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Lifestyle magazine and property portal

ISSUE 48
NOV 2020
FREE

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Aguilas

North Town

Benissa

Top 10

Tourist Attractions

**Wine
Article**

Let's Talk Wine



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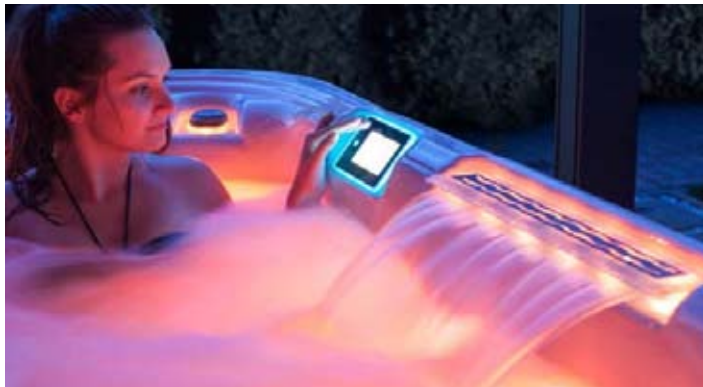
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A Life in **SPAIN**

Welcome to the November edition of ALIS.

Issue 48!!! Thats 4 years + Covid of producing A Life In Spain. Where has the time gone??

In the last 4 years we have seen a lot of changes as our magazine has evolved. Some series of articles we are asked to re-run, others we don't. But one thing we can pride ourselves on is that we have never copied anyone else. we are us and we have and always will bring you original themes and articles

The last 4 years has also seen a lot of changes in the world. Without getting political, but who would of thought 4 years ago that we would have Brexit and a pandemic to face at the same time.

The future is ours for what we make it. So don't let external forces stop you enjoying life to the max... within current restrictions of course

Enjoy this months magazine

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Places to visit in a day:

CORVERA



Corvera is one of the largest districts in the Municipality of Murcia and was, for centuries even larger and more important when it included the localities of Lobosillo and Valladolides. It is now re-establishing it's prominence in the area due to the opening of Corvera airport, and the Amazon distribution hub.

There is a lack of a focal water source though in the region so the first real sign of habitation evidence can be found dating back to the late Iberian and later Roman epochs, the latter totally dominant following the invasion of Cartagena in 209BC. By 50BC Iberian culture had all but disappeared but even roman settlements were sparse. (Nobody had told them that an airport was coming).

After the decline of the Romans, the area was occupied by the Visigoths and then by the Moors who invaded Spain in the early 8th century. For the next 500 years the Moors farmed the land until 1243 when Alfonso X of Castile gained Murcia as part of his kingdom. Although Moorish settlers were allowed to remain, they rebelled in 1266 and were largely expelled leaving empty territories which were distributed amongst noble families.

It was a difficult task to repopulate the area with Christians in the 13th 14th and 15th centuries and as an area on the

frontier close to the last Moorish kingdom, Granada, it was far from safe. It was subject to constant attacks from the Moors and from the Berber pirates of North Africa. After the Moorish kingdom fell, Corvera continued to flourish.

The main Fiesta in Corvera is in honour of the Virgen del Rosario on the 7th October. It lasts nearly two weeks and follows the patterns of many other local fiestas which include the election of a Fiesta queen and her maids of honour with sporting events, special days for children, ladies and gentlemen, musical events and religious processions etc. Timetables are available at the local town hall.

There is a nice small market on Sunday mornings and a stroll around the town will reveal lots of good bars and restaurants and the church is well worth a visit. Parking is no problem. Just watch Corvera expand over the coming years!

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Wine Regions - Murcia Wine

Murcia is one of Spain's smaller, lesser-known regions. Tucked away in the country's far southeastern corner, it is bordered by Andalusia to the west, Castilla-La Mancha to the north, Valencia to the east and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. This small administrative region consists of just one province and one administrative center, both of which are also named Murcia. The classic Murcian wine is a robust, fruit-driven red made from Monastrell.

Murcia city was founded in the 9th Century by the Emir of Cordoba, Abd ar-Rahman II, with the Arabic name Mursiya. The exact meaning of the name is the subject of speculation, with suggestions that it is a corruption of either Myrtea or Murtae, two Latin words meaning 'myrtle' and 'mulberry' respectively. Both of these plants flourish throughout the region.

The Murcian landscape consists primarily of low-lying mountains and dry coastal plains. The obvious exception to this is the Mar Menor ("minor sea"), a large salty lagoon in the southeastern corner of the province, next to the Mediterranean Sea. The Segura River provides much-needed water to the inland areas. Many agricultural products are grown along the river; tomatoes and citrus fruit are popular.

In terms of wine, Murcia is home to three DO appellations – Bullas, Jumilla and Yecla. Vines are said to have been introduced to the region by the Phoenicians in ancient times. Murcia's winemaking reputation has fluctuated down through the centuries. During Roman rule, demand and esteem were high. The region came into prominence again in the latter half of the 19th Century, when the vineyards of neighbouring France were destroyed by the phylloxera louse and the growers there turned to other European producers to fill the gap for their robust red wines. Murcia was one of the natural choices – the conditions there suit the production of the Monastrell grape, which yields wines with high tannins and deep colour, suitable for barrel maturation.

Unfortunately, wine quality slipped after this period, as quantity became the key focus. There are some notable modern-day exceptions, however, mainly from producers who have experimented with winemaking techniques and grape varieties and have prioritized quality over bulk-produced quantity. This has catalyzed into a general movement toward modernization and a new focus on producing wines of complexity and structure.



Wine

Apart from the southern edge of Bullas, Murcia's winegrowing zones here are all located some way inland. They still enjoy the temperature-moderating effects of a Mediterranean climate, however, although significantly less than areas located right on the coast.

The climate here is divided between coastal influences of the nearby sea and the continental influences of Spain's hot, arid interior. In the lower-lying areas of Bullas region (much of which is cooled by increased altitude), summer daytime temperatures of 113°F (45°C) are not uncommon. All these factors contribute in shaping the styles and types of wines produced in a region which, unsurprisingly, is heavily favoured towards robust reds.

Apart from Monastrell, other notable grape varieties grown in Murcia include Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah for reds and Macabeo, Airen and Merseguera for whites.



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Spanish Recipes

Spain has some of the most varied cuisine in Europe. We are going to try to guide you through some recipes for you to try at home.

Good luck and enjoy.

Ajo colorao'



Ingredients:

Ingredients for 4 people:

- 1 kg of potatoes.
- 3 dried red peppers
- 2 ripe tomatoes.
- 1/2 kg of ray.
- 6 cloves of garlic.
- 2 spoonfuls of sweet pepper.
- 3-4 strands of saffron.
- 1 dl of olive oil.
- 1/2 teaspoon of cumin.
- Salt.

Method:

Preparation

Boil the potatoes with the dried peppers and the tomatoes.

When they are about half cooked, add the pieces of ray and allow to boil for a further 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, grind the cumin, saffron, garlic, cooked red peppers and tomatoes.

Mash the potatoes and add the above.

Then check the salt and add the oil, paprika, a little of the stock, and the de-boned fish meat.

Mix together with a wooden spoon.

Presentation

Serve accompanied by fried cornflour balls and several strips of baked peppers.

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Phrases

Do you show sport on TV here?	¿Aquí se puede ver el deporte en la tele?	Ackkeysaypwe day ver el dayportay en la tay lay
I like team sports	Me gustan los deportes en equipo	Meh goostan los dayportays en eekeypo
I prefer individual sports	Prefiero los deportes individuales	Pref eeyerroh los day portays in dee vid you al les
Is there a sports centre near here?	¿Hay un polideportivo cerca de aquí?	Eyeeon poly day por teavohther ka day ack key
Where can I hire a tennis court?	¿Dónde puedo alquilar una pista de tenis?	Don day pwehdohal key lahoonah pea star day tenniss
Where can I play indoor football?	¿Dónde puedo jugar a fútbol sala?	Don day pwehdoh who gararefootbolsahlah
Do I need to wear a hat in the pool?	¿Necesito llevar uno gorro de baño en la piscina?	Nay cessa see toe yeah varoo no gohro day banyohen la pea see nah
How much is an adult swim?	¿Cuánto cuesta nadar un adulto?	Kwan toe kwestahnadaroon add ult toe

Vocab

Go jogging	Hacer footing	Athairfoot ting
Go running	Ir a correr	Ear are korrare
Go for a walk	Dar un paseo	Daroon pass ehyoh
Go cycling	Hacer ciclismo	Athair see klismo
Go mountain-biking	Ir en bicicleta de montaña	Earen bee seeklet tar day mon tan yah
Go for a ride	Montar en bici	Montar en beesee
Go hiking	Hacer senderismo	Athairsend dare ismo
Go climbing	Ir a escalar	Ear are ess car lar
Go canoeing	Hacer el piragüismo	Athairel pearaguisimo
Go sailing	Ir a navegar	Ear are nav eh gar
Go swimming	Hacer natación	Athairnattatheeyon
Go for a swim	Ir a nadar	Ear are nahdar



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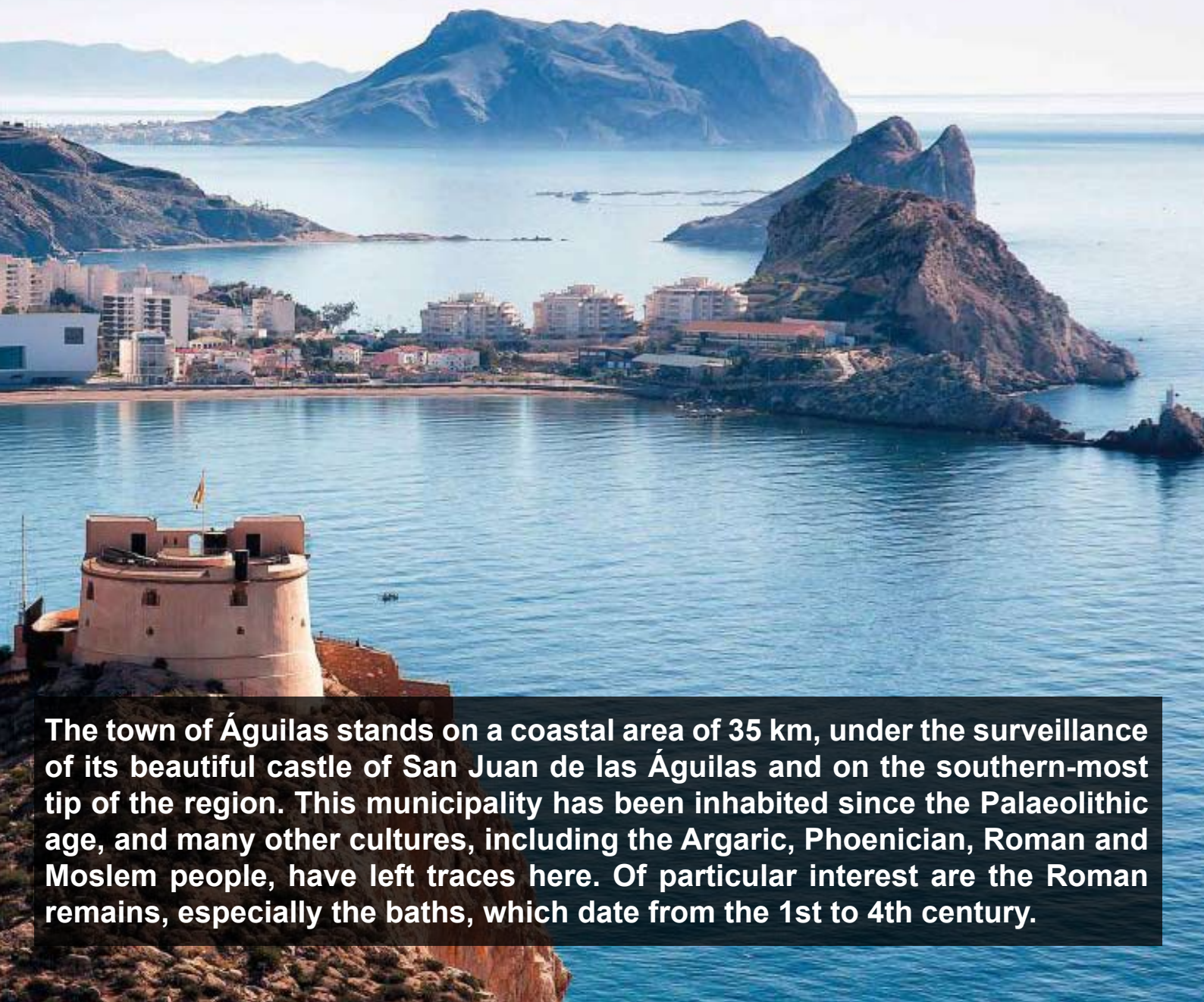
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South Town...

AGUILAS



The town of Águilas stands on a coastal area of 35 km, under the surveillance of its beautiful castle of San Juan de las Águilas and on the southern-most tip of the region. This municipality has been inhabited since the Palaeolithic age, and many other cultures, including the Argaric, Phoenician, Roman and Moslem people, have left traces here. Of particular interest are the Roman remains, especially the baths, which date from the 1st to 4th century.

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As a modern town, Águilas was born of the enlightened thought of Charles III and his ministers Aranda and Floridablanca, who sought a port for the export of the agricultural products of the river plain of Lorca, and Águilas was the natural departure point for the entire region. The new town, with its rectilinear layout, became a commercial centre on the up, reaching its zenith in the 19th century with exploitations of silver, lead and iron and the construction of the railway line and the pier of El Hornillo by British companies. Nowadays, Águilas conserves its seafaring tradition and its deep-rooted vocation as a tourist resort.

Of the town's monuments, the Town Hall is of particular interest; it is a neo-Mudejar building from the 19th century, located in the Plaza de España, with age-old gardens and an old fountain dominated by a swan, popularly known as "the turkey on the pond". The square is surrounded by a few Modernist buildings, the 19th-century church of San José, which contains the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows, who is the patron saint of the town. The historical quarter still has the environment of the seafaring quarters, dedicated to fishing, and is crowned by the castle-fortress of San Juan de Águilas. This tower-fortress was built around 1579 for defence purposes and was later rebuilt in the 18th century. In the Paseo de Parra, there is a monument to the railway, proof of the importance this means of transport once had for the population.

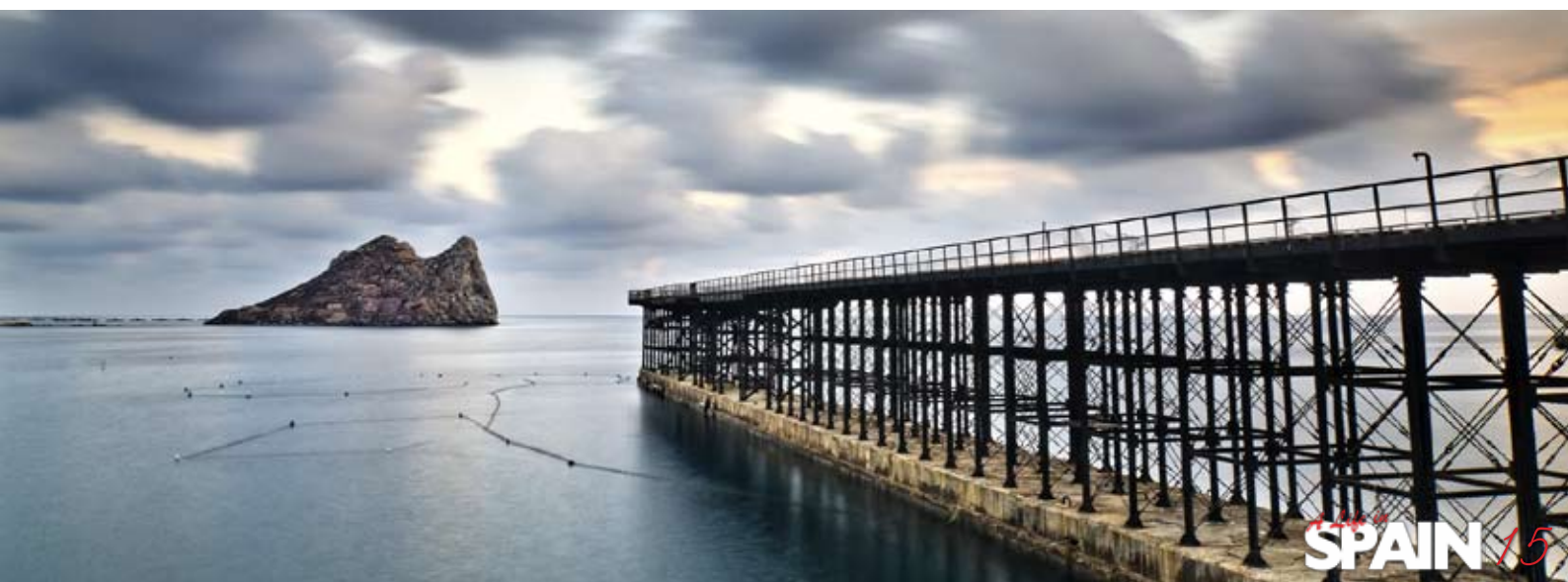
Besides its wealth of monuments and archaeology, Águilas has a coastline with many points of interest. Thirty-five coves, rocky promontories that stretch into the sea and beaches of fine sand. The coves of Playa de Calarreona, Playa la Calabardina, Playa de Calacerrada, Playa del Arroz, Playa del Hornillo, are places where the protagonist is the countryside, still untouched in places. Indeed, the town has two protected

natural areas: the Regional Park of Cabo Cope and the Protected Countryside of Las Cuatro Calas. The very centre of the town has beaches, such as that of Las Delicias. And nearby, opposite the breakwater of El Hornillo, lies the Isle of El Fraile, a small island covered with rocky slope sea bottoms and seaweed colonies for the special enjoyment of divers. These are joined by the interesting sea bottoms at the foot of the Crag of Cabo Cope. East of Águilas, in the municipality of Lorca, is a coastal area of enormous interest, where we find Puntas de Calnegre - literally Blacklime Points, so-called after the dark colour of the rocks. Together with Cabo Cope, Puntas de Calnegre has been a Regional Park since 1992. This is one of the least frequented areas of the coast, with clean, sandy beaches and crystalline waters. The Points end at the sea in high cliffs, between which lie the beautiful coves of Baño de las Mujeres, Siscal and Cala Honda.

The Mediterranean climate of Águilas, with almost no rainfall, 3,200 annual hours of sunlight and average temperatures of 25.2°C make this place ideal for nautical and sub-aqua tourism. Everything the denomination of Águilas offers (Villa Náutica (sailing village)), has been designed for visitors to get the most out of their stay. Sailing clubs, diving clubs with light sailing boat courses, cruises, diving courses, hire of material, monitors and qualified teachers, tourist accommodation, apartments, hotels and camp sites, etc., all at the disposal of those who decide to pay a visit.

The coastal town Águilas has even more to offer, given its wide range of choice and alternatives for the enjoyment of rural tourism, with 3 well-signposted walking routes for the more energetic types or long walks simply to take in the views of the spectacular scenery in the area.

'Source: murciaturistica.es'



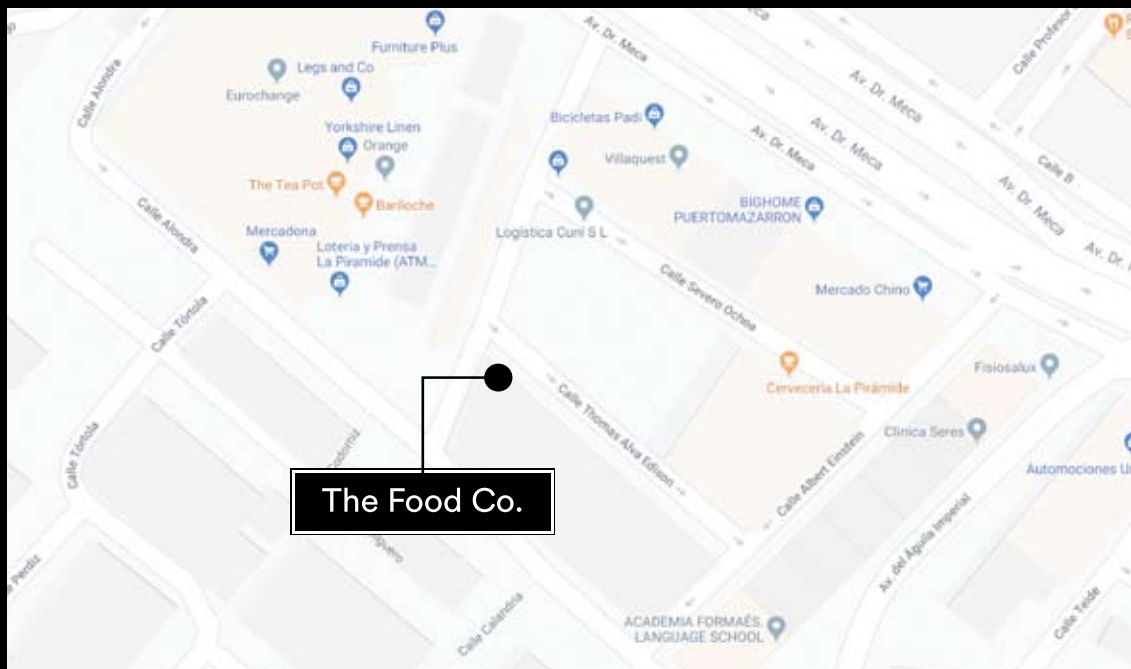
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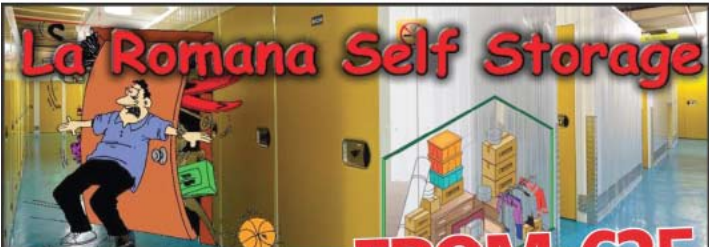
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Top 10 Tourist Attractions

Spain is a surprise to those who have the image of having to fight for towel space at one of its crowded beaches or sipping sangria while watching a bull fight or flamenco. From the ancient monuments left by the Romans and Moors, the medieval castles of the interior, the white villages in inland Andalucía or the vibrant cities of Barcelona and Madrid, there is a great mixture of cultural attractions in Spain.

The landscape varies just as widely. The evergreen estuaries of Galicia could hardly be more different from the deserts of Almería or the rugged mountains of the Sierra Nevada. And then there are the countless glittering beaches that dot the Spanish coast. Although busy in summer even along the coast of the big tourist Costas some enjoyable beaches can easily be found. Here's a look at the top tourist attractions in Spain.

1. The Palacio Real (Royal Palace) of Madrid

The Palacio Real is the official residence of the King of Spain although it is only used for state ceremonies.

The Royal Palace was built between 1738 to 1755 and King Carlos III took up residence in the palace in 1764.

2. Pamplona, running of the bulls

Pamplona, Navarra, famous for its San Fermín festival held each year from July 6th – 14th.

At the heart of the festival is El Encierro, the Running of the Bulls, an activity that involves running in front of a dozen bulls that have been let loose, on a course of the town's streets.



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3. The Aqueduct of Segovia

The Aqueduct of Segovia is one of the best-preserved monuments left by the Romans in Spain.

The ancient aqueduct carries water 16 km (10 miles) from the Frío River to Segovia and was built of some 24,000 massive granite blocks without the use of mortar. Probably constructed around 50 AD it still provided water to the city in the 20th century.



4. Cuenca

Situated between Madrid and Valencia, Cuenca is a marvelous example of a medieval city, built on the steep sides of a mountain.

The many “hanging houses” are built right up to the cliff edge, making Cuenca one of the most striking towns in Spain, a gem in the province of Castilla La Mancha.

5. The Sagrada Familia

The Sagrada Familia is a large Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, and one of Spain’s most visited tourist attractions.

It’s a design by Antoni Gaudí, a Catalan architect who worked on this project for almost 40 years until his death in 1926. The construction of the basilica began in 1882 and still as yet not finished.







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6. El Escorial

Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra de Guadarrama, El Escorial was the political center of the Spanish empire under King Philip II.

Philip appointed Juan Bautista de Toledo as the architect in 1559 and together they designed El Escorial as a monument to Spain's role as a centre of the Christian world. Today it functions as a monastery, royal palace, museum, and school.



7. The Mezquita (Spanish for “Mosque”) of Cordoba

The Mezquita is a fascinating building famous for the forest of pillars and arches inside the main hall.

The site was originally a Roman temple, then a Visigothic church, before the Umayyad Moors built the Mezquita. After the Spanish Reconquista a cathedral was built into the centre of the large Moorish building.



11. Alhambra

Part fortress, part palace and part garden the Alhambra is situated on a plateau overlooking the city of Granada in southern Spain.

The palace was constructed in the 14th century by the Nasrid sultans. The Alhambra is now one of Spain's major tourist attractions and many visitors come to Granada just to see the Alhambra.



12. La Concha

Protected from strong winds by steep cliffs and islands, La Concha in San Sebastian is said by many to be one of the best city beaches in Europe, let alone Spain.

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Mosa Trajectum and Baños y Mendigo

Agents towns

Mosa Trajectum is an urbanisation just outside Murcia. According to official old maps the resort was built on a hamlet known as San Esteban de Mendigo.

According to ancient chronicles, Murcia and the surrounding area was founded by the Caliph of Cordoba, Abderraman II, in 825. A village called Baños was used by Abderraman's armies and his Arabian successors who used the Muslim-built Arabian Baths from 825 until 22 December 1248, when they were destroyed by the Christians who considered such baths to be decadent.

The name Baños was later changed to Los Baños according to maps from the Middle Ages. The nearby hamlet of San Esteban de Mendigo was part of the district of Baños y Mendigo. According to legend a pilgrim arrived in the hamlet and lived in a cave, surviving on alms he received from the local people, mostly in the form of food (the literal translation of Mendigo is a beggar...). The pilgrim totally dedicated himself to the saint (San Esteban) and the area became known as San Esteban y Mendigo and apparently that is still the official name.

According to legend, around the 17th or 18th century the owner of the land built a family residence here, plus smaller houses and buildings for the workers and horses and cattle, thus creating a community that cultivated and farmed the land.

One year, in the 19th century, snow fell on the penultimate Friday of September - which was unusual weather for this



part of Spain - so the owner of San Esteban de Mendigo built a chapel and named its statue of the Virgin Mary as "Virgin of the Snow".

To commemorate this event, every year there is a celebration with a religious pilgrimage where local people come to attend Mass at the chapel and the villagers of Baños y Mendigo bring their statue "Virgin of Rosario" in celebration. The only main difference is that this event (known as the Romeria) now takes place on the penultimate Saturday of September.



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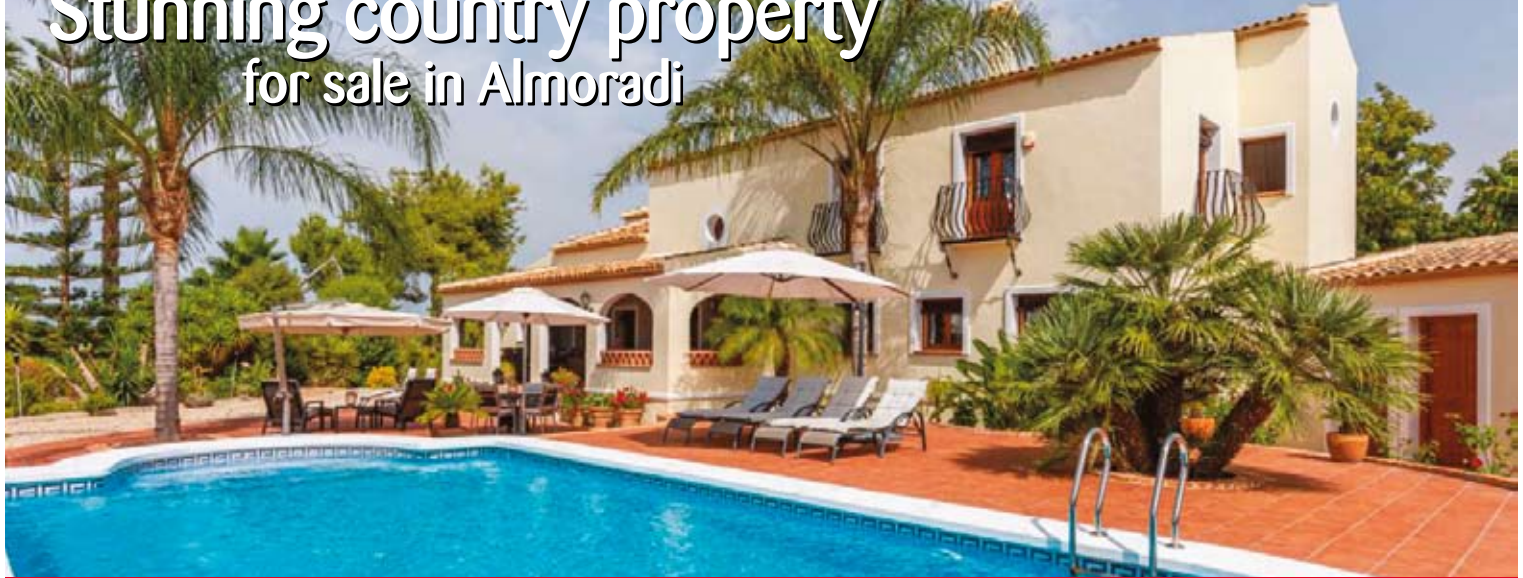
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62 Corvera opened its doors in June 2018 and quickly became very popular with the locals & expats alike, who appreciate its bright modern decor and the lively and friendly atmosphere.

62 Corvea is now renowned for not only its 62 Burger and homemade, hand rolled Pizza, but for its extensive specials board, fish & chip Fridays and Sunday Roasts, with customers travelling from all over the Region for their generous portions, and prove excellent value for money.

With 3 well positioned TV Screens, 62 Corvera covers all major sporting events, with customers given the choice of what to watch.

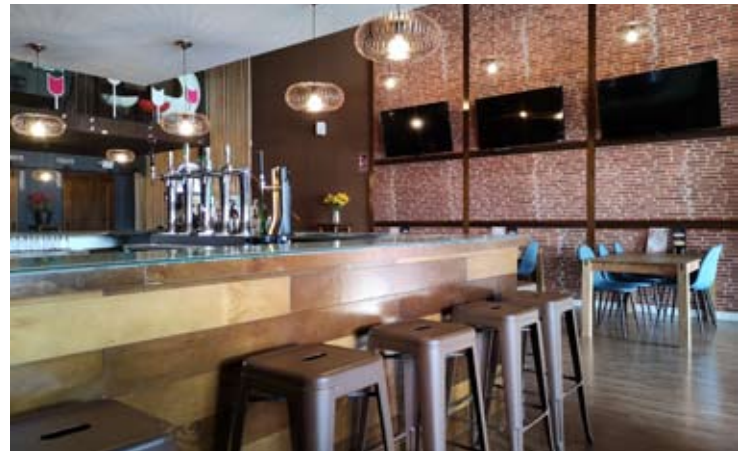
62 Considers itself a family bar, which gives no preferences to locals or expats, so it's even mix of both cultures is what helps make it such a popular place to visit.

With 62 Corvera being located a few minutes drive from Murcia International Airport, this already popular

family bar is the ideal place to stop for those using the airport.

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 Restrictions, they have had to curtail the very popular live music Saturdays & Quiz Night Mondays but look forward to offering those once more when permits.

In addition 62 Offer a Take Away service, with all items on the extensive menu being available for Take Away.



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Benissa is located towards the northern end of the Costa Blanca, just off the A-7 Motorway; the trip to and from Alicante airport takes just over one hour. The town is small, but enchanting with its medieval architecture and charming plazas.

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Although only 5 kilometres distance from the sea – as the crow flies, the nearest beaches by road are approximately 11 kilometres away and the seaside towns of Calpe (to the south) and Moraira (to the north east) are approximately 12 kilometres distance. The views of the Mediterranean, the weather, wild nature, the quality of the light, the towns architecture, Benissa will seduce you.

History

The historical part of Benissa is very well preserved and has maintained its medieval character with white walls, window grids, heraldic shields and flowers hanging on the balconies. Calle Desamparados is a very good example of the medieval character of the historic neighbourhood.

When visiting Benissa, you must take some time out to visit the lovely “Catedral de la Marina” (Marina Cathedral). Built in the neo-gothic style, the cathedral was only finished in the 20th Century.

Excursions

Places to visit include the picturesque town of Denia and the beachside towns of Javea, Moraira and Calpe. Terra Mitica is less than 30 minutes away, and is a fantastic day out for all the family.

For the independently minded there are many miles of country road to explore inland, dotted with charming villages and historic towns.

Golf

There are many fine challenging golf courses in the area. Try the Seve Ballesteros designed championship course at Oliva, or sample the delights of the course at Javea. There is lots of choice all within one hours drive of Benissa.

Cuisine

The local cuisine is dominated by the bounties of the sea. Excellent rice dishes abound. However, in recent years many international establishments have opened up, offering more familiar fare for all international tastes.

Beaches

The stretch of coastline between Calpe and Moraira is home to a number of quiet relaxing bays. The scenery is magnificent; spectacular rocks contrasting with the high mountain backdrop. From many points the emblematic Peñon de Ifach can be seen. Playa La Fustera is a quiet blue flag beach with fine sand.

During the high season there is a Red Cross post, plus rental of sun loungers and children’s activities to keep the little ones happy. The little beach of Cala Els Pinets is south-facing and made up of small pebbles. You can take part on an excursion from there (on foot) to a magic place called “Mar Morta i Roques Negres”, which means Dead Sea and black stones.

Cala Llobela is the smallest and most savage bay of them all; the pine trees reach right down to the sea and little pebbles form the beach. It’s an ideal place to practice water-sports, as well as simply basking in the sun.

The most important characteristic of the Cala Advocat beach is the breakwater, where you can moor your sailing boat. There is a small jetty used to anchor sailing boats along the beach. Fishing from the breakwater is very popular.

Climate

July and August are quite hot in Benissa, with the rest of the year being enjoyable mild. The area is ideal for holidays all year round.



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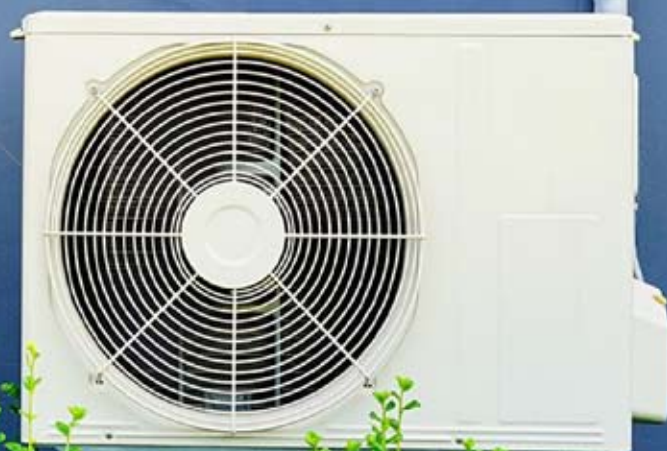
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Free things to do in and around Alicante *part 3*

Alicante is a beautiful region that's full of mountains, towns, and cultural events that all seem to be catered toward creating the perfect holiday for everyone. Not only does the region offer something for the whole family as well as solo travellers, but it does so at the most affordable price of all: 100% free.

16 of 30 - Torrevieja's Park of Nations – Dedicated to the nations of Europe, it has a scale reproduction of the map of the European Continent.

One of the most outstanding features inside is a lake covering six thousand square metres, with six thousand cubic metres of water unfit for drinking, making good use of the special tertiary treatment at Torrevieja's water purifying plant. In it there are geese, ducks, ganders and three thousand coloured carp. The local Mediterranean vegetation is abundant.

There is also a children's playground here and lots of chickens, peacocks, ducks, and other birds to view, but PLEASE don't feed them bread as it seriously damages their wings.

17 of 30 - Torrevieja Salt Flats – Though there aren't any paths to walk around here due to them all being fenced off by the salt corporations, there are two pull-ins along the road on the right hand side (when coming down from Alicante) that are good places for birdwatching, especially for flamingos. One pull-in is a proper slip road near the remaining fort with an information board and the other is a bit further south on a patch of dirt and gravel. Binoculars, chairs, and sunscreen are advised.

Whilst there visit the Torrevieja Pink Lake - With an equal salt density to the Dead Sea, one doesn't have to travel far from Alicante to experience what it's like to float on water. Barely more than knee deep, the pink lake in Torrevieja makes for a great day out even for those who've never learned how to swim.

18 of 30 - CIMAR Aquarium – CIMAR aquarium has free entry and was built to honour and educate people about the fishing history of Aguilas – a dedication that can be easily deciphered by the 19

metre trawler docked outside/ontop of this building. The fish species here are those that can be found both in tropical waters and the western half of the Mediterranean sea. In addition to all of this, CIMAR contains one of Europe's largest privately-owned seashell collections.

19 of 30 - Four Coves - Another wonderful and free thing to do near Aguilas (besides visiting the free CIMAR aquarium) is to go swimming at one (or all) of the bays that make up Four Coves. One recommendation would be to snorkel Cala Cerrada not just for the abundance of marine life lurking right off the beach, but also for the colorful maze of bolders on the right hand side

Aguilas has great shops, beaches and restaurants to complete your day.

19 of 30 - Cartagena's Walled Inner City – A classic stroll across the historic cobblestones of Cartagena as you marvel at the place's architecture and bright colours of old. You can either do this walk on your own or book one of the tours with Free Tour Cartagena to hear all about the historical legends of this place.

Cartagena is steeped in history having been ruled by the Christians, Muslims and the Romans at some point. Amphitheatres, and historic ruins are in abundance. Combine this with the navel museums and your day will be full.

Torrevieja



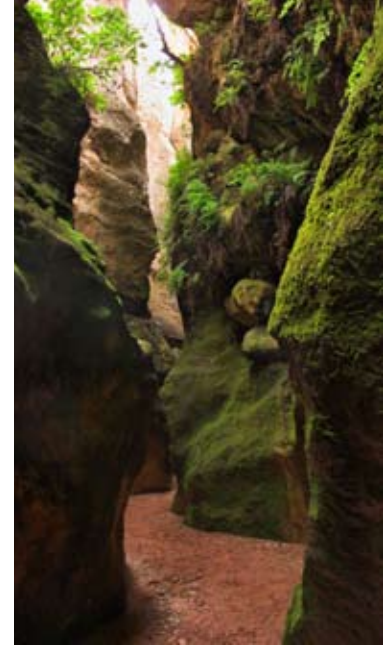
20 of 30 - Bolnuevo's Rock Erosions - This free attraction in Bolnuevo is also known as the "enchanted landscape" - a nickname that doesn't require any explanation once you see it for yourself.

Carved over millions of years, these unique rock structures almost look as if they were sculpted by an artist creating a landscape for a sci-fi world. A clear path to the top is accessed around the back of Bolnuevo's erosions (although it doesn't feel very stable at every point so take care). And afterwards, why not take a quick dip into the sea two hundred metres from these unique rock formations?

21 of 30 - Estrecho de la Arboleja - One of the very few hikes in Spain that can actually be attempted in the hot summer months without having a heat stroke. Estrecho de la Arboleja is a fairly deep canyon that offers a cool shelter from the blistering heat of the sun, both for humans and plants alike. The cool dampness it contains makes it an ideal habitat for green plants, moss, and frogs. The main section is fairly short and a bit wet even in the dry season of July and August. Though the hike itself is not very

long, one could easily spend hours at Estrecho de la Arboleja climbing up sketchy rock ladders, squeezing through old irrigation tunnels, crossing very narrow bridges (made for water, not humans), and of course just marveling at the awesome structure of the canyon. Just remember to explore safely.

For those that wish for a longer hike, you can continue to head south down the rest of the canyon. It's about a ten kilometre loop, with the way back following a road. Though there is an continued amount of shade through here, it's still smoking hot so bring a lot of water with you. One more note: the best wild camping spots are within about 600 metres from the start of Estrecho de la Arboleja.



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Benalmadena is a town in Southern Spain on the Costa Del Sol between Torremolinos and Fuengirola, it is around 120 KM from Gibraltar, making it the ideal place to stop on the way.

Benalmadena is connected from East to West by the A7 Motorway, it has a population of approximately 61500 people.

The marina of Benalmadena is one of the most beautiful and most central points of the Costa del Sol.

The Muslim influence is very apparent with in the architecture through the town and surrounding areas.

The town boasts a theme park called Tivoli world, 2 aquariums, and cable cars going up to the mountain to see spectacular views. It is one of the largest marinas in Andalucía.

The temperature of 19C in the winter makes this a perfect holiday destination for any one trying to escape the cold.

Just 120 Kms away we have the historic English owned land, Gibraltar.

Gibraltar is 6.8 KMs square with a population of approximately 33800 people, primarily English, as we found when we made our visit it is a mixed language of Spanish and English (Llanito) that is perfectly understood by all that live there.

Gibraltar has an airport with only one runway, the only road leading into Gibraltar crosses that runway, causing it to shutdown every time a plane lands or takes off.



Great Britain is apparent everywhere, with red telephone boxes, British Police officers and even English plug sockets!!

This unique tourist area is well known for many attractions as well as its popular shopping. There are many home comforts for the British population, for example Morrisons and English Fish and chips.

It is a perfect shopping Haven (No Tax) for cigarettes and Alcohol, the main currency is the British Pound although euros are accepted.

The Rock itself stands as 426M High and can only be reached by cable car or why not jump in a taxi to have a full guided tour and meet a few of the Barbary apes that reside there (over 300 of them) On your way up to the top of the rock don't forget to explore the very interesting and historical caves of Saint Michael.

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Halloween - Condado de Alhama

There's nothing like an international crisis to make a community pull together on a special occasion, and this years Halloween was no exception.

Halloween parties could be found up and down the country and on nearly every urbanisation. We had the pleasure of being asked to be involved in one such event at Condado de Alhama.

The weekend started with the traditional pumpkin painting and drawing competitions held on the Friday. First prize went to Khai Burchill who won a 40€ voucher for a meal at Condado Club courtesy of InsureSpain. All of the entrants received a bag and baseball cap courtesy of Caser Insurance.

Saturdays Halloween event schedule was supposed to be somewhat more intense. However due to the Covid restrictions in place, it had to be cancelled.

This left a lot of unhappy children, and parents.

There is a lot of hard work put into organising this sort of event and it is such a shame when they get cancelled at last minute. But unfortunately, thats life...especially at the moment.



A special thanks to Sonia Noble for organising the weekend and all the companies involved including:

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 - Condado Club
 - The clover
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