

Torrevieja



4th Edition!

Costa Blanca - Spain

Travel Guide

by Doreen A. Denecker and Hubert Keil
www.Alicante-Spain.com

Free Torrevieja Travel Guide

with a special section on Santa Pola and Tabarca Island

This is

Edition No. 4

of the Free Torrevieja Travel Guide.

We try to keep this Travel Guide as up to date as possible.

Please check out our website for the latest version here:

<http://www.alicante-spain.com/torrevieja-latest-edition>

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Welcome to the Costa Blanca!

Back some years ago we moved with our family to Alicante and started a little website mostly for our friends who started visiting us. Quickly it became more and more popular and we received many questions from tourists around the world who were looking for additional information on Alicante and other cities around the Costa Blanca.

Continuously expanding our website with tips on Benidorm, Torrevieja, Denia and other Costa Blanca cities, we started the idea of publishing short free travel guides for you to take with you when you visit the area.

Not being a native English speaker, we quickly got great help from our friend and neighbour Doreen, who not only reworked large parts of our “special English”, but also contributes huge parts of content for the website and the travel guide ebooks.

We hope you enjoy this travel guide and find it helpful on your next visit to this beautiful area.

From San Juan, Alicante

Anna, Gloria and Hubert Keil

The Authors

DOREEN ANN DENECKER

Doreen Ann was born and raised in New York, U.S.A. After receiving her B. A. in Spanish Studies and Marketing, she quickly headed back to Valencia, Spain. At first she worked together with her Spanish husband, Jose, using her Spanish and marketing experience. But after her two daughters got a little older, she turned to teaching English as a Second Language.



HUBERT KEIL

German born Hubert runs a marketing company and lives with his Spanish born wife Gloria and her daughter Anna, in a suburb of Alicante. For many years he has run an internet site about the Costa Blanca area, giving tips for travellers and residents.



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Costa Blanca

The Sun Lover's Paradise

If you have chosen the Costa Blanca, Spain for your holiday travel, supposedly it is because it has been recommended to you by someone you trust, you have read about it and seems quite amazing and/or just love being in contact with nature, the natural environment that it offers, relaxation and fresh air. Wow! What a fantastic combination if you can get all that together.

The Costa Blanca is synonymous to sun and fun in the coastal area of the Mediterranean Sea, running north to south or south to north, you can begin your holiday travel either way.

This belongs to the Province of Alicante, starting in the town of Denia and reaching to Pilar de la Horadada or Torrevieja as the last important town in the province, and part of the Community of Valencia.

As the name tells us, the White Coast is thanks to all the white, clean sandy beaches, the white washed buildings and the sunny weather which brightens all its villas that are at your disposal to enjoy such as Javea, Moraira, Altea, Benidorm, Alicante City and Torrevieja.

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TORREVIEJA

Whether it be your first trip to the White Coast (Alicante) or not, Torrevieja deserves at least a day's excursion.

Torrevieja is one of the most important summer holiday spots in the province of Alicante, about 50 kilometres from the city of Alicante and making up what is known as the Costa Blanca or



The White Coast. Torrevieja and the town of Pilar de la Horadada are in the southern tip, the last towns before you head into the province of Murcia.

When making holiday plans, if you are to arrive there by plane, the closest airport would be the one in Alicante called the Altet. It has great flight combinations with the rest of Europe, especially when flying in from England. It would only take you about half an hour at the most to get safely to your hotel if you have thought about a car hire. Look for the high-

way marked N-332 heading south and you are set. There are some bus companies connecting Torrevieja with Alicante, Elche and other towns and cities. There are even hotels which have the convenient service of picking up its guests. And if you are in a hurry or do not want to be bothered driving and wish to take in the lovely scenery, then a taxi would do you well.

Salt and Habaneras

If you follow the Cuban music or the scent of fresh salt, you will be on the right track. But if that fails, everyone has always referred to this town as where the old tower is and therefore in Spanish -Torrevieja, which when translated to English means ' an old tower '. This swampy marsh area has been known for its high quality production of salt and one of the places frequently used to store the dried salt was in towers. There was one particular tower which was knocked down when this area was hit by an earthquake in 1829. Even nowadays, this whole area is constantly being shaken by earthquakes, one of the last ones was just a few months ago. Although it is visited thanks to



View of one of the beautiful beaches in Torrevieja

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its beautiful beaches such as the Cura, the Locos or the Mata, it is also visited because it has become popular for its habaneras, Cuban music. One might think that it is quite strange that such far away music has planted its roots so strongly in a little salt mining town in Spain. But there is a very reasonable explanation.



Torre del Moro - North of Torrevieja

Torrevieja carried on a constant flow of salt trading with Cuba and the sailors who did this route were spellbound by this lively music and wanted to share it with their home folks and brought it back here. As we can well see, it has been happily transmitted from one generation to another. There is a fantastic international music festival of habaneras held annually at the end of July or the beginning of August. If you are in the area at this time of the year and wish further details, the Patronizer of the Competition (Patronato Municipal del Certamen Internacional de Habaneras) can help you or look in the web.

Natural Parks to visit outside Torrevieja

Just a stone's throw away and quite a relaxing trip are the Natural Parks of Torrevieja. When you leave Torrevieja on the highway marked C-332, you will be heading for the Natural park of the Lagoons of the Mata. To be sure you will be able to visit this paradise correctly, it would be recommendable to get information and book a date because there is a maximum of 35 people allowed at a time.

The most interesting fauna are the birds like the stone curlew and in the winter there is a great concentration of the diving birds and an important nucleus of storks, eagles and avocets. On the other hand, the salt swamps export salt all over the world. And if that was not enough, salt baths are also recommended for some types of illnesses such as arthritis and skin diseases having become quite popular in the 19th century. But the best part of this excursion is when the sun reflects in these salt mountains.

Even though this city has a lot to do, it is easy and fun to make day excursion travelling up the Costa Blanca to visit Santa Pola on the outskirts of Alicante, then on to Benidorm with its fantastic theme parks of all kinds, Altea and Javea. Get the most out of your stay and travel. To make finding your way around this area easier, pass by the Tourist Information Bureau at Plaza Ruiz Capdepon. And just in case, the Red Cross can be found on Avenue de Las Cortes Valencianas, telephone number 965711818.



Beach promenade on the Mediterranean at Torrevieja

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SANTA POLA

What would be a vacation holiday to Alicante or Torrevieja and not a day's stay in Santa Pola. Just around twenty kilometres north of Torrevieja, and very easily reachable either by car on the



Getting lost in amazement overlooking Santa Pola's coast

National highway N-332 or by air when landing at the Altet Airport just 8 kilometres away, Santa Pola quickly takes you back to Roman times. It was here where the Portus Illicitanus, the Roman ruins, were found.

Meeting Romans

The Roman House of the Palmeral, which was built during the Low Imperial and the Roman factory for pickling and salting fish from the 4th century B. C., are also clear signs of this era. It was a most prosperous fishing village on the Costa Blanca, but today all of this has been overtaken by tourism.

Sweet and Salty Santa Pola

Santa Pola extends and hugs both sides of the Renaissance Castle-Fortress built in the 16th c. to defend itself from the pirate attacks. This building is found in the city centre and has a very strict military appearance. It houses the magnificent Archaeological Museum where you can feast your eyes and admire Iberian and Roman findings. Along with this, the Fishing Museum with a rich selection of maritime objects and a fascinating aquarium. But why should you just have to look at this interesting world, why not participate? One of the most remarkable attractions is the auctioning of the fresh fish that arrives on the fishing boats every afternoon. To enable anyone and everyone to have access to see and buy, there is a permanent fish market next to the main building. It is quite a show!

From the same time period three watch out towers are still standing; the Atalayola, the Tamarit and the Escaletes. As you leave the fortress, a nice place to take a breather and maybe a few tapas (typical side dishes) would be in the Plaza de la Glorieta (Glorieta Square), surrounded by terraces and lovely gardens. Continuing on with your leisurely stroll heading towards the higher part of the town, you promptly arrive at the Plaza del Calvario where you will enjoy a impressive panoramic view.



Typical and abundant palm trees in its nicely cared for parks

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On the outskirts you must visit the Salinas de Santa Pola (salt mines) in the natural park where you can get information and book a date for your visit. You will be graced with an incredible view of flamingos (reaching over 3000 at the end of summer) and two very unique kinds of ducks among others.



The impressive Renaissance Castle-Fortress in Santa Pola

And if this is not enough, then just head for one of the rolling sandy beaches like the Varadero, the Levante or the Gran Playa for a relaxing stay and an incredible climate almost all year round. From here you can also catch a ferry to the small but interesting island of Tabarca. The company that does this crossing is called Cruceros Baeza Parodi and is found in the harbour area or by calling 965411113.

But there are also other places not far away and easily reachable by car, train or coach like Benidorm with its great variety of restaurants and discotesques. Altea is just a little further north and very picturesque with its blue tile roofed cathedral and nautical port. And Calpe with its beaches and restaurants where you can choose your own fresh fish menu.

In order to be able to go from one town to another, the buses called Autocares Bailen can be consulted at Dean Lopez Street, no 17. Or you might need to buzz around by taxi at Radio Taxi number 965415555.



Santa Pola's harbour with departing ferry boats to Tabarca Island

Anywhere you go on the Costa Blanca, at almost any time of the year, but especially in the summer, you will be pleasantly surprised at what specialities await you. And to make sure that you see it all, stop by the Tourist Booth in the Plaza de la Diputacion.

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TABARCA ISLAND

Who can resist a short boat ride which takes you “heaven” for a day. Tabarca Island is this and more, so c’mon!



Eureka! You have reached Tabarca Island

The largest inhabited island in the Valencian Community, Tabarca is administratively dependent on the city of Alicante and is, without a doubt, a symbol and tourist reference of the Costa Blanca and the Mediterranean Sea. It is found less than 11 miles south-east of Alicante and only three miles from the cape in Santa Pola. With its 1,800 metres long and 400 metres wide, Tabarca offers a real refuge, ideal for a weekend getaway, especially in the off season when you can really enjoy the quietness and the absolute beauty of its landscapes.

Tabarca, or sometimes called ‘Flat Island’ or ‘New Tabarca’ is an important receptor of tourism all year round but especially during the summer months when it can register up to about 3,000 daily visits. Its climate has an average temperature of 17 degrees centigrade. There are various maritime lines which connect the island to the mainland like Alicante, Santa Pola, and Torrevieja. Short journeys are done on a frequent timetable, depending on the season, and the trip only takes 60 minutes from Alicante and 30 from Santa Pola.



A panoramic view of Tabarca Island

A Genoese Island in Spain

Tabarqah, as it was known and getting its name from a Tunisian island, dates back to the XVIII century. In 1741, the king of Tunisia invaded the island and took as his prisoners the people living there, who happened to be Genoese (Genoa, the north Italian city) but later became the prisoners of the Sultan of Argelia. In 1768, Carlos III, king of Spain paid a fee and freed them. They stayed on to make the island a military lookout, especially from the pirates who used the island to attack the Costa Blanca.

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By looking at the Church of Saint Peter and Paul, you can get a good idea of what the Baroque style was like back then. Another architectural interest is the wall they built back then when wanting to fortify the island. The wall is laid out in ashlar stone masonry with arched entrances and royal knightly shields.

In an area on the outskirts of the town towards one of the tips, you can see the tower of Saint Joseph which has the appearance of a pyramid with the top cut off. Obviously, its function was



The area around the island is a protected marine reserve

to serve as a vantage point. And in the centre of the town was the Governor's House which has now been converted into a magnificent hotel. All this was declared a Protected Historic-Artistic monument in 1964.

The island of Tabarca was later declared, in 1986, a Protected Marine Reserve, taking in over 1,400 hectares. This protection does not prohibit all kinds of water activities within the reserved area. Professional fishing is to be done with craftsmanship and sports fishing can be done with the correct permits. What is understandably prohibited

is scuba diving and fishing, collecting of any kind of flora or fauna and any kind of sport where motors are used.

As is to be expected, the most popular and best prepared fish dishes can be eaten here. Here you can try what is called "caldero" or stewed fish prepared in a huge metal kettle or deep clay saucepan. Or fresh fish like red mullet, sardines or octopus in its ink. An then for a short nap or "siesta" either on the beach or in the boat which takes you back to reality. Or you can continue on to other beach paradises like Benidorm, Denia or Calpe. Any tourist information you might be looking for would be found at either the Santa Pola harbour or the Alicante port area.



Clay cooking pot with local fish in a special "Tabarca" sauce

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Video



More Information including a short video about Torrevieja can be found on our website at

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Important Directions and Phone Numbers

Tourist Office - Oficina de Turismo

Plaza Ruiz Capdepon, s/n
03180 Torrevieja
Tel: 965 70 34 33
Fax: 965 71 59 36



City Hall - Ayuntamiento Torrevieja

Pl. Constitución 3
03181 Torrevieja, Spain
Tel: 965 710 250



ALSA Buscompany

Av. las Habaneras, S/N
03182 Torrevieja
Tel: 965 716 658



Taxi

Auto Taxi Torrevieja
Tel: 965 710 578

Radio Taxi Torrevieja
Tel: 965 712 277



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Important Directions and Phone Numbers



Aquopolis Waterpark

Finca de la hoya grande, s/n
03180 Torrevieja
Tel: 965 715890
Fax: 965 715611

Various golf courses in the area around Torrevieja



Club de Golf VILLAMARTIN

Club-Nr. III / 10,
Ctra. Cartagena - Alicante, km 50
03300 Orihuela / Alicante
Tel: 966 765 160
Fax 966 765 158

Club de Golf LAS RAMBLAS DE ORIHUELA

Ctra. Cartagena - Alicante, km 48
03300 Orihuela / Alicante
Tel: 965 322 011
Fax 966 765 158

Real Club de Golf CAMPOAMOR

Ctra. Cartagena - Alicante, km 48
03192 Dehesa de Campoamor
Tel: 965 321 366
Fax 965 302 184

Club de Golf LA MARQUESA

Ctra. Rojales - Guardamar
Avda. Justo Quesada
03170 Rojales
Tel: 966 714 258
Fax 966 719 174

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Important Directions and Phone Numbers

Hospital De Torrevieja

Torrevieja Salud - Dep.de Salud22
Ctra. CV-95, Partida La Cenuela
03180 Torrevieja
Tel: 965 721 000



Pharmacies

More than 25 pharmacies located around Torrevieja

Local Police - Policia Local

Ctra. Crevillente, S/N
03180 Torrevieja
Local Police Tel: 092



National Police - Policia Nacional

National Police Tel: 091

Guardia Civil

Guardia Civil Tel: 062

Emergencies 112

Firefighter 085



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Further Related Resources



Alicante Airport

The largest of the two airports close to [Torrevieja is Alicante Airport](#). [\(Click here for further information\)](#)

Finding [cheap flights to Alicante](#). [\(Click here for further information\)](#)

Murcia Airport

Not as well known, but only about 35km south of Torrevieja is the [Murcia Airport of San Javier](#). [\(Click here for further information\)](#)



Car Hire Tips at the Alicante Airport

Reliable and inexpensive [car hire with pickup and drop directly in Torrevieja or at the Airport in Alicante](#). [\(Click here for further information\)](#)



Finding Hotels

Large variety of [hotel offers in and around Torrevieja](#). [\(Click here for further information\)](#).



Airport to Torrevieja Bus

How to get from [Murcia or Alicante airport to Torrevieja by Bus](#). [\(Click here for further information\)](#).

Find further resources and links to Benidorm related information please visit

www.alicante-spain.com/torrevieja-resources

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We really hope you found this Travel Guide useful!

Over the past years we have published lots of news and information on Alicante and other cities around the Costa Blanca region on our website. Putting some of the information on paper has been a challenge.

As we keep on publishing short free travel guides on Spain and particularly the Costa Blanca region, we invite you to join our free newsletter (or ezine or whatever you call it), where we bring you short tips on what to do and what to see at your next visit to Spain.



As a bonus, all readers of our newsletter receive our free travel guides. Would be great to have you in our little “Costa Blanca friends” group!

Additional information on how to get your copy of the free newsletter and our other free travel guide ebooks, can be found here:

www.alicante-spain.com/free-torrevieja-newsletter