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The Spanish Costa Blanca – A Nature Lovers Paradise

By Ciara McNamara

If you have chosen the Costa Blanca , Spain for your holiday travel, supposedly it is because it has

been recommended to you by someone you trust, you have read about it and seems quite amazing and/or just love being in contact with nature, the natural environment that it offers, relaxation and fresh air. Wow! What a fantastic combination if you can get all that together. Just take out your map of the Iberian Peninsula which will show you Spain and Portugal, go to the Mediterranean Sea and look for Alicante. Now go down the coast to the south and find the villa of Pilar del Honradada, now start running your finger up to Torrevieja, going through Alicante city, to Benidorm, Altea, Calpe, Moraira and Javea with the last point in Denia. Well, all of this is yours to explore when you say that you want some Costa Blanca holidays.

Now that you have an idea of what villas you can visit, let's start making plans. Firstly, the majority of the people choose summer for their vacation time, which is great, but you will need to book your flight in advance. There are a lot of scheduled economy flights when flying in from another European destination. England is one of the countries which has the most amount of flights in as much as frequency year round, airport availability with a lot of open timetables and very low prices. Between Alicante and Valencia, both serving the Costa Blanca as they are almost the same distance away, your travel options will be plentiful. As far as getting around, if your budget permits, a rent a car would be quite nice, if not, then there are many buses, trains or taxis making trips to and from the airports and major bus and train stations, connecting all the villas along the Costa Blanca. Nature Calls Tradition, culture and landmarks is what differentiates one place from another even though they are neighbouring towns. Javea for example shares with Denia the Natural Park of Montgo, a solid massif right on the coastal line. Just the fact that the side facing the sea acts as a huge windsheild, blocking the marine winds and humidity, it does not have the same vegetation as the west side which is treated with warmer and drier breezes. Therefore, in order to appreciate the more than 600 different kinds of flora, you must make a complete circle round it. On doing this, you will also come across different fauna like the yellowed-legged seagull, eagles and royal owls. If that were not enough, there are also archaeological remains which are under study and that is probably one of the main reasons for this area to have been declared a World Heritage. But Javea is also curious because it has kept up many of its original tradition like the ball game, similiar to tennis but played in a very primitive way. There are no courts, just the streets, the ball is made with cloth, compactly held together with string and more

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cloth, their hands are used as paddles and the spectators are the judges or referees. At the weekends there are usually a few games going on so feel free to sit on the curb and participate. And if that is not thrilling enough, then plan your holiday when Javea is celebrating its patron saint in the summer. This is usually a week long festivity which includes bullfighting in the streets.

After this stay, it would be relaxing to just lay around on the beaches in Moraira or Calpe, sip some sangria made with good Spanish wine and feast out on fresh seafood, most of which you have never seen so close up or have probably ever tried. In Calpe, there is another treat for the nature lover's– the Rock of Ifach, a small roky peninsula joined to land by an isthmus right in front of Calpe. Among the fauna you will see cormorants and hawks of all kinds and of course a completely different vegetation from other areas. The sea in Calpe is usually crystal clear, letting you see red corral, sea sponges and the sea anemone. Now onto Altea, an old fishing village which has grown considerably thanks to the amount of tourists and foreigners looking for a second residence. The villa of Altea is surrounded by various mountain ranges making the general view from almost anywhere nearby a special combination

of a mountain backdrop and the sea. The waters are usually quite calm although the beaches are pebbly. They have a nice festive air when celebrating their Moorish tradition in April, a great firework display in early July and the local honouring of their patron Saint Ann in August. Cannot ever be bored there! Other Kinds of Fun Parks around the Costa Blanca Now your travel has taken you to Benidorm, which if we stretch our Spanish into English, it could mean `sleep well'. As that is what you will probably do after a long day of boat rides, skiing classes or theme park activities. You can go on all kinds of thrilling and daring rides, be they on dry land or going down long watershoots or hang out with the wildlife and then go for a splash in the same park or prfer completely dry land and smell the aromas in an area filled with exotic plants and birds. Alicante is just a stone's throw away from Benidorm (

<http://www.alicante-spain.com/benidorm.html>

), and this city is where you can get a good dose of

Spanish culture with its innumerable museums, cathedrals and castles. If you choose late June, you eyes will be amazed with when seeing the huge carton figures that are set up in the streets, beautiful girls elegantly dressed in the typical Alicantinian dresses and the partying in the streets until late hours of the night. ut then again, you can change atmospheres and sprawl out on the beaches in Torrevieja before ending you wonderful holiday in the Costa Blanca.

Ciara McNamara distributed many articles for

<http://www.alicante-spain.com>

an internet site on Costa

Blanca and Spain information. You can find most of here writings here

<http://www.alicante-spain.com/costa-blanca.html>

on the website.

Real life on the Costa Blanca

By Karen Milacic

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If you are new to Spain, or just new to the Costa Blanca, you may be forgiven for thinking that each town is another Benidorm – you could not be more mistaken. The town of Benidorm, now grown to the size of a small city, is very, very different to the rest of the Costa Blanca – almost to the point of being a different world. Most of the small towns such as Altea, Javea, Calpe and Moraira along the coast are unspoilt and little commercialised. You can quite easily find the Spain that so many people have fallen in love with – little fishing villages and quite coves and beaches, typical Spanish villages with their narrow streets and unhurried lifestyles as well as upmarket and modern villas and apartments. There are many hotels and Aparthotels available on the Costa Blanca to suit all tastes – and budgets and you can find out more about them on <http://www.costablancaworld.com>

I am a seasoned expat living on the Costa Blanca for five years. I speak fluent Spanish and have two children in school here. If you are thinking of emigrating to Spain the information I can provide is ESSENTIAL. Visit my web site <http://www.costablancaworld.com>



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