The Astounding Attractions of Alicante by Frederick Pollard

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Alicante is known as the â€˜White Mediterranean Cityâ€™ with its white sandy beaches at the Mediterranean Sea. It is Valencian Communityâ€™s second biggest city with plenty of history that is noted through the many impressive ancient monuments around the place.

Its setting on a hill overlooking the sea reflects its majestic stature. The city is clean with the new and old blending together in perfect harmony. There are numerous nature parks which encourage a healthy and high quality lifestyle with a pleasant climate throughout the year. The locals enjoy life to its fullest in Alicante with immeasurable hospitality.

Highlights

One of the distinctive landmarks at Alicante is the palm trees at the Explanada de EspaÃ±a Boulevard. This is close to the harbor with a colorfully decorated wave mosaic that comprises 6 million pieces. There is also the ancient Moorish castle called Castillo de Santa Barbara which is a reminder of the eventful history of the region.

Alicanteâ€™s port is a very busy port throughout the year. There are large cruise ships ported frequently bringing in millions of visitors to this city. This port also connects to Ibiza Island. Close by is the city marina with luxury boats and yachts which are personally owned; some can be rented out to tourists for some deep sea fishing or island hopping activities.

The interesting highlight of the city port is the sighting of the majestic Monte Bernacantil of 169m. This high mountain holds the impressive 14th century Santa Barbara fortress; it took about four centuries to complete. It was designed to be Europeâ€™s largest Moorish castle which would function as a fortress in the region. Accessibility is easy by road; there is an elevator inside today for the comfort of visitors. This fortress is accessible even from Playa de Postiguet through a specially carved tunnel from the rock.

One is able to enjoy the splendid panorama of the city and the harbor from this fortress. On a good day, one can view Tabarca Island at the south.

Historical monuments

There are many historical monuments at Alicante; some of the more famous ones include the 14th century Basilica de Santa Maria, the cityâ€™s oldest church in Gothic architecture. It was built over the site of the previous Moorish Mosque in Alicante.

The 15th century San Nicolas de Bari cathedral was designed in Renaissance style. Many current churches and cathedrals in Alicante today were built over previous mosques due to the change of influence at this region.

The stone architecture Santa Faz monasteryÂ existed since 15th century with astoundingly beautiful ornaments. This structure stands solidly outside of the city while the 17th century La Asegurada Castle is the oldest civil structure which has been transformed into a Contemporary Art Museum.

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