

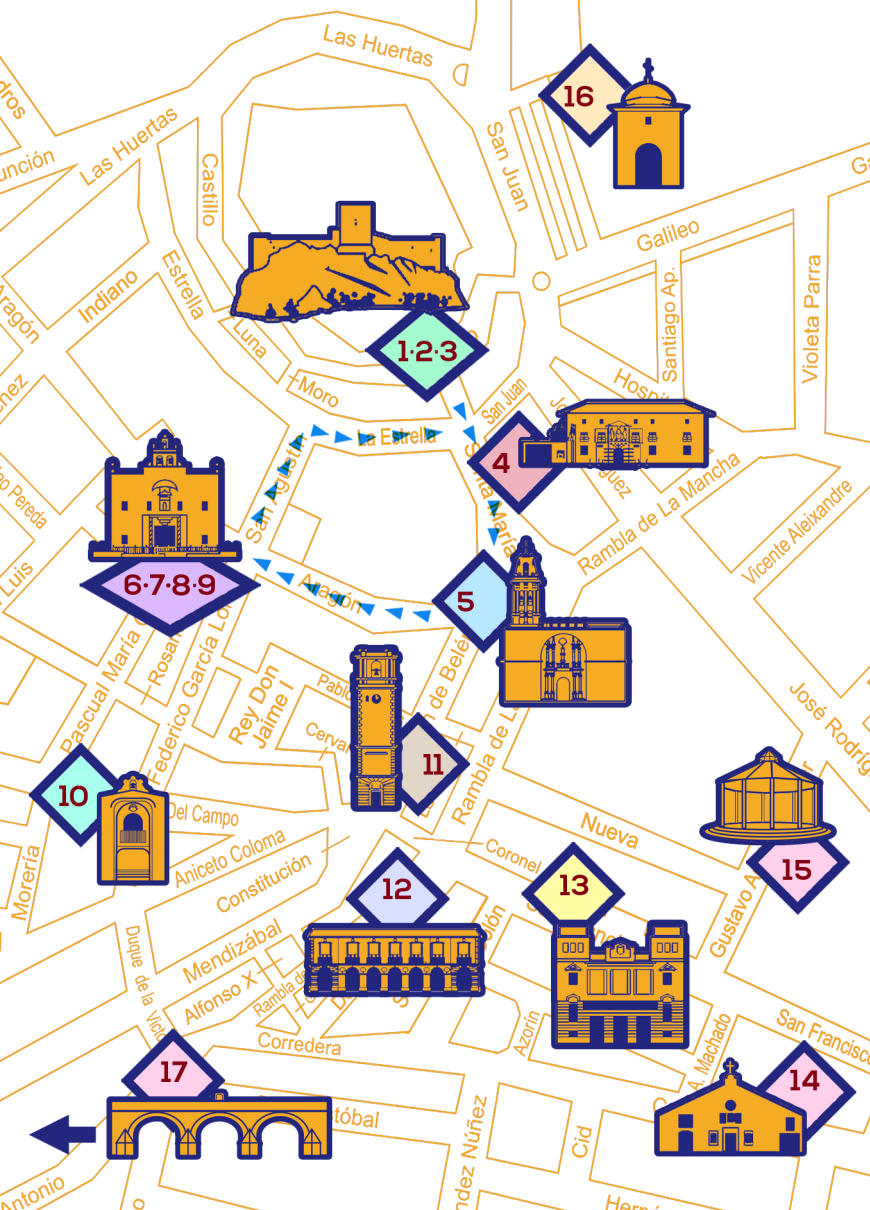


Almansa

ATRÉVETE A SENTIR

CITY GUIDE





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1 - TOURIST OFFICE

Tourist information point where brochures on the different resources of the city are available for anyone who wishes: historical and religious heritage, museums, natural routes as well as cultural events such as theatre plays, exhibitions, talks...It is located in the historical centre of the city, at Saint Mary Square, next to the stairs which give access to the Castle.

In this square we also find the current Town Hall (which was the old Renaissance Palace of the Counts of Cirat) and the Arciprestal Church of "The Assumption". On the ground floor of the Tourist Office there is also the Battle of Almansa Museum.

The opening hours are from Monday to Sunday, from 10 am to 2 pm and from 4 pm to 7 pm.

In Summer, the afternoon timetable is from 5 pm to 8 pm.

In Winter, the afternoon timetable is from 4 pm to 6 pm.

www.almansaturistica.es - Teléfono: 967 344 771





2 - BATTLE OF ALMANSA MUSEUM

In its facilities, on the ground floor of the Tourist Office, the Museum offers an interpretation of the historical event that occurred in 1707 in the context of the War of the Spanish Sucession (1701-1714). This interpretation is adapted to all ages. The Museum exhibits a copy of the painting that Filippo Pallota and Buonaventura Ligli made between 1707 and 1709 under commission for Philip V. The "Vitorero", a local historical figure, or the commemorative monuments that have happened in the city at the rate of historical evolution are some of the items offered during the visit.

The Museum also exhibits some historical pieces loaned by the Toledo Army Museum and various material collected from the scene of the fighting. Throughout the route, the visitor has several information points with interactive screens. The visit concludes with a spectacular audiovisual. Every first Sunday of the month the Museum organizes guided tours of the historic battlefield.

The Museum defends that the historical remains, buildings, memories, paintings, natural sites and popular memories that are preserved from a battle of the characteristics of the one occurred in Almansa in 1707 are a historical and cultural heritage without borders that belong to all of us and it is very important to preserve, interpret and disseminate them.

The opening hours are from Tuesday to Sunday, from 10:30 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to 7 pm.

In Winter, the afternoon timetable is from 4 pm to 6 pm.

It is closed on Sunday afternoons.

Tel.: 967 344 771 - batalla@almansaturistica.es - **www.1707.es**





3 - ALMANSA CASTLE

A castle from the 14th-15th century strategically built on the Cerro del Águila hill in the Corredor de Almansa, one of the seventeen natural passes and communication route between Levante and the centre of the peninsula.

The vertical limestone slabs that make up the hill conditioned the elongated shape of the castle and were used as foundations for the construction of the first Christian fortress in the 15th century, ordered by Don Juan Manuel. The good state of conservation of the castle takes the visitor back to the time of the castle's greatest splendour, the 15th century, when the Marquis of Villena Don Juan Pacheco dominated the territory.

In the latest intervention, the area where two main buildings of the 14th century castle were located has been excavated, giving rise to an archaeological gallery that can now be seen from the interpretation centre in the parade ground. This has been built to preserve the archaeological remains, create a museum space and recover the volume of the two lost blocks.

Visitors also have an audio guide that has been made available to them via an mobile application.

Time-table

-Mornings 11:00 am- 14:00 pm:

-Afternoons:

-Spring 17:00 pm to 20:00

-Autumm 16:00 pm to 19:00 pm

-Winter 16:00 pm to 18:00 pm

We closed Sunday afternoon in winter and monday between october to march.



4 - TOWN HALL

PALACE OF THE COUNTS OF CIRAT

The current Town Hall is located in an old Renaissance palace that receives the name of Palace of the Counts of Cirat although it is also known as "Big House". Its construction dates from 1575 as it is shown in an inscription on its façade. Its first owner was Don Alonso de Pina, one of the most prominent members of the society of Almansa in the 16th century.

The Mannerist portal is divided into two sections. The upper one houses the shield of Don Alonso de Pina. The palace is distributed around a square Renaissance porticoed courtyard, a typical element of the 16th century palaces. This courtyard acts as a space distributor, which is accessed from a hallway. It is made up of two sections, both of them with semicircular arches and ionic columns.

At the west door, once the garden has been accessed, there is an 18th century portal, corresponding to the façade of the old palace of the Counts of Antillón that was moved to its current place in the 1960s.

It is also noteworthy the reproduction of the painting of the Battle of Almansa which presides over the Plenary Hall of the current Town Hall. The reproduction was painted in oil between 1986 and 1994 by the local artist Paulino Ruano. The original picture (Buonaventura Ligli and Filippo Pallota, 1709) belongs to the collection of the Prado Museum and it is on deposit in the Palace of the Valencian Courts.









5 - CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

The Church of The Assumption is the result of several construction stages, from the 16th to the 19th century, which allows us to admire elements of all the architectural and artistic styles of each era: Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassical. The work of a new church was due to the increase in population that the town had during the 16th century. The date of the beginning of its construction was 30th April 1524.

The façade is the most striking element. It was raised in Renaissance style and represents the Annunciation with great technical quality in the lower body; the Assumption of the Virgin is represented in the upper body. The Sacristy and the Chapter House were completed in the middle of the 17th century. The Communion Chapel was completed later, at the end of the 18th century in addition to the striking solid brick tower which is the only one built (1782) of the two towers in the project.

Inside the Church, we find a Latin cross plan with a single nave topped with a barrel vault with lunettes and side chapels with Gothic cross vaults. We can also admire a semicircular apse, raised with Corinthian columns reminiscent of the Royal Chapel of Versailles.

It was rebuilt in 1802 after the collapse of the vault of the main altar.



6 - HOUSE OF THE LORDS ENRÍQUEZ DE NAVARRA

It is the manor house of the family of the perpetual governors of the Castle from 1624 to the present day, the Enríquez de Navarra. It is a civil building dating from the 17th century.

Its façade is completely built in ashlar stone, alluding to Navarra's own construction technique. On its baroque façade there was a magnificent noble coat of arms destroyed during the Civil War.

There are two bodies on the façade: the first one, with a lintel door with two false pilasters; in the upper one, we find a single balcony with a wrought iron railing.

The historical importance of this house in Almansa resides in that it was where the Duke of Berwick stayed during the days before and after the Battle of Almansa, being therefore the headquarters of the army of The Two Crowns during those days. On April 27th, the formal surrender of the allied army was held in one of its rooms, and the capitulations were signed. Among other illustrious figures, the monarchs Charles III and Elizabeth II of Spain have been housed in the house.





7 - HOUSE OF CULTURE

Civil building originally built to be a grain warehouse in the 17th century. During the 18th century it was the seat of the Municipal Council; we can still see the original municipal coats of arms of that time on the lintels of the side windows and prior to the Battle of Almansa, since the monolith is not represented, an element that was added to the shield after the war.

In the center of the upper body of the façade you can see the footprint of the space occupied by the coat of arms of Charles II, monarch at the time the building was erected in the middle of the 17th century and which was destroyed during the Civil War.

In other historical moments it was also a prison and a school. Today, it is the House of Culture, a space for exhibitions, courses, talks and cultural events. It also houses one of the two municipal libraries.



8 - AUGUSTINIAN NUNS SQUARE

In the centre of the city, located at the foot of the Castle, we find the Augustinian Nuns Square, one of the main points of reference in the historical-artistic complex of the city. From this location, you can find the only two manor houses that are still preserved in Almansa. They currently belong to families with noble titles.

On the one hand, the House of the Lords Enríquez de Navarra which has a façade made of stone ashlar. On the other hand, opposite the first one and framing the Augustinian Nuns Square, we find the House of the Marquises of Montortal.

Next to the House of the Lords Enríquez de Navarra, on the right, the current House of Culture is located where exhibitions, talks and different courses are held. It also houses one of the two municipal libraries. This building was built during the 16th century as a warehouse of grain and from the 17th century it became the seat of the old council.

The Convent of the Augustinian Nuns, also located in the square, was founded in 1609 although today, only the church built in 1704 is preserved. The highlight of this structure is its Baroque façade, the cells and the cloister, these latter ones very transformed.





9 - CONVENT OF THE AUGUSTINIAN NUNS

A 17th century convent founded in 1609 on the initiative of the priest Lázaro Galiano Pina and his sister Ana Galiano Pina. On 6th January 1609 the Augustinian order of nuns took possession of the convent. However, practically nothing remains of that first foundation. At present, only the church, the cells and the cloister remain; these latter ones greatly transformed.

The cloister was built a hundred years later, in 1704 by Juan Fouquet y Verde, an architect of Levantine origin. It is made up of stone on the front and corners. Its main architectural value lies in the Baroque façade, one of the most significant examples of this artistic style in the city. The two Solomonian columns of its lower body stand out. Currently, the church is deconsecrated and it is owned by a local private company that uses the space for holding events.



10 - LITTLE CHAPEL OF ROSARY

The little Chapel of Rosary is a Baroque arch-chapel that gives access to Moreria Street. It is a simple work of popular architecture of small dimensions topped with a dome and Baroque ornamental elements as interior decoration.

This chapel has a prominent role in the Major Festivities of our city as it is the place where the traditional "Lamb Raffle" takes places every May



5th. It was built in 1795 to the devotion of the Cuenca and Pina Galiano families whose descendants promised to pay for the amount of oil consumed by the lamp of the chapel.

At the beginning of October 1885, the neighbours hired two local music bands and fired a firework display to celebrate in style the Virgin of Rosary festival (7th October), in gratitude for having survived the terrible cholera epidemic that had affected the entire population during the previous months.



11 - TORRE DEL RELOJ

Tower of the 18th century completed around 1792 by the architect Antonio Cabrera, eight years before the tower of the Church of "The Assumption". The tower was destined to house the Town Hall clock and its location is due to the urban growth of Almansa at the end of the 18th century.

Made of masonry, it consists of four sections:

- In the first one, the entrance door under a false arch.
- In the second section, we can see the shield of the city carved in stone with flags and



cannons taken from the defeated army in the Battle of Almansa.

- In the third one, there are the clock faces, one towards Constitution Square and the other one towards San Francisco Street.
- In the last section, the body of bells. It is the most outstanding, decorated with double pilasters on pedestals that frame the semicircular arches of the bell tower.

At the top of the tower there is a balustrade topped by corner balusters.



12 - OLD MARKET

The Old Market was built in 1800 as shown in the key to the central arch. It has a rectangular floor plan and it is made up of two bodies. The lower one creates a market place or porticoed exterior area that was used as a market and offered protection to the merchants and merchandise from adverse weather conditions. This function gave the building its name: “La Lonja”.

The second body was destined to the municipal offices as the seat of the City Council, until its relocation to the Old Palace of the Counts of Cirat or “Big House” in the 1990s. The arcaded area consists of seven arches on pillars in the longest side and one more on each of the short sides.

On the upper floor, there is a balcony over each of the lower arches, highlighting the order of the Neoclassical style in which it was built. The ornamental elements, typical of this style, are seen in the padding, the bent voussoirs, the cornices supported by corbels or the denticles.

After the Civil War, a new body was built to increase its useful space.





13 - REGIO THEATRE

The 19th century brought with it a new social class, the Bourgeoisie, business or middle, which contributed to the creation of new civil buildings. With its inauguration in 1930, Almansa had four notable examples of what we could call "architecture for leisure"; The Coliseum Theatre, the Cervantes Theatre-Hall, The Principal Theatre and the Regio Theatre. Although the four of them survived the Civil War era, only the last two are preserved today.



The curtain, with its original painting, that was made for the inauguration of the Regio Theatre is also preserved. After a period of splendor and another one of decadence, it was reopened in 2007 after its restoration in which the structure of the original building was maintained and a new floor, the stage box, the orchestra pit and the dressing rooms were erected; the original ornamental motifs were respected on the cover.

Today, the Regio Theatre is still used for cultural events such as plays, concerts or exhibitions.



14 - CONVENT OF THE FRANCISCAN FATHERS

A convent located in the surroundings of the Garden of the Catholic Kings. It is a Baroque construction from the 17th century. The church is next to the premises of the convent. It has a rectangular floor plan and a sober façade in which an inscription carved in stone stands out and indicates the date



of its construction; 1660, when the work began. On 26th July 1842, the Franciscan friars had to leave the convent in accordance with the Confiscation Law by Mendizábal.

After some historical ups and down, the monks returned until the establishment of the Republic in 1931 when they were expelled again. During part of the Civil War its church served as a garage for the International Brigades. Once the War had ended and after carrying out some repairs, the Franciscan Fathers returned to the building which was also a school for children. Today, it is uninhabited.



15 - GARDEN OF CATHOLIC KINGS

Main garden where the vast majority of the population socializes. You can find a children's play area, a temple of music which is occasionally used for concerts or various cultural activities as musical festivals; a basketball court, a small viewpoint and a pond popularly known as "the fountain of the ducks". In its surrounding area there is a wide range of restaurants and it also has two free public car parks nearby.

On the other hand, in the garden you can find some of the centenary trees in the city. It is also the location of one of the sculptures by José Luis Sánchez that are part of the open-air museum of the local sculptor. The museum has its centre in the courtyard of the Palace of the Counts of Cirat (current Town Hall). In its surroundings, we can also see the Convent of the Franciscan Fathers which dates from the 17th century.





16 - HERMITAGE OF SAINT BLAISE

The hermitage is located on Charles III Avenue which has been transformed due to the development of the city and where the main sport facilities are located. This hermitage is a Baroque building built in the 17th century.



In the picture of the Battle of Almansa (1707-1709), it appears referenced as hermitage of Saint Salvador. Furthermore, after this historic event, it served as a hospital to take care of the wounded. Throughout its history, it has changed its name until at the end of the 18th century or the beginning of the 19th century it was renamed the hermitage of Saint Blaise.

Its restoration began in 1984 in order to house the Tourist Office. The rehabilitation was carried out respecting the formal and constructive characteristics of the building. It is, currently, the headquarters of the Designation of Origin Almansa.



17 - BRIDGE OF CHARLES IV

It is one of the bridges protected by the Special Plan for the Historic Complex of Almansa. In 1580, the riverbed that passed through the centre of the city was diverted. In the 18th century, the bridge was built to save its course, with the mission of ensuring the important communication route at the exit of the royal road to Madrid. Its importance can



be deduced from its situation since it was an obliged way for those who entered or left the town. The bridge is built in stone and brick ashlar masonry and it is made up of three semicircular arches. In the centre of the bridge there is a commemorative plaque with an inscription that mentions Charles IV. In 1997, the restoration began as the bridge had significant deterioration in its structure. In March 1999 the finished work was inaugurated.



18 - SANCTUARY OF BETHLEHEM

Sanctuary located about 6 km from Almansa. The construction of the sanctuary ended in 1627. Due to an extreme drought, the representatives of the council and the clergy brought the Virgin for the first time from her hermitage in Bethlehem to the Church of The Assumption, with the aim of asking her for help to let it rain. This fact now remains as a tradition in the two pilgrimages that are held in May and September when the Virgin is moved from the church to the sanctuary and vice versa, accompanied by a large part of the population. In the middle of the 18th century, the place was transformed and became a sanctuary, hence its predominance of Baroque and Neoclassical styles. It consists of a rectangular church with a single nave and choir at the foot and a series of rooms such as the sacristy, the dressing room, the museum and the candle room.

The main portal is finished off with a belfry of later construction (1922). The dressing room, the most interesting room, is covered with fresco paintings like the ones on the walls. Its floor, original and highly valuable, is made up of tiles of Levantine influence.

In 1989, it was declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.







Almansa

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