

# VALENCIA

~ SHORE EXCURSIONS. ENDLESS OPTIONS ~

VLC ■ VALÈNCIA

# VALENCIA: CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANS

Valencia offers a thousand incentives that make it worth getting to know at a leisurely pace. The legacy of the civilizations that once ruled it is evident in the city, giving it its own personality. The city is also surrounded by **white sand beaches**, nature and historic towns of great interest. Much of its charm comes from its **ideal climate**, with mild temperatures and sunny days year-round. This city is a paradise for both runners and cyclists, with the Turia garden as the center of operations, as well as for those who enjoy water activities. Miles and miles of the **best natural settings** for working out. The point is to exercise the body in broad daylight, releasing endorphins and feeling life smiling on you. A satisfaction that lasts until well into the night thanks to the **ample range of nightlife**, which beckons you to get to know the whitish light of its incomparable moon.

The roots of Valencia are lost in the night of time, roots that have been chiseled in stone, as is evident in each palace and historic building of its historic center, Ciutat Vella, one of the largest and best preserved in all of Europe. Walking in the steps of the **Roman Valentia** or the Arab Balansiya is always an exciting endeavor. And you would be remiss to ignore the traces from the city's period of

maximum splendor, the mid-fifteenth century, with its Llotja de la Seda (Silk Exchange), declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and its magnificent hall of Solomonian columns.

But Valencia is more than antiquity and ruins. The strength of recent decades has left Valencians a city of the future today, the City of Arts and Sciences, a pure expression of the overflowing genius of Santiago Calatrava, and which, with its majesty, has captivated the millions of people who behold it every year. It is our era's greatest contribution to posterity, together with the Marina, the project that has forever focused Valencia towards the sea.

A Valencia that offers an unparalleled **gastronomic richness**, based on the best local products, cultivated in its own private green lung, l'Horta, and captured in its extensive coastline... and olive oil. It is this equation that yielded its most universal dish: paella. Eating one in the vicinity of the Albufera Natural Park after a boat ride is an experience you won't soon forget.

There is no better way to experience the city in all its glory than by doing the many routes it offers. There are all kinds, easily tailored to any traveler, and designed to satisfy all kinds of passions.

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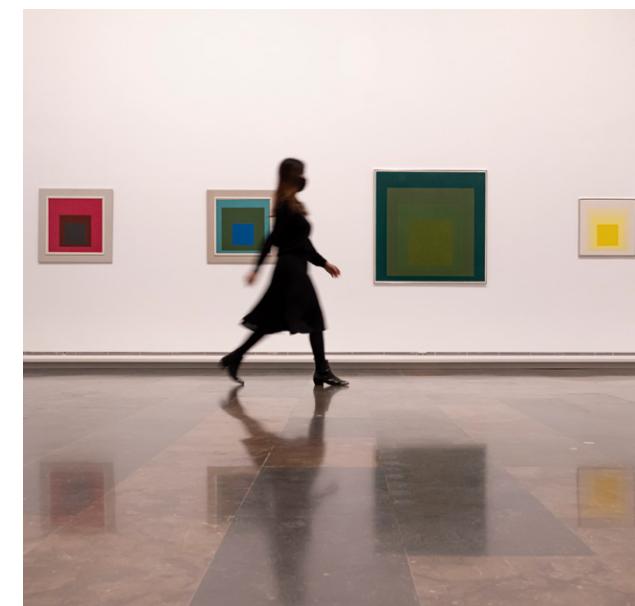
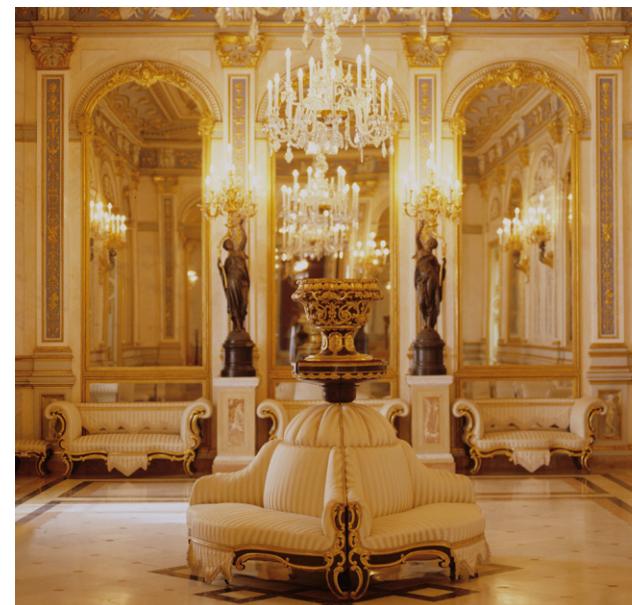


**CULTURAL  
& HISTORICAL TOURS**

# CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS

## A CITY OF MUSEUMS

Valencia is the city of museums. And art galleries. The Museo de Bellas Artes houses the **second largest collection of paintings in Spain**, after the one in the Prado. Among the canvases on display are **masterpieces of Valencian Gothic** and such outstanding painters as Diego Velázquez, José Ribera “lo spagnoletto”, Luca Giordano and Francisco de **Goya**. The Institut Valencià d’Art Modern, IVAM, marked the city’s transition to modernity and became an international leader for its meticulous exhibits, which have showcased the great masters of the 20th and 21st centuries. Its halls have hosted works from Paul Klee, Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, and other outstanding creators. The city complements both art galleries with a variety of original museum experiences. Also of note are the González Martí National **Museum of Ceramics**, located in one of the local architectural jewels, the palace of the Marquis de Dos Aguas; the **Silk Museum**, which houses the legacy of the industry for this valuable natural fiber in Valencia; and the L’Iber Museum, which has the **largest collection of historical miniatures in the world**, and many others.



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## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS

### THE TWO-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD VALENCIA

Since its founding by Roman legionaries, veterans of the Lusitanian wars, in the year 138 BC, many palaces, churches, civil and religious buildings, all important structures, have managed to withstand the passage of the centuries and helped to enlarge the architectural heritage of the two-thousand-year-old city. There is no better way to get to know the city's past and present than to walk the streets of its wide **historic center**, Ciutat Vella. The visit starts in the vicinity of the Cathedral, where it all began and where the remains of Valentia are located. Nearby is the Palau de la Generalitat, the seat of civil power. Continue by gazing at the **two historic gates**, Serrans and Quart, which provided access to the walled medieval city. Then proceed to the Lonja de la Seda, a World Heritage Site and a masterpiece of **Mediterranean civil Gothic**. But there is much more. The round plaza is an oasis of originality in the center, and the great works in the **modernist style**, most notably the Estación del Nord and the Mercado de Colón, are well worth the scheduled visit.

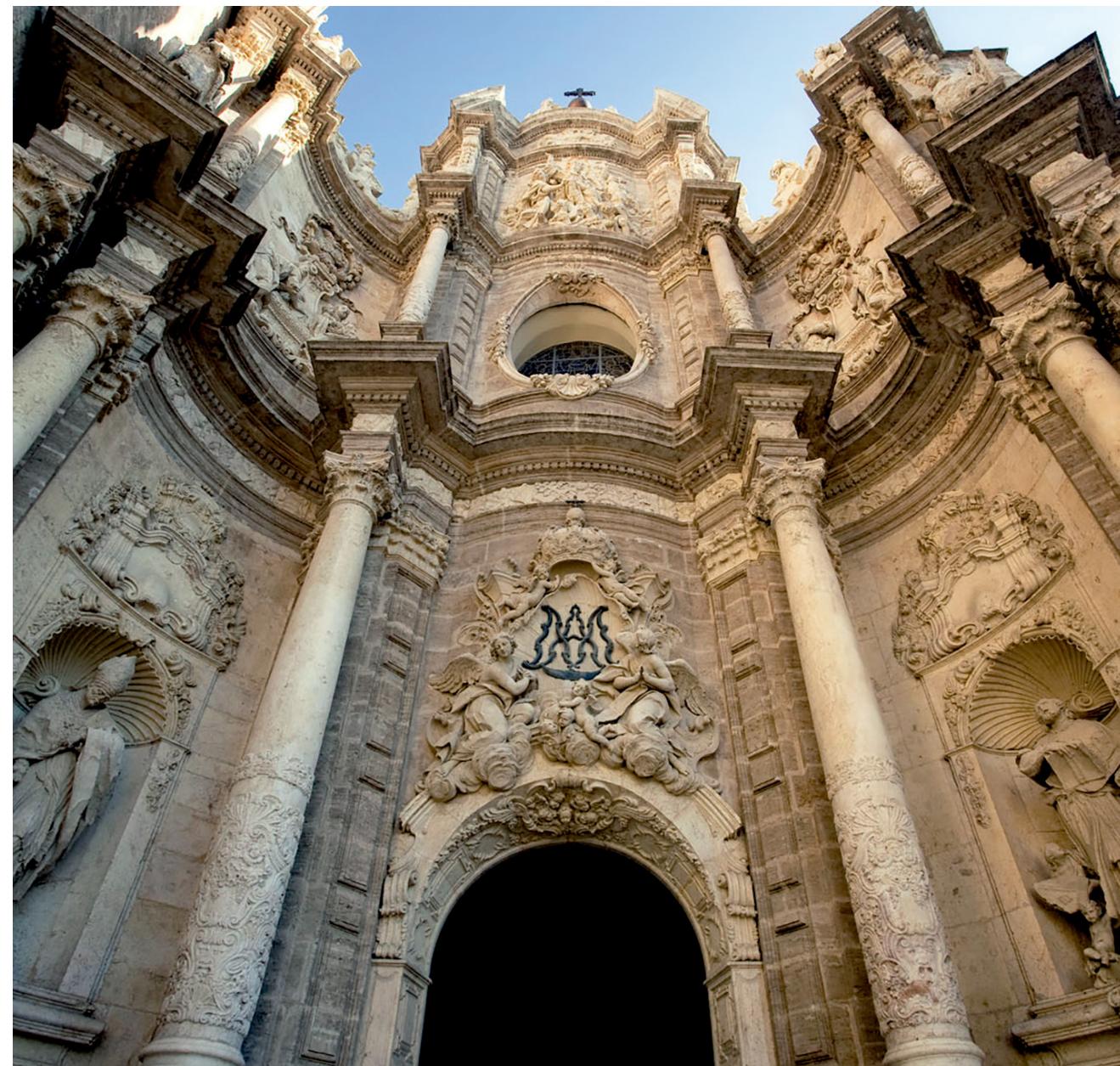


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## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS

### THE GRAIL ROUTE

The **cup that Jesus shared with his disciples** is in Valencia. The alluring grail, sought after by intrepid knights throughout the ages, is housed in the Catedral de Santa María. This route guides you through the trials and tribulations of this cup - carved in chalcedony and dated to the first century by science - on its way to Valencia. The grail room is the center of interpretation of the relic and the first museum center dedicated exclusively to the sacred cup. It reveals curiosities related to its use at the last supper, the meaning of the inscription on it and the many literary works that have been dedicated to it. And film has been no exception, with Indiana Jones at the helm. The visit will end in the **chapel of the cathedral that houses the Holy Grail**, where you can see it in person. In 2015, Pope Francis awarded Valencia the celebration of the Jubilee Holy Year, which will be repeated every five years in Valencia, making it one of the world's holy cities.



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## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS

### THE VALENCIA OF EL CID

Our city is the most important stage along the route that recreates the wanderings of a medieval knight who achieved legendary status: Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar, known by all as El Cid. Valencia still preserves many remains from his its time, such as the **Arab wall of the 11th-century** Balansiya, which he conquered. Nearby, where the cathedral stands today, El Cid found the Arab mosque, which he did not hesitate to have consecrated as a church suitable for Christian worship. The numerous examples of baths, or hammams, that he must have found in the Islamic city were no doubt very similar to the Admiral's baths, a magnificent example that has survived to this day. Dating from much later is the **equestrian statue** that Valencia dedicated to El Cid, which shows him on the back of Babieca, his faithful steed. It is the work of Juan de Avalos, who copied the original of the one created by Anna Hyatt Huntington, which is located in the gardens of the Hispanic Society of America, in New York. As you can see, the figure of El Cid knows no borders. The route continues through many other towns, cities and places, crossing the region of Valencia and up to 5 other Spanish provinces from north to south.



## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS

### THE CITY OF SILK

Discover the historical legacy that the most important industry of the 14th to 18th centuries left in Valencia: the trade in this fabric synonymous with opulence and social status. The first stop on the tour is one of the most magnificent buildings in the city, the **Lonja de la Seda (Silk Exchange)**. It is no trivial matter that this building, in the medieval Gothic style, has been declared a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**. Its façade is a feast for the eyes, with its numerous grotesque figurines and gargoyles showcasing their hidden charms, in lively, lustful poses. The reason for such overt details of a sexual nature is a mystery to experts. A lecture in morals? Simple fun and games? The interior of the Lonja is equally breathtaking, with its Contracts Room and its fabulous helical columns as the highest expression of splendor. It's time now to visit the **Colegio del Arte Mayor de la Seda**, a key institution in 17th-century Valencia with around 5000 looms in the Velluters district (velvet weavers). All this is recorded in the thematic museum it houses, in whose store you can buy souvenirs and authentic silk garments. **Traditional Valencian clothing stores** can round out the itinerary.



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## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS

### ON THE ROMAN TRAIL

The Roman Empire left a deep imprint in this part of Hispania. Discovering the vestiges housed in the two-thousand-year-old city of Valencia, and the no-less-ancient city of Sagunto, is an enticing proposition. The traces of the time when Rome ruled the world are evident in both cities. The tour includes guided tours of the historic center of Valencia, with a special emphasis on the **Almoína Archeological Center**. This is a unique space where everyday life in Valentia has been frozen in time. You can admire the **remains of the ancient city** from the second century BC, of the dispute that destroyed it, as well as of the subsequent rebuilding, after being abandoned for more than half a century. Then comes **Sagunto's** turn, where the **Roman castle** and theater take center stage in this tour. The search for the legacy of the main Western civilization from antiquity is not complete until we come across the Peñacortada aqueduct, in the nearby town of **Calles**. This colossal work of **hydraulic engineering** was built in the first century AD. There are stretches preserved along 28 kilometers, and it provides clear proof of how Roman scientists were able to control the force of gravity to transport water from its source.



## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS

### VISIT VALENCIA AND THE LLADRÓ UNIVERSE

This proposition combines taking in the monuments of Valencia, with a detailed knowledge of the origins of one of the local artistic products that has rightfully earned its status as an object of universal appeal: Lladró figures. Not only will you get to see the main monuments in the city center, but you can also take a short detour to explore the **Lladró factory of artistic ceramics** in Tavernes Blanques, just 10 minutes from Ciutat Vella. The experience begins with a film on the life and journey of the company's founders, Juan, José and Vicente, the Lladró brothers, who began to make their first pieces of ceramics and glass in a Moorish furnace built in their family home. This is followed by a **sample of the meticulous creative process** that precedes the manufacture of the highly prized pieces. Finally, the visit ends with an exhibit of Lladro's best works, with the option to acquire these small sculptural jewels.



## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS

### TREASURES AND ANECDOTES IN EL PATRIARCA

This guided tour of the Royal College Seminary of Corpus Christi, also known as The Patriarch, reveals the ins and outs of this important institution and its **400+ year history**. Over the course of all these centuries, it has accrued priceless and interesting anecdotes. For example, its museum houses the figure of an alligator that, it is said, once terrorized the inhabitants of l'Horta. Until a prisoner, dressed in an armor made of mirrors, asked for his release in exchange for killing it. The animal, stunned by its reflected image, was left at the mercy of the prisoner's spear. This building also temporarily housed the collection of the Prado Museum after it was moved from Madrid in late 1936 for fear that Franco's men would bomb it. The Patriarch is much more than anecdotes. The **exquisite Italian cloister** with its Carrara marble columns and its ceramic base in maiolica, and the Chapel of the Most Pure and its **Flemish tapestries** are also worth seeing. As is the collection of religious paintings, which features great masters such as **El Greco, Dirck Bouts and Juan de Juanes**.

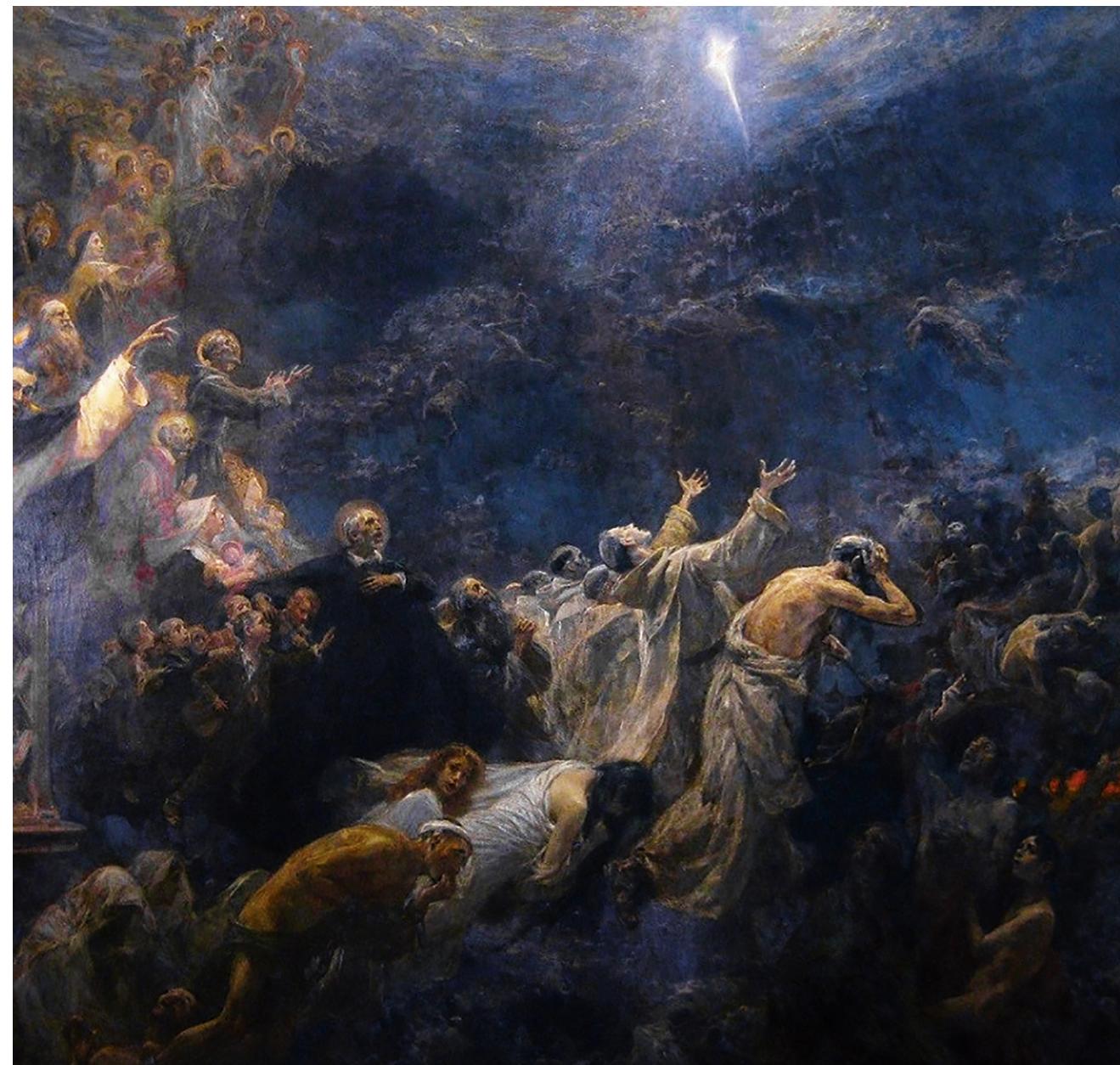
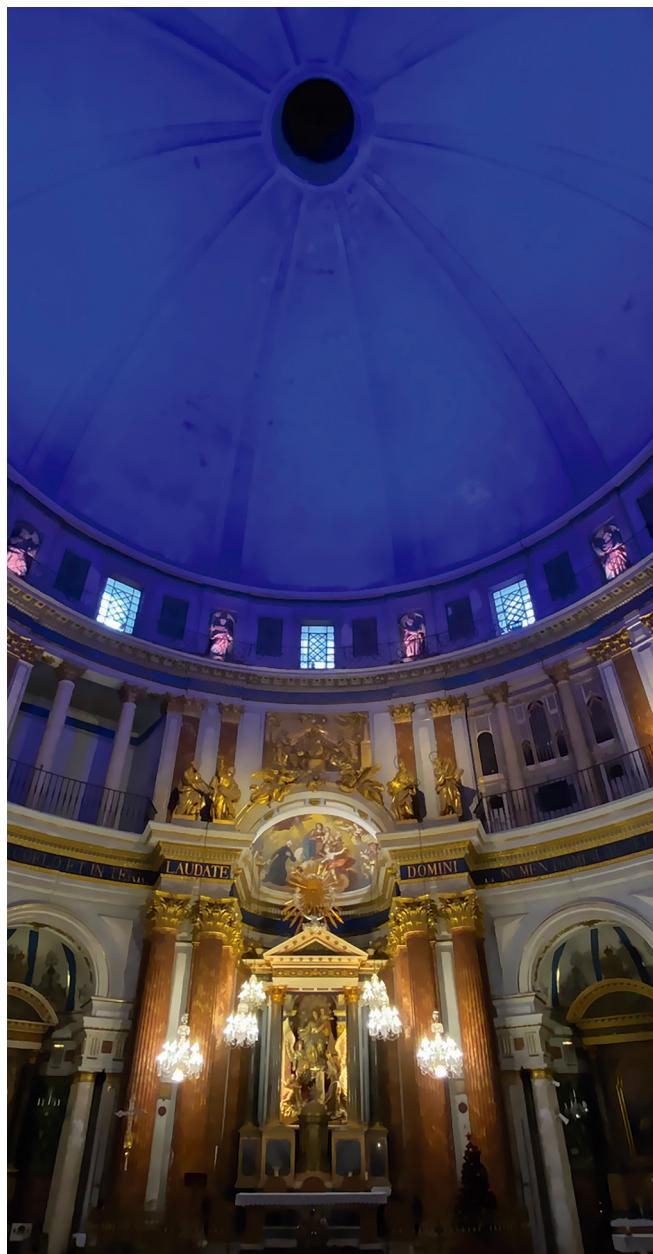


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## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS

### THE DOME OF THE PIOUS SCHOOLS

The church of the Royal College of the Pious Schools is the most representative example of local neoclassicism. It stands out for having the **largest dome in Valencia** and for its circular layout, which it owes to the grandeur of the basilica of St. Francis the Great in Madrid. It is a religious temple defined by the academic guidelines of the Royal Academy of San Carlos, and whose construction involved reputable personalities from the religious, artistic and social classes of 18th-century Valencia. Also of note are the classical influences of ancient Rome in its pilasters, with capitals of superimposed styles, the triangular or semicircular frontispieces and the roof lantern of its dome, reminiscent of buildings as unique as the Pantheon of Agrippa or the temple of Minerva Medica. The best way to take in its monumental scope is by contemplating its dome in person.





VALENCIA  
AT THE CUTTING EDGE

# VALENCIA AT THE CUTTING EDGE

## 21ST-CENTURY VALENCIA

Despite its more than two thousand years of existence, Valencia is a fresh city that relies on the greatest international creators to add new striking architectural milestones to its exquisite classical landscape. And that philosophy is obvious in the look of the city. The most outstanding and obvious example is the **City of Arts and Sciences**. All its buildings are the product of the imagination and ingenuity of **Santiago Calatrava**, a world-famous Valencian architect and engineer. All except one. L'Oceanogràfic and its spectacular roofs made of concrete paraboloids with glass walls are the work of Félix Candela.

Another landmark that is already part of the city's visual idiosyncrasy is the **Palacio de Congresos** (Convention Center), by one of the world's architectural giants, Sir **Norman Foster**. You can't leave Valencia before you see the building of **Veles e Vents**, a modern lighthouse, the symbol of the new Marina, and **David Chipperfield's contribution** to the city.

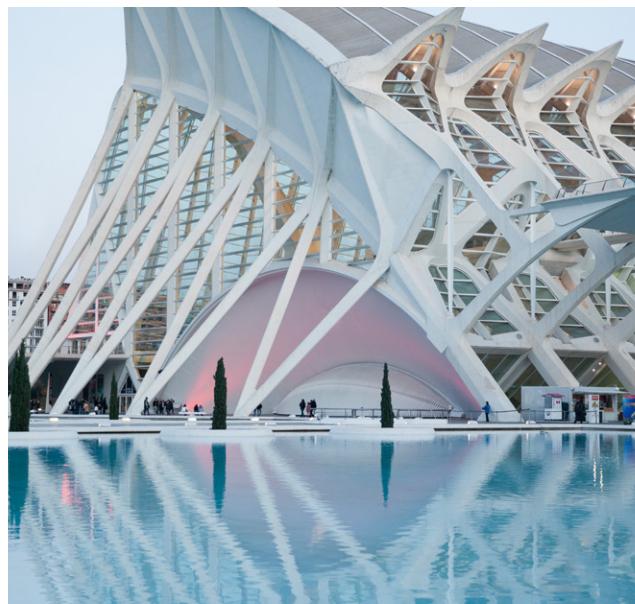


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## VALENCIA AT THE CUTTING EDGE

### CALATRAVA'S ROOTS

Over his extensive career, the famous architect and engineer Santiago Calatrava has designed and built some of his finest works in the city of his birth. The work of the creator from Benimàmet spans the urban Turia garden from west to east, with his signature brilliant white and trencadís design elements. The buildings he devised for the universally renowned City of Arts and Sciences are well known. **L'Hemisfèric is the 3D Imax cinema** of the complex, and shows the outline of an eye with an eyelid that is opened by means of a complex hydraulic mechanism. The Museu de les Ciències is reminiscent of a monumental ossuary and is home to an **interactive collection** on knowledge. Other works of his in the city include Palau de les Arts, **València's opera venue** with a warrior helmet motif; the Umbracle, a landscaped viewpoint and adjoining parking area; and the Àgora, a multidisciplinary space that will house the ninth location of CaixaForum in Spain. The Nou d'Octubre **bridges** (the more unique one), the Exposition bridge and the Assut de l'Or bridge round out, along with the Alameda metro station, Calatrava's contributions to his city.



## VALENCIA AT THE CUTTING EDGE

### STREET ART ROUTE

Valencia has a **rich artistic heritage**. But the collections housed in the many museums and the notable existing architectural examples coexist alongside other plastic expressions of rabid topicality that are not shown in the official guides. Street art has taken to the city's streets, with most of its **murals on display in the Ciutat Vella district**, where the visit takes place. On this original route, you will discover the difference between graffiti and other manifestations of urban art, such as urban knitting. In the center, in the neighborhood of El Carme, there are many examples in the streets left by **dozens of urban artists** who are helping to decorate Valencia. To know them is to know where the city is headed, and provides an insight into the new creations and groundbreaking disciplines that are yet to come. Anyone completing this route will find it much easier later to identify the many murals, graffiti and other elements of urban art that will accompany them throughout Valencia.



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## VALENCIA AT THE CUTTING EDGE

### CAIXAFORUM VALENCIA: SCIENCE AND CULTURE DEEP INSIDE THE AGORA

The CaixaForum Valencia isn't just another museum. It's a unique project that is worth a visit, since it has transformed the interior of a building by Santiago Calatrava, the Agora, into a sensory experience in the discovery of science and culture. The exhibit space was designed to be a living organism through a restaurant that is a garden of aromatic plants, offices that rise up in the shape of a palm tree, an educational classroom that is a cloud floating in the space, and an auditorium that is an inverted forest. And it's all surrounded by water forming a lake. It is an organism within another in a clear symbiotic relationship. It also features a wide-ranging, top-flight exhibit on ancient civilizations, technological developments such as artificial intelligence, and artistic displays from various disciplines. Admission to explore this uniquely transformed indoor space is free. An entrance fee is charged to visit the displays.

But the CaixaForum offers much more. It's a place to enjoy musical performances in its auditorium, which can hold three hundred people. There are also conference series, shows, social days and educational workshops for all ages.



### IN THE BOWELS OF LES ARTS

The Palau de Les Arts reveals all its secrets. Getting to know one of the most important artistic and cultural centers in the world and a benchmark of avant-garde international architecture, designed by the admired Santiago Calatrava, is now possible. During the tour you can access the venues where musical and opera performances take place, and the Training Center of the Palau de les Arts, the nerve center where tomorrow's great artists train. The experience provides an insight into the connection between the music and opera that are performed here, the living history of music and pure classicism, and the most advanced technology, which makes it possible to stage all the shows. The guided backstage tour helps visitors understand all the artistic and technical secrets of this city landmark. If taken during the opera season, tour goers will be able to view first-hand the rehearsal for a marquee production.





WHAT DOES VALENCIA  
TASTE LIKE?

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## WHAT DOES VALENCIA TASTE LIKE

### TAPAS IN THE CITY

When it's time to satisfy your hunger, it is a ritual in Valencia to go to a good bar for tapas, which are typical culinary dishes served in small portions so you can try several of them in a single meal. Typical Spanish tapas include Spanish omelet (with potatoes), squid, stewed beans... But it's best to go with **local recipes**. **Clóchinas** are similar to mussels but smaller and with a more intense flavor. They are steamed with a little pebrera (dried chili pepper) and sweet paprika. **Esgarraet** combines desalted cod and roasted red pepper, sprinkled with olive oil and seasoned with garlic. **Titaina** is made by sautéing tomatoes, roasted red peppers, pine nuts and a local seafood product called the tonyina de sorra (salted tuna belly). From the area near l'Albufera comes **all i pebre**, an eel stew spiced with garlic and pepper and served with potatoes in a clay casserole. The number of tapas is practically unlimited, as is the number of places that cook them up right. It's the perfect chance to explore Valencia's most iconic streets, discovering its narrow alleyways, squares and unique buildings, and stopping at places where you can sample the local fare.



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## WHAT DOES VALENCIA TASTE LIKE?



### VINEYARDS

Since time immemorial, Valencia and its province has been a land of vineyards and good wines. Today there are two Denominations of Origin - Utiel-Requena and Valencia - that regulate and guarantee the quality of the wines. The sector has been booming thanks to contributions from **new generations of winemakers**, who have managed to transform centuries-old wineries into places that produce signature wines recognized by the most prestigious guides in the sector. Very close to Valencia there are several wine areas that are renowned both for the **beauty of their landscapes and the quality of their products**. Visiting a winery and tasting the various wines is a great way to discover the different native varieties. This is a great experience for both nature lovers and anyone who is passionate about wine and good food. We can suggest two destinations: Fontanars dels Alforins and its region, known as the Valencian Tuscany, and the area of Requena and Utiel, which is rich in magnificent wines and home to **bobal, the Valencian grape par excellence**.



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## WHAT DOES VALENCIA TASTE LIKE?

### PAIRING OF VALENCIAN WINES AND TAPAS

This proposal seeks to provide an appreciation of how wine is always more satisfying if combined with an appropriate meal. The province boasts two Denominations of Origin - Valencia and Utiel-Requena - with several DOs de Pago, the equivalent of French terroirs, which are closely related to estates where the grapes are grown almost artisanally. The combination resulting from **pairing Valencian wines with local products** is a delight for the palate. During the experience, guided by expert sommeliers, you can enjoy two wine tastings and tapas in the historic city center. The tour also includes admission to an urban winery, which is where the activity begins with an initial **tasting of 2 wines** served with snacks. A stroll through the streets of Ciutat Vella takes you to the second location, a **typical traditional tavern**. The wine tasting is wrapped up there, perfectly paired with five different tapas.



## WHAT DOES VALENCIA TASTE LIKE?

### HORCHATA CYCLING ROUTE

From Puçol to the banks of the Albufera, the breadbasket of Valencia covers an area of about 23,000 hectares, providing an **agricultural green landscape** that surrounds the city. It is a growing environment not seen in other towns, developing in the Middle Ages during the Islamic period. The Arabs introduced to Balasinya, which is what they called the city, important **irrigation structures** and techniques that are still in use today. Touring the **vast fields of vegetables** and crops, dotted by the rural architecture of the area in the form of farmsteads and shacks, is truly enjoyable, and even better **by bicycle**. And so is discovering a unique product, the chufa, or tiger nut, used to make the best-known Valencian drink: horchata. Downing a **nice cold horchata** after a pleasant ride is quite a treat. And there is no better place to do so than in the town that has made this sweet concoction famous: Alboraià. And if you start to get peckish, there is no better food to pair with horchata than the delicious artisanal fartons.



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## WHAT DOES VALENCIA TASTE LIKE?

### EATING IN MICHELIN-STARRED RESTAURANTS

The list of restaurants in the city that have received a star from the prestigious Michelin guide is extensive. They are the crème de la crème of a way of cooking that is committed to local, seasonal products and that showcases the virtues of the Mediterranean diet. At the top of the list is the **Ricard Camarena Restaurant**. Ricard is a master in processing vegetables, which has earned him two stars and an extra green star for his commitment to eating sustainably. In the same category is El Poblet, the main eatery in the city from the renowned **Quique Dacosta**, and exquisitely run by the young chef Luis Valls. Imagination in textures and trompe-l'œil, combined with a devotion to the Albufera. Boasting one star are **La Salita, by Begoña Rodrigo**, which has managed to merge the aromas and flavors of Valencia with those of Asia and Latin America; **Riff**, by Bernd Knöllner, the most Valencian of German chefs; **Lienzo**, where María José Martínez offers very creative Mediterranean cuisine; **Fierro**, a result of the passion of two Argentine chefs, Germán Carrizo and Carito Lourenço, to merge Mediterranean food with their own roots; and **Kaido Sushi Bar**, a Japanese locale for just 10 diners, all served together at the bar, where products from the Valencian coast take center stage.





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## VALENCIA WAY OF LIFE

### TASTE THE WATER OF VALENCIA

This city is the creator of one of the **best cocktails** you could ever taste and that, as you would expect, bears the name of the place that gave it birth: the Water of Valencia. Its recipe is based on the **juice of local orange** varieties, at peak ripeness, with an added kick from vodka, gin and cava, the latter, if possible, from the nearby towns of Requena and Utiel. The custom of offering this combination in large jars that are poured into Marie Antoinette champagne glasses promotes community and harmony. Thus, if anything identifies that most Valencian of night-time cocktails is its communal nature and the typical orange color of the fruit from this Protected Geographical Indication. To taste a proper one, you have to come to Valencia and visit the **traditional places that have been serving it for more than 50 years**, especially in the neighborhoods of El Carme, La Seu and El Mercat, all of them located in Ciutat Vella.

### THE ESMORZARET ROUTE

One of the best gastronomic customs of Valencia is the esmorzaret, Valencia's take on brunch and a custom as unusual as it is worthy of admiration. It involves consuming **huge sandwiches** early in the morning, served with an appetizer, all washed down with beer, soft drinks or a very refreshing wine and soda. The origins of this deep-rooted custom date back to when farmers interrupted their morning toil to regain their strength with bread and hearty meats. This local wisdom has given rise to mouthwatering combinations such as longaniza and black pudding with broad beans ("Black and white"); horse meat with tender garlic; sobrasada, melted cheese and caramelized onion ("Almussafes"); or grilled loin, fried egg, bacon, mayonnaise, cheese and lettuce ("Chivito"). Any esmorzaret worthy of its name will end with a **good cremaet**, a skillful combination of **coffee and rum**. As it burns, some of the alcohol is removed from the rum. Then it's all flavored with cinnamon, coffee beans and lemon peel. There are plenty of places that are faithful to this local tradition and that are hoping to spread it far and wide and overthrow the over-rated brunch.



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## VALENCIA WAY OF LIFE

### CERAMIC WORKSHOP IN MANISES

This workshop takes visitors on a very interesting tour of the history of Manises, a town that is part of the metropolitan area of Valencia, and its **ceramic tradition**, which dates back to the time of the Arab occupation. It starts with a visit to the **municipal museum** dedicated to preserving this highly valued handicraft product and the typical district of Obradors, which housed the production factories. But, without a doubt, the highlight of the experience involves taking part in a professional ceramic workshop run by artisans who work to create and produce **veritable works of art**, such as exclusive dinnerware for many of the Michelin-starred chefs in the area. After receiving the relevant tips from the masters, it's time for visitors to try their hand at shaping a piece of clay of the area, the same one that has been used for the last thousand years in Manises. Once the desired shape is achieved, it is time to paint the piece using different oxide pigments to continue shaping one's imagination. Finally, it is placed in a wood-burning oven. That newly created piece will be the best memory of an activity as original as it is satisfying.

### MAKE ARTISANAL HORCHATA, WHITE GOLD FOR YOUR PALATE

Tiger nut juice, or horchata, is one of the most original products of Valencia and its lands. Created from a small **tuber exclusive to L'Horta Nord**, the chufa bears the Valencia D.O., since it is not grown anywhere else in Europe. This, in addition to its exclusive drying process, makes for a unique product. This refreshing natural drink has flavor and texture properties that make it very tasty. It is also very healthy and nutritious. In recent decades it has gone from being consumed by locals to being demanded by Spaniards from other regions and visitors from different countries. This activity addresses the only problem it poses, namely how, due to its characteristics, in order to preserve it, it has to undergo industrial processes that diminish its most notable qualities. And so, the best solution is to learn the **artisanal process for making it**, instead of having to buy it packaged in a supermarket. This workshop will teach you how to make it using home utensils, and you also get a 250-gram box of tiger nuts so it won't cost you anything to make a liter of horchata in your own home.



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## VALENCIA WAY OF LIFE

### LEARN TO COOK VALENCIAN PAELLA

Paella, created in Valencia, has become synonymous worldwide with prestigious Spanish cuisine. Food experts agree that it should be made with rice, vegetables from l'Horta (lima and ferradura beans) and animal protein based on chicken, farm-raised if possible, and rabbit. Of course, paella is this land's ultimate homage to **locally-sourced products**. It's important to note that paella is only served at lunch, never for dinner, and it must never combine meat with fish or seafood. The delight of tasting a good paella can only be outdone if you cooked the paella yourself. Learning how to cook it, knowing **how to use firewood** from an orange tree as a source of heat, stoking or lowering the intensity of the fire at will, is a considerable challenge. Unless you have help from **expert chefs**. It is a very rewarding experience that can only be felt in the birthplace of this dish. Here, in Valencia.

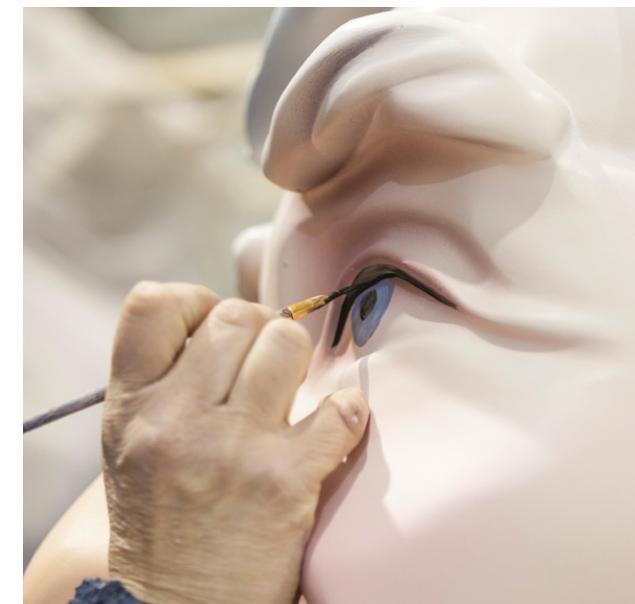
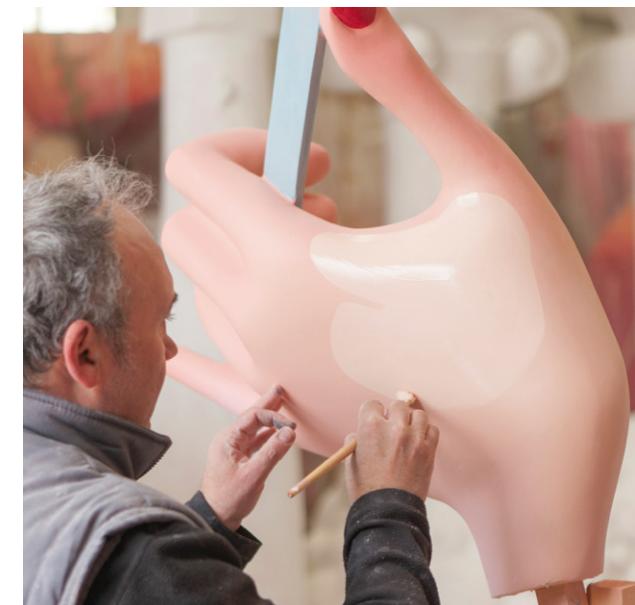


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## VALENCIA WAY OF LIFE

### BECOME A FALLAS ARTIST

Admiring the satire and beauty of a falla is a fitting and enjoyable exercise. However... who wouldn't like being able to build their own monument? Sign up for this experience and get to know the City of the Fallas Artist, the neighborhood that's home to the workshops where artisans craft their monuments, which are stored in huge warehouses. The same artists will explain the different techniques used and share other insights on their craft. But to really learn about the materials and techniques used to make the ninots, there is nothing better than to take part in a workshop with professionals who will guide you from the beginning. Telling you how to work the soft cork (expanded polystyrene), first by drawing it and then carving it. After sanding it to finish giving it the right shape, and applying paper and glue to reinforce it, it's time to paint. Compare your creation with the most outstanding examples of fallas artists by visiting the collection of pardoned ninots, the only figure that is saved from the flames every year. And if the activity is in a group, combine the fruits of your effort by making your own monument. Enjoy the night of the cremà a few months early!





**THE GREENEST SIDE  
OF VALENCIA**



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## THE GREENEST SIDE OF VALENCIA

### BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Very close to the city are two UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. These enclaves champion environmental values that are unique in the world. The first is located in the Cabriel Valley, which groups the largest mountainous limestone massif in Mediterranean Europe, with outstanding geological elements (hoodoos, gorges, etc.) and important ecosystems of Mediterranean forest and gallery forest. The lushness of the place explains the rich native fauna, which includes mountain goats, raptors, high mountain birds, a large community of amphibians, otters and sizeable trout populations. The area is crossed by one of the cleanest rivers in Europe, the Cabriel, which gives its name to the valley. The other Biosphere Reserve is home to the high course of the River Turia. Less than an hour from Valencia, it combines an extensive natural heritage with hiking, cycling, climbing and equestrian activities. In addition to canoeing and river rafting, other water-based activities can be found in the Benagéber Reservoir. This whole area is also recognized with other distinctions, as it is also a Special Protection Area (SPA) for Birds and a Starlight site.

### WILD BEACHES

Just 10 minutes away from Valencia, you can find beaches that epitomize the perfect **fusion of nature and relaxation**. Located south of the port are beaches that penetrate deep into the Natural Park of L'Albufera. They offer 17 kilometers of fine golden sand, often between protected dunes and pine forests. We highly recommend combining the pleasures of the sand and sea with the exploration of the surprisingly green and leafy trails. And they offer the advantage of not being as crowded as Valencia's urban beaches, which people can reach on foot, but with all the incentives of its scenic beauty. To discover La Devesa is to enjoy a unique space framed between two immense aquatic spaces, namely the Mediterranean Sea and the Albufera, the largest freshwater lake in Spain. Such is the magic that bathes this beach that the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

To round out the perfect day, all that's left is to choose from among the large number of restaurants and outdoor eateries in which to partake in some **delicious local cuisine**.



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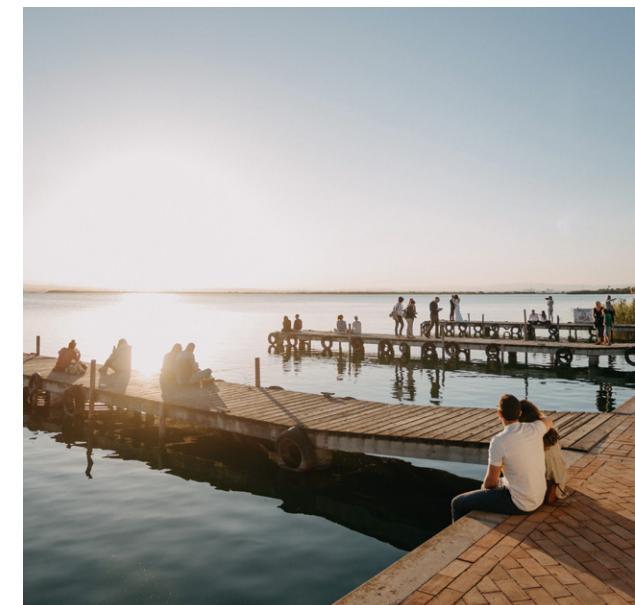
## THE GREENEST SIDE OF VALENCIA

### COVES DE SANT JOSEP, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Coves de Sant Josep offer the perfect reason to travel to the Castilian town of Vall D'Uixó, about 45 minutes by road from Valencia. It is the **longest cave in the province** and the second in the whole region of Valencia. But its main attraction is a boat ride along one of the most spectacular **navigable underground rivers**, the longest in Europe. The visit includes an 800-meter boat ride and a 250-meter walking tour. Visitors can take in countless stalactites and stalagmites while enjoying the constant year-round temperature of 20° C. The cave grew in the Middle Triassic period and consists mostly of limestone. The source of the river and the endpoint of the cave are unknown. Humans have known about the cave and lived in it for about 17,000 years. Proof of this are the archaeological sites found at its entrance, which contain paintings dating from the Magdalenian period and engravings on the rock. These remains have earned a spot on the list of Assets of Cultural Interest and are a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.

### TWO IN ONE: CIUTAT VELLA AND ALBUFERA

There is no better pairing than art and native fauna, city and natural ecosystem. Combining a visit to the monuments of Ciutat Vella, the historic center, with an excursion to the Natural Park of L'Albufera is the best way to spend a full day. The main attraction of this **green area**, which is very close to Valencia (10 km), is the large, 2,800+ hectare **freshwater lake**, the largest in Spain, which gives its name to the park and which can be toured by boat. Around the lake is a landscape of marshlands and rice fields, and along the strip that separates it from the sea is a unique ecosystem of natural dunes and pine forests. This enclave is perfect for birds, with more than 300 different species taking refuge here throughout the year. Visitors to the Racó de l'Olla Interpretation Center can take in these birds from its observatories and lookout tower, with their **panoramic views**. Another highly recommended option for getting to know l'Albufera is to do so by bicycle.





THE PROMISE LAND  
OF SPORT

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## THE PROMISE LAND OF SPORT

### VALENCIA IS GOLF

Fans of the noble game of golf are in luck. There are **four golf courses** very close to the city of Valencia, all with very different characteristics and perfect for playing this sport: El Bosque, Manises, Escorpión and El Saler.

**El Bosque** is the most technical and requires experience and good judgment when choosing irons for the approach shot. Its 18 holes have **hosted top-level European events**. This par 72 is located at the foot of a mountain, which determines its layout, with its elongated greens rising over the fairways. Specialized critics regard its characteristics as similar to those of the iconic Valderrama, which was made by the same designer (Robert Trent Jones Sr.). For its part, the **Scorpion Club** offers 27 holes, with nine par threes.

The charm of the **El Saler** course lies in its idyllic location, nestled in the Natural Park of La Albufera. It is open to the public and is **located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea**, in an exceptional space for playing this game. This 18-hole, par-72 course has a total length of 6,042 m.



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## THE PROMISE LAND OF SPORT

### WATER SPORTS: FLYBOARD & JETSKI

The mild climate of Valencia and its extensive coastline let you enjoy the most appealing forms of water sports. It's the best way to release tension and feel the adrenaline rush in your body almost year-round. Getting into flyboarding, the discipline in vogue, requires daring and skill. It's ideal for lovers of active tourism, since you can enjoy a vibrant aquatic activity, flying over the water as you perform a variety of stunts. Nothing matches the feeling of gliding over the sea, which this ingenious invention makes possible by coupling two powerful jets of downward firing water to a board. Pressure management is key to getting it to move right. Another way to feel the sea breeze on your face is to ride a jet ski. There are courses that teach you to ride these devices, which let you sail along coastal waters at full speed. If you like the experience, you can take the jet ski tour guide course. You can also hire a tour guide to take in the most attractive and beautiful spaces of the Valencian coastline onboard this powerful vessel.



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## THE PROMISE LAND OF SPORT

### BOAT TRIP: FUN ONBOARD

One of Valencia's main attractions is undoubtedly its beaches bathed by the Mediterranean. A good boat ride will let you experience the city from a different perspective. Catamaran or motor launch, you choose the boat you like best. You can also enjoy the moment to relax and have fun with family, or to have a lively party with your friends. A bachelorette party? A joyful celebration topped off with music onboard and a swim in the sea? You decide which option is right for you.

Feel like captaining your own boat once you've tried the experience? Well, all you have to do is sign up at the sailing school and take the course that lets you get a basic license. With just 2 classroom hours and 4 hours of practice, you can get an official license that will let you sail with boats up to 6 meters long during the day, and out as much as two miles on the high seas.



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## THE PROMISE LAND OF SPORT

### EVERYBODY'S GONE SURFIN'

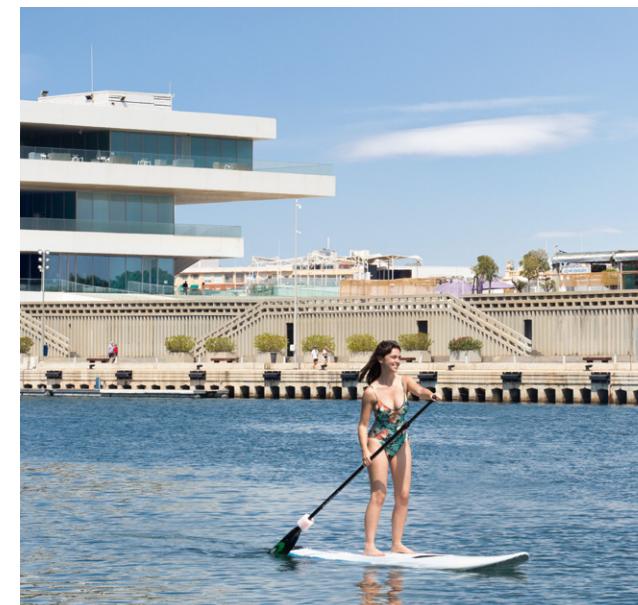
If you've dreamed a thousand times of slicing through the water atop your board, this is your chance to make your desires come true once and for all. Surfing is fun and it's good exercise, since it strengthens your legs and back, it improves your balance and... you can enjoy it like a kid. That and many other things, like enjoying being in touch with nature, relaxing and doing away with all that pent-up stress.

And don't make excuses by saying you don't know how or you're clumsy. Neither your skill level nor your age will prevent you from surfing the waters of the Mediterranean. You can sign up for a course and be riding waves in no time. Because the courses are taught by experienced surfers who will tailor them to your level. So if you're up for it... this is a piece of cake!



### PADDLE SURF OR KAYAK: YOU CHOOSE

If you like standing on the board and paddling along the coast, then you're a fan of paddle surfing. This discipline will let you explore your inner self because you're going to enjoy every second of the experience. If you've watched others do it a thousand times on TV but have never tried it, the time has come to wet your toes and try out this sport, which has gained a large following in just a short time. Sign up for classes suited to your skill level and learn how to get on the board, how to use the paddle and stay upright while having a great time. Once you reach the ideal level, enjoy the numerous routes available nearby. But the water sports options don't stop there. One of the simplest and most attainable, but also the most satisfying, is kayaking. Sail along in this type of canoe, powered by your own resolve and the double-bladed paddle. Getting started is very simple, alone or as a couple. And, for your peace of mind, you can ride on a sit-on-top kayak, perfect if you've never kayaked and want maximum safety. Then, it's time to give it your all and get to know Valencia from the sea!



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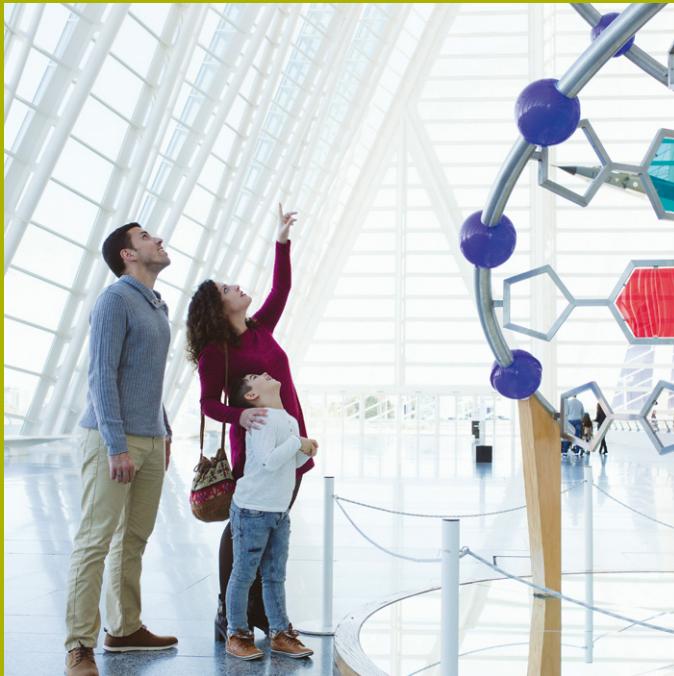
## THE PROMISE LAND OF SPORT



### A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE: THE ESPELEOKAYAK

Top off your visit to the continent's longest navigable underground river with a different experience. Explore this unique spot by kayak, paddling deep into it. It's a journey that combines physical activity with the joy of taking in the magic of stalactites and stalagmites and the other geological formations in the Caves of Sant Josep. Sail the 800-meter-long route alongside professional guides, who will instruct you before starting the tour. Upon reaching the end of the river course, you'll continue a further 250 meters on foot through dry galleries on a ninety-minute adventure that will stay with you forever. You don't need to be a practicing kayaker, and you can opt for a single or double boat to sail the crystal-clear waters. It is also suitable for children as young as 8, provided they are accompanied by an adult. The visit includes the individual equipment needed for the activity, namely a kayak, paddle, neoprene suit, neoprene socks, helmet and access to changing rooms. So don't miss out!





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## FAMILY TIME

### VISITING WITH CHILDREN

Discovering the charms of a city with as much to offer as Valencia doesn't have to be a fiasco if traveling with children. These thematic routes contain different options designed for them to learn and **have fun without getting bored**. The nearby town of El Puig organizes a special visit for children that lets them discover the stories of the Monastery of Santa María and the local legends, while dressed in medieval clothes. On the route called "Pirates of the Malvarrosa", they start with a message in a bottle and follow the clues in the old map of Blackbeard the pirate around the waterfront. It's a different way to get to know the Reales Atarazanas, the Veles e Vents building and the century-old warehouses by the ports. "Knights and Princesses" is an activity in which children will feel like they are part of royalty, as they turn into their favorite medieval character for a few hours. They will also learn about the city and its past with a presentation tailored to them. They will relive the stories by learning about the palaces and fortresses they come across, such as the Serranos Towers and the Palace of the Marquis of Dos Aguas.



## FAMILY TIME

### BIOPARC: AFRICA IN VALENCIA

Bioparc recreates locales typical of Africa's wildest settings over its more than 100,000 m2 expanse, a size chosen to ensure the animals' welfare and recreate their natural behaviors. **Four habitats are reproduced:** the equatorial forest, Madagascar, the great wetlands and the savannah. The animals, over 4000 from 250 different species, the vegetation and the landscape form a whole that allows visitors to learn about the relationships between organisms and elements that make up the ecosystems. The wonders in this natural sanctuary include Kitum Cave, which recreates the original one located at the foot of Mount Elgon in Kenya, a space where the most dangerous mammals on the continent - hippos and Nile crocodiles, more than 3 meters long - live in curious coexistence. The ultimate goal of this place is to convey the need to preserve nature, because the reason for keeping animals in captivity is to directly benefit the populations of these same species in their natural environment. Bioparc is particularly active in programs to **breed endangered species** and catalog species. In fact, Bioparc is home to several endangered animals, such as the pygmy hippopotamus, the leopard and the bongo.

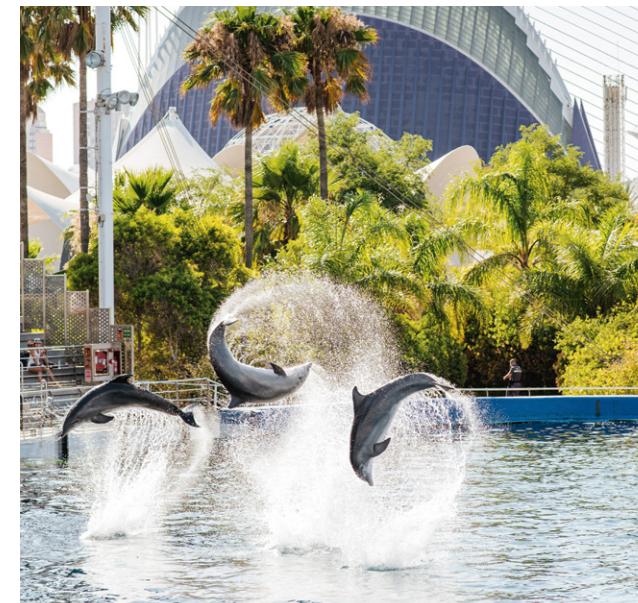


### OCEANOGRÀFIC: DIVE WITH US

Located in the avant-garde City of Arts and Sciences, this is **the largest aquarium in Europe** and houses over 45,000 specimens from 500 different species. Its construction and location symbolize the close relationship between the city and the sea. A visit is sure to create unforgettable experiences, such as **walking under sharp shark teeth** or meeting a family of belugas.

L'Oceanogràfic, through its Foundation, engages in important initiatives - such as **restoring damaged ecosystems**, rescuing animals and monitoring the natural environment as a whole - that directly affect nature and its species. The care of sick or injured marine animals, which is done by its **Marine Fauna Recovery Center**, known as the Ark of the Sea, is one of its main areas of direct action, one that seeks to address a social demand in response to the appearance of emblematic species (mainly cetaceans, turtles and sharks) stranded on our coasts.

The natural habitats of the species housed in the Oceanogràfic are recreated down to the smallest detail. There are facilities dedicated to the Oceans, the Mediterranean, the Arctic, the Antarctic and other warm and temperate oceans. The dolphin show in the dedicated stadium in the complex is a must-see.



## FAMILY TIME

### DRAGON HUNT

“Catch a dragon!” is another cultural route styled as a competition for the whole family, with games and adventures through some of the city's landmarks. It lets them learn by having fun while hunting the naughty dragon Fiona, lost in the streets of Ciutat Vella. The goal is to convince the mythological animal to return to its lair. The clues to its whereabouts will take you to some of the most historic spots in Valencia. The route includes visits to the Church of the Patriarch and the Silk Exchange, unique buildings where you will discover different examples of dragons carved in stone and learn about Valencia's past. You will also visit the House of Rocks, the site where the Corpus Christi floats are stored, and home to such impressive specimens as the Tarasca and the Diablera.



### L'ALBUFERA ON A BOAT, BIRDS AND PAELLAS

No little one will refuse the chance to explore the waters of l'Albufera, the largest natural freshwater lake in Spain, aboard one of the local traditional boats. It's as simple as getting to the pier and... welcome aboard! The noise of the engine will accompany you during parts of your visit to this unique and beautiful landscape, but at other times, the boatman will propel you along using a long wooden pole. That way, you'll be able to access the most remote locations, where the vegetation engulfs everything. Watch out for the mullets, which can jump into the boat!

It's also a great chance to have fun by watching the numerous species of birds that make this wetland their home during the nesting season. And you can top off the day with a delicious Valencian paella in one of the many traditional restaurants in the area.



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## FAMILY TIME

### GULLIVER TURNED INTO A SLIDE PARK

Are you familiar with Gulliver's Travels? You are? Then you'll know that the first of his famous voyages took him to the distant lands of Lilliput, which he happened upon as he drifted after the ship in which he worked as a doctor wrecked. Exhausted by the effort to swim to save his life, he fell asleep as soon as he reached the shore of that unknown place. But upon waking up, he found himself tied to the ground by tiny people one-twelfth the size of a human being, who had immobilized him. And it's in exactly that position, although colossal in size, that you can find him in Valencia, in the heart of the Turia Garden, near the Ángel Custodio bridge, turned into a slide park for children to enjoy! The supine figure is 70 meters long. It's as if the honorable Gulliver were a giant and everyone running all over his body, going up and down stairs, sliding down the chutes and ramps, scrambling up ropes and climbing, were tiny Liliputians! What more do you need to know?

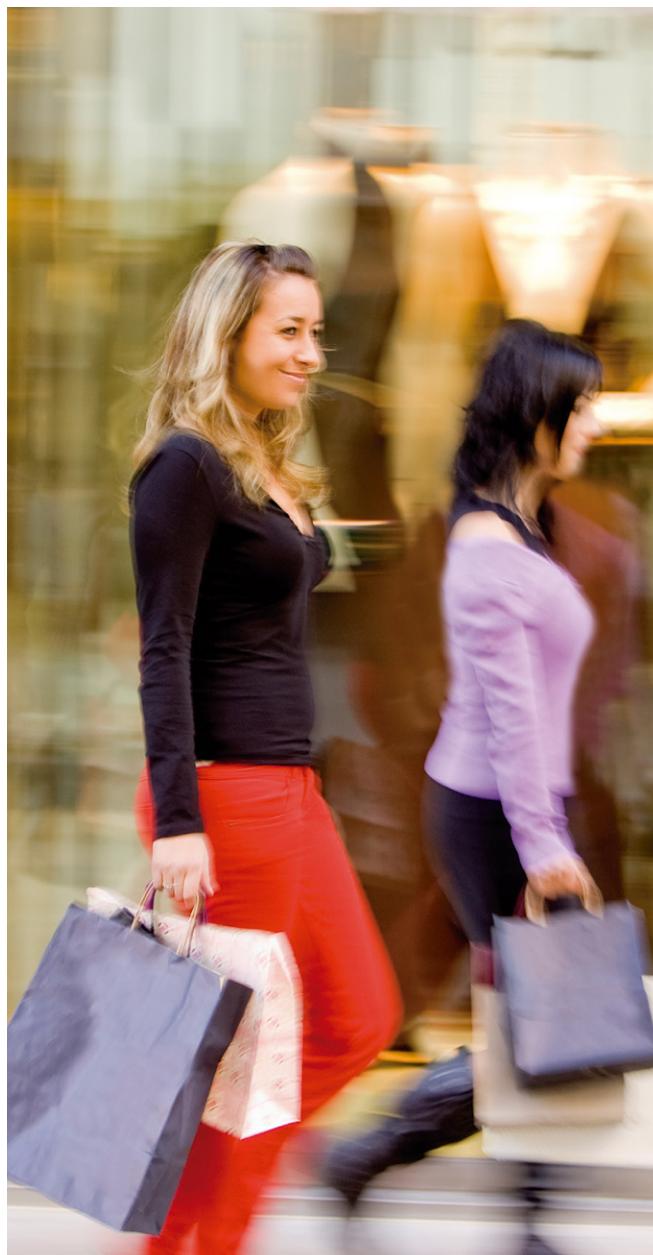




# SHOPPING TIME

## SHOPPING IN VALENCIA

Valencia offers a wide range of shopping options. The good weather and the concentric structure of its streets let shoppers access a variety of shops without traveling long distances. If you start the day in the very center of the city, the Plaza del Ajuntament, you can find within a reasonable walking distance the **best local food**, traditional products you won't find anywhere else, and the most exclusive fashion and jewelry stores, for fashionistas of all kinds. Of course, shopping and fashion go hand in hand, and there's no better area than Calle Poeta Querol to find the most exclusive and **luxurious stores** in the city. For budget-friendly options, be sure to visit Calle Colón and the vicinity of the modern market by the same name, which features all kinds of fashion stores and accessories where you can satisfy your urge to do some **clothes-shopping**. If you are looking for a more personal experience, you can always hire the services of a **personal shopper** to turn a day of shopping into a surefire success.



## SHOPPING TIME

### PURCHASE LOCAL PRODUCTS

This option is ideal for anyone planning to buy typical products. Whether you're a fan of food or a demanding foodie, be sure to take advantage of your visit to Valencia to buy some great **turrón (nougat)**. And it doesn't have to be Christmas. The classic Turrones Galiana store, located in the center of the city, offers a tempting assortment year-round. A few minutes from there is the **Central Market**, the best place to buy a bag of tiger nuts to make homemade horchata, or lima, rochet and tabella beans, the most genuine vegetables to make a paella with. This same location offers silkscreens and prints of the most emblematic districts and buildings in Valencia.

If you are looking for handicrafts and other more traditional objects, be sure to drop into a handheld fan shop when in Ciutat Vella. And admirers of the most international local festival, the Fallas, should visit a **typical goldsmith's shop** or get a piece of silk, brocade, damasks or even Manila shawls in one of the various Valencian clothing stores in the historic district. There are **thematic routes**, in the morning and afternoon, to discover places of interest depending on the local products you are looking for.





**OTHER WAYS  
TO GET TO KNOW THE CITY**

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## OTHER WAYS TO GET TO KNOW THE CITY

### VALENCIA BY BIKE

This is the **perfect city for cycling**, as it is completely flat and boasts an ideal climate, with more than 300 days of sunshine a year. As a result, getting to know it on two wheels can be quite the pleasant experience. If to all this we add the possibility of having a **green road** that is clear of traffic that, like the Turia garden, **crosses Valencia from west to east**, it all comes together quite nicely. The route starts at one of its ends, in the Cabecera Park. This route takes you by the historic center, where you can discover its medieval network of narrow streets. After riding kilometers and kilometers of landscaped areas, the route ends once you reach the westernmost end, where the City of Arts and Sciences awaits, with its awesome modernity. Along the way are the many different bridges, from the medieval Serrans bridge, to those designed by Calatrava and the original Puente de las Flores. A final push will take you to the Marina de Valencia, a million square meter leisure space by the sea.



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## OTHER WAY TO GET TO KNOW THE CITY

### VALENCIA BY AUTO RICKSHAW

What better way to enjoy getting to know Valencia than in an offbeat vehicle that is both entertaining and fun: in an auto rickshaw, the fun means of **transport typical of Asian countries**. This method provides an **unconventional perspective** from which to see the city. This tour leaves from the historic center and visits the most notable monuments. Towers of Quart and Serrans, the Museum of Fine Arts and the old Hospital de Valencia, the first psychiatric hospital in Europe back in the day, now converted into a public library, are just some of the local landmarks on the tour. Next, you will pass by the City of Arts and Sciences and the Turia garden, the modern port of Valencia and the Royal Marina, finishing the ride on the huge beach of Malvarrosa before returning to Ciutat Vella. You can **stop at any time** to take photos or visit a monument, and the drivers are ready to answer any questions and tell you the story behind the main tourist landmarks. There will also be two 10-minute breaks for customer comfort.



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## OTHER WAY TO GET TO KNOW THE CITY

### CONVERTIBLE JEEP TOURS

4x4 excursions in Valencia. The route contains three stops: the old town, City of Arts and Sciences and Playa de la Malvarrosa, and the Marina of Valencia. You will have time at each one to learn about the landmark or relax with a drink. But you can also choose to go to interesting places outside the city while driving a fun convertible jeep and **using GoPro cameras** for home videos and photos. One example is the natural parks of Sierra Calderona and l'Albufera. The first lets you take in places of interest such as the Serra castle and the impressive viewpoint of Garbí, from where, on a sunny day, you can **enjoy an unparalleled panorama of the entire Valencian coast**. To venture into l'Albufera is to visit the beaches and hideaways of La Devesa and El Saler, in the heart of the protected area. Driving along the beautiful landscapes of the quintessential Mediterranean Valencia will take you to the rice paddies and the largest lake in Spain. Rounding out the experience is a boat ride. These excursions include snacks and drinks. There is a special service for cruises.





BACKSTAGE:  
BEHIND THE SCENES

## BACKSTAGE: BEHIND THE SCENES

### MESTALLA FOREVER TOUR

The Mestalla Forever tour takes a look back through the history of the city's **most important sports club**, Valencia Club de Fútbol, through its legendary 50,000-seat stadium. Mestalla has been home to the black-and-whites since its inauguration in 1923. It is the oldest stadium in use by teams in Spain's mighty First Division, and the most impressive of them all. The extreme angle of the stands and the proximity to the pitch turn it into an echo chamber where the roaring local fans can unleash their passion. Over its nearly **100 years of existence**, it has witnessed some of the great names in the world of football, such as Mario Kempes, Rainer Bonhof, Johnny Rep, Faas Wilkes, Pablo Aimar, Gaizka Mendieta and Rubén Baraja, along with many other football stars. It's the best place to experience how a professional footballer must feel. The visit includes the trophy room, the VIP box, the press room and the **local team's dressing room**. And the thrill of walking onto the pitch from the bowels of the stadium through the dressing room tunnel and sitting on the benches to gaze at Mestalla from the same perspective as the coaches on game day.





LEAVING VALENCIA:  
MUST-SEES

# LEAVING VALENCIA: MUST-SEES

## PEÑÍSCOLA, A CASTLE THAT'S THE STUFF OF FILMS

Peñíscola is a city of great beauty, marked by its fortress on a small promontory by the sea. It is in the north of the region of Valencia, in the province of Castellón. Over the years, it has had a strong appeal among those who visited it, especially if they were in the filmmaking industry. From producer Samuel Bronston, who chose it to represent the Valencia of a Cid played by Charlton Heston, to the characters of the acclaimed Game of Thrones. The conversations between that great man Tyrion Lannister and the clairvoyant Varys along its maze of medieval streets are easily identified in the sixth season of the fiction series on HBO. The city has designed a tour to retrace the most notable film scenes that have been staged there in the last 80 years. But the ancient city, crowned by the dwelling place of Benedict XIII, Pope Luna, is but one of its many attractions, most of them related to the rough blue sea. And its extensive beaches of fine sand to the north of the citadel, and beautiful coves flanked by steep cliffs to the south.



PEÑÍSCOLA

SAGUNTO

UTIEL-REQUENA

CULLERA

XÀTIVA

BOCAIRENT

EL PUIG

LLÍRIA

RIBA-ROJA

GANDIA

## GETTING TO KNOW BOCAIRENT

This small medieval town an hour's drive from Valencia and located at the southern end of the province, in the heart of the Albaida Valley, is well worth a visit. The distant image of the ancient village, with the church bell tower presiding over the network of streets located in a foothill of the Mariola mountain range, is certainly impressive. A breathtaking view of it all is available from the lookout point in the cemetery. On the outskirts of Bocairent you can visit Les Covetes dels Moros, artificial caves with windows arranged at various levels on a vertical wall. They bear witness to ancestral customs, still not fully understood, dating from the 10th and 11th centuries. Very close by is the Sant Blai quarry, a well-preserved natural ice box, a silent memory of how snow was preserved to market the precious asset that was ice in times before the arrival of electricity. Its curious bullring, opened in 1843 and the oldest in the region of Valencia, was also hewn from solid rock.



Tourist Info  
Bocairent

Plaça de l'Ajuntament,2 (Bajos Casa Cultura)  
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Fax: 962 90 50 85  
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Web: www.bocairent.org

## LEAVING VALENCIA: MUST-SEES

### XÀTIVA, THE CITY OF THE BORGIA

The capital of the La Costera region is the most monumental of Valencia's towns, a result of its important role throughout history. Episcopal see in the Visigoth era, it went through a period of cultural splendor during the Muslim occupation. Subsequently, after the Christian conquest, it was the second most important city in the Kingdom of Valencia and the birthplace of renowned personalities. One legendary family, the Borjas, which produced two popes in Rome and fed the myth of the Borgia (Italianization of their surname), was native to this historic city. As was one of the greatest proponents, together with Caravaggio, of pictorial tenebrism, Josep de Ribera, Lo spagnoletto. The ancient town center, declared a Historic-Artistic Site in 1982, provides a wealth of monuments presided over from on high by the formidable Castell. Notable features in its historic center include the Collegiate Church or Seu, the Royal Hospital, the Plaça de la Trinitat, the former convent of Sant Domènec and the numerous palaces of nobles from different eras. Xàtiva sided with Austria in the Spanish War of Succession. Its victorious rivals, the Bourbons, led by Philip V, reduced the city to ashes. Ever since, a picture of the monarch has been hanging upside down in the local Museum of Fine Arts.



Tourist Info  
Xàtiva

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Web: [www.xativaturismo.com](http://www.xativaturismo.com)

PEÑÍSCOLA

SAGUNTO

UTIEL-REQUENA

CULLERA

XÀTIVA

BOCAIRENT

EL PUIG

LLÍRIA

RIBA-ROJA

GANDIA

### SAGUNTO, ROMAN SOUL

Sagunto is located 24 kilometers north of Valencia. Its ancient city is worth a visit due to its wealth of artistic and historical heritage. Built on a low hill, it was destroyed by the great Hannibal Barca and rebuilt by Rome after the Carthaginian general was defeated in the second Punic wars. The most precious treasures of the ancient Saguntum are the castle, always watching over the region of Morvedre and the sea from its prominent location atop the hill, and the Roman theater, still in use more than two millennia later as a venue for performances. Descending to the medieval heart of the city, a visit to the Jewish quarter, framed by its characteristic portal, is a must. It is a living expression of Hebrew culture in its purest form, nestled in narrow streets of fine cobblestone. The impressive sight of the old towers of the company Altos Hornos del Mediterráneo makes for worthwhile lesson on these vestiges of industrial archeology from the last third of the 20th century. The ideal place to end the visit is Almardà beach, almost two kilometers long and marked by a prominent string of dunes.



Tourist Info  
Sagunt

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## LEAVING VALÈNCIA: MUST-SEES

### CULLERA, LOOK UP!

This town, a 40-minute drive from Valencia, encourages you to look up as you approach it. The sign that bears his name, curiously reminiscent of the one in Hollywood, is located on the side of a mountain. And the castle that the town is famous for was also erected on high. This imposing fortress was built by the state of Cordoba in the 9th century to provide strategic control of natural resources, roads and borders. It consists of a citadel and two walled fortifications that were used to shelter troops, cavalries, livestock and the population itself in times of siege. The different sections of the wall are linked by a set of towers. Inside the castle is the Municipal Museum of History and Archeology, as well as different exhibits and audiovisual materials on local history. It is the ideal place to start this route, which can continue on to the beautiful lighthouse and the Estany lagoon, the town's natural pride and joy. The beautiful fine white sand beaches provide the perfect counterpoint.



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### GANDIA

The city of Gandia is the heart of the Valencian administrative region of La Safor. Gandia has a privileged location, between the sea and the mountains. Within the city, one is surrounded by a **rich historical heritage** that permeates the monuments and the spirit of the people. This is one of the biggest attractions of a city whose tourism sector is capable, through its infrastructure and variety, of satisfying the most demanding visitors.

A visit to Gandia allows you to discover a very special city. Its beach, its historical centre linked to **the most universal Valencian family (els Borja – the Borgia)** and its natural environment provide the city with a unique quality that combines the warmth of Mediterranean destinations with a powerful tourist appeal.

The local cuisine of Gandia and La Safor is a cuisine of the smells and flavours, of the raw materials and the traditions of the Mediterranean. The people of La Safor are huge consumers of rice, in the form of stews, “dry” dishes (oven-baked) and dishes cooked in paella pans. The ingredients are very varied and the range of rice recipes is very extensive. The paella pan is also used to make “**fideuà**”, in which rice is replaced by noodles (which are cooked with seafood). The dish is considered to have originated in Gandia.

Gandia's sweets and pastries include “el tortell” and “la delicà de Gandia”.

To live Gandia means to live the Mediterranean, to live “la fiesta”, gastronomy, nature, sport ...

Gandia reveals all its possibilities to you in order that you may choose the one you like the most. Visit Gandia, and live it!



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## LEAVING VALÈNCIA: MUST-SEES

### EL PUIG DE SANTA MARÍA

El Puig de Santa Maria is located 14 Km from the city of Valencia, in the administrative region of l’Horta Nord. It sits on a hill, and in fact that is where its name comes from, since “puig” in Valencian means hill or mountain. Its municipality stretches from the mountains of Cabeç Bord and Serra Llarga, in the foothills of the Sierra Calderona range, to the blue, open landscape, of the Mediterranean Sea. Mention may be made of the **great scenic and ecological value** of the local agricultural land and wetlands.

Virtually all the locals are able to make the typical traditional dish, paella. On Saint Peter’s Day it is traditional to make “arros amb fessols i naps” (rice with beans and turnips), which can be enjoyed in the local restaurants (when reserved in advance). As in the rest of the area, other popular dishes include a variety of stews based on rice with locally-produced vegetables (“arròs a band” (rice with fish stock), “pan amb carn” (rice with meat), “arròs al forn” (baked rice).

The local sweets include sweet potato cakes, almond cakes, “encaratas”, “pilota de ametla”, “coca cristina”,

“coca de almendra”, “coca boba” and “coca en llanda”. The **gastronomic events** organized during spring offer the possibility to discover the rich and varied local cuisine.

The municipality includes monuments of great interest, including the **Royal Monastery of El Puig de Santa María**, which has been declared a National Historical – Artistic Monument, and the Printing and Graphic Arts Museum. The **Carthusian monastery of Ara Christi**, declared a Cultural Monument, the Hermitage of Saint George and the Hermitage of Saint Barbara. “La Patá” Castle and the watchtower on the beach.

El Puig has 4 kilometres of coastline, alternating wide sands with stony beaches. There is a 1 km seafront promenade to the south, which connects to La Pobla de Farnals marina.

All the beaches are equipped with sanitary, recreational sports and children’s facilities, as well as Supervision and Health Service during the summer months. Play-Puig Beach has a “Point of Accessibility”, which has special equipment adapted to persons with reduced mobility.

PEÑISCOLA

SAGUNTO

UTIEL-REQUENA

CULLERA

XÀTIVA

BOCAIRENT

EL PUIG

LLÍRIA

RIBA-ROJA

GANDIA



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## LEAVING VALÈNCIA: MUST-SEES

### RIBA-ROJA DE TÚRIA

The town sits atop a gently-sloped hill to the right of the River Turia. It has a population of about 20,700 inhabitants and is located 20 km from Valencia, at an altitude of 125 m above sea level.

The local cuisine has the same characteristics as in the rest of the region, with special importance given to a **wide variety of rice dishes and the sweets made in the local bakeries.**

Celebrations are held in honour of Saint Anthony on 17th January, with traditional bonfires and the blessing of animals. “Fallas” are also celebrated from 15th to 20th March in honour of Saint Joseph. The village’s main festivities are held in honour the Assumption of Mary on 15th August, while the Holy Christ of the Afflicted is honoured on 14th September. It was traditionally considered a festivity for single men (“els fadrins”), as the village’s young people were responsible for organizing the festivities in honour of the Virgin.



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## LEAVING VALÈNCIA: MUST-SEES

### LLÍRIA

Llíria is located in the northwest of the province of Valencia, 25 km from Valencia. It is the capital of the Camp de Túria administrative region. Its municipality (229.82 km<sup>2</sup>) is one of the largest in the Valencia Region, with a contrasting landscape composed of the mountainous foothills of the Sierra Calderona range and an agricultural area lying on the left bank of the River Turia.

It offers an exceptional cultural heritage and, in addition to being a historical town, is steeped in musical tradition, being known as the “**City of Music**”. It has one of the most **significant archaeological and monumental sites** of all Valencia. These two characteristics make it a “Symphony of Cultures” for both the inhabitants of Llíria and for its visitors.

Llíria’s cuisine, naturally, maintains the characteristics of Valencian cuisine in general, with an abundance of rich, meat and vegetable dishes. There is a wide variety of rice dishes: baked rice, rice with chards (a gastronomic event aimed at professionals is held each year in order to promote this dish) and meat paella stand out as the most popular dishes. The local meat is obtained through hunting, whilst the quality of the local lamb and cured sausages is highly appreciated.

The vegetables, legumes, fruit and root crops consumed in the area are mainly obtained from the fertile agricultural land around Llíria. The main crops harvested around Llíria, and those which represent the area’s main economic activity, are **citrus fruits**, and especially oranges.

Llíria’s sweet dishes are exquisite. Many of its **bakeries** still employ **traditional systems of production**.

There are special cakes for each season: Christmas is the season for sweet potato cakes, “tortas finas”, marzipan confectionery and nougat; Spring is accompanied by biscuits and “besos de novia” made from egg white and almond; at Easter the typical “panquemaos” (brioche), “mona” cakes with hard-boiled eggs, walnut and raisin cakes, “primet de llimona”, “Onil cake” and cakes with bacon and sardines are prepared; in summer, when the days lengthen and the appetite awakens, tomato cakes, pepper and anchovy cakes and flan and egg yolk cakes are made. The typical sweets prepared for Saint Michael’s day are “concrets” (fritters), made with oil and anise.

PEÑÍSCOLA

SAGUNTO

UTIEL-REQUENA

CULLERA

XÀTIVA

BOCAIRENT

EL PUIG

LLÍRIA

RIBA-ROJA

GANDIA



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## LEAVING VALÈNCIA: MUST-SEES

### UTIEL REQUENA WINE ROUTE

If you consider yourself a **good wine lover** and you like sightseeing do not hesitate to do the Utiel Requena Wine Route, where both pleasures merge to offer you a unique experience. This Valencian region has a wine **tradition of more than 2,500 years**, when the Iberian settlements still inhabited these lands, so we could say that it is an almost obligatory destination to delve into the history of this drink with so much history.

The route includes 10 municipalities, starting for example in Sinarcas, continuing with Camporrobles, Fuenterrobles, Villargordo del Cabriel, Venta del Moro, Caudete de las Fuentes, Utiel, Requena, Siete Aguas and ending in Chera, in the middle of an idyllic setting such as the Natural Park Chera-Sot de Chera. But it is in Caudete de las Fuentes where the village of Los Villares is located, the oldest place in the region where the vine was cultivated and its broth was consumed on a regular basis, nothing more and nothing less, than in the seventh century BC. But let us return to the present day, because it is impossible to talk about these wines without mentioning the **Utiel-Requena Denomination of Origin**, which includes a series of protected red grapes, such as Bobal, Tempranillo,

Garnacha, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Pinot Noir. This D.O. is especially known for its **red and rosé wines**, so it is currently promoting the cultivation of white grapes and thus expand the current protected varieties: Macabeo, Tardana or Planta Nova, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

The Utiel-Requena Wine Route is a perfect excuse to know its municipalities, wineries and their environment through a getaway, whether romantic, with friends or even adventure, and there are few things with which a good wine can not be paired.

Savoring a good wine, tasting its sausage, resting in **charming hotels or in rural lodgings close to nature**, allow the user to live an unforgettable experience.

On the web [www.rutavino.com](http://www.rutavino.com) you can make reservations from among the various packages that are offered. Or if you prefer, the Route can design the trip that the tourist wants.





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