

Travelling through Asturias

NATURE

CULTURE AND ETHNOGRAPHY

ROUTES AND ACTIVE TOURISM

GASTRONOMY

ACCOMMODATION

Customized leaflet

EN



Asturias  paraíso natural

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The Cachucho



District	Council
Oriente de Asturias	Ribadesella

Protected	Protected Marine Area
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The shoal The Danois, known like "The Cachucho" is a submarine mountain that it is placed 36 miles from the Asturian coast, in front of Ribadesella's locality, where it has found an extraordinary marine biodiversity with 600 registered species.

Declared like protected marine area, the first in opened waters of Spain.

The fishing-ground is formed by a plateau which depth changes between 400 and 4.000 meters, with pits where giant squids live. It is an important zone of reproduction of species as the monkfish and the sea bream. El Cachucho is a habitat of species threatened as the pilgrim shark. In the sea bed they exist communities of sponges of depth and reefs of coral with a high ecological value.

The trawling is banned in The Cachucho. Only the fishing in surface is allowed.

Integral Natural Reserve of Muniellos



District	Council
Fuentes del Narcea	Cangas del Narcea
Fuentes del Narcea	Ibias

Area	55,4km ²
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The Natural Reserve of Muniellos includes the mountains of Muniellos and La Viliella (Cangas del Narcea) and the mountain of Valdebois (Ibias).

The largest oak grove in Spain, and one of the best preserved in Europe, gives shelter to a virgin wilderness which springs up again after every season, with surprising signs of its adaptation to the environment.

Constantly changing, it is a clear example of the Asturian paradise in every season.

There are oaks from different species, which can be up to six meters in diameter, beech groves and birches, splattered with the constant presence of holly trees and yews, perennial kings of autumn in Muniellos.

Riverside species, such as ash trees and poplars, are intertwined with hazel trees, service trees and boxes.

This fantastic forest, full of Asturian legends and mythology, lies on a Paleozoic substratum which is 500 million years old; it has signs of old glacial cirques and lleronas, rocky areas formed by crumbled quartzite.

There are several examples of the glacial origin of Muniellos, such as the famous tarns in the Pico de la Candanosa, four stairs of water of enigmatic beauty, hidden among valleys, paths and summits. The climb to these tarns, La Peña, Grande, Fonda and La Isla is on the most interesting routes for passionate hikers.

The river Muniellos or Tablizas, a tributary of the Narcea, flows over the entire forest, gathering waters from the numerous torrential brooks that flow along its banks.

The climate is typically mountainous, with a high level of raininess (around 1,800 litres per square metre), and a temperature of 10°C in medium mountains, and below 6°C in the summit area. There are frequent snowfalls during the cold season, and the snow is visible during most of the winter in the highest areas.

▸ Location

The Integral Natural Reserve of Muniellos is located in the south-west of Asturias, between the municipalities of Ibias and Cangas del Narcea.

Since it was declared a Biological Reserve, in 1982, this singular natural area is exclusively dedicated to research and to carrying out educational programmes for school students and concerted, authorised visits. The entrance of visitors is restricted, so that the ecosystem may be fully preserved.

Even though there are small villages in the valleys, Muniellos is a sparsely populated area, with one of the lowest demographic densities in Asturias.

This singular and well-preserved environment has been declared a Biosphere Reserve by the UNESCO.

► Flora

The scrubby undergrowth shows its own splendour on a stratum of heather, fern, brambles, furze, bilberries, moss and lichens. The latter, whose capacity of survival is frail, confirm that there is no pollution in the area, and bring a peculiar spellbinding feeling to the internal atmosphere of the forest.

Another fascinating secret of Muniellos is its wide variety of fungi and mushrooms, almost four hundred species, most of which are edible. Plants take advantage of any inadvertence on the part of the winter sun to spread their vividly-coloured fruits. There are three hundred and ninety-six different species, some of them included in the catalogue of Endangered Flora Species of the Principality of Asturias.

► Fauna

Animal lovers can find an important reference on the Asturian fauna in the Muniellos forest. Abundant, diverse and skilfully evasive, this fauna hides in the secret places of the forest, avoiding the presence of man.

The most relevant is the Cantabrian brown bear, that finds in the area the best conditions for its development and survival: vast forest and the refuge areas that are not easily accessed.

There is also a relevant presence of wolves, with stable areas for littering where relatively large families may be found. They feed on other animals living in the mountains, such as wild boars and roe deer.

It is possible to observe foxes shedding their skin in autumn, when squirrels, jays and capercaillies abandon their spring diet and start feeding on the abundant fruits in the woodland: bilberries, mulberries, hazelnuts and acorns.

The rivers are teeming with otters, and in the various humid areas in the north, we can find a wide variety of amphibians and reptiles, adapting to the environment by burying themselves during cold winter days.

On a clear day, it is possible to watch the fascinating flight of the goshawk, the most typical predator of Asturian deciduous forests, the booted eagle migrating in the winter to the north of Africa, giving way to the ringdove, looking for shelter in our forests, warmer than those in the north of Europe, where it comes from.

Observations

Visits: They must be authorised by the Council for the Environment, with a maximum of 20 visitors per day. The request must include the first name, surnames and Identification Number of each member of the group, and the guide for the group must also present a photocopy of his/her Identification Card, an address and contact telephone number.

National Park of Picos de Europa



District	Council
Oriente de Asturias	Cabrales
Oriente de Asturias	Cangas de Onís
Oriente de Asturias	Amieva
Oriente de Asturias	Peñamellera Alta
Oriente de Asturias	Peñamellera Baja
Oriente de Asturias	Onís

Area	646,6km 2
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It took 300 million years to create the steep landscapes of the Picos de Europa.

Different foldings and glaciations have resulted in a tortuous landscape shaped by ice and by the effects of water on the limestone, forming a splendid mountain karst.

The three main massifs of this natural wonder are limited by deep valleys and gorges, created as a result of the erosion caused by sharp spurs of ice from the glaciers and the force of river waters, which today continue to shape the stone as they please, dissolving the limestone. The river Dobra, a tributary of the Sella, and the Deva, flank the mountains on the north and the east of the cordillera. The river Cares, and its tributary, the Duje, distribute the park among its three massifs.

In the Central massif, we find the highest summits of the Cantabrian Mountains in the steep Urrieles, where the most emblematic reference of the Picos de Europa, the impressively beautiful Naranjo de Bulnes, also known as Picu Urriellu, is located. Its 2,519 meters of complex orography have not hindered human settlements, and its village Bulnes is famous for its difficult access through a path between the mountains.

At the west of the Urrieles lies the Western massif, the Andara, the smallest one which also has the smoothest profile, whose highest summit, at 2,400 meters, is in the Morra de Lechugales.

The most occidental of the three massifs contains the Picos del Cornión, near the Royal Site of Covadonga. The lakes Enol and Ercina reflect there the high mountains which gave birth to the legendary history of Asturias.

In the same cave of Covadonga, we can enjoy the omnipresent signs of the karstic process of the Picos, in the photographic surge of the river Orandi, under the icon of the Virgin.

Between the rivers Urrieles and Cornión, separating the Central and Western massifs from south to north, the river Cares flows, and its clear waters fiercely beat against its banks throughout its journey.

Among the beautiful summits of the Western massif, we must highlight the Peña Santa de Castilla, at 2,596 metres. On its path, we can find the #Mirador# (vantage point) of Ordiales, where a nearly 1,000-meter-deep abyss falls into the valley, impressing all visitors.

► Location

The National Park of Picos de Europa is located in the Cantabrian Mountains, between the provinces of Asturias, Cantabria and Leon.

Its vast surface area includes territories belonging to the municipalities of Amieva, Cangas de Onís, Onís, Cabrales, Peñamellera Alta and Peñamellera Baja.

On the grounds of the singularity, beauty and interest of its landscape, environments and geology, this area was declared a Natural Park in 1995. The Natural Park of Picos de Europa includes, on its western region, what was the first National Park of Spain, the Mountain of Covadonga, declared as such by the king Alfonso XIII in 1918.

► Flora

Large craggy areas, practically void of vegetation, prevail in the landscape of Picos de Europa, especially above 1,500 metres. At lower levels, bushes and pastures abound, together with remains of wooded areas. In forest areas, beech groves, oak groves, mixed forests and groves of holm oaks abound. Lindens offer their medicinal flowers to the inhabitants of Cain, and different varieties of flowers burst forth in extreme conditions spread their colours throughout the hidden paths in the summits.

The characteristics of Picos de Europa result from their high-mountain climate, whose temperatures range from below 0°C in the highest summits, where rainfalls and strong snowfalls abound, especially in the winter, to 8°C in medium mountains.

► Fauna

This region combines a great variety of different landscapes, which give shelter to a peculiar animal kingdom of great importance within Spain.

It is not rare to observe the flight of the golden eagle dominating the mountain; vultures and Egyptian vultures nesting in the steep walls of the mountains; capercaillies in forest areas, or ducks fishing in the lakes of Covadonga, near the coots of the Ercina and the yellow-beaked choughs eating close beside the visitors.

If we penetrate deep into the rocky areas of high mountains, it is easy to bump into touselled chamois, who shade their skin in spring into an intense reddish chestnut colour. Roebucks, emblematic animals of these forests, live together with partridges and wild boars.

The rivers that flow through the Picos de Europa vibrate with the mischievous presence of otters, salmon, alpine newts and Seaone vipers.

The numerous limestone caves are teeming with bats, and it is easy to see, in the abandoned sheepfolds, a great number of owls waiting for the nightfall to start hunting.

Telephone

985 84 86 14

Observations

Surface area in Asturias: 245.6 km²

Natural Park of Fuentes del Narcea, Degaña and Ibias



District	Council
Fuentes del Narcea	Cangas del Narcea
Fuentes del Narcea	Degaña
Fuentes del Narcea	Ibias

Area	555km ²
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The Natural Park of Fuentes of the Narcea, Degaña and Ibias stretches out over a large surface area in the south-western part of Asturias, all along the Cantabrian Cornice. Within the park, there are two additional interesting natural areas: the Integral Natural Reserve of the Forest of Muniellos, and the Partial Natural Reserve of the Cueto (rocky peak) of Arbás, which are analysed under a separate chapter of this work. The landscape of the Park offers a great variety of nuances, which are singularly defined in each of the municipalities being a part of the area: in the zone of Cangas del Narcea, the relief is craggy and uneven in the areas surrounding the river Narcea and its tributaries. These sites are perfect for fishing trouts and salmons. A section of the fascinating forest of Muniellos is located in this area, whose visits are restricted so that its exceptional characteristics may be preserved. In other woodlands of this municipality, it is permitted to hunt some of its numerous wild species, such as the roe deer or the wild boar.

In the municipality of Degaña, high sierras and green valleys abound. Its landscape is one the most typical ecosystems of the Cantabrian Mountains. We must highlight the presence of oak groves and other species, such as birches, holly trees, yews ..., as well as its wild fauna, which includes endangered species such as bears, wildcats and capercaillies. Degaña is also a Regional Reserve for Hunting, which is highly appreciated by hunters.

The third municipality included in the Park is Ibias. It is an area having a highly mountainous relief, not excessively craggy, which gives impressive beauty and vegetal richness to the landscape. The Valdebois hill, in the Muniellos forest, is its main enclave. The fountains of the Ibias river and its tributaries wash the sierras and the valleys with limpid waters. In Ibias, signs of settlements from the Neolithic, the castreña era and the Romans still remain. Dolmens in Pradías and Chao Leda bring together History, culture and art with the spectacular nature of landscapes such as Muniellos or the Ancares.

The entire municipality of Ibias is teeming with examples of popular culture, such as granaries and pallozas (oval houses with straw roofs), which represent an evolution from the castreña house.

► **Location**

The Natural Park of Fuentes of the Narcea, Degaña and Ibias is located in the south-western sector of Asturias. It includes the high basin of the rivers Ibias and Narcea, and covers the municipalities of Cangas del Narcea, Degaña and Ibias.

Natural Park of Redes



District	Council
Valle del Nalón	Caso
Valle del Nalón	Sobrescobio

Area	376,2km 2
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It was declared a Natural Park in 1996, with the following objectives:

To maintain the state and functionality of the ecosystems and the protection of species and their habitat.

To improve the quality of life of its inhabitants.

To promote knowledge of the park and of its natural and cultural values.

To maintain and improve the quality of the waters.

The environmental richness of the Park of Redes can be seen in its variety of landscapes and contrasts. There are glacial formations, such as moraines and cirques, karstic forms in caves and sinkholes; huge grasslands, hills and thick forests. Wooded areas cover 40% of the territory of Redes. The main summits are the Picu Torres, the Retriñón, the Peña'l Vientu, Cantu l'Osu or the Tiatorodos.

The action of rivers has resulted in the creation of open valleys forming large vegas (fertile plains) in their bottoms, and impressive limestone defiles, such as the one of the river Alba or that of the Arrudos.

Fertile plains are impressively beautiful in Redes. Isolated by mountainous spurs, at 1,215 metres above sea level, we find the Vega de Brañagallones, where the old refuge for hunters has been transformed into a hotel.

Location

The Natural Park of Redes is located in the central-oriental mountain sector, and includes the municipalities of Caso and Sobrescobio.

It was declared a Biosphere Reserve in 2001.

▶ Flora

Beech groves are the prevailing wooded areas in Redes, although these groves contain a high number of white oak trees. Its forests, fragmented by grasslands and shrubby areas, are the most interesting in the high basins of the Nalón rivers.

The beechnut, the nutritious fruit of beech trees, is a part of the food eaten by the valuable fauna of the Park of Redes. Scattered throughout the territory, there are ash trees, yews, birch trees and holly trees. In the high mountains, there are common juniper shrubs, with bearberries on calcareous rocks and heather and bilberries in the silicon substrata.

▶ Fauna

All the characteristic species of the north of Spain can be found in the Park of Redes: brown bears, roaming from Peloño, or wolves, that abound throughout Redes with stable zones for their litters. We can also find here more chamois and re-introduced, perfectly adapted deer than in any other part of the region. The splendid capercaillies, Egyptian vultures, golden eagles and a wide variety of other birds, reptiles and amphibians benefit from the excellent preservation of the park.

Web

tematico.asturias.es/mediambi/siapa/web/espacios/espacios/pnt/redes/

Natural Park of Somiedo



District	Council
Camín Real de la Mesa	Somiedo

Area	291km 2
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[/InfoAsturias/Sonidos/r_biosfera.wav](#)

It was declared a Natural Park in 1988, the first to be considered as such in Asturias. This decision intended to reach several objectives:

_Preservation of its ecosystems, habitats and species.

_Conservation of its ethnographic heritage, making the agricultural activity compatible with such conservation.

_Improvement of the quality of life of its inhabitants.

_Promotion of the natural and cultural values of the Park on the part of the scientific community, the administration and the local and foreign populations.

Man has understood the nature of the Park of Somiedo, which in turn has returned its care to him. It has hardly changed throughout the centuries, and continues to be an example of coexistence and full integration.

The Natural Park of Somiedo includes five valleys: Saliencia, Valle del Lago, Puerto y Pola de Somiedo, Perlunes y Pigüaña, and their five rivers of even name.

We must highlight the beauty of its lakes, in the south of the municipality of Somiedo, at the summits of the Cordilleras separating Somiedo from Leon: the three small lakes of Saliencia; the Lake of El Valle, with its characteristic islet, is the largest lake in Asturias, with an average radius of 280 metres and an average depth of 10 metres, reaching 50 meters in certain zones. It is followed by the hidden Tarns of El Páramo, between the valleys of the rivers Somiedo and Pigüaña.

This is one of the roughest landscapes of Asturias, with its slopes ranging from 400 to 2,200 metres. It is important for its valuable geologic characteristics, with a great variety of materials: limestone, silicon, sandstone ... resulting in spectacular karstic forms. The valleys are sprinkled with minerals such as iron,

with sediments of arsenic, mercury, lead, marble and granite. This land of contrasts between summits and depressions shows the marks of the tectonic tremors suffered in its numerous faults, folds and thrust faults. Throughout the Park, pastures abound with fertile grasslands where it is possible, not without difficulty, to contemplate the famous #cabañas#, stone cabins with roofs made of #teito# (Asturian name for shrubs such as the common broom or Spanish broom), used as refuges by summer-pasture cowherds and mountain stock farmers. There are more than 500 cabins spread throughout the Park. Around this cabins, still today, herds are moved towards the best pasturelands.

The average yearly temperature in this area is close to 9°C in the bottom of the valleys, whereas in higher points temperature decreases approximately by 0.5°C every 100 metres. Snowfalls are frequent in wintertime in points above 1,200 metres. The coldest months are January and February, the warmest being July, August and September. The strong differences in temperature between both periods is a typical characteristic of continental climates.

▶ Location

The Natural Park of Somiedo is located in the southern sector of Asturias, in the limits between the central and occidental mountains. It includes the municipality of Somiedo. Biosphere Reserve.

▶ Flora

A large part of the area is covered by different kinds of forests, scrubs, pasturelands, grasslands on the low mountainsides, and sowed fields in perfect harmony with the environment. The main woodland is located in the valley of Saliencia, on the mountain side of the Coto and in the valley of Piguëña.

It is basically made up of deciduous forests, with the exception of some groves of holm oaks in low areas. Beech groves are the largest woodlands, followed by oak, holm oak and birch groves.

The Park also contains different kinds of non-zonal vegetation and highly-interesting peat bogs. One characteristic of these forests is the considerable density of bushes, which reflects a minimum degradation of this site. The flora is also splendid and abundant, represented by bearberries, asphodels, yellow and blue aconites and windflowers. The typical flower of Somiedo, Centaurium Somedanum, must be highlighted.

The quality of river waters results in the formation of impressive temperate riparian s forests, with a privileged ecosystem between aquatic and earthly forests.

▶ Fauna

The Park gives shelter to more than 100 bird species: common blackbirds, wagtails, kingfishers ... Some of them live on riverbanks, where they can hear the sound of splashing from trouts, which abound in this area; and in the summits and the high areas of Somiedo, the presence of capercaillies and golden eagles is particularly relevant. All the largest mammals in the Cordillera can be seen in Somiedo, where we must highlight the presence of brown bears.

Predators, such as wolves and foxes, and other carnivores, such as otters, badgers and wildcats share out the territory, up to the lowest river areas, with capercaillies and nearly 20 species of amphibians and reptiles, such as long-tailed salamanders, Iberian tritons and Seoane vipers.

Web

tematico.asturias.es/mediambi/siapa/web/espacios/espacios/pnt/somiedo

Oscos-Eo District and Buron's Lands



District	Council
Oscos - Eo	Castropol
Oscos - Eo	San Tirso de Abres
Oscos - Eo	San Martín de Oscos
Oscos - Eo	Santa Eulalia de Oscos
Oscos - Eo	Taramundi
Oscos - Eo	Vegadeo
Oscos - Eo	Villanueva de Oscos

Since September of 2007 there are five asturian areas declared Biosphere Reservation by UNESCO. The last is Oscos-Eo District and Buron's Lands.

This area has 1.600 kilometers, 14 councils (seven Asturian councils and seven Galician councils). The Eo river is the link of union between two lands.

Avilés



District	Council
Comarca Avilés	Avilés

Extention	25 Km2
Altitude	8 m.
Nº habitantes	85681aprox.

An old sea-faring and country town, Avilés is now a modern city due to the dramatic demographic growth and great industrial development that has made it a first level steel production centre. Its old quarters have been declared a Historic-Artistic-Monumental complex that houses important examples of civil and religious architecture.

The Town of Avilés, a parish and the capital of the municipality of its same name, is located on the central coastal area of Asturias, to the west of Cape Peñas and on the left bank of the tidal river of its same name, at an altitude of 8 m. This old estuary, which was much larger in the past, is located on the Ventaniella fault that extends towards the Cantabrian Sea forming the so-called Avilés canyon, a tectonic feature of importance that was the cause of a number of earthquakes that affected the town in the 16th and 18th centuries. The Town of Avilés was mentioned for the first time in a document in the testament of King Alfonso III, in the year 905. This king built the castle of Gauzón (Gozón) on the rocky outcrop of Raíces (Castrillón), to watch over and defend the estuary. In the 11th century, thanks to the shelter offered by the northern and eastern slopes of the hillock on which the town was built, it became a true harbour dedicated to shipping and fishing activities. In the course of time it acquired more and more importance as the port that supplied the capital city of Asturias. The boom in the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, which took place in those days, also influenced the development of Avilés which became the main port and the second largest town in Asturias after Oviedo.

Towards the end of the 13th century the city walls were finished. This walled area was known as La Villa (The Village) and was destroyed by fire in 1479. As assistance, the Reyes Católicos (the Catholic Monarchs) granted the town a free market on Mondays, which is still held today.

In the 17th century, the town began to extend outside the walled area for the first time. A square was built towards the south where the town hall and the palaces of Ferrera and Llano Ponte were built. Some of the main streets were also cobbled, such as Ferreria street, Fruta street and Sol street. In 1818 work commenced on pulling down the wall and in 1868 development work began on the marshlands that surrounded the town. Between 1900 and 1920 the town grew noticeably due to a combination of several factors: the opening of the San Juan de Nieva docks, the establishment of several industries, the improvement in railway and road

communications and the influx of capital from Indianos (emigrants who made their fortune in America). Several bourgeois mansions were built in the town, such as the Grand Hotel and the Palacio Valdés theatre. In 1950 the most important town development period in the history of Avilés began thanks to the establishment of several industries, among which Ensidesa (today Arcelor Mittal) was the most spectacular. In 1952 Cristalería Española (Glass Factory) established a factory in Avilés and in 1957 the first blast furnace of Ensidesa became operational. Paradoxically, while the outskirts of the Town were changing, the centre remained untouched until 1965. The industrial crisis has stemmed the development of Avilés, although the town is still growing. In 1980, the new fishing docks and the Fishing Association Virgen de las Mareas were opened. The new fish market auctions almost 70% of the fish caught in Asturias, which has placed Avilés, in spite of its small fishing fleet, at the head of Asturian ports in this sector.

▶ [Other interesting information](#)

FESTIVITIES

FEBRUARY

Carnival or "Antroxu". Declared of Regional Tourist Interest. Among other acts, we must mention the celebration held on the Saturday: Descenso Fluvial Internacional de Galiana (The Galiana International Fluvial Descent).

MARCH-APRIL

Easter. Declared of National Tourist Interest.

El Bollo Festivity. Easter Monday. Declared of National Tourist Interest.

MAY-JUNE

Puchero Festivity. Tuesday following the seventh Sunday after Easter. Celebrated at the La Luz chapel. A couple (dressed in the traditional manner) break a jug and may then kiss each other as many times as pieces the jug broke into. Typically accompanied by eating curds. It is an offering to fertility, a custom that has been performed for over two hundred years. It is believed that the couple who take part in the ritual will get married within a year.

JUNE

Danza prima de San Juan (Saint John Dance). 24th, midnight.

Danza prima de San Pedro (Saint Peters Dance) 29th, midnight.

JULY

Danza prima del Carmen. 16th, midnight.

Danza prima de Santa Ana. 26th, midnight.

Intercéltic Festival of Avilés. Declared of Regional Tourist Interest

AUGUST

Festivities of Saint Agustin, with a Dance at midnight of the 28th in España square.

International Festival of Music and Dance.

Information related



[Avilés](#)



www.aviles.es

Gijón



District	Council
Gijón	Gijón

Extention	41 Km2
Altitude	8 m.
Nº habitantes	260000aprox.

Gijón is a modern, hospitable and open city. It is surrounded by many green areas, sports installations and boasts a restored and protected historic-artistic heritage. Gijón is the home of fairs, conventions, congresses, great concerts as well as cultural and sporting events.

Washed by the Cantabrian Sea, it is located to the east of Torres Cape and to the west of Cervigón Point, along the resulting coastal inlet, which divided by the Santa Catalina outcrop, forms the Bay of Gijón or San Lorenzo Bay. The origins of Gijón are linked to the establishment, in the nearby Campa Torres, of a settlement that became known as Noega and was inhabited by the "Cilúrnigos". This settlement could have been as early as the 5th century B.C. After the Roman conquest, the village spread along the coast, creating a new town nearby, known as Gigia, on the Santa Catalina outcrop, the base of present day Gijón, towards the 1st century A.D. This settlement was protected by a wall (3rd century) and a jetty was built nearby. Medieval Gijón was founded on the Santa Catalina outcrop. The development of Gijón, after its resettlement which began in 1400, commenced with the Reyes Católicos (the Catholic Monarchs) who, in 1480 authorised the construction of a port, a project that took several centuries. Towards the end of the 18th century, Gijón became the maritime capital of Asturias and began its evolution as an industrial and commercial city until it became the largest city in the Principality. The opening of the road to Castile, the improvement of the docks and the establishment of a customs office for international maritime traffic were the main features that stimulated the growth of the city. During the 19th century, together with political changes, Asturias suffered a far-reaching economic and social transformation which began with an incipient industry based on the exploitation of coal mines and the production of iron and steel.

One of the most outstanding aspects in the development of Gijón was the establishment in Veriña of Uninsa (later known as Ensidesa, Aceralia and currently as Arcelor Mittal). Its construction and operation caused a massive migration of people from other parts of the region towards Gijón, as well as the construction of a new industrial area along the Aboño river, the growth of the port and the establishment of many small and medium size companies.

Gijón, historical, commercial and industrial, is the largest city in Asturias, where the sea, the gentle mountains and the town combine to make it one of the most attractive cities in the north of Spain. Its long beach, San Lorenzo, the promenade, the marina, the Black Week (Film Festival), its social life and festive atmosphere invite visitors to come to this cheerful, busy city where life is lived in the streets during the summer. But its tourist attractions are not limited to this; Gijón is a milestone on the Camino de Santiago (Route to Santiago) and has a number of museums and an extensive cultural offer (International Film Festival, Latin American Book Festival). Some of its museums are extremely original; the Railway Museum, International Bagpipe Museum, and others exhibit its distinguished past: the Birthplace of Jovellanos, Nicanor Piñole Museum, Revillagigedo Palace... There is the Aquarius of Asturias, and one of the Europa's best botanical gardens, the Atlantic Botanical Garden.

Laboral Cultural City, a project from the 40s stands out due to its size (its tower reaches a height of 120 metres), is the venue of multiple cultural activities. The neighbourhood of Cimadevilla, where old baroque buildings combine with modern constructions provide the area with an intimate personality, a mixture of the past and the present. And, of course, the gastronomic offer, the shops and the character of its people complete the image of this city.

▶ Other interesting information

FESTIVITIES

FEBRUARY

Carnival or "Antroxu". These are the first festivities of the year, coinciding with the end of winter and the beginning of Lent, although profane aspects predominate over religious aspects.

JUNE

Week of the Sea. Activities about the sea. From Saint John (24th June) to Saint Peter (29th June).

JULY

Black Week. It started like a literary appointment concerning the "black" novel and now it is one of the most famous popular summons of Spain.

AUGUST

Day of Asturias. With the traditional parade with floats and folk groups.

Our Lady of Begoña, August 15th.

NOVIEMBRE

International Film Festival of Gijón

Information related

Gijón



www.gijon.es

Oviedo



Oviedo

District	Council
Oviedo	Oviedo

Extention	26 Km2
Altitude	231 m.
Nº habitantes	205000aprox.

Oviedo, cultural tourism centre, crossroads, the Camino de Santiago (Route to Santiago) and the Ruta de la Plata; great monumental heritage, significant offer in museums that totally display the historic-artistic heritage of Asturias. Today, Oviedo is an open and modern city with a great international projection thanks to the Prince of Asturias Awards and its brotherhood with cities from all over the world, without forgetting the international Opera festival.

Oviedo is the capital of the Principality of Asturias. Among its tourist attractions we can mention its Old Quarters, with the Cathedral and its Holy Chamber, the Campoamor Theatre, venue of many cultural events: opera, music festivals, film cycles, exhibitions, apart from the above-mentioned Prince of Asturias Awards, and the recently opened Prince Philip Auditorium, among others. Of the outstanding monumental heritage, we can mention Santa María del Naranco, San Miguel de Lillo and San Julián de los Prados declared monuments of World Heritage. The birth of Oviedo was documented in 761, when Presbyter Máximo and his uncle, Abbot Fromestano, and a group of serfs settle on a hill known as Oveto and built a basilica dedicated to Saint Vincent. Twenty years later, Presbyter Montano and 25 more monks, founded the monastery of Saint Vincent on the site where the old building remains, today, dedicated to the Archaeological Museum of Asturias. In those days, King Fruela I founded the first church dedicated to the Saviour and a palace. The so-called Chaste King, Alfonso II provided the city with several churches and a palace, some defensive constructions and an aqueduct. He also established his court there and founded a bishopric. After the death of Alfonso III in 910, the court moved to León, but Oviedo remained a bishopric. These were years of religious fervour and, fuelled by the pilgrimage movement, a bourgeois class developed which promoted commerce, crafts and the market, basic elements for the development of a town that was also surrounded by a wall. During the Middle Ages, the pilgrimages to San Salvador continued to be the driving force of life in Oviedo, especially in the month of September with the jubilee and forgiveness ceremonies. Throughout the 16th century several social, cultural and religious initiatives had to find space for their development outside the city walls: the convent of Santo Domingo (1518), the University building (1608), the town hall...

During the Middle Ages, Oviedo became the political centre of the Principality. Consequently many palaces or mansions were built during the 17th and 18th centuries, which, today, form a main part of the monumental heritage of Oviedo: Camposagrado palace, Miranda-Heredia palace, Toreno palace, etc.

The 19th century brings to mind the uprising against the French in 1808. These were events of a political nature that did not affect town development in Oviedo. Other events did affect this development: the designation of the city as the capital; the seizure of church lands, which freed a large amount of land that had been in the hands of the church and monasteries; the establishment of the Arms Factory and other manufacturing industries. Then, it became necessary to overcome the limitations that the wall implied. The great expansion came when the Castile and Galicia roads were connected. The building of Uría Street to join the city to the train station caused the controversial felling of the ancient oak tree, El Carbayón, the name of which has been adopted to refer to people from Oviedo.

In the 20th century, Oviedo reflected the social tensions that affected the mining and industrial areas. It experienced the October Revolution of 1934 and was besieged for 15 months during the Civil War. After the War, the city centre became more densely populated and new labour neighbourhoods sprung up. Over the last decade many of its streets in the old quarters have been pedestrianised and several squares have been reorganised. This operation has also included the installation of streetlamps, benches, flowerpots... as well as many fountains and sculptures. The latest project has been the construction of an overpass over the railway lines, the Losa, and the merger of the RENFE (Train) and FEVE (Narrow gauge railway) stations.

▶ Other interesting information

FESTIVITIES

MAY/JUNE

Ascension Day. Fair dedicated to the country and crafts.

Martes de Campo or La Balesquida: Festivity held on the first Tuesday after Pentecost. This festivity originated in the 13th century thanks to the donation of property by Mrs. Velasquita Giráldez to the Tailors Guild to help the poor. It consists in a procession from the Balesquida chapel to the church of San Tirso, and then a meal of #bollu# and wine in the Campo San Francisco (San Francisco Park).

SEPTEMBER

19th. Day of America in Asturias, declared of National Tourist Interest. A great parade of floats and folk groups.

OCTOBER

"Desarme" is held on the 19th. A gastronomic celebration with a menu based on chick-peas with cod and spinach, tripe and a typical dessert.

Information related

[Oviedo](#)

 www.oviedo.es

Church of San Miguel de Lillo



District	Council
Oviedo	Oviedo

Open all year
Yes

Age
Pre-Romanesque

The building that stands before us today represents about one-third of the original structure. During the late Middle Ages, part of the church collapsed, giving rise to the construction of the current apse. We can still contemplate the original portico and one of the bays or sections of the original nave.

The walls are reinforced by buttresses on the outside, with the gaps between being decorated by completely carved stone clerestories.

Four of the original clerestories have been preserved.

The inside of the church is divided into three naves, which are separated for the very first time by high columns instead of pillars. The columns stand on footstalls decorated with evangelist symbols. The large capitals on which the blind arcades are supported are decorated with Byzantine and North African motifs.

At the feet of the nave, above the old portico there is a gallery. This can be accessed by means of a gap decorated with marble pilasters, ascending a narrow stone stairway. In the gallery, there are four small arches corresponding to the same number of doors, which are decorated with Visigothic motifs.

The whole interior is vaulted, and over the part of the vault that covers the gallery, there is an inaccessible compartment that receives light from the outside through an outer ring louver, lending great slenderness to the building.

Address
Monte Naranco 33012

► Schedule

WINTER (from 01/10 to 31/03)

Tuesday to Samedy: 10:00 - 14:30 h.

Monday to Sunday: 10:00 - 12:30 h.

SUMMER (from 01/04 to 30/09)

Tuesday to Samedy: 9:30 - 13:30 and 15:30 - 19:30 h.

Monday to Sunday: 10:00 - 13:00 h.

Santa María del Naranco



District	Council
Oviedo	Oviedo

Open all year
Yes

Age
Pre-Romanesque

The Palace of Ramiro I at Naranco is a unique building, given the fact that its purpose remains obscure (palace, church, royal pavilion, royal hall, etc.). Notwithstanding, it is the most important pre-Romanesque building in Europe.

The rectangular ground plan building is divided into two storeys, the lower story or crypt being completely closed in, while the upper story allows for light to get through. They are connected by means of an outside stairway. The carefully walled building is raised on a stone footstall in order to endow it with a verticality which is further reinforced by fluted abutments which rise up to the roof.

The ground floor or crypt is similar to that of Santa Leocadia, in the Holy Chamber. Access is to be had from the outside, and it is completely vaulted and reinforced by arch ribs.

One accedes to the upper floor by means of the exterior stairway. It is a single hall with enclosed balconies on both sides and mullioned windows that simulate a third storey on one face.

The balconies are structured into triple blind arcades that are supported by columns with wrought shafts and Corinthian capitals. On the outside, hanging from the windows there are fluted and crossed pilasters which are finished off in medallions with animal and human insets.

The wholly vaulted interior is surrounded by blind arcades that repeat the exterior motif of decorated pilasters with medallion finishes.

Address
Monte Naranco 33012

► Schedule

WINTER (from 01/10 to 31/03)

Tuesday to Samedy: 10:00 - 14:30 h.

Monday to Sunday: 10:00 - 12:30 h.

SUMMER (from 01/04 to 30/09)

Tuesday to Samedy: 9:30 - 13:00 and 15:30 - 19:00 h.

Monday to Sunday: 9:30 - 13:00 h.

Acuario de Gijón



District	Council
Gijón	Gijón

Open all year
Yes

Gijón Aquarium is presented as a journey through the world's seas, starting with a north coast river.

Address	Playa de Poniente, s/n 33212
Telephone	985 185 220
Fax	985 185 221
Email	info@acuariodegijon.es
Web	www.acuariodegijon.es

► Schedule

1/07 to 31/08

Monday to Sunday: 10:00 to 22:00.

16/06 to 30/06, 1/09 to 14/09 and Easter Week

Monday to Sunday: 10:00 to 21:00.

1/04 to 15/06

Monday to Friday: 10:00 to 19:00.

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 10:00 to 21:00.

1/01 to 30/03 and 15/09 to 31/12

Monday to Friday: 10:00 to 19:00.

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 10:00 to 20:00.

► Rates

Adult: 14 €

Children: 7 €

Observations

Public car park 50 metres away.

Data provided by Acuario de Gijón. Price approx.

Archaeological Museum of Asturias



District	Council
Oviedo	Oviedo

Open all year
Yes

The Archaeological Museum of Asturias is housed in the former 16th century Benedictine monastery of San Vicente, which is intimately linked to the history of Oviedo.

Address	C/ San Vicente, 5 33003
Telephone	985 208 977
Fax	985 208 433
Email	info@museoarqueologicodeasturias.es
Web	www.museoarqueologicodeasturias.com

▶ Exhibitions

Across his permanent collection, the Archaeological Museum of Asturias offers a reading of the history in the light of the most recent archaeological discoveries realized in the region. In the new center the scientific rigor has been looked and museográfico across the revaluation of numerous original objects interpreted in his geo-historical context.

The exhibition is organized in three floors of the building, and in it, the principal cultural stages appear from the Prehistory up to the whiteness of the Modern Age. The conductive thread of the historical sequence is completed by a specific section destined for the history of the formation of the Museum that, in case of Asturias, passes of form parallel to the beginnings of the scientific archaeology in the region. The visit includes a room dedicated to the diffusion of the Asturian testimonies declared World heritage as they are the prehistoric caves with cave art and the monuments of the Kingdom of Asturias.

▶ Schedule

Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays
 Wednesdays to Fridays, from 9:30 to 20:00 h.
 Saturdays from 9:30 to 14:00 and from 17:00 to 20:00 h.
 Sundays and Bank Days, from 9:30 to 15:00 h.

Data provided by Archaeological Museum of Asturias.

Jardín Botánico Atlántico



District	Council
Gijón	Gijón

Open all year
Yes

Recinto de 25 Ha. (de las cuales 15 son ya visitables y 10 están en desarrollo) que recrea cuatro grandes sectores, representados a través de una planta característica en las 4 torres de cristal que reciben al visitante: Entorno Cantábrico (laurel), representando los bosques, matorrales y praderas del área que bordea el Cantábrico.

Factoría Vegetal (olivo y vid) escenificando en imágenes, teatrillos, exposiciones y otros elementos museográficos la permanente fusión entre hombre y naturaleza.

Jardín de la Isla (tejo recortado), un jardín del siglo XIX, exponente de la jardinería romántica y la planta ornamental, con ejemplares magníficos.

Itinerario Atlántico (helecho arborescente) que recorrerá los seis biomas atlánticos, tres europeos y otros tres americanos, desde el boreal noruego hasta el tropical caribeño.

Engloba 30.000 plantas, casi 2.000 especies distintas en un entorno natural que utiliza el agua como elemento vertebrador y de diálogo entre el Viejo y el Nuevo Mundo, con el discurso atlántico de unión entre ambas orillas del océano, con el río Peñafrancia que recorre el Jardín y con los ingenios de agua que atraviesan el jardín romántico de La Isla y sus cascadas, saltos y estanques.

Address	Avda. del Jardín Botánico 33394
Telephone	985 13 07 13 / 985 18 13 75
Email	jardin.botanico@ayto-gijon.es
Web	www.botanicoatlantico.com

▶ Exhibitions

The Musuem Area is concentrated mainly in the presentation area and in the area of Quintana de Rionda, together with the items in the Caseta de Baños (bath house). There are also two projection rooms each showing presentation videos. The first, situated in the presentation area, shows Plant Evolution and how the planet became green; the second, in the mid-basement floor of the House, shows images from a spectacular flight over the landscape of the north coast fringe.

The Botanical Exhibition includes several areas presenting a series of plants that it is helpful to be able to identify and find, but without going into details about each and every species that can be seen along paths and walks.

."

▶ Exhibitions

In addition to its strictly scientific work focusing on botanical research, the Botanical Garden also takes part in the "ONDACULTURA" cultural project, which draws together all kinds of activities and programmes, with the objective of combining art and culture in this natural museum's unique space.

."

▶ Accesings

Ctra. de Ribadesella a Canero (frente a la Universidad Laboral de Gijón).
Bus urbano nº 1, 2, 4, 18 y 26. En días laborables, también Micro 2.

▶ Schedule

SUMMER: 10:00 to 21:00

WINTER: 10:00 to 18:00

(Ticket office closes 1 hour before)

CLOSED MONDAY, 24, 25 and 31 December and 1 January.

Observations

Services

Reception

Shop

Bar/Coffee-shop

Parking

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Data provided by Jardín Botánico Atlántico, SL. Price approx.

Museo de las Bellas Artes de Asturias



District	Council
Oviedo	Oviedo

Museo que conserva la mayor colección pública de arte que hay en Asturias, integrada por pintura, escultura, dibujo, grabado, fotografía y artes aplicadas e industriales.

Museo que ocupa tres edificios en el barrio antiguo de Oviedo, al pie de la catedral: el palacio Velarde (1767), obra maestra del arquitecto Reguera, la casa de los Oviedo-Portal (1660), obra del arquitecto cántabro Melchor de Velasco, y un edificio de los años 40 donde se ubican los servicios (oficinas, almacenes y depósitos, talleres, salón de actos, etc..).

El Museo conserva la mayor colección pública de arte que hay en Asturias, integrada por pintura, escultura, dibujo, grabado, fotografía y artes aplicadas e industriales.

Address	Palacio de Velarde C/ Santa Ana, 1 33003
Telephone	985 21 30 61 / 985 21 20 57
Fax	985 20 42 32
Email	museobbaa@museobbaa.com
Web	www.museobbaa.com

▶ Exhibitions

15th-20th century Spanish painting
 17th-20th century Asturian painting
 14th-18th century European painting (Italian and Flemish schools)
 15th-20th century Spanish and Asturian sculpture
 Industrial arts: 19th and 20th century glass and china ware
 Drawing, engraving, photography
 Repository of the Principado de Asturias Pedro Masaveu Collection.

▶ Exhibitions

Around 6 to 8 exhibitions are held every year on the following topics:
 Ancient and contemporary painting

Engraving and drawing
Sculpture
Industrial arts

."

[Accesings](#)

Zona peatonal del barrio antiguo de Oviedo

[Schedule](#)

INVIERNO

Martes a viernes: 10:30 a 14:00 y 16:30 a 20:30 h.

Sábados: 11:30 a 14:00 y 17:00 a 20:00 h.

Domingos y festivos: 11:30 a 14:30 h.

VERANO (Julio y agosto)

Martes a sábados: 11:00 a 14:00 y 16:00 a 20:00 h.

Domingos y festivos: 10:30 a 14:30 h.

LUNES CERRADO

CERRADO: 1 Enero, 1 Mayo, 21 Septiembre, 24, 25 y 31 Diciembre

Observations

Its extensive collection makes the Fine Arts Museum of Asturias one of the best in Spain.

Data provided by Museo de las Bellas Artes de Asturias.

Niemeyer Center



District	Council
Comarca Avilés	Avilés

Open all year
Yes

Architectural collection in the environment of the estuary of Avilés, that constitutes the first work of the Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer in Spain.

Auditorium

A democratic court of armchairs, without theater boxes. It has a capacity for 980 armchairs, all with the same visibility and identical acoustic conditions.

The scene stands out, besides for its dimensions, for its functionality, since it can be opened towards the Square, and offer spectacles up to 10.000 persons.

The foyer also works as room of exhibitions.

The club placed in the basement, allows to organize small performances and concerts with a limited appraisal.

Tower view-point

Constructed 13 meters of height, the access realizes by foot across a spectacular stairs that it surrounds the base, or in elevator.

In the high part, the view-point of 360 ° allows to enjoy a great view of Avilés.

The space divides in two zones: an author's gastronomic restaurant, and the kitchen zone opened to the public in order that it could see the whole process of production.

Dome

Great diaphanous space destined for uses museísticos though it can host another type of events.

Building of multiple services

It hosts the reception, the Film Center (cinema with capacity for 100 persons in that there will be programmed cycles, morning and night meetings and cinema in original version), 2 rooms for multiple uses, a shop, a space for children and the cafeteria.

Address	Avda. del Zinc 33400
Telephone	+34 902 306 600
Email	info@niemeyercenter.org
Web	www.niemeyercenter.org

► [Schedule](#)

SQUARE

Friday and Saturday: 10.00 to 03.00 h

Sunday to Thursday: 10.00 to 003.00 h

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND TICKETS

Monday to Sunday: de 11.00 a 20.00 h

inf  **asturias**
www.infoasturias.com
902 300 202



Gobierno del
Principado de Asturias