

Santander

Photo: Willian Justen de Vasconcellos/unsplash



Jose Angel Astor Rocha/Shutterstock.com

Santander is famous for its fabulous beaches and its elegant holidaymakers: King Alfonso XIII used to spend his summers here nearly a hundred years ago, and the town is still popular among fashionable madrileños who like to be seen sauntering along the El Sardinero seafront with its belle époque architecture. When the sun goes down, the town is busy, with great restaurants and a lively bar scene. It is also a good place from which to explore the pristine countryside of Cantabria.



Lukasz Janyst/Shutterstock.com



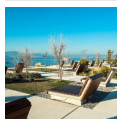
Manuel Alvarez/Shutterstock.com

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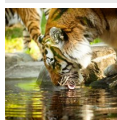
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With exhibits ranging from model boats to fish skeletons and sixteen aquariu...



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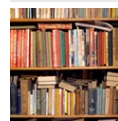
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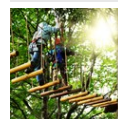
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Funicular del Río de la Pila

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THE CITY



Jose Angel Astor Rocha/Shutterstock.com

Santander is an upmarket beach resort where kings have rubbed shoulders with fishermen, and where university students in flip-flops kick back with well-heeled holidaymakers. The most popular of its beaches is El Sardinero, which, with its fine white sand and elegant architecture, lies a couple of kilometres from the town centre. Playa de la Magdalena, on the southern side of the headland, has a water sports centre while Playa del Bikini is good for snorkelling. If they are all too crowded, visitors can take a boat over to the long stretches of sand at Somo.

Away from the seafront, the city centre is lively, especially after dark. Many of the older buildings were lost in a huge fire in 1941, but there is still some beautiful architecture from bygone times. The elegant cathedral has been restored, and there are also some interesting museums to be discovered.

DO & SEE



baranq/Shutterstock.com

Santander is a city favoured by Spanish holidaymakers—the abundance of beautiful sandy beaches, natural parks, and dramatic cliffs make it perfect for the outdoorsy. However, a lively nightlife and curious museums (one that certainly deserves attention is the Cantabrian Prehistory and Archaeology museum) ensure there is something for everyone. For a day trip out of town, head to the scenic village of Santanilla del Mar or the prehistoric caves at Puente Viesgo.

Menéndez Pelayo Library



The impressive collection contains 41,500 volumes gifted to the town by writer and thinker Menéndez Pelayo. The building right behind the historic (early 20th century) library used to be the former home of this celebrated scholar.

Photo: Rev Stan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Rubio 6, Santander

Phone: +34 942 23 45 34

Internet: www.bibliotecademenendezpelayo.es

Email: biblioteca-mp@santander.es

Playa Somo



The beach across the bay from Santander is much-loved for its soft sand and relative tranquillity. There is a surf school—the first of its

kind in Spain—on the beach, too (Escuela Cántabra de Surf, Calle Isla De Mouro, 12). The best way to get there is by regular boat service run by Los Reginas on the Paseo Marítimo.

Photo: Jorge Fernández/unsplash

Address: Playa De Somo, El Somo

Internet: www.escuelacantabradesurf.com

Forestal Park



TirolinasGo Santander Forestal Park is an adventure park with fun outdoor activities located in a pretty setting in the woods. Here you can slide

down 220-metre-long zip lines, cross some rope bridges and walkways, or simply enjoy an active day outdoors with different games and circuits available for the whole family.

Photo: ER_09/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida del Faro, Santander

Phone: +34 608 11 71 16

Internet: www.tirolinasgo.com/santander

Email: santander@tirolinasgo.com

Magdalena Peninsula



The well-maintained Magdalena Peninsula is the city's most attractive area for a pleasant walk, enjoying the views over Santander's two scenic

bays, and taking some memorable photographs. The Magdalena Castle is located here, too. There

is also a small animal corner with live seals and penguins.

Photo: Manuel Alvarez/Shutterstock.com

Address: Magdalena Peninsula, Santander

Funicular del Río de la Pila



If you find yourself by Río de la Pila street, do take a quick (a mere 3 minutes) ride up on the funicular to the Mirador Río de la Pila, from where

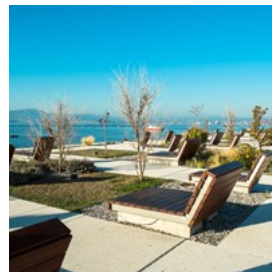
spectacular views over the city below and the ocean waters unfold. The ride is free of charge, and the elevator has a maximum capacity of 20 people.

Photo: Kaja Kadlecova/unsplash

Address: Calle Río de la Pila 36, Santander

Opening hours: Daily 6am-midnight

Paseo Marítimo



This one-kilometre-long boardwalk stretches from the Estación Marítima (Ferry Station) to Puerto Chico and features several points of interest

including the Palacete de Embardadero and sculptures of the raqueros—children who used to dive naked into the sea to gather coins thrown by passers-by.

Photo: Olaf Speier/Shutterstock.com

Address: Estación Marítima, Santander

More Info: The seafront between the Estación Marítima & Puerto Chico

Puerto Chico

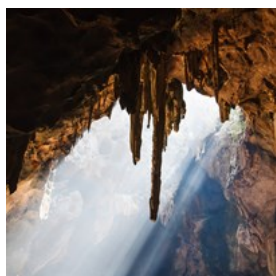


Puerto Chico is one of Santander's liveliest areas, with a waterside promenade and several curious statues. Once a busier port, Puerto Chico is still home to sea vessels coming in and out. Take a walk by the harbour and watch local fishermen arrive with the catch of the day. There are some good-value bars, restaurants, and cafés in the area. Many locals come here on the weekends for a meal or an evening stroll.

Photo: Jose Cespedes Balongo/unsplash

Address: Puerto Chico, Santander

Cuevas de Monte Castillo



Check out the magnificent caves at Puente Viesgo (24 kilometres from Santander), where stalactites and stalagmites stretch among incredible prehistoric paintings. The village itself is also worth a look around. Tours start at the visitor centre 1.5 kilometres above the village.

Photo: iSiripong/Shutterstock.com

Address: Puente Viesgo, Santander

Public Transport: Buses run to Puente Viesgo from Santander's main bus station.

Internet: cuevas.culturadecantabria.com

Email: redes@srecd.es

Museo Marítimo del Cantábrico



With exhibits ranging from model boats to fish skeletons and sixteen aquariums, this is a superb museum about all things nautical. Look out

for the two-headed sardine and the famous 60-ton whale skeleton. If after your visit you get hungry, there's a on-site restaurant with bay views.

Photo: Gema Rodrigo/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Avenida de Severiano Ballesteros, Santander

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm

Phone: +34 942 27 49 62

Internet: www.museosdecantabria.es

Club Náutico La Horadada



This yacht club on Playa de la Magdalena offers a wealth of water sports for the active beach-goer, including windsurfing, surfing, sailing, waterskiing, and canoeing. Courses in multiple water sporting activities are offered to beginners (from bodyboarding to kayaking).

Photo: Todd McLennan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle la Horadada 10, Santander

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm

Phone: +34 609 04 33 97

Internet: www.clubnauticolahoradada.es

Email: clubnauticolahoradada@gmail.com

Playa del Sardinero



This beach is the largest and the most popular one in Santander. It is divided into three parts: Playa de la Concha to the south, Primera Playa, and Segunda Playa to the north. A short walk from Segunda Playa is the Cabo Mayor lighthouse, perched on picturesque, towering cliffs.

Photo: Xavier Fargas/Shutterstock.com

Address: El Sardinero, Santander

Santillana del Mar



Enjoy a day trip to this sensationally pretty village, 26 kilometres west of Santander. Santillana del Mar is a historic Spanish town with some interesting architectural treasures. To get there, take one of the Autobuses La Cantabria buses from the main bus station in Santander.

Photo: Adwo/Shutterstock.com

Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art of Santander & Cantabria



This museum of modern and contemporary art features works by Goya, including his portrait of Fernando VII and Zurbarán, as well as

lesser-known modern pieces. There are more than 225 pieces, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, drawings, prints, video creations, and sound art.

Photo: Comaniciu Dan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Rubio 6, Santander

Phone: +34 942 20 31 20

Email: museo@santander.es

Santander Cathedral



This Gothic building was restored after the 1941 fire and now, it welcomes visitors to its renovated interior. Relics include the skulls of Santander's

patron saints and the tomb of legendary local writer Marcelino Menéndez y Pelayo.

Photo: Andres Garcia Martin/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Somorrostro, Santander

Phone: +34 942 22 60 24

Cabárceno Natural Park



Cabárceno Natural Park is a nature reserve and zoo situated in Penagos-17 kilometres south of Santander.

Consisting of 750

hectares, the park is located in a former open-pit iron mine on a karstic landscape. It is home to animals such as brown bears, elephants, tigers, gorillas and lions-to name a few.

Photo: evantravels/Shutterstock.com

Address: Carretera Obregón, Obregón

Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-6pm

Phone: +34 942 56 37 36

Internet: www.parquedecabarceno.com

Jardines de Piquío



Stroll around this garden park located between two beautiful beaches in Santander. Here you can admire the views over the Cantabric Sea. Besides

tree-lined alleys and flowers, there are lots of play areas for children as well as well-maintained, lush green lawns.

Photo: Ana del Castillo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida Castañeda, 5, Santander

Opening hours: Open 24/7

Museum of Prehistory & Archaeology of Cantabria



This compact yet informative museum details the history of Cantabria with artefacts from prehistoric times to the Middle Ages, plus

interactive exhibits. Explanations are provided in both English and Spanish.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Bailén, Santander

Opening hours: Tue–Sun 10am–2pm / 5pm–8pm

Phone: +34 942 20 99 22

Internet: www.museosdecantabria.es

Parque de Cabo Mayor



The area around Cabo Mayor lighthouse is a spectacular sight to behold—on stormy days, waves scenically break against the cliffs leading

up to the lighthouse. Entry to the lighthouse is free of charge.

Photo: Eduardo Kenji Amorim/unsplash

Address: Avenida Faro, Santander

Mercado de la Esperanza



This large indoor market is a profusion of high-quality, fresh, local produce. Best known for its seafood, the market also stocks artisan foods,

meats, cheese, fruit and veg. An authentic establishment, this market is devoid of tourist shops and closes from 2 pm to 5 pm for siesta each day.

Photo: Piquesels

Centro Botín



This first-rate arts centre was designed by Pulitzer Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano. The west block is dedicated to art, while the east block is for

cultural and educational activities. The rooftop terrace offers breathtaking views of Santander and its Bay.

Photo: Illán Riestra Nava/unsplash

Address: Muelle de Albareda, Paseo de Pereda, Santander

Opening hours: Tue–Fri 10am–2pm / 4pm–8pm; Sat & Sun 10am–8pm

Phone: +34 942 04 71 47

Internet: www.centrobotin.org

Email: info@centrobotin.org

Las Dunas de Liencres Natural Park



This sprawling parkland featuring pine forests and dunes is said to resemble something from another planet. This is a protected area and wild birds are

abundant. There are also lovely beach areas for those interested in surfing.

Photo: Juan Manuel Alonso/pixabay

Address: Cantabria, Spain

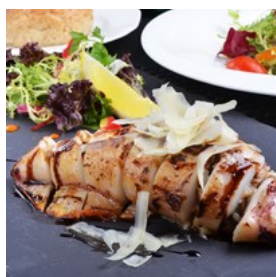
DINING



Magdanatka/Shutterstock.com

Cantabrian cuisine is as varied as its landscapes—fish and seafood turn up alongside game, veal, and beef on local restaurant's menus. Some specialities typical of the region include rice cooked Santander-style (with milk and salmon), hake fish in green sauce, fried calamari rings (rabas), tuna pot (sorropotun), anchovies, sardines, and hearty stews (try the venison stew or the so-called "mountain-stew", cocido montanes with beans, chorizo sausage bits, greens, and black pudding).

La Bombi



La Bombi is a long-standing, upscale restaurant serving seafood dishes and regional Spanish classics in a stylish setting.

Reservations are highly recommended.

Photo: 54613/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Casimiro Sainz 15, Santander

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 1:30pm-4pm / 9pm-11:30pm; Sun 1:30pm-4pm

Phone: +34 942 21 30 28

Internet: www.labombi.com

Casa Lita



Casa Lita is a popular tapas bar offering a huge array of northern Spanish pincho appetizers –approximately three hundred different

types—made daily and with the best quality produce. Plus, a selection of cheeses, Iberian sausages, tuna from the north, and some artisan anchovies from Santoña to be enjoyed in a lively atmosphere, with a bayside terrace.

Photo: bezikus/Shutterstock.com

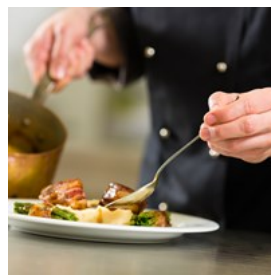
Address: Paseo de Pereda 37, Santander

Opening hours: Tue-Sun noon-midnight, Mon closed

Phone: +34 942 36 48 30

Internet: www.casalita.es

Cañadío



Right in the centre of Santander, you'll find Cañadío, one of Santander's most renowned restaurants, which specializes in

Cantabrian cuisine. There is also an array of mouth-watering tapas and pinchos at the bar.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Gómez Oreña 15, Santander

Opening hours: Mon-Sat noon-1am, Sun closed

Phone: +34 942 31 41 49

Internet: www.restaurantecanadio.com

Los Peñucas



This place is located down by the fishing port and offers wonderfully simple food straight from the sea. The menu features mouth-watering

seafood paella, grilled sardines, lobster,

deep-fried calamari, squid with onions, and the fish of the day, among other excellent dishes.

Photo: Seqoya/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Marqués de la Ensenada 35, Santander

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 1pm-4pm; Fri & Sat 1pm-4pm / 8pm-midnight

Phone: +34 942 22 94 45

Internet: www.lospenucas.es

Frida Street Food



Frida Street Food serves creative Tex-Mex cuisine, gourmet burgers, and cocktails in a very casual setting and at very decent prices.

Photo: Dani Vincek/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Santa Lucía 5, Santander

Phone: +34 634 41 73 90

Casa Mariano



Casa Mariano is an off-the-beaten path, hugely popular with locals, homely restaurant serving traditional dishes such as stews, sausages,

and so on. It is especially known for its good-value fixed daily lunch menu, which includes two courses and a glass of wine.

Photo: wrangler/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle de Vargas 23, Santander

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-midnight, Mon closed

Phone: +34 942 23 00 24

Restaurante Tatami



If you're craving Japanese food while in Santander, this restaurant might be something for you. Enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine as well as some

Chinese fare, such as sushi, sashimi, tempura dishes, and fried rice with shrimp, in a modern dining room or sitting down in the tatami seats.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Plaza Doctor Fleming 3, Santander

Opening hours: Daily noon-4pm / 8pm-midnight

Phone: +34 942 76 06 66

Pizzeria Mamma Mia



As the name reveals, this one is an Italian restaurant that serves pizza (and not only-the menu also lists antipasti, salads, and pasta). The

highly qualified chefs have ample experience when it comes to Italian food. If you are craving something sweet, there is a tempting menu with homemade desserts.

Photo: jazz3311/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Inés Diego de Noval 39, Santander

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 1pm-3:30pm / 8pm-11pm; Mon closed

Phone: +34 942 39 22 40

Internet: www.pizzeriamammamiasantander.es

El Serbal



El Serbal is an elegant restaurant overlooking the beach offering northern Spanish food with a modern touch.

Dishes are prepared with market-fresh ingredients to satisfy the most

discerning of palates. Try the tasting menu with wine pairing.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida Manuel García Lago 1E, Santander

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 1:30pm-3:30pm / 8:30pm-11pm;

Sun 1:30pm-3:30pm

Phone: +34 942 22 25 15

Internet: www.elserbal.com

Email: elserbal@elserbal.com

La Tagliatella



La Tagliatella is a restaurant chain with currently more than 140 restaurants and counting. The Santander instalment serves Italian cuisine, the main specialities being thin-crust pizza and fresh pasta.

Photo: fotohavran eu/Shutterstock.com

Address: Plaza Remedios 1, Santander

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 1:30pm-4pm / 8pm-11pm; Fri & Sat 1:30pm-4pm / 8pm-midnight

Phone: +34 942 36 39 78

Internet: www.latagliatella.es

Email: cliente@latagliatella.com

Marucho



Marucho is a very casual seafood restaurant with an overwhelming selection of fresh fish and seafood, such as hake, spider crab, mussels, and the catch of the day on display in the glass casings for guests to see.

Photo: Linda Hughes/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Tetuan 21 Santander

Opening hours: Mon & Thu-Sun 1pm-4pm / 8pm-11pm; Tue 1pm-5pm; Wed closed

Phone: +34 942 27 30 07

Internet: www.restaurantemarucho.es

Email: maite.marucho@gmail.com

CAFES



IAKOBCHUK VIACHESLAV/Shutterstock.com

The selection of cafes in Santander is very decent, ranging from the ubiquitous tapas bars to bakeries and ice cream parlours serving high-quality homemade gelato.

Many cafes double as bars in the evening when beer and wine come to replace the daytime "lungo" and "cortado". Santander is also famous for its pastries and delicious cheesecakes (quesadas pasiegas).

Chocolatería Valor



To enjoy a quintessential Spanish dessert, try the very popular waterside Chocolatería Valor. The menu features, of course, freshly-made churros (long, deep-fried sticks of special dough) with hot chocolate to serve as a dip. The menu also features other desserts, such as pancakes and tea cakes.

Photo: catmanc/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Castelar 27, Santander

Opening hours: Daily 8:30am-9:30pm

Phone: +34 942 94 65 80

Internet: www.valor.es/en/valor-chocolate-shops

Email: chocolaterias@valor.es

Café Suizo



Located directly on the city's main promenade, Café Suizo is a local institution and longstanding cafe with a view. It offers outdoor

seating and serves great value breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and very decent coffee.

Photo: Jan Knop/Shutterstock.com

Address: Paseo de Pereda 28, Santander

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7am-1am, Sat & Sun 9am-1am

Phone: +34 942 21 58 64

Mercado del Este



This market isn't known for its shops as much as its selection of pleasant cafes ideal for a short break or a people-watching session.

Sit down and enjoy authentic tapas with a nice glass of wine — get a bottle from one of the wine shops to bring back with you if you wish.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Hernán Cortés 4, Santander

Opening hours: Daily 8am-11:30pm

Gallofa&Co



Gallofa&Co is a wildly popular local bakery offering an overwhelming array of tasty bread, pastries, and cakes.

Photo: karnavalfoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Hernán Cortés 7, Santander

Internet: www.gallofa.com

Email: info@lagallofa.com

Heladeria Via Mazzini 43



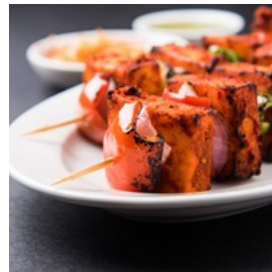
Popular ice cream shop in central Santander offering artisanal ice creams and mouthwatering crepes.

Photo: Slawomir Fajer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Castelar 9, Santander

Phone: +34 942 94 17 15

Siboney



This cafe/restaurant in Puerto Chico is a good choice for lunch or dinner. With its outdoor seating and a great array of delicious foods —pizza,

patatas bravas, meat and chicken skewers

—Siboney is a great pick for those looking for sit-down dining in the area.

Photo: espies/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Castelar 7, Santander

Opening hours: Mon-Thu & Sun 8:30am-midnight; Fri & Sat 8:30am-2am

Phone: +34 942 22 14 83

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Kichigin/Shutterstock.com

Santander is a university town and, as such, boasts quite a busy nightlife. The Plaza de Cañadío, Calle de Santa Lucía, and Calle Río de la Pila (and surrounding streets) all teem with bars that remain crowded well into the morning hours. As with everywhere else in Spain, plan on going out after 11 o'clock or so, otherwise, you run the risk of finding yourself drinking alone. On weekend nights, the Spanish like to party late. If you are going out to a club after some evening drinks only do so at around 2 or 3 am, and prepare to stay up till dawn.

Plaza de Cañadío



The centre of it all with regards to nightlife, Plaza de Cañadío is a bustling town square that really comes to life at night, when crowds pour into the many small bars around the perimeter. Pick a standing table for some banter with the locals, and be ready to stay well into the wee hours.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: Plaza de Cañadío, Santander

Little Bobby Speakeasy



The bar's elaborate, Prohibition-inspired interior stands in stark contrast to the vibes of most other Santander bars. Marvel at the curious pieces found within its walls. Enjoy the two areas with different music styles played and try the not-so-prohibitionist cocktails from the bar menu.

Photo: Igor Normann/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle del Sol 20, Santander

Opening hours: Tue-Thu & Sun 4pm-2am; Fri & Sat 4pm-3am

Phone: +34 690 99 25 27

Internet: www.littlebobby.es

Malaspina



This wildly popular bar tends to get a little cramped up, party-goers of all ages filling the dance floor holding on to generous servings of gin and tonic poured here. Music played normally features local and international top charts. The vibes are stylish yet rather casual.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pasaje Jesús Revaque Garea, Santander

Opening hours: Thu midnight-3:30am, Fri & Sat 11pm-4:30am

Phone: +34 942 31 33 93

La Rana Verde



This is not a place to go for a formal meal, but a lively joint that is popular with a young clientele grabbing a bite before embarking on a long

night out. La Rana Verde is famous for its patatas bravas, but also serves hamburgers and sandwiches. Located in the Cañadío bar district.

Photo: Nejrón Photo/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle Daoiz y Velarde 30, Santander,
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 6pm-11:30pm; Sat & Sun
1pm-1:30pm / 6pm-11:30pm
Phone: +34 942 22 24 02

Terrace Lounge BNS



This waterfront venue on la Concha beach in el Sardinero is rather popular with students and local party-goers. Music beats fill the air till dawn

when guests often choose to end the night by taking a dip in the ocean. Live music shows are hosted frequently.

Photo: Rawpixel/Shutterstock.com
Address: Avenida de la Reina Victoria 46, Santander
Phone: +34 942 29 09 19
Internet: www.balneariodelaconcha.es

Stop



With one of the best front-row seats to the Cantabrian sunset, Stop has grown to become a local favourite for an evening drink in a

relaxing environment. It offers an excellent array of tapas as well as an impressive assortment of gins and tonics.

Photo: GDMitry/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle Castelar 13, Santander
Opening hours: Mon & Wed-Sun noon-1am, Tue closed
Phone: +34 636 94 03 20

Bar Caribe



A local bar scene classic, Caribe is a great spot for a very low-key evening drink. Its location in el Sardinero just behind the Casino is hard to miss.

Choose from the multiple varieties of gin on display behind the bar, or order one of the many "copas" with snacks to go along.

Photo: Yellowj/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle Joaquín Costa 47, Santander
Opening hours: Daily 12:30pm-midnight
Phone: +34 942 78 54 11

Bar Canela



One of the little bars in the oh-so-popular-by-night Plaza de Cañadío, Canela is one of the best spots to grab a drink and take

your place by one of the tall standing tables in the square. If the pub proves too crowded, there is no need to look too far for a watering hole.

Photo: bogdanhoda/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaza Cañadío 5, Santander
Opening hours: Daily 6:30pm-4am

La Barruca de Calderón



Bar and grill known for its juicy burgers offered at very reasonable prices. La Barruca de Calderón is, perhaps, more of an eatery than a watering

hole, but it is certainly fit for a pleasant evening drink.

Photo: Ramon L. Farinos/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle Calderón de la Barca 10, Santander

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 7am-11pm, Fri 7am-midnight, Sat 9am-midnight

Phone: +34 942 07 85 85

Internet: www.labarruca.com

Email: info@labarruca.com

Gran Casino del Sardinero



If trying your luck at roulette or one of the card games sounds more like your kind of fun, do check out Cantabria's finest casino located right

across from the city beach. The elegant venue offers not only endless gambling but also excellent dining at the in-house restaurant.

Photo: [stux/Pixabay.com](#)

Address: Plaza de Italia, Santander

Opening hours: Daily 2pm-4am

Phone: +34 942 27 60 54

Internet: www.grancasinosardinero.es

Email: info.sardinero@grupocomar.com

Moondog



Moondog is a bar on the classier side, attracting a slightly older clientele (aged above 30 or even 40, on average). It serves quality drinks — the bar

is especially known for its well-crafted cocktails — and places special emphasis on playing good music (DJs are hosted frequently for that reason).

Photo: [alexpro9500/Shutterstock.com](#)

Address: Calle del Sol 52, Santander

Opening hours: Daily 6pm-3am

Discoteca Amarras



The Amarras disco is popular with the local 40-and-above crowd. Nights here are filled with Latin beats and couples livening up the

dance floor with salsa, rumba, and cha-cha moves. Events such as dance shows and live music performances are often hosted.

Photo: [ARENA Creative/Shutterstock.com](#)

Address: Calle Joaquín Costa 28, Santander

Opening hours: Tue-Thu 8:30pm-1:30am, Fri

8:30pm-4:30am, Sat 11:30pm-5am, Sun 7pm-midnight

Phone: +34 667 43 85 72

SHOPPING



[EpicStockMedia/Shutterstock.com](#)

Santander's shopping district is in its bustling centre. The streets around the Ayuntamiento-Artigas, Juan Herrera, Burgos and Cubo, for example, are good for everything from clothing to shoes to sportswear, as are Vargas and San Fernando. For boutiques and upmarket clothing, take a stroll along the Avenida de Calvo Sotelo. There are two large commercial centres in Santander, both located a short drive out of town — Valle Real and the well-known Spanish department store chain instalment El Corte Inglés.

Mercado de la Esperanza



This covered market is housed inside a late 19th-century building on the street just behind the Ayuntamiento, aptly named Calle El Mercado.

Here you can join the locals browsing stalls selling freshly caught fish, local cheese and sausages, as well as fruit, vegetables, and flowers.

Photo: Ingrid Balabanova/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaza de la Esperanza, Santander

El Corte Inglés



The nationwide department store chain enjoys a well-deserved good reputation. The Santander instalment is located a short drive

outside the city centre. Apart from a large hypermarket, it contains a multiple-screen cinema, as well as a wide selection of local and international brand stores.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: Avenida Nueva Montaña, Santander
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-9:30pm
Phone: +34 942 32 84 00

Centro Comercial Valle Real



A short ride outside Santander lies the Centro Comercial Valle Real, one of the largest shopping centres in the area. Here you can shop for

everything you need, ranging from clothes and make-up to books and toys. There are also several restaurants onsite.

Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle Alday, Maliaño
Phone: +34 942 26 18 19
Internet: www.centrovallelreal.com

Gómez Pastelerías



Those with a sweet tooth will certainly be delighted to find out that Santander is famous for its sobaos (a popular sponge cake from Cantabria) and quesada cakes (another dessert typical of the Cantabrian region). One of the best places to buy them is Gómez Pastelerías, which has several branches in the city.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle San José 22, Santander
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9:30am-2pm / 5-8pm; Sun 10am-2pm
Phone: +34 942 21 12 86
Internet: www.gomezpastelerias.com
Email: gomez@gomezpastelerias.com

Nuks



This colourful candy shop offers visitors endless freedom of choice — sweets come in all shapes, flavours, and sizes, and shoppers are free to browse around filling bags with candy to their liking. The end cost is calculated by weight. Sugar-free varieties are also available.

Photo: Vorobyeva/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle Cádiz 17, Santander
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun closed
Phone: +34 942 07 00 52

Mercado de México



The Mercado de México on Calle Alta hosts vendors selling everything from leather to ceramics to olive oil. The second floor is mostly given over to produce vendors, selling fresh vegetables, seafood, deli items, pastries, and bread.

Photo: sunlover/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Alta 133, Santander

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 8:30am-2:30pm; Thu & Fri 8:30am-2pm / 5pm-8pm, Sat 8:30am-3pm

TOURIST INFORMATION



Francisco Javier Gil/Shutterstock.com

Santander Airport (SDR)



Seve Ballesteros-Santander Airport is located five kilometres from the town centre. A bus runs between Santander's

main bus station and the airport. It departs every 30 minutes from 7 am to 11 pm. Taxis leave from outside the terminal building. Car rental companies are represented at the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Calle Aeropuerto, Maliaño

Phone: +34 913 21 10 00

Internet: www.aena.es/en/seve-ballesteros-santander.html

Boat



For boat trips between Santander, Pedreña, and Somo, go to Los Reginas at Paseo Marítimo. Los Reginas also runs one-hour excursions

around the bay.

The ferry terminal for longer journeys is at Estación Marítima.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Address: Paseo Marítimo, Santander

Internet: www.losreginas.com

Public Transport



Buses run throughout the city every 15 minutes.

You can take buses number 1, 4, 7, 9, 13, and 14 that run from the city hall to El Sardinero beach stopping at Plaza de Italia and Piquio Gardens.

You can also take bus number 15, which runs from RENFE train station to El Sardinero beach. The Santander Bus Station is located on Calle Navas de Tolosa.

There are two bus companies that link Santander with other destinations:

ALSA is for long- and short-haul destinations.
www.alsa.es

La Cantábrica runs services mostly for destinations within Cantabria.

www.lacantabrica.net

For further away destinations by train, visit:
www.renfe.com

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Internet: www.transportedecantabria.es

Taxi



Santander has 16 taxi ranks from where you can pick up a cab. Central locations include outside Banco de Santander on Paseo de Pereda 22,

outside the Correos on Avenida Alfonso XIII, on Plaza de las Estaciones, and at various places along Vargas, General Dávila, and Juan de Herrera.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Address: Pidetaxi Cantabria

Phone: +34 942 33 33 33

Internet: www.pidetaxicantabria.es

Post



Look for yellow signs and mailboxes. The main post office is located on Calle Alfonso XIII. There are other offices on Calle Vargas 73-75, and on Las

Cruces 6, both closed on Sundays.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Main Post Office, Calle Alfonso XIII 2, Santander

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-8:30pm

Phone: +34 942 36 55 19

Internet: www.correos.es/es/es/particulares

Pharmacy



There are several pharmacies throughout the city centre. Farmacia GPalacios Calle Lope de Vega, 7, Santander
Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat

10am-2pm

Farmacia Compostizo

Calle Sta. Lucía, 32

Mon-Fri 9am-9:30pm, Sat 9am-2:30pm

Photo: Gemma Garner

Telephone



Country Code: 34 Area
Code: 942

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



220 V/50 Hz; plugs have two round pins

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

172,000 (2021)

Currency

1 Euro = 100 cents

Opening hours

Shops are open from 9/10 am to 2 pm, and from 5/5:30 pm until 8/8:30 pm. Banks are open Monday to Saturday from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm.

Newspapers

El País, ABC & El Mundo (Spain's main national newspapers)
Crónica de Cantabria — www.cronicadecantabria.com
El Diario Montañés — www.eldiariomontanes.es

Emergency numbers

Emergency 112
Fire 080
Civil Guard 062

Tourist information

Oficina de Turismo de Santander
Paseo de Pereda, Santander
+34 942 20 30 00
Mon–Fri 9am–7pm, Sat & Sun 10am–2pm

Océano Atlántico





Alcalde Vega Lamera	D1 D2	Calle de Cádiz	A3	Calle de Plaza Alhucemas	D3
Autovia Bezana-Sardinero	C1	Calle de Daoiz y Velarde	B3	Calle de Prado de San Roque	B3 C3
Avenida de Antonio Maura	D3	Calle de Don Daniel	D4	Calle de Progreso	A4
Avenida de Calvo Sotelo	A3 B3	Calle de Federico Vidal	A4	Calle de R Sevilla	A3
Avenida de Cantabria	B1 C1 D1	Calle de Fernandes de Isla	A3	Calle de Rio Cubas	D3 D4
Avenida de Concha Espina	C1 D1	Calle de Fernando Calderón	D3	Calle de Rocio	D3 D4
Avenida de la Constitucion	A1	Calle de Fernando de Los Rios	B2 C2	Calle de Rodriguez	A3 A4
Avenida de Los Castros	A2 C2 D2	Calle de Francisco Salazar	D3 D4	Calle de Rualasal	B3
Avenida de Los Infantes	D3	Calle de Fransisco Palazuelos	C3	Calle de Rubio	A3
Avenida de Pontejos	D1 D2	Calle de Gerona	C4 D3	Calle de Ruiz Zorrilla	A4
Avenida de Reina Victoria	D4	Calle de Guevara	A3 B3	Calle de San Celedonio	B3
Avenida del Faro	D1	Calle de Hernán Cortés	B3 C4	Calle de San Francisco	A3 B3
Avenida del General Dávila	A2 B2 C3 D3	Calle de Honduras	B2 C2	Calle de San José	B3
Avenida del Stadium	D2	Calle de Isabel II	A3 A4	Calle de San Luis	A3
Bajada de Juan Blanco	A1 A2	Calle de Jesús de Monasterio	A3	Calle de San Martin	C4
Bajada de la Calzada	A1 A2	Calle de Joaquin Costa	D3	Calle de San Sebastián	B3
Bajada de la Encina	D3	Calle de Jorge Sepúlveda	B1	Calle de Santa Lucia	B3 C3
Bajada de la Teja	C2 C3	Calle de José de Esrañi	B1 C1	Calle de Santa Teresa	B3 C3
Bajada de Media Luna	A1 A2	Calle de José Simón Cabarga	D2 D3	Calle de Tantin	B3
Bajada de Ruamayor	B2	Calle de Juan de Herrera	A3 B3	Calle de Tetuan	C3
Bajade de Polio	B1 B2	Calle de Juan de la Cosa	C3 C4	Calle de Trasmiera	D3
Calle de A de Cabezón	B3	Calle de Juan del Castillo	B2	Calle de Valdenoja	D1
Calle de Acebedos	A3	Calle de Juan José Pérez del Molino	A2	Calle de Valliciengo	B3 C3
Calle de Alcazar de Toledo	A3	Calle de Juan XXIII	A2 A3	Calle de Via Cornelia	A2
Calle de Alfonso XIII	B3 B4	Calle de L Aguayos	B3	Calle de Vista Alegre	A3 B2
Calle de Alonso Ercilla	B3	Calle de la Autonomia	D1	Calle del General Mola	B3 C4
Calle de Alta	A3	Calle de la Braña	D2	Calle del Medio	B3
Calle de Antonio Lopez	A4	Calle de la Menéndez Playo	C3 D3	Calle del Real Racing Club	D1 D2
Calle de Augusto Gonzallez	C2	Calle de la Montañesa	C3	Calle el Ingenio	D1
Linares					
Calle de Blas Carrera	B2	Calle de la Peña Herbosa	B3 C3	Calleja del Junco	D3
Calle de Burgos	A3	Calle de la Universidad	C2 C3	Paseo de Canalejas	C3 C4
Calle de Bónifaz	B3 C3	Calle de Lealtad	A3 A4	Paseo de Pereda	B3 B4 C4
Calle de Calatayud	D3 D4	Calle de Leopoldo Pardo	A4	Paseo de Pérez Galdos	D4
Calle de Calderón de la	A4 B4	Calle de León Felipe	C4 D4	Plaza de Cañadio	B3
Barca					
Calle de Calleja Norte	D3	Calle de Los Caños	A2 A3	Plaza de la Bahia	D4
Calle de Carmén	B3 C3	Calle de M Sanz de Sautuola	B3	Plaza de la Lena	A3
Calle de Casimiro Sainz	C3 C4	Calle de Madrid	A4	Plaza Doctor Fleming	D2
Calle de Castelar	C4	Calle de Magallanes	A3	Plaza Esperanza	A3
Calle de Castilla	A4	Calle de Maria Cristina	B3	Plaza Pombo	B3
Calle de Cervantes	A3	Calle de Marianela	D4	Plaza Porticada	B3
Calle de Cisneros	A3	Calle de Matilde de la Torre	A1	Plaza Rio de la Pila	B3
Calle de Consuelo Bergés	C1 D1	Calle de Mozart	D4	Tunel de Tetuan	C3
Calle de Convneto	B3	Calle de Nazarin	D4		