

U3A DÉNIA TRAVEL NEWS



Updated Travel
News As At
12th March 2018

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ABOUT US:

The Travel Team:

Pam Rowlinson Group Leader and Trip Organiser

Ginny Whitehead: Deputy Group Leader and Trip Organiser

Chris Whitehead: Trip Organiser

Liz Jones: Trip Organiser

Jean O'Keefe: Trip Organiser

Gordon Clifford: Trip Organiser

Graham Cromack: Trip Organiser

Chris Parkin: Trip Organiser

We are all volunteers – not Travel Agents

Our Aim: To offer interesting, value for money trips for the benefit of all U3A members.

19th April 2018

Day trip to Albufera



9:15 - Departure from Dénia by bus

10:15 - Arrival at el Palmar where we will meet our guide

10:30 - We go by bus to a Barraca (tradicional Valencian house) where we will be given some information on this type of house



These are typical Valencian houses mainly built in the countryside. They are made from raw materials such as wood, reeds and mud. The Barraca is a protected and important asset to the cultural heritage. They are not so widely used now but you can see them from the boat ride. The visit will explain the way of life.

11:30 - Walking tour of an hour to see the 3 different landscapes of the Albufera (very relaxed walk)

12:45/13:00 - Paella lunch at restaurant

MENU:

TAPAS

Salad

Patatas Bravas

RICE

Valencian Paella (chicken and rabbit) or Arroz a banda (fish) or Vegetables Paella (vegetarian)

DESSERT OR COFFEE

BREAD WITH TOMATO

A DRINK

15:00 - Visit of Casa de la Demanà, a traditional fishermen building



La Casa de la Demanà is an emblematic building within the Albufera Natural Park. Located in the district of El Saler, it has around 300 years of history. It held, until approximately the middle of the last century, auctions of hunting posts of the Albufera ... the traditionally called: "Demanà". Nowadays it is a cultural centre in which several local associations coexist.

In this visit we will learn about its history and all the information that is stored between its old and wide walls. We will learn more about the fish and birds that we will see during the boat ride and we will know how the old inhabitants of the village lived.

16:00 - Boat tour to see some local fauna and flora of the area



17:00 - Departure by bus to Dénia.

Cost per person - 43€

Pick up time from:

New Marina Dénia - 8.45

McDonalds Dénia - 9.00

Mas y Mas Ondara - 9.15



18th May 2018

Day trip to Familia Castano vineyard, Yecla

Tours in the winery follow the different stages in winemaking. Listen to the detailed explanations and curiosities about vinification that our guides will provide you with and get know a bit more about wine. You will also be able to taste the best wines produced in Bodegas Castaño, a real pleasure to the senses.

The Family

"By keeping our roots, we follow our traditions. We have committed ourselves to produce top-quality wines, developing our genuine Monastrell grape variety."



The willpower, strength and determination of Ramón Castaño Santa have been necessary in his endeavour to achieve the highest quality in his wines, elaborated with the indigenous grape variety, Monastrell.

The relationship of Ramón with wines dates back several generations, as both vine-grower and winemaker.

The incorporation of his three sons into the family company in the 80's brought in a new focus aimed to consolidate the national markets and seek the international expansion.

Programme

11.30 Meet at Bodegas Castano

12.00 Walking tour in the Vineyard Dominio Espinal

13.00 Visit to Bodegas Castano

The tour is with an English speaking guide and is wheelchair friendly – the only place wheelchairs cannot access is a small cellar where the oak barrels of wine are stored – but these can also be seen in the warehouse.

14.00 Homemade meal paired with our wines
(4 different)

16.30 Visit to the shop

Once you have completed your shopping we will then board the coach for our return journey to Dénia.



Lunch is included in the restaurant situated in the heart of the ancient winery renewed to become a comfortable warm lunch room. Enjoy traditional dishes according to our philosophy, carefully chosen and prepared, accompanied by the best fruit of our vineyards.

Starters:

Homemade fried Almonds
Ham and Cured Cheese
Seafood Salad
Mixed Salad

Main Course:

Paella

Dessert:

Seasonal Fruit
Coffee

Wines:

Bodegas Castano D. O. Yecla

Cost:

€35 per person including lunch

Pick up times:

8.45am Large Car Park at the New Marina, Las Rotas

9.00am MacDonald, Dénia

9.15am Mas y Mas, Ondara

Please ensure that you select your preferred pick up point correctly – the first on the drop down list is always New Marina Las Rotas. If you don't want to select the New Marina then please use the drop down list - MacDonald is the second choice and Ondara the third.



CHRISTMAS IN NERJA

23RD – 27TH December 2018:

Departing on 23 December 2018 and returning on 27 December 2018

Join us for a super five day, a four night Christmas break in Nerja. We'll be staying at the Marinas de Nerja Aparthotel.



It is situated right on the beach and the staff are used to English visitors as it's regularly used by Saga. 30 of us enjoyed a lovely Christmas break here last year and can highly recommend it. The staff are very friendly and speak English. The food is excellent. Accommodation is in apartments with balconies overlooking the two swimming pools (bit too cold for swimming at this time of year, though!).

Nerja is a delightful little town with a laid-back, relaxed air. It's a pleasant 20 minute stroll along the beach road for your morning constitutional, or after a large Christmas dinner! Bars and restaurants are open all over the Christmas period, as are some little shops.



We'll be staying 'all inclusive' with breakfast, lunch and dinner and all drinks included - yes, that's free alcoholic drinks, coffees, teas and snacks. Here's the itinerary:

Sunday 23 December - Leave Dénia in the morning with comfort stops on the way. It's worth noting here that there are always a large number of coaches making their way south for the Christmas break. Lunch stops can be extremely busy so I'd advise you to bring your own packed lunch and a drink. We'll aim to arrive at the hotel around 5pm. Buffet dinner in the evening.

Monday 24 December - After breakfast, the coach will take us to the famous caves in Nerja.



The caves are one of Spain's major tourist attractions but, as we'll be visiting out of season and on Christmas Eve, we'll miss the crowds and probably have the place to ourselves like last year. Neanderthal paintings have been discovered there dating back 42,000 years. There are a considerable number of stairs to climb but everyone on our tour managed it last year as the pace is quite sedate. These amazing caves are not to be missed. The audio-guided tour costs €10.

In the afternoon we'll visit Frigiliana, which has won numerous prizes for being the prettiest village in Spain thanks to its immaculately kept flower-bedecked hilly, cobbled streets.



A buffet dinner awaits us on our return in the evening.

Christmas Day:



After breakfast (with cava) we'll meet up for some carol singing and a glass of cava before our Gala Lunch.

Wine and cava is served throughout the four course meal, with Christmas crackers, silly hats and secret Santa. Later in the evening, a buffet dinner is available for those of you who can manage it!

Boxing Day - In the afternoon we'll visit Málaga.



All the shops are open and if you fancy the walk, you can visit the Alcazaba, a palace-like fortress dating from the 11th century.



Above it, on top of the hill, is the Gibralfaro built in the 14th Century to house troops guarding the Alcazaba. Don't worry, there's a lift to take you there! A short walk down is a lovely Parador where you can have a coffee and admire the view.

The Christmas lights are switched on at 6.30pm and you can watch in awe as the fabulous lights 'dance' to music.



Buffet dinner on our return.

Thursday 27 December - After breakfast, we make our way to Dénia, arriving back in the evening.

We will be accompanied throughout the trip by our super Gandia Tours guide, Rolf, whom many of you will know from previous trips.

COSTS

We are basing the cost on 40 - 50 people. The more we have, the less it costs (and vice versa), but 55 is our limit. As soon as we know numbers, we can give you a final price. You can choose either to travel with the coach and guide or drive yourself.

All inclusive

Per person in a one bed apartment €420
Single person (studio apartment). €540

Self drive all inclusive

Per person €343.

Please note that self drive does not include any of the visits and day trips. You may like to consider car sharing to save on fuel costs.

This will be a very popular trip so book your place on our website now. After you've booked, please let me know whether you're taking the coach or driving yourself - our computer system cannot differentiate. If you have difficulty accessing the website or have any other queries, please email Ginny Whitehead or Pam Rowlinson. See Travel pages on the U3A website for email addresses.

Make sure you're on the trip, not the waiting list!

Please Note: The hotel have now agreed that they will not require the deposit until 1st June 2018

Deposit required by 1st June €30 per person

Cost per person sharing a double room – 420€

Cost for a single room – 540€



PRAGUE, VIENA, BUDAPEST 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

DAY 1.

DÉNIA Valencia - PRAGUE / PRAGUE AIRPORT

Bus transfer from Dénia to Valencia.

Flight from Valencia to Prague.

Arrival in Prague by regular flight and pick-up at the airport.

Transfer to the Hotel and accommodation

DAY 2. PRAGUE

Panoramic tour of Prague with local guide, visiting the Old City (Staré Město) and New Town (Nové Město).



During our visit we will visit the Wenceslas Square built by Charles IV, the Republic Square (Náměstí Republiky) with one of the oldest towers in Prague, the Powder Tower. Next to it, we will see the Municipal House (Obecní dům), the most outstanding of the Art Nouveau buildings in Prague.

Passing through the "royal road", Celetna Street, we reach the famous Old Town Square (StaromestskeNámesti) surrounded by interesting narrow streets, which make it a real pleasure to walk. The square is full of interesting buildings such as the Church of Our Lady of Týn, the Church of St. Nicholas and the Town Hall of the Old Town, where the impressive Astronomical Relój of Prague is located. The building stands out for its Gothic tower of 60 m. of height from which you can contemplate the centre of the city.

Before reaching the Charles Bridge we will see the Clementinum, the second largest architectural complex in the city behind the Prague Castle.



Lunch (not included in the program) and free afternoon with the option of an optional excursion to the "Prague Castle".

At the agreed time, return to the hotel.

DAY 3. BRATISLAVA / VIENNA



After breakfast, we say goodbye to Prague and leave by coach to Vienna. We make a stop in the ancient city of coronation of the Hungarian kings, Bratislava, currently the capital of Slovakia. We will tour the city passing through the most important and significant places outside the old town such as the Presidential Palace, the Danube Promenade or the walls. We can't fail to see either the Bratislava Castle, the Napoleon Hill and the Slavín monument where you will enjoy a wonderful view of the city.

Lunch in Bratislava.

Continue to Vienna.

Arrival at the hotel and accommodation.

DAY 4. VIENNA

In the morning visit of Vienna with local guide, we will go to the Avenue of the Ring with its gardens, monuments and known buildings: State Opera, National Theater, Parliament, City Hall, Museums of Fine Arts and Natural History, University, Stock Exchange Values, Votive Church, Academies of Art, Monuments to Mozart, Strauss, Goethe.



We will visit the interior of Schönbrunn Palace, a residence that rivals Versailles, where famous people like Maria Teresa, Francisco José and Sissi lived.

Lunch and free afternoon.

Accommodation.

DAY 5. GYÖR / BUDAPEST

After breakfast, we say goodbye to Vienna and leave by coach to Budapest. During the trip we will stop in the fourth most important city of Hungary, the city of three rivers, Győr which is the capital of the Kisalföld region (Little Plain). The heart of the city is called Capitula Hill and here are the main monuments, such as the Cathedral.

Lunch en route.

We will continue to the Hungarian capital.



As we enter the city, we will see Mount Gellért with the Citadel, (235 m high), with stunning views, and in this way we will understand how the city is structured on the sides of Buda and Pest.

Arrival at the hotel and accommodation.

DAY 6. BUDAPEST



After breakfast we will visit the incredible city of Budapest through a panoramic tour with a local guide, which will take us through the most important areas of Buda and Pest. We will see the Heroes Square in the City Park, we will pass through the Andrassy Avenue (World Heritage), we will see outside the impressive Parliament of the country - the most emblematic building in Hungary, the majestic State Opera neo-Renaissance palace.



Lunch and free afternoon with the possibility of an optional excursion.

Accommodation.

DAY 7. BUDAPEST - BUDAPEST AIRPORT

Breakfast and departure to Budapest Airport, flight from Budapest to Valencia, arrival in Valencia.

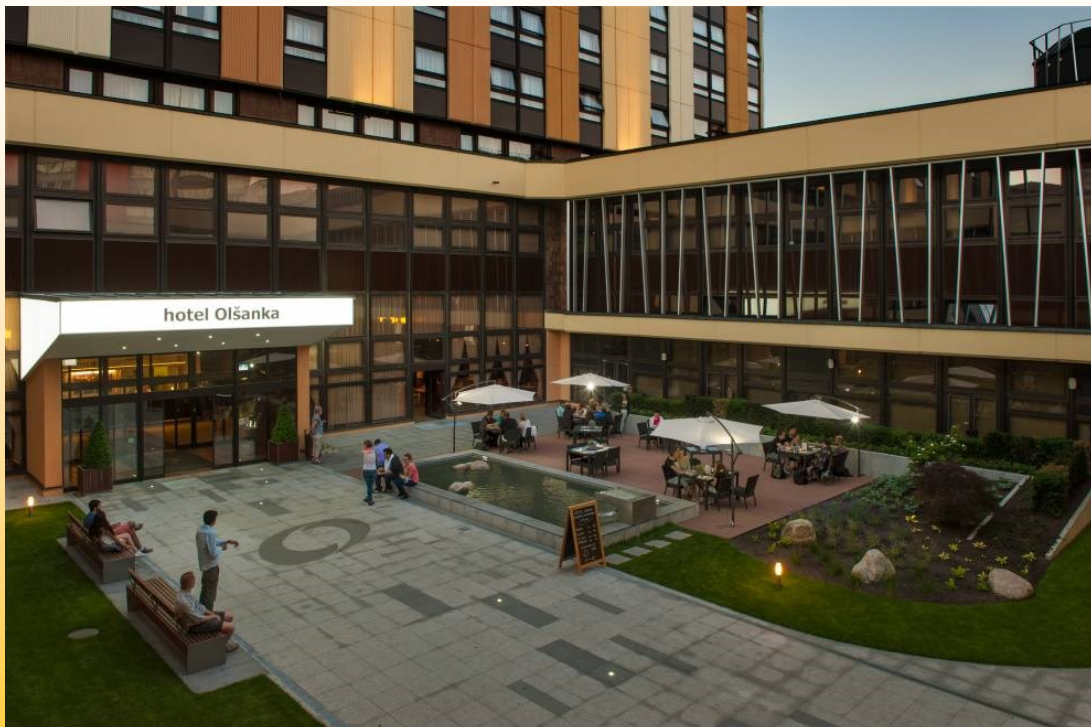
Bus transfer to Dénia.

NOTE: the order of the excursions may be modified without affecting its content.

Some day trips are optional and there will be plenty of time for you to explore on your own. There is plenty of night life.

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- 2 nights half board in Prague in hotel 3/4 * Olsanka type or similar



- 2 half board in Vienna hotel 3/4 * type Allegro or similar



- 2 half board in Budapest 3/4 * Vitta type or similar.



- Accompanying guide.
- Coach for transfers and excursions according to the described itinerary.
- Local guide in Prague.
- Local guide in Vienna.
- Local guide in Budapest.
- Travel insurance with international coverage.
- Driver.
- Flights.
- Bus transfer from/to Dénia.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE **** Any extra not mentioned in the previous section****

Group minimum number: 35

Total Price per person: 845€

Single price to be confirmed

Please note – this is an estimated price based on prices as of October this year. Once the definite price for May 2019 has been received then anyone who has booked will be notified and all information on the website will be updated.

MAKING A BOOKING/RESERVATION:

The terms and conditions are clearly displayed under '**Travel and Events**' in the left hand blue column of the U3A website – you do not need to log in to view them.

Any reservations/bookings made via the booking system on the website or by reading this and contacting travel are accepted on the understanding that you have read and agree to these terms and conditions.

To make a reservation/booking via the U3A Dénia website you will need to **log in to the website on the 'home page'**.

If you have problems logging in on the home page then click on 'member details' in the left hand blue column. Scroll to the bottom of the page and insert a new password and then 'confirm'.

If you are still having problems making a reservation then please contact Pam Rowlinson with the following details:

Name of all travellers

If rooms are required please indicate whether you require double or single room/s and how many.

We need an emergency telephone number please ie: a telephone number of a family member or friend who we can contact in the event of an emergency.

Please state which pick up point you would prefer to join the coach at:

1. Large Marina Car Park, Las Rotas
2. MacDonald, Dénia
3. Mas y Mas Ondara

We will then send you an email to confirm your registration

Once the minimum number of people required to make an event viable have been received we will send you a confirmation/payment slip. At that time we will ask for a deposit or the full amount by a certain date and your payment must be received by that date.

If it is a problem for you to pay by the due date (eg: you are out of the country and do not have internet banking) then please let Pam Rowlinson know and we will be prepared to allow you some more time to pay.

To give you some idea of how hard we work for our members these are some of the trips we undertook in 2017:

Ikea Shopping trip

Fallas

St Joseph Caves

Ubeda and Baeza
ping

Barcelona and Montserrat

Viva Espana

Catamaran sunset cruise

Alicante castle and shop-

For annual events such as the Girona Flower Festival, Jerez Horse Fair, Moors and Christians Alcoy it has proved very difficult to get advance notice of prices, suitable hotels, the ability to book seats (mainly owned by restaurants in Alcoy). If an overnight stay is required the hotels require confirmed room reservations so far in advance that it does not allow us sufficient time to put a package together. A minimum of 30 people are required to make a trip viable.

Trips researched in 2017 which eventually were considered not viable for a variety of reasons – mainly price (we aim at below €500 pp) or lack of support:

Majorca for Christmas

Jerez horse fair

St Petersburg by train

Girona Flower festival

Alcoy Moors & Christians
France

Extremadura, Cáceras and Mérida

Lanzarote

Medieval Cataluna

Teruel and Albarracin

Murcia

Cote d'Azur & South of

At present the team are researching:

A wine trip of the Rueda region

A day trip to Formentera

A Cruise

A cultural trip to a show, ballet or opera in Madrid, Valencia or other city with an overnight stay in a 4*/5* hotel

A day trip to the Arts and Science museum in Valencia