



Eye on Valencia

Derek Workman

Eye on **V**alencia

Spain's third largest city is a delight; beautiful architecture, glorious gardens, excellent restaurants, steeped in history and only a twenty-minute bike ride from the splendid beaches of Malvarossa. The city was my home for fifteen years and I never tired of cycling its streets and environs.

Famous for *Las Fallas*, the city's biggest bean-feast and one of the grandest and most ebullient fiestas in Spain (and the subject of a future *Eye On...*) is held mid-March annually, but Valencia is more than just a one-show spectacle. *The Jardin del Turia*, the nine-kilometre dried up riverbed that meanders from the lake of the *Parce de Cabazera* in the north to the futuristic sky-scape of the *Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias*, the City of Arts and Sciences, in the south by way of sports grounds, cycle paths, open-air gymnasium, peaceful gardens and the huge Gulliver, the fairy-tale giant that is an adventurous playground of climbing ropes, swings and slides for children.

Stroll the Medieval streets of the *Barrio Carmen*, buy local produce in what is said to be the largest covered market in Europe, the *Mercado Central*, be dazzled by the beauty and elegance of the abundance of *Modernista* architecture, a style peculiar to Spain, take a ride on a flat-bottomed boat on the lakes of the Albufera and sample that emblematic dish of Spanish cuisine, the *paella*, born and bred on Valencia's shores.

Bon viaje... You'll be back!

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