

*Feel the embrace of the sea*



VILLAS  
MARINERAS



*Baiona, Ribadesella, Llanes, San Vicente de la Barquera, Santoña, Laredo*

# WELCOME TO THE VILLAS MARINERAS



The smell of the sea would be the first sensation to be felt in the VILLAS MARINERAS (THE FISHING TOWNS) when one gets to know their culture and traditions.

The traveller's experience can begin at the fishing port. While being relaxed and keeping all the five senses wide-awake, one can experience first-hand what the everyday life in a fishing town is like: the hustle and bustle of the boats that go out to fish and return to port with their catches, the fish and seafood auction in the fish markets or the skilfulness of netters on the docks, etc.

The marine occupations can enchant any spectator and one can still observe, in these towns, the shellfish catchers, the fishermen, the eel catchers of the Cantabrian Sea, or the lighthouse-keepers and shellfish farm workers, among others.

At all the Villas Marineras destinations, the traditional boats and the diverse fishing

techniques are a great attraction for tourists, who have at their disposal a myriad of resources.

There are several marine installations, many of which can be visited, that are a symbol of the past eras, such as the shellfish farms of Baiona, Ribadesella or San Vicente de la Barquera, the canning factories in Cantabria or a "Tendedero de Redes" (a place where fishing nets were mended) in Llanes.



Moreover, there are museums and interpretation centres such as the Navigation House of Baiona, the Museo del Castillo del Rey (King's Castle museum) in San Vicente or the Interpretation Centres of the Santoña, Victoria and Joyel Marshes Nature Park and of the Oyambre Natural Park in the Punta Silla Lighthouse.

The tourist can get acquainted with the activities of all the fish markets and the supplies markets, and can even participate in gastronomic events in these places for a unique



experience of being able to savour the freshest products of the sea.

The historical centres are also an example of tradition, replete with stories and legends, with very peculiar structures, many of them declared Heritage of Cultural Interest. In these places, the traveller will find accommodations, bars, restaurants, pubs, etc., where they can immerse themselves further into this maritime experience, relishing exquisite seafood dishes or drinking cider at the Cantabrian coast and Albariño wine of the Rías Baixas DO in Galicia.

Walking through these old towns, one can visit monasteries, chapels and churches, castles, fortresses, transepts, granaries, bridges, mills, etc. There are innumerable architectural and ethnographic resources in these destinations, for those who also walk through The Way Of Saint James.

And the lighthouses, undoubtedly one of the best attractions for any tourist, ancient and beautiful structures that served and continue to serve as guides to the sailors at night, and are located in the most beautiful places of the coast. The Villas Maríneas boast these installations, some of which are still operational.

## THE ENDLESS MARITIME CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVITIES

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What will also amaze the tourist is the number of maritime festivities and celebrations in which they can participate: Religious meetings with maritime processions such as that of Nuestra Señora la Virgen de Guía (Our Lady of the Guide Chapel) in Ribadesella, the Folia Festival in San Vicente de la Barquera, the Salea de Santa Ana (Santa Ana Chapel) in Llanes, the Feast of the Virgen del Carmen (Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel) in Laredo or Baiona, or the Maritime Procession of the Virgen del Puerto (Our Lady of the Port Chapel) in Santoña; historical celebrations such as the Arribada (Arrival fiesta) of Baiona, which commemorates the arrival of the caravel Pinta to this town with the news of Discovery of America, or The Landing of Charles V in Laredo; gastronomic events acclaiming the mozuc, the anchovy, the bonito, etc., or the





Holy Week celebrations, among many others.

The fabulous orographic conditions of the Rías Baixas and the Cantabrian coast make it possible to fish and carry out sports and nautical activities almost all year round. All the Villas Marineras have marinas, located in the centres of the towns and with all the necessary services a few metres away.

In Baiona, Ribadesella, Llanes, San Vicente de la Barquera, Santoña and Laredo there are companies or associations dedicated to promoting the sports activities relating to the sea. Surfing is the king of the extensive catalogue of tour offers, as well as all the other sports that originate from it, such as paddle surfing, paddle-kayak, windsurfing or kitesurfing.

## BEACH TOURS, CLIFF WALKS AND MUCH MORE

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Sailing is also one of the main activities of nautical tourism in the Villas Marineras. All the localities have clubs or sailing schools.

Nature has been generous with the Villas Marineras and offers all the visitors a myriad of unique landscapes to lose oneself in, many of them protected, with rocky coasts and beaches with fine sands, bathed by the Cantabrian Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. The visitor can also enjoy all of this through hiking trails, forests, beaches, cliffs, etc.





# THE WAY OF SAINT JAMES



Centuries and centuries of tradition and a myriad of travellers to Compostela prove the importance of The Way of Saint James as a unique experience, a path that is present in all the Villas Marineras through two routes: The Portuguese Coastal Way and the Northern Way.

**Baiona.** Through this Galician town passes the Portuguese Coastal Way, a pilgrimage route of great importance in the Middle Ages, of 147 kilometres from A Guarda to Santiago. The route offers the travellers some astonishing landscapes such as the mountains of Baredo, the San Antón neighbourhood paths or the historical centre streets, as well as the old royal avenue or the Romanesque bridge in A Ramallosa. And the sea, always a faithful travel companion.

The rest of the Villas Marineras, those of the Cantabrian coast, are connected by the Northern Way, also known as the Coastal Way, which passes through the entire Northern Spain, right from Irun till Compostela.

In **Laredo**, the old hospital that gave shelter to the migrants in the Middle Ages is conserved since the 15th century. The pedestrians can make a small journey by boat here, from El Puntal to **Santoña**. It is said that there is a very close relationship between Santoña and the Apostle Saint James and that it was him who

## THE NORTHERN WAY AND THE PORTUGUESE COASTAL WAY, WORDL HERITAGE

founded the church of Santa María del Puerto in the year 37.

Continuing towards Compostela, we come across **San Vicente de la Barquera**, where the beginning of Lebaniego Way (which connects with the French Way) is located. In this town, the travellers can visit the great gems of the Middle Ages, such as the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles (Our Lady of the Angels Church), the Castillo del Rey (King's Castle) and its walls, the Santuario de la Virgen de la Barquera (Our Lady of Barquera Shrine), or the two hospitals for migrants, one of which has been converted into the current town hall.

Once in Asturias, the traveller can complete one of the specific phases of the Way, which runs between **Llanes** and **Ribadesella**. La Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores (The Church of Our Lady of Sorrows) in Barro (Llanes) is located in one of the most beautiful surroundings. The Jacobean route reaches Ribadesella through the medieval bridge over the Guadamía River and the travellers can enjoy landscapes with windmills and astounding cliffs.

An aerial photograph of Baiona, showing the town built on a hillside overlooking a large harbor. The harbor is filled with numerous sailboats and yachts. A long pier extends into the water. The town features red-tiled roofs and modern buildings. The word "BAIONA" is written in large, white, serif capital letters on the right side of the image.

# BAIONA

Baiona, tourist and maritime attraction, is located south of the Galician Rías Baixas, protected from the open sea by a gorgeous bay. Its location is perfect for the shelter of sports and fishing boats and its climate is very pleasant, with mild temperatures throughout the year. Its old town is a must-visit stop for visitors, an area that was declared a “Historic-Artistic Interest Ensemble”. Also, the Arribada festival is an indispensable event that commemorates the arrival of the caravel Pinta in this town, announcing the Discovery of America. This celebration is of International Tourist Interest.

The traveller will find an unforgettable experience in Baiona. The characteristic stone of its streets and buildings, the nearly four kilometres long beaches, many of them with Banderas Azules (Blue Flag certification), its fields and mountains overlooking the Cíes Islands, etc., will ensure that one never forgets this place.

Similarly, one can never forget its gastronomy, with excellent products of the sea such as shellfish, octopus, fish, etc., prepared in a traditional and innovative manner, all washed down with the Rías Baixas DO wines.



## ATTRACTIONS

- Historical centre, declared Historic-Artistic Ensemble
- Monterreal Fortress, built in the 16th century
- Virgen de la Roca (Virgin of the Rock Chapel)
- Crucero de la Santísima Trinidad (The Holy Trinity Cross)
- Replica of the caravel Pinta

- Arribada Festival, declared International Tourist Interest, commemorates the arrival of the caravel Pinta with the news of the Discovery of America
- Silleiro Lighthouse
- Navigation House
- La Arribada Gastronomic Week, Tapas Contest



# RIBADESELLA

On the East Coast of Asturias, at the foot of the Picos de Europa (European Peaks), Ribadesella offers the visitors a wide variety of attractions - landscape, history, nature and gastronomy - all concentrated in a territory traversed by the most famous river in the region, the Sella.

It boasts a quality urban area, with a wide promenade in which the river, the estuary and the sea join the route along other milestones of the town: the Mirador de Guía viewpoint, the Paseo de la Grúa promenade and Ruta Histórica del Puerto (an outdoor museum about the port's history), the Paseo Princesa Letizia promenade, the Vencedores del Sella promenade, the beach with its

spectacular constructions of “Indianos” (Spaniards who returned from The Americas) built in the beginning of the 20th century or the Dinosaurs’ route in La Punta’l Pozu. The rural area of Ribadesella also offers interesting visits in which one can contemplate the traditional architecture and the ancestral mansions, which coexist with a landscape splattered with small coves of extraordinary beauty, caves with spectacular geological formations or magnificent cliffs, which astonish with their “bufones” (blowholes).

In this town, one of the most important celebrations of Asturias also takes place: the International Descent of the Sella River, of International Tourist Interest.



## ATTRACTIONS

- Cueva de Tito Bustillo cave, World Heritage Site
- International Descent of the Sella River, Festival of International Tourist Interest
- Acantilados del infierno (The Cliffs of Hell)
- Old Town

- Fiesta de Nuestra Señora Virgen de Guía (Feast of Our Lady of the Guide) with maritime procession
- Santa Marina beach, Vega beach, dinosaur footprints sites, Cueva de Cuevas (The Great Cave).
- Sea Cuisine Gastronomic event



# LLANES

The natural paradise of Asturias continues its splendour between the sea and the mountains of Llanes, the town with the largest coastal territory of the ferocious Cantabrian Sea. The landscapes of the Sierra del Cuera, the viewpoint of the Picos de Europa (European Peaks), and the Asturian East Coast, protected areas, make up an extraordinary territory browned by the cliffs with more than 30 beaches of whimsical morphology.

The traveller will be surprised by the natural spectacle of the blowholes along the coastal path, which also has forts, islets, sea sinkholes, chasms, tombolos, caves, etc. It will be an unforgettable experience.

Town of whaling tradition, Llanes is a strategic enclave of the Northern Way of Saint James in which the travellers can still stroll through the stretch of their walls, towers, the historic-artistic centre, the seafarers' district or Los Cubos de la Memoria (The Cubes of Memory), an artistic installation by Agustín Ibarrola, a series of paintings on the concrete blocks that protect the port.

The traces of the "Indianos" and the rural world are also present in the Ruta Llanes de Cine (The Cinema Route), with 25 locations where films, series and short films have been filmed.



## ATTRACTIONS

- Ruta Llanes de Cine (The Cinema Route)
- Los Cubos de la Memoria (The Cubes of Memory)
- The thirty beaches, most belonging to the Protected Landscape of the East Coast of Asturias
- Bufones de Llanes (blowholes)

- Iglesia de Santa María del Conceyu church, Capilla de San Roque chapel, Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows chapel), etc.
- Petroglyph of Idol of Peña
- Camín Encantáu museum-Ruta de los Colores del Valle (Colours of the Valley Route)



# SAN VICENTE DE LA BARQUERA



San Vicente de la Barquera is an exceptional historical town located in the Oyambre Natural Park, on the Western Coast of Cantabria.

The port continues to be the heart of this fishing town, where the magnificent beaches like Merón and Oyambre stand out, that are famous for surfing-related sports.

It is the protagonist of one of the phases of the Coastal Way of Saint James, where the Lebaniega Route also begins, which connects with the French Way.

Its historical centre, the old town, was declared an Artistic-Historic Ensemble, and it features significant buildings such as the Castillo del Rey (King's Castle),

from the 13th century, one of the few conserved in the Cornisa Cantábrica (Cantabrian Corniche), the Torre del Preboste tower, the Hospital de la Concepción or the 13th century Gothic church of Santa María de los Ángeles.

The sea and the gastronomy focus on some of the main celebrations in the town, like the “Foliá”, procession on the high seas of the Virgen de la Barquera, or “El Mozucu”, with “sorroputún” (a traditional tuna fish and potato soup) as the main dish. The Certamen de la Canción Marinera (Seafaring Songs Competition), a deep-rooted tradition, attracts tourists from all over Spain to this town.



## · ATTRACTIONS

- Historical Ensemble of San Vicente: Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles (Our Lady of the Angels Church), Castillo del Rey y Murallas (King's Castle and its walls), Palacio de los Corro palace, Convento de San Luis convent.
- Shrine of the Barquera, Puente de la Maza bridge

- Oyambre Natural Park and Visitors Centre at Punta de Silla Lighthouse
- La Foliá Festival, with a procession on the high seas
- Fiestas de La Barquera and El Mozucu
- Grilled Sardines in the Fiestas del Carmen
- Seafood Competition and Sea Cuisine Gastronomic
- Hiking routes, surfing, etc.



# SANTOÑA

Located at the estuary of the Asón River, at the foot of Mount Buciero and along the humid grasslands of the Santoña, Victoria and Joyel Marshes Nature Park, Santoña is one of the oldest towns in Cantabria. Rich with marine tradition, it has innumerable retreats to visit, starting from the Monastery of Santa Maria del Puerto, its fortifications that remind of the Independence War era or the beautiful lighthouses like the Caballo, right till the zones of high landscape value, such as the Mirador del Fraile viewpoint at Mount Buciero. Moreover, this town is the birthplace of Juan de la Cosa, the sailor who drew the first map of the world that included the American territory.

It is said that Santoña is an island on the solid ground because it is surrounded by mountains, marsh and estuary, a place that offers amazing hospitality and an extraordinary gastronomy, in which the tourist cannot miss out on the anchovies, one of the star products. In fact, the FERIA de la Anchoa y la Conserva de Cantabria (Anchovy and Tinned Food Festival) is celebrated here during the first weekend of May. For the more adventurous, all kinds of sea-related activities take place in this town: surfing, windsurfing, scuba diving, water skiing, rowing, recreational fishing, canoeing, and hiking enthusiasts can count on numerous routes in which to “get lost”.



## ATTRACTIONS

- Marshes of Santoña, Berria beach and Interpretation Centre
- Feria de la Anchoa and the Conserva de Cantabria (Anchovy and Tinned Food Festival)
- Maritime Carnival, Festival of Tourist Interest

- Caballo Lighthouse
- The Pathway to Fishing Tradition
- Route of the Napoleonic fortresses
- Pathway to cliffs and lighthouses
- Maritime procession of the Virgen del Puerto
- Gran Marmitada (a gastronomic festival)



# LAREDO



Situated in the Eastern Coast of Cantabria, Laredo is surrounded by mountains and the Cantabrian Sea, with breathtaking sandy beaches and protected natural areas.

The fiesta is guaranteed for the tourists in this town which, throughout the year, celebrates numerous events such as the Batalla de Flores (festival of flowers), the recreation of the Last Descent of Charles V or the Gastronomic Events, among others.

Laredo is a perfect combination of the maritime tourist attraction and a rich historic-artistic heritage in which the key feature is La Puebla Vieja, declared a Historic-

Artistic Monumental Ensemble, which was protected by a wall, of which some parts are still conserved. In its interior, are the Convento de San Francisco, the Gothic church of Santa María de la Asunción (Our Lady of the Assumption) and the Iglesia de San Martín church, the oldest in the place.

Nature has been generous with this town as well, situated in the Santoña, Victoria and Joyel Marshes Nature Park, where one can enjoy the beaches of El Ragatón, with astounding dunes, and that of Salve, almost five kilometres long and with several tourist quality certifications.



## ATTRACTIONS

Puebla Vieja, declared Historic-Artistic Monumental Ensemble

- Feasts of the Virgen del Carmen , Feast of San Martín, of the Association of Fishermen and Seafarers
- Concurso de Marmita (gastronomic event) and Día

Mundial del Verdel (International Mackerel Day)

- Santoña, Victoria and Joyel Marshes Nature Park
- Salve beach
- Batalla de Flores (festival of flowers), Festival of National Tourist Interest
- Historic Fest: The Last Descent of Charles V



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The VILLAS MARINERAS (FISHING TOWNS) extend from the Rías Baixas to the Cantabrian coast through three autonomous communities: Galicia, Asturias and Cantabria. Big and small localities rich in tradition and culture always associated with the sea, the travel companion alongshore a generous coast with plentiful history and stories.

Any time of the year is good to enjoy these towns, to be amazed by its changing lights, the colours of its skies and the brightness of the sun, and to feel the embrace of the sea.

Villas Marineras is an association that brings together six touristic towns, located in the geographical framework of the Atlantic Coast, that share a deep-rooted tradition of fishing and marine activity: Baiona in Galicia, Ribadesella and Llanes in Asturias, and San Vicente de la Barquera, Santoña and Laredo in Cantabria.

These towns, along with the association, work towards achieving the highest standards of tourism quality and territorial development so that the tourism activity is perfectly compatible with economic, social and environmental development.

## TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

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