



La Vall d'Uixó is a city in the province of Castellón, 10 minutes from the Mediterranean Sea and is the gateway to the "Sierra de Espadán" Natural Park. The city's main tourist attraction is, without any doubt, "Les Coves de Sant Josep" ("Saint Josep Caves"), which shelters the longest navigable underground river in Europe.

In the Belcaire River valley archaeological evidence of human presence, especially near Les Coves de Sant Josep, dates from the Palaeolithic onwards, when groups of hunter-gatherers dwelled in the caves and the Iberians and Romans also lived on the land; but the modern city layout came about during the Andalusian age. In the shadow of Uixó Castle, that lends the city its name, several farmhouses were arranged along the irrigation channel that was first laid out by the Romans to supply water to the population from the Coves de Sant Josep spring. From the 17th century onwards, the farmhouses were unified into two urban centres (the upper town: "El Lloc de Dalt" and the lower town: "El Lloc de Baix") around two historic parish churches: The Angel Parish Church and the Asunción Parish Church. With the end of the Carlist wars, in the late 19th century, La Vall d'Uixó underwent an industrialization process centred on the footwear industry, culminating with the installation of the Segarra Factory.

All this history makes the town an important centre for services that is welcoming and rich in culture and diversity.

Main sights:

1-Coves de Sant Josep

Les Coves de Sant Josep is an exceptional jewel of nature that allows the visitor to enter the depths of the Espadán Mountain Range through a passage traced by water for millennia. In addition to this one-of-a-kind underground landscape, Les Coves de Sant Josep and its surroundings are an exceptional cultural enclave: with paintings and prehistoric engravings at the cave entrance that are unique to the region and declared UNESCO World Heritage; as well as the "Poblado de Sant Josep", an Iberian settlement next to the "Sagrada Familia" Chapel.

2-"Sagrada Familia" Chapel

A 17th century baroque chapel dedicated to the Holy Family. Its most important characteristic is the interior decoration of the dome. On the left, attached to the chapel, is the Museum of Sacred Art, located inside the old hermitage.

3-"Poblado de Sant Josep" (archaeological site)

The archaeological site of an ancient settlement from the 6th B.C. to the 5th century A.D. It is located on top of the hill that conceals the underground Coves de Sant Josep river. This heritage has been declared a Site of Cultural Interest (Bien de Interés Cultural) by the State Administration and contains remains from two different stages of occupation: during the Iberian period (from the 6th to the 2nd century B.C.) and the Late Roman period (from the 4th to the 5th century A.C.).



Sant Josep Aqueduct

4-Sant Josep and Alcudia Aqueducts

The outstanding element of the water system that supplied water from the cave to the town is the San José Aqueduct. It was presumably built by the Romans, although the three central pointed arches are clearly a reconstruction from around the 14th century. Next to it, the Alcudia Aqueduct formed by a semicircular arch still stands, as well as two mills that date back to Medieval times. In front of the Sant Josep Aqueduct is the "Fábrica de la Luz" power plant from the early 20th century, the future headquarters of the Archaeological Museum.



Coves de Sant Josep

5-"Nuestra Señora del Rosario" Chapel

A small 18th century chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, possibly built over a mosque. It is the spiritual heart of the Alcudia neighbourhood, one of the farmhouses that gave form to the present urban area. It is the centre of the Auroreros or Aurorers, a popular, religious choir song, part of the city's intangible heritage.

6-Benigafull Tower

Archaeological remains of the 14th century high tower attached to the Duke of Segorbe Palace, the town's feudal lord. The municipal coat of arms is inspired by this tower.

7-Saint Custodian Angel Parish Church

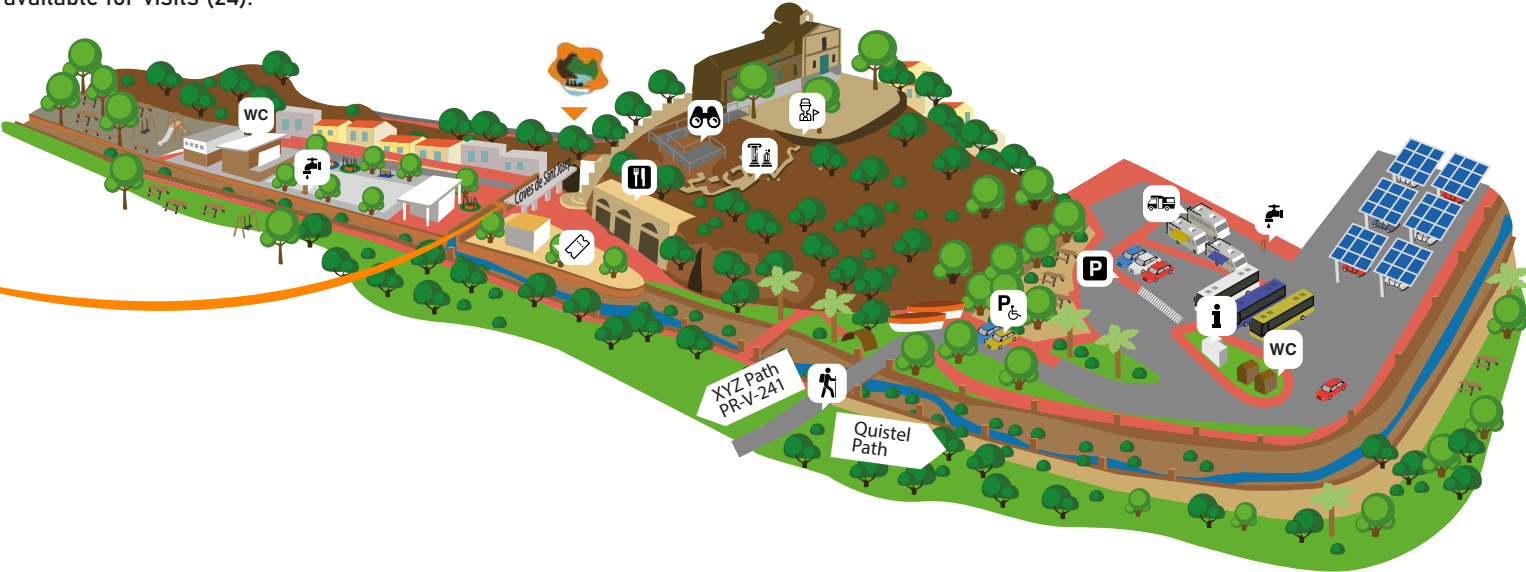
The "El Lloc de Dalt" Parish Church is one of the old urban centres. It is dedicated to the Guardian Angel. Construction started in the 17th century, but was extended in the 18th with the construction of a blue, tiled dome, typical in the Mediterranean area. The Jose de Vergara fresco collection, the artist who painted "La Gloria" (The Glory) around 1760 is a highlight. "La Virgen de los Ángeles", a 17th century canvas oil painting, also stands out.

8-City Hall

The current City Hall was inaugurated in 1931, with the celebration of the concession of its city title. Built in a neo-baroque style, it serves as the union between the two urban areas of the city: "El Lloc de Dalt" and "El Lloc de Baix".

9-"Nuestra Señora de la Asunción" Parish Church

A breathtaking example of religious architecture, it started to be built in the 18th century. Its magnificent façade, highlighted by a bell tower, was finished in 1791. By climbing the tower, the visitor can not only see the seven bells, but also admire wonderful views of the mountains and the sea. In the same square, in front of the church, there is the early 18th century Count of Ripalda Manor House, as well as an underground cistern from the XVII century, which will be soon be available for visits (24).



10-Benizahat Tower

The last visible remains of the ancient farmhouses that form the historical area stand at the heart of the Benizahat centre that was a defensive tower from the 11th century. At the end of the street, on top of the mountain, lie the clearly recognisable ruins of the Uixó Castle, which give the valley its current name.

11-"San Vicente Ferrer" Chapel

This building consists of a single nave with chapels between buttresses. The festivity dedicated to Saint Vicente Ferrer, in April, is celebrated around this chapel. This and the festival dedicated to the Holy Family and Christ in October have both been recognised as festivities of national tourist interest.

19-Palacio de Vivel - Cultural Center

Summer house of the Marquis of Vivel. It was built in the twenties, during the Belle Époque. It is currently an active cultural centre that hosts diverse expositions and cultural acts.

21-Colonia Segarra

La Vall d'Uixó could not be understood without the Segarra Footwear Factory, which was the most important shoe-wear production centre in Spain in the 20th century. In this neighbourhood, built around 1940, one can distinguish a unique industrial colony, with single family homes surrounded by gardens. Originally, the quarter had its own school, church and company shop. At the entrance stands the clock tower, the former house of the doctors working in the factory clinic.

22-Spanish Civil War Bunker of "La Cova"

Remains of "Línea XYZ", a line of defence constructed by the Republican Army during the Spanish Civil War (1936 - 1939) to stop the advance of troops commanded by Franco. The length of this fortified line is almost 150 km.

Along two easy foothill paths ("Línea XYZ") part of the remains of this historical and military heritage can be discovered.

23-Hispano-Roman Necropolis

A burial site from the 4th - 6th century, when the Vall d'Uixó area was immersed in confrontations between Visigoths and Byzantines. In fact, part of the people buried here died violently, probably in battle.

25-"Cristo" Chapel

A small chapel constructed at the end of the 18th century. This temple dedicated to Christ has a central layout and is the old graveyard chapel

26-Calzados Segarra Shoe Museum

Founded in 1882, Calzados Segarra is the oldest footwear factory in Spain. This is an exhibition space where you can discover the origins of a company that began producing rope-soled sandals and became the engine for economic development of the region.

