



Some places seem made to hold secrets; Pedrosa island is one of them. Surrounded by the calm waters of the Solía estuary, it has long been a singular site on the Cantabrian coast. Though now connected to the mainland by a bridge, its history is one of both isolation and deep connection to the major events of its time. Here, stories of illness and recovery, childhood and maturity, forgetfulness and remembrance intertwine.

This exhibition invites visitors to explore the island's key historical milestones, from its earliest uses to the most recent, and to trace the human presence that shaped it. A silent witness to many lives and voices, Pedrosa island reveals, through photographs and documents, how this small territory has echoed the needs and hopes of society across time. Because Pedrosa is also a mirror of the world around it.

Welcome to Pedrosa Island, a landscape shaped by water and time.

Old theatre
Isla de Pedrosa s/n
39618 Pontejos (Marina de Cudeyo), Cantabria

The Cantabrian Foundation for Health and Social Well-being,
Public Sector Foundation and In-House Entity

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Free entry until capacity is reached

ISLA DE PEDROSA

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A LANDSCAPE SHAPED BY WATER AND TIME

Organized and promoted by
the Cantabrian Foundation for
Health and Social Well-being,
Public Sector Foundation and
In-House Entity

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BLOCK 1 CONTEXT

Offers a general overview that frames the island's history. With a broad perspective, it examines the evolution of medicine in Spain and Cantabria from the 19th century to the present, and reflects on how spaces of care have changed.

BLOCK 2 | 1826 · 1904 THE LAZARETTO OF PEDROSA

Explores the period when Pedrosa island operated as a maritime quarantine station. Through four sections, it contextualizes port health issues and the port of Santander, recounts the lazaretto's history, its architecture and organization, and introduces the people who worked there.

BLOCK 3 | 1908 · 1930 THE NATIONAL MARITIME SANATORIUM OF PEDROSA I

Addresses the fight against tuberculosis and the care of sick children in early 20th-century Spain. It delves into the founding of the National Maritime Sanatorium of Pedrosa in 1909 and its consolidation as a pioneering institution in child healthcare.

BLOCK 4 | 1931 · 2025 THE NATIONAL MARITIME SANATORIUM OF PEDROSA II

Continues the historical journey from 1931 to the present. It analyses how the sanatorium evolved into a healthcare facility under the National Anti-Tuberculosis and Thoracic Disease Board, describes its closure and later revival, and focuses on Pedrosa's return to its founding mission: the care of society.

BLOCK 5 FACES OF PEDROSA

Pays tribute to the many visible and invisible hands that shaped and gave meaning to the healthcare complex. It acknowledges both institutional support and public figures who visited the island, as well as those who, through their technical and artistic creativity, left a lasting mark on Pedrosa.

BLOCK 6 PEDROSA THROUGH TIME

Features a timeline highlighting the major events that have shaped Pedrosa island: from its selection as a quarantine site and transformation into a maritime sanatorium, to its current role in promoting public health and social well-being in Cantabria.

BLOCK 7 THE CHARMING LITTLE THEATRE

Concludes the journey with the story of the island's small theatre, a building that once hosted official events and daily gatherings. Now restored, it is no longer a stage for performances, but a stage for memory, connecting past and present through its own transformation.

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