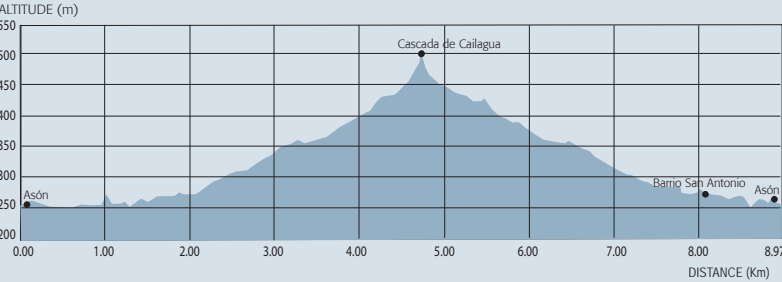


Route CAILAGUA. NACIMIENTO DEL ASÓN

CARTOGRAPHY
Cartography: Mapa Topográfico Nacional (IGN) Escala 1:25.000
Hoja 59-IV, Veguilla. Proyección UTM, Huso 30N.

Longitudinal profile of the route:



FACT SHEET

Duration	3,5 h	Cumulative loss (-)	327 m
Height gained	270 m	Horizontal distance	9 km
Height lost	270 m	Type of route	circular
Cumulative gain (+)	327 m	Type of ground	path/track
Nacimiento del Asón. Circuito de Cailagua			
Place names	UTM Coordinates		Altitude
Start and finish point:			
Asón village	30 T 450797 4787621		250 m
Cailagua waterfall	30 T 452193 4783718		520 m
Barrio San Antonio	30 T 451027 4786355		280 m

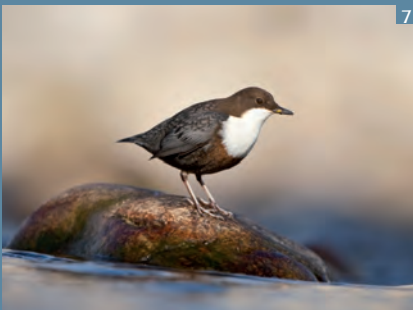
HABITATS

4020*	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> .
4030	European dry heaths.
6510	Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>).
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion roburipetraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>).
3240	Alpine rivers and their ligneous vegetation with <i>Salix elaeagnos</i> .
7220*	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>).
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the <i>Carpinion betuli</i> .
9260	<i>Castanea sativa</i> woods.

(*) Priority habitat: habitats in the European Union for which the European Council has a special responsibility due to their delicate state.
Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.



- 1.] Headwaters of the river Asón
- 2.] Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
- 3.] Common frog (*Rana temporaria*)
- 4.] Asón valley in the river's headwaters
- 5.] Typical bank environment in the upper basin of the Asón
- 6.] Peacock butterfly (*Inachis io*)
- 7.] White-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)
- 8.] Cailagua waterfall



Itinerary DESCRIPTION

The route of the Cascada (waterfall) is an opportunity to enjoy the views and the environment that the upper basin of the river Asón has to offer. The route travels through the fluvial bank from the village of Asón, leaving behind first, the area of San Antonio, and to the right of the path, the deep **Canal de Bolacías**, which gives access to the high cabins of the bottom of **Porracolina**: Sotombo, and El Chumino.

From an environmental point of view, it is obvious how two species so conflicting, such as beech and holm oak, share the environmental niche in a riparian forest. The aridity of the soil which adds the calcareous substratum is responsible for this phenomenon which not often repeats in our region. The most unexpected species is perhaps the holm oak. It appears in rocky areas and also on the edges of riparian forests, unmistakable due to its dark colour, always green, with the leaf slightly leathery and many nervures.

Next to the river, the most common species are hawthorn, ash, black alder, narrow leaf willows, holly, hazel, mountain elm or lime trees.

Man has left his mark on the layout of some groups of hazel, walnut or chesnut, whose fruits and wood were traditionally used in the surrounding rural communities. The peculiar **Huerto del Rey**, half way down the route, is reminiscent of times passed, when, during the 18th century, they wanted to adopt a forest rehabilitation policy which would help repair the damage caused by the frenetic activity of iron and steel factories and shipyards. The end is idyllic, at the bottom of the wonderful waterfall, which only reduces its flow in the dryest periods, and it provides humidity for a small group of beech trees which defy the unstable torrential atmosphere of the famous **nacimiento (source) del Asón**.

Significant SPECIES

• **Birds of prey:** Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Tawny owl (*Strix aluco*), Little owl (*Athene noctua*), Barn owl (*Tyto alba*).

• **Other birds:** Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), White-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*), Grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*), Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), Common blackbird (*Turdus merula*), Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*), Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), Long-tailed tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*).

• **Mammals:** Common genet (*Genetta genetta*), European badger (*Meles meles*), Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Beech marten (*Martes foina*), Least weasel (*Mustela nivalis*), Stoat (*Mustela erminea*), European polecat (*Mustela putorius*), Pyrenaen desman (*Galemys pyrenaicus*), Edible dormouse (*Glis glis*), Garden dormouse (*Eliomys quercinus*).

• **Amphibians:** Common toad (*Bufo bufo*), Common midwife toad (*Alytes obstetricans*), European tree frog (*Hyla arborea*), Common frog (*Rana temporaria*), Perez's frog (*Rana perezi*), Marbled newt (*Triturus marmoratus*).

• **Reptiles:** Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), Baskian viper (*Vipera seoanei*), Smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*), Western Three-Toed Skink (*Chalcides striatus*), Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), Viviparous lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*).

• **Invertebrates:** European freshwater crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), Rosalia longicorn (*Rosalia alpina*), European peacock (*Inachis io*).

[Walking routes throughout the Protected Natural Spaces of Cantabria]



Leaflets for public use: information and bookings
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Collados del Asón Natural Park
Site of Community Importance (SCI) Montaña Oriental
Site of Community Importance (SCI) Río Asón

RUTA DE CAILAGUA
Nacimiento del Asón (PR-S 014)

ROUTE 06