

# Route

## VALLEJO RUCÁNDANO

**CARTOGRAPHY**  
Cartografía: Mapa Topográfico Nacional (IGN) Escala 1:25.000  
Hoja 83-IV La Costana. Proyección UTM, Huso 30N.

Longitudinal profile of the route:



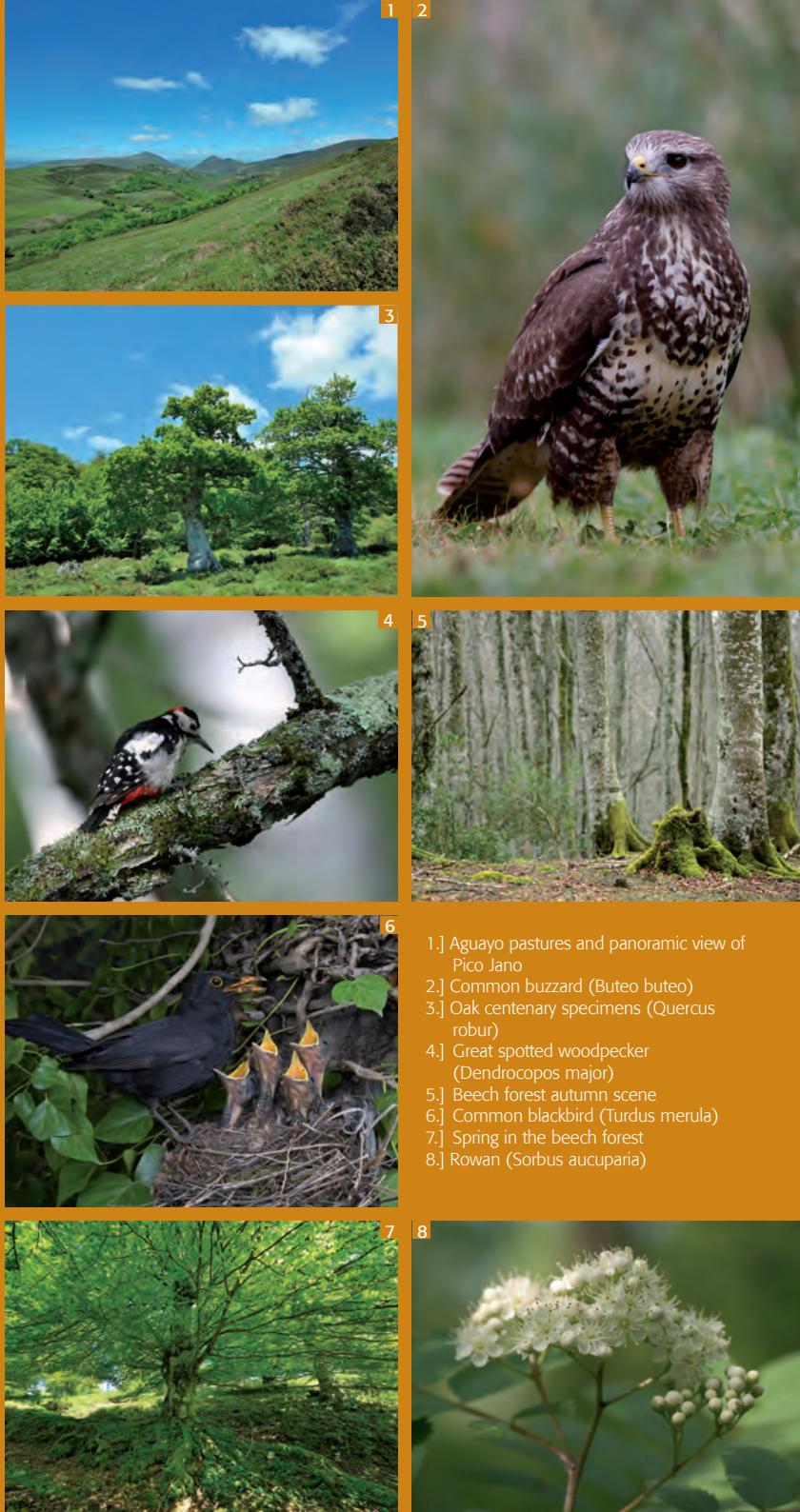
### FACT SHEET

Duration	5 h	Cumulative loss (-)	290 m
Height gained	250 m	Horizontal distance	13 km
Height lost	250 m	Type of route	circular
Cumulative gain (+)	285 m	Type of ground	path/track
<b>Vallejo Rucándezano</b>			
Place names	UTM Coordinates	Altitude	
Starting and finishing point:			
Lanchares	30 T 420853 4765380	871 m	
Vallejo Rucándezano	30 T 419315 4767832	850 m	
Campo de Los Tablones	30 T 418690 4768757	850 m	
Collado Gualateja	30 T 421395 4769092	1.094 m	
Pista del Mediajo	30 T 421511 4767875	910 m	

### HABITATS

4030	Brezales y matorrales: <i>Erica vagans</i> , <i>Erica cinerea</i> , <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> , tojo ( <i>Ulex europaeus</i> ).
9120	Hayedos acidófilos atlánticos con sotobosque de <i>Ilex</i> y a veces de <i>Taxus</i> ( <i>Quercion robori-petraeae ou Ilici-fagenion</i> ).
6230	Formaciones herbosas con <i>Nardus</i> , con numerosas especies, sobre sustratos silíceos.
6510	Prados pobres de siega de baja altitud: <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> , <i>Centaurea jacea</i> , <i>Trifolium repens</i> .
7110	Turberas ácidas de esfagnos. Turberas altas activas.

Habitats Directive 92/43/CEE from 21 May 1992, relative to the preservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora.



## Itinerary DESCRIPTION

The starting point of the route is marked by a spectacular oak tree, which is included in the Open Inventory of Peculiar Trees of Cantabria, at the entrance of Lanchares. In this route the visitor will discover the environment in the area dividing the river Ebro and the river Besaya, through Cinco Villas, in San Miguel de Aguayo, and Campoo de Yuso, on the Northern side of the **Ebro reservoir**.

The track goes through the high part of the village and leads to the beech forest of La Mina. The panoramic view of the reservoir is the highlight of the first stretch. The "wide plain" of the **rivers Ebro and Virga** which were mentioned in documents dated before 1947, the year in which the Arroyo dam was constructed, has since then housed a 540 million m<sup>3</sup> reservoir. Despite its artificial origins, it is a fantastic wetland for aquatic birds, due to its favourable topography, mild slopes, shallowness, irregular shores and the reduced activity typical of a rural environment. The natural, environmental and ornithologic values of the area lead to its naming as a Refugio Nacional de Aves Acuáticas (National Aquatic Birds Sanctuary) in 1983, in the location which now overlaps the Red Natura 2000, the SPA "**Embalse del Ebro**" and the SCI "**Río y Embalse del Ebro**".

The declaration as an SPA is based on the presence of at least ten bird species included in Annex I of the Council Directive, and it is also justified due to the importance of the wetland for reproduction purposes in aquatic birds, such as the gadwall and the great crested grebe, which nest in it, and the role it plays in migration and wintering periods for many species, including some non-aquatic birds.

After the beech forest we walk through an unusual group of hazels along the creek through the narrow **vallejo Rucándezano**. The pastures from the headwaters of Alsa allow for a wide panoramic view of the **Aguayo valley**. The path then leads to the forestry tops of the Mojón valley until the Collado Gualateja, which is a hill facing the Mediterranean side. During the descent we find deciduous forest. After crossing the **Lanchares creek** and walking on a stretch of the Mediajo Frio track, we return to our starting point in the comfields of Lanchares.



## Significant SPECIES

**Aquatic birds:** Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), Little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Caspian gull (*Larus cachinnans*), Little ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*).

**Birds of prey:** Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Booted eagle (*Hieraetus pennatus*), Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Red kite (*Milvus milvus*), Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Barn owl (*Tyto alba*), Little owl (*Athene noctua*).

**Other birds:** Eurasian jay (*Corvus glandarius*), Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Woodchat shrike (*Lanius senator*), Great tit (*Parus major*), Marsh tit (*Parus palustris*), Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*), Eurasian skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Common house martin (*Delichon urbica*), Yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*), White-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*), Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), Black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*), Dartford warbler (*Sylvia undata*), Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*).

**Mammals:** Stoat (*Mustela erminea*), Beech Marten (*Martes foina*), European pine marten (*Martes martes*), Least weasel (*Mustela nivalis*), European otter (*Lutra lutra*), Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*).

**Amphibians:** Common midwife toad (*Alytes obstetricans*), Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), Iberian frog (*Rana iberica*), Common frog (*Rana temporaria*), European tree frog (*Hyla arborea*), Fire salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*), Alpine newt (*Mesotriton alpestris*), Palmate newt (*Triturus helveticus*), Marbled newt (*Triturus marmoratus*).

**Reptiles:** Iberian emerald lizard (*Lacerta schreiberi*), European green lizard (*Lacerta viridis*), Common wall lizard (*Podarcis muralis*), Baskian viper (*Vipera seoanei*), Smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*), Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*).

**Invertebrates:** Southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*), Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), Quimper snail (*Elona quimperiana*), Marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), European freshwater crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*).

**Fish:** Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), Bermejuela (*Chondrostoma arcasii*), Freshwater blenny (*Salaria fluviatilis*).

## [Walking routes throughout the Protected Natural Spaces of Cantabria]



Vallejo Rucández

Start of the route

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Special Protection Area for Birds  
(SPA) Embalse del Ebro

ROUTE VALLEJO RUCÁNDANO  
(PR-S.32)

ROUTE 17

[Walking routes throughout the Protected Natural Spaces of Cantabria]