



Valencia & Murcia

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Quique Dacosta (p755)
- ➔ El Poblet (p743)
- ➔ Navarro (p743)
- ➔ Daluan (p753)
- ➔ Cervecería Sento (p760)
- ➔ El Granaino (p765)

Best Places to Sleep

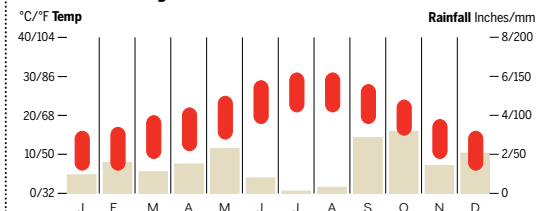
- ➔ Caro Hotel (p741)
- ➔ Cases Noves (p763)
- ➔ Hotel Chamarel (p754)
- ➔ Villa Venecia (p757)
- ➔ Mont Sant (p762)

Why Go?

Principal settlement in the region and an utterly addictive city, Valencia exudes confidence. Its sophisticated cultural scene, kicking nightlife, quality museums, great restaurants, understated beach and stunning Modernista and contemporary architecture make it one of the peninsula's real jewels. Throughout this sun-bathed coastal pleasure-ground, a wealth of festivals awaits you, whether you fancy top-notch rock music at Benicàssim, hooded processions and friendly rivalry at Lorca's Semana Santa, re-enactments of Reconquista battles in the numerous Moros y Cristianos festivals or one of the world's biggest food fights at La Tomatina. While some of the coastal resorts – hello Benidorm! – are notoriously overdeveloped, there are plenty of places to explore that aren't. The ancient port of Cartagena has a magnificent array of Roman and Carthaginian ruins, while Murcia is a buzzy regional capital where there's not a fried breakfast in sight.

When to Go

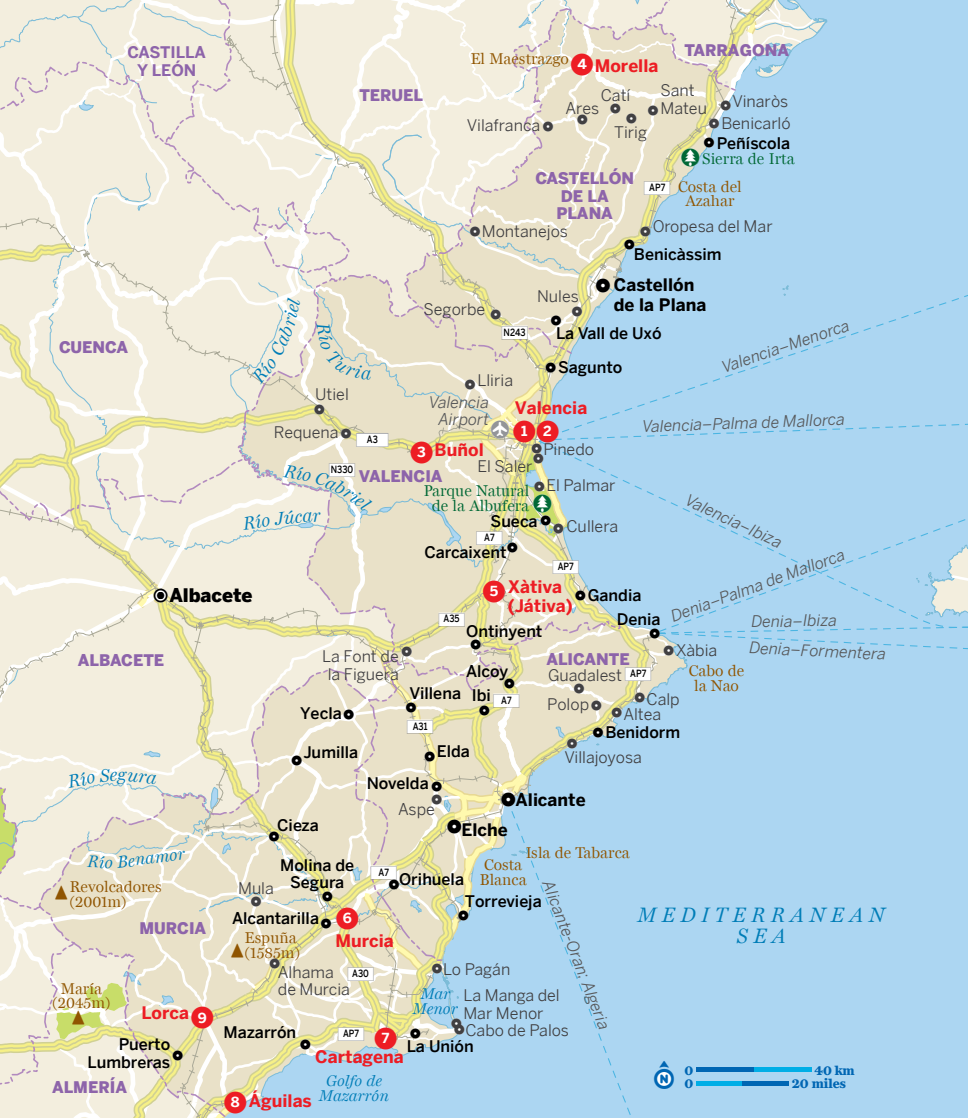
Valencia City



Mar Las Fallas, Valencia's wild spring festival, brings some two million visitors to town.

Aug Paint the town red at Buñol's tomato fight, then hit the coast's lively nightlife scene.

Oct The sea's still just about swimmable, there's decent weather but far fewer people.



Valencia & Murcia Highlights

1 Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias (p730) Gasping at the daring architecture of this complex of Valencia buildings.

2 Russafa (p744) Living it up in this popular *barrio's* tapas, cafe and bar scene.

3 La Tomatina (p748) Painting the town red at this famous Buñol tomato fight.

4 Morella (p752) Savouring your first glimpse of this medieval fortress town.

5 Castillo de Xàtiva (p761) Trudging up to this magnificent hilltop castle and chowing down on a picnic at the top.

6 Murcia (p766) Strolling the centre of this underrated city, stopping at the casino and cathedral for a dose of history.

7 Cartagena (p770) Exploring Cartagena's fascinating Roman and Carthaginian sites.

8 Cuatro Calas (p772) Plunging into the warm sea at these coves west of Águilas.

9 Semana Santa (p773) Taking in the atmosphere, processions and rivalry at Lorca's Holy Week.