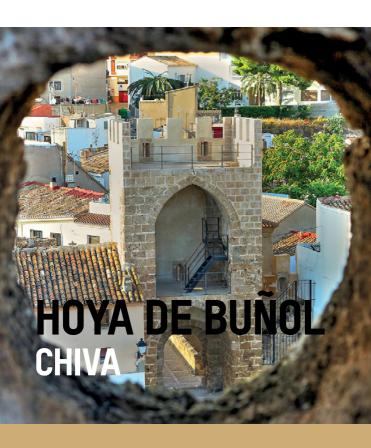
regions of the province of Valencia









The region is formed of a great central depression, the **Hoya de Buñol** strictly speaking, and the foothills of the Sierra de Chiva mountain range, which connects with the neighbouring Pla de Quart. Until the 19th century, this mountain range was the historic border between the kingdoms of Valencia and Castile.

The road to Madrid crossed the town at the Las Cabrillas crossing, making **Buñol** the entrance gate on the way to Valencia. The *Campo de Chiva* is a very gentle area of territory, and only becomes more rugged in the mountains, with altitudes exceeding one thousand metres at the peak of *Santa María* (1135m).

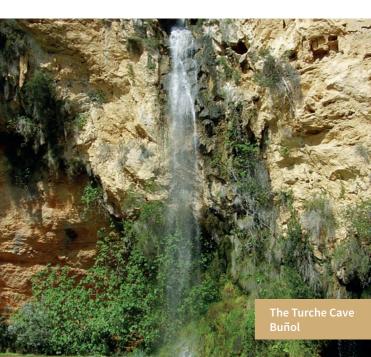
La Hoya's geography is much more irregular, with isolated mountains and hills inland, which complicates even more the gorge through which the **Buñol** river flows. All these features create a series of rugged landscapes that earned them the nickname during the Renaissance of "the Valencian Switzerland".

#### Alborache

**Alborache** has elements of great interest in its urban spread (the birth-house of the Miraculous child (*niño del Milagro*), the church of the Apostle Saint James, the spring and the Agricultural "Abrevadero" or watering hole).

Its natural surroundings have an abundance of springs and spas, which have created leafy natural spaces, such as the San Jaime Park, the Place of the Miracle (Lugar del Milagro) and the Molino de la Luz (the Mill of Light), which are ideal for hiking and enjoying nature.

The Mills route is easy to follow, on foot, by bicycle or even on horseback; it has information panels on the old mills and constructions built to make use of the water.





#### Buñol

**Buñol** has natural areas of great beauty whose common feature is water: particularly noteworthy are the *Buñol* river, the *Juanes* river and the *Mijares* river, as well as the surroundings of the *Turche* Cave. *Carcalín* has a route with a plethora of natural wells of spectacular beauty. Lakes such as the area of la Jarra and los Peñones. Finally, the source of the River Mijares in an area of great environmental value: *El Fresnal* which, together with las *Moratillas* and the *Fuente De la Umbría* is one of the last bastions of inland Mediterranean woodland in the Valencia Region.

Particularly worthy of note are its monuments and places of great historical significance, such as its 13th-century Castle, which houses the Gothic Palace.

The town's historic old centre is awash with history, such as the Parish Church of San Pedro, the street where the famous tomato-throwing "Fiesta de la Tomatina" is held, the *San Luis* Park with the municipal auditorium; the *Galán* Mill, today a

library and exhibition centre. **Buñol** gives you the opportunity to discover its heritage with guided visits and routes like the Music Route (*Ruta de la Música*) or the Springs Route (*Ruta de las Fuentes*), and enjoy nature with activities such as hiking, abseiling and sport climbing.

#### Cheste\_

The church in the very heart of **Cheste** is the town's most significant building. It was built in the 18th century as a symbol of power and has a fifty-metre high tower.

There are remains of Neolithic culture, ruins of Bronze Age settlements and traces of an Iberian settlement. In addition to the find of the so-called *Tesoro de Cheste* (Cheste Treasure), a collection of jewels and gold and silver coins.

The *Barrio de la Morería* (the Moorish District) is the town's oldest centre. Its origins date from the period of Arab settlement, located in the lower part of the castle.

### Chiva\_

Chiva is on the slopes of the Loma del Castillo, at the point where the mountain and the plain meet. Worthy of note are





its offer of gastronomy and hotels, and its typical dishes such as "Mojete" (a savoury porridge with meat) and "Pisto de Alubias" (a dish of beans, tomatoes and peppers).

The town has a considerable artistic heritage resulting from its history, and contains remains from the Metals Age, the Iberian period and even Roman times.

The **Sierra de Chiva** mountain range forms part of the so-called Sierra de los Bosques and, since August 2010, has the status of *Municipal Natural* Beauty Spot, the largest of its kind in the Valencia Region and with great environmental value.

# Dos Aguas\_

**Dos Aguas** stands on a hill at 369 metres above sea level, between the Bosque and Umbría ravines, nestling in beautiful mountains. With natural and cultural beauty spots, such as the Route of the

Cave Paintings (*Ruta de las Pinturas Rupestres*), the Kitchen Cave (*Cueva de la Cocina*) with paintings from 10,000 BC, and the Ichnology Site (*Yacimiento Icnológico*), where we can see dinosaur tracks and numerous trace fossils. They are also ideal for caving, sports and open-air activities.

The historic old town, with its zigzagging maze of streets, is located around the 12th-century *Castillo de Dos Aguas* or *Vilaragut* Tower, in the highest part of the town.

### Godelleta\_

**Godelleta** is surrounded by extensive, lush pine forests, where peace and quiet is the dominant feature, and which are ideal for activities like hiking.

Its economy is based on agricultural crops, non-irrigated land, cereal fields and a large number of olive trees.

Particularly worthy of note is its beautiful old town, located at the base of the *Alto Pinar*, with winding streets leading down to the *Fuentecica* ravine.

Standout features are its Arab tower and the Optical Telegraphy Tower located in the *Alto de la Torre*, catalogued as Sites of Cultural Interest. Also the Church of the Apostle Saint Peter (San Pedro Apóstol).

#### Macastre

**Macastre** is a town located between the *Buñol* and *Magro* rivers, where we can enjoy a wealth of historic and cultural heritage such as the *Macastre Castle*, the church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour (*Iglesia de la Transfiguración del Salvador*) and the *puntal de Santa Bárbara* peak, and a number of natural routes such as la *Fuente Grande*.

The *Macastre Castle* is of Muslim origin and stands on the remains of a Bronze Age settlement.

Worthy of note are the Saint Barbara Spring wash place (*lavadero de la Fuente de Santa Bárbara*), the *Fuente del Bolot* and its particular charm, and the *Fuente Grande*, a spring that takes fresh water to the water spouts.



## Siete Aguas\_

With a rich artistic and natural heritage, **Siete Aguas** revels in its high mountain climate, with cool summers.

Its biggest treasure are the innumerable springs dotted around the town and its large natural space, which make it a haven for rural, ecological and cultural tourism. A whole range of sports and nature activities are on offer, making it the ideal place for a summer residence, not to mention its tasty gastronomy.

Notable features are the *Santa Bárbara* de **Siete Aguas** shrine, and the Church of Saint John the Baptist (*Iglesia de San Juan Bautista*).



#### Yátova

**Yátova** is surrounded by mountains with an interesting historical and prehistorical legacy.

Opened in 2018, the **Yátova** Museum Collection (Colección Museográfica) has great historical value with findings from the Bronze Age to the Iberian period (6th to 1st centuries BC) discovered in the Pico de los Ajos, a fortified settlement at the top of the Sierra Martés mountains at an altitude of more than 1000 metres; it is a reference site in the Mediterranean arc, because of numerous lead plates with Iberian writing found there.

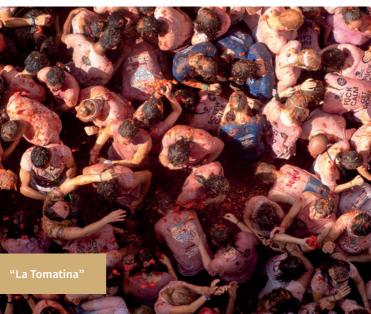
Particularly worthy of mention are the delightful natural spaces such as *Mount Motrotón*, the River *Juanes*, the *Tabarla* camp, the cave of *Las Palomas* and the *Sierra Martés*, a 1087m-high mountain peak.

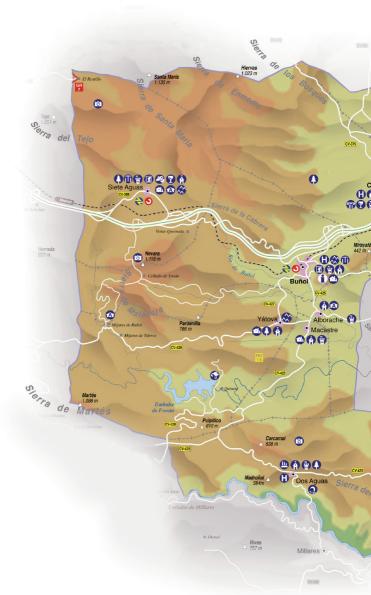
#### **FESTIVALS**

Undoubtedly the region's most famous festival, declared to be of *International Tourist Interest*, is "La Tomatina" in **Buñol**. This full-blooded battle of tomatoes is waged on the last Wednesday in August. It is followed by the *Torico de la Cuerda* in **Chiva**, which brings together numerous enthusiasts as either spectators or participants in this singular bull-running event. Not to forget the *Gran Fondo Internacional* de **Siete Aguas**, a major festival of grass-roots and elite athletics, a great sporting event that takes

place on the third Saturday in August, with more than 2000 participants. Other events are the *Fallas* in **Cheste** and the Valencia Region Motorcycle Grand Prix, held in November at the **Cheste** Circuit.











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