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**EUSKADI**  
BASQUE COUNTRY

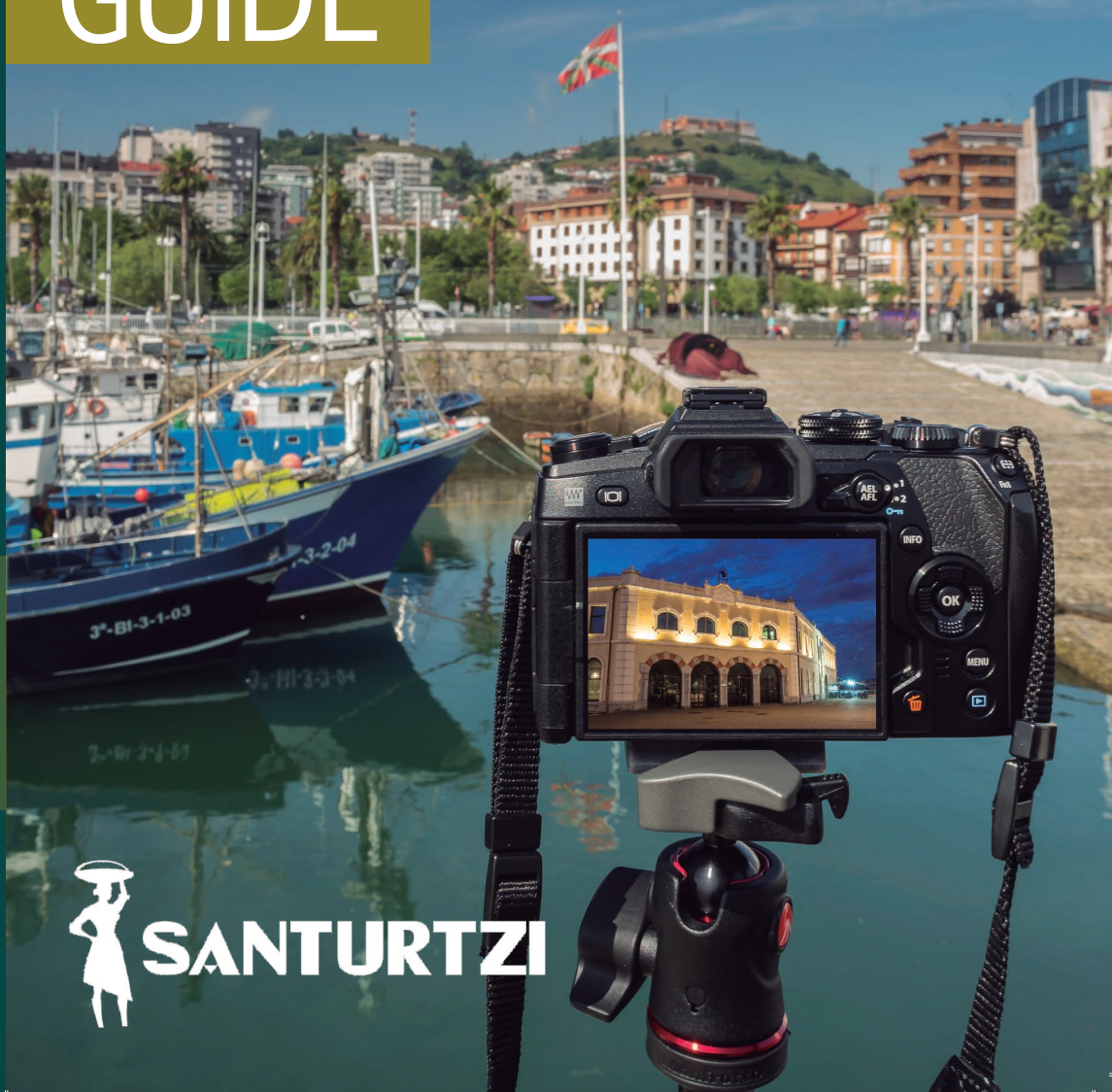
**Stz**

**Bizkaia**

# SANTURTZI

## PHOTO

## GUIDE



**SANTURTZI**



**Traditional roast of sardines in the port**  
20 mm f4 2s ISO 64 Tripod

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# Introduction

In the Basque Country the name “Santurtzi” immediately evokes images of the sea and a seafaring culture. This attractive town stands at the mouth of the El Abra Bay near Bilbao, between the stormy waters of the Cantabrian Sea and the green mountains of inland Bizkaia. Life here has always centred on the port, on shipbuilding and on fishing.

The long history of the town and the far-reaching changes that took place with the growth of industry have left a motley picture. The rural and mining traditions of the mountains, especially Mount Serantes, which towers over the town, have blended with the maritime ambience of the fishing port, the seafront promenade, the shipyards and the sheds of the industrial port.

For visitors fond of photography, Santurtzi is a veritable kaleidoscope of colours and shapes: a special place where urban street photography comes together with purely maritime and industrial landscapes. Every corner, every detail denotes the very essence and nature of the town.

This guide is intended to help you discover Santurtzi in all its scale and beauty; to enable you to stroll along its streets with your camera in your hand and your eyes wide open; to sit by the sea and enjoy the local food, which is redolent of salt-sea traditions, while you gaze out at the romantic view of the fishing port and the bustle of a town that has learned to blend history and modern life.

I wish you happy days and beautiful photos!





# How to use this guide

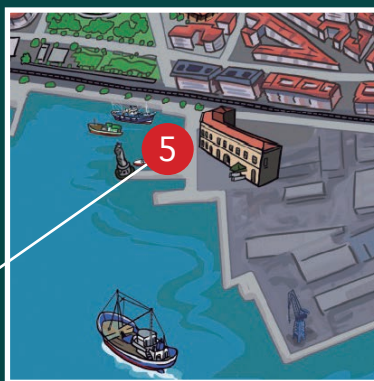
This photographic guide to Santurtzi suggests a number of walks and trails that take in the main sights of the town, grouped by thematic areas.

It is intended not a list of local picture-postcard views but merely as suggestions for visitors.

In each case the trail starts from a central point, shown on the attached map with a number and with GPS coordinates. These suggestions seek to take you on your own photographic safari in search of whatever image strikes you as most interesting or attractive.

The guide is richly illustrated with photographs of a number of attractive sites as references and examples. Technical details of each photo are included to help visitors take similar pictures in equivalent conditions.

The views selected are feasible for photographers of all levels. There is no need to be an expert: just go with the flow and enjoy your camera and Santurtzi.



**5- Fishing port**

**43° 19.830' N    3° 1.850' O**

## Recommended materials

Nowadays anyone can take high quality photographs. There is no longer any need to spend a fortune on equipment in order to get good results. It all depends on the experience and degree of perfectionism of each individual photographer. A good quality smartphone or compact digital camera is more than sufficient for the trails recommended in this guide.

However, there are certain accessories that may be a great help if you wish, for instance, to take photos at night, at dawn or at dusk. In such cases a tripod is extremely useful: there are inexpensive, lightweight models available that will enable you to take stable pictures with no blurring.

If you wish to take things a step further, we recommend that you should always have a polarising filter in your camera bag to help eliminate reflections at midday and make the colours stand out in your pictures.

## When to take pictures

You can, of course, enjoy Santurtzi and take pictures at any time of day, but there are two magical times when the light is warmer and photos turn out particularly attractive.

The hour just before sunrise and just after sunset is known as the “blue hour”. The sky is deep blue but there are hints of orange at dusk and the landscape is lit up by the lights of the town.

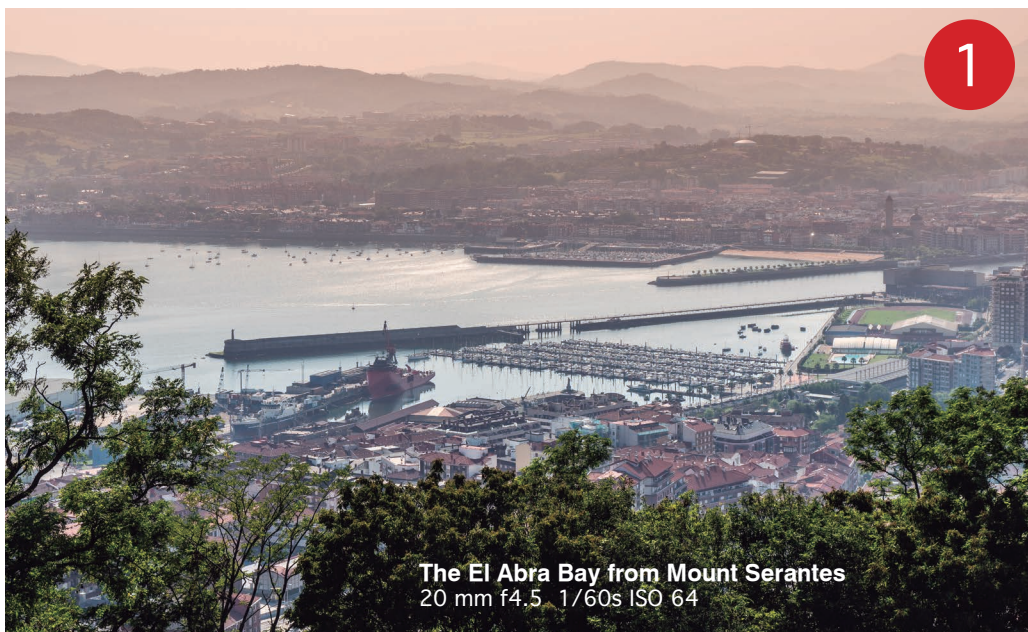
The hour just after sunrise and just before sunset, when the sun is not far above the horizon, is known as the “golden hour”, also because of the characteristic, pervasive colour of the light.

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**The Monument to the Sardine Seller**  
14 mm f8.0 1/4s ISO 64 Polarising filter







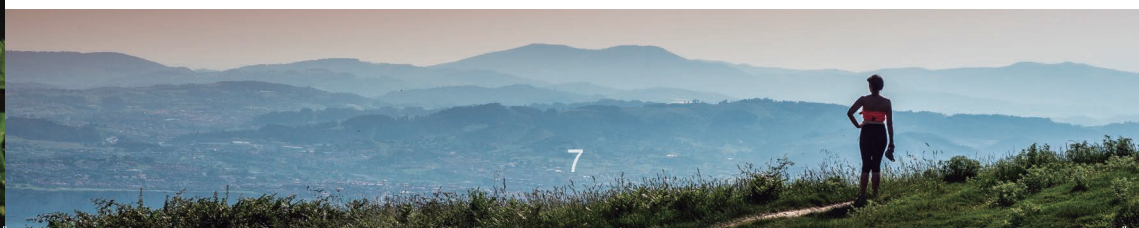
**The El Abra Bay from Mount Serantes**  
20 mm f4.5 1/60s ISO 64

## Landscapes: Mount Serantes-The Monument to the sardine seller

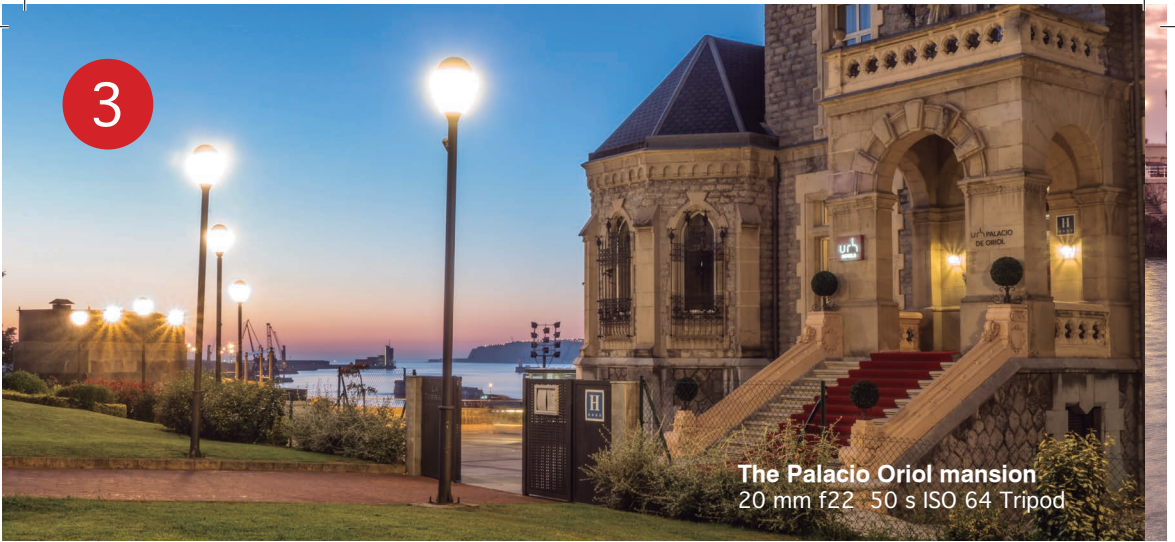
**M**ount Serantes stands over Santurtzi like a great guardian. Its pyramid shape dominates the landscape and separates the rural and mining areas from the coastal strip. There are several paths up the hillside which provide a magnificent opportunity to explore vestiges of times gone by, including the remains of forts and defensive towers. The summit provides a spectacular viewing point for photographing the whole of the El Abra Bay.

Back down in the town itself, you can visit one of the most representative sights in Santurtzi: the fine statue of a traditional sardine seller, erected in tribute to the women who continue to ply the difficult trade of selling sardines even today.

Given its height, it is best to climb Mount Serantes on a clear, cloudless day if you are looking for clean views in your photos. Do not forget your polarising filter, which will help you to make colours stand out and provide better contrast.



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**The Palacio Oriol mansion**  
20 mm f22 50 s ISO 64 Tripod

Starting from the fishing port, the promenade runs along the whole eastern side of Santurtzi. The new marina provides a striking contrast against the shipyards and dockside sheds in the background.

The Palacio de Oriol mansion, dating from 1902, is now a hotel. It stands on a hillock overlooking the El Abra Bay and provides a perfect viewing balcony for photographing the seafront areas of Santurtzi.

## Sea-front landscapes: The Palacio Oriol Mansion-The Promenade







**The harbour from the promenade**  
20 mm f8.0 2 s ISO 64 Travel tripod



Seafront promenades all over the world are at their most spectacular in the golden light of evening, and Santurtzi is no exception. A host of different settings can be found with which to compose fine photos that bring together the seafaring essence of the town in a single picture. A light tripod, a medium shutter speed and a high ISO should be more than sufficient to produce beautiful landscape photos.



**The marina**  
17mm f4.0 1/80s ISO 64 Travel tripod



A photograph of the Fishermen's Guild Building and Maritime Museum at night. The building is a large, light-colored stone structure with a series of arched windows on the upper floor and larger arched doorways on the ground floor. The building is illuminated by warm yellow lights, and the sky is a deep blue. A sign on the building reads "CASA PARA VENTA DE PESCADO" and "1911".

**Fishermen's Guild Building and Maritime Museum**  
14mm f5.6 0.8s ISO 200 Trrpod

## Traditional Santurtzi: The Fishing Port

Its tradition as a seaport is one of the main distinguishing features of Santurtzi. Its fishing boats, the Fishermans Guild building, the magnificent maritime museum, Santurtzi Itsasoa, and the last remaining traditional sardine sellers all help to paint a beautiful maritime picture in a unique setting.

The harbour stands in the centre of the town, and is widely used as a recreational area. The grilled sardines for which Santurtzi is justly famous are available throughout the year. There is also a wide variety of cultural events.

The Agurtza, a boat that has been turned into a museum, gives visitors a chance to learn about life on board one of the last wood-built fishing vessels on the Cantabrian coast.





A tripod is essential for photographing seaside scenes at dawn or dusk. Pay careful attention to the exposure of the photo to ensure that boats do not turn out blurred. Proper attention to these two points will ensure beautiful pictures.



**Fishing vessel and nets in the harbour**  
17mm f3.5 1.6s ISO 200 Tripod



## Industrial landscapes: The “Iron Quay” / The Shipyard

Strange as it may seem, the industrial landscape provided by shipyards and commercial wharves can make for extremely interesting photos. When the light is right, particularly at the beginning and end of the day, dockside cranes, loaders and the silhouettes of moored vessels are particularly striking.

Careful exploration can also help you discover and understand how Santurtzi has changed over the course of history and how it has achieved its particular blend of the traditional and the modern, the industrial and the maritime.

A stroll along the magnificent Muelle de Hierro (“Iron Quay”) takes you up the mouth of the Nervión river estuary from the harbour entrance, towards the impressive Puente de Bizkaia transporter bridge, which is now a human heritage site.

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The Muelle de Hierro is a fine strategic point for setting off back-lit views of the harbour against the bright, varied colours of vessels and the beautiful reflections in the water. A walk along the whole length of the quay will reveal a surprising number of different settings and possibilities in photographic terms.



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**The Muelle de Hierro and The Puente de Bizkaia**  
80mm f3.5 1.6s ISO 200 Tripod

**Shipyard from The Puente de Hierro**  
17mm f5.6 1/125s ISO 100



1- Mount Serantes	43° 20.066' N	3° 3.775' O
2- Sardine Seller	43° 20.060' N	3° 2.362' O
3- The Palacio Oriol	43° 19.570' N	3° 1.474' O
4- The Promenade	43° 19.708' N	3° 1.608' O
5- Fishing Port	43° 19.830' N	3° 1.850' O
5- Agurtza Boat	43° 19.620' N	3° 1.423' O
6- The Iron Quay	43° 19.663' N	3° 1.383' O
7- The Shipyard	43° 19.846' N	3° 1.818' O



Metro: Peñota- Kabiezes- Santurtzi



Tren Renfe Cercanías



Tourist Office



Peñota

GENARO ORAA

MURRIETA





