

Walk to the Naranjo De Bulnes Refuge.

Walking in the mountains is not without risk. Check the weather and be aware that conditions can change suddenly, often with poor visibility from fog. Make sure you have a clear day for this walk. Also, if there is a lot of snow don't attempt this walk unless you are experienced in these conditions. Go well prepared with plenty of water, warm clothes, waterproofs, maps, etc. You undertake this walk entirely at your own risk and the owners of Casa Usborne accept no responsibility.

Google map link: <https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=210994469090786620781.0004de8cf3690ff063672&msa=0&ll=43.235261,-4.758453&spn=0.017118,0.045834>

Time: 5hrs approx. (from top car park)
Distance: 15kms round trip approx.
Type of Walk: There and back
Difficulty: Easy-Moderate
Way marking: Marked as PR-PNPE 21 with yellow/red and white flag marks.
Maps: Adrados Picos de Europa, Central and Eastern Massif map (should be available in the house).

Description: A relatively easy walk going high up into the mountains, reaching the base of the famous Naranjo De Bulnes (or Pico Urriellu), a large towering rock that is one of the highest points of the Picos. I have marked this walk on the google map in two stages, the first bit in red is where you leave the tarmac road and follow the track. This first bit is drivable, depending on how well your car can deal with pot holes. There is a car park at the top of the red section or you could leave your car in a pull-in on the way. The second section, marked in blue is the path. I would recommend starting here as it makes the walk much more manageable.

Directions: Car....
Take the AS-114 towards Arenas. Turn right towards Poncebos, Tielve and Sotres. About 1km before Sotres there is a sharp left hand bend. Take the track here turning right, ascending down towards a small (uninhabited) village in the valley. Turn right down through this village and up the other side, ascending steeply up a winding track. Continue as the track levels out, then gradually ascends again past a group of stone sheds on the right. At the top here is the car park.

Walk....
Follow the path up, looking for the way marking of the PR-PNPE towards the Naranjo de Bulnes (Pico Urriellu). It is well marked and you will probably see other people doing the same. The path continues for about 7km gradually ascending through dramatic mountain scenery. The last section climbs more steeply and you will suddenly see the refuge ahead. Refreshments and snacks can be bought here. It is possible to phone ahead and book lunch or a bed. Open March – December. (www.refugiodeurriellu.com)