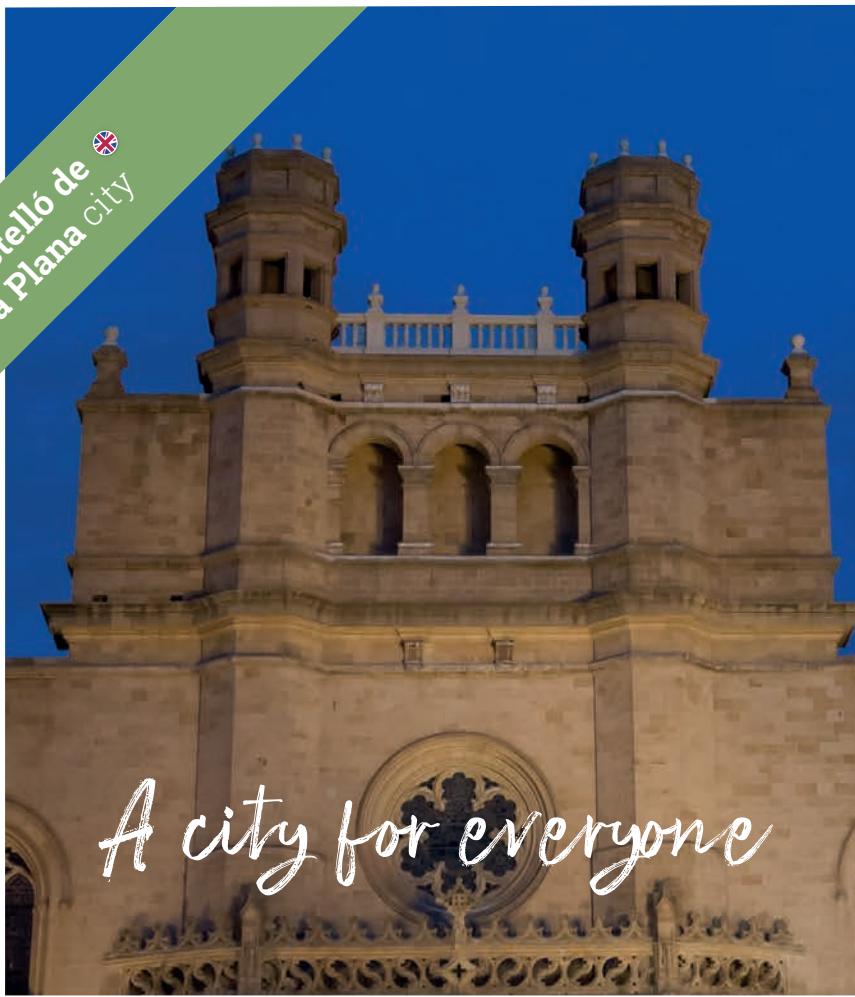


Castelló de
la Plana City



REGION OF
VALENCIA

MEDITERRANEAN
ATTITUDE

What to see and what to do





MUCH MORE THAN
YOU WOULD

imagine

Of the three capitals in the Region of Valencia, Castelló de la Plana is certainly the least known. However, you will without a doubt find, discover and enjoy much more than you could imagine here.

This city has a two-fold nature: land and sea. Surrounded by fields and farming tradition, it is in the capital and the surrounding municipalities where most of the province's industry is concentrated. In addition, it has three lovely beaches within the municipality itself, and is very close to two of the most impressive protected natural spaces in the Region of Valencia; the Desert de les Palmes and the Illes Columbretes archipelago. In this city of around 175,000 inhabitants, you will find plenty of history, landmarks with outstanding artistic value, pleasant parks and places specially designed for the whole family.

There are also many shopping and meeting areas for residents and their visitors. In addition, in Castelló de la Plana you can admire the treasures that a good collection of museums

and cultural centres hold with the most diverse themes.

This is all spread across the three areas into which the city is divided: the historic centre, the coastal area of El Grau and the new residential outskirts.

Very important for the people of Castelló are its fiestas, among which La Magdalena stands out, declared of International Tourist Interest.

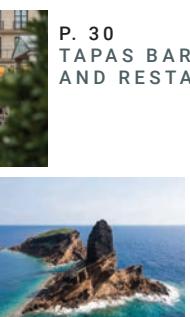
And no less appealing is the chapter on gastronomy. In addition to *paellas* and *fideuá*s, such defining dishes for the Region of Valencia's cuisine, Castelló offers delights such as *Olleta de la Plana*, capable of satisfying the most demanding of palates, both in bars and all kinds of restaurants. If you don't yet know Castelló de la Plana, this city will surprise you and leave you wanting to come back. More than once.



Welcome to

Castelló de la Plana

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WHAT TO
SEE IN

Castelló

DE LA PLANA

Three large areas that
bring together charming
neighbourhoods, personality and a
varied range of tourist attractions.





The historic centre

Of all these, the most noteworthy from a monumental point of view is the historic centre, built around the Co-Cathedral and the El Fadrí tower. This area, founded in the 13th century, was established on the site of former farmsteads.

Residential neighbourhoods

In recent years, several residential neighbourhoods have sprung up around this monumental centre, featuring wide avenues and parks and numerous cultural, sporting and social services and facilities. This is the second area into which the city is currently divided.



El Grau

Finally, El Grau, about 4 km from the centre, is where Castelló de la Plana embraces the Mediterranean through its three beaches, the port and a coastal park that serves as a promenade and stretches almost to neighbouring Benicàssim.



/What to see in Castelló

Must-see places and landmarks

Explore the most representative buildings in Castelló de la Plana and let yourself be surprised by its most emblematic corners. Through them, you will understand how the city has shaped its identity over time.



Co-Cathedral of Santa María



It is undoubtedly the largest monument in the city and was built in the Gothic style in the early 15th century. However, it should be noted that what you see today is a reconstruction from the mid-20th century, as the temple was almost completely destroyed during the Civil War (1936-39). The main portico and two side entrances remain from the original building. Inside, it houses a valuable treasure trove of liturgical objects made from rich gold and silverwork, as well as several Baroque-style carvings (17th and 18th centuries).

El Fadrí



This is the free-standing bell tower of the Co-Cathedral and a true symbol of Castelló. It was built between the late 16th and early 17th centuries and is an octagonal building almost 60 metres high. The people of Castelló call it Fadrí (bachelor in Valencian) because it is 'separated' from the cathedral building.





Town hall



Like the Fadrí and the Co-Cathedral of Santa María, it is located in the Plaza Mayor and was built in different phases between the late 17th and early 19th centuries. The façade, designed by municipal architect Francesc Tomàs Traver, dates from the latter period. Its classicist style features a striking portico with semicircular arches. The interior houses sculptures and paintings from the 18th and 19th centuries by renowned artists such as Ribalta and Benlliure, among others.



A quick glance



Historic centre

- Co-Catedral de Santa María
- El Fadrí
- Town Hall
- Casino Antiguo
- La Farola



Iconic landmarks

- Main Theatre
- La Lonja del Cánamo
- Correos y Telégrafos
- Auditorium and Palacio de Congresos
- Palacio Episcopal
- Muralla Liberal
- Basílica de la Mare de Déu del Lledó



Casino Antiguo

Casino antiguo



The renovation of this building, undertaken between 1922 and 1923 by architect Francesc Maristany, turned it into one of the most notable examples of Modernism in Castelló de la Plana. It is a harmonious palace distributed over several staggered floors, in addition to a tower. Today, the Casino hosts a wide variety of official and private events, both in its elegant interior rooms and in the garden.

La Farola



It was designed by architect Francesc Maristany in 1929 as a tribute to the city's patron saint, Mare de Déu del Lledó. Apart from its modernist aesthetic and its function as the main source of lighting for Plaza Independència, this is one of the main meeting points for the people of Castellón and their friends and family. It is a very lively place opposite Ribalta Park.

La Lonja del Cáñamo



Its name comes from the 17th century, when the cultivation and trade of this plant were fundamental to the economy of the La Plana region. What you can admire today is the result of numerous aesthetic changes, predominantly in the academic and eclectic style imposed by its new owners in the early 20th century, according to the dictates of the artist Vicente Castell. He gave great prominence to pictorial elements. It currently functions as a cultural and educational centre belonging to the Universitat Jaume I.



Lonja del Cáñamo



La Farola



Teatro principal



Among the many anecdotes and curiosities that the long history of this theatre (opened in 1894) holds is the fact that it hosted the city's first film screening in 1896. The Principal is one of the most representative buildings of Castellón's architecture from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It has a very 'Italian' aesthetic, with paintings decorating the ceilings, the curtain and the stage entrance. This theatre remained closed for decades until 1999, when reconstruction work was completed, restoring it to its former glory as the main stage for the city and the province.



Correos and Telégrafos



Correos and telégrafos

Its aesthetics are reminiscent of many other buildings from the same period, constructed for similar purposes in different parts of the country during the 1930s. However, its creators, Joaquín Dicenta Vilaplana and Demetrio Ribes Marco, wanted to give it a unique character, incorporating local building materials such as brick, glass and ceramics, in homage to the rich architectural tradition. This emblematic building is located in a strategic point of the city, between Avenida de Jaume I and Plaza de Tetuán, inviting visitors to discover it.



Auditorio and Palacio de Congresos



Auditorio and Palacio de Congresos

It is one of the most representative examples of 21st-century architecture in Castelló de la Plana. It was inaugurated in 2004 and is the work of architect Carlos Ferrater, who designed a large structure based on asymmetrical spaces built with white concrete, wood, glass, steel, grey quartzite and other materials. Although it was primarily designed for musical events, today it hosts all kinds of events, both public and private.



Palacio Episcopal



If there is one thing that will catch your eye about this building, it is the historic tile murals preserved inside. This episcopal headquarters was built in the 18th century in the neoclassical style, commissioned by Antonio José Salinas y Moreno (the bishop at the time), and much of its original structure remains intact.

Muralla Liberal



It is so named because the remains of the wall that can be seen today were built in 1837, during the First Carlist War, by order of the liberal authorities and in response to attacks by the army of Don Carlos, who was claiming the Spanish throne. This wall was built partly on top of what was once the medieval wall.





Basílica de la Mare de Déu del Lledó



The Basilica of Mare de Déu del Lledó is a must-see when visiting Castelló de la Plana. Located on the outskirts of the city, this sanctuary is revered by locals and also by those who are drawn to its history. Founded in the 14th century and renovated in the 18th century, it is one of the most important rural sanctuaries in the Valencian Community. Inside, you can admire a series of valuable liturgical pieces, along with the splendid mantles of the Virgin and an alabaster image sculpted in the 16th century.

/Maritim district

El Grau, gateway to the Mediterranean



The maritime district of Castelló de la Plana is El Grau, the historic port (fishing, sporting and commercial) around which residential neighbourhoods and numerous services have proliferated over the centuries. The epicentre of all this is the Plaza del Mar with its bars, restaurants, accommodation, exhibition hall and even a casino. It is next to the Royal Yacht Club, the venue for numerous maritime competitions, and very close to the Planetarium and the Pinar Park, one of the most popular leisure areas for the people of Castellón and its largest green space.





To consider

- El Grau is the ideal starting point for enjoying the beaches of Castelló de la Plana. These beaches are connected by a pedestrian promenade that links up with the municipality of Benicàssim.





Castelló de la Plana's beaches

Together, the beaches located in the municipality of Castelló de la Plana cover just over 4 kilometres of Mediterranean coastline. Each one has its own unique appearance and services, but all offer high quality, both in terms of the water and the sand, as well as the infrastructure and services. What's more, they offer a very pleasant atmosphere all year round.



El Grau is the best starting point for enjoying the beaches.

El Pinar

Located near the port, this beach stretches for around 1,800 metres of fine sand. Its natural surroundings, notably El Pinar Park, and the quality of the services it offers have earned it the Blue Flag and the "Q" for Tourism Quality award year after year.



Playa del Gurugú

Gurugú

Gurugú Beach stretches from the Camino de la Plana junction to the mouth of the Seco River, covering approximately 1,000 metres. Awarded the Blue Flag, it is the perfect place to enjoy the sea, sunbathe, and explore the gastronomic offerings of nearby restaurants. In addition, you can enjoy a variety of water activities. Right next door is the Castelló Aeroclub aerodrome, adding a unique touch to the experience.



El Serradal

El Serradal

The northern boundary of this extensive 1,700-metre beach is defined by the municipal boundary of Benicàssim. The most unique feature of this stretch of coastline, compared to the previous ones, is that it is separated from the promenade and the road by a belt of dunes, home to valuable plant species and a bird of great importance: the Kentish plover.

02/

ENJOY THE

*Culture,
art
AND
fiestas*

OF CASTELLÓ DE
LA PLANA





Options for all visitors

Castelló invites you to immerse yourself in its rich culture, from its museums and cultural centres to the ancient festivities that enliven its streets. With a diverse range of activities for all audiences, you will always find something to enjoy in the city.



/ Enjoy

Museum and cultural institutions

Castelló de la Plana has a rich cultural offering, with museums and exhibition centres covering topics as varied as art, history, anthropology, ethnology and the unmistakable connection with the Mediterranean.

Museum of Fine Arts

Museum of Fine Arts

Beyond its impressive artistic collection, the museum is housed in a building of great architectural value, designed by renowned architects Emilio Tuñón Álvarez and Luis Moreno Mansilla, inaugurated in 2001 and winner of several international awards. Here you can explore collections that reflect more than 150 years of history, divided into sections on archaeology, ethnology, painting, sculpture and the unique Valencian ceramics from towns such as Manises, Alcora, Onda and Ribesalbes, among others.

Military History Museum

Located in the former premises of a military barracks, this museum opened its doors in 2003. Its rooms offer a fascinating journey through the city's military history, from the 16th century to the present day. With over 1,000 items on display – and another 4,500 in storage – you can discover a valuable collection of uniforms, maps, weapons, war materials, insignia and banners, as well as information on key military figures.





Ethnological Museum

Museum of the sea

Located in the picturesque maritime district of El Grau, in Castelló, this museum invites you to discover the rich fishing tradition of the area. With a collection that includes more than 270 pieces and 70 photographs, you can immerse yourself in the history of fishing and its impact on the local economy, as well as explore other fascinating objects related to navigation and life by the sea.

Ethnological Museum

This museum's collection offers a fascinating glimpse into the daily life of the people of Castellón in the not-so-distant past. Through its exhibitions, you can learn how they dressed, how they worked the land, and the tools used in traditional trades such as weaving, blacksmithing and rope-making. The

museum also has a special section dedicated to the Corpus Christi celebrations, highlighting emblematic elements such as the gegants, nanos and cavallets. You will also find objects representative of the popular La Magdalena festival, which form part of the festive spirit of Castelló.

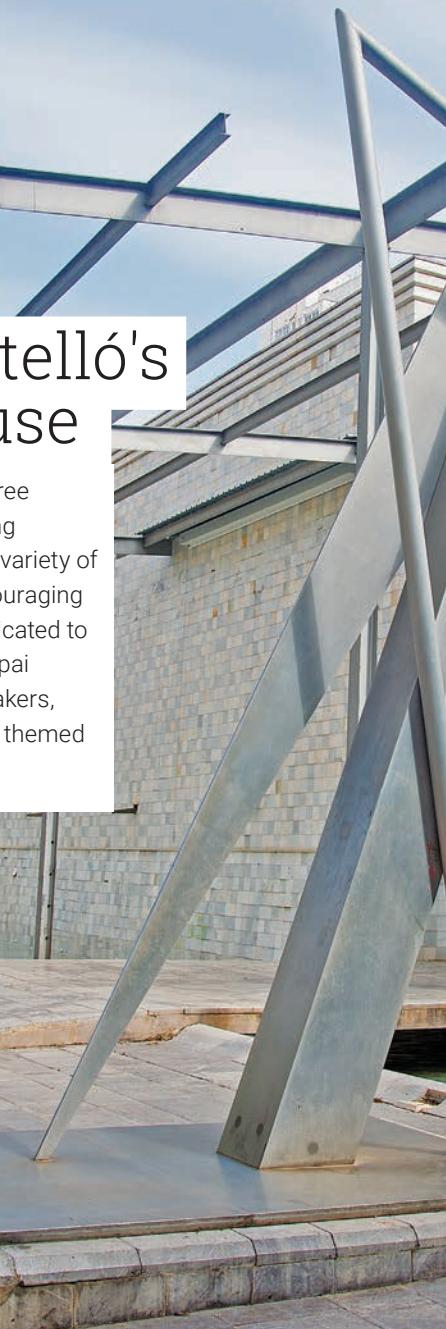
Torre dels Alçaments centre-museum

This important archaeological find has led to the discovery of fragments of the city's medieval walls, including one of its gateways, dating back to the 14th century. This fascinating space, located beneath the Plaza de las Aulas, displays remains from historical periods that have come to light during excavations. Temporary exhibitions are held here, further enriching the visitor experience.

/Workshops, concerts and cinema

Espai d'Art Contemporani, Castelló's artistic lighthouse

Opened in 1999, this centre is divided into three themed areas offering a diverse and enriching experience. The Espai Didàctic hosts a wide variety of workshops aimed at the general public, encouraging active participation. The Espai Domar is dedicated to concerts and musical activities, while the Espai Cinema becomes a meeting point for filmmakers, videographers and film enthusiasts, offering themed film cycles.





To consider

Promoted by the Valencian Institute of Culture with the aim of promoting artistic activity in the city, the Espai d'Art Contemporani has now established itself as one of the region's leading cultural landmarks.



/The fun is on the street

Local fiestas

Undoubtedly, among the main manifestations of culture in Castelló de la Plana, the popular festivals stand out for their colourfulness, diversity and active citizen participation.



La Magdalena

The main festival of Castelló de la Plana is held every year starting on the third Saturday of Lent, commemorating the signing of the town's founding charter by James I the Conqueror in 1251. Various celebrations take place during the third weekend of Lent. Among the most notable events are the Cabalgata del Pregón, which opens the festivities on the first Saturday, the Romería de les Canyes pilgrimage to the chapel of La Magdalena on the first Sunday, and the processions of gaiares, illuminated allegorical monuments that parade on floats. In addition, there are fireworks, mascletàs (firecracker displays), concerts, street parties, popular meals and other activities that enliven the streets of the city.



This celebration has been declared of International Tourist Interest.

Noche de San Juan

On the night of 23 June, in addition to the traditional bonfires on Gurugú beach and in the Litoral Park, so typical of the Mediterranean coast, the people of Castellón gather to celebrate the famous "potluck dinner". This tradition consists of each person bringing their own food, sharing an atmosphere of camaraderie. The celebration continues with dancing at the popular street parties and participation in the San Juan cake competition, one of the most eagerly awaited customs of the festival.



San Pedro

This is El Grau's most important festival, celebrated around 29 June. Among the most notable events are the maritime procession, the offering of flowers to the saint, the iconic Cabalgata del Mar (Sea Parade) and the popular Paella Day. In addition, the bull runs and the traditional Torrá de la sardina, a popular meal based on grilled sardines accompanied by bread and wine, are eagerly awaited by those attending.

Carnestoltes en el Grau de Castelló

The Castelló Carnival is mainly celebrated in the maritime district, where the highlight is the parade on Saturday afternoon-evening, with the participation of numerous residents who dress up in colourful and original costumes. The festival culminates on Sunday with the traditional burial of the sardine. This event takes place between February and March, depending on the date of Easter.

El Corpus

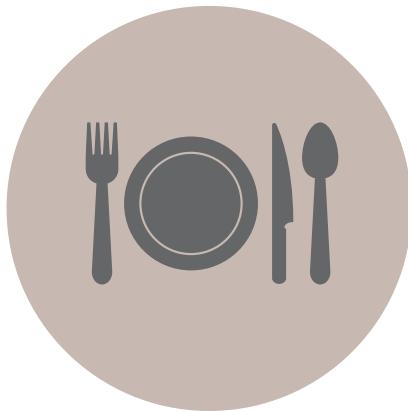
It is one of the most significant religious festivals in Castelló de la Plana, distinguished by its unique elements compared to celebrations in other towns between May and June. An example of its uniqueness is the "Ballar els Nanos", the traditional dance of the big-heads that precedes the procession in which the cathedral's monstrance is carried.

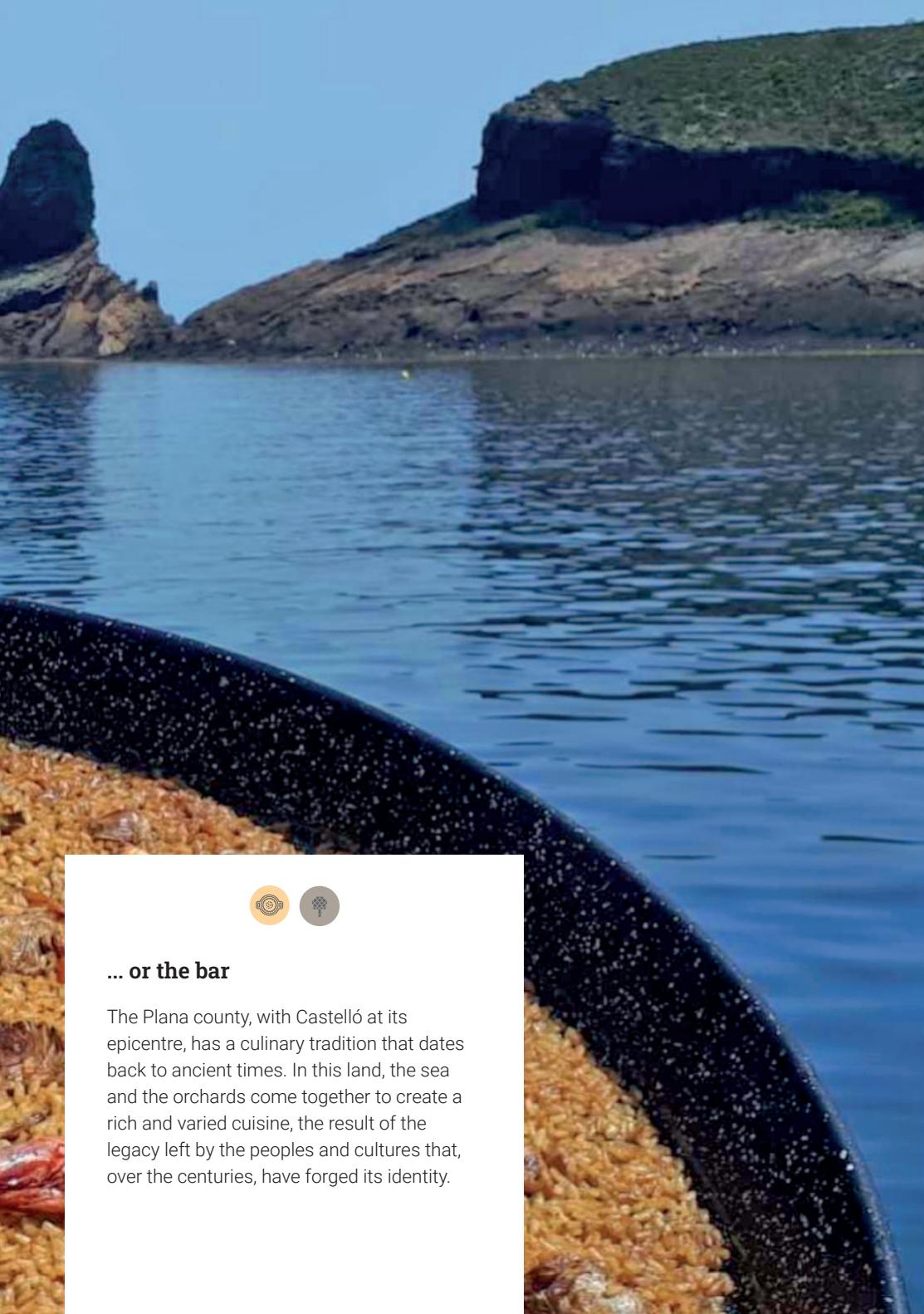
The festivities in Castelló stand out for their high level of public participation.



03/

Gastronomy AT THE table...





... or the bar

The Plana county, with Castelló at its epicentre, has a culinary tradition that dates back to ancient times. In this land, the sea and the orchards come together to create a rich and varied cuisine, the result of the legacy left by the peoples and cultures that, over the centuries, have forged its identity.



Ximos

It is the city's most iconic tapa: small sandwiches filled with a tasty mixture of sautéed vegetables and tuna, soaked in milk, coated in egg and fried to achieve an irresistible contrast, with a tender, juicy interior wrapped in a golden, crispy outer layer that seduces you from the very first bite.

/Cooking Traditional cuisine in Castelló de la Plana

Castelló seduces visitors with traditional dishes such as *olleta de la Plana*, a dish that combines flavour and authenticity, which can be enjoyed in both neighbourhood bars and restaurants serving sophisticated cuisine.

Olla or olleta de la Plana

The Castellón version of *cocido* –or *puchero*– is made with chickpeas or beans and a variety of vegetables such as pumpkin, turnip, cardoon, parsnip and chard. It is served with the broth from its cooking, making it a comforting dish, typical of winter and very common during Christmas celebrations. Over time, the recipe has evolved to include some meats, adding greater depth and richness of flavour.

Paella and others rice dishes

As in the rest of the Region of Valencia, paellas and *rossejats* are the best known, most appreciated and most widely enjoyed dishes in the cuisine of Castelló de la Plana. A distinctive feature of Castellón paella, which is very similar in concept to traditional Valencian *pael/a*, is that it can contain pork ribs.

Artichoke from Benicarló

During its season, this vegetable becomes a common delicacy in bars: stuffed with ham, baby squid, hard-boiled egg or other variations, it is confit in generous olive oil until it reaches a perfect texture, crispy on the outside and tender on the inside.



Coca of Castelló

The distinctive feature of this recipe is its potato base, which replaces traditional wheat flour and completely eliminates yeast, resulting in a unique texture. And if you visit Castelló de la Plana, you can't leave without trying its iconic tomato coca: simple, tasty and deeply local.





/Gastronomy

Tapas bars and restaurants

The most popular place to go for tapas in Castelló de la Plana is the Las Tascas area, around Santa Clara Square and Barracas Street. There are a few bars there offering small portions of their culinary creations, some of which are very elaborate. These tapas liven up the conversations of the locals who gather here almost daily to enjoy an afternoon drink and a pre-dinner or pre-lunch snack at the weekend.

Good tapas are also served in El Grau, in the bars surrounding the Plaza del Mar. This area of Castelló is also the best

option for lunch or dinner in its varied restaurants, almost all of which have the common denominator of offering Mediterranean and seafood cuisine in which rice plays a leading role.

Meanwhile, in the historic centre, the restaurant options are extremely diverse: here you can enjoy everything from traditional cuisine served in restaurants that have been open for decades, especially in the vicinity of the Central Market, to establishments specialising in the fusion of ingredients and preparations from the far corners of the globe, which



are becoming increasingly common. Not to mention the haute cuisine options in restaurants recognised by the most prestigious gastronomic guides and publications. The truth is that, whatever your culinary tastes, you will find at least one restaurant here to satisfy them.



Castelló de la Plana offers a diverse range of cuisine, with restaurants and tapas bars to suit all tastes.



/ Not to be missed

The Central Market, an authentic temple of produce

This building is one of the city's great icons. Opened in 1949 and designed by Francesc Maristany, it stands out not only for its impressive architecture, but also for the variety and quality of the products it offers. More than just a market, it is an authentic sensory journey where you can experience the 'from the garden to the table' philosophy, which also extends to the flavours of the sea and local livestock. Thanks to its privileged location, between the Mediterranean and the fertile lands of La Plana, visitors can enjoy fresh and authentic products that reflect the essence of the region.





To consider

- For lovers of fine cuisine, the Central Market is an essential stop that you cannot miss.



04/

CASTELLÓ DE
LA PLANA FOR THE

*whole
family*





Trips, parks and much more

Castelló de la Plana is a city designed to be enjoyed at a leisurely pace. Its comfortable size, peaceful atmosphere and wide variety of activities make it the perfect destination for those travelling with children.

/Places

For leisure and knowledge



Planetarium

Located in El Grau, at the start of the seafront promenade, this centre was inaugurated in 1991 as the first building of its kind and function in the Region of Valencia. In addition to its impressive projection room, it has several exhibition rooms dedicated to disseminating the different branches of science. It also offers educational workshops specially designed for children, encouraging learning in a fun and participatory way.

Parque del Pinar

Next to the sea and the beach that gives it its name, this park offers a wide variety of sports facilities, a recreation area and even a nine-hole golf course. However, what really attracts most visitors is its vast area of Aleppo pines, the perfect place for walking, running or enjoying some time outdoors.





Parque Ribalta

Parque Ribalta

This is the main green area in the historic centre. It is also one of the most attractive meeting places for the people of Castellón. Designed by the engineer Lluís Alfonso in the second half of the 19th century, various monumental and recreational elements have been added over time. The old rose garden is now occupied by an entertaining children's playground. Among the lush vegetation, which combines native species with others brought from different corners of the world, there is a beautiful pond and an elegant bandstand, which give the place the air of a unique botanical garden.

*Parks by the sea or in the city
will delight the little ones*

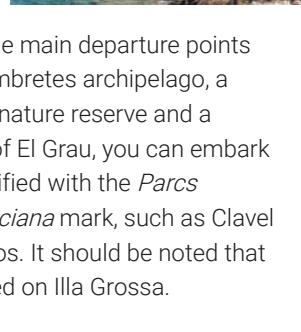




/ By boat

Trip to the Columbretes

The port of Castelló is one of the main departure points for boat trips to the small Columbretes archipelago, a natural gem considered both a nature reserve and a marine reserve. From the port of El Grau, you can embark with one of the companies certified with the *Parcs Naturals de la Comunitat Valenciana* mark, such as Clavel I, Casamar, Rovireta and Albatros. It should be noted that disembarkation is only permitted on Illa Grossa.





To consider

- The tour usually lasts a full day and allows visitors to discover the scenic, wildlife and botanical treasures of this unique area. It should be noted that disembarkation is only permitted on Illa Grossa.





Shopping in Castelló de la Plana

There are many shopping options in Castelló de la Plana. The historic centre, with streets such as Mayor, Colón, Ausias March, Poeta Guimerá, Enmedio and Papa Luna, among others, is the ideal place for this. In these areas, you can find both international fashion and accessory shops and traditional shops offering local products. There are also shopping centres such as La Salera and Estepark.

Night time in Castelló de la Plana

For those who enjoy nightlife, dancing and having a drink, Lagasca and Marqués de la Ensenada streets offer several lively venues that stay open until the early hours. In addition, El Grao, around Plaza del Mar, also has a lively nightlife scene. Not to be missed is the "tardeo", when numerous local groups offer live performances in various establishments.



For sports lovers

For those who need to be constantly active, Castelló de la Plana offers a wide variety of sporting options. You can go running in its extensive green areas, such as Mérida Park or the seafront promenade. You can also enjoy water sports at the Real Club Náutico de Castellón and the city's marina, which has more than 670 moorings. For golf lovers, the Costa de Azahar Golf Club, just 4 kilometres from the centre, is an excellent option. You can also enjoy more extreme activities such as skydiving or flying in small planes from the Castellón Aeroclub.





/ A stroll ...

Other parks

Interestingly, Castelló de la Plana is located at the intersection of the imaginary line of Meridian 0 or Greenwich, as well as Parallel 40. In 1988, a monolith was erected to mark the point where the two lines meet, located in Meridian Park, a space that hosts various events and sporting celebrations throughout the year, such as the San Antonio and Virgen de Agosto festivals, the Pedalada in September and the Marcha in October. On the other hand, the Litoral Park runs parallel to the coast, surrounded by characteristic Mediterranean dunes, palm trees and other native species.





To consider

- They are perfect places for walking, running outdoors or enjoying a bike ride while discovering the surroundings.





How to get there



By road

Castelló de la Plana is well connected by road. The city can be reached via the AP-7 motorway, which connects Castellón with Valencia (to the north) and Alicante (to the south), providing easy access from various cities on the Mediterranean coast. In addition, the N-340 also offers a direct route from different parts of the province and other nearby towns.

By train

Castelló de la Plana railway station, located just a few minutes from the city centre, is connected to Spain's major cities thanks to Renfe services, both high-speed trains (AVE) and medium-distance lines. From Valencia, you can get there in less than an hour.

www.renfe.com

By plane

Castellón Airport is located just 30 minutes by car from the city centre. It offers domestic and international flights, with direct connections to several European cities, and is close to destinations such as Benicàssim, Oropesa del Mar and Peñíscola.

www.aena.es



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