



# COMILLAS

## WALKING AND CYCLING TOURS



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## **OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO DE COMILLAS**

C/ JOAUQÍN DEL PIÉLAGO, 1

39520 COMILLAS

CANTABRIA

TEL.: 942 72 25 91

[www.comillas.es](http://www.comillas.es)

[oficinadeturismo@comillas.es](mailto:oficinadeturismo@comillas.es)

# COMILLAS, LEISURE AND NATURE

- THE COAST
- TE MONTE CORONA FOREST

## WALKING ROUTES

Comillas offers you walking and cycling tours that will help you discover it in a completely different way.

**ROUTE 1. COMILLA'S COASTAL SPOTS AND MONUMENTS**

**ROUTE 2. CYCLE PATH FROM COMILLAS TO LA RABIA**

**ROUTE 3. FROM COMILLAS TO RIOTURBIO**

**ROUTE 4. FROM COMILLAS TO RUISEÑADA**

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The municipality of Comillas extends over 18.5 kilometres along the coast, from the cave of El Portillo to the La Rabia lagoon. It continues over the interior of the Monte Corona forest, a territory shared with the municipalities of Udias and Valdáliga.

The village reaches up to 300 metres above sea level near the municipal district of Udias, although, on the whole it is characterized by gentle reliefs and slender plains.

Comillas lies on a splendid limestone landscape, which has developed the characteristic karst features such as caves and steep cliffs throughout the coastline.



# THE COAST

As it is said above, the coast extends from the cove El Portillo, the estuary of the stream Gandarilla, to the La Rabia Lagoon, its western limit. The village rests on a broken coastline interrupted by a wonderful beach near the urban area and the spellbinding estuary of La Rabia, which is also part of the municipality of Valdáliga. Comillas is also notable for some geological features in the surrounding areas such as the fault Punta del Miradorio in Ruiloba and the dunes of Oyambre in Valdáliga, which can be sighted from the village itself.

However the coast does not only stand out for its beauty, it has always been part of the townspeople's way of life. The port is one of the eighth harbours in the region, and apart from its fishing activity, in Comillas and nearby there has traditionally been seaweed collecting by the townsfolk. Also, it is worth mentioning that the shellfish and other fishing activities are now being regulated in order to preserve these natural resources.

## THE MONTE CORONA FOREST

When we hear the word "Monte" we think of a mountain or a hill but not of a forest, however in this region the word "monte" has two different meanings. The Monte Corona forest is a big mountain area located in the west coast of Cantabria, not far from the beaches of Comillas and Oyambre, which can be sighted from its top most hills. This forest extends over the west side of the road that communicates Comillas with Cabezón de la Sal and one of the main entrances to it is El Alto de La Hayuela. The forest is not distinguished either by its high hills which never exceed 300 metres above sea level or its plainness but for a river bed of the stream that flows from the Monte Corona and ends in La Rabia lagoon. The trees are not indigenous species as the area was replanted during the second half of the twentieth century. Then they put in 834 hectares of pines and 621 hectares of eucalyptus apart from other exotic species such as the oak trees of which they planted 39 hectares and 5'5 hectares of sequoias. Nevertheless some thousand-year-old trees are located in Caviades, Valdáliga thanks to the townspeople who halted the cutting of the remaining 200 hectares of indigenous oak trees. In this part of the forest there are also some beeches, rarely seen in places 100 metres above sea level. Monte Corona's territory is shared by the municipalities of Comillas, Udías and Valdáliga, and it is partially included within the plan that preserves Oyambre's natural reserve. Several Hermitages lie on the forest's clearings where people enjoy walking, picnics and so on with the elderly and the children. It is thus well-connected by tracks where hiking and sightseeing becomes a pleasure.



## ROUTE 1. COMILLA'S COASTAL SPOTS AND MONUMENTS



**Route 1** -This is a pleasing route in the surrounding area that will help you enjoy the coastal spots as well as admire the most distinguished buildings of the village.

**Starting Point:** Comillas (20 metres), starting in the Town Hall, situated in the city centre, take the street, Paseo Antonio Garelli, towards the beach.

**Length and estimated walk time:** 5 kilometres.; an hour and a half without stopping.

**Ups and Downs:** little more than 100 metres.

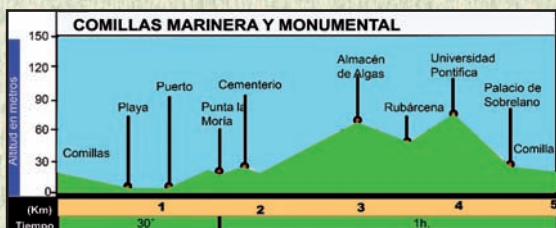
**Difficulty:** slight, even though in the winter there may be mud due to wet weather.

**Map reference:** the National Geographic Institute, scale 1:25,000 page 33-IV.

**Cycling possibility:** you can do this route by bicycle except for the stretch between the harbour and the cape Punta de la Moria

### ROUTE 1

**Town Hall (20 metres):** Follow the street Antonio Garelli towards the beach, which is busy and noisy during the summer.



**The beach of Comillas (5 metres) (0.7km):** carry on along the coast; you will pass in front of the fishermen's facilities in order to get to the harbour.

**Harbour (3 metres) (1.1 km):** It consists of a small cove that houses the few vessels, which still keep their fishing tradition. Continue straight ahead uphill through the rock-carved stairs that end in the breakwater that overlooks the sea. Head to your left, cross over the esplanade to take the small path, then take the right hand fork, continue and you will come to the end of the track, where is a green-coloured cape that goes down to the blue sea.

**Punta la Moria (20 metres)(1.6 km)(30'):** here you will enjoy the wonderful views of the sea. If you look west you will see the cape Oyambre and the Picos de Europa. On the East is the cape Miradorio, outstanding for its faults and the steep-cliff coast. Once you have admired all this beauty you are ready to return, follow the path until you get to the crossroad where you turned before, and go up the road towards the statue of an angel that rests on the ruins.

**Cemetery (25 metres) (1.9 km):** those Gothic ruins were once the church, but became the cemetery, which is protected by the Guardian angel, sculpted by Jose Llimona. At your left hand side there is a roundabout, you have to go straight ahead and take the right hand fork, which is the coastal access to Travía. You should follow the road and turn left when the path becomes a track. It leads to the University. If you follow it you will go under an arch, cross it and you will be facing an abandoned building.



**Seaweed warehouse (70 metres) (3 km):** The dimensions of this building give us an idea of how important the seaweed collection used to be for food and the production of medicines. Turn right on the first crossroad and left on the second, you will come across oak trees and laurels. When you get to the road where you will find a group of houses. There turn left, you will leave behind the abandoned sports facilities to finally reach a huge neo-Gothic construction.

**Pontifical University (80 metres) (4 km):** This is another distinguished spot in the village. Although it used to be a seminary for the last few years, it was closed for a time but now is to become an ambitious college of the Spanish Language. If you descend the hill you get to the main entrance arch, where you should turn left to take the Road Manuel Noriega towards the roundabout Doctor Santiago García Castellón. Turn left at the roundabout and you will descend through the road Paeso de Solatorre, where another majestic building is located.

**Sobrellano Palace (35 metres):** This neo-Gothic building was the house of the first Marquis of Comillas, Antonio López, and next to it are the chapel-mausoleum and the outstanding building designed by the Catalan artist Gaudí, Known as El Capricho de Gaudí, which was refurbished as a restaurant a few years ago. Once outside this majestic building, turn right onto the road Gaudí in order to return to the starting point.

**Town Hall (20 metres) (5 km) (1 h 30').**

## ROUTE 2. CYCLE PATH FROM COMILLAS TO LA RABIA



**Route 2** -This is an easy route that follows the cycle path from Comillas to La Rabia, an outstanding lagoon within Oyambre's natural reserve.

**Starting Point:** Comillas (20 metres), Starting from the square Plaza Joaquín del Piélago beside the Town Hall.

**Arrival Point:** Ría de la Rabia (5 metres), the bridge that crosses the lagoon towards the beach.

**Length and estimated walk time:** 2.5 kilometres; 45 minutes.

**Ups and downs:** slight unevenness, moderate climb to Rubarcena followed by an easy decent to La Rabia.

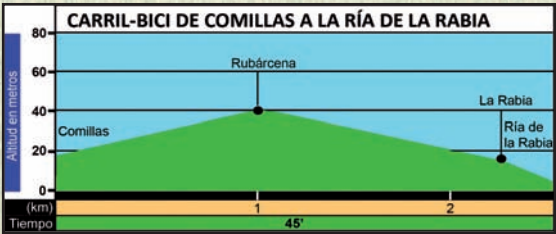
**Difficulty:** slight. If you are thinking of cycling, you should reduce speed when passing or seeing pedestrians.

**Map reference:** the National Geographic Institute, scale 1:25,000 page 33-IV (Comillas).

**Cycling possibility:** it is an ideal route for everyone as it runs on a walking path.

## ROUTE 2

**Town Hall (20 metres):** Turn left at the crossroad and follow the sidewalk that runs near the road to Oyambre and San Vicente de



la Barquera. This road called Paseo de Solatorre passes nearby the Sobrellano Palace. You will soon get to the roundabout named Dr Santiago García Castellón, where the red-painted cycle path starts. Continue through this slight gradient beneath the majestic buildings of the Pontifical University. At your left there is a housing estate.

**Rubárcena (40metres) (km 1):** This is the highest point of this cycling path, from then on it gradually descends parallel to the main road amongst the meadows that dominate the landscape. Eventually you get to a new suburb.

**La Rabia (15 metres) (km 2.2):** It contains a few houses, which are all near the main road. Ignore the right hand fork signposted to Trasvía that takes you back to Comillas and do the same thing with the left hand fork that leads you to Rioturbio and Monte Corona. After a short stretch you get to the bridge that crosses the lagoon where there are usually several types of birds.

**Ría de la Rabia(5 metres)(km 2.5)(45'):** It is accepted as one of the most beautiful marshlands in Oyambre's natural reserve as well as one of the entrances to the park from the village. This beautiful spot consists of an estuary interrupted by the dunes that line the beach of Oyambre.

### ROUTE 3. FROM COMILLAS TO RIOTURBIO



Route 3-A moderate route that will help you explore the marshland in La Rabia and the municipal district of Rioturbio, one of the main entrances of the Monte Corona forest.

**Starting point:** Comillas (20 metres), from the square Plaza de Joaquín del Piélago that is beside the Town Hall.

**Arrival Point:** Rioturbio (10 metres), a splendid and outstanding hamlet situated between the la Rabia lagoon and the Monte Corona forest.

**Length and estimated walk time:** 4.5 kilometres: an hour and ten minutes.

**Ups and Downs:** around 40 metres uphill and 50 downhill.

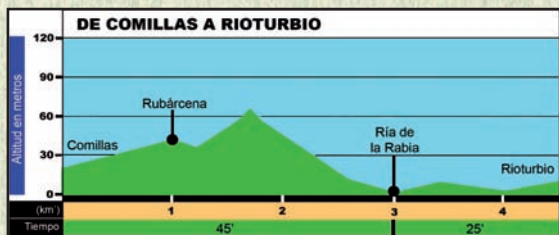
**Difficulty:** slight, be wary of the few cars you may find on the road that leads to Rioturbio.

**Map reference:** the National Geographic Institute, scale 1:25,000, page 33-IV (Comillas).

**Cycling possibility:** You may use your mountain bike but be careful with cars on the stretch to Rioturbio.

## ROUTE 3

**Town Hall (20 metres):** From the village centre, head towards the La Rabia lagoon through the drive Paseo de





Solatorre. You will leave behind the majestic constructions of the Sobrellano Palace and the Pontifical University. Pass the roundabout Dr Santiago García Castellón. The sidewalk emerges onto a cycling path and eventually you will get to a new suburb characterized by recently built houses.

**Rubárcena (40 metres)(km 1):** when you get to the shelter, turn immediately left, follow the road that leads to an unsurfaced path, away from the houses. Ignore the path to the left and carry on westwards. As the path descends it joins a tarmac road that ends in Rioturbio. If you look to your right you will see a small and beautiful shrine. Continue straight on through the curving lane and eventually you will reach the bridge that crosses the marshland, known as Puente Republicano.

**The la Rabia lagoon (5 metres)(km 3)(45’):** This narrow road runs between the extensive vegetation of the marshland. For some time the predominant species has been the *Baccharis halimifolia*, a bush from South America, which has colonised a great part of the area, displacing native flora and thereby altering the ecosystem. It is an almost flat area, so follow straight ahead, cross a bridge and you will arrive at Rioturbio.

**Rioturbio (10 metres)(km 4.5)(1h. 10’):** This little hamlet is part of Oyambre’s natural reserve and displays a fine collection of traditional houses. It is a small neighbourhood that leads to the outstanding woods in the Monte Corona forest.

## ROUTE 4. FROM COMILLAS TO RUISEÑADA



**Route 4 -**This route takes you inland from the coast to Ruisseñada through the different suburbs in this municipal district.

**Starting point:** Comillas (20 metres), the town hall, situated in the centre of the town.

**Arrival point:** Ruisseñada (40 metres), given the scattered character of the district, the church of San Adrián has been selected as the arrival point.

**Length and estimated walk time:** 3.5 kilometres; 50 minutes.

**Ups and Downs:** 100 metres uphill and 80 metres downhill.

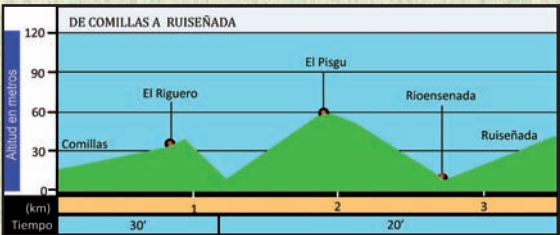
**Difficulty:** slight, except for the mud you may find on your climb to El Pisu.

**Map reference:** the National Geographic Institute, scale 1:25,000, page 33-IV (Comillas).

**Cycling possibility:** You can use your mountain bike even though you may find it difficult when mud covers the climb to El Pisu.

## ROUTE 4

**Town Hall (20 metres):** from the city centre, head towards Cabezón de la Sal. You will pass near Gaudí’s build-





ing. Continue along the drive and between the recently built houses in the outskirts of the town.

**Riguero (40 metres) (km 0.8):** Follow the signpost to Ruiseñada and fork right. After a sharp bend, the road emerges onto a pedestrian path on your left. It consist of a sharp decent that soon rises through a splendid byway surrounded by oaks, holm oaks, and thick vegetation which forms a floral arch that darkens the way. As the gradient becomes gentler, you will pass by a house where you should ignore the tarmac road to your right. Eventually the unsurfaced path joins with a track of a new neighbourhood.

**El Pigu (60 metres) (km 1.9) (30’):** In this neighbourhood the houses are scattered around the area. Just beside the first house you come across a hermitage dedicated to the Sacred Heart which was built in 1903. Descend the slope and you will get to the spring El Pigu and eventually to the bottom of the valley where you will have to cross the stream Rio Ensenada that beautifully shapes the landscape. The path forks to the left and into the main road to Ruiseñada. Continue ahead few metres in order to reach the most significant building in the hamlet, which is separated from all the other houses.

**Church of Ruiseñada (40 metres) (km 3,5) (20’):** This temple, which has some Gothic features, is dedicated to a San Adrián. It dates from the fourteen and fifteen centuries. Near it you will find a bar and a bowling alley.

## ROUTE 5. FROM THE HERMITAGE OF SAN ESTEBAN TO THE VALLEY OF THE STREAM RIO DE MATO



**Starting Point:** the church of Ruiseñada (40 metres), located at the lower part of the centre of this hamlet.

**Length and estimated walk time:** around 10 kilometres; approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes.

**Ups and Downs:** approximately 300 metres of climbs and descents.

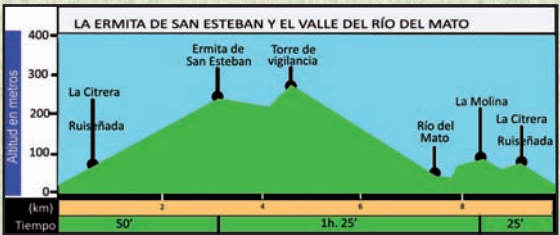
**Difficulty:** low, the route follows tracks and wide byways. The sole difficulty appears when mud covers the gradient from Rio del Mato to La Molina.

**Map reference:** the National Geographic Institute, scale 1:25,000.

**Cycling possibility:** the route can be done on a mountain bike.

## ROUTE 5

**Ruiseñada (40 m):** Starting from the church of San Adrián, climb eastward along the road, passing but ig-





noring an exit road on the left. Fork right on the next turning and walk along the meadows, ignoring the paths on each side. This gradient will take you to a wonderful suburb situated on the top of a hill.

**La Citrera (90 m) (km 0.7):** Once you have left behind the abandoned building of the ancient school, get out of the town through the path to your right. You will go uphill along a tarmac road between oak trees and chestnuts. When the gradient becomes gentler the road emerges onto an unsurfaced path and along the meadows you will get to a junction beside an eucalyptus plantation. Turn left and go up the slope. Eventually, if you ignore the path on both sides you will take a wider path to you left between trees. You will walk straight forward along a plain that connects to a tarmac road, head right and upwards until you come across the slope where this hermitage lies.

**Hermitage of San Esteban (251 m) (km 3.2) (50'):** this is an ancient viewing point from which you will get a broad view of the coast as well as the mountain area, all of which are indicated. Even though some trees hamper our sight, the view is still spectacular. Nearby there are several picnic areas surrounded by the great variety of trees of this forest such as oaks, beeches, chestnuts, pine and fir trees, larches, cypresses, etc. Go back to the junction and go straight ahead on the tarmac road that rises up to a cabin and another watchtower.

**The Fire watchtower and the cabin (280 metres) (km 4.6):** both constructions are owned by the forest brigade of Cantabria. Leave those buildings behind and descend straight down through the narrow track that leads to the town of La Hayuela, another of the main entrances to Monte Corona. After approximately 100 metres turn left to take the walk way that descends along a field to go deeper into the wood of oaks, chestnuts, hazels, holly trees. The valley you are descending is situated before the hamlet of Canales, which is also part of the Monte Corona forest. There you will be able to see different species of indigenous and replanted trees. After a long descent you will get to the low part of this valley, then cross a bridge over a small stream.

**Río del Mato (60 metres) (km 7.5):** this waters flow through a "dead" valley. This is due to the limestone country the underground water flows through to finally emerge near Ruiseñada. Immediately you will come across a second bridge. The plain becomes a gradient and you will progressively get out of the forest to a meadow area. You will climb a more moderate slope this time and emerge onto a tarmac byway. Turn left and you will get soon to a small suburb.

**La Molina (110 m) (km 8.4) (2h. 15'):** This neighbourhood is notable for its traditional architectural collection but instead of crossing this urban area, pass this hamlet and turn right just beside a small shrine, then descend and cross over a river bed. Go uphill and you will immediately get to the other suburb that is located half way up the hill.

**La Citrera (90 metres) (km 9.2):** walk between the houses, and once you have passed the building of the ancient school, leave the village through the same street you took when you started this route. Descend through the meadows, ignoring the path on the right. Then turn left on the fork when you reach the fork, you will arrive at the church that was your starting point.

**Ruiseñada (40 metres) (km 9.9) (2 h. 40').**



## ROUTE 6. MONTE CORONA FOREST



Route 6 -From the shores of the La Rabia basin this incredibly rich forest extends for many hectares. In it is a great variety of replanted trees as well as the precious indigenous oak trees and beeches which are unusual for flourishing so close to the sea.

**Starting Point:** Rioturbio (10 metres), a beautiful hamlet situated in one of the entrances of Monte Corona. It contains several examples of traditional architecture.

**Length and estimated walk time:** 8.3 kilometres; a little more than two hours.

**Ups and Downs:** around 160 metres of gradients and descents.

**Difficulty:** slight, except for gradients.

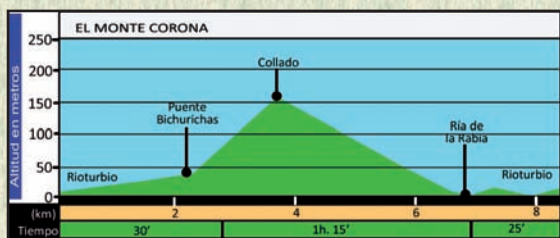
**Map reference:** the National Geographic Institute, scale 1:25,000.

**Cycling possibility:** use a mountain bike be wary with cars when you descending to the hamlet.

### ROUTE 6

**Rioturbio (10 metres):** Cross through the built up area to the end of the tarmac road where the byway, which goes up the meadows and the forest, begins. The path runs by the stream Rio Turbio, and the wood gradually dominates the landscape. Eventually you will reach a junction, next to a bridge over the river.

**Bridge Bichurichas (40 metres) (km 2.2) (30'):** It is situated near oak trees, and it is considered the most significant point in the Monte Corona forest. As well as oak trees you will be able to see beeches, holly trees, hazels, birches, chestnuts, etc. Before the bridge turn left to go round the eucalyptus. Going through a gorge you will get to a wider area where there is a junction.



**The gorge (156 metres) (km 3.6):** ignore the track that goes to San Esteban on your right, and turn left to descend between eucalyptuses until it comes to an open meadow. Ignore the secondary path and you will get to a plain that is connected to a narrow road near the Puente Republicano Bridge and the marshland.

**The La Rabia Lagoon (5 metres) (km 6.8) (1h. 45’):** if you keep on the left between the extensive vegetation of the marshland, and especially between the *Baccaris Halimifolia*, the predominant and colonizing bush, you finally return to the starting point.

**Rioturbio (10 metres) (km 8,3)(2h. 10’).**

ROUTE 7. THE HERMITAGES MONTE CORONA



Route 7 -This is probably the most complete route of the Monte Corona forest. It will help you enjoy the spellbinding sights and discover the hermitages of San Antonio and San Esteban.

**Starting point:** Rioturbio (10 m), it is an interesting hamlet located within Oyambre’s natural reserve between the la Rabia lagoon and the Monte Corna forest.

**Length and estimated walk time:** 15.4 kilometres.

**Ups and Downs:** around 300 metres in gradients.

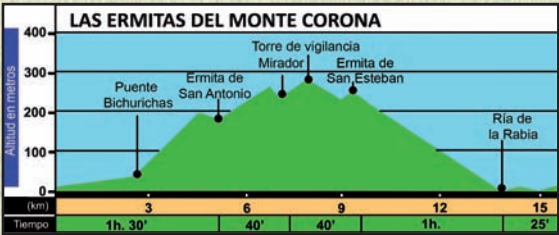
**Difficulty:** slight, except for the small climbs.

**Map reference:** the National Geographic Institute , scale: 25.000.

**Cycling possibility:** This route is perfect for cycling but be careful with the cars you may find on the road.

ROUTE 7

**Rioturbio (10 metres):** from the urban area the main road emerges onto a byway that rises gradually near the river Rio Turbio, between pastureland, the indigenous and replanted trees. If you keep on walking you will get to a junction where you will turn right, afterwards cross the bridge.



**Bridge Bichurichas (40 metres) (km 2.4):** this construction is situated near the oak trees of Monte Corona. Once you have crossed it, you will go deeper into the forest. The gradient is moderate enabling you to thus you will be able to enjoy the beauty of this outstanding forest, which is notable for its proximity to the coast and its oak trees, beeches, chestnuts, hazels, holly trees and birches. After a while, you come across a picnic area and a junction.



**Junction (200 metres) (km 4.4):** fork right, descend until you get to another junction. Then take the tarmac road to the left towards the town of Caviades. On your way there is a beautiful hermitage made of sandstone and surrounded by a leisure area.

**Hermitage of San Antonio (185 metres) (km 5) (1h. 30'):** It lies between the trees in a slope that faces West. It is worthwhile to stop there just to enjoy its beauty. Go back to the junction in the kilometre 4.4, turn right and climb up the track that heads East. You will come to a crossroad, turn left between the pine trees and several scattered replanted breeches. Descend the gorge and then climb until you see the leisure area where there are some stone sculptures.

**Viewpoint Los pintores montañoses (245 m.) (km. 7,1) (2h. 10'):** This spot called Las Argayadas, was built in honour of the painters of the region. As it is located on a slope it has beautiful views of the gall oaks. Go uphill and fork left on the following junction, near the fire watchtower.

**Fire watchtower (280 metres) (km 7.8):** It is located in one of the top most hills of the forest. From there you can sight a more extensive area. Ignore the path that takes you to the watchtower. Instead, turn left and follow the tarmac road that descends between American oak trees. Eventually you get to a car park, follow straight upwards near the replanted larches, cyprresses, pines and chestnuts and continue straight ahead until the next junction. Soon you will see another hermitage on a slope.

**Hermitage of San Esteban (251 metres) (km 9.2) (2h. 50'):** From this viewpoint is possible to sight almost all the western coast, although some of the trees on the south partially block the sight. In an ancient viewpoint are indicated the most significant places. Return to the crossroad and turn left through a track that descends first between chesnuts and later on amongst pines and eucalyptus. You will soon see a path to your right that leads to Ruiseñada, descend to your left, ignoring all the secondary byways and you will come to a gap (156m) in an area surrounded by eucalyptus, turn right. After a while you get to a flatter surface that is connected to the road near the bridge on the marshland.

**The la Rabia lagoon (5 metres) (km 13.9) (3h. 50'):** after a few metres you leave the forest and reach the marshland, continue going left and soon you will get to the starting point.

**Rioturbio (10 metres) (km 15.4) (4 h. 15').**

## ROUTE 8. CYCLING ROUTE



Route 8 -This route helps you discover the most distinguished spots in the municipality. Most of them are part of Oyambre's natural reserve.

**Starting point:** Comillas (20 metres), from the square Plaza de Joaquín del Piélago, beside the municipal building.

**Length and estimated walk time:** 32.34 kilometres; a little more than 3 hours.

**Ups and downs:** 800 metres of climbs and descents.

**Difficulty:** low, it consists of gentle gradients and good tracks except for several stretches, which may be covered with mud. Gradients are steeper for the part that connects Rio del Mato with La Molina (km 18.60 a 8.80), as well as for the



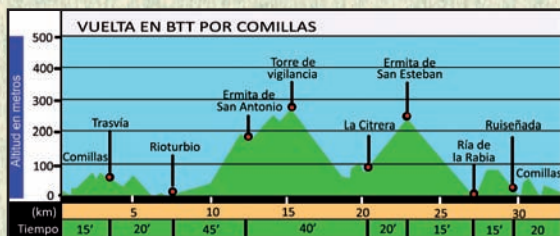
part that descends from El Pisu to El Riguero (km 30,70 a 31,10). Apart from that, there are tarmac byways in urban areas and roads with little traffic.

**Map reference:** the National Geographic Institute, scale 1:25.000, page 33-IV (Comillas) and 57-II (Cabezón de la Sal).

**Cycling possibility:** as it has been said, it is possible to do this route on a mountain bike. There are 11.10 kilometres of tarmac roads. A total of 34.3 kilometres divided into 5 stretches, and 2.76 kilometres of wide tracks divided likewise into 3 stretches, which make up 8.5 per cent in all.

## ROUTE 8

**Comillas's municipal building (km 0) (20 metres):** from the town centre take the road towards the beach. On your way you will find a sharp gradient to your left that takes you to an interesting Gothic construction.



**Comillas's cemetery (km 0.62) (25 metres):** this consists of a walled construction that once was the town's church. High up on one wall you will see the unmistakable statue of the Guardian angel, sculpted by Llimona. Turn right towards a roundabout. When you get there follow the roundabout until you come to the exit along the coast, then go uphill to Trasvía. Keep on the main road, passing the University and you will get to a building that once was the seaweed warehouse. Continue straight on and eventually you come up on a tarmac road near the hamlet of Trasvía, from where you will be able to see Oyambre.

**Bridge Bichurichas (Km 9.71) (40 metres):** this is a bridge situated amongst oak trees. Go uphill through a track that becomes steeper when it gets into the woods of oak trees, beeches, chestnuts, holly trees, hazels, birches, etc. After climbing for a while you will come across a leisure area and a junction.

**Turning for the hermitage of San Antonio (Km 11.76) (200 metres):** at the junction take the right hand fork that descends gradually. Ignore the first exit to Caviedes and you will reach a beautiful spot where is a building made of sandstone.

**Hermitage of San Antonio (Km 12.32) (185 metres) (1h. 20'):** it is situated in a slope that faces west and it is surrounded by a leisure area. If you return to take the same path, you will keep on climbing to your right until you get to a junction where you should fork left. Cross over a small valley and you will reach a spot where there are tables as well as sculptures.

**Viewpoint los Pintores Montañeses (Km 14.39) (245 metres):** this viewpoint was constructed in honour of all the painters in Cantabria. This spellbinding spot is the best viewpoint to sight the oak trees in the forest, which are not usually found so close to the sea. The track continues uphill and ends in a big field near a cabin and a big watchtower.

**Fire watchtower (Km 15.00) (280 metres):** you will pass near this watchtower. From there it is possible to get a more extensive view of the forest. Keep to your right and join the tarmac road. Do not follow this road or you would get to La Hayuela, instead take a track to your left.

**Turning for Ruiseñada (Km 15.65) (250 metres):** now you are descending towards a spot where the landscape is dominated by oak trees and chestnuts, but which



is less extensive than the wood near the stream Río Turbio. You will come to a replanted area, full of interesting species such as eucalyptus and pines characterised by their rapid growth. You will eventually get to the base of the forest where you will have to cross a bridge.

**Río del Mato (Km 18.30) (63 metres):** the valley is characterised by its karst features where the waters flow underground. Cross another bridge and continue uphill through a sharp gradient that becomes gentler as it joins the tarmac road to the left, which in turn leads to a new suburb.

**La Molina (Km 19.28) (110 metres):** ride past this suburb but do not enter it. When you get to a small shrine turn right, cross the riverbed and climb the slope in order to reach the next group of houses.

**La Citrera (km 19.96) (90 metres) (2h.):** just before the ancient school there are two turnings to your right. Take the first concrete road. There is a gradient that becomes easier as it passes between the meadows, and then you will come to a junction where you should keep to the left near the eucalyptus. Ignore secondary paths and when you come to a bigger junction take the left turning. After a plain stretch there is another crossroad. Turn right at the crossroad and immediately you will reach the hermitage on the slope.

**Hermitage of San Esteban (Km 22.59) (251 metres) (2 h. 20'):** This emblematic spot of Monte Corona offers you beautiful sights of the western coast. Besides, it is surrounded by several leisure areas. Return to the crossroads, take the path to the left towards La Citrera, but this time fork left on the following junction and descend through the extensive wood of eucalyptus. Ignore several secondary paths until you get to a bigger junction where you should keep right towards a plain near the marshland.

**Ría de la Rabia (Km 26.87) (10 metres) (2h. 35'):** before you reach the edge of the marshlands take the right track. It is a sharp climb that becomes easier as it passes the meadows. It will take you to a new suburb located on the top of a slope.

**Araos (Km 27.71) (85 m):** once you have reached the tarmac byway, climb the slope between the houses, which will take you to another suburb part of Ruiseñada.

**La Ventuca (Km 28.33) (85 metres):** If you ignore all the secondary turnings you will easily get to a group of houses. Keep on the main road until you get to the byway that runs near the base of the valley.

**Ruiseñada (Km 29.17) (40 metres) (2h. 50'):** When you get to this junction, turn left to leave behind the majestic church of San Adrián. You will descend between houses. Fork right to leave the main road.

**Turning for El Písgu (Km 29.57) (25 metres):** immediately cross the river Ensenada. It is a beautiful stretch which meanders between alders. Start to climb through a narrow byway between trees. You will pass by a spring called El Písgu to get to a house and an interesting hermitage.

**El Písgu (Km 30.46) (60 metres):** It is located beside the hermitage dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Leave the tarmac road to take a wide byway between bushes, ignoring the immediate tarmac road to the left. You will come to a gentle descent and then a steep climb, which you may find muddy. Continue uphill to your right towards Ruiseñada. After a sharp bend you come to the main road that leads to Comillas.

**El Riguero (Km 31.53) (35 metres):** now you just have to follow the main road amongst the houses to reach your starting point.

**Town Hall (Km 32.34) (20 metres) (3h. 10').**





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