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– **Your Ultimate Travel Guide for Alicante Spain** -

Welcome to Alicante and Costa Blanca

Dear traveler,

Welcome to the first issue of **Alicante Postcards** E-zine. The purpose of our Newsletter is to provide you useful information about Alicante – a charming city on the Mediterranean coast of Spain. Here you can learn more about attractive tourist destinations in Alicante area and Costa Blanca. That will help prepare your vacations better.

Besides interesting tourist tips, getting our E-zine you can stay in touch with the summer magic of Spain and sunny Alicante. Each issue of **Alicante Postcards** has a special gift for you - a **free online gallery** with colorful photos for your collection. In this first issue, we invite you to take a walk along Alicante harbor and enjoy nice images of boats, blue sky and the sea.

Receiving new issues of our Newsletter is easy. Please, visit our website and subscribe for free.

Alicante postcards is published on the **first Thursday** each month in the evening. As an E-zine subscriber, you will get a notification e-mail whenever a new issue is released, together with a specially coded link towards new free galleries.

www.holidays-in-alicante-spain.com Selected Pages

About Alicante

<http://www.holidays-in-alicante-spain.com/about-alicante.html>

Before deciding to spend your holidays here, you should check some facts about Alicante. Our town is an ancient Mediterranean port in the southern part of the Valencia province. Alicante history was ...

Alicante Postiguet beach

<http://www.holidays-in-alicante-spain.com/alicante-postiguet-beach.html>

The beach of Postiguet (Playa del Postiguet) is situated near the center of Alicante Old Town. One minute of walk from the City Hall and just few meters from Hotel Meliá, it is found at the base of Benacantil hill ...

Cabo de las Huertas

<http://www.holidays-in-alicante-spain.com/alicante-cabo-beach.html>

If you are looking for something really unique, the rocky **Alicante Cabo beach** is your choice. Situated between Albufereta and San Juan, it forms a part of very peaceful residential area with beautiful ...

Alicante Parks - Green Oases on a Dry Landscape



Several years ago, in November 2003, I came to live in Alicante. Before that I was studying in Germany for more than three years, trying to accommodate myself to usually rainy or snowy cold weather. Berlin wished me “bon voyage” with a heavy rain and Alicante welcomed me with blue sky and the sun. While landing to Alicante airport, I could see a lot of summer houses around the city, each of them with a garden and a swimming-pool. The landscape looked very dry, almost African, and the vegetation scarce – it reminded me to my previous holidays in hot Namibia.

Today (2009), I have been living here for more than five years working as a lecturer at the University of Alicante. During all that time, the city fascinated me with its diversity and numerous opportunities to have fun and enjoy great weather. Situated between kilometres of splendid sandy beaches and rocky mountain landscape, Alicante offers a unique combination of modern lifestyle and rich historical heritage. Here, you can taste the true Spanish flavour and enjoy the Mediterranean.

Do you speak Spanish?

- ¿ Hablas español ?

Good morning - **Buenos días**

Good evening - **Buenas tardes**

Good night - **Buenas noches**

Good luck - **¡ Buena suerte !**



In this article, I would like to give you a comment about Alicante parks. Why parks? Because, in the middle of summer, Alicante could be so hot that you really need to find a good shade in the midday. And, Alicante offers you several nice locations where you can relax under the palm trees. Despite its warm climate and a dry landscape, there are large green areas in the city. Parks in Alicante are usually quiet, set apart from the busy city center. You can find a place to relax, enjoy Mediterranean vegetation and spend some time in recreational activities. During warm summer days, a lot of people gather there, playing with their children, walking with their dogs, sitting in the shade of palm trees, reading newspapers or enjoying the conversation.

Alicante Parks - Green Oases on a Dry Landscape – continuation from page 2

The most fascinating green area of the city is not a park but a fantastic promenade along the harbor. **Explanada de España promenade** is our favorite walkway, always full of people. It connects the old headquarter building of the University of Alicante on one side and **Hotel Meliá with Postiguet beach** on the other side. People usually approach it from Rambla Avenue or from the Old Town. You will easily recognize it by its mosaic pavement forming a repeating three-colored geometric pattern imitating sea waves.

Along Explanada, there are several rows of palm trees separating its pathways and forming a good shade. Its numerous restaurants and pizzerias are ideal places to have dinner. During daytime, you can refresh yourself taking a juice or an ice cream, or perhaps having a fast snack in Subway, McDonald's and in Turkish or Chinese restaurants. You can also entertain yourself watching the



Castle of Santa Barbara, Alicante

performances of the street artists or buy some typical souvenirs in one of the stands.

In the continuation of Explanada, you will find **Canalejas Park** - the oldest one in the city. Situated near the harbor of Alicante, Canalejas Park connects the center of Alicante with Regatta club and **Panoramis complex**, a place of leisure and entertainment. In front of it, there is a thematic park for kids with a Roman town and other attractions. People usually reach Canalejas Park walking along the Explanada promenade or going down the Doctor Gadea Avenue. The entrances of the park are guarded by two pairs of interesting stone sculptures - one of dogs and other of lions. Inside the park you can find several pretty sculptures and fountains and relax in the shade of giant old trees. Each year, at the end of February, Canalejas Park is full of young people celebrating the **Carnival** during the night.

The next two green areas are parts of much larger cultural monuments - **Alicante castles**. Visiting our fabulous castles you can get in touch with Alicante millennium past. On the top of Mount Benacantil, you can see the **Castle of Saint Barbara (Santa Barbara)**. It is the most distinguished landmark of the city, dominating the Alicante landscape from its privileged location. The castle offers breathtaking views of Alicante bay and countryside. Here, you can make a lot of fantastic photos for your collection.

I prefer reaching the castle by foot, passing by a picturesque suburb **Barrio de Santa Cruz (Holy Cross)**. This suburb is full with small old houses painted in white and narrow streets full of flowers. There are also two important sacral monuments: chapel of Santa Cruz and St Rocco. Arriving to the slopes of the mount, you enter **Park Ereta** that gradually climbs up to the fort. At the park entrance you will find Alicante Water Museum. Climbing up its terraced walkway, you can enjoy stunning views over the city and its harbor. In sunny days you can also easily see a tiny island of Tabarca on the south, in front of the coastal town of Santa Pola.



San Fernando Castle, Alicante

If you want to take a break, there is a nice restaurant with a spectacular panoramic view over the Old Town, as well as modern exhibition hall in a harmonic relation with the surrounding nature.

Another castle in Alicante is **Castillo de San Fernando**. Today, the castle is a sightseeing spot and a place of rest and leisure. It is a smaller and lower one - quite easily reached by foot. As it is situated in the center of Alicante, you can go there whenever you need a break (be aware that climbing up the larger castle of Santa Barbara IS a real challenge). Castle of San Fernando is placed close to the railway station RENFE and the Maisonnave Avenue. You can easily reach it from the beautiful circular **Plaza de los Luceros** (plaza Estels), walking to the northwest along the General Marva Avenue.

Alicante Parks - Green Oases on a Dry Landscape – continuation from page 3

“Alicante history was turbulent and dynamic. It was home of Iberians and Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans. Later on, it was a witness of Arab conquest and the Spanish Reconquista.”

Climbing up the stairs, you will first see the Institute of Jorge Juan. Behind it there are other educational institutes, like Colegio de Huérfanos de Ferroviarios. On the eastern side, you can find the monument to the heroes of the Spanish War of Independence against Napoleon. Nearby is the main complex of this fortification with its Lion gate. In front of the walls, you can relax in a quiet **Park of Tossal hill**. You will meet with families, a lot of children, people walking with their dogs or jogging. If you want to stay in a good shape, try open-air fitness facilities. For photo enthusiasts - from this castle you have a great view over the larger castle of Santa Barbara.

An the southern exit of Alicante, you can find **El Palmeral**. This amazing park is situated between Alicante harbor and Urbanova beach; usually reached by car (well, I go there by bike). It has hundreds of palm trees and other exotic plants, impressive waterfalls, boating ponds and wooden bridges. El Palmeral is a favorite picnic area where a lot of families enjoy a delightful atmosphere and numerous playground facilities for children. During the summer, there are regular family events

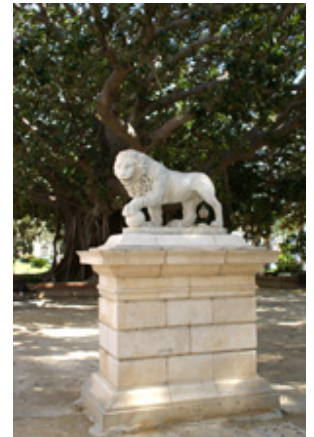
like marionettes performances, presented in its auditorium.

And, that is not all. There are also other interesting parks, but normally not visited by tourists. One of them is the **Garden of Quijano** with the Panteon. It is placed on Plaza España square, near the bullfighting ring **Plaza de Toros**. In front of the park, there are several bus stops. You will see a lot of people in front of it, waiting for the bus, but almost none of them entering the park. Please, do not just pass by - go inside and visit its nice monument.

Another interesting park is **Park Lo Morant**. It is the largest green area in Alicante that is planned as a single park. It is situated in the north of the city, near the suburbs Virgen del Remedio and Ciudad Jardin. This one is my favorite - that is because I live nearby. I like to go there in the evening to run or to have a walk with my dog. It is always full of people that live in neighboring streets - families having a picnic, youngsters playing soccer or basketball, older people taking a walk. However, as Lo Morant park is not situated close to the city center, you will most probably never go there.

Finally, one of the best planned and maintained green areas of Alicante is its **University** campus. If you are an international student participating Erasmus-Socrates student exchange program, you will be amazed.

Describing the University of Alicante would need a new lengthy article. With its huge park, contemporary architecture, libraries, congress halls, sport facilities and the museum, our University is the most impressive monument of modern life in Alicante.



“Situated between kilometres of splendid sandy beaches and rocky mountain landscape, the countryside of Alicante Costa Blanca offers endless sightseeing opportunities.”

New gallery of selected Alicante photos

In this issue of *Alicante Postcards* E-zine we invite you to visit our new gallery featuring eye-catching Alicante harbor. Situated in the center of the city, it is surrounded by modern Marina Complex with numerous restaurants and bars, beautiful Explanada promenade and Alicante Regata Club with Panoramis entertainment center. The harbor of Alicante always attracts visitors. You can take a slow walk and enjoy sunny weather, sit in one of the bars watching numerous white boats and even take a boat-tour around the harbor. Families with children can visit a small thematic park for kids with Roman Town and other attractions.

Please, visit our website and take a look on this new collection of photos. The URL is:

<http://www.holidays-in-alicante-spain.com/alicante-photos-ezine01.html>

This first issue of *Alicante Postcards* E-zine is visible to all visitors of **Holidays in Alicante Spain** website. Future issues will be made available only to the subscribers. If you like our galleries and articles, please fill in the corresponding form that can be found at:

<http://www.holidays-in-alicante-spain.com/alicante-postcards.html>

We wish you all the best and have a nice time in Alicante Spain,
Igor Vragovic and the members of **Holidays in Alicante Spain** team



“One of the first things you will notice in Alicante is that the city is full of diverse bars, pubs and restaurants. Whether in the city center or in suburbs, you can have a snack or take a coffee in almost every street.”

Holidays in Alicante Spain

FREE E-zine
*Your Ultimate Travel
Guide for Alicante Spain*



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Travel to Alicante

By air:

AENA - Aeropuertos Españoles y Navegación Aérea

http://www.aena.es/csee/Satellite?pagename=Home&Language=EN_GB



By train:

Alicante train station: Avda. de Salamanca (Avenue), 03005 Alicante. Tel: +34 902 240 202

RENFE Spain company

<http://www.renfe.es/horarios/english/index.html>



By bus:

Alicante Bus Station: Portugal street 17, Alicante. Tel: +34 965 130 700

ALSA transport company

http://www.alsa.es/portal/site/Alsa?portal.alsa.request.locale=en_GB



By boat:

Ferries between Alicante and Ibiza, Palma de Mallorca and Oran, as well as Algeria.

Port of Alicante: Muelle de Poniente 11, Alicante. Tel: +34 965 130 095



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