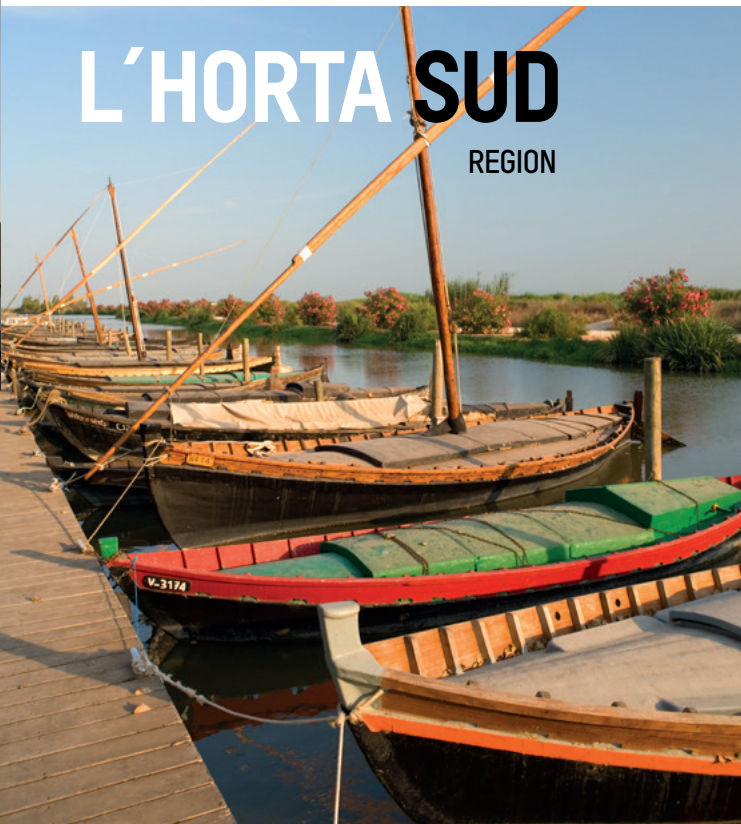


**regions** of the province  
of Valencia

# L'HORTA SUD

REGION





**L'HORTA  
SUD**  
REGION





Between the city of Valencia and the Albufera Nature Park we find the region of **l'Horta Sud**. A territory united by the fertile plantations, by its roots and customs, with great historical heritage, places to explore with centuries of history and an inimitable gastronomy.

A trip around the region will help us to become better acquainted with the twenty towns and villages that it comprises, together assembling almost half a million inhabitants. It is the third-largest population centre in the Valencia Region after the city of Valencia itself and the city of Alicante. We will begin our route around **l'Horta Sud** in **Alaquàs**. This town has seen its layout of both people and buildings modelled over time, in accordance with the standards of the capital city. However, **Alaquàs** has never ceased to be a town with an idiosyncrasy all of its own, maintaining the essence of a town of farm workers and *peroleros* (earthenware pot makers) who live working the land. A must-see in **Alaquàs** is its *Castillo-Palacio*, or stately mansion. One of the most important monuments in the region, it was built at the end of the 16th century by Luis Prado de la Casta. It has a quadrangular floor plan with an exquisitely conserved interior cloister, and was declared a national monument in 1918. This monument is very close to the next town on our route: **Aldaia** is just one street away from **Alaquàs**.

This town is also accessed via its emblematic Green Belt from **Xirivella** and **Quart de Poblet**.

Here we find ourselves in a town in which past and present live side by side through its *Museu del Palmito*, a museum of handicrafts and hand-held fans unique in Spain. Inside we find an extensive display of old and current fans, dating from the 18th century to the present, and a comprehensive collection of traditional machinery, parts and utensils typical of the manufacturing process.

We continue our route through **Albal**, the only town in the region which irrigates its fields with water from the two most well-known rivers in Valencia, the Turia and the Júcar. This town's hymn describes clearly its three most emblematic locations, the shrine of *Santa Ana*, the Tower and the bell tower. The first is located on the outskirts of the town. It dates from the 14th century and beneath its Gothic transepts we find an illuminated altar with a small image of *Santa Ana*.

Just a few kilometres from **Albal** is **Alcàsser**, whose central hub is the best recommendation we could give to visitors. *Castell* square, with the Town Hall, the Music Society and the church of *San Martí*. Important events in **Alcàsser** are its main festivals and the festival of *El Cristo*, held on the first Monday after the *Virgen de agosto* (August Virgin). Visitors should not miss the chance to visit one of the town's patisseries and taste the *Plat de Glòria*, a sweet made of almonds, eggs and pumpkin that will delight those with a sweet tooth.



Hand-held Fans  
Aldaia



## “Horta i marjal”

Legend has it that King Jaime I camped in **Alfajar** a few days before the conquest of Valencia. While he was here, seven stars pointed him to the hiding place, also under a bell, of an image of the Virgin. When he discovered it, he was said to have exclaimed “*Oh gran Don*” (What a great gift!). Jaime I promised that if he conquered Valencia, he would order a temple to be built in her honour. This is why the patron of the town is the *Virgen del Don* (Virgin of the Gift); her image can be visited in the church named after her in *País Valencià* square, in front of the town hall.

Leaving the city of Valencia via San Vicente street, one of the longest in the city, we find **Benetússer**. The roadway, which formerly connected the city with Madrid, via Albacete, crosses the town and divides it in two. In its time it was the great shop window for the furniture industry, with **Benetússer**, **Sedaví** and **Alfajar** as emblems of what was known as “*El Triangulo del Mueble*” (the Furniture Triangle). We recommend that you visit **Benetússer** during Holy Week. Its representations of the sacred scenes of the life, death and resurrection of Christ, with all the town’s residents taking part, fill its streets with devotion and passion.

In the heart of l’**Horta Sud** we find **Beniparrell**. A small historic town of just over 2000 inhabitants, whose name appeared in

*Jaime I's* royal documents relating to the conquest of Valencia in the 13th century. One of its attractions is the Carmelite convent dating from 1603, which transports us back in time. Also worthy of note is a small sample of modernist style houses built in the 19th century in the old street of *Santa Bárbara*.

Very close to **Beniparrell** is the town of **Catarroja**. It is said that the Barraques district is the repository of the town's most ancestral origins. A stroll around its streets will remind us of how the Albufera was the town's economic and social engine. Before you leave **Catarroja**, don't miss the chance to visit its lovely port on the Albufera and try there one of its typical dishes, *Allipebre* (a garlic, pepper and fish stew).

The region of **l'Horta Sud** also has one of the smallest towns in Spain. **Llocnou de la Corona** stands between the towns of **Sedaví** and **Alfafar** and has a population of just 124 inhabitants. Although small, the town appears to date back to 1676, the year in which some of the exiles from the Franciscan order of the *Corona de Jesús* (Crown of Jesus) in Valencia chose this spot to build a convent.

Its geographical location, adjacent to the River Turia, its climate and the fertility of its lands were sufficient reason for





Santa Ana's Shrine, Albal

the Muslims to consider **Manises** a good place to settle. From the 14th century onwards, Manises gradually acquired international fame as a centre for ceramic production. Today we can study all of this history in the *Museu de la Ceràmica* (Museum of Ceramics), a must-see when visiting the town. Installed in an 18th-century house, the museum teaching tour uses restored pieces found principally in the subsoil to show the evolution of the town's ceramic production. Its uninterrupted, 700-year plus tradition, the preservation of age-old techniques and the fact that ceramics continue to be an active revitaliser of the economy, has led to the town being declared a UNESCO Creative City in Handicrafts and Popular Arts.

The route around the Horta Sud region now takes us to **Massanassa**. A quiet town which is perhaps one of those that has least lost its own characteristics despite being very close to the city of Valencia. A stroll around the centre and its church of *San Pere*, the town's oldest building, bear witness to this. Something else you must see in **Massanassa** are its wetlands, inside the Albufera Nature Park, where you can take a small trip to discover some of the historic engines or the area's fauna and flora.

From the peace and quiet of **Massanassa**, we move on to one of the towns with the highest population density in Europe, **Mislata**. Standing on the banks of the River Turia, despite being right next to the capital, it continues to be fully self-sufficient and has its own idiosyncrasy. A visit during May will provide the opportunity to enjoy the town's *Mislata Art al Carrer* (MAC) festival, which brings together many of the country's best circus and street art groups.

Just a few kilometres from **Mislata** is **Paiporta**, a town whose history has always been marked by one of the region's most important geographical features, the **Xiva** ravine. In fact, it was not until 1932 that the bridge connecting the two population centres separated by the ravine was opened. Notable amongst its attractions is the *Museu de la Rajoleria*, a significant example of a type of industry – the manufacture of bricks and other building materials – that was widespread in the **Horta Sud** region until the last century, and has now all but disappeared.

Bordering **Paiporta** is the town of **Picanya**, which retains the appearance of a town that is quite different from the other towns in the region. The road called *camí de la Pedrera*, which crosses the town from south to north, is a good excuse to begin a short urban tour that will take us into the historic centre formed by *Major*, *Sant Josep* and *Església* streets and the *País Valencià*, *Major* and *Constitució* squares.



Lateen Sail



## Alaquàs' Castle



The municipality of **Picassent** is the largest in the region. A stroll around the town is a compilation of unexpected experiences, such as sunsets worthy of the finest painter's brush. One of its most emblematic locations is the *Torre Espioca*, a watchtower that reminds us of the town's Muslim past. Built in the 11th century, it formed part of the defensive system of Valencia. Next to the tower we can also see the remains of some living quarters.

**Quart de Poblet** dates back to Roman times. The etymology of the name Quart is associated with the existence of a roadway that connected Roman *Valentia* with the inland areas of the peninsula. *Quart-Quartum* refers to the milestone that marked the distance of four Roman miles from *Valentia*, and which could be found in the vicinity of the current *Plaza Valldecabres*. Its historic old town, which bears the imprint of former times and other cultures, is the ideal starting point for a walking route, where we can find real architectural gems, laden with history or exponents of the latest trends, and places that invite you to take a stroll.

Returning to the surroundings of Albufera and continuing our trip around l'**Horta Sud**, we visit **Sedaví**. Located between Valencia, **Alfajar** and **Llocnou de la Corona**, it has no traces of any origin prior to the Arab domination. The best time to visit the town is in the first week of May, when it celebrates its Moors and Christians festival in honour of its patron saint, *San Torcuato*. Also recommended is a visit to its parish church, a neoclassical building with a bright, theatre-like interior with more than 200 years of history.

Also in the area closest to the Albufera, located alongside the Vía Augusta, is **Silla**. When visiting **Silla**, don't miss the opportunity to see its port on the Albufera. A typical, unadorned port, which offers completely different landscapes depending on the time of year you visit. You can take a boat trip or an itinerary along its green routes. Another place of interest in Silla is its Muslim tower, declared a national artistic monument in 1982, and today home to the town's museum collection.

Approaching the end of our trip around l'**Horta Sud** we reach its capital, **Torrent**. The second-largest city in the province in terms of inhabitants, exceeded only by Valencia. **Torrent** also has a tower. Standing in the *Plaza Major* (Main Square), it is the city's most emblematic and representative monument, bearing witness to the main historical events that took place here. The excavations carried out in the surrounding area reveal that it was built in the second half of the 12th century, in Christian times, but using Arab building techniques.

And we end our route around the region of l'**Horta Sud** in **Xirivella**. The town is separated from the city of Valencia by the new course of the River Turia, although one of its districts, the *barrio de la Luz* district, is on the Valencia side. Its most stand-out buildings are the church of *Mare de Deu de la Salut*, the Shrine, the *Casa del Dau* and the *Closa*. Don't leave **Xirivella** without sampling some of its cold meats, famed throughout the region. If you visit in November, you will have the chance to enjoy its *Mostra Internacional de Pallassos* (International Clown Fair), which brings together artists from all over the world every year.

Gastronomy, tradition, nature and a splendid historical heritage await you in l'Horta Sud, a region with a pure flavour of Valencia to discover and enjoy.

















# VALÈNCIA

TURISME

“Dansa dels Porrots”, Silla  
Author: Vicent Carbonell



-  Tourist Info
-  Museum
-  Historic Building
-  Handicrafts
-  Seascape
-  Golf
-  Botanical Garden
-  Castle / Palace
-  Religious Monument
-  Horse-riding
-  Bull Ring
-  Water Sports
-  Airport
-  Panoramic view

-  Commercial Port
-  Zoo
-  Water Park
-  Casino
-  Nature Reserve
-  Parador Nacional (Heritage Hotel)
-  Campsite
-  Cave
-  Stadium
-  Tourist Town

**Walking Trails**

-  Long Distance Trails (+50Km)
-  Short Distance Trails (10-50Km)
-  Local Trail (-10Km)
-  GR (Long Distance) Trail Line

0 5 km





## TOURIST INFO\_



**TOURIST INFO MANISES**  
 Avda. País Valencià, 19  
 Tel. 961 525 609 - Fax: 961 520 931

**TOURIST INFO AEROPUERTO - MANISES**  
 Terminal Aeropuerto  
 Tel./Fax: 961 530 229

**TOURIST INFO PATERNA**  
 C/ Médico Ballester, 23  
 Tel. 963 053 124

**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  
 (TOWN HALL SQUARE)**  
 Plaza del Ayuntamiento, s/n  
 (frente al Edif. de Correos)  
 Tel. 963 524 908





**València Turisme**

Calle Avellanas, 14 2º H

46003 VALÈNCIA

Tel.: 963887221

[valenciaturisme@dival.es](mailto:valenciaturisme@dival.es)

[www.valenciaturisme.org](http://www.valenciaturisme.org)

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