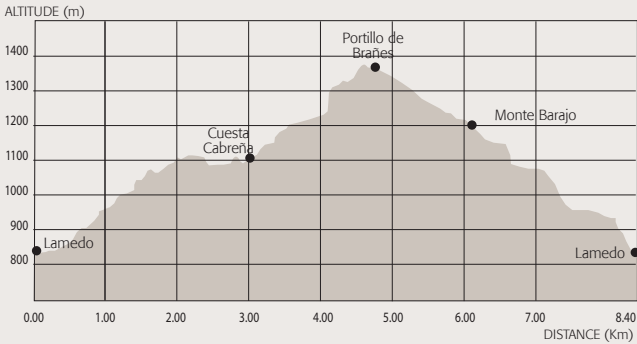


Route PORTILLO DE BRAÑES

CARTOGRAPHY
Cartography: Mapa Topográfico Nacional (IGN) Escala 1:25.000
Hoja 82-I Tudanca. Proyección UTM, Huso 30T.

Longitudinal profile of the route:



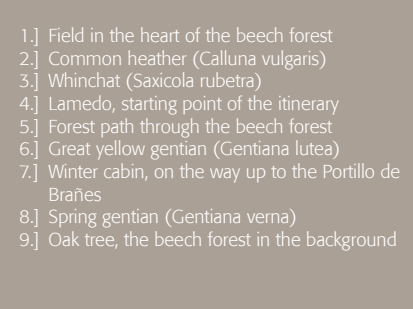
FACT SHEET

Duration	3,5 h	Cumulative loss (-)	562 m
Height gained	550 m	Horizontal distance	8,4 km
Height lost	550 m	Type of route	circular
Cumulative gain (+)	562 m	Type of ground	path/track
Portillo de Brañes			
Place names	UTM Coordinates		Altitude
Start and finish point:			
Lamedo	30 T 378425 4774292	840 m	
Cueta Cabreña	30 T 379702 4774616	1.100 m	
Portillo de Brañes	30 T 380102 4774885	1.367 m	
Monte Barajo	30 T 379048 4774591	1.200 m	

HABITATS

9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion roboripetraeae or Ilici-Fagenion).
9380	Forests of Ilex aquifolium.
9230	Galicio-Portuguese oak woods with Quercus robur and Quercus pyrenaica.
4030	European dry heaths.
8230	Siliceous rock with pioneer vegetation of the Sedo-Scleranthion or of the Sedo albi-Veronicion dillenii vegetation.

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.



Itinerary Description

The suggested route enters the **Valderrodies valley**, shaped by a tributary of the river Bullón, the river Lamedo. In the village of the same name (Lamedo), at an altitude of 900 metres, begins this circular route which ascends until the **Portillo de Brañes**, a wide pasture that borders the Polaciones valley offering a panoramic view of the Lebaniegan region, at the foot of the **Sierra de Peña Sagra**. Leaving the village behind, the path enters a beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and oak forest (*Quercus pyrenaica*). As we ascend slowly, we can enjoy the panoramic view of the **eastern range of the Picos de Europa** and it is possible to note the contrast between the Saint Andrew's holm oaks , which cover the bottom of the valley, and the thick bush that covers the ascent.

Beech becomes the only main player as we gain height. The mature beech is shown in all its splendour in **mount Cuesta Cabreña**. This habitat is part of the SCI Liébana and includes some old holly plants (*Ilex aquifolium*). Reaching the highest point of the route, the Portillo de Brañes at 1,350 metres, we find a wide pasture that leads towards Polaciones. From the Portillo de Brañes there is a good panoramic view of the Sierra de Peña Sagra (2,047 metres) and some of the peaks which surround Liébana: Curavacas (2,520 metres), Peña Prieta (2,536 metres), Coriscao (2,234 metres), as well as the central and eastern ranges of the Picos de Europa.

The descent towards Lamedo is more direct, travelling through **Monte Barajo**, a mature oak forest, where it isn't difficult to hear the middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*), a woodpecker that lives in this kind of forest, very common in Liébana, but not so much in the Iberian peninsula as a whole.



- **Birds of prey:** Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*), Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Booted eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*), Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*).
- **Other birds:** Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*), Eurasian skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Grey partridge (*Pedix pedix*), Northern wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), Black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*), Middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*), Cantabrian Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus cantabricus*), Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*), Red-legged partridge (*Alectoris rufa*).
- **Mammals:** Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), Greater white-toothed shrew (*Crocidura russula*), European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), Edible dormouse (*Glis glis*), Broom hare (*Lepus castroviejoi*), European snow vole (*Chionomys nivalis*), Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*).
- **Amphibians:** Fire salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*).
- **Reptiles:** Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), Large Psammomorphus (*Psammomorphus algirus*), Viviparous lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*).
- **Invertebrates:** Dusky large blue (*Maculinea nausithous*).



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