

Elche

Valencian Community · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Elche is a city in the province of Alicante, in the southeast of Spain. It is known for its palm grove, one of the largest in Europe, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Elche is also a major center of Spanish shoe making.

The city has a compact old center, a Baroque basilica and beaches about 12 km to the south. It suits a half day or one day of sights, and it is an easy trip from Alicante.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the best seasons, with warm, sunny days. Summer is very hot, and winter is mild and mostly dry.

The Mystery Play of Elche (*Misteri d'Elx*), a medieval religious drama sung in Valencian, is performed on 14 and 15 August. It is a UNESCO listed tradition.

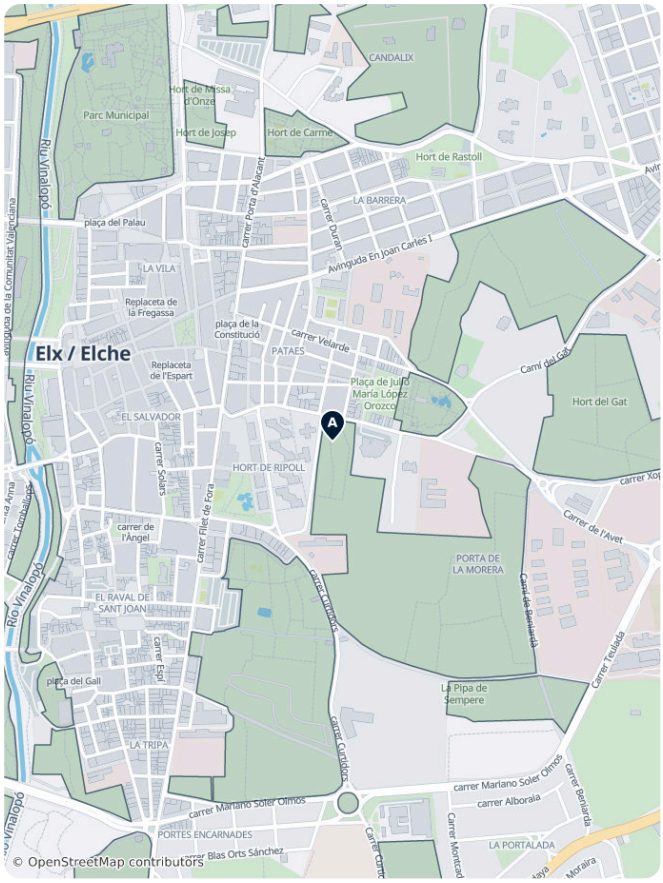
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 21° Feels like 12°	7° / 3°	Dry air
February	Great Great for sightseeing	17° / 23° Feels like 13°	7° / 2°	Dry air
March	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 26° Feels like 16°	9° / 5°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 28° Feels like 19°	12° / 8°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 32°	15° / 11°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	31° / 36°	19° / 16°	22 sunny days · UV 8 (Very high)
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	34° / 38°	22° / 19°	26 sunny days · Humid air · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 11 days above 35°
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	34° / 38°	23° / 20°	22 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · Up to 11 days above 35°
September	Good Good for sightseeing	30° / 35°	20° / 16°	Humid air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 30°	16° / 12°	
November	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 25° Feels like 17°	11° / 6°	Dry air
December	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 22° Feels like 13°	8° / 4°	Dry air

Best months: February, March, April, May, June, October, November

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Palmerar d'Elx is a large grove of date palms with irrigation channels. Parts of it are open as gardens, and the palms shade many streets in the center.
- The Hort del Cura is a garden in the palm grove, known for a very old palm with many branches.
- The Basílica de Santa María is the main church, with a Baroque façade and a large blue dome.
- La Calahorra is a medieval fortified tower beside the river.
- The Palau d'Altamira is a medieval palace with Moorish features in the old center.
- La Alcudia is an archaeological site on the edge of the city, where the famous Lady of Elche sculpture was found in 1897. The original is now in a museum in Madrid.



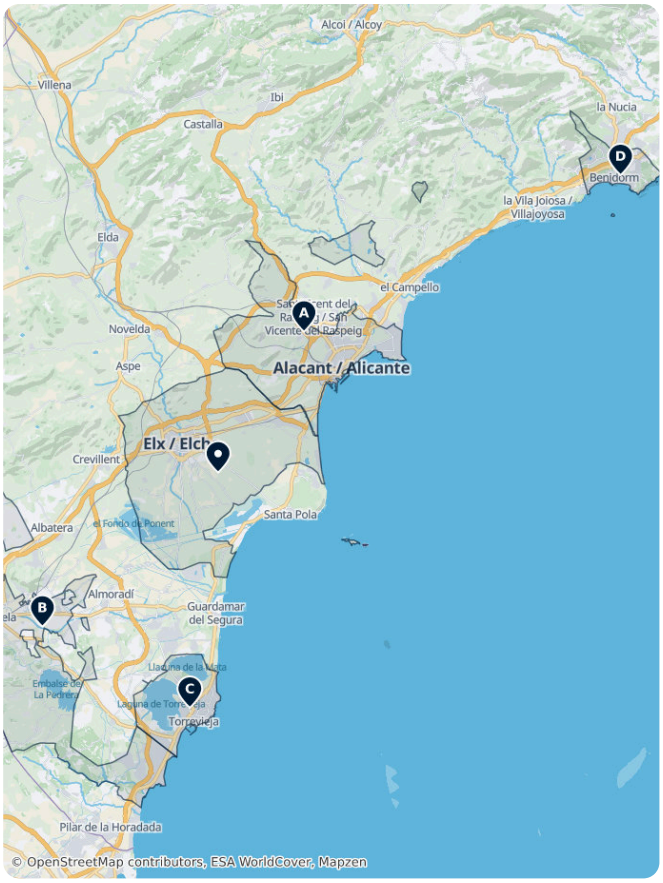
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What to experience

- Walk through the palm grove in the morning, before the heat builds.
- Visit in August for the Mystery Play, which takes place in the Basílica de Santa María.

Day trips

- A Alicante (about 25 km, 20 minutes by train or car): the provincial capital, with a castle and a long beach.
- B Orihuela (about 25 km, 30 minutes by car): a historic town with churches and a university.
- C Torrevieja (about 40 km, 40 minutes by car): a seaside resort with salt lakes.
- D Benidorm (about 60 km, 1 hour by car): a large beach resort.



Where to explore

Other places nearby:

- **Provincial capital**: Alicante.
- **Coast**: Torrevieja and Benidorm.
- **Big city**: Valencia.

Getting there

- **By air**: Alicante-Elche airport (ALC) is about 10 km from the center and is the main airport for the area. Buses and taxis link it with Elche.
- **By train**: Trains stop at Elche-Parque and Elche-Carrús stations. Book on Renfe.
- **By bus**: Buses link Elche with Alicante, Murcia and the coast.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old center and the palm grove are compact and flat.
- **Cycling**: The city is flat, and cycling is easy.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old center and the palm grove are compact and flat.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The city is flat, and cycling is easy.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the center. A car helps for the beaches and nearby towns.
- **Parking**: Use a car park near the center.
- **Restrictions**: The old center has limited access for cars.

Food & drink

Elche is known for *arroz con costra* (rice baked in a pan with a crust of egg on top) and for its dates. Fresh vegetables, rice dishes and seafood from the nearby coast are common.

Most restaurants and tapas bars are in the center and around the palm grove.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

Elche is a safe city. Summer heat is strong, so avoid the middle of the day, carry water and wear sun protection.

History

Elche has been settled since ancient times. The Iberians lived at La Alcudia, and the Romans later built a colony there. The Moors planted the palm groves and built the irrigation channels.

The city grew in the Middle Ages, and the shoe industry became its main business in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

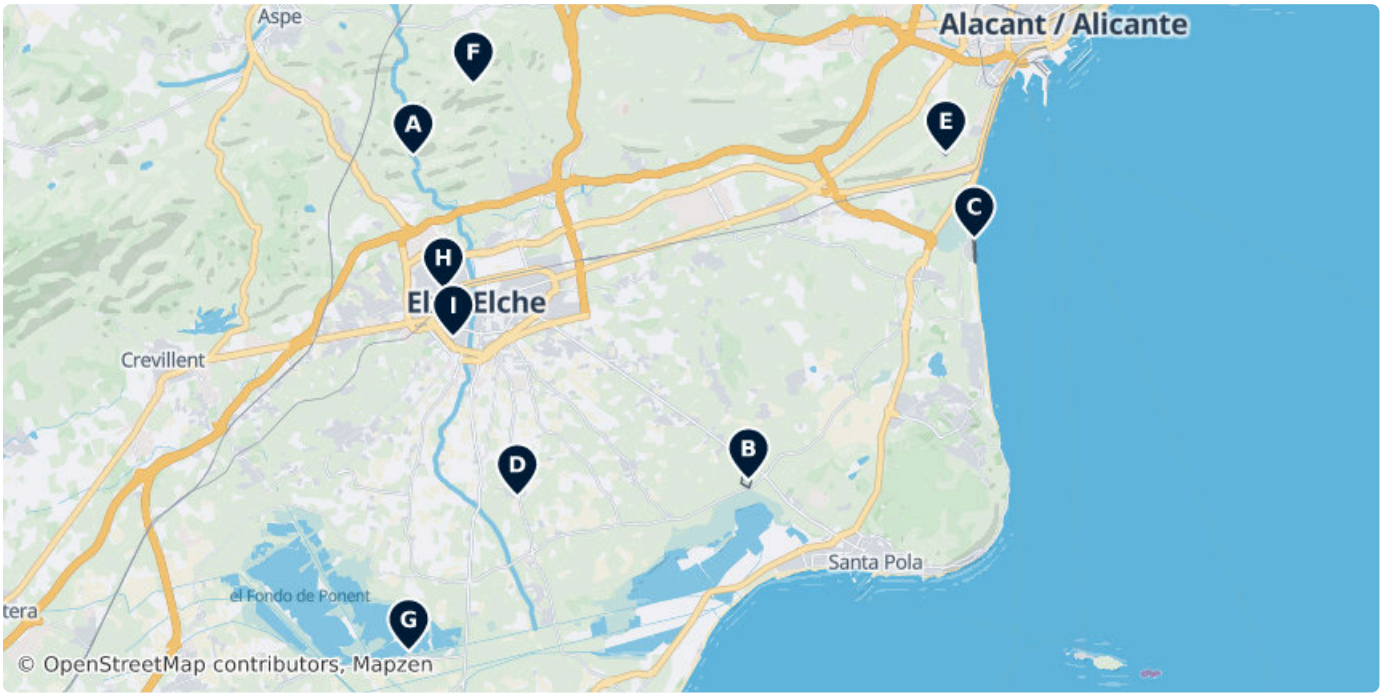
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Elche Essentials

Explore Elche's diverse landscape, ranging from the 17th-century masonry dam of the Pantano de Elche to the sandy shores of Playa del Saladar. This selection highlights the city's architectural heritage, such as the modernist Torre del Gall, and its natural spaces, including the Tabayá viewpoint and birdwatching sites. Local commerce is represented through the traditional markets of Plaza de Madrid and San José, while the Río Safari provides wildlife encounters within the region's characteristic palm groves.





A Presa del Pantano de Elche

Completed in 1632, this arch-gravity dam is one of the oldest in Europe. It features a historic masonry wall and forms a wetland area popular for hiking.

03206, Spain (38.30705, -0.72136)

B Río Safari Elche

A zoological park situated within a palm grove. It features animal habitats, a splash park, and conservation programs for species like the orangutan and Bengal tiger.

03203, Spain (38.21563, -0.60113)

riosafari.com

C Platja del Saladar

A wide, sandy beach located in the Urbanova area. It features a promenade, dunes, and views of the Alicante coastline.

Paseo de Tomás Durá, Urbanova 03008, Spain
(38.28368, -0.52014)

D La_Torre_del_Gall

A 19th-century modernist country house located in the La Foia district. It is characterized by its distinctive architecture and historical significance to the local rural landscape.

25 Avenida de Sant Andreu, La Foia 03294, Spain
(38.21115, -0.68404)

E Anfiteatro

Outdoor theater venue used for cultural performances and community events.

(38.30778, -0.53033)

F Tabayá

A mountain peak and viewpoint in the Sierra de Elche, offering panoramic views of the city, the palm groves, and the Mediterranean Sea.

(38.32719, -0.69976)

G Observatorio de aves La Reserva

A birdwatching station located within a protected wetland area, providing sightings of local and migratory water birds.

(38.16751, -0.72296)

H Mercado Plaza de Madrid

A bustling municipal market in the Carrús district, offering fresh local produce, meats, and organic goods from the surrounding agricultural region.

plaça de Madrid 14, Elche/Elx (38.26934, -0.71057)

Mo–Th	07:00–14:30
Fr	17:00–20:30
Sa	07:00–15:00

I Mercado de San José

A traditional indoor market serving the San José neighborhood with stalls for fresh fish, vegetables, and local delicacies.

(38.25593, -0.70697)

DATA SOURCES

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