

DISCOVER SPAIN
with children



www.spain.info



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Front Cover: Castellón.

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INTRODUCTION

Spain is an ideal country to visit with your family. Come and enjoy the magnificent climate and the natural and cultural wealth.

▲ AQUARIUM - SEA PALACE
DONOSTIA/SAN SEBASTIÁN

There's everything you're likely to need: a great selection of services, first-rate accommodation, a wide variety of leisure options... If you come, you can find out for yourself.

It doesn't matter how old you are, if you're looking to have a good time there's so much to choose from: theme parks, water parks, zoological gardens... Take an adventurous tour of medieval castles, learn about the windmills in La Mancha or follow in the footsteps left by the Roman Empire.

In almost every city and town you'll find gems in the form of museums large and small that are well worth a visit. Most have exhibitions and activities especially

designed for children, so educational tours can also be fun.

Here it will be sunny and warm most of the year. Come to the beach and enjoy the sand and the sea. There are around 600 beaches flying the blue flag which means they provide all the services and facilities you need to spend a great day with your children.

All this and much more is waiting for you in Spain: a country that is safe and welcomes visitors with open arms. Come with us as we take a look at its main attractions, and let yourself be charmed by its hospitable and friendly people.

CULTURE AND ART

Visit a museum, walk around the walls of a castle or take part in a dramatised route in a World Heritage City. It'll be a unique adventure. Spain provides a world of experiences for children and grown-ups to have fun while they learn.



Photo: Visions Of America LLC/123rf.com

▲ PRADO MUSEUM
MADRID

MUSEUMS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

In Spain there is a wide variety of museums with excellent collections. Many of them organise leisure activities with children in mind. Here are just a few of our recommendations.

THE ART WALK IN MADRID

There's nowhere else in the world with as many masterpieces in such a small area. We're talking about the Paseo del Arte or Art Walk. On this route there are several important art galleries: the **Prado Museum**, the **Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum** and the **Reina Sofía National Art Centre**. The three galleries are located just a few metres

from each other and are connected by one of the city's main avenues: the Paseo del Prado.

In the Prado Museum you'll find the best paintings from the Spanish, Italian and Flemish schools from the 12th to the 18th centuries. It contains prestigious masterpieces like *Las Meninas* by Velázquez

and the *Garden of Earthly Delights* by Hieronymus Bosch. The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum houses one of the most valuable private collections in the world and includes works by Monet, Van Gogh and Kandinsky, amongst others. The Reina Sofía National Art Museum is more avant-garde and exhibits contemporary art together with iconic paintings like *Guernica* by Picasso.

Both the Prado Museum and the Reina Sofía National Art Centre organise agebased activities and workshops. They

also arrange themed tours especially for families with children.

The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum also organises Family Thyssen, an activity undertaken in English for making children familiar with the art world.

In the same area you can also visit the **CaixaForum Madrid** cultural centre. It organises shows, workshops and dynamic visits for adults and children to enjoy a shared experience with art, science, music and humanities.

▼ SOROLLA MUSEUM
MADRID

The children will love the Sorolla Museum.





Photo: philipus/ 123rf.com

CITY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
VALENCIA

MNCN (NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES), MADRID

If you'd like to see a giant squid, an African elephant or the skeleton of a diplodocus, then this is the place to visit. An ideal museum for families interested in everything to do with nature, fossils and scientific research.

There are numerous halls with exhibits from across all the continents, ranging from meteorites to curious inventions. The stars of the collection are the dinosaur skeletons. Children can also have fun here interacting with large mammals using augmented reality. The museum also organises workshops, special exhibitions and activities for children throughout the year.

CITY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, VALENCIA

Can you imagine being able to marvel at the spectacular world of the sea and the incredible world of science all in a single visit? This is what you can do in this complex. The endless cultural activities include those organised by the **Príncipe Felipe Science Museum** which focuses especially on the younger visitors. Here they will be free to engage with the interactive features and learn at their own speed.

The children will love the **Hemisfèric**, a 3D cinema with an enormous concave screen, and the **Oceanogràfic**, the largest aquarium in Europe and home to hundreds of marine species. You should plan your visit carefully as there is so much to see. You can purchase separate admission for each centre or a general admission which will cost less.

AQUARIUM - PALACE OF THE SEA, DONOSTIA/SAN SEBASTIÁN

Opened on the quay in San Sebastián in 1928 and later completely refurbished, is the oldest aquarium in the country. Here you can learn about the naval and fishing history of the region as well as viewing a whale skeleton and the great collection of aquariums.

The most spectacular feature is a 360 degree tunnel suspended in the middle of a great oceanarium. Take your family to see over 5,000 species including two sand tiger sharks, a horned boxfish and several stingrays. You can also spend the night at the Aquarium and go to sleep surrounded by fish.

PIRACY MUSEUM IN TEGUISE, LANZAROTE

If you love stories about pirates then this museum in the Canary Islands is just the place for you. At the top of Mount Guanapay, next to the town of Tegui, you'll find the Castle of Santa Bárbara, an

ancient fortress built to defend the island against continuous attacks from pirates.

From up there you'll have spectacular views of Lanzarote and you can learn a little about the history of piracy in the museum. There are caricatures of renowned pirates, models of ships and reproductions of period weapons on display in the different rooms. The children can explore the treasure in the hold of an old ship and feel like real pirates.

MUSAC, LEÓN

One of the main attractions of the Castile-León Museum of Contemporary Art is the facade which is made out of stained glass. In fact the building, which was designed by the architects Tuñón and Mansilla, is a work of art in itself.

In the interior you'll find some very interesting contemporary art works. Children will be able to develop their creative abilities by taking part in "Diverviajes", a different and surprising approach to exhibitions.



SCIENCE PARK IN GRANADA

Granada is renowned worldwide for the Alhambra, but there are other fascinating gems like the Science Park. This museum occupies over 70,000 square metres and organises one of the largest selections of cultural and scientific leisure activities in Europe.

It is divided into pavilions with the main exhibitions dealing with science, the human body and technology. The children will especially like playing in the Exploration hall and the openair tours around the park.



▲ GRANADA

▼ SCIENCE PARK IN GRANADA





Photo: Magdalena Paluchowska/123rf.com

ROUTE OF THE WINDMILLS IN THE LA MANCHA AREA OF TOLEDO

Visit the province of Toledo with your family and discover the scenario for the adventures of Don Quixote de La Mancha. This character from universal literature, created by Miguel de Cervantes, fought an impossible battle against windmills thinking they were giants. The perfect starting point for a journey through the countryside of La Mancha.

Become Don Quixote for a day and discover the windmills on a tour which also includes incredible medieval castles, palaces and stately homes.

While you're there you should visit the ethnographic museums in the region, where the children can interact and learn about ancient traditions. Relax and enjoy a truly fairy-tale landscape.

DISCOVER SPAIN WITH CHILDREN



PONFERRADA CASTLE
LEÓN



▲ SANTA TECLA CATHEDRAL
TARRAGONA

CASTLES ROUTE IN SPAIN

From north to south and east to west, including the islands, there isn't a single region in Spain that does not have one of these exceptional works of defensive architecture.

Fine examples are **the castle of the Knights Templar in Ponferrada** (León), in Gothic style, and the **castle of Coca** (Segovia), which preserves its towers, battlements and moat in excellent condition. Very near there, the **Alcázar de Segovia**, a fortress which looks like a fairy tale.

In the Madrid Region, the **castle of Manzanares el Real** has a beautiful interior arched patio. In Cuenca, the **castle of Belmonte** has been the location for a number of period films and organises international medieval jousting tournaments throughout the year, with activities for all the family.

And if you'd like to spend the night inside the walls, the castles of **Cardona** (Barcelona), **Sigüenza** (Guadalajara) and a part of the majestic **palace-primitive castle of Olite** (Navarre), are just some which are part of the network of Parador Hotels. There could be no better way of feeling like a king, a princess or a knight than spending a night in one of these castles.

① *Further information:* www.parador.es

THE ALCÁZAR (FORTRESS)
SEGOVIA



LEARN ABOUT ROMAN HISTORY

In Spain there are numerous traces of Hispania (the name given by the Romans to the Iberian Peninsula).



Travel back in time, to the era of emperors and great construction projects, and discover the legacy left by this civilisation in our country.

▲ ROMAN RUINS OF BAELO CLAUDIA
TARIFA, CÁDIZ

Visit the Roman amphitheatre, theatre and circus in ancient Tarraco and watch gladiator fights and historical performances at the TarracoViva Festival which takes place in May in **Tarragona** (Cataluña).

Have a great time on the family route **A day with the Romans in Sagunto**. The children will enjoy discovering gems like the Roman forum and theatre in this town in the Valencia Region which is the venue in the summer for the Sagunt a Escena festival with theatre, music and dance shows for the whole family.

There are numerous Roman monuments all over the city of **Cartagena** (Murcia), but there is no doubt that the highlight is the great Roman theatre. If you visit in September you'll be able to enjoy the

incredible Festival of Carthaginians and Romans, where the whole city seems to return to the past.

Mérida (Badajoz) was another city which flourished during the Empire. In nearby Mérida, the International Festival of Classic Theatre is held every summer in the Roman Theatre.

The **Baetic Roman Route** passes through fourteen Andalusian towns and cities in the provinces of Seville, Cádiz and Córdoba. It includes fascinating sites like Itálica, a Roman villa located in Santiponce (Seville) and the archaeological park in Baena.

The walls surrounding the cities of **Ávila** and **Lugo**, declared World Heritage Sites by the UNESCO, are further examples of the beauty of the Roman legacy.



Photo: philipus / 123rf.com

▲ PATIO IN CÓRDOBA
CÓRDOBA

WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

Spain's fifteen World Heritage Cities are a good alternative when it comes to planning a holiday with children. Learn about their history with entertaining explanations while travelling on a tourist train, discover incredible medieval castles and markets and enjoy the cultural festivals and outdoor activities... Here are a few suggestions.

Come and discover **Alcalá de Henares**, the birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes, the author of *Don Quixote*. If you're travelling from Madrid, take the tourist train which leaves from Atocha station and operates from April to July and from September to December. Along the way, a company of actors perform some of the best-known episodes from the novel *Don Quixote*.

The city of **Segovia** is sure to surprise you. There you'll find the spectacular **Roman**

aqueduct, one of the best preserved in Europe, and the **Alcázar** a unique medieval fortress standing on a rock and which looks like a castle in a fairy tale and is said to have been the inspiration for the Disney film of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. In May the **International Puppet Theatre Festival** takes place in its streets and squares.

Stroll around the streets and discover the delights of medieval **Cuenca**. There you'll find the **Casas Colgadas**, or Hanging Houses, built in the 15th century with wooden balconies leaning out over the Huécar River.

Take your children to explore the facades of the monuments in **Salamanca**. Look for the frog in the facade of the **University**, the astronaut or the monkey eating an ice cream in the Ramos gateway in the **Cathedral**. We recommend that you pick up

the “Salamanca in detail” free guidebook from the local Tourist Office.

The capital city of Galicia, **Santiago de Compostela** has a beautiful historical old town and incredible gardens like the Alameda Park.

The medieval city of **Toledo** is a perfect place to visit with children. Its size means you can stroll around the streets on foot. Children will feel they have travelled back in time, they’ll love the amazing medieval suits of armour and they’ll really like “Toledo marzipan”.

Córdoba has a seductive, picturesque historical old town which houses a great treasure, the **Great Mosque-Cathedral**, one of the masterpieces of Moorish art. You should also visit the **gardens of the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos** and the **royal stables** where equestrian shows are held. You can surprise your children with the **Children’s City**, the largest outdoor play park in the city, the **municipal zoo** and the **botanical gardens**. They are near to each other and you can buy a combined ticket for admission to all three.

If you’re visiting **Ibiza** you really should walk around the walled city of **Dalt Vila** and get fantastic views of the Mediterranean from the incredible lookout points, and visit the **Cap Blanc Aquarium** which is to be found inside a natural cave.

📍 **Further information:**

www.ciudadespatrimonio.org



Photo: Madrid Region, General Department of Resources

▲ BARRIO DE LAS LETRAS DISTRICT
MADRID


DRAMATISED ROUTES

A really original way of learning the secrets of Spanish cities. Discover the **Las Letras District** in Madrid through the great writers from the Golden Age of Spanish literature: Lope de Vega, Calderón and Quevedo. Visit the **castle of Manzanares el Real** guided by two characters from the 17th century, or let an actor playing the part of Goya tell you all the secrets of **Chinchón**, a city in the province of Madrid. Guided tours in English can be booked for groups.

If you’re going to **Barcelona**, the daytime tours through medieval Barcelona are a good option. On a dramatised tour of the Casa Batlló, a very amusing Gaudí will explain Modernism to the children.

In **Granada**, a guide and two actors will take you through the centre of the city following in the footsteps of the celebrated poet Federico García Lorca.

Zaragoza, Salamanca, Cáceres and **Seville** also organise dramatised tours. Advance booking is required for all these attractions.



DISCOVER SPAIN WITH CHILDREN

BEACH AND SUNSHINE DESTINATIONS

In Spain you'll find beaches for relaxing together with your family and enjoying the sea all year round. Take a dip in the crystal-clear waters of the **Mediterranean coastline** which goes from the border with France to the south of Spain passing the Balearic Islands on the way. You're guaranteed warm temperatures, and equal measures of fun and recreation and peace and quiet. The contrast comes when you reach the **Atlantic coast**. In the north in Galicia, the precipitous Costa da Morte awaits you together with the fishing traditions of the Rías Altas y Bajas estuaries. In the south, the provinces of Huelva and Cádiz have long, white sandy beaches and in the Canary Islands to the southwest of mainland Spain you'll find volcanic beaches, endless dunes and incredible seabeds. And finally, there's the **Cantabrian coast** which runs across the north of Spain and is synonymous with green countryside and little fishing villages.

PLAYA DE MASPALOMAS BEACH
GRAN CANARIA

About 600 Spanish beaches fly the Blue Flag for quality. Whether it is because of their location, the services provided or their geographical characteristics, all the beaches we recommend are ideal for parents and children to get maximum enjoyment.

The **beaches** in **Tarragona** are noted for their fine, golden sand which has given the Costa Dorada (Catalonia) its name. The **dels Penyals** (Miami Playa), the **Sant Jordi** (L'Ametlla de Mar) and the **Les Madrigueres** (El Vendrell) beaches are three examples of what you'll find in this province: calm,

clear waters, family friendly and maximum comfort.

In this province there are three key moments for having fun with children in the summer months. In June you have Minipop, a music and contemporary culture festival for all the family. Mid-August is devoted to Sant Magi, with a parade in which water plays a leading role. The second fortnight in September is the time to celebrate **Santa Tecla**, with parades of "Gigantes y Cabezudos" (Giants and Big-Heads), concerts and *castells*, human

towers which can reach up to 9 levels.

① **Further information:**

www.tarragonaturisme.cat

The **Costa Azahar**, tourist name for the coast in the province of **Castellón** (Region of Valencia), comes from “orange blossom” which is widely cultivated in this area. Some of the prettiest beaches are **Playa de La Concha** (Oropesa de Mar), **Playa Norte** (Peñíscola) and **Playa La Romana** (Alcalá de Xivert), which are spacious, have play areas for children and provide all kinds of services for you to enjoy an unforgettable holiday.

A visit to the incredible castle of Peñíscola will thrill your children. The Parade Ground and the Keep both have balconies with fantastic views of the Mediterranean.

① **Further information:**

www.turismodecastellon.com

Without leaving the Region of Valencia, the capital city of Valencia is renowned for its beaches and exceptional climate. You really should take a dip at one of the beaches there. **Las Arenas**, **La Malvarrosa** and **El Cabañal** are all very near the city centre. They have all been awarded the blue flag and the “Q” for Quality Tourism, and have numerous places serving traditional dishes like paella and “fideuá” (paella with noodles instead of rice).

Take them on a boat ride in the **Albufera Nature Reserve**, or enjoy the outdoors at the Gulliver and Snow White theme parks, full of jumping ramps and slides.

▼ **PLAYA DE LOS GENOVESES BEACH**
CABO DE GATA, ALMERÍA





▲ POMPIDOU CENTRE IN MÁLAGA

The **Bioparc**, a new generation zoo, and the **City of Arts and Sciences** are two visits you really shouldn't miss. For those looking for something more unusual, you have the **L'Iber Museum**, which has an incredible collection of tin soldiers, and the **Natural Science Museum**.

The nearby towns of Oliva, Denia, Jávea and Calpe are also ideal for spending a few days in the sunshine on the beach.

① **Further information:**
www.visitvalencia.com

Málaga (Andalusia), the capital of the **Costa del Sol**, has created new leisure centres like the **Palmeral de las Sorpresas**, with gardens, play areas and fountains where children can have a fantastic time.

The best town-centre beaches are **La Malagueta**, **La Misericordia** and **San Andrés**. They have all the services and

facilities you need for a fantastic few days. Don't forget to try the traditional skewered grilled sardines, the real summer flavour of Málaga.

The city has numerous cultural facilities. You not only have the **Pompidou Centre** and the **Picasso Museum**, you also have the **Alboraina Museum** with the surprising remains of two giant squids. You really shouldn't miss the **Interactive Music Museum** (MIMMA), where you are free to sit down and make music. You can also visit the **Carmen Thyssen Museum**, which has the most comprehensive exhibition of 19th century Andalusian painting in Spain, and the **Principia-Science Centre**, with large-scale interactive exhibitions.

This coastal area is ideal for spending a few days with your children. You'll find the waters at the **Burriana** (Nerja), **Torreblanca** (Fuengirola), **Sabinillas** (Manilva) and **La Rada** (Estepona) beaches nice and calm, so you'll always be able to take a carefree dip.

① **Further information:**
www.malagaturismo.com

You'll find some of the best beaches in mainland Spain in the province of Almería (Andalusia), in the **Cabo de Gata-Níjar Nature Reserve**. The sandy beaches of **San José** and **San Miguel** provide all the services you need. The **Playa de Las Negras** is another great option for children, since the water is shallow and there are a number of beach bars and restaurants in the surrounding area.

As the sun falls, follow in the footsteps of the film makers. The Cabo de Gata is one of the most scenically beautiful places in



Photo: Ernesto Jiménez Lucas

▲ DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK AND NATURE RESERVE
HUELVA

the world, with unique cliff formations, coves and volcanic rocks which have been locations for films by Steven Spielberg, Sergio Leone and Pedro Almodóvar.

Take all the family to see how curiously the flamingos strut around and watch the variety of birds living in the salt pans, climb up to the El Cabo lighthouse and visit the **Reef of Las Sirenas**. The **House of the Volcanoes**, in **Rodalquilar**, is a fantastic place where the children can learn all the secrets of the area's volcanic origins.

① **Further information:**

www.andalucia.org/es/destinos/zonasturisticas/cabo-de-gata-y-nijar/

In Andalusia, located within the triangle formed by **Seville**, **Cádiz** and **Huelva**, you'll find the **Doñana National Park**. It's a maze of land and water with dunes, marshes and stunning cliffs.

At sunset, climb on the back of a horse, feel the sea breeze on your face and discover the exuberant beauty of Doñana.

Within the nature reserve, 22 kilometres from Huelva, you'll find **Mazagón**, a huge, white sandy beach with calm, shallow water, ideal for families with small children. As the tide goes out small natural pools are formed where you can play without any danger at all.

① **Further information:**

www.andalucia.org/es/espacios-naturales/parque-nacional/donana/

The **Balearic Islands** are where you can really experience the Mediterranean. You'll find coves with turquoise waters where pine trees reach almost down to the beach, an incredible natural environment and everything you can imagine for enjoying a peaceful holiday by the sea. Tour the islands by bicycle or on horseback, discover the incredible flora and fauna on the seabed or take a boat trip.

Mallorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands, has numerous beaches of the highest quality. **Palmanova**, the nearest to the centre of Palma, is a great option for all the family. Other great town-centre beaches are those in **Alcudia** and in **Muro**.

Minorca is renowned for its calmwater coves and picturesque villages to visit in the evenings. The beaches of **La Vall** are easy to access and safe for children, they'll just love the turtles that live there. **Cala Galdana** and **Cala Porter**, on the other hand, have beach bars, shops, boat hire and water sports facilities.

Ibiza has so much to offer for a family holiday. Enjoy peaceful beaches like **Talamanca** and **Las Salinas**, ideal if you're travelling with small children. Take a boat trip in the turquoise waters of **Cala Tarida**, or try a little adventurous snorkelling around **Punta Galera**, a nudist beach.

① *Further information:*
www.illesbalears.travel

The **Canary Islands** are known as the

'fortunate islands' and it is easy to see why: incredible natural surroundings, great weather all year round and first-class facilities and services. The ideal destination for a family holiday.

Relax on peaceful, wide beaches with golden sands like **Las Teresitas**, in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, **Las Canteras**, in Gran Canaria, or **Playa Papagayo**, in Lanzarote. If you really want to surprise the children, take them to a beach with black, volcanic sand, like **Playa Jardín** in Tenerife. Or enjoy the incredible dunes of golden sand in **Maspalomas**, in Gran Canaria.

In the Canary Islands there's so much more than beaches and sunshine. The children will have a great time riding a camel up the **Teide** (Tenerife) or sailing on a yacht to get a close look at dolphins and whales. You can enjoy nature in all its splendour in the **Anaga Rural Park** (Tenerife), in **Garajonay** (La Gomera) and in **Timanfaya National Park** (Lanzarote).

At night, the conditions on the island of La Palma make it one of the three best places in the world for watching the stars. Go up to the **Roque de los Muchachos Observatory** and learn all about the starry sky.

① *Further information:*
www.holaislascanarias.com





LEISURE PARKS

In Spain, family fun is guaranteed. Adventure awaits you in theme parks, water parks and funfairs for people of all ages. Most of them have tourist packages and special offers which include your hotel plus admission or joint vouchers. Feel like a child again while your children enjoy an unforgettable experience.

TIBIDABO AMUSEMENT PARK
BARCELONA



PARQUE WARNER AMUSEMENT PARK

The decoration and activities in this park to the south of Madrid will make you **feel like you're in Hollywood**. It is divided into five themed areas: experience all the glamour of Hollywood Boulevard, watch live shows full of action in Movie World Studios, feel like you're in the wild west in Old West Territory, discover the delightful world of Looney Tunes in Cartoon Village and feel

the strong emotions in DC Superheroes World.

If you come in the summer you can cool off in the Warner Beach Park which has wave pools, water games and a VIP area with beach sand.

① **Further information:**
www.parquewarner.com

PORTAVENTURA WORLD

This park which was designed for leisure and enjoyment by the whole family is located near Salou, in the heart of the Costa Dorada. Apart from the numerous attractions and activities for people of all ages, there is also an area devoted to water games, a *wellness centre* and several golf courses in privileged surroundings.

Travel all around the world **in the fantastic theme areas:** Mexico, Far West, Mediterranean, Polynesia and China. Meanwhile, SésamoAventura is ideal for all the family. There you'll find live shows and great attractions like the iconic Dragon-Khan big dipper. And we shouldn't forget Ferrari Land, a new fun park devoted to the famous Italian brand, with speed playing a leading role in the attractions.

① **Further information:**
www.portaventuraworld.com

PORTAVENTURA WORLD
SALOU, TARRAGONA



SIAM PARK

In Tenerife you can cool off in **one of the best water parks in the world**, set in the exotic world of the ancient kingdom of Siam. Slide down endless water chutes, feel the effect of zero gravity and enjoy a trip down a river with tropical fish and beautiful waterfalls.

There are wonderful family shows, like the one performed by the amusing sea lions. Your children will have a great time in the kids-friendly area reserved for them, which also includes attractions for adults adapted to their size.

📍 *Further information:* www.siampark.net

TERRA MÍTICA

Travel back in time to the ancient civilisations which dominated the Mediterranean in this theme park in Benidorm **which takes you back to ancient Rome, Greece and Egypt**.

Terra Mítica also has major attractions like Titánide, an inverted roller coaster as well as featuring live shows. Hundreds of actors and stunt artists entertain the public with circus acts and theatre shows. Right next to it you'll find Iberia Park, a water games area only open in summer where you'll have plenty of chances to take a dip and have fun.

📍 *Further information:*
www.terramitikapark.com

▼ SIAM PARK
ADEJE COAST, TENERIFE





DINÓPOLIS

If you fancy a walk amongst dinosaurs then Dinópolis is the place to go. This cultural, scientific and leisure park on the outskirts of the city centre in Teruel (Aragón) organises games, workshops and experiments for children to learn all about palaeontology.

Visit the Palaeontology Museum and see the amazing collection of dinosaur skeletons, one of the best on the planet. The model of an impressive **Tyrannosaurus Rex** is astonishing. The **paleosenda** is a unique palaeontological trail with grottoes, skeletons and mysterious apes, it is full of surprises.

As well as the main park located in Teruel, Territorio Dinópolis has another seven centres at different points around the province.

① *Further information:*
www.dinopolis.com

ISLA MÁGICA

It was opened 20 years ago and remains one of the main theme parks in mainland Spain. There are numerous attractions located in the different theme areas relating to the history of civilisations.

In the summer months you'll love **Agua Mágica**, a water park (with a supplementary cost in addition to general admission) which has been converted into the "Playa de Sevilla" with a large wave pool, water games for children and areas for rest and relaxation.

① *Further information:* www.islamagica.es



CABÁRCENO NATURE RESERVE

In unique surroundings in the Cabárceno mountains you can watch over **a hundred species of animals living in semi-freedom**. The circuit features 20 kilometres of roads which enable visitors to reach all the enclosures both on foot and by car, and is designed to offer a sighting of all the animals which include a number in danger of extinction like the African elephant, Grevy's zebra and the white rhinoceros.

Here you can enjoy nature in all its splendour: lakes, waterfalls, gorges and geological formations which make up each animal's habitat. The facilities also include an environmental classroom, botanical tours, restaurants and a children's play park.

📍 **Further information:**
www.parquedecabarceno.com

CABÁRCENO NATURE RESERVE
CANTABRIA

NATURE: 10 EASY TOURS WITH CHILDREN

Are you ready for them to become explorers? Put on some comfortable boots and prepare yourself for an incredible adventure through amazing landscapes.



ACEBEDA DE PRÁDENA

In Prádena, near **Segovia**, you'll find one of the largest forests of holly trees in Europe. In winter it is twice as spectacular: apart from the 10-metre holly trees, you'll also have the red berries giving a Christmas atmosphere to a really enjoyable walk which is not at all difficult. Nearby you'll find the entrance to the Enebralejos cave, a geological treasure with unusual limestone formations.

THE DINOSAUR ROUTE

The fossilised footprints, or ichnites, to be found in Spain are some of the most important in the world. In Asturias, along the coastal strip running between the villages of **Villaviciosa**, **Colunga** and

Ribadesella, you'll find the route where significant traces of Dinosaurs have been discovered. You can take a look at the dinosaur prints on La Griega beach or visit the Asturias Jurassic Museum (MUJA) in Colunga.

THE ENCHANTED FOREST OF OMA

This magic place where nature and art go hand-in-hand is near **Gernika** (Vizcaya), in the heart of Green Spain. There are a number of figures made up of patches, traces of colour and drawings on the trees, the work of the artist Agustín Ibarrola. There are a series of yellow arrows indicating where you need to look to see the most striking figures. Nearby you'll find the Santimamiñe

cave which has a magnificent example of cave art, with figures depicting a hundred or so animals.

LOBOS RIVER CANYON

On the border between the provinces of **Burgos** and **Soria**, the traveller is greeted by the vertical walls covered in vegetation in the Lobos River canyon. This is the flat part corresponding to the beginning of the Senda del Río route, from the village of Uceró (Soria) and the delightful Templar chapel of San Bartolomé. From here you can access the San Bartolomé caves which are of great geological value, and from where you'll be able to see numerous birds like the golden eagle and the griffon vulture.

THE WAY OF SAINT JAMES FROM SARRIA (LUGO)

Discover the north of Spain while enjoying natural landscapes of exceptional beauty along the Way of Saint James. The end of the French Route, the most popular, starts in Sarria which is already in **Galicia**. Divided into six or seven stages, it is the most suitable route for families with children from the age of 10. It is advisable to book your hostel accommodation in advance and



▲ ENCHANTED FOREST OF OMA
VIZCAYA

to plan your trip as much as possible, that way you'll all enjoy an experience which you will remember all your life.

RECÓPOLIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

This archaeological site with Visigoth, Christian and Moorish remains stands on the banks of the Tagus River, near the little town of **Zorita de los Canes** (Guadalajara). Travel back in time to the year 578 with a guided tour organised by the visitor centre and which explains the lifestyles of the different cultures living in this territory. An environmental trail for bird watching, discovering the incredible landscape in the region and visiting a castle in the town, will make up a splendid day's activities.



▲ IRUELAS VALLEY NATURE RESERVE
ÁVILA

PUNTA DE L'ESCALETA ROUTE

You'll be surprised by the Serra Gelada Nature Reserve, between **Benidorm** and **Alfàs del Pi** (Alicante). The route to the Punta de l'Escaleta is very easy and takes you along a road that is not open to traffic, it's even accessible to pushchairs. Starting in the cove of Tío Ximo you'll see the cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean. The route ends at a 16th century watchtower where you'll have splendid views of the mountains and the Mediterranean.

BOTANICAL ROUTE THROUGH THE IRUELAS VALLEY

Discover the incredible diversity of plant life in the Iruelas Valley, in **Ávila** along this route which is suitable for all ages. This 30-minute walk starts in the Siempre Verde recreational area and takes you through holly and chestnut

trees, as well as other species growing in this protected area next to the Burguillo reservoir.

PEÑA DEL CHORRO WATERFALL

This waterfall which is the source of the Duratón River is located 100 kilometres from **Madrid**, near the town of Somosierra. It is the highest waterfall in the Madrid Region, a spectacular natural feature made accessible by a number of pathways around it. The easiest route starts at a nearby service station where you can take a path which ends at the Peña del Chorro.

ROUTE OF THE FACES

From the town of **Buendía** (Cuenca) there is a pretty route for adults and children which is quite easy and takes about 1 hour, taking you past some very surprising and mysterious works of art. You can reach the path from the town, it is well signposted, and it takes you through pine woods and olive groves as far as the reservoir. There you'll find 18 sculptures of mystical characters carved into the rock which will surprise the children because they look very much like fantasy beings like Chemari the great gnome and Chaman, looking out over the reservoir. The sculptures were carved by Jorge Maldonado and Eulogio Reguillo.

PERFECT ACCOMMODATION FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

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▲ OLITE PARADOR HOTEL
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