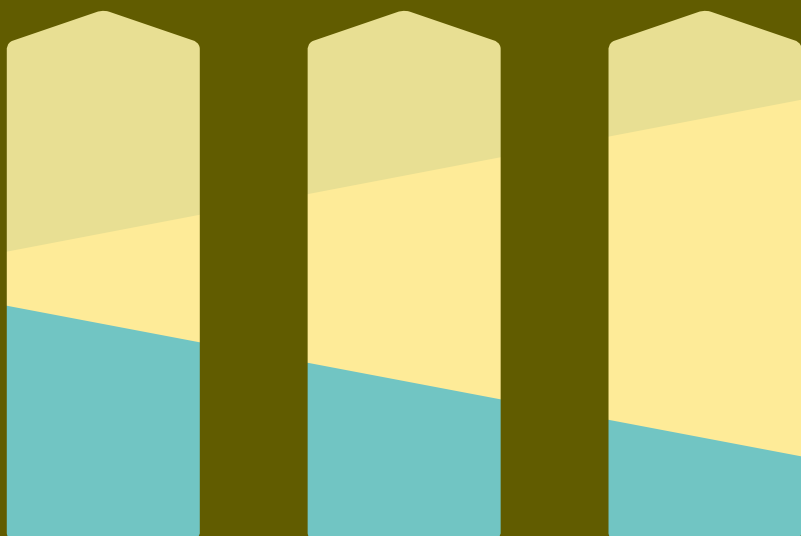




La Vall
d'Albaida



The towns of the Vall d'Albaida

ENG

More than 100 reasons to visit



Points of information tour in the Vall d'Albaida



MANCOMUNITAT DE MUNICIPIS DE LA VALL D'ALBAIDA DEPARTAMENT DE TURISME
c/ Sant Francesc, 8 pl. Baixa
46870 Ontinyent
T 96 238 90 91
F 96 238 85 45
valldalbaida.com
mancovall.com
turisme@mancovall.com

TOURIST INFO AIELO DE MALFERIT

MUSEU DE NINO BRAVO

Passeig de l'Eixample, s/n
46812 Aielo de Malferit
T 96 236 07 20 / 654 394 296
aielodemalferit.es
aielo@touristinfo.net

TOURIST INFO ALBAIDA

MUSEU INTERNACIONAL DE TITELLES D'ALBAIDA (MITA)

Plaça del Pintor Segrelles, 19
(Palau dels Milà i Aragò)
46860 Albaida
T 96 239 01 86
albaidaturisme.com
albaida@touristinfo.net

TOURIST INFO BOCAIRENT

Plaça de l'Ajuntament, 2
46880 Bocairent
T 96 290 50 62
bocairent.org
bocairent@touristinfo.net

TOURIST INFO LLUTXENT

Av. de València, 66
46838 Llutxent
T 96 229 43 86 / 96 229 40 01
llutxent.es
informacio@llutxent.org

TOURIST INFO ONTINYENT

Plaça de Sant Roc, 2 (Palau de la Vila)
46870 Ontinyent
T 96 291 60 90
turismo.ontinyent.es
ontinyent@touristinfo.net

TOURIST INFO VALL D'ALBAIDA

c/ Sant Francesc, 8 pl. Baixa
46870 Ontinyent
T 673 346 177
valldalbaida@touristinfo.net



La Vall d'Albaida

Inland experience

The Vall d'Albaida region, made up of 34 municipalities and located in the south of the province of Valencia, is an inland jewel that is home to numerous cultural and natural attractions. Its proximity to the coast and the provincial capitals makes the Vall d'Albaida a perfect place for rural and inland tourism.

La Vall d'Albaida is surrounded by the Mariola Mountain range, the Grossa Mountain range, the Agullent mountain range, the Benicadell mountain range and bathed by the Clariano River and the Albaida River. For this reason it is a complete region that, in addition to being a great environmental incentive if you want to disconnect from the city and enjoy the flora and fauna of the area, also offers you a rich cultural heritage and exquisite gastronomy.

Index The towns of the Vall d'Albaida

- 6 Agullent
Little paradise, surround by nature
- 8 Aiello de Malferit
Cradle of Nino Bravo
- 10 Aiello de Rugat
At the foot of the castle
- 12 Albaida
Gate of the region
- 14 Alfarrasí
The rope's angel
- 16 Atzeneta d'Albaida
An open-air museum
- 18 Bèlgida
The look of la Vall
- 20 Bellús
A millennial heritage
- 22 Beniatjar
The village of Benicadell
- 24 Benicolet
History of the riuraus
- 26 Benigànim
Between the sky and the land
- 28 Benissoda
Following the water course
- 30 Benissuera
The Vall hidden treasure
- 32 Bocairent
Medieval paths
- 34 Bufali
The garden of the muslims
- 36 Carrícola
The spark of la Vall
- 38 Castelló de Rugat
The heritage of mud
- 40 Fontanars dels Alforins
Landscape of wines
- 42 Guadasséquies
A walk among vineyards and waters
- 44 Llutxent
"Baronía de los Proxita"
- 46 Montaverner
The heart of the Vall
- 48 Montitxelvo
The raisins history
- 50 L'Olleria
The soul of the glass
- 52 Ontinyent
The capital of the white valley
- 54 Otos
The town of the sundials
- 56 El Palomar
Natural place and feast of the "Xop"
- 58 Pinet
At the limit of Vall d'Albaida
- 60 La Pobla del Duc
War heritatge
- 62 Quatretonda
Gastronomic crafts
- 64 El Ràfol de Salem
The clay potter
- 66 Rugat
Landscape and hospitality
- 68 Salem
The heritage of Muslim irrigation
- 70 Sempere
The little one of the region
- 72 Terrateig
A genuine and unique town

AGULLENT

Little paradise, surrounded by nature

With just over 2,400 inhabitants, the location of this Valldalbaidina town is its main incentive. Agullent lives at the foot of the mountains to which it gives its name and its natural wealth is one of the most outstanding attractions of the municipality. Among the many charms of the town that celebrates every first Friday of September one of the oldest pilgrimages in the Valencian Community, highlights one: calm. The tranquility that is breathed through its streets, the pace and well-being that invade you when you visit it. This reason, estimated above all in an increasingly frenzied world, joins others that we will detail below. The routes on foot or by bike that you can do through the municipality of Agullent; its crafts and tradition in the form of Valencian balls and its snow cellars, inheritance of life and customs of our ancestors. Do not miss the opportunity to visit Agullent, if you have not already done so.

Discover the natural environment by bike or hiking

If you practice mountain sports, you will find in Agullent an ideal space to enjoy. Whether you are a hiker or a cyclist and you are looking for strong emotions beyond the asphalt, you have at your fingertips a wide variety of routes to enjoy outdoors. In addition, Agullent, has managed to combine its natural resources with new technologies and has created a complete App in which

you can find the different itineraries. The application allows you to carry out 10 routes, 5 of them hiking and another 5 by bicycle, which start from the municipality to areas of natural interest, both in the Agullent's Mountain range, as well as Covalta or Font Maciana, to landscapes that go beyond like Benicadell. If, on the other hand, you prefer paper, Agullent also has a printed guide of its Mountain range. With it you will be able to know the Font

del Paje or the Cueva de las Ventanas, not too demanding destinations that will allow you to open your mouth to head towards Mariola, in its access from Agras or Alfafara. Also, at the hermitage of Saint Vicente Ferrer, a must-see area, you will find the only information point of the BTT Network of the Valencian Community in the region.

The snow trade. "Cava de La Pedrera"

If you like hiking and enjoying the fresh air, we propose a new destination to be Agullent's Mountain range: the Cava de La Pedrera. A circular-shaped snow deposit approximately 8 m in diameter carved out of the rock, which you can access thanks to a new trail recently opened and marked. Around the cellar you will find stone walls cut in straight lines by the hand of man, and it is an old quarry. In fact, the activity gives the cava its name. Without a doubt, a truly special place that has been forgotten for many years and in the hands of nature, despite the fact that centuries ago it had hosted intense economic activity. With this, there are already two cellars recovered and can be visited in the town of Agullent, given that next to the municipal sports center and the road in Font Maciana, you will find the Fornet de la Nieve, a small snow cellar also recovered in recent years. Inside, if you visit in a group, you can enjoy an audiovisual explanation of the old snow trade.

The only artisan of Valencian balls

Crafts also have their place in Agullent. The Valencian ball, a true emblem of traditional sport that identifies us by excellence and that over the years has become an authentic collector's item, has its focus of production in Agullent for more than fifty years, by the Va de Bo company.

Its founders, the Pascual Pérez, have created over time "pilotes" with which games have been played throughout the Valencian territory. A whole science is the artisanal manufacture of balls, which has been continued by the daughter of the founders of Va de Bo, Amparo Pascual, who is currently the only Valencian female ball artisan in the Valencian Community.

The expert hands of Amparo Pascual meticulously elaborate the balls with unlimited creativity. And it is that today she continues a generational legacy that from parents to children has been improving without losing the essence of her work: self-demand, the quality of the raw material and the continuous obstinacy to overcome each day.



AIELO DE MALFERIT

Cradle of Nino Bravo

With just over 4,600 inhabitants, Aielo de Malferit is known worldwide for two reasons: the first, for being the birthplace of one of the most important voices in the history of Hispanic music, Nino Bravo. And the second, because in his Liquor Factory, according to legend, he invented the formula of the world-famous Coca-cola. Two more than enough reasons for you to approach this town of Vall d'Albaida and get to know it. But in addition to knowing the figure of Nino Bravo and the origin of the Coca-cola, we also invite you to make a stop in Aielo de Malferit and let yourself be carried away by the imposing Malferit Palace. We've given you three good reasons to visit Aielo, if you haven't already, but you're sure to find out more.

A mass idol with valldalbaidino DNA: Nino Bravo and his Museum

Free. I love you, I love you. One kiss and a flower. The hymns of a generation that still today are quite loud, were born in the heart of Aielo de Malferit. Luis Manuel Ferri Llopis, artistically Nino Bravo, a mass idol even after his death, is the best cover letter of the valldalbaidina town. A tragedy deprived the world of who was known as 'the voice', turning Nino Bravo into a myth of the song in the Spanish language.

Aielo de Malferit and its esteemed Nino offer you a space where melodies sound

that we have all sung once and show you the most intimate and human face of the singer of Noelia. Thus, the Nino Bravo Museum keeps alive the memory of an artist who with his voice and songs continues to awaken feelings, passions and memories beyond the passage of time and fashion. A large amount of audiovisual, photographic, sound and written material is part of the Nino Bravo Museum, where you can discover from the costumes that the artist showed in the most outstanding performances of his career, to unpublished images of his 'bachelor party', telegrams of condolence, etc.

A museum to fall in love with the voice of the Vall d'Albaida and its village.

unique and incomparable pieces, modeled by hand and in an artisanal way.

History within history: the Malferit Palace and the village house

We talk about history within history because the Museum of Local History of Aielo is located inside the Malferit Palace, which at the same time is a building that is part of history of the municipality.

An emblem for the people that houses the details of this same and that it is essential that you visit to know what has led to this Valldalbaidina town to be what it is today. The Palace of Malferit, which has been owned by the municipality since 1996, has its uncertain origin, but probably rises to the fifteenth century, with the arrival of Jaume de Malferit in this municipality.

Over the centuries, it changed hands until it reached the XIX, at which point it lived its definitive transformation offering its current image, neoclassical style.

It is currently the headquarters of the Municipality of Aielo de Malferit, and hosts in its oldest quarters the Museum of Local History of the municipality, where you will be able to know from the most outstanding facts, to the biographies of the most illustrious characters, in a meticulous way and full of anecdotes.

Furthermore, the Malferit Palace is the setting for the work of Aielo's most important potter, Elvira Aparicio. There you will discover a permanent collection of this art historian, journalist and teacher, with

The taste of Aielo de Malferit: the Liquor Factory

The history of the Liquor Factory is the story of Aielo de Malferit. Both have been holding hands for more than 125 years, so it is impossible to understand one without the other.

Who has never delighted with a glass of brandy, with anise or has been carried away by what is possibly the original recipe for Coca-cola? The liqueurs and spirits of the Malferit Aielo Liquor Factory are part of the families' pantry in the region. But they have also been from the Royal House and from many other parts of the world. This aielonera company born in 1880, lived its most splendid moment in the 19th century.

Currently, the Liquor Factory continues to produce artisanally 'La Nuez de Kola', candied rum, cazalla, anise, liqueurs of all flavors imaginable or 'Tears of the taxpayer', to name a few. To try these wonders you will have to go to Aielo de Malferit, look for the store that the factory has in town and choose which part of Aielo's history you want to savor.



AIELO DE RUGAT

At the foot of the castle

Few, but good. Such are the aielinos, settlers of Aielo de Rugat. Kind, generous and welcoming people who open their doors if you are looking in their village for a place to disconnect. This municipality of just 155 inhabitants, is at the foot of rugat Castle, a Muslim fortification visited today by hundreds of hikers. Agriculture first and the ceramics industry, later, were the main forms of subsistence of the aielinos. To discover Aielo de Rugat you will have to visit the Casa Rural Rafaelet, meet one of the most illustrious inhabitants of the town, the Pelotari Alberto Todolí, and go down the SL-CV 43. There are only three reasons to visit Aielo de Rugat, if you haven't already.

From "riurau" to relaxation space

The privilege of being at the foot of the mountains, near the beach and surrounded by peace and well-being is one of the main attractions of Aielo de Rugat. And this is well known by those who have decided to make the rural world their way of life.

If you are looking for a space for relaxation while doing inland tourism, Aielo de Rugat is your destination. Specifically the Riu Rau de Rafaelet Rural House, a village located on its own plot that invites you to live a very enriching experience, surrounded by nature, but with all the services of a small population in the interior of the

Mediterranean.

The "mitger" aielí: Alberto Todolí Momparler

Considered as one of the best Valencian "pilotaire", the aielí Alberto Todolí Momparler (born in the municipality in 1971) is "mitger" in the modality of "raspall". He has important trophies in his record, such as the President of the Provincial Council of the year 2000. At the age of 45, it continues to be a benchmark between the professional "mitgers" and one of the best according to the Federation of Valencian Ball that awarded him as Best

Player of "Raspall" 2014-2015.

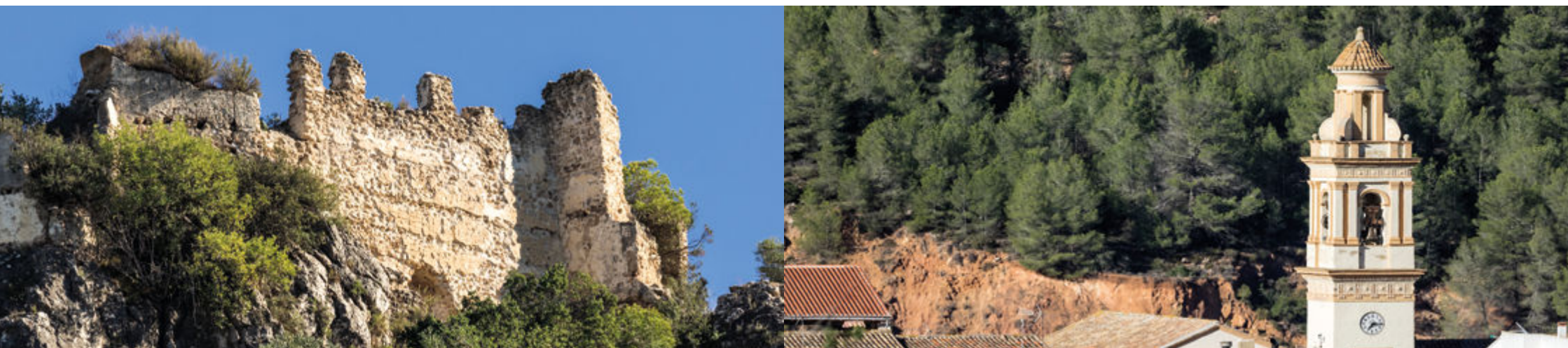
SL-CV 43: a trail to discover the heritage

The SL-CV 43 trail invites you to take a walk through the surroundings of Aielo de Rugat and, in addition to being a beautiful place to practice hiking, it opens the doors to a hidden heritage, with unforgettable corners of the Vall d'Albaida.

This path, of circular layout, medium difficulty and a distance close to 12 kilometers, begins in the same municipality and consists of different branches that, depending on the choice, will lead you to discover some or other points of interest. Among some of the corners with magic that you can contemplate when walking this path are the Peñas Llúcies, the Magre hut from where you will enjoy splendid views of the Benicadell, the Sierra Grossa and the Montdúver, the Rincón del Dux (Serpis River), the Font del Collao, la Carrasqueta (the highest peak of the term, with 843 meters high), the Font de la Peña de la

Hedra (of little flow, but a cozy place where you can rest and enjoy the stillness of the environment), the yard of Simeó or the Font de Ferri.

For its uniqueness, on the route of this path stands out the Castle of Rugat (in the municipality of Aielo de Rugat), a fortification of Muslim origin, which has a cistern of water in good condition and thick walls still standing that make us imagine what the castle's quarters were like. A building in which Jaume I was ambushed by the Arab warlord Al-Arzaq. Another interesting point that you will find on the trail are Els Tolls, natural pools where people used to bathe but that today, because of the drought, they are either dry or with little water.



ALBAIDA

Gate of the region

In 1906 Alfonso XII granted it the status of a city. And since then, Albaida has become a benchmark for the region, both for its historical and heritage aspects and for its economic and industrial aspects. Made up of countless small neighborhoods and the heavenly taste of fondant yolks and walnuts, the fourth largest municipality in the Vall d'Albaida region (with nearly 6,000 inhabitants), offers you plenty of reasons to visit it. We have chosen three: the Marquise Palace of the Milà and Aragó, the painting of such important artists as Josep Segrelles, Kilis or Messa, and the International Puppet Museum. But surely when you visit Albaida, if you haven't already, you will find many more.

The symbol of the ancient feudal power transformed into a unique emblem

Presiding over access to the enclosed gate of the Vila de Albaida, located at the Plaza Mayor, you will find one of the most important and significant heritage elements of this Valldalbaidina town: the Palace of the Milà and Aragó. Symbol of the former feudal power, the Palace has been owned by the town hall since 1992. If you visit this building of the thirteenth century you will revive the Almohade Albaidi period and delve into the customs and life of the first earls of Albaida, the Milà and Aragó. Inaccessible to citizens over time, after a process of restoration and integral rehabilitation, the town has recovered one of the most emblematic spaces of its heritage. The Palace of the Milà and Aragó is formed by three towers and was built in three phases, between 1471 and 1610 on walls of the thirteenth century. The rooms of the Palace are decorated with Baroque paintings by the Albaidí (the name given to the inhabitants of this municipality) Bertomeu Albert in the 17th century. Among the rooms you can visit,

stand out the throne room and music, the room of the Christ, the White Room and the Marquis' bedroom. In addition to Albert's paintings, in the noble area of the Palace, it is worth highlighting its spectacular Gothic hall, which would be part of an old house of the thirteenth century belonging to the feudal lord Conrad Llança; and in the west, between the tower of Poniente and the Middle one, you will find the International Puppet Museum and the Tourist Information Office.

From Segrelles to Monjalés, painters who have carried the name of Albaida around the world

Josep Segrelles, Joan Baptista Quilis, 'Kilis', Francesc Sempere, 'Messa', Francisco Ridaura and José Soler, 'Monjalés'. These are the names of outstanding albaidins, of high-rise painters who were born in the white city and who have carried their work and the name of their homeland all over the world. From the illustrations and fantastic paintings of Segrelles, to the critical realism of Messa, through the virtuosity of Kilis, the painting is an art that has made known

the city of Albaida to the outside. We find in the figure of Josep Segrelles the most important and most recognized one outside the albaidina village and it is this painter the only one that today has an open room where his work is shown to visitors. In the Segrelles' Museum House, created by himself, you can enjoy the most important anthology collection of the artist, which will allow you to know his trajectory, from his principles with family portraits, to his posthumous oil "La Pentecosta", the most important work of their mystical themes. In addition, eventually exhibitions of other renowned artists are organized, so if you plan to visit Albaida do not hesitate to meet it before.

Puppets of emotions: International Puppet Museum

Promoted by the company Bambalina Teatro Practicable, the International Puppet Museum (MIT) of Albaida is a must-visit.

Housed on two floors of the Milà and Aragó Palace, from the Tower of Poniente to the Middle Tower, this museum has been surprising those who visit for almost two decades. At the MIT of Albaida you will find a collection of puppets that come from all continents: from Romania to England, to Turkey and Japan, through Nigeria and Mali. On the first floor of the museum you can enjoy a collection from the island of Java, a series of Wayang Golek and Wayang Kulit puppets, Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by Unesco. On the top floor, we highlight a room dedicated to film and television where you will see the dolls of 'Las Noticias de Guiñol and Cuorelandia' and the characters of Gomaespuma, among others.



ALFARRASÍ

The rope's angel

Alfarrasí is a municipality with about 1,230 inhabitants that offers to the Vall d'Albaida region many unique features. The town is home to one of the most powerful plastic industries in the area, with companies that from many years ago, carry their production everywhere and, indirectly, the name of its town. With a local bullfighter on his list of famous people, Isidoro Martí Flores, Alfarrasí has two music bands and two large musical schools; with a tourist seal called the Four Villages of the River and with the feast of the rope's angel declared as a Feast of Provincial Tourist Interest. These are just three reasons why you're worth visiting Alfarrasí, if you haven't already.

From 1912 awakening from sadness to the Virgin Mary

Every Sunday of Resurrection, since 1912, "L'angelet de la corda" (The rope's angel) glides through the Plaza Mayor of Alfarrasí to remove the Virgin Mary Dolorosa the black veil that covers her face. Christ is risen and joy has returned to the people. This religious spectacle was imported from the Navarrese town of Tudela by José Ramón Esteve. A neighbor of Alfarrasí who witnessed this performance while doing military service. Thus, from that moment

and only interrupted during the Civil War (from 1936 to 1939), each year a girl is chosen to play the role of angel. "L'angelet de la corda" is one of the most important customs of Alfarrasí and the Vall d'Albaida, since it constitutes an unusual fact in our region.

Two bands and friends

With about 1,230 inhabitants, Alfarrasí boasts of having two bands of music and, more importantly, the good relationship that exists between them. A peculiarity that occurs in very few municipalities that have more than one band of music and that makes the alfarrasineros (the name given to the inhabitants of this municipality) proud.

The Musical Group of Alfarrasí, known as the Banda, and the Instructive Banda of Alfarrasí, are the two musical entities of the town that also have two very high schools of music.

Tourist brand: one of the Four Villages of the River

Alfarrasí is part of the newly created brand of the Four Villages of the River. A tourist seal that unites this municipality with Benissuera, Sempere and Guadasséquies, the four towns located near the Albaida

River and which share in addition to the territory, customs and lifestyle. The tourist brand of the Four Villages of the River makes Alfarrasí a family tourist reference point, a space where you can enjoy a weekend day at the same time you know the municipality.

A tourist seal that identifies the four villages and also highlights areas of great environmental value in which you will enjoy the outdoor leisure, as is the case of the place of the Hermitage of Alfarrasí. A very important reason, but not the only one, to visit the municipality if you have not already done so.



ATZENETA D'ALBAIDA

An open-air museum

Near the Umbria of the Benicadell Mountain range, Atzeneta d'Albaida owes its name to the Berber tribe of the Zenatas, az-Zanata. Known among the towns of the region as an open-air museum, Atzeneta joins two landscape elements of great beauty and uniqueness: the limestone mountain range and the village with its people. Narrow and long, Atzeneta d'Albaida stands out for its esparto craftsmanship, its feast of San Antonio and the heritage that the water has left behind. Here are just three reasons to visit Atzeneta, if you haven't already.

Craftsmanship: working esparto

You have to go back to medieval times to find the first witnesses of the artisanal work of esparto in Atzeneta d'Albaida. An economic activity that had a great prominence in this municipality of the region, being an important source of income. The craftsman 'd'esparter, espardenyer, albarder' was carried out by much of the population, because it was a raw material with very diverse applications: from household objects and footwear, to agricultural tools or other tools from traditional industries. The trade was

mostly feminine, since men performed it in spare time that left agricultural tasks and in times of bad weather. If you walk through Atzeneta and see at the door of a house sheaves of esparto or bundles of this material you are in luck. This symbol means that in this house are artisans of the esparto, activity to which today only two family-owned companies are dedicated. The current artisans have survived in part thanks to their ingenuity to adapt some of the artisanal products to the current needs: carrycots, targets, curtains, bottle-tellers, mats...

In Saint Antonio, "pericana"

Saint Antonio Abad, protector of animals, takes to Atzeneta d'Albaida buns blessed, a great bonfire, party and a typical dish that makes this celebration special. On Sunday, after lighting the bonfire and dancing around, those of Atzeneta join for lunch the "pericana", a jewel of our gastronomy that in this town is made with abaged, tomato and garlic. All diners enjoy this flavor so typical of the region and with the well-filled belly they dress up to participate in a passageway through the village. St. Antonio Abad is a popular and deep-rooted feast in Atzeneta d'Albaida that takes place on the weekend closest to January 17. The festival begins on Friday, with the traditional bonfire plant and the "pericana" marks the end of the festivities.

Water: source of wealth and origin of a rich heritage

Water was and is a great source of wealth for Atzeneta d'Albaida. Thanks to the births at the foot of the limestone mountain, such as Font del Poble and Font del Port, the atzenentinos of centuries past have enjoyed a great wealth of running water, which they took advantage of drinking, washing, watering cavalry, soaking esparto and lupins, watering the orchards, moving the molas of flour mills, chopping the esparto with mallets, etc. Today it is possible to enjoy the varied heritage that the water has left in Atzeneta.

A clear example, of great beauty and that you have to visit in a must is the Water

Ditch of the Port. The main canal of an irrigation system of the times of Al-Andalus that through its 4,000 meters of length provided water to the orchards of Atzeneta, Albaida and El Palomar. Along its path, down Atzeneta, a few mills were aligned. It has a series of public laundry rooms and open doorways behind the houses, which allow washing and scrubbing without leaving the house. The promenade of the ditch runs between orchards and gardens, houses of the bourgeoisie of 1900 and the naves of the old foundry of the Roses family. This heritage attraction of Atzeneta is just one of the reasons why you need to visit this municipality of Vall d'Albaida region.



BÈLGIDA

The lookout of la Vall

Enric Valor remembered with great appreciation his days in Bèlgida, when he was visiting a relative's house. In maturity, he dedicated the fable 'El ferrer de Bèlgida' in that Valldalbaidina village where he played and enjoyed when he was a child. Something has Bèlgida who falls in love with those who pass through this municipality of no more than 673 inhabitants. We wanted to highlight three reasons that will lead you to visit this beautiful municipality crossed from south to north by the River La Mata: its pioneering production of organic agriculture, the poetry of the writer Antoni Espí and the popular and fun Carnivals. These are just three reasons to visit Bèlgida, if you haven't already.

Pioneers in organic production

Agriculture has been and is the main source of income in the town of Belgida. Its citizens have dedicated their working hours to cultivating the fields of the term, going from the cultivation of dryland (table grape, olive and carob trees) to those of irrigation (oranges and persimmons). If there is industrial activity in Belgida it is due to agriculture, there you can find oil mills, wine cellars and even insecticide manufacturing.

The weight of agriculture in Belgida is

reflected in its cooperative, a pioneer in organic cultivation for twenty years and in which, on average, 120 workers work, between their facilities and the fields. Thus, Cofrudeca was born in 1983 and since '85 it is a pioneer in organic cultivation, having a section of products of these characteristics where its farmers produce all kinds of fruits and vegetables. This cooperative has the recognition of the association 'Vida Sana' and its products are endorsed by the Committee of Ecological Agriculture of the Valencian Community, a seal that guarantees the final consumer that the

product meets with the rules of agriculture Ecological. Its current production is based on summer fruit, citrus and persimmons.

The poet Antonio Espí

They said of him that he is an almost clandestine writer: he writes hidden and half-hours. The poetry of the belgidà Antoni Espí Cardona (Belgida, 1956) is of popular and autobiographical root, very formally worked. The poet has won several awards with his works such as the VIII Prize "Joan Perucho" of poetry with "El grum y la morca" in 2013; the Short Narrative Award "25 d'Abril" Vila de Benissa 2002; the 17th Poetry Prize "Comas i Maduvell" City of Tarragona and the "Cerverí de Girona" award for Best Unpublished Song Lyrics in 2010. "Alcohol de romer" is the last book of short stories by the writer of Belgida, who currently works at the IES Dr. Simarro de Xàtiva and at the Faculty of Magisterium of the University of Valencia as a professor of Catalan language and literature.

Neither the Franco dictatorship stopped the Carnival

Few peoples in our region have in their region festivities that, since its beginnings, have never ceased to be celebrated. This is the case of the Carnivals of Belgida, a festival of the eighteenth century that overcame the censorship of the Franco regime and continued to celebrate despite the harsh prohibitions of that dark period. The pagan celebration of this popular holiday was joined in the early nineteenth

century, dedicated to San Ramón Nonat, fulfilling the vote made when this pattern of difficult births protected the Belgian population from the plague of cholera. This fact earned Carnival a chance to get rid of any kind of bans. If you can visit Belgida during the Carnival, every weekend before Ash Wednesday, you will see how neighbors dress up to live a few holidays on the street, organized by the Quintos of the year. School children's costumes, the traditional 'Great Dance', 'L'Enfarinà' on Saturday after the paella and the costumes on Saturday night around the fountain in the Plaza del Ayuntamiento are the most popular events these days. The Bèlgida Carnival is one of the oldest in the Vall d'Albaida region and in recent years it has been gaining in number of participants. For this reason, and for many more that you will discover, you need to know the town of Bèlgida.



BELLÚS

A millennial heritage

Small but with a gigantic heritage wealth, with just over 300 inhabitants, Bellús is a municipality that treasures an ancient heritage, dating back to the first temporary occupations of the cave La Petxina between the years 130,000 to 35,000 BC by Christ by part of the Neandertal man. Its festivals, gastronomy, different panoramas, natural places, a World Heritage Site, sport fishing, hiking and climbing are sufficient reasons to visit this beautiful village. We wanted to highlight the Procession of the “Crist de la Bona Mort”, fishing and “l’Estret de les Aigües” as the three main reasons that you have to discover when you visit Bellús, if you have not already done so.

A very unique and colorful procession

The “Crist de la Bona Mort” (Christ of the Good Death), co-patron of the town of Bellús, has possibly one of the most unique and genuine processions of the entire Valldalbaidí territory. The feeling and faith of those who accompany Christ in his transfer from the Church of Santa Anna to the hermitage of the village, is mixed with colors, noise and spectacularity. Rocket shooters accompany the pattern of the bellussers throughout the procession, covering the sky with gunpowder and glare.

To finish the show, once Christ arrives at his hermitage, the bellussers fire a castle of fireworks to announce that their co-patron is already at home. If you want to be surprised with this particular procession you have to come to Bellús during the patron saint festivities that take place the third week of September, celebrations in which the religious character and the playful come together and bring the whole town out to the Street.

The heritage of the inhabitants and their customs: “l’Estret de les Aigües”

Iberians, Romans, Muslims and Christians. Throughout history Bellús has been occupied by different civilizations that have left their mark on the whole term. One of the clearest and obligatory pass witnesses you will find in this Valldalbaidna village is the Estret de les Aigües, a Moorish construction, thanks to which Bellús supplied water to the neighboring town of Xàtiva. This Estret de les Aigües is the most important heritage that Bellús stores.

The natural passage of the Albaida River through this strait has set up a place of high environmental, geological and heritage value. If you walk through this space you will observe alternating river forest with Mediterranean forest, and some endemics and rupícola species that have contributed to the presence of a very rich and diverse fauna.

From a geological point of view, the limestone nature of the site has given rise to interesting formations such as caves and shelters. Some spaces where we will find shelter the first Neanderthal settlers in caves such as those of La Petxina or the Cova Negra, which are located within the Rock Art of the Mediterranean Arch in the Iberian Peninsula, declared Cultural Heritage of Humanity by Unesco. The use of the waters of Bellús since time immemorial

is evident in constructions such as the Canal de la Font de Bellús of Muslim times, with the vents that will accompany you for much of the tour. An ideal place if you like climbing, hiking and cycling.

If you are a fishing fan: Bellús Reservoir

If you like fishing you will find in Bellús a space where you can enjoy this sport throughout the year. The Bellús reservoir, built in 1995 (where the town’s spa used to be located) will undoubtedly meet your expectations of fun if you are one of those who dedicate their leisure time to fishing. The Bellús reservoir is a private fishing ground, where small carp can be found mainly, as well as other fish in the cyprinid family (a species that lives in freshwater, edible and even, as aquarium fish). Bellús has come to host national freshwater championships, where fishermen from different parts of the Spanish geography have competed to get the best piece.



BENIATJAR

The village of Benicadell

A millennial olive tree welcomes you to the village where nature, music and tradition coexist in perfect harmony. This is how the village of Benicadell is identified, the mountain range where every Valldalbaidí looks when it needs to feel at home. Beniatjar is a small and picturesque municipality that sleeps on the laps of the Benicadell mountains, its main tourist attraction that combines with the tranquility and pure air of a mountain village. There are many reasons to visit Beniatjar, but we wanted to highlight the passion of its neighbors for music, the extraordinary oil that is made there and, of course, the ascent to the summit of Benicadell. Three reasons that will lead you to discover Beniatjar, if you haven't already.

Embraced to the Benicadell

It is the village of Benicadell by excellence. All villages are not lucky enough to be sheltered by a mountain of more than a thousand meters from whose summit, on clear days, you can see Ibiza. In addition, if you upload it you can make a stopover in places as refreshing as the Fontetes, the Casa dels Guardes or the Nevera.

The highest summit of the province of Valencia is a claim every weekend for dozens of tourists, since it is an affordable route even for the uninitiated. A special

date that we recommend to climb are the full summer moons. However, even if it is July or August, you should wear warm clothes if you want to wait to see from the top the sunrise, a rewarding experience.

The town with the most musicians per inhabitant

With less than 240 inhabitants and almost 50 musicians, Beniatjar holds the record of being the town with the most musicians per inhabitant of Spain. The Beniatjarens Music Society, active since 1932, has been

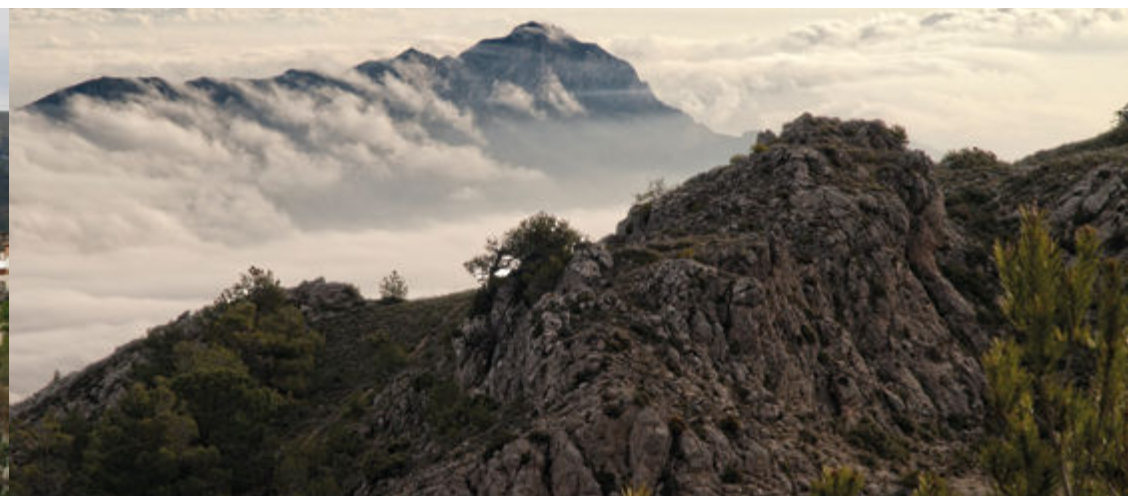
a regular for decades of the festivities of Moors and Christians of Alcoy, Ontinyent, Cocentaina, Pego or Muro.

It can be said that in Beniatjar, there is a musician in every house. If when you visit Beniatjar there is a passroad or you have the opportunity to see them in concert, take the chance to listen to them.

Liquid gold: the Benicadell oil

For a long time, Beniatjar's main economic activity has been olive. It can be seen from the time you enter the village, that you are welcomed with an imposing olive tree. Even today, many neighbors, without being labradors, take advantage of the weekends

to pick them up. The result of its intense olive activity is an oil cooperative of the most important of the Vall d'Albaida region and some small producers that have opted for organic cultivation. Thus they obtain a product of extraordinary quality that deserves, like the other reasons listed, that you visit Beniatjar if you have not already done so.



BENICOLET

History of the riuraus

A municipality surrounded by mountains, fields and rivers, Benicolet offers you, apart from a simple urban center typical of a humble and farming village, a wonderful landscape route full of harmony and tranquility. Of Andalusian origin, and with about 570 inhabitants, in Benicolet reigns the love for good food, the importance of nature and the need to maintain the traditions that identify it as a village. Three more than enough reasons for you to visit this charming little village in our region. Take advantage of the recommendations and visit Benicolet if you have not already done so.

Rice with crust leads the Benicoletanos to the mountains

Valldalbaidinos really like good rice. And it is that this cereal stars practically all the typical dishes of the municipalities of our region. And Benicolet is no exception. The crusted rice is its gastronomic jewel, a baked rice covered in a layer of beaten egg with the egg whites on the verge of snow, which gives it the appearance of rice in disguise. Crusted rice is a very typical dish that you can try if you visit Benicolet in carnivals, in the month of February, since the Benicoletanos have a tradition of eating it in the mountains on Thursday "Llarder"

or "Cassoletes".

But crusted rice is not the only gastronomic pleasure in Benicolet. If you have a salty palate you have to try the fried buns of poppy and corn. And if you had a sweet tooth, the pumpkin fritters, the Easter cakes, the "rossegons" and the sweet potato cakes

The bet for maintaining "l'Escaldà" alive

Benicolet has recently recovered traditions from its ancestors that give meaning to what it is today. This is the case of the "l'Escaldà de la Pansa" Feast. A tradition that we find in other municipalities in the

region such as Montitxelvo and Terrateig, and that dates back to the beginning of the 19th century as a procedure by which raisins are made from the Muscat grape.

If you visit Benicolet during the "l'Escaldà de la Pansa" Feast, you will live two intense days where everyone goes out to the street to enjoy music, workshops, gastronomy, talks by experts in "riuraus" and of course, "l'escaldà". In addition to this feast, if you walk through the lower part of the Benicolet Mountain range, you will find a sample of the ancient "riuraus".

Route through the Benicolet mountains: the Font Vella, "riuraus", the Racó del Pí, the Font de la Murta, the Font de la Teula and the Lookout

If you are ready to enjoy the true essence of Benicolet, you will enter its mountains, rivers and ravines. There you can choose two routes that can be done on foot or by bicycle. If you choose the first one, you will

arrive at Font Vella, a place where in the old days the women of the town used to do laundry and collect water for domestic use. It is currently restored and equipped with tables and grills where you can make grilled meat or paella with firewood. On the way to the highest part of the district, at the foot of the mountains, you will find a sample of the "riuraus" that are in the district, where the raisins used to work. Already in the highest part, between 449 and 353 m of altitude, and surrounded by nature, you will surround yourself with pines, holm oaks, olive trees and some carob tree. Here you will find some of the jewels of Benicolet: the Racó del Pí, the Font de la Murta, the Font de la Teula, some old lime kilns and the Lookout.



BENIGÀNIM

Between the sky and the land

With approximately 6,000 inhabitants, this municipality of the Valldalbaidina region offers plenty of reasons to visit it. Its historical wealth, the legacy inherited by the different civilizations that have passed through its term and the wide catalog of churches, convents and hermitages that stand in the town make Benigànim a municipality of obligatory passage for anyone. The festivities in honor of the Beata Inés, the most characteristic sweet of the municipality, the “arrop and talladetes”, and one of the most popular hiking routes in the area, that of the Fonts, are three reasons that invite you to visit Benigànim if you have not already done so.

Festivities of ‘Beata Inés’: the intangible heritage that Benigànim offers to the world

In order to understand the history of Benigànim, we must speak of Beata Inés, who has marked the customs of this municipality that saw it born. Benigànim revolves around the figure of this religious Agustina, who was the first woman of the Valencian Community to be beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1888.

The moment when Benigànim began to celebrate this event with celebrations that year after year attract thousands of devotees from different parts of the geography, who seek in the municipality the miracles of the Beata. Whether you are an agnostic, Christian or practitioner of other religions and interested in learning about Benigànim, you are practically obliged to know the history of Josefa Maria de Santa Inés.

This beniganina of the order of the Agustinas Descalzas de San Juan de Ribera became blessed, two hundred years after her death, for her humility and fervent charity. If you want to enjoy the feast of Beata Inés visit Benigànim on January 21

and you will live a unique event. You can also discover the Naranjo de la Beata Inés, the Convent of the Most Holy, where the chapel of the tomb of the Beata one stands out, and an adjacent museum dedicated to the religious.

Hiking: the route of les Fonts

Benigànim perfectly unites urban life with the natural. The environment is a fundamental part of this villa and it is mandatory to walk along its term to soak up the spirit of the town. The Phoenicians, carthaginians or the Roman Empire chose Benigànim to settle thanks to its excellent geographical location. In the term of this municipality there have been traces of ancient populations dating from the third millennium BC, so knowing the one around Benigànim is essential. Of all the possible routes, we recommend the one of les Fonts. If you are a hiker, this route will immerse you in a tour of approximately three hours, through the different natural spaces where you will discover sources such as frare, Pi, Gaspar or Font de la Solana. Both the meeting point and the arrival point of the route is located in the sundial

located on Avenida la Ortisa and in addition to the fountains, you will discover other heritage elements of Benigànim such as the hermitage of Sant Antoni or the Plaza Mayor, and you will enjoy such valuable panoramas as the Benicadell, Montcabrer, the Aitana mountain range or the Bellús reservoir.

A sweet that does not leave indifferent

Of Arab origin, the “arrop i talladetes” was an important source of income for those of Benigànim. Many years ago, this sweet was made by hand in the houses and then sold in fairs and markets beyond

our region. The arrop is a syrup based on syrup with concentrate of grape must or fig, very sweet flavor and dark appearance. The carvings are slices of large pumpkin that are macerated with water and lime for 24 hours to make a consistency. Then, both products come together to offer us a unique and traditional dessert. Even today, “arrop i talladetes” is often used in kitchens that make creative and innovative dishes.



BENISSODA

Following the water course

This municipality has the charm of small towns, but with an added value: to have a past that has led it to be what it is today and unique natural resources where water is very present. In this sense, thanks to the Muslim population that remained after the conquest, he inherited a system of irrigation of great wealth. In addition, the Benissodanos love tradition, as it shows with the Ethnological Museum of Vall d'Albaida region, which together with the route of 'Els camins de l'aigua' (The paths of the water) and the sundial of Joan Olivares and Rafael Amorós constitute three reasons to visit Benissoda, if that you haven't been there yet.

A system of irrigation of great value

Water is synonymous with life and according to this premise, Benissoda has a great natural wealth. If you visit the town you can follow the water course and direct your steps along the itinerary 'Els camins de l'aigua' (The paths of the water) that will take you to unique places. Washing facilities, fountains, rafts, births, wells, places... everything leads in this municipality to enjoy nature and water. The starting point is in the Dalt washing facility, a space that reminds us of past prints, when the neighborhood washed its clothes

while catching up on the latest news of the population. A washing facility that precisely gets its name from the Raft of Dalt, which is located a little higher. There, there is an infrastructure that collects the water from the l'Olivera fountain and distributes it to the washing facility, but also to water the garden. It is at this point that you will realize the meaning of this itinerary: know the old orchard roads and the hydraulic infrastructures inherited from the Muslims who have come to us to this day. And it is at the birth of the fountain of l'Olivera, historically of abundant flow, where we find

the divider of the waters and l'alcafor Vell with twenty meters in length.

You can continue walking through the well of the Sitja, formerly the meeting point of the irrigators and reach the Pinaret site. In its surroundings the fountains proliferate, so the environment of Benissoda will be of great appeal if you want to enjoy the reunion with nature.

In the Plaza de las Moreras: the sundial, the pride of the Benissodanos

The sundial you will find in the Plaza de las Moreras is an artistic and gnomical piece of this municipality. This work of two outstanding characters of the Vall d'Albaida, the Otosí Joan Olivares and the Albaidí Rafael Amorós, is at the same time solar clock and calendar, consisting of three cubes. A true work of art that makes clear the measure of the times used by our ancestors.

A space where the traditions of ancestors remain alive

We can never come to know who we are if we do not know the history of previous generations. That is why visiting the Ethnological Museum of the Vall d'Albaida is not just a journey back in time, it is a way to obtain the keys to interpret our present and understand what our future can be like. All this makes this museum pioneer in its subject matter, take a tour of several areas present in our white land. All the socioeconomic activity surrounding commercial transactions has its window in

the museum located in Benissoda. Among them there is no shortage of the snow trade, so important in the region long ago, or a sample of the utensils that our ancestors used to transform raw materials into objects that made their lives easier. The feast also has a presence, always linked to the cycles of nature, or water, the vital liquid that has been so important and continues to have in our environment. A compendium of small stories with which you'll relive the entire most recent history.



BENISSUERA

The Vall hidden treasure

They say of him that it is a small town, very hidden, to which we have to go on purpose. But it's so much more. Benissuera is a small gem of Vall d'Albaida region that counts in its historic center with a Cultural Interest rich in heritage and history. If you visit Benissuera you can enjoy one of its most important attractions, the Palace of the Bellvís. But it's not the only one, because you can't miss their festivities in honor of San Antonio Abad or their route through the Villages of the River. Without a doubt, three good reasons to visit Benissuera, if you haven't already.

The reconquest of the Palace of the Bellvís

The social mobilization and firm defense of the heritage by the City Council were key to the leftover Palace of the Bellvís and in absolute abandonment, to become a property of municipal ownership and with hopeful future prospects. The Palace of the Bellvís is one of the jewels that give Benissuera a special charm.

This construction, which can be dated from the early sixteenth century, was abandoned and ruined in private hands for a long time, but in recent years, thanks to becoming publicly owned, it has been improved and was declared of Cultural

Interest in 2003. The Palace of the Bellvís, of great architectural and sentimental wealth, presides over the daily life of the inhabitants of this small town since it is located in the epicenter of the municipality, in the Plaza Mayor. This Palace was linked to the lordship of the Bellvís until the nineteenth century, when it passed into the hands of the Colomer family, Viscounts of San Germán. It then passed into private hands until the village of Benissuera recently reconquered the Palace of the Bellvís.

The appreciation for a table party and bonfire

San Antonio Abad is for Benissuera a source of joy, of reunions, of long sits around a table and fire to burn everything that we want to leave behind.

The festivities of San Antonio Abad held in Benissuera are celebrations with a long tradition, much loved by the inhabitants of this Valldalbaidí municipality of that year after year manage to approach neighbors of other towns around. A table and bonfire festival that combine the playful and religious aspects and that in the middle of winter bring warmth to Benissuera.

The junction of the water. The Four Villages

Benissuera is one of the municipalities of the region (along with Alfarrasí, Sempere and Guadasséquies), which give life to the route known as "Els Pobles del Riu" (The Villages of the River). A denomination that has its origins in the water of the Albaida River from which these four villages took it by azudes to irrigate small orchards, all communicated by the ditch of Four Villages. Currently this network is a route through which you can walk, bike or horseback through the old orchards of the ditch of the Villages of the River and discover a different perspective of the region, presided at all times by the reservoir of Bellús, and by the summit of the Benicadell that rises to the west.



BOCAIRENT

Medieval paths

It is one of the most charming villages of the Valencian Community and one of the treasures of our region. Bocairent is heritage, it's culture, it's magic, it's history. Bocairent has dozens of reasons why she deserves to be visited and known by people. But here we wanted to highlight three reasons that will make you irresistible a visit to this municipality in the south of the Vall d'Albaida region. First, taking a walk through the archaeological heritage and focusing on the Iberian lion; then knowing the customs and traditions of this municipality with its Moors and Christians festivities and, finally, tasting the flavors of autumn with the contest of "Caça i Bolets". Three reasons to visit Bocairent and get to know this town if you haven't already.

From the Iberian lion, to the caves: witnesses of Bocairent's heritage wealth

Walk through Bocairent is to nourish themselves with history. Any corner of this picturesque municipality of Valldalбайдí becomes a witness to the different cultures that lived in this town throughout history. The Iberian civilization, the Roman civilization and the most prosperous of all, the Islamic one, left in Bocairent an important heritage legacy that year after year attracts hundreds of visitors from all over. The historic center, les covetes dels

Moros, the rock monastery, the cavas, the hermitages inside and outside the town center, are just some of the heritage gems that you can find in Bocairent. Sometimes jewels become such a thing not only for their value, but for the history that accompanies them. This is the case of the Iberian lion, asculpture from the 4th century BC that was found in the nineteenth century on the hill of Galbis, an area close to the birth of the Vinalopó River. His discoverer gave the piece to the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Sant Carles

de Valencia where part of its existence has passed until recently the Iberian lion has returned to its land to further nourish Bocairent's heritage. This jewel, both for its value and its exclusivity, roars again, temporarily in the Municipal Archaeological Museum Vicent Casanova.

Festivities: the first of the calendar

With cold, rain and even snow, the bocairentinos take the plaid blanket out of the closets on the first weekend of February. Second month of the year and the inhabitants of this municipality of the Sierra de Mariola already celebrate their Moors and Christians. The first Moorish-Christian festivities of the Valldalбайдí calendar, which are celebrated on the first weekend of February, in honour of Bocairent's patron saint, Sant Blai. Different Moorish-Christian feasts, because they seek the cold, the refuge under the traditional "Manta Bocairentina" the "Nit de les Caixes" and the darkness to sing 'Vitol al Patró Sant Blai' when the image of the saint enters the Town Hall Square. Nine are the 'rows' that take to the streets to represent a holiday that more than 150 years ago went from being a 'Feast of the soldiery' to a Moors and Christians feast, as we know them today. As a curiosity: Sant Blai replaced Sant Jaume as patron, both of Bocairent and of the Moorish-Christian feasts after the evil of diphtheria, an infectious ailment that severely affected the population, disappeared from the locality.

Autumn is served on a plate

What does autumn taste like? Possibly, each of us will be evoked by a taste. But in Bocairent, autumn tastes like hunting, mushrooms, 'borreta'. And in order to prove it all one, the Bocairentinos hold a competition where the avant-garde cuisine of the entire Valencian Community is cited to participate in the hunting and mushrooms and Borreta contest and prepare the best dishes of autumn.

Justified by the customs and traditions of Bocairent and the towns around the Mariola Mountain range, the contest of "Caça i Bolets" was born eight years ago. An annual, original and autumn-related contest where, in each of its editions, participating cooks have a duty to create a unique dish where game meat and mushrooms are the protagonists. This creation, freely crafted, is cooked at the same time as Bocairent's 'borreta', an ancestral recipe with an unrivalled flavor that will warm your spirit and belly when you try it.



BUFALI

The garden of the muslims

161 are the inhabitants who live in Bufali, but few help them to feast whenever the occasion poses it and support themselves when they are needed. The Bufalitanos are friendly and live very close together. Thanks to this they have regained traditions such as Carnival, carried out by a gang of friends from the village. The brotherhood is one of the main characteristics of those who live in Bufali, a village of agricultural tradition but which today has been diversified. "The Route of Masos", the history of the Musical Union and the festival of "La Pericana" are three reasons why you need to visit Bufali if you have not already done so.

"La Ruta dels Masos" or how to meet the roots

The municipality of Bufali, flanked by the municipal terms of Albaida and El Palomar, presents many ancient agricultural cottages. These constructions, mostly from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, are related to the cultivation of dryland, mainly that of vineyards. Today, many of them are still in operation and others have been converted into cavalry and horse-riding. If you visit Bufali you can take a leisurely walk along ancient historical paths, such as the Camino Real de Gandía, from the time of

Jaime I, furrowed with ancient cottages, vineyard fields, olive trees and fruit trees. A way to enjoy a different perspective of the region, presided over by the summit of Benicadell, forming a landscape of hills cut by ravines, watered by ancient sources and births. This Route of cottages links with others of special interest, such as the Jaume I Route in the Vall d'Albaida, the Cid Route or, if you are a bike lover, the MTB Route 14. In addition, if you carry out the "Ruta dels Masos" you can finish it in Mas Arboleda, where you can buy organic products or carry out activities such as the blanch of the raisin or workshops related to

well-being or food. An experience for the 5 senses.

The band of music of the village and by them

After almost 50 years without a band, in 1991 the Musical Union of Bufali was born. As a result of a collective effort and the commitment of an entire people, the Musical Union began to start when a group of mothers asked the priest of the municipality to create extracurricular activities so that the children had something to do in their leisure time. From this request, the Bufali Musical Union emerged, with the economic effort of the parents, to be able to buy the instruments, and with the unconditional support of the bufalitanos, who became protective partners to help the birth of the village band.

The year 1992 took place the first concert of the Bufali Musical Union and since then, the music has not stopped playing in this town.

Currently, its future is assured since the Union has a school of students where there are 9 bufalitanos between 8 and 14 years old who look forward to joining one of the youngest bands in the Vall.

The gastronomic convoy: "La Pericana"

If something has Bufali, it is the spirit of brotherhood. Any excuse is good to gather all the neighbors around a table and celebrate the joy of living. And there is nothing that valldalbadinos like more than the gastronomic convoy, the essence of any feast. In Bufali, under the name "La Pericana", on the Monday after the August festivities, the residents of the municipality elaborate this typical dish of the Mariola regions and, together with grilled sausages, they share it with all those who want to have a good time. This is one of the most typical festivities of this Valldalbadí municipality.



CARRÍCOLA

The spark of la Vall

The sign that presides over the entrance of the municipality will warn you when you visit: you are about to enter the town that ignites the flame of the region, the town that is 'the spark of the Vall'. Carrícola, with less than a hundred inhabitants, is one of the most beloved municipalities by the valldalбайдinos and that weekly receives the visit of people from the region and other neighboring ones, attracted by ecology, heritage and art. Three aspects that define the Carricolina philosophy and that have made a small town a reference for all those who seek more respectful ways of life. The fusion of art and nature, sport in the mountains and "l'Almetlla de Palla" are three reasons to visit Carrícola. Enter this town and you will surely fall in love.

The universe of Biodivers: the symbiosis between art and nature

"Els gats del biodivers", "els Polps del riu", the "Niu-Ou", "les Set fanecades winzip", "La tia figa" or the attentive look and that seems to haunt us from "El cau de l'ull" are names of some works of art very special. They are some of the pieces that give life to Biodivers Carrícola, a museum opened at the end of this municipality, a perfect symbiosis between art and nature. An innovative initiative, chaired by the professor Romano de la Calle, which

mixes urban and rural art. More than 66 artistic creations by about 80 authors of the Vall, from neighboring regions and from different points throughout Spain, accompany the visitor throughout the term of Carrícola, turning the ride into an enriching experience and in perfect harmony with the atmosphere of peace that is breathed in this village of less than 100 inhabitants.

Reflecting on man and the natural

Bio Constructive environment, sustainable and located at the foot of the Protected Site of the Umbria del Benicadell, "l'Ametlla de Palla" is a building built by the volunteers of the Environmental Coordinator of the Vall d'Albaida, CEVA, with the collaboration of the people of Carrícola in 2005. "l'Ametlla de Palla" is a reflection of how Carrícola understands the natural environment and the use that human beings have to make of it. In this building and its surroundings you will find a place of meeting, reflection, the relationship between man and the natural environment, and a gateway to the heritage and natural resources of the Protected Natural Park of the Umbria of Benicadell. The shape of the building is that of an almond, in homage to the old almond trees that occupied the grounds. The second part of the chosen name refers to an unusual architectural element: straw. Thus, "l'Ametlla de Palla" aims to serve to open new paths and awareness towards sustainability. Guided, school and events

such as the Ecological Meeting of the Valencian Country meet in this space for reflection.

Running, running, running: MAMUCA and MIMUCA

It is one of the most important sporting events of the region and the carricolinos. The Carrícola Mountain Half Marathon (MIMUCA) and the Carrícola Mountain Marathon (MAMUCA) are a date in the village. The carricolinos feel this sporting event as if it were a feast and collaborate on everything that is necessary. Sweets, 'tiger balm', the broker's bag, the supply points, etc., are some of the chores that the people of this municipality take care of. Thus, MIMUCA and MAMUCA, held every year around the month of March, are two races in the mountains with a high difficulty, but in an unbeatable environment.



CASTELLÓ DE RUGAT

The heritage of mud

In the middle of a “White Vall”, where clarity predominates, a village puts the note of color to the region. Castelló de Rugat and its red and clay soil, has made this condition a way of life. Thus, Castelló made the manufacture of pitchers first, and the brick industry afterwards, its main source of income. The production of jugs was so important for this town of Vall d'Albaida that it even changed its name to be called “Castelló de les Gerres”. Now, many years later, this passionate color that permeates the lands of the Castellonenses is one of the reasons to visit this Valldalбайдí village. But, along with the heritage of the mud, the hermitage of Sant Antoni and Canyeta street also stand out in Castelló de Rugat. Three reasons why you should not stop visiting this town, if you haven't already.

From the production of pitchers, to the brick industry and to the art of Evarist Navarro

The mud has been the past, the present and who knows if the future of Castelló de Rugat. The clay soil of this town has allowed him to live throughout the years of it, with the creation of all kinds of pitchers first, and with the brick industry afterwards. And it has also been the clay that has given Castelló one of its greatest artists, recognized throughout the world: Evarist Navarro and Segura. This sculptor, from

a family that owns a brick industry, made clay his experimentation material and the center to create his artistic discourse. In Castelló he established his workshop, known as ‘La Bancalaria’, an area for experimentation, creation and meeting with friends and artists. Unfortunately, Navarro died recently, and left his land orphaned of his humility and his art. Today, The Evarist Navarro Jug Museum and the 18th century Forn (kiln) are witnesses of the heritage that mud has left in this town.

From above the hill: the hermitage of Saint Antonio

From up the hill, San Antonio watches the Castellonenses, waiting for the time to come again to leave the hermitage. The patron saint of the animals shares residence with Santa Barbara, in a privileged point of Castelló de Rugat, the hermitage. Located on an isolated hill in a relatively flat landscape, it is a magnificent viewpoint of much of the Vall d'Albaida region. It is in the month of January when the saint celebrates its festivities, starting the festive calendar of the Castellonenses, the first Sunday after St. Antonio or the same day if it is Sunday.

The hermitage then becomes a meeting point and veneration, where the people of the village and their animals go up to receive the blessing of the patron saint of animals. A very endearing act accompanied by the traditional ‘Porrat’ in the village and the lit of the bonfire that so much feast creates and so many evils frightens.

A celebration that ends with the draw of the suckling pig that accompanies St. Antonio in his image, and that years ago, lived loose through Castelló and was fed by all the inhabitants.

A street to fall in love

With a menu of heavenly cake, pumpkin fritters or corn cake in hand, Canyeta street has to be your destination if you visit Castelló de Rugat. A delicious space covered with jasmines and pots that the inhabitants of these lands have become a must-see point and that you will not be able to stop photographing as you pass through this municipality.

Canyeta street is located between the streets of Sant Antoni and Sant Vicent, a step away from the rest of points of interest that you can visit in this town. And it is that falling in love with Canyeta street is simply inevitable. One more reason to visit Castelló de Rugat if you've never done it.



FONTANARS DELS ALFORINS

Landscape of wines

This charming Valldalbaidina village is possibly the youngest in the region. It was not until 1927 that it was born as a municipality under the name Fontanars and segregated from the municipality of Ontinyent. The village, as it is known today, joins the most modern place-name, Fontanars, with the traditional word of the entire territory, Alforins, to give name to a stately land and of labradors. Border and transition between the Valencian valleys and the Castilian plain, its wine land, lime kilns and the Sunday market, are three reasons to visit Fontanars dels Alforins. A recommended visiting village where the landscape forces you to carry the camera hanging around your neck.

History camouflaged among the vegetation

In order to survive in times of less work in the fields, some agricultural workers and ranchers in Fontanars dels Alforins had to find other sources of income. Thus, the profession of lime became a task of great importance in the town, with the construction of 50 lime kilns spread over the area. With a history that is more than a hundred years old, they were located close to the raw material extraction areas, that is, the same stone and wood to burn. Integrated into the landscape or camouflaged in the same vegetation,

the lime workers began to work day and night shifts, which is why they had to build rudimentary cabins next to the kilns.

Lime, used for the fields, the sanitary field and for construction, was burned in Fontanars until the beginning of the 80s of the last century, being one of the last towns to produce lime in a traditional way.

You can see the inheritance received from their ancestors on the 'Lime Route', where you can visit ancient kilns, some of them rebuilt and restored. A route divided into 5 parts, which you can do both if you are a hiker or a cyclist, and which also passes

through different points of interest in the Alforins district. A marvel.

The meeting of Sundays: Fontanars market

On time every Sunday, arrives the market to Fontanars dels Alforins. The village gathers in the Plaza Mayor to do their shopping, take a walk and catch up on current areas of the neighborhood. Once upon week, on Sunday morning the neighbors of the scattered and extensive term of Fontanars, who on weekdays lived on their farms far from the town, went down to the village to go to mass. Thus, Sunday morning, the center of Fontanars was filled with neighbors and the merchants took the opportunity to assemble their stand and supply the saddlebags with the necessary items for the day to day. That's how the market became part of the Sunday routine, and today it's a perfect excuse to get closer to know Fontanars and all its charms

From wine consumption to the Iberian settlement, to tables around the world

When the botanist Cavanilles arrived at Fontanars dels Alforins at the end of the 18th century, he saw it clearly. Everything I saw in those lands "were sown and vineyard." And it is that wine is an ancestral tradition linked to the land of this Valldalbaidina population, so close to other regions and autonomies. Since the Iberians who populated the "Bastida de les Alcusses" in the 4th century BC. They tasted the majestic flavor of the juice of the vineyard, the consumption and production of wine in this population has not stopped.

The wineries of the town have gone from selling their product mostly wholesale to using the latest technologies and oenological advances to create better quality wines that are slowly becoming a prestigious place in the world of Valencian, Spanish and international oenology. The land of Fontanars dels Alforins gives us wines with heavenly flavors produced with varieties such as monastrell, black garnatxa or tempranillo, without forgetting the endemic verdil or the recent incorporation of new varieties such as cabernet sauvignon or merlot. 1,300 hectares dedicated to the vineyard, with 10 wineries of marked family character and a project shared with other territories, Lands of Alforins, mark the present of some vineyards open to those who visit them and who, if you know them, will make you fall in love.



GUADASSÉQUIES

A walk among vineyards and waters

Linked from its origin to the Albaida River, Guadasséquier is presented as a 'river village'. A small municipality of the region crossed by water and where the river expands in the form of an artificial lake, thanks to the construction of the Bellús dam. This town of no more than 460 inhabitants has dedicated its existence to the irrigation of the orchards of the ditch of the Four Villages, which takes water from the Albaida River. Today, the orchards have been practically submerged, but the drylands are preserved beautifully planted with vines, next to which some industrial naves are built. The streets, summer festivities and the old church are some reasons to visit Guadasséquier if you haven't already.

A walk through its history

The village of Guadasséquier retains good examples of traditional architecture, despite the disappearance of much of the old town following the construction of the Bellús Dam in 1996. If you visit this municipality and walk through the streets of the lower part of the village, you will find houses linked to the agricultural world and characteristics of Mediterranean architecture. Among them stands the oldest building, which is located at number 10 of the Street de la Pilota, and which is known

as aunt Josefina's house. A house of the year 1755, renovated in 1860, where the remains of the winery and the wine cellar are still preserved in the courtyard. Next door is the house number 8, known as that of Claudio Ramírez, a landowner of the vineyard and mayor of Guadasséquier in 1926. The building was built during the first half of the nineteenth century and renovated throughout the 1920s to adapt it to bourgeois tastes. You will end the walk along Calle Mayor, where you will see some samples of houses of 19th-century day

laborers, such as the house of number 13, mixed with other more modern properties of the last century, and where the essence of the old streets of Guadasséquier who disappear under the waters of the swamp. If the streets deserve passes, the term of Guadasséquier can be discovered on foot or by bike. A tour among paths that will take you to discover the traditional agricultural landscape.

The feast: the patrons of Guadasséquier

Despite being a small town, the Guadasequianos know how to have a good time. A clear example is its patron saint festivities, which are held in the second week of August and which perfectly combine its religious character with the more playful aspect of the festivities. These festivities are celebrated in honour of Sant Roc, the Mare de Déu de l'Esperança and the Crist de l'Empar. During these summer days, the canvas presiding over the hermitage of the Christ of l'Empar is taken out in procession by the faithful of the village. The 18th-century canvas represents the moment of our Lord's death on Golgotha Hill comforted by his Mother, St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph of Arimathea. Just when, according to the holy texts, an eclipse of the sun darkened Jerusalem.

The old church: the building that refused to disappear

The construction of the Bellús reservoir forced the demolition in 1995 of a good portion of the old town of Guadasséquier, where the town square and the parish church of 'La Esperanza' were located. This building was also about to be demolished, when the houses that sheltered it disappeared, but the neighbors saved it in 1997, restored it and turned it into the current parish museum. Since then known as the old church, the bell tower still preserves the great bell, dedicated to l'Esperança, dating from 1835. This building houses works of art and merit inside, which form a small parish museum, inaugurated in 2003. A replica of the Gothic table known as 'Sant Miquel de Guadasséquier' stands out especially in the museum, currently preserved in the noble hall of the archbishop's palace in Valencia. Sant Miquel weighing souls, by the painter Roderic de Osona, is one of the masterpieces of Valencian Gothic art. Around the old church of Guadasséquier you can enjoy a recreational area, where the visitor can find items recovered from the missing part of the old town, such as the public fountain or a washing facility that will remain uncovered after finishing an intervention in the area.



LLUTXENT

Baronia de los Pròxita

The heritage of Llutxent is one of the most characteristic features of this municipality of la Vall d'Albaida. The stones of buildings as emblematic as the Albacar Xiu make us travel back in time to the Islamic period. With the conquest of Jaume I begins another stage in the village, where Christian population is established. The Moorish-Christian battles, the donation of the lands to an Italian nobleman who will begin the construction of the Palace Castle, the Union Wars, the Germanies revolt and the War of Independence have written chapters of the history of this population. And through the heritage of Llutxent, we stretch the thread of history that has led us to this day. But in addition to its heritage Llutxent has other attractions: the recovery of lime kilns and the Natural Park "El Surar". Three excuses to get you closer to discovering this town, if you haven't done already.

Rekindling the lime tradition and regaining a missing trade.

When traditions are lost, identity is lost. This is well known in Llutxent because it has been a population dedicated to the lime trade and they have wanted to leave witness to this trade that has now disappeared from the municipality. The promoter has been the filmmaker Toni Canet, who is carrying out a project to recover this traditional trade in the form of a documentary under the name 'Calç Blanca. Negro carbón'. In addition to the tourist routes that will soon explain live

this process of construction, cooking and extraction of lime. Formerly the municipalities with little industry were looking for economic resources in what they had more at hand, and in this case it is the mountains.

From it the stones are extracted so that they can make the oven and the firewood to burn it. An ancestral trade that allowed us to obtain the lime that our ancestors used for medicinal, cleaning, etc. and that meant an important business for Llutxent in the past, with more than 48 furnaces.

Route suggestion: the natural setting "El Surar"

If you want to spend your free time in contact with nature when the weekend comes, Llutxent has a natural place of great attraction that is just what you are looking for. Known as "El Surar" - the southernmost cork oak of the Valencian Community -, it is formed by a series of open groves that are the remains of ancient forests with a peculiarity: they inhabit soils evolved from calcareous substrates where cork oaks do not usually grow. In addition, we recommend you visit the Mirador, which you can access through a micro-reserve of flora and fauna. If you are a hiker, the marked route that runs through the place will help you on your journey. A walk where you will enjoy the great ecological variety, both flora and fauna, that lives in this type of ecosystem. The road passes between ravines, with impressive views of high mountains, deep ravines and large stone walls.

An environment that will soon have a refuge-classroom in the natural area to interpret nature and, with more knowledge, enjoy even more if possible.

If the stones spoke...

If the stones spoke in Llutxent they would tell many stories. A population with a large list of heritage that witnesses the life, peoples and customs that have left their mark in this valldalбайдí municipality. One of the examples is the Castle of Xiu or 'Castell Vell' which is located on the summit of a mountain and dates from the twelfth century. A rural fortress, known as 'Albacar' and raised in the Almohade era. Conquered by the Christians in 1244 it served as a refuge for Christian settlers. The fortress had a complex structure and about 5,000 m² of surface. Its walled enclosure is double, irregular and elongated, with powerful rectangular towers on the sides. The castle remained in use more or less until the 17th century, and although it is found in rubble, you can visit it and relive the past glories it evokes.



MONTAVERNER

The heart of the Vall

A few meters from the mouth of the Clariano and Albaida rivers stands Montaverner, the town that has grown under the watchful eye of Benicadell and Montcabrer. Montaverner is industrial and agricultural, it preserves the mark that the Arabs left in its term, but also the symbols of the Reconquest of Jaume I, who founded the town in the spring of 1271. Much or little is known about this municipality about 1,700 inhabitants, which we invite you to discover. That is why we have chosen three reasons to recommend a visit to Montaverner: The Miracle of Sant Blai, the International Documentary Film Exhibition of Montaverner and the Route of the Fountains. These are three reasons to visit this Valldalbaidí town, but they are not the only ones, so come and discover it if you have not done so yet.

The Saint who saved Montaverner from disappearing

At the end of the year 1677, the 'garrotillo' plague, a throat ailment that caused drowning, began to affect Montaverner's families. In a town of 40 houses and about 50 inhabitants, the 'garrotillo' plague killed about 14 people, leaving Montaverner isolated from the rest of the towns and with the fear in his body of disappearing. Faced with this tragedy, the priest and a group of montaverninos, decided to entrust themselves to Sant Blai, known for his gift

of healing of sore throats. In Montaverner they did not have at that time an image of the saint, so they moved to Bèlgida, a town that left them Sant Blai to see if he could save them from tragedy. And so it was. The image of Sant Blai made the miracle healing those affected by the 'garrotillo' plague. Given this divinity, it was difficult to return Sant Blai to Bèlgida. Thus, the saint, it seems, stayed in Montaverner and since then every Easter Monday is celebrated the great miracle of Sant Blai, co-patron of the town and the most important feast in this

town of La Vall, saved by this saint.

MON•DOC: an international and thoughtful appointment

For a few years now, Montaverner opens a window to the world called MON • DOC. The Montaverner Documentary Film Show is a space for reflection, a meeting point for producers, protagonists, stories and adventures of a genre often forgotten and with little commercial projection as is the documentary. Organized by the association 'Salvem el Cine', created to preserve the Royal Hall of Montaverner, this documentary show is consolidated year after year within the panorama of film festivals of the Valencian Community. Thus, on an international basis, the MON • DOC was born looking at the greats such as Documentamadrid, 'Documentariess of the Word Montreal Festival' or the Jaén Documentary Film Festival and some Goya have been screened there, as is the case of 'Hijos de la Tierra', directed by Sandra Iraizoz.

Following the flow of water

Montaverner's say their town has few tourist attractions. But, far from that thought, if you visit this municipality you will enjoy walking through an unknown town and letting yourself be carried away by what the landscape offers you. The Fountains Route is a good way to know the Montaverner term. 16 registered fountains, among which there are some that you will not be able to visit because of the state in which they are found, make up this route that starts in the recreational area of the 'Parc Fluvial' and 'Casilla de los Peones' and will let you capture snapshots of the "Font dels 4 xorros", Font de l'Anglés, Font del Molí, Font del Povil, Font de Ca Blanc and Font de les Marxaletes. Following the water you can see Montaverner, a good way to visit this municipality that lives between the Albaida River and the Clariano.



MONTITXELVO

The raisins history

Quiet, ideal to rest and enjoy nature. This is how this town, located at the beginning of the Vall, is defined. Montitxelvo and its 650 inhabitants enjoy a privileged location, at the foot of the Sierra de Mariola and Benicadell. Its innumerable natural places of great ecological and forest interest, its important hydraulic architecture, formed by medieval aqueducts and water mines, and its "riuraus" where the raisin was once made, are the main reasons to discover Montitxelvo. We have highlighted these and his most illustrious character, the poet Joan Climent, as the reasons to visit the town. If at this point you have not done it yet.

A traditional procedure that now stays alive

Recovering and reliving the tradition in the form of a feast is what the municipality of Montitxelvo did, in 2013, with 'l'escaldà del raïm'. Vall d'Albaida did not escape from the raisins fever that has spread throughout the central regions of Valencia since the beginning of the 19th century. Thus, 'l'escaldà de la pansa' modified both the landscape and the agricultural calendar and therefore, the society of the time.

A procedure that our ancestors already used to make raisins from muscat grapes and that was being lost. In this sense, the "riuraus" are the constructions that allow the grapes to dry, protecting them from the inclement weather. You only have to go back to the last century, to the decade of the 30s, to find in Montitxelvo about forty buildings of these characteristics. Before drying the grape, it is scalded in water, in the boiler that is placed in the chimney of an oven, and then the grape is placed in the 'cañizos' to dry it. A traditional procedure that now stays alive.

The culture water in an itinerary

The important hydraulic architecture of Montitxelvo, formed by medieval aqueducts, water mines and their "riuraus" you can visit it thanks to the Water Route. A didactic itinerary about the importance of this fundamental element for the human being and where you can understand how our ancestors lived and how, in addition, they made a living.

The aqueduct of the Planet, the raft of the Sastre, a monumental work of hydraulic engineering, possibly built in the eighteenth century, the source of Ferri, the "riurau" of Mahiques, the source of the Nava, that of Micarent (where there is a recreational area, a hydraulic mill and two rafts), the water mine known as Alcavo de Remigio (from which should be noted the gallery, covered with a triangular turn of flat slabs), the fountain of the Plaza and the fountain of the Bajo. These are the points of interest that you can find if you make this didactic itinerary on the water culture of Montitxelvo. A circular route, without derivations or variants, with an approximate length of 5 km and low difficulty, which we recommend if you are

one of those who do not settle just to know the town and admire its monuments.

The character: Joan Climent

The montitxelvano Joan Climent Pascual (1918-2004) was an interesting poet and narrator who lived in Gandia since 1931. There, he had to paralyze his studies in December 1937 when he was recruited to join the front in the Civil War. Later, in the postwar period, he published some books in Spanish and then Joan Climent decided to write in his mother tongue with

a remarkable success of criticism. Thus, his first book in Valencian, "Notícia de murmuris" (1989), received commendable comments from poets and critics such as Marc Granell or Josep Ballester. Later, he published the novel "La delicà de Gandia" (1994) and continued his poetic task with books such as "Contraclaror". A few years ago he was named Adoptive Son of Gandia, where he lived, while his hometown has organized several times theatrical routes inspired by the work of Joan Climent.



L'OLLERIA

The soul of the glass

It is known for being a land of glass, an industry that with the arrival of the crisis virtually disappeared from the polygons of the municipality and today struggles to get back on its feet. L'Olleria is the second town with the highest number of inhabitants of the Vall d'Albaida region and has more than enough heritage and historical elements to visit it. Among them we point out the three most important: the Fair, the Santonja house-Marau's palace and the "Ball dels Locos" (dance of the madpeople). Whether you're crazy or not, l'Olleria deserves to be visited if you haven't done it yet.

An architectural treasure that breathes history and art in each of its corners

In the street Ravalet de l'Olleria you will find one of the most important architectural and historical jewels of the municipality. The Santonja-Palau house of the Marau invites you to immerse yourself in the age of illustration, knowledge, equality, fraternity and freedom.

The Santonja house is, without doubt, a unique building in l'Olleria. A noble shield welcomes you when you visit it and announces that something big happens inside the building. Two hundred years standing prove the importance that this palace has for our region and the fact that it has become a symbol of the town. The one that was the house of the Marau, family of landowners of the liberal bourgeoisie, keeps on its walls a set of wall paintings with artistic motifs of Valencian tradition, unique in the world, which are the key to understanding the history of the end of the century XVIII and beginning of the XIX. Undergoing phase rehabilitation, the Santonja house continues to reflect the idiosyncrasy of its people and currently hosts different activities related to culture. In the future, this palace is expected to

continue making history by hosting the Glass Museum of L'Olleria.

The appointment: royal concession since 1687

To exchange. Find. Know. Negotiate. This is what has been done at fairs throughout history. In them agreements are reached, products are exchanged and economic transactions are carried out. And today, it is also enjoyed, turning the event into a social, festive and cultural event. L'Olleria can boast of having a Fair by royal concession of Carlos II from the year 1687. Every year, from October 25 to 27, hundreds of stands occupy the streets of this Valldalbardina town to present local products and others from outside, as well as cultural activities and traditional representations. Year after year, l'Olleria relives history with its Fair, encouraging the exchange (in its current version), and also making adults and children enjoy the attractions that conclude the Fair's journey.

Madness with a lot of sense: "the Ball dels Locos" and its recovery

Sometimes we accuse someone of being crazy for the simple fact of going beyond the norms established and imposed by society. To want to recover lost traditions or carry out milestones that seem impossible to achieve. But madness is not always a word with negative connotations. A clear example is the "Ball dels Locos" of l'Olleria, recovered in 1996. The gang that since that time represents a lost tradition at the Magdalena festivities since it is unknown when (approximately at the beginning of the 20th century), formed to have fun through an old party. "The Ball dels Locos" stages a human castle, with a dance that

begins and ends with the construction of a human tower. But in addition, "the Ball dels Locos" is a symbol of the spirit of support, that together we are stronger. If you want to see the group Ball dels Locos you need to come to l'Olleria in July, at the Magdalena festivities, during which, together with the dance group the Revol and the Dolçaines gang and percussion the Morralla, reproduce the traditions of this municipality. "The Ball dels Locos" deserves, like the Fair and the Santonja house, that you visit l'Olleria if you have not been yet.



ONTINYENT

The capital of the white valley

With more than 35,500 inhabitants, Ontinyent is the largest municipality in Vall d'Albaida. Industrial, enterprising, fighter, full of little houses, lover of the Christ of the Agony and of the Purísima Concepción, of the Bou in Corda, of the coca de fira, of the Pou Clar, of Sant Esteve ... Ontinyent has plenty of reasons to visit it, but at your discretion we let you choose the ones you prefer to make your stop in the capital of Vall d'Albaida an experience. To help you choose, we highlight three: the medieval quarter of the Vila, the musical compositions dedicated to the Moors and Christians and baked rice. There are only three reasons to visit Ontinyent that will help you discover many more for yourself, if you have not done so yet.

Get carried away by the history of the first urban area of the town

It is the most charming neighborhood in the capital of Vall d'Albaida and just for that reason your visit to the Vila is mandatory if you go to Ontinyent. Strolling through the streets of what was the first urban area of Ontinyent is synonymous with history. Originated in the Islamic era (11th-12th century), the Vila district, declared since 1974 National Artistic Historic Site, hides for its narrow streets treasures worth discovering and others that characterize the uniqueness of this nucleus. The church

of Santa Maria -where the patron saint of the town resides, the Purísima Concepción-, the Portal de Sant Roc, the highest bell tower in the Valencian Community or the Vila Palace -which houses the Valencian Textile Museum and the Museum of the "Gegants i Cabuts"- are some of the places of interest that you can discover in your tour through the medieval quarter. While walking through the set of streets that give life to this picturesque space of Ontinyent, it is essential, so is knowing some of the heritage wonders that surround the Vila. One of the most emblematic is, without doubt, the Pont Vell, symbol of Ontinyent

and part of the DNA of those who inhabit it. There are plenty of reasons to visit the Vila neighborhood. Choosing just one of them is already your business.

"Ximo", the festive music that makes the largest celebration of the capital

Undoubtedly "Ximo" is a hymn of the feast of Moors and Christians of Ontinyent. This Moorish march was composed by the disappeared José M^{re} Ferrero, el Mestre, in 1964.

There is no ontinyentí that has not felt the impulse to move the body when listening to the beat of "Ximo" on a Thursday afternoon of the Great Week, in the Plaza Mayor of the town. "Ximo" is a symbol of the beginning of the biggest feast in Ontinyent, that of the Moors and Christians, which has also given voice to local composers of national and international prestige. If the Mestre composed a hymn for his people, they have also done other greats of the composition such as Saül Gómez i Soler, Jesús Barberà, Daniel J. Ferrero Silvaje, Miguel Àngel Sarrió Navidad, J.B. Santonja Espinós, David Castelló Silvestre, Vicente Gabriel Casanova, Ferran Sanchis Gandia... All these, responsible for fattening the musical heritage of his people. If you want to see and feel like a city beats to the rhythm of festive music, you need to come to Ontinyent at the end of August to contemplate its Entrance of Bands, the Entrance of Moors and Christians or Embassies.

The taste: baked rice

Ontinyent heritage comparable to Pont Vell, baked rice is much more than a typical meal of this population. Baked rice is a way of being and living that is transmitted from generation to generation, in all the houses of Ontinyent. The onion sausage (material, heavenly heritage and unforgettable taste of Ontinyent), bacon, turnip, chickpeas, pork ribs, rice, appreciation and oven hours, give life to one of the jewels that You have to try on your way through the capital of Vall d'Albaida. A delight that deserves, such as the neighborhood of Vila and festive music, that you visit Ontinyent if you have not been yet.



OTOS

The town of the sundials

Climb to the summit of Benicadell, enjoy unparalleled views of the Vall d'Albaida and then, to compensate the effort, fill the stomach and cultural baggage in the small but charming municipality of Otos. This valldalbaidina town is a small tourist jewel of our region, where hiking, culture and gastronomy go hand in hand to offer you a very enriching and relaxing inland tourism experience. The otosinos still know the time today with the sundials, which combine perfectly with the technological vanguard. These heritage elements, the painting by Antoni Miró and the protected area of Umbria del Benicadell are the three reasons to visit Otos, if you have not done so yet.

Measure time with works of art

The sun has determined for centuries the daily rhythm of our peoples. The passage of time and the modernization of societies replaced the sun with mechanics, but in Otos still today, the daily rhythm is determined by the solar star. Thus, sundials are for Otos much more than a way of measuring time, they are a tourist and cultural attraction that combines tradition, art and heritage. The Route of the Sundials was born in 2005 by the hand of the otosino Joan Olivares and the

artist Rafael Amorós. These convinced the most important Valencian artists to create new sundials through art. This is how throughout Otos there are unique pieces created by Andreu Alfaro, Artur Heras, Antoni Miró, Manolo Boix, Rafael Armengol, Arcadi Blasco, Elisa Martí and Joan Olivares and Rafael Amorós.

Works of art that perfectly combine its aesthetic aspect with the correct measure of time. You can visit this route any day, but on Sundays, at 11:00 h, there is a guided route that will take you to know the 8

clocks and their history, as well as some others that are part of the collective of this municipality. It is not surprising that Otos is the European town with the highest density of this heritage.

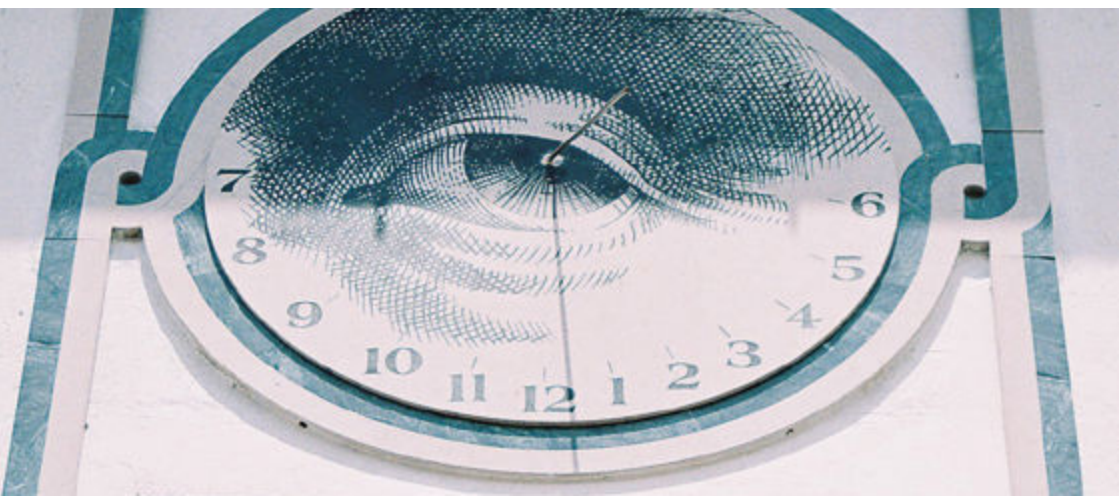
Antoni Miró Collection: a great work for a small town

For Otos it is a pride to have at your fingertips a part of the work of one of the most important painters of Valencian art: Antoni Miró. The Palace of Otos, building of the eighteenth century and current headquarters of the municipal offices, houses and shows an itinerary with a monographic character and chronologically structured by the different stages and series of Antoni Miró that allows you to follow your trajectory and configure a global vision of the work of the artist. The Antoni Miró Collection at the Palace of Otos will not leave you indifferent if you visit it. Antoni Miró is an artist committed to the current social reality, its roots, its culture and its country. Within that powerful social realism that permeates his work, the paintings act as powerful flashes that will wake you up when you contemplate them a critical attitude towards the most recent history.

The crest of a mountain where it is worth walking

Halfway between the mountain and the Bellús reservoir, the term of Otos offers you interesting itineraries for hiking between fields and ancient olive trees. If in the lower part of the municipality we find the anti-aircraft shelters of the Civil War (restaurants and museums), in the high part of the term the imposing summit of Benicadell and its protected place rises. A good way to enter the Sierra del Benicadell is using the SL-CV 10, a 4-kilometer path and a medium-low difficulty that begins in the town center. Along the route, you will find the Font de Baix, the Azud of Pantàliga, the Pouet, the farmhouse of Suagres, the Birth, passing through the refrigerator of Tormo (18th century) and the recreational area of the ravine of La Mata .

If you still want to extend the walk, a red route goes up until the Castle of the Carbonera and Alto del Morrall, on the crest of a mountain where it is worth walking. This attraction is one of the many reasons to visit Otos.



EL PALOMAR

Natural place and feast of the "Xop"

If for some reason the municipality of El Palomar is known in Vall d'Albaida and beyond our borders, it is for its particular and genuine poplar feast. This specimen is for El Palomar much more than a tree, it is a symbol that identifies them as a town. We could not talk about this municipality of 590 inhabitants and not do it about the 'Plantà del Xop'. A reason that added to the Castell of Carrícola, the one that watches over the term of El Palomar with the name of another municipality, and the Font de Sis, invite you to visit this valldalbaidina town to walk and discover it.

The centenary ritual that welcomes spring

After a gray winter, where white has permeated the earth, spring comes. The fields begin to be reborn and what was once dark is now green and full of life. To celebrate it, the neighbors of El Palomar celebrate a centenary ritual which they call 'La festa del Xop'. This reproduction in the town square of what has happened in the countryside, is celebrated in El Palomar, surely, long before it existed as a town. Of all the local festivals, this is the most genuine and has become a symbol and a pride for the population. Thus, for two weeks, the most spectacular poplar of the term presides over the town square, after

being cut, transported and planted by many palomarencos. Around the poplar, the tree that symbolizes the arrival of spring, different historical and traditional manifestations take place such as the Little Shepherds or the Flag Dancer and the Angels.

Music, offering to the Geperudeta, dances and much brotherhood meet during the second and fourth weekend of May, until the neighbors say goodbye to the poplar that falls to the ground after being hit in the hands of the palomarencos.

The name of the castle that makes doubt in the Vall

At the foot of the Benicadell mountain range is the Castle of Carrícola, a heritage element that, despite its name, belongs to the municipality of El Palomar. The building was built by the Arabs between the 6th and 13th centuries and is of great interest both in the archeological field, as well as ethnographic and historical-artistic.

The Castle of Carrícola, named Asset of Cultural Interest of the Generalitat Valenciana, is located above a rock, on the left side of the ravine of the Umbria del Benicadell Protected Natural Area. The castle, formed by a tower and a courtyard, was part of the defensive complex of the fortifications of 'Penacadell', a name that Benicadell received in medieval times. According to the available documentation, in 1258 there was talk about a castle and a year after a tower to which two Mudejar farmhouses were attached. Thus, the fortification is integrated in the Route of the Castell and other jewels of El Palomar, a path with interesting landscape witnesses and architectural vestiges of traditional society that we recommend if you visit the municipality. It is a path of medium difficulty, marked with explanatory panels and interpretation tables of the different resources that you will find along the way.

The environment: Font de Sis

La Font de Sis is a natural site that in recent years has become a leisure area for the Palomarencos and for all those who visit the municipality.

It is a natural area surrounded by leafy poplars and equipped with all the services you may need for an outdoor day: restaurant, playground, picnic area, paelleros, camping, etc. In this place, you can also find the Route of the Barranco of the Junda, which runs along the bed of the ravine that bears his name, next to the river. It has a distance of 3.4 km and a low difficulty, ideal for a walk accompanied at all times by the noise of water from fountains, rafts, ditches... All a witness of the Muslim heritage. This is the main watercourse with which El Palomar, the origin of the disappeared farmhouse of Aljund, which collects the leftover water from the ancient ditch of the Font del Port (s. VIII-XIII), and other sources such as the Font of Sis.



PINET

At the limit of Vall d'Albaida

The third town with fewer inhabitants of the region, Pinet, is at the limit of the white valley with the neighboring region of La Safor. The municipality that begins our territory and that already in the nineteenth century was responsible of puffing up his chest and making it very clear who marked the limits. Pinet is synonymous with Surar, the southernmost formation of cork oaks of the Valencian Community, but it is also synonymous with "coca de faves", candied melon and pleita made with the palm that is collected from the mountains of the term. Thus, its historical courage, the gastronomic and artisanal tradition of the town and its natural treasure are three reasons to visit Pinet, if at this point you have not done so.

A jewel of mother nature

It is the jewel in the crown of the pinetanos, a treasure of nature of great environmental and sentimental value for which Pinet fought in the nineteenth century. The Surar of Pinet, declared a Municipal Natural Site in 2005, is an ideal place to go on excursion, hiking and cycling. This place surely represents the southernmost formation of cork oaks in the Valencian lands. The importance of the place lies in the fact that this grove is very far from the areas where the cork oak grows naturally. In addition, if you visit El Surar de Pinet, you

can enjoy spectacular panoramic views of the region.

Palma, beans, candied: Gastronomic and Craft Fair

The gastronomic and artisanal tradition of Pinet is one of its most appreciated treasures. Therefore, they recently decided to promote it and publicize what they do best in the town. In the Gastronomic and Artisan Fair of Pinet the protagonists are the cocas of beans, the candied melon and, naturally, the palm "pleita". If you visit it, you will enjoy the workshops, games for

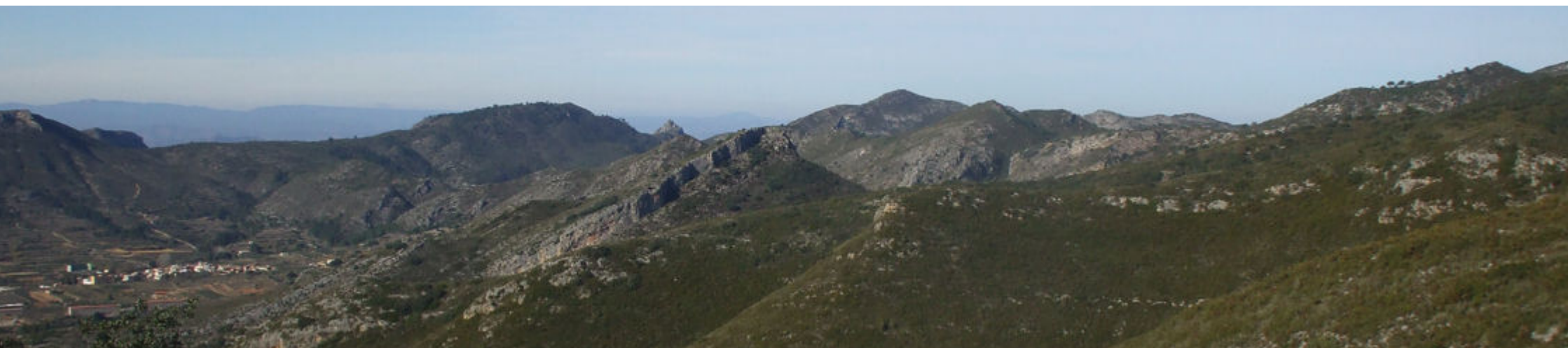
children, demonstrations and tasting of typical and delicious products that meet in this day of September.

How Pinet beat Gandía with a rod

To talk of Domènec Mahiques is to talk of the mayor who demonstrated the superiority of his people, Pinet, over Gandía. Perhaps, few valldalbaidinos know a milestone that has marked the history of Pinet and that throughout the century and a half has demonstrated the supremacy of this small town that marks the limit of the region with the residents of the Safor. In 1883, Domènec Mahiques and the mayor of Gandía, Josep Rausell, accompanied by their respective notaries, were summoned to delimit the municipal terms of each town, which today also separates the regions of la Safor and la Vall d'Albaida. But when Rausell claimed El Surar for Gandía, the mayor of Pinet didn't have it so clear. The two leaders maintained a

strong and heated discussion that ended with the rod of the mayor of Gandía in the hands of Mahiques and, therefore, in Pinet's possession.

From then until today, this cane is preserved in Pinet as a symbol, as the result of a battle won by this people against what was then the enemy, Gandía. Thus, the rod of the mayor of Gandía is guarded in Pinet as a treasure and as the fact that demonstrates how Pinet surpassed Gandía with a stick. The original cane of the nineteenth century, recently restored, you can visit in Pinet, while the capital of the Safor retain a replica that represents a declaration of peace to the people who managed to overcome them.



LA POBLA DEL DUC

War heritage

Today we know it as La Pobla del Duc but over time, this Valldalbaidina town, known for its agricultural tradition, has had several toponymic denominations. The first of all seems to be Vilanova de Rugat in 1273, and then Francavila de Rugat or Puebla de Rugat, until it evolved to the current name. Culture, architecture and history invite you to stroll through its historic center, which reflects an evolution marked mainly by the economic changes of the territory. Because of its value and relevance, we highlight only three reasons for you to visit La Pobla del Duc: the military anti-aircraft shelters, the Trade Fair and La Penyeta. Three compelling reasons to approach you to discover this town if you have not yet done so.

Keep part of the historical memory: the route of military shelters

The Spanish Civil War has been the most influential event in the history of our country, since it meant a brutal rupture of the climate of democratic coexistence during the years 1936-1939, and although it took place more than sixty years ago, nowadays is still present in the memory of many. Specifically, the municipality of La Pobla del Duc retains a part of the military historical memory with the enhancement of the heritage of the Military Shelters. With the restoration, rehabilitation and conditioning of the accesses and entrances of these military shelters, the called 'Route of the anti-aircraft military shelters of the Civil War 1936-1939: La Pobla del Duc' has been created. An itinerary that will show you a historical tour of the most emblematic places related to the Spanish Civil War and in which at the same time you can enjoy a natural landscape, typical of the region, with very conserved environmental resources. The route starts in the Church square and includes the visit of two shelters: the one of Pla de Missena and the

other one of Alta house. Both, built in 1938 by the Republic army, were intended for protection against air bomb attacks.

Gastronomy, trade and crafts: a fair with native and genuine flavor

The Commercial and Gastronomic Fair of La Pobla del Duc opens its doors the first weekend of October and lasts for three days. But if you visit it on Saturday or Sunday, days of more activity, you will not have a second to get bored. Throughout the entire tour, you will find all kinds of products in the area, and you will enjoy tasting native gastronomic products and the exhibition of commercial products of the municipality.

The Fair is complemented by a wide variety of activities aimed at all audiences. Thus, the little ones will enjoy craft workshops, popular games, and children's playground with inflatable castles, while the elders can choose from a wide range of offers such as horse shows, craft demonstrations, dance shows, competition dances, modern dances, fashion shows, concerts and musical performances for adults and

children, theater, wine tastings and guided visits to the Antiaircraft Military Shelters.

Enjoy nature: La Penyeta recreational area

La Penyeta recreational area, which you can access through the Camino Real de Gandía, is located southeast of the municipality of La Pobla del Duc, with an area of 1.23 hectares. This place, of high ecological and landscape value, is a complete area of leisure and distraction in which, if you like nature, you will enjoy unbeatable panoramic views of the Vall d'Albaida and the Benicadell. This viewpoint of the region has an area equipped with fountains, tables and wooden benches, bins, parking bicycles, a playground for children with

swings, a camping area enabled to make paellas and barbecues and an extensive area surrounded by trees and vegetation where you can enjoy magnificent views and spend a pleasant day outdoors with your family. Without a doubt, enjoying the surroundings in La Penyeta is one of the reasons to visit La Pobla del Duc if you have not yet been.



QUATRETONDA

Gastronomic crafts

On top of a hill is located the tenth population in number of inhabitants of our region, Quatretonda. Located between the "Barranc de les Fontetes" on the one hand, and the "Acequia" on the other, the town protects its most appreciated heritage: the mountains. Land of farmers, beekeepers, fungi and endemic protected species, in Quatretonda a large number of products are made in an artisanal way, a fact that gives it a unique flavor that deserves you to try on your way through the town. From 'besos de novia' (girlfriend kisses), to homemade sausage, to 'crístines' and bread, which today is known as 'artisanal' and is back in fashion, it has been practiced in Quatretonda for centuries. A treasure to discover in the Vall and that we want to recommend, especially, for three reasons: its mountain range, the dancing tradition and the handmade cheese. These are three reasons to visit Quatretonda, but surely with your visit you discover many more.

The treasure of the quatretondinos: their natural heritage

The mountain range of Quatretonda is the most important treasure that keeps this municipality of the Vall Blanca. Within this Protected Municipal Natural Site you will discover a whole world, beyond the impressive green landscapes. The mountain range of Quatretonda has a rich variety of fauna, flora and fungi (which you can know with the routes that are often organized by this place), which enter into perfect

sympiosis with spaces of singular beauty such as the "Barranco del agua", the "Buixcarró" or the "Xim". If only what you see is already enriching, you can also get carried away by the subsoil of Quatretonda, discovering the "Avenç" where caving is often practiced. The mountain range is only half of the heart that makes Quatretonda beat, since the other part that gives life to this municipality is the 'pla'. A set of farmland, witness of the importance that agriculture has had for the quatretondins throughout history, and where you can

contemplate the 'Font Vella', with its laundry, cellar and fountain. A unique place located in the "Barranc de les Fontetes" and within the rich hydrological heritage of Quatretonda. The Protected Municipal Natural Site has different protected areas as micro flora reserves due to its abundance in endemic species.

An intangible asset: dancing roots

In the town of Quatretonda, the neighbors still hear the news in the traditional way, and that is, in the morning the people wake up listening to the news by public address system. A loudspeaker that brings together the entire population and that in this town always keeps a very peculiar characteristic: the tuning that accompanies the municipal news. This is the melody of the Quatretonda dances, a music that identifies one of the most important traditions that this population has: the dances. So much so, that the Dance Festival of the Vall d'Albaida was born in this municipality. In Quatretonda, in addition, on the second Sunday of May the celebration of the New Street is celebrated, in honor of the Virgin Mary of the Forsaken and it is in this celebration where the traditional Dance of Quatretonda is danced. Roots that are in the process of being declared Intangible Assets of Cultural Interest or Local Relevance.



Homemade tastes better

The craft finds in Quatretonda different forms of expression. Wine, oil, sausages, pastries, bread and much more, are made inside the houses, ovens and cooperatives of this municipality. If there is any product that you can not miss while passing through Quatretonda, it is without doubt the artisanal cheese of 'Heretat de Pere' (Cooperativa Simona). The commitment to the environment and rural tourism that has made this municipality both in the mountains, has led to the recovery and maintenance of rural natural heritage. This is the case of the Heretat de Pere, rural and cooperative house, where goat's milk cheese is made in an artisanal way, with the raw material obtained from the milking of their own goats. 'Heretat de Pere' has recovered old traditions that you need to know if you visit the municipality. Thus, the Heretat is, together with its mountains and dance, one of the reasons why it is worth visiting Quatretonda.



EL RÀFOL DE SALEM

The clay potter

The current Minister of Justice of the Generalitat Valenciana and former spokesman of the General Council of the Judiciary, Gabriela Bravo, studied in the school of this municipality. Also another famous person, Salome, winner of Eurovision with 'Vive cantando' in his childhood, ran through the streets of El Ràfol de Salem. This may not be a very large town, but with great charm. The brick and jug industry and agriculture have been the means of survival of this town that combines the appreciation of nature with devotion to its saints, Sant Blai and the Divine Savior. But to guide your visit, we highlight its most relevant features: its poet Salvador Jàfer and Sanxis, the old mill and the ascent to the summit of Benicadell. There are only three of the many reasons to visit El Ràfol de Salem.

A new life for a new time

Until the 80s, the rafolins (people originally from this town) carried their olives to make liquid gold in the Almazara 'El Salvador'. A cooperative founded in the 50s by a few growers to which were gradually neighbours from other locations to bring their olives.

The artisan work that was carried out there, inheritance of the Romans and the Arabs, was threatened with the arrival of the modernization of the systems of obtaining the oil. Thus, the cooperative was forced to close its doors, leaving behind the traditional methods that had been provided to the rafolins and many of the municipalities around the main element of the Mediterranean diet over decades. However, today you can visit 'El Salvador', since although it closed its doors as an oil mill, recently it has been transformed into the Museum of the Oil of the municipality, into a restaurant and a rural hostel. A new life for a new time. A place full of history and tradition that now opens to the public to tell us how, not so long ago, our ancestors made their own oil with their hands.

A natural treasure: from the hermitage to heaven

Its privileged location at the foot of the impressive Benicadell, makes El Ràfol de Salem a very attractive municipality for hiking and mountain routes. From the hermitage of Sant Blai del Ràfol a path is born to ascend to the summit of Benicadell. It is not a simple route, but we assure you that it is worth it for the natural wealth that you will find while doing the ascension. The hermitage of Sant Blai is the first Christian building that took place in the town in 1640 and today has a terraced house where you can stay in a group. In addition, there is a place to make paellas and you can regain strength after the ascent to Benicadell. The climb, through "l'ombria de la serreta del Ràfol", offers you a magnificent view of this treasure that is the mountain.

Salvador Jàfer and Sanxis, the poet 'indolent and contemplative'

Love, death, loneliness, nature, human relationships or mysterious things are part of the long list of themes that Salvador Jàfer and Sanxis have projected through their poetry. This Raphol philologist who began publishing his work in 1973, is today one of the most important poets of the Vall d'Albaida, a member of the generation of young Valencian poets of 70. A recognized group in the Valencian Country, in which

Salvador Jàfer stood out as a finalist in the Vicent Andrés Estellés poetry prize with L'esmorteïda estela de la platja.

Throughout his career, the poet of El Ràfol, who defines himself as 'indolent and contemplative', has published books such as El sol de migjorn, El foc m'esguarda, L'estrela de la platja, Lívius Diamant, Els Caçadors Salvatges, Navegant Obscur, Orquídia, Poemes independents i El desert, among others.



RUGAT

Landscape and hospitality

According to the mayor of this town in the region, if there is any fact that identifies the residents of Rugat is hospitality. The emigration of young people to other locations with greater job opportunities has brought new airs to the population.

Specifically, English spirit, since new families from other countries have established their residence in Rugat. Rugat is synonymous with rest and quality of life, two things that have not gone unnoticed by the new tenants who live there. Agriculture has been the main source of income for Rugat, a sector that still survives today. Nature, rest and good food are the reasons that will take you to visit Rugat, if you have not yet done so.

An invitation not to think about anything, just to enjoy

If there is something that identifies Rugat, it is pure air. And this town invites disconnection, direct contact with nature. It is an ideal place to reunite with oneself and leave the daily rush, problems and sedentary life very far away. Rugat is perfect if you are looking to enjoy the surroundings, life and things that make Vall d'Albaida an indoor treasure.

Rugat's location is perfect for total disconnection. The town is located within the mountains, east of Umbria

del Benicadell and surrounded by lovely corners. The mountain ranges of Rugat have an abundant presence of water because of the sources and springs that, along with viewpoints such as El Magro and the Collado overlooking the Sierra Gorda, Benicadell and Rincón del Duque, make up a unique landscape. To this fact, it is necessary to add the elevations with greater altitude of the mountain range, known as the Peñas Llúcies with its brightness after each episode of rain to the volcanic outcrop of Rugat. Within the mountain range where Rugat lives you will

also find recreational areas where you can practice sports (there is a paddle tennis court), make a paella or, if you go with older people, they can also exercise and breathe fresh air.

The village origin campsite

Nature and Rugat have always gone hand in hand. So much so that in 1992, a family from the town decided to open a space where everyone could live the charm of this valldalbaidí town. The Camping Natura is different from the rest because it has a water source inside, a lake where, if you were fond of fishing, you can practice this sport while the rest enjoy adventure activities, swimming pool, hiking trails, climbing, practice Golf or simply relax in the spa area from where the views are unbeatable. A campsite that is located in half a kilometer of Rugat, just where they say that Rugat was formerly.

A gastronomic trip: "Menjars Clareta"

In the number 1 of the Camino Real de Rugat is "Menjars (meals) Clareta", a restaurant where tradition and passion are cooked over low heat to delight diners looking for quality dining at this establishment. Typical dishes of the Vall d'Albaida region and other neighbors, with rice as the protagonist of the menu, have made "Menjars Clareta" a benchmark for Rugat and other neighboring municipalities. Definitely a good place to delight your palate if you visit the town.



SALEM

The heritage of Muslim irrigation

Its name already says a lot: Salem is synonymous with peace and security. And it seems that if you visit this Valldalbaidí town you end up agreeing. Well-being, tranquility and a lot of charm are three of the characteristics of this municipality nestled in the middle of the so-called foia de Salem. Surrounded by mountains, this town of no more than 500 inhabitants is rich in natural heritage, a fact that the botanist Cavanilles already noted a few centuries ago. However, its aquifer richness, the commitment to rural tourism with charming accommodations and the different paths through which you can visit the Umbria of Benicadell, are the main reasons that will take you to visit Salem. But there are many more. And if you go to this beautiful municipality, if you have not gone yet, you will discover them yourself.

The sea arm that breaks in Salem

The source of Elca is the most important and abundant water source of the Salem term. It is the manifestation of an aquifer or 'arm of the sea' that runs through the bowels of the mountains of Mariola, Benicadell and La Safor, and it is in Salem where it finds a break in land where fresh water emerges in the form of a source .

Currently, the source of Elca is a recreational area nestled between the farmland and a lush pine forest. In this

same place an old Roman raft has been unearthed that is part of a complicated and very interesting irrigation system, which, together with an underground cavern or tunnel used for the collection and extraction of gentle water, constitutes a hydraulic architectural set of great historical and demographic value. Thus, the fountain, the raft and the old town of Elca form one of the most important places in Salem, from the archaeological point of view. Its builders would be the founding Arabs of the Alquería de Elca and it is

believed that the raft could be the work of the X-XI centuries, coinciding with the strong development of agricultural activity in the Vall d'Albaida. If you make this route, from the source of Elca you will arrive at the source of the Cantal or Salem Mill (where in the 19th century a gold mine was discovered that almost brought the fever by this metal to the region), nestled in a place of great beauty from where the Micena river is born.

If you go to the source of Elca you do not stop drinking from its water that, in addition to being good for consumption, has many properties for humans.

Rural tourism: a healthy town

Agriculture, espadrille crafts or later the footwear industry, the factory of mineral waters and soft drinks, and now rural tourism. Salem throughout its history, has been adapting to the times and providing new sources of income to its people. The last one is the rural tourism that finds in Salem a town with living conditions and a very healthy level of well-being and tranquility.

The farmhouse Granja de San Miguel is a clear example of the commitment to inland tourism. A comfortable rural hotel where you can enjoy gastronomy, horse riding, relaxation and wellness with the spa and organic products.

Canal houses are other rural accommodations, with 7 apartments in the middle of the mountains, where you can enjoy unbeatable views.

The botanist Josep Antoni Cavanilles already said it

On August 8, of the late 18th century, the Valencian botanist and naturist Antoni Josep Cavanilles y Palop decided to examine the mountain of Benicadell. To do so, he ascended from Salem accompanied by its inhabitants "accustomed to climbing like goats through those cliffs," wrote Cavanilles. It seems that the ascent was hard for the botanist but, once at the summit, Cavanilles defined the panorama as "one of the best views of the entire Kingdom" of Valencia. And if Cavanilles already said it in the eighteenth century, they have continued to ratify the thousands of walkers who ascend to the summit from Salem. This Valldalbaidí town also offers you a large number of marked routes with which you can get to know the rich natural heritage of the salemeros. The SL-CV 140 referred to as 'The heritage of Muslim irrigation', the SL-CV 122 known as 'La senda dels nevaters' or the routes to access the summit of Benicadell among which, the salemeros stand out 'The Cavanilles route'. The panoramic view of the Vall d'Albaida and the neighboring regions that you will see from the highest part of the Hoya de Salem (the Castellet de la Barcella) is indescribable. We assure you that it is worth the effort.



SEMPERE

The little one of the region

A true survivor. This is Sempere, little brother of the towns of the Vall d'Albaida region. With 48 inhabitants, Sempere is the smallest municipality of the 34 towns that make up the Vall and give meaning to this territory. His church of Sant Pere, with that trompe-l'oeil that seems, but is not. Its views of the Bellús reservoir and, from Calvary, to the entire region. And a historical fact, curious anecdote that confronted Mr. Nuñez with La Pobla del Duc. These are three reasons to know Sempere, but as always, it is best to visit it if you have not already done so.

More than a town, a viewpoint

The proximity of Sempere to the Bellús reservoir gives it the title of official viewpoint of this hydrological element that, in times of abundance rain, leaves spectacular views. Sempere also has another viewpoint that is worth visiting. This is the site of the Hermitage of the Holy Christ of Grace, a monumental complex recently recovered and rehabilitated with the neo-Gothic hermitage, the pantheon and the cemetery located on the summit of Calvary that gives access, with the traditional cypress route. It is completed with the esplanade from which you

will enjoy exceptional views of the Vall d'Albaida.

The historical point: Sant Pere against Puebla Franca de Rugat

More than three decades it took to the gentlemen of Sempere (Sant Pere) to obtain the feudal jurisdiction of Cartania, independent town until 1814 and that today is a rural part of the term of Sempere. A legal battle in which they faced the Nuñez (holders of the dominion of Sant Pere) with the town of the Puebla Franca de Rugat, current Pobla del Duc. A conflict that confronted the interests of an

incipient bourgeoisie in the region and the opposition of the feudal ones to belong to the nobility.

The church that deceives the eye of the one who looks at it

Trompe-l'oeil is understood as the technique by which the eye is deceived, using perspective and depth. Thus, if you visit the parish church of Sant Pere you will be deceived by contemplating the cap on the cruise that is in this temple. That of Sempere is an 18th-century church, in a neoclassical style, in which this cap stands out with paintings alluding to the basilica of San Pedro de Roma, using the technique of the trompe-l'oeil. A temple with a five-stage nave, covered by a canyon turn on pilasters that act as buttresses. Also interesting is its arched door and the bell tower of two bodies. The parish church of Sant Pere maintains a close relationship with the

Vatican.

Precisely, the bell tower of the church of Sant Pere rang again in 2013 after more than 40 years in silence. After undergoing an intense restoration the two bells that preside over the highest point of the church. 'Xicoteta', of 1908 and 180 kg, was renamed 'Sant Pere Apostle' and the 'Mater Dolorosa' of 1851 and with more than 250 kg, kept its original name. Thus, after such a long time without sounding, its restoration facilitated the manual touch of these two bronzes and its original sound was recovered, replacing the metallic part with the wood.



TERRATEIG

A genuine and unique town

Those of Terrateig are known by the word 'cagarneres', in reference to the small bird of beautiful singing that looks for the corners with water to rest. All this municipality of la Vall d'Albaida has a special flavor, from the stories that are told in the streets and that pass from mothers to children, to the neighbors who live there and fight to maintain the uniqueness of their people above all. Terrateig has a lot to discover. But we highlight three reasons for you to visit it, if you have not already done so, this town of the raisin: the feast of the Joanet, the trade of "marginador" and Casimir Romero, one of the most beloved terrateigins by the neighbors.

On November 9 they return to the year 1410

Every year, on November 9, Joanet rides from the hermitage to the town of Terrateig to notify his neighbors the arrival to the municipality of Friar Vicent Ferrer. The religious and his faithful look for a place to rest and spend the night and Joanet is responsible for finding accommodation for such an honorable visitor. The 'Joanet' is one of the most unique feasts in Terrateig and most loved by those who live there. A recreation of an episode in the history of

this municipality that dates back to the year 1410 when a farmer, Joanet, met a group of travelers among whom was the friar Vicent Ferrer, today holy.

In addition to providing accommodation, the terrateigins could listen to this Dominican, who climbed on a stone recited a sermon for all attendees. Today this stone remains in the hermitage of the town with a plaque that recalls that there, hundreds of years ago, the patron of Terrateig, St. Vincent Ferrer, preached.



Casimir Romero Garcia, the memory rescuer

Plain and restless person. Casimir Romero Garcia (Terrateig, 1953) is a romantic of those who appreciate the origins of society that we are (whoever loses the origins loses identity)

and they refuse to let time pass and see how the heritage, language, environment and crafts that have defined the inhabitants of these lands for many years, fade over time. That is why Casimir, in the Terrateig of his heart, has been a key figure in the recovery of "La Escaldà (blanch)" of the raisin, along with the 'Correcagarneres' Demon Gang. Stretching from the thread of popular wisdom and documentation, the figures are very revealing: the raisin was the most important activity of the municipality between the media of the XIX and XX centuries, so that there were 40 riurais in the Terrateig term. In the 70s of the last century this practice is lost, which is revived by hand with the impulse of Casimir. Now, the riurau or sequer that was recovered to carry out this annual meeting in the equator of August hosts a monthly cultural event to accommodate traditional trades. A tradition that has served as a model for other neighboring municipalities such as Benicolet and Montitxelvo. But Casimir Romero goes beyond being the master of the raisin, so you can find him guiding herbal excursions in the mountains, sharing a recipe from our grandpas and diving anywhere that can give clues to where we come from.

Office of the past: more than stone, a treasure

Raisin culture, lime kilns and dry stone are part of the past and Terrateig's identity that has been recovering thanks to the selfless task of a group of people involved with what identifies us as a people. The trade of "marginador" (constructions with dry stone) has been key in the development of Terrateig, although, with the passage of time it fell into oblivion. Retaining walls, rafts, terraces ... They are part of the rural heritage that you can find by taking a walk through the surroundings of Terrateig. Being a "marginador" was a hard and very specialized job that positioned this town of Vall d'Albaida as a reference for dry stone.



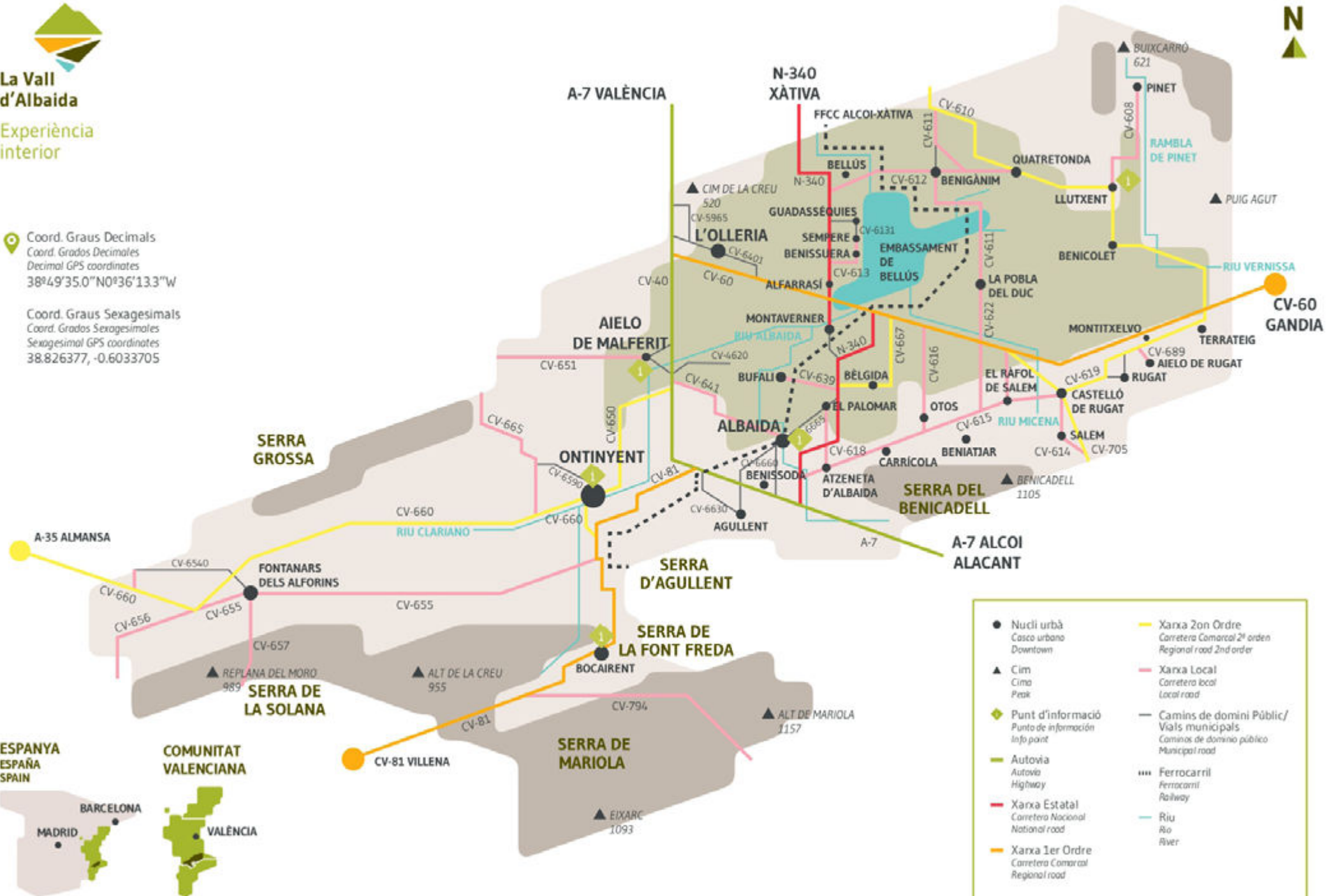


La Vall d'Albaida

Experiència interior

Coord. Graus Decimals
 Coord. Grados Decimales
 Decimal GPS coordinates
 38°49'35.0"N 0°36'13.3"W

Coord. Graus Sexagesimals
 Coord. Grados Sexagesimales
 Sexagesimal GPS coordinates
 38.826377, -0.6033705



Edition: 2020

Design and layout: democràcia estudi

Makes: Santiago Sanchis

He writes: Arantxa Vidal, Olga Pla i Miriam Molina

An idea of: El Periòdic d'Ontinyent per a la Mancomunitat de Municipis de la Vall d'Albaida

Photos: El Periòdic d'Ontinyent, Rafa Jordà, Antonio Bernat, Eduard Gandia,
Mancomunitat de Municipis de la Vall d'Albaida i Ajuntaments de la Vall d'Albaida





**La Vall
d'Albaida**

Inland
experience



Connecta la Vall

*Pla de competitivitat turística
de la Mancomunitat de Municipis
de la Vall d'Albaida*

valldalbaida.com

