

The Economy of Valencia



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Valencia was built by Roman people. At first, Valencia wasn't next to the sea. Valencia was first built next to the river Turia, and little by little as it grew because of the increase of population and the appearance of boats and commerce, there appeared some little neighborhoods next to the sea, such as La Malvarrosa, El Cabanyal, etc...

As time passed, the beaches achieved tourists and citizens attention and they became popular.

The port of Valencia is one of the most important ports of Europe, Spain and the world. It is also very important for China, as it is easier for them to transport things here because of fuel economy and the time spent moving the boat to Barcelona, another important port of Spain, or even surrounding Africa, that would be much more time-taking.

The port of Valencia is known for its commerce and the tourism it provides, as many water competitions are held here.

They want to expand the port another time, (the first time was due to the America Cup) but they don't know exactly if they are going to do it, because it may damage the Albufera.



La Malvarrosa

One of Valencia's beaches, is habited in the XIX century and it is known all over the world because of Joaquín Sorolla, a Spanish painter, that showed its natural beauty. Nazaret beach disappeared with the port expansion.



Old Malvarrosa

Hotel Las Arenas Balneario Resort is a very famous hotel in which you can find spacious and bright rooms which provide the ideal relaxing atmosphere for your stay in Valencia. In it they still preserve the architectural beauty of the historical Las Arenas Spa and there are nowadays two of them because they made a copy.



The Old Spa



The hotel is located within the old Las Arenas SPA which dates back to the late XIX century and was a meeting point for the most select members of society. In those days the SPA offered its guests warm sea baths with waves, with surprising effects for sufferers of arthritis and injuries as well as neurological illnesses. In addition to the baths, the complex had swimming pools, a pavilion overlooking the sea which housed a restaurant, a summer cinema, dancing, swimming competitions, popular celebrations etc. In the afternoons and evenings an orchestra would play music by the swimming pools and was one of the main attractions in Valencia during the summer season.

In the year 2002 building work on the New Hotel Las Arenas Health Spa Resort began. During that year all that remained was one of the two pillared buildings and the swimming pool, as the other identical building had been destroyed during the Spanish Civil War. The building that remained was fully restored and the other was rebuilt as a perfect replica of the original.

The Pool area dates back to 1933 and was completely restored during the original project, respecting the dimensions of the 33m long pool, as well as the children's pool and sun terrace area. The famous old "Las Arenas" Trampoline was also restored.

Now, the entire pool area has been used to create a luxurious and modern spa, located around and underneath it, respecting the historical elements of the original spa both in the decoration as well as with the Antique marble pools and the famous poster designed by Renal for the grand opening.

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The building and decoration is classical in style, using only top quality materials imported from different countries. A clear example of this can be seen in the floors in the public areas of the building which are made entirely out of Italian Marble, or the marble in the Suites which was imported directly from China.

Finally, prior to commencing the building work the plants had been painstakingly removed and transferred to a nursery and then replanted after the work had finished in order to regain the beautiful scenic landscapes. Amongst the species that have been saved are two very large Ficus, various Tamarinds or Tall palms.

Antique marble baths from the SPA were also used during the landscaping as decorative features. This has meant that the Resort enjoys over 8000m² of elegant gardens with spectacular views of Playa Las Arenas.

El Cabanyal

Sitting directly behind Valencia's Las Arenas beach, you'll find the old fisherman's quarter of El Cabanyal. More residential than tourist attraction, a walk around here gives a taste of authentic Valencian life by the sea. Whether you want to shop, eat, or stroll around to admire the tiled facades and modernist style of the traditional houses, this charming barrio is well worth a look on your trip to Valencia.

El Cabanyal is a neighbourhood in the city of Valencia which is part of the sea village. It is located in the eastern part of the city, very near to La Malvarrosa, Valencia's main beach.

In 2020, The Guardian classes El Cabanyal as the third coolest neighbourhood in Europe.

Remodeling

On 24 July 1998, the local government of Rita Barberà, of the conservative People's Party approved a plan for extending the Blasco Ibáñez avenue to the sea. The plan implied the destruction of 1,651 houses all located in the whole neighbourhood. The old fishing enclave of Cabanyal-Canyamelar, which was and is very deteriorated, is also considered a Heritage site of Cultural Interest, so the plan could not be applied and the struggle between the Town Hall and the neighbours fighting against the destruction of their home led to a social fracture that has continued since then.



The main organization against Barberà's plans, *Salvem el Cabanyal* (Save Cabanyal, in Valencian) worked as civic resistance and won some tactical victories at the courts. The Mayor of Valencia, Rita Barberà, even disqualified them by arguing that they were "violent", because "they submit judicial appeals".

The strategy of the local council for taking the demolition ahead consisted of creating some public corporations (as "AUMSA" or "Cabanyal 2010"), which bought 500 of the houses in the area to be demolished, after pressuring the owners to sell their homes at low prices. During the 2000 decade those houses were abandoned, with drug-dealers occupying them.

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In 2007, Barberà's government sent expropriation letters to all neighbours in Sant Pere street, the main artery in the affected area. Meanwhile, Las Provincias newspaper started a campaign against the citizens organized under "Salvem", damaging the cohabitation in the neighbourhood.

Despite the fact that law courts did not allow Barbera's plan in a protected area, the People's Party used their majorities in both the local council and the regional government to modify laws in a sense that could allow the demolition. In April 2010, Rita Barberà approved, by decree, the demolition of the houses affected by the plan. Civic actions prevented the action of the bulldozers and finally the courts prevented the action. Despite this, about 125 houses were demolished.

After Barberà's team lost the local elections in 2015, the new left-sided local council with the mayor Joan Ribó paralyzed the plans of demolition and prolongation of the avenue Blasco Ibáñez. Instead, the local council has the revitalization of the Cabanyal district as one of its main flags, through the rehabilitation and increase of public services in the neighborhood.



