

Valencia city 🇪🇸

Valencia in
all its splendour



MEDITERRANEAN
ATTITUDE

What to see and what to do.





A PLACE THAT IS

more open

EVERY DAY

A place that is more open every day, to the sea and to all those who come from outside the city. With around 320 days of sun a year and that unique Mediterranean light, which draws the intense blue of its sky, it is warm even on winter days.

This is only part of the charm of Valencia; a cosmopolitan city that is responsive to new trends, but doesn't forget the timeless traditions that have been forged over its more than 2,000 years of history.

In Valencia, you will be able to follow in the footsteps of the Romans, Visigoths, Muslims, and even the medieval structure that can still be seen in some of its streets, as well as visiting some gems of modernism. From the Lonja de la Seda to palaces converted into museums, and spaces of avant-garde architecture such as the Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències, which have earned it the designation of World Design Capital 2022.

And of course beaches, both urban and rural, where you can lose yourself every day of the year. Infinite sandy shores bathed by the Mediterranean, which are also one of the best locations to give free rein to the temptation of letting yourself be carried away by another of the city's treasures: its cuisine. Get captivated by the authentic Valencia through the flavours of its traditions, both those that are served on a plate and those that you smell on fiestas, with gunpowder being the protagonist. And find out why it always feels like time passes so quickly in Valencia!



Welcome to
Valencia

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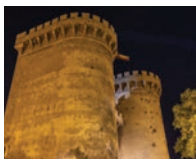
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01/

WHAT TO
SEE IN

Valencia





Veles e Vents



Stroll or tour?

In Valencia, you have the opportunity to discover as many cities as there are neighbourhoods, since the essence of each one will take you to a world of different feelings. From the history-flavoured streets of the centre to corners where alternative and avant-garde currents find their home.

/ A walk through the city

Some areas and routes

Enjoy the most multifaceted Valencia
through its districts.



*At a
glance*



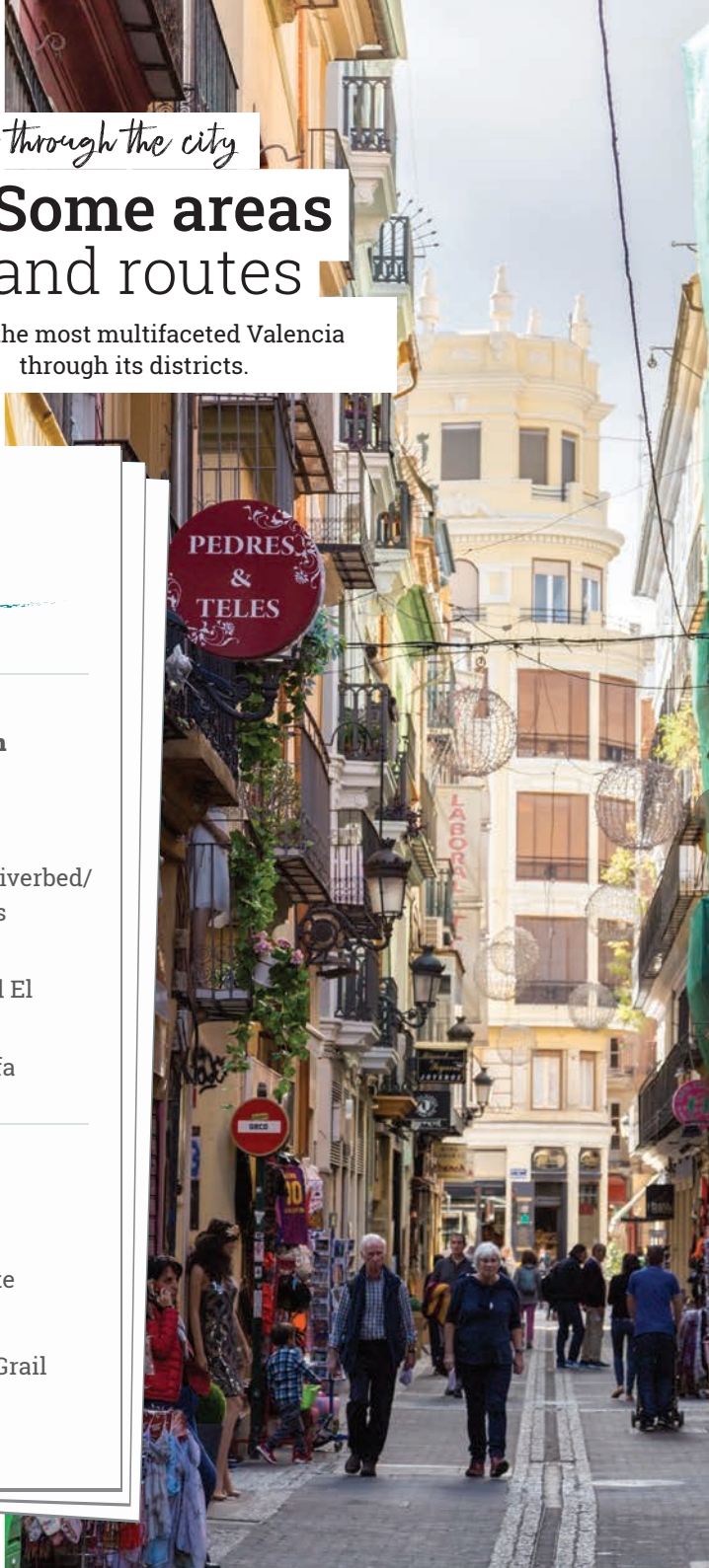
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- El Cid and the Holy Grail
Route





Historic centre

This is probably the most touristic part of the city. Because walking the streets of Valencia's historic centre -one of the largest in Europe- is a must-do to soak up the heritage of the different civilisations that set foot in the capital of the Túria. It is also the setting for some of the most iconic landmarks and buildings in Valencia, the Basilica de los Desamparados, the home of the *Geperudeta*, the city's patron saint. Valencia's old town is also home to part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, including the Lonja de la Seda and the holding of the Water Tribunal, which takes place every Thursday before the Puerta de los Apóstoles in the cathedral. As well as genuine treasures such as the church of San Nicolás de Bari and San Pedro Mártir.

El Carmen

Within the old quarter, El Carmen merits a separate section. This district does not disappoint those who are interested in culture, since the neighbourhood grew between two walls and maintains part of its layout. This is where the Serrano and Quart towers, as well as other important museums such as IVAM (Institut Valencià d'Art Modern) are to be found. Above all, this is one of the stand out districts for tapas and international cuisine. And for night owls, it has a wide range of bars and pubs where you can end the day.



Turia riverbed

Alameda/the Túria riverbed/ Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències

Valencia's green lungs extend over nine kilometres along what was the old Túria riverbed, today the largest park in the city. The river no longer follows this course, but the 18 bridges that crossed it are preserved and worth walking. The main bridges are the Puente del Real and those designed by Santiago Calatrava such as the Puente de las Flores and the Puente de la Exposición. In this area, you can find the must-see Museum of Fine Arts, El Fallero and Mestalla stadium. And, above all, the Ciutat de les Arts y les Ciències and the Palau de la Música.

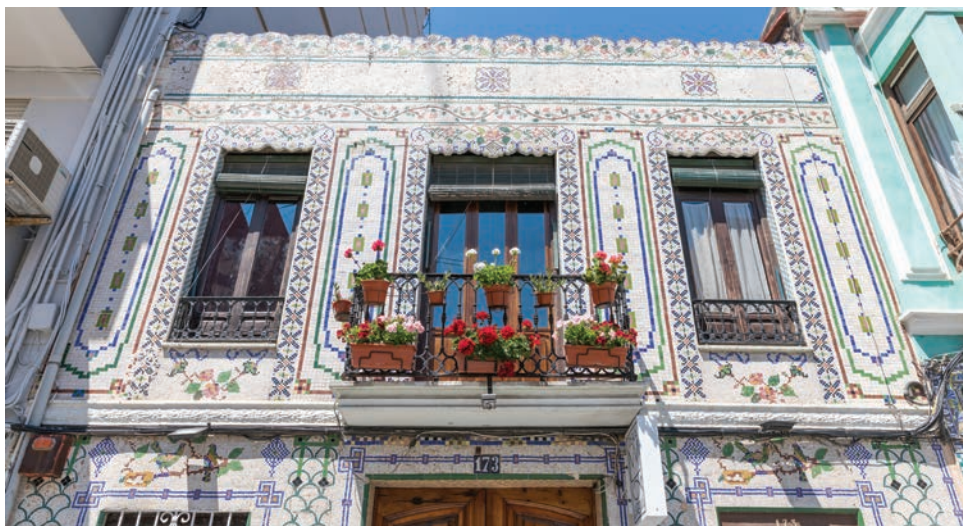
Ensanche and Ruzafa

The fashionable area for eating and shopping. The city's main commercial artery, Calle Colón, the Estación del Norte and Colón Market are some of the must-sees here. Ruzafa is compared to New York's Soho as it is one of the most eclectic neighbourhoods in the city, where the latest trends come together. Its mix of cultures is also evident in the gastronomic offer here, which begins at Ruzafa market and continues through some of the city's most renowned restaurants.



Marina, beaches and El Cabanyal district

This is one of the areas of Valencia with great flavour and tradition, where the city's seafaring essence continues and where El Cabanyal and Malva-rosa beaches are located. The old port of Valencia, converted into the Marina, is today one of the city's spaces for leisure near the sea. At the old docks are the shipyards, the old *tinglados* port buildings and the Edificio del Reloj, which exist side by side leading gastronomic establishments. Meanwhile, in El Cabanyal neighbourhood, you will have the opportunity to rediscover Valencia's more costumbrist side with the fishermen's houses and modernist homes that are scattered throughout its streets, not to mention the Blasco Ibáñez Museum. It is also an essential district for the most purist of foodies.



Casas en El Cabanyal





Silk Museum

The Silk Road



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, declared a World Heritage Site in 1996.

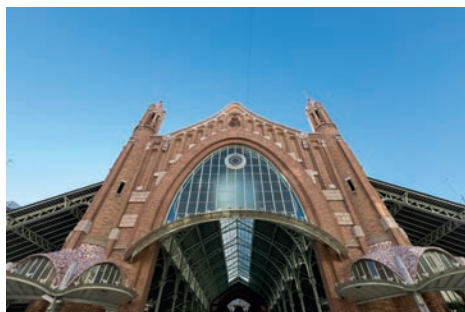


Norte Station

The Modernism route



The art of the bourgeois splendour of the late 19th century has remained evident in some of the most iconic buildings in Valencia. You can follow the Modernism route from Plaza de la Almoina, where Casa Punt de Gantxo is located, to Calle Sorní, Plaza del Mercado and Marqués del Túria, with Casa de los Dragones, Casa Ordeig and Casa de las Golondrinas, respectively. Very close, the Estación del Norte itself, decorated with elements typical of Valencian traditions, is one of its greatest exponents, as are the Central and Colón markets. And on the way to the beach, the Ayora mansion, surrounded by gardens.



Street Art



Murals and graffiti have turned some of Valencia's streets into open-air museums, especially in El Carmen. Artists of the stature of Hyuro, Escif, Julieta XLF, David Limón, Deith and Blu have left their mark using closed businesses, buildings in ruins and walls as their canvases, giving them a new life and lots of colour. You can start the Street Art route on Calle del Music Peydró in the very centre, and then continue along Plaza de la Merced until Calle de las Calabazas. Don't miss Calle Numancia, with its walls full of graffiti, Plaza del Tossal and Plaza de San Jaime. Lose yourself in El Carmen, where it won't be difficult to find numerous examples of street art, above all in Plaza Mossén Sorell and the surrounding streets, as well as in Calle Roterros and Calle Moret, popularly known as the 'Street of Colours' precisely because of the number of murals that breathe life into the façades.





/El Cid and the Holy Grail Route

Historic routes in Valencia

The most desired and sought after chalice throughout history can be found in Valencia, specifically in its cathedral. But the footprints of the Holy Chalice are spread throughout a good part of the city: from the Museum of Fine Arts and Temple church and palace, to Patriarca and Corpus Museums. Because the Holy Grail Chapel of the Cathedral is the culmination of a centuries-old route that crosses the Pyrenees through Somport, runs from San Juan de la Peña (Huesca) and enters the Region of Valencia through enclaves such as Barracas, Segorbe, Sagunt and El Puig de Santa Maria. The Route passes through the natural parks of Serra d'Espadà, the Palancia valley and the Valencian countryside.

Another of the routes in which you can feel part of history is the Camino del Cid as it goes through Valencia. In El Carmen, there are vestiges of what was the wall that surrounded the Balensiya of the 11th century. The current cathedral stands on an old mosque that El Campeador (the Champion) as El Cid is known, ordered to be demolished to build a church. The Almirante baths is built in the 14th century, are similar to traditional steam baths or *hammams*.



To consider

HOLY GRAIL ROUTE

- The footprints of the Holy Chalice cross Valencia until culminating in the Holy Grail Chapel of the Cathedral.

EL CID ROUTE

- The equestrian statue of El Cid is of great symbolic value to travellers on the Way of El Cid. You can see it in the Plaza de España.





Torres de Serranos

/Must-sees

The biggest landmarks

Serranos and Quart towers



If you had arrived in Valencia in medieval times, you would have entered through the Serranos or Quart towers, which were part of the old city wall. Both were conceived as the city's defensive gates. 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.



Basílica de los Desamparados

Joined to the cathedral by a Renaissance arch, the Basílica de la Mare de Déu dels Desamparats houses the image most beloved by Valencians, that of their patron saint. The dome will catch your eye, not only because of its magnificent frescoes, but also because it is slightly oriented towards the cathedral.





Tribunal de las Aguas

Valencia Cathedral



This is a true must-see in Valencia, both from the outside, with its marked Gothic touch, and from the inside, with chapels as significant as that of the Holy Grail. You can even find some masterpieces by Francisco de Goya and Mariano Salvador Maella in the Cathedral Museum. And each Thursday at the Puerta de los Apóstoles sees the Water Tribunal held, the oldest institution of oral justice in Europe that is on the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. This court has ruled on disputes related to water in the lands of Valencia. To not miss out on one of the most iconic panoramic views of Valencia, especially of the historic centre's layout, you will have to climb the 207 steps of the Miguelete: the bell tower is one of the most recognisable symbols of Valencia.



Lonja de la Seda (Silk Exchange)

Lonja de la Seda (Silk Exchange)

No one should leave Valencia without seeing one of its most iconic landmarks, a Gothic masterpiece and an outstanding symbol of one of the periods of Valencian splendour. The Lonja de la Seda has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996; highlights inside include the Sala de Contratación, with eight spiral columns, as well as the laborious coffered ceiling of the Consulado del Mar. This 15th century building is also home to the Torreón Central, where the chapel and the jail for defaulting merchants were located. Nor can you miss the impressive painting by Espinosa, and the Orange Tree Patio, the garden that brings this site together in a perfect rectangle.



*The Lonja de la Seda
has been a UNESCO
World Heritage
Site since 1996*

Church of San Nicolás de Bari and San Pedro Mártir

Built in the time of James I, this was one of the first parishes in Valencia. The Borgia family took care of reforming it in the Gothic style, although it would not be until the 17th century when the vault was covered with such spectacular frescoes that it is considered to be the 'Valencian Sistine Chapel'.



Church of San Nicolás de Bari



Palace of the Marqués de Dos Aguas

Monastery of San Miguel de los Reyes

Going a little further from the centre, you have the opportunity to visit the Monastery of San Miguel de los Reyes, one of the best examples of Renaissance architecture and considered the precursor of El Escorial. Today it houses the Valencian Library and is free to visit.

Palace of the Marqués de Dos Aguas

Walking around the centre of Valencia, the façade of the Palace of the Marqués de Dos Aguas will not fail to leave an impression. The palace is home to the National Ceramics Museum, but is also well worth a visit in itself for the architecture so markedly rococo and eighteenth century.

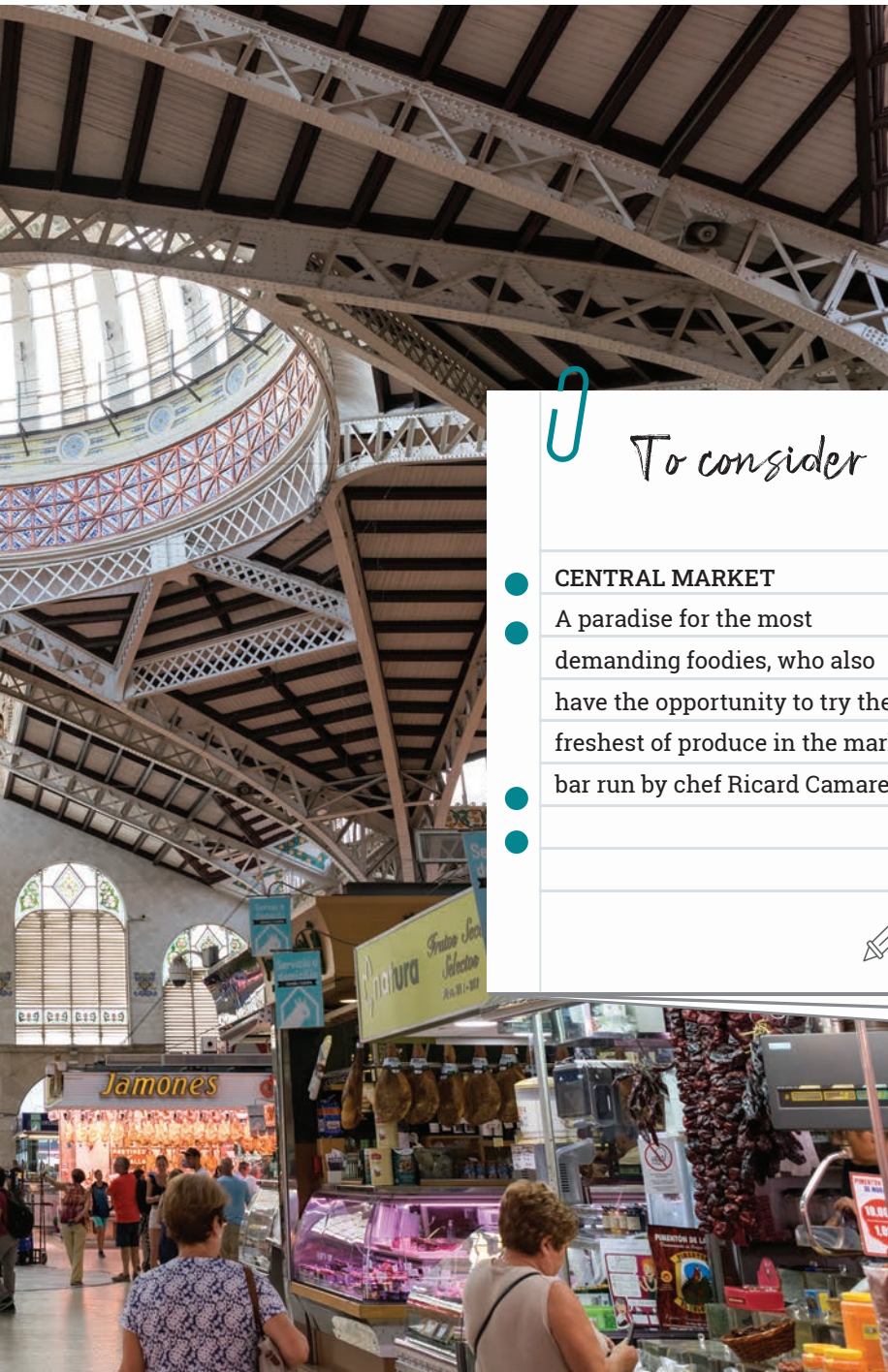




/ All the flavours of the Mediterranean **Valencia's markets**

For tradition, culture and history, there are two markets in Valencia that merit a visit, and not just to buy fresh fruit or fish. In the heart of the historic centre, the Central Market continues its long-standing activity and is, in fact, the largest fresh produce market in Europe, with stalls where you can find all the flavours of the Mediterranean and the Valencian countryside. And all of this wrapped in iron, ceramic and stained glass architecture from the late 19th century, an ode to Valencian modernism. For its part, Colón Market in the Ensanche area of the city has become, after its renovations in 2003, a fashionable place to have a drink or buy some craft products. Don't miss the opportunity to treat yourself under its brick and ceramic structure from the early 20th century.





To consider

- **CENTRAL MARKET**
- A paradise for the most demanding foodies, who also have the opportunity to try the freshest of produce in the market
- bar run by chef Ricard Camarena.
-
-





/On the coast **Valencia's beaches**

The Mediterranean is one of the protagonists of Valencia, a city that looks more and more eagerly to this sea that has given it form and, above all, character. With almost 20 kilometres of beaches, there is one for every occasion.

Valencia is the ideal starting point to enjoy the Mediterranean whatever your plan may be: with family, friends, as a couple or solo.



*With 20 kilometres of beaches,
there's something for everyone:
families, groups of friends,
and for some alone time*

El Saler beach

A few minutes from Valencia by bus, car or bicycle, this enormous arm of sand is protected from the wind by a cordon of dunes and pine forests. Perfect for those looking for some peace and quiet, and for fans of windsurfing.



Malva-rosa beach

This is Valencia's beach par excellence and the guest star in works by renowned artists. From songs that were released with this beach in the background, such as *La chica de ayer* by Antonio Vega; the famous Manuel Vicent tram (book *Tranvía a la Malvarrosa*); the particular paradise of Blasco Ibáñez and the inspiration of Joaquín Sorolla. At 60 metres wide and almost 2 kilometres long, and boasting fine golden sand, this is one of the most visited in the Region of Valencia. Relax on the sandy shore and then walk along the promenade, full of gastronomic and leisure options.



Cabanyal beach

Valencians continue to know it as Las Arenas because of the old spa that has now been converted into a luxury hotel. 150 metres wide, this is the beach of the old fishermen's quarter in Valencia, where you will have the opportunity to practice all kinds of nautical and leisure activities.



Devesa beach

Devesa beach

A wild beach, almost five kilometres long, with a natural environment that will surprise you. Under the protection of L'Albufera Natural Park, you will be able to relax with the Mediterranean in front, as well as native vegetation including honeysuckle, pines and Mediterranean palms.

L'Arbre del Gos beach

This stretch of sand surrounded by dunes opens up between Pinedo and El Saler beaches. It is your ideal destination if you want to enjoy the Mediterranean with few people around as it is quieter than the rest and you can also have the pleasure of cycling all along the promenade.



Pinedo beach

If you want to enjoy a day at the beach with your pet, this is your place as it is the only one in Valencia city with an area set aside for dogs. Located to the south of the port and the sailing club, this beach also has nudist areas. You can enjoy a delicious rice dish on one of the many terraces facing the sea on the promenade.

La Garrofera beach

Just a step away from l'Albufera, it has abundant low scrub vegetation typical of the area. One and a half kilometres to enjoy fine golden sand in a peaceful environment.

Recatí-Perellonet beach

A beach surrounded by rice paddies where you can disconnect from your day to day with sports such as windsurfing, canoeing and kiteboarding, whether you go at your own pace or learn at one of the beach schools.



Pinedo beach has spaces for pets and nudist areas



/ Beaches and leisure

Valencia marina and port

Next to Cabanyal beach are the old docks of the port of Valencia, today converted into a trendy leisure and entertainment area in the city. Here, historic buildings, such as the old tinglados port buildings and the Edificio del Reloj, exist side by side the contemporary architecture of Veles i Vents, by the architects David Chipperfield and Fermín Vázquez, which houses leading gastronomic establishments.





To consider

- Make sure you find a
- moment to enjoy the wide
- range of restaurants, hotels
- and the facilities of this
- maritime area.

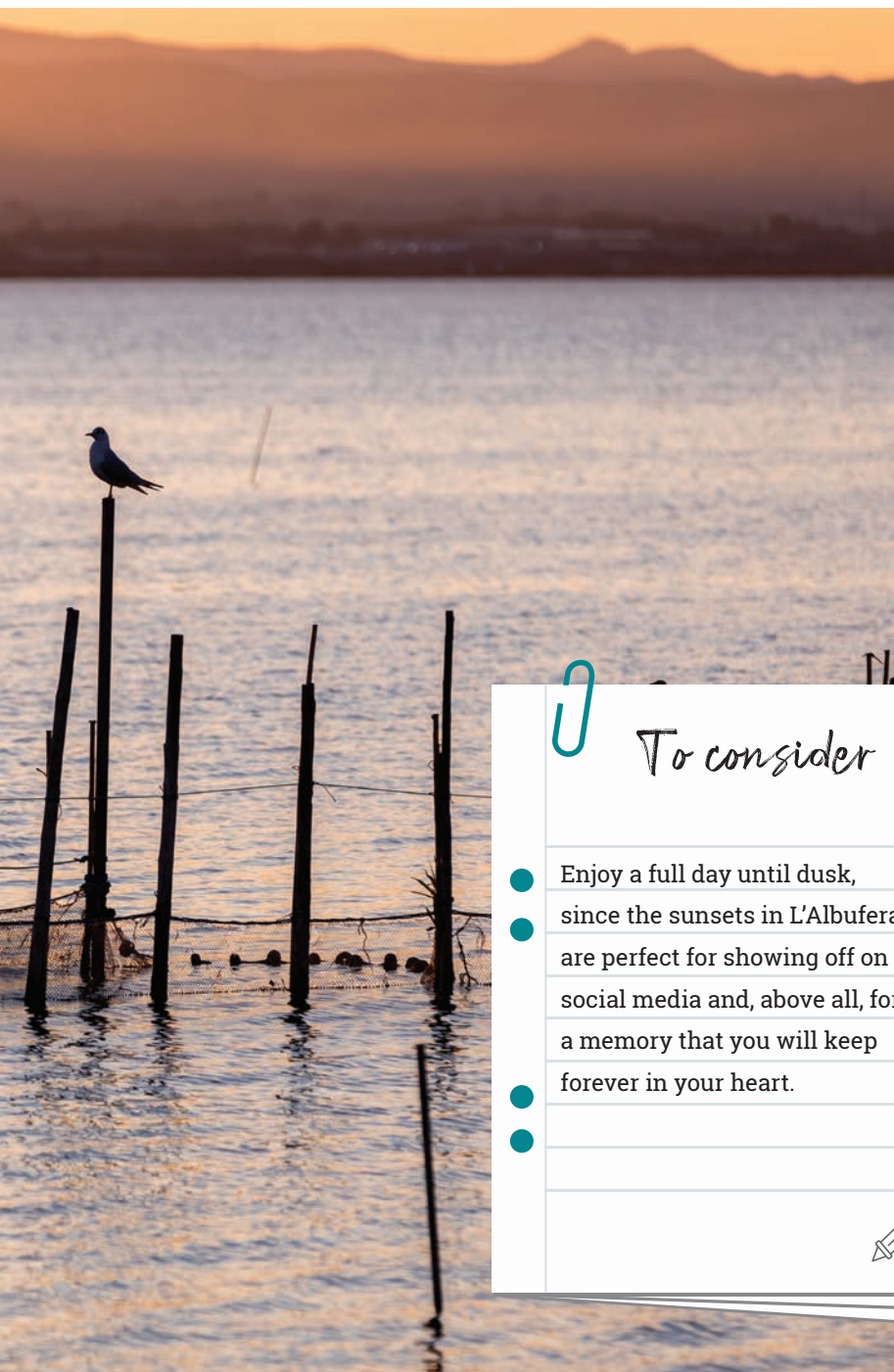




/Biodiversity

L'Albufera

L'Albufera Natural Park is a unique space in Europe, located just 15 kilometres from Valencia. Between marshes and rice paddies, the largest freshwater lake in Spain is home to around 300 species of birds throughout the year, making it an important biodiversity reserve. You can explore it by following different routes or by boarding a traditional boat -the *albuferencs*- to discover all its charms from within. You can combine a boat trip with a visit to a typical *barraca* cabin, where they will reveal the secrets of Valencian cuisine. Not for nothing is it said that the *paella valenciana* has its origins here; you will find several options to prove it in El Palmar.



To consider

- Enjoy a full day until dusk,
- since the sunsets in L'Albufera are perfect for showing off on social media and, above all, for a memory that you will keep forever in your heart.
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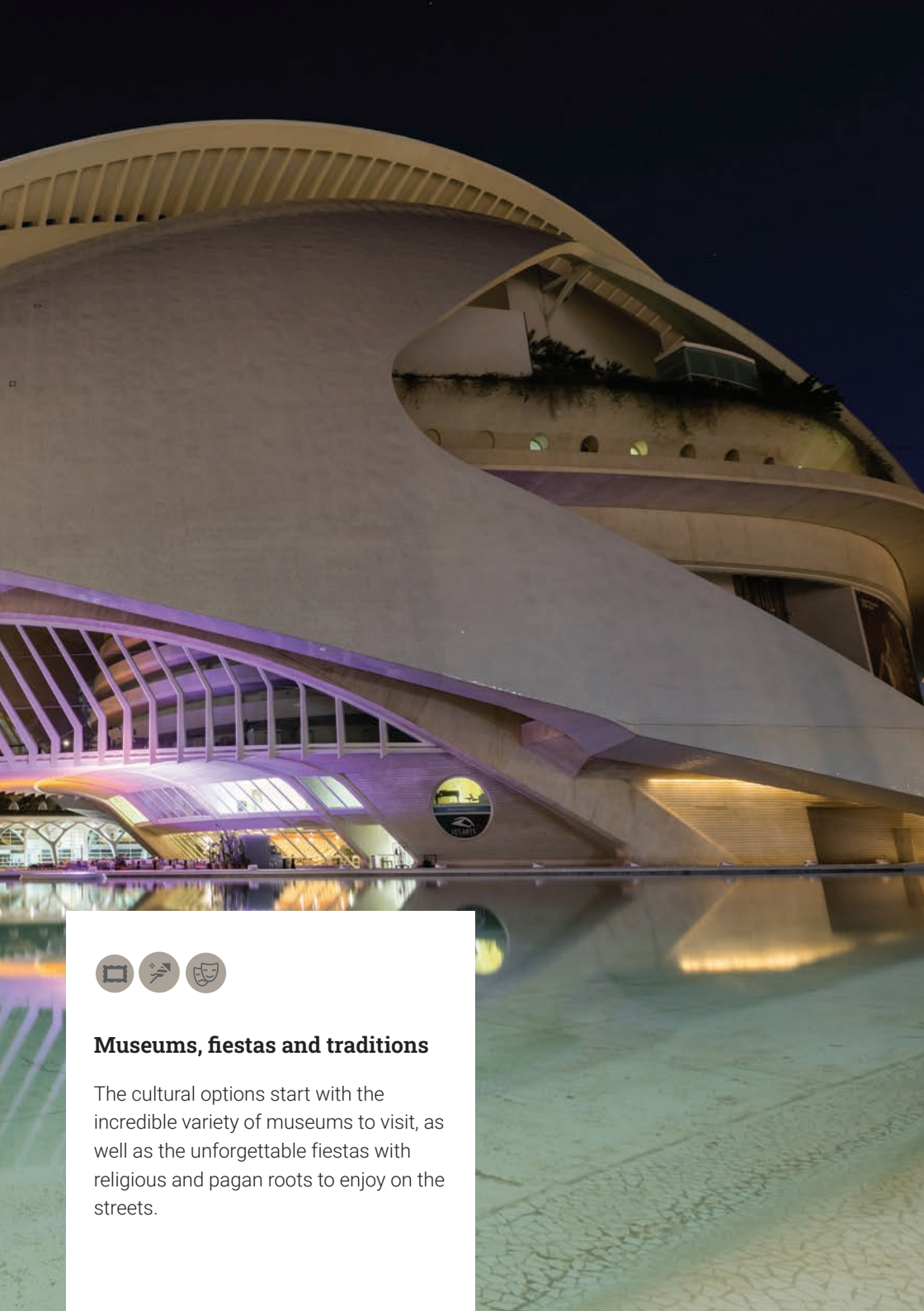


02/

Art AND culture

IN VALENCIA





Museums, fiestas and traditions

The cultural options start with the incredible variety of museums to visit, as well as the unforgettable fiestas with religious and pagan roots to enjoy on the streets.

/Must-sees

Mains museums

Museum of Fine Arts

Located in the Colegio Seminario San Pío V, the Baroque style building in itself makes it well worth a visit to the second largest art gallery in Spain. Valencia's Museum of Fine Arts is home to works from the 14th and 15th centuries, as well as paintings by the universal painter, Sorolla. The museum catalogue also includes works by El Greco, Velázquez, Goya and Van Dyck, as well as archaeological pieces, engravings and a variety of decorative art.



*This is the second
largest art gallery
in Spain*



González Martí National Museum of Ceramics and Decorative Arts

The ancestral home of the Rabassa de Perellós, the Marquises of Dos Aguas, houses the largest collection of ceramics nationwide, from the 7th century to contemporary times. You won't fail to be surprised by the exhibition that includes one of the most important decorative arts collections in the Region of Valencia, with highlights including the medieval ceramics from Paterna and Manises.



IVAM (Institut Valencià d'Art Modern)

Fallas Museum

Although the opportunity to experience the Fallas live is unique, you can continue to enjoy its essence every day in Valencia's Fallas Museum, where the *ninots* that have been saved from the Cremà each 19 March since 1934 are preserved. In this museum, you can learn a little more about the art that surrounds the most international of Valencia's traditions.

CaixaForum Valencia

It is a cultural space located within the Agora complex, designed by Santiago Calatrava, in the Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències. Don't miss the chance to immerse yourself in the exhibition's proposals in which art, nature and science go very much hand in hand.

IVAM

The Institut Valencià d'Art Modern (IVAM) is a must-see on any visit to Valencia. It has a collection of more than 12,000 works by famous artists including Antoni Tàpies, Cindy Sherman and Alexander Calder, so you would need more than one day to enjoy the entire catalogue. Its rooms also house a fundamental part of the work of the sculptor Julio González and the painter Ignacio Pinazo, who endowed this museum with great value, and focused it towards modern art and the avant-garde..

La Almoína Archaeological Museum

Immerse yourself in Valencia's most ancient history at one of the most important archaeological sites in Europe that preserves remains from Roman times dating to the 2nd century BCE to the Middle Age, next to the cathedral and the archiepiscopal palace. Walk the museum's "streets" and feel part of the historic legacy of the city.



The Patriarca

This is both a museum and a historic site in itself. The Patriarca complex, made up of a college, a seminary and a church, houses works of great value by universal artists such as El Greco, Caravaggio, Benlliure and Pinazo. The Renaissance cloister is another of its gems.

Blasco Ibañez House Museum

Learn about the life and work of one of the most famous Valencian authors, Vicente Blasco Ibáñez. The chalet where he lived in Malva-rosa has been turned into the museum preserving the rooms and everyday objects of the writer's life, as well as manuscripts of his works.

The Silk Museum

Discover the legacy of silk in Valencia and the traditions linked to this industry through a tour of the looms, tools and fabric samples at the Silk Museum. A trip to the past in which you can also take home a souvenir of genuine Valencian silk.

Centre del Carmen de Cultura Contemporànea

This is the place of reference for those who like an artistic experience in any type of expression, since if anything characterises this centre of contemporary culture, it is eclecticism. All in keeping with the neighbourhood where it is located, El Carmen, the most bohemian in Valencia.



Centro de Arte Hortensia Herrero

The CAHH is a spectacular, fully restored palace, built in the Valencian Baroque style in the 17th century. This space houses Hortensia Herrero's private collection, featuring works by more than 50 internationally renowned contemporary artists, including Anselm Kiefer, Anish Kapoor, Georg Baselitz, Mat Collishaw, Andreas Gursky, Tony Cargg and Manolo Valdés.

In addition, the Hortensia Herrero Art Centre includes accessible, multimedia and interactive rooms that allow you to experience more than just observation.



/The fun is on the streets

Fiestas and traditions



The Fallas

One of the most deeply rooted traditional fiestas that has, along with *paella*, carried Valencia's name all over the world. The experience of gunpowder and fire, the noise in the streets and the Valencian traditions running high should be experienced at least once in a lifetime. This fiesta is on the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. From 1 March, the *masclelaes* start to thunder in the Plaza del Ayuntamiento, the heart of these festivities that culminate with the Cremà on the 19th, when the almost 800 Fallas monuments are burned throughout the city. Don't miss the chance to enjoy this fiesta and its most important moments as they happen; the *plantà* on the 15th, the flower offering to the Geperudeta on the 17th and 18th, and the spectacular Nit del Foc (Night of Fire) on the 18th after midnight, without missing the Cremà on the 19th.



*This fiesta is on the
list of UNESCO
Intangible Cultural
Heritage*



Easter

Semana Santa Marinera, or Valencia's Easter celebrations, is experienced intensely in the districts of El Cabanyal, El Canyameler and El Grao. Religious sentiment and traditions turn towards the sea; some of the processions even go over the sand. You will also be struck by how the participants dress as biblical characters in the processions, as well as how, on the night of Holy Saturday, old crockery and water are let fly from many homes.

Sant Vicent Ferrer

This is probably the saint with the most miracles and also one of the patron saints of Valencia. His festivity is celebrated on the second Sunday after Easter, with the ringing of all the bells in the city, especially during the procession of the saint. The week before, children recite the miracles of Sant Vicente Ferrer on altars throughout the city.

The Virgen de los Desamparados festivity

The big day of Valencia's patron saint, the Mare de Déu dels Desamparats, or *Geperudeta* as she is popularly known, is held on the second Sunday in May. The festivity is celebrated with masses in the basilica, in the cathedral and with a procession through the streets of the old quarter. There are also *mascletaes* in honour of the patron saint.





Corpus Christi

Sixty days after Easter, Valencia dresses up to celebrate Corpus Christi. A fiesta marked by a parade, with origins dating back to the 13th century, that represents an allegory of the role of the Church in the world, with participants dressed as biblical characters, floats (*Rocas*) with groups of sculptures, *dolçainas* and *tabalets* (drums), giants and *cabezudos*. The Danza de la Moma is one of the most representative of all those that participate in the Corpus Christi Procession, in which eight dancers represent the fight between virtue (the Moma) and the seven deadly sins or vices (the Momos).

9 d'Octubre, Day of the Region of Valencia

Regional dances, the entry of Moros y Cristianos and a parade with the Valencian *senyera* (flag) are the main events with which Valencia commemorates the day of the Region of Valencia. In addition, it coincides with Sant Dionís, patron saint of Valencian lovers, and the *Mocadorà* is celebrated. On this day, men traditionally give a handkerchief (*mocador* in Valencian) to their partners with marzipan in the shape of coloured fruit and vegetables.

Gran Fira de Valencia

In July, coinciding with the traditional dates for the end of the harvest, Valencia dresses up for celebrations in which gunpowder is once again the protagonist, but along with flowers during a colourful "battle". Music also occupies a predominant place, especially during the concert nights at the Jardines de Viveros park.



Sant Vicente Mártir

Valencia commemorates one of its patron saints on 22 January with a leading role played by the cathedral bells, which ring from the evening before announcing the festivity. In addition to the mass in the Cathedral in the morning and the transfer of the saint through the streets of the centre, where according to legend he was martyred, a Mozarabic mass is also held in the church of Cristo Rey.

Christmas in Valencia

If you are in the city in December, don't miss the nativity scenes that are set up in different parts of Valencia, including Plaza de la Reina and the Ceramics Museum. Christmas markets, attractions, ice rinks and hundreds of activities, especially for children, are part of the Christmas festivities programme in Valencia.



/ Enjoy

La Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències

The Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències is one of the symbols of Valencia's most contemporary and cosmopolitan side. Along two kilometres of the old Turia riverbed, the buildings in the complex create spaces in which culture, innovation and science masterfully go hand in hand.

L'Hemisfèric

This is the largest projection room in Spain; in its 900 square metres of screen, you will have the opportunity to see 45-minute screenings, many in 3D, on environmental themes, space travel and big discoveries.



Museu de les Ciències

The 42,000 square metres here are dedicated to science in a completely interactive way, with the motto "Do touch". An educational and informative space in which visitors are invited to experiment through the senses and see how enjoyable science can be.

L'Umbracle

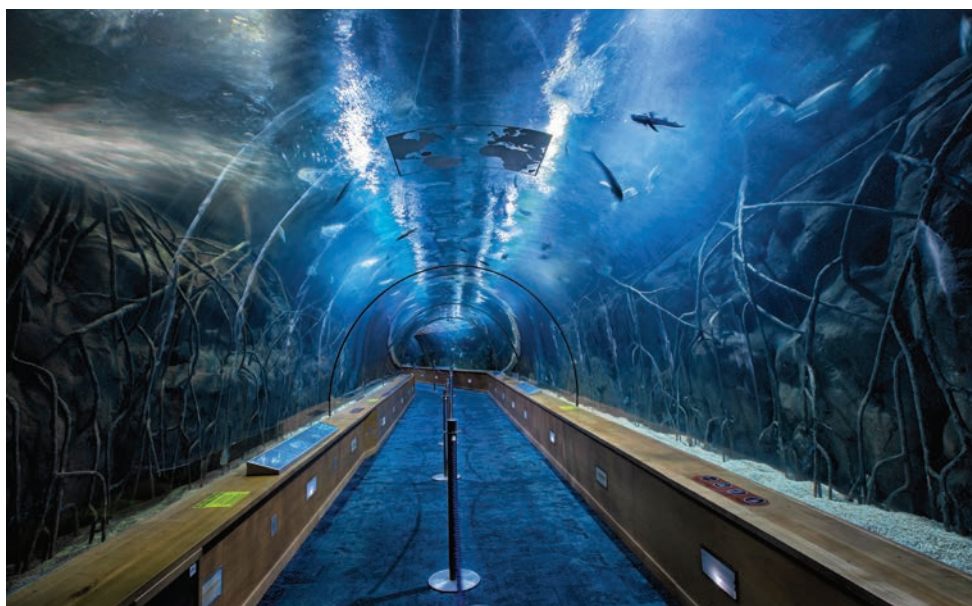
L'Umbracle is a charming landscaped walk, covered by characteristic arches, which is also a relaxing exhibition area. And at night, get ready to dance as l'Umbracle turns into one of the most glamorous nightclubs in Valencia.

Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia

This has in its own right become one of the most important cultural and artistic centres worldwide and a point of reference for the contemporary architectural avant-garde. If you like music, don't miss the programme that brings operas, concerts, zarzuelas and ballet to Valencia from October to April.

El Ágora

Between L'Oceanogràfic and Assut d'Or bridge stands the Ágora. Since 2022, this peculiar venue has housed Caixaforum Valencia, a multi-purpose space that promotes culture, science and knowledge.



L'Oceanogràfic

You will need at least half a day to visit this immense aquarium - the largest in Europe - where nearly 500 species of aquatic animals coexist in seven different marine environments. The mission of L'Oceanogràfic, the work of the architects Felix Candela and Jose María Tomás Llavador, is not only recreational as it has become an important centre for conservation and scientific dissemination.



*Innovation, science
and culture
masterfully go
hand in hand*

03/

Gastronomy AT THE table...





... or the bar

Valencia is living proof that sitting down at a table to try the local gastronomy is an experience to remember. Thanks to the variety of flavours of fresh produce from the land and the sea, beautifully combined in recipes that go far beyond paella, there are so many scrumptious options that it will be very difficult to choose. Take note and see if you can try them all.



/ From land and sea

Gastronomy

Rice is the protagonist of most of the traditional cuisine in which *paella* is the queen. The authentic traditional recipe, with rabbit and chicken, *garrafó* and *ferradura* (beans), comes from towns in L'Albufera. But this is not the only dish that triumphs at the table, since in Valencia you can enjoy seafood *paella* with *calamar* and *clóchinas* (a local variety of mussels), *arròs a banda*, which is served with the fish separately, or *senyoret* rice, with the prawns already peeled. Be sure to try *arròs negre*, which takes advantage of the colour and flavour of squid ink. For those who like hearty dishes, baked rice takes advantage of the leftovers of *cocido* stew, and is served in a clay casserole dish with bacon, ribs, chickpeas, blood sausage, potato and garlic. It is also definitely worth trying the *meloso* and *caldoso*, or brothy, varieties, such as *arròs amb fesol i naps*, which

combines white beans, turnips and pork in a rice dish. Or *arròs amb bledes*, a traditional brothy dish, with chard, *tavella* (a variety of white beans), potato and turnip pieces and *avellanencs* snails.

Another of the local stews that will not fail to leave an impression is *all i pebre*, made with eel, paprika and chilli pepper, and very common especially around L'Albufera. Make sure you dip in plenty of bread.

With such productive land providing quality produce, in Valencia you can enjoy dishes in which its flavours are very much present. *Esgarraet* combines roasted pepper with cod *migas*, oil and sliced garlic. *Titaina* is similar, but with salted tuna belly, tonyina, while *espencaet* is a repertoire of roasted vegetables - peppers, aubergines and onions - cut into



strips with cooked tomatoes. The tomato and pepper cocas are another traditional delicacy that you have to try.

Valencia doesn't disappoint with its sweet treats either. *Turrón* is one of its tastiest legacies, as is *arnadí*, a sweet dish made from pumpkin, sugar and almonds. Other sweet temptations that you cannot avoid in Valencia: *coca de llanda*, *panquemado* and sweet potato pastries. Not to overlook the traditional pumpkin *buñuelo* fritters during the Fallas, or *fartons*, which accompany the no less popular Valencian *horchata*. And to end the day - or at any other time, in fact - *Agua de Valencia*, a cocktail that combines cava, vodka and gin with another star in Valencian cuisine, the orange.

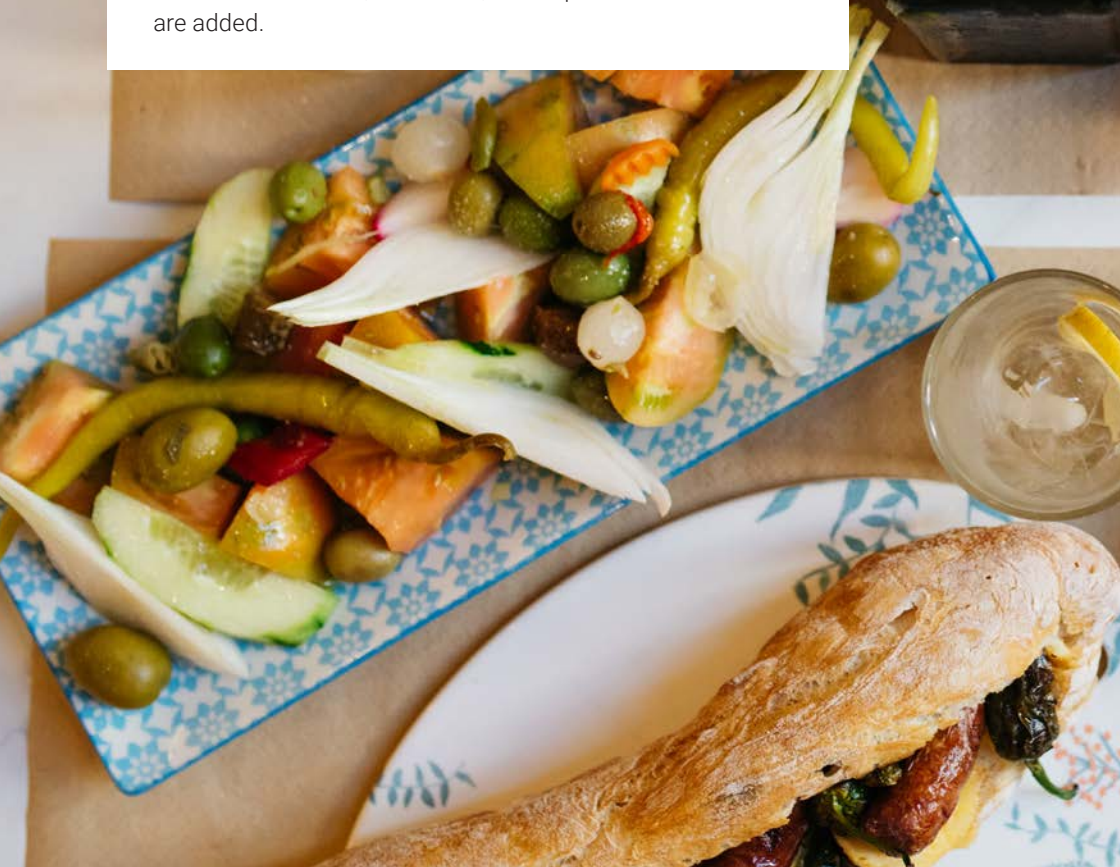




/To recharge

The *esmorzaret*, typical of gastronomic traditions

The *esmorzaret* stems from the routine of recharging after getting up early to go to work in the fields. It consists of filling up on a "little lunch" based on a *picaeta* (appetiser) followed by a large *bocadillo* sandwich with a hearty filling (blood sausage, *tortilla*, *sobrasada* etc.), all well accompanied by beer. This gastronomic tribute usually culminates with the *cremaet*, a coffee to which rum, cinnamon, lemon peel and coffee beans are added.





To consider

- Purists enjoy the
- esmorzaret at 9 am,
- although it is also usually
- enjoyed around midday.



04/

VALENCIA

as a
family





For everyone

Valencia is an open city, for everyone. "Little tourists" will really enjoy the urban plans and, of course, the beaches. See how to enjoy Valencia as a family and why it is the ideal getaway to create unforgettable memories.

OPARC
VALENCIA



Places

Valencia as a **family**

Riverbed's Turia

The Turia Gardens

Crossing the city from west to east, at nine kilometres they can boast of being one of the largest urban parks in Spain. The Túria Gardens occupy the city's old riverbed (the river was diverted after the 1957 floods) and preserves the 18 bridges that connect both banks with the main landmarks and museums in Valencia. In fact, it ends at the Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències leisure complex. Another of the essential places to go with children is Gulliver Park, with a giant sculpture that represents this character by Jonathan Swift. It is 70 metres long, and children, becoming the inhabitants of Lilliput, access it through ramps, slides and stairs.

Bioparc

If you want to experience an African adventure on the shores of the Mediterranean, Bioparc offers the chance to enjoy the fauna and landscapes of the savannah with your family. This next-generation zoo recreates the habitats of the African continent: savannah, wetlands, the forests of equatorial Africa and Madagascar, in a safe environment where the animals roam free. You will surely have an unforgettable time there. It is located to the west of the Turia Garden.

Bike rides

Being completely flat, Valencia is the perfect city for a bike trip. You have the option of renting a bicycle and going at your own pace through one of the city parks such as Cabecera, Parc Central and the Turia Gardens, where there is no shortage of activities for the youngest members of the family. Or you can join one of the guided tours that cover the city's main attractions.



Botanical Garden

A highly recommended visit for both adults and children is the Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia, the origins of which date back to the 16th century. A living museum in the heart of the historic centre that covers four hectares and where you can travel the world through flora.



Jardín Botánico



Bioparc

05/

VALENCIA IN

three
OR
five
days





Culture, leisure and much more...

In Valencia, you will discover that you always want more time to enjoy it. If you are planning to stay for three days, we suggest these plans to make the most of your time.

/Make the most of your time

Valencia in three days

Day 1: the historic centre

Valencia's Estació del Norte train station is not only a place of arrivals and departures, but also one of the best exponents of Valencian modernism. And the best starting point to begin an itinerary through the city's historic centre.

Plaza del Ayuntamiento is home to the Consistorio, historic both inside and out. Its balcony, which can be visited free of charge, takes on great prominence during the Fallas. Opposite, it is worth taking a look inside the Correos y Telégrafos building.



Strolling along the streets, you will reach the heart of Valencia's historic quarter at the refurbished Plaza de la Reina, one of the most iconic enclaves in the city, where you will surely find time to have an *horchata* on one of its terraces. It is located next to the most famous tower in Valencia, the Miguelete, and the Cathedral. Be sure to visit the interior, where the Holy Grail

Chapel and its legend, as well as other works of art, await you. If your visit falls on a Thursday, you will also have the opportunity to attend the Water Tribunal held at the Puerta de los Apóstoles. The image of the *Geperudeta*, the patron saint of Valencia, is located next to the Cathedral in the Basilica of the Virgen de los Desamparados, another must-see.

Plaza Redonda



Town Hall

In Plaza de Santa Catalina, you will be struck by the church of the same name, one of the oldest in Valencia and, above all, the charming five-story tower that gives access to the neighbourhood around the market. Along the way, you will come across the iconic Plaza Redonda, where there is no shortage of craft shops and tapas bars. A few steps away, get ready to be surprised by the modernist monumentality of the Central Market, the largest for fresh produce in Europe, and enjoy its products from both land and sea. In front, the Lonja de Seda is another must-see in a tour of the old town, as is the church of San Nicolás de Bari and San Pedro Mártir, known as the Valencian Sistine chapel.

Finish your first day in Valencia with a tour of its palaces, such as that of the Marqués de Dos Aguas, home to the National Ceramics Museum, and those that dot the medieval alleys of El Carmen, where it is worth forgetting about following a map.

Day 2: Ciutat de les Arts i de les Ciències. Beaches and Marina

Your second day in Valencia will taste of the sea, starting with L'Ocenogràfic, the largest aquarium in Europe, located in the Ciutat de les Arts i de les Ciències complex. Use the opportunity to visit its most iconic buildings, taking into account that you will need at least half a day.

Enjoy the taste of the Mediterranean by trying an authentic *paella valenciana* by the sea. You will have many options to do so in one of the restaurants on the most iconic beach promenade in Valencia, Malva-rosa , or in El Cabanyal, where you can also find a good collection of *tapas* establishments among the seaside houses.

Enjoy the Valencian sun on El Cabanyal beach, either on the sand or while practising some water sports. And end the day exploring the neighbourhood, the Marina and its surroundings, or taking a stroll by the old *tinglados* port buildings to the Edificio del Reloj.

Day 3: natural Valencia

Take advantage of your third day in Valencia to experience its more natural, traditional...and wild side, in the Bioparc habitats, where you will be able to see the animals of the African continent roaming free. Keep in mind that the visit will take you at least three hours. You also have the option of relaxing in one of the parks in Valencia, for example, Cabecera Park or the Turia Gardens.

The landscapes so characteristic of L'Horta, with its farmhouses and *barraca*



La Marina

cabins, are just a step away from Valencia in the towns of Alboraya, the tiger nut paradise, Paterna and Alfafar.

You can go by bus (lines 24 and 25) from Valencia to one of the most iconic landscapes in Spain: l'Albufera. Discover the cradle of *paella* among rice paddies and Mediterranean forests, and be sure to try the *all-i-pebre* (potato and eel stew with garlic and paprika) in one of the restaurants in El Palmar. Fall in love with l'Albufera by going on a boat trip or from one of its piers; watch the most spectacular of sunsets that have made it so famous.

Practical information

How to get around

The best way to get to know a city is to walk it, and the distances are never too far in Valencia. But you can always use the public transport network, with which you can reach the beaches, surrounding towns, l'Albufera and the airport. The metro has five lines and the tram has four. Another option to get around the city is to use one of the 180 metropolitan bus routes or 6 commuter train lines.

To get around by public transport, the most convenient and economical option (depending on how you will use it) is to get a tourist card, which offers unlimited access for 24, 48 and 72 hours, including the bus and metro to the airport. It is activated the first time it is used and also provides free entry to municipal museums and discounts at the main tourist attractions.

Bus tours

The tourist buses are a very convenient option for discovering Valencia. They tour the entire city on one route and have audio guides available in various languages. They are valid for 24 to 48 hours, run every 30 minutes or 1 hour and 15 minutes (depending on the time and company), and you can get on and off as often as you want. There are two companies that provide this service.



Edificio del Reloj



Parque de Cabecera



/Una estancia inolvidable

Valencia in five days

Day 1: historic centre

Use your first day to discover the city's historic quarter, with as representative landmarks as the Central Market, the Lonja de la Seda, the church of San Nicolás de Bari and San Pedro Mártir, the basilica and the cathedral. Don't miss the opportunity to climb its bell tower, the Miguelete, from where you can take in Valencia's medieval layout.

Lose yourself in the streets of the centre and its most iconic squares: Plaza de la Virgen, Plaza de la Reina, Plaza Redonda

and Santa Catalina. Forget about following a map and immerse yourself in El Carmen, beginning at the Serranos tower, dating back to medieval times.

Leave room to learn about Valencia's most ancient legacy at La Almoína Archaeological Museum, where you can travel from Roman times to the Middle Ages. Get ready to be surprised by the collection at the second largest art gallery in Spain, the Museum of Fine Arts, and by the impressive Baroque façade of the National Ceramics Museum, the Palace of the Marqués de Dos Aguas.



Day 2: beaches and Marina

On your second day in Valencia, enjoy its most famous beaches and the city's most deeply rooted seafaring traditions. It is worth spending a few hours in El Cabanyal, where you can try a delicious *paella* or a gourmet bite. And if you want to know a little more about the culture of the Valencian product par excellence, rice, you can take the opportunity to visit a museum dedicated to this cereal so precious to Valencia city and the Region of Valencia.

A walk along the sand, a good dip in the Mediterranean or enjoying some nautical activities; just some of the options available to you on El Cabanyal beach. And to end the day slowly, and memorably, experience the atmosphere of the Marina and its restaurants.

Day 3: the more contemporary Valencia

Valencia is an avant-garde city with varied artistic expressions of design and contemporary art. Get ready to be amazed by the 12,000 pieces on display at the IVAM, one of the most cutting-edge contemporary art museums, located in Valencia's old quarter, with works by Julio González and Pinazo.

Also in the historic centre, don't miss the proposal of the Centre del Carme de Cultura Contemporània (CCCC) museum, which covers different languages of contemporary art that you can discover through its exhibitions and concerts. And if you want to get to know a different museum, the MuVim (Valencia Museum of Illustration and Modernity) is a space dedicated to civic engagement. It encourages debate through its exhibitions and analysing new forms of expression.

Art galleries such as Espai Tactel (in El Carmen) and Pepita Lumier, as well as leading gastro spaces, are waiting for you in the district of Ruzafa to round off your third day in Valencia.

Day 4: la Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències

The best way to enjoy the avant-garde complex relaxed and at your leisure is to devote an entire day to it. Don't miss the chance to see one of the Hemisfèric's IMAX 3D screenings, enjoy a few hours of interactive science and innovation at the Museu de les Ciències, and immerse yourself in the seas and oceans of the world at l'Oceanogràfic. Relax in l'Umbracle and be amazed by the architecture of the Palau de les Arts. And don't forget to see Caixaforum Valencia in the Ágora building, with a very diverse cultural offer.

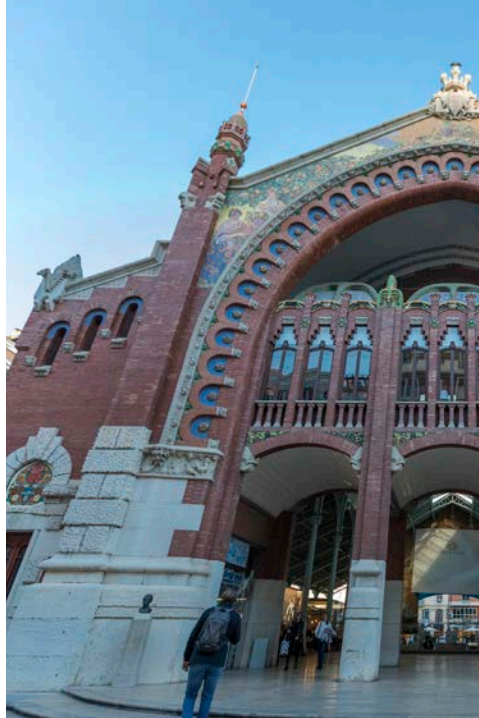
You can finish off the day at Colón Market in one of its many restaurants. And leave some room for shopping on the streets of El Ensanche, the most commercial in the city.

Day 5: naturally Valencia

In Valencia, you can find many spaces where you can relax and forget about the routine. You can enjoy a walk around one of its parks, for example, Cabecera or the Turia Gardens.

For visitors who want to travel, specifically to Africa, without leaving the city, there is Bioparc and the recreation of African habitats with free roaming animals.

In the heart of l'Albufera, the cradle of *paella*, try a good rice dish in one of the restaurants in El Palmar. Don't miss the opportunity to discover this unique landscape by following a hiking route or going on a boat trip. Lose yourself on one of the 17 kilometres of beaches in the heart of the natural park and get your camera ready to immortalise the best time of the day: sunset.



Mercado de Colón



Albufera



Practical information

Accessible Valencia

Valencia is well prepared to receive all those who want to visit it. Most of the accommodation, transport, restaurants and tourist attractions are accessible to people with functional diversity. Different initiatives have also been developed, such as the creation of a tourist pictogram guide for people with cognitive deficits. As well as six tourist routes to read or listen to through Maps Voice technology: the historic centre, Ruzafa and El Ensanche, Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències, Bioparc and Cabecera park, maritime towns, beaches and the Marina, and l'Albufera Natural Park.

Travelling with a pet

The capital offers a wide range of options for enjoying Valencia with your pet. They will have ample space to walk and run in; in the city's parks and on the paths of l'Albufera, for example. Pets can even enjoy the beach since they are allowed in summer in Pinedo.

To get around Valencia, you can use the metropolitan bus network. All you need to do is take your pet in a carrier and buy a special card for them and is valid for two years. They are prohibited from entering the metro, except for guide dogs.

06/

Shopping

IN VALENCIA





For lovers of shopping

The question is not what to buy in Valencia, but how to resist everything that the Valencian capital has to offer lovers of shopping. Beyond just getting a simple souvenir of your time in the city, Valencia gives you the opportunity to purchase unique products.



Silk is the queen of crafts, from ties and handkerchiefs to bags and fabrics that you can buy at the Silk Museum shop, as well as other places. Another of the traditional trades in Valencia is wickerwork; you can find all kinds of items in the 'street of the baskets' (Calle del Músico Peydró). The art of ceramics and pottery has carried the name of Valencia for centuries; you can see it in the store that Lladró has on Calle Poeta Querol, in Plaza Redonda, as well as in the Centro de Artesanía de la Comunitat, close to MuVIM (Valencia Museum of Illustration and Modernity). And if you visit Valencia in May or June, don't miss

L'Escuraeta Market in Plaza de la Reina, dedicated to terracotta items.

If what you are looking for are more ephemeral, but delicious, souvenirs, in the Central Market you will find products certified with the Valencia Designation of Origin, such as tiger nuts, oranges and oil, as well as certified products from the rest of the Region of Valencia: Ribera persimmon, Xixona turrón and Benicarló artichoke. In several of the oldest shops located in the Plaza de Mercado, you can get some delicatessen products to continue savouring Valencia when you get home.



Ensanche is the district to go to for those looking to buy something fashionable. In fact, Calle Colón and its surroundings (Jorge Juan, Juan de Austria, Cirilo Amorós) are the city's commercial hub. For more exclusive purchases, internationally renowned brands are interspersed along Calle Poeta Querol, while Ruzafa, known as the 'Valencian Soho', is the place to go to find unique trends. You will also find shops, art galleries and gastronomic spaces filled with creativity and proudly wearing the alternative label in El Carmen.



Practical information

Plaza Redonda and its surroundings, in the historic centre. Here you can find a multitude of crafts: ceramics, lace and silk, as well as souvenirs.

Calle del Música Peydró (known as the 'street of the baskets') is the perfect place to get wicker and leather goods.

Central Market: use the opportunity to reminisce on your stay in Valencia with the delicacies you can find in one of the city's most iconic markets.

Calle Poeta Querol and surroundings: the destination for those looking for exclusive brands.

El Ensanche and Calle Colón: the commercial arteries of the city.

Ruzafa: for those looking for more alternative proposals.

Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències area: Valencia's new commercial area with several shopping centres.

El Cabanyal: designer and corner shops, local products... and everything with a taste of the sea.

Shops normally open from 10 am to 9 pm Monday to Saturday. At certain times of the year, in addition to Christmas and during the summer, big stores open on Sundays.



How to get there



By land

Valencia is connected by motorway, through the AP-7 to the entire Levante coast, linking it to Barcelona and Alicante, and the A-3 connects with the centre of the peninsula.

If you opt for the train, the high-speed trains that link Valencia to Madrid, Cuenca,

Sevilla and Córdoba arrive and depart from Joaquín Sorolla station, as do the Alvia and Euromed trains that connect with Barcelona and other cities. Estación del Norte connects the city with the commuter train network. Between the two stations there is a free shuttle service that Renfe travellers can use.

www.renfe.com



By air

Valencia airport is located less than ten kilometres away in Manises and has excellent domestic and international connections. From the city, it can be accessed by metro (lines 3 and 5), by bus (line 150) and by taxi.

www.aena.es



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