

WELCOME GUIDE

For International Students



City of Alicante



Universitat d'Alacant
Universidad de Alicante



IXESN
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK

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1. Introduction

This guide aims to help international students adapt to their new life in Alicante. It was selflessly created by two non-profit student organizations of the University of Alicante: **AEGEE-Alicante** and **ESN-UA**.



Both associations have worked together to gather useful information and resources in order to improve and make the stay of foreign students easier. We hope we will achieve this goal.



This guide was made between February to September, 2014 and updated in March, 2019.

2. Students' associations: AEGEE and ESN.

□ AEGEE-Alicante

AEGEE (Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l'Europe), also known as European Students' Forum, was founded in Paris in 1985, and nowadays it is one of the biggest interdisciplinary student organizations in Europe. Founded by and for young people, AEGEE has grown to a Network of 13000 members, present in 200 cities in 40 countries all over Europe. AEGEE is a non-governmental, politically independent, and non-profit organization, in which young Europeans work together voluntarily in cross-border activities, having as main goal to foster a united Europe, creating an open-minded, tolerant society, and to promote mobility and cooperation.

AEGEE-Alicante is one of the 200 local venues of this association. It has been working for more than 10 years and it is located at the University of Alicante, even though there are members from all over the province and Murcia.



Website: <http://www.aegeaalicante.org>

□ ESN

ESN (Erasmus Student Network) is one of the biggest interdisciplinary students' organizations in Europe, founded in 1989 to help in students' mobility. ESN is present in 424 institutions in 36 countries, being always in constant evolution and expansion. Its objectives are: to work in the best interest of international students, to improve their integration in society, to represent their needs and rights, to provide them with relevant information about mobility programmes, to help the students who come back to their countries to readjust, contribute, improve and make students' mobility easier and, finally, to follow the values of voluntary work and active citizenship.

ESN-UA was created in 2011 by several students of the University of Alicante with the common interest of working selflessly in helping foreign students who come to study to our University.



Facebook:

Erasmus Student Network Alicante (Fan Page)
ESN Erasmus Alicante 2018/2019 (International Students)

Programmes offered by AEGEE and ESN to international students

Buddy program (AEGEE-Alicante)

Its focus is on international students and its main objective is to give support and resources, so that they can adapt more easily to life in Alicante and the University. Its task is basically to put an international student in contact with a local student called 'Local buddy'. The local buddy will help the student with his/her adaptation process and any other possible issues that may arise. Also, the local buddy will help him/her to understand our culture, how to manage himself/herself at the University, and to benefit from its resources. To apply for this program, you just have to fill the application form.



Erasmus in Schools Project (EiS) (ESN)

The goal of this project is to promote international mobility at an early age, as well as to eliminate stereotypes and ideological barriers by promoting knowledge about the Erasmus programme experience, and by encouraging young people of all ages to open themselves up to Europe, promoting thus the European citizenship and putting different cultures together.



Social Erasmus (ESN)

The goal of this project is to complete the stay abroad with the values of the Erasmus programme. Erasmus must be an opportunity to get to know new cultures and new educational systems, make new friendships, etc. but it must also be an inspiration for the future. The motto of this project is: Reach higher! Go further! Go Social!



ExchangeAbility Project (ESN)

Some examples of activities that have been successfully carried out are a basketball game on wheelchairs (ESN UC3M y ESN Oviedo), a Spring Party in collaboration with ASPRONA Valladolid (ESN Uva) or a Beer Party with the young people from ONCE (ESN UAM).



More info: <http://www.aegee.org/> & <http://www.esn-spain.org/>

3. University of Alicante. Facilities and services

History and Campus overview

The University of Alicante (UA), located in San Vicente del Raspeig, has more than 25,000 students and it is a very popular destination for international students who wish to take part in an exchange programme, a participation that can open a wide range of training options, new opportunities and unique experiences.



It was founded in October 1979 and currently has great potential for socio-economic development, as Alicante rank as the fourth province in total GDP in Spain. About fifty bachelor's degrees, more than seventy university departments and research groups on the fields of social and law sciences, technology, humanities, education and health sciences, and eighteen university research institutes present one of the most prestigious research activities in the country.



The campus of the University of Alicante is considered one of the best campuses in Europe: one million square meters with the best urbanistic design, the most innovative architecture within a frame of environmental excellence (extensive green areas, landscape design, pedestrian, cultural, sport and educational areas...) and a wide variety of services.

The UA commits strongly to the mobility of its students. Every academic year, the UA receives about 1,200 international students. Special attention is paid to foreign students in order to facilitate their integration in the campus and its cultural and sport activities.

This process begins with welcoming events right after the student's arrival. Throughout their stay, students are also given housing alternatives and information about the society, art, history and geography of the province of Alicante.

Web: <https://web.ua.es/es/sobre-la-ua.html>



UA Seats

Besides the campus in San Vicente, the University of Alicante has different venues around the province. These venues are located in historical or artistic buildings in different cities and are currently undergoing a process of rehabilitation and adaptation. Courses and cultural activities take place there, some of them related to Information Technology, exhibitions, gigs, scientific and technical support for the development of technical innovation is provided there, as well. These venues are situated in:

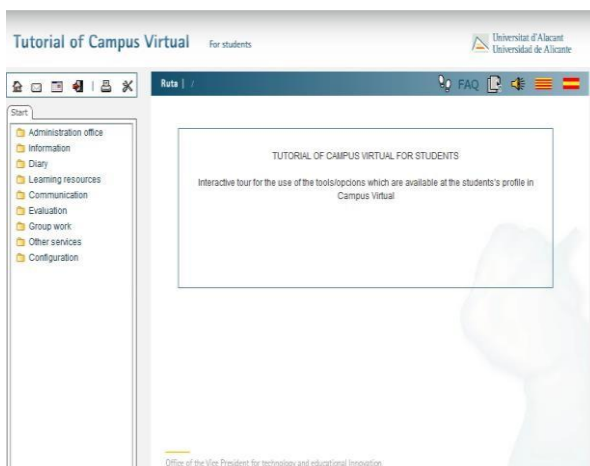
- Biar
- Calp
- Cocentaina
- Elda
- La Marina
- La Nucía
- Orihuela
- Petrer
- Torrevieja
- Villena
- Xixona



UACloud - Virtual Campus

To follow the courses you must learn how to use the Virtual Campus. This is the UA online tool where professors will upload all your notes, materials and news. You will be able to contact them to resolve any doubts, and you can check your webmail, too.

To learn how to use it, you can check the tutorial about how it works. There is an English version. Tutorial: <https://si.ua.es/en/manuales/ucloud/ucloud.html>



There is an app for iPad, iPhone, iPod, and Android called **iUA**.



Culture and Sport

In the University there is a wide range of cultural and sport activities.



There is an app where you can see all the cultural and sport activities, courses, conferences that are offered by the University in chronological order.

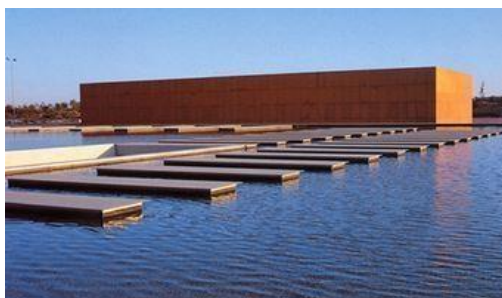
The Office of the Vice President for Culture, Sports & Language Policies coordinates all these activities; check its web for further information.

❑ **Cultural activities**

Check the list of services to discover all the culture services offered by the University of Alicante. web: <https://web.ua.es/en/culture.html>

You can browse the [cultural magazine](#) of the University (VEU); there you will find news and cultural services, among other information of interest.

The [Museum of Alicante University \(MUA\)](#), besides being a great architectural building, has a full agenda with exhibitions and activities that you can enjoy.



□ Sports

Check the agenda and web: <https://web.ua.es/en/deportes.html> to see all the monthly physical activities offered by the University with their schedule and prices. You can also consult the agenda of conferences and sport events that take place at the University, in case any of them looks interesting to you.



If you like playing sports, it is advisable to get the [University Sports Card \(TDU\)](#). You will have access to the gym, pool, athletics track, wall-climbing, squash, tatami, tennis, ping pong and locker rooms. The price of the TDU for International students is **48 €** a year. You have free access to see the facilities; get a card!.

You can also participate in the internal competitions among students of the UA, both individual and team sports. Check the tournaments offer.



4. Transportation

Urban

Web: <https://web.ua.es/es/oia/transporte-universitario/lineas-urbanas.html>

☐ SuBús

The Bus company SuBús offers both urban and interurban transportation between cities and villages near Alicante. On its website you can check the schedules, routes and its modifications, prices and other relevant information.

Web: <https://movilidad.vectalia.es>

☐ Alicante urban TAM

This is the bus service that moves around the city of Alicante. There are many line numbers and each of them has a different route. The price of each trip is **1,45 €**. The bus number 24, 24N, 36 y 38 takes you from Alicante to the UA.

For the urban transport you can purchase two types of cards:

- **Bono Móbilis Multiviaje from 10 to 30**: When you buy this card, you pay either **8,70 €** (10 trips) or 26,10 € (30 trips) + 2 € when you buy the card for the first time.
- **Bono Móbilis Jove (30 trips)**: **21,20** + 4 € when you buy the card for the first time. To buy this card you should be holder of the 'Carnet Jove' (**8.40 €**) issued by the IVAJ. The only requirement to get it is to be between 16 and 30 years. In Alicante you may find an IVAJ office in Rambla de Mendez Nunez, 41 (Torre de la Generalitat Valenciana) Tel .: 966 478 100, e-mail: alicante_ivaj@gva.es

You can buy it and recharge it at authorized points of sale and TAM Offices.

Web IVAJ: www.ivaj.gva.es

Web Carnet Jove: <http://www.ivaj.gva.es/es/carnetjove>

☐ TRAM

Tramway in Alicante (TRAM) can take you as far as Dénia with multiple stops in different cities. In its website <http://www.tramalicante.es> you can find the schedules, routes and temporary modifications, prices and some other useful information.

The Metropolitan L2 goes through Alicante and takes you to the University of Alicante. One journey costs 1,45€. There is a phone app called “Alicante Tram” where you will find the schedules, routes and other useful information. To use line L2 you can use the aforementioned TAM cards.

Web: <https://www.tramalicante.es>

❑ Bicycles

Bicisanvi is a municipal bicycle rental service, promoted by the City Council of San Vicente del Raspeig. It is very cheap (5€ one only payment) and it can be very useful when you have to travel short distances or just stroll around. To use this service, you have to follow the instructions at their webpage: <http://web.bicisanvi.es/en/como-darse-de-alta/> and pay 5 €



These are the locations where you can rent a bike

1. Municipal sports centre
2. Townhall square
3. Juan Pablo II square
4. Main library at the University of Alicante
5. Apeadero square
6. Huerto de Los Leones square
7. TRAM stop at Healthcare Centre II
8. SAN VICENTE OUTLET PARK mall



Other transportation

❑ **Train station**

It is located in Salamanca Avenue, 1.

It offers direct connection with the main cities in Spain, such as Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia.

The best website to buy tickets is: <http://www.renfe.com/>



❑ **Bus station**

Alicante's bus station is located at Muelle de Poniente. The buses also have direct connection with the main cities in Spain.

Website: <http://www.estacionalicante.es>

❑ **Airport**

The airport of Alicante (also known as Aeropuerto Alicante - Elche) is located 8 km southwest from the city of Alicante. Its website is: <http://www.aeropuertoalicante-elche.com/>

Airport Bus

The cheapest and most popular transport to the airport is line C-6 of interurban buses. It runs every 20 minutes, every day from 5:00 (from Alicante) until 24:00 (from Airport). This bus links the airport with the main parts in the city, especially the TRAM metropolitan line in Alfonso X El Sabio and Plaza de los Luceros.

You can buy a ticket on the bus for 3,85€. If you have any question call 902 106 992.

Airport taxi

The official airport taxi service is Radio Taxi Elche. It can be identified by a green stripe running the length of the vehicle and the shield of the City of Elche on the front doors.



Fares include a supplement of 4,25€. The company's web offers bookings with a discount for payment in advance. When you get into the taxi make sure that the taxi driver has set the taximeter at the beginning of the journey (minimum fare). The trip to Alicante costs around 19-21€ depending on the time frame. Phone number is 965 427 777.

Web: <http://www.aena.es/en/alicante-airport/taxi.html>

We recommend you to ask for a receipt if you want to file a complaint. You can phone 965 458 257 or write an e-mail to incidencias@radiotaxielche.es

Taxi service

There is just one company of taxi in Alicante. They are reliable, but you have to bear in mind that they are not cheap.

RADIO TELE-TAXI TEL.: 96525251 – 965101611 <http://www.taxienalicante.com/>



5. Cost of living

Living expenses

The monthly costs for food, going out, leisure, range between €200 and €400, depending on your own lifestyle. Transportation costs range between €20 and €40 per month, depending on the days on which you have classes and whether you use it a lot or not.

Approximate prices:

Coffee	€1- 1,50
Breakfast	€2 - 3
Lunch	€6-12
Milk (1 L)	€0,6 – 1
Loaf of bread	€0,5 – 1,20
Spirits	€5 – 6
Cinema	€5 - 9

Accommodation

The most common type of accommodation for students are shared flats in the city of [Alicante](#) (331,577 inh.) or in the town of [Sant Vicent del Raspeig](#) (58,000 inh.) in which the University of Alicante is located. Both towns are separated by 8 Km.

The price of renting a room fluctuates between 200 and 300 €, costs included like electricity bill, internet, gas...)

The University of Alicante offers a service that manages the search and hiring of accommodation for those students that apply for it:

- <https://www.csidiomas.ua.es/en/services/accommodation>

If you want to find accommodation by yourself you can use the following UA link:

- <https://web.ua.es/en/oia/alojamientos/accommodation.html>

[Carné Jove](#)

With the Carné Jove (Youth Card) from the Generalitat Valenciana (the Valencian Government) you can get some discounts. It costs 8,40 €, which you can pay by bank transfer or in cash. You can pay for it in their office with the receipt of your bank transfer in the Rambla Méndez Núñez street 41. The office is open from 9AM to 2PM.

Web: <http://www.ivaj.gva.es/es/hacerme-el-carne>

If your student card from your home university has the logo of the European Youth Card on it, it is not necessary to get the Carné Jove.



[Shopping](#)

[Grocery stores](#)

One of the most popular supermarkets is Mercadona. Also, we can recommend Día, Aldi, Consum, Dialprix, Caprabo, or Lidl.

There are other supermarkets such as Carrefour or Alcampo, but they are usually further from the city centre.

Another option where you can buy products such as fresh fish, meat, fruit, and vegetables is the Mercado Central ([Central Market](#)) the rest of [district and flea markets](#) all around the city of Alicante.



[Shops](#)

A popular shopping area is the district around the Maisonnave Avenue. There, you can find all kinds of shops, especially for clothing, shoes and accessories.

❑ Shopping centres

There are three shopping centres in the city of Alicante. Another one is located in San Vicente del Raspeig, close to the university.

In Alicante you can visit [Plaza Mar 2](#), [Gran Vía](#), and [Puerta de Alicante](#). In these shopping centres, there is a great variety of shops, as well as cinemas and restaurants. Here, you can enjoy a day of shopping and entertainment.

In San Vicente del Raspeig there is a [shopping mall](#) close to the university campus, which has restaurants such as Burger King, Lizarrán, Foster's Hollywood, etc. There are also all kinds of stores, an outlet store, a gym, and a bowling alley.

❑ Mobile phones

The money you spend on mobile communication depends on your personal needs, but the companies that might be the most interesting for exchange students are the following:

Phone company	Approximate monthly costs
Yoigo	€ 6-15
Tuenti	€ 7-10
Mas Movil	€ 10-20
Vodafone	€ 15

Some of the cheapest companies are Simyo and Pepephone. Both are online companies and you have to register online. They will send to you the SIM card by courier service.

6. City of Alicante

Alicante is a port city located on the Mediterranean Coast. It is the second biggest municipality in the region of Valencia, and the eleventh of Spain. At the moment it has about 331,577 inhabitants, of which 12,56% of which are foreigners from 128 different nationalities.



Alicante has a dry, Mediterranean climate with mild temperatures throughout the year. It does not rain often, and when it does, it is concentrated in equinoctial periods. There are about 37 rainy days per year, mostly in September and October, due to heavy rains caused by the 'cold drop'. There is a total of 2,851 sunlight hours. The temperatures range between 17°C and 6,3°C in January and 30,8°C and 21,2°C in August. The average annual temperature is 18,3°C, frosts being as exceptional as temperatures above 40 ° C. Thanks to the maritime influence, the difference between night and day temperatures is fairly small, though in some occasional periods of westerly winds, it can exceed 15°C of difference. The temperatures don't fluctuate much during the year, as there are mild winters and hot summers. Therefore, it is highly recommended to use a high sunscreen protection and sun glasses.



Places to discover in Alicante

❑ **La explanada de España**

This is the most iconic promenade in Alicante. You cannot miss it, as it is one of the most dynamic areas with a lot of activity. Its most characteristic features are its wideness and its over six million red, black, and white marble floor tiles, which simulate the waves of the sea. It is one of the main symbols of the city.



❑ **Santa Bárbara Castle**

This is without a doubt one of the most emblematic sights of the city. Located on top of the Benacantil mountain (116 m.), from this fortress you can enjoy the most beautiful views both of the coast and the whole town. You can visit the Santa Bárbara Castle daily from 10 AM to 8 PM in October - March, and from 10 AM to 22 PM from April to September. There is no entrance fee, but the lifts cost €2,70.



Web: <https://www.alicante.es/es/equipamientos/castillo-santa-barbara>

❑ **Postiguet Beach**

This is one of the most famous beaches in Alicante. It is located at the foot of the Santa Bárbara Castle and is one of the most visited beaches throughout the year. With its length of 667 metres, the Postiguet Beach is perfect for a beach walk. The fact that it is in the city centre makes it easy to get there from basically every area in Alicante.



❑ **Old Town**

One of the most beautiful routes in Alicante is without a doubt the one through the old town. This is the historical city centre and the cultural heart of the city. It is also the most popular place to go out at night for Alicantinos as well as foreigners. The area is also known as "El Barrio".



❑ **Town hall**

It was originally built in 1490 but destroyed in the bombings of 1691. Today's town hall building was built in the 18th century. If you enter and go up to the first floor, you can see the Blue Room, which was decorated as a palace to welcome Queen Isabel II there in 1858.



❑ **Co-cathedral of Saint Nicholas**

The Co-cathedral of Saint Nicholas was built in 1600 to replace an earlier building. It is in the Spanish Herrerian Renaissance style. You can find it in the city centre.

❑ **Luceros Square**

This is the most emblematic square in Alicante. In its centre you can see a monumental fountain, which was designed by the Alicante born sculptor Daniel Bañuls Martínez. in 1930. Several stars decorate it.



Typical food

Like everywhere in the region of Valencia, rice is the most important ingredient of the Alicante's cuisine. The so-called "arroz con costra" and the "arroz a banda" are the star dishes. As well as cured salted fish, "salazones", and garlic mayonnaise, "alioli".



In and around the capital, arroz a banda is the most popular dish. It is so called because the fish with which the rice is baked is set aside (or in Spanish: a banda). Another popular dish is the coca amb tonyina, a kind of tuna pie. It's one of the typical things to eat during the bonfires of San Juan festivities in the capital of Alicante. Another special treat from this area is fish from the bay, consisting of red mullets and other kinds of very fresh fish. They are small and are served fried. It is something everyone should try during their stay in Alicante!

You can find more information about Alicante's cuisine in the following link:
<http://www.costablanca.org>

Leisure time

❑ **Hércules C.F.**

This is the football team of the city. This year they play in the third group in the 2^a *división* B. For more information about entrance tickets and the match schedules, you can look at the website <http://www.herculesdealicantecf.net/>.



❑ **Lucentum**

Lucentum is the basketball team of the city. This year they play in the LEB category. For information about entrance tickets and match schedules, you can take a look at its website , <https://www.fundacionlucentum.com>



❑ **Tardeo Alicante**

In the last couple of years, there has arisen a movement in Alicante called *tardeo*. This is a way to enjoy leisure time and gastronomy in the evening hours, generally on Saturdays. Young people grab the opportunity to enjoy the nice weather of the city to go out, have some food and drinks outside of bars and continue later on in the pubs around the city centre.



The most usual areas for a *tardeo* are the Mercado area and the pubs located along Castaños street.

You can watch a Youtube video about these activities and you can also find some Facebook pages for more information.

Culture

☐ Museums

MARQ (The Provincial Archaeological Museum of Alicante). It is the most important museum in Alicante. In 2004 it won the European Museum of the Year Award. The museum has a permanent exhibition with a growing collection. It also shows temporary exhibitions, for example: the topic of 2011 was the Hermitage. There were Russian archaeological treasures in the MARQ, with pieces that had never left Russia before. Another was the 'Beauty of the Human Body', put together by the British Museum, which had famous sculptures such as the Discobolus of Myron.



Address: **Plaza del Doctor Gómez Ulla, S/N, 03013** Website:

<http://www.marqalicante.com/>

● **The Cigarreras.** A cultural centre situated in one of the most representative buildings of the city: the old tobacco factory. The place, located in one of the three barracks of the old factory, consist of almost 3,000 square metres. It is the result of a project started by the municipality of Alicante and

'Alicante Cultura'. It is a multidisciplinary centre, a place of interaction, dialogue, creativity, and for showing the avant-garde art. It is a place to come together, and to project art and culture with a plural, active and fluid view. It is a



space open to the creation of a unifying discourse about the vision of vanguard art: plastic, visual and performing arts, architecture, music, dance, new technologies applied to art.

Address: **Calle San Carlos, 78 03013 Alicante**

Website: <http://www.cigarreras.es/>

□ **MACA (Alicante Museum of Contemporary Art)**. This museum is located in the middle of the historical centre of Alicante. Its cornerstone is the art collection from the 20th century, which was donated by Eusebio Sempere, an artist from Alicante, in 1977. The collections consist of paintings, sculptures, mixed media, and lithographs by Spanish and foreign artists, such as Dalí, Picasso, and Chillida.



Address: **Plaza Santa María, 3 03002 Alicante**

Website: <http://www.maca-alicante.es/>



□ **(MUBAG)**. This museum is devoted to painters and sculptors from Alicante, from the sixteenth century through the first decades of the twentieth century.

Address: **Calle Gravina, 13 03002**

Alicante Website: <http://www.mubag.org/>

● **Volvo Ocean Race Museum**. This is a modern exhibition space, with an avant-garde design, which intends to make the history of boat racing and the values of sailing accessible to a larger public. It aims to become a reference in the cultural and touristic offer in Alicante.



Address: **Puerto de Alicante, Muelle 10 de Levante 03001 Alicante**

Website: <http://www.volvoceanrace.com/es/home.html>

- **Centro 14.** The Municipal Resources Centre for Youth is an organization of the city council, through which various programs and activities are made available for young people; its goal is to develop activities of interest for them, provide information, documentation and counseling services.

Address: **Calle Labradores, 14 03002 Alicante**

Website: <http://www.centro14.com/>



☐ **Theatres and concert halls**



- **Main Theatre of Alicante.** This is the most important theatre in the province of Alicante, which has an extensive schedule of plays, musicals, concerts, and ballet events throughout the year.

Address: **Plaza del Ruperto Chapí, s/n
03001**

Alicante

Website:

<http://www.teatroprincipaldealicante.com/>

- **ADDA.** Alicante's Government Auditorium hosts concerts and musical events all year long.



Address: **Paseo Campoamor, 4 03010 Alicante**

Website: <http://www.addaalicante.es/>

□ Cinema

- Yelmo Cines. C.C Puerta de Alicante: <https://yelmocines.es/>
- Cines Ana: <http://www.cinesaana.com/>
- Cines Panoramis. C.C. Panoramis.: <http://www.cinespanoramis.com/cartelera>
- Cine La Esperanza, <http://cinelaesperanza.blogspot.com/>
- Kinopolis. C.C.Plaza Mar 2: <https://kinopolis.es/>
- Odeón Multicines, <http://www.odeonmulticines.com/>

7. Festivities of tourist interest in the province

❑ **Bonfires of Alicante**

The Bonfires of Saint John (Valencian: Fogueres de Sant Joan) is the city's most important festival, celebrated around Saint John's day, from June 20th to 24th. Officially declared to be of International Touristic Interest, its origins lie in the tradition of burning useless objects on the arrival of the summer solstice. Now, Alicante detaches itself from the past through the fire that ravages monuments made out of papier-mache, and welcome the summer season. All the information about the bonfires can be found on its website <http://www.hogueras.org/>.



❑ **El Misteri d'Elx**

The Misteri d'Elx (*Mystery Play of Elche* in English) is a liturgical drama that reenacts the Assumption and Coronation of the Virgin Mary. Divided in two acts, the play is enacted every year on August 14th and 15th inside the

Basilica of Saint Mary in the city of Elche (Alicante). Further information can be found on the website <http://www.misteridelx.com/>



❑ **Moors and Christians of Crevillent / Alcoy**

Crevillent celebrates in October the Moors and Christians Festival, during which they honour their patron saint San Francisco de Asís. It is a festival full of parades, color, music and fun that storms throughout the city streets. A total of 12 comparsas (companies), six for each side, take part in this celebration that reenacts the subjection of the Islamic Crevillent to the Crown of Aragon. See website <http://www.morosicristianscrevillent.com/>



In Alcoy, the Moors and Christians Festival is celebrated in honor of Saint George. Declared a Touristic festival of International Interest in 1980, it is considered as the birthplace of all the others celebrated throughout the whole of the Valencian Community.

The official calendar of the festival in Alcoy is from April 22 to 24, although the timing of the Holy Week holiday can cause changes in the usual calendar. It includes the reenactment of the battle between the Moors and the Christians. Its origin lies in the Battle of Alcoy that took place in 1276 at the gates of the city. It is traditionally assumed that the people from Alcoy fought the troops of the Muslim leader Alazraq. According to this legend, at a key moment during the battle, Saint George appeared riding a horse on the city walls deciding the result of the fight.



For this reason, Saint George was also declared saint patron of these celebrations which take place on April 23. As part of these celebrations, the Moors and Christians Festival are organized by the Saint George Association since at least 1883. More information on the Web: <http://www.asjordi.org/>

□ Holy Week

Alicante's Holy Week brings us closer to the events that took place in the life of Jesus of Nazareth: his passion, death and resurrection. There are 27 processions with 15,000 participants, and a total of 115 works of art put together in 55 groups of sculptures. This religious event, as we know it, started around 1600 but it's logical to think that it already existed in some form previous to that date. It's celebrated between late March and mid-April.



The most relevant days are: Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Easter Monday.

More information about the religious brotherhoods and the routes followed in past years can be found on: <http://www.semanasanta-alicante.com>

❑ Santa Faz

It is a festival celebrated on the second Thursday after Easter. It is based on the Catholic relic housed in the Santa Faz monastery, in San Juan. This relic is a linen cloth the Vatican has declared to be one of the three *Faces of Christ*. This relic is the object of a procession that attracts more than 260,000 pilgrims every year, usually walking from the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas in Alicante to the monastery of Santa Faz. It is the second most important pilgrimage in Spain after El Rocío.



During the pilgrimage, pilgrims pray at the Stations of the Cross and the most traditional participants wear a black robe, and a scarf around their necks with the colors of the city: white and blue. Besides, people carry rosemary canes that are given away at the cathedral an hour before the start of the procession.

Along the way, there are usually traditional stands - the *paraeta*--, where you can have anise rolls and *mistela* wine, typical products from the region. There are also market stalls around the monastery, which usually offer handmade products.

❑ Carnaval

Every year, with the first full moon of spring--usually around February--, Alicante starts the celebration of one of the most fun festivals of the city, which fills the streets with colour and joy. The carnivals of Alicante are characterized by a week of music, costumes, parades, workshops and parties, where the locals participate actively putting a big smile on the faces of the many visitors.

The Thursday that starts the carnival is called *El Dijous de Gras*, and on this day, Plaza de San Cristóbal (Saint Christopher square) is decorated dully along the day. Also the *Correfoc Carnalero* and the *Arribada del Momo* takes place from Alcalá Galiano street to Quijano square.



On El Sábado Ramblero (Saturday Ramblero) kids enjoy the carnival in the afternoon, and in the evening starts the Verbena de Carnaval Rock festival at Plaza San Cristóbal and the Verbena del Sábado Ramblero festival at Rambla de Méndez Núñez.

On El Domingo de Resaca (Hangover Sunday), kids and grownups alike can go to the Explanada where they can participate in different sorts of entertainment for their age groups.

Martes de Carnaval (Carnival Tuesday) is when most people dressed up. In the evening, the Jui d'en Carnestoltes and the Processó del Pelele take place at Plaza San Cristóbal, starting at this square and finishing at Plaza de la Santa Faz. Afterwards, on the way back to Plaza Quijano, the Carnival Tuesday Dance takes place, with a live group performance.

Finally, the following day the Entierro de la Sardina (The Burial of the Sardine) is celebrated. The wake takes place at the Central Market, Alfonso el Sabio Avenue, and then the funeral procession to Plaza del Carmen takes place. Later, the Great Black Dance is performed at the same plaza, accompanied by a live music group.



8. Tourism in the surroundings

❑ **Elche**

It is a beautiful city located 21km from Alicante. It was founded by the Iberians in the 5th century B.C and its name was Illici. The Palm Grove and the representation of sacral drama, The Mystery Play of Elche, have been declared World Heritage Site and Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, respectively.

When you visit The Palm

Grove do not miss The Priest's Garden and the

Municipal Park. In Elche there is also a wide variety of museums and important buildings such as the Archaeology and History Museum of Elche (MAHE) and the Basilica of Santa María. In August 2014 the Project Víbora was carried out, in which citizens painted graffiti on the riverside across the city, 2,8 km long and 14,5m wide. You can go from Alicante by train or bus. Web: <http://www.elche.es/>



❑ **Santa Pola Lighthouse**

It is the highest point on the coast (152m high). The lighthouse is located at Santa Pola cape, offering breathtaking views. From there you can see Alicante's bay, the Garden of Elche and the island of Tabarca. Also known as a place for parachute jumping. It is located 12km away from Elche and 18km from Alicante. You can reach it only by car. <http://www.turismosantapola.es>



❑ **Tabarca Island**

It is an idyllic island located 22km from the city of Alicante, 8km from the port of Santa Pola. It is the largest island of the Comunidad Valenciana and the only one inhabited. You can reach it by boat from Alicante or Santa Pola.



❑ **Orihuela**

It is located 29km away from Elche and 52km from Alicante. It is worth visiting for its cultural and natural heritage, especially the old town (declared historical-artistic and monumental ensemble), its festivities (Holy Week declared of International Touristic Interest) and its beaches. Several public figures were born in Orihuela, among them the eminent Spanish poet Miguel Hernández. Web:

<http://www.orihuela.es/>



❑ **Algar Waterfalls**

This is a nice spot located 15km away from Benidorm. It is a natural area with lush Mediterranean vegetation formed by the river Algar, which carries a great amount of ice cold water, and runs through gorges forming waterfalls and natural pools. <http://www.lasfuentesdelalgar.com/>



□ Calpe

This is a beautiful coastal city with many monuments, parks and coves. It is worth visiting the Peñón (rock) de Ifach, a natural park on a 332m rock surrounded by the sea. From the highest point it offers an amazing view. <http://www.calpe.es/>



9. Useful online resources:

- Alicante town hall <https://www.alicante.es>
- Alicante tourism: <https://www.alicanteturismo.com/>
- Centro Superior de Idiomas de la UA: <https://www.csidiomas.ua.es>
- Costablanca <http://www.costablanca.org>
- Diputación of Alicante <http://www.diputacionalicante.es/>
- UALA Magazine <http://www.revistauala.com/>
- Portal **erasmusu** <https://erasmusu.com/es>
- Alicante weather www.aemet.es

10. Useful information

- Emergency phone number:**

112



Calls are free for any emergency: medical (ambulance), fire, rescue services, Police and Guardia Civil, etc.

- Medical care**

You can check this website:

<https://sri.ua.es/en/movilidad/exchanges/medical-assistance.html>

- Thefts, accidents, lost baggage:**

Consult the terms of your Police Station and contact them.



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