



Life is beautiful in

# CALPE

*What are you waiting for?*

**TOURIST GUIDE**



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## Life is beautiful in Calpe

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Located on the Mediterranean coast of Spain's Alicante province, Calpe is a treat for your senses. The beautiful blue waters of its beaches and coves will tempt you to immerse yourself in them and relax or take part in one of the many aquatic activities available.

Experience pure nature while surrounded by flora and fauna along the suggested routes through Peñón de Ifach and Las Salinas Natural Parks, as well as the *Voramars* and Sierra de *Oltà* trails, and breathe in the sea air while you stroll along the fishing port and the fish market.

This charming town on the Costa Brava is known for its exceptional weather conditions, with sunshine and mild temperatures year-round, as well as the hospitality of its people.

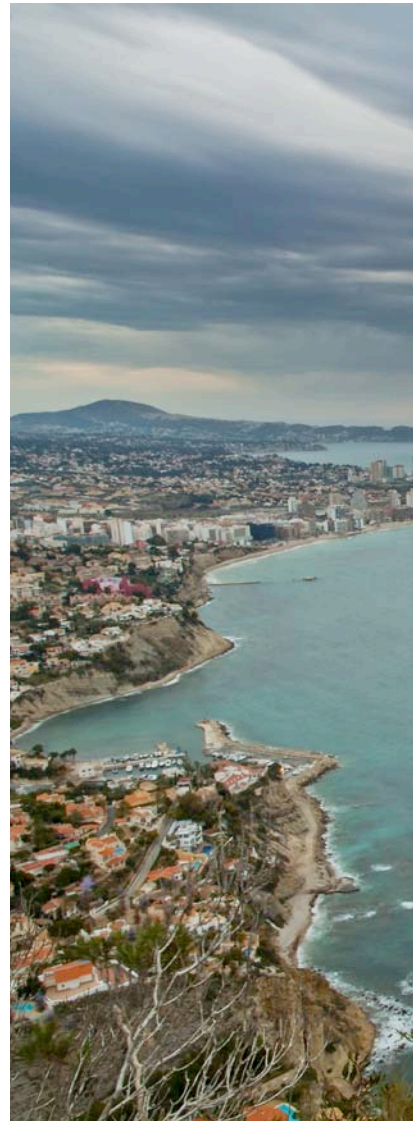
The historic old town area, local seafood-based cuisine, open and extroverted celebrations, nightlife, activities, and sporting events... are just some of the reasons why life is beautiful in Calpe.

What are you waiting for?

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## The Beaches and their Surroundings

To enjoy the sea, explore the 13 kilometers of coastline with 14 beaches and coves. The diverse and pure waters, which have certifications and awards that guarantee their quality and environmental management, are found alongside kilometer-long beaches, bays, small coves with fine and coarse sand, cliffs, and pristine rocky shores.

*Arenal-Bol* and *La Fossa-Levante* are seemingly

endless beaches where you can go for a relaxing stroll or enjoy aquatic activities, and where you'll find a variety of services and facilities.

Enjoy the pleasures of Calpe's coves, which invite you to relax as well as do sports such as diving and fishing. These coves, sculpted by the wind and sea, are surrounded by vegetation that transforms them into magical places like *El Penyal*, *Les Bassetes*, and *El Racó*.







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## Live the Sea Life!

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Join the nautical paradise all 12 months of the year.

Just 10 minutes from town, you'll find 3 marinas with over 400 berths that offer an endless array of activities. In addition to dry boat storage marinas, Real Club Náutico de Calpe, *Les Bassetes*, and Puerto Blanco offer facilities of extraordinary quality and a multitude of services.

Enjoy yourself while doing one of the activities offered by these facilities, such as sailing a yacht

**"...and he knew no man  
was ever alone on the sea."**

Ernest Hemingway

or sailboat, scuba diving, rowing, dinghy sailing, windsurfing, cruising, jet skiing, *parasailing*, water skiing, kayaking, or taking underwater photography... in an extraordinary marine environment near the majestic rock outcrop known as Peñón de Ifach.

Calpe also hosts major nautical events like the traditional Calpe-Formentera-Calpe race, also known as the Trofeo Peñón de Ifach, as well as various fishing championships.







## Seaside Life

Feel like part of a centuries-old fishing tradition and learn about the day-to-day life of fishermen, stroll along the port, and visit the fish market where you can take in the excitement of the daily auction of fish caught by Calpe's fleet.

Organized by the Fisherman's Association, wholesale takes place Monday through Friday at

about 17:00. Don't miss the arrival of the boats at the port, when they unload the fish and prepare their goods for the buyers' bidding. You can see all the action from a special walkway. Anchovies, redfish, sardines, tuna, mackerel, red mullet, langoustine, mantis shrimp, and lobster are some of the area's common catches.



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## Let yourself be amazed by nature

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Calpe features a variety of natural environments that you can enjoy while walking, resting, or looking at the native flora and fauna.

The Peñón de Ifach rock outcrop is one of the most beautiful and unique geographic features of the entire Mediterranean coast, where mountain and coastline come together and form a one-of-a-kind ecosystem.

Contemplate life from atop the 332-meter height of this colossal rock that juts into the sea, and

explore the impressive scenery of this natural park while climbing its slopes or diving in its depths.

The lovely trails of the *Morro de Toix* and *Sierra de Oltà* are other clear examples of the bountifulness of Calpe's natural surroundings.

Visit Las Salinas and observe the vegetation and the migratory birds that use it as a resting place, or enjoy a day surrounded by nature in parks like *La Vallesa* or the *Oltà* camping area.







## Cultural heritage and modernity

In Calpe you can see remnants of different civilizations while exploring its typical seaside streets.

Look at archaeological artifacts from the Bronze Age and Iberian era in the Museo de Historia de Calpe and learn more about the Roman civilization at Baños de la Reina, one of the most important archaeological sites of its kind in all of Roman Hispania. Due to its importance and wealth, the *Pobla Medieval de Ifach* also has a special representation within the museum.

In the old town, you can view the remnants of the wall that protected Calpe from Moorish attacks, as well as the *Torreó de la Peça*, a tower that once contained an artillery piece and now houses the

Museo del Coleccionismo. Don't forget to visit the Iglesia Antigua, an old Gothic- and Mudejar-style church that was constructed in the 15th century atop an old chapel from the Christian conquest.

*Forat de la Mar*, a breach in the wall that opened when the pirate threat ceased, the outskirts of town, the Hermitage of San Salvador, and the panoramic view of the architectural site designed by famous Spanish architect Ricardo Bofill at the end of the 20th century are other sites you cannot miss.

The old town hall, now used as an exposition hall, stands near the site occupied by the historic gate, an old entrance to the walled enclosure, popularly known as *El Portalet*.





## Celebrations and traditions

Celebrations in Calpe are filled with fire and gunpowder, light and color, culture and art. By taking part in its celebrations, you learn about its people, cuisine, and folklore.

Calpe offers a wide range of festivities throughout the year. Numerous celebrations take place between the arrival of the Three Kings in January and the Moors and Christians festival in October. Holy Week, Fallas in March, the Bonfires of Saint John in June, the Feast of Our Lady of Carmel on the 16th of July, and the local celebrations of

the Feast of Our Lady of the Snows in August with a variety of cultural traditions, together with the *bous al carrer* (“bulls in the street”), all mark the town’s festive calendar. The rest of the year is filled out with celebrations such as Carnival, Andalusia Day in February, the Festival of the Crosses in May, the Andalusian Fair in July, the pilgrimages of the Virgin of El Rocío and the Virgin of Mercy in September, the pilgrimage of Saint Francis and Oktoberfest in October, and Christmas in December.

## Taste the sea

The typical cuisine of Calpe is primarily based on the delicious fish of its bay (monkfish, mackerel, octopus, sardines...). *Llauna de Calp* and *arròs del senyoret* are the town's two traditional rice dishes, followed by *putxeros de polp*, paella, *arròs amb fessols i naps*, *arròs amb bledes*, and *arròs al forn*, which you'll find on many restaurant menus.

Don't forget to try the traditional cocas, sweet and savory pastries which are baked daily, as well as delicious homemade sweets.

Calpe is also a multicultural town, which is proven by the assortment of restaurants that offer international dishes from German, American, Austrian, Belgian, Asian, Greek, Indian, English, Italian, and Swiss cuisines, among others.



## Calpe for families

In addition to its clean beaches, Calpe is a quiet and safe destination that offers pedestrian streets, museums, and squares, along with a wide variety of parks and gardens. The city is welcoming to families, with cinema, theater, activities, and guided tours for you to enjoy year-round.

We also recommend six family-friendly eco routes to enjoy the city or as an introduction to hiking, in addition to the family activities and programs offered by local restaurants and hotels.







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## Sports

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Calpe's geographic location, fantastic microclimate, and sports facilities allow for many sports to be practiced year-round, including sailing, diving, tennis, climbing, rowing, swimming, hiking, and cycling. Each year, it is chosen by cycling teams and professional athletes as an ideal place to train for their competitions.

## A custom-made vacation

Calpe offers you a varied selection of tourist accommodation that includes hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, inns, campsites and self-catering apartments to suit all tastes and needs: weekend getaways, family celebrations, or holidays.

As you stroll through the center of Calpe or along its beaches, you'll find an endless array of bars, terraces, restaurants, pubs, ice cream shops, and more where you can rest, recharge your batteries, and taste the traditional cuisine of this Mediterranean city.

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