

Tourist guide 
Region of Valencia

*Thousands of emotions
to captivate you*



**MEDITERRANEAN
ATTITUDE**

Find inspiration on what to see and what to do to plan your trip and discover a region full of experiences.

Region of Valencia



*There are so many places to go in the Region of Valencia
that we don't want you to leave any out...*

We invite you to lose yourself in a journey to them all. You will love the incredible coast and interior of **Castelló**, the magic of the white villages and idyllic beaches of the **Costa Blanca**, the food and history of **Valencia**. This route will also show you cities like **Alicante**, **Benidorm** or **Elx**, with their cultural treasures and vibrant attractions.

Beaches and mountains, the Mediterranean diet, the riches of its cultural heritage, fiestas, delightful villages, the warmth of the people...and more than 300 days' sunshine every year. All this, and much more, in the Region of Valencia.

Welcome to the Region of Valencia



WHY CHOOSE THE *Region of Valencia*

The question is not, why come to the Region of Valencia, but rather, why not do it? There are reasons in abundance to get captivated by this land where the Mediterranean is the protagonist of its history, culture, climate and even a cuisine to which it has lent its name. The Mediterranean is also the connecting thread between Castelló, Valencia and Alicante, with both aspects in common and differences which make the Region of Valencia a unique destination.

When you ask, there are those who will say that the word 'Alicante' means 'gleaming or sparkling', others are convinced that the toponym 'Valencia' comes from 'courage or valour', and there are also those who suggest that 'Castelló' comes from 'land of monuments or monumental'. It is likely that the origin or etymology of these terms will never be known for sure. What is known is that the Region of Valencia is gleaming, full of valour, and many other reasons to come and return again and again. Welcome to the Region of Valencia, the region of the Mediterranean.





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The sea

- ALWAYS -
THE SEA

BEACHES TO ENJOY THE BEST OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

With more than 520 kilometres of coastline and the Mediterranean as its backdrop, the Region of Valencia is one of the best options for enjoying a day, or many, on its beaches. And here you will find one for every occasion, from extensive stretches of beautiful sand to secluded coves, islands and islets, the jewels of the sea. Don't just stay on the shore, complete the experience from the sea by enjoying a day sailing or discovering the wonderful seabeds of this region while snorkelling or diving.



Coves and beaches

to do more than one length



+ **European Blue Flag and Qualitur's Flag**

> www.banderaazulplayas.com

> www.qualitur.gva.es



Coves and beaches

In the Region of Valencia, the choice of beaches is endless; there is something for all tastes. Also to enjoy quieter environments, like the coves that dot the entire coast of the Region of Valencia.

Heliópolis beach in Benicàssim is the longest and liveliest, with a number of beach bars and restaurants to finish off the

day. It even has a library so you can fuel your time on the sand with a book. Voramar, Els Terrers and L'Almadrava beach are other options to enjoy in Benicàssim.

If you have ever dreamed of swinging over the Mediterranean, you can do it on La Concha beach in Oropesa del Mar, protected by a bay of fine golden sand. You can round off the beach experience in Les Amplàries -with a grassy area- Morro de Gos and Platgetes de Bellver.

Long sandy beaches are the order of the day in the city of Valencia. Blasco Ibáñez set his sights on Malvarrosa beach for his summer home, so after a wonderful day on the capital's most famous beach, you can visit the home-museum of the writer who made it famous.

For those looking for more virgin coastline, the characteristic dunes of Oliva (Valencia) protect its fine golden sands, where you can

Benidorm





La Vila Joiosa (Alicante)

Cullera (Valencia)



walk as far as your feet will take you or simply enjoy the scenery. Some of the best-known -and busiest- beaches in Cullera are San Antonio and Racó, with a wide variety of services where getting bored is completely impossible. But there are also quieter areas, such as Estany and the lighthouse beaches, with postcard-perfect clear waters.

Fine golden sand and an innumerable range of services are the hallmarks of Gandia's Nord beach, while dunes outline the landscape of Venecia and Mareny de Rafelcaid beaches, which are less busy. You won't be short of options to enjoy a plan full of beach and fun in Gandia.

At more than four kilometres long, Les Deveses beach in Dénia marks the beginning of the Costa Blanca and is the perfect place if you like windsurfing due to the winds that often caress it. Les Bovetes, Els Molins and Les Marines are also ideal in

Dénia for relaxing on the sand by the seashore. In Les Rotes, as well as a rocky landscape and coves with crystal-clear waters, there is an incredible view of Cabo de San Antonio.

If there is an iconic image of summer, it is Llevant beach in Benidorm. A wide bay more than two kilometres long with the perfect orientation to be able to sunbathe all day. Another three kilometres of sand give shape to Benidorm's other big star, Ponent beach. Peace and quiet in Benidorm? You can find it in Mal Pas, Tío Ximo cove and Almadrava beach.

In Vila Joiosa, in addition to enjoying the charms of the fishing village with multicoloured facades and a beautiful fishing port, you can also visit some of its beaches, such as Playa Centro, Bol Nou and Carritxal, and even coves including Racó del Conill and Fonda.

In Elx, Els Arenals del Sol and El Carabassí are beaches of fine sand where the dunes are the main feature.

Coves to run away to

Crystal-clear turquoise waters lap between Cala Blanca and Granadella cliffs in Xàbia (Alicante); once you have discovered them, you will feel like losing yourself and forgetting the rest of the world. Also in Alicante, the coves of El Campello, such as Les Palmeretes, and Advocat in Benissa are excellent examples of the more intimate Mediterranean.

The orography has gifted Vinaròs (Castelló) with a collection of corners that pepper the coast to enjoy a day at the beach at your leisure. The coves of Sunyera, Foradada, Saldonar and Les Roques are all small, but captivating beaches. If you are looking for the more virgin Mediterranean, your destination is the coves of Ribamar in Alcossebre.



Tabarca Island (Alicante)



+ Islands and islets, the jewels of the sea

> Nature gave the Region of Valencia a collection of islands and islets that are an impressive compendium of rich flora and fauna.

The Romans and the Greeks discovered the charms of the Columbretes Islands Natural Park, 30 miles from Castelló. The chain of islets of volcanic origin of Foradada, La Ferrera, Illa Grossa -the only island that can be visited- and

Carallot are an exceptional, unique habitat in the Mediterranean for marine species.

22 kilometres from Alicante and opposite Santa Pola lies the only inhabited islet in the Region of Valencia: Tabarca. Surrounded by crystal-clear waters, it is worth visiting the walls of its community, thus protected from attacks by the Berbers, and declared a Historic-Artistic Site in 1964. The lighthouse is one of the most popular spots for taking some of the best photos of the Mediterranean.

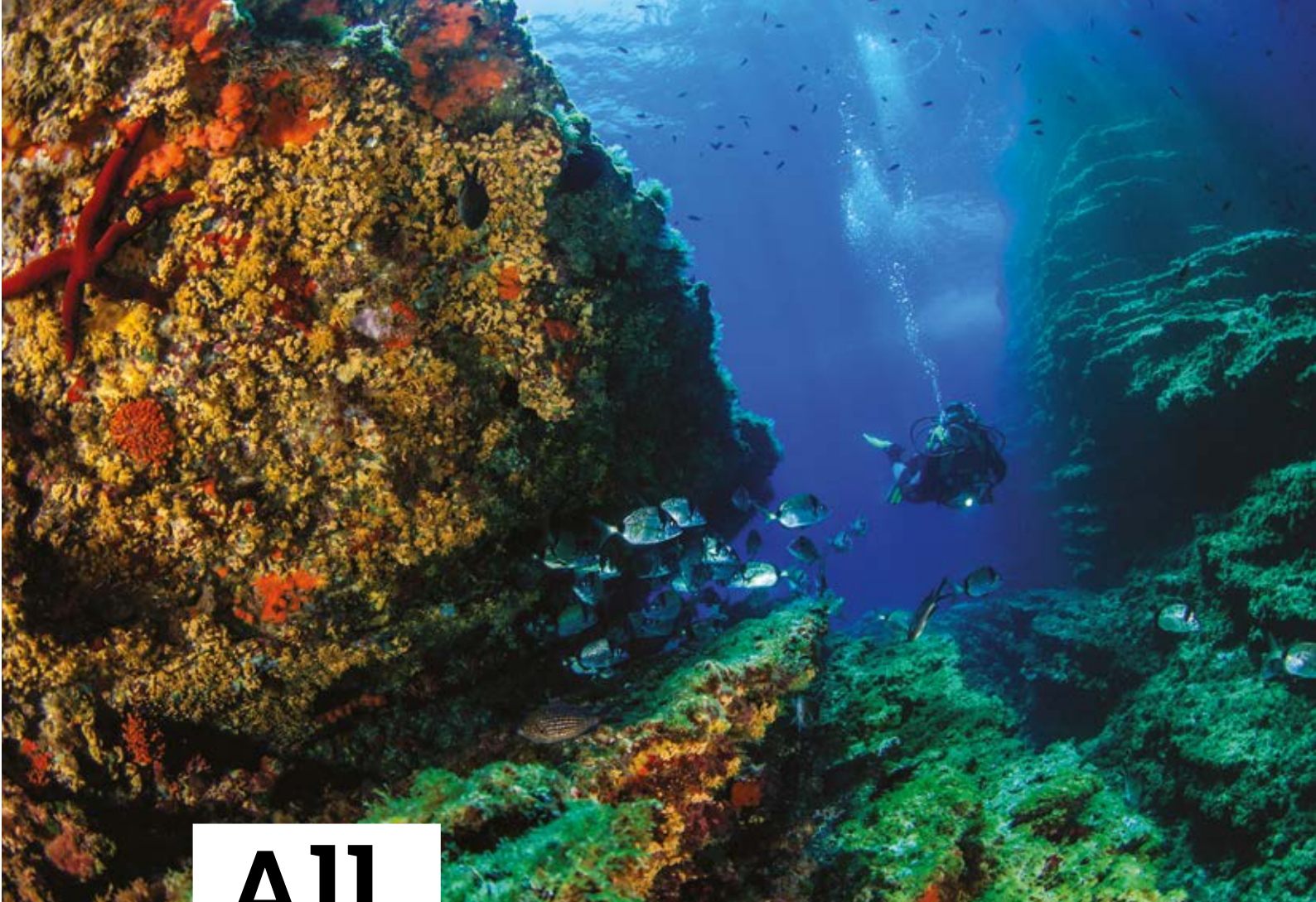
Also in Xàbia in the province of Alicante, the Descubridor and, above all, Portixol islands are two of the best places to enjoy up close an environment of caves and rocky walls that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression. Not to overlook Benidorm island, one of the symbols of the Alicante municipality which, just two nautical miles from the beach and at just under seven hectares, is a paradise for lovers of good views, both from land and from the water while snorkelling.

Columbretes Islands (Castelló)



Portixol Island (Xàbia)





Benidorm

All aboard

**Boat trips and other activities starring the sea:
sailing, snorkelling and diving.**

If you want to discover the sea from within, the Region offers three marine reserves -Tabarca, Columbretes and Cabo San Antonio- and up to 30 dive points to enjoy diving in calm waters at good temperatures. For snorkelling, you also have coves such as Cala Foradada in Vinaròs (Castelló), Moraig in Benitatxell and Granadella in Xàbia, both in Costa Blanca.

Who said that the sea can only be enjoyed from the beach? One of the best options in the Region of Valencia is to discover the charms of the Mediterranean along its 600 navigable kilometres. Or immerse yourself in its waters, crystal clear and warm for most of the year, with an average temperature of 14°C in winter, 19°C in spring and autumn and 26°C in summer.

Let yourself be carried away by the wind and head for nature reserves and hidden coves on a sailing boat. In the Region of Valencia, there are 22,000 moorings in 50 ports to choose from, as well as organised day trips to get to know Tabarca and Cap de l'Horta in Alicante. Or by kayaking, from Oropesa del Mar (Castelló).





- FROM THE -

SEA

TO THE MOUNTAINS:
FOOTPATHS TO FALL IN
LOVE WITH THE

inland

AREAS

Indeed, the saying that 'true beauty is on the inside' is also the case in the Region of Valencia. Discover its stunning landscapes, which give shape to natural parks and wetlands. Fall in love with the postcard-perfect towns that you can discover thanks to the numerous signposted itineraries.



+ Natural Parks of the Region of Valencia

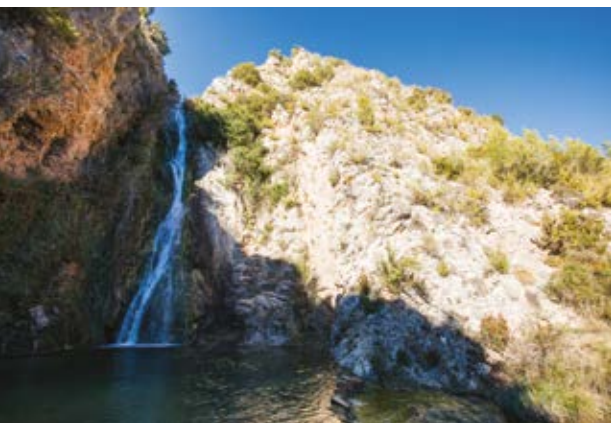


Serra d'Espadà

To the south of the province of Castelló, the Serra d'Espadà Natural Park is the second largest in the Region of Valencia and one of the best preserved, with endemic species and unique landscapes such as cork oak forests. Come to discover the sheer summits and ravines of this mountain range that almost reaches the Mediterranean itself, ideal for climbing and canyoning.

Sierra de Mariola

The heights of Montcabrer dominate the landscape of the Sierra de Mariola, which is shared between Valencia and Alicante. The aromas of medicinal plants is unmistakable in this natural park of 17,000 hectares, which includes towns such as Alcoi, Cocentaina, Bocairent and Alfafara. These plants are mixed with pine, oak and maple in lush forests endowed with springs and sources of water.



Chera-Sot de Chera

Between valleys and peaks over 1,000 metres high runs the Chera-Sot de Chera Natural Park, occupying more than 6,000 thousand hectares to the northwest of the province of Valencia. An inland oasis with more than 200 springs and waterfalls.

Hoces del Cabriel

The Cabriel river forms the backbone of this natural park in the province of Valencia, on the border with Castilla-La Mancha. In its more than 31,000 hectares, you will find valleys with poplar, willow and tamarind, as well as rocky walls covered in pine and oak. Due to the variety of its fauna and flora and the particularities of its landscape, it has been part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2019.



The Palm Grove of Elx

This is not a natural park, but it well deserves its listing as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000. Two kilometres long and one kilometre wide, with more than 200,000 specimens it is the largest palm grove in Europe. From almost anywhere in Elx, you can see the leaves of its palm trees waving in the wind.



+ Wetlands and natural pools

> In the Region of Valencia, you can find places where water plays a major role; these are some of the most charming and environmentally important spaces in Spain's geography. This is the case of the Albufera in Valencia, a natural park where 350 ornithological species coexist. If you visit this freshwater lagoon connected to the sea, you will be able to enjoy the beauty of the surroundings and try typical dishes such as all i pebre de anguilas or a traditional paella in El Palmar, one of the most iconic Valencian towns.

With a bit of luck, in the Salinas de Santa Pola Natural Park you will see flamingos and stilts up close in the pools that dot this area, important for the conservation of these and other birds that live between salt flats and farmland.

And just fifteen kilometres from Benidorm and three kilometres from Callosa d'en Sarrià (Alicante), a sensory spectacle awaits you at Les Fonts d'Algar, a Protected Wetland since 2002.

Waterfalls and springs follow one another here where the Algar river has modelled the limestone rock to create a wonderful oasis with crystal-clear backwaters perfect for swimming. You can also swim in other natural pools in the Region of Valencia, such as at Fuente de los Baños in Montanejos (Castelló), which also has thermal waters with mineral-medicinal properties, and the Charcos de Quesa (Valencia), with areas to swim among the mountains.

Sierra de Irta

The sea and the mountains come together here in Baix Maestrat in the province of Castelló; one of the last virgin mountain ranges in the Region of Valencia. In the Sierra de Irta Natural Park, you can jump between coves and cliffs along the hiking trails that cross it through 100% Mediterranean vegetation.



Routes

to get deep into the
Region of Valencia

Whether you like discovering the landscape on your own two feet, or prefer to do so cycling, you can enjoy through itineraries that will take you to places laden with charm. From the sea to the mountains, you will get captivated by the uniqueness of the Region of Valencia through these trails.

Vía Verde de los Ojos Negros

At 160 kilometres, this is the longest greenway in Spain and runs along the old rail line between Sagunt (Valencia) and the Ojos Negros mine. Along the path, which is divided into two sections, old trenches from the Civil War, green orchards of the Valencian countryside, tunnels and viaducts all await you. Be sure to visit the Segorbe Oil Museum, where you can discover the culture surrounding the olive tree, with a comprehensive display of machinery and tools that will transport you through this product's history.

Culla (Castelló)





Los Serranos

This route is perfect for thrill seekers and daredevils with mountain bikes. The 16 trails follow steep escarpments in the surroundings of the Turia river and the ramifications of the Sierra de Javalambre, so adrenaline rushes are guaranteed. The Valencian towns of Tuéjar and Alpuente are the starting point for several of these routes.

Sierra de Bèrnia

At just over three hours long, the footpath that runs through the Sierra de Bèrnia (medium difficulty, in Alicante province) is suitable for hikers that are used to walking. From its highest points, you will have a panoramic view of Altea, Calp, L'Alfàs del Pi and Benidorm, and you will be able to see the ruins of an old fort (Fort de Bèrnia) along the way and cross the Forat, a natural tunnel through the sierra.

From Culla to Benicarló

This route runs through some of the treasures of the Alt and Baix Maestrat comarcas, passing through Benasal, San Mateu and Cervera del Maestre, among other areas. You will find mountain areas dotted with hermitages, such as La Esperança hermitage in Albocàsser, castles, spas, such as at Font d'En Segures and Catí, and traditional masía farmhouses that pepper the surroundings of villages such as La Llàcua. This continues until you reach the light of the Mediterranean, with its coves and beaches among almond and olive trees.

Altea (Alicante)



FROM THE SEA *to the mountains*

The inland charm

Everyone should visit the interior of the Region of Valencia at least once in their life. Towns full of history, heritage and culture where it often looks like time stands still or has passed them by. Come and discover the essence of our Mediterranean region: its inland towns.



Bocairent

Bocairent

This is one of the essential visits in the province of Valencia. History seeps through at every step in Bocairent, with the Arab layout still intact on the streets of its old town. Comfortable shoes are a must for exploring its narrow winding cobbled streets dotted with fountains, flowerpots and several hermitages. On the outskirts, immerse yourself in the mystery of Covetes dels Moros, a collection of windows or cells on the right slope of the Barranc de la Fos, and stroll through the area with the source of the Vinalopó and Clariano rivers.

Biar

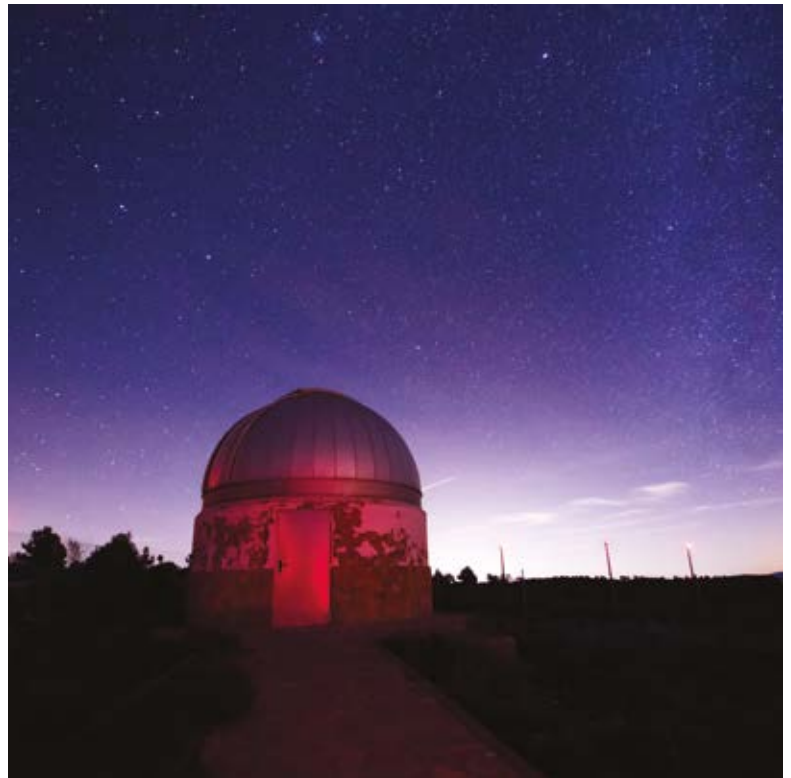
The Alicante castle of Biar is probably one of the best preserved in the Region of Valencia. Of Muslim origin, the double walled enclosure, the tower, the ruins of cisterns and Almohad-style vaults are still standing. Make sure to visit the sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Gracia in the Sierra de la Fontanella, and take a walk through history with the Ogival aqueduct with three arches from the 15th century.



-> **Tourism with nature as the protagonist**

Astrotourism in the Region of Valencia

This region of the Mediterranean is also a stargazing destination. So much so that, in the Valencia mountain range, the Alto Turia comarca has been certified as a starlight tourist destination. Because the skies of Alpuente, Titaguas, La Yesa and Aras de Olmos are among the best in the world for observing the stars. This is due to a range of factors including the low light pollution and the activities that are developed to promote astrotourism, such as astronomy courses, dinners under the stars and night trips. At almost 1,000 metres above sea level, Aras de Olmos is also the headquarters of the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Valencia.



El Castell de Guadalest

Part of the network of the most beautiful towns in Spain, it is worth visiting and discovering why. It isn't difficult, just seeing the panoramic view of the castle on the crag and the homes embedded in the rocks dominating the valley, with the Sierra de Aitana to the south. This Alicante town in Marina Baixa has a host of diverse museums including the Micro Miniatures Museum, where you can see Picasso's Guernica painted on a seed, as well as other delights.



Morella

Morella

Set aside a few days to walk through Morella and traverse this town in the province of Castelló through which kings and nobles have passed. The impressive artistic legacy ranges from the castle that dominates the town centre and the Governor's Palace to the imposing Basilica of Santa María, a Gothic masterpiece, and the convent of San Francisco. As soon as you enter through the Puerta de San Miguel, you will agree that Morella is a must-see.

Vilafranca del Cid

Almost on the border with Teruel, Vilafranca del Cid (Castelló) offers lovers of rural tourism plenty of reasons to stay. From medieval hermitages, Gothic bridges and some modernist corners to museums displaying the art of dry stone building. All this in a natural setting with mountains 1,300 m high, caves and rivers.

Cofrentes

The charm of Cofrentes (Valencia) between the Júcar and the Cabriel and crossed by the Turia, lies in its rivers. But also in its architectural and artistic legacy that still stands today, such as the castle that watches over this Valencian municipality from above and that is home to the oldest clock in the Region of Valencia in its keep. And the Cerro de Agras volcano is not far away



Guadalest





CULTURE AND
traditions
FOR EVERYONE'S TASTE

With some 1,800 Assets of Cultural Interest and sixteen World Heritage Sites, the extensive cultural wealth of the Region of Valencia has its most faithful reflection in centuries-old traditions, and its best expression in the local fiestas that are celebrated throughout the year in the region.



+ Iconics monuments

First cultural remnants

During the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods, sheltered by the ravine in Valltorta, Castelló province, the first inhabitants of the region found game and the ideal place on the rocky walls to capture their day-to-day life. In the best known, the Cova dels Cavalls, a group of archers is depicted stalking a herd of deer. A Levantine way of life and art that can be better understood at the Valltorta Museum.

Rock Art of la Valltorta (Castelló)



Castle of Peñíscola

Fortress of legend

The walls of Peñíscola castle are full of legends, especially related to its most famous inhabitant, Benedict XIII, better known as "Pope Luna". It is said he still walks the grounds of this Templar fortress, which served as his refuge, shouting "I am the true pope!" Find out by visiting the castle that dominates Peñíscola.



Castle of Santa Bárbara (Alicante)

Cathedral of Segorbe (Castelló)

Gothic art par excellence

It was the 12th century when the idea was forged of building Segorbe Cathedral (Castelló) on top of an old mosque, which became one of the Region of Valencia's Gothic masterpieces. The main altarpiece from the 16th century and the Cathedral Museum's collection will without fail leave a lasting impression.

Alicante's defence from pirates

Did you know that Alicante was for some time a target of pirates? Around twenty watchtowers were built during the 16th and 17th centuries to make sure that they did not get too close, especially to its fields. The Torre de Ansaldo, in Sant Joan, has been restored to become the Visitor Centre for Cultivation and Music (Centro de Interpretación de la Huerta y de la Música).

The heritage of the counts of Cocentaina

To step into the Palau Comtal de Cocentaina (Alicante) is to take a journey through the legends of the Reconquista, feudal lords and Renaissance luxuries. Admiral Roger de Lauria and the Corella family are who are mainly responsible for you being able to enjoy the palace, which, according to legend, is connected to the castle, another of the symbols of this Alicante municipality.

Cocentaina (Alicante)



A history lesson in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea

Less than ten kilometres from Alicante, you will find one of the most unique archaeological sites on the Mediterranean, la Illeta dels Banyets in El Campello. Ruins from the Bronze Age and the passage of the Iberians, Romans and even Muslims are distributed across this small peninsula.

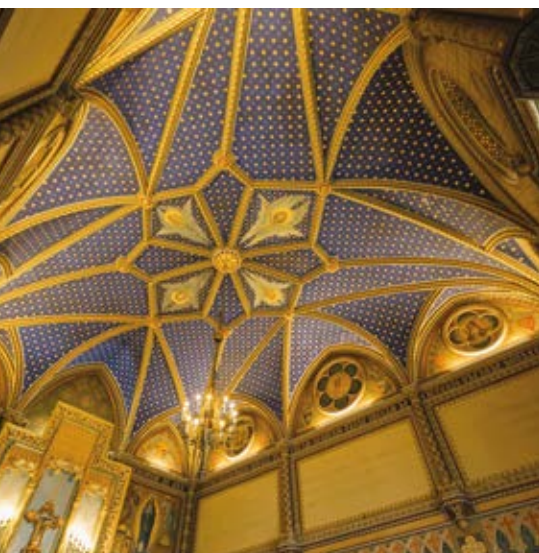


Sagunt (Valencia)

Sagunt's Roman legacy

In Sagunt, you have the opportunity to travel back to the Roman era by visiting the remains of the circus, the forum, the theatre and some houses that are still standing 2,000 years later. Of the circus, which once had capacity for between 15,000 and 20,000 spectators, the southern entrance on Carrer dels Horts is preserved. The Roman theatre was built a century before, in 1 AD.

Palacio Ducal de Gandia



A Carthusian monastery to seek inspiration

If you go to see el Puig de Santa María (Valencia province), you should make sure you visit the Ara Christi Carthusian monastery to enjoy its beautiful forms and be inspired walking through its cloisters. You can also discover the church, the refectory, the chapterhouse and other halls through which different religious orders of monks and nuns have passed since the 16th century.

The court of the Borgias in Gandia

The Palau Ducal dels Borja is a must-see in Gandia. In addition, with dramatized visits you can discover the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque remains that it watches over within its walls, as well as the stories and legends of a family that marked an important stage in Gandia's history.

-> Contemporary art

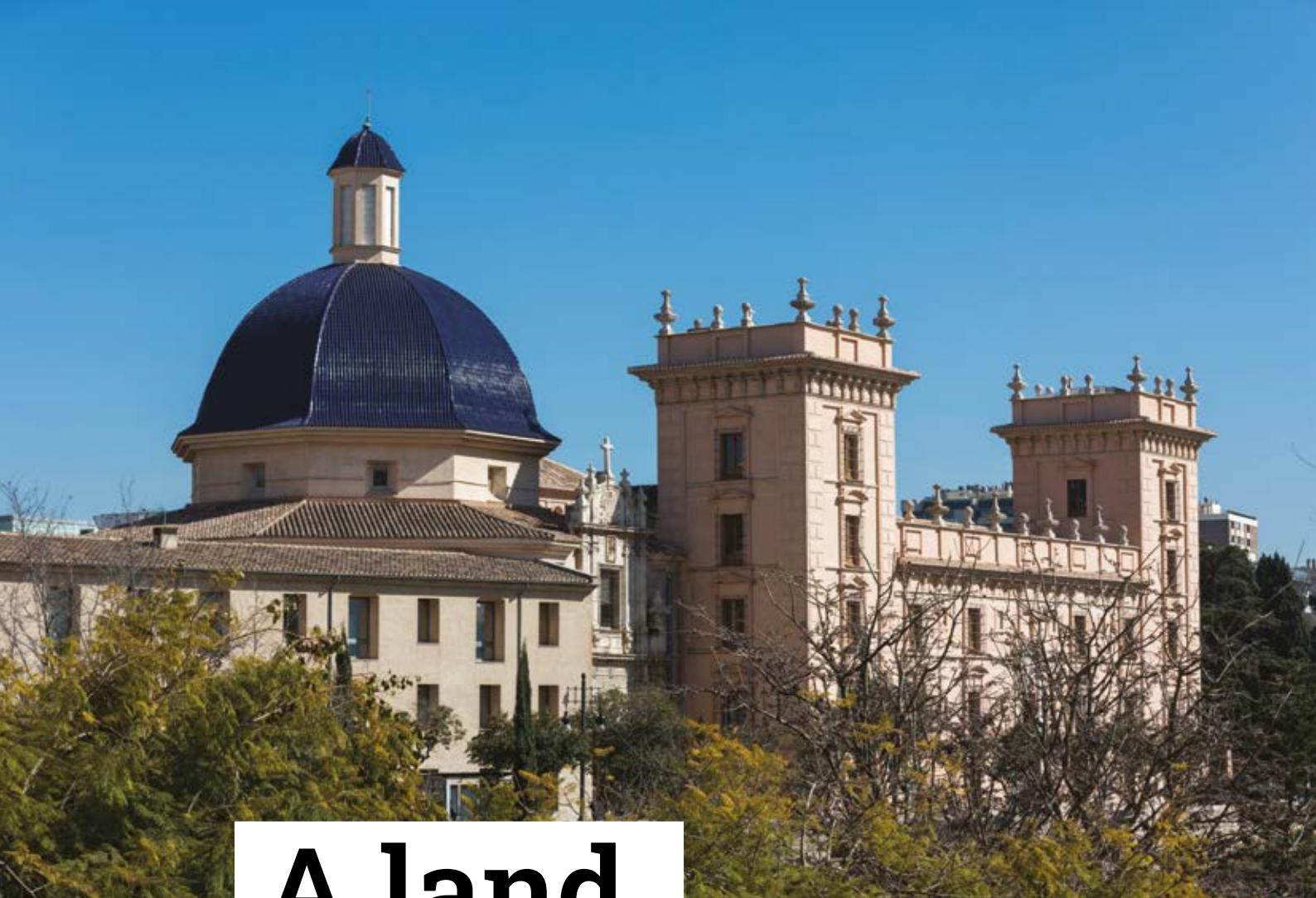
From street art in Valencia's el Carmen to Vilafamés in Castelló

If you like contemporary art, you're in luck; you can tour the Region of Valencia following an itinerary of museums, exhibitions and street art shows with the latest artistic trends as a common thread. For example, in Valencia, you can walk for 13 kilometres from the centre to the sea through el Carmen following 29 works of street art, ranging from graffiti to illustration. Also in the region's capital, contemporary art is the protagonist of the Institut Valencia d'Art Modern, the IVAM and, in Alicante, the MACA, the Museum of Contemporary Art.

You will find other spaces where you can enjoy innovative art, such as the Julio Quesada Museum in Crevillent and the Espai d'Art Contemporani in Castelló (EACC). And in the same province, the Vicente Aguilera Cerní Museum of Contemporary Art (MACVAC) in Vilafamés, one of the most important in the region. And other representative forms such as the Unfinished Museum of Urban Art (MIAU) in Fanzara, a space for creation and continuous creativity in the open air.

Fanzara (Castelló)





Museum of Fine Arts San Pío V (Valencia)

A land of museums

The Region of Valencia boasts of having an extensive network of museums where you can discover its rich heritage, and its abundant traditions, culture and art.

One of the leading art galleries in Spain

The Museum of Fine Arts in Valencia offers a display of some of the most famous paintbrush artists, including Sorolla. But there are also rooms dedicated to Goya, Velázquez and Murillo. An essential when you visit Valencia, especially since the museum is located in a 17th-century building that in itself is worth seeing.

Museums to swallow whole

What could be more tempting than a museum dedicated to a delicious delicacy? In Cervera del Maestre (Castelló), you will have the opportunity to get to know the star of the Mediterranean diet a little more closely: olive oil. An old mill from the 14th century is home to the Molí de l'Oli Visitor Centre, which exhibits everything related to the liquid gold production process. If you like horchata, you can find out all about its secrets and make a homemade one in a Valencian farmstead in the heart of the Alboraiá farmland at the Tiger Nut and Horchata Museum. In La Vila Joiosa (Alicante), the Chocolate Museum can add a sweet note to your visit to the town, while explaining the techniques for producing this delicacy over time.

Tiger Nut and Horchata Museum (Alboraiá)



Celebrating the Fallas throughout the year

If you have ever wondered where the ninots that are saved from the cremà of the Fallas end up, you will find the answer at the Valencia Fallas Museum. Here you can also learn more about the province's most iconic fiesta, declared Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 2016. To experience it more interactively, the Cullera Fallas Museum includes the reproduction of a mascletà, video mapping and a photocall.



Museo Fallero

How to learn history enjoyably

The Alicante Archaeological Museum (MARQ) creates an educational journey through the most distant history of the region's first inhabitants down to almost our times. It also offers the opportunity to discover how archaeology is worked on even at the bottom of the sea. If you go on a Saturday, you can have the pleasure of getting to know the museum's 'insides' and how it works.



MARQ

Casa Museo Miguel Hernández



Memories of a world-famous artist

"Local paradise, last creation..." This is how Miguel Hernández described part of the grounds of his home in the poem "Huerto mío". You can find out whether he was exaggerating or not by visiting the house in Orihuela (Alicante) where the author of "El rayo que no cesa" was born and lived. The property exhibits some of the mementos of the artist from Alicante and shows the typical furniture of a home at the beginning of the 20th century.



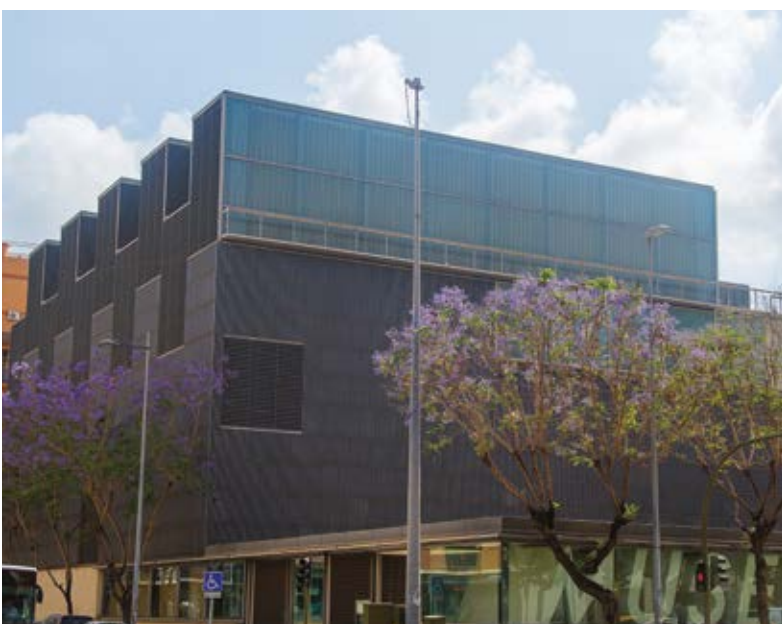
MACVAC, Palau del Batlle, Vilafamés.

Museu d'Art Contemporani Vicente Aguilera Cerni

Founded in Vilafamés in 1972, the MACVAC is a venerable institution, one of the foremost spaces dedicated to contemporary art in Spain. The foundation was the work of the art critic Vicente Aguilera Cerni, which is why it bears his name. The rooms contain more than 500 works by avant-garde artists, from Spain and abroad, representing currents such as informalism, expressionism and social realism.

Explore Castelló's artistic heritage at this museum

The first thing that will catch your attention at the Museum of Fine Arts in Castelló de la Plana is the building's architecture, which has been recognised with several awards. The collection shows everything from archaeological remains to oil paintings by Zurbarán, as well as an important ceramic collection and pieces that came directly from the Prado Museum.



Museo de Bellas Artes de Castelló de la Plana

+ Other options of interest

National Ceramics Museum

Housed in the palace of the Marqués de Dos Aguas in Valencia, the ceramic collections are the main core here, with more than 14,800 pieces, mainly Valencian ceramics from Paterna, Manises, Alcora and Valencia. The catalogue also includes a significant selection of furniture, clothing, numismatics, painting and graphic arts collections.

The Silk Museum

Also called the Colegio del Arte Mayor de la Seda and located in the city of Valencia, this is a Gothic building with a wealth of heritage and one of the most outstanding in Valencian culture. It is part of the Silk Road, which you can follow and is detailed later. As an association, it emerged in the 15th century to unify the criteria for the production of this textile product with such a long history in the area. This museum reveals to its visitors the history and importance of silk in the city.



Gravina Museum of Fine Arts (MUBAG)

Located in Alicante in the palace of the Count of Lumières, this museum is dedicated to painting and sculpture from Alicante and brings together the most outstanding of these artistic expressions from the 19th century, which contributed prestige to the so-called Valencian school.

The Ocean Race Museum

This is the only museum dedicated to round-the-world sailing. An interactive space in Alicante, it covers the more than 45 years of history of this kind of competitions, sometimes described as the toughest in existence.

Castelló Ethnological Museum

Here in the capital, you can discover the city's trades and way of life in the 19th and 20th centuries through its more than 2,000 pieces, among which are elements of various traditional fiestas, such as the Corpus and the Romeria de las Cañas at the Fiestas de la Magdalena. There are also exhibitions of traditional urban and rural trades, in addition to clothing, homes and the city's other traditions.

A museum of maritime traditions

On this region of the Mediterranean a museum dedicated to the arts of the sea and the traditions surrounding fishing could not be absent. The Museu de la Mar located in El Grau, Castelló, lets you discover the different kinds of boats and fishing gear that have been used over the years in the Region of Valencia.

Cultural Routes

Desde el Santo Grial al legado Modernista de la Comunitat Valenciana.



Follow the thread of silk art in Valencia

Between the 15th and 18th centuries, the silk industry was so important in Valencia that there were around 5,000 looms operating in the area of Velluters. The Silk Road will take you on foot, for around two hours, through the most iconic places in the art of embroidery. You will visit the oldest guild archive in Europe, also known as the Silk Museum, as well as other gems. The area of Velluters contains a number of shops where silk is the common thread: for Valencian clothing. On this tour, you shouldn't miss the Lonja de la Seda (the Silk Exchange), the jewel of Valencia's Gothic art.

In the footsteps of the Cathars from France

The Route of the Last Cathars joins the lands of the French Midi, Catalonia and Aragón with the Region of Valencia. The itinerary through the province of Castelló follows footpaths full of history and legend, landscapes with which to fill photo albums and the traces of this people's cultural and historic heritage through medieval trails. You will discover Els Ports and El Maestrat, Morella and Sant Mateu, towns where it looks like time stood still in the age of the Cathars.

Sant Mateu (Castelló)





The style that marked an era in the Region of Valencia

If there is a style that represents the Region of Valencia, it is modernism. From the north to the south, it won't be difficult to find examples of this style, very popular among the bourgeoisie at the beginning of the 20th century. Such as in Castelló, the Casa de las Cigüeñas, the Casa de los Caracoles, the Post Office building and Casa Dávalos on Calle Gasset. Modernism takes shape in Valencia with the charming North Station, Casa Punt de Ganxo and the Colón and Central markets. While in the province of Alicante, the Casa del Pavo and the headquarters of the Círculo Industrial stand out in Alcoi. In addition, in Novelda, you will be able to travel back to the early 20th century at the Modernist House-Museum, and visit the sanctuary of Santa María Magdalena, a temple with outstanding modernist lines.



Cintorres (Castelló)

A route of prehistoric footprints

Hundreds of thousands of years ago, dinosaurs roamed freely throughout the Region of Valencia. At least, this is demonstrated by the many remains they left, which you can follow through the region's paleontological sites. In Morella, the first dinosaur in Castelló awaits you, while in Millares you can find the last of them that inhabited the Region of Valencia and, in Cintorres, the only site with replica bones. Elx, Alcoi, Guardamar del Segura and Agost in Alicante province, and in Valencia province, Alpuente and Chera are also part of the around thirty resources that make up the Camins de Dinosaurios trail.



Feel part of the legend of the Holy Grail

The search for the Holy Grail has been the common theme of legend since the Middle Ages starring King Arthur and his knights, or, more recently, Indiana Jones and his 'particular crusade'. It is not necessary to go very far to find it, since Valencia Cathedral has a chapel where, according to tradition, the most precious relic of Christianity is kept safe. But, before arriving here, the sacred cup passed through several locations in the Region of Valencia: Segorbe, Sagunt, el Puig de Santa María, Massamagrell and areas such as Sierra Calderona and the Sierra del Espadán. Would you like to become part of the legend?

Local fiestas

to experience
the land's traditions

The best reflection of its cultural traditions are the fiestas that enrich the calendar of the Region of Valencia throughout the year. The passion with which these fiestas is experienced and felt in this Mediterranean region even crosses borders and, in fact, many of these local events are of international tourist interest. Don't just hear about them, come and experience them!



+ The Fallas

The essence of Valencian traditions

If the Fallas didn't already exist, they would have to be invented. There is no better way to say goodbye to winter than to greet spring with fire, gunpowder and music. Throughout the year, the Fallas artists work in their workshops to shape the colourful monuments that satirically portray current social, political and cultural events. With the Plantà de las Fallas on 15 March, the big days of these fiestas start, with the mascletàs setting the pace. The offering to the Virgen de los Desamparados, the Nit del Foc and the Cremà on 19 March are the highlights of these fiestas, declared Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO and a Fiesta of International Tourist Interest. Days of buñuelo fritters, hot chocolate, paella and horchata to enjoy the most genuine of Valencian traditions, not only in Valencia, but also in a hundred municipalities in the Region. The best option is to experience them to recount them.



The fiestas of light

The third Saturday of Lent kicks off nine days of uninterrupted celebration in the city of Castelló to remember how the people of Castelló moved from the Magdalena hill to the Plana comarca. If you have the chance, let yourself be carried away by the music, the folklore, the fireworks and the enthusiasm of the people of Castelló at the Magdalena Vítol, when, in the middle of a pyrotechnics display, everyone answers the cry of the queens of these fiestas that flood Castelló with light. Above all, with the Gaiates, monuments that represent the lanterns of the pilgrims. The emotion is palpable and felt above all in the flower offering to the Mare de Déu de Lledó, the city's patron saint.



+ Fiestas of international tourist interest Region of Valencia

- > La Magdalena in Castelló de la Plana
- > Palm Sunday Procession in Elx
- > Easter in Orihuela
- > Easter in Crevillent
- > Fallas in Valencia
- > Moros y Cristianos fiestas in Alcoi
- > The Bonfires of Saint John in Alicante
- > International Habaneras and Polyphony Contest in Torrevieja
- > Moros y Cristianos fiestas in la Vila Joiosa
- > Misteri d'Elx
- > La Tomatina in Bunyol
- > Entrada de Toros y Caballos in Segorbe
- > Fiesta de Moros y Cristianos in Crevillent
- > Fira de Tots Sants in Cocentaina

+ More fiestas



+ The Bonfires of Saint John

The great fiesta of the rite of fire

The tradition of celebrating the summer solstice and welcoming the new season with a fire ritual is lived in Alicante with such a spectacular feeling that it is reflected in the fiesta of the Bonfires of Saint John, declared of International Tourist Interest. From 20 to 24 June, the entire city turns out to streets full of stalls, dulzainas, tabalets, parades and as much partying as anyone could bear. The high point arrives on the night of the 24th, when the bonfires are lit, made of satirical monuments that, when consumed by the flames, follow the ancestral purifying rite of fire, making the Nit de Sant Joan the most magical time of the year. The fiesta does not end there, since a fireworks contest is held from 25 to 29 June on Postiguat beach. You probably won't find a better way to start the summer than enjoying the Bonfires of Saint John.

Hogueras de San Juan en Alicante



Moros y Cristianos

+ Moros y Cristianos

The Reconquista in a fiesta

The legends of the Reconquista take shape, and in such a way, in the Moros y Cristianos fiestas that are celebrated in the south of Valencia province and in Alicante province. With some local variations, these fiestas celebrate the Reconquista by Christian troops of Muslim territories with firework displays, colourful medieval costumes, kettledrums, parades and parties. Alcoi, La Vila Joiosa, Crevillent and Callosa d'en Sarrià are just some of the towns where these popular festivities are celebrated, in which all the residents participate.





The Mediterranean's music

The Region of Valencia rings with music. Bands and parades, as well as the melodies of dulzainas and tabalets, accompany each celebratory event, and traditional Valencian music is part of its artistic heritage. The region is also a mecca for major music festivals and has been the birthplace of world-famous artists. Don't miss even a note of its beat.

You cannot understand the culture of this region without appreciating the importance of music, which is a way of understanding life, part of its identity. The Region of Valencia is a place where there are two thousand bands playing, where families teach their children music from the cradle. It is a place where the climate is so benign that you can enjoy open-air concerts 320 days a year, and where there many popular festivals are held.

Valencia is a land of music festivals

The Region of Valencia has become a tourism destination for festivals which showcase many different styles. Hundreds of thousands of fans come to hear their favourite bands and performers, whatever

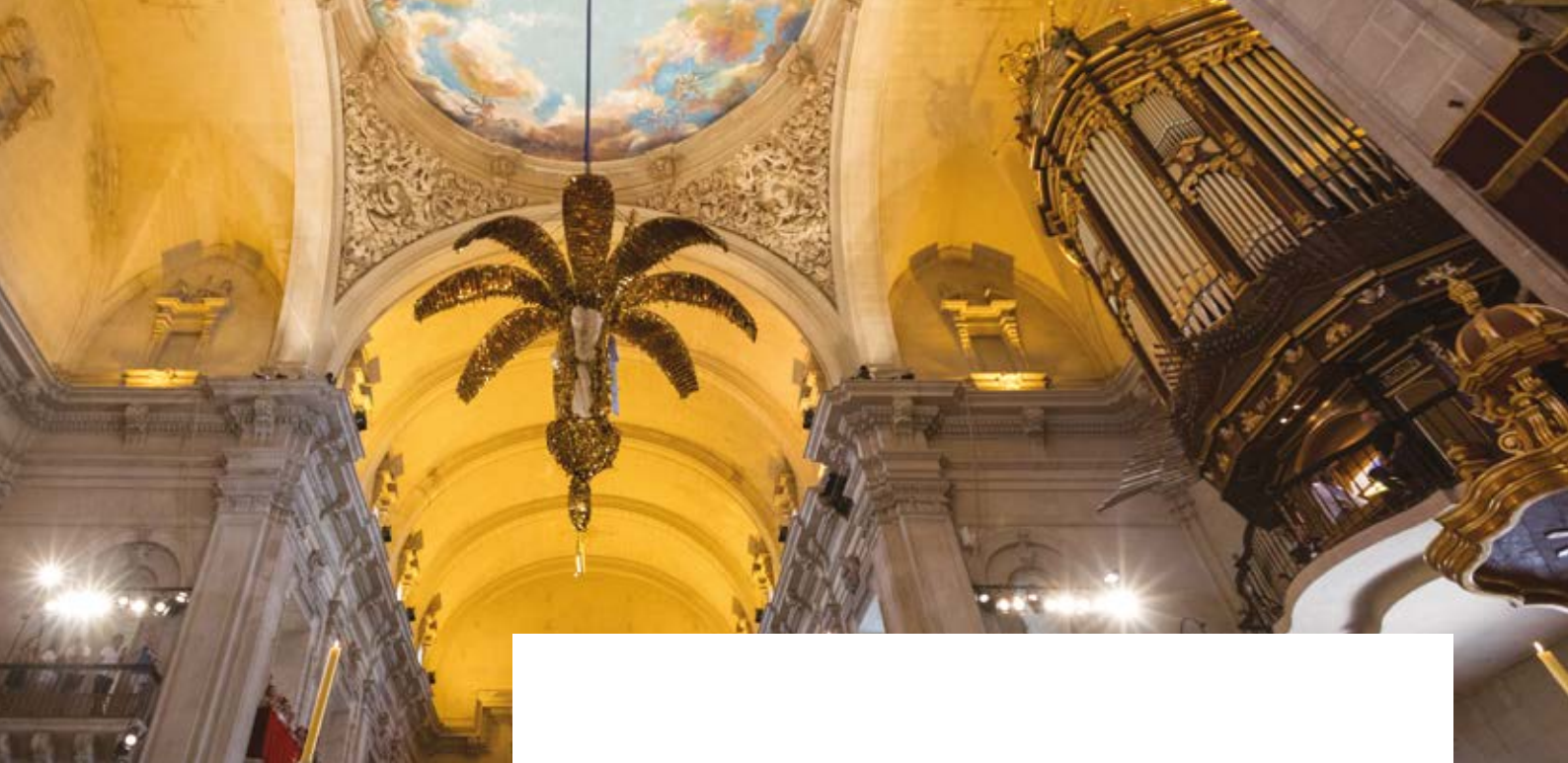
the style and wherever they are from, drawn here by the attractions of the three provinces, and with a firm commitment to discover the territory, culture, food and this special knack that we possess of having fun.

Mediterranew Musix, the brand that includes the music festivals in the Region of Valencia, hosts over one hundred events that set the tone for the music scene at home and abroad.

The season starts in Easter week with the San San Festival in Benicàssim, then runs all summer across all points of the Region of Valencia. FIB, Medusa, Low Festival, There are many more and for all tastes.







Unesco

- T R E A S U R E S -

The Region of Valencia is very well represented in the UNESCO World Heritage catalogue. There are sixteen more reasons for you to enjoy during your visit cultural performances and gastronomy, natural spaces and historic sites that are already an essential part of the world's historic and cultural legacy.



The list includes the **Fallas** and the **Mediterranean diet**, as well as cultural performances and fiestas such as the **Mare de Déu de la Salut** in Algemesi and the **Tamborradas** in Alzira and l'Alcora. Not to mention traditions, such as the art of dry stone in Alicante and Castelló provinces. And history, such as the **Rock Art of the Mediterranean Basin**. This list is not lacking in must-sees on your visit to Valencia, such as the **Lonja de la Seda** and the **Water Tribunal of the plain of Valencia**. Nor in Elx, its famous **Palm Grove**, the **Misteri** play and **School Museum of Pusol**. Don't just read about the UNESCO treasures in the Region of Valencia, come and experience them!

Valencia's Lonja de la Seda (Silk Exchange) is the most representative symbol of the boom in the silk business and trade in the city, and was the first site in the Region of Valencia to make it to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, in 1996. This Gothic secular masterpiece is one of the must-visits in the Valencian capital to see the Sala de Contratación up close, with its forest of spiral columns.

Also in Valencia, the **Water Tribunal** has been held since the 13th century every Thursday at the Puerta de los Apóstoles in the cathedral, issuing decisions on irrigation rights.

Since the 15th century, the Basilica of Santa María in Elx has hosted **the Festa** each year in August, a play representing the death, burial and assumption of the Virgin Mary. Don't miss out on the opportunity to experience in person one of Elx's best hallmarks, which transcends beyond the walls of the church. Although UNESCO Heritage in the Region of Valencia dates back to the cultural representations of its first inhabitants, with the **Rock Art of the Mediterranean Basin**. In the Region of Valencia, three core areas stand out: Els Ports and Alt Maestrat in Castelló province, the Macizo del Caroig in Valencia province, and La Marina and Alcoi valleys in Alicante province.

The roar of drums and bass drums booms every Easter in Alzira (Valencia province) and l'Alcora (Castelló province) at the **Tamborradas**. If you are in the Region of Valencia on these dates, let yourself be carried away by the emotion of the tradition and feelings of the residents of these municipalities who, since the 19th century,



have made their instruments resound to mark the most important times during the Easter celebrations. At the beginning of September, Algemesi (Valencia province) celebrates its great fiesta in honour of its patron saint, the **Mare de Déu de la Salut**, with processions that fill the streets with coloured trails that are recreated with the movements of the Muixeranga, Bastonets, Carxofa, Arquets, Pastorettes, Bolero and Tornejants. The Alicante municipality of **Dénia** became part of the **UNESCO Creative Cities** network in 2015, standing out for its culinary creations. In 2019, the Valencian town of **Llíria** was added to the same network in the musical category, since the municipality hosts various events throughout the year around music. Finally, **Manises** has been a UNESCO Creative City since 2021, in the category of Crafts and Folk Art, for its commitment to putting culture and creativity at the heart of its development.





Lonja de Valencia

Bell ringing is one of the most profound symbols of Spanish history and culture. In the cultural heritage of Valencia, bell ringing has formed part of its most intimate soundscapes since the Christian Reconquest. Unesco included this tradition in its Representative List of Intangible Culture on 30 November 2022.

Climbing the belltower and hearing a bellringing performance is a unique, emotionally charged experience that you must try at least once in your life. What makes Albaida special is that since 1245 to the present day, the bells have always been rung by hand, by the bell ringers and priests, and neither machinery nor electricity has ever been used, and this human touch has become an identifying feature of the town. In fact, ringing bells by hand has its own language, which has become part of the town's soundscape.

The 'Maerà' or Maderada (transporting timber by river) is an ancient way of taking trunks down rivers that was declared an Intangible Cultural Heritage on 1 December 2022. This fiesta reminds us of the trade of the gancheros who piloted the timber downstream, an activity that was carried out from the 12th century to the end of the 1960s on rivers like the Júcar, Cabriel and others in the region. In Cofrentes and Antella there is an annual descent of timber along the river, to recreate the work of the gancheros, a job which has now become a fiesta with mass participation. In the past, the maderero or ganchero was responsible for guiding the timber during a journey that took months, working from the banks, or on rafts or on the trunks themselves to keep them moving, a job that required great skill.





- TO LICK YOUR FINGERS -

Gastronomy

TO TOUCH THE SKY

Paella, which has taken the name of Valencia far beyond its borders and which aspires to form part of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage, is just the spearhead of a cuisine par excellence based on its roots. As well as on the quality of local produce that is born in the sea, on the mountains and on the land. Discover the best of the Region of Valencia through its flavours, a sample of which is listed here to whet your appetite.





EXQUISIT mediterranean



-> Gastronomic brand

Gastronomy is a tourist attraction that underlines the essence of the lifestyle of the Region of Valencia as a Mediterranean destination that is both hospitable and healthy, reflecting UNESCO's declaration of the Mediterranean Diet as part of mankind's Intangible Heritage.

The brand "Exquisit Mediterranean" is the central core that showcases the values of excellence in our food, the most exquisite on the Mediterranean. It highlights the hard work, passion and culinary artistry of our cooks and makes the cooking of the Region of Valencia a unique and unmistakable experience in which our produce, traditions and our most innovative recipes take centre stage.

www.lexquisit.comunitatvalenciana.com

Rice dishes

Rice is the star of the Region of Valencia's gastronomy and practically all the different comarcas give it that special touch to make it unique. There are so many ways to cook it that it is difficult to decide on a specific recipe. Such as arròs negre, which uses the colour and flavour of squid ink, l'arròs del senyoret, a recipe that won't get your fingers dirty with shellfish or fish, and arròs a banda and its version in Castelló, rossejat. Special mention should be made of the different types of arroz caldoso, or brothy rice, such as rice with lobster and rice with rabbit and vegetables, among many other options. If you want to try an authentic Valencian paella, keep in mind that the basic recipe includes, apart from D.O. Valencia rice: chicken, rabbit, green beans, tabella, garrofón -two types of broad beans from the region - tomato, paprika and a pinch of saffron. No more, no less. Of course, cooking it on orange tree firewood wins it many points. Based on this classic formula, with nuances depending on the area, other ingredients have then been added, such as shellfish, duck, cod or vegetables.

Fideuà

Fideuà is the star dish of the Valencian comarca of La Safor and, more specifically, Gandia. There are legends for all tastes about its origin, although the most widespread is that, on one occasion, due to the lack of rice in a seafood paella, they tried to make it with pasta noodles. Of course, the rules dictate that number 3 sized pasta noodles must be used. In Castelló, you can find the rossejat version with noodles. .

Olla de la Plana

One of Castelló's most traditional recipes that grandmothers have always cooked, and that is usually eaten in the coldest months of the year due to being heavy. Because all kinds of vegetables are used to make it (pumpkin, spinach, chard etc.), as well as legumes such as chickpeas and rice, and, above all, meat: black pudding, chorizo and other pork delicatessen products. The Alicante version is called olleta.

Borreta alicantina

This is a traditional creation from kitchens in Alicante province, especially



from inland areas. Originally, it was a way of taking advantage of the best of what was grown. It is made with potatoes, ñoras (dried peppers), crumbled cod and spinach, as well as several poached eggs in the same pot.

All i pebre

The origin of this potato and eel based stew is found among the marshes of the Albufera in Valencia, but it is one of the most typical and well-known dishes made throughout the region. It is recommended to have a good chunk of bread at hand to go with it.

Cocas pastries

Bakeries in the Region of Valencia usually smell of freshly made coca. In both its sweet and savoury versions, and with so many varieties in each place that it is impossible to list them all. In any case, it has become an essential for breakfast or an afternoon snack, and it often reveals the region's Muslim legacy, as is the case with almond coca pastries.

Horchata

Liquid, slushy or mixed, horchata is Valencia's traditional drink for the summer, originally from



Paella valenciana

Alborai, but it is also incredibly popular in the rest of the region as well. The main ingredient, the tiger nut, has a designation of origin, and to complete the experience, it is best to accompany horchata with a couple of *farçons*.

Turrone

This Christmas delicacy has a designation of origin and even a museum in Xixona, Alicante province. The original recipe for this soft, golden-coloured sweet, includes the traditional almonds, honey, egg, sugar and cinnamon. In summer, the best way to enjoy it is in the form of ice cream.

-> Stars and suns

The food of the Region of Valencia is as varied as its landscapes, and its creativity and traditions are reflected in the dishes and preparations, which are as Mediterranean as we are. This know-how has been recognized by many stars and suns.



Horchata

-> Wine tourism

the Mediterranean in a glass

If you like fine wines, we suggest you discover the Region of Valencia from glass to glass, from north to south. The Mediterranean contributes smoothness to a very particular orography, as well as temperatures that enable the production of excellent whites, reds and sweets with personality for an unmissable journey through these lands via the palate.

The Romans introduced this product of the vine to Castelló, where native varieties such as Monastrell, Macabeo and Embolicaire are grown, as are Tempranillo, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, among others. From the province of Alicante comes Fondillón, a type of wine that is unique in the world. In this province, you can also follow the Marina Alta, Vinalopó Medio and Cocentaina-Alcoi routes. With 13,000 hectares dedicated to wine in Valencia province, specifically in the areas with the Alto Turia, Moscatel, Valentino and Clariano varieties, a journey through the senses is in this way guaranteed. And an hour's drive from Valencia city, you can enjoy the lands of the 'Valencian Tuscany' in the towns of Moixent, Fontanars dels Alforins and La Font de la Figuera.

At the same distance from Valencia, you can also follow the region's wine tourism history in the Utiel Requena Designation of Origin, where wine has been made for 2,500 years.





- ENJOY -

urban

- CHARM -

What to see and do





Valencia

Valencia has earned its place in the spotlight of the latest trends, since in recent years it has positioned itself as a cosmopolitan city, open to the sea, without losing its heart filled with customs or its roots. Discover the city that has been chosen a World Design Capital, as well as a Smart Tourism capital, while you get carried away by a paella on the beach or lose yourself in the old town finding out about its most deeply rooted traditions.



What to see and do

Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències

Santiago Calatrava shaped this site where culture and science go hand in hand in a place that has become Valencia's most iconic symbol. The Museu de les Ciències is designed so that everyone who comes in, regardless of their age, learns something about science. The Hemisfèric -the eye of Valencia- is home to an IMAX cinema; the Umbracle, the gardens where you will never get tired of walking, and the Palacio de las Artes Reina Sofía, the city's opera house. Immerse yourself in the deep seas of the Oceanogràfic, designed by Felix Candela, among belugas, dolphins and other species, in the largest informational space in Europe dedicated to the sea.





Valencia Cathedral

In Valencia, you will find some of the best examples of Levantine Gothic, such as the cathedral, dating from the 13th century. At one of its doors, the Puerta de los Apóstoles, the ritual of holding the Water Tribunal takes place every Thursday, which has been declared Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. And at more than 50 metres high, the bell tower of Valencia Cathedral is the most famous in the city: the Miguelete. And next to the cathedral, the Basilica de los Desamparados, the home of the *Geperudeta*, the patron saint of Valencia.

Barrio del Carmen

This is the city's most bohemian neighbourhood, but also the place for design and street art. With art also abounding inside the churches, including in what is known as Valencia's "Sistine Chapel", the church of San Nicolás de Bari and San Pedro Mártir. The Portal de la Valldigna, Calle Tapinería, Moret and Carrer Baix, where the street murals will not disappoint, are all other must-sees.

Serrano and Quart towers

If you had arrived in Valencia in medieval times, you would have entered through the Serrano towers. Or the Quart towers, which were part of the old city wall. Luckily, the capital's original gates have survived to this day in very good condition, so you can travel back a few centuries from the centre of Valencia. Other entrances to the city have disappeared.

The palaces route

Valencia's commercial boom over the centuries has left in the city a host of noble residences from across the ages that now have civil uses. For example, Benicarló Palace, once the residence of the Borgias, is the seat of the Corts Valencianes (regional legislature). The palace of the Counts of Cervellón - which houses the Municipal Archives- and the palace of the Marqués de Dos Aguas, with its spectacular façade, home to the National Ceramics Museum, are two other essentials, as is the Palau de la Generalitat, a Gothic masterpiece.



What you can't miss: the best shopping and leisure plans



The modernism of the markets

For a stop along the way and to whet your appetite, the Central Market and Colón Market are two must-sees on your tour of Valencia. The first is one of Valencia's most representative buildings from the early 20th century; the combination of wrought iron, ceramics and glass won't fail to impress. As for Colón Market, it has become one of the main points of reference in the city for a gastronomic treat.

Nature in its purest form

The Bioparc offers the chance to take a trip to the wildest parts of Africa from the heart of Valencia. Its more than 100,000 m² recreate the different tropical environments, wetlands and savannah where animal species coexist almost in their natural habitats.



Shopping

Beyond the typical souvenirs in the form of magnets, Valencia is a paradise for visitors who have no problems getting out their cards and taking home something special in their suitcase. *Made in Valencia* ranges from silk and porcelain to designer fashion and haute couture, including fans and the more alternative trends.

Some of the most exclusive firms are interspersed along Calle Poeta Querol. Covering all tastes and budgets, Calle Colón and its surroundings (Jorge Juan, Juan de Austria, Cirilo Amorós) are the city's commercial hub. If you are looking for trends with their own personality, you can find alternative proposals in the area that has become the "Valencian Soho", Ruzafa. You will also find shops, art galleries and gastronomic spaces filled with creativity and proudly wearing the alternative label in El Carmen.

For those looking for craft products, there are several Fallas clothing shops with lace and mantillas made with great care and artisan ceramic items on Plaza Redonda and its surroundings. And on Calle Músico Peydró, you can take home a memento in the form of wicker, reed or cork. This is the 'basketmaking street', which owes its name to the guild of basket makers who have concentrated in this area for years.



Alicante

The light of the Mediterranean shapes the streets and squares of Alicante, a city where you will find many reasons to fill your itinerary both day and night. Its 3,000 years of history have left culture, art and traditions that can be felt in many of its corners, but especially in its museums. And to unwind, some of the best beaches on the Costa Blanca. Welcome to the 'City of Light', with endless options to have a great time on the shores of the Mediterranean.

What to see and do

Monastery of Santa Faz

Every year, on the second Thursday after Easter Sunday, thousands of people from Alicante make their way to the Monastery of Santa Faz, where it is said that a cloth with the figure of Christ's bloody face has been kept since the 15th century. This is a must-see for the history and the feelings it awakens.

The Explanada promenade

Parallel to one of the piers, this promenade with more than six million tesserae forming a mosaic of waves and flanked by palm trees hardly needs an introduction. Because as soon as you set foot in Alicante, you will recognise it by the atmosphere it normally has at almost any time. Next to Postiguet beach, it is one of the city's symbols where it is not uncommon to find street markets with craft products.



City Council

The Alicante City Council building was built at the end of the 18th century and in its day was a stately Baroque palace. If you are in Alicante, it is a highly recommended place to visit that is also free of charge. Don't miss the Blue and Plenary Halls, as well as the so-called 'cota cero', the reference on which the height above sea level of all cities is measured.



The symbol of Alicante

Opposite Alicante's Postiguet beach stands one of the city's symbols, Santa Bárbara castle. Feel part of history visiting this site, conquered from the Muslims by Alfonso X the Wise. In fact, the Museum of Alicante City (MUSA) is located in five of its halls, where among archaeological remains some historical events are explained with audiovisual aids. You can access it by taking a pleasant walk along the walls, by lift from Postiguet.

Museums to spend the day in

Museum lovers are in luck, since the offer is wide and varied, and includes the Gravina Museum of Fine Arts (MUBAG), the Water Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA). A few kilometres from the centre, you can discover Alicante's Roman origins at the archaeological site of Lucentum.

Basilica of Santa Maria

Because of its façade, you may think that you are looking at a Baroque building, but the original church, the oldest in Alicante, dates back to the 15th century. Inside, you will without fail be struck by both the spectacular main altar and the chapterhouse.



Beach days

San Juan beach is the best known, with its three kilometres of fine golden sand. You can relax in the sun or enjoy water sports such as windsurfing. Postiguet is one of the most iconic in the city. At the foot of Santa Bárbara

castle and next to the Explanada promenade and Paseo Gómiz, its proximity to the historic centre makes it very easy to access. Quieter, the beaches at Albufereta, Almadraba and Saladares-Urbanova complete the offer in the Alicante capital.

Central Market

The classic Alicante food market is in itself one of the buildings to be visited if you are in the city. Built at the beginning of the 20th century, both the façade and the rest of the structure retain

modernist elements typical of the time it was built. Inside, you can fill your shopping basket with gourmet produce to delight when you return from your getaway to Alicante.

What you can't miss: the best shopping and leisure plans

Shopping

Alicante is a mecca for visitors who want to return from their trip with a leather item as a gift. As well as for those who are after the latest trends in fashion, from national and international, and premium brands. From Alicante, you can also return with a wide selection of handmade sweets, especially ice cream and Turrón. And of course, sugared almonds, chocolates and dates. One of the main avenues in Alicante for shopping is the Maisonnave, with a large selection of shops for all tastes and budgets, and the presence of the main franchises and

multinational chains. The commercial offer is boosted by the leisure and food and drink options, since there are no shortage of bars and restaurants to enjoy moments of rest while shopping, also in Rambla Méndez Núñez. The most exclusive firms are spread along Calle Castaños and Calle Gerona; the latter is also a classic place of pilgrimage for if you are thinking about getting married. On Calle San Francisco, known as Calle de las Setas, you can find the delicatessen products you want to take home -wine, Turrón and cheese- or an accompaniment in one of its various shops.



With its size, it may seem that a day or two are enough to discover all the cultural and leisure offer available in the capital of the La Plana comarca. However, Castelló is one of those cities where, once you start, there is always something else to see. Both because of its architectural legacy and its atmosphere, Castelló will surprise you at every step.

Castelló d

What to see and do

Co-Cathedral of Santa María y Fadri

Built in the 13th century with successive refurbishments and reconstructions over time, the Gothic style can still be seen in its entrance doors. Inside, Baroque images stand out, with one in particular, of the Immaculate Conception, from the 18th century. In the same Plaza Mayor where the co-cathedral is located is the Fadri, a free-standing bell tower that draws attention due to being 60 metres high. You can go inside, and after climbing a spiral staircase, enjoy views of Castelló.



e la Plana

Old Casino

In the mid-nineteenth century, the wealthy people of Castelló needed an upmarket place for their gatherings and private parties. And they found the perfect place in this old mansion. Dating from 1923, it is the refurbishment project that has left the current appearance of the Old Casino, one of the most iconic buildings in Castelló, highly worth seeing.



Basilica of Lledó

Legend has it that a farmer found, in the same place where the basilica now stands, the image of the Mare de Déu del Lledó, who would later become the city's patron saint. While not being very large -at first it was a hermitage- inside it houses an interesting collection of gold and silver work and embroidered mantles of the Virgin. Over time, due to extensions and refurbishments, it has become the largest rural sanctuary in the Region of Valencia.



Castell Vell

Castelló's medieval past finds its way into this castle whose origins go back to Muslim times. It stands on La Magdalena hill, next to the hermitage of the same name carved into the rock. Remains of the city wall that surrounded Castelló, with three towers and cisterns, are preserved at the castle. In the intermediate area, in Albacar, is the hermitage of La Magdalena, one of the most popular for the people of Castelló.



Lonja del Càñamo (Hemp Exchange)

Built in the early 17th century, the Lonja del Càñamo building is one of the best examples of the late Renaissance in the Region of Valencia and how the different styles with which it has been reformed over time can give rise to a masterpiece.

What you can't miss: the best shopping and leisure plans



Beaches to unwind

Along 4 kilometres of coastline, Castelló's three beaches complement the city's leisure offer and help you quickly unplug from the routine. Near El Pinar beach, you can also combine a stroll along the sand with stargazing at the Planetarium, or a swing or two at the Costa de Azahar Golf Club. Gurugú beach, which is next, offers a wide range of activities. On the other hand, El Serradal has a dune protection area where some endemic species nest.

El Grau

Your getaway to Castelló should include a visit to El Grau, the city's maritime district that has grown along with the development of the fishing port. Above all, in the 1990s, the leisure and food and drink offer began to proliferate in El Grau, to the point that it is now a point of reference for the entire province in terms of restaurants, cinemas and bars.



Shopping

If you like shopping, the pedestrian streets in the centre of Castelló are just for you. There you will find a variety of shops for whatever takes your fancy or to be up to date with the latest fashion. For example, Calle Enmedio is home to the main national and international clothing chains. The top brands are on Calle Alloza, where you can find not only shops for special occasions, but also a good assortment where you can buy jeans. If the goal is to get a good pair of shoes, you have to go to Avenida Rey Don Jaime. Also in the historic centre is the Central Market, where you can buy the best fresh seasonal produce directly from the field and the sea, in the setting of a building dating from the early 20th century.

What to see and do

Skyscrapers

The city skyline of Benidorm is famous and unique for the many skyscrapers near the sea, which also offer incredible views of the scenery, making it a city truly unlike any other. Benidorm decided to grow upwards many decades ago, and this also makes it more sustainable, as you can go practically anywhere in the city on foot. There are more than twenty-five buildings in Benidorm that are over 100 metres high. The Intempo, Gran Hotel Bali or Torre Lúgano are just some examples.

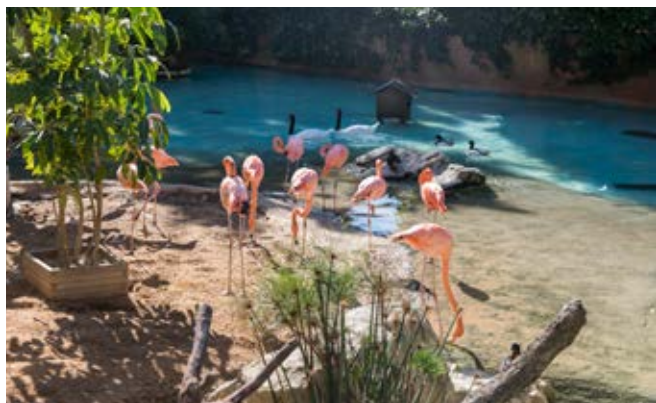


Benidorm

The Mirador del Cruz lookout point

The best way to see the whole city without missing any of its skyscrapers is to climb to the lookout point of Cruz de Benidorm. It is 217 metres high, at the highest point of the Nature Park of Serra Gelada, and from there you can see the whole city, the coast, the mountains and the spectacular sunsets.

It may interest you to know that the cross was put there by Franciscan monks in 1961, to protect Benidorm from sinful ways and depravities like the Bikini.



Amusement parks

Benidorm has two theme parts that are in a class of their own. Aqualandia, a water park that is perfect for all ages. Terra Mítica, set in the cultures of Egypt, Greece and Rome, where you can find exciting rollercoasters and fantastic shows.

If you are interested in animals, you can visit Terra Natura, Mundomar and Aqua Natura, a water park that has educational demonstrations with sea lions.



The old town and Castillo lookout point

A stroll through the old city centre will reveal the traces of its maritime past, when it was no more than a fishing village. You can discover its cultural heritage in Calle Mayor, the Plaza de Canaleja, Castillo or San Jaime, with the church of San Jaime Apóstol and Santa Ana, with distinctive blue domes.

The spectacular views from the Plaza del Castillo are truly special: a balcony on the Mediterranean, as it is also known, with unbeatable views of the coast of Benidorm.

El Tossal de la Cala

Between the beach of Poniente and Cala de Finestrat, there is a cliff where archaeological digs have found traces from many ages, the oldest from the Bronze Age and the Iberian period from the 4th century B.C., along with the remains and structures of a Roman fortress that was garrisoned by the armies of Quintus Sertorius. You can see impressive views of the city and beaches from its lookout point.

What you can't miss: the best shopping and leisure plans



Beaches for unwinding

The fantastic beaches of Levante and Poniente, separated by the promenade, are famous for their extensive range of leisure and restaurant services, and they are also fully accessible. Between both beaches, in the old quarter of the city, there is the tiny Cala de Mal Pas, which is full of charm and beauty. Then there is Cala del Tío Ximo and Cala Almadrava, towards the natural surroundings of Serra Gelada, which are specially recommended for diving and for those who prefer peace and solitude.

The Island of Benidorm

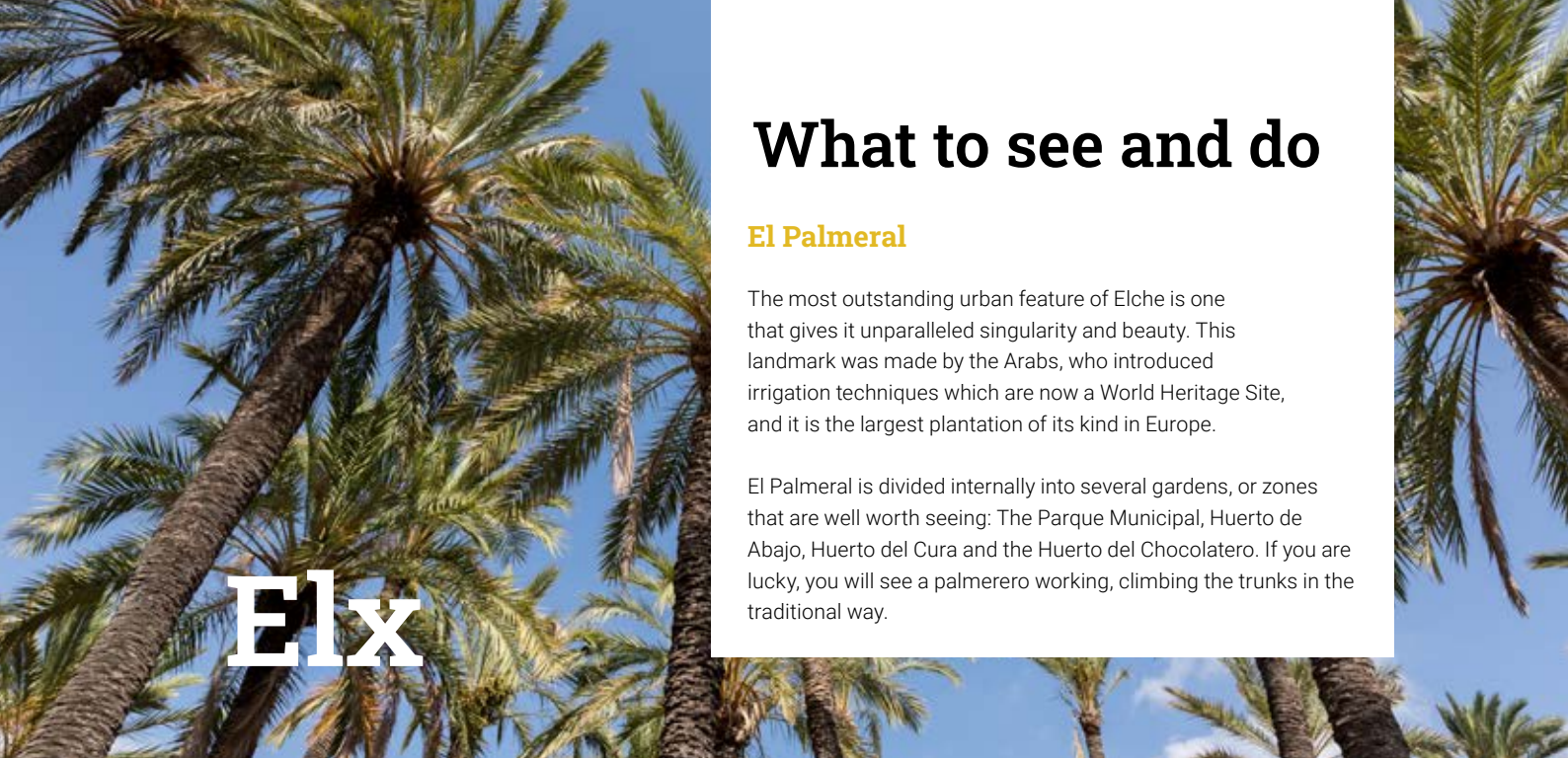
This small island lies two nautical miles from the port of Benidorm, and is of great ecological, aesthetic and environmental value. It is an ideal place to visit by boat, where you can also observe the riches of the sea bed, a paradise for divers and water sports enthusiasts. You can visit the whole island and it is a great place to see the Bay of Benidorm and all the coastline.



Shopping

You can find absolutely anything in Benidorm. There is a great shopping area between the Plaza Triangular and the Avenida de Los Almendros, running through the main streets of the old town and the centre. There is Mercaloix near the Levante beach, an enclosed square full of small international traders, while Poniente has many restaurants and food outlets.

Do you like traditional markets? There are three: Mercadillo Pueblo, in Avenida de L'Admirall Bernat in Sarrià on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings; the municipal street market of Foietes, next to the Foietes sports centre every Wednesday, and if you want to trawl through antiques, try the Mercado El Cisne on Saturdays and Sundays, where there is also live jazz.



What to see and do

El Palmeral

The most outstanding urban feature of Elche is one that gives it unparalleled singularity and beauty. This landmark was made by the Arabs, who introduced irrigation techniques which are now a World Heritage Site, and it is the largest plantation of its kind in Europe.

El Palmeral is divided internally into several gardens, or zones that are well worth seeing: The Parque Municipal, Huerto de Abajo, Huerto del Cura and the Huerto del Chocolatero. If you are lucky, you will see a palmerero working, climbing the trunks in the traditional way.

The Palace of Altamira

This impressive castle-palace, also known as Alcázar de la Señoría, was the home of the lords of Elche for many centuries, and kings like Jaime II or the Catholic Kings were guests in the tower of the keep. The oldest remains date back to the Islamic 11th century. Before it was expropriated by the Council in the 1970s, this complex had been used as a textile factory and even a prison. It is now the home of the Museum of Archaeology and History of Elche (MAHE).



The Basilica de Santa María de Elche

The Basilica de Elche, one of the most recognizable buildings in the city, was built on the site of the former Mosque and another two churches which stood here before today's version, which was finally completed in 1784. It is where the Mystery Play of Elche (also declared part of World Heritage by UNESCO) is performed, and its architecture contains Neo-classical, Baroque and Renaissance elements, such as its enormous, blue-tiled dome and famous tower.

Torre de Calahorra tower

This Islamic fortress is an excellent example of the city's Andalus period. Intended as a watchtower, and part of the city's defensive walls, it was built at the end of the 12th century or early in the 13th. It originally had another two floors on top, but they were toppled in the 1829 earthquake in the province of Alicante. Today, the building hosts various events and a permanent exhibition of masterpieces by Joaquín Sorolla, Ignacio Pinazo, Cecilio Pla or Muñoz Degrain, among others..



Archaeological Park of L'Alcúdia

L'Alcúdia lies within the municipal area of Elche, and it is one of the most important archaeological sites in Spain because it was here that the Dama de Elche, a masterpiece of Iberian art was unearthed. Human settlement has been found here dating back to the Neolithic period and up to the Islamic conquest, and the interpretation centre can explain the historical importance of the site and show its most important places.

Museum days

There are many interesting museums in Elche. On the one hand, there is the Palmeral Museum, to explain the real importance of this famous forest and its historical and cultural significance. Another essential visit is the Museum of Archaeology and History of Elche (MAHE), where there is a replica of the famous Dama de Elche, one of the most important archaeological finds. There is also the Museo de Puçol, which is also recognized by UNESCO for its work to safeguard the city's history, customs and heritage.



The Nature Park of El Hondó

Between Elche and Crevillent, this nature park is part of the former Albufera de Elche, wetlands which were almost totally drained back in the 18th century. It is a true oasis of flora and fauna, with an enormous number and variety of birds, which has led to it being declared wetlands of international importance. Visitors can spot birds such as marbled and white-headed ducks.

What you can't miss: the best shopping and leisure plans



Beaches

Elche also has a number of spectacular and varied beaches to enjoy. For example, on its north coast there is the Playa del Altet, which has a surprising ring of dunes, like the Arenals del Sol beach, which is adapted to persons with any type of mobility. The Playa del Carabassí is far wilder and preferred by nudists. On the south coast of Elche there is Playa de la Marina, a beach of fine golden sand, and Playa El Pinet, while those who prefer a quieter spot should go to the undeveloped Playa del Rebollo.

Shopping

Most of the streets in the historic centre of Elche have been pedestrianized, encouraging the appearance of shops of all kinds. Many of these shops congregate in Plaza de Baix, la Glorieta and Paseo de Les Eres de Santa Llúcia, along with a number of hostels. You can find many fashion and footwear boutiques, which have traditionally been the main reason for shopping in Elche. In fact, if you are interested in these products, the Elche Business Park has organized an Outlet Route. Then you must visit the Provisional Central Market, where there are excellent local products such as dates from the Palmeral, the famous pomegranates of Elche, traditional liqueurs and an endless range of fish and preserves. tradicionales o un sinfín de pescado y salazones.



- ACTIVE TOURISM ON THE SHORES
OF THE MEDITERRANEAN -
ADVENTURES BY

land and sea

The Region of Valencia offers so many options for enjoying adventure sports and outdoor activities in direct contact with nature and its rich heritage throughout the year, thanks to the region's exceptional climate. A healthy and enchanting way to discover beautiful corners of this land is to get around by land, sea and air. Give it a try!





Land-based activities

Mountaineering and climbing

The Region of Valencia is one of the most mountainous areas in Europe. Particularly noteworthy is the comarca of Els Ports inland in Castelló, the area with the second highest number of mountain peaks in Spain. The comarcas of Alicante also have an extraordinary system of reliefs facing the sea. Even without exceeding two thousand metres of altitude, the complexity of the mountainous geography of the region make it an ideal place for lovers of adventure.

The Sistema Ibérico and Cordilleras Béticas mountain ranges cross the Region of Valencia, giving way to a vast plain that ends in the north of the Alicante province. In this rugged landscape, there are a large number of iconic mountain peaks such as Aitana (1,557m), Puig Campana (1,406m) and Bernia (1,128m) in the Béticas mountains, Penyagolosa (1,815m) and Cerro Calderón (1,838m). Summits that make the Region of Valencia a leading destination for mountaineering and hiking.

The region also has the ideal locations for climbing, with amazing vertical walls in the province of Alicante, in Las Marinas,

Guadalest, Sax, Onil and Aspe. In addition, there are other areas to enjoy this activity with spectacular views of the Mediterranean, such as Ponoig, the Sierra de Aitana, the Sierra de Bernia and Cabeçó d'Or.

You will also find unique enclaves for climbing in the province of Valencia, which has many well-known destinations such as the walls of the Turia canyon as it passes through Chulilla; a spot famous for its spectacular suspension bridges. You will also find multiple options in Castelló province, especially with the limestone walls near L'Alcora in Montanejos.

Vías ferratas

In the Region of Valencia, you will find more than 20 impressive via ferratas in perfect condition throughout the three provinces. These itineraries are classified according to their level of difficulty, taking into account the strength, resistance and mountain experience required, as well as other psychological aspects that the route could entail. The levels range from K1 for the easiest to K6 for extremely difficult journeys.



+ Otras opciones

Hiking

The Region of Valencia is part of the European network of Long Distance (GR) Footpaths and has more than 5,000 kilometres of approved trails. The offer includes Long Distance (GR) Footpaths that allow for journeys of more than one day, as well as short distance or local trails. Thanks to this, you can immerse yourself in the impressive natural and cultural heritage.

Highlights of the extensive catalogue of trails available, including the Long Distance Footpaths (identified with white and red), include the GR 125 (Orihuela), known as the great route of the poet Miguel Hernández, the GR 231 (Jérica) that goes from Pinares to Sabinares, the GR 232 (Santa Pola), known as the Volta al Terme de Santa Pola, and the GR 236 (Alcira), also called the Pas del Pobre. If your intention is to go hiking for a single day, you can follow the Short Distance (PR) Footpaths, which are identified with white and yellow, and cover a distance of between 10 and 50 kilometres. You can also use the Local Footpaths (SL), which are identified with white and green, and do not exceed 10 kilometres.

Bicycle touring

Touring the Region of Valencia by bicycle is another fantastic option. There are two key terms for this: the Vías Verdes (greenways) and the BTT centres.

The Vías Verdes recover old railway lines to create paths for hiking and cycling, which also have a smooth and safe layout. In the region, you can travel 13 Vías Verdes that in total exceed 200 km. Some of the best known are the Vía Verde de los Ojos Negros, the longest in Spain at 167.5 km, the Vía Verde de la Safor, the Vía Verde del Mar (Benicàssim-Oropesa del Mar) and the Vía Verde de Dénia.

On the other hand, BTT centres are open-access spaces for mountain bikers that are associated with a network of marked paths. You have at your disposal a dozen BTT centres that offer around 140 fully laid out and marked trails covering around 4,400 km signposted.

> You can enjoy nature and the pleasure of **riding** thanks to specialised active tourism companies, riding schools and clubs in numerous towns in the Valencia Region such as Villafranca del Cid, Sierra Calderona, Valle de Cofrentes, Alcoi or Quatretondeta, among others.

For **caving**, you could chose Castelló, with a multitude of classified caves (more than 5,000). In Alcudia de Veo, you can visit the Cueva del Toro, and in Montán, the Cova de Cirà. It is worth mentioning that the deepest well in the Region of Valencia, at 129 metres, is in Alto de la Hiedra (Quatretonda); the longest natural underground space that is walkable at depth is l'Avenc Pilar (Barx), a total of 235 metres.

Throughout the Region of Valencia, there are a multitude of canyons and ravines that cross rivers and torrents and create the perfect locations for **canyoning**. Alicante is the province with the most rivers in which canyoning is allowed. The most popular places to enjoy this activity are Alcoi, Bolulla, Altea, Callo d' En Sarrià, Vall d'Ebo and Abdet. However, the province of Castelló has several destinations suitable for canyoning, such as Montanejos, Lucena del Cid, Zucaina and Cirat. While in the province of Valencia, it can be done in Tuéjar, Millares, Anna and Cortes de Pallás.



Canoeing, kayaking and SUP

Canoeing or kayaking along the rivers and coasts of the Region of Valencia are ideal activities for all visitors. In these one-person or small group water vessels, you can discover majestic caves and hidden corners where underground rivers or the sea have been carving out the rock for thousands of years.

Some of the most outstanding places that you can get to know by canoe or kayak are the Marina de Valencia and its pirogue route through the America's Cup channel and the bases, the descent of the Júcar river, the Xàbia sea caves, the Cova Tallada in the natural park of Montgó and cave-kayaking in Les Coves de Sant

Josep in La Vall d'Uixó. Reservoirs such as in Benagéber, Escalona in Navarrés, Sitjar in Ribesalbes, the Pedrera reservoir in Jacarilla and the Benitandús reservoir, located in the Serra d'Espadà Natural Park, are also perfect for kayaking.

Another very interesting water sport is stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), very popular on the coast, but it can also be done on calm inland waters. The best areas for SUP are essentially the same reservoirs where you can also kayak, as well as the spectacular Hoces del Cabriel Natural Park.

Water activities



Diving

The Region of Valencia's extensive coastline is home to more than 30 diving centres, where you can receive all the advice you need and all the necessary equipment so that you can observe the bustling, colourful Mediterranean seabed.

Highlights among the many outstanding destinations for this sport include the Columbretes islands, where you can dive among lava canyons and lobsters, La Llosa 2 in Benidorm, an entire wall of underwater life, and the shipwrecks in La Vila Joiosa, where 6 sunken ships from World War I rest.



Surfing and kitesurfing

The more than 500 kilometres of Mediterranean coastline in the Region of Valencia are a dream for the surfing community. The region's privileged climate mean you can immerse yourself in this sport-philosophy of life throughout the entire year. But it is true that autumn and especially winter are the most interesting seasons, since the wind and waves reach the best conditions. Great places to enjoy surfing (or to get started) on these shores of the Mediterranean are the ports of Valencia and Alicante, San Juan beach in the city of Alicante, Gandía (Valencia) and El Campello (Alicante) and its paradisiacal Muchavista beach.

Kitesurfing can be done in the same locations as surfing due to their similarities in terms of ideal conditions.

+ Other options

> Activities such as rafting for visitors seeking a thrill can be done on many navigable rivers, such as the Cabriel river, which has the longest stretches. The Mijares river (Castelló province in Montanejos) is another of the best watercourses for rafting; a variety of companies can guide you down its rapids.

Hydrospeed consists of navigating a whitewater river on a hydrodynamic floating board called a hydro that supports your torso. The locations where you can do this still emerging boardsport include the Venta del Moro (Valencia), where you can descend the Cabriel river and the Mijares river at Montanejos in the province of Castelló.

Coasteering is an adventure sport in which a coastline is followed, combining hiking, exploring caves, high jumps into water, climbing and even diving. It can be enjoyed in the Alicante towns of Dènia and La Vila Joiosa.





Practical information

How to get there

The Region of Valencia can be reached by land, sea and air. The numerous points of access mean you can choose the most convenient option for your trip.

Por carretera

- The **AP-7**, the Mediterranean motorway, crosses the Region of Valencia parallel to the coast and connects with the European network.
- The **A-3** connect with Spain's capital.
- La **A-23**, o Autovía Mudéjar, connect with Sagunto, Segorbe and Teruel province.
- The **A-31**, o Autovía de Alicante, crosses this province.
- The **A-33** connect with Fuente de la Higuera and the Region of Murcia.
- The **A-35** connect with Albacete province.

By train

The railway network of the Comunitat Valenciana connects its entire territory with the rest of the country.

High-speed trains connect Madrid with the centre of Valencia, Alicante, Castelló de la Plana, as well as other municipalities such as Utiel-Requena, Elx, Orihuela and Villena.

www.renfe.com (AVE y AVLO)
www.ouigo.com
www.iryo.eu
www.fgv.es (Red de Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat Valenciana)

By plane

The three Valencian capitals have airports with an extensive network of domestic and international routes.

- The Castelló airport (Benlloch) has connections with some Spanish and European cities, and is close to destinations such as Benicàssim, Oropesa del Mar and Peñíscola.
- Located 8 kilometres from the capital, the Valencia-Manises international airport is one of the main points of access for visitors due to its proximity to the coast.
- Alicante-Elche Miguel Hernández international airport is the best option for the province's tourist centres such as Benidorm, Xàbia and Torrevieja.

www.aena.es

By sea

The passenger ports of Valencia, Dénia and Alicante offer good links with both the Balearic Islands, Barcelona and various Mediterranean countries. Depending on the

season, there are connections to some Balearic destinations from the port of Gandia.

When to go

The Region of Valencia boasts an exceptional climate most of the year, especially in the coastal areas where, thanks to the Mediterranean, they enjoy mild temperatures in the winter and summers are usually hot.

The climate inland is more continental, with dry summers and cold winters. High season in the Region of Valencia is during the European summer months, from June to September, as well as national bank holidays and the Easter period.



Tourist information



Tourist office network



Tourism online

- www.comunitatvalenciana.com
- www.turismodecastellon.com
- www.costablanca.org
- www.valenciaturisme.org
- www.alicanteturismo.com
- www.castellonturismo.com
- www.visitvalencia.com
- www.visitbenidorm.com
- www.visitelx.com

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