

The magazine for the holiday season in southern Spain / July 2019

Summer's here



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and explore all Andalucía has to offer, from
relaxing beaches to adrenaline fixes

Andalucía

SUR
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**COLECCIÓN
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Zinaida Serebriakova. Study of a girl (Self-portrait).
1911. St. Petersburg Russian State Museum

**Free and decisive.
Russian artists, between
tradition and avant-garde**

**Until the 8th of
September**



**Museo
Carmen Thyssen
Málaga**

**Perversity. Femmes
fatales in modern art.
1880-1950**

Until the 8th of September



museo PICASSO Málaga

**Permanent Collection
Bruce Nauman.
Rooms, bodies, words**

Until the 1st of September

Patio David Heald © Museo Picasso Málaga



**Centre
Pompidou
Málaga**

**JIM DINE at the
Centre Pompidou
Málaga collection**

**From the 10th of July
to the 6th of October**

The prince (detail) 2008. Jim Dine. VEGAP, Málaga,
2019. Centre Pompidou, Paris, Musée national d'art
moderne - Donated by the artist in 2017



**FUNDACIÓN
PICASSO**
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**Picasso: Le chant des
morts and the gender
of the vanitas**

**From the 4th of July to
the 13th of October**

Pablo Picasso. Le chant des morts. Paris, 1948. Col.
Fundación Picasso, Museo Casa Natal Ayuntamiento
de Málaga. Donated by Christine Ruiz-Picasso,
1992. Sucesión Picasso, VEGAP, Madrid 2019



**museo del
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municipal**
Salas de La Coracha

**TEMPORARY HALL
OF THE MUPAM**

**Daniel Quintero.
Drawings, etchings
and lithographs**

Until the 28th of July

SALAS DE LA CORACHA

**Pedro Zamora. Almost
without art**



**PALACIO
EPISCORL
MÁLAGA**
centro de arte

**PEDRO DE MENA.
Granatensis
Malacae**

Until the 14th of July



**Museum
Jorge Rando**

**Reminitentia
(Remix)**

**Until the 30th of
September**



**Museo
Automovilístico**
El de la Rota

The goldmine

**Until the 31st of
December**



**MUSEO
REVELLO
DE TORO**

**Permanent
collection**

**104 works by Málaga
artist Félix Revello de Toro.
Pedro Mena's house-workshop**



Cover photo: See the world from a different perspective. Comares, in the Axarquía district east of Malaga, has a spectacular zip wire that visitors can ride in a hammock. The attraction is run by Vive Aventura SL. See pages 28-31.



SUR IN ENGLISH SUMMER SPECIAL

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Cool on the coast

RACHEL HAYNES

Writing this at the end of June, much of Spain and the rest of Europe is sweltering in a heatwave that has sent thermometers soaring in the most unlikely areas. But while people in Zaragoza are struggling to cope with temperatures of 43 degrees, the highs on the Costa del Sol are no more than 30°C.

In fact it's not uncommon for the south coast of Spain to keep relatively cool while the rest of the country is melting in a heatwave. The mild climate is what attracts so many people to come and live here, after all, and that refers to cooler summers as well as warmer winters. (We'll treat those warm Terral winds that turn the area around Malaga into a fan oven while the rest of Spain is nice and cool, as a rare exception.)

So while the temperatures remain pleasant and the holiday season is upon us, now's the time to think about how to spend our free time here in southern Spain.

Many, of course, do not have to think too hard: at the first opportunity they grab their swimsuits and sun cream and head off down to the sea.

It's not just the tourists who contrib-

ute to the busy beaches in some parts of the Costa del Sol. Local residents also head for the shore at the first opportunity, adopting a regular beach routine that remains in place at least until September.

Summer in southern Spain, though, offers much more. It could mean you have time to explore the art galleries and museums you have on your doorstep but never have time to visit. It could provide the opportunity to visit a town or village you've always said you'd like to go to. And the list of concerts, festivals and traditional Andalusian summer fairs is endless.

Meanwhile the more active among us make the most of the cooler times of day to keep up their favourite sport or test out a new adventure.

The pages of this holiday magazine aim to provide some ideas for doing something different this summer. We might not all fancy trying out the zip wire on the cover, but there are plenty of other ways to make the most of this beautiful part of the world during the holidays.

Oh, and don't forget to think of the environment while you're out and about.



Art, inside and out

Take a break from the beach this summer and cool off in one of Malaga city's many museums and art galleries. Permanent collections and temporary exhibitions offer everything from old masters to Malaga's own Picasso and even Banksy. For art in the open air take a stroll through the streets of Torremolinos to take in the sculptures that turn the town into an outdoor gallery.



By the sea

Both tourists and residents flock to the Costa's beaches all year round but especially in summer. But had you wondered what those ruins were behind the seafront? We look at the best beaches - and also their history.

Have a taste

Holidays are the best time to relax and enjoy a glass of your favourite tipple. But are you familiar with the wines and beers produced here in the province of Malaga? We take a tour of some of the area's wineries that are open to the public for tasting visits.

What to do

Summer in Andalucía is the season for concerts and festivals. Find a guide to many of the concerts and traditional fiestas happening around the region this summer in our agenda section and get ready for a good night out!

Adventures for the daring

The summer holidays offer the perfect opportunity to enjoy new experiences and give yourself a fix of adrenaline. Numerous sports and activities on offer in southern Spain provide this, but in this issue we go both underwater and high up in the sky: scuba diving in Gibraltar, and testing out the zip wires in the province of Malaga.



Explore Andalucía

There are endless ways of exploring such a large and diverse region as Andalucía. Cycling is just one of them, as we discover in this issue; but for the less energetic, how about a stroll around one of the many beautiful small towns and villages? We visit Salobreña with its steep white streets and spectacular views, but also Sanlúcar de Barrameda and its unique beach horse racing.



The same dream

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Summer heat in the galleries



Two pieces in the exhibition 'Perversity. Femmes Fatales in Modern Art' in the Carmen Thyssen Museum. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Malaga city's many museums and art galleries offer the chance to escape the hot sun and soak up some culture

RACHEL HAYNES

The summer is the perfect opportunity for residents as well as visitors to soak up not just the sun, but also the culture. Malaga's art galleries and museums have put the city in the forefront in recent years, filling columns in travel and art publications across the globe.

A couple of decades ago, as far as the art world was concerned, Malaga was nothing more than the birthplace of Picasso, with a house on the corner of a square that you could visit.

Now it has its own Picasso museum, the Carmen Thyssen Museum, the Pompidou "pop-up", the branch of the St Petersburg State Russian Museum, the Malaga museum of Fine Art and Archaeology, the contemporary art centre and numerous smaller art galleries and exhibition spaces.

Dodging the heat in the middle of the day inside the cool galleries is a trick

that residents and tourists share, whether visiting for the first time, re-visiting a permanent collection or taking in the latest temporary show.

Malaga Picasso Museum Bruce Nauman calls in on the genius

The Picasso Museum is perhaps the first stop on the itinerary of visitors drawn to the city by its most famous artist. Just opened, to complement the collection of works from all periods of Picasso's life, is the exhibition 'Rooms, Bodies, Words' by American artist Bruce Nauman.

The artist's first large-format show in Spain in 25 years spans the numerous media and techniques used by the artist, from architectural installations and sculptures to videos, drawings and photography.

In Malaga until 1 September, the exhibition comprises 100 works produced in the past four decades by an artist who is essential to the understanding of contemporary art in the past 50 years.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

Femmes fatales move in for summer

The Carmen Thyssen museum, with its stunning collection of Spanish and Andalusian art from the old masters to the beginning of the 20th century, is also host to a temporary exhibition this summer. 'Perversity. Femmes Fatales in Modern Art (1880-1950)' focuses on women at a time when they went from being "passive, sexualised subjects to champions of emancipation and freedom", as the museum's own literature explains. Artists whose works have been brought together for this temporary show, which runs until 8 September, include Gustav Klimt, Amedeo Modigliani, Kees Van Dongen, Man Ray, George Grosz, Pablo Ruiz Picasso, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Gargallo, Suzanne Valadon, Maruja Mallo, Ignacio Zuloaga, Hermen Anglada-Camarasa and Julio Romero de Torres.

Also at the Carmen Thyssen museum, just opened earlier in June, is 'Max Ernst. Historia Natural', which runs until 13 October. Here are 34 collotype prints of drawings Ernst did in 1925, playing with textures using his frottage rubbing technique.

Centre Pompidou Modern views of Utopia

The current semi-permanent exhibition at the Malaga arm of the Centre Pompi-

dou in Paris is the journey through the ideals, disappointments and imagination of modern and contemporary artists. The collection 'Modern Utopias' has been at the museum under the colourful cube in the city's Muelle Uno marina since the end of 2017, and remains until next year. The six sections house 63 works, including paintings, sculpture and installations by artists including Delaunay, Kandinsky, Picasso, Miró and many others, with Lalanne's Flock of Sheep occupying the centre of the biggest exhibition space.

La Térmica

The Banksy invasion

The provincial government's cultural centre on the west side of the city centre, La Térmica, launched into a new, ambitious phase this spring when it opened 'Banksy, the Art of Protest'. For the first time, the centre, which occupies the old Centro Cívico building, is charging ad-

Part of the exhibition by Bruce Nauman at the Picasso.

■ S. SALAS



Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga

PER VER SI TY

FEMMES FATALES
IN MODERN ART
1880–1950

Until 8th September 2019



mission to one of its exhibitions, and for the first time it will stay open during the summer months.

The more than 40 works by the elusive British artist on display in Malaga until 15 September come from international private collections and have never been exhibited before in Spain.

Russian museum Women in the Saint Petersburg collection

The current annual exhibition in Malaga's own Russian museum, running through until 27 February next year is 'Saints, Queens and Workers, the Image of the Woman in Russian Art'. The collection explores the role of women in Russia through its art, from religious icons to portraits of independent workers.

Malaga museum Art and archaeology

The city's own collection of art and archaeology can be viewed in the old Aduana (customs) palace whose courtyard is in itself the perfect place to sit and relax on a summer's afternoon. The art section comprises the collection of the San Telmo Fine Arts Academy, as well as private donations.

MORE INFORMATION

► **Malaga Picasso Museum.** City centre. Open every day, 10am to 8pm July and August and to 7pm from September. www.museopicassomalaga.org

► **Carmen Thyssen Museum.** City centre. 10am to 8pm. Closed Monday. www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org

► **Centre Pompidou.** Muelle Uno, Malaga Port. 9.30am to 8pm. Closed Tuesday. centrepompidomalaga.eu

► **Russian Museum.** Tabacalera. Avda Sor Teresa Prat. 9.30am - 8pm. Closed Monday. www.coleccionmuseoruso.es

► **La Térmica.** Avda de los Guindos. 11am - 10pm. Closed Monday. latermicamalaga.com

► **Museo de Málaga.** City centre. Tuesday to Saturday 9am - 9pm. Sunday 9am - 3pm.



Part of the Banksy exhibition in La Térmica. :: F. PALACIOS



Centre Pompidou Malaga. :: M. F.



Museo de Málaga. :: SUR



The Russian Museum in the old tobacco factory. :: NITO SALAS



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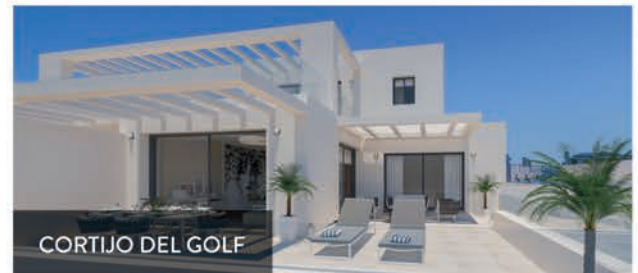
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The Traveller is located under the new pergola in Plaza Costa del Sol. :: T. BRYANT

An open-air gallery in Torremolinos

Malaga-based artist Elena Laverón has a special affection for Torremolinos and several of her sculptures have been installed on the town's new boulevard

Born in Ceuta in 1938, Elena Laverón has received international recognition and her creations can be found at the headquarters of Unesco in Paris, the Guggenheim Museum in New York and at the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid

TONY BRYANT

The recent renovation and transformation of Torremolinos has turned the resort into one of the most visited towns on the Costa del Sol.

Along with promoting the town for its seven kilometres of golden beaches and all-year-round sun shine, Torremolinos now intends to attract cultural tourism.

The rejuvenation of the centre of the town has been a main priority since 2015, when the socialist council promised to transform the Plaza Costa del Sol and Avenida Palma de Mallorca into a spacious boulevard, a promise that was fulfilled in February 2019.

The main plaza has also become the town's cultural hub, hosting classical music, flamenco, poetry recitals and art exhibitions in the new 'open-air museum'.

Last year, Torremolinos hosted several art exhibitions, which included Poesía Multiforme, a collection of eleven bronze and stone pieces created by Elena Laverón, the Ceuta-born artist who now lives in Malaga.

Laverón, who trained at the San Jorge School of Fine Arts in Barcelona, has received international recognition and her creations can be found at the headquarters of Unesco in Paris, the Guggenheim Museum in New York and at the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid.

An affection for Torremolinos

The artist has a special affection for Torremolinos and several of her works have been installed in the pedestrianised town centre, while another collection can be found in the delightful gardens of the Pablo Ruiz Picasso Cultural Centre in Calle de la Cruz.



The colossal figures, characterised by the artist's fascination with the human body and animals, were sculptured between 1964 and 2005 and measure up to 2.5 metres in height and four metres in length. These magnificent works of art have created considerable interest in the town and they have become a talking point for the locals and visiting tourists.

A stroll through the collection

To enjoy the full impact of this immense collection, it would be advisable to start in Avenida Palma de Mallorca, where, on the junction of Calle Cauce, an elegant piece called *Mujer Banco* (1995) is situated. This impressive piece, which many locals think is

a simple bench-seat, demonstrates Laverón's skill at reproducing the female torso.

Just a few metres' walk into the Plaza Costa del Sol will reveal some of the artist's most recognised pieces, the first of which is *Los Oficios* (1999).

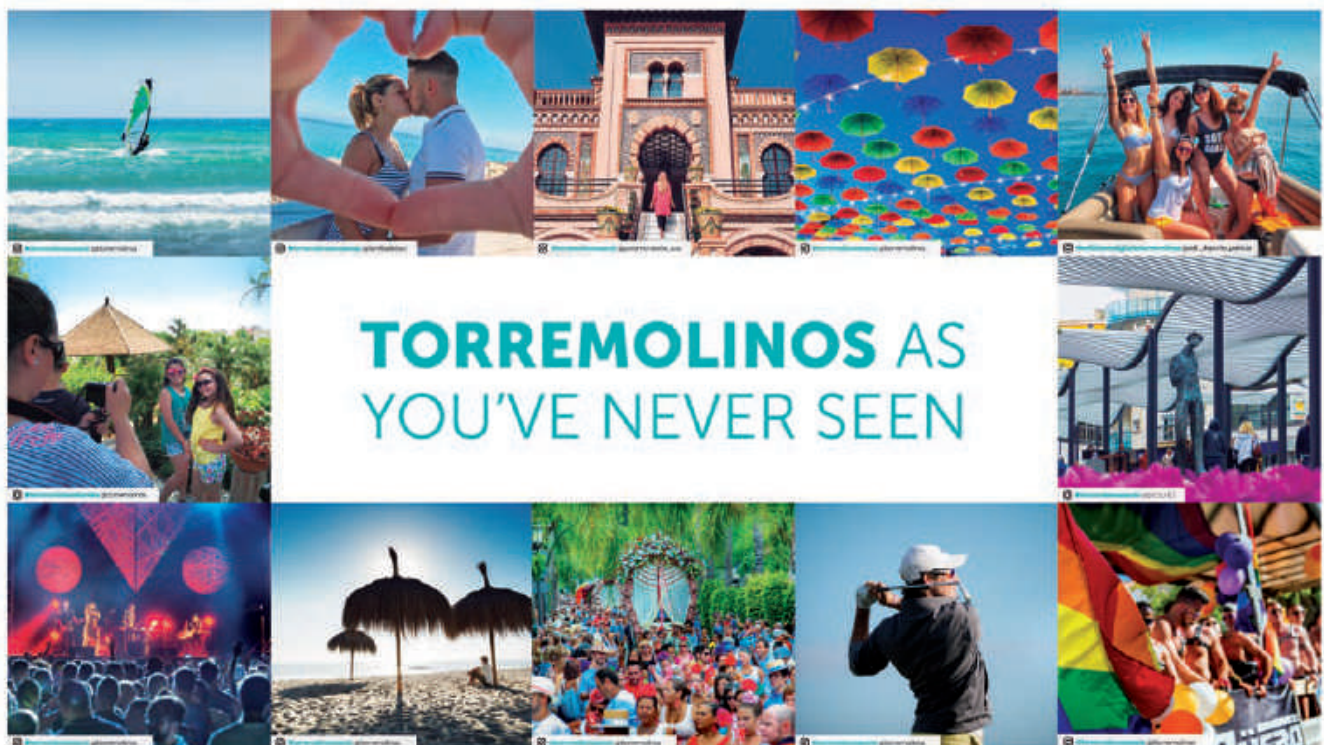
Mujer Banco (1995) has become a popular resting place for the locals. ■ T. BRYANT

Meaning *The Trades*, this sculpture is situated in front of the Barabino mansion, soon to be the town's new cultural and artistic centre. This grandeur piece, which consists of five bronze figures, was previously displayed in the Palmeral de las Sorpresas in Malaga.

El Caminante (The Traveller) is located under the new pergola, while at the junction of Calle de la Cruz, one will find *Nacimiento de Eva* (The Birth of Eve), formerly located in Plaza La Nogalera.

Open-air exhibition

A short walk along the Calle de la Cruz will lead to the cultural centre, and this is where some of Laverón's finest



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Torremolinos
AREA DE TURISMO



Los Oficios takes prime position in front of the Barrabino mansion in Plaza Costa del Sol :: **T. BRYANT**

works are displayed. Eleven works are scattered among the gardens and these include a mixture of abstract works and classic pieces like *Torso de Hombre con Cabeza*, a robust piece of a man's head and torso; and *Oso*, a young bear cub.

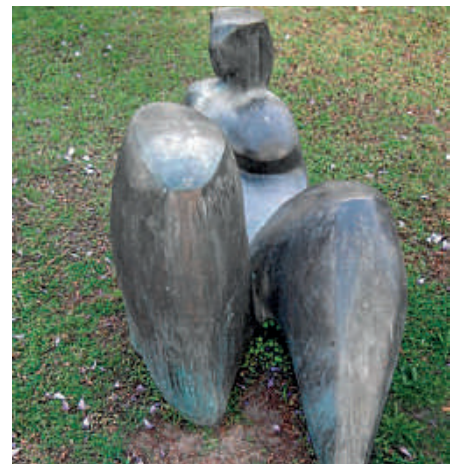
Of particular interest are *Familia Sentada* (Seated Family) and *Pareja Como Columna* (Couple like a Column).

Others include *Caballo* (Horse), *Pareja Sentada* (Seated Couple) and *Mujer Recostada* (Reclining Woman), another bronze abstract piece.

The collection on display in the gardens of the Cultural Centre will be on show until the end of 2019, but the works installed in the centre of Torremolinos are permanent fixtures.



Nacimiento de Eva (Birth of Eve). :: **T. B.**



Mujer Recostada (Reclining Woman). :: **T. B.**

Restoration

Elena Laverón's works have long been associated with Torremolinos and some of the pieces in this exhibition were previously installed outside the town hall building in Plaza Blas Infante. Several of these pieces were vandalised last year, but they have now been cleaned and restored to their former glory.

Another fine example can be found heading out of Torremolinos on the junction with La Colina. *La Familia de Pie*, a towering sculpture of a family, was said to have been influenced by Henry Moore, a renowned English abstract sculptor.

Elena Laverón sculptures can also be found in numerous locations in Malaga city, as well as in Benalmádena and Estepona.



The Bear (1964) is the oldest piece in the exhibition. :: **T. B.**

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That good old formula: sun, sea and sand



The Costa del Sol boasts kilometres of fantastic beaches with enough variety to suit every taste

With temperatures soaring, visitors and residents alike flock to the seafront for their fix of summer fun

PATRICK STAMANN

Summer, sun and endless beaches have always been the main reasons for tourists from all over the world to spend their holidays on the Costa del Sol, especially in the western part of Malaga province. Although both the profile of the visitors and their requirements have changed over time, sun, sea and sand are still the three ingredients that keep the tourism industry's motor running. The climate guarantees sunshine in summer, and even outside high season both tourists and, above all, residents enjoy

mild temperatures on the Costa del Sol with around 320 sunny days per year.

This climate, as well as the numerous and varied beaches kissed by the Mediterranean, provides the opportunity to join in a variety of leisure activities - an essential factor in attracting countless sunseekers and at the same time being the main reason for many to settle here.

With more than 180 kilometres of coastline inside the province of Malaga, the Costa del Sol boasts a wide variety of beaches from quiet bays to wide urban strips. Here are just a few favourites on the western Costa del Sol.

The classics

Only a stone's throw away to the west of Malaga's provincial capital lies the tourist stronghold of the region, Torremolinos. El Bajondillo beach, more than one kilometre long and 50 metres wide,

is a seamless continuation of the Playa-mar beach towards the municipal boundary with Malaga, stretching out below the town centre. It attracts, year after year, thousands and thousands of sun-worshippers from all over the world, but above all locals.

Heading in the direction of Benalmádena you can find rocks that once formed the natural border between the fishing villages of Torremolinos and La Carihuela, part of the same municipality. The enchanting beach of La Carihuela is approximately two kilometres long. An attractive promenade lines the beaches and also connects the two districts.

La Carihuela is very popular because of its many pubs along the promenade and fashionable beach bars, frequented until late at night. El Bajondillo likewise has a relaxed atmosphere, especially in

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the gay-friendly area around Eden Beach.

The fine-grained, yellow-grey sand in Torremolinos as good as resembles that of popular long-distance destinations in the Caribbean. A light-to-moderate swell and a gentle and smooth access to the cool water give you the feeling of being in paradise. There are public showers and toilets aplenty, and sunshades and loungers are available for hire. Surfboards, pedal boats and canoes are also available for water sports enthusiasts.

During the summer months, lifeguards provide the peace of mind necessary for tranquil bathing while adapted access to the beach also allows people with limited mobility to spend a wonderful day by the sea.

Idyllic bays

Today, Torremolinos is almost seamlessly connected to neighbouring Benalmádena. The beaches of this municipality offer a completely different kind of landscape than those of the aforementioned town. This coastline is composed of numerous small bays, some with pebble and others with sandy beaches.

The town's coastal area, Benalmádena Costa, offers a 400-metre-long and around 15-metre-wide pebble beach named after the bay in which it is located, Las Yucas. This bay is a little off the beaten track and is close to the Torrequibrada golf course. It is especially attractive for those who want to spend a peaceful day by the sea, even during summer.

There are not too many hotels in the immediate vicinity, and visitors from outside tend to stay on the more famous and centrally lo-

cated beaches of Benalmádena Costa.

Las Yucas is by no means remote but this bathing paradise is only really accessible from the N-340 via a narrow path with steps, making it unsuitable for those with limited mobility. However, this mixture of sand and pebbles found at Las Yucas can also be found in many of the small bays of Benalmádena. Beware if you are bringing small children, though, due to the uneven surface.

The rocks surrounding the bay are a real paradise for divers with numerous marine animals to discover under the surface. It's certainly no coincidence that lots of fishermen can be spotted in this area.

In addition to the nearby bars and restaurants you will find sun loungers and umbrellas for rent as well as showers and toilets directly on the beach. Some adjacent bays out of town towards Marbella, such as Las Viborillas and the Benalmádena pebble beach which has become an institution, also offer bathers the opportunity to indulge in the nudist culture. At the latter, nudism is compulsory and it has its own chiringuito.

Pure nature

Further to the west lies the jet-set metropolis of Marbella which also offers beach fans some unique experiences. Far away from glamour, stars and luxury, lies one of the most beautiful natural sites. Besides Cabopino, with magnificent beaches and crystal-clear waters are the Artola dunes and the listed Torre Ladrones. The watchtower, which dates back to Roman times, was subsequently rebuilt by the Moors and Christians and was always used for defensive purposes.

The dunes, created mainly by the north-westerly winds, have over time formed an almost 20-kilometre long belt that leads to the fishing port of Marbella. The best way to admire the natural beauty of those facing the sea is to stroll along the beach. Behind them, shifting dunes form a real labyrinth with different densities of vegetation, which flows into a lush green pine forest in the north.

Behind this forest there is a vast car

A water sports enthusiast close to Marbella's Golden Mile
:: JOSELE-LANZA



park from where you can walk to the beach in less than five minutes. Despite this, there are always some people who disregard the immense ecological value of this unique dune area and try to drive in closer with their vehicles.

These dunes have been declared a Natural Monument, are part of the Dunas de Marbella Ecological Reserve. To protect them, an extensive network of paths has been laid out, consisting of wide, raised wooden footbridges down to the water.

Artola is also Marbella's only nudist beach but you will never find it overcrowded, not even during summer.

Torre Ladrões is located near the picturesque marina of Cabopino, which provides you with a completely different atmosphere. The fine golden sand of the beach, facilities such as showers, toilets, sunbeds, parasols and chiringuitos attract many families, especially on hot days. Cabopino also offers a campsite for tourists from all over the world, and surfers often try their luck on windy days.

A family paradise

Approximately 20 kilometres further west in the direction of Cadiz lies Estepona with the breathtaking 50-metre-wide and, believe it or not, 2.3-kilometre-long Playa La Rada.

In spite of its proximity to the town centre, the beach is not as crowded as one might expect, as its generous dimensions allow visitors to spread out in such a way that everybody gets enough space.



La Rada is so vast that it never seems overcrowded. :: PATRONATO DE TURISMO



The Artola dunes. :: SUR

The rather dark sandy area borders on the normally calm sea where the waves roll very gently to the shore. It is therefore ideal for families with children and anyone who prefers calm water for swimming and bathing. La Rada has always been awarded with a Blue Flag,

which guarantees perfect facilities and quality.

Access to this beach is barrier-free and therefore easy for people with reduced mobility. Showers, toilets, sunbeds and umbrellas for hire and a jetty allow visitors to spend an undisturbed, great day on this beach, and lifeguards provide the necessary safety during the summer months.

The promenade directly adjacent to the beach enjoys equal popularity among locals and tourists. It stretches from La Rada all the way to the charming little harbour at the opposite edge of Estepona. There is hardly a more pleasant way to end a day on the beach than in one of the restaurants and bars on the quayside, where recently caught fish and shellfish is still served at reasonable prices. Some of these restaurants and bars are widely known and have taken the name Estepona all across the world.

The western Costa del Sol is so versatile that there is a beach to suit every taste. There are plenty of reasons why so many locals and tourists make the most of this through the summer and the expression 'sun, sea and sand' never seems to go out of fashion.

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Local history, a stone's throw from the sunbed

Take a break from sunbathing to explore some of the monuments and ancient sites that line the Costa del Sol

JAVIER ALMELLONES

The coastline between Nerja and Manilva is well-known for its beaches, restaurants and seafront promenades, but many people are unaware that this area is also home to ancient castles, lookout points and archaeological sites. As these are situated beside the sea or very close to it, they are an alternative option for those who fancy doing something a bit different without having to move too far away from the sand. Here is a selection, covering the Malaga coastline from east to west.

Balcón de Europa Nerja

This is famous for being one of the best places in Andalucía to look over the Mediterranean, and there are also excellent views of the Maro cliffs, a local beauty spot. What is not as well-known is that a castle once stood on what is now the Balcón de Europa. The Castillo Bajo, as it was called, was built in medieval times but remodelled in the 18th century to add a defensive battery. That's the reason there is a cannon on the Balcón de Europa nowadays: to commemorate the castle which once existed there. There is also a statue of King Alfonso XII, who visited Nerja after an earthquake and was

struck by its beautiful panoramic views. It was there that the monarch pronounced that he was standing on the 'Balcony of Europe', and that is how it acquired its name. From here it is possible to walk down to the beach.

Lighthouse archaeological site Torrox

The seafront in Torrox is particularly interesting because it has remains from the Roman period, including a necropolis and baths which were discovered beside the lighthouse. These remains have been identified as part of the town of Caviculum, which was important because of its strategic role in distributing agricultural and fish products. The settlement, which was inhabited from the first to the fourth century, included a fish salting factory and kilns for firing pottery, as well as the necropolis and baths.

Torre 'Ladeá, Algarrobo

There is a very unusual Moorish watchtower in Algarrobo Costa, the Axarquía region's very own version of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. It is clearly leaning to one side, although there is no risk of it falling over. Because of the angle at which it inclines, locals call the tower the Torreladeada, or



Sohail Castle, Fuengirola. :: SUR



The leaning tower in Algarrobo. :: SUR

Torre Ladeá. It stands in gardens very close to the seafront. Not far from there, but this time dating from the 16th century, is another watchtower, the Torrenueva, which is also known as the Torre Derecha, or Straight Tower, in comparison with the one that leans. Both of these towers have been camouflaged to a certain extent



as the area has become built-up, but they are both close to the seafront and are easy to access.

San Pitar, Valle Niza Vélez-Málaga

Slightly further back from the beach, but no more than a five-minute walk, it is possible to visit one of the most important quarries in the history of Malaga province. There is evidence that stone was taken from here to build the Roman theatre and the cathedral in Malaga city, and also the Necropolis of Trayamar. An 18th-century chapel, known as the 'ermita de los canteros', or 'quarriers' church' still re-

mains on the site and is now used as an information centre. Visits have to be booked in advance with the Tourism Department of Vélez-Málaga town hall.

Castillo del Marqués, Valle Niza Vélez-Málaga

In the Valle Niza area of Vélez-Málaga there is a 'stronghold' which dates back to the 18th century, although there is evidence that it was originally built as a castle two hundred years earlier. It is currently used as a prestigious hospitality college, but its roadside location makes it one of the most-photographed monuments of the area.



Torrox lighthouse. :: SUR



San Pitar archeological site, Vélez. :: SUR



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Casa Fuerte de Bezmiliana Rincón de la Victoria

At one time this fortress stood on the seashore, because it was used to keep watch over the coast. It is known nowadays as the Casa Fuerte de Bezmiliana and was built in the 18th century. It is square in shape, with two sentry boxes on the wall so that the coastline could be monitored to prevent attacks by pirates. These days it is used as an exhibition room, so for those heading to or from the beach in Rincón de la Victoria it is very convenient to pop in and have a look at the exhibitions which take place every summer.

Casa de los Navajas Torremolinos

It may not be beside the beach, but it does have a sea view. A short walk will bring you to this neo-Mudejar style building which is almost 100 years old and is considered one of the architectural jewels of the Costa del Sol. The building, which is situated in the town of Torremolinos and near Bajondillo beach, can be visited free of charge. It is also used for public and private events, ranging from official receptions to weddings. The interior of this palace, which was built in 1925 by Antonio Navajas, was inspired by the world-famous Alhambra in Granada.

Castillo de Bil Bil Benalmádena

From its name you would expect this to be a fortress, but in fact it is a palatial house which has been built in a very evident neo-Mudejar style. The building, which is used for different events, was built in 1927. Because it stands right beside the beach, it is now one of the most popular venues in the area for weddings. There are also regular art exhibitions in its interior.

Castillo Sohail Fuengirola

Fuengirola can boast of having one of the most emblematic castles in Malaga province, the Castillo de Sohail, which stands on a hill beside the Fuengirola river. Although it was originally built by the Romans, its structure was de-



Castillo del Marqués de Valle Niza. :: SUR



Bil Bil castle, Benalmádena. :: SUR



Casa de los Navajas, Torremolinos. :: SUR



Bezmiliana fortress, Rincón. :: SUR

signed during the time of the caliphs, because the Almoravids remodelled it during the 12th century. The most notable changes came after 1485, when it was taken by the Christian troops. The Christians added and removed different architectural features.

The castle is open every day for visits, and between spring and autumn every year numerous concerts, cultural and fundraising activities and events take place there.

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Castillo de La Duquesa, Sabinillas, Manilva. :: SUR

Torreón de la Cala

La Cala de Mijas

In La Cala de Mijas visitors can visit the 'Torreón', which is now used as an information centre about the system of defensive watchtowers and the sea in general. The building, which is open at weekends and on public holidays, contains three rooms. The first is dedicated to the watchtowers in the Mijas area and elsewhere on the Malaga coast. The second houses an exhibition about General Torrijos, who disembarked with his troops on the nearby Playa del Charcón beach to defend the constitutional order in 1831. The third room takes a look at La Cala's history as a fishing village, with a display of boats and items relating to fishing.

Villa Verde Roman villa

Marbella

The Río Verde area of Marbella is home to a Roman villa, which was built right on the edge of the beach. It dates back to the 2nd century and a large part of the original structure still remains, including an interior courtyard and a mosaic portraying an image of the Medusa (in Greek mythology Medusa was a Gorgon, a winged human female with venomous snakes instead of hair). Sadly, the mosaic was vandalised and a replica of the head had to be made. At present the site can be visited on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings (and also public holidays), by prior arrangement with the Culture Department of Marbella town hall.

Las Bóvedas Roman baths

San Pedro, Marbella

Among the Roman remains in Marbella, one of the best-preserved sites is the Termas del Río Guadalmina, otherwise known as the Bóvedas de Mar-



The "torreón" in La Cala de Mijas. :: SUR



Río Verde Roman villa, Marbella. :: SUR



Roman baths, San Pedro. :: SUR

bella. It is situated near the arch at the entrance to San Pedro Alcántara, on the beach side of the road. These Roman baths date back to the first centuries of the Empire (between the 2nd and 3rd centuries), as can be seen from the remains of the marmoreal plaques. These remains were discovered in 1961 and the site was later classified as a Historic and Artistic Monument. Archaeologists have found remains of pipelines made of clay, which were probably used to channel the water or hot air. Like the Roman villa at Río Verde, it can be visited on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings and also on public holidays, by prior arrangement with the Cultural Department at Marbella town hall.

Basílica Paleocristiana Vega del Mar

San Pedro, Marbella

There is another ancient site close to the beach in San Pedro Alcántara, a monument which is hugely important and probably dates back to the 6th century. It is one of the earliest examples of a Christian church on the Iberian peninsula. Visitors will notice three things in particular: the structure of the church, which can be clearly identified from the visible remains, the remarkable baptismal font inside and a number of tombs which can be seen around it. The site can be visited on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, by prior arrangement with Marbella town hall.

Castillo de la Duquesa

Manilva

The Castillo de La Duquesa was built during the reign of Carlos III. It is also known as the Fortín de Sabinillas, because it stands beside the district of that name in Manilva. This fortress, which was strategically placed beside the coast so it could be used as a watchtower, is very well preserved. This is thanks to the fact that it has had several different uses in its time, including a police barracks, council offices and even as residences. It is now the home of the Municipal Archaeological Museum, which is another interesting reason to visit.

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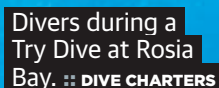
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SUR in English reporter Ash Bolton takes the plunge during his first dive in Gibraltar's historic Rosia Bay

Situated at the gateway to the Mediterranean, Gibraltar has been a safe haven for seafarers for over 2,000 years. And thanks to its rich maritime history, Roman and Phoenician anchors, ancient pottery and World War II artefacts are still being found all these years later around popular dive sites.

Based in Marina Bay, the company offers “Try Dive” experiences for complete beginners to explore the shallow, sheltered waters of Rosia Bay, accompanied by a PADI instructor (Professional Asso-

We then spent 30 minutes gently paddling along the sea floor, spotting shoals of sardines, an octopus and an abun-





Taking the plunge at Rosia Bay. :: A. B.

dance of marine life. The octopus was probably the highlight of my dive, as it was less than a metre from my face when I saw it change colour and shape before shooting off into the distance to escape.

During the dive we were between six and seven metres under the water, which was around 18°C and had visibility of up to 10 metres.

For those who may be slightly nervous about their first dive, the instructors stay by your side and are constantly monitoring you to see if you are okay.

Guillermo was also on hand to point out the marine life, while guiding me around the various underwater obstacles, reefs and rocks.

The experience was, for want of a better word, breathtaking, and it was surprising to see how different the world was under the water.

As I made my way back to the shore, I

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Divers on their way into the bay.
:: DIVE CHARTERS



An old anchor at the bottom of Rosia Bay. :: DIVE CHARTERS

had a massive grin on my face; I didn't expect to enjoy the experience this much.

The cost of the Try Dive is a very reasonable £50, and the morning lasts around three hours.

And if you decide that you want to continue with a life aquatic, Dive Charters offer a range of other courses, including the PADI Open Water Course, the Advanced Open Water Course, the PADI Rescue Diver Course and a host of speciality courses.

Speaking to Guillermo after the dive, he said the next course is £395 to get certified as a diver, with Dive Charters kindly taking the price of the Try Dive off this amount.

Most importantly, if you have a Go Pro or underwater camera, make sure you take it with you as there are some incredible photo opportunities in this little bay.

Popular Dive Sites

SS Rosslyn

Gibraltar's most popular dive site is SS Rosslyn, which is the largest wreck in

Gibraltar and has been featured in just about every diving magazine going, according to Dive Charters.

The ship was a 3,679-ton Cardiff steamer that was built in 1902. Due to strong gales she dragged anchor and,

FACT FILE

► **Temperature.** The coldest the sea gets in Gibraltar is 10°C. In the summer it can reach 24°C.

► **Wetsuits.** Dive Charters use 6-7mm wet suits in the school, although dry suits are available.

► **After dark.** Night diving is possible.

► **Visibility.** Visibility tends to be 10-25 metres.

► **More information.** www.divegib.gi
info@divegib.gi or (00350) 200 45649.



Ash Bolton and instructor Guillermo.

despite assistance from two government tugs, she sank the following morning in 1916.

Thankfully no lives were lost as all crew were evacuated safely.

She now sits on a sandy seabed at the bottom of the South Mole in 23 metres of water and is 350 feet long. A night dive here is not to be missed.

This dive site is only accessible by boat and due to the depth is suitable for advanced certified divers and upwards.

Seven Sisters

This site is a collection of seven rocky pinnacles that rise out of the sea from a depth of 10 metres.

Seven Sisters has evolved over thousands of years and provides a home to a spectacular array of corals and over 165 different types of invertebrate.

Due to the shallowness of the site, it provides excellent photo opportunities and is suitable for all experience levels due to its depth range of three metres to 20 metres.

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The attractions in Júzcar are run by the Sport Mountain active tourism company. :: SUR

Three villages, three zip wires

Comares, Casares and Júzcar have all embraced the idea of introducing thrilling new activities to attract visitors

JAVIER ALMELLONES

Excitement, a large dose of adrenalin and a very different way of enjoying the delights of the countryside in Málaga province.

Three rural villages have now increased their tourist attractions by installing spectacular zip wires which are ideal for those who have an adventurous spirit and don't suffer from vertigo at high altitudes.

Comares, Casares and Júzcar have always been beautiful and unique places to visit, but nowadays they also offer outdoor attractions for all ages, including the younger members of the family.

1. Júzcar

Goodbye to the Smurfs and hello to a theme park

Last year this pretty little place in the Serranía de Ronda officially stopped being the 'Smurf Village' it became in 2011 when Sony moved in with its blue paint to promote its films. Now, however, it calls itself the 'Aldea Azul', or 'Blue Village' instead.

True, the buildings are still blue, but the village centre has become a small theme park where, as well as a climbing wall and hanging bridges, there are two zip wires. One, called the Salto del Villano, is 200 metres in length, and the other, the Salto del Gran Azul, is 110 metres.



Designed for those with an adventurous spirit who don't suffer from vertigo. :: SUR

It costs 15 euros per person to do the two zip wires, although the cost is considerably reduced for group bookings or those who contract other adventure tourism activities on the circuit in Júzcar.

Both lines are run exclusively by the Sport Mountain active tourism company, which is also responsible for the rest

of the adventure park in Júzcar. For further information or reservations, email info@sportmountain.es or phone 664 444 855.

2. Comares

A record-breaking new attraction

This village in Malaga province, known as the 'Balcony of the Axarquía' because

of its spectacular panoramic views, decided to introduce facilities for active tourism a few years ago and its climbing wall, hanging bridges and lovely walking routes were joined by a spectacular zip wire in 2016.

This one runs from the centre of the village and is 436 metres long and over 110 metres high. It is believed to be the



Comares can boast having the longest naturally-anchored zip wire in Spain, and the only one you can ride in a hammock. :: SUR

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Casares as it has never been seen before. :: SUR

longest naturally-anchored zip wire in the country. It is also the only attraction to offer visitors the chance to ride the high line in a hammock.

It has to be booked in advance by contacting the Vive Aventura company which holds the concession for managing it. The price is 15 euros per person, or 20 euros for two goes on the zipwire. For more information or to book, phone 697 218 289.

3. Casares

A birds-eye view of the 'hanging village' for an intense 30 seconds

For a very unusual view of Casares, which is nicknamed the 'hanging vi-

llage' because of the way its houses look as if they are about to tumble down the steep hillside, visitors can take a trip on another very impressive zip wire.

This one is about 300 metres long and 80 metres high, and gives a remarkable birds-eye view of the village during an intense half a minute.

There is no age limit to use this tourist attraction, which was installed at the end of 2017, but there is a weight restriction: users must weigh between 40 and 110 kilos.

It costs 12 euros per person, but there are some discounts available. For example, people who are registered on

the 'padrón' (the municipal population register) in Casares are only pay half price.

Reservations and payments can be made at the Casa Natal de Blas Infante, which is open from Monday to Friday from 10.30am to 2.30pm and 4.30 to 6pm, and from 10am to 2.30pm at weekends and on public holidays.

Alternatively, people who do not live in Casares can buy their tickets directly at the zip wire entrance. Further information is available by phoning 952 89 55 21.

This project became a reality after a majority of local residents voted in favour of it in a referendum.

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Holiday excursions with your four-legged friends

The province of Malaga offers many different pet-friendly places to go

Flora, fauna, monuments and even luxury accommodation are at the disposal of those who travel with their faithful companions

PATRICK STAMANN

Admire the subtropical flora, explore the history of Ronda, stay at nudist accommodation, get to know the natural surroundings of Marbella or observe flamingos at the Fuente de Piedra lagoon - these are just some of the activities in the province of Malaga that you can enjoy in the company of your dog.

El Torcal, a fascinating nature reserve near Antequera, includes several hiking routes.

:: SUR



“Pets allowed.” This short statement is of great importance for many active tourists. And especially for their faithful companions when it comes to planning a trip. On the Costa del Sol there are numerous places where it is possible to do all kinds of outdoor activities without having to leave your dog at home.

The city of Malaga

The provincial capital of Malaga has a breathtaking range of museums and attractions, but there are two places in the city that you should not miss with your loyal friend: the La Concepción botanical garden and the English Cemetery, where pets are allowed too. These places are considered pet-friendly and are very suitable as an open-air destination, not least because of their historical importance.

The botanical garden was opened in 1855 with more than 3,000 plant species from all over the world and was catalogued as a historical garden in 1943. Its subtropical flora and English landscape design with small streams, greenhouses and mature palm trees make these gardens, created by Jorge Loring Oyarzábal and Amalia Heredia Livermore, a unique place to explore. Pets are allowed, as long as they are vaccinated and are kept on a leash.

The English Cemetery, the first Protestant resting place in Spain, is home to the Anglican church of St George. Founded by British consul William Mark in 1830, visitors can enjoy this pearl of romantic architecture together with their pets. Numerous personalities are buried in this cemetery, such as the freedom fighter Robert Boyd (who was shot, together with General Torrijos, on San Andrés beach in 1831), or the writers Jorge Guillén, Gamel

Woolsey and Gerald Brennan.

Along the Malaga coast

By the sea there are several destinations where domestic animals are allowed, for example at Cabopino (Marbella), Laguna Playa (Torre del Mar) or Almanat Naturista (Almayate). At the latter two, animals enjoy even more freedom than elsewhere. These areas are not far from the mouth of the Totalán river and are home to some of the province's best dog beaches.

Near Marbella, a particularly extensive dog park was created in 2013 in the Parque Nagüeles, a beautiful Mediterranean pine forest in the foothills of the Sierra Blanca.

Fuente de Piedra

Another good place for an excursion with your pet is Fuente de Piedra, north of Antequera, and the lagoon of the



Flamingos offer an unparalleled spectacle at the Fuente de Piedra lagoon. :: SUR

same name. Every year in spring, the reserve welcomes an enormous colony of pink flamingos that flock here to reproduce and raise their chicks.

Dogs are allowed both in the José Antonio Valverde visitor centre and in the nature reserve itself, although the visitor centre reserves the right to refuse the animals if the number of visitors is too high. On the other hand, there are no restrictions on the hiking trails.

Moreover, Fuente de Piedra has one of the largest campsites in the region and allows its guests to bring their four-legged friends with them.

Hiking inland

Inland there are many beautiful places where visitors can spend an eventful day with their animals, such as El Torcal in Antequera, the breathtaking monumental town of Ronda, the Fuente de



Families can take their dogs to the designated beaches where pets are allowed. :: SUR

Esparto hiking trail in Frigiliana or the Chillar river in Nerja. In addition, a relaxing stay in the legendary spa of Carratraca is a must.

The province of Malaga offers a wide range of pet-friendly leisure activities, from active tourism, with a variety of hiking routes, to relaxing retreats. It's also possible to enjoy refreshing drinks at a vantage point directly by the sea, and you can even stay overnight in an exclusive spa that accepts pets. The province offers a number of surprises, such as the Torcal de Antequera nature reserve.

Karst landscapes

This unique and spectacular place is of great geological value and never fails to fascinate visitors. There are excellent opportunities to hike with your pet and there are many attractive animal-friendly accommodation options in the surrounding area, such as the Casa Rural Vega de Antequera, the Casa del Hortelano or the Casa de Los Duendes which is located in the nearby village of Bobadilla.

The Torcal and its karst landscape have been declared a World Heritage

Site by Unesco. Here an extensive network of hiking trails offers visitors countless opportunities to enjoy the beauty of the landscape with their dogs - again only if they have their vaccinations and are kept on a leash.

Further east

And what about the eastern Costa del Sol? A little uphill, in the foothills of the Sierras de Almijara, Tejeda y Alhama nature reserve, lies the picturesque village of Frigiliana, known for its relaxed cosmopolitanism.

In the surroundings of the former Fábrica del Ingenio there is a footpath, not too difficult, leading to the Fuente del Esparto. It stretches for about 7.5 kilometres along the river Hígueron and can be completed in about three hours.

Another destination on the eastern Costa del Sol is the river Chillar. It flows through the municipalities of Nerja, Frigiliana and Cómpeta. The eight-kilometre-long hiking trail follows the riverbed and has become one of the most popular in the region among hikers and nature lovers. On a large part of the route you can combine hiking and

swimming, which is particularly interesting in the summer months. Pets are allowed all along the route.

An excursion to a dream town

Ronda is a breathtaking town, wherever you let your eyes wander. The impressive Tajo, undoubtedly the most emblematic point of the city, is a natural gorge of more than 100 metres deep, dug into the rock by the Guadalevín river.

A visit to the bullring is also highly recommended. It is one of the oldest in the country and hosts the Corridos Goyescas every year, where bullfighters perform in historic costumes from the time of Goya. Pets are allowed in the arena, but for safety reasons they are not allowed in the bullfighting museum below the stands.

There is a lot of animal-friendly accommodation in and around the town, such as the centrally-located Hotel Reina Victoria, El Horcajo in the Grazalema nature reserve or the El Cortijo Las Piletas country inn, where you can spend pleasant and relaxing hours accompanied by your faithful friend.

Legendary thermal baths

The Villa Padierna Thermas spa in Carratraca is a very special place for pet owners, because it is one of only a few luxury establishments in the province that allow dogs. If you want to relax with your pet in a unique ambience, this is the place.

In the spa, as well as in the adjoining five-star hotel, you can feel the history. Even as far back as the Moors, they knew how to benefit from the healing waters of Carratraca. In those times, the place was called 'Karr-al-krak' (cleansing of wounds). The current complex was built in the 18th century on behalf of King Fernando VII and just a few years ago it was lavishly restored and equipped with modern amenities.

Moreover, it is worth exploring the enchanting landscape of the village on one of the well-developed hiking trails in the shade of the dense pines.

For a trip to a pleasant, breathtaking or picturesque destination, Malaga offers many options that do not mean you have to leave your faithful friend behind.



Bathers enjoy a day at the beach in the company of their dogs. :: SUR

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The region of Andalucía offers cyclists stunning views. :: A. B.

Discovering Andalucía on two wheels

Tough climbs, breathtaking views, epic descents and plenty of coffee await cyclists on the roads of southern Spain

Routes of varying length take cyclists through the countryside of the region's eight provinces, while fans of the sport can follow cycling's elite in the Tours of Spain and Andalucía

ASH BOLTON

It may come as no surprise that cycling is a popular pastime in Spain.

Any Sunday you can see hundreds of lycra-clad cyclists flying along country roads as they explore the region's countless white washed villages and stunning landscapes.

Thanks to an abundance of sunshine, smooth roads and minimal traffic in the countryside, the sport has exploded in popularity in recent years.

In fact there are over 5,000 annual cycling races and events to suit cyclists

of all levels throughout the country.

Professional races include the Vuelta a España (Tour of Spain) in September and October, which is one of the most important cycling events in the world, and usually includes some stages in Andalucía; and the Ruta del Sol Vuelta a Andalucía (Tour of Andalucía), held in February.

Luckily for this sun-drenched region, the climate offers ideal weather conditions for cycling all year round.

What's more, this two-wheeled pastime is a unique and healthy way to discover Andalucía, allowing you to sight-see while enjoying your favourite sport.

An important point to note is that during the summer temperatures in Andalucía can top 40°C, so many cyclists set off before the sun rises and are back by midday.

For that reason it's important to take extra water and sun cream on any long cycles in the countryside.

Most towns along the coast have free organised cycling groups that set off together on weekend mornings.

For example, dozens of cyclists meet at the Piruli (the copper tower) in Marbella, while others meet at the Gibraltar/Spain border on weekend mornings.

Stunning scenery

One popular ride that attracts hundreds of cyclists every weekend is the Gibraltar to Jimena de la Frontera route. This 90km circuit passes through Castellar de la Frontera and is blessed with plenty of stunning scenery, safe cycle lanes and minimal traffic.

More importantly, there are plenty of cafes to refuel with a coffee and toast with ham and tomatoes.

And if you're feeling particularly



On the road near Benahavís. :: EFE

strong in the legs and fancy a challenge, you can add cycling up to the castle at Castellar to add a few extra kilometres.

Another popular ride that features breathtaking views of Gibraltar and Morocco and epic descents is a 136km route that starts and finishes in Estepona - although you'll certainly need your climbing legs on as you cycle 11,475ft uphill.

The route climbs up quiet country roads through the villages of Casares, Gaucín, El Colmenar, El Robledal, Cortes de la Frontera and La Cañada del Real Tesoro, before heading back to Estepona via the Sierra Bermeja nature park.

Or if you're more of a part-time cyclist, a less strenuous route takes you from Marbella to Istán and back, a 30km round trip in all.

It's fair to say it's a hard cycle up to the whitewashed village of Istán, but

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(Near Carmen Thyssen Museum)



Cyclists cross the province of Jaén as part of the Vuelta a Andalucía. :: EFE

the views and ride back down to the coast will certainly put a spring in your pedal strokes.

For the more serious cyclist, the Sierra Nevada above Granada is often used by professionals for altitude training.

And once you've conquered this mountain range, you've got the historic city of Granada to rest at, where tapas are free with your drinks.

Andalucía in one go

But if you're looking at coming to Andalucía specifically for a cycling holiday, then feast your eyes on the TransAndalus, which makes cycling the Camino de Santiago look like a Sunday stroll.

This 2,000km route was designed by a group of cycling enthusiasts as a way to get to know Andalucía's eight provinces by bike.

One third of the route passes though protected



Cycling past the Alhambra, Granada. :: EFE

areas and includes the volcanic landscapes of Cabo de Gata in Almería, Spain's most popular tourist attraction the Alhambra Palace in Granada, and, pedalling through the wetlands of Doñana National Park in Huelva.

The circular route avoids roads and sticks to paths, lanes and cattle

tracks. And if you don't fancy doing the whole route, you can cycle smaller bite-sized sections.



The all-important coffee break. :: A. B.

MORE INFORMATION

► **TransAndalus** www.transandalus.org

► **Bicycle hire** www.explorabike.com

► **Spanish Cycling Federation** For details of clubs, competitions, routes and general cycling information www.rfec.com



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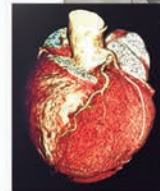
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ÉLIXE
CLINIC MARBELLA

Historical heritage with tropical flair

Salobreña offers, in addition to extensive beaches, numerous sights that illustrate its eventful history

BEATRICE LAVALLE

With kilometres of sandy beaches, Salobreña, in the province of Granada, is best known as a bathing paradise. However, its subtropical climate and lush gardens, with average temperatures of around 20 degrees, transform this area of the Costa Tropical into the so-called Orchard of Europe.

Avocados, loquats, mangos, papayas and custard apples are grown here, along with other garden fruits that thrive very well in this area. Agriculture, together with tourism, is the most important economic activity of the municipality.

On the other hand, Salobreña also boasts a rich historical heritage, dating back to the Neolithic Age, with important archaeological sites in the Llobres district, from the time of the Phoenicians (who founded Selambina here) to the Romans and Moors. Under Moorish rule, the town was named Salubanya and its castle, built upon an abruptly rising rock, became one of the most important centres of Moorish rule on the Granada coast.

If you want to explore the historic centre of Salobreña, you have to have a certain level of fitness. The town, built on a rock, is a maze of steep, labyrinthine streets leading to the Moorish fortress. But the arduous ascent is rewarded with numerous secluded corners, flower-filled little streets and architectural curiosities such as Salobreña's narrowest street in the Barrio de la Fuente, which is barely more than half a metre wide, or Calle Bóveda, a medieval tunnelled street that connects the Albaycín district to the former medina.



The old town of Salobreña is made up of a maze of steep little streets. :: BEATRICE LAVALLE

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In the Middle Ages, Calle Bóveda connected the castle to the town. :: B. L.



The castle is currently being refurbished. :: B. L.



A rock altar by the Paseo de las Flores. :: B. L.



The Paseo de las Flores with the castle complex on top of the rock. :: B. L.

Remains of the old city can still be found in many parts of the municipality.

A walk through the past

Salobreña boasts one of the best-preserved castles in the province of Granada. The Paseo de las Flores leads up to it and it is on this slope, four to five thousand years ago, that the first inhabitants of Salobreña settled. Today it is a flower-lined walk with gardens at the foot of the castle. A small altar with a Madonna figure can also be seen in a crevice in the rock, and the Puerta del Postigo, a medieval gate that was part of the former city wall, still stands.

The Puerta del Postigo leads to one of

the Miradores del Cielo - vantage points from which you can enjoy a very special panoramic view. Among them are the

Mirador del Gato, the Mirador Hoyo de la Frascunda and the one dedicated to flamenco singer Enrique Morente.

The castle, which crowns the village and is today one of the main attractions, was first mentioned in the tenth century. From the fortress, strategically built on the rock, there is a panoramic view from the Mediterranean to the Sierra Nevada to the north.

During the Nasrid dynasty, this defensive structure also served as a prison for various rulers such as sultans Yusuf III and Mulley Hacén. In 1489, Christian troops recaptured the fortress, which was later forgotten as it was no longer of military importance.

Today it is possible to visit the immense castle complex, which includes the Alcázar, surrounded by four towers, as well as two other areas that were added to the complex after the Christian conquest.

The castle, which is currently undergoing restoration work, shows part of a relatively well-preserved Nasrid dwelling, especially the bathroom with its tiled floor, which was clearly divided into different areas such as the anteroom, cold and warm chambers, a relaxation room and heating system.

Other attractions include the Rosario church dedicated to the patron saint of Salobreña, built in the 16th century in Mudéjar style on top of a former mosque. Originally, its roof was covered with ornately decorated wooden ceilings that were destroyed in a fire in the 19th century and then restored. The tiled side door and a 16th-century Virgen del Rosario figure are also worth seeing.

Equally charming is the square in front of the former town hall with its archways and fountain. The old town hall building now houses the historical museum, which is currently closed. In the building there is a vault that served as a prison in the 16th century and in which some antique weaponry can still be seen.

INFORMATION

► **How to get there:** From Malaga you reach Salobreña by taking the A-7 motorway towards Almeria. Exit at km 314 and then follow the N-340.

► **Tourist Office:** Plaza de Goya, Tel. 958 610 314.

► **Sights and Attractions:** The Castillo de Salobreña, the Nuestra Señora del Rosario church, the Albaycín, Brocal and De la Fuente districts, the Paseo de las Flores and the Miradores.



The Enrique Morente Mirador overlooking the coast :: B. L.



The Nuestra Señora del Rosario church. :: B. L.

Another curiosity is Casa Roja, a building from the beginning of the 20th century that was constructed by the owners of the San Francisco sugar factory, which today houses municipal offices and the Visitor Centre of the Foundation dedicated to the writer Martín Recuerda. This building stands out from the sea of whitewashed houses, not only because of its red paint, but also because of its architecture, unusual for the region, crowned with a polygonal tower.

Gastronomy

Thanks to its location by the sea, its proximity to the Sierra Nevada and its

tropical climate, Salobreña offers a very varied gastronomy.

A wide range of fish and seafood dishes, employing a wide variety of preparation methods can be found here, such as dried and grilled squid or migas (breadcrumbs) with sardines, as well as a rich selection of meat dishes and sausages from the remote areas of the province. The fact that the Costa Tropical is the main tropical fruit growing area is also reflected in the menus with exotic salads made with mango and avocado or custard apple ice cream.



The climate favours the growth of numerous plants. :: B.L.

Also delicious are the pastries with Moorish origins such as Cazuela Mohina or Pestiños de Vélez. Less well-known might be the fact that the province of Granada produces high-quality red, white and rosé wines.

Salobreña also offers the typical attractions of a beach resort. On the coast, long sandy beaches alternate with small coves between rocky slopes, a true paradise for divers. All this makes Salobreña a popular destination with something for everyone.



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Racing to Sanlúcar



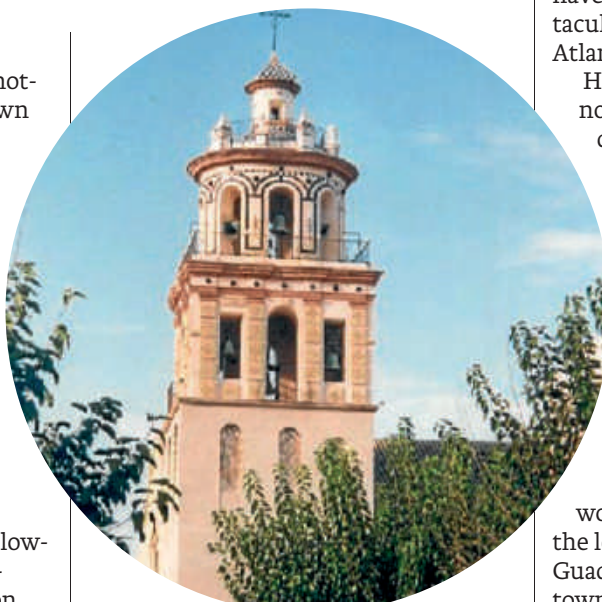
Horseracing takes place on the beach at low tide on several days in August.

:: SUR

This town in Cadiz province is host to a unique horseracing event, held at the mouth of the Guadalquivir river

August is a very special month in Sanlúcar de Barrameda. During the hottest part of the season, this Cadiz town finds itself host to one of the most important summertime events in Andalucía, the celebrated horse races that take place along the beach, with the mouth of the Guadalquivir river serving as an incredible backdrop.

The races, which have been officially declared an event of international tourist interest, take place in two stages, the first in 2019 from 9 to 11 August and the second two weeks later from 25 to 27. The dates of the races vary slightly each year, depending on when the tide is lowest during the evening, since the entirety of the competition is held upon the sand of the Sanlúcar beach. This allows the horses to run more easily and there is space for the public to gather and watch. Essentially, this beach in the province of Cadiz becomes a racecourse for much of August.



The belltower of the parish church of Nuestra Señora de la O.

:: SUR

As a prelude to the races, jockeys tend to parade their horses along the shore before moving to their respective starting points. The natural setting of the competition is unique for its size, covering 20,000 square metres. And spectators have the added delight of watching spectacular sunsets over Atlantic.

However, the Sanlúcar horse races are not the only excuse to visit the town during summer.

Local cuisine

The prawns and the manzanilla sherry are particularly well known both inside and outside of Andalucía for their unmatched quality. Tortillitas de camarones (shrimp fritters) are another traditional dish that can be found in most local food establishments.

From a historical perspective, it's worth remembering that Sanlúcar is the lookout point for the mouth of the Guadalquivir. No wonder, then, that the town is home to a complex system of fortresses, formed by the castle of Espíritu Santo (long disappeared), that of San Salvador at the harbour of Bonanza (partly covered by the sand dunes) and the castle of Santiago, located in the highest part of the city. The latter is the



A view of the town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda. :: SUR

focal point of any tourist visit.

The town is also known for its various other attractions, related to its civil and religious heritage. These include the parish church of Our Lady of the O, the church of Santo Domingo and Las Covachas, gothic arches at the palace of the Duke of Medina-Sidonia.

As well as the many monuments it has to offer, visitors shouldn't forget that Sanlúcar is just across the river from the Doñana national park, with its unique marshes, beaches, dunes and woodlands.

WHAT ELSE TO SEE

► **Church of Our Lady of the O (Nuestra Señora de la O).** The town's main parish church, constructed in 1360 under the auspices of the first countess of Medina. Some Gothic Mudejar features still remain today.

► **Castillo de Santiago.** Also known as the Cava del Castillo, this old fortress is found in the highest part of the town. Constructed by the second Duke of Medina-Sidonia, some late-Gothic fea-

res can still be seen today.

► **Manzanilla sherry museum.** Information centre set up by the Barbadillo company to celebrate the local wine. Here, visitors can taste and learn about the manzanilla wine made in the area.

► **Las Covachas.** Unique Gothic arches, which in their day formed part of the façade of the palace of the Duke of Medina-Sidonia.

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Cool heights



Several routes lead up to the top of Torrecilla from Tolox, Yunquera and El Burgo. :: SUR

Escape to the highest peaks in the mountain ranges of Malaga province

The province is one of the most mountainous in Spain, and many of them are over 1,500 metres in height

J. ALMELLONES

Malaga is one of the highest provinces in Spain thanks to mountain ranges such as the Serranía de Ronda, Arco Calizo Central and Tejeda y Almijara, among others. These are home to some of the highest peaks and in most cases there are official hiking routes for those who are tempted to reach them.

However, this is not something to be tackled casually. These mountains are especially difficult, not only because they are so steep but also because the paths are extremely narrow in places and the ground is very uneven. It is essential to study the route carefully beforehand and to go with people who have plenty of experience. Of course, suitable clothing and footwear are also necessary, and so are sufficient water and something to eat.

Avoid the hottest times of the day in summer; night hikes are organised in some areas. It is also advisable to take maps, mobile devices with GPS and hik-

ing poles when tackling this type of route.

1. La Maroma. 2,068 metres

Also known as Pico Tejedo, this is a real challenge for walkers who want to move on to hiking up mountains. The routes most commonly used are the ones which start at Canillas de Aceituno and the Alcázar recreation area in Alcaucín.



La Maroma. :: SUR

2. Torrecilla. 1,919 metres

There are also several starting points to reach the top of La Torrecilla in the Sierra de las Nieves. One is via the Peñón de los Enamorados, either from Yunquera or El Burgo, or the alternatives are Los Quejigales recreation area just outside Ronda or from Cerro Corona in Tolox.

3. Navachica. 1,832 metres

To reach this peak there is a route which starts at the iconic Fuente del Esparto, in the municipality of Nerja.

After going up through the Barranco de los Cazadores, the ascent becomes difficult and it is essential to be well-prepared for it.



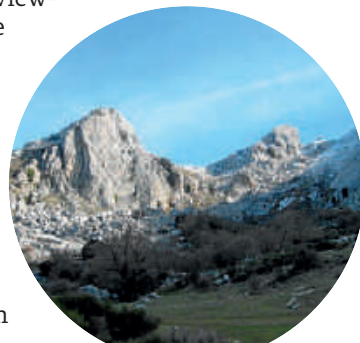
Lucero. :: SUR

4. Lucero. 1,779 metres

This pyramid-shaped peak in the Sierra de Almijara is especially interesting because there are the remains of a building at the top instead of a triangulation point. This used to be a Guardia Civil post, constructed after the Civil War, to watch for guerrillas.

5. Chamizo. 1,637 metres

The top of Chamizo (Arco Calizo Central) is reached by a track which starts at the chapel in Villanueva del Rosario. After passing the Alto Hondonero viewpoint the route becomes much harder and the final stretch, which is very steep, runs through very narrow and stony paths.



Chamizo. :: SUR

The Sierra Tejeda y Almijara boasts the highest peak in the province of Malaga. :: SUR




CAMINITO DEL REY

Information and bookings
www.caminitodelrey.info

TAKE
NOTE

El Tajo. The winding path that leads to the El Tajo gorge is demanding and will be difficult for those with restricted mobility. The views of the iconic bridge will take your breath away, and so will the walk back into town.

TONY BRYANT

Ronda: destination of the romantic traveller

Numerous celebrated literary figures from all over Europe visited the town during the 19th and 20th centuries

The 'Romantics' have played an important role in promoting to the outside world Ronda's fascinating landscape

TONY BRYANT

The picturesque town of Ronda is one of the main destinations on the itinerary of the romantic traveller's tour of Andalucía. Renowned for its dramatic escarpments and panoramic views of the Serranía de Ronda, visitors make a beeline for the El Tajo gorge, a stunning ravine that is 500 metres in length, 50 metres in width and with a depth of 100 metres. This iconic landscape has featured in the works of many artists over the past 200 years because of its long-standing association with notorious bandits and smugglers. Numerous celebrated literary figures visited the town during the 19th century, and these were followed by some of the most influential writers of the 20th century. This 'golden age' gave Andalucía its storybook image, because it was a time when writers from all parts of Europe and beyond began to tell of the strange traditions and the harsh landscapes of areas like Ronda - where the antics of the 'bandoleros' supplied animation to their stories.

Romanticism

The 'Romantics' have played an important role in promoting to the outside world Ronda's fascinating landscape and the colourful history associated with it. In the first half of the 19th century,



A scene from the annual Ronda Romántica reenactment event. :: SUR

Ronda enjoyed the presence of Benjamin Disraeli, George Borrow, Prosper Mérimée, Richard Ford and Washington Irving, among others.

Romanticism was an artistic, literary, musical and intellectual movement that evolved towards the end of the

18th century in Europe. It was characterised by its emphasis on individualism as well as the glorification of the past, and reached its peak in the first half of the 19th century.

Washington Irving, author of classic works like *Sleepy Hollow* and *Tales of*



The iconic
Tajo gorge is
one of Ronda's
main attractions.

•• SUR



The tiled wall recording the thoughts of the Romantic Travellers. :: T. BRYANT

the Alhambra, wrote about Ronda's stunning landscape and the thrill of the bandits, two themes which appealed most to the Romantics. He was one of the first American writers to make his mark in Europe and was greatly admired by Lord Byron, the most flamboyant and notorious of the Romantics.

Irving's Spanish works dealt with subjects such as the Moors, the Alhambra Palace and Christopher Columbus, and it was while on a trip to Spain at the beginning of the 19th century that he visited Ronda and was immediately captivated by its beauty. He wrote about the splendour of the gorge in his journal in 1828, commenting on the "beautiful effect of the moonlight breaking through the fog on the bridge", and the "hanging white houses that follow the river at the bottom of the abyss".

Another of the writers who contributed to Spain's romantic image was Richard Ford. The English travel writer trekked alone on horseback across the Sierra de Ronda, striking up interesting friendships with characters like El Tempranillo, the most famous highwayman in Spanish history.

Ford's much acclaimed guide, *A Handbook for Travellers in Spain*, was published in 1845 and is considered a defining moment in the genre. He kept detailed notebooks to recall what he saw and was also a skilled drawer, making sketches to accompany his amusing, and

sometimes harsh, observations of Spain.

A fairytale image

Ford was a long-time friend of George Borrow, author of *The Bible in Spain* (1843), which is said to have greatly inspired Mérimée's *Carmen*. George Burrow also penned *The Zin-cali*, a classic work that focused on the customs and traditions of the Spanish Gypsies. Borrow travelled through Andalucía selling bibles and became intimately involved with the Gypsy communities and his observations consisted of all of the stereotypical aspects of life in 19th century Andalucía.

Prosper Mérimée based part of his novel *Carmen* in Ronda, and embellished it with all of these elements. Mérimée's creation of a sultry Gypsy called Carmen promoted the fairytale image of Andalucía to the rest of the world. Set to a backdrop of the mountain ranges of Ronda, the love story is spun around the seedy world of the Andalusian Gypsies.

The French composer, Georges Bizet based his four-act opera on Mérimée's novel, but it was not at first well received, largely due to its controversial main characters, who shocked and outraged the first audiences: it is now one of the most popular and frequently performed operas.



A scene from the past. :: T. B.

Benjamin Disraeli arrived in Andalucía in June 1830 in pursuit of his Sephardic origins. He visited Granada, Cadiz, Malaga and Ronda, where he became intrigued by the dangers of the bandits who ruled the Sierras. The memories of that trip would be reflected in a series of letters that were published in 1885 under the title of *Home Letters*. Of Ronda, he said, "the impending danger made a delightful life".

The thoughts of many of these Romantics have been preserved on a deco-

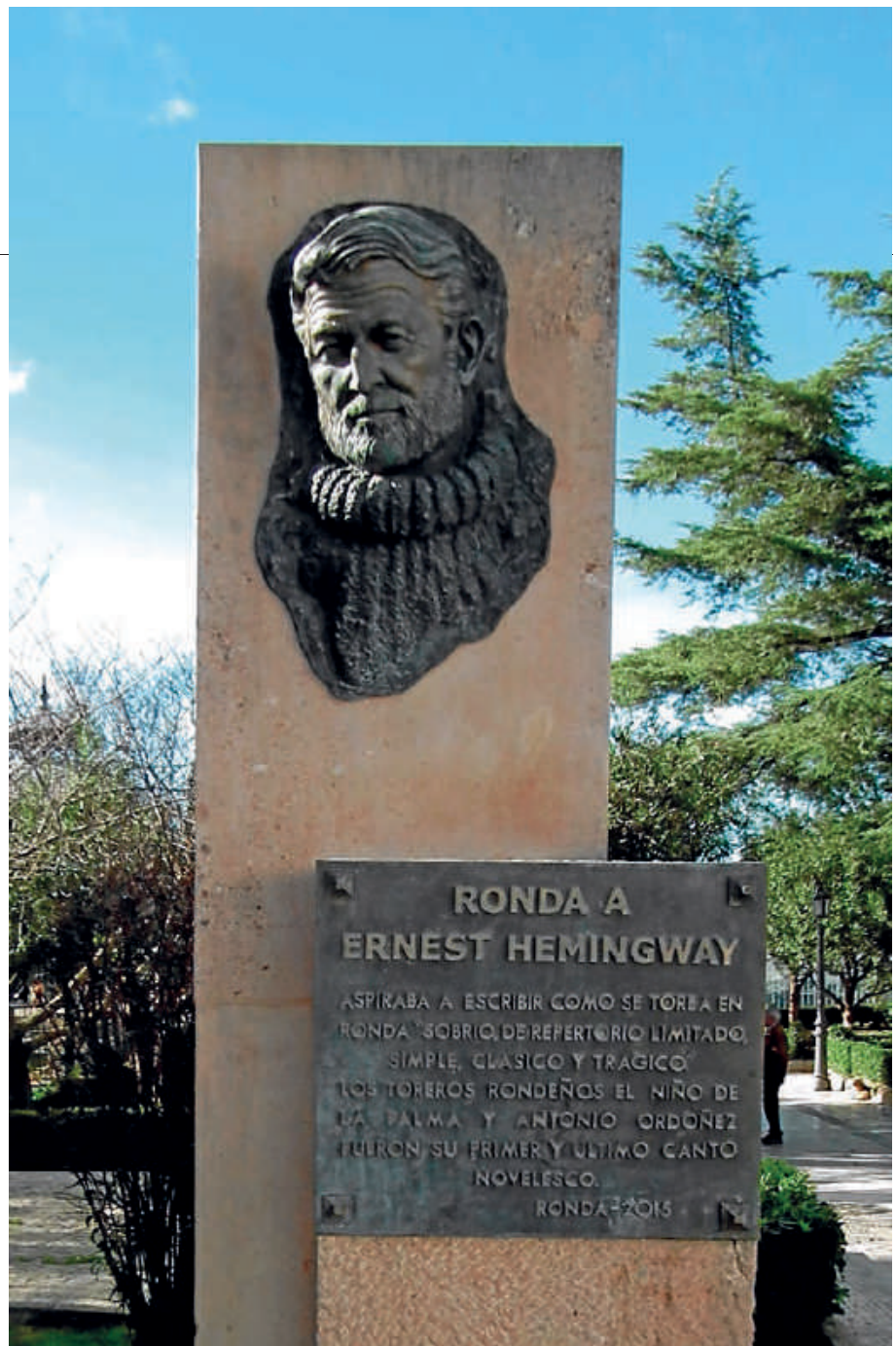
rative tiled wall one passes when crossing the bridge into the old town. Along with a hand-painted plaque of Ronda's landscape, there are eleven tiles with quotes by the likes of Disraeli, Ford, Mérimée and Irving. This colourful ceramic display is a favourite background for tourists' selfies.

There is also a viewpoint named Mirador de los Viajeros Románticos, which is situated on the far side of the Puente Nueva. This spot offers stunning views of the Sierras de Ronda and is where many of the Romantics began their descent in search of the authentic Andalusian experience.

20th century

Ernest Hemingway and Orson Welles spent many summers in Ronda during the mid-twentieth century. Both wrote about the town's beauty and its famous bullfighting traditions and their collective accounts have greatly contributed to Ronda's popularity. Hemingway's novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* describes the execution of Nationalist sympathisers during the Spanish Civil War, and he allegedly based the account on killings that took place at the cliffs of El Tajo. Ronda pays homage to Hemingway and Welles with bronze monuments situated on the Paseo Blas Infante.

Orson Welles was greatly inspired by Ronda, where he made several documentaries about bullfighting. His final journey to Ronda was in 1987, when his ashes were buried in a well on the property of bullfighter Antonio Ordóñez.



The monument to Ernest Hemingway is situated close to the bullring. :: T. BRYANT



TAKE
NOTE

No excuse. It's becoming easier to go green with more and more environmentally friendly alternatives readily available so there's no excuse!

JENNIE RHODES

Top tips for an eco-friendly summer

Don't put your efforts to help the environment on hold for the holidays



Try to avoid using plastic bags while shopping.

:: SUR

A few simple changes can make a really positive impact on the environment, including saving water, thinking before buying and disposing of cigarette butts responsibly

JENNIE RHODES

While we may be on holiday, or at least winding things down a bit over the summer months, the planet still needs saving. There's no excuse to think that just because we're enjoying the warm weather that our eco-efforts can be put on hold until September. Here are a few things you can do to help the environment over the summer:

Alternatives to plastic

Plastic is the word of the year. Unless you have had your head buried in the sand for the past 12 months, you won't have escaped the mounting pressure on governments and individuals to drastically reduce the use of plastics, which end up in the sea or build up in developing countries, many of which are, quite rightly, turning it away.

Say no to straws! Single-use plastics are to be banned across the EU and other countries such as Canada from 2021. But why not start already? Do you really need those straws in your cocktail? Ask the bar staff not to put them in your glass and think twice before popping some on your basket at the supermarket.

Everyone loves a barbecue and especially when it's on the beach. It's so much more practical to take disposable plates and cutlery, but make sure you

replace the plastic stuff for more environmentally friendly options, like bamboo. They're readily available and can be bought in shops such as Casa and also online (try Malaga-based www.ecopassion.es for great eco-friendly options).

Take your Tupperware to the supermarket or market when buying fish and meat for your barbecue, instead of using plastic bags.

In the bathroom

Start to use shampoo bars and a good old-fashioned bar of soap for showers, instead of buying endless plastic bottles. As they are not liquid, shampoo bars don't have to go through the airport scanner in a plastic bag either, so the benefits are endless. Try Lush or Ecopassion for delicious-smelling shampoo and conditioner. More and more companies are beginning to catch on to the idea too. They may seem a little more expensive than bottles of shampoo, but they last at least twice as long as your average bottle.

While you're in the bathroom, why not swap your plastic toothbrush for a bamboo one and replace wet wipes for

good old fashioned flannels! Bamboo and muslin are great, soft fabrics for washing your face.

Shops are full of cheap gimmicks at this time of year, but ask yourself if you really need them. Most are made of plastic. Those inflatable drinks holders in the shape of flamingoes or pineapples - are they really necessary?

Save water

Water. We need to save it! In the heat of summer, there's nothing quite like a cold shower for cooling your body temperature down. But if you really can't face the idea and still crave warm shower, make sure you collect the cold run-off in a bucket kept in the bathroom. There'll be enough to either water the plants or flush the loo!

It's important to drink plenty of fluids in summer, but instead of buying plastic bottles why not buy a reusable one and fill it up with filtered or tap water?

Charity shops

Charity shops have always ruled the high street in the UK and are beginning to increase in popularity here too. Why not take all of those winter clothes you didn't wear last season down to your nearest shop, and while you're there have a look for a new pair of shorts or t-shirt? You'll save money, be donating to charity and helping the environment all at the same time. Did you know that the fashion industry is the second most polluting after the oil industry?

Butt out!

If you smoke, make sure you take something to collect your cigarette ends in, rather than leaving them on the beach. Each cigarette filter contaminates eight litres of water and is packed with toxins. According to a study carried out by Longwood University in Vancouver, 95 per cent of cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, which is a type of plastic, taking 10 years to biodegrade. Town halls along the Costa del Sol are currently looking into making smoking on beaches illegal. So, use these tips for a guilt-free, environmentally friendly summer!



Eco shampoo and toothbrushes. :: J. R.



Ask for drinks without straws. :: SUR



Use ashtrays on the beach. :: SUR

TOP TIPS IN A NUTSHELL

- ▶ Say no to straws in drinks.
- ▶ Take reusable containers to shops when buying meat and fish.
- ▶ Swap bottles of shampoo and conditioner for shampoo bars.
- ▶ Swap wet wipes for bamboo or muslin flannels.
- ▶ Use bamboo plates, cups and cutlery instead of plastic ones.
- ▶ Save water by collecting run-off in a bucket
- ▶ Collect cigarette butts in a small container instead of leaving them on the beach.
- ▶ Donate to and shop in charity shops.

The alternative Camino

Mark Nayler walks the Vía de la Plata, an 18-day pilgrimage from Zamora to Santiago

Dirt tracks on
the way from
Tabara to
Santa Marta.

:: M. N.

This lesser known Camino de Santiago has different scenery and fewer pilgrims, but the same pain, fatigue, new friendships and sense of freedom

MARK NAYLER

I don't think I've ever felt as perfect as I did that morning, either physically or mentally. In glorious sunshine and under a deep blue sky, I trekked along endless dirt tracks from Tabara towards the riverside village of Santa Marta de Tera. I felt light and strong, like I was gliding rather than walking. It was such a peaceful, liberating sensation, made sweeter by comparison with the previous day's slog.

This, finally, was the kind of experience I'd been hoping for when I decided to walk the Camino de Santiago (or Way of St James) pilgrimage, following the Vía de la Plata from Zamora to Santiago de Compostela.

The Vía de la Plata - a 940-kilometre track that starts in Seville and weaves through Mérida, Salamanca and Zamora before entering Galicia - is nowhere near as famous as the Camino Francés (or French Way), which stretches from the Pyrenees across northern Spain. Yet that fame can put pilgrims off as well as attracting them.

During the Camino, a German hiker named Christian became my closest walking companion. Christian had started in St Jean Pied de Port, in the French Pyrenees, with the intention of walking the 770 kilometres to Santiago; but after a few days on the Camino Francés, put off by the sheer number of other pilgrims, he reset and caught a train to Salamanca, opting instead for the relatively empty tracks of the Plata.

My Vía de la Plata started in Zamora and ended in Santiago after eighteen days of walking, two rest days (in Puebla de Sanabria and Ourense) and a total distance of 423 kilometres.

Inevitably, when you're walking day-in, day-out, not every trek is going to be a good one. I shudder to recall my

"Mombuey Meltdown", which occurred on the fifth day of my pilgrimage. I could have split the 36 kilometres between Santa Marta and Mombuey in two by staying overnight in Rionegro del Puente, but I didn't want to: I felt I had to take on this monster trek and conquer it. So off I went at 8am and the first fifteen kilometres were fine, although my whole body felt tired and heavy from the very first step.

The middle section passed in an adrenaline-fuelled blur alongside a vast lake, leading into a brutal finale. Weaving alongside a motorway under merciless afternoon sun, the last ten kilometres of the track offered zero shade. Every step was painful, both in legs and feet, and my rucksack - weighing about 7.5 kilos including a 1.5-litre water bottle - felt heavier than ever. When I eventually got to the albergue (as the pilgrims' hostels are called), I crawled into my sleeping bag and thought of quitting, but other people pulled me through: my sister and parents, to whom I poured it all out over text that black evening, and the other pilgrims I



The Vía de la Plata is scattered with ruined farmhouses. :: M. N.

spoke to as I nursed my aching feet.

The next morning I decided to split what would have been another massive walk to Puebla de Sanabria by just doing sixteen kilometres to Asturianos. There I found an albergue with a lovely garden, where a cat was raising her kittens in the branches of a huge tree. I recuperated by hanging out with the other two pilgrims staying in Asturianos that night, eating and drinking under that gorgeous oak. And once I had, I felt good about having vanquished the monster hike, which proved to be the longest single day's walk of my Camino (the second-longest being 33 kilometres on the thirteenth day, from Laza to Xunquiera de Ambia).

Internal battles on the track intermingle with logistical challenges. In the northern Plata's smallest stopo-

vers, there are no cash points and card payments are rarely accepted in bars or shops. Also, most of the albergues require you be in by 10pm and on the road by 8am. Fatigue means that this is not necessarily annoying, but in the smallest villages there is often nothing open for breakfast at that time, so you may have to start walking before you're fully fuelled. To avoid starting on an empty stomach, it's advisable to buy supplies for the morning the day before.

On this note, the last albergue before

Santiago is in the hamlet of Outeiro, where there are no services at all. You're better off stopping four kilometres before, in the charming village of Ponte Ulla, where there are bars, a supermarket and private, en suite rooms in Pension Juanito for just €15 each.

All of the albergues (or "refugios") on my Camino were clean and well-staffed, with beds in mixed dormitories costing between €5 and €10 a night. But even when tired, I didn't always sleep well: the snoring could be very loud and on several occasions I was woken by pilgrims getting ready as early as 5.30am, strapping headlights on for the pre-dawn hours. Earplugs are a sound investment, as is the occasional private room for an undisturbed rest.

Overall, though, the rewards of a Camino are enormous and the pleasures unforgettable. It's intensely liberating

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to wake up each morning, strap everything you need to your back, and set off on foot for an unknown destination. The sense of pure freedom I felt on my walk to Santa Marta - and on all of the best mornings during my Camino - was totally unlike anything I'd experienced before.

Then there are the people and the sense of camaraderie in the albergues. I have a new friend in Christian, with whom I walked the last few days to Santiago after a chance meeting in the stylish city of Ourense. Both of us were suffering after difficult walks, and I know my Camino would have been very different had we not met in a bar that evening. I had dinner with Margaret and Saskia, Australian and Dutch ladies respectively, in several villages along the way; both in their 70s, they walked the entire Vía de la Plata from Seville to Santiago. And outside the albergue in Campobeceros I smoked a couple of cigarettes with Raúl from Tarragona: then on his fourteenth Camino, he described it as "the greatest drug in the world".

Reflection

What of that great Camino Cliché, that you "find yourself" while walking this ancient pilgrimage? This carries the implication that the Camino is all about oneself, that it's a process or experience that is focused inwards. I found this to be only partially true, which is not to ignore its solitary, introspective aspects: after all, being alone in the middle of nowhere for hours on end, often in some kind of pain, gives rise to all sorts of self-examination and reflection.

But for me the Camino was about other people, and what they were going through, at least as much as it was about my own journey. We all need help sometimes, and had I not had support from my family or other pilgrims, I wouldn't have made it to Santiago, where a bittersweet arrival preceded an afternoon of celebration with new friends. The thing is to get there however long it takes, to help and be helped along the way, to push yourself through the bad times and to cherish the freedom of being on the road.



Walking along the course of a stream in Galicia. :: M. NAYLER



A pilgrim's shrine near Santiago. :: M. N.



Arrows guide the way. :: M. N.



Desert-like landscapes in the province of Zamora. :: M. NAYLER

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Festivals with unique backdrops



The Starlite festival takes place in the former Nagüeles quarry. :: SUR

Some of the Costa's big music venues are steeped in history while others involve dancing your flip-flops off on the beach

This summer's musical offer promises classical concerts in the Nerja caves, Sting in Marbella's Nagüeles quarry and jazz and pop concerts on beaches and in parks

JENNIE RHODES

In the last few years, summer has become synonymous with music festivals on the Costa del Sol, but what sets this part of Spain apart is the diversity of venues in which the summer music events are held. From an old quarry in Marbella to a castle in Fuengirola, beaches along the coast and the world-famous Nerja cave, it's not just about the artists performing, but the settings as well, which make summer a truly magical musical experience in Malaga.



Sohail castle, Fuengirola. :: SUR

An old quarry and a vision Dig deep for festival venues

In 1983 singers Julio Iglesias and Plácido Domingo and local aristocrat Prince Alfonso von Hohenlohe came up with the idea that the old Nagüeles quarry, which overlooks the area of the same name in Marbella, would make the perfect stage for a concert and a recital was given. However, it wasn't until 2012 that the Starlite festival was to be launched at the same place. Now, 36 years after that first vision, the glitzy music event has become a benchmark for big-name celebrities, holidaymakers and local residents alike. This year is no exception with Sting, Jamie Cullum and The Beach Boys among other artists performing at the quarry throughout July and August.

At the other end of the province, the world-famous Nerja Cave is hosting its 60th annual International Nerja Caves Music and Dance festival this year. While most of the performances take place in the gardens next to the Neolithic cavern, two of the performances: international award-winning dancer, Rocío Molina, who was born in Torre del Mar (1984); and Concerto Málaga, who were nominated for a Latin Grammy for their 2018 album, will be performing inside the cave itself on 26 and 27 July respectively.

Music on the beach

The perfect seaside auditorium

It goes without saying that the beaches of Malaga province are also home to some of Spain's most popular music festivals: Weekend Beach, which is taking place between Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 July on Torre del Mar's Poniente beach; and Nerja's Chanquete international music festival which this year will be on Saturday 14 September on the town's Playazo beach, are two of them. The Black Eyed Peas are the big name at the Torre del Mar event this year, while Macaco is top of the bill for Chanquete, with more bands expected to be added to the lineup over the coming weeks. Estepona also offers up its beach for the Los Álamos festival, which is celebrating five years this year, between 31 July and 4 August and promises a heady mix of mainstream, urban and underground artists.

Castles, parks and theatres

A venue for all tastes

With guaranteed good weather over summer, there is no shortage of other outdoor venues, including town squares, parks and castles. Fuengirola's Sohail castle sets the scene for a series of concerts that form part of the Marenostrum festival throughout



Festival-goers at Chanquete on Nerja's Playazo beach :: SUR

summer, including trips back to 1989 with La Noche Rosa on 24 August and Back to the '90s on 27 July, featuring Dr Alban, Ace of Base and DJ Sash! These concerts form part of the Marenostrum festival, which boast the larger stage at the foot of the castle, for bigger events.

Almuñécar's Majuelo park, which is surrounded by the town's Roman and Islamic era treasures, provides a stunning backdrop for the annual international Jazz en la Costa festival, which will run from 15 to 20 July.

For anyone wanting to escape the heat, Malaga city's Cervantes theatre hosts the Terral music festival, from 22

June until 7 August, with Rufus Wainwright performing on Saturday 29 June.

Look out for other local concerts and festivals around the province, on village squares, at fairgrounds and in theatres, among other imaginative venues. The small village of Ojén, has been celebrating its modern indie music festival Ojeando at the end of June for 10 years now.

So whether it's a haunting, historical venue to go with your music, fun in the sun on one of the Costa's many beaches, or something more intimate with a local vibe, there is no end of choice to get the party started (and keep it going).

FESTIVAL DATES

- ▶ **Starlite:** Nagüeles Quarry, Marbella, throughout July and August.
- ▶ **Weekend Beach:** Poniente beach, Torre del Mar, 3 to 6 July.
- ▶ **Nerja Caves International Dance & Music festival:** Nerja caves & gardens, 29 June to 3 August.
- ▶ **Jazz en la Costa:** Majuelo Park, Almuñécar, 15 to 20 July.
- ▶ **Terral:** Cervantes Theatre, Malaga, 22 June to 7 August.
- ▶ **Chanquete:** Playazo beach, Nerja, Saturday 14 September.



A previous performance inside the cave at Nerja. :: EFE

Gibraltar's calling all fans of great music

This festival with a difference takes place on the Rock on 7 and 8 September

DEBBIE BARTLETT

The Gibraltar Calling music festival is one of the biggest events of the year, not just on the Rock but for the whole region. Since the first festival in 2012 it has grown and grown, and attracts an array of famous stars to this beautiful and unique location every September.

This year, this festival with a difference will be even more different than usual, because instead of taking place at the Victoria Stadium it is moving to the Europa Sports Ground. Its name has also changed: it was originally the Gibraltar Music Festival, then became MTV Presents Gibraltar Calling and has now been shortened to just Gibraltar Calling, although MTV is still involved in the event.

No matter where it takes place or what it is called, however, this is a festi-

val like no other. The location is idyllic, the atmosphere is electric and the audiences dance the night away to famous names from the music world as well as up-and-coming local bands.

Information about each year's festival is tantalisingly released bit by bit during the months beforehand, so excitement builds up because the full line-up over the two days is not known until much closer to the date. So far it has been confirmed that Take That, Liam Gallagher, Tom Walker, and Lighthouse Family will be among those performing this year.

This is such a popular event that music fans often buy their cheaper "Early Bird" tickets well in advance. Tickets are still on sale at the full price of £99 for two days and £85 for one day. VIP tickets are also available for £399 and £340.

Visit www.gibraltarcalling.com.

THE LINE-UP

► **Take That.** The group is 30 years old this year, and the current members, Gary Barlow, Howard Donald and Mark Owen are appearing in Gibraltar as part of their greatest hits tour.



► **Liam Gallagher.** The former Oasis frontman is appearing at the Gibraltar Calling festival with his own band, just days before the release of his new album *Why Me? Why Not* on 20 September.



► **Tom Walker** Scottish singer and songwriter Tom Walker will be appearing at the festival for the first time. He shot to fame with his hit single *Leave A Light On* in 2017.



► **Lighthouse Family** The musical duo of Tunde Baiyewu and Paul Tucker will be performing at Gibraltar Calling shortly before embarking on their first UK tour for nine years. This year they released their first album in 18 years, *Blue Sky in Your Head*.

Rita Ora, performing at last year's festival. :: SUR





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gibraltarcalling.com**

A summer on the stage

Concerts and music festivals in southern Spain this season

JULY

1

Richard Bona: Cervantes Theatre. Malaga. 8.30pm. Between 15 and 45 euros. Terral Festival.

2

Paquito D'Rivera: Cervantes Theatre. Malaga. 8.30pm. Between 15 and 45 euros. Terral Festival.

3

Rod Stewart: Marenostrom venue below Sohail castle. 10.30pm. Between 85.50 and 132 euros. Marenostrom Fuengirola.

Weekend Beach: La Pegatina, Mojinos Escocíos, Aslándticos... Poniente beach, Torre del Mar. Wednesday entry: 20 euros.

4

Weekend Beach: Ozuna, Fuel Fandango, Medina Azahara, Miss Caffaina, SFDK... Poniente beach, Torre del Mar.. Thursday entry: 40 euros. Weekend pass: 67 euros.

5

Manuel Carrasco: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 73 and 436 euros. Starlite.

Weekend Beach: SKA-P, Bad Gyal, Becky G, Dellafuente, Juanito Makandé, Luz Casal, Niños Mutantes... Poniente beach, Torre del Mar. Friday entry: 42 euros. Weekend pass: 67 euros.

Chucho Valdés: Finca el Portón (restaurant). Ahaurín de la Torre. 10.30pm. 20 euros. Portón del Jazz festival.

6

Juanes: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10.00pm. Between 25 and 159 euros. Starlite.

Estrella Morente: Nerja Cave gardens.

10pm. Between 27.50 and 55 euros. Cueva de Nerja International Festival.

Operación Triunfo: Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium. Malaga. 9.30pm. Between 50.50 and 87.50 euros.

Weekend Beach: Black Eyed Peas, Vetusta Morla, Ajax and Prok, Beret, Carlos Sadness, Antilopez, Rozalén... Poniente beach, Torre del Mar. Saturday entry: 48 euros. Weekend pass: 67 euros.

7

Michel Camilo & Tomatito: Cervantes Theatre. Malaga. 8.30pm. Between 18 and 54 euros. Terral Festival.

10

Nicky Jam: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbe-

lla. 1pm. Between 38 and 239 euros. Starlite.

11

The Beach Boys: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 38 and 228 euros. Starlite.

12

Rototom Sunsplash: With Iseo & Dodo-sound. Sohail Castle. From 7.30pm. 15 euros. Marenostrom Fuengirola.

Il Divo: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella 10pm. Between 87 and 571 euros. Starlite.

Mario Biondi: Cueva de Nerja gardens. 10pm. Between 33 and 49.50 euros. Cueva de Nerja International Festival.

Niña Pastori: Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium. Malaga. 10.30pm. Between 18.70



Rod Stewart, Fuengirola, 3 July. :: EFE

and 46.20 euros.

Larry Goldings, Peter Bernstein, Bill Stewart: Finca el Portón (restaurant). Ahaurín de la Torre. 10.30pm. 15 euros. Portón del Jazz festival.

Daniel Casares: Gibralfaro castle. 10pm. 30 euros. Bienal de Arte Flamenco.

13

Maluma: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 79 and 565 euros. Starlite.

Pastora Soler: Nerja Cave gardens. 10pm. Between 27.50 and 55 euros. Cueva de Nerja International Festival.

Carmen Boza: Málaga Centro hotel terrace. 9.30pm. Sold out. Live the Roof.

Manuel Lombo: Gibralfaro Castle. 10pm. 30 euros. Bienal de Arte Flamenco.

Vanesa Martín: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 41 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

16

Kool & The Gang: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 32 and 200 euros. Starlite.

18

Noche Movida: With Coti, Nacho Campillo, Nacho García-Vega, Pablo Carbonell, Javier Gurruchaga or Marta Sánchez. Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 28 and 212 euros. Starlite.

Juan Magán: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 2am. Between 28 and 500 euros. Starlite.

Juanse and Bahiano: Sala La Trincherá. Málaga. 9pm. 18 euros.

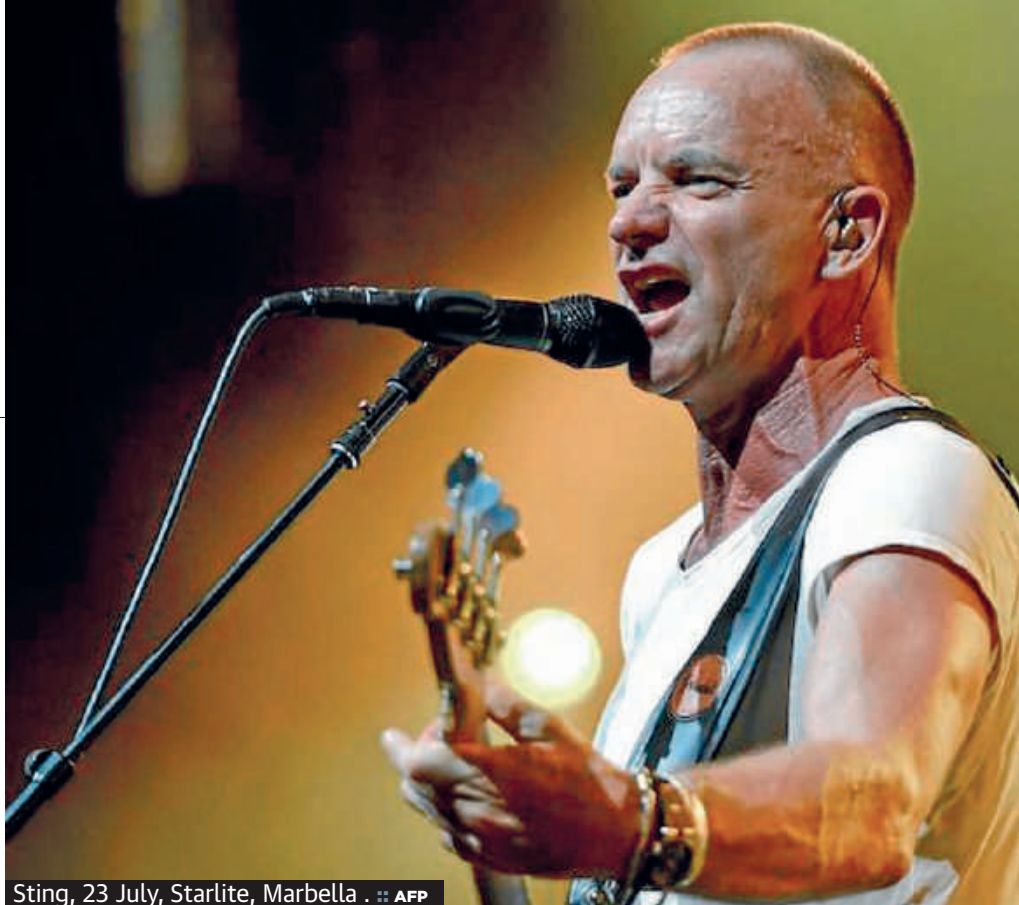
19

Jamie Cullum: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 28 and 212 euros. Starlite.

God Save the Queen: Nerja Cave gardens. 10pm. Between 27.50 and 44 euros. Cueva de Nerja International Festival.

Myles Sanko: Finca el Portón (restaurant). Ahaurín de la Torre. 10.30pm. 20 euros. Portón del Jazz festival.

Supertramp's Roger Hodgson: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 39 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.



Sting, 23 July, Starlite, Marbella . :: AFP

tera, Cadiz.

20

Vanesa Martín: Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium. 10.30pm. Between 27.50 y 55 euros. Málaga.

Danza Invisible and guests: Sohail castle. 10.30pm. (DJ at 9pm). 10 euros. Marenstrum Fuengirola.

Supertramp's Roger Hodgson: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10.00pm. Between 70 and 435 euros. Starlite.

Ana Belén: Nerja Cave gardens . 10.00pm. Between 27.50 and 44 euros. Cueva de Nerja International Festival.

God Save the Queen: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 40 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

21

Eros Ramazzotti: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 49 and 315 euros. Starlite.

Concerto Málaga: Inside Nerja Cave.

10pm. Between 22 and 27.50 euros.

Cueva de Nerja International Festival.

Cepeda: Concert Music Festival.

11.30pm. Between 41 and 54 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

23

Sting: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 98 and 730 euros. Starlite.

24

John Legend: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 32 and 187 euros. Starlite.

25

Diana Krall: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 41 and 304 euros. Starlite.

Café Quijano: Concert Music Festival.

10.30pm. Between 41 and 54 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.



John Legend, 24 July, Marbella. :: SUR

JULY

26

Don Patricio: Escenario Sessions. Marbella. 1am. Between 28 and 550 euros. Starlite

U Circle Breakers: Finca el Portón (restaurant). Ahaurín de la Torre. 10.30pm. 15 euros. Portón del Jazz festival.

Raphael: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 41 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

27

Back to the 90's: With Dr Alban, Ace of Base, DJ Sash!, Rozalla, Double You. Marenostrum venue below Sohail castle. From 8pm. Between 25 and 35 euros. Marenostrum Fuengirola.

Raphael: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 63 and 391 euros. Starlite.

Muerdo: Terraza Málaga Centro, Malaga. 9.30pm. 15 euros. Live the Roof.

28

Ben Harper & Innocent Criminals: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 24 and 144 euros. Starlite.

Ara Malikian: Nerja Cave gardens. 10pm. Between 37 and 82 euros. Cueva de Nerja International Festival.

29

Taburete: Nagüeles quarry venue. 10pm. Between 38 and 235 euros. Starlite.

30

Melendi: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 40 and 200 euros. Starlite.

31

Pablo López: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 58 and 373 euros. Starlite.

Marea: Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium. Malaga. 10.30pm. 27.50 euros.

Álamos Beach Fest: Estepona fairground. Oliver Heldens, Danny Avila, Salvatore Ganacci, Sunnery James & Ryan Marciano, Karol G, Fangoria, Juanito Makandé, SFDK... Weekend Pass: 47 euros. Wednesday entry: 27 euros.

Diana Navarro: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 49 and 105 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.



.Katie Melua, 5 August, Starlite, Marbella :: EFE



Luis Fonsi, 3 August Marbella. :: SUR

AUGUST

1

Don Omar: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 38 and 254 euros. Starlite.

Álamos Beach Fest: Estepona fairground. Oliver Heldens, Danny Avila, Salvatore Ganacci, Sunnery James & Ryan Marciano, Karol G, Fangoria, Juanito Makandé, SFDK... Weekend Pass: 47 euros. Thursday entry: 32 euros.

Gloria Gaynor: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 39 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

2

Daniel Casares with OFM: Sohail castle. 10pm. Between 20 and 35 euros. Marenostrum Fuengirola.

Bertín Osborne and Pitingo: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 29 and 179 euros. Starlite.

Cepeda: Nerja Cave gardens. 10pm. Between 27.50 and 88 euros. Cueva de Nerja International Festival.

Hombres G: Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium. Malaga. 10.30pm. Between 33 and 60.50 euros.

Álamos Beach Fest: Estepona fairground. Oliver Heldens, Danny Avila, Salvatore Ga-



The Jacksons, 8 August, Puente Romano, Marbella. :: A. B.

nacci, Sunnery James & Ryan Marciano, Karol G, Fangoria, Juanito Makandé, SFDK... Weekend Pass: 47 euros. Friday entry: 32 euros.

3

Izal: Marenostrum venue below Sohail castle. 10.30pm (9pm. invited artist: Joana Serrat). Between 28 and 30 euros. Marenostrum Fuengirola.

Luis Fonsi: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 52 and 384 euros. Starlite.

Carlos Rivera: Nerja Cave gardens. 10pm. Between 27.50 and 55 euros. Cueva de Nerja festival.

Álamos Beach Fest: Estepona far ground. Oliver Heldens, Danny Avila, Salvatore Ganacci, Sunnery James & Ryan Marciano, Karol G, Fangoria, Juanito Makandé, SFDK... Weekend pass: 47 euros. Saturday entry: 32 euros.

Miguel Poveda: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 34 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

4

Ketama: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 41 and 54 euros. Sancti Petri. Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

5

James Rhodes and Katie Melua: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 25 and 159 euros. Starlite.

Luis Fonsi: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 42 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri. Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

6

David Bisbal: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 71 and 514 euros. Starlite.

Diego el Cigala and Navajita Plateá: Marbella Arena. Puerto Banús. 9pm. Between 50



Jessie J, 16 August Marbella. :: SUR

and 90 euros.

7

Yamato: Cervantes Theatre. Malaga. 8.30pm. Between 15 and 45 euros. Terral Festival.

Sidecars and DVicio: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 25 and 159 euros. Starlite.

Burning, La Frontera, Rubén Pozo & Lichis: Prelude Pueblos Blancos festival. Marbella Arena. Puerto Banús. 9pm. From 30 euros.

8

Ketama: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella.

10pm. Between 32 and 194 euros. Starlite.

Pueblos Blancos Festival: In Ronda-Montejaque, Grazalema and Villaluenga del Rosario. From 8 to 11 August. Free entry.

The Jacksons: Puente Romano tennis club. Marbella. 8pm. Between 64 and 215 euros.

9

Miguel Poveda: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 29 and 179 euros. Starlite.

Los Secretos and La Unión: Marbella Arena. Puerto Banús. 9pm. From 40 euros.

Fangoria & Nancys Rubias: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 40 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

10

Andrés Martín: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10.00pm. Between 19 and 600 euros (LeClub table for 7). Starlite.

Festival Latino: With Andy and Lucas. Marbella Arena. Puerto Banús. 10pm.

Tony Hadley (exSpandau Ballet): Puente Romano tennis club. Marbella. 8pm. Between 50 and 175 euros.

11

Pablo Milanés: Marbella Arena. Puerto Banús. 9pm. From 50 euros.

12

Morat: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10.00pm. Between 42 and 263 euros. Starlite.

13

Jason Derulo: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 65 and 326 euros. Starlite.

Juan Magán: Escenario Sessions. Marbella. 2am. Between 28 and 900 euros (LeClub table for 7). Starlite.



Tony Hadley, 10 August, Marbella. :: EFE

AUGUST

14

Manzanero and Mocedades: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 25 and 149 euros. Starlite.

Oro Viejo: Stage Sessions. Marbella. 2.00am. Between 30 and 1,500 euros (Le Club table for 7). Starlite.

15

José Mercé and Tomatito: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 26 and 163 euros. Starlite.

16

Jessie J: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10.00pm. Between 28 and 212 euros. Starlite.

José Mercé y Tomatito: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 34 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

19

Pablo López: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 58 and 373 euros. Starlite.

20

Manuel Carrasco: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 89 and 528 euros. Starlite.

21

Juan Peña and A Dos Velas: Stage Sessions. Marbella. 10pm. Between 18 and 600 euros (Le Club table for 7). Starlite.



Jason Derulo. :: I. M.

Salvador Sobral: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 49 and 105 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

22

Aitana: Sohail castle hill. 10pm. Between 32 and 130 euros. Marenosturm Fuengirola.

God Save the Queen: Nagüeles quarry venue. Marbella. 10pm. Between 58 and 360 euros. Starlite.

23

Siempre Así: Nagüeles quarry. Marbella. 10pm. Between 28 and 189 euros. Starlite.

Indio Rock: Los Vinagres, F.a.n.t.a., Embusteros, Floridablanca. Antiguo Mercado square. Villanueva del Trabuco. 9pm. Free.

24

La Noche Rosa: Celtas Cortos, Javier Gurruchada, Miguel Costas de Siniestro Total, Toreros Muertos and Bernardo de Los Refrescos. Sohail castle. 8.30pm. Between 25 and 35 euros. Marenosturm Fuengirola.

25

Estrella Morente: Concert Music Festival. 10.30pm. Between 34 and 156 euros. Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Cadiz.

31

Coti and Efecto Mariposa: Sohail Castle. 10pm. 15 euros. Marenosturm Fuengirola.

SEPTEMBER

7-8

Gibraltar Calling: Take That, Liam Gallagher, Tom Walker, Slade, David Essex, Nazareth, Lighthouse Family. Europa Point Leisure Complex. Between 85 and 399 euros.

13

Oh! See Fest: Love of Lesbian, 091, Viva Suecia, Sidecars, C. Tangana, La Casa Azul, La M.O.D.A., Zahara... Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium. Malaga. From 5pm. Pass: 40 euros, 20 euros (from 11 to 16 years). Day entry: 25 euros.

14

Oh! See Fest: Love of Lesbian, 091, Viva Suecia, Sidecars, C. Tangana, La Casa Azul, La M.O.D.A., Zahara... Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium. Malaga. From 1pm. Pass: 40 euros, 20 euros (from 11 to 16 years). Day entry: 30 euros.

Chanquete World Music: Macaco, Natos and Waor, Miguel Campello, Triple XXX, Locoplaya, Les Castizos... Playazo beach, Nerja. From 4pm. 25 euros.

20

Ara Malikian: Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium. Malaga. 9pm. Between 40 and 70 euros.

21

Melendi: Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium. Malaga. 10pm. 37 and 39 euros.

The festival includes a market in the centre of the village. :: **SUR**

The four-day festival, which takes place over the last weekend in August, regularly attracts over 35,000 visitors, who go to enjoy the international live music and a spectacular fireworks display and to experience the typical food and market stalls of days gone by.

Each year the music is specially chosen to represent the three cultures and past artists have included Manu Chao, who performed at the tenth anniversary event in 2015.

A permanent symbol

The Three Cultures festival is symbolised by a sculpture designed and made by local artists, Oliver Perry and Robert Harding. The piece incorporates the Islamic crescent moon, the Jewish star of David and the Christian cross. The beautifully crafted monument can be found at the end of Calle Chorruelo and is used on publicity both for the festival and the village itself.

While this year's programme hasn't been unveiled yet, organisers met in May to start preparations for the event, which will take place from 22 until 25 August.

What is guaranteed is great music in different venues, a tapas route, medieval market and lots of other activities for people of all ages, as well as the spectacular end-of-festival fireworks display, which attracts 1000s of people from across the province and beyond every year.

For further information and a full programme, when published, visit: www.festivalfrigiliana3culturas.com or Facebook: Festival Frigiliana 3 Culturas.

Celebrating three cultures in one festival

The streets of Frigiliana come alive with a celebration of its past at the end of August

JENNIE RHODES

The attractive hilltop village of Frigiliana in the Axarquía, often voted as one of Spain's prettiest villages, has celebrated its rich cultural diversity through

the annual Festival de las Tres Culturas for the last 14 years. The event brings the importance of Christianity, Islam and Judaism in the area to the fore with music, food, street performances and a medieval market.



frigiliana
light of Andalusia



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@turismofrigiliana
www.turismofrigiliana.es

Andalucía dresses up for summer traditions

This is one of the best times to enjoy and participate in the traditional fairs, festivals and religious festivities

Cordoba transforms into the 'city of the guitar', Seville evokes its cultural identity in the Gardens of the Royal Alcázar and revellers in Malaga take to the streets to celebrate the summer fair

TONY BRYANT

Andalucía transforms into a kaleidoscope of colour and illumination during the summer and the normal daily routine is constantly interrupted by local celebrations and fiestas. Festivals are held every weekend and these will include those marking historical or religious events, a variety of music and

dance spectacles and the Andalusian summer fairs.

The Virgen del Carmen festival is one of the most popular events in July, when, on the night of the sixteenth, fishing villages and towns along the Andalusian coastline pay homage to this much loved patron of seafarers. In most places processions follow a similar pattern: after a tour of the streets, the image of the Virgin is taken out to sea on a flower adorned boat accompanied by dozens of small fishing boats.

Cordoba is transformed into the 'city of the guitar' between 4 and 13 July when it hosts the coveted Cordoba Guitar Festival, an event that is now an international cultural benchmark. The festival, which includes a programme of flamenco, jazz, rock and blues performances, along with workshops and semi-

nars, is held in the city's main venues and squares.

The feria is one of the most enjoyable fiestas on the Andalusian summer calendar and it is an event that takes place a varying dates in every city, town and village. One of the biggest, after Seville's April Fair, is the Feria de Malaga, celebrated this year between 15 and 24 August. During the afternoon, the city centre is alive with people dancing Sevillanas and enjoying the local gastronomy and, of course, a drop of the famous sweet wine of Malaga. One of the most popular aspects of the daytime festivities is the presence of the Pandas de Verdiales and their unique musical style. During the hours of darkness, the revellers head to the feria ground to enjoy the delights of the casetas and the thrill of the fair.



The colourful ambience in Malaga city centre during the annual fair week. :: SUR



Verdiales can be enjoyed during the daytime feria in Malaga :: T. BRYANT



Virgen del Carmen. :: SUR



Horses are part of the ferias. :: SUR



People of all ages dress up in traditional attire for their annual festivities. :: T. B.

Held between July and September, Nights in the Gardens of the Royal Alcázar Festival is one of the most attractive cultural programmes in Seville. The festival presents a programme of flamenco, classical and traditional music that evokes the cultural identity of Seville. Staged in the delightful royal gardens, the surroundings supply the perfect setting for a mid-summers night's concert.

The Feria de Pedro Romero, held during the first week in September in Ronda, has its origins in the San Francisco suburb, where the first livestock market took place in 1882. Since then, this world-renowned fair recreates the colourful ambience of the 18th century, a time when Ronda was the very epicentre of the bullfighting world.

The Albaicín district of Granada celebrates the Fiestas de San Miguel from 28 to 30 September and this is an ideal opportunity to discover the old Moorish neighbourhood. The festival includes religious, cultural and gastronomic activities, and ends with a pilgrimage to the shrine of San Miguel.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

- ▶ **Virgen del Carmen:** Various locations along the Costa del Sol. Tuesday 16 July.
- ▶ **Cordoba Guitar Festival:** Staged in various venues in Cordoba. Thursday 4- Saturday 13 July.
- ▶ **Malaga Feria:** Thursday 15- Saturday 24 August.
- ▶ **Almeria Feria :** Friday 16- Saturday 24 August.
- ▶ **Noches en los Jardines del Real Alcázar (Seville):** July-September.
- ▶ **Feria de Pedro Romero (Ronda):** Tuesday 3 - Sunday 8 September.
- ▶ **Fiestas de San Miguel Albaicín (Granada) :** Friday 28 - Sunday 30 September.



The Eurofighter in 2018. :: SUR



Crowds watch the display. :: SUR

Flying high in Torre del Mar

The fourth International Air Show will be taking place from 12 to 14 July

Fighter jets and formation flying add an extra thrill to a day at the beach but they're just one of the many highlights in a packed summer programme

JENNIE RHODES

Torre del Mar will, for the fourth year running, be hosting its international air show from 12 to 14 July. The skies above the seaside town will be humming to the sounds of fighter planes like the tiny Vampire and the Eurofighter C-16. Aircraft aficionados are joined by tourists from all over Spain and beyond who know they can enjoy a day out at the beach with the added excitement of an air display.

Vampires and formation flying

The three-day event, which includes two days of practice and culminates in a spectacular show on Sunday, normally starting at around midday, will see the Eurofighter C-16 and other jets from all over Europe performing daredevil stunts. This year's lineup will also see the Vampire; a jet fighter which was first developed by the Havilland Aircraft Company in 1941 and used extensively during World War Two as well as in other military operations. As well as the UK, the Vampire has been used by over 30 countries. It was the first jet fighter to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

A regular sight during the festival is Spain's Patrulla Plus Ultra, a formation flying team based in Huelva who are always popular for their breathtaking dis-

plays during the three-day event.

The Guardia Civil, Spain's military policing force, will be taking part for the first time this year, with displays using the EC135 Eurocopter and CN235 plane as well as the T-34 Mentor.

Arguably the best place to see the show is Torre del Mar beach. However, as the planes take off from Malaga airport there is a good chance of spotting them making their way along Malaga province's east coast. Thanks to the curved bay along to the town of Torrox, any of the Axarquía coastal towns will offer decent views of the spectacle.

With an expansive beach and long promenade, Torre del Mar is perfect for an air show. Not only are visitors spoilt for choice when it comes to trendy beach bars, but the town is a benchmark for traditional fish restaurants serving fresh produce from neighbouring Caleta port. The fishing harbour is one of Andalucía's most important and it is where local restaurants and shops go for the catch of the day.

As well as the vapour trails from aeroplanes, the air is also heavy with the summertime smell of traditional 'espeto' grills, the numerous boats on the sand along Malaga's coast which are used to cook the famous sardine skewers.

Visitors, young and old, can also enjoy the many playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment along the beach and even find the perfect place depending on their age - from an area designated to younger children to a 'seniors beach' for the young at heart. For those with a sense of humour, the themed showers, in the form of a dancing lighthouse, designed in the form of the town's iconic blue and white



Formation
flying team
Patrulla Águila.
:: SUR

striped lighthouse, giant sardine, or flip-flop can all provide a post-workout wash.

July in general is a great month to be in Torre del Mar, as it kicks off the month with the popular Weekend Beach festival; a four-day music event which attracts big-name international artists every year.

The religious Our Lady of Carmen festival is a beautiful sight which takes place annually on 16 July in honour of the patron saint of sailors and fishermen, when a flotilla of fishing boats takes an image of Our Lady out to sea.

Torre del Mar's feria (fair) also takes place in July with an evening fun fair and daytime events as well as a programme of other open-air concerts and street markets throughout summer.

INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW

► **When:** Friday 12 to Sunday 14 July 2019.

► **Where:** Off the coast of Torre del Mar.

► **Further information:** www.festivalaereotorredelmar.com and Facebook: Festival Aereo Internacional Torre del Mar



Patrulla Plus Ultra over Torre del Mar in 2018. :: J. RHODES

The caretakers of traditional shipbuilding

The shipyard Nereo in Malaga makes replicas of historical vessels and also runs a nice little seafaring museum

BEATRICE LAVALLE

There is plenty going on at the Nereo shipyard. Several workers are busy repairing and constructing boats of all kinds and in very different states of conservation both inside and outside the building. Meanwhile another group of people, most of them foreign tourists who had discovered the site by accident, stepped inside to watch everything with fascination. The site is indeed worth a closer look. Here, one can observe the working process and also learn a lot about the fishing and shipping tradition of Malaga in a small museum.

The shipyard in Malaga's Pedregalejo district was founded by the father of Alfonso Sánchez Guitard, the current master of the workshop. Other shipyards and related companies had already settled here many centuries ago.

As Sánchez explains, Malaga has always had a great shipbuilding tradition and back in the 17th century, any single beach of the city even had its own yard.

Historical replicas

Astilleros Nereo, which is one of the oldest traditional shipyards in Spain, strives to document the seafaring culture of the Mediterranean of different eras by making replicas of historic wooden boats, such as the local 'jábega', a rowing boat traditionally used in fishing and now reserved for regattas.

"Our goal is to make a replica of the ships of every culture that has passed through Malaga," says Sánchez.

Due to the effort to preserve traditional shipbuilding, Nereo has been officially recognised for its value in the conservation of industrial heritage, not

only in Andalucía, but also nationally and internationally

Although Nereo carries out all kinds of common shipyard work - "We do everything here, design, build and restore boats," says Sánchez - Nereo has specialised in the traditional ships of the Mediterranean. In Malaga, as evidenced by the excavations in the La Araña district, there has been a great fishing and maritime tradition since the Copper Age.

Craftsmen at Nereo are currently working on a replica of a jábega that was used to ship the raisins from the Axarquía. Sánchez believes that this type of boats are ideal to use in historical reenactments that show how the Phoenicians carried their goods throughout the Mediterranean.

Replicas of historically-significant ships are also being built here. In 1998 Astilleros Nereo worked on a replica of the Brigantine Galveztown, which took Macharaviaya-born Bernardo de Gálvez on his campaigns during the North American War of Independence. The purpose of this replica is twofold: to upgrade the traditional ship's joinery, and to establish institutional ties with Pensacola (Florida), where De Gálvez is celebrated as a folk hero.

A broad spectrum

However, the shipyard is also dedicated to the normal tasks of a shipbuilding company. Any kind of boat is made on request and vessels are also repaired and restored. There is also the opportu-

This jábega on the beach in front of the shipyard was also built by Nerea. :: B. L.





This boat is being constructed by a private individual under the guidance of Nereo. :: B. L.



The Phoenician beer jug. :: B. L.



Other interesting items. :: B. LAVALLE



Bigger ships are built outside in the yard. :: B. LAVALLE

nity to learn how to build your own boat in Nereo under the guidance of professionals. On the one hand the knowledge of the shipbuilding tradition is passed on, but also - as replicas of traditional boats are made here - historical types of ships are preserved.

The maritime museum

Also interesting is the small maritime museum where you can get acquainted with the different types of common ships in Malaga and learn a lot about traditional fishing.

There are round showcases similar to those of ancient noble galleons, featuring small-scale historical ships, old photographs of Malaga's coastline, ship's books, historically-significant fishing gear, compasses, archaeological finds and all kinds of nautical utensils. You can even admire an old Phoenician beer jug.

One of the traditional fishing nets of Pedregalejo is spread out on the floor, some Phoenician anchors adorn the walls, while a new area is devoted to the instruments that guided the sailors out at sea. Activities related to traditional fishing also feature photographs of the Copo, Malaga's once-typical fishing technique and the procession of the Virgen del Carmen, the patron of seafarers.

A broad spectrum

Through the exhibits in the museum and the boats under construction, the shipyard offers an excellent insight into the fishing and nautical tradition of the Phoenicians to the present day. At the same time it reminds us that these traditions are threatened with extinction now, due to the employment of less sustainable techniques.

ASTILLEROS NEREO

► **Address:** Callejón de Marina, 8.
(next to Baños del Carmen in Pedregalejo, Malaga).

► **Contact:** www.astillerosnereo.es
Telephone: 952 291198.
Email: info@astillerosnereo.es

Malaga's liquid legends

A spirit from Ojén and sweet wine are among the most famous local products that have gone down in history

Their origins date back to the Phoenician and Greek settlers, who cultivated grapes and introduced wines to the region

JAVIER ALMELLONES

Malaga is one of the provinces that have contributed most to the heritage of wines and liqueurs in Europe, and over time some of them have acquired a legendary status. The Malaga Designation of Origin dates back to 1833 and is one of the oldest anywhere, after only that of Jerez.

However, Malaga wine itself goes back

much further. In fact, until a plague of phylloxera attacked the local vines towards the end of the 19th century, a great deal of the land in the province was used to cultivate vines.

The history of wine-making in Malaga dates back to the Phoenicians and Greeks, who grew grapes and introduced some wines to the region. Later the Romans left evidence of the importance that 'vinum malacita' had to the Low Roman Empire, as can be seen from the fermentation tank found in what used to be Cartima (Cártama) and the town of Acinipo, whose name meant 'land of wines', near Ronda. These two Roman towns have now lent their name to wines produced by the Sánchez Rosado (Cartima S.XXI)

and F. Schatz (Acinipo) wineries.

From those origins came what was known as 'xarab al malaquí' (syrup of Malaga) in the time of Al-Andalus. Although most of the grapes at that time were used for raisins, the Moors also made a sweet wine which was known as 'syrup' to get around the Islamic rule which prohibited drinking alcohol. This syrup became so famous that poets of the era used to sing and write about it.

Maybe that was the start of the legend of a wine reputed to delight everyone who tried it. In 1224 it was entered in what is considered the first tasting competition in history, the 'Battle of the Wines' organised by the French king Philip Augustus. The drink from Malaga won its first international award, and was described as the 'Cardinal of Wines'.

Thanks to the quality and popularity of Malaga wines, in 1502 the first regulations were drawn up regarding their production and sale, and a century later the historical Brotherhood of Vintners was created. One great fan of Malaga wine was the Empress Catherine II of Russia, who after trying it courtesy of the Spanish ambassador to Moscow, exempted it from taxes, as long as the wine was controlled by the Brotherhood of Vintners.

Not even phylloxera was able to affect the prestige and quality of the Malaga wines, which are today protected by a historical designation of origin and are mainly made from Muscat and Pedro Ximénez grapes.

There is a difference between the still wines and liqueur wines. In the latter, vinous alcohol is added to stop the fermentation, and this can produce semi-dry, semi-sweet or sweet wines. Still wines can be sweet (made with over-ripe or raisined grapes) or dry (15 per cent proof or



Wines and liqueurs from Malaga are internationally famous.

:: SUR



Many bars in Malaga sell local wines. :: SUR

more) and fermentation is natural. Today the Malaga wines are a fine ambassador for the province, thanks to their wonderful quality and interesting history.

The revival of ojén

In the 19th century another legendary drink began to be produced in Malaga province. It was an aguardiente called 'el ojén', after the village in which it was first produced.

The Morales family from Ronda started this business in Ojén, to the south of the Sierra de las Nieves, in 1830, and it became an international success. It was even represented in art: Picasso himself painted it in one of his pictures, 'Bodegón Español'. It was his personal tribute to a legendary drink which also made its mark in literature. Writer Camilo José Cela mentioned it and praised ojén in 'La Colmena', and it also appears in works by Ramón María del Valle Inclán, Javier Marías, Charles Bukowski and Ernest Hemingway, among others.

In addition there were fans in other fields, such as philologist Marcelino Menéndez Pelayo; and flamenco dancer Anita Delgado, who became a Maharani of Kapurtala after marrying the Maharaja, also boasted of drinking the original ojén.

Perhaps what catapulted this drink into the category of 'legendary', though, is that it suddenly disappeared. Despite its international fame and success, nobody knows why they suddenly stopped making it in 1919, although some believe the secret formula was lost with the premature death of one of the members of the family that produced it. He took it to the grave, they say, without having passed it on to anybody.

Now, nearly a century after production of the original drink ceased, a new version can be found in Ojén. In recent years two local businesses have started to produce a drink which they say is not intended to imitate the original, but is designed as a tribute to it.

Kina San Clemente

Although it has not as well-known and has not had the same impact as ojén and Malaga wine, Kina San Clemente has also made a place for itself among the legendary drinks produced in the province. Nowadays it is made in the prestigious Malaga Virgen wineries (formerly López Hermanos). It is a wine made with Pedro Ximénez grapes to which extracts of quinine are added.

Originally, back in the 1960s, this

unusual formula was created to give to children with a lack of appetite. It seems that at that time nobody minded children consuming small doses of alcohol.

The drink, whose slogan was 'naturally, Kina San Clemente', became famous in Spain because it was often seen in the media. TV and other adverts featured the image of the brand, a cartoon character Kinito, who always ended by saying, "It makes you want to eat." The child was alluding to the drink's supposed qualities as an appetite stimulant. It was, however, recommended to be drunk in small doses, namely a spoonful. Curiously, Kinito ended up being banned by the Ministry of the Interior in the end, under the Law of Social Dangers.

In spite of this and the ban on under-18s drinking alcohol, Kina San Clemente is still produced today, although only for adults. You can buy a one-litre bottle of this alcoholic drink, which is about 13 per cent proof, for just under five euros at the Malaga Virgen winery.

Even collectors have become interested in the story of Kina San Clemente. Bottles from that period are highly coveted, especially if they have never been opened, and so are Kinito dolls. The bottles and the dolls can fetch up to 50 euros.

La Katana

Much less startling, but equally as curious, is the story of an unusual soft drink made in Malaga province, Katana, which nowadays is on display at the Museo de la Memoria de Vida museum in Campillos. This is where it was first produced, also in the 1960s, by a company called Casa Navas. Until then it had made soaps and lemonades, and then began producing its range of own soft drinks.

In a short time La Katana had become famous, not just in Campillos but elsewhere in Malaga province and even places in Seville. Although the company made orange, lemon and cola flavours, the first was the most popular among local people and visitors.

Casa Navas stopped making La Katana because it was no longer profitable, but the drink is still considered an important part of the history of Campillos in the 20th century.



The modern version of ojén. :: SUR

Wine lovers - assemble!

Stop for some refreshment on a visit to some of the best of wine and beer-tasting venues in the area

Andalucía boasts a wide range of wines, created in all eight of the region's provinces. We visited some located within easy reach of the western Costa del Sol

ASH BOLTON

"You have only so many bottles in your life, never drink a bad one."

Those are the words of the British wine-lover Len Evans, who no doubt, many wine aficionados would agree with.

And as Spain is third in the top wine producing countries in the world, it stands to reason that it is our duty as wine connoisseurs to indulge in some

delicious vino sampling from time to time.

After all, wine not?

Wine tasting is a great way to meet interesting new people and is a good opportunity to get in touch with fellow wine enthusiasts.

Luckily for us, there are plenty of vineyards and bodegas to choose from along the Costa del Sol and further inland in the historic city of Ronda.

Known for its iconic bridge and gorge, Ronda is something of a Mecca for wine, with some 23 bodegas to visit.

At just an hour by car from Marbella it can make a perfect day trip, if one of you isn't indulging of course.

Alternatively, you can catch a train from either San Roque or Algeciras to Ronda and make a weekend of it by staying overnight in the historic centre.

The train journey boasts incredible scenery on route as it snakes up valleys and past white villages, and is very reasonably priced at around 20 euros for a return ticket.

Wine and tapas

One such vineyard in Ronda that offers wine-tasting accompanied by mouth-watering homemade tapas is the Schatz Bodega.

It's approximately a 15-minute taxi journey from the centre of Ronda and includes a tour of the eco-vineyard and the production process, before the all-important wine tasting.

There are about half a dozen wines to choose from during the tasting, and an abundance of tapas on hand too.

Guided tour

Another popular bodega that always rates high on Trip Advisor is Descalzos Viejos, which is just a 10-minute walk from the town centre.

Before the tasting you get a guided tour of the Bodega, which is based around the chapel of a 16th century



The restored monastery that is home to the Descalzos Viejos Bodega. :: SUR



Visitors hear all about the wine-making trade at Schatz Bodega near Ronda. :: **SUR**

monastery.

Perched on the slopes of the Tajo de Ronda, the owners have lovingly restored the monastery to its former glory, with medieval walls, stepped gardens, orchards and spring wells.

Most importantly, co-owner Flavio Salesi is very passionate about his wines and sits down with you during the tasting for a good natter about all things wine while dishing out plenty of ham and cheese.

Wine on the coast

Meanwhile, on the Costa del Sol, you can visit the Nilva Winery in Manilva. Owner Argimiro Martínez Moreno takes you for a tour around the museum, the production process and of course the vineyard.

The winery specialises in wine made from the Muscat grape, and visitors get to taste the dry, semi-dry and sweet wine varieties on offer, accompanied of course by quality ham and cheese, the staple accompaniment of any self-proclaimed winery.

During the tour the owner also explains his love for the wine-making process and how he is trying to redevelop the vineyards in Manilva to keep the local wine industry alive.



Tasting the wine in Manilva. :: **SUR**

Here you even get to put corks in the bottles!

A taste for beer

Finally, if beer-tasting is more of your forte, then make your way to the Gran

de Select Brewery in Sabinillas pronto.

Founded in 2012 by two Danes, this microbrewery is a hidden gem on the coast and its beer-tasting has been getting busier and busier in recent months - so much so they are in the



Tourists enjoy a tour of the Nilva vineyard in Manilva. :: **SUR**



Beer lovers learn more at the Gran de Select brewery. :: **SUR**

process of opening a new brewery.

A tour includes an introduction to the materials used for making beer and how they affect the aroma, before learning about production techniques.

The Danes use a slow-brewing philosophy, applying production techniques from the world of champagne,

meaning the beer undergoes a second phase of fermentation for four months.

It's worth noting that Gran de Select's beers are endorsed by Martín Berasategui, Spain's most decorated Michelin-starred chef, so they must be doing something right.

DETAILS

► **Bodega F. Schatz.** Ronda.
www.f-schatz.com
bodega@f-schatz.com
 Tel. 678 664 105
 25 euros per person

► **Descalzos Viejos.** Ronda.
www.descalzosviejos.com
info@descalzosviejos.com
 Tel. 607 167 482
 30 euros per person

► **Nilva.** Manilva.
www.nilva.es
info@nilva.es
 Tel. 609 290 370
 20 euros per person

► **Gran de Select.** Sabinillas (Manilva).
www.grandeselect.com
info@grandeselect.com
 Tel. 653 26 80 26
 From 15 euros per person up to 45 pp

► **More information.** www.wineronda.com

You can then take part in a tasting session in the brewery's cosy and beautiful tasting room, accompanied by a section of gourmet tapas.

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Get a taste of luxury on a chartered yacht

This is a way of finding out what it is like to spend the day on one of the megayachts that visit the Costa del Sol in the summer

A trip to sea on a megayacht can cost up to 9,000 euros, or you could spend 1,200 euros for a smaller yacht about 12 metres in length

ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

Summers on the Costa del Sol, especially in Marbella, mean megayachts. Several of these enormous pleasure vessels regularly call into Puerto Banús in the summer months and many people have dreamed of being able to go up on deck and take selfies there. To make that dream come true, or something like it, there are now companies on the coast that hire out yachts and leisure boats.

Two of the biggest companies in this sector on the Costa del Sol are Marina Marbella and aBoatHire. The first is an well-known business in the Marbella

port, which has been established for over 50 years and started chartering boats ten years ago through its Marbella Charter division.

The other company, aBoatHire, which is based in Estepona, began about the same time to take advantage of the possibilities of a growing market. Both companies have boats in all the ports on the Costa del Sol, including Sotogrande and Puerto Banús. Among their biggest are megayachts between 30 and 60 metres in length. These marine monsters could easily hold their own against the ones



The controls upfront in one of the Marina Marbella yachts.

JOSELE-LANZA



Puerto Banús in Marbella attracts some of the smartest yachts in summer. :: GABRIELA BERNER



aBoatHire has converted a boat for events. :: A.M.



A bedroom on board a Marina Marbella yacht. :: J.L.

used by the Arab sheikhs.

However, if you're thinking of organising a macroparty on board a yacht out at sea in pure 'Wolf of Wall Street' style, you can forget it. As the owner of aBoatHire, Javier Sarceda, explains, the law prohibits more than 12 people (apart from the crew) on any recreational vessel, including yachts. No, not even if that yacht is 60 metres long and an entire house could fit inside it.

So, why are the yachts so big? It seems that if a client wants to have a party for a large number of people, they can still do so as long as the yacht is in port. "And then they can have 40 people if they want," says Javier. At least that way guests can tell people about the latest party they have been to on board a luxury yacht (omitting to mention that it didn't leave port).

Normally, however, people who consult these companies have something else in mind. "They are often tourists who are looking for a different type of experience or companies that book the yachts for their clients," says Michael Matousek, the head of the fleet at Marina Marbella.



A fridge on the Sea Experience.:: A.M.

A trip out to sea in a megayacht can cost up to 9,000 euros. Smaller yachts of 12 metres cost about 1,200 euros. "There's a big difference," says Javier Sarceda.

A client who pays this sort of money for a day on a yacht, especially a tourist, is demanding and normally expects extra services such as catering, massages or sports activities. For these cases aBoatHire has something special: an old boat which they restored and converted into a type of floating beach club called 'Sea Experience'.

"We ripped everything out and made open areas, put in an inflatable jacuzzi, loudspeakers etc," says Javier. There is also a fridge with drinks for the clients. There are also, just in case, several security cameras. It wouldn't be the first time a client who had drunk too much had jumped overboard while the boat was moving.

So if you're tired of hiking the hills or toasting yourself on the sand, the charter companies can offer you a completely new experience out at sea. Try to go in a group if you can, though, because it is much easier on the pocket.

Experience nature and thrills on the Costa del Sol

THE ANIMAL WORLD

Selwo Marina

Dolphinarium Animal Park with five zones: Las Antillas, La Hondonada, Ice Island, Amazonia and Los Trópicos; shows with dolphins, exotic birds, penguin feeding. Parque de la Paloma. 29630 Benalmádena, Telephone 902 190 482, www.selwomarina.es. Opening times: June: 10am - 7pm. July and August: daily 10am - 9pm. 1 - 8 September, 10am - 8pm. 10 September - 31 October 10am - 6pm. Admission: 11-65 Years 21 euros, concessions 15.50 euros. Reductions, season tickets, combination and online tickets.

Sea Life

Interactive aquarium with marine animals to visit, touch and feed. Puerto Marina. 29630 Benalmádena. Telephone 952 560 150. www.visitsealife.com/Benalmadena Opening times: 10am - 7.30pm. Admission: 16 euros, concessions 13 euros, season tickets, online saver tickets.

Selwo Aventura

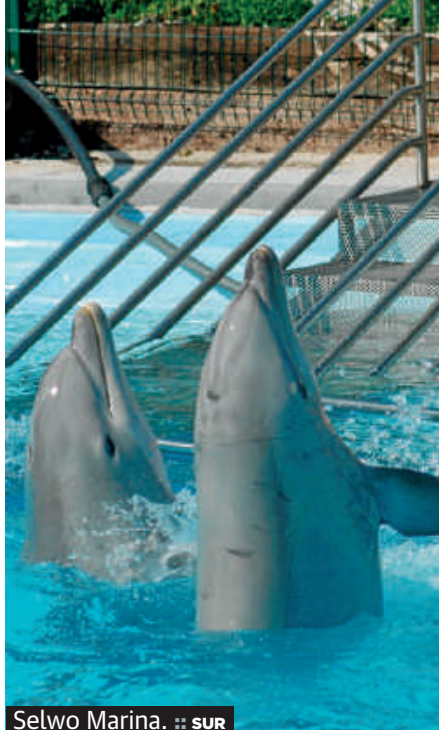
Selwo Aventura. Wildlife Adventure Park. Different routes for visitors to see animals and plants from around the world and in some cases to handle. 29680 Estepona, A-7, km 162.5. Telephone 902 190 482. Web: www.selwo.es. Opening times: June 10am - 6pm, July and August: 10am - 8pm. September 10am - 6pm/7pm. Admission: 10-65 years 25.90 euros, Concessions 18 euros; Combined tickets and season tickets available. Online discounts available.

Bioparc Fuengirola

Animal park with exotic animals and trees such as the baobab tree. Avda. Camilo José Cela, 6. 29640 Fuengirola. Web: www.bioparcfuengirola.es. Opening times: June: 10am - 8.30pm. July and August: 10am - 11pm. In September, 10am - 7/8pm (see dates). Admission: 20.50 euros, Concessions 15.50/16.50 euros; family tickets and season tickets available.

Butterfly house

Benalmádena: Largest Butterfly House in Europe. Av. de Retamar, 29639 Benalmádena. Opening times: daily from 10am - 7.30pm. Tel. 951 211 196 www.mariposariodebenalmadena.com. Admission: Adult 10 euros, Con-



Selwo Marina. :: SUR

cessions 8.50 euros. Online discounts available.

Lobo Park

Wolf Park with wolves in natural habitat, seminars on wolves and dog training, guided tours. Carretera Antequera-Álora, km 16, Antequera. Telephone 952 301 107. www.lobopark.com. Opening times: daily 10am - 6pm. Admission adult 11.50 euros, children 7.50 euros. Guided tours at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 4.30pm.

Crocodile Park

Theme park with crocodiles, turtles and exotic birds. Tours and demonstrations. C/ Cuba, 14. 29620 Torremolinos. Telephone 952 051 782. www.cocodrilospark.com. Opening times: June, September, October: 11am - 5pm. July and August: 11am - 6pm. Admission: adult 16 euros, Concessions 12 euros.

WATER PARKS

Aqua Tropic Almuñécar

Fun-packed water park with large slides and a wave pool. Paseo Reina Sofía, S/N, 18690 Almuñécar (Granada) www.aqua-tropic.com Opening times: 14 June to 9 September: 11am-7pm. Admission: 23 euros, concessions 15/17 euros, children under 3 free. Discounts available online and for groups.

Aquamijas

Waterpark for the whole family with different slides and attractions. A-7, km 209, 29640 Mijas Costa, Tel. 952 460 404. www.aquamijas.com Opening times: June: 10.30am - 6pm, July and August: 10.30am - 7pm. 1-8 September: 10.30am - 6pm. 12-29 September: 10.30am - 5.30pm. Admission: adult 26 euros. Family discounts and multi-day tickets, discounts available online.

Aqualand Torremolinos

Waterpark for the whole family with different

slides, wave pool, whirlpools. C/ Cuba, 10. 29620 Torremolinos www.aqualand.es/torremolinos Opening times: May, June, September, October 11am-6pm, July and August: 11am-7pm. Admission: 30 euros, concessions 22 euros, discounts available online.

Aquavelis

Waterpark with various giant slides and wave pool. Ruta del Pomelo, Urb. El Tomillar, 29740 Torre del Mar. Telephone 952 542 758, www.aquavelis.es. Opening times: June and September: 11am - 6pm, July and August: 11am - 7pm. Admission: 25.00 euros, Discounts for children and groups, season tickets, online tickets.

OTHER

Tivoli World

Theme park with a big wheel, roller coaster, ghost train, go-karts, drop tower. Shows for children and adults, various themed restaurants. Avda de Tivoli s/n, 29630 Arroyo de la Miel. Telephone 952 577 016. www.tivoli.es. Opening times: June: 5pm - 12pm. July until 8 September 5.30pm - 1.30am. Admission: 7.95 euros, Children under 1 metre tall and over 65s free. 14.95 euros for unlimited rides. Online discounts available.

Aventura Amazonia Climbing Park

Treetop climbing and adventure park with rope bridges and zipwires. C/ Valeriano Rodríguez, Elviria. 29604 Marbella, 952835505. www.aventura-amazonia.com/parques-amazonia/marbella. Opening times: July and August: 9.30/10am - 9pm. Admission: 24 euros, Discount for children and groups.

Funny Beach

Attractions on land and at sea, go-karts for children and adults, trampoline, parasailing, banana boat on the sea, wakeboard, zodiac, jetski. Marbella, N-340, km 184. Tel. 952 823 359. Web: www.funny-beach.com Opening times: June 11am - 9pm. July and August: 11am - 12am. Price according to attraction.

Cable Car Benalmádena

Takes visitors the top of Mount Calamorro, for spectacular views and hiking routes. Explanada Tivoli, s/n. 29630, Benalmádena. Tel. 951 560 324.

www.telefericobenalmadena.com

Opening times: June: 11am - 7pm. July and August: 10am-12am. September: 11am - 7pm. October: 11am - 6pm. Admission: 16.50/17.50 euros, 12.50/13.50 euros for concessions.



Lobo Park. :: SUR

Guadalmina Opens 10th July – 10am

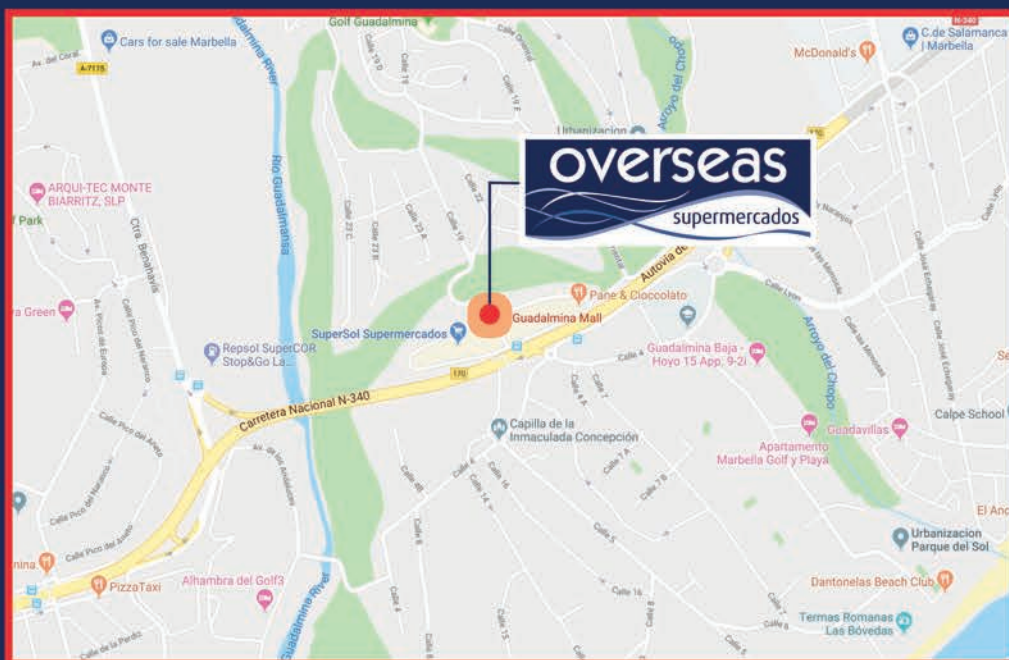


Products shown are subject to availability

**GUADALMINA
OPEN MON – SAT
9:00 – 21:00**

**Guadalmina Mall,
Calle 19, local 4. San
Pedro de Alcántara –
Marbella (Málaga)**

Arriving from Carretera Nacional N-340 drive towards the Guadalmina Mall, take the first right and follow the road until a cross road. Drive straight across and Overseas Guadalmina will be on your left. Located just before Super Sol Supermercados to the rear of Guadalmina Mall.



Overseas Locations

Spain: Javea · Moraira · Benissa · Benidorm · San Fulgencio · Lomas De Cabo Roig · Torrevieja · Campoverde · San Javier · Vera · Mijas · Calahonda · Puerto Banus · Sotogrande.

Tenerife : Las Chafiras · Los Cristianos · Torviscas

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