



Free sample from “The Port Run”

Your next road trip, already mapped out

This sample full day is taken from our Port Run driving tour guide.

Every route, stop and viewpoint has been carefully researched so you can simply enjoy the drive.

No endless searching. No second-guessing.
Just a great day, exactly as it should be.

If you like what you see, you can explore the full tour using the link below.

[The Driving Tour Shop](#)

As an extra thank you here's a 15% off code to use at checkout: Promo26

All the best, and travel safe.

Peter Handicker

Scroll down



Day 2: Santillana del Mar to Gijón

Summary:

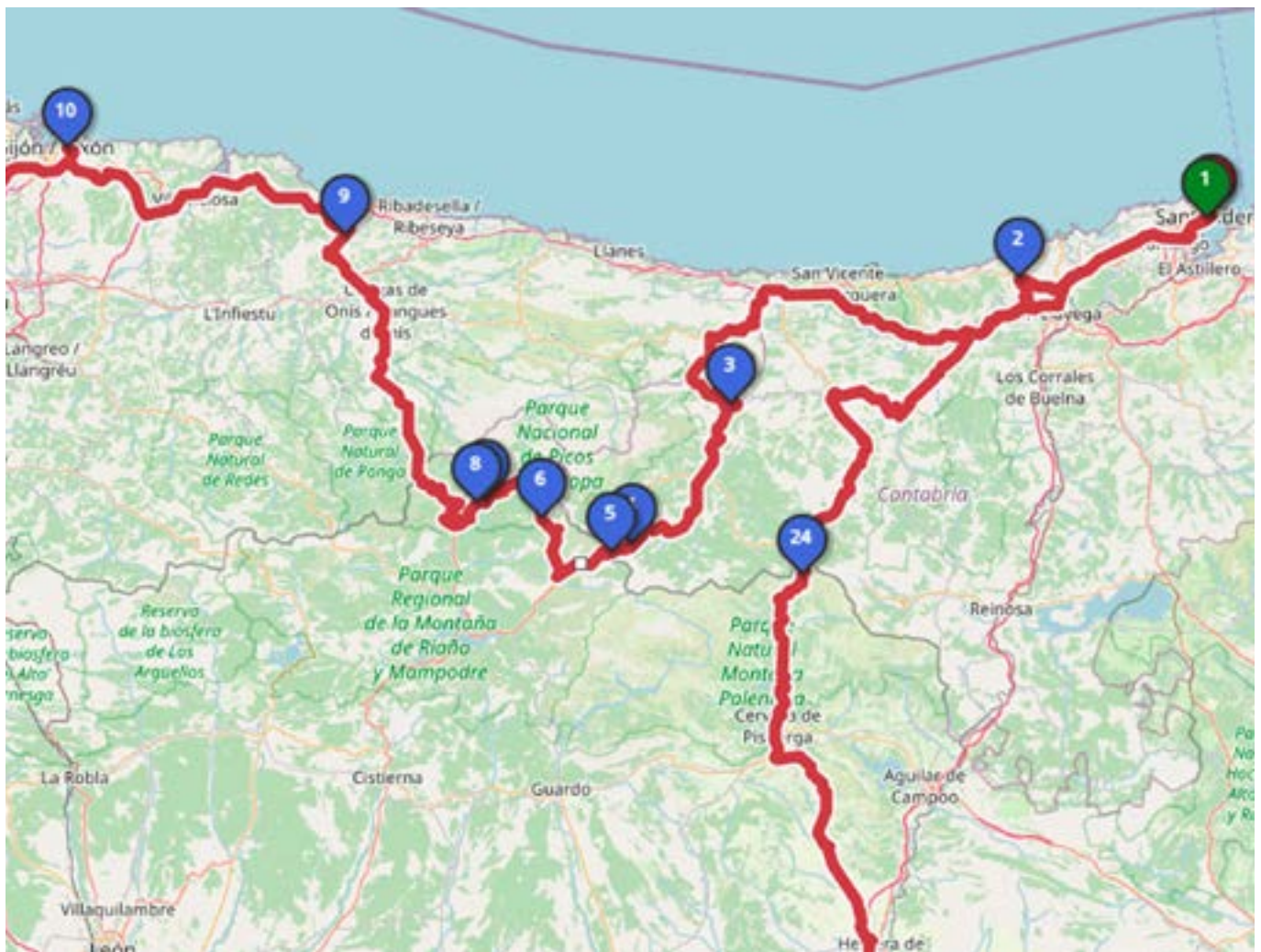
- Santillana del Mar (2)
- Liébana gorge
- Mirador De Santa Catalina, Saint Catherine Lookout (3)
- Mirador del Corzo - Port of San Glorio (4)
- Puerto de San Glorio (1,598m) (5)
- Puerto de Pandetrabe (1,562m) (6)
- Mirador De Valdeón (7)
- Puerto de Panderrueda (1,450m) (8)
- Beyos Gorge from Oseja de Sajambre to Sames
- Mirador del Fitu. Claimed to be “one of the best viewing platforms in Spain” (9)
- Gijón (10)

Note: A ‘Mirador’ is a viewing point and ‘Puerto de’ is a mountain pass.

Also, some of the Miradores are not well signposted so TDT recommends using Google Maps for navigation. As an additional challenge phone signal can be tricky through the Liébana gorge, so it’s best to set Mirador De Santa Catalina as the destination before leaving the motorway.

TDT has picked out some excellent Miradores on this route and there will others that you’ll see signposted along the way. As time allows TDT recommends exploring the Miradores as much as possible.

Driving distance and time (approx.): 168 miles, 5h 2m. Allow extra time for stops.



Day 2: Mirador De Santa Catalina



Leave Santillana del Mar and head west along the A-8 motorway for about 30 minutes to the N-621 exit signposted Picos de Europa. The road goes into the mountains through the impressive, and narrow, Liébana gorge.

A widely accepted origin for the Picos' name is that they were the first sight of Europe for ships arriving from the Americas. Known for their dramatic rock formations, diverse landscapes these mountains are also home to the brown bear and the Iberian wolf.

The Picos de Europa contain many of world's deepest caves, including Torca del Cerro (-1589 m), Sima de la Cornisa (-1507 m), Torca los Rebecos (-1255 m) and Pozo del Madejuno (-1252 m). Fortunately, in TDT's opinion, these caves are not open to the public.

Keep an eye out for a turning to Mirador De Santa Catalina (Saint Catherine Lookout) (3) as the Mirador is not well signposted from the main road. Look for the CA-282 which turns left over the River Deva in a very small hamlet called Le Hermida. The road climbs quickly through a series of hairpin corners before opening out onto a relatively open valley where the Mirador is signposted. Follow the signposts up a narrow road to the small parking area at the top. It's a short walk/scramble to get the view, and well worth it.



Day 2: The Picos de Europa



Our route now takes us round the east, south and west sides of the Picos de Europa National Park which is bounded on the east by the River Deva and on the west by the River Sella. The good news is that this means we'll drive some amazing roads. After Mirador De Santa Catalina (3) it's back down to Le Hermida and continue along heading south on the N-621.

There is a small visitor center at Sotama for the Picos de Europa which, possibly regretfully, TDT has not visited. On our recce the weather was stunning and so we continued to explore the outdoors. If you visit, we'll appreciate your feedback.



Day 2: The Picos de Europa

For this next section, the key points of interest are:

Mirador del Corzo (Roe Deer Viewpoint) (4)

Located in the port of San Glorio between Cantabria and León, the Corzo viewpoint stands out for the sculpture made by the Cantabrian sculptor Jesús Otero .

The views from this viewpoint range from the Vega de Liébana valley to the Peña Sagra and Peña Labra mountain ranges.

Puerto de San Glorio, 1,609m (5)

This pass separates Cantabria and Castile and León and is used as a corridor by the Cantabrian brown bear.

At Portilla de la Reine turn right onto the LE-2703 signposted Picos de Europa. The tarmac is not the best, but it works.

Puerto de Pandetrabe, 1,562m (6)

From this viewpoint, the photo on the right, you can see an impressive vista with the Massifs Occidental and the Massif Central of the Picos de Europa.

Mirador De Valdeón (7)

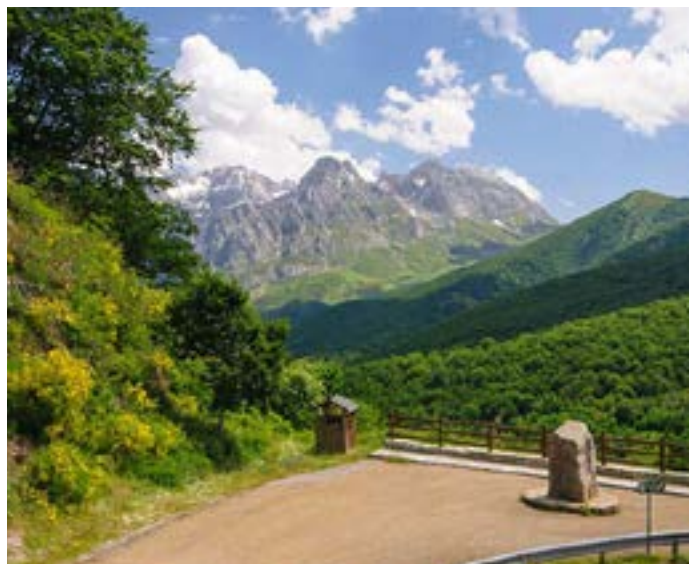
This viewpoint, the bottom photo on the right, offers unparalleled views of the Valdeón Valley framed by the Peaks.

Puerto de Panderrueda (1,450m) (8)

We now start to descend into the Valley of Valdeón.

Continue on to the N-625 and take the right turn towards Arriondas and drive through the Beyos Gorge from Oseja de Sajambre to Sames.

Set the satnav for Mirador del Fito and enjoy the views along the way.



Day 2: Mirador del Fito



The Mirador del Fito (9) is claimed to be “one of the best viewing platforms in Spain”, and it’s easy to see why.

At 1,100m above sea level the views are awe inspiring across the Cantabrian sea, lined with quiet sandy beaches and rocky coves. To the south you can see the spectacular peaks of the Picos de Europa National Park, including the idiosyncratic summit of Narnajo del Bulnes.

The platform was built to ensure that the view from the top would not be obscured by any trees. The extra few steps make all the difference.

Parking at the mirador is a little restricted, but there’s a small coffee shop, so make sure you have plenty of time to enjoy this extraordinary place.

The next leg is down the mountain to Gijón (10) and the hotel for this evening.



Day 2: Gijón

Gijón offers a vibrant blend of maritime charm, cultural richness, and natural beauty. This historic city provides something for every traveller, from its picturesque beaches and lively harbour to its atmospheric old town, Cimavilla.

Once a Roman settlement, Gijón has evolved into a modern city while retaining its traditional Asturian character.

The Baroque Revillagigedo Palace, which might appear medieval but isn't, serves as the striking backdrop to Marquis Square, a perfect spot to relax and enjoy some people watching and on route to this evenings restaurant suggestion. The square's al fresco terraces are an inviting setting for an afternoon drink.

Don't miss the sidra (cider) tree here, a tribute to the craft of sipping Asturias' famous fermented apple juice. It's a must-see landmark while in Gijón and can be found when walking to tonight's suggested restaurant.

Gijón is undergoing a transformation into an important tourist, university, commercial and R&D center.

In the main image below the suggested hotel is located on the left of the beach, and Cimavilla with the suggested restaurant is by the harbour in the bottom right.



Day 2: Suggested hotel

Abba Playa Gijón Hotel

Paseo del Doctor Fleming, 37, 33203 Gijón

The Abba Playa Gijón hotel is a very modern hotel located on the eastern end of the San Lorenzo beach with fabulous views over the bay. Just 28 mins walk along the bay is the old town area, Cimavilla, and tonight's restaurant.

The hotel also provides the all important private parking.



Day 2: Suggested restaurant



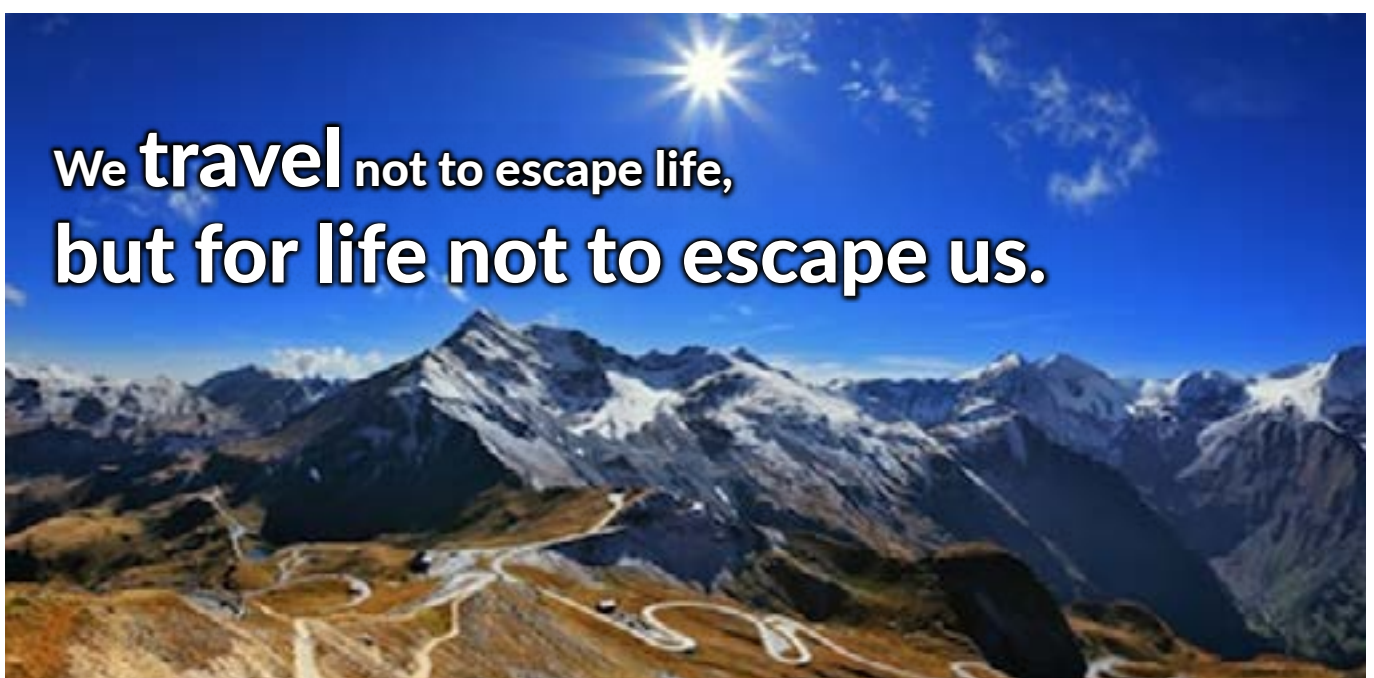
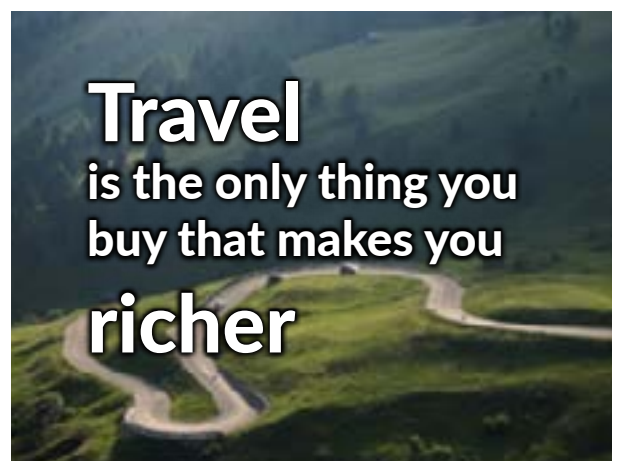
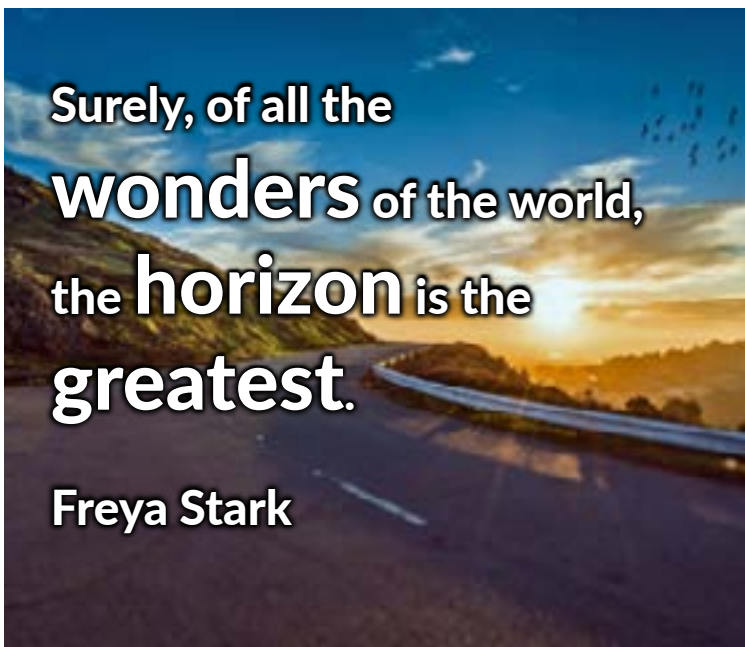
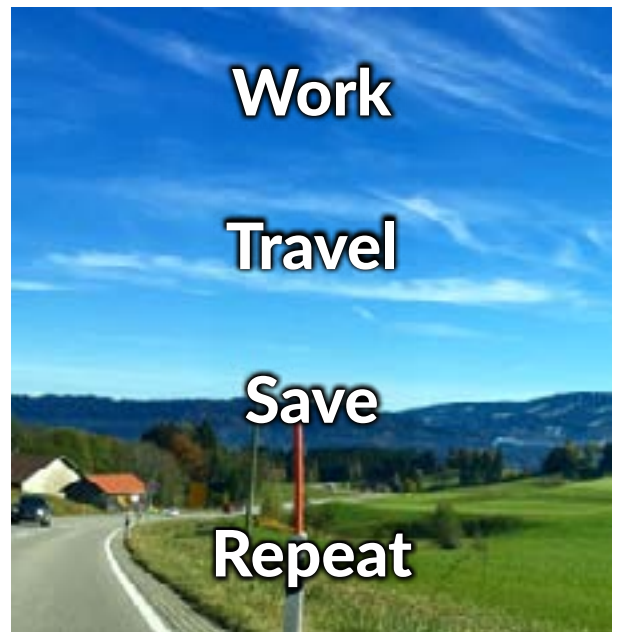
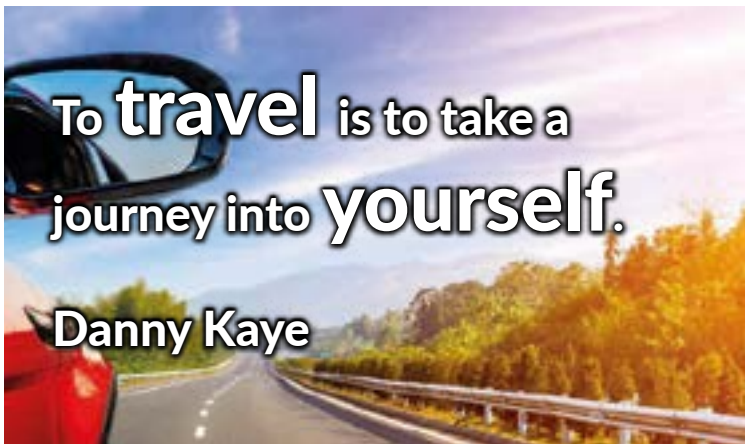
Restaurante Auga
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Restaurante Auga, situated on Gijón's picturesque waterfront, offers a modern and inspiring take on market cuisine, blending timeless classics with innovative, seasonally inspired creations.

The restaurant (2) is a short walk along the bay from the hotel (1).







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