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Solmar Estates Area Guide: Costa Calida



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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