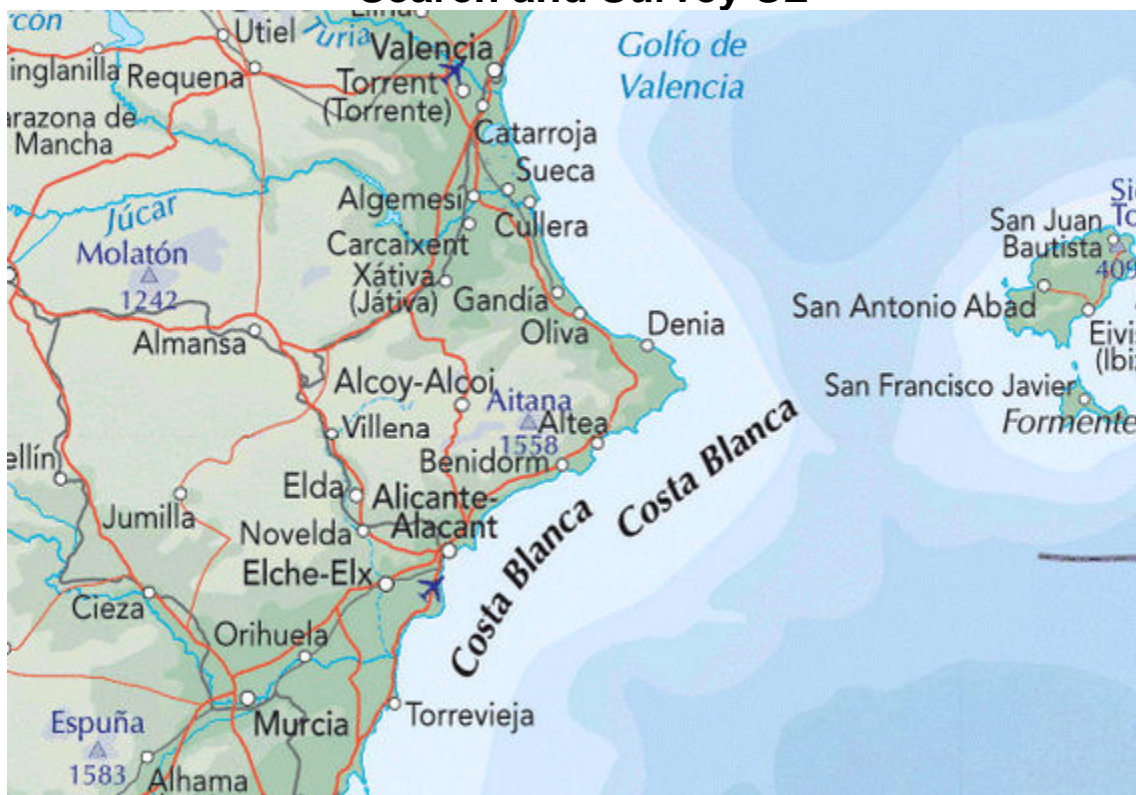


The Costa Blanca

Published by

Search and Survey SL



Search and Survey SL – Free information service

The Costa Blanca

The Costa Blanca

Whilst all the unique differences which collectively go to make up Spain may not find universal attraction, most people become quickly endeared to a significant majority of them. This is particularly true on the Costa Blanca!

Its official - the Costa Blanca is the most frequented Spanish Coast by the British with over 1.4 million visiting each year. This figure surpasses even the Costa del Sol by 100,000

Mountains, rivers, plains, miles of endless gold and silver beaches, blue skies and a climate which is envied by large parts of Spain and most of the world. It's also official, weather on the Costa Blanca is better than on any other Spanish coast. With near perfect temperatures and humidity, blue skies, warm seas and a total lack of extremes make this coast the premier destination for increasing amounts of expatriates and holidaymakers. When the relatively low cost of living (but rising quickly) is also taken into account you begin to understand the magic that is the Costa Blanca. With the long established Costa del Sol now groaning under the volume of concrete, which spreads almost without interruption from Malaga to Gibraltar, it's not surprising that many who favoured this coast are now turning their attention to an area of Spain where even in the peak holiday season, it is still possible to find deserted bays and beaches within a short distance of where you live or may be staying.

But beaches are not everything, although the Costa Blanca has some of the very best, with the biggest stretching for as far as the eye can see. With its unique climate, described as being among the best in the World, this coast has something for everyone.

As we approach the Costa Blanca from the North, we journey through the La Safor district, one of the most fertile areas in Valencia. In spring, the smell of the orange blossom never fails to create a lasting impression on those fortunate to experience it.

Denia

Denia can be described as an attractive city with parks and gardens full of typically Mediterranean plants. Flowers and tree lined avenues offer shade, during the hot summer months.

The area surrounding the port, known as Baix-la-Mar, has shipyard buildings which date back to the late 16th century but the most interesting feature of this quarter is its layout which still conjures up images of the life of Mediterranean sailors of times long since gone. Denia is situated in the centre of the Valencia coastline - about 100 kilometres from both Valencia and Alicante. Denia Castle is the most interesting building in the city and has now been fully restored. The castle still has Moorish remains to be found on the east side.

If you are interested in the Costa Blanca, you may know that it begins at the Denia coastline. Attractive, in a rugged, rocky way, Denia has two very different types of coastline: in the North, the beaches are flat and sandy but to the south, the foothills of the Montgo mountains extend down to the beach forming a rocky coast with numerous bays and coves.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service The Costa Blanca

It is claimed that Denia was founded by the phocaens, who named it Hemeroskopeion, meaning "that which is seen in daytime". A temple built to the Goddess Diana once stood on the same land as that now occupied by Denia Castle. It is probable that this is the source of the name Denia. The castle is now a public park and also hosts the local archaeological museum. There are numerous other points of interest to be found in this ancient, attractive city. During the War of Independence, the French made the castle their stronghold, holding off the siege laid by Spanish soldiers for five months. Obviously made of "sterner stuff" than they are today.

If you are contemplating a move to this area or a holiday, the wide sandy beaches are ideal for children and/or holidays. These beaches are found to the north of Denia among which the best are, Les Marines, Les Deveses, Les Bassetes, Les Bovetes, and Els Molins Bay. The only rocky beach to the north of Denia is La Almadraba, here the water is quite deep with the sea bed made up of rocks and pebbles. Local fisherman catch octopus and squid from this beach.

Denia is somewhere you need visit yourself before being able to decide whether or not it was an area in which you would want either a holiday or retirement home. Steeped in history, the city and surrounding area has a lot to offer and many foreigners live there quite happily. It cannot be described as a particularly cheap part of the Costa Blanca or having an OTT infra structure. If you wish to live inland and buy a property to renovate, the North of the Costa Blanca may prove difficult in that land available in any quantities is being snapped up by builders for development. If your hope is to buy a farm type property you will have more success in the south of the Costa Blanca, Costa Calida and Costa de Almeria. Farm type properties are rarely near the coast for obvious reasons.

Javea

Javea lies at the foot of the Sierra del Montgo, 8 kilometres south of Denia. It is said to overlook one of the most beautiful bays of the Costa Blanca. It is the second largest municipality in the Alicante province, with an area of just over 68 square kilometres. The town is popular with holidaymaker's, particularly in the spring when the smell of orange blossom is constantly in the air.

As with many other areas on the eastern Spanish coast, the centre of Javea was surrounded by fortifications as a protection against attacks from the Barbary Coast pirates. Today, a few stretches of these fortifications can still be seen. The old part of the town is made up of a labyrinth of narrow streets full of whitewashed houses, many dating back to the 17th and 18th century. Peculiar to Javea is that many of the older buildings have window and door frames which have been roughly carved from sandstone blocks. As with Denia, beaches in Javea consist of rocky stretches which border on cliffs jutting out over the sea or wide beaches with golden sands. Javea has 25 kilometres of coast with the following beaches:

Playa del Tangó
La Caleta

Playa Grava
Playa la Barraca

Playa Benisero
Playa de Ambolo (nudist)

Playa del Arenal
Playa la Granadilla

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service

The Costa Blanca

Avoid the crowds.

For those who like to be far from the madding crowd, Cape San Martin will appeal. Here you will find numerous bays and coves relatively deserted and even during the peak holiday seasons not too crowded. Property in Javea is quite expensive but if you have the money, some of the villa designs are quite spectacular and worth every penny you will spend. Unfortunately, at the moment there are problems with this area and these are mentioned below.

If you are looking to purchase property in Javea or this part of the Northern Costa Blanca you need to be aware of the 1994 Urban Development Activity Act. This has been reported extensively in the UK media and is a method of forcing Spanish property owners to hand over their land at ludicrously low prices and/or contribute huge sums of money to the development of the area. At the time of writing, Javea is the area most affected.

Moraira

Traveling south from Javea will take you to Moraira, a picturesque town, popular with tourists and which has a small community of expatriate foreigners.

Moraira was, for a long time little more than a fishing village. Only in the 70's did an increasing tourist presence produce an interest in the area by young people who came looking for work. An initial glance at Moraira shows this to be a picturesque Spanish town set in the area of a naturally beautiful bay, with the majority of buildings being low rise. It is strange that planners allowed the building of two, high-rise apartments blocks on top of the cliffs which have effectively spoiled the view from almost every angle. This has to be Spanish planning at its worst. The most popular among both tourists and residents is El Castillo. The Fine Golden sands which are always clean make swimming and a day on the beach a pleasure. From this beach there are always a variety of water sports available.

When it comes to foreigners, Moraira is more an area for holidaymaker's than for permanent residence. However, as mentioned, there is a mixed community of foreign residents particularly around the suburbs of Moraira. If you are interested in this part of the Costa Blanca, when looking around you should follow the coast road from Calpe to Moraira, where flats and villas can be found built into terraced hillsides and which from on high, overlook rocky coves. Resale property from this area comes onto the market from time to time but whilst demand for property in the area is slowing, it is still strong enough to ensure that most sells quite quickly.

Calpe

Calpe is either a port or a country town, depending upon who you speak to. Both aspects predominate in one way or the other. Calpe is one of the most popular destinations for tourists on the Costa Blanca. The Spanish say Calpe is the town of foreign connoisseurs - the one chosen by them as their summer retreat. Without doubt, it has a lot to offer, occupying as it does, a privileged enclave beside the blue waters of the Mediterranean, where rugged, natural beauty is part of the everyday scene. The Peñon de Ifach (sometimes known as the symbol of the Costa Blanca) is a huge rock dominating the coastline and resembles a smaller rock of Gibraltar. It is prominent from most every angle when approaching the town.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service The Costa Blanca

Calpe is a well known summer tourist resort. It is popular and home to a number of expatriates from Germany and Britain alike and also has a smattering from the Republic of Ireland.

Expats complain that tourism adds to the cost of living. Very much aware of the tourist, in Calpe there are a variety of things to do and places to go. From parascending to climbing mountains - jeep adventures to Safari parks, Calpe has much to offer. If you wish to be a little more leisurely then there are caves to explore as well as many more places of interests.

Calpe is a town of contrasts, where modern buildings and wide avenues blend, whether intentionally or by chance, with an ancient fishing village. Locals are proud of their past, but as with so many other towns on the Costa Blanca, welcome tourists and visitors with warm hearted hospitality because they are their future. Calpe continues to develop at a pace, however whilst new building projects are completed so too are the many gardens and attractive parks which are a credit to the enterprising mayor and the council. Calpe has two long beautiful sandy beaches, probably the best beaches of all the Costa Blanca resorts, they are kept impeccably clean. It's a good place to live.

Altea

Altea is similar to other Costa Blanca towns in that it has a new and an old part. The old section is perched on top of a hill from which there really are spectacular views. The ascent to the old section along steep slopes and stepped streets reveals a broad horizon at every turn and extends along the entire La Marina region: the silhouette of the Peñon de Ifach on one side and the Helade range on the other, frame the view of the sea, with the ever present gulls sweeping low over the town. The towns name was derived from the Arabs who named it Althaya, meaning health to all.

If you are thinking of this part of the Costa Blanca to purchase a holiday home then you should explore a little of the surrounding area. Start by heading inland where you will see the attractive Bernia range, which runs perpendicular to the coast and very close the village. The old and new parts of the town are clearly divided into separate parts with the old part high on the hill and the easily accessed lower part providing holidaymakers with the usual bars, restaurants and shops and a recently inaugurated esplanade.

If you have difficulty with mobility, or require the use of a wheelchair, then Altea may not be appropriate for you in that streets are so steep that it has been necessary for steps to be cut into them. Even the fit claim that Altea on a hot day can prove a character builder!

Eight kilometers from Altea, heading inland, is Polop, a small town surrounded by orchards and pine groves, which is highly recommended for those who seek peace, quiet and cool summer nights. From the Via Crucis which presides over the town, you can obtain superb views of the surrounding valleys, which owe their present appearance to the work of the Morisco farmers many years ago.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service The Costa Blanca

Altea is a pretty town. Popular with both holidaymakers and those who are fortunate enough to be able to live in the area. It has a slowly growing community of multinational expatriates. It goes without saying that the town does not suite everyone but in the main if you are free from financial pressure - looking for a part of Spain in which to retire, then Altea may be worth a look.

Benidorm

Benidorm. The name is known to almost everyone in the UK and ROI and many have visited it at some time or other, or know someone who has.

Sadly, this historic Spanish town is today associated with drunkenness and bad behaviour from a variety of different nationalities. However, as this seems to be the norm for the town, there can't be too many who object. In fact, the writer is more than aware that there are tens of thousands of people both holiday maker's and residents alike for whom Benidorm has a special magic. It was the start of the package holiday some 40 years ago which focused the attention of the British on Torremolinos on the Costa del Sol and Benidorm on the Costa Blanca. Crowds of tourists began to flock to both coasts, attracted by climate and the long white sandy beaches stretching along the Mediterranean coast. On the Costa Blanca, the quiet fishing village of Benidorm quickly became an important tourist resort.

The old city with its narrow streets huddles atop a rock tongue, the "Balcon del Mediterranea", dividing what would be a 10km long beach into two 5-km-long stretches. Benidorm is famous for its huge (and these really are big) sandy beaches which run from one end of the town to the other. These beaches are claimed to be among the finest in Europe. Benidorm enjoys all the advantages of the Costa Blanca climate but due to its particular position, it also benefits from its own micro-climate. Facing the sea, Benidorm is protected from the north winds by the surrounding mountains of the coast. The average daily temperature is 23 degrees Centigrade or 78 degrees Fahrenheit. Sea temperatures average 20 degrees and the average relative humidity floats between 50 - 70 per cent.

With its huge hotels, Benidorm is able to exploit its climatic conditions to the full and is popular with both national and international tourists. During the winter months, Benidorm hotels offer incredibly low rates and many pensioners from the UK and other EU states find it cheaper to live there than at home in their own country. This activity has resulted in Benidorm being accused of factory farming pensioners!

Contrary to belief, Benidorm does not have its own airport, using instead Alicante which is just one hour away.

Like Benidorm or not, many expatriates have chosen to make it their home, opting for a permanent holiday environment, enjoying the hustle and bustle of a vibrant, somewhat noisy and constantly changing population. However, there are areas of Benidorm which are exclusive and where a relatively modest property sells for well over £500,000.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service

The Costa Blanca

Villajoyosa

Villajoyosa or Villa Joiosa in Valencian, simply means joyful town. This very popular Costa Blanca City is situated at the mouth of the River Sella and is the main town of the La Marina region.

Locals say that it is close enough to Benidorm whilst being far enough away! In fact it is only 10 kilometres to Benidorm and the route is filled with olive, carob and almond tree, as well as a number of palms, pines and prickly pears. Whilst the area once had a considerable number of vines, these have now largely been replaced by tomato plantations.

As with many of the east coast towns, Villajoyosa suffered from attacks by the Barbary Coast Pirates. According to legend and possibly a little history, on the 29th of July 1538 36 boats carrying Algerians arrived to ransack the town but the inhabitants were able to fight them off thanks to the intercession of Saint Martha. Since that day, she has been the towns Patron Saint and the fact commemorated with regular re-enactment of the landing of the Moors.

Alphons XIII granted city status to Villajoyosa in 1911.

As well as tourism, Villajoyosa is the home of fishermen and chocolate-makers, a strange combination but both of which are deeply rooted in the City's history. The original and older part of town has been declared an historic monument. There are still various bridges remaining from the time of the Romans. Villajoyosa's church is a Gothic building with renaissance doorways, although these have been somewhat changed by Neo-classical alterations carried out in the 18th century.

If history does not interest you then the beaches certainly will. The nearest beach to the city centre is the Playa de la Vila and slightly further can be found Paraiso. Both are excellent with little to choose between them. A little further and you will find the Torre and Estudiantes Beaches. Whilst made up of pebbles, these are relatively small and smooth and cause no discomfort when being walked upon. As with so many pebble beaches, the water which laps against them is crystal clear. Villajoyosa is popular with nationals from all parts of the European Union and other countries of the World as well. It is well represented with a healthy British and Irish expatriate population, some of whom have moved north from the Costa del Sol because of the lower property prices and what they perceive as a better, if not as hot, climate.

Campello

Campello is another picturesque village with a sheltered bay and whose inhabitants formerly worked in the fishing and salt industries. Today, as with so many other Spanish towns and villages, tourism has become the mainstay of its economy. This is not at all surprising. The village is surrounded by superb beaches, among which can be found La Isleta and Muchavista the latter being a large cove lying between two rocky headlands. There are enough expatriates of different nationalities living in the area to justify the presence of a modern, well equipped marina but the bulk of foreigners arrive as tourists during the summer months. Needs are catered for by a variety of well stocked shops, different types of restaurants, cafes and the usual bars.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service The Costa Blanca

Campello, whilst a relatively small town is by no means isolated. Head south for a few short minutes and you are in the Regions capital of Alicante.

A few minutes inland will bring you to Jijona. This little town set on a small hill, grew up in the shadow of a medieval castle, of which little remains to be seen.

If you are a weight watcher, don't dawdle in Jijona because whilst it is an important farming area, its main commercial activity is the production of turrón, for which it is famous. Turrón is a sweet of Moorish origin whose basic ingredients are almonds and sugar and/or orange blossom honey. Some of the factories in the town were founded in the 18th century and welcome visitors.

Campello is a charming Spanish village. If you want to get away from it all, this is as good a place to start as any. Learning Spanish would add to your enjoyment of the area which in relation to those with large expatriate communities is really very different.

Alicante

Alicante. Capital of the province whose name it bears, this modern European city with its wonderful climate has everything a holidaymaker or resident could possibly want. Often described as a typically Mediterranean city, Alicante is a pleasure to visit - day or night.

International stores, large shopping centres, modern hotels, commerce and of course, the usual superb beaches Alicante is everyone's favourite city and with good reason. Expatriates from surrounding areas regularly visit the city whenever they have specific shopping needs. The city overlooks the sea and in winter it's quite usual to find people sat on many of its terraces relaxing or dreaming in the sun or in summer, making use of the shade provided by the many hundreds of palm trees which are everywhere.

Alicante dates back to the Carthaginians and is said to have been founded by Hamicar. The Greeks called it Akra Leuka which means White Rock. Not because of the mountains but the colour of the soil - something for gardeners to bear in mind! The Romans later changed its name to Lucentum - city of light and it became one of the most active ports of the time.

Running the entire length of the sea-front is the Explanada de Espana. This is a promenade lined with palms and with a unique pavement which must rank as one of the largest mosaics anywhere. Right along the promenade are cafes, bars, and restaurants which unlike so many other Spanish towns, blend tastefully into the background scenery. If you are a boat person, then Alicante will be of interest to you. It has a very large, well supported marina offering a full range of marine services. Many people enjoy an evening out at the marina, dining in one of the many excellent restaurants which overlook the moorings and simply watching the boats bobbing around. When it comes to buying property in Alicante, there is considerable pressure on that which is available. For holidaymakers, being so close to the airport is an almost perfect location for a holiday home. Businessmen with a need to visit the UK or their home country are also aware of this point.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service The Costa Blanca

Prices of property in this city are typical of that found in capitals and whilst nowhere near as expensive as Madrid or London, better prices can be found by living on the outskirts of the city or a few kilometers away. Alicante and all it offers is still available but at a better price.

Santa Pola

Santa Pola is 18 kilometers south of Alicante and 13 kilometres from Alicante airport. It has several major construction developments in progress and is popular with owners of both holiday homes and residents.

Previously, the town belonged to Elche and has been its port and trading centre since Roman times. It is an interesting little town, dotted with watchtowers dating back to the 15th century, erected to warn against the approach of Barbary pirates.

Santa Pola is built on the shores of a large bay and as such, it's not surprising that fishing has always been of great importance to the town. In the waters surrounding the bay can be found Red Mullet, prawns and many other types of fish making the towns fishermen the primary suppliers to the best restaurants both on the coast and inland.

But the clear blue waters are not only for fish. With several beautiful beaches, Santa Pola, Lissa, Pinet and Marina, holiday makers and residents alike spend considerable time on the golden sands sunbathing and then swimming to cool off. Off the coast, you have an island known as Isla de Nueva Tarbarca. This is a flat strip of land, barely out of the water but which attracts numerous tourists. To go there you need to take a boat from Torrevieja, Alicante or Guardamar. A round trip (including time on the island) takes about 8 hours and cost around 20€.

One thing which has been noticed by many who visit Santa Pola is the difficulty driving in town, which is quite congested for much of the time. The standard of new building in Santa Pola is very high, with the "main players" in building development fully represented. There is however one company erecting prefabricated buildings whose prices may not be the bargain they appear to be. Santa Pola's proximity to the airport and Alicante make it particularly popular with those who intend to receive regular visitors or who wish to visit the UK regularly.

Guardamar del Sergura

Guardamar del Sergura 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. 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 plus basis, the Guardamar beach is possibly one of the best manicured in all Spain. Pressure for property on the beach side of the Guaramar road is constant. Unfortunately, the area has been almost fully developed and virtually no land for building remains.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service The Costa Blanca

This difficulty is compounded by the fact that there are several large parks and areas where building is prohibited.

Guardamar is centrally positioned and well placed for either a holiday home or for permanent retirement should the right property be available in the case of the latter.

Not far from Torrevieja or Alicante and only 30 minutes from the airport, Guardamar is well served with shops supplying everything necessary for comfortable living.

There are the usual restaurants, bars, cafes etc. and for the young, a water park and miniature fairground is not too far away. On Sundays you can visit the Guardamar open market where you will find everything under the sun. Be prepared to haggle if you really want a bargain and carefully check the quality of anything you may buy.

Guardamar is also an important fishing centre and the area abounds with first class fish restaurants, many of which serve the Spiney Lobster as their specialty.

If the beach is important to you then head for Guardamar. Unfortunately, most front line properties have long since been sold and building has now slowed simply because there is no land left upon which to build. Notwithstanding this there are urbanisations close by offering a choice of properties to order and which remarkably, are still affordable!

Torrevieja

Torrevieja. This town is probably one of the most sought after by British people wishing to buy either a holiday or retirement home. Reasons for this are not apparent!

In Roman times, Torrevieja was well-known for its outstanding sea port, the remains of which can still be seen in La Mata, called the Embarcadero Romano, or Roman docks.

Along the coast are the ancient watchtowers called El Moro and La Mata, which were used in the middle ages, to warn the coastal inhabitants of attacks by Barbary pirates. Spain is famous for its street markets and Torrevieja claims to have the biggest. Here you will find everything from fresh produce, clothing and shoes, watches, binoculars and just about everything you could imagine. However, if you are looking for a real bargain, be prepared to haggle for everything. Torrevieja is famous for its salt, being the largest salt producing area in Europe. Vast lakes are used to evaporate sea water so the salt may be reclaimed. The most characteristic feature of local craftsmanship are the models of the boats used to transport salt in the marshes. Boat builders take their creations to the edge of the salt flats, where they are left to collect the bright glaze of the local salt, before being offered for sale as souvenirs.

It is claimed that visitors can take a tour of this fascinating process but the only time the writer tried, no one knew what he was talking about! Still, you can bathe in the waters of the lagoon, which it is claimed have curative properties and are especially recommended for heart troubles, rheumatism, flatulence and respiratory ailments!

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service The Costa Blanca

One thing which does endear Torrevieja and its surrounding areas to many is the lack of hotels which ensures that it suffers none of the problems associated with the package holiday market.

Drunkenness, fighting in the streets and similar conduct is rare in Torrevieja and the town remains safe and orderly throughout the year, making it a much sought after favourite for families and their children. Although recently there have been reports of an increase in crime in the area attributed mainly to the number of illegal immigrants arriving from North Africa and other parts of the world.

Such are the facilities in Torrevieja that many Spaniards choose the town for their own holidays. With its very own special atmosphere and everything you need right on the doorstep, Torrevieja continues to grow rapidly in popularity as the place to be among property owning foreigners. Spaniards claim that Torrevieja is a holiday town for foreign residents!

For those who choose to live in Torrevieja there is good news. The town enjoys an excellent municipal bus service, the quality of which really does mean that you can leave your car at home and not have to worry about parking problems. Operating regularly from most, if not all urbanisation's, there are regular bus services running to and from town, all the man beaches and of course the many markets. Further, for the Torrevieja resident, the service is absolutely free but only if he has registered his presence at the town hall.

Torrevieja has several areas where the properties are mainly owned by expatriates. Many people like living among their fellow countrymen and find comfort and security in doing so. For others, nothing could be worse and they believe that expats are creatures best avoided at all cost.

Yet others wish to live near enough to an expatriate community to be able to benefit from the services available to it but be far enough away so as never to be involved

Such is the way in which Torrevieja has developed; it is possible to position yourself virtually wherever you want to in regard to your own countrymen. It is possible to live among them, away from them or not know of their existence. You simply need to decide what it is that you want and where it is that you wish to live.

Another point which no doubt has bearing on Torrevieja's popularity is the presence of a brand new international private hospital. Further, in 2003, the State is building a 265 individual bedroom state hospital which it claims will co-operate fully with the private hospital for the benefits of both sets of patients.

With so many foreigners moving into the Torrevieja area, schools have become quite adept at dealing with foreign school children - the importance of which is not lost on many parents looking to move to Spain.

Not really a favourite of the writer, Torrevieja is nonetheless popular with thousands of foreigners from various countries. However, there are many areas surrounding the town which have a lot to offer and are worth considering for the holiday home buyer or potential resident alike.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service

The Costa Blanca

Orihuela

The southernmost beaches of the Costa Blanca are those of the municipality of Orihuela. This has about 15 km of predominantly rocky coastline, dotted with little silver sand beaches. On the Playa Orihuela the sand is unbelievably fine, similar to that which would be found in an hour glass.

These beaches have made the surrounding areas popular and property in the urbanisation's named after them is quite sought after. The areas we'll cover here are La Zenia, Carbo Roig and Campoamor.

Carbo Roig

Carbo Roig is a busy town with broad avenues lined with palms and landscaped gardens with views of the Mediterranean to both the La Manga peninsula and the Mar Menor. Beaches are nice, being silver sand, quite small and intimate.

The town is very popular with both residents and holidaymaker's alike and has a full range of amenities and useful facilities for both types of people.

The town has a variety of bars and some really good restaurants and access to the new toll motorway is to the west of the town. The location of this motorway which has been built into a cut so as to minimise noise should be borne in mind by those contemplating buying property in this area.

At the moment, noise is not a consideration but eventually as traffic builds this will not be the case. Some of the newer properties are being built very close to the motorway which is not apparent and it is unlikely that many, if any selling property will draw this to your attention.

La Zenia

La Zenia is one of the most built up areas on the Costa Blanca. It is also one of the few areas south of Alicante which has a hotel, making it popular with holiday maker's. It has two very pleasant silver sand beaches and the requisite amount of bars and restaurants so as to be able to cater effectively for residents and tourist alike.

La Zenia is relatively close to three major golf courses and also very close to the beaches making it a sought after area for a variety of people - holidaymaker's and residents alike. A vast amount of property at all prices exists but building in the area is coming to a close as available land is finally used up.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)

Search and Survey SL – Free information service The Costa Blanca

Campoamore

Without doubt, one of the most versatile areas on the Costa Blanca is Campoamore. Beaches, golf courses, busy during the season and peaceful out of it, this is an area very popular with resident and visitor alike.

Every type of property is available, from high rise apartments to exclusive villas at eye watering prices and everything in between.

La Zenia, Carbo Roig and Campoamor are all popular areas but different in their own way. All are well served with those things required by the holidaymaker whilst simultaneously providing good facilities for those who wish to make these areas their permanent home.

Other Articles in this series.

Moving to Spain	Motoring	Employment in Spain	Banking & Financial	Schools
Cost of Living	Motor cycles Mopeds	Buying a business	Taxes in Spain	Private Schools
Climate	Motor Insurance	Forming a company	Money Transfers	Spanish Schools
Books on Spain	Vehicle Registration	Part time or full time	Offshore banking	Teaching English
History of Spain	Foreign cars	Finding work	Mortgages	Learning Spanish
Costa Blanca	Health care	Spanish Utilities	Legal System	Spanish Property
Denia to Javea	Social Security	Telephones	The Notary	Resale Property
Javea to Moraira	Spanish Doctors	Water	Inheritance tax	New Property
Moraira to Calpe	Private Medicine	Electricity in Spain	Power of attorney	Renting Property
Calpe to Benidorm	Medical Insurance	Gas supplies	Urban development	Finca's

Search and Survey SL is a fee-based service providing property searches, conveyancing, local authority searches, structural surveys and valuations. We take all the precautions required to buy the right property for you safely, without taking any unnecessary risks.

We are not estate agents but act as your representative, assisting throughout the process.

For more details please visit:

<http://www.searchandsurvey.co.uk/> and see how our professional services can save you time and money

<http://www.freefreefreefree.com/> to learn more about Spain

<http://thespanishpropertyregister.com> to browse a massive database of Spanish real estate.

<http://thelandregister.com> to browse a massive database of land for sale.

[Money transfer guide](#)

[Cheap flights](#)

[Maps of Spain](#)

[Teach English](#)

[UK TV in Spain](#)

[Hotel Bookings](#)

[Linguaphone Spanish](#)

[Rosetta Stone](#)

[Rocket Spanish](#)

[Cheap Rentacar](#)