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Solmar Estates Area Guide: Murcia



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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

Towns, Areas and Urbanizacions of Murcia

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 townsfolk 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 townsfolk 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