2026
ICF CANOE OCEAN RACING
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
C. N. LA VILA JOIOSA, SPAIN

Nº 1

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

www.icfcanoeoceanracingspain.com

CLUB NÀUTIC
LA VILA JOIOSA

WELCOME
MESSAGE

Dear Athletes, Dear National Federations,

On behalf of the International Canoe Federation, it is my great pleasure to invite you to the 2026 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships, which will take place from 9 to 11 October 2026 in La Vila Joiosa, Spain.

Spain has a long and successful history in organising high-level paddlesport events, and the LOC brings exceptional experience and professionalism to these World Championships. Their outstanding track record includes 16 consecutive editions of the EuroChallenge, a landmark event that has earned a strong reputation within the international ocean racing community. This expertise is a testament to their commitment to excellence and ensures that the 2026 World Championships will meet the highest standards of sport quality, safety, and athlete experience.

We are confident that La Vila Joiosa's unique coastal environment, together with the dedication and capability of the organising team, will provide the ideal setting for world-class racing and an unforgettable championship atmosphere.

We warmly welcome all national teams and athletes to join us in Spain for this pinnacle event of the ocean racing calendar. We look forward to celebrating the passion, spirit, and global unity of our sport together in La Vila Joiosa.

Best Regards

THOMAS KONIETZKO

President
International Canoe Federation

WELCOME
MESSAGE

Dear all,
welcome to La Vila Joiosa, the city that, in October 2026, will host the ICF Ocean Racing World Championship and transform this great town on Spain's eastern coast into the world epicenter of canoeing for a week.

As president of the Royal Spanish Canoe Federation, I am pleased to share with you the first Bulletin for this major world competition, held in a location with a long history of organizing top-level events.

In fact, the Eurochallenge, which celebrated its 16th edition in 2025, has become a must-attend event for all paddlers competing in this discipline, and the experience already consolidated over the years makes this town perfect for hosting this world championship. This global event is a source of pride for the Federation, as it clearly demonstrates the effort and hard work being done to consolidate high-level competition in the world of canoeing in Spain over the last five years.

In addition to the competition, this region of our country is the ideal place to enjoy many of the wonderful things we have to offer visitors. One of these is the climate, as in this area of Alicante, the sun and beaches will be a great incentive to relax before and after the races.

The second is the gastronomy. Enjoying the food is a must for anyone visiting this town, where the quality of the products is superb and there are dishes for all tastes.

So, friends, I only hope that your visit to our country for the 2026 ICF Ocean Racing World Championships - La Vila Joiosa, Spain, will make for an excellent experience where you can enjoy the sport, the competition, and everything that surrounds this beautiful town of La Vila Joiosa.

JAVIER HERNANZ

President
Spanish Canoe Federation

WELCOME
MESSAGE

Dear paddlers and National Federations,

The Canoeing Federation of the Valencian Community is pleased to invite you to the 2026 ICF Ocean Racing World Championships, which will take place from October 8th to 11th, 2026, in La Vila Joiosa, Spain, as well as to a new edition of the Eurochallenge, which will be held in 2026 with a new format on the morning of October 8th.

The Club Náutico La Vila Joiosa has a long and successful track record, including 16 consecutive editions of the Eurochallenge, an iconic event that has earned a strong international reputation.

Its experience and commitment, combined with its beautiful coastal setting, guarantee that the organizing team will ensure this World Championship meets the expectations of all participants.

We warmly welcome all teams and participants to this World Championship and look forward to seeing you in La Vila Joiosa.

Best Regards,

PALOMA CINTO

President FPCV

Comunitat Valenciana
COMUNITAT DE L'ESPORT

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WELCOME

TO LA VILA JOIOSA ALICANTE | SPAIN

La Vila Joiosa is a place of history, nature and sea. Each of the many civilizations that have passed through this land has left its mark. Today, visitors can admire Egyptian artefacts brought by the Phoenicians, such as the 6th-century BC New Year flask, an Iberian sanctuary, and the largest Roman ship ever excavated in the Mediterranean, among many other significant remains that highlight the historical importance of the town.

Its history has always been closely linked to the sea: a Mediterranean coastline full of light and life, stretching along 12 kilometres of shore in this traditional fishing town on the Costa Blanca.

OUR BEACHES

The beaches of La Vila Joiosa stand out for the quality of their waters, their services and their commitment to environmental care.

All beaches and coves are certified with ISO 9001 (Quality Management) and ISO 14001 (Environmental Management), guaranteeing high standards in facilities, maintenance and sustainability.

In addition, many of its beaches are awarded the Blue Flag by the European Foundation for Environmental Education, as well as the Qualitur distinction granted by the Generalitat Valenciana, recognising excellence in accessibility, safety and environmental quality.

The diversity of beaches, the quality of the water and the facilities, together with the accessible bathing area installed every summer (from July to September) on Playa

Centro, allow people with reduced mobility to enjoy the sea safely and comfortably. This makes La Vila Joiosa and its natural heritage a benchmark on the Costa Blanca.

Urban beaches, natural coves, sandy beaches, naturist areas, accessible spaces and unspoilt corners offer options for relaxation, family enjoyment, swimming and diving.

VILAMUSEU

Vilamuseu is the city museum and the hub of the Network of Museums and Monuments of La Vila Joiosa.

It is considered one of the most accessible museums in Europe. Vilamuseu is designed to guarantee full access to both the building and its contents for everyone. The main goal of the museum and its team is to ensure universal enjoyment of heritage by removing physical, sensory, cognitive, psychological, cultural and economic barriers.

Vilamuseu also houses the Interpretation Centre of the Bou Ferrer Shipwreck, a 30-metre-long Roman vessel that was sailing to Rome carrying thousands of amphorae filled with garum — a highly prized fish sauce in Roman times — and lead ingots belonging to Emperor Nero.

Opened in 2016, Vilamuseu is located on the site of the former Dr Esquerdo Public School. Its original façade has been integrated into the new building and is an example of historicist architecture: the twin windows evoke medieval palaces, while the ovals and arrow-shaped elements recall Greek and Roman styles.

With a contemporary design, Vilamuseu offers bright, open spaces and visual connections between floors to facilitate orientation. Visitors can also observe the restoration techniques used by professionals in the conservation workshop. Wide circulation areas, colour contrasts between floors, tactile information, easy-to-read texts and other features reflect the extensive application of universal design principles.

Thanks to its inclusive design and contents, Vilamuseu has received several awards, including recognition from the Design for All Foundation.

Furthermore, Vilamuseu currently serves as a satellite campus of the University of Alicante in La Vila Joiosa, offering a diverse cultural and academic programme.

BARBERA DELS ARAGONÉS

The Cross Pattée of the Knights Templar is the family emblem of the Aragonés lineage, which is why it appears on many objects in this house-museum. According to heraldic records, the Templar Juan Aragonés arrived in La Vila Joiosa with King James I in the 13th century.

His descendants held important political, military and religious positions until the 19th century and were the owners of this 17th-century country house, which has since been transformed into a romantic palace and museum.

CHOCOLATE

The aroma of roasted cocoa welcomes visitors to one of the oldest chocolate factories in Spain. This distinctive scent, produced during the roasting of cocoa beans, is one of the defining features of this factory, which follows the “bean to bar” philosophy — controlling the entire production process from raw bean to finished chocolate.

The museum houses one of the finest collections of chocolate-industry machinery, spanning different periods from traditional stone grinding to modern production techniques. Visitors can learn about the evolution of chocolate-making since 1881, when Valeriano López began his journey in

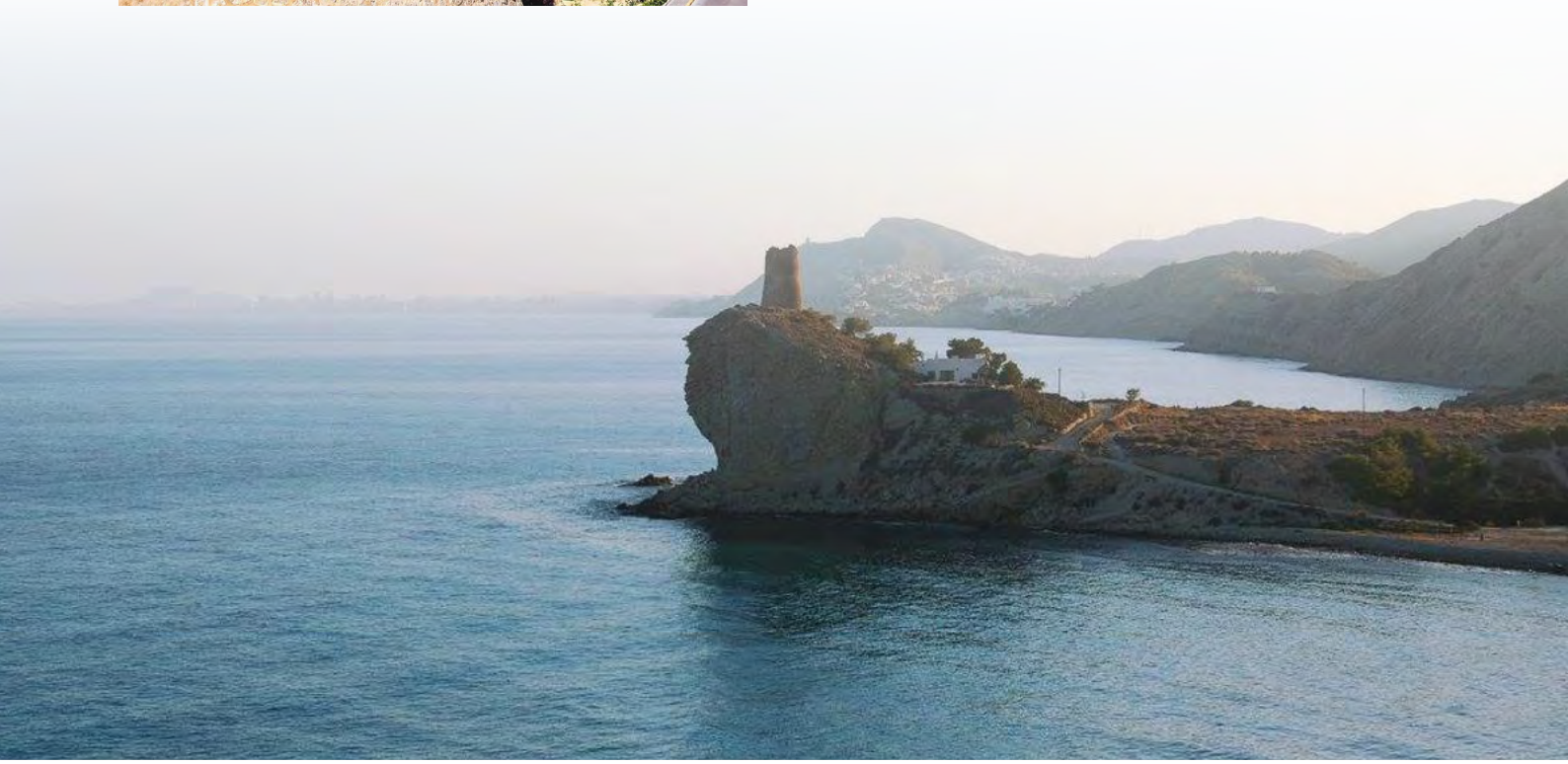
The exhibition also traces the growth of the Valor brand, changes in packaging design and the development of its various product lines. Overall, it offers a complete insight into an internationally renowned company that has grown alongside five generations of master chocolatiers.

The experience concludes with a guided tour of the modern Chocolates Valor factory and a tasting in the shop. Each year, around 100,000 people visit this museum, which has become one of the key cultural and promotional attractions of La Vila Joiosa.

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

La Vila Joiosa has more than 3,000 years of history, evidenced by archaeological remains found throughout the area that highlight the town's historical significance. Many of the traces left by the civilisations that once inhabited this land can still be seen in their original locations or displayed in local museums.

Visiting La Vila Joiosa is therefore a journey through time: from the Iberian Sanctuary of La Malladeta to the Roman municipium of Allon, home to the largest underwater shipwreck excavated in the Mediterranean; from the Old Town, declared a Site of Cultural Interest (BIC) and one of the best-preserved historic centres in the Valencian Community, to its anti-corsair defence towers, port and shipyards, once the second most important naval registry in Spain.



CULTURE TODAY

Kilometres of coastline, outstanding natural landscapes and thousands of years of history define this seaside town on the Costa Blanca. La Vila Joiosa boasts a rich historical, natural and cultural heritage that has shaped the lifestyle of both residents and visitors.

This cultural legacy has fostered a strong appreciation for the arts, making the people of La Vila Joiosa not only enthusiastic cultural audiences but also active creators.

The town offers a wide and varied cultural programme. The combination of activities organised by local cultural institutions and artistic proposals at regional, national and international level allows residents and visitors to enjoy a diverse range of artistic disciplines in the cultural spaces of La Vila Joiosa.

AUDITORIUM THEATRE

The Auditorium Theatre, with a seating capacity of 820 people, is a modern and distinctive building designed by architects José Mª Torres Nadal and Antonio Marquerie. It was selected for exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York as a reference project of contemporary Spanish architecture.

The Teatre Auditori is the centre of the town's cultural management and offers a varied programme throughout the year, except in July and August. During the summer months, cultural activities move to other spaces. In August, for example, the 'Teatre i Carrer' programme fills the streets and squares with theatre and multidisciplinary performances.

BARBERA DELS ARAGONÉS

This open-air auditorium hosts most of the summer cultural events. It is located in the gardens of the Barbera dels Aragonés House-Museum, a 17th-century country house transformed into a romantic mansion that once belonged to the Aragonés family, a prominent lineage of politicians, military figures and religious leaders.

At the beginning of the 21st century, after becoming municipally owned, the house was converted into a museum and its surrounding grounds into a green space in the city centre, now a popular meeting point. The area includes children's playgrounds and an archaeological garden displaying remains relocated from nearby excavations.

Another cultural space within La Barbera is the EAC (Espai d'Art Contemporani), located in the former stables of the estate and now hosting regular exhibitions by contemporary artists.

SOCIAL CENTRE AUDITORIUM

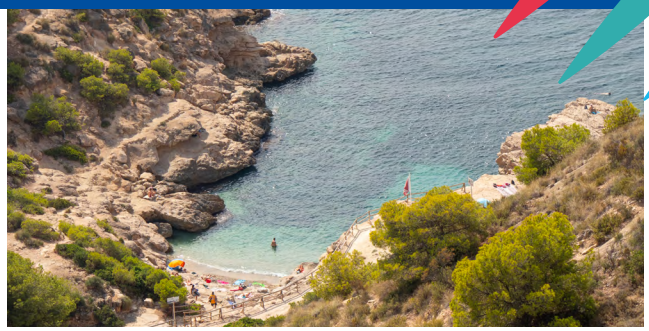
The Social Centre 'Llar del Pensionista', located opposite La Barbera and just a few metres from the Teatre Auditori, features an auditorium with a capacity of 300 people. It hosts small-format performances and events aimed at more intimate audiences. The centre's main hall also accommodates a variety of exhibitions throughout the year.

Whether you decide to spend a few days, a holiday or a lifetime in La Vila Joiosa, you will enjoy a rich cultural offering — the perfect complement to beach days, hiking routes, water sports or tasting excellent rice and fish dishes on a charming terrace overlooking the Mediterranean.

And after the theatre... how about some chocolate?

ENVIRONMENT

COSTABLANCA



La Vila Joiosa, the historical capital of the Marina Baixa region, is a coastal town on the Costa Blanca (Alicante), in the Valencian Community. It is located 8 km from Benidorm and 32 km from the city of Alicante.

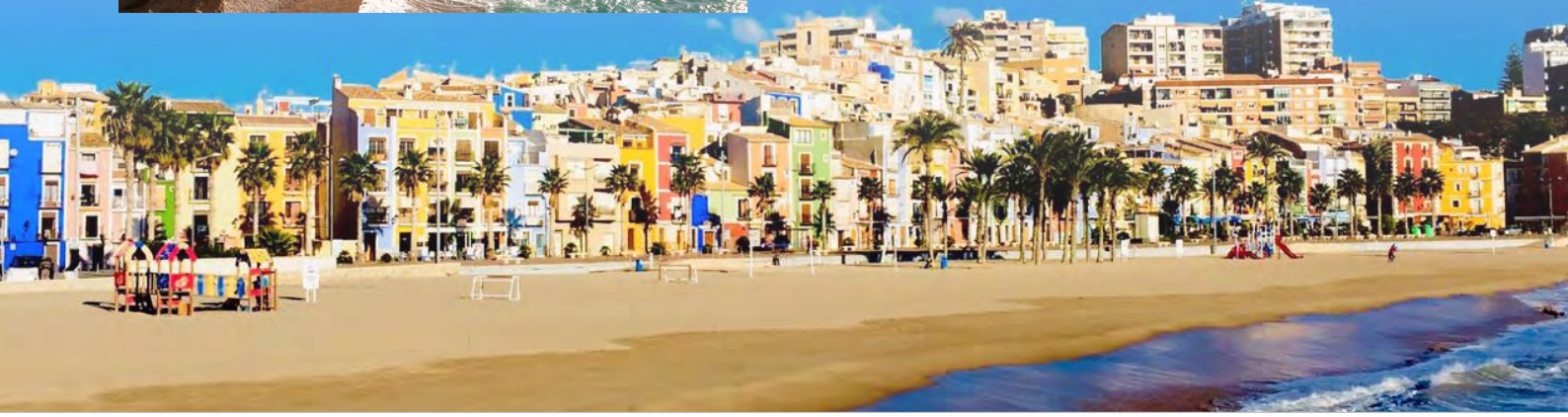
La Vila Joiosa has 15 kilometres of coastline and 13 beaches and coves certified for the quality of their waters and services. The municipality covers an area of 38.5 km² and has a population of approximately 35,000 inhabitants.

Its rich historical and cultural heritage, outstanding natural surroundings, privileged climate and strategic location in the heart of the Costa Blanca have made La Vila Joiosa a well-established tourist destination.

Despite this, the town has preserved two of its traditional economic activities: the chocolate industry — with three active factories — and fishing. These sectors have shaped the history of La Vila Joiosa and continue to define the character and lifestyle of its people.

In addition, its proximity to other cities and major tourist destinations further expands La Vila Joiosa's recreational, cultural and festive offer.

La Vila Joiosa enjoys excellent connections with the rest of Spain. Alicante International Airport and high-speed rail services make it possible to reach the city from Madrid in approximately two and a half hours.



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VIEW

CN LA VILA JOIOSA

CLUB NÀUTIC
LA VILA JOIOSA

international canoe federation

RFEP

FEDERACIÓ DE PIRAGÜISME
Comunitat Valenciana

CLUB NÀUTIC
LA VILA JOIOSA

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RACE MAPS

RACE A · CN LA VILA JOIOSA - CN EL CAMPELLO
Distance: 20 km

RACE B · CN LA VILA JOIOSA - CN ALTEA
Distance: 22 km

RACE MAPS

There will be an alternative triangular inshore race,
that will be used in case of dangerous conditions at sea.

2026 SHORT RACE EUROCHALLENGE // 8TH OCTOBER

*A **5 km race is currently being planned for the OPEN and U23 categories**,*
*as well as a **relay race for the JUNIOR categories**.*

DATES & SCHEDULES

1st MARCH 2026
Opening of online registrations

UNTIL AUGUST 1st 2026
€120 First Race
€30 Second Race

FROM AUGUST 1sr 2026
€140 First Race
€30 Second Race

20th SEPTEMBER 2026
Closing of Nominal Entries

5th OCTOBER 2026
Reception of the athletes
Accreditation Office Opens

7th OCTOBER 2026
Non Official Training

8th OCTOBER 2026
2026 Short Race Eurochallenge
Opening Ceremony

9th TO 11th OCTOBER 2026
2026 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships
Competition Day (Window Period)

11th OCTOBER 2026
Medal and Closing Ceremony

CLASSES & CATEGORIES

SS1 (SURFSKI SINGLE)

1. Open (men and women)
2. U23 (men and women)
3. Junior (men and women)

SS2 (MIXED SURFSKI DOUBLE)

1. Overall
2. U23
3. Junior

MASTERS

The 2026 ICF Ocean Canoe Racing World Championships are restricted to the following events:

- **MSS-1** (Men's Surfski Single)
- **WSS-1** (Women's Surfski Single)
- **XSS-2** (Mixed Surfski Double)
  The two athletes may be from different countries.

The **Masters category** for **SS1** is defined in the *Official ICF Canoe Ocean Racing Rules*.

Masters athletes who wish to be considered for **overall category medals** must be entered by their Federation through the **ICF SDP System**. Masters athletes who wish to be considered only for **Masters category medals** may enter through the standard registration process.

In accordance with the new *ICF Ocean Racing Rules (Rule 6.3.2)*, in **SS2 the combined age of the two athletes** will determine the age group in which the crew competes.
Age groups are calculated in **10-year increments**, starting from **70–79, 80–89**, and so on.

ENTRIES

Entries and payments will open on 1st of March.

Registration and payment will be completed exclusively through the official website:

https://www.icfcanoeoceanracingspain.com/registrations/

ACCOMMODATION & HOME HOSTING

If you travel to La Vila Joiosa for the **2026 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships – La Vila Joiosa, Spain**, you will find a wide range of accommodation options to suit all needs. Hotels, apartments, hostels and campsites are available, ensuring a comfortable stay close to the competition venue.

Many accommodations offer specific services for athletes and their companions, such as secure storage for sports equipment, transport options and menus adapted to athletes' needs.

The CNV team is currently working to offer special rates for participants.

These offers will be published in **Official Bulletin No. 2.**

We are also working on special accommodation packages.

Check the **available accommodation options below** and choose the one that best suits your needs:

https://www.icfcanoeoceanracingspain.com/information/accommodation/

SAFETY

All safety protocols established in the **2026 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships Rules (Section 3.4)** will be strictly applied.

https://www.icfcanoeoceanracingspain.com/competition/rules/

BOAT RENTAL

Information regarding boat rental will be published in **Official Bulletin No. 2.**

AIRPORT
& TRANSFERS

If you are travelling to La Vila Joiosa for the **2026 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships - La Vila Joiosa, Spain**, a variety of transfer options are available to reach the city from the main access points. Several transport companies provide services from airports, railway stations and other key locations, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free journey.

To make your trip easier, we have prepared a distance map highlighting the main transport connections, including nearby airports, train stations and road access. You will also find information on partner transport companies, booking options and recommendations to help you choose the most suitable alternative.

Explore all transfer options and plan your arrival in La Vila Joiosa with complete peace of mind:

https://www.icfcanoeoceanracingspain.com/information/transfers/

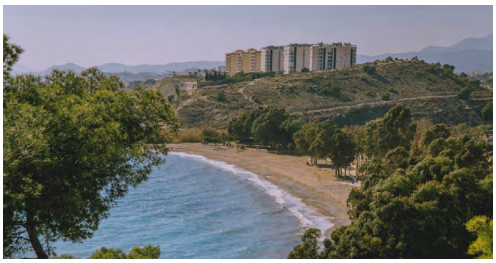
OUT OF COMPETITION ACTIVITIES

ACTIVE TOURISM

The natural surroundings of La Vila Joiosa offer a wide range of outdoor activities, allowing visitors to make the most of their leisure time. Active tourism perfectly complements sun and beach, cultural and gastronomic tourism, all of which coexist naturally in La Vila Joiosa. The surrounding landscape invites visitors to discover outstanding scenery by bicycle or on foot, from coastal cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean to inland routes where traditional Mediterranean flora and fauna can be enjoyed.

TREKKING

A network of walking routes begins right by the sea and follows dramatic coastal cliffs, offering panoramic views of the Mediterranean. Other trails combine nature and history, leading to 16th-century anti-corsair defence towers or to one of the best-preserved funerary towers on the Iberian Peninsula.



CULTURAL ROUTES

La Vila Joiosa concentrates nearly one third of the Assets of Cultural Interest (BIC) of the Marina Baixa region. These heritage buildings, spread throughout the town, turn La Vila Joiosa into an open-air museum.Strolling through the town centre and its neighbourhoods allows visitors to discover layers of history shaped by Phoenician, Iberian and Roman civilisations. Wandering through the colourful streets of the Old Town, enjoying the aroma of roasted cocoa, tasting traditional seafood cuisine and taking part in local traditions reveal the true character of this fishing town on the Costa Blanca.

ALICANTE

Alicante is a vibrant Mediterranean city rich in history, culture and natural beauty. Its heritage reflects centuries of Arab, Christian and Mediterranean influence, visible in its monuments, streets and urban landscape.

From the imposing Santa Bárbara Castle, offering spectacular views over the city, to the iconic Explanada de España, Alicante showcases a strong cultural identity. In the historic centre, landmarks such as the Co-Cathedral of San Nicolás and the Basilica of Santa María stand out for their architectural and historical value.

Just a few kilometres away, the island of Tabarca — with its fortified walls and picturesque church — is a must-see destination for those seeking a unique combination of history and nature.

BENIDORM

Benidorm is renowned for its extensive beaches of fine golden sand, ideal for relaxing, leisure activities and family enjoyment. Continuous cleaning and maintenance ensure that its beaches remain safe, comfortable and accessible all year round.

The clear and transparent waters invite visitors to swim and enjoy the marine environment, reflecting the town's strong commitment to environmental protection.

This dedication to quality has been recognised through numerous certifications and awards, including the Blue Flag, which guarantees the high standards of Benidorm's beaches and waters.

MORE PLACES TO VISIT

Discover more destinations and experiences on the Costa Blanca:

https://www.costablanca.org/en/discover

VISAS

Citizens of many countries do not require a visa to enter Spain.

For those who do require a visa, once your event entry has been confirmed and proof of accommodation has been provided, you will need to request an official invitation letter from the Royal Spanish Canoeing Federation (RFEP - Real Federación Española de Piragüismo).

Interested athletes may request the application form by email:

2026spainwcs@cnlavila.org

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