



EU Sky Route  
star tourism

# Valencia



Inland and Rural Astrotourism

## Overview

### Inland and Rural Astrotourism

Rural and inland tourism in Valencia is given an incredible boost through the region's most celebrated resources: the night sky. Observation of the heavens is a popular pursuit in Valencia owing to the quality of sky, the cleanest in Spain and minimal light pollution. One of the most important areas for astrotourism follows the axis between the towns of Aras de Los Olmos and Alpuente. Combining the qualities and facilities for astrotourism with Valencia's more traditional attractions, this SkyRoute promises an enlightening and fascinating adventure.

## Astronomical delights

### Aras de Los Olmos

This is Valencia's main astrotourism site, with the infrastructure, services and activities to get the most from the town's clear night skies.

### Astro hiking

Combine your love of the skies with Valencia's natural environment on one of two bespoke hiking routes taking you to the Observatory of Aras de Los Olmos (OAO) and to the Astronomical Centre of the Alto Turia (CAAT). The Ruta de la Muela – Peña Blanca is 24 km and the Ruta del Alto de la Muela del Buitre, 10 km in length. Each of these routes take advantage of the area's most appealing natural environment while giving you access to the main stargazing zone.

### Los Olmos observatories

Take your pick of professional venues to watch the skies with the selection of observatories and astrological resources available in Aras de Los Olmos. The Astronomical Centre Alto Turia (CAAT) was established by the Valencia Astronomy Association with the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Valencia, making Los Olmos an important meeting place for amateur and professional astronomers. The Observatory of Aras de los Olmos (OAO) is situated within the Santa Catalina wind farm, a location with excellent sky and one of the few remaining dark places in Valencia. Close-by sits the Astronomical Observatory of the Valencian Astronomy Association (AVA) and the amateur Observatory La Cambra (OLC). Each of these observatories provide a platform with telescope attachments if you are bringing your own kit.



## Memorable sites

### Bike tourism

When you're not following the stars, make tracks on two wheels in Aras de Los Olmos and Alpuente and combine the two. The areas have a rich and fascinating paleontological heritage just waiting to be unearthed.

### Dinosaur route

Alpuente has made its mark on the paleontological world owing to the vast number of important dinosaur sites in the area. From the Paleontological Museum of Alpuente to its heritage tours, retrace the steps of some of the region's most primitive residents.

### Labour of love

The Palaeontological Preparation Classroom is a dedicated lab where paleontologists clean and rebuild fossilised dinosaur bones found in Alpuente. It is also an educational space where visitors can observe the entire process from the point the fossils are extracted from the field until they have been fully prepared for study and display. The museum also has a large exhibition of dinosaur remains, highlighting the skeleton of a large sauro-pod dinosaur (a long-necked herbivore).

## Endless landscapes

### Mountain bike tours

A great way of getting a feel for the Valencian town of Aras de los Olmos is by mountain bike. Saunter wherever the mood takes you or take a planned tour to a unique and beautiful enclave, nestled between the Turia River and the foothills of the Sierra de Javalambre. The routes criss-cross mountainous terrain, with steep slopes and deep canyons. There are 16 routes running through Aras de los Olmos, La Yesa, Titaguas, Chelva, Tuejar and Alpuente.

## Places to stay



### ARAS DE LOS OLMOS

Casa Rural Celsa  
Aras Rural  
Albergue-Campamento Los Arces  
Casa Cubel  
Casa Rural Aras

### ALPUENTE

Apartamentos Rurales en Alpuente  
Casa Isabel  
Hostal El Sabinar de La Torre

## Places to eat



### ARAS DE LOS OLMOS

Bar San Marcos  
Restaurante La Travina  
Restaurante Los Tornajos

### ALPUENTE

Restaurante La Hoz  
Taberna La Cueva  
Victoria  
Bar Mariano  
Restaurante El Sabinar de La Torre  
Bar de Corcolilla

## Itinerary

Pursuing Astro Tourism in the Valencia offers two hiking routes to the Observatory of Aras de Los Olmos (OAO) and to the Astronomical Centre of the Also Turia (CAAT) from Aras de Los Olmos.

### Option 1: Ruta del Alto de la Muela del Buitre:

- Duration: 4 hours
- Length: 10 kilometres
- Starting point: Ermita de Santa Catalina
- Tour: Issue of Santa Catalina Source of Ram-Travina- CV 355- Camino del Collado-Senda Alto de la Hoya Muela-Corral Risca Gil-Limit town.
- Difficulty: Medium
- Description: This is a local path running from the Hermitage of Santa Catalina ascending towards the shady place of Ram and monumental Travina the Four Claws. It then delves into the canyon to reach Losi Escaiz Aras before climbing to Muela del Buitre, to the source of Cebriillo and to the Muela Santa Catalina for the Astronomical Centre of Alto Turia.

### Option 2: Ruta de la Muela – Peña Blanca:

- Duration: 8 hours
- Length: 24.5 kilometres
- Starting point: 0.5 Km from the CV-355.
- Route: Aras de Los Olmos-Corrales Melchora-Cairn Three Kingdoms-Barranco Sofía Losilla- Tornajos- Ermita Corral of Santa Catalina-Aras de Los Olmos
- Difficulty: Medium
- Description: This is a circular route (round trip) that starts from Aras de los Olmos, towards the Muela de Santa Catalina and ascends to the Hermitage to reach the plateau at 1300m altitude. Then the trail crosses the Muela and passes through the Astronomical Centre of Alto Turia. The tour continues towards the source of the Tornajos before returning to the town of Aras de Los Olmos, crossing the Losilla de Aras and the ravines of Escaiz and Melchora, among others.