

regions of the province
of Valencia

RIBERA ALTA

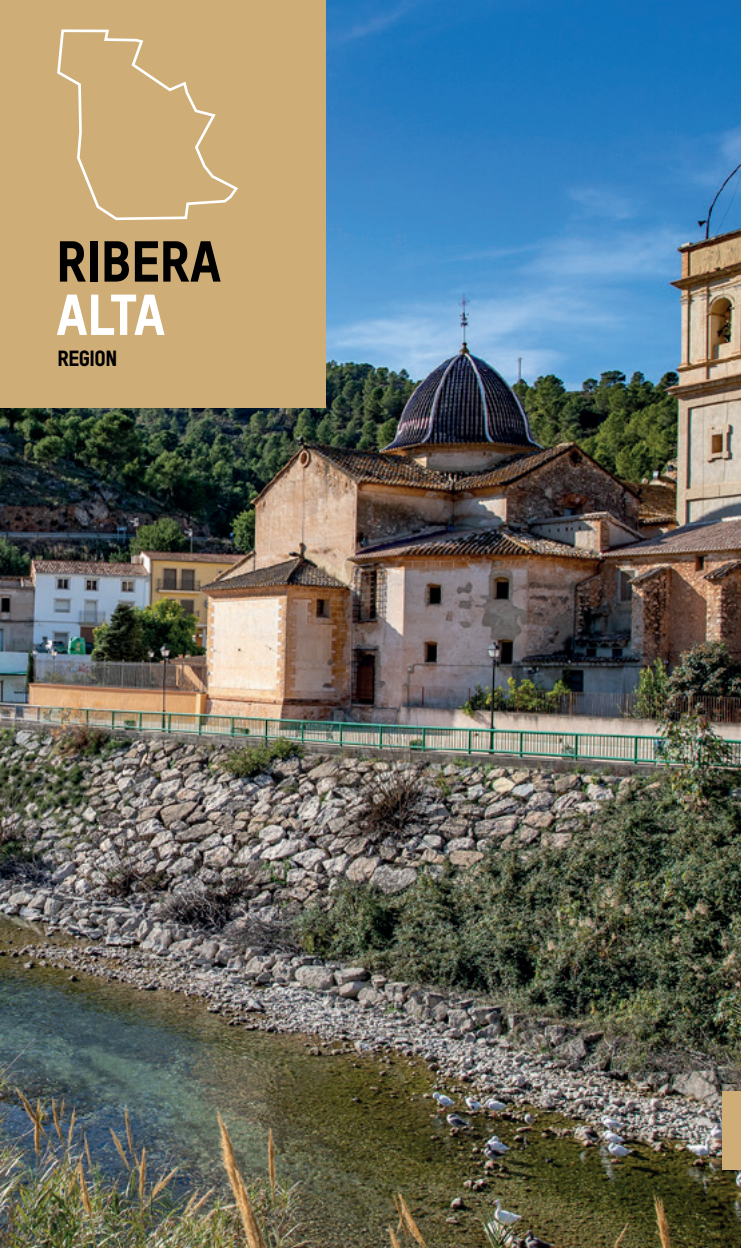
REGION





RIBERA ALTA

REGION





La Ribera de Xúquer is the tourism brand that covers a territory with two administrative regions: La Ribera Alta and La Ribera Baixa.

This territory shares tourism products that link both regions, such as the network of 11 themed bicycle tourism routes that crisscross the territory from north to south and from inland to the coast.

These cycle routes show off La Ribera's most singular heritage: Arab Towers, unusual shrines, iron bridges crossing the River Xúquer and relaxing routes through fields of crops with an aroma of orange blossom. Particularly worthy of note is the natural track of the Antic Trenet green route, which takes us back in time, from "El bressol de la taronja" in **Carcaixent** to the beach. For sports enthusiasts, worthy of special mention is the restored "*Descenso del Xúquer*", a kayaking event that has now been held more than 50 times and which is becoming a venue for members of affiliated kayak clubs but also for river enthusiasts participating in this people's event.

La Ribera Alta is synonymous with La Ribera de Xúquer, the major river in the province of Valencia, which brings water from the

mountains of Cuenca to fertilise this extensive plain to the south of the city of Valencia. An eminently agricultural region, its economy is based mainly on growing oranges and persimmon. It is rich in historic-artistic heritage, with the most notable examples to be found in the towns of **Algemesí**, **Carcaixent** and **Alzira**; it also has a tasty and varied gastronomy and a full festival calendar, making this region an attractive destination. As the extensive rice fields come to an end and the orange groves begin, we find the town of **Algemesí**. Don't fail to visit the 16th-century Basilica of *Sant Jaume*, the Parish Museum and the *Mare de Déu de la Salut* shrine, which is the venue at the end of September for a major pilgrimage that involves the whole region, and also the Valencia Festival Museum (*Museu Valencià de la Festa*). Its most standout beauty spots are *La Xopera* and the wetland area of *Llacuna del Samaruc*.

Further into the region we find the town of **Alzira**, the regional capital, which stands on an island in the River Xúquer. The remains of the defensive Arab Wall are a display of the most





splendorous period in its history. The most important religious building is the Gothic-style Church of *Santa Catalina*, built on the Arab mosque. The Renaissance Palace of the Marquises of Santiago, currently the Town Council building, is the most noteworthy civil construction. The main square (*Plaza Mayor*) and nearby streets have a number of interesting modernist buildings.

A visit to the town is completed with the Municipal Museum, in its new location, the Royal Shrine of *Santa María del Lluch*, and the Natural Beauty Spot of La Murta-La Casella, which is the end of the Ruta dels Monestirs – Pas del Pobre trail – GR 236.

5km away we find the town of **Carcaixent**, where we can admire the historical citrus fruit warehouses.

In the *Valle de Aigües Vives* there is an old Augustine Convent. The town's most important monument is its 16th-century Parish Church and the shrine of Sant Roc de Ternils. For hiking enthusiasts there is also an interesting route known as *Pas del Pobre*, which crosses the rugged mountains between la *Murta* (**Alzira**) and *Aigües Vives* (**Carcaixent**).

We cannot leave La Ribera Alta without visiting the rest of its towns and villages, with their notable religious heritage: the shrine of *Santa Bàrbara* and the parish church of *Sant Llorenç* (1695-1704) in **Alberic**; the parish church of *Sant Andreu Apòstol* and the shrine of *Sant Antoni* (16th/17th century) in **L'Alcúdia**. The shrine of *Sant Josep* and the parish church of *Sant Antoni Abat* in **Alginet**, the parish church of *San Pedro Apòstol* (18th century), the Archpriest Church of the Assumption of Our Lady of **Carlet** (*Iglesia Arciprestal de la Asunción de Ntra. Sra. de Carlet*), and the parish church of the Holy Cross (*Santa Creu*) dating from 1349, in **LLombai**. In this town we can also see the Borgia Market. The 18th-century parish church of the Apostle Saint Peter (*Iglesia Parroquial de Sant Pere Apòstol*) in **La Pobla Llarga** and the parish church of **Castelló** (from the 14th, 16th and 18th centuries). In **Tous** we can also see the Terrabona tower, belonging to a castle from the Arab period.

The wealth of heritage in the region is completed with monuments like the Medieval Towers of **Benifaió** and **Alfarp**, the Stately Tower (*Torre Señorial*) in **Antella** and l'Assut d'Antella, the ruins of the *Castillo dels Alcalans* in **Montroi**, the Palace of the Marquis of Bélgida (16th century) in **Sant Joanet**, the Town Hall of **Sumacàrcer**, housed in the Palace of the Counts



Tous' Reservoir



Hiking Routes

of Orgaz, the Valencia Honey Museum (MUVAMEL) and the remains of the Castle in **Montroi** and the Water Wheel (Sénia) in **L'Alcúdia**.

As a finishing touch to a visit to the region, it is well worth exploring some of its innumerable natural beauty spots, the **Tous** reservoir, and the salt lakes in **Manuel**, with a recreational area with tables and benches and a park for children with zip line and wooden bridges. La Garrofera in **Guadassuar**, la Font de l'Almaguer in **Alfarp**, etc.

In **Turís** we can see the remains of *Iberian and Roman culture* in the settlement of *La Carencia*, possibly one of the Valencia region's most important archaeological sites.

Standout features of its historic-artistic heritage are the 18th-century parish church of the Nativity (*Iglesia parroquial*

de la Natividad), in baroque and neoclassical styles. And “*El Castellet*”, an old fortress with a very spacious external enclosure, which must have been the site of the primitive hamlet. Also worthy of note is *La Roda*. This important hydraulic structure was built at the start of the 18th century to transport water from la *Sequia de Fondos* to the *Bassa de la Roda*.

GASTRONOMY_

Notable features of the gastronomy of **Ribera Alta** is the famous Marsh Cuisine (*Cocina de la Marjal*), with dry rice, soupy rice and oven-baked rice dishes, cooked on wood fires or in earthenware pots. Dishes like *all i pebre d'anguila* (with eels and potatoes) and *espardenyá* (a hearty dish of rabbit, chicken, eels and potatoes), and the universal Valencian paella, complete a wide menu of dishes that can be sampled in its numerous bars and restaurants. For those with a sweet tooth, there is a rich variety of cakes and confectionery, with notable examples being *arnadí de carabassa* (with pumpkin and almonds), *pastissets de moniato* (sweet potato pastries), *panquemaos* (sweet buns) from **Alberic** and *fogasses* made with sugar and flour, without forgetting honey from **Montroi**, *coca seginosa* (a fatty sponge of Arab origin) from **Carlet** and



“Fallas” Alzira



“La Murta”
Alzira

reganyá (a typical sponge) from **Alzira**. A perfect accompaniment for these are the muscatel and malvasia wines from **Montserrat** and **Turís**. A traditional sweet from **Alfarp** is the *Mostatxó* (another typical sponge).

FESTIVALS_

Particularly worthy of note amongst the region’s festivals are the *San José Fallas*, declared a World Heritage event, with effigies built and burnt in many towns and villages in the region in mid-March. The *Fallas* in **Alzira** are of National Tourist Interest, as are its Holy Week celebrations since 1988, because of its “*doseles*”, a beautiful staging of passages from the Bible. Also the *Danses* in **Guadassuar** in the last weekend of August; the Festivals of *Sant Bernat* and the *Mare del Déu de Lluch* in **Alzira**, in July and September, respectively; the festival of the *Mare de Déu de la Salut*, which has been held in **Algemesí** on 7 and 8 September for almost 800 years, declared an Intangible Cultural Heritage event

by UNESCO, in which the music of the *dolçaina* (an oboe-like instrument) and the *tabalet* drum enliven the dances of La Carxofa, Els Arquets, Les Pastorettes and the popular *Muixeranga*, festivals declared of tourist interest, which precede the *Setmana de Bous*, in the town's curious square bullring.

Also worthy of a visit is the festival of the “gancheros”, in **Antella**, a festival which recalls the former practice of transporting wooden logs down the River Xúquer. In **Carcaixent**, on the second weekend in June, there is a Modernist Fair that brings to life in the town's streets the period of splendour that came with orange-growing at the start of the 20th century.





“Magatzem de Rivera”
Carcaixent

TOURIST INFO_

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-  Tourist Municipality
-  Tourist Info
-  Historic building
-  Museum
-  Wine
-  Handicrafts
-  Nature
-  Castle / Palace
-  Panoramic view
-  Religious Monument
-  Recreational Area
-  Camping area
-  Hotel
-  Rural House

Walking Trails





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