

Udíás is one of the municipalities in the Saja Nansa region with the smallest territories, but the **ocean and mountain views** are incredible. **Canales, Cobijón, El Llano, Pumalverde, Rodezas, Toporias, Valoria and La Virgen** are the villages that make up its territory.

Due to its **rich subsoil**, mining has been an ever present activity in the area for **over 2,000 years**. Two minerals were mainly extracted from the mines: **zinc and lead**. Infrastructures and buildings of the mining complex still remain from the last period of exploitation which took place between the mid-19th and 20th centuries.

Udíás has **great environmental importance**, as well, since part of its territory is within **Monte Corona**, which is in itself integrated in **Oyambre Natural Park**. This area is ideal for **walking** or **cycling** and enjoying some **amazing views**.

Next we'll reveal more of its **ESSENTIAL** information and fun facts so you can get to know the municipality a little better.




ESSENTIALS

① MINES OF UDÍAS


As we mentioned earlier, Udíás's subsoil is rich in **minerals**. Remains of its exploitation have been found that date back to the **Roman times**, despite the fact that its mining activity started in the mid 19th century, There were two periods of mining: the first from 1855 to 1932. They were later reopened in 1955 and closed definitively in 1965. **Lead and zinc** were the main minerals. **Zinc** came in two forms: as carbonates or **calamines** and as sulfides or **spahlerites**. Exploitation of the mines was spread out over different parts of the municipality. **Depending on the height** at which the mineral was found, **different extraction techniques** were used—or **mining**, which is what the art of extracting minerals is called. They could be **open-air** or **underground mines**, in which case, shafts and galleries were used.


We've pointed out on the map the different remains that have been preserved so you can identify them. In **Canales** you can still see part of the **San Bartolomé Mine** and the deposit called **El Zafarrancho**. In the area known as **La Casas de la Mina** in **La Gándara**, you can see remains of the **rotary kilns**, sinks, the small hospital and the **train track**. The buildings most well-preserved were the **offices**, the shop-bar, the garages and **the engineer's residence**.

 When **the mines closed in 1932**, many of the workers had no other resources so they were forced to go out **begging with a sack**. That's why their nickname is **"the men with the sacks"** while Udíás is known as **"the land of the sack."**

2 MONTE CORONA

Located in La Hayuela is the entrance to **Oyambre Natural Park**. The park has a coastal area, grasslands, and a wooded area. This collection of mountains is called the Corona group and its is just over 1,230 hectares (**about 1,230 football fields**). Located within this group is Monte Corona. Here, there are **native** species of trees like oaks, beeches and hazels mixed with **foreign** species like pines, eucalyptuses and sequoias. Among its **fauna** we can find **mammals** like roe deer, wild boars and pine martens, **birds** like kites, **amphibians** like newts and **reptiles** like lizards. It's the **perfect place** to go **hiking** or **bike riding**.


 One of the few **beech forests** near the coast is located in Monte Corona in the area of **Las Argayás**. It's truly a colorful spectacle to see in the fall!

 Your collaboration is very important here. **Help us take care of** this significant natural environment. What can you do?

- **Throw any trash** you accumulate in the bins in the towns.
- **Observe animals** from a distance and respect the plants. If you walk quietly you may find some pleasant surprises. Listen to all the life around you.

3 SPELEOLOGY

Cantabria is characterized by being formed mostly of **limestone**. When this type of stone makes **contact with water**—whether it be from a river or rain—it starts to **erode**. In the case of Udías, the **Suvia River** has shaped the subsoil and created **caves** like **El Rescaño or La Buenita**. The result of this erosion process is called a karst landscape. At the same time, there's another process that "decorates" these caves: the water that filters in from the surface into the cavities, leaves behind a calcite residue that forms the stalactites, stalagmites, flowstones, etc. That's how Udías became a place to practice **speleology**. Of course, in order for it to be a safe activity, it should be done with professionals who know the environment.


 It's been discovered that **El Rescaño cave** is over 35 kilometers long, thus creating an underground connection between the municipalities of Udías and Alfoz de Lloredo.

4 PARAJE DE LOS PINTORES MONTAÑESES (THE SPOT OF THE MONTAÑÉS PAINTERS)

Within **Monte Corona** there's an area that deserves its own section: the **Paraje de los Pintores Montañeses** or better known as the **Las Argayás** lookout point. The terms "**argayo**" and "**argayás**" (argayadas—landslides) are used to describe places with **land movement** generally **caused by water**. The name comes from the fact that in front of the lookout, there's a valley where these landslides occur. When you go to the edge, you feel

like you're on a **BALCONY** overlooking everything from the **Cantabrian Sea** to the **Picos de Europa (Peaks of Europe)**.

- 👁️ If you visit in **autumn**, you'll be surprised by the **incredible spectrum of colors!** Moreover, one of those colorful spots belongs to one of the few beech forests on the coast.



EXPLORING


Next we'll give you a few more ideas so you can keep exploring Udías:

① GREENWAY EL PELURGU

In the earlier sections we talked about the close link between **Udías and mining**. On this trail, we propose you walk part of the same **route as the mining train** that extracted minerals from **pozo de Peña Montero to La Gándara**. It's **simple**, with hardly any incline and a component that attracts people of all ages: **two tunnels** that you need to pass through with a flashlight or a headlamp.

The journey starts **near Cobijón**, in the place known as **Las Casas de la Mina** or **La Gándara**. The buildings around here correspond to the **mining activity**: offices, garages, remains of rotary kilns, hospital and the engineer's house. We'll show you each one of those points on the **map** and an **old photo** in which you can really notice how much time has passed. At the **start** of the trail there's a sign indicating the route you'll take, but it's **very simple** because your main guide will be the train track. The track is linear and it will lead you to Pozo Peña Montero; and you take the same way back to return.

The trail ends at a winding tower called **Pozo del Madroño** or **Pozo Peña Montero**. You'll notice on the front of the tower there's a logo that says "**RCA**". It stands for **Real Compañía Asturiana (Royal Asturian Company)**, the company that built the area of Las Casas de la Mina in the 20th century.

 Technical information and recommendations:

- ▶ **Starts and ends:** Casas de la Mina. La Gándara
- ▶ **Length:** 6 km
- ▶ **Duration:** 2 h
- ▶ **Level:** easy
- ▶ **Type of track:** linear
- ▶ **Desnivel:** +50 m. / -50 m.
- ▶ **Type of path:** walking path
- ▶ **Signpost:** A sign only at the beginning
- ▶ **Drinking water:** no

 Notes:

1. Wear good hiking shoes and take a torch.
2. Only leave your footprints on the ground: throw any trash you accumulate into the correct bin when you return.
3. Live in harmony with the environment: observe animals from a distance and respect the plants. If you walk quietly you may find some pleasant surprises.



[Download track trail](#)

② THE FOREST OF SPANISH FILMS

A project called **Bosques de Cine (Cinematic Forests)** has recently been launched. Its purpose is to compensate for the **carbon footprint** the film industry generates. It will consist of plantations of **native tree species** on the stretch of land that connects the municipalities of **Alfoz de Lloredo, Comillas, Ruiloba and Udías**. BOSQUE (FOREST) is a word that is repeated in the titles of films like: *El bosque animado (The Enchanted Forest)*, *El corazón del bosque (The Heart of the Forest)* or *El bosque del lobo (The Ancines Woods)*. This symbolic gesture is meant to raise awareness about climate change. In the following link you can see how the project is coming along: [Bosques de Cine \(Cinematic Forests\)](#)