



La Encartada Fabrika-Museoa is a special place 3 km from the town centre in Balmaseda, on the road to Villasana de Mena. From 1892 to 1992 it was a textile mill, and it is now open as a museum. In its day it was a modern mill where wool was made into berets, caps, scarves, gloves and blankets. Almost all the machinery was shipped in from abroad, mainly from the UK. The entire mill ran on hydraulic power. Beside it the owners built houses for workers and a building that served as a chapel and school: on working days the workers' children were taught there and on Sundays and feast days everyone attended mass. The mill closed down after 100 years, but reopened as a museum where visitors can see at first hand what it was like to work here.

The complex is accessible to persons with reduced mobility (lifts, ramps, adapted toilet facilities, etc.). La Encartada Fabrika-Museoa also organises tours tailored to specific groups and persons with special needs. Visits for users of day-care centres and residences are planned to last 70-85 minutes. A dynamic guided tour is laid on that takes in various ambiances and types of explanation. Visitors go first to the house built for the mill owners, which is furnished in an early 20<sup>th</sup> century style, and then to the ground floor of the mill, where they are shown a video of reminiscences by former employees. Finally, groups take a brief guided tour of the actual factory floor.

The reduced admission fee is €3.50 per person, with free admission for carers and monitors accompanying special-needs groups. There is a large car-park adjacent to the complex, but by prior arrangement coaches carrying special-needs groups or persons with reduced mobility can drop passengers directly at the entrance.