

Rural Valencia Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: European Centre Based

Destination: Spain

Trip code: BMLCL

2 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The beautiful limestone landscapes of the Marina Alta provide lots of great walks with views over the glistening Mediterranean. Walk through villages lined with citrus and almond groves, explore spectacular ridges including the historic Caballo Verde and visit nearby dramatic gorge, the Barranco del Infierno. This tucked away yet easily accessed location is a gem in itself, offering a relaxing break from busy life, but it also connects you with wonderful Spanish culture including rich local cuisine. The glorious mountains of the Costa Blanca are known as the Marina Alta. These limestone mountains contain just a handful of tiny villages and offer outstanding walking. On the lower slopes you'll find rich terraces of oranges, almonds and cherries. Higher up, the rough hillsides are crowned by dramatic serrated ridges that offer some challenging walking and distant sea views. The mountains are criss-crossed by a myriad of tracks and paths. Some of these, used for centuries by farmers and shepherds, connect remote settlements and villages and provide access to farms and fields. The province of Alicante played an important role in the history of the region during the seven centuries of the Reconquest from the Moors. A vast variety of castles and watchtowers remain as evidence of the battle between the two forces. One of the best known figures associated with the period is El Cid, the legendary 11th century mercenary, a national hero of Spain. Our hotel is located in an isolated spot just above the tiny village of Benimaurell. Situated at an altitude of 592 metres (2,000 feet), it has a real mountain feel. The village sits at the head of the Vall de Laguart overlooking a dramatic gorge carved by the river

known as the Barranco del Infierno. Above the village is the jagged Caballo Verde (or green horse) ridge which in 1609 was the site of the final battle between the Spanish King and the Moorish occupiers.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

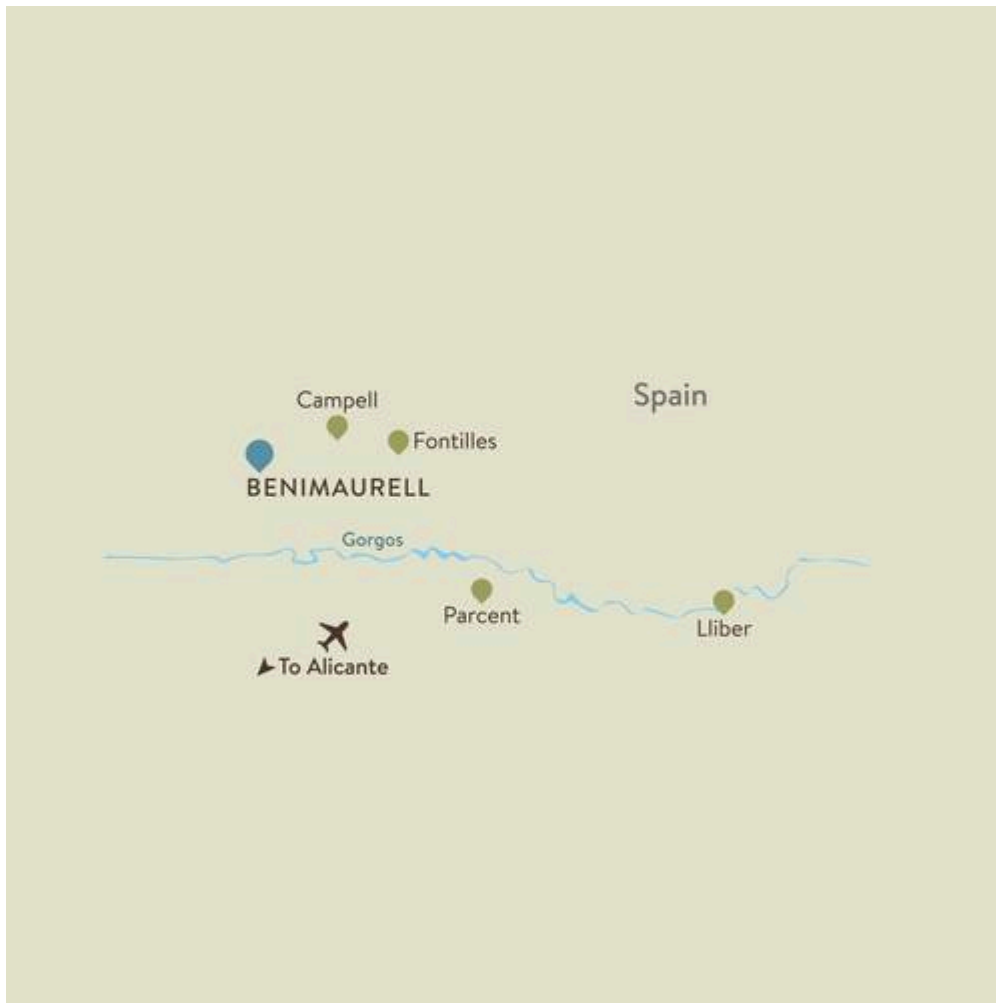
- A full programme of guided walks with 2 options every walking day
- All transport to and from the walks
- The services of experienced HF Holidays' leaders
- "With flight" holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers
- 7 nights' accommodation in en-suite rooms
- Half board - continental breakfast and evening meal

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk off the beaten track in this beautiful unspoilt province of Spain
- Enjoy our excellent 4-star hotel serving delicious regional food
- Sample the local tapas at the end of a walk
- Experience the mountainous terrain with views of the coast

TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 2 and level 4 graded Activity, Easier walks: 4 to 7 miles (6½ to 11km) on good but occasionally rough, stony paths. Up to 1,300 feet (390m) of ascent in a day. Harder walks: 6 to 10 miles (9½ to 16km) on rough, stony paths. Up to 2,200 feet (660m) of ascent in a day.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to Hotel Alahuar. Unpack and settle in.

Day 2: In And Around Benimaurell

Today both walks begin at the hotel and follow circular routes to give us a fantastic introduction to the walking programme.

Option 1 - Vall De Laguar Circuit

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Total ascent: 900 feet (270m)

In summary: From the hotel we walk downhill through the village before joining a quiet road leading us to the village of Fleix. Enjoying great views and the variety of vegetation and tranquility of the valley we arrive at the largest of the 3 villages Campell. Here there may be the chance of refreshments before ascending to our final section traversing through almond and olive groves leading us back to Benimaurell and the hotel.

Highlight: Visit the villages of the Vall De Laguar and enjoy the peace and tranquility of this remote area.

Option 2 - Into The Wilds Of The Serra D'Elbo

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Total ascent: 1,700 feet (510m)

In summary: Passing on the outskirts of the village we follow a quiet road for a short distance. Leaving the road we descend steeply into our first Barranc of the week Del Tuerto. From the bottom of the narrow gorge we ascend to a ruin near Juvea de Dalt offering fantastic views of the surrounding tops. Leaving the steep paths in the Barranc we are now following a rough track leading us out to Coll de Garga. The quiet tarmac road back to Benimaurell may be a welcome sight after the rough underfoot conditions already experienced.

Highlight: An introduction to Mozarabic paths and a Barranc which the area is famed for. Enjoy the views of the surrounding hills.

Day 3: Views Of Lliber

Walking from Liber, enjoy walks in the surrounding hills, through cultivated farmland and cross barrancs/dry river beds.

Option 1 - Around La Muntanyeta

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (240m)

In summary: Today we will travel to the village of Lliber. Our initial objective is a visit to Basa Dels Arcs a somewhat strange but never the less historic structure located between Xalo and Lliber. Retracing our steps to the village we follow a path round the hillside. After following the valley of the Xalo o Gorgos river, we then pass through cultivated farmland and ascend through a spectacular narrow valley to arrive at a surfaced road. leading us to Lliber.

Highlight: Explore the peaceful river valley of the Xalo o Gorgos river.

Option 2 - Castell D'Aixa

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Total ascent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In summary: Using the same coach outward to Lliber the objective today is the summit of Castell d Axia. Leaving the village we head for the hills and soon start our ascent on a well graded path. As the vegetation becomes more sparse the views of the mountains open up. Continuing fairly steeply the summit is soon in our sights. From the top there are superb panoramic views. Having taken in the views our descent begins with a long undulating traverse on the wide ridge of the Muntanya Gran. Our final objective of the day being the town of Pedreguer where we will meet our coach for the return to Benimaurell.

Highlight: Ascent to the mountain summit and traverse of the wide ridge of the Muntanya Gran.

Day 4: Cavall Verde Ridge

Today's walks from the hotel enjoy views from Benimaurell down towards the sea as we make our way to Col de Garga.

Option 1 - Coll De Garga Traverse

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Total ascent: 1,300 feet (390m)

In summary: A circular walk using a mix of rough paths, tracks and quiet roads traversing the slopes of Penya Alt to Col de Garga and returning to Benimaurell. Our route takes us through the village heading towards the ridge of Cavall Verde. Leaving the route to the ridge we join a mountain path traversing under the main ridge and taking us west towards Col De Garga. At a low point in the ridge our route takes us to the far side of the Cavall Verde offering superb views into the valley hidden from the view at the hotel by the mountains. Continuing to Col De Garga there may be the opportunity for refreshments before returning to Benimaurell and the hotel on a quiet country road.

Highlight: A traverse high above the village with great views into the valley behind Cavall Verde.

Option 2 - Cavall Verde Ridge

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 1,400 feet (420m)

In summary: The ridge is in constant view from the hotel and considered one of the highlights of the local mountain walks. From the village we initially follow a concrete track before joining a steep mountain path leading to the ridge proper. Now our route turns west as we experience a fantastic traverse with great views in all directions. Descending from the ridge we'll call at Col DE Garga where there may be the chance of refreshments. From here we make our way to the traverse used earlier by the E party and wind our way back to the hotel.

Highlight: A visit to a spectacular mountain ridge with views from the top, down to the village of Benimaurell and across to the sea.

Day 5: Free Day

Each week there is a free day when no guided walks are offered. Your free day is an ideal opportunity to explore the local area or relax around the hotel pool.

Day 6: The Village Of Parcent

Enjoy the green valleys and mountain views surrounding the peaceful village of Parcent.

Option 1 - Parcent To Murla

Distance: 6½ miles (10½km)

Total ascent: 1,100 feet (330m)

In summary: Today, our walk is a circular route through interesting and varied countryside. Arriving on the

outskirts of Murla we will stop to visit the picturesque Ermita De St Sebastia. Returning to Murla, where there is an ancient and historical Fortified Church. On route we will have views of the surrounding mountains including Cavall Verde. An interesting and unusual sight is the wall of the old Leprosy hospital built to keep patients inside the hospital boundary and to reassure the locals. Arriving back in Parcent we will visit a local Tapa's bar where we will take the opportunity to sample Tapas.

Highlight: Visit the old town of Murla with its ancient fortified church, sample tapas in a local bar.

Option 2 - Carascal De Parcent Ridge

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Total ascent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In summary: Our route heads out past the Barranca Cabres and on upwards to join the ridge. Traversing the rugged ridge we pass a number of peaks before reaching the high point of the day. Continuing along the ridge to the restaurant at Col de Rates where there may be the chance of welcome refreshments. Leaving the Col we descend on a mix of paths and tracks to arrive in Parcent. In Parcent we will join the easier level group in a local Tapas bar where we will also take the opportunity to sample Tapas.

Highlight: Traverse the rugged ridge and follow ancient trading routes with views down to Parcent and the surrounding villages. sample tapas in a local bar.

Day 7: Barranc D Inferno/Presa D'Isbert

Visit the Barranc d Inferno referred to by the locals as their own Grand Canyon.

Option 1 - Barranc D'Tamaborino And Presa D'Isbert

Distance: 4½ miles (7km)

Total ascent: 1,300 feet (390m)

In summary: Our walk today starts on the outskirts of Campell and includes an interesting visit to the Leprosy hospital at Fortilles where there is a small information centre. After the visitor centre there is a short walk round the peaceful hospital grounds. On route we pass through a tunnel built to give access for the construction of the Presa de Isbert dam. The views coming out of the tunnel are great as we continue into the narrowest part of the gorge. The dam lies between the very narrow walls of the gorge and adds to the dramatic scenery. Leaving the dam we ascend out of the gorge taking a slightly different route to arrive in Campell where we can have refreshments whilst awaiting our coach back to the hotel.

Highlight: A visit to the somewhat unique Leprosy hospital and a dramatic Barranc.

Option 2 - Barranc D'Inferno And The Waves Of Stone

Distance: 9 miles (14½km)

Total ascent: 1,800 feet (540m)

In summary: The locals refer to Barranc d Inferno as their own Grand Canyon, perhaps not so grand but very impressive never the less. We walk from the hotel towards the nearby village of Fleix and just before the village we leave the quiet road starting our descent into the barranc. The steep zig zagging and stepped route is a fine example of the many Mozarabic trails in the area dating back centuries. Passing through a natural rock arch and finally arriving in the valley bottom we can admire the waves of stone formed by the river. We must now retrace our many steps back up to the road taking in different panoramas. Our route back to the hotel is via quiet roads and lanes.

Highlight: The spectacular Barranc d Inferno one of the special attractions of the area.

Day 8: Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Alahuar - Valencia

This 4-star hotel overlooks the charming village of Benimaurell in the rural part of the Valencia region. The hotel has recently undergone a refurbishment and offers panoramic views towards the coast, spacious and modern rooms and a comfortable restaurant serving delicious Spanish meals. The village is just a short walk down the hill to access shops and services and many walks start from the hotel.

Accommodation Info

Rooms

This small hotel has 20 ensuite bedrooms, all different, with telephone, TV, hairdryer, room safe, mini-bar, complimentary toiletries and tea/coffee making facilities.

Facilities

Although a small hotel, there are many public areas, including a bar, lounge and terrace seating area. There is a swimming pool set in a small garden area with sun loungers.

Food & Drink

Our holidays at Hotel Alahuar are on a Half Board basis and include breakfast and evening meal.

Breakfast is a comprehensive buffet and the evening meal is a served 3-course meal with choices.

This hotel caters for most dietary needs.

Your Evenings

The friendly atmosphere of our Guided Walking holidays continues into the evening. Your leaders will advise you of any local music or maybe a stroll into Benimaurell before bed. Alternatively, you may just want to relax in the hotel over a drink and socialise with your fellow walkers.

Travel Details

THE HASSLE-FREE OPTION

Book your holiday 'with flight' and choose between Gatwick and Manchester flights to Alicante airport. For flight times and prices please see the Dates & Prices tab.

If you choose this option we automatically include return transfers between the airport and the hotel. The coach transfer takes approx 1 hour 30 Minutes to the Hotel Alahuar.

THE FLEXIBLE TRAVEL OPTION

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flight' allowing you the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price. However, below are some suggestions to help you reach your destination:

- We can book you a seat on the **HF Holidays' transfer coach** from Alicante airport. This is timed to meet the HF Holidays' flights* (provisional flight times can be found on the dates and prices tab or you can call us on 020 8732 1220 for more information). Cost per single journey is £25.50
- Why not let us book you a **private taxi transfer** - £80 per single taxi journey

Transfers must be pre-booked. Please call 020 8732 1220 for more details

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents.
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares).
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended.
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers.
- Warm hat and gloves.
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks.
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner.
- Thermos flask for hot drink.
- Water bottle (at least 2 litre).
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch.
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Sun cream.

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents.
- Insect repellent.
- Camera.
- Gaiters.

Useful Information

Language: Spanish

Currency: Euro

Changing money: There are several ATMs in Alicante Airport where you can obtain money.

Electricity: 220 Volt AC with round two pin plugs; you will need an adaptor for any appliances brought from the UK.

Tap water: Is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

Telephone code: If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialing the number.

To dial a UK number 0044

To dial a Spanish number 0034

The language of rural Valencia is Spanish.

Is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialing the number.

To dial a UK number 0044

To dial a Spanish number 0034

Local Currency

The currency of rural Valencia is the Euro.

Electricity

220 Volt AC with round two pin plugs; you will need an adaptor for any appliances brought from the UK.

ATM Availability

There are several ATMs in Alicante Airport where you can obtain money.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the

itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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