

## **PLACES OF INTEREST**

### **BEACHES & NATURE**

#### **Laguna de la Mata & Salinas de San Miguel**

The two salt lakes of Laguna de la Mata & Salinas de San Miguel which surround Torre Vieja create a wonderful micro climate. These lakes are home to a host of wildlife including flamingoes, and Laguna de la Mata is now a conservation area providing walks and trails.

#### **Clean Blue Flag beaches**

Near to Las Ramblas are the beautiful clean beaches of La Zenia, Cabo Roig and Campoamar. These beaches are European blue flag standard and are very safe. If you explore, you will find tiny sandy coves away from the main beach.

#### **Costa Blanca area**

The area of the Costa Blanca "white coast" is situated between the Costa Brava in the north and the Costa del Sol in the south.

It is within the region of Valencia with the Mediterranean Sea on its shores. This coast has been a favourite area for many people over the years and attracts all nationalities from Europe.

The coast which is protected by the Crevoliente mountains to the west and the warm sea gives the Costa Blanca a perfect climate.

There are orange and lemon groves and many fruit orchards in the surrounding areas.

The Costa Blanca is also famous for its seafood and fish landed daily at the local ports and sold in local markets.

#### **La Manga & The Mar Menor**

The Mar Menor (small sea) is a part of the Mediterranean separated from the sea by the La Manga strip. The water is shallow, warmer than the Mediterranean and much saltier. Resorts such as Lo Pagan, Los Alcazares and Santiago de la Ribera are typically Spanish with very few visitors. Some excellent fish restaurants can be found here. Whilst you are in the area, visit La Manga Club, the world famous golf resort, which is situated in the hills about five kilometres before La Manga.

#### **The Island of Tabarca**

Well worth a boat trip from Torre Vieja sea front. Choose a calm day; pack your snorkel and sun umbrella. Sample the wonderful barbecued fresh fish in one of the little beach side restaurants.

### **MOUNTAINS**

#### **Fortuna**

Inland hot springs. Open from 10.00 to 15.00 hours. Situated west of Murcia

#### **Guadalest**

This 12<sup>th</sup> century mountain top town is situated north of here, inland from Benidorm. Mountain peaks reaching 8000 feet. A most enjoyable day out.

#### **The Sierra Espuña**

A wild and remote mountain range situated inland from Cartagena with peaks reaching in excess of 6000 feet. Don't miss the 7<sup>th</sup> century village of Almedo.

## **TOWNS**

### **Alicante**

Alicante is the capital of the province and is an elegant and modern city. It has a modern harbour development with restaurants and bars built around the marina. Alicante is a modern city but still encapsulates the old Valencian style with many pavement cafes.

Visit the cathedral or the town hall and take a stroll along its famous port esplanade, but most of all the Castle of Santa Barbera is a must.

Super high quality shops.

### **Elche**

Elche is a roman town with many historical and cultural buildings. Elche is famous for growing magnificent palm trees which are exported around the world. The city has a thriving shoe industry.

### **Guardamar**

Guardamar is situated close to Torrevieja, and the two towns are connected by a magnificent beach and pine tree dunes. Part of this area is a conservation area and has a lovely park with picnic facilities and walks through the pines to the sea.

### **Murcia**

Murcia is the capital of a region known as the "garden of Spain".

Historical town with ancient buildings and a magnificent cathedral.

An affluent Spanish city. Murcia has a very up-market shopping centre.

Visit the cathedral, the Calles de la Traperia and de la Plateria, the museum Salzillo and the Sanctuary of Fuensanta which is perched on a hilltop overlooking Murcia with superb views. Outside the city is the vast swathes of farmland (la huerta) where you will find vegetables, flowers and fruit growing in abundance.

### **Orihuela**

Orihuela is a paradise for the historic architect. The main attraction being the very dark cathedral and cloisters.

### **Torrevieja**

Torrevieja is a growing town with many facilities, shops, markets, marina, sailing club and funfair.