

The magazine for the holiday season in southern Spain / July 2022

Summer's here

**Making
memories
in Andalucía**

SUR
in English



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Cover photo: Our cover image this year, taken in Marbella, looking towards the Sierra Bermeja, is bound to spark memories of romantic walks along the shore at sunset. Why not make more memories this year?

SUR IN ENGLISH SUMMER SPECIAL

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Date: July 2022.

SUR in English

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Sea, mountains, music and good food, the perfect Andalusian summer

RACHEL HAYNES

Forecasts say that this summer is going to be a hot one in southern Spain. They nearly always are, after all, but it appears this year we could be reaching out for fans, and switching on the air conditioning, more than usual. But while we have to be sensible - not going out in the hot sun of the middle of the day and drinking lots of water - there are still endless opportunities to get out and about and make the most of the season in this beautiful part of the world.

Every year this summer magazine, a special publication offered by SUR in English, is packed with ideas on how to make the most of the holiday season. Going to the beach is obviously top on the list of summer activities, especially here in a region that has hundreds of kilometres of diverse coastline. And now that we take our social media followers with us everywhere we go, finding the ideal spot to pose for a photo that will make the rest of the world jealous is an essential part of a day out. Inside the pages of this magazine readers can find tips on how to capture that beautiful and enviable beach moment on camera.

Away from the beach, Andalucía offers a host of things to do and places to go, while still keeping out of the heat. Becoming a night owl is one way of keeping cool, and staying up late does not necessarily involve partying. Several observatory viewpoints away from built-up areas offer stargazing activities, with the annual Perseids shower in August being a key date in the summer diary.

Lovers of hiking in the hills will be pleased to know that many walks take you through shaded woodland and there's always the coastal path for those who prefer to stroll with a sea breeze.

Summer is also festival season. There's the music variety, with many international and Spanish stars performing to crowds on the Costa del Sol, and the foodie type, where traditional cuisine based on local produce is enjoyed with music and dancing.

Whatever your plans for the holidays, I hope this magazine will once again give you some ideas on how to really make the most of the summer in Andalucía.



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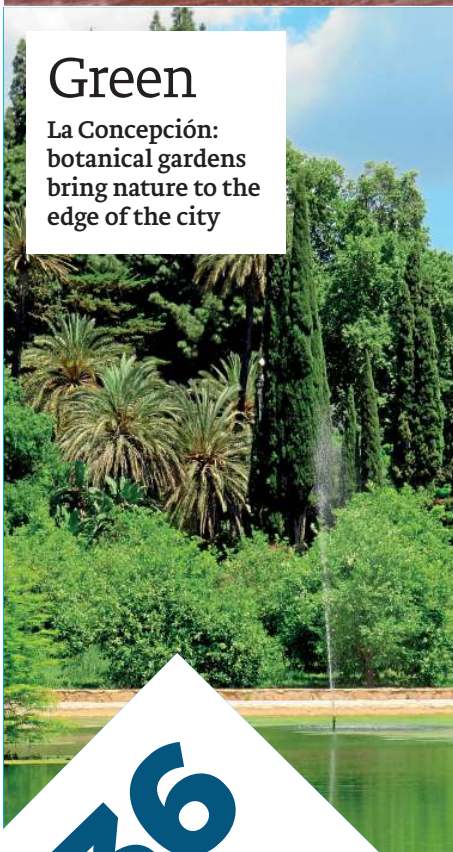
Beaches

Be the envy of your friends sharing photos of Andalucía's diverse shoreline



On foot

Walk the Costa del Sol's coastal path for exercise in the fresh sea air



Green

La Concepción: botanical gardens bring nature to the edge of the city



Sweet

Sugar cane has been used to make a unique 'honey' for centuries

Inside

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Malaga. Where better!?

Malaga is an ecosystem of opportunities. Not only is it a great city to visit at any time of the year, but also to live in and invest

SUR IN ENGLISH

Malaga city, capital of the Costa del Sol, has been gradually expanding and diversifying its iconic image of sunshine and sand, demonstrating its ability to reinvent itself in the search for the cosmopolitan, sustainable visitor who wants culture, leisure and gastronomy on their travels. In other words, people who want the city to make its mark on them.

Working on these lines, Malaga Council's Tourism, Promotion and Inward Investment department has introduced a plan of action to make Malaga a meeting point for visitors who come for different reasons. The aim is to improve the city's standing among the

tourist profiles with the greatest value for the destination.

Segments such as culture, lifestyle and gastronomic tourism have enormous potential, and in Malaga we are working on enhancing these and making the city a multi-purpose destination with a whole range of options for travellers.

Culture, with a huge number of museums, monuments and historic buildings, is one of the city's strengths today; so is gastronomy and the possibilities of experiences based on it, thanks to initiatives in the public and private sector. In other words, any authentic experience tailored to the motivations of the tourist is possible in a city such as this with excellent facilities, connectivity and the gift of an unrivalled climate.

So much so that Malaga has become a wonderful place to settle down in, as well as to visit, because it is an ideal place where to work from home. This conviction lies behind the Malaga WorkBay project, which aims to attract and retain



Pompidou Centre at
Muelle Uno. :: SUR

talent and productive investment with the argument that this city is ideal for growing professionally and can provide everything needed by someone who works remotely. The strong business network, its university life, its cultural background and the fact that it is a benchmark as a Smart City model makes Malaga highly valued for the balance it offers with all these potentials.

Malaga, where better!?

Malaga is ready to offer the best of itself and to receive and welcome visitors that can enjoy everything the city has to offer in complete safety and with full guarantees.. "Malaga, Where better!?" is a direct invitation to visit, live or work in Malaga: a city that is welcoming and offers great experiences.

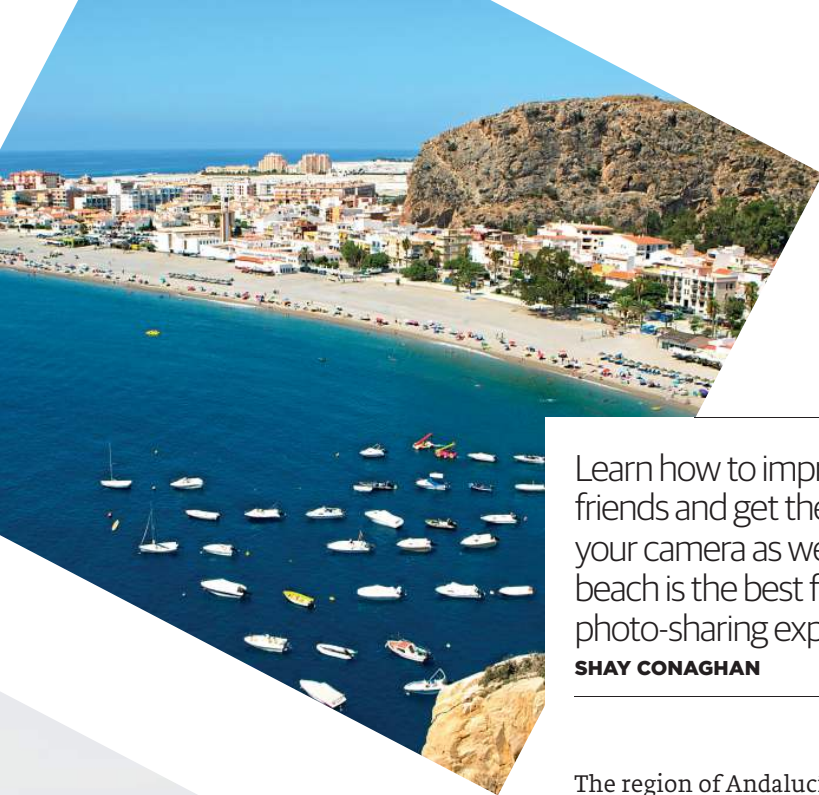
BY THE SEA

The best beaches to snap and share

Capturing the region's stunning coastal scenery

Beach photography, taking advantage of the light.

TONY MOGUER



Learn how to impress your friends and get the most out of your camera as we look at what beach is the best for your online photo-sharing experience

SHAY CONAGHAN

The region of Andalucía is not only blessed with fantastic weather throughout most of the year, but it also has over 900 kilometres of beaches to enjoy the sunshine. The coastline stretches from the province of Huelva in the west, through Cadiz, Malaga, Granada and ending in Almeria in the east. These beaches are some of the most famous and most visited in the country, with tens of thousands of visitors flocking to them, either to escape the more brutal heat they suffer inland during the sweltering summer months, or to enjoy the warmth that is absent from cooler parts of Spain and Europe.

But, obviously, the larger number of visitors means that these spaces are often full of locals and holidaymakers, and some people prefer to be on their own by the sea.

What beach best suits you?

Different people have different expecta-

tions when they make their way to the coast. Do they want peace or do they prefer being in and among large swathes of other beachgoers to socialise? Some beaches are located on busy strips, while others are tucked away in unexplored corners.

But if there's one thing they all have in common, it's that everyone wants to take a photo of their favourite spot, and thanks to the power of social media, you too can add to the sensation of being there, or even help others when they plan their future visit. On Instagram, Cadiz's El Palmar beach has been tagged over 275,000 times, so its popularity is clear; while lesser-known Chullera, in Manilva, barely has 900 tags.

You could also concentrate on the more traditional method of word of mouth. It's easy to determine the popularity of beaches by simply recognising - or not - its name. For example, El Palmar will be recommended to you by any person you ask; but a regular, Andalusian beachgoer might not know where Chullera is.

Andalucía certainly has a beach to suit everyone, and when you've found it,

Above:
Granada's
Calahonda
beach offers
unique
views.

::TURISMO ANDALUZ

Left:
El Palmar, in Cadiz, is
known for its surfable
waves. **::T. A.**



Playazo de Rodalquilar,
in Almeria. **::SUR**



Above:
The hut on Huelva's
Casita Azul beach is
iconic. ::T.A.



Left:
Las Gaviotas. ::T.A.
Below:
stunning
cliffs. ::SUR



of thirds. It's essentially the rule of thumb most photographers turn to, and it's as simple as dividing your frame into nine equal parts. Your best bet is to place the beach in the lower third of the image; the sea, any boats, swimmers or subjects of interest in the middle; and the sky in the upper third; which allows you to create a perfect balance.

Looking into different vantage points is also a good idea. Everyone is capable of taking the perfect shot on the edge of the water, at the end of a pier or on the



Head to the beach at golden hour to capture beautiful skies. ::SUR

you'll want to make your memories last forever. Following some simple photography tips will make your efforts stand out from your friends' when you post the final result online.

Choose your time of day wisely

Depending on what kind of image you want to take, you will have to carefully consider the time of day you go out with your camera. If you want to capture the hustle and bustle at the height of a specific day and not spend too much time trying to capture the best photo, then your best option is to set out any time in the early to mid-afternoon. Moreover, you'll be able to capture the stunning light reflections on

the water or the vibrancy of the hundreds of Andalusian beaches.

If you have more time on your hands and you want to really wow your friends online, there are ways to make your photos shine. By going down to your beach of choice at golden hour, that is, the final hour of light before the sun sets, then you are more likely to capture those pink, red and orange skies that are stunning to look at. However, those conditions aren't always present, so it may take you more than one attempt.

Other tips

If there's one rule you should stick to when going to take photos, it's the rule

shoreline. So, get creative and walk around the outskirts of the beach, climb high to get a more aerial view, or point your camera to somewhere different to really stand out.

If you want to capture the fun by the seaside, that too is as simple as calculating when to press the shutter. Ideally, to get the best snap, you should see if your camera has a burst mode, that is, to take several photos in quick succession. If so, you only need to point your camera, wait for the action to happen, anticipate it, and press down on the shutter button a fraction of a second before it does to capture the perfect summer moment by the seaside.

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The remains of Montemayor castle in Benahavís. **J.A.**



Strongholds looking down over the coastline

Fortresses and watchtowers in Manilva, Casares, Estepona and Benahavís stand guard over the western Costa del Sol

JAVIER ALMELLONES

From the sea into the mountains, or vice versa. Whichever way you decide to do it, there is a very interesting route to follow on the western Costa del Sol to see its castles and watchtowers. The most easily visible ones are those that stand beside the beaches, but there are plenty of others elsewhere, such as Benahavís, Estepona, Casares and Manilva.

The remains of the Montemayor Castle in Benahavís are perched on one of the highest hills on the Costa del Sol, and they include some of the original walls and towers. The fortress, which was built in the 10th century, played an essential role during the time of the taifa kingdoms.

Now, it can be reached via a walking route (the PR-A-165) which starts in Benahavís village. The reward for those who do this walk is an amazing panoramic view over the Costa del Sol, the Serranía de Ronda and even the Rock of Gibraltar.

Nor is the Montemayor castle the only building from that period in Benahavís: there are also several watchtowers within its territory, such as the Torre de la Leonera which has recently been restored, and those of Daidín, Campanillas, Tramos and Esterin.

Fortifications

Estepona, which has more than 20 kilometres of coastline, can boast the highest number of ancient defensive structures, with seven watchtowers and two castles. The best-known is probably the San Luis

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San Luis in Estepona. ::J.A.

Fortress, in the oldest part of the town centre; it was built by the Catholic Monarchs to replace the previous Moorish castle. Before that time, Estepona had been known as Estebbuna, and it is easy to see how the present name developed from that. The considerable urban growth in the town centre over the years has hidden part of the structure of this building.

About seven kilometres outside the town, in the Padrón area, there are still some floors, walls and towers of what used to be an important medieval castle, called El Nício, which played an important role during the rebellion led by Omar Ben Hafsun. It is difficult to get to, and its condition is continually deteriorating, but its panoramic views over the Costa del Sol remain intact.

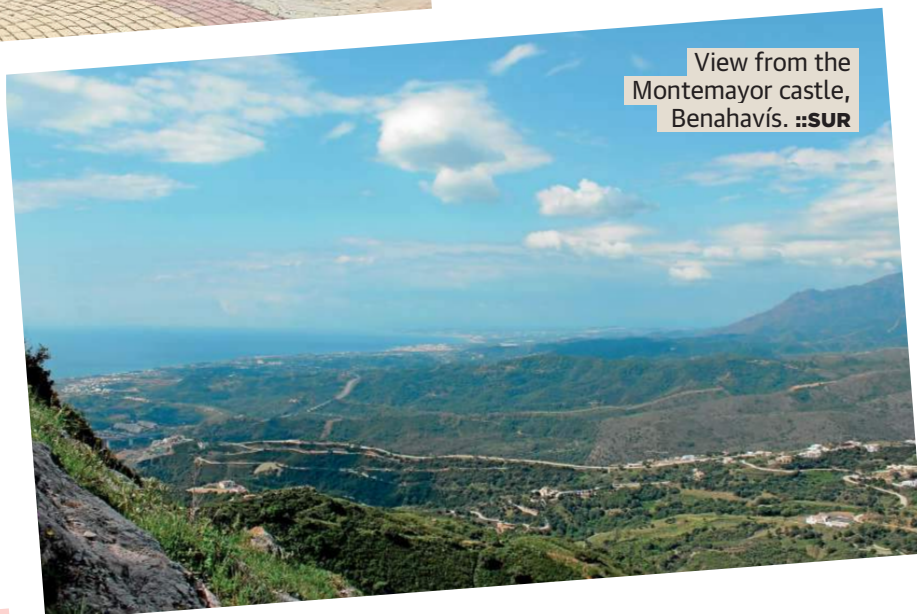
A square tower

Along the two kilometres of coastline at Casares there is one of the most unusual watchtowers of all, the Torre de la Sal, sometimes also known as the Salto de la Mora. It is square in shape, which is unusual, and its size indicates that it was used as more than a simple lookout structure.

Its construction began during the Nasrid period, but it was not completed until the 16th century and at that time it was mentioned in documents as the 'castle' of the Duke of Arcos. He is known to have built some salt pans nearby, which would explain the name Torre de la Sal. It stands upon some rocks between the Manilva river and the Arroyo Camarate Stream, and has a good view along the coast to the east and west.

It is easy to see from its appearance that it was constructed as a two-storey building.

If you then drive up the winding road to Casares Pueblo, you can see a Moorish castle which was very important during the time of Al-Ándalus. In addition to part of its structures and some excellent



View from the Montemayor castle, Benahavís. ::SUR



Torre de la Sal. ::SUR

views, the old church of La Encarnación is in the same location. The church as now been remodelled and is used as a cultural centre.

Like other strongholds which were built in La Axarquía area of Malaga province, La Duquesa Castle on the coast at Manilva was built during the reign of Carlos III. It is also known as the Fortín de Sabinillas, because it stands next to the Sabinillas district of Manilva. It is in very good condition and has been used for different purposes in the past, including a police barracks, town hall offices and even housing. It currently houses the municipal archaeological museum.

Almost on the boundary with neighbouring Cadiz province stands the most westerly watchtower in the province of Malaga, at Punta Chullera in Manilva. It is very close to the Guadiaro river estuary, and has privileged views over the Rock of Gibraltar. It was still in use as part of the defensive surveillance system until the 18th century.

PLAY Mijas, much more than a restaurant

New on the Costa del Sol, it is committed to offering its guests a different experience. Want to play and to create special moments?

SUR

When going to an establishment, you often must choose between eating well, enjoying a pleasant space or having leisure activities that liven up the evening. Wouldn't it be perfect to have everything in a single restaurant? That place exists and it is called PLAY Mijas.

Located in Playa Marina, next to the Mijas Lighthouse, the establishment combines great cuisine the terrace with spectacular sea views, lounges, relaxation spaces, live shows and even a play area for the little ones. This makes it the ideal place to enjoy a good gastronomic experience, celebrate an event or enjoy an evening with cocktails or fine wines and live music.

The head chef, Isaac Reyes, has been in the kitchen for more than 30 years, gaining experience in Marbella's most exclusive hotels and restaurants. Thanks to this, his proposal stands out for its variety, always prioritizing the sustainability and quality of the product.

"We offer a menu that is aimed at all types of customers. Every week we have specialties and suggestions off the menu and now, in summer, we have focused on refreshing and appetizing dishes. In addition, for events we prepare a tailored offer,

from the most classic to the most exotic and innovative, to suit all diners», says Reyes.

Customers will find delicious dishes such as: salmon tartare with avocado, beetroot and cherry tomatoes; prawn carpaccio with aioli and vinaigrette; or roasted aubergine with dried tomatoes, burrata and pesto.

Among the specialties, the stuffed peppers with spinach and gorgonzola stand out, the pork rib with homemade Jack Daniels BBQ or the duck Margret, served with sweet potatoes and pineapple tartar with sweet Malaga wine red onion reduction. It also has an assortment of homemade desserts such as chocolate cake with orange and ginger ice cream or apple and vanilla strudel, among many other options.

To match the stunning sea views, Play Restaurant has a special market menu with 'the best of the sea' from Thursday to Saturday, all done "al espeto" with seafood cooked over sand with matured olive wood.

All of this is coupled with an attentive and professional service in a space designed for enjoyment and organized into



Isaac
Reyes.
:: SUR

different rooms according to the occasion: lounge, sea view terrace, and interior bars. This distribution allows them to host all kinds of events, from weddings to birthdays or business lunches, as well as offering live performances such as concerts on Fridays or Flamenco Shows on Sundays.

It is not surprising that the restaurant has become one of the favourites in the area, accumulating a multitude of positive reviews on platforms such as Google My Business, TripAdvisor and the Fork.

In addition, during the summer months the restaurant has extensive opening hours that go from Tuesday to Sunday from 7:00 p.m. to closing. PLAY Mijas is much more than a restaurant, it is a unique experience to create special moments.

MORE INFORMATION

► **Play Mijas:** Calle El Chopo de Cosmopolis, 8, 29649 Mijas, Malaga. Telephone: 951 66 81 25

BY THE SEA

Surfing on the Costa del Sol

Andalucía offers perfect conditions for riding the waves - windsurfing, kitesurfing, surfing and bodyboarding

Kitesurfers make the most of the wind at their favourite Costa beaches. :: SUR

Don't think that you can only surf on the Cadiz coastline. There are numerous beaches on the Costa del Sol that are excellent for popular water sports

FABIAN PAKULAT

Surfing has become increasingly popular on the Costa del Sol in recent years. Although many believe they have to go to the Atlantic to catch the waves, there are wonderful beaches on the Mediterranean coastline of Malaga province that are great for surfing. Windsurfing or the ever more popular paddle surfing are favourites in many areas, but surfers and kite surfers also get their money's worth. The new trend wing foiling is also becoming less of a rarity on the Costa del Sol, and thanks to the coast's pleasant climate, you can enjoy this sport all year round.

Even in the province's capital itself, Malaga city, El Dedo beach in the neighbourhood of El Palo is renowned among surfers. El Dedo is located near to the eastern exit beside El Candado sailing club and offers several services and amenities: parking, showers, restaurants and even one or two surf schools. Here both east and west winds blow, depending on the day. Except for a few stones on the water's edge, the entire beach is sandy and the water is clear and not too deep. But while surfers only get their money's worth on certain days when the conditions are right, windsurfers, paddle surfers and now wing foils are a regular sight.

Torremolinos

Especially loved by surfers is Los Álamos beach in Torremolinos, which lies between Playamar and Malaga city. Thanks to the array of activities it offers, Los Álamos is one of the liveliest beaches on the Costa del Sol. With pleasant, golden sand and moderate waves, it also is perfect for novice surfers and kite surfers. Despite

lighter winds compared to the Atlantic, you should not underestimate the currents off the Malaga coastline. And after a hard day's surfing, the numerous beach bars provide an excellent place to cool off. The town of Benalmádena, a few kilometres further west, boasts an oft frequented surfing spot beside its famous port on Bil-Bil beach. The waves are especially good here when the levant (easterly) wind blows.

Fuengirola

The coastal town of Fuengirola offers probably the most diverse surfing spot on the Costa del Sol as its Santa Amalia beach has great waves all year round. Proof of the good conditions are the numerous surfboards in the water waiting for the next wave. On the promenade there are also many surf shops as well as surf schools where you can buy or rent all the necessary equipment. And you if ask, the employees will also be happy to give you valuable tips about surfing on the Costa del Sol.

A few kilometres in the direction of Marbella is another beloved spot for surfers of all kinds - Artola beach in Cabopino. Its fine sand creates a good basis for large waves, even though these are more common in spring or autumn - as is the case on the entire Costa del Sol. The beach is in a protected natural dune area near Artola.

Estepona's Atalaya beach, right on the western edge of the Costa del Sol, is also well known for all sorts of tourist activities and water sports. Not far from the so-called Golden Mile is a number of surf schools that actually specialise in paddle boarding and windsurfing. But surfing and bodyboarding are also highly enjoyable here under the right conditions, since Atalaya has perhaps some of the best



Riding the waves in Marbella:: JOSELE

waves of the entire Mediterranean.

Surfing in the Axarquía

The most noteworthy beach in Axarquía, in the east of Malaga province, is the one in the small coastal area of Benajáraf. Surfing is ideal here when the levant wind blows. The best waves normally form at the far end of the town, which is easily reached via a path that stretches out onto the beach.

Nerja, the pearl of Axarquía, meanwhile, is more of a spot for paddle surfers and kayakers. Unique, craggy coastal scenes abound near the protected natural area of Maro especially. You can even paddle to a waterfall that cascades into the sea. And if you have any questions, you can ask the surf schools or shops on the famous Burriana beach.

Tarifa, the surfing Mecca

Even though surfing on the Costa del Sol is becoming increasingly popular and there are numerous spots, Tarifa is undoubtedly Andalucía's surfing paradise. The renowned coastal area, which sits right on the edge of Europe in the Gibraltar Strait, has one thing above all to offer: wind. That's why you see more people on boards than on the beach. Kitesurfing and windsurfing are the choice activities here, while surfers tend to opt for beaches that are a few more kilometres towards Cadiz.

A tasteful port at the western end of the province



The harbour has spaces for boats of all sizes. :: D. FÖRSTER

Puerto de la Duquesa in Sabinillas offers entertainment and excellent cuisine

Tourism plays an important role in the immediate surroundings of the old castle ruins. Unlike in other port complexes there are no luxury boutiques here, but rather international and local restaurants

DIETMAR FÖRSTER



Fish being cooked on traditional charcoal fires on boats. :: D. F.

Sabinillas, a coastal village in the municipality of Manilva, in Malaga province gives the impression of a place in which time has stood still. It has somehow escaped the hustle and bustle of the larger towns of Estepona and Manilva and the exclusive port of Sotogrande, down the coast in the neighbouring province of Cadiz. Many simply pass through Sabinillas's built-up strip on their way to Gibraltar or back to lively tourist hubs, such as the re-

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Duquesa port. :: D. F.

The fortress is well preserved. :: D. F.

nowned hotspot Puerto Banús, the golf courses and the old and new Golden Miles.

But it is worth stopping off in Sabinillas, with its striking Castillo de la Duquesa. The fortress was built in 1767 by Charles III of Spain and is a circular building with four 24-pounder cannons, surrounded by a wall full of arrow slits. The fortress's form and structure adheres to the style and standards of contemporary military architecture. It is not for nothing that Castillo de la Duquesa is regarded as one of the finest examples of a preserved 18th-century fort.

It sits on La Duquesa beach and is also known locally as the Fortín. It was built on the orders of Francisco Paulino to protect the region from the regular attacks of pirates and corsairs. The fortress was erected on top of old walls left behind by the Romans that were barely a metre high. It housed a division for cavalry and another for infantry, as well as a hayloft, a kitchen and a chapel.

In the 19th century, the castle served as a barracks for the Carabineros (coastal police) and later was



the headquarters for the Guardia Civil.

Today it houses the Sabinillas municipal offices and is a venue for cultural and leisure events and also houses several archaeological finds from the surrounding area.

Just a short walk away is Puerto de la Duquesa, a marina built in 1977 with 328 berths. Rarely crowded, it is a focal point for people looking for entertainment or culinary experiences. The English and the Irish are the largest demographic here, as can be easily seen from the number of pubs run by compatriots.

The mellowing port is still very popular and has something to offer everyone, whatever their budget - from Asian cuisine to Argentine barbecues to the elegant Ristorante Italiano.

Boat trips are also available.

A gentle stroll along the seafront promenade is recommended too. Chiringuito beach bars and the smell of sardines being cooked on picturesque boats invite you to spend a leisurely lunch at the water's edge.



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Much of the walk offers pleasant shade. :: G.B.

Explore the length of the Costa del Sol

Senda Litoral, the path that will link up the entire Malaga coastline, has become a tourist attraction

There's no better or more natural way to get to know the Costa del Sol than the coastal path which fills in the gaps between promenades

GABRIELA BERNER

Imagine how it would be to explore the entire 184-kilometre-long Costa del Sol with all its bays, beaches, cliffs, river estuaries and ports by bike or on foot - away from the traffic. Exactly that has become possible since the provincial government of Malaga embarked on one of its most ambitious projects: the great coastal path, known as the Senda Litoral.

The distances separating 14 coastal municipalities, from Manilva in the west to the picturesque sandy bays and steep cliffs of Nerja in the east, seem to have shortened since their individual seafront promenades and other coastal paths were joined together.

Construction has of course taken longer where the existing infrastructure did not allow for simple extension of the promenades; obstacles in the form of buildings, beach restaurants or hotel complexes, cliffs, rivers and streams all had to be bridged.

The most spectacular example is the longest wooden bridge in Europe (270 metres), which takes you over mouth of the River Guadalhorce near Malaga city.

The coastal path on the eastern Costa del Sol, especially near Nerja and between Torre del Mar and Rincón de la Victoria, is still not complete, while in Malaga city the existing the seafront promenades have become part of the project. There is also a large section missing near Calaburra lighthouse, west of Fuengirola, and on the east side of Marbella, construction work is progressing at snail's pace. Near Capobino, a series of raised wooden boardwalks protect the most beautiful dune landscape of the entire Malaga coastline, the unique natural monument Dunas de Artola.

Nonetheless, 80 per cent of the 167 planned sections are open to walkers

and are a great draw for residents and visitors on the Costa del Sol. It really is a pleasure to be accompanied permanently on one side by the blue Mediterranean Sea, the fresh sea air and the sound of the lapping of the waves, while the other side offers everything from impressive urban structures to varied

Boardwalks cross previously impassable rocks. :: G.B.

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Long stretches of the Senda Litoral are paved. **G.B.**

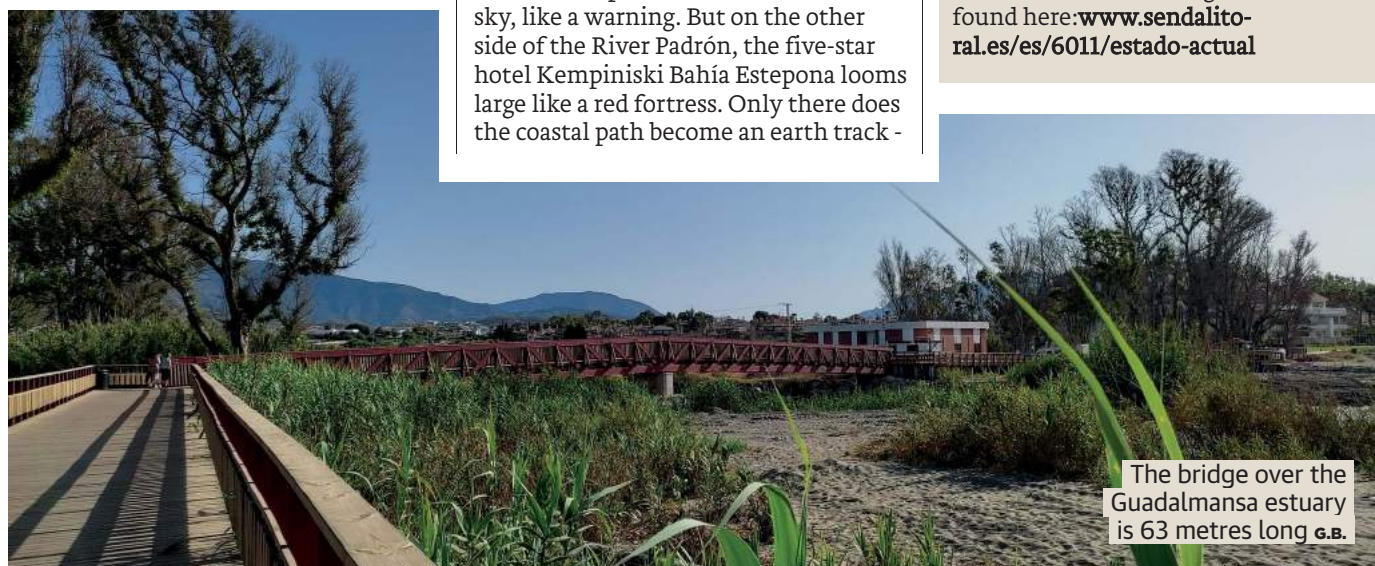
landscapes.

This is the case in the municipality of Estepona, which has already lined the vast majority of its 21-kilometre-long coastline with up to five-metre-wide concrete walkways and numerous wooden bridges and boardwalks.

The longest stretch extends a good 11 kilometres from the mouth of River Guadalmanza, located just behind the Cancelada district, to the port on the other side of the town.

At 9.30am we left our car in a car park under shade cast by tall trees, right beside the river mouth. From there we started walking, with the still pleasant sunshine and a call breeze on our backs.

Almost immediately, we were standing in front of our first highlight: the longest wood and iron bridge construction of the entire coastal path at 63 metres. Except for one speedy cyclist there was no one around - a stark contrast to the dozens of holidaymakers sprawled across the expansive garden



The bridge over the Guadalmanza estuary is 63 metres long **G.B.**

complex of the luxury Ikos hotel. Do they ever venture onto the beach which starts just a few metres from the five-metre-wide seaside promenade?

As we continued along the Senda Litoral, we passed exceptionally well cared-for residential estates with lush vegetation that are often named after the beaches they back onto. Unfortunately we could not quench our thirst for coffee, for at this time neither the Tikitano nor chiringuitos like Sonora or Como Pez en el Agua were open.

So we walked on, over the meandering, cobbled coastal path and bridges traversing Arroyo de Las Cañas, with its pretty reeds, crossing two more small rivers, the Velerín and the Castor. Here, where two years ago in August a fire turned the swanky beach complex Laguna Village into soot and ash, only a few charred palm trees reach into the sky, like a warning. But on the other side of the River Padrón, the five-star hotel Kempinski Bahía Estepona looms large like a red fortress. Only there does the coastal path become an earth track -

a welcome change for wearying feet.

Roughly three kilometres further on, past a somewhat less luxurious construction, but with more shade, we saw the bay of Estepona with its recently completely modernised beachfront promenade. We sat down in the first good beach bar and enjoyed the view and a much-deserved coffee. After all, we had covered nearly 10 kilometres and seen a lot. We would cool off in the sea another day. For now all we wanted was to catch one of the small town buses, which would bring us from the nearby Carrefour shopping centre to close to our car for a little more than a euro. In fact, we departed just over a quarter of an hour later and were able on the way to examine the front sides of some of the residential areas that we had walked past. We will certainly repeat this experience somewhere else, maybe by bike.

MORE INFORMATION

► An interactive map provides information about the current progress of the entire coastal hiking trail can be found here: www.sendalitoral.es/es/6011/estado-actual

TESORO VISIGODO DE TORREDONJIMENO

Centro de Interpretación

History bequeathed a treasure to Torredonjimeno

The replica of this Visigothic jewel, recently restored, can be admired in the interpretation centre located in the Castle

The Treasure of Torredonjimeno (Jaén) was discovered in 1926, by chance, in the area known as "Majanos de Garañón". Its story is a constant journey through antique markets, which resulted in its pieces being scattered throughout Spain.

Today it is divided between three institutions: The National Archaeological Museum (Madrid), the Archaeological Museum of Cordoba and the Arqueological Museum of Catalonia, although there is also record of the exhibition of a cross in the Pushkin Museum in Moscow.

At first it was believed to belong to a large church in the south of the Iberian Peninsula (Seville), however recent research has shown that it was part of the trousseau of a temple near the place where it was found, dedicated to the martyr saints Justa and Rufina. It was carefully stored in a place protected by stone and lime masonry, forming a kind of box, probably to hide it from the invading Islamic troops who, in 711, stripped the churches of their possessions. It dates from the second half of the 7th century and is one of the most important examples of goldsmith work from the Visigothic period in Spain.

The treasure consists of almost 100 pieces, made of gold and decorated with precious stones, glaze and gems. The pieces were part of a set of votive wreaths that were offered in Visigothic churches for the intercession of God or saints. It was precisely Justa and Rufina who were the saints invoked by this treasure. The set consists mainly of crosses: cabochon, embossed and plain laminar. Hanging elements: partitioned letters, spherical pendants, conical pendants, leaves, etc. Suspended elements: chains, annulets and fleurons.

The Torredonjimeno Visigothic Treasure Interpretation Centre, located in the Castle since 2010, recovers a part of the castle's history and cultural identity, as it includes a faithful reproduction of the original pieces of goldsmith work, recently restored. As a novelty, two crosses of great value have been incorporated. On the one hand, the Moscow cross and, on the other, one from the Catalan museum, which is fragmented.



Ayuntamiento
torredonjimeno

www.turismodetorredonjimeno.com



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torredonjimeno

Torrox Pueblo is a typical white village in the mountains.

:: SUR

Contrast between sea and mountains

Torrox, a location with lots to offer the tourist

Long beaches dominate the coastline. :: SUR

The white village has retained much of its Moorish character and the coast has impressive beaches and dunes

TORROX

Torrox, with an average temperature of 18C, is the municipality of eternal spring. It has dream beaches in a unique natural environment, a charming old town and all with the "Best Climate in Europe".

It is located in the eastern part of the Costa del Sol and over the last six years, has become one of the most attractive destinations with the greatest tourist potential on the Andalusian coast. It is just 30 minutes from the centre of Malaga, 60 kilometres from the airport

and just over an hour from Sierra Nevada.

The beauty of Torrox Pueblo, a typical white village, is that you can enjoy the contrast between the traditional image of winding, narrow streets and whitewashed houses and the modern Plaza de la Constitución, world famous for its colourful umbrellas. Strolling through its streets it is easy to be seduced by centuries of history.

The coastline of Torrox offers extensive, clean beaches with crystal clear waters and impressive facilities and services. It has more than nine kilometres of beaches, starting from El Morche, a coastal village adapted to tourism without losing the essence of its fishing origins.

The route continues along the Senda Litoral, the coastal path, and through one of the two dune areas

still preserved in the province of Malaga. It moves from beaches heavily influenced by tourism, such as Ferrera in Torrox Costa with its pretty lighthouse, to archaeological sites such as ancient Caviculum and almost natural beaches such as El Peñoncillo and Calaceite.

In addition to an excellent cultural programme, Torrox offers a rich and first-class cuisine with typical dishes such as migas (toasted breadcrumbs with garlic, olive oil, chorizo sausage and vegetables) or 'espetos de sardinas' (sardines threaded on skewers and cooked over charcoal), which are on the menu in almost every restaurant or chiringuito.

All this makes Torrox an ideal and safe destination, not only for holidays, but also to stay and to live all year round.

TORROX

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Ayuntamiento
de Torrox 
CONCEJALÍA DE TURISMO

A starry shower

Perseids - escape the urban lights to enjoy most magical of summer night shows

Perseids at El Torcal.

::JOSÉ ANTONIO REINA

Watching the Perseids meteor shower, also known as the Tears of St Lawrence, is a spectacular way to spend a summer's night in Malaga

JENNIE RHODES

The astronomical "show" known as the Perseids starts around 17 July and finishes around 20 August, with 10 to 12 August being the nights when the highest number of meteors are expected to fall. Their other name, the Tears of St Lawrence, is due to their peak coinciding with the saint's feast day, 10 August. Astronomers are warning this year, however, that the biggest shower is going to coincide with a full moon and as such it may be more difficult to see. That doesn't mean that it will be impossible to see completely and they can be seen for almost an entire month, it's just that you can normally expect to experience more during the peak time.

You don't need equipment such as a telescope or binoculars to see them, but the best chance of a good sighting will be in places with minimum light pollution. Experts recommend getting away from towns and cities and most coastal areas along the Costa del Sol. El Torcal in Antequera is definitely a good bet and the Observatorio Astronómico del Torcal de Antequera organises special events to see the Perseids, although it's important to reserve a place in advance as they warn that places go very quickly (inscripciones@astrotorcal.es or www.astrotorcal.es)

María Rus, president of SIRIO, the 'Agrupación Astronómica de Málaga' recommends "getting away from areas of light pollution" and adds, "That includes your mobile phone." She says that some of the best places in Malaga are near to the villages of Alfarnate, Alfarnatejo and Comares and Canillas de Albaida and La Viñuela reservoir in the Axarquía. She also suggests the Serranía de Ronda, Yunquera and El Burgo as good places to see the "show" and in fact the town hall organises special events (

radelasnieves.com).

It's a good idea to take "something to lie on like a yoga mat, some food, something to drink and good company," she advises. She adds that while organised events to see the Perseids allow you to learn more about them, it isn't essential to sign up to one.

Brazilian couple Stéphane and Fabia opened Sky Andaluz in Alhama de Granada at the end of January. They organise visits that include a trip to their planetarium and then heading outside to see the stars. The couple will be organising an event especially to see the Perseids on Sunday 14 August, which they say is likely to be the best opportunity to see them this year, when the

moon is starting to wane and there'll be less light. They are planning an event which will be open to the public and for more information and to book, visit: www.skyandaluz.com

What are the Perseids?

When comets move around the Sun, the dust they emit gradually spreads into a trail around their orbits. Every year the Earth passes through these trails of debris

The Sirio group observing the Perseids.

::LUIS GUERRERO

and when the dust collides with our atmosphere, it causes the particles to disintegrate, creating fiery and colourful streaks in the sky.

The Perseids are essentially the particles left over from

comets that have passed through the earth's atmosphere. As the earth spins on its axis, it travels through a number of meteorite showers at different times of year.

Some are more spectacular than others with more activity being seen per hour than others. For example at its height, you can expect to see up to 100 meteorites per hour during the Perseids, while the Delta Aquarids shower, which can be seen in Spain from 29 to 30 July, will only amount to around 25 per hour.

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That would explain why, despite there being two such phenomena in summer, the Perseids are better known than the Delta Aquarids.

The Perseids are fragments of the Swift-Tuttle comet, which orbits the sun and Pluto once every 133 years. It last did so in 1992 and will return again in 2125. Once a year, from the middle of July to the middle of August, the earth passes near to the comet's path and the particles from the tail appear like little rays of light that come from the Perseus constellation, named after the Greek mythological hero, and lies just north of Aries and Taurus.

In fact, as well as the Perseids, the earth also passes through fragments left over by Halley's comet, which last appeared in our solar system in 1986 (it will next be seen in 2061). These are Eta Aquarids which can be seen in early May and Orionids which can be seen in mid-November. However, they produce far fewer meteors per hour (around 50 and 20 respectively).

The persistent heat during the day makes it difficult to do much during daylight hours, so it's the evening when Malaga comes alive in summer and the night sky really lights up during the Perseids, but don't forget to look out for the Delta Aquarids at the end of July too.

The Perseids shower over the countryside.

:: SUR

An organised event at El Torcal

:: ASTROTORCAL

FURTHER INFO

► El Torcal observatory:
www.astrotorcal.es

► Sirio Agrupación Astronómica de Málaga:
www.astrosirio.org

► Sky Andaluz:
www.skyandaluz.com/en

► Serrania de Ronda activities:
www.i-sierradelasnieves.com



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Walking under a green canopy

Numerous hiking routes in the province pass through woodland, under the shade of pine trees, holm oaks and pinsapos

Most of the walks are in protected areas although some are like small oases of green, very close to cities and towns

JAVIER ALMELLONES

Under the shade of pines, holm oaks and pinsapos, there are numerous walking routes in the province of Malaga. This type of excursion is not only ideal for enjoying some very special ecosystems but also for keeping out of the sun at certain times of the year, such as late spring and part of the summer.

Most of these walks are in protected areas such as natural parks or nature reserves, although others are just small 'lungs' located very close to villages and towns, including the city of Malaga itself. Although you will often be in the shade of the pine forest, some precautions are still necessary, such as using sun protection (creams, hats, sunglasses...), taking water to drink along the

route and even postponing the trip altogether if the temperatures are expected to be high.

Los Pinsapos Reales de Sierra Bermeja

There is no shortage of woodland walks in one of the protected areas of Malaga province which is home to pinsapo trees. This area lies between Estepona and Genalguacil, in the Reales de Sierra Bermeja, and one of its most emblematic routes, the Paseo de los Pinsapos, does not require a great deal of physical effort. It leads to an unexpected clearing at the heart of the forest, where there is a tribute to Federico García Lor-

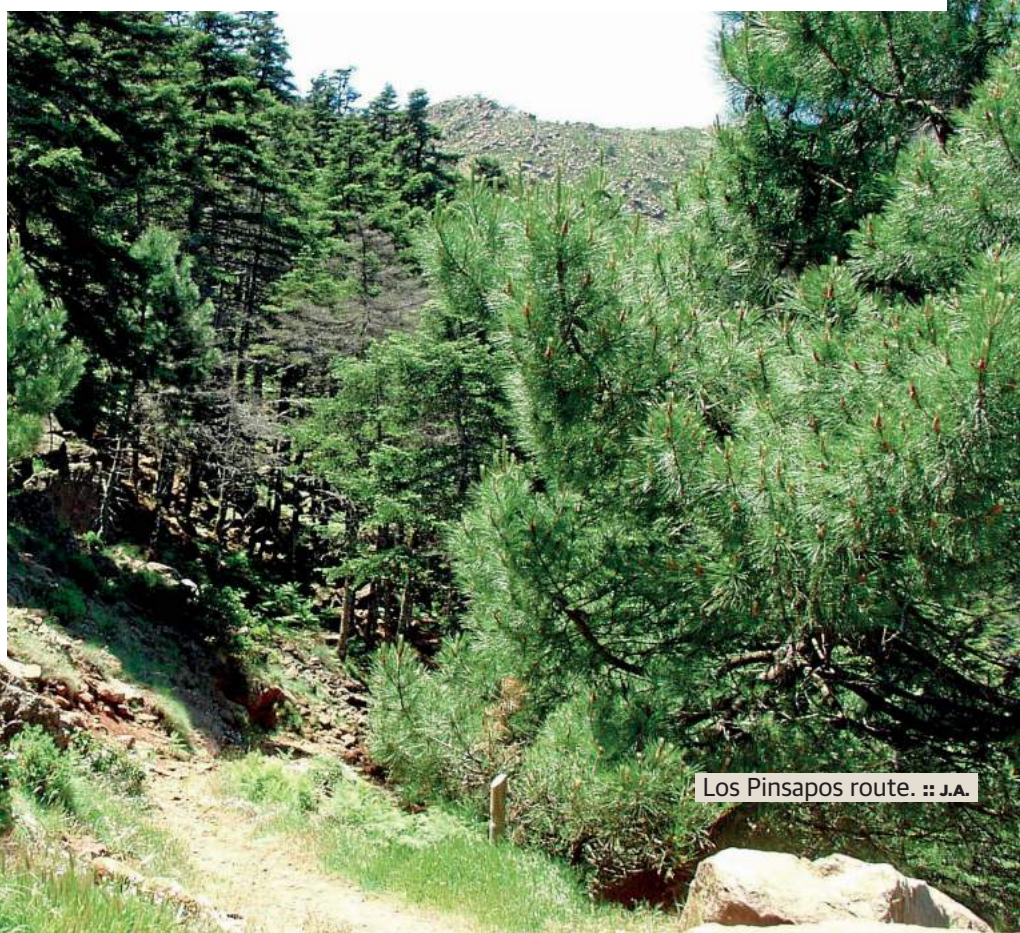
ca. From here, there is the option of going up to the top of the mountain, the peak of Los Reales, along a route which, unsurprisingly, is uphill all the way.

Fuente de Acebuche Alhaurín el Grande

Very close to the centre of Alhaurín el Grande, there is a pretty walk along the paths through the pine woods around the Fuente del Acebuche. These are called the Marrón (brown), Azul (blue) and Naranja (orange) routes. This leafy pine forest is situated beside La Paca urbanisation, where it is normally easy to park. Nearly all of the route is under the cover of thick foliage.

Cueva del Agua Yunquera

From the Puerto de Saucillo, which is one of the most spectacular viewing points in the Sierra de las Nieves natural park, there are several walks which take you beneath pine and pinsapo trees. One of these leads to the legendary Cueva del Agua, and it is a beautiful walk which is not difficult to do.



Los Pinsapos route. :: J.A.

Top:
Cueva del Agua,
Yunquera. :: J. A.

Below:
Footpaths through
the Gibralfaro park in
Málaga. :: J. A.

Umbria de Contadoras Montes de Málaga

With only a very few exceptions, most of the official walking routes in the Montes de Málaga natural park pass through dense woodland. One of these is the Umbria de Contadoras, which is short and can be extended by going up to Pocopán, although in that case the final stretch will be in the sun. Other options for those who want to stay in the shade are the walk between Picapedreros and El Boticario, or the one between El Cerrado and the Mirador del Cochino.

Profesor Paco Marín Ronda

There is another lovely walk amid pine trees in the Dehesa del Mercadillo periurban park just outside Ronda, which is ideal at times when you don't want to walk far in the sun. This is a circular rou-



te named after a local teacher Paco Marín, a nature lover who was very popular in the town and elsewhere in the area because of his enthusiasm for teaching the ecological values of the Serranía de Ronda.

The route of the Presidarios Alhaurín de la Torre

Apart from the first part of this walk, which starts in the Jarapalos area in Alhaurín de la Torre, you will be comple-

tely in the shade of a dense pine forest. It has been prepared by the Andalusian Mountaineering Federation, and its name – Sendero Presidarios - comes from the fact that 'presidarios' means prisoners in English: it was originally created by inmates of the provincial prison, which is situated in the same municipality. The final stretch is very steep, but your reward will be spectacular views over the countryside and the Costa del Sol.

La Sierrecilla Humilladero

The Vega de Antequera is not only home to olive groves and other traditional crops, there are also some dense pine forests in the area such as the one in the popular Sierrecilla de Humilladero. This is a pretty woodland of repopulated pines, which today provides another small green lung for this village and the near-

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The path to the Cerro de Alaminos viewpoint near Coín. :: J. A.

by area. There are several trails, including a quiet circular route, a linear walk (you come back the same way) and one which takes you up to the highest part, the peak of El Pollo.

Mirador del Cerro Alaminos Coín

Beside the Nacimiento recreation area in Coín a path leads to the Cerro de Alaminos viewing point, passing below a pine forest for much of the way. The trail, although it is quite long, is pleasant to do on sunny days because much of it is in the shade. However, in the Matagallar area some parts will be in the sun. The walk ends at a natural balcony which is officially classified as a Special Corner of Malaga. You can also do a shorter trail to the Llanos de Matagallar.

Puerto del Saucillo-Puerto Bellina Yunquera

Just like the Cueva del Agua route



mentioned above, another option for walking through a dense woodland of pines, pinsapos and even cedars, also starts at the Puerto del Saucillo. In this case, it is a circular route which takes you to Puerto Bellina. About three-quarters of this walk will be in the shade of the trees. As well as enjoying the beautiful surroundings of the Sierra de las Nieves, you can discover some emblematic places such as historic fountains, an ice store which has now been restored and what is known as the Pinsapo del Candelabro, one of the most curiously-shaped trees of this area.

Walks through the Gibralfaro park Malaga city

Another alternative for a walk through pines and other trees in Malaga city is the network of small paths in the Gibralfaro park, which can be reached from the Plaza de la Merced – through Calle Mundo – or near the Moorish castle of the same name. In a few weeks' time, the authorities are going to create another route which

will start at the English Cemetery.

El Morlaco Malaga

Another option for a walk through the woods at this time of year is the circular route in the forest park of El Morlaco, on the eastern side of Malaga. You can walk in peace through this small green lung of the capital of the Costa del Sol, with only a few areas exposed to the sun. This is just one of many forest parks in Malaga.

Jubrique to Genalguacil Genal Valley

Pines and also chestnut trees line the lovely route which you can walk at this time of year between two of the most delightful villages in the Serranía de Ronda, Jubrique and Genalguacil (PR-A-241). It is not an easy walk from the point of view of physical effort, because there is a steep climb and descent along the Monardilla river (sometimes called Monardillo), a tributary of the Genal. Apart from this stretch, which is closest to the village of Jubrique, the route takes you along a dirt track that passes through a leafy chestnut forest before arriving at Genalguacil.



Walking through the woods in the Morlaco area of Malaga.

:: J. A.



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This is an ideal time of year to admire the colourful breeding birds of Andalucía



Subalpine warbler. :: PETER JONES



A male firecrest
::P.J.

Cool wildlife in the high summer heat

We are all so very fortunate to live a wonderfully diverse region of Spain where nature reflects this diversity in a richness of habitats and animal life

PETER JONES

Each of the eight provinces of Andalucía has much to commend it to those with even just a passing interest in nature: from Europe's only true desert in Almería, to the Sierra de Grazalema which has the highest rainfall in Spain; from the highest mountains on the Spanish mainland, to the undisturbed forested natural park of Los Alcornocales, a richly

wooded park and declared ZEPA reserve (zone of especial protection for birds); we have so many gems containing a huge variety of both fauna and flora to encourage the intrepid explorer among locals and visitors to Andalucía.

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the greens and colours of spring turn as the heat of the dawning summer takes a hold of our region. It is almost like a switch has been tripped and with almost immediate effect our panorama turns to golden browns made starker in contrast to May and early June's colours. Much of our greenery is only now represented by the remaining evergreens of oak, conifers, and olive trees. With most of the flora resting, my focus now for the summer will be on our colourful breeding



Bee-eater. ::P.J.

birds of the region. I intend to concentrate on areas with easy access as summer heat makes long hikes uncomfortable. I also seek out areas where there is plenty of shade, although some of my summer targets

frequent open habitats, such as blue rock thrush in the mountains and the spectacular European roller which can be found in steppe-type habitat with the nearest site for me being around the Osuna area.

There are so many beautiful woodlands to visit, we are spoilt for choice, not only is shaded woodland attractive to us, but cooler temperatures within forested areas also offer respite from summer heat for birds and other wildlife. Those of us from northern Europe can find many familiar birds in these woodlands and some more unusual ones that do not reach those northernmost regions of our continent.



Roller::P. J.



Hoopoe::P.J.

Familiar and popular birds will include our robin and blue tit, together with a host of others. But a word of caution if you see a treecreeper, common in the north; be aware that we only have short-toed tree-creeper in our region so you can be sure of your identification here. Also, the colourful and noisy green woodpecker has now been classified and renamed here as the Iberian green woodpecker; with a recent change it has become a new species for the

serious bird lister. The woodland canopy is a good place to spot the colourful and diminutive subalpine warbler as well as firecrest, a tiny warbler that can be easily overlooked.

I must admit that riverside wildlife is a favourite of mine and certainly in summer it is a habitat I frequently visit. Most of the major river systems are treelined, usually with willow, ash, and black poplar. Each provides essential shade and captures the cooler temperatures of the

flowing waters of my local rivers. Here I can find many colourful and beautiful birds such as hoopoe, kingfisher and golden oriole, whilst bee eater will often burrow into the soft banks, providing a real spectacle, as colonies busy themselves darting in and out of their nesting holes: truly a superbly coloured bird and I believe the most colourful of all our European birds. These rivers also have the added bonus of dragonflies and damselflies, colourful inhabitants of rivers and their margins, plus many butterflies are attracted to marginal vegetation including, in my area, the large and colourful monarch butterfly. So, visiting our countryside can be an absolute pleasure even in the heat of high summer.

MORE INFORMATION

► www.andaluciabirdsociety.org

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An oasis at the gates to the city

These gardens write an important chapter in the history of Malaga

The botanical garden of La Concepción is worth a visit at any time of the year and its collection of tropical and subtropical plants is unique to the area

SABINE SCHULZ

It is located right at the entrance to Malaga and yet it is still unknown to many visitors on the Costa del Sol. La Concepción botanical gardens are home to around 50,000 tropical and subtropical plants and offer a nice and shaded change from the beach, especially on hot summer days. La Concepción is an English landscape garden with over 150 years of history and one of the few subtropical gardens in Europe.

Covering an area of 3.5 hectares, you can explore the garden all year on several

thematic routes, such as the 'Around the World in 80 Trees' route.

It is best to take an overview map with you at the entrance (which you can also download from the botanical garden's website). You start the tour by turning left immediately at the entrance and heading in the direction of 'Jardín de los Sentidos' (Garden of the Senses). A variety of trees, plants and insects await the visitor here - a real explosion of the

senses.

From the 'Jardín de los Sentidos', the route goes uphill on the right hand side to the viewing pavilion, which used to serve as a place for relaxation for the residents. From there you have a wonderful view of Málaga, the Guadalmedina river bed and, on a clear day, the port of the Costa del Sol capital.

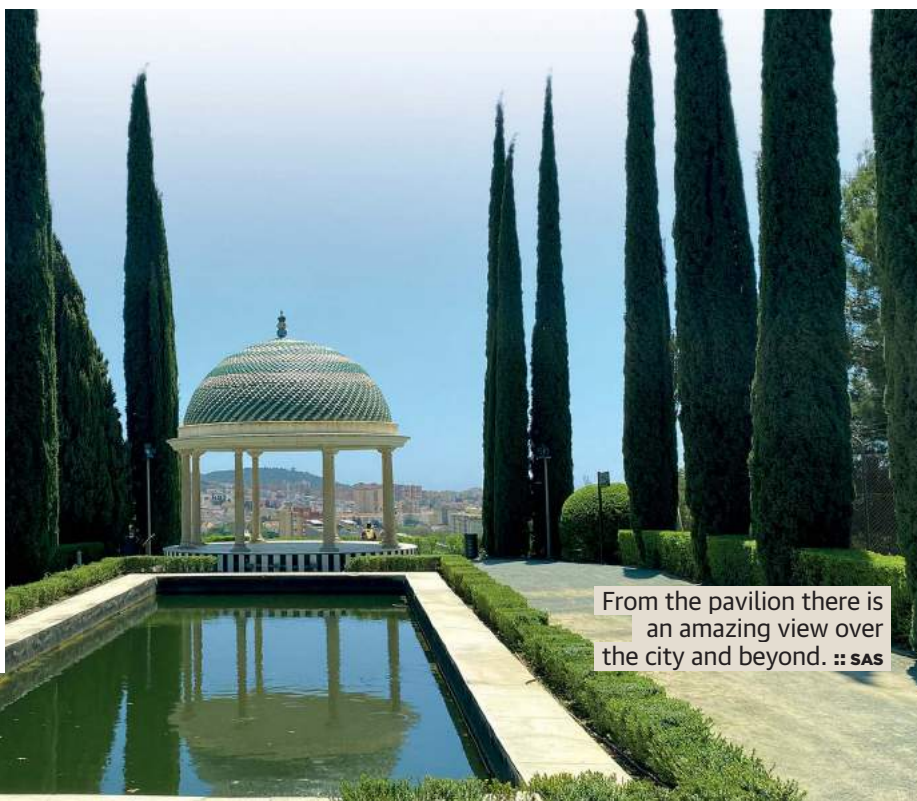
From here you can continue along different routes, such as the Route of the Historic Garden (Jardín histórico) or the Route of Viewpoints (Ruta de los miradores), which leads to the palace of the former owner's family, the Loring.

But no matter how and which path you choose, all paths lead past a world of tropical and subtropical plants; cactus collections; old and shady trees; and a variety of flowers that are particularly magnificent during the spring and summer months.

The Loring Museum is also a beautiful site to visit within La Concepción. It's a small, Doric-style temple with an iron pergola enshrouded with wisteria leading up to the palace.

History of the gardens

The botanical garden of La Concepción originates from the merger of several estates on the banks of the Guadalmedina

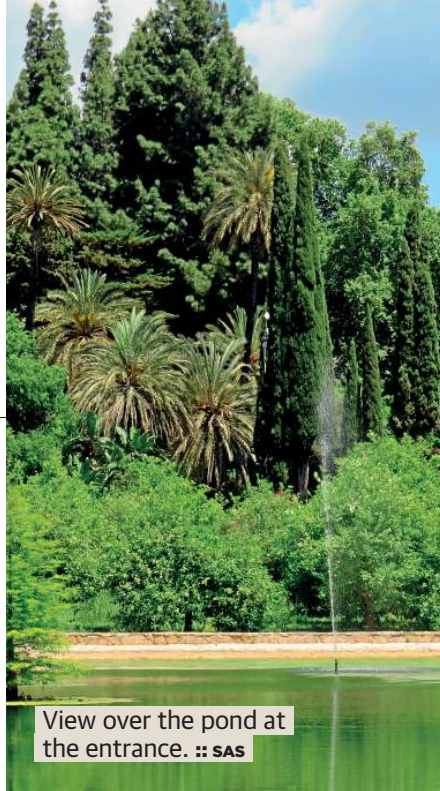


From the pavilion there is an amazing view over the city and beyond. :: SAS

river. Cereal plants, olive trees, almond trees, vines and citrus fruits were grown here.

Its founders were the Marquis of Loring, Jorge Loring Oyarzábal and Amalia Heredia Livermore. They were descendants of well-known businessmen who came to Malaga in search of wealth in the mid-19th century. The idea of creating the garden came to them after visiting palaces, villas, parks and country estates that they had seen on their honeymoon across Europe. The Loring made the estate the center of Malaga social life, creating an impressive park with exotic plant species that came with the family merchant fleet from America, Australia and the Philippines.

Initially, La Concepción did not become known for its beautiful and lush garden, but for the great collection of archaeological remains around the Loring Museum. For years, the owners tried to



View over the pond at the entrance. :: SAS

recover as many archaeological remains as possible, including the Lex Flavia Malacitana, a bronze tablet containing part of the Roman charter of Malaga, granted between 81 and 96 AD under Emperor Domitian. The bronze plaque is in the National Archaeological Museum in Madrid.

In 1911, La Concepción was sold to a couple from Bilbao, Rafael Echevarría and Amalia Echevarrieta, who added new ar-

chaeological sculptures already in place, numerous contemporary sculptures have been positioned in the garden areas. In 1943, the garden was officially declared a historic art garden and is now considered a cultural asset.

After the death of the Basque couple, La Concepción became the property of Amalia's brother, Horacio Echevarrieta, who kept the property in perfect condition until his death in 1963. From then on, the property fell into disrepair until it was acquired by the Malaga city hall in 1990. After four years of renovation, the garden was finally opened to the public in 1994.

In the garden there is also a small shop where you can buy gifts and souvenirs, as well as various picnic areas. There is also a cafeteria serving breakfast, snacks or lunch. The homemade vegetable soups, salads, quiches and cakes are famous.

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The cactus garden with Casarabonela behind it. :: SUR



A succulent stash in the sierra

Over 2,000 species of cacti and succulents can be found at the incredible garden in Casarabonela

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

Tucked away among the pinsapo trees in the Sierra de las Nieves, there is a surprising collection of more than 2,000 plant species from all over the world. This is the Botanic Garden of Cacti and Succulent Plants in Casarabonela, a delightful place which teletransports its visitors to tropical

and subtropical regions of the planet. The families of plants in this green museum coexist on an 8,000 square metre estate which has been receiving visitors from all over Europe since its inauguration in 2011.

"We are one of the first gardens to specialise in cacti in Spain. All the species live alongside native trees, in a valley protected by the mountains and that is the perfect environment for them," says Tania Muñoz, who runs the garden centre with botanist Isabel Díaz.

The Jardín Botánico de Cactus y Plantas Suculentas, to give it its official name, houses between 2,200 and 2,400 species. The figure can vary, depending on the weather conditions. These plants are adapted to live in dry areas all over the world and are part of a collection which was begun

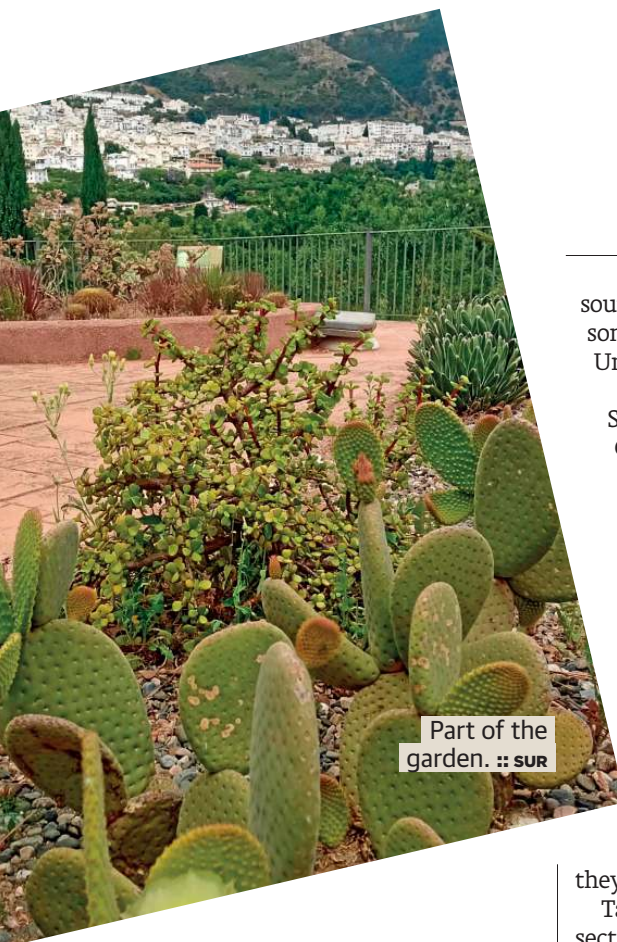


Many of the species have spectacular flowers. :: A. S.

by Joan Mora and Edwige Bravard, a married couple who decided to move to Casarabonela in the mid-1990s.

"This began as an idea, of wanting to find another way of doing things in a difficult context because of all the water that plants need and the problems caused by drought. That couple used to sell this type of plant, and they ended up selling part of their collection to the townhall, which later created this garden," explains Muñoz.

Mora and Bravard helped with the landscaping of the site and designed all the flowerbeds. It is divided into two areas: the outside garden and the greenhouse, and the species are divided by geographical regions. There are numerous plants from



Flower close-up. :: SUR



southern Africa and Madagascar, and some from the deserts of the southern United States and Mexico.

Elsewhere, there are examples from South America (Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Chile and Argentina, mainly), tropical Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, India and Australia. There are also European and Mediterranean species, with a section for the Canary Islands.

With the outside garden, the aim is to show the possibilities and advantages of xerophytic plants and succulents in particular, as they need very little water.

The glass greenhouse contains plants from dry tropical climates, which need more care, together with species which spend a while inside so they can acclimatise.

Tania Muñoz says the garden also has a section of microsucculent plants, tiny spe-

cies which grow in special flowerbeds.

“They are very curious and very rare, so it is an interesting collection,” she explains. They include lithops, otherwise known as stone plants, a species from southern Africa whose flowers look just like stones to camouflage themselves from possible predators.

The Botanic Garden in Casarabonela, which is managed by the council, costs three euros to visit and is open every day of the week from 10am to 2pm. Entry is free for under-12s and over-80s and guided tours in Spanish and in English can be booked in advance.

It also houses the Tourist Office, where visitors can obtain detailed information about all the facilities in the village and the Sierra de las Nieves National Park. “We receive visitors from other countries, many of them from Europe. Some come specifically to see the garden because they have heard about it,” says Muñoz.

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Simple Minds

EFE

Starlite Marbella

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Nagüeles Quarry.

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An intense festival season

Big international names are returning to the Costa del Sol this summer after three years away because of the pandemic

Christina Aguilera, Simple Minds, Diana Ross, Texas, Arctic Monkeys, Chemical Brothers and Rage against the Machine are just some of the highlights of Malaga and Granada's live music scene this year with events happening throughout July, August and September from Estepona to Motril.

JENNIE RHODES

Music festivals are back with a bang along the Costa del Sol and Costa Tropical this summer. While we were treated to live music last year, it was very much an opportunity to discover Spanish artists, with international travel still restricted. However, there's no stopping the flow of big names onto the line-ups of this summer's festivals. Madrid may have had the Rolling Stones and Seville the Red Hot Chili Peppers already this year, but Malaga and Granada provinces can boast a whole host of big names too.

Malaga has already been treated to the likes of British band Simply Red in early June, kicking off an incredible season of live music.

In July there will be no fewer than ten festivals happening along the Costa del Sol and Granada province's Costa tropical, from the international jazz festival in Almuñécar (Granada), to world music in Malaga with the Terral festival bringing sounds from not just Spain but also Brazil, Cuba, Portugal, Mali and Turkey. There'll also be Blues in Antequera, Latino music in Torremolinos, opera at the Térmica in Malaga and the return of Torre del Mar's Weekend Beach festival from 6 to 9 July.

It'll be the first time since 2019 that 'Weekers' will descend on the town to enjoy a fusion of Spanish pop, Swedish rock from the Hives, Reggae with Jamai-

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Arctic
Monkeys
:: SEBASTIAN KIM

**Festival
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1 September.
La Cala,
Mijas Costa.
www.calamijas.com

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raenos-
trum.
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gust you can
still stand the
heat...and still
have the
energy to dan-
ce...for fans of

can band Third
World and reggaeton star
Nicky Jam.
Marbella's Legendary Starlite festival,
which began in June, will run throu-
hout July and August and into early Sep-
tember. Highlights in July include Span-
ish opera singer Plácido Domingo,
Christina Aguilera and Diana Ross, who
probably need no introduction.

At the other end of Malaga's coastli-
ne, the Nerja Cave international dance
and music festival will be taking place
in the gardens next to the historical site
from 21 to 30 July.

Meanwhile in Fuengirola, Scottish
pop sensation Texas will be rounding
off the month's big names

rap there's Motril's Rap Day on 7 Au-
gust, Los Álamos festival in Estepona,
Ultrabeach in Fuengirola, Chanquete on
Nerja's Playazo beach on 13 August and
the Elrow one day music and perfor-
ming arts festival (think Cirque Soleil
meets clubbing à la Pacha or Ministry of
Sound) in Torre del Mar on Saturday 20 .
Starlite continues with performances
from the likes of Andrea Bocelli, Vanesa
Martín and Luis Fonsi, who took the
world by storm in 2017 with 'Despacito'.

For something slightly more low-key,
but ever hugely popular, head to the
pretty village of Frigiliana in the Axar-
quía the last weekend of August for the
annual Three Cultures festival, which
celebrates the Jewish, Christian and
Muslim heritage of the area with live
music representing the three religions,
as well as a market, fireworks and other
activities.

Save some energy for September be-
cause this is when the really big interna-
tional names are in town. Fans of '90s
and early noughties pop, alternative
rock and dance music have never had it
so good here: The Cala de Mijas festival
from 1 to 3 September will see The Che-
mical Brothers, Röyksopp, Liam Ga-
llagher and the Arctic Monkeys all take
to the stage, while the Big Andalucía
festival will be happening in Malaga
from Thursday 8 to September 10, with
Rage Against The Machine, Jamiroquai,
The Stereophonics and Paolo Nutini all
on the lineup.

Starlite will also be drawing to a close
in September with much-loved Spanish
pop-rock band Estopa and the Cala Pop
Weekend and as the endless Andalusian
summer gives way to autumn, the Cala
Pop Weekend will bid 'adios' to what
will have been an incredible festival sea-
son, from 22 to 24 September.

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Park El Majuelo.
www.jazzgranada.es



Kenny Garrett
:: SUR

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Festival
Torre del Mar**
9 July. Playa
Torre del Mar.
www.weekendbeach.es/



Nicky Jam
:: RCA RECORD

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Marenostrum
Fuengirola**
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www.marenostrum.janto.es



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On the summer stage

JULY

1
Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra: James Bond: 9.30pm. La Térmica, Avda de los Guindos, Malaga. www.latermicamalaga.com/musas-en-el-jardin

1
Vanessa Martín: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

1
El Comité: 8.30pm. Terral Festival. Teatro Cervantes. www.teatrocervantes.com/es/genero/musica/terral-2022

1, 2
Alejandro Sanz: 10.30pm. Marenostrum Unicaja stage. www.marenostrumfuengirola.com

1, 2
Ojeando Festival: Swimming pool stage, Ojén. www.facebook.com/OjeandoFestival

2
Vicente Amigo: 8.30pm. Terral Festival. Teatro Cervantes. www.teatrocervantes.com/es/genero/musica/terral-2022

5
Chucho Valdés and friends: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com/

5
Yamandu Costa: 8.30pm. Terral Festival. Teatro Cervantes. www.teatrocervantes.com/es/genero/musica/terral-2022

6
Diana Ross: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com/

6
Fyahbwoy: Torre del Mar. www.weekendbeach.es/

7
The Hives: Torre del Mar. www.weekendbeach.es/

8
Il Divo: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

8
La Pegatina: Torre del Mar. www.weekendbeach.es/

9
Pablo Alborán: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com/

9
Melendi: 10pm. Marenostrum Unicaja stage. www.marenostrumfuengirola.com/

9
Nicky Jam: Torre del Mar. www.weekendbeach.es/

11
Plácido Domingo: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com/

12
Ballet Flamenco: Until 13 July, 10pm. Sohail castle, Fuengirola. www.marenostrumfuengirola.com/

14
Rosalía Motomami World Tour: 10pm. Marenostrum Unicaja stage. www.marenostrumfuengirola.com/

14
Myke Towers: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com/

14, 15
Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra: Rock Syfónico
Tabletom: 9.30pm. La Térmica, Avda de los Guindos, Malaga. www.latermicamalaga.com/musas-en-el-jardin

Christina Aguilera.
:: FLICKR

Christina Aguilera

25 July, 10pm
Starlite Marbella.
www.starlitemarbella.com





Liam
Gallagher
DENA FLOWS

Festival Cala Mijas

3 September.
La Cala, Mijas Costa.
www.calamijas.com

15, 16

Puro Latina Fest: Feria ground,
Torremolinos. www.purolatino.es

19

Makaya McCraven: 10pm. Parque El Majuelo,
Granada. www.jazzgranada.es/festival-jazz-en-la-costa

19

Nile Rogers & Chic: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlite-marbella.com/

19-22

V Cabildo Flamenco: 11pm. Instituto Luis Barahona de Soto, Archidona.

20

Mulatu Astatke: 10pm. Parque El Majuelo,
Granada. www.jazzgranada.es/festival-jazz-en-la-costa

20

Maluma: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com/

21

Nicky Jam: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella.
www.starlitemarbella.com

21

Daymé Arocena: 10pm. Parque El Majuelo, Granada. www.jazzgranada.es/festival-jazz-en-la-costa

21

Pablo Alborán: 10.30pm. Auditorio Manuel del Campo. Nerja. www.cuevadenerja.es/festival-de-musica/

22

Jessie J: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella.
www.starlitemarbella.com/

22

Kenny Garrett: 10pm. Parque El Majuelo, Granada.
www.jazzgranada.es/festival-jazz-en-la-costa

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22

Israel Fernández: 10.30pm. Auditorio Manuel del Campo. Nerja. www.cuevadenerja.es/festival-de-musica

22

Capullo de Jerez: 8pm. Flamenco in Sohail castle, Fuengirola. www.marenostrumfuengirola.com

23

Michel Portal: 10pm. Parque El Majuelo, Granada. www.jazzgranada.es/festival-jazz-en-la-costa

23

Victor Manuel: 10.30pm. Auditorio Manuel del Campo. Nerja. www.cuevadenerja.es/festival-de-musica

24

José James: 10pm. Parque El Majuelo, Granada. www.jazzgranada.es/festival-jazz-en-la-costa

25

Christina Aguilera: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

27

Nina Pastori: 10pm. Sohail castle, Fuengirola. www.marenostrumfuengirola.com

28

Ana Mena: 10.30pm. Auditorio Manuel del Campo. Nerja. www.cuevadenerja.es/festival-de-musica

29

Simple Minds: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

28

Medina Azahara: 10pm. Sohail castle, Fuengirola. www.marenostrumfuengirola.com/

28-31

Wonder Beach: Torremolinos. www.facebook.com/Wondergayfestival

29

Diana Krall: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

30

Rosario Flores: 10.30pm. Auditorio Manuel del Campo. Nerja. www.cuevadenerja.es/festival-de-musica

31

Andrew Lynch: 10.30pm. Parque El Majuelo, Granada. www.jazzgranada.es/festival-jazz-en-la-costa

AUGUST

1

Starlite Festival: Until 3 September. Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

10

Rafael: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

15

Andrea Bocelli: 10pm. Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

16

Sara Baras: 10pm. Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

19

Farruquito and Arcángel: 10pm. Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

23

Kixxeno: 8.30pm. Teatro Cervantes, Malaga. Terral Festival. www.teatrocervantes.com

20

Elrow Town: From 6pm, The Rowmuda Triangle, Recinto Weekend Beach, Torre del Mar. www.elrow.com/es/events/upcoming/city/malaga

20

Ultrabeach: From 3pm. Marenostrum Unicaja stage. www.costadelsol.ultrabeach.com

24

Sugar Candy Mountain: Fair ground, Torremolinos. www.canelaparty.com

25

Vanessa Martín: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

24

Sleaford Mods: Fair ground, Torremolinos. www.canelaparty.com

26

King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard: Fair ground, Torremolinos. www.canelaparty.com

27

Miguel Poveda: 10pm. Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

31

Ara Malikian: 10pm. Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella. www.starlitemarbella.com

Weekend Beach Fest

6 July.

www.weekendbeach.es

Fyahbwoy
:: WIKIMEDIA



Jamiroquai
ABC.ES

Andalucía Big Festival

9 July, 10pm.
Sacaba Beach, Malaga.
www.andaluciabig.com

SEPTEMBER

1, 2, 3

Cala Mijas Festival: La Cala de Mijas.
Lineup includes Arctic Monkeys, Chemical Brothers, Liam Gallagher, Nik Cave & the Bad Seeds, Bonobo, Róisín Murphy, Kraftwerk, James Blake, Nathy Peluso, Nina Kraviz, Chet Faker.
calamijas.com

3

Estopa: 10pm. Auditorium Cantera de Nagüeles, Marbella.
www.starlitemarbella.com

9,10

Andalucía Big: Sacaba Beach, Malaga.

Lineup includes Jamiroquai, Muse, Rage Against the Machine, Vetusta Morla
www.andaluciabig.com/festival

16, 17

Granada Sound Festival: Cortijo del Conde.
www.granadasound.com

22, 23, 24

Fuengirola Pop Weekend: El Charcón Beach, Fuengirola.
Lineup includes Miss Gin, Carlone and the Treats, The Yum Yums
www.facebook.com/fuengirolapopweekend/

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San Juan Bautista. :T. B.



Bell tower
Santa Cruz. :T. B.

The delightful town of Écija is located deep in the Andalusian countryside, 85km (53 miles) east of Seville and 55km (34 miles) from Cordoba. A profusion of 11 mystical bell towers makes the Écija skyline unique and creates an astonishing impression as one approaches the town

TONY BRYANT

Écija is one of the most beautiful of all Andalusian towns, as a walk around the orange-perfumed back streets will demonstrate. The exterior of many of the private houses are adorned with family crests, fresco paintings and ornate boxed windows underset with hand painted ceramic tiles.

However, one of the town's most outstanding assets are the Gothic, Mudéjar, Renaissance and baroque spires, which give rise to its affectionate name of Ciudad de las Torres (town of towers).

The town has a quiet, aristocratic character filled with pleasant squares, like the Plaza de Santa María, with its dominating Gothic-Mudéjar church and astonishing sculpture of the Virgen del Valle.

The Santa María Church has medieval origins, although it underwent several alterations during the 16th and 17th centuries. The current church, combining late baroque and neoclassical elements, was erected in the 18th century. The tower was damaged during the 1755

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Virgen del Valle. : T. B.



earthquake and was later restored and decorated with stunning ceramic tiles.

The picturesque district of Santa Cruz is home to one of the town's most unique churches, the Parroquia Mayor de Santa Cruz. One of the curious elements of this neoclassical monument is the fact that part of the building has no roof, allowing a splendid view of its fabulous bell tower from inside the church. The tower has a clear influence of the Giralda, the bell tower of Seville's cathedral. The bricked lower level, which carries 10th century Arabic inscriptions, was once the minaret of the former mosque that stood on this site.

The original church was demolished in 1776 due to its poor condition and a new one was proposed. The church we see today was hastily inaugurated before construction had been completed; hence part of the nave is missing a roof.

The oldest surviving information about the Iglesia de San Juan El Bautista, located in the historical heart of the town, dates back to the 16th century, although its ornately decorated tower, declared the most beautiful in the town, was added in the 17th century. One of

the oldest religious buildings in Écija, it was designed in 15th century Gothic-Mudéjar style. Its most outstanding feature is the main altarpiece, where 16th century paintings and sculptures create an exhibition of great artistic harmony.

Plaza de España is the geographical centre of the town. Also called Plaza Mayor, each corner reveals an emblematic building and a little of the town's storied past.

Along with the churches of Santa Bárbara and San Francisco, the square boasts the ruins of a Roman swimming pool, which was discovered during renovations in 2002. During the excavation, archaeologists found one of Écija's most prized jewels - a fifth century Roman statue of the 'Wounded Amazon', one of only four that exist in the world.

Buildings of interest in this square include the Mirador de Benameji and the Mirador del Marqués Peñaflor, two 18th

century edifices that demonstrate the splendour of the architecture commissioned by Écija's aristocracy.

The Palace of Benameji, located in Calle Canovas del Castillo, is one of the fundamental examples of civil architecture of 18th century Andalucía. Its construction defines precisely the particular conception of baroque expression so popular in the area at that time. Since 1997, it has housed the town's History Museum, and here one can marvel over the statue of the Wounded Amazona and countless 1st and 2nd century mosaics.

Calle Plateria leads into the heart of Écija's historical neighbourhood. Here you will pass along tranquil streets lined with mansions, more churches and grand palaces.

Of particular interest is the Palacio de Peñaflor, the town's most emblematic building and an icon of Andalusian baroque art. The façade features an astonishing 59-metre concave balcony decorated with 18th century frescos, while the main entrance is designed with outstanding baroque features. The building is renowned for its profuse decoration and the grand staircase leading to the upper floors is of great artistic interest.

Santa Cruz interior. :T. B.



Plaza de España. : T. B.



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Where bullets fly

The place in Andalucía where you might get into a gunfight

Spain's Wild West starts in the far east of the region - Tabernas desert in Almería province

MANUEL MEYER

The burning sun shines down mercilessly from the sky. Yet it is still early. A warm desert wind blows up the dusty ground. The door of the saloon creaks. Horse-drawn carriages drive through the streets.

From a distance, a horde of cowboys suddenly ride up at a gallop - heading directly for the bank. The sheriff draws his gun. And off they go. Bang, bang, bang! A wild shootout begins. Some of the cowboys take cover behind wooden barrels.

Pablo and Carla flinch at every gunshot. They are not watching a western on television. They are standing close to the sheriff and his men on the wooden terrace of the saloon. Eleven-year-old Pablo and his 13-year-old sister

from the Andalusian town of Adra are in fact in the western town of "Mini Hollywood", in the desert of Tabernas east of Almería. But it feels like they are in the middle of the "Wild West" of the USA.

The shooting is over. The robbers are dead or in jail. The visitors go into the saloon. Here, pretty ladies in can-can dresses are already dancing on the wooden stage. But the cheerful atmosphere does not last long. Two scruffy drunkards at the bar get into an argument that turns into a violent brawl. Fisticuffs. Chairs fly through the air.

As in "Mini Hollywood", other western towns in the Tabernas desert like the "Fort Bravo" or the "Western Leone", offer western shows for visitors several times a day. Today, it is stuntmen who perform the shows. But at one time, especially in the sixties and seventies, Hollywood stars filmed world-famous western classics here on the Almería film sets.

Charles Bronson and Henry Fonda fought a duel here for Sergio Leone's cult western *Once Upon a Time in the*

West. The ranch where Henry Fonda murders Claudia Cardinale's family in the film can still be discovered today at Western Leone theme park.

In the Almería desert, Clint Eastwood had several shootouts with bad guys in *A Fistful of Dollars*. With Lee Van Cleef, he also roamed the desert of Tabernas as a rough bounty hunter in *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*. And here Pierre Brice stood in front of the camera for *The Return of Winnetou*.

TV series, commercials or music videos are still regularly produced today in Almería when Western backdrops are needed, especially at Fort Bravo. Sergio Leone, the master of the so-called Spaghetti Westerns, had the Fort Bravo set built back in the 1970s.

It was there that Italian film stars Bud Spencer and Terence Hill hit it out of the park in *Trinity Is Still My Name* and Til Schweiger took on the Daltons as Lucky Luke. The German Western comedy *Der Schuh des Manitu* was also filmed at Fort Bravo. Decades earlier, Sergio Leone had already sent his *Magnificent Seven* through the dusty

Mini-Hollywood. :: SUR



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The impressive badlands of Almería resemble not only Western scenarios in Arizona and California, but also landscapes in Mexico, North Africa and Arabia. Joseph Mankiewicz

shot scenes here with Liz Taylor for Cleopatra and Peter O'Toole trudged through Almería's desert sands in Lawrence of Arabia.

Director Stanley Kubrick even found the perfect moon atmosphere for his cult film 2001: A Space Odyssey in the Tabernas desert. Meanwhile, Steven Spielberg had Sean Connery and Harrison Ford hunting through

the desert in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

Those who want to get to know the exact filming locations should go on hiking or jeep tours with Cristina Serena from Malcaminos.

In addition to producing films, the company also specialises in themed film excursions through the desert.

We travel by jeep through dried-up riverbeds, steppe landscapes and deep gorges. En route we come across remnants of film shoots that have been left behind here.

With photos of film

scenes from famous movies, Cristina proves to the visitors that they are really right where Clint Eastwood pulled out his Colt or Harrison Ford cracked the whip as Indiana Jones.

But the tours are not just for film buffs and Western fans. Cristina quickly makes it clear that the Tabernas desert is a unique natural spectacle. Covering 12,000 hectares, Europe's only desert is tiny compared to the Sahara and, as a rocky desert, it is not covered in giant sand dunes. Nevertheless, this wild desert world is no less impressive.

Bare hills and a landscape riddled with deep ravines characterise the driest region in Europe. The Tabernas desert, which is actually a semi-desert, is cut off from the humid winds of the nearby Mediterranean.

On hikes, one always discovers shell fossils, because about 12 million years ago, today's desert was located on the seabed at a depth of about 400 metres.

Numerous well-signposted hiking trails lead through the desert. A nice circular hike starts directly at the Mini Hollywood theme park.

Over a length of 9.5 kilometres, the trail leads past several filming locations and abandoned sets of Western films and gives an insight into the enchanting landscape.

But be careful: there is little shade and in summer the temperatures can easily rise above 45 degrees.

The landscape is impressive, but barren. :: SUR

MORE INFORMATION

► **How to get there:** By car from Malaga via the A-7 towards Almería. At exit 452, take the A-92 towards Guadix/Granada. At exit 376, take the N-340a towards Tabernas/Murcia. Travel time around 3.5 hours.

► **Western theme parks:**
www.western-leone.es,
www.oasysparquetematico.com
www.fortbravo.es

► www.almeria-turismo.org

► www.malcaminos.com

Playa de Mónsul in the nearby Cabo de Gata natural park. :: SUR

Tipi Tapa, fine dining and a fantastic show in Fuengirola

Food is not just eating; it's also about discovering new flavours. The team at Tipi Tapa Restaurant are passionate about what they do and offer the most exquisite service to their clients; their goal is to offer the best possible experience both in the restaurant and on stage. Located in Fuengirola; the Restaurant, which has been in business for more than 20 years, pays attention to every detail and offers uncomplicated dishes, using only the freshest ingredients, and provides

the best service possible.

To make any meal unique, the Restaurant has a large dining area, suitable for any celebration. Tipi Tapa also offers unforgettable, bewitching and authentic flamenco shows. Manuel Alcaide and his dance group offer one of the most memorable performances on the Costa del Sol. Diners are transported to a classical Andalusian "tablao" (traditional bar) with some of the most renowned dancers in the Province. During

the summer months, these truly breath-taking spectacles take place every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30 p.m.

Tipi Tapa is a firm favourite with locals and tourists alike. Regular clients are the Restaurant's best ambassadors. "We always strive for excellence and it is always very rewarding when one of our clients returns with their friends or family to show them our unique mixture of cuisine, dance and magic," the manager explains. Reservation can be made via their webpage www.restaurantetipitapa.com.



Andalusian 'tablao'. :: SUR

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An astonishing village of witches

Soportújar, on the south face of the Sierra Nevada in Granada province, has made witchcraft its hallmark

ALMUDENA NOGUÉS


In the Alta Alpujarra in Granada, in the heart of the Natural and National Park on the southern face of the Sierra Nevada, is a small village where broomsticks fly on the nights of a full moon. Black cats wander through its streets, secret spells are cast in its caves and there is even a Hansel and Gretel house where evil witches trick children by tempting them with sweets before throwing them into the cauldron. Is this real or fiction?

Well, the answer can be found an hour and 40 minutes from Malaga city, in Soportújar, to be precise. Exploring its nooks and crannies which are full of stories and legends is a good plan for a weekend outing. This rural destination in Andalucía has become fashionable now, so on Saturdays and

Sundays it is busy with the type of tourists who love picturesque and unusual places.

The name Soportújar means 'place of arcades' and is due to the typical passages known as 'tinaos' which predominate in the architecture and urban layout of this small village. It played an important role during the Revolution of Las Alpujarras, which ended with the Moors being expelled from the territory back in the time of Felipe II. This meant that the village had to be repopulated with new inhabitants, most of them families from Galicia. And that is where the connection with the world of witchcraft comes from.

It is said that when these settlers from the north arrived they brought with them their customs and pagan legends about witches, covens and rituals on dark nights, arousing the suspicions of their neighbours who lost no time in labelling these new inhabitants of Soportújar as sorcerers. This is



The narrowest and most magical passage way in Spain.

:: MARCUS KRÄHNKE

what the village has now taken advantage of to create a themed route around its streets. It is well worth a visit.

The tour begins at the 'Cueva del Ojo de la Bruja', which is the starting point of an unusual itinerary with a surprise around every corner, and we head to the cemetery on the outskirts of the village to start discovering them. You have to cross the haunted bridge to reach this point, where witchcraft is said to have been practised for centuries. Nowadays, the interior of the small building contains the figure of a sorceress producing magic potions and spells. Here, we are met by José, a guide from 'Descubriendo Soportújar', who accompanies us for the next 90 minutes and tells us



Left: View of Soportújar
From the country road.
Middle: The Mirador del
Embrujo and Right: The
witch Baba Yaga
welcomes visitors at the
entrance to the village.

:: MARCUS KRÄHNKE



about the curiosities and legends of this village.

Before heading into the centre, we stop to look at the impressive views from one of its lookout points, which José says is the perfect place to watch the sunset on clear days.

“You can even see the mountains of Africa, it’s fabulous,” he says. We then walk towards an enormous sculpture representing the head of Baba Yaga, the first surprise which, like most of the other figures on the

route, is the work of José Vera. It is a witch with penetrating blue eyes and a toothless smile who, according to legend, used to eat children who behaved badly.

The sorceress – a character from Slav mythology who was said to live in the forests of Russia – used to inhabit a house with hens’ feet which is also tucked away in the narrow streets of this village.

Without making too much noise, because we don’t want to wake up Baba Yaga, we enter Soportújar. The main street leads to the Plaza de Abastos, beside the town hall – whose façade is dotted with eye-catching insects. The church of Santa María la Mayor, which was built on the site of a former mosque in the 16th century, is also here. It is in Mudejar style and has a lovely wooden altarpiece inside. There is also a lovely fountain, decorated with Moorish tiles. Just opposite is the Mirador de Soportújar, with its fantastic views over the surrounding countryside and nearby villages such as Carataunas and Cáñar.

From the Plaza de Abastos we take Calle Estación to the Fuente del Dragón fountain, whose water is said to have aphrodisiac

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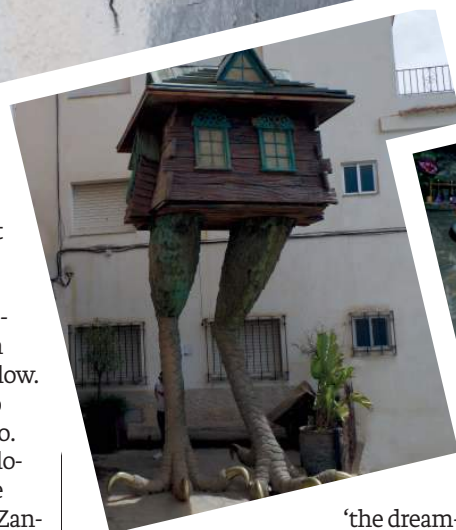
The snake comes out of the wall of a Tinao.

:: MARCUS KRÄHNKE

ac properties and stimulate fertility. And from there it is time to rummage in our purses and wallets before we get to the Pozo de los Deseos, or wishing well, another of the most emblematic places in Soportújar. In the village, people say that if you don't throw a coin in when you get there, bad luck could follow. So, if that's the case, we're not going to chance it. And we make our wishes, too.

We continue our walk through the lower part of the village, where we come across the Calderos Mágicos and Calle Zanjilla, which according to local people is the narrowest and most magical street in all of Spain. "You can see the witches during the day, but leave before nightfall," warns a painted sign over Los Naranjos passageway, from where there are also lovely views over the countryside.

Passing through one of the characteristic 'tinaos', we see a large serpent coming out of one of the whitewashed façades and just have to take a photo. In fact, it is best to keep your camera ready all the time, because there are endless opportunities. Like the Magic Broom, for example, which is brilliant for a family pose complete with a mysterious black cat – and the Black Widow, an enormous spider that guards the upper part of the village. It is also known as



Left: Baba Yaga's house on legs. :: M. K
Right: The Cueva del Ojo de la Bruja. :: M. K.

'the dream-spinning spider'. It used to be said that if a spider fell onto a candle and was burned in the flames, it was a sign that witches were nearby.

After trying unsuccessfully to solve the riddle beside the Fuente del Chorro fountain – something nobody can ever do – we arrive at one of the most spectacular stops, which is especially tempting for the smallest members of the family: the Casa de Caramelos, which resembles the gingerbread house in Hansel and Gretel, and where José our guide, says they plan to open a sweet shop in the near future.

Our tour ends with another attraction with beautiful views, the Era del Aquelarre. Local people say it was here, on the outskirts of the village, that the witches

used to fly on their broomsticks to hold their nefarious meetings. Nowadays the sculptures of a skull, an owl and a cat preside over a viewing point from where, on clear days, you can see the Mediterranean.

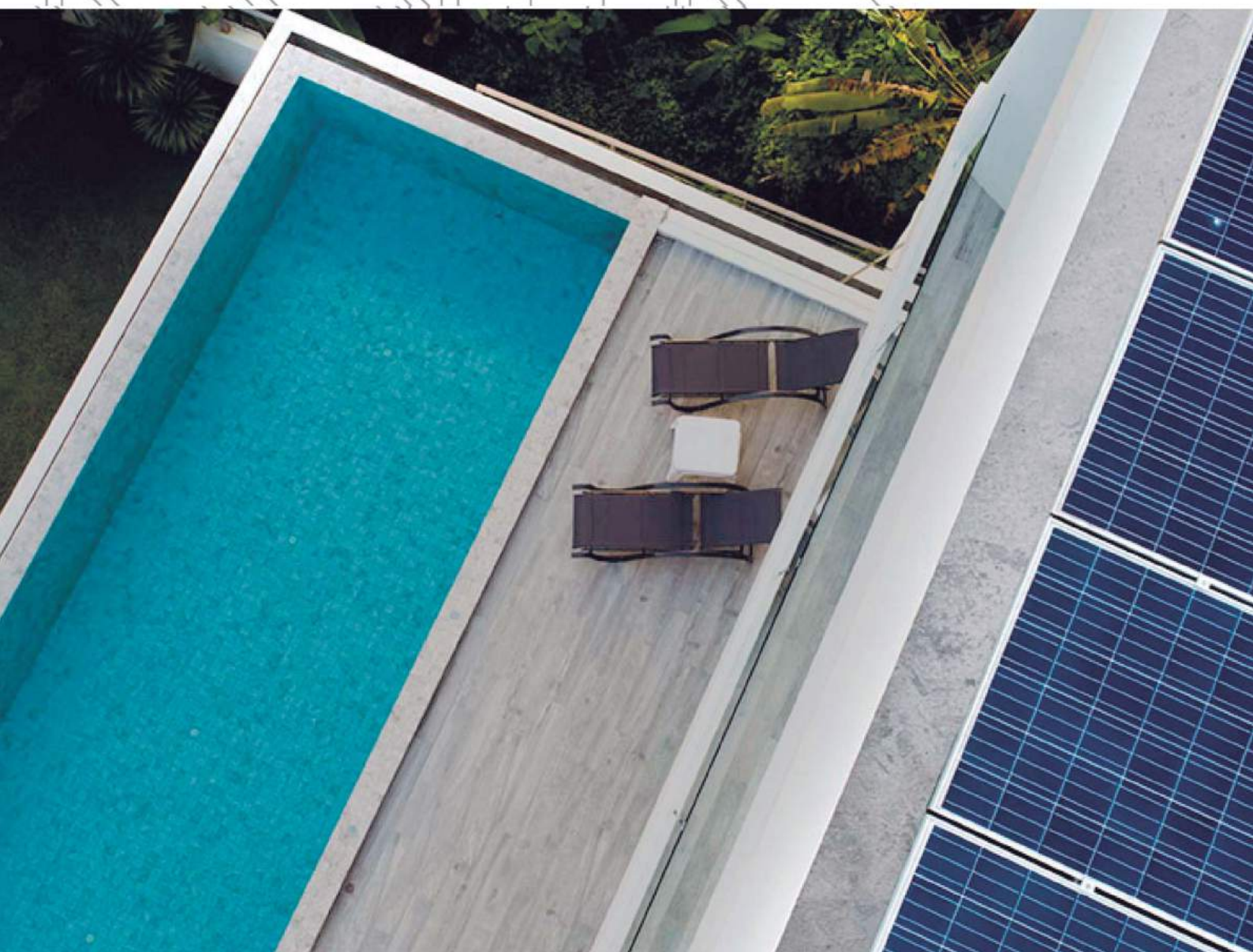
Buddhist centre

There is yet another surprise to come: Soportújar is home to the first Buddhist centre in Spain, founded by the Lama Yeshé on the Cerro de Atalaya hill and consecrated by the Dalai Lama himself. Anybody who respects the Buddhist faith even if they do not profess it, can come to O Sel Ling (it means place of clear light) for a period of retreat and isolation. From this complex, which is more than 1,500 metres above sea level and about eight kilometres outside Soportújar, there are incredible views over the Barranco de Poqueira.

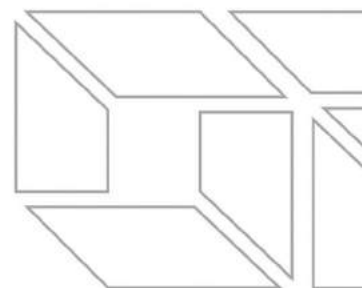


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Festivals get fruity in the Axarquía

Local harvests are a reason to party in summer in the east of Malaga province

JENNIE RHODES

Think of the Axarquía; the area to the east of Malaga from Rincón de la Victoria to Nerja and Maro and then the inland village that spread around the Viñuela reservoir up the mountains towards Granada province, and you would be forgiven for seeing images of vast expanses of mango and avocado plantations. However, the rapid growth in the popularity of subtropical fruits has not yet been recognised with their own special day; it's the more traditional types of fruit that are celebrated here with festivals in their honour throughout the summer months.

The most highly esteemed fruit in the Axarquía is of course the Axarquía muscatel grape. It was even recognised in 2017 when it was added to the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) agricultural heritage list, making the Axarquía muscatel grape one of the most exclusive products in the world.



Iznate.:: SUR

Its production is steeped in centuries of local farming traditions and that is why it is honoured in the villages of Cómpeta, Iznate, Moclinejo and El Borge.

Peaches and cherries also get their own festival in the villages of Periana and Alfarfate respectively and tomatoes and almonds, which are also grown locally, are key ingredients in traditional Spanish cold soups like gazpacho and ajo blanco, are celebrated annually in Alfarfatejo and Almachar.

Grape picking season

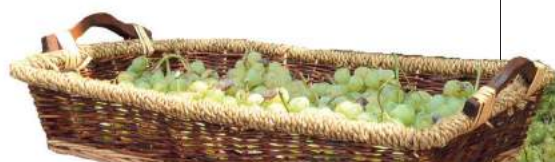
The 'vendimia', or the grape harvest, traditionally gets under way in mid-August in the Axarquía, and that is why the village of Cómpeta celebrates its Noche del Vino (wine night) on 15 August. Wine is offered to residents and visitors to the village who gather by the fountain on the Almirajara square in the centre of the village.

The wine is soaked up by a plate of 'migás', a traditional dish consisting of breadcrumbs fried in olive oil and garlic



Grape-treading during Noche del Vino in Cómpeta.

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS



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Peaches,
cherries and
gazpacho.

:: E. CABEZAS

and served with a salad. The filling meal would be enough to keep the workers going as they spent long days in the vineyards harvesting the fruit. The festivities continue into the night on the Plaza Almirajara and Plaza de la Vendimia with music and dancing.

Iznate also marks the start of the grape harvest with Día de la Uva Moscatel (muscatel grape day) and the festival always takes place on the first Saturday in August. There are walking tours, demonstrations and traditional Verdiales and Charangas music, as well as the opportunity to try the grapes and of course the raisins and sweet wine.

Día de la Pasa (raisin day) is celebrated in mid-September in the village of El Borge and this year it will be on Sunday 18th. There are demonstrations of traditional agricultural skills, such as threshing grain using mules, sieving the raisins and growers can be seen carrying grapes in large baskets on their heads. Wine as well as fresh grapes are also served with 'migás' just as in Cómputa. There is music and dancing, including the traditional 'danza de la rueda' or circle dancing.

The pretty little village of Moclinejo is home to one of Malaga's best-known wineries, Bodega Antonio Muñoz Cabrera, which has been run by the same family since 1927. So it is unsurprising that the fruit and its products are celebrated here too. The Fiesta de los Viñeros is celebrated on the second Sunday in September and this year it will take place on the 11th.

The festival pays tribute to all of the people who work in the industry and there are demonstrations, including the traditional treading of the grapes. A huge paella is prepared and there is traditional Verdiales music. The bodega itself is well worth a visit as it is also home to the Museo del Moscatel, a museum documenting the family's winemaking history and tradition.

The village of La Viñuela, which shares its name with the Axarquía's reservoir, also pays tribute to the raisin in mid-September. The Fiesta de la Pasa will take place this year on 16 and 17 September. The event starts with a jazz festival on the Saturday and on the Sunday, the town hall gives out free grapes and sweet wine. There's also



the opportunity to see the traditional grape-treading.

Cherries

The village of Alfarnate is the highest in the Axarquía region. Sitting at 900 metres above sea level in the Alhama, Almirajara and Tejeda mountain range, it is known as 'The Alps of the Axarquía'. It is also known for its cherries and while the festival takes place at the end of June (this year it took place on Saturday 25), the delicious fruit is widely available throughout the summer months. Alfarnate claims that thanks to its elevation and cooler temperature, its celebrated fruit is larger and of course tastier than your average cherry.

Peaches

On the other side of the reservoir is the village of Periana, which is probably better known for its olives and olive oil production. However, that harvest doesn't start until November, so for the purposes of a summer magazine, we'll stick to its second-most famous produce: peaches. Like cherries, peaches are widely available in Malaga province throughout summer.

Similar to the subtropical fruits, peaches are a relative newcomer and were introduced to the village in the mid-20th century. While production has reduced since the heyday of the 1970s, when 4,000 tonnes of the fruit were picked, peaches are still



grown and are celebrated as part of the village's annual fair which will run from 19 to 21 August this year, with part of the final day being dedicated to the peach harvest.

Ajoblanco and gazpacho

The small village of Alfarnatejo, which sits slightly south west of, and not to be confused with, Alfarnate (think cherries) celebrates that most classic of Spanish summer dishes: gazpacho. The main ingredient, tomatoes are grown in the Axarquía, so it's only natural that some sort of fiesta is held in their honour, albeit via a cold soup.

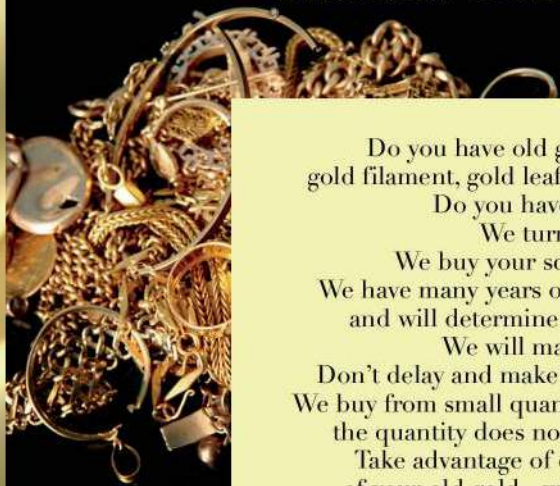
The Fiesta del Gazpacho started over 20 years ago and takes place over the first weekend in August when the soup is given out free in small ceramic bowls, which can be taken home. Each year the design on the bowl is different and bears the date of the festival. There is also music and dancing.

One of winter's most beautiful sights in the Axarquía is the almond blossom, but move on to the beginning of September and the village of Almáchar celebrates another, less well-known cold soup which is made with almonds: ajoblanco. The almonds are mixed with garlic, olive oil, vinegar and salt. It was towards the end of the 1960s when villagers started the tradition and it is recognised as a festival of special tourist interest by Andalucía's regional government. The festival takes place on the first Saturday in September.

So whether it's grapes, raisins or sweet wine that you'd like to celebrate over summer, sample a peach fresh from the tree in Periana, or try some refreshing cold soups, which of course are the ideal dish for hot summer days, then check out the veritable fruit salad of festivals that the Axarquía has to offer.

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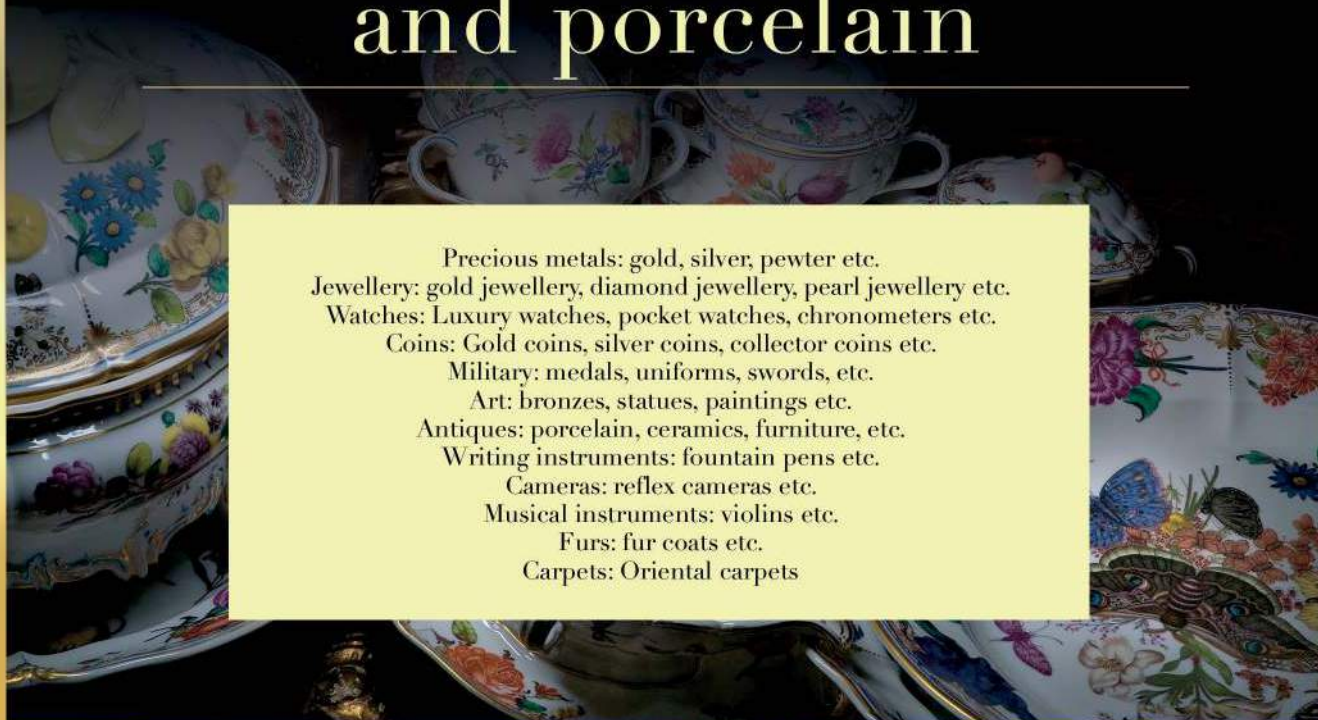
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Recipes for summer

Ajoblanco

:: SUR

AJOBLANCO

Ajoblanco, sometimes known as 'white gazpacho', is considered the original Spanish gazpacho. This elegant cold soup, flavoured with the gentle floral nuttiness of almonds, was enjoyed before tomatoes were brought over from the Americas. The dish is popular in Andalucía and the Extremadura regions, and with traditionally humble origins, it has few ingredients – it's likely that you already have everything you need in the store cupboard. The green grape garnish (typically Moscatel grapes, but any will do), adds an extra element of freshness. You can also add toasted almonds for an extra crunch.

► Ingredients

150g bread, 200g raw almonds, 2 garlic cloves, 100ml extra virgin olive oil, 30ml vinegar, A pinch of salt, 1 litre water, Green grapes, toasted almonds (optional).

► Method

1. Begin by soaking the bread in cold water for a few minutes until soaked through and softened. Remove the crust and set aside.
2. Boil some water, and once boiling, add the almonds. Leave them to soak for 3-4 minutes, and then peel off the skin.
3. In a blender or food processor, blend the peeled almonds with the garlic cloves and a pinch of salt.
4. Blend in the soaked bread to make a paste, then gradually pour in the olive oil to bind it.
5. Add in the vinegar, and lastly the water.
6. Serve, topped with green grapes (delicious cut up finely or served whole) and the toasted almonds if using.

MALAGUEÑA SALAD

The perfect example of the healthy and fresh Mediterranean diet, this unique salad is emblematic of the Costa del Sol's capital. Making the most of readily available, traditional products, the dish combines salted cod with fresh Andalusian oranges. The contrast of flavours makes for a fresh and filling dish, the perfect lunch on a warm day.

► Ingredients

200g salted cod loin, 2 oranges, 1 bunch of chives, 1 spring onion, 2 potatoes, 2 eggs hard boiled, black olives, extra virgin olive oil, salt pepper

► Method

Leave the salted cod to soak overnight. Drain, pat dry and remove any skin or bones. Cut the fish into bite-size pieces. Wash and peel the two potatoes. Cut into bite-size cubes and boil for 10-12 minutes. Place the two eggs into cold water, cover, and bring to a boil. Once boiling, turn down the heat and simmer for 10-12 minutes. Peel and cut into bite-size pieces. Peel the oranges, and cut into segments.



Chop the chives and spring onion. Mix cod, potatoes, eggs, oranges, chives, spring onion and black olives in a large bowl. Season with extra virgin olive oil, salt and pepper to taste. Oil, vinegar, and salt to taste.



WATERMELON GAZPACHO

This glamorous variation of the traditional soup makes the most of Andalucía's rich summer flavours. Watermelon is a wonderfully refreshing snack on a summer's day, and when blended into gazpacho its subtle sweetness balances out the savoury flavours, giving the dish an extra layer of flavour.

► Ingredients

500 g ripe tomatoes, 400 g watermelon (peeled), 1 small spring onion, 1 clove garlic, 1/2 green pepper, olive oil, salt, vinegar to taste.

► Method

Peel the garlic and cut it in half (remove the germ in the middle to avoid a bitter flavour). Chop the tomatoes and add to the blender with the watermelon and other vegetables. Whisk, while gradually adding the oil and vinegar to taste. Season to taste. When blended sieve with a chinois. Chill for an hour before serving.

Watermelon gazpacho :: SUR



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Europe's last bastion of sugar cane 'honey'

The much-loved syrup is a versatile ingredient in the kitchen

Sugar cane molasses has been produced in Frigiliana since 1630. The village is home to the only factory in Europe still in use, and it has been using the same traditional recipe since 1725

MARLENE WÖRNER

Above, the sugar cane molasses factory

:: MARLENE WÖRNER



A mule carries sugar cane to be made into molasses.

:: MARLENE WÖRNER

An advertising poster from the 40s or 50s.
:: DE LA TORRE



Frigiliana's 'miel de caña' is a natural product with honey-like consistency and a sweet taste. In fact, its name contains the word 'honey' in Spanish, though it has little in common with conventional honey except for its sweetness.

Miel de caña is molasses obtained from sugar cane, and this Southeast Asian plant started to be widely used in Spain at the start of the 8th century. In some areas on the coast of Malaga and Granada it is still possible to find small sugar cane plantations.

The crop itself is harvested from March to May. It is cut and collected into bundles, then transported to the factory, where presses extract the juice from the cane. This is then purified and boiled until the desired consistency is reached.

A factory with history

Sugar cane honey has been produced in Frigiliana, in the Axarquía district east of Malaga, since as early as 1630. The village is also home to the only traditional factory still in use in all of Europe.

The Ingenio Nuestra Señora del Carmen has been making miel de caña since 1725 using the same traditional recipe. The owners of multiple sugar mills joined forces in 1928 and founded the De la Torre society which still runs the factory today.

The honey, which is made without the help of bees, is called Nuestra Señora del Carmen, as it always has been. It is not only a reminder of the past, but also a gastronomic speciality of Frigiliana and part of the village's identity.

Thousands of years

The first mention of sugar cane molasses dates back to 324 BCE: Strabo, a geographer and historian from Ancient Greece, records that one of Alexander the Great's generals mentioned "reeds which produce honey without bees".

In around 711 to 726, Muslims from Egypt brought sugar cane to the Iberian peninsula so they could grow it, since for them miel de caña is a holy or pure substance.

In 1493, on his second voyage to America, Christopher Columbus took

sugar cane to the new continent. And in around 1630 the fifth count of Frigiliana, Íñigo de Lara, repopulated the village. He built houses, planted sugar cane and built a mill to extract the juice.

Cuisine

Sugar cane molasses is versatile in both traditional and modern cuisine, whether as a sweetener, an ingredient in dressings, dips or sauces, or to garnish fried foods and tempura.

Among the best-known dishes is the delicious 'berenjenas con miel de caña' - fried aubergine cut into slices or strips and drizzled with sugar cane honey. This is typically served along with the many fried fish dishes in 'chiringuito' beach bars on the Costa del Sol, as well as in traditional Spanish restaurants.

Salad hearts with a slice of goat's cheese and miel de caña make for a quick and flavoursome starter.

Some fruits, especially oranges, strawberries or pineapple taste wonderful with miel de caña.

Sugar cane molasses also goes great with plain yogurt and Spanish 'queso fresco', as well as cottage cheese and cream cheese. Some sweeten their coffee with it, and molasses even adds a distinctive note to rum.

In the factory in Frigiliana traditional miel de caña can be found in diverse shapes and forms. Even bonbons are on offer. And the so-called 'perlas', small balls filled with molasses, can add a creative twist to your cooking. They are eye-catching and provide an

unusual gastronomic experience when they explode in your mouth.

Health properties

Miel de caña from the factory in Frigiliana could even be described as a superfood, for it is natural and contains lots of healthy nutrients from the sugar cane plant.

These are, among others, vitamins B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, B8, B9 and B12, as well as minerals like potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron and selenium. Moreover the product is not sulphurised.

Numerous studies have reported the health benefits of sugar cane honey. According to them, it is good for one's hair, makes for a perfect, low-calorie sweetener and even has some laxative properties.

It is not uncommon for sugar cane honey to be taken as a dietary supplement to prevent colds or kick start the day with energy by mixing two tablespoons into a cup of hot water in the morning. To ensure a good night's rest, it is recommended to put two tablespoons of miel de caña into a cup of warm milk and to drink this slowly before going to bed.

Recipes for the perfect miel de caña dinner

Starter

FRIED AUBERGINE WITH MIEL DE CAÑA

► Ingredients

1 large aubergine, milk or beer, flour, olive oil, salt, miel de caña

► Method

Wash and thinly slice the aubergine. Sprinkle with salt and cover with milk or beer and let stand for about 30 minutes. The beer gives the dish a slightly bitter note that contrasts with the honey. Drain, coat in flour and fry in very hot olive oil. Remove excess oil with kitchen paper. Transfer to a plate and drizzle with miel de caña.

Main course

LAMB WITH MIEL DE CAÑA

► Ingredients (4 people)

1.2kg lamb, 200g tomato sauce, 200g onion, 100g miel de caña, 1 tsp thyme, 100g prunes, 1 pinch of fennel seeds, salt, pepper

► Method

Place the boneless lamb in a casserole dish and sauté with a little olive oil. When the meat is browned, add the chopped onion and let it caramelize. Then cover with water and tomato sauce and season with salt and thyme. Bring to the boil and cook for an hour. Add miel de caña and prunes and simmer for another 20 minutes. Sprinkle with fennel seeds before serving. Serve with couscous with chopped coriander.

Dessert

TORRIJAS WITH MIEL DE CAÑA

► Ingredients (4 people)

1 loaf of bread in medium slices, 1 stick of cinnamon, 500ml milk, orange and lemon zest, 250ml sweet Muscatel wine, 4 eggs, olive oil for frying, miel de caña

► Method

Put the milk and a dash of wine in a bowl. Soak the bread slices in it and let drain. Then dip in beaten egg and fry until firm and golden brown. Heat the miel de caña with a little water in a container and brush the bread slices with it using a pastry brush. This dessert can be enjoyed warm or cold.

MORE INFORMATION

► miledelatorre.com

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Cocktails to welcome the summer

Six refreshing cocktails from head bartenders of some of the best terraces on the Costa

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

Summer is just around the corner so why not welcome it as it deserves by enjoying a cocktail? Relax on some of the most attractive terraces in Malaga city and the Costa del Sol, located on rooftops of hotels or on the beach. Their head bartenders offer us some simple recipes to make at home and also some suggestions as to what to order at their bars.

The team is made up of Andrea Salviche, bartender at Blackberry Café (Fuen-

girola), Daniel Cortés, from Aquí Te Quiero Ver (Marbella), Víctor Varela (Chiriguito Varela, Torre del Mar), who has just been proclaimed champion Bar Manager in the ABE Provincial Cocktail Competition and will represent Malaga in the Spanish Championship; Lautaro Amarilla, from The Top terrace (Hotel Molina Lario, Malaga); José Berbel (Hotel Only You Lola y Carmen, Malaga), and Hugo Díez Bosovich, from Tonka Bar (Torremolinos).

What do they have for us? Well, as Antonio Garrido, head of the cocktail school

359 Cocktail Concept and promoter of the Cócteles por Malaga route explains, "refreshing drinks, with tropical and fruity flavours that are perfect for Malaga's climate." If you didn't know about the cocktail route which took place in May, or if you were left wanting to enjoy more, install the free app Cócteles por Málaga, which geolocates the nearest cocktail bars. At the moment there are 22, but Garrido announces that the list will grow soon, incorporating bars, restaurants, hotels and other establishments.

Andrea Salviche

CORAZÓN DE MELÓN

► **Business:** Blackberry Café . Calle Churruca. Fuengirola.

► **Preparation**
In a liquidiser put: 80g chopped melon, 6cl Stolichnaya vodka, 2cl rose petal liqueur, 12cl orange juice. Liquidise the ingredients together until smooth and serve with lots of ice in a Tiki jar.



José Berbel

GREEN MARE

► **Business:** Hotel Only You Lola & Carmen. Alameda Principal, 1. Malaga.

► **Preparation**
Into a cocktail shaker put 6cl of Gin Mare, 2.5 cl lime juice, 2 tablespoons of rosemary infused sugar and a couple of ice cubes. Close lid and shake energetically to fully mix. Serve in a coupe style glass and cover with a layer of lime and basil foam.



Daniel Cortés

LA MALVADA

► **Business:** Aquí Te Quiero Ver. Playa Real Zaragoza, C/ Atenea, s/n. Marbella.

► **Preparation**
Into a cocktail shaker pour 5cl of Cachaça Capucana, 2cl of egg white, 2.5cl of lime juice, 2cl of green Chartreuse and 2.5cl of white chocolate syrup. Add ice cubes, close tightly and shake. Serve in a champagne coupe glass.

Hugo Díez Boscovich

YO FUI A EGB: NARANJITO

► **Business:** Tonka Cocktail Bar. Urb. Costa Lago. Paseo Marítimo Playamar, 69. Torremolinos.

► **Preparation**
Into a cocktail shaker put 3cl of Flaming Pig whisky, 5cl of Malavita amaretto, 1.5cl of egg white, 3cl of lime juice and 1.5cl of Monin Naranja Sanguina syrup (blood orange syrup). Shake well and pour into a glass (preferably orange coloured) over lots of crushed ice.



Lautaro Amarilla

HALA-KEA

► **Business:** Terraza The Top, Hotel Molina Lario. Calle Molina Lario, 20, 8th floor (Malaga)

► **Preparation**
Into a cocktail shaker pour 5cl of Dead Man's Fingers Piña rum (pineapple flavoured rum), 3.5cl of lime juice, 2cl almond cream and 2cl Triple Sec. Shake well. Serve in a bamboo highball glass with lots of crushed ice.



Víctor Varela

ROSEQUIRI

► **Business:** Chiringuito Varela. Paseo Marítimo de Levante, 11. Torre del Mar.

► **Preparation**
Into a cocktail shaker pour 3cl of Dead Man's Fingers rum, 3cl of Lagar de Cabrera Rosado (D. O. Sierra de Málaga, Dimobe) wine, 2cl of lemon, 1cl of Hibiscus 1883 syrup, a sprig of mint and some ice cubes to chill. Close the lid and shake to combine. Serve in a cocktail glass.





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WHAT TO DO

More ideas for the summer...

WATER PARKS

Aqualand Torremolinos
Leisure water park for the whole family with various giant slides, wave pool, whirlpools.
C/ Cuba, 10. 29620 Torremolinos,
Telephone: +34 630 849 403
www.aqualand.es/torremolinos
Daily opening hours: June and September: 11am-6pm.
July and August: 11am-7pm. Admission: 32 euros adults, 25 euros children; online tickets at 29 and 22 euros.

AquaMijas
Fun pools for the whole family with various giant slides.
29640 Mijas Costa, A-7, km 209.
Telephone: 952 460 404.
www.aquamijas.com
Opening hours: June: 10.30am-6pm
July and August: 10.30am-7pm
1-11 September: 10.30am-6pm
Admissions: Adults 27.9 euros; Junior 21.5 euros; Kids 16.5 euros
Family discounts and multi-day tickets, online tickets reduced.

Aquavelis Torre del Mar
Leisure water park with various giant slides, wave pools and a lake landscape.
Ruta del Pomelo, Urb. El Tomillar, 29740 Torre del Mar.
Telephone: 952 542 758,
www.aquavelis.es.
Daily opening hours: June and September: 11am-6pm,
July and August: 11am-7pm .
Admissions: 26.5 euros; discount for children, groups, season tickets and online tickets.

Aqua-Tropic Almuñécar
Salt-water water park. Various giant slides, a children's paradise. Paseo Reina Sofía, S/N, 18690 Almuñécar, Granada. Telephone: 958 632 081
www.aqua-tropic.com
Opening hours: 11am-7pm. Admission: 24.5 euros, children 19 euros; discount for residents, groups and online tickets.

ANIMAL PARKS AND ZOOS

Selwo Marina
Dolphinarium animal park with four areas: Antilles, Virgin Forest (Hondonada), Ice Island and Amazonia with corresponding animals; shows with dolphins, nature 'mysteries', penguin feeding.
Parque de la Paloma. 29630, Benalmádena.
Telephone: 952 577 773.
www.selwomarina.es
Opening hours: June to August and 1-4 September: 10am-9pm. Rest of September: 10am-6pm.
Admission: 22.9 euros, reduced 15.90 euros. Season tickets, combination and online tickets are reduced.

Sea Life
Interactive aquarium with marine animals to see, touch and feed. Puerto Marina, 29630, Benalmádena.
Telephone: 952 560 150.
www.visitsealife.com/Benalmadena
Daily opening hours: July and August 10.30am-11pm (last admission 10.30pm); September 11am-7pm (last admission 6.30pm).
Admission: 17.5 euros, children under 3 years free, season tickets, online tickets discounted.

Selwo Aventura
Selwo Aventura. Wildlife Adventure Park. Different routes to follow and discover animals and plants from all over the world. Avda. Parque Selwo, s/n, 29680 Estepona.
Telephone: 952577773.
www.selwo.es.
Opening hours: June through September: 10am-6pm.
Specific times for guided tours.
Admission: 11-65 years, 25.9 euros.
Children from the age of three 18 euros; combination tickets and season tickets available, online tickets discounted.

Bioparc Fuengirola
Animal park with exotic animals, baobab trees and tropical animal shows. Avda. Camilo José Cela, 6. 829640 Fuengirola. Telephone: 952 666 301
www.bioparcfuengirola.es.
Opening hours: June through September 10am-11pm.
Admission: 23 euros, +65: 18 euros, children (3-9 years) 17 euros, family tickets and season tickets available.

Butterfly Park
Europe's largest butterfly house, housed in a Thai temple. More than 1,500 butterfly species from all over the world. Av de Retamar, 29639 Benalmádena.
Opening hours: 10am-7.30pm. Telephone 951 211 196
www.mariposariodebenalmadena.com.
Admission: adults 10 euros, children and seniors 8.50 euros. Discounted online tickets.

Lobo Park

Wolf park with wolves in a natural environment, seminars on wolves and dog training, guided wolf tours. Carretera Antequera-Álora, km 16, Antequera. Telephone 952 031 107. www.lobopark.com. Admission: adults 11.5 euros, Children 7.5 euros. Guided tours at 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm and 4.30 pm, advance booking not necessary. Special tours such as photo safari by appointment only.

Crocodile Park

Theme park with crocodiles, turtles and exotic birds. Guided tours and demonstrations. C/ Cuba, 14. 29620 Torremolinos. Telephone: 650 736 877 www.cocodrilospark.com Opening hours: July-August 11am-7pm; September 11am-6pm. Admission: Adults 16 euros, reduced 12 euros. Online tickets discounted.

BOAT TRIPS

Costasol Cruceros

Boat trips Fuengirola - Benalmádena, daily between 10.30 and 16.30 (Benalmádena) and 11.30 and 18.00 (Fuengirola). Round trip adults 16 euros, children 10 euros. Dolphin trips 1 May to 31 October. Daily 10.30, 12.30, 15h (except Saturdays), 17h (limited days) from Benalmádena Port. Adults 16 euros, children 10 euros. Advance booking necessary. Fuengirola marina, Local 49, Sporthafen Benalmádena, Avda. Antonio Machado 31, Edificio 1. Telephone 678 618 585. Web www.costasolcruceros.com.

OTHER IDEAS

Amazonia climbing park

Climbing and adventure park with suspension bridges and various climbing courses.



Aquatropic Almuñécar

Salt-water water park, which has various giant slides, a children's paradise. Paseo Reina Sofía, S/N, 18690 Almuñécar, Granada. Telephone: 958 632 081 www.aqua-tropic.com Opening hours: 11am-7pm. Admission: 24.5 euros, children 19 euros; discount for residents, groups and online tickets.



Amazonia climbing park

Climbing and adventure park with suspension bridges and various climbing courses. C/ Valeriano Rodríguez, 29604 Marbella. Telephone: 952835505, weekends 625089320 www.aventura-amazonia.com/parques-amazonia/marbella. Opening hours: please enquire individually, advance booking requested. Admission: Adults 24 euros. Discount for children and groups.

C/ Valeriano Rodríguez, 29604 Marbella.

Telephone: 952835505, weekends 625089320

www.aventura-amazonia.com/parques-amazonia/marbella.

Opening hours: please enquire individually, advance booking requested.

Admission: Adults 24 euros. Discount for children and groups.

Funny Hill

Karting Marbella, Go-karts for children and adults, amusement arcade, trampolines, bumper cars.

Ctra Antigua de Ojén, Marbella, N-340, km 184.

Tel. 952 823 359.

Web: www.funnyhill.es Opening times: Mon-Fri 3pm-9pm; Sat, Sun and holidays 12pm-9pm. Price according to Go-kart duration.

Cable Car Benalmádena

Takes visitors to the top of Mount Calamorro, for spectacular views and hiking routes. Explanada Tívoli, s/n. 29630, Benalmádena.

Tel. 951 560 324. www.telefericobenalmadena.com

Opening times: July and August 10am-12am; September 11am-7pm. Admission: 16.90 euros (return). One way tickets and discounts for groups and online ticket purchases.

Orchid house

Over 1,300 species of orchid are housed in the two storey orchidarium in Estepona. A

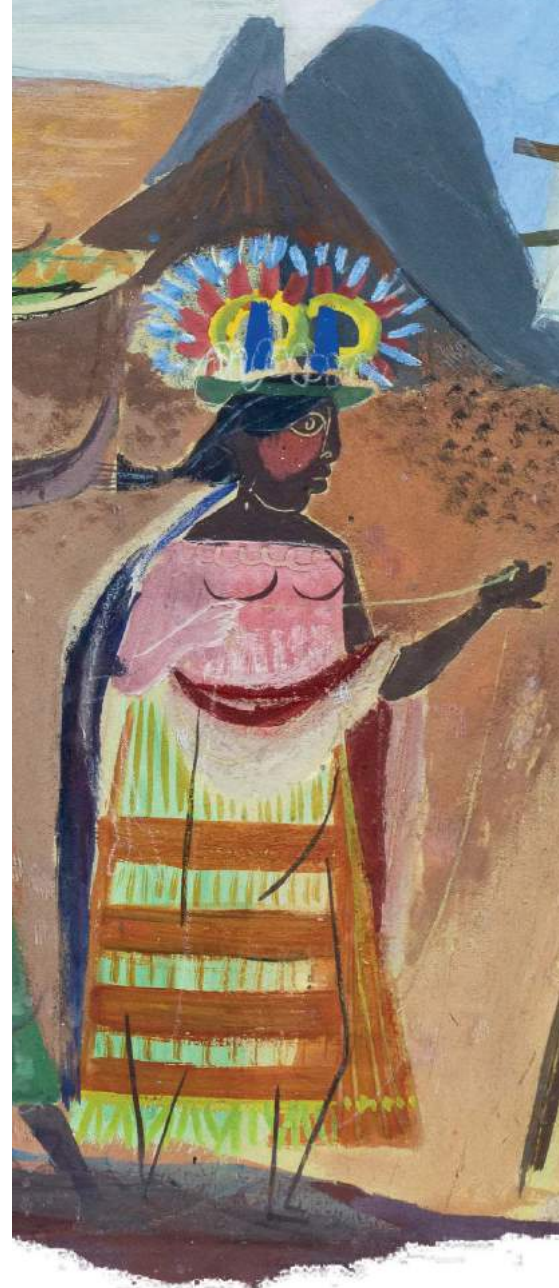
lake and waterfalls recreate the natural habitat of these exotic flowers and are also the perfect setting for a diverse range of plants. Calle Terraza, 86. Estepona, 29680.

Adults 3 euros, children 1 euro. Opening times: Tues-Sat 10am-1.30pm and 3-6pm. Sun 10am-2pm.

Telephone: 951 517 074

www.orchidariumestepona.com

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MUSEUMS

Picasso Museum

A museum showcasing the works of local artist Pablo Picasso.
C/ San Agustín, 8, 29015, Malaga
Telephone: +34 952 127 600
www.museopicassomalaga.org
Opening hours: July and August 10am-8pm; September: 10am-7pm.
Admission: 9 euros. Free for under 16s; check online for reduced price eligibility.

Jorge Rando Museum

The city's first expressionist museum.
C/ Cruz del Molinillo, 29013, Malaga
Telephone: +34 952 210 991
www.museojorgerando.org/
Opening hours: 10am-2pm, 4pm-8pm (Mon-Fri), 10am-2pm (Sat). Admission: Free.

Museo de Malaga

A museum showcasing works from two 'sections': the fine arts and archaeological discoveries.
Plaza Aduana s/n, 29015 Málaga
Telephone: +34 951 039 269
www.museosdeandalucia.es
July, August and September: Tues-Sat 9am-9pm, Sundays and holidays 9am-3pm.
Admission: Free for EU citizens; 1.5 euros for other nationalities. Check online for group tours and guided visits.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

Art museum with a focus on 19th-century Spanish and Andalusian paintings.
C/ Compañía, 10, 29008, Malaga
Telephone: +34 952 217 511
www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org
Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10am-8pm; closed on Mondays.
Admission: General 10 euros; reduced price 6 euros; groups 8 euros. Check online for reduced prices eligibility.

Ralli Museum Marbella

A museum devoted to the dissemination of contemporary Latin American and European art located in the heart of

Marbella and opened in 2000.
Urb. Coral Beach, Rio Verde, N-340, km.176, 29602 Marbella.
Telephone: +34 952 857 923
www.rallimuseums.com/en/Marbella
Opening hours: Tues-Sat 10am-3pm; closed Sunday and Monday.
Admission: Free entry.

Russian Museum

Art museum housed in a building dating back to 1895.
Av/ Sor Teresa Prat, 15, Malaga
Telephone: +34 951 926 150
www.coleccionmuseoruso.es
Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 9.30am-8pm.
Admission: General 8 euros; reduced price 4 euros; check online for further pricing.

Car Museum

Museum with a collection of around 90 classic cars, plus displays of haute-couture fashion & hats..
Av/ Sor Teresa Prat, 15, Malaga
Telephone: +34 952 217 511
www.museoautomovilmalaga.com
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10am-2.30pm, 4pm-7pm.
Admission: General 9.5 euros; reduced price 5 euros; more pricing online.

MAD Antequera

Museum with artistic pieces acquired by Provincial council
C/ Diego Ponce, 12, Antequera
Telephone: +34 952 096 695
<https://madantequera.com/>
Opening hours: 23 June-4 September 10am-2pm, 5pm-8.30pm (Tues-Sun).

CAC Museum

A contemporary art museum located next to Malaga's Guadalmedina river. C/ Alemania, 2, 29001, Malaga
Telephone: +34 952 208 500
www.cacmalaga.eu
Opening hours: July - August 9am-2pm, 5pm-9.30pm (Tues-Sun); September 9am-9.30pm (Tues-Sun).
Admission: Free.



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Web: <https://ageconcernfym.com>



Pompidou Museum

A branch of the Parisian art museum displaying works in modern digs within a glass cube.
Pasaje Doctor Carrillo Casaux, 29016, Malaga
Telephone: +34 951 926 200
<https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/>
Opening hours: Wed-Mon 9.30am-8pm; closed every Tuesday.
Admission: General 9 euros; reduced price 5.5 euros, check online for further pricing.

Wine Museum

Museum in an 18th-century palace showcasing local wine-making history, process & culture.
Plaza de los Viñeros, 1, Malaga
Telephone: +34 952 227 990
<https://museovinomalaga.com/uk/>
Opening hours: 10am-5pm (Mon-Fri); 10am-2pm (Saturday). Admission: 5 euros; more prices online.

CAC La Coracha

An exhibition space linked to the contemporary CAC Museum.
Subida Coracha, 25, 29016 Málaga
Telephone: +34 952 208 500
www.cacmalaga.eu
Opening hours: July - August 10am-2pm, 5.30pm-9.30pm (Tues-Sun); September 10am-8pm (Tues-Sun).
Admission: Free.

CAC Museum Velez-Malaga

A contemporary art museum located in the Axarquía.
C/ Félix Lomas, 27, 29700, Velez-Malaga
Telephone: +34 952 504 349
www.facebook.com/CACVLZ/
Opening hours: Tues-Sat 10am-2pm, 5pm-8pm; Sunday 10am-2pm. Admission: Free entry.

CAC Mijas

Art museum that houses the second most important collection of Picasso's pottery.
C/ Malaga, 28, Mijas
Telephone: +34 952 590 442
<https://cacmijas.info>
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10.30am-2pm. Admission: 3 euros; under 5s free.

Glass Museum

A collection of glass artwork inside a 17th century house.
Plazuela Santísimo Cristo de la Sangre, 2, Malaga
Telephone: +34 952 220 271
www.museovidrioycristalmalaga.com/index.html
Hours: Tues-Sun 11am-7pm.
General admission 7 euros; 5 euros reduced.



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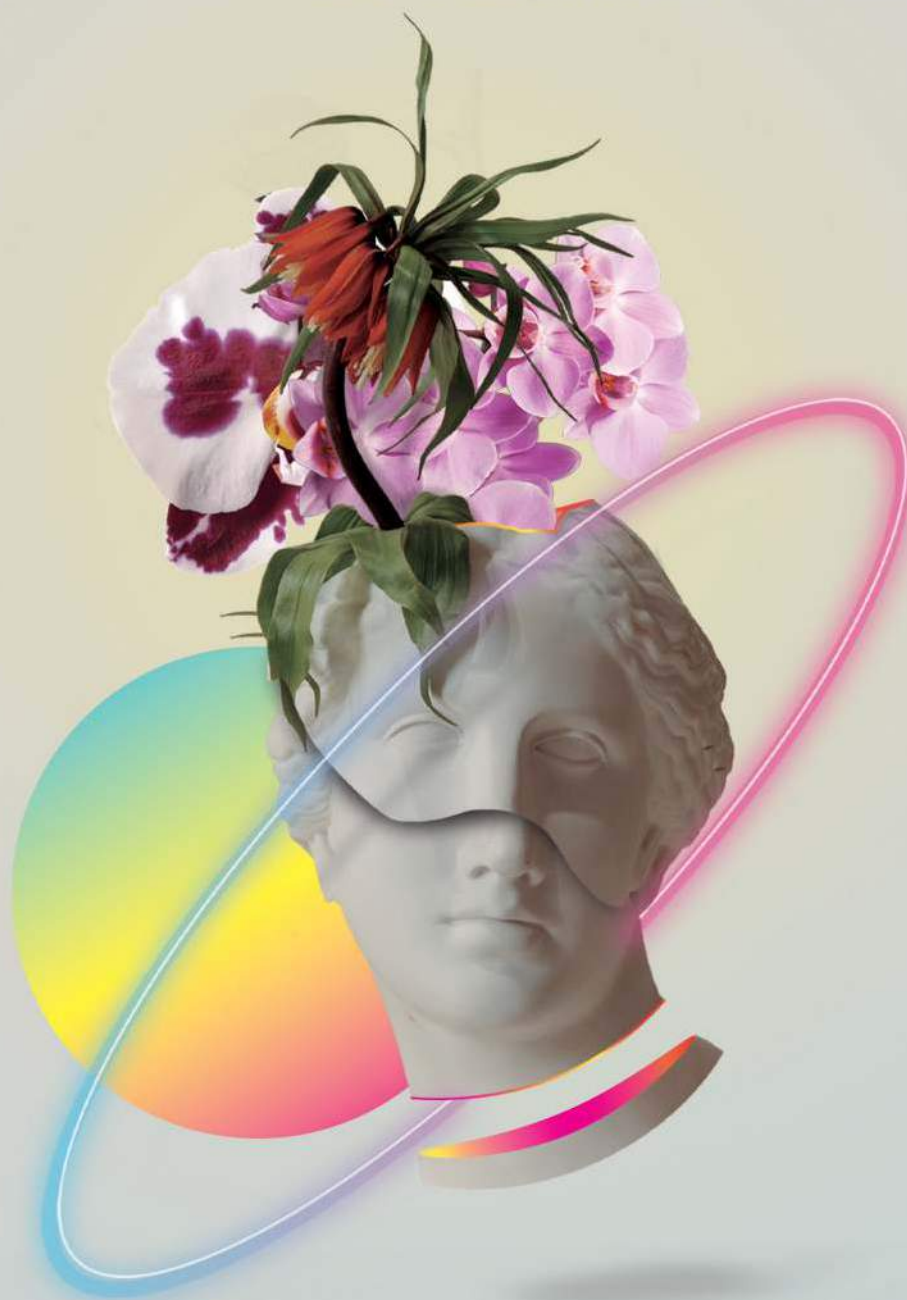
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