



The Camp de Túria region comprises 17 towns and villages and is located between the Iberian mountain ranges of Portaceli and Rebalsadors to the northwest and l'Horta de València to the southwest, occupying an extensive plain that is bound to the north by the Sierra Calderona mountain range and to the south by the River Túria.

It occupies the territory of the former Iberian and Roman Edetania, the capital of which, Edeta, is known nowadays as Llíria. It has a pleasant Mediterranean climate, slightly cooler in the highest parts. It has a wealth of historic-artistic heritage, Iberian, Roman, Visigoth and Islamic sites, castles, monasteries, shrines, churches and traditional constructions. There are also two nature parks. the Calderona and the Túria, and a myriad of beauty spots where you can go hiking, cycling, running, horse-riding, climbing, caving, orienteering and kayaking down rivers.

Llíria, the region's capital, has been declared a Creative City of Music by UNESCO.

The Iberian sites of Tossal de San Miguel and Castellet de Bernabé are also open to visitors. From the Roman period there are a group of Roman hot springs and a sanctuary, and the mausoleums.

The *Arab baths*. In the *Vila Vella* we find the church of La Sang, dating from the mid-13th century, a national monument since 1919, and the 13th century church of *Bon Pastor*.

The Renaissance main square (*Plaza Mayor*) of Ca la Vila is home to the church of la Asunción, dating from the 17th century. At the top of **San Miguel** there is a Monastery, founded in the first half of the 14th century. La Concordia has hiking routes and the park of San Vicente has a natural spring.

Notable features of **Benaguasil** are the remains of the Islamic hamlet, the former prison in the Islamic castle, the Renaissance house of the Abenámir, the Arrué palace from the end of the 18th century, its two monasteries of Montiel and *Santa María Gratia Dei* and the baroque church of *Our Lady of the Assumption*. It also has the Fenosa beauty spot on the River Túria, a very attractive location.

Particularly worthy of note in **Benissanó** is the 15th century Castle-Palace, built on the tower that defended the Islamic hamlet. It has a quadrangular floor plan, with a crenellated tower, Gothic mullion windows and coffered ceilings, and Gothic tile flooring. The walled enclosure still has the gates of **Llíria**, **el Pou**, **Bétera** and the **Valencia** gate from the early 16th century.





The church of Santos Reyes, the Pinaeta del Pou, the Penyes park and the Creu park.

Bétera, the town of the *Alfàbegues* (basil plants), has the Iberian site of *Tos Pelat*, the Roman villa of l'*Horta Vella*, the Islamic hamlet of Bofilla, the castle of Arab origin, the 18th century church of la *Purísima Concepción*, the historic complex formed by the Calvary, the shrine of Divina Pastora, both dating from the 18th century and the 19th century pantheon of the *Marqués de dos Aguas*, sections of Civil War shelters, the dry-stone constructions (*catxerulos*) of Perigall, and the *Hort de les alfàbegues*, where the world's largest basil plants are grown. It also has the Escorpión Golf Club.

Casinos is famous for its traditional nougat and sugared almond sweets (*turrones and peladillas*), which we can find in the different factories, and also at the Artisan Sweet Festival held every year on the last weekend of November.

We can visit the remains of the village of *Torreseca*, dating from the 4th century BC and the picnic site of the same name.

The new village of **Domeño** is home to the church of *Santa Catalina* and the municipal park with auditorium and recreational area. In Domeño Viejo, located in the region of la *Serranía*, we can visit the remains of the Muslim castle and the *Verche* spa.

L'Eliana has the former shrine of *San Elías*, dating from the 17th century, currently used for recreational purposes, the 18th century *Torre del Virrey* (Viceroy Tower), the 19th century church of Our Lady of Carmen (Nuestra Señora del Carmen), the water wheel in the *Mandor* canyon and the parks of *la Pinada*, Ramón Navarrete and *Hort de les Taules*.

Gátova nestles in the heart of the Calderona mountain range, with a wealth of springs and the *Sacañé and Chirivilla* caves. Notable hiking routes include the climb up to the *Gorgo* and the pico del *Águila*, the route to the Iberian village of Torrejón and to the mills of la Ceja (Molino de la Ceja) and el Cachumbito. Also available are visits to the *Piñel* aqueduct and the public wash place dating from 1915.

Loriguilla is the village divided in two. Loriguilla has the church of Saint John the Baptist, the park, the *Soledad* spring and the *Soledad* shrine. And Loriguilla Viejo, in the region of la Serranía, with the reservoir and a number of old constructions: the former





church of Saint John the Baptist, dating from the 18th century, the school, the doctor's house, the former shrine and the *Soledad* spring. The *Loriguilla Natural* rural tourism complex, next to the reservoir, offers accommodation for those who enjoy contact with nature.

In Marines there are two population centres. In Marines we find the Church of *El Cristo de las Mercedes*, from the mid-20th century, the Real park with a pond and children's play areas. Marines Viejo is in the heart of the *Calderona* mountain range, with the 13th century Moorish village of *Olla*, the Real castle, dating from the 11th century on the dividing line with *Olocau*, the church of the *Santísimo Cristo del Perdón*, from 1902, not to mention beautiful spots and routes around the *Calderona*.

Náquera offers natural beauty spots like the *Font de l'Or* and the *Pi del Salt* for us to enjoy. Visit the 18th century Church of *Ntra. Sra. De la Encarnación*, the shrine to Saint Francis of Assisi and the neo-Gothic *Calvary*, and the Cabeç Bord trenches from the Spanish Civil War.

In Olocau we can visit the Iberian settlement of Puntal dels

Llops, the L'Arquet Roman aqueduct, the 13th century Islamic Pardines tower and the 18th century Casa de la Senyoria; between the municipalities of Olocau and Marines Viejo there are the ruins of the 11th century Islamic Royal Castle, the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, dating from the 18th century, the Lladres bridge and the wash place next to the ravine. Within the confines of the municipality there are also routes to discover the springs. Notable features of Pobla de Vallbona are the Covatella Iberian and El-Andalus archaeological complex, the shrines of St Sebastian and Mas del Tous, the Gothic church of Sant Jaume with neo-Gothic paintings, the church of the Holy Trinity and St Joseph, the Casa Bernal and the ethnological museum in Casa Gran. Between the natural beauty spots of la Manguilla and Tos Pelat.

In **Riba-roja de Túria**, with sections of Roman aqueducts, Visigoth sites of Valencia la Vella (mid-6th century) and *Pla de Nadal* (7th century), the Moorish castle, the 18th century water tank, the *molino del Conde* (Count's mill) and the Miller's house, the old Bridge, the neo-Classical church of *la Asunción*, the neo-Gothic refuge-school of la Sagrada Familia and the Spanish Civil War trenches. Three museums with Visigoth, Islamic and ethnological artefacts. The surroundings of Riba-roja and the *Turia nature park* are ideal for all kinds of outdoor sports such as mountain biking, kayaking down rivers, zip line, hiking, routes on horseback, cycling and much more. The *Maldonado* park also offers rides in miniature steam trains.





San Antonio de Benagéber has an urban layout similar to that of the villages of Domeño, Loriguilla and Marines. In the new town we find the church of San Antonio Abad, dating from the mid-20th century, and the municipal park. The old town disappeared under water when the Benagéber reservoir was created.

Serra has an 8th century Islamic castle and a number of defensive towers. The town has the Gothic Carthusian monastery of *Portaceli*, although only the outside can be visited, and the Gothic aqueduct next to it. The former shrine of Santa Bárbara from the 18th century and the 19th century shrine of *San José and Calvario*, the neoclassical *Mare de Déu dels Àngels* church dating from 1802 and the 1938 wash place. The town also has numerous springs and some lovely hiking routes.

Vilamarxant is home to the technical office for the *Túria* nature park, next to the *Barca* bridge. The nature park is home to the *Rodanes* hills, which contain the *Ferraura* and el Clau trenches, the *bassa Barreta* and the riverside park. The nature area of la Pea, with facilities for bathing, and the *Pedrera del Rey* recreational area.



Notable features of the town's historic-artistic heritage are the Islamic water tank, the ruins of the castle and the church of *Santa Catalina Mártir*, dating from 1900.

GASTRONOMY

Different ways of cooking rice are traditional in the region. Particularly worthy of note are the paellas made with chicken and rabbit, cabbage and ribs, arròs amb fesols i naps (a rice and bean stew), and arròs amb bledes (rice, beans and chard). There is a great tradition of homemade confectionery, notably pasteles de boniato (sweet potato cakes), rollos de aguardiente (pastries with eau-de-vie), reganyaes (a type of sponge cake) and coca de almendra (almond sponge). Worthy of note are the peladillas and turrones (sugared almonds and nougat) from Casinos, which can be bought in the factories where they are made and at the fair held in the last weekend of November.

The virgin olive oil from Casinos, Gátova, Llíria and Serra. *Mistela* (fortified wine) and vermouth from Casinos, and honey from Serra. The onions from Pobla de Vallbona, Benaguasil and Llíria. Cold meats from the butcher's shops, including the so-called "Easter sausages" (*longanizas de Pascua*), which are sold all year round.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS WITH A DEEP-ROOTED TRADITION IN THE REGION_

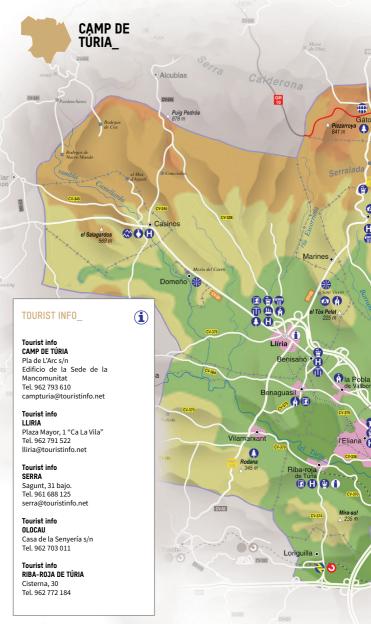
There are festivals and events all year round in the region.

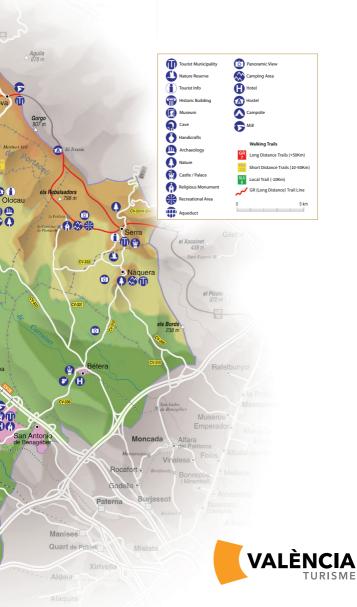
The following are worthy of note:

- *-San Antonio Abad* in January, in **Olocau**, a festival of local tourist interest.
- -Semana del Castell in Benissanó, in February.
- -The Camp de Túria "Trees and Castles" race in February.
- -The Fallas festival, in March.
- -San Vicente Ferrer, in Llíria and Riba-roja de Túria.
- -Festa de la Cirera (Cherry Festival) and Fira de la Calderona (Calderona Fair) in **Serra**, in May.
- -Iberfesta in Olocau, in June.
- -Offering to the river Túria in **Riba-roja de Túria** every five years, of provincial tourist interest.
- -La Baixà de Sant Roc in **Serra**, in August, an event of local tourist interest.
- -Festa de les Alfàbegues (Basil Festival) in **Bétera** in August, of regional tourist interest.
- -La Merenguina (a meringue-throwing festival) in **Llíria** in August, of local tourist interest.
- *-Festa del Dux* (a Visigoth-style market) in **Riba-roja de Túria**, in September.
- -San Miguel fair and pilgrimage in Llíria, in September.
- -Traditional *Peladillas y Turrones* (sugared almonds and nougat) Sweet Fair in **Casinos**, in November.

Texts and Photographs: Turisme Mancomunitat Camp de Túria.









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