

## **Santa Gadea Alfoz**

### **“Walk around the jungle Hijedo: a natural millennial history”**

In the **western end of Merindades**, between the Ebro Reservoir and the South of Cantabria, extends the **“Alfoz of Santa Gadea”**.

The landscape contrast is permanent; from the autochthonous forests and the southern pinegroves it passes to the soft and green north plain wisely utilized as cattle pasture, economic engine of the region.

In the southern highlands we find Mount Hijedo, a place with complex orography. Declared SCI (Site of Community Interest) it has been included inside the Network NATURA 2000; a forest gem that extends in the Cantabrian valley of Valderredible, constituting one of the best preserved woodlands of the northern peninsula.

Along the north pastures extends the Ebro Reservoir, an important wetland, a National Reserve of aquatic birds, very interesting for bird watching. This reservoir and the nearby “Turbera Margarita” are two enclaves suitable for bird identification for both beginners and expert ornithologists.

These landscapes, their humid climate, the life forms and an intense cattle activity have conditioned the architecture model based on the Cantabrian mountain house that still today good examples can be found.

This perfect integration of landscape, culture and ornithology make this territory one of the most complete examples of the richest and best preserved Atlantic valley of our province.

This is a magical place where anyone can “get lost” among ancient yew forests..

### **Duration**

The customer chooses the length of the stay. **Two days would be ideal, but it can be shorted to a full day** tour adjusting to the visitor requirements.

### **Activities**

- Walk around rural areas
- Ornithological walk along the Ebro Reservoir
- Environmental Walk along Monte Hijedo