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Lifestyle magazine and property portal

ISSUE 74
JAN 2023
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Town**

Granada

**North
Town**

Guardamar Del Segura

Top 10

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**Wine
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Let's Talk Wine



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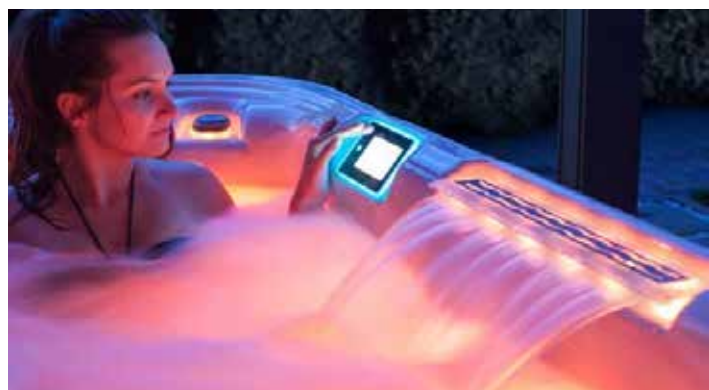
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A Life in SPAIN

Welcome to the January edition of ALIS.

Happy New Year everybody. We, at ALIS wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Fantastic news.... Yet again we have been asked to cover The Ocean Race. This is the 4th race we have been invited to follow and write about. We are the **ONLY** local publication that has been asked to attend what is described as the hardest round the world race of any type, ever.

The reason we have been selected again is because our distribution is the best of any English printed publication. Which is also why advertisers get results.

See page 34 to read all about this fantastic sailing race.

Enjoy!

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A woman in a black suit and white shirt, smiling and pointing towards the text.

Places To Visit In A Day

Archena



There are two Spa towns off the motorway to Albacete. The better known, and arguably the best of the two is Archena. The Spa is well marked with brown signs which will take you through the town centre to the thermal baths. It is a complex of more than 200,000 m² of pools and general spa facilities.

There are three hotels (one*** and two****) and a spa where various treatments are available including massage and beauty treatments. There are various tariffs for hotel residents and day visitors too. They are a bit complex so best to look at the website

www.balneariodearchena.com

There are several pools including an indoor and an outdoor pool and a children's pool. There is quite literally something for everyone and if you just want to just sunbathe there is a great area for that as well with ample sunbeds.

Archena is situated under a sheer cliff face where, if you are lucky, you may see mountain goats defying gravity as they traverse the steep hillside on their way to find grass.

It is also recommended to go into the town, if you can get parked, where there is a plethora of good bars and restaurants.

Archena is a fertile region whose history dates from Iberian times. The Archena museum is definitely worth a visit as is the Church of san Juan Batista, a stunning Baroque church.

There is much more to find in the town as you stroll around but check out the tourist website to make sure you see the most important sites.

You can certainly fill a day in Archena with the added benefit of the thermal bathing to ease those aches and pains.

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A Life in
SPAIN 07

Let's Learn Spanish

Shopping - Hardware

Phrases

I'd like to get a haircut.

I'd like to get a trim.

I'd like to get my hair coloured

Would you like side or centre parting?

I'd like to get my hair straightened.

I'd like to get my hair curled.

I'd like to get some highlights.

I'd like to get a fringe.

I'd like to get my hair layered.

Only the roots.

Wash, cut and blow-dry

What product would you recommend?

Me gustaría cortarme el pelo.

Me gustaría cortarme las puntas.

Me gustaría teñirme.

¿Quiere la raya al lado o al medio?

Quiero el pelo liso.

Quiero el pelo rizado.

Me gustaría llevar mechas.

Me gustaría llevar flequillo.

Quiero capas.

Sólo las raíces.

Lavar, cortar y peinar

¿Qué producto me recomienda?

May gus-ta-ree-ahcore-tar-may el pay-loh

May gus-ta-ree-ahcore-tar-may las poon-tas

May gus-ta-ree-ah-tay-nyr-may

Key-er-rey lah-ray-yah al la-doh oh al may-dee-oh?

Key-er-oh el pay-loh lee-soh

Key-er-oh el pay-loh ree-tha-doh

May gus-ta-ree-ahyey-vahmeh-chas

May gus-ta-ree-ah yey-vah fleh-key-yo

Key-er-oh ka-pass

Soh-low las ray-ee-thes

La-var, core-tar e pay-nar

Kay pro-dook-toemeh rey-coh-mee-en-da?

Vocab

Blond

Rubio

Roo-bee-oh

Red-haired

Pelirrojo

Peh-lee-roh-ho

Dark

Moreno

Moh-rey-no

Brown

Castaño

Kas-tan-yo

Dandruff

Caspa

Kas-pa

Split ends

Puntas abiertas

Poon-tas ah-bee-air-tas

Mirror

Espejo

Es-peh-ho

Wash unit

Lava-cabezas

La-va-ka-bea-thas

Towel

Toalla

Toe-eye-ya

Scissors

Tijeras

Tea-hair-ass

Comb

Peine

Pay-nay

Hair dryer

Secador

Seh-kah-door

Flat iron

Plancha

Plan-chah

Shampoo

Champú

Cham-pooh

Hair conditioner

Acondicionador

Ah-con-dee-thee-yon-ah-door



Now try our wordsearch:

U U J A E J P O T I J E R A S P
X U E B P G H D G B J D R P Z E
N A C K T S P R A L D N S Y Z I
O L T F P L A N C H A I C X I N
Q L T C P T H C P E H C H V R E
B A A C O N D I C I O N A D O R
S O T I Y A Q C S D N T M I B K
I T I V I T U O I B U R P C R I
F N O J E P S E P B L S U P N T

Caspa
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South Town...



At just a few hours drive West from the Mojacar area, Granada comes highly recommended as somewhere to visit if you're living in, or just visiting, this area of Andalusia. From it's fantastic history & city vibe to it's proximity to the Sierra Nevada Ski Resort, there's always something to keep everyone happy so check those tyres and oil, book those bus tickets or take that flight as you'll not be disappointed.





Granada was first settled by native tribes in the prehistoric period, and was known as Ilbyr. When the Romans colonised southern Spain, they built their own city here and called it Illibris. The Arabs, invading the peninsula in the 8th century, gave it its current name of Granada. It was the last Muslim city to fall to the Christians in 1492, at the hands of Queen Isabel of Castile and her husband Ferdinand of Aragon.

One of the most brilliant jewels of universal architecture is the Alhambra, a series of palaces and gardens built under the Nazari Dynasty in the 14th C. This mighty compound of buildings – including the summer palace called Generalife, with its fountains and gardens - stands at the foot of Spain's highest mountain range, the Sierra Nevada, and overlooks the city below and the fertile plain of Granada.

At the centre of the Alhambra stands the massive Palace of Charles V, an outstanding example of Spanish Renaissance architecture. Other major Christian monuments found in the city are the Cathedral, including the Royal Chapel where Isabel and Ferdinand lie buried, the Monastery of La Cartuja

and many churches built by Moorish craftsmen after the Reconquest, in Granada's unique "mudéjar" style.

The hill facing the Alhambra is the old Moorish casbah or "medina", called the Albaicin (main photo), a fascinating labyrinth of narrow streets and whitewashed houses with secluded inner gardens, known as "cármenes". The Plaza de San Nicolas, at the highest point of the Albaicin, is famous for its magnificent view of the Moorish palace.

The Sacromonte hill, which overlooks the city from the North, is famous for its cave dwellings, once the home of Granada's large gypsy community.

The name Granada is ancient and mysterious. It may mean "great castle", for the Roman fortress which once stood on the Albaicin Hill. When the Moors came here, the town was largely inhabited by Jews, for which they called it Garnat-al-Yahud - Granada of the Jews. The Jews are said to have been one of the first people to settle in Spain, even before the Romans.

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The Alhambra

The name Alhambra comes from an Arabic root which means “red or crimson castle”, perhaps due to the hue of the towers and walls that surround the entire hill of La Sabica which by starlight is silver but by sunlight is transformed into gold. But there is another more poetic version, evoked by the Muslim analysts who speak of the construction of the Alhambra fortress “by the light of torches”, the reflections of which gave the walls their particular coloration. Created originally for military purposes, the Alhambra was an “alcazaba” (fortress), an “alcázar” (palace) and a small “medina” (city), all in one. This triple character helps to explain many distinctive features of the monument.

Granada Cathedral

The Cathedral is located in the centre of the Muslim area and dates back to 1523. It has a nave and four aisles, a crossing and circular apse. Alonso Cano built the main façade with sculptures by Duque Cornejo, Risueño and Verdiguier while the only tower of the two planned ended up half finished. On the northern side, there is La Puerta del Perdón, a magnificent work of Diego de Siloé who also built La Puerta de San Jerónimo. The chancel is not only stunning, but includes skillful architectural solutions provided by Siloé. Its circular plan and great height contain semi-circular arches upon which a double series of balconies rest.

El Albaicín

El Albaicín is the old Moorish quarter of the city. It's located on a hill facing the Alhambra and there are dramatic views of this area from the palace's famous rose gardens. The Zirid Monarchs first established their court here in the 11th century although little remains from this era today, apart from some crumbling remains of the wall (including the section which used to encircle the Albaicín and the gates of El Arco de las Pesas, Monaita and Elvira).

For more information, travel details and bookings, visit: www.andalucia.com/cities/granada.htm





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Focus On San Pedro Del Pinatar

San Pedro del Pinatar is at the touristic heart of the Costa Cálida. Situated between the Mar Menor and the Mediterranean Sea, this small seaside town is famous for its fishing background, therapeutic mud baths, salt flats and vast stretches of sand. Located at the northern end of the Mar Menor, its name comes from a small church the fishermen dedicated to San Pedro in an area of pine trees.

It is a bustling urban resort with pretty plazas and charming walkways and has many British bars and restaurants which subtly blend together to give the ambience of a very typical Spanish town. San Pedro is very popular with tourists and welcomes thousands of visitors throughout the year. Its coastal location in between Pilar de la Horadada and Los Alcazares makes it an ideal base for touring the Costa Calida and Costa Blanca as well as the ancient cities of Murcia and Cartagena. Although busiest during the summer months of July and August, San Pedro's all year round mild weather; its three beautiful sandy beaches and numerous golf courses just a short drive away, this thriving town is always lively.

The huge weekly typically Spanish street market takes place on Mondays and you will find everything from fruit and vegetables to household products and souvenirs.

Lo Pagan is a coastal pedania (hamlet) of San Pedro and where you will find the popular fish market and the beach of Playa de Villananitos. This fine sandy beach is ideal for families as it has easy access and a children's play area. . There are also several beachfront bars restaurants and small shops so you hardly need to move from your sun lounge to enjoy a cool drink or a bite to eat. The beach is 840 metres long and meets the Playa de la Mota at the famous Quinton Windmill.



Stretching almost 3km along the Mar Menor coastline, Playa de La Mota is the longest beach in San Pedro de Pinatar and borders the Regional Park "Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro" where you can see Pink Flamingoes, Royal Heron and other exotic wildlife that live there throughout the year. It is a great day out with a visitor centre and pathways which allow you to gently walk or cycle to explore the surroundings. Within the park you will find the most famous of the Mar Menor Mud Baths (banos de lodo). The fine sand mixes with natural minerals and elements such as magnesium and calcium to produce a mud which has amazing healing properties. Not only is it used as a beauty treatment but is known to be very effective in the treatment of skin conditions and rheumatic and arthritic disorders.

The smallest of the three beaches is Playa de La Puntica which has all the usual amenities including toilets and adapted changing facilities as well as pedaloes, sea canoes, sun loungers and parasols all available to hire.

There is so much more that I could say about the beautiful San Pedro del Pinatar but you really do need to experience it for yourself.





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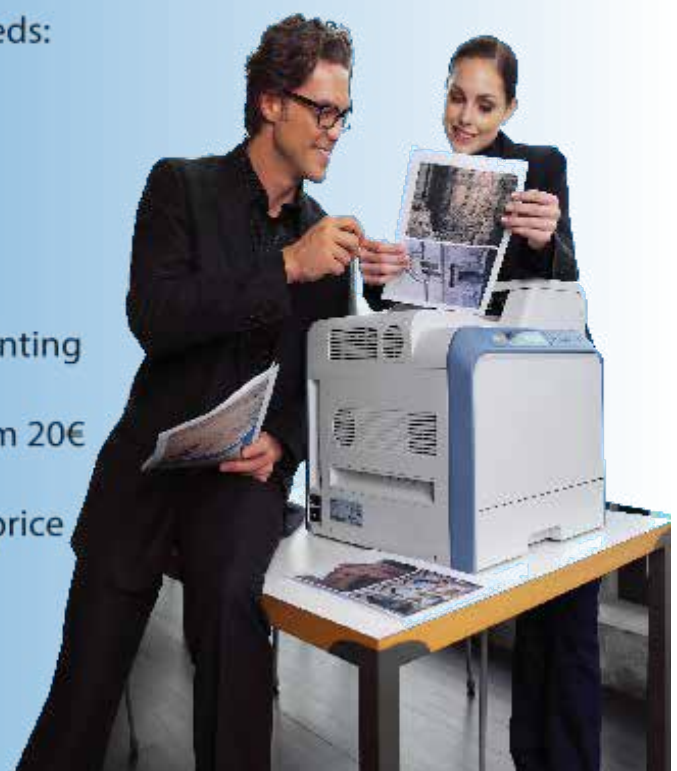
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Mar Menor

The Mar Menor, is in spite of its name, Europe's biggest salt water lagoon, and it is separated from the Mediterranean Sea by La Manga, a strip of land which is 22km long. This natural setting has an idyllic microclimate and perfect conditions to enjoy nautical sports. Moreover, here you will find a very particular combination of fishing traditions and modernity, impossible to find anywhere else.

Large pond, Small sea, throughout history, the so-called Mar Menor has had different names, all of which coincide in the description of a phenomenon that nature designed as a great coastal lake (originally, an open bay) of 170 km² of warm saltwater.

Since distant times, the wealth of its water, the kindness of the climate and the beauty of the area as a whole attracted many people. The Iberians and Phoenicians and, later, the Arabs have a part in the history of the Mar Menor. In the Moslem period, it was known as the Mar Chico, and the place known today as Los Alcázares (from the Arabic Al-Ksar, literally translated as "place of residence") was chosen for their recreational houses. The continuous skirmishes with pirates from Algeria led to the need to construct watchtowers, some of which are conserved today, such as that of El Ramé or Rami. Until the 18th century, the area was occupied only by inhabitants dedicated to fishing and to the exploitation of the salt flats. From the 19th century, these centres gradually became centres for recreation and relaxation for the inhabitants of La Huerta, who established their summer residence next to the coast, attracted mainly by the curative properties of its brackish water.

Even today, the Mar Menor remains faithful to the concept of "residential area" characterised by rest and tranquillity. The warm waters of the Mar Menor, with a maximum depth of 7 metres, hold the ideal conditions and means for those who enjoy open or group sailing. Furthermore, visitors to this area can enjoy all the advantages of the Sailing Station of the Mar Menor, which in keeping with the ski station concept, offers a set of sailing, sports and tourist infrastructures together with hotels, accommodation and establishments for leisure and learning grouped together in one place: the entire Shore area of the Mar Menor and La Manga. This large saltwater lake has ideal climatic conditions (315 days of sunshine per year and an average annual temperature of 18°C) for the continuous practice of water sports.

JURASSIC NATURE

Las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro Regional Park is an unblemished paradise of primitive nature, perfect for those escaping from overcrowding and tourist resorts. At this migrating water bird reserve you can watch flamingos, walk along tracks, take a refreshing dip in the Mediterranean and admire one of the most outstanding coastal sunsets.



TASTE OF THE SEA

The Mar Menor dish par excellence is caldero, a truly marine dish made with rice, good fish and a secret ingredient: ñoras. As appetizers, nothing better than salted fish such as hueva -roe- and mojama -salted tuna-, or the exquisite Mar Menor langostines. As a dessert, we suggest pastel de cierva, so that you can try a delicious contrast between the sweet and salted tastes; if you have a sweet tooth, we recommend tocino de cielo. Don't forget that you can enjoy them at restaurants and pastry shops in the area and, in addition, you can buy them as souvenirs. When you're back home, they will make your mouth water and you will definitely miss our region a little bit.

OUTODOOR HEATH

The Mar Menor is a big open-air spa. Its mild temperatures throughout the year, its many hours of sunshine and its high mineral concentration make it the perfect place for treatments against physical and psychological exhaustion. The coastal thalassotherapy centres offer a wide range of personalised treatments based on sea water (hydrotherapy), sea air (airtherapy) and solar radiation (heliotherapy). Europe's biggest open-air mud therapy area is in San Pedro. It is a big mistake to come here and not to cover oneself with the famous mineral medicinal muds. It is your decision to do it by the lagoon or at the hotels or centres that offer specialised treatments. If you wish to take paradise home, don't forget that you can purchase some mud at thalassotherapy centres.

CULTURE BY THE SEA

Mar Menor destinations have various museums from which culture, history and creativity spread in all directions. Among them, for instance, Los Alcázares Aeronautical Museum stands out: it was Spain's first seaplane base and one of the pillars of

Spanish Military Aeronautics during the first half of the 20thC; it houses one of the most comprehensive collections related to military aviation, including weapons, military clothing, airplane propellers, anti-aircraft guns and hundreds of pictures. In San Javier, the Local History Museum shows objects related to people's family, social and cultural aspects, to the agricultural and fishing traditions and, of course, to the development of aviation. Last but not least, the Barón de Benifayó Palace in San Pedro del Pinatar, housing San Pedro Municipal Museum, is a must. It has exhibitions concerning terrestrial and underwater archaeology, fossils and ethnography. Nevertheless, the most touching elements which are shown belong to the old toy collection and the film material.

SEA FESTIVITIES

Very popular festivities such as the Semana Internacional de la Huerta y el Mar -International Week of the Orchard and the Sea- are celebrated at Mar Menor: this festivity takes place on the second fortnight of August in Los Alcázares, paying homage to the connection that has always existed between the huertanos and the sea. In the same locality, now with a secular character, the Berber Incursions are celebrated in April, and the Day of Caldero -typical rice dish- is celebrated October 12th. In San Pedro del Pinatar, the Holy Week and the Virgen del Carmen Festivities stand out. The second ones are celebrated on August 15th, revealing the connection between the people from this town and the sea, as well as their worship of this virgin that protects fishermen and seamen. The virgin is taken on a procession on the Mar Menor waters; carnations are thrown to pay homage to seamen who never arrived in port. On February 3rd every year, San Blas pilgrimage takes place in San Javier, including a carriage parade and a typical rice contest.



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History of Olives in Spain

Spanish olive oil is among the best in the world and its production is exported to all continents. Spain has over 30 olive oil D.O. (designation of origin).

Olive trees were not unknown in the Iberian Peninsula, but olives were not greatly cultivated until the Romans invaded Hispania in 212 B.C., led by Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus. The locals accepted the new customs brought by the Romans without great rejection. Infrastructure was built and new technology was imported and put to work, trade grew and prospered and Hispania bloomed.

Most of the agriculture was centred in Guadalquivir, Andalusia, in order to supply Rome with wine, oil and cereals and the cultivation of olive trees became widespread throughout the region. The production of Spanish olive oil, taught by the Romans who had more or less strict methods to assure quality.

The olive trees were planted along the left side of the river Beatis' (today Guadalquivir) bank, as it's lands were rockier, which according to Pliny the Elder are great for this kind of tree. It was advised that the distance between each tree should be no less than 17,60 meters, which actually helped the farmer in times of draught, as they had room to plant cereals as well between the trees.

The olive harvest should take place when the olive was ripe, as it was a method of getting a better quality oil, and better colour. We must not forget that the oil back in those times was very different from those we know today; their methods would not achieve a clear olive oil, but it was murky and sometimes green, sometimes yellow or golden colour.

The olives had to be milled on the same day as recollection (or so it was advised). The oil would be cleansed pouring the oil from one pitcher to another, and letting it rest for a while in between.

Spanish olive oil became so famous in the Roman empire that the Emperor from Sevilla, Hadrian, adopted the olive branch as a symbol and banner of Hispanic Rome. In 257 Hispania ceased to be a Roman colony and it became part of the Frankish territories instead. From that year Rome's supply of olive oil came from Africa instead, and in 476 a.d. the Roman Empire fell and Europe would enter the middle ages.

During Al-Andalus period in Spain (Muslim occupation), the cultivation techniques were improved by the use of ditches and irrigation systems and other olive varieties were introduced. During the 11th and 12th century the olive tree expansion and geographical distribution of Spanish olive oil production was more or less what it is today. The biggest density of olive trees are in Andalusia; mainly Jaen, Cordoba and Sevilla. However not all olives and olive oil was produced in the South of Spain; in the region of Aragon there are also magnificent olive tree plantations.

Until a few years ago, Spanish olive oil was relatively unknown since almost all of it was sold by bulk and packaged outside the country. Today, gradually, oil producers, and especially those of the best quality oil, are packaging and placing their own names on the bottles, just as the producers of California wine are now selling more and more of their wine as their own product instead of selling the grapes. This is increasing considerably the knowledge and admiration for Spanish olive oil as an exceptional product.

Finally, the benefits of olive oil should be mentioned: through its oleic acid, it helps to reduce the level of bad cholesterol and increase the level of good cholesterol, it has a high contribution of Vitamin E, which prevents arteriosclerosis, and helps to reduce blood pressure, thereby helping to prevent thrombosis.



Company Profile

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When we made the decision to leave our UK life & move to our Mazarron "holiday home" our family & friends thought we were mad & there have been a few times along the way when I thought perhaps they were right! Growing any small business here from the ground up is challenging as others who have done the same will agree I'm sure but we have persevered! I clearly remember a friend in the early days saying keep doing what you are doing with your integrity intact & you will get there. How right that friend was.

Mazarron and the Costa Calida in general are great places to live and work, which is why we chose to call it home. This makes it easy helping families find their dream home here, as we are passionate about the area where we have brought up a young family ourselves for the last 15 years, with extensive knowledge of the education system here.



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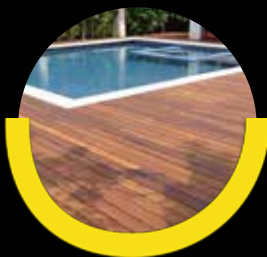
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SKIING IN SPAIN

Although Spain is normally thought of as a summer paradise, known for long, beautiful beaches and azure sea, as the second most mountainous country in Europe, Spain also offers an excellent winter season of skiing. Benefiting from long hours of sunshine in the winter months, Spain's ski resorts offer spectacular mountain views, expertly maintained runs and the perfect balance of snow and sunshine.

Sierra Nevada, one of Spain's largest ski resorts, is the most southernmost in Europe, giving skiers the opportunity to soak up the sun's rays on a day out on the slopes. Reaching elevations of up to 3,282m, skiing in Spain is not to be scoffed at - the fantastic altitude means that higher resorts are relatively snow-sure and can provide a unique experience for those looking to try something other than the usual European resorts.

Many of Spain's resorts are gentle and cruisy and, with their uncrowded nature, it is the perfect choice for many beginners or intermediates looking to carve up some new terrain.

Much of the skiing is split between the Granada area which features resorts such as Sierra Nevada, Spain's highest resort (3,300m), and the Spanish Pyrenees with Spain's largest resort, Baqueira (160km of slopes). A lot of the skiing in these destinations is above the tree line and on large, wide-open pistes with magnificent views. Easily accessible off-piste is also on offer in many of the Spanish resorts with terrain suitable for every level of skier.

Spain's high altitude makes the resort amongst one of the most snow-sure in the whole of Europe and the winter ski season often goes late into April. State-of-the-art snowmaking systems in many of the resorts mean that even in the low snow seasons the snow is always top-notch.





Sierra Nevada

Ski Areas

Sierra Nevada is split into four separate areas that are all well-linked and easily accessible. You'll catch one of two gondolas up to the mid-station at Borreguiles where you'll find the nursery slopes. Intermediates and experts should carry on up to 3,300m where the majority of the more challenging and freestyle terrain can be found.

You'll be able to find slopes that catch the afternoon sun, of which there is plenty given the resorts southern location - especially towards the end of the season.

Skiing

You'll find an excellent array of runs in Sierra Nevada, ranging from a nursery slope area ideal for beginners to some challenging black runs and exciting off-piste. The green and blue runs are well-groomed, however, the resort is best suited to intermediate skiers who can take advantage of the long reds that Sierra Nevada is famous for.

At a Glance

Resort Altitude: 2,100m
Resort Skiing: 3,300m
Total Ski Area: 110.40km
Lifts: 21

Green Runs: 19
Blue Runs: 45
Red Runs: 53
Black Runs: 7
Snowpark: 7



Northern Spain

Formigal

Aramón Formigal-Panticosa is one of the few ski resorts in Spain with an elevation difference of more than 1000 metres. In fact, the Panticosa sector, with an elevation difference of 1,075 metres, is one of the best Spanish ski resorts to enjoy skiing in its purest state. Some 5% of slopes are classified as easy; 38% are moderately difficult, and 57% of slopes are designated 'for experts only'.

Because of this, Aramón Formigal-Panticosa is one of the best resorts in Spain for passionate freeriders, with controlled areas of virgin snow where you can experience pure emotion in each of its turns and with designated zones for beginners as well as for expert riders. It is, without doubt, one of the most authentic rider territories for ski lovers.

You'll find zones marked 'freeride' with one or several wedges and mountain routes marked orange especially designed for freeriders. All the elements are natural and are outside of any control or intervention by the resort.

Aramón Formigal-Panticosa is located in the Pyrenees, the largest mountain range in Spain, spanning from the north east of the Peninsular across 440 km. The area where the resort is located is called the Tena Valley, in the district of Alto Aragón, one of the most beautiful areas in Spain.

Formigal also boasts the longest skiable run in Spain. Nine consecutive kilometres that start at an altitude of 2630 metres, at the top of the Cerler resort. Nine kilometres starting at the end of the Gallinero ski lift, and which run along a route ideal for skiers with an intermediate level, and which is great fun for families.

This already legendary route runs through of the most emblematic slopes, black pine forests and snaking paths that end around 1500 m ASL, at Cerler's lowest level: 1130m of altitude difference in a single continuous descent that crosses the station from top to bottom. The route is fully signposted with signs every kilometre so that skiers can always know exactly where they are along the route, the 9 km slope, the longest skiable run in Spain, which today is one of Cerler's hallmark features. Route: Perdiz Blanca (blue)-Camino del Sarrau (red)-Robellons (green)-Skity Area de Puentet (green)-Les Pllanes (blue)-Cerler 1500.

At a Glance

Resort Altitude: 1,510m

Resort Skiing: 2,250m

Total Ski Area: 137km

Lifts: 19

Green Runs: 9

Blue Runs: 18

Red Runs: 26

Black Runs: 15

Snowpark: 1



Baqueira

The Baqueira ski resort in the Pyrenees is one of Spain's best ski destinations. Like many of its Alpine counterparts, the season usually runs from early December through mid-April. The 160km of slopes is spread over three areas Beret, Bonaigua and Baqueira itself, most of the runs are suited to beginner and intermediate skiers. However, in the correct conditions there can be some great off-piste and great value heli-skiing for advanced skiers.

Just up the hill is the exclusive area of Tanau where the Spanish monarch has a majestic royal home. King Juan Carlos no longer skis himself but other members of the Spanish royals and their entourage often are spotted visiting at the weekends.

At the top of the main Baqueira gondola is an excellent area for beginners to get started on and progress quickly. Once you've mastered this, there are a number of perfectly suited green runs to push yourself and keep progressing. The majority of the skiing is above the treeline and as a result, the views are simply exquisite. For advanced and expert skiers a new draglift has been built providing access to the off-piste amphitheatre above the Lacs de Baciver.

At a Glance

Resort Altitude: 1,500m

Resort Skiing: 2,610m

Total Ski Area: 160km

Lifts: 29

Green Runs: 10km

Blue Runs: 65km

Red Runs: 60km



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New Year, Healthy Wine Year

A new year begins, 2023 arrives full of new challenges and always at the beginning of the year we make our new New Year's resolutions. Taking care of our food, losing the extra weight and doing sports are some of those commitments that we seek to acquire with ourselves. Among your resolutions could be drinking better wines, healthier wines, right ?.

In recent years there's been a trend that more and more wineries are committed to making healthier and more respectful wines to our body and the environment. These are natural wines. In this article we're going to show you what these types of wines are and how to recognize them.

Wine makers who produce natural wines seek sustainability in viticulture and wine making. They return to recover traditional methods of work in the field, with manual work in the vineyard and respecting the natural cycles of each variety, its sprouting and maturation. Farmers use non-toxic treatments, only those allowed in organic farming. They avoid chemical fertilizers, and fumigation products.

In Rioja we find, for example, Allende Nature, a red wine made with tempranillo from the strains that Miguel Ángel de Gregorio takes care of in Briones, and reflects that land, that climate and this typical variety of the D.O. Rioja.

Natural wines show their particular nuances. In addition, it is sought that the characters of the earth and the time of the vintage are also shown.

Winemakers often use more rudimentary and traditional techniques that enhance the natural flavor of the grape without the need for any additives. In the production they use native yeasts from the farms avoiding having to treat the wines with selected or artificial aromas.

This is how 'The Maker' from Pedro Escudero winery is made. A white Verdejo grape wine that uses its native yeasts to reinforce the aromas of the plots where the grapes are selected in the D.O. Rueda.

Another important aspect to consider about these natural wines is that they do not contain added sulphites. During fermentation the wine generates the necessary sulphites naturally.

It is true that all these processes of winemaking require to be monitored and that is why making a natural wine its more difficult and more expensive than a normal wine process. These wines have no need for filtering or clarifying, You get these healthy wines that give us the opportunity to faithfully know the work of the winegrower.

If you are interested in knowing some of these natural wines you can visit the online store vinoladiligente.es and find these examples and many more. Or come to visit us in our wine stores.



Wine of the month

EL BICHO RARO

Garnacha Tintorera 70%, Syrah 20% and 10% Monastrell
A good example of respectful and vegan wine

This wine is juicy and intense in the mouth. It shows subtle notes of aging with some spices on a background of red fruit.

Robust but friendly, with good body. It is harmonious, complex and unique. It is a great addition to any wine cellar especially if you are starting out on a vegan venture.



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North Town...

GUARDAMAR DEL SEGURA

The town of Guardamar del Segura with a population of just over 11,000 has historically played the role of guardian of the river Segura.

Guardamar's strategic position on a hill over the Vega Baja made it an ideal settlement for the various cultures that have inhabited this part of Spain over the centuries.



Guardamar del Segura owes its very existence and livelihood to the dunes that have shaped it. Forests, dunes and beaches make Guardamar del Segura a paradise on the Costa Blanca.

Located between Santa Pola and Torrevieja, Guardamar del Segura is approximately 45 minutes drive from the international airport of Alicante. The resort town has been developed directly on the beach. Inland towns and villages are easily accessible with the excellent local road network.

Beaches and Nature

Guardamar del Segura boasts over 12 kilometres of natural coastline, with sand dune beaches backed by pine trees.

The natural dunes form from sand deposited by both the river Segura and the sea, and are blown inland by the eastern winds. This beautiful natural scene makes Guardamar del Segura so appealing; there are also lots of charming spots where you can observe the local flora and fauna and multitude of bird species that nest in this ecosystem.

Guardamar del Segura is also home to the Reina Sofia and Alfonso XIII parks, ideal for a leisurely stroll or for cycling. Here you will find lots of wildlife – squirrels, swans, birds and fishes, which all make the local park environment a place for nature lovers.

Recreation and Leisure

Activities around the restored mouth of the river include fishing, camel rides and a visit to the Molino de San Antonio (San Antonio Windmill).

Guardamar del Segura offers you every imaginable water sport such as sailing, windsurfing, water-skiing, underwater diving, canoeing, and jet skiing, amongst others. Plus the Marina de las Dunas, at the mouth of the river, accommodates 498 moorings.

Guardamar del Segura also has extensive land based sports facilities. The “Las Rabosas” Sports Centre and the magnificent Municipal Sports Centre, with its Olympic swimming-pool, three football pitches, basketball courts, five-a-side soccer pitches, tennis courts, padel courts and a covered sports hall. Perfect for sports enthusiasts!

Golf

Within one hour’s drive of Guardamar del Segura you are spoilt for choice with golf courses.

Eating out

All the local restaurants offer top-quality seafood and shellfish and outstanding rice dishes, the pride of Guardamar cuisine.

Marina

The municipal Marina de las Dunas is a splendid addition for tourism in Guardamar del Segura. It is located at the mouth of the river Segura in a unique natural environment.

It has 494 moorings and all the services and facilities of a top-ranking marina. It also provides two kilometres of the new navigable river course for small boats, a risk-free place for sea sports.

Shopping

There are local shopping facilities in Guardamar del Segura and further shopping facilities in nearby Torrevieja.

Nightlife

Torrevieja offers a comprehensive variety of nightlife, with nightclubs, bars and restaurants and is just a short taxi ride away.

Climate

Guardamar de Segura enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate, like most of the Costa Blanca, with cool sea breezes in summer and protection by surrounding mountains against the cold North winds in winter. The area averages nearly 3,000 hours of sunshine each year and the average temperature easily exceeds 20 degrees.

In 1986 the World Health Organisation recommended the climate of the area as one of the most equitable in the world - neither too hot in the summer nor too cold in the winter. On average it can boast 325 sunny days each year making it an ideal all year round destination





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CAB1321

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What is The Ocean Race?

Since 1973, The Ocean Race has provided the ultimate test of a team and a human adventure like no other. Over four decades it has kept an almost mythical hold over some of the greatest sailors and been the proving ground for the legends of our sport.

The Ocean Race is often described as the longest and toughest professional sporting event in the world, sailing's toughest team challenge and one of the sport's Big Three events, alongside the Olympic Games and America's Cup.

To truly understand the race, though, it's better to think of it in a way the athletes who take part will recognise immediately. Put simply, The Ocean Race is an obsession, and many of the world's best sailors have dedicated years, even decades of their lives trying to win it.

Take Sir Peter Blake, who competed in the first edition of what was then the Whitbread Round the World Race in 1973-74 and came back again and again until he finally conquered his Everest, securing an overwhelming victory with *Steinlager 2* in 1989-90. Only then was he able to fully turn his attention to other projects.

The race sits, just as it always has, at the intersection of human adventure, and world-class competition. Thanks to the work of the Onboard Reporters embedded with every team, fans are given a unique insight into just what it takes to win a race that is relentless in its demands – as teams give everything they have, 24 hours a day, in pursuit of the tiny advantages that can make all the difference.

The race's concept is simple: it's a round-the-clock pursuit of competitive edge and the ultimate ocean marathon, pitting the sport's best sailors against each other across the world's toughest waters. It's relentless: the importance of winning, the adventure of life on board, the transformative effect on the sailors — all of these combine to give the race its power and depth.

The last edition of the race was the closest in history, with three teams virtually tied, approaching the finish line. After 126 days of racing spread across 11 legs, the winning margin for Charles Caudrelier's Dongfeng Race Team was only 16 minutes. The top three teams were separated by just four points.

A total of 2.5 million people visited the Race Villages during the 2017-18 event, getting a first-hand taste of the action. Millions more followed the action on our digital platforms, television and via the news as the race set new high-marks for international coverage.

Now we enter a new era as the event continues to evolve. Two classes will compete in the 2022-23 edition of the race with the addition of the high-tech, foiling IMOCA 60 class adding a design and technical element. The one-design VO65 fleet will race on its third lap of the planet in 2022, with an emphasis on competition, youth and crew diversity.

Following the success of our ground-breaking and award-winning sustainability efforts in the last race, sustainability will continue to be a core value of the race as we go forward, as we redouble our efforts to restore ocean health and lead, inspire and engage on this critical issue.

The next edition of The Ocean Race will start from Alicante, Spain on 15 January 2023. Sadly we will have already gone to print to write about the start. Please see next month for the latest update

Join us.



Route

IMOCA 60 - The Ocean Race 2022-23 will visit nine iconic international cities over a six-month period, with leg one starting from Alicante, Spain, on 15 January 2023.

VO65 - The Ocean Race VO65 Sprint will take the VO65 fleet to four cities, in three race stages: Alicante - Cabo Verde; Aarhus to The Hague; The Hague to Genova.

The start of the 14th edition of The Ocean Race will follow the Reyes holiday period in Spain, and sees the foiling IMOCA fleet departing on a 32,000 nautical mile (60,000 km) race around the world.

The first leg is a 1,900 nautical mile sprint from Alicante to Cabo Verde, the first time the Race has stopped at the African archipelago. Historically, the fleet has sailed past the islands as they head south down the Atlantic. Whilst in Cabo Verde, The Ocean Race will take part in its famed Ocean Week, with a focus on local and international sustainability issues.

Leg 2 will start on 25 January and see the fleet racing across the equator, south to Cape Town, the 12th time the Race has stopped in the southern tip of Africa, making it the most visited stopover in this edition of the event. This will also be the first of three 'haul-out' stops, where the boats will be lifted from the water for maintenance.

Next up is a record-breaking leg - the longest racing distance in the 50-year history of the event - a 12,750 nautical mile, one-month marathon to Itajaí, Brazil.

In the finest tradition of The Ocean Race, this leg takes the IMOCA sailors down to the Roaring Forties and Furious Fifties of the Southern Ocean. Antarctica is to the right and the fleet will need to pass all three great southern Capes - the Cape of Good Hope, Cape Leeuwin, and Cape Horn - to port, without stopping, for the first time.

There will be another extended, haul-out stopover in Itajaí, Brazil, following this epic southern leg before racing resumes heading north, through the doldrums, across the equator and up to Newport, Rhode Island, on the east coast of the United States.

From there, the Race returns to Europe, with a transatlantic leg to Aarhus, Denmark, followed by a Fly-By of Kiel, Germany en route to a stop in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Then, it's the final offshore leg - the Grand Finale - to Genova, Italy, for a Mediterranean finish to the race

To follow the race...

Visit www.thecoceanrace.com

THE OCEAN RACE

Teams

The Ocean Race is all about the men and women bold enough to compete in it and is considered the ultimate test of a team sport.

The first step of the entry process for The Ocean Race is 'registration' whereby teams pay a 5000-euro fee to access materials and information relevant to the The Ocean Race 2022-23. The teams listed have all completed the registration process.

There are several other projects in the IMOCA class who are actively developing campaigns for the next race but have yet to register.

IMOCA



Two classes of boat

The next edition of The Ocean Race will be open to two classes of high-performance ocean-going racing yachts

The Ocean Race, scheduled to start on 15th January 2023, will be raced in two dynamic classes of boats: the high-performance, foiling, IMOCA 60 class and the one-design VO65 class which produced such close, compelling racing in the last two editions of the race.

Entries in the IMOCA 60 class will compete for The Ocean Race trophy, while those racing the VO65s will chase The Ocean Race Trophy for VO65.

Both classes of boat are capable of high speeds and in the right conditions can cover 600 nautical miles or more in 24 hours.



Spanish Walks

Spain has some of the most diverse countryside in Europe. With spectacular mountain ranges and vast open spaces. We have discovered some excellent walks and over the next few months we will help you to discover them as well. Good luck and enjoy.

Los Escullos - La Isleta del Moro

The rugged mountain and rocky landscape of Cabo de Gata is isolated and geologically one of Europe's most special. The Sierra de Gata mountain range is the largest volcanic rock formation in Spain, with sharp peaks and ochre-coloured steep rocks.

This beautiful walk from Los Escullos to the small fishing village of La Isleta del Moro. The walk goes along the coast, over the rocks to the small peninsula. Along the way you have beautiful views of the bay and the two extinct volcanoes. From the rock in Isleta del Moro you have a beautiful 360 ° view. The tour is completely unpaved and even for the most part runs over a narrow footpath. The way back goes approximately along the same road, in total 9 km.

Courtesy of www.trailexplorer.eu



Distance: 9 km

Duration: 3 h

Grade: Easy

Type: Circular

Height gain: 200 meters

Way mark: None

Wheelchair: Not suitable

Dog: Allowed on a lead





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Architects are too expensive!!

This is a common fallacy heard too often not only among the expats but also among the Spaniards.

To start with, a firm of experienced architects are able to anticipate to any planning or construction problem before it occurs and will advise you well ahead of time saving you headaches and money.

Apart from good design architects have an overall picture of the project without losing site of the nitty-gritty parts. We architects can save you much more money than the cost our fees. Find below just a few examples which could be easily amplified.

How can an architect save me real money?

If we consider a simple rehab job for a home, if it is the architects who collects the estimates from local contractors and not "Mr. Expat John Smith" most probably will save you at least 10% of the total price just on the offset. It shouldn't be so, but unfortunately local contractors feel that dealing with none Spanish speaker clients would delay the works due to the lack of communication and cause possible confusions during the execution of the job. With an architect involved the contractor feels reassured that all the relevant construction info is available from the offset and most important, the main decisions about the works have been taken well in advance avoiding unforeseen circumstances and expensive delays difficult to charge the client once the work has started.

In our long experience when any of our clients have tried to obtain different bids from local contractors and then we have followed exactly the same procedure our prices have been at least 10% cheaper and in some cases much more.

A firm of architects worth their salt have big data banks of building materials and labour prices around Spain divided by provinces and locally by individual towns, so any tender prices from contractors can be scrutinized by our staff and renegotiated down to a standard level. On the other extreme we can detect

when prices obtained are so ridiculously cheap that will represent a future problem.

When architects prepare a bid it does so by presenting a full bill of quantities so that all tenders received are based on exactly the same materials and labour so that you can compare like with alike. Most often contractors prepare their own specifications and materials and it is terribly difficult for none expert to differentiate the disparity in prices and in quality.

When clients are told that they can obtain big discounts on materials, sometimes as much as 30% etc they think that with those savings they have made a good deal and by subcontracting the labour direct no one will do carryout the job cheaper. First, think if the building store will do that reduction in price to the one off client that most probably will never see again, what discount will give to a local contractor who has been buying materials for the last 10 years and probably will continue doing so for the next 20!!.

Most expats have had construction works done by contracting directly without the supervision of an architect, and when I have ask them about the time they have spent supervising and managing the job and asked them to put a price on the hours spent, they become very surprised concerning the total amount of money that they could have saved by engaging an architect. And here I am not talking about the problems encountered in the development of the works.

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Paper works. Yes, I personally spend 60% of my working time “lobbying” and managing building licenses, planning approval etc, and I know by their Christian names practically all the civil servants of all the town halls in Costa Blanca and Costa Cálida. After 25 years of professional practise even I have to arm myself with patience and breathe ten times before I answer back (usually young technicians) at the town hall who do not know their jobs and pretend that my clients carry out absurd construction solutions. Let me quickly add here that the majority of civil servants (especially those who have been at the post for a number of years) are very helpful and try to provide fair solutions for both parties, the town hall and the citizen involved. However the town hall technician may propose very expensive solutions that may be counter argued and thus making great savings.

There are many other ways which due to the limitation of this article I cannot extend on. There is in addition one more important factor; an architect can make the process of designing your home from zero, adding an extension or rehabilitating it in an enjoyable process. Now days we use very sophisticated software and it is very rewarding to see in 3D how your ideas take shape in front of your very own eyes or you can have a walk about through future spaces becoming aware of perhaps unexpected problems that by visualizing before it is constructed may also save you money.



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What did you do in 2022?

By **Taquilla Tickets**

At Taquilla Tickets headquarters, we wondered what you were doing with yourselves during 2022. Did you go anywhere? If you did, where did you go? Did you visit any beautiful places? If you have been somewhere that you think is particularly lovely, and if you feel that we could organise a trip or a “mini-break”, then please let us know.

Shall we tell you some of the places that Taquilla Tickets went to?

In no particular order, we went to Jerez, Alicante, Benidorm, Algar Falls, Bullas, Valencia, Cordoba, Granada, Archena Spa, Madrid, Toledo, Segovia, Avila, Murcia City, Sierra Nevada, Mojacar, Caravaca de la Cruz, Cieza, Gibraltar, Benalmadena, Almeria, Aguilas, Cartagena. As well as all of this, we had many coach trips during the summer to the Port of Mazarron so that our guests could enjoy time at the Port and Beaches.



Can you name any of the previous photos? We also went to a few concerts in 2022 (and more coming up in 2023). We went to see: Sting, Andre Rieu, Unrised Queen, Madness and more.

We do like to travel in style on our coaches. Our ONLY coach provider is MATEO coaches. It is thanks to the whole team at MATEO that we are able to travel as far and wide as we do. THANK YOU MATEO COACHES, we will see you again in 2023!!

2022 was a year of recovery for us all. Although we are all “on the mend”, Taquilla Tickets wants to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Did you know?: Spain has a land border with an African country. The country is Morocco, and Spain maintains a small outpost called Ceuta. Spain pioneered its way across North, Central and South America, and took hold of the Philippines for over 300 years. A total of 221 nations speak Spanish on a daily basis. Maybe we will do a few more “Did You Knows” throughout the year!!

We are always very grateful for the help that makes Taquilla Tickets tick. So, to everyone involved, we hope you have a great 2023.

It is hard to believe that 2023 is upon us. Please don't forget to pass on your travel ideas to us.

You can contact us in many ways:

Sally (probably the best) on 0034 657346445.

Available on WhatsApp

Nigel on 0034 642501568. Also available on WhatsApp.

You can email us on: taquillaticketscondado@gmail.com

Our office opening hours on Condado (inside “Sparkles”) are

Monday-Friday 10.00am-13.30.

And you can catch Nigel at CATS Bar on Camposol A Tuesday-Friday 10.15am-13.30

SEE YOU ALL SOON

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Top 10 Destinations in Southern Spain

3. Córdoba

The architectural splendor of Cordoba is well-known, and comes from a multitude of cultures. Of worldwide renown is the Mezquita, or great Mosque-cathedral of Córdoba. Both the exceptional design as well as the combined religious histories bring a steady stream of international visitors. The middle-aged architecture that comprises the Jewish Quarter stretches out from the Mezquita, and offers a lovely stroll through the past, as does a trip across the Roman Bridge over the Guadalquivir River. Spring visitors will especially enjoy their trip here, as this is when several citywide fiestas fill the streets.

Córdoba is famous around the world for its Great Mosque. Its historic old town is a World Heritage site, full of little streets to be explored, courtyards full of flowers, inviting squares and lively taverns where you can enjoy a good flamenco performance or try the local cuisine.

It is at its best in spring, when the fragrance of jasmine and orange blossom is ever-present, especially in May, the month of many of Córdoba's traditional fiestas.

Four cultures and plenty of life

The Great Mosque, the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos, the Synagogue and the Roman bridge are the prime examples of Córdoba's old quarter. The city reflects its Roman past and the coexistence of Christian, Islamic and Jewish cultures throughout its history. Recommended sights include the Jewish quarter, the Calahorra tower, the Roman theatre, Caballerizas Reales, Plaza de la Corredera... A good way to explore the city is to take a guided tour of the sights, or follow one of the themed routes suggested in the Tourist Offices, including Roman Córdoba, the Caliphate route, or the Fernandine route of medieval

churches. Just 10 kilometres from the city, with direct bus routes to it, is Spain's largest archaeological site, Medina Azahara, the ruins of the former capital of the Caliphate, a World Heritage site since 2018.

The charms of the city are not limited to its major monuments. Take a stroll to discover a tangle of narrow streets (be sure to see Callejón de la Luna and Calleja de las Flores), squares, fountains and courtyards decorated with flowers. Indeed, Córdoba's main fiestas centre on these spaces. The Courtyards Festival, a World Heritage event, is famous, but in May the town also celebrates the May Crosses, the Battle of Flowers, and the Railings and Balconies competition. This is when the city is full of flowers, there are outdoor flamenco shows, and a festive atmosphere in the street. The month ends with the Feria de Córdoba.





Pleasures made in Córdoba

Going out for tapas, trying the traditional dishes of the local cuisine, discovering the equestrian arts, enjoying a flamenco show in a tablao or relaxing in an Arab bath are all special experiences in Córdoba.

The best-known areas for tapas are the historic quarter and the neighbourhoods of San Lorenzo, San Andrés and Santa Marina. Be sure to try local specialities like salmorejo (cold tomato soup), flamenquín (pork roll fried in breadcrumbs), aubergines with honey, mazamorra (cold almond soup),

Iberian ham from Los Pedroches, cheese from Zuheros and wine from Montilla-Moriles.

You can enjoy the equestrian arts and the culture of the Andalusian horse all year round with shows in the Caballerizas Reales. Meanwhile, in the old town centre there are many tablaos with regular performances of flamenco music and dance.

Finally, you can relax in a modern hammam in the Arab baths in the Jewish quarter or when you book the “Andalusí Experience” in the Córdoba Tourist Office.



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4th April

I have been given details of a lady called Debbie who can organise our residency. I have spoken to her and she can get us an appointment for Monday! Whoopie. I have a list of things she needs from us prior to the appointment, and a list of things to take with us.

Guess what? translated marriage certificate is not one of them. Funny this lawyer told us no appointments prior to Brexit and that appointments had been cancelled until after Brexit and they know the status of the UK. Hmm!

Chris is flying back to the UK today to sort out some bank stuff and pick up our international driving permits from the post office. He didn't want to go he wanted me to go! But I cannot sort his bank stuff, so he will have to go himself. Peace and quiet for me and Charlie.

He is flying at 8ish tonight so arriving in Leeds at 10.00ish. He has hired a car and is staying at Kieran's overnight. Then flying back tomorrow afternoon. So, no time for messing around, I have given him a list and timetable god I feel like his mum at times.

5th April

I have sent all the documents Debbie requested. Although I am a little wary of sending all my personal detail to someone I have never met, but I have been informed she is the best, Fingers crossed. Debbie has just confirmed we have an appointment for 8th April at 17.00. Whoop! Whoop!

Chris has arrived safely back from the UK; Madness has resumed it has been so peaceful. He has surprisingly managed to do everything on his list, but he looks knackered poor old sod. But we will give him brownie points.

Also think we need the termite guy to come and sort the whole house looks like termites in the beam. I have messaged him again he says it is a wood beetle so booked him to come treat the house for termites

and beetles. Yuck! They are not paying rent and need evicting as soon as possible. It gives new meaning to eating you out of house and home. Obviously, the treatment we had for new doors is not enough.

6th April

Excited Kieran and Jess are coming to visit today (my Son and his Fiancé) can't wait to see them they are arriving about 13.00, but its Alicante airport so an hour to an hour and a half from our house

12pm I am at the airport with Chris and Charlie well didn't want to be late and have them sat there like orphans, Mr Moan a lot is moaning because I told him flight was getting in at 12.00 !! well you have to do these things. Left up to Mr Grumpy we would be late.

Made everyone fajitas for tea. (Dinner depending on where you come from) Which they seemed to thoroughly enjoy, even though I cannot get sour cream here. What is that all about? why can I not buy sour cream? Fresh sour cream is a must for fajitas they are not the same without it.

7th April

We went to Murcia Flea Market, which is located at Calle Alcalde Gaspar de La Pena, 3, Murcia. It is a small market full of unique and wonderful surprises. lots of different things from old furniture to Stamps, coins, paintings lots of goodies from yesteryear.

Just wish the weather was better, it has really taken a turn since Jess and Kieran arrived it is drizzling and cold. Still we found a nice bar just over the bridge for Coffee and Tapas. Murcia is a beautiful city; we really need to spend a day here when the weather is better exploring it properly.

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8th April

Ooh! today is a big day! I have never been so nervous. We need to be in Murcia for 17.00 so we set off at 15.00 as you do, even though Murcia is only 30 mins from the house. We have found a café next to the offices we need to go to. Jess and Kieran have come with us hoping they could go wandering around the shops. The part of Murcia we have come to has no shops. It is very industrial here so looks like they are going to have to wait in the car or café. Ok, café is closing !!! they have decided to go for a wander and anyway while we go in and meet us back at the car. Good job the weather has cleared up a bit.

Well that was exciting and very efficient. We went into the offices and waited for Debbie who arrived bang on 17.00 (was getting worried I can tell you). Gave her the paperwork we had to bring with us. She then escorted us through to a desk separately. We handed over the paperwork, the official went through it, he then stamped it and printed off our residencia.

Although Chris had to have a problem! The guy he was in front of was new and managed to rip residencia. So that had to be reprinted, also he was unsure about the address (if you live in the campo no one understands the

address). I was sat in front of the official that helped him. I got fingerprinted then went back to the waiting room.

Chris followed me out then he got called back in, his face was a picture thought he was going to mess his knickers, lol. The official had forgot to fingerprint him. No matter we have residencia, Hurray! just like that we were out of the building again by 17.30.

We met up with Kieran and Jess and went to Mazarron to celebrate with some food, yeah you guessed it warm Goats cheese with Jam, absolutely love it.

On another note had a message of my youngest Steve, he wants to know how to cook a ham. He misses his mummy. Ok that's not what he said, what he said was he misses my ham!

Also, Steve's Friends cat has just had kittens he has decided "These cats are investigators! do you reckon the tabby ones are spies that just keep tabs on people?" I have no idea where he gets it from!!

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