

The hosts of the Summit of Travel Agencies Associations 2017 are pleased to offer a guided tour of Valencia where the accompanying persons can learn more about the history and culture of the city.



VALENCIA CITY TOUR

Dates: Thursday, 2nd November.

Places still available: from 10:00am to 13:00pm

Valencia is one of the most vibrant cities in Europe, and a fascinating tourist destination where history, tradition and modernity can be enjoyed in equal measure. Roman remains and splendid Gothic architecture share the space with Modernist jewels and the most futuristic buildings, in a city full of surprises.

Its Cathedral is home to the Holy Grail – the only one recognized by the Vatican – whilst the magnificent frescoes found at the Church of San Nicolas have been compared to those in the Sistine Chapel. The compact historic centre contains many other gems, such as La Lonja. The elegant Silk Exchange Building, declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, is a reminder of Valencia's dominant role in the international silk trade in the Middle Ages.

Besides its vast array of historic buildings and museums, Valencia also offers a choice of beaches, a modern Marina, and much more. The green lung of the city is the old Turia riverbed, now converted into nine kilometres of gardens that cut through the centre, with sports and leisure facilities, as well as the spectacular buildings of the City of Arts and Sciences. Just south of the city, the Albufera Natural Park is a haven for birdlife, as well as home to the paddy fields where the rice for Valencia's most international dish – paella – is grown.

This guided tour is a perfect introduction to everything Valencia has to offer.

Highlights of the tour include:

Plaza de la Virgen and the cathedral quarter



Twenty-one centuries of history right at the heart of the city, where you'll find such historical treasures as Valencia's Cathedral with the real Holy Grail, the Micalet bell tower, the Basilica of the Virgin and the Almoyna.

Silk Market and Central Market

Immerse yourself in one of Europe's biggest markets, the Mercado



Central, situated inside a jewel of pre-modernist architecture, and enter one of the most iconic examples of Gothic civil architecture in Europe, the Lonja de la Seda, declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO

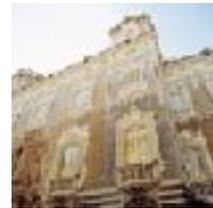


Barrio del Carmen and its mansion houses

This ancient district developed between two walls: the Islamic and the Christian city walls. A wander through its labyrinthic cobbled streets, lined with towering mediaeval buildings, will transport you back in time to another era in history. Enter the mansion houses, cross the mediaeval gates of the Serrano and Quart towers, and meander into every corner.

The Church of San Nicolás de Bari and San Pedro Mártir has recently been restored, revealing a pictorial display that experts have called the Valencian "Sistine Chapel". It is amongst the first twelve Christian parish churches in the city of Valencia following the reconquest by Jaume I in 1238.

The Marqués de dos Aguas Palace is the best example of Spain's Baroque period. Inside, the National Ceramics Museum has unique pieces dating from prehistoric times up to Picasso's era. Furthermore, from the inside you can see how Valencian noble families lived in the 18th century.



Heading towards the art deco area of the city we will pass by the **Town Hall and the Central Station**. **The Town Hall** building represents two very different periods and styles: The Casa de Enseñanza in the interior and the main façade. It was declared a National Historical-Artistic Monument because of the wealth of documents found in the Archives and Municipal History Museum.

La Estación del Norte (Central Station) is a modernist style building, now the city's epicenter for rail travel. Inspired by Valencian agriculture and with many references to the city, its façade combines modernity and tradition, with both local and cosmopolitan elements.



The **Mercado de Colon** is one of the city's most emblematic buildings. Declared a National Monument, it has been restored and re-designed as a cultural and leisure area, with shops, restaurants and cafes.