

Dénia
Historical and Monumental Heritage



Dénia



Modern day Dénia is the heir of very diverse cultures. The Iberian, Roman, Islamic and Christian civilizations left their mark which we can discover by means of its monuments, museums, archaeological ruins and neighbourhoods.
We recommend that you discover Dénia by exploring each of its zones:
Stroll through the city centre, where the main street of Dénia is located, *C/ Marqués de Campo*, with its terraces, shops and buildings of historical interest. The adjacent streets invite you to explore the Municipal Market, the old Raisin Warehouses, the Square: *Plaza del Convento*, the Church: I*glesia de San Antonio*, etc.
Then walk around the Historical City Centre, where you will find the Town Council, the Church: Iglesia de *Nuestra Señora de Loreto*, the Ethnological Museum, etc.
Climb the steps to the Castle and discover its towers, walls and of course, its Archaeological Museum.

In the exterior, "Les Roques" neighbourhood will astonish you with its narrow streets and its low level houses.
Explore Dénia's Fishermen neighbourhood: "Baix la Mar", whose typical streets invite you to breath fresh air and relax.
Stroll around the city's seaside façades with terraces next to the sea, the Sea Museum, the Climate Monument, the Anchor Monument or the *Bous a la Mar* (Running of the Bulls into the Sea) Monument, the former Atarazanas (Dockyard) Buildings, the Cervantes Esplanade and the Lonja (Fish Market), and watch the small fishing boats come and go.
After you have explored the Historical Centre, we recommend that you visit the leisure ports, Dénia's lovely beaches, the Montgó Natural Park and other exceptional natural environments.

History

5th - 1st Century B.C.

IBERIAN AGE
Archaeological ruins in Mt. Montgó:
l'Alt de Benimaquía and la Penya de l'Aguila.

1st B.C. - 6th Century A.D.

ROMAN AGE
The City of Dianium: the redistribution centre of products originating from North Africa and Italy.
Sertorium established his naval base in Dénia in the 1st Century B.C.
Important strategic and commercial port.
1st Century A.D. Dianium became a Roman Municipium.
2nd Century A.D. During the first half of the century, the city reached its maximum splendour.

6th - 8th Century

BYZANTINE / VISIGOTH AGE
From 552 to 624 A.D., Dénia formed a part of the Byzantine province of Spania, which represents Dianium's continuity in the Roman world.
The Visigoths settled in this zone in the 7th Century.
In the Visigoth age, we highlight the establishment of the Episcopal See in Dénia which reported to the Diocese of Toledo.

8th - 13th Century

ISLAMIC AGE
The Islamic Daniya.
Importance of Dénia's Port, source of its major urban development: the Dénia Port was selected as the construction site of the new dockyards for the Caliph's naval fleet.
11th Century: Muyahid seizes control of the Dénia Port's Navy from the zone's troops and is proclaimed Emir.
1086 A.D.: Dénia is converted into a Taifa Kingdom.



13th - 16th Century

MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN AGE
1244: Christian conquest of Dénia by Pere Eximen d'en Carròs (sent by King Jaime I the Conqueror)
14th century: King Pedro III of Aragón appoints his cousin, Alfonso of Aragón as 1st Count of Dénia.
15th century: Juan de Trastamara transfers the county of Dénia to a Castilian family: Sandoval y Rojas. In 1487, Diego Sandoval y Rojas is appointed as the 1st Marquis of Dénia

16th - 18th Century

MODERN AGE
1580: Miguel de Cervantes disembarks in Dénia following his captivity in Algeria.
1604: The Nª Sra de Loreto or Augustine Barefoot Nuns Convent is founded.
1609: Expulsion of the Moriscos (converted Muslim Christians).
17th century: Dénia receives the title of city.
18th century: Construction of the Church: Iglesia de La Asunción and remodelling of the Church: Iglesia de San Antonio.

19th Century

Economic splendour due to the Raisin Trade.
Raisin exports to major European cities.
Construction of the Dénia-Carcajente Railway.
Production of over 400,000 quintales (hundredweight) of raisins by the end of the century.

20th Century

Early 20th Century: Attack of the Grape Phylloxera pest on the grapevines of Dénia.
Development of Agriculture, Industry and Toy Production
Complete opening of the city's main street: Calle Marqués de Campos.
60's Decade: Development of Tourism and the Fishing Industry.

The Castle

Its History

ROMAN AGE
Structures dating back to the Roman Age have been identified in the eastern section of the castle (Galliner Tower).

ISLAMIC AGE
The castle was divided into two concentric premises:
The lower premise was called Al-bacar and was used as a pasture zone and stable for animals. The Alcazaba or "Arab Palace" was located in the upper premises. The Medina or "Arab City" was located in the external part of the castle (southern area).

CHRISTIAN AGE
In 1304, King Jaime II obliged the inhabitants of Dénia to move inside the fortified city walls, which constituted the Vila Vella (Old Town), which endured as the city centre until the Spanish War of Succession (18th Century).

In between the 16th and 17th Centuries in the upper section of the current Governor's Esplanade, a temporary residence was built for the 5th Marquis of Dénia, also Duke of Lerma and Royal Favourite of King Felipe III.

At present where the Palau (Palace) was subsequently located, we can observe the ruins of the Palau Vell or "Old Palace" (14th Century) which can be identified in the walls and in the 5 semicircular towers integrated in these walls, which are located next to the Archaeological Museum.

The ruins of the Palace of the Marquis of Dénía (16th Century) border the stone room, the gallery (both comprise the current Archaeological Museum) and the ruins of its "Imperial" flight of stairs characterized by its inverted "T-shape".

The castle ceased to have a defensive-military function in the 19th Century when it was transferred to private ownership, who dedicated it to raisin cultivation (with terrace embankments in the Vila Vella area), which subsequently returned to public use in the 20th Century.

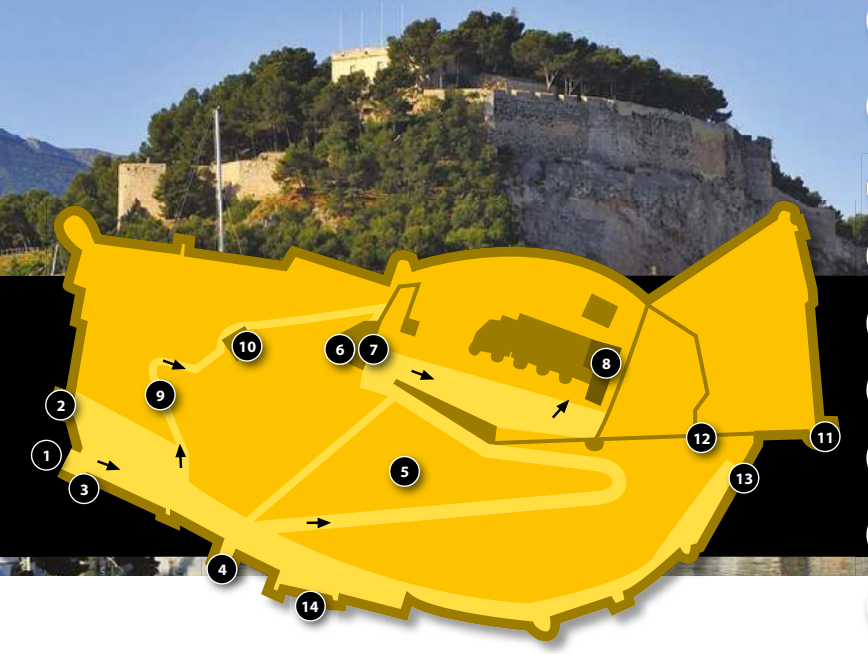
The castle has undergone serious damage during the successive wars whose marks have mingled their history in its walls, towers and rooms.



The Castle

ACCESSES
Carrer Sant Francesc
Access stairways next to the
Town Council (Ayuntamiento)
of Dénia

TIMETABLES. Daily (except 25/12 and 1/01)
Information about timetables and prices in
Dénia Tourist Information Office:
www.denia.net.
Tel. 96 642 23 67 – 96 642 34 20.



1 City Gate. (12th C.)
Access Gate to the castle. It has a barrel vault ceiling and exterior pointed arches with Almohad style.

2 Red Tower. (16th C.)
Built in the local sandstone with a reddish colour.

3 Watch Tower
Originally an Arab tower but extensively remodelled in the 16th-17th Century. It was used to house the Guard Corps jointly with an underground room.

4 Council Tower. (15th C.)
It is undoubtedly the most relevant fortress wall perimeter of the Medieval town, which was used as the meeting point for the former Town Council. In its interior, note its Gothic room with groined vault ceiling.

5 Old Town. (14th C.)
An outdoor area with the ruins of Medieval houses that belonged to the city founded at the beginning of the 14th Century following orders by King Jaime II.

6 Bastion
Defensive Bastion (13th Century), which had the largest size and best defensive position of the entire castle; it controlled the entrance to the Old Town by its main gate.

7 Bastion Gate
Islamic origin. It connected the Al-bacar with the Islamic Alcazaba.
It has 3 arches from 3 different Ages; we highlight its Arab Horseshoe Arch.

8 Governor's Palace
Archaeological Museum. Premises with 190 m2 (17th Century) which comprised part of the Palace complex of the Marquises of Dénia.

9 Stone Road. (14th C.)
Main street of the Old Town which connects to the upper premises of the Palace.

10 Diamond Point. (17th C.)
Defensive Bastion with a Renaissance style and an angular form.

11 *Galliner* Tower
Part of the base which appears to have been built with the local "tosca" sandstone in the Roman Age.

12 *Mig* Tower (11th C.)
It has a rectangular Islamic structure, which was rounded in subsequent Renaissance interventions. It has an interesting access gate in an elbow shape with an Almoravid style (12th Century).

13 King's Gate
This was one of the historical entrances to the old town (East access) which connected to the Port and raval del mar (Maritime neighbourhood.

14 Interpretation Centre.

Archaeological Museum

Located in the Castle interior in the ruins of the Governor's Palace.
It displays the evolution of the city since its origins until the 18th Century. It is laid out in 4 rooms corresponding to the Iberian, Roman, Islamic and Christian Ages. We highlight the balsam jar which represents the god, Mercury (2nd Century B.C.), the collection of Islamic bronze statues or the Andalusian ceramic artefacts which were locally produced or imported.

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Ethnological Museum



C/ Cavallers. Historical City Centre.
Located in a typical 19th Century Bourgeoisie house, it exhibits the evolution of the Raisin Trade in the 19th Century and its effects on the city's development. The main rooms are located on the first floor where you may observe the luxurious clothing and precious antiques. Decorated with Isabelline furniture from the reign of Queen Isabel II (1843-1868), the salon has a polychrome ceramic tile floor from Manises.
In the upper floor, we can explore the Raisin industry: the plantation, drying and blanching of
the grapes, as well its maritime export to American and European markets.

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NOTE: Linked to the Raisin Trade, we can find buildings located in the historical city centre where the former Raisin Warehouses are located such as the "Almacén de Morand" in C/La Mar and the English Cooperative Wholesale Society in calle Cándida Carbonell on the corner of Plaza del Convento. The initials, C.W.S. are still conserved in the grilles of three of its windows.

Toy Museum and "L'Estació" (The Station) Art Centre

C/ Calderón. Both are located in the former Dénia-Carcaixent Railway Station.
Ground Floor: "L'Estació" Art Centre with Temporary Exhibits. Please query exhibits.
First Floor: Toy Museum. It displays a fascinating sample of the toy production in Dénia since its origins (1904) until the 60's decade.
The earliest industry manufactured lithographed tin toys; then wooden toy factories were subsequently founded as well as metal toy factories which were the delight of children of that age; the sector reached a total of over 40 factories, a dense network of small workshops and diverse complementary industries which configured the Dénia map where the toy was the engine of the majority of its economy.
The traditional toys (sail boats, carriages, lorries trains, etc.) coexist with other novelties imported from the Disney Factory.

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Sea museum

It is located in the facilities of the old fish market located in front of "Explanada Cervantes".
Tel. 96 642 02 60

This museum has more than 400 archaeological and ethnological pieces, related to the sea, dating from the 6th century B.C. until the early 20th century.

Accessible building.
More information in Dénia Tourist Information Office:
www.denia.net
Tel. 96 642 23 67 – 96 642 34 20.

Places of Interest

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Ruins of the city walls of Daniya-La Medina and El Fortí.
At the end of the Avenue: Paseo Saladar you may observe part of the Northeast wall of the Muslim Fortress (Fortí) of Daniya, which has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.

It formed part of the Arab City Neighbourhood (arrabal de la medina). There is documentation about the existence of a tower with a rectangular base, from the Northeast angle of the premises, where large rammed earth walls join, with a deep foundation, bench and wall with a width of 1.85m.

The Arab City Neighbourhood known as "rabad amir" in Arab sources, has a trapezoidal layout. It occupied a 12 hectare space southeast of the Medina and was enclosed with a solid wall. It was connected to this wall by means of a bridge.

In one of the angles of the maritime façade, there was a now demolished tower: Torre d'En Carròs which signalled and controlled the Port space.



RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

Church: Iglesia de La Asunción
Plaza de la Constitución, next to the Town Council.
It is a very moderate Baroque style (18th Century), which underwent subsequent remodelling.

It was erected in the site where the ancient San Roque Sanctuary, Hospital and several houses were discovered. It suffered major damage during the Spanish War of Independence and the Civil War and was rebuilt in 1939.

It has a Latin Cross floor plan inscribed in a rectangle. In the exterior, we highlight the worship niche which is located above the Roser Chapel doorway, which contains a modern image of Sant Roc (St. Roque). In the interior of Church, note the images of the Virgin Mary, a polychrome image of the Assumption -, and on both sides, St. Vicente Ferrer and St. Vicente Mártir, the two Patron Saints of Valencia.



Timetable. Within the liturgical activities schedule.

Church: Iglesia de San Antonio.
Plaza del Convento. It corresponds to an architectural complex from by the Convento de San Antonio de Padua (Convent of St. Anthony of Padua) –a Franciscan Order Foundation in the 16th Century -, the church was built many years later (first half of the 17th Century) and the Square (17th Century). This complex suffered serious damage in the Spanish War of Succession, the War of Independence against the French and the Civil War.

It has a doorway with a Doric order, where we highlight the worship niche which contains a modern image of St. Anthony of Padua. It has a floor plan with a Latin Cross shape, Inscribed in rectangle with a nave and 8 lateral chapels.
The vertical section is arranged with pilasters of a Doric order on pedestals. In its interior, we highlight its large enamelled cross with Biblical scenes which decorate the main altar.
Of the rest of the Convent premises attached to the Church, only the ruins of the cloister and façade remain. Timetable. Within the liturgical activities schedule.

The Convent and the Church: La Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Loreto o Iglesia de las Agustinas (Our Lady of Loreto) or the Augustine Nun Church.

Calle Loreto. Historical City Centre.

Only the church can be visited since the Convent is a foundation of cloistered Augustine nuns (1604).

It was inaugurated by initiative of the Nobleman Francisco Sandoval y Rojas – Marquis of Dénia, Duke of Lerma and Favourite of King Felipe III- which was attended by the King of Spain, Felipe III. The architectural complex is comprised by the Church, cloister and the south wing of the cloister. The exterior is austere and moderate. In the main altar, we find the altarpiece: "Santísima Sangre" (Holy Blood). The image of Virgen de los Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows), is a contemporary Wood image sculpted in melis (yellow pine) wood in early 1941.
Timetable. Within the liturgical activities schedule.

CIVIL BUILDINGS

Town Council.
Plaza de la Constitución. Historical City Centre. Although its origin dates back to the 17th Century, we currently observe the result of a major refurbishment which took place in early 19th Century. We highlight the equilibrium of its façade made with the local "tosca" sandstone, with six solid semi-circular arches.

In its main façade and on the façade of the street: calle hospital, there are two Roman inscriptions originated from the Forum of Dianium, as well as the two pedestals from the same Age located in the access stairways to the C/Hospital.

Les Drassanes or Antiguas Atarazanas (The Old Dockyards).
Located in the Port in the Square: Plaza de les Drassanes. It is currently used for private purposes (hotel).

Their origin dates back to the 13th Century when King Jaime I donated the lands to the Templar Knight, Guillermo de Cardona, to build the installations required for the seafarer population. It was used for the construction of ships and underwent a major refurbishment in the 18th Century.

Building with a rectangular floor plan, with two-sloped Arab tile roof.

LOCAL STREETS, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND NATIVE SETTINGS.

Street: Calle Marqués de Campo.
The city's main street as well as business and shopping centre of Dénia. It is named after the Marquis Jose Campo, an important celebrity of the 19th Century who carried out major improvements in the city.

Among its buildings, we highlight the one located in nº 17, the former "El Comercio" Hotel, built in 1888, with 3 floors. Note its façade decorated with ceramic tiles from Portugal with polychrome and geometric motifs. In the interior, we highlight the elegant stair case, the ironworks, the decorative elements of the floor and baseboards tiles, the central patio's skylight, and the indoor carpentry work.

Also worthy of attention is the building located in nº 7 of this street (on the corner with nº 11 of the street: calle Diana), built at the end of the 19th Century and remodelled in the 20th where we are amazed by the quality of its materials, balconies, handrails, etc.

The Cervantes Esplanade.
Noted for its typical Palm trees, it is located in front of the Maritime Façade of Dénia. It is named after the famous Spanish author, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, who disembarked in Dénia following his captivity in Algeria in 1580. The Bust of Cervantes was erected in homage to him at the end of the promenade.

In front of the Cervantes Esplanade and semi-concealed by the vegetation, we find the Climate Monument represented by a woman in homage to the mild climate of, Dénia, whose yearly average temperature is around 20ºC.



Baix la Mar or Fishermen's Neighbourhood

This sailors' and fishermen's neighbourhood arose in the 16th century, where we highlight its narrow streets and low-level houses with Mediterranean colours.
This neighbourhood has always been linked to the sea since it was surrounded with dock warehouses and maritime trade businesses until the 70's decade.
The majority of its streets are pedestrian zones, note its small squares: "Sant Antoni" and "La Creu". The latter square is interesting because of the stone cross which gives its name to this square and the religious panels of the 18th Century.

In the route between both squares, there is a playmobile sculpture which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the shooting of the film, John Paul Jones, in Dénia.
The maritime façade of the Baix la Mar neighbourhood is also a zone for strolls and terraces with views of the small local port: El Portet –at the end in the North jetty, there is the Anchor Monument which renders homage to the fishing tradition of Dénia; it was discovered in its waters. A few meters away, there is the "Bous a la Mar" (Running of the Bulls into the Sea) Monument, a holiday which has been declared of national tourist interest which is celebrated in July.



Les Roques Neighbourhood
This neighbourhood was built in the outskirts of the castle throughout the 19th and 20th Centuries. It is one of the city's oldest districts where part of the Medina was located in the Islamic Age. It does not have monumental buildings but we highlight the overall characteristics of its simple and popular Mediterranean architecture. We recommend a visit to the streets: C/ Hospital, San Francisco, San Cristóbal, Guante and Salto.

Historical City Centre. The area formed by the streets: Calles Cavallers, Loreto, Sant Josep, Major and adjacent streets are famous for their Noble Estate Houses, the majority built from the 19th Century until the early 20th Century. The Arab Marina extends through Les Roques neighbourhood as well as this zone. Note the width of some of the doors of the old Noblemen's Houses, since in former times, the rear part of the houses are where the inhabitants entered with their carriages (Example: In the alley streets of San Pascual and San Antonio)
Calle Cavallers is one of the oldest "fora mur" or "extramuro" (outside the city wall) streets of the neighbourhood with well conserved Noble Estate Houses. The city's Ethnological Museum address is nº1. In the adjacent Calle Major, a plaque displays the birthplace home of the Dénia Historian, Roc Chabàs.
Calle Loreto is a pedestrian street where the Convent and the Church: Iglesia de Nª Sra. De Loreto are located as well as a great place for the local "tapas" (Spanish snacks).

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Visit the local and street markets:
Municipal Market.
C/Magallanes, from Monday to Saturday mornings.
Fruit and vegetable market.
Friday. Consult location.
The "Lonja" (Fish Market).
Port of Dénia. Arrival of fishing boats in the afternoon, auction and subsequent sale.
The weekly Street Market.
Monday mornings in the Explanada Torrecremada.
The Antique and 2nd Hand Objects Market (Rastro).
Friday mornings in the Explanada Torrecremada.
The Street Market in Spring and Summer.
Maritime façade (in front of Bellavista Str.) during the afternoons-nights of Spring (weekends) and Summer (daily).

Enjoy Dénia's lovely beaches: In LAS MARINAS, long sandy beaches: Punta del Raset, Les Marines, Les Bovetes, Els Molins, L'Almadrava (sand and boulders) and Les Deveses.
In LAS ROTAS: The sandy beach: La Marineta Cassiana and the rocky coves: El Trampolí, la Punta Negra and Arenetes.

Explore the paths in the Montgó Natural Park, with over 650 plant species; you may discover diverse caves and even climb the summit at a height of 753 m. Besides Dénia, you will find other natural environments with conditioned trails.

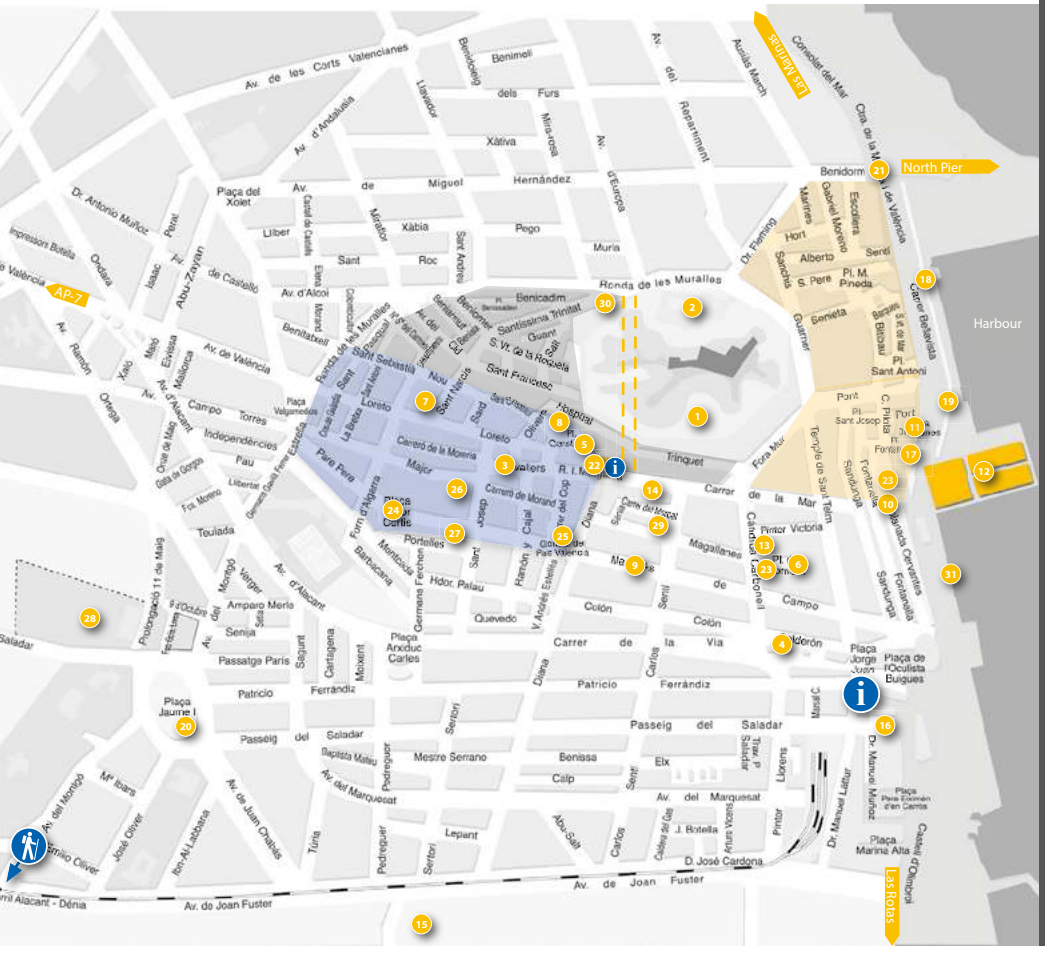
Visit the Sanctuaries (Ermitas) of Dénia scattered around the municipality and outside the Historical City centre. The Sanctuary: Ermita del Pare Pere, linked to the life of the religious frair usually remains open. The "Ermitas de Conquista" (Conquest Sanctuaries) (14th-16th Centuries) include: Ermita de San Juan, Santa Paula and Santa Lucía. They usually remain closed except on the Patron Saint's day, when the pilgrimage is celebrated as well as religious and recreational events.

Visit the Yacht Ports. The local Yacht Port: *El Portet* (North Jetty), the Nautical Club and *Marina de Dénia* (South Jetty).

In addition: Cultural activities, and festivities throughout the entire year, nautical and land sports, health spas and a gastronomy which will astonish you with typical dishes such as the seafood paella ("arroz a banda") the red shrimp of Dénia, sea urchins, dried octopus, etc.



Additional information in the Dénia Tourist Information Office or by means of its web page: www.denia.net.


Av. de les Corts Valencianes
Benimoli
Av. d'Andalusia
Xàtiva
Av. de Miguel Hernández
Plaça del Xolet
Dr. Antonio Muñoz
Liber
Xàbia
Pego
Sant Roc
Muria
Av. d'Alcoi
Ronda de les Murallas
Benicadim
Santíssima Trinitat
Guant
S. Vt. de la Roqueta
Sant Francesc
Sant Sebastià
Av. de València
Campo
Torres
Independències
Pau
Loreto
Carreró de la Moreria
Major
Carrer de Morand
Portelles
Teulada
Tinglet
Carrer de la Mar
Pintor Victoria
Magallanes
Colón
Quevedo
Carrer de la Via
Plaça Arxiduc Carles
Passatge París
Patricio
Ferrándiz
Plaça Jaume I
Passeig del Saladar
Mestre Serrano
Benissa
Calp
Av. del Marquesat
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J. Botella
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Harbour
Cabanes
Les Marines
Cl. Pintora
Pl. Sant Antoni
Pl. Sant Josep
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