



Welcome to OHIM!



Willing to help the past, current and future trainees, OHIM offer the opportunity to publish this useful information on the official website.

Here you can find all information ranging from accommodation advice up to ways of spending your free time in Alicante. The information contained in this document is provided solely by the trainees.

For any further Information about the OHIM please refer to www.oami.europa.eu

**The OHIM does not take any responsibility for the information published in this document.*

LIVING IN ALICANTE

Introduction to Alicante

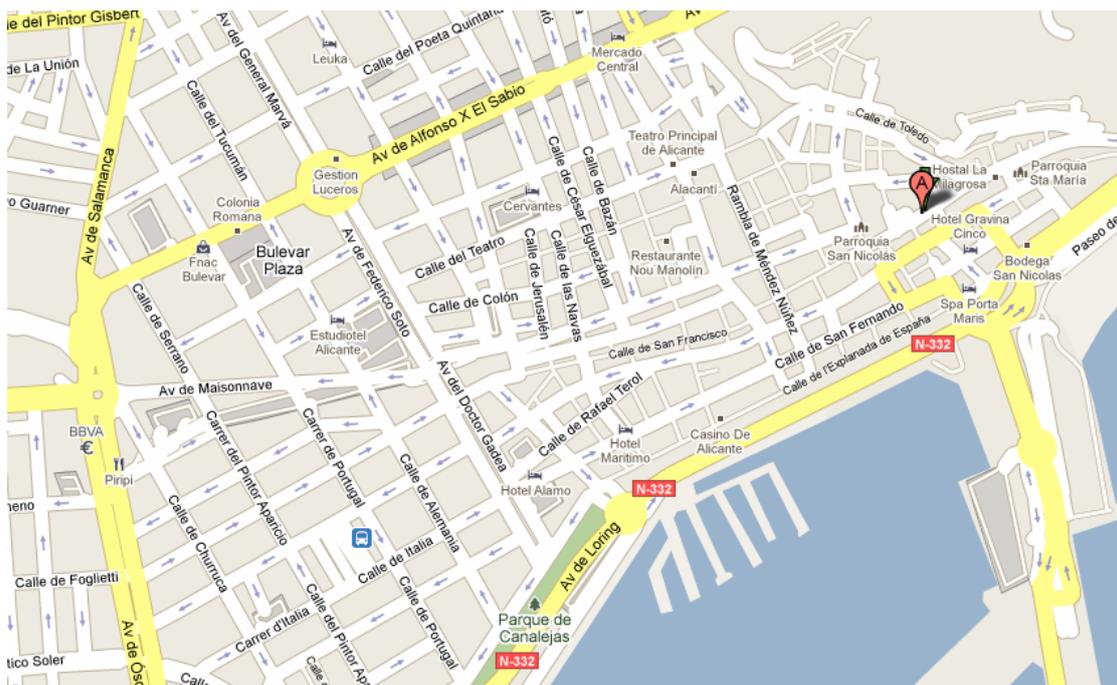
Alicante is located on the eastern coast of Spain, at the heart of Costa Blanca to the south of Valencia. Alicante is one of the oldest cities in Spain, tracing its history back to the Romans. The original name of Alicante was "Lucentum" which is translated as the "City of light".

Alicante is primarily a resort destination known for its stunning beaches and spacious harbour. Its main historical sight is the Castle of Santa Barbara (Castillo de Santa Barbara), one of the largest medieval fortresses of Europe that gives you the opportunity to enjoy a magnificent view over the city and its coastline.

When it comes to entertainment, Alicante's mild climate allows for all sorts of outdoor activities throughout the year from great beaches (i.e. San Juan - one of the finest beaches of Spain) to vibrant nightlife and inexpensive restaurants.

And once you feel like are ready to expand your horizons you can also take a side step from Alicante and visit other interesting spots of Spain's south-west coast like: Altea, Javea, Elche, Calpe, Denia, Santa Pola, Benidorm or Tabarca Island.

Alicante City Center



Accommodation

Finding somewhere to live in Alicante can be easier than what it seems like when you have the proper information. That is why we hope that this information will offer you plenty of help in finding what you want.

Privately rented accommodations is by far the most common method of living in Alicante and in the past, trainees have arranged to share flats with each other via email before the trainee period began. There are also lots of students and young professionals in the city who have spare rooms and advertise them in newspapers, on the internet or even in the window of the properties. Trainees have also managed to find individual flats - the rent in this case is a little bit more expensive but the idea that you do not have to share your flat with someone else is by far rewarding.

If you plan to scout around for a few days in order to find the best option, a youth hostel would be a good base in the meanwhile. Real estate agents can also help you find a place, as you can tell them when you are coming to Alicante and arrange to see more places at once.

More information can be found on:

1. www.hostelworld.com/findabed.php/ChosenCity.Alicante/ChosenCountry.Spain?source=googleadwordsnewdestinations&gclid=CODm8NParZoCFUQA4wodGAONiA#
2. alicante.loquo.com/es_es
3. www.mundoanuncio.com/zona/alicante_54.html
4. www.yaencontre.com
5. www.enalquiler.com
6. www.pisocompartido.com
7. www.ragooh.com

Useful tips

- Keep your eyes open for the "se alquila" signs while walking around town as many people advertise for accommodation in the window of the properties.
- Take into account that most of the landlords do not speak English which is why a basic level of Spanish knowledge is helpful.

□ Remember that every landlord would normally require a guarantee deposit (usually equal to one month's rent) upon signing the contract. If you decide to use a real estate agent, please bear in mind that, besides the aforementioned deposit and the first month's rent, you will also be obliged to pay the agent's commission (which normally corresponds to the amount of one month's rent).

Cultural life

The main historical attractions of Alicante are:

Santa Bárbara Castle, Alicante City Hall (Ayuntamiento Alicante) , San Nicolás Co-Cathedral, The Santa María Basilica, The Santa Faz Monastery, Alicante Provincial Council (Diputación Provincial), Maisonnave Palace (Municipal Archive), The Central Market, The Santa Cruz Hermitage, The Edificio Carbonell, The Las Agustinas Convent, San Roque Hermitage.

Museums

The MARQ (Archaeological Museum), Gravina Fine Arts Museum (MUBAG), Nativity Scene Museum, La Festa Museum, House-Museum of La Asegurada, Alicante Bullfighting Museum, University Museum.

Typical Alicante Celebrations

- Semana Santa (Holy week) is a week when you are able to see Processions on the streets of Alicante.
- Moros y Cristianos (22-24 April) is a traditional celebration in Spain, the most known in this region is the celebration in Alcoy, a city near Alicante. These kinds of events take place in all the villages near Alicante during April.
- Fiesta San Juan (21 June) celebrates the arrival of summer with Bonfires.

You can find *more information* about the festivals and celebrations from the region on <http://www.alicante.com/v/festivals/> .

Theatres

Main Theatre, Arniches Theatre.

More information can be found on:

www.alicante-ayto.es

www.alacalle.com

www.alicante.com

www.alicanteturismo.com

Nightlife

Alicante's mild climate is perfect for night time fun all year round, but like everywhere in Spain, Alicante's nightlife peaks in the summer. From the beautiful restaurants with traditional Spanish food to the pubs – the city offers something for everybody's taste. The majority of places where you can hang out for some drinks or late-night meal are situated in the "El Barrio" area, the old city centre.

This is also where most clubbing takes place starting from around midnight and lasting up until dawn. But if you want to enjoy the nightlife after 3 a.m. make sure you try the clubs in the port area or in the area of the "Mercado Central".

Remember, Alicante is also a city full of students which no doubt makes its nightlife so vibrant!

Free time activities

If you are up for other kind of activities, you could also choose to make some sport in the places in Alicante, go to a wellness centre or take some dance classes.

Here you are more information:

<http://www.holidaygym.es/es/centros/holiday-gym-alicante.html>

<http://www.o2centrowellness.com/alicante/principal/index.asp>

<http://www.energydance.es/academia-baile-alicante.html>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



When will I be paid my monthly grant?

The grant for the first month of the traineeship is usually paid at the end of the first month. Subsequent grants will be paid on or around the 5th day of each month. It is advisable to open a bank account upon your arrival to Spain; however, you can use also your home bank account. The form indicating your bank and account number should be directed to the Traineeships Office as soon as possible, as no payment will be made until all the trainees have provided their bank details.



When will my travel expenses be reimbursed?

The travel expenses will be paid during the second half of the traineeship period. The payment will be made to the same account as your monthly grant is paid into. In order to get the reimbursement of travel expenses you must hand in the original tickets and boarding pass (for flight tickets) to the Traineeships Office as soon as possible after your arrival.



Am I allowed to take days off during the traineeship?

Yes, trainees are allowed to take 1 day's leave per month. This means that you are entitled to take 5 days off during the entire traineeship period. Any days off taken for participation in an exam or university work will be deducted from these 5 authorised leave days. Keep in mind that all leave requests must be authorised by your tutor.



What are the usual working hours?

The OHIM Office works 37.5 hours/week and 7.5 hour/day. The working hours are divided into core and flexible hours.

Core hours: from 09:30 to 12:30 and from 15:00 to 16:00.

Flexible hours: from 07:30 to 09:30; 12:30 to 15:00; and 16:00 to 19:30.

- This means that you must be present at your workplace between the core hours but are allowed to take a break anytime during the flexi hours.
- No more than ten hours may be worked per day.



How does the Health Card/ S1 form work?

Everything you expect to be covered by your European Health Insurance Card may not necessarily be covered free of charge in the country you are visiting – even with the Health Card it may still be necessary to contribute to the cost of your treatment. Thus, when visiting a doctor in Spain be prepared to be asked to pay a bill upfront and then make the claim for a refund.

See more information on:

http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/work/civil-servant/social-security/eu-eu_es.htm



How far from the city centre is the office?

The OHIM Office is located approximately 6 km away from the Alicante city centre. This means 15-20 minutes by bus and around 10 minutes by car. By public transportation you can arrive to the Office using either the No. 27 bus (direction Alicante-Urbanova), or the Baile bus (departing from the Alicante bus station).

More information can be found on: www.subus.es/index.asp



Which facilities does the Office offer to trainees?

The Office provides a number of activities intended at personnel training, in which trainees also can participate, only in the case of a vacant place in the training course. These include language courses, regular training workshops, open conferences and seminars as well as gym facilities.



Can I take part in the missions during my traineeship?

No, it is not a usual practice of the Office that a trainee participates in missions.

USEFUL LINKS

We do not take any responsibility for the contents of these websites!

Accommodation information:

www.hostelworld.com/findabed.php/ChosenCity.Alicante/ChosenCountry.Spain?source=googleadwordsnewdestinations&gclid=CODm8NParZoCFUQA4wodGAONiA#

alicante.loquo.com/es_es

www.mundoanuncio.com/zona/alicante_54.html

www.yaencontre.com

www.enalquiler.com

www.pisocompartido.com

www.ragooh.com

Information about Alicante:

www.alicante-ayto.es

www.alacalle.com

www.alicante.com

www.alicanteturismo.com

www.subus.es/index.asp

Free time, travelling:

<http://www.alicante.com/v/festivals/>

<http://www.holidaygym.es/es/centros/holiday-gym-alicante.html>

<http://www.ozcentrowellness.com/alicante/principal/index.asp>

<http://www.energydance.es/academia-baile-alicante.html>

<http://www.renfe.com/> - train

<http://www.alsa.es/portal/site/Alsa> – bus

<http://www.altc.info/distancias.html> - distances in Spain

<http://www.thereareplaces.com/newguidebook/pdest/sppts.htm> - best places to visit in Spain