

Alicante

Cultural Guide

Ve más allá

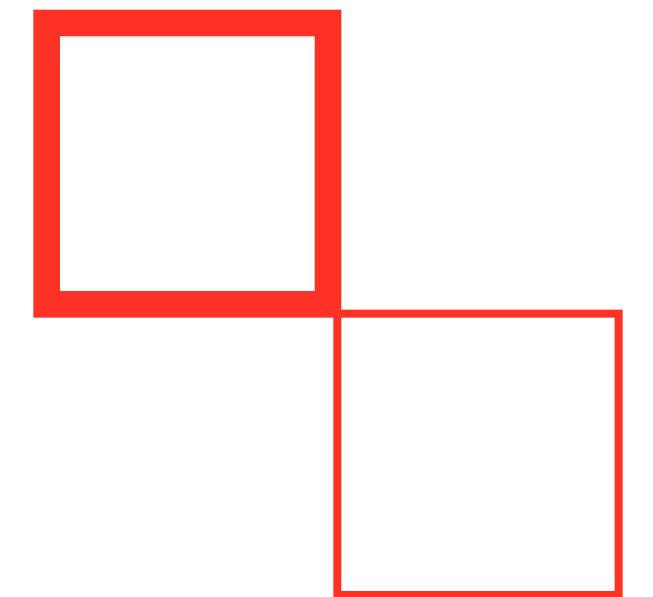
Alicante

Much more than just beaches

Alicante is a city located on Spain's eastern coast, and its **Mediterranean charm** offers up endless leisure and cultural activities for all tastes, from its beautiful beaches to its centuries-old historical sites such as **Santa Bárbara Castle**, the ideal spot for taking in panoramic views of the city.

If you're a history buff, the **Archaeological Museum** is just one of many such institutions in the city that you will find out about below, while food lovers are most definitely in the right place - Alicante's **rice and seafood dishes** are simply divine. Nor can we forget its charming surroundings, perfect for relaxing and enjoying its natural wonders.

In short, Alicante is synonymous with **hospitality and joy, home to streets full of life and a wonderful climate**. With thousands of leisure options for all tastes, you're guaranteed to feel right at home.



A close-up, profile view of a person wearing traditional festival attire. They have white face paint with three red dots on the cheek and a headdress with dark, pointed horns and red and yellow feathers. The background is blurred, showing other people in similar costumes.

Regional festivals

Regional festivals are celebrations rooted in the culture of the city, reflecting the customs, **histories and significant events of the community**. Regional festivals provide an opportunity to come together and share their heritage.

Here are some of Alicante's most noteworthy festivities so that you too can partake in its traditions and customs.



Hogueras de San Juan

This festival – recognised as a **Festival of International Tourist Interest and an Asset of Cultural Interest** – coincides with the summer solstice and is celebrated from **23rd to 24th June** in honour of Saint John the Baptist.

During these days the city's streets are filled with often tongue-in-cheek **cardboard monuments** representing aspects of social life and mocking the political situation, which are then burnt at the climax of the celebration.

The most awaited part is when **night falls and the bonfires are lit**, symbolising purification and renewal. People gather around the bonfires to enjoy music and local traditions, while others **jump over them to bring them good luck**.

Places of interest

Alicante boasts a **wealth of architectural and cultural riches** for visitors to enjoy, from Santa Bárbara Castle to its modernist-inspired central market. Find out more below.



Santa Bárbara Castle

It is one of the most emblematic places in Alicante – perched high above the city at an altitude of 166 metres – and **one of the largest medieval fortresses in Spain**. Inside it are **three enclosures from different periods, dating from the 14th to the 18th century**, and you'll go on a true journey through time as you visit Philip II Hall, the Guard Corps, the Weapons Courtyard and the Queen's Bastion.

Alicante Central Market

If you're a fan of architecture, we recommend a visit to **Alicante Central Market**, an eclectic modernist building offering **a wide variety of food and drink** in the heart of the city.





Co-Cathedral of St Nicholas of Bari

Also located in the city centre, its wonderful **Renaissance-style** architecture will blow you away, with its 15th-century cloister, Baroque doors, altar and 45-metre high blue dome being the highlights. It is **considered one of the most beautiful works of the Spanish Baroque**, making it simply unmissable.

Santa Faz Monastery

Santa Faz Monastery, a Baroque building found **5 km from the city centre**, houses a relic brought from the Vatican in the 15th century.



Museums in Alicante

Alicante has a rich collection of museums displaying everything from **classical to contemporary** art. Each one of them offers a different and unique theme, and there's no doubt that their **varied exhibitions** will offer something for everyone.



MARQ Archaeological Museum

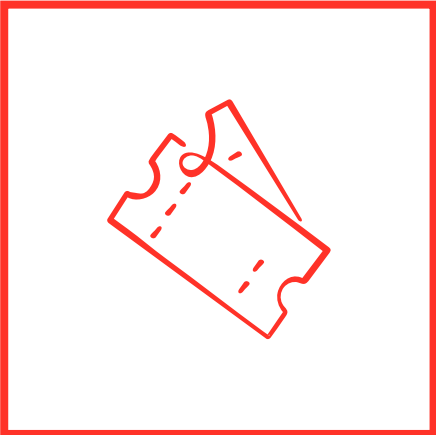


Works from the palaeolithic age to the modern day, providing a comprehensive look at the history of Alicante.



Tuesday to Saturday:
From 10:00 am o 7:00 pm

Sundays and public holidays:
From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm



Tickets

MACA Contemporary Art Museum

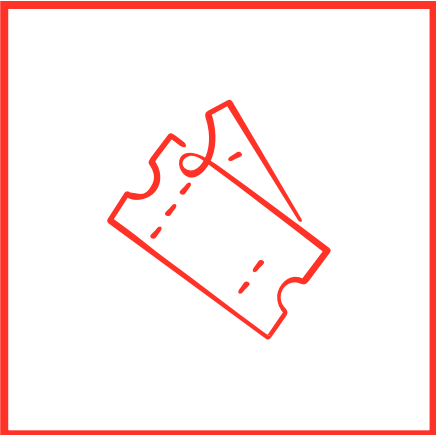


Works by Eusebio Sempere, Chillida, Picasso and Dalí, among others.



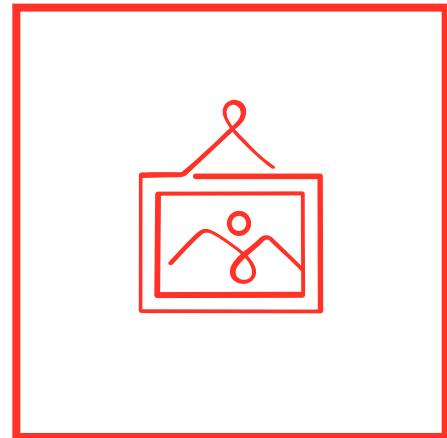
Tuesday to Saturday:
From 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Sundays and public holidays:
From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm



Tickets:
Free entry

Gravina Museum of Fine Arts (MUBAG)

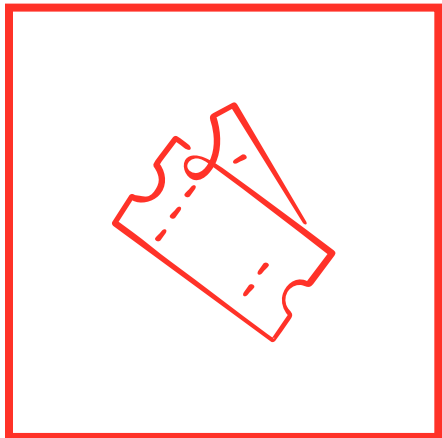


Works by Emilio Sala, Antonio Gisbert, Joaquín Agrasot and Joaquín Sorolla, among others.



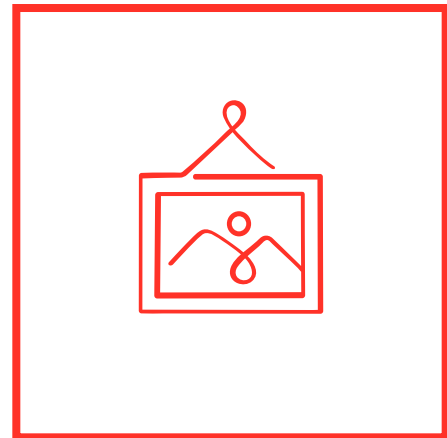
Tuesday to Saturday:
From 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Sundays and public holidays:
From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm



Tickets:
Free entry

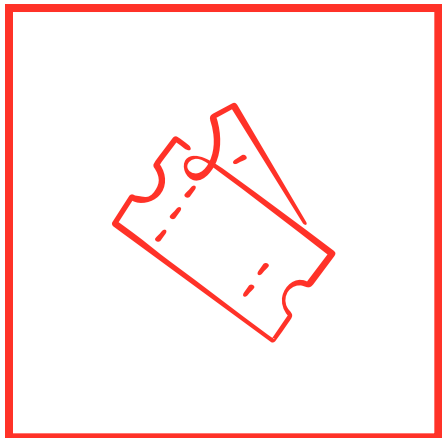
Musa Museum



Archaeological, photographic and audiovisual exhibitions, among others.



Open times vary depending on the time of year.
Visit this [Link](#) for more information.



Tickets:
Free entry



Theatres in Alicante

Alicante is home to a number of theatres of all kinds, with there being something for all tastes. From the **Teatro Principal**, which offers everything from classical to contemporary plays, to the **Clown Destino Teatro**, where you can enjoy a more modern show.

With such a vast array of options, you're bound to find a show that suits your taste.

Theaters in Alicante



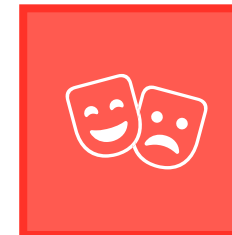
Teatro Principal de Alicante

This theatre combines various styles, from **contemporary** to **classical plays and dance**.



Clown Destino Teatro

A programme featuring shows for all audiences, with a focus on **humour and social criticism**.



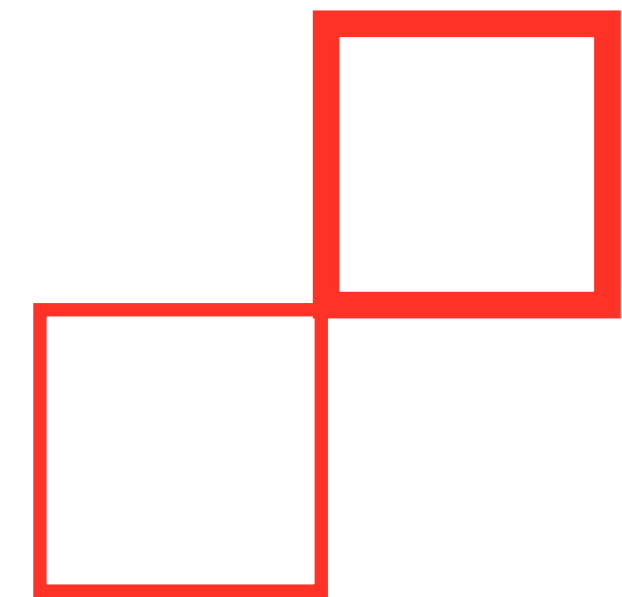
Teatro Arniches

It puts on a wide range of **theatre and dance**, highlighting works by young companies and those from the Valencian Community.



Alicante Music Auditorium

Intended primarily for **music, opera and concert** performances.



Outdoor spaces

Alicante also offers a wide range of options for **nature lovers**, with there being plenty of places to lose yourself and enjoy the fresh air.

Keep reading to find out about some of the most notable spots to visit.



Explanada de España

The Explanada de España is one of the best known and **busiest places in the city**. The esplanade is surrounded on either side by rows of palm trees, and its characteristic floor is decorated with tricoloured marble tiles that form a captivating mosaic. It is also home to **Casa Carbonell and the open-air auditorium**, where concerts and cultural events are held throughout the year.



El Palmeral Park

This is one of the most beautiful and peaceful parks in the city, ideal for practising **outdoor sports and going for a stroll** through its large green spaces. Surrounded by **palm trees, a lake and artificial rivers**, you're guaranteed to have a wonderful time exploring and crossing over its wooden bridges.



Ereta Park

Ereta Park is another of Alicante's must-visits. Located **beneath Santa Bárbara Castle and next to Postiguet Beach**, from the top you can enjoy the **best views of the city and follow a route** from the top to the old part of the city.



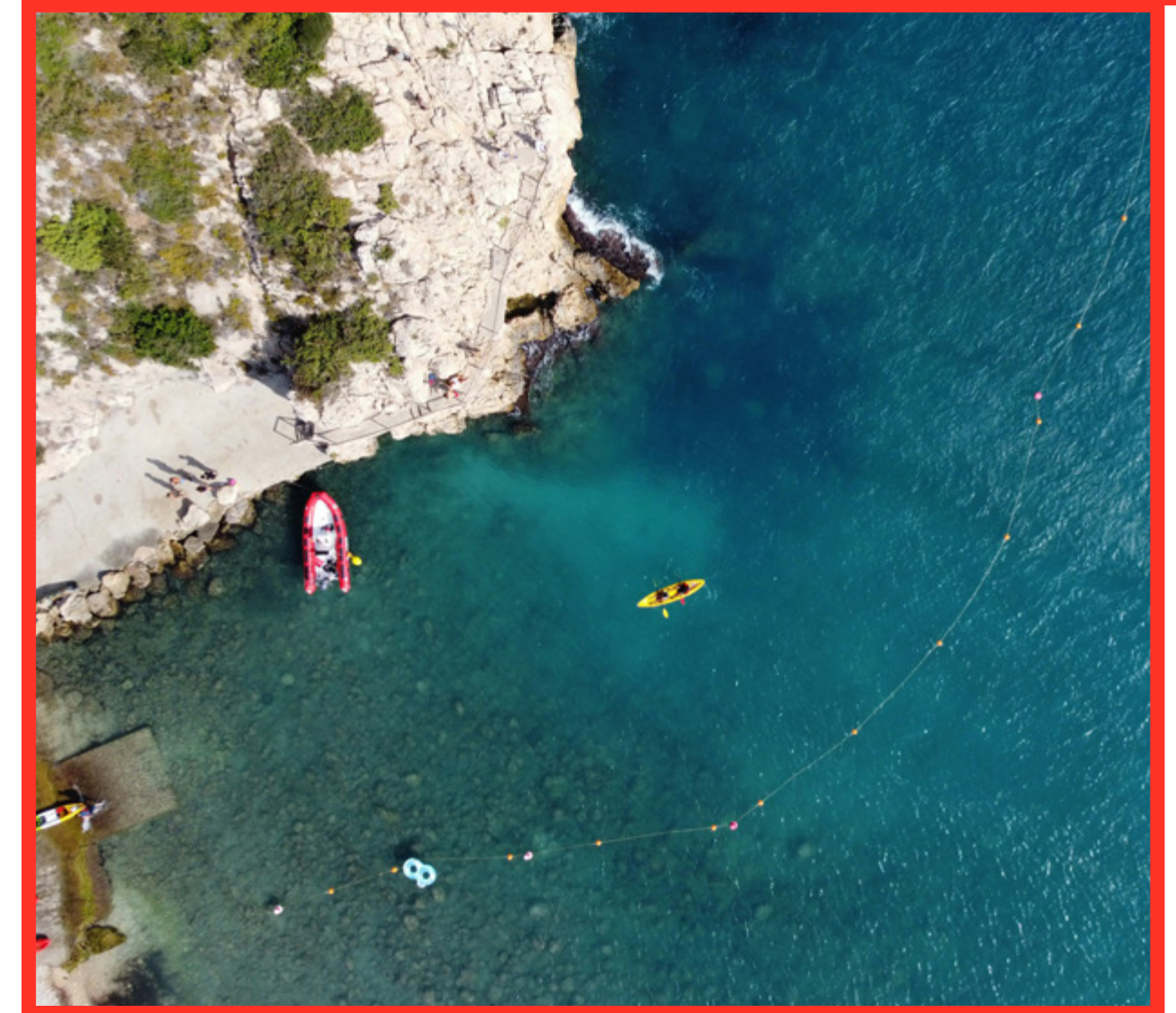
Paseo Volado

Another place that is worth a visit is this wonderful seaside promenade. From a height of 5 metres, it offers marvellous **views of the marina, the Explanada, Santa Bárbara Castle, Postiguet Beach and Cabo de las Huertas.**



Cala del Moraig

A paradisaical enclave with turquoise waters where the rocky cliffs tower above you, **standing at over 100 metres high.** If you like snorkelling, you can find mysterious **underwater caves** in the surrounding area.



Cala Granadella (Jávea)

Sheltered by cliffs, it is one of the **last nearly virgin enclaves on the Mediterranean coast.** The **blue flag**, which certifies the quality of beaches, has been flying proudly in this beautiful natural space since 1987, the perfect place to spend a day out.

Alicante's surroundings

Here are some of the best places that you can visit **less than two hours away** and where you can find fine architectural, **gastronomic and natural gems**.

Find out more about the region's culture and enjoy yourself on one of our proposed tourist routes.



Calpe

This is one of the most visited destinations in Alicante, presided over by its famous **Ifach rock**. Its beautiful old quarter is a must-visit, where you can lose yourself in its picturesque streets. Some of the top sights include **Calle Puchalt**, **Calle Gabriel Miró**, **Plaza de la Villa**, **Torreón de la Peça**, the outer wall and Nuestra Señora de las Nieves hermitage.



AP-7
50 min drive



Tram line 1
1 hour journey



Altea

Altea is one of the most beautiful towns in the area surrounding Alicante. Its characteristic **white houses with blue roofs** make this a lovely day trip.



AP-7
50 min drive



Tram line 1
2 hour journey



Denia

Dénia boasts **more than 20 kilometres of beach** to walk along in the north of the town, and small coves a plenty in the south. **Cabo de San Antonio Nature Reserve** is a highlight, while no trip is complete without sampling the local delicacies.



AP-7
1 hora drive



Tram line 1
1 hour journey



Elche

This city combines buildings from different periods and architectural styles. Some of the most interesting are **the Basilica of Santa María, Altamira Palace and the Palmeral**. Just 8 km from Elche is the **island of Tabarca**, a historic-artistic site and Mediterranean marine reserve, a protected area home to **a wide range of species of birds**.



A-70
28 min drive



Train
38 min journey

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