

# Press Dossier City of Valencia







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## Roman, Arabic and Christian

Due to its strategic position on the Mediterranean coast, Valencia is a veritable melting pot of cultures. The city was founded in 138 BC by the Romans – the original Forum is currently home to a museum located in the Plaza de la Almoina. After the Romans, the Visigoths arrived in Valencia but in 714, the Muslims established control in the city, a situation that lasted until 1238 when King Jaime 1st ousted them in the name of the Kingdom of Valencia. The Arabic people left a profound legacy with their irrigation systems, recipes and art – influences that are relevant and noticeable right up to the present day. As architectural evidence of this epoch, we can point to the remains of the walls that surrounded the Tossal Gallery or the Angel Tower. The medieval period left an even greater legacy, it was a time when the economy flourished thanks to agriculture and maritime commerce. The Cathedral, Torres de Serranos and Torres de Quart, La Lonja de Seda (the Silk Merchant Market) – an official World Heritage Site – and the Convento and Puente de la Trinidad, are some examples of this splendid golden epoch of the city in the 14th and 15th centuries.

Maritime commerce, and especially the silk industry, led to an economic Renaissance which had an effect on ideas, the arts and wider cultural issues. Perhaps the best physical illustration from this period is the Palau de la Generalitat, a gothic construction that has been designated as a Site of Cultural Interest and currently home to the Regional Government of the Community of Valencia. Also of great interest is the Colegio del Patriarca. The Baroque and Enlightenment periods left us buildings such as: Basilica de la Virgen de los Desamparados, the Palace of the Marques de Dos Aguas, the Plaza Redonda and the Museum of Fine Art which has the second largest collection of paintings in Spain next to Madrid's El Prado.

### Places of interest

#### ■ La Almoina

C/ Harina s/n

#### ■ Galería del Tossal

Plaza del Tossal. + 34 963 981 803

#### ■ The Almudín

Plaza San Luis Beltrán, s/n. + 34 963 525 478

#### ■ Torres de Serranos

Plaza de los Fueros s/n. + 34 963 919 070

#### ■ Torres de Quart

C/ Guillem de Castro, 89

#### ■ The Cathedral

Plaza de la Reina s/n. + 34 963 918 127

#### ■ La Lonja de la Seda. The Silk Merchant Market

Plaza del Mercado s/n + 34 963 525 134

#### ■ Basilica de la Virgen de los Desamparados (Basilica of our Lady of the Forsaken)

Plaza de la Virgen s/n. + 34 963 918 611  
[www.basilicadesamparados.org](http://www.basilicadesamparados.org)

#### ■ The Palace of the Marques de Dos Aguas

Rinconada García Sanchis, s/n.  
+ 34 963 516 391

#### ■ The Plaza Redonda

C/ Pescadería – Vallanca

#### And also...

#### ■ La Cárcel de San Vicente Mártir

Plaza del Arzobispo, 1

#### ■ The Church of San Nicolás

C/ Caballeros

#### ■ Palacio y Baños del Almirante

C/ Almirante, 3. + 34 605 275 784

#### ■ The Church of San Juan de Hospital

Trinquete de Caballeros, 5  
+ 34 963 922 965

#### ■ The Benicarlo Palace

C/ San Lorenzo, 4. + 34 963 876 100

#### ■ Puente y Convento de la Trinidad

C/ Trinidad, 13

#### ■ The Santo Domingo Convent

Plaza Tetuán, 22. + 34 961 963 000

#### ■ Puerta de los Judíos – The Gate of the Jews

Plaza de los Pinazo

#### ■ The Santa Catalina Church

Plaza de Santa Catalina s/n  
+ 34 963 917 713

#### ■ The Monastery of San Miguel de los Reyes

Avda. de la Constitución, 284  
+34 963 874 000





## Modernism

Valencia boasts one of the largest collections of modernist work in Spain. At the end of the 14th century and the beginning of the 15th Valencia went through a period of rapid growth which forced the city to expand beyond its medieval walls, giving rise to the area known as the "Ensanche"; an extensive modification of the urban landscape. The bourgeoisie demanded a modernist style, sometimes with baroque influences or a tendency towards geometric lines that incorporated classic elements. Excellent examples of this civil architecture can be seen in the Estación del Norte (North Railway Station), the Mercado de Colón (which was refurbished in 2003 and converted in to a recreational centre and the Mercado Central) this last building is the biggest market in Europe with 8,000 square metres and almost 1,500 stalls, offering an enormous range of fresh food products. Also worth a visit are the Casa de la Lactancia (which currently houses the La Alameda urban spa), the Palacio de la Exposición (Exhibition Palace), the Tinglados, located in the port, near to the Edificio del Reloj (Clock Building), and the Blasco Ibañez House-museum.



### Places of interest

- **Mercado de Colón**  
C/ Jorge Juan, 19  
+34 963 371 101
- **Mercado Central**  
Plaza del Mercado s/n  
+34 963 525 478  
[www.mercadocentral.es](http://www.mercadocentral.es)
- **Estación del Norte**  
C/ Játiva, 24  
+34 902 240 202
- **Palacio de la Exposición**  
C/ Galicia,1  
+34 963 981 875  
[www.valencia.es/palacioexposicion](http://www.valencia.es/palacioexposicion)
- **Asilo de Lactancia**  
C/ Amadeo de Saboya
- **Edificio del Reloj**  
Puerto de Valencia
- **Tinglados**  
Puerto de Valencia
- **The Blasco Ibañez House-Museum**  
C/ Isabel de Villena, s/n  
+34 963 525 478

**And also...** La Isla de Cuba y Casa Sánchez de León, (ambos ubicados en la Plaza de la Reina), Edificio Gómez (C/ de la Paz), Casa del Dragón (C/ Jorge Juan), Casa Ortega (Gv Marqués del Turia, 9), Casa Chapa (Gv Marqués del Turia 67), Casa Punt de Gantxo (Plaza de la Almoina, 4), Casa Ferrer (C/ Cirilo Amorós, 29), Correos (Pza Ayuntamiento)





## The essence of Valencia

### The Rice route

The Arabic people brought rice to Valencia in the 11th century and it became a very popular product that enjoyed great commercial success. 30% of Spain's rice is produced in the province of Valencia; in the city, production is concentrated in the area around the Albufera Natural Park and the village of Sueca with 9,000 hectares dedicated to cultivation. La Albufera is also an area with a deserved reputation for the excellence of its restaurants which specialise in rice dishes. There is an official Designation of Origin rice from Valencia which guarantees product quality. The rice varieties grown are Bahía, Senia and Bomba, chosen for quality and consumer satisfaction. The visitor can find Valencian rice in the delicatessen shops, markets and supermarkets of the city. A visit to the curious Rice Museum, based in an old rice mill from the beginning of the 20th century is a pleasant and interesting way to spend an afternoon.

### Places of Interest

#### ■ La Albufera Nature Park

[www.albufera.com](http://www.albufera.com)

#### ■ The Rice Museum

C/ Rosario, 3  
+34 963 525 478  
[www.museoarrozvalencia.com](http://www.museoarrozvalencia.com)

#### ■ The Regulatory Board of the Designation of

Origin: Rice from Valencia.

Av. del Mar, 1  
Sueca (Valencia)  
+34 961 706 156  
[www.arrozdevalencia.org](http://www.arrozdevalencia.org)

### The Horchata route

Horchata is one of the most popular and refreshing soft-drinks in Valencia, it is made from the milk of the Tiger nut, a fruit of Egyptian origin, introduced to Valencia by the Arabs. 'La chufa' (the Tiger nut) is grown in 16 villages in the Valencia region known as L'Horta Nord, where the climate and soil conditions are ideal – it is the only area of Spain where the fruit is cultivated. The most famous village with the highest tiger nut production is Alboraya, the perfect place to sample this singular beverage. For those interested in the processes of tiger nut cultivation and horchata production, at the Regulating Council of the Designation of Origin 'Chufa de Valencia' can give an idea of where to start.

### Places of Interest

#### ■ The Regulatory Board of the Designation of Origin: 'Chufa de Valencia'.

C/ Poeta Eduardo Bull 5-6  
+34 963 690 499  
[www.chufadevalencia.org](http://www.chufadevalencia.org)

### The Wine route

The Designation of Origin: Wine of Valencia is made up of 17,800 hectares of vineyards in four geographical sections: Alto Turia, Valentino, Moscatel and Clariano. The 650,000 hectolitres average annual yield from the different grape varieties, produce reds, rosés and white wines from 80 different companies. A beverage that is peculiar to Valencia is Mistela, a wine made from the Moscatel grape that is very clean and bright with a sweet flavour. The Regulating Council of the Designation of Origin: Wine of Valencia is based in the heart of the city and has a spectacular cellar and exhibition room. Guided visits and tasting sessions can be arranged with advanced booking.

### Places of Interest

#### ■ The Regulatory Board of the Designation of Origin: Wine of Valencia

C/ Quart, 22  
+34 963 910 096  
[www.vinovalencia.org](http://www.vinovalencia.org)

## Mediterranean flavour

Valencia has more than 8,000 bars and restaurants which allows for eating in comfort with quality products and excellent customer service. The 'Ca Sento', La Sucursal, 'Torrijos' and 'Alejandro' restaurants have been awarded Michelin stars, consolidating Valencian gastronomy at the highest international level. The cuisine is a harmonious blend of ingredients and influences that can be enjoyed; from the traditional paella to the famous tapas snacks. For those who wish to taste the classic seafood paella at a Valencian beach restaurant, 'La Pepica', is highly recommended - the establishment was a favourite of Ernest Hemingway who used it as a setting for 'The Dangerous Summer'. Two of the most characteristic and symbolic tapas bars in the city are 'Bar El Pilar' and 'Bodega Montaña'. The Guide to Restaurants and Tapas by Valencia Tourism offers a wide selection of establishments, covering all kinds of culinary styles, with prices to suit each and every pocket. Access is at [www.turisvalencia.es](http://www.turisvalencia.es) and the guide can be downloaded or printed it depends on what's needed.



### Places of interest

- Guide to Restaurants and Tapas  
[www.turisvalencia.es](http://www.turisvalencia.es)

### A recipe for Paella (serves 4)

Ingredients: 1 glass of olive oil, 1 whole chicken cut in pieces, 1 rabbit cut in pieces, 300 grams of fresh green beans and artichokes peeled, cleaned and cut in pieces, 1 medium-size tomato, 1 tsp of sweet pepper, 1 tsp of saffron, 6 glasses of water, 200 grams garraón beans, salt to taste, 12-16 wellcleaned snails, 3 cups of short white rice, a sprig of rosemary, a few slices of lemon to garnish.

### Preparation

Heat the oil in a paella dish or a large shallow frying pan. Sauté the chicken and rabbit for 5 mins. Add the beans, artichokes and tomato and fry them for a few more minutes. Add the pepper and cook on a low heat. Dissolve the saffron in the water and add to the pan. Add the garraon beans and the salt. Increase the heat and boil for 15 minutes. Add the snails and boil for 3-4 mins. Add the rice and spread it around the pan. Boil for a further 15 mins. Taste the stock. Add salt to taste. Add the rosemary and cook for 5 mins. The paella is ready when all the water has been absorbed but the rice is not dry. To leave the 'socarrat' (the cooked, crunchy rice that is full of flavour) in the base of the pan, leave the pan on the heat for a little longer but do not allow to burn.







## Valencia: symbol of the avant-garde

Valencia left the 20th century and marched into the third millennium as a leading city of the arts, architecture, science and commerce. The Palau de la Música, inaugurated in 1987, has become a bastion of music in the city with a global reputation, having enjoyed the visits of such stars as the conductor Rostropovich or the soprano, Montserrat Caballé.

The IVAM (Valencian Institute of Modern Art) opened its doors in 1989 and is the second most important museum of contemporary art in Spain, behind the Reina Sofía in Madrid. The IVAM is soon to be extended, with an exciting project designed by Japanese architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ruyé Nichizawa. In the 1990's began an ambitious plan that has seen the old Turia riverbed converted into magnificent gardens and the location for the inspirational City of Arts and Science complex, designed by the Valencian Santiago Calatrava, including the recently inaugurated Palau de las Arts. These buildings are shortly to be joined by Santiago Calatrava's next contribution to the Ciudad

de las Artes y las Ciencias (City of Arts and Sciences), the Ágora. This space will house a multi-use centre, which will not only function as a meeting place and recreational area for the city's inhabitants and visitors, but also as a host centre for events and social acts. The Conference Centre, designed by Norman Foster, the MUVIM (Valencia Museum of The Enlightenment and Modernity), designed by Guillermo Vázquez Consuegra, and the Feria Valencia trade fair complex with its impressive extension, are just some examples of the city's internationally recognised futuristic constructions. We must, of course, make mention of the port and docks redevelopment that is taking place for the hosting of the 32nd America's Cup. This is presided by the Veles e Vents guest centre, which was designed by the British architect David Chipperfield and Valencia-born Fermín Vázquez. Another highlight is the base for the Italian team, Luna Rossa, which was designed by the renowned architect Renzo Piano.

### Places of interest

#### ■ The Palau de la Música

Paseo de la Alameda, 30  
+34 963 375 020  
[www.palaudevalencia.com](http://www.palaudevalencia.com)

#### ■ IVAM (The Valencian Institute of Modern Art)

C/ Guillem de Castro, 118. +34 963 863 000  
[www.ivam.es](http://www.ivam.es)

#### ■ MUVIM

C/ Guillem de Castro, 8. +34 963 883 730  
[www.muvim.es](http://www.muvim.es)

#### ■ The City of Arts and Sciences

+34 961 97 45 00  
[www.cac.es](http://www.cac.es)

#### ■ The Valencia Conference Centre

Av. Cortes Valencianas, 60. +34 963 179 400  
[www.palcongres-vlc.com](http://www.palcongres-vlc.com)

#### ■ Feria Valencia – International Trade Fair Centre

Av. De las Ferias, s/n . +34 963 861 100  
[www.feriavalencia.com](http://www.feriavalencia.com)

#### ■ Puerto de Valencia – Valencia Port. Veles e Vents building

[www.valenciaport.com](http://www.valenciaport.com)  
[www.americascup.com](http://www.americascup.com)

**And also...** The Exposition Bridge, the Alameda Metro, the Puente de las Flores, the Cabecera Park.



## Valencia: more than art

Valencia has 34 museums where art and history can be observed and enjoyed. The Museum of Fine Arts houses the second largest collection of paintings in Spain after the Prado in Madrid, including works by Sorolla, Goya and Zuloaga. The Valencian Institute of Modern Art (IVAM) displays permanent and visiting exhibitions of 20th and 21st century art. The Gonzalez Marti National Ceramics Museum has an extensive collection of Spanish and international decorative ceramic art. For a greater understanding of the Fallas festivals, a visit to the Fallero Museum is highly recommended; exhibits trace the origins of Valencia's most important festival and original examples of the Fallas figures and monuments can be seen. Among the many other centres worth visiting are: The Museum of Enlightenment and Modernity (MUVIM), the Museum of Valencian History (MHV), the Valencian centre of Mediterranean Culture (La Beneficencia) or the Museum of Municipal History. And also The House-Museum of José Benlliure - tells the life story of the illustrious Valencian artist.



### Places of interest

#### ■ Museo de Bellas Artes San Pío V

C/ San Pío V, 9  
[www.cult.gva.es/mbav](http://www.cult.gva.es/mbav)  
+34 963 605 793

#### ■ The Valencian Institute of Modern Art (IVAM)

C/ Guillem de Castro, 118  
[www.ivam.es](http://www.ivam.es)  
+34 963 863 000

#### ■ The National Ceramics Museum

Rinconada García Sanchiz, 6  
[www.mnceramica.mcu.es](http://www.mnceramica.mcu.es)  
+34 963 516 392

#### ■ The Fallero Museum

Plaza Monteolivete, 4  
[www.fallas.com](http://www.fallas.com)  
+34 963 525 478

#### ■ The Valencian Centre of Mediterranean Culture (La Beneficencia)

C/ Corona, 36  
[www.xarxamuseus.com](http://www.xarxamuseus.com)  
+34 963 883 565

#### ■ The Museum of Valencian History

Next to the Cabecera Park Access via C/Valencia (Mislata entrance)  
+34 963 701 105

#### ■ The José Benlliure House-Museum

C/ Blanquerías, 23  
+34 963 911 662

#### ■ The Museum of Municipal History

Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1  
+ 34 963 525 478





## City of music

The Palau de les Arts, designed by Santiago Calatrava, is, without doubt, the jewel in the crown of Valencia's arts and entertainment installations. From October 2006, the Palau will offer a full programme of events that will introduce Valencia to the international circuits of opera and performing arts. In addition to an array of other concerts and shows, including a zarzuela, audiences have been delighted by performances conducted by Lorin Maazel and Zubin Mehta, such as Fidelio, La Bohème, Don Giovanni and Cyrano de Bergerac. Its four auditoriums allow for all types of productions, from the classic to the contemporary. The main auditorium has a stage of 460 m<sup>2</sup> and seats 1,800. Opera can be enjoyed in various languages as the seats are fitted with digital screens on which translations are displayed. The orchestra pit, of 166 m<sup>2</sup> is the third biggest in Europe and by means of mobile platforms and sections it can be adapted to achieve maximum sound quality in accordance with the wishes of the conductor or production director.

Valencia is also home to the Palau de la Musica, one of the most important music venues in Europe which receives more than 500,000 spectators each year. Placido Domingo himself, has compared the sound quality to a Stradivarius and its recent extension included the integration of the latest technology in its recording studios, rehearsal rooms and concert halls.

Valencia is a city with a profound musical tradition - the Colon Market, the Cathedral, La Lonja de la Seda (Silk Market), the Santa Catalina Church and La Nau, at the University of Valencia's oldest building are just some of the city's venues that hold regular concerts.

On a slightly different note, from Tuesday to Sunday, 9.30 a.m. and 6.40 p.m. the Patriarca Church offers mass with Gregorian chants sung by 1213.

### Places of interest

#### ■ Palau de les Arts

Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias

Av. Autopista del Saler, 1-7

+34 963 163 737

[www.lesarts.com](http://www.lesarts.com)

#### ■ Palau de la Música

Paseo Alameda, 30

+34 963 375 020

[www.palaudevalencia.com](http://www.palaudevalencia.com)

#### ■ Patriarca Church

C/ Nave, 3

+34 963 533 708





## Cycle Valencia

Valencia has 75 kilometres of urban cycle lanes which means that the visitor can get to know the city whilst practicing a healthy activity. Right in town, there is an ideal area for getting close to nature – The Turia Gardens. Located inside the Old Turia River bed run, west to east, you can enjoy 8 kilometres of green lands. Valencia is the only city that can be crossed in peace and quiet without stopping at a single traffic light. Tests have shown that the noise level on the route is 59.7 decibels, well below the 65 decibels recommended by the World Health Organisation. On a ride through the park visitors will come across: 13 bridges; installations for football, rugby and athletics; the IVAM, MUVIM and Fine Art Museum San Pío V, as well as The City of Arts and Sciences; there is even a special area for children known as the Gulliver park. [www.culturia.org](http://www.culturia.org) gives all the details and information about this very special recreational area.

For those cyclists that wish to enjoy the Mediterranean air, there is a very pleasant coastal route, starting from the Las Arenas beach, passing through the Malvarosa and finishing at La Patacona where the House-Museum of local writer, Vicente Blasco Ibañez is located; the artist is most famous for "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse". There are a number of companies that hire bicycles and organise cycling activities for individuals, groups and businesses, with or without guides.

### Places of interest

- Culturia: [www.culturia.org](http://www.culturia.org)
  - Biketours: [www.biketours.com](http://www.biketours.com)
  - Valencia Guías: [www.valenciaguías.com](http://www.valenciaguías.com)
  - Doyoubike: [www.doyoubike.com](http://www.doyoubike.com)
  - Orangebikes: [www.orangebikes.net](http://www.orangebikes.net)
  - Cyclotour Bikes: [www.cyclotourbike.com](http://www.cyclotourbike.com)
- Offer the hire of 'cyclo' antique pedal buggies and tandems for up to four people.







## Valencia for children

Valencia can offer our youngest citizens an endless array of activities that combine education, fun and enchant all those involved. The Valencia Tourism and Convention Bureau website, [www.turisvalencia.es](http://www.turisvalencia.es), in its section, 'Children's Valencia', has a list of possibilities that are aimed at all the family so parents and children alike may enjoy the city's cultural and recreational opportunities.

The Bancaja Cultural Centre and the IVAM (the Valencian Institute of Modern Art) offer guided visits to the exhibitions and didactic workshops which teach that artistic expression is the basis for creation. As an alternative, the City of Arts and Sciences involves children with a hands-on approach, bringing them closer to science, history and the fascinating world of the sea, with its outstanding facilities. The 'City' covers more than 4,000,000m<sup>2</sup> of parks and gardens. The Cabecera Park extends to 334,000m<sup>2</sup> and children can take a boat trip on the 20,000m<sup>2</sup> lake, play in the specially conditioned green areas, visit the zoo, which will open its doors to the public in the Autumn, or take a long bike ride - the park runs into the Turia Gardens which continue for 7.5 km!

The Las Arenas, Malvarrosa, Patacona, Port Saplaya, Saler and Pinedo beaches all have blue flag status and have facilities for skating, walking, jogging, cycling, swimming and even kite-flying, when the sea breeze is blowing.

### Places of interest

- Bancaja Cultural Centre  
[www.bancaja.es](http://www.bancaja.es)
- IVAM. The Valencian Institute of Modern  
[www.ivam.es](http://www.ivam.es)
- MUVIM. The Valencia Museum of  
Enlightenment and Modernity  
[www.muvim.es](http://www.muvim.es)
- City of Arts and Sciences  
[www.cac.es](http://www.cac.es)
- Turia Gardens  
[www.culturia.org](http://www.culturia.org)
- Albufera  
[www.albufera.com](http://www.albufera.com)
- Turismo Valencia  
[www.turisvalencia.es](http://www.turisvalencia.es)





## Valencia by moonlight

Valencia is a city with a vibrant and exciting nightlife. It has numerous areas or 'barrios' where all types of establishments are on offer to suit each and every 'creature of the night'. In common with all Mediterranean areas, the night does not really begin until 12.00 midnight. The pubs are open until 3.30 a.m. while discos and clubs continue well into the morning light. Once spring arrives, local people start to live in the street; thousands of open-air terraces appear where the wonderful climate can be enjoyed by moonlight. Our nocturnal route begins in the Barrio del Carmen, the most popular, diverse and international area. Its streets are crammed with pubs, bars and clubs, many of which offer live entertainment. The visitor can simply go with the flow, following Caballeros street, making regular stops for refreshment. The Borgia has a Tunisian ambience, while the Fox Congo plays Commercial House music; In Johnny Maracas you can sip a 'mojito' to the sound of Latin rhythms. Café San Jaime was once a

Chemist's and has an open-air terrace for those that like to be noticed. The Plaza del Tossal houses a range of modern bars such as the Café Bolsería and Café Infanta. Another very popular choice is the area around Juan Llorens street. Among its many bars Café Carioca is very much 'the place to be' - you should get there before 2.00 a.m. if you want a seat. In the city centre, the young flock to the Plaza de Cánovas and the innumerable number of bars and cafés in Calle Salamanca and its adjacent streets. In the summer months, the beaches are full of terrace bars and night markets, some of which are open all year round, examples being, Vivir sin Dormir and Gandhara with its exotic chill-out atmosphere. In addition to this, Valencia's nightlife has recently been enriched further with the new Las Animas terrace, Ishaya and Hotel Neptune's Omega terrace. The America's Cup Park also has an attractive array of bars, including the Estrella Damm Lounge and Bianco La Terraza.

Away from the crowd, there are many wonderful establishments waiting to be discovered like the Café Madrid, next to the Palacio del Marqués de Dos Aguas, the home of the famous 'Agua de Valencia' (Valencian water) cocktail. Bar Las Ánimas (C. Pizarro, 31), is also worth a visit, this original hostelry creates a different ambience and style for every day of the week.

### How to make 'Agua de Valencia'

This world famous cocktail is made from three parts fresh orange juice to one of cava and one of sugar. Depending on taste, a white spirit such as vodka or Cointreau may be added.





## 7 kilometres of beaches and sand

The redevelopment of the Valencia port as part of the preparations for the hosting of the 32nd America's Cup has accelerated the recovery of one of the most important tourist activities of the city. With the realisation of the "Balcon al Mar" project, the seven kilometres of beaches are being transformed into a top quality recreational, leisure and commercial area. At any time of year, and just a few minutes from the city centre, the visitor can enjoy the Las Arenas, Malvarrosa and Patacona beaches, in addition to the Port America's Cup, all of which are easily reachable by bus ([www.emtvalencia.es](http://www.emtvalencia.es)), by bicycle and by tram ([www.metrovalencia.com](http://www.metrovalencia.com)). Of course, it is also possible to reach these areas by car, and ample car parking space is provided. The Paseo Maritimo seafront promenade links these three beaches and is ideal for roller skating, cycling, running, walking or simply enjoying the sunshine. The seafront is also home to many excellent restaurants where the superb traditional rice dishes can be sampled with wonderful views of the sea. Youngsters and the young at heart are not forgotten either,

there is beach volleyball, pedal boat hire and much more. When summer days become summer nights, the beach areas fill with people enjoying the gentle Mediterranean breeze and sampling 'Valencia by Moonlight', stopping for refreshment at one of the many pubs and bars, taking a seat on the terrace. The beaches continue to the north with the Patacona and Port Saplaya, both forming part of the Alboraya municipality. To the south, the visitor will find the Pinedo and El Saler beaches, the latter having been awarded the prestigious European Blue Flag for its clear water and spotless sands, the natural dunes have been protected by official European Directive since 1994. Today, the port zone has become one of the most fashionable areas in the city. As well as a wide range of restaurants open for lunch and dinner, the many chill-out terraces offer the perfect place to lie back with a drink whilst enjoying the unbeatable scenery in the Port America's Cup.



### Places of interest

- Port America's Cup  
[www.americascup.com](http://www.americascup.com)
- Reales Atarazanas  
Pl. Juan Antonio Benlliure, s/n  
+34 963 525 478, Ext. 42 99
- Blasco Ibañez House-Museum  
C/ Isabel de Villena, 157  
+34 963 525 478, Ext. 2586







## In 2008, Valencia awaits you with...

In the "Agenda" section at [www.turisvalencia.es](http://www.turisvalencia.es), you can find information on all upcoming sporting and cultural events and conferences, but in 2008, you can't afford to miss:

■ **The 4th Fashion Week** in Feria Valencia  
from 29 to 31 January  
[www.semanadelamodadevalencia.com](http://www.semanadelamodadevalencia.com)

■ **VEO Festival**  
From 13 to 24 February  
[www.festivalveo.com](http://www.festivalveo.com)

■ **MTV Winter**  
March  
[www.mtv.es](http://www.mtv.es)

■ **World Indoor Championships in Athletics**  
From 7 to 9 March  
[www.valencia2008.es](http://www.valencia2008.es)

■ **Fallas**  
From 15 to 19 March  
[www.fallas.com](http://www.fallas.com)

■ **Maritime Holy Week**  
From 14 to 23 March  
[www.semanasantamarinera.org](http://www.semanasantamarinera.org)

■ **6th Valencia Region Tennis Open**  
From 14 to 20 April  
[www.open-comunidad-valenciana.com](http://www.open-comunidad-valenciana.com)

■ **Trofeo de Su Majestad Reina: Sailing Competition**  
*vela*  
From 10 to 13 July.  
[www.trofeoreina.com](http://www.trofeoreina.com)

■ **Mostra del Cinema Jove** (Youth Film Festival)  
From 21 to 28 June  
[www.cinemajovefilmfest.com](http://www.cinemajovefilmfest.com)

■ **12th Campus Party** in Feria Valencia  
From 21 to 27 July.  
[www.campus-party.org](http://www.campus-party.org)

■ **7th Eclectic Festival**  
July in the Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias museum complex  
[www.cac.es/eclectic](http://www.cac.es/eclectic)

■ **July Fair**  
July  
[www.valencia.es](http://www.valencia.es)

■ **European Formula 1 GP**  
From 22 to 24 August

■ **Saint Dionysus. Day of the Valencia Region:**  
9 October

■ **29th Cinema Festival**  
October 2008. [www.mostravalencia.com](http://www.mostravalencia.com)

■ **Ricardo Tormo Circuit**  
World Motorcycling Championships  
26 October  
[www.circuitvalencia.com](http://www.circuitvalencia.com)

■ **Rey Jaime I Awards**  
November  
[www.fvea.es/premios](http://www.fvea.es/premios)





## Getting to Valencia and getting around

*By land: An extensive network of motorways and rail connections link Valencia with all the main destinations in Spain and Europe.*

*By sea: Valencia has one of the busiest ports in the Mediterranean. In 2006, Valencia port received 80 cruise ship stopovers and 86,000 passengers, in contrast to just 21 stopovers and 10,800 passengers in 2001.*

*By air: Manises airport is just 8 km from the centre of Valencia. As part of an expansion project, a new terminal, double the number of car parking spaces and a metro line with direct connection to the city centre have been inaugurated during the first months of 2007. In 2006, the airport dealt with an estimated 5 million passengers, compared to 4.5 million in 2005 and 3.1 million in 2004. This incredible growth is undoubtedly due to the fact that, as a result of low-cost airlines, Valencia was able to offer connections to more than 30 European cities in 2006.*

*A shuttle bus service, the "Aerobus" links the airport to the city. For just 2.5 Euros, the visitor is taken from the arrivals terminal right in to the heart of the city.*

*Getting around Valencia is quick and simple thanks to five metro lines, a tram line, and an extensive urban bus network. The Valencia Card, available for one, two or three days, allows unlimited use of public transport and also qualifies the holder for discounts in places of tourist interest, as well as some bars, restaurants and shops. For more information: [www.valenciatouristcard.com](http://www.valenciatouristcard.com), [www.europeancitycards.com](http://www.europeancitycards.com)*

*In addition, there are a number of Tourist-info offices spread throughout the city where all the visitor's questions can be answered and tourist guides, maps and leaflets are provided. Another original service is the "Valencia Museu Obert", a project of the Valencia Tourism that offers a tourist guide via mobile telephone or internet. For more information on this service, see [www.turisvalencia.es](http://www.turisvalencia.es)*



### Places of interest

- Manises airport: [www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)
- The North Railway Station (Renfe): [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)
- Puerto de Valencia. Valencia Port: [www.valenciaport.com](http://www.valenciaport.com)
- Entidad de Transporte Metropolitano [www.emt.es](http://www.emt.es)
- Dirección General de Tráfico. Road safety conditions [www.dgt.es/trafico/estado\\_circulacion/estadoCarreteras.htm](http://www.dgt.es/trafico/estado_circulacion/estadoCarreteras.htm)
- Valencia Community Road Map [www.cop.gva.es/espa/carreteras/mapas/mapas\\_car.htm](http://www.cop.gva.es/espa/carreteras/mapas/mapas_car.htm)
- Airlines with direct flights to Valencia [www.turisvalencia.es](http://www.turisvalencia.es)
- Valencia Card: [www.valenciacard.es](http://www.valenciacard.es)

### Tourist-Info

- Tourist-Info Reina  
Plaza de la Reina, 19. + 34 963 153 931
- Tourist-Info RENFE  
The North Railway Station  
C/ Játiva, 24 + 34 963 528 573
- Tourist-Info - Airport  
Manises airport. Arrivals Terminal  
+ 34 961 530 229
- Tourist-Info – the Port  
Puerto de Valencia. Valencia Port Arrivals Terminal  
+34 963 674 606
- Tourist-Info – Beach  
Paseo de Neptuno, 2  
+34 963 557 108  
Open from the beginning of April until the middle of October.
- Aerobus  
■ Arrivals Terminal. C/ Bailén, Av/ del Cid with C/ Burgos, Av. del Cid with C/ Burgos (opposite the Police station).







## A city at the cutting edge of fashion

*Valencia is a city that loves fashion and design and this is reflected in the range of designers that come from the city such as Francis Montesinos and Álex Vidal or the young pretenders like Tonuca, Noelia Navarro, Dolores Cortés, Alejandro Sáez de la Torre and Higinio Mateu that are beginning to receive national and international attention. In the world of jewellery we have Vicente Gracia who was recently named by Vogue magazine as one of the top twenty designers in the world.*

*If you are looking for the established brand names, the city has Escada, Loewe, Emporio Armani, Hermenegildo Zegna, Louis Vuitton, Hermés, Roberto Cavalli, Farrutx, Carolina Herrera, Roberto Verino, Pomellato the jeweller's and Lladró porcelain, are some of the establishments where the visitor can find the very latest tendencies. If you are in search of designer street-wear, then the area around the Plaza Tossal is the place to find the international fashion. The central streets near C/Colon house a myriad of fashion and home decoration shops, and if you're looking for hand crafted, traditional Valencian outfits of the type seen in the streets during the Fallas festivals, you should go to Amparo Fabra's workshop in C/Maestro Gozalbo where it crosses C/Conde Altea. Traditional hand made wicker and leather products are found in the small shops of the Plaza Redonda in C/ de las Cestas.*

### Información de interés

■ Asociación del Prêt-à-porter Industrial de la Comunidad Valenciana  
C/ Doctor Sumsi, 28  
+34 963 950 605





## Fiestas and traditions

There are popular festivals and fiestas that take place in Valencia in most months of the year. From the religious to the profane, the city is a melting pot of rituals and rites, gunpowder and gardening, music and mayhem whose clearest expression is seen, heard and even smelt in the incredible firework displays that are an integral part of the celebrations.

From the 15th to the 19th of March, the greatest and most internationally famous of Valencia's festivals takes place: Las Fallas. The fallas is a great pantomime of life where topics of local, national and international interest are irreverently satirised. Almost 400 fallero monuments take over the streets of the city, which are dominated by the smells of chocolate, gunpowder and buñuelos (a kind of Valencian doughnut). The marching bands and the parades of "falleros and falleras" stoke up the atmosphere in the streets that are jam-packed full of locals and visitors that have come to enjoy the festivities.

Other festivals of no lesser importance are: The procession in honour of Vicente Martir which takes place in January; religious festivals like The Semana Santa Marinera, the Corpus and the carrying of the image of the Virgen de los Desamparados from the Basilica to the Cathedral; and one should not miss the July Fair with its 'Battle of the Flowers' and an extensive programme of concerts and cultural activities.

## Dates for the diary

- *San Vicente Mártir (Festival of Saint Vincent the Martyr)*  
22 January
- *Las Fallas*  
15 - 19 March (various events and firework displays are held from 1 March onwards)
- *Semana Santa Marinera (The Maritime Holy Week)*  
Casa Museo Semana Santa Marinera (Valencia Maritime Holy Week Museum)  
C/ Rosario, 1  
+ 34 963 525 478
- *San Vicente Ferrer*
- *La Virgen de los Desamparados (Our Lady of the Foresaken – second Sunday in May)*
- *Corpus Christi (60 days after Easter)*
- *July Fair (2 – 29 July)*
- *Saint Dionysus – the Day of the Valencia Region: 9 October*





## Valencia: meeting point for the world

Valencia is an ideal location for the celebration of all kinds of events, the city offers venues of both the latest avant-garde design and sites of great historic-artistic value. The Valencia Conference Centre was designed by Norman Foster and the main auditorium seats more than 1,481.

The Valencia Trade Fair Centre is another modern design which has the very latest technology incorporated into all exhibition areas and meeting rooms, it has a total surface area of 230,000 m<sup>2</sup>, multi-purpose areas of 64,000m<sup>2</sup> and car parking for more than 7,000. The halls can hold up to 5,000 people. Its Convention & Exhibition Centre with 7,000m<sup>2</sup> can accommodate up to 2,241 people and it stands out for its original architecture, which has become an icon at Feria Valencia.

The City of Arts and Sciences, designed by the Valencian architect, Santiago Calatrava is also a popular venue, it has a number of different halls and can count on the most up to date technology. In addition to the Principe Felipe Science Museum and L'Hemisferic, the complex has recently inaugurated the Palau de les Arts, which, as well as being the bastion of opera and performance arts in the city also has excellent facilities for conferences, meetings and social activities.

In contrast, the city also offers historic venues of traditional design and architecture especially conditioned for conferences and meetings. Examples of such singular locations are the Cartuja del Ara Christi church, the Museum of Fine Art or traditional country houses like Campo Aníbal, el Huerto de Santa María or the Masía de Xamandreu. The 'Singular Venue Guide', the 'Congress Guide' and the 'Incentives Guide' published by the Valencia Tourism can be downloaded at [www.turisvalencia.es](http://www.turisvalencia.es) and offer detailed information on city venues for the celebration of conferences, congresses, meetings and all similar events.



### Places of interest

#### ■ The Valencia Conference Centre

Avda. Cortes Valencianas, 60  
+34 963 179 400  
[www.palcongres-vlc.com](http://www.palcongres-vlc.com)

#### ■ The City of Arts and Sciences

Autovía del Saler, 1-7  
+34 961 974 500  
[www.cac.es](http://www.cac.es)

#### ■ Feria Valencia. International Trade Fair Centre

Avda. de las Ferias, s/n  
+34 963 861 100  
[www.feriavalencia.com](http://www.feriavalencia.com)

#### Other venues...

#### ■ The Cartuja del Ara Christi church

Crtra. Vieja de Barcelona, km 13.30  
El Puig (Valencia)  
+34 963 530 544  
[www.paradis.es](http://www.paradis.es)

#### ■ Campo Aníbal

Camino Viejo Lliria, s/n  
El Puig - Puzol (Valencia)  
+34 961 410 016  
[www.campoanibal.com](http://www.campoanibal.com)

#### ■ Huerto de Santa María

Cno. De Cebolla, s/n.  
El Puig (Valencia)  
+34 961 472 226  
[www.huertodesantamaria.com](http://www.huertodesantamaria.com)

#### ■ Masía Xamandreu

Ctra. Godella-Bétera, Km. 6  
Godella (Valencia)  
+34 963 638 443 Móvil: 619 411 760  
[www.masiaxamandreu.com](http://www.masiaxamandreu.com)





## Relax in Valencia

Health tourism is re-emerging as an alternative to the hectic rhythm of daily life, offering such therapies as mineral water baths, massages, Vichy showers, chocotherapy and beauty treatments. It is a question of revitalizing body and mind at any time of the year, an alternative to traditional tourism that is becoming more established in Valencia day by day, as the city now boasts more than 25 spas.

comes from a spring 600 metres deep at a temperature of 42° C. The spa facilities are distributed over three floors, offering a wide range of services including a terrace, gardens, solarium, thermal club, gym and nursery. [www.termaeuropa.com](http://www.termaeuropa.com). Other highlights are the spas installed in the city's newest hotels, such as the Westin Valencia, Las Arenas and Barceló Valencia.

One of the most emblematic is the La Alameda Spa – Spain's first urban spa. After meticulous renovation, it has moved into the old Casa de la Lactancia: a Modernist palace built in the early 20th century to host the 1909 Valencia Regional Exhibition and one of the most singular buildings in the city. The mineral-medical water at this spa







## A city of nature

Valencia is a city that boasts more than 4 million square metres of green areas. The Parque de Cabecera is the largest in Europe today and is home to the Bioparc, a new concept in zoological parks that will host and care for flora and fauna in danger of extinction. It will put into practice the concept of sustainable development by using solar energy and recycling the water used in its channels. The Jardines del Turia (Turia Park), starts up from the Parque de Cabecera and extends for 8 kilometres along the old Turia River bed, almost reaching the Mediterranean Sea. At the end of that park is the Ciudad de Las Artes y Las Ciencias (City of Arts & Sciences), where visitors can enjoy a visit to the largest aquarium in Europe, the Oceanográfico, and view a diversity of species of marine life hailing from zones like the tropics or Mediterranean.

The city also boasts over seven kilometres of beaches with fine sand, recognized with Blue Flags for quality. You can go for a stroll, take a swim or ride bicycles there. Ten kilometres from the city centre is the Parque Natural de La Albufera (Albufera Nature Reserve), where you can enjoy a boat ride on the biggest lake in Europe, passing through rice fields and feasting on one of the traditional rice dishes in the area at one of over 30 restaurants run by families living in the town of El Palmar inside the park. The Dehesa of El Saler forms part of this setting: a natural park formed by a Mediterranean forest and the most renowned beach in Valencia, El Saler. Its dunes, as well as the entire natural park, are protected by European Union guidelines.

Other green routes the city offers visitors are the Horchata Route in the countryside north of the city, and the Rice Route concentrated around La Albufera. Valencia's respect for the environment is made clear by the city's designation by the European Forestry Council as the European Tree Capital for 2007. The city will plant a grove in the Turia Park to mark the honour.

### Useful Information

■ European Tree Capital

[www.capitaleuropeadelarbol.com](http://www.capitaleuropeadelarbol.com)

■ Parque Natural de La Albufera (Albufera Nature Reserve)

[www.albufera.com](http://www.albufera.com)







## A city of design

Over the last few years, an excellent pool of young designers has been forming in Valencia whose work is now gaining international recognition. Such studios as CuldeSac, recent recipient of the Red Hot Award, Sure Design, Errequerre, Lilou and Odosdesign are some examples of the innate Valencia creativity. Other designers like Juanico, Luis Eslava, Borja García, and already established graphic designers such as Pepe Gimeno, Javier Mariscal, Paco Bascuñán and Caparrós, who have had exhibitions dedicated to their work at IVAM (Valencia Institute of Modern Art), form part of the city's most representative group.



To enjoy art in its pure state, over 50 galleries are spread throughout the city. The Luis Adelantado gallery, which recently inaugurated another space in Miami, boasts five rooms featuring some of the finest works among contemporary artists. Other options include the Paz y Comedias gallery, which boasts a branch in Japan, Tomás March, La Nave, Punto and Valle Ortí.



In the field of architecture, Valencia has been chosen by a number of prestigious architects as the site for some of their works. But it is the home to a healthy selection of local professionals as well, including José María Tomás Llavador, a recent prize winner for his joint project with Jean Nouvel in the international competition that will define the future Valencia marina. Vicente Guallart, the author of Sociópolis, and Ramón Esteve are others ranking among the most interesting architects of the city.



### Design

■ **Colegio Oficial de Decoradores y Diseñadores de Interior de la Comunidad Valenciana (Official College of Interior Decorators and Designers of the Valencia Region):** [www.cdicv.com](http://www.cdicv.com)

### Art Galleries

■ **Asociación de Galerías de Arte Contemporáneo de la Comunidad Valenciana (Association of Contemporary Art Galleries of the Valencia Region):** [www.galerred.com](http://www.galerred.com)

### Architects

■ **Colegio de Arquitectos de la Comunidad Valenciana (College of Architects of the Valencia Region):** [www.coacv.org](http://www.coacv.org)





## Full speed ahead

Valencia is to host the European Formula 1 Grand Prix until 2014. The streets surrounding the port and the beaches will become an urban circuit with a capacity for 100,000 spectators, thus propelling the city to international fame as the host of the most prestigious motor competition on the planet.

The urban route is to be designed by the German architect Herman Tilke, and will span a length of five kilometres with a 14-metre wide track. The project aims to take advantage of the newly developed installations created for the 32nd America's Cup.

Motorcycle racing fans also flock to Valencia for the annual Motorcycle Racing Grand Prix at the Ricardo Tormo Racetrack. The Valencia racetrack, which has already welcomed over three million visitors since its inauguration in 2000, hosts a range of other prestigious races, such as the World Superbike Championship, the World Stock Car Championship, and the GP2 Series.

### ■ Ricardo Tormo Racetrack

Tel +34 96 252 52 20

[www.circuitvalencia.com](http://www.circuitvalencia.com)

[media@circuitvalencia.com](mailto:media@circuitvalencia.com)





## Valencia in numbers

Valencia brought 2007 to an end with the highest tourist numbers ever registered: 2,000,000 visitors. This figure amounts to an 18% increase when compared to 2006.

- The third most popular destination in Spain
- Spain's leading city regarding the growth of tourism
- Average hotel occupancy of 70%
- 2,000 years of history
- 7 kilometres of beaches
- More than 3,500,000 overnight stays per year
- An annual average temperature of 18.9 °C
- More than 300 sunny days per year
- More than 30 monuments, buildings and historical locations
- More than 30 museums
- 30 parks and gardens
- 12 theatres
- 1500 restaurants
- Some 23,000 hotel beds
- 1.5 billion euros from tourism
- 156 cruise ship stopovers



## INTERNATIONAL AIR CONNECTIONS WITH VALENCIA

**Air companies flying to Valencia** ■ Alpie Eagles ■ Air Europa ■ Air Nostrum ■ Alitalia ■ Blue Air ■ Brussels Airlines ■ Clickair ■ Easyjet ■ Fly Baboo ■ Iberia ■ Jet2.com ■ Lufthansa ■ Norwegian ■ Royal Air Maroc ■ Ryanair ■ Spanair ■ Swiss Int. Airlines ■ Sterling ■ Taron ■ TUIfly.com ■ Transavia ■ Vueling ■ Wizz Air [www.turisvalencia.es](http://www.turisvalencia.es)







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