



What to do in Alicante

Introduction

Alicante, on the Costa Blanca, is a city with more than 2,000 years of history and almost 350,000 inhabitants. Its warm climate, beaches, historical heritage and gastronomy make it a popular tourist destination. In one day you can explore its main points of interest, but a week allows you to enjoy its nature, hiking and exploring nearby villages.

Alicante's gastronomy is characterised by being a fusion of cultures, with **rice being the undisputed protagonist**. Fish and seafood are fundamental, with dishes such as caldero, a fish stew typical of the area, and Dénia red prawns, renowned for their intense flavour. The star of Alicante confectionery is **turrón** (especially good is the turrón from Jijona), made with almonds and honey, and it is a typical Christmas sweet.

Below, we leave you a reference map of where to stay in the city of Alicante (see the zone within the red dashed line). The shuttle buses will depart near this area (we will send you the information about the buses before the wedding). Alicante is a small city and you can easily visit it by foot.



Map of the city of Alicante

In this guide "*What to do in Alicante*" we will try to guide you on what are the best plans and places you can't miss when visiting "*la millor terreta del món*". Let's start!!!



Places of interest in the city of Alicante

Luceros Square

You can start your tour of Alicante in the Plaza de Luceros, the most emblematic square in the city.

This open space, with an impressive monumental fountain in the centre, is the starting point for the popular fiestas of the *Hogueras de San Juan*, which take place between 20 and 24 June and begin with noisy *mascletàs* in this square and end with the *nit de la cremà*, in which the *ninots* are burnt.

From this square you can take a walk along Avenida Doctor Gadea, passing in front of the palace of the *Casa de las Brujas*, a building that stands out for its modernist façade, until you reach the *Parque de Canalejas* and the Explanada de España.

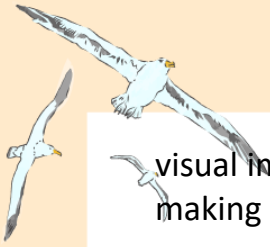


Luceros Square

The Explanada and the port

The *Explanada* de España and the Port of Alicante are two of the most emblematic places in the city, as they capture the essence of what makes Alicante such a special destination.

The promenade that presents the *Explanada* is a symbol of the city and its location. Running parallel to the port, the *Explanada* is famous for its undulating mosaic, made up of more than six million tesserae that create a



visual image of the waves of the sea. It is also flanked by majestic palm trees, making it an ideal place for a stroll.

As you stroll along the esplanade you will enjoy street performers, craft stalls and historic buildings such as the beautiful white-fronted *Casa Carbonell*, until you reach the most popular area of the port.



Explanada of Spain

It is worth taking a stroll along the pleasant promenade in the morning and at sunset, and then having a drink in one of the bars, such as the “Noray Café Bar”.



Port of Alicante



Alicante City Council

A route through the old town (Barrio de Santa Cruz) usually starts in the *Plaza del Ayuntamiento*, dominated by the imposing **baroque building of the Town Hall**, considered one of the most beautiful buildings to see in Alicante.

The Town Hall, also known as the Municipal Palace of Alicante and built in the 18th century, stands out for its monumental façade flanked by two towers and an interior with beautiful rooms such as the Hall of Mayors, the Plenary Hall, the Chapel of the Oratory and above all, the Blue Room, a room decorated to welcome Queen Isabel.

At the foot of the main staircase of the building is the "**Cota Cero**", which is used to measure the altitude above sea level anywhere in Spain.

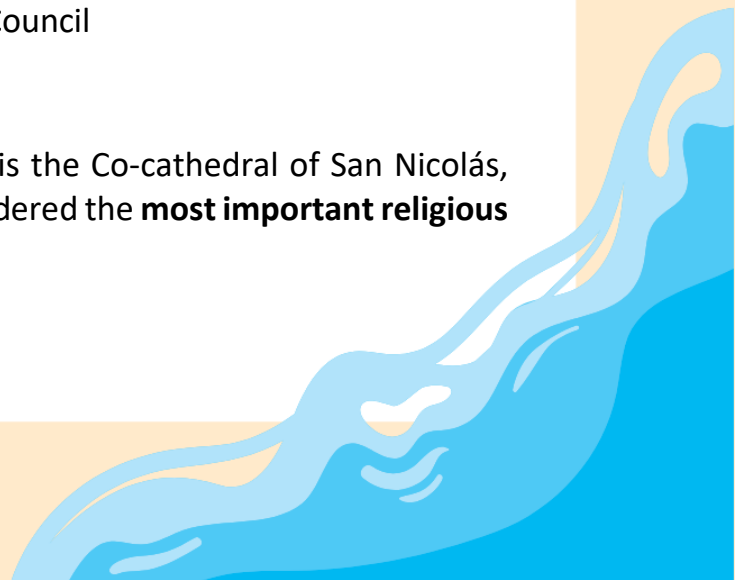
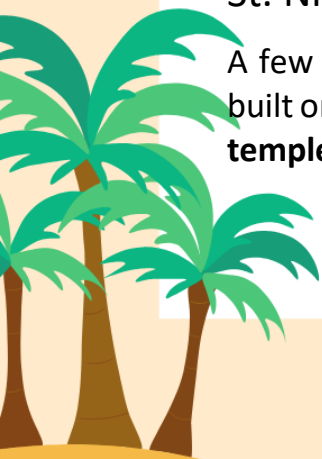
When you stop for a bite to eat in the area, head to "*Probar el Buen Bar*", a great restaurant in the centre of Alicante to enjoy the local gastronomy.

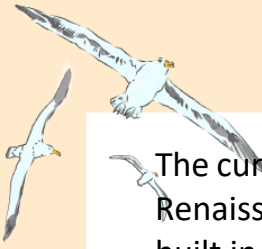


Alicante City Council

St. Nicholas Co-cathedral

A few metres from the Town Hall square is the Co-cathedral of San Nicolás, built on the remains of a mosque and considered the **most important religious temple in Alicante**.





The current building was constructed between 1616 and 1662 in the Herrerian Renaissance style, although its cloister dates from the 15th century and was built in the Valencian Gothic style.

After observing its exterior, you can visit the interior, which has a slender dome, the Baroque chapel of the Communion, the cloister doorways and the chapel of San Nicolás, patron saint of the city.



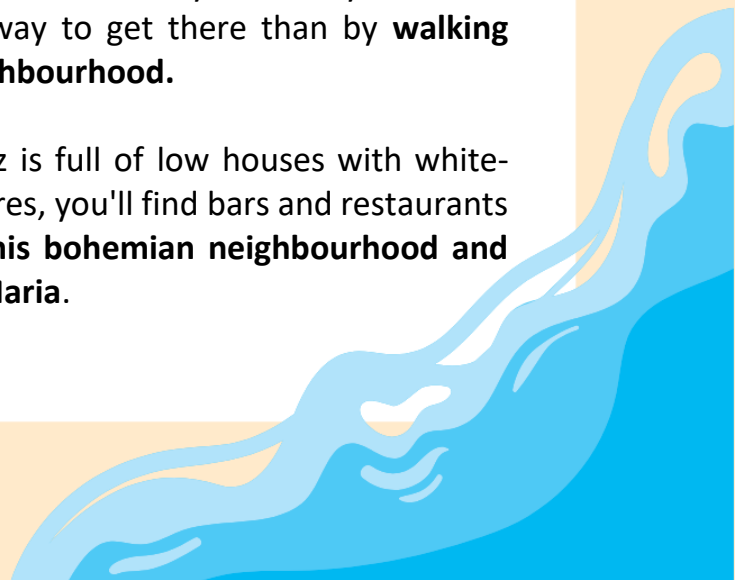
St. Nicholas Co-cathedral

Santa Cruz neighbourhood

The Santa Cruz quarter was founded after the Muslim occupation of the Iberian Peninsula **in the 8th century**. **The Arabs built a citadel** on the top of Mount Benacantil and the settlement began to develop from there.

Today, the old citadel has been replaced by an ancient fortification: the castle of Santa Bárbara. Although the fortress can be reached by road or by a lift from the Postiguets beach, there is no better way to get there than by **walking through the streets of the Santa Cruz neighbourhood**.

The popular neighbourhood of Santa Cruz is full of low houses with white-painted facades. Walking up Calle Labradores, you'll find bars and restaurants for tapas and drinks. **You can discover this bohemian neighbourhood and then walk down to the Basilica of Santa Maria.**





This area also concentrates some of the most recommended restaurants where to eat in Alicante such as “*La Tasca del Barrio*”, “*Las Brasas de San Miguel*”, “*La Crispeta*”, “*El Gosto del Gourmet*”, “*Cervecería Sento Rambla*” perfect to stop for lunch or dinner and try some of its typical dishes such as rice dishes.



Santa Cruz neighbourhood

Alicante Central Market

The Central Market, located in a two-storey building with modernist elements and built in 1911, is another of the most popular places to visit in Alicante.

The interior is full of stalls selling fresh, good quality products such as fish, seafood, salted fish, meat, fruit and vegetables from the Mediterranean and nearby market gardens. The area of the *Plaza del Mercado*, next to *Calle Castaños*, is popular for the so-called “*tardeo*”, which consists of having a beer in one of its terraces and then having dinner and finishing the party in nearby bars and pubs.



Alicante Central Market



Santa Barbara Castle

Watching the **sunset from the Castle of Santa Barbara**, located at the top of Mount Benacantil, 167 metres above sea level, is another of the best things to do in Alicante.

This medieval fortress dates back to the end of the 9th century, during the Muslim occupation, although it was reconquered by Alfonso of Castile on the feast day of Santa Bárbara, hence its name.

Once inside the castle you will see three areas from different periods in which you can see from Arab remains, through the constructions ordered to be reformed in 1580 by King Felipe II to the 18th century part, as well as enjoying incredible views of the city and the bay of Alicante.

As a curiosity, this castle next to the hill is nicknamed "*the Moor's face*", because if you look at it from the Postiguet Beach, its profile is shaped like a face.



The face of the Moor

To go up to the castle you can use a lift carved into the rock in front of the Postiguet beach or you can walk or take a bus. However, the best option to go up to the castle is through the Santa Cruz neighbourhood as I mentioned before. And best of all, the entrance is free.



Views from Santa Barbara Castle

Postiguet Beach

One of the advantages of the city of Alicante is its proximity to the beach. You will have the opportunity to stroll along the promenade and take a refreshing dip in the Postiguet beach, located at the foot of the Santa Barbara Castle and next to the Port. This **600-metre** beach of **fine sand and calm waters** is full of people every summer as it has all the services such as kiosks and beach bars.

Other quieter **beaches to visit in Alicante**, although they are a little further away from the centre, are **Playa de San Juan** or the coves of Cabo de las Huertas such as **Cala Cantalar** (perfect for diving).



Postiguet Beach





Museums to visit in Alicante

Among the **best museums to visit in Alicante** are these three:

- **Provincial Archaeological Museum (MARQ):** one of the best museums in Spain where you can take a walk through the history of the city from the Palaeolithic to the Modern Contemporary Culture.
- **Fogueres Museum:** Exhibition on the history of Alicante's most popular festival and several pardoned ninots, cardboard figures that are saved from the fire.
- **Gravina Fine Arts Museum (MUBAG):** located inside the palace of the Count of Lumiares, it is dedicated to Alicante painting and sculpture.

Tabarca Island

To finish this list of places to see in Alicante city, there is nothing better than taking a boat to Tabarca Island, the **only inhabited island in the Valencian Region**.

This small island grows from 55 inhabitants in winter to more than 4,000 tourists a day in summer who enjoy relaxing baths and diving in its crystal clear waters as well as its famous rice stew in one of its recommended restaurants such as "El Gloria" or "La Muralla".

Before bathing, we recommend that you walk around the island, passing through the fortified village, the Tower of San José and the lighthouse, which are some of the island's must-sees.

To get to the island you can take one of the boats that leave daily from the Port of Alicante and take less than an hour to get there. You can book your tickets online [here](#).



Tabarca Island



Places of interest in the province of Alicante

These are just some of our recommendations of places to visit in Alicante. If you don't have much time, we recommend you to focus on the most beautiful ones. In our opinion they are Altea, Guadalest and the island of Tabarca.

Guadalest

Without any doubt, **Guadalest** is one of the most charming villages in the province of Alicante. Located in the Marina Baja region, in the heart of the Guadalest Valley, this beautiful town is situated at the top of the reservoir, offering extraordinary views of the whole area.

Castell de Guadalest will amaze you with its many other attractions, starting with its Moorish architecture and its marvellous constructions that emanate from the rock itself.

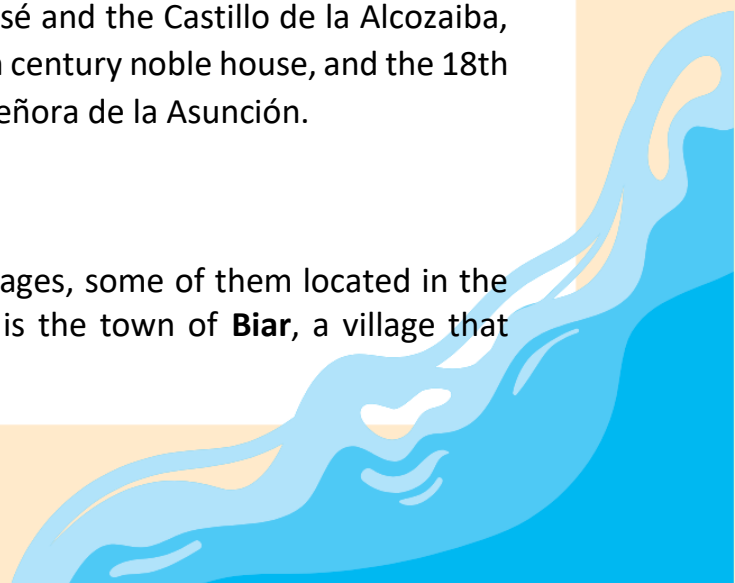


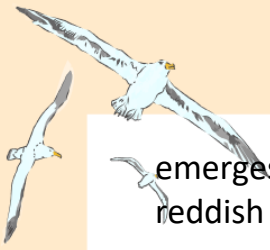
Guadalest

Castell de Guadalest is divided into two neighbourhoods, apparently without any connection between them, but there's a trick to it! It is through a tunnel that we can access one of them. Specifically, the Arrabal neighbourhood. Among the monuments of interest in El Castell de Guadalest, two 11th century fortresses stand out: the Castillo de San José and the Castillo de la Alcozaiba, as well as the Casa Orduña, a beautiful 17th century noble house, and the 18th century Baroque style Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.

Biar

The interior of Alicante hides beautiful villages, some of them located in the Alto Vinalopó region. An example of this is the town of **Biar**, a village that





emerges from a green forest mass and dazzles with its houses of yellow and reddish colour, ending in its majestic castle that stands on the top of a hill.

Biar's main tourist attraction is its castle. Built in the 13th century, it still conserves an ancient Almohad-style vault. We also recommend you to see some remains of the old fortified complex, such as the Puerta de Játiva or the Puerta de Castilla, the Church of La Asunción, in late 15th-century Gothic style, the Convent of the Capuchins or the Town Hall, in neoclassical style.



Biar Castle

Teulada-Moraira

Teulada-Moraira, made up of two towns, is an idyllic place if you are looking to enjoy some of the best beaches in Alicante. You will for sure love it not only for its clear waters, but also for the pretty white houses along the coast and the old town of Teulada, with its beautiful monumental heritage that you can discover.



Moraira



Among the various monuments that can be found in this beautiful Alicante municipality, we can find the Church of Santa Caterina, from the 16th century, as well as the Castle of Moraira, the Tower of Capd'Or, the old fortified church of Santa Caterina or the Chapel of Sant Vicent Ferrer.

Altea

Altea is considered to be the most beautiful and picturesque coastal town on the Costa Blanca, thanks to its cobbled streets and its large church with its characteristic blue and white dome which is the symbol of the town. From where you can enjoy a magnificent view of the sea and the bay

We recommend that you go for a stroll at sunset to enjoy its streets (there are many shops selling dresses, local jewellery, ceramics, etc.) and its magnificent views from its different terraces facing the sea. We would also recommend you to book a place for dinner such as *"Xef Pirata"* or *"Asambra. Bar de Tapas"* (a little further from the centre but ideal for delicious tapas).



Altea

Walk to the Albir lighthouse (near Altea)

A highly recommended walk to do early in the morning or at sunset is the Albir lighthouse walk. It is a route suitable for children and/or bicycles: **2.5 Kms. of old asphalted road** that leads us to the northernmost point of the **Sierra Helada**, where the **Albir lighthouse** is located .



All along the route you can enjoy excellent views of the **Bay of Altea**, with the **Sierra de Bernia** in the background.

A perfect activity to open your appetite for the next rice. You can park your car [here](#).



Albir Lighthouse

Villajoyosa

Continuing with the fishing villages, Villajoyosa stands out for its different coloured houses, located metres from the sea. This town is known for its Valor chocolates, but, even more, for its 15 kilometres of pure coastline with more than 3 centuries of history, which can be seen in the renowned and award-winning museum, which has the best preserved Roman remains in Spain.



Villajoyosa



On its beaches you can find coves, fine sand, ideal to go with the family and eat something in the typical local beach bars, where you can taste the fresh fish that comes straight from the port.

Some of its most famous beaches are: *Playa Bol Nou*, *La Caleta - Cala Higuera*, *Racó del Conill*, *Playa de Villajoyosa* or *Playa El Torres*

If you would like to eat a good rice dish, here are some recommendations: “*Taberna Tres14*”, “*Taberna el posit*” or “*Restaurante Club náutico*”.

Calpe

Calpe is a municipality located on the north coast of the province of Alicante, in the Marina Alta region. It is famous for its **Ifach Rock**, an impressive rock 332 metres high that rises above the sea and is one of the symbols of the Costa Blanca. We recommend you to go up to the top, the views are... spectacular!

It also has beautiful beaches and coves with fine sand and crystal clear waters, such as **Levante beach**, **Arenal-Bol beach** and **Racó cove**. Here you can enjoy sunbathing, swimming and water sports, as well as the local gastronomy.

Another attraction of Calpe is its **salt flats**, ancient salt mines dating back to Roman times, which today are a protected wetland where you can observe birds such as flamingos, herons and storks.



Peñon de Ifach



Jávea

Another of the tourist towns of Alicante, and of the Costa Blanca, is Jávea, a town which, apart from its impeccable beaches, has a historic centre with buildings dating back centuries, with cobbled streets and old buildings, which were built with rocks from the *Cova Tallada*, where you will find a cave in the sea and where you can bathe.



Jávea

Benissa

Although this town is not so well known to tourists, its coastal area has many coves and beaches that are worth visiting. So, if you visit Benissa, we assure you that you will not regret it.



Benissa



Dénia

Dénia is considered by UNESCO as the Creative City of Gastronomy, and the capital of the Marina Alta region. This port city is of Iberian origin, and, in Roman times, it was of great importance.

If we talk about gastronomy, you can't miss the characteristic red prawn (***gamba roja***) of Dénia, a typical dish, ideal to try if you visit this town of the Valencian Community. Other tourist attractions in Dénia are its archaeological museum and the toy museum, but nothing like its beaches.



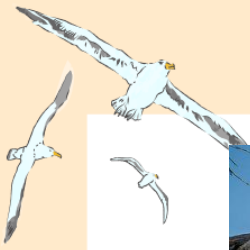
Dénia

Things to do near Alcoy

Alcoy, surrounded by two impressive natural parks, is a true paradise for nature lovers.

Font Roja Natural Park

The Font Roja Natural Park is famous for its well-preserved **Mediterranean forest landscapes**, dominated by holm oak and yew forests. With its biological diversity, forest landscapes and well-kept paths, it is an ideal destination for those seeking peace and connection with nature. The hermitage of the Virgen de los Lirios, located within the park, adds a spiritual touch to the natural beauty of the place.



Font Roja Natural Park

Serra Mariola Natural Park

Surrounding Alcoy is the Sierra de Mariola Natural Park, a paradise for hikers and nature lovers. **With an extensive network of trails, this park offers stunning mountain views, natural springs and a rich variety of flora and fauna.** La Cava Gran, a former snow deposit, is one of its many hidden treasures. This natural space is ideal for day trips, picnics and bird watching.



Serra Mariola Natural Park





Green hiking routes of Alcoy

Alcoy's green hiking routes offer visitors a wide variety of trails and paths to enjoy nature.

Alcoy Greenway

This trail follows the **old Alcoy-Alicante railway line** and passes through spectacular natural landscapes. With its smooth pavement and gentle slope, it is ideal for walking, jogging or cycling, and is fully adapted for people with reduced mobility. Along the route, you will find rest areas, viewpoints and information panels about the industrial heritage of the area.

Racó de Sant Bonaventura and Els Canalons

This is **one of the most popular routes in Alcoy**, which takes you through a beautiful pine forest to a series of impressive waterfalls and natural pools. It's a perfect place to relax, enjoy a picnic and, in summer, take a refreshing dip.

El Salt

This route takes visitors to the **spectacular El Salt waterfall**, a **30-metre waterfall** located in a natural setting of great beauty. You can also visit the old water mill and learn about the history of the paper industry in Alcoy.

El Puig

This trail takes you to the top of El Puig, the most emblematic mountain in Alcoy. From the top, you can enjoy panoramic views of the city and its surroundings. The route is a little demanding, but the reward is well worth it.

La Sarga

This route takes you to the **archaeological site of La Sarga, an essential place to visit in Alcoy**, where you can see cave paintings declared a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**. It is a unique opportunity to learn more about the history and culture of the first inhabitants of the region.

