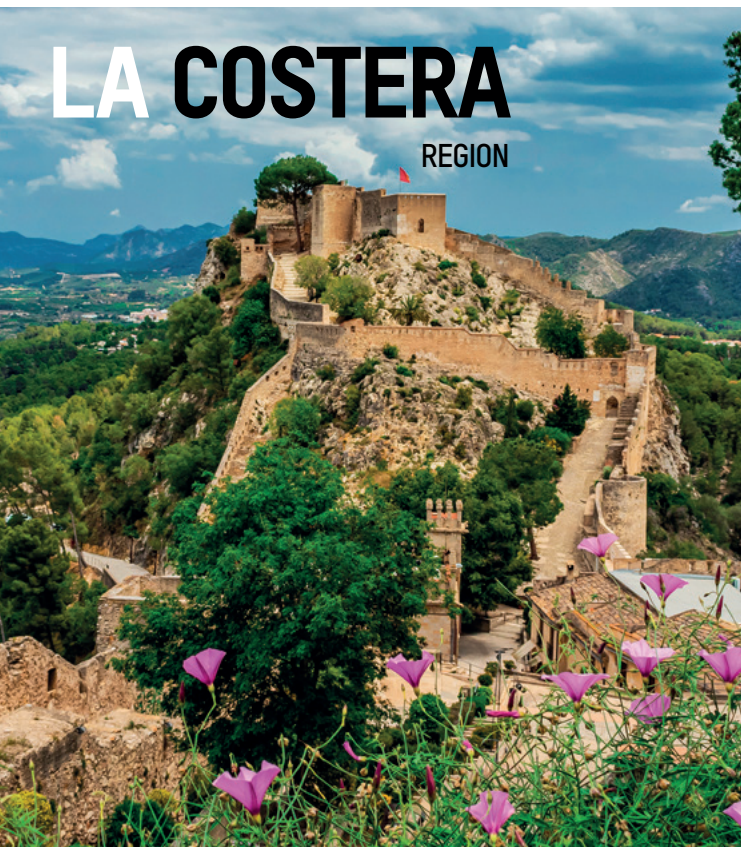
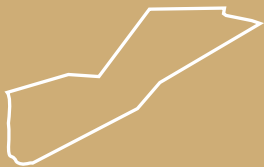


**regions** of the province  
of Valencia

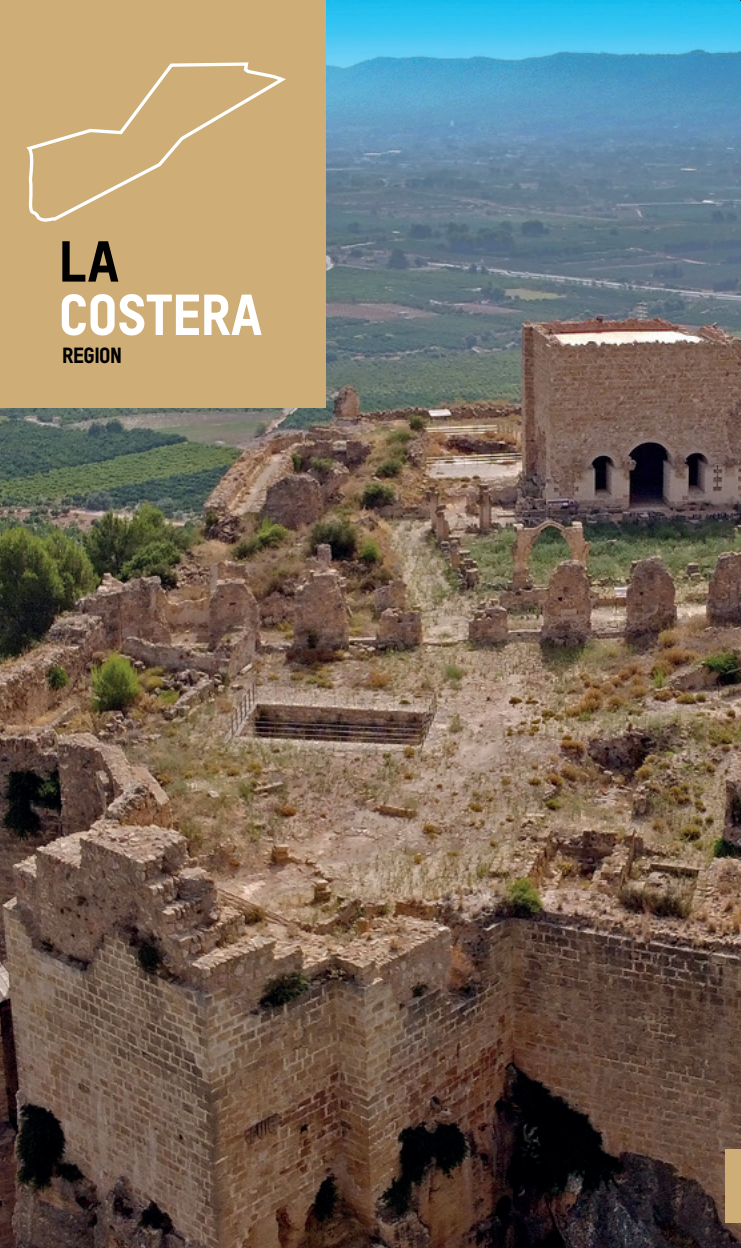
# LA COSTERA

REGION





**LA**  
**COSTERA**  
REGION





## TOURISM IN LA COSTERA\_

In **La Costera** routes and histories dissolve into paths and legends. The contrast between the wealth of nature and culture is impossible to take in with just a single look. A relief of mountains and valleys where an age-old echo rings out; a symphony of voices that connects us with ancestral roots.

## INLAND TREASURES\_

Its inland treasures invite us to stop on our journey and take time to look around this land of transition between the green of the fertile plantations and the ochres of the non-irrigated land. The region offers us a history that brings the past to life and numerous nooks and crannies to visit: the charm of its towns and villages, its culture and its impressive artistic and natural heritage. Every route will be a discovery and every stop a memorable experience. A stroll around the historic old part of the towns and villages offers us some clues to their past, such as historic buildings and architectural elements from earlier times, in a journey that takes us from the Middle Ages to the present day.

It also has major archaeological sites that have brought to light the habitat of the Neanderthals (la Cova Negra), Bronze Age and Iberian settlements (l'Altet de Palau in Font de Figuera and the Bastida de les Alcusses in **Moixent**) and constructions from the Al-Andalus period. Its geographical location, in frontier territory and a natural route through to Castile from the coast, promoted the construction of castles and fortresses (**Garamoixent, Moixent, Vallada, Montesa** and **Xàtiva**).

In the town of **Moixent**, in the **Serra Grossa** mountains, we find the fortified Iberian settlement of *la Bastida de les Alcusses*. It occupied around six hectares and is estimated to have had a population of about 600 inhabitants. It dates from between the end of the 5th century and the end of the 4th century BC. The period of occupation was short, lasting for around 3 or 4 generations, approximately 100 years. It met a violent end,



“Celler del Roure  
Bodega Fonda”



## “Arcadetes d’Alboi”

Author: (Antonio Martinez Richart)

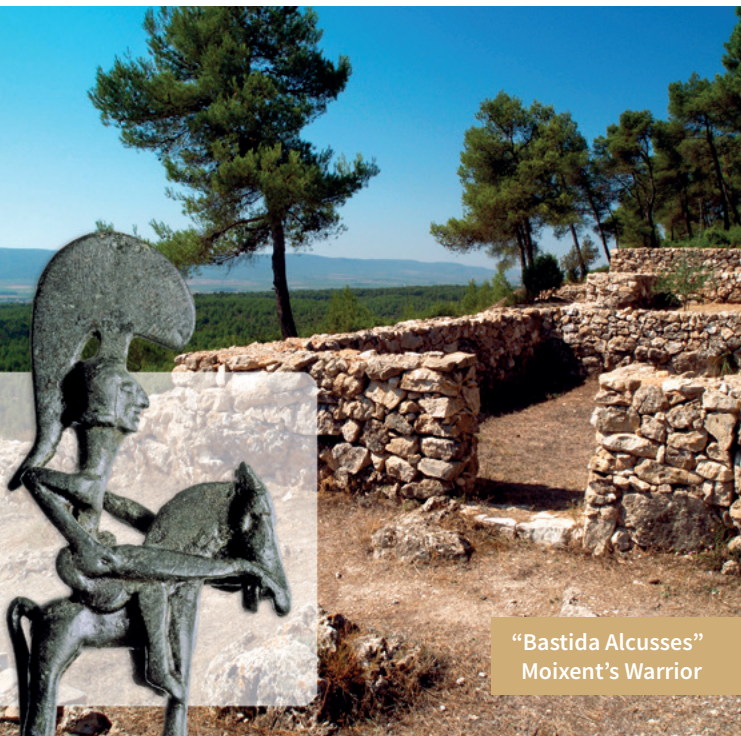
was attacked and abandoned. The site has provided numerous archaeological finds, notably a number of falcatas (curved swords), lead plates with writing, a cartwheel, and the most famous piece: *el Guerrer de Moixent*. Despite measuring only 7.3cm high and weighing just 53.85g, this small bronze figure of a mounted warrior has become quite the symbol of Iberian culture in Spain.

La Costera has one of the earliest Christian shrines (Sant Feliu de **Xàtiva**), the work of magnificent medieval and Renaissance painters (Maestro de Xàtiva, Artés y Borbotó, Nicolau Falcó, Miquel Esteve, Maestro de Alzira, Joan de Joanes, Gaspar Requena and Nicolau Borrás), and the highest brick industrial chimney in the Valencia Region.

La Costera is also the cradle of the Borja (or Borgia) family, which in just two generations reached the pinnacle of power in 15th century Europe. **Canals** and **Xàtiva** are home to buildings and works related to this lineage. Two members of the Borja family became Pope in the 15th century. Alfons de Borja, born

in **Canals**, adopted the name Calixtus III (1455- 1458) and his nephew from Xàtiva, Roderic de Borja, became Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503). This branch of the family originated in La Costera and became one of the most powerful family branches of the time.

The area constitutes a region of great environmental and ecological value, with mountains, rivers and fertile plantations, where you can enjoy spectacular views and the peace and quiet of natural beauty spots with stunning colours and fragrances that change with every season of the year. Its open air surroundings are ideal for different types of activities and trips in the heart of nature.



“Bastida Alcusses”  
Moixent’s Warrior



## FESTIVALS\_

As far as intangible heritage is concerned, the festive nature of the people of Valencia takes on a special character in La Costera. Its Moors and Christians festivals held in the western towns and villages go side-by-side with the *Fallas* festivals in the east. We find a mixture of religious festivals, generally honouring the patron saints, and profane celebrations, some of which originate in the changes of seasons and agricultural cycles. And all of them embellished with the music of the bands.

Of special tourist interest are the fire festivals (La Foguera de **Canals**), the hundred-year-old **Xàtiva** Fair, the Corpus procession and the dances.

## GASTRONOMY\_

In gastronomy, rice is the main ingredient, even though its cultivation disappeared from the region more than half a century ago. Particularly worthy of note is *arròs al forn* (oven-baked rice), and also paella, both of which are prepared in different forms. In a separate vein, other standout dishes are *puchero* (a typical stew) and gazpacho. At the top of the list of sweets and desserts we find *arnadí* (a cake with pumpkin and almonds), *monjàvena* (a cake of Arab origin), *fogassa* (a sweet potato sponge) and a variety of pastries. With a homemade cuisine based on locally-sourced products, the range on offer is numerous and varied.

La Costera is characterised by its traditional and sustainable agricultural food production, and when tasting its products we are savouring the region's primary substance. Historical crops and traditional ways of transforming them into foodstuffs provide high quality products: cheeses, spring garlic and oils. The wines of Els Alforins, with historic wineries and up-to-date technology, offer visitors wine tastings and trips around their modern wine-producing installations.



Cheese from Barxeta  
and La Llosa de Ranes





## ADVENTURE AND SPORT\_

The open-air surroundings of the region of La Costera are ideal for different types of activities and trips in a natural environment. The specific orography of the terrain is suitable for pleasant strolls in nature and at the same time ideal for hiking and mountain biking, caving or climbing. Discover our routes along river banks, mountains, ravines, caves, esplanades, etc.: a variety of landscapes with camping and recreational areas and other services.

We can choose between a number of officially approved paths, categorised according to difficulty, with their corresponding information panels at the start points and signs along the route. We can also enjoy local routes and fantastic, idyllic enclaves for climbing like the *Mola de Montesa*, with the *Pedra Senyora*, a stand-alone rock formation, and the *Penya de l' Aventador* in Alboi (el Genovés).



“Arros al forn, Arnadí, Fogassa, Monjàvena”

There are also climbing areas in el Paratge de les Ermites de Vallada or in the Barranc de les Clotxes at Font de la Figuera.

And, last but not least, “pelota valenciana”, a hand-to-ball sport with a long tradition and highly popular in the region, which has produced great players like Paco Cabanes (“el Genovés”). In Cabanes’ home town (Genovés) there is the *Museu de la Pilota* (Pelota Museum), a museum space with a pelota court attached, devoted to the history and the different forms of this Valencian sport.

All this and much more is available for your enjoyment in the region of La Costera. And when preparing your trip and visit, don’t forget to consult the website [www.turismelacostera.com](http://www.turismelacostera.com) or the *Turisme La Costera* app.





“Les Alcusses”  
Author: (Fran Moral)

## TOURISM, INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION OFFICE\_

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Estret de les aigües  
i Cova Negra

# LA COSTERA\_

- |  |                      |                       |                                 |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
|  | Tourist Info         |                       | Hunting                         |
|  | Historic building    |                       | Panoramic View                  |
|  | Museum               |                       | Rural House                     |
|  | Cave                 |                       | Camping Area                    |
|  | Handicrafts          |                       | Hotel                           |
|  | Wine                 |                       | Historical-artistic complex     |
|  | Archaeology          | <b>Walking Trails</b> |                                 |
|  | Castle / Palace      |                       | Long Distance Trails (+50Km)    |
|  | Religious Monument   |                       | Short Distance Trails (10-50Km) |
|  | Hostel               |                       | Local Trail (-10Km)             |
|  | Bull Ring            |                       | GR (Long Distance) Trail Line   |
|  | Tourist Municipality |                       |                                 |

0 5 km







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