235m- 770ft)-Caín

Time needed: 6 hours & 30 minutes (round trip)

Rise: 100m (328ft) when going & 300m (984ft) when returning

Distance: 22 km (13mi 1,179yd)



THE WOLF TRAP

The "Chorco de los Lobos" is a very old trap used for hunting the worst predator of the herds of goats and the flocks of sheep, the wolf. The reason why this trap was located in the mount of Corona is that, during the winter, the higher part of the valley is covered in snow very often.

Formerly and due to the large number of these carnivores in the area and also due to the geographical isolation, especially during the winter, the wolf trap was, probably, the link for the defense of the common interests of the

inhabitants of Valdeón. The wolf harassment and capture technique, the places to stand and the actions to be performed by every neighbor, as well as the maintenance of the fence and the capture pit were all detailed in the "Hunting Ordinances" written at the beginning of the use of the trap. The oldest legislation that regulates the operation of the trap dates from 1610 and was modified in 1776. The Ordinances also stated those who should take part in the hunt: heads of household, men older than 16 years and younger than 65 years and servants; and in the case that

there were no men in the family, it would be mandatory for women to participate in the hunting expedition.

The way to meet for this activity could be any day of the year at any time, except when the Catholic Mass was being celebrated. The church bells would ring twice to warn the neighbors and they had the obligation to meet at the designated place within half an hour. Once they were all together the following positions were assigned: senior huntsman, junior huntsman, beaters, hut users, pit branches responsible, informers...





THE HERMITAGE OF CORONA

Somewhere in the north of the Iberian Peninsula, a group of young Goths led by the brave and heroic Pelayo, started chasing the Muslim troops, and this is how wherever they arrived they were recruiting followers for his Christian army.

The Gothic tradition says that Pelayo was raised over his shield and was crowned as the first King of Asturias in the place called Monte de Corona, in the heart of Picos de Europa, while his followers were cheering his victories. In the same place in which the monarch was crowned, a hermitage was initially built, later reaching the category of sanctuary. This hermitage is dedicated to the "Virgen de Corona".

The hermitage became relevant again in the year 1580, after a long drought that devastated pastures and cattle. The thirsty and desperate neighbors asked for the favors of the Virgin, raising a prayer that pleaded for water. The prayers were heard and the water finally arrived, and as thanksgiving, the Royal Council of Valdeón promised an annual pilgrimage carrying the image of the Virgin to the churches of Posada and Soto alternately. The neighbors were compelled to attend the procession under penalty of being fined but the punishment never had to be implemented because the devotion was always greater than the obligation. Nowadays, the pilgrimage is still celebrated with excitement and enthusiasm, and it involves most of the residents of the Valley.

Besides being a historic-artistic heritage of undeniable value, the Hermitage of Corona takes us back to the times of the Christian Reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula.



HÓRREOS (RAISED GRANARIES)

The "hórreo" is a construction designed to store food during the long winters (cereals, sausages, etc) and keep it away from humidity and animals. It is, probably, the most archaic building that has survived with no improvements or changes. In Valdeón you can see some of them which are more than five centuries old and cause the sensation that time stopped both inside and outside of them. Existing in many countries of the world, in Spain they are located only in the northern

area of the country. Although it is not possible to specify the date of appearance, it is possible to confirm their pre-Romanesque origin. It is an essential element in those areas where the weather is very changeable, with plentiful rains, severe winds and copious snowfalls. The main body of this construction is usually built over 4 wooden or stone columns called "pegollos". On top of these columns, a large circular stone, called "tornarratas" is placed in order to prevent the rodents and other animals to reach the food. No nails are used for the construction, the different pieces of wood are assembled following a complex and strict order.

The lower space of the "hórreo" was normally used to house the cow carts and other farm implements and sometimes as a chicken run or cattle shed, at present it is used as a garage or warehouse. The arrangement of the wooden planks (vertically or horizontally) shows us if they have been constructed following the Galician, Asturian, Basque, Navarre or Leonese style, however, in the case of the ones built in Valdeón, it has been found that they were constructed based on the wood that was available at that time, therefore, there is a great mixture of styles that make these buildings an added value to the charm of Valdeón Valley.



TOURING AROUND OUR VILLAGES

CALDEVILLA DE VALDEÓN

This village preserves all the traditional charm through its "Casa del Pueblo" (Village Hall) which was used both as a meeting place where all the neighbors were summoned for relevant issues by means of ringing the bell, and also as a farm to accommodate two bulls that would mate with the dairy and farming cattle. The Village Hall still preserves the original bell and, although its antiquity is unknown, it is possible to confirm that it was in the same place for more than 150 years ago.

There are also 13 "hórreos" to visit, which are the real testimony of the relevance of this building in the old peasant societies. There is no evidence anymore of the so useful mill but it is still possible to see the old shoeing frame where the horses were shod.

SOTO DE VALDEÓN

We can find in this village the Church of San Pedro Advincula built in the 12th century, which has an important artistic value thanks to its Renaissance altarpiece, the carvings of several Saints and the polychrome capitals of the doorway. You can also visit the Hermitage of the Virgen Blanca built in the 16th century (actually under the invocation of Virgen del Carmen) known in the valley as "The Chapel". It is also remarkable the valuable ethnographic heritage with a collection of 17 "hórreos", two of them being the most archaic in the whole valley with over 5 centuries old.

At present there is only one mill in good condition, but to witness its flourishing past it is necessary to mention that in the 19th century there were 6 mills operating simultaneously, 4



of them for communal use and the other 2 for private use.

POSADA DE VALDEÓN

Located in the center of the valley and besides being the capital of the Council of Valdeón, in this village we can also find the Town Hall, the Neighborhood Council and the Information Office of Picos de Europa National Park. Here you will find the Church of Santa Eulalia already documented in the year 1098 which has a fresco painting dated in the 16th century and a Romanesque baptismal font of the 12th century. It is also outstanding the ethnographic heritage that includes 8 "hórreos", a recently restored mill and the primitive "Casa de Humo" (Smoke House) where the fire was lit

on the floor of the only room to heat the space and cook the food, and consequently the inside was always filled with smoke. It is one of the oldest buildings in the valley, and although its age is unknown we can confirm that it is more than 250 years old.

PRADA DE VALDEÓN

Located on the banks of the Arenal River, main tributary of the Cares River, this small village counts on a large and valuable ethnographic heritage that includes 15 "hórreos", a ground level primitive washing place, a shoeing frame where the horses were shod and an ancient house with balcony dated in the year 1827. The balcony was not only an ornamental and noble element, it was also used for drying the harvests.

LOS LLANOS DE VALDEÓN

As its name suggests (the plains of Valdeón), this village is located on flat ground very close to Posada and on the way to the Cares Gorge. It has a relevant historical-ecclesiastical past since it was the location of the Monastery of Saint Sebastian, documented in the year 1093, and also the location of a medieval cemetery. Unfortunately there is no evidence of this patrimony and monuments but there are written testimonies in ancient documents. There are 11 "hórreos" in this village that show us the importance of this popular building in the past. In one of them, currently for decoration but formerly for use, we can see farm implements and some other tools. This village also had a useful mill that was swept away by the floods that occurred in the year 1980 which caused significant damages. It is essential to contemplate the old semicircular ovens attached to the houses, necessary for cooking the bread and meals, and also for heating the house.

CORDIÑANES DE VALDEÓN

Laying by the hill and guarded by "El Porracho" (a cane-shaped mountain that was used as a solar watch) this little village is located in a natural and scenic high value site. It is essential to contemplate the still watchful 6 "hórreos" that are mute witnesses of a very prosperous agricultural and livestock past. Once you are in this place, it is mandatory to visit a viewpoint called "Mirador del Tombo" where you will be able to enjoy an unequalled panoramic view detailed in a complete relief map.





CAÍN

Completely surrounded by high mountains this village is located in the lower part of the valley, this is why the first settlers were both excellent climbers and shepherds. Starting point of the Cares Gorge, this village is a living example of the old constructions made with stone, wood, roof tile... The first residents established their dwellings and farms in Caín de Arriba, a small group of houses hidden among the mountains, but later decided to move closer to the river to a more benevolent spot. Some of these houses

and farms can still be seen when hiking to a natural cave (Cueva de Santibañas) used by the neighbors to ripen their homemade cheese. It is also interesting to visit the small Church of Santo Tomás, the only "hórreo" in this village and an old mill recently restored, all of them surrounded by a magnificent environment.

SANTA MARINA DE VALDEÓN

Located at 1.156 meters high (3,793ft), this village provides the visitors with

amazing views of the high peaks and the whole valley. Formerly called "Mades" or "Matas" this is the oldest village in the valley. There is written evidence that demonstrate that in the year 1081 there was a Monastery in this village that had privileges granted to the Abbot by King Alfonso VI "The Brave".

In addition to the location and the exceptional views, you can also visit the Church of Santa Marina, the 12 ancient "hórreos" and the old shoeing frame where the horses were shod.



ANCIENT CONSTRUCTIONS

There are also some more surprising old constructions in the Valley, which were built to ease the hard daily work and to guarantee the survival of the old practices inherited from our ancestors.

The **"molinos"** (grain water mills) were not only useful for the grain grinding but also as a leisure and courtship space. Although there

are some private ones, most of the mills located in the valley were for communal use and were handled by a miller who kept a part of each milling for himself. The history of the mills has always been closely linked to courtship since being related to the miller raised the family status and also ensured being fed during the whole year. Nowadays, some of these old mills have been remodeled and can be visited. The **"invernales"** (shepherd's hut for the winter) are stone and tile constructions

built to keep the cattle/herds/flocks away from the wolves and other predators. It was also used as a storehouse for the grass collected during the summer to feed the animals in the winter. They usually have a large hall for the cattle and a small space for the shepherd's overnight stay. Although the livestock activity is no longer relevant, some of the owners of these constructions keep them open for mountaineers and possible emergencies.

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES

Along the harsh winters, the inhabitants of the Valley used to craft worthy tools and several objects, and produce natural food in order to make good use of their leisure time. Given the huge amount of forest in the area, a lot of works were carved and made in wood, like canes, coffers and furniture. The traditional footwear, called "madreñas" and similar to Dutch clogs, was also made in wood, and three heels (called "tarugos") were added to the shoe to isolate the foot from rain and snow. Once used, they were taken off before entering the house to avoid dirt or unpleasant odours inside the dwelling. Formerly worn with thick woolen booties, nowadays they are still used wearing house slippers.

Cheese ripening in caves was also a very common activity developed by the shepherds, to use the milk from cows, sheep and goats. A significant part of the cheese matured in the caves was taken, through the Cares Gorge, to other traditional markets to be sold or exchanged for basic needs. The collection and peeling of the linden tree leaves was also a very worthy activity performed by all neighbors. As the harvest was very abundant (estimated over 5 tons per year), the area was especially attractive to the merchants who sent their trucks to collect the largest quantity available. It has to be mentioned that an important part of the harvest was exported to the United Kingdom, where the tradition of drinking herbal infusions dates from the 17th century.





MOUNTAIN CROSSINGS

The favorite saying of the hiker "to reach the point where the sight arrives" has no sense here. Behind our next horizon we will find another, no less beautiful, that will always encourage us to continue.

There are uncountable mountain crossings to discover in Valdeón. As it would be impossible to list them all, here we include some of the most visited ones but there are hundreds of them to explore that will also impress the visitor.

DOBRES & LA VEGA DE LLOS

Wonderful tour walking through bushy forests and open air paths were the silence and the birds singing are the only sounds you will hear along the way. Starting and ending in Soto de Valdeón and going up over 1.500m in height (4,921ft), the hiker will enjoy the views of the high mountains of both central and western massifs.

Rise: 600m (1,968ft)

Time needed: 4 to 5 hours

Difficulty: Easy

LA TRAVESONA

Long and superb trekking just for athletes in good physical condition, due to the length of the route. Starting and ending in Posada this hike will take you up to 2.087m in height (6,847ft), walking a circular tour that will allow you to step on the mountains and the rocky ground, see some wild animals, drink water from troughs and watering holes, and rest in the shelters spread along the way.

Rise: 1.200m (3,937ft)

Time needed: 6 to 7 hours

Difficulty: Medium

COLLADO JERMOSO

Ideal walk for the summer and autumn that will take you to a cute shelter located at a height of 2.064m (6,771ft). The two different ways to arrive to the final destination will take you through beech forests, wide prairies and narrow rock crags, and will enable you to enjoy the views of the mountains, the sunset and the chamois playing. If you want to sleep in the shelter, it is recommended to book in advance.

Starting in Remoña

Time needed: 3 hours (one way)

Difficulty: Medium

Starting in Cordiñanes

Time needed: 3-4 hours (one way)

Difficulty: Medium-High



MAJESTIC BEARING OF TORRE SANTA IN THE WESTERN MASSIF







TREKKINGS

The mountains that enhance our horizon are countless. We have to add a huge number of minor peaks, crags, spires and pikes to the best known summits. The following proposals are only a small sample of the huge amount of trekking possible in Valdeón Valley.

LA BERMEJA

Extreme summit pointing to the sky and hidden behind its equals, that is a part of a big wall that does not seem to have any weak point. If you focus your sight on the mountain, you will be able to discover the "Sedo del Gato" which is the only way up to the summit. Once on top, you can see the impressive southern part of Peña Santa and, also, a wonderful view of Posada de Valdeón.

Rise: 1.500m (4,921ft)

Time needed: 6 to 7 hours, round trip

Difficulty: Medium

TORRE FRIERO

This impressive mountain is a tower prototype due to its special contour, and is a part of the first strong hold that the central massif of Picos de Europa shows on its southern side.

Rise: 1.300m (4,265ft)

Time needed: 5 to 6 hours, round trip

Difficulty: High

TORRE DE SALINAS

The first mountain in the Picos de Europa mentioned in a written document. In the year 1853, Mr. Casiano de Prado, geologist, wrote a complete document about his climb, thinking it was the highest point in Picos de Europa.

Rise: 700m (2,296ft)

Time needed: 4 hours, round trip

Difficulty: Medium

LLAMBRIÓN

This is the 2nd highest peak (2,642m - 8,668ft) of the mountain chain starting in the River Cares and leading to Fuente Dé., being only surpassed by Torre Cerredo (2,650m - 8,694ft) which is the highest summit in Picos de Europa.

Rise: 600m (1,968ft)

Time needed: 3 to 4 hours, round trip

Difficulty: High



TORRE CERREDO through Canal de Dobresengos

Starting in the village of Cain, the ascent to the highest peak in Picos de Europa is an important challenge due to the huge unevenness. The beauty of Dobresengos breach and some other places along the way up, make this climb to be the perfect plan.

Rise: 2,300m (7,545ft)

Time needed: 11 to 12 hours, round trip

Difficulty: High and very hard



CANALES

(PASSES ALONG THE MOUNTAINS FROM THE TOP TO GROUND LEVEL)

These passes were an essential part of the special identity of the valley since they were the best way to guide the cattle to the high pastures. Nowadays they are also the best way to start an amazing climb to the highest peaks.

Being like endless boxes of surprises, there are passes for everyone, short and easy ways up to huge unevenness and difficult passes, or those already forgotten or lost because of the brushwood. We could not list them all since they are countless but we can assure you that trekking through these passes is an exciting and unforgettable experience.

CANAL DE TREA

This pass will allow you to escape from the jaws of the "Cares Gorge" and enter the magical world of heights towards the western massif. Once in the upper part of the pass you can reach the summit of "El Jultayo" (1,940m – 6,364ft), an excellent viewpoint over the village of Cain, and also continue to Vega de Ario refuge.

Rise: 1.300m (4,265ft)

Time needed: 6 to 7 hours, round trip

Difficulty: Medium

CANAL DE MESONES DESCENDING BY CANAL DE CAPOZO

Going inside the western massif of Picos de Europa, these passes are only for those in good physical condition because of the prominent unevenness and the length of the route. No doubt, this is an excellent activity that not only will challenge your resistance but also will allow you to enjoy the natural environment.

Rise: 1.600m (5,249ft)

Time needed: 6 to 8 hours

Difficulty: Medium-High





CLIMBS

The limestone of Picos de Europa is a real paradise for the climbers. Wherever you randomly focus your eyes, you will find a large number of rock faces with sharp edges to climb, that will allow you the access to all climbs in a magnificent environment. Besides the ascents to the most popular mountains, there are also a lot of rock faces waiting to be explored to open new climbing routes.

TORRE SANTA OR PEÑA SANTA (2,596m - 8,517ft)

The most interesting activity to do in the western massif is reaching the summit of this special mountain. From the top, you will get an excellent view of the higher mountains of Picos de Europa and also of the impressive valleys and passes. Called either Torre Santa or Peña Santa, it is one of the most symbolic mountains of Picos de Europa thanks to its elegant bearing and its extraordinary location.



VÍA FERRATA

Vía Ferrata is a route with vertical and horizontal sections, equipped with some different materials (nails, metal steps, handrails, chains, suspension bridges and zip lines) that allows you to safely reach some difficult mountain areas.

With a total length of 1.200m (0.74mi) and 300m (984ft) in height, it starts with an amazing Tibetan bridge that leads to a 100m (328ft) vertical rock face, which is a hard level section due to its length. Once on top, you will enter the second section with a 60m (196ft) climb which is considered the hardest part of the route as it includes several meters of overhang. The third and last stage of the climb is a 40m (131ft) wall where you will be able to enjoy the most surprising views of the western massif. There are escape routes between the sections for people who do not want to complete the route.

Opened in July 2016, it is the first Vía Ferrata in Picos de Europa National Park and also a reference for many athletes due to its length, the unevenness and the undoubted beauty of the whole route. A medium-high physical condition is required to climb this route as it is classified as a K-3 route in the Hüsler scale. PLEASE READ THE REQUIREMENTS NEEDED BEFORE STARTING THE ROUTE.

FERRATA DE VALDEÓN

Cordiñanes



Length: 1312 yd.

Difficulty: Hüsler scale K3

Between April and July the number of users is restricted. Please contact with the Town Hall of Posada de Valdeón.

@ Isidoro Rodriguez Cubillas

- Visible section
- - - Hidden section
- Escape route
- - - Path

MANDATORY
Harness
Double dissipaters
Helmet
Suitable footwear
Knowledge

It is necessary to hire a qualified guide if you do not have the necessary experience and knowledge

TERMS OF USE OF THE VÍA FERRATA

PROHIBITIONS:

- Using the Vía Ferrata without the mandatory visa, that may be required by the authorities or any municipal employee. Users without the corresponding visa may be fined from 100,00€ to 3.000,00€.
- Access for children under 10 years old or over this age and up to 18 years old

- without being accompanied by parental authority.
- Access for groups with more than 6 members and entry time between groups less than 15 minutes.
- Access without helmet, double carabiner harness with dissipaters and suitable footwear.
- Access during the period between 1 hour after

- sunrise and 1 hour before nightfall.
- Leaving the itinerary using alternative escape routes instead of the duly signaled ones.
- Not being anchored, overtake other people or move along the same section more than 1 person at a time.
- Garbage throwing and any sound source that may disturb the animals.



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THE WINTER

When the first snowflakes arrive and cover the mountains and the villages in white, the high peaks are more difficult to reach. Any activity performed during this season requires a wide range of technical knowledge and COMPLETE SAFETY EQUIPMENT DULY CHECKED TO GUARANTEE THE SUCCESS OF THE ROUTE.

Either in rackets, cross-country skiing or climbing vertical walls with the ice axes and crampons, you will always find different challenges according to your capabilities and desires.



PANDERRUEDAS-POSADA WITH RACKETS

Simple route that allows you to travel between the highest point of Panderruedas (1.459m-4,787ft) and Posada de Valdeón (930m-3,051ft), through a thick and colorful forest during the autumn that is a real privilege for the eyes.

GILDAR CROSS-COUNTRY

A good quiet ascent that will take you up to 2.078m (6,817ft) height and will allow you to capture a beautiful view of the high peaks.

CORREDOR DEL FRIERO (2.445m-8,022ft)

It is the longest passage not only in Picos de Europa but also in the whole country. The unevenness close to 1.000m (3,280ft), the narrow gap and the difficulty of some sections of the route, make this place to be a reference for all Spanish climbers.

PICNIC AREA IN PANDERRUEDAS
MOUNTAIN PASS





VALDEÓN, EIGHT VILLAGES, HUNDREDS OF MOUNTAINS

Someone might think that this sentence is the definition of Valdeón Valley but there is nothing further from reality. It is very difficult to describe what this valley can offer the mountaineers, the climbers, the naturalists or the nature lovers.

The hikers will easily see the chamois, king of the mountains, jumping around the steepest places with an amazing agility. They might also be lucky enough to meet some wild boars on the lower lands, and see some vultures soaring in the sky.

The mountaineer will be able to climb the sloping passes to reach the summits after going through rocky ground and scale sections that will make their route even more interesting.

The climber will find vertical rock faces, trimmed edges and amazing rock formations challenging the most elemental rules of gravity; all of them waiting for someone brave enough to open new climbing routes.

And when the winter arrives, when the temperatures go down and the peaks are covered in snow, the visitors will have to provide themselves with warm clothes and winter equipment to start the adventure. Valdeón is a whole world of nature, adventure and beauty.



MOTORHOMES PARKING AREA

POSADA DE VALDEÓN



Overnight



Drinking water



Grey water



Chemical



Electricity



Shopping



Cafe-Bar-Rest.



Childrens Play Area



Picnic Area



Rubish Bins



WiFi



Information



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Fee: 10,00 € (including all services)

Web: www.valdeon.org







ANNUAL EVENTS

In order to preserve the old traditions and avoid losing our valuable heritage, the following celebrations are held in Valdeón Valley every year. Some new events, which are also very attractive, have been recently added to this list.

March, "Raquetada": A nice trip in Picos de Europa, using rackets to walk over the snow, followed by an exquisite typical meal and live music to dance the whole night. It is the perfect combination of sport, gastronomy and party.

May, "Fiesta de la Trucha": When fishing in the river was restricted by the authorities, the neighbors started an unusual protest organizing a barbecue to complain about this decision. Nowadays, it is a mandatory appointment to taste the first trouts and celebrate this festive day among the bagpipes and drums music. After the popular barbecue, the party continues with music and dancing till you drop.

September, "Fiestas en honor a la Virgen de Corona": Declared as a Provincial Tourist Interest event, the Festivities in honor of "Our Lady of Corona", Saint Patroness of Valdeón Valley, are an example of the survival of the traditions of our ancestors. In a crowded pilgrimage the Virgin is carried by the neighbors from her usual refuge, the Hermitage of Corona, to the parish churches of Posada or Soto de

Valdeón alternately in which she will stay for around 10 days. Then, in September 8th and accompanied by all the neighbors, the Virgin returns to her shelter to protect the Valley during the whole year. Tradition, culture, history, music and celebration!

October, "Feria de los Picos": The most important Craftwork Fair in the region, where the artisans show and sell their products. Sometimes it is complemented with a cattle exhibition, where the locals proudly show their best specimens. In addition to workshops and other activities for all audiences, the holiday is completed with live music and dancing until early morning.

December, "Jornadas de la Matanza": Demonstration of a traditional pork home slaughtering in order to store the provisions for the harsh winter. Since the animals slaughter is no longer allowed, a show is performed in which both the neighbors and the visitors can participate, followed by a popular meal prepared using pork ingredients. The celebration is completed with live music and dancing during the whole night. And some other interesting sports and leisure events are also held annually in the Valley, such as: mountain running trails, cyclist tours, vintage vehicles routes, motorcycle meetings, etc.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Valdeón Valley can offer the visitor a wide variety of accommodation, catering and shopping establishments (Hotels, Rural Hotels, Hostels, Wooden Cottages, Guesthouses, Mountain Shelters, Motorhomes Parking Area, Camping, restaurants, bars, bakery, cheese factory, minimarkets and souvenirs stores), a wide range of adventure activities like hiking, climbing, biking, horse riding, canyoning, caving and 4x4 routes; and also a complete taxi service. (www.valdeon.org)

The closest gas station and cash dispensers are located in Riaño, 20 miles away.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS (+34)

POSADA DE VALDEÓN:

- Town Hall: 987 740 504
- Picos de Europa National Park Information Office: 987 740 549
- Local Medical Clinic: 987 740 506
- Pharmacy: 987 742 737

OTHERS:

- Medical Clinic in Riaño: 987 740 703
- Civil Guard (Police) in Riaño: 987 740 677
- Mountain Civil Guard: 987 718 004
- ALSA Buses: 902 422 242
- Bus transport by request: 900 204 020

- Emergencies 112

Geographic location of Valdeón Valley



Province of León

PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

Picos de Europa National Park



Valdeón

Eight villages, hundreds of mountains