Castro Urdiales

2017

English

Castro Urdiales, located in the easternmost point of the province of Cantabria, lies straddled between Santander (75 km) and Bilbao (35 km) and linked to both cities by national road CN-634 and by motorway. It is also well serviced by a number of regular bus routes. Castro Urdiales has a population of 32.117 permanent residents, in addition to a considerable population of summer residents.

Its strategic geographical location and potential for tourism have transformed the city into a predominantly service-oriented economy, although fishing and small-scale industry also feature strongly.

Beaches and other bathing areas

Ostende Beach: a shell-shaped, man-made beach, its crystal-clear, calm waters are ideal for bathing in complete safety.

Brazomar Beach: an urban beach with golden sand that attracts a large number of residents and holidaymakers. Together with the Don Luis pier it forms a small bay whose calm waters are perfect for lovers of water sports.

The Pedregal: a natural swimming pool shaped by waves and coastal erosion located within the city limits.

Other Beaches. many beautiful bays and beaches can be found along the nearby coastline, including those of **Arenillas, Oriñón, Mioño** and **El Berrón.**

Brazomar

History

Castro Urdiales was the port of a pre-roman indigenous group (the Sámanos) that later, in the year 74, Vespasian would turn into Flaviobriga, an important Roman colony.

Flaviobriga

El Chorrillo

The first event that determined the importance of Castro Urdiales in the late Middle Ages was its establishment as a town through the Charter of Logroño, as decreed by King Alfonso VIII in 1163, by means of which it gained a series of freedoms and privileges that would result in significant economic and trading breakthroughs.

In 1296 it was named capital of the powerful Brotherhood of the Wetlands, a federation of the eight most important towns of Cantabria, the Basque Country and Vitoria, to defend their business interests in the ports of Europe. Castro Urdiales continued to form part of the leadership of the main four towns until the end of the 19th century.

The 20th century saw the beginning of another period of economic development with the opening of the city's mines and others in the region. This would last until the Spanish Civil War, which led to a prolonged period of decline that would last until the end of the 1960s, when the boom in tourism brought on a new age of economic growth and urban development.

Town Hall square

Sights: *Roman and medieval*

Flaviobriga archaeological site: ruins of the ancient Roman city founded in AD 74 by the roman emperor Flavio Vespasiano.

El Chorrillo historical water supply system: roman-built channelling system that drew water from a number of different natural springs.

Church of Saint Mary of the Assumption (Santa María de la Asunción): the most significant gothic monument in the region, built in the 13th century. The interior is decorated with numerous works of art including a Reclining Christ, an oil painting of the crucifixion by Zurbarán and a sculpture of the Virgin Mary. The church was declared a Site of Cultural Interest in 1931.

Church of Saint Peter (San Pedro): as with the Church of Saint Mary, this maintains part of its original foundations, its apse, walls, a pointed-arch doorway and a semi-circular arched window. This is Castro's oldest building, dating from the 12th century.

Castle-lighthouse: construction of this building is thought to have taken place between the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th. In conjunction with the Church of Saint Mary, this formed the main medieval defence structure of the city. A lighthouse is located at the top of the structure. The castle houses a roman milestone from AD 61 that shows the distance to the roman settlement of Pisoraca (Herrera de Pisuerga, Palencia).

Santa Ana Chapel: perched atop a rocky promontory, the chapel was connected to the church and the castle by means of bridges. Of medieval origin, today it houses a visitor centre.

Milestone

Medieval Bridge: this arch-shaped structure is the only remaining bridge that connected the Santa Ana chapel to the Church of Saint Mary and the castle.

Castillo de Ocharan

Sights: *Urban architecture*

Ocharan Palace and Castle: designed by Eladio Laredo, the palace dates from 1901 and the castle-observatory from 1914. The glass tiles used on the palace were designed by Daniel Zuloaga. The castle has neo-gothic and neo-mujedar architectural influences.

Casa de Los Chelines: designed in 1902 by the architect Severino Achúcarro. The building is neo-gothic in style, with some modern architectural influences.

Isidra del Cerro House: designed in an eclectic architectural style by Severino Achúcarro in 1899.

Eladio Laredo Cultural Centre (Royal Building): Luis de Ocharan commissioned the design of this building to architect Eladio Laredo in 1901.

La Residencia Cultural Centre: built from an Eladio Laredo design in 1899 to serve as an orphanage.

Other buildings and sites of interest: Casa del General Bazán, Chalet de Sotileza, Chalet de los San Martín, Ángel García Basoco Musical Centre and the monuments to Ataulfo Argenta and Arturo Dúo Vital.

The Chelines house

TOURIST OFFICE
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www.castro-urdiales.net

Cultural festivals

Coso Blanco

Carnival: a fancy dress parade and a humorous song contest are the central parts of this festival, giving life and colour to our winter months.

Pasión Viviente (the Passion of the Christ): declared of National Touristic Interest, this is celebrated yearly on Good Friday. More than 400 local residents take part in this dramatic production depicting the last hours of Jesus Christ, which concludes with a portrayal of the crucifixion at the Atalaya.

Semana Grande: the "big week" begins on 23 June with the San Juan bonfire at the Atalaya, continues with the San Juan festivities on 24 June, followed by San Pelayo (the male) patron saint of Castro Urdiales) on 26 June and culminating with San Pedro on 29 June.

El Coso Blanco: this takes place on the first friday of July and has been declared of National Touristic Interest. Its main event is a parade of floats mostly made out of paper.

El Carmen: maritime festival complete with a parade in the harbour every 16 July.

Santa Ana: public festival celebrated every 26 July at the Santa Ana Chapel.

La Asunción and San Roque: celebrated on the 15th (La Asunción, (female patron saint of the city) and 16th (San Roque) of August, they begin with the traditional Las Velillas parade. A rowing race is held on the 15th, with the winner taking the coveted Bandera de Castro.

San Andrés: celebrated on the 30th of November and declared of Regional Touristic Interest. Saint Andrew is the patron saint of sailors and the festival revolves around the sea and seafaring people.

Passion Viviente

Lodging

HOTELS
- **Las Rocas**/Flaviobriga, 1/942 860 400
- **El Haya**/Ctra. Santander-Bilbao/942 879 306
- **Suite Mioño**/Ctra. Mioño-Lusa/942 879 555
- **La Ronda**/La Ronda, 18/942 864 040

HOSTELS
- **Vista Alegre**/B° Brazomar, s/n/942 860 150
- **Arenillas**/Ctra. Santander-Islares/942 870 900

CAMPINGS
- **Castro**/B° Campijo/942 944 897
- **Oriñón**/Autovía A-8, salida 160/942 878 630
- **Playa Arenillas**/B° Arenillas, 43/942 863 152

RURAL HOTEL
- **Casa Rosalía**/B° Helguera-Sámano/942 862 121

PENSION
- **Ardigales 11**/Ardigales, 11/942 781 616
- **La Llosa de Sámano**/Sámano, 107/942 874 024
- **La Mar**/La Mar, 27/942 870 524
- **La Sota**/Correría, 1/942 871 188
- **Los Olivos**/Lusa, 21/942 879 772
- **Los Tres Caños**/B° Tresvilla, 90-Mioño/942 879 658
- **Catamarán**/Victorina Gainza, 3/942 784 137
- **Chili**/La Ronda, 16/692 846 579
- **Hoster. Villa de Castro**/Los Huertos, 2/650 483 650
- **La Marina**/La Plazuela, 20/942 861 345

Acebal Idigoras, paseo B-C9
Alfonso VIII, avda. de D5
Amestoy, parque de B5
Andrés de la Llosa, avenida ... C-D8
Angel G. Basoco, calle A4
Angel Perez Hornoas, calle D8-9
Antonio Burgos, calle C6
Antonio Hdo. de Mendoza, c. ... B5
Aranzal, calle B-C4
Arciseri, calle A10
Ardigales, calle B5
Argenta, plaza C5-6
Artiñano, calle A-B4
Arturo Duo Vital, calle A-B4
Asturias, calle C8-9
Ataulfo Argenta, calle B9-10
Aureliano Linares Rivas, calle. C6
Ayuntamientos Democráticos, c. A11
Bajada a la Arboleda, calle B-C7
Bajada de la Estación, calle ... B-C5
Bajada del Chorrillo, calle B-C4
Belen, calle A4-5
Benito Pérez Galdós, calle B-C5
Bilbao, calle B5-6
Campijo, barrio D2
Cantabria, calle C4
Cantón de la Rúa, calle B5
Castro Vardulies, calle C8
Cayetano Tueros, calle B4
Ceuta y Melilla, calle C-D5
Chinchapapa, avenida B-C10
Chinchapapa, parque C9
Círculo Católico, calle B5
Clara Campoamor, calle A10
Concha Espina, calle C8
Correría A5
Cotolino, calle B10
Cotolino, parque A8
Derechos Humanos, avda C1
Dr. Manuel Diaz Munio, calle . B-C6
El Ayuntamiento, plaza de A5
El Hoyo, calle C1
El Pozillo, calle de A10
El Sable, calle B-C2
El Voluntariado, calle C-D4
Eladio Laredo, calle B4
Escorza, calle A5
España, avenida de A11
Flaviobriga, calle C8
Hermandad de las Marismas, pza. B9-10
Hermanos Toneti, calle C2
Iglesia Nueva, calle B5
Islas Canarias, calle C1
Islas Baleares, calle C2
Jardines, plaza B6
Javier Echavarría, calle B5
Javier Echavarría, travesía B5
Joaquín Altuna, calle C7
José María Vega, calle B10
Juan de la Cosa, calle B-C5
Juan de Mena, calle B4
Julio Romero Garmendia, c.... B9-10
La Barrera, paseo B6
La Constitución, avenida de ... B5
La Cruz, calle D9
La Granja, calle de A10
La Libertad, avenida de C5
La Mar, calle B5
La Marinera, calle B10
La Pérgola, parque B9-10
La Playa, avenida de B-C8
La Plazuela B5
La Ronda, calle B-C5
La Rúa, calle A4/B5
La Vía, calle C3-4
Las Glorietas, calle C8
Leonardo Rucabado, calle C4-5-6
Lorenzo Maza, calle C2-3
Los Caseríos, calle de C-D4
Los Huertos, calle B4
Los Salces, calle C8-9
Los Templarios, calle C1
Luis Ocharan Mazas, paseo ... B6-7-8
Maestro Barbieri, calle C4
Manuel Urquijo, calle B1-2
María Aburto, calle B7
Matilde de la Torre, calle B4
Melitón Pérez del Camino, c. ... B5
Menéndez Pelayo, paseo ... B6/C7-8
Mercado, plaza del B4
Miguel de Cervantes, calle D8
Monte Cerredo, calle D8
Moralas Erostarbe, calle C2
Nicolás Torre, calle A-B10
Nuestra Señora, calle A-B4
8 de Marzo, calle A11
Once de Mayo, calle A3
Ostende, paseo de C2-3
Padre Basabe, calle B1/C2
Paco Labiano, calle B1
País Vasco, calle C8-9
Paseo Marítimo A-B5-6-7-8
Paseo Paraíso D9
Pescadores, barrio de A4
Pintor Eleazar Ortiz, calle B9-10
Poeta Angel Cobo, calle B9
Poeta José Hierro, calle C5
Portus Amanus, calle C8
Primero de Mayo, calle C2
República Argentina, calle B-C3
Resamano, calle A10
Ricardo Rueda, calle B4
Riomar, avenida B-C9
Rozas, camino de D3
San Andrés, calle B9-10
San Cristóbal, plaza port. B4-5
San Francisco, calle B4
San Juan, calle A4-5
San Juan, travesía A5
Santa Ana, calle C1
Santa Catalina, calle C5
Santa María, calle B1
Santander, calle B4-5
Siervas de Jesús, calle C1
Siglo XX, calle A-B4
Silvestre Ochoa, calle C1-2-3
Subida a Campijo, calle C-D2
Subida del Chorrillo, calle C4
Teresa de Calcuta, calle A-B10
Timoteo Ibarra, calle B5
Torre de Vitoria, calle A-B5
Velázquez, calle C8
Venancio Bosco, calle C4
Victorina Gainza, calle B-C5

ARTISTIC PATRIMONY

1 Flaviobriga archaeological site B5
2 El Chorrillo historical water supply system .. C4
3 Castle-Lighthouse A5
3 Roman milestone A5
4 Medieval bridge A5
5 Santa Ana chapel A5
6 Church of Saint Mary of the Assumption. A5
7 Church of the Sacred Heart B5
8 Market B4
9 Cemetery A1
10 Casa de los Chelines A5
11 Ocharan castle C7
12 Ocharan palace C7
13 Isidra del Cerro house B6
14 Chalet de Sotileza B8
15 Nature House B9
16 Monument to Ataulfo Argenta B6
17 Monument to Arturo Duo Vital ... B4

PUBLIC CENTERS

1 Town hall ..... A5 ..... 942 782 900
2 Tourist Office ..... B5 ..... 942 871 512
3 Youth Information Office ..... B5 ..... 942 782 943
4 Consumer Information Office ..... B5 ..... 942 782 947
4 Social Services ..... B5 ..... 942 782 947
5 Local Police ..... C4 ..... 942 782 950
6 Guardia Civil (Police) ..... A4 ..... 942 861 146
7 Fire Brigade-Civil Protection ..... D9 ..... 080 - 942 859 090
8 Courthouse-Civil Registration ..... A10 ..... 942 861 399
9 Post Office ..... C4 ..... 942 861 000
10 OCA Information Office ..... C5 ..... 942 869 987
11 Municipal Deposit of Vehicles ..... C1 ..... 942 861 294
12 Urdiales Municipal Hostel ..... C1 ..... 620 608 118
13 Bus Station ..... D8 ..... 942 867 145
14 Cotolino I Health Center ..... B5 ..... 942 869 161
15 Cotolino II Health Center ..... B10 ..... 942 869 169
16 Red Cross ..... B6 ..... 942 861 348
17 Eladio Laredo Cultural Centre ..... B6 ..... 942 782 932
18 La Residencia Cultural Centre ..... B7 ..... 942 782 903
19 Angel G. Basoco Musical Centre ..... B4 ..... 942 864 951
15 Archeology Centre ..... B9 ..... 942 782 906
20 Municipal Archive ..... C4 ..... 942 782 939
21 Museum of the Sea and Fishing . A5 ..... -
22 Bullring ..... C2 ..... 942 861 512
23 Peru Zaballa Sports Center ..... B2 ..... 942 782 960
24 Pachi Torre Sports Center ..... C4 ..... 942 782 941
25 Riomar Football Stadium ..... B9 ..... 942 782 931
26 Ana Glez. Pavilion of Nautical Activ.. A5 ..... 942 782 916