



Dine by the marina at the Meliá Alicante hotel

ALICANTE

SPAIN ALICANTE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ALC), 9KM

👤 47,737,941 📞 +34 🌞 23°C 🗳️ EURO (EUR) ✈️ THREE TIMES WEEKLY



SLEEP If sea views are a prerequisite for your Spanish break, you can't do better than the **Meliá Alicante** (Plaza del Puerto 3, 965 20 50 00, melia.com, rooms from €117), where all rooms overlook either Postiguet Beach or Alicante marina. You can also enjoy excellent seafood and traditional rice dishes at the three dining venues.

EAT For more spectacular vistas, with amazing flavours to match, dine at **La Ereta** (Parque de La Ereta). Located at the top of La Ereta Park, near the castle, the restaurant offers two tasting menus. Dishes are innovative and put a modern twist on traditional ingredients.

CULTURE The **Fiesta del Raval Roig** is one of Alicante's best and oldest celebrations. Held from 5-7 September in the old fisherman's district, it

honours the Virgen del Socorro with games, paella competitions, parades and street decorations.

SHOP Alicante is famous for the quality of its leather products, such as shoes and bags. To get your hands on some of these, head to the old El Barrio district or the open-air market on **Esplanada de España**.

LATER It may be small, but trendy **NIC** (Calle Castaños 22) serves the best cocktails in the city. It's also well known for its excellent gin and tonics, which are fashionable in Spain right now.

TIP Head to **Horchatería Azul** (Calle Calderón de la Barca 38) to try a delicious horchata – a typical drink from the region of Valencia made from crushed tiger nuts. They serve almond versions here, too. **Esme Fox**

/ INFO

BUS Bus route C-6 runs from the airport to the centre every 20 minutes, from 6.40am to 11pm. It stops at the station and also connects with the Metropolitan Tram at Alfonso X El Sabio and Plaza de los Luceros. A single journey costs €3.85.

TAXI A taxi to the city centre from the airport costs approximately €20 with a €4.25 surcharge.

TOURIST INFO
alicanteturismo.com

ATHENS

GREECE ELEFTHÉRIOS VENIZÉLOS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ATH), 33KM

👤 10,775,557 📞 +30 🌞 24°C

🗳️ EURO (EUR)

✈️ THREE TIMES WEEKLY



Bar and gallery TAF is a buzzing evening hangout

SLEEP Close to Syntagma Square, **NEW Hotel** (Filellinon 16, 210 327 3000, yeshotels.gr, doubles from €107) is a member of Design Hotels. It features funky recycled 1950s furniture, a rooftop lounge and a wellness centre.

EAT In Pangrati, a 20-minute walk from Syntagma, **Mavro Provato** (Arrianou 31) is a trendy but unpretentious gastro-bistro serving reasonably-priced delights such as shrimps with fennel and ouzo, or veal with aubergine.

CULTURE For a film beneath the stars, visit a therino (open-air cinema) – films are shown in original version, normally English, with Greek subtitles. The most central is **Cine Aigli** (aeglizappiou.gr),

/ INFO

BUS Express bus X95 runs to Syntagma Square in the city centre every 20 minutes. It takes one hour and costs €5.

METRO Metro Line 3 (blue) runs to Syntagma Square every 30 minutes from 6.30am to 11.30pm. Journey time is 40 minutes and tickets cost €8.

TAXI A taxi to the city centre takes 40 minutes and will set you back €35 (day) or €50 (night).

TOURIST INFO
thisisathens.org

in a lovely walled garden draped with bougainvillea and jasmine.

SHOP Greek designer **Ioanna Kourbela** (109 Adrianou) is known for her minimalist aesthetic and use of natural organic fabrics. Call in at her flagship store in Plaka to see the new autumn-winter 2014 collection.

LATER The perfect choice for a balmy September evening, **TAF** (Normanou 5) is a bar-gallery set in a courtyard

garden, close to Monastiraki. It stages ever-changing art exhibitions, serves exquisite cocktails and hosts occasional DJ nights.

TIP To discover the capital's contemporary creative scene, join **Alternative Tours of Athens'** two-hour **Greek Designers** walking tour. You'll visit boutiques and studios producing original clothes, jewellery and household items (atathens.org). **Jane Foster**