

Places of Interest

All of the following articles have been written by members of staff, we hope they will be of some interest, if you require any further information please call into our offices and we will be happy to assist.

Cabo de Palos

Cabo de Palos is a small fishing village approximately 10 minutes drive away and a favourite retreat of visitors to La Manga Club featuring a huge lighthouse overlooking the Mediterranean. Sundays are a good day to go, there is a large market in the morning (9.00am to 2.00pm) just a few minutes walk to the seafront and there are numerous harbour front restaurants where you can sit in the sun and watch the world go by. There are also two large ceramic shops, which are well worth a visit.

To get to Cabo, leave La Manga Club, follow the signs for La Manga. When you get to the first roundabout take the first exit (right) and go up on to the dual carriageway, drive for about 4 to 5 minutes, you will see a sign for Cabo de Palos, take this exit, go past supermarket 'Upper' and this road takes you into Cabo, to get to the Harbour go right at the traffic lights.

La Manga del Mar Menor

The Mar Menor (the little sea) is the inland sea separated from the Mediterranean by La Manga del Mar Menor or La Manga Strip. The La Manga Peninsular is over 28 Kms long and stretches from the fishing village of Cabo de Palos to the salt flats of San Pedro del Pinatar. Only one road takes you along the "Strip" which although very busy in July and August can seem almost deserted outside these times. Both sides of La Manga Strip have something to offer. The Mediterranean side with its magnificent sandy beaches and the Mar Menor with its warm shallow waters that are ideal for children and for enjoying your favourite water sports. During the summer months you'll find various different water sports available at many different locations along the strip including: waterskiing, jet biking, sailing and pedalos.

Cartagena

The fascinating port of Cartagena, the region's second city, has a history stretching back over 3,000 years and features some of the most important collections of Punic Roman and Byzantine remains in Spain. Part of the heritage is kept at the Municipal Archeological Museum and Maritime Archeology Museum featuring the most varied and best kept examples of 18th Century military architecture in the Mediterranean including the 'Peral Submarine' and the 'Capitania'. Cartagena is also a great venue for a spot of shopping especially for fashion and jewellery.

The Region of Murcia

The city of Murcia was founded in around 831AD by the Moors in the centre of the River Segura valley. The importance of the city over the years can be seen in its churches, palaces and other public buildings. To see Murcian Baroque at its best, visit the churches of La Merced, San Juan de Dios, San Nicolas or San Miguel, or buildings such as the Bishop's Palace or the Palacio Fontes.

Murcia contains so many different styles of buildings. The best example of this is the Cathedral, with its famous baroque main facade, its impressive tower, a combination of Tuscan and Baroque styles, the late Renaissance Junterones chapel and the Velez chapel, combining Gothic details and Moorish decorations. Down the Traperia, one of the pedestrian streets of the city, you will find the Casino (built in 1847): its entrance hall in the style of a Moorish courtyard, with richly carved ceiling and intricate stucco wall panels. There's an elegant Viennese ballroom too! Two other buildings worth a visit are the Romea Theatre and the Town Hall. The theatre has a wide range of productions all year and tickets can be bought on the day and are very reasonably priced. Murcia is anxious to preserve its historical treasures as well as allowing visitors to see them.

A variety of museums and exhibition centres have been opened. These include the Belle Artes public gallery or the Archaeological Museum, which holds one of the best collections of Iberian art in the country. The Exhibition gallery in the Church of the Las Veronicas Convent; the Salzillo Museum, containing the beautiful carved religious figures by the famous artist Salzillo, or the Cathedral Museum should be visited, along with the Municipal Museums. These include a wide range of themes including the Almudi Palace Art Centre, The

Museum of Bullfighting and the Ramon Gaya Art Gallery. Examples of Murcia's long traditions in pottery, embroidery and the making of carpets and paper mache toys can be seen at the Regional Craft Centre.

Lorca

About 1 ½ hours from La Manga Club is the beautiful and historic city of Lorca which dates back 2,000 years with Roman villas, palaces, monuments and works of art. The Castle is situated in the centre of the city surrounded by small streets which offers a wide variety of traditional Moorish cuisine at the numerous restaurants and bars.

Nature Parks

There are several Nature Parks in the Murcia Region:-

Calblanque is located in the Southeast of the region. There you can find cliffs, salt flats and sandy beaches and amazing footpaths. Access is well sign posted off the main road leading to La Manga Strip. Please note that part of this beach is for nudists.

Salinas de San Pedro del Pinatar - 700 Hectares of salt flats, sandy beaches and dunes. It is located in the east part of the region between the Mediterranean Sea and the Mar Menor in the North Part of La Manga. There is a large variety of birds including Flamingos at the end of the summer.

Sierra Espuna is known as 'The Natural Jewel' of the Murcia region, it is a mountain mass of 25,000 hectares located in the centre of the region. There are numerous animals and birds living in the area including wild cats, wild boars and eagles. Access is easy from Alhama and Totana El Valle - Very close to Murcia City, great views of Murcia orchards.

La Fuensanta Sanctuary is in the mountains and well worth a visit. To find it take the road to Murcia and take exit to La Alberca.

For more information on places and areas of interest call into the Barwell office where you can pick up some information leaflets.