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Lifestyle magazine and property portal

ISSUE 76
MAR 2023

FREE

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Town**

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**North
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A Life in SPAIN

Welcome to the March edition of ALIS.

Easter is nearly upon us. but the shops have been full of Easter Eggs since Christmas. The Easter parades will be spectacular as always and a must see.

So what's in this edition....

The blog from Carol Hughes continues. Mapping out their journey and time in Spain. See page 46-47

Then on pages 23-26 we have the top 10 most amazing churches

Whilst on page 19 we have the first part of a 2 part article about the Spanish Fiestas. The spanish enjoy to party whenever they can and don't need an excuse, but there are plenty just in case.

Enjoy!

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Places to visit in a day:

Bolnuevo (Puerto de Mazarrón)



Bolnuevo is blessed with a typical Mediterranean climate with cool sea breezes in summer and protection from the cold north winds in winter. With annual sunshine over 3000 hours the average temperature easily exceeds 20°. With 325 sunny days each year it is an ideal all round destination and it is little wonder that the World health organisation, in 1986, recommended the area's climate as one of the most equitable in the world. It is also relatively quiet with a huge golden sandy beach. Carrying on from the beach is a lovely coastal walk taking in some stunning coves. You can go for a couple of hours and come back again having enjoyed some magnificent views.

Access to the area is from Mazarron town on the RM3 or AP7 motorways. Check for more scenic routes. The main (free) car park is directly behind the beach and there is room for hundreds of cars. There you will also see the magnificent cliff which for millions of years has been subject to wind and water erosion which has created a superb structure, the like of which you are unlikely to find in many places. A real photo opportunity.

The town itself is very traditional and yet is full of amenities and facilities including a caravan and camping park which is beautifully landscaped and virtually hidden from the main town thoroughfare. There are many varied restaurants, bars and cafes and shops to get those holiday essentials.

Although development has changed the area somewhat, the town does have an interesting history. It dates back to the Phoenicians who used the coastal area to dock their ships trading minerals and other produce. Locals used to come under constant attack from pirates and in the 16th century a sanctuary was built in memory of those who perished. "The Tower of the Horses was built to repel the Barbary Pirates and has been declared a Site of Cultural Interest and is well worth a visit.

All in all a really lovely and peaceful day out beckons. Just beware of the sun!!

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Let's Learn Spanish

Market

Phrases

Do you have any tomatoes?

What would you like?

I would like a kilo of carrots.

Could I have two.

How much is everything?

Do you have change for a 20€?

They look delicious.

I don't have any left, sorry.

How much do they cost?

Anything else.

¿Tiene tomates?

¿Qué desea?

Quiero un kilo de zanahorias.

Póngame dos.

¿Cuánto es todo?

¿Tiene cambio de veinte?

¡Qué buena pinta!

No me quedan, lo siento.

¿A cómo están?

¿Algo más?

Tea-yen

Key dee-**say**-a

Key-**er**-oh oon

Pon-ga-may dos.

kwan-toe es **toe**-doh

Tea-**yen**-ecam-bee-oh day **vein**-tay

Key boo-**en**-na **peen**-tah

Noh may **key**-dan, low see-**n**-toe

Ah **co**-mow es-**tan**

Al-go mahs

Vocab

Ripe

unripe

Carrot

Tomato

Cucumber

Spinach

Potatoes

Zucchini

Red pepper

Cucumber

Apple

Pineapple

Orange

Watermelon

Strawberry

Seasonal fruit

One kilo

Half a kilo

Maduro

Verde

Zanahoria

Tomate

Pepino

Espinacas

Patatas

Calabacín

Pimiento rojo

Pepino

Manzana

Piña

Naranja

Sandía

Fresa

Fruta de temporada

Un kilo

Medio kilo

Mah-**dur**-ro / mah-**dur**-ra

Veer-de

Tha-na-**oh**-ree-a

Tow-**ma**-tay

Pe-**pea**-noh

Es-pea-**na**-kas

Pa-**ta**-tas

Ka-la-ba-**thin**

Pea-**mean**-tow

Pe-**pea**-noh

Man-**tha**-na

Pea-nya

Na-**ran**-ha

San-**dee**-a

Frey-sa

Froo-taDay tem-pour-**ra**-dah

Oon **key**-lo

mey-dee-oh **key**-lo



Now try our wordsearch:

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

Maduro

Zanahoria

Naranja

Espinacas

Sandia

Verde

Kilo

Pimiento

Patata

Fruta



Mazarron Country Club.ref. 2002. 2 bed 2 bath detached villa, 125m2 build, 450m2 plot, mountain views, private pool. **229,000€**



Isla Plana. ref. 2005. 3 bed, 1 bath bungalow, 93m2 build, 165m2 plot, walk to beach. **125,000€**



Puerto de Mazarron.ref. 1999. 2 bed 1 bath 1st floor apartment, great location, amazing sea views, communal pool. **75,000€**

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SouthTown...



ALHAMA DE MURCIA

Alhama lies in the Valley of the river Guadalentín and at the foot of the Espuña and La Muela mountain ranges. Defence towers, ruined town walls, renaissance-style palaces, and mansions of the former nobility are all part of the legacy of the valleys varied history.

To the Romans and Moors this town meant the thermal springs flowing off the mountain. This is, in fact, what gives the town its name, Al-hama, meaning hot springs in Arabic. There are also the ruins of the older Roman baths that demonstrate the great age of the utilization of the springs in the area. It was the Roman baths established in the 1st century AD that were further developed and used into the Islamic period. On the rocky outcrop overlooking the town stands a 12th-century Arab castle around which the town eventually grew.

A walk through the town reveals a surprisingly rich range of colours used in the façades of the houses; red, ochres, violets and blues all add to the pleasantness of a stroll through the town. Walking and cycling enthusiasts will find the gateway to Sierra Espuña in Alhama. In addition to hillwalking and climbing, the park offers other points of interest such as the 16th- and 17th -century snow cellars.

The history of Alhama de Murcia is closely linked to the emergence of hot springs. The presence of thermal baths, along with the natural resources provided by the physical environment, contributed to the existence of human activity from the Eneolithic period, in the year 3000 BC.

The “Andalusí” (Andalusian) footprint is well imprinted in Alhama’s lands, giving the town its name, and these lands preserve important vestiges of history from Romans, and Muslims and Christians, having been the stage for battles between the kingdoms of Castile and Granada.

Within the overall setting of the Guadalentín Valley, Alhama de Murcia has kept a similar location for its population from prehistory to present time. Archaeological sites are distributed by the municipality based on the natural resources of the physical environment: water springs, fertile lands, pastures, mid-elevation hills easy to defend, etc...

The Roman Baths are without doubt the most important archaeological site of the municipality, dating back two thousand years, allowing visitors to tour the typical Roman bathroom with 2 distinct sectors: thermal-medicinal baths, and recreational baths; for Islamic baths and for the remains of a 19th century spa. It is now a museum site.

The arrival of the Muslims to the Iberian Peninsula in the 8th century implied military control of core areas where there was a large population of Tardo-Roman tradition. The Castillo de Alhama (Alhama’s Castle) becomes a fortified settlement associated with a stable population serving a strategic control function. After the Castilian conquest, the town was circumscribed to the crown until it was incorporated into the Señorío de los Fajardo (Fajardo’s family state) in 1387.

Outside the village, the rural settlement is spread throughout the municipality with small communities associated with a lookout tower, as in the cases of towers Inchola, La Pita, the Azaraque and, in other cases such as Ascoy, Torre del Lomo, or Torre de la Mezquita, which have no remains of habitat but have a defense control function and visual connection with the rest of most important fortifications. Other settlements are more residential in nature like the fortification of La Pita or Los Palacios.

A walk through the architecture of 18th century starts with the Iglesia de San Lázaro with its magnificent façade, continues through the Iglesia de la Concepción, and it ends with the buildings linked to the economic activity that are a true example of the so-called Arquitectura del Grano (Grain Architecture). La Casa de la Tercia, barn of Marqués de Villafranca and Velez, located on Calle Larga,

The artistic mark of the 19th and 20th centuries is reflected in the old town houses in Plaza Vieja, Calle Larga, Corredera, which, with their classical and colorful facades, submerge the visitor into an atmosphere of peace and tranquility at the foot of Cerro del Castillo.

Gardens splattered with last century public buildings such as La casa de los Saavedra (currently, Centro Cultural V Centenario)and the current City Hall, both dating from the early 20th century, or the Plaza de Abastos, built in 1928. In recent years, the Plaza de la Constitución, the Parque de la Cubana, and El Jardín de los Patos, along with their surroundings, frame the new social and economic centre of the city, to the detriment of the former Plaza Vieja which nevertheless still remains a mandatory meeting point for the visitor with its impressive noble mansions and the unforgettable Fuente del Caño.

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Setting up a business in Spain



There are a lot of myths surrounding work ethic and business in Spain. But despite the long breaks at lunchtime and all the holidays, the country and its workers have indeed changed for the better over the years.

Although the crisis hit Spain hard and many businesses have closed, new companies and start-ups are flourishing all over the country. Whether you are looking to set up a new business or buy an existing one, there are some things you should be aware of. Here is the basic run down on what you need to know before starting a business in Spain. However, things change very quickly so we strongly advise that you consult a Spanish accountant for the latest advice

Legal Advice

The person you should search for is called a Gestor, whose job it is to help you through the Spanish law and bureaucracy. The best is to hire one who can also help you manage the finances, taxes and contracts. When it comes to hiring a gestor and a lawyer or someone else who is crucial when opening a business, our advice is go for the best. Speak to members of your community, to Spanish and expat friends as well as your Embassy or consulate to get good recommendations. Usually a good lawyer has his or her own gestor.

Whether you plan on setting up a partnership, a small or medium size business, a limited or private company, or if you plan on becoming a sole trader, both your lawyer and gestor will make sure you avoid all the red tape and help you in the process. Remember each type of business requires different paperwork, investment, VAT, social security payments, etc.

Did you know that 99% of Spanish businesses are small and medium sized. These types of businesses in Spain are called PYMEs. The reason why they are so popular is partly due to government incentives and a reduced corporate tax.

When it comes down to employing people first of all, you should make sure your lawyer advises you on the different types of contracts there are –permanent (indefinido) or temporary (temporal) –but also on the hiring and firing procedures.

Types of Businesses

In Spain there are three main types of legal business. You can either start a business as a: Sole Trader, Partnership or Limited Company.

Sole Trader

If you want to run your business alone, your best option is probably to operate as a sole trader. This is considered to be the cheapest and easiest option too! It gives you more flexibility, and is the most straightforward business to set up. Before starting as a sole trader, there are three main things you will need to do first: register for social security, get a license (if you are operating in a regulated profession), and register with the Spanish tax office. Within the realm of operating as a sole trader there are two options: empresa individual (sole trader) or professional autonomo (freelance professional).

The main difference between them is that if you are a freelance professional it means that your clients will gain a percentage of your invoice, which they then pay to the tax authorities. This is then credited when you fill out your annual tax return. However, in the case of a sole trader, this does not apply.

Partnership

If you want to start a business with one or more people, you could choose to start a partnership (Sociedad Civil). This is a little more expensive than operating as a sole trader, but it still gives you flexibility. This could either be a general partnership (sociedad general) or a limited partnership (Sociedad comanditaria).

They are both set up in the same way, and you will need to: create a partnership agreement and sign it before a notary, register with the tax authorities, register for social security, apply for any licenses, and you will also need to include the words Sociedad Civil in the name of your business (if you have a partnership agreement in place).

Limited Company

Setting up a limited company is the most complicated of the three options. It is also quite expensive to set up and run. However, it comes with its advantages including more favourable taxation.

Good Luck



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What is civil liability coverage in car insurance?

The world of car insurance can be a tricky place to navigate, and I'm sure that you will have had that baffling experience of trying to understand exactly what the different policies include and what eventualities and incidents you and your vehicle will be covered for - but let me assure you, you are not alone!

One such area of cover that many people are unsure about is Civil Liability, and what kind of protection this provides in a car insurance policy. So, without further ado... let's have a look at the terminology and what Civil liability coverage in car insurance is all about...

First of all, what, in general, does civil liability mean?

In terms of the basic dictionary definition, civil liability is "the legal responsibility of paying money for damage to another person's health, business or property". The legal dictionary goes on to explain that civil liability is "potential responsibility for payment of damages or other court-enforcement in a lawsuit, as distinguished from criminal liability, which means open to punishment for a crime."

This means that, in the event of an incident, where you have not broken the law, but where you have caused "damage" to another person, you will not be charged in a criminal court, but you may be taken to civil court, and held liable to pay compensation for any injury or losses a third-party may experience as a result of the incident.

As legaldictionary.net state, "Civil liability refers to the right of an injured party to hold someone responsible for their injuries or damages, which resulted from the other party's wrongful actions. In order to hold a person or entity civilly liable, the wronged party must have suffered some type of quantifiable loss or damage. This may be in the form of personal injury, property damage, loss of income, loss of contract, and a host of other losses".

So, what does Civil liability mean in terms of car insurance?

The idea that you could be sued or have civil action taken against in the event of a car accident will no doubt strike fear in many of you. But in terms of civil liability in car insurance, you will be pleased to hear that reputable insurance providers include specific levels of cover which provide protection to the policy holder for any financial losses that may be incurred if the other driver or third-party involved make a claim against you.

For example, Caser Expat Insurance, include two types of civil liability coverage (compulsory and voluntary) and legal defence in all their car insurance policies (from Third Party, Extended Third Party to Fully Comprehensive).

Compulsory Civil liability (Responsabilidad Civil Obligatoria)

This provides cover to compensate third parties for material damage and/or personal injury that you may cause to them if you are responsible for an accident. This covers, at most, the amount stipulated by regulation at the time of the incident. This amount is determined according to the scale set forth in Royal Decree 8/2004, and approved Law on Civil Liability and Insurance in the Circulation of Motor Vehicles.

Voluntary Civil Liability (Responsabilidad Civil Voluntaria)

If the cover provided by the compulsory civil liability is not enough to pay for level of the damages incurred, there is additional voluntary coverage to ensure a higher amount of compensation or damages can be covered. The amount will be specified within the policy conditions and clauses of the contract. In the case of Caser Expat Insurance, their compensation limit is € 50,000,000.

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What types of incidents does this cover?

In general, there are two sides to the civil liability coin, which are bodily injury liability, which is cover for medical expenses of people involved in an accident, and property damage liability, which covers the expenses related to repairing the vehicle of the third party in the accident.

As I mentioned before, each insurance provider will have their own stipulations regarding civil liability in car insurance. I have used Caser Expat Insurance policies as an example to show you the type of incidents they, as the insurance provider, will cover for their insured drivers, and the financial compensation or damages that you may be obligated to pay to third parties.

Example situations:

If you have a traffic accident or collision for which you are to blame, such as not braking in time at a traffic light, running into the back of another car etc.

If an incident occurs when your car is parked or stationary, including fire or explosion in or outside your garage.

If luggage you are carrying falls on a public road, either from inside the vehicle or from the roof rack.

If you cause damage when opening the car doors, such as damaging an adjacent parked car in a car park.

They also cover damage caused by trailers or caravans weighing up to 750 kg., if they have been declared in the policy and have the same licence plate number as the car.

Legal defence (defensa jurídica)

In addition to covering your civil liability obligations in terms of the financial damages that are awarded to the third party involved in the incident, some insurance providers will also provide legal defence cover. This means that, if the case ends up in court, they will either be able to provide their own legal services to represent you in the case, or they may help pay a specified sum towards the expenses of your own personal lawyer who you appoint directly to assist you. In the case of Caser Expat Insurance, their legal defence cover gives unlimited coverage if you make use of their legal services, or they will pay up to a maximum of € 1,500 of expenses for your own appointed lawyer's fees.

So, as you can see, although the concept of Civil liability can be scary, it really is worth checking, when obtaining a car insurance policy, that it includes a comprehensive level of liability cover for both financial damages and legal support.

Civil liability coverage in car insurance gives the added peace of mind that if, touch wood, you have a car accident, and you find yourself being sued or facing legal proceedings you don't have the financial stress in terms of any compensation and legal expenses you may have to pay, and more importantly, you don't have the psychological stress and worry, in terms of going through the proceedings alone.



As a final pointer... if reading this has made you anxious about the concept of civil liability in a wider context, you will be pleased to know that you can also contact Caser Expat Insurance about more general Civil Liability Insurance which help you protect yourself in different day to day situations. Caser Expat Insurance offer two types of civil liability policies, real estate and family, so you can sleep well knowing that if your house floods and the water also ruins the neighbour's new kitchen, or your pet chews its way through the neighbour's fence, or you do risky sports that may result in an accident with another person, you will also have protection and support. Take out our civil liability insurance by calling our agents on: +34 91 055 16 56. It is worth checking out what eventualities would be most related to your personal situation and lifestyle and speaking to an advisor for recommendations for damage limitation.


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Spain's Fiestas

Spain is known for its festivals (fiestas), many of which originated in religious events but have evolved to be more general celebrations.

Every city, town and village has its own festival, which includes feasting, colourful processions, fireworks and partying.

Semana Santa - Holy Week

Easter week is the most important Catholic tradition of the year in Spain. It begins on Domingo de Ramos (Palm Sunday) and ends on Lunes de Pascua (Easter Monday).

There are street processions, with colourful confetti and a carnival atmosphere every night on the Costa Blanca, where religious icons are paraded through the streets, in re-enactments of the passion of Christ.

While celebrations take place all over the coast, noteworthy processions are:

- In Crevillent on Tuesday before Good Friday
- The Holy Burial Procession in Orihuela on Easter Saturday
- The Palm Sunday procession in Elche, which dates back to 1371

In the province of Murcia, noteworthy processions are found in Cartagena, Jumilla, Murcia and Moratalla. Other festivals include:

- The Easter fiesta in Lorca, during which a procession of citizens playing Romans, Christians and Egyptians move through the streets on elaborate floats, horseback or in chariots
- In Murcia city, Salzillo's Holy Week sculptures are paraded through the town
- The Royal Brotherhood of Our Father Jesus Resuscitated organises a single procession held in the morning of Easter Sunday to round off 10 days of procession and celebration in Cartagena

Moros y Cristianos - Moors and Christians

This festival commemorates the Reconquista, or the re-establishment of Christian rule in Spain.

Locals dress as either Moors or Christians for the occasion and re-enact battles. Costumes are spectacular and there are firework displays.

Towns celebrate Moros y Cristianos on different dates:

- The town of Alcoy and Baneres in Alicante celebrate at the end of April
- Altea celebrates in the last week of September.

Fiestas Patronales - Patron Saints' Days

Each town and village in Spain has a feast day to celebrate its patron saint, who is thought to protect the town. These festivities generally last one week and processions and dancing replace work - most shops and businesses close down during this period. Often giant paellas are cooked in the streets and a beauty contest runs parallel to the event.

Dates vary from place to place but local tourist offices can provide information.

All Saints' Day (Festividad de Todos los Santos)

Celebrated annually on 1 November, Todos los Santos is a national public holiday (banks and shops close) honouring the dead. Traditionally, Spanish families get together at the graves of their deceased relatives and lay down flowers. There are religious services in the churches and cemeteries over the course of the day. Specific foods are associated with this event: these may vary from region to region.





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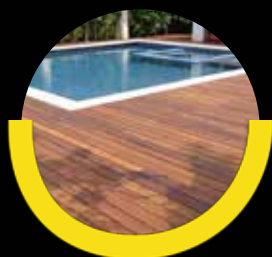
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LA CAVERNA

RESTAURANTE BRASERIA

In case you missed it last time.....

The restaurant La Caverna is now under new spanish ownership.

Rufino the chef and joint owner has bought with him a wealth of experience as a master butcher. This is already putting La Caverna on the map locally as THE place to go for barbequed meats. His steaks are amongst the best in the region.

My favourite meal is the mixed grill. Minimum 2 people, but easily feeds 3. Why not order a pepper sauce to round the dish off.

Another favourite of ours is the pork, or rather Solomillo de cerdo, with pepper sauce.

La Caverna is set to become a very good venue with quality spanish food and wine in a very unique "cave themed restaurant"

The menu is varied and can offer traditional home cooked Tapas and a good choice of meats and fish

dishes to suit all tastes.

Directions:

Heading away from Mazarron. When you reach the main roundabout with the RM2 you go straight across taking the sign for EL Palmar. After several kilometres you will find the restaurant on the right hand side in the village.

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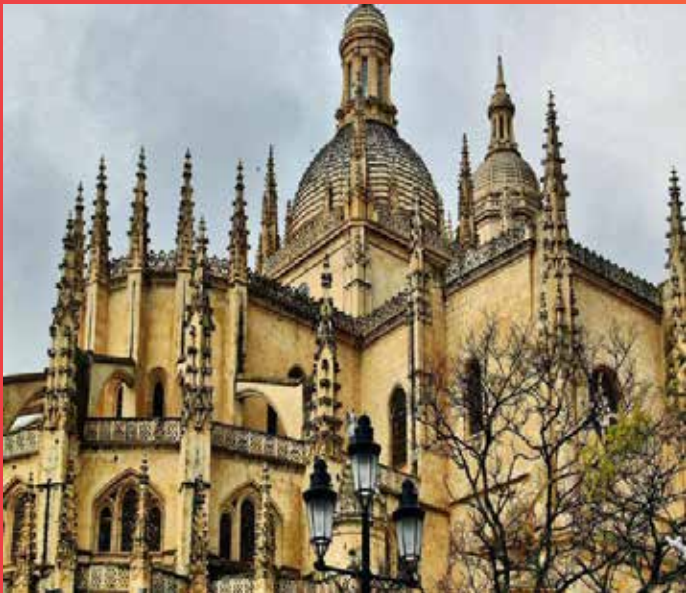


10 Most Amazing Churches in Spain

10. Segovia Cathedral

The final Gothic-style cathedral built in Spain was Segovia Cathedral. Construction on the church began in the 16th century, according to the plans of the architect Juan Gil de Hontañón.

The cathedral is located right in the centre of the Plaza Mayor in Segovia, making it an iconic part of the city's history and identity. There are three major vaults and entrances to the cathedral, but the highlight is the incredible altarpiece from the 18th century that is made with bronze and marble.



9. Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma

On the island of Mallorca, just off the coast of Spain, is the stunning Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma. Known to locals as La Seu, the cathedral was started in the 13th century but only finished in 1601.

The cathedral was built on the site of a Moorish mosque, and it stands as one of the tallest cathedrals in all of Spain, and indeed even in all of Europe. The design is a distinct combination of Catalan and Gothic, but in the early 20th century some cosmetic changes were made by Gaudi, refreshing the style





8. Temple Expiatori del Sagrat Cor

The magnificent Temple Expiatori del Sagrat Cor, known in English as the Expiatory Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is found in Barcelona, right at the summit of Mount Tibidabo.

This is one of the newer cathedrals in Spain, and it was only consecrated in the 1950s after a lengthy construction process. The church is made from stone in a Romanesque design, although there are plenty of embellishments and neo-Gothic touches worth admiring as well.

7. Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar

In Spanish tradition, it is said that the Virgin Mary appeared to the Apostle James as he was praying at the Ebro River in Zaragoza. For that reason, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar has long been a historically significant structure, and one that is revered both throughout Spain and throughout the Christian religion.

The architectural style of the basilica is a blend of rococo, Baroque and neoclassical styles, and the interior is home to a staggering display of works by painter Francisco Goya.

6. Toledo Cathedral

Perhaps the most famous Gothic church in Spain is the Toledo Cathedral, a fairy tale building that represents the height of Spanish design and architecture. Built with white limestone, the cathedral is almost otherworldly, reflecting light and impressing even those without an interest in religion or architecture.

Natural light streams in through open vaults, adding to the effect. The Cathedral Treasury is a must-see part of the structure, thanks to its impressive collection of precious stones far larger than any you could ever see in a jewellery store.



5. Santiago de Compostela Cathedral

The site of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela is steeped in history. Legend tells of the Apostle James having his remains brought to the site by angels, and then in the eighth century this burial place was discovered by a hermit.

A small church was built to mark the site, and by the 11th century there was an enormous cathedral. The Romanesque architecture of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela is remarkable, and marks the traditional end on the Way of St. James pilgrimage since the Middle Ages.



3. Seville Cathedral

Also known as the Cathedral of Saint Mary by the Sea, Seville Cathedral is a stunning Gothic structure that is currently also the largest Cathedral in the world.

Built in the 16th century, the cathedral is sprawling and occupies a prime position in the centre of the city of Seville. Along with the gorgeous spires and embellishments, Seville Cathedral is worth a visit because it is the final burial place of famed explorer Christopher Columbus.



4. Burgos Cathedral

Although the Burgos Cathedral was commissioned in the 13th century, it wasn't completed until the 16th century. That long construction and design process was worth the wait, however, because the final result is a magnificent Gothic cathedral. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary,

Burgos Cathedral boasts unusual octagonal spires, setting it apart from most other Gothic churches in Europe. From the exterior, you can admire the facade and its hundreds of sculptures of saints and Biblical figures.



2. Sagrada Familia

The Sagrada Familia is without a doubt the most famous church in Barcelona, thanks in part to its creator, Antoni Gaudi. Begun in 1882, this cathedral is still an ongoing project, although it is nearing the end of construction.

Different from many of the classic Spanish churches, the Sagrada Familia is built with elements of the Art Nouveau style. Today, the Sagrada Familia is one of the most popular tourism attractions in the city of Barcelona, and it is open to the public for tours as well as religious services.



1. Mezquita of Cordoba

The Mezquita, also known as the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, has one of the most fascinating histories of all the churches in Spain. Parts of the structure date back to the seventh century, when it served as a Visigoth church.

Later, the Mezquita was a Muslim mosque, and only in the 13th century did it revert back to Catholicism. The building is a prime example of Moorish architecture, boasting countless arches and tall domes. A Renaissance nave was added in the 16th century, blending architectural styles and showcasing harmony between design ideas as well as religions.



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7 curiosities about the monastrell

The monastrell is the main grape variety of the Spanish east. And as usual, we take many things for granted, but do we really know our main variety? Just in case we are going to clarify 7 curiosities that make "the main" typical wine grape in our plots and our tables.

1-. Monastrell tends to produce tannic wines that may have a high alcohol content. The style of wine that is produced from this grape varies greatly depending on where it is produced, but according to the wine expert Jancis Robinson the monastrell often has notes of earth and game animals, as well as fruit aromas Soft reds and berries. The variety can be difficult to grow, because it prefers "the sun above and the water below", which means that it needs very warm weather, very little amount of leaves in relation to the fruit. The vines are susceptible to many viticultural risks, such as mildew, and too vigorous foliage is not beneficial for their viticulture. So it is ideal for hot and dry climates ... Wow! As in our area!

2-. In Spain there are about 63,000ha of Monastrell vineyard, which is more than 70% of the world vineyard of this grape. And it focuses on the denominations of Alicante, Almansa, Bullas, Jumilla and Yecla. So we are in the monastrell territory. It's very easy to find a variety of 100% monastrell wine in our designations of origin. And in each of them we can taste the styles and uniqueness of this grape variety.

3-. In the south of France, Australia and the USA this grape also grows, but it is usually a blend or coupage grape in the wine . With other Mediterranean grapes who are raised in same warm conditions. So it is usually a good "wine blend partner" of the Syrah, Garnacha, Cinsault, Cariñena There is a typical "recipe" to make young wines in almost all of these regions called "GSM" where we can find the Garnacha, the Syrah and the Monastrell in equal parts, and where we will have secured a sweet, tasty and very rich wine to drink and drink.

4-. As it is a typically warm climate variety, its grapes usually have a lot of fructose, which results in wines with a high percentage of alcohol, but that also makes the monastrell ideal for making natural sweet wines. Simply delaying the harvest date for a few weeks, processors can collect the overripe grapes to make delicious wines that are almost nectar for the gods.

5-. Monastrell is the name with which we know it in our area, but it is also known in the rest of the world as killed (USA and Australia) because it arrived in these territories from this port in the 1830. And in France it is known as Mourvedre, since that for our neighbors its origin is Murviedro (currently Sagunto).

6-. It reached the peninsula by the Romans. And it is believed to be related to the Bulgarian Mavrud. And it is very common that when arriving in a new territory the grape varieties mutate and change adapting to the weather conditions. Thus giving new features over the years. It is what I in the form of a joke determined as the theorem "you to Boston and I to California." Since they are exactly the same, over the years and according to the conditions that surround them, each one ends up being different, with its characteristics and peculiarities ... Unique.

7-. As a strain it is erect and has a lot of plant vigor. It is necessary to unload the leaves so that the cluster matures well. Its vegetative cycle is some what late and rather long. And its grapes have a thick and tannic skin. And if there is no irrigation, they are loose and small grains full of flavor. Perhaps these characteristics seem unnecessary to us ... But the wines of this grape have this hallmark, and everything that is the plant and the fruit goes in their DNA and finally in the wine.



Wine of the month

Bico da Ran 2019

Grape variety: Albariño 100%, DO Rias Baixas

“Bico da Ran” is the name of a beautiful beach in Galicia, looking to the sunset and over the atlantic ocean. Around this great place, there is an “albariño” vineyard that receives the same name. This 20 years old vineyard has a fresh and salty influence of the ocean, and it is the reason of the unique flavour in this wine.

The grapes are harvested in the morning to retain maximum aromas and freshness. The drained juice is fermented cold using yeasts that highlight the primary varietal aromas. Once completed, the wine is cold stabilized and filtered to preserve the aromas and freshness. The wine is bottled in a cellar in Meis, Pontevedra.

Tasting

Visual phase: It has a bright straw yellow color, with greenish reflections.

Olfactory phase: On the nose, it is reminiscent of citrus with notes of fennel and passion fruit. On the palate it is fruity but fresh, with an intense vegetable character and exotic notes.

Gustatory phase: It is a refreshing wine, like biting a ripe juicy apple. It has a beautiful and refreshing acidity. It is a fruity wine of great aromatic intensity.

Pairing: All the food who comes from the sea is welcome!! perfectly paired with asian and peruvian food also!



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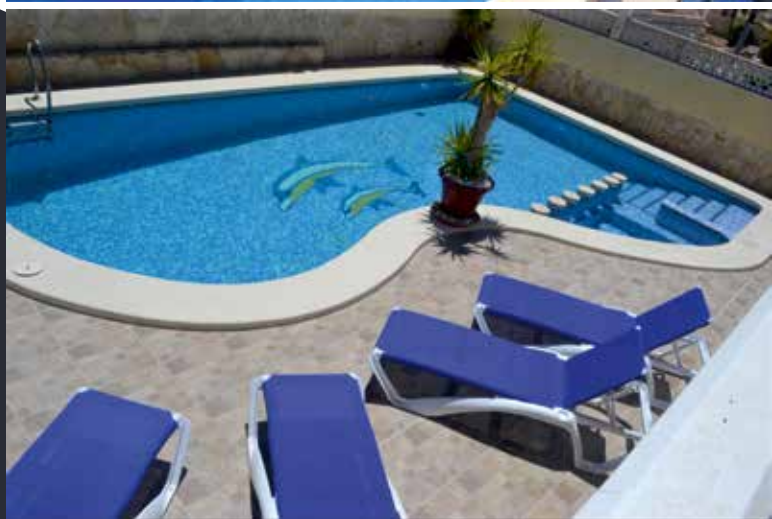
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NorthTown...



CABO ROIG



Cabo Roig can be found 10 kilometres to the south of Torrevieja, on the southern Costa Blanca in eastern Spain.

Less than one hour's drive from Alicante Airport and around 30 minutes drive from Murcia International Airport.

CABO ROIG

About town

The delightful town of old Cabo Roig has broad avenues lined with palms and landscaped gardens with views of the Mediterranean to the La Manga peninsula and the Mar Menor providing a picturesque setting alongside the lovely beaches.

Golf

Cabo Roig is an excellent location for golfers, being close to many fine championship courses, including the three Villamartin courses. The world famous La Manga golf complex is also within easy reach.

Beaches

There are many fine blue flag beaches close by. The beach next to Cabo Roig marina is very popular, with excellent views.

Cuisine

Cuisine from the Costa Blanca combines delicacies from both land and the Mediterranean Sea. Many civilizations have lived in this area (Celts, Iberians, Greeks, Romans, Muslims), all of which have all left their mark on the gastronomy.

The diet is a typically, healthy Mediterranean one; the Costa Blanca is rich in fish, vegetables, olive-oil, rice and fruit and the ingredients which are all used to prepare delicious, healthy dishes, such as Paella Valenciana, Arroz Negro (black rice), Arroz al horno (Oven baked rice), Arroz a banda (fish and rice stew), Arroz del Señoret (Princes rice).

If you have a sweet tooth then you will enjoy the local homemade pastries and deserts that the area is famous for. Or Jijona ice-cream (Nougat), which is made with the almonds of the region.

While on the Costa Blanca you can delight the palate with the wonderful regional wine selection. It's worth giving a special mention to the local wine 'Jalon', due to its quality and bouquet.

There are many international restaurants close by offering a wide choice of different cuisines from around the world.

Climate

The Cabo Roig enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate, 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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Leg 2 - Live Finish Story - Team Holcim-PRB win

Kevin Escoffier and Team Holcim - PRB win into Cape Town, with Biotherm in second and 11th Hour Racing Team completing the podium

From 11th Hour Racing Team's Simon Fisher: "We are so close to Cape Town but the reality of the situation is that this race is far from over. I keep thinking all the miles won and lost up to this point are likely to count for very little. The forecast between here and the finish is complicated, filled with light winds and weather features that are typically poorly defined by the models. Despite hours staring at the various options, they remain just that, for answers aren't coming any time soon."

The Swiss-flagged IMOCA Holcim – PRB skippered by Frenchman Kevin Escoffier has extended its overall race lead by winning the second leg of The Ocean Race 2022-23 after leading the five boat fleet into Cape Town at the end of a testing, challenging passage from Cabo Verde. The leg win is the team's second consecutive victory after also finishing in top spot in the around-the-world race's opening stage from Alicante, Spain to Mindelo in the Cabo Verde islands and sees Escoffier's team cement its lead in the overall standings.

The Swiss boat crossed the finish line off Cape Town's waterfront today at 15:10 local time (13:10 UTC / 14:10 CET) on Sunday afternoon after a tense four-way battle in the final few hours of the leg with second-placed Biotherm (FRA) led by France's Paul Meilhat, USA skipper Charlie Enright's third-placed 11th Hour Racing Team.

The 5 IMOCA's will now undergo a few days of maintenance work to be race ready for the In-Port race on 24 February, then for the Leg 3 start on 26 February. Leg 3 from Cape Town to Itajaí, Brazil, is a 12,750 nm record distance in the history of the race and will award double points. With two legs of The Ocean Race 2022-23 completed the standings are as follows:

The Ocean Race Leaderboard (Position, Leg Points -- Overall Points)

1. Team Holcim-PRB -- 5, 5 -- 10 points
2. 11th Hour Racing Team -- 4, 3 -- 7 points
3. Biotherm -- 2, 4 -- 6 points
4. Team Malizia -- 3, 2 -- 5 points
5. GUYOT environnement - Team Europe -- 1, 1 -- 2 points

To follow the race...

Visit www.thecoceanrace.com



Team Holcim - PRB wins in Cape Town

Wild start to leg 3 from Cape Town

Team Holcim PRB has blitzed the Cape Town In-Port Race presented by V&A Waterfront

Five IMOCA's are set to take on the toughest and longest leg in race history

Team HolcimPRB (SUI) led the Cape Town In-Port Race presented by V&A Waterfront from start to finish in Cape Town. With the South African sun blazing down on the race course and the southerly breeze blowing 15-18 knots, conditions could not have been better for some fast and tactical competition.

It was an extraordinary 'stop-go' type of start to Leg 3 of The Ocean Race in Table Bay as the five-boat IMOCA fleet set out on their 12,750 nautical mile adventure towards Itajaí in Brazil.

A three-lap configuration on the rectangular race course would test every team's boathandling skills on these IMOCA boats, which are not designed for turning tight corners but for going fast in straight lines for hundreds of miles.

The race started with two and a half laps of an inshore course to give the crowds lining the Cape Town shore an opportunity to marvel at these hydrofoiling boats before they headed out in to the big blue yonder of the Southern Ocean.

Results and points - Cape Town In-Port Race presented by V+A Waterfront

1. Team Holcim PRB (SUI), 5 points
2. 11th Hour Racing Team (USA), 4 points
3. Team Malizia (GER), 3 points
4. GUYOT Environnement - Team Europe (FRA/GER), 2 points
5. Biotherm (FRA), 0 points

A pod of three whales sighted in the original starting area meant the race committee had to make a late change to setting up the race course. With the start line now impacted by the wind shadow of Table Mountain, there was very little wind for the fleet as the seconds counted down to start time.

It wasn't long before Paul Meilhat's team found 25 knots of wind gusting around the edge of Table Mountain and his Biotherm team shot away into an impressive lead as the rest of the fleet drifted across the start line well after the start had opened.



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You may prefer to do your own packing or to make use of a full wrapping service, which includes packaging of all personal possessions and disassembling large objects, as well as unpacking and reassembly at your new home, this will also influence the final price.

If you are moving yourself, list all expected expenses and then set some funds aside, so you have a buffer for your budget in case of unexpected expenses - road tolls and tunnels will take up much more of your moving budget than you think – and it may be cheaper to hire a European Removals company after all!

Prepare a detailed, itemised list of everything you plan to move. It will guide border officials in calculating customs duties. A good European Removals company can help you with this and should be well versed in how to prepare EU customs documentation.

A reliable European Removals company can also guarantee that your items are transported safely from your current home to your new home in France or Spain and with the appropriate insurance, you also get peace of mind that your belongings are protected along the way.

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The Pedro López path

This beautiful walk introduces you to the famous Los Pozos de la Nieve, beautiful panoramas on the flank of the Pedro López and the Barranco de En medio. Finally you get an exceptionally beautiful view of the Morrón de Espuña.

The walk leaves at the iron gate at the Mirador del Collado Mangueta and goes by various Pozos de la Nieve, snow huts, in the direction of the Collado de las Pozos the Don Eleuteria, from the col it continues on the plateau in the direction of the 1568 meters high Pedro López. On the flank you have beautiful views of the valley, one of the most beautiful spots of the Sierra Espuña. Afterwards it continues via the flank of the Pedro López to the Collado del Humero. Just under the col you start on the way back via a wide dirt road that passes the Casa Forestal Cuevas de la Plata. In the vicinity of the Casa del Pinillo and the Casa Forestal Cuevas de la Plata you can sometimes spot Mouflons. You leave the dirt road to start the descent to the Casa Forestal la Carrasca. Here you can even take a break before you start the climb that brings you back to the Collado de las Pozos de Don Eleuteria. During the climb you have a beautiful view of the Barranco de En valley and the Morrón de Espuña. From the col it goes via the same path of the way back to the starting point.

Courtesy of www.trailexplorer.eu

Distance: 16 km

Duration: 5h

Grade: Difficult

Type: Circular

Height gain: 638 meters

Way mark: PR-MU63 - White-Yellow dash

Wheelchair: Not suitable

Dog: Allowed on a lead





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Valuable tips for a greener home (final part)

Last month we were looking at different actions that citizens could put into practices in their homes to become more sustainable and save money. As you all know the most economical and greenest energy is that which we don't use so here are a few tips on how we can save lots of energy and natural resources in easy steps.

Using green cleaning products

Consumer pantry is filled with many industrial home products that seem essential. However, there are ecological, simple and inexpensive alternatives, without the negative effects on the environment and health of excessive use of harmful chemicals. It takes many weeks and sometimes months to have a sewerage treatment plant full with good bacteria which works silently like an army eating away our unwanted organic materials. These little buddies do not like industrial chemical cleaning agents and it is almost impossible to subtract these chemicals from the sewerage treatment plants, so every time there is an upsurge of these chemicals in the sewers many millions of these aerobic bacteria die.

Water, vinegar, lemon, natural soap are some of the basic ingredients available to everyone. Another simpler option is to buy ammonia or chlorine-free commercial products, to avoid its adverse effects on our buddies.

Only buy products with high energy efficiency.

Appliances marketed in the European Union (EU), such as refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers and vacuum cleaners, must bear a label certifying energy efficiency. In it a seven colours and letters, A green (most efficient) to G red (most wasteful), plus three additional levels of maximum efficiency (A +, A ++ and A +++) is shown.

The disadvantage is that efficient appliances are more expensive, but are amortized in no time. A refrigerator (the appliance that consumes more energy in homes, with more than 30%) Model A +++ can consume 80% less than a Class D. Over its

lifetime, a refrigerator A +++ emit a ton and a half less dioxide carbon dioxide (CO₂), one of the main gases linked to climate change, and save more than 1,000 € to a Class D. In order to be more economical, it is advisable to compare prices and brands, wait for the sales and the Spanish "Plan Renove".

Furthermore, one should choose the one that best suits our needs. The advantages of knowing and using the most efficient products have led the government to legislate its use in other consumer goods, such as light bulbs, tyres and even buildings.

Only use low energy light bulbs.

Another domestic energy expenditure corresponds to lighting (20%). Replace five incandescent lights with low-consumption can prevent up to 60 Euros per year and emissions of 340 kilos of CO₂. Although more expensive, long life bulbs makes them much more economical and ecological in the long term. At present, there are many varieties of prices and models. I don't get tire of recommending the LED technology lamps: they do not contain mercury or lead, can last many years and its consumption is very very low.

Turn off the "electrical vampires".

Devices that use energy 24 hours a day even when off are another enemy of efficiency. Turn off the "stand by" appliances can save about 50€ per year. To facilitate the shutdown of multiple devices is a very useful to use an electrical strip plug.





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Improve your thermal insulation at home.

To adapt our home environment to the heat and cold during the various seasons of the year can suppose a major expense. Each degree that the air conditioning is raised up 7% more energy is consumed.

To install good thermal insulation in walls and ceilings, and double glazing can reduce energy consumption by up to 30%. Several institutions do provide support for this. Use efficient boilers. Boilers for water heating or central heating system are other important energy consumption. There are various grants in Spain for renovation these installations and is a good opportunity to switch to more efficient models.

Put energy control systems. Home automation systems, thermostats, smart meters, switches with movement detector or dimming are some options that also save energy.

As you can see there are an array of methods and ways to save energy and resources and now days it is a crime not to use those energy saving devices and techniques to save energy, especially in Spain where we have glorious sunshine for at least 10 months a year.



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Taquilla Tickets for March and April

By **Taquilla Tickets**

Hello everybody and welcome to the March article in the popular "A Life In Spain" magazine. So, where are we going in March and April?

Here we go: On the 24th, 25th, and 26th of March we are off to see the brilliant Robbie Williams in concert in beautiful Barcelona. We will be travelling by coach on the 24th with Mateo Coaches (we use nobody else). On the evening of the 25th, we will transport you to the Palau Sant Jordi Sporting Arena (and bring you back, of course) to see "Our Robbie". Mr Entertainer will be singing your favourite songs such as Angels, Back for Good, Love My Life, Rock DJ, and more. You can be a part of this experience. Tickets are selling fast. We can't guarantee a ticket, but we can try for you.

Next on our list is the visit to Lorca on the 2nd of April for "Semana Santa" (Easter). It is so hard to describe the events of this day. Easter Week is a huge event that covers the whole of Spain. On Sunday the 2nd the streets will be filled with Roman Soldiers and Roman Gods on huge platforms. You will see Egyptian Troops and Roman Chariots racing down the streets. So exciting!!!!

Easter Week is taken up with parades by the Local Religious Brotherhood Groups, and these are spectacular too. This all culminates with what is a magnificent spectacle of colour, intricate artwork on the platforms, and of course the thousands of people who take part. It is spectacular!! So, come and join us.

On Wednesday the 5th of April, we are going to the really lovely town of Mula. This lovely town is situated approximately one hour from Condado de Alhama. Every single year on this day "The Night Of The Drums" (Noche de la Tambores) is celebrated. "You can feel your skin vibrate", and "You can feel the passion of the drummers". Just two of many comments made about this parade.

The origin of the "Tamborada" (Drum Parade) is uncertain. However, it first appeared around the middle of the 19th century. The playing of the drums was banned, but the previous participants decided to argue this. So much so, that the parades continued to be held, and are now a regulated, yearly spectacle. The quality of those first drums was not very good, but the manufacturers were not looking for a perfect sound. The evolution of the tradition led to a search for improvements in the pieces and thus in the drums, resulting in the magnificent instruments that are currently manufactured. If you fancy something different, then this is it!!

We have our beach buses running again on the 7th and 8th of April and, on Sunday the 9th of April, we are off to Benidorm and the market. This is another very popular day out.

We will continue with our Beach Buses on the 14th and 15th of April, also on the 15th, we have what is probably the most bizarre parade happening in Murcia. It may be bizarre but it is spectacular. What are we talking about? "The Burial of the Sardine" of course! Never heard of it? Neither had we until a few years ago. Now we visit every year. This is a pagan festival where mythology and fire are mixed.

The carnival atmosphere is so intense and is visited by tens of thousands of people throughout Murcia. Music, Dragons and fire are on display here, and we would love you to join us to be a part of this breathtaking parade.

On Sunday the 16th of April we will be transporting you to the "Benidorm Palace" to see a tribute band celebrating the music of "Bon Jovi". We know that there are many Rock fans out there who love the music of Bon Jovi. With songs like Livin on a Prayer, Always, Bed of Roses, and You Give Love a Bad Name. Formed in 1983 Bon Jovi has made some good Rock music. We are not going to see the "real" Bon Jovi, but we are going to see a band that plays some of their unmistakable music. The price of this trip also includes a meal. So "Come and Rock Away" with us

Seville is our destination for the 18th, 19th and 20th of April. Seville is the largest city and capital of Andalusia. The Al Kazar, The King's Palace, The Magnificent Gothic Cathedral, The Open Top Bus Tours, and The famous Flamenco Dancing. Just some of the reasons why you should join us on this "Mini-Break". Said to be the birthplace of Tapas, this wonderful city is ready to be explored by you! Come and see for yourself.

Now, more colour, passion and entertainment will be seen in the wonderful "Moors and Christians" parades in the city of Alcoy. Taquilla Tickets will be visiting this spectacle on the 22nd of April. Celebrated since the 16th century, the festival commemorates a battle that took place in 1276 between the Arabs and the Christians and was dedicated to San Jorge. According to legend, San Jorge appeared and this gave the Christian Army victory.

The Christians were in armour and the Moors dressed in their colourful clothes. What a site to see this is!! La Diana (a military call to wake up the inhabitants), processions follow, setting the scene for the capture of the Castle by the Moors and the re-taking by the Christians. Colour, Spectacle and loads of fun.

So, there we have it. We think you will agree when we say that we have organised quite a mix of trips. Always remember, if there is somewhere that you would like to go that you think others might like to go to, then please let us know, and we will see if we can work something out.

Take care, everyone.

You can contact us by visiting our office situated within the office of "Sparkles" on Condado de Alhama. Open from 10.00 am-13.30 pm Monday to Friday

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Top 10 Destinations in Southern Spain

5. Sierra Nevada

This mountain range in Spain is one of the southernmost ski destinations in all of Europe. It also contains the highest mountain of continental Spain, Mulhacén at 3,478 meters (11,411 feet) above sea level. The range towers over the city of Granada, and offers a number of fun activities for travellers. In addition to winter slopes, visitors here can enjoy the National Park that serves as a biosphere reserve, an astronomical observatory and telescope, and access to a number of adventure guide services. During summertime, these mountains are a mecca for hiking, rock climbing, and mountain biking.

The Nature reserve

High mountains and exuberant nature in the heart of Andalusia

In eastern Andalusia in Granada and Almería you'll find the highest peaks in continental Spain. Its mountains, rivers and streams extend for 90 kilometres, bringing abundant life to the region. Populated for more than 2,000 years, the Sierra Nevada is the perfect place for witnessing humans and wildlife co-existing in the high mountains.

Set in the central part of the Penibética mountain range, the Sierra Nevada massif is the largest Iberian mountain area with its own structural unit. Known by the Arabs as the "Sierra del Sol", or "sunlit mountains", it is home to some of the most valued flora in Europe. It was declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1986.

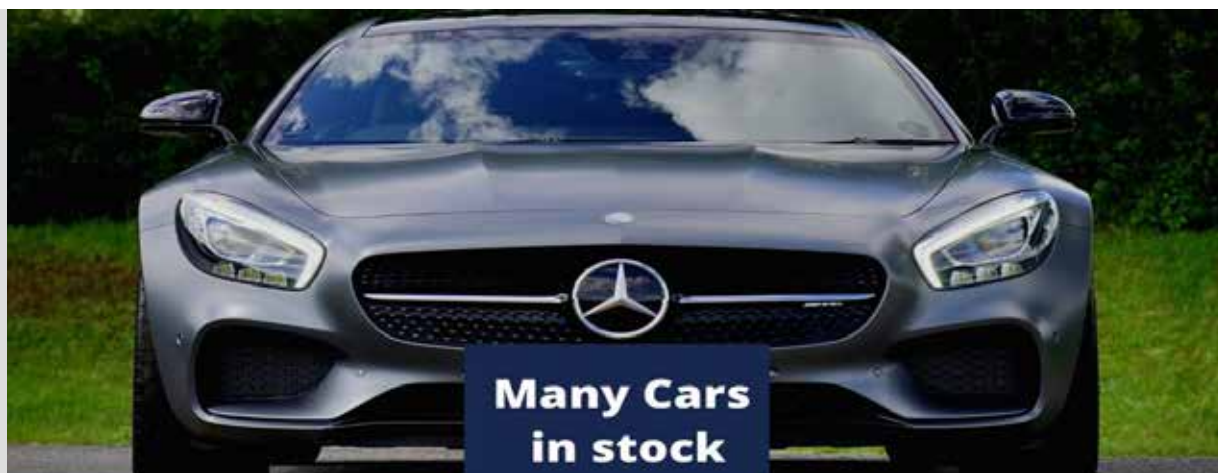
Sierra Nevada is a mountain massif which forms a clearly distinct geographic unit. It is located to the southeast of Granada and extends to the eastern edge of Almería. It is characterised by its contrasting relief, with gentle slopes in some areas and steep cliffs in others. This reserve is home to the highest peaks on the Iberian peninsula: the Mulhacén (3,482 m) and the Veleta (3,392 m). The main plant communities to be found in this mountain massif are holm oak groves, deciduous forests of chestnuts and Pyrenean oak, high-mountain pine groves, and broom at the highest levels, where the species adopt a pin-cushion shape to protect themselves from the winter temperatures and freezing winds. The fauna includes several invertebrates which are exclusive to this massif, and particularly, over 20 species of butterfly. There are also numerous species of small birds, a considerable number of birds of prey and

various mammals including the Spanish ibex which grazes on the mountain tops.

Ski resort

The Sierra Nevada Ski and Mountain Resort is Europe's southernmost. Set in the Penibético range and 32 km from Granada, it has 105,44 km of runs, with 118 signed pistes for all levels and excellent quality snow. It also has a cross-country skiing circuit, Snow Park and recreational areas for non-skiers. Night skiing on Saturdays, weather permitting.





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The Journey - Vintage Pilgrim by Carol Hughes, owner of Legs & Co.

16th April

We are going back to look at the Mercedes again. Even though it is more money and I should imagine greedy on petrol. I have sat in it again, I'm in love with it, Is that possible for a car? Not sure Charlie likes it he can't jump in, well he is not used to 4x4's. It's like a spaceship has all the bells and whistles but have this nag in my head I am being silly. So, we are going for a coffee to have a chat about it.

While sitting having a coffee we have spotted another car, a Silver Jeep Cherokee 3.0 the right age and the right Price. not as pretty obviously! But a nice car. I think we have found a car; Chris is going to test drive it providing it drives ok I think we will buy it.

Yes, we have bought it, Paid a deposit. I had to go to the bank across the road and withdraw our card daily limit from the machine €300.00, and we are picking it up tomorrow. We have also done a deal that we will leave Chris's Mercedes there, and they will put it through ITV (Spanish MOT, I know I thought the same, what has TV got to do with cars). They will also transfer it to Spanish plates, so it is registered in Spain.

The Jeep is lovely, but I would still have loved the Silver Blue Merc it was so shiny!

17th April

Ok, so we have picked up the Jeep. Although it wasn't as straight forward as it seemed they wanted cash! they do not take card. I had to go across the road to the bank and withdraw cash. Which is not straightforward, the bank wasn't happy doing it as they will not release more than €3,000 a day! You have to pre order the money. Anyway after a few phone calls to my branch, and a big smile they

eventually told me to come back at 2pm. When the bank was closing, and I could have it then. This was strange, totally alien to me. Turning up at a bank as it closes and having to sit and wait in a closed bank, while they opened the safe to get me my money. Spanish banks are very different to UK banks. This is not the first time I have had trouble withdrawing money, everyone wants cash. I had arranged one of my cards limits to cover the cost of the car prior to collecting the car. Never imagined they would ask for cash.

20th April

The weather really has taken a turn we have a gota fria (Cold Drop). We now know where all the leaks are. We went to bed last night after I had placed a bucket under a drip in the utility room. The bucket was full and had overflowed. Then there is the water that had come under the door !!! water, water everywhere its horrendous. I am sure everyone told me Spanish weather was perfect! It's not! they lied.

What is a Gota Fria you ask? It's the name Spain give to a meteorological phenomenon which can cause devastating flooding. Seemingly it is normal to get a Gota Fria in Spring and Autumn, as is caused by cold air travelling along the jet stream meeting warm air from Spain. People have likened a Gota fria to standing under a power shower. It is high winds and like standing in a waterfall is the only way I can describe it. It drops phenomenal amounts of water in a very short period of time. Which fill the riverbeds and turn roads in to fast moving rivers. A Gota Fria can go on for days not just hours. Bet you think I am intelligent! I googled it, lol. This is a great test for the house. I have to say apart from a few leaks it has done well, no real damage. The road outside leading to the village has turned into a dirt track, now you know why we needed a 4x4.



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Arrived!!!

The UK is having beautiful weather! what is that all about? erm excuse me this is Spain! bring the sunshine back. Charlie is unimpressed he doesn't like rain, well water in general! Every time he goes out for a pee, he comes in looking like a drowned rat.

21st April

The local carpenter has arrived he is fixing the centre window panel in the door that Chris broke the first time he locked us out of the house. He has measured up and is making us a new panel, but it will take a few weeks as a whole new panel has to be made.

Well the house is 100 years old so wouldn't expect anything to be a standard size. Nothing in this house is straightforward. But I still love it, it's my little finca its cosy and has a lovely feel to it. Pepe and Nicole who owned the house before us lived in it for 25 years. Happy and content from what I

have been told. She was French he was Spanish. They were married in a little church on a hill around the corner. Everyone knew them around here and they all say they were a lovely happy couple always having parties. And people used to come from all over, to visit and party with them.

22nd April

Power cut Argh!! Something else to get used to in Spain the Power cuts

Stay tuned for the next part

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