



Spain to open up to international tourism gradually from July without quarantine

As airlines announce that they will resume flights to the Costa del Sol this summer, the government says the tourist season is not lost

There will be a tourist season this summer said Spanish prime minister Pedro Sánchez last Saturday when he announced that Spain would open its frontiers to international visitors from July. He also advised the industry to prepare to

get back to work in June to welcome tourists from Spain, when travel between regions is likely to be allowed. Tourists would be able to come to Spain "with health guarantees" the government has said, confirming that the current two-

week quarantine rule for all people entering Spain would have been lifted by July. While there are mixed feelings about how the industry will survive in the "new normal", airlines are announcing new flight schedules. **P2**



Two of the first visitors
at the Malaga Picasso
Museum on Tuesday.
ÑITO SALAS

Malaga's cultural heart starts to beat again

Several museums opened their doors to the general public on Tuesday for the first time since the coronavirus lockdown. Admission is free of charge for the first week. **P22-23**

Malaga and Granada move to Phase Two of lockdown easing

Cases of Covid-19 continue to fall in Malaga and in Spain as further restrictions are set to be lifted on Monday

The provinces of Malaga and Granada will move into Phase Two of Spain's lockdown easing plan on Monday, the Health Minister announced on Thursday evening. There was disappointment last week when the government decided to leave the two Andalusian provinces in Phase One, trailing behind the rest of Andalucía. The rate of contagion of Covid-19 is among the criteria studied to allow progress through the phases. In Malaga province four new cases were reported on Thursday, two on Wednesday and two on Tuesday. Phase Two will see more restrictions relaxed next week with beaches reopening for bathing, and larger gatherings permitted. **P3**

Crime comes out of lockdown as man admitted to Marbella hospital with gunshot wounds to the legs **P11**

Crisis throws Costa's summer calendar into turmoil with events cancelled and new financial worries **P10**

Sport. Government gives the green light for La Liga to return behind closed doors from 8 June **P32-34**

Tourism of the future looks cleaner, greener and leaner, says Andrew Forbes in May's Travel special **P18-20**

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Spain to open its borders to visitors from abroad from July, with no quarantine

The government hopes to agree on the criteria for allowing borders to open with fellow EU countries and says some regions could open before others

E. MARTÍNEZ / R. HAYNES / EFE

MADRID / MALAGA. "Spain will be waiting for you from July," the prime minister said at a press conference on Saturday, when he announced that the country would reopen its borders to international tourism this summer "in conditions of safety".

Government ministers have since confirmed that the current two-week quarantine requirement for anyone entering Spain would be lifted before tourists started to arrive in July.

Foreign minister Arancha González Laya said, "In the month of July international tourism will resume gradually and quarantine will be lifted," in a Twitter message posted prior to an inter-ministerial meeting on Tuesday.

The minister for Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Reyes Maroto, said that the quarantine would only last as long as the state of alarm, which at present is in force until 7 June. She too, encouraged foreign tourists, especially French and Germans, to visit Spain this summer. This came in response to statements made by a French minister last weekend who encouraged her compatriots not to visit Spain for their holidays due to the government's "contradictory" measures.

Staggered reopening

On Thursday González Laya said in an interview that the government had not ruled out a staggered reopening of its frontiers, with some regions being able to welcome international visitors before others.

She stressed that the Spanish government wanted to agree on the criteria that would allow frontiers to open with its EU partners. Opening up some regions and not others to tourism, she said, would be permitted by the European Commission, but what is important is "to define which conditions are considered safe".

Although quarantine is set to be lifted, the Spanish government has stressed that reopening the country for international tourism will involve health and safety controls as visitors arrive.



Some of aircraft grounded at Malaga Airport since March could be flying again in July. NITO SALAS

It has not yet clarified whether this would involve body temperature checks or Covid-19 testing.

"Spain needs tourism and tourism needs safety [in the countries of] origin and safety in the destination, and for that reason we will guarantee that tourists are not at risk here and that they don't bring risks to our country," said Sánchez on Saturday.

Mixed reactions

The president of the Spanish Confederation of Hotels and Tourist Accommodation, Jorge

Marichalar, welcomed the news, which he described as "very positive" for the industry, and "a lifeline" for many companies. He also called for "very powerful" promotional campaigns, saying "just because tourists can come, doesn't mean they will come".

In Andalucía, the regional vice-president and Tourism minister, Juan Marín, was optimistic this week, even forecasting 60 per cent of reservations for August and September in the region.

According to Marín, "The international markets are still very

active and the airlines are going to start recovering flights in June to return to a position of relative normality in July."

Less optimism

Many local tourism professionals on the Costa del Sol are not so optimistic, however.

Co-owner of the holiday rentals and property management firm Bonasol, Marcus Stephan, believes that the authorities, rather than rushing out to save this season, should be providing a survival plan to help small businesses make it through to next

year.

"It's very difficult to remain optimistic," he told SUR in English, adding that he was only receiving cancellations and so far the news that the country could open up in July had not sparked new reservations.

As far as visitors from the UK, the Costa del Sol's biggest international tourist market, he explained that people are still wary of booking holidays for numerous reasons.

"People are getting mixed messages. Until the Foreign Office lifts its advice against international travel people are not going to book," he said, adding that the current situation also raises concerns about insurance.

He also said that some of the restrictions in force due to Covid-19 regarding the use of beaches, pools and having to wear face masks are likely to put visitors off. "It's not a relaxing holiday environment," he said.

Stephan did say that his business had had some enquiries from Spanish tourists, a market that is likely to pick up before the rest.

Indeed the prime minister on Saturday called for people in Spain to plan their holidays and to make the most of the "wonders" this country has to offer.

From 22 June the government is to create "safe corridors" to link areas of Spain that have moved into Phase Three of the plan to ease lockdown restrictions.

Airlines include the Costa del Sol on their new summer schedules

Ryanair and Jet2.com are among the airlines that have already released schedules for July

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Some of Europe's biggest airlines have announced plans of how they plan to take off again after the coronavirus grounded their entire fleets in March.

The companies' finances have been hit by the crisis and giants such as Air France and Lufthansa have asked for support from their respective governments to be

able to keep operating. Meanwhile Easyjet has announced plans this week to reduce its staff by 30 per cent.

The "new normal", when it arrives, is going to be very different to the pre-coronavirus situation, with experts from the aviation industry saying that levels of 2019 will not be recovered before 2023.

Most airlines will be returning to work this summer with reduced operations, which will be stepped up gradually.

The airline operating the most flights at Malaga Airport before the crisis was Ryanair, which already announced that it would start flying to the Costa del Sol from 1 July. Its operations would

be around 40% fewer than originally planned, but the airline has opted to keep as many different routes open as possible and reduce frequency. This summer Ryanair has said it will be operated some 1,000 flights a day around Europe, where pre-crisis its daily figure was 2,400.

Vueling is currently finalising its plans which it hopes to release over the next few days. Vueling is one of the few airlines that has continued running some flights from Malaga during the crisis, mainly to Barcelona and Bilbao.

Jet2.com, the fifth most important airline in terms of volume of passengers in Malaga before the crisis, has announced that flights

will be resuming operations between the Costa del Sol and nine British airports from July. These are Leeds-Bradford, Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham, London Stansted, East Midlands, Belfast, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Margarita del Cid, CEO of Turismo Costa del Sol said this week that the number of internet searches for flights to the Costa del Sol had increased in May compared to last year, especially from Germany and Russia, and to a lesser extent, the rest of Spain.

"Over the coming weeks we'll have to see whether these searches turn into bookings," she said.

Meanwhile Malaga Airport is preparing to reopen in the "new normal".

Screens have already been installed at check-in desks and markers are being stuck to the floor near boarding gates to ensure social distancing.

Costas look forward to entering Phase Two as case numbers fall

There were four new cases of Covid-19 in Malaga province on Thursday and 182 nationally, mostly in Catalonia and Madrid

SUR

MALAGA. The authorities were confident this week that Malaga province would be moved into Phase Two of the winding down of lockdown next Monday, 1 June. They said the province, which includes the Costa del Sol, now more than meets national government criteria to change phase. Granada province, including the Costa Tropical, will change as well.

Regional Health minister, Jesús Aguirre said, "Neither Malaga nor Granada should stay one more day in Phase One."

Last weekend there was disappointment as both provinces once again failed to keep up with the rest of Andalucía as it moved to Phase Two.

Less coronavirus locally

The number of new SARS-CoV-2



Jesús Aguirre. EFE

For those areas nationally already in Phase Two, the earliest they are expected to move to Phase Three is 8 June, providing the data on new cases remains favourable

cases in the province of Malaga continues to show a significant decline.

On Thursday afternoon, data released by the regional health ministry showed four new cases in the previous 24 hours in the province. There were two new cases on Wednesday and two on Tuesday, proven with the more reliable PCR tests.

Nationally the government said on Thursday there were 182 new cases in the previous day, of which well over half were in Madrid and Catalonia. This was the lowest figure since 5 March, before lockdown.

In Spain, 47 per cent of the population started Phase Two last Monday, and 53 per cent were in Phase One still. The Valencia region (including the Costa Blanca) was told on Thursday that it could move to Phase Two on Monday and the Madrid region, as well as Malaga and Granada provinces were hopeful to move up as well.

For those areas already in Phase Two, the earliest they are expected to move to Phase Three is on 8 June, providing the data on new cases remains favourable.

Rules will relax for sport, shopping and socialising as we enter next phase of the deescalation plan

Time slots for exercising disappear, except the times reserved for the vulnerable, and all activity must still stay within your province

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. When Malaga and Granada provinces move into Phase Two next Monday, 1 June, there will be important changes. The government made the announcement on changing phases on Thursday.

Phase Two: To start 1 June for Malaga and Costa

In Phase Two, the restrictions will be relaxed even more, although activity can still only be within the province where you live, except for work.

Exercise: There will be no timetables anymore. But the timeslot just for older and vulnerable people may remain.

Social contact: Groups of 15 (excl. the vulnerable still). 20 for adventure activity.

Shops & businesses: Shops

can open with 40% capacity. Shopping malls can open but with lower capacity in communal areas. Homeworking still encouraged.

Bars and Restaurants: Interiors can now open with 50% capacity and no bar service.

Hotels: Communal areas too but with capacity restrictions.

Non-professional sport: Swimming pools can open at 30% capacity. Gyms by appointment for one-to-one classes only. No contact sport.

Leisure: Cinemas and theatres with reduced seating. Beaches open for bathing.

Churches: 50% capacity

Phase Three: Earliest 8 June

Further measures towards the new normal, generally centering on more capacity in venues. Nightclubs can restart normal activity at reduced capacity. (No schools in Andalucía until September).

Dates and details can change as the government announces each phase when it starts. See www.surinenglish.com for updated information.

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Andalusian regional government approves new points system to classify hotels

It will not be obligatory to join, but the Junta says it will provide security and will attract much-needed investment to the area

PILAR MARTINEZ

MALAGA. A new method of classifying hotel categories through a points system, which will include five-star and top luxury establishments, has just been approved by decree by the regional government.

Juan Marín, vice-president of the Junta and minister for Tourism, says the sector has been

waiting a long time for this regulation to come into force, and that it "will enable hotels to compete in conditions which are more in line with 21st-century tourism".

He explains that the new system involves points being awarded in accordance with the facilities and services provided by each hotel, and says it offers security for clients. The number of points will be determined through standard measures and by evaluating quality and social and environmental factors, as well as a range of complementary services, and it will apply to five-star and top luxury ho-

tels, although originally this was not the intention.

The hotels will still have stars, as they do at present, but they will have to meet different criteria to be awarded them.

The new regulation will mean that establishments can move up in category if they improve their facilities. "We can't let this opportunity slip by, especially at a time like this when Andalucía needs to reform its hotel sector and improve in order to come out of this crisis," says Marín.

The Junta insists that this regulation was important for attracting investment: "We are not in a situation to reject these in-

vestments. We are aware that there are major hotel chains who have been waiting for this move before investing in Andalucía." The new system is not obligatory and there will be a five-year period in which to join it, although some hotel groups appear ready to make the necessary changes this year and next. There will be five types of establishment: hoteles, apartamentos, hostales, pensiones and albergues.

Marín says this decree is of major importance for a sector which drives the regional economy and is currently paralysed because of the Covid-19 crisis.

Restaurants and bars can extend opening times to 3am for summer

M. D. T. / J. S.

SEVILLE / MALAGA. Bars and restaurants on the Costa del Sol and in Malaga province will be able to stay open up to an hour later at night over this summer. The Junta de Andalucía regional government has approved a decree meaning they don't need to close until 3am.

In addition, the Junta has taken advantage of the flexibility given to it by the national government by allowing the inside of bars and restaurants to fill up to 50 per cent of capacity. (The government has said regions can set between 40 and 50% in Phase Two).

Despite the overall rule for Andalucía, each town hall can apply local restrictions. In Malaga city, the council has already said that those bars and restaurants in the noisiest parts of the centre can only open terraces to 2am weekdays and 2.30am at weekends.

The local hospitality sector broadly welcomed this year's laxer rules that will last to 31 October.

Iconic hotels on the Costa start to reach out to customers with reopening dates

P. M. / N. H.

MALAGA. Tourism has also started to wake up at varied points along the Costa del Sol. In Malaga, El Gran Hotel Miramar, luxury flagship in the city, has said that it will open its doors again on 1 June. The property, part of the Santos chain, will open with limited capacity and with all the required health and safety restrictions in place.

Managers at the hotel have said that by opening early in Phase Two they hope to help restart the local economy.

The Fuerte Hoteles group has also announced that it is preparing to reopen again. The first to open its doors will be the emblematic Fuerte Marbella on 3 July as well as Fuerte Conil-Resort and Fuerte Grazalema, in Cadiz, and Fuerte El Rompido, in Huelva.

Managers of the group said they had decided to open, "after the positive progress that the easing of lockdown appears to be having and the approaching new normal".

Marbella's iconic Puente Romano hotel also informed that it will be opening again on 2 July. Along with other hotels, bosses again stressed the extra precautions they are taking.

"We've developed and adapted our operations as needed, and implemented full health and safety training so that all hygiene measures are in accordance with the World Health Organization guidelines."



The hotel promises an unmatched experience for art lovers and gastronomy enthusiasts. SUR

Hilton's most luxurious hotel on the Costa will reopen on 26 June with 113 new suites

After a 25 million euro investment, the Higuerón Malaga Curio Collection by Hilton aspires to be the biggest five-star hotel in the province

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. At the height of the coronavirus crisis but with confidence in the product and the destination, the Higuerón Hotel Málaga Curio Collection by Hilton will reopen on 26 June with a new tower containing 113 pre-

mium suites which complete an improvement and expansion project which has cost 25 million euros over the past two years. It is the first hotel in Spain to announce its reopening after the pandemic.

José Navas, the director of Hilton's most luxurious hotel on the Costa del Sol, believes recovery will be sooner than predicted. He says clients are reconfirming their bookings and they are receiving requests for new ones. "We hope that by the second half of July tourism will be functioning well. If the airlines

maintain their capacity and prices from before the crisis, the sector will recover faster," he says.

This establishment, which he describes as "a travel experience in itself", has expanded from 177 rooms to 290 including the 113 premium suites, of which 16 are in duplex style, where travellers can enjoy accommodation which is 87 square metres in size with views over the Mediterranean, a jacuzzi on every roof terrace, Balinese beds and a solarium.

Navas says the hotel is also an experience for art lovers, with its own collection of works by famous artists such as Lita Cabellut, Manuel Rivera, José María Sicilia and Enrique Brinkmann, as well as temporary exhibitions. With its seven restaurants, one of them run by Michelin-starred chef Diego Gallegos, it also aims to be a haven for gastronomy enthusiasts.

Malaga's official language school offers 6k places to study 11 languages

F. GUTIÉRREZ / N. H.

MALAGA. The Malaga official language school (La Escuela Oficial de Idiomas de Málaga) is accepting applications for up to 6,000 people to study a foreign language. Places are also open to foreigners registered as residents on the Costa and demand is usually very high for these subsidised courses.

Eleven languages are on offer for the full-attendance classes with 4,355 places; English (2,205), French (530), German (318), Italian (314), Chinese (230), Arabic (170), Greek, Japanese and Russian (140 each), Portuguese (100) and Spanish (68).

For part-attendance classes three languages are available; German (180 spaces), French (215) and English (472). There are also courses for teachers of English and French.

For more details on this publicly funded centre, interested applicants should email the centre's secretary, visit in the morning before 1 June or see www.eoimalaga.com.



Investing for the long-term: Why time in the market matters

By David Bower, Partner, Blevins Franks

Aside from the devastating human impact, the coronavirus pandemic has affected economies and businesses everywhere, making this a highly volatile time for global markets. While this can be unsettling for investors, this is not the time to act on impulse.

Whatever is happening around us, the most sensible approach is to invest for the long-term. History has repeatedly shown that 'time in' rather than 'timing' the market usually offers the best rewards.

How has COVID-19 affected markets?

After a relatively stable start to the year, equity/share markets in particular felt a negative impact during late February and throughout March. But this period also brought upward rebounds following news of government and central bank stimulus. As a result, markets recovered some of their losses by the end of March and this recovery continued during April and May. However, we may still see more volatility ahead in these extraordinary times.

This highlights the challenges of trying to time markets – while it is impossible to consistently predict the

best time to buy and sell, reacting to current conditions is usually too late.

The risk of missing out

Short-term or impatient investors risk missing out on the best days in the market cycle. Those exiting the market during a downturn, for example, would miss benefiting from rebound days if the market suddenly rallies.

Let's say you had invested £100,000 in the FTSE All-Share index for the ten-year period up to 31 December 2019 – you would have enjoyed a profit of £118,280 (excluding fees/charges) so your investment would be worth £218,280. But if you missed the five best days, returns would fall to £80,630, and would more than halve to £55,210 on missing the ten best days. Meanwhile, being out of the market on the best 30 days would have instead brought a loss of £8,410!

This illustrates how staying invested, even when markets fluctuate, usually produces better returns over the longer term.

Investment performance: The bigger picture

It is all too common to remember

extreme market highs and lows without looking at the overall picture. Most will be aware of 1987's 'Black Monday' global stock market crash, for example, without realising that investors in the FTSE All-share index actually realised a positive 4% return over the year.

Focus also tends to land on share market performance, particularly in one key region, such as the UK's FTSE100 or the S&P500 in the US. However, wise investors will never have all their interests in one asset class or geographical region. So when we hear about shocks in one share market, this overplays the actual impact on most investors.

Remember: past performance is no guarantee of future performance – the best asset class/region/sector/fund one year could be the worst performer the next, and vice versa.

The importance of diversification

However, even the most patient investor is unlikely to benefit from a portfolio that does not meet their needs or is overly concentrated in one area. Many British expatriates tend to be over-invested in the UK, making them vulnerable to the fortunes of UK assets and sterling.

The best strategy for minimising risk is to spread investments across multiple, unrelated areas. This should include a range of asset classes (shares, bonds, cash and 'real' assets such as property) as well as geographical regions and market sectors. Diversifying this way gives your portfolio the chance to produce positive returns over time without being vulnerable to any single area or stock under-performing.

You can diversify further with an adviser who uses a dynamic 'multi-manager' approach. Combining several carefully selected fund managers reduces reliance on any one manager making the right decisions in all market conditions.

Establishing a suitable investment approach

Alongside diversification, you should carefully assess your situation, income requirements, goals, timeline and appetite for risk. This is best done objectively by an experienced professional who can then build a portfolio with the right risk/return balance for your peace of mind. Your arrangements should also be structured as tax-efficiently as possible for Spain. Talk to a locally based adviser with cross-border experience to make the most of

available opportunities.

If markets still make you nervous, you could explore a 'pound (or euro/dollar) cost averaging' approach. Spreading the timing of your investments over several periods can help smooth out volatility and potentially improve average returns over longer time periods.

Ultimately, a long-term, diversified investment approach designed for your unique situation is key to protecting and growing your capital, whatever the economic climate. While staying invested usually gives the best overall results, you should still review your planning once a year, or sooner if your circumstances change, to continue meeting your goals.

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Investing in volatile times

Global coronavirus concerns are impacting markets in an unprecedented way, making things extremely uncomfortable for investors. Is this a good or a bad time to invest? Should you hold your nerve if you are already invested? Unfortunately, there are no simple answers, just good investment principles.

Whatever the market is doing at any given point, the most sensible approach is to have a well-diversified portfolio and invest for the long-term rather than trying to 'time' the market.

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The province's most popular beaches can only be half-filled this summer

Local councils will have to ensure a safe distance between bathers and keep free at least a six-metre strip by the shore

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The busiest and most popular beaches in Malaga province will see their capacity reduced by almost half this summer as a result of the pandemic.

Beaches are allowed to open during Phase Two of the lockdown easing plan, a milestone that Malaga province expects to reach on Monday 1 June. As a result, various councils on the Costa del Sol, who would be responsible for controlling the beaches, are exploring a broad range of measures to implement this, from extra police and lifeguards, to mobile phone apps and drones.

The government this week confirmed that on beaches where a significant influx of bathers is expected "social distancing should be ensured at all times", with a separation of two metres between people from different families and four metres between umbrellas. These distances would need to be greater in areas that are very windy. As for those who come in groups, the Ministry of Health's recommendation is that no more than 15 people meet at once.

When calculating the capacity of a beach, it is considered that the surface area that each bather will safely occupy is four square metres (including personal items, towels, chairs or sunbeds) and that a minimum strip of six metres will have to be left free on the shore to avoid crowding on the walkway. With these parameters in mind, and assuming that beachgoers will behave responsibly, this means that a large number of beaches on the Malaga coast will have to reduce their usage by half, especially on the urban beaches which are usually the ones that are most frequented.

This figure has been reached by using the standardised formula in Spain from the report 'Tourism as



Beaches can open during Phase Two, expected to come into effect in Malaga province on 1 June. **ÑITO SALAS**

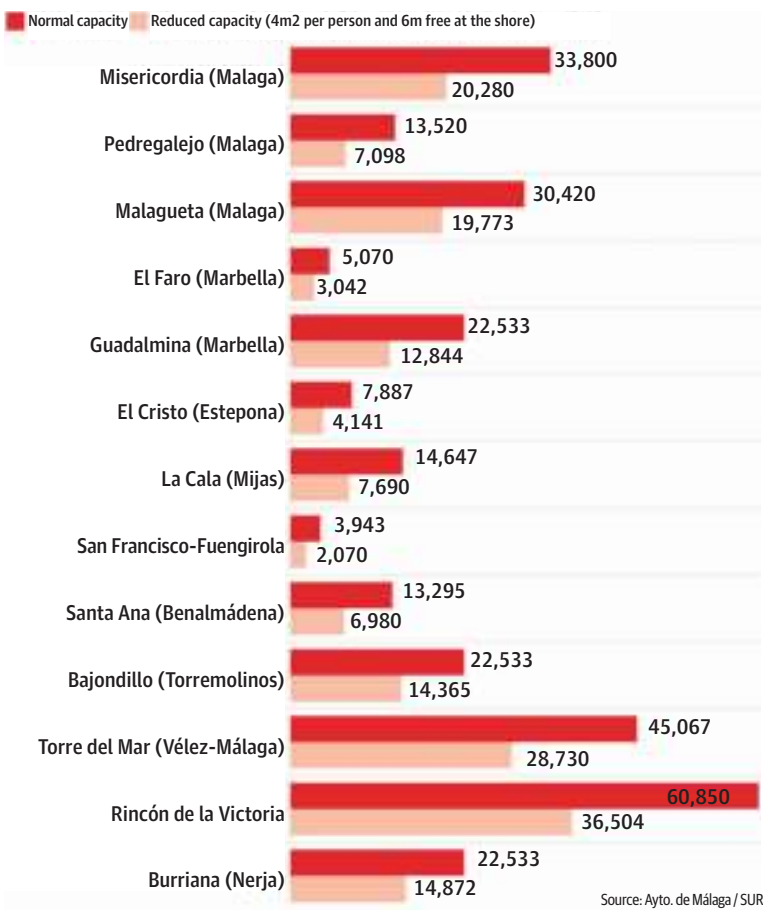
a coastal resource' by professor and expert on tourist beaches, Victor Yepes.

In Malaga city, the council estimates that restrictions would limit capacity on Misericordia and Pedregalejo beaches from 33,800 and 13,520 to 20,280 and 7,098, respectively. The most affected beach in the city would be at Baños del Carmen where only 1,600 people will be allowed at a time, compared to 3,630.

The same story will be repeated across the majority of the densely populated Costa del Sol. Using the same formula, most beaches in urban areas will see their capacity halved, as would be the case with El Cristo in Estepona (4,141, as opposed to 7,887), La Cala de Mijas (from 14,647 to 7,690), San Francisco-Fuengirola (from 3,943 to 2,070) or Santa Ana in Benalmádena (13,295 to 6,980).

The reduction will be closer to 40 per cent in Marbella (El Faro from 5,070 to 3,042 and Guadalmina from 22,533 to 12,844), El Bajondillo in Torremolinos (from 22,533 to 14,365), Torre del Mar in Vélez (from 45,067 to 28,730), Rincón de la Victoria (from 60,850 to 36,504) or Burriana in Nerja (from 22,533 to 14,872).

Capacity of the most popular beaches



Junta set to employ 3,000 people to help with beach controls

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA

SEVILLE. The Andalusian government has launched an emergency employment plan for safe beaches this summer which will see the hiring of around 3,000

people to ensure the control and implementation of protection and security measures against the coronavirus.

This initiative was described by regional president Juanma Moreno as "pioneering" and will

"give the councils the possibility of having sufficient human resources to order and plan the enjoyment of the beaches across the whole coast this summer".

Moreno added that "with these contracts, together with the personnel that the town halls already have as lifeguards and local police and civil protection officers, a huge army is going to be formed that will allow us to safely coordinate the opening of the beaches

this summer along the 1,000 kilometres of coastline that Andalucía enjoys".

The Junta president also stressed that this plan aims to "defend the good image and reputation of the tourism sector, as well as supporting these unemployed people" who will receive training before carrying out monitoring tasks and the organisation of safe distances during the summer.

HERE AND THERE



The shark's fin. **ANTONIO TAMAYO**

MALAGA

Large shark spotted in Bay of Malaga

I. LILLO. Many concerned individuals reported the sighting of a basking shark, of around five to six metres in length, circling the Bay of Malaga last Friday.

Despite its large dimensions, however, the authorities confirmed that this type of shark poses no danger to the general public. Like whales, this species feeds off plankton and uses its large mouth as a net to collect it.

Jesús Bellido, a biologist at the Aula del Mar association, confirmed that at present there is a large school of plankton near the beach in the western part of the city.

FUENGIROLA

Police called to remove snake from beach

C. M. The National Police were called to rescue a Montpellier snake, 1.2 metres in length, that was on a beach in Fuengirola while many people were taking their daily exercise at around 8.30am on Monday.

Many passersby informed the police who, upon realising that it was not a dangerous species, decided to capture it, without inflicting any damage, and release it into a part of a stream with abundant vegetation - its natural habitat.

NERJA

Town hall to replace beach public facilities

E. C. Nerja town hall has approved a budget of 198,440 euros to replace public facilities on five of the town's beaches. Seven new toilet and shower units will replace existing ones on El Playazo, El Chucho, El Salón, Calahonda and Maro beaches ahead of the summer season. Nerja's councillor for beaches, Francisco Arce, said that with the coronavirus situation "hygiene and safety" were fundamental for residents and visitors alike.

Nautical tourism, a key to bringing Banús back to life

MARBELLA

With crowds and sharing spaces with strangers not advised, renting a boat could become one of the most popular activities this summer

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

With the coronavirus pandemic wiping out more usual streams of income, Puerto Banús is turning to nautical tourism as a way to boost activity in the absence of the usual influx of visitors this high season.

Marinas de Andalucía, the association that brings together the marinas of the region, believes that sailing will be a particularly popular activity this summer as it avoids overcrowding or sharing spaces with strangers and in Banús they are keen to join the group's initiative to promote boat rental.

A catalogue with the boats available for rent (motor and sail boats), with most belonging to those with a berth in the port or



Maintenance on a boat docked in Puerto Banús. JOSELE

others nearby, is currently being put together. The boats will be available for a minimum of four hours (up to several days) and packages can include crew and also catering from restaurants in the port.

Depending on the length of the boat, renting a yacht for up to 12 people for eight hours can cost between 1,850 and 20,000 euros. Weekly rentals can reach up to 115,000 euros.

Sailing boats, which can be rented with or without crew, have lower rates.

Permission given to expand restaurant terraces

The company which manages Puerto Banús has opened up the possibility for the port's restaurants to extend their outdoor terraces in order to be able to comply with the social distancing standards required by law without having to re-

duce their overall capacity.

It has done so by reducing the number of parking spaces available so that space reserved for pedestrians is not reduced either.

Management is also allowing some businesses to pay 50 per cent of their usual rent during the state of alarm, allowing them to defer payment of the rest until normal levels of activity return.

IN BRIEF

MARBELLA

Budget assigned for ten-million-euro works

H. BARBOTTA. Marbella town hall on Monday approved a budget amendment that will allow for works worth ten million euros to be undertaken as part of the council's Economic Reactivation Plan designed to tackle the crisis caused by the pandemic.

This initiative will allow the execution of large projects such as the multipurpose centre in

Nueva Andalucía, repairs to part of the Istán road, the remodeling of the main access to the Costa del Sol hospital and the Urban Regeneration Plan for San Pedro Alcántara.

"This is a plan that aims to support small and medium-sized businesses and employment while at the same time carrying out major projects such as re-vamping the Triple A facilities or turning the old Urbanismo building on Avenida Ricardo Soriano into a health centre," said mayor Ángeles Muñoz.

COÍN

Street market to reopen this Saturday

A. JIMÉNEZ. The weekly street market in Coín will reopen for the first time this weekend in three months.

Only eighty per cent of the usual stalls will be allowed to open on Saturday and controls to prevent overcrowding will be put in place. All those wishing to go must wear a face mask.

The space available for the market in the Parque Periurbano will also be increased to allow traders and customers to maintain their distance.

NERJA

Busy street closed to traffic over summer

E. C. Nerja town hall has started to close Calle Diputación in the town centre to traffic from 6pm until 3am every day with a view to helping local businesses including shops, bars and restaurants. The closure came into effect yesterday and will last until 31 October.

It forms part of plans to help local commerce after the coronavirus lockdown. Councillor for commerce, Javier López, said, "This will help to revitalise local business."

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Alex Corretja
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A thousand vehicles join in Vox protest in Malaga

Similar convoys festooned with Spanish flags crossed cities around Spain on Saturday morning

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. A thousand vehicles decorated with Spanish flags took part in a motorised demonstration against the government which crossed Malaga on Saturday morning.

According to figures from the government office in Malaga, 773 cars and 236 motorcycles travelled eight kilometres west to east from the Martín Carpena sports arena to El Tintero restaurant in El Palo.

The convoy, whose slogan was “for Spain and its freedom”, was organised by far-right party Vox, in parallel with similar protests in towns and cities around Spain, calling for the government to resign over its management of the coronavirus crisis.

Authorised by the government, the convoy was escorted by Local and National Police officers, and progressed without incident,



The convoy makes its way down the seafront. P. J. QUERO

apart from some exchanges of insults with residents in the Carretera de Cadiz district.

On its conclusion in El Palo, the president of Vox Málaga, José Enrique Lara, and the Vox MP Patricia Rueda made a statement, celebrating the turnout and thanking the security forces.

“This is a convoy for freedom and for Spain; brave Malaga has responded beyond expectations. We’re tired of this government of lies, with terrible deaths, a high rate of health workers infected, security forces without resources or protective material,” said Rueda.



SALVADOR SALAS

Noisy protest on Calle Larios

Saturday’s convoy came following a series of spontaneous protests across Spain, organised on social media, calling for PM Pedro Sánchez’s resignation. Malaga’s Calle Larios was packed out last Thursday night, a day after similar protests in Marbella.

ADVERTORIAL - HELLE HOLLIS

SAFETY FIRST FOR CAR RENTAL CUSTOMERS

Helle Hollis is the first car rental company in Malaga to use an ozone generator to disinfect cars before they are rented to another customer

MALAGA

Helle Hollis is known for always being the first one to come up with new initiatives. The firm is the first and currently the only car rental company in Malaga, to have invested in ozone generators for disinfecting a car before it is rented out again.

“It is important for us to show our customers that they can safely hire a car,” explains managing director Hans Hugo From. He continues, “One of the first steps is to disinfect the car with an ozone generator. Ozone kills bacteria, viruses and fungal spores, and also has the advantage of entering all the cracks and corners of the car. It is an



Pedro Vázquez, car preparation manager.

easy and environmentally friendly process that only takes five minutes for a complete disinfection.”

When the car returns from a rental, it is first thoroughly cleaned inside with a disinfectant on all surfaces, such as the steering wheel, touch screen, and gear shift. After the car is cleaned and ready for hire, an ozone generator is put into operation inside the parked car and any remaining bacteria and viruses are killed instantly.

And there are even more new initiatives at Helle Hollis. Hans Hugo From informs that as an extra service from 1 June, the customer can get a free protective kit for the car’s interior. The kit includes a plastic cover for the steering wheel, driver’s seat, and gearshift. This plastic cover can be put on by the customers themselves if they want another layer of protection.

In addition to the very thorough disinfection of the car, plexiglass shielding has been installed between the receptionist and the customer at the reception desks and in the car return area. All staff follow the Ministry of Health’s current recommendations with regards to personal protection and, as well, hand sanitisers are available for free use in the waiting areas.

Hans Hugo From concludes, “It is our first priority that safety is top of mind for customers and employees, so you can safely rent a car and thus get a good and safe start to your holidays!”

HERE AND THERE

FUENGIROLA

Age Concern continue charity campaign

T. BRYANT. Age Concern Fuengirola, Mijas and Benalmádena is continuing its partnership with town halls and the Red Cross in its campaign to help underprivileged families and those in danger of social exclusion during the coronavirus pandemic. Last week, members of the charity made another delivery of food and essential household products to the Red Cross food bank in Fuengirola.

A representative for the charity said, “Many families are in real difficulty at this time. By working with the town halls and



Volunteers deliver supplies. SUR

the third sector we can make a real difference to the greatest number of people.”

Those who need help with welfare issues should call the 24-hour helpline: 652537615.

MIJAS

La Cala Lions contribute to community support

SUR IN ENGLISH. La Cala de Mijas Lions Club president, Anita Humphreys, recently presented 200 euros to Suzie Malt, the coordinator of the Mijas branch of the charity Collective Calling.

Suzie joined the organisation, which is mainly based in the Marbella area, so that she could help provide support in Mijas during the coronavirus pandemic. Suzie,



A. Humphreys and S. Malt. SUR

along with her helpers, collects and distributes food to 11 families in financial difficulties in the Mijas area. The extra funds will go towards providing fresh food to these families, she said.

Carrefour



Estepona | Fuengirola | Mijas |
Torremolinos | Valle del Guadalhorce

OFFERS OF THE WEEK

FROM THE VEGETABLE FARMS TO THE TABLE



The Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce have a wide range of seasonal fruit and vegetables from local producers

Eating vegetables and greens is an essential part of a balanced diet, so the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce place a wide selection of fresh and seasonal fruit, vegetables and greens at the disposal of their clients.

To guarantee freshness, quality and flavour, these hypermarkets have agreements with vegetable farms and local suppliers so clients can enjoy the taste of freshly harvested produce at the best prices.

That's why the entire fruit and vegetable section occupies a prime place in the

area known as La Plaza (The Square). This allows clients to see, in a glimpse, where each item on sale is displayed. A global vision that facilitates shopping and improves time optimization.

As well as local producers, Costasol has a wide range of Sabor a Málaga (Málaga Flavour) brand products and agreements with suppliers from the Axarquía and other places in the region. In addition, there is a selection of Bio and organic products for the more conscientious consumers. All of this makes their fruit and vegetables a benchmark for quality.

-70%
off 2nd item

CARREFOUR BROCCOLI
500-gram piece
Origin: Murcia

1 piece 1.45€
The 2nd piece works out at
0.44€
2 pieces 1.89€

UNBEATABLE ON FRESH PRODUCTS

3.60€
mesh

UNBEATABLE ON FRESH PRODUCTS

CARREFOUR FRYING OR BOILING POTATOES
New potatoes
Origin: Murcia and Andalusia
Size: 50/80. Category: 1st
4 kilo mesh.

0.89€
per Kilo

UNBEATABLE ON FRESH PRODUCTS

ROUND TOMATOES
Origin: Murcia and Almería
Variety: Round. Category: 1st

0.89€
per Kilo

UNBEATABLE ON FRESH PRODUCTS

BANANA
Variety: Cavendish.
Size 19 and +. Category: 1st

2.99€
per punnet

UNBEATABLE ON FRESH PRODUCTS

CHERRIES
Variety: California. Category: 1st
Origin: Spain. Punnet: 500 grams.

2.99€
per Kilo

UNBEATABLE ON FRESH PRODUCTS

ZESPRI KIWIS
Variety: Hayward
Size: 33/36. Category: 1st

-70%
off 2nd item

If you buy 2, the kilo works out at 0.78€
1.19€ kilo

UNBEATABLE ON FRESH PRODUCTS

PINEAPPLE
Variety: Extra Sweet
Size: 5/7
Category: 1st

Offers valid at the Carrefour centres in Torremolinos, Mijas, Fuengirola, Estepona and Valle del Guadalhorce until the 4th of June, 2020.



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C.C. La Trocha,
Ctra. Coin-Cártama, Km 1. Coin

Coronavirus crisis throws the Costa's summer cultural calendar into turmoil

Some town halls hope to go ahead with events that are scheduled for late summer and autumn, although with capacity restrictions

TONY BRYANT



MALAGA. As Malaga and the Costa del Sol looks forward to entering phase two of the lockdown on Monday (providing the province meets the health parameters), there is an optimistic feeling that life will slowly return to some sort of normality. This is a time of year when many town halls are preparing for their annual ferias, romerías and festivals, while promoters and entertainment venues are gearing up to host concerts and live entertainment.

Although town halls are showing optimism about the future, some have already been forced to cancel events because of the state of alarm; others are hoping to go ahead with celebrations that are scheduled for late summer and autumn, although with strict capacity restrictions.

Malaga city hall has announced that this year's feria is for now still due to take place from 15 to 22 August, providing the state of alarm has been lifted and there is no chance of putting the public's safety at risk. The council said that "a final decision would be taken at the end of July".

Torremolinos town hall is also hopeful that its cultural agenda



Organisers of Starlite are optimistic that the show will go on. SUR

can return in the near future. The San Juan celebrations in June have been postponed (as in all resorts along the coast) but the cultural department is keeping an open mind about the Romería and Feria de San Miguel in September.

Councillor for Culture David Tejeiro told SUR in English, "Providing Torremolinos meets all the correct standards and we can ensure health and safety for our visitors, some events like the romería and feria will probably take place. It is difficult to say for sure, because we need to wait to see what happens next."

However, the councillor hinted that, like many town halls in the province, "finance could also be a problem".

The coronavirus pandemic has

increased councils' costs, while income has been lost, so some town halls could struggle to find funds to finance events.

Benalmádena is one town that had no option other than to cancel this year's feria, which is usually held in June. Mayor Víctor Navas said, "It is with deep regret that the pandemic has forced us to break with tradition and suspend the Feria de San Juan this year."

Many concerts scheduled for the popular Marenostrom music festival in Fuengirola have been cancelled or postponed, but the town hall is hopeful that the Feria del Rosario will be able to go ahead in October. Like all councils, Fuengirola is currently looking at ways to avoid potential health hazards

during large-scale events.

Organisers of the Starlite Festival in Marbella, one of the year's most anticipated musical events, issued a statement earlier this month saying that they were "doing everything in their power" to make sure this year's festival will take place. Pointing out that their main priority is the wellbeing of the audience, staff and performers, they said they will adhere to "all recommendations and protocol issued by the authorities".

Although tickets are currently on sale for all shows, there is a possibility that some of the events in early July might have to be cancelled.

Financial concerns

One of the main concerns for promoters is the financial implications caused by limited capacity and the new regulations that will be enforced at outdoor events. BigM promotions, one of the coast's main concert and event organisers, is one of many that is working alongside town halls to find ways to overcome the problems they face. The company has been forced to cancel numerous events and founder Martyn Wood declared that he was "still calculating whether it will be worth trying to organise anything this summer".

"Now we are having to work with a much smaller budget and a much-reduced capacity. We would have to use extra guards to control entry, and there would be extra health and safety measures. The overall expense to put on an event is now higher with these extra measures and the number of tickets that can be sold are less. This means that ticket prices must be higher," he explained.

Benalmádena social services forced to rethink socio-economic strategy

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDEN. Benalmádena town hall has launched a project that will focus on the socio-economic needs that will be faced by the town's residents in the months following the end of the state of alarm.

During the crisis, the town hall has maintained various initiatives to help those whose livelihoods have been affected. Since the beginning of the lockdown, the social services department has assisted 2,593 individuals and 851 families.

The emergency situation has forced the town hall to rethink its procedures in order to provide an effective response to situations of need, vulnerability and social exclusion.

The town hall claims that the situation is "increasing daily" and so it has introduced a series of measures to combat the problem. These include a nominative grant of 60,000 euros for the Red Cross; while more than 225,000 euros has been made available for Family Economic Aid (AEF) and emergency grants. The project will also include rental aid grants and help with utility bills.

"Our residents have always been the priority, but even more so in these exceptional circumstances we are living in. All efforts have focused on the needs of the citizens with the greatest situation of social vulnerability," explained the mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas.

Animal rights and rescue association appeals for funds to overcome crisis

The CYD sanctuary has recently required heavy investment in emergency repairs

TONY BRYANT

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. The CYD Santa María Association and Refuge is appealing for funds in order to continue offering help and sanctuary to the 200 animals currently in its care.

The organisation, which is run by Virginia and Concordia, two sisters united in their love of animals, is a charitable animal rights and rescue association

based in Alhaurín el Grande.

Over the last two years, the centre has been hit by a series of floods and has required heavy investment in emergency repairs to the land and the site's facilities.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has created even more problems, leaving the sisters unable to offer the usual standard of service due to the lack of fundraising and donations.

The sisters have campaigned for animal rights in Spain for 20 years, during which time, they have rescued and rehabilitated thousands of mistreated and abandoned animals.

Along with dozens of abandoned dogs, cats, birds and goats, the sanctuary currently has 50 horses. The sisters have endeavoured to recreate a natural habitat where these animals can live out the rest of their days being properly looked after.

"We need money for the optimal care and well-being of our animals, which has always proved a challenge. Whatever donors can spare would be gratefully received and put towards the immediate needs and well-being of the animals," Virginia said.

Visit www.asociacioncydsantamaria.es for more information.



Virginia and Concordia with one of the horses at the sanctuary. SUR

112 REPORTS



The child is taken away in an ambulance. PEDRO J. QUERO

MALAGA

Five-year-old survives fall from third floor

F. T. / J. C. In what is being described locally as a 'miracle', a five-year-old boy survived a fall from a third-floor window in Malaga city on Monday.

The boy, of Chinese origin,

suffered several fractures in the lower limbs and in one shoulder and several injuries as a result of the fall - none of which required surgery.

In fact, the boy didn't lose consciousness neither after the fall nor during his transfer by ambulance to the Hospital Materno, where admission to intensive care wasn't deemed necessary.

MIJAS

Man found dead in car died of natural causes

F. T. / A. F. The 38-year-old man found lifeless inside his car last Saturday in Mijas died of natural causes, the autopsy has confirmed. According to SUR sources, the man suffered a heart attack.

The police were alerted to the vehicle by a resident of the El Coto development who said that the man had been in the same position for some time. There were no signs of any violence.

MALAGA

Stabbed for wetting clothes hung out to dry

F. T. A man was arrested in Malaga on Wednesday after he allegedly stabbed a neighbour who had poured water out of his window onto some clothes that were drying on a patio below.

Police were called after the confrontation escalated to involve around 20 people.

The victim, who was stabbed in the abdomen, was taken to hospital and required surgery.

BENALMÁDENA

Arrested for holding up pharmacy with a knife

A. F. / J. C. A 35-year-old Spanish man has been arrested for his alleged role in holding up a pharmacy in Arroyo de la Miel with a knife in the early hours of Saturday.

The suspect was arrested two hours after making off with 200 euros. Despite shaving off his moustache to avoid being recognised, the man was still wearing the same clothes.



CCTV footage of the suspect. SUR

British man admitted to hospital with four gunshot wounds to the legs

National Police believe the attack could be a settling of scores related to organised crime on the Costa del Sol

JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MARBELLA. A 27-year-old British man was admitted to the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella in the early hours of Monday morning with four gunshot wounds to his legs.

His condition was described later that morning as serious but stable and sources said he would possibly be undergoing surgery imminently.

The injured man was driven to the hospital by a friend. On arrival at the accident and emergency department, staff discovered he had been shot four times in the



The Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella, where the man was taken. SUR

lower limbs, hospital sources said.

While the inquiry is in its early stages, police believe it is a case of a settling of scores among organised criminal gangs, and the shooting could be interpreted as a warning.

If this were confirmed, this would be the first case of gangland violence on the Costa del Sol since the start of the coronavirus lockdown, which also interrupted fights and vendettas among drug traffickers.



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Back to business with

SUR
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Brexit rears its head again with Specialised Committee meeting

The UK government stresses that it wholeheartedly supports the security and prosperity of Gibraltar and sovereignty is unchanged

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. With concerns over the coronavirus crisis taking up every waking moment for more than two months, it comes as a jolt to realise that the Brexit negotiations are still continuing. The UK government insists it will not ask for an extension to the transition period which is due to expire on 31 December this year, despite the EU indicating this week that it would be prepared to accept a two-year extension if the UK so wished.

Gibraltar is, of course, affected by Brexit, having had to leave the European Union alongside the UK. Although the matter has never been ignored, it has been in the background of the news while the government dealt with the Covid-19 situation. However,



Attorney General M. Llamas. SUR

on Wednesday it was announced that the first Specialised Committee on Gibraltar, which was established under the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement, met for the first time, by videoconference

This is one of six such committees that were established by the Withdrawal Treaty. The others are on Northern Ireland, the Sovereign Bases in Cyprus, Citizens' Rights, Financial Provisions and Other Separation Provisions.

The Committee on Gibraltar, and all the others, comprise officials from the UK and the EU, which are the two signatories.

The Gibraltar government was represented by the Attorney General, Michael Llamas, and the director of Gibraltar House in Brussels, Daniel D'Amato.

The role of the Specialised Committees is to oversee both the UK and the EU implementation of the terms of the exit treaty.

The UK and Gibraltar representatives explained the positive work and engagement which have taken place regarding the areas which are covered by the four Memoranda of Understanding, following the meeting that took place in Algeciras in February.

It was confirmed that the next meetings of the MoU Committees will take place in Gibraltar.

A statement issued by the Foreign Office following the meeting stressed that the UK wholeheartedly supports the security and prosperity of Gibraltar, and that these meetings in no way affect UK sovereignty over Gibraltar which remains unchanged.

IN BRIEF

HERITAGE

Gorham's Cave is out of bounds for visitors

D.B. Following two incursions this week by kayakers into the Gorham's Cave complex, which is a protected World Heritage Site, the authorities have issued a reminder that it is an offence to land on Governor's Beach and/or access the caves. The penalties range from up to three months in prison, a hefty fine or both.

There are security cameras to monitor the approach by sea, and anyone attempting this is immediately reported to the police.

The cave complex, which is



The cave complex. SUR

the last known home of the Neanderthals, is vulnerable to damage and dangerous because of the possibility of rockfalls. The site is also home to bird species which need to be protected.

HEALTH

Eight cross-border workers test positive

D.BARTLETT. Testing for coronavirus which is being carried out in Gibraltar has detected several cross-border workers who have proven positive, most of them employed in the care sector. This is now reflected in the daily figures issued by the government, showing how many

people are currently infected and how many have had the virus and recovered.

On Thursday, the figure for current positive cases was 11, of whom eight are cross-border workers. Because they were identified in Gibraltar, they are included in the figures there although they are now isolating at home in Spain. They are not included in the Spanish figures.

There have been no deaths in Gibraltar from Covid-19.

The silver lining in the Covid-19 cloud

Inspiration. A book about coronavirus written and illustrated by Jake Torres, an eight-year-old boy from Gibraltar, is helping children in need in Africa

DEBBIE BARTLETT



Coronavirus has become a dreaded word for people all over the world but, as the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining and some good has come out of the Covid-19 crisis in the shape of eight-year-old Jake Torres from Gibraltar, who has written and illustrated a book about it to raise funds for children's charities.

Jake's book, which is called Corona Travel, is about the virus wanting to make friends and hugging people, but making them ill in the process. It was a conversation with his grandfather about the coronavirus that

inspired him to write the book. Over 1,000 copies were sold in the first few days after publication, and the proceeds are being donated to charities such as Action4Schools, Rifcom and Helpmelearnafrica - the first three to have been chosen.

Jake seems very young to have such talent and such an interest in helping others, but in fact he is already quite an experienced writer, having begun writing stories and drawing pictures to go with them when he was just six years old.

His grandfather, Elliot Federico, says Jake has always received en-

couragement from his family, friends and his teacher at St Joseph's Middle School, Mrs Serena Lopez - who has told him he will be a famous author one day - but he has always written and drawn independently rather than wanting to be guided or helped by his family.

He also seems young to have such awareness of the fact that children elsewhere are in need of help, but Elliot says he has often



The first page of Jake's book, Corona Travel.

FIRMA

asked questions about poor children around the world and one day he announced that he

wanted to write a book and sell it so he could help them.

Copies of Corona Travel are available to buy and can also be ordered from Spain, at a cost of £5 for the book plus postage.

If anybody would like a copy, or is interested in donating to any of the charities mentioned above, they are asked to contact Mrs Tyrene Federico-Torres by WhatsApp on (00350) 54002441, or Jimmy Bruzon of Action4Schools on

(00350) 57631000.

Jake said in a recent radio interview that he would indeed like to be an author one day, but he doesn't dedicate all his time to writing and drawing. Like any other boy of his age he says he enjoys hobbies such as cycling, Beaver Scouts and playing with his Nintendo.

He is thrilled with the response to his book so far, and hopes people will continue to help him to raise money for those in need.

Further information about Actionforschools-Sierra Leone can be found on the website www.action4schools-gi. Most of its trustees and supporters live in or are from Gibraltar, and most of its fundraising events take place there. It has recently distributed 40 wash kits to the Regent Village community in Sierra Leone to help in the fight against the coronavirus.

Rifcom (www.rifcom.org) was set up by volunteers in Gibraltar and Spain who in 2008, after witnessing at first hand the poverty among communities in the Moroccan Rif mountains, decided to do something to help.

And as its name suggests, the Helpmelearnafrica charity (www.helpmelearnafrica.com) works to empower education in Africa.

Thanks to Jake Torres, the remarkable eight-year-old from Gibraltar, their task has just become slightly easier.

Local residents 'shocked' as provincial authority rejects coastal path plan

Vélez-Málaga town hall is redoing the project for the long-awaited stretch by the N-340 from Chilches to Benajárfate, part of the Senda Litoral scheme

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. The council in Vélez-Málaga has announced that it is revisiting its plans for three stretches of coastal pathway along the N340 road between Chilches and Benajárfate after Malaga province's Diputación rejected the project last week.

The provincial authority has taken five months to give an answer to Vélez-Málaga, after the latter submitted its proposals in December 2019. The Diputación has said that it rejected the proposal on the grounds that the town hall failed to provide a geotechnical study of the area and changed its original plans.

Mayor of Vélez-Málaga, Antonio Moreno, said the town hall is already looking at its proposal again and that the footpath is "non-negotiable" as well as "strategic". The



Part of the area affected by the provincial authority's decision. SUR

path is part of the provincial authority's ambitious 'Senda Litoral' project to have a coastal walkway the length of the Costa del Sol.

Protests

Spokesperson for the Chilches and Benajárfate residents group, Olga Rodríguez, said that members were "in shock" over the decision. The group has organised a series of protests in recent years demanding improvements for these villages which belong to Vélez-

Málaga's municipal area.

Moreno said, "We don't understand why the Diputación keeps placing administrative obstacles in the way of the coastal path," and added that locals "don't deserve the treatment they are receiving".

The three sections included in the project make up a 2.4km stretch between the arroyo de Chilches and Las Adelfas to the west of Benajárfate. The plans include seven footbridges and an investment of over one million euros.

NERJA

Green campaigners report uncontrolled dump as a fire hazard

E. C. Environmental campaigners GEMA Ecologistas en Acción have complained to Nerja town hall about the fire risk at an unmanaged dump of organic material near the Maro river. Councillor Javier Rodríguez told SUR that the landowner started removing the rubbish on the same day the complaint was received. According to GEMA the dump contained organic waste and plastic bags close to a pine wood at the riverside beauty spot.

NERJA

Bus company offers free travel for over 65s and under 12s

E. C. Nerja town hall announced on Monday that it has signed an agreement with the local bus company allowing people over the age of 65 and under 12 to travel free on the town's buses, to start with immediate effect. The agreement forms part of a series of investments designed to help the town and its residents as it recovers from the coronavirus state of alarm.



The heart container. SUR

LA HERRADURA

The heart of charity and recycling plastic

J. R. Almuñécar town hall has installed a heart-shaped bottle top container on La Herradura's Paseo Andrés Segovia seafront.

The bottle tops will raise money to be shared between local charities. Deputy mayor, Juan José Ruiz Joya, said the idea was to "encourage people to recycle at the same time as helping charities". Ann Jenkins from Playa Patrol said that she spoke to the town hall about the idea of installing a heart and that she has created the hashtag FillTheHeart on local social media sites.



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Top Guardia Civil chiefs fired amid Women's Day march report crisis

The government meanwhile is aiming to get MPs' approval for one more two-week extension to its state of alarm decree

SUR

MADRID. Spanish politics this week, amid the winding down of Covid-19 restrictions, was dominated by the Interior ministry's decision to remove two officials at the top of the Guardia Civil from their posts. A senior lieutenant-general also resigned.

On Sunday, Minister of the Interior, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, replaced the colonel in charge of the force in Madrid, Diego Pérez de los Cobos. The number two of the Guardia Civil nationally, lieutenant-general Laurentino Ceña then resigned his post in protest. On Wednesday, the ministry also sacked the head of operational control at the force, lieutenant Fernando Santafé.

The minister suggested that the two dismissals were down to a loss of confidence and that replacing them was "a normal, reasonable policy".

However reports from those close to the removed officers said that the changes were due to the government's unhappiness that the Guardia Civil had prepared a report without its knowledge for a judge investigating its de-

cision to allow the Women's Day marches in Madrid to go ahead on 8 March. An inquiry is under way into whether ministers acted recklessly in authorising the mass gathering knowing about the risk of coronavirus contagion. The government's official representative for the Madrid region is to be formally interviewed by the judge.

The Guardia Civil are regularly asked to submit police reports with evidence on cases. However judicial independence means they cannot discuss details with their political bosses. Reports this week said the government had tried to see the contents of the report, although the Interior minister strongly denied this.



Grande-Marlaska

Fresh state of alarm?

While ministers sought to defuse the row over the Women's Day report, they were announcing plans to extend the state of alarm for one more two-week period. This would run from 7 to 21 June.

Deputy prime minister Carmen Calvo said that any extension would have "important changes" and that regions virtually recovered from Covid-19 may come out of it earlier.

The government is fearful it won't have enough MPs' votes to win another state of alarm extension to control movement between provinces. It believes it may have to publish a softer, alternative decree instead.

IN BRIEF



The top chefs wore their uniforms outside the parliament. **EUROPA PRESS**

MADRID

Michelin-starred chefs protest outside Congreso about Covid-19 money worries

ANTONIO PANIAGUA. Chefs from Madrid's Michelin-starred restaurants staged a protest outside the Congreso building in the capital this week.

Many top names on the city's gastro scene wanted to draw attention to the precarious position they find themselves in. They say this is because of not only the closure of their businesses during lockdown, but also the plan to allow them to only reopen at 40 per cent capacity. They claim it will be unprofitable to run their high-

end restaurants and want the government to do more.

The catering industry makes up over six per cent of the Spanish economy and employs 1.7 million people.

"We are where needed, cooking for and helping those who are in need at these difficult times, and we are doing this voluntarily," said Juanjo López, owner and chef at Madrid's La Tasquita de Enfrente restaurant as he read out an explanation of the protesters' demands.

SPAIN

Country is in official mourning until 6 June

SUR. Spain entered a period of official mourning for victims of coronavirus this week. The ten days started on Wednesday and ends at midnight on 6 June. It is the longest period of national mourning since the death of General Franco.



Half-mast

Flags outside public buildings will be flown at half-mast and those inside them will have a black ribbon attached. Naval ships will fly ensigns at half mast.

The government order announcing the mourning explained that, "it is good for a society that works together for the common good to show its pain together".

In a message, King Felipe wrote, "Spain weeps for so many thousands of fellow citizens that we have lost in this pandemic."

A minute's silence was held at 12pm on Wednesday.

BARCELONA

One of Britain's most wanted held in Spain

SUR. Police have arrested one of Britain's most wanted criminals in Sant Adrià del Besós, a town outside Barcelona.

Working with the UK's National Crime Agency and Greater Manchester Police, officers held Jamie Rothwell, 33, at an apartment block on Sunday morning.

A European Arrest Warrant had been issued in October last year for Rothwell. He was wanted for allegedly conspiring to murder two men, among other accusations.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

A bad idea



Is protecting or augmenting workers' rights compatible with returning Spain's economy to health in the wake of the Covid-19 (C19) crisis? That's the key question posed by the Spanish government's most recent pledge - namely, to enact the "complete derogation" of labour market reforms made by Mariano Rajoy's Conservative administration in 2012. Generally speaking, these handed more freedom and power to compa-

nies, but at the cost of workers' rights and stability. As soon as they took power, the Socialists and their junior partner, leftist Unidas Podemos (UP), vowed to reset the balance in favour of employees, albeit gradually and in consultation with companies.

Naturally, Spain's business world is furious at the latest announcement, and not just because it wasn't consulted (it wasn't consulted before an amendment to sick-leave legis-

lation in February, either). The Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain, the largest such federation in the country, has said that Pedro Sánchez's promise to completely undo Rajoy's reforms will have "incalculable negative consequences" for an economy already rendered acutely vulnerable by the C19 pandemic.

What's most salient about this pledge, however, is not its actual content - it's the way in which it was made. It appeared as part of a document signed by the both parties in the government and the radical Basque group EH Bildu last week, a pact which also guaranteed, in exchange for the labour reforms, the latter's abstentions in another vote for an extension to

the state of alarm (although, oddly, it wouldn't have made any difference if EH Bildu hadn't abstained: their votes weren't decisive).

Sánchez, then, made a promise to go much further in repealing Rajoy's controversial legislation than he previously said he would, and did so in a covert deal with a fringe group in order to extend Spain's state of alarm (and therefore, of course, to preserve the enhanced powers given to his government in that state). To make matters worse, the pact between the Socialists, UP and EH Bildu - a group which has been criticised for not publicly condemning the now-disbanded Basque terrorist group ETA - was only revealed to other parties after last week's con-

gressional debate.

It's hard to overstate just how bad an idea this deal was for the Socialists and UP. First, it does nothing to refute the opposition's claim that their government operates in an opaque and underhand manner, especially in its handling of the C19 crisis. Secondly, in collaborating with a radical group such as EH Bildu, Sánchez risks alienating the more moderate Basque National Party (PNV), on which he has often relied for support in congress (indeed, the PNV voted for the extension last week). And last but certainly not least, this stealthily-made pact highlights, once again, the government's readiness to promise anything to anyone so long as they receive much-needed votes in return.



Workers set tyres alight at the factory gate after the news broke. REUTERS

Closure of Nissan plant leaves 23,000 jobs up in the air

The Japanese carmaker is reducing its presence in Europe in favour of partners Renault and manufacturing will focus on the UK

JOSÉ MARÍA CAMARERO

MADRID. The Nissan factory in Barcelona is to close with the loss of 3,000 direct jobs and up to 20,000 indirect jobs in the plant's supply chain. It follows a month of uncertainty that had led to an all-out strike and fresh statements by the government that it

was working to secure the jobs.

The plant, which has recently made the Navara and e-NV200 models among others, has been producing below its capacity for some time. The decision was made public as the Japanese manufacturer announced its first annual financial loss in a decade.

Nissan's core production in Europe will now be concentrated at Sunderland, UK, although two much smaller sites in Spain, in Ávila and Cantabria, will continue. The manufacture of new Nissans in Europe will be scaled back in favour of supporting Renault, their strategic partners.

THE BIGGER PICTURE
JEREMY BLATCH

✉ jb@ehh.gi

Tune out the noise and stay the course



As I write, we have been subjected to weeks of living under what many jovially call 'house arrest'. The pandemic has affected most, if not all communities to varying degrees. In some countries, governments are slowly relaxing restrictions intended to stop the spread of the virus. But the uncertainty remains. How long before people can return to work? How many will have jobs to go to? How many businesses will survive? How long will the economy take to recover? When will confidence return for people to travel and fly again? Will demand recover to pre-pandemic levels? However, the probability is that equities will outperform bonds and cash in the coming decade.

In this atmosphere of heightened uncertainty, it is easy to become a victim of fear and feel forced to make sweeping investment decisions: selling risk assets in preference for cash, for example, or selling bonds in fa-

vour of cash. This is not the time to be making big decisions in regard to our investment portfolios. Cash gives us optionality but we can't know enough about the future to time the market, and if trying to do so, we will likely miss the rebound as assets reprice again - which they will, as light follows day. Bull markets beget bear markets that beget bull markets.

Focusing on what we can control, and not on what we can't, will help us avoid making behavioural errors we may regret at some time in the future. We know that the current economic slowdown was not caused by structural issues, but equally we do not know for how long this slowdown will last. It is not easy to trust our analysis and keep calm when assailed hourly by the talking heads of 'investment entertainment'. By ignoring the noise and remaining rational, we will put the odds to achieve our desired investment outcome firmly on

our side. This is the time to stay the course.

Markets are forward-looking and may have priced in much of the news. Health and economic figures could get worse, but this does not mean that our investment strategy is flawed and needs wholesale change. If you have a long-time preference and the stomach to cope with price volatility, using index funds as the basis for your strategy, then rebalancing market risk in your strategy will help. If your strategy employs stock selection, you may wish to analyse balance sheets of companies with a large exposure of debt relative to equity, which will make them increasingly vulnerable, the longer the economic shutdown lasts.

Either way, to avoid making behavioural errors you would be well advised to tune out the noise and resist looking at your valuations every time there is a drop in market prices.

The author is a member of the Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners and an investment counsellor. The observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive remuneration of any from names referred to.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Safety and respect as lockdown relaxes

The relaxation of rules during this phase of lockdown brings significant challenges and will only be successful with goodwill and common sense.

I am English and live in Jímena de la Frontera, where there is a sizable English community. The majority of locals and expats have committed to doing the best they can during lockdown, obeying the rules and behaving in a safe and considerate way, supported by our very good Ayuntamiento. There have, unfortunately, been a few expats who have taken a perverse pride in disobeying the rules throughout. This is both concerning and shaming, showing as it does a contempt for the safety of our Spanish neighbours.

However nothing could have prepared me for the scene I witnessed today [16 May] in Pueblo Nuevo, Sotogrande. As I drove through I passed a bar that does not have a terrace but a narrow strip between the wall and the pavement where they have tables. Gathered in this space were many people, British it seemed, drinking and crowded together. There was no social distancing and

none were wearing masks. No police to be seen.

This is concerning on so many levels and I was very upset. The danger of spread of the virus, still not completely under control, the effect of such sights of lack of respect and care on the local population. I am truly ashamed to be English, and as an elderly diabetic, I am terrified.

I hope that all over Europe the police feel enabled to be firm with foreigners, especially when the beaches re-open, despite concerns over tourism.

BRIONY FLETCHER

Vital during lockdown

I'm a semi-retired Irish journalist now living in Spain.

Unfortunately, my Spanish is very mediocre, so as you can imagine receiving accurate news and updates in English during this lockdown is important to me.

I just want to thank you and your staff for providing such a valuable service during this time. It does make a difference.

Thank you.

GER LEDDIN

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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Gecko chamber

Sharks have been sighted off the coast of the provinces of Malaga and Granada during the past couple of weeks, presumably using their keen sense of smell or taste or hearing or something in order to detect from afar a distinct lack of the detritus normally so prevalent in areas where humans are present.

They're not alone. Around the globe, Mother Nature has been busying herself reclaiming lost ground since we scurried away to batten down the hatches, with sea lions being spotted on pavements, deer - somewhat paradoxically - using zebra crossings and, rather magnificently, a load of mountain goats bowling down the high street in Llandudno, presumably looking for beach balls and cagoules and stuff. Maybe some sticks of rock too, if Llandudno has them (probably difficult to fit that many letters in).

Anyway, this is all well and good but I saw a gecko for the first time ever in my flat the other day - moved like lightning; me, I mean, not the gecko. It gave me the fright of my life, leaping out from behind the toothpaste like that.

How, then, was I to get rid of the pesky blighter? A quick Googleification wasn't much help except for saying something about them not liking eggs or garlic, ignoring the possibility that it might be an Italian gecko. No, some lateral thinking was required.

A bloke in a pub told me once (this was the equivalent of Google in the olden days) that geckos eat mosquitos, so I reasoned that if I could banish the teeny flies which had, in recent weeks, become ever more daring, not to mention numerous, the small lizardy thing, unable to sate his hunger, would toddle off forthwith to bother the

neighbours.

The next day, I bought a couple of those plug-in things that get rid of the mozzas and - lo and behold! - it worked. I locked Gordon - that was his name by now - in the bathroom with a plug-in and left the window open with a 'JUICY MOSQUITOS THATAWAY!' sign and an arrow pointing out into the wide blue yonder. Within ten hours, Gordon had packed his bags and left in search of his fortune and probably a tidier flat.

I owe that little chap a huge debt of gratitude. For one thing, I'm sleeping more soundly now without that cheeky crack formation dive bombing mosquito squad serenading me nightly, plus he's enabled me to write an entire newspaper column without using a certain word that begins with 'v' and ends in 'irus'.

Godspeed, Gordon.

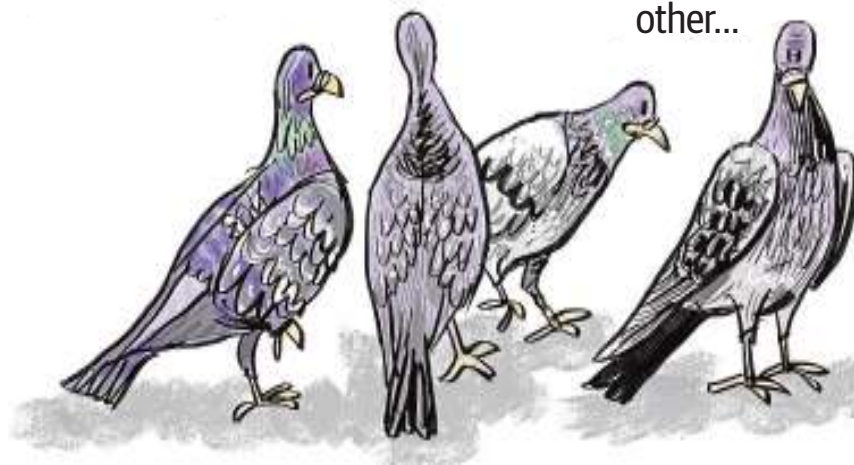
IDÍGORAS

The people are back...

... but now they cover their faces.

It must be so they don't recognise each other...

... as everyone's falling out these days.



SUR in English

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We were going to be better



We knew it was going to be tough, but when all this started we had certain expectations that the experience could make us better as a society. Not only because after 2008, and what followed 2008, there was no room for the chain to break again at its weakest link, but above all because on this occasion, when no one was safe,

we had understood that the only way of getting through this was together.

A crisis where there are no winners could be overcome with everyone rowing in the same direction.

Once again we believed the tale that in every crisis lies an opportunity, as if that opportunity were to present itself to everyone, and as if those who end up

losing had, what's more, to feel guilty for not having been able to work out where that opportunity was as the world was collapsing around them.

As there was no other way of preventing depression at the start of a lockdown with no certain end date, we preferred to believe that the misfortune would lead us to weave bonds of solidarity in the community, of responsibility towards our neighbours, of appreciation of shared interests, of tolerance with different opinions, of commitment to those who suffered most.

We needed to believe that all this would have some meaning, and because of that we thought that counting hundreds of deaths at the end of each day of confinement, that seeing our children miss day

after day of classes, that not being able to put our arms round our parents, that watching the economy come to a standstill, ripping life plans to shreds, would result in the emergence of something better in compensation.

We acted out a large part of those hopes every day at eight o'clock in the evening from our balconies, but the expectations that all this could bring something good have faded away with the applause.

We believed that we could make them better, our politicians and our leaders.

Now you only have to look at how they have dragged us towards confrontation, intolerance and selfishness to conclude that they are the ones who have made us worse.

HOSPITAL

ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION: HOW TO BEAT A GIANT

The Hospital Helicópteros Sanitarios in Marbella has added the Renal Denervation (RDN) technique to its portfolio of services in order to combat hypertension

MÁLAGA

SUR. The cardiovascular intervention unit at Hospital Helicópteros Sanitarios in Puerto Banús (Marbella), staffed by doctors Luis Íñigo, Pedro Brugada and Eduardo Molina, carries out all sorts of interventions related to arrhythmias, ischemic cardiopathy and other congenital or structural heart diseases. They have recently added the renal denervation (RDN) technique to this portfolio of services, relying on the experience of pioneering cardiologists to obtain excellent results.

Arterial hypertension (high blood pressure) has become a huge public health problem in developed countries and is one of the risk factors for cardiovascular ailments. It is defined by readings of ≥ 140 mm Hg systolic and/or ≥ 90 mm Hg diastolic pressure.

An increasingly common illness

The prevalence of hypertension is increasing at a global level. In 2000 an estimated 972 million adults had high blood pressure, and the figure is expected to have reached about 1,560 million by 2025. It is an illness which, in itself, tends to be asymptomatic and its importance revolves around the fact that the higher the blood pressure, the greater the risk of death.

High blood pressure is responsible for more deaths than any other vascular risk factor. It has been proven that slight reductions in arterial pressure (of just 5 or 10 mmHg) can significantly reduce the number of heart attacks, disabling strokes, kidney failure or heart failures.

The ideal values for people aged over 18 are 120/80mmHG, and readings of up to 140/90mmHg are considered to be normal. For diabetic patients or those with kidney failure, the optimal values are under 130/80 mmHg. The threshold for arterial hypertension, therefore, must be consid-

ered to be a flexible one based on patients' cardiovascular risk level and profile.

The objective of treatment to lower and correctly manage blood pressure is to reduce the cardiovascular morbidity-mortality. This, however, is achieved in less than 50% of patients, sometimes due to poor therapeutic adherence and sometimes due to inefficiency of medication in cases of severe and refractory hypertension. To these two causes we must add another, equally important one: the side effects of medication and possible tolerance to them.

To circumvent these drawbacks and improve the prognosis of hypertension sufferers, a new, non-pharmacological treatment method is now being employed which acts on the sympathetic nervous system, lowering arterial pressure and even removing the need for drugs in patients with mild cases. Studies on kidney physiopathology have revealed in a credible manner that an increase in sympathetic activity originating in the kidneys encourages a rise in blood pressure and produces organ damage not only in the kidneys but also in other target organs.

The new technique is called renal denervation (RDN). It is a minimally invasive procedure which is carried out under local anaesthetic and sedation, and consists of introducing a catheter via the femoral artery to gain access to both renal arteries and then carry

out a radio frequency ablation of the sympathetic nervous system to innervate the aforementioned arteries. That catheter, known as Spyral, is made by Medtronic and has a design that allows for simultaneous application of radio frequency at four different points. After various applications both the afferent and efferent sympathetic renal tracks are interrupted, reducing vascular tone and blocking the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system and achieving a drop in blood pressure with no adverse effects.

The procedure takes about 45 minutes and has a complication rate of very nearly 0%.

We know that a reduction of 20 mm Hg in systolic arterial pressure or 10mmHg in diastolic arterial pressure halves the risk of death of cardiovascular causes. This improvement is not

hard to achieve in many of these patients following RDN.

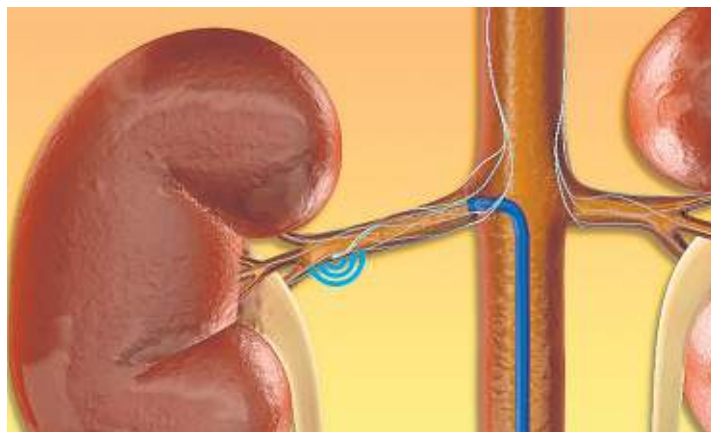
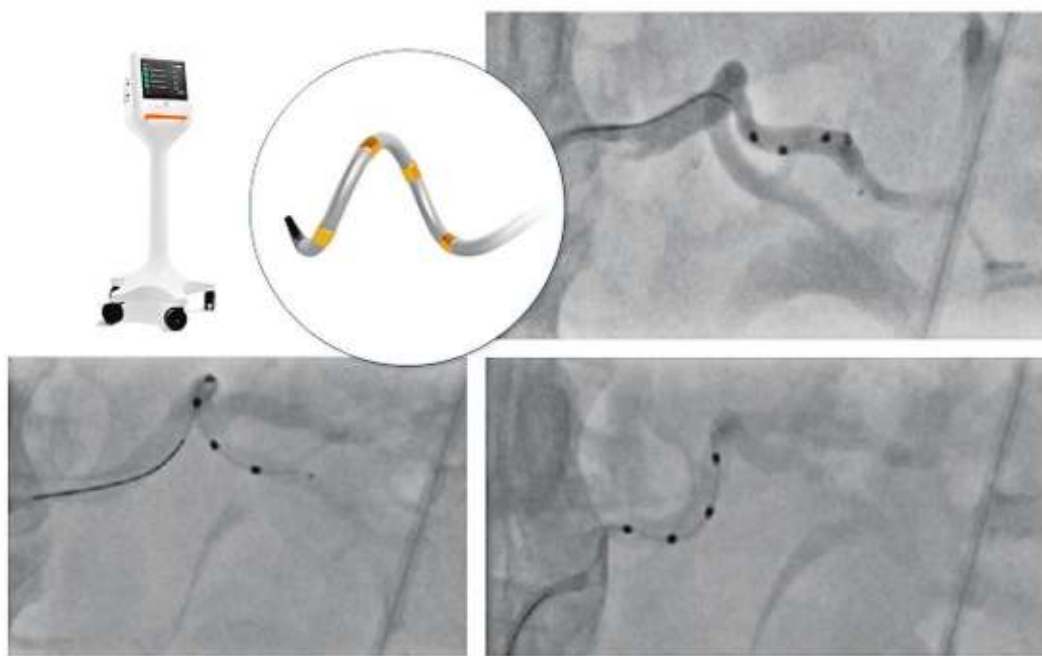
A number of recently published studies have proved, in patients with moderate arterial hypertension, that RDN is efficient to improve blood pressure readings in the doctor's surgery and, more importantly, 24-hour ambulatory monitoring of arterial pressure (MAPA) readings, both in patients who do not take medication and those with incomplete pharmacological treatment. It was also been revealed that many patients with severe cases have been able to significantly reduce the amount of medication they take.

The safety and efficiency of the treatment has been tested in a variety of patients presenting common clinical conditions (diabetes, kidney failure, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, refractory hypertension). They are all

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included in the GSR (global SymPLICity register), and constitute the greatest set of RDN data in the world with more than 2,700 patients included and monitored for more than 3 years. Very significant reductions in systolic and diastolic arterial tension have been seen in these patients.

In conclusion, treating arterial hypertension is an important challenge for everyday clinical practice. Renal denervation by catheter represents an innovative technique to efficiently lower these patients' blood pressure, and there is much evidence to confirm reductions in blood pressure and benefits to quality of life in a great majority of patients with hypertension, considerably improving the therapeutic arsenal for their treatment.

Extensive experience

Dr Molina carried out his first renal denervation intervention in 2014 at the haemodynamic unit at the Virgen de las Nieves University Hospital in Granada, where he is currently the clinical director. He belongs to the national renal denervation work group and is a member of the committee which draws up the national consensus paper to determine the correct use and indication of RDN at specialist centres. The experience this group has accumulated enables it to provide a success rate of more than 80%, with a lack of complications in all cases.

Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, wrote in 1789 that “...in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes”. Well, I think you’ll agree, we could all add a few other certainties to that list, and for sure, I’d add ‘change’.

Rebuilding better

Change is constant in life and when we face a crisis, like that of the Covid-19 virus, we see change accelerate.

So inevitably, travel is changing. For the past few months, the global industry has faced an almost existential crisis, when many of the planet’s citizens have been forbidden to leave their homes except to shop for essential food, let alone head out on a journey for pleasure.

Yet the thing about change is that it creates opportunities. Successful people and businesses embrace change rather than fear or ignore it. That’s why crises drive human innovation, forcing us to adapt, often rapidly.

As travel is once again becoming part of our lives, the industry is endeavouring to meet the new challenges we all face. It has to almost reinvent itself and certainly evolve. In the short-term there will be pain, in terms of inconveniences, risks and higher costs for travellers, and financial burdens and fewer clients for providers.

Yet I am in no doubt that travel will rebuild better. So here I wanted to explore a few of the medium- to long-term benefits that this health crisis will have upon travel.

Squeaky clean

The video of supermodel Naomi Campbell’s aircraft-boarding ritual, where she cleaned and disinfected everything in her seat area with wipes, went ‘viral’ last year. Yet now in 2020, the year of the coronavirus, her approach no longer seems so compulsive. Cleanliness is the new, all-encompassing priority for the travel industry. This has to be among one of the best legacies of this crisis. Planes, trains, and rental automobiles are going to be cleaner than ever before.

US firm Dimer UVC Innovations has invented the ‘Germfalcon’, a sterilisation machine that can fit in the aisle between aircraft seats and extend its ‘wings’ of UV lights over the seats, sterilising them as it passes. This is the future of our cleaner, healthier world of travel.

Go Green

Trains will continue in popularity, as their journey times and cost per kilometre begin to com-



Singapore’s Changi Airport. **SUR**

Rebuilding travel

Meeting challenges. Future tourism looks cleaner, probably greener, and certainly leaner

ANDREW FORBES



▲ The ‘Germfalcon’ sterilisation machine can fit in the aisle between aircraft seats.

Checked and carry-on luggage will be closely monitored and agreed in advance before you leave home. Passengers will be guided through the terminal in smaller groups, arriving at the gate in stages, guided by smart phone alerts.

In the short term I know that won’t be the case - travel this summer for example will be no joy. But look ahead a few years and I think it’s going to be a much smoother experience.

Airports will evolve into healthier spaces, with more square metres per passenger, more natural light, sophisticated air filtering systems, and lots of plants. Singapore’s Changi Airport gives us a glimpse into this attractive future.

pete even more favourably with airline schedules, which will need to be adjusted for longer turn-arounds (as planes are cleaned; and boarding processes become slightly slower, less crowded affairs).

Need more space for social distancing? Just hook up another train carriage. That’s not possible on an aircraft, so trains will take a lot more strain for inter-city travel in the coming years.

Meanwhile, rental car companies have invested in new cleaning protocols for vehicles using not only disinfectants but also ozone. So, expect not only a fresher smelling car for your holiday, but a genuinely cleaner one too.

The Covid-19 health crisis has also accelerated the retirement of large kerosene-guzzler air-

craft. Instead twin-engine, more fuel-efficient ‘greener’ planes are being scheduled for use in the future. Boeing 747s and 777s, and Airbus A380s are all set to be nothing more than nostalgic travel memories.

Do you remember the first time you checked in for a flight online? I do; it was complicated, and fraught with frustrations, with a slow internet connection and a cumbersome website.

Yet it was a revolution for airline travel. Now, online check-in for flights is taken for granted - and it’s that kind of innovation we are going to see a lot more of over the next few years.

Driving innovation

With the new obligation to minimise queues and crowds in airports we are going to see new

ideas that will be equally transformative for us as travellers. We’ll be able to check our luggage online, download personalised digital luggage tags that integrate with our suitcases, and arrange our bag drop-off at different locations away from the airport.

Driving to the airport in our own cars will decline, and use of autonomous vehicles will increase, allowing airport car parks to be converted into terminal space.

Once we arrive at the airport, the way we navigate these larger terminals will be far more intuitive and controlled through apps on our smart phones. Forget the last minute jostle to board the aircraft and stow your cabin bag in the last empty overhead locker. The future promises a far more controlled boarding process.

Healthy hotels

Hotels too are making their contribution to rebuilding travel better. One of the changes I am most looking forward to is the end of the traditional check-in. Hotels have always been innovators, yet few have seemed enthusiastic to get rid of the anachronistic Front Desk.

Well, now it would seem its days are finally numbered. To avoid queues and groups in the lobby, budget properties will roll-out more automated self-check in, using terminals or smart phone apps.

High-end properties and luxury resorts will avoid groups in reception by providing dedicated check-in within a private space, the guest suite, or by offering direct suite access via a smart phone app.

Keyless entry will become the norm. Once initial check-in is completed online, or in a private dedicated area, guests will receive their 'key' on their phone. The mantra will be in 'no-touch, no-contact'.

Rooms will be cleaned to a higher standard, and don't be surprised to see more use of automation. Cleaning robots will be a more familiar sight in airports, train stations and hotels. Properties are also installing UV light disinfection for guest rooms and within air condition systems.

Yet the challenge for the hospitality industry will be to avoid creating spaces that feel more like hospitals than hotels. Despite innovation and technology, the focus has to remain on old fashioned thoughtfulness, friendliness, and hospitality.

Sailing the high seas

The cruise industry has suffered significant harm to its image during this crisis. Yet the industry is working to create new guest experiences that are safer and cleaner. Passenger numbers may be reduced in the short term, but travellers will see innovations in food and beverage and technology that will stay for the long term.

Late last year Princess Cruises showcased its latest cruise liner in Malaga's port. Among the innovations onboard was the 'Ocean Medallion', an interactive digital device that allows guests to order and pay for services, locate friends and family on board, and so much more, without touching or signing anything. This is the future for sure.

Robotic bar waiters were at first gimmicks on cruise ships, but they are set to be more common where self-service of refreshments will no longer be possible.

Buffets will definitely stay. But as with large resort hotels, the cruise ships will provide all-you-can-eat spreads with more control on quality and health. Guests can choose whatever they want,

With the new obligation to minimise queues and crowds in airports we are going to see fresh ideas that will be transformative for us as travellers

whenever they want, but expect it to be displayed behind a transparent screen and served to you by a robot or a member of staff.

Mindful choices

Of course, innovation and change doesn't always deliver immediate savings. The demand for investment, combined with the short-term drop in tourism over the next year or two will probably lead to higher travel prices. For example, if airports focus less on retail and more on keeping passengers spaced apart, and airlines schedule fewer routes with smaller loads, then prices for air travel will inevitably go up.

Yet that's not always a bad thing. As a kid born at the end of the '60s, I didn't travel outside Europe with my family until I was eight or nine. Instead we had traditional family holidays in the UK's West Country or short trips to France. I have such fond memories of those times. Maybe a whole new generation will enjoy the simplicity of those kinds of trips; while going on an intercontinental holiday will be a treat again.

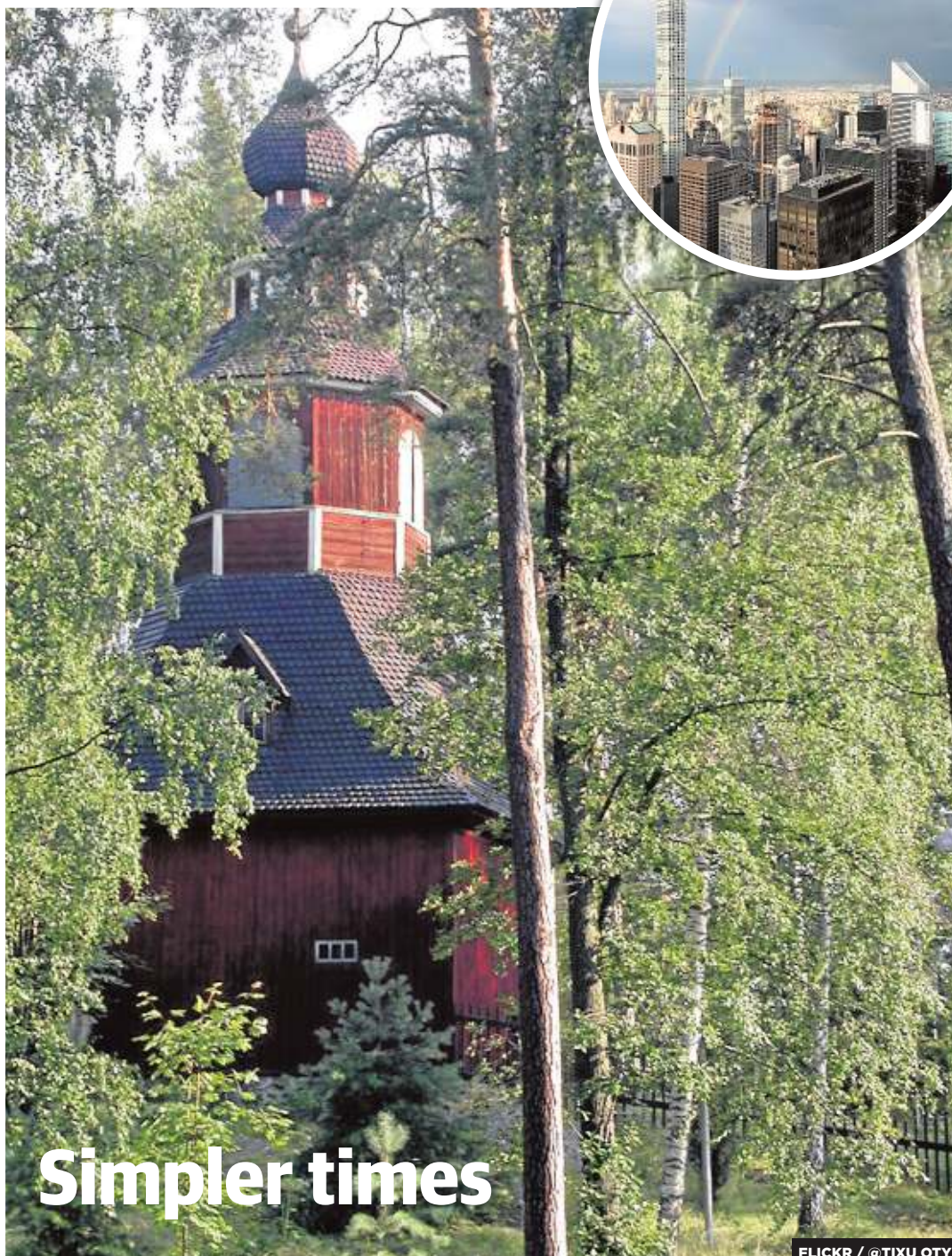
Road less travelled

If flying and international travel once again becomes a little more of a luxury, then we'll all be encouraged to make more mindful choices of when and where we go abroad.

Over-tourism will seem so 'last year!' Who wants to crowd around the Eiffel Tower for a selfie, or queue for hours to go inside Barcelona's Sagrada Familia cathedral, when there is a world of uncrowded possibilities waiting to be discovered and explored?

The road-trip, the wild hiking adventure, the nature retreat, the staycation, the family seaside holiday, the local cooking course, and the camping trip look set to be as much a part of our future travel as robots and UV light sterilisers.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



FLICKR / @TIXU OTY

Buildings such as these are rare to see nowadays. It is exactly for that reason that the island on which this photo was taken has transplanted old, mainly wooden buildings from elsewhere in the country and placed them in the dense forest landscape as part of its Open-Air Museum.

Here, escapism to simpler times and ancient rituals come

together annually at the end of June as visitors flock to witness a large bonfire being lit, among many other festivities, originally in honour of the god of the sky, given the date's proximity to the summer solstice and, later, John the Baptist.

If you know where this is, you could win a prize. Send the name of this island, as well as that of the festival to english@di-

ariosur.es. Only entries with a phone number and delivery address will be considered.

Last month's photo showed Manhattan (New York) where 'Manhattanhenge' took place. Congratulations to Megan Jones who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way soon.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es



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INSIDER GUIDE

Hidden Andalucía



El Coto de las Canteras, Osuna. SUR

ANDREW FORBES

This summer, take a fresh look at southern Spain, taking the road less travelled, discovering fascinating, uncrowded destinations.

Osuna - Seville province
The Petra of Andalucía

About 90 kilometres south-east of Seville city, just off the motorway that continues south to Malaga, one finds the majestic town of Osuna. A place of renaissance churches, noble houses, and sumptuous palaces; an impressive legacy from the times of counts and dukes. The architecture is crafted from the ochre and honey-coloured stone that was sourced locally at El Coto de las Canteras quarries just outside the town. Used as a film location for Game of Thrones, the site combines tended gardens, stone carvings, and a huge 25 metre high chamber excavated from the rock - it's Andalucía's very own Petra.

www.elcotelascanteras.com

Guadix - Granada province
Desert badlands

The mighty Sierra Nevada mountain range creates a barrier against the moist air that travels east across Andalucía from the Atlantic. Beyond these mountains one can find arid wilderness like the weather-worn prehistoric canyons of the Badlands. Evocative of America's wild west, the area is something quite unique to experi-

ence. The soft stone, hollowed out by storms over thousands of years, has been used for cave homes. Some are available to enjoy as holiday rentals. The area is perfect for hiking and biking tours, either self-guided or with a professional.

www.turganada.es/fichas/badlands-y-oasis-al-norte-de-sierra-nevada/

Monturque - Cordoba province
Roman cisterns

This part of Andalucía has been favoured by wine-makers since Roman times and is now the epicentre for Pedro Ximénez vines. Yet there is more to discover than just the local Montilla-Moriles tipples.

Deep beneath the village cemetery of Monturque is a vast Roman cistern. Unearthed by chance, in the 1880s, when the cemetery was being extended, the underground caverns have now been excavated and opened to the public. It's a remarkable space, that was originally used to store water. Now visitors can navigate the three naves of twelve inter-connecting chambers, learning more of the history of the site and the surrounding area.

www.turismomonturque.com

Cazorla - Jaén province
Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas Natural Park

Probably the most spectacular natural park in Andalucía. Awe-inspiring deep valleys, cascading waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. There are plenty of

campsites too, if you fancy packing your tent or heading over in a campervan. Hiking routes are suitable for families, as well as more challenging adventure activity itineraries. There's a small Parador hotel too, that has a good restaurant serving local game.

www.andalucia.org/en/cazorla

Riotinto - Huelva province
Riotinto mining park

Copper, silver and gold have been exploited from the Riotinto area for some 5,000 years. This corner of the beautiful pine-clad Andalusian province of Huelva is rich in minerals, and it is only in recent years that the mines have been abandoned and instead evolved into an open-air tourist attraction.

The 'Riotinto Mining Park' is a family friendly attraction that offers the chance to ride a rickety, narrow gauge mine train that runs along the edge of this striking red and orange Riotinto. One can also visit the 19th century mining village, built by the Brits who came here to exploit the mines. It was here they also built a football pitch and introduced football to Spain.

parquemineroaleriotinto.es

Puerto Serrano - Cadiz province
The Sierra Greenway

The Sierra Greenway passes along the old Jerez-Almargen railway line. Currently, the 36.5km route connects the towns of Puerto Serrano and Olvera - a must for hikers and cyclists. Lots to see along the way, passing through impressive tunnels and across vertiginous viaducts. Expect to be joined by vultures, that fly from the adjacent reserve. If you don't fancy bringing your own bike, you can rent bikes there.

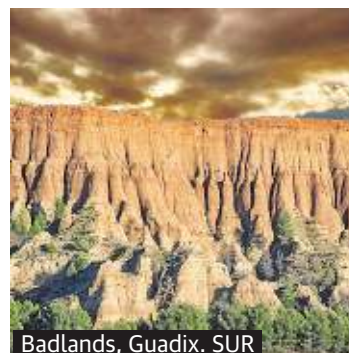
www.fundacionviaverde-delasierra.es/en

Ronda - Malaga province
Acinipo

There's no denying the popularity of the picturesque mountain town of Ronda - it's far from a hidden treasure. Yet for a fresh perspective, consider heading out into the magnificent surrounding countryside, and to the ancient city of Acinipo. This is where Ronda was first settled, and for a century or two it was a wealthy nexus for this Roman wine-growing region (they even minted their own money, carrying the icon of a bunch of grapes!). The Roman amphi-



Acinipo, Ronda. A. F.



Badlands, Guadix. SUR



Windsor Bridge, Gibraltar. A. F.



Pulpí geode, Almería. A. F.



Roman cistern, Monturque. A. F.



Riotinto, Huelva. A. F.

theatre remains and provides an impressive viewpoint from which to enjoy a panorama of the unspoilt landscape. Modern day oenologists have restored Ronda's profile as a wine-growing region, with a wealth of boutique wineries that offer tastings and tours.

www.turismoderonda.es/en/

Pulpí - Almería province
Pulpí geode

Fancy lying down in a crystal cave? Well, now you have your chance. The gigantic geode of Pulpí, in Andalucía's western province of Almería, is a unique 10-square-metre hollow rock full of huge crystals! Found within the now abandoned 'Mina Rica' silver, lead and iron ore mine in Pilar de Jaravía, the geode is the largest in Europe; the second largest known in the world; and the only one open to the public. Although visitors only have about a minute or so to be partially inside the geode, it is really worth the visit! The 90-minute guided (pre-bookable) tour takes one through the narrow tunnels of the mine (once used for loaded mine carts) where you can see traces of rare and unusual minerals and of course crystals. It's absolutely fascinating and the highlight is reaching the geode.

www.geodapulpí.es

Gibraltar
Upper Rock Nature Reserve

Gibraltar might be a top local destination for some retail therapy and a slap-up meal, but it is also a great place for hikers and history lovers. The Upper Rock Nature Reserve, reached by the Rock's vintage cable cars, is home to walking routes like the Mediterranean Steps; natural wonders including the Gorham's Cave Complex; as well as the nearby WWII tunnels; and more recent attractions including the Windsor Suspension Bridge and glass Skywalk. Just keep an eye out for those naughty Barbary macaques! www.visitgibraltar.gi/see-and-do/

DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Manihot grahamii

The tapioca tree or hardy tapioca, botanical name *Manihot grahamii*, is native to South America and a member of the Euphorbiaceae family. It is related to *Manihot esculenta*, better known for its edible root, the cassava.

Sometimes sold as *Manihot cathaginensis*, the hardy tapioca has deeply lobed leaves

similar to a schefflera, with each lobe 5-10cm long and between 10-20mm wide. The pendulous, greenish-yellow flowers which have pinkish markings inside, form in racemes during the summer and

when they first open in the morning are very attractive to bees. Less so later in the day.

After the flowers are over, rounded seed pods appear containing light-brown seeds.

Manihot grahamii is fairly hardy but may drop its leaves in cool weather. In very cold winters it may die back to the ground but if well mulched should reshoot from the roots in spring. It is fast growing and can be grown as an annual, still managing to reach two to three metres by the end of the summer.

In warmer areas it can be grown as a tree. It will provide a lot of shade as it forms a wide, thick canopy of branches, often dropping the lower leaves and leaving bare stems.

It is not drought resistant and will need some watering during the hottest months of the year. Growing the hardy tapioca tree in a container will keep it a more manageable size and make it easier to move into a sheltered spot if necessary.

Propagation is by seed, which will need scarifying and soaking before sowing in moist potting compost or by division.

Like all the Euphorbia family, the sap from the stems can be an irritant if it gets in contact with the skin or eyes.



Manihot grahamii and close up of flowers (insert). FLICKR / WIKIPEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS

A crimson Canna

This stunning plant is a Canna lily which is a rhizomatous perennial, not related to lilies. The photo was sent in by SUR in English reader Caroline Sellers. Cannas are low maintenance and easy to grow, provided they get plenty of sunshine and are kept in rich, moist soil. Flower colours can be red, orange or yellow and there are some with dark maroon or bronze foliage and others with variegated leaves available.



CAROLINE SELLERS



MARIA HILLEN

A blushing pink Hibiscus

This photo of a beautiful pink Hibiscus was sent in by Maria Hillen who says that all her plants are doing so well after the recent rain.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

We know many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies and some like to take photos of plants they see when out and about. Why not share them with others? Email

your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Málaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([suri-english](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).

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►Fundación Picasso.
Intensive cleaning is being
carried out in all museums
and galleries in Malaga city.
MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ



The cultural heart of Malaga beats again

Museums have reopened after more than two months, with a tentative initial response from the public

A. J. LÓPEZ / F. GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. "We were the first ones on the café terraces when they opened and now we are going to be the first to visit the museum". Despite the white mask she is wearing, you can see from her eyes that Carmen Valor is smiling. On Monday, she and Amparo Quero were waiting outside the doors of the Carmen Thyssen museum as, like others in the city, it reopened after nearly two and a half months. This first week, entry is free.

"We love this museum. We often come to see the new exhibitions," says Amparo. "During the

lockdown I watched some video conferences given by the director, and she's fantastic," adds Carmen.

That same artistic director of the Carmen Thyssen museum, Lourdes Moreno, and managing director Javier Ferrer, are waiting inside to welcome the first visitors. "We are feeling very emotional. Every visitor is a cause for celebration for us," says Moreno.

Inside, there are signs on the floor to mark a one-way route through the rooms, and others on the seats to indicate the minimum distance required. There are transparent screens in front of the ticket offices and the cash-desk in the shop. Carmen and Amparo take a quick tour of the collection before heading for the 'Toulouse-Lautrec and the circus' exhibition. "We wanted to see the temporary exhibition," says Carmen, "and then, if we have time, we're going on to the

Picasso Museum."

Which is where we went next, and found Carolina Segura waiting with her parents, Sebastián and María Jesús. "It's very nice today. Everything is very quiet and we are lucky enough to have a fantastic guide," says Sebastián, referring to his daughter. "I'm an art historian," she explains.

With Carolina and her partner, Francisco Ruiz, they spent some time examining the designer furniture and decorative items created by Le Corbusier, Fernand Léger and Gerrit Thomas Rietveld, part of the 'Art genealogies' exhibition which ends on Sunday (31May).

Recovering the cultural pulse

From a corner of the ground floor of the museum, its artistic director, José Lebrero, watches the first few visitors who are coming somewhat tentatively to the city's museums and galleries. Under the new regulations,

the number of visitors has to be restricted to 30 per cent of capacity and there are none of the usual educational and cultural activities.

"With these restrictions, every visitor is an event in themselves because they are not part of a crowd. What we need to do now is actively promote the fact that Malaga is a city with quality culture, to get the cultural pulse beating again," he says.

On the far side of the Plaza de la Merced, Picasso is also waiting with 'Trozo de piel', the exhibition which reflects his friendship with Camilo José Cela. "We hadn't seen it and decided to make the most of this nice morning to have a look and do a bit of shopping in this district,"

explains Amparo Díaz, who is there with a friend.

At the Russian Museum, two new exhibitions are about to open, one about filmmaker Andrei Tarkovski, and an expansive display about Russian silent film. "This museum is wonderful, absolutely wonderful," says Fernando Rueda, standing by a selection of posters for silent movies. "At first you think it might be uncomfortable, because of the mask and everything, but in fact you can see an exhibition much better this way". He had taken a quiet stroll along the seafront to the museum in the old Tabacalera factory, and doesn't leave until after midday. What was he planning to do next? "Oh, I think a beer and a tapa are called for, don't you?" he says.

Entry is free to the principal museums and galleries in Malaga city all this week and weekend

During this phase of the easing of lockdown, museums can only allow 30% of the normal number of visitors in and there are no activities

The challenge for MIMMA

Visitors to the CAC Malaga also found new exhibitions, 'Opus nigrum', by Ghibente, which opened online last Friday, and 'The Walking Ceiling', a video performance of Alicia Framis in Area 5. Here we found Andrea Fernández and Nahuel Álvarez. "This is the first time we have been out, but we decided to take advantage of the museums opening to start easing our own lockdown," said Andrea,

Visitors have to enter the con-



► Picasso Museum. Visitors applaud as the doors reopen for the first time.
ÑITO SALAS

► Carmen Thyssen Museum. Signs on the floor and the seats remind people of the need for social distancing.
MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

▼ Russian Museum. The museum is inaugurating two new exhibitions, about silent film and Andrei Trakovski.
MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ



▼ Picasso Museum. 'The Art genealogies' temporary exhibition comes to an end this weekend **ÑITO SALAS**



temporary art museum through the side door of the old market building, because some of the rooms are closed while a new exhibition is being prepared: 150 works by Juan F. Lacomba, a major retrospective covering the evolution of this artist's work over three decades.

Viewing the permanent collection, 'Passion II', were Mima Agustín, from Slovenia, and her friend Beatriz Aparicio who was explaining the works to her in English. "I'm a painter and I have wanted to come here for ages," said Mima.

The Interactive Music Museum (MIMMA) also welcomed its first visitors this week. "We are happy to be open again but it has been a challenge for us, because we are normally interactive. People can usually touch the instruments but that is prohibited now, so we have had to adapt," says director Miguel Ángel Piédrola.

Staff at the Pompidou Centre on Muelle Uno were also pleased to be able to welcome visitors again, but there was a slight sense of nervousness as they opened at 9.30am and waited to see if anybody came. It seemed a long half-hour before Eduardo Texeira came through the glass entrance doors and was the first person to pass the camera which automatically measures body tempera-



ture without them having to stop and be manually checked.

"I read in the paper that the museums were going to open again today and came straight here because I have been wanting to see the temporary exhibition for some time", said Eduardo. "I like all types of art but painting in particular," he added, sounding a little abrupt because he was surprised to find the media waiting at the museum.

Neither audioguides nor leaflets are allowed at the moment, so a mobile phone is the tool to obtain information about the works as you tour the collection at the Pompidou, something that Eduardo did alone until a few other people arrived. One of them was Coloma Fuster, who told us she had gone out for a walk and couldn't resist coming in when she saw the doors were open.

As Eduardo left, he said this was a good time to enjoy some extra culture. "This week, I am going to visit one museum every day," he told us, and he has the right idea. What better way could there be to renew an acquaintance with art and, at the same time, take advantage of the fact that entry will be free until Sunday (31 May).

OBITUARY



Jacqui Brierley. **SUR**

Former Salon Varietés regular, Jacqui Brierley dies, aged 81

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. A former regular performer at the Salon Varietés, Jacqui Brierley, has died at the age of 81.

Jacqui came to Fuengirola in the mid 1980s with her late husband Eric. The couple were among the original supporters of the Salon Varietés theatre and performed in operetta, comedy, the famous Sid & Dot shows, musicals and plays, explains her son, Simon Coulter.

Jacqui was familiar to many as an early-retired nurse, often looking after people with ailments and organising the annual flu vaccination session at the theatre.

"It wasn't something she mentioned much but she was for many years a magician's principal assistant and had appeared and disappeared and been sawn in half more times than most people had had hot dinners!" reveals Simon.

Jacqui returned to the UK in 2009 when she was widowed, but visited the Costa del Sol regularly. She had been in declining health in the past year, and passed away in Kendal (Cumbria) peacefully on Sunday 24 May. As with her good friend Gina Foster, her funeral will be webcast on Wednesday 3 June from Beetham Hall Crematorium at noon UK time.

Age Care looks forward

SUR

MALAGA. Age Care Association, whose supporters are currently busy helping those most in need, is looking forward to resuming its coffee mornings, albeit with social distancing rules, next month. The meetings will be held at a restaurant in Calypso, Riviera, on Tuesday and Wednesday.



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

29 MAY 1953

Mount Everest conquered for the first time

Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay are the first confirmed climbers to have reached the summit; Spaniards have also made history

At 11.30am on 29 May 1953 New Zealand mountaineer and explorer Sir Edmund Hillary (1919-2008) and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay (1914-1986) reached the summit of Mount Everest, becoming the first confirmed mountaineers to successfully climb to the top.

Hillary and Norgay were part of the ninth British expedition to the world's highest mountain.

The pair spent 15 minutes at the top of the mountain and while Hillary

took a photo of Norgay, there is no photo of Hillary. In his autobiography the sherpa claimed that his companion had declined to have his photo taken. However, there are other photos of him during the climb.

Norgay left chocolates as an offering while Hillary left a cross which had been given to him by expedition leader John Hunt.

However, news of their feat wasn't announced in the UK until 2 June, which coincided with Queen Elizabeth's coronation.



Manuel González. SUR

Diario SUR's 3 June edition covered the coronation, but made no mention of the Everest achievement.

Spain would have to wait for its Everest glory until 14 May 1980, when Martín Zabaleta became the first Spanish person



Hillary and Norgay on their return from the summit in May 1953. REUTERS

to conquer the 8,848-metre peak.

On 7 October 1993 Ramón Blanco, a Venezuelan with Spanish nationality, became the world's oldest person to conquer the planet's highest mountain at the age of 60. He held on to the record for five years until Armenian Lev Sark-

isov, then aged 61, pushed him off the number one spot.

The first Andalusians to face the challenge were mountaineers Manuel González from Malaga and Iván Jara from Seville, who reached the summit on 22 May 2000. Exactly 17 years later mountain athlete, Kilian Jornet Burgada

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Explorer	Explorador
Mountain	Montaña
Ascent	Ascenso
Descent	Descenso
Expedition	Expedición
Experienced	Experimentado
Mountaineer	Montañero
Companions	Acompañantes
Oxygen	Oxígeno
Route	Ruta
Photography	Fotografía
Avalanche	Avalancha
Mountain range	Cordillera
Summit	Cumbre
To conquer	Conquistar
To reach	Alcanzar
Face	Cara
Feat	Hazaña

from Sabadell, completed the first of two ascents in five days.

Jornet is said to have used no ropes, oxygen or sherpas as he climbed the north face of Everest, taking him 26 hours from base camp.

Just five days later, on 27 May 2017, the mountaineer reached the summit again, this time in 17 hours from Advance Base Camp.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. D. I. A.

I came to Spain many years ago and married a Spanish woman. Unfortunately she passed away in 2015. I then returned to the UK but came back to Spain two months later as I missed our friends and the life here so much. With the Brexit uncertainty I

want to obtain Spanish nationality, how long do you need to reside in Spain in order to apply for it?

Generally speaking, obtaining Spanish nationality is not usually a simple procedure. However, taking into account that you have been married to a Spanish citizen, the terms to obtain nationality are shorter. Widows or widowers of Spanish citizens, as long as they were not legally or de facto separated, need one year to be eligible to obtain the nationality, therefore you can opt automatically for it.

REF. C. O. F.

I was recently victim of an attempted robbery at knifepoint when I was closing the door of my karate school. The robber was obviously not too bright since I am a black

belt karate instructor. However, during the struggle, I hit the thief several times, and had to dislocate his wrist for him to drop the knife. Now, to my great surprise, the aggressor has reported me for the injury he suffered. I am literally dumbstruck. Could I be sentenced, if I was the victim?

In theory, this is a clear case of self-defence. The aggressor tried to rob you, and you reacted to defend yourself. Nevertheless, in order to be free from responsibility, it is necessary to prove that it was impossible to use non-violent means to repel the aggression, and that the defence was proportional to the attack. In this case, I do not see a great problem, and it would be extremely exceptional for any judge to sentence you.

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Su Derrick with her long hair at La Vaquería in Benamargosa. SUR

Second volunteer to brave the shave for animal charity

CHARITY
JENNIE RHODES

BENAMARGOSA. Following the success of Sam Matthews-McCarthy's head shave on 1 May, fellow Axarquía Animal Rescue (AAR) supporter, Su Derrick, will be losing her locks on 8 June to raise money for the charity.

Su said, "I saw the article in SUR about Sam Matthews-McCarthy having her head shaved, which has prompted me to offer to brave-the-shave to raise money for them on my birthday, 8 June."

She added that a neighbour has offered to lend her "a large hat" and that due to the restrictions she "won't be going out much anyway".

Su said she had hoped to donate her hair to a charity which makes wigs for people who have lost their hair through cancer.

However, she explained that the NGO she got in touch with is currently unable to take donations due to Covid-19 rules.

To sponsor Su visit www.axarquiaanimalrescue.com Facebook: [axarquiaanimalrescue](https://www.facebook.com/axarquiaanimalrescue).

OPERA AND DANCE

Nightly Opera Stream

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA. Every night, 7.30pm EDT (12.30am Spain). Free.

While the MET is closed due to the pandemic it will be screening presentations from the Live In HD series of cinema transmissions. Each transmission will remain available on www.metopera.org for 23 hours.

29 May. Bellini's La Sonnambula. Starring Natalie Dessay and Juan Diego Flórez, conducted by Evelino Pidò. From March 21, 2009.

30 May. Donizetti's L'Elisir d'Amore. Starring Pretty Yende, Matthew Polenzani, Davide Luciano, and Ildebrando D'Arcangelo, conducted by Domingo Hindoyan. From February 10, 2018.

31 May. Strauss's Salome. Starring Karita Mattila, Ildikó Komlósi, Kim Begley, Joseph Kaiser, and Juha Uusitalo, conducted by Patrick Summers. From October 11, 2008.



Gallery Art Club, Fuengirola.

Full length productions

THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE. The ROH has announced a programme of full-length productions which will be broadcast over Facebook and YouTube. 7pm BST (8pm Spain).

The programme includes both ballet and opera and the schedule can be found on [facebook.com](https://facebook.com/royaloperahouse) /royaloperahouse or www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse

Until 1 June. A Winter's Tale. Shakespeare's tale of love and loss becomes the most masterful of narrative ballets in Christopher Wheeldon's inspired adaptation with music by Jody Talbot.

Until 8 June. La Traviata. Richard Eyre's production provides the perfect setting for Verdi's opera about a courtesan who sacrifices all for love.

Until 4 June. Cendrillon. Massenet's Cendrillon is a touching, romantic interpretation of the much-loved story of Cinderella. Sung in French with English subtitles.

From 29 May until 11 June. The Cellist. A lyrical memoir of the momentous life of cellist Jacqueline du Pré.

From 5 June. Il trittico.

From 12 June. La fille Mal Gardée.

From 19 June. The Magic Flute.

My Body, My Archive

THE TATE MODERN. Congolese choreographer and dance artist Faustin Linyekula's My Body, My Archive was due to perform at the Tate. Linyekula was due to perform in the

Tanks at Tate Modern at the end of March, as part of 2020's BMW Tate Live Exhibition: Our Bodies, Our Archives when it was cancelled. Linyekula worked with the collaborators to create a site-specific piece performed to camera. <https://www.tate.org.uk/>

African dance

BAM. Weekly dance workshops and events. The 43rd annual edition of the African-diaspora cultural festival has been canceled, but BAM is filling the gap with weeks of digital programming. Offerings include public conversations and video footage of past performances as well as dance classes, an online bazaar and more. www.bam.org/danceafrica

MUSEUMS

Museo del Patrimonio Municipal

MALAGA. Tuesdays to Sundays 10am - 8pm. Avda de Cervantes 4. With art collections from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century as well as artefacts, documents etc. relating to the economical, social and cultural development of the city of Malaga through the centuries.

Museo Interactivo de la Música

MALAGA. Tuesdays to Sundays, 10.30am - 2.30pm. C/Beatas, 15. The museum holds workshops and has a varied display of instruments which recently included an exhibition of Aztec death whistles. www.musicaenaccion.com

MUSEUM TOURS

The MET 360° Project

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM NY. The museum has six award winning videos of its three installations. Now you can virtually visit the Met's art and architecture without stepping foot inside the buildings. The six videos cover the Great Hall, the Met Cloisters, the Temple of Dendur, the Met Breuer, the Charles Engelhard Court, and the Arms and Armour Galleries. www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/met-360-project

Virtual museum tours

THE BRITISH MUSEUM. The world's largest indoor space on Google Street View is the British Museum in London. Visit over 60 galleries, see the Rosetta stone, Old Master paintings and amazing textiles from around the South Pacific as well going 'behind the scenes' at the museum to find out about poison arrows and 'mummy goo'. Information on how to explore the museum online is at: <https://blog.britishmuseum.org/how-to-explore-the-british-museum-from-home/>

Natural History museum SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. Tours of past and present exhibits among others.

An easy to use website with access to past exhibitions, permanent installations and the museum's support centre. <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Take Me To The World

A SONDHEIM 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. A video of the concert tribute to Stephen Sondheim. Sondheim is famous for many works including the lyrics for West Side Story and Gypsy to his full scores of shows including Sweeney Todd, Follies, A Little Night Music, Into the Woods and Sunday in the Park with George. Find it on YouTube: Take Me To The World Sondheim 90th Birthday Celebration.

You are the Champions

QUEEN. Members of Queen and Adam Lambert perform a tweaked version of the famous song. Brian May, Roger Taylor and Adam Lambert perform 'You are the Champions' in quarantine. On Instagram, @Brianmayforreal #youarethechampions.

Fellini Soño con Picasso SOUNDTRACKS OF THE PICASSO/FELLINI EXHIBITION. The Museo Picasso de Málaga held a Fellini /Picasso exhibition in 2018. Drawings, documents, films and photographs belonging to the Italian film director Federico Fellini were displayed alongside some of Picasso's works and accompanied by the music composed by Nino Rota, can be listened to on the museum website: <https://www.museopicasso-malaga.org/> You will need to register with Spotify.

Four Seasons Tribute concerts THE JERSEY BOYS. 30 May, 8pm. The Jersey Boys Tribute Band consists of three talented young singers who perform some of The Four Seasons most celebrated hits. Hits by Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons such as Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry and Working My Way Back To You are just some of the songs included in the repertoire of the tribute act. More information on The Jersey Four Facebook page. Etickets (issued by email) available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/jerseytickets

EXHIBITIONS

Gallery Art Club

FUENGIROLA. Until 19 June. Calle Quemada. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11am - 2pm. Finnish artist and former gallerist Tehri Pesonen is exhibiting about 40 artworks. www.galleryartclub.com Also on Facebook.



Irene Grant, El Morche.



Art for sale, Galería Benedito.

Irene Grant

EL MORCHE. From 11 June until 8 July. Bio Beach Club, Paseo Marítimo El Morche. An exhibition of paintings by Irene Grant, a British artist resident in the Axarquía.

The Genealogy of Art

MALAGA. Until 31 May. Museo Picasso Málaga. Works by Pablo Picasso, Constantin Brancusi, Paul Cézanne, Robert Delaunay, Alberto Giacometti, Juan Gris, Vasily Kandinsky, Fernand Léger, El Lissitzky, Kazimir Malevich, Franz Marc, Henri Matisse, Joan Miró, Piet Mondrian, Georges Braque, Paul Klee and Henry Moore are included in this exhibition entitled Genealogías del arte, o la historia del arte como arte visual. From 1 June the permanent exhibition will be 'Diálogos con Picasso. Colección 2020-2023' which will exhibit 120 works by the artist. www.museopicassomalaga.org

The Russian Museum

MALAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. The two temporary exhibitions currently held at the museum are Rompiendo el silencio. El cine mudo en Rusia and Andréi Tarkovsky. Maestro del Espacio. Cinema has for decades been a way for attracting audiences, either as indoctrination or for recreational purposes. Russian silent films have become universal icons over time. The second exhibition is about Andréi Tarkovsky, one of the most influential Russian artists of the 20th century. He was the forerunner of innovative techniques in the cinema of the time, refining editing to make films more dynamic.

Centro Pompidou

MALAGA. Muelle Uno. The semi-permanent exhibition is entitled De Miró a Barceló. Un siglo de arte español. Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel were precursors of new ways of seeing and creating and their legacy still lives on. This chronological journey through a century of Spanish art shows that the generation of contemporary artists has kept alive the spirit of the avant-garde with extraordinary energy.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MALAGA. Until 23 August. C/Alemania. The CAC Málaga reopens with a new exhibition called Opus Nigrum by the Mallorca artist Pep Girbent. The dis-

play includes drawings and paintings inspired by film clips.

Casa Natal Picasso

MALAGA. Until 31 May. Museo Casa Natal Picasso. The exhibition demonstrates the relationship between two geniuses, Pablo Picasso and Camilo José Cela. It consists of documents and photos symbolising the shared affinities and passions of the two friends.

Thyssen Museum

MALAGA. Until 7 June, 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday. During a brief stay in a sanatorium, Henri Toulouse-Lautrec created 39 drawings in crayon about the circus. These works were saved after his death by his friend Maurice Joyant and reproduced using a photographic technique in 1905 and 1931. The reproductions were entitled Au Cirque. Thirty-nine prints of these drawings are on display until 7 June. The museum also has a permanent exhibition of paintings by famous artists.

ONLINE EXHIBITIONS



Cat nightlight, Rijkmuseum.

Virtual exhibition tours

THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ART. The Academy's website offers virtual tours of its installations. Visit the exhibition Picasso and Paper from home or two of David Hockney's blockbuster shows, 2012's A Bigger Picture 82 Portraits and One Still-Life from 2016. There are also short videos of exhibitions such as Tracey Emin and Anthony Whishaw, With Spain In Mind and many more (find the above under 'Tours').

Art Gallery

GALERÍA BENEDITO. One of Malaga's most prestigious art galleries has opened an online shop. Art can be viewed and purchased online at www.galeriabenedito-shop.com

Dutch National Museum

THE RIJKSMUSEUM. The museum houses a famous collection of art by Dutch masters. The museum has masterpieces by Rembrandt, Frans Hals and Johannes Vermeer as well as many other objects of art and history. Information can be found on their website or search on YouTube for Rijksmuseum-fromhome for various clips about individual paintings in English. <https://360stories.com/amsterdam/story/rijksmuseum>

TALKS / MONOLOGUES

Art courses and lectures

ART HISTORY IN FOCUS. Online live lectures and courses throughout the year.

Founded by art historian and lecturer Siân Walters, Art History in Focus arranges regular courses, study days and visits in the UK as well as cultural holidays throughout Europe. Siân is a highly qualified and experienced tutor and events organiser, and lectures regularly for the National Gallery, NADFAS (The Arts Society). www.arthistoryinfoocus.com/courses/

Free streaming

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE. The theatre is releasing its collection of monologues to the public.

Audio recordings of renowned artists performing their favourite theatrical speeches. Available on www.themonobox.co.uk the Library features over 100 speeches by artists such as Sir Derek Jacobi, Denise Gough, Sheila Atim, Gina McKee, Prasanna Puwanarajah and Sir Simon Russell Beale. Speech Share Live monologues hosted by Hampstead Theatre will also be available on the Hampstead Theatre website. www.hampsteadtheatre.com

THEATRE / DRAMA

Online theatre productions

NATIONAL THEATRE AT HOME.

Watch the best of British theatre every Thursday.

The National Theatre will be live streaming on YouTube every Thursday at 7pm British time (8pm Spain) Each performance will be available to view for the following seven days. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

From 4 until 11 June, 7pm BST.

Coriolanus. Tom Hiddleston (Betrayal, The Avengers, The Night Manager) plays the title role in Shakespeare's searing tragedy of political manipulation and revenge. When an old adversary threatens Rome, the city calls once more on her hero and defender: Coriolanus. But he has enemies at home too.



Coriolanus, National Theatre.

Shakespeare online

THE GLOBE THEATRE. A series of Free-To-View archive performances are being released online by the theatre at <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/watch#free-you-tube-premieres>.

Until 31 May. The Winter's Tale.

1 - 14 June. The Merry Wives of Windsor.

Salon Varietés offers local writers their 15 minutes of fame

A new initiative will give budding playwrights a chance to see their work performed at the short play festival later this year

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. In order to kick start its 2020-21 season, the Salon Varietés theatre in Fuen-girola is to host a new initiative called Famous for 15 Minutes, a festival that will focus on short plays, or playlets, as they are known in the theatrical world.

The project is aimed at discovering and nurturing new writing and acting talent on the Costa del Sol. Budding playwrights have been invited to submit a script for a 15-minute play, which can be of any drama genre except musical.

The scripts will be judged by a panel of specialists, who will select six plays to be performed at the festival, which will be staged in the theatre later this year.

The playwright must be a resident and the script must be in English. Organisers have stressed that staging should be basic box-set design.

The play, which can have a maximum of four actors over the age of 16, must be original and not previously published or performed. A maximum of



The Salon Varietés Theatre will host the short-play festival. SUR

two different plays may be submitted by the playwright, who can be a professional writer or novice. However, only one script will be eligible for inclusion in the final shortlist.

"We're looking for new and interesting stories that will challenge our actors and entertain our audience. The short play format is a great way for writers to hone their craft

and for actors to bring new stories to life," said board member Alan Boardman.

Entries must be submitted in PDF format to alanbrdmn@yahoo.co.uk before midnight on Tuesday 30 June. For more information, rules and how to submit a finished script, see The Official Salon Varietés Theatre Group Facebook page.

Until 28 June. A Midsummer's Night's Dream.

Theatre streaming

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE.

The theatre will be streaming productions, each one available for a month. Productions will be captioned for deaf and hard of hearing audiences. Audio introductions will help set the scene for blind and partially sighted audiences. There is also an archive of talks and events and podcasts available on the following website: <https://www.cft.org.uk/>

Until 29 May. David Walliams The Midnight Gang.

Until 19 June. Anna Ledwich's adaptation of Beauty and the Beast.

MORE IDEAS

Aquarium tour

OCEANOGRÁFIC VALENCIA. A virtual, 360° tour of the aquarium.

The Oceanogràfic in Valencia is the biggest aquarium in Europe. You can now visit thirteen different rooms, each one centred on a species or climate at www.oceanografic.org/visita-virtual/

Space watching

STARLINK. Track satellites across the night sky with this online tool.

Starlink is a satellite constellation being constructed by American company SpaceX. The constellation will consist of thousands of mass-produced small satellites in low Earth orbit. The satellites can be seen crossing the sky using the tracker www.findstarlink.com

Creative activities

FAMILY HOW TO. The Royal Academy of Arts suggests ways for the family to get creative.

Inspired by the RA's world class exhibitions, leading artists and architects, this site includes a range of creative activities such as how to make a recycled sculptures, making stencils and vegetable prints etc. www.royalacademy.org.uk/articles/tag/family-how-to

Online choir

FIND YOUR VOICE. One hour singing sessions every Wednesday at 5pm. Local opera singer Clarice Williams runs the Find Your Voice Vocal Studio

which raises money for charities as well as allows people to get together for a chat and sing songs from a varied repertoire. Participants do not have to be competent singers. Registration five euros. Facebook Find Your Voice Vocal Studio.

Photography Competition

MIJAS, CON OTRA MIRADA. Take a photo from your balcony or terrace during quarantine.

Enter the competition with a picture that has inspired you taken from your balcony or terrace during quarantine and send it to cultura@mijas.es. The rules, photo size, format and how to register can be found at: <https://mijas.website/mijas-con-otra-mirada/>

Free Audio Books

LITERARY CLASSICS. A selection of classics and children's books. Besides Wuthering Heights, Shakespeare and The Curious Case of Benjamin Button are Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and The jungle Book among many others. <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Indoor learning activities

U3A COSTA DEL SOL

FUENGIROLA. The association has turned to social media to continue offering a service to its members. Art history, bridge, quiz nights and even a choral group are just some of the online activities being offered by the U3A. Anyone can become a member. Visit www.u3afuengirolacosta-delsol.com for more information.

VISITS / ATTRACTIONS

El Caminito Del Rey

ARDALES. Opening 12 June. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

Tickets are available now for June and July. <https://reservas.caminitodelrey.info/>

Centro de la Prehistoria de Guadalteba

ARDALES. Open from 10am - 2pm

More information call: 952458046 or email: turismo@ardales.es



El Caminito, Ardales.

Iglesia Rupestre Mozárabe Bobastro

ARDALES. Open from 10am - 2pm.

More information call: 952458046 or email: turismo@ardales.es

Alcazaba and Gibralfaro

MALAGA. Open from 9am - 8pm. Last admittance at 7.15pm.

Entry to both monuments is free until 1 June.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Anglican church service

COSTA DEL SOL WEST

CHAPLAINCY. Services available online: www.costachurch.com.

Sunday morning services available 10am every Sunday on YouTube Costa Del Sol West Chaplaincy. Pre-service prayers are at 9.45am <https://zoom.us/j/968525376> Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Tea at Five Live (5pm-6pm on Zoom). Wednesday night prayer Compline: link is on the website.

Sunday and Wednesday Services

ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF NERJA AND ALMUÑECAR. Regular services on Zoom app.

Every Sunday at midday and on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am. People wishing to access the service must e-mail details to Fr Nigel Thomas (Chaplain): cofenerja@gmail.com or John Hodgson: hodgsonjbp@gmail.com

Daniel García Peinado, Spain's ambassador for extra virgin olive oil

The Malaga chef known for specialising in 'liquid gold' is now the culinary representative of AOVE Spain

JAVIER ALMELLONES

MALAGA. The extra virgin olive oil (AOVE) produced in Spain now has a gastronomic ambassador from Malaga, the chef Daniel García Peinado. Nicknamed since 2015 as the 'AOVE chef' for his specialisation in this healthy oil that is the backbone of the Mediterranean Diet, he is now the culinary reference of the AOVE Spain company, an initiative that developed during quarantine to elevate 'liquid gold' to the place it deserves.

His objective is to reach homes and catering establishments to spread the advantages of using extra virgin olive oil in the kitchen. To achieve this he has started publishing a series of videos on AOVE Spain's so-



Daniel García Peinado. SUR

cial networks offering recipes, practical advice and some tricks on how to use 'olive juice'.

The AOVE Spain project aims to become not only a reference site for the sector but also a vehicle for training at different levels with the possibility of completing online courses related to the culinary applications of extra virgin olive oil.

Champagne has its moments

ANDREW J. LINN

The figures published for wine consumption during lockdown cannot all be correct. Many of them contradict each other, although there are some reliable facts that can be correlated and double-checked.

The drinks industry as a whole always accepts the Nielsen data: UK champagne sales had fallen 41 per cent by the third week of lockdown while beer sales jumped 70 per cent. Wine sales across the board are of course down all over Europe, as restaurants were closed and home consumption could not fill the gap. Distilled drink sales exploded, probably because it is more convenient to buy and store a few bottles of vodka than the equivalent amount of alcohol in wine, not to mention other effects.

So what about champagne? To the chagrin of the French, sales are not buoyant anywhere, and the reasons could hardly be simpler in spite of explanations that are offered on a semi-official level, ranging from French street protests to tax rises on sales of grapes.

Disingenuously the big champagne houses have declared they are not bothered by the decline, as they do not have enough stock anyway.

The underlying reason is that champagne is a drink for sharing, celebrating, partying or whatever, and two people will rarely open a bottle if they have nothing to rejoice about, even less so a solitary drinker. Given the choice between selecting a first-rate Spanish wine from one of the great wine regions and drinking the equivalent value in a mediocre champagne, there can be no contest. Which really does prove that most champagne enthusiasts like to be seen drinking it, so quaffing it behind closed doors does not impress anyone.

Conclusion: champagne is for show, not for serious drinking, and there are few exceptions. Even those tiresome bigots who claim never to touch cava and will only drink the real thing are fooling nobody but themselves. I have attended

enough blind tastings with trade experts to consider them wine snobs of the worst sort.

Only one taster in 20 can tell the difference between a good cava and champagne. Extend that to the casual drinker and the figure will be nearer one in 100.

WINE OF THE WEEK

La Garnacha Salvaje del Moncayo

The Vintage bodega group was started ten years ago by two 25-year olds, and is now producing some highly interesting wines. The Garnacha grape is Spain's national treasure, so the combination that goes into this excellent red from Aragon has form. Possibly one of the best value-for-money wines available today. Around 8 euros.





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Turmeric is a rhizomous root from a tropical plant related to ginger. **DANIEL MALDONADO**

Turmeric, the yellow prodigy

Exotic product. Used as a dye for food and clothing, turmeric is one of the oldest condiments in oriental cuisine

**ESPERANZA
PELÁEZ**



▲ Turmeric can be used fresh or the rhizomes can be dried and ground into a powder.

It is interesting that Spain was the first country in the western Mediterranean to use turmeric as a cooking ingredient, because after the expulsion of the Arabs who had brought it, it was largely forgotten, mainly due to the prestige of saffron which was also easier to cultivate in Spain's climate. But everything eventually makes a comeback and turmeric, once the saffron of the poor, has made a reappearance through the development of the market for exotic produce and above all, through interest in eating healthily.

The first use of *Curcuma longa*, a member of the tropical ginger family, was medicinal, decorative and ritual.

In India, where it originated, it is believed to have been used

Ayurvedic texts from 2,500 years ago describe turmeric being used in marriage rites for good fortune and fertility

since prehistoric times and the first texts of Ayurvedic medicine, some 2,500 years ago, described the numerous properties of the plant used in marriage rites to bring good fortune and fertility, as a fabric dye and skin paint as well as a condiment of course.

Today it is estimated that on average between 80 and 200mg of turmeric is consumed per person per day in India during their normal diet as well as being prescribed in traditional medicine to treat liver ailments, anorexia, coughs, ulcers due to diabetes, rheumatism and sinusitis.

Western medical research has devoted more than 3,000 publications to turmeric over the last 25 years according to the website of the US National Center for Biotechnology Information (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) and its possible properties as an antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anticancer and gut health regulator, among others, continue to be explored.

The medical or pharmacological properties are actually at the origin of the use of many vegetables and in turmeric, the most interesting substance is the curcumin contained in the root and to a lesser extent in the stem, which is responsible for the intense yellow colour it transfers to everything it comes into contact with. Although in its pure state turmeric stains everything, the colouring substance is more soluble in oil or alcohol than in water. The dyeing property also makes turmeric widespread as a food colourant (coded as E-101). It gives a yellowish colour to industrial



mustards and constitutes 13 per cent of the composition of curry powder.

It is sometimes replaced by the synthetic dye tartrazine (E-102) simply because turmeric can transmit some flavour.

What does turmeric taste and smell like? Chef and expert in spices and aromatic mixtures, Marcos Reguera, describes it perfectly:

“Its aroma is complex, sweet, with woody tones and floral, citrus and fresh ginger notes. Its taste is slightly bitter and acidic, somewhat sharp, warm and musky,” he says in his blog about spices (www.marcos-reguera.com).

In India it is used in multiple combinations, although it is absent in the quintessential spice blend, garam masala (black pepper, cumin, cinnamon, cardamom, clove, mace or nutmeg, bay leaf and coriander seeds). However it is associated with garam masala in many dishes and is a must in ‘dal’, in doughs and various marinades and curries.

In Indian cuisine turmeric is almost always used in powdered form and is usually added at the beginning of cooking so that it can develop its aromas and colour on contact with the hot cooking oil.

Turmeric quickly travelled from India to China (700BC)

where it was first known and described by Marco Polo in 1280. From there it travelled to West Africa where it is still widely used.

One of the reasons it is often associated with fish or seafood is its strong antioxidant power which helps to preserve the product.

Caz Hildebrand, in her book ‘Speciarium’, recommends using it to season dishes with beans, lentils, rice, onions, aubergines, spinach, tomatoes, potatoes, cauliflower, root vegetables (carrots, turnips, parsnips, radishes...), eggs, fish, meat (lamb, beef, pork, chicken) and condiments such as mustard and ginger.

Turmeric works very well as a condiment when pickling vegetables, a common use in India and adopted by the British. Today it is easy to find turmeric root in grocers and specialised stores and it can be frozen without losing any of its properties. However most of the turmeric marketed in the world is sold dried and powdered, this way it lasts a long time but will lose its aroma as time goes by.

Like any other spice it’s advisable to find a good supplier who can guarantee the origin and freshness and when you get home, keep it hermetically sealed in an opaque container.

RECIPE

Roast turmeric cauliflower

In Indian cuisine, turmeric is often used in vegetable recipes, especially those using lentils and root vegetables. This recipe is a delicious way of preparing and cooking a whole cauliflower by marinading it in a spicy turmeric paste before roasting it in a hot oven.

CAULIFLOWER ROASTED WITH TURMERIC

Ingredients

1 whole cauliflower
50ml extra virgin olive oil
grated rind and juice of a half a lemon
1 small pot of Greek yoghurt
2 garlic cloves
1 turmeric root or 1tbspn ground turmeric



1 green chili
Half tsp brown sugar
Fresh coriander leaves
Pinch of salt.

Method

First prepare the marinade by placing the olive oil, yoghurt, sugar, salt, garlic, lemon rind and juice, chili and turmeric together in a liquidiser and mixing to make a smooth paste. Remove any large leaves from the cauliflower, trim the stem and rinse well. Pat as dry as possible with paper kitchen towels.

Spread the marinade paste all over the cauliflower and place it into a bowl.

Cover with bowl with cling film and put it into the fridge for a minimum of eight hours to allow the flavours to develop.

Heat the oven to 200°C.

Place the cauliflower in an ovenproof dish with a well fitting lid and roast in the oven for thirty minutes.

Remove the lid and roast for a further thirty minutes until the cauliflower is cooked through and golden.

Sprinkle with chopped coriander before serving.

Serve as a side dish with a curry and flatbreads or as a main meal.

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Feeling desperate for a hug? Science can explain why

A lack of physical contact has neurological effects and leads to 'skin hunger'

ROCÍO MENDOZA



You don't know how lucky you are to live through this nightmare alongside somebody else, despite the disputes that I imagine can occur. Right now, I would give anybody a hug".

When she wrote that, writer Elsa Veiga had been on her own at home for nearly 12 weeks. There was not even a pet to keep her company during the strict lockdown conditions imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Like Elsa, thousands of people who live alone in Spain - and there are 4.7

million of them, according to the National Institute of Statistics - have felt that intense need to hug, hold someone's hand, caress, just touch someone.

Does that sound banal to you? Well, actually it isn't. The absence of touch is an added stress factor for people who are on their own, compared with others. Known as 'skin hunger', it is a neurological episode that reveals why we all need contact and how we deteriorate without it.

Humans are "programmed by nature" to touch and be touched. The skin is the organ charged with receiving a large amount of valuable information about life.

"Through the somatosensory system, we transmit to the brain the different qualities of contacts there are with our surroundings. From the skin, that information travels through complex systems which end in the cerebral cortex and it is our brain that processes all that information," explains Pablo Eguía, a neurologist and member of the Spanish Neurology Society (SEN).

That information that we transmit about the environment is very varied: from knowing the temperature to the position of the body in space. But it is also the channel through which we interpret signs of affection.

"Affection is another necessity for human beings and physical contact is one of the main ways of obtaining it. No matter what we may call it, it is a need which has been widely studied," says Dr Eguía.

The term 'skin hunger' is used by the Touch Research Institute at the University of Miami in its studies. Tiffany Field, one of its members, said in a recent work that the sensory design of human beings through skin is designed "to increase our feelings of wellbeing in social environments". Being with others, she says, optimises the possibilities of survival. That is why solitude makes us perceive reality as a threat. For that reason, "when we suffer anxiety for some reason,

"Not touching a single living being has been the hardest part of lockdown. As the days go by, it becomes both a primary need and a luxury"

being touched is a form of help".

There are two stages in life in which "empathetic contact", as Neurology calls it, is of vital importance: when we are babies and in our old age. Hence the famous 'skin to skin' practised in hospitals with newborn babies. The feeling of being hugged to the chest, collecting information through the skin when the rest of the senses have yet to develop, aids the baby's wellbeing and cerebral development.

"Studies suggest that those who have been deprived of that physical contact in the first months of life develop more psychological

problems as adults," says Eguía.

Analgesic effect

At the other extreme, "when we think about adults, solitude has a very negative effect on people and it is probably partly due to the absence of physical contact," he says.

In fact, one of the pieces of advice that specialists normally give for a healthy brain is to expand affective relationships and avoid social isolation. This is so important that its benefits seem to go beyond even that.

"It seems to have some type of analgesic effect. Several studies have been published about this and they all indicate that, if it is empathetic, contact will activate brain mechanisms that help people to control and cope with pain better," says Eguía.

From an emotional aspect, physical isolation is devastating. "Not touching a living being, not being touched, has been the hardest part of the lockdown. I'm used to living alone, spending days with nothing happening, but two long months is just too much. At first I prepared myself mentally and that wasn't the priority, but after so long there are days when you wake up longing to hug someone. It is something so simple, but it has become a luxury and a primary need," says Elsa Veiga.

Lola Valenzuela, who works in Communication, has experienced the same strong need. Her surprise came when she decided to go to the hairdresser.

"I asked them to give me a capillary treatment because my hair was falling out with the stress, and they massaged it into my scalp. I felt such a strange need to cry. It was the closest thing I had had to a hug in three months," she says. They both agree that the "sadness and anxiety" caused by the pandemic "wouldn't have been as bad if another person or a pet had been there to share it".

Elsa says "what is amazing is that you get used to it", and it pains her to think how long things will remain this way because of the need to maintain social distancing. Meanwhile, maybe it is some consolation to know that it is in our nature to want to socialise through touch, in order to survive. Even though at the moment that may seem rather a paradox.



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"Telemedicine is not medicine. We need to see many of our patients"

GPs are encouraging people not to delay important consultations: "Some patients with chronic conditions haven't come for over two months," they say

ALBERTO GÓMEZ



MALAGA. They are collateral victims of coronavirus. The health crisis has meant that patients with chronic conditions are avoiding going to health centres as a preventive measure against contagion. However GPs are now warning that "telemedicine" is not always sufficient, especially when patients need tests.

The lockdown has signifi-

cantly increased the number of telephone consultations, and although in many cases this alternative way of doing things has been effective, it can be counterproductive for some.

"We need to attend to everything we haven't been able to do during these past weeks, but we are finding that some patients are afraid of leaving their homes. We really need to see some of them as soon as possible, because they have chronic conditions and haven't come here for months. People still need to have blood tests, X-rays, and outpatient surgery," said a GP at a health centre on the eastern side of Malaga, who prefers us not to publish their name because of the processes the Andalusian Health Service (SAS) insists they go through before speaking to the media.

Patients with existing illnesses have found themselves in a difficult situation since the first

cases of Covid-19 were identified in March. They are a group at risk but they still need to see their doctor from time to time.

"Ideally, they should check whether it is necessary for them to come, and if it is, they should strictly comply with the recommended hygiene measures and maintain social distancing as we are all required to do by law," said a doctor who works in the Axarquía.

They do all agree, however, that experiences during the state of alarm will change the way health centres operate in future, with an increase in the number of telephone consultations, which until recently were only a minor part of a GP's work.

"Just as many patients have no option but to come, sometimes personal consultations really aren't necessary and can be carried out just as well by phone. We should learn a lesson from this crisis and use both sys-

tems in future," said one doctor.

The Junta de Andalucía's health ministry has begun to take measures to minimise personal visits and encourage telemedicine, for example by sending out thousands of messages about glucose monitoring to people with Type One diabetes.

Other professionals, like a doctor at a health centre in Marbella, says the administrations deserve to be criticised because they have been so slow in considering telephone or internet consultations to be part of the system.

"For years, we have been making so many people come here for no reason whatsoever, because if someone wants a repeat prescription there is no need for them to have to ask for it in person, except in extreme cases," he said. This way of working "has given us crowded waiting rooms, sometimes with patients who have some type of virus and could be contagious," he added.

Preventing contagion

During the pandemic, most health centres have divided their staff so that half of the doctors work from home and the other half in their surgeries, alternating the two and with almost all of them dealing with telephone consultations. This aimed to ensure that patients needing a personal consultation could have

"It's not good for patients to overuse health centres, but they shouldn't be afraid to come because some really need to be seen to be diagnosed," said one doctor

Until recently telephone consultations were only a minor part of a GP's work in Andalucía; with Covid-19 they have become common

one, while at least half of the doctors were safe in case of massive infection.

"The thing is, we are in this profession because we like the contact with the patients," argues another doctor, this time in Torremolinos.

"We need to be aware that it is not positive for anybody to overuse the health centres, but nor should they be afraid of coming, because there may be patients who stay at home when they do really need to be seen and diagnosed."

Everyone we spoke to agreed that telemedicine will be here to stay, but that "in many cases it is not a suitable substitute for personal consultations".

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Government gives the green light for La Liga to return from 8 June

Spain's top two divisions can resume behind closed doors but must do so at a frenetic pace to conclude the remaining 11 match days before the end of July

ÓSCAR BELLOT

MADRID. Professional football in Spain is to get back up and running from the week of 8 June, prime minister Pedro Sánchez announced on Saturday. Sánchez said that the Ministry of Health had authorised La Liga to resume behind closed doors, after a break of nearly three months due to the coronavirus lockdown.

Spain's top two divisions, Primera and Segunda, will start from where they left off in March, and matches will have to take place daily, to fit in the eleven remaining match days of the season before the end of July.

Strict health protocol will be



Tebas and Rubiales have had to put their differences to one side. **EFE**

applied to prevent Covid-19 contagion during a time when the majority of Spain's provinces

should be in the final phase of the government's lockdown easing plan. This will apply to "the

most important sporting competitions" in Spain, said Sánchez, meaning that not only football can resume.

When the league restarts the players will have been training again for five weeks after seven weeks confined to their homes.

The first game in the top flight Primera division is likely to be the Sevilla-Real Betis derby on Friday 12 June. The first Segunda division game could be Rayo Vallecano-Albacete on 9 June (a match from 15 December which had to be abandoned at half time).

Collaborations

LaLiga chief Javier Tebas was quick to show his satisfaction at the outcome, calling it "the result of the great work of clubs, players, coaches, the National Sports Council (CSD) and everyone involved".

Tebas went on to stress: "It's very important to follow the health regulations and that the pandemic keeps progressing favourably. We can't afford to let

our guard down."

This return to action comes as a result of the so-called 'Pactos de Viana' which were reached with the mediation of Irene Lozano, head of the CSD, which helped to navigate the hostilities between the president of the Spanish Football Federation (FEF), Luis Rubiales, and Tebas.

Matches every day

Tebas confirmed recently that he hoped that there would be matches every day of the week (now possible with the ban on matches on Mondays lifted) but with the high temperatures expected in June and July, games will have to start from 8pm onwards and provided that the pitch temperature doesn't exceed 32 degrees.

As has been the case in the German Bundesliga, the FEF and La Liga are also in favour of temporarily increasing the number of substitutes permitted from three to five per match and allowing at least one water break per half.

Furthermore, in order to comply with the strict sanitary measures, only one match per day will be analysed in each of the eight VAR control rooms which means that there will be a maximum of eight games played per day between Primera and Segunda.

Malaga Femenino forced to cut ties with coach as women's football is left in limbo

With uncertainty as to when non-professional football can resume, negotiations with José Herrera over a wage cut were unsuccessful

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Malaga's women's team and coach José Herrera have parted company after the two parties were unable to come to an agreement over a payout.

With all non-professional

leagues in Spain (which includes the entirety of women's football) declared over, a fifth-place finish for the side has been confirmed, thus missing out on promotion back to the top flight.

As a result, and in light of the club's financial issues, Herrera's contract was no longer viable and negotiations were started.

"With my most sincere affection for this club and the badge, now is time to say goodbye as coach of the Malaga women's team. After a period of negotiation and with great sorrow on my part, it



Herrera, in a file photo. **M. FERNÁNDEZ**

wasn't possible to reach an agreement for me to continue," Herrera explained via social media.

Given the club's difficulties, Herrera's replacement is likely to be an internal appointment with Nati Gutiérrez, Herrera's number two this season and former treble winner with Atlético Malaga in 1998, the favourite to take the reins.

With the future of women's football very much in limbo, this is expected to be the first of many changes to come in the following weeks.

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Marbella get ready for the play-offs

The Marbella players returned to the Antonio Lorenzo municipal stadium earlier this week for training ahead of their participation in the play-off series for promotion to Segunda. Much like their professional counterparts, the Marbella players must follow strict safety protocols which for Segunda B players currently involves individual work, focused primarily on strength and fitness preparation.



JULIO RODRÍGUEZ



Julio and Mikel grapple for possession of the ball. LALIGA

Malaga pick up the pace as return draws nearer

The intensity of the training continues to rise with group sessions allowing tactical and technical training

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. The pace of the sessions is getting faster every day... and it has to with a return to action in Spain's professional football leagues a little over two weeks away.

After just a week and a half of individual training, group sessions are now under way and are progressing much quicker than expected given the extended (and unexpected) break. So far, at least, the Malaga players agree that the plan designed to get football restarted in Spain "has been a success", according to Malaga vice-captain Luis Hernández.

Though these group sessions are still far from normal, the players are now able to move on from a focus on fitness to getting a feel for the ball and working on the chemistry with their teammates.

Coach Sergio Pellicer, who is



Quintana, dribbling. LALIGA

very much a part of all of the drills, has been especially demanding when it comes to control of the shot, transitions in tight spaces or the coordination in the pass.

Besides all the safety protocols, another element the players have had to get used to has been the heat. However, for goalkeeper, Munir, this hasn't been a problem: "If we can train now in this heat, then we will be ready to play in these conditions too."



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

Stealing a march

La Liga is seizing a historic opportunity to get ahead of their long-standing rivals in the Premier League



Those fans who have been desperate for their fix of football, rehashing any fag ends from days gone by, need to be prepared for an overdose. From the famine of absolutely no live football since March, there will be a feast with plans for at least a game a day from 11 June for 32 days.

The Germans have been first to flood the market with their brand but La Liga is ready to steal a march on the world's self-professed leading producers, the Premier League, which won't be ready for distribution until late June. It's a very clever move by the Spanish bosses; it's a golden opportunity for them to get ahead in terms of marketing and make up for lost ground due to some left-field decisions in recent years when the Premier League has taken on significant global markets while the Primera División has gone for the niche approach.

In Spain there are plans for matches to be aired for free in retirement homes. They're also allowing limited free viewing in countries such as the UK as they plan to relaunch a product that has suffered a loss of television viewers by choosing to go down the streaming route a couple of years ago. They'll be hoping for the same reaction as the Bundesliga which was quickest off the mark. Fans have adopted teams, embraced the German version of the game and immersed themselves in the action.

In contrast to the Bundesliga, I



The Barcelona players take a break from training this week. EFE

understand the Spanish executives are considering using recorded crowd effects instead of allowing the normal atmosphere to bleed through when the language can be somewhat industrial. This is a lesson learned from the echoing ambience of the Bundesliga stadia and the positive experiment of the Australian NRL who pump a soundtrack through the speakers.


Breaking a trade secret I can tell you that this is nothing new. Quite often crowd noises are 'piped in' to an uncertain satellite feed of a foreign game and viewers don't notice the 'white noise'. Us commentators crank up the volume so we are 'fighting' the effects.

It's not new for games to be fan-free in Spain either. The Getafe-Real Sociedad game was played behind closed doors before lockdown and when Barcelona hosted Las Palmas in 2017 nobody was allowed into the Camp Nou because of public



unrest over Catalan independence protests. The scorelines coming out of Germany suggest that home advantage appears to be reduced as a result. Since the restart, home sides have won 18 per cent of matches, compared to 43 per cent previously.

While matches will have to be played without them, clubs in Spain have been quick off the mark to keep fans involved. This week I received a press release from Barcelona plugging their new face masks - in three designs, locally produced with ecological cotton.

Of course, we've had the terraces filled by blow-up dolls in Korea, cardboard cut out supporters in Germany and A4 images of fans' faces stuck to mannequins in Belarus... So, to get into the spirit, it appears you have to don your face mask, grab your blow-up doll, pay a visit to the grand folks to take in your game of choice and lay your bet on the away team.



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Shaheen to sue Malaga for wrongful dismissal as Al-Thani questions administrator's intentions

The sheikh and his trusted advisor have gone on the offensive this week, criticising the actions of the judicial administrator

ANTONIO GÓNGORA



MALAGA. Ousted Malaga president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani and his confidant for some months now, Richard Shaheen, may have been removed from the management of the club, but they are not keeping out of the limelight while they fight for their right to return in the courts.

Shaheen on Thursday announced that he would be taking the club to court for wrongful dismissal. The statement, issued to Efe, says that Shaheen was "illegally" dismissed last February and that "the accusations on which the dismissal was based are completely false".

The pair also published a statement this week in which they attacked the actions of the judicial administrator of the club, José María Muñoz, who they say is acting "irresponsibly" and has



File photo of Shaheen during a match at La Rosaleda. SALVADOR SALAS

"seriously damaged the club during the last three months".

Al-Thani and Shaheen especially question the decision to announce an ERE mass redundancy plan for the collective dismissal of around fifty employees, which they say is "unnecessary and ineffective in saving costs". Shaheen stresses: "By paying fair but unnecessary pay-outs to long-term employees, the club will be impoverished. Meanwhile, the administrator continues to ignore other much more effective cost-saving plans, which were already in place when he arrived. These types of actions make it

very clear that the intentions of the judicial administrator, of course, are not to benefit the finances of Malaga."

Shaheen's plans

The rest of the statement focuses mainly on the measures that Shaheen had put in place, or at least that he was going to, which they say would have resolved the club's financial plight relatively easily.

Among the proposals, Shaheen highlights plans for expansion abroad with promotional activities in emerging markets which he says would have brought in 3.4 million euros. He also estimates

Sheikh asked to explain how and when he will pay back debt

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani's lawyers were given five days on Thursday to explain how and when their client intends to pay back loans he and his children took from the club.

The judge investigating the case brought forward by the minority shareholders' association, accusing the Al-Thani of misappropriation of funds, among other crimes, has demanded that Al-Thani give a detailed repayment schedule.

that he would achieve a saving of 7.2 million and an income of 8.6 million with through manoeuvrings in the transfer market (a total of 15.8 million).

Shaheen also mentions the sale of Antónin, authorised outside the transfer window by Muñoz for what the men consider a fee well short of his market value (1.5 million). They say the sale could have been avoided and much of this revenue could have been raised by reorganising staff and the funding for the Academy project (900,000 euros).

What's more, Shaheen estimates that 12 million euros could have been earned from a tribunal over

Jony's move to Lazio. He also mentioned the possible sale of Braga winger Ricardo Horta (for whom Malaga own a significant part of the rights to the player), albeit without citing a figure, as well as the income lost after the Copa de la Reina final was postponed because of the pandemic (a 400,000-euro loss). According to these optimistic estimates, the money raised would have exceeded 30 million euros.

For this reason, the statement calls for a report on the accounts and for Muñoz to be held to greater accountability. "For a judicial administrator to be at the helm of a club like Malaga for such an extended period of time is not only unusual, but also totally reckless," Shaheen said.

Beyond the ERE

For his part, Muñoz's plans go beyond just that of the ERE, which will make a saving of around a million euros. The main cost-cutting centres on external expenses, those provided by companies or professionals outside the club. As SUR has learned, the club is looking at every provider, one by one and in close detail, in order to ascertain which of these are now considered essential. Those which can be disposed of will be while in the case of those which are still needed, the contracts will be examined and new terms negotiated where possible.

Valencia chosen as venue for Liga ACB play-off from 17 June

Unicaja will face Barcelona, Tenerife, Joventut, Bilbao and Baskonia in their group for one of two places in the semi-finals

JUAN CALDERÓN.

MALAGA. It was announced this week that Valencia would host the the play-off tournament which will decide the outcome of the Liga ACB.

For two weeks from 17 June, the twelve highest-ranked teams in the country pre-lockdown will compete in two groups for the league title.

Malaga side Unicaja will face Barcelona, Tenerife, Joventut, Bilbao and Baskonia in their group for one of two places in the semi-finals.



Thompson and Díaz in a match earlier this year. ACB FOTOS

Unicaja also learnt this week that both the Euroleague and Eurocup seasons have been declared over given the uneven development of the coronavirus crisis in Europe and the refusal of

players to play.

The side had reached the quarterfinals of the latter and were among the favourites for the tournament which now won't return until at least 30 September.

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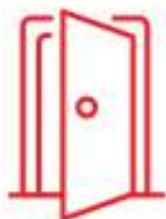
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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
A stimulating week when your energy is likely to be high. This is just as well if you have a lot to do. Even so, avoid taking on more than you can manage.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
A bit of moodiness surfaces midweek when, after a slow start, people expect too much of you. When you feel like scowling at someone, smile instead.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Strength of character makes you feel indestructible but you are only human. Look after your health and be prepared to accept help.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Businesswise you need to be seen to be in charge even though not much is happening. Always appear to be moving forward even though you are, in fact, treading water.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Remember that secrets are meant to be kept. This is not a time to lose friends. Indeed, recent conversations have given you a fine idea on how to move forward.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
A stimulating conversation midweek leads to you changing your mind about a basic belief. Trust your instincts but hold on to your bank balance




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
A need to take control could breed dissent but be firm. The weekend gives a chance to regain what you have lost. There is a feeling of restlessness at the weekend.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
As finances continue to settle your everyday life becomes easier if not perfect. Expectations are high for you but the willingness to be patient serves you well.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Let romance be your priority in what is otherwise a quieter week. There is no need to be all things to all people. Indeed, doing so could see you burn out!



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
It turns out that someone knows you as well as you know yourself. Rather than being upset about it, see what can be changed. You know your own answer to a pertinent question. Will you tell?



Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
An emotional involvement seems to have come at the wrong time. Be firm even if it feels uncomfortable. Maybe it is time to get that list out again and put everything in order of importance.

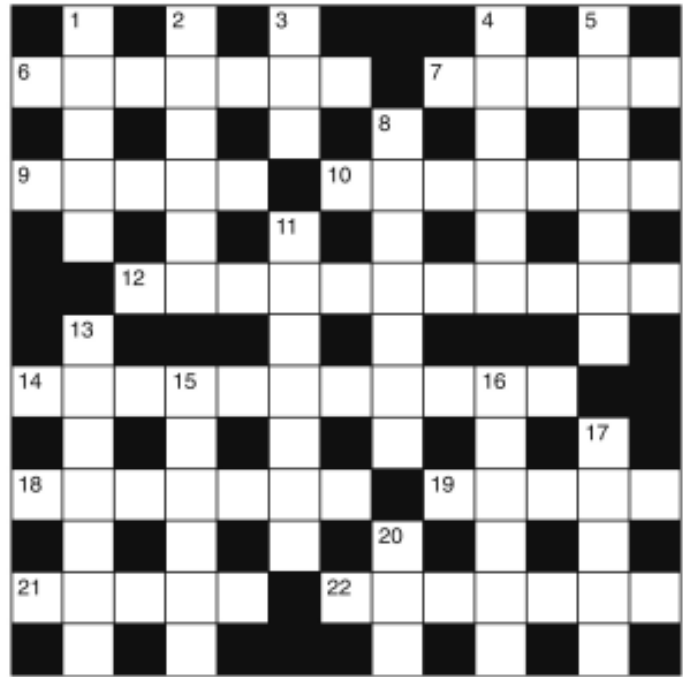


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
At the moment it is not always possible to remain in charge of what is going on around you. That is not a failure but more a fact of life.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11411



Across

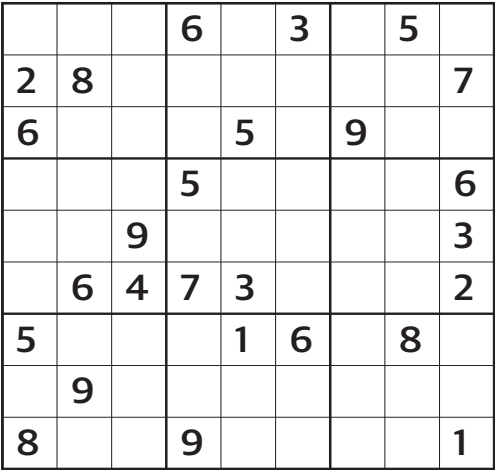
- 6 Money put down for topside, perhaps (7)
- 7 Head cook taking one in (5)
- 9 The transplant has to work (5)
- 10 Mixing board allowed in the spread (7)
- 12 Difficult to keep Russian money in a book (11)
- 14 Point of departure for directors at the end of the season (11)
- 18 Some art composition for a great musician (7)
- 19 Unfortunately including one pseudonym (5)
- 21 Confused, I hide a Swiss girl (5)
- 22 A bad knitter could make such an object (7)

Down

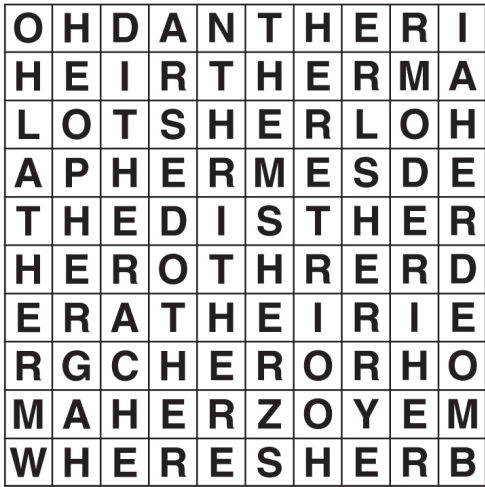
- 1 Gain knowledge of renal disorder (5)
- 2 Of course he may get a hole in one (6)
- 3 Turn the wastepaper basket over to find part of a pen (3)
- 4 Shows approval for the toast (6)
- 5 The right moment to retire (7)
- 8 Eight pints taken around the east in a ship (7)
- 11 Making cuts in the theatre (7)
- 13 Orator connected with hi-fi? (7)
- 15 Fashionable team doing time (6)
- 16 Another name for Arnold? (6)
- 17 Trainee serviceman acted badly (5)
- 20 Annoy some shirkers (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9



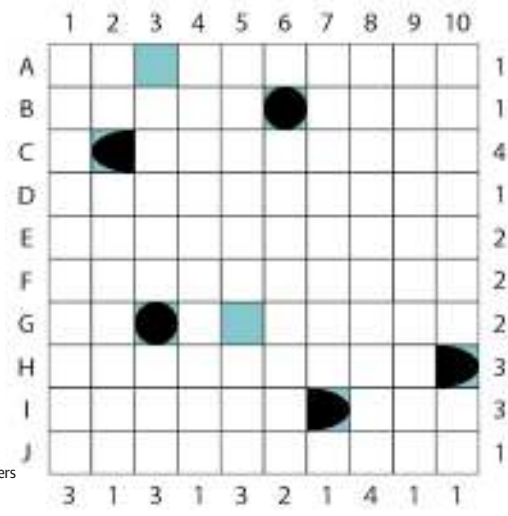
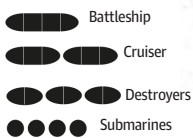
THE WORDPUZZLER



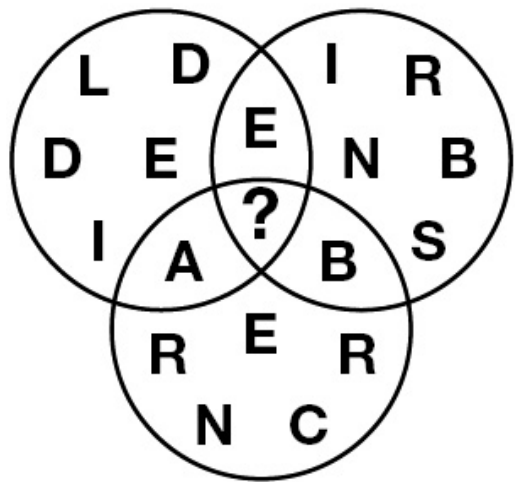
- Can you identify the words that contain 'her' from the clues listed below?
1. Greek messenger
2. Singer/actress
3. Unit of heat
4. Act indecisively
5. Group of cattle
6. Champion
7. Foam
8. Fortified wine
9. Different
10. Question word

BATTLESHIPS

Instructions Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.



CIRCLEGRAM



Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across

1) Experienced (13)

7) Descent (8)

11) It seems (6)

12) To conquer (10)

15) It is (2)

17) Eastern (8)

18) Expedition (10)

19) They kill (5)

21) Ascent (7)

22) To hear (3)

24) I gave (2)

25) I was born (4)

26) Capacity (5)

29) To smoke (5)

30) Inca (4)

33) River (3)

34) Opportunity (7)

36) Train (4)

37) Teachers (8)

39) Mine (m) (3)

40) I'll arrive (7)

41) Mountain range (10)

42) Narcotics (10)

45) Rose (4)

46) Saddlebag (7)

47) Pseudonym (9)

49) I saw (2)

50) Avalanche (9)

51) Companions (12)
- Down

1) Explorer (10)

2) Departure (7)

3) Reconnaissance (14)

4) My (2)

5) She will have (6)

6) Oxygen (7)

8) It was (3)

9) Army (8)

10) To obtain (7)

13) To cover (5)

14) Slice (6)

16) Ram (7)

19) Mountaineer (m) (9)

20) Techniques (8)

23) Ion (3)

27) Faith (2)

28) To laugh (4)

29) Photograph (10)

30) Infectious (m) (10)

31) Summit (6)

32) Distances (10)

35) Danger (7)

38) Lucky charm (8)

39) Mountain (7)

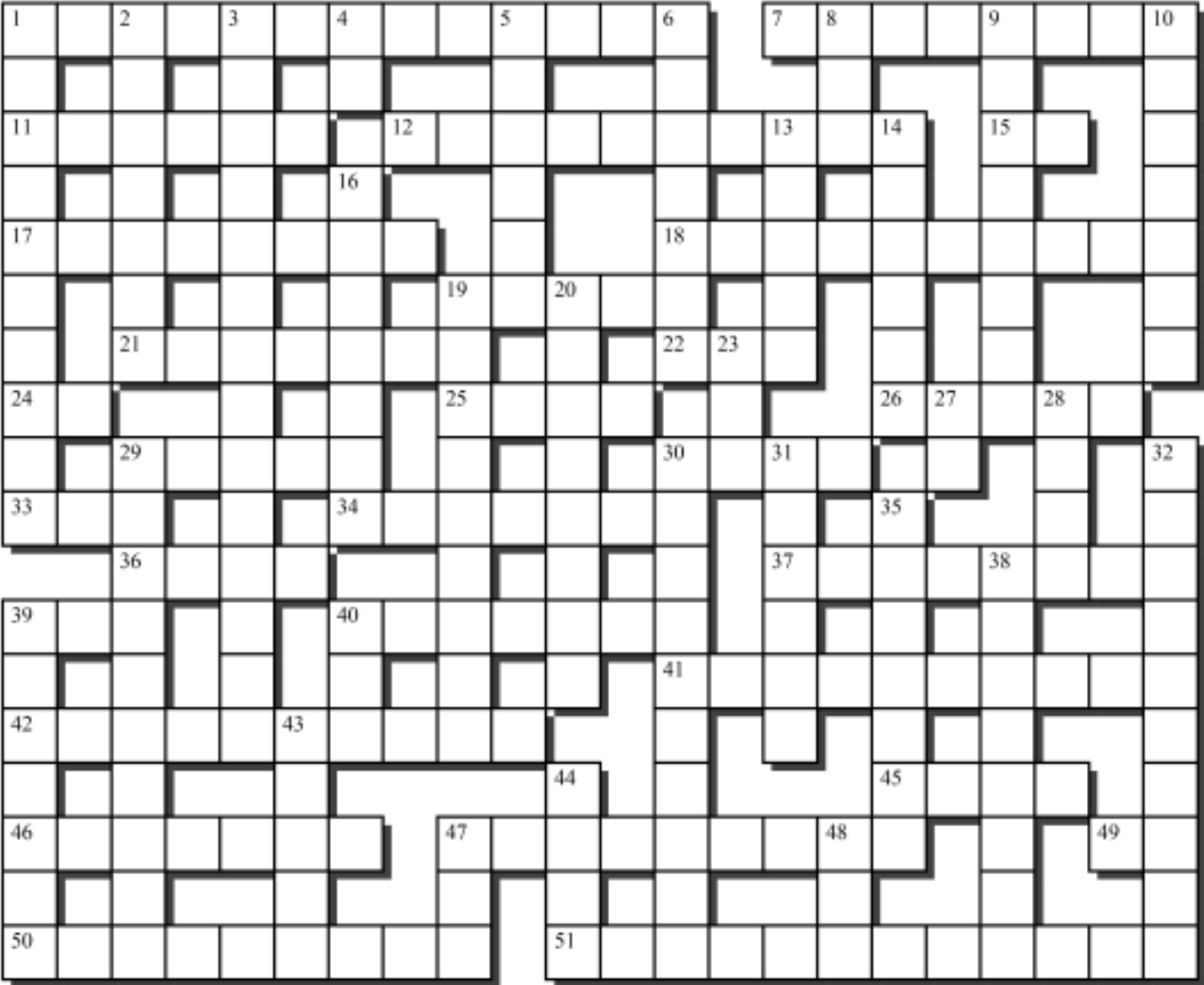
40) I read (3)

43) Badger (5)

44) Route (4)

47) Be (3)

48) Mine (f) (3)



ANSWERS

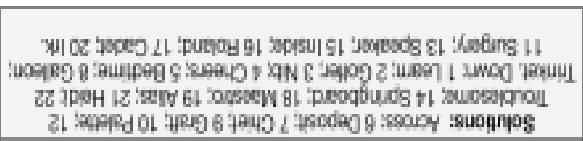
Quiz answers

Answer: Pepper
Of interest: The Pepper Coast, also known as the Grain Coast, was the name given by European traders to a coastal area of western Africa, between Cape Mesurado and Cape Palmas. It encloses the present republic of Liberia.
Answer: Connecticut
Of interest: The unofficial nickname was acquired during the 18th and 19th centuries. Sailors would bring the valuable spice back and over time, Connecticut peddlers developed a reputation for selling fake nutmegs made of polished, carved wood.

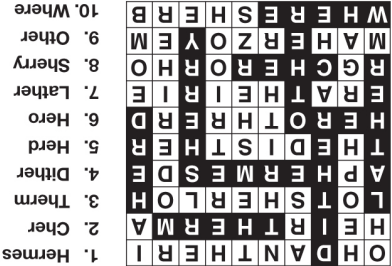
Language Crossword



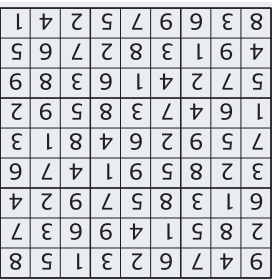
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



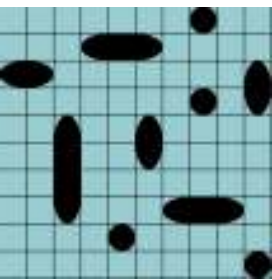
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is A. Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, all Australian cities

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Roundabout with amphora

Last week: Malaga

This roundabout is situated in Plaza de Olletas in Malaga city. It is dedicated to San Juan Bosco, and was installed in commemoration of the centenary of the Asociación de Antiguos Alumnos Salesianos 'Don Bosco'.



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Carratraca, which is situated in the Guadalteba valley but is very close to the Sierra de las Nieves, is a very geodiverse area and this has not gone unnoticed over the centuries. In fact, on the eastern side of the Sierra de Alcaparain and in the Sierra de Aguas, minerals such as chrome and nickel used to be mined for industrial purposes. What still comes as a surprise to many today, however, including people who live in this village, is that there are possibly diamonds in that area. This is not a legend, but it is true that there is a certain mystery about this remarkable tale.

Today there is evidence that at least one mine was built to extract diamonds in the area known as Los Jarales, between 1966 and 1970. According to data collated by geologist Juan Carlos Romero, it was owned by the Real Compañía Asturiana de Minas, and was located at the foot of the Sierra de Alcaparain, in other words right opposite the village of Carratraca.

Despite its location beside one of the most important chrome-nickel mines in the history of Spain, hardly any information exists about the diamond mining which was carried out here, not even half a century afterwards.

Apart from a few documents, the most evident proof that the mine existed is the fact that today there is still a pool where the precious stones would have been cleaned, at the point where the streams known as El Moro and Los Pinos converge.

It is almost certain that this mine was abandoned in 1970 because it wasn't profitable. Romero says that earlier studies suggest that only diamond dust



There was great secrecy about the mine and high security at Los Jarales. **SUR**

The diamond mine that failed to shine

Mystery. Half a century later, there is very little information about the operation to extract these precious stones in Los Jarales area, close to the village of Carratraca

JAVIER ALMELLONES



▲ Evidence. The only physical proof that the mine existed is a pool which would have been used to clean the diamonds **SUR**

was taken from there, in sizes less than one millimetre. Also, unlike other diamond mines, the precious stone here was in its natural state with peridotites, which meant that in order to obtain the diamond it first had to be crushed and separated. At the time, the Real Compañía Asturiana de Minas - which was mainly funded by Belgian capital - gave no information about the results of this mine. In fact, during the years that the extraction took place there was a great deal of secrecy and extremely strict security at the site.

The only data about that operation is from the file on what is known as the 'Teyma concession'. This lack of transparency has even led some to an interesting hypothesis. As Juan Carlos Romero explains, "it could have been a smokescreen by Franco to attract foreign capital".

Earlier studies

The most likely answer, however, is that it was just not profitable to extract such small quantities of diamonds in those conditions. The lack of water in that area also created difficulties. There was earlier information about the existence of diamonds there, from a study carried out in 1919 by geologists Domingo de Orueta y Duarte and Enrique Rubio. Their report was published in 1927, a year after Orueta y Duarte's death. It gives minute details of their findings in Los Jarales area, but these were very small, often less than one millimetre. This report was certainly carried out because earlier, in 1889, a German doctor named Knop claimed that he had found diamonds there which were one centimetre in size.

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