

Tour
Information



Valencia Art Nouveau to the City of Science





Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Spain.

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Spanish consulate: 20 Draycott Place, London SW3 2RZ; Tel: 020 7589 8989 / 020 7594 4904; Fax: 020 7581 7888; Email: cog.londres@maec.es
Open Mon-Fri 0915-1400 (except Spanish National holidays).



Tickets

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all of their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an additional cost.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit;

www.easyjet.com

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With Easyjet your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 15kg plus **one** cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25 cm. Please note that personal bags (such as handbag or computer case) must be stored within you single piece of hand luggage and that on some busy flights you bag may have to go into the hold, at no extra cost. If you bring **one** piece of cabin baggage no bigger than 50 x 40 x 20 cm, it is guaranteed to always travel with you in the cabin, in the overhead lockers or under the seat in front of you.

Please contact the airline for further information
<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Transfers

On arrival in Valencia, coach transfer (approx. 30 minutes) directly to hotel.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Accommodation

AC Hotel Colón, Valencia

Contemporary four-star hotel located in the heart of the city close to most of the main sights. The hotel features a permanent art gallery with different works by Spanish artists, all from the Valencian Community. A beautiful outdoor terrace provides an ideal place to relax at the end of the day, with comfortable seating and a warm atmosphere. There is also an attractive bar area and fitness centre. Bedrooms are modern with all amenities, such as free wi-fi, LCD TV, air-conditioning, safe, tea/coffee making facilities, minibar and hairdryer.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:
<https://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/vlcap-ac-hotel-colon-valencia/>



Food

Spain's eating and drinking culture is one of its greatest attractions, and a very sociable one too, with people rubbing shoulders in tapas bars and cafés. The Spaniards take their food seriously – be it diner-style *menús del día* (menus of the day) or elaborate, nouvelle cuisine in gourmet restaurants. Food is generally dictated by the seasons and fresh, whichever corner of Spain you go to. An excellent way to understand different facets of Spanish cuisine is to sample tapas: small snacks served with drinks in local bars across the country. They can range from gourmet canapés to simple plates of olives, cheeses and cured meats, and may be charged or given free.

Spanish drinks have also brewed up quite a storm worldwide – from the thirst-quenching sangria to bubbly Cava to the sophisticated Rioja wine.

Specialities:

Paella: A Valencian rice dish loaded with seafood and chicken or rabbit, saffron and vegetables.

Croquetas: Fried bread-crumbed fritters with a creamy, potato interior.

Cocido: A fragrant and rich chickpea and meat stew popular in Madrid.

Tortilla Española: A rich, chunky potato omelette – a staple throughout Spain.

Gazpacho: A chilled tomato-based, tangy vegetable soup from Andalucía.

Jamón: One of many cured Spanish meats, Jamón is a type of finely sliced cured ham.

Pulpo á feira: Tender, boiled lobster seasoned with paprika and salt and drizzled in olive oil.

Chorizo: A dried and course pork sausage seasoned with smoked paprika.

Bacalao al pil: A Basque Country dish of salt cod with a velvety white olive-oil emulsion.

Sherry: A fortified wine available in several styles: Fino and Manzanilla (pale and dry), amontillado (dry, richer in body and darker in colour), Oloroso (medium, full-bodied, fragrant and golden) and sweet sheries such as Pedro Ximénez.

Rioja: Spain's flagship red wine, made from Tempranillo and Garnacha grapes.

Cava: A sparkling wine from Catalonia made using the same method used to produce Champagne.

Albondigas: Fried Spanish-style meatballs, usually smothered in tomato sauce.

Most restaurants serve a *menú del día* at lunchtime; this is a three-course meal including drinks that generally costs from €10 to €20 and can be very good value.



Drink

Spain is essentially a wine-drinking country, with sherry being one of the principal export products. Its English name is the anglicised version of the sherry producing town *Jerez*, from which the wine was first shipped to England. There are four main types: *fino* (very pale and dry), *amontillado* (dry, richer and darker), *oloroso* (medium, full-bodied, fragrant and golden), and *dulce* (sweet).

Well-known Spanish beers (*cerveza*) include *San Miguel*, *Damm*, *Estrella Galicia* and *Cruzcampo*. Spanish brandy is as different from French as Scotch whisky is from Irish. It is relatively cheap, pleasant, although some brandy drinkers may find it a little sweet. Brands include *Carlos I*, *Osbourne* and *Fundador*.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner – is included on 2 evenings at the hotel restaurant



Destination

Valencia is brash, beautiful and confident enough to live up to the hype. Its transformation from poor Catalan cousin to shining star has largely been down to one huge project, the modern architectural marvel that is La Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias (The City of Arts and Sciences), southeast of the main centre. This extraordinary complex of futuristic structures houses an eclectic range of attractions that include an oceanographic park, IMAX theatre, opera house, sports arena, and hands-on science museum.

The cobbled alleys of the historic old town are also full of sights, such as grand Plaza del Mercado, a marketplace where produce from all over the region is bought and sold. Then there's the imposing gothic bulk of Valencia Cathedral, which legend claims is the final resting place of the Holy Grail. Moreover, you can climb to the top of its tower for a panoramic view. Also worth a look is the ornate Palacio del Marques de Dos Aguas, a beautiful 18th-century former palace that now houses the national ceramics museum.

Places of interest included in the tour:

La Lonja de la Seda

Constructed between 1482 and 1548, this Gothic-style silk exchange is one of Valencia's most beautiful and recognisable monuments. The building is an emblem of the city, paying homage to Valencia's vibrant past as a Mediterranean merchant city. Intricate stone carvings and palm tree-shaped columns are among its magnificent features.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.lonjadevalencia.com/>

Valencia Cathedral

Constructed between 1262 and 1426, this atmospheric cathedral is said to hold the Cup of the Holy Grail among other treasures. It also offers excellent views of Valencia from its bell tower, the Torre del Miguelet ('El Micalet'). Mostly Gothic in design, it some Romanesque and baroque styles too.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.catedraldevalencia.es/>

Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias

This expansive entertainment, culture and architectural complex was designed by famed neofuturistic architect Santiago Calatrava and comprises an IMAX cinema, planetarium, science museum, opera house and more. Its marine park, L'Oceanogràfic, is Europe's largest aquarium with more than 45,000 species of animal including fish, wetland birds, penguins and sea lions.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.cac.es>

El Cabanyal

North of the Port of Valencia and just three kilometers from that city's historic center, the lively architecture of the Barrio del Cabanyal-Canyamelar dots the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The coastal settlement, famously depicted by the Dutch painter Anthonie Van Den Wijngaerde in 1563, was once a fishermen's village with rows of thatched cottages and farmhouses parallel to the sea, multiplying as the coastline was extended with infill from port improvements. A fire in 1875 caused great destruction to the site, after which the urban landscape was rebuilt on the original street grid. The buildings were designed using an eclectic approach, their styles ranging from historicist to modernist and later rationalist designs. The *barrio* was landmarked in 1993.

Museo Nacional de Ceramica (Gonzalez Marti Museum)

The González Martí Museum is housed in a building that dates from the last decade of the 15th century and was refurbished in 1740 by order of the Marqués de Dos Aguas. It was at this time that the magnificent alabaster entrance was constructed; the Virgin overlooks the door below which is flanked by two streams of water and vegetation that symbolise the two rivers (Dos Aguas) and their life-giving properties. The entrance is the work of José Vergara, Hipólito Rovira, Ignacio Vergara and Luis Domingo; it made the building famous for its unusual beauty.

For more information please visit:
<https://www.mnceramica.mcu.es>

Your lecturer / Guide

Mike Hope is an author, lecturer, curator and designer, has spent more than 25 years at four universities (Staffordshire, Portsmouth, Nottingham Trent and Plymouth) and nearly 30 delivering Summer School Programmes. He has lectured around the world and was a founder board member of The European Academy of Design. Alongside an extensive publication list, he has researched, designed and curated many exhibitions, and advised on stained glass to the Diocese of Exeter. He specialises in Art and Design History, Stained Glass; Churches and Cathedrals; the English Country House and Garden.

He will deliver two lectures during the tour:

“Valencia – its development and art, design and architectural History”

“Santiago Calatrava – Valencia’s most famous native architect”

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Reading Suggestions

Philip Jodido: Calatrava

Introduction and overview of the works of Calatrava.

Jason Webster: Or The Bull Kills You

Webster mixes the various ingredients of Valencian tradition, political factions and personal intrigue into a memorable paella of Mediterranean *noir*.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Valencia at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Spanish and Catalan

Religion – Roman Catholic

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Good Friday; Easter Monday; St George's Day (23 Apr); Labour day (01 May); Whit Monday; St John the Baptist Day (24 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); Catalonia Day (11 Sep); Spanish National holiday (12 Oct); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Spanish Constitution Day (06 Dec); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephen's Day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink, although some complain it has a strange taste, so it is generally recommended to drink bottled water, readily available in supermarkets and shops.

Shops and Museums – Shops are open Mon-Sat 1000-1400 and 1700-2000. Supermarkets and department stores tend to open 0930-2100/2200, and may open on Sundays in large cities.

Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Spanish summers can be hot and sunny, so always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate General Alicante

Edificio Espacio

Rambla Méndez Núñez 28-32

6ª planta

03002 Alicante

Spain

Spain.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Fax: +34 965 14 05 28

Telephone enquiries: +34 965 21 60 22.

Consular phone lines are open 0800-1600.

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