

Valencia

Valencian Community · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Valencia is Spain's third-largest city, where a compact medieval old town sits beside striking modern architecture. A 1957 flood pushed the city to reroute its river outside the center. The dry riverbed became a nine-kilometer park that now threads the old town together with a futuristic arts-and-science complex. A Mediterranean beach is a short tram ride from the cathedral. Valencia suits travelers who want history, architecture, and coastline without long transfers between them.

Valencia is smaller and easier to navigate than Madrid or Barcelona, so a few days here reach the highlights without long journeys. It is the hometown of the painter *Joaquín Sorolla*. Each March its Las Fallas festival turns the streets into one of Europe's largest fireworks and bonfire celebrations.

When to visit

Spring (March–May) and autumn (October–November) are the most pleasant times to visit, with warm days and little rain. Summer is hot, and winter stays mild but sees more rain than the shoulder seasons.

Time a trip around **Las Fallas**, Valencia's biggest festival, held every March. Neighborhoods build giant satirical sculptures that burn in citywide bonfires, and daily fireworks displays fill Plaza del Ayuntamiento with noise and smoke. Book accommodation well ahead if visiting during the festival.

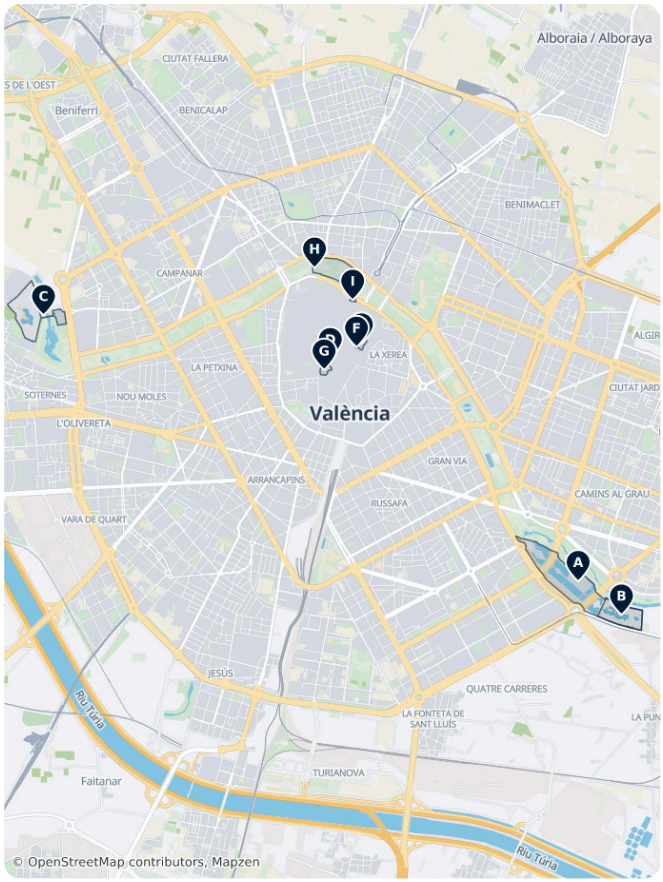
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	● Great Great for cycling	15° / 21° Feels like 12°	7° / 3°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	● Great Great for cycling	16° / 22° Feels like 13°	7° / 3°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	● Great Great for cycling	19° / 25°	9° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	● Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 8°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	● Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 11°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	● Great Great for the beach	29° / 34°	19° / 16°	☀ 21 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
July	● Great Great for the beach	31° / 35°	22° / 19°	☀ 25 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	● Great Great for the beach	31° / 36°	22° / 19°	☀ 21 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
September	● Great Great for the beach	27° / 32°	19° / 16°	Humid air · Calm winds
October	● Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 29°	16° / 12°	Calm winds
November	● Great Great for cycling	19° / 24°	11° / 6°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	● Great Great for cycling	16° / 20°	8° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds

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

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

July and August are the hottest, most humid stretch of the year; the shoulder seasons stay comfortably mild.

Top sights



A City of Arts and Sciences is Valencia's signature sight, a futuristic complex of museums, an opera house, and an aquarium built along the old riverbed. Budget at least half a day to see more than one building.

Inside the same complex, B Oceanogràfic is Europe's largest aquarium, with belugas, sharks, and a walk-through underwater tunnel.

For a different kind of wildlife encounter, C Bioparc València recreates African savanna and jungle habitats with no visible bars or fences between visitors and the animals.

In the old town, D Silk Exchange is a UNESCO-listed Gothic hall built for the silk trade in the 15th century, when Valencia was one of the wealthiest cities in the Mediterranean.

E Valencia Cathedral mixes Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque styles from centuries of rebuilding, and its chapel displays a chalice many Catholics believe is the Holy Grail. Climb the attached F Miguelete Tower for a view over the old town's rooftops.

G Central Market is a landmark Art Nouveau iron-and-glass market hall, with stalls selling fresh seafood, produce, and jamón.

H Turia Gardens follows the old Turia riverbed for nine kilometers through the city, with gardens, sports courts, and cycling paths where the river used to flow.

I Serranos Towers is a fortified Gothic gate from 1392, one of the last surviving pieces of the medieval city wall.

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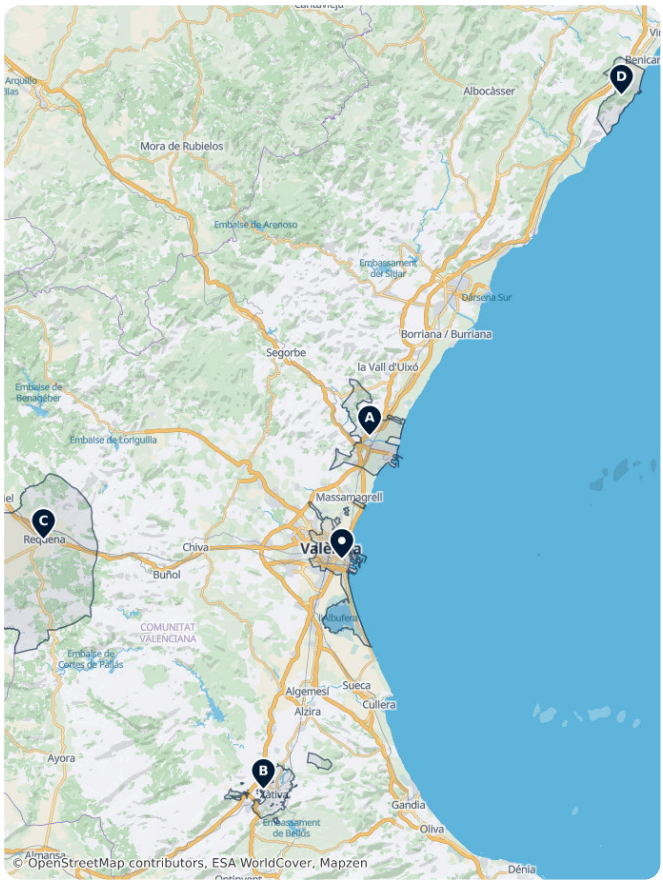
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What to experience

- Watch the **mascletà**, a daytime fireworks show built around rhythm and noise rather than color, set off daily in Plaza del Ayuntamiento during Las Fallas.
- Rent a bike and ride the length of Turia Gardens, the old riverbed park, from the science complex to the beach.
- Cross l'Albufera by traditional wooden boat at sunset, then walk back through the rice paddies to the fishing village of El Palmar.
- Join the evening paseo along the Malvarrosa beach promenade, especially on Sunday evenings when it fills with local families.

Day trips

Valencia sits close to castle towns, wine country, and a dramatic stretch of coastline, so a rental car or the regional train network opens up easy day trips.



- A Sagunto — about 35 minutes by train. A hilltop castle with Roman, Moorish, and medieval layers, plus a restored Roman theater still used for summer performances.
- B Xàtiva — about 1 hour by train. A walled hilltop castle above a handsome old town, with sweeping views over the surrounding orchards.
- C Requena–Utiel wine country — about 1 hour by car (the direct train takes over two hours). Known for bold reds made from the native Bobal grape, with cellar visits and tastings among vineyards on a high plateau.
- D Peñíscola — about 1.5–2 hours by car or bus. A walled old town on a rocky peninsula, crowned by a 13th-century castle with Mediterranean views on three sides.

Where to explore

Just south of the city, l'Albufera is a shallow freshwater lagoon ringed by rice paddies, and the birthplace of paella. Boats leave from the fishing village of El Palmar for short trips across the water, and the surrounding wetlands are one of the best bird-watching sites near the city.

Getting there

- **By air**: Valencia Airport (VLC) is 8 km west of the center. Metro line 3 or 5 reaches the old town in about 25 minutes (around €4.90); a taxi takes about 20 minutes.
- **By train**: High-speed AVE trains connect Madrid (around 1 h 40) and reach Barcelona in around 3 hours; book via Renfe. Regional trains link the wider region, including Alicante and Castellón.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches arrive at the Estación de Autobuses, with routes across Spain and into France.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Metrovalencia runs the metro and tram network; buy single tickets or a rechargeable Mobilis card from station machines. EMT city buses accept contactless bank card or phone payment directly on board. See EMT Valencia or Metrovalencia for routes and maps.
- **Bicycle**: Valencia's flat terrain and protected bike lanes citywide make cycling practical; the Valenbisi bike-share system covers short trips.
- **On foot**: The old town, Ruzafa, and the riverbed park are all walkable; the beach and City of Arts and Sciences are farther out and easier by tram or bike.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town, Ruzafa, and the riverbed park are flat and compact, so most sightseeing is comfortably done on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Protected bike lanes citywide and the flat Turia riverbed park make Valencia one of Spain's most cycling-friendly cities.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Skip it in the city. The old town is compact and largely pedestrianized, and parking is scarce. A car is useful mainly for day trips to Sagunto, Xàtiva, or wine country.
- **Parking**: Use a signposted underground car park near the center rather than the street; much of the old town is a restricted zone for residents only.
- **Restrictions**: Valencia's low-emission zone covers most of the city center. Check your rental's emissions sticker (*distintivo ambiental*) before driving in, since older diesel and petrol cars can be barred on high-pollution days.

Food & drink

Paella originated in the rice paddies around Valencia. The authentic version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans, not the seafood mix served elsewhere. For a classic sit-down paella, look to the restaurants lining La Malvarrosa Beach, many of which have cooked it over wood fires for generations.

For something to drink, try **horchata de chufa**, a cold, sweet tiger-nut milk unique to the region, served with a *fartón* pastry for dipping at horchaterías across the old town. Colon Market is a good spot to combine a meal with modernist architecture, its stalls set inside a 1916 iron-and-glass market hall.

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

Valencia is one of Spain's safer big cities for tourists, but stay alert for pickpocketing on crowded buses, at Central Market, and during Las Fallas, when the streets are packed. Keep bags zipped and in sight at the beach, and do not leave valuables visible in parked cars near tourist sites.

History

The Romans founded the city as *Valentia* in 138 BC. It then passed through Visigothic, Moorish, and Christian hands before King James I of Aragon captured it in 1238. Under Christian rule Valencia became one of the wealthiest trading cities in the Mediterranean; Silk Exchange was built in the 15th century as a monument to that silk-trading wealth, and construction on Valencia Cathedral spans the centuries in between.

Serranos Towers once guarded the city's northern approach and is one of the few gates to survive the demolition of the medieval walls in the 19th century. The most visible turning point in modern Valencia came in 1957, when the Turia river flooded the city center; engineers rerouted it around the city and turned the dry riverbed into the park that now runs through the center as Turia Gardens.

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

Walks

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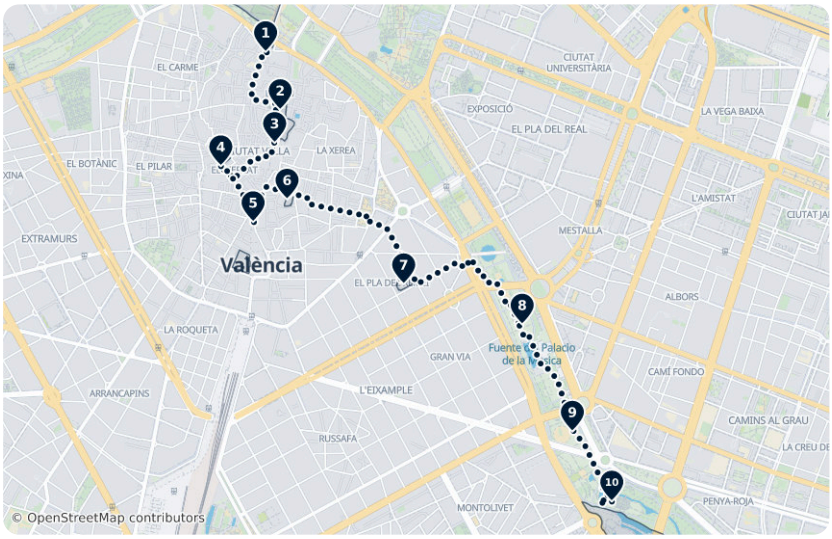
Best of Valencia

1h 36min · 4.5 km · 10 stops



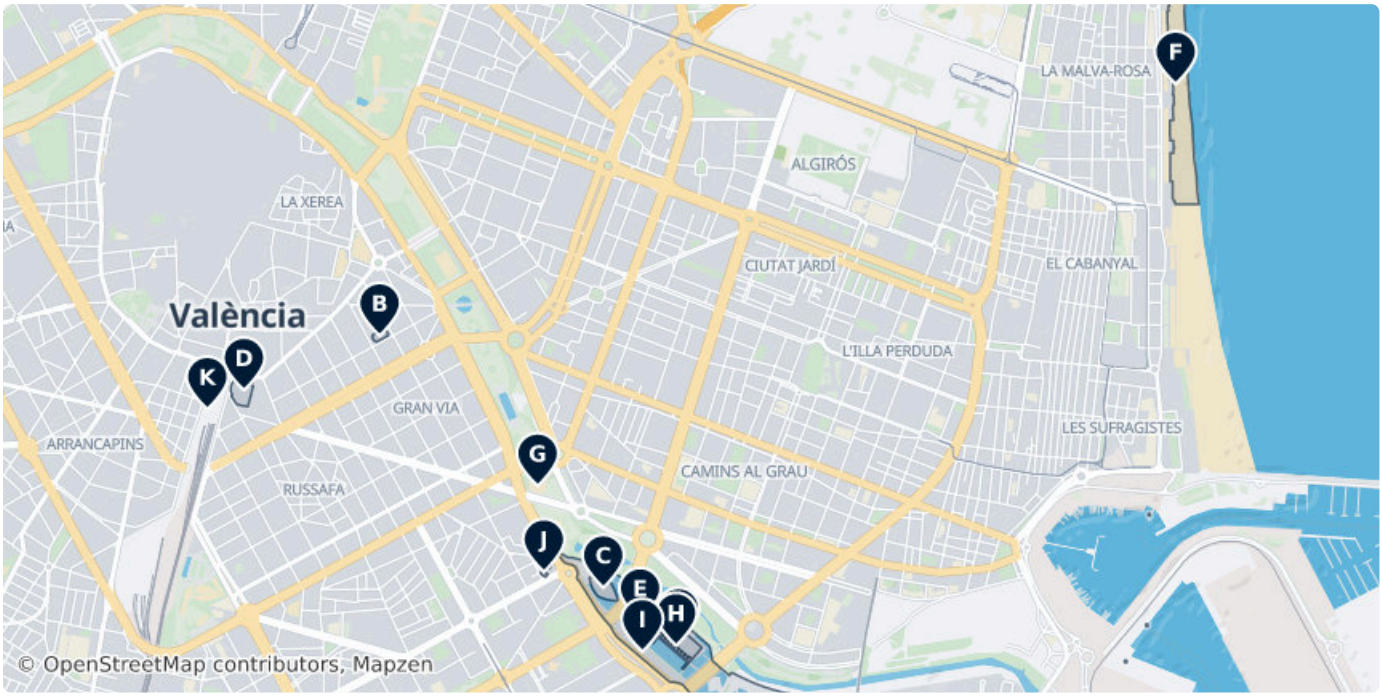
1. The Serranos Towers
2. Plaza de la Virgen
3. Valencia Cathedral and the Micalet
4. The Silk Exchange
5. Plaza del Ayuntamiento
6. Palace of the Marqués de Dos Aguas
7. Mercado de Colón
8. The Turia Gardens
9. Gulliver Park
10. City of Arts and Sciences

Valencia's must-see sights in one walk, from Gothic city gates to Santiago Calatrava's gleaming white architecture. Starting at the Serranos Towers, the old northern gate on the former riverbank, you cross the medieval heart of the city: the Plaza de la Virgen and its centuries-old water court, the cathedral that guards a chalice venerated as the Holy Grail, and the UNESCO-listed Silk Exchange. Then come grand squares and Modernista markets, before the Turia Gardens lead you along the old riverbed to the City of Arts and Sciences. The walk starts at the Serranos Towers, a short stroll north of the cathedral.



Valencia Essentials

Valencia showcases a distinctive blend of Santiago Calatrava's high-tech architecture and early 20th-century modernism. The futuristic City of Arts and Sciences complex features the interactive Príncipe Felipe Science Museum and the Reina Sofia Palace of the Arts. In the city center, the Estación del Norte and Colon Market highlight Demetrio Ribes' modernist designs. Cultural history is preserved at the Museum of Las Fallas and the historic Bullring, while the Turia Gardens offer unique recreation at the Gulliver playground. Nearby, the Mediterranean coast is accessible at the expansive La Malvarossa Beach.





A City of Arts and Sciences

Modern architectural complex housing museums, a science center, and cultural facilities with wheelchair accessibility. Designed by Santiago Calatrava, it features high-tech architecture and educational exhibits.

Avinguda del Professor López Piñero (Historiador de la Medicina) 7, 46013 València (39.45582, -0.35172)

Mo–Th	10:00–18:00
Fr–Su	10:00–19:00

cac.es, +34 96 197 44 00



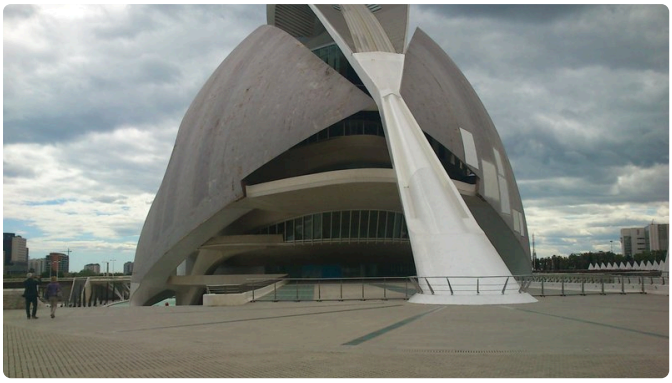
B Colon Market

Modernist market building from the early 20th century featuring restaurants, cafes, and a variety of local products and Spanish cuisine.

Carrer de Jorge Juan 19, 46004 València (39.46893, -0.36840)

Mo–Th	07:30–02:00
Fr–Sa	07:30–03:00
Su	07:30–02:00

mercadocolon.es



C Reina Sofia Palace of the Arts

Modern opera house and cultural center known for its striking architecture and diverse performing arts programming including opera, dance, and symphonic concerts.

Av. del Professor López Piñero (Historiador de la Medicina), 1, 46013 Valencia, España (39.45809, -0.35593)

lesarts.com, +34961975800



D Valencia Bullring

Plaza de Toros de Valencia, officially Plaça de bous de València, is a bullring in València, Spain.

Carrer de Xàtiva 28, 46004 València (39.46658, -0.37596)

pla%c3%a7adebous.es



E L'Hemisfèric

Hemisfèric was designed by Santiago Calatrava and built in 1998, as the first building of the whole arts and science complex.

Av. del Professor López Piñero, 3, 46013, Valencia, Spain (39.45667, -0.35387)

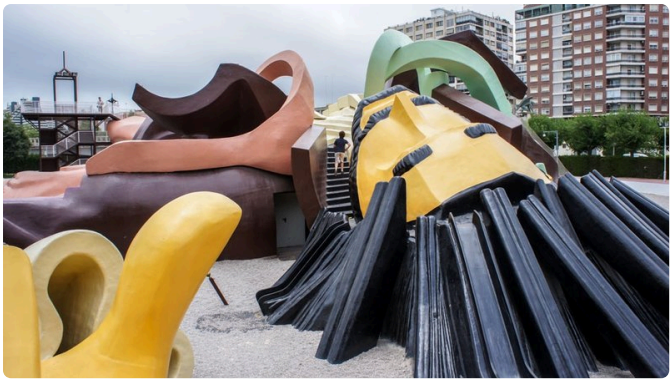
cac.es/hemisferic/, +34 902 100 031



F La Malvarossa Beach

La Malvarrosa is the beach to go to when in Valencia. Popular among locals and tourists alike, it can get quite crowded on hot days.

Paseo Marítimo, 46011, Spain (39.47975, -0.32401)



G Parc Gulliver

Part of the extensive Gardens of Turia, this huge statue of the famous traveller doubles as a safe and fun adventure park for both kids and...

Jardín del Turia, 46023 València, Spain (39.46247, -0.35959)

+34 963 37 02 04



H Príncipe Felipe Science Museum

Part of the huge science and art complex, this museum is very diverse - exhibitions ranging from the human body to the electricity theatre.

Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències, Av. del Professor López Piñero, 7, 46013 Valencia, Spain (39.45560, -0.35186)

Mo–Su 20:00

cac.es/en/museu-de-les-ciencies.html, +34 902 100 031



I L'Umbracle

L'Umbracle, part of the Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències complex in Valencia, Spain, is a sculpture garden and landscaped walk with plant...

5 Avenida del Profesor López Piñero, Valencia 46013, Spain (39.45534, -0.35375)

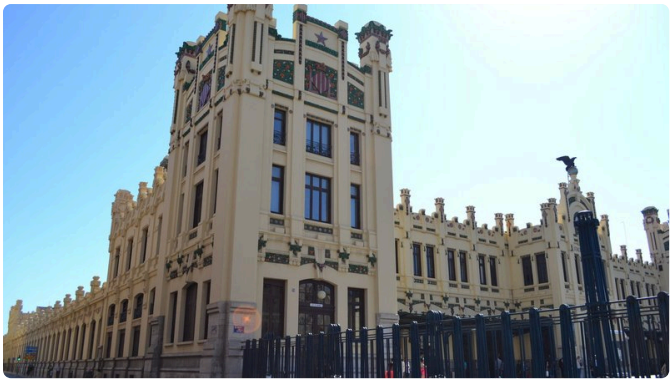


J Museum of Las Fallas

This museum is wholly devoted to the city's unique and internationally known festival.

Plaza Monteolivete 4, 46006 Valencia, Spain (39.45877, -0.35924)

+34 96 352 54 78



The North Railway Station

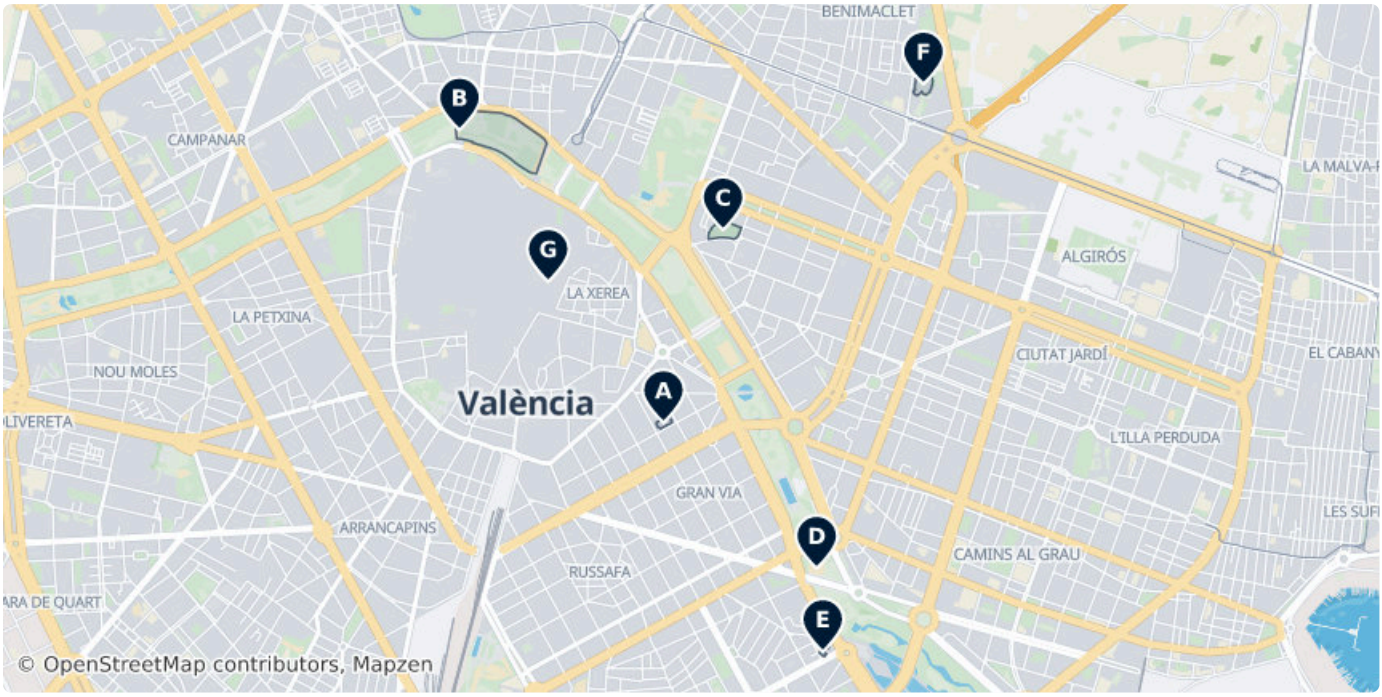
This railways station is a fine example of Spanish modernist architecture designed by a Spanish architect, Demetrio Ribes.

Calle Xàtiva 24, 46007 Valencia, Spain (39.46576, -0.37800)

+34 96 352 02 02

Editor's Choice Valencia

This selection highlights Valencia's distinct civic and cultural sites: a restored Modernista market hall offering gourmet stalls and cafés; the Jardín del Túria, a linear park created in the old riverbed with bike paths and sports facilities; 19th-century Jardines de Monforte with formal beds and sculptures; Gulliver, a playground built around a giant statue; the Museo Fallero documenting the city's Fallas festival; modern residential architecture and a historic chapel housing the Santo Cáliz.





A Colon Market

Modernist market building from the early 20th century featuring restaurants, cafes, and a variety of local products and Spanish cuisine.

Carrer de Jorge Juan 19, 46004 València
(39.46893, -0.36840)

Mo–Th	07:30–02:00
Fr–Sa	07:30–03:00
Su	07:30–02:00

mercadocolon.es



B Turia Gardens

Large urban park created in the former riverbed of the Turia featuring gardens, sports facilities, cycling circuits, and recreational areas.

(Unnamed Road), Valencia 46003, Spain
(39.48192, -0.38014)

Mo–Su	07:30–21:00

visitvalencia.com, +34963370204

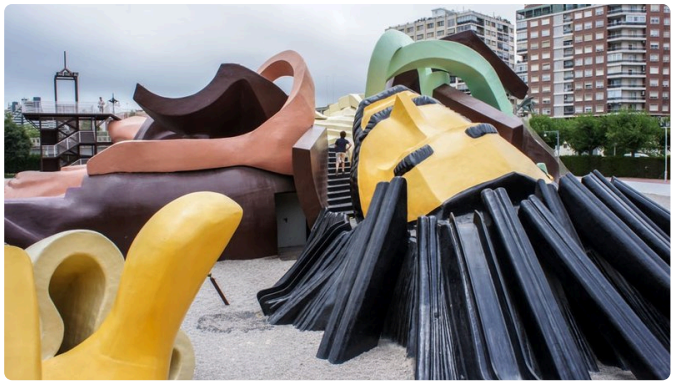


C Jardí de Monforte

19th-century formal garden laid out in neoclassical style, featuring symmetrical beds, marble sculptures and shaded promenades near the city centre.

1 Calle de Monforte, Valencia 46010, Spain (39.47749, -0.36498)

Mar 21-Sep 20 Mo–Su	10:30–20:00
Sep 21-Mar 20 Mo–Su	10:30–18:00



D Parc Gulliver

Part of the extensive Gardens of Turia, this huge statue of the famous traveller doubles as a safe and fun adventure park for both kids and...

Jardín del Turia, 46023 València, Spain (39.46247, -0.35959)

+34 963 37 02 04



E Museum of Las Fallas

This museum is wholly devoted to the city's unique and internationally known festival.

Plaza Monteolivete 4, 46006 Valencia, Spain (39.45877, -0.35924)

+34 96 352 54 78



F Espai Verd

Contemporary residential building noted for its modern architectural design and striking geometric facade.

16 Calle del Músico Hipólito Martínez, Valencia 46020, Spain (39.48395, -0.35344)



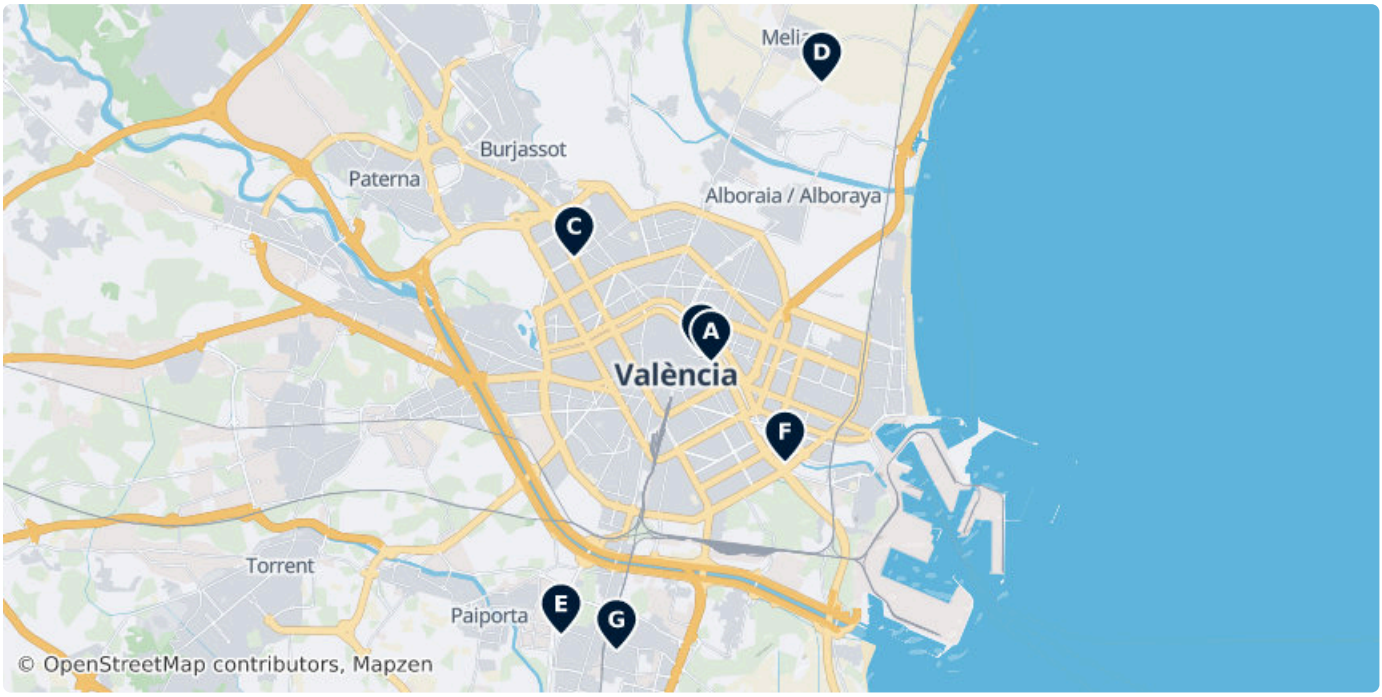
Chapel of the Holy Chalice

Gothic chapel that houses the Santo Cáliz (Holy Chalice) displayed in a shrine within the church.

2 Calle de la Barchilla, Valencia 46003, Spain
(39.47519, -0.37504)

Iconic Monuments & Landmarks

This collection highlights architectural landmarks across the Valencia metropolitan area, ranging from 17th-century defensive gates to modern ceramic sculptures. Key sites include the Palauet Nolla, famous for its intricate mosaic flooring, and the birthplace of Saint Vincent Ferrer. These monuments reflect the region's diverse history, including its industrial heritage in Alfafar and the symbolic reconstructions of the historic city gates.





A Porta de la Mar

A 1944 monumental arch designed by Javier Goerlich. It is a simplified replica of the historic Real Gate that once stood as part of the city's defensive walls.

6 Plaza de la Porta de la Mar, Valencia 46004, Spain (39.47208, -0.36845)

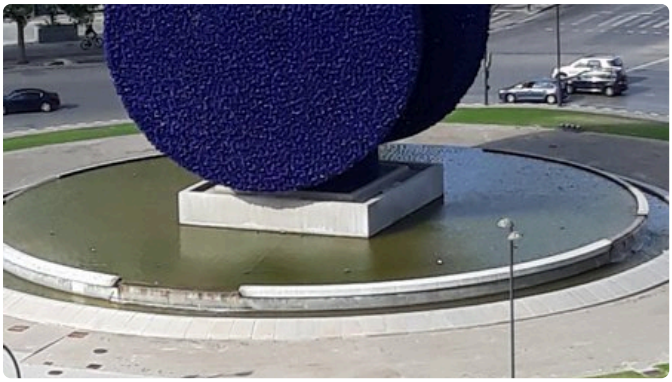


B Vincent Ferrer

Vincent Ferrer was a Valencian Dominican friar and preacher, who gained acclaim as a missionary and a logician.

51 Calle del Mar, Valencia 46003, Spain (39.47334, -0.37067)

cort.as/x8hn, +34 963 52 84 81



C La Dama Ibèrica

An 18-meter-tall sculpture by Manolo Valdés, composed of 22,000 blue ceramic pieces. It is a contemporary monumental interpretation of the ancient Lady of Elche bust.

16 Avenida de las Cortes Valencianas, Valencia 46015, Spain (39.49027, -0.39932)

D Palauet Nolla

A 19th-century mansion in Meliana that served as a residence and showroom for the Nolla ceramic factory. It is renowned for its pioneering high-performance mosaic floors.

28 Camino Barranquet, Meliana 46133, Spain (39.52055, -0.34348)

E Porta del Castell

A 17th-century stone entrance portal located in Alfafar. It remains as a historical vestige of the town's former defensive castle.

(39.42462, -0.40224)

F Sundial

A large-scale sculptural sundial located within the modern architectural complex near the City of Arts and Sciences.

(39.45461, -0.35179)

G Antiga Seu del Sindicat Arrocer

A historic building originally constructed as the headquarters for the local rice growers' union. It now functions as a municipal library.

Carrer d'Ortega y Gasset, 46910 Alfafar, Spain (39.42191, -0.38976)

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