

# El Campello



By Karen Marco

History, gastronomy and fun by the sea!

Mention of Campello brings to mind an ancient watchtower down by the fishing port or eating a leisurely lunch at one of the traditional restaurants, gazing across the sandy beach to the azure Mediterranean Sea.

Life in El Campello, a pleasant coastal town just north of Alicante city, has revolved around the sea since times immemorial...

Over the centuries, many civilizations have stamped their footprint on the landscape. To unravel the mysteries they left behind, first take a look at 'Illeta dels Banyets', the small rocky islet that juts into the sea just behind the smart modern leisure harbour. A significant archaeological site, prehistoric remains date back to beyond the Bronze Age and ruins include part of an old Iberian settlement. 'Banyets' or 'Baños de la Reina' refers to

the manmade rock pools, originally a Roman fish salting industry and not the 'Queen's Baths' as popular legend leads us to believe.

Campello has a seafaring tradition that goes back centuries. The fishing port is one of the oldest in Spain and was until the middle of the XX century, the second biggest on the Mediterranean coast. Don't miss the public auction that takes place as the fishing boats dock late afternoon (weekdays). The catch is brought out on trays and sold to the highest bidder - anyone can take part or just watch out of curiosity. Seafood doesn't come any fresher than this!

Campello's popular main beach is south of the harbour. Playa Carrer la Mar is wonderfully sandy and the sea safe for swimming. The traffic-free seafront is great for a stroll and then stopping off for something tasty to eat - Mediterranean rice dishes figure strongly among the specialties to try in Campello. Treat yourself to tapas, homemade ice-cream or a cool cocktail... The town has an extensive choice of international restaurants too, such as those serving French or Italian cuisine.

Just north from Illeta watchtower, La Voramara de les Escultures promenade (a pleasant walk by the sea with informative panels on wildlife and three sculptures by Valencian artist Vicente Ferrero) leads to Playa de l'Almadrava, an attractive sand and pebble beach some 600m in length.

Diving enthusiasts will love discovering the underwater land-



Torre de la Illeta Photo K. Marco

scapes, especially El Caballón barrier reef which starts near Cabo de las Huertas (Alicante) and runs for several kilometres northwards parallel to the coastline.

A variety of action-packed multi-adventure activities and not-to-be-missed nautical experiences include snorkelling, kayaking, boats trips or yacht charters, and even a flight on a light plane!

Don't miss the 'Virgen del Carmen' traditional festivities to honour sailors; a full programme of activities ends on July 16 with a magnificent sea procession followed by a firework display on Carrer la Mar beach.

El Campello is ideal for a day out anytime of the year, easy to reach on the Alicante to Denia TRAM line or by car. If you're over for a holiday, hire a rental car (arrange to pick it up from the airport) to explore the Costa Blanca... there are so many interesting and scenic places to see in Alicante Province, and Campello is conveniently located to explore to the north, south and inland! Not only beaches, there's mountains scenery, castles, vineyards, historical cities, salt lakes...

People may not realise that El Campello has the longest stretch of coastline in Alicante Province, 23 kilometres of marvellous golden beaches, secluded coves and abrupt cliffs but we'll discover all this and more in a future edition!

You can see more features about the Costa Blanca on my personal travel blog [www.kalittravel.net](http://www.kalittravel.net)

#### Getting there:

Alicante airport (15km)  
TRAM Alicante-El Campello-Benidorm-Dénia)

By car: A7 or AP7 motorway exit 67 or N332 main road.

**EDi**  
RENT A CAR, S.L.

The family run business that puts their clients first!

**The price we quote is the price you pay**

From Alicante & Murcia airport  
**NO HIDDEN EXTRAS**

C/San Roman 151, 03560, El Campello. Tel: 965 63 28 10  
www.edirentacar.com email: correo@edirentacar.com

**La Petite Alsace**  
Restaurant

965.63.410  
605.09.772

Calle San Bartolomé 109, local 4, EL CAMPELLO (Alicante)

Tel: 965 634 410  
605 097 772  
(Mondays Closed)

Visit our hearing centre and we will give you a **Free Hearing Test**

**Listen to your life**

NOUS PARLONS  
WE SPEAK

**LA MAR AUDIO**

AVDA. CARRER LA MAR Nº19 EL CAMPELLO

Call for an appointment:  
**965 630 512**



Illeta dels Banyets Photo courtesy of El Campello Tourist Office.