

# U3A Dénia Travel Newsletter

ISSUE January 2020



This is a newsletter from the  
U3A Dénia Travel Team - the  
purpose of which is to keep  
you updated on what trips/  
events we have organized  
on your behalf for  
2020/2021

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*Happy New Year!*

2020



# YOUR TRAVEL TEAM



**Back Row - Left to right:**

**Ginny Whitehead**

**Neil Parkin**

**Chris Whitehead**

**Graham Cromack**

**Front:**

**Christine Parkin**

**Liz Jones**

## **ADIOS 2019, HOLA 2020 - a review of last year's trips**

2019 has been a record year for the Travel Group. 384 members enjoyed our trips, almost double for any other year. We handled €76,549 in payments and we took our first overseas trip to Prague, Budapest and Vienna. The Titanic trip attracted 98 bookings (we had to take two coaches) and our Jijona day trip for January was advertised and filled in less than three days. It pays to book early!

I'd like to pay tribute to my fantastic team, who work so hard on your behalf to provide you with interesting and varied experiences. At our own expense we visit towns, villages and venues and stay overnight in hotels to ensure they meet our high expectations. We have an interesting and varied programme for you this year, with a couple more trips still being researched:

**January 31** - Liz's Xixona day trip with lunch is FULLY BOOKED

**February 25-27** My Tutankhamun Exhibition trip in Madrid . FULLY BOOKED

**March 26** - Neil and Christine's day trip to Elche with lunch. FULLY BOOKED

**June 5** - My day trip with lunch to the Valencia Bioparc and Lladró factory and museum has JUST A FEW SEATS LEFT

**September** - Graham's trip to Cirque de Soleil in Valencia is still being researched

**October 2** - Liz's Yecla bodega visit with lunch is FULLY BOOKED

**Christmas break** - I will take us to Nerja for five days. Awaiting details from the travel agent.

Full details of Travel Terms and conditions are published on the U3A Dénia travel pages.

Chris, Liz, Graham, Neil, Christine, Pam and I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to welcoming you on our trips in 2020.

Ginny



# THE U3A DÉNIA WAY TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS







## CHRISTMAS IN TORREMOLINOS

We didn't get off to the most auspicious start - I was so busy loading five boxes of crackers, mints and sweets and booking people onto the coach, that I forgot to load my own suitcase and arrived for a five day Christmas break in what I stood up in! Undaunted, a quick trip around the many shops surrounding the hotel provided some cheap clothes and that all important bag of makeup!

We spent a most enjoyable day in Gibraltar. Some went on a guided taxi tour up the Rock to see the caves and apes.



The rest of us took advantage of the lovely shops, including Marks and Sparks - guess what I bought there, ladies? Our Christmas Gala Dinner was fabulous, marred only by the scramble of 500 people using four lifts to get to the underground dining room - all at the same time!



Next day we visited Ronda, with its jaw-dropping spectacular position astride a deep gorge, spanned by a stone bridge.



With so much to explore - Roman baths, one of Spain's oldest bull-rings (sadly, still hosting bullfights), interesting little museums, an old town and numerous restaurants, we could have spent longer there. Back to the hotel for lunch, then it was time to visit Málaga to see the fabulous 'dancing' Christmas lights. For many of us, this was the highlight of our visits.





All too soon our Christmas break was over and it was time to head back home. Thanks to all our travellers for being such a great crowd. Look forward to welcoming you all next Christmas, when we'll be re-turning, by popular request, to Nerja.

***Ginny***



## Biopark Visit - 5th June 2020



The BioParc in Valencia is a uniquely designed 'safari park' where 4,000 African animals and 250 different species live in naturally created habitats. Animals of different species live together just as they would in nature. There are no cages, just perspex barriers separating species and animals from visitors, so you can get up really close without disturbing them. The BioParc has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence by Tripadvisor.

You are not allowed to bring your own food into the parc so, after you've seen all the animals, we'll enjoy a three course lunch in Restaurant Samburu. In the afternoon, we'll visit the famous Lladró Porcelain Factory and Museum. We'll watch a video and walk around the factory to see artisans at work, molding and painting pieces, before visiting the museum to view the current collection.

The price includes entry to the BioParc and lunch. The Lladró Museum visit is free. €40 per person

# GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET



Graham is researching a two night trip to Germany in late November to see the fabulous Christmas markets. If you're interested in the trip, please email him:

[graham.cromack@sky.com](mailto:graham.cromack@sky.com) and he'll send you details as soon as he has them.