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Altea

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#VISIT
Altea

Culture and Heritage



The three old town centres of Altea, Altea la Vella and Bellaguarda have conserved the original layout and traditional architecture of their streets and remaining walls. Altea's bastion and Renaissance enclosure (Asset of Cultural Interest) have conserved their original 1617 layout with various gates accessing the fortified enclosure.

Cultural activities are held in this area all year round. Worthy of mention are the Mostra d'Artesania craft fair, the Balconades d'Altea street art exhibition and the Música a Boqueta Nit concerts in summer, and the rest of the year, there are concert series such as the Ruta de les Ermites route, the Baroque Music Week, and local music band concerts and performances at Palau Altea, to mention a few.



Assets of Cultural Interest



The bastion and the Renaissance area, declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in 2013, can be discovered by following the Assets of Cultural Interest route. This area conserves its original 1617 layout. There are four different itineraries on this route:

1. The Bellaguarda neighbourhood
2. La Casa de la Senyoria bastion
3. The Fishermens' Quarters
4. The Portal Nou Gate.

Beaches



The bay of Altea was a pirate and corsair refuge during centuries, and became a thriving commercial area after the town's refoundation. It was discovered by tourism in the late 19th century.

Altea bay was included in the Serra Gelada Natural Park for its great environmental value in 2005. Worthy of mention are its *Posidonia oceánica* seaweed meadows in excellent condition. These real underwater meadows provide shelter for a great diversity of marine life.

Ports



Altea has three marinas besides its fishing port : the Marina Greenwich, the Club Náutico at Altea port and Porto Senso, where activities such as rowing, diving, kayaking, sailing and paddle surfing can be enjoyed.

It is in these ports where you can find the essence of the Mediterranean, where Altea's true character emerges, its respect for the environment, attention to detail and charm.



Diving and Snorkelling



The sea offers an unbeatable setting for water sports in Altea, both on its surface as on its seabed. Protected by the Serra Gelada Natural Park, which provides various snorkelling and diving routes,

the bay of Altea offers snorkelling areas of great ecological value, such as the beaches of La Olla, Cap Negret, Mascarat and La Solsida.



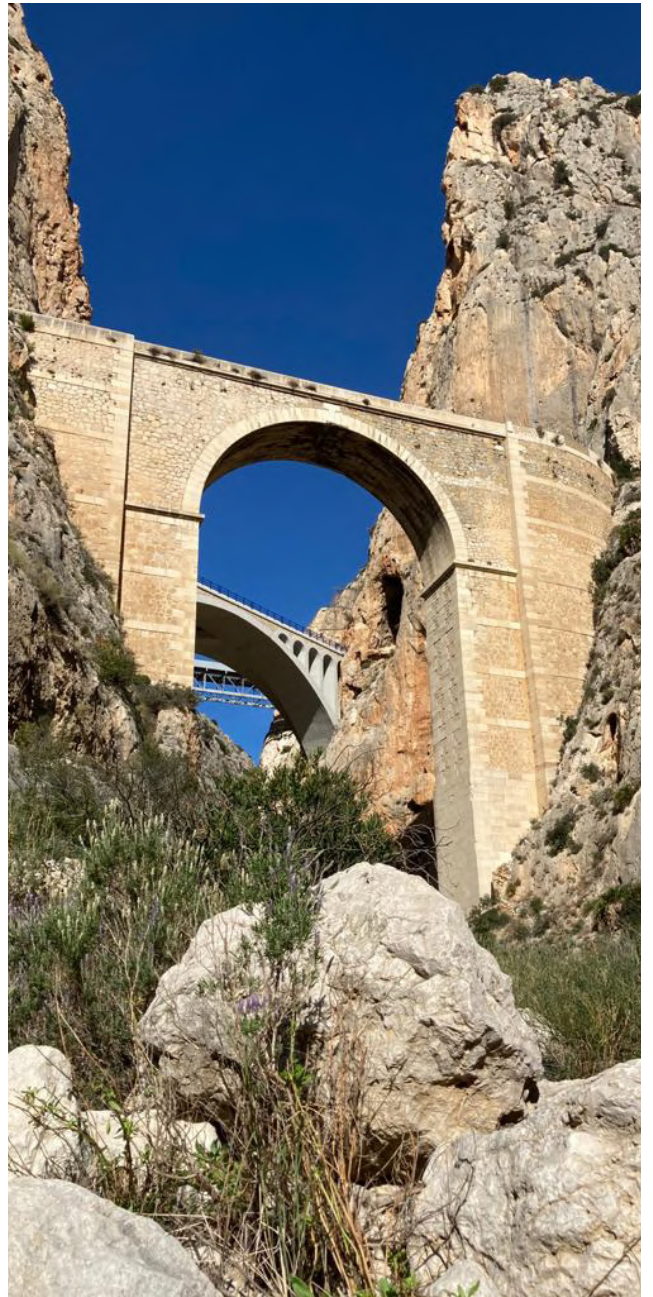
Altea has six diving routes:

- Route 1: Toix
- Route 2: Mascarat
- Route 3: El Collao
- Route 4: La Pileta
- Route 5: La Cueva del Elefante cave
- Route 6: Isla Mitjana Island

Camins d'Altea Walking Routes and the River Algar



Camins d'Altea is a project of five signposted walking routes which offers walkers the opportunity to enjoy and learn about the Altea countryside. Country chapels, monumental trees, ancient flour mills and centuries old irrigation channels, villas and farmhouses may be visited by walking or cycling along these routes. The importance of the river Algar, its wildlife and flora, are described in informative panels and at various observation viewpoints in the area. Its river mouth is a zone of great ecological value due to its importance to migrating birds.



The Sierra Bernia Mountain

With its spectacular landscapes, ancient paths, prehistoric cave paintings and a Renaissance fort, the Sierra Bernia mountain offers every type of walker an endless number of hikes, thanks to its complete network of signposted trails. The paths to the mountain start from Pinos (Benissa), Altea la Vella, Les Fonts de l'Algar (Callosa) or Cases de Bèrnia (Jalón). Diverse informative panels help understand how geological, climatic and biological agents and human beings have created these unique surroundings.

The surprising contrast between the landscape and vegetation of the North side of the mountain with the South side may be observed, together with its spectacular rock formations and terraced landscape declared as a Protected Landscape, where you can hike ancient paths, and visit

prehistoric cave paintings (World Heritage Site), the Bernia Fort (Asset of Cultural Interest) and its flora micro-reserves. Please take precautions when hiking these routes.

Taking water, a camera, boots and adequate clothing is recommended. Please do not leave the paths and trails in order to reduce your environmental impact to the minimum.





Fiestas

Another of Altea's attractions are its fiestas. Worthy of mention are the Moors and Christians festivities which are celebrated together with the Santísimo Cristo del Sagrario fiesta in late September, the Castell de l'Olla firework festival in August and the fiesta of L'Arbret de Sant Joan in June, together with other festivities such as the Santísimo Cristo de la Salud in February and Santa Anna in Altea la Vella in July.



Gastronomy

The Mediterranean cuisine, the panacea diet of our times, has been consumed by the people of Altea since ancient times. Rice dishes and local fresh fish and vegetables are the base of Altea's gastronomy.





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