

Alicante



4th Edition!

Costa Blanca - Spain Travel Guide

by Hubert Keil
www.Alicante-Spain.com

This is

Edition No. 4

of the Free Alicante Travel Guide.

We try to keep this Travel Guide as up to date as possible.

Please check out our website for the latest version here:

<http://www.alicante-spain.com/alicante-latest-edition>

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Welcome to Alicante!

When we moved with our family to Alicante some years ago, we started a little website mostly for our friends who might visit us. Quickly it became more and more popular and we received many questions from tourists around the world who were looking for some additional information on Alicante and other cities around the Costa Blanca.

We started expanding our website covering other cities around the Costa Blanca. With information on Benidorm, Denia, Calpe, Torreveja and many others www.alicante-spain.com has become increasingly popular.

In order to give you as much practical and hand's-on information as possible, we put this little ALICANTE TRAVEL GUIDE together. It is meant to give you a ONE-DAY-TOUR of the city, where you can enjoy most of the beautiful places around. In addition we added important addresses and telephone numbers of airlines, taxi and the various consulates, so you have something in hand when you arrive here for your next holiday.

All the best and enjoy Alicante and the Costa Blanca,

Hubert Keil and Family

The Author HUBERT KEIL

German born Hubert Keil runs a marketing company and lives with his Spanish born wife Gloria and her daughter Anna, in a suburb of Alicante. For many years he has run an internet site about the Costa Blanca area, giving tips for travellers and residents.



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Alicante and the Costa Blanca

The Sun Lover's Paradise

If you have chosen the Costa Blanca, Spain for your holiday travel, supposedly it is because it has been recommended to you by someone you trust, you have read about it and seems quite amazing and/or just love being in contact with nature, the natural environment that it offers, relaxation and fresh air. Wow! What a fantastic combination if you can get all that together.

The Costa Blanca is synonymous to sun and fun in the coastal area of the Mediterranean Sea, running north to south or south to north, you can begin your holiday travel either way.

This belongs to the Province of Alicante, starting in the town of Denia and reaching to Pilar de la Horadada or Torrevieja as the last important town in the province, and part of the Community of Valencia.

As the name tells us, the White Coast is thanks to all the white, clean sandy beaches, the white washed buildings and the sunny weather which brightens all its villas that are at your disposal to enjoy such as Javea, Moraira, Altea, Benidorm, Alicante City and Torrevieja.

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Alicante

How to explore it in one day

Just coming back from a short business trip to London, we were sitting together with friends in our garden in the Alicante suburb of San Juan on a warm summer evening. Whilst sitting together I mentioned the request from the escapartist for an Alicante article which I received some days before. You should write about “Alicante and how to explore it in one day” my wife said, because traditional Costa Blanca tourists really won’t have much interest in the city but more in the beaches, villages and bars around the area.

Imagine some of you will come over and spend these summer holidays around the Costa Blanca in places like Benidorm, Torrevieja, Denia or Calpe. After two month of sunbathing and party at night, you finally get your act together and do a one day visit to Alicante just to be able to tell the loved once at home that you have seen some culture and arts as well.

Come and join me for a foot walk around Alicante

Before we start a quick overview. Alicante, with about 325.000 habitants lies about 6 hours down from Barcelona along the Mediterranean coast of Spain. Within the summer months about 6 million tourists visit the Costa Blanca area. Depending on different sources, about 4.5 Mio come from the U.K. alone. Cities like Benidorm (population 60.000) host up to 4 Mio visitors every year. Alicante is the second largest city in the province of Valencia.



The city is best explored by foot starting at the harbour area, where many parking areas are available. So we leave our car next to the Melia Hotel right on the harbour entrance. (A quick tip at the beginning, if you arrive at Alicante Airport you can get a very good Alicante map right at the tourist information centre at the arrival hall.)

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Just behind the Melia Hotel at the foot of the Santa Barbara Castle you find the beach of Postiguet, where at the end of our little walk through Alicante, we will have our sunbath. But let's go on and get some culture and historical buildings to see.

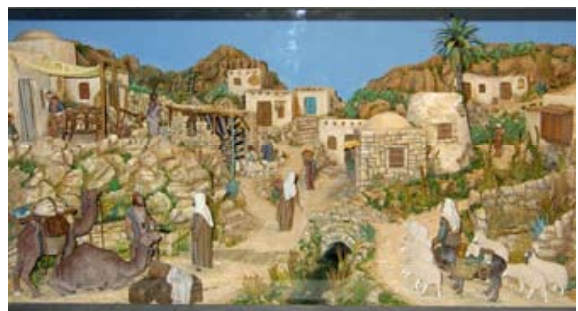


Directly in front of the Melia Hotel we enter a little road which brings us to the Plaza del Ayuntamiento, which means Plaza of the City Hall. Alicante's city hall was originally built in 1688 by the French, later heavily damaged and rebuilt in the 18th century. Guided by two 35 metre. tall towers, the city halls stairs measures the "Cero-Point" concerning sea level. All measurements of height in Spain refer to this "cero-point" as base for their calculations. Within the city hall you can visit the blue salon with its wonderful mirror gallery (Monday to Saturdays). Just passing the city hall at the right you will find the Plaza de Santissima Faz, a lovely little area surrounded by palm trees.



The Nativity Scene Museum

A little bit further, particularly if you are with children, you should visit the nativity scene museum at San Augustin Street. I have to admit it is a rather strange feeling to watch Christmas cribs around the summer time, but it's worth it. The museum contains such a variety of hundreds of different scenes and figures from all over the world, that it will impress every visitor. As entrance is free, just have a look you will not regret it.



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Just around the corner from the nativity museum, you will find the concathedral of San Nicolás de Bari. With the neighbour city of Orihuela being the residence of the bishop of the province, Alicante got a “sub-cathedral” granted by Pope John XXIII in 1959. With an impressive 45 metre high blue dome the concathedral the building is one of the landmarks of Alicante. At one of the two entrances you will find a sculpture of the holy Nicolas done in black marble.



Just when you walk out of the old city centre of Alicante and pass the rather modern street of Rambla de Mendez Nunez, you should enter the Avenida Del Teatro. There you will find Alicante’s huge theatre with massive roman style columns guiding the entrance. Just the right place for a pleasant evening entertainment, by the way.



Walking down in the harbour direction, you will find the Plaza Nueva Alicante. Here you will find a little aquarium within lovely plaza. The modern display sits within palm trees and an alley. Just the right place to have a break in one of the bars around, enjoying the sun.

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Alicante Bars and Parks

I think now is the best time to take a break from our traditional Alicante sightseeing tour and leave the path of historic buildings and museums. There are so many different churches, museums and places particularly around the old city centre, which you can spend many days discovering them. However, as you might visit the city during the rather hot summer months allow me to have a little step back and go up to the Plaza de C. Sotelo.



The lovely garden is the ideal rest place and the best starting point for a little shopping tour in Alicante.

Right at the opposite you will find the El Corte Ingles, the famous Spanish department store chain with an impressive outlet. Not that you might just go there for shopping, but as it is air-conditioned it might just be the right thing to “cool things down” a little. So after a nice “shopping-rest” just coming out of the El Corte Ingles, we walk the Avenida Doctor Gadea down to the harbour area.



Next to statue of D. Eleuterio Maisonnave former minister of state and famous sun of the city of Alicante, the Avenida guides you down to the harbour with beautiful flowers along the way.



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It is this kind of alleys you find all around Alicante and make the city such a wonderful place for a walk around.

The city is full with peaceful places and gardens its all up to you if you prefer going for the quiet site of Alicante. Down the Avenida Doctor Gandea we reach the harbour area again.



Before turning left to where we came from, you should visit the Panoramis shopping mall directly at the harbour. Just when you go there you will pass the Real Club de Regatas the royal regatta club. If you are lucky you mind even see members of the Spanish royal family, who sometimes spend some time here.

Similar to an American style shopping mall, the Panoramis offers you a breathtaking view over the Alicante harbour area. With a huge variety of different restaurants, most of them with perfect view over the city, it is a lovely point of reference for every walk around the city.

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Finally we turn back to the area around the Melia Hotel, where we started our walk through Alicante.

Along the harbour at the Paseo Explanada de Espana our way takes us in between an alley of palm trees right back.



Further sightseeing tips on Alicante

Having completed more or less our walk through Alicante which might take anything in between 4 to 6 hours, there are obviously many more things to see and visit around this impressive city. Among others you could go up the castle of Santa Barbara (take the car to get there if



it's too hot), see the bullfighting ring or visit the Park Ruiz de Alda north of Alicante just to name a view. However you might reconsider your plans when you are actually visiting the Costa Blanca area, because above everything stands usually the beach, the sand and the sea.

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Videos



More Information including two short videos about Alicante and the Castle of Santa Barbara can be found on our website at

www.alicante-spain.com/alicante.html

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Important Directions and Phone Numbers

Tourist Office - Oficina de Turismo

Various offices at different locations throughout Alicante, airport, train and central bus station.



City Hall - Ayuntamiento Alicante

Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1 - Alicante
Tel: 965 14 91 00



Alicante Main Train Station - RENFE

Avenida de Salamanca, s/n - Alicante
Tel: 965 92 38 50



Local Train Station -F.G.V (Ferrocarriles de la Generalitat Valenciana)

Connecting Alicante with Denia along the Coastline
Avenida Villajoyosa 2
Alicante
Tel: 965 26 29 43

Central Bus Station - Estacion de Autobuses

Calle Portugal - Alicante
Tel: 965 13 07 00



Taxi

Radio Taxi	Tel: 965 13 07 00
Tele Taxi	Tel: 965 10 16 11
Area Taxi	Tel: 965 91 05 91
Euro Taxi Menusvalidos (for handicapped)	Tel: 965 91 05 74



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Important Directions and Phone Numbers



Shopping Centers

Boulevard Plaza	Avda. de la Estación	965 92 84 40
Panoramis	Muelle de Poniente, 6	965 98 93 00
El Corte Inglés	Avda. Maisonnave, 53	901 122 122
El Corte Inglés	Avda. Federico Soto, 1	901 122 122
Puerta de Alicante	Avda. Alcalde L. Carbonell	965 112 169
Centro Comercial Gran Vía	C. José García Sellés 2	965 25 06 42
Plaza Mar 2	Avda. Denia, 1	965 159 523
Mercado Central	Avda. Alfonso X el Sabio, 1	965 14 07 63



Consulate Alicante and Costa Blanca

Algeria	AVDA. EUSEBIO SEMPERE, 14 ALICANTE	Tel: 965 22 99 44
Germany	PLAZA CALVO SOTELO 1 - 2 ALICANTE	Tel: 965 21 70 60
Belgium	AVDA. CATEDRÁTICO SOLER, 8 ALICANTE	Tel: 965 92 91 47
Brasil	C/. REYES CATÓLICOS, 26 - 3º ALICANTE	Tel: 965 92 28 52
Danmark	PLAZA DE CALVO SOTELO, 3 - 7º ALICANTE	Tel: 965 20 79 38
Finland	C/. VIKINGOS, 4 BENIDORM	Tel: 965 85 35 99
France	C/. ARQUITECTO MOREL, 8 ENTLO ALICANTE	Tel: 965 92 18 36
Guatemala	C/. LOS ÁLAMOS, 24 SAN JUAN	Tel: 965 65 55 94
Island	AVDA. MEDITERRÁNEO, C. FLORES, BENIDORM	Tel: 965 85 08 63
Italy	C/. REYES CATÓLICOS, 24 ALICANTE	Tel: 965 22 19 45
Luxemborg	AVDA. JUAN BAUTISTA LAFORA, 3-4º CALICANTE	Tel: 965 20 53 33
Morocco	DUQUE DE ZARAGOZA, 4 ALICANTE	Tel: 965 21 85 20
Mexico	AVDA. DOCTOR GADEA, 9 ENTLO ALICANTE	Tel: 965 22 93 14
Monaco	EXPLANADA DE ESPAÑA, 29 ALICANTE	Tel: 965 21 83 00
Norway	AVDA. RAMÓN Y CAJAL, 3 ALICANTE	Tel: 965 21 84 12
Netherlands	C/. CASTAÑOS, 29 - 1º ALICANTE	Tel: 965 21 21 75
GBR&N.Ireland	PLAZA CALVO SOTELO, 1 - 2 ALICANTE	Tel: 965 21 60 22
GBR&N.Ireland	C/. RUZAFÁ, 5. EDIF. PARÍS, 1º BENIDORM	Tel: 965 85 01 13
DominicanRep.	C/. ÁNGEL LOZANO, 15 - 6º D ALICANTE	Tel: 965 14 13 52
Switzerland	EXPLANADA DE ESPAÑA, 29 ALICANTE	Tel: 965 21 83 00

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Important Directions and Phone Numbers

Hospital De Alicante

C/ Pintor Baeza, s/n
03010 Alicante
Tel: 965 93 83 00



Pharmacies

More than 50 pharmacies located in and around Alicante.
One additional Pharmacy located in the arrival building of Alicante
Airport (Tel: 966 91 94 19).

Local Police - Policia Local

Avda. Julian Besteiro, 15
03008 Alicante
Tfno.: 965 10 72 00
Local Police Tel: 092



National Police - Policia Nacional

National Police Tel: 091

Guardia Civil

Guardia Civil Tel: 062

Emergencies 112

Firefighter 085



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Important Airlines at Alicante Airport or Direct

Aerlingus	Repres. Swissport	965 255 120
Air Algerie	Airline	965 682 871
Air Berlin	Airline	965 683 780
Air Europa	Airline	965 682 364
Air Finland	Repres. AGA	965 682 610
Air Nostrum	Airline	902 400 500
BMI Baby	Repres. Swissport	966 919 617
British Airways	Repres. Iberia	902 111 333
Brussels Airlines	Airline	807 220 003
Bulgaria Air	Repres. Iberia	902 199 839
Cimber Sterling	Airline	+45 70 10 1218
Easyjet	Airline	966 919 279
Flybe	Airline	44 1392 268 510
Iberia	Airline	902 400 500
Iberworld	Repres. Iberia	971 076 622
Iceland Express	Repres. Servidal	966 919 139
Jet2.com	Airline	965 688 688
Jetairfly	Airline	+32 702 200 00
Monarch Airlines	Repres. Iberia	966 919 305
Norwegian	Repres. Swissport	966 919 617
Ryanair	Airline	807 110 162
SAS	Airline	807 112 117
Siberia Airlines	Airline	+7(495)777-99-99
Spanair	Airline	902 131 415
Thomas Cook Belg	Repres. Swissport	966 919 617
Thomas Cook UK	Airline	+44 871 230 2406
Thomsonfly	Repres. Iberia	966 919 107
Transaero	Repres. Servisair	966 919 192
Transavia.com	Repres. Servisair	966 919 192
TUIFly	Repres. Iberia	902 012 512
Vueling	Repres. AGA	965 682 610
Wizz Air Hungary	Airline	807 450 010

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Shops/Restaurant/Cafe/Banking Service at the Airport

Airport Change 1	Banking Service	Departure	Public Area	966 919 089
Airport Change 2	Banking Service	Arrival	Restricted Area	966 919 090
Banesto Cash Machine	Banking Service	Departure	Public Area	-
BBVA(Servired)	Banking Service	Arrival	Public Area	-
CAM (4B) Cash Machine	Banking Service	Arrival	Public Area	-
Caja Madrid(Servired)	Banking Service	Departure	Public Area	-
Bill Bentley Pub	Restaurant-Cafe	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 025
Cafeteria Recyg	Restaurant-Cafe	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 313
Cafeteria Recyg	Restaurant-Cafe	Departure	Public Area	966 919 504
Haagen Dazs	Restaurant-Cafe	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 027
Plantaciones	Restaurant-Cafe	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 261
Autoservicio Mediterr.	Restaurant-Cafe	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 261
Burger King	Restaurant-Cafe	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 025
Restaurante El Palmeral	Restaurant-Cafe	Departure	Public Area	966 919 261
Divers - Sweets	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 253
Gran Bouquet	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 539
Shoetopia	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 244
Shopping in Store	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	965 680 538
Aldeasa (Duty Free)	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	965 680 538
Divers	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 253
Crystal Music	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 533
News and Books	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 099
Relay	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 099
Alicantón (Gift Shop)	Shop	Arrival	Public Area	
Warner Bros (Gift Shop)	Shop	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 539
Estanco (Tabakshop)	Shop	Departure	Public Area	966 919 352



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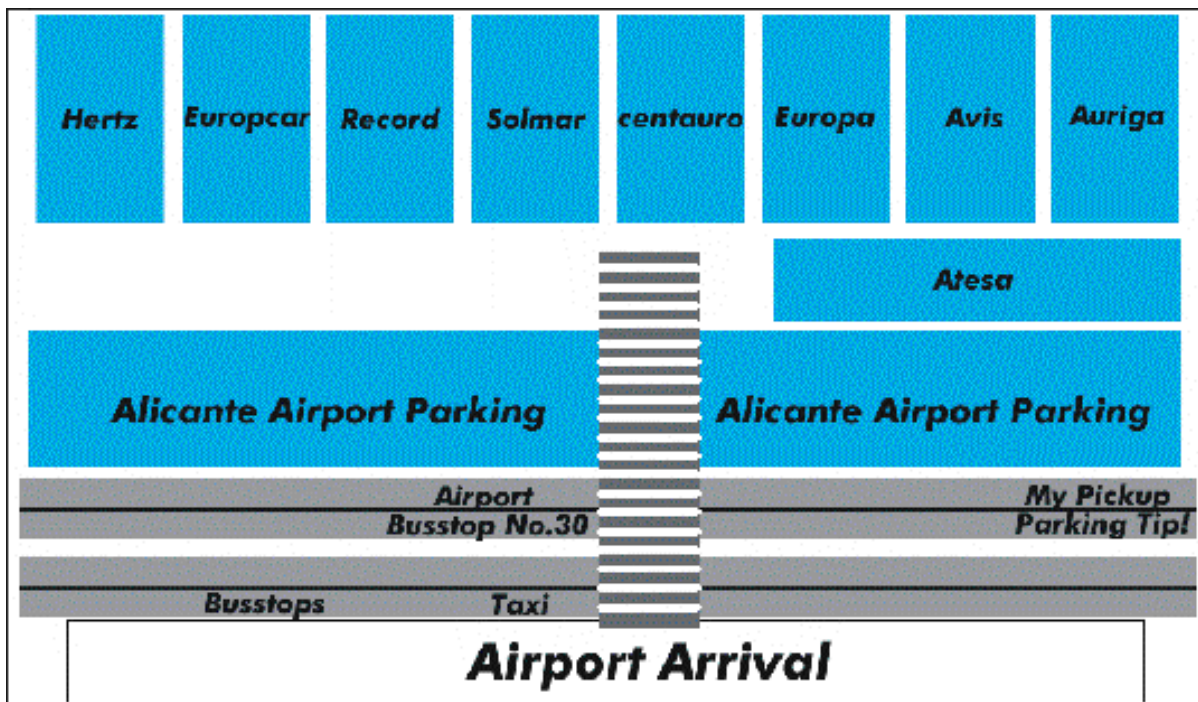
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Rental Car Companies at the Airport

Name	Typ	Location	Zone	Area	Telephone
Atesa	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 682 526
Auriga	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 687 918
Avis	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 286 579
Centauro	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 241
Europcar	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 682 770
Europa Car	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	965 683 362
Hertz	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 125
Record	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 016
Sol-Mar	Car Rental	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 280

Rental Car parking at the Airport



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Long Term Parking around Alicante Airport

Name	Typ	Telephone
Roberto Torrellano (Bacarot)	Long Term Parking	609 614 297
Claus Parking	Long Term Parking	965 68 09 41
Global Cars	Long Term Parking	966 49 03 56
Lucadi	Long Term Parking	965 68 75 10
Parking "Oskars"	Long Term Parking	965 68 52 00
New Parking "El Altet"	Long Term Parking	965 97 02 97
Royal Parking	Long Term Parking	965 68 33 60
Aupa parking	Long Term Parking	965 68 77 16
Umbrellaparking	Long Term Parking	627 608 858
Lowcostparking	Long Term Parking	966 44 28 83



Public Service / Information / Emergency

Name	Typ	Telephone
Visa Card - credit card loss	Public Service	913 626 200
Mastercard - credit card loss	Public Service	913 626 200
American Express - cr.card loss	Public Service	915 720 303
Red 6000 - credit card loss	Public Service	915 965 335
Servi Red - credit card loss	Public Service	915 192 100
Taxi - Alicante	Public Service	965 252 511
Taxi - Elche	Public Service	965 427 777



Name	Typ	Location	Zone	Area	Telephone
Pharmacy (open 10-14h, 16-20h)	Shop	Airport P1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 419
Airport Information Desk Aena	Information	Airport P1	Departure	Restricted Area	966 919 100
Airport Information Desk Aena	Information	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 100
Tourist Information Center	Information	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 367
Air Europa	Luggage Handling	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 017
Iberia Handling	Luggage Handling	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 126
Ineuropa Handling	Luggage Handling	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 498
Spanair	Luggage Handling	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	966 919 407
Local Police & lost&found	Public Service	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	966 919 100
First Aid - Red Cross	Public Service	Airport P0	Departure	Public Area	913 354 545
Postal Service (open 9h to 13h)	Public Service	Airport P-1	Arrival	Public Area	900 506 070

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Further Related Resources



Alicante Airport

The airport in Alicante is located around 10 km south of the city. To get more details on [Alicante El Atlet Airport](#). (Click here for further information)

Finding [cheap flights to Alicante](#). (Click here for further information)



Car Hire Tips at the Alicante Airport

Reliable and inexpensive [car hire with pickup and drop directly in Alicante and at the Airport](#). (Click here for further information)



Finding Hotels

Large variety of [hotel offers in and around the Costa Blanca and Alicante](#). (Click here for further information).



Alicante Airport Buses to Downtown or Cities around the Costa Blanca

How to get from [Alicante airport to Benidorm and around the Costa Blanca by bus](#). (Click here for further information).

Find further resources and links to Benidorm related information please visit

www.alicante-spain.com/alicante-resources

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Get More Free Travel Guides!

We really hope you found this Travel Guide useful!

Over the past years we have published lots of news and information on Alicante and other cities around the Costa Blanca region on our website. Putting some of the information on paper has been a challenge.

As we keep on publishing short free travel guides on Spain and particularly the Costa Blanca region, we invite you to join our free newsletter (or ezine or whatever you call it), where we bring you short tips on what to do and what to see at your next visit to Spain.



As a bonus, all readers of our newsletter receive our free travel guides. Would be great to have you in our little “Costa Blanca friends” group!

Additional information on how to get your copy of the free newsletter and our other free travel guide ebooks, can be found here:

www.alicante-spain.com/free-alicante-newsletter