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Valencia Spain – What A Great Travel Experience

By Rob Carlton

Valencia, dating back to 137 B.C., is what we now know as Valencia, Spain. If there was any

confusion as to where Valencia is or what it is known for, the city's renovation with breathtaking architecture turned into museums, aquariums and Imax cinemas plus the hosting of the world famous America's Cup 2007 has definitely put it on the map. Valencia has gone through all kinds of cultures, taking advantage of each one's contributions, from the Romans through the Arabs, the Catholic Kings with Ferdinand and Isabel, the dictatorship of Franco up to the democratic Spain which now exists. All of this and all that is happening nowadays is what has made Valencia, Spain what it is today and what it will be tomorrow.

Starting in the 70's, this Mediterranean city began hosting important congresses, now even better equipped with the new vanguard Music Auditorium and Congress hall built in 1988 in the old river-bed of the Turia River. A little further down the river-bed, you will find an impressive group of four white modern buildings, each one offering beauty to the eyes from the outside and an eye-opening experience on the inside. This is the biggest cultural free time resort within a city in all Europe.

The City of the Arts and Science consists of:

1.The Oceanographic Park A spectacular revelation of the different phases of marine life, bringing what was once far away and unknown, close to the human eye.

2.Hemispheric Planetarium Brought about so that once again, the spectator can experiment for themselves the attractive sensations of what space is all about. Through the most modern technology with Imax cinemas and laser shows, you are brought so close to outer space through impacting images and sounds.

3.The Prince Philip Science Museum This was designed to house permanent science theme related expositions and modern technology.

4.The Arts Palace This building will soon be completed and will be destined to the creation and diffusion of the scenic arts.

Heaps of fun for everyone in Valencia

There are so many other attractions for everyone's likings, all located inside the city centre and very easy to get to by bus, metro or car hire, such as the IVAM (Valencian Institute of Modern Art), Guillen de Castro Street no. 118, open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. It usually costs 2 euros but Sundays and holidays are free. The Palace of the Marquee of Dos Aguas, found in a beautifully decorated alabaster building on the outside and typical Valencian ceramic and horse carriages on the inside. It is found on Poeta Querol Street no. 2, open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 to 2, from 4 to 8 but Sundays and holidays only from 10 to 2. Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings it is free and on the other days it costs 2.50 euros. But do not stop here, visit one of the many tourist offices within the city centre and get free information and timetable for all.

Las Fallas, the most popular street celebration in Valencia dating back to the 16th century is quite an

event. It is celebrated from March 15th to 19th, where during five long days and nights you can enjoy seeing over 350 huge carton monuments on almost every corner, religious parades made up of the local lads and lassies dressed in beautiful brocade vestiments, offering bouquets of flowers to the Virgen Mary. All this can be seen in and around the Basilica Square where the flowers are artistically made into the Virgen's cape, with the baby Jesus held in her arms. But if you could not plan your visit or flight for these days, there is a fantastic Fallas Museum in the Monteolivete Square no. 4 which is the home of the most voted figures which have been saved from being burnt, which is the highlight of this celebration.

Valencia, Spain and its sea adventure

All that has been mentioned before has been and will continue to be part of this city's life for a long time, but the Americas Cup 2007, the most important yachting and sailing event in the world will only happen once. So if you are still planning some fantastic vacations and want a lot of new thrills, catch a flight to Valencia and book your hotel early to make sure that your holidays will be smooth sailing!

The freelance writer R. Carltan distributed a lot of articles for

<http://www.valencia-information.com>

an

online source of information. Robert is mostly focusing on travel advice around the City of Valencia and the spanish costal areas around.

Surprises In Valencia Spain

By Ciara McNamara

I have been an avid visitor on my holiday to the city of Valencia since 1980, and only noticed slight

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improvements and changes as far as its tourist offers were concerned, but in the last five or six years, this city has so much to do that I find myself travelling there whenever I can. I have always been fascinated by the Saint Joseph Festival of Fallas, then came the opening of the first buildings in the complex called 'The City of the Arts and Sciences', with the last building just recently opened. But living on the coast, you indirectly get caught in the tidal wave of sailing and the Americas Cup event which started in Valencia on 26th of November 2003 and which has brought many people into the world of navigating. Yearly Valencia Happenings Valencia Fallas is a yearly happening which reaches its highest points on the night of March 19th after having initiated the beginning on March 15th with stunning carton monuments on almost every corner, half hour long fireworks every night, historical parades of the Moorish in the streets and the local people dressed up in their best brocade traditional outfits in a jovial religious procession bringing flowers to the Virgin of the Unsheltered (the Patron Saint of Valencia).

Another 'not to be missed' permanent attraction is the architecture which houses the now complete City of the Arts and Sciences. There are four main buildings:

+ Oceanographic– with over 45,000 samples of 500 different species of underwater life including a special tank with sharks which you can walk under.

+ Museum of the Sciences Prince Philip– where you can participate in all kinds of experiments and learn a lot more about biology and genetics.

+ The Hemispheric– where you can sit back, choose and enjoy any of the three audio–visual shows, either at the Planetarium, the Laserium or on the gigantic screen watching documentaries where you feel you are an active part.

+ The Queen Sophia Palace of Arts - this was just opened in October 2005 with the presence of the Queen. Here, all visitors will be honoured with performing arts in theatre, opera and all kinds of dance exhibitions. Let's Monkey around in Valencia Spain If you are planning to travel to Valencia for whatever holiday at the end of next year, you will find yourself with the new Valencia Zoo or BioPark situated in a new green area and housing among other animals, over 250 species from the African savannah. Its to be 14 times bigger than the existing one and will take approximately six hours to see it all, but do not worry because the weather in Valencia is sunny and mild in winter. The young and old will be able to enjoy seeing the natural habitats of all these different animals that one usually cannot contemplate unless you actually travel there.

In 2006, there will also be more fleet and match races with the Americas Cup. Valencia will have three more Louis Vuitton Acts starting in May and continuing on into autumn. The port area will have undergone a big change and you can leisurely stroll around to get a close up view of the competing boats. There is also an official store where you can get all the seafaring attire your heart desires.

With all these new activities, the Valencia Airport has been making important improvements and has been gradually increasing its offer of flights from all over the world. There are new hotels and better

transport for all those who wish to be an important part of Valencia Spain.

Ciara McNamara distributes very often to the information source at

<http://www.valencia-information.com>

. The writer is writing on subjects such as Valencia Spain (

<http://www.valencia-information.com>

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