

Immerse yourself in the Region of Valencia

The province of Castelló has a multitude of almost virgin coast and practically deserted beaches in protected natural spaces. In terms of seabeds, it has one of the most sought-after places for divers in all of Europe: the Columbretes islands.

Located 30 nautical miles from the mainland, this volcanic archipelago declared a Natural Park hides one of the richest and best preserved seafloors in the western Mediterranean. Its status as a Marine Reserve is in line with its high level of protection and its limitation on activities. You will need to prove some experience to be able to dive here, but in return, you will find crystal clear water brimming with life and few divers present.

Beyond this natural paradise, the province of Castelló offers many other options, such as the numerous dives available in Alcalá de Xivert-Alcossebre and Oropeza del Mar, or you can even visit shipwrecks in Borriana.

Although the coastline of the province of València is dominated by sandy beaches, which are perfect for swimming, if you go a little further out to sea, you will find rocky seabeds full of life in its many nooks and crannies. If you go to Cullera or Canet de Berenguer, you can enjoy interesting dives without travelling far from the large urban centres of Valencia's coast.



The rich seafloor of the province of Alicante includes several locations that offer highly-differentiated diving experiences. The first of these areas, from north to south, is the Montgó Natural Park and San Antonio Marine Reserve, which include Xàbia and Dénia. In this area, you can find a multitude of small caves full of life, an inter-play of light between the rocks and vertical walls. Among its inhabitants, there is an abundant coralligenous community, extensive Posidonia meadows and other denizens such as groupers, croakers, lobsters, moray eels and octopus, to name a few.

The next area is the coastline between the Penyà d'Irach Natural Park and Cap d'Or, where the municipalities of Calp, Moraira, Benissa and El Poble Nou Benitaxell are located. Under these waters, you can go through arches that open between the rocks like incredible blue windows, and experience varied and luminous seabeds and the wrecks of ancient vessels conquered by marine life. This location also offers very interesting routes for snorkelling and getting started in the world of diving.

Continuing south, you will find the Serra Gelada Natural Park between Altea and Benidorm. This area, located between two tourist towns, is extensively protected and its seafloor at the foot of cliffs and mountains will give you the opportunity to visit small caves full of light, islands teeming with life and an abundance of species

typical of destinations further away from the coast. Nearby is La Llosa de Benidorm, an underwater mountain that is home to a wide variety of Mediterranean fauna and flora. Tabarca islet should also be mentioned; the first Marine Reserve declared in Spain. A small archipelago 1,800 m long and 400 m wide whose main island, only 0.3 km², is the only inhabited island in the entire Region of Valencia. In addition to an exciting history, it has spectacular seabeds thanks to its distance from the mainland (around 3 nautical miles from Santa Pola) and its protection as a Marine Reserve.



Discover the main diving areas with unique options for all tastes

REGION OF VALENCIA
MEDITERRANEAN ATTITUDE

Immerse yourself in this naturally-colored environment

Diving / map

Thank you for visiting!

GENERALITAT VALENCIANA TURISME

Make your stay in the Region of Valencia a truly special experience.

www.regionofvalencia.com

It all starts at regionofvalencia.com

Follow us and share!

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok icons

Key icons

- Diving locations (blue circle with anchor icon)
- Sports and activities (blue circle with swimmer icon)
- Marinas, ports and sailing clubs (blue circle with boat icon)
- Natural reserves (blue circle with tree icon)
- Nautical Schools (blue circle with compass icon)
- Museums (blue circle with book icon)

- Main dive points
- Castelló. Barra Alta.
 - Castelló. Reserva Marina de Islas Columbretes.
 - Burriana. Pecos Litri - Cala Egos.
 - Sagunto. Peco SS Colla.
 - Valencia. Peco La Draga.
 - Valencia. Peco Ferrona.
 - Cullera. Las Corvas.
 - Dénia. Las Marinas.
 - Dénia. Peco Vaporet.
 - Dénia/Xàbia Reserva Marina Cap de Sant Antoni.
 - Xàbia. Escull del Cap de Sant Antoni.
 - Xàbia. Les Termes. (Illa Porritxol Sud).
 - Xàbia. Maria Claudia.
 - Xàbia. Escull de Sant Pere.
 - Xàbia. La Granadella.
 - Benitaxell. El Moraig.
 - Teulada-Moraira. Cap d'Or.
 - Calpe. Los Arcos.
 - Calpe. Cala el Racó.
 - Calpe / Altea. Morro de Toix.
 - Altea. Mascarat.
 - Altea. Cueva Elefante.
 - Altea. Isla Mitjana.
 - Altea. Benidorm. Isla.
 - Benidorm. Llosa.
 - Benidorm. 2ª Llosa.
 - La Vila Joiosa. Pecos.
 - El Campello. Caballón.
 - Reserva Marina de Interés Pesquero Isla de Tabarca.
 - Guardamar. Peco Mardianin.

Unique activities

The Region of Valencia, a luxury destination for diving

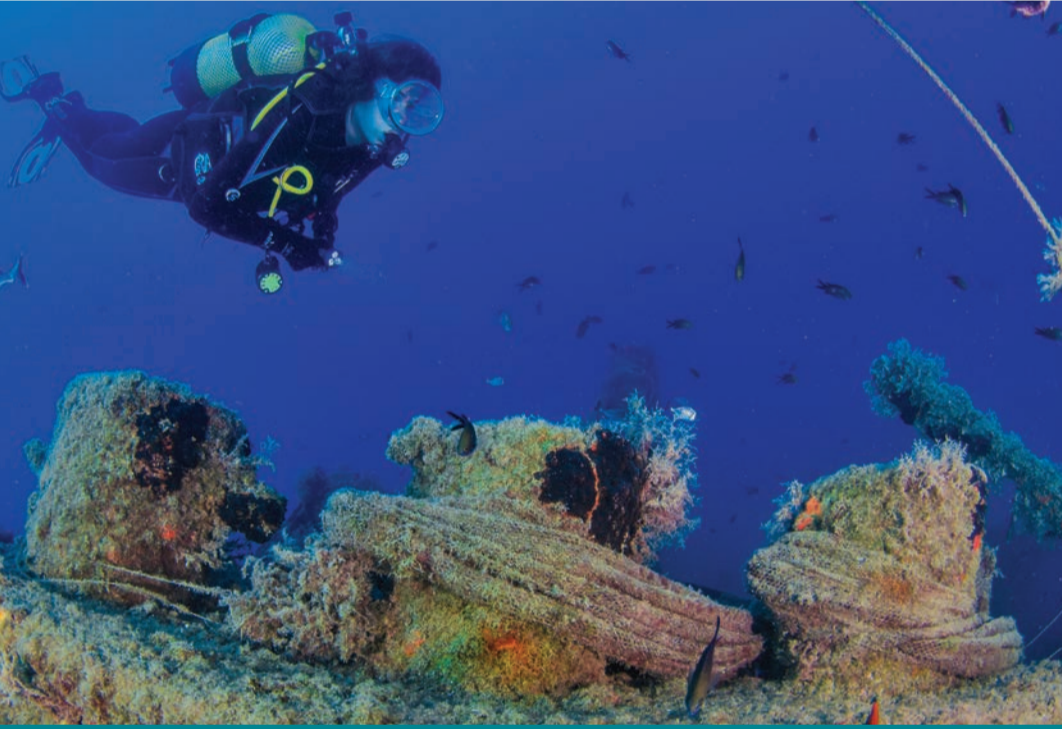
The Region of Valencia occupies a privileged location on the Spanish mainland coast, with more than 500 kilometres of Mediterranean coastline where you will find more than 30 diving centres. Its extensive seafloor is home to transparent waters and colourful environments of great natural value in which you can dive year round thanks to the mild water temperatures (14°C in winter, 19°C in spring and autumn, and 26°C in summer). The absence of strong winds and sea currents, as well as a coastline with a varied orientation and well-protected spaces, offers very comfortable dives, regardless of your level of experience. In fact, the conditions are perfect for family diving and try dives from 8 years of age.

Shipwrecks

A total of 14 sunken ships that date from Roman times to the First World War are hidden in the deep seas of the Region of Valencia; you can explore them scuba diving. However, ships from the European war, which are found on the coast of the province of Alicante, are very deep (60-80 metres) and dives to them are only carried out on an exceptional basis.

Of all of them, the shipwreck with the greatest archaeological value is the Bou Ferrer, the largest Roman shipwreck in the Mediterranean that rests in the waters of the Alicante town of La Vila Joiosa. It is a large Roman merchant ship loaded with lead ingots and garum that travelled from the south of Hispania to the Italian peninsula and probably sank seeking refuge on the coast from bad weather between 64 and 68 AD. Around a thousand metres from the coast and 25 metres deep, the site can be visited with a special permit and the support of specialist personnel. There is more information at www.bouferrer.org.

Other notable wrecks are the sunken cargo ships of Borriana, La Draga de la Pobla de Farnals (València) and the British merchant ship of Sagunto, sunk by a German submarine in the First World War.



The Llosas of Benidorm

The Llosa in Benidorm is a completely underwater mountain that rises from 35 metres to eight metres deep and is home to a fantastic representation of Mediterranean flora and fauna.

There is also a Second Llosa in these waters, an abrupt step that descends from 32 m deep to around 43 m. This is a dive reserved for very few scuba divers that hosts a high concentration of marine life, with lobsters, conger eels, gorgonia, nudibranchs and forkbeards as its main inhabitants.



Marine Reserves

The Region of Valencia is home to three extensive areas declared Marine Reserves that are ideal for diving. From north to south, the first is the Columbretes Islands Nature Reserve in the province of Castelló, which is located around 30 nautical miles from the Alcossebre marina in Alcalà de Xivert. Of volcanic origin, its remote location and the lack of human impact on it make it a highly desired location for experienced divers, where they can observe a high density of life.

Further south, adjoining the Montgó Natural Park between Xàbia and Dénia (Alicante), is the San Antonio Marine Reserve. Its topography of rocky seabeds hosts a large benthic community, as well as significant Posidonia meadows along with numerous species of fish and invertebrates.



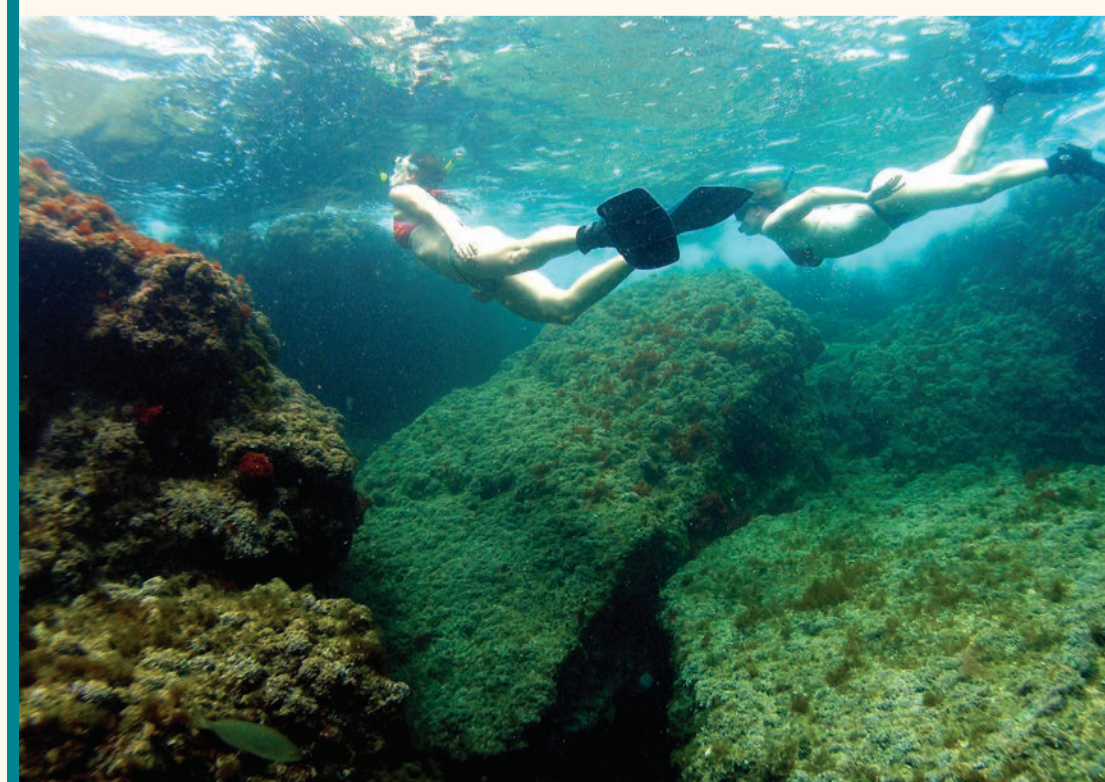
The southernmost marine reserve is also the oldest in Spain, none other than Tabarca islet, which received this pioneering designation in 1986. In its crystalline waters inhabit a great variety of less common species in the mainland seafloor, as well as very extensive Posidonia meadows. To dive here, you can spend the night in hotels on the island itself or sail from the Santa Pola diving centres.

In addition to these marine reserves, it is worth highlighting the Serra Gelada Natural Park as another essential destination for diving that is brimming with underwater life. This area is shared between Altea and Benidorm, two municipalities that have numerous tourist attractions, from which you can start various routes under these waters. The dives to the Llosas in Benidorm complement a very comprehensive offer in the heart of the Costa Blanca.

Snorkelling and diving at shallow depths

With some goggles, a tube and some fins you can discover extensive, beautiful submerged paradises throughout the Region of Valencia at a depth of just a few metres. On this seafloor, you will see fanciful rock formations, extensive Posidonia meadows, sponges, red sea stars, octopuses, numerous species of fish and even sea turtles.

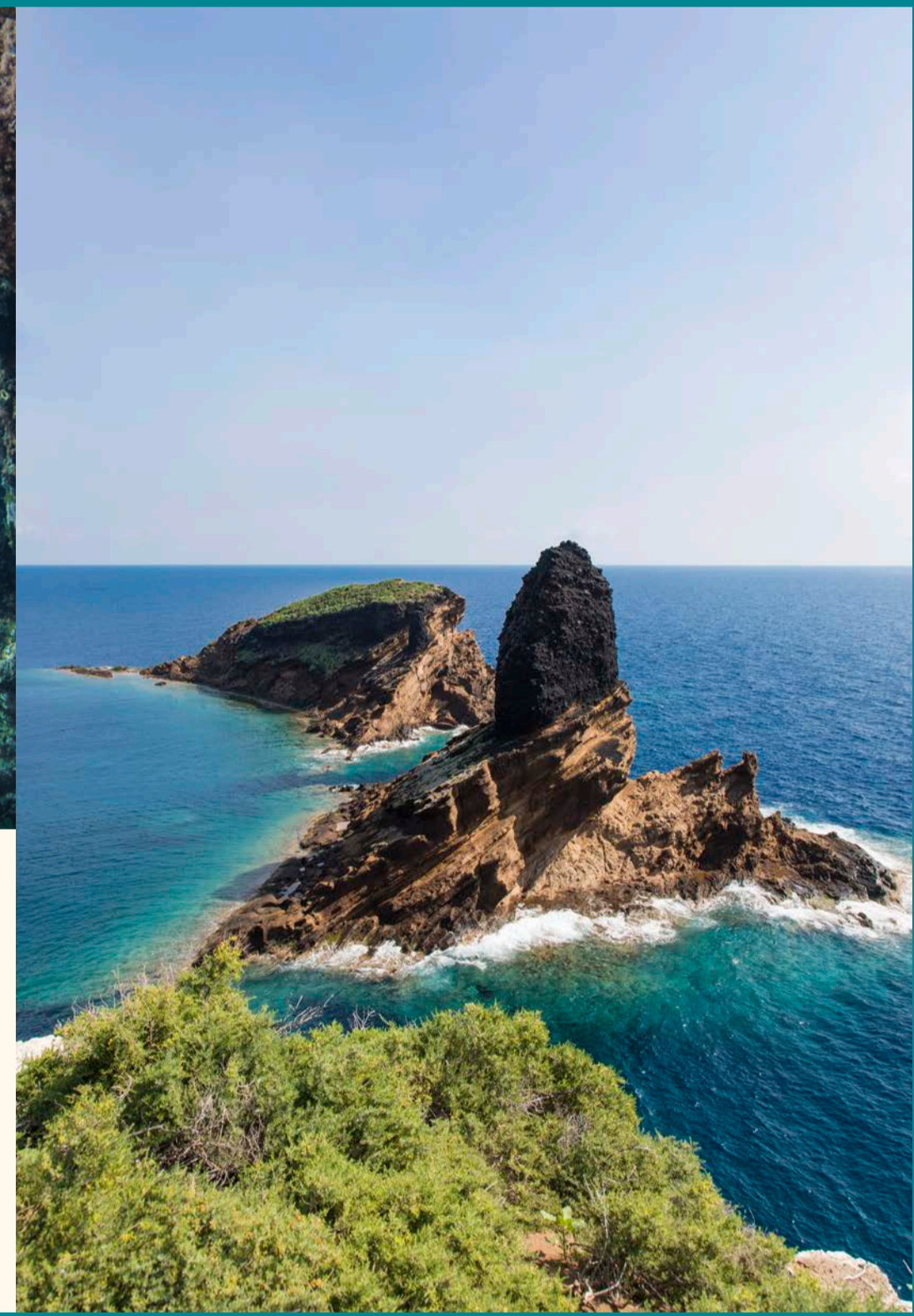
The many places to dive and snorkel include the route of the Roman Quarries in Pilar de la Horadada, Tabarca islet, the Illeta dels Banyets and los Baños de la Reina in El Campello, Los Estudiantes beach in Vila Joiosa, Tio Ximo cave in Benidorm, Mascaret in Altea, El Racó cave in Calpe, l'Advocat and El Baladrar coves in Benissa, Cap Blanc in Teulada-Moraira and Barraca cave in Xàbia.



Caves to discover

If you like the thrill of safely entering underwater caves and observing the life hidden inside, the depths of the seas of the Region of Valencia are home to caverns and areas full of small grottos. For example, in the Cabo San Antonio Marine Reserve, on Dénia's coastline, you can dive through Cullerà, a cave 9 m deep that will take you to 50 m inside the mountain. You need a permit for this dive.

Another option is the Elefante cave in Altea, which, together with the nearby Enanito cave, allows for an undemanding journey full of beautiful grottos and chimneys, whose contrasts in sea blue won't cease to amaze you. On Maria Clàudia, or Mona de l'illa islet (Xàbia), you will also find an interesting cavern with several openings on the descent of its vertical wall. And as one last recommendation, los Arcos de Calpe offer a seafloor full of crevices, ins and outs and large rock formations in the form of arches that create a captivating environment at a depth of about 15 metres.



Observing nature

The seafloor of the Region of Valencia shelters dazzling native biodiversity that can be observed through diving goggles, always with extreme care not to disturb or damage it. Among the most interesting animal species you can spot are the enormous Mediterranean groupers, moray eels, painted comber, the beautiful ornate wrasse and the elusive blennies. You can also find small fish with vivid red tones, such as cardinalfish or marine goldfish, and silver-coloured and larger species such as salps, sargo and tilapia.

These seabeds also harbour the colourful gorgonia, also known as sea fans, and the valuable Posidonia, an endemic Mediterranean plant that provides a habitat to a large number of plant and animal species in the meadows it forms and whose oxygenation and filtration functions are vital to maintaining water quality.



Leptogorgia sarmentosa



Pelagia noctiluca



Apogon imberbis



Felimida purpurea



Hippocampus guttulatus



Thalassoma pavo



Torpedo torpedo



Scorpaena scrofa



Museums

In the Region of Valencia, there are a good number of museums and exhibitions directly related to the sea and diving. To highlight some of the most important, in the province of Castelló, specifically in Peñíscola, you can find the Museu del Mar and its valuable archaeological pieces (some from the Phoenician era) on this population's relationship with the sea.

In the city of València, there is none other than the largest aquarium in Europe, the Oceanogràfic. Lateen Exhibitions are also held on Albufera lake, where you can learn about traditional fishing and this kind of ancestral navigation, which was declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in 2016.

Without leaving the province, the Comunitat Valenciana Historical Maritime Centre is located in Gandia, where meticulous and impressive scale boat reproductions are on display.

Among the museums you can visit in the province of Alicante, the town of Santa Pola has very important spaces: the municipal aquarium, which is the oldest in the entire Region of Valencia, the Esteban González Boat Museum, where you can discover all the details about trawling and its importance in the municipality, and the Museum of the Sea, which showcases the close relationship between Santa Pola and the Mediterranean. On the other hand, in Torrevieja (Alicante), you can visit an actual submarine as well as a patrol vessel, both declared "floating museums". In addition, the city of Alicante is home to the Ocean Race Museum, an interactive space dedicated to the prestigious regatta of the same name.



Safe, sustainable diving

We all have to do our part so that dives do not damage the environment. So keep these recommendations in mind:

-Respect all living things, no matter how small and insignificant they may seem, both when accessing the diving areas from the coast and during the dive. Do not harass or chase any animals, or pick up rocks that could expose them to predators. You should not feed the fish or take anything alive out of the water, rather, take photos as your souvenir.

-To avoid damaging the rocks or Posidonia meadows, anchor on the buoys set up for it, if this is not possible, use sandy clearings. You should also avoid dumping any kind of rubbish or waste on the coast or in the sea. If possible, you should even try to collect any floating rubbish or plastic you see to prevent animals ingesting it.

-Control your buoyancy during the descent so as not to end up landing on the seafloor, since much of the damage caused to the natural environment is involuntary from lack of care in the buoyancy. When moving forward, do not do so in large groups, stay at least a metre and a half from the bottom, avoiding strong flapping, and do not have any of your equipment hanging to prevent it from dragging or snagging on a protrusion.



Diving centres

Along the entire coast of the Region of Valencia, you can make use of over thirty diving centres. These are companies approved by the public authorities that offer everything you need for scuba diving, from equipment to training for try dives. You will find them in the most outstanding diving areas.

The website buceo.comunitatvalenciana.com includes a complete list of all the diving centres available.