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Solmar Estates Area Guide: Regions & Towns of Alicante and Murcia



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Costa Blanca North

The Costa Blanca has a reputation for being a Mediterranean paradise and is a prime location boasting a superb climate with very mild winter temperatures and the supply of plentiful days of sunshine each year. This climate draws thousands of tourists and encourages participation in a wide range of sporting activities.

In the Northern Costa Blanca, the coast is peppered with a lovely mix the deeply indented rocky coves and relaxing bays. This privileged corner of Spain offers everything that has made this country so highly favoured amongst property purchasers.

For those of you interested in a broader variety of activities, the Costa Blanca has a lot to offer with a wide range of health spas, leisure facilities, numerous excellent golf courses to a championship standard and the crystal clear waters which allow you to enjoy every water sport imaginable.

The clear blue waters and stunning underwater scenery make it a diver's paradise. You can also watch the setting of the sun whilst having a dip in the cool blue waters which is an experience not easily forgotten. Covered with Mediterranean flora scrub and coastal pine, this is an area whose romantic lighthouses and ancient ruins encapsulate the history and soul of the Mediterranean. The coast boasts excellent transport links via motorways, railways, ferry ports and three international airports. The Costa Blanca is one of the most stunning and unspoilt areas in Europe. With excellent average temperatures the climate is rated by the World Health Organisation as one of the healthiest in the world.

The following pages contain details of main towns, areas and urbanizaciones of Costa Blanca North

Towns, Areas and Urbanizacions of Costa Blanca North

Main towns are indicated with a green bar and smaller towns/areas and urbanizacions are indicated with a red bar:

Alcoy

For most tourists the city of Alcoy in the interior of the Costa Blanca will be little known. With its crossing of five different rivers (most of them with little water), Alcoy has a special charm. With the rivers Serpis, Uxola, Molinar, Bnisaído and Riquer, all crossing Alcoy, it is full of impressive bridges and viaducts. Around the old town city centre there are many small bars and cafes offering a variety of local dishes and refreshments. The Plaza de España with its city hall (from 1861) and the church of Santa Maria. The archeological museum of Alcoy has various findings from the roman and iberian time.

Alcoy is best known for its famous fiesta of the Moors and Christians. It takes place around St George's Day at the 23rd of April. The celebrations take several days and are the most famous around the entire Costa Blanca. It is an absolute must see for every tourist and local. The museum de fiestas has Lots of lovely decorated historic costumes and pictures of past fiestas will give you a little impression, why everybody around the Costa Blanca talks about Alcoy when it comes to the biggest celebration of moros y christianos.

Benidorm

The overwhelming popularity of Benidorm is largely due to the fact that there is something for everyone. Sports lovers, sun seekers, enjoying a holiday or making the permanent move, the lively atmosphere of Benidorm is an attraction unto itself. Like much of the south coast of Spain, the first settlers were the Moors. Benidorm was a small fishing village with a modest number of inhabitants. Today the city is one of the most popular areas of Spain. The nearby beaches, mountain ranges and location to main motorways are ideal for owning property in this area. Benidorm is situated north of the White Coast, surrounded by the mountains of Sierra Helada to the east, Aitana to the north and Tossal de la Cala to the west, which shield the area from surrounding winds and maintain the pleasant year-round climate.

Here is a small selection of the popular daytime attractions in Benidorm :- Terra Mitica, one of the largest and newest theme parks in the Mediterranean. Terra Natura, a superb wild animal theme park. There are also 2 safari parks close by with a range of wild animals & Cactuslandia which boasts a display of over 1000 species of succulents & cactus. Mundomar (Seaworld) with dolphins, sea lions, penguins etc. Aqualandia water park with waterfalls, swimming pools, waterslides, waves etc.

For those seeking real Spain the old town has it all, a maze of cobbled streets, the Iglesia de San Jaime a

200 year old parish church and even a boat trip across the bay to Benidorm Island. The triangular shaped Island is also known as Peacock Island as it is primarily occupied by birds (mainly peacocks); a must for bird lovers. There are several museums in Benidorm which are worth seeking out inc. a wax works museum.

The area is jam packed full of hotels & apartments to rent. The Levante beach side of the town (north) is the very busy touristy side of town with the majority of bars, restaurants, night clubs etc. inc. the famous Benidorm Palace. Also on offer is a large range of watersports, jet skis, scuba diving, water skiing, windsurfing, paragliding etc. etc. The Poniente beach side of town (south) is much quieter & more Spanish. There is also old Town Benidorm. In all parts of Benidorm you will find many tourist centres with information of everything that happens in & around Benidorm.

Altea

Altea is located in the Spanish region of Alicante on the Costa Blanca. This is without doubt one of the most charming towns to be found on Spain's 'White Coast'. If you want all night clubs and the bright city lights on your holiday, give Altea a miss. This town is a holiday haven for the more discerning tourist who will be captivated by its medieval cobbled streets, its picture book old quarter and the delights of its palm-fringed seafront esplanade. The town is just 11 kilometres north of Benidorm but these two resorts are worlds apart. Altea is a restful resort where there's plenty to see and do without being bothered by the mayhem which typifies some of the busier coastal towns in high season. You'll find it 62 kilometres north of Alicante's El Altet international airport. Flying time from London is two and a half hours and the drive to Altea takes about 45 minutes on the toll-paying motorway. You'll pass by the skyscraper city of Benidorm and looming majestically in the distance you'll see one of the Costa Blanca's most distinctive landmarks - the church of Altea with its magnificent dome of blue and white glazed ceramic tiles. Make a trip up to the church, through the narrow streets of the old quarter, one of your first priorities. Wind your way up through the cobbled lanes (many are stepped and inaccessible to traffic) until you come to the plaza at the top of the hill where you'll find the church and the most magnificent views of the mountains and Altea bay.

It's easy to understand why Altea became a Bohemian centre for musicians, artists and writers from all over Europe when they first discovered its delights back in the early 60s. The town is now geared to the demands of the modern day tourist but still retains that Bohemian air. You'll find a fascinating array of tiny shops offering exquisite local crafts, paintings and gifts. There are top class restaurants where you can enjoy the local seafood and rice dishes as well as some excellent international cuisine. The impressive new arts centre and concert hall - the Palau Altea Centre d'Arts - provides a wealth of entertainment and cultural activities for the benefit of residents and holidaymakers alike. Down at the seafront you'll find a series of pebble and shingle beaches where all water sports are available during the summer months. The seafront promenade is also the venue for the huge Tuesday market, one of the biggest of its kind on the Costa Blanca. It's the place to pick up some great bargains (Moroccan rugs, cheap clothing, ceramics etc) along with some highly suspect 'designer' watches, T-shirts and sunglasses.

Zona Altea Hills

Calpe

Calpe is located in the Spanish region of Alicante on the Costa Blanca. The town is steeped in history and offers a wealth of culture - yet this ancient fishing port has comfortably married its centuries old

past with the demands of modern day tourism. Calpe is a mixture of high rise beachside buildings geared to the needs of the 21st century tourist and charming, narrow medieval streets bearing the hallmarks of a bygone age. With its ideal location, near perfect climate and many attractions, Calpe has proved a magnet for foreign tourists and homeowners alike. Thousands of British and German visitors have come here for a short visit and never returned to their native land! For holidaymakers, Calpe offers the full range of accommodation - big, modern hotels, small 'hostals', self catering apartments and villas with pools.

There are quality sandy beaches, excellent local shopping facilities and a wealth of bars and restaurants offering all kinds of local and international cuisine. People travel from all over the Costa Blanca to dine here - whether you want Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Lebanese, German or English food, you'll find it all in Calpe. The town's most famous and distinguishing feature is its mighty Penon de Ifach - the huge rock which rises 332 metres out of the Mediterranean, reminiscent of the rock of Gibraltar. The Penon was declared a nature reserve in 1987 and now provides a safe haven for a variety of birds and unusual flora and fauna. For the energetic, a hike to the top of the Penon de Ifach is a memorable experience - but definitely not one to be contemplated by the elderly, disabled or those prone to vertigo!

Take a trip to the old town and you'll find ample evidence of Calpe's rich history in murals, monuments and museums which keep alive the town's links with its chequered past. Remains of Iberian tribes, dating back to several hundreds of years BC, have been found around the Penon de Ifach. There are reminders of the times when Moors and Christians co-existed relatively peacefully in this town for centuries & evidence of the measures taken to protect Calpe from the scourge of the Barbary pirates who plagued this stretch of the coast between the 14th and 17th centuries.

Denia

The town of Denia is located in the Spanish region of Alicante on the Costa Blanca. This is a delightful cosmopolitan town, rich in history and culture and its streets are a fascinating showcase of architecture through the ages. Its buildings are a permanent monument to the civilisations which have made their mark here - Iberian, Carthaginian, Roman, Arab and Christian. These days tourism blends comfortably with the hustle and bustle of a working town. The town is midway between the two international airports of Valencia (to the north) and Alicante (to the south). Both airports are within an hour's drive using the toll paying A7 motorway. Denia is just a 15 minute hop from Exit 62. This is much more than a holiday resort and you'll find it a busier place than its coastal neighbours, Oliva and Javea. As well as being a magnet for tourists, mainly British and German, Denia is also a thriving commercial centre. It boasts modern supermarkets, an extraordinary number of banks, some top quality shops, tax consultants, lawyers, doctors, dentists, the area's biggest hospitals and the courts of justice. But Denia's initial growth was as a seafaring town and it's still a working port. The old fishermen's quarter preserves its delightful cobbled streets and whitewashed buildings but nearby you'll find a modern yacht marina and the ferry terminal serving the Balearic Islands of Ibiza, Menorca, Mallorca and Formentera. Denia's focal point is its impressive 16th century castle which dominates the town from a height of 58 metres.

You can park on the outskirts of the town and walk through a tunnel under the castle into the main shopping centre. Head for the main central street, Calle Marques de Campo, named after the Marquis of Denia who used to reside in the castle. This is a wonderful place to sit and people watch - a Parisian-style tree lined avenue peppered with street cafes on both sides. Shopping in Denia is a sheer delight. Besides offering all the high street essentials, there are some top of the range clothes shops with designer wear for both men and women and beautiful gift shops specialising in the unusual and exquisite (we're not talking sticks of rock and giant sombreros here!) A myriad of restaurants offers some of the best regional and international cuisine on the Costa Blanca. There are some great tapas bars, seafood restaurants with a mouth watering selection of produce fresh from local waters, Indonesian, Mexican, Italian and Greek restaurants. As for the beaches, they stretch for 20 kilometres either side of Denia and consistently win the European Blue Flag for safety and cleanliness.

Benissa

Benitachell

Javea

The town of Javea is located in the Spanish region of Alicante on the Costa Blanca. This popular resort is often referred to as the jewel in the crown of the Costa Blanca and it's easy to see why. The World Health Organisation once named it as having one of the healthiest climates in the world, enjoying more recorded hours of sunshine per year than any other place in Spain. Thousands of British people have come on holiday to Javea, fallen in love with it and decided to make it their permanent home. It's certainly not one of Spain's biggest tourist centres - but Javea offers a high quality holiday for visitors of all ages.

Situated midway between Valencia and Alicante airports (about an hour's drive from each if you use the toll paying motorway) Javea is easily accessible but has never been inundated by package holidaymakers. There are only a few hotels so the bulk of the tourist industry relies on the wealth of self-catering apartments and villas available here. Look at a map of Spain and you'll see a distinctive triangular landmass jutting out into the Mediterranean halfway down the east coast. Javea is at the tip of that triangle. That's why it's known locally as 'Amanacer de Espana' or Dawn of Spain - because as the sun rises in the east among the first places to catch its rays are the three headlands of Javea. A wonderful sight, if you're up early enough! Javea's most distinctive feature is the mountain known locally as 'the Montgo'. This provides a dramatic backdrop for the resort and those who live in Javea swear blind it's an elephant, turned to stone, with its trunk dipping into the sea for a drink. It's a strange phenomenon but you can even see the elephant's eye close as the sun goes down (especially if you've had too much sangria!).

Javea is divided into three distinct sections, all quite different to one another. There's the old town - the original Javea, set slightly back from the coast and the place to visit if you're interested in Spanish

history and culture. Here you'll find charming, narrow streets, shopkeepers speaking the local language 'Valenciano' and a truly Spanish feel to the place. Thursday's a good day to visit when there's a big market in the Plaza de la Constitucion. Then there's the port area - still a working fishing port and a delightful place to visit with its mixture of fishing vessels, luxury yachts and seafront bars and cafes. But it's the Arenal Beach which attracts the vast majority of holidaymakers - a beautiful crescent shaped sandy beach with a promenade lined with bars, cafes, restaurants, gift shops and ice-cream parlours. Javea is relatively quiet for most of the year - until the months of July and August when the Arenal area turns into a 24-hour playground. It can be noisy at night during those two months but most of the villa accommodation is at a 'safe' distance where families where can relax in peace and quiet.

Moraira

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Onil

Onil is Located 697 metres above sea level just beyond Castalla in the foothills after which it is named. The town is typically Spanish with many key historical features. The town has all modern day services and easy access to the Valencian Community's new network of roadways and motorways.

Onil is in the heart of the wine trail. Many regional dishes, using produce from Onil, can be enjoyed at the many excellent restaurants. It is a favourite area for cyclists, hikers and nature lovers yet is just 30 minutes from either the coast or the international airport at Alicante.

The town is a major producer of toys, mainly dolls. It also has a rich historical heritage. It was the birthplace of the famous artist Eusebio Sempere. A bust of this artist can be seen at the fortress palace in the centre of the historic district. The fortress palace now serves as the Town Hall. The parish church is alongside. Outside the town centre are the Hermitage of St Ana and the Hermitage of Our Lady of Good Health (patron saint of Onil).

Polop

Polop, is a municipality in the comarca of Marina Baixa, Alicante, Valencian Community, Spain

Costa Blanca South

The Costa Blanca has a reputation for being a Mediterranean paradise and is a prime location boasting a superb climate with very mild winter temperatures and the supply of plentiful days of sunshine each year. This climate draws thousands of tourists and encourages participation in a wide range of sporting activities.

In the Southern Costa Blanca, Torrevieja is the main town where the vast majority of beaches have been awarded the EEC Blue Flag Award. The Blue Flag Award denotes cleanliness making it an ideal place to settle down for a relaxing retirement or for that superb holiday home. With extensive beaches typically with sand dunes, this privileged corner of Spain offers everything that has made this country so highly favoured amongst property purchasers.

For those of you interested in a broader variety of activities, the Costa Blanca has a lot to offer with a wide range of health spas, leisure facilities, numerous excellent golf courses to a championship standard and the crystal clear waters which allow you to enjoy every water sport imaginable.

The clear blue waters and stunning underwater scenery make it a diver's paradise. You can also watch the setting of the sun whilst having a dip in the cool blue waters which is an experience not easily forgotten.

Further south, the cliffs have a creamy white tint from which the Costa Blanca (white coast) derives its name. Covered with Mediterranean flora scrub and coastal pine, this is an area whose romantic lighthouses and ancient ruins encapsulate the history and soul of the Mediterranean. The coast boasts excellent transport links via motorways, railways, ferry ports and three international airports. The Costa Blanca is one of the most stunning and unspoilt areas in Europe. With excellent average temperatures the climate is rated by the World Health Organisation as one of the healthiest in the world.

Vega Baja is the southern most district of Alicante spreading as far as Elche - Europe's largest palm forest to the north and to the historic city of Orihuela in the South. The Vega Baja is divided by the River Segura which flows into the Mediterranean Sea at Guardamar. This untouched, traditional rural area is rich in agriculture with local villages providing Alicante with the majority of their fresh fruit and vegetables.

The following pages contain details of main towns, areas and urbanizaciones of Costa Blanca South

Towns, Areas and Urbanizacions of Costa Blanca South

Main towns are indicated with a green bar and smaller towns/areas and urbanizacions are indicated with a red bar:

Alicante

Alicante city has a population of over 300,000 and combines both classic and modern societies, living in harmony. It offers business and pleasure, entertainment and education. Its history reaches back to prehistoric times with remains being found here from the third century before Christ. Today, Alicante is a first rate tourist centre thanks to its splendid beaches, excellent climate and well known facilities. Besides its golden beaches and impressive Paseo Maritimo, Alicante has a wealth of history to offer the visitor and has an impressive mountain-top castle. The city also has a range of 18th century manor houses, all worthy of a visit. Among its churches is the Iglesia de Santa Maria, which is the oldest church in the city and was built between the 14th and 16th centuries. It was once the main mosque during Moorish times. Its front comprises of two solid looking towers and wonderful Baroque stonework. The church houses several important works of art. The Cathedral de San Nicolas was built between 1616 and 1662 and stands over 45 metres tall. The Communion Chapel inside is considered to be one of the most beautiful examples of Spanish Baroque. St Nicolas is the patron saint of the city so this Cathedral is one of the most important buildings in the city. The Monastery de la Santa Faz is 5km from the city centre and is now used as a convent of the order of St Clare. Although being built in 1752, there are remains here dating from 1582 in the form of a defence tower. Scattered around the city are numerous statues and columns dedicated to patrons of the city. Many of the roundabouts contain a monument of some description. When it comes to museums, Alicante has its fair share. The archaeology museum, created in 1932 has an extensive collection of artefacts and is known to be one of the best in Spain. The museum is now housed in a new building and incorporates the most modern of multimedia displays. The Castillo de Santa Barbara is one of the largest medieval fortresses in Europe. It occupies the entire summit and a large proportion of the slopes of the Benacantil mountain. It commands a unique look-out over the coastline, the Bay of Alicante and the surrounding farmland. Remains from the Bronze-age have been discovered on this site. The castle has three enclosures of differing dates, each with unique features. The castle can be accessed by a road leading up the western slope of the mountain, winding its way through pine trees. You can also visit the castle by means of an elevator that ascends from the Paseo Maritimo. Entrance to the castle is free but there is a charge for using the elevator. EU Senior citizens and disabled don't have to pay.

Alicante also has an array of palaces worth visiting, including the Gavina Palace which now houses the Provincial Gallery with fine paintings from the 19th century. The main theatre dates from 1847 and is a fine example of classical construction. The bullring is one of the oldest in Spain still in use. Built in 1849 it has since been restored and enlarged. The current design dates from 1888. Alicante is a major education centre and has an impressive university, founded in 1979. At present it has over 30,000 students on a campus covering over one million square metres. The university has six higher schools, seven colleges

and seven university institutes. It has branches in several provincial towns. Recreation is the key word in Alicante and to this end there are numerous parks, gardens and plazas in which to soak up the sun and the atmosphere. Most have impressive water features, monuments and statues.

When it comes to beaches, the Playa de San Juan is considered to be one of the finest in Spain. A broad beach, some 5km long that has all the facilities you would expect, from hotels, bars, restaurants and even an 18 hole golf course. There are three small coves, Palmera, Cantalares and Judios. They are difficult to access and therefore appropriate as nudist beaches. The small, sandy Almadraba beach and the well hidden Albufereta beach are ideal for water sports in safe surroundings. Further south is the Playa del Coco, next to the regional railway station. This beach connects to Playa del Postiguet, located close to the city centre, with an attractive promenade, flanked by palm trees. The last of the city's beaches is Saladar, broad, sandy and open. The pedestrian walkway here gives panoramic views of the bay of Alicante. Located 11 miles south of Alicante is a guitar-shaped island with a total area of 30 hectares. The Island of Tabarca has a curious history and has a firm place in ancient Greek history. It was once a refuge for Berber pirates and in 1760, King Carlos III ordered a fortress to be built here. It is possible to take a boat ride from Alicante to the island. The old quarter of the city is a maze of small streets climbing the hill. Many of the streets are lined with curious balconies and multi-coloured buildings. Higher up are white-washed houses that offer panoramic views of the city and the bay. The harbour has been the strength of the city for centuries, sending products abroad and bringing in goods from all over the world. It was once the port of Madrid. Today, modern facilities combine with tradition and history to provide a thriving centre. As well as a working fishing fleet there are pleasure crafts and passenger vessels, nautical schools and sailing clubs. There is also a wide selection of bars and restaurants. Some of the finest fish restaurants can be found here as well as a pulsating nightlife. Alicante is a cultural centre and has a varied selection of events and fiestas. At the end of June a traditional arts and crafts market is staged in Plaza de la Santisima Faz and nearby streets. The event has a medieval theme. During July and August the new esplanade in front of the port comes alive for the summer festival with constant theatrical performances and concerts. The first ten days of December sees the International Puppet Festival that attracts people from all over the world - one of the finest events of its kind in the world.

Busot

Buscot lies just north & inland from El Campello which is the main resort just on the northern edge of Alicante. Buscota is a charming traditional village nestled on a hill that is crowned by the ruins of a twelfth century Moorish castle. Three kilometers from Buscot are the Cuevas del Canalobre, the highest domed caves in Spain. The massive chamber is a popular tourist attraction, the acoustics are so good that a stage has been erected within the caves for concerts and folk festivals. The caves are situated on the slopes of the Cabezo d'Or - the golden hill. There are several hiking routes that can be taken from Buscot, where walkers can enjoy unique views of the dry and jagged landscape. Buscot is a medium sized village with a population of around 1300. It has a street market is held on Sundays. Buscot is 5km from the coast and 10km from Alicante. It is situated just off the main coastal roads. Bonalba and Alicante Golf Clubs are a 10 minute drive away.

El Altet

El Campello

El Campello offers wonderfully scenic beaches, mountains, and castles. Whether you spend your days lounging on the beach, visiting castles or shopping in quaint villages, this Spanish village on the Mediterranean Sea is the perfect place to stay. From the very heart of the Costa Blanca emerges a marine ambience village which has become, without losing its traditions, a first-class seaside resort offering Blue Flag white sandy beaches such as Muchavista and the sheltered coves of Coveta Fuma and the coastal district of Carrerlamar. El Campello has many beaches and coves, 23 kms in all. There is also a large marina known as 'Club Nautica de El Campello' and a fishing port adjacent to the beach.

Mutxamel

San Juan

San Juan de Alicante boasts a 7km beach that is often described as one of the best in Spain. Accordingly, the tourist industry here is thriving, bars, hotels and restaurants dominate the seafront and Alicante golf course is nearby, should you need a break from relaxing on the sand. There are three small coves that aren't easy to get to and have therefore been designated as naturists beaches. The town itself is worthy of interest. It has a seventeenth century parish church and three hermitages. Nearby is the Santa Faz monastery. A street market is held at San Juan on Saturdays. It is 15km to Alicante Al Altet airport.

Villafranqueza

Benidorm

The overwhelming popularity of Benidorm is largely due to the fact that there is something for everyone. Sports lovers, sun seekers, enjoying a holiday or making the permanent move, the lively atmosphere of Benidorm is an attraction unto itself. Like much of the south coast of Spain, the first settlers were the Moors. Benidorm was a small fishing village with a modest number of inhabitants. Today the city is one of the most popular areas of Spain. The nearby beaches, mountain ranges and location to main motorways are ideal for owning property in this area. Benidorm is situated north of the White Coast, surrounded by the mountains of Sierra Helada to the east, Aitana to the north and Tossal de la Cala to the west, which shield the area from surrounding winds and maintain the pleasant year-round climate.

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works museum.

The area is jam packed full of hotels & apartments to rent. The Levante beach side of the town (north) is the very busy touristy side of town with the majority of bars, restaurants, night clubs etc. inc. the famous Benidorm Palace. Also on offer is a large range of watersports, jet skis, scuba diving, water skiing, windsurfing, paragliding etc. etc. The Poniente beach side of town (south) is much quieter & more Spanish. There is also old Town Benidorm. In all parts of Benidorm you will find many tourist centres with information of everything that happens in & around Benidorm.

Alfaz Del Pi

La Alfas, which in Arabic means "fertile earth", was a gift from the Baron of Polop. This place has a long history with inhabitants and visitors from many cultures. An archaeological find at Albir Beach, has proven that the Romans had occupied this area. In the 13th century Jaime I conquered the town. The town centre was originally set some distance inland to avoid attacks by Barbary Coast pirates. Its population grew significantly in the 17th century and in 1786 the local people planted a large pine tree in the middle of the market place to symbolize a claim for independence from Polop. From this we get the name L'Alfas Del Pi. This was finally gained in 1836 when the town was declared an independent municipality with its own identity and administration. Grapes, olives, oranges, lemons, almonds, figs and locust have been used by the farmers to make their living for hundreds of years. In addition there was income from the ochre mines in Sierra Gelada. In the beginning of the 20th century the vineyards were devastated by grape lice, but today the wines "Vinos de Mendoza" are produced and bottled in this area. Immigration to America and to North Africa was a direct result of damage done by the grape lice, but this tendency changed in the 1960's when the tourist industry, which has been a great success, first started. Today the area around L'Alfas Del Pi, which occupies an area of about 19 km², has about 19000 inhabitants of which about half are from other countries. In addition there are many tourists that visit here each year. The good climate and beautiful landscape make it a very attractive area. There are many culture arrangements as well, i.e. an annual film festival is held every summer where famous actors come to add splendor. On the promenade some of the famous have had their names engraved in the rock.

Callosa Den Sarria

test

Finestrat

Finestrat is somewhat unusual in that it is both a mountain village and a seaside resort. Finestrat is popular with those shying away from the bustling atmosphere of neighbouring Benidorm and some of the other busy Costa Blanca resorts. Situated about 40 kilometres north of Alicante in the Comunidad de Valencia, Finestrat has a history going back to the Arab occupation and beyond.

The Castell de Finestrat (castle) dates from the 13th Century and was originally built by the Moors to defend against Christian attackers, the castle and town were however taken by Jaime I of Aragon. The old village clings to the side of a mountain known as Puig Campana and enjoys picturesque views down the mountain to the sea.

Beach lovers can head for nearby La Cala beach where they will find relatively quiet sunbathing areas and a decent range of bars and restaurants. Here is also the location of a summertime craft market, often held in the afternoons.

Worth visiting in Finestrat are the 18th Century Church of Saint Bartholomew, La Torre, the Hermitage Crist de Remei and the Font de Moli.

Guadalest

La Nucia

The small town of La Nucia lies 10km inland to the north of Benidorm, and in spite of its proximity to the bustling resort, remains a peaceful Spanish enclave with an attractive and well-designed centre and magnificent views of the coastline below. It is only 7km from Altea and nestles against the nearby mountains of Sierra de Aitana. La Nucia enjoys good facilities, including shops, schools and a sports centre as well as a new Arts Centre with auditorium. The town's Sunday morning second-hand market is one of the most visited on the Costa Blanca. The area surrounding the town has many attractive urbanisations.

Playa Poniente

Villajoyosa

Some say that the name Villajoyosa means The Jewelled Town; others say it means Joyous, Happy Town, but we don't know which one is correct.

The town is located about 30 minutes drive north of Alicante and 10 km to the south of Benidorm, just off the N332 coast road and near the A7 motorway. It's a lovely drive along the coast from Alicante to Villajoyosa.

The beach front promenade has great restaurants and bars and it's ideal for relaxing with a drink and a local fish dish or delicious paella. Collectively the beaches stretch for 3.5 km and include the Centro beach, where the famous Moorish landing is celebrated and El Paradís beach. Torres beach has an attractive Roman tower. Then there are The Bol Nou and La Caleta coves with their clear water and peaceful ambience.

This delightful coastal village has these lovely little houses along the seafront. They are narrow, tall and painted in every colour of the rainbow so as to help the fishing boats to find their way home - quite charming. The harbour is still very busy and generates much of the town's wealth, consequently there is a good fish market here.

If you enjoy a good fiesta - Villajoyosa could be for you - The festival of the 'Moors and Christians' is an annual event full of colourful costumes, music, dance and fireworks.

If water sport is your thing then the yacht clubs and sailing schools here offer you a wide range of summer activities such as windsurfing and catamaran sailing. The Ali Sub Multiaventura centre offers SSI courses at different levels from beginners to instructors, as well as introductory dives, or you can simply hire a pedal boat or Jet Ski for fun.

Benijofar

Benijofar is a lovely small village with a charming church and village square. There is the casa de cultura for concerts and shows, a marked walking trail which includes the Rio Segura and an outdoor swimming pool as well as two parks and the three crosses viewpoint. Benijofar has a good selection of tapas bars, cafes and restaurants as does the nearby urbanisation of Benimar.

Elche

The Spanish city of Elche is famous for its centuries old palm groves and its wonderful beaches. It has the international airport of El Altet (Alicante) within its municipal boundaries and is home to a large thriving shoe manufacturing industry. Elche dates back thousands of years and several civilisations have left their mark; Iberians, Phoenicians, Romans and Moors have all left vestiges in an ancient yet modern city full of good restaurants, busy shopping plazas and a rich cultural life.

Elche was originally an ancient Roman settlement and approximately half the city's surface is dedicated to palm tree parks, which has now been officially recognised as a world heritage site. The Palmeral is an oasis-like landscape of date palms which was constructed during the Arab occupation of this area in Spain over 1,000 years ago. UNESCO has added the Palmeral of Elche to the list on cultural grounds as a unique example of Arab agricultural practices on the European continent.

Aspe

The town of Aspe is located on a tributary of the Vinalopo river 5km south of Novelda on the main road. The old town centre is pleasant to walk through, it has been renovated and the area is pedestrianised. The Plaza del Ayuntamiento is interesting with its church and modernist casino. A town of 16,000 people, Aspe has several large supermarkets, schools, restaurants and bars. Alicante is 24km away, Aspe is 5km off the N330 motorway. The Alenda Golf club is a ten minute drive from Aspe.

Castalla

Castalla enjoys a fabulous location on the Costa Blanca; tranquil and natural, with plenty of options for activities and excursions nearby. Enjoy the green mountain scenery while trekking, or simply drive from village to village sampling local gastronomic delights, and browsing the different wares available. The area is also home to many natural springs that you will discover. â€”Castalla is an exquisite location for a real rural Spanish holiday.

The town is located approximately 45 kilometres inland from Alicante, on the eastern Mediterranean coast of Spain, on the Costa Blanca.

Catral

The rural agricultural town of Catral is south-west of Alicante, an ideal location as it is only 20km from the coast of Guardamar and 25km from Torrevieja.

One of the most popular attractions of this area is the Hondo Reservoir, a preserved natural park which many people have embarked on as a rural trail. The Moorish influence on this town is reflected in the architecture. Even the name Catral originates from the Moorish language.

Crevillente

Crevillente is located on the N-340 close to the A7 motorway and approximately 25 kilometers south of Alicante. North from the Vega Baja is the area known as the Baix Vinalopo which includes Crevillente and Elche.

This is not a typical holiday town more of a residential, working town with tradition Spanish buildings with an old town center of flat Moorish houses.

The Sierra de Crevillente mountain range is a beautiful feature as is the San Cayetano pine forests. Nuestra Senora de Belen Church sits majestically in Crevillente town and the El Hondo Natural Park is also nearby. A good time to visit Crevillente is Easter when Fiesta time is taken very seriously and celebrations go on for days.

The climate is typical of the Costa Blanca, warm winters and hot, dry summers. Temperatures can really soar in the town during the windless summer months.

There is a real mixture of property in and around Crevillente and you are well advised to make use of our property finding service if you are looking for a rural home. As you know, we are an independent company so we can liaise with lots of different agents and developers to ensure that you see the widest choice of homes when you come to the area.

There are some new developments in the area, which provide the opportunity to enjoy a proper working Spanish town and live in a good modern home with all the amenities you are use to.

Daya Nueva

A little gem of a place - it's so clean and tidy with wide open spaces and surrounded by lime, orange & lemon groves. Although the town itself is very quiet it's easy to reach Almoradi and other local towns - so best of both worlds. Daya Nueva has a post office, bank, restaurants, bars and a community swimming pool. There are good schools in the area and a medical center.

30 km South of Alicante and the airport and within close proximity of 10 or more golf courses.

There is a real neighbourhood community here and always plenty of people willing to help but never intrusive. Several of our clients have searched the Costa's looking for just the right area and found Daya Nueva was the place for them.

The climate here is very nice throughout the year although it can get quite dry in the summer and the locals are very particular about using the non toxic sprays to keep mosquito's at bay

Daya Vieja

Dolores

The village of Dolores was established in 1715 when the Vega Baja marshland was drained for farming. Dolores is an agricultural village and it is well worth sampling some of the exquisite produce available including fresh fruits, seafood and cold meats.

Dolores plays host to one of the most significant fiestas in the Spanish calendar - the August fair. This Spanish fiesta features a number of equestrian competitions with over 1,500 horses participating.

El Pinet

El Realengo

Elda

Elda and the adjacent town of Petrer are separated by just one street, together they form the largest urban area of El Vinalopo Mitja with a combined population of 81,000. Like the neighbouring city of Elche, the manufacture of shoes is Elda's industrial focus and the town's shoe museum displays an interesting array of footwear from around the globe. The town is of Moorish origin and contains the Church of Santa Ana which was originally built as a mosque. The semi-ruined Elda castle is on a hill to the north of the city. Although Petrer is just 4km away from the centre of Elda, its inhabitants speak Valenciano whereas the people of Elda speak Spanish. Petrer, also a Moorish town, is the site of one of the most impressive castles in the region, thanks to extensive restoration work. Elda has plenty of schools, including a university, a new hospital, a 10 screen cinema complex and a Carrefour hypermarket and shopping centre complete with drive-through McDonalds.

The town has an ample range of shops and a huge indoor market selling fresh produce that is open 6 days a week. An open air market is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays, selling clothes, shoes and other goods.

Elda has a national RENFE railway station with fast connections to Alicante, Murcia and the rest of Spain.

Elda is easily accessible from Alicante which is 36km away via the N330 motorway. It is about 30 minutes drive to the coast. Alenda Golf Club is 18km away.

Gran Alacant

Gran Alacant located 10 kms South from the Alicante El Altet International Airport and 20 kms South from the city of Alicante. Nearby Santa Pola has 15 kms of coast line, most of it with sandy beaches. It is very safe thereby allowing you to enjoy swimming, diving and other water sports in its quiet bay.

Hot summers and mild winters make it a great option all year round. Running from north to south, the Santa Pola coastline begins with two peaceful, natural beaches and continues with two wide, fine sand beaches. Secluded and attractive coves nearby make this the perfect location for diving and is a paradise for experienced windsurfers. Between the Cape and the port lie Varadero and Levante beaches bordered by a promenade. Boats sail between the port and Tabarca Isle about three kilometres away. Further to the south there are four urban beaches of a more lively nature, particularly the ever-popular Gran Playa beach. Santa Pola has two diving centres, a dinghy school in the yacht club and windsurf and catamaran rental facilities on Levante, Gran Playa and Tamarit beaches. With 15km of coast of which 11km consist of fine sandy beaches, Santa Pola is among the best in Spain. For over 15 years Santa Pola has proudly displayed several Blue Flags. Playa Lissa, Tamarit and Gran Playa are beaches to the west which are ideal for families looking for safe and shallow waters.

Guardamar Del Segura

Forests, dunes and beaches are in perfect harmony, making Guardamar del Segura a perfect paradise in the sunny Costa Blanca. The town of Guardamar, with a population of just over 11,000, has historically played the role of guardian of the river Segura. Here you will find around 12 km of beach, pine forests, sand dunes & a Mediterranean park with fountains and lakes that provide a habitat to squirrels, swans and fishes. The strategic position of Guardamar, on a hill over the Vega Baja, made it the ideal settlement for the various people who inhabit this part of Spain. Guardamar owes its very existence and livelihood to the River Segura.

Activities around the restored mouth of the river include fishing, camel rides and the Molino de San Antonio. All the local restaurants offer top quality seafood and outstanding rice dishes, the pride of Alicante cuisine. The prime natural feature are the dunes formed from sand deposited by both the river Segura and the sea and blown inland by the east winds. This natural area is today the main distinguishing feature of Guardamar which includes the

Reina Sofia and Alfonso XIII parks, ideal for a leisurely stroll or for cycling. These are attractive spots for noting the local vegetation and observing the water birds who come to nest in this ecosystem, including herons and other species.

If you like sports, Guardamar offers you every possible sea sport such as sailing, windsurfing, water-skiing, underwater diving, canoeing and jet skiing. Guardamar has extensive sports facilities, the most important being the 'Las Rabosas' Sports Centre and the magnificent Municipal Sports Centre, with its Olympic swimming pool, 3 football pitches, basketball courts, five-a-side soccer pitches, tennis courts, pelota courts and covered sports area.

The municipal Marina de Las Dunas is a splendid addition for tourism in Guardamar. It is located at the mouth of the river Segura, in a unique natural environment. It has 494 moorings and all the services and facilities of a top-ranking marina. It also offers 2 kilometres of the new navigable river course for small boats. A risk-free place for sea sports. Guardamar stands at the mouth of the river Segura and is surrounded by pine, palm and eucalyptus trees all of which were planted to prevent erosion of one of Spain's finest beaches. Guardamar owes its very existence and livelihood to the dunes which have shaped it. Both the Guardamar and Pineda beaches are composed of the finest white sand and the smell of the pine trees which surrounds them makes for an unforgettable experience. The beaches run for as far as the eye can see and are so large that even in peak season, there are days when they seem almost deserted. Swept during the season on a daily basis, the Guardamar beach is possibly one of the best manicured in the whole of Spain.

Hondon

Not far from the coast, a group of 10 councils around the Sierra de Crevillente mountain range has come together to form an area called La Isla de Interior, The Inland Island, with the catchphrase 'the best alternative to the coast'.

One of the 10 towns is Hondon de Las Nieves, a little gem for those who want to get away from the buckets and spades. Many of the towns and villages around here are easy to miss with the main roads whisking past the outskirts. Hondon de Las Nieves is the southern-most town of La Isla de Interior. Even a short visit to the town pays dividends. The small baroque church dating from 1685, does its best to make up for the lack of grand cathedrals.

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Hondon De Los Frailes

La Hoya

La Marina

La Marina is a small coastal town with a population of 3,000. It sits just 20 minutes south of Alicante Airport. North of La Marina is Santa Pola and to the south you will find Guardamar.

La Marina beaches are approximately 17 km long and are certainly some of the best in the area - naturally they

are Blue Flag certified for cleanliness and safety and the sand dunes that provide their backdrop are fantastic.

La Marina is surrounded by the famous salt lagoons of Torrevieja and La Mata, designated as National Parks where over 250 different bird species have been sighted.

It's easy to get about locally as there is a frequent local bus service to the nearby towns, schools, markets etc as well as a shuttle bus service to the beach. The town has banks, shops and medical facilities suitable for permanent residence and there is a larger urbanization slightly inland where you will find a very good infrastructure for family life.

Sport and leisure facilities are boundless and include sailing, yachting, diving, horse riding and fishing. For those who enjoy walking there are beautiful valleys and there are four top class golf courses. The closest course is La Marquesa situated 5 miles away at Rojales. The remaining three courses are in the Torrevieja area about 25 minutes drive from La Marina - Villamartin, Campoamor & Las Rablas.

The area has a special charm about it maybe because there is a very relaxed feel about the place and the majority of residents seem to be around all year so it doesn't have the transient feel that some coastal towns have. The many fiestas and celebrations in the town ensure that the community is close and if you are keen to socialize there is every opportunity - on the other hand if you want to be left to your own little piece of paradise it is easy to find plenty of "me" time.

30 degrees is common for much of the summer and it's not unheard of for temperatures to reach 40 degrees at the height of the season.

The World Health Organization has recognized this area as a particularly good climate of people with health issues.

La Marina has a good range of property types, very realistically priced. There are some very good terraced houses called Josefinas, Finas and Rositas, and excellent detached family houses, such as Lolos and Rosas.

La Romana

Located in the foothills of the Sierra del Redclot a few kilometres from Alguena, La Romana has been called the village of "pine trees, marble and excellent wine." The village, with a population of 2000, is surrounded by lovely countryside where vineyards and almond orchards are grown. In September, a "Paella in the Park" is held when a giant paella pot is set up outside and the locals take part in a fiesta. La Romana is popular with expatriates looking for a quiet, rural home. La Romana has numerous supermarkets, bars, shops & restaurants.

A street market is held on Saturday mornings. Many British children attend the local village school. There is a community swimming pool that opens during the summer. La Romana is 40km from Alicante and the coast. The nearest golf course is Alenda, a twenty minute drive away.

Las Casicas

Monforte Del Cid

Monovar

Monovar is 8km south of Elda in the Vinalopo valley. Monovar is a semi-industrial town that, like Elda &

Elche is also fond of producing footwear. The Fondillon wine that is produced in the area is renowned. Famous for its 18th Century church with a leaning tower, the old town is attractive with steep narrow streets flanked by stone houses leading up to a clock tower. The hermitage of Santa Barbara on the hill above the town is of architectural importance. With a population 12,000, Monóvar is a lively town with bars, restaurants shops and supermarkets, a health centre, a sports centre and schools. Situated next to the N330 motorway, Monóvar is easy to reach. It is 34km from Alicante and 26km from Alicante airport. The nearest golf club is Alenda, 15km away

Novelda

An industrial town with a population of 24,000, Novelda is an important producer of wine and marble. The modernist church of Santuario de Santa Maria is a remarkable building, reminiscent of Gaudi's work. The church was constructed mainly from local marble and small boulders giving it an unusual, bubbly outline. This, and the tall towers at either side of the facade lend a fairytale atmosphere to the church. Next to the church, the 12th Century La Mola castle ruins are located on an outcrop. There are several large supermarkets in the town & numerous restaurants, bars and cafes. A market is held on Wednesdays. Novelda is 2km from the N330 motorway, making access to Alicante 28km away swift and easy. Alenda Golf Club is just 5km away.

Pinoso

Pinoso is a traditional town which sits about 40 minutes' drive inland from Alicante airport. It used to be an agricultural town with wine being the main product of the area. Recently it has found itself immersed in tourism which the Alicante province in general is experiencing. As Spanish nationals & ex-pats alike get fed up with living on the coast or have a desire for substantially larger properties on very large plots of land people are moving inland into the province. Alongside new developments you also have new golf courses being built. There is a thriving English & European expat community here but the town still manages to retain its authenticity. Pinoso is about 10 minutes' drive from Yecla.

Redovan

San Felipe De Neri

San Fulgencio

San Fulgencio was founded in the early 18th century between the delta of the Segura River, Orihuela and Guardamar de Segura. The town sits between the A7 and the N332 coast road making access to Alicante airport no more than 30 km so just a quick journey. Dolores, Guardamar and Catral are all nearby in the Vega Baja.

At the center of the town is an interesting baroque church with a ground plan in the shape of a cross and 3 separate naves divided by arches and impressive stone pillars.

San Fulgencio has grown from a simple traditional farming community into the tourism and service sector. The growth of tourism has brought the benefit of additional infrastructure to the town and greater convenience for the residents. There are a small number of local shops, bars and restaurants and the climate here is very nice throughout the year. Although it can get quite dry and humid here in the summer.

The town has a lot to offer in terms of modern properties and interesting architecture and beautiful walks through the huerta San Fulgencia and of course the beaches are only 2 km away.

There is a good selection of old and new property so well worth considering in your house hunting trip.

Santa Pola

Santa Pola is a typical fishing village located 10 kms South from the Alicante El Altet International Airport and 20 kms South from the city of Alicante. Santa Pola has 15 kms of coast line, most of it with sandy beaches. It is very safe thereby allowing you to enjoy swimming, diving and other water sports in its quiet bay.

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Sax

Sax has a population of approximately 10,000 and is found northwest of Alicante on the A31 road. The town's location has always been important in its history as the Romans, Arabs and Christians have all built roads passing the town. It now also benefits from rail links to Alicante and Madrid.

Sax is an historic town and there is archaeological evidence that settlements existed here in prehistoric times. Romans, Moors and eventually Christians have held rule over Sax in its past and the town is overlooked by the castle, which looks down over the town. The old quarter is steeped in Arabic character and the narrow, winding streets hug the line of the rock faces. There's plenty of historic architecture on show including the Ermita de San Blas (Chapel), the 16th Century Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, El Torre and the many snow pits that can be found in the area, some dating from the 13th Century. These brick built pits up to 15m deep were used to store snow from the winter, to be used in the summer for cold drinks and food storage.

The area is great for outdoor pursuits such as hiking and climbing, as the surrounding countryside is so rugged and varied. There is the Sierra de la Cabrera mountain range and the El Plano forest with an estimated 1 million pine trees. The River Vinalopo also runs through the valley, and this is used to irrigate the land around the town,

which produces fruit and vegetables.

Agriculture still plays an important part in the life of the population, especially the cultivation of grapes to produce wine. However, these days industry plays a more important role in the local economy and the town is known for producing footwear, leather goods, furniture and blinds.

Orihuela

The inland town of Orihuela is a settlement marked by several civilisations. Surrounded by lands made fruitful by the River Segura, this flows through the town offering rich pickings for any food lover. The centre is full of truly beautiful works of architecture with churches and public buildings and houses of past nobility. It is a wonderful Spanish town in which to buy a property. The city has its own historical sense and unforgettable legends re-enacted by the flamboyant annual processions of the Moors and Christians and the richness of other fiestas.

The surrounding fertile lands and the closeness of the sea mean that the gastronomy of Orihuela offers the pleasures of the healthy Mediterranean diet. Many fiestas here provide traditional pastries and sweets adding a special flavour to Spanish life. Orihuela is located 22 km from Murcia and 59 Km from Alicante.

Albatera

Algorfa

Almoradi

To the north of the Segura River lies Almoradi, a well established town just a 25 minute drive outside Torreveija and close to the La Finca Algorfa Golf Club.

Almoradi offers excellent amenities but yet it is full of tradition and culture. The architecturally imposing Church of San Andres and the renowned Saturday market make this town the perfect place to experience the tradition of Spain.

Benferri

Bigastro

Callosa De Segura

One of the smaller villages in Vega Baja with an abundance of natural fresh water springs, Callosa de Segura is an ideal location for relaxing. The springs are naturally warm attaining average temperatures of 18 Deg.C, perfect for bathing in the hot summer months.

The region is distinguished by the characteristically Mediterranean citrus orchards. Callosa is no exception. The orange orchards present a vibrant landscape adored by locals and tourists alike. The village is close to

Guardamar beach and is approximately 25 minutes from Alicante airport.

Cox

El Raiguero

El Saladar

Hurchillo

Jacarilla

La Marquesa

La Murada

Los Desamparados

Mudamiento

Rafal

Rebate

San Bartolome

San Isidro De Albaterra

Torremendo

Orihuela Costa

20 kilometres from Orihuela, past Bigastro, San Miguel, and the Salinas, lies the Orihuela Costa. The coast is 16 kilometres long with its cliffs, clear waters and sandy beaches at Punta Prima, La Zenia, Cabo Roig, Campoamor, Playa Flamenca and Mil Palmeras.

The Orihuela Costa is a peaceful environment with a perfect balance between the green spaces (Campoamor's Meadow pinatas) and urbanisations. Orihuela Costa beaches obtained the Blue Flag (environmental norms of the European Community).

Aldea Del Mar

Cabo Roig

The beach of Cabo Roig is situated in a zone 'semi Urbana'. To the south lies Campoamor's Meadow and to the North La Zenia beach. The beach at Cabo Roig is approximately 420 metres long and 18m. wide. The beach is a kind of a cove and access is possible by ramp or staircase. If you love long walks, this beach offers lovers of the sun and of the sea a great opportunity to enjoy the Costa Blanca life. Water sports, for example windsurfing and waterskiing are also easy to practice. Facilities at Cabo Roig include parking, public telephone and special accesses for disabled, bus stop, first-aid station together with numerous restaurants where you can experience the local cuisine. Cabo Roig is characterised by broad palm-lined avenues and landscaped gardens. The whole Calas de Campoamor area is blessed with beautiful beaches and parks making Cabo Roig the ideal location from which to take full advantage. The Maritime Walk which follows the peninsular coastline takes you to some of the finest, sandiest beaches on the Costa Blanca.

Cabo Roig itself is just a few minutes drive from the superb Villamartin golf complex. Back at the picturesque marina there are excellent restaurants near to the historic watchtower and the town which also boasts top class bars and nightlife. The famous Villamartin Plaza with its numerous, shops, bars & restaurants is just minutes by car as are Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses. Torrevieja with its lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 15 minutes by car.

The area benefits from several schools including Spanish state schools, El Limonar International bi-lingual private school & Mar Azul private school following the full English curriculum. All of these schools cater for children ages 4 to 18 (& beyond). There are also numerous pre-school nurseries in the area.

Campoamor

Campoamor is a lovely mainly Spanish residential area with a wide variety of properties from apartments in tower blocks to beautiful detached luxury villas.

The stunning Blue flag beaches Campoamor are just a few minutes walk away & La Zenia & Cabo Roig beaches are less than 5 minutes by car.

The famous Villamartin Plaza with its numerous, shops, bars & restaurants is just 10 minutes by car as are Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses.

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away.

The nearest motorway junction is 5 minutes by car.

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La Chismosa

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away.

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Numerous bars, restaurants, shops, banks, pharmacies etc. are all within easy walking distance.

Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses are 10 minutes by car,

The stunning blue flag beaches of La Zenia & Cabo Roig are only 10 minutes by car.

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La Florida (Orihuela Costa)

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La Regia

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away. The nearest motorway junction

is 1 minutes by car.

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The stunning blue flag beaches of La Zenia, Campoamor & Cabo Roig are only minutes by car. Torrevieja with it's lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 15 minutes by car.

All amenities, banks, restaurants, cafes, bars, supermarkets, pharmacy etc are all within a few minutes walking distance.

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La Zenia

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Las Mimosas

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away. The nearest motorway junction is 5 minutes by car.

Numerous bars, restaurants, shops, banks, pharmacies etc. are all within easy walking distance.

Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses are 10 minutes by car,

The stunning blue flag beaches of La Zenia & Cabo Roig are only 10 minutes by car.

Torrevieja with it's lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 10 minutes by car.

The area benefits from several schools including Spanish state schools, El Limonar International bi-lingual private school & Mar Azul private school following the full English curriculum. All of these schools cater for children ages

4 to 18 (& beyond). There are also numerous pre-school nurseries in the area.

Las Ramblas

The Las Ramblas golf course is set in mountainous terrain on the shore of the Mediterranean. Las Ramblas means riverbeds, which may be dry but the lakes on the course certainly aren't and they do come into play. A number of the slopes on the course are very tricky; the most spectacular is the 4th a par 5 named "la Plataforma". The hole requires absolute precision to judge the affect of the steep slope and also to avoid the two water hazards protecting the green.

All of the properties in Las Ramblas are set around the stunning 18 hole golf course. Here you will find anything from 2 bed 2 bath apartments to stunning 4 bedroom detached villas. There is a lovely club house, 24 hour security & the new opened La Fuente commercial centre is just a minutes walk from the golf course entrance. The world famous Villamartin golf club & Villamartin Plaza with it's numerous, shops, bars & restaurants are just 5 minutes by car. Campoamor golf course is just next door.

The stunning Blue flag beaches of Campoamor, La Zenia & Cabo Roig are less than 10 minutes by car.

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away.
The nearest motorway junction is 5 minutes by car.

Torreveija with it's lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 15 minutes by car.

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Los Almendros (orihuela Costa)

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away.
The nearest motorway junction is 5 minutes by car.

Numerous bars, restaurants, shops, banks, pharmacies etc. are all within easy walking distance.

Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses are 5 minutes by car,

The stunning blue flag beaches of La Zenia & Cabo Roig are only 10 minutes by car.

Torreveija with it's lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 10 minutes by car.

The area benefits from several schools including Spanish state schools, El Limonar International bi-lingual private school & Mar Azul private school following the full English curriculum. All of these schools cater for children ages 4 to 18 (& beyond). There are also numerous pre-school nurseries in the area.

Los Dolses

Los Dolses is a lovely residential area & is the main residential area within Villamartin.

The lively Los Dolses commercial centre has a wide variety of shops, bars & restaurants & a large Supervalu supermarket. The stunning Blue flag beaches of La Zenia & Cabo Roig are less than 5 minutes by car.

The famous Villamartin Plaza with its numerous, shops, bars & restaurants is just minutes by car as are Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses.

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away.

The nearest motorway junction is 5 minutes by car.

Torrevieja with its lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 15 minutes by car.

The area benefits from several schools including Spanish state schools, El Limonar International bi-lingual private school & Mar Azul private school following the full English curriculum. All of these schools cater for children ages 4 to 18 (& beyond). There are also numerous pre-school nurseries in the area.

Mil Palmeras

The most southerly resort on the Orihuela Costa stretch of the southern Costa Blanca, Spain, Mil Palmeras is a popular and beautiful coastal resort with some fine sandy beaches. The main beach, Playa Mil Palmeras has fine white sand and the usual range of facilities, the more adventurous will find numerous rocky coves and bays with very few visitors except during the very busy months. To the south of Mil Palmeras lies the small town of Torre de la Horadada, then Pilar de la Horadada and beyond that the Mar Menor and the beautiful Costa Calida coastline of the Murcia region of Spain. To the north you will find all the popular resorts of the Orihuela Costa, Campoamor, Cabo Roig, La Zenia, Villamartin, Playa Flamenca, Punta Prima and beyond these, Torrevieja and Alicante. Las Ramblas, Campoamor & Villamartin golf courses are just 10 minutes by car.

Monte Zenia

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away. The nearest motorway junction is 1 minutes by car.

The famous Villamartin Plaza with its numerous, shops, bars & restaurants is just minutes by car as are Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses.

The stunning blue flag beaches of La Zenia is a few minutes walk away & the Cabo Roig beaches are only minutes by car. Torrevieja with its lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 15 minutes by car.

All amenities, banks, restaurants, cafes, bars, supermarkets, pharmacy etc are all within a few minutes walking distance.

The area benefits from several schools including Spanish state schools, El Limonar International bi-lingual private school & Mar Azul private school following the full English curriculum. All of these schools cater for children ages 4 to 18 (& beyond). There are also numerous pre-school nurseries in the area.

Playa Flamenca

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away. The nearest motorway junction is 5 minutes by car.

The famous Villamartin Plaza with its numerous, shops, bars & restaurants is just minutes by car as are Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses.

The stunning blue flag beaches of Playa Flamenca, La Zenia & Cabo Roig are also only 5 minutes by car. Torrevieja with its lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 15 minutes by car.

The area benefits from several schools including Spanish state schools, El Limonar International bi-lingual private school & Mar Azul private school following the full English curriculum. All of these schools cater for children ages 4 to 18 (& beyond). There are also numerous pre-school nurseries in the area.

Villacostas

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away. The nearest motorway junction is 1 minutes by car.

The famous Villamartin Plaza with its numerous shops, bars & restaurants & Villamartin golf course is just a minutes walk away & Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses are less than 5 minutes by car.

The stunning blue flag beaches of La Zenia, Campoamor & Cabo Roig are only 5 minutes by car. Torrevieja with its lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 15 minutes by car.

All amenities, banks, restaurants, cafes, bars, supermarkets, pharmacy etc are all within a few minutes walking distance.

The area benefits from several schools including Spanish state schools, El Limonar International bi-lingual private school & Mar Azul private school following the full English curriculum. All of these schools cater for children ages 4 to 18 (& beyond). There are also numerous pre-school nurseries in the area.

Villamartin

The Villamartin development began in 1972 and has evolved into a splendid resort area. Villamartin is an upmarket area, and is in an excellent location being home to three championship golf courses - Campoamor, Las Ramblas and Villamartin. Within a few minutes drive are the stunning blue flag beaches at La Zenia, Playa Flamenca, Cabo Roig & Campoamor with magnificent views over the sparkling blue Mediterranean and the white sand that is typical of the Costa Blanca. All of these beaches and all the other major beaches along this part of the Mediterranean coastline are regularly awarded the European Blue Flag which is your guarantee of high standards and facilities for the whole family. The Villamartin area also has very good local amenities, including a wide range of restaurants, bars, supermarkets, and banks etc.

The impressive Villamartin Plaza contains numerous restaurants varying from Italian, English, German, Spanish, Mexican, Austrian, Chinese, and French cuisine to name but a few, and these serve food both indoors and outside in the summer months in the delightful courtyard. There is a small supermarket at the Villamartin Plaza which stocks all the essentials. Mercadona is a large supermarket just a few minutes drive away. Villamartin is a perfect base for a relaxing holiday for golfers, couples and families alike & a fantastic place for permanent living.

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The area benefits from several schools including Spanish state schools, El Limonar International bi-lingual private school & Mar Azul private school following the full English curriculum. All of these schools cater for children ages

4 to 18 (& beyond). There are also numerous pre-school nurseries in the area.

Pilar De La Horadada

The town of Torre De La Horadada lies south of the Costa Blanca. It has a beautiful Marina and long sandy beaches. Situated north of The Mar Menor, it is just 12 kilometres from Murcia (San Javier) Airport, 60 km from Alicante Airport and 18 kilometres south of the lively resort of Torrevieja.

There are approximately 2.5 miles of well-kept, Blue Flag beaches which belong to this municipality including Playa de las Mil Palmeras, Playa de los Jesuitas-Cala Rincon, Playa del Puerto and Playa de las Higuericas.

Torre de la Horadada offers splendid walks along the shore through the dunes and nearby Salinas of San Pedro De Pinatar, which is well known for its Flamingos. The natural Lagoon of the Mar Menor is next to the Salinas of San Pedro.

From the north to the south, the popular, urban beach Mil Palmeras, ideal for sailing enthusiasts, links up with the Rincon and Puerto inlets, the latter with a well-cared for promenade which comes alive on hot summer nights. Las Villas, the beach behind Torre De La Horadada marina is the longest beach followed by a small beach at El Mojon which constitutes a natural boundary with Murcia.

El Mojon

Rojales

Rojales is a traditional Mediterranean village & it is able to combine the most modern services and infrastructure with a respect to the environment and its unique culture. More than 4,000 families from all over the world have chosen Rojales as their home and relax in privileged surroundings. The beach close by borders a splendid lagoon and the landscape is typically agricultural with many fields of fruit trees, vegetables and flowers. Rojales enjoys a close affinity with nature and there are ample resources for the nature lover, including the Natural Park of the Lagoons of La Mata and Torrevieja.

The Natural Park of La Mata and Torrevieja is a beautiful moorland. It has an area of 3,700 hectares, of which 2,100 are water. It is a resting place for more than 2,000 specimens of migrating flamingoes, as well as blacknecked "zampullines", avocets etc.

There are three distinct areas in the lagoons; salt marshes, reed/rush beds and undergrowth. The lagoons are an excellent place to explore on a day trip and there is an information office, signposted trails and qualified staff to assist you. The trails are designed to be completed on bicycle or on foot, the route for the bicycle covers 5,200 metres and takes you on a trail through the lagoons and some

magnificent views of the Mediterranean. The trail on foot takes you through some of the existing ecosystems. Whichever route you decide to follow it is worth stopping at the pine forest for a look at the saltmarsh.

For many reasons Rojales is a town specialising in leisure activities. It has fully equipped sports facilities which make it possible to practice a wide variety of sports including, football, basketball, volleyball, tennis and swimming, along with bowling and Olympic bow shooting. One of the major sports of the Costa Blanca is golf and Rojales has an excellent golf course, The 18 hole course spans 5,840, and has some excellent facilities, including practice courses, golfing school, restaurant and social club. It is frequented by many amateurs and professionals. The town also has an excellent water park on the beautiful Ciudad Quesada Housing Estates. It is a family park where you can spend an amusing and refreshing day while you enjoy its fully equipped water facilities.

The history of the town dates back from the time of the Moors. They introduced an irrigation system which is still evident in the town today, it effectively redirects the flow of the river Segura to the major irrigation ditches and the Water Wheel. The water Wheel was built at the end of the last century and is protected by monumental stonework to stave off the damages from the river flooding.

One of the most representative symbols of Rojales is the 18th century bridge which is characterised by the workmanship of the stonework. It crosses the Segura river using three wide arches.

One of the most interesting features in Rojales are the cave dwellings which date back to the middle of the 19th century. Today there are four districts of cave houses, they are located at the sides of several hills surrounding the south of the town. You can visit the caves of El Rodeo where there is an extensive handicrafts market, it has become a hub of activity where courses, fairs and exhibitions of all things handmade are organised.

Rojales holds its most important festival on 29th June in honour of the patron saint, Peter. There are splendid colourful displays in the streets of the town and a great occasion to take part in. Other fiestas include the 'Romeria de San Isidro' in mid May and the Virgin of the Rosary which is celebrated at the beginning of October.

Ciudad Quesada

Dona Pepa

Formentera Del Segura

Heredades

Lo Pepin

Los Palacios

Montebello

San Miguel

Situated in the centre of the southern part of the Costa Blanca with good access to the A7 motorway network and just 10 km from the coast. San Miguel de Salinas - meaning St Michael of the Salt lakes - sits 100 metres above sea level and has a population of around 7500 people. Since 1955 the village has farmed 265 hectares of land irrigated by an irrigation canal of Levante, taking advantage of the Tajo-Segura. The countryside has acres of Orange, Lemon and Almond Groves and cave houses dotted around the mountain side. The Plaza de la Libertad is the location of the town's Church built in 1723. No doubt you have heard of the Salt Lakes near San Miguel - The views are spectacular and you can see many neighbouring towns and villages all the way across to the salt lakes and natural park of La Mata and Torreveja then beyond to the beautiful blue Mediterranean. There is a great weekly market in the town every Wednesday and you are bound to find some good bargains. This is a good community town with lots going on and a fantastic array of services and amenities. The local Post Room in the Church Square is a focal point and has lots of useful communication facilities including internet and email access. Opposite the post office is the library, cafeteria and pensioners center. The library has a wonderful mural, which is lovely to see. There are great restaurants around the town and an excellent social events calendar here means that you'll always be bumping in to new friends in the town.

The healthcare facility Centro de Salud has a Fast Track appointment system and a recently extended reception area. Each Doctor has a dedicated Nurse and the new computer system is linked to the New Public Hospital at Torreveja and X-Rays, Blood Tests and echo scans etc will be instantly sent to the Health Centre in San Miguel.

There are good schools in the area so all in all we would say that San Miguel is a suitable option for families and people looking for a permanent residence rather than a holiday home. That's not to say that San Miguel isn't a good holiday resort - it is - with weather like theirs it has to be!!

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Los Entre Naranjos

Los Montesinos

Los Montesinos is on the CV-945 about 25 minutes from Alicante airport near Algorfa and Rojales to the north, San Miguel de Salinas to the south, Torrevieja to the west and Almoradi and Orihuela to the east, so in a great location with easy access via the very good local road network.

Los Montesinos has grown steadily in recent years and has become an independent municipality with its own mayor and town council.

The Greater Seat of the Sacred Heart is where a young oak tree was planted in memory of another centennial oak. The Nuestra Senora del Pilar church was built in 1886 and stands in the as the center point of the village. There is a very attractive square in the village with a modern and impressive building Ayuntamiento.

Los Montesinos has successfully managed to combine its important roots of growing citrus fruits and vegetables with modern day life and a degree of tourism. New settlers are attracted to the area because it retains the charm of a typical Spanish village.

The local restaurants provide a good selection of Spanish stews and rabbit dishes as well as the more modern tapas dishes, and the people of this lovely village really know how to put on a good fiesta. Make a note in your diary to visit Los Montesinos on the 30th July - the Day of Segregation which marks their independence. In October they have the fiestas to celebrate the Virgin del Pilar and La Romeria a La Marquesa in honour of Nuestra Virgin del Rosario. The 22nd November is the day of the Patron Saint, Santa Cecilia.

This is a gem of a town if you are thinking of moving to Spain permanently - you will be made very welcome and there is a good infrastructure of nearby schools and medical facilities as well as all of the necessary shops and amenities.

San Miguel De Salinas

San Miguel de Salinas is another agricultural town across the salt lake from Torrevieja, its main interest being its position on the shores of the lake. With a population of 4000, San Miguel offers plenty of shops, bars and supermarkets, with a market being held each Wednesday. The amenities in Torrevieja are 12km away. Villamartin golf club is a couple of kilometres from San Miguel. Campoamor and Las Ramblas Golf Clubs are a ten minute drive away. The town is 30km from San Javier airport and 38km from Alicante airport. It is located about 5km of the main N332 coastal road.

San Pedro

Traditionally a seafaring and agricultural centre, San Pedro del Pinatar has become one of the principal tourist towns & main tourists attractions on Murcia's Costa Calida. The main attractions of San Pedro are concentrated around the beach and shore. Here you will find Lo Pagan, a lively tourist centre which has all kinds of holiday facilities such as hotels, bars, restaurants and shops. Next to the long promenade facing the Mar Menor are extensive beaches such as La Puntica or Villananitos. This watery setting, combined with the facilities at its marina means you can take part in many sports such as sailing, scuba diving or windsurfing. Around the Mar Menor, the beaches of Villananitos and La Curva (formerly known as La Puntica), offer shallow waters, an incentive to bathe or practise any kind of water sport. La Puntica is a beach where water sports are possible, such as sailing, windsurfing,

canoeing. There are even floating pitches on the water. It has a wide variety of services such as open-air bars, showers and restaurants. The beaches bathed by the Mediterranean are El Mojon and La Llana with 400 and 2,500 meters long respectively. El Mojon is a typical Spanish village near the Mar Menor, (the famous saltwater lagoon) and the San Pedro Nature Reserve (where you observe many species of flora and fauna). It has clean safe beaches and a lovely promenade with walks leading to the marina near the salt lakes.

Pilar De La Horadada

The town of Torre De La Horadada lies south of the Costa Blanca. It has a beautiful Marina and long sandy beaches. Situated north of The Mar Menor, it is just 12 kilometres from Murcia (San Javier) Airport , 60 km from Alicante Airport and 18 kilometres south of the lively resort of Torrevieja.

There are approximately 2.5 miles of well-kept, Blue Flag beaches which belong to this municipality including Playa de las Mil Palmeras, Playa de los Jesuitas-Cala Rincon, Playa del Puerto and Playa de las Higuericas.

Torre de la Horadada offers splendid walks along the shore through the dunes and nearby Salinas of San Pedro De Pinatar, which is well known for its Flamingos. The natural Lagoon of the Mar Menor is next to the Salinas of San Pedro.

From the north to the south, the popular, urban beach Mil Palmeras, ideal for sailing enthusiasts, links up with the Rincon and Puerto inlets, the latter with a well-cared for promenade which comes alive on hot summer nights. Las Villas, the beach behind Torre De La Horadada marina is the longest beach followed by a small beach at El Mojon which constitutes a natural boundary with Murcia.

Pinar De Campoverde

Torre De La Horadada

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Torre Vieja

Nestling between two large salt lakes and the Mediterranean, the old fishing village of Torre Vieja has grown to be the most important town in the area, with impressive plans for further development of the infrastructure.

The city of Torre Vieja lies 50km south west of Alicante and is ideally placed within 30-40 minutes of both Alicante and Murcia airports. In recent years, new motorways have made access to the town much easier. The harbour in Torre Vieja is still home for around 300 fishing ships and over 1000 private sport boats. This makes for a beautiful view whilst the sun sets. Due to the location of this area it has its own micro-climate, considered by the World Health Organisation to be one of the healthiest places in the world. This fact has attracted people from all over the globe to come and buy property here in the radiant sunshine. Torre Vieja has a cosmopolitan flavour which is reflected in the vast array of shops, boutiques, bars and local restaurants. Torre Vieja town has received many awards, such as being recognised among the top environmentally-minded municipalities in Spain.

If you thought only the off-the-beaten-track tourists noticed the pressure on areas such as the Costa Blanca, think again. The Spanish have not only noticed it, they are actively exploiting it. The fine white sand of Torre Vieja's beaches is one of the main attractions for visitors, as well as the calm waters. The warm Mediterranean Sea is crystal clear and most beaches provide entertainment areas for children, volleyball fields, water slides, showers and cafes along the promenades.

There are numerous glorious beaches, as you would expect in the Torre Vieja area. La Mata, La Zenia, Playa Flamenca, Los Locos, El Cura and Lo Ferris to name just a few. These are some of the best Blue Flag beaches in the Mediterranean. The climate and the beaches lend themselves to a variety of water sports like water skiing, wind surfing and surfing.

Playa del Cura beach is one of the most popular with games for the children, showers, rent of hammocks and the service & alertness of the Red Cross.

Los Locos Beach, also called El Salaret beach consists of fine golden sand with clear blue waters.

Towards the north, the environment becomes marked by a succession of small coves which spread up to Cabo Cervera. This part of the beach has been adapted for persons of limited mobility. This beach has parking, red cross, lifeguard and special facilities for the handicapped, an ice-cream stand, news stand, restaurants, bus stop, promenade and public telephones. You also have the opportunity to practice windsurfing, water cycling, water tubes and water parachuting.

Playa de Los Naufragos has a semi urban aspect with clean waters and fine, almost white sand and is very popular. Only one kilometre from here, you can visit Torre Vieja Marina International.

This marina has excellent installations with a restaurant, shops and other services for marine sports. Torrevieja is the home port of the largest fleet of sailing boats in the Mediterranean. Today the esteemed Real Club Nautico of Torrevieja & Puerto Deportivo Marina holds in excess of 1,500 mooring places of high quality. Playa del Cura also has the Blue Flag award. This beach has parking, red cross, childrens' park, water skiing, taxi rank, promenade, bus stop, restaurants, special handicapped person's facilities, public phones, beach umbrellas and hammocks, cleaning service and waste bins. You can also practice beach sports such as windsurfing and water cycling here.

El Chaparral

El Limonar

La Mata

Los Altos

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away. The nearest motorway junction is 5 minutes by car.

Numerous bars, restaurants, shops, banks, pharmacies etc. are all within easy walking distance. Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses are 10 minutes by car.

The stunning blue flag beaches of Torrevieja, Playa Flamenca, La Zenia & Cabo Roig are only 10 minutes by car. Torrevieja with its lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 10 minutes by car.

The area benefits from several schools including Spanish state schools, El Limonar International bi-lingual private school & Mar Azul private school following the full English curriculum. All of these schools cater for children ages 4 to 18 (& beyond). There are also numerous pre-school nurseries in the area.

Los Balcones

Los Balcones is primarily a quiet up-market residential area but a nice commercial centre with all amenities such as bars, shops, restaurants, bank, supermarket etc. is just a few minutes walk away.

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Los Perez (torrevieja)

Mar Azul

Playa De Los Locos

Punta Prima

Rocio Del Mar

San Luis

Torrelamata

Torrelamata Beach has many attractions for diving and the practice of nautical sports. Torrelamata beach provides many services ideal for the family. The beach is always very clean and there are lifeguards for your security. The water is a wonderful shade of blue and is crystal clear.

This beach also provides facilities for the handicapped together with parking, showers, cleaning service, waste bins, public phones, chiringuitos and restaurants.

Torreta

Torreta is a lovely, quiet, residential area outside of Torrevieja by the Mediterranean Sea just 35km from Alicante's El Altet Airport and Murcia's San Javier Airport an easy 2.5 hour flight from the UK. You can expect approximately 320 days sunshine each year. In the winter daytime temperatures average 60 Deg.F (15.5 Deg.C), and sometimes as high as 70 Deg.F. Torreta summers are typically 85 Deg.F (29.5 Deg.C). This region has 16” less rain per year than in the UK.

There is a good selection of local shops, a bus service and all of the usual amenities that you need for day to day life. Torrevieja is no distance at all and has extensive facilities if there's something you can't get in Torreta itself.

A little further inland there are 2 famous lagoons, the pinky coloured Torrevieja one and the La Mata lake. These are protected nature reserves and attract all sorts of bird including the amazing flamingos. A great area for cycling, walking and riding.

Club Salino is a popular area in Torreta, mainly residential where a lot of people live 12 months of the year. The community has a mixture of holiday makers, retired people who spend a few months of the year here and the majority being permanent residents.

There are 5 excellent golf courses within easy reach, 4 bowls clubs, and Aquapolis Water Park for the children (big & small) has kamikaze slides and river rapids as well as more attractions for the really small ones. There is a club for just about everything in Torrevieja if you are looking to be active: scuba diving, belly dancing, cycling, running, sailing, badminton, netball and table tennis.

You can find typically Spanish bungalows here in Torreta so of course predominantly low rise property. Prices are extremely keen, which is surprising for such a sought after location. There are lots of individual resale homes available but not so many off plan options.

Costa Calida

The Costa Calida known as the warm coast stretches from San Pedro del Pinatar in the north to Aguilas in the south. Calida means warm and this region enjoys around 315 days of sunshine annually and an average temperature of 18 - 20 degrees.

It's a perfect place for sailing, windsurfing, diving or swimming in the warm crystal clear waters. The Mar Menor, to the south east of Murcia is a coastal salt water lake, the largest in Europe, covering a surface area of 170m², separated from the Mediterranean by the La Manga peninsula. Mar Menor means small sea its just seven metres at its deepest and during the summer months can rise to 5 Deg.C higher than the sea - its shallow, calm waters makes it perfect for family activities.

The narrow La Manga del Mar peninsula houses a strip of fine hotels, homes and apartments. The famous La Manga Club overlooks the water. Nestled amongst the lemon groves, the club has three superb golf courses and one of Europe's finest tennis centres. Its also home to a football training centre often used by international teams.

This area boasts mild winters, very low annual rainfall and over 3,000 hours of sunshine each year, giving the region a very dry atmosphere all year round. The waters themselves have very high therapeutic qualities and together with the climatic conditions have produced large deposits of mud and clay. These muddy deposits are believed by many to contain natural healing properties, particularly for many skin complaints. They also possess anti-inflammatory properties important for the treatment of rheumatism, arthritis and bone treatment fractures.

The main airports are Alicante and Murcia San Javier, with a new airport at Corvera due to be completed in 2009/10. The region has excellent road networks.

The following pages contain details of main towns, areas and urbanizacions of Costa Calida

Towns, Areas and Urbanizacions of Costa Calida

Main towns are indicated with a green bar and smaller towns/areas and urbanizacions are indicated with a red bar:

Aguilas

Cartagena

Cartagena is the capital of the region with a population of 168,000, Cartagena was founded, as its name suggests, by the Carthaginians in 227 BC and it became Hannibal's capital city on the Iberian Peninsula.

Today it is a modern, industrial city although relics of its past are still highly visible. The narrow streets of the old town were built around the ruined 13th century cathedral. There are several sites of historical interest including the remains of the Roman road, an old Roman theatre and the Litema (an ancient lighthouse of Moorish origins). Cartagena's ancient seaport and naval dockyard is where the first submarine was built in 1900 and where submarines are still built today. The port consists of a deep bay with a natural harbour, hence the town's historical importance.

Cartagena has a large shopping centre, plenty of supermarkets and other amenities you would expect to find in a large town including a hospital, schools and sports facilities. The town is the major service centre for the Costa Calida urbanizations that continue to develop around it. Cartagena is 30 minutes drive from Murcia. San Javier airport is 15km from Cartagena. The excellent golf courses at La Manga, which has 3 18-hole courses of international standard, are 20km away.

Mazarron

Puerto De Mazarron

San Pedro Del Pinatar

Traditionally a seafaring and agricultural centre, San Pedro del Pinatar has become one of the principal tourist towns & main tourists attractions on Murcia's Costa Calida. The main attractions of San Pedro are concentrated around the beach and shore. Here you will find Lo Pagan, a lively tourist centre which has all kinds of holiday facilities such as hotels, bars, restaurants and shops. Next to the long promenade facing the Mar Menor are extensive beaches such as La Puntica or Villananitos. This watery setting, combined with the facilities at its marina means you can take part in many sports such as sailing, scuba diving or windsurfing.

Around the Mar Menor, the beaches of Villananitos and La Curva (formerly known as La Puntica), offer

shallow waters, an incentive to bathe or practise any kind of water sport. La Puntica is a beach where water sports are possible, such as sailing, windsurfing, canoeing. There are even floating pitches on the water. It has a wide variety of services such as open-air bars, showers and restaurants. The beaches bathed by the Mediterranean are El Mojon and La Llana with 400 and 2,500 meters long respectively. El Mojon is a typical Spanish village near the Mar Menor, (the famous saltwater lagoon) and the San Pedro Nature Reserve (where you observe many species of flora and fauna). It has clean safe beaches and a lovely promenade with walks leading to the marina near the salt lakes.

El Mojon

Mar Menor

The Mar Menor is a perfect place for sailing, windsurfing, diving or swimming in the warm crystal clear waters. A region of Costa Calida, to the south east of Murcia, the Mar Menor is a coastal salt water lake, the largest in Europe, covering a surface area of 170m², separated from the Mediterranean by the La Manga peninsula. This region enjoys around 315 days of sunshine annually and an average temperature of 18 - 20 degrees.

Mar Menor means small sea its just seven metres at its deepest and during the summer months can rise to 5 Deg.C higher than the sea - it's shallow, calm waters makes it perfect for family activities.

The narrow La Manga del Mar peninsula houses a strip of fine hotels, homes and apartments. The famous La Manga Club overlooks the water. Nestled amongst the lemon groves, the club has three superb golf courses and one of Europe's finest tennis centres. Its also home to a football training centre often used by international teams.

The main airport is Murcia San Javier with Alicante airport also within reach further north. A new airport is being constructed at Corvera and is due to be completed in 2009/10. The region has excellent road networks.

The following pages contain details of main towns, areas and urbanizacions of Mar Menor

Towns, Areas and Urbanizacions of Mar Menor

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Cartagena

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La Manga Club

La Manga is a strip of land that enfolds the shallow waters of the Mar Menor teeming with all types of fish and shellfish. This is a privileged spot with a healthy climate and many small typical Spanish villages.

Because it is between two seas, the Mar Menor and the Mediterranean, La Manga is ideal for every type of nautical sport in its marinas, swimming, sailing and wind surfing, with classes given to beginners and advanced levels.

If you are looking to buy a property in Spain and love golf then La Manga is the place for you. There is a first class championship golf course which is the haunt of many famous celebrities. Here there is a green haven where it is possible to play tennis or bowls or even go horse-riding, in fact there is an opportunity to develop your skills in many sports. Many international entertainers have performed in the five-star hotel or in the casino.

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La Union

Los Belones

Los Nietos (los Nietos)

Los Urrutias

Mar De Cristal

Playa Honda

Mar Menor

The Mar Menor, apart from being the biggest open air health spa in the world is also considered to be among the best areas for regatta and certain water sports which can be practiced all year round. There are numerous sports centres which have facilities to allow competitive sports enthusiasts the opportunity to prepare for their tournaments and competitions, in a fantastic environment where the waters are calm. There are several diving, sailing and canoe training schools where education on sports techniques can be acquired and where the opportunity to practice newly-acquired skills can be accessed.

Los Alcazares

The golden sandy blue flag beaches of Los Alcazares are located on the Mar Menor which is a salt-water lagoon separated from the Mediterranean Sea by a 17km long strip of land called La Manga. The Los Alcazares beach is 7km in length with an attractive promenade walk to the town centre and beyond.

This beautiful part of Spain is quite unknown to many people and probably Spain's Best Kept Secret with the beautiful Mar Menor (little sea) a saltwater lagoon divided from the Mediterranean by the Manga strip, a natural breakwater which has progressively enclosed it. Almond trees, palms and windmills add to the beauty of the landscape of this area.

There are wonderful sailing and water skiing facilities on the lagoon, without any waves and very shallow waters. This makes the ideal beach holiday or permanent living area, especially for families with children due to it being so safe. The bay is famous for visitors with rheumatic, arthritic and skin problems. A natural mud bath can be found in one area of the beach which offers therapeutic results in comparison to the Black Sea.

Los Alcazares offers seven kilometres of coast line with the town centre practically situated on the shores of the Mar Manor. The coastline is divided into the following beaches from north to south, and some of these with the blue flag awarded by EU: Las Salinas, Los Narejos, Las Palmeras, Espejo, Manzanares, Carrion and La Concha. All these beaches are connected by means of a magnificent promenade and are fully equipped with showers,

fountains, accessways and paths for the handicapped and also cater for games and sports.

Santiago de la Ribera

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San Javier

At the northern end of the Mar Menor, San Javier is a lovely Spanish town, which like many places along this stretch of coastline was once a sleepy fishing village. Now San Javier is a friendly, relaxed centre with a whole range of shops, bars and great places to eat. Here you are extremely well positioned for the Mar Menor, all of the facilities of the town and the beaches and sailing club at Santiago de la Ribera.

Although you do not automatically associate La Manga Club as the destination for a 'beach holiday', the resort has its own small cove and man-made beach at La Cala. Additionally, the surrounding region has a large number of beaches offering the perfect retreat for those who like to feel sand beneath their feet or frolic in the surf.

The Mar Menor and the Mediterranean are nearby and have a number of good bathing beaches; whilst slightly further afield is an even larger selection from which to choose. A number of the beaches locally have been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag status. This is only awarded to those beaches which meet exacting standards of cleanliness, stringent environmental criteria and safe bathing. The closest to La Manga Club are Playa Blanco del Tabal and Playa el Pedrucho on La Manga Strip.

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Lo Pagan

Mud glorious mud, surely we can't be talking about Spain? Indeed we are, and the place to find all this lovely mud is called Lo Pagan. Mention the Mar Menor to most people and they think of La Manga (The Sleeve) the well known sports resort and over-developed strip of land which forms the Mar Menor (Lesser Sea), investigate a little more closely and you will find some excellent resorts dotted along the Mar Menor's coastline. One of these splendid resorts is the small village of Lo Pagan, located just south of the San Pedro del Pinatar salt flats.

Lo Pagan could easily be missed, but missing it would be a mistake as it is a lovely little village with a wonderful sandy beach and shallow, clear, warm water. The temperature of the water in the Mar Menor is typically around 5 degrees warmer than the surrounding Mediterranean and although it has an area of about 170 km² and is the largest inland sea of its kind in Europe, it is only around 7 metres at its deepest point making it ideal for water sports. On arriving at Lo Pagan you may just want to head for the beach and enjoy the sun and the warm shallow water, however you might easily be confronted by a strange and unusual sight, what exactly are those black objects drying in the sun? People is the answer, people covered in black, smelly mud, and grown people at that, not children. Is this some quaint ritual, or do they know something that we don't? Indeed they do know something and that is the special healing effects of this foul smelling mud, the knowledge of which draws people from all over the world to the village of Lo Pagan. The beneficial effects of certain muds and clays have been known from man's early history and the Chinese in particular used mud for making poultices to heal wounds and inflammations. The mud at Lo Pagan is confined to a part of the salt lake known as 'La Puntica', and it has formed due to the climatic conditions of the area, long hours of sunlight and an extremely high salt content in the water. The sediment that has formed contains high levels of important minerals such as potassium, magnesium, calcium, fluorine, sulphur and chlorine and it has been discovered that applying it to the skin and allowing it to dry in the sun results in beneficial effects for many ailments. The mud is recommended for many types of skin complaint such as acne, ulcers, abscesses and inflammations, it is also recommended for arthritis, rheumatism and gout. Due to a small amount of grit in the mud it also has an exfoliating effect on the skin, similar to that used in beauty treatments, mud face packs etc. It leaves the skin feeling silky smooth and fresh (if you can get rid of the smell!). Over the past couple of years a number of wooden platforms have been constructed leading out to the best areas of mud and there are steps leading down to the water to make the experience easier to enjoy. You will find the mud to be about six inches deep and very warm, you simply apply the mud to affected areas (or as most people



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Area Details and Information

Regions & Towns of Alicante and Murcia

do all over!) and allow it to dry in the sun. When the mud is dry you can then wash it off in the same lake, it is not allowed to wash it off on the main beach as this spoils the prime bathing areas. There are also areas (rather like moats) of excessively salty water where people bathe to relieve the effects of arthritis, tendonitis and rheumatism, the warm salty water reputedly increases blood circulation and eliminates toxins giving relief to stiff and painful joints.

Close to Lo Pagan are the salt flats of San Pedro del Pinatar, declared a Nature Reserve and Regional Park in 1985, it is the most important area of marshland in the region of Murcia and is an important area for bird life. The saltworks here have a documented history going back to the 14th Century and two windmills which still exist today were used to pump the salty water of the Mar Menor into the salt lagoons. The windmills are no longer working and have been replaced by electric pumps. Lo Pagan can be easily reached via the N332 coast road, signposted from San Pedro del Pinatar, and is also well signposted from the AP-7 motorway (Junction 777).

Murcia

Murcia city, the capital of Murcia province, is known as the breadbasket of Europe. Set in a fertile plain watered by the River Segura the city was founded over a thousand years ago. Here you will find Moorish architecture, as well as fantastic art galleries and museums. The old town complements the modern city with chic stores, boutiques, world class restaurants and top level sporting events, from bullfighting to soccer. Murcia is one of the fastest growing cities in Spain. A city rich in cultural achievements being full of magnificent architectural pearls such as the baroque-rococo cathedral.

Murcia straddles the river and is a prime example of good city planning with many gardens and plazas full of restaurants where one can enjoy a quick snack or a good leisurely meal making it a great place to buy a house or villa. A university city, it is full of libraries and museums that describe the city long past.

The wider province of Murcia hosts many championship golf courses such as the famous La Manga Club on the south east coast of the region. Murcia is also home to the highly regarded Polaris World Developments.

The main airport is Murcia San Javier with Alicante airport also within reach further north. A new airport is being constructed at Corvera and is due to be completed in 2009/10. The region has excellent road networks.

The following pages contain details of main towns, areas and urbanizaciones of Murcia

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Main towns are indicated with a green bar and smaller towns/areas and urbanizacions are indicated with a red bar:

Abanilla

Archena

Bullas

Calasparra

Caravaca

Caravaca De La Cruz

Cehegin

Fortuna

Jumilla

Santa Ana

Lorca

Moratalla

Mula

Murcia

Alcantarilla

Alhama De Murcia

Cabezo De Torres

Corvera

Gea Y Truyols

Molina De Segura

Santomera

Torre Pacheco

Torre Pacheco is a municipality situated in the Southeast of the Region of Murcia, in the Region of Campo de Cartagena.

The economy of the municipal Torre Pacheco depends primarily on intensive farming, producing a great variety and quantity of fruit and vegetables, destined mainly for export to European countries such as France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and The United Kingdom. Specialising in peppers, melons, lettuce, beans, artichokes, celery, etc. The municipal ends in the north with an elevation of the land called Cabezo Gordo (Fat Ridge). Its area spans 189,4 Km², which makes up 1,67% of the Murcia region. The municipal is found framed by the Sierra de Carrascoy to the north and the Sierras Beticas Cartageneras to the south. To the East you will encounter Mar Menor (the Smaller Sea). It borders to the north with the municipal of Murcia City, To the west the municipio de Fuente Alamo, to the south Cartagena and to the east with the municipalities of San Javier and Los Alcazares. The distance to the capital of the Region is just 37 Km.

The main population of the municipality is in Torre Pacheco, where the Town Hall is situated. It is surrounded by the following districts: Roldan, Balsicas, Dolores de Pacheco, San Cayetano, The Jimenado, Santa Rosalia, The Meronos, The Hortichuela, Los Olmos-Hoyamorenna, Los Camachos and El Albardinal.

Travelling through Tower Pacheco obliges you to approach their 12 population centres, all with a definite identity, where men and women have worked in this municipality, the agricultural cradle of the Region.

We leave from the Plaza, presided by the Town Hall, administrative and political nerve centre of the municipality, the building was built in the year 1.866 directed by the Architect D. Francisco Jose Belmonte.

This historic place is surrounded by three plazas, to the front of the building, the Plaza del Ayuntamiento, to the left the Plaza Vicente Anton and to the right the Plaza of Sr. Amalio Lopez, known traditionally as Plaza de los Patos (Plaza of the Ducks).

We continue the journey through the Paseo Villa Esperanza where the Casa de la Musica stands,

symbolic building, of contemporary structure, designed to become the arts centre of the municipality.

Situated in the Avenida de Fontes, next to the rambla you will find the golf Course.

From the Avenida de Fontes we flow into in the Calle Mayor, that caters for religious, festive, social, and historic events of the locality.

The stately houses that are located there are considered of artistic historic interest.

The street is presided by a very small square where the local church stands. In this street we should make a stop to buy the traditional cordial and delights in the sweetshops of Elias and Ma Charo.

Places of interest:

Sima de Las Palomas. most important paleontological site in Spain, after Atapuerca. It is situated in Cabezo Gordo (The Fat Ridge), next to the district to Pena de Pacheco.

Molinos. Diverse windmills are found disseminated by all the municipal At present 3 of them they have been rehabilitated. An Association of Friends of the the Mills exists.

Balsicas

The town of Balsicas is located just 15 minutes drive from the Mar Menor and from San Javier airport. Balsicas is a very typical Spanish market town and takes its name for the rafts constructed here centuries ago. The town has a magnificent castle and church in the centre. There is a Renfe train station in Balsicas with a direct train link to Madrid. The journey time is around 4 1/2 hours and the cost is very reasonable.

Dolores de Pacheco

Hacienda Riqueleme

La Tercia (sucina)

La Torre

La Torre Golf Resort properties vary from 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments most overlooking the golf course, 2 bedroom townhouses most directly overlooking the golf course, both with communal pools and 2 and 3 bedroom detached villas on plots large enough for a private pool (optional)

Just imagine for a moment owning your own La Torre property actually on a Jack Nicklaus designed Polaris World golf course. A property designed to exude the style of south-eastern Spain. Well at La Torre Golf Resort you can!

Situated just a short drive from the Mar Menor on 1,400,000sqm, the La Torre Golf Resort consists of selection of properties from apartments to detached villas.

Airports - Murcia San Javier 15 mins, Alicante 50 mins, Murcia Corvera (opens 2010) 20 mins

Facilities - 18 hole golf course by Nicklaus design* golf driving range* 5 star Intercontinental hotel with restaurants and Spa* resort centre with several restaurants including themed restaurants* bars* golf clubhouse* supermarket* travel agency* car hire* sports facilities including tennis courts* 24h security* shuttlebus link to other Polaris golf resorts* ability to play golf and use the facilities of any other Polaris World golf resort.

Los Infiernos

Roldan

San Cayetano

Sucina

From Sucina the crystal clear warm waters of the Mar Menor are only 20 minutes away and are a magnet to lovers of watersports such as sailing, windsurfing, kitesurfing, scuba and snorkelling on the marine preserves or just simply swimming - 253 km of coastline in all. Murcia, the regional capital is an easy 20 minute drive by motorway over the mountains. The local airport of Murcia (San Javier) is 15 minutes drive and is served by several low cost airlines, Alicante airport is 45 minutes drive. Small, sweet and straight to the point; that is Sucina. The point thus being the epicentre of Spanish life; family, food, saints and siestas. It is located but a short distance from San Javier, perhaps six to eight kilometres; a stone throw away from the airport. You might also find it resembling a fraction of a dot on any up to date map of Spain. Sucina is tiny.

The centre comprises of a church called, "Nuestra Senora Del Rosario" and has recently experienced some physical renovation, due to its age. I dare say the smoothing over of a few cracks and wrinkles, touched up with a lick of paint. On one side of the church, you will find a bank, whilst on the other side, a restaurant. What more could one want or need? Two roads up from the church, along a row of tiny, terraced houses dating back to the 18th Century, you will capture the local "Panaderia," other wise known as the bakery. "Pasteles" or cakes, are made here too. These articles are national treasures only to be scoffed and not scoffed at, as they hold a vital part of Spanish tradition on birthday's, Saint's days, (and the good Lord knows that there are many), Sunday's, in fact, pick a day!

If you are acquainted with Sucina, you will know that it is a tiny town emerging. New houses and resorts are under construction and will remain so for at least another five years. This sleepy little village, is expanding in a circular motion whilst still rubbing its eyes after a very long siesta.

It is said that approximately around the 16th or 17th Century, Murcia's countryside began to further populate and grow, thus Sucina's appointment being known as "El Pozo de Sucina," translated as "Sucina's Well" and also known as Canada de Sucina - Sucina's canyons.

At the awakening of the 18th Century during Murcia's agricultural administrative reign, Sucina was a dependant town within Murcia's jurisdiction. Shortly thereafter, a local parish in Sucina was formed in 1744 by Don Balthazar Artega y Gamba, with the parish represented by a priest from La Orden de Los Clerigos Menores (The order of the young clergy), called Don Juan Matheo. In 1768, 919 parishioners were recorded in attendance. At the dawn of the 19th century, between the period of 1820-1823, Sucina's Ayuntamiento was erected. Around this era, construction was under way for the habitants of the town, whereby 50 terraced houses were built including 400 semi detached homes, purely for the towns labourers.

The land in these parts is rather dry with no river or lake to be discovered within its vicinity. Therefore, the only

form of re-hydration for the earth is rainwater. Hills can be found strewn from North to South with long valleys running parallel between them, prepared by mother nature, ready for cultivation.

Produce, such as almonds, olives, wheat, artichokes, green beans, melons, lemons and tomatoes are grown here and exported. These products are the main and fundamental agriculture, aiding the town's economy. Their biggest commercial enterprise being the cultivation, transportation and exportation of almonds. Wildlife such as fowl and rabbits are scattered about these lands also claiming this region as their own.

This century, Sucina has born witness to vast changes, from its progressive decline in its population. For example, 1,714 habitants were recorded in 1960. By 1970, figures dropped to 1,005 and further still in 1991 down to a total of 985 people. However, a recount in 1996 disclosed a rise in figures reaching 1054 townfolk registered and is obviously still rising.

Sucina, for some reason or another has two town halls. The older version of the two is situated deeper in to the old town. Inside, you can find a small theatre and a hairdresser, plus any other relevant information one may wish to know regarding any activities, courses and events, taking pace in Sucina and Murcia. Outside the town hall, there is a play area for children, adorning swings and other contraptions. Meanwhile, along the benches, the older townfolk seek refuge from the sun under shade of the trees, keeping guard whilst their children play. A small platform stage can also be found outside the Ayuntamiento, where I gather that the steps of the town hall are utilised as make shift seats, for any outdoor staged events. A few hundred yards, just on the cusp of the town, one may discover the second and newer town hall, with a far more modern feel and almost clinical design. Several meters adjacent, there is a petrol station, a quick reminder before you leave town to fill the tank. Not forgetting to mention a tobacconist, no town, village or city in Spain would be seen dead without one. On one corner, you will find a kiosk. This is no ordinary kiosk. This little booth, is a pleasure dome for the sugar thespian, myself included, or for the more savoury pallet, crisps, salted popcorn (palomita"s - little doves or pigeons if you prefer) and sunflower seeds.

In the main old town of Sucina, it took me approximately one hour to circulate, stopping several times along the way to take in its atmosphere. During my short trek, I saw a handful of people going about their daily business. Very tranquil, I thought, with "tranquilo" people. I can completely understand why people are rushing to move here.

There is a very warm and receiving ambiance about this town which you would do well to discover. It may not contain a great deal of historical landmarks or features, but it is cosy and yet, I also suspect, an often colourful and vibrant environment, especially during the fiesta season, affirming it"s heart on the map through the veins and hearts of it"s people.

Valle Del Sol

Totana

Yecla