



1. This nature trail starts at the bus station of the town of Sarón and crosses the urban park toward a pedestrian walkway near the La Campanilla urban development, surrounded by wild plum trees, weeping willows, cherry trees and alder trees.
2. The route runs parallel to the road until it reaches another park. Then it follows the River Suscuja and starts a mild descent underneath the N-363 road where there is a bridge.
3. Crossing the bridge, following the river course and walking past a sports area, the trail reaches the town of La Encina. In this stretch, the Alto de Carcobillo is worthy of note, characterised by its eucalyptus forest and green pastures.
4. Slightly further on we can see a crag known as El Peñón, which is probably where the name of La Penilla stems from. Here, the River Suscuja merges with the River Pisuena, the most important water stream in the Cayón Valley. The route leads to an area where the River Pisuena becomes wider, giving place to a dam where there used to be a large population of salmon.
5. At this point, there is a junction with a paved pedestrian walkway which leads to La Penilla. Walking straight across town, we would find a great factory.
6. Back to our trail, walking past La Penilla, approximately after 500 metres of trail surrounded by houses, vegetable gardens and pastures, the trail reaches the pedestrian walkway of La Cueva, which is where this trail ends.

The St. Michael of Carceña Shrine is a small hermitage built in the 13th century in Romanesque-Gothic style, and which was declared a Site of Local Cultural Interest in 2005. This shrine, located in La Penilla, was attended by worshippers from La Cueva, La Penilla and La Encina de Cayón.

ST. MICHAEL OF CARCEÑA SHRINE

At the beginning, it favoured the boom in tourism, taking visitors to the spas in Puente Viego and Alceda. Later on, the line became more industrial as mining grew in the area. It also contributed to the holding of livestock fairs, since it combined passenger transport and livestock transport.

The poor profitability of the railway prompted the gradual closure of several sections until the final closure of the line.

This Nature Trail follows a section of the 35-km railway that was in operation between 1902 and 1978. It was built for the purpose of connecting Santander, Burgos and Madrid as an alternative to the Santander-Alar del Rey railway.

ASTILLERO-ONTANEDA OLD RAILWAY

Legend has that the origin of the shrine goes back to the time where two shepherds saw a bull stubbornly digging at the top of the Carceña Hill. They decided to go to have a look, and were surprised to discover an statue of St. Michael buried on the ground. In consequence, it was decided to build a church and dedicate it to St. Michael, but in a slightly different place, where it could be more easily accessed by worshippers.

However, a series of eerie events took place while this church was being built, which the worshippers themselves took as a sign from God and decided to build the hermitage in the place where it belonged.

It is built as a small single nave church ending on a semicircular apse, and decorated with figure-shaped brackets in the Romanesque tradition.

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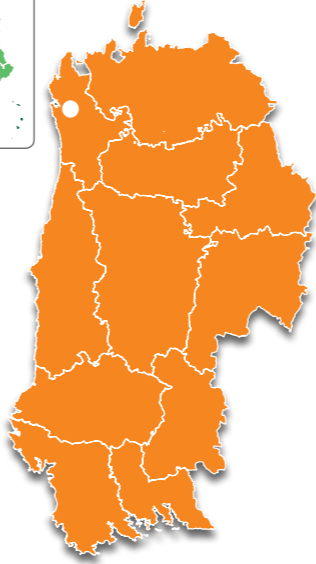
A NATURAL OASIS IN THE MIDDLE OF CANTABRIA

This nature trail starts at the town of Sarón (Cantabria) and is 3 km in length, ending at La Penilla. Both towns are within the municipality of Santa María de Cayón.

In the Cayón Valley, located between the mountain ranges of Caballar and La Matanza, the River Pisuena merges with the River Pas against a backdrop of oaks, hazelnut trees, common hawthorns, beeches, hollies and large pastures, frequently ruffled by the multiple bird species that live in the valley.



SECTOR NORTHWESTERN PENINSULAR



Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment's Nature Trails Program aims to restore former transport infrastructures such as railway tracks, cattle trails and traditional routes, for public use and enjoyment.

These routes take us to the countryside to discover the biodiversity and beauty of our precious natural heritage, and discover the villages, sights, traditions and people that are part of the unique cultural landscape of our country.

We invite you to visit them and offer you the keys to enjoy the trip. In this brochure you will find a brief description of the Saron-La Penilla Nature Trail and the map for the journey, along with recommendations to make the most of this experience. We only ask one thing of you: do not forget to leave everything as you found it. The conservation of these pathways is also your responsibility.

TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:

- City Council of Santa María de Cayón: 0034 942 56 30 56

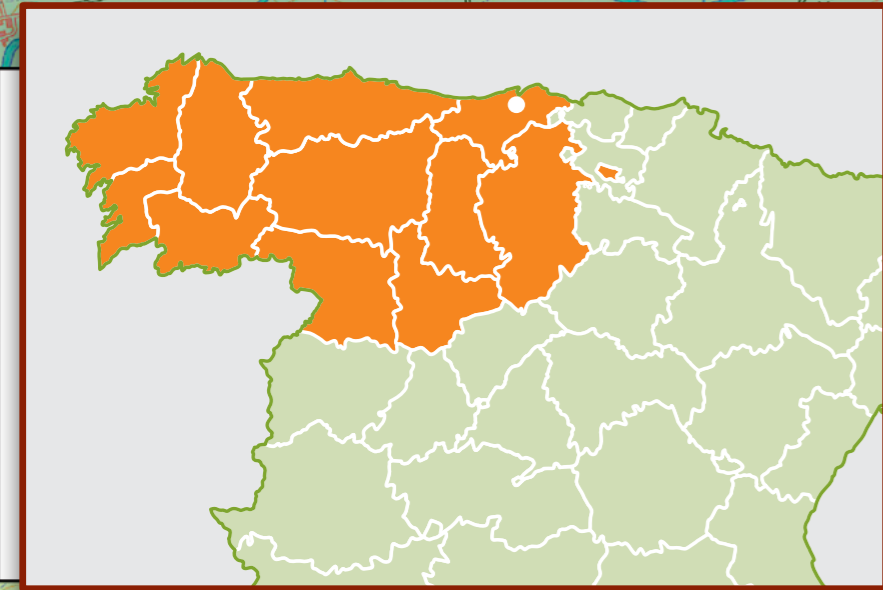
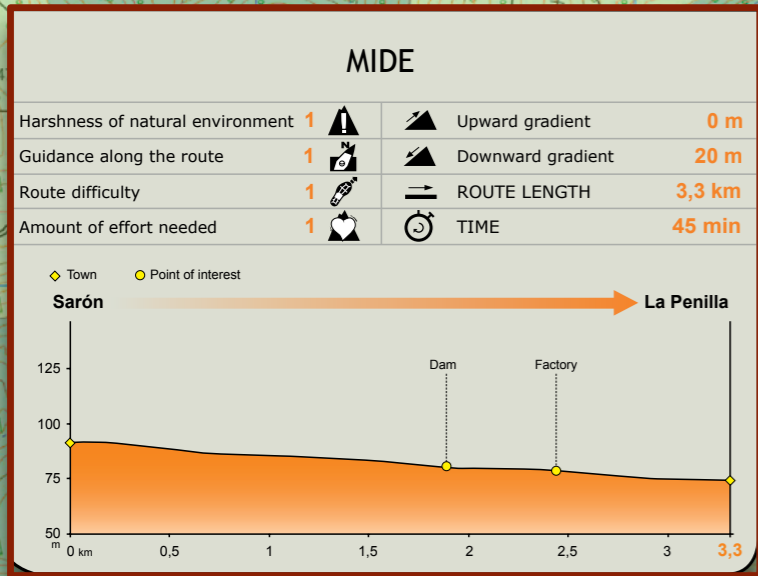


Guide to the Nature Trails of Spain



NATURE TRAIL - SARÓN - LA PENILLA





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NATURE TRAIL
**SARÓN TO
LA PENILLA**

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Underpass
- Other sights of interest