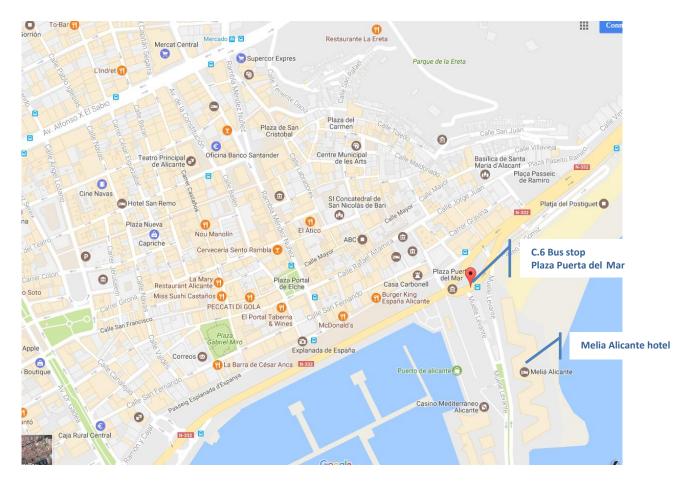
Information sheet on Alicante



How to get from the airport to the hotel

Bus C.6 Aéroport- Alicante runs every 20 minutes from 6:40h to 23:00h, single ticket costs 3,85 Euro. If you stay at Melia Alicante hotel, your bus stop is Plaza Puerta del Mar and it will take a few minutes' walk to get to the hotel. For more information about public transport and the timetable please follow the <u>link</u>.

Points of interest

Santa Bárbara Castle

The origins of the castle date to the 9th century and it was opened to the public in 1963. Lifts have been installed inside the mountain (there is a small charge for the lift but not to enter the castle), and there are refreshments and other amenities at and near the summit. Reasonably fit visitors may also appreciate the exercise of a walk to the top.



L'Ereta Park

L'Ereta Park is situated on the foothills of Mount Benacantil, on the way to the castle. It runs from the Santa Bárbara castle down to the old part of Alicante and consists of several levels, routes, decks and rest stops which offer a panoramic view overlooking the city.



Explanada de España

The promenade *Explanada de España*, lined by palm trees, is paved with 6.5 million marble floor tiles creating a wavy form and is one of the most lovely promenades in Spain. The Promenade extends from the Port of Alicante to the Gran Vía and ends at the famous statue of Mark Hersch. For the people of Alicante, the promenade is the meeting place for the traditional Spanish *paseo*, or stroll along the waterfront in the evenings, and a venue for outdoor musical concerts. At the end of the promenade is a monument by the artist Bañuls of the 19th century.

Barrio de la Santa Cruz

Barrio de la Santa Cruz is a colorful quarter of the old city, situated on the south-west of Santa Bárbara castle. Its small houses climb up the hill leading to the walls and the castle, through narrow streets decorated with flags and tubs of flowers.



El Palmeral Park

El Palmeral Park is one of the favorite parks of Alicante's citizens. It includes walking trails, children's playgrounds, ponds and brooks, picnic tables and an auditorium for concerts.



The Santa María Basilica

This is the oldest church in the city, dating back to the 14th century. It was built upon the ruins of Alicante's largest mosque and has a single, non-cruciform nave with side chapels between the buttresses.

The San Nicolás Co-Cathedral

Co-cathedral of St. Nicholas of Bari is also built over a mosque. It is the main church of Alicante and the bishop's seat. It is built in the Herrerian renaissance style and is located in the heart of the city.

The beaches of Alicante

Some of Alicante's best tourist attractions are its excellent beaches. Year after year they receive the Blue Flag award by the European Union, which earns them well deserved international recognition; San Juan beach, The Cabo de las Huertas coves, Almadraba beach, Albufereta beach, Postiguet beach, Saladares-Urbanova beach, Tabarca Island.

The Port

The Port of Alicante has been reinventing itself since the industrial decline the city suffered in the 1980s (with most mercantile traffic lost to Valencia's harbour). In recent years, the Port Authority has established it as one of the most important ports in Spain for cruises, with 72 calls to port made by cruise ships in 2007 bringing some 80,000 passengers and 30,000 crew to the city each year.[5] The moves to develop the port for more tourism have been welcomed by the city and its residents, but the latest plans to develop an industrial estate in the port have caused great controversy.

Shopping

The province of Alicante is famous for the quality of its leather goods: shoes, bags and accessories. It is also well-known for the quality of items used for decoration such as rugs, wickerwork and traditional pottery. There are a wide range of shops to browse around in Alicante, in the city centre, the numerous shopping malls and also in the open air stalls in different public places, open all year round!

