

POTES

Potes is the social and geographical centre of Liébana Valley. Meeting point for rivers and cultures, for people and hopes.

The village of Potes is rich in history. Quoted in written documents from the 9th century, it was linked to the noble houses of the Marquis of Santillana and El Infantado.

Walking through its streets, visitors will find plenty of signs of its history and culture. Indeed, in 1983 the village was declared a Historic-Artistic Site.

Potes is an active village, capital and nerve centre of the region, a region that is proud of its past and faces with enthusiasm the challenges of the future.



DISCOVER POTES

To visit Potes we suggest that you follow an itinerary starting at the Municipal Tourist Office, located under the portico of the old Church of San Vicente Mártir.

This building, no longer used for worship, dates from the 14th century and boasts numerous additions that complicate its ground plan. In the 15th century the apse was reformed and another nave with vaulted ceiling was added in the 17th century. As regards its style, Gothic elements predominate, although we also find Baroque features, such as the top of the tower erected in the 16th century. It is currently the headquarters of Centro de Estudios Lebaniegos and the Pilgrims Information Office. It offers exhibitions and various cultural activities to visitors throughout the year.

Next to the old church, we find the new one. Inside we can see Baroque altarpieces coming from the old Dominican Convent of San Raimundo.

In the park we can gaze at the statue of violinist Jesús de Monasterio, made by sculptor Estany, a monument reminiscent of this virtuous local musician.



We continue down La Independencia Street and we reach El Infantado Tower, the

most emblematic building in the village. It is a medieval tower from the 15th century, of strategic and military nature, witness to bloody fights for the control of the region. It belonged to Orejón de La Lama's house and subsequently to the houses of the Marquis of Santillana and the Duke of Infantado. Today it is a cultural space that houses permanent and temporary exhibitions. It is worth climbing the battlements to contemplate a complete picture of the village and Picos de Europa.

We cross La Cárcel Bridge and ascend to the arcades of Doctor Encinas Square to walk in San Roque Street. Here, we find the old Convent of San Raimundo (1603), which only preserves its doorway and cloister. At present it is the headquarters of the City Council and other public bodies. The birthplace of Jesús de Monasterio lies just in front. The tour continues along San Marcial Street, where Calseco Tower is located, and Obispo Street, with emblazoned houses such as the current headquarters of the Civil Guard and Los Linares Tower.



Our route reaches La Solana District. Here it is worth wandering through its narrow streets, passageways and small squares, enjoying beautiful spots and the appeal of traditional architecture.

We descend towards the river through Fuente La Riega Street and El

Llano Square and we come across a magnificent ensemble consisting of Bustamante-Prellezo's house, the chapel, the mills and the medieval bridge of San Cayetano.



After crossing the bridge, to the right, we find the Medieval Tower of Orejón de la Lama. To the left, over Quiviesa River, the typical district of El Sol opens out. Once we leave this district, we reach the monument to the rural doctor. From this place we make out the churches that were the starting point of our tour.

UNDER THE BRIDGES

Away from the hustle and bustle of the streets, the riverside promenade offers a different view of Potes.

7 explanatory panels along the path show us the natural, economic and cultural values of Deva and Quiviesa rivers on their way through the village.

We start this beautiful tour at San Cayetano Bridge, under which we find the floodgates of two old mills. We cross four bridges built at different times in the history of the village, from where we observe, among other things, the majesty of El Infantado Tower. Tranquillity, history

and nature in a short walk of a kilometre and a half.

Along the tour, there are two points from where we can ascend to streets of the village in case we want to make our stroll shorter.

POTES POSTCARD

Potes Postcard is a proposal for a different tour of the village.

We suggest that you visit the most emblematic places by observing, through 12 old pictures distributed at various points along the route, the changes that have taken place in the last 120 years of the history of photography in Liébana.

A curious way to see the past and present of the village.



Download leaflets in PDF format: POTES POSTCARD and HIKING FROM POTES.



www.liebana.net/potes-turismo



HIKING FROM POTES

We suggest four routes that start from the village with different lengths and difficulty:

ROUTE 1 Monte Arabedes

Circular route of medium difficulty with explanatory panels about its natural environment.

Distance: 4,3 km
Average time: 2 h 30 min.

ROUTE 2 Encinares and Praderas de Potes to Armaño

The longer circuit of those proposed, but the one with the gentlest slope.

Distance: 8,8 km
Average time: 3 h

ROUTE 3 Tolibes and Valmayor

A route that offers a perfect balance between nature and culture, since it crosses one of the best preserved cork oak woods of the Iberian Peninsula in the area, as well as the shrine of Virgen de Valmayor, patron saint of Potes, documented in 990.

Distance: 5,8 km
Average time: 2 h 45 min.

ROUTE 4 Monte La Viorna

It is the most difficult route (slope of 800 m), but it places us in a wonderful vantage point with views of the region, of Cantabrian Mountains and of Picos de Europa. A large cross dominates the summit, announcing that the Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana guards on its slopes the relic of the Lignum Crucis (the largest piece of wood from the cross upon which Christ died). A Papal Bull grants it "the privilege" of Jubilee, which is celebrated every year the feast day of Santo Toribio (16 April) falls on Sunday.

Distance: 8,2 km
Average time: 4 h 10 min.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

In Potes, it is easy to enjoy landscapes, customs and sports throughout the year. The surroundings of the village make a perfect setting for sports such as hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, paragliding, canyoning, climbing, cross-country skiing...

Potes holds every Monday, uninterruptedly since the 13th century, its weekly market. People from the whole region get together to sell and buy their products.

Six cattle shows and fairs take place in the village. That of May and that of All Saints' Day are noteworthy, gathering hundreds of heads of cattle and thousands of people.

The local feast day, La Santa Cruz (14 September), declared of Regional Tourist Interest, and the festival known as Fiesta del Orujo (second weekend of November), declared Fiesta of National Tourist Interest in 2012, contribute to offer visitors aspects of our culture, customs and deep-rooted traditions.

GASTRONOMY

We must not forget our local varied cuisine, prepared with loving care from excellent raw materials of the region: beef, lamb and kid. Game and cold cuts, trout, a wide variety of cheeses, honey, tostadillo and the famous orujo of Liébana are some of the products that will surely satisfy the most demanding palates.



A good cocido lebaniego (chickpea stew), a canónigo (local dessert) and a té del puerto with orujo (local digestif) are star dishes offered by numerous restaurants in the village.

SURROUNDINGS

Indispensable places to be visited in the surroundings are:



Picos de Europa National Park, accessed through Fuente Dé cable car. Picos de Europa Interpretation Centre (Tama). The Mozarabic Church of Santa María de Lebeña, the Romanesque Church of Santa María de Piasca and the Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

City Council	942 730 006
Civil Guard	942 730 007
Health Centre	942 730 360
Post Office	942 730 334
Taxi Ranks	942 730 400
Palomera Buses	942 880 611
Tourist Information Office	942 730 787

USEFUL WEBSITES

City Council of Potes	www.liebana.net/potes
Tourism of Cantabria	www.turismodecantabria.com
National Parks Network	www.magrama.gob.es/red-parques-nacionales/nuestros-parques/picos-europa/