

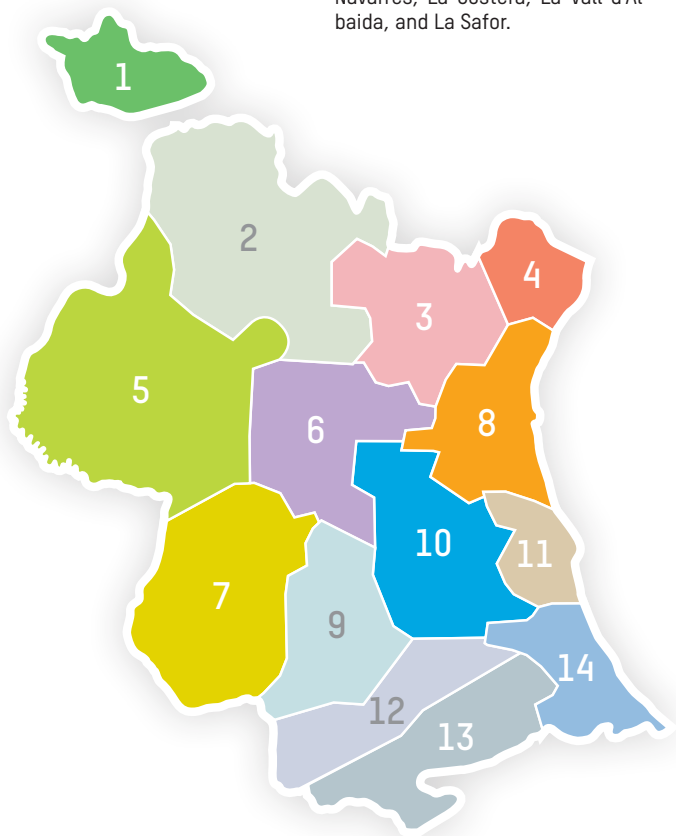
guide to the
province of Valencia

TOURIST MAP PROVINCE OF VALENCIA_



THE PROVINCE OF VALENCIA AND ITS LOCAL REGIONS

The territory that makes up the province of Valencia, the largest in the Valencia Region (10,763km²), is divided into 14 local regions which, listed from north to south, are as follows: El Rincón de Ademúz, La Serranía, El Camp de Turia, El Camp de Morvedre, L'Horta, Requena-Utiel, La Hoya de Buñol-Chiva, El Valle de Ayora-Cofrentes, La Ribera Alta, La Ribera Baixa, La Canal de Navarrés, La Costera, La Vall d'Albaida, and La Safor.



1 ● El Rincón de Ademuz

2 ● La Serranía

3 ● El Camp de Turia

4 ● El Camp de Morvedre

5 ● Requena-Utiel

6 ● La Hoya de Buñol-Chiva

7 ● El Valle de Ayora-Cofrentes

8 ● L'Horta

9 ● La Canal de Navarrés

10 ● La Ribera Alta

11 ● La Ribera Baixa

12 ● La Costera

13 ● La Vall d'Albaida

14 ● La Safor

1. EL RINCÓN DE ADEMUZ_

This constitutes a Valencian island in the lands of Aragon and Castilla-La Mancha. Its high altitude provides a climate that is cold in winter and very pleasant in summer, making El Rincón a very popular location for hiking and cycle tourism, with the Nature Park of la Puebla de San Miguel and its thousand-year-old junipers a standout feature. The architecture in its main towns and villages is particularly unusual: wooden balconies, old water mills, shrines and fortified churches. The region is composed of: Torrebaja, Ademuz, Castielfabib, La Puebla de San Miguel, Casas Bajas, Casas Altas and Vallanca.



2. LA SERRANÍA_

With the River Turia running through it, the striking feature of this region are its rugged landscapes. The Benagéber reservoir is a good spot for water sports, and its huge pine forests and mountains are excellent hiking destinations. The clear night skies in Aras de los Olmos make this village a popular spot for stargazing. The region's artistic heritage includes standout features such as the historic centres of Alpuente, its walled enclosure and a museum of Palaeontology. Chulilla and Chelva have narrow, uneven streets, with imposing castles like the one in Chulilla and impressive monuments like the Roman aqueduct of Peña Cortada, in Calles. Particularly worthy of note is the Chera - Sot de Chera Nature Park and its wide range of options for active and adventure tourism.



3. EL CAMP DE TURIA_

Territory of the former Iberian and Roman Edetania, whose capital, Edeta, is the present-day Llíria. A town with a great musical tradition, it has an impressive Roman legacy, a restored Arab Baths, and an interesting historic old town. One of the architectural landmarks of the town is the Monastery of Sant Miquel and the Church of La Sangre. Very nearby is Benisanó, a town with a castle worthy of note. The Carthusian monastery of Portaceli in Serra, built between the 13th and 16th centuries, is still home to a religious community. The Visigothic site of "Pla de Nadal" and the Arab "cisterna", or water tank, in Ribarroja del Turia are also worthy of note, not to mention the natural beauty spots on the River Turia.



4. EL CAMP DE MORVEDRE_

The beaches of Sagunto and Canet d'En Berenguer are awarded the blue flag by the European Union every year. Sagunto, the region's capital, is well worth a leisurely visit. This two thousand year-old town offers one of the most beautiful groups of monuments bequeathed by the Romans in Spain.



The castle, a fortress built on a hill, contains the remains of the Roman forum. The artistic ensemble is completed with the Jewish Quarter, a unique neighbourhood that has maintained its original layout over the centuries, and the Roman theatre, not to mention the churches of El Salvador and Santa María. In the inland part of the region, the beauty spots of Beselga and Font de Barraix are worthy of note, as are the Arab aqueduct of Estivella, the Monastery of Sant Esperit (Santo Espíritu) in Gilet, the Medieval Tower in Benavites and the Arab Baths in Torres-Torres.

5. REQUENA-UTIEL_

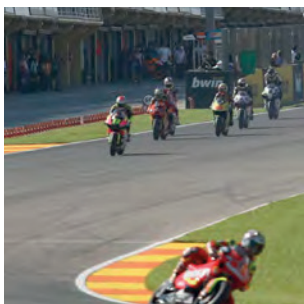
This region is home to the province's great wine-growing area. Its landscapes include the flat area of Requena and the beauty spots of Los Cuchillos and the Hoces del Cabriel gorges, with several centres for active tourism in the villages of Venta del Moro and Villargordo del Cabriel, or the



lush forests of Sinarcas. Requena is famous for its "Villa", the town's primitive settlement, and invites you to take a tour of its medieval old town (where you can visit the "Cuevas de la Villa"), full of monuments and buildings of great historical value, such as the Gothic churches of El Salvador and Santa María and the Torre del Homenaje (Homage Tower), evidence of its splendid past. Utiel is well worth a visit, spending time to admire the Shrine of the Virgen del Remedio and the Bodega Redonda, literally the "round winery", which is home to the Wine Museum.

6. LA HOYA DE BUÑOL-CHIVA_

Located in the heart of the province, this region has achieved universal renown thanks to its unique festivals and motor sports. Cheste is home to the



"Ricardo Tormo" Valencia Region Race Track, which year after year attracts the top names in motor racing. The parish church of St. Lucas is also a notable feature, especially its octagonal bell tower, one of the highest in the province. Buñol has an interesting old town with an exceptional castle, and the town is world famous for its peculiar "La Tomatina" festival, which is held on the last Wednesday in August. Also worthy of note in Chiva is the Shrine of the Virgen del Castillo.

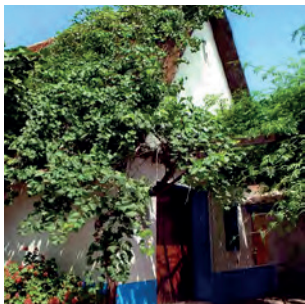
7. EL VALLE DE AYORA-COFRENTES_

The region's natural and monumental heritage is rich and varied. Cofrentes is home to one of the most charming spas in the Valencia Region, and also has a castle. The castle in Ayora, the region's capital, offers an interesting panoramic view, and the municipality is home to the Iberian settlement of Castellar de Meca, one of the most outstanding in the province. A few kilometres away is Jalance, where we can find the Cave of Don Juan, one of the few caves open to the public in the province. The river route along the Júcar (between Cofrentes and Cortes de Pallás) is also of interest.



8. L'HORTA_

The region in which the city of Valencia and part of the Albufera Nature Park are located. A major industrial and service centre, its heritage includes the city of Manises, a very important centre for the production of ceramics. In the town of El Puig de Santa Maria is the Monastery of Sta. Maria del Puig, built on the site from where Jaime I undertook the reconquest of Valencia. The Silos of Burjassot and the Muslim Towers of Paterna and Torrent are also worth a visit.



In addition, the beaches of Alboraya, La Pobla de Farnals, El Puig de Santa Maria and Valencia are a first-rate tourist attraction.

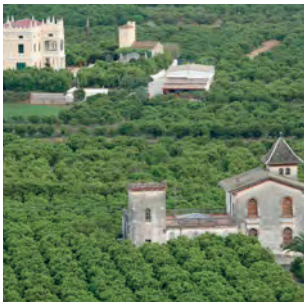
9. LA CANAL DE NAVARRÉS_

Here we can see how the water has shaped the landscape in a curious fashion. There are many places of great beauty, such as the "Charcos", or pools, in the River Grande as it passes through Quesa. The town of Anna is famous for its "Albufera" (a lake where you can take boat trips) and for its "Gorgos", pools formed by the waterfalls. Visitors will also find interesting castles and palaces, such as that of the Counts of Cervellón in Anna or those of Bicorp and Bolbaite, as well as the Iberian sites of Enguera, a town where you can also visit the Church of San Miguel, the parish and archaeological museums. The cave paintings discovered in Bicorp and Quesa form part of the ensemble known as "Levantine Cave Art", declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



10. LA RIBERA ALTA_

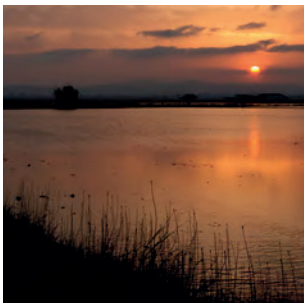
Its capital, Alzira, still boasts a large section of the medieval walls that encircled the city. It is the most outstanding local monument, together with the Monastery of La Murta, the Municipal Museum and the Town Council building. The town is the starting point for the "Pas del Pobre" route, an itinerary which takes in various monasteries in the province of Valencia (Sant Jeroni de Cotalba, Llutxent, La Murta, Santa María de la Valldigna and Aigües Vives). Other important towns in the region are Car-



caixent, the cradle of orange-growing, with monuments such as the shrine of Sant Roc de Ternils (13th century) and some of the old citrus fruit storehouses, and Algemesí, with its wealth of culture and folklore, including the notable Festa a la Mare de Déu de la Salut, with its traditional dances and the popular Muixeranga, a collection of dances and human pyramids declared a World Heritage event. It also has the Basilica of Sant Jaume (16th century) and the Museu Valencià de la Festa (Valencia Festival Museum).

11. LA RIBERA BAIXA_

This region includes part of the Albufera Nature Park. Two towns are of particular interest to visitors: Cullera and Sueca. Close to the mouth of the River Júcar, Cullera switches from sandy beaches to mountains in the same natural environment. The old town hugs the Muntanyeta de les

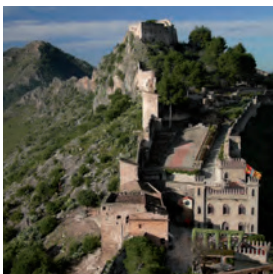


Rabosses mountain and is surrounded by more than thirteen kilometres of sandy and rocky beaches. L'Estany, a small freshwater lake, the Castle and the Shrine of the Virgen del Castillo, at the top of the mountain, offer a privileged and unbeatable panoramic view of the coast. Sueca is the cradle of rice-growing and its monuments include the Royal Church of Our Lady of Sales (Ntra. Sra. de Sales), the Church of San Pedro and the Town Hall, as well as the Shrine of the "Muntanyeta dels Sants", an excellent viewpoint overlooking the landscape of rice

fields around the Albufera. Near this town there are some excellent fine sandy beaches, including Mareny de Vilches and El Perelló. Other towns in the region worthy of mention are Almussafes, with its car industry and its Arab Tower, Corbera and its castle, and Albalat de la Ribera.

12. LA COSTERA_

Its capital, the town of Xativa, is the birthplace of illustrious figures such as the painter José Ribera, known as "El Españoleto", and Pope Alexander VI. The legacy of the Borgia family can be felt throughout the city. The old town's notable features include the 15th-century Old Hospital, the Collegiate Basilica of Santa María "La Seu", from the 16th century, the Royal Monastery of Santa Clara, stately palaces such as that of Alarcón, the museum of l'Almodí and the parish museum of La Seu, numerous fountains such as the fountain of the 25 water spouts, as well as its impressive castle, which



combines elements of Iberian, Roman, Islamic and Gothic architecture. A few kilometres away, in Genovés, you can visit the "Museo de la Pilota", a museum devoted to the game of "pelota". As you go deeper into the River Cányoles valley you reach Canals, the birthplace of Pope Calixtus III, with its impressive tower. Montesa has a Templar castle and a large Parish Museum, while Vallada offers an enviable natural environment, with the Penyó, the Salaella and the Sumidors Tunnel. A little further on is Moixent, with impressive beauty spots such as the Bosquet, and the largest Iberian settlement in the province: the Bastida de les Alcusses. This is where the famous bronze figure of the "Guerrer de Moixent" was found.

13. LA VALL D'ALBAIDA_

The Arabs called it the "Vall Blanca" (White Valley) because of the colour of the land. The town of Bocairent is noteworthy, with its Medieval Quarter, declared a Historic-Artistic Site, which is one of the architectural jewels of the province, as well as its enigmatic caves known as "Covetes dels Moros" (a National Historic-Artistic Monument) and the Serra Mariola Nature Reserve. The town of Albaida is notable for its historical complex formed by the Church of the Assumption and the Palau del Marquesat d'Albaida and its International Museum of Marionettes. The regional capital is Ontinyent, whose highlights are the district of La Vila and the Church of Santa María (with its impressive bell tower) and the natural beauty spot of Pou Clar.



14. LA SAFOR_

A succession of white sandy beaches stretch for kilometres through major tourist centres such as Gandia, Oliva, Tavernes de la Valldigna, Xeraco, Piles, Guardamar de la Safor, Miramar, Daimús and Bellreguard. Gandia, ducal city and capital of the region, preserves the heritage of those golden centuries: the castle of Bairén, the Collegiate Church, the Hospital of Sant Marc, the Convent of Santa Clara, the Old University, and above all, the Ducal Palace, commissioned by the Dukes of Gandia and inhabited since the 14th century. Oliva has a significant historic centre, with standout features such as the house of the Mayans, the Tower-Museum, the Church of Santa María, the archaeological museum and the castle of Santa Ana. A few kilometres from Tavernes de la Valldigna is the Monastery of Santa María de la Valldigna, which is more than 700 years old and is an emblematic location in the history of the Valencian people. The inland area of the region offers visitors interesting villages such as Villalonga, with beauty spots like the ravine of l'Infern, the Racó del Duc, or the Circ de la Safor, and Ador, a "balcony" with impressive views of La Safor, Alfahuir, home to the 14th-century Convent of Sant Jeroni de Cotalba, Barx, with beauty spots such as les Foietes i la Drova and the peak of the Mondúver massif.



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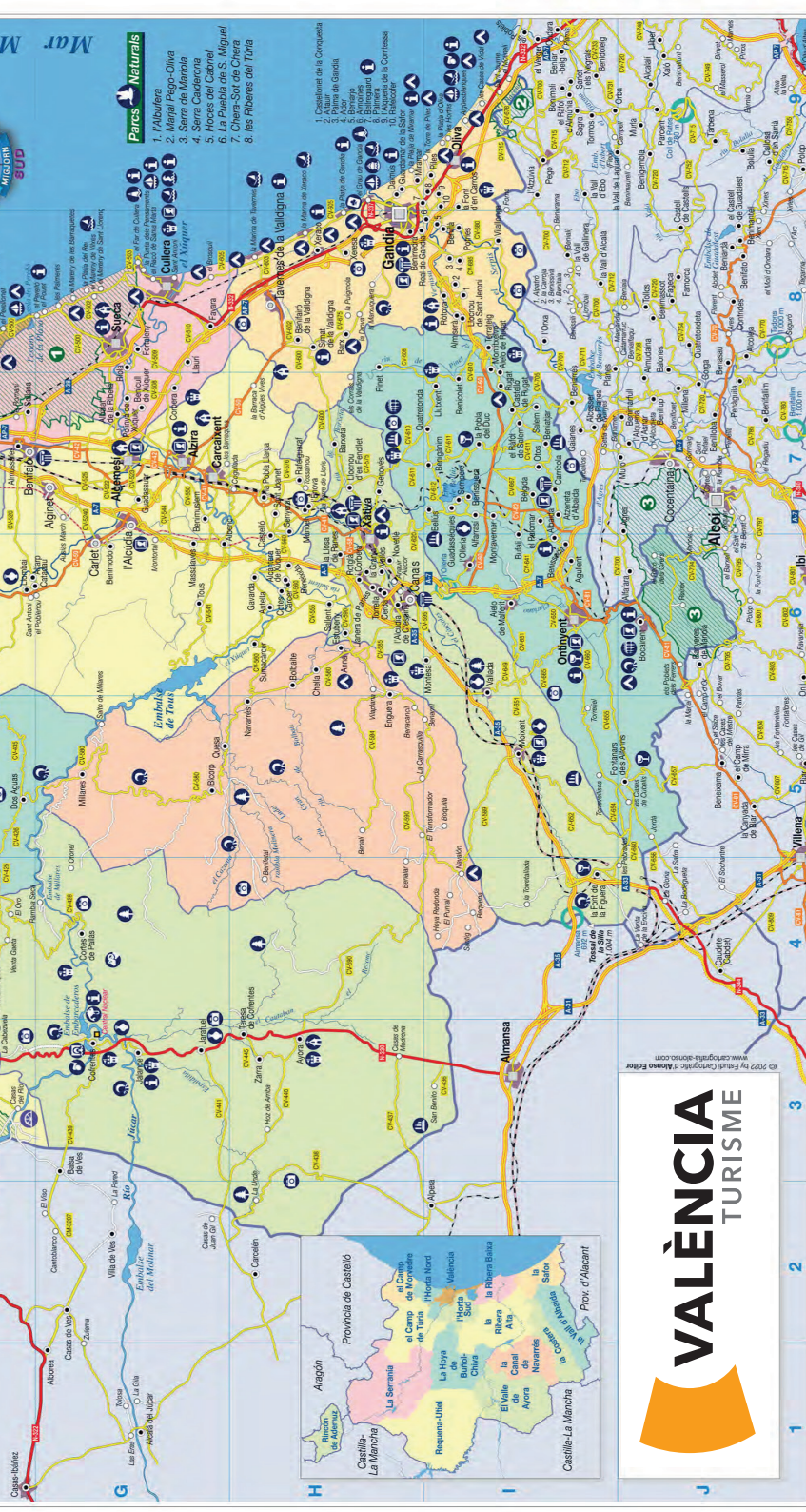
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- Requena-IrIEL**
Tourist Info Requena - 96 230 39 51
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Tourist Info Ayora - 96 189 71 71
Tourist Office Cofrentes - 96 184 43 16

- La Canal de Navarrés**
Tourist Info Anna - 96 221 10 43
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Tourist Info Alfoix de Morir - 96 236 07 20
Tourist Information Office Agullent - 96 230 74 72

- La Safor**
Tourist Info Gandia - 96 287 77 88
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Tourist Info Sagunt - 96 265 58 59
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- L'Horta**
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Tourist Info Puzol - 669 740 119
Tourist Info El Puig de Santa Maria - 96 195 90 29
Tourist Info Almássera - 96 186 25 92

- Parcs Naturals**
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- 2. Marjal Pego-Oliva
- 3. Serra de Mariola
- 4. Hoces del Cabriel
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- 6. La Puñal de S. Chera
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