

regions of the province
of Valencia

L'HORTA NORD

REGION





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This publication will help us to become acquainted, in a route taking in forty-three towns and villages, with the central region of **L'Horta**, which literally embraces Valencia (the capital city of the region and of the province), meaning that we can start the route from any point in the city.

We begin the route around **L'Horta** in **Alboraya**, where we can start our journey on the right foot with a singular breakfast for which this place is highly renowned: a genuine *horchata* (tiger nut milk) with *fartons* (long pastries sprinkled with sugar). The growing of tiger nuts, the fruit with which horchata is made, is one of the oldest agricultural practices in this area and has not been abandoned since it was introduced by the Arabs, now extended to other towns and villages in the local region.

Buying these tasty, freshly-baked *fartons*, and some tiger nuts to prepare a refreshing drink on the way home, is one option. But another option is to lose ourselves among its streets and enter the church of *Santa María* (17th century Baroque), before heading towards the sea along a track dotted with Islamic hamlets and, as we approach the beach, discover the shrine of the *Miracle dels Peixets* (the Miracle of the Little Fishes); here, tradition has it, Sacred Forms were found in the mouth of some fish.

“Palauet Nolla”
Meliana

On arrival at the coast, we can take a stroll along the beach, a swim or, for the more sporty types, try some windsurfing, visit the sailing club and sail in a catamaran or take a horse ride along Patacona beach.

For fans of motorised water sports or sailing, **La Pobla de Farnals** will be a pleasant discovery. From sport to luxury shopping.

A stop in **Tavernes Blanques** is practically compulsory, to buy an item of Lladró, one of the most sought-after porcelains in the world.

As we continue the route towards **El Puig de Santa Maria**, the villages – all of them old Arab hamlets - can be seen from afar thanks to their slender bell towers, and almost merge into each other. The parish church of **Almàssera** has a chest containing the Eucharist shapes of the *Miracle dels Peixets*, and on the left side of the Carraixet ravine, the small town of **Bonrepós y Mirambell** comprises a number of hamlets.

In **Meliana**, the church of *los Santos Juanes*, a Renaissance building covered with flamboyant “Churrigueresque” elements and the Shrines of *la Virgen de la Misericordia* (erected in memory of the conquest of these lands by Jaime I) and *el Cristo de la Providencia* are well worth a visit. Before continuing the



Count's Palace
Albalat



“Casa Llopis”
Almàssera

route, you can buy some of the popular mosaics that have been made here since 1860.

In **Foios**, the church of Our Lady of the Assumption (*Nuestra Señora de la Asunción*) has a 15th century image of the *Virgen del Patrocinio*, its patron, and, in the middle of the fertile plantations, the shrine of *Cristo de la Sangre* (Christ of the Blood).

Very close by, **Albalat del Sorells** proudly shows off the enormous dome of its parish church (18th century Baroque) and the Castle-Palace, or stately mansion, of the Counts of Albalat (from the late 15th century): this is a large fortress with a single tower, Gothic windows, arch-shaped door and interior courtyard with an open staircase that is now the seat of the Town Council.

The distinguished botanist Cavanilles had the following to say about **Albuixech**, **Emperador**, **Massalfassar**, **Musseros**, **Massamagrell**, **Puçol** and **Rafelbunyol**: “all the land is put to good use in this delightful spot, with an uninterrupted succession of vegetable gardens and no time lost in the harvests”.

And it remains that way two hundred years later, sketching a splendid landscape.

There are a number of options at this point: hiking on mount Picaio, in **Puçol**, and a leisure complex in the former Carthusian monastery of *Ara Christi*, in El Puig. Another good alternative is a climb up the *mntanyeta de la patá*, which offers an excellent view of the fertile plantations stretching towards the sea, and the Monastery of El Puig, the next point on our itinerary.

El Puig de Santa Maria surprises visitors with its imposing Monastery, built on a hill by the express wish of *Jaime I*, for veneration of Our Lady of El Puig (*Virgen del Puig*). Legend has it that a Byzantine statue with the image of the Virgin remained hidden under a bell for the five hundred years of Muslim domination until *San Pedro Nolasco*, following a trail of stars, found it. The Gothic-style church shrine was built in the 13th century. Its main chapel houses the image of the Virgin and *Vergara* painted the legend of the discovery on its cupola.

The monastery, in Renaissance style with baroque elements, dates from the 15th century, and was later extended in the 16th and 17th centuries. An interesting visit can be had to its cloisters, painting gallery and, above all, the Printing and Graphic Works Museum (*Museo de la Imprenta y la Obra Gráfica*), housed in one of its wings as homage to the printing in Valencia of the first book published in Spain in 1474.



El Puig de Santa
Maria's Monastery



San Juan de Ribera Square
Alfara del Patriarca

The return trip provides us with other places of interest. In **Alfara del Patriarca**, the church of San Bartolomé and a 14th century palace form an attractive ensemble. In **Moncada**, at the foot of the Santa Bárbara hill, there is a large number of ecclesiastical and religious buildings - some refurbished as universities - the church of *San Jaime* and the shrine of *Santa Bárbara* or the Silk Museum (*Museo de la Seda*); in **Vinalesa**, the refurbished Silk Factory (*Fábrica de la Seda*), built in the 18th century, was the biggest in the region.

In **Burjassot**, special attention should be paid to the San Juan de Ribera College, a palace that was formerly a castle, nestling in a leafy wood; the church of San Miguel, a splendid Renaissance church with elegant cloisters, an octagonal cupola and attractive bell tower; and, above all, *Los Silos*. In 1553, when Valencia was experiencing problems with the supply of wheat, construction of the first three silos was begun; by the 18th century they numbered forty. In the enormous square they occupy, some of their covers (*pilons*) are still visible; together with the shrine of *San Roque* built on a small 16th century shrine, and an artistic well from the 18th century, they form a splendid ensemble.

Places like **Godella** and **Rocafort** changed from being summer holiday destinations to first residences. In the latter, in a

villa next to the station, Antonio Machado lived until he went into exile. This spot, now a restaurant, could be a good end point for this route.

As you walk around this region, you can discover different towns and villages that are notable for their natural landscapes, but also for their large chimneys that mark the passage of time, a time devoted to the industrialisation of our territory.

In **Albat dels Sorells**, the *Plaza del Castillo*, a pedestrian square where you can appreciate the magnificent surroundings, is indeed a sight for sore eyes. We can visit its *Palacio Condal* (Count's Palace), stroll along the *Ruta del Molino* (Mill Route) or visit the church of *los Santos Reyes* (the Holy Monarchs).

As we continue our walk around l'Horta Nord, we find the town of **Meliana**, known all over the world for its Nolla mosaic. The origin is to be found in the Palau Nolla, a stately mansion that houses a collection of Nolla tiles. Also worthy of note is the Bernardo Vidal tile factory and the green belt that leads to its beach.

Further along the route, we come across the town of **Foios**, notable for its *Plaza del Pueblo* square, home to the church of *Asunción de Nuestra Señora* (Assumption of Our Lady), known as the cathedral of l'Horta. Very close by, in calle de la Unió, we can find modernist architecture houses.

As we get ever closer to the Carraixet ravine, we arrive in **Almàssera**, beautiful from the outside in. It stands out because of its incomparable landscape, surrounded by fertile plantations, where the predominant crop is tiger nuts. At this spot



Meliana's Beach



Almàssera

we can find the Museum of l’Horta, which promotes knowledge of this fertile region. The *Plaza Mayor* (Main Square) is one of the most noteworthy spots in the town, with a concentration of attractive buildings from different periods and in different styles. This town, which adjoins Valencia, has the oldest covered cross in the whole Province, dating from the 14th century.

As we reach the edge of the Carraixet, we find the town of **Bonrepòs i Mirambell**, which stands facing the ravine. It is formed of two urban centres: Bonrepòs and Mirambell, and the latter’s narrow, winding and maze-like streets whisk you back into the past. Notable in Bonrepòs is the church of *Nuestra Señora del Pilar* (Our Lady of the Pillar), in the town’s main street (*Calle Mayor*).

Adjoining Bonrepòs i Mirambell is the town of **Vinalesa**. This town is notable, mainly, for its history associated with the industrialisation of the whole l’Horta region, with its Silk Factory, of which part of the structure and the main chimney are still standing. It also has considerable religious heritage, including the church of *San Honorato* and the shrine of *Santa Bàrbara*.



L'HORTA NORD_

Alfara del Patriarca is a town notable for its tall chimneys, architecture that takes us back to the town's most splendid period with its brickworks. Here we can also find the Convent of *Sant Dídac* and *San Juan de Ribera* square, full of historic monuments of great historical importance.

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The Silos - Burjassot



Signes convencionals *Signos convencionales*

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Tourist Info | | Commercial Port |
| | Museum | | Zoo |
| | Historic building | | Water Park |
| | Handicrafts | | Casino |
| | Seascape | | Nature Reserve |
| | Golf | | Parador Nacional (Heritage Hotel) |
| | Botanical Garden | | Campsite |
| | Castle / Palace | | Cave |
| | Religious Monument | | Stadium |
| | Horse-riding | Senders / Senderos | |
| | Bull Ring | | Long Distance Trails (+50Km) |
| | Water Sports | | Short Distance Trails (10-50Km) |
| | Airport | | Local Trail (-10Km) |
| | Panoramic View | | GR (Long Distance) Trail Line |



TOURIST INFO_



TOURIST INFO ALBORAYA - PORT SAPLAYA

C/ del Batlle (entrada por Pz. de la Señoría) -
Tel. 963 190 200 - Fax: 963 190 204

TOURIST INFO ALBORAYA - PATACONA

Avda. Mare Nostrum, s/n
Tel. 963 190 226

TOURIST INFO ALMÀSSERA

Camino del Mar, s/n (Museu de L'Horta)
Tel. 961 862 552

TOURIST INFO LA POBLA DE FARNALS

Plaza París, s/n
Tel. 961 460 928 - Fax: 961 444 971

TOURIST INFO EL PUIG

Avda. de la Constitución, s/n
Tel. 961 959 029 - 902 123 212

TOURIST INFO PUCOL

Plaza Rosa dels Vents, s/n
Tel. 669 740 119

TOURIST INFO VALENCIA - PAZ

C/ Paz, 48
Tel. 963 986 422 - Fax: 963 986 421

TOURIST INFO VALENCIA - PLAYA

Paseo Neptuno, 2 (Frente al Hotel Neptuno)
Tel. 963 557 108

TOURIST INFO VALENCIA

JOAQUIN SOROLLA
C/ Xàtiva, 24 (Estación del Norte)
Tel./Fax: 963 803 623

TOURIST INFO VALENCIA

PLAZA AYUNTAMIENTO
Plaza del Ayuntamiento, s/n
(frente al Edif. de Correos)
Tel. 963 524 908





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