

# U3A Denia

Asociación de la  
Tercera Edad de Denia  
www.u3adenia.org



## TRAVEL, ARTS & CULTURE NEWSLETTER

**October 2017**

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Message from Pam

The Travel Team are continually researching new interesting places to visit. We aim to obtain comfortable accommodation for our members in good quality hotels.

We are always open to suggestions of interesting parts of Spain to visit so please let us know if there is somewhere you have heard of which may be of interest.

We thank you for your continued support and we are working hard to provide an interesting itinerary for 2018.

Pam Rowlinson  
U3A Dénia Travel Group Leader

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### **Recent trip to Ubeda and Baeza - September**

A small but select group of U3A Dénia members set off for our excursion to Ubeda and Baeza. After a stop for breakfast/coffee we visited Jaen where the group visited the cathedral and the Arabian baths.



Our guide Rolf was very helpful and gave us snippets of information along the way which gave a background into some of the history. The driver Paco was brilliant and expertly negotiated the very narrow roads in the town. His driving skill warranted a round of applause from his appreciative passengers.

We then continued to Baeza where we stayed in a very nice 4\* hotel which was very central and gave the opportunity to walk into the very pretty town where there were many bars and restaurants. The meal at the hotel was not fantastic although there were many empty plates – I should have listened to Ginny and insisted on the buffet meal even if it does cost more!!

On the second day we set off for Ubeda where we could visit the church and its sacred chapel – see below:



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This was virtually destroyed during the Spanish civil war and took 20 years to rebuild.



The peaceful plaza in Ubeda

We had a tour of the town on the Dotty train and then had 2 hours of free time to enjoy the town and have lunch before we set off for Adjudar. When we asked why we were visiting Adjudar we were told that it was a typical Spanish town – it was and typically in the afternoon was closed!! We therefore cut our free time down to one hour and set off for the olive factory.

The visit to the olive factory was very interesting and worthwhile. The enthusiasm of the owner was infectious. The group enjoyed the very informative visit and many olive products were purchased in the factory shop.

The meal in the hotel on the second night was much improved.

After breakfast on the last day we set off to visit the cave house/museum. The museum gave us the opportunity to see how the houses were carved out of the rocks. They have all mod cons including WiFi. We were led to believe that the owner lived there with his young family but with 5/6

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double bedrooms and just a 2 seater settee to sit on to watch TV I very much doubt that that was the case.



The temperature inside the cave varies between 17 and 21C during the whole year making it cool in summer and warm in winter. The Purullena caves are from Arabic origin – 30 years ago everyone in the town lived in cave houses – at present 1,100 people still live in cave houses which is why Purullena is known as the Troglodytic City. The cave houses are dug out of the mountains (arcilla which is special clay) and then just painted with white chalk which is porous and, with no doors inside the house, allows the air to circulate preventing humidity. There are also chimneys through which the air can circulate. The ceilings are dome shaped to avoid collapse and this distributes the weight towards the very thick walls.

Nevertheless it was an interesting and informative visit and the strange forest of chimneys protruding from the ground was amusing to see.



All in all it was a very enjoyable excursion with a great group of people who all shared a brilliant sense of humour and fun. Thank you to the very many of you who have emailed to say how much you enjoyed the trip.

Below are some more photographs which have been forwarded to me.

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The Cathedral in Baeza



Baeza Old Town

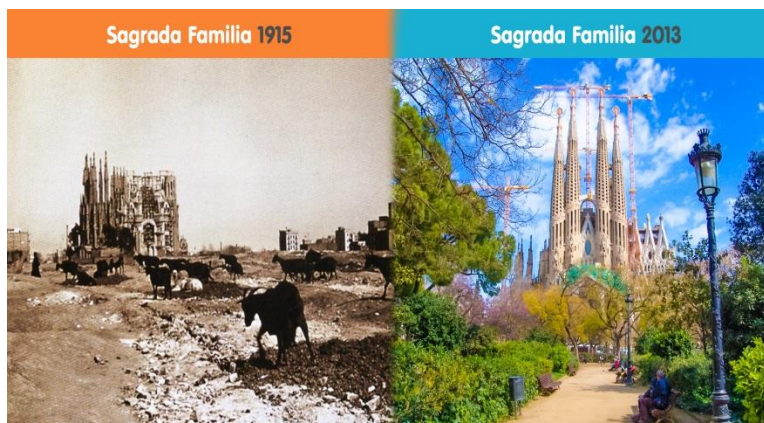


Baeza University Building

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**November 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>:**

## **Barcelona**



4 day/3 night stay in Barcelona with English speaking guide

**DAY 1: Dénia – Barcelona**

Early morning departure towards Barcelona. Stops en route in Peniscola or Taragona. Arrival and accommodation in the hotel.

**DAY 2: Barcelona (Montserrat)**

Breakfast and tour of Barcelona with official guide included passing the buzzing Plazas de Catalunya and Espana continuing to Montjuic with it's beautiful view of the city, museums, Spanish village and castle. Continuing to the Gothic quarter passing the famous statue of Columbus and the Sagrada Familia Cathedral. Continuing to Montserrat with its monastery and the Basilica of the Virgin and museum. Return to the hotel, free time and accommodation.

**DAY 3: Barcelona**

Breakfast and free day in Barcelona or half day tour of the architectural building by Gaudi famous Catalan architect with the Parque Guell continuing to the sacred family work with a visit to the temples with its impressive towers. Free afternoon and accommodation in the hotel.

**DAY 4: Barcelona – San Sadurni – Castalla**

Breakfast and departure towards Sant Sadurni with a visit to a famous wine cellar. Continue to the Costa Blanca with stops en route.

**INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:**

- Modern air conditioned bus with video, fridge, reclinable seats

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- All transfers and excursions mentioned
- Visit of Barcelona with official guide
- Hotel Cristal/Exe laictana 4\* in Ramblas area
- Half Board
- Gandia tours guide

### NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- Entrance fees to museums, monuments etc.

### Prices:

20 to 25 pax:	€380 per person
26 to 35 pax:	€350 per person
36 to 46 pax:	€330 per person
46 to 55 pax:	€305 per person

Single supplement: €100

This trip has been initially priced at the 20 to 25 pax. This price will be reduced depending on the number of travellers. Price includes the visit to the winery on the last day. There are a few places left on this event.

**Booking now open.** Guests welcome

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**December:**

**Alicante**

**1<sup>st</sup> December**



A visit to Santa Bárbara castle in the morning for a 1 hour tour with English speaking guide to explain the important role played in the Spanish civil war.

You can't fail to notice this impressive castle situated on an outcrop overlooking Alicante City. It's one of the largest medieval fortresses in Europe and covers the complete summit of the Benacantil Mountain. Originally built by the Moors in the 10th century, the castle received its name from

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the conquest of King Alfonso the Wise that took place on 4th December 1248: Saint Barbara's day. Over the following centuries it was developed and extended leaving it with three main areas all dating from different eras.

Santa Barbara Castle has everything you would expect, cannons, a palace, dungeons, a moat, the ruins of a small church and of course that famous lookout tower.

The coach will then take us to the front at Alicante with free time for lunch and afternoon shopping.

€16 per person

The price shown is based upon 35 travellers - the more travellers there are the lower the price will be.

**Booking now open.** Guests welcome

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### PROPOSED 2018 TRIPS

#### **February:**

7th February Departure by Bus from Dénia to Benidorm.

Arrival at Hotel Melia\*\*\*\* with free time in Benidorm





Evening show and dinner in Benidorm Palace

8th February Breakfast at hotel

Free morning in Benidorm

Departure by bus from Benidorm to Dénia at Midday

Group from 30 to 39 people - €109 per person

Group from 40 to 49 people - €105.50 per person

Group from 50 to 55 people - €102.50 per person

Single supplement to be advised

### **March:**

### **Cartagena – 3 nights, 4 days – 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March**



Departing on 25 March 2018 and returning on 28 March 2018

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Day 1 25/03 - Leaving Denia, lunch en route. Afternoon arrival at the hotel, free time. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 2 26/03 - Breakfast. Going to Shopping Plaza la Zenia. Free time for lunch. Afternoon back to the hotel. Free Time. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 27/03 - Breakfast. Leaving in the morning to visit Cartagena :

Visit Licor 43 factory. Teatro Museum, old town hall and the main buildings in its old town.

Lunch at a local restaurant. (in between 17 and 20eur p.p.)  
Panoramic lift view point. (1eur)

After some free time at Cartagena, late afternoon back to the hotel .  
Dinner at the hotel.

Day 4 28/03 - Breakfast. late morning back to Denia, lunch in route.

Price Includes : Bus + Rolf as tour guide + Local English speaking Guide in Cartagena + entry roman theatre + 3 hotel nights with Half Board

Cost for a double room - 430€

Cost for a single room - 255€

There are 36 places left for this event.



**MARCH:** Fallas – Valencia – day trip

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### MAY:



#### MAY 7TH 2018: DENIA – JEREZ – Horse Fair

Early morning departure towards Jerez, passing en route Granada and Antequera. Stops en route. Arrival, dinner and accommodation.

#### MAY 8TH 2018: JEREZ

Breakfast and free time or optional visit of the Royal Equestrian School of Jerez (not included). In the afternoon visit of the famous wine cellar Tio Pepe (included). Free time, dinner and accommodation. The Royal Equestrian School is an extra for those who are interested in how the horses are trained.

#### MAY 9TH 2018: JEREZ - PTO SANTA MARIA - CADIZ - JEREZ

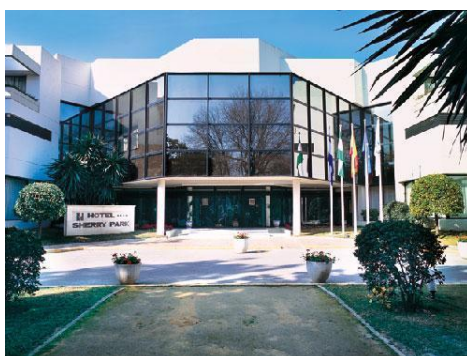
Breakfast and excursion to Puerto de Santa Maria, a typical andalusian fishermen's village. Continuing on to Cadiz with its beautiful bay. Return to Jerez and free time to visit the equestrian fair with its different equestrian shows. Dinner and accommodation.

#### MAY 10TH 2018: JEREZ - GRANADA - DENIA

Breakfast and return to Denia. Stops en route. Arrival and end of our services.

### **IN THE PRICES INCLUDED**

- Modern air conditioned bus with video, fridge, reclinable seats, etc.
- H\*\*\*\* SHERRY PARK (Jerez City centre)



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This 4 star hotel is located in the city centre of Jerez Frontera and was established in 1987. It is close to the Royal School/Winery cellars and the nearest station is Jerez. The Hotel has 2 restaurants, a bar, a conference room, a coffee shop, an indoor swimming pool, an outdoor swimming pool and a fitness centre/gym. All 175 rooms are equipped with minibar, hairdryer, safe and air conditioning.

- Half board at the hotels from dinner of the first day to breakfast the last day.
- Entrance tickets to the TIO PEPE wine cellar.
- English speaking Guide from Gandia Tours.

### **IN THE PRICES NOT INCLUDED**

- Entrance fees to the monuments, museums and the Royal Equestrian School and any other not specified.

ROYAL EQUESTRIAN SCHOOL - PRICE 24.-€ (JEREZ FAIR PRICE - NO SENIOR DISCOUNT)

### **PRECIO POR PERSONA EN DOBLE**

20 A 25.....	616
26 A 30.....	584
31 A 35.....	568
SINGLE SUP.....	80

If you would like to add 1 night stop on the way to Jerez = €72

This trip is more expensive than normal due to the fact that it is at a time when the horse fair is taking place.

**The trip is not yet open for booking but we would like to gauge how many members would be interested. Please can you contact [travel@u3adenia.com](mailto:travel@u3adenia.com) if you would be interested in joining this event.**

SEPTEMBER:        Sunset Catamaran Cruise

### **Also being researched**

Rafting – day trip near Valencia

Oceanographic in Valencia

Rioja to San Sebastian 7 days

Majorca for Christmas 2018 – with flight from Alicante included – staying in 5\* hotel with Gala meal.