

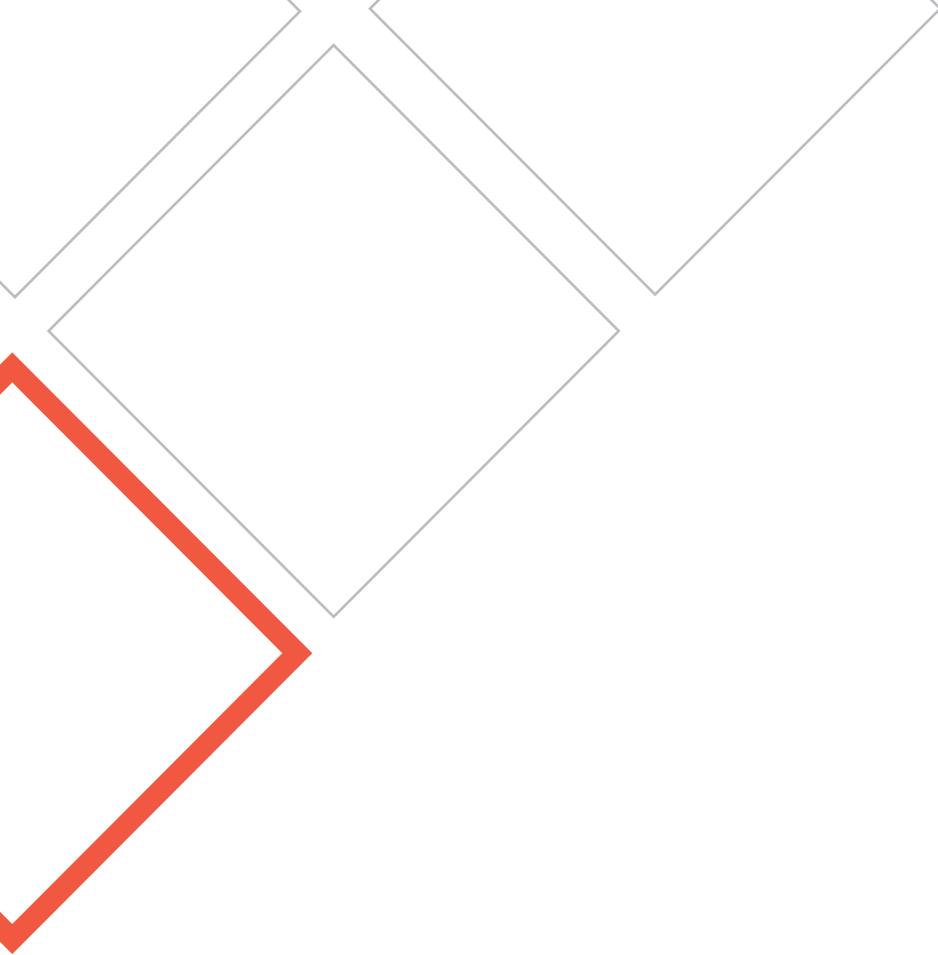


Heritage Assets **(BIC)**

CASTRO URDIALES



AYUNTAMIENTO DE
CASTRO URDIALES



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22. Cueva de Urdiales or Cueva Aurelia



*not physically present

** (located) outside the built-up area of the town

1

Church of Santa María de la Asunción

This is the most important Gothic monument in Castro Urdiales currently open for worship. In the 13th century King Alfonso VIII implemented the construction of this church with a basilica ground plan that is reached by a flight of steps flanked by two towers. It originally had three doorways but only two survive. The main entrance on the west façade is framed by a large lancet arch that is opened up by means of three archivolts and a pediment. The doorway for men, which is classicist in style, is of a later date as it was built in the 18th century.

The interior is divided into three parallel naves and a polygonal apse. The central nave, the height of which is double that of the side ones, has three floors: the first with arcades, the second with a clerestory and blind arches, and the third with large windows.

The inner sculpture is rich with an abundance of plant motifs of Cistercian tradition. The church retains elements of great interest including two life-size polychrome figures, a Gothic wooden figure of Christ of the early 14th century, and a stone Virgin of the late 13th or early 14th century. The altarpiece of the Santo Cristo stands out; it is pre-Churrigueresque in style and includes a canvas by Zurbarán.

The church shows French Gothic influences from the Norman area and was also inspired by Burgos Cathedral which was built during the same period.

Religious heritage / Monument - church

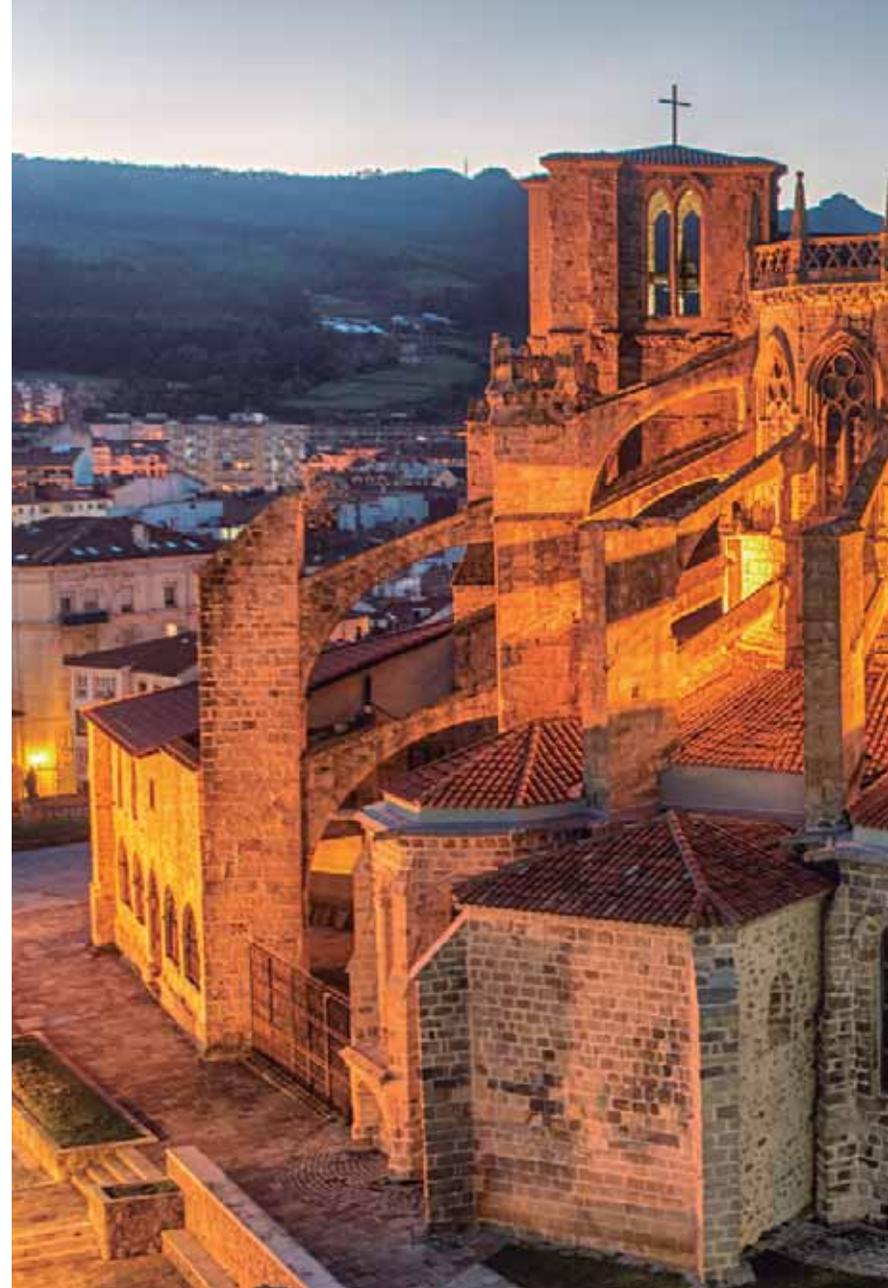
A Heritage Asset since 1931 (Cantabria Official Gazette of 5/6/1931)

Style: Gothic

Date of construction: 13th to 15th centuries

Situation: A rocky promontory near the castle

Owned by: Bishopric of Santander





Religious
heritage
(BIC)

2

Organ of the Church of Santa María de la Asunción

The high choir of the Church of Santa María is dominated by an organ which was built in Holland in 1949; it is of electro-pneumatic transmission with 29 stops on three manual keyboards of 56 notes and a pedalboard of 32 notes. It was originally installed in the Dutch chapel of Saint Hippolyte in Delft until in 1971 it was moved to the French cathedral of Evreux.

When the decision was made to change the organ at the cathedral it was taken to Castro Urdiales. On assembly an attempt was made to respect its three-storey structure, its wind chests of cedar, and the swell box of the upper part as far as possible, but unfortunately the space in the choir was too small and the number of stops and wind chests had to be reduced.

Religious heritage / Property

A Heritage Asset since 2012

Date of construction: 1949

Situation: Choir of the Church of Santa María de la Asunción

Owned by: Bishopric of Santander



3

Municipal Cemetery of Ballena

This 19th-century cemetery of eclectic style, which is situated on a small peninsula near the sea on the road to Allendelagua, is noteworthy for its unusual architectural heritage.

The ground plan of the cemetery, which was inaugurated in 1893, is of neoclassical inspiration and is arranged in the form of wide parallel avenues that descend towards the sea. It was planned by Joaquín Rucoba and Octavio de Toledo and built by the architect Alfredo de la Escalera. It is highly relevant from a town planning point of view. Its green areas alternate with mausoleums, burial mounds, and highly decorative neo-Gothic, modernist, and neoclassical pantheons in styles characteristic of the late 19th and the early 20th century. They were planned by the Castro Urdiales architects Leonardo Rucabado and Eladio Laredo, who were commissioned by the middle-class families of the time such as the Ocharan, Helguera, Artiñano, Cortejanera, and Isidra del Cerro. These funeral monuments were placed on the most privileged sites. The pantheon of the Sel family stands out as it is watched over by an impressive bronze angel and four hooded falcons.

Religious heritage / Monument - Funeral architecture

A Heritage Asset since 1994 (Cantabria Official Gazette 16/12/1994)

Style: From neo-Gothic to modernism

Date of construction: 1893

Situation: Coast road towards Allendelagua

Ownership: Municipal





Urban
heritage
(BIC)

4

Historical ensemble of Castro Urdiales

The pertinent heritage elements of varied inspiration and epochs of Castro Urdiales have enjoyed protection as a historical ensemble since the year 2000. This classification includes all the elements of its religious, urban, and archaeological heritage which create a harmonious ensemble that is redolent of history and cultural interest. These elements range from the Church of Santa María to the relevant list of civil buildings that are protected as sites of cultural interest. The ensemble is complemented by Roman remains, caves, and archaeological finds.

Urban heritage / Historical ensemble
A Heritage Asset since 2000
Situation: Castro Urdiales
Ownership: Public / private



5

Remains of the ancient colonia of Flavióbriga and the medieval town

The ancient Roman colonia of Flavióbriga was built on the area currently occupied by the historic city centre according to an analysis of its urban network and associated archaeological finds. The defensive and strategic nature of the site and the easy establishment of business networks were determining factors in its location.

It is considered by historians that in the 1st century A.D. the legions of the emperor Titus Flavius Vespasianus may have chosen the current location of Castro Urdiales in order to found the Roman settlement of Flavióbriga, the remains of which are still visible at a depth of two metres beneath the ancient town centre. Nowadays an Interpretation Centre gives explanations of this site which retains elements of the former colonia. An octagonal route can be made out from the fragments of streets and of both public and private constructions such as the adjacent thermal baths. Flavióbriga was one of the main commercial ports between the north of Hispania and Gaul and the town was even walled between the 1st and 3rd centuries. At the same time it was the only Roman colonia on the Cantabrian coast.

Urban heritage / Architectural area
A Heritage Asset since 2000 (Cantabria Official Gazette 27/11/2000)
Epochs: Roman and medieval
Situation: Subsoil of the ancient town centre, Calle Ardigales 5-7

6

Pátera de Otañes

This silver plate of Roman times which was used in religious ceremonies was discovered in 1917 at the ruins of the Pico del Castillo at Otañes in the municipal district of Castro Urdiales. The exhibit, which is concave in shape with a small annular base, is profusely decorated with motifs covered with a thin layer of gold. Six scenes related to the goddess of health and water are engraved upon it.

The original has a diameter of 21.5 centimetres and is kept in the safe of a bank. The Archaeology and Prehistory Museum of Castro Urdiales has a copy on display.

Urban heritage / Property

A Heritage Asset since 2000 (Cantabria Official Gazette 27/11/2000)

Epochs: Roman between the 2nd century and the late 1st century - some authors attribute it in the Late Roman period (3rd and 4th centuries)

Situation: It is stored in a safe of a bank

Ownership: the Otañes family



7

Ocharan Palace, Castle, Observatory, and Gardens

This singular ensemble from the early 20th century consists of four elements. The oldest, which was built in 1901, is the Palacio de Ocharan or Toki-Eder (Beautiful Place). It was built by the Castro Urdiales architect Eladio Laredo who was commissioned by Luis de Ocharan; the latter had chosen this location so as to contemplate the loading and unloading of ships on the wharf. This palace is of eclectic style and is covered with pink and white marble; it includes elements of both Italian and Greek styles with a porticoed façade of a double row of ten classical Ionic columns. The colouring of the tiles known as mayolicas (ceramics on enamelled pottery) stands out in a design by Daniel Zuloaga, the brother of the painter, which is found on the entrepaños (the spaces between the columns).

The Palace is crowned by a classical quadrangular tower and a pediment decorated with floral motifs.

Thirteen years later in 1914 the Castle-Observatory was added to the whole; it was the work of the same architect and neo-Gothic in style. It is surrounded by a crenellated wall of Mudejar inspiration.

The Palace and the Castle Observatory are located in extensive gardens that house two other constructions: the chapel and the gate-keeper's house.

Urban heritage / Monument

A Heritage Asset since 1984 (Cantabria Official Gazette 11/01/1984)

Style: Eclectic

Date of construction: 1901/1914

Location: Calle Leonardo Rucabado 26





8

Sotileza Villa

This building represents Leonardo Rucabado's change from eclecticism to the Cantabria style. It was inspired by the Casa Polanco of the writer José María Pereda and uses a classical rectangular ground plan including a square tower with a gabled roof, an imposing entrance, a porch, prominent eaves, and coats of arms. It is crowned by a sun lounge raised on columns.

Urban heritage / Monument

A Heritage Asset since 1989 (Cantabria Official Gazette 18/05/1989)

Style: Cantabria

Date of construction: 1915

Location: Paseo de Ocharan Mazas 28, at the entrance to the Brazomar Beach

Ownership: Private



9

Casa para Isidra del Cerro

Severino de Achucarro planned this eclectic building of French and modernist influences in 1899. With its striking façade of balconies overlooking three streets and a mezzanine, three storeys, and a loft (separated by eaves) crowned by a dome fluted with slate, its great decorative richness and the quality of its materials stand out on the eaves and the bevel.

Urban heritage / Monument

A Heritage Asset since 1990 (Cantabria Official Gazette 21/11/1990)

Style: Eclectic

Date of construction: 1899

Location: Calle Jardines 1

Ownership: Private



10

Royal Building

The architect Eladio Laredo was commissioned the designing of this residential building by the industrialist Luis de Ocharan; it was used as a hotel between 1901 and 1903. It shows certain neo-Gothic eclecticism and consists of a ground floor and three upper storeys. The sober façade includes elements evoking the coats of arms of the Catholic Monarchs and Emperor Charles. As an original feature the angle of the building is crowned by a medieval-style turret that houses an inner spiral staircase.

Urban heritage / Monument

A Heritage Asset since 1991

Style: Neo-Gothic eclecticism

Date of construction: Between 1901 and 1903

Location: Plaza de la Barrera

Ownership: Public (includes the Eladio Laredo Cultural Centre)





11

“Pedro-Velarde” Casa-Palacete

Eladio Laredo built this residence in 1899 as a commission from Dolores de los Heros initially as an orphanage for girls. It was the home of the Spaniard made good in America Pedro Landeras, a wealthy merchant, and is today a cultural centre. The house-palace is eclectically modernist in style with French influence and consists of a basement, two floors, and an attic. On the design of the main façade a section that projects beyond the sides stands out. The entrance is adorned with a terrace with a balustrade and has a wooden gate worked with profuse decoration with shutters bearing lion’s heads and pairs of Cupids among vases. The building includes various different materials such as wood and brick which were formerly complemented by Zuloaga ceramics.

Urban heritage / Monument

A Heritage Asset since 1993 (Cantabria Official Gazette 3/6/1993)

Style: Classicist eclecticism

Date of construction: 1899

Location: Calle María Aburto

Ownership: Public (includes the La Residencia Cultural Centre)



12

Casa de los Chelines

This building in neo-Gothic style with modernist influences was planned by Severino de Achucarro and executed by his then disciple Leonardo Rucabado. The façade is symmetrical in composition and has four storeys. The polygonal ground plan includes two flats per floor around a central patio. On the ground floor an arcade of stone masonry houses the colonnade. The central balcony is noteworthy for its decoration with Gothic motifs.

Urban heritage / Monument
A Heritage Asset since 1991 (Cantabria Official Gazette 29/10/1991)
Style: Neo-Gothic
Date of construction: 1902
Location: Plaza del Ayuntamiento
Ownership: Private

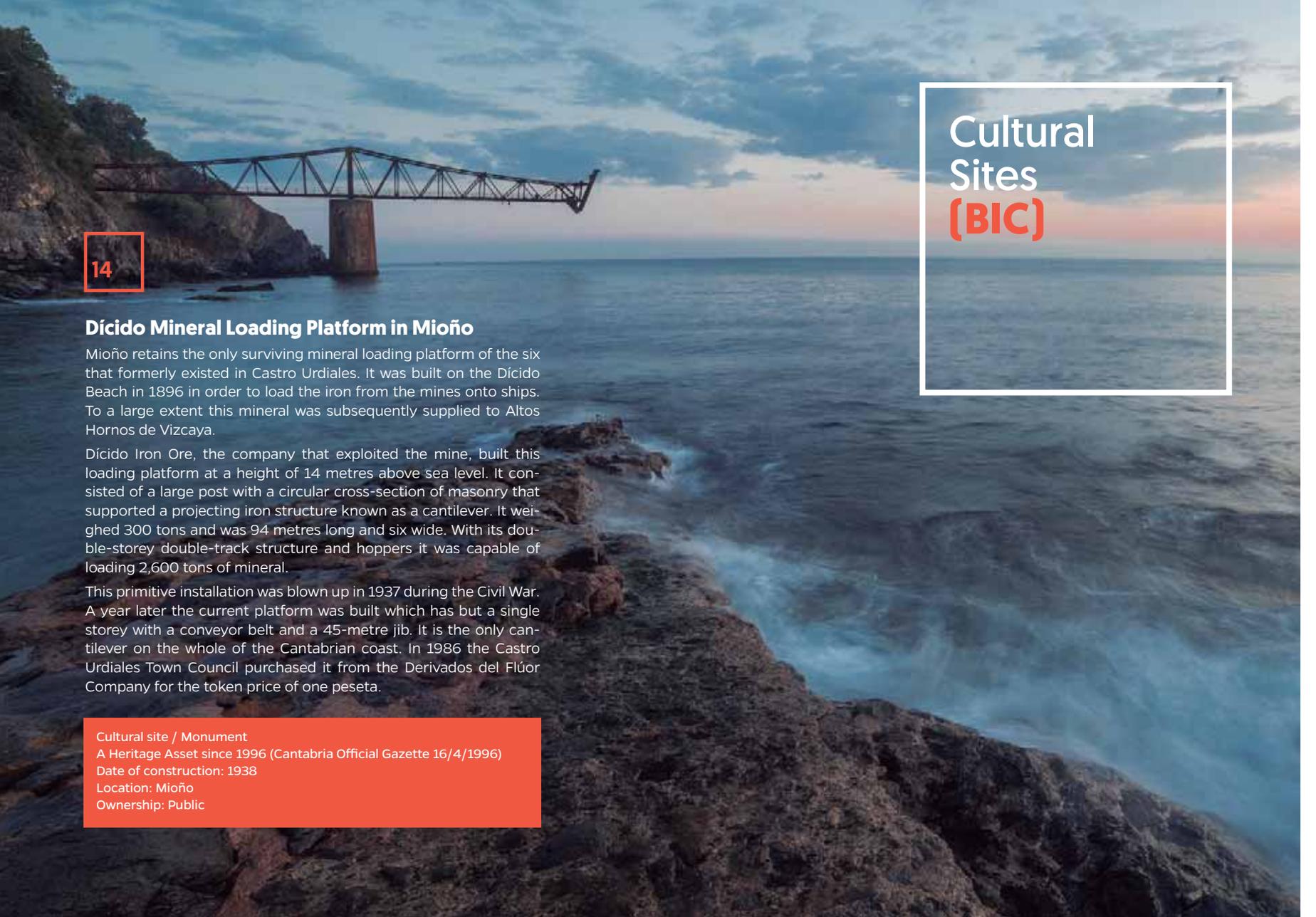
13

Casa de los San Martín

The Bilbao architect Gregorio de Ibarreche conceived this chalet of English cottage inspiration in 1900 for Barona's widow. The construction has a ground plan, a basement, and three storeys; its aesthetics combine wide eaves and different roof heights. The western façade has a tower with a hexagonal ground plan. The wooden decoration of the eaves and the attics beneath the roof are noteworthy.

Urban heritage / Monument
A Heritage Asset since 1992 (Cantabria Official Gazette 14/8/1992)
Style: Eclectic
Date of construction: 1900
Location: Paseo de Menéndez Pelayo 13
Ownership: Private





Cultural Sites (BIC)

14

Dícido Mineral Loading Platform in Mioño

Mioño retains the only surviving mineral loading platform of the six that formerly existed in Castro Urdiales. It was built on the Dícido Beach in 1896 in order to load the iron from the mines onto ships. To a large extent this mineral was subsequently supplied to Altos Hornos de Vizcaya.

Dícido Iron Ore, the company that exploited the mine, built this loading platform at a height of 14 metres above sea level. It consisted of a large post with a circular cross-section of masonry that supported a projecting iron structure known as a cantilever. It weighed 300 tons and was 94 metres long and six wide. With its double-storey double-track structure and hoppers it was capable of loading 2,600 tons of mineral.

This primitive installation was blown up in 1937 during the Civil War. A year later the current platform was built which has but a single storey with a conveyor belt and a 45-metre jib. It is the only cantilever on the whole of the Cantabrian coast. In 1986 the Castro Urdiales Town Council purchased it from the Derivados del Flúor Company for the token price of one peseta.

Cultural site / Monument

A Heritage Asset since 1996 (Cantabria Official Gazette 16/4/1996)

Date of construction: 1938

Location: Mioño

Ownership: Public

15

Ruins of the Medieval Templar Tower

Built between the 14th and 15th centuries, this former military fortress took the form of a large square tower of which only minor ruins survive today. It is known as the Torre de los Templarios as the Knights Templar are said to have held possessions in the area, although judging by the date of construction this seems unlikely. This Order was dissolved in 1312. In any case it is the second medieval defensive fortress of Castro Urdiales together with the Castillo-Faro de Santa Ana.

Cultural site / Monument

A Heritage Asset since 2002 (Cantabria Official Gazette 10/4/2002)

Epoch: Medieval

Date of construction: 14th-15th centuries

Location: Allendelagua

Ownership: Public



16

Camino de Santiago; coastal or northern route

The coastal or northern route is the oldest Camino de Santiago. This route, which is less popular today, was followed by pilgrims bound for the tomb of the saint of Compostela and passed through Castro Urdiales from Vizcaya on the way to Laredo parallel to the coast. Some traces still remain of this route that coincides with current roads, although the pilgrims originally used the Roman roads.

Urban heritage / Historical ensemble

A Heritage Asset since 1962 (Cantabria Official Bulletin 7/9/1962)

Epoch: Medieval

Location; Coastal area





17

Peña de Sámano Hill Fort

Remains of pre-Roman settlements survive on the Peña de Sámano. This walled hill fort has two entrances: the main one via the Puerta de la Sangaza and the Puerta del Valledón. It was discovered in 1972 and covers some 10 hectares; it is thought to have been settled by the Autrigones between the Bronze Age and the Roman period. Spearheads, an axe, ceramics, darts, a fibula, and a fusavola (a counterweight used in looms) have been found here. The inner enclosure is divided into two sections.

Cultural site / Archaeological area
A Heritage Asset since 2002 (Cantabria Official Gazette 14/6/2002)
Epoch: Pre-Roman
Location: Peña de Sámano - Sámano Neighbourhood Committee
Ownership: Public



18

El Chorrillo piping system

This hydraulic piping system with a length of 500 metres which was used for two thousand years runs from the Mineral Fountain to close to the port. The pipes that transported the water are made of dovetailed stone masonry sealed with hydraulic mortar on the walls. Water is stored in cisterns and rectangular water manholes with a barrel vault. This is the only Roman aqueduct still extant in Cantabria.

Cultural site / Archaeological site
A Heritage Asset since 2005 (Cantabria Official Gazette 28/2/2005)
Epoch: Roman
Location: Mineral fountain - Barrio del Chorrillo
Ownership: Public

Cueva El Cuco (cave)

This is a cavity of some 17,500 years of age that was discovered in 1996 at the base of a cliff and corresponds to the Upper Solutrean. A small vestibule gives way to a straight narrow gallery 100 m long that leads into a small room with engravings representing deer, goats, horses, and other unidentified animals. The engravings are of two types; on the one hand we have those of thin lines representing the heads and hindquarters of various animals, and on the other a group of large figures in thick deep lines in which the representation of a complete red deer stands out.

Archaeological site / Cave paintings

A Heritage Asset since 1996

Epoch: Palaeolithic

Location: Peña del Cuco

Ownership: Public - Closed to the public

19

Cueva La Lastrilla

This large cavity has three wide entrances and two lower layers. The upper and larger of the two contains the artistic reproductions: thick engravings outlined with a blunt tip that appear to represent a goat seen from the front and which may correspond to the Gravettian and Solutrean periods. It was discovered in the 1950s and constitutes a karst system that extends over more than 20 kilometres. It contains various rooms and wide passageways in which some archaeological remains have also been found.

Archaeological site / Cave paintings

A Heritage Asset since 1998

Epoch: Upper Palaeolithic

Location: Barrio de Sangazo - Sámano

Ownership: Public - Closed to the public

20

Cueva Grande or Cueva de los Corrales

This cavity has a wide vestibule which forks into two galleries. The left-hand one runs into a small circular room and the right-hand one in its turn is connected to a narrow passageway in which some Palaeolithic engravings appear. They represent two highly realistic reproductions in thin lines of a deer looking to its right and a goat looking in the other direction. It is thought that they correspond to the Upper Magdalenian, which indicates that they may be between 16,500 and 14,000 years old. Access to the cave is afforded by the Sámano quarry by means of the old mining railway.

Archaeological site / Cave paintings

A Heritage Asset since 1998

Epoch: Palaeolithic

Location: Barrio de los Corrales - Otañes

Ownership: Public - Closed to the public

21

Cueva Urdiales or Cueva Aurelia

This cavity has three superimposed layers. On the upper one the entrance opens into a narrow passageway 300 m long with small rooms containing the remains of a cave bear, and evidence of prehistoric occupation. 48 Palaeolithic cave paintings survive here such as the large panel of black bison, a vertical wall with eight figures, and superimposed reproductions of a horse and a goat which are attributed to the intermediate Magdalenian period. Some other impressions such as the red paintings correspond to the earlier Solutrean period.

Archaeological site / Cave paintings

A Heritage Asset since 2000

Epoch: Palaeolithic

Location: Private garden

Ownership: Public - Closed to the public

22

Archaeological
areas
(BIC)



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