



ALICANTE

Between two

castles



A different area of Alicante to discover

BETWEEN TWO CASTLES

The city of **Alicante** holds more than the traditional tourist spots that have made it famous. In addition to its well-known areas, Alicante has other neighbourhoods full of **life** and **history**, for you to enjoy.

If we leave the sea, the beach and the port and wander deeper into the city, between the two castles that guard the city, you will find **modern spaces, history, recreational areas, monuments, spectacular buildings, culture, gastronomy, sports facilities, traditional shops** and more.

These two bastions, the castles of **Santa Bárbara** and **San Fernando**, are the perfect places to start your tour. You have an entire city at your feet, with all kinds of **attractions and emotions** waiting to be discovered. You can even sample local products in some of the city's most historic shops.

Urban art, green spaces, squares and parks, monuments, museums, concert halls, historical buildings, food markets, charming shops, air-raid shelters, the bullring...

In short: all places to be discovered and a whole "other" city to visit.

The promotion of this entire area is the result of a Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy (in Spanish: Estrategia de Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible - EDUSI). - This is a plan for citywide projects, which always works with the goal of the recovery of the area selected for improvement, both in terms of tourism and its economy.

Alicante, **between two castles**.



Map of Alicante
Area Between two castles

- 1 Santa Bárbara Castle and the City of Alicante Museum (MUSA)
- 2 San Fernando Castle, Memory Park and monument
- 3 Tobacco Factory - Las Cigarreras
- 4 Air raid shelters from the Spanish Civil War
- 5 Alicante Central Market
- 6 MARQ - Archaeological Museum of Alicante
- 7 ADDA - The Alicante Provincial Council Auditorium
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- 17 Monte Tossal
- 18 Panteón de Quijano
- 19 Plaza de España
- 20 Músico Óscar Tordera Iñesta Square
- 21 Dr. Gómez Ulla Square
- 22 San Juan de Dios Square

1. SANTA BÁRBARA CASTLE and the City of Alicante Museum - MUSA



An iconic image that represents the city of Alicante. The Castle is located on **Mount Benacantil**, a rocky mass 166 metres high, from the top of which you can see the entire bay of Alicante, with spectacular views of the city. However, from the bottom and from Postiguat beach, the mountain looks like a face, which is why it is popularly called the **Cara del Moro** (The Moor's Face).

The Museum of the City of Alicante, **MUSA**, lies on this hill. The museum contains five rooms, which take you back in time to learn about the different cultures and peoples that have inhabited these lands.

On the hillside, you can find the neighbourhood of **Raval Roig**, one of the oldest in the city, originally populated by fishermen. The castle can be accessed by vehicle, or on foot via one of the hiking routes or walks up the naturally green slopes of Mount Benacantil itself.

Mount Benacantil has marked trails for walking and running, and is a fantastic place for recreation and sports or just a walk, with views of the sea and the Castle of Santa Bárbara. The car park at Santa Bárbara Castle is closed.

For more information about visiting the castle, please visit <https://www.alicanteturismo.com/en/castle-of-santa-barbara/>

2. SAN FERNANDO CASTLE



San Fernando Castle is located in the area of **Mount Tossal** and the Cerro de San Francisco. It is named for King **Fernando VII** and is an example of a fort designed for riflemen, typical of the 19th century. It was built to complete the city's defences and prevent a French landing during the **War of Independence**, which was declared in 1808. The castle's construction began a year later, in 1809, to serve as a fortress and jail for French prisoners.

As it is built on a hill, you can see the entire city from the castle. It is a symbol of the wealth of culture in Alicante, and in 1949 it was recognised as a monument under the **Spanish Law on Historical Heritage**. The castle itself and its surroundings, including its green areas, have recently undergone restoration work making it a great urban space for enjoying the outdoors.

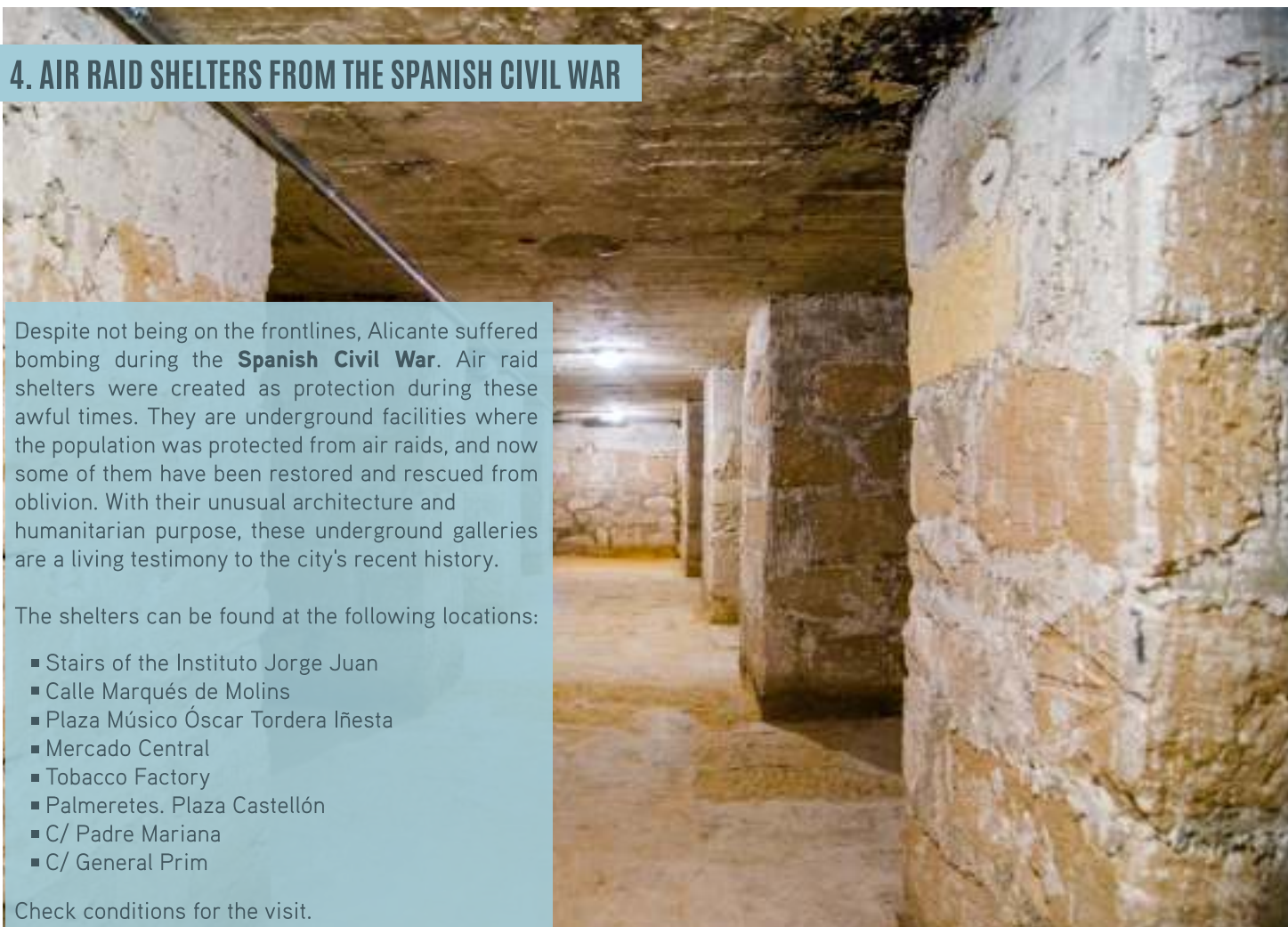
3. TOBACCO FACTORY-LAS CIGARRERAS



In 1801 the Alicante Tobacco Factory opened, the third in Spain after those in Seville and Cádiz, occupying a part of the Asilo y Casa de Misericordia in the neighbourhood of San Antón. The demand for tobacco was such that the entire property was turned over to its production, hiring almost exclusively women. This is the origin of its name "**Las Cigarreras**", and it operated as a tobacco factory until December 2009. In 2010 it was remodelled and became **Las Cigarreras Cultural Centre**, a modern architectural complex in a building that was a place of work for thousands of people and the driving force of the local economy for two centuries.

The Tobacco Factory, also known as the Tabacalera or "**Las Cigarreras**" is part of the collective memory of Alicante, due to its important economic activity over two centuries. Now it hosts concerts, exhibitions, cultural events and also has an impressive vertical garden, making it still a benchmark in the city.

4. AIR RAID SHELTERS FROM THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR



Despite not being on the frontlines, Alicante suffered bombing during the **Spanish Civil War**. Air raid shelters were created as protection during these awful times. They are underground facilities where the population was protected from air raids, and now some of them have been restored and rescued from oblivion. With their unusual architecture and humanitarian purpose, these underground galleries are a living testimony to the city's recent history.

The shelters can be found at the following locations:

- Stairs of the Instituto Jorge Juan
- Calle Marqués de Molins
- Plaza Músico Óscar Tordera Iñesta
- Mercado Central
- Tobacco Factory
- Palmeretes. Plaza Castellón
- C/ Padre Mariana
- C/ General Prim

Check conditions for the visit.

5. ALICANTE CENTRAL MARKET



The Mercado Central de Abastos, also called "**la plaza**", is an icon of the city of Alicante and one of its busiest buildings. It is both an economic and social hub. The first stone of the Central Market was placed on 12th February 1911, on the occasion of a visit from King **Alfonso XIII**, and it was inaugurated in 1922. Work was directed by the municipal architect Juan Vidal. It was built on what was a wasteland to meet the needs of the population at the end of the 19th century.

The saddest day in the history of the market was the **bombing** of 25th May 1938, in the middle of the Civil War: planes from the Italian fascist regime destroyed a large part of the building, killing over 300 people. There is a monument to those lost in the market square, which is called **Plaza 25 de mayo** also in honour of the victims of the bombing. This square is commonly known as the square of flowers, because of its flower stalls. Its bars and cafes are a popular meeting point in the city.

6. MARQ. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF ALICANTE



The **Archaeological Museum of Alicante**, known by its initials MARQ, was inaugurated in 2000 in the former **San Juan de Dios Hospital**, designed by the architect **Juan Vidal Ramos**. The history of MARQ is linked to that of the building it occupies, a hospital that was opened in 1931 to provide healthcare for the entire province. The building is laid out with protruding wings on both sides, with eight pavilions in total built to house beds for the sick. Its classical style is highlighted by its striking balustrades and stairways, which are typical of the period.

It is an important location for Spanish archaeology, and gives an overview of the legacy left by the different civilisations that passed through the **Costa Blanca**. Its collections are shown in a contemporary way and use audio-visual media to display its catalogued finds, as well as explaining the different methods and techniques related to archaeology in three of its galleries (covering field, urban and underwater archaeology).

Like the building, the well-maintained, and spacious **MARQ** gardens are known for their beauty. Interestingly, the building next to the museum is the Provincial Hospital Medical Centre, keeping a part of the old hospital alive.

7. ADDA. THE ALICANTE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AUDITORIUM

The **Alicante Provincial Council Auditorium (ADDA)** is a concert hall that opened in 2011. It was designed by architect **Juan Antonio García Solera**. Its imposing dimensions cover a total area of 28,000 square metres and reach a height of 29 metres. The main Symphonic Music hall holds 1500 seats.

The building stands out in the urban landscape, and is located on **Paseo de Campoamor**, between Alcoy and Jijona avenues, next to the bullring. The main façade faces Avenida de Alcoy, with a wide, eye-catching esplanade at its doors. The building's exterior is spectacular, as is its interior, with four large white columns that are reflected in the black floor and its suspended light fixtures.



8. BULLRING AND BULLFIGHTING MUSEUM



The bullring dates from the year 1848 and was built so that Alicante could have a permanent bullring that would meet the needs of the city's growing population. Before its construction, there were temporary wooden bullrings at various points around the city, and a more permanent structure on what is now the Plaza de Ruperto Chapí.

The bullring is the work of **Emilio Jover**, the same architect who designed the Teatro Principal de Alicante. In 1888 it underwent major renovations, commissioned by the architect **José Guardiola Picó**. These renovations gave the bullring its current appearance, with its second floor, new entrances, a large horse yard and three corrals for cattle, among other improvements. Today it is an imposing building, an icon of the city that is located in the open space of the Plaza de España. The Bullfighting Festival of San Juan, one of Alicante's biggest events, is held in the bullring.

You can also find the Alicante **Bullfighting Museum on the Plaza de Toros**. It houses a museum, a library, a conference and exhibition room and an audiovisual room. The museum covers the city's bullfighting history, specifically, its two golden ages: one of them dedicated to Vicente Blau "El Tino", Francisco Antón "Pacorro" and Vicente Fernández "Caracol", and the second to José María Manzanares and Luis Francisco Esplá.

9. EDUSIART MURALS. URBAN ART

Deteriorating urban spaces have been given new life with colourful murals. This initiative, called **EDUSIART**, has involved the residents of these neighbourhoods in the creation of these ephemeral works of art. So that any citizen can be an artist in their own neighbourhood, mural workshops were organised, although the larger images are the work of artists who are known for this artistic style. It is an infusion of colour and joy to counteract the dilapidation of some urban spaces. They certainly have had an impact on the residents of Alicante, and visitors to the city.

They are located on the following streets in the **San Antón neighbourhood**:

- Calle Pozo
- Calle Paraíso
- Calle de la Esperanza
- Calle Sevilla
- Plaza Misericordia



10. MOUNT TOSSAL

This large recreational space in the middle of the city is perfect for walking, sports or just spending a day in nature. It occupies the slope of Mount Tossal and is made up of terraces.

The **San Fernando Castle** sits atop Mount Tossal, a fortress that was built to reinforce the city's defences in the 19th century. The hill also offers spectacular views of the entire city and the sea.

The park has facilities for sports and recreational activities, all free of charge. It also has an area for rollerblading and skateboarding, as well as an area for children's games and a climbing wall.



PANTEÓN DE QUIJANO

An iconic location in the city, and part of the collective memory of generations of “Alicantinos”. Built in 1855 by the architect **Francisco Morell**, the Panteón is a landscaped romantic park located inside the Plaza de Santa Teresa. It contains a pyramidal monument crowned with an obelisk, which was built to house the remains of **Don Trino González de Quijano**, civil governor of the city. On each of the monument's four faces, there is a sculpture that symbolises the virtues of the deceased: faith, courage, charity and temperance. Also the so called romantic grotto, a restored cave.

PLAZA DE ESPAÑA

This is one of the city's main nerve centres, seeing a large influx of people, traffic and general life every day. It is located in front of the bullring, and includes some striking fountains, plant life and a children's play area. It also contains two monuments, one in each part of the square.

The **Monument to the Foguerer**, a set of sculptures dedicated to the figure of the “foguerer”, is a piece by sculptor José Gutiérrez Carbonell, dating from 1982. Its first stone was placed on 17th January 1982, the day of San Antón. Made of concrete, stone and marble, it includes the figures of a man, a woman and a child, cast in bronze. Representatives of the Bonfires pay tribute to the “foguerers” and “barraquers” who have died the previous year at a meeting around the monument in June, when the city of Alicante's major festivities take place.

The **“Al Encierro”** monument, a sculpture by Nacho Martín, is made up of seven pieces: four bulls, a bullock, and a life-sized lancer on horseback. It is from 2002 and is located in front of the Plaza de Toros as a tribute to the world of bullfighting.

MÚSICO ÓSCAR TORDERA IÑESTA SQUARE

This plaza can be found on the avenue named after the poet Carmelo Calvo, but for most of Alicante it is still the plaza de Hermanos Pascual, since its name was only changed in 2018 to commemorate Alicante composer **Óscar Tordera Iñesta** (Alicante, 1899-1972). Tordera Iñesta was a master conductor in Madrid and, upon his return to Alicante, he composed pieces of music called “pasodobles” for bonfires and barracks. He also composed the hymn for the town of Banyeres de Mariola. The plaza includes green areas and the access to an air raid shelter from the Spanish Civil War - a place of great cultural and historical value located under the square itself.

DR. GÓMEZ ULLA SQUARE

Located opposite the Provincial Archaeological Museum (MARQ) this square owes its name to prestigious military doctor Mariano Gómez Ulla (Santiago de Compostela, 1877- Madrid, 1945). It is a popular meeting point, and has green spaces and children's play areas. A great place to appreciate the **MARQ** building and the views of the Castle of Santa Bárbara.

SAN JUAN DE DIOS SQUARE

This square is located on Paseo de Campoamor, with plants and a children's play area, as well as two buildings with a lot of history: the Geographical Institute and the Júcar Hydrographic Confederation. The square is one of the city's best known thoroughfares, and the site of a popular street market started in 1968, which was very popular until its relocation.



PERPETUO SOCORRO HOSPITAL

The Antigua Casa de Reposo y Sanatorio del Perpetuo Socorro was the first private hospital in Alicante, dating from 1945. It was built on the outskirts of the city, very close to Mount Benacantil, by the sea. Its design is that of the "hygienist" trend in architecture, which in turn was a response to the existing sensitivity to health as a result of nineteenth-century epidemics. The centre continues to operate and is an important place for many Alicante residents, or it may even be the hospital where they were born. There is a spectacular mural by Alicante artist **Gastón Castelló** at its entrance.

THE GUARDIA CIVIL BARRACKS

The Guardia Civil Barracks occupies the former **Hospital del Rey building**, built to meet the city's healthcare needs. Rented by the State during the War of Succession to treat the sick, it was also used as a cemetery, when it was half-constructed. Next to the Guardia Civil headquarters on one side of the building, the calle Hospital del Rey shows the large building's importance to the city.

LA PALOMA SCULPTURE

This abstract piece in white marble by Alicante-based artist **Eduardo Lastres** is installed on a red base, highlighting its colour. It occupies the centre of the Pío XII square as a result of the square's remodelling, although it has been housed in other locations, including the Santa Bárbara Castle.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA MISERICORDIA CHURCH

This is the headquarters of the Hermandad del Gran Poder y la Esperanza, and the location of its "estación de penitencia" on Holy Wednesday afternoon during Holy Week in Alicante. Originally, it was built as part of the **Casa de la Misericordia** to help the poor. It became an auxiliary church of the Cathedral of San Nicolás, and finally a parish church. The current temple is newer - it was rebuilt in 1952, as the other was severely damaged in the Civil War. In 1989, important work was carried out when the canonical headquarters of the **Hermandad del Gran Poder y la Esperanza** was set up in the church's baptistery.

CAMPOAMOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Campoamor School, a centre for Early Childhood and Primary Education, occupies an iconic building in the city of Alicante. The building is a place of great beauty which is protected because of its architecture, featuring an imposing façade, a staircase and a striking pergola. Before receiving its current name, it was known as the "General Primo de Rivera" school and the "Joaquín Costa" school. The centre is open to its surroundings and works closely with the local neighbourhood association. Generations of Alicante residents have studied at the school, and their social involvement in the neighbourhood makes them a well-known institution in the area.

SCULPTORS BAÑULS' WORKSHOP

Vicente Bañuls and his son Daniel are two sculptors, with close links to the city of Alicante. Daniel learned to draw and sculpt in his father's studio-workshop when he was just five. Vicente and his son have a studio here, their own haven of peace and tranquillity where they can work. But the workshop was much more than an art studio - it was also a meeting place for artists such as Emilio Varela, Gastón Castelló, Adrián Carillo and Manuel Baeza. Non visitable.

ALICANTE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY

The Alicante Meteorological Observatory began operating in 1855 in the former Jardín del Asilo on Paseo de Campoamor, in the orchard of the old Capuchin monastery. Using the walls of an old arbour, a small yet solid temple was built. This location allowed observations of the weather as a result of the climate, that is, without accidental causes that may alter it. It was separated from the Provincial Institute of Meteorology for two reasons: because the building was so narrow that it could not house the observatory, and its proximity to the Santa Bárbara Castle, and the effect it has on the wind, prevented correct measurements. Non visitable.



Perpetuo Socorro Hospital



The Guardia Civil Barracks



Ntra. Señora de la Misericordia Church



Meteorological observatory

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Alicante
City & Beach

Ayuntamiento Alicante
Alicante Cultura



EDUSI ALICANTE
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