

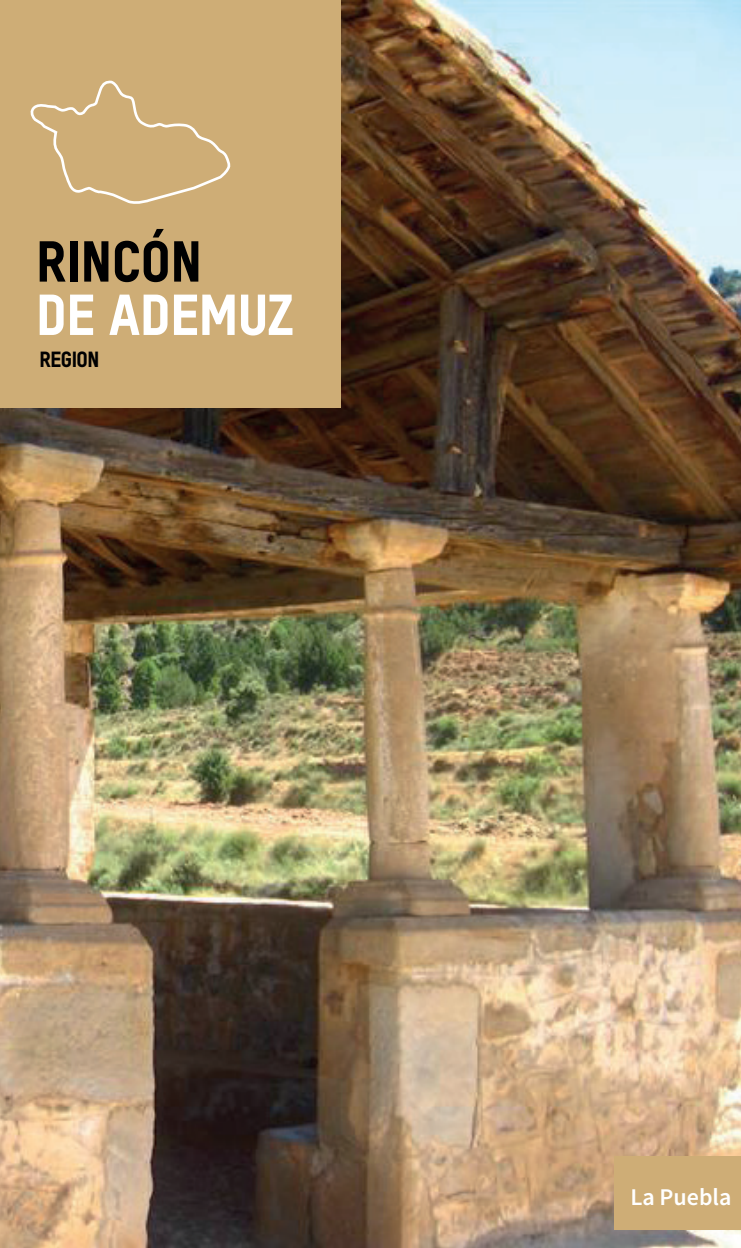
regions of the province
of Valencia

RINCÓN DE ADEMUZ



RINCÓN DE ADEMUZ

REGION



La Puebla



This is one of the most interesting regions in the province of Valencia, somewhat unknown and with a very singular personality. The main characteristic that sets it apart is its geographical location, forming a kind of “Valencian island” in the lands of Aragon and Castilla-La Mancha, separated from the rest of the province by a fifteen kilometre strip.

El Rincón de Ademuz, from the very beginning of the conquest, never stopped – apart from twenty months in the 19th century – belonging to the Kingdom of Valencia. Its inhabitants refer to this when they sing one of their traditional “jotas”:

*“We are not Aragonese
nor are we Castilian; we are between
boundaries but we are Valencian:
our soul is Valencian,
give me a branch from your breast
because although I’m not from Valencia,
I am from the Kingdom of Valencia.”*

Physically, it is a rugged territory formed by the valleys of the Rivers Ebrón and Bohígues, tributaries of the Turia, the real north-south backbone of the region, which flows through narrow ravines between lofty mountains.

To the east is the Sierra de Javalambre mountain range, and the town of la **Puebla de San Miguel** is home to the 1838m-high Alto de las Barracas, the highest peak in the Valencia Region. This is in harsh contrast with the long Turia Valley (which the locals call *Blanco*), a rich, fertile plantation (*huerta*) whose most characteristic product are its famous apples, particularly the “esperiega” variety.

In the north are the last foothills of the Montes Universales, home to the 1555m-high Cross of the Three Kingdoms (*Cruz de los Tres Reinos*), so called because it is the point where the kingdoms of Aragon, Castile and Valencia meet, in the town of **Castielfabib** (village of **Arroyo Cerezo**).

Both the river and the woodland are ideal places for fishing and hunting, where enthusiasts of these sports will find more than enough incentive to take home an excellent catch. For lovers of hiking and open-air activities, el **Rincón de Ademuz** is an outstanding ecological enclave, with exceptional landscapes and hills that are home to an extremely valuable variety of Mediterranean flora and fauna; the trees in its forests are catalogued as monumental, and the woodlands are full of



Bohígues River
Cascade (Ademuz)



Casas Altas

aromatic plants, wild mushrooms and fungi.

The high average altitude (825m) provides a cold climate in the winter and very pleasant temperatures in the summer, making the region a popular summer destination.

The population, which falls short of 2500 inhabitants, is distributed between the towns of **Ademuz**, **Casas Altas**, **Casas Bajas**, **Castielfabib**, **Puebla de San Miguel**, **Torre Baja** and **Vallanca**, as well as its villages.

Ademuz is the regional capital, and gives the region its name. It stands on the right bank of the River Turia, set in the steep slopes of the Zafranés mountain. Because of this unusual placement, the town has a characteristic layout with long, narrow streets interconnected by alleyways, many of them with steps, while the houses appear superimposed on each other. Eaves made of noble timber, turned balconies and old grilles tell us that we are in lands where Aragon merges into Valencia, all of which is exemplified in its Main Square (*Plaza Mayor*), the heart of the town. An important castle used to stand on top of the mountain, and the surviving remains tell us of the power it

had. Below it is the bell tower of the Archpriest Parish Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul (*Iglesia Parroquial Arciprestal de San Pedro y San Pablo*), consecrated in 1644.

The town's most noteworthy monument is the Romanesque-style shrine to Our Lady of the Plantation (*Virgen de la Huerta*), a real gem of artistic heritage in the Valencia Region. According to tradition, it was built in the 13th century by *Jaume I*.

The **Ademuz** Town Council organises an annual programme of experiences that include the tasting of local produce, which make it possible to visit its most notable places and buildings, both in **Ademuz** itself and its villages.

Birdwatching is another experience to enjoy, with ornithological paths. In the flowering season, the admirable lavender fields combine perfectly with large swathes of almond and apple trees, particularly the autochthonous variety, the “esperiega”, and a diversity of drystone constructions.

The River Bohígues flora micro-reserve is the natural gem of **Ademuz**, and in spring and autumn it turns into quite a spectacle for the senses.

Hidden in **Ademuz** is one of its most valued treasures, the



“Iglesia Virgen de la Huerta” (13th c.)
Ademuz



Castielfabib

Iberian settlement of La Celadilla, one of the most singular sites on the Iberian Peninsula. It can be visited with an experienced guide, to find out more detail about the most recent discoveries made.

Casas Bajas is the region's southernmost population centre. It stands on the right bank of the River Turia, and its territory offers natural beauty spots of great interest, such as Las Cambretas, El Carrascalejo, La Peña Alta, La Chopera del Molino, La Barraca Grande, La Rambla and El Pozo Salado and the Caseta del Río trail.

Notable in **Casas Altas**, a very mountainous municipality, are the peaks of Puntal del Sordo, Loma Lorente and el Resillo, which are the location for the Fuente Bellido Recreation Area. The town stands on the right bank of the River Turia. Its church is from the 18th century.

Castielfabib is the northernmost town in the Rincón region. The town stands at an altitude of more than a thousand metres on a crag on the right bank of the River Ebrón. It has the remains of a castle, *Castrum Fabii*, dating from the period of Roman domination. From the Arab period there are references to a castle located in Castielfabib (*Qastil al’Habib*), which was said to be an impregnable fortress belonging to the kings of Albarracín. A very interesting feature is the fortress-church of Our Lady of the Angels (*Virgen de los Ángeles*), built from the 13th century onwards on castle property, and also the deep gorge formed by the Ebrón as it flows through the town. The town also offers guided visits to discover the town and its must-see landscapes.

La Puebla de San Miguel is one of the highest villages in the province of Valencia. It is on the watercourse of la Puebla and has the appearance of a typical high mountain village, with authentic mountain-style architecture. Its streets contain old ashlar façades, including the Cubo Ethnological Museum (*Museo*

Vallanca



Etnológico el Cubo), located in a former winery and which, together with the municipal exhibition hall, make up the first Cultural Centre in the Rincón, in a village that has fewer than a hundred inhabitants.

This village's major tourist attraction, however, is its extraordinary landscapes and its variety of flora and fauna, with mountains that contain the Nature Park of La Puebla de S. Miguel. For this reason, it was declared a Nature Park in 2007, an area of woodland pines, junipers and kermes oak, not to mention a large population of yews.

Added to this is the attraction of having the highest mountain peak in the Valencia Region: the Monte Calderón or Alto de la Barracas, with an altitude of 1838 metres.

One beauty spot worthy of note is "Las Blancas", a collection of millenary juniper trees, the "Vicente" pine, etc. Its mountains and woodlands are also home to a wide variety of wild mushrooms, fungi, etc.

Torrealba, a village built on the slopes of a mountain at an altitude of 742m, stands near the confluence of the Ebrón with the Turia, at a spot known as *Las Ajuntas*. It still has the Casa Grande, a mansion which belonged to the Lords of Ruiz de Castellblanque and the fortified tower (*Torreón*), known as *Los Picos*. Also important are numerous vestiges of the Civil War in the area: gun nests, trenches and bunkers. The village of *Torrealta* also has a magnificent medieval tower that was formerly the ancestral home of the *Barón de Andilla*.

Vallanca is a town standing on the left bank of the River *Bohígues*, which the locals call *el Pequeño*, and occupies the western flank of the Rincón region. It is steep and rugged, marked by the deep, tightly-packed gorges of the Bohígues. Some of its most picturesque locations include the *San Roque shrine*, the *Fuente de la Teja*, the *Prado de la Vega*, the *Peña Horadada* and the *Fuente del Chopo*. Bicycle tourism enthusiasts have the Santerón mountain bike centre in **Vallanca**.

FESTIVALS_

Apart from a few strictly local pilgrimages and celebrations, the majority are held in August, when towns and villages welcome their largest number of visitors.

These festivals are open to all, so that non-locals can also take part, and the same is true of some gastronomic celebrations.

In **Ademuz**, *albadas* (songs) and *pasacalles* (passacaglia music) are very traditional. And in the summer, the festivities include *vaquillas* (running of young cows) and street parties. The strictly religious festivals take place on specific dates (*San Antonio*, *San Isidro*, *San José*), with pilgrimages to the shrines of the Saints like the *Santa Quiteria* in **Puebla de San Miguel** or the Septenary of Our Lady of Santerón (*Septenario de la Virgen de Santerón*) in **Vallanca**, catalogued as a Festival of Regional Tourist Interest. Also, in **Castielfabib**, there is the famous ringing of the church bells with young men hanging on to them, the morning of Resurrection Sunday, and the **Tejeda** festivities.

GASTRONOMY_

As you might expect in a high altitude location, the cuisine is hearty to combat the harsh continental climate. It is based mainly on local products, with lamb and pork providing the main source of calories.

Its most typical dishes include: corn and wheat *gachas* (a savoury porridge), *potaje* (a typical stew), *almortas* (pea grass), *puchero* (another type of stew), *la olla de pueblo* (pork and beans) and the cold meats. Dishes that can be sampled in the region's restaurants and bars, and a great variety of wild mushrooms and fungi.

The region's climate conditions are ideal for the growing of a uniquely sweet and aromatic apple, the local "esperiega" variety.

SPORTS TOURISM_

The orography of **Rincón de Ademuz** and its broad network of tracks and paths make it the ideal location for numerous important sporting events, like the **Ademuz Horse Trial** (*RAID Hípico*), the Sesgueña Bike, the El Rincón Ultra Trail, El Escarchón Trail and the Ascent of el Peloto.

Hiking and mountain-biking enthusiasts have plenty to enjoy in the region, with more than 230km and 9 short distance paths around the territory, all signposted.



“Esperiega” Apple



VALÈNCIA
TURISME

RINCÓN DE ADEMUZ_

Cruz de los
Tres Reinos
1.555 m



Signes convencionales *Signos convencionales*

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Museum | | Tourist Municipality |
| | Hotel | | Nature Reserve |
| | Castle / Palace | | Archaeology |
| | Religious Monument | | Fishing |
| | Panoramic View | | Camping area |
| | Mountain sports | | Hostel |
| | Nature | Walking Trails | |
| | Rural Accommodation | | Long Distance Trails (+50Km) |
| | Birdwatching Itineraries | | Short Distance Trails (10-50Km) |
| | Tourist Info | | Local Trail (-10Km) |
| | | | GR (Long Distance) Trail Line |



UNESCO ALTO TURIA Biosphere
Reserve Starlight destination

0 5 km

TOURIST OFFICES_

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Tourist Info Ademuz

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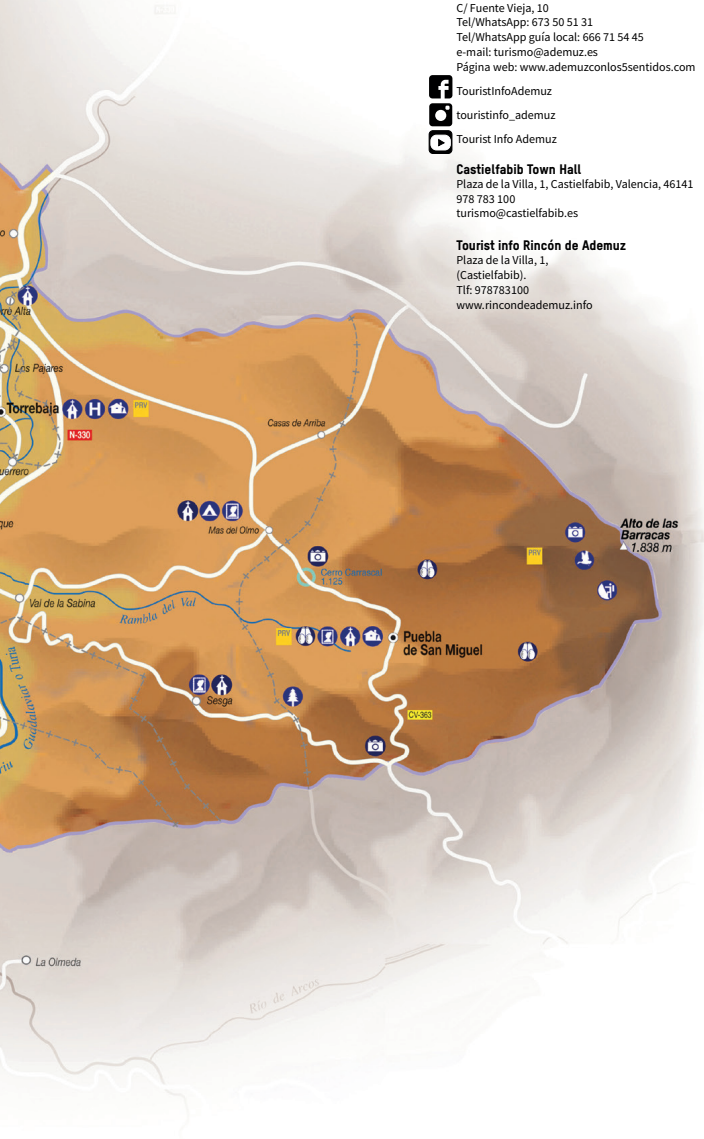
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