

City of Cartagena

Surface Area: 558,3 Km²

Surface Population: 214,177 (Spain's National Institute of Statistic, 2017)

Communications



Road

A-30 Murcia Freeway, to Murcia and Albacete.

AP-7 E-15 (Mediterranean toll freeway), to Almería and Alicante.

Alhama-Cartagena Countryside Freeway



Railroad

Cartagena-Madrid, via Albacete

Cartagena-Barcelona, via Valencia

Cartagena is included in the high speed train line between Madrid and the Spanish Mediterranean Coast



Plane

The closest airport is the International Airport of the Region of Murcia (Corvera), 33 Km.

Cartagena is the second largest municipality in the Region, with a population of 214,177. The Cartagena municipality is known for its diverse nature, despite its many centuries of intense mining, industrial and tourist activity.

Tourism is a key contributor to the city's wealth, with cruise ships and many tourists visiting its coastline during the summer months.

La Manga del Mar Menor, with a diversified hotel portfolio, is considered the main tourist destination in the Region. Due to its geophysical and sociocultural characteristics, La Manga has established itself as a favorite choice for large sports and nautical events. **Cartagena was awarded 6 blue flags in 2018** (5 to its beaches and 1 to the city's Royal Yatch Club). Furthermore, **"Camina 10.000 pasos" in La Manga and "De Iglesia a Iglesia" in Cartagena, were declared Blue Trails.**

As for the Q mark of quality, this municipality received more awards (12 flags) than any other from the Spanish Tourist Quality Institute in 2016, 7 of which were maintained in 2017 for the reasons abovementioned, and are expected to increase next year.

The city's history makes up its tourist offer thanks to the preservation and reconstruction of its heritage, including the **Roman Theater ad Old Santa María Cathedral**, in addition to many archaeological sites, such as the **Roman Coliseum**. Cartagena also has a **Congress Center (El Batel)**, an avant-garde building located in the port with 10 rooms and a capacity for 3,000 people.



Festivities and festivals

Easter. Declared of International Tourist Interest on November 25, 2005. The Carthaginian festivity is the oldest and attracts more visitors than any other.

Carthaginian and Roman festivities. Declared of International Tourist Interest on July 13, 2017. These festivities commemorate the conquest of the old city of Cartagena (Qart Hadasht) by the Romans. It is celebrated during the last two weeks in September.

Carnival of Cartagena. Declared of Regional Tourist Interest on April 7, 1993.

La Mar de Músicas. International music festival held in the month of July since 1995.

Jazz Festival. Held in November.

Cartagena Film Festival (FICC). Held in December. Previously known as International Naval and Sea Film Week.

Mediterranean International Music Festival.

Cartagena, Port of Cultures. To promote this immense historic legacy, the city launched an initiative that turns the streets of Cartagena and its heritage into a vast thematic-cultural space conceived to guide visitors in their trip through the city's past and history in a fun and interactive manner.