

Alicante city 

Vibrant, warm
and cosmopolitan



REGION OF
VALENCIA

MEDITERRANEAN
ATTITUDE

What to see and do.



ALICANTE

City of light

**A compelling city that justifiably boasts of having
more than 300 days of sun a year.**

So it's always a top destination for so many visitors coming from Spain, Europe and the rest of the world.

You will find Alicante to be very comfortable, agreeable, hospitable and warm, right on the shore of the Mediterranean, which bathes beaches where you can enjoy a welcoming climate for most of the year: from El Postiguet in the very centre to the long sandy beaches of San Juan and Saladares-Urbanova. A city delighted to receive couples and families, groups, as well as people who prefer to travel alone. Alicante has such an abundance to offer everyone.



Welcome to
Alicante



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01/

WHAT TO SEE IN

Alicante





Alicante is a city that surprises right from the start because of how much there is to see. The truth is that its historic and natural heritage is extensive: from the Muslim castle to its beautiful beaches, and from religious buildings of outstanding artistic value, such as the Co-Cathedral of San Nicolás, to others with as much significance as the Monastery of Santa Faz. Indeed, Alicante is full of attractions and surprises that will without fail captivate you.

/Discover the city A brief walk through **history**



A city with its origins in the 4th century BCE, when the Iberians founded what was later the Roman Lucentum. Today, you can discover some of the remains left by these first settlers at the archaeological site and at the Provincial Archaeological Museum, MARQ. This is an interactive space where you can learn about the city's origins and historical evolution.

In this city, the Moors built their great architectural and urban symbol, Santa Bárbara Castle, on Benacantil hill. From there, they monitored the arrival of all kinds of opponents for centuries. From those historical conflicts derives the current Moros y Cristianos parades that fill several of the city's neighbourhoods

with colour, lavish clothing and noise, a lot of noise, at different times of the year.

With the capture by the armies of the infante Alfonso de Borgoña (who would later reign as Alfonso X the Wise), in 1247, Alicante went beyond the limits of that fortress to spread along the slopes and reach the sea. First to the neighbourhood of Santa Cruz, around the hermitage of the same name, and then to what is known today as El Barrio. As well as to the other areas that make up the city's compact historic centre. It is there where two of the main religious symbols of Alicante are located: the Co-Cathedral of San Nicolás and the Basilica of Santa María.

The modern city

Over the centuries, Alicante's population, which was mainly seafaring and agricultural, multiplied and looked for new areas in which to settle. It did so by bringing down the defensive walls and towers that had protected it from corsair and Berber incursions. Thus, at the end of the 19th century, the area known as Ensanche Diputación was born, facing the sea, where the Explanada de España is located. A wide tree-lined promenade running parallel to the port that is one of the most enjoyable and recognisable places in Alicante.

Towards the interior, the city also spread out in broad avenues and squares such as the Rambla de Méndez Núñez and the Avenida de Doctor Gadea.

A good part of the buildings that flank the Paseo de Gómiz were built by the 20th century.

At the end of the last century, the port, just across from the old quarter, began to be recovered for Alicante's citizens and visitors, and is today one of the most recommended places to visit. The Ocean Race Museum was opened at this same location in commemoration of the around the world Ocean Race, which since 2008 has started in the port of Alicante.

Finally, two fundamental elements of Alicante's personality must be highlighted: gastronomy and fiestas. All you need to do is take a walk around the Central Market to see the wealth of produce from both the sea and Alicante's productive land.

As for the festive element, at every time of year there is a celebration to be enjoyed in Alicante: from the already mentioned Moros y Cristianos parades to the great local fiesta, the Bonfires of Saint John.



/Of outstanding cultural value

Landmarks



Santa Bárbara Castle



From the top of Benacantil hill (166 metres), this fortress dominates the entire city and the bay of Alicante. You might be surprised to learn that it is one of the largest medieval castles in the country. It was built in three different periods, between the 14th and 18th centuries. In fact, the enclosure is also distributed into different levels, from highest to lowest height and age: La Torreta, the enclosure that contains the keep, the halls built during the reign of King Philip II (16th century) and, finally, the Revellín del Bon Repós, a regular venue for different kinds of exhibitions.

Basilica of Santa María



Despite its outside image, which is mainly Baroque, you should bear in mind that the Basilica of Santa María is the oldest religious building in Alicante as its foundation stone was laid in the 14th century. The reason is that a fire forced it to be almost completely rebuilt. Don't miss an in-depth visit inside the church, where highlights include the rococo-style main altar (18th century), as well as the Inmaculada Concepción and Bautismo chapels. Another must-see is the chapterhouse, where there is a large stone basin (16th century), and an organ from the Baroque period.



At a glance



Landmarks

- Santa Bárbara Castle
- Basilica of Santa María
- Monastery of Santa Faz
- Central Market
- Co-Cathedral of San Nicolás
- Town Hall



Beaches

- San Juan beach
- Albufereta beach
- Postiguet beach
- Almadraba beach
- Cabo de la Huerta coves
- Agua Amarga beach
- Saladares-Urbanova beach

Monastery of Santa Faz

Located on the outskirts of Alicante around 7 kilometres from the centre, this is one of the religious sites most beloved by locals. A romeria takes place here that is one of the city's biggest fiestas and among the most popular celebrations of this type in the country. Here you can see the supposed relic of the cloth with which Veronica wiped the face of Jesus Christ and where his image remained. As for the church in itself, its current form dates from the 18th century in the Baroque style. A community of cloistered nuns still lives on the site.



Town Hall



Town Hall

What will probably surprise you most about this building is its large ornate façade, which stands out even more in the secluded square where it is located. Dating to the 18th century, it is flanked by two towers and is the work of the Baroque artist Lorenzo Chápuli. Inside the Town Hall, the Elizabethan Blue and Plenary Halls stand out for their size and décor, with oil paintings by prominent local artists.



Central Market



At the beginning of the 20th century, the Alicante authorities decided to build a covered market on part of the site of what was the city wall. The result is this impressive modernist building, designed by Francisco Fajardo in 1915 and completed by Juan Vidal in 1922. Apart from its value as a historic landmark, it is a place with a great atmosphere that moves, especially at lunchtime, to the shops and bars in the streets that surround it.



Central Market

Co-Cathedral of San Nicolás



Alicante is one of the two Holy Sees of the diocese of Orihuela-Alicante. Consequently, its main church is considered to be a Co-Cathedral. It began to be built in 1600 on a Gothic period building of which the cloister still stands (15th century). Here you can admire one of the most impressive examples of Spanish Baroque in the Comunión Chapel, located under the large dome. The latter is truly striking, both for its height (45 metres) and for being decorated in sky blue.



Co-Cathedral of San Nicolás

/ For all tastes

Alicante's beaches



From *El Postiguet* in the heart of the city, to the long sandy beaches of *San Juan* and *Saladares-Urbanova*

San Juan beach

Between *El Campello* and *Cabo de la Huerta*, its 3 kilometres of fine sand are one of Alicante's main attractions. A beach with all kinds of services, where you can enjoy different water sports, beach volleyball, go running and use the outdoor fitness park.



Albufereta beach

This is a small beach around 400 metres long, located between Serra Grossa and Tossal de Manises to the north of the city. Although it is in an urbanised area, it is not as crowded in summer as other beaches in Alicante and it also has toilets and lifeguards then too. In addition, it is adapted for people with limited mobility and due to its shallow waters is one of the safest and most family-friendly beaches in the Region of Valencia.

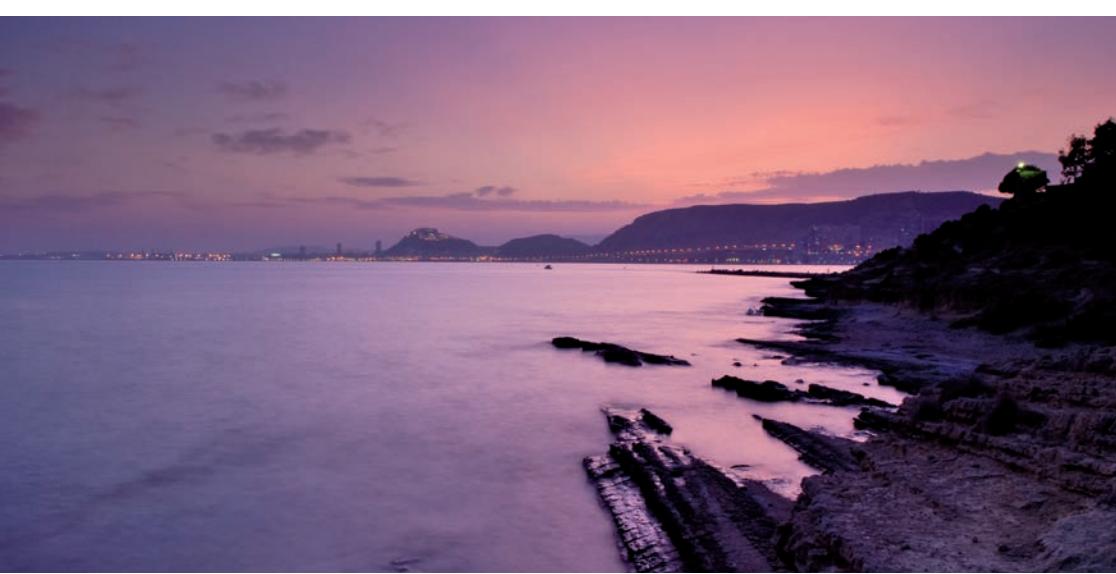


Postiguet beach

This is in the heart of Alicante and is one of the most representative images of the city, at the very foot of Santa Bárbara Castle. It is quiet safe, shallow and with high-quality sand and water. An accessible beach, in summer it has an educational and recreational area.

Almadraba beach

Next to Albufereta you can find this small beach about 750 metres long with an average width of 6 metres. The best thing about it is that it has hardly any waves and is one of the least crowded in Alicante.



Cabo de la Huerta coves

Next is this succession of small coves among rocks, surrounding the cape. The most striking thing about them is the transparency of the water, so if you like diving, this is a great place to explore the seabed. They can all be reached via the Cabo de la Huerta footpath, one of the most enjoyable walks in Alicante at any time of the year.

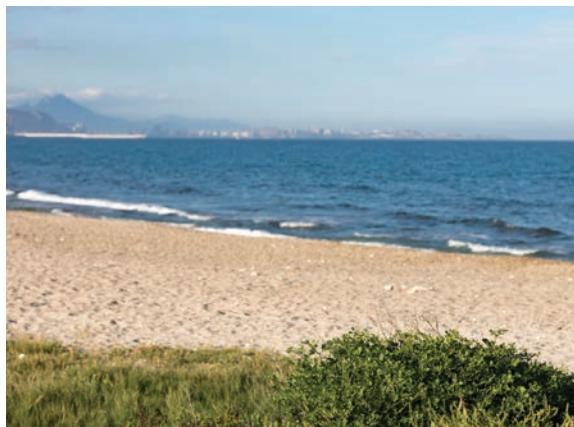


Saladares-Urbanova beach

Alicante's southernmost shoreline, around 5 kilometres from its centre. A large expanse of fine, golden sands just over 1.6 kilometres long in a semi-urban area. It has basic services and walkway 6 provides access for people with reduced mobility. Nudism is common in the area furthest away from Urbanova.

Agua Amarga beach

If you're travelling with your dog and you love having fun with him by the sea, this is your beach. Because 250 metres of this beach are dog-friendly and these pets are allowed to swim during the summer season. Although it is in the municipality of Alicante, it is quite far from the centre.





/ A day at sea

Boat trip to Tabarca islet

One of the best days out in Alicante is to board the boat that leaves from the port and go to Tabarca, the main island in the archipelago of the same name, located about 11 nautical miles from the city and opposite Cabo de Santa Pola. It is the only inhabited island in the Region of Valencia and around 60 people live there permanently.

It has been so since in the time of King Charles III it was decided to transfer several families of Genoese fishermen here, previously imprisoned in Tabarka (Tunisia). To protect them against piracy, a wall was built around their houses, which still stands today. The entire complex is considered a Historic-Artistic Site and an Asset of Cultural Interest.





To consider

- The waters surrounding this
- small archipelago are considered
- a Marine Nature Reserve and are
- consequently officially protected.

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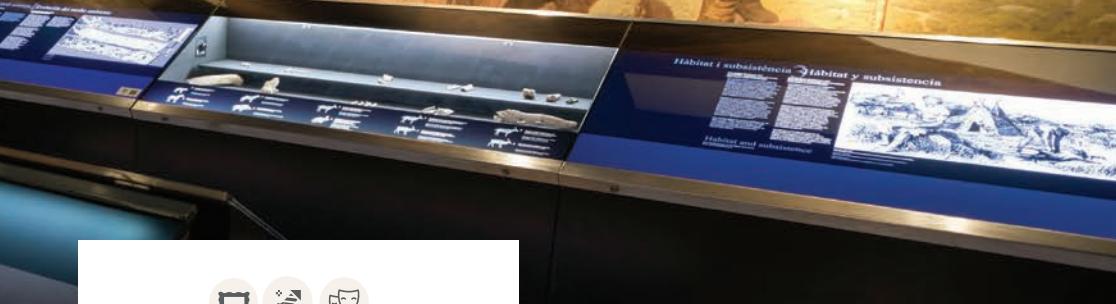
02/

ENJOY

art
AND
culture

IN ALICANTE





Options for all tastes

The main museums in Alicante are not only enriched by the history and art of our ancestors. There is also room for innovation and the most current creations. As well as for scientific dissemination and even for visitors to get to know the city's biggest fiesta in depth by touring the rooms of the Bonfire Museum. In fact, you are invited to participate in this celebration, as well as in the other traditions included in the city's calendar of fiestas.





Provincial Archaeological Museum (MARQ)

This museum showcases the techniques used by archaeologists to discover the past. The valuable information it contains is exhibited in an attractive, educational way through audiovisual montages and interactive techniques, which makes this museum one of the most innovative in Alicante. This cultural institution was founded in 1932 and has been at its current location, which used to be the Provincial Hospital of San Juan de Dios, since 2002.

Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA)

At this museum you will find one of those curious contrasts that characterise many cultural initiatives in Alicante. Because, paradoxically, it is housed in the oldest civil building in the city: an old grain warehouse built in 1685. Most of its pieces come from the artist Eugenio Sempere's collection and include works by Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí and Eduardo Chillida, among many other Spanish artists.



Bonfire Museum

At this unusual museum, visitors will be able to understand the importance, evolution and creativity of what is undoubtedly the most important and popular fiesta in Alicante, the Bonfires of Saint John, held in June. Apart from the striking pardoned ninots, there are also scale models of the most admired bonfires, as well as projections on the most relevant aspects of the fiesta.

Gravina Museum of Fine Arts (MUBAG)

The museum's collection includes works by artists from Alicante, or linked to the province, from the Middle Ages to the first half of the 20th century. All of them donated by the council. In addition, visitors can enjoy a comprehensive annual programme of temporary exhibitions, mainly focused on figurative art. The museum occupies the 18th-century Gravina Palace, which was a private residence and the Provincial Archives.

The Ocean Race Museum

This original space traces the history of this around the world race, which in 2023 started off in Alicante. Here you will find out some interesting details about the seas and oceans, and get closer to the exploits of some of the most intrepid navigators on the planet.



Lucentum Archaeological Site

This site is located about 3 kilometres from the city centre. Visiting it you will be able to discover the interesting remains of the city of Lucentum, the origin of the current Alicante. The excavation covers 2.5 hectares and is one of the best preserved and documented Roman cities in the Region of Valencia. Many of the objects and works of art found here can be admired at the Provincial Archaeological Museum.





Museo de Belenes

Museum of Nativity Scenes

If you like Christmas and its traditions, you will enjoy this museum as much as a child. It is home to a vast collection of these types of popular depictions of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is located in one of the most traditional houses in the old quarter.



*Discover history through
Alicante's shelters*

Air raid shelter visitor centre

On Calle Italia opposite Plaza de Séneca, this centre is a valuable testimony to the tragedy of the Civil War (1936-39) in the city, which was the last bastion of the Government of the Second Republic. It includes a guided visit to the shelters at Plaza de Séneca and Doctor Balmis, which are two of the 94 shelters catalogued from those times in Alicante.



MUSA

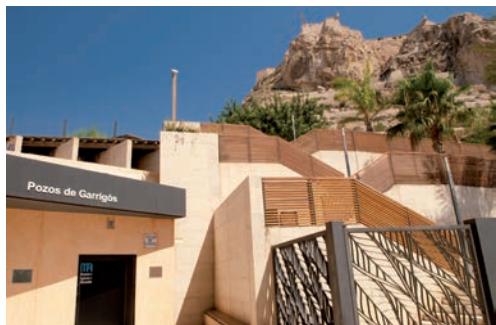
Alicante City Museum (MUSA)



Housed inside Santa Bárbara Castle, the collections on display in its ten rooms provide numerous details on the city's history and way of life from prehistoric times to the present day. Both the Renaissance cistern and the dungeon are sure to attract your attention.

Water Museum and Garrigós Wells

Both spaces are located on the Santa Bárbara Castle hill. In the first, a space spread over three floors, you will be able to learn how the people of Alicante have supplied themselves with fresh water over the centuries. The second are historic cisterns, some from the Muslim era and the rest from between the 16th and 19th centuries.



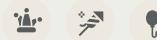


/The fun is on the street

Fiestas and traditions

Moros y Cristianos (Moors and Christians)

This celebration commemorates the historic times around the 13th century when these lands were contested by Moors and Christians. The protagonists are the richly dressed *filas* on each side who parade with loud fireworks through different neighbourhoods throughout the year: Villafranqueza (March), San Blas (July), Altozano (August) and San Nicolás (December).



This celebration commemorates the conflict between Moors and Christians over these lands

Easter

The most interesting thing about this religious celebration in the city is that, along with the religious images and liturgical ceremonies, the Mediterranean plays a leading role. Above all during the Vía Crucis, which celebrates the brotherhood of Cristo del Morenet by the bay (Good Friday). On the other hand, on Easter Sunday, the images of the Virgen de la Alegría and the risen Christ travel through the centre of Alicante until reaching the touching Encuentro.

Carnival

This permissive, pagan celebration has a central event in Alicante, Saturday Ramblero, when this important street in the city fills with thousands of people in costumes, each according to their taste and creativity, dancing, drinking and having fun until dawn. You will also be struck by the Pregón and the Burial of the Sardine; the latter tradition marks the end of the Carnival celebrations.

Romeria of Santa Faz

This is considered one of the most important in the country. It takes place two Thursdays after Easter and congregates approximately 300,000 people around the Monastery of Santa Faz, about 5 kilometres from the limits of Alicante. There are several paraetas throughout the 8 kilometres of this Vía Crucis at which sweet treats and drinks are distributed. Around the monastery, home to the relic of the face of Christ imprinted on cloth, numerous craft and gastro stalls are set up where you can stock up for the great collective meal in the open air that is one of this fiesta's main attractions.





To consider

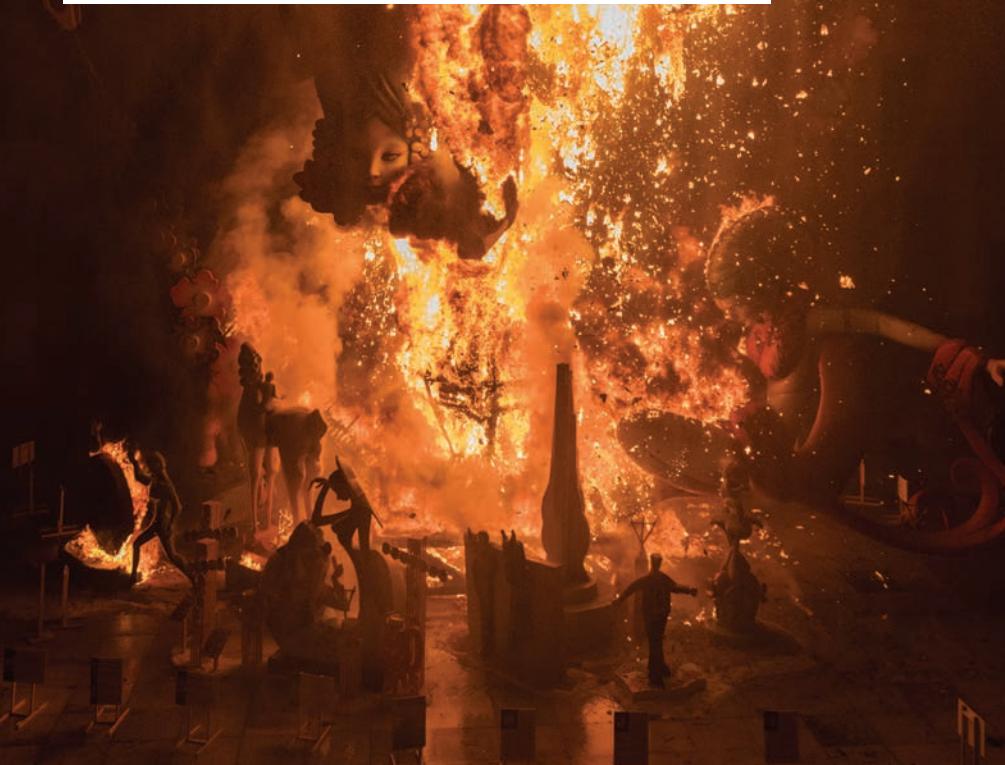
- After the Cremà, on the night of the 24th, the fiesta continues for a few more days through the official fireworks contest and traditional dances.
-
-



/Of International Tourist Interest

The Bonfires of Saint John

This is the city's big fiesta, around 24 June. As such, most of its residents and also many visitors participate in it. It marks the start of summer and has been declared to be of International Tourist Interest. On the city's main streets and squares, you can admire around 90 artistic compositions, monuments featuring ninots (allegorical figures) made from wood, cardboard and other materials. The city dresses up for celebrating with Les Fogueres (Ninot Parade, Entrada de Bandas, Flower Offerings, International Folklore Parade, *mascletás*, as well as the orchestras and fiestas of the *barracas*). These fiestas culminate on 24 June with the launching, from Benacantil, of the palm tree fireworks display, which starts the Cremà of the monuments and the popular public *banyà* by fire-fighters to alleviate the heat of the night.



03/

ALICANTE'S

cuisine





Produce and tradition at the table

Alicante is a coastal city, yes. But it is also closely connected to the rural world. That's why Alicante's gastronomy is a skilful blend between produce that comes from the sea and what is grown and produced inland. From rice and seafood dishes to stews based on pulses, meat and vegetables, such as *puchero con pelota*. And this is also evident in the chapter on sweets, an art with which Alicante's master confectioners have given the rest of the world a product that is as well-known as it is desirable: *turrón*.

Paellas and other rice dishes are seasoned with the most diverse ingredients, among which those caught in the Mediterranean stand out for their flavour; giant red shrimp, lobster and langoustines. Another marine delicacy that you shouldn't miss is the sepionet cuttlefish, from the same family as the cuttlefish, but smaller and with an intense flavour. Cooked on the grill, it's something that will remain forever in your taste and smell memories.

Locally-caught fish is used to make cruet de peix (a kind of stew), llandeta (which mixes monkfish, mackerel, mantis shrimp, potatoes and rice) and bull amb ceba, made with pieces of salted tuna and an onion-based sauté. In fact, salted fish is very common in Alicante and the rest of the Region of Valencia, a custom inherited from the times when salt was the only possible preservation system.

/Cooking

Alicante's dishes and products



On the other hand, the province's inland farmland is the source of ingredients for dishes that are no less appetising. For example, puchero con pelota (a type of stew with meatballs), figatells (made with different kinds of meat) and the well-known cocas, of which there are endless versions, including the ever-popular coca amb tonyina (with tuna).



From rice and seafood dishes to stews based on pulses, meat and vegetables, such as puchero con pelota

To wash these dishes down, the best option is to try any of the wines with the Alicante Designation of Origin, which in the different sub-zones range from fruity whites to Monastrell-based reds, as expressive as the aged Fondillón. To round off a meal or to pair with some of Alicante's sweets, we recommend a glass of muscatel, also with a local designation of origin.



Rice

Alicante, like the entire Region of Valencia, is a land of rice. So here you should really try Alicante-style rice with its multiple variants. Highlights include *salmorreta* (sauce made with a sauté of ñora chilli and garlic), *arroz a banda*, *arròs negre*, *caldero* and rice with rabbit and snails, among others.

/ For those with a sweet tooth

The most traditional sweets



The gastronomic product from Alicante that is best-known beyond the Region of Valencia is without a doubt turrón. The two versions, from Alicante (hard) and Jijona (soft), with their own official designation of origin, are never missing from Christmas tables all around the country and in many other parts of the world.

Peladilla sugared almonds and torta d'ametlla (almond tart) are also typical of Alicante city

Turrón from
Alicante has
its own
Designation
of Origin





and province. The city also has a great fondness for convent sweets. Delicious examples include *almojábanas* (or *almojábenas*), *pasteles de gloria*, *monas* and *toñas*.

You cannot ignore the fact that La Vila Joiosa is the production centre for one of the best chocolates in the country, which can be drunk hot or eaten directly as a bar of chocolate. Nor the fact that in Alicante, as in other parts of the Region of Valencia, the production of artisan ice cream has reached the status of a true art form.



/ Not to be missed

Gastronomic traditions

Alicante's fiestas would be much less without their gastronomic elements.

In fact, the celebrations are sometimes just an excuse to enjoy one of the things that people from Alicante like to do the most: get together with friends and family for lunch, an afternoon snack or dinner.

This happens during the Bonfires of Saint John. During these fiestas, *cocas amb tonyina* and figs are the stars, taking advantage of the fact that they are in season. Very typical are lunches and dinners on the street in *racós* and *barracas* to enjoy *esmorzaret alacantí* (fried eggs with salted sardines and sautéed tomatoes and dried peppers). Many of these lunches and dinners are 'bring your own', so everyone brings a dish of something, which is then shared with others.





To consider

Lastly, in the early hours of the morning it's common to have a break to recharge your batteries with a midnight snack (or second dinner), which sometimes includes rice dishes.



04/

ALICANTE AS

*a
family*





Parks, promenades and much more

Alicante is, of course, a very welcoming city for families. The fact of having several beaches, most with shallow seabeds, means if you're travelling with small children you can plan a wonderful holiday here. There are also many open spaces here (parks, promenades and pedestrian areas) where children can feel free, away from traffic and without any dangers. There are also several museums and cultural and educational activities especially focused on families with minors.



/Places

Activities to enjoy as a family

Parque del Palmeral

Parque del Palmeral

Located to the south of the city, this green space is a true oasis with numerous palm trees. Here little ones and their families can have a great time enjoying its ponds and artificial rivers, crossed by wooden walkways. The width of its tree-lined paths make it an ideal place for children to run and play to their heart's content.



Plaza de Gabriel Miró

This is one of the most secluded and well-kept green spaces in the city, right in the historic centre. The perfect place to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city and cool off, especially in summer, thanks to the shade of the enormous centuries old ficus, palm trees, bougainvillea and other plants in the square. Without a doubt, this is a great place for children to discover some botanical species that are unusual at these latitudes.

Panteón de Quijano

Very close to the bullring, this park is one of the most beloved and respected by the people of Alicante, built around the memorial to the mayor Trino González Quijano. Both the park and the funeral monument itself are a tribute from the city to this leader's heroism during the cholera epidemic in the mid-19th century, which decimated a large part of the population. It is a good place to have a rest during a visit to the city.



A lot of open spaces where children can feel free.

Parc Lo Morant

This is the largest urban park in Alicante, located to the northeast, not too close to the historic centre (about 3 kilometres away). An ideal place for you to enjoy a long walk, relax by the lake, have a picnic in its picnic areas, play in the children's areas and enjoy the abundant trees and other plants.





La Marjal Floodable Park

La Marjal Floodable Park

This innovative green space very close to San Juan beach. The innovation here is that it is the first floodable park in the Region of Valencia, specially designed to mitigate flooding during the periods of torrential rains. It is intended to promote the natural function that marshes fulfil. That is, the marshland that peppers a large part of the Mediterranean coast. From an environmental point of view, this is a valuable ecosystem inhabited by underwater plants and birds such as kingfishers.

Water Museum

At this institution, you will find an area specially dedicated to children that is very educational, located on the first floor. Through experiments, interactive games and audiovisual elements, little ones can learn about the three states of water (liquid, solid and gas), how it reaches our homes and, of course, its fundamental importance in the life cycle.

The University's Bosque Ilustrado

To visit this large park, you need to go to Sant Vicent del Raspeig, right next to the University. Once here, children will enjoy watching the ducks, swans and fish that live in the small pond. As well as running around the various paths and squares flanked by abundant native plant life. There are 100 palm trees in the Embajada de Elche area, donated by Elche city, together with a reproduction of the famous Lady of Elche.



There are 100 palm trees in the Embajada de Elche area, donated by Elche city



Canalejas Park

Canalejas Park

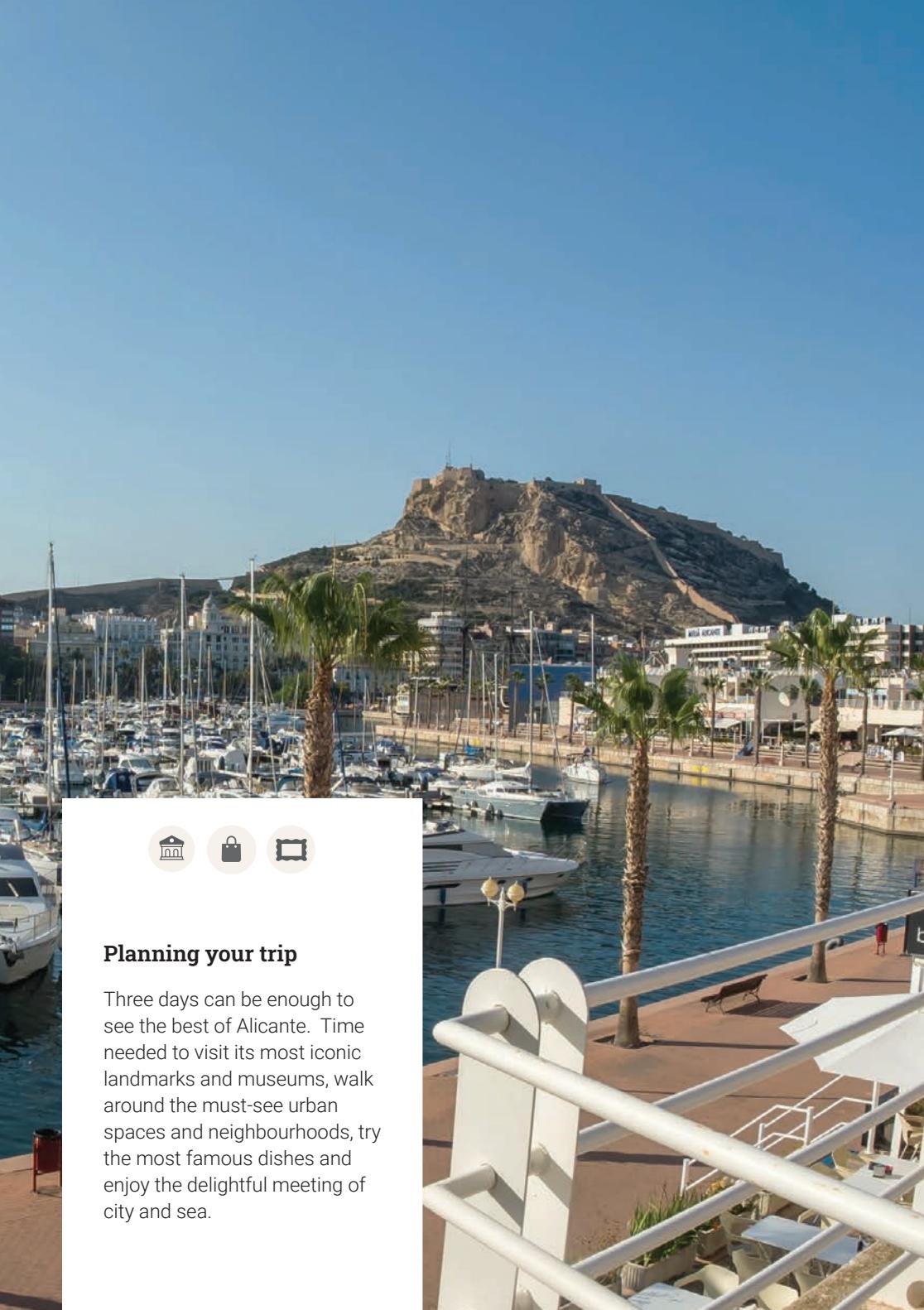
This is the oldest park in Alicante and owes its name to the president of the Council of Ministers at the beginning of the 20th century. It is home to centuries old ficus, sculptures of lions and dogs, a fountain that represents the arrival of water in the city and a monument dedicated to the writer Carlos Arniches.

05/

ALICANTE IN

3
days





Planning your trip

Three days can be enough to see the best of Alicante. Time needed to visit its most iconic landmarks and museums, walk around the must-see urban spaces and neighbourhoods, try the most famous dishes and enjoy the delightful meeting of city and sea.



Santa Cruz

Day 1: Essential Alicante

A complete visit to Alicante should begin with its historic quarter, grown at the foot of Santa Bárbara Castle. This area is known as Santa Cruz, and it is here where many of the city's most iconic landmarks are located.

You can start with the Co-Cathedral of San Nicolás, without missing its 15th century cloister. Very close is the Town Hall with its historic façade and an interior that also merits a very good look. As an interesting fact, on the first step of the hall here you will see the 'cota cero', or zero level, which is the reference to calculate the elevation or height of any geographical point in Spain.

To finish the morning, you can go to the Basilica of Santa María and admire its artistic chapels. After the visit, for lunch we



Basílica de Santa María



Town Hall

recommend Calle Labradores which, despite being one of the narrowest in Alicante's historic quarter, is home to a good number of bars and restaurants, ideal for quick tapas or a leisurely sit down meal.

The afternoon of this first day can be spent going up to Santa Bárbara Castle and contemplating the best panoramic views of Alicante from there. As well as visiting the museums and historic spaces housed in the three areas of the castle. Including the Alicante City Museum (MUSA), Water Museum and Garrigós Wells.

For the evening and night-time, with an appetiser, dinner, drinks and fun afterwards, the most popular and busy option is around the marina, between Avenida Ramón y Cajal and Paseo del Puerto Viejo.



Day 2: Cosmopolitan and modern Alicante

Our proposal for your second day in Alicante is to explore several of its most iconic urban spaces. Beginning with Explanada de España, the long tree-lined promenade parallel to the sea, which leads to Plaza de la Puerta del Mar and Postiguet beach. It is, without a doubt, one of the nicest places to meet in the city.

Right next to it is Plaza de Gabriel Miró, also known as Plaza de Correos, with its leafy ficus. You can also find these plants at another square close-by, Plaza del Portal de Elche. The perfect surroundings to have a mid-morning coffee at one of its bars and terraces.

This square opens onto Rambla Méndez Núñez, the main axis of Alicante's old quarter, where you can discover shops, restaurants, accommodation and some of the most iconic buildings in the city. These include the Torre Provincial and Hotel Gran Sol buildings.

When it's time for lunch, a good idea is to go into the Central Market to have a look at the best ingredients in Alicante and Valencian gastronomy, and then choose one of the many restaurants in the area. The options range from local cuisine to more international flavours.



For the afternoon, our proposal includes an in-depth visit to the MARQ, that is, the Alicante Provincial Archaeological Museum, which exhibits the most important finds discovered at its different historic sites (Cova de l'Or, Santuario de Pla de Petracos, Tossal de Manises and Illeta dels Banyets). All displayed in a way adapted to current (and technological) times.

Then you can go to see the impressive Plaza de los Luceros, the most iconic in Alicante's historic centre, presided over by a large monumental fountain, the work of Daniel Bañuls Martínez from Alicante. This place is the epicentre of numerous celebrations, from the *masclétas* of the city's main celebrations, to the Bonfires of Saint John and the Three Wise Men Parade. It is on



Explanada de España



Accessible Alicante

Both the urban bus network and the tram have vehicles adapted for people with reduced mobility. In addition, most of the pavements are lowered to enable mobility. On the other hand, Alicante's urban beaches have ramps and walkways on which to get to the sea with prams and wheelchairs.



Casa de las Brujas

the axis formed by Avenida del Doctor Gadea, Federico Soto and General Marvá, lined with some sumptuous modernist and later buildings. Among them, Casa de las Brujas, dating from 1911, which is the headquarters of the Generalitat Valenciana in Alicante.

At night, the option is to walk around El Barrio, an area located between Rambla de Méndez Núñez and Plaza de San Cristóbal, El Carmen and La Santísima Faz. There are bars and nightlife venues there, each catering to a different kind of audience.

Day 3: Alicante and the sea

You can dedicate this last day to admiring the delightful meeting of Alicante and the Mediterranean. Mainly on its beaches. Of them all, the one in San Juan is without a doubt the most spectacular; you can get there both with your own vehicle and by public transport. Whatever the option, the best thing would be to spend at least one morning exploring it and enjoying all that this great stretch of coast has to offer.

You can eat at any of the beach bars and restaurants along the promenade. Of course, this is a great place to try some of the delicious traditional rice dishes while contemplating the beauty of the Mediterranean.

You can then go to the port of Alicante, where boat trips to Tabarca islet leave from. The journey takes around an hour and, once on the island, you can admire the historic fortifications and the population centre where the only islanders in the Region of Valencia live.





Tabarca islet

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How to get around

The distances between the main points of attraction in the city are short; between the historic quarter, the port and Santa Bárbara Castle. The best option to get around the centre of Alicante is on foot. However, there are several bicycle and electric scooter rental companies. You also have the option of getting on the Turibús, with stops at the main points of interest.

To travel longer distances, for example, to the beaches furthest from the city centre, you have the urban bus and tram service, which is definitely the most efficient way of getting around Alicante.

To travel to the towns located between Alicante and Dénia, there is the metropolitan tram; the route runs parallel to the coast.



One of the most evident signs of Alicante's cosmopolitan character is shopping here. You will find stores of many fashion and accessories firms. But also spaces where you can acquire some of the most beautiful items made by local craftspeople. And, next to them, seasonal clothing stores, gastro shops and, of course, souvenirs from this land.

These include basketry and ceramics, pieces in which the craftspeople of the Region of Valencia demonstrate great mastery, inherited from long centuries of specialisation in this kind of production. The footwear industry and leather-working in general also stands out. Apart from being items of indisputable quality, many of them are still made with manual techniques.





Central Market in Alicante

Central Market in Alicante

Apart from its indisputable historic value, it is worth going to the Central Market to discover and try the most select gastronomic delicacies from this land. At its almost 300 stalls, spread over two floors, you can buy everything from fresh produce (fish and shellfish, meat, and fruit and vegetables) to salted meat, pickles, wine and other beverages. As well as *turrón* and other sweet temptation.

Craft pieces and gastronomic products make excellent souvenirs



Shopping centres

There are many and diverse shopping centres to visit in the municipality of Alicante, both in terms of the types of products for sale and in terms of design, size and services. The most popular are Gran Vía, Plaza Mar 2 and Vistahermosa. Near Alicante in the municipality of Sant Vicent del Raspeig is The Outlet Stores Alicante.

How to get there



Alicante city is very well connected with the main towns in the Region of Valencia and the rest of the country, including Madrid and Barcelona. This is thanks to its international airport (around 9 kilometres from the centre), and the high-speed train, which goes to the Alicante-Terminal station.

It is also very close to the AP-7 motorway, which runs along the entire Mediterranean coast, and the A-31 motorway, which goes inland. There are also several bus services that connect Alicante with cities such as València, Albacete, Murcia and Madrid, as well as many other towns in the province.

When to go to Alicante

You can visit Alicante at any time of the year. The truth is that the climate is particularly kind to this city, even during the winter. For example, in January (the coldest month) maximum temperatures can exceed 17°C in the middle of the day. On the other hand, summer is warm, with maximum temperatures around 31°C.



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