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Solmar Estates Area Guide: Costa Blanca South



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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.

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.

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. €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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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Dehesa De Campoamor

Dehesa De Campoamor is a lovely residential area with a wide variety of properties from apartments to beautiful detached luxury villas.

The stunning Blue flag beaches Campoamor, Cabo Roig & La Zenia are less than 5 minutes by car.

The famous Villamartin Plaza with its numerous, shops, bars & restaurants & Villamartin Golf course are less than 10 minutes by car & Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses are less than 5 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.

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

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La Chismosa

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.

Torre Vieja 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.

La Florida (Orihuela Costa)

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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.

Torre Vieja with its lovely marina, Blue flag beaches & everything you could possibly want & more is less than 10 minutes by car.

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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.

The famous Villamartin Plaza with it's 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, 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

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 it's 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 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.

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 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.

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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.

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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.

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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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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 Torre Vieja.

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 Torre Vieja.

The Natural Park of La Mata and Torre Vieja 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 towns 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 Torrevieja 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 Torrevieja and X-Rays, Blood Tests and echo scans etc will be instantly sent to the Heath 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

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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.

Murcia San Javier airport is 20 minutes away & Alicante airport 45 minutes away. The nearest motorway junction is 2 minutes by car. Villamartin, Las Ramblas & Campoamor Golf Courses are 10 minutes by car.

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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.