

1

The Best Full-Day Tours



The Best in One Day



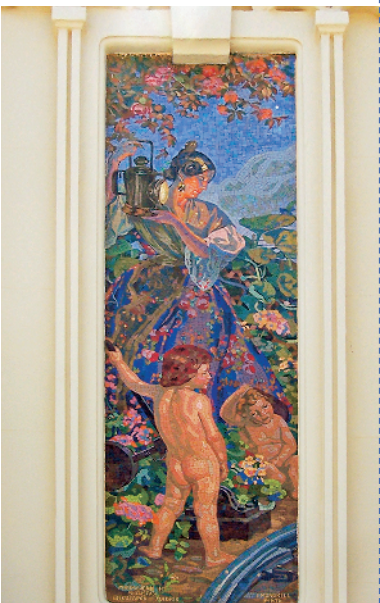
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The joy of Valencia is that you can easily discover the best of it on foot in just one day—but wear a good pair of shoes! This tour mostly takes place within the mercifully flat *Centro Histórico*. It starts at the *Modernista* masterpiece Estación del Norte and ends by the Torres de Serranos, one of the two remaining gates to the original walled city. **START:** Metro to Xàtiva or bus 5, 6, 7, 8, 19, 35 or 40.

1 ★ **kids** Estación del Norte.

Valencian-born Demetrio Ribes (1877–1921), one of the most important *Modernista* architects of his time, designed this wonderful building in the ‘Sezesión Vienesa’ style. Designed in 1906 and completed in 1917, this busy main railway station is decorated on the outside with ceramic oranges and delightful mosaics depicting local scenes. Inside, the ticket hall is all dark woods and white mosaics with gold leafed ‘Bon Voyage’ messages in a multitude of languages. ⌚ 20 min. C/ Xàtiva 24. ☎ 96-352-0202. www.renfe.es. Daily 5am–2am. Metro: Xàtiva.

Mosaic on the façade of Estación del Norte.



Statue of a Matador, Plaza de Toros.

2 ★ **kids Plaza de Toros.** Just next door, the Bullring has been home to Valencian bullfights for more than 150 years. Designed by Sebastián Monleón (1815–1875) in 1851, it is a 48-sided polygon surrounding a 52m/170ft bullring, and has a capacity of 16,000. Bullfights take place during fiestas, usually about three times a year (see p 155). At other times, it is used for exhibitions and concerts. Visit the Museo Taurino for a view into the ring. ⌚ 15 min. C/ Xàtiva 6. ☎ 96-351-9315 www.museotaurino.valencia.es. Admission free. Tues–Sun 10am–8pm. Metro: Xàtiva.

3 ★★ Casa Consistorial. The city's Town Hall, or Casa Consistorial, dominates one side of the Plaza



Ayuntamiento lit up at night.

Ayuntamiento. A splendidly baroque building topped by a slim tower with a chiming clock, at Christmas and Fallas it dresses up with strings of lights and the effect is stunning.

🕒 **5 min.** *Plaza Ayuntamiento 1.*

☎ **96-352-5478.** *Admission free.*

Daily 10am–1pm. Metro: Xàtiva.

4 ★★ kids Palacio de Correos y Telégrafos. This sumptuous wedding cake of a building functions as the main post office. Completed

The parrot on top of the Mercado Central.



in 1922 following a contest in 1914, it's a mix of modernism, classicism, and baroque—it shouldn't work, but somehow it pulls it off spectacularly.

During a recent refurbishment, the imposing metal tower you see was reinstated after the earlier one disappeared. Inside, the circular main hall columns support a magnificent domed, stained-glass roof. Try out the whispering gallery effect here—stand by the third pillar on the right and whisper to your friend on the opposite side, who will hear you perfectly. 🕒 **20 min.**

Plaza Ayuntamiento. ☎ **96-310-2730.** *Mon–Sat 8.30am–8.30pm. Sun 9.30am–2pm. Metro: Xàtiva.*

5 Bar La Lonja. Just by the Mercado Central, with its hustle and bustle, La Lonja is a great place to take in the view of the market and its parrot on the roof. I love to stop awhile here for an inexpensive mid-morning snack (*almuerzo*). The service is rapid and friendly. *C/ Palafox 1.*

☎ **96-351-1334.** \$.

6 ★★★ kids **Mercado Central.**

This vast, bustling, living market is a real glimpse of everyday Valencian life. Said to be one of the oldest market sites in Europe, it is housed in a wonderful Modernista building, completed in 1928. Having recently undergone a major refurbishment, the ceramics, ironwork, and glasswork are now a delight, and evoke scenes of the *huerta* (farmland). The market claims to be the largest area in Europe for trading fresh produce, almost 1,000 stalls sell everything from locally grown vegetables to fresh fish, seafood, and meats—the perfect place to get local delicacies.

🕒 40 min. *Plaza del Mercado s/n.*

☎ 96-382-9101. Mon–Sat 7.30am–2.30pm. Metro: Xàtiva.

7 ★★★ kids **La Lonja de la Seda.** This 15th-century masterpiece is one of the best examples of Gothic civil architecture in the city and was declared a UNESCO Mankind World Heritage Site in 1996. Designed and built by Pere Compte (1447–1506) as a silk exchange, the main part of the building was completed in just 15 years, an amazing feat for its time.

Come here to admire the magnificent Sala de Contratación—a lofty, spacious area with beautiful helicoidal (barley twist) columns—or walk through to the cool courtyard garden filled with orange trees and verdant plants. Outside, the gargoyles are extremely rude! Best not point these out to the children.

🕒 20 min. *Plaza del Mercado s/n.*

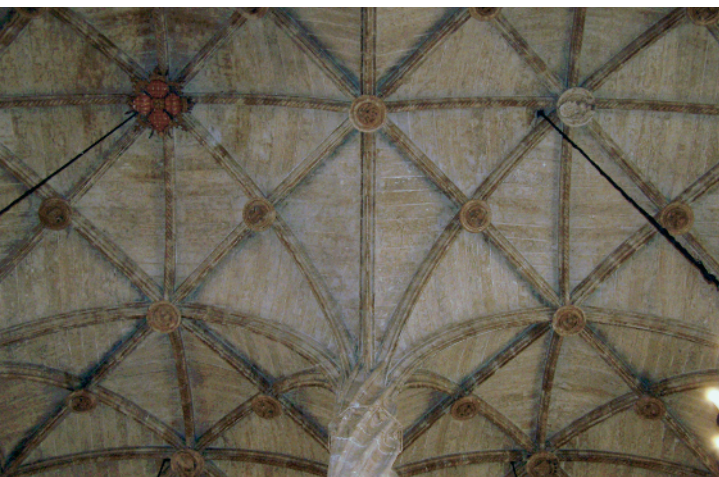
☎ 96-352-5478. Admission free.

Tues–Sat 10am–2pm & 4.30–8.30pm, Sun 10am–3pm. Metro: Xàtiva.

8 ★ kids **Plaza Redonda.** This pretty square—built in 1840—is actually circular and has a little fountain at its center. During the week, it is home to, mainly, haberdashery and ceramics shops, but at the weekend Plaza Redonda becomes part of the market that runs through the *barrio* (neighborhood). The faint-hearted may not approve of the very young puppies and kittens on sale. 🕒 30 min. *Plaza Redonda.*

9 ★ **El Kiosko.** This is a strictly ‘no-frills’ lunchtime venue and is renowned for offering an excellent value 3-course lunch (wine or beer included) or just great tapas. A

Ceiling of the 15th-century La Lonja de la Seda.



favorite of locals (myself included) and visitors alike, it is on the square behind La Lonja. On a sunny day, you can sit outside and people-watch while you dine. The interior is traditional Valencian, just like the food they serve. *C/ de los Derechos 38.* ☎ 96-391-0159. \$.

10 ★★★ kids **Palacio Del Marques De Dos Aguas (Museo Nacional de Ceramica Gonzalez Marti).** When you first set eyes on this edifice, you understand the meaning of the term 'breathtaking'. The baroque alabaster entrance to this unique palace—an eclectic mix of rococo, neoclassical, and Oriental architecture—is almost unbelievably ornate and over-the-top. In the 18th century, Hipolito Rovira (1693–1763) remodeled this 16th-century palace with the elaborately detailed *Churrigueresque* façade (named after the 16th-century Salamanca family who first used the style), aided by sculptor Ignacio Vergara (1715–1776). It now houses the **National Ceramics Museum**, a collection of ceramics from prehistory to the present. I particularly like the turn-of-the-century Valencian kitchen made completely from ceramics and a full-size carriage Cinderella would have been proud of. ⌚ 45 min. *C/ Poeta Querol 2.* ☎ 96-351-6392. www.mnceramica.mcu.es. Admission 2€: Tues–Sat 10am–2pm & 4–8pm; Admission free: Sun 10am–2pm. Metro: Xàtiva.

11 ★★★ kids **La Catedral de Valencia & El Miguelete.** Dominating the Plaza de la Reina is Valencia's cathedral. Work commenced in 1262 when they began to build over the old Central Mosque. Modification over the centuries has led to a combination of architectural styles: Romanesque, Renaissance, Gothic, baroque, and neoclassical. The cathedral's main claim to fame is

that it is supposedly home to the Holy Grail (see box p 28), a chalice taken by St. Peter to Rome and then brought by way of Huesca to Valencia during the Crusades. Pope Benedict XVI conducted Mass here during his visit in 2006. A more bizarre and grotesque treasure is the mummified severed arm of San Vicente Martir. The Cathedral's bell-tower, El Miguelete (El Micalet in Valenciano), is one of the city's iconic symbols. In the Gothic main entrance take the door to the left for the tower and climb 207 steps to the top for one of the best panoramic views of the city, across the rich fields of farmland and out to the sea. The right door gives entry to the cathedral tour (this will require more time than allocated but is worth it if only to see the mummified arm). ⌚ 30 min. *Plaza de la Reina, s/n.* ☎ 96-391-8127. www.catedraldevalencia.es. Admission 3€ adults. El Miguelete ⌚ 1 hr. 2.50€ See p 27, bullet 3 & 4.

12 ★★★ kids **La Plaza de la Virgen & Basílica de Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados.** Valencia is built over the original Roman city of Valentia (meaning 'strength and good luck') and the Plaza de la Virgen, arguably the most important square in Valencia, is where the Roman forum once was. Not only is it one of the most visited squares in the city, but it is used for all sorts of festivities, both religious and secular. At almost any time of the year you're likely to find something happening here. At the top end of the plaza is a fountain, depicting, in human form, the Río (river) Túria and its tributaries, not one of my favorite sculptures. Then, pretty orange gardens face the Basílica de Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados (Basilica of Our Lady of the Helpless), dedicated to the city's patron saint. Her nickname *la*

cheperudeta, meaning 'the hunch-back', is taken from the original Gothic sculpture, and her hair is from the heads of Falleras, the queens of Las Fallas (see p 122). The Basilica, designed by an architect from Requena, Diego Martínez Ponce de Urrana, was completed in 1667. Look up at the vaulted ceiling to see baroque paintings of the Virgin by Antonio Palomino (1653–1726). 🕒 30 min. *Plaza de la Virgen Basilica de Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados, Plaza de la Virgen.* ☎ 96-391-8611. *Open during services. Admission free. Metro: Xàtiva. See p 29, bullet 6 & 7.*

13 ★ kids **Torres de Serranos.**

These enormous and stunning gothic towers, built in the 14th century, were the main entrance to the Christian walled city that became home for travelers from Catalonia, Aragon, and Serranía. Although built to withstand enemy forces, they were never used in battle. The

Torres have seen varied duty over the centuries, most famously as a prison for nobility and latterly, in the Spanish Civil War, as a warehouse to protect works of art. The short climb to the top offers wonderful views over the Río Túria, the city's glorious park (see p 70) and in the other direction, the city itself. 🕒 40 min. *Plaza de los Fueros s/n.* ☎ 96-391-9070. *Open Tues–Sun 10am–2pm & 4.30–8.30pm Sun 10am–3pm. Admission 2€. Bus: 1, 6, 8, 11, 16, 26, 29, 36, 80, 95.*

14 **La Crêpe.** A tiny bar with tables on the terraces of the Plaza de la Virgen (all year round), there's no room inside. They serve excellent crêpes, good coffee, juices, and refreshments, and with one of the best views of the plaza and the Cathedral and Basilica. *C/ Caballeros. No phone. \$.*

View across the Plaza de la Virgen.



The Best in Two Days


- 1 Bioparc
- 2 Port America's Cup & Paseo Neptuno
- 3 La Muñeca
- 4 El Cabanyal and the Beaches
- 5 Museo del Arroz
- 6 Museo de la Semana Santa Marinera
- 7 Casa-Museo de Vicente Blasco Ibáñez
- 8 Vivir sin Dormir



Today, I'll take you on a trip to the zoo followed by an afternoon at the port of Valencia and on to the beach—and why not? With more than 300 days of sunshine during the year, the chances are you'll want to take it easy. For the more energetic, I'll pick up the pace and introduce you to a couple of small museums. **START: For the Bioparc and Parque Cabecera take Metro to Nou D'Octubre or bus 7, 17, 29, 61, 81, or 95.**

1 ★★★ Bioparc (Valencia's Zoo). Even people who don't approve of zoos are giving Valencia's latest attraction a huge thumbs-up. The zoo is unique, employing what is termed 'Zoo-immersion'. The result is an accurate likeness of the animals' natural habitats, ensuring both you and the animals find it believable: there are no cages and the animals seem completely content. At the time of writing, the parks named Equatorial Africa, the Savannas, and Madagascar are open and are very impressively similar to the areas they set out to represent. In Madagascar, for example, dozens of lemurs play, walk, and leap around as you wander through their enclosure. My wife and I had a coffee in the inexpensive thatched, bush-style lakeside cafeteria and restaurant while giraffe and antelope came to drink at the water's edge almost within our reach. It is idyllic; so do visit for

refreshments before you leave.

 **3 hr.** *Avenida Pío Baroja, 3. www.bioparcvalencia.es. Admission 20€ adults, 15€ children. Daily 10am–8pm. Metro: Nou D'Octubre. Bus: 7, 17, 29, 61, 81, 95.*

2 ★★ kids Port America's Cup & Paseo Neptuno. Valencia is frequently described as the city that turned its back on the sea. Some say that it's only in the past few years, with the advent of the America's Cup (the world's most prestigious sailing race and regatta), that it has remembered the sea is there. The decaying port was refurbished to make Port America's Cup and had new team 'Houses' and the marvelous *Veles e Vents* (Sails and Winds) building, designed by UK architect David Chipperfield, constructed for the international event in 2007. It is now better than ever with part of the Formula One street circuit passing around the port. Just

Veles e Vents in the Marina.





Malvarrosa, Valencia's enormous beach.

next to the port is **Paseo Neptuno**, a line of excellent restaurants and bars along the promenade serving, in the main, traditional Valencian fare—especially the ubiquitous paella. A quick perusal of menus outside each establishment will soon tell you that they all offer the same—mainly rice dishes and fish. The majority of restaurants here are excellent, but the most famous, reflected in its size and prices, is La Pepica, where Hemingway famously ate. ⌚ 2 hr. *Port America's Cup and Paseo Neptuno*. *Metro: Neptú*.

3 La Muñeca. La Muñeca is one of my favorites among the many restaurants on Paseo Neptuno. They offer a wide variety of rice dishes and a huge selection of market fresh fish. Busy most days of the week, it is particularly so on Sundays, when it fills with large, loud Valencian family lunches. It's advisable to book ahead. The Terraza has lovely views to the beach. *Paseo Neptuno 64*. ☎ 96-371-2083. \$\$.

4 El Cabanyal and the Beaches. The city beaches from Malvarrosa in Barrio El Cabanyal, just by the port, through to the barrio of Patacona are wide and sandy, and all have the coveted blue flags, meaning they are beautifully clean and safe. Showers and toilets are found at regular intervals along the beach,

and sun-loungers and umbrellas are available for hire, too. There are various play areas, nets for beach volleyball, and other games. Red Cross lifeguards patrol the beaches and the sea during the summer, and there is plenty of parking right next to the promenade. Most weekends, street traders ply their wares along the prom selling souvenirs, clothes, and jewelry. ⌚ 30 min. *Tram: Dr Lluch. Metro: Neptú*.

5 Museo del Arroz. El Cabanyal, one of several barrios (districts) that make up the port area, is closest to the sea. The old fishing village was getting a little frayed round the edges but is now part of elaborate plans for a new seaside resort. Rice is a major ingredient in the region's cooking, and the Museo del Arroz (Rice Museum) is almost the first building you come to on Calle del Rosario. Inside this restored rice mill from the early 1900s, you can see how rice was processed at the turn of the last century. ⌚ 15 min. *C/ Rosario 1, Cabanyal*. ☎ 96-367-6291. www.museoarrozvalencia.com. Admission 2€ adults & 1€ children, students, & senior citizens. Open Tues–Sat 10am–2pm & 4.30–8.30pm, Sun/hols 10am–3pm. *Metro: Neptú*.

6 Museo de la Semana Santa Marinera (Maritime Holy Week Museum). The seaside *barrio* of El Cabanyal is famous for its annual, solemn Easter Celebrations;

Semana Santa Marinera (see p 155) is almost as legendary in Spain as the similar celebrations in Seville. The week-long festivities involve brotherhoods of sinister-looking penitents who parade through the streets in pointed hoods and capes. The museum is devoted to the traditions of this Holy Week and has photos and costumes; it is in the same building as the Rice Museum (see bullet 5). ⌚ 30 min. C/ Rosario 1, Cabanyal. ☎ 96-324-0745. www.semanasantamarinera.org. Admission 2€ adults & 1€ children, students, & senior citizens. Open Tues–Sat 10am–2pm & 4.30–8.30pm, Sun/hols 10am–3pm. Metro: Neptú.

7 Casa-Museo de Vicente Blasco Ibáñez (House-Museum of Vicente Blasco Ibáñez). At the other end of Malvarrosa beach is the House of Vicente Blasco Ibáñez (1867–1928), Valencia's most internationally famous writer. His best-known work is *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, which Hollywood has filmed four times over the years. It is in this house that Ibañez wrote his famous novel, sitting at a huge stone desk on the terrace overlooking the sea. Lucky man! ⌚ 30 min.

La Semana Santa Marinera.



Casa-Museo de Vicente Blasco Ibáñez.

C/ Isabel de Villena 157. ☎ 96-352-5478. Tues–Sat 10am–2pm & 4.30–8pm. Sun 10am–3pm. Tram: Dr Lluch.

8 ★ Vivir sin Dormir (Live without Sleep). A great Valencian haunt and a key part of the famous 'bacalao' (see p 106) in the '70s. It has 'hung on in there', as they say, and is still a very pleasant place to have a few drinks after an afternoon at the beach. Paseo Neptuno 42–44. ☎ 93-418-5879. \$.



The Best in Three Days



I've created this tour with a more leisurely pace in mind.

Make a start in the morning and stroll around the city and along the river park, Río Túria, taking in a few museums. Begin at one of the city's newest, MUVIM, and walk, by way of La Beneficencia to IVAM, Valencia's Contemporary Art Museum, rated one of the finest in Europe. To finish the morning, check out the extraordinary Corpus Christi floats housed in a unique museum near the Torres de Serranos. After lunch, grab a bus to the fantastic and futuristic Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias (City of Arts and Sciences) and the Oceanogràfic.

START: Bus 5 or 11 to Guillém de Castro or metro to Angel Guiméra.

1 ★★ kids Museo de la Ilustración y la Modernidad (MUVIM). The Museum of Enlightenment and Modernity has one of the most wonderful names for a museum I've come across, though the name in fact actually refers to a permanent audiovisual presentation based on thought, from the European Age of Enlightenment of the 18th century to the present day. If you want to see this beautifully made presentation, you have to book. This is best done the day before—ask the hotel to phone for you. The presentation takes an hour and is visually and aurally stunning. There are usually excellent temporary exhibits as well as a pleasant gallery shop and café. ⌚ **1hr 20 min.** **Guillém de Castro 8.** ☎ **96-388-3730.** **www.muvim.es.** **Admission free.** **Tues–Sat 10am–2pm & 4–8pm, Sun 10am–8pm; year-round.** **Metro: Angel Guiméra.**

2 ★ kids Las Torres de Quart. Once one of the gates to the medieval walled city of Valencia, these towers were used as a women's prison from 1626 until well into the 18th century. They have withstood battles and sieges, and even the demolition of the city walls in the 19th century (this tower and the Serranos towers are virtually all that remain). They still bear the scars from the siege of the city by Napoleon's troops in 1808. There

was great consternation from some quarters when the city fathers decided on a restoration project for these towers: some people thought the holes and marks would be 'restored away'. They need not have worried though, as the towers are still battle-worn and cannon-marked. Like the Torres de Serranos you saw on the first day (see bullet **13**, p 11), these too can be scaled for views of this part of the city. ⌚ **40 min.** **Guillém de Castro 89.** **Admission free.** **Tues–Sun 10am–2pm & 4–8pm.** **Metro: Angel Guiméra.**

3 ★★ kids Centro Cultural la Beneficencia. This wonderful building, recently completely restored, houses two museums: the

Cannonball damage on the walls of the Torres de Quart.





Courtyard of La Beneficencia.

Museum of Prehistory and the Valencian Ethnology Museum. It is a charming place to visit, not least for its beautiful blue-and-white tiled central courtyard. The coffee shop here is worth a visit—take a seat and absorb the atmosphere while imbibing a well-earned refreshment.

🕒 1 hr. C/ Corona 36. ☎ 96-388-3665. Admission free. Tues–Sun 10am–8pm. Metro: Angel Guimera.

4 ★★ Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno (IVAM). Opened in 1989, IVAM was Spain's first modern art museum and is now considered one of the country's—and

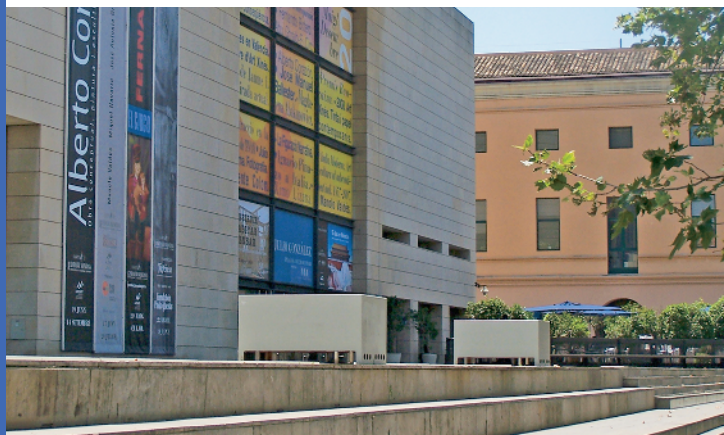
maybe the world's—finest contemporary art spaces. It comprises seven galleries, including one of the world's largest permanent collections of the work of cubist and abstract painter and sculptor Julio González (1876–1942). The museum has a fine international program of the best painters and sculptors in the world and is well worth a visit at any time of the year. I find watching the visitors looking at contemporary art can be as rewarding as the art itself. 🕒 1 hr. *Guillém de Castro 118.*

☎ 96-388-9000. www.ivam.es.

Admission 2.10€. Admission free Sun. June–Sep Tues–Sun 10am–10pm. Oct–May Tues–Sun 10am–8pm. Metro: Túrria.

5 ★★ Casa-Museo José Benlliure. I think this is a gem of a museum, and is a little bit of a secret. It is the house of 19th-century painter José Benlliure, (1855–1937) one of Valencia's favorite sons and a contemporary of the internationally famous Joaquín Sorolla (1863–1923). The ground floor is his house as he would have lived in it and out the back is a beautiful secluded garden, which is gloriously cool and shady in the height of summer. It is tempting not to tell you about the wonderful surprise on

Steps of the Modern Art Museum, IVAM.





An ancient float or rocas.

the first floor of the building at the back of the garden, but this is a guidebook, after all. At the top of the stairs, you'll find a small wooden door: enter to step inside José's studio. If you're anything like me, you'll definitely get a tingling feeling—it's as if Benlliure has just stepped out the room and will be back at any moment. An Aladdin's cave of objects, it is filled with personal effects, books, ceramics, Victoriana, and paintings. A rare delight.

🕒 **45 min.** C/ Blanqueras 23.

☎ **96-391-1662.** Admission 2 €.

Admission free on Sun. Tues–Sun 10am–2pm & 4.30pm to 8.30pm.

Metro: Túrria.

6 ★ kids Casa de las Rocas.

Each year at Corpus Christi (60 days after Easter) a procession of highly ornate floats depicting biblical scenes and morality tales makes its way from this museum to the Plaza de la Virgen (see p 10, bullet 12). These processions are famous throughout Spain and have taken place since 1326. This Gothic building was built as a 'garage' for *las rocas* or floats, in the 15th century, and is now a small museum that houses not just the floats but images

and costumes. When I first visited some years ago it was dark and foreboding inside, and a wizened old couple would put dim lights on as you walked around the exhibits. It is now a well-organized museum. The wooden rocas are ancient—one dates back to the 16th century—but the most ornate are from the 18th. '*Faith*' is one of the oldest, built in 1560, the title illustrated by a beautifully carved wooden blind-folded figure. There are also giant caricature figures that are worn on strong shoulders during the processions. 🕒 **30 min.** C/ Las Rocas 3.

☎ **96-315-3156.** Admission 2€.

Mon–Fri 10am–2pm. Metro: Túrria.

7 ★ Casa Mario. A little bar with tables on the street all year round, it faces the Torres de Serranos and serves delicious tapas and fresh fish. Their menu is essentially a traditional lunch menu but there are little twists to the dishes. Inside is small and intimate and the service is friendly. C/ Roterós 3. ☎ **96-392-4452.** \$.

8 ★★★ kids Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias. The



The Science Museum at the Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias.

stunning futuristic architecture of Santiago Calatrava and Felix Candela converted this ugly bit of marshland in the Río Túria into one of the best-known leisure parks in the world, attracting around 5 million visitors a year and making it the second most visited attraction in Spain (beaten to the post by Madrid's Museo del Prado). The 'City of Arts and Sciences' consists of five separate areas: the Palau de les Arts is a multifunctional arts center; Museo de las Ciencias Principe Felipe, a science museum; L'Hemisfèric, an Imax cinema; then there's L'Umbracle, housing aromatic gardens and providing a wonderful view of the complex; and lastly, the Oceanogràfic, which, in my view, is the highlight of all five. It has the largest aquarium in Europe, with a dolphin show that visitors say can rival any in the world. Although it is a great place to visit on any day, I think it's particularly perfect when the weather is really hot, because most of the aquarium is below ground. There are several 'oceans' to visit, from Polar to

Mediterranean, and schools of fish—including sharks and giant rays—swim around you in the two glass tunnels, one more than 70m/230ft long. The dolphin show (included in ticket price) changes time depending on the season, so check on arrival. 🕒 4 hr minimum. **Avenida Autopista del Saler, 1–7.** ☎ 90-210-0031. **Oceanogràfic.** Admission 22.80 € adults, 17.20€ children. Daily 10am–2pm. Metro: Túria. See p 25, **bullet 7**. See also Chapter 2: *I Have Seen the Future.*

🍷 ★★ **On The Rocks.** What better way to round off a day at the City of Arts and Sciences than in a cool (in every sense of the word) bar, watching the sunset on the marvels of the ciudad's modern architecture? This chillout bar is all white walls and sleek furniture, and opens daily from 10am to 3.30am uninterrupted, playing the smoothest sounds and serving the coolest drinks. **Paseo de la Alameda 45.** ☎ 96-381-4330. www.valenciaontherocks.com. \$\$.