

Located between the **Deva** and **Nansa Rivers**, the **valley of Lamasón** is protected by the 4 cardinal points: the **Peña Sagra** mountains to the **south**; the **Arria** massif to the **north**; the Collado de Ozalba (or **Jozalba**) to the **east**; and the Collado de Hoz (or de **Joz**) to the **west**. It's made up of 8 villages: **Burió, Cires, Lafuente, Los Pumares, Quintanilla, Río, Sobrelapeña and Venta Fresnedo**.

The **oldest remains** in Lamasón can be found in Venta Fresnedo, in **Los Marranos cave**. In the 1950s, government road workers found signs of Prehistoric settlements in this cave. What was mainly found was portable art like flint chippings and cave art—paintings and engravings—on the walls. The cave isn't open to the public.

The **road from Panes to La Hermida** was built in the 19th century; Before then, however, the main path that connected the La Hermida gorge with both the Nansa Valley and the coast passed through the municipalities of Lamasón and Peñarrubia. It was a very busy road for walkers, merchants and pilgrims on their way to the **Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana**. Nowadays, this route is known as the **Camino Lebaniego**.

Its **landscape** is full of **meadows and fields with cabins**. This shows the link between **Lamasón and cattle**, especially with **Tudanca cows, the native breed of Cantabria**.

Agriculture was also important in Lamasón: **corn, beans and flax** were grown. Flour was obtained from **corn** to make '**pulientas**' (a type of porridge eaten with milk), '**tortos**' (a type of small, hard pancake), and '**borona**' (a type of cornbread). In Lamasón there were almost 30 mills where grinding was done, none of which work today.


After giving you a few broad brushstrokes of its history, we'll reveal more details about the **ESSENTIAL** things you need to **EXPLORE**, as well as some interesting facts and recommendations:



ESSENTIALS


① CAMINO LEBANIEGO


It's not strange to see **pilgrims** passing through Lamasón; in fact, you may be one of them! That's because we're right in the middle of the **Camino Lebaniego**, one of the first **pilgrimage routes with its own credentials**. The reason so many people pass through is because they're trying to reach the **Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana** where the **Lignum Crucis**—the largest fragment of the True Cross—is located. It's an **Año Jubilar (Holy Year)** each time the day of **Santo Toribio—April 16th—falls on a Sunday**. Within Lamasón, the Camino goes from **Venta Fresnedo** to **Collado de Joz**. Come experience what it's like to be a pilgrim for a day!

 The **Camino Lebaniego** connects the **north** and **French route** of the **Camino de Santiago** via the **Vadiniense Route**. All of these routes have been named **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.

2 SANTA JULIANA CHURCH


When you reach Lafuente, you'll see a **unique Romanesque structure** in the region: **Santa Juliana church**. It was built in the late **12th** or **early 13th century**. The exterior of the church is decked out in **Romanesque elements** like **corbels** (structural pieces of stone that support the eaves), the **semi-circular arch** and the checkered '**jaqués**' style details. The latter is a checkered **decorative band** that goes around the church. The term '**jaqués**' comes from the **cathedral of Jaca** and the checkered elements are common of the churches along the **Camino de Santiago**.


 This church shares the worship of Santa Juliana with the **Collegiate Church of Santillana del Mar**.

 **Do you want to play?** Look for a **corbel** with **two heads**. Here's a **hint**: it's near the entrance facing south and there's a fantastic animal nearby.

3 LA PÍQUERE VIEWPOINT

When traveling from **Quintanilla to Puentenansa**, you must go up through the **Collado de Ozalba (or Jozalba as it's also known)**. Halfway there, you'll come across the **La Píquere lookout point**. The views from here are **STUNNING**. Not only can you see the whole valley of Lamasón, but also **mountains** like **Poo peak**, the **Arria** massif, **Obán** hill, **Picos de Europa (Peaks of Europe)** and the mountain ranges of **Cires, Río** and **Peña Sagra**. It's the perfect place for a photo!

 To the right and the left you can see the **Llanillos** and **Tanea cabins**.

 There's very little parking around the lookout point, so be careful around here.

4 THE COUPLE OF LAMASÓN

Who and where are they? A bit below Santa Juliana church in Lafuente, there's a manor that hides two **mysterious sculptures** of a **man** and **woman** in its walls. There's an inscription on the female figure that says: "**CTS pasan que no vuelven. Año 1625**" ("**CTS pass that do not return. Year 1625**"). Some have interpreted CTS to be the abbreviation of "cuántos" ("how many"), thus stating "**How many pass that do not return?**" Is it referring to the deceased who now rest in the cemetery or the pilgrims on the Camino? Who knows!

5 INVERNALES: COLLADO DE HOZ OR JOZ AND TANEA

The word **'invernal'** is closely linked to **livestock**. It's a type of **cabin** built on the fields that are generally **far from the villages**. Sometimes they're isolated and other times they're found in **groups**, as is the case of those of **Tanea**. The enclosures around the properties are either **walls of stacked rocks** with no mortar, or hazel and willow **hedges**. Its **purpose** is to store **dry grass** for the winter upstairs and the **livestock** downstairs. Lamasón is the place in the region where **the most cabins** are preserved, thus giving its **landscape great cultural value**.

To see the **cabins in Collado de Joz**, just continue through the road towards Peñarrubia.

The **cabins in Tanea** aren't as easy to see, but the landscape makes it worth it to try and see them. We recommend leaving the car in **Quintanilla** and continue on foot through a forest trail that goes along the **Tanea River**. The cabins are about **5 kilometers** away. This trail can be done both on foot and on **mountain bike**.

There are more areas with cabins, for instance, around **Cires** and going up **Collado de Jozalba**.



EXPLORING


Here we'll give you two options to enjoy and appreciate Lamasón's wonderful landscape:

1 FROM SOBRELAPEÑA TO QUINTANILLA

We'll suggest an **easy stroll** that's only a kilometer and a half. You can start in **Sobrelapeña**, which is where the **Lamasón town hall** is located. You'll see that the houses are organized in **rows** and **facing south** in order to take advantage of the sunlight. After wandering around, go towards **Santa María church**, where you may come across some pilgrims on their way to Santo Toribio. The church's location is **strategic** and it has some **amazing views**: the Arria massif, Poo peak, Quintanilla, Sobrelapeña, the Tanea River, the Lamasón gorge and Collado de Joz. The church was built in the **12th century**, although it was rebuilt in the **13th century**. Its **Romanesque façade** was preserved, as well as some remains on the inside from that same period. After taking in the sights, continue towards **Quintanilla**. Once you cross **Llampu bridge**, we recommend wandering around the streets of the village paying close attention to the **houses, vegetable gardens** and landscapes. Enjoy your leisurely walk and just **take in all of your surroundings**.

② THE LAMASÓN GORGE

The **Lamasón River**—also known as the **Tanea River**—has carved out the **Lamasón gorge** in search of the **Nansa River**. One of the key scenic routes of the area is the one that connects the municipalities of **Herrerías** (from the village of Cades) with **Lamasón**. The stretch from **Venta Fresnedo** to the crossing in **Sobrelapeña** is the narrowest, but at the same time, the most beautiful. If there have been heavy rains or snow, the roar of the Tanea River is astonishing.

 However, be very careful, as many pilgrims travel through this road.