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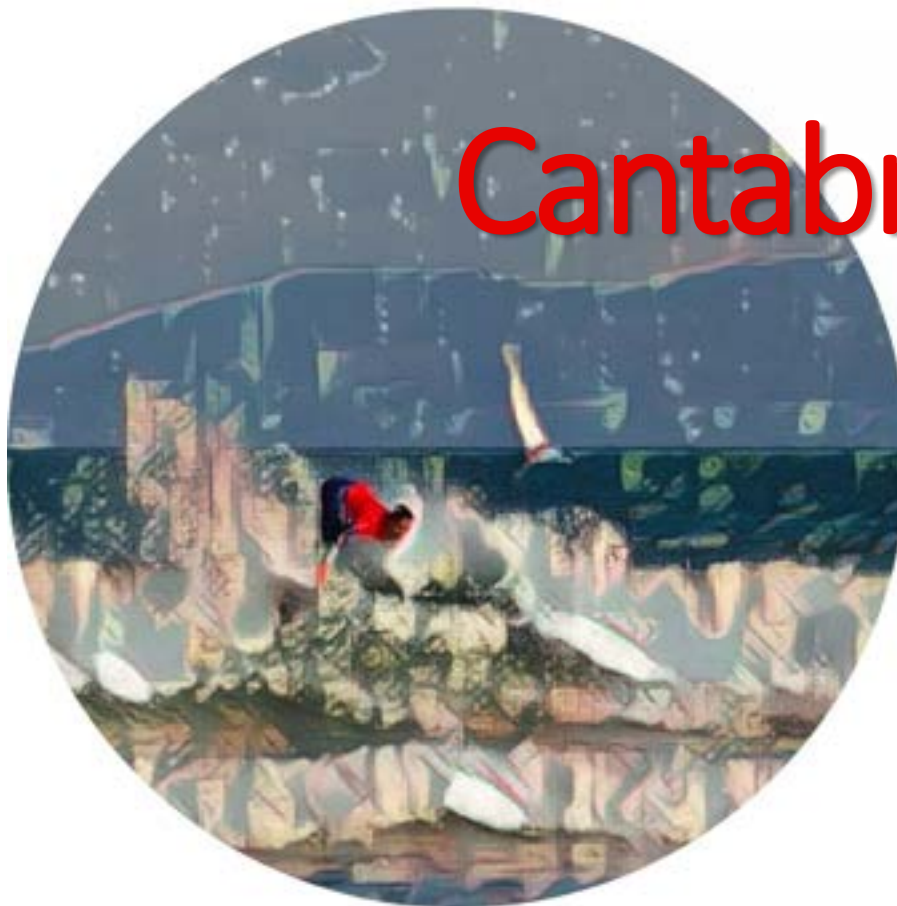


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Surfing & Nautical Tourism in Cantabria



Marta Barca Pérez

Directora General de Turismo

Consejería de Industria, Turismo, Innovación, Transporte y Comercio

GOBIERNO DE CANTABRIA

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Surfing in Cantabria



Cantabria is the birthplace of surfing in Spain and the country's pioneering region for surf.



At the beginning of the 60s, the Cantabrian people were already surfing the waves with their “plankis” in El Sardinero beach (Santander) and, in 1963, Jesús Fiochi brought from France the first surfboard recorded in Spain. This Santander native became the first surfer to ride a wave with his Barland board just arrived from Biarritz.



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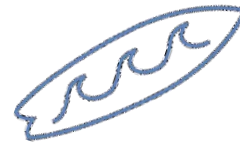
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4 Surf nature reserves



In 2012, **Ribamontán al Mar** declared its beaches and breakers a 'Surf Nature Reserve', therefore becoming the first municipality in Spain to have this official protection mechanism.



Its example has been followed by three other municipalities in the region: **Suances**, **Noja** and **San Vicente de la Barquera**.

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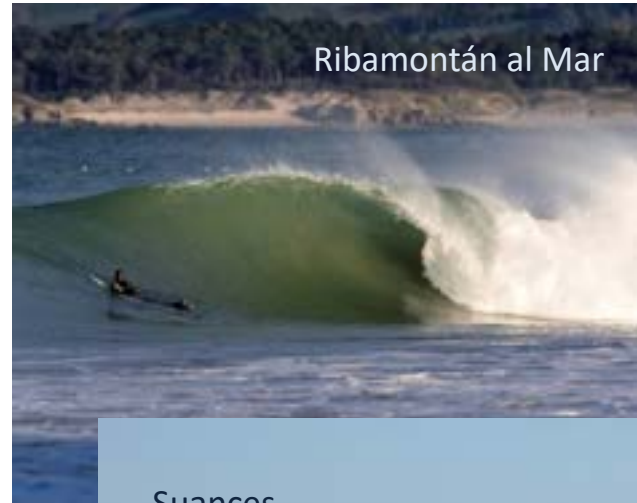
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4 Surf nature reserves

San Vicente de la Barquera



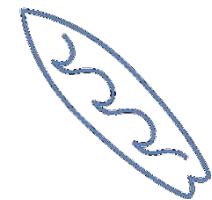
Ribamontán al Mar



Suances



Noja



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4 Surf nature reserves



Spring tides and soft winds have favored the development of this sport that attracts a growing number of visitors and enthusiasts every year. This region, which only a few months ago held **the record for the highest wave in Spanish history (26.13 m)**, has therefore positioned itself as one of the most renowned surfing destinations of the peninsula.



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The 'Vaca gigante'

The best example of the best surf: **The international championship of giant waves 'La vaca gigante'.**



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Surf schools

In the last 20 years, surf schools have become very popular, and every year, thousands of people from all over the world come to Cantabria to learn how to surf and to experience this unique *Way of life*. More than half a hundred schools to choice.



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Surf schools

Diverse modalities are usually practiced in areas where there are sea breakers, the **Cantabrian Surf Federation** recommends joining a surf school in order to receive introductory training.





Surf schools

These schools are located **in the main sandy beaches of the east and west coasts of Cantabria**, and they offer to those who are interested a wide range of activities and courses for every age and level. In addition, surf schools have their own equipment for rent.

Moreover, given the increasing number of foreign tourists arriving to these coasts, **a growing number of schools offer courses in different languages.**



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Surf clubs



There are more than thirty surf clubs in the main coastal towns of the region.

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The paradise for surflovers



And the fact is that in Cantabria **you can surf whenever you want because we have good quality waves throughout the year** and an average water temperature of 17°C (13°C in February and up to 24°C in July).



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The paradise for the surflovers



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Useful links



- Cantabrian surfing federation: www.federacioncantabradesurf.com
- Tourism of Cantabria: www.turismodecantabria.com





Nautical tourism in Cantabria



Cantabria has currently **marinas** in its capital, Santander, and in other coastal towns, like Castro Urdiales, Laredo, Colindres, Santoña, Suances, Comillas and San Vicente de la Barquera. In this respect, the port of Santander is a benchmark and, together with Santoña, they are **the largest natural ports in northern Spain**.



Hundreds of recreational boats, especially sailboats, visit these charming coasts every year. The wind is rarely calm in the Cantabrian Sea, which makes it **an ideal setting for sailing sports, and regattas take place during the year round**.

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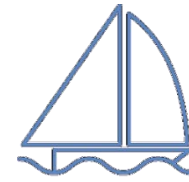


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Nautical tourism

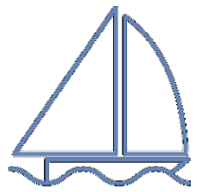


In Cantabria there is a considerable **permanent sailboat fleet**, a **pool of elite regatta competitors with important achievements at national, international and Olympic tournaments.**

There are several **sailing schools** operating in the region and it is possible to take introductory and advanced courses with specialized instructors throughout the year.



Marinas



The **exceptional orographic conditions** of the Cantabrian coastline constitute a convenient location for marinas, both for fishing and recreational use, which enable fishing and boating sports throughout most of the year.

Boating activities can be practiced throughout most of the year in Cantabria, due to the excellent conditions of its bays, where some of the main marinas are located. In Santander and Laredo-Santoña bays, sail and motor boats can go out to sea every day of the year.



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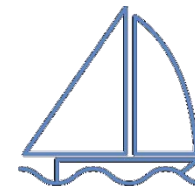


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Marinas



From east to west, these are the **most important marinas**:

Castro Urdiales: Located opposite the town's Boating Club and next to its charming fishing port.

Laredo: This modern marina has 857 berths and a large service area, as well as technical service. It is bound to become one of the benchmark marinas of the Cantabrian sea.

Santoña: In this lovely fishing town there is a marina that has a hundred-boat capacity.

Marina de Pedreña: This marina is located in the south of Santander Bay, in the small village of the same name, opposite the Royal Golf Club of Pedreña.

Marina del Cantábrico: This is the most important marina of the Cantabrian coast. Located southwest of Santander Bay, it is very close to the airport and the motorway.

Puertochico: Located in the centre of the city, is one of the most renowned marinas in the country, as outstanding Olympic regatta competitors like Gorostegui, Abascal, Piris or López-Vázquez started out here.

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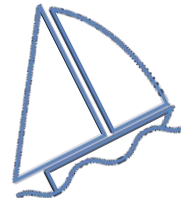


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Marinas



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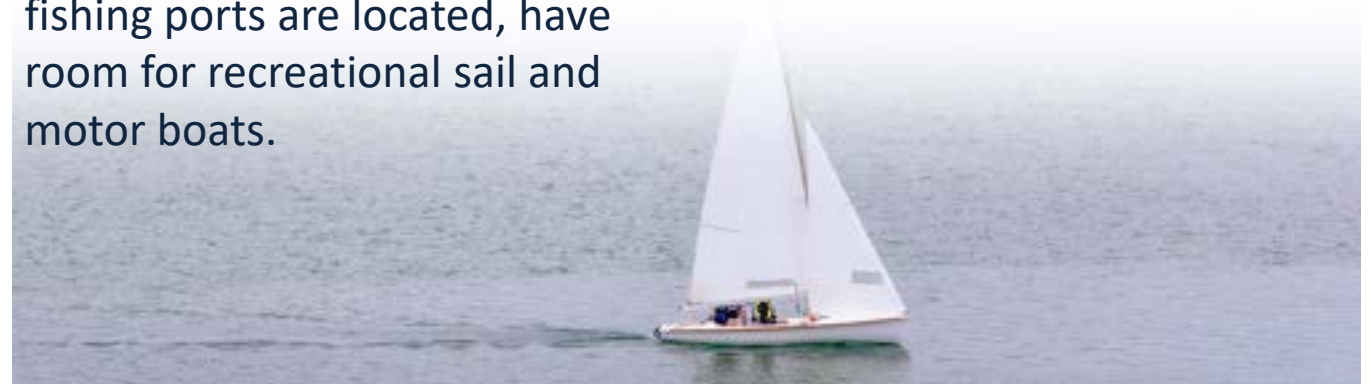
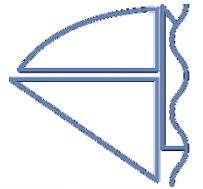


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Marinas



Other towns like **Suances**, **Comillas** or **San Vicente de la Barquera**, where important fishing ports are located, have room for recreational sail and motor boats.



SOME INTERESTING INICIATIVES

- Sustainable development of marines in Pedreña about eolic energy:
<https://marinapedrena.es/estado-de-las-obras-24-06-2020/> y <https://marinapedrena.es/>).
- Laredo's Port:
<https://www.puertodeportivodelaredo.es/>

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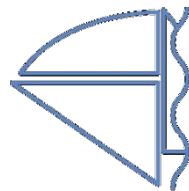


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Sailing schools



The **CEAR de Vela Príncipe Felipe de Santander** is a sailing school suitable for all levels and public, and is the current **training and preparation venue for the Spanish Olympic sailing team**.



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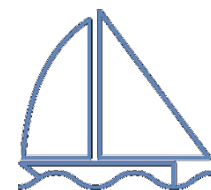


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Sailing schools



Regatta school of the Royal Boating Club of Santander: In the heart of Santander Bay.

The Cantabrian school of boating sports “Isla de la Torre”: at the Bay’s entrance of Santander.

Marina de Cudeyo Boating Activities Centre: in Pedreña.

Sailing school of the Royal Boating Club of Laredo.

Sailing school of the Royal Boating Club of Castro Urdiales.

Sailing school of Santoña.

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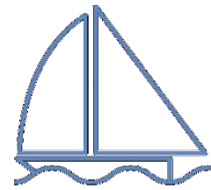
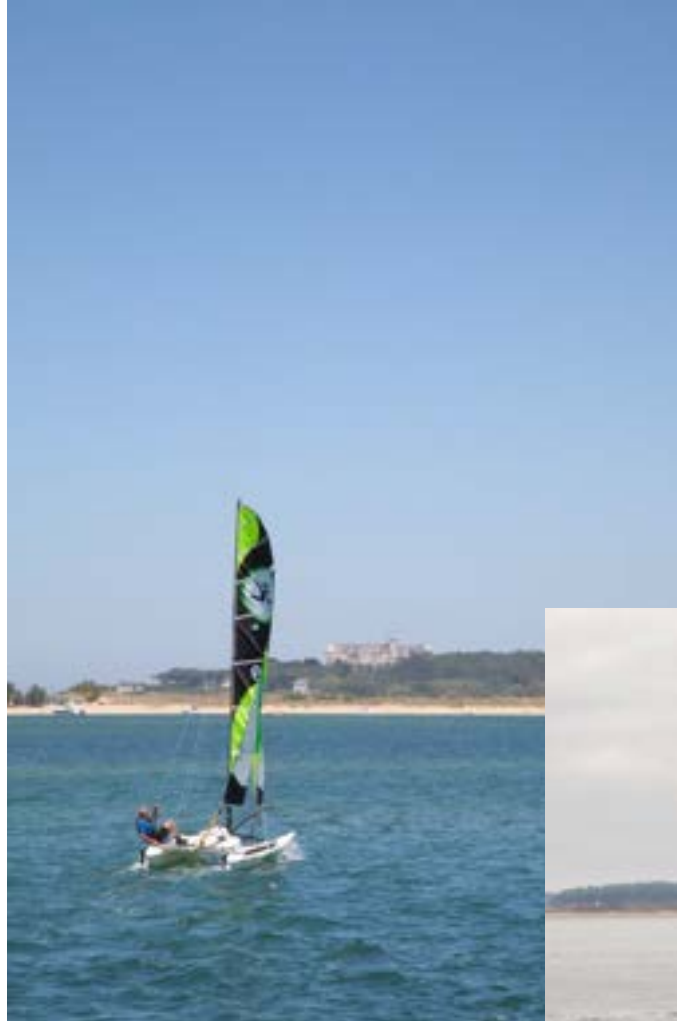


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The best place to sail



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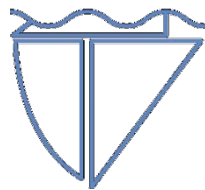


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The best place to sail



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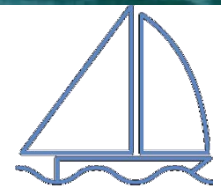


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The best place to sail



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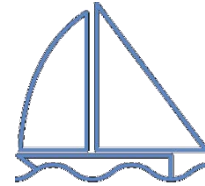


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Useful links



- Cantabrian sailing federation: <http://www.fcvela.com/>
- Association of Boating Interests of Cantabria, AINACAN: created mainly to look after the interests of the sea sector in the region. <https://www.facebook.com/AinacanNautica>
- Tourism of Cantabria: www.turismodecantabria.com



Surfing & Nautical Tourism in

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turismodecantabria.com

<https://cantabriaspain.co.uk/>

<https://cantabriaespagne.fr/>

Thank you!



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