

regions of the province
of Valencia


CAMP DE MORVEDRE



CAMP DE MORVEDRE

REGION





The Camp de Morvedre occupies the northern sector of the province of Valencia. Its central axis is the River Palancia, flanked by the Sierra Calderona mountains, the real natural lungs of the region. It is home to a genuine forest of orange trees that practically reaches the beaches that adorn its coastline.

The region is crossed east-west by the GR-10, a major long-distance path that links the Mediterranean with the Atlantic.

There is absolutely no doubt that the region offers a plethora of possibilities; fine sandy beaches with banks of dunes and crystal-clear waters, certified with the *Q* for tourism quality; beauty spots replete with pine forests and natural viewpoints, monasteries in the heart of the mountains, like the *Santo Espíritu* in **Gilet**, famous peaks like the Garbí and the Picayo, legendary mountain ranges like the Sierra Calderona, mountain villages, castles, freshwater springs and a magnificent offer of accommodation and restaurants.

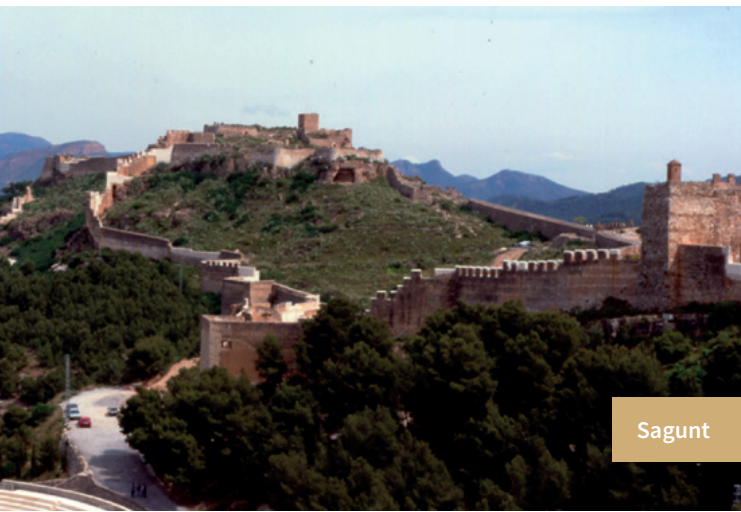
We will begin our route through the region from **Sagunto**, a two thousand year-old town, which is well worth a visit to admire one of the most beautiful groups of monuments bequeathed to us by the Roman period in Spain. Before it became a municipality under Roman law, **Sagunto** was an Iberian town called ARSE. Its Castle, a

Sagunt
Roman Cistern

National Monument consisting of an enormous fortress standing on a broad hill, is home to the remains of the Roman forum. It houses an exhibition of Latin, Iberian and Hebrew epigraphy, in the “Antiquarium Epigráfico”. It witnessed the siege and destruction of the town, by the Carthaginian chieftain Hannibal in 219-218 BC. The Roman Theatre, declared a National Monument in 1896, has been remodelled and stands on the mountainside, with the great majority of its stands dug out of the rock.

Sagunto's artistic features are completed with the Jewish Quarter (*Judería*), which is accessed through an archway in the street leading to the Castle. It has kept its original layout with the passing of time, with its whitewashed houses and narrow, winding streets; the **Archaeological Museum** in Castle street, the 14th century Gothic church of *Santa María* and the church of *El Salvador*, dating from the 13th century, with its Romanesque main door – both National Monuments; the chapels and shrines dotted around the medieval part of the city and the Calvary, next to the theatre; and, finally, the gate to the Roman arena, located in calle los Huertos.

Before you leave the town, we recommend a visit to the **Port of Sagunto**, with its beautiful seafront promenade and the





Canet d'En Berenguer's Beach

beaches on the Sagunto coastline; the most notable are the Port of Sagunto beach, which has been awarded the European Blue Flag, has the UNE 170001-1 Certificate of Universal Accessibility and the Q for tourist quality, and the beaches of Almardá, Corinto and Malvarrosa.

Very close by is the town of **Canet d'En Berenguer**, an exceptional location where the orange trees intermingle with the well-tended dunes of light sand. Its majestic lighthouse can be admired from the southern end of the promenade. We will leave here, along the A-23, with a first stop in **Petrés**, where we can admire the 15th century church of *San Jaime*, the remains of the former residence of the Baron of Petrés (15th century) and the Santo Domingo Calvary.

If we continue along the same highway, we will reach **Gilet**, a perfect spot to go hiking and take in the joys of nature. Its most famous monument is the Santo Espiritu Monastery and its Parish Church.

In **Albalat dels Tarongers**, the Stately Palace dating from the

14th century and the **ruins of Piló Castle** are both well worth a visit.

Crossing the A-23, we reach **Segart**, a mountain village nestling in the Sierra Calderona. The molar-shaped mountain peak known as the *Mola de Segart*, standing 565 metres above sea-level, offers magnificent views, and in the rainy season the Font del Salt becomes a waterfall. In the village's surrounding area we can still see the ruins of what was once a Moorish castle.

In the small town of **Estivella** we will find the ruins of the Castle of Beselga and an aqueduct of Arab origin, which is still working today. Its old town is home to the 16th century *Parish Church of Sants Joans and its Parish Museum*, with major works of sacred art. A visit to Estivella can also take in a hike to the top of *Mount Garbí*, offering views of the whole region and part of the coastline, and also visits to the “*El Plá*” leisure and nature park and the beauty spot know as Font de Barraix.

Just a few kilometres away is the village of **Torres-Torres**, where we can admire its *Arab Baths*, declared a National



Gilet



Torres-Torres' Castle

Monument in 1938, and its castle and the remains of the bridge that formed part of the Roman roadway leading inland from Sagunto. The surroundings of **Algimia de Alfara** offer visitors lovely natural beauty spots. In the old part of the town, the 14th century parish church is worth a visit.

Within the municipality, an agricultural mill used in late Roman times has been discovered. Notable features of **Alfara de la Baronia** are the beauty spots to be found in its mountain range and an interesting parish church. From **Algar de Palancia**, with its magnificent parish church and its river dam, we turn off towards **Quart de les Valls**, with its captivating beauty spot known as Font de Quart. Other standout features are the Quart Cultural Centre (*Casa de la Cultura*), a national historic-artistic monument, and also the Church of Sant Miquel, which belonged to the Convent of the Servite Order.

Visits in **Quartell** include the *Molí Nou de les Valls* Museum, devoted to the rice that was grown in the Quadro marsh, a

wetland area designated a special area for protection of birds (ZEPA) and a place of community interest (LIC). It has the second oldest Music Band in the Valencia Region. And in its old town we can trace the steps of a very young Joaquín Rodrigo I Vidre.

Very close by is **Benavites**, with its Stately Tower (15th-16th century), declared a National Artistic Monument in 1981, and the most emblematic building in **Benavites** and the Vall de Segó, and also the 18th century Church of Our Lady of the Angels. The church of **Benicalaf** is well worth a visit, standing amongst citrus fruit orchards. The church has not been used for religious worship since the beginning of the 20th century.

As we continue our trip around the Camp de Morvedre, we reach **Benifairó de les Valls**, with its Shrine to Our Lady of *Buen Suceso* and the natural beauty spots of la Rodana mountain.

Also worth a separate look is the Casa Guarner, where you can visit the studio of the poet Lluís Guarner and his personal library. We end our trip in **Faura**, which will captivate us with its magnificent parish church, built in the 18th century, and also offers



Sports Port
Canet d'En Berenguer



Panoramical View Municipalities of Les Valls

excellent visits to some of its beauty spots. The main square (*Plaza Mayor*), located in the historic centre of the town and home to the *Casa Condal* (the count's residence) and the parish church of *los Santos Juanes*, is also worth a visit. On a walk around the Mediterranean woodlands of the Rodana de Faura park, you will find the *Paseo de las Mujeres*, a walkway that pays homage to some of the most outstanding women in history.

Another notable feature is the *Ruta del Agua*, a “circular” walk from the Font de Quart or the *Lavaderos* (washing places) of each of the villages in Les Valls, which takes in the mills, water dividers (*sistares*) and water channels that are used to channel the water for irrigation of the fertile plantations of the five villages in Les Valls.

GASTRONOMY_

The gastronomy of the Camp de Morvedre region is based on rice and the different dishes in which it is used. These include



Irrigation Network in Les Valls

the traditional Valencian paella, and dishes like *arròs negre* (cuttlefish, rice and ink), *l'olla de fesols y naps* (a rice and bean stew), *l'empedrat* (a dish of white beans and rice) and other dishes such as chickpea stew and *olla de carne* (a mixed meat and vegetable stew).

Also worthy of note throughout the region are the desserts and confectionery made in ovens and cake shops, such as *orelletes amb mel* (fried pastries with honey) and *coca en llanda* (a traditional Valencian sponge).

FESTIVALS_

Holy Week in **Sagunto**, declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest, is also celebrated with great intensity in the whole region. In Sagunto the *Cofradía de la Purísima Sang* (the Brotherhood of the Holy Blood) has been responsible for organising it since the 15th century.

Particularly worthy of note amongst its celebrations are the procession escorting the image of Christ to the Calvary (Way of the Cross) on Good Friday morning, the living re-enactment of The Passion and the selection of *Pasos* (Floats) and *Sayones* (penitents) for the Holy Burial procession. Other important festivals in Sagunto are the *Fallas*, the Patron Saint Festivals in July and August and the Festival of Theatre, Music and Dance “*Sagunt a Escena*” and the Moors and Christians festival.

The bull-fighting festivals, *Bous al Carrer* and *Bou Embolat*, are a very deep-rooted tradition held in the summer months, and particularly worthy of note are those held in **Canet d'En Berenguer**,

Estivella, Faura and its August Festival, **Benifairó** de les Valls, which celebrates them at the start of September, and **Gilet**.

Another interesting and noteworthy festival is the *Feria de Faura* or *Christmas Fair*, held in Faura on the first Sunday of December every year. The Fair probably originates, like the other fairs held all around Spain, in the Middle Ages.

Quartell also has an interesting and unusual celebration, the festivals in honour of the *Ángel Custodio* and Santa Ana in the second fortnight of July. *La Plantà del Pi* kicks off the festivals, and involves the young people of the town planting a large pine tree in the church square (*Plaza de la Iglesia*). In August, **Estivella** celebrates its festivals in honour of Sant Roc, with the most notable being the *Baixada de Sant Roc*, a night-time torchlight procession, in which the image of the Saint is brought down to the village the week before the festival and, on the Saint's day, is taken back up to its shrine in a pilgrimage.
























The celebrations in honour of the *Virgen de la Leche* (Our Lady of the Milk), held on 31 December, are a festival particularly worthy of note because of the spectacular floral offering to Our Lady, rounding off a never-ending array of festivals held all across the region all year round, particularly in the summer.




“Silent Procession”
Holy Week



CAMP DE MORVEDRE_

-  Tourist Municipality
-  Tourist Info
-  Historic Buildings
-  Museum
-  Handicrafts
-  Archaeology
-  Nature
-  Castle / Palace
-  Religious Monument
-  Hostel
-  Campsite
-  Nature Classroom
-  Recreational Area
-  Panoramic View
-  Rural Accommodation
-  Camping Area
-  Hotel
-  Historical-artistic complex
-  Aqueducts
- Walking Trails**
-  Long Distance Trails (+50Km)
-  Short Distance Trails (10-50Km)
-  Local Trail (-10Km)
-  GR (Long Distance) Trail Line



CALIDAD TURISTICA



Puçol

Rafelbunyol



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