

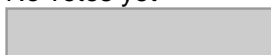
Heritage of Humanity



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Silk Exchange Market (Lonja de la seda) in Valencia ^[1]

In the market square of Valencia, a major scene of the history of the city, the Silk Exchange, one of the most beautiful public buildings of European Gothic architecture, rises and reveals

the commercial prosperity of the city of Valencia up to the 16th Century. La Lonja is opposite the town market and shows the splendor of its flamboyant style. Its carved door rests on slight columns with graceful pinnacles. If you are surprised by its façade, come inside and visit the Sala de Contratación (Exchange Room) and be amazed!

The Palm Grove of Elche [2]

Elche has more palm trees than inhabitants, thousands of steep palm trees that hide buildings, towers and domes in one of the most populous towns of Valencia. High and robust palm trees surround its cozy *horts* (vegetable gardens), the green fields that overlook the Mediterranean through the dunes. Nearly a hundred palm tree groves, such as the spectacular Huerto del Cura, presided for the past two centuries by an imperial palm tree with seven branches sprouting from a single trunk, reveal their beauty.

Rock art in the Iberian Mediterranean Basin [3]

The Valencia region features more than 300 rock shelters with cave paintings of the so called "Levantine" art (art of the Eastern Coast), mostly among tortuous ravines and along riverbeds of meager flow. The archaeological sites in Morella la Vella, La Sarga, Valltorta-Gasulla, the Cave of the Spider (Cueva de la Araña) and the Pla de Petracos, all of which can be visited, show men and women and nomadic hunters distant in time. Our ancestors were able to paint fascinating scenes of life and death, war and peace, hunting and gathering ... An art that has stood the test of time.

The Tribunal de las Aguas (The Water Court) [1]

A precious and scarce element such as water, a treasure that belongs to everyone and to no one shows in Valencia its human and organized side thanks to the Tribunal de las Aguas, a court in charge of settling disputes on irrigation rights between farmers of the Valencian orchards. The Tribunal de las Aguas, which has met every Thursday at the door of the Apostles in the Cathedral for over a thousand years, clarifies the distribution of the flow, the eight ditches and the canals of the River Turia.

The Misteri d'Elx [4]

The Misteri d'Elx is a lyrical drama of medieval origin, which recreates the death, assumption and crowning of the Virgin Mary. The play was maintained over time thanks to a papal bull after the Council of Trent. The Misteri, with texts collected in the fourth century of the apocryphal gospels, was orally transmitted since the early years of Christianity. The representation is divided into two acts and staged each year on the 14th and 15th of August in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Elche.

The Feast of the Mare de Deu de la Salut [5]

Algemesí dresses up and goes out to honor its patron saint, the Virgin of Health (la Salut). The town becomes a living museum where one can admire the Muixeranga or human towers, Els tornejants, Els Bastonets, Les Pastorettes or Les llauradores. It is a festival of medieval origin. Tradition, legends, faith and culture come together in a celebration welcomed every year by thousands of visitors on the 7th and 8th of September.



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