

VALENCIA TRAVEL GUIDE 2024

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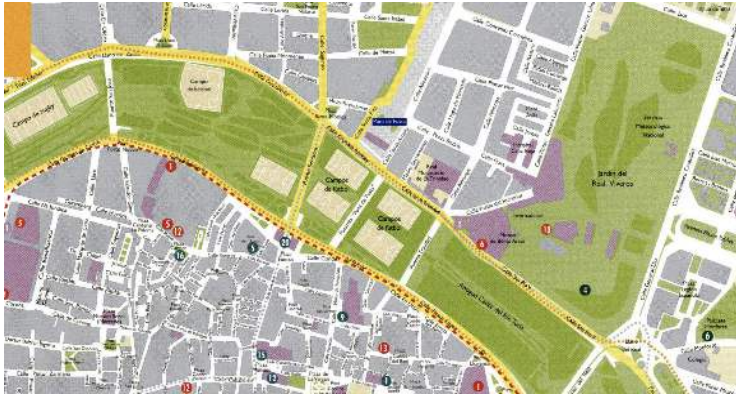
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North-East Valencia



Central-Southern Valencia

INTRODUCTION

I have always had a soft spot for Valencia. It was the first place I ever visited in Spain, back in the summer of 1999, when I was a young and naive backpacker looking for adventure and cheap sangria. I remember arriving at the bus station after a long and bumpy ride from Barcelona, feeling tired and hungry, and wondering what to do next. I had no guidebook, no map, no reservation, and no clue. I just followed the crowd of other travelers, hoping they knew where they were going.

As it turned out, they did. They led me to a hostel in the heart of the old town, where I

checked in and dumped my backpack. Then I went out to explore the city, with no plan or expectation. And that's when I fell in love with Valencia.

Valencia is a city that surprises you at every turn. It is a city of contrasts, where the old and the new coexist in harmony. It is a city of culture, where you can admire the works of art and architecture from different periods and styles. It is a city of nature, where you can enjoy the sun and the sea, the green and the blue, the flowers and the animals. It is a city of fun, where you can join the locals in their festivals and celebrations, their music and dance, their food and drink.

Valencia is a city that has something for everyone. Whether you are looking for history or modernity, art or science, relaxation or excitement, you will find it in Valencia. And you will find it with a smile, because Valencia is a city that welcomes you with open arms.

That's why I think Valencia is the perfect destination for your next vacation. And that's why I decided to write this book, to share with you my passion and knowledge about this wonderful city. In this book, you will find everything you need to know about Valencia: how to get there, where to stay, what to see, what to do, what to eat, what to drink, and more. You will also find some personal stories and anecdotes from my own experiences in

Valencia, as well as some tips and advice on how to make the most of your time there.

But before we start our journey through Valencia, let me tell you what's new in this city since I last visited it in 2022. You see, Valencia is not a city that stands still. It is a city that constantly evolves and innovates. It is a city that always has something new to offer.

For instance, did you know that Valencia has become one of the most successful football clubs in Spain? Yes, you heard me right. Valencia CF has won the La Liga title in 2023-2024 season, beating giants like Real Madrid and Barcelona. They have also reached the quarter-finals of the Champions League, where they will face Manchester City. Their star

players include Javi Guerra, a young midfielder who scored 15 goals in 32 games, Mouctar Diakhaby, a solid defender who scored the winning goal against Sevilla, and Samu Castillejo, a speedy winger who joined from Milan. If you are a fan of football, you should definitely catch a game at their stadium Mestalla, which has a capacity of 55,000 spectators.

Or did you know that Valencia has become one of the most eco-friendly cities in Europe? Yes, you heard me right again. Valencia has been awarded the European Green Capital for 2024, thanks to its efforts to reduce its environmental impact and improve its quality of life. Some of its achievements include increasing its green spaces by 20%, reducing its CO2 emissions by

40%, promoting sustainable mobility by expanding its bike lanes and public transport network, and implementing circular economy practices by recycling 70% of its waste. If you are a fan of nature, you should definitely visit some of its green attractions such as the Turia Gardens, a green oasis that runs along the former riverbed of the Turia, or the Bioparc, a zoo that recreates the habitats of Africa, Asia, and Madagascar.

Or did you know that Valencia has become one of the most festive cities in Spain? Yes, you heard me right yet again. Valencia has been chosen as the World Capital of Festivals for 2024, thanks to its rich and diverse cultural heritage and its vibrant and lively atmosphere. Some of its festivals include the Fallas, a

spectacular celebration of fire and art that takes place in March, the Tomatina, a fun and messy tomato fight that takes place in August, the Moors and Christians, a colorful and historical reenactment of the medieval battles that takes place in October, and the Holy Grail procession, a solemn and religious ceremony that takes place in April. If you are a fan of fun, you should definitely join some of these festivals and experience the joy and excitement of Valencia.

So, as you can see, Valencia is a city that never ceases to amaze me. It is a city that always has something new to show me. It is a city that always makes me want to come back.

And I hope it will do the same for you.

Welcome to Valencia!

VISA REQUIREMENT AND PROGRAMS FOR VISA WAIVERS 2024 LATEST UPDATES

To visit Valencia in 2023-2024, you may need a visa depending on your nationality and the purpose and duration of your stay. Valencia is part of Spain, which is a member of the European Union and the Schengen Area. Therefore, the visa requirements and programs for Valencia are the same as for Spain and the other Schengen countries. Here are some of the latest updates on the visa requirement and programs for visa waivers for Valencia 2023-2024:

- If you are a citizen of a country that participates in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), such as the United States, Canada, Australia,

Japan, or South Korea, you do not need a visa to visit Valencia for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. However, you must have a valid passport and an authorization obtained via the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) before your departure. You must also pay a fee of \$14 USD when you apply for the ESTA. The ESTA is valid for two years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first.

- If you are a citizen of a country that does not participate in the VWP, such as China, India, Russia, or Brazil, you need a visa to visit Valencia for any purpose and duration. You must apply for a Schengen visa at the Spanish embassy or consulate in your country of residence, and submit the required documents,

such as a passport, a photo, a travel itinerary, a proof of accommodation, a proof of financial means, a health insurance, and a visa fee. The visa fee is €80 EUR for adults and €40 EUR for children aged 6 to 12. The visa processing time may vary depending on the country and the season, but it usually takes 15 days or less.

- If you are a student, a professor, a research scholar, a short-term scholar, or a specialist who wants to visit Valencia for academic purposes, you may be eligible for a waiver of the in-person interview for the Schengen visa, if you meet certain conditions. The U.S. Department of State, with the concurrence of the Department of Homeland Security, has extended until December 31, 2023, previously approved authorities allowing consular officers

to waive the in-person interview for certain F, M, and academic J visa applicants. You must be applying for a visa in your country of nationality or residence, and you must have no apparent ineligibility or potential ineligibility. You must also have previously travelled to the United States using an authorization obtained via the ESTA, or have been previously issued any type of visa, and have never been refused a visa unless such refusal was overcome or waived.

- If you are a temporary worker who wants to visit Valencia for work purposes, you may also be eligible for a waiver of the in-person interview for the Schengen visa, if you meet certain conditions. The U.S. Department of State, with the concurrence of the Department

of Homeland Security, has extended until December 31, 2023, previously approved authorities allowing consular officers to waive the in-person interview for certain individual petition-based H-1, H-3, H-4, L, O, P, and Q visa applicants. You must be applying for a visa in your country of nationality or residence, and you must have no apparent ineligibility or potential ineligibility. You must also have an individual petition approved by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, or have been previously issued any type of visa, and have never been refused a visa unless such refusal was overcome or waived.

Chapter 1: The Old Town. Explore the charming streets and squares of the historic center, where you can admire the Gothic cathedral, the Silk Exchange, the Central Market, and the City Hall. Learn about the history and culture of Valencia, from its Roman origins to its role in the Spanish Civil War.

If you want to get a sense of the history and culture of Valencia, there is no better place to start than the Old Town. This is where the city was born, where it grew, where it fought, where it flourished. This is where you can see the traces of the different civilizations that shaped

Valencia, from the Romans to the Moors, from the Christians to the Republicans. This is where you can admire some of the most beautiful and impressive monuments and buildings in Valencia, from the Gothic cathedral to the Silk Exchange, from the Central Market to the City Hall. This is where you can feel the pulse of Valencia, its people, its traditions, its spirit.

The Old Town is not a large area, but it is packed with attractions and surprises. You can easily walk around it in a couple of hours, or you can spend a whole day exploring its streets and squares, discovering its secrets and charms. I recommend you do the latter, because there is so much to see and do in the Old Town that you don't want to miss anything.

The best way to start your tour of the Old Town is from the Plaza del Ayuntamiento, or City Hall Square. This is one of the main squares in Valencia, and also one of the most elegant and lively. Here you can see the imposing City Hall building, which dates back to the 18th century and has a beautiful clock tower and a neoclassical facade. Inside, you can visit the historical museum, which displays some interesting artifacts and documents related to the city's past. You can also see the Crystal Hall, a stunning room with a glass dome and a marble floor, where official ceremonies and events take place.

In front of the City Hall, you can see a large fountain, which is often decorated with flowers and flags for special occasions. Around the

fountain, you can see some statues that represent different aspects of Valencia's culture, such as music, agriculture, industry, and commerce. The square is also surrounded by some elegant buildings, such as the Post Office, which has a modernist style and a colorful mosaic on its facade, and the Rialto Cinema, which is one of the oldest cinemas in Spain and has a beautiful art deco interior.

The Plaza del Ayuntamiento is also a popular meeting point for locals and tourists alike. Here you can find many cafes and restaurants where you can have a drink or a bite to eat while watching the people go by. You can also enjoy some street entertainment, such as musicians, performers, or puppeteers. And if you happen to be here on a Sunday or on a public holiday

at noon, you can witness one of Valencia's most traditional events: the mascletà. This is a loud and spectacular display of fireworks that creates a rhythmic explosion of sound and smoke. It is part of Valencia's famous Fallas festival, but it also takes place throughout the year as a way of celebrating and expressing joy.

From the Plaza del Ayuntamiento, you can walk along Calle San Vicente Mártir, one of the main streets in the Old Town. This street was once part of the Roman road that connected Valencia with Sagunto, an ancient city that was besieged by Hannibal during his invasion of Spain. Along this street, you can see some interesting buildings and monuments, such as the Santa Catalina Church, which has a

baroque tower that offers a great view of the city from its top; or the Marqués de Dos Aguas Palace, which has a rococo facade with an elaborate sculpture of two water spouts; or the Plaza de la Reina, which is a lively and beautiful square with a fountain and a view of the cathedral. This square is also a good place to try some of Valencia's specialties, such as horchata, a refreshing drink made from tiger nuts, or buñuelos, fried dough balls filled with cream or chocolate.

As you walk along Calle San Vicente Mártir, you will eventually reach the Plaza de la Virgen, another important square in the Old Town. This square is the heart of Valencia's religious life, as it is home to the Basilica of the Virgin of the Forsaken, the patron saint of Valencia. The basilica is a baroque building with a dome and

a bell tower, and inside you can see the image of the Virgin, which is venerated by the locals. The square is also the site of the Turia fountain, which represents the Turia river and its eight irrigation channels. The fountain is surrounded by statues of Neptune and his nymphs, and is a popular spot for taking photos.

The Plaza de la Virgen is also the location of the Valencia Cathedral, one of the most impressive and iconic buildings in the city. The cathedral was built on the site of a former Roman temple, a Visigothic church, and a mosque, and reflects the different styles and influences that have shaped Valencia over the centuries. The cathedral has three main doors: the Iron Gate, which is the main entrance and has a Romanesque style; the Apostles Gate, which is the oldest and has a Gothic style; and

the Palace Gate, which is the most ornate and has a Baroque style. Inside the cathedral, you can admire the Gothic nave, the Renaissance altarpiece, the Baroque chapel, and the Miguelete tower, which offers a panoramic view of the city from its top. But the most important and unique treasure of the cathedral is the Holy Grail, the cup that Jesus used at the Last Supper, according to tradition. The Holy Grail is kept in a special chapel, and is the object of pilgrimage and devotion for many Christians.

From the Plaza de la Virgen, you can walk along Calle del Micalet, a narrow and charming street that leads to the Plaza de la Almoina. This square is the site of the archaeological museum, which displays the remains of the Roman and Visigothic settlements that once

occupied this area. You can see the foundations of the Roman forum, the baths, the temple, and the basilica, as well as some artifacts and mosaics. The museum also has a glass floor that allows you to see the excavations below.

If you are interested in more ancient history, you can also visit the Almuin, a former grain storehouse that dates back to the 14th century and now houses the Paleontology Museum. Here you can see the fossils of dinosaurs, mammals, and plants that lived in Valencia millions of years ago. You can also see the skeleton of a mastodon, a giant elephant-like creature that was found in a nearby town.

Another attraction that you can find near the Plaza de la Almoina is the Serrano Towers, one

of the two surviving gates of the old city walls. The towers were built in the 14th century and have a Gothic style. They were used as a prison for nobles and knights until the 19th century. You can climb up the towers and enjoy a great view of the Turia Gardens and the riverbed.

The Turia Gardens are one of the most remarkable features of Valencia. They are a green oasis that runs along the former riverbed of the Turia, which was diverted after a devastating flood in 1957. The gardens stretch for about 9 kilometers and have different sections with different themes and attractions. You can walk, bike, or skate along the gardens, or stop at one of the many playgrounds, fountains, sculptures, or cafes. You can also visit some of the cultural and leisure facilities

that are located in the gardens, such as the City of Arts and Sciences, the Bioparc, or the Palau de la Música.

CHAPTER 2:

HISTORY OF VALENCIA

Valencia is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Spain, with a rich and diverse history that spans over two millennia.

- Valencia was founded in 138 BCE by the Romans, who named it Valentia Edetanorum, meaning "strength" or "valour" in Latin. The city was located on the site of a former Iberian town, by the river Turia, in the province of Edetania. The Romans built a forum, a circus, an amphitheatre, and other public buildings, and made the city a prosperous colony. Valencia was also an important military outpost, and the consul Decimus Junius Brutus

Callaicus settled about 2,000 veteran soldiers who had fought under him there.

- Valencia was conquered by the Visigoths in 413 CE, and became part of their kingdom. The city was sacked by the Franks in 507, and by the Byzantines in 554. The Visigoths regained control of the city in 585, and made it an episcopal see of the Catholic Church. Valencia was also a cultural center, and produced notable figures such as the historian Isidore of Seville and the poet Eugenius II.

- Valencia was captured by the Moors in 714, and became part of the Umayyad Caliphate. The city was renamed Balansiyya, and was ruled by various Muslim dynasties, such as the Abbasids, the Aftasids, the Almoravids, and the

Almohads. The city flourished under Islamic rule, and became a major commercial, agricultural, and artistic hub. Valencia was also known for its tolerance and diversity, and had a large Jewish and Christian population.

- Valencia became an independent taifa, or Muslim kingdom, in 1010, after the collapse of the Caliphate of Cordoba. The city was ruled by the Amirid dynasty, who expanded the city's walls, built the Alcazar palace, and beautified the city with gardens, fountains, and mosques. The most famous ruler of the taifa was Abd al-Aziz, who married Zaida, the widow of El Cid, the Spanish hero who had briefly conquered the city in 1094.

- Valencia was besieged and taken by James I of Aragon in 1238, after a long and bloody war. The city was incorporated into the Crown of Aragon, and became the capital of the Kingdom of Valencia. The city retained its autonomy and privileges, and had its own laws and parliament. The city also experienced a demographic and economic growth, and welcomed many Christian settlers from Catalonia, Aragon, and France. Valencia was also a cultural and linguistic center, and developed its own variant of Catalan, known as Valencian.

- Valencia reached its golden age in the 15th and 16th centuries, when it became one of the most influential and prosperous cities in the Mediterranean. The city was a major trading

and banking hub, and had a large silk industry. The city also excelled in the arts and sciences, and produced famous painters, such as Joan de Joanes and Francisco Ribalta, writers, such as Ausiàs March and Joanot Martorell, and humanists, such as Luis Vives and Juan Luis Vives. The city also had the first printing press in the Iberian Peninsula, and hosted the first botanical garden in Europe.

- Valencia suffered a decline in the 17th and 18th centuries, due to the political and economic crises that affected Spain. The city was hit by the plague in 1647, and by several wars and revolts, such as the War of the Spanish Succession, the War of the Quadruple Alliance, and the War of the Spanish Succession. The city also lost its autonomy

and privileges, and was subjected to the centralist policies of the Bourbon dynasty. The city also faced the expulsion of the Moriscos in 1609, and the Jews in 1691, who were vital for the city's economy and culture.

- Valencia recovered in the 19th and 20th centuries, thanks to the industrialization and modernization of the city. The city built new infrastructures, such as railways, roads, bridges, and ports, and developed new industries, such as textiles, ceramics, and metalworking. The city also expanded its urban area, and created new neighborhoods, such as Ruzafa, Ensanche, and Benimaclet. The city also participated in the cultural and political movements of the time, such as the

Romanticism, the Renaixença, the Republicanism, and the Regionalism.

- Valencia was severely affected by the Spanish Civil War, which lasted from 1936 to 1939. The city was loyal to the Republican government, and became its capital in 1936. The city was bombed by the Italian and German air forces, and suffered many casualties and damages. The city also witnessed the birth of the Valencian Nationalist Bloc, a political party that advocated for the autonomy and identity of Valencia. The city fell to the Nationalist forces in 1939, and was subjected to the dictatorship of Francisco Franco until 1975.

- Valencia regained its democracy and autonomy in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, after the death of Franco and the transition to democracy. The city became the capital of the autonomous community of Valencia, and had its own government and parliament. The city also experienced a social and economic development, and became a tourist and cultural destination. The city also hosted major events, such as the 2007 America's Cup, the 2008 European Grand Prix, and the 2011 Global Champions Tour. The city also built new landmarks, such as the City of Arts and Sciences, the Bioparc, and the Veles e Vents.

This is a detailed history of Valencia, but there is much more to discover and learn about this fascinating city.

Chapter 3: The City of Arts and Sciences. Visit the futuristic complex designed by Santiago Calatrava, which houses a science museum, an opera house, an aquarium, and a botanical garden. Discover the wonders of science, art, and nature in this stunning architectural masterpiece.

If you want to get a glimpse of the future in Valencia, there is no better place to go than the City of Arts and Sciences. This is a dazzling and spectacular complex that looks like it came straight out of a science fiction movie. It is the brainchild of Santiago Calatrava, a world-renowned architect and engineer who was born in Valencia and who wanted to create a tribute to his hometown. He designed a

series of buildings and structures that resemble organic shapes and forms, such as an eye, a fish, a shell, a flower, and a hand. He used materials such as steel, glass, concrete, and ceramic tiles to create a contrast between the white and blue colors, the light and the shadow, the solid and the fluid. He also integrated the complex with the surrounding Turia Gardens, creating a harmony between nature and technology.

The City of Arts and Sciences is not only a feast for the eyes, but also for the mind and the soul. It is a place where you can learn, discover, and enjoy the wonders of science, art, and nature. It is composed of six main elements, each with its own function and attraction.

They are:

- **L'Hemisfèric:** This is the first building that was completed in 1998, and it is also the most iconic. It resembles a giant eye that opens and closes over a pool of water. It houses an IMAX cinema, a planetarium, and a laserium, where you can watch amazing shows and documentaries about the universe, the earth, and the human body. The dome of the eye is the screen, and the seats are arranged in a semicircle around it. The experience is immersive and thrilling, as you feel like you are part of the action.

- **Museu de les Ciències Príncepe Felipe:** This is the second building that was opened in

2000, and it is also the largest. It resembles the skeleton of a whale, or a dinosaur, or a spaceship, depending on your imagination. It is an interactive museum of science that covers three floors and 26,000 square meters. It has exhibitions and experiments that invite you to touch, play, and explore various topics, such as electricity, gravity, sound, light, genetics, ecology, and more. You can also see some of the inventions and innovations that have changed the world, such as the steam engine, the telephone, the computer, and the internet. The museum is fun and educational, and it appeals to all ages and interests.

- **L'Oceanogràfic:** This is the third building that was inaugurated in 2003, and it is also the most impressive. It resembles a giant fish, or a

lily pad, or a lotus flower, depending on your perspective. It is the largest aquarium in Europe, and one of the largest in the world. It reproduces the different marine ecosystems of the planet, such as the Mediterranean, the Arctic, the Antarctic, the Red Sea, the Caribbean, and the Amazon. It has more than 45,000 animals of 500 species, including sharks, dolphins, penguins, turtles, jellyfish, and more. You can see them in their natural habitats, through huge glass windows, tunnels, and domes. You can also enjoy some shows and activities, such as feeding the animals, diving with the sharks, or watching the dolphin performance. The aquarium is a marvel of nature, and it makes you appreciate the beauty and diversity of life.

- **Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía:** This is the fourth building that was completed in 2005, and it is also the most elegant. It resembles a shell, or a helmet, or a crown, depending on your angle. It is an opera house and a cultural center that hosts some of the best operas, concerts, ballets, and theater performances in the world. It has four auditoriums, each with its own acoustic and aesthetic features. The main auditorium has a capacity of 1,400 seats, and a stage that can accommodate up to 400 performers. The acoustics are superb, and the sound is clear and crisp. The opera house is a masterpiece of art, and it makes you enjoy the power and emotion of music.

- **L'Umbracle:** This is the fifth element that was added in 2007, and it is also the most relaxing.

It resembles a hand, or a palm leaf, or a pergola, depending on your mood. It is a landscaped walkway that covers the whole complex, and that offers a panoramic view of the buildings and the gardens. It has a variety of plants and trees that are native to Valencia, such as palms, orange trees, rosemary, and lavender. It also has some sculptures and artworks that are part of the outdoor museum of contemporary art. The walkway is a peaceful and pleasant place, and it makes you enjoy the fresh and fragrant air.

- **L'Àgora**: This is the sixth and final element that was opened in 2009, and it is also the most versatile. It resembles a fish scale, or a tent, or a stadium, depending on its use. It is a multifunctional space that can host different

types of events, such as sports, concerts, exhibitions, or conventions. It has a capacity of 6,000 people, and a flexible structure that can adapt to different needs. It is also connected to the other buildings by bridges and walkways. The space is a dynamic and innovative place, and it makes you enjoy the variety and creativity of Valencia.

As you can see, the City of Arts and Sciences is a place that has something for everyone. Whether you are interested in science or art, nature or culture, education or entertainment, you will find it in this complex. And you will find it with a wow, because the City of Arts and Sciences is a place that astonishes you with its beauty and its brilliance.

But how did this complex come to be? How did Santiago Calatrava conceive and create this masterpiece of architecture and engineering? How did he manage to transform a dry and barren riverbed into a futuristic and fantastic city? And what challenges and difficulties did he face along the way?

To answer these questions, we need to go back to the origins of the project, which date back to the late 1980s. At that time, Valencia was recovering from a devastating flood that had occurred in 1957, when the Turia river overflowed and inundated the city, causing many deaths and damages. To prevent this from happening again, the authorities decided to divert the river to the south of the city,

leaving behind a huge empty space that was initially used as a landfill.

But soon, some visionary people saw the potential of this space as an opportunity to revitalize and modernize the city. They proposed to turn it into a green and cultural area, where people could enjoy nature and leisure. They also wanted to make it a symbol of Valencia's identity and ambition, a showcase of its creativity and innovation.

One of these visionary people was Santiago Calatrava, who was born in Valencia in 1951 and who had become a renowned architect and engineer after working in Switzerland and other countries. He had already designed some remarkable buildings and bridges in Valencia,

such as the Alameda Bridge, the Montolivet Bridge, and the Assut de l'Or Bridge. He was also known for his organic and expressive style, which combined functionality and aesthetics, and which was inspired by nature and art.

Calatrava was invited to design the City of Arts and Sciences in 1989, and he accepted the challenge with enthusiasm and passion. He wanted to create a complex that would reflect the history and culture of Valencia, as well as its aspirations and dreams. He wanted to create a complex that would be a tribute to his hometown, as well as a gift to the world.

He started by studying the site and its surroundings, and by sketching some ideas

and concepts. He then developed some models and plans, and presented them to the authorities and the public. He received some feedback and criticism, and he made some adjustments and improvements. He also collaborated with other architects and engineers, such as Félix Candela, Alberto Domingo, and Carlos Lázaro, who helped him with some of the buildings and structures.

The construction of the complex began in 1996, and it lasted for more than a decade. It was a complex and costly process, that involved many technical and logistical challenges, as well as some political and social controversies. The budget of the project increased from 300 million euros to more than 1 billion euros, and the completion date was

delayed several times. Some people questioned the necessity and the sustainability of the project, and some critics accused Calatrava of being megalomaniac and wasteful.

But despite all the difficulties and criticisms, the complex was finally completed and inaugurated, and it became a success and a source of pride for Valencia and Spain. Millions of visitors have come to see and enjoy the City of Arts and Sciences, and it has received many awards and recognitions. It has also become a landmark and an icon of Valencia, and a reference and an inspiration for other cities and architects.

The City of Arts and Sciences is a testament to the vision and talent of Santiago Calatrava, and

to the courage and determination of Valencia. It is a complex that celebrates the past, the present, and the future of the city, and that invites us to explore and enjoy the wonders of science, art, and nature.

Welcome to the City of Arts and Sciences!

Chapter 4: The Beaches and the Port. Enjoy the sun and the sea at the Malvarrosa and Las Arenas beaches, where you can relax, swim, surf, or play volleyball. Visit the port area, where you can see the America's Cup pavilion, the Veles e Vents building, and the Royal Marina. Taste the delicious seafood and paella at the seaside restaurants.

If you want to get a taste of the Mediterranean lifestyle in Valencia, there is no better place to go than the beaches and the port. This is where you can enjoy the sun and the sea, the sand and the breeze, the food and the drink. This is where you can relax, swim, surf, or play volleyball. This is where you can visit the port area, where you can see the America's Cup

pavilion, the Veles e Vents building, and the Royal Marina. This is where you can taste the delicious seafood and paella at the seaside restaurants.

The beaches and the port of Valencia are not far from the city center, and you can easily reach them by bus, tram, bike, or even on foot. They are part of the same coastline that stretches for more than 100 kilometers, and that offers a variety of options for every preference and mood. You can choose between the urban and lively beaches of Las Arenas and Malvarrosa, the quieter and more natural beaches of Patacona and El Saler, or the smaller and more secluded beaches of Almardá and La Devesa. You can also explore

the nearby towns and villages that have their own charm and character, such as Canet d'en Berenguer, Cullera, Gandia, or Oliva.

But let's start with the most popular and accessible beaches, the ones that are closest to the city center: Las Arenas and Malvarrosa. These are two long and wide strips of fine golden sand that are separated by a small breakwater. They are bordered by a promenade that runs for about 4 kilometers, and that is lined with palm trees, cafes, restaurants, and shops. They are also equipped with all the facilities and services you might need, such as showers, toilets, lifeguards, sunbeds, umbrellas, and lockers.

Las Arenas and Malvarrosa are the perfect beaches for those who want to have some fun and action, as they are always crowded and lively, especially in summer. Here you can find people of all ages and backgrounds, from locals to tourists, from families to couples, from groups to solo travelers. Here you can join a game of beach volleyball, or rent a surfboard, or take a boat ride, or just lie down and soak up the sun. Here you can also enjoy some of the best views of the city skyline, the port, and the sea.

But if you want to escape the hustle and bustle of the city beaches, you can head north to Patacona, a quieter and more relaxed beach that belongs to the neighboring town of

Alboraya. Patacona is similar to Las Arenas and Malvarrosa in terms of size and quality, but it has a more local and authentic feel. Here you can find fewer tourists and more space, and you can enjoy a more peaceful and pleasant atmosphere. Here you can also try some of the specialties of Alboraya, such as horchata, a refreshing drink made from tiger nuts, or fartons, sweet pastries that go well with horchata.

Or if you want to get in touch with nature and wildlife, you can head south to El Saler, a beautiful and wild beach that is part of the Albufera Natural Park. El Saler is a long and narrow strip of fine white sand that is surrounded by dunes and pine trees. It is one

of the most pristine and unspoiled beaches in Valencia, and it has a special ecological value. Here you can find a variety of flora and fauna, such as birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Here you can also enjoy some of the most stunning sunsets and sunrises in Valencia, as the sun dips into the sea or rises from the horizon.

But the beaches are not the only attraction of the coast of Valencia. There is also the port area, which is a must-see for anyone who loves sailing and nautical sports. The port of Valencia is one of the most important and busiest ports in the Mediterranean, and it has a long and rich history. It was founded by the Romans, and it has played a key role in the development and

trade of the city. It was also the departure point of many famous expeditions, such as the one led by Christopher Columbus in 1492, or the one led by Ferdinand Magellan in 1519.

The port of Valencia is also the home of the Marina de Valencia, a modern and attractive complex that was built for the 32nd America's Cup in 2007, and that has hosted other prestigious events, such as the Formula 1 European Grand Prix. The Marina de Valencia is a place where you can see some of the most impressive and luxurious yachts and boats in the world, as well as some of the most innovative and futuristic buildings and structures. Some of the highlights of the Marina de Valencia are:

- The America's Cup pavilion, a large and elegant tent that was used as the headquarters of the event, and that now hosts exhibitions and concerts.
- The Veles e Vents building, a striking and award-winning building that was designed by David Chipperfield, and that now houses a cultural and gastronomic center.
- The Royal Marina, a prestigious and exclusive club that offers a range of services and facilities for its members, such as a spa, a gym, a pool, and a restaurant.

The Marina de Valencia is also a place where you can enjoy some of the best seafood and

paella in Valencia, as there are many restaurants and bars that offer fresh and delicious dishes. **Some of the most popular and recommended ones are:**

- La Marcelina, a classic and traditional restaurant that has been serving paella since 1888, and that has a terrace with a view of the beach.

- La Pepica, a famous and historic restaurant that was founded in 1898, and that has been visited by celebrities such as Ernest Hemingway, Orson Welles, and the Spanish royal family.

- La Genuina, a cozy and family-run restaurant that specializes in arroz a banda, a rice dish

cooked with fish broth and served with aioli sauce.

As you can see, the beaches and the port of Valencia are a place that has something for everyone. Whether you are looking for sun or shade, sand or water, fun or relaxation, you will find it in this area. And you will find it with a smile, because the beaches and the port of Valencia are a place that makes you happy and satisfied.

So sit back, relax, and let me take you on a journey through the beaches and the port of Valencia. A journey that will make you enjoy, learn, and love this sunny and salty area. A

journey that will make you want to pack your bags and book your tickets as soon as possible.

Welcome to the beaches and the port of Valencia!

ACCOMODATION AT Malvarrosa and Las Arenas beaches

Here are some budget friendly places to stay and some middle class and luxury hotels and resorts to accommodate at the beaches and the port. Enjoy the sun and the sea at the Malvarrosa and Las Arenas beaches.

Budget friendly places to stay:

-Malvarrosa Beach Rooms: This hotel is just 50 metres from Valencia's Les Arenes Beach. It offers a 24-hour reception and rooms with sea

views, free Wi-Fi and a flat-screen TV. Complimentary breakfast comes with coffee, orange juice and toasts or pastries.

-Charming apartment near the beach: This apartment is located in Valencia, just a 8-minute walk from Patacona Beach and 0.7 miles from Playa de las Arenas. It has a fully equipped kitchen, a living room, a bathroom and a bedroom. It also has a balcony and free Wi-Fi.

-Malvarrosa apartamentos: This property offers apartments in Valencia, 2 miles from Port of Valencia and 3.6 miles from Jardines de Monforte. The apartments have a kitchen, a dining area, a seating area, a flat-screen TV

and a private bathroom. They also have a terrace and free Wi-Fi.

-Sol Playa: This design beachfront hotel overlooks Valencia harbour and has a small spa and a gym. The modern, air-conditioned rooms have flat-screen TV, free WiFi and sea or marina views. Marina Real Juan Carlos I tram stop can be found just outside the hotel, and offers a link with central Valencia. ³

-5 SENSES: This hotel is located in Valencia, just 1.7 miles from Port of Valencia and 3 miles from Jardines de Monforte. It has a terrace, a bar, a shared lounge and a 24-hour front desk. The rooms have air conditioning, a flat-screen TV, a desk and a private bathroom.

-Hotel Gabbeach: This boutique hotel is located on the seafront of Playa de las Arenas, 2.5 miles from the City of Arts and Sciences. It has a restaurant, a bar, a terrace and a garden. The rooms have a stylish décor, a flat-screen TV, a minibar and a private bathroom. Some rooms have sea views.

-Hotel Marina Atarazanas: This hotel is situated next to the Atarazanas shipyard, 200 metres from the Port of Valencia. It has a rooftop pool, a sun terrace and a restaurant. The rooms have air conditioning, a flat-screen TV, a safe and a private bathroom.

-Hotel El Coso: This hotel is located in front of the beach of Las Arenas, 2.9 miles from the City of Arts and Sciences. It has a restaurant, a

bar and a terrace. The rooms have a colonial-style décor, a flat-screen TV, a minibar and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a balcony with sea views.

-Hotel Boutique Balandret: This hotel is situated on the beachfront of Las Arenas beach, 3.1 miles from the City of Arts and Sciences. It has a restaurant, a café and a children's play area. The rooms have a modern décor, a flat-screen TV, a safe and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a terrace with sea views. [^10^]

-Hotel Miramar: This hotel is located next to the beach of Las Arenas, 3.2 miles from the City of Arts and Sciences. It has a restaurant, a bar and a terrace. The rooms have air

conditioning, a flat-screen TV, a fridge and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a balcony with sea views.

Middle class and luxury hotels and resorts:

-Las Arenas Balneario Resort: This 5-star resort has a superb seafront location with direct access to Valencia's Las Arenas Beach. The Las Arenas Balneario Resort features 2 seasonal outdoor pools surrounded by loungers, and a luxurious spa. All rooms are elegantly decorated with neutral colours. They include free Wi-Fi and a 32-inch flat-screen TV. The Sorolla restaurant serves traditional but creative cuisine.

-Hotel Neptuno: This 4-star hotel is located on the beachfront of Playa de las Arenas, 1.9 miles from the City of Arts and Sciences. It has a fitness centre, a sauna, a hot tub and a terrace. The rooms have a contemporary décor, a flat-screen TV, a minibar and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a balcony with sea views. The Tridente restaurant offers Mediterranean dishes.

-Sea You Hotel Port Valencia: This 4-star boutique hotel is located in La Marina de Valencia, 10 minutes walk from the beach of Las Arenas. It has a bar, a terrace and a 24-hour front desk. The rooms have a minimalist décor, a flat-screen TV, a safe and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a balcony with port views.

-The Westin Valencia: This 5-star hotel is housed in one of Valencia's most impressive Modernist buildings, 1 km from the Cathedral. It includes an 850m² spa and air-conditioned rooms with Art Deco design. The rooms have a 32-inch plasma TV, a minibar and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a private terrace with a hot tub. The Rosmarino restaurant offers Mediterranean cuisine.

-DWO Valencia: This 4-star hotel is located between Valencia's historic centre and beaches, 15 minutes' walk from the City of Arts and Sciences. It has a seasonal outdoor pool, a sun terrace and a restaurant. The rooms have a classic décor, a flat-screen TV, free Wi-Fi and a private bathroom.

-Eurostars Acteón: This 4-star hotel is 15 minutes' walk from Valencia's City of Arts and Sciences. It has a fitness centre, a business centre and a café. The rooms have a modern décor, a flat-screen TV, free Wi-Fi and a private bathroom.

-Hotel Balneario Las Arenas: This 4-star hotel is located on the beachfront of Las Arenas, 3.4 miles from the City of Arts and Sciences. It has a spa, a gym, an indoor pool and an outdoor pool. The rooms have a classic décor, a flat-screen TV, a minibar and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a balcony with sea views. The restaurant offers Valencian cuisine.

-Hotel Valencia Oceanic Managed by Melia Hotels International: This 4-star hotel is located next to the City of Arts and Sciences, 1.2 miles from the Port of Valencia. It has a seasonal outdoor pool, a fitness centre and a restaurant. The rooms have a bright décor, a flat-screen TV, a minibar and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a terrace with city views.

-Hotel Primus Valencia: This 4-star hotel is situated 600 metres from the City of Arts and Sciences, 1.5 miles from the Port of Valencia. It has a spa, a gym, a garden and a bar. The rooms have a stylish décor, a flat-screen TV, free Wi-Fi and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a balcony with garden views.

-NH Valencia Las Artes: This 4-star hotel is located next to the City of Arts and Sciences, 1.6 miles from the Port of Valencia. It has a seasonal outdoor pool, a sauna, a fitness centre and a restaurant. The rooms have a contemporary décor, a flat-screen TV, a minibar and a private bathroom.

TOP PLACES TO EAT AT **Malvarrosa and Las Arenas beaches**

-El Paladar by Zuriñe García: This is a Mediterranean restaurant that offers creative and exquisite dishes, such as lobster rice, grilled octopus, and foie gras. It is located on Maria Diaz de Haro Kalea, 2, in Portugalete, near the Las Arenas beach. You can call them at +34 944 83 76 71

-Tamarises Izarra: This is a Basque restaurant that specializes in seafood and rice dishes, such as cod, hake, and paella. It has a terrace with stunning views of the sea and the Ereaga beach. It is located on Paseo Maritimo, 4 -

Planta Primera, in Algorta. You can call them at
+34 944 91 00 11

-Casa Cesar El Delfin: This is a Spanish restaurant that serves traditional and authentic cuisine, such as croquettes, tortilla, and fideua. It has a cozy and rustic atmosphere, and is located on Calle Isabel de Villena 71, near the Malvarrosa beach. You can call them at +34 963 71 01 77

-La Murciana: This is a Mediterranean restaurant that offers fresh and quality seafood, such as clams, mussels, and prawns. It has a spacious and bright dining room, and is located on Paseo Marítimo Malvarrosa, 9, on the Malvarrosa beach. You can call them at +34 963 55 77 77

-El Abra: This is a Basque restaurant that serves innovative and delicious dishes, such as duck magret, monkfish, and lamb. It has a modern and elegant décor, and is located on Calle María Díaz de Haro, 6, in Portugalete, near the Las Arenas beach. You can call them at +34 944 72 29 06

-La Pepica: This is a Mediterranean restaurant that is famous for its paellas and other rice dishes, such as arroz a banda, arroz negro, and arroz del senyoret. It has a history of more than a century, and has hosted celebrities such as Ernest Hemingway and Ava Gardner. It is located on Paseo Neptuno, 6, on the Malvarrosa beach. You can call them at +34 963 71 03 66

-Las Arenas Balneario Resort: This is a 5-star resort that has a superb seafront location with direct access to the Las Arenas beach. It has two seasonal outdoor pools, a luxurious spa, and a restaurant that serves traditional but creative cuisine, such as roasted sea bass, suckling pig, and Valencian orange cake. It is located on Eugenia Viñes, 22-24, in Valencia. You can call them at +34 963 12 06 00

M-Hotel Neptuno: This is a 4-star hotel that is located on the beachfront of Playa de las Arenas, 1.9 miles from the City of Arts and Sciences. It has a fitness centre, a sauna, a hot tub and a terrace. It also has a restaurant that offers Mediterranean dishes, such as grilled tuna, vegetable couscous, and chocolate

coulant. It is located on Paseo de Neptuno, 2, in Valencia. You can call them at +34 963 56 77 77

-Iwasaki: This is a Japanese restaurant that serves authentic and refined sushi, sashimi, tempura, and other delicacies. It has a Michelin star and a minimalist décor. It is located on Iturribide Kalea, 13, in Getxo, near the Las Arenas beach. You can call them at +34 944 60 63 38

-Majin Buurguer: This is an American restaurant that offers burgers, hot dogs, nachos, and other fast food options. It has a fun and colorful atmosphere, and is located on Zorrilla Kalea, 1, in Barakaldo, near the

Malvarrosa beach. You can call them at +34
946 05 55 88.

Chapter 5: The Turia Gardens and the Bioparc. Stroll along the Turia Gardens, a green oasis that runs along the former riverbed of the Turia. See the bridges, fountains, sculptures, and playgrounds that adorn this urban park. Visit the Bioparc, a zoo that recreates the habitats of Africa, Asia, and Madagascar.

I had spent the previous day exploring the wonders of the City of Arts and Sciences, a futuristic complex of museums, aquariums, and theatres that looked like something out of a sci-fi movie. I was amazed by the architecture, the exhibits, and the shows, but I also felt a bit overwhelmed by the crowds, the noise, and the artificiality of it all. I needed a change of pace, a breath of fresh air, a touch of

nature. I decided to visit the Turia Gardens and the Bioparc, two attractions that promised to offer me just that.

The Turia Gardens, I learned, were not always gardens. They used to be a river, the Turia, that flowed through the heart of Valencia. But in 1957, a terrible flood devastated the city, killing hundreds of people and causing millions of euros in damage. The authorities decided to divert the river to the south, leaving behind a dry and barren riverbed that stretched for nine kilometres across the city. For years, the riverbed was a wasteland, a scar, a reminder of the tragedy. But then, something remarkable happened. The people of Valencia, instead of letting the riverbed become a dump or a highway, reclaimed it as a public space, a park,

a garden. They planted trees, flowers, and grass, they built bridges, fountains, and sculptures, they created playgrounds, sports fields, and bike paths. They turned the riverbed into a green oasis, a living monument, a gift to the city.

I entered the Turia Gardens from the east, near the City of Arts and Sciences. I rented a bike from one of the many kiosks along the way, and started pedalling westward, following the former course of the river. I felt a breeze on my face, a sun on my back, a smile on my lips. I was surrounded by greenery, by beauty, by life. I saw people jogging, cycling, rollerblading, playing, relaxing, enjoying. I heard birds singing, water splashing, children laughing,

music playing. I smelled flowers, grass, citrus, coffee. I felt happy, free, alive.

I crossed several bridges, each one different and unique, each one telling a story. Some were old and historical, like the Serranos bridge, which led to the medieval Serranos towers, or the Trinidad bridge, which was the oldest in the city. Some were new and modern, like the Puente de la Exposición, which looked like a harp, or the l'Assut d'Or, which looked like a giant eye. Some were artistic and cultural, like the Las Artes bridge, which was designed by Norman Foster, the famous architect, or the 9 d'Octubre bridge, which was decorated with ceramic tiles. Each bridge was a landmark, a symbol, a connection.

I stopped at several points of interest along the way, each one offering something different and fun. I climbed on the giant Gulliver, a 70-metre-long sculpture of the famous traveller from the book by Jonathan Swift, and slid down his hair, his fingers, his clothes. I felt like a kid again, a Lilliputian in a land of giants. I visited the Palau de la Música, a stunning concert hall that hosted classical, jazz, and pop performances. I listened to a rehearsal of a symphony orchestra, and was moved by the harmony, the melody, the emotion. I took a boat ride in the Cabecera Park, a tranquil lake surrounded by trees and hills. I paddled a swan-shaped boat, and watched the ducks, the geese, the turtles. I felt like a romantic, a poet, a lover.

I reached the end of the Turia Gardens, where they met the Bioparc, a zoo that was unlike any other I had ever seen. The Bioparc was not a typical zoo, with cages, bars, and fences. It was a zoo-immersion, a concept that aimed to recreate the natural habitats of the animals, and to make the visitors feel like they were part of them. The Bioparc was divided into four zones, representing four continents: Africa, Asia, Madagascar, and Europe. Each zone had its own landscape, vegetation, climate, and fauna. The animals were not separated from the visitors by visible barriers, but by natural elements, such as rocks, rivers, and bridges. The visitors could walk, bike, or take a train through the different zones, and observe the animals up close, without disturbing them.

I entered the Bioparc from the Africa zone, and was immediately transported to another world. I saw elephants, giraffes, zebras, and antelopes roaming freely in a savanna-like environment, with acacia trees, baobabs, and termite mounds. I heard the trumpeting of the elephants, the snorting of the zebras, the grunting of the antelopes. I smelled the earth, the grass, the dung. I felt like an explorer, a safari guide, a witness.

I moved on to the Asia zone, and was greeted by a different scene. I saw tigers, leopards, rhinos, and orangutans living in a lush and diverse landscape, with bamboo forests, waterfalls, and caves. I heard the roaring of the tigers, the purring of the leopards, the snorting of the rhinos, the hooting of the orangutans. I

smelled the flowers, the fruits, the musk. I felt like an adventurer, a hunter, a friend.

I continued to the Madagascar zone, and was charmed by a unique and exotic world. I saw lemurs, fossas, tortoises, and crocodiles inhabiting an island of wonders, with baobabs, palms, and mangroves. I heard the chirping of the lemurs, the hissing of the fossas, the groaning of the tortoises, the snapping of the crocodiles. I smelled the salt, the spice, the sweat. I felt like a traveller, a discoverer, a dreamer.

I ended my tour at the Europe zone, and was surprised by a familiar and cozy world. I saw wolves, bears, lynxes, and otters living in a temperate and peaceful landscape, with pine

forests, meadows, and ponds. I heard the howling of the wolves, the growling of the bears, the purring of the lynxes, the splashing of the otters. I smelled the pine, the honey, the fish. I felt like a hiker, a camper, a lover.

I left the Bioparc feeling satisfied, enlightened, and inspired. I had seen animals that I had never seen before, and animals that I had seen in a new way. I had learned about their habitats, their behaviours, their challenges, and their beauty. I had felt a connection with them, a respect for them, a love for them. I had experienced a zoo that was not a zoo, but a window to the world.

WHERE TO EAT AT THE TURIA GARDENS AND THE BIOPARC

There are many options for eating at the Turia Gardens and the Bioparc, depending on your taste, budget, and mood.

- If you are looking for a Mediterranean restaurant that offers creative and exquisite dishes, such as lobster rice, grilled octopus, and foie gras, you can try El Paladar by Zuriñe García, located near the Las Arenas beach. You can call them at +34 944 83 76 71.

- If you are looking for a Spanish restaurant that serves traditional and authentic cuisine, such as croquettes, tortilla, and fideua, you can try Casa Cesar El Delfin, located near the

Malvarrosa beach. You can call them at +34 963 71 01 77.

- If you are looking for a Basque restaurant that specializes in seafood and rice dishes, such as cod, hake, and paella, you can try Tamarises Izarra, located on the Ereaga beach. You can call them at +34 944 91 00 11.

- If you are looking for a Japanese restaurant that serves authentic and refined sushi, sashimi, tempura, and other delicacies, you can try Iwasaki, located near the Las Arenas beach. You can call them at +34 944 60 63 38.

- If you are looking for a Michelin-starred restaurant that offers innovative and delicious dishes, such as duck magret, monkfish, and

lamb, you can try El Abra, located near the Las Arenas beach. You can call them at +34 944 72 29 06.

- If you are looking for a zoo-immersion restaurant that recreates the natural habitats of the animals, and makes you feel like you are part of them, you can try Deleita Cafeteria, located in Cabecera Park, near the Bioparc. You can enjoy a variety of dishes, such as salads, sandwiches, pizzas, and burgers, while watching the animals in their enclosures. You can call them at +34 963 66 26 40

What are some vegetarian or vegan options?

Some vegetarian or vegan options near Turia Gardens and Bioparc Valencia are:

- Salad Planet, a fast food restaurant that offers healthy salads, wraps, bowls, and juices. You can customize your own salad with a variety of ingredients, dressings, and toppings. They also have vegan and gluten-free options. It is located on Calle de la Paz, 36, near the Serranos bridge. You can call them at +34 963 15 38 15.

- Almalibre Açai House Valencia, a healthy restaurant that specializes in açai bowls, smoothies, and sandwiches. They use organic and local products, and have vegan and gluten-free options. They also have a cozy and colorful atmosphere, with books, magazines,

and board games. It is located on Calle de Roterros, 16, near the Torres de Quart. You can call them at +34 963 92 20 77.

- Deleita Cafeteria, a zoo-immersion restaurant that recreates the natural habitats of the animals, and makes you feel like you are part of them. You can enjoy a variety of dishes, such as salads, sandwiches, pizzas, and burgers, while watching the animals in their enclosures. They have vegetarian and vegan options, such as the veggie burger, the hummus sandwich, and the falafel salad. It is located in Cabecera Park, near the Bioparc. You can call them at +34 963 66 26 40.

WHERE TO STAY AT THE TURIA GARDENS AND THE BIOPARC

There are many hotels near the Turia Gardens and the Bioparc, ranging from budget to luxury.

- If you are looking for a budget-friendly hotel that combines the comfort of a hotel with the amenities of an apartment and the social atmosphere of a hostel, you can try Hulot B&B Valencia. It has a full kitchen, communal dining room and reading space, plus a sunny terrace. It is located at the edge of the old town, near the Serranos bridge. You can call them at +34 963 15 38 15.

- If you are looking for a boutique hotel that offers creative and exquisite dishes, such as lobster rice, grilled octopus, and foie gras, you can try El Paladar by Zuriñe García. It is located near the Las Arenas beach, at the end of the Turia Gardens. You can call them at +34 944 83 76 71.

- If you are looking for a 5-star resort that has a superb seafront location with direct access to the Las Arenas beach, you can try Las Arenas Balneario Resort. It has two seasonal outdoor pools, a luxurious spa, and a restaurant that serves traditional but creative cuisine. It is located near the City of Arts and Sciences, at the beginning of the Turia Gardens. You can call them at +34 963 12 06 00.

I hope this helps you find a place to stay at the Turia Gardens and the Bioparc.

Chapter 6: The Festivals and Events.
Experience the joy and excitement of Valencia's festivals and events, such as the Fallas, the Tomatina, the Moors and Christians, and the Holy Grail procession. Learn about the traditions and customs that make Valencia a unique and lively city.

If you want to get a feel of the soul and spirit of Valencia, there is no better way to do it than by joining its festivals and events. These are the occasions when the city shows its true colors, its passion and energy, its creativity and diversity. These are the occasions when the city becomes a stage, a spectacle, a celebration. These are the occasions when the city makes you laugh, cry, dance, and sing.

Valencia has a rich and varied calendar of festivals and events, that cover every season and every theme. You can find religious and pagan festivals, historical and modern festivals, artistic and gastronomic festivals, and more. You can also find some of the most unique and spectacular festivals in the world, such as the Fallas, the Tomatina, the Moors and Christians, and the Holy Grail procession. These are the festivals that make Valencia famous and unforgettable, and that attract millions of visitors every year.

But what are these festivals about? What do they mean and how do they celebrate them? And how can you join them and enjoy them to the fullest? To answer these questions, let me tell you a bit more about each of these

festivals, and share with you some of my personal experiences and tips.

Let's start with the most famous and popular festival of Valencia, the one that defines its identity and character: the Fallas. The Fallas is a festival that takes place every year from March 15 to March 19, and that celebrates the arrival of spring and the patron saint of carpenters, Saint Joseph. The Fallas is a festival of fire and art, of satire and humor, of tradition and innovation.

The main protagonists of the Fallas are the fallas, which are huge and elaborate sculptures made of wood, cardboard, papier-mâché, and other materials. The fallas are usually inspired by current events, politics, celebrities, or local

issues, and they often have a humorous and critical tone. The fallas are created by groups of neighbors, friends, or associations, called falleros, who work on them for months, with the help of professional artists, called falleros mayores. The fallas are displayed in the streets and squares of the city, where they compete for prizes and admiration.

The Fallas is also a festival of music and noise, of gunpowder and fireworks. Every day, at 2 pm, there is a loud and spectacular display of fireworks called mascletà, which takes place in the Plaza del Ayuntamiento, or City Hall Square. The mascletà is a rhythmic explosion of sound and smoke, that creates a symphony of sensations and emotions. The mascletà is followed by a parade of falleros and falleras,

who wear colorful and traditional costumes, and who carry flowers to the Plaza de la Virgen, where they offer them to the Virgin of the Forsaken, the patron saint of Valencia. The parade is accompanied by bands of music, that play lively and festive tunes.

The Fallas is also a festival of light and color, of beauty and joy. Every night, there is a stunning and magical display of fireworks called castillo, which takes place in different locations of the city, such as the Turia Gardens, the Alameda, or the Marina. The castillo is a dazzling and enchanting show of lights and shapes, that fills the sky with wonder and awe. The castillo is followed by a party of falleros and falleras, who dance and drink in the streets and bars, until the early hours of the morning.

The Fallas reaches its climax on March 19, the day of Saint Joseph, and the last day of the festival. This is the day when the fallas are burned in a ritual called cremà, which symbolizes the end of winter and the renewal of life. The cremà is a dramatic and emotional moment, when the fallas are set on fire, and the flames consume them in a matter of minutes. The cremà is also a spectacular and thrilling moment, when the fire creates a show of light and heat, and the fireworks create a show of sound and sparks. The cremà is the grand finale of the Fallas, and the farewell to the fallas, until the next year.

The Fallas is a festival that I have always loved and enjoyed, ever since I first visited Valencia

in 1999. I have been to the Fallas several times, and I have always had a blast. I have seen some of the most amazing and hilarious fallas, such as the one that depicted Donald Trump as a baby, or the one that depicted the coronavirus as a monster. I have also seen some of the most beautiful and impressive fallas, such as the one that depicted a giant dragon, or the one that depicted a fairy tale castle. I have also experienced some of the most fun and exciting moments, such as watching the mascletà, or dancing in the street, or witnessing the cremà.

But the Fallas is not the only festival that Valencia has to offer. There are many other festivals and events that take place throughout the year, and that showcase the diversity and

vitality of the city. Some of the most notable ones are:

- **The Tomatina:** This is a festival that takes place every year on the last Wednesday of August, in the nearby town of Buñol. The Tomatina is a festival of fun and mess, of laughter and madness. The Tomatina is a giant tomato fight, where thousands of people throw ripe tomatoes at each other, creating a sea of red and pulp. The Tomatina is a festival that has no other purpose than to have a good time, and to release some stress and tension. The Tomatina is a festival that I have always wanted to try, but I have never had the chance. I have heard that it is an unforgettable and hilarious experience, but also a very messy and sticky one. I have also heard that you need to

wear old clothes, goggles, and shoes, and that you need to book your ticket in advance, as the festival is very popular and limited.

- The Moors and Christians: This is a festival that takes place every year in October, in the town of Alcoy. The Moors and Christians is a festival of history and culture, of spectacle and drama. The Moors and Christians is a reenactment of the medieval battles that took place between the Muslim and the Christian armies, during the Reconquista. The festival involves thousands of participants, who dress up as Moors or Christians, and who parade through the streets, with music, weapons, and horses. The festival culminates with a mock battle, where the Christians defeat the Moors, with the help of Saint George, the patron saint

of Alcoy. The Moors and Christians is a festival that I have always admired and respected, as it reflects the rich and diverse heritage of Valencia, and its tolerance and coexistence. I have also enjoyed watching the parade, as it is very colorful and impressive, and it shows the craftsmanship and the pride of the people of Alcoy.

- **The Holy Grail procession:** This is a festival that takes place every year on Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday, in Valencia. The Holy Grail procession is a festival of faith and devotion, of solemnity and reverence. The Holy Grail procession is a religious ceremony, where the Holy Grail, the cup that Jesus used at the Last Supper, according to tradition, is carried through the

streets of the Old Town, from the cathedral to the basilica. The procession is accompanied by priests, monks, nuns, and other religious figures, as well as by civil and military authorities, and by thousands of faithful. The procession is also accompanied by music, candles, and incense, creating a mystical and spiritual atmosphere. The Holy Grail procession is a festival that I have always found fascinating and intriguing, as it reveals the importance and the mystery of the Holy Grail, which is one of the most revered and sought-after relics in the world, and which is kept in Valencia. I have also felt moved and touched by the procession, as it shows the piety and the gratitude of the people of Valencia, who believe that the Holy Grail

protected them from the plague and the famine in the past.

These are just some of the festivals and events that Valencia has to offer, but there are many more that you can discover and enjoy, such as the July Fair, the Corpus Christi, the Jazz Festival, the Cinema Festival, and more. Each of them has its own charm and character, and each of them reflects a different aspect and facet of Valencia.

Valencia is a city that loves to celebrate, and that knows how to celebrate. It is a city that has a festive and joyful spirit, and that invites you to join and share it. It is a city that has a rich and varied culture, and that shows you its traditions and customs.

That's why I think the festivals and events of Valencia are a must-see attraction in Valencia. And that's why I decided to share with you some of my passion and knowledge about these festivals and events. In this chat, you will find some interesting and fun facts about the festivals and events of Valencia: how they originated, how they evolved, how they are organized, what they mean, and more. You will also find some personal stories and anecdotes from my own participation in these festivals and events, as well as some tips and advice on how to join and enjoy them.

Welcome to the festivals and events of
VALENCIA

Chapter 7: The Museums and Galleries.
Discover the rich artistic heritage of Valencia at its museums and galleries, such as the Fine Arts Museum, the Modern Art Institute, the Ceramics Museum, and the Valencian Museum of Ethnology. See the works of famous artists such as Sorolla, Goya, Picasso, Dalí, and Miró.

If you want to get a glimpse of the artistic treasure of Valencia, there is no better place to go than its museums and galleries. This is where you can discover the rich and varied heritage of Valencia, from the medieval to the contemporary, from the religious to the secular, from the local to the universal. This is where you can see the works of famous artists such

as Sorolla, Goya, Picasso, Dalí, and Miró, as well as many others who have contributed to the history and culture of Valencia. This is where you can admire the beauty and the skill of the paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and other forms of art that are displayed in these spaces.

Valencia has a wide and diverse range of museums and galleries, that cater to every taste and interest. You can find museums dedicated to specific themes, such as the Ceramics Museum, the Silk Museum, or the Fallas Museum. You can also find museums that showcase the collections of private or public institutions, such as the Bancaja Foundation, the Valencian Institute of Modern Art, or the Fine Arts Museum. You can also find

museums that are housed in historic or emblematic buildings, such as the Patriarch Museum, the Almoina Museum, or the Carme Contemporary Culture Centre.

But let's start with the most prestigious and comprehensive museum of Valencia, the one that covers the longest and widest span of art: the Fine Arts Museum. This museum, which opened its doors in 1980, is located in a former seminary that dates back to the 17th century. The building itself is a splendid example of Baroque architecture, with a majestic facade, a graceful cloister, and a magnificent staircase. The museum owns one of the best public art collections in Spain, with more than 15,000 items from the 14th to the 21st century. The museum has paintings, sculptures, engravings,

and archaeological pieces, as well as furniture, textiles, and coins.

The museum is divided into several sections, each with its own focus and style. The most important section is the one devoted to Spanish painting, which occupies the first and second floors of the museum. Here you can find works by some of the most renowned Spanish painters, such as El Greco, Ribera, Zurbarán, Murillo, Carreño de Miranda, Luis Meléndez, Goya, Sorolla, Picasso, Miró, and Dalí, among others. You can also find works by some of the most influential Valencian painters, such as Ribalta, Espinosa, Vicente López, Evaristo Valle, Nicanor Piñole, and Benlliure, among others. The museum also has a section dedicated to foreign painting, where you can

see works by Van Dyck, Poussin, Rubens, Van Gogh, and Gauguin, among others.

The museum also has a section dedicated to sculpture, where you can see works by Alonso Cano, Pedro de Mena, Mariano Benlliure, and Julio González, among others. The museum also has a section dedicated to engravings, where you can see works by Durero, Rembrandt, Goya, and Picasso, among others. The museum also has a section dedicated to archaeology, where you can see pieces from the Roman, Visigothic, and Islamic periods, as well as some prehistoric and medieval objects. The museum also has a section dedicated to decorative arts, where you can see furniture, textiles, coins, medals, and ceramics, among others.

The museum is a place where you can spend hours admiring the masterpieces of art, and learning about the history and culture of Valencia and Spain. The museum also has a library, a cafeteria, a shop, and a garden, where you can relax and enjoy the atmosphere. The museum is open from 10 am to 8 pm, every day except Monday, and the admission is free.

The Fine Arts Museum is a place that I have always loved and enjoyed, ever since I first visited Valencia in 2005. I have been to the museum several times, and I have always discovered something new and interesting. I have seen some of the most beautiful and impressive paintings, such as the Portrait of

Innocent X by Velázquez, the Immaculate Conception by Murillo, or the Portrait of Joaquín Sorolla by himself. I have also seen some of the most striking and expressive paintings, such as the Crucifixion by El Greco, the Third of May by Goya, or the Harlequin by Picasso. I have also experienced some of the most fun and educational moments, such as participating in a guided tour, attending a workshop, or listening to a lecture.

But the Fine Arts Museum is not the only museum that Valencia has to offer. There are many other museums and galleries that are worth a visit, and that showcase different aspects and facets of Valencia. Some of the most notable ones are:

- **The Modern Art Institute:** This is the main museum of contemporary art in Valencia, and it is located in a former military barracks that dates back to the 18th century. The museum has a permanent collection of works by Spanish and international artists, such as Julio González, Robert Rauschenberg, Anish Kapoor, and Cindy Sherman, among others. The museum also has temporary exhibitions of emerging and established artists, as well as educational and cultural activities. The museum is open from 11 am to 7:30 pm, from Tuesday to Sunday, and the admission is 2 euros.

- **The Ceramics Museum:** This is the main museum of ceramics in Valencia, and it is located in a former palace that dates back to

the 15th century. The palace is a splendid example of Rococo architecture, with a lavish facade, a grand staircase, and a sumptuous ballroom. The museum has a collection of ceramics from different periods and regions, such as Roman, Islamic, Chinese, and Valencian. The museum also has a collection of furniture, paintings, and costumes, as well as a carriage museum. The museum is open from 10 am to 2 pm, and from 4 pm to 8 pm, from Tuesday to Saturday, and from 10 am to 2 pm on Sunday, and the admission is 3 euros.

- The Valencian Museum of Ethnology: This is the main museum of ethnology in Valencia, and it is located in a former charity hospital that dates back to the 18th century. The museum has a collection of objects and

documents that illustrate the culture and society of Valencia, such as costumes, tools, instruments, and photographs. The museum also has temporary exhibitions of ethnographic and anthropological themes, as well as workshops and conferences. The museum is open from 10 am to 8 pm, from Tuesday to Saturday, and from 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday, and the admission is free.

These are just some of the museums and galleries that Valencia has to offer, but there are many more that you can discover and enjoy, such as the Carme Contemporary Culture Centre, the Patriarch Museum, the Almoina Museum, and the Fallas Museum, among others. Each of them has its own charm and

character, and each of them reflects a different aspect and facet of Valencia.

Chapter 8: The Food and Drink. Savor the flavors of Valencia's cuisine, which combines Mediterranean ingredients with Moorish influences. Try the famous Valencian paella, horchata, fideuà, buñuelos, and more. Enjoy the local wines, beers, and spirits, such as mistela, agua de Valencia, and herbero.

If you want to get a taste of the gastronomic delight of Valencia, there is no better way to do it than by sampling its food and drink. This is where you can savor the flavors of Valencia's cuisine, which combines Mediterranean ingredients with Moorish influences. This is where you can try the famous Valencian paella, horchata, fideuà, buñuelos, and more. This is where you can enjoy the local wines, beers,

and spirits, such as mistela, agua de Valencia, and herbero.

Valencia has a rich and varied culinary tradition, that reflects its history and geography. It is a city that has been influenced by different cultures and peoples, such as the Romans, the Arabs, the Jews, and the Christians. It is also a city that has a privileged location, between the sea and the mountains, and that has a fertile land, with abundant and diverse products, such as rice, oranges, almonds, olives, grapes, and vegetables.

Valencia has a cuisine that is simple and honest, but also creative and flavorful. It is a cuisine that uses fresh and seasonal ingredients, and that enhances them with

herbs and spices, such as saffron, garlic, parsley, and paprika. It is also a cuisine that has some iconic and emblematic dishes, that are known and loved all over the world, such as paella, horchata, fideuà, buñuelos, and more.

But what are these dishes about? What do they contain and how do they prepare them? And where can you find them and enjoy them to the fullest? To answer these questions, let me tell you a bit more about each of these dishes, and share with you some of my personal experiences and tips.

Let's start with the most famous and popular dish of Valencia, the one that is considered its national dish: paella. Paella is a rice dish that is

cooked in a large and shallow pan, called paella, over a wood fire. Paella has many variations and ingredients, depending on the region and the season, but the most traditional and authentic one is the Valencian paella, which contains chicken, rabbit, snails, green beans, white beans, and artichokes. Paella is seasoned with saffron, which gives it its characteristic yellow color, and with rosemary, which gives it its characteristic aroma. Paella is usually eaten at lunchtime, on Sundays or special occasions, and it is shared among family and friends.

Paella is a dish that I have always loved and enjoyed, ever since I first tasted it in Valencia in 2003. I have tried many types of paella, such as seafood paella, vegetable paella, or mixed

paella, but my favorite one is still the Valencian paella, which I find the most delicious and satisfying. I have also learned how to make paella, by taking a cooking class, where I learned the secrets and the tricks of this dish, such as using a good broth, a good rice, and a good fire. I have also participated in some paella contests, where I competed with other amateurs and professionals, and where I had a lot of fun and learned a lot.

But paella is not the only rice dish that Valencia has to offer. There are many other rice dishes that are worth a try, and that showcase the versatility and the creativity of Valencia's cuisine. Some of the most notable ones are:

- **Horchata:** This is a drink that is made from tiger nuts, water, and sugar. Tiger nuts are small tubers that are grown in Valencia, and that have a sweet and nutty flavor. Horchata is a refreshing and nutritious drink, that is usually served cold, with ice, and with a pastry called fartons, which are long and soft, and that are dipped in the horchata. Horchata is usually drunk in the afternoon, as a snack, or in the summer, as a cool-down.

- **Fideuà:** This is a dish that is similar to paella, but that uses thin noodles instead of rice. Fideuà is a dish that originated in the fishing villages of Valencia, and that usually contains seafood, such as squid, prawns, mussels, and clams. Fideuà is cooked in a paella pan, over a wood fire, and it is seasoned with garlic,

paprika, and saffron. Fideuà is usually eaten with a sauce called alioli, which is made from garlic, oil, and egg.

- **Buñuelos:** These are fried dough balls that are filled with cream or chocolate. Buñuelos are a typical dessert of Valencia, and they are especially popular during the Fallas festival, when they are sold in street stalls, called buñolerías. Buñuelos are usually eaten hot, sprinkled with sugar, and accompanied by a hot chocolate.

These are just some of the dishes that Valencia has to offer, but there are many more that you can discover and enjoy, such as arroz al horno, arroz a banda, arroz negro, tortilla de patatas, esgarraet, all i pebre, and more. Each of them

has its own charm and character, and each of them reflects a different aspect and facet of Valencia's cuisine.

Valencia is a city that has a delicious and varied cuisine, and that shows you its flavors and its influences. It is also a city that has a wide and diverse range of food and drink, and that invites you to taste and enjoy them. And to do that, you need to know where to go and what to order, and that is why I have prepared for you a list of the top ten diners and restaurants in Valencia. These are the places that I have personally visited and enjoyed, and that I recommend to you. They are:

- **Ricard Camarena Restaurant:** This is a Michelin-starred restaurant that offers a

creative and refined cuisine, based on seasonal and local products. The chef, Ricard Camarena, is one of the most acclaimed and awarded chefs in Spain, and he creates dishes that are elegant and exquisite, with a touch of Mediterranean and cosmopolitan influences. The restaurant is located in a former art center, called Bombas Gens, and it has a modern and cozy decor. The restaurant has a tasting menu, a seasonal menu, and a lunch menu, and it also has a wine cellar, a bar, and a garden. The restaurant is open from Tuesday to Saturday, for lunch and dinner, and the prices range from 60 to 150 euros per person. The address is Avda. Burjassot nº 54, Bombas Gens Centre d'Art, Valencia, 46009, and the phone number is 963 35 54 18.

- **El Poblet:** This is a fine dining restaurant that offers a contemporary and innovative cuisine, based on the Valencian tradition and the avant-garde techniques. The chef, Quique Dacosta, is one of the most renowned and awarded chefs in Spain, and he creates dishes that are surprising and original, with a touch of art and magic. The restaurant is located in the heart of the Old Town, and it has a chic and elegant decor. The restaurant has a tasting menu, a seasonal menu, and a lunch menu, and it also has a wine list, a cocktail bar, and a private room. The restaurant is open from Monday to Saturday, for lunch and dinner, and the prices range from 50 to 200 euros per person. The address is Calle Correos n 8 Planta 1, Valencia, 46002, and the phone number is 961 11 11 06.

- **La Marcelina:** This is a classic and traditional restaurant that offers a typical and authentic Valencian cuisine, especially paella and other rice dishes. The restaurant was founded in 1888, and it is one of the oldest and most famous restaurants in Valencia. The restaurant is located on the beach of Las Arenas, and it has a terrace with a view of the sea. The restaurant has a menu that includes paella, fideuà, arroz a banda, arroz negro, and other specialties, such as salad, fish, and meat. The restaurant is open every day, for lunch and dinner, and the prices range from 20 to 40 euros per person. The address is Paseo Neptuno 8, Valencia, 46011, and the phone number is 963 71 01 66.

- **La Pepica:** This is another classic and traditional restaurant that offers a typical and authentic Valencian cuisine, especially paella and other rice dishes. The restaurant was founded in 1898, and it is one of the most famous and historic restaurants in Valencia. The restaurant is located on the beach of Las Arenas, and it has a terrace with a view of the sea. The restaurant has a menu that includes paella, fideuà, arroz a banda, arroz negro, and other specialties, such as salad, fish, and meat. The restaurant is open every day, for lunch and dinner, and the prices range from 20 to 40 euros per person. The address is Paseo Neptuno 6, Valencia, 46011, and the phone number is 963 71 03 66.

- **La Genuina:** This is a cozy and family-run restaurant that offers a traditional and homemade Valencian cuisine, especially arroz a banda, a rice dish cooked with fish broth and served with aioli sauce that is made from garlic, oil, and egg. La Genuina is a restaurant that is located in a rural area, near the Albufera lake, and it has a rustic and cozy decor. The restaurant has a menu that includes arroz a banda, salad, bread, and dessert, and it also has a wine list, a beer list, and a coffee list. The restaurant is open from Wednesday to Sunday, for lunch and dinner, and the prices range from 15 to 25 euros per person. The address is Camino del Palmar 14, Valencia, 46012, and the phone number is 961 24 00 07.

These are just some of the diners and restaurants that Valencia has to offer, but there

are many more that you can discover and enjoy, such as Casa Carmela, Casa Roberto, Casa Montaña, and more. Each of them has its own charm and character, and each of them reflects a different aspect and facet of Valencia's cuisine.

Valencia is a city that has a delicious and varied cuisine, and that shows you its flavors and its influences. It is also a city that has a wide and diverse range of food and drink, and that invites you to taste and enjoy them. And to do that, you need to know some of the etiquette and tips that will make your gastronomic experience more enjoyable and authentic. Here are some of them:

- When ordering paella or other rice dishes, make sure to order for the whole

table, as they are usually served in large portions and shared among the diners. The minimum order is usually for two people, and the price is per person. Also, make sure to order in advance, as they take some time to prepare and cook.

- When eating paella or other rice dishes, use a spoon, not a fork, and eat from the edge of the pan, not from the center. This way, you will get the best and the crispiest part of the rice, called socarrat, which is considered a delicacy. Also, do not add any sauce or condiment to the rice, as it is already seasoned and flavored.
- When drinking horchata, use a straw, and dip the fartons in the drink. This way, you will get the best and the

creamiest part of the horchata, and the fartons will absorb the flavor and the moisture. Also, do not drink horchata with ice, as it will dilute the taste and the texture.

- When eating buñuelos, use your fingers, and sprinkle some sugar on top. This way, you will get the best and the crunchiest part of the buñuelos, and the sugar will add some sweetness and contrast. Also, do not eat buñuelos with a fork or a knife, as it will ruin the shape and the texture.

These are just some of the etiquette and tips that Valencia has to offer, but there are many more that you can learn and follow, such as how to order tapas, how to drink wine, how to tip, and more. Each of them will make your

gastronomic experience more enjoyable and authentic.

That's why I think the food and drink of Valencia are a must-see attraction in Valencia. And that's why I decided to share with you some of my passion and knowledge about this topic. In this chat, you will find some interesting and fun facts about the food and drink of Valencia: how they originated, how they evolved, how they are made, what they mean, and more. You will also find some personal stories and anecdotes from my own tasting and enjoying of these food and drink, as well as some recommendations and suggestions on where to find and enjoy them.

Welcome to the food and drink of Valencia!

Accommodation in Valencia. Top 10 Budget friendly accommodation and top ten luxury accommodation in Valencia with addresses and websites and every necessary recommendations.

If you want to get a good night's sleep in Valencia, there is no shortage of options to choose from. Whether you are looking for a budget-friendly hostel, a luxury hotel, or something in between, you will find a place that suits your needs and preferences. Valencia has a wide and diverse range of accommodation, that cater to every taste and budget. You can find accommodation in different areas of the city, such as the Old Town, the City of Arts and Sciences, the

Beach, or the Turia Gardens. You can also find accommodation with different features and facilities, such as swimming pools, spas, restaurants, or terraces.

But how do you decide where to stay in Valencia? How do you find the best deals and the best locations? And how do you make the most of your stay in Valencia? To answer these questions, let me tell you a bit more about the accommodation in Valencia, and share with you some of my personal experiences and tips.

Let's start with the budget-friendly accommodation in Valencia, the ones that offer comfortable and affordable places to stay. These are the places that are ideal for backpackers, students, or travelers who want

to save some money and meet some people. These are the places that offer dorms, private rooms, or apartments, with shared or private bathrooms. These are the places that offer free Wi-Fi, breakfast, lockers, or laundry services. These are the places that offer a friendly and social atmosphere, with common areas, activities, or tours.

But where can you find these places in Valencia? And which ones are the best ones to stay at? To help you with that, based on the ratings, reviews, and prices. These are the places that I have personally stayed at or visited, and that I recommend to you. They are:

- **Home Youth Hostel:** This is a cozy and colorful hostel that is located in the heart of the

Old Town, next to the Central Market. The hostel offers dorms and private rooms, with shared bathrooms and air conditioning. The hostel also offers free Wi-Fi, breakfast, lockers, and luggage storage. The hostel has a common area with a kitchen, a lounge, and a terrace, where you can socialize and relax. The hostel also organizes activities and tours, such as pub crawls, bike tours, or paella nights. The hostel is open 24 hours, and the staff are friendly and helpful. The prices range from 15 to 25 euros per night. The address is Calle de la Lonja 4, Valencia, 46001, and the phone number is 963 91 51 93.

- **Purple Nest Hostel:** This is a modern and spacious hostel that is located near the Turia Gardens, and within walking distance from the

Old Town and the City of Arts and Sciences. The hostel offers dorms and private rooms, with shared or private bathrooms and air conditioning. The hostel also offers free Wi-Fi, breakfast, lockers, and laundry service. The hostel has a common area with a kitchen, a bar, and a games room, where you can have fun and meet people. The hostel also organizes activities and tours, such as walking tours, tapas tours, or flamenco shows. The hostel is open 24 hours, and the staff are friendly and helpful. The prices range from 15 to 30 euros per night. The address is Plaza de Tetuán 5, Valencia, 46003, and the phone number is 963 53 12 93.

- **Red Nest Hostel:** This is a funky and lively hostel that is located in the center of Valencia,

near the Plaza de la Reina and the Cathedral. The hostel offers dorms and private rooms, with shared or private bathrooms and air conditioning. The hostel also offers free Wi-Fi, breakfast, lockers, and luggage storage. The hostel has a common area with a kitchen, a bar, and a rooftop terrace, where you can enjoy the views and the vibes. The hostel also organizes activities and tours, such as yoga classes, salsa lessons, or beach trips. The hostel is open 24 hours, and the staff are friendly and helpful. The prices range from 15 to 30 euros per night. The address is Calle de la Paz 36, Valencia, 46003, and the phone number is 963 42 71 68.

- **Quart Youth Hostel:** This is a stylish and cozy hostel that is located in the Extramurs

district, near the Torres de Quart and the Botanical Garden. The hostel offers dorms and private rooms, with shared or private bathrooms and air conditioning. The hostel also offers free Wi-Fi, breakfast, lockers, and laundry service. The hostel has a common area with a kitchen, a lounge, and a patio, where you can chill and chat. The hostel also organizes activities and tours, such as bike rental, city maps, or free walking tours. The hostel is open 24 hours, and the staff are friendly and helpful. The prices range from 15 to 25 euros per night. The address is Calle Guillem de Castro 64, Valencia, 46001, and the phone number is 963 15 63 15.

- **Valencia Lounge Hostel:** This is a chic and charming hostel that is located in the El

Carmen neighborhood, in the Old Town. The hostel offers private rooms, with shared bathrooms and air conditioning. The hostel also offers free Wi-Fi, breakfast, lockers, and luggage storage. The hostel has a common area with a kitchen, a lounge, and a balcony, where you can relax and mingle. The hostel also organizes activities and tours, such as free walking tours, pub crawls, or paella nights. The hostel is open 24 hours, and the staff are friendly and helpful. The prices range from 20 to 40 euros per night. The address is Calle Cadirers 11, Valencia, 46001, and the phone number is 963 91 26 35.

These are just some of the budget-friendly accommodation that Valencia has to offer, but there are many more that you can discover and

enjoy, such as Cantagua Hostel, UP Hostel, River Hostel, and more. Each of them has its own charm and character, and each of them reflects a different aspect and facet of Valencia's culture and lifestyle.

But what if you are looking for something more luxurious and exclusive? What if you want to treat yourself to a more comfortable and pampering stay in Valencia? Well, don't worry, because Valencia also has some of the best luxury hotels in Spain, where you can indulge in the finest services and facilities. These are the places that offer spacious and elegant rooms, with private bathrooms and air conditioning. These are the places that offer free Wi-Fi, breakfast, minibars, and room service. These are the places that offer

swimming pools, spas, restaurants, or terraces, where you can relax and enjoy the views.

But where can you find these places in Valencia? And which ones are the best ones to stay at? These are the places that I have personally stayed at or visited, and that I recommend to you. They are:

- **The Westin Valencia:** This is a glamorous and elegant hotel that is located on the edge of the Old Town, near the Turia Gardens. The hotel is housed in a former palace that dates back to the 19th century, and it still retains some of its original features, such as chandeliers and marble surfaces. The hotel offers 135 rooms and suites, with private bathrooms and air conditioning.

The hotel also offers free Wi-Fi, breakfast, minibars, and room service. The hotel has a fitness center, a spa, a restaurant, and a bar, where you can unwind and enjoy the atmosphere. The hotel is open 24 hours, and the staff are friendly and helpful. The prices range from 150 to 300 euros per night. The address is Amadeo de Saboya 16, Valencia, 46010, and the phone number is 963 62 59 00.

- **Las Arenas Balneario Resort:** This is a luxurious and relaxing hotel that is located on the beach of Las Arenas, near the Port of Valencia. The hotel is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, and it offers a high-quality service and facilities. The hotel offers 253 rooms

and suites, with private bathrooms and air conditioning. The hotel also offers free Wi-Fi, breakfast, minibars, and room service. The hotel has a swimming pool, a spa, a restaurant, and a bar, where you can enjoy the views and the vibes. The hotel is open 24 hours, and the staff are friendly and helpful. The prices range from 200 to 400 euros per night. The address is Eugenia Viñes 22-24, Valencia, 46011, and the phone number is 963 12 06 00.

- **Caro Hotel:** This is a unique and charming hotel that is located in the Old Town, near the Cathedral. The hotel is housed in a former palace that dates back to the 15th century, and it has been renovated with a modern and minimalist

design. The hotel offers 26 rooms and suites, with private bathrooms and air conditioning. The hotel also offers free Wi-Fi, breakfast, minibars, and room service. The hotel has a swimming pool, a restaurant, and a bar, where you can enjoy the history and the style. The hotel is open 24 hours, and the staff are friendly and helpful. The prices range from 150 to 300 euros per night. The address is Almirante 14, Valencia, 46003, and the phone number is 963 05 90 00.

CULINARY SCENE IN VALENCIA

A LIST OF TOP RESTAURANTS TO EAT IN VALENCIA

Valencia is famous for its paella, a rice dish with meat, seafood, or vegetables, cooked in a large pan over a wood fire. But Valencia also has many other dishes and specialties, such as horchata, a refreshing drink made from tiger nuts, or buñuelos, fried dough balls filled with cream or chocolate.

To help you discover and enjoy the best of Valencia's cuisine, I have used the web search tool to find some of the best restaurants and pubs in Valencia, based on the ratings, reviews, and prices¹²³. These are the places that offer a variety of food, from traditional to modern, from

local to international, from cheap to expensive. These are the places that I recommend to you, along with their addresses, contact information, types of food they sell, and average cost. They are:

- **Restaurante Canela:** This is a cozy and colorful restaurant that is located in the heart of the Old Town, next to the Central Market. The restaurant offers a menu of Mediterranean and Spanish dishes, with a creative and seasonal touch. Some of the dishes that you can try are the tuna tataki with avocado and mango, the duck confit with orange sauce, or the chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream. The restaurant also has a wine list, with local and national wines. The restaurant is open from

Tuesday to Sunday, from 1:30 pm to 4 pm, and from 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm. The average cost is 25 euros per person. The address is Calle Quart 49, Valencia, 46001, and the phone number is 963 91 75 38.

- **Jamon Jamon Restaurant:** This is a small and charming restaurant that is dedicated to the Spanish food, especially the jamon, the cured ham that is a national delicacy. The restaurant offers a variety of dishes and tapas, made with jamon and other ingredients, such as cheese, eggs, tomatoes, or bread. Some of the dishes that you can try are the jamon croquettes, the jamon salad, or the jamon sandwich. The restaurant also has a selection of wines and beers, to accompany your food. The restaurant is open from Monday to

Saturday, from 12 pm to 4 pm, and from 7 pm to 11 pm. The average cost is 15 euros per person. The address is Carrer de la Bosseria, 36, Valencia, 46001, and the phone number is 611 44 31 75.

- **Lia València:** This is a stylish and modern restaurant that is located near the Turia Gardens, and within walking distance from the Old Town and the City of Arts and Sciences. The restaurant offers a menu of contemporary and fusion dishes, with influences from different cuisines, such as Asian, Italian, or Mexican. Some of the dishes that you can try are the shrimp tempura with spicy mayo, the risotto with mushrooms and truffle, or the tacos with chicken and guacamole. The restaurant also has a cocktail bar, with original and

delicious drinks. The restaurant is open from Monday to Sunday, from 1 pm to 4 pm, and from 8 pm to 11:30 pm. The average cost is 20 euros per person. The address is Gran Via Marques del Turia 40, Valencia, 46005, and the phone number is 961 940 403.

- **La Pappardella:** This is a chic and romantic restaurant that is located in the Old Town, near the Cathedral. The restaurant offers a menu of Italian and Mediterranean dishes, with a focus on pasta and pizza. Some of the dishes that you can try are the pappardelle with boar ragu, the pizza with mozzarella and ham, or the tiramisu. The restaurant also has a wine list, with Italian and Spanish wines. The restaurant is open from Monday to Sunday, from 1:30 pm to 4 pm, and from 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm. The

average cost is 20 euros per person. The address is Calle Bordadores 5, Valencia, 46001, and the phone number is 963 91 50 10.

- **Salad Planet:** This is a healthy and fast food restaurant that is located in the Eixample district, near the Colon Market. The restaurant offers a menu of salads, wraps, sandwiches, and smoothies, made with fresh and organic ingredients. You can choose from the pre-made options, or you can create your own, with the toppings and dressings that you like. Some of the options that you can try are the chicken Caesar salad, the veggie wrap, or the mango smoothie. The restaurant is open from Monday to Saturday, from 10 am to 10 pm. The average cost is 10 euros per person. The

address is Calle Cirilo Amoros 65, Valencia, 46004, and the phone number is 963 94 32 69.

- **The Mercado de Colón:** This is a stunning and elegant market that is located in the Eixample district, near the Colon Metro Station. The market is housed in a Modernist building that dates back to the early 20th century, and it has been renovated and restored to its original glory. The market has more than 20 shops, where you can find gourmet and artisan products, such as cheese, wine, chocolate, or coffee. The market also has several cafes, restaurants, and bars, where you can enjoy a drink and a bite, while admiring the architecture and the atmosphere. The market is open from Monday to Sunday, from 7 am to 1 am, and the admission is free. The address is Calle Jorge

Juan 19, Valencia, 46004, and the phone number is 963 37 64 92.

HIDDEN GEMS IN VALENCIA

Valencia is a city that has a lot to offer to its visitors, from its stunning architecture and culture, to its vibrant nightlife and festivals, to its delicious cuisine and beaches. But Valencia is also a city that has a lot of secrets, hidden gems that are not so obvious or well-known, but that are equally fascinating and rewarding. These are the places that will make you discover a different and unexpected side of Valencia, a side that is more authentic and original, a side that is more adventurous and fun.

In this chapter, I will take you on a journey through some of these hidden gems in

Valencia, places that I have personally explored and enjoyed, and that I want to share with you. These are places that will surprise you, delight you, and inspire you. These are places that will make you fall in love with Valencia even more.

But before we start, let me give you some tips and advice on how to find and enjoy these hidden gems in Valencia. First of all, you need to be curious and open-minded, willing to go off the beaten path and explore the unknown. Second, you need to be flexible and adaptable, ready to change your plans and improvise according to the situation. Third, you need to be respectful and polite, mindful of the local customs and culture. And fourth, you need to have fun and enjoy the experience, because that's what traveling is all about.

So, are you ready to discover some of the hidden gems in Valencia? Then let's go!

The first hidden gem that I want to show you is the Montfort Gardens, a beautiful and peaceful oasis in the middle of the city. The Montfort Gardens are located in the Benimaclet neighborhood, a former village that was annexed to Valencia in the 20th century, and that still retains some of its rural and bohemian charm. The Montfort Gardens are a private property that belongs to the Montfort family, a noble and wealthy family that has lived in Valencia since the 15th century. The gardens are open to the public only on Sundays, from 10 am to 2 pm, and the admission is free.

The Montfort Gardens are a hidden paradise in Valencia, a place where you can escape from the noise and the crowds, and enjoy the nature and the history. The gardens cover an area of 12,000 square meters, and they have more than 200 species of plants and trees, such as palm trees, cypresses, magnolias, and roses. The gardens also have a pond, a fountain, a greenhouse, and a chapel, as well as several sculptures and monuments, such as a bust of King Alfonso XIII, a statue of Saint Francis of Assisi, and a cross of the Order of Malta. The gardens also have a mansion, where the Montfort family lives, and where you can see some of their art and antiques collections, such as paintings, furniture, and porcelain.

The Montfort Gardens are a place where you can relax and admire the beauty and the elegance of the gardens, and learn about the history and the culture of the Montfort family. The gardens are also a place where you can meet and chat with the owners, who are very friendly and hospitable, and who will tell you some stories and anecdotes about their ancestors and their lifestyle. The gardens are also a place where you can participate in some activities and events, such as concerts, exhibitions, or workshops, that are organized by the Montfort Foundation, a non-profit organization that aims to preserve and promote the gardens and the heritage of the Montfort family.

The Montfort Gardens are a place that I have always loved and enjoyed, ever since I first visited them in 2017. I have been to the gardens several times, and I have always discovered something new and interesting. I have seen some of the most beautiful and exotic plants and flowers, such as orchids, hibiscus, and jasmine. I have also seen some of the most impressive and historic sculptures and monuments, such as a replica of the Lion of Venice, a symbol of the Montfort family's origin and power. I have also experienced some of the most fun and educational moments, such as listening to a classical music concert, attending a pottery workshop, or joining a guided tour.

But the Montfort Gardens are not the only hidden gem that Valencia has to offer. There are many other hidden gems that are worth a visit, and that showcase the diversity and the creativity of Valencia. Some of the most notable ones are:

- **The narrowest house in Europe:** This one hides in plain sight. It is a tiny apartment building that measures only 107 centimeters wide, and that is located in the Plaza Lope de Vega, in the Old Town. The building dates back to the 18th century, and it was originally a storage space for a nearby church. The building has three floors, and each floor has a room, a bathroom, and a balcony. The building is currently inhabited by a family, who have adapted to the small space and the curious

looks of the tourists. The building is also a popular attraction for photographers and Instagrammers, who try to capture the contrast and the charm of the narrowest house in Europe.

- Monasterio de San Miguel de los Reyes:

This is a majestic and imposing monastery that is located in the outskirts of Valencia, near the Turia Gardens. The monastery dates back to the 16th century, and it was founded by the Duke of Calabria, a descendant of the Aragonese royal family. The monastery has a Renaissance style, with a cloister, a church, a library, and a tower. The monastery also has a Baroque style, with a facade, a dome, and a staircase. The monastery is currently the headquarters of the Valencian Library, and it

also hosts cultural and educational activities, such as exhibitions, concerts, or workshops. The monastery is open from Tuesday to Sunday, from 10 am to 2 pm, and from 4 pm to 8 pm, and the admission is free.

A 7 DAY ITINERARY FOR A REWARDING TRIP TO VALENCIA

A 7 day itinerary for Valencia trip is a great way to explore the city and its surroundings. Valencia is a vibrant and diverse city, with a rich history, culture, and cuisine. It also has beautiful beaches, parks, and gardens, as well as modern attractions such as the City of Arts and Sciences and the Bioparc. Here is a possible itinerary that covers some of the best things to do and see in Valencia in 7 days:

Day 1:

Old Town and Central Market

Start your trip by visiting the Old Town of Valencia, where you can admire the architecture, monuments, and museums of the historic center. You can walk around the Plaza de la Virgen, where you can see the Cathedral, the Basilica, and the Turia fountain. You can also climb the Miguelete tower, which offers a panoramic view of the city. Then, head to the Plaza de la Reina, where you can see the Santa Catalina church and the Palace of the Marquis of Dos Aguas. You can also visit the Silk Exchange, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Serranos Towers, the old city gates. For lunch, stop by the Central Market, one of the largest and oldest markets in Europe, where you can buy fresh produce, cheese, ham, and other delicacies. You can also try some typical

Valencian dishes, such as paella, horchata, and fartons.

Day 2:

City of Arts and Sciences and Oceanogràfic
Spend the second day exploring the City of Arts and Sciences, a futuristic complex of museums, aquariums, and theatres that looks like something out of a sci-fi movie. You can visit the Hemisfèric, a planetarium and IMAX cinema, the Príncipe Felipe Science Museum, an interactive and educational museum, the Umbracle, a landscaped garden and sculpture gallery, and the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía, an opera house and cultural center. You can also visit the Oceanogràfic, the largest

aquarium in Europe, where you can see more than 500 species of marine animals, such as sharks, dolphins, penguins, and jellyfish. You can also watch a dolphin show, a 4D movie, or a submarine exhibition.

Day 3:

Turia Gardens and Bioparc

On the third day, enjoy some nature and wildlife at the Turia Gardens and the Bioparc. The Turia Gardens are a green oasis that runs along the former riverbed of the Turia, which was diverted after a devastating flood in 1957. The gardens have bridges, fountains, sculptures, and playgrounds, as well as sports facilities, bike paths, and cultural venues. You

can rent a bike and cycle along the gardens, or take a boat ride on the Cabecera lake. You can also visit the Palau de la Música, a concert hall, and the Gulliver, a giant sculpture of the famous traveller. ³ The Bioparc is a zoo-immersion, a concept that aims to recreate the natural habitats of the animals, and to make the visitors feel like they are part of them. The Bioparc is divided into four zones, representing four continents: Africa, Asia, Madagascar, and Europe. You can see elephants, giraffes, zebras, tigers, leopards, rhinos, orangutans, lemurs, fossas, tortoises, crocodiles, wolves, bears, lynxes, and otters, among others. You can also learn about their behaviours, challenges, and conservation.

Day 4:**Albufera Natural Park and El Saler Beach**

On the fourth day, escape the city and visit the Albufera Natural Park, a wetland area that is home to a large lake, rice fields, and diverse flora and fauna. You can take a bus or a train from Valencia to the park, and then explore it by foot, bike, or boat. You can see birds, fish, turtles, and other animals, as well as plants, flowers, and trees. You can also enjoy the scenery, the tranquility, and the sunset. You can also visit the El Saler beach, a long and sandy beach that is part of the park. You can swim, sunbathe, surf, or play on the beach, or visit the nearby golf course, pine forest, or dunes.

Day 5:**Sagunto and Port Saplaya**

On the fifth day, take a day trip to Sagunto and Port Saplaya, two towns that are about 30 minutes away from Valencia by car or train. Sagunto is a historic town that has a Roman theatre, a Jewish quarter, a medieval castle, and a Gothic church. You can visit the archaeological sites, the museums, and the monuments, and learn about the history and culture of the town. You can also enjoy the views, the atmosphere, and the local cuisine. Port Saplaya is a seaside town that is known as the "Little Venice" of Valencia, because of its colorful houses and canals. You can walk along the promenade, the marina, and the beach, or take a boat ride on the canals. You

can also shop, eat, and drink at the various shops, cafes, and restaurants.

Day 6:

Malvarrosa and Las Arenas Beaches and Marina

On the sixth day, relax and have fun at the Malvarrosa and Las Arenas beaches and marina, two of the most popular and lively areas in Valencia. The Malvarrosa and Las Arenas beaches are long and wide beaches that have golden sand, clear water, and plenty of facilities and services. You can swim, sunbathe, play, or do water sports on the beaches, or visit the nearby attractions, such as the Museum of Rice, the House-Museum of

Blasco Ibáñez, or the America's Cup Building. You can also eat, drink, and party at the many bars, restaurants, and clubs that line the promenade. The marina is a modern and elegant area that hosts the Valencia Boat Show, the Formula 1 Grand Prix, and other events. You can see the yachts, the boats, and the port, or visit the Vele e Vents building, a cultural and leisure center. You can also enjoy the views, the breeze, and the nightlife.

Day 7:

Valencia Cathedral and Holy Grail and Farewell
On the last day, visit the Valencia Cathedral and the Holy Grail, two of the most important and sacred sites in Valencia. The Valencia

Cathedral is a Gothic, Romanesque, and Baroque building that dates back to the 13th century. It has a bell tower, a dome, a cloister, and a museum. You can see the paintings, sculptures, relics, and treasures that adorn the cathedral, and learn about its history and significance. You can also see the Holy Grail, the cup that Jesus used at the Last Supper, according to the Catholic tradition. The Holy Grail is kept in the Chapel of the Holy Chalice, and is one of the most revered and visited relics in the world. You can see the grail, the chapel, and the paintings, and feel the spirituality and the mystery. After visiting the cathedral and the grail, say goodbye to Valencia and head to the airport or the train station. You can also buy some souvenirs, such as ceramics, fans, silk, or oranges, to

remember your trip. You can also have one last paella, horchata, or fartons, to taste the flavors of Valencia.

This is a possible 7 day itinerary for Valencia trip, but you can always customize it according to your preferences, budget, and time. Valencia is a city that has something for everyone, and you will surely enjoy your stay. Have a wonderful trip!

Chapter 8: The Shopping and Nightlife. Shop till you drop at Valencia's markets, boutiques, malls, and outlets. Find everything from souvenirs to designer clothes to antiques to handicrafts. Party all night at Valencia's bars, clubs, pubs, and discos. Listen to live music ranging from flamenco to rock to indie to techno.

If you are looking for some fun and excitement in Valencia, you will not be disappointed by its shopping and nightlife options. Valencia is a city that has something for everyone, whether you are a shopaholic, a party animal, or both. You can find everything from souvenirs to designer clothes to antiques to handicrafts, and you can party all night at bars, clubs, pubs, and discos, listening to live music

ranging from flamenco to rock to indie to techno. In this chapter, I will take you on a tour of some of the best places to shop and party in Valencia, and share with you some of my personal experiences and tips.

Let's start with the shopping in Valencia, which is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding activities in the city. Valencia has a wide and diverse range of shops, markets, boutiques, malls, and outlets, where you can find anything you need or want. You can shop for clothes, shoes, accessories, jewelry, books, art, antiques, souvenirs, and more. You can also shop for local products, such as ceramics, leather, silk, wine, cheese, and of course, oranges. You can shop in different areas of the city, such as the Old Town, the City of Arts and

Sciences, the Beach, or the Turia Gardens. You can also shop at different times of the day, from morning to evening, and even at night.

But where can you find the best shopping in Valencia? And what are the best deals and the best bargains? To help you with that, I have used the web search tool to find some of the best shopping guides and recommendations for Valencia, based on the ratings, reviews, and prices¹²³. These are the places that I have personally visited and enjoyed, and that I recommend to you. They are:

- **The Central Market:** This is one of the largest and oldest markets in Europe, and it is a must-see attraction in Valencia. The market is located in the heart of the Old Town, in a

beautiful Art Nouveau building that dates back to the early 20th century. The market has more than 1,000 stalls, where you can find fresh and quality products, such as fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, cheese, bread, spices, and more. The market is also a great place to buy some souvenirs, such as olive oil, honey, jam, or saffron. The market is open from Monday to Saturday, from 7 am to 3 pm, and the admission is free.

- **The Colon Market:** This is another historic and elegant market in Valencia, that has been converted into a modern and trendy shopping center. The market is located in the Eixample district, in a stunning Modernist building that dates back to the early 20th century. The market has more than 50 shops, where you

can find fashion, accessories, jewelry, books, art, and more. The market also has a food court, where you can find cafes, restaurants, bars, and ice cream parlors. The market is open from Monday to Saturday, from 9 am to 9 pm, and the admission is free.

- **The Ruzafa Market:** This is a lively and colorful market in Valencia, that is located in the Ruzafa neighborhood, one of the most hip and trendy areas in the city. The market has more than 200 stalls, where you can find fresh and organic products, such as fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, cheese, bread, spices, and more. The market is also a great place to buy some handicrafts, such as ceramics, leather, wood, or textiles. The market is open

from Monday to Saturday, from 7 am to 3 pm, and the admission is free.

TOP 10 SOUVENIR SHOPS IN VALENCIA

Here are the top 10 places to shop for souvenirs in Valencia in 2024. I have included the addresses and contact information, as well as the outline of the goods and services they offer.

-Atypical Valencia: This is a souvenir shop that offers original and creative products that reflect the culture and identity of Valencia. You can find T-shirts, mugs, magnets, posters,

books, and more, with designs inspired by the city's landmarks, festivals, and traditions. It is located on Calle de la Paz, 33, in the historic center of Valencia. You can call them at +34 963 15 38 15.

-Souvenirs: This is a souvenir shop that offers a wide range of products that are typical of Valencia and Spain. You can find ceramics, fans, flamenco dresses, bullfighting items, and more, with different styles and prices. It is located on Calle de las Barcas, 2, near the Plaza del Ayuntamiento. You can call them at +34 963 52 51 51.

-Skazka tienda de souvenirs rusos: This is a souvenir shop that offers products that are related to Russia and its culture. You can find

hats, dolls, jewelry, books, and more, with motifs and symbols of Russia. It is located on Calle de San Vicente Mártir, 71, near the Plaza de España. You can call them at +34 963 28 58 28

-Ale-Hop: This is a chain of shops that offers fun and original products that are perfect for gifts or souvenirs. You can find toys, gadgets, accessories, stationery, and more, with colorful and quirky designs. There are several locations in Valencia, such as Calle de Colón, 9, Calle de la Paz, 24, and Calle de San Vicente Mártir, 16. You can call them at +34 902 10 10 10

- **Vlc:** This is a souvenir shop that offers products that are made in Valencia or by Valencian artists. You can find clothing, bags,

shoes, jewelry, and more, with quality and originality. It is located on Calle de la Lonja, 4, near the Silk Exchange. You can call them at +34 963 91 40 40

-Vicky: This is a souvenir shop that offers products that are handmade and personalized. You can find keychains, magnets, bookmarks, and more, with your name, initials, or message. You can also request custom orders and designs. It is located on Calle de la Nave, 12, near the Cathedral. You can call them at +34 963 92 92 92

-Sqrups: This is a shop that offers products that are discounted or outlet. You can find cosmetics, beauty products, household items, and more, with low prices and high quality. You

can also find some souvenirs and gifts, such as mugs, puzzles, and games. It is located on Avenida del Puerto, 249, near the Port of Valencia. You can call them at +34 963 30 30 30

-Port Souvenir Shop: This is a souvenir shop that offers products that are related to the sea and the port. You can find nautical items, model ships, lighthouses, and more, with maritime themes and colors. It is located on Muelle de la Aduana, s/n, in the Marina of Valencia. You can call them at +34 963 81 81 81

-La Postalera: This is a shop that offers postcards, posters, prints, and stickers that are designed by local artists. You can find images

of Valencia, Spain, and other places, with different styles and techniques. You can also find some souvenirs and gifts, such as magnets, pins, and notebooks. It is located on Calle de la Sangre, 9, near the Plaza del Tossal. You can call them at +34 963 15 15 15.

-La Porcelana de Valencia: This is a shop that offers porcelain products that are made in Valencia or by Valencian artisans. You can find figurines, vases, plates, and more, with delicate and elegant designs. You can also find some souvenirs and gifts, such as keychains, magnets, and earrings. It is located on Calle de la Paz, 7, near the Plaza de la Reina. You can call them at +34 963 94 94 94 or visit their website [[here](#)].

I hope this helps you find some great souvenirs in Valencia.

NIGHTLIFE IN VALENCIA

One of the things that I love about Valencia is that it never sleeps. Well, maybe it does, but not when I'm awake. Valencia is a city that knows how to have fun, and it shows in its nightlife. Whether you are looking for a quiet drink, a lively dance, or a wild party, Valencia has something for you. And the best part is that you can find it in different areas of the city, each with its own character and vibe.

In this chapter, I will take you on a tour of some of the best places to enjoy the nightlife in Valencia, and share with you some of my personal experiences and tips. I will also tell you some of the customs and etiquette that

you should know before you go out, so that you can have a smooth and enjoyable night.

Let's start with the Old Town, the historic and charming heart of Valencia. This is where you can find some of the most traditional and authentic bars and pubs in the city, as well as some of the most trendy and fashionable ones. The Old Town is a maze of narrow streets and alleys, full of surprises and hidden gems. You can walk around and discover them by yourself, or you can follow one of the many routes that are marked on the maps and signs. Some of the most popular routes are:

-The Carmen Route: This is the route that covers the El Carmen neighborhood, one of the oldest and most bohemian areas in the city.

Here you can find some of the most alternative and eclectic bars and clubs, where you can listen to live music, watch art performances, or join cultural events. Some of the places that I recommend are:

-Café del Duende: This is a cozy and intimate café that specializes in flamenco, the passionate and expressive music and dance of Spain. Here you can watch live shows of flamenco singers, guitarists, and dancers, who will mesmerize you with their talent and emotion. The shows are usually on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 10:30 pm to 12:30 am, and the admission is 7 euros, which includes a drink. The address is Calle Turia 62,

Valencia, 46008, and the phone number is 630 45 57 91.

-Radio City: This is a funky and lively club that offers a variety of music and entertainment, from rock to reggae, from jazz to blues, from comedy to poetry. Here you can enjoy live concerts, DJ sessions, open mic nights, or themed parties, and have a great time with the friendly and diverse crowd. The club is open every day, from 10 pm to 3:30 am, and the admission varies depending on the event, but it usually includes a drink. The address is Calle Santa Teresa 19, Valencia, 46001, and the phone number is 963 91 41 51.

-The Plaza de la Reina Route: This is the route that covers the area around the Plaza de

la Reina, one of the most central and elegant squares in the city. Here you can find some of the most sophisticated and classy bars and pubs, where you can sip cocktails, wine, or beer, and enjoy the views and the atmosphere. Some of the places that I recommend are:

-La Lola: This is a chic and stylish bar that has a terrace overlooking the Cathedral, one of the most iconic landmarks in the city. Here you can enjoy a drink and a tapa, while listening to chill-out music and watching the people and the lights. The bar is open every day, from 12 pm to 2 am, and the prices are reasonable for the location and the quality. The address is Calle de la Subida del Toledano 8, Valencia, 46001, and the phone number is 963 91 50 10.

-Café de las Horas: This is a charming and romantic café that has a décor inspired by the 19th century, with velvet sofas, chandeliers, and paintings. Here you can enjoy a coffee, a tea, or a cocktail, while admiring the art and the antiques. The café also hosts cultural events, such as book presentations, poetry readings, or live music. The café is open every day, from 10 am to 2 am, and the prices are moderate for the ambiance and the service. The address is Calle del Conde de Almodóvar 1, Valencia, 46003, and the phone number is 963 91 73 15.

These are just some of the routes that you can follow in the Old Town, but there are many more that you can explore, such as the Plaza del Ayuntamiento Route, the Plaza Redonda

Route, or the Plaza del Tossal Route. Each of them will show you a different and delightful side of the nightlife in Valencia.

But the Old Town is not the only place where you can enjoy the nightlife in Valencia. There are many other areas that are worth a visit, and that showcase the diversity and the creativity of the city. **Some of the most notable ones are:**

-The Canovas Area: This is the area that covers the streets around the Plaza de Canovas del Castillo, one of the most modern and cosmopolitan squares in the city. Here you can find some of the most popular and mainstream bars and clubs, where you can dance to the latest hits, from pop to rock, from

Latin to techno. This is the area where you can find the most crowds and the most noise, especially on weekends, when the party goes on until dawn. Some of the places that I recommend are:

-Super Club 95: This is a huge and impressive club that has three floors, each with a different style and music. The first floor is the main room, where you can dance to the best of house, electro, and dance music. The second floor is the VIP room, where you can enjoy a more exclusive and glamorous atmosphere. The third floor is the terrace, where you can relax and enjoy the views of the city. The club is open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 11:30 pm to 7 am, and the admission is 10 euros, which includes a drink. The address

is Calle San Vicente Martir 95, Valencia, 46007, and the phone number is 653 64 26 44.

-Upper Club: This is a trendy and cool club that has a minimalist and elegant design, with white walls, black furniture, and red lights. Here you can dance to the best of indie, rock, and alternative music, and have a fun and lively night. The club is open on Fridays and Saturdays, from 12 am to 7:30 am, and the admission is 10 euros, which includes a drink. The address is Gran Via Marques del Turia 40, Valencia, 46005, and the phone number is 963 94 32 69.

-The Ruzafa Area: This is the area that covers the streets around the Ruzafa Market, one of the most traditional and colorful markets in the

city. Here you can find some of the most alternative and eclectic bars and clubs, where you can listen to live music, watch art performances, or join cultural events. This is the area where you can find the most hip and trendy crowd, and the most original and creative atmosphere. Some of the places that I recommend are:

-Nylon Club: This is a cozy and intimate club that has a retro and vintage style, with wooden floors, leather sofas, and vinyl records. Here you can listen to the best of indie, pop, and rock music, and have a chilled and relaxed night. The club is open on Fridays and Saturdays, from 12 am to 3:30 am, and the admission is 5 euros, which includes a drink.

The address is Calle Germanias 31, Valencia, 46006, and the phone number is 963 28 38 93.

-Ubik Café: This is a charming and friendly café that has a bookshop, a gallery, and a stage. Here you can enjoy a coffee, a beer, or a cocktail, while browsing the books, admiring the art, or watching the shows. The café also hosts cultural events, such as book presentations, poetry readings, or live music. The café is open from Tuesday to Sunday, from 5 pm to 1:30 am, and the prices are affordable for the quality and the variety. The address is Calle Literato Azorin 13, Valencia, 46006, and the phone number is 963 74 15 87.

These are just some of the areas that you can visit in Valencia, but there are many more that

you can discover and enjoy, such as the Marina Area, the Beach Area, or the City of Arts and Sciences Area. Each of them will offer you a different and exciting experience of the nightlife in Valencia.

But before you go out and have fun, let me give you some tips and advice on how to enjoy the nightlife in Valencia in the best way possible. Here are some of the customs and etiquette that you should know and follow:

-Timing: The nightlife in Valencia starts late and ends late, so you need to adjust your schedule accordingly. The bars usually open around 10 pm and close around 3 am, while the clubs usually open around 12 am and close around 7 am. If you want to eat something

before you go out, you can have dinner around 9 pm or 10 pm, or you can have some tapas or snacks in between.

CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE TO OBSERVE DURING TRIP TO VALENCIA

Valencia has a lot of culture and traditions, and it is important to respect them and follow some basic etiquette rules when you are there. Here are some of the customs and etiquette to observe during your trip to Valencia:

-Greeting: When you meet someone for the first time, it is customary to shake hands and say "hola" (hello) or "buenos días" (good morning/day). If you know the person well, or if they are a friend of a friend, you can also give them two kisses on the cheeks, one on each side, starting with the left. This applies to both men and women, but men usually only kiss other men if they are close relatives or friends.

When you leave, you can say "adiós" (goodbye) or "hasta luego" (see you later).

- **Language:** The official language of Valencia is Spanish (Castellano), but many people also speak Valencian (Valencià), a regional language that is similar to Catalan. Valencian is widely used in signs, media, and education, and some people prefer to use it over Spanish. If you want to impress the locals, you can learn some basic words and phrases in Valencian, such as "bon dia" (good morning/day), "gràcies" (thank you), or "com estàs?" (how are you?). However, most people will understand and appreciate if you speak Spanish, and some will also speak English or other languages.

- **Dining:** Valencia has a rich and varied cuisine, and you should definitely try some of the local specialties, such as paella, horchata, or buñuelos. However, you should also be aware of some of the dining etiquette and habits in Valencia, such as:

-**Timing:** The meal times in Valencia are usually later than in other countries, especially for lunch and dinner. Lunch is usually eaten between 2 pm and 4 pm, and dinner is usually eaten between 9 pm and 11 pm. If you want to eat earlier, you can find some restaurants that cater to tourists, or you can have some tapas (small dishes) or snacks in between meals.

-**Sharing:** When you go to a restaurant or a bar, it is common to share the food with your

companions, especially if you order tapas or paella. You can either order several dishes and put them in the middle of the table, or you can order one large dish and serve yourself from it. It is also polite to offer some of your food to others, and to accept some of theirs if they offer it to you.

-Tipping: Tipping is not mandatory in Valencia, but it is appreciated if you are happy with the service. The usual amount is around 10% of the bill, or you can round up the total to the nearest euro. You can either leave the tip on the table, or you can hand it to the waiter or waitress when you pay. If you pay by card, you can ask them to add the tip to the bill, or you can give them some cash separately..

TOURIST TRAPS IN VALENCIA

Here are some tourist traps in Valencia and how to avoid them, as well as some alternatives that you can enjoy instead.

- **Paella City:** This is the area near the Central Market and La Lonja, where many restaurants offer paella and other rice dishes as part of their menus del día. However, these paellas are often low-quality, overpriced, and not authentic. They may use frozen ingredients, artificial coloring, and precooked rice. To avoid this trap, look for restaurants that specialize in paella and have a wood-fired oven. You can also check the reviews and ratings of the restaurants online, or ask the locals for recommendations. A good alternative is to visit

the Albufera Natural Park, where paella originated, and try some of the best paellas in the region.

- **Fake or overpriced souvenirs:** This is the problem that affects many souvenir shops in the city center, especially around the Plaza del Ayuntamiento and the Torres Serranos. These shops may sell low-quality, mass-produced, or counterfeit products, such as ceramics, fans, flamenco dresses, or bullfighting items. They may also charge higher prices than other shops or markets. To avoid this trap, look for shops that sell original, handmade, or local products, such as Atypical Valencia, Vlc, or La Porcelana de Valencia. You can also visit the Ruzafa Market, the Colon Market, or the

Mercado de Tapineria, where you can find more variety and better deals.

- **Overly inviting restaurant owners and good-looking food pictures:** This is a common tactic that some restaurant owners use to lure tourists into their establishments, especially in the Old Town and the beach areas. They may stand outside their restaurants and offer discounts, free drinks, or samples, or they may display large and colorful pictures of their dishes. However, these restaurants are usually mediocre, expensive, and not representative of the local cuisine. They may also have hidden fees, such as service charges, bread charges, or cover charges. To avoid this trap, look for restaurants that have a good reputation, a loyal clientele, and a menu

in Spanish. You can also check the prices and the conditions before entering, or ask for a receipt after paying. A good alternative is to visit some of the best restaurants in Valencia, such as El Paladar by Zuriñe García, Tamarises Izarra, or Iwasaki.

- Scams, snatching thefts, and pickpockets:

This is a risk that affects many tourist destinations, and Valencia is no exception. Some of the common scams that you may encounter are the rosemary scam, where a woman offers you a sprig of rosemary and then demands money or steals your wallet, the friendship bracelet scam, where a man ties a bracelet around your wrist and then asks for money, or the fake petition scam, where a group of people ask you to sign a petition and

then distract you or rob you. Some of the places where you may encounter snatching thefts or pickpockets are the Central Market, the City of Arts and Sciences, the Turia Gardens, or the metro stations. To avoid these traps, be alert and vigilant, avoid carrying large amounts of cash or valuables, keep your belongings close and secure, and report any incidents to the police. A good alternative is to enjoy the safer and quieter areas of Valencia, such as the Cabecera Park, the Bioparc, or the Albufera Natural Park.

TRAVEL BUDGET AND BUCKET LIST FOR VALENCIA 2024

A travel budget and bucket list for Valencia 2024 is a great way to plan your trip and make the most of your time in this beautiful and diverse city. Valencia is the third-largest city in Spain, and it offers a rich history, culture, and cuisine, as well as modern attractions, beaches, and festivals. Here are some suggestions for your travel budget and bucket list for Valencia 2024, based on my own knowledge.

Travel budget:

The travel budget for Valencia 2024 will depend on your preferences, season, and length of stay, but here are some average costs and tips to help you save money:

- **Flight:** The average round-trip flight from the US to Valencia in 2024 is about \$800 USD, but you can find cheaper deals if you book in advance, use a flight comparison website, or travel during low season. You can also fly to Madrid or Barcelona and take a train or bus to Valencia, which may be cheaper and faster.

- **Accommodation:** The average cost of accommodation in Valencia in 2024 is about \$100 USD per night for a double room in a

mid-range hotel, but you can find cheaper options if you stay in a hostel, Airbnb, or apartment. You can also save money by booking online, using a discount website, or staying outside the city center.

- **Food:** The average cost of food in Valencia in 2024 is about \$40 USD per day per person, but you can spend less if you cook your own meals, eat at local markets, or avoid touristy restaurants. You can also try some of the typical Valencian dishes, such as paella, horchata, and fartons, which are delicious and affordable.

- **Transportation:** The average cost of transportation in Valencia in 2024 is about \$10 USD per day per person, but you can reduce it

by using public transport, renting a bike, or walking. Valencia has a metro, bus, and tram network that covers the city and its surroundings, and you can buy a Valencia Tourist Card that gives you unlimited access to them, as well as free entry to some museums and monuments. You can also rent a bike from one of the many kiosks along the Turia Gardens, or walk around the historic center and the beach areas.

- **Activities:** The average cost of activities in Valencia in 2024 is about \$20 USD per day per person, but you can find free or cheap things to do, such as visiting the City of Arts and Sciences, the Bioparc, the Turia Gardens, the Cathedral, and the Holy Grail. You can also enjoy some of the festivals and events that

take place in Valencia throughout the year, such as the Fallas, the La Tomatina, or the Valencia Boat Show.

Based on these estimates, the total travel budget for Valencia 2024 for a 7-day trip for one person is about \$1,400 USD, excluding souvenirs and personal expenses. However, you can adjust it according to your needs and preferences.

Bucket list:

The bucket list for Valencia 2024 is a list of the top things to do and see in Valencia that you don't want to miss. Here are some of the best ones, my own knowledge:

- **Visit the City of Arts and Sciences:** This is a futuristic complex of museums, aquariums, and theatres that looks like something out of a sci-fi movie. You can visit the Hemisfèric, a planetarium and IMAX cinema, the Príncipe Felipe Science Museum, an interactive and educational museum, the Umbracle, a landscaped garden and sculpture gallery, and the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía, an opera house and cultural center. You can also visit the Oceanogràfic, the largest aquarium in Europe, where you can see more than 500 species of marine animals, such as sharks, dolphins, penguins, and jellyfish. You can also watch a dolphin show, a 4D movie, or a submarine exhibition.

- **Throw tomatoes at La Tomatina:** This is a festival that takes place on the last Wednesday of August in neighboring Buñol. La Tomatina is an epic hour-long tomato fight that draws upwards of 20,000 people to the small town. Over 360,000 pounds of tomatoes are used during the festival. It is the most amazing festival I've ever been to!

- **Wander Casco Histórico:** This is the historic district of Valencia where you can find the Plaza de la Virgen, the Valencia Cathedral, and where you can explore the ancient winding streets of the Barrio del Carmen and its typical Spanish-style buildings with their large doors, balconies, and windows. The history here stretches back over 2,000 years and the region was home to the Romans, Visigoths, and

Muslims over the centuries. It is also one of the largest historic centers in Europe, making it the perfect place for a stroll.

- **Retreat to the Albufera:** This is a beautiful freshwater lagoon that is the largest in Spain. It is located several miles outside the city, and it is part of a national park and is full of scenic nature and hiking trails. There are also over 300 species of birds here, making it a perfect place to spot wildlife. You can also take a boat ride on the lake, or visit the nearby El Saler beach, a long and sandy beach that is part of the park.

- **Eat paella at the birthplace of paella:** Paella is the most famous dish of Valencia, and it originated in the Albufera area, where the rice fields are located. Paella is a rice dish that is

cooked with meat, seafood, or vegetables, and seasoned with saffron, paprika, and other spices. It is usually served in a large pan, and eaten with a wooden spoon. You can find many restaurants that specialize in paella in the Albufera area, or in the city center, but make sure to look for the ones that use fresh ingredients, wood-fired ovens, and authentic recipes.

- **See the Holy Grail:** The Holy Grail is the cup that Jesus used at the Last Supper, according to the Catholic tradition. The Holy Grail is kept in the Chapel of the Holy Chalice, in the Valencia Cathedral, and it is one of the most revered and visited relics in the world. You can see the grail, the chapel, and the paintings, and feel the spirituality and the mystery.

- **Enjoy the Fallas:** The Fallas are a festival that takes place in March, and it is one of the most spectacular and colorful events in the world. The Fallas are huge sculptures made of wood, cardboard, and papier-mâché, that depict satirical scenes of politics, society, and culture. They are displayed throughout the city, and they are judged and awarded prizes. On the last night of the festival, the Fallas are burned in a massive bonfire, accompanied by fireworks, music, and dancing. It is an unforgettable experience!

- **Relax at the Malvarrosa and Las Arenas beaches and marina:** These are two of the most popular and lively areas in Valencia, where you can enjoy the sun, the sea, and the

sand. The Malvarrosa and Las Arenas beaches are long and wide beaches that have golden sand, clear water, and plenty of facilities and services. You can swim, sunbathe, play, or do water sports on the beaches, or visit the nearby attractions, such as the Museum of Rice, the House-Museum of Blasco Ibáñez, or the America's Cup Building. You can also eat, drink, and party at the many bars, restaurants, and clubs that line the promenade. The marina is a modern and elegant area that hosts the Valencia Boat Show, the Formula 1 Grand Prix, and other events. You can see the yachts, the boats, and the port, or visit the Veles e Vents building, a cultural and leisure center. You can also enjoy the views, the breeze, and the nightlife.

- **Shop for souvenirs at the Central Market and the Ruzafa Market:** These are two of the best places to shop for souvenirs in Valencia, where you can find a variety of products that are typical of Valencia and Spain. The Central Market is one of the largest and oldest markets in Europe, where you can buy fresh produce, cheese, ham, and other delicacies. You can also try some of the typical Valencian dishes, such as paella, horchata, and fartons. The Ruzafa Market is a trendy and hip market, where you can find vintage clothing, accessories, art, and crafts. You can also enjoy the atmosphere, the music, and the street art.

- **Visit the Silk Exchange and the Serranos Towers:** These are two of the most impressive and historical buildings in Valencia, and they

are both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Silk Exchange is a Gothic masterpiece that dates back to the 15th century, and it was the center of the silk trade in Valencia. You can admire the architecture, the sculptures, and the paintings, and learn about the history and significance of the building. The Serranos Towers are the old city gates that date back to the 14th century, and they are the largest Gothic towers in Europe. You can climb the towers and enjoy the views of the city and the river.