

Picos de Europa

The Cantabrian Mountains extend for some 300km in North Spain, running parallel to the north coast. The highest parts are in the central Picos de Europa range – and this is a National Park. There are few roads through this barrier between the north coast and central Spain.

Our visits have generally been a short prelude before continuing to other parts of Spain, or to France. Several stays have been at Cervera de Pisuerga, where there is a wonderfully situated Parador. Cervera de Pisuerga is on the south side of the mountains – so routes from the north are not straightforward. But one is then well placed for onward travel to the east and south.



On our first visit we took the dramatic, but slow road up the valley of the river Deva to the town of Potes in the heart of the mountains, and then onward to Cervera de Pisuerga. Not far from Potes is the remote village of Aniezo from where we walked on another occasion.

At other times we took the motorway due south from Torrelavega and then travelled east to Cervera de Pisuerga. The Parador has a commanding position overlooking the Embalse de Ruesga – an exceptional view overlooking the walks around the lake.



And there is another splendid route through the mountains. One starts further west at Canga de Onis where there is another Parador. While there, one can visit Covadonga and the Covadonga Lakes up a dead-end valley. But heading south is the through road to Leon across the mountains. At Riano in the heart of the mountains a turn off eventually leads to Cervera de Pisuerga

