

Alicante



Costa Blanca - Spain Travel Guide

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www.alicante-spain.com

Welcome - Bienvenidos!

Welcome to Alicante!

When in 2003 we moved with our family to Alicante, we started a little website mostly for our friends who might visit us. Quickly it became more and more popular and we received many questions from tourists around the world who were looking for some additional information on Alicante and other cities around the Costa Blanca.

We started expanding our website covering other cities around the Costa Blanca. With information on Benidorm, Denia, Calpe, Torrevieja and many others www.alicante-spain.com has become increasingly popular.

In order to give you as much practical and hand's-on information as possible, we put this little ALICANTE TRAVEL GUIDE together. It is meant to give you a ONE-DAY-TOUR of the city, where you can enjoy most of the beautiful places around. In addition we added important addresses and telephone numbers of airlines, taxi and the various consulates, so you have something in hand when you arrive here for your next holiday.

All the best and enjoy Alicante and the Costa Blanca,

Hubert Keil and Family
www.alicante-spain.com

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Alicante Sightseeing

Alicante and how to explore it in one day

Just coming back from a short business trip to London, we were sitting together with friends in our garden in the Alicante suburb of San Juan on a warm summer evening. Whilst sitting together I mentioned the request from the escapartist for an Alicante article which I received some days before. You should write about “Alicante and how to explore it in one day” my wife said, because traditional Costa Blanca tourists really won't have much interest in the city but more in the beaches, villages and bars around the area.

Imagine some of you will come over and spend these summer holidays around the Costa Blanca in places like Benidorm, Torrevieja, Denia or Calpe. After two month of sunbathing and party at night, you finally get your act together and do a one day visit to Alicante just to be able to tell the loved once at home that you have seen some culture and arts as well.

Come and join me for a foot walk around Alicante

Before we start a quick overview. Alicante, with about 310.000 habitants lies about 6 hours down from Barcelona along the Mediterranean coast of Spain. Within the summer months about 6 million tourists visit the Costa Blanca area. Depending on different sources, about 4.5 Mio come from the U.K. alone. Cities like Benidorm (population 50.000) host up to 4 Mio visitors every year. Alicante is the second largest city in the province of Valencia.



The city is best explored by foot starting at the harbour area, where many parking areas are available. So we leave our car next to the Melia Hotel right on the harbour entrance. (A quick tip at the beginning, if you arrive at Alicante Airport you can get a very good Alicante map right at the tourist information centre at the arrival hall.)

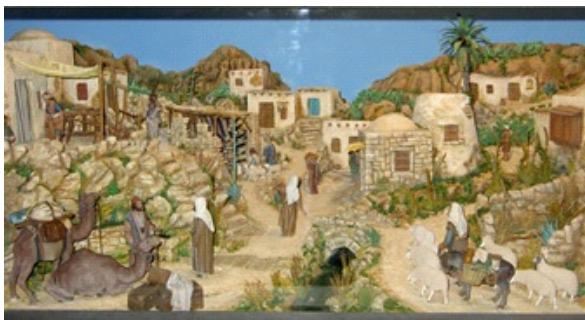
Alicante Sightseeing



Just behind the Melia Hotel at the foot of the Santa Barbara Castle you find the beach of Postiguet, where at the end of our little walk through Alicante, we will have our sunbath. But let's go on and get some culture and historical buildings to see.



Directly in front of the Melia Hotel we enter a little road which brings us to the Plaza del Ajuntamento, which means Plaza of the City Hall. Alicante's city hall was originally built in 1688 by the French, later heavily damaged and rebuilt in the 18th century. Guided by two 35 metre. tall towers, the city halls stairs measures the "Cero-Point" concerning sea level. All measurements of height in Spain refer to this "cero-point" as base for their calculations. Within the city hall you can visit the blue salon with its wonderful mirror gallery (Monday to Saturdays). Just passing the city hall at the right you will find the Plaza de Santissima Faz, a lovely little area surrounded by palm trees.



The Nativity Scene Museum

A little bit further, particularly if you are with children, you should visit the nativity scene museum at San Augustin Street. I have to admit it is a rather strange feeling to watch Christmas crips around the summer time, but it's worth it. The museum contains such a variety of hundreds of different scenes and figures from all over the world, that it will impress every visitor. As entrance is free, just have a look you will not regret it.

Alicante Sightseeing



Just around the corner from the nativity museum, you will find the concathedral of San Nicolas de Bari. With the neighbour city of Orihuela being the residence of the bishop of the province, Alicante got a “sub-cathedral” granted by Pope John XXIII in 1959. With an impressive 45 metre high blue dome the concathedral the building is one of the landmarks of Alicante. At one of the two entrances you will find a sculpture of the holy Nicolas done in black marble.



Just when you walk out of the old city centre of Alicante and pass the rather modern street of Rambla de Mendez Nunez, you should enter the Avenida Del Teatro. There you will find Alicante's huge theatre with massive roman style columns guiding the entrance. Just the right place for a pleasant evening entertainment, by the way.



Walking down in the harbour direction, you will find the Plaza Nueva Alicante. Here you will find a little aquarium within lovely plaza. The modern display sits within palm trees and an alley. Just the right place to have a break in one of the bars around, enjoying the sun.

Alicante Sightseeing



Alicante Bars and Parks

I think now is the best time to take a break from our traditional Alicante sightseeing tour and leave the path of historic buildings and museums. There are so many different churches, museums and places particularly around the old city centre, which you can spend many days discovering them. However, as you might visit the city during the rather hot summer months allow me to have a little step back and go up to the Plaza de C. Sotelo.



The lovely garden is the ideal rest place and the best starting point for a little shopping tour in Alicante.

Right at the opposite you will find the El Corte Ingles, the famous Spanish department store chain with an impressive outlet. Not that you might just go there for shopping, but as it is air-conditioned it might just be the right thing to “cool things down” a little. So after a nice “shopping-rest” just coming out of the El Corte Ingles, we walk the Avenida Doctor Gadea down to the harbour area. Next to statue of D. Eleuterio Maisonnave former minister of state and famous sun of the city of Alicante, the Avenida guides you down to the harbour with beautiful flowers along the way.



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It is this kind of alleys you find all around Alicante and make the city such a wonderful place for a walk around. The city is full with peaceful places and gardens its all up to you if you prefer going for the quiet site of Alicante. Down the Avenida Doctor Gadea we reach the harbour area again.



Alicante Sightseeing



Before turning left to where we came from, you should visit the Panoramis shopping mall directly at the harbour. Just when you go there you will pass the Real Club de Regatas the royal regatta club. If you are lucky you might even see members of the Spanish royal family, who sometimes spend some time here.

Similar to an American style shopping mall, the Panoramis offers you a breathtaking view over the Alicante harbour area. With a huge variety of different restaurants, most of them with perfect view over the city, it is a lovely point of reference for every walk around the city.



Finally we turn back to the area around the Melia Hotel, where we started our walk through Alicante.

Along the harbour at the Paseo Explanada de Espana our way takes us in between an alley of palm trees right back.

Further sightseeing tips on Alicante



Having completed more or less our walk through Alicante which might take anything in between 4 to 6 hours, there are obviously many more things to see and visit around this impressive city. Among others you could go up the castle of Santa Barbara (take the car to get there if it's too hot), see the bullfighting ring or visit the Park Ruiz de Alda north of Alicante just to name a few. However you might reconsider your plans when you are actually visiting the Costa Blanca area, because above everything stands usually the beach, the sand and the sea.



Alicante Directory

Important Directions you might need

Name	Street	City	Telephone
Alicante City Hall	Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1	Alicante	965 14 91 00
Alicante Downtown Bus Station	Calle Portugal, 17	Alicante	965 13 07 00
Alicante Train Station	Avenida de Salamanca, s/n	Alicante	965 92 38 50
Various Taxi Companies			
Radio Taxi		Alicante	965 13 07 00
Tele Taxi		Alicante	965 10 16 11
Area Taxi		Alicante	965 91 05 91
Euro Taxi Menuvalidos (for handicapped)		Alicante	965 91 05 74

Consulate

Name	Typ	Street	City	Telephone
Algeria	Consulate	AVDA. EUSEBIO SEMPERE, 14	ALICANTE 03003	96 522.99.44
Germany	Consulate	PLAZA CALVO SOTELO 1 - 2	ALICANTE 03001	96 521.70.60
Belgium	Consulate	AVDA. CATEDRÁTICO SOLER, 8	ALICANTE 03007	96 592.91.47
Brasil	Consulate	C/. REYES CATÓLICOS, 26 - 3º	ALICANTE 03001	96 592.28.52
Danmark	Consulate	PLAZA DE CALVO SOTELO, 3 - 7º	ALICANTE 03001	96 520.79.38
Finland	Consulate	C/. VIKINGOS, 4	BENIDORM 03500	96 585.35.99
France	Consulate	C/. ARQUITECTO MOREL, 8 ENTLO	ALICANTE 03003	96 592.18.36
Guatemala	Consulate	C/. LOS ÁLAMOS, 24	SAN JUAN 03550	96 565.55.94
Island	Consulate	AVDA. MEDITERRÁNEO, CASA LAS FLORES, L. 13	BENIDORM 03500	96 585.08.63
Italy	Consulate	C/. REYES CATÓLICOS, 24	ALICANTE 03003	96 522.19.45
Luxemborg	Consulate	AVDA. JUAN BAUTISTA LAFORA, 3-4º C	ALICANTE 03002	96 520.53.33
Morocco	Consulate	DUQUE DE ZARAGOZA, 4	ALICANTE 03002	96 521.85.20
Mexico	Consulate	AVDA. DOCTOR GADEA, 9 ENTLO	ALICANTE 03003	96 522.93.14
Monaco	Consulate	EXPLANADA DE ESPAÑA, 29	ALICANTE 03002	96 521.83.00
Norway	Consulate	AVDA. RAMÓN Y CAJAL, 3	ALICANTE 03001	96 521.84.12
Netherlands	Consulate	C/. CASTAÑOS, 29 - 1º	ALICANTE 03001	96 521.21.75
Great Britain & Northern Irland	Consulate	PLAZA CALVO SOTELO, 1 - 2	ALICANTE 03001	96 521.60.22
GBR&Northern Irland (ViceCon)	Consulate	C/. RUZAFÁ, 5. EDIF. PARÍS, 1º B	BENIDORM 03500	96 585.01.13
Dominican Republic	Consulate	C/. ÁNGEL LOZANO, 15 - 6º D	ALICANTE 03003	96 514.13.52
Switzerland	Consulate	EXPLANADA DE ESPAÑA, 29	ALICANTE 03002	96 521.83.00



Alicante Directory

Shopping

Name	Street	City	Telephone
Boulevard Plaza	Avda. de la Estación	Alicante	965 92 84 40
Panoramis	Muelle de Poniente, 6	Alicante	965 98 93 00
El Corte Inglés El Corte Inglés	Avda. Maisonnave, 53 Avda. Federico Soto, 1	Alicante Alicante	901 122 122 901 122 122
Puerta de Alicante	Avda. Alcalde Lorenzo Carbonell, s/n	Alicante	965 112 169
Centro Comercial Gran Vía	C./ José García Sellés, 2	Alicante	965 25 06 42
Plaza Mar 2	Avda. Denida, 1	Alicante	965 159 523
Mercado Central	Avda. Alfonso X el Sabio, 1	Alicante	965 14 07 63
Carrefour	Ctra. Valencia, km. 89	Alicante - San Juan	965 65 29 50

Important Telephone Numbers in Spain

Fire-Brigade 085

Police 091

Guardia Civil 062

Emergency 112



Alicante Airport

Location: P-1=Arrival, P0=CheckIn, P1=First Floor



Airlines

Name	Typ	Location	Zone	Area	Telephone
Air Algerie	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 688 200
Air Berlin	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 683 848
Aero Lloyd	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	
Air Europa	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	971 178 100
Braathens	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 314
British Airways	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 472
Crossair	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 447
Hapag Lloyd	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 560
Iberia	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 170
Khalifa Airways	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 518
LTU	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 348
Thomas Cook (Condor)	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 314
Monarch Airlines	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 314
Spanair	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 402
S.A.S.	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 682 530
Transavia / KLM	Airline	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 682 410



Tour Operator/Travel Agency & Wholesale

Name	Typ	Location	Zone	Area	Telephone
AMAVE	Tour Operator	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 912 642
Thomson	Tour Operator	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 852 754
JMM Holid./Iberoservice	Tour Operator	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 852 820
Jet Air	Tour Operator	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 859 462
Cosmosair PLC	Tour Operator	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	968 855 472
Airtours	Travel Agency	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 442
Schemann	Travel Agency	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 682 710
Servitour Travel	Travel Agency	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 682 642
Travel 2000	Travel Agency	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 460
Julia Via Intern.	Travel Wholesale	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 123 744
Viajes Circuitos	Travel Wholesale	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 830 875
Moratur	Travel Wholesale	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 812 737
Ernest Gutmann	Travel Wholesale	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	965 230 611
Avra PLC	Travel Wholesale	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 273



Shops / Restaurant/Cafe / Banking Service

Name	Typ	Location	Zone	Area	Telephone
Airport Change 1	Banking Service	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 089
Airport Change 2	Banking Service	Airport P1	Arrival	Restricted Area	966 919 090
Banesto Cash Machine	Banking Service	Airport P1	Departure	Public Area	-
BBVA(Servired)	Banking Service	Airport P0	Arrival	Public Area	-
CAM (4B) Cash Machine	Banking Service	Airport P0	Arrival	Public Area	-
Caja Madrid(Servired)	Banking Service	Airport P1	Departure	Public Area	-
Bill Bentley Pub	Restaurant / Cafe	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 025
Cafetería Recyg	Restaurant / Cafe	Airport P0	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 313
Cafetería Recyg	Restaurant / Cafe	Airport P1	Departure	Public Area	966 919 504
Haagen Dazs	Restaurant / Cafe	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 027
Plantaciones	Restaurant / Cafe	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 261
Autoservicio Mediterráneo	Restaurant / Cafe	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 261
Burger King	Restaurant / Cafe	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 025
Restaurante El Palmeral	Restaurant / Cafe	Airport P1	Departure	Public Area	966 919 261
Divers - Sweets	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 253
Gran Bouquet	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 539
Shoetopia	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 244
Shopping in Store	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	965 680 538
Aldeasa (Duty Free)	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	965 680 538
Divers	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 253
Crystal Music	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 533
News and Books	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 099
Relay	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 099
Alicantón (Gift Shop)	Shop	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	
Warner Bros (Gift Shop)	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 539
Estanco (Tabakshop)	Shop	Airport P1	Departure	Public Area	966 919 352

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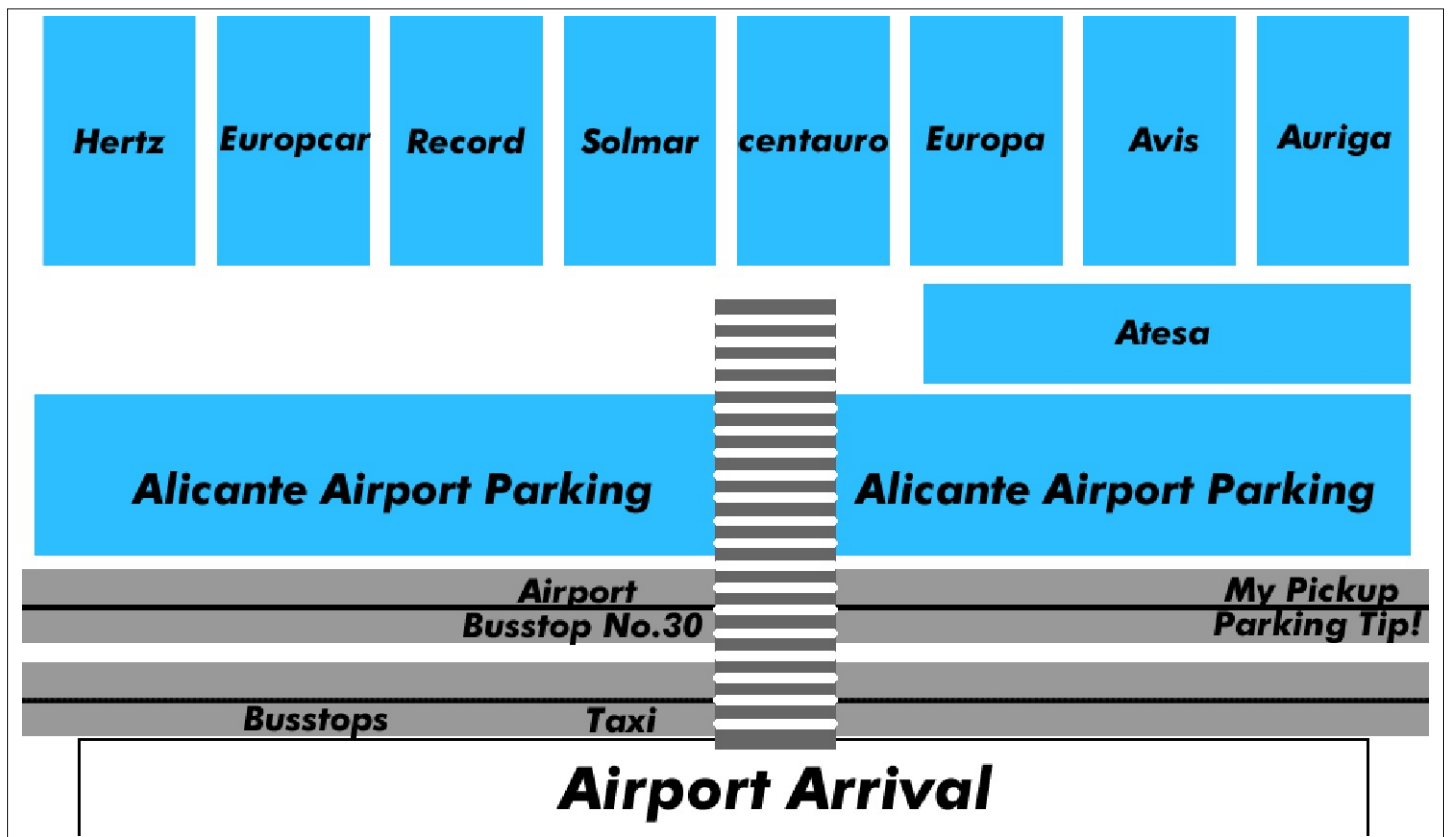
Alicante Aiport

Location: P-1=Arrival, P0=CheckIn, P1=First Floor



Car Rental

Name	Typ	Location	Zone	Area	Telephone
Atesa	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 682 526
Auriga	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 687 918
Avis	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 286 579
Centauro	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 241
Europcar	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 682 770
Europa Car	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 683 362
Hertz	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 125
Record	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 016
Sol-Mar	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 280



Long-Term Parking

Name	Typ	Telephone	Fax
Roberto Torrellano (Bacarot)	Long Term Parking	609 614 297	965 11 27 20
Claus Parking	Long Term Parking	965 68 09 41	
Global Cars	Long Term Parking	966 49 03 56	
Lucadi	Long Term Parking	965 68 75 10	
Parking "Oskars"	Long Term Parking	965 68 52 00	
New Parking "El Altet"	Long Term Parking	965 97 02 97	
Royal Parking	Long Term Parking	965 68 33 60	

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Alicante Airport

Location: P-1=Arrival, P0=CheckIn, P1=First Floor



Public Service / Information / Emergency

Name	Typ	Location	Zone	Area	Telephone
Pharmacy (open 10-14h ,16-20h)	Shop	Airport P1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 419
Airport Information Desk Aena	Information	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 100
Airport Information Desk Aena	Information	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 100
Tourist Information Center	Information	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 367
Air Europa	Luggage Handling	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 017
Iberia Handling	Luggage Handling	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 126
Ineuropa Handling	Luggage Handling	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 498
Spanair	Luggage Handling	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 407
Local Police & lost&found	Public Service	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 100
First Aid - Red Cross	Public Service	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	913 354 545
Postal Service (open 9h to 13h)	Public Service	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	900 506 070

Name	Typ	Telephone
Visa Card - credit card loss	Public Service	913 626 200
Mastercard - credit card loss	Public Service	913 626 200
American Express - cr.card loss	Public Service	915 720 303
Red 6000 - credit card loss	Public Service	915 965 335
Servi Red - credit card loss	Public Service	915 192 100
Taxi - Alicante	Public Service	965 252 511
Taxi - Elche	Public Service	965 427 777