

Article of the month:

- Taking You on a Stroll Through Old Alicante 2 - 3



E-zine Highlights:

Welcome to Alicante	1
Selected Pages	1
Alicante etymology	4
New Gallery	5
Chinese restaurants	6

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– Your Ultimate Travel Guide for Alicante Spain -

Welcome to Alicante and Costa Blanca

Dear traveler,

this issue of **Alicante Postcards** E-zine brings you the magic of colorful Alicante festival Hogueras de San Juan 2009. This year, the celebrations were hot and lively. During almost three weeks, thousands of people were enjoying parties every day and every night.

For this occasion, we offer you two interesting articles. One takes you on

a stroll through Old Alicante. Another one is a contribution by Anne from Andalucia – a wonderful fairytale about the name of Alicante.

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

Costa Blanca Holidays

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

Costa Blanca (White Coast) is situated on the Mediterranean coast of Spain in Alicante province, between Denia on the north and Torrevieja on the south. Costa Blanca became very popular travel destinations among ...

Holidays in Benidorm

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

Benidorm is one of the most visited tourist destinations on the Spanish coast. During the last 40 years, it has grown from a small village into a modern vibrant city.

Javea (Xabia)

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

Javea (Xabia) is a small seaside town and very popular holiday resort in the northern part of Alicante province. It is placed between the capes of Nao and San Antonio about 80 km away of Alicante.



Taking You on a Stroll Through Old Alicante

Alicante - Akra Leuka - Lucentum - Al-Luqentum

Known as a city of light, Alicante is situated in the southern part of the Valencia province. This ancient Mediterranean port, survived and evolved, from its turbulent history.

Founded initially by the Iberians. The Romans and Phoenicians also desired to possess it - and invaded. Because of its most valuable location, Alicante was a major participant in historical events, after the Moorish conquest.

During the Spanish Reconquista, the city had an even bigger role in Spanish history. One legendary character that immediately springs to mind is: El Cid.

Alicante has become a favourite summer destination.

Get in touch with its Millennium Past.

Travel Through Time: come and visit Alicante's museums and castles with me.

The starting point of our journey is MARQ - Archeology Museum of Alicante.

Its permanent exhibition shows a huge collection of archaeological fragments, unearthed in local sites. Educational videos are displayed in each thematic room. You can learn a lot about the everyday life of the Stone Ages. Iberian and Roman eras are also unveiled, taking you up to Medieval Times.

The largest part of archaeological treasure shown in MARQ, was found in Lucentum. The remains of the Roman city are located behind the Albufereta beach.

Lucentum was an important trading center, experiencing its greatest development during the rule of Octavian Augustus, when it was granted the status of municipality.

Visiting this archaeological site, you can see large parts of its protective walls, two public baths, necropolis, private villas with mosaic floor, as well as many other buildings along the main streets.

The fabulous Castle of Santa Barbara is our next stop.

It is the most distinguished landmark of the city, situated, on the top of Mount Benacantil, above the Old Town and Postiguet beach.

The castle is Muslim in origin - built in the ninth century, its role was as an important strategic fortification.



Can you show me where it is on the map?

- ¿Puede indicarme dónde está en el mapa?

I am leaving tomorrow. Please prepare the bill.

- Me voy mañana. ¿Me hace la cuenta, por favor?

Taking You on a Stroll Through Old Alicante – continuation from page 2

The Christians conquered Santa Barbara more than 400 years later. It was taken on December 4th, 1248, by Castilian King Alfonso X.

It so happened - that on that day - it was festivity of Saint Barbara. The castle was renamed in her honour. Today, the castle of Santa Barbara is one of the largest medieval fortresses of Spain, offering you, breathtaking views of Alicante bay and its countryside. Within its massive walls, you can see the cannons and old artifacts. The administrative and military complex is well worth visiting. Walk along its walls and towers. Peer downwards...

Below the castle, on the side of Mount Benacantil, there is the beautiful Ereta park. Like a snake, its pathway gradually ascends up-and-up to the fort.

Next to the park, is the picturesque suburb: Barrio de Santa Cruz (Holy Cross). Its narrow streets have an abundance of blooming

flowers. The surrounding small, old, whitewashed houses evoke the sensation of being in El Albaicin of Granada or in a miniature Pueblo Blanco of Andalusia.

If you are the curious sort, why not go down to the Postiguet beach. Once you're there, look up to the castle.

Observe the left part of the Benacantil mountain, just below the tower. It looks like a human face - in profile.

THIS is the famous '**The Moor's Face**', also represented on Alicante's coat of arms.

Finally, we ascend the smaller Castle of San Fernando, situated close to the Plaza Luceros.

San Fernando is a relatively new fortification, built at the beginning of the 19th century, on Tossal hill. It was designed, to act as a tough buttress, in the defence of Alicante against Napoleon Bonaparte's French invasion. BUT, it turned out that a new castle,

did not help - a lot.

Today, this is a place of rest and leisure. It transformed into an esteemed, sightseeing spot, with exquisite views that span over the city.

Modern Alicante has Unique Charm - it is a Sui Generis!

Costa Blanca has beautiful, sandy beaches, there are sweeping avenues, attractive shops and commercial centres, all kinds of restaurants and numerous bars and clubs with excellent music. All are great tempters for visitors and residents.

Furthermore, Alicante is a renowned city of festivals: they are organized - all year round. Wear crazy costumes during the Carnival in February, experience first hand the spirit of Easter during Semana Santa (Holy Week) or participate in the vibrant fun of the vivid, instant memory-invoking (San Juan's), St John's Bonfires' in June. *One of the Best Festivals in Spain.*



The Fascinating Etymology of 'Alicante'

ALICANTE - The City of Light

Iberians: Akra Leuka
 Greeks and Phoenicians: Leukon Teijos (city of light)
 Romans: Lucentum
 Moors: in the initial stage Al-Luqentum with the following derivatives : Alacant and finally, Alicante.

Alicante and the Young Lovers' Legend

Cántara was the daughter of the reigning Caliph. Her beauty was extraordinary.

Two young nobles, Aly and Almanzor fell madly in love with her and presented themselves as possible marriage candidates.

Her bewildered father, could not decide, which of the two aristocrats were more satisfactory for his daughter's hand...

A Task

To resolve the impasse he set the young men, to undertake a specific task. Allah would determine their fates.

Almanzor, decided to go off to the Indies, to fill his boats with rare spices.

Aly promised to dig a big water channel, thus bringing water to Alicante from Tibi.

Almanzor sailed off in all haste.

Aly didn't quite apply the same energy to his promised task. Instead, he wrote love poetry to Cántara. His prose woke an undying passion within her. Each day she was more attached to Aly, till finally, she was madly and passionately in love with him.

She wouldn't hear about the 'set' tasks yet to be resolved. She and Aly were undeniable soul-mates. Aly was the man of her dreams.

BUT Almanzor's Ships Returned...

The Caliph was a man of his word.

When Almanzor came to claim Cántara: he granted Almanzor, his daughter in marriage.

Aly despaired when he heard the news. All was lost, there was nothing left to live for...he flung himself off a ravine. (Legend claims that very spot, is where the Tibi Pantano was built, several centuries later.)

Cántara had no desire to live without her beloved Aly. She hurled herself from the Risco de San Julián, which later became

known as the Salto de la Mora (the Moorish Queen's Leap).

The Caliph's Words

Nothing had served the Caliph - in keeping his promise. He died broken-hearted. Anonymously, or *strangely*, his image appeared etched on Monte Benacantil.

The Court was profoundly shocked when they heard of this disaster.

To immortalize the two: Aly and Cántara's names were joined, denominating the lover's city as 'Alicante.'

This romantic fairytale was provided by Anne from

www.andalucia-andalusia.com

in May 2009.



New gallery of selected Alicante photos

In this issue of *Alicante Postcards* E-zine, we welcome you to Hogueras de San Juan (St John Bonfires) festival 2009. Take a look on nice photos of Ninots - titanic-sized puppets made of paper and wood. Very often their value runs into thousands of euros. At the end of the festival, they are all burnt at midnight during an amazing party with music and fireworks.

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-ezine03-c12t45h78.html>

This third issue of *Alicante Postcards* E-zine is visible only to our subscribers. If it happens that you got this PDF Newsletter from someone, we hope that you also like our galleries and articles. We invite you to visit our website and subscribe to our Newsletter . Just 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



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<i>Emergencias</i>	112
<i>Guardia Civil</i>	062
<i>Oficina de Guardia Civil</i>	900 10 10 62
<i>Policía Local</i>	092
<i>Policía Nacional</i>	091
<i>Comisaría de Policía</i>	965 14 88 88
<i>Depósito Vehículos</i>	965 14 95 22
<i>Hospital General</i>	965 93 83 00
<i>Hospital Universitario</i>	965 93 87 00
<i>Jefatura Provincial de Tráfico</i>	965 12 54 66
<i>TAM (buses)</i>	965 14 09 36
<i>Diputación Provincial</i>	965 12 13 00
<i>Agencia Tributaria</i>	965 14 97 00
<i>Mercado Central</i>	965 14 07 63
<i>Bomberos Emergencias</i>	080
<i>Bomberos (fire brigade)</i>	965 98 22 22

Holidays in Alicante Spain

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Chinese Alicante restaurants:

There are more than twenty Chinese restaurants in Alicante. They are very popular and always full of people in the evening. The food is very good and the prices are low. Chinese restaurants are the favourite choice of both locals and foreigners.



• Ciudad Imperial

- *Address:* Gravina street 12, 03002 Alicante Spain
- *Tel:* +34 965 218 049
- close to Explanada Promenade and Postiguet beach

• Zhung Hua

- *Address:* Medico Pascual Perez street 50, 03001 Alicante Spain
- *Tel:* +34 965 217 698
- close to Plaza Luceros and Federico Soto avenue

• Gran Muralla

- *Address:* Benito Perez Galdos avenue 9-11, 03004 Alicante Spain
- *Tel:* +34 965 218 358

• Meilihua

- *Address:* Pintor Lorenzo Casanova street 32, 03003 Alicante Spain
- *Tel:* +34 965 925 030
- close to Alicante Bus Station

• Pekin

- *Address:* Reyes Católicos street 57, 03003 Alicante Spain
- *Tel:* +34 965 929 867

• Nuevo Hong Kong

- *Address:* Muelle Levante 6, 03001 Alicante Spain
- *Tel:* +34 965 208 887
- La Marina - Alicante harbor

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