

CABLE CAR (UPPER STATION) – ESPINAMA FACTSHEET

Distance: 18 Km

Time: 4 1/2 hours

Difficulty: Medium (the route is signposted)

Area: Picos de Europa – Cantabria

Walk 1: Cable car – Espinama

From the cable car's upper station (1,834 m) we start along a track that leads us towards the Horcadina de Covarrubias (1,925 m). There the path divides: the left fork in the direction of the Macizo Central, where Peña Vieja, Horcados Rojos, Naranjo Bulnes.....are to be found. We take the right fork, at first between limestone rocks, which give way to the meadows of Aliva. As we descend, we can see ahead the Macizo Oriental (Pico de Camara, el Jisu, el Pico Cortés....); to the left we see the royal chalet (Alfonso XIII's old hunting lodge), and behind this we see Peña Vieja. Shortly afterwards the track reaches the Aliva hotel-lodge at 1,666m. (aprox 1h from the cable car).

There are tracks off to the left going towards Sotres and to Las Minas de la Canal del Vidrio. Here, where there is a criss-crossing of tracks, stands the shrine of Nuestra Señora de la Salud (1,466 m), the patron of the Camaleño Valley, whose feast day is celebrated on July 2nd.

We continue to descend following the course of the River Nevandi, whose source is nearby, until we reach las Porillas del Boquejon, where there is a small metal gate to prevent cattle passing. Here the Aliva pastures end and the descent towards Espinama begins (1h from the Aliva lodge).

A little lower down we pass the Iguedri winter animal shelters (a collection of herdmen's buildings). To the right we see Pico Valdecoro. From here the track descends steeply between beeches and oaks until it reaches Espinama (877m) (1 h 30m)

Walking back up the road for 3 k we reach Fuente De again.

