



Valencia & the Costa Blanca

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- » Ad Hoc (p558)
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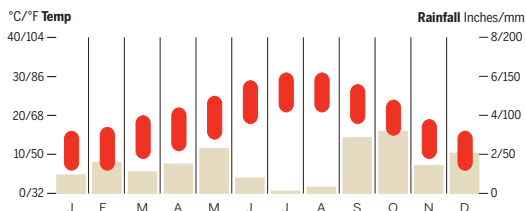
Why Go?

Those 5.5 million overseas visitors to the Comunidad Valenciana (Valencia region) each year can't be wrong. So many confine themselves to the coastal playgrounds, summer nightlife and splendid beaches of the aptly named Costa Blanca (White Coast) in the south or the lower-key resorts of the north's Costa del Azahar (Orange Blossom Coast). But rent a bike or car, leave behind the hedonism of the thin coastal strip and you'll savour the region's rich interior where mountains buckle, castles crown hilltops, and villages – many dating back to Muslim times – slumber on.

Valencia city, the region's capital and Spain's third city, exudes a new urban confidence and makes a great short-break venue. Come for its nightlife, its quality museums, great restaurants and the stunning contemporary architecture of the City of Arts & Sciences.

When to Go?

Valencia



15–19 March Las Fallas, Valencia city's wild spring festival, brings some two million visitors to town

22–24 April At Alcoy's Moros y Cristianos fiesta, warriors engage in mock battle

August & September Inland Maestrazgo is at its best for walking and exploring



Valencia & the Costa Blanca Highlights

- 1 Fling fireworks and suffer serious sleep deprivation at **Las Fallas** (p556), Europe's wildest spring festival
- 2 Sway on the smart tram that follows the spectacular **Costa Blanca coastline** (p575) between Alicante and Benidorm
- 3 Shake your booty at **Festival Internacional de Benicàssim** (p570), Benicàssim's outdoor international music festival
- 4 Gasp at the daring architecture of the **Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias** (p546) in Valencia city
- 5 Savour your first glimpse of the medieval fortress town of **Morella** (p573) from afar
- 6 Stake out the savannah and visit Madagascar at Valencia city's ecofriendly **Bioparc** (p546)
- 7 Take a sunset boat ride on the lake of **La Albufera** (p565)