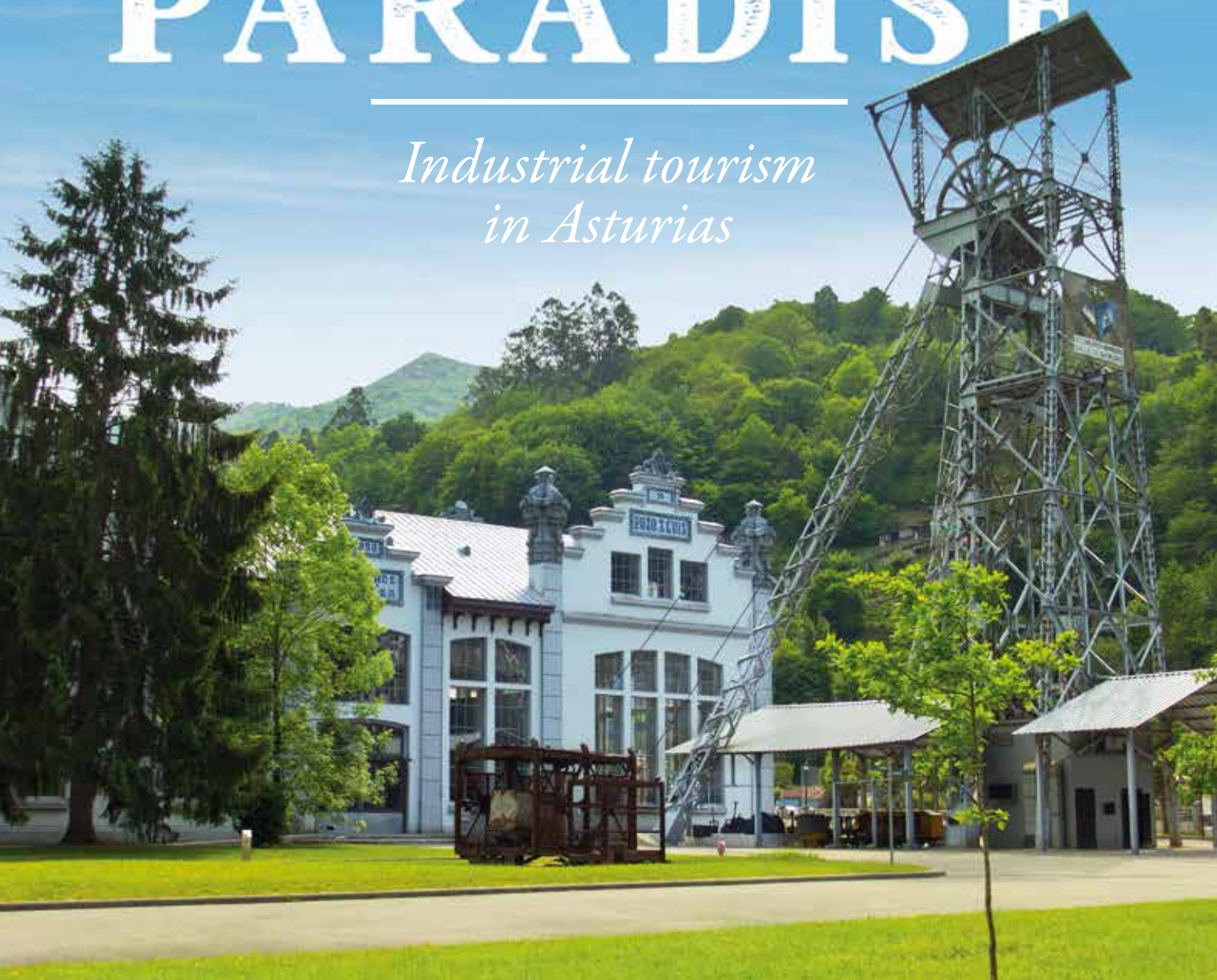


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*Industrial tourism
in Asturias*



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Introduction

#IndustrialTourism

EDITING: SOCIEDAD PÚBLICA DE GESTIÓN Y PROMOCIÓN TURÍSTICA Y CULTURAL DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS, SAU

Design: Arrontes y Barrera Estudio de Publicidad

Layout: Paco Currás Diseñadores

Maps: Da Vinci Estudio Gráfico

Texts: Pozu Espinos. Consultoría y Gestión Cultural

Translation: Morote Traducciones

Photography: Front cover: Amar Hernández. Inside pages: Amar Hernández, Archivo propio, Juan de Tury, Juanjo Arrojo, Manuel S. Calvo, Paco Currás Diseñadores, Pelayo Lacazette y Pozu Espinos

Printing: Sgraf Artes Gráficas SL- Nov. 22

D. L.: AS 01560-2018

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Railway Museum of Asturias (Gijón)

We are all looking for experiences that will leave a lasting impression; we strive to discover new places in the most exciting way possible. We don't want to learn about places in books: we want to discover them in the trails left behind in the region and in the nature of its people. That is heritage..., and in Asturias it has been forged with hard work: Why wouldn't you enjoy it? Visitors not only travel across space, but, above all, they travel across time, because they can discover diverse landscapes, constructions and objects, chapters of that industrial history that reveals the hard work employed to adapt and build our future on the foundations of coal and steel structures.

Don't just think about visiting a museum that houses a collection of items: put comfortable shoes on, grab a map and don't forget your camera (although the best memories are stored in one's mind). This immense heritage is staggering: places, walks, buildings that talk about the Asturian people that came before you and gave the very best of themselves. We proudly show off what we have managed to preserve and now we want to share it; now it awaits you all.

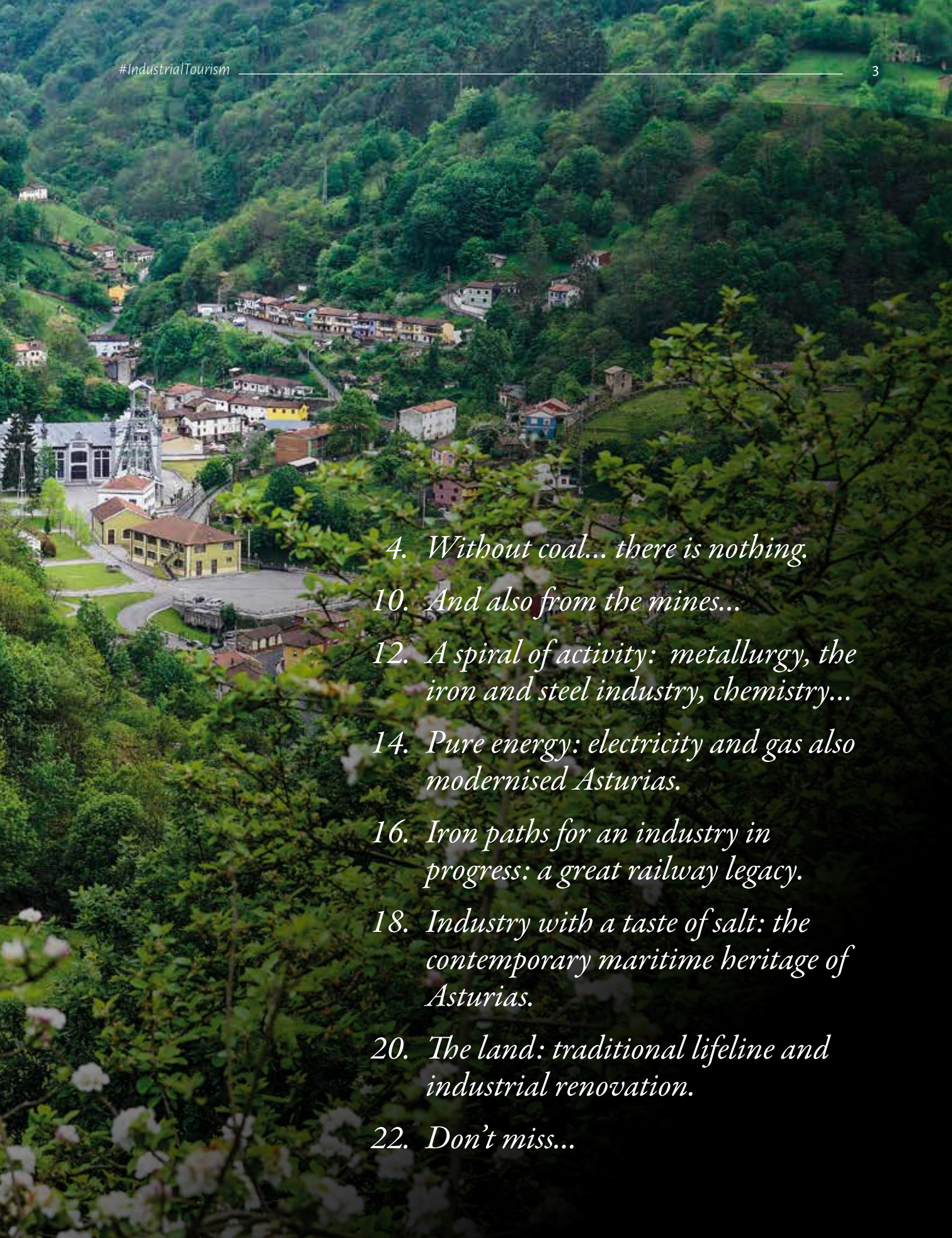


More information:

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Asturias is socially and economically, and even symbolically, identified with coal: this was the key element of the industrial revolution, but the stimulus for its large-scale production was the installation of two Royal Arms Factories in Oviedo/Uviéu and Trubia at the end of the 18th century, which prompted the search for iron and coal sites, the establishment of the mining activity, improved transport infrastructures... and ultimately led to the modernisation of the Principality.

The watchful eyes of visitors will spot, here and there, the tracks of the main historic industrial activity in our region, an activity that seems to inexorably have its days counted, but which continues to define the Asturian region, its people and its culture. This fossil fuel soon became a dominant energy source obtained with extremely hard work and, particularly, in underground tasks that have also changed the surface: the work of thousands of people, soon stained black, and which is waiting to be discovered.

Without coal... there is nothing

First Queen Elisabeth II... and now you:

*delving into the entrails of the earth, next to the sea
in the Arnao Minig Museum in Castrillón.*

In 1833, a Belgian firm established itself in **Arnáu** (Castrillón) with a radically innovative project for Asturias: drilling a vertical well to extract coal required for zinc metal..., below sea level. That underwater mine, the only one of its kind in Europe, was kept going with great effort until, in 1915, the Cantabrian Sea won the battle, partially sinking it.

A century has passed and the charming headframe (the structure that enables vertical transportation, connecting the subsoil and the surface), particularly exceptional, since it is lined with a wooden and zinc structure (h. 1902), has been declared a Site of Cultural Interest (the

highest protection category for Spanish historical heritage, hereinafter SCI) and restored. It is the emblem of our coastline: visitors should plan a visit to the museum with its modern exhibition techniques and enjoy its arched brick galleries, remembering that this is the route taken by Elisabeth II, who was as impressed as us. History and emotions await visitors in this Museum, with a surrounding marine area that is highly valued and protected and also of great European importance in terms of geology and fauna. The surrounding area is home to properties and infrastructures related to its industrial past, as well as the historic zinc plant, which is still active today, in the hands of the largest multinational in the sector.

Arnao Mine Museum (Castrillón)



An enchanting and designer village:

Bustiello, the artistic footprint of the Comillas in Mieres

Mining town of Bustiello



When visitors think of mining areas, they probably imagine darkness and disorder. **Bustiello**, the jewel of Spanish industrial paternalism, brilliant and rational, does away with these preconceptions. The exceptional nature of this vibrant village, declared a Site of Cultural Interest (SCI), represents a true lesson in urban planning, architecture and arts applied to the transmission of a message that could be summed up with the classic saying "God helps those who help themselves".

Between 1890 and 1925 a colony was designed, executed and established by the *Sociedad Hullera Española* (Spanish Coal Society), a firm belonging to the corporate group of the Marquis of Comillas, which aimed to alter the tumultuous pattern of the mining region with autonomy and daily operations. A casino, a school for boys and girls, a hospital and a chemist, a chapel, houses, a bridge..., with an architecture dreamt up by the boss and nurtured by his engineers. The Interpretation Centre, installed in a very large property renovated for this purpose, explains all the key elements (hierarchy of spaces, influences and characteristics, historical aspects...) through an amazing guided tour that includes access to the outstanding Sagrado Corazón chapel and culminates with the monument dedicated to Claudio López Bru.

Today we travel on the carriages of the mining train:

Samuño Valley Mining Ecomuseum in Langreo

Accompanied by children or railway enthusiasts, visitors should visit the Nalón valley to enjoy an exhilarating experience: take a ride on a mining train that takes us from El Cadavíu along a landscape of spoil tips and excavations, to leave us 2km upstream, 32m below earth, to disembark, with the help of an elevator, in the site of the San Luis pit (also declared a SCI).

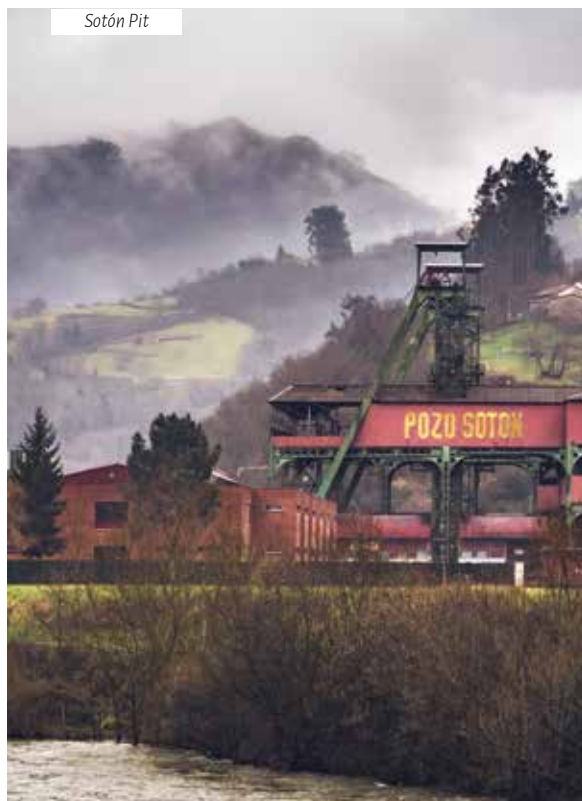


Samuño mining train

This subterranean route contrasts with the careful planning of the headframe's surroundings (a riveted structure dating back to 1930), standing out for its careful design of the generator room: a property that houses the compressor (which used to generate air for the pneumatic-powered tools inside) and a magnificent Siemens engine that enabled the cage to operate and which always amazes visitors during their guided tour. The complex is complemented by a "lampistería", the lighting room where the miners working day would begin and end, collecting and depositing their lanterns at the end of the day, the ever-striking "casa de aseos" where the miners would wash and change, the forge and the carpentry, the medical unit, "chigre" (a traditional cider bar)... Thus, recovering the material universe of a mine at the beginning of the 20th century, fully maintaining the historical inspiration. Which is where its slogan comes from: "a valley, a mine, a village".

Be a miner for a day?

Sotón Pit, unique in Europe



In San Martín del Rey Aurelio, a council made up of the mining valley of Nalón, is **Sotón Pit**, located in the facilities of the Centro de Experiencias y Memoria de la Minería, a centre dedicated to the history of mining. Three types of visits are on offer (which cannot be unified in the same day): two underground routes (one slightly longer and more demanding, from a physical point of view, and another, which is half the distance) and a tour of the surface facilities declared a SCI.

The first option is a marvellous experience, although it is not suitable for everyone, given the physical requirements and it comprises a tour between levels 8 and 10 (depths ranging between 338 and 556 m), lasting 4 hours and covering a distance of approximately 5 km; it is preceded by a change of clothing (visitors are provided with suitable clothing and footwear), a safety talk and the provision of individual lights and a self-rescue device. Access to the mine is via the same cages used by thousands of workers during a century of productive history lasting until December 2014; the mining workshops are included in the tour, which are accessed by a wall chaser or sub-levels, as well as the tunnel paths marked

out with explosives; ventilation, communication, emergency and traction systems are also exhibited, resulting in a truly authentic and unforgettable, real-life lesson about mining.

With the shorter option, the mine is directly accessed via level 4, including the pump room, the battery room and the "TOURIST" chimney, where tourists can try out their skills at hewing coal. The tour lasts 2 h.



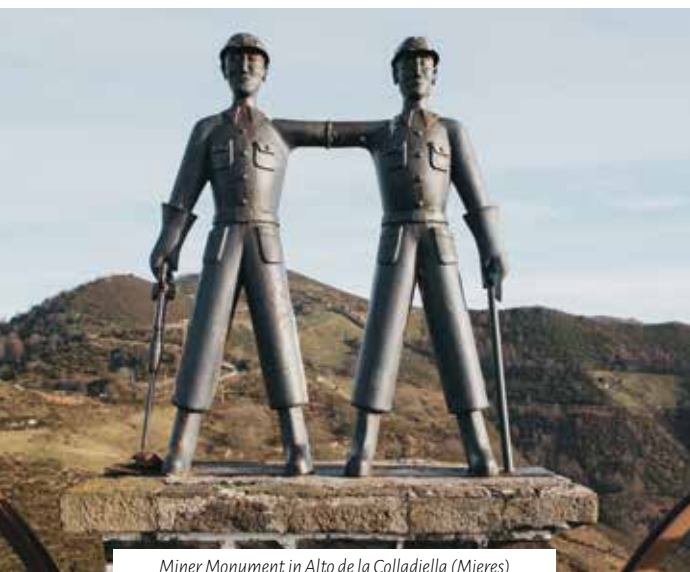
On the surface, visitors can enjoy a free and guided tour by the pits actual offices: this is the meeting point and it enables visitors to discover the history of Pozo Sotón (open between 1917 and 1922) and to appreciate its two headframes, the "reter" (classification structure) with riveted metal profiles, the generator room or the union office, which were declared SCI in 2014.

Lastly, a **Centro de Experiencias y Memoria de la Minería**, has been created, a centre dedicated to the history of mining, using materials recovered from the disused pits for educational purposes and a **Memorial** has also been created, incorporating gravestones honouring the 500+ people who died during the 5 decades of history of the public company HUNOSA, which owned the facilities.

Understanding the mining landscape:

a guided tour of the Valle de Turón, the interpretation and excitement of understanding a history of work

The scale of the mining industry was one of a vast area transformed from within, in order to obtain a fuel and which required a railway system linking the production areas with the processing and transformation areas, and the buildings and facilities for such processes and the development of properties and facilities promoted by large companies, which can still be seen today in the Valle de Turón (Mieres) as a system that was crucial for various decades.



Miner Monument in Alto de la Colladiella (Mieres)

The best way to understand this is by joining a guided tour adapted for visitors, which will enable them to discover the primitive mountain mining activity with the emblematic **socavón de La Rebaldana** (end of the 19th century, a mining tunnel recovered by retired miners for tourism purposes), continuing along the *vía verde* (green-way) that follows the old railway trench to discover the protruding extraction tower of **Pozo Espinos** (1926-1931) and understand this type of mining and vertical transport system (with its neighbouring workshop located in the old lighting room), with the tour ending in the amazing **polvorín de Fortuna**, a 200 m long underground tunnel with various chambers for storing explosives. A physical tour that thrills visitors, directly experiencing an area classified as a Protected Mining Area for its environmental values, enabling them to appreciate, on-site, a reality that is now history.

A classic tour:

The Mining an Industry Museum of Asturias, San Martín del Rey Aurelio

In 1994, the first museum was opened in recognition of our mining heritage, in the old pit of the emblematic San Vicente Mine.



Mining and Industry Museum of Asturias

A classic museographic design explains the old mining systems and enables us to discover how a steam engine works, which prompted the industrial revolution or enjoy an interesting collection of scientific instruments. The "Casa del explosivo" is particularly interesting, exhibiting a unique collection enabling visitors to understand the importance of explosives since the creation in 1872 of the *Sociedad Anónima Española de la Pólvora Dinamita*, by Alfred Nobel, until MAXAM today, a Spanish explosives manufacturing company. The tour of the "mina imagen" cannot be missed, a reproduction of mining life, recently joining the transfer to the tunnel of the old San Vicente mine (which was collectively managed by the workers) by means of trains that run at specific times on specific days.



Old coal loading dock

The mine with a sea view:

San Esteban, the largest coal port in Spain

On the shores of the Cantabrian Sea, at the mouth of the Nalón River which separates L'Arena from San Esteban, there is a unique landscape and light that, a long time ago, attracted figures such as Rubén Darío and Joaquín Sorolla. San Esteban, an old fishing village, now a marina, is tucked away on the banks of the key river of the Principality. It is a spot that still bears traces of its industrial past, when the arrival of the Basque Asturian Railway transformed it into a modern town with its station, tracks, cranes and warehouses, its loading docks and hoppers...

The historical headquarters of the *Junta de Obras del Puerto* dominates the wharf, merging with picturesque and historicist *Indiano* type buildings (the old chapel, now a cultural centre), which reveal and important commercial activity (hotels, cinema...) and the recovered cranes, loading docks and a whole host of old port buildings.

A walk along the old railway trench, converted into a pedestrian path, is the best land option and hopping on to a recreational boat to reach the other shore of this emblematic river and discover L'Arena (with its fish auction or the old canning factory Lis), is the perfect combination. A swim in its saltwater swimming pools is highly recommended... a cultural and refreshing dip in Muros de Nalón.



Crane at the port

And also from the mines...

Our mining reserves include gold mines, exploited by the Romans and still in production today, but also, iron, copper, cobalt, wolfram, fluorite... dispersed across the Principality: which were studied and exploited over decades and the traces of these can still be seen on the landscape today.

Llumeres port

Texeo Mines (Riosa)

The Texeo mines, rich in copper and other metals, were mined as far back as 2000 BC and visitors will notice a landscape in which millenary mine entrances and tunnels coexist with the vestiges of the facilities built in the 19th and 20th centuries, when mining was revitalised in this magnificent area on the hillsides of Aramo, at an altitude of around 1,200 m.

The recent installation of explanatory panels and a sculptural viewpoint suspended over an open space, make the visit well worthwhile. The site is located at the foot of the mythical cycling summit of the Angliru and is accessed via the well-signed route from the village of Llamo/Llamo, where vehicles must be left. Here will climb towards Rioseco, where administration properties and facilities still remain and a mineral processing area, winding round a track to Campa les Mines, where access to mining excavations are clearly visible. Human remains, and mining equipment were recovered in 1888 and in other more recent excavations: they are now deposited in the National Archaeological Museum and in its Asturian counterpart.

The mine and cove of Llumeres (Gozón):

iron at the seaside

The longest-standing iron mining facility in Asturias, with vestiges of the mining activity in times of old and over a century of uninterrupted history since 1858, is also a must-see for visitors. Unsurprisingly, it was included in the Catalogue of Cultural Heritage of Asturias (2009).

During the 19th and 20th centuries it was practically always in the hands of *Duro Felguera* and, once it closed 1967, the facilities were abandoned, with the bakery still visible today on the cliff edge, together with the old warehouse, the changing rooms, offices, classification area and the generator room of Pozo Simancas. Back on the shore is a mine entrance and the dock used by the boats loaded with the mineral heading for the port of Gijón. The Senda Norte coastal route allows us to discover this unique site near to Peñes, integrated within its Protected Landscape, a picturesque site with an unusual environmental preservation.

Vilarín de Tresmonte and Mina Carmina Route:

the metal footprint in San Martín de Oscos

The sought-after symbiosis of environmental values with cultural heritage values is clearly evident in the Oscos-Eo Biosphere Reserve, where the adapted Mina Carmina is located (used for the rudimentary production of zinc and lead between 1950 and 1962), where we can explore and old tunnel, illuminated for this purpose.

For sports enthusiasts, this visit is included in a 36-km mountain bike route, enabling visitors to discover an extraordinary landscape and other cultural resources of the area (Museo de la casa campesina - rural house museum) thanks to the hiking trail PR-AS 243.

Eo Greenway (San Tirso de Abres)

The subsoil and the landscape do not understand about geographical limits; an old railway trench winds between Lugo and Asturias, across a privileged area classified as a Biosphere Reserve, now converted, within the Principality, into a 7-km long hiking trail (PR – AS 300) between the San Tiso station and the Arroyo O Cairo (bordering with Lugo).

It is advisable to extend the visit to A Pontenova (now in Galicia), for another 6 km, where visitors can see 5 calcining furnaces (1902-1905). This route coincides with the Asturian section of the old railway line from Villadrid to Ribadeo, abandoned in 1962, offering a landscape with a really rich environmental quality and displaying 6 tunnels (a lamp is required), the old station or an old power station dating back to 1932. There are information panels along the route.

Gold Museum / Gold lecture room

If there is one mining activity that has marked the history of the Asturian region for centuries, this is the gold mining activity: its historical importance is evident bearing in mind that it was one of the main reasons for the romanisation of Asturias.

Although today it is still being mined with industrial methods (in both Bueinás, council of Belmonte de Miranda and in Carllés, council of Salas) and the sport of gold panning is becoming increasingly popular in the streams in the west of the region, the historical aspects of this activity are exhibited in two charming facilities: the **Museo del Oro de Asturias**, the gold museum in Navelgas (Tineo), located in the old Casona Capalleja, enabling visitors to appreciate how gold mining activities have developed in the region of Asturias, together with aspects related to the ritualism of the precious metal. Visitors can also take part in a gold panning workshop. In turn, the **Aula Didáctica del Oro**, in the capital of the council of Belmonte de Miranda, occupies the old prison building and is equipped with three rooms dedicated to explaining the prehistoric mining activity (gold, copper and lignite), Roman gold mining during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD and modern mining in the municipality. The enormous mock-up recreating the extensive mining site of Las Médulas in Leon is particularly relevant, dating back to the Roman era, declared a World Heritage Site.



Panning at the Gold Museum of Asturias

A spiral of activity: metallurgy, the iron and steel industry, chemistry...

Cause and effect, coal and industrialisation: the Asturians developed a whole host of businesses relating to the mining activity, thus reaching modernity. Visitors should lose themselves in these areas, to truly experience this history of hard work.

The Ethnographic museum of Quirós:

blast furnaces and lots more

This peculiar space was inaugurated in 2010 with an innovative museographic design that captivates visitors: with generous installations and green areas along tour, this facility looks back on the social and territorial transformation that came with the establishment of a French company in this mountainous agricultural and livestock area.

The “Quirós industrial” area includes a permanent exhibition that discusses “*obrero mixto*”, mixed workers, a term given to the farm workers that took to working area of wealth, without giving up their farming work and the conditions of mining work; the preservation of the old iron and steel blast furnaces is particularly impressive, together with the tunnels connected to the blowers. The house is testament to rural Quirós, with its traditional rooms and ancillary spaces such as the stables, *llagar* (cider mill), or the carpentry workshop, or the fountain with its cattle watering area and washbasin. The school takes us back to the past, bringing to mind the ambience and recollections of the old rural classrooms.



Ethnographic Museum (Quirós)

Other consolidated facilities:

Steelworks Museum of Asturias (Langreo)

On the horizon of this mining council is a large refrigeration tower of an iron and steel factory (otherwise practically non-existent), which is 45 m high and brightly coloured, home to a museum inaugurated in 2006.

The two-storey building includes pieces, diaporamas and audio-visual systems that take us through the history of the pioneer of the iron and steel industry, Pedro Duro and the company he created, which included this facility and the development of the surrounding area, clearly explaining the steel production process. The collection donated by Bayer is particularly interesting, which is maintained in the council as the global pharmaceutical production of acetylsalicylic acid.

A couple of additional routes add to the charm: one called “*La máquina y el tiempo*” (The machine and time), exhibiting restored steam locomotives that were at the service of the company; and another, to discover the **Barrio Urquijo**, where old workers’ accommodation has been adapted for tourism purposes: these are buildings that are hundreds of years old that were home to the iron and steel workers offering neat, spacious and quality accommodation that were not common at the time.



Steel production process at the MUSI

Pure energy: electricity and gas also modernised Asturias

Mining has somewhat overshadowed other industrial stories, which form part of the workers of Asturias and marvellously reveal the scope of the industrialisation phenomenon in this natural paradise: you are sure to be surprised.

La Malva power station

The Malva Power Station (Somiedo)

Waterfalls at the dawn of the 20th century represented the main option for turbines and generators to obtain the long sought-after power that revolutionised the industry and everyday life: it is easy to imagine how the steep landscape of inland Asturias led to the installation of small power stations that have one of their most prized jewels in **La Malva (Somiedo)** and which is now accessible to the public.

Within the Nature Reserve and Biosphere Reserve is this charming warehouse, in service since 1917, which supplied Oviedo and Gijón; it is still in service and is a true pioneer in perfect condition. It captures its water in the Saliencia and Valle lakes and the pipes force a 572-m waterfall to activate the original preserved machinery: the perfect partnership between nature and industry, harmoniously integrated to the delight of visitors. The surroundings of a recreational area and a marked trail, which introduces us to this power station reservoir and the surrounding area are well-worth a visit while in the area.

The Soto Ribera power station (Ribera de Arriba)

In the heart of Asturias, we cannot forget the thermo-electric power station of Soto Ribera, still active today and accepting visits, which led to the construction of two differentiated projected villages, in Soto Rei/Soto de Rey (for workers, initiated in 1961) and Les Segaes/Las Segadas de Abajo (for administrative employees and technicians, 1962–1968), the work of the Asturian architect I. Álvarez Castelao, with a Nordic influence: modern infrastructures recognised by the Iberian DoCoMoMo Foundation (an agency dedicated to the documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement).

The former, made up of three different styles of blocks (semi-detached family dwellings or residential blocks) installed in a common space displaying washing lines and chicken coops with unusual aesthetic care. The latter, also refined and orderly, comprises various groups of two-storey family dwellings, clustered in groups of four, with characteristic gabled roofs inclined inwards, wisely distributed on a common green area.

Cares Trail

At the opposite end of Asturias, a route reveals the channel excavated from Caín to Camarmeña to service another similar contemporary power station, in the magnificent scenery of the Picos de Europa: the **Cares Trail** was carved out in the limestone in a wrestle between 500 men and nature between 1916 and 1921 (later extended), to maintain the supply channel of the Poncebos hydroelectric power station.

This is an extremely popular, spectacular and moderately difficult route and visitors should not forget the practical purpose that was sought and the industrial tenacity of *Electra de Viesgo*. It covers a distance of around 9 km with 73 tunnels dug through an imposing mountain which today constitute a first-class tourism attraction, integrated in a trail that reaches the neighbouring León.



Cares Trail



Inside of the Grandas de Salime Hydroelectric power station


Waterfall and hydroelectric power station of Grandas de Salime

On the western side of the Principality of Asturias is a marvellous fusion of art and engineering undertaken in the 1940s to make use of the energy of the upper section of the Navia River.

Its epic construction required a display of great technical skill to overcome the difficulties of the land by the engineers of the *Hidroeléctrica del Cantábrico*, while the architect Joaquín Vaquero Turcios was responsible for the artistic side, with the help of his son Joaquín Vaquero Turcios (painter and sculptor and also an architect years

later). Together they were able to translate the artistic language of that incredible industrial epopee with murals and reliefs, revealing the constructive process of the power station or the bases of the production of electricity. We also have to thank Vaquero Turcios for the suspended viewpoint known as "La Boca de la Ballena" (The whale's mouth), over the right bank of the river, which allows us to admire the commendable complex, which is open to tours subject to reservation.

Iron paths for an industry in progress: a great railway legacy

A photograph showing three cyclists from behind as they ride along a paved path that was formerly a railway. The path is bordered by wooden railings and is surrounded by lush green trees. In the background, a prominent, rocky mountain peak rises against a clear blue sky. The cyclists are wearing backpacks and casual riding gear. Their shadows are cast onto the path ahead of them.

That wild landscape that captivates visitors, that belt of mountains that surrounds the Principality and safeguards our values... were also obstacles for the industrial development that were overcome with technical ingenuity and human effort. Each meter covered by forced locomotives not only entailed an economic cost, but also a human cost that is hard to assess today as we walk along these railways now converted into green trails or we look at them from the safety of a platform.



Train at the Railway Museum of Asturias

Railway Museum of Asturias

Located in Gijón/Xixón, next to the Poniente beach, in what was the old station of the Compañía del Norte (1872–73) refurbished for this purpose and accompanied by two newly constructed buildings and 650 m of railway lines along a beach: it was inaugurated in 1998 and constitutes an "Anchor Point" of the European Industrial Heritage Route (ERIH), with only another 6 in Spain; this distinction, obtained pursuant to strict criteria taking into account the historical relevance of the location (in a European context) and the quality of the museum-style infrastructure and the services offered, gives the idea of the importance of its archive and library, its vast collections, its exhibition facilities and its international projection.

The aim is to explain why the railway was created, its implementation in Asturias, its involvement in the development of the area and its use by society as a whole, with references to issues relating to the design, technique, use and sociocultural value via its 1,000+ pieces. These include 140 rolling stock and particularly noteworthy are its 16 steam locomotives, some of which still work, and which are beautifully displayed during the Jornadas de Vapor, steam engine meetings held throughout the year on its network of lines. Absolutely unmissable.

Greenways

Of course, there is no better way to discover the history of railways than by walking along what are now known as *vías verdes*: old railway lines turned into pedestrian or cycling paths that are not only a reminder of the route, but also, very often, still have elements or signs that are testament to their industrial origins.

More information:



Name	Start	End	Length
La Camocha (Gijón)	Mina la Camocha	Barrio de los Campomanes	7.5 km
Fuso de la Reina (Oviedo)	Oviedo/Uviéu	Fuso	7.8 km
La Senda del Oso (Santo Adriano, Proaza, Teverga, Quirós)	Tuñón or Caranga Baxu	Entragu or Santa Marina	36.0 km
Tranqueru (Carreño)	Perlora	Xibares	1.2 km
Valle de Turón (Mieres)	Viaducto de Reicastro in Uxo	Paraje de La Molinera in Urbiés	14.0 km
Ferrocarril Estratégico (Carreño)	Ambás	Prevera	9.0 km
Valle de Loredó (Mieres)	La Perea	La Vega San Pedro	3.6 km
Rioturbio (Mieres)	Mieres del Camín	Returbio	3.0 km
Eo (San Tirso de Abres)	San Tiso	Villaodriz	12.0 km



Tranqueru Greenway

Industry with a taste of salt: the contemporary maritime heritage of Asturias

The coast of Asturias, with its emphatic combination of mountains and sea, experienced transformations in the 19th and 20th centuries when fishing and seamanship activities transformed into an industrial sector, with bulk traffic, the transfer of coal and minerals, the construction sector and the supply of vessels, the large-scale auction of goods, labour organisation and the preparation and dispatch of canned products. An industrial revolution at the shores of the Cantabrian, woven by net makers and with a taste of salt.

Maritime Museum of Asturias, Lluanco/Luanco (Gozón)

Located Gozón, the Maritime Museum of Asturias displays a magnificent collection with a museological presentation that clearly expresses this progress and comprises important pieces such as the fishing boat, “La Bañuguera” or tools from an old riverbank carpentry service.

The actual town of Lluanco/Luanco, with its fishing port sheltered by the breakwater, is worth a visit: a well-designed permanent open-air exhibition, including 14 panels of stunning photographs and equally well-designed texts, providing a better understanding of its history and value. It is framed by a ring of typical houses and various hotel establishments, with the Cofradía building being particularly noteworthy as a tourism attraction, with Peñes, being given the name, “el Norte del Norte” (the North of the North).

Permanent Exhibition of the Canning Industry in Candás (Carreño)

A tribute to the canning industry, that artisan and demanding task, is also displayed in this permanent exhibition, located in the old reservoir of the Alfageme factory in Candás (Carreño), with an excellent collection of items that remind us of all those anonymous workers that dedicated a lifetime to this job, in a site that today still has ongoing activities related to this guild.



Canning industry



Maritime Museum of Asturias

Ethnographic Museum Juan Pérez Villamil in Puerto de Vega (Navia)

This interesting infrastructure has also recovered part of the facilities of an old canning factory, La Arenesca and maintains the machinery and items that remind us of what life was like on the coastline and which has now practically non-existent. Before exploring the beautiful little village streets that witnessed the death of the young philosopher, Jovellanos, visitors should also take a walk around the port itself, with its fortifications and beautiful buildings that were the old shipyards and take a moment to learn more about the fish auction, which offers guided tours and is an experience not to be missed.

The land: traditional lifeline and industrial renovation

There are few areas in which the traditional and laborious activity of farming and agriculture are so closely interwoven, with a thriving agri-food industry with very positive future prospects. Asturian cuisine enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, includes delicacies and beverages that remind us of the constant hard work carried out on the land by the locals over time, which was their lifeline, and which continues to captivate us today.

Sidra El Gaitero:

the regional cider famous worldwide



El Gaitero Cider Factory

It is a benchmark of our culture, a symbol of tradition in Asturias and a unique example of advertising and the preservation of a legacy: the winery and permanent collection of *El Gaitero Cider* located in La Espuncia (Villaviciosa), owned by the firm, Valle, Ballina y Fernández.

A tour of the factory shows visitors the production process from reception of the apples in the “canigú” where the fruit is kept, to the press room and ending with the bottling and packing line. The features include three historic wineries: the central or first, with its imposing 200 barrels distributed three-high and the centenary ones from the Provinces and from the Americas (a real tribute to importers, with their names and emblems engraved on the barrels). Cider continues to be fermented in these three, which is then taken to the new winery, with its steel barrels, where it is filtered and shipped worldwide. An exhibition of processes that never fails to surprise visitors, given its sheer magnitude and history.

The permanent collection, installed in the original management and administration building dating back to 1890, offers an overwhelming series of objects distributed over its three storeys: the history of sparkling cider and the family that owns it, an explanation of its market and the important transatlantic export business or the history of its unique advertising style (which led to it gaining worldwide fame).

Cangas del Narcea and its wine:

deep-rooted traditions

The grape-growing industry is also a tradition in Asturias, as reflected in the numerous Baroque altarpieces from western Asturias with their bunches, leaves and vine shoots climbing up the columns and which refer to the “heroic vine-growing culture” included in the Cangas D.O.P. (Protected Denomination of Origin).



Red grapes

At over 500 m above sea level, with gradients of over 30% and located on terraces and small plots, the denomination protects a centenary tradition in the southwestern region of Asturias, which largely coincides with the Fuentes del Narcea, Degaña and Ibias Nature Park. Today several dozen viticulturists and a few wineries offer this product, grown in its slate soils and keep the memory of their cultural heritage and ancestral work alive with modern equipment: the modern and dynamic Wine Museum in the district of San Tisu, complemented with a *Paseo del vino* (Wine walk) on the shores of the Naviegu River, vineyards and riparian forests.

Don't miss...



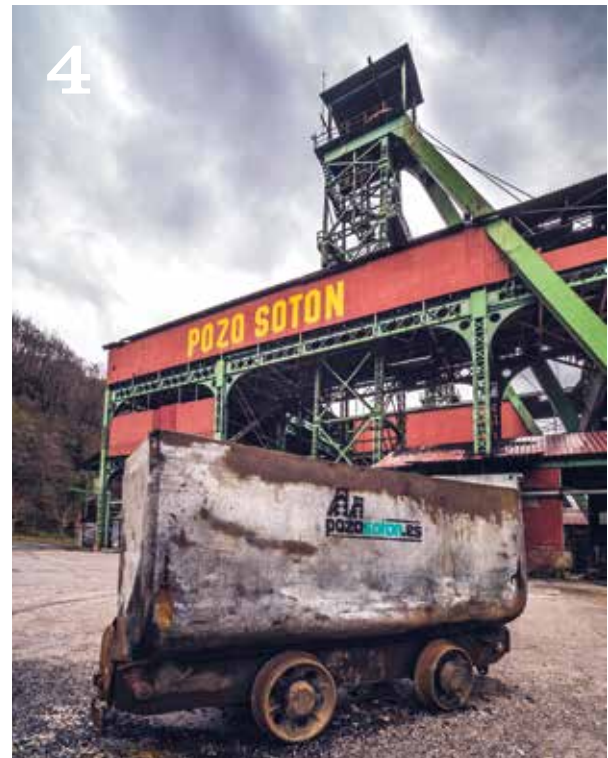
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1. Mining Museum in Arnáu/Arnao (Castrillón). Located in a unique coastal area, this was home to the first Spanish coal mining site, equipped with the oldest vertical pit in Asturias, serving a coal mine, much of which runs below the sea.

2. Interpretation Centre of the Mining Town of Bustiello (Mieres). An exceptional residential estate, given its artistic quality and sociological relevance: built between 1890 and 1925 by the Sociedad Hullera Española, an important mining company belonging to the industrial group of the Marquis of Comillas, it includes a chapel, a monument, a casino, a school, a hospital... and accommodation for engineers and workers..

3. "Valle de Samuño" Mining Eco-museum (Langreo). A train journey takes you into an old mining tunnel and introduces you to one of the most beautiful mining infrastructures of those preserved in Spain: the generator room (with its cultured architectural language), the lighting room, the medicinal unit, the changing rooms...

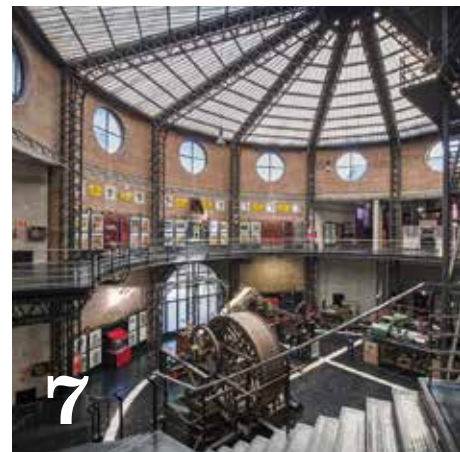
4. Sotón Pit (San Martín del Rey Aurelio). The only underground coal mine that can be visited in Europe is an unmissable tourist attraction. A unique experience that takes visitors 556 m into the earth to the 10th level of the old mine, enabling them to understand the harshness and peculiarities of this ancestral work.



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5. Port of San Esteban (Muros de Nalón). This was the first coal port in Spain for almost a century, after the arrival of the Ferrocarril Vasco Asturiano railway, and it still maintains its industrial character and many of its most emblematic elements: the cranes, loading docks, hoppers and some buildings of unquestionable historical value.

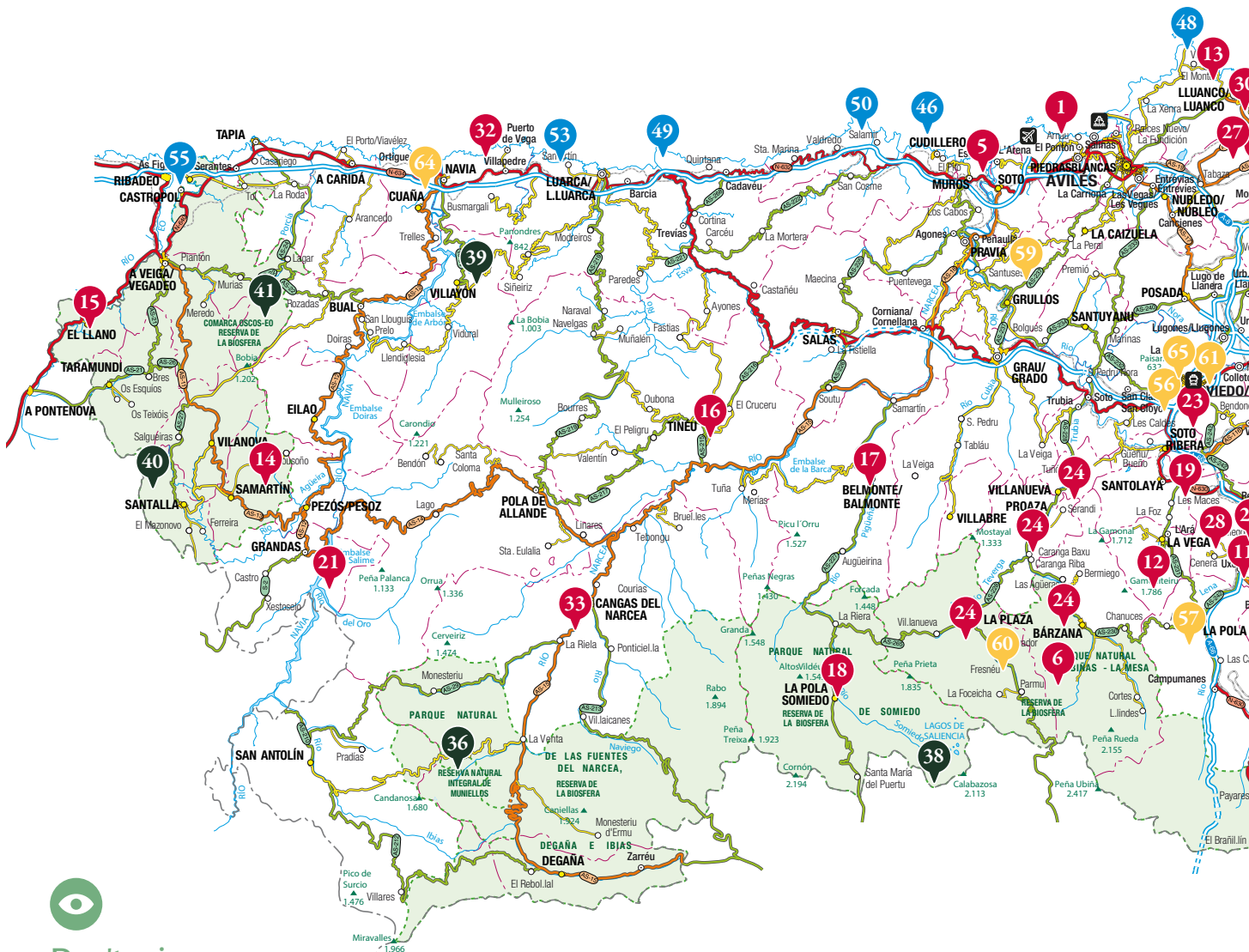
6. Ethnographic museum of Quirós. Evidence of the transition from the traditional production systems to industrial systems through a museum-like space on the site of an old iron and steel establishment, which led to the transformation of traditional life in this Asturian mountain location.

7. Mining and Industry Museum of Asturias (San Martín del Rey Aurelio). This museum is the pioneer of cultural spaces linked to industrial heritage in Asturias, and it is about to become a quarter of a century old. Built on top of the old dump of the historic San Vicente pit, it has gathered together a full display of everything that mining activity was in its different facets: human, technical and social, and it has also recreated the environment of a real mine in its already famous "mine-image".

8. Railway Museum of Asturias (Gijón). An exceptional collection of rolling stock and locomotives, in a delightful museographic design located in the old Norte Station, enabling us to discover an important part of our history of railway transport and to enjoy historical steam engine items in movement.

9. Steelworks Museum (Langreo). One of the most original cultural spaces in Asturias, not only due to the content but also the building: an old cooling tower of an iron and steel factory that has already disappeared. The 45-metre height of this tower and the eye-catching colours with which it has been decorated are a constant lure for all lovers of industrial tourism.

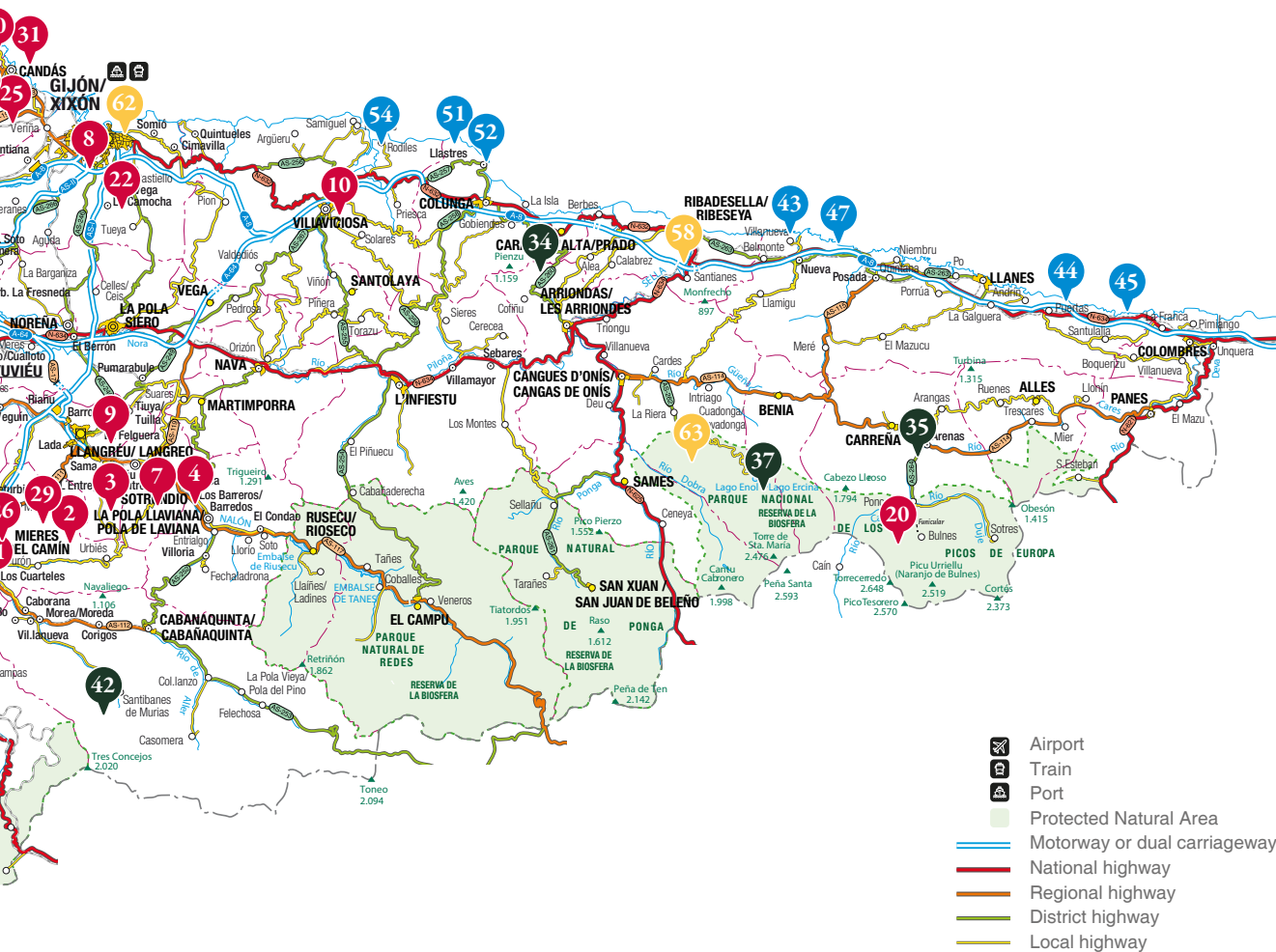
10. Sidra El Gaitero wineries and permanent cider collection (Villaviciosa). Few firms have been able to bring together tradition and innovation quite as well as this one, understanding the value of the brand associated to a place and the product associated to a region. A visit that brings together production and collection, the smell of apples, with a taste of cider.



Don't miss...

Industrial Heritage

1. Arnao Mine Museum (Castrillón)
2. Mining town of Bustiello (Mieres)
3. Samuño Valley Mining Ecomuseum (Langreo)
4. Sorón Pit (San Martín del Rey Aurelio)
5. San Esteban Port (Muros de Nalón)
6. Ethnographic Museum (Quirós)
7. Mining and Industry Museum of Asturias (San Martín del Rey Aurelio)
8. Railway Museum of Asturias (Gijón)
9. Steelworks Museum of Asturias (Langreo)
10. El Gaitero Cider cellars and permanent collection (Villaviciosa)
11. Mining landscape of the Valle de Turón (Mieres)
12. Texeo Mines (Riosa)
13. Llumeres mine and cove (Gozón)
14. Vilarín de Tresmonte Trail and Carmina Mine (San Martín de Oscos)
15. Eo Greenway (San Tirso de Abres)
16. Gold Museum of Asturias (Tineo)
17. Gold teaching room (Belmonte de Miranda)
18. La Malva hydroelectric power station (Somiedo)
19. Soto Ribera hydroelectric power station (Ribera de Arriba)
20. Cares Trail (Cabrales)
21. Grandas de Salime dam and hydroelectric power station
22. Camocha Greenway (Gijón)
23. Fuso la Reina Greenway (Oviedo)
24. Bear's Trail Greenway (Santo Adriano, Proaza, Tevera and Quirós)
25. Tranqueru Greenway (Carreño)
26. Valle de Turón Greenway (Mieres)
27. Strategic Railway Greenway (Carreño)
28. Valle de Loreda Greenway (Mieres)
29. Rioturbio Greenway (Mieres)
30. Maritime Museum of Asturias (Gozón)
31. Permanent Exhibition of the Canning Industry in Candás (Carreño)
32. Juan Pérez Villamil Ethnographic Museum (Navia)
33. Wine Museum (Cangas del Narcea)



Explore paradise

- 34. Fitu Lookout (Parres)
- 35. Pozo de la Oración Lookout (Cabrales)
- 36. Puerto del Connio Lookout (Cangas del Narcea)
- 37. Covadonga Lakes - Picos de Europa National Park
- 38. Somiedo Lakes – Somiedo Nature Park
- 39. Oneta Waterfall Trail (Villayón)
- 40. Seimeira Waterfall Trail (Santa Eulalia de Oscos)
- 41. Cioyo Waterfall Trail (Castropol)
- 42. Xurbeo Waterfall Trail (Aller)

Submerge yourself on the coast

- 43. Pría Blowholes (Llanes)
- 44. Arenillas Blowholes (Llanes)
- 45. Santiuste Blowhole (Llanes)
- 46. Cudillero Port
- 47. Gulpiyuri Beach (Llanes)
- 48. Peñes (Gozón)
- 49. Cabo Busto (Valdés)

- 50. Cabo Vidio (Cudillero)
- 51. Cabo de Lastres (Colunga)
- 52. The Dinosaur Coast and the Jurassic Museum of Asturias (Colunga)
- 53. Barayo Partial Nature Reserve (Navia and Valdés)
- 54. Villaviciosa Partial Nature Reserve
- 55. Landscape of the Eo Estuary (Castropol and Vegadeo)

Absorb the Asturian culture

- 56. Asturian Pre-Romanesque (Oviedo)
- 57. Asturian Pre-Romanesque (Lena)
- 58. Cave Art: Tito Bustillo Cave and Art Centre (Ribadesella)
- 59. Cave Art: La Peña Cave (Candamo)
- 60. Teverga Prehistory Park
- 61. The Museum of Fine Arts of Asturias (Oviedo)
- 62. The Museum of the Asturian People (Gijón)
- 63. The Royal Site of Covadonga (Cangas de Onís)
- 64. Coaña and Navia Castros
- 65. "Princess of Asturias" Awards (Oviedo)*

*Outdoor visit

Asturias



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