



Travel Pack

(updated 16 July 2020)

Brief information about Castelló de la Plana

Castelló de la Plana is the capital city of Castellón province (the northernmost province of the Valencian Community). It is a small city (around 171,000 inhabitants) located at the east coast of Spain. Apart from the Spanish language, Valencian (Catalan) is also spoken.

Castelló de la Plana has 10 km of Mediterranean coast which include nice beaches. The city centre is located 4 km far from the coast. Weather is typically sunny with moderate temperatures, having average temperatures of 10.4 °C in January and 25.0 °C in August. Weather is sunny more than 300 days a year.

The city has a recently opened airport, but with few routes. For this reason, <u>Valencia airport</u> is the main airport for international visitors, which is around 1 h far by car.

The city, as the rest of the region, has a rich gastronomy, which is especially famous by rice dishes such as paella, black rice, "del señoret" rice, "a banda" rice (both similar to paella but with fish and seafood), fideuà, and many

Compostels

León

Vitoria Gastez

Pontevedra o Oreñse

Valladolid

Combra

Oporto

Salamanca

Madrid

Colmbra

Portugal

España

Coranada

Alicante

Cordoba

Murcia

Ciranada

Alicante

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others. Detailed touristic information can be found here.

How to reach the city

For international travellers, Castellón de la Plana can be reached by several airports, being Valencia airport the most suitable option due to the larger number of flights and destinations as mentioned before. If Valencia or Castellón airport is not connected with your origin, you can use either Barcelona (easier) or Madrid airports. Here we provide information about all these options:

1. Castellón airport

It only covers a few destinations, click <u>here</u> to know them. It is located around 40 min from the main bus station of Castellón. There are bus services that directly connect the airport to the bus station (12 €/journey, tickets and timetables can be found <u>here</u> and at the Tourist Info on the passenger terminal).

2. Valencia airport

Valencia airport is around 90 to 120 min by public transport from Castellón, depending on the trains schedule, and around 60 min by car (highway without tolls). By public transport, you need to take the subway (metro) at the airport station to "Xàtiva" station (both lines departing from the airport, 3 and 5, takes you there in around 25 min. You need to buy a single 4-zones ticket of 3.90 €. See here more details). Once you leave "Xàtiva" station, you will see the Valencia Nord train station building, where you need to take a train to Castellón de la Plana. "Rodalies" Line C6 is the one connecting Valencia and Castellón de la Plana. Here you can find the timetable. The journey might take from 1 to 1.5 h. Be careful since the last train leaves around 22:30 h usually. Single ticket of around 5.80 € has to be purchased at the ticket offices or machines before the journey (in advance purchase is not available). You can be charged 0.50 € extra for the ticket card, that can be used for other future journeys.

3. Barcelona airport

Barcelona airport is around 4 h and 30 min far from Castellón de la Plana. To reach Castellón from the airport you need to go first to "Sants" train station. It can be reached by either subway (terminal 1 and 2) or





train (terminal 2). Be careful if you need to move between terminals, since it takes around 10-15 min by a free shuttle bus.

If you take the subway, you need to use line L9 Sud and leave at "Collblanc" station, where you should transfer to L5 (Vall d'Hebron direction) and travel to "Sants Estació". This option takes around 40 min and the ticket is 4.60 €. You can find more information <u>here</u>.

If you use the train, you should go to terminal 2. The train line to "Barcelona Sants" station is R2 Sud, with a frequency of 30 min. The journey takes around 20 min and requires no transfers. More information and timetables can be found here. The ticket is free if you have purchased in advance the train from "Sants" to Castellón de la Plana. You need to validate it at the machines or ticket office before boarding (ask for help since it might not be intuitive how to do it).

Once you are at Sants train station, you need to purchase the ticket to Castellón de la Plana unless you bought it advance, which is highly recommended, since it is cheaper and trains can be full. The sooner you buy it the cheaper. It can be purchased online here. Train journey is around 2 or 2.5 h, depending on the train. Be careful since the last train to Castellón de la Plana is usually around 20:15 h.

4. Madrid Airport

This airport is the farthest of all the options. If you use it, you should go to "Atocha" station from the airport (around 45 min using either <u>subway</u>, <u>train</u> or <u>bus</u>) and then take a long-distance train to Castellón de la Plana (timetables and tickets can be found <u>here</u>). In-advance purchase is again recommended for the same reasons mentioned above. The journey from "Atocha" to Castellón may take from 2.5 up to 3.5 h, and in many cases it involves a transfer in Valencia.

Car renting

If you cannot travel by train due to the time of your flight, you may opt for renting a car. Depending on the airport, you can find different companies. Below we list the companies available in the Castellón and Valencia airports (for Barcelona and Madrid, you can find those mentioned for Valencia and many others).

Castellón Airport	 MALCO Rent a Car Hire Castellon Airport Goldcar
	- Interrent Castellon Aeropuerto
Valencia Airport	- Sixt
Tarenda / III port	- Enterprise Rent-a-car
	- Goldcar
	- Avis
	- Hertz
	- Europcar

We recommend renting a car with an office in Castellón. Usually, the main companies are located in the train/bus station. Other companies are located in different parts of Castellón, but they are far from the city centre and the recommended hotels.

Castellón train station	- Alamo Rent a Car
	- Europcar
	- Avis
	- Enterprise Rent-a-car

Please look for the best option before travelling. Booking the car in advance is always advisable in terms of car availability and price. There are no toll roads from Madrid (A-3 highway), Castellón and Valencia (both A-7 highway) airports to Castelló city centre. However, from Barcelona, it can cost around 13 € using the AP-7 highway.

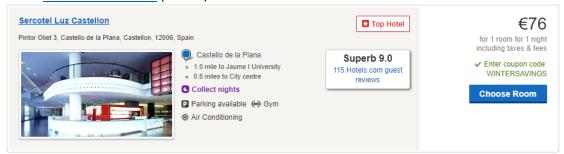
Accommodation

Along the city, there are several hotels. The closest ones to the university (15-20 min walk) are those opposite the main bus/train station, which are also close to the city centre:

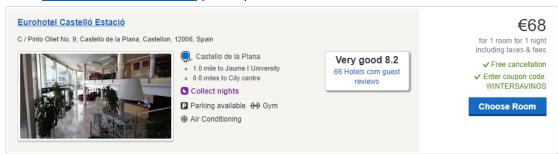




1. Hotel Luz Castellon (4 stars)

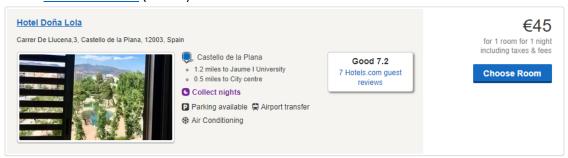


2. Eurohotel Castello Estació (4 stars)

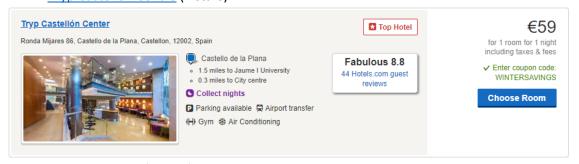


Other options in the city centre, sorted by distance to the university, are:

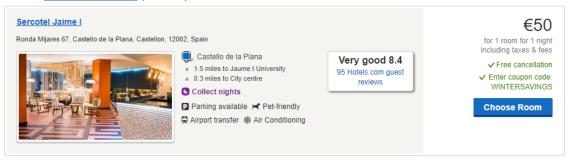
3. Hotel Doña Lola (2 stars)



4. Tryp Castellón Centre (4 stars)



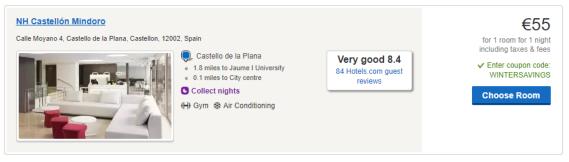
5. <u>Sercotel Jaime I</u> (3 stars)



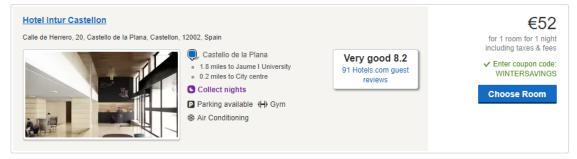
6. NH Castellón Mindoro (4 stars)







7. Intur Castellón (4 stars)



All of them are located close to bus or tram routes serving the university. You can find <u>here</u> the location of these hotels in Google Maps.

How to reach TESLab

Universitat Jaume I is the public university of the city and the province. It is a young university (created in 1991). It only has one campus, which is located at the north part of the city. TESLab is located at the 1st floor, east side of Edificio de Investigación I (Research Building 1). Our offices numbers are NA2106DI and NA2107DI, and the laboratory is in front of them, NA2108DL. Click <u>here</u> to its location in the campus map application.



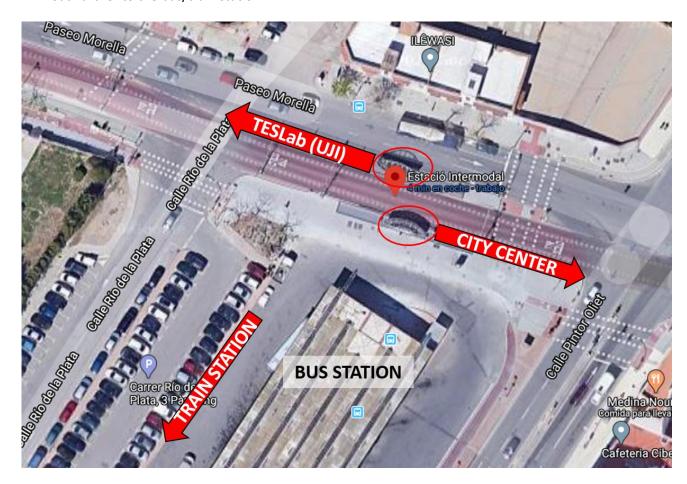
The city is served by bus and tram routes. <u>Buses</u> might have up to 30 min frequency in some cases, so it is better to know beforehand the timetables (Google Maps usually works quite well to plan your journey). The <u>tram</u> (website only available in Valencian) service has a better frequency. In both cases, you can purchase the ticket directly from the driver. Price for a single journey is $1.05 \in \text{(change up to } 5 \in \text{(maximum can be provided)}$.





Here are the best ways to reach TESLab from different points:

- 1. From the main bus/train station (Estació Intermodal) and the hotels close to it You can choose two options:
- a) Walking (15-20 min).
- b) Tram route (10 min). There is only one tram line (T1) operating in the city. You should leave the bus at "Raval Universitari" stop (2nd one). When boarding the tram, make sure you board from the side of the road farther to the bus/train station.



2. From the city centre

The best option is to check Google Maps to find the best route and schedule. The tram line crosses the whole city and has several stops at the city centre. The closest stop to TESLab is "Raval Universitari". The bus lines that stop at the university are 10, 11, 12 and 15. You should leave the bus at Universitat Jaume I stop (last one for all lines except line 10). From the bus/tram stops, follow one of these routes along the campus to reach TESLab:







Important: Once you enter the building through the access shown in the image of page 4, go the first floor taking the stairs on your left and follow the corridor of the left side until the end. You will see the TESLab offices and laboratory.

3. By taxi

If there is not enough time for travelling by public transport walking from a hotel close to the train station, you can take a taxi. There are taxis in Castellón in the southern gate of the train station, you can stop a taxi with the green light on, or you can book it through +34 964 23 74 74. The price can vary between $5 \in$ and $8 \in$, depending on the distance and the time, but giving the hotels that are recommended in this guide, it should never be more expensive than $10 \in$.

4. Using a car

If you are travelling by car, set your GPS to go to the "Thermal and Electrical Systems Laboratory TESLab" building (click here if you use Google Maps). Coordinates are 39°59'27.6"N 0°03'59.2"W). Entrance and car park at the university is freely open. The most suitable car parks are the ones that surround the building (see dashed lines in the image below). Once you park, go to the entrance of the building as indicated above.







In any case, send us an e-mail to <u>teslab@uji.es</u> indicating your intention to visit our laboratories and **if you** get lost or you need any information at any point, phone Jorge García-Cañadas (+34 964 38 7417), our researchers (+34 964 38 7418) or our lab (+34 964 38 7419).

Other relevant information

1. Weather: Winter is not very cold, but summer can be relatively warm. Rain is not very frequent, although it might appear specially in autumn, and most of the days are sunny. However, weather is typically humid and this can vary the real feeling of temperature.



- 2. Currency: Euro is the currency in Spain. In most of the places (restaurants, supermarkets, stores, etc.) you can pay by debit/credit card. Probably, the only place where you cannot pay by card is at the tram or bus, where you need cash.
- 3. Electricity: In Spain the power plugs and sockets are of type F. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. Type F, also known as "Schuko" also works with plug C and plug E. See more info here.



4. Water: Tap water in Castellón and most of the province is drinkable, however, it is hard water, and most of the people prefer drinking bottled water. In most bars and restaurants, natural water is served by default. If you want sparkling water, you need to ask for it (and it might not be available).