

*Come home to*  
**PARADISE**

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*Beautiful towns to visit in Asturias*



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# Introduction

*#AsturianCities*

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Rivero Street from Ferrera Park (Avilés)

Asturias, a spectacular region. A historic Principality located in the north of Spain. A beautiful, natural tapestry coloured green, blue and grey. The land with a black coal mining heart. It is heaven on earth. Visiting Asturias will fascinate you. It is an experience you'll never forget.

Its urban area is made up of three cities with a great history and personality: **Avilés, Gijón/ Xixón and Oviedo** (the capital). These cities form an easily accessible urban area.

These three cities share the secret and glory of a history linked to the ancestral relevance of Asturias: Asturias was a kingdom of its own. This has given this land a distinctive character.

All the neighbourhoods and suburbs as well as the city centres of these three municipalities safeguard architectural treasures. Oviedo, the capital, treasures in its neighbourhoods as well as its city centre, pre-Romanesque treasures declared **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, the Cathedral- flamboyantly gothic in style-, the Renaissance Historic Building of the University and another series of churches and palaces. In the other cities of Avilés and Gijón, you can also admire monuments of different architectural styles and in all three, we will find spectacular demonstrations of Nature, completely accessible, located right in the city centres, in the form of paths and parks.

**The beautiful streets** of their old, commercial quarters, full of monumental buildings, are pedestrianised and accessible. Always tidy, Oviedo and Gijón/ Xixón have been awarded the **“Escoba de Platino”** (platinum broom) as two of the cleanest cities in Spain.

 **More information at:**  
[asturiastourism.co.uk/](http://asturiastourism.co.uk/)  
**AsturianCities**

**The lifestyle and mild Atlantic climate of Asturias** allows Asturians and visitors to enjoy life outdoors. The three cities have crowded areas of wide terraces, in their city centres as well as in their neighbourhoods. This contributes to the enjoyment of relaxing, friendly meet-ups and the feeling of living the good life that can be soaked up in this land.

It is easy to enjoy all of them, only twenty minutes away by motorway, and public transport connection to the airport.

Inter-connected through their services, industries, trade and tourist attractions, Avilés, Gijón/Xixón and Oviedo come together in a harmonious union, each of them maintaining its own essence and idiosyncrasy, to offer itself to visitors with the customary generosity.

Three cities where quality of life, safety and accessibility can be seen at every turn. And just a few kilometres from their city centres, there is spectacular natural scenery, with its beautiful coasts and impressive mountains, dotted with vestiges of their history, a legacy of incalculable value.



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Porlier Square (Oviedo)



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## Niemeyer Centre

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On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Prince of Asturias Prize, the organization asked all the winners of the prize to join this important celebration. The centenarian architect Óscar Niemeyer offered as a gift the design of this architectural ensemble he sketched with a rough marker. After three very intense years of work (from 2008 to 2011), Avilés had the chance to enjoy what in the words of the architect himself was not just his only work in Spain, but his most important that can be admired in the whole of Europe.

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# Avilés

## Beautiful, historic and surprising city

Avilés is one of the three most important cities in Asturias. Along its estuary, the core of its fishing and industrial development, the visitor could appreciate its complete historical and artistic legacy. An estuary that has been a cosmopolitan breach between medieval Avilés and the rest of the world.

Stories of kings, distinguished marines, court painters or urban catastrophes are woven behind the façades of impressive palaces, churches and different shops that make up the urban scenery of this surprising city.

Protected until the 19th century by a medieval wall, its **Historic and Monumental Quarter**, a little over two kilometres squared, is open to walkers, completely pedestrianised and accessible.

This town possesses many contemporary acknowledgements. Recently it was chosen as **“Best accessible tourist destination of 2016”** for its completely transitable Old Quarter, declared a **Historic-Artistic Site** in 1955.

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*Also, its “historic landscape” has been declared by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport as one of the one hundred most prominent “Cultural Landscapes” of Spain.*

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And, after Santiago de Compostela, it is the city in Spain with the most porticoed streets.

San Francisco Street





Avilés Marina

Its important **fishing fleet and its fish market** also stand out from where most of the catches leave to head for the capital of Spain. Nothing can compete with fish from the Cantabrian Sea!

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*Also, its marina, with 16 piers and the dock for receiving cruise ships, add another urban touch to this medieval Asturian town.*

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To say the word Avilés is to talk about industry. Formerly, Ensidesa and currently, Arcelor Mittal acted and act not only as a driving force in its progress, but also as a catalyst for the working population.

Undoubtedly, the town also known as *Villa del Adelantado*, in reference to **Pedro Menéndez de Avilés** who founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the city of St. Augustine in La Florida, is a small great surprise in the triangle of the three most important cities in Asturias.

## What the streets and squares of Avilés hide

Avilés is a place for taking it slow. For stopping the clock in its squares and streets, in its porticoed squares and its sunny open spaces. The over two kilometres of porticoed streets in Avilés shield you from the sun, or the rain falling on the squares, streets and crossings; a complete architectural and sculptural catalogue in themselves. Walking along is a treat for your eyes, a recreation of the passage of the centuries through its monuments and squares.



Ferrera Park

The **España Square**, known as Parche Square is a wide space full of light and history. It is presided over by the old City Hall, **two streets** lead away from it, **Galiana** and **la Ferrería**. These two streets enclose two Palaces, the Marqués de Ferrera Palace and the Llano Ponte Palace, both are houses built by returning emigrants, and a marvellous park to experience the contrast of the urban and natural: the Ferrera Park.



España Square



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*Walking along 17<sup>th</sup> century Galiana Street is an absolute must. Made of porticoes it encloses old merchants' houses, with a lower floor for stable, tools and market garden and an upper floor for living.*

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The ground, divided into slabs and pebbles, welcomed men, carts and beasts up to the sunny and noisy square of Carbayedo, an old livestock market.

The Ferrería Street is a connection of the marshes with the town which is porticoed in a long section and that have endured the passage of the centuries. There, inside the old walled enclosure we find Los Alas Chapel (proto-Gothic) - a family of tradesmen that were also fighters - and the Padres Franciscanos Church which is built in the Romanesque style of the Coastal St. James's Way.

Very close, there lies the Marqués de Camposagrado Palace with its two façades, the Renaissance and the Baroque. This place was a refuge for Napoleon's troops when they invaded Spain. To its left, the Renaissance house where the illustrious personality of the town, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, the Adelantado de La Florida, was born.



Domingo Álvarez Acebal Square



Marqués de Camposagrado Palace



Galiana Street

Standing in front of the palace, there is a bronze sculpture, the statue of the illustrious court painter of kings Carlos II and Felipe IV, Juan Carreño de Miranda, who was born in Avilés, in the middle of the Baroque period. He was the author, among many other works, of paintings of characters of his time, such as the one he did of the girl Eugenia Martínez Vallejo, nicknamed "the Monster" for suffering from morbid obesity, who posed for the portrait both dressed and naked.

A surprising sculpture, also thus named and that portrays faithfully the image of the obese girl depicted by the Baroque painter, is shown in the vicinity of the "old" Romanesque church in the fishing neighbourhood of Sabugo and it is a work by the sculptor Favila from Avilés.

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*The Romanesque church of San Nicolas de Bari, which stands outside the town walls, has undergone many expansions and renovations over the centuries. Inside the church there is an interesting baptismal font which is made out of a Roman capital.*

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A must-see in the centre of Avilés is **La Muralla Street**. There you can find very interesting neo-Renaissance and neo-Baroque historical buildings from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and **Las Aceñas Square**.

Not far from there we find **La Merced Square**, so-named due to the former Mercedarian convent located there. There we find the peculiar mansion of the returning emigrant Eladio Muñiz and the neo-Gothic Church of Santo Tomás de Canterbury or "Iglesia Nueva de Sabugo" (New Church of Sabugo) presiding over a space that bewitches newcomers.



Palacio Valdés Theatre

*Avilés hides many architectural surprises, sites that cannot be missed such as the mansion which formerly was the Gran Hotel that we can find in the vicinity of El Muelle Park, and the neo-Baroque Palacio Valdés Theatre, a work by Manuel del Busto located near the City Hall Square.*

As for the most relevant architectural contributions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is indispensable to visit to the **Niemeyer Centre** located on the left bank of the estuary. An impressive facility composed of unique buildings (auditorium, tower, semi-dome and multi-disciplinary space). Its presence has given Avilés a reviving touristic boost on a worldwide level.

Other buildings of interest in Avilés are the **Avilés Museum of**



Gran Hotel Mansion

**Urban History**, in which all the knowledge necessary to decode the very many charms of the Villa del Adelantado town is displayed, and **La Carriona Cemetery Interpretation Centre**; its funerary sculptures are the object of these and study throughout the whole of Spain.

*With regard to Performing Arts, Avilés is proud to be one of the most active in the Principality of Asturias with a music and theatre season that covers the whole year.*

The main theatres in Avilés are the **Auditorium of the Niemeyer Centre**, the **Palacio Valdés Theatre** and the **Auditorium of the Municipal House of Culture**, as well as other small buildings in which music and theatre plays are also performed.



Avilés Museum of Urban History



## What few know about Avilés

It is a pleasure to visit this surprising city, full of hidden corners and charming streets.

Although visiting the Ferrera Park is a must, remember also to visit the unique and secluded French Garden, so attractive for relaxing. The porticoed Ferrería Street, between Los Franciscanos Church and the Valdecarzana Palace (14<sup>th</sup> century) is one of the oldest streets in the north of Spain. Do not miss out on discovering how the ruins of the medieval wall emerge at the base of the façade of the Camposagrado Palace, the one that leads to El Muelle Park; it is quite interesting to note the mixture of ashlar that it is made of. It is also worth visiting the cloister of San Nicolás de Bari College to admire the exclusive Visigoth gate mounted on one of the walls of the college. And, although it is not



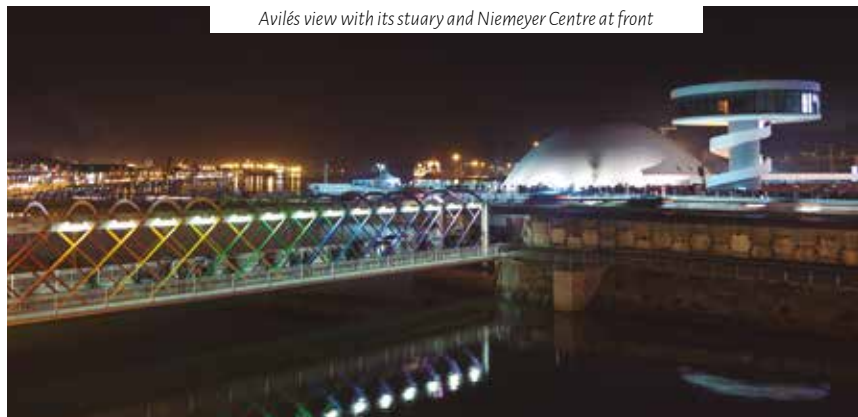
Statue in El Muelle Park



Siete Caños Fountain

currently in view, interestingly, the Avilés Estuary reached where El Muelle Park is now; the tides produced the energy to move the water mills. These water mills were located in the area of the current Hermanos Orbón Market, a magnificent example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century market. Another interesting thing in Avilés is the Siete Caños Fountain (16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> century) on San Francisco Street which displays figures of people from the time. A visiting delegation from our sister city of St. Augustine (Florida, USA) were captivated by its beauty and asked the city council for a copy to be sent to them made with silicon moulds and fibre glass that now

has pride of place in front of the City Hall of this American city. As for the innovative, spectacular Niemeyer Centre, it is interesting to know that it is located on land that has been reclaimed from the sea. To make the foundations it was necessary to place its pillars on underwater rocks, over 20 metres deep, the buildings being taller in length below water than above the surface. In addition, to build the dome, the Domo technique was used, which consisted of inflating the PVC membrane in the shape of a dome, projecting concrete onto it and shaping it from the inside. It is a very fast technique that was used only in this facility in Spain.



Avilés view with its estuary and Niemeyer Centre at front

## The sense of taste

It is well known that one of the best ways to get to know a place is through its local cuisine. For example, take home your memories with a delightful **La Peral and Gorfoli cheeses** or a good **Avilés sausage**. We can find all of this in any food shop in town or at the Hermanos Orbón Market.

If you've worked up an appetite after a nice morning discovering the city, no problem: Avilés's range of options is very broad.

*There is something for everyone. Lovers of the traditional would, for instance, appreciate the visit to an old staging post from the 19<sup>th</sup> century where you can taste the famous Longaniza de Avilés sausage.*

To try these delicacies, Avilés has a good catering industry ready for receiving visitors, spread across different streets and squares.

The surroundings of the bright City Hall Square, better known as Parche Square, have in their different porticoes "lifelong"-type establishments where you can taste a pastry or a tasty "pincho" (bar top snack) with a comforting cup of coffee.



Santo Tomás de Canterbury



Los Hermanos Orbón Square

Additionally, in the many splendid patisseries in Avilés, above all around Easter time, there is always the chance to try the famous "**bollo mantecado**" (butter Easter cake) an emblem of the excellent confectionary of festive Avilés.

Equally, it is very pleasant to have an aperitif in any of the main streets in its pedestrianised Old Quarter.

*Several charming and very well-situated cafes can be found near the Santo Tomás de Canterbury Church, in the neighbourhood of Sabugo.*

If you want to try some cider, go for beers or chat, visit the surroundings of El Muelle Park where you will find emblematic cider bars and wine bars, where you can also enjoy varied tapas dishes. Other good options to enjoy the catering industry of Avilés could be any of the picturesque bars in the Hermanos Orbón Square and the neighbouring area, or in any of the neighbourhoods of the Villa del Adelantado town.





Market Square

shops where we will be able to find traditional products, for example, some espadrilles. Also, in San Francisco Street, close to the City Hall Square, discover some enchanting corner shops, almost centenary.

If we visit Avilés on a Monday, we cannot miss the chance to go to the Hermanos Orbón Square or Las Aceñas Market where their traditional weekly market is held from the early hours of the morning, its origins dating back to the Catholic Monarchs. There we will be able to find interesting articles of all types at a very good price.

In Avilés we can also find a good sample of **modern trades selling original and exclusive clothing**, cosmetics and homeware, some very original, located in what was the former dancehall of the Palace of the Marqués de Teverga, close to the las Aceñas Market Square.

## A very tempting shop window

But to come to Avilés is to deliver yourself to a cultural, gastronomic and also to an important consumer choice. The streets of Avilés are a whole catalogue of shops, where the traditional and the most contemporary co-exist, the enthusiastic bet of our new entrepreneurs.

**Small traditional local business** come together in harmony with recent arrivals to the Áviles trade. In La Fruta and La Cámara Streets we can find centenary



La Fruta Street

## Avilés at night

Avilés is a peaceful city, but has a lively nightlife. The same streets and squares which during the day are home to aperitifs and get-togethers, at night see their regulars and recent arrivals who come to enjoy a good beer, wine or drink in the company of some good background live music.

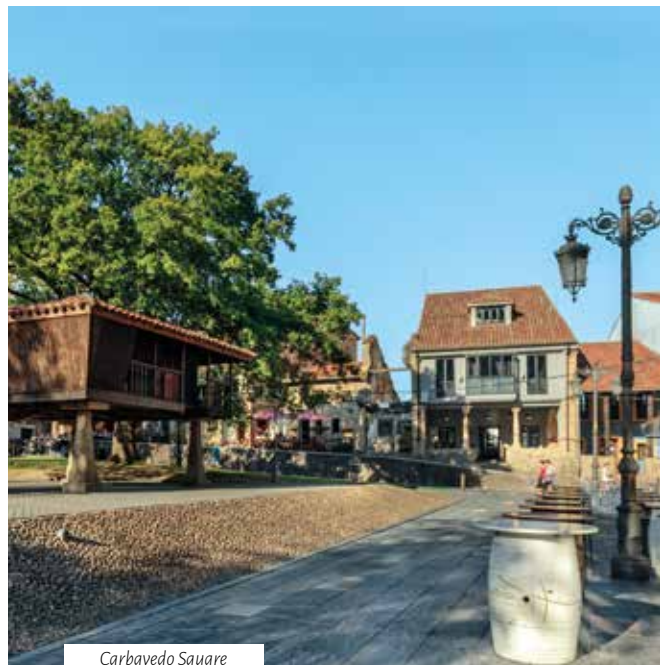
*Thus, Galiana Street and the Carbayedo Square would be recommended for the more classic and senior audience. In them, you can link evening snacks with the first drink.*



Rivero Street



Bances Candamo Street



Carbayedo Square

*As you can see for yourself, arriving in Avilés feels like being immediately embraced by culture, movement and excitement.*



In the **Rivero and La Ferrería Streets**, we will find a more diverse atmosphere, young people being mixed with the older generation. During summer time, they enjoy the terraces or inside some bars in the area, stupendous live music concerts. In the pubs of the **Sabugo neighbourhood** and its surroundings, "live" folk music concerts are held.

Similarly, and, seasonally, the exceptional urban setting of Avilés has hosted in the early summer since 2012 "The White Night", where all the arts (painting, music,

theatre...) are displayed for all audiences, in art galleries as well as in the streets. In this event, the collaboration of the renowned Avilés catering industry is most appreciated.



*More information at:*  
[asturiastourism.co.uk/Aviles](http://asturiastourism.co.uk/Aviles)



[aviles.es](http://aviles.es)

## The 'unmissable' festivals of Avilés

Avilés holds festivities throughout the year. Every season has its own celebration and each has its own peculiarity.

The **Carnival of Avilés** has been declared **Tourist Interest**. The tumultuous and spectacular Descent of the Galiana Street is a reference of fun and of the devoted participation of Avilés people and foreigners while they are being covered with white foam and water.

**Avilés' Holy Week**, also declared to be of **Tourist Interest**, is very well known. There are nine brotherhoods which, surprisingly, refer to the images of their devotion with a common familiarity using diminutives when referring to them: Jesúsín de Galiana; San Pedrín de Rivero and the San-Juaninos (fraternity for young people).



*Bollo mantecado (butter Easter cake)*



*The multitudinous Street Food*

After Holy Week, the celebration of **Easter Monday** takes place with a festival created by the doctor Claudio Luanco. It was the first popular festival in which the star was the bollo mantecado (butter Easter cake) with which step godparents treat their godchildren. Then other feasts were created such as the multitudinous **Street Food** which has been celebrated since 1990 also on Easter Monday.

Avilés is also peculiar in terms of its patron saint; instead of having just one – which is the custom here in Spain – Avilés has three. Saint Nicholas of Bari, Saint Augustine and Our Lady of the Light, and two churches dedicated to the patron of the merchants of the town: St. Thomas of Canterbury.

The celebrations of **Saint Augustine**, which are held around 28 August are, also, another excellent tourist attraction added to what Avilés already has in summer. This feast involves the whole city and its magnificent urban scenery in the many events that take place.

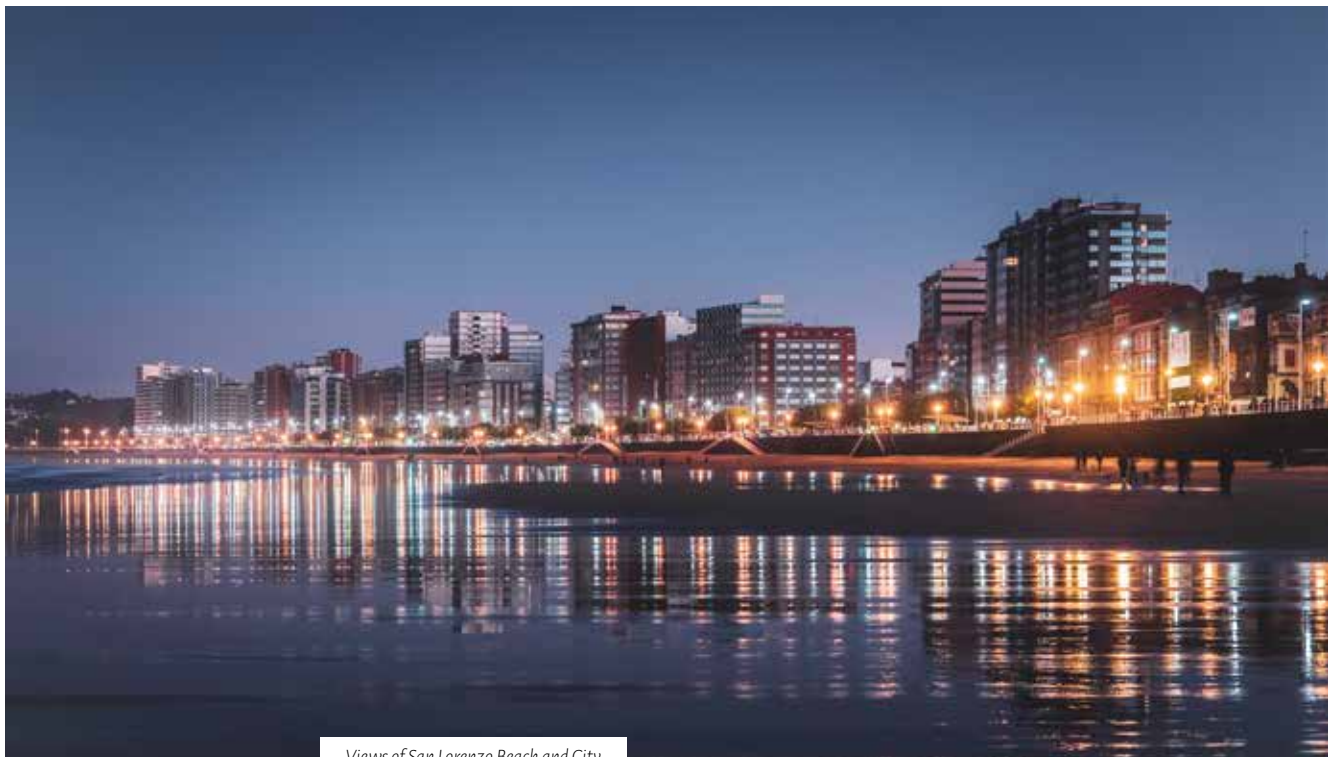


## Pleased to meet you

Gijón/Xixón looks out to the sea and also inland. There, an entire population lives devoted to their home town which is welcoming and happy to live in, visit and enjoy.







Views of San Lorenzo Beach and City

## Gijón/Xixón

Celtic, Roman and Contemporary; seafaring, urban and rural, **Gijón/Xixón** has been since time immemorial an excellent connection to the Cantabrian and overseas countries. In its streets and parks everything is designed to be enjoyed to the full and without rushing.

This is why, since time immemorial, through the coastal façade and crossing its terrain, two historical routes are traced: the **Vía de la Plata and the Coastal St. James's Way**.

One of the best ways to start getting to know the city of Gijón/Xixón is by taking a toning walk along its well-known “**wall**” of **San Lorenzo Beach** which will also help infuse you with the generous and precipitative essence of the city.

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*It is normal in Gijón/Xixón to see a good number of people doing sporting activity.*

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Runners, cyclists -who are given a great importance and accessibility, with the wide bike-lane that runs throughout the city-, surfers -who have several schools on San Lorenzo Beach-, skaters... everyone has their place in the morning, evening and night-time Gijón/Xixón.

In addition, Gijón/Xixón of course has facilities related to its proximity to the sea, as interesting as the Talasoponiente Spa Resort (the only one with sea water in Asturias).

Having made initial contact, there is nothing better than drinking your first cup of coffee. There are many bars and cafes. Some are traditional, others recent, other have been recovered and are located downtown such as the “cafetones” (big cafés) of **Paseo de Begoña** or **Plazuela de San Miguel Square**. There, peculiar shops occupy the lower floors of the modernist, eclectic buildings (19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup> century) designed by the architect Manuel del Busto, which retained the charm of the past and seems to be designed for leisurely meet-ups.

If you have the time, that coffee will be combined to perfection with a quick look at and acquisition of one of the interesting books that are displayed in many bars and pubs, true “**cultural temples**” located in the middle of the town centre.

## Artistic and cultural essences

The city of Gijón/Xixón was born in the Cabo Torres, in the so-called **Campa Torres**. Seven kilometers from the current city centre. The Celtic tribe of the Cilurnigans settled there in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. in the Iron Age and they called the place "Noega". A little later, from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., the Romans inhabited the area, making use of the fortified constructions of their former dwellers, the Celts.



San Miguel Square



Interior of Jovellanos Theatre

Currently, the **Campa Torres Archaeological Park** offers, both through its remains stored in the open-air and in its facilities, all kinds of data and information for learning about the transition of the pre-Romanesque world to the Romanisation of Gijón/Xixón.

The Roman presence in Gijón was located in the **peripheral parish of Veranes**, 16 kilometres from the big city, in what is now known as the Archeological Site of Torrexón in Veranes, a Site of Cultural Interest; and shows what a Roman villa was like, inhabited from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

*In the city centre, the flatness and accessibility of the streets and squares of Gijón/Xixón always invite you to enjoy.*

Culture greets you at every turn. The Old Quarter is an extensive catalogue of Art. The Roman, Renaissance and Baroque essence of the city is displayed, also, in the vicinity of staircase 1, of the sixteen that the San Lorenzo Beach has as access.

Close to its waters, the **Roman Baths** were built (1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.). In the nearby Campo Valdés Square, the Palace of Pedro Valdés and the Chapel of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (17<sup>th</sup> century) can be seen.



The Roman Baths of Campo Valdés





Laboral, City of Culture

## Laboral University of Gijón

In Cabueñes we also find the **Laboral University of Gijón** (1948-1957). It is a magnificent architectural ensemble that initially housed an orphanage for mining orphans. Its facilities house a huge patio, the second biggest chapel in an elliptical shape in the world, a big theatre with a Hellenistic façade, amazing gardens, a large number of rooms for the children in care and all the facilities for their daily life: kitchen, bedrooms, classrooms, etc. and many other rooms.

Currently named **Laboral, City of Culture**, it is a cultural city from the 21<sup>st</sup> century, open, diverse, in which there is room for all types of shows and leisure opportunities. Discovering this city and visiting the viewpoint, enjoying its theatre or the exhibitions at Laboral Centre for Art and Industrial Creation... is a unique cultural combination.

In its surroundings is the Mayor Square and the City Hall (19<sup>th</sup> century), the Jovellanos Square, near which the remains of the **Roman wall** (late 3<sup>rd</sup> to early 4<sup>th</sup> century) are located, and the Birthplace (14<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> century) of the citizen of Gijón /Xixón , **Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos**. We can also find there the former headquarters of the Institute of Mineralogy promoted by this illustrious character of international projection, through the underground of which runs a sizeable stretch of Roman wall.

In the nearby **Marqués Square**, in front of the statue of the king Don Pelayo, emblem of the shield of Gijón/ Xixón, we can admire the imposing Palace of Marqués de Revillagigedo (15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century) and the San Juan Bautista Collegiate the façades of which look on to the old port, now the **marina**, a cosmopolitan spot in the city.

To complete the collection of monuments, we cannot miss the Renaissance Jove-Huergo Palace and La Trinidad Chapel (17<sup>th</sup> century), an artistic monument and headquarters of the **Barjola Museum** that houses the work of this painter from Extremadura.



Marqués Square



Birthplace of Jovellanos



Muséu del Pueblu d'Asturies

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*And there is nothing better than exploring the narrow streets of the most typical fishermen quarter of Cimavilla/Cimadevilla, a place with a lot of charm, to finish our walk through the heart of historical Gijón/Xixón.*

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Well recovered and restored, this quarter preserves magnificent buildings such as the neo-Renaissance Maison Paquet (old Consulate of France in Gijón/Xixón) or the very seafaring la Soledad Chapel (17<sup>th</sup> century) headquarters of the Guild of Sea Merchants and Whalers.

Not far from there, in the western **area of Poniente** we find two of the five city beaches, and the impressive Aquarium, one of the star facilities of the city. Pools of different sizes display the fauna and flora of different areas of the planet; the main objective of the **Aquarium** being the dissemination and education for the protection of the marine environment in the world.



Aquarium



Evaristo Valle Museum

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*Another cultural attraction in Gijón/Xixón is the Railway Museum of Asturias.*

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Located in the old North Station, its old buildings and sleeping train tracks, it is displayed the evolution of the railway and its different uses in Asturias, from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

In the area of the Piles river, it is also very gratifying to head to the **Muséu del Pueblu d'Asturies** (Museum of the Asturian People) where through a very abundant audio and video material we are re-invited to learn about the traditions and very particular character of the more ancestral Asturias.

Regarding the **museum facilities** dedicated to reputable painters from Gijón it is necessary to underline the one dedicated to **Nicanor Piñole**, which is located in a nineteenth-century mansion, a work by Manuel del Busto in the centre of Gijón/Xixón, and that of **Evaristo Valle**, located in the modernist farmhouse "La Redonda" (Somió neighbourhood) and declared recently a Site of Cultural Interest.



## Fascinating corners

Always surprising, in the city centre as well as in its immediate rural surroundings, Gijón/Xixón offers fascinating places where you can feel as if you are in another world.

Also, in the vicinity of the San Lorenzo Beach, the secluded La Ciudadela, is found, an interesting example of the working - class dwelling of 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Another magical place in Gijón/Xixón is the Cerro de Santa Catalina Hill, in the neighbourhood of Cimavilla/Cimadevilla. It was an old defensive area since the time of the Romans. Currently, the impressive “Elogio del Horizonte” a cyclopean concrete sculpture created in 1990 by Eduardo Chillida is found there. It represents a special hug of Gijón/Xixón to its overseas emigrants. Standing at the centre of this spot allows us to hear the sound of the waves crashing at our feet. Also heavenly are the surroundings of the Parador Molino Viejo located on the grounds of a centenary flour mill that was in the area. It is connected with the Isabel la Católica Park: little bridges over a small stream, lush vegetation and benches dispersed for enjoyment and contemplation, all transport us to another era.



Ciudadela de Celestino Solar



The Atlantic Botanic Gardens



Corrida Street

A very similar sensation will invade us if we enter into the Atlantic Botanic Gardens that has a historic garden and were we find, the “Carbayeda de El Tragamón”, two forests with centennial tree species.

Another fascinating place in Gijón/Xixón is hidden inside the Church of San Pedro, on the San Lorenzo Beach. It is the marvellous mosaic that covers its ambulatory, created by the Jesuit Slovenian mosaic artist, Marko Rupnik and executed by artists from different parts of the world, with thousands of tiles of colours made with different types of stone that amaze every visitor.

You cannot miss either the modernist urban façades of certain streets in Gijón/Xixón, an aesthetic testimony to its industrial splendour and port activity. Strolling through the very elegant and historical Corrida Street, where the collection of glazed galleries, mouldings and floral garlands or with mythological characters, coloured lanes, metallic balustrades in whimsical shapes and other architectural and artistic details from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, will turn our stroll into something unforgettable.

## What does Gijón/Xixón taste like?

Gijón/Xixón offers us a large number of culinary temptations. Its restaurants and bars offer fresh fish and seafood from the Cantabrian Sea and excellent meat and Asturian cured meats of the highest quality. These are the “key ingredient” of our traditional filling dishes such as *fabada* (an Asturian bean stew), *pote* (stew with chorizo), Asturian beans with clams, seafood stews, etc.



Revillagigedo Palace

The city offers the best of its gastronomy with three gastronomic passports: “**Gourmet Gijón**”, “**Gourmand Gijón**” and the “**Cider Route**”. A simple way to find out which establishments are highly recommended.

The options range from the most classic restaurants to the most avant-garde. Some possess the quality stamp “**Mesas de Asturias**”, others have been awarded the “**Michellin Stars**”. There are also our famed and busy cider bars, also with the quality stamp “**Sidrerías de Asturias**”, (popular and authentic bars) where you can enjoy the authentic Asturian atmosphere and dare, if the opportunity arises, to sing a “cantarín” (“singsong”).

*Another good option to spend the afternoon out of the city centre is to visit the traditional “merenderos” (picnic areas)- with a long history in Asturias- to share the traditional “tapas” and refreshing “culinos” (tipples) of cider under the yew trees and walking over the “prau” (meadow).*

In Cabueñes and in the whole rural area of Gijón, several of them can be found.

If you want to know the world of cider more deeply, there are many **cider presses** in the different rural spots of Gijón that, by contacting and making a reservation, offer guided tours with an explanation of the whole process of making this nectar of undeniable Asturian character.

Gijon/Xixón also has a long confectioner tradition. Many confectionary shops offer us different traditional sweet surprises with which to end our lunches and snacks; the legendary “**Princesitas**”, the proverbial marzipan and orange truffle sweets, or the “**Charlota**”, a reinvention of an Austrian cake that the local patisserie has adopted as their own.

*It would be almost sinful to go to Gijón/Xixón without trying all of these delicacies!*



Confectionary Shop



## I bought it in Gijón/Xixón!

Gijón/Xixón has a well-deserved reputation for the variety and quality of its wide-ranging commercial offer, not surprisingly, trade is one of the great strengths of its local economy. A large selection of the most classic and select boutiques have lived in harmony for decades with the most modern establishments and newest franchises.

Not very far from the central Corrida Street and in the vicinity of the busy Paseo de Begoña (Instituto, La Merced and Cabrales Streets) there are a number of **boutiques** of young creators that offer original design products, fashion, art and decoration items that require an obligatory visit. It is, without doubt, Gijón's Soho.



Shop in Gijón's Soho

Market in Mayor Square



Another type of articles that are necessary to buy when visiting Gijón/Xixón are the **culinary ones**. In this regard, the South Market is the market of the city par excellence.

Always linked to the Asturian region and with a wide national and international offer we will find establishments specialising in delicatessen, in some cases, located in interesting historical buildings.

But if what you fancy is taking home a more **"indigenous" souvenir**, there is nothing like wandering around the Ecological and Craft Market which is held on the second weekend of each month in the Mayor Square. There you can get a magnificent piece of craft designed and made by Asturian crafts people.

But, one of the obligatory events on **Sunday mornings** in Gijón/Xixón is the visit to its **weekly flea market** which is held in the big esplanade near the La Guía Sports Centre and El Molinón Avenue, close to Isabel la Católica Park and Piles river. There, Gijón natives and visitors arrange to meet up to acquire, in this extensive market, all kinds of second-hand objects and antiques.

## Going out in Gijón/Xixón

Gijón/Xixón, a fun and lively city that many places with a nice atmosphere, at different times of the day and for an audience of different ages.

*The first date with the most busy city could start in the evening, in the old fishing port. The area of "Cuesta del Cholo" and the "Tránsito de las Ballenas" are the hot spots on the young people's agenda, with cider as the most important drink presiding over all the fun.*

Periodista Arturo Arias Square



Cuesta'l Cholo



"El Tostaderu" in staircase 16 of San Lorenzo Beach



*Gijón/Xixón is happiness, culture and partying. Come and see for yourself. I'm sure you will agree!*



In Gijón/Xixón, life continues at nightfall. Thus, at night, you could start by meeting up to have the typical wines or beers before having dinner in any of the bars and taverns in the area of **Carmen Square** and the **Wine Route**, always busy.

*The neighbourhood of "La Arena" (a real classic) and "Fomento" are the areas where the youngest people gather.*

The drinks can be taken in the surroundings of **Capua Street** and **El Náutico**, in the residential area of Somiό, or in the "Tostaderu", with a senior public. And if you feel like dancing, the area of Fomento and the fishing neighbourhood of Cimavilla/Cimadevilla offer, for the young and older generation, new establishments where you can enjoy yourself.



More information at:  
[asturiastourism.co.uk/Gijon](http://asturiastourism.co.uk/Gijon)



[gijon.info](http://gijon.info)

## Let's go partying in Gijón/Xixón

The **agenda of festivals and events** is very extensive as Gijón/Xixón celebrates throughout the whole year.

The "festive" year starts in February with the celebration of the "**Antroxu**" or **Carnival**. With a large history and participation, this celebration is a complete splurge of colour and creativity for children and adults.

Moving on to summer, the event of the successful **Natural Cider Festival** which is held between July and August in the Mayor Square is not to be missed.



Pouring Cider Record

Semana Grande



Gijón/Xixón's "**Semana Grande**" in the middle of August, includes the Asturias International Trade Fair, international folkloric parade, fireworks, Begoña bullfighting festival, theatre, a very popular traditional Asturian Tuna and Song Competition (July-August), etc.

In addition to all this, throughout the year, different **cultural and sporting events** are held: the Gijón Sound Festival (April), the Metrόpoli Festival (June-July), Black Week (July) and the Festival of the Arcu Arlánticu (July), the International Cinema Festival (November), the Jazz Festival, Tsunami Xixón (August) and Mercaplana (for children and young people). We also celebrate many others, and different sporting competitions of international impact such as, for example, the holding of regattas in the Marina port.

## The classic, beautiful city

Visiting Oviedo becomes a very fascinating experience. This is the famous town "Vetusta" that appears in the famous late 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, "La Regenta" by Leopoldo Alas Clarín. The town presents itself as a noble, cosmopolitan and pedestrian city.





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# Oviedo

**Oviedo** has been the capital of the Principality of Asturias since the 8<sup>th</sup> century when Alfonso II the Chaste, king of Asturias from the year 791 to 842, decided to appoint the city as capital of the kingdom. The **Original Way to St. James** begins in Oviedo. In the year 813 the pantheon of the apostle St. James was discovered in Iria Flavia (Galicia) in the kingdom of Asturias. Alfonso II travelled from Oviedo to Iria Flavia as a tribute to him. He had a small basilica erected there. Thus, this first journey of king Alfonso II was the origin of the well-known Original Way to St. James.

Oviedo is a masterful mix of History and Art. Its stately streets have an undeniable "chic" style. The city is also well-known for the many cultural and festive events it holds.

A good idea for getting to know Oviedo is to get lost wandering around the city, searching for that long-desired morning coffee, at any cafe or patisserie in Galicia Avenue and adjacent streets or near the main street of the city, Uría Street. There, you will discover select establishments and you will be able to taste exquisite confectionery, or tasty freshly-made *pinchos* (snacks).

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*El Fontán Market is another essential spot for getting to know the city.*

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A medieval market in its beginnings and, from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the busiest shopping place in town, especially on Thursday and Saturday mornings and on Sundays, when a flea market is held. Here, apart from enjoying a good breakfast, you can acquire the best cured meat, meats, fish, seafood, vegetables and cheeses and other Asturian gastronomic gems.



## Artistic and cultural peculiarities

To get to know a city, you have to know its historic artistic legacy. Oviedo, has been a capital since the Middle Ages. It has important pre-Romanesque treasures both civil and religious monuments with unique and inimitable characteristics.

You can visit them using public transport or driving your own vehicle (free parking is available) and also on foot, as from the Fundación Príncipe de Asturias Avenue (the popular “Losa de Renfe”, a raised passageway above the railway station), it's only 3 kilometres away on foot.

Before visiting the two monuments of the King Ramiro I period and other pre-Romanesque monuments, it is recommended to go to the **Interpretation Centre of the Asturian Pre-Romanesque**, near Santa María del Naranco.



*Santa María del Naranco*



*Fundación Príncipe de Asturias Avenue*



*San Miguel de Lillo*

Art-lovers will be impressed by the architectural uniqueness of what was the old palace of King Ramiro I and subsequent church, **Santa María del Naranco** (9<sup>th</sup> century) and of its **San Miguel de Lillo** Palatine Church (9<sup>th</sup> century). The extraordinary frescos of the monastic church of Alfonso II the Chaste, **San Julián de los Prados** (9<sup>th</sup> century) in the Pumarín quarter, or the gigantic aedicula of the **La Foncalada Fountain** (9<sup>th</sup> century) on Gascona Street, located on a via romana, have all been nominated as **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.

## Pre-Romanesque Asturian art

The combination of decorative motifs carved in the columns, its troncopyramidal capitals decorated with animal and human figures, its medallions or clipeus, its carved bases with the figures of the Tetramorphs, its Pompeii-inspired frescos, unique in the world, and its more than acceptable conservation, despite the passage of centuries, among other exceptional details of this type of architecture, constitute exclusive rarities, inspired by far-off cultures and graphic and illustrative references from the period, that all visitors have to gift themselves as “emotional treasures”.



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*Right in the heart of Monumental Oviedo is the Cathedral, or Basilica del Salvador. It is the most important one in Spain after that of Toledo.*

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It houses extraordinary relics of Christianity, among them, the Holy Shroud of Jesus Christ. Its Flamboyant style makes it unique. It has only one tower (Gothic-Renaissance) dedicated to Saint Barbara.

Its marvellous late-Gothic alter piece is the third most beautiful in Spain. Its Gothic cloister, which houses the Crypt of Saint Leocadia, the Cemetery of Pilgrims and the Chapter House -where part of the Gothic seating of the Choir is displayed-, fascinates all those who visit it.

Similarly, its Pre-Romanesque **Holy Chamber**, chapel of king Alfonso II, with its spectacular crosses from the 9<sup>th</sup> century ("Cruz de los Angeles", shield of Oviedo and other Asturian towns), and the 10<sup>th</sup> century ("Cruz de la Victoria", represented on the flag of the Principality of Asturias), the Agate Casket (10<sup>th</sup> century), the Holy Chest (11<sup>th</sup> century), the magnificent Romanesque Apostolate and Calvary are a complete spectacle of beauty. The **Original Way to St. James** begins here and crosses the centre of the city towards La Florida Quarter.

Also essential is the visit to the Church Museum, inside the Cathedral, that exhibits pieces of religious silverwork that are unique in the world.



Oviedo City Hall



Oviedo Museum of Fine Arts



Main altar of the Cathedral of San Salvador

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*Not far from the Cathedral are two of the most interesting museums, not only in Asturias but also in Spain.*

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The **Fine Art Museum of Asturias** houses very interesting artworks from the Quattrocento to the 21<sup>st</sup> century; one of the three "Apostles" painted by El Greco, "Goyas", "Sorollas", "Picassos" and "Dalís", among others coming from legacies of Pedro Masaveu, Plácido Arango, and Juan Pérez Simón, all figures with strong Asturian roots. The museum is located in the former palace of the ruler Pedro Velarde. The building underwent an extension which deserved the 'RIBA Award for International Excellence' conceded by British architects to the architect Patxi Mangado from Navarra.



The Basilica of St. Juan el Real

In this historic surrounding, The **Archaeological Museum of Asturias** is also found. It was the original Benedictine convent of Saint Vincente, erected in the 8<sup>th</sup> century by the monks Máximo and Fromestano, drivers of the foundation of Oviedo (761). It houses all the “documentary evidence” of Asturian history, from Prehistory to the Gothic.

Sharing its premises is the church of this convent, Santa María la Real de la Corte, that constitutes an interesting example of Baroque-Renaissance Asturian style. There are the remains of the illustrious Fray Benito Feijóo, whose statue presides over the nearby square named after him, and the church of the millennial Monastery of Saint Pelayo (9<sup>th</sup> century) that adjoins the latter and where you can hear the Benedictine nuns singing in Gregorian chant.

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*These nuns known as the “Pelayas” – restore incunabula books and documents and bakes biscuits.*

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Among other churches and monuments in the Old Quarter you can visit Saint Isidoro (17<sup>th</sup> century) which is Baroque in style and has a typical Jesuit floor plan. It was a Church of the Jesuit Fathers who arrived in Oviedo in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The **Historic Building of the University of Oviedo** is also worth a visit. It was inaugurated on San Mateo Day in 1608 and is Renaissance in style. It currently houses workshops, talks and the inauguration and closing of the academic year, with solemn ceremonies in its beautiful Paraninfo and cloisters.



Escandalera Square

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*Two steps away from there, is the Escandalera Square, where you can find Botero’s famous “Maternity” sculpture. We can use this spot as a viewpoint to take a 360-degree panoramic and admire, around us, the interesting monumental ensemble.*

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Regional Parliament of Principality of Asturias

Dominating, the impressive Regional Palace, an eclectic building that occupied the old plot of the convent of St. Francisco de Asís and in front of this, the neo-Classical Campoamor Theatre, inaugurated at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the venue of different cultural and musical events and the solemn annual award ceremony of the **Princess of Asturias Awards**.

Not far from there, the Basilica of St. Juan el Real (1915) on The Original Way to St. James, an impressive work by Luis Bellido with beautiful stained-glass of the Maumejean House.



## Less known places in Oviedo

If what you wish is to relax escaping from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Oviedo has several hidden places where you can find refuge. One of them is the small garden outside the building of the University Rectorate. Also, in the Old Quarter we find the relaxing Renaissance cloister of the Archaeological Museum of Asturias. Both places have free entry.



Mafalda sculpture in Campo San Francisco



Former Royal Hospice

Another magical space in this city is the Campo San Francisco. This was a Franciscan farm since the 13<sup>th</sup> century and subsequently a botanic garden. It encloses, in its ten hectares, many spots where you can find the peace you desire. In the Campo San Francisco you will be walking amongst its peacocks, swans, ducks and find Contemporary sculptures, such as one by Mafalda, a tribute to the painter Quino, Prince of Asturias Arts Prize.

Another spectacular architectural ensemble to discover, near to the Campo San Francisco, in what can be considered “the gold



The Historic Building of the University of Oviedo



The Archaeological Museum of Asturias

mile” of Oviedo, (Gil de Jaz Street and surrounding streets) is La Reconquista Hotel, former Royal Hospice (18<sup>th</sup> century) that each year welcomes a visit from the Spanish Royal Family, the meetings of the jury of the Princess of Asturias Awards and all events related to the award winners and guests, that week in Oviedo.

Not very far from here, in Milicias Nacionales Street, is one of the over one hundred sculptures that decorate the city. It is that of the New York filmmaker, Woody Allen, who affirmed about Oviedo when he was given the Prince of Asturias Arts Prize: “It’s like a fairy-tale, it even has a Prince!” Nothing could define this city better!

## I want to sample you!

Oviedo has very traditional well-known shops and other new ones where trying out the quality of Asturian products will be an absolute pleasure.

In them, you can try the typical Oviedo dishes such as **“carne gobernada”** (a slow-cooked beef stew), stews, delicious seafood and fish, the renowned “cachopo” fillets, the trendy “tortos” (cornmeal pancakes) and the typical Asturian desserts: “frixuelos” (Asturian crepes), rice pudding, “requexón” (cottagecheese)...

Apart from the already mentioned Galicia Avenue and adjacent streets where we can find some restaurants belonging to **“Mesas de Asturias”**, there are excellent establishments ruled by great chefs and restaurateurs in its nearby streets and the Old Quarter that boast some of those recognitions.



Confectionary Shop

*Similarly, bar snacks, “tostas” and “tapas” can be tasted in the Monumental Centre, in establishments in the Cathedral Square and surroundings -Cimadevilla Street-, in the photogenic Trascorrales Square, or the frequently visited Fontán Square.*

However, if you want to taste cider, there is nothing better than heading into one of the cider bars welcomed under the quality seal **“Sidrerías de Asturias”**, several of them in

Gascona Street, also known as **“Cider Boulevard”**, where, you can pair your cider with Asturian dishes. You will be duly informed about our cider manufacturing and pouring process. You will experience the joy that drinking this magical apple nectar Produces; our cider is one of the emblems of the region.

*Oviedo is well known for its sweet treats. Just try one of the exquisite treats which concealed in their names, hold stories and secrets linked directly to the city.*

The **“carbayones”**, a pastry cake filled with almond and egg yolk covered in glazed sugar receives its name from a time when the people of Oviedo demonstrated against the cutting down of the hundred-year-old “Carbayón” or oak tree that had to be removed in order to open Uría Street, the main street of the capital, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other delights are the **“moscovitas”**: chocolate and Marcona almond pastries with a very nice flavour.

Both sweets, with secret recipes, have made their creators, great masters of confectionary, win national prizes and achieved the success of their establishments with them.

Among other exquisite Asturian sweets, it is obligatory to try the **“casadielles”**, a delicious, cylindrical fried pastry basted in sugar and filled with nut paste with a little touch of anise. Or the well-known chocolates made of the best chocolate, with a long history in the city and further afield.

Who can resist?



Trascorrales Square





City of Oviedo Exhibition and Conference Centre

marble and glass. Apart from hosting conferences and meetings, the Palace houses, among other things, a shopping centre, a hotel and a spacious car park.

In the heart of Oviedo, Uría Street and the streets parallel to it constitute the focal point of commercial life. Sophisticated shops, quality brand boutiques and franchises create, especially at night and with their windows all lit up, an attractive urban scene.

For design lovers, in the streets of the centre we can also find jewellers who craft original, modern costume jewellery and fine jewellery as well as Asturian craft shops in age-old workshops, in which the essence of the more traditional Asturias is present.

Similarly, Oviedo is one of the capitals of the North where bookshops in the streets of the centre as well as in nearby neighbourhoods received special attention.

## For personal souvenirs and treats

The pedestrian streets of the city invite us to participate in the “shopping culture” present on all trips.

In the abovementioned Galicia Avenue and adjacent streets, a number of very interesting shops are gathered, traditional shops and new establishments. Among them are the handcrafted jewellery makers, inheritors of the tradition of the master jeweller and goldsmith Pedro Álvarez. They are experts in restoring Pre-Romanesque crosses and relics, after the robbery and destruction that these treasures suffered in the seventies.

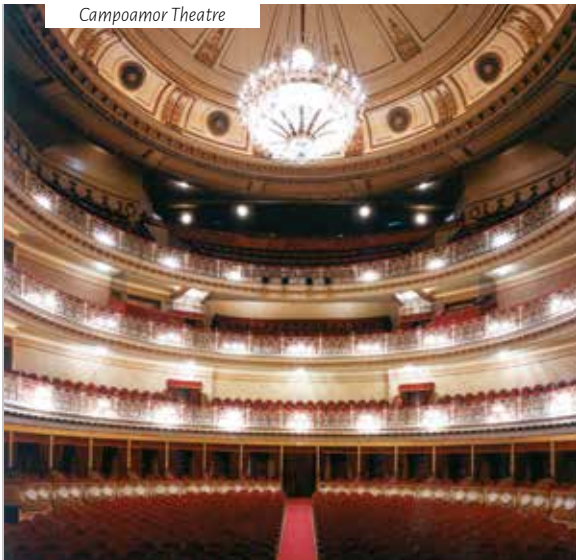
Not very far from there is the impressive City of Oviedo Exhibition and Conference Centre, a work by architect Santiago Calatrava (1999 Prince of Asturias Prize). A spectacular architectural ensemble built with white concrete, steel,



Jirafa building in Progreso Street

## Oviedo for night owls

Oviedo is a uniquely cultured and musical city with renowned cultural events. Oviedo hosts an opera season which is already in its 70<sup>th</sup> season and that is held in the **Campoamor Theatre**. This very place also houses every October the solemn award ceremony for the Princess of Asturias Awards. We also celebrate a Zarzuela season, a Dance Festival and a Folklore Competition and Festival. There are also other cultural meetings that are carried out in the “**Príncipe Felipe**” **Auditorium-Congress Centre** and in the **Filarmonica Theatre**. We also celebrate folkloric parades that dazzle visitors in the mornings of every weekend, in the tourist season.



Campoamor Theatre



Riego Square



The "Príncipe Felipe" Auditorium-Congress Centre

*After the enjoyment of a spectacular musical or theatrical show, what is better than having an aperitif before dinner? In Oviedo we can offer you a wide range of options located in different spots in town.*

One of them is Galicia Avenue. Here, and in its vicinity (Cervantes, América Square...), we can see the classical carbayón (people from Oviedo) style displayed in all its essence.

Another area with high popularity is the area between the San Miguel Square and Campomanes and González Besada Streets, with interesting, busy wine bars.

*Oviedo: a lesson of classicism, elegance and an intense cultural and happy life experience. Oviedo and you: experience love at first sight.*



As an option for young parents who like to share with their children and friends some relaxing moments, the classic bar areas located in the pedestrianised streets of San Bernabé and Manuel Pedregal and nearby streets are the best choice.

For drinks you can visit the **Old Oviedo**, Mon Street and nearby streets. With the exception of some classic pubs, the whole area is full of young people. Close to this old area, Argüelles, Jovellanos and Luna Streets are the liveliest place in this case full of seniors.

Middle aged and senior people tend to meet up in any of the bars on Galicia Avenue, a lively area, or in the pubs of the aforementioned San Miguel Square area.



*More information at:*  
[asturiastourism.co.uk/Oviedo](http://asturiastourism.co.uk/Oviedo)



[oviedo.es](http://oviedo.es)

## History and festivals go hand in hand

If your visit to Oviedo happens to coincide with any of our **festivals**, then you have the lucky chance to get to know us better.

The festive calendar starts with the **"Antroxu"** or **Carnival** and Oviedo gets dressed to party and fun costume competitions are held.

After the Carnival, the city celebrates **Holy Week** and processions take place, organised by our six fraternities. Oviedo vibrates among breath-taking sacred images, incense, the sound of the horns and drum beats.

In May, forty days after Holy Week and coinciding with the celebrations of the **Ascension** (the ascension to heaven of the Virgen María in the catholic church), a cattle and agricultural fair takes place which covers the capital of Asturias with colours and in traditional local flavour. Its exquisite celebration menu consists of seasonal vegetable stew, Oviedo-style 'carne gobernada' stew and cherry cheesecake.



*Parade of America Day in Asturias*

Very near to Ascension, (around May), **Martes de Campo or de la Balesquida** is celebrated. A local celebration related to the food supplies that the pilgrims arriving Oviedo received around the 13<sup>th</sup> century from Velasquita Giráldez. This tradition evolved into a brotherhood and a festival in which the typical "bollu preñao" (bread filled with chorizo) and the white wine are shared.

The **San Mateo celebrations** held in September have been celebrated since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. This festival is organised around the celebration of Santa Cruz - on 14 September - the date upon which the pilgrims came to Oviedo to earn the mercy and forgiveness of their sins. Not surprisingly, the medieval refrain says: "Whoever goes to Santiago and doesn't go to Salvador, visits the servant but forgets the Lord" meaning that the pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Oviedo prevailed over the visit to Compostela.

In San Mateo, Oviedo is seized with joy, **America Day in Asturias** being one of the most important of our celebrations. This festival, declared to be of **National Tourist Interest**, appears in 1950 as an idea for remembering the Asturian "return emigrants" who went to look for fortune in the Americas.

In October, commemorating a historic-military event from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Oviedo celebrates **the Disarmament**. On this occasion, the abundant menu consists of chickpeas with cod and spinach, tripe and rice pudding.



*The celebrations of the Ascension*

# Don't miss...



**1. Walk through the Old Quarters**, visit the markets, taste the culinary delights and share these moments with a bottle of cider and the kind heart of the Asturian people.

**2. When you think Avilés, you think 'Carnival'** and with it, the tumultuous, inclusive "Descenso de Galiana" with the streets full of foam.

**3. Lose yourself in the Fishermen Quarter of Cimavilla/ Cimadevilla**, among its peculiar buildings and end the walk in the Cerro de Santa Catalina Hill (Cijón/Xixón).

**4. Go for a wander around the Fontán Market (Thursdays and Saturdays)** and acquire any of the regional products: cheese, *fabes*, sweets, etc. in Oviedo.





**5. The impressive Holy Week in Avilés**, the oldest and busiest in Asturias, and the one with the highest number of fraternities in the whole of Asturias.

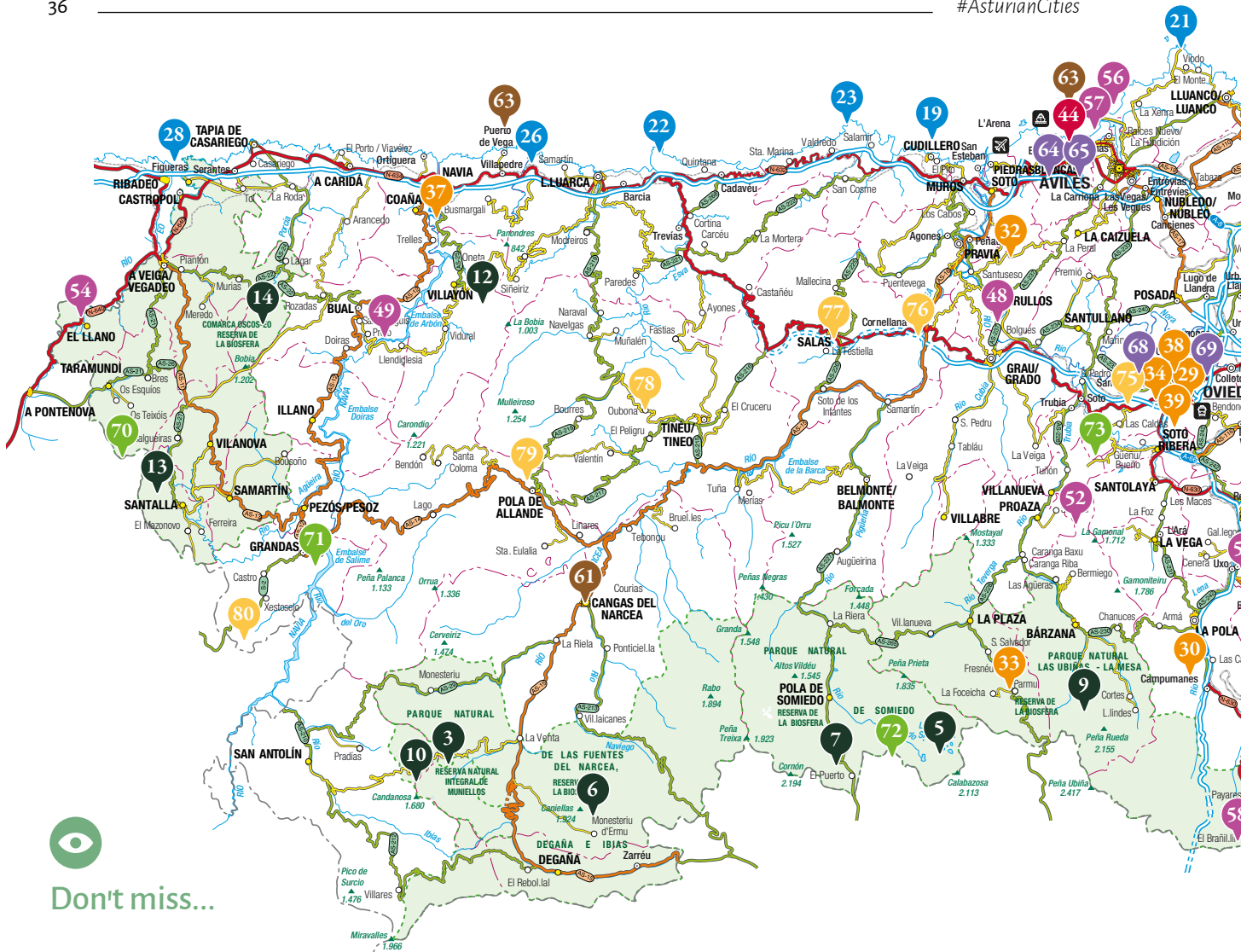
**6. Visit the oldest football stadium in Spain; “El Molinón Tour”** a route through the most interesting and unknown places: the changing rooms, the tunnel leading out to the pitch... and discover the history of Sporting Gijón Football Club.

**7. See one of the cultural representations** (opera, theatre, zarzuela) that are performed in the Campoamor and Filarmonica Theatres (Oviedo).

**8. The long-lived, extensive theatrical activity**, which is spread across the whole year, on stages like the modernist Palacio Valdés Theatre, or the Avant-Gard Auditorium of the Niemeyer Centre (Avilés).

**9. Visit Gijón/Xixón in summer**, on any day in the *Semana Grande*: folklore, fireworks, participation and fun are all guaranteed.

**10. Enjoy a wine or a cider in any of the many areas with the ambiance of Oviedo**: San Bernabé Street, the Wine Route, Cider Boulevard or Galicia Avenue and adjacent streets among others.



## Don't miss...

### Explore Paradise

1. Fito Lookout (Caravia)
2. Pozo de la Oración Lookout (Cabrales)
3. Puerto del Connio Lookout (Cangas del Narcea)
4. Covadonga Lakes - Picos de Europa National Park
5. Somiedo Lakes- Somiedo Nature Park
6. Nature Parks of Fuentes del Narcea, Degaña and Ibias
7. Somiedo Nature Park
8. Redes Nature Park
9. Las Ubiñas - La Mesa Nature Park
10. Muniellos Forest Nature Reserve (Cangas del Narcea and Ibias)
11. Ponga Nature Park
12. Oneta Waterfall Trail (Villayón)
13. Seimeira Waterfall Trail (Santa Eulalia de Oscos)
14. Cioyo Waterfall Trail (Castropol)
15. Xúrbeo Waterfall Trail (Aller)

### Immerse yourself in the coast

16. Pría Blowholes (Llanes)
17. Arenillas Blowholes (Llanes)
18. Santiuste Blowhole (Llanes y Ribadedeva)
19. Cudillero Port
20. Gulpiyuri Beach (Llanes)
21. Peñas Cape (Gozón)
22. Busto Cape (Valdés)

23. Vidio Cape (Cudillero)

24. Lastres Cape (Colunga)

25. The Dinosaur Coast and the Jurassic Museum of Asturias (Colunga)

26. Barayo Partial Nature Reserve (Valdés)

27. Villaviciosa Partial Nature Reserve

28. Eo Estuary Partial Nature Reserve

### Absorb the Asturian culture

29. Asturian Pre-Romanesque (Oviedo)
30. Asturian Pre-Romanesque (Lena)
31. Cave Art: Tito Bustillo Cave and Art Centre (Ribadesella)
32. Cave Art: La Peña Cave (Candamo)
33. Teverga Prehistory Park
34. The Museum of Fine Arts of Asturias (Oviedo)
35. The Museum of the Asturian People (Gijón/Xixón)
36. The Royal Site of Covadonga (Cangas de Onís)
37. Coaña and Navia Castros
38. The Archaeological Museum of Asturias (Oviedo)
39. "Princess of Asturias" Awards (Oviedo)\*

### Look around

40. Mining and Industry Museum of Asturias - MUMI - (L'Entregu/El Entregu-San Martín del Rey Aurelio)
41. Samuño Valley Mining Ecomuseum (Ciaño/Ciaño-Langreo)





- 42. Sotón Pit (Sotrondio-San Martín del rey Aurelio)
- 43. Mining town of Bustiello (Mieres)
- 44. Arnao Mine Museum (Castrillón)
- 45. Railway Museum of Asturias (Gijón/Xixón)
- 46. Steelworks Museum of Asturias-MUSI-(Langreo)

**Get active in Asturias**

- 47. Descents in canoe or pirogue down the Sella River
- 48. Descents in canoe or pirogue down the Nalón River
- 49. Descents in canoe or pirogue down the Navia River
- 50. Cares Trail (Cabres)
- 51. Picu Urriellu (Cabres)
- 52. Bear's Trail (Santo Adriano, Proaza, Teverga and Quirós)
- 53. Turón Greenway (Mieres)
- 54. Eo Greenway (San Tirso de Abres)
- 55. Surf in Gijón
- 56. Surf in Xagó (Gozón)
- 57. Surf in Salinas (Castrillón)
- 58. Winter Resorts: Valgrande- Pajares (Lena)
- 59. Winter Resorts: Fuentes de Invierno (Aller)

**Think with your stomach**

- 60. Cider Museum (Nava)
- 61. Wine Museum and wineries of the PDO Cangas wine (Cangas del Narcea)
- 62. Cave-exhibition of the Cabres cheese and Cheese Factories (Cabres)
- 63. Live auction in a fish market (Avilés, Llastres/Lastres, Puerto de Vega)

**Let your urban heart beat**

- 64. Avilés and its reinforced street: Galiana
- 65. Niemeyer Centre in Avilés
- 66. The fishing neighbourhood of Gijón/Xixón: Cimavilla
- 67. Laboral, City of Culture in Gijón
- 68. The Holy Chamber and Cathedral in Oviedo
- 69. Fontán Market in Oviedo

**Breathe Asturias**

- 70. Os Teixóis Ethnographic Site (Taramundi)
- 71. Grandas de Salime Ethnographic Museum
- 72. A walk through the Somiedo Brañas with their emblematic *teitos*, thatched roof cottages
- 73. *Hórreos* (raised granaries) in Güeñu/Bueño (Ribera de Arriba)
- 74. The Plains of Picos de Europa

**Take a walk into the past**

- 75. The El Salvador statue in the Cathedral of Oviedo
- 76. Monastery of San Salvador de Cornellana (Salas)\*
- 77. Santa María La Mayor Collegiate Church (Salas)\*
- 78. Monastery of Santa María la Real de Obona (Tinco)\*
- 79. Peñalba Cienfuegos Mansion (Allande)\*
- 80. Chao Samartín Castro (Grandas de Salime)

\*Outdoor visit

# Asturias

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