

Walk from Desmués to Lago Ercina

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. Go well prepared with plenty of water and warm clothes, 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=210994469090786620781.0004de7a38a15f450f866&msa=0>

Time: 6 hrs approx.
Distance: 20kms total.
Ascent: 700m
Type of Walk: There and back.
Difficulty: Easy-Moderate
Way marking: Marked as the PR-PNPE 8 with regular white and yellow flag marks.
Map: Adrados Picos De Europa, Western Massif (El Cornion)

Description: Walk up to the lakes (avoiding driving round via Covadonga). Gradual ascent following a mountain track most of the way. One short section higher up which follows a stoney path. Initial part follows gorgeous green valley with native woodlands. Higher part ascends to over 1000m into rocky mountains with fabulous views looking north towards the coast.

Directions: By car....
From Casa Usborne take the AS-114 towards Cangas De Onis. After about 6 or 7km you will arrive in the village of Benis de Onis. As you leave the village you will notice a big barn structure on the left. Turn left after seeing this up a hill signposted to Gamoneo and Desmués. After passing Bobia de Arriba, park in a car park next to a church immediately on the left. (It is actually possible to drive the first section of the walk, as it follows a mountain track but not for timid drivers or anyone worried about pot holes or steep, narrow roads).
Walk....
From the car park walk down the road for a short way until you see a left hand turn just before the village of Desmués. Follow this track as it slowly ascends up the side of the valley for 5 km or so. Eventually after many twists and turns the track arrives at a view point from where you can look back over the foothills of the Picos to the north. Continue along the track which has now flattened out, shortly arriving at a small mountain car park. Continue up a stoney path which eventually heads down to a small green meadow. Up to the right the path continues and passes a small village (a group of mountain sheds) called Belbín. From here follow the track up, winding through higher pastures and rocky crags. It is easy to miss the short cut across to lake Ercina, so keep an eye out where the track flattens and takes a sharp right bend. Leave the track here, walking up to the left for 50m and you will suddenly see over the brow of the hill the lake and the bar in the distance. If it is foggy you will not be able to do this short cut if you are unfamiliar with the route, but you can follow the track and it will eventually lead you to the road and the lakes.