

Gijon

Asturias · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Gijón is a coastal city in Asturias, on the Bay of Biscay in northern Spain. It has a long city beach, a historic fishermen's quarter on a headland and a strong cider culture.

The weather is mild and often cloudy, which makes it a cool escape in summer. Gijón suits a beach and food break, and it is a good base for the green coast and the mountains of Asturias.

When to visit

Summer is the best season, with mild days and the best chance of sun, and the sea is warm enough for swimming in July and August. Spring and autumn are green but rainy. Winter is cool and wet.

The Semana Negra literary festival takes place in July, and the film festival is in November.

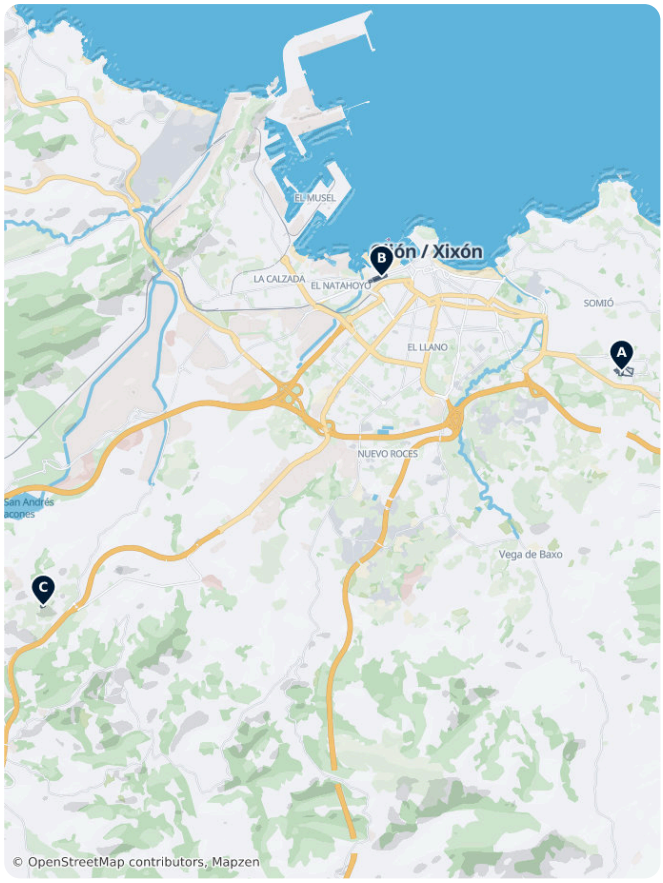
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	12° / 17° Feels like 9°	6° / 2°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 18° Feels like 10°	6° / 2°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 20°	7° / 3°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	16° / 20°	9° / 5°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 23°	11° / 8°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 25°	14° / 11°	14 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26°	16° / 13°	13 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 27°	17° / 14°	14 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 26°	15° / 12°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 24°	13° / 8°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 20°	9° / 5°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	13° / 18°	7° / 2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: June, July

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- Playa de San Lorenzo is the main city beach, with a long promenade and a big tidal range.
- Cimavilla is the old fishermen's quarter on a headland. It has narrow streets, the Roman baths of Campo Valdés and the hill of Santa Catalina.
- *Elogio del Horizonte* is a large concrete sculpture by Eduardo Chillida on top of the Santa Catalina hill, facing the sea.
- A Universidad Laboral is a huge mid-20th-century complex outside the center, with a tall tower and a large courtyard.
- B Museo del Ferrocarril de Asturias is in a former railway station and shows historic trains.
- C Villa romana de Veranes is a Roman country villa with mosaics, about 7 km west of the center.
- The Atlantic Botanical Garden is a large park with plants from the Atlantic coast.



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What to experience

- Watch a *escanciador* pour cider from a great height in a cider house (*sidrería*). The glass is tilted and the cider is poured from above to add air.
- Walk up the Santa Catalina hill at sunset to see *Elogio del Horizonte* and the bay.

Day trips

- A Oviedo (about 30 km, 30 minutes by train or car): the regional capital, with early medieval churches.
- B Ribadesella (about 65 km, 1 hour by car): a coastal town at the mouth of the Sella river.
- C Cangues d'Onís (about 75 km, 1 hour by car): the gateway to the Picos de Europa.
- D Picos de Europa (about 1.5 hours by car): a high mountain range with hiking trails.



Where to explore

Other places in Asturias:

- **City**: Oviedo is the nearest large city.
- **Coast and mountains**: Ribadesella, Cangues d'Onís and Somiedo are good for nature.

Getting there

- **By air**: Asturias airport (OVD) is about 40 km west of the city and has flights from Madrid, Barcelona and several European cities. Buses link the airport with Gijón.
- **By train**: Trains from Madrid arrive in Gijón. Regional trains also run to Oviedo. Book on Renfe.
- **By bus**: Coaches link Gijón with Oviedo, Madrid and the coast.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The center, Cimavilla and the beach are close together and mostly flat.
- **Cycling**: A seafront path runs along the beach and is good for cycling.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The center, the old quarter and the beach are close together and mostly flat.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

A seafront path runs along the beach, but the city has some hills.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the center. A car helps for the coast and the mountains.
- **Parking**: Parking near the beach is hard on summer weekends, so use a car park.
- **Restrictions**: Cimavilla has narrow streets with limited access.

Food & drink

Asturian food is hearty. Try *fabada* (a stew of white beans and pork), *cachopo* (a breaded veal or pork cutlet filled with ham and cheese) and the strong local blue cheeses. Seafood from the Bay of Biscay is excellent. *Arroz con leche* is the classic dessert.

Cider is the local drink. It is poured fresh in *sidrerías*, and people share a bottle.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

Gijón is a safe city. Take care at the beach, because tides and currents can be strong, so swim only where there are lifeguards. Bring a rain jacket in any season.

History

Gijón was a Roman port, and the baths in Cimavilla date from that time. The city later grew around its harbor and became an industrial center in the 19th century.

The Universidad Laboral was built in the mid-20th century as a school for the children of workers. Today it houses cultural centers and a university campus.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

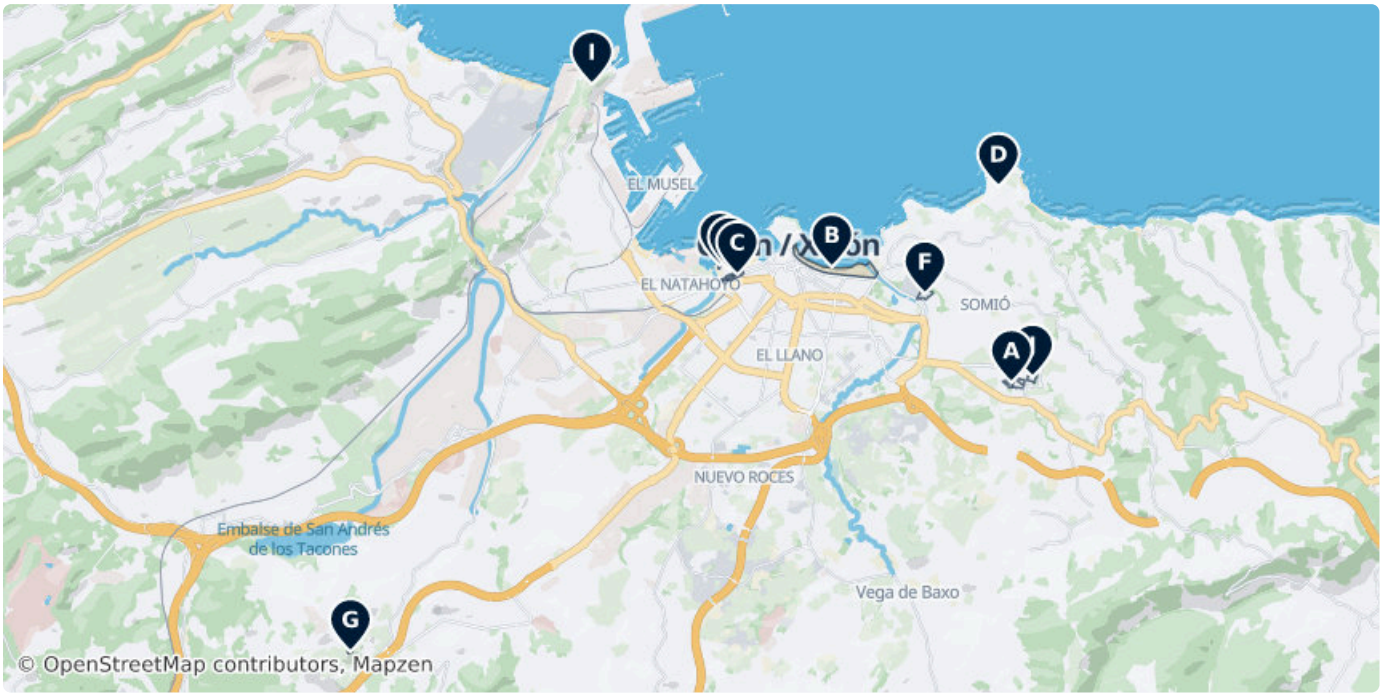
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Gijón Essentials

Gijón's identity is shaped by its Roman foundations, maritime trade, and industrial scale. This selection includes the Universidad Laboral, Spain's largest building by floor area, and the Roman Villa of Veranes. The city's coastline is anchored by the 1.5-kilometer San Lorenzo beach and the Campa de Torres archaeological site. Cultural heritage is preserved through the Asturias Railway Museum and the open-air Pueblu d'Asturies, while the local cider culture is represented by traditional sidrerías near the waterfront.





A Universidad Laboral de Gijón

The Universidad Laboral de Gijón is a large building located in Gijón in the parish of Cabueñes.

Gijón 33203, Spain (43.52453, -5.61641)

laboralciudaddelacultura.com



B Playa de San Lorenzo

A 1.5-kilometer crescent-shaped urban beach bordered by the El Muro promenade. It is a central hub for surfing and maritime activities in the city center.

33203, Spain (43.54189, -5.65365)



C Gijón Railway Museum

The Asturias Railway Museum or Gijón Railway museum, in Gijón, Asturias, Spain, is an institution dedicated to restore, preserve and...

Gijón/Xixón (43.54076, -5.67329)

gijon.es/es/directorio/museo-del-ferroca... , +34 985308575

D Mirador de La Providencia

Coastal viewpoint and park featuring a distinctive sculpture shaped like a ship's prow. It offers panoramic views of the Cantabrian Sea and the Gijón coastline.

Lugar del Parque del Cabo de San Lorenzo, 33203, Spain (43.55401, -5.61911)

E Gijón Aquarium

Rich aquarium and a recovery area that hosts more than 400 different species not limited only to the Spanish shore.

Calle Poniente, 33212 (43.54217, -5.67693)

Mo–Su	10:30–21:00

acuario.gijon.es, +34 985 185 220



F Museum of the Asturian People

Open-air museum preserving traditional Asturian architecture, including granaries known as hórreos and paneras, a cider press, and the International Bagpipe Museum.

13 Lugar del Recinto Ferial Luis Adaro, Gijón 33203, Spain (43.53786, -5.63435)

Jan-Mar Tu–Fr	09:30–18:30
Jan-Mar Sa–Su	10:00–18:30
Apr-Sep Tu–Fr	10:00–19:00
Apr-Sep Sa–Su	10:30–19:00
Oct-Dec Tu–Fr	09:30–18:30
Oct-Dec Sa–Su	10:00–18:30

gijon.es/es/directorio/museu-del-pueblu-..., +34 985182963



G Roman Villa of Veranes

See the remains of a manor house dating back to the 4th century.

33393, Spain (43.48409, -5.75351)

museos.gijon.es/page/5280-villa-romana-de-veranes



H Tierra Astur

Traditional Asturian cider house and restaurant known for its regional cuisine and distinctive interior decor featuring thousands of cider bottles and wooden barrels.

10 Calle de Mariano Pola, Gijón 33212, Spain (43.54150, -5.67498)

I Yacimiento Arqueológico Campa de Torres

Archaeological park on the Cabo Torres headland containing the remains of a 4th-century BC fortified Celtic settlement and subsequent Roman ruins.

Carretera Campa de Torres, 33290, Spain (43.56937, -5.70341)

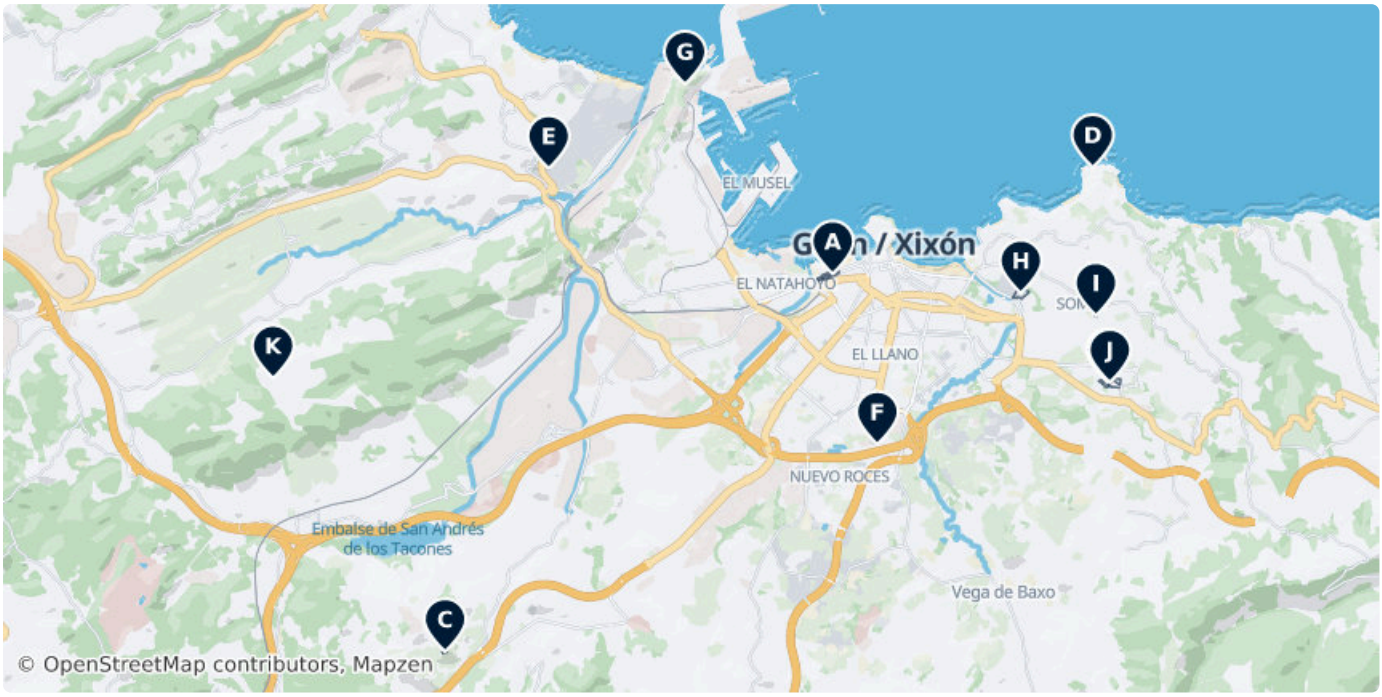
J LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial

LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial is an exhibition centre in Gijón, Spain, for art, science, technology and advanced visual...

Gijón 33203, Spain (43.52535, -5.61203)

Historic & Archaeological Sites

Gijón's historical landscape spans from the Neolithic era to modern industrial heritage. This collection features the Iron Age hillfort of Campa de Torres and the 4th-century Roman Villa of Veranes, known for its well-preserved mosaics. The monumental Laboral City of Culture represents 20th-century architectural ambition, while the Asturias Railway Museum documents the region's industrial past. Other sites include the prehistoric Monteareo dolmens and the Pueblo de Asturias ethnographic museum, which preserves traditional Asturian rural life and architecture.





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33393, Spain (43.48409, -5.75351)

museos.gijon.es/page/5280-villa-romana-de-veranes

D Escultura Homenaje a Galileo Galilei

A modern steel sculpture by Amadeo Gabino, located in the Providencia Park area, honoring the Italian astronomer's contributions to science.

(43.55670, -5.61948)

E Palacio de los Bernaldo de Quirós

An 18th-century Baroque palace featuring a traditional Asturian structure with a central courtyard and a family chapel.

33430, Spain (43.55653, -5.73208)

F Palaciu de Contrueces

A 17th-century manor house and sanctuary complex built on the site of a former Roman settlement, serving as a significant example of local noble architecture.

66A Carretera del Obispo, Gijón 33209, Spain (43.51518, -5.66404)

G Yacimiento Arqueológico Campa de Torres

An archaeological park preserving the remains of a fortified Iron Age settlement and subsequent Roman ruins, situated on a headland overlooking the El Musel port.

Carretera Campa de Torres, 33290, Spain (43.56917, -5.70385)



H Museum of the Asturian People

An open-air museum preserving traditional Asturian architecture, including granaries, farmhouses, and workshops, alongside extensive ethnographic collections and photography archives.

13 Lugar del Recinto Ferial Luis Adaro, Gijón 33203, Spain (43.53786, -5.63435)

Jan-Mar Tu–Fr	09:30–18:30
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Apr-Sep Tu–Fr	10:00–19:00
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gijon.es/es/directorio/museu-del-pueblu-..., +34 985182963

I Museo Evaristo Valle

Located within a 19th-century mansion and historic gardens, this museum houses over 200 works by the Gijón-born painter Evaristo Valle.

Camino de Cabueñes 39, Somió (43.53449, -5.61881)

evaristovalle.com

J Iglesia de la Universidad Laboral

Notable for its massive elliptical floor plan, this mid-20th-century church features a 2,300-ton dome and intricate mosaic decorations.

Cabueñes (43.52449, -5.61593)

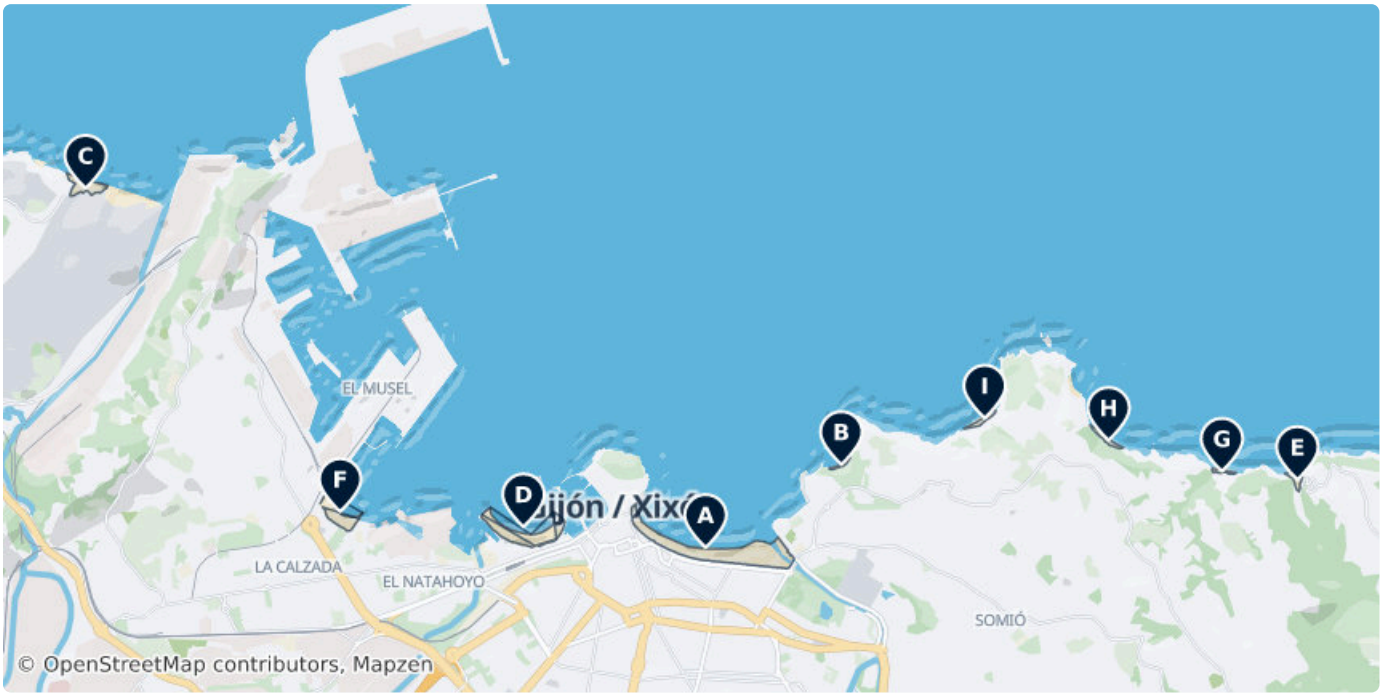
K Dolmen de Monteareo XV

Part of the Mount Areo megalithic necropolis, this prehistoric funerary structure dates back to the Neolithic period and represents early human settlement in the region.

33430, Spain (43.52510, -5.78909)

Best Beaches and Coastal Spots

Gijón's coastline features a mix of expansive urban sands and secluded coves flanked by the Cantabrian Sea. The central San Lorenzo beach defines the city's waterfront, while the western Poniente and Arbeyal beaches offer calm, reclaimed harbor waters. To the east, the landscape transitions into rugged cliffs and natural tidal pools at Estaño and La Ñora. These spots provide varied terrain for surfing, coastal hiking along clifftop paths, and accessible swimming facilities.

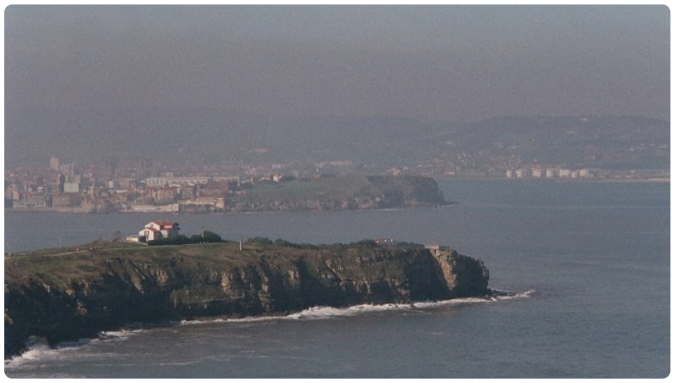




A Playa de San Lorenzo

A 1.5-kilometer crescent-shaped urban beach bordered by the San Lorenzo promenade. It features the historic Escalerona access point and is the city's primary location for surfing.

33203, Spain (43.54189, -5.65365)



B Playa del Cervigón

Located at the eastern end of the city's promenade, this beach consists of sand and rock. It includes a designated pet-friendly area and serves as the starting point for the coastal path toward La Ñora.

Paseo de Rosario Acuña, 33203, Spain (43.54838, -5.63900)

C Xibares

Sandy beach in the neighboring municipality of Carreño, accessible by train. It is divided into two sections during high tide and contains designated naturist areas.

33430, Spain (43.56994, -5.72048)

D Playa de Poniente

Artificial beach constructed in the 1990s near the marina. It features fine golden sand, calm waters protected by breakwaters, and extensive accessibility services for people with reduced mobility.

33212, Spain (43.54350, -5.67326)

E Playa de La Ñora

Situated at the mouth of the La Ñora stream, this beach is characterized by its reddish cliffs and white sand. It is connected to Gijón via a four-kilometer clifftop hiking trail.

33300, Spain (43.54720, -5.58985)

F Playa L'Arbeyal

Gijón's westernmost urban beach, reclaimed from former industrial land. It offers calm swimming conditions, golden sand, and full wheelchair accessibility with amphibious chair services.

33212, Spain (43.54469, -5.69304)

G Playa de Estaño

Small cove featuring dark sand and gravel. It is notable for the Pozo del Cura, a natural rock pool visible during low tide, and its surrounding steep cliffs.

(43.54785, -5.59797)

H Playa de Serín

Secluded beach located below high cliffs, approximately five kilometers from the city center. It is used frequently for naturism and experiences strong waves.

(43.55026, -5.61019)

I Playa de Peñarrubia

Narrow beach situated beneath steep cliffs, composed of gravel and sand. It is a designated naturist spot and is known for geological fossils found within its rock formations.

(43.55198, -5.62355)

DATA SOURCES

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