

regions of the province
of Valencia

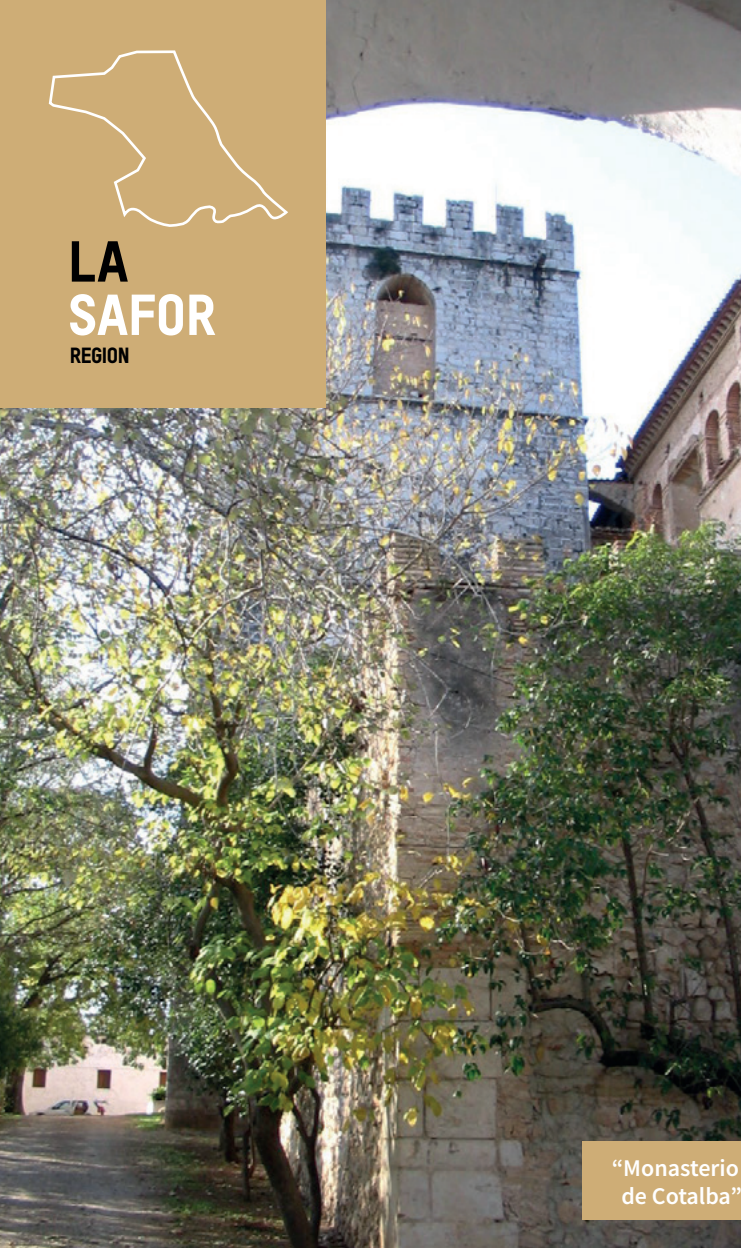
LA SAFOR

REGION





LA
SAFOR
REGION



“Monasterio
de Cotalba”



The region of **La Safor** is an attractive territory that offers visitors a combination of coastal landscapes and a mountainous inland area.

The high mountain ranges of *Mustalla*, *Safor*, *Agulles* and *Grossa* form a natural enclosure of rich vegetation, while the flat coastline area encompasses orchards and vegetable gardens, broad welcoming beaches and a high-density urban centre. The towns and villages in the region are close together and the multiple relations between them mean that La Safor can be considered an urban whole, like a disperse city, surrounded by green areas, devoted for the most part to orange-growing. Mountain peaks just a short distance from the sea and fields of orange trees hidden amongst the mountainsides are some of the elements in the landscape of La Safor, which has plenty to offer at any time of the year.

La Safor_

Gandia, a ducal city and capital of the region, grew up between the River Serpis and the San Nicolás ravine, on an ancient Iberian settlement. The 15th century was its moment of greatest splendour. The University was created in the 16th century to consolidate the brilliant culture that the courtly life of Gandia had generated with illustrious names in the Arts: *Ausias March*, *Joanot Martorell* and *Joan Roís de Corella*.

The city regained its splendour in the 20th century thanks to the growing and export of citrus fruits and tourism. Its urban centre retains the heritage it inherited from that golden age, in buildings such as: the Ducal Palace, the Gothic-style Collegiate Church of Santa María (*Colegiata de Santa María*), declared a National Historic-Artistic Monument, Saint Mark's Hospital (*Hospital de Sant Marc*), dating from the late 14th century, the Convent of Saint Clare (*Convento de Santa Clara*), the Shrines of *Santa Clara* and *Santa Ana*, and the Town Hall (18th century). The Ducal Palace is the city's emblematic monument, and has recently been restored.

From the historic centre we move to the coast, where the charm of its extensive, beautiful beaches, awarded the Blue Flag for quality and numerous other quality certifications, accompanied by a very mild climate, provides enjoyment all year round.

Just a few kilometres away is **Oliva**, which has preserved its historic old town with the original urban layout of the flourishing medieval period. You can stroll around the old *Vila Cristiana* (Christian Town), taking in its churches, stately



Cooler and Panoramic View of Barx



Rabdells' Beach Oliva

homes, old portals and museums. We can climb up to the old Moorish district of Raval, which still has its typical steep, narrow streets carved out of the stone.

Impregnated with the history of the peoples and cultures that have passed through it, it never fails to surprise and captivate the lucky visitors that stop to explore it.

The dunes of **Oliva**, with their delightful native fauna and flora, are a delicate link between the fertile orange groves, the Mediterranean-style houses and the impeccable beaches of golden sand.

In the nearby towns of **Piles**, **Bellreguard**, **Miramar**, **Guardamar de la Safor** and **Daimús**, visitors can enjoy beaches of fine sand and tepid, tranquil waters, with a wide variety of gastronomy on offer. Piles also has a 16th-century Watchtower (*Torre Vigía*) that can be visited.

The town of **Tavernes de la Valldigna** is overlooked by the *Alto de Les Creus*. Tavernes combines the charms of a mountain town (with springs like *El Clot de La Font*, viewpoints like *L'Alt de Les*

Creus, shrines and charming valleys) with the attractions of the Mediterranean coast, comprising two beaches: *Tavernes and La Goleta*.

Just a few kilometres away is the town of **Xeraco**, which opens out onto the Mediterranean with a fine sandy beach almost 4km long, very close to the town, and both quiet and welcoming. The region's inland area has interesting towns for visitors to enjoy, like **Villalonga**, with beauty spots such as the *Barranc de l'Infern, el Racó del Duc, la Vall de la Canaleta* and the *Circ de La Safor* (a fantastic semicircle formed by cliffs, with a height of 1011 metres) and **Ador**, the “balcony” overlooking La Safor.

Alfauir, where we can find the 14th-century Convent of *Sant Jeroni de Cotalba*. **Barx**, with beauty spots like *Les Foietes* and *La Drova*, the *Montdúver* peak and the *Cave of el Parpalló*. In **Simat de la Valldigna**, we can visit the Monastery of *Santa María de la Valldigna* (founded in 1298) and the shrines of *Santa Ana* and *La Xara* (a former mosque).

The Castles Route (*La Ruta dels Castells*) gives us the chance to visit the region by visiting the castles of Bairén, Vilella, Palma, de la Reina Mora, el Rebollet, L'Alfándech, Villalonga, Borró and el Castellar. Another enticing option is a visit to the Water Route (*Ruta del L'Aigua*), which offers us a retrospective of the irrigation system, based on the Arab system and still used in the region, interpreting the process through its infrastructures,



“Monasterio de Santa María de la Valldigna”



Ducal Palace
Gandia

like Casa Clara (16th century) and the water mills, which can still be seen in towns and villages like **Potrías**, **Beniarjó**, **Beniflá**, **Rafelcofer**, **L'Alqueria de la Comtessa**, **Villalonga** and **Oliva**, amongst others.

Also worthy of note, on the environmental front, are the eco-tourism routes of La Valldigna (**Barx**, **Tavernes**, **Simat** and **Benifairó**) and La Vall de Vernisa route (**Lloc-Nou de Sant Jeroni**, **Castellonet de la Conquesta**, **Almiserà**, **Ròtova**, **Palma de Gandia** and **Alfauir**), not to mention the *Ruta Entre Semill i Borrò*, in the Gandia marsh, or the Route of the Old Alcoi Railway (*Trazado del Antiguo Ferrocarril de Alcoi*), between Villalonga and l'Orxa, which may be of interest to nature-lovers.

GASTRONOMY_

Gandia offers us the opportunity to taste its famous *Fideuà de Gandia*, made with noodles cooked with prawn stock, prawns and monkfish, all prepared in a paella pan. Its agricultural tradition is plain to see in the weekly Friday market, where farmers come to sell their products. As on the rest of the coast, the predominant dish is paella, a wide range of rice dishes and tasty fish recipes. The following are typical dishes: “*les coques a la calfó*” (fish and vegetables in a corn bread wrap), “*les pebreres farcides*” (stuffed red peppers), “*els figatells*” (cold pork patties), “*la gamba amb*

bleda” (prawns with chard) and the exquisite “*coques de dacsa*” (filled corn bread) and “*pastissos*” (cakes).

FESTIVALS_

From the *Porrat de Sant Antoni* (an open-air pilgrimage and market) to the *Ball de la Bandera* (a traditional dance) in *Beniarjó*, in April, taking in the festivals in honour of the *Verge dels Desemparats* (the Virgin of the Disadvantaged), held in May in Real de **Gandia**, or the *Fogueres de Sant Joan* (Bonfires of St John) in June throughout the region, La Safor has an endless array of festivals.

Los Porrats are pilgrimages traditionally celebrated by the



Watchtower,
Tavernes de la Valldigna



Sant Francesc de Borja's
Festival - Gandia

people of La Safor to venerate a saint, and which became regional festivals with markets selling nuts and toys, etc.

These festivals are currently being revived, as they provide a very interesting alternative offer of leisure and culture. *Los Porrats* currently held are: in winter, *Sant Antoni* (January) in **Oliva** and **Benirredrà**; in February, *Sant Blai* in **Potries** and *Sant Macià* in **Ròtova**. In the summer, *Sant Llorenç* and *Crist de la Sang* in **Tavernes de la Valldigna**, *Santa Anna* in Simat de la Valldigna and *Sants de la Pedra* in L'Alqueria de la Comtessa.

Also worthy of note are the Moors and Christians Festival (*Fiestas de Moros y Cristianos*), on the third weekend in July and the *Mare de Déu del Rebollet* Patron Saint Festivals (8 September) in **Oliva** and, of course, the **Gandia** Festival and Fair in honour of *Sant Francesc de Borja*, at the end of September and beginning of October.

Gandia, **Oliva**, **Tavernes de la Valldigna**, **L'Alquería de la Comtessa** and **Xeraco** celebrate their *Fallas* festivals in March. And, finally, Holy Week in **Gandia** is categorised as being of Tourist Interest.

TOURIST INFO_

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Tourist info XERACO

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LA SAFOR_



la Platja de Tavernes de la Valldigna
la Marina de Tavernes

la Platja de Xeraco
la Marina de Xeraco

Xeraco
CV-505
la Platja d'Ahuir

eresas
la Platja de Gandia (Nord)

el Grau de Gandia
Platja de Venècia
N-337

Platja de Daimús
Daimús
Guardamar
la Platja de Guardamar

Benirredrà
Real de Gandia
Bellreguard
Miramar
la Platja de Bellreguard
la Platja de Miramar

Almoines
Palmera
Piles
la Torre de Piles
la Platja de Piles






Beniarjó
Beniflà
l'Alqueria de la Comtessa
la Platja d'Oliva
les Hortes

Potries
Rafelcofer
la Font d'en Carròs
Oliva
Aiguablancas

CV-680
Villalonga
les Cases de Vidal

Gallinera
Forna
Serra de Mustalla
Rocòns
San Jaume
el Molinet

CV-700
l'Atzúvia
Pego
CV-715
CV-700
el Vergo

	Tourist info		Shelter
	Historical building		Campsite
	Museum		Panoramic view
	Cave		Camping area
	Handicrafts		Hotel
	Recreational Area		Historical-artistic complex
	Archaeology		Tourist Municipality
	Nature	Walking Trails	
	Castle / Palace		Long Distance Trails (+50Km)
	Religious Monument		Short Distance Trails (10-50Km)
	Hostel		Local Trail (-10Km)
	Rural Accomodation		GR (Long Distance) Trail Line

 CALIDAD TURÍSTICA

0 5 km





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