

On course for Valencia



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On course for Valencia

Valencia

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An introduction to the city of Valencia

Valencia, 805,304 inhabitants in an area of 13,465 hectares.

The third most highly-populated city in Spain, it is located in the east of the Iberian Peninsula, on the Mediterranean coast.

Valencia is the capital of the Region of Valencia, one of 17 Autonomous Communities making up the Spanish state, which is in turn sub-divided into 53 provinces. Valencia is also capital of the province which bears its name. Valencia is therefore the administrative, political and, to a large degree, the economic capital of the Region of Valencia. Since 1982, the Valencians have had their own statute of autonomy, with their own regional government and official bodies such as La Generalitat, El Consell, Las Cortes Valencianas and El Tribunal Superior de Justicia.

With approximately 2,700 hours of sunshine per year and an average temperature varying from a minimum of 8° C in January, the coldest month, to a maximum of 33° C in August, the hottest month, Valencia enjoys an excellent average temperature of 20° C. A fact which, combined with very few rainy days concentrated in a few weeks of the year at the beginning of autumn, end of December and beginning of spring, means that Valencians enjoy warm sunny mornings almost every day of the year.

Perhaps it's the benign climate and the ever-present sunshine that make Valencia, such an open city, with countless open-air bars, restaurants and, above all, people out in the streets. Indeed, 76% of the working population is now employed in the services sector, a sector which has dethroned other, more traditional sectors such as agriculture. Another 17% work in industry, predominantly small and medium-sized companies, many of them family owned in a number of sectors with a long history in the region: furniture, textiles,

paper and graphic arts, footwear and clothing. Its strategic position on the Mediterranean means that Valencia is one of Europe's most important container ports.

Valencia in numbers

- Province: Valencia
- Region: L'Horta
- Inhabitants: 805,304 (Spanish Institute of Statistics - INE, 2006)
- Area: 134.6 km²
- Hotel capacity: 13,684 beds (2006)
- Number of restaurants: 1,604 (2006)
- Average temperature: 17° C



Catedral de Valencia and Miguelete



Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia



History of Valencia

Probably the best way to understand the history of Valencia is to visit the archaeological site in the **Plaza de la Almoína**, a square in the heart of the old town. A city, like almost all Mediterranean cities, rebuilt time and again on the remains of the different civilisations which have left their mark on its history. This means that in the Plaza de la Almoína you can see the remains of the Roman *Valentia* and on top of them, Visigothic and Arab constructions, with remains from the Christian Era above them. And so on

until we reach the nineteenth-century buildings which, when demolished, revealed the archaeological site. Tito Livio, the Roman historian, tells us that *Valentia* was founded in 138 B.C. on a marshy island in the middle of the River Turia to reward retired Roman soldiers with new land.



Valencia at sunset

The Roman era

Valentia means “strength and good luck”. However, the prosperity of the city didn’t last long and, in 75 B.C., it was laid to waste during the war between Pompey and Sertorius. The ruins at the Almoína site contain the ancient Roman “El Cardo” street and traces of the destruction of the city have also been found. After the war Valencia was abandoned until it was repopulated in the time of the Emperor Octavian (20-15 B.C.). From then until the 3rd Century, the city enjoyed a period of growth and development which led to the construction of

public buildings and infrastructure, such as the river port, located where the Torres de Serranos are today.

The development of the city coincided with the birth and progressive expansion of Christianity. This period saw the arrival of the Deacon of the diocese of Caesaraugusta (Saragossa), better known as **St. Vincent Martyr**. San Vicente is the patron saint of the city and arrived in Valencia in 304 A.D. to promote the new Christian faith, but was condemned to death and martyred. His remains

were cast into the sea, but were recovered by the first Christians of the city, who buried him in a place which was to become a centre for pilgrimage. There are very few fountains or other remains from Visigothic times and the latest finds were made in the L'Almoína site next to the Cathedral.

Splendour returned to Balansiya thanks to the **kings of Taifas** (1010), Mubarak, Muzafar and Abd al-Aziz. Especially the latter, who built new city walls and made Valencia the strongest fortress in all Al-Andalus. On his death, the instability was taken advantage of by a legendary mercenary, Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar - **El Cid Campeador** - to take the city from the Arabs at the end of the 11th Century. However, the glory didn't last long and Valencia was retaken by the Almoravid Arabs in 1102, who were followed by the Almohads in 1171.



Jardín del Turia

The Muslim centuries

The Muslims landed in the Peninsula in 711 and the city was once more burnt to the ground in 778: **Abd al-Raman I** razed Valencia to the ground for rising against Arab domination. From the time of the Caliphate, the most important remains belong to the pleasure palace built by Abd al-Allah al-Balansiya as a replica of the Persian gardens. He called it Russafa (gardens), and the name has come down to our times as the name of the modern neighbourhood built where the estate once stood.

The reconquest

Valencia was conquered for the last time by King Jaime I of Aragon in 1238. The new king then resettled the city with Christian families, mostly from Catalonia and Aragon. The Muslims were relegated to a neighbourhood outside the city walls known as the "Arrabal de la Morería" – the Arab Quarter.

In the reign of King Jaime I, as well as turning the mosques into churches, *Els Furs* - the laws of the Kingdom of Valencia - were enacted, the *Llibre del Consolat de Mar* was drawn up - these being the oldest known



History of Valencia

Maritime Laws, and law and commerce were regulated. The wars between the Crowns of Aragon and Castile led King Pedro “The Cruel” to attack Valencia twice. This resulted, on the one hand, in the destruction of Jaime I’s Royal Palace and, on the other, to Valencia being awarded the title of “twice loyal city”, for withstanding both assaults. This is reflected in the double “I” which can be seen on the city’s coat of arms.

Fortunately for the Valencians, the conflicts with Castile came to an end when King

Valencia's golden age

The 15th Century was Valencia’s golden age from every point of view. El Miguelete, Las Torres de Quart, La Lonja de la Seda, El Palau de la Generalitat and Las Atarazanas were all built in this century. Valencian poets and humanists were universally successful - Ausias March, Joan Rois de Corella, Joan Martorell and Isabel de Villena. Valencian patricians also lent money to the Catholic Kings for their campaigns in America.



Torres de Serranos



Torres de Quart

Martin “The Humane” (1410) died without an heir and the Agreement of Caspe (1412) was signed. Fernando de Antequera, a member the Castilian dynasty of the Trastámaras, became the new king of the Kingdom of Aragon. A vital role in this diplomatic game was played by another famous Valencian personality - Vicente Ferrer, canonized in 1455 by another Valencian - Pope Calixto III.

But once again, a terrible flood laid waste to the city, to be followed by the plague (1519). After the war, the Guerra de las Germanías broke out. This was a revolt by craftsmen, labourers and junior clergy against the nobility and senior clergy. In 1521 the *agermanats* were finally defeated and a strict monarchy was installed, headed by the Vicereine Germana de Foix, widow of King Fernando the Catholic.

During the 17th century, Valencia followed the same course as the rest of Spain. The Hapsburg dynasty strengthened the authority of the monarchy and implanted the hegemony of Christianity: The moriscos (Moorish converts

to Christianity) were banished in 1609, religious celebrations became ever more ostentatious and magnificent and the court flourished around the political figures of the Viceroy.

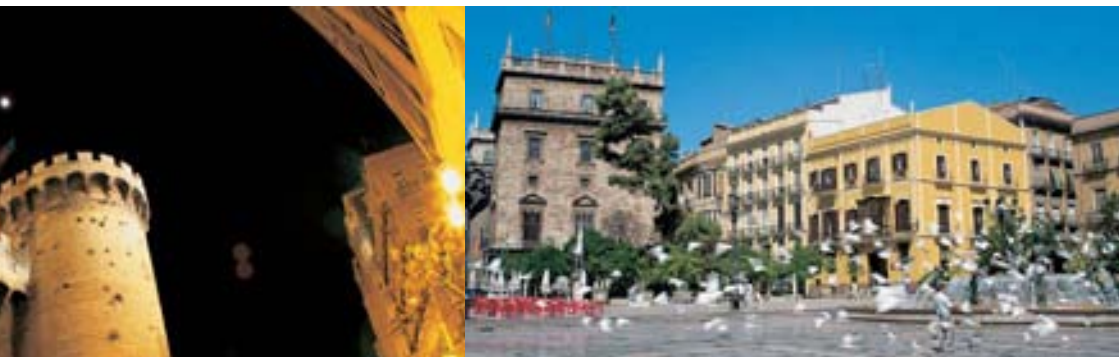
The Borbón dynasty

Carlos II died childless in 1700 and the War of Succession broke out in Spain. During the war, the Valencians supported Archduke Carlos de Austria but his opponent from the Bor-

appeared in Valencia with such thinkers as Gregorio Mayans and Pérez Báyer.

Independence from France and the Carlist wars

However, once again, the calm didn't last for long. In 1808, King Carlos IV and King Fernando VII renounced their rights in favour of Napoleon's brother, José Bonaparte, and the Spanish War of Independence broke out.



Palácio de la Generalitat

bón family won - Felipe V. After winning the Battle of Almansa in 1707, Felipe abolished the Fueros and installed an absolute monarchy, meaning that Valencia lost its laws and all capacity for self-government.

From another point of view, the 18th century was a prosperous one for Valencia. Industry flourished, especially the silk industry, which developed its own quarter in Velluters and provided work for 25,000 people. The city was planned and divided into neighbourhoods, each with their own Mayor. For the first time in Spain, the "Serenos" were formed, these being nocturnal guards who imposed law in the streets. Erudite thought

In Valencia, a *palleter* called Vicente Doménech went to where the official documents of the French administration were sold and tore one of the papers up, shouting: "A poor *palleter* declares war against Napoleon. Long live Fernando VII and death to traitors". The people rose up in arms the next day.

The Napoleonic troops were finally driven out in 1812 and the new king, Fernando VII, entered Valencia, where he secretly abolished the Constitution and reinstated an absolute monarchy.

So a century that began with independence experienced a period of political and military convulsions and urban development.



History of Valencia

There were successive risings - The “Glorious” Revolution (1868), The 1st Republic and the Valencian Canton (1873), political parties flourished, along with pamphlets and newspapers. Meanwhile, the first railway was built in 1852, between El Grao de Valencia and Xàtiva, and the bullring was opened too. The old city walls were demolished and the city was properly planned for the first time, leading to the creation of the Ensanche neighbourhood.

The 20th century

By the beginning of the 20th century, Valencia was an industrial city, buzzing with political ideas, and international events began to have an effect locally. Vicente Blasco Ibáñez was the standard bearer of the Valencian language of the time. A bourgeois republican, he led the Republican Party to victory in the local elections (1901-1923) and his novels were very successful all over the world.

During the Spanish Civil War, in November 1936, the Government of the Republic set up its headquarters in El Palacio de Benicarló, and Valencia was the republican capital for 11 months. 1957 saw one of the worst floods in the history of the River Turia. Many buildings still bear marks on the walls showing how high the waters rose. As a result of the disaster, a plan known as the Plan Sur was drawn up to divert the River Turia.

Valencia: heading the 21st century

After the 60s, the population of the city grew, new outlying neighbourhoods were planned and old ones were improved. At the end of the 20th century and with the arrival of democracy, special attention was paid to setting up institutions of self-government. The Statute of Autonomy of the Region of Valencia came into force on April 29th 1982, giving the region its own powers and institutions. In the last twenty years, Valencia has gone through one of the most significant urban and economic transformations in its history. From the town-planning point of view, the city made a major leap into the 21st century with the construction of new public and cultural buildings – the City of the Arts and Sciences, the Concert Hall, the Calatrava Bridge, the Congress Centre and the IVAM modern art museum. In economic terms, Valencia has grown steadily and consolidated itself as the third most important city in Spain and the n° 1 container port in Europe.

Valencia, host city for the 32nd America’s Cup 2007, one of the world’s most important sailing events, is set to repeat the experience with the 33rd America’s Cup and, as from 2008, will also hold the European Grand Prix on the Valencia Street Circuit. In addition, starting from 2009, the ATP Valencia Open tennis tournament 500 will be held in the City of Arts and Sciences.





Areas of the city

Ciutat Vella / La Seu / Xerea

The centre of Valencia reflects its history and retains its star-shaped mediaeval layout. If you don't keep your wits about you, it's easy to get lost in the maze of alleyways.

Nowadays, as well as being the area with most religious and civil monuments and the N° 1 tourist neighbourhood, it's also buzzing with life. Here's where most political activity takes place – it's home to Las Cortes Valencianas, the headquarters of the Consell and the Valencian Regional Government, as well as several ministries and public institutions. But it's also home to the most avant-garde elements of Valencia - packed with shops, restaurants and bars, here and the neighbouring El Carmen quarter is where the younger generation live.

El Carme / Velluters / El Pilar / El Mercat: the Valencia of trade

This is the “other half” of Valencia's old town and is more commercial and workaday. Here you can see the remains of the city wall and the gateways used by traders and labourers to enter and leave the city. Here too are the markets, the craftsmen's quarters and some very interesting monuments.

Nowadays, these old neighbourhoods live in much the same way as they have always done and are the heart of trade and leisure in modern Valencia.

El Ensanche

The bourgeois area *par excellence*, the administrative, economic and commercial centre of Valencia began to shift to this area from the 18th century onwards, especially in the 19th century. The streets are wider and laid out in an orderly fashion, matching the noble houses and palaces which line them. Modernist architecture has also left its mark here and has left interesting examples of the Valencian version of this unique early 20th architectural style.

El Ensanche continues to be the residential area and commercial centre with most purchasing power.

Pla del Reial

In the period after the Reconquest, the other side of the river was the site of the Palacio Real, a royal palace used by the Valencian kings. Several centuries later, what is now the Alameda, was known as the Hyde Park of Valencia, and was where the nobility used to go to see and be seen, strolling and riding in their carriages. This area has always been where the nobility and “haute bourgeoisie” lived and played and, to a certain degree, this is still the case. With its gardens, walks and tree-lined streets, El Pla del Reial is nowadays a residential and university area with several interesting monuments. The old bed of the River Turia is now a large garden which is well worth a visit.



Mercado Central



Puente de Calatrava

Seaside towns/the port and the beach

The Cabanyal has its roots in the 13th century, when a group of fishermen settled in the area with their families. Since then the area has been closely linked to the sea and to fishing, and has preserved its unique character. So much so that those living in El Cabanyal don't consider themselves as belonging to Valencia. And it's true that this neighbourhood beside the port of Valencia still retains its ancient customs, reflected in religious celebrations such as the Maritime Holy Week and a whole list of customs and crafts associated with the sea. The whole area is currently being recovered and, thanks to the growth of the port, it is now fully integrated in the life of the city. Don't miss Santa María del Mar Church and the Maritime Holy Week Museum.

21st Century Valencia Areas of growth

The areas surrounding the City of the Arts and Sciences are expanding very rapidly and are becoming very attractive residential areas for the Valencians. The area around the Congress Centre in the north of the city is also growing apace.



Routes around the city

Routes

A visit to the City of the Arts and Sciences

Under no circumstances must you miss a visit to the City of the Arts and Sciences. This is the largest cultural-leisure complex in Europe and its different buildings blend science and education with other types of entertainment for all.

mat: the Planetarium, the Laserium and the IMAX 3-D Cinema.

The **Museum de les Ciències**, is home to Life and Genome, the largest exhibition in the world on biology and genetics, temporary exhibitions, as well as being an architectural milestone.

The **Palau de les Arts** is a unique, multidisciplinary building, designed for opera, dance and theatre.



Palau de les Arts



City of Arts and Sciences

The City of the Arts and Sciences consists of L'Hemisfèric, the Principe Felipe Science Museum, L'Umbracle, El Palau de les Arts and L'Oceanogràfic. The City of the Arts and Sciences was designed by the Valencian architect Santiago Calatrava in collaboration with Félix Candela, achieving one of their master works, both for the exceptional architectural achievement and for its beauty.

Each building has its own attractions:

L'Hemisfèric is unique for being the only audiovisual space which allows you to enjoy three types of show in large screen for-

L'Umbracle is an area with a walkway lined with open-air sculptures - an outstanding collection of contemporary works of art. It's also an excellent place to start your visit, as there are exceptional views of the whole complex from here.

L'Oceanogràfic lies to the far east of the City of the Arts and Sciences and is an immense underwater city displaying the marine ecosystems of all five continents. Its main attractions include a 30 metre long underwater tunnel through an immense aquarium containing 6 million litres of water

– the third largest in the world. The aquarium recreates the habitat of the Atlantic Ocean, with sharks, rays, and large ocean-dwelling fish species. The Arctic and Antarctic area is also very interesting, with sea lions and white beluga whales weighing up to 1,500 kilos. The Mediterranean area reproduces the different ecosystems of the sea, from ports to breakwaters. The aquariums of the tropical seas of the Caribbean and the Indopacific areas are home to dozens of species of incredibly coloured fish

El Agora, shall be the name given to the new space created at Valencia's City of Arts and Sciences as a spectacular public indoor plaza with a pointed ellipse-shaped roof.



Tip

In order to plan a successful visit, you should check the times of the different performances in each part of the complex to make the most of your time here. You can check the timetables and the programmes on the website www.cac.es, or by phone on 902 10 00 31.

and the Dolphinarium is both educational and entertaining.

As well as the marine content of the park, we must underline its fantastic architecture and the very informative way in which the fauna, flora and history of each and every one of the marine ecosystems on our planet are shown. All this makes L'Oceanogràfic a park that blends education and fun perfectly, making it the perfect place to visit with children.

The City of the Arts and Sciences also offers a wide variety of places to eat and drink, as well as themed shops in the different areas and parks. As part of your visit or simply as somewhere to come for a good meal, don't miss L'Oceanogràfic's underwater restaurant whose walls are one enormous aquarium. It offers both Mediterranean and International dishes.



Routes around the city

A stroll through 2,000 years of history

We start our stroll through over 2,000 years of history in the city of Valencia at the north gate of the old Christian city walls, the **Torres de Serranos** (open from Tuesday to Sundays). We continue along the pedestrian street of Navellos, where you can see the **Palacio de Benicarló**, a palace which is now the headquarters of the Valencian Regional Government and arrive at what was once the old Roman forum - now the Plaza de la Virgen. Even nowadays the square is still home to some of the city's most important institutions: the **Valencian Regional Government** (politics), the **Basilic and Cathedral** (religion) and Calle Caballeros street (social).

Behind the Basilica, we find the archaeological remains of the ancient Roman *Valentia* in **L'Almoina** square. From here you can visit, century by century, the most important monuments of each period of the city.

At the l'Almoina site we can see the Roman forum, the curia, the hot springs dating back to the republic, a temple dedicated to the nymphs, a market and a stretch of the Via Augusta which crosses it. Slightly higher up, we find remains of the Visigothic era, consisting of martyrial and episcopal areas. But to find out more about Visigothic Valencia, let's visit the **Crypt of the Prison of San Vicente Mártir** in the Plaza del Obispo, 1, next to the City Museum and just a short distance from the Cathedral. This Visigothic building is a funeral chapel built in the 6th century to house the remains of one of the

prelates. It is more than likely the building was connected to the Cathedral. Legend has it the prison is where San Vicente was tortured. A hundred years after he was martyred, it became the chapel it is today.

You can see the most interesting remains from the Reconquest and the reign of King Jaime I in the **Cathedral**, work on which began in 1262. It is outstanding for the diverse styles found there, from Romanesque to Neo-classical, while the bell tower, El Miguelete, is one of the symbols of the city.

The **Basilica of the Virgen de los Desamparados** was built between 1652 and 1667 and is dedicated to the patron saint of the city. The dome has outstanding frescos painted by Palomino, with a perspective which seems to open out upwards, and the image of the Virgen is a wooden Gothic sculpture that has been decorated with cloaks and jewels. One interesting fact is that the nickname given to the Virgen – *la cheperudeta* (the hunchback) – comes from the fact that her head leans forward. This is because it was originally a reclining statue which lay with a cushion under her head on the deceased during the funeral rites.

Returning to the old Roman *Cardo*, La Calle Caballeros – a good example of the splendour of 14th and 15th century Valencia, as shown by its palaces – we come to the **Plaza del Tossal**, a square with excavations (open to the public) which include a painting of the Muslim City Walls. Walk down the street, calle Bolsería, and you'll come to the commercial quarter, with the **Lonja de los Mercaderes or de la Seda**, the building that



Cortes Valencianas



Iglesia de los Santos Juanes

best reflects the splendour of 15th century Valencia. This excellent example of Gothic civil architecture was used for signing contracts, commerce and the settling of commercial disputes. UNESCO declared La Lonja to be a Mankind Heritage site in 1996.

Opposite La Lonja, we find **La Iglesia de los Santos Juanes**, one of the oldest churches in the city, and the **Mercado Central**. The Central Market is a Modernist building which was opened in 1928. It is impressive both for its size - it is regarded as one of the largest food markets in Europe - and for the variety of fresh local produce sold there.

Behind La Lonja is La Plaza del Dr. Collado and if you turn right along La Calle de los Derechos you'll reach **La Plaza Redonda**. This curious square was built by Salvador Escrib in 1840 and is a circular internal square with three floors of dwellings surrounding it. Inside the square is a ring of small stalls selling handicrafts and haberdashery, especially baby clothes decorated with embroidery and lace. A traditional flea market is held here every Sunday.

We continue our stroll towards the "Enlightened Valencia" of the 18th century by walking along La Calle Abadia de San Martín, with **La Iglesia de San Martín** church, to the **Palacio del Marqués de dos Aguas** (C/ Poeta Querol, 2). This building now houses the González Martí National Ceramic Museum and is a result of the Rococo reworking of the old palace of the Rabassa Perellós family carried out in 1740. The whole building is awash with colours, sculptures and ornaments, but special attention should be



Routes around the city

paid to the main entrance made from alabaster, with the image of the Virgen del Rosario above two streams which flow into two impressive Atlases.

If we carry on down La Calle Poeta Querol, we will come to one of the most outstanding buildings of 19th century Valencia; the **Teatro Principal**. This was the first theatre to be built in the city in the modern sense of the word. The façade dates from 1854 and was designed by José Camaña.

Opposite, the magnificent Post Office building stands out in all its splendour, with its stained glass windows, domes and communications tower.

A river of culture: museums

Valencia owes its very existence to the River Turia. The Romans founded the city on an island in the middle of the city and since then

Tips

If you can visit the city in May, the Plaza de la Reina square next to the Cathedral holds the traditional L'Escuradeta market. Here you can buy crockery and pottery items, along with other ceramic crafts goods. As well as being picturesque, Valencian pottery pots and pans are perfect for cooking rice. Apart from the market, at midday you can watch the Tribunal de las Aguas in action in front of the Apostles Door of the Basilica of the Cathedral.

Finally, we come to the 20th century and end our tour in La Plaza del Ayuntamiento square to see the present **Casa Consistorial** (Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1). This building has been the Town Hall since 1854 and took on its present appearance after being refurbished between 1906 and 1930. It backs on to the old 18th century Casa de la Enseñanza and the facade is mainly classical, with some Baroque details which include the clock tower. However, the most interesting part, lies within, in the rooms still in use such as the Salón de la Alcaldía, the Salón de Fiestas or de los Cristales and the Hemiciclo.

its history has been marked by its waters. In 1957, Valencia suffered a terrible flood which left thousands of Valencians homeless. To avoid such a disaster happening again, the Plan Sur was put into force to divert the river outside the city. So the riverbed is now used for sports, leisure and culture. Here there are gardens, sports centres and cultural centres such as the Palau de la Música Concert Centre and the City of the Arts and Sciences. You'll also find some of the city's main monuments and museums along the banks of the river. Stroll along the old bed of the River Turia

from north to south and visit the gardens and bridges, as well as the museums along its banks.

The walk begins in the Botanical gardens that date back to the 18th century and continues onto the **Jardín de las Hespérides**, a garden where you can admire sculptures of cast iron, designed by the Yugoslavian sculptor Miklos Palfy to represent the legend of Hercules, who tried to achieve immortality by stealing the “golden apples” – oranges - from

the Hesperides. They were unable to prevent him and turned into trees.

ent exhibitions in the Centro Julio González and the Sala de la Muralla. The Centro La Beneficència, at number 36 Corona Street, is a huge cultural complex that houses the Pre-history Museum and Ethnology Museum, which are renowned for the quality and size of their collections.

A little further on, you come to the **Puente de la Trinidad**. On the bridge, there are sculptures of Santo Tomás de Villanueva and San Luis Beltrán which were cre-



Town Hall

ated by the Genoan artist Giacomo Antonio Ponzanelli in the 17th century. On the other side of the Puente de la Trinidad is the **San Pío V Valencia Fine Arts Museum**, owned by the Spanish government. It is housed in the old San Pío V School and has a magnificent collection of Mediaeval Gothic paintings in the so-called “primitive Valencian” style. One of the most beautiful paintings on display is the painting of La Virgen de las Fiebres, the only known work by *Il Pinturicchio* in Spain. Also of interest are the San Juan Bautista by El Greco, the altarpiece of La Cartuja de Portacoeli by

The next stop is the **Paseo de la Pechina**, a promenade with El Frontón de lo Rat Penat, the sculptures of San Pedro Pascual and de San José, the statue of La Virgen del Carmen and the bust of the popular singer Concha Piquer. Here we find the **Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno (IVAM)** and the **Centro Cultural de La Beneficència**. The IVAM is one of the leading contemporary art museums in Spain. As well as the temporary exhibitions, there are perma-

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Routes around the city

Francisco Ribalta and the self-portrait by Diego Velázquez. Other works in the museum include Vicente Lopez's depictions of the Virgin Mary - La Virgen de la Misericordia and La Virgen de la Merced Redentora. Francisco de Goya is represented with the portrait of Doña Joaquina Candado and the fabulous portrait of Francisco Bayeu.

Next to the museum are the **Jardines del Real** or Jardines de Viveros, with an interesting collection of sculptures which include: the Monolith to Antonio Machado and the mythological sculptures of Diana, Venus, Apollo, Pluto and Vulcan. There is also a replica of the Dama de Elche, the female Iberian bust discovered in l'Alcudia near Elche.

Cross the Puente del Real Bridge and you'll come to the **Plaza del Temple**, with the busts of Bernardo Ferrándiz, Pintor López and Ignacio Vergara.

The **Palacio de Cervelló** is in the **Plaza de Tetuán** and has been refurbished to be the seat of the Municipal Archives and will basically be used as a museum for both the general public and research purposes. The statue of San Vicente Ferrer built in 1677 to protect the city from an epidemic is in the same square. Opposite the statue is the old **Santo Domingo Convent**, now the Headquarters of the Manoeuvre Force.

Once more on the right bank of the Turia, we come to the **Plaza de América**, a square containing the monument of La Victoria, a work by the sculptor Antonio Sacramento.

To the left you can see the most original of all the bridges - the **Puente de las Flores**,

always decorated with natural flowers. The **Puente de Aragón** is also near the square. In the river bed next to the bridge, you'll find the **Palau de la Música**, a concert hall designed by José M^a Paredes and regarded as one of the best auditoriums in Spain. In the gardens along this stretch you can also see how the architect Ricardo Bofill underlines the Mediterranean character by repeated use of palm trees, and the classical roots by the Doric columns which are an essential element in their decoration. Further on is the **Gulliver children's park**, guaranteed to delight the younger members of the family.

The **Puente del Reino** is the next bridge, with four bronze Neogothic statues placed in pairs at either end of the bridge. Tradition has it these statues guarantee the divine protection of the bridge. Beyond the Puente del Reino, the bed of the River Turia opens out and modern Valencia begins, with the City of the Arts and Sciences ahead.

Towards the sea: Cabanyal, the beach, the port

For hundreds of years it was said that Valencia had turned its back on the sea, even though it was so close. The quarter where the fishermen and port workers lived was also regarded as being "outside Valencia". Today the Port of Valencia is one of the most important in Europe for container traffic and the nearby neighbourhoods have many attractions for visitors. The Port of Valencia home to 32nd and 33rd America's Cup, one of the most important



Jardín de Viveros



Plaza Porta de la Mar

sporting events in the world. On this tour, we'll visit the Port and its shipyards, the historical El Cabanyal quarter and Malvarrosa beach, with the House-Museum of the writer Vicente Blasco Ibáñez on its seafront promenade.

Let's start at the **Estación Marítima** building. The Port of Valencia as we now know it began to take shape in 1676 with the project of Tomás Güelda, although it wasn't until the second half of the 19th century and, above all, the first decades of the 20th century that the structures and buildings which were to turn it into a modern port were built.

If you take the Avenida del Puerto to the Port, you'll see the Estación Marítima straight ahead. It's better known as El Edificio del Reloj, because of its French-style clock tower. Nearby is what remains of the early 20th century Port – the inner dock has a number of charming buildings which bear witness to past activities. This is the case with the warehouses built around 1910 to store goods. They are decorated in the Valencian Modernist style with themes which refer to trade and navigation, and there are also ceramic mosaics with Valencian themes. Some of the enormous cranes are still standing, witnesses of a time before the appearance of the modern containers when cargos were lifted in sacks, boxes and barrels into the holds of the freighters. Also of interest are the commercial docks designed by Demetrio Ribes around 1911, and the Customs House, built by Enrique Viedma in 1930.

If you walk round the Port towards the left and go into the streets behind, you'll come to El Cabanyal, one of the oldest neigh-



Routes around the city

bourhoods in Valencia, although little of its past remains nowadays. It dates back to the 13th century, when a group of fishermen settled in the area and built their cottages on the sea front. King Jaime I was interested in developing fishing and, with his support, a fishermen's quarter soon grew. At the beginning of the 15th century it was given the name El Cabanyal and the fishermen soon formed guilds and created their own society whose roots are still preserved today.

Next to the Port are the **Atarazanas del Puerto**. The shipyards are some of the best-preserved remains of Valencian civil Gothic architecture and were built in the 14th century to act as shipyards, arsenal and warehouses for the city's navigation equipment. At that time the complex also included several open spaces with pools which were used to "age" ship's timbers and large earthenware storage jars. Nowadays these areas are used for exhibitions.

In El Cabanyal you can visit the **Museo del Arroz** (Rice Museum) and the **Museo de la Semana Santa Marinera** (Maritime Holy Week Museum). The latter is a unique celebration of the Passion of Christ, when local guild members parade through the streets and describe the last days of the life of Christ through passion plays.

Leaving the Port behind, you continue right beside the sea until you come to **Las Arenas beach**, with a seafront promenade full of restaurants. Many Valencians spent their summer holidays beside La Malvarrosa beach in the early 20th century and some villas from that time still remain, as well as the remains of a Spa – its place now taken by a hotel – where



Atarazanas



Valencia harbour



Las Arenas beach

young Valencians went to have fun and take the waters in the forties and fifties. **La Malvarrosa** is a sandy beach over 35 metres wide, bordered by a seafront promenade which is always packed. Even though the promenade and the adjacent buildings have been modernised, it still looks very traditional and some of the establishments are among the most picturesque in the city.

At the end of La Malvarrosa beach, facing the sea you come to the last stop on your tour, **the House-Museum of Vicente Blasco Ibáñez**. The three-storey building was built in 1902 and has a wide terrace open to the sea held up by caryatids. There, sitting at a magnificent stone table, Blasco Ibáñez wrote some of his best-known works. The building fell into disuse, was abandoned and fell into ruin in the eighties. The Town Hall rebuilt it recently, respecting the original layout and uses it as the House-Museum of Blasco Ibáñez. It holds portraits and sculptures of the writer and his family, as well as furniture, documents and items related to his life.

Modernist Valencia: Hidden treasures of Valencian architecture

Many different styles of architecture came together at the beginning of the 20th century under the name of “modernist”, ranging from very austere Rationalism to the most exaggerated Romanticism. In Valencia, this style adopted its own character to leave us some of the most unique and beautiful buildings in the

city. Nowadays, some of them are very well known, while others, houses and public buildings, are unknown to all but a few. On this route, we aim to discover the hidden treasures of Valencian Modernism. The style was a blend of many others and was characterised here for its exaltation of everything Valencian: the farms, the falla queens, oranges, fishermen, etc. We will see multicoloured mosaics, ornaments, and sculptures – all in all a style of architecture that celebrates life with happiness.

We begin in the heart of Valencia old town, in La Plaza de la Almoina. In the square, we can find the **Punt de Ganxo** building, built on top of the old chapel of San Valero, which was incorporated into it. The architect, Manuel Peris, designed the facade not by floors but in vertical sections, set between pillars like tree-trunks. Within each section, there is a profusion of decorative stuccowork in white on red. The whole building is redolent with Gothic and Romanesque details.

From La Plaza de la Almoina, we walk across La Plaza de la Reina towards La Plaza del Mercado in La Calle Palafox and walk round the Market to find La Casa Ordeig. Built by Francisco de Mora y Berenguer around 1907, **Casa Ordeig** is a Modernist block of flats with Neogothic decoration which includes elements inspired by the nearby Lonja.

In front of the Lonja is one of the city’s main Modernist monuments, the Mercado Central. The Central Market was designed by the architects Alejandro Soler March and Francisco Guardia Vial (previously collaborators of Doménech Montaner) and work on the



Routes around the city

El Mercado Central lasted from 1910 to 1928. The building is an architectural allegory in steel, with symbolic decoration which embodies all the richness of the surrounding farmland in the luminosity of the La Ceramo ceramic ware and its coloured stained glass windows.

From the Market, we move on past the Town Hall Square and down La Calle Marqués de Sotelo to la **Estación del Norte**. The North Station is a unique building designed in 1906 by the Valencian architect Demetrio Ribes and inaugurated in 1917. It is a Modernist building in the "Sezesión Vienesa" style, but it is above all a free adaptation by Ribes. There are numerous colourful decorative details, with many ceramic items depicting different kinds of floral decoration and an abundance of coats of arms of the company and the city. Outstanding too is the exuberant decoration of the foyer, with the painstaking design of the wooden ticket offices and tiled walls, incrustated with mosaics and ceramic decorations with an abundance of Trencadís – broken ceramic tiles which cover the walls and ceilings to create an exceptionally beautiful effect.

If we carry on down Calle Xàtiva towards the Bullring, we'll come to Calle Colón, one of the main streets in the Ensanche. From here, we can visit some interesting private buildings which are excellent examples of Valencian Modernism. N° 3 Calle Félix Pizcueta is a Neogothic building built in 1901 by José Manuel Cortina Pérez. N° 14 Calle Sorní was built by the same architect and is slightly more restrained. But this architect's

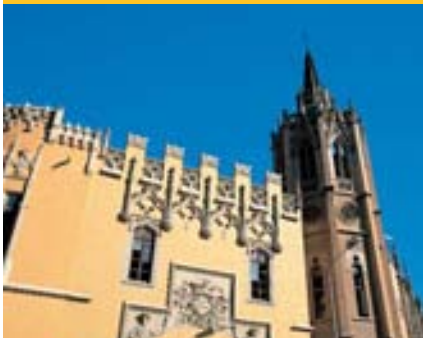
masterpiece is n° 6 Calle Sorní, what is known as **La Casa de los Dragones**. "The House of Dragons" is an unusual apartment building in what was destined to become one of the most important streets in Valencia's first development area. But what makes this building special is undoubtedly the unusual decoration of the facades in the very personal style of its designer – what has been called the fantastic mediaeval style. Here dragons are the main decorative motif, with a multicoloured assortment of Neogothic elements, floral motifs, unusual columns raised on corbels and other extravagant items such as the winged railway engine, a symbol of progress.

Near the Casa de los Dragones, we find the delightful **Mercado de Colón**. This market was built in 1914 and has been renovated to house a shopping centre with restaurants and terraces. The metal framework rises on cast iron pillars and is framed by two forthright brick facades, perforated by impressive archways. Different materials – basically stone and mosaics – have been used to produce an impressive decorative effect. El Mercado de Colón is also an excellent spot to take a break and get your strength back before carrying on with the tour.

One of the streets next to the Mercado de Colón is Cirilo Amorós. We walk down it and come to the old bed of the River Turia, crossing the Puente de las Flores to the other side. Once on the other bank, we come to the **Paseo de la Alameda**, where the Regional and National exhibitions were held in 1909 and 1910. The Exhibitions were unprecedented events in Valencia, and several buildings in

Tip

Have paella for lunch in one of the seafront restaurants. Every weekend, even during the coldest months, the beaches of Las Arenas and La Malvarrosa are packed with Valencians who come to sunbathe on the sand or to sit in an open-air bar. Enjoying the sunshine while you look at the sea is one of the greatest pleasures imaginable. And if you can combine that with a good meal, so much the better!



Palacio Municipal de la Exposición



Palacete and Jardines de Ayora

the Modernist style in vogue at the time were built to house it. One of them was the **Palacio de la Exposición**, built as a temporary construction in only seventy days. It was designed by the architect Francisco Mora Berenguer and tries to evoke, in its own very individual Neogothic style, a blend of religious and military Gothic architecture. Also in the area we can find the **Asilo de la Lactancia**, the old **Fábrica de Tabacos** and the **Balneario de la Alameda**.

To finish our tour, let's visit two buildings located outside the city. We'll have to go by car or taxi, but they're two very interesting works of architecture which are well worth seeing. Firstly, the **Asilo de San Juan de Dios** on La Malvarrosa beach. Designed by the architect Francisco Mora Berenguer in 1907, this building demonstrated a new approach to health care which is shown by the open layout of the building, with spacious galleries and terraces to take full benefit of the sun and sea breezes.

Finally, let's visit the **Palacete y los Jardines de Ayora**. The Mansion and its gardens are on the Avenidas Santos, Justo and Pastor. It was built in 1900 by the master builder Peregrín Sumbiela to the design of José Ayora. It is one of the best examples of what we could call the suburban dwelling.



Excursions

La Albufera Nature Park (15 kms from Valencia)

The unique features of La Albufera Nature Park make it one of the most valuable natural areas in the Mediterranean. It's an enormous freshwater lake connected to the sea that has been a place of duck hunting, eel fishing and rice growing for centuries. It is also a true example of the most traditional Valencian way of life. La Albufera is the setting for the novels of Vicente Blasco Ibáñez, where he describes the way of life of the fishermen of **El Palmar** – the island in the middle of La Albufera. Even though there are now hardly any barracas – traditional Valencian dwellings – the inhabitants of La Albufera continue to fish and grow rice as they have always done. Thanks to this, we can still take a boat ride through the canals of La Albufera almost as if time had stood still.

Fauna and Flora

Along the strip that separates the lake from the sea, there are dune formations separated by depressions known as malladas. Part of the sandbar is the **Devesa del Saler**, carpeted with pinewoods and rich undergrowth. Three golas or channels (two natural and one man-made) connect the lake to the seashore marsh. Each of these environments has its own specific vegetation and animal life and La Albufera is an important nesting and overwintering site for migratory birds.

The beaches: Pinedo and El Saler (5–10 kms from Valencia)

These open beaches over 30 metres wide and several kilometres long are backed by dunes of fine golden sand. All the beaches have services which include car parks, showers and medical assistance. They're quiet spots, still a little wild, where you can enjoy nature to the full.

Pinedo

The first beach you come to is just south of the port and the yacht club which protect it from the north winds. It's an open beach with fine sand, set in an area of dunes and vegetation that leads into the popular "huerta valenciana" farmland.

The village of Pinedo still preserves some barracas - the typical Valencian cottage with thatched gable roofs. Nowadays many of them are restaurants and here you can enjoy the traditional duck with rice, a dish that's almost impossible to find anywhere else.

El Saler

With almost five kilometres of open beach and golden sand, this beach is a real delight and is one of the most popular in the area. It's protected from the west wind by a line of dunes with great ecological value and by an enormous pine forest which gives the setting a wild, natural appearance. In summer, the Garbí southwesterly wind gets up in the afternoon – making El Saler ideal for lovers of windsurfing.

La Devesa

The beach has almost five kilometres of very fine sand. Its major attraction is its extraordinary setting, as it is on the edge of the Albufera Nature Park, a rich ecosystem with all kinds of vegetation, including pines, palm trees, kermes oaks, mastic trees and honeysuckle that shelters many species of birds.

Next to La Devesa beach, we find the El Saler golf course, one of the most highly regarded in Europe.

In order to get to La Albufera from Valencia, you have to take the Carretera El Saler. The lake's mirador is about 15 kilometres from the city. The information centre helps you get to know and understand La Albufera Nature Park and is located in el Racó de l'Olla (Carretera de El Palmar, tel. 961 62 03 33).



La Albufera



Guided tours

In the centre of Valencia

Bus Turístic

Reservations: 963 41 44 00

www.valenciabusturistic.com

From La Plaza de la Reina, the bus tours Valencia's best-known monuments. The ticket allows you to get on and off the bus as many times as you wish on the day of purchase.

Other companies organising individual and group tours:

Turiart

Tel. 963 52 07 72

www.turiart.com

Art Valencia 2002

Tel. 963 10 61 93

www.artvalencia.com

Valencia Guías

Tel. 963 85 17 40

www.valenciaguías.com

Iniciativas Culturales Entralart

Tel. 963 32 19 31

www.entralart.es

More information at Tourist Info offices.

L'Albufera and the Island of El Palmar

Bus Turístic a La Albufera

Reservations: 963 41 44 00

www.valenciabusturistic.com

Other companies organising guided tours of La Albufera:

Asociación Cultural El Palmar

Tel. 963 73 72 41

www.albuferavalencia.com

Boat trips, guided cultural, ecological and photographic tours, gastronomic tasting sessions and bike routes.

Port Albufera

Tel. 961 26 25 31

www.portalbufera.com

Ecotourism, tours to discover the delights of the nature park and its traditional way of life.

Asociación Ecoturística del Parque Natural de La Albufera

Tel. 961 62 00 48

www.valenciaecoturismo.com

Trips to the nature park, with fishing, walks, boat trips and gastronomic tasting sessions.

Albufera Parc

Tel. 961 620 056

www.albuferaparc.com

Boat trips, organized visits and proofsof traditional fishing.

Tonet el Barquero

Tel. 639 659 324

www.parquealbufera.com

Visit to barracas, boat trips to the late afternoon.





Places of interest

Civil monuments

Almudín

El Almudín is an interesting early 13th century building which was constructed over a Muslim palace – initially as a granary. It was enlarged in the 15th and 16th centuries and took on its present appearance. Inside you can see popular paintings referring to the arrival of the grain and the different guilds involved in the trade. It is used to house interesting temporary exhibitions.

Pl. de San Luis Beltrán, 1
Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext. 4521

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Atarazanas del Grao

Here we have a clear example of the rise of the bourgeoisie and trade in mediaeval Valencia, as the increased activity of the Port of Valencia made it necessary to move the atarazanas (dockyards), which were then near Calle Barcas street, to El Grao in 1358. This gave the fishermen a building designed for repairing and building vessels and for storing their equipment. These Gothic buildings consist of five rectangular warehouses arranged alongside each other. At the top, there are 8 gargoyles with the city coat of arms. The installations are now used to house temporary exhibitions.

Pl. Juan Antonio Benlliure
Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext. 4299

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Town hall – Casa consistorial

The old Town Hall used to be in La Plaza de la Virgen, the square where the small garden of the Palau de la Generalitat now stands. In 1854, it was provisionally moved to the old Casa de Enseñanza, founded by the Archbishop Mayoral and built in the mid-18th century and of which part of the Santa Rosa de Lima chapel still stands.

The new facade on Calle de Correos is in the Classical style and has many Baroque details. From here, you have an excellent view of the slim Baroque tower with its chiming clock rising in the centre, and of the corner towers with glassed domes finished off with lanterns. Inside, a luxurious marble staircase takes you to the new enlarged premises: the Mayor's Rooms and Function Rooms where the council meetings are held, richly decorated with an abundance of glasswork and lit from above.

Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1
Tel. 963 52 54 78
www.ayto-valencia.es
Open from Monday to Friday.

Baños del Almirante

The installations were modelled on traditional Muslim bathhouses. The Baños del Almirante are currently being refurbished and

include the Palace of the same name, which has an interesting 15th century cloister-patio trapezium. According to the experts, it is the best example of a noble Gothic mansion in Valencia. It now houses the Department of Economy and Treasury of the Valencian Regional Government.

C/ Almirante, 3 - 5
Tel. 605 275 784

Casa natalicia de San Vicente Ferrer

The house has entrances on two streets, presided over by round arches and different-sized windows. Entering from Calle del Pouet, there is a large stone tank with four taps supplying water from El Pouet. To the left, is the room where tradition has it the saint was born.

C/ Pouet de San Vicente, 1
Tel. 963 52 84 81

Open from Monday to Friday.

Casa de Las Rocas

La Casa de las Rocas was built in the 15th century to store the Rocas or floats which were used in the Corpus Christi procession. This procession has been celebrated in Valencia since at least 1326, and has been organised by the local authorities since 1372. Las Rocas date back to about 1373 and are triumphal floats depicting biblical events and uplifting stories.

C/ Las Rocas, 3
Tel. 963 15 31 56

Open from Monday to Friday.

Estación del Norte

Designed by the Valencian architect Demetrio Ribes in 1906 and inaugurated in 1917, this is one of our best examples of civil architecture and is both a point of reference as a monument and is representative of the city.

It is a Modernist building in the so-called "Sezesión Vienesa" style, but it is the very personal way that Ribes interprets this style that makes it unique. There are countless colourful decorative details, with many ceramic items depicting different floral ornaments and an abundance of city and comany coats of arms.

C/ Xàtiva, 24
Tel. 902 24 02 02

Lonja de La Seda

La Lonja is one of the best examples of Gothic civil architecture in Valencia. Designed by Pere Compte, this beautiful building was built between 1483 and 1498. It is divided into three sections with different uses - the Salón de Contratación, the central tower and garden, and the Consolat del Mar. The best-known image of the building is that of the Sala de Contratación, a spacious area with helicoidal columns which divide the area into three halls. The central tower has one floor and two levels and used to be used to imprison merchants who couldn't satisfy their debts. The façade of the Consolat del Mar has forty Renaissance medallions representing famous personalities, including several Roman emperors. UNESCO declared the building a Mankind Heritage Site in 1996.



Places of interest

Pl. del Mercado, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext. 4153

Open from Tuesday to Saturday.

Mercado Central

The Plaza del Mercat has been a centre for trade ever since the Middle Ages and a market has been held here since time immemorial. In the early 20th century, the traders were given their own space and the Mercado Central was built between 1910 and 1928, becoming one of the most significant Modernist buildings in the city. The symbolic ornamentation of the allegorical steel structure, with the luminosity of the La Ceramo ceramics and the colourful stained glass windows, embodies all the richness of Valencian farmland. The metal parrot high up on the roof has become the symbol of the market.

Nowadays it is the largest area in Europe for trading fresh produce, with over 1,000 stalls. It's like taking part in a real show to stroll along the aisles lined with busy and colourful stalls selling fish, shellfish, fruit, vegetables and all kinds of produce.

Pl. del Mercado, 6
Tel. 963 82 91 01
www.mercadocentralvalencia.es

Open from Monday to Friday.

Mercado de Colón

Located on one of the largest blocks of the first development area, originally designed for residential use, this is one of the most important of our Modernist buildings. Work began in 1914 to a design by Francisco Mora, and it's innovative in being an open-plan market.

Several materials, especially stone and mosaics, have been combined brilliantly to create a composition that praises the Valencian farmland. The Market has been renovated and converted into a leisure facility with shops and a restaurant. Many cultural activities also take place in the Market.

C/ Calle Jorge Juan, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78

Open from Monday to Sunday.



Mercado Central



Mercado de Colón

Palacio de Benicarló.

The Valencian parliament building

This Gothic palace was built as the residence of the Borgia family on top of the building housing the Escuela de Arte y Gramática. It has been renovated many times since then, although of the original it still preserves a doorway with a round arch and the "loggia" windows on the top floor. It is now used as the Valencian Parliament Building.

Plaza de San Lorenzo, 4
Tel. 963 87 61 00

Visits by appointment only.

Palacio del Conde de Cervelló

The Palace of the Counts of Cervelló became a royal residence after the royal palace was demolished. Only the facade retains its original appearance, with two towers and two floors with balconies. The famous eighteenth century rooms have been rebuilt and now hold the Bourbon Gallery. It is now the headquarters of the Valencian Municipal Archives and contains a collection

of documents dating from the 18th century to the present day.

Plaza de Tetuán, 3
Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext:4496

Tuesday to Saturday.

Palacio de Correos y Telégrafos

The historical Post Office building located in the heart of Valencia has once more opened its doors after being completely refurbished. This emblematic building built in the late 19th century is a blend of Valencian Modernism and Academic Classicism and has recovered such elements as the communications tower, the sculptures on the terraces and the coats of arms, the two small zinc shrines, the beautiful coffered ceilings and the spectacular stained glass window at the entrance.

Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 24
Tel. 963 10 27 30
From Monday to Saturday.



Estación del Norte



Places of interest

Palacio de la Generalitat

The Palacio de la Generalitat was built in 1421 as the headquarters of the Autonomous Government of Valencia or Diputació del General, the body responsible for representing the Kingdom in Las Cortes (Parliament). An exceptional feature inside the building is the patio – with a Valencian Gothic staircase to one side, the late-Gothic doorways with arches combining both curved and straight lines and, above all, the Sala Nova in the tower, with a magnificent panelled ceiling decorated with allegorical and mythological carvings. There are also friezes by Joan Sarinyena and Vicent Requena depicting the three bodies of Parliament. It is now the headquarters of the Valencian Regional Government.

C/ Caballeros, 2
Tel. 963 86 34 61

Visits by appointment only.

Palacio del Marqués de Campo (see the City Museum)

Palacio del Marqués de dos Aguas (see the National Ceramics Museum)

Palacio del Marqués de la Scala

Built in the 16th century, it was altered between the 17th and 18th Centuries. The main doorway with its lintel shows a mixture of styles which include Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque elements. The building is finished off with small Renaissance archways. Regional Government Headquarters.

Pl. de Manises, 3
Tel. 963 88 25 00

Palacio Municipal de la Exposición

A major Regional exhibition was held in Valencia in 1909, to be extended as a National Exhibition in 1910. This was an unprecedented event for early 20th century Valencia. Almost 300 exhibitors from a hundred localities displayed their products on a sixteen-hectare site next to the Paseo de la Alameda.

The Palace was built as the municipal headquarters for the event and is now the venue for fiestas and receptions. Its Neogothic undertones can be seen in the harmonious relationship between architecture and sumptuary and industrial arts, blending cast iron, ceramic ware and glass, foundry ware and carpentry with the architectural shapes.

C/ Galicia, 1
Tel. 963 981 875

From Tuesday to Sunday, except when events are being held.

Palacio de Pineda

Facing the colossal facade of the Iglesia del Carmen, we find what used to be the 18th century residence of the Governor of the Kingdoms of Valencia and Murcia and High Court judge of the city - Don Francisco Salvador de Pineda. The symmetrical Neoclassical facade is flanked by two towers and there is a great door in the centre. Above the door is Pineda's coat of arms and the date 1732 - when the building was inaugurated. Headquarters of the Menéndez y Pelayo International University in Valencia.

Pl. del Carmen 4

Plaza Redonda

La Plaza Nueva or Plaza del Cid is a square that was later known as La Plaza Redonda or "Clot", and was built in 1840 by Salvador Escrig in an urban area that had always been associated with small businesses, particularly fishmongers and butchers. It is a circular, internal square with three floors of dwellings. From the very beginning, the ground floors of the buildings and the stalls on the inner ring have housed small businesses, nowadays specialising in clothes. On Sunday, the square is transformed to become a colourful market selling animals, paintings and etchings, music, trinkets and many other items.

On the Plaza Lope de Vega

Plaza de toros

The construction of the Bullring in Calle Xàtiva in 1850 gave the city a permanent bullring able to hold the enormous number of lovers of the sport in the city. The bullring is a circular brick construction with four arched entrances, bringing to mind the Amphitheatre of Nimes and the Coliseum in Rome. It was probably the first building in the city to use unclad ironwork for the columns that hold up the galleries of the stands. The passageway beside the Bullring leads to the Bullfighting Museum, open from Tuesday to Sunday.

C/ Xàtiva, 28
Tel. 963 519 315

From Tuesday to Saturday.

Torres de Quart

Las Torres de Quart are towers which used to be part of the old Christian city walls and are similar to the Castel Nuovo gateway in Naples. During the centuries they have been in existence, they have had many uses – a women's jail and a military prison. The façade still bears the scars of the bombardment suffered by the city in 1808.

C/ Guillem de Castro, 89
Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Torres de Serranos

In mediaeval times, the Torres de Serranos were the main entrance to the walled city for travellers approaching from Catalonia and Aragon, as well as those coming from the villages in the Serranía. Although defensive works, the rich decoration makes them look a little like a Triumphal Arch. It is similar to the entrance to the Monastery of Poblet in Tarragona. Over the centuries, the Torres de Serranos have been used for many things – they have been a prison and a warehouse for works of art during the Spanish Civil War.

Pl. de Los Fueros, s/n
Tel. 963 91 90 70

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

The University of Valencia

The Neoclassical building is arranged around a great cloistered patio on two floors surrounded by a Tuscan colonnade. It was founded in 1733 and major improvements were carried out in the 19th century. In the middle of the patio, there is a statue of Juan Luis Vives. There are also paintings



Places of interest

of personalities linked to university life, including the portraits of Botánico Cavanilles the botanist, Rafael de Oloriz the great patron of the University and the erudite Francisco Pérez Bayer.

C/ Nave, 2
Tel. 96 386 43 77

Religious monuments

Antiguo Convento de El Temple

The group made up of the convent, school and church of the Order of Montesa in Valencia is popularly known as the Temple because it was previously owned by the Templars. It was built between 1761 and 1770 on the orders of King Carlos III, after an earthquake had destroyed the previous monastery. Directly linked to the Court, it is in a very Italian Neoclassical style. Nowadays the old monastery buildings are home to the Civil Government offices. The enormous palace-like facade contrasts with the sober inner cloister with Tuscan pillars blending brickwork and stone. The church also has a collection of paintings by Felipe Fontana.

Pl. del Temple, 2
Tel. 963 91 88 37

Monday to Friday.
Visits by appointment only.
Open during services.

Basílica de la Virgen de los Desamparados

La Basílica de Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados is dedicated to the patron saint of the city and was built between 1652 and 1667. The Basílica was designed by Diego Martínez Ponce de Urrana, an architect from Requena, and stands out for its oval vault above an uneven quadrilateral space. The paintings on the ceiling of the vault are the work of Antonio Palomino, and are especially interesting because their perspective seems to make them open out upwards, with the Virgin interceding before the Trinity in favour of the innocent.



Plaza de la Virgen

Pl. de la Virgen, s/n
Tel. 963 91 86 11

From Monday to Sunday
Open during services.

Catedral de Valencia and El Miguelete

Work on the Cathedral began in 1262 over the old central Mosque and carried on for several centuries, leading to a combination of Romanesque, Renaissance, Gothic, Baroque and Neoclassical styles. Outstanding elements outside include the three doorways –the Romanesque Palau, the Gothic Apóstoles and the Baroque doorway known as Los Hierros (the iron door) and the bell tower called El Miguelete, regarded as one of the symbols of Valencia. Inside we have the altarpiece of the high altar, the impressive vault, the Chapel of the Santo Cáliz and the treasure.

The carved heads on the cornice of the Romanesque doorway are especially interesting – they represent the seven men and seven women charged with repopulating the city by King Jaime I.

Every Thursday, the Gothic doorway of the Apostles is the setting for the Tribunal de las Aguas, which has dealt with matters concerning irrigation of the surrounding farmland since the Middle Ages.

La Puerta de los Hierros is decorated in the Baroque style and is especially designed to be seen from an angle, as the Cathedral used to face a narrow street.

Inside, the altarpiece of the high altar is outstanding. It was created by Fernando Yáñez de la Almedina and Fernando de los Llanos, and is a Renaissance masterpiece, as are the recently-discovered frescos in the apse of Paolo de San Leocadio. The vault is also Gothic and creates spectacular lighting effects. Last but not least, we come to the Chapel of the Santo Cáliz, with the Chalice used by Christ during the Last Supper.

El Miguelete is the Cathedral bell tower, known as Miguelete because the main bell is called Miguel - it was baptised on the day of San Miguel Arcángel. From the top of the tower, there are fantastic views of the city, but you have to climb 207 steps to get there! The tower has an octagonal base and is over fifty metres high and was designed by Andrés Julià to be a separate building at the foot of the Cathedral.



Iglesia del Patriarca



Places of interest

Pl. de la Reina, s/n
Tel. 963 91 81 27
www.catedraldevalencia.es

Open every day. Open during services.

Colegio Del Patriarca

The Colegio del Corpus Christi or del Patriarca was founded by the Patriarch San Juan de Ribera, who was both Bishop and Viceroy of Valencia. It was built to train priests in the rigorous manner of the Counter-Reformation. It is an interesting group of buildings with two centres – the chapel and the semi-nary-school. El Colegio, with a beautiful and austere cloister with marble columns imported from Genoa and a three-section staircase at one end, is considered to be one of the purest examples of Spanish Renaissance architecture. Especially interesting is the base of the walls made of tiles from Talavera de la Reina and repeated in the atrium and main section of the church. The late 16th century chapel has a blue and white tiled dome. This was very innovative at the time and was copied for many Valencian domes. The museum has interesting works by such great artists as El Greco, Joan de Joanes, Paolo de San Leocadio Sariñena and Ribalta.

C/ Nave, 1
Tel. 963 51 41 76

From Monday to Sunday.

Convento del Carmen and Iglesia de la Santa Cruz (see the Carmen's Centre)

This group of buildings formed part of the Carmelite Convent, a period which has left such elements as the cloister with its pointed arches, the refectory and the chapter room. Nowadays, the Convent houses the Centro del Carmen, which holds temporary exhibitions. The Parish of La Santa Cruz was part of the old convent which the Carmelites founded in Valencia in about 1281. An internal cloister is all that remains of its mediaeval past.

Pl. del Carmen
Tel. 963 91 04 37

Opening during services.

Convento de Santo Domingo

King Jaime I granted the site to the Dominican monks, although it was enlarged in the 14th century with a cloister, several chapels and a chapter room. It was one of the centres of the spiritual, cultural and political life of the city of Valencia. This Gothic building has several interesting features, especially a stretch of its base, the doorway to the church, the Chapter Room and the main cloister, both dating back to the 14th century, not forgetting the superb Chapel of the Kings with its spacious vault. There are also Renaissance elements, such as the doorway from the time of King Felipe II, and Neoclassical elements such as the Chapel of San Vicente Ferrer. The history of the Convent is closely linked to the development of the city of Valencia, as it has housed the Cortes Generales del Reino (National Assembly) and the old Captaincy General, among other institutions. Headquarters of the Manoeuvre Force.

Pl. de Tetuán, 22
Tel. 961 96 31 50

Visits by appointment only.

Iglesia de las Escuelas Pías

This church has a spectacular cobalt-blue tiled dome, one of the biggest in the city. It is the biggest in the Region of Valencia and the 3rd largest in Europe. It has also recently seen the restoration of one of the largest pipe organs in Spain.

Carniceros, 6
Tel. 963 91 58 00

Open during services.

Iglesia de San Agustín

The single Gothic nave in eight sections gives the church a very spacious feel. During the War of Independence it lost part of its Baroque decoration, leading to the varied styles we can see today, although it still retains an air of pure Classicism.

Pl. de San Agustín
Tel. 963 51 24 80

Open during services.

Iglesia de San Esteban

Built on the site of an old Mosque, the Church of San Esteban is a typical Valencian parish church from the Gothic period. However, the church was significantly changed in the Baroque style

during the 17th century. San Esteban was the notary's church and in 1682 their guild sponsored the construction of the Capillas de los Pies, with the baptismal font of San Vicente Ferrer and San Luis Beltrán in the centre. This is a favourite place for Valencians to baptise their children and a play representing the baptism of the Saint is enacted here at Easter.

Plaza de San Esteban, 5
Tel. 963 91 82 76

Open during services.

Iglesia de San Juan de la Cruz

The current layout of the church dates back to between 1602 and 1615. The Rococo decoration of the interior is outstanding and was created by Hipólito Rovira and his disciple Luis Domingo in the second half of the 18th century. The ceramic bases of the internal walls are also exceptionally interesting.

C/ Poeta Querol, 6
Tel. 963 52 23 25

Open during services.

Iglesia de San Martín

This is one of the oldest churches in the city. The Iglesia de San Martín was one of the parish churches founded after the Christian conquest in 1238. From the Gothic period, you can still see the bricked ocular shapes on the facade facing the Calle San Vicente, partly occupied by the niche containing the statue of San Martín y el Pobre, a bronze work by the Flemish artist Pierre Van Békere.



Places of interest

C/ San Martín, 2
Tel. 963 522 952
Open during services.

Iglesia de San Nicolás

This is probably the best example in Valencia of a church combining Gothic structure with Baroque decoration. It was one of the first parish churches founded after the Christian conquest. Outstanding features inside include the frescos designed by Antonio Palomino and painted by Dionis Vidal.

C/ Caballeros, 35
Tel. 963 91 33 17

Open during services.

Iglesia del Santísimo Cristo del Salvador

Some of the mosques in the city were used as the sites for new churches and this is the case here. The current layout of the church comes from its modernisation in the 19th century, although it still retains its Neoclassical style and an exceptional Romanesque bell tower. The façade lies along the old route of the Vía Augusta.

C/ Trinitarios, 1
Tel. 963 92 14 58

Open during services.

Iglesia de los Santos Juanes

The first Church of Sant Joan Mercat was built in an area of the city known as La Boatella. The broad Mercado facade is very unusual and was designed as a grandiose stone altarpiece presided by a statue of La Virgen del Rosario with a clock tower flanked by the two St. Johns and crowned by the famous weather vane known as the "Pardal de Sant Joan". At the bottom of the terrace, we find "Les covetes de Sant Joan", lower ground floor premises used by scrap merchants and second hand shops, part of the living history of Valencia.

Pl. del Mercado, s/n
Tel. 963 91 63 54

Open during services.

Monasterio de San Miguel De Los Reyes

The monastery of San Miguel de los Reyes was built in the 16th century on the site of the old



Basilica de la Virgen de los Desamparados

abbey of Sant Bernat de Rascanya, thanks to the patronage of the Viceroy of Valencia, but work on the monastery was suspended. Work didn't start again until the 1570s and was clearly influenced by the Escorial. The monastery has two severe cloisters only adorned with embedded columns and a balustrade at the top. Sold after the seizure, it was very nearly demolished but the Town Hall prevented this. In 1856, it was used as an old people's home, and from 1859 to the 1950s it became a prison, then to be abandoned for a long time. It has now been renovated and is the headquarters of the Valencian Library.

Avda. Constitución, 284
(junction with Tavernes Blanques)
Tel. 963 87 40 00

Opening Hours:
Library – Monday to Saturday;
Exhibitions – Tuesdays to Sundays
Guided tours.

Palacio Arzobispal

The Archbishop's Palace was designed by the architect Vicente Traver Tomás and contains the ecclesiastical chambers of the Archbishopric of Valencia. Built in the Historical Baroque style with nuances from Seville, the brickwork facade rises over a stone base. The mezzanine has closed-in openings and moulded balconies. The present day palace has retained the pointed 13th century arches of the original building.

C/ Palau, 2
Tel. 963 82 97 00

No set opening hours.

Templo and San Juan del Hospital buildings

The church of San Juan del Hospital was the priory of the Knights of the Order of Saint John and was built around 1261. After the Cathedral, it is thought to be the first church built after the Christian conquest, and its architecture combines the elegance of Romanesque traditions with Gothic innovations. The buildings initially housed a hospital, convent and a cemetery.



Palacio Arzobispal and Catedral de Valencia



Places of interest

Its dressed-stone vault and the fresco paintings in the chapels are outstanding features of the Gothic church.

C/ Trinquette de Caballeros, 5
Tel. 963 92 29 65

Open during services.
Visits by telephone appointment only.

Templo and Torre de Santa Catalina Mártir

This is one of the early parish churches built near the Cathedral after the conquest of the city. The church was founded in 1245 and was built in the Gothic style, although it was altered to satisfy Renaissance tastes in the 16th century, to become Baroque in the 18th century after a fire. The bell tower is a masterpiece of Valencian Baroque and was finished in 1705.

Pl. Santa Catalina, s/n
Tel. 963 91 77 13

Open during services.

Archaeological sites

Plaza de l'Almoina

The remains of l'Almoina spread over 2,500 square metres and here you can see how Valencia evolved from Roman to Mediaeval times. The remains are organised in chronological order. In the middle of the site, we find the thermal baths and the republican city. To the west are remains corresponding to the time of the Roman Empire, such as the forum and the curia. To the south, are



Torre de Santa Catalina



Museo de Bellas Artes San Pio V



Casa-Museo de Vicente Blasco Ibáñez

the remains of the Visigothic period, consisting of the martyrial and episcopal areas. Finally, the western section shows finds from the Muslim period.

C/ de la Harina, s/n

Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext. 4173

Museums

Casa-Museo Concha Piquer

The two-storey house is on a rectangular plot with windows and balconies looking out onto Calle de Ruaya and Calle de la Pepita.

The ground floor is open-plan and houses the permanent exhibition with numerous photos, personal objects, record materials, souvenirs, etc., relating to the artistic career of Concha and her enormous public impact.

The original staircase leads up to the first floor, with a valuable collection of designs and dummies related to the rich and varied wardrobe of the singer. Here is where the artist was born, and a lot of work has been put into recreating the atmosphere that was to impregnate the early years of the unforgettable actress and singer.

Ruaya, 23

Tel. 963 48 56 58

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Casa-Museo José Benlliure

The House-Museum José Benlliure is at n° 23 Calle de Blanquerías, a street which takes its name from the fact that all kinds of leather goods were made and whitened there in the Islamic period. The house itself is a typical bourgeois middle-upper class dwelling from the late 19th century. The museum has many works by José Benlliure and his son Peppino, and the ground floor recreates the atmosphere of a typical bourgeois house during the Restoration.

C/ Blanquerías, 23

Tel. 963 91 16 62

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Casa-Museo de Vicente Blasco Ibáñez

The house on La Malvarrosa beach that the writer Vicente Blasco Ibáñez used to live in is now a museum containing his souvenirs, personal items and literary works. Collections of engravings, porcelain, documents, photos, as well as his wife's dressing table items, handbags and fans, are some of the objects you can see here. There is a research centre on another floor, while the book section contains works by some of the most influential Valencian writers.

C/ Isabel de Villena, 156

Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext. 2586

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.



Places of interest

Centro cultural la Beneficència

La Casa de Beneficència was built by the Regional Council on the remains of the old Convento de la Corona in 1841. The most outstanding part is probably the Neobyzantine church, built in 1883 by Joaquín María Belda.

The building has been completely restored and now houses the Valencian Prehistory Museum, one of the city's most important museums because of the importance of its collections and exhibitions containing items from Prehistory to the Roman period, and the Valencian Ethnology Museum.

C/ Corona, 36

Tel. 963 88 35 65

www.xarxamuseus.com

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Cripta de San Vicente

This archaeological site dates back to Visigothic times and is linked to San Vicente Mártir -the patron saint of the city. The chapel was originally built for a prelate and was probably connected to the Cathedral. The lowest part of the site has traces of the Vía Augusta in the city. Tradition has it that the prison where San Vicente Mártir was whipped is to be found here. A hundred years later it became an oratory or chapel that still stands, and the well was discovered in 1777. An interesting interactive tour showing the history of the city of Valencia is available in several languages.

Pl. del Arzobispo, 2

Tel. 963 94 14 17

From Tuesday to Sunday.

Audiovisual tours by appointment only.

Galeria del Tossal

The gallery contains important remains of Valencia's Islamic city walls, when Valencia was the capital of one of the Taifa kingdoms in the 11th century. The walls had five gateways and, al-Udri, a famous geographer of the time, said that it was "of great perfection". There are remains of the wall that used to encircle the city at several points in the old town, especially in the El Carmen quarter.

Pl. del Tossal, s/n

Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext. 4403

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Groups by appointment only.

Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno (IVAM)

The Valencian Institute of Modern Art (IVAM) consists of seven galleries, including the permanent collection of the works of Julio González. The IVAM is regarded as one of the foremost contemporary art museums in Spain and its international standard programme includes temporary exhibitions of the works of the best painters and sculptors in the world. The IVAM collections are made up of over 7,000 works that show the fundamental artistic manifestations of the 20th century and follow a historical criterion aimed at expressing and highlighting the identifying

features of modern and contemporary art, as well as making specific contributions to its development.

C/ Guillem de Castro, 118
Tel. 963 86 30 00
www.ivam.es

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Museo del Arroz

The Rice Museum is housed in an early 20th century rice mill in Valencia's Cabanyal area and was restored by Valencia Town Hall, with the machinery being renovated by the Polytechnic University. Here you can see how rice was processed at the beginning of the 20th century.

C/ Rosario, 1
Tel. 963 67 62 91
Ext: 4075

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Museo del Artista Fallero

The Falla Artist Museum has a collection of sketches, photos and ninots (falla figures), and is located in the attractive "City of the Falla Artists" – alongside the workshops of the artists and craftsmen who design and build each year's Falla monuments.

Av. San José Artesano, 17
Tel. 963 47 96 23

Open from Monday to Sunday.

Museo de Bellas Artes de Valencia San Pío V

The Colegio de San Pío V - now the Fine Arts Museum and headquarters of the Real Academia de San Carlos - was founded by Archbishop Juan Tomás de Rocabertí to train priests. It was designed by Juan Pérez Castiel in 1683, although work on it didn't start until well into the 18th century. It consists of two parts: the college and the church. The collections include some of the most important Gothic paintings in Spain, with works by such famous artists as Paolo de San Leocadio, Yañez de la Almedina, Juan de Juanes, Ribera, Velázquez, Murillo, Goya, Pinazo and Sorolla. The quality and amount of items in its possession mean that it is regarded as one of the best galleries in Spain.

C/ San Pío V, 9
Tel. 963 60 57 93
www.cult.gva.es/mbav

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Museo de Bellas Artes de Valencia Centro del Carmen

Cultural center in the old Carmelite Convent, it holds temporary exhibitions and cultural events.

C/ Museo, 3
Tel. 963 87 03 00

The City Museum Palacio del Marqués de Campo

This 15th century building was the palace of the Dukes of Villahermosa and then of the Marquis de Campo and the Counts of Berbedel.



Places of interest

Outstanding features include the spacious dome above the staircase decorated with fine stuccowork, and the room known as La Serre, with its greenhouse-like glass walls.

The palace is now home to the City Museum, with interesting municipal collections of paintings, etchings, weights and measures. There is a permanent collection of archaeological items from the time when the city was founded: Roman, Visigothic, Arabic and Christian. There are also documents dating back to the reconquest by King Jaime I and from later periods. The pictorial collections of the Town Hall are kept here and there are temporary exhibitions by Valencian artists

Plaza del Arzobispo, 3
Tel. 963 52 54 78, Ext. 4126

Open from Tuesday to Saturday.

Museo Fallero

Housed in the old convent of Los Padres Paules, the Falla Museum holds the collection of ninots indultats, together with photos of the best fallas of each year and the posters announcing the winners of the annual contest. The ninots indultats are the falla figures from the adult and children's fallas that are saved from being burnt by a popular vote. They are regarded as the best ninots of each year and therefore worthy of being saved.

Plaza Monteolivete, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext: 4625

From Tuesday to Sunday.

Museo de Historia de Valencia

The Museum of the History of Valencia is located in the city's old water depot - La Sala Hipóstila, inaugurated in 1850. It is a fine work of engineering with its pillars and brickwork. It is a versatile museum with archaeological, pictorial, documental, photographic and virtual collections. It is an educational area where you can learn more about the history of Valencia in a pleasant yet rigorous way, reliving the events that have created the city by observing the cultures and customs that have made it what it is today.

Next to the Parque de Cabecera
Entrance on Calle Valencia (Mislata)
Tel. 963 70 11 05

From Tuesday to Sunday.

Museo Histórico Militar

The Military History Museum is located in El Acuartelamiento de San Juan de la Ribera (Norte) on the Paseo de la Alameda and was built in 1898. The collections are largely those of the museum founded in 1990. Most items are from the 19th and 20th centuries and include: flags and standards, uniforms, models, dioramas and miniatures, techniques and logistics, heavy and light weapons, militaria, weapons and units, the Civil War (1936-39), peace missions, fine arts, documents and photos – with unique items in all the collections. The permanent exhibition has over 2,000 perfectly catalogued items and over 3,000 items remain in storage. The Museum has a projection room, café and technical library.

General Gil Dolz, 8
Tel. 961 96 62 15

From Tuesday to Sunday.



MUVIM



National Ceramics Museum

Museo Histórico Municipal

Located in the City Hall, in the Old School House founded in the 18th century, the Municipal History Museum contains four rooms with the most emblematic objects and documents referring to the history of Valencia, including the book of *Els Furs* (laws), the *senyera* (regional flag) and the sword of Jaime I the Conqueror.

Pl. Ayuntamiento, 1
Tel. 963 52 54 78

From Monday to Friday

Museo de la Ilustración y la Modernidad (MUVIM)

The Museum of Enlightenment and Modernity is located in a new building and its approach and contents make this an innovative museum, always focusing on Modernity. There are three large exhibition areas dedicated to Enlightenment, temporary exhibitions and the library and research centre. It has been designed as an interactive and educational space where visitors are led along the road from Enlightenment to Modernity.

C/ Guillem de Castro, 8
Tel. 963 88 37 30
www.xarxamuseums.com

Museo Municipal de Ciencias Naturales

The most important exhibit in the Municipal Natural Sciences Museum is a dinosaur skeleton, and there are also collections of insects, fossils, conches and seashells.

C/ San Pío V (Viveros municipales), s/n
Tel. 962 08 43 13

From Tuesday to Sunday.



Places of interest

The National Art and Ceramics Museum "González Martí"

The Palace of the Marqués de Dos Aguas is the result of the major modernisation work carried out from 1740-1750 on the ancestral home of the Rabassa de Perellós family. Inside, you can still see 18th century carriages and recently restored 19th century rooms with their original decoration. The second floor houses the González Martí National Ceramics Museum, with an important collection of items that range from antiquity to the latest designs.

Especially interesting is the collection of mediaeval Christian ceramics from Manises and Paterna, the Baroque carriage of Las Ninfas, furniture from Dresden, the Japanese room with its original furniture, a group of ancient Iberian, Greek and Roman ceramics, a collection of mediaeval Valencian tiles with items from La Real Fábrica de Alcora, as well as a reproduction of a typical Valencian kitchen.

C/ Poeta Querol, 2
Tel. 963 51 63 92
www.mnceramica.mcu.es

From Tuesday to Sunday.

Museo Taurino

The Bullfighting Museum was founded in 1929 with funds bequeathed by a lover of bullfighting - Luis Moróder Peiró – and with the private collection of the picador José Bayard "Badila". It has been remodelled several times and its collection has increased so that it is now regarded as one of the best in Spain. It is a member of the Valencia Regional Council Network of Museums and is designed to exhibit its bullfighting collection and to act as a research centre to promote all aspects of bullfighting.

Pasaje Dr. Serra, 10
Tel. 963 88 37 38
www.xarxamuseus.com/taurino

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Museo Valenciano de Historia Natural

This museum is managed by the Fundación Entomológica Torres Sala. It houses two areas with important collections of insects and mollusks, they are exposed didactically.

Paseo de la Pechina, 15
Tel. 963 91 06 06

Open every day, except holidays

Gardens and green spaces

La Glorieta

La Glorieta is home to monuments dedicated to famous Valencian personalities, including Doctor Gómez Ferrer, created by Paredes, except for the children at his feet who are by Luis Bolinche; the cast bronze bust dedicated to the painter Francisco Domingo Marqués by Mariano Benlliure, which was previously in Las Alamedidas de Serranos, and the busts of the painters Muñoz Degrián and Joaquín Agrasot, both works of the sculptor Francisco Maroc y Díaz – the first painted on top of a curved bench and the latter in bronze. The original bust of the sainetero Eduardo Escalante by Mariano Benlliure was also bronze and when the head was stolen, it was replaced by one in marble by Marco, with the monument to Escalante being placed in a garden in El Cabanyal.

This area is fringed by the streets General Palanca, General Tovar, Palacio de Justicia and Porta de la Mar.
Tel. 963 52 54 78

Jardín Botánico

The Botanical Gardens of the University of Valencia began as a smallholding used to teach botany or “hort de simples” in the 16th century, although we don’t know the exact site. A new garden, better adapted to scientific advances, was created in the 18th century. It now has a major botanical collection, with over three thousand tree and plant species from all five continents, especially interesting being the collections of palms and tropical trees, and those of cacti and other desert plants.

C/ Quart, 80
Tel. 963 15 68 17

Open from Tuesday to Sunday.
Groups by appointment only.

Jardín de las Hespérides

The garden is home to fifty different varieties of citrus tree and sculptures representing Greek mythology, fountains, etc.

C/ Beato Gaspar Bono
Tel. 963 52 54 78

Open every day.

Jardín de Polifilo

The garden takes its inspiration from the book “Sueños de Polifilo” by Francesco de Coloma. It is a Romantic garden with suggestively named areas: Destiny’s Gates Square, the Guardian of the Market Gardens, the Isle of Ciretea, etc.

Camp de Turia, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78

Open every day.

Los Jardines del Real – Viveros

These gardens houses the Natural Sciences Museum. Services and Activities: Children’s activities, cultural activities, children’s attractions, and exhibitions. Nature classes, bar, open-air meals, outdoors areas, tourist train, play area, zoo, and children’s area.

Located in what used to be the gardens of the Royal palace, they have gradually been replanted and improved over the last hundred years. However, the gardens still retain an air of centuries gone by, with their little squares, pruned hedges, fountains with statues and delightful rose gardens. They are now one of the favourite places for Valencians to stroll on Sunday mornings. The Book Fair is set up here and many cultural events such as concerts and open-air films take place here during the July Fair. The City Zoo is also in the gardens.

C/ San Pío V, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78

C/ Monforte, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext. 4345

Open every day.



Places of interest

Bioparc Valencia

Bioparc is the city of Valencia's new wildlife park. Situated to the north of the Parque de Cabecera gardens on what was previously the riverbed of the Turia, the Bioparc has taken over from Valencia Zoo, which stood for many years in the Jardines del Real gardens in Viveros.

Bioparc Valencia is an unusual zoo created with the concept of "zoo immersion", which seeks to plunge visitors into a meticulous recreation of natural habitats. The animals, plants and landscape form a pleasing whole that invites the public to discover the complexity of the natural ecosystems of Africa, Southeast Asia and the Neotropics.

Bioparc Valencia
www.bioparcvalencia.es
info@bioparcvalencia.es

Palacete y Jardines de Ayora

These gardens consist of 17,000 square metres with abundant vegetation. At one end, there is a mansion with a square tower in the centre. The Protomodernist building has a number of Classical influences.

C/ Santos Justo y Pastor, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78

Open every day

Palacete y Jardines de Monforte

Juan Bautista Romero, a rich Valencian landowner, built this large garden and its academic mansion on an old market garden as his recreational retreat. The vegetation is divided into two different areas – one in the

French style, geometrical with pruned hedges, while the other is Romantic, with large leafy trees. There are also many sculptures, including a pair of Colmenar stone lions by José Bellver, originally carved for the Parliament Building in Madrid and finally sited here.

C/ Monforte, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78 Ext. 4345

Open everyday.

Parque de Benicalap

The park consists of several areas: sports, outdoor swimming pools, relaxation, theatre-forum and a retired person's social centre.

C/ Francisco Morote Greus, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78

Open every day.

Parque del Oeste

Comprehensive children's facilities: skateboarding, minigolf, skating rink, and petanque. A large area for concerts and shows.

C/ Enguera, s/n
Tel. 963 52 54 78

Open every day.



Jardín Botánico



Jardines de Monforte



Jardines de las Hespérides

El Parterre

Built on a pre-existing site in the old Plaza de la Aduana, Martínez Aloy regarded this place to be the lowest in Valencia. The gardens were created around 1850, and forty-seven magnolias and two monkey-puzzle trees were already growing there in 1852. El Parterre took its present appearance quite a while later when the monument to King Jaime I was inaugurated. According to Nebot Pérez, the garden had four circular ponds, four groups of Canary pines, two pisanthropes, metrosideros and monkey puzzle trees. The monumental statue dedicated to King Jaime I is an important feature of El Parterre.

Pl. Alfonso el Magnánimo

Tel. 96 352 54 78

Parque de Cabecera

Located in the old river bed of the Turia, this park recreates the river's original scenery. Here, the main feature is, of course, water which flows past the park's vegetation and installations along its way.

C/ Pío Baroja, s/n

Tel. 963 52 54 78

Open every day.

Parque Gulliver

This leisure park is aimed mainly at children and is located right at the centre of the dry riverbed of the Turia.

Tramo XII del cauce del Río Turia

Tel. 963 37 02 04

Open every day.



Places of interest

Leisure and cultural centres

Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias

This impressive set of buildings was designed by Santiago Calatrava, and offers different spaces where knowledge, culture and leisure are treated with the same architectural concept.

L'Hemisfèric

Planetarium, Laserium and IMAX Cinema in a single building, the Hemisfèric was designed like a giant human eye, looking out on the world over a 24,000 square metre pool. Like the eye it is, it has a semi-spherical pupil, under which you find the projection room, eyelids and eyelashes, which move thanks to a unique feat of engineering. The Hemisfèric's programme changes every season and combines shows, conferences and 3-D IMAX movies.

Museu de les Ciències Príncipe Felipe

The Príncipe Felipe Science Museum is just as spectacular inside as it is outside with its five floors and 42,000 square metres of surface area, the Science Museum was built using a complicated system of platforms and covered by two great roofs that rise to over 40 metres.

It was designed as an educational area where visitors can "experience" things by using their own senses. Its dynamic character means that most of the space is devoted to temporary exhibitions. The Museum also hosts major cultural and scientific events.

L'Oceanogràfic

45,000 animals. 500 different marine species -including sharks, beluga whales, sea lions, penguins and manta rays. 42 million litres of water. Eleven underwater buildings or towers set around the central lake, interconnected by floating walkways, ramps and an amazing variety of gardens. This is the setting for the largest aquarium in Europe - L'Oceanogràfic. The park



L'Oceanogràfic



L'Hemisfèric

Ciudad de las Artes y Las Ciencias

Av. Autopista del Saler, 1-7

Tel. 902 10 00 31

www.cac.es

Autobus lines: 19, 35, 95 and 40

Open every day.

Consult prices and schedules.

was designed as a centre for leisure, education and research and is divided into ten broadly themed areas, which cover all the different marine ecosystems on the planet. The marine areas properly speaking recreate the habitats of the Mediterranean, the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans, Islands, Tropical Seas, Temperate Seas and the Red Sea. The park also has a spectacular dolphinarium, an auditorium – within which is the Red Sea aquarium, an area representing the Wetlands – with one section for mangrove swamps and another for marshes, and different gardens containing over 80 different plant species. And naturally there is a comprehensive range of facilities which include shops and restaurants - especially the underwater restaurant, where customers can enjoy a meal surrounded by an immense aquarium.

Palau de Les Arts Reina Sofía

The latest and most spectacular of the buildings in the City of the Arts and Sciences has been designed as an all-embracing cultural centre, able to offer opera, dance and open-air concerts. The innovative programme is coherent, offering top artistic events and offers a global vision that uses music as the basis for other artistic and cultural disciplines. El Palau de Les Arts is equipped with a stage measuring over 1,500m² where the latest technology, such as portable platforms, interchangeable sets and simultaneous translation via screens in the seats themselves, will be available in order to set the scene for all kinds of opera, musical or plays.

L'Umbracle

L'Umbracle is the gateway to the City of the Arts and Sciences, a 1,000 square metres green area open to all. L'Umbracle is 320 metres long and 60 metres wide, and contains El Paseo de las Esculturas - an open-air art gallery with sculptures by contemporary artists such as Miquel Navarro and Yoko Ono. Its roof also provides shelter for a great number of different

plants chosen for their shapes and colours which change continuously with the different seasons of the year.

Palau de la Música

Inaugurated in 1987, the building was designed by José María Paredes and the surrounding gardens by Ricardo Bofill. Its symphonic concert hall - the Sala Iturbi – has a capacity for 1,800 and there is a smaller hall for chamber music - the Sala Rodrigo. Referring to auditoriums, the tenor Plácido Domingo put the acoustics at the same level as a "Stradivarius".

It has one of the highest quality programmes in Spain and holds annual festivals of other styles of music, such as jazz and flamenco.

Paseo de la Alameda, 30
Tel. 963 37 50 20
www.palaudevalencia.com

Open every day.



Valencia, host city of the 32nd and 33rd America's Cup

In 2007, the Region of Valencia, and Spain as a whole, is attracting the attention of millions of people around the world as the city of Valencia hosts the 32nd America's Cup. Finally, this competition is returning to Europe after 152 years.

Of all the sporting events held around the world, this is the oldest and its media coverage can only be compared to that of the Olympic Games. A competition in which precision, technological development and strategy are determining factors, making this a highly prestigious historical legend both for the holders of the title and their rivals.

The organisers consider that Valencia has the best conditions as regards both wind and sea, and they also value it as a dynamic city which offers the necessary infrastructure required to hold this nautical event of worldwide media interest.

Hosting this nautical event has been Valencia's chance to open up to the sea once and for all, thus responding to a historic demand that enables it to recover the virtues the Mediterranean brings to the city's urban development.

It was originally called the 100 Guinea's Cup. However, after the victory of the yacht *America* in 1851, it became known as the America's Cup in 1870. Up until 1983, when the Australian yacht, *Australia II*, won the trophy, the competition had always been won by American vessels. The Louis Vuitton Cup was created in the same year as a pre-competition to decide the vessel to challenge the trophy holder.

In the 2003 competition, which was held in Auckland, New Zealand, a European

vessel –the Swiss yacht *Alinghi* – won the America's Cup after 152 years. As the winner, Switzerland would be responsible for organising the next competition in 2007. Of course, Switzerland is a landlocked country and so the competition could not be held there. In November 2003, the Swiss syndicate named Valencia as the host city from another 56 contenders, including Barcelona, Naples, Marseille, Palma de Majorca and Cascais.

The 32nd America's Cup saw victory go to Team *Alinghi* following the nail-biting final against Team Emirates New Zealand in July 2007, after the New Zealand boat had won the Louis Vuitton Cup and earned the right to face the Swiss defender in Valencian waters.

As a result of the immense success of this event, Valencia has been selected to host the competition again, for the 33rd America's Cup. The challenge therefore remains in Valencian waters, which will once again vibrate with the excitement of fierce competition among the faster boats equipped with advanced technology.

Hosting the event in Valencia is an unbeatable opportunity to promote the art of navigation in our society. Such a task will be aided by a number of factors, including the city's optimal weather conditions - which are ideal for practising water sports thanks to average annual temperatures of over 17° C -, its strategic location and the important investment that will contribute to turning the coastline of Valencia into the Marina of Spaniards and Europeans alike.

A new marina: Port America's Cup

The current development of infrastructures in Valencia Port for the 32nd America's Cup will turn the city into a benchmark for tourism.

The new area laid out by creating an Outer Marina, connected to the Inner Quay by a 600-metre-long channel, and by building different structures, will definitively join the city to the sea and will allow for 600 new berths to be made.

The area is equipped with avant-garde designer buildings, like the team bases or the guests' centre, and include leisure and restaurant zones beside the sea, surrounded by spectacular views of the city and the regatta area. Without a doubt, a magnificent legacy of the competition's visit to Mediterranean waters, which leave Valencia with one of the finest Marinas in Europe.



Port America's Cup



Formula 1 Grand Prix in Valencia

Valencia, home to the Formula 1 Grand Prix street circuit

A spectacular Formula 1 Grand Prix street circuit in Valencia in 2008 is set to prove an excellent showcase for Spain and the Region of Valencia in the eyes of millions from around the world.

The race will be held on the streets of Valencia for at least seven years, and will feature all of the safety measures over and above the conventional circuits. The route will take drivers through the attractive Port America's Cup marina area, including a swing bridge that spans the harbour channel



Fórmula Uno en Valencia





Celebrations and events

Valencia is known all over the world for its Fallas. These fiestas came into being to celebrate the arrival of spring by burning, and thus purifying, everything old and negative from the previous year. Today's Fallas are all this and much more. They are a whole culture in themselves and part of the way of life in Valencia. Las Fallas represent the Valencian character – love of art, spectacle, noise, gunpowder and the ephemeral.

Las Fallas surprise all visitors: for five days the streets are filled with true works of art made from papier-mâché. Complicated statues several metres high which seem to defy gravity. These satirical monuments are the fruit of the labours of the Falla artists, craftsmen who spend a whole year almost exclusively dedicated to their creations. However, on the night of March 19th, only four days after being “planted”, all the Fallas must burn – to the delight of Valencians, who comment on how well or badly their Falla burned down.

But many other fiestas are also held in Valencia. As in most Spanish cities, there are the religious fiestas dedicated to the patron saints, in this case San Vicente Mártir, San Vicente Ferrer and the Virgen de los Desamparados. There is also a regional holiday on October 9th, as well as other fiestas throughout the year – Corpus Christi, the July Fair, Christmas and the “Three Kings” or Epiphany.

Las Fallas

(march 15th to 19th)

A fiesta of international tourist interest

The Fallas have their origins in a ritual celebrating the arrival of spring, later converted by the church into a commemoration of the day of San José. The inhabitants of Valencia used to throw their old furniture and junk in the street and burn it as a symbol of purification, showing that winter had gone and spring had arrived. Over time, they also began to burn satirical figures representing those they most detested in the city. Nowadays this spontaneous fiesta is very different indeed.

The Fallas as we know them today date back to the 18th century. There are currently some 400 comisiones falleras – falla groups – in Valencia. Each of them sets up its own Falla and celebrates the fiestas in the open air. The Fallas are real works of art made from papier-mâché and represent satirical scenes, normally referring to current affairs and Valencian customs.

The Falla artists responsible for creating the Fallas zealously protect the subjects and designs of their monuments, which are only unveiled on the night of March 15th, when all the Fallas are “planted” in the streets and squares of Valencia. The next day, the Junta Central Fallera Organising Committee visits all the monuments and chooses the best in each category. Every year the Fallas in the Special Category – those with the biggest budgets – compete for the prestigious first prize, which recognises their originality, beauty and technical difficulty.

Events not to be missed during the Fallas

LA PLANTÀ: in the early hours of March 15th the Fallas are "planted". All the Falla monuments are installed in the streets and squares of Valencia in a single night. The children's Fallas are installed on the previous night – the 14th.

LA DESPERTÀ: the comisiones falleras – Falla groups – parade around the city waking everyone up by letting off fireworks – mainly bangers.

LA MASCLETÀ: the mascletà or firework barrage takes place every day from March 1st to 19th in the Town Hall square. This firework display is based solely on noise and is the favourite part of the fiesta for the many Valencians who come to listen every day.

LA NIT DEL FOC: every night during Fallas week there are firework displays, but the largest and most spectacular takes place on the night of March 18th – which is why it's called the "Nit del Foc" (night of fire).

THE FLORAL OFFERINGS: the Falla groups, with the Falleras and Falleros all dressed in traditional costume, parade through the city, sometimes covering several kilometres, to the Plaza de la Virgen square, where they present bunches of flowers to the Virgen de los Desamparados. They are used to make an enormous tapestry that is on public display for several days. This takes place on March 17th and 18th from 4 p.m. until late.

LA FERIA DE FALLAS: the most important bullfights held in the city.

LA CREMÀ: The crowning point of the Fallas. At midnight on March 19th, all the Fallas are burnt in front of the emotional Falleros. These spectacular blazes leave nobody indifferent.

For four days, from March 16th to 19th, the Fallas remain on display in the streets and the Falleros party around their Fallas. There are parades with music and bands every morning. At midday, there are deafening firework barrages - mascletás – and communal lunches. At night, there are open-air dances and fireworks displays.

La Semana Santa Marinera

The Maritime Holy Week is a unique celebration of Easter that has its roots in the area of the city nearest the sea. Processions, masses and other events are held during these days. Especially impressive are the Procesión del Silencio and the Procesión del Santo Entierro. Twenty-seven groups accompanied by penitents carry the statues through the streets. Other outstanding processions include La Recogida de las Palmas, La Procesión del Silencio and El Desfile de Resurrección.

On the Sunday of the Resurrection, onlookers marvel at the colourful processions and often very unusual costumes. Easter Sunday and Monday are celebrated in the open air and people normally take a trip into the countryside to eat the traditional Longaniza de Pascua sausage and La Mona Easter cake.

Virgen de Los Desamparados

(2nd Sunday in May)

The fiesta of the patron saint of Valencia is the city's most important religious festivity. During the morning of the second Sunday in May, the Virgen de los Desamparados is carried in procession from the Basilica to the Cathedral. It's only a few metres, but the statue takes hours to cover them, as the Plaza de la Virgen is absolutely packed. On this day the façade of the Cathedral is covered with flowers.



Celebrations and events

San Vicente Mártir

(January 22nd)

This fiesta is held in honour of the patron saint of Valencia, with religious and cultural celebrations in memory of the martyrdom of Deacon Vicente.

Corpus Christi

(2nd or 3rd Sunday in June)

This is one of the most popular and most fervently followed processions, with allegorical characters from the Old and New Testaments, such as La Moma and La Custodia, and the Gigantes y Cabezudos – Giants and Bigheads – dancing alongside. This procession puts on plays showing biblical mysteries on mobile stages carried by floats or Rocas, which date back to the Baroque period.



La Cremà



Corpus

San Vicente Ferrer

(The Monday after Easter)

This fiesta is symbolised by the city's orphans, who put on plays dramatising the miracles performed by San Vicente Ferrer on altars built in several of the best-known neighbourhoods in Valencia. The day of San Vicente Ferrer is celebrated on the Monday after Easter.

Cruces de mayo

During the Crosses of May fiesta, the streets of Valencia turn into a beautiful garden, when floral crosses are placed all over the city.

Noche de San Juan

(The night of June 23rd)

The night of San Juan is a night redolent with rituals and magic, when tradition demands that you have to paddle in the sea if your dreams are to come true. Crowds of people visit the beaches and light hundreds of bonfires to satisfy the whole magical procedure by getting together with friends, jumping over the flames and having dinner on the beach. The Town Hall also organises open-air dances near La Malvarrosa beach.

La Feria de julio

(The whole month of July)

Thousands of events take place in the open air during the July Fair held in the Paseo de la Alameda and Jardines de Viveros. There are all kinds of music concerts and important competitions for groups all month long. Other traditional events include the bullfights and the "Battle of the Flowers" when, living up to the name, the city showers its visitors with flowers in an unrivalled spectacle.

Day of the Region of Valencia

(October 9th)

In this fiesta Valencians celebrate the conquest of a city with a civic procession headed by the Valencian flag - the *senyera* - which is kept in the Historical Museum of Valencia and which, as tradition has it, will not dip to anyone. Another custom is that of giving the ladies a traditional handkerchief containing marzipan shaped like fruit. This traditional gift is known as the *mocadorà*.



Museo Fallero

Fiestas del Cristo de La Salud

The festivity del Cristo de la Salud takes place in El Palmar and its main act consists of carrying the statue to the centre of the lake to bless the waters, thus assuring good catches and bountiful crops during the coming year.

Christmas celebrations

The city is decorated and illuminated and welcomes an exhibition of different nativity scenes. Over thirty floats make up the traditional Cavalcade of the Three Kings, and toys and sweets are thrown to the spectators thronging the route. At the end of the parade the Three Kings salute the crowds from the Town Hall balcony.



Culture and leisure

Valencia enjoys a rich cultural life that is shown by the different events taking place throughout the year. Outstanding events include the **Mostra de Valencia: Cinema del Mediterrani**, a film festival that has become an essential date for industry professionals and is always a great success with the general public. The official section of La Mostra awards prizes to the best films from countries around the Mediterranean. There are also retrospective film cycles and a section showing interesting international films.

The annual **Pasarela del Carmen** fashion show has also made a name for itself with leading fashion designers who bring their creations for the coming season. **The Festival Internacional de Cine Cinema Jove** aims to discover new talent in the Spanish film industry and the Filmoteca Valenciano shows films in the gardens of the Palau de la Música throughout the summer. Every Sunday from October to June, La Plaza de la Virgen is the scene of the Balls Valencians al Carrer Festival performances, while contemporary dance makes its appearance at the **Danza Valencia** contest.

New technologies also have their place in Valencia at the **Campus Party** in August. This is the biggest festival for networked computer users in the world. Here, participants can share their interests and experiences while taking part in all kinds of activities associated with I.T. and communications.



Firework



Celebrations and events

Annual cultural, leisure and sporting events

February January and September

Valencia Escena Oberta: International Festival of Performing Arts

The latest trends in theatre, dance, music, installations and prestidigitation. Some of the most important Spanish and international companies will share stages, streets and audiences, with over a hundred local performing arts students. This makes València Escena Oberta is one of the most innovative Spanish and international festivals. Conferences, courses, dance, music and theatre.

C/ La Nave, 20-1º
www.festivalveo.com

Pasarela el Carmen

PIV (Association of prêt a porter designers in the Region of Valencia) Art and fashion. The official fashion show of the Region of Valencia.

March to April

The City of Valencia Kite festival

Activities for children, other activities, prizes and competitions. The Festival welcomes competitors from Germany, Canada, France, Great Britain, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Free entry

May to June

Festival Eclètic

The Eclectic festival offers activities for children, fairs and markets, fireworks, food and drink, music, plays and other activities.

Organised by the City of the
Arts and Sciences
Tel. 902 10 00 31. www.cac.es

May to October

Concerts in El Palau Gardens

Concerts are held on Saturday and Sunday, but occasionally on Thursday and Friday. Check dates.

Jardín del Turia. Palau de la Música
Free entry

June

Cinema Jove Valencia International Film Festival

The latest edition of the "Young Cinema" International Film Festival.

Cinema Jove
Tel. 963 31 10 47

July

The City of Valencia International Band Contest

Concerts in the Palau de la Música and Valencia Bullring.

Free entry
Tel. 963 37 50 20

July

The July Fair

Concerts and funfair in Los Jardines de Viveros, activities for children, music and other activities, bulls.

Tribunal de Las Aguas

The Water Tribunal is the oldest legal institution in Europe. It has met for over 1,000 years at 12 p.m. at the Apostles doorway of Valencia Cathedral. The Tribunal currently has 8 síndicos or members, one for each of the irrigation areas. The síndicos are democratically elected by the farmers using irrigation on Valencian farms.

Pl. Virgen de los Desamparados
Puerta de los Apóstoles
de la Catedral de Valencia
Casa Vestuario
Tel. 963 91 44 45
www.valencia.es/ayuntamiento

In attendance: Thursdays from
11a.m.

Timetable: Every Thursday at 12
p.m. except bank holidays, when it
will be held the Wednesday before.
Free entry

Campus Party

The largest networked I.T.
event in the world.
Dates vary from year to
year.

www.campus-party.org

Mostra de Valencia Cinema del Mediterrani

A specialist film festival in
celebration of the
Mediterranean culture with
cinematographic cultural
activities, film
competitions and parallel
events.

www.mostravalencia.com

Consult the programme of events on:
www.comunitatvalenciana.com and at Tourist Info offices.



Celebrations and events

Valencia has a wide range of cinemas and theatres on offer and is visited by top theatre companies. Check the theatre programme for details about shows out now.

Filmothèque

Ivac · Sala Juan Piqueras · La Fílmoteca
Pl. Ayuntamiento, 17
Tel. 963 53 93 00
www.ivac-lafilmoteca.es

Theatres

L'Altre Espai
C/ Platero Suarez, 11 · bajo
Tel. 963 65 17.50
www.cult.gva.es/tgv

Carme Teatre
C/ Gutemberg, 3
Tel. 963 92 42 71

Centre Teatral Escalante
C/ Landerer, 5 · bajo
Tel. 963 91 24 42 · 963 91 87 08
www.escalantecentreteatral.com

Sala Palmireno
Av. Blasco Ibáñez, 28
Tel. 963 86 44 00
www.uv.es

Teatre El Micalet
Av. Guillem de Castro, 73
Tel. 963 92 14 82
www.teatromicalet.com

Teatro Círculo
Roger de Flor, 17
Tel. 963 92 20 23

Teatro de los Manantiales
Alcira, 9
Tel. 963 36 40 40
www.teatrodelosmanantiales.com

Teatro de Marionetas La Estrella
Ángeles, 33
Tel. 963 56 22 92
www.teatrolaestrella.com

Espai Campanar
C/ Tirso de Molina, 16, 1ª planta
Tel. 96.356.22.92
www.teatrolaestrella.com

Teatro El Musical del Cabanyal
Pl. Rosari, 3
Tel. 963 24 25 52
www.teatre-elmusical.com

Teatro L'Horaibaixa
Barón de San Petrillo, 34
Tel. 963 69 07 29

Teatro Off
Turia, 47
Tel. 963 84 11 85
www.offvalencia.com

Teatro Olympia
San Vicente Mártir, 44
Tel. 963 51 73 15
www.teatro-olympia.com

Teatro Principal
Barcas, 15
Tel.963 53 92 00 (Centralita)
www.cult.gva.es/tgv



Old Quarter



Paseo de la Alameda

Teatro Rialto

Pl. Ayuntamiento, 17
Tel. 963 53 93 00 (Centralita)
www.cult.gva.es/tgv

Teatro Talia

Caballeros, 31
Tel. 963 91 29 20
www.cult.gva.es/tgv

El Marionetari

C/ Turia, 47
Tel. 963 925 090

L'Espai de Circ

C/ Goya, 5, bajo izqda.
Tel. 639 988 292
www.espaidedecirc.com

Radio City

C/ Santa Teresa, 19-2
Tel. 963 914 151
www.radiocityvalencia.com

Sala Espacio Inestable

C/ Dr. Sanchos Bergón, 5

Sala Matilde Salvador

C/ Universidad, 2
Tel. 963 864 377
<http://teatres.gva.es>

Teatre L'Horta

C/ San Martín de Porres, 17
Tel. 963 759 643
www.lhortateatre.com



Food and drink

Valencian food is typically Mediterranean and there are an endless variety of dishes. Common ingredients include fish, shellfish such as the red prawn, molluscs such as tellinas - clams - and clóchinas - a local mussel variety, vegetables, desserts with Arabic roots and, last but certainly not least, rice.

Paella – universally famous

If there's one Valencian dish that everyone's heard of it's paella. Paella gets its name from the pan used to cook the rice - the paella is a saucepan with two handles. It must be at least 30 cm, in diameter and is quite shallow, with the edges 4 or 5 cm high, depending on the diameter. Purists say that paella should be cooked over a wood fire using water from Valencia, as the composition of the latter is perfect for rice, which must of course be of the Bomba type (short, round white grains). In Valencia, you can order chicken, rabbit, shellfish, vegetable and even mixed paellas. In Valencia, rice is cooked in a thousand different ways, all equally delicious. This is true even if it hasn't been cooked in the traditional paella pan. You'll always be able to enjoy delicious dishes such as baked rice, rice in stock with chicken, rice with vegetables or snails or black rice, etc.

Where to eat paella

Traditionally, you should eat paella in the neighbourhood next to the sea, although there are specialist restaurants all over town. The

restaurants on the beaches of Las Arenas and La Malvarrosa have been serving traditional paellas for decades.

Although there are many recipes for paella, we have included a recipe for those of you who want to know more about the best-known Valencian dish.

Some traditional Valencian dishes

Arròs al forn (baked rice)

A dry rice dish made in the oven in a pottery dish, often using the stock from the stew made the previous day, accompanied by pork (fatty pork, lips, ears, black pudding), chick peas, tomato and garlic. Xàtiva, 58 kilometres from Valencia, is the traditional place to eat this dish.

Arròs amb fesols i naps (rice with green beans and turnips)

A dish with stock where the rice is prepared along with green beans (fesols) and turnips (naps). It is normally a winter dish as the vegetables are combined with a lot of pork (trotters, head, etc.)

Arròs a banda (rice and fish)

This is a fisherman's dish, traditionally eaten in coastal areas. Although it is made with fish stock and prawns, it has humble origins. The dish doesn't need expensive fish because, as the name suggests, the rice and fish are cooked in separate pans ("a banda"), to finally "dry" the rice with the fish stock.

Recipe for paella

INGREDIENTS (FOR 10):

- Rice (1 kilo) (100-120 grams / person)
- Chicken (1 kilo)
- Rabbit (1 kilo)
- Green beans or *ferradura* (500 grams)
- Navy beans or *tabella* (300 grams)
- Lima beans or garrofón (300 grams)
- Ground red paprika
- Saffron threads
- Fresh tomatoes
- Virgin olive oil
- Salt to taste
- Water (two glasses of water for one of rice)



PREPARATION

1. Place the paella pan on the heat and pour in the olive oil and cover the bottom of the pan. Add salt and stir to mix with the oil.
2. Sautee the chicken and the rabbit to take on the flavour of the salt and oil.
3. When the meat is well sautéed, add the green beans and Lima beans. Mix well with the meat. Sautee the tomato and when it is well done add the paprika, cook for a few seconds and remove from the heat.
4. Add water (almost to the height of the rivets of the handles) before the tomato and paprika burn and stick to the pan.
5. Leave to boil for the stock to gain flavour.
6. Add the rice by drawing a cross on the pan. Use a spatula to spread the rice out.
7. Let the rice boil for about 20 minutes, adjusting the heat so that the stock evaporates but the dish doesn't burn.



Food and drink

Fideuà

This was originally a humble fishermen's dish. Gandia, and generally speaking the Safor area, is its birthplace and the area that has made it famous, as the "International Fideuà Contest" is held there every year. The fideuà is made in almost the same way as arròs a banda, but using noodles instead of rice.

The dish also requires: morralla (prawns, crab, small monkfish, etc.) and a grouper or swordfish bone (using this with bay leaf and a whole onion in its skin to prepare the stock).

All i pebre

This is the second most important local dish and one of the best-known in Valencia. It's no accident that its name contains two of the ingredients used to make it: garlic and eels.

This stew comes from the marshes, more exactly the island of El Palmar, where it is very popular indeed. It consists of fresh eels, garlic, paprika, chilli peppers, oil, a little water, salt and potatoes. This is the traditional dish of the Island of El Palmar, in the Albufera de Valencia.

Arnadí

This is one of the oldest sweets or desserts in the Region of Valencia and has an Arab name. This traditional Valencian homemade cake is golden, decorated with almonds or sugar and made from crystallised pumpkin and sweet potato, sugar, almonds, pine kernels and cinnamon.



Fideuà



Arnadí



Horchata

Mona de Pascua

This is a kind of round tart or flat cake, made with the same dough as the *panquemado* (using flour, eggs, oil, sugar and yeast, typical of the Alberic area) with a hard-boiled egg still in their shells, painted or unpainted, embedded in the dough. The *Monas* are traditionally eaten at Easter.

Bunyols (fritters)

These fritters are traditionally eaten in Valencia during the *Fallas*. They are made of flour, water and yeast, and are sprinkled with sugar once fried. Sometimes pumpkin is added to the dough. They are usually eaten with a good cup of hot chocolate and during the *Fallas* many open-air stalls prepare them while you wait – a real delight for the palate that you shouldn't miss.

Horchata

A sweet drink that must be served very cold, it is made from ground tiger nuts (grown mainly in *L'Horta de Valencia*), water and sugar. It's worth going to *Alboraya* to taste what is meant to be the best *horchata* in Valencia, accompanied by the traditional *fartons*, a kind of sweet bar-shaped sponge cake made of flour, water or milk, sugar, oil, yeast and eggs.

Apart from the traditional dishes and the ever-present rice, modern Valencia is a cosmopolitan city where you can find almost any kind of cuisine. Although Mediterranean ingredients such as olive oil, fruit and vegetables are always available, you can choose from hundreds of alternatives.

The Valencians love eating out and the city has about 1,500 restaurants and over 330 *cafés*. This means that in places like *El Ensanche* or *El Carmen*, a restaurant is never far away. Lunch is normally served from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and dinner from 9 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., although some are open all day. It's best to reserve your table at the weekend in most establishments.

Wines

Visitors must sample the Valencia *denominación de origen* wines, such as the *Alto Turia* and *Utiel-Requena* whites, and in particular the reds, *rosés* and *cavas*.



Business tourism

Its location, communications with the rest of the Peninsula and Europe, its infrastructure, its traditional trade fair activities and tourist attractions that range from a privileged climate to an endless list of cultural and leisure activities, have turned Valencia into one of the most popular places to hold trade fairs, congresses and conventions. Feria Valencia, the Congress Centre and the City of the Arts and Sciences are its most important facilities.

Valencia also has many other venues for holding congresses and business events, from meeting rooms in hotels to specially designed areas in institutions, professional associations and business centres.

Feria Valencia

Founded in 1917, this is the oldest trade fair institution in Spain and organises over 40 events a year, half of them international. Feria Valencia has 231,000 m² of covered exhibition space, making it the largest exhibition area in Spain. Feria Valencia is a key institution in the economy of Valencia - its economic impact on the business environment has been calculated at 600 million Euros a year. Every year about 12,000 companies and over one and a half million professionals visit the site. Feria Valencia is 10 kilometres from the centre of Valencia and is perfectly communicated with the Spanish road network by the city ring road, as well as

having a dual-carriageway link to the port of Valencia and the airport.

Av. de las Ferias, s/n

Apdo. de Correos 476

Tel. 902 74 73 30

www.feriavalencia.com

Access: Tram line 4. Bus nº 62

Palacio de Congresos

The Congress Centre was designed by Norman Foster, and combines daring design with cutting-edge technologies and facilities. Fully equipped auditoriums, convention rooms, restaurants and cafés, rooms with natural lighting. It is surrounded by 1,000m² of green areas with fountains and pools.

Av. Cortes Valencianas, 60

Tel. 963 17 94 00

www.palcongres-vlc.com

Turismo Valencia Convention Bureau

Turismo Valencia Convention Bureau is responsible for promoting the city of Valencia and boosting the development of its tourist and services infrastructure.

Avda. Cortes Valencianas, 41

Tel. 963 390 390

www.turisvalencia.es



Other venues

Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias

Avda. Autovía del Saler, 7

Tel. 902 10 00 31

www.cac.es

Palau de la Música de Valencia

Paseo de la Alameda, 30

Tel. 963 37 50 20 · 96 337 09 88

www.palauvalencia.com



Shopping

As the third largest city in Spain, Valencia offers endless shopping options. Although crafts still exist, it is easier to find international companies and designer shops in the streets of Valencia than the more traditional shops. Most are concentrated in the centre, between the Plaza del Ayuntamiento and the Gran Vía Marqués del Turia, although many have opened in recent years in the El Carmen quarter, encouraged by the development of the area, and in the streets of El Ensanche. Places you should certainly not miss when shopping include:

Fashion

Calle Poeta Querol - the street with the Palacio del Marqués de Dos Aguas – is the most exclusive shopping street in Valencia. Here is where you'll find all the top international names. From here to **El Ensanche** – along the Don Juan de Austria, Colón, Jorge Juan, Cirilo Amorós and Sorní streets is where most of the fashion and footwear shops in the city are concentrated. As well as the franchises and multi-label establishments there are the boutiques of the Valencian designers whose work can be seen on the Cibeles, Gaudí and El Carmen catwalks, including Francis Montesinos, Alex Vidal, Enrique Lodaes and Amparo Chordá. Apart from them, we should mention the up and coming Valencian designers who have opened their own shops in recent years, such as Alejandro de la Torre, with his Porfín label, María José Navarro, Trinuca Larranz, Eva Crespo, Presen Rodríguez and Valentín Herráinz.

Crochet, lace, embroidery and wickerwork

The little stalls in the **Plaza Redonda** are the place to find handmade clothing, especially baby clothes. These traditional products, with embroidery, lace and crochet work, are very hard to find nowadays in conventional shops. Wickerwork is very important in certain streets in the old town.

Handmade ceramic ware

Ceramic ware is a typical product of Valencia and ceramics have been produced for many years in towns close to Valencia – **Manises** and **Paterna**. The history of ceramics begins in the 12th century, when blue cobalt began to be used with china, becoming especially important in the 14th and 15th centuries, with over 100 factories producing delicate, highly decorated ceramics in these towns. Manises and Paterna still maintain their own ceramic styles, inherited from over five hundred years ago. In Paterna, the *socarrats* (burnt items) are produced, with green and purple decorations. Typical items in Manises are those decorated in blue on white with golden highlights.

If you want to buy traditional ceramics, you should go to where they are made - Manises and Paterna – where there are many shops specialising in these products. You can, however, find ceramics without moving from Valencia - in La Plaza Redonda there are several specialist shops. Calle del Mar and Calle Poeta Querol are two streets where they sell the most exquisite traditional ceramics in all

Ciudad de la Porcelana
Ctra. Alboraya, s/n
Tavernes Blanques
www.lladro.com
Tel. 900 21 10 10
International tel. +34 963 18 70 08
museo-lladro@es.lladro.com



Cerámico of Valencia

Tip

If you're interested in crafts, visit the Region of Valencia Craft Centre's website.

C/ del Hospital, 7
Tel. 963 51 30 90

www.centroartesaniacv.com

kinds of designs. If you're here during May, you should visit the market in La Plaza de la Reina, known as *L'Escurieta*, to buy ceramic pots and pans at bargain prices.

Porcelain

Porcelain is another typical product of Valencia, the greatest exponent being the company Lladró, which exports its products all over the world. This family company was founded by the Lladró brothers - Juan, José and Vicente - and dates back to the 1950s, starting in a small workshop in nearby Almàssera (Valencia). The exquisite workmanship, the delicacy of their creations and the beauty of the designs soon made Lladró a leading brand in both Spain and the rest of the world.

You can visit Porcelain City and learn more about the Lladró manufacturing process and, obviously, buy their products. The visit to the City of Porcelain lasts for about an hour and a half and you should book by phone (using the Lladró customer helpline) at least a fortnight in advance, as it is very popular.

Fans

Hand-painted fans are another traditional Valencian product, so much so that the capital and nearby towns, such as Aldaia, have become Spain's main exporters. The fan manufacturing tradition dates back to 17th century Valencia, with the Guild of Valencian Fan Makers. Since then Valencian craftsmen have continued to make the fans by hand, using top-quality wood, fabrics and ornaments, and



Shopping

their products. The Abanicos Españoles Artesanos now carry their own quality mark. You can buy fans in the old town, especially around Plaza de la Reina and Calle San Vicente.

Fallera fabrics: silks and flowered brocades

The traditional costumes of the Region of Valencia are made from incredibly rich materials, such as damask and flowered brocades - all made from silk. Thanks to this, Valencia is the only city where silk is still worked by craftsmen on hand looms. The costumes are certainly not cheap, but you won't find fabrics like these anywhere else. Only a few shops specialise in Valencian costumes, making them to measure and also selling complements such as traditional jewellery, but you can find most of them in the centre.

Antique dealers

There are 18 shops in the Valencian antique dealers' association and most of them are on or near Calle del Mar. A stroll down the streets of old Valencia, with hundreds of little shops which seem to hold marvellous treasures, is a pleasure in itself, whether you buy anything or not. There are also antique shops near La Lonja and in the old town.

Furniture and Decoration

The furniture industry is one of the most important in Valencia. Valencian furniture,

whether traditional or contemporary, is of very high quality and extremely well designed. There are numerous furniture and decoration shops in the city, but if you want to find things a little cheaper, then you should visit the factories in Alfafar, Benetússer and Sedaví.

Food and drink

Valencia's Central Market is a must for anyone visiting the city. Both to see the colourful modernist building and to walk around inside - a real treat for the senses. Every morning, the market is still as busy today as when it was founded. There are stalls specialising in practically everything, all offering top quality produce - especially vegetables, fish and shellfish.



Mercado de Colón



Valencia by night

Valencia is famous for its nightlife. There are many lively areas and places to go for all tastes and styles. Every weekend the streets of the city centre are packed with people moving from one place to another. In the summer, the tables come out onto the pavements and there are hundreds of open-air bars. Valencia is a Mediterranean city, so people go out late and come home late. The bars start to fill up from midnight onwards. The discos open when the bars close, at about 3:30 a.m., and close at about 7 a.m.

Main areas for nightlife

The El Carmen neighbourhood and the old town

This is somewhere you must visit. Valencia's old town is one of the liveliest areas after midnight. Here you'll find an unusual mixture of styles from the most alternative to the most elegant. The same could be said of the people, of all ages from 20 upwards. El Carmen is somewhere you can stroll around and find somewhere new every night. From a bar containing part of the old city walls to a pop-art disco, an early 20th century café, a punk club or a pub with a Brazilian atmosphere. El Carmen is also where you'll find most of the gay bars and clubs.

Plaza de Cánovas

The Plaza de Cánovas is the nerve centre of nightlife in the Ensanche area. As well as all kinds of restaurants, there are bars for young people and discos for a slightly older clientele. You could call the atmosphere post-university, but the area has something for everyone. They're normally somewhere to have a quiet drink in the early evening, and many of them have open-air terraces.

Avenida de Aragón and Paseo de la Alameda

Thirty-somethings, professionals and night-owls are most often found in the bars along La Avenida de Aragón and the adjoining streets. They usually play commercial chart music and many of them have somewhere to dance. El Paseo de la Alameda is especially attractive in the summer, when all the bars and restaurants put their tables and chairs outside around the gardens.

Av. Blasco Ibáñez, Plaza Xúquer and Plaza del Cedro

Students meet up in the streets near the universities – on Avenida Blasco Ibáñez and around Plaza Xúquer. Here you'll find a mixture of discos and bars, but they all have the same aim: to ensure that you enjoy “the best years of your life”. More places offering a blend of music and culture around Plaza del Cedro.

Calle de Juan Llorens and adjacent streets

If you're looking for nightlife, then Juan Llorens is the place to go. The street is packed with pubs where you'll come across stag nights, hen nights, office parties, couples out for a meal and groups of friends who just want to have a good time.

Outside the city

Several discos have opened on the outskirts in recent years. They are usually large and semi-open air, with a lot of revellers and many different styles.

Near the beach

In summer, from the port northwards there are several places to go at night, including open-air bars and discos that let you enjoy a night out beside the Mediterranean.



Valencia is a paradise for sports lovers, whether spectators or participants. From the water sports centres, with the Real Club Náutico de Valencia yacht club and the nomination of Valencia to host the 32nd America's Cup, to golf – with the many courses in the province, motor sport at the Circuito Ricardo Tormo de Cheste motor racing track, and much, much more. The city offers endless possibilities thanks to its excellent year-round climate and comprehensive sports facilities.

Major sports venues

Mestalla Football Stadium

Av. Suecia, s/n
Tel. 963 37 26 26
www.valenciacf.es

Mestalla football stadium is right in the heart of Valencia, and has been the home of Valencia Football Club for most of its history. The stadium has hosted major sporting events and can hold 55,000 spectators. You can visit the ground and the trophy room.

El Turia Athletics Stadium

Old Riverbed of the Turia, tramo III
Tel. 963 52 54 78
www.deportevalencia.com

This stadium has a 400 metre tartan track, an area within the track that is currently used for American football, an athletics warm-up area, two multi-purpose pitches – one for hockey, a weights room, a maintenance gym, a weight training/weightlifting room and sports teaching facilities.

Ciudad de Valencia Football Stadium

San Vicente de Paul, 44
Tel. 963 68 80 80
www.levanteud.com

Another first division team, Levante Football Club, plays at the Ciudad de Valencia Stadium, which has a capacity of 28,000.

La Fuente de San Luis Pavillion

Av. Hermanos Maristas, s/n
Tel. 963 73 76 61
www.pamesabasket.com

Valencia also has a top-flight basketball team - Valencia Basket, better known as Pamesa Valencia - whose games are avidly followed by over 8,000 season ticket holders and a legion of fans.

Palau Velódromo

Luis Puig
Cocentaina, 4
Tel. 963 90 26 40
www.valencia.es
Access: n° 62 bus route
Tram line 4

Motor sport

Motor sport is another of Valencia's strong points. The Circuito de Velocidad Ricardo Tormo racetrack hosts the Region of Valencia Grand Prix every year, which counts towards the World Motorcycling Championship. The Cheste circuit is also the scene of Formula 1 training sessions and there are motorcycle races or other motor-related events almost every weekend. There are also private training facilities.

There has always been passionate interest in motorcycling in the Region of Valencia,

and many riders, such as Jorge Martínez Aspar, "Champi" Herreros and Ricardo Tormo himself, as well as the ex-Formula 1 driver Adrián Campos, have learnt their trade in the many races held throughout the Region.

Circuito de la Comunitat Valenciana Ricardo Tormo
(Cheste, 25 kilometres from Valencia)
A-3 Valencia – Madrid motorway,
Exit 334 Ribarroja
Tel. 962 52 52 20
www.circuitvalencia.com

Nautical

Real Club Náutico de Valencia

Valencia Royal Yacht Club was founded in 1903 and, together with the Real Club de Regatas de Alicante, it shares the honour of being one of the oldest in Spain. It also has some of the most modern and comprehensive facilities and is the largest in Spain, covering an area of over 400,000 m². Its jetties are home to one of the best cruising fleets in the Region and it hosts major Spanish competitions. Apart from the port services, the club has a spacious social centre, children's play area, sport centre, Olympic swimming pool and fronton, as well as tennis and squash courts. The sailing school is open all year round, teaching different types of dinghy sailing and yachting. The club also has a small fleet of vessels that can be chartered.

Camino del Canal, 91
Tel. 963 679 011
www.rcnauticovalencia.com
Number of berths: 1.397
Category: Overwintering marina
Coordinates: 39° 25' 07" N – 0° 19' 04" W

Golf

The Region of Valencia is one of the regions with most golf courses. There are 32 courses, five of which are in the province of Valencia: Manises Golf Club, El Bosque Golf Club, Escorpión Golf Club, El Saler Golf Club and Oliva Nova Golf Club. El Saler golf club lies within Valencia city limits and is rated to be one of the 50 best courses in the world and the third in Europe. After playing a round of golf, you can relax on the beach next to the course.

El Saler Golf Club

Av. de los Pinares, 151
(Parador de Turismo El Saler)
Tel. 961 61 03 84
www.parador.es

Pilota valenciana

Pilota is the traditional sport of the Region of Valencia. It's a kind of pelota – a sport that was "king" in Europe for hundreds of years. This ball game is played in a street, trinquete or fronton (pelota courts) by two teams or two opponents.

Trinquete Pelayo

C/ Pelayo, 6
Tel. 963 52 68 45

Horse riding

La Hípica
C/ Jaca, 23
Tel. 963 61 53 63



Sport

Tennis clubs with competitions

Club Español de Tenis

On the Burjasot Torres Torres road,
km. 4.500 Rocafort
Tel. 961 31 00 00

Valencia Tennis Club

C/ Botánico Cabanilles, 7
Tel. 963 69 06 58

Other sports

For more information on sports facilities in Valencia contact:

Fundación Deportiva Municipal

Paseo de la Pechina, 42
Tel. 963 54 83 00
www.deportevalencia.com

1,000,000 squares metres of the Turia's dry riverbed is dedicated to sports and is the best place for athletics, jogging, cycling, football, rugby, baseball, skating, minigolf, petanque and skateboard. There are many other public and private facilities where you can play all kinds of sports, such as tennis, paddle tennis, squash, horse riding, swimming and gymnastics.







Excursions around the province

Excursions along the coast

Sagunto, between the mountains and the Mediterranean (27 kms from Valencia)

Sagunto was once the Iberian *Arse*, the Roman *Saguntum*, the Arab *Murviter* and the Christian *Morvedre*. It still retains traces of its past glory and much of its heritage in the Castle, the remains of the Temple of Diana, the Gothic churches of Santa María and El Salvador, the old Jewish Quarter and its entrance gateway - El Portal de la Sang, the hermitage of La Sangre, the Town Hall, the Casa del Bisbe, the Plaza Mayor with its porticoes, the old Almudín and, above all, the Roman Theatre which is used in the summer as the setting for music, dance and theatre festivals attended by leading international artists.

Tourist Info Sagunto: 962 65 58 59

Cullera, the mountain next to the sea (40 kms from Valencia)

Cullera is the only peak we'll find next to the sea in the whole Gulf of Valencia. It's crowned by a castle from which there is one of the best views of the Valencian farmland. For centuries, it suffered raids by Berber pirates and still preserves the Marenyet tower and, at the other end of town, the lighthouse, the Cave of Dragut and the prehistoric Volcán. You should visit the estany, a lagoon beside the sea, surrounded by restaurants where you can enjoy delicious hors

d'oeuvres consisting of fresh fish and shellfish, as well as rice dishes prepared in a thousand different ways.

Tourist Info Cullera: 961 720 974

Gandia, the splendour of the Borgias (69 kms from Valencia)

Gandia was originally settled by the Iberians but became famous in the 15th century when it was the court of Juan de Borja, second Duke of Gandia. Most of its rich heritage comes from the same century, something evident when you stroll through the old town – the Collegiate Church of Santa María, the Ducal Palace, the Hospital of San Marcos, the Convent of Las Clarisas and the Town Hall.

Outside the town, you should visit Bayren Castle and La Alquería del Duc farmstead. Gandia

is also the birthplace of the *fideuà*. You ought to try this famous noodle dish in one of the excellent restaurants and take a stroll along its almost 5 kilometres of beaches.

Tourist Info Gandia: 962 87 77 88

Inland excursions

The Sierra Calderona Nature Park (20 kms from Valencia)

The Sierra Calderona is some 20 km north of Valencia. It is a designated Nature Park and is one of the most interesting areas in the Region of Valencia. Here you can see a wide variety of birds of prey, including the eagle



Castillo de Cullera



Sagunto



Plaza de las Escuelas Plaz. Gandía

owl, as well as animals such as badgers and mountain cats. The mountains are quite high, such as El Gorgo (900 metres), and are perfect for walkers and lovers of other outdoor sports.

Fauna and flora

The rugged landscape is mostly Triassic sandstone and limestone, which has created a patchwork landscape with many pinewoods and some cork oak. El Gorgo (907 metres) is its highest point and can be reached from Gátova and Olocau. Also outstanding is the peak of El Garbí (601 metres), reached from Serra, Náquera and Segart, and with magnificent views of the neighbouring counties.

There are many different animal species in the varied habitats of the Sierra Calderona, including many species of great interest, especially birds of prey – hawks, short-toed eagles, Eurasian nuthatches (in wooded areas), rock eagle-owls, eagle owls, peregrine falcons and Bonelli's eagles (in rocky areas). The mammals include wildcats, genets and badgers.

Visitor Centre

Edificio Sierra Calderona
Pl. del Ayuntamiento 1, Náquera
Tel. 961 68 19 93

Tourist Info Serra
Tel. 961 688 125



Excursiones around the province

Xàtiva, the Papal city (58 kms from Valencia)

Xàtiva – birthplace of El Españolito and two Popes from the Borgia dynasty – has its “black history” related to the Borbóns, as King Felipe V, after winning the Battle of Almansa, ordered the inhabitants to be expelled and the city to be burnt. In memory of this affront, the town hangs the King’s portrait upside down in L’Almodí museum.

You should pay a visit to La Seu, the churches of San Félix and San Pere, the Hospital Real, the palaces of the Marquis of Montortal and Alarcó, the fountains and the enormous castle – the result of combining two fortresses, one Iberian and the other Roman. Those of you with a sweet tooth mustn’t leave Xàtiva without trying the arnadí, a special local dessert which is traditionally made during Lent.

Tourist Info Xàtiva: 962 27 33 46

El Alto Turia: **Natural beauty** (73 kms from Valencia)

The River Turia gives its name to the county and runs through canyons past towns and villages, creating a spectacular landscape that’s well worth a visit. Why not take a raft or a canoe down river to the Benagéber dam? You can also walk or ride a horse through the woods. Try the olla churra – a local speciality – and the excellent white wines of the Alto Turia, which are guaranteed to satisfy even the most demanding palates.

Tourist Info Alto Turia: 961 63 50 84

La Plana de Utiel–Requena (82 kms from Valencia)

Requena and Utiel share a setting, history and a countryside dominated by vineyards.

In Requena, the mediaeval quarter of La Villa houses most of the town’s rich heritage – the churches of San Nicolás, Santa María and El Salvador, the Casa de Santa Teresa and the Palace of El Cid.

In Utiel, you can visit the Colegio de El Salvador, the church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, the Convents of La Merced and San Francisco, the Town Hall, the Bullring and the Hermitage of El Remedio in the Sierra del Negrete mountains. In both Requena and Utiel, you can enjoy delicious local sausage and local wines.

Tourist Info Utiel: 962 17 11 03

Tourist Info Requena: 962 30 38 51





Accommodation

Valencia has more than 100 hotels with more than 12,000 hotel beds approximately. This means that there's a wide range to choose from that is able to satisfy demand, although at certain very busy periods, such as during international fairs and major events, you should make your reservations well in advance.



Barrio del Carmen



Paseo de la Alameda

Hotel establishments

Hotel Las Arenas *****

C/ Eugenia Viñes, 22-24
Tel. 963 12 06 00
Fax. 963 12 06 12
reservas@hotel-lasarenas.com
www.hotel-lasarenas.com

Hotel Eurostars Gran Valencia *****

C/ Valle de Ayora, 3
Tel. 963 05 08 00
Fax 963 05 08 09
reservas@eurostarsgranvalencia.es
www.eurostarsgranvalencia.es

Hotel Hilton Valencia *****

Av. de las Cortes Valencianas, 52
Tel. 963 030 000
Fax 963 030 001
info.valencia@hilton.com
www.hilton.com

Hotel Meliá Valencia Palace *****

Pl. De la Alameda, 32
Tel. 963 37 50 37
Fax 963 37 55 32
melia.valencia.palace@solmelia.com
www.sh-hoteles.com

Hotel Palau de la Mar *****

Av. Navarro Reverter, 14
Tel. 963 16 28 84
Fax 963 16 28 85
palaudelamar@hospes.es
www.hospes.es

Hotel Sidi Saler (Palace) *****

Urb. La Dehesa-Playa del Saler, s/n
Tel. 961 61 04 11
Fax 961 61 08 38
direccion@saler.hotelessidi.es
www.sidi-saler.com

Hotel Sorolla Palace *****

Av. Cortes Valencianas, 58
Tel. 961 86 8700
Fax 961 86 8707
www.hotelsorollapalace.com

Hotel The Westin Valencia *****

Amadeo de Saboya, 16
Tel. 961 62 59 00
reservations.westinvalencia@westin.com
www.westin.com

Hotel Abba Acteon ****

C/ Vicente Beltrán Grimal, 002
Tel. 963 31 07 07
Fax 963 30 22 30
reservas-acteon@abbahotels.com
www.abbahotels.com

Hotel AC Hotel Valencia ****

Av. Francia, 67
Tel. 963 31 70 00
Fax 963 31 70 01
acvalencia@ac.hotels.com
www.ac-hotels.com

Hotel Astoria Palace ****

Pl. Rodrigo Botet, 5
Tel. 963 98 10 00
Fax 963 98 10 10
info@hotel-astoria-palace.com
www.hotel-astoria-palace.com

Hotel Barceló Valencia ****

Av. de Francia, 11
Tel. 963 30 63 44
Fax 963 30 6831
valencia@barcelo.com
www.barcelovalencia.com



Accommodation

Hotel Beatriz Rey Don Jaime ****

Av. Balears, 2
Tel. 963 37 50 30
Fax 963 37 15 72
reservas.reydonjaime@beatrizhoteles.com
www.beatrizhoteles.com

Hotel Chill Art Jardín Botánico ****

C/ Doctor Peset Cervera, 6
Tel. 963 15 40 12
Fax 963 15 34 08
inf-reservas@hoteljardinbotanico.com
www.hoteljardinbotanico.com

Hotel Confortel Aqua ****

C/ Luis García Berlanga, 19-21
Tel. 963 187 100
Fax 963 187 167
infoaqua4@confortel.com
www.confortelhoteles.com

Hotel Medium Conqueridor ****

C/ Cervantes, 9 -11
Tel. 963 52 29 10
Fax 963 52 28 83
conqueridor@mediumhoteles.com
www.mediumhoteles.com

Hotel Dimar ****

Av. Gran Vía Marqués del Turia, 80
Tel. 963 95 10 30
Fax 963 95 19 26
dimar@hotel-dimar.com
www.hotel-dimar.com

Hotel Fiesta Hotel Feria ****

Av. de las Férias, 2
Tel. 963 64 44 11
Fax 963 64 54 83
reservas@hotelferiavalencia.com
www.fiestahotelgroup.com



Town Hall

Hotel Hesperia Parque Central ****

Pl. Manuel Sanchis Guarner, 1
Tel. 963 03 91 00
Fax 963 03 91 30
hotel@hesperia-parquecentral.com
www.hoteles-hesperia.com

Hotel Holiday Inn Valencia ****

Pl. Alameda, 38
Tel. 963 032 100
Fax 963 032 126
reservas@holidayinnvalencia.com
www.valencia.holiday-inn.com

Hotel Kris Consul del Mar ****

Av. Puerto, 39
Tel. 963 62 54 32
Fax 963 62 16 25
reservas@hotelconsuldelmar.com
www.hotelconsuldelmar.com

Hotel Meliá Plaza ****

Pl. Ayuntamiento, 4
Tel. 963 52 06 12
Fax 963 52 04 26
media.plaza@solmelia.com
www.sh-hoteles.com

Hotel Neptuno ****

Pl. Neptuno, 2-4
Tel. 963 56 77 77
Fax 963 56 04 30
reservas@hotelneptunovalencia.com
www.hotelneptunovalencia.com

Hotel NH Center ****

C/ Ricardo Micó, 1
Tel. 963 47 50 00
Fax 963 47 62 52
nhcenter@nh-hoteles.com
www.nh-hoteles.com

Hotel NH Las Artes ****

C/ Instituto Obrero de Valencia, 28
Tel. 963 35 13 10
Fax 963 74 86 22
nhlasartes@nh-hotels.com
www.nh-hoteles.com

Hotel Novotel Palacio de Congresos ****

C/ Valle de Ayora, 1
Tel. 963 99 74 00
Fax 963 40 12 94
www.novotel.com

Hotel Puerta Valencia ****

Av. Cardenal Benlloch, 28
Tel. 963 93 63 95
Fax 963 93 63 95
www.hoteles-silken.com
hotelpuertavalencia@hoteles-silken.com

Hotel Reina Victoria ****

C/ Barcas, 4
Tel. 963 52 04 87
Fax 963 52 27 21
hreinvictoriavalencia@husa.es
www.husa.es

Hotel Solvasa Valencia ****

Av. del Puerto, 129
Tel. 902 32 20 07
Fax 902 52 20 07
www.solvasa.com
valencia@solvasa.com

Hotel Tryp Oceanic ****

C/ Pintor Maella, 2
Tel. 963 35 03 00
Fax 963 35 03 11
tryp.oceanic@solmelia.com
www.trypoceanic.solmelia.com



Accommodation

Hotel Turia ****

C/ Profesor Beltran Báguena, 2
Tel. 963 47 00 00
Fax 963 47 32 44
reservas@hotelturia.es
www.hotelturia.es

Hotel Valencia Center ****

Av. Francia, 33
Tel. 963 35 07 00
Fax 963 35 07 02
www.hotelescenter.es

Hotel Vincci Lys ****

C/ Martínez Cubells, 3
Tel. 963 50 95 50
Fax 963 50 95 52
lys@vinccihoteles.com
www.vinccihoteles.com

Hotel Zenit Valencia ****

C/ Bailén, 8
Tel. 963 52 90 00
Fax 963 52 70 00
valencia@zenithoteles.com
www.zenithoteles.com

Parador de Turismo El Saler ****

Av. Pinares, 151 (El Saler)
Tel. 961 61 11 86
Fax 961 62 70 16
saler@parador.es
www.parador.es

Expo Hotel – Valencia ***

Av. Pío XII, 4
Tel. 963 03 36 00
Fax 963 46 53 55
comercialval@expogrup.com
www.expogrup.com

Hotel NH Abashiri ***

C/ Ausias March, 59
Tel. 963 35 63 10
Fax 963 73 49 66
nhabashiri@nh-hotels.com
www.nh-hoteles.es

Hotel AD Hoc ***

C/ Boix, 4
Tel. 963 91 91 40
Fax 963 91 36 67
adhoc@adhochooteles.com
www.adhochooteles.com

Hotel Beleret ***

C/ Campamento, 76
Tel. 963 64 05 05
Fax 963 64 03 03
reservas@beleret.com
www.beleret.com

Hotel Catalonia Excelsior ***

C/ Barcelonina, 5
Tel. 963 51 46 12
Fax 963 52 34 78
excelsior@hoteles-catalonia.es
www.hoteles-catalonia.es

Hotel Confortel Aqua 3 ***

C/ Luis García Berlanga, 19-21
Tel. 963 187 101
Fax 963 187 127
infoaqua3@confortel.com
www.confortelhotels.com

Hotel Express by Holiday Inn Valencia ***

C/ Escritor Rafael Ferreres, 22
Tel. 963 16 25 30
Fax 963 95 28 48
hotelvalencia@expresshivalencia.com
www.expressbyholidayinn.com

Hotel Husa Serrano ***

C/ General Urrutia, 48
Tel. 963 34 78 00
Fax 963 34 78 01
hotelserrano@husa.es
www.husa.es

Hotel Residencia Kris Abadía ***

Av. Campanar, 90
Tel. 963 17 36 50
Fax 963 40 68 84
krisabadia@krishoteles.com
www.hoteleskris.com

Hotel Marina Atarazanas ***

Plaza Tribunal de las Aguas, 5
Tel. 963 20 30 10
Fax 963 20 30 15
marina@roommatehoteles.com
www.room-matehotels.com

Hotel NH Ciudad de Valencia ***

Av. Del Puerto, 214
Tel. 963 30 75 00
Fax 963 30 98 64
nhciudaddevalencia@nh-hotels.com
www.nh-hotels.com

Hotel NH Villacarlos ***

Av. del Puerto, 60
Tel. 963 37 50 25
Fax 963 37 50 74
nhvillacarlos@nh-hoteles.com
www.nh-hoteles.com

Hotel Petit Palace Bristol ***

C/ Abadía San Martín, 3
Tel. 963 94 51 00
Fax 963 94 38 50
bristol@hthoteles.com
www.hthoteles.com

Hotel Petit Palace Germanías ***

C/ Sueca, 14
Tel. 963 51 36 38
Fax 963 51 36 83
germanias@hthoteles.com
www.hthoteles.com

Hotel Renasa ***

Av. Cataluña, 5
Tel. 963 69 24 50
Fax 963 93 18 24
reservas@hotel-renasa.com
www.hotel-renasa.com

Hotel Residencia Express by Holiday Inn Valencia San Luis ***

Av. Ausias March, 99
Tel. 963 06 30 00
Fax 963 06 30 40
rodolfo.schierloh@ichotelsgroup.com
www.valencia-sanluis.hiexpress.com

Hotel Residencia Llar ***

C/ Colón, 46
Tel. 963 52 84 60
Fax 963 51 90 00
hotelllar@husa.es
www.husa.es

Hotel Residencia Mediterráneo ***

Av. Barón de Carcer, 45
Tel. 963 51 01 42
Fax 963 51 01 42
riasm Mediter@terra.es

Hotel Residencia Sorolla ***

C/ Convento Santa Clara, 5
Tel. 963 52 33 92
Fax 963 52 14 65
reservas@hotelsorolla.com
www.hotelsorolla.com



Accommodation

Hotel Residencia Villarreal ***

C/ Angel Guimerá, 58
Tel. 963 85 39 37
Fax 963 84 02 47
info@hotel-villarreal.com
www.hotel-villarreal.com

Hotel Vora Fira ***

C/ Cullera, 67
Tel. 963 64 00 52
Fax 963 64 14 95
reservas@hotelvorafira.es
www.hotelvorafira.es

Meliá Inglés Boutique Hotel ***

C/ Marqués De Dos Aguas, 6
Tel. 963 51 64 26
Fax 963 94 02 51
melia.ingles@solmelia.com
www.solmelia.com

Hotel Express Las Artes **

C/ Instituto Obrero, 26
Tel. 963 35 60 62
Fax 963 33 46 83
exlasartes@nh-hoteles.com
www.nh-hotels.com

Hotel Residencia Continental **

C/ Correos, 8
Tel. 963 53 52 82
Fax 963 53 11 13
continental@contitel.es
www.contitel.es

Hotel Residencia Florida **

C/ Padilla, 4
Tel. 963 51 12 84
Fax 963 51 12 84

Hotel Residencia IBIS Palacio de Congresos **

C/ Valle de Ayora, 5
Tel. 963 17 33 37
Fax 963 49 58 00
www.ibishotel.com

Hotel Residencia Patilla **

Av. Pinares, 10 · El Saler
Tel. 961830382
Fax 961830384

Hotel Residencia Valencia **

C/ Convento San Francisco, 7
Tel. 963 51 74 60
Fax 963 52 93 87
hotel@hotel-valencia.com
www.hotel-valencia.com



Old quarter



Palau de la Música

Hotel Sol Playa **

Paseo Neptuno, 56
Tel. 963 56 19 20
Fax 963 72 74 31
info@hotelsolplaya.com
www.hotelsolplaya.com

Hotel 21 Mercavalencia *

C/ Carrera En Corts, 231
Tel. 963 67 84 84
Fax 963 67 87 86

Hotel Alkazar *

C/ Mosen Femades, 11
Tel. 963 51 55 51
Fax 963 51 25 68

Hotel Europa *

C/ Ribera, 4
Tel. 963 52 00 00
Fax 963 52 03 51

Hostal Residencia Castillo Benisano **

C/ Rubén Vela, 23
Tel. 963 34 40 49
Fax 963 34 99 12

Hostal Chicote **

Av. De Neptuno, 34
Tel. 963 71 61 51
Fax 963 71 83 53

Hostal Miramar **

Av. Neptuno, 32
Tel. 963 71 51 42
Fax 963 55 91 81
info@petitmiramar.com
www.petitmiramar.com

Hostal Residencia Norte **

C/ Ntra Sra de Gracia, 8
Tel. 963 51 24 09
Fax 963 94 42 62

Hostal Residencia Venecia **

C/ En Llop, 5
Tel. 963 52 42 67
Fax 963 52 44 21
reservas@hotelvenecia.com
www.hotelvenecia.com

Hostal Residencia Abastos *

C/ Alberique, 19
Tel. 963 85 30 05
Fax 963 85 30 05



Palacio de Congresos de Valencia



Accommodation

Hostal Residencia Andrés *

C/ Anguilera, 7
Tel. 961 83 01 11
Fax 961 83 03 05
rtosanchez@telelineb.com
www.albufera.com

Hostal Residencia Antigua Morellana *

C/ En Bou, 2
Tel. 963 91 57 73
Fax 963 91 59 79
info@hostalam.com
www.hostalam.com

Hostal Residencia La Barraca *

Pa. De Neptuno, 36
Tel. 963 71 62 00
Fax 963 71 61 11
hostalbarraca@hotmail.com

Hostal Bisbal *

C/ Pie de la Cruz, 9
Tel. 963 91 70 84
Fax 963 92 37 37

Hostal Blayet *

Av. Gaviotas, 17
Tel. 961 77 74 54
Fax 961 77 73 66
blayet@blayet.es
www.blayet.com

Hostal Residencia El Globo *

Paseo Neptuno, 44
Tel. 963 72 77 77
reservas@hostalelglobo.com
www.hostalelglobo.com

Hostal Residencia Penalty *

Av. Suecia, 27
Tel. 963 93 62 61
Fax 963 89 14 54
www.hostalpenalty.com

Pensión Alborada

Pl. Correo Viejo, 4
Tel. 963 92 25 28

Pensión Alicante

C/ Ribera, 8
Tel. 963 51 22 96
Fax 963 51 22 96

Pensión Avenida

Av. Antiguo Reino de Valencia, 14
Tel. 963 74 35 51

Pensión Balcón al Mar

C/ Juan José Sister, 1-1ª
Tel. 963 30 06 38
Fax 963 30 15 02

Pensión Barcelona

C/ San José de Calasanz, 20
Tel. 963 26 16 60
Fax 963 26 16 60

Pensión Boluda

C/ Bailén, 10-1º-1ª
Tel. 963 94 44 35

Pensión Castellano

C/ Jofrens, 8
Tel. 963 91 83 15

Pensión Castellanos

C/ San José de Calasanz, 26-6º
Tel. 963 34 87 21

Pensión El Cid

C/ Cerrajeros, 13
Tel. 963 92 23 23
Fax 963 92 23 23

Pensión Hôme

C/ Cadirers, 11
Tel. 963 91 46 91
www.feetuphostels.com

Pensión Home la Lonja

C/ La Lonja, 4
Tel. 963 91 62 29

Pensión Hospedería del Pilar

Pl. del Mercado, 19
Tel. 963 91 66 00

Pensión Hospedería San Andrés

C/ Matemático Marzal, 3
Tel. 963 52 85 12

Pensión Jamaica

C/ Bailén, 16
Tel. 963 51 91 86

Pensión Jero

C/ Convent de Santa Clara, 3
Tel. 963 51 69 81

Pensión Jerusalén

C/ Convento Jerusalén, 18
Tel. 963 52 19 20

Pensión Levante

C/ Abadía San Martín, 10
Tel. 963 51 90 45
Pensión Lyon
C/ Játiva, 10
Tel. 963 51 72 47

Pensión Mare Nostrum

C/ Editor Cabrerizo, 6
Tel. 963 91 81 05

Pensión Martínez

C/ Cádiz, 15
Tel. 963 41 83 30

Pensión Moratín

C/ Moratin, 15
Tel. 963 52 12 20
Fax. 963 52 12 20
info@h.moratin.com
www.hmoratin.com

Pensión La Onteniense

C/ Pelayo, 8
Tel. 963 52 97 43

Pensión Palacios

C/ Daoiz y Velarde, 6
Tel. 963 62 96 89
Fax 963 61 39 94
resipala@telefonica.net

Pensión Paris

C/ Salvá, 12
Tel. 963 52 67 66
www.pensionparis.com

Pensión La Requenense

C/ Pintor Navarro Llorens, 23
Tel. 963 85 05 84

Pensión El Rincón

C/ Carda, 11
Tel. 963 91 60 83

Pensión Russafa Youth Hostel

C/ Padre Perera, 5, 1ª
Tel. 963 28 94 60

Pensión San José

C/ Transits, 5 · 46002
Tel. 963 94 01 52
Fax 963 52 72 54

Pensión Tartessos

Pl. Sangre, 5, 2º, 2
Tel. 963 94 37 21

Pensión Terminus

C/ Bailén, 18 - 1º
Tel. 963 51 36 84
Fax. 963 94 09 72



Accommodation

Pensión Univers

C/ General Sanmartín, 1-9º

Tel. 963 52 97 61

Pensión Universal

C/ Barcas, 5

Tel. 963 51 53 84

Fax 963 51 53 84

Pensión Waksman

Av. Dr. Waksman, 29

Tel. 963 33 72 14

hostalwaksman@hotmail.com

www.hostalwaksman.com



Campings

Coll-Vert

2ª Categoría

Ctra. Nazaret-Oliva, Km. 6,9

Tel. 961 83 00 36

Fax 961 83 00 40

Devesa Gardens

2ª Categoría

Especialidad: parque de vacaciones

Ctra. El Saler, km. 13

Tel. 961 61 11 36

Fax 961 61 11 05

camping.devesagardens@ctv.es

www.devesagardens.com



Preparing your trip



On Internet

www.comunitatvalenciana.com

The tourist gateway of the Region of Valencia offers detailed information to help you prepare your trip, as well as live feeds from more than 60 webcams, 4 in the city of Valencia itself. You'll find information on accommodation, travel agencies, tourist information centres, restaurants, beaches, water sports, golf, leisure, cinemas, cultural events, fiestas, monuments, museums and much more. The real-time weather forecast and the forecast for the next five days are especially useful.

www.valencia.es

The official website of Valencia Town Hall, with detailed information on municipal services, news and a daily city events diary.

www.turisvalencia.es

The tourist website of the city of Valencia. It contains comprehensive information for visitors.

www.valenciaterramar.org

The official tourist website of the Valencian Regional Government includes information on all the towns in the province, including the city itself.



Climate

Valencia enjoys a Mediterranean climate influenced by the nearby sea. The average temperature is 20° C, and does not vary very much. The average temperature in winter rarely falls below 8/9° C, while in summer the maximum does not often exceed 33° C. Humidity is high and the very few rainy days are concentrated at the beginning of autumn, the last weeks of

winter and the first of spring. The rain falls heavily when it does fall. Valencia is lucky enough to enjoy approximately 2,700 hours of sunshine a year.



Language

There are two official languages in Valencia – Spanish and Valencian.



Opening hours

Shops open from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m./2 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m./5 p.m. to 8 p.m./8:30 p.m. Large stores and shopping centres stay open all day, from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m./10 p.m. Some convenience stores selling basic products, newspapers, etc. stay open until the early hours. Banks and official buildings open, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Restaurants normally serve lunch between 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., although they may close earlier. Dinner is served from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Bars open until 3:30 a.m. and discos close at about 7 a.m.



Bank holidays

Bank Holidays in Valencia include: Spanish holidays and local bank holidays. These are:
 January 1st (New Year's Day) and January 6th (Epiphany).
 January 22nd (San Vicente Mártir).
 March 19th (San José).
 The second Monday of Easter (San Vicente Ferrer).
 May 1st (Labour Day).
 The second Sunday in May (La Virgen de los Desamparados).

October 9th (Day of the Region of Valencia).
October 12th (Hispanic Day).
November 1st (All Saints Day).
December 6th (Constitution Day).
December 8th (Immaculate Virgin).
December 25th (Christmas Day).

These days vary according to the official bank holiday calendar published each year.



Access to the city

The **AP-7** motorway connects Valencia with the European motorway network, while the **A-3** motorway connects it with Madrid, the **N-332** dual carriageway with the south coast, and the **N-340** with the north coast. A number of ring roads connect the city to nearby areas.

Traffic Information Centre
Tel. 900 12 35 05



City bus services

EMT
Empresa Municipal Transportes
Pl. Correo Viejo, 5
www.emtvalencia.es
Tel. Customer service: 963 15 85 15
Tel. Handicapped hotline:
963 15 85 25

Multiple-journey tickets valid for several days can be acquired from tobacconists, newsstands and other establishments.



Regional bus services

Buses leave Valencia Central Bus Station for most towns in the province and major towns in the Region, as well as daily national lines and many international lines.

Valencia bus station

Menéndez Pidal, 11
Tel. 963 46 62 66

Metrobus

Valencia metropolitan bus service

Av. Enric Valor, 13
Tel. 963 16 07 07

Valencia–Airport bus service

Tel. 963 16 07 07
www.etmvalencia.es



Trains

Valencia has a train station servicing local, regional and long-distance routes. The high-speed train, the AVE, will reach the region in the near future.

The modern rail network and the imminent arrival of the high-speed train mean that Valencia has excellent communications with other Spanish cities and the main European railway networks.

Long distance

Alaris trains: Valencia-Madrid

Euromed trains: Alicante-Valencia-Castellón-Barcelona

Arco trains: Valencia-Barcelona

Daily trains: Long distance, connection with many of the main Spanish cities.



Preparing your trip

Regional and local

There are regional train services to the main cities and towns close to the Region of Valencia (Barcelona, Tarragona, Saragossa, Teruel, Cuenca, Alcázar de San Juan, Ciudad Real, Cartagena and Murcia).

There are also six local lines with frequent services that connect the main towns in the Region and places close to the city of Valencia.

C-1: Valencia-Gandía-Playa de Gandía

C-2: Valencia-Xàtiva-Moixent

C-3: Valencia-Utiel

C-4: Valencia-Ribarroja del Turia

C-5: Valencia-Sagunto-Caudiel

C-6: Valencia-Castellón de la Plana

Renfe- Estación del Norte

Xàtiva, 24

Information and booking (24 hours)

902 24 02 02

www.renfe.es

Renfe-Estación Cabanyal

Av. Blasco Ibáñez, s/n



By air:

Valencia has an international airport with flights to and from the main European cities:

Valencia Airport

Ctra. del aeropuerto, s/n

Manises

Tel. 902 404 704

www.aena.es



Subway and trams

Valencia currently has 4 interconnected underground and tram lines (1, 3, 4 and 5). They allow you to get to the city from several nearby towns and villages, as well as to move very quickly from one point of the city to another.

Tel. 900 46 10 46

www.metrovalencia.com



By sea

The city of Valencia is home to one of the main Mediterranean cargo ports. It also has passenger services to the Balearic Islands, Italy, Malta and Tunisia. A cruise liner terminal has recently been opened for cruise vessels connecting the city with other Mediterranean tourist ports.

Puerto Autónomo de Valencia

Muelle de poniente, s/n

www.valenciaport.com

Tel. 903 93 95 00

Passenger companies operating in Valencia:

Trasmediterránea

Tel. 902 45 46 45

www.trasmediterranea.es

Baleària

Tel. 902 16 01 80

www.balearia.com

Grimaldi-Ferries

Tel. 902 53 13 33

www.grimaldi-ferries.com



Taxis

A supplement must be paid for trips to and from the airport, this is clearly stated in the taxis. There are several taxi firms:

Valencia – Taxi

Tel. 963 74 02 02

Tele Taxi

Tel. 963 57 13 13

Radio Taxi

Tel. 963 70 33 33

Onda – Taxi

Tel. 963 47 52 52

Mercedes Taxi

Tel. 961 10 20 20

Buscataxi

Tel. 902 74 77 47

Taxistar

Tel. 639 61 66 66

Taxis Valencia

Tel. 607 181 181



Tourist info

Comunitat Valenciana

Tourist info online.

Tel. 902 12 32 12

info@comunitatvalenciana.com

Tourist info Valencia – Paz

Paz, 48

Tel. 963 98 64 22

Tourist info – Renfe

Xàtiva, 24

(Platform 1- Estación del Norte)

Tel. 963 52 85 73

Tourist Info – Regional Council Building

Poeta Querol, s/n

(next to the Teatro Principal)

Tel. 963 51 49 07

Tourist Info – Plaza de la Reina

Pl. de la Reina, 19

Tel. 963 15 39 31

Tourist Info – Beach

Paseo Neptuno, 2

Tel. 963 55 71 08

Tourist Info – Airport

Terminal Aeropuerto de Valencia

Tel. 961 53 02 29



Consulates

Armenia

Avda. Antiguo Reino
de Valencia, 14-4º

Tel. 963 16 24 75

Fax 963 738059

Austria

C/ Convento Santa Clara, 10-2º-3º

Tel. 963 52 22 12

Fax 963 51 12 20

Belgium

Gran Vía Ramón y Cajal, 33-1º-2º

Tel. 963 80 29 09

Fax 963 80 03 86

Brazil

Gran Vía Fernando el Católico, 74

Tel. 963 91 09 46

Fax 961 34 04 07



Preparing your trip

Chile

Av. Antiguo Reino de Valencia, 14, 4º
Tel. 963 94 40 28
Fax 963 73 80 59

Colombia

C/ Cronista Carreres, 9, 1º B
Tel. 963 53 35 49
Fax 96 351 74 17

Denmark

C/ Eugenia Viñes, 101, 1º, 2ª
Tel. 963 33 29 22
Fax 963 74 88 84

Dominican Republic

C/ San Vicente Martir, 100, 2º - 2ª
Tel. 963 52 17 80
Fax 963 94 32 93

Ecuador

C/ Cronista Carreres, 13, 3º, 4ª
Tel. 963 51 98 40

El Salvador

C/ Cirilo Amorós, 53, 5º, 6ª
Tel. 963 52 70 58
Fax 963 94 35 14

Finland

C/ Conde Salvatierra de Álava, 11, 2º
Tel. 963 32 52 50
Fax 963 94 07 00

France

C/ Cronista Carreres, 11, 1º A
Tel. 963 51 03 59
Fax 963 52 71 46

Germany

Avda. Marqués de Sotelo, 3, 6º, 13ª
Tel. 963 10 62 53
Fax 963 94 23 88

Great Britain

C/ Colón, 22 - 2º G (Viajes GARZA)
Tel. 963 52 07 10
Fax 963 52 16 65

Guatemala

C/ Dr. Moliner 2, 8º - 15ª
Tel. 963 39 25 43
Fax 963 39 16 78

Holland

Gran Vía Germanías, 18, 18ª
Tel. 963 41 46 33
Fax 963 80 79 88

Honduras

Pl. de Honduras, 37, 9º, 43ª
Tel. / Fax 963 72 28 98

Hungary

C/ Alvaro de Bazán, 3, pta. 2
Tel. 963 93 36 31
Fax 963 60 85 41

Iceland

Pl. Porta de la Mar, 4, 3ª
Tel. 963 51 72 75
Fax 963 52 33 25

Italy

Av. del Puerto, 1
Tel. 963 06 13 40
Fax 963 30 78 77

Ivory Coast

C/ Cirilo Amorós, 6 entr.
Tel. 963 51 50 49
Fax 963 94 41 51

Latvia

C/ Grabador Esteve, 31, 2º, 2ª
Tel. / Fax 963 44 01 12

Lithuania

C/ Julio Antonio, 3, 1º, 2ª
Tel. 963 81 62 91
Fax 963 81 62 92

Mexico

Marqués de Sotelo, 5
Pasaje Rex
Tel. 963 42 76 16
Fax 963 42 77 42

Monaco

Av. María Cristina, 1, 5ª
Tel. 963 51 47 95

Morocco

C/ Paz, 38
Tel. 963 52 34 43
Fax 963 10 60 61

Norway

Av. del Puerto, 312, 2º, 5ª
Tel. and Fax 963 31 08 87

Panama

Av. del Puerto, 320, 2º
Tel. 963 30 30 28
Fax 963 30 60 03

Peru

Játiva, 10, 3ªC
Tel. and Fax 96 351 59 27

Poland

Av. Cortes Valencianas, 35, 10º, 2ª
Tel. 963 58 00 02
Fax 963 58 01 86

Rumania

C/ Colón, 9, 15ª
Tel. 963 53 50 50
Fax 963 94 40 44

Seychelles

Gran Vía Marqués del Turia, 82, 10º, 19ª
Tel. 963 33 31 74

Sweden

Puerta de la Mar, 4, 3º, 8ª
Tel. 963 94 03 75
Fax 963 52 09 74

Switzerland

C/ Cronista Carreres, 9, 7º I
Tel. 963 51 88 16
Fax 962 32 90 02

Turkey

C/ Jesús, 30, 9ª
Tel. and Fax 96 385 64 70

Ukraine

C/. Cirilo Amorós, 48, 3º
Tel. 963 51 78 36
Fax 963 51 34 88

Uruguay

Av. Gran Vía Marqués del Turia, 65
Tel. 963 52 40 44

USA

C/ Dr. Romagosa, 1, 2º-pta. J
Tel. 963 51 69 73
Fax 963 52 95 65



Useful telephone numbers and addresses

Emergencies

Tel. 112

Health**24 hour health care**

Hotline Tel. 900 161 161

Security

Local Police Tel. 092

Fire service Tel. 080

National Police: Tel. 091

Valencian Regional Government Information Tel. 012

Valencia town hall information Tel. 010



Preparing your trip



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Puente del Mar



Torres de Serranos



Puente de Calatrava

resource	map coordinate	guide page
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Places for culture and leisure

1. L'Hemisfèric	F5,F6	14,52
2. Museo de las Ciencias Príncipe Felipe	F6	14,15
3. L'Oceanogràfic	F6	10,14,53
4. Palau de les Arts	F5	14,53
5. L'Umbracle	F6	53
6. Parque Gulliver	E5	10,18,20,
7. Palau de la Música	E4	53,73

Places of interest

1. Feria Valencia (out of map)	B1	72
2. Palacio de Congresos	B1	10,13,72

Sports

1. Campo de Fútbol de Mestalla	E3	80
2. Golf Club El Saler (out of map)	G8	81
3. Circuit de Velocitat de la Comunidad Valenciana Ricardo Tormo (out of map)	A4	81
4. Spanish Tennis Club (out of map)	B1	82
5. Valencia Tennis Club	E2	82
6. Turia Atletism Stadium	C3	80
7. Football Stadium Ciudad de Valencia	E1	80
8. La Hípica	E2	82
9. Pabellón de la Fuente de San Luis	E6	80
10. Palau Velódromo Luis Puig (out of map)	B1	80
11. Real Club Náutico de Valencia	H8	81
12. Marina Port America's Cup	H8	55

Transports

1. Valencia Airport (out of map)	A4	102
2. Bus Turístic	D3	29
3. Valencia Bus station	C3	101
4. Port	H6	13,102
5. Renfe-Estación del Cabanyal	G4	102
6. Renfe-Estación del Norte	D4	24,31,102

**Tourist resources in this guide and in the street map*

