

## 18. CULTURE

### 18.1 SPANISH CULTURE

**Link to the FECYT 'Practical Guide for Foreign Researchers in Spain 2006':**  
[http://www.eracareers.es/fecyt/guia/guiahtml21\\_en.jsp](http://www.eracareers.es/fecyt/guia/guiahtml21_en.jsp)

### 18.2 CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN CANTABRIA

The surrounding nature and the historical importance of many of the villages and buildings of Cantabria make this region very appealing for tourism, especially during the summer season. From the historical point of view, the region preserves important remains: i.e. Examples from the Prehistoric Era (the Altamira and Puente Viesgo Caves); Roman ruins such as those of Julióbriga, medieval settlements, such as Santillana del Mar; and several examples of the civil and religious architecture of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (The Palaces of Elsedo, Soñanes and Rañada, among others).

#### Sports

Cantabria is endowed with facilities for sports, Santander, the capital, being the best equipped municipality. Football pitches and the outdoor bowling areas (a local sport) are the most widespread sports facilities throughout the region. Several yacht harbours are located along the coast, providing facilities for sailing and surfing. In the mountainous areas, mountaineering, trekking and skiing can be practised. For the important sport events, Santander has the Palacio de Festivales and the "Racing" football ground, both of them located in the Sardinero area.

- **Useful Webs:**

Web: <http://www.deportes.unican.es/>

Web: <http://www.guiadecantabria.com/ocioyturismo/deporte.htm>

- **Information about sport events:**

Web: <http://www.santanderciudadviva.com/deporte.asp>

- **Active tourism**

Web: <http://www.cantabriarural.com/>

#### Theatres

The city of Santander offers several cultural and leisure facilities, among which the following are the most outstanding:

- **Palacio de Festivales (Festival Hall)**

It offers a wide programme of activities throughout the year: classical music concerts, opera, zarzuela, jazz, theatre, dance and other performing arts.

C/ Gamazo, s/n.

39004 Santander.

Phone: + 34 942 36 16 06

Web: <http://www.palaciofestivales.com>

- **Centro cultural Caja Cantabria (Cultural centre)**

C/ Tantín, 25.  
39001 Santander.  
Phone: + 34 942 20 43 00  
Web: <http://obrasocial.cajacantabria.com/indexProgrammea.asp>

- **Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones**

Located in the *Sardinero* area, many events take place here every year.

### **Museums, Libraries and other places of interest**

- **Bay of Biscay Maritime Museum**

C/ San Martín de Bajamar, s/n. Santander.  
Phone: +34 942 27 49 62

- **Menéndez Pelayo Library and Museum**

C/ Rubio, 6. Santander.  
Phone: + 34 942 23 45 34

- **Municipal Fine Arts Museum:**

The works of Spanish artists from all periods are exhibited.  
C/ Rubio, 4. Santander.  
Phone: + 34 942 23 94 85

- **Regional Prehistoric and Archaeology Museum**

One of the most important in Spain, owing to the abundant Palaeolithic remains in the region.

C/ Casimiro Sainz, 4. Santander  
Phone: + 34 942 20 71 05

- **Planetarium**

This visit is a must for the lovers of Astronomy. E.T.S. de Náutica.

Gamazo, 1. 39004 Santander.  
Phone: + 34 942 20 31 00  
Web: <http://www.unican.es/Centros/nautica/Servicios/Planetario.htm>

- **Bullfighting Museum of Santander**

Plaza de Toros  
C/ Jerónimo Sainz de la Maza, s/n. Santander  
Phone: + 34 942 34 12 04

- **Museum and Research centre Altamira and Altamira caves**

“The Sistine Chapel of cave painting”.

Santillana del Mar.  
CP: 39330. Cantabria.  
Phone: + 34 942 81 80 05  
Web: <http://museodealtamira.mcu.es/ingles/indexprova2.html>

## ● Prehistory Museum of Puente Viesgo.

Cueva del Castillo (Caves).  
Antigua Estación de Ferrocarril.  
Puente Viesgo. CP: 39670. Cantabria.  
Phone: + 34 942 59 84 71

There are museums and libraries throughout the region, like the *Casona de Tudanca* and the Ethnological Museum in Muriedas, besides the well known ones in Santillana del Mar (Casas del Águila y La Parra, Torre de D. Borja, Palacio de Caja Cantabria, Fundación Santillana, Fundación Jesús Otero, Museum of the Inquisition), the museums of *Castillo de Argüeso* (XII and XIV centuries) and the roman ruins of Juliobriga (I century B.C.), the Cantabrian villages and the *Picos de Europa* Visitors centre.

## Art galleries

Interesting webs:

Web: <http://www.santanderciudadviva.com/exposiciones.asp>

Web: <http://www.guiadecantabria.com/cultura/galeria.htm>

## Nature

There are many green areas and natural parks throughout the region, some of the most important being:

### ● Saja Besaya Natural Park

(<http://www.cantabriajuven.com/naturaleza/saja/saja.html>)

### ● Cabarceno Nature Park. Penagos (<http://www.parquedecabarceno.com/>)

### ● Liencres Dunes Park (Piélagos)

(<http://www.cantabriajuven.com/naturaleza/liencres/liencres.html>)

### ● Santoña and Noja salt marshes National Park

(<http://www.cantabriajuven.com/naturaleza/marismas/marismas.html>)

### ● Oyambre dunes Nature Park

(<http://www.cantabriajuven.com/naturaleza/oyambre/oyambre.html>)

### ● Peñacabarga Massif Park (Villaescusa)

<http://www.cantabriajuven.com/naturaleza/cabarga/penacabarga.html>

### ● Picos de Europa National park (Asturias, Castilla-León y Cantabria)

(<http://reddeparquesnacionales.mma.es/parques/picos/index.htm>)

### ● Santilla del Mar Zoo (<http://www.zoosantillanadelmar.com/>)

### ● El Soplao Cave. Phone: + 34 902 82 02 82. Web: <http://www.elsoplao.es/>

## Cinemas

Information about films showing, times and addresses can be found in any local newspaper or on internet:

● **Cinesa Bahía de Santander (El Corte Inglés)**

Polígono Nueva Montaña. Santander

Phone: + 34 902 33 32 31

Web: <http://www.cinesa.es>

● **Peñacastillo Cinemas** (Centro comercial Carrefour)

Peñacastillo, s/n. Santander

Phone: + 34 942 34 61 81

Web: <http://www.cineciudad.com>

● **Cines Valle Real (Centro comercial Valle Real)**

Alday, s/n. Cantabria

Phone: + 34 942 26 19 00

Web: <http://www.circuitocoliseo.com>

● **Film Club**

Original version films are shown subtitled in Spanish, Jazz sessions etc.

C/ Bonifaz, 6. 39003 Santander

Phone: + 34 942 31 93 10

Web: <http://www.palaciofestivales.com/cine.html>

● **Groucho Cinemas**

Alternative cinema and original versions.

C/ Cisneros (next to Plaza de la Esperanza)

Santander

## Architectonic Monuments

Web: <http://www.cantabriajoven.com/arte/>

Web: <http://www.santillanamuseodiocesano.com>

## Out on the town

Santander is a city well known for its pleasant and lively nightlife. Note should be made of the "wine bar areas", where people have drinks both inside and outside the bars. The most popular are those of *Cañadío* and *Perines* at night and *Peña Herbosa* and *Vargas* at midday and, in summer, the *Sardinero*. There are all kinds of restaurants, including international cuisine. There is a special city bus service ("Buscielago") available every hour at night in summer from 11:45, leaving from Plaza de Italia.

Outside Santander, other towns offer an interesting nightlife (Torrelavega, Solares, Cabezón de la Sal) also, during the summer months, many fishing villages and, in general, all the villages in the region, have a great atmosphere on the feast days of their local patron saints.

## Cultural Events

The "Paloma O'Shea International Piano Competition" (every 3 years), the "Reina Sofía" Summer Courses and the "International Festival of Santander" (FIS) are all held in the summer. There are events commemorating the summers of the twenties, the time when the Spanish royal family used to spend their holidays in Santander. There are art galleries offering temporary painting exhibitions and

lectures on scientific and current affairs. The 'Winter Festival' takes place in Torrelavega (Santander's neighbouring city) offering theatre, concerts... etc.

### **Popular celebrations**

There are celebrations throughout the year, although it is in summer when most of these take place.

To get more information:

Web: <http://www.welcometospain.net/fiestas>