

THE COURSE TO THE 32ND CUP

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Valencia's Plaza de Toros (bullring), top; America's Cup trophy, below, the oldest active international trophy in the world.

Next spring and summer, crowds will converge on Valencia, Spain, to celebrate the latest competition for the oldest active trophy in international sport: the America's Cup. Spain and the host city have invested millions of euros to create a racing and entertaining venue without rival in the storied history of the event. Among the attractions are a spectator-friendly racecourse and a large-yacht marina positioned right in the thick of the action. If forecasts are accurate, competition for space in the marina during the event will be as intense as the competition on the racecourse. If you're considering visiting Valencia during the Cup, now is not too soon to make arrangements. The city has many attractions that extend far beyond the racing. Here's a taste of what to expect and what to do.

Get Berthed

"This place was born with the America's Cup," says

Mariano Garcia, as we walk along the 226-meter-long T-shaped superyacht marina that juts out in the center of the team bases in the Port America's Cup inner harbor. Garcia's project management company heads up the operations at the marina, located in the port's center. "You can feel the America's Cup here," he adds.

The marina, one of the only marinas in Spain dedicated solely to superyachts, has 42 berths from 35 to 80 meters and one at 150 meters. Full capacity is expected during the event, as is some movement, which will allow owners to subcontract their berths and take off to Ibiza for a week, if they so desire. A berth »



32ND AMERICA'S CUP PROGRAM 2007

APRIL 3-7: Valencia Louis Vuitton Act 13, fleet race

APRIL 16-JUNE 12: Louis Vuitton Cup, challenger selection series

JUNE 23-JULY 7: America's Cup Match



Clockwise from above: Plaza de la Reina (Queen's Square); the Swiss team's mother ship at the superyacht marina; spinnakers billow during the fleet race.

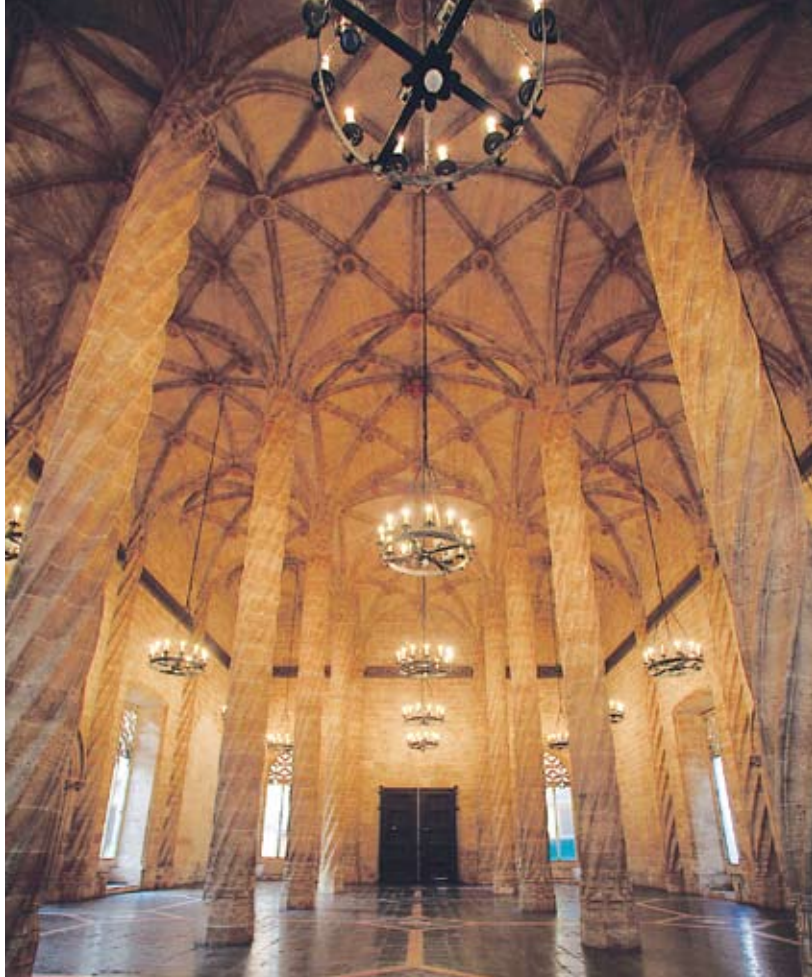


at the superyacht marina means being on the “inner circle” of the harbor, with a sweeping view of all the bases.

“This is more than a berth on a dock. You’re a guest of a comprehensive hospitality program. It’s like walking into a seven-star hotel,” says Alice Widdows, one of the marina’s coordinators. “A mountain of social possibilities awaits guests, from events with Spain’s royal family to local dignitaries, as well as a pass to the Cup’s premier private Foredeck Club.”

Going Dockside

Superyacht marina guests can hop the exclusive Foredeck Club’s courtesy water taxi to get to the club, but half the fun is going dockside. Getting from one end of Port America’s Cup to the other is no small feat, but it gets you up close and personal



with the 12 team bases (five to the north of the marina and seven to the south). Whether you go by foot by bicycle or by Segway, seeing the bases is a must because no two are alike. BMW ORACLE Racing's skills challenge gives visitors a chance to win the 18th seat on the race boat, while Alinghi's America's Cup Class Simulator gives a hands-on feel for what it's like to crew on a Cup yacht. The architecture of the Luna Rossa base is probably the most unusual of all; the outside skin of the building is covered in old sail material.

Eventually the esplanade leads to Veles e Vents, a four-story building that offers the other best seat in the house to watch the boats maneuver through the channel's watery parade grounds to the racecourse. The building's wing-like terraced platforms are the place to see and be seen. Bars,

restaurants and shops fill the first two floors, while the Foredeck Club lays claim to the upper two—and roof.

The first floor of Veles e Vents is also the place to stop and pay homage to the America's Cup itself, the silver vessel that has inspired lust among the powerful and the investment of untold millions for more than 150 years.

Valencia Piecemeal

The attractions at Port America's Cup are a hard act to follow, but Valencia itself harbors tremendous appeal. The 2,000-year-old city overflows with history, culture and entertainment, with some 42 museums, 13 art galleries and 12 »

Clockwise from top: Inside the Silk Exchange; a bailiff calls for complaints at the weekly Water Court; Palace of the Arts; shops on Poeta Querol street.



Walking along the pedestrian mall near the main cathedral in Valencia's historic center.

theaters. Unlike the legendary Spaniard El Cid, who took Valencia by storm, taking in the sights in a piecemeal fashion is the way to go for Cup visitors.

A good warm-up act and guaranteed crowd-pleaser is Valencia's longest running show: the Tribunal de las Aguas. The Water Court convenes every Thursday at noon under the Cathedral of Valencia's Door of the Apostles to settle water disputes as it has for the past thousand years. Just inside the cathedral is the Chapel of the Holy Grail. Preserved since 1437, the chapel lays claim to possessing the Holy Chalice—an apt local juxtaposition to the America's Cup, which is often referred to as yachting's "Holy Grail."

Checking out the local markets makes for a good way to explore the city's historic district. The markets run the gamut from Central Market's 959 food stalls to Columbus Market's block-long open-air street filled with boutiques and cafes to Plaza Redondo's cozy collection of handcrafted works from lace to Manises pottery.

Valencia's museums are as varied as they are numerous, but two especially worthy offerings are the Institute of Modern Art and the Museum of Fine Arts (one of Spain's most important). Two landmarks any Valencian will point you toward are the Ceramics Museum (though it's mostly to see the fifteenth century alabaster doorway sculpture) and the Silk Exchange, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (for the interior architecture).

The Santiago Calatrava and Félix Candela–designed City of Arts and Sciences, considered to be the largest cultural complex in Europe, is an entity all its own and worth stopping by just to see the futuristic architecture. The center comprises four different areas: L'Hemisfèric (containing a planetarium, IMAX theater and Laserium), the Prince Felipe Science Museum, the Palace of the Arts and L'Oceanogràfic (an oceanographic park).

Although you can buy your Lladró porcelain in the shop on Poeta Querol street, a visit to the 2,000-employee City of »

Valencia Superyacht Marina Particulars

LOCATION: 39°26'N, 0°18'W

MOORINGS: 42 berths from 35 to 80 meters (115 to 262 feet); one berth at 150 meters (492 feet)

LUXURY YACHT SERVICES: Includes provisioning, periodicals, catering, laundry, florists, beauty services, personal trainers, bodyguards and more

HOSPITALITY: The Foredeck Club; catering by DO & CO International, well known for its work in the Formula One Paddock Club; the Foredeck Club's water taxi transports guests free of charge

AIRPORT: Valencia International Airport (VLC) is located eight kilometers from the city center, approximately 20 minutes by car. Served by major airlines including Air France, Alitalia, British Airways and Iberia

PREMIUM CARS: Prestige cars, limousines and multi-lingual drivers

PRIVATE PARKING: Close to the superyacht berths and at the Foredeck Club

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL: International fleet of private jets and helicopters

SECURITY: 24-hour surveillance

24-HOUR CONCIERGE: Superyacht Marina Office

MARINA OPERATIONS: Harbor Crew & Administration

RATES: €255,000 for a 35-meter (115-foot) yacht for three months, April to July

CONTACTS: Alice Widdows, tel: 34 607 573 863, office tel: 34 963 812 070, e-mail: alicewiddows@valenciasuperyachtmarina.com; Guillermo Garcia Roman, tel: 34 607 940 507, e-mail: guillermogarcia@valenciasuperyachtmarina.com

WEBSITE: www.valenciasuperyachtmarina.com



Italy's racer and its tender



Superyachts berthed at the pier are surrounded by the 12 team bases.



BMW ORACLE Racing team's boat passes in front of South Africa's Team Shosholoza base in Port America's Cup.

Porcelain, where three Valencian brothers first fired the white ceramic ware, is worthwhile. A visit to the showroom and private art gallery alone is worth the 10-minute drive, as is the factory tour.

Though seeing Valencia piecemeal only skims the surface, it's more than enough to work up an appetite.

Valencia à la Carte

When in Valencia, do as the Valencians do and eat paella. The city is the birthplace of the nation's quintessential rice and seafood dish. When it comes to favorite paella spots, opinions vary. Widdows says the best is Restaurante Submarino. "It is impressive night or day. Set underground, you are surrounded 360 degrees by this wonderful fish tank." Garcia, the man responsible for bringing Submarino to Valencia, says his restaurant of choice is Ca'Sento. "It has a Michelin star and is very small, but the food is incredible."

There are many other worthy restaurants, but two others that get high marks are El Alto de Colón at Columbus Market and La Sucursal in the Valencian Institute of Modern Art. The modest century-old and family-run La Pepica, immortalized in Ernest Hemingway's *The Dangerous Summer*, takes honors for local charm and history.

Another favorite place is Horchatería Daniel, where you can sit on the veranda and sip an icy *horchata*. This sweet, creamy milk-like drink made from the *chufa* (tiger nut) is a Valencian trademark.

Get the T-Shirt

Check out the America's Cup shop online from home to get your cruise gear or wait to go shopping at Port America's Cup. Either place, you can take your pick of logos. You can go with the official logo gear of the 32nd America's Cup, or

if you want to look like one of the crew, then go for the team gear. The specialty items are endless, with lots of limited editions to commemorate the Cup. The sky's the limit from Lladró's Sea Winds line to Montegrappa's significantly numbered 2,887 Fleet Race limited-edition fountain pens to a remote-control 1:15 replica boat that comes with an individually numbered Gore-Tex owner's jacket and cap.

For a more mainstream shopping experience, try Valencia's Poeta Querol street. Here, designer names line the way from Alex Vidal, Hermès, Louis Vuitton, Loewe Man, Loewe Woman, Lladró and Montblanc. If you can't find it here, more shops and local standard El Corte Inglés await on nearby Calle Colón.

Changes of Venue

Within walking distance of Port America's Cup are the two top places to stay for yacht owners and their guests. Both properties are on the beach, have views of the

Mediterranean and are happening spots.

Hotel Las Arenas' 253-room Balneario Resort is a five-star grand luxury hotel located in historic Balneario. It dates from 1898 and is at the far end of Las Arenas Beach. Neptuno's contemporary 48-room boutique hotel on the beachfront of Malvarrosa Beach is just 200 meters from the entrance to the America's Cup venue and faces the regatta course.

To really get out of the spray of things, you can visit La Calderona Spa, Sport & Club Resort's five-star, 42-room complex nestled on the flanks of the Sierra Calderona. It's where Valencian society and the soccer team go to relax and have fun.

Get in the Act

The Swiss America's Cup defenders, Team Alinghi, chose Valencia to host the 2007 event for its consistent winds and 300 days of sun a year. With the investment made by Spain and Valencia, and all the attractions the city has to offer visiting yachtsmen, the 32nd America's Cup should prove to be a must-make gathering. »



Spectators line the viewing platforms of the Veles e Vents building.

Ports-of-Call Directory

CULTURE/MUSEUMS

Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias/ City of Arts and Sciences,
tel: 34 902 100 03

Institut Valencià d'Art Modern/ Valencian Institute of Modern Art, tel: 34 963 863 000

Lladró City of Porcelain, tel: 34 963 187 008 (reservations required)

Museo de Bellas Artes/Museum of Fine Arts, tel: 34 963 605 793

Museo de Cerámica/Ceramics Museum, tel: 34 963 516 392

Palau de la Música/Palace of Music, tel: 34 963 375 020

(Note: Most museums close on Mondays.)

HOTELS

Hotel Las Arenas Balneario Resort, tel: 34 963 120 600, www.hotel-lasarenas.com

Hotel Neptuno, tel: 34 963 567 777, www.hotelneptunovalencia.com

La Calderona Spa, Sport & Club Resort, tel: 34 961 699 400, www.lacalderona.com

MONUMENTS

Lonja de la Seda/the Silk Exchange, tel: 34 963 525 478 ext. 4153



Cup yachts battle off Valencia.

Plaza de Toros de Valencia/Valencian Bullring, tel: 34 963 519 315

Cathedral Complex (Door of the Apostles; Miguelete bell tower; Chapel of the Holy Grail), tel: 34 963 918 127

Torres de Serranos/Serranos Towers, tel: 34 963 919 070

RESTAURANTS

El Alto de Colón*, tel: 34 963 530 900

Ca'Sento*, tel: 34 963 301 775 (need to reserve two to three days in advance)

Horchatería Daniel, tel: 34 96 185 8866

La Pepica, tel: 34 963 710 366

La Sucursal*, tel: 34 963 746 665

Restaurante Submarino de L'Oceanográfico*, tel: 34 961 975 565



Valencian Institute of Modern Art

(Note: *Reservations are required.)

SHOPPING

America's Cup official online store: www.americascupstore.com

Poeta Querol: Street featuring international designer shops

D. Juan de Austria, Calle Colón and La Galería Jorge Juan: Vibrant commercial areas

Mercado Central/Central Market

Mercado de Colón/Columbus Market

Plaza Redondo/Round Square

(Note: Many shops close for lunch 2-4:30 p.m.) □



L'Oceanográfico's underwater tunnel



America's Cup Park