



Montaña Palentina

*Coordinates of
Light in a Landscape*

This project is part of the **Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan — Funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU, Component 14** “Plan for the modernization and competitiveness of the tourism sector”, Investment 1 “Transformation of the tourism model towards sustainability” and Submeasure 2 “Tourism Sustainability Plans in Destinations”.

As part of this program, the **Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport of the Regional Government of Castilla y León** awarded the Palencia Provincial Council a direct grant, through the Order of 5 July 2022 (BDNS 638886), for the execution of the project “**Tourism Sustainability Plan in Destination for Montaña Palentina**”, included in the **Extraordinary Program of Tourism Sustainability in Destinations 2021-2023**, whose budget distribution was approved by Resolution of 4 January 2022, of the Secretary of State for Tourism.

The objective of this aid is to undertake transformative actions in the tourism sector in the areas of green transition, digital transition and improvement of tourism competitiveness.

This action is integrated into **Action 16 “Co-creation and promotion of tourist products”** of **Programmatic Axis 04 “Competitiveness”** of said Plan, as well as in Strategic Measure 26 “Tourism Sustainability Strategy” of the **Action Plan of the Palencia Rural Agenda (ARP) against the Demographic Challenge of the Palencia Provincial Council**, approved by the Plenary Session of the Provincial Council on 29 August 2022.

Edición:

Diputación de Palencia - Servicio de Turismo.

Fotografías y autoría de la exposición:

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Redacción, coordinación y proyecto editorial:

Diputación de Palencia.

Diseño y maquetación:

Herederos de Julio Silvano Melanio S.L.

Impresión:

Imprenta MUNDO.

Depósito Legal:

DL P 30-2026

Año de edición:

2026

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Introduction

They say that one day, while climbing one of the peaks of Montaña Palentina, the photographer **Piedad Isla**, a native of Cervera and a essential reference in the way these mountains have been seen and portrayed, found herself trapped along with her husband in a sudden fog. They were walking without being able to see more than a few steps ahead, guided only by intuition and that intimate knowledge of the territory that only those who love it possess. When the fog finally lifted and the landscape revealed itself once again, she felt — as she herself recounted — *that she had experienced a transformation: she understood that we are all part of nature.*

This simple yet profound reflection is what gives meaning to this publication.

Montaña Palentina is not just a place you pass through, it is something you experience, listen to and inhabited. Its lines, its lights and its silences shape the experience of those who venture into it, just as they shaped the work of photographers like Piedad Isla and, today, that of Juan PIXELECTA, author of the images that accompany this guide. The purpose of this publication is precisely to continue that dialogue: to build a bridge between the artistic gaze and the traveller's experience, between contemplation and discovery.

This guide is not intended to be an exhaustive manual or a technical description of routes and ascents. Readers will not find detailed tracks, topographic details, timetables or full itineraries here. Montaña Palentina is a space that requires respect and preparation, and these pages do not seek to replace the resources of mountain guides or specialized services.

Its purpose is different: to offer a first approach, an entry point that allows visitors to orient themselves within the landscape, to recognize from which places the photographs in the exhibition were taken and to understand how its valleys, rivers and peaks relate to each other. The coordinates and access points included here are intended only to guide and suggest, not to instruct. Each reader, each traveller, will decide how far they wish to go, how they want to walk and what pace they wish to follow.

In a world that moves so fast, this guide proposes pausing for a moment, lifting one's gaze and allowing the landscape to speak. Each photograph is a fragment of the territory, but also a fragment of time, an invitation to contemplate the mountain in its purest state: sometimes wrapped in mist, other times bathed in the golden light of dawn, others covered in snow or tinged with the ochres of autumn. Those who look closely will notice in these images something more than mountains: they will see the memory of the villages, traditional uses, the way human life has intertwined with these lands for centuries.

Montaña Palentina is a place of origins: where rivers, ecosystems, stories and paths begin. With this guide, the Palencia Provincial Council seeks to bring this natural and cultural heritage closer to those who visit the exhibition in other provinces and territories, awakening curiosity and the desire to know firsthand the places shown here. In a territory that combines wild nature, towns full of authenticity and an atmosphere that invites introspection, each journey becomes an opportunity to rediscover the relationship between human beings and their environment.

Just as Piedad Isla felt, amid the fog, that she was part of nature, we hope that these pages allow the reader to experience a similar sensation: that of understanding that the landscape is not a distant backdrop, but a shared, living space where deeply connected to. May these images and suggested paths mark the beginning of a careful, respectful and conscious approach to one of the most unique natural gems in northern Spain.

Montaña Palentina has always known how to wait for those who come to it. It only asks that whoever approaches it does so with attentive eyes, an open spirit and the willingness to let themselves be transformed, even if only for a moment, by the beauty of the territory.



Juan PIXELECTA

Author's Note

Montaña Palentina is alive — or at least that is how I feel every time I go there, exploring in an improvised way wherever the weather forecast from the day before suggests.

I feel that Montaña Palentina has its own personality. To me, it is beautiful in every season of the year, although, as a photographer, I know that at times it seems to ignore those who walk through it, reluctant to reveal its charms. At other times I sense it as introverted: it offers treasures, yes, but only to those who know how to stop, observe and be truly present. And then often it shows itself proud, playful and self-assured, so much so that photographing it almost becomes secondary, because it seeks to seduce you effortlessly in harmony with the light, atmosphere and setting.

With this selection of pure landscape photographs, I want to tell anyone who look at them: Do you see? This is our land — and perhaps more than what you expected. They are images that condense many of the most significant wonders of the Natural Park, won through stubborn patience, in unique moments of light and colour.

For me, beyond the evident joy of feeling connected with nature, capturing the moment is a challenge that I deeply enjoy and that I hope to continue enjoying for many years to come. Will you join me?

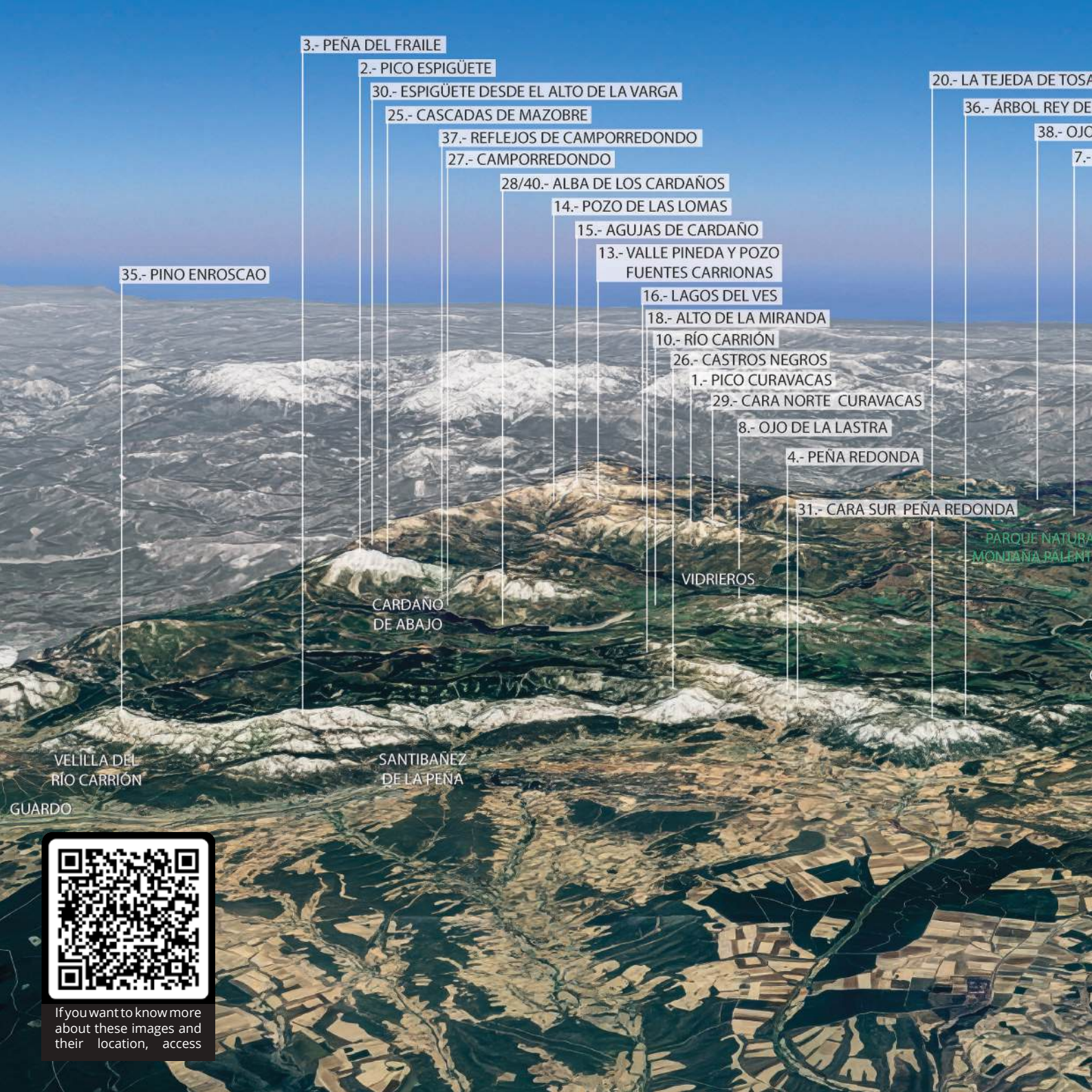
Our Natural Park is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Twenty-five years in which, discreetly and steadily, it has awakened the curiosity of those who, without looking for paradise, unexpectedly find it; It has sparked the interest of everyone seeking a place to escape from everyday life.

Through these photographs I invite the viewer, whether from northern Palencia or elsewhere, to discover our mountain: a territory that, without fanfare, has managed to earn a permanent place in the hearts of those who have walked, gazed upon and breathed it in.





Photographic Catalogue



3.- PEÑA DEL FRAILE

2.- PICO ESPIGÜETE

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7.-

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CARDAÑO
DE ABAJO

VIDRIEROS

PARQUE NATURAL
MONTAÑA PALENT

VELILLA DEL
RÍO CARRIÓN

SANTIBAÑEZ
DE LA PEÑA

GUARDO



If you want to know more
about these images and
their location, access

ANDE

TOSANDE

DE CALOCA

PEÑA TREMAYA

39.- MINA DE CARRACEDO

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19.- RIBERO PINTADO

5/32.- PEÑALABRA

6.- SINCLINAL DE LA VERDIANA

34.- LA VERDIANA

17.- FUENTE DEL COBRE

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11.- RÍO RUBAGÓN

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INA

SIERRA DE HUIJAR

BRAÑOSERA

SERVERA DE
PISUERGA

BARRUELO DE
SANTULLÁN

AGUILAR DE
CAMPOO



1.- CURAVACAS PEAK

Together with its neighbouring summit, Espigüete, Curavacas is considered one of the highest peaks in Montaña Palentina. 2,524 m.



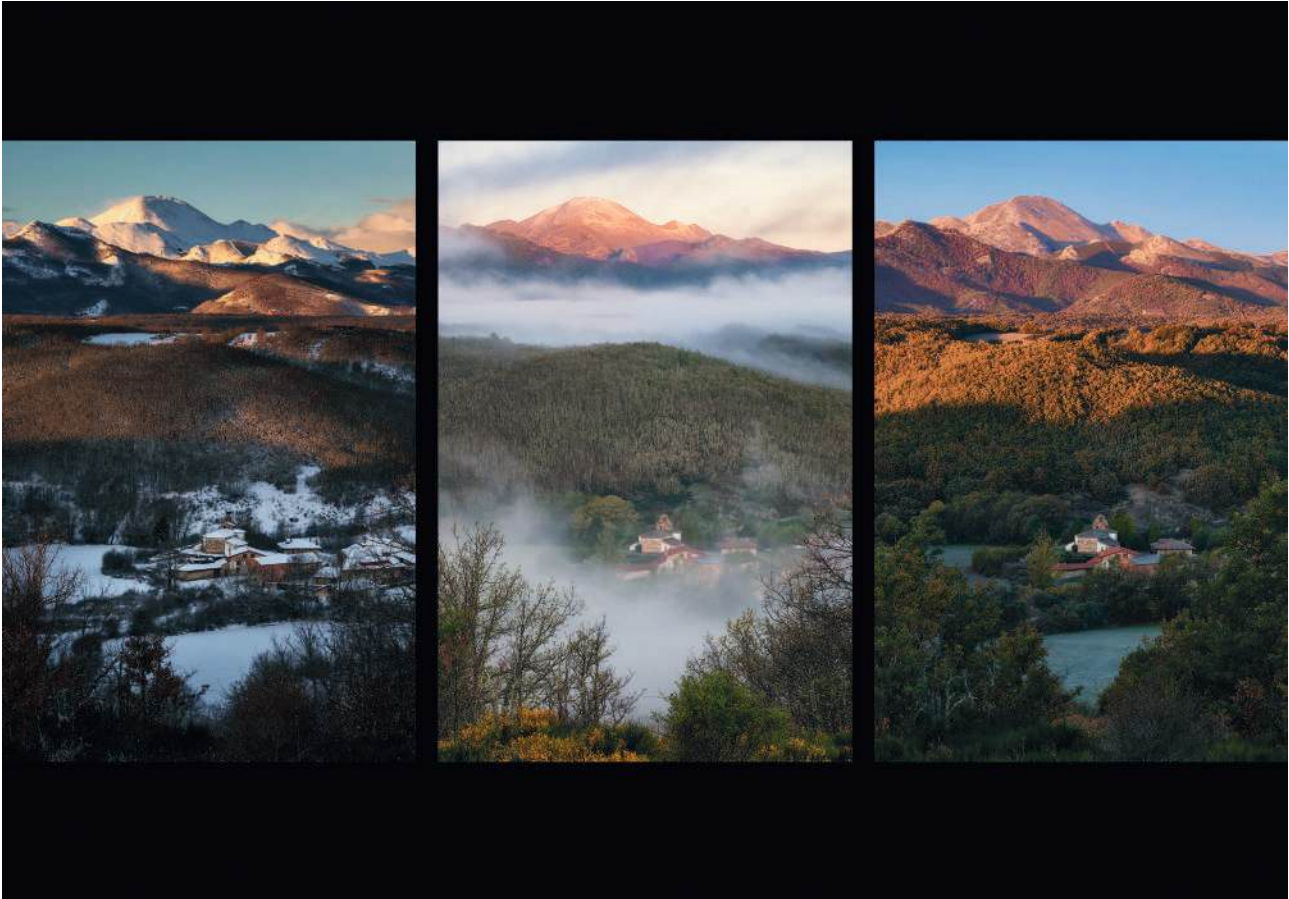
2.- ESPIGÜETE PEAK

This singular limestone massif, rising to 2,450 m, greets visitors arriving from León.



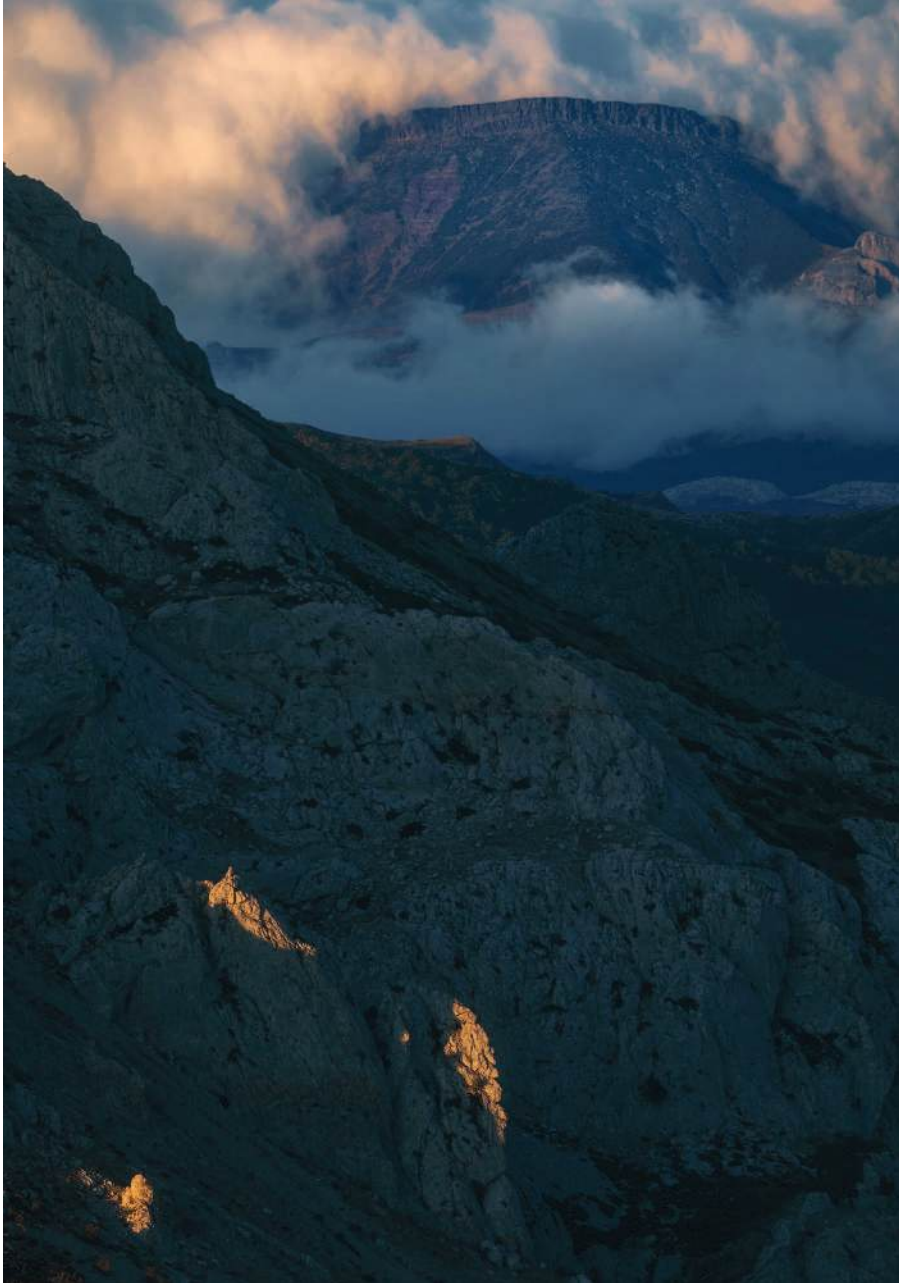
3.- FRAILE PEAK (PEÑA DEL FRAILE)

Above Aviñante de la Peña, the summit of Peña del Fraile rises to 2,001 m, its upper slopes lit by the sun.



4.- REDONDA PEAK (PEÑA REDONDA)

This rounded summit rises above the plain of Castilla y León.





Previous page: 5.- PEÑALABRA

An emblematic peak that welcomes us when coming from the Picos de Europa, with its 2,018 m.

6.- VERDIANA SYNCLINE (SINCLINAL DE LA VERDIANA)

A singular geological formation located bordering the Peñalabra mountain range.



7.- TREMAYA PEAK (PEÑA TREMAYA)

This pyramidal peak gives San Salvador de Cantamuda, the capital of La Pernía, much of its distinctive character.



8.- EYE OF LA LASTRA / LA LASTRA ARCH (OJO DE LA LASTRA)

Spectacular natural stone arch located at the foot of Santa Lucía Peak (Peña Santa Lucía).



9.- PISUERGA RIVER (RÍO PISUERGA)

The Pisuerga is the main river flowing through the central part of the Natural Park.

Next page: 10.- CARRIÓN RIVER (RÍO CARRIÓN)

In the first kilometres of its course, the Carrión flows around the Curavacas massif before continuing through the province of Palencia to join the Pisuerga.







Previous page: 11.- RUBAGÓN RIVER (RÍO RUBAGÓN)

Watering the towns of Brañosera and Barruelo, this river encloses vestiges of human activity as ancient as the making of mill wheels.

12.- CAMESA RIVER (RÍO CAMESA)

A bucolic river whose reddish rocks give it a very singular and different appearance from other rivers in Montaña Palentina.



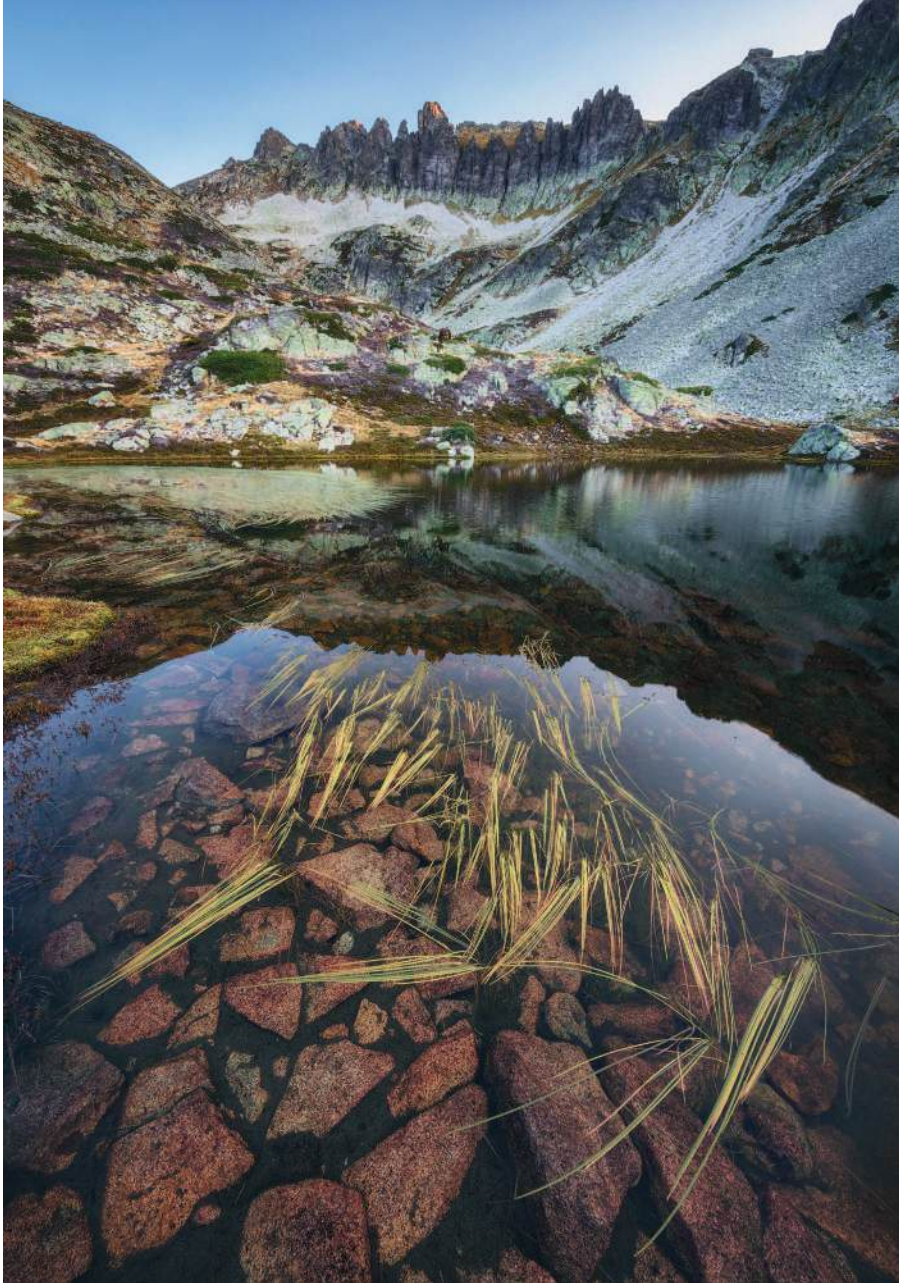
13.- PINEDA VALLEY (VALLE PINEDA) AND FUENTES CARRIONAS LAKE / POOL (POZO FUENTES CARRIONAS)

In the high mountains and climbing towards Tres Provincias Peak (Pico Tres Provincias), we have magnificent views of the birthplace of the Carrión River (Río Carrión) flowing through Pineda Valley (Valle Pineda).



14.- LOMAS LAKE (POZO DE LAS LOMAS)

Nestled in the Fuentes Carrionas massif, this lake will delight all those seeking mountain nature.





Previous page: **15.- CARDAÑO NEEDLES (AGUJAS DE CARDAÑO)**

These striking rock formations rise above Pozo de las Lomas.

16.- VES LAKES (LAGOS DEL VES)

On the north face and between Hoya Continua Peak (Pico Hoya Continua) and Alto de la Curruquilla, these beautiful lagoons are sheltered near Curavacas Lake (Pozo Curavacas).



17.- COPPER SPRING (FUENTE DEL COBRE)

Officially, the Pisuerga River (Río Pisuerga) is born from this cave. Copper Spring (Fuente del Cobre) is one of the most recommended routes to experience Montaña Palentina.



18.- ALTO DE LA MIRANDA

A viewpoint offering sweeping views from Espigüete and Curavacas to the lands watered by the Pisuerga.



19.- PAINTED RIVERBANK (RIBERO PINTADO)

A beautiful natural wall where erosion and the fine layers of different minerals stand out after rain and in sunshine. The surroundings are wonderful.

Next page: 20.- TOSANDE YEW FOREST (LA TEJEDA DE TOSANDE)

One of the finest concentrations of ancient yew trees in the world. The yew — tree of life, steeped in myth and mystery — has long inspired tales of awe and superstition.





21.- RED TRAIL (SENDA DE LOS ROJOS)

A trail running along the boundary between Palencia and Cantabria through ever-changing landscapes: Montaña Palentina on one side and Picos de Europa on the other.



22.- GREAT OAK OF HERRERUELA (ROBLÓN DE HERRERUELA)

One more of the magnificent specimens of century-old oaks in Montaña Palentina, as can also be the Great Oak of Estalaya (Roblón de Estalaya) or the Great Oak of los Jugaderos (Roblón de los Jugaderos).





Previous page: **23.- MERINO POOL (POZO MERINO)**

The mouth of the Rubagón River (Río Rubagón) encloses a natural pool that is a small treasure for the senses.

24.- ROJADILLO BRIDGE (PUENTE ROJADILLO)

The singular and beautiful Camesa River is crossed by a Roman bridge of striking pastoral beauty.



25.- MAZOBRE WATERFALLS (CASCADAS DE MAZOBRE)

In the photo, we see one of the waterfalls, from a perspective that allows us to appreciate the north face of the mythical Espigüete at dawn.



26.- BLACK CRAGS

Home to vultures, in these formations the black and abrupt contrast of Black Craggs (Castros Negros) is striking against the white and smooth ridge from where the photograph was taken.



27.- CAMPORREDONDO

For unbeatable views, the Camporredondo Reservoir offers reflections of Espigüete near Cardaño de Abajo and, on the Triollo side, of Curavacas.

Next page: **28.- ALBA DE LOS CARDAÑOS**

From the village of Alba de los Cardaños to the viewpoint of the same name , the entire stretch in between is one of the most beautiful parts of the natural park.





29.- NORTH FACE OF CURAVACAS

The north face of Curavacas feels like an altogether different mountain. It is the most unknown, as it cannot be seen from any road and you have to make an effort to enjoy it.



30.- ESPIGÜETE FROM ALTO DE LA VARGA

From Alto de la Varga and towards Alto de la Miranda, we can enjoy a slender perspective of Espigüete Peak (Pico Espigüete) 2,450 m.



31.- SOUTH FACE OF PEÑA REDONDA

From Cervera to Guardo we travel alongside the first wall that rises and separates the plain of Castilla from Montaña Palentina. Peña Redonda is one of the most emblematic peaks of this natural wall.



32.- PEÑALABRA

One of the best viewpoints to see this emblematic peak and its mountain range up to Valdecebollas is located 1 km from the small village of El Campo.



33.- ABISMO PEAK (PEÑA ABISMO)

Magnificent views of Picos de Europa and the entire Montaña Palentina from Abismo Peak (Peña Abismo), except for one peak, since Espigüete remains hidden by Curavacas itself.



34.- LA VERDIANA

Here we see the side of La Verdiana that rises in the direction of Valdecebollas.
The steep rocky cuts recall the back of a dragon.





Previous page: 35.- **TWISTED PINE (PINO ENROSCAO)**

In the Velilla Pine Forest (Pinar de Velilla) there is a remarkable curiosity: a pine tree twisted in on itself.
A natural anomaly that well deserves to be contemplated.

36.- KING TREE OF TOSANDE (ÁRBOL REY DE TOSANDE)

In the mythical Tejada de Tosande, the king yew does not go unnoticed by anyone.
A magnificent specimen that is over 1,200 years old. A living dinosaur.



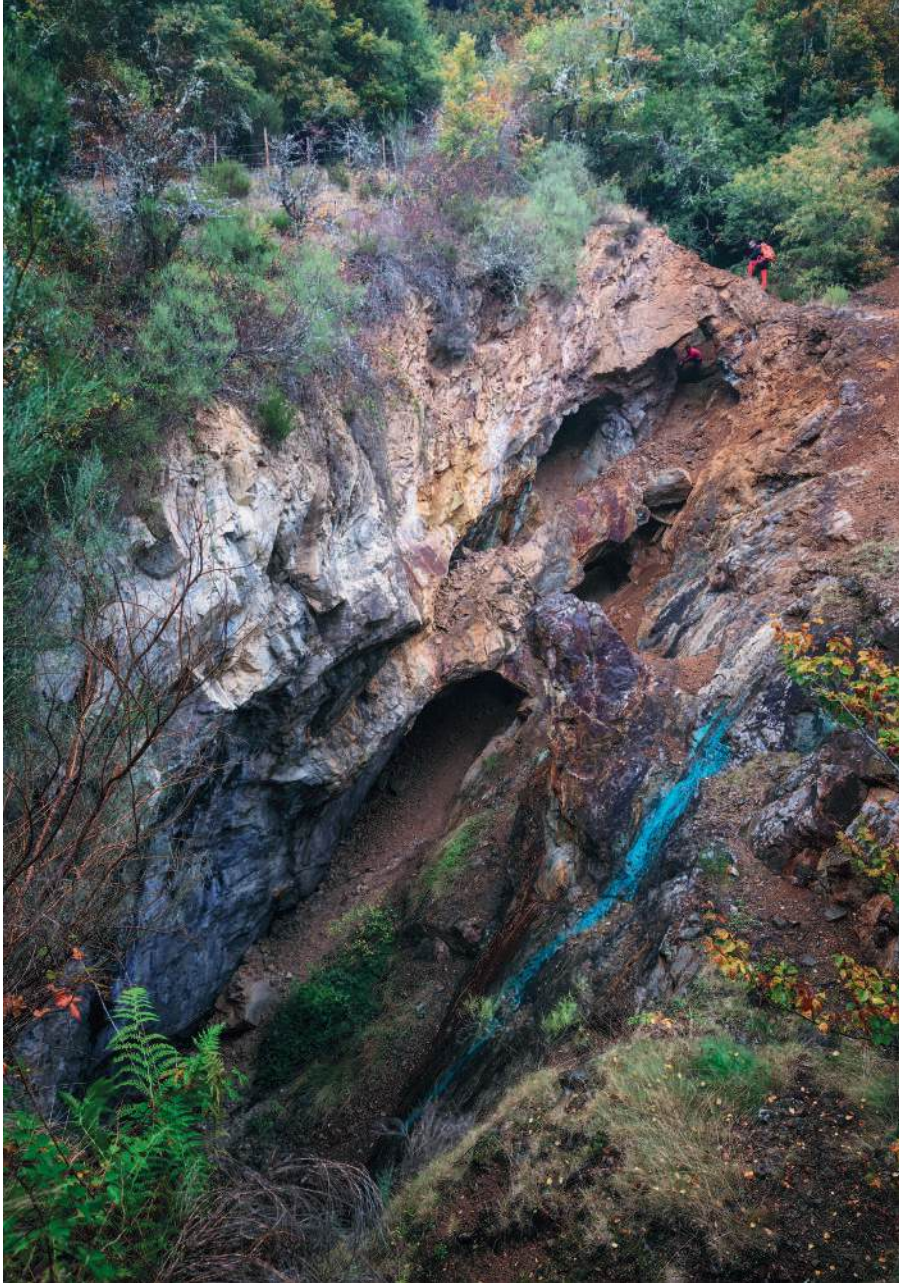
37.- REFLECTIONS OF CAMPORREDONDO

Once again , Camporredondo reveals new views, where the striking lines are a delight to the eyes.



38.- EYE OF CALOCA (OJO DE CALOCA)

Although it is also known as “el Bocarón”, this natural rock arch receives the name Eye of Caloca (Ojo de Caloca) because the Cantabrian village of that name can be seen down below in the centre of the arch.





Previous page: 39.- **CARRACEDO MINE (MINA DE CARRACEDO)**

In the middle of one of the most bucolic forests in the park, a chasm — which should not be approached — bears witness to the area's mining past and greets the visitor with an unexpected burst of colour.

40.- ALBA DE LOS CARDAÑOS

From the village of Alba de los Cardaños itself we already enjoy an inlet of water sheltered from the wind, where reflections are frequent for the delight of those who stop to admire them.

This publication accompanies the Montaña Palentina photography exhibition and offers an introduction to the región.

It is not a technical mountain guide or a route manual, but an invitation to discover the landscape through the emotion of looking and the curiosity of those encountering it for the first time.

