

tourist information

map location



EDITA AYUNTAMIENTO BENIDORM | 2019



Tourist information
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Vertical Benidorm

SKYLINE

If you want a **sustainable holiday**, then Benidorm is the place for you. The city is known as a superb eco-friendly holiday destination, even more so for national tourism. Choosing nearby places, close to airports, with high density tourism and built according to compact plans are today's truly sustainable destinations. You won't need a car in Benidorm, because nothing is more than ten minutes from the beach and the city is open for business all year round.

A family of four spending a week in Benidorm produces just 2.2 tonnes of carbon, as opposed to 12 tonnes on a week's cruise in the Caribbean or up to 15.8 hiking in Chile.

The 21st century buzzword is **sustainable density**, and Benidorm, with its pioneering urban model, is one of the best examples you will find. With a compact layout, it was created to cause the least possible interference to its surroundings, while accommodating a large number of tourists in the smallest possible space.

When it comes to energy efficiency and renewable energies, reaching skywards has allowed Benidorm to meet the enormous demands of the tourism industry in the smallest possible space, ventilating and lighting all rooms and guaranteeing the lowest possible use of electricity and lighting.

WATER

Although rain is scarce, Benidorm is self sustaining during normal years thanks to careful use of water. The city layout, with hotels and apartment blocks rather than sprawling housing developments, has proven highly efficient when it comes to water use. Water is treated in desalination plants and used for watering gardens and street cleaning. Benidorm has set the bar high with its comprehensive water management system, treating it as a sparing resource to be used with care. This is how it won the *second prize in the 13th edition of the Sustainable City Awards in the Water Cycle category.*

The World Health Organisation analysed air quality in 46 Spanish cities, and ranked Benidorm among the top nine, with low pollution levels within the recommended limits.

Architects like Luis Fernandez-Galiano, and sociologists such as Jose Miguel Iribas agree that it is the best new city to be built in the world since the 1950s. "Benidorm, with its planning model, is the most livable city since World War II" (Henri Lefebvre, French philosopher, geographer and sociologist).

Architect Carlos Ferrater, winner of National Architecture Prize in 2009, said that Benidorm "is an atypical city of skyscrapers that is nowadays considered the most sustainable planning model on the entire Spanish coast. The model consumes very little land, and accommodates half a million people in just a few hectares".

Another renowned architect, Miguel Mesa del Castillo Clavel says that "the Benidorm City was planned with an overall approach to zoning, protecting the most environmentally valuable land, such as Serra Gelada and the island from speculation".

Green Parks

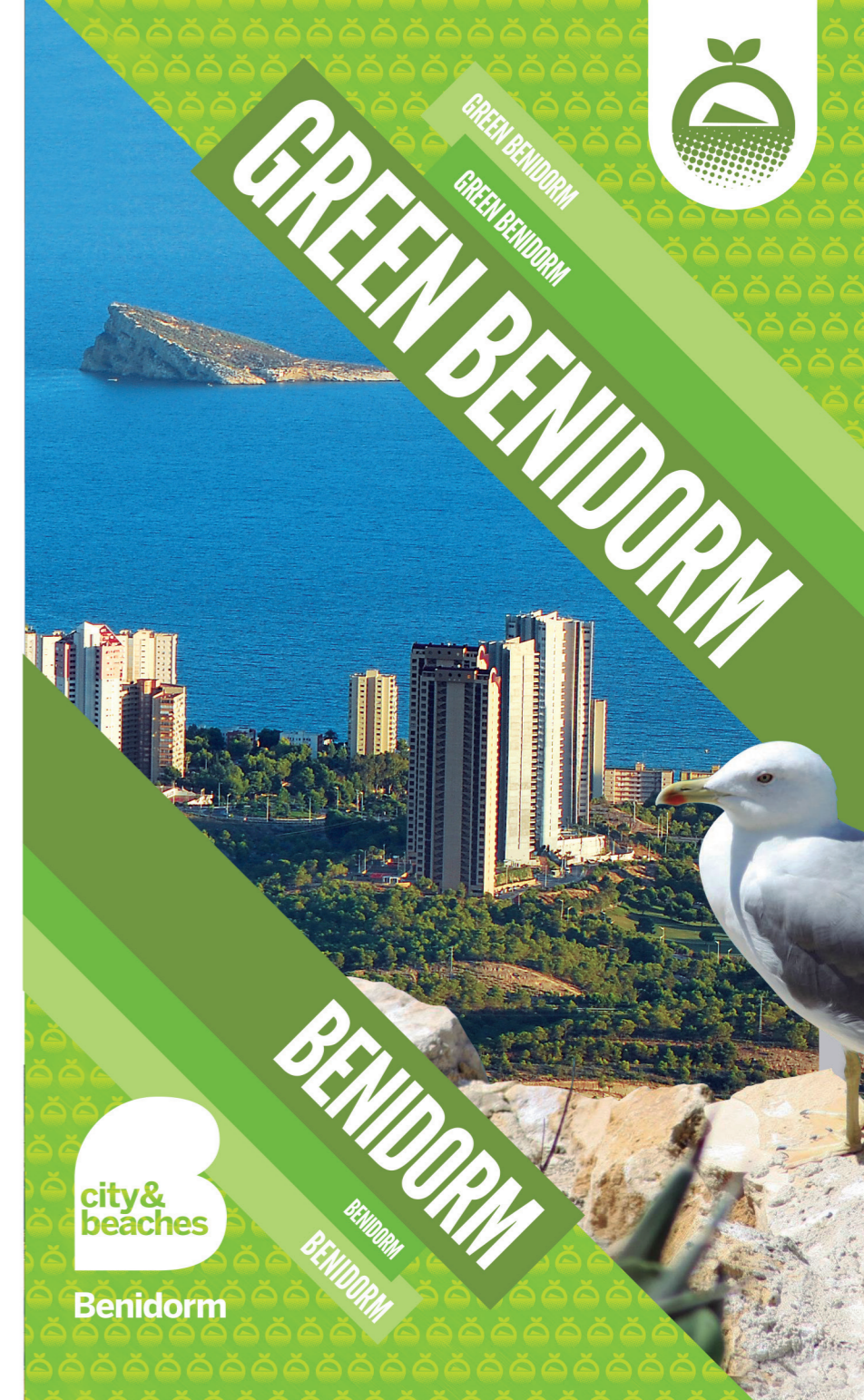
PARQUE DE L'AIGÜERA

Benidorm is full of parks and gardens, the most important of which is the L'Aigüera Park, designed by prestigious architect Ricardo Bofill in the late nineties. In the heart of Benidorm, the park covers an area of more than 120,000 square metres. A truly Mediterranean park, there are plenty of palm trees and extensive wooded areas with native trees and plants, as well as open spaces, which used for cultural activities and for hosting events.

Benidorm's modern town hall is in the lowest part of the Parque de L'Aigüera. This "landscaper" has won numerous awards and is an interesting counterpoint to the towers that surround it.

PARQUE DE ELCHE

The Parque de Elche is close to the port, and runs alongside the Poniente Beach. The park contains both Canary Island Palms and Date Palms. There are also some magnificent mature examples of Benjamin's Fig or ficus trees and the Red Eucalyptus, among many others.



Benidorm

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Serra Gelada

With 300-metre cliffs and spanning more than 5,600 hectares, 4,920 of which consist of a designated area of the sea, in 2005, the Serra Gelada Natural Park became the first 'land-sea' park in the Community of Valencia. The majestic park occupies a marvellous stretch of Mediterranean coast. It is of enormous ecological and environmental value and has a rich historical and cultural legacy, offering visitors a glimpse of our planet's 150-million-year geological history.

The materials that make up the cliffs, which include as sandstone, limestone, calcarenite and loam, have eroded at different speeds.

HANGING FOSSIL DUNES

These rare fossil dunes are stacked at the foot of the cliffs. These formations, which were formed more than 100,000 years ago when the level of the sea was lower than it is today, are among the most important in the world in terms of both volume of accumulated sand and height.

FLORA

A variety of plants grow here, many of which are protected as endangered species. The landscape is basically scrubland, punctuated by patches of pines. On the western face, sheltered by the sea, there are Aleppo pines, as well as some stone pines, mastic trees, carobs and wild olives, and undergrowth consisting of rosemary, heather, jara plants and juniper. Eastern facing slopes, directly exposed to the sun and with virtually no horizontal terrain, are entirely different, and are populated by hardy species such as fennel, immortelle and sea juniper, which are capable of growing rocks with little soil.



FAUNA

Birdlife abounds in this park, and you may spot the European Storm-petrels and yellow-legged seagulls, which breed on the coastal stretch of the Serra Gelada.

The Mediterranean tufted cormorant and Audouin's gull are familiar sights throughout the year. As you walk along the cliffs, look out for peregrine falcons, common swifts and alpine swifts, rock thrushes and wheatears, as well as the Eurasian wren, common blackbird, grey flycatcher and common species such as the hoopoe, great tit and European serin.

Other residents of this area are toads, salamanders, lizards, ocellated lizards and colubers such as the Montpellier snake and the ladder snake, as well as rabbits, hedgehogs and several species of bats.

IN THE SEA

The area of sea included in the territory of the park contains extensive meadows of Posidonia Oceanica, which are a priceless breeding ground for a wealth of sea creatures, as well as rocky areas such as La Llosa, a marvellous marine reserve around the Island of Benidorm, with exceptional biodiversity.

There are numerous animal species of note, such as the seabream, dentex, corvina, conger, moray eel, pearly razorfish, lobster, etc. The waters of the park are also home to one of a few families of bottlenose dolphins that live permanently in the territory of Valencia, which are easy to spot.

Beaches and Coves

THE LEVANTE, PONIENTE AND MAL PAS BEACHES

Our clean, high quality water has garnered us international blue flags from the Foundation for Environmental Education and annual *Ecoplayas flags* from the Asociación Ategrus that recognise environmental sustainability and high quality standards. The beaches have also been awarded *Quality Q certification*, which recognises their excellent equipment, cleanliness, safety, lifesaving and information services, etc. The beaches have also obtained *ISO 9001 and 14001 certification* and they adhere to the *EMAS regulation of the European Community*. All these achievements are evidence of the excellent maintenance and conservation standards applied to the Benidorm coastline, which has also been awarded the world standard of tourism eco-quality, promoted by the World Tourism Organization UNWTO and UNEP (United Nations Environment Program).

CALA DEL TÍO XIMO AND CALA DE LA ALMADRABA

Crystal clear water and rocks, waving meadows of *Oceanic Posidonia* and areas of gleaming white sand encourage biodiversity and are home for anemones, throngweed, numerous species of small fish and crustaceans, and even the odd octopus.

