

2024

VOL.17

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Property

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GUIA DE

Propiedades

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Welcome

Dear Readers,

As the festive season draws near, we are delighted to welcome you to this special Christmas edition of the Indalo Property Guide. This magical time of year brings a sense of joy, reflection, and new beginnings—a sentiment that perfectly mirrors the aspirations of those seeking to find their dream home or embark on a fresh chapter in their property journey.

In the spirit of Christmas, our team has curated a delightful collection of property opportunities, expert advice, and local insights to inspire and guide you. Whether you're envisioning a cozy retreat to celebrate the season or planning ahead for a brighter year, you'll find plenty to explore within these pages.

We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you—our valued readers, partners, and clients. Your trust and support make what we do so rewarding, and we are committed to continuing to serve you with dedication and care in the coming year.

May your holidays be filled with warmth, laughter, and the company of loved ones. From all of us at Indalo Property Guide, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Warmest regards,

Nick & Maddy

Editors, Indalo Property Guide

Bienvenido

Estimados lectores,

Ahora que se acerca la época festiva, nos complace darles la bienvenida a esta edición especial de Navidad de la Guía Inmobiliaria Indalo. Esta época mágica del año trae consigo un sentimiento de alegría, reflexión y nuevos comienzos, un sentimiento que refleja perfectamente las aspiraciones de aquellos que buscan encontrar la casa de sus sueños o embarcarse en un nuevo capítulo de su viaje inmobiliario.

Con motivo de la Navidad, nuestro equipo ha preparado una encantadora colección de oportunidades inmobiliarias, consejos de expertos y perspectivas locales para inspirarle y guiarle. Tanto si está pensando en un retiro acogedor donde se puede celebrar las fiestas como si está planeando un año mejor, en estas páginas encontrará mucho que explorar.

También aprovechamos esta oportunidad para expresar nuestra gratitud a nuestros estimados lectores, socios y clientes. Su confianza y apoyo hacen que lo que hacemos sea tan gratificante, y nos comprometemos a seguir sirviéndoles con dedicación y esmero en el próximo año.

Que sus vacaciones estén llenas de calidez, risas y la compañía de sus seres queridos. Desde la Guía Indalo, les deseamos una muy Feliz Navidad y un próspero Año Nuevo.

Saludos cordiales,

Nick & Maddy

Editores- Guía Inmobiliaria Indalo

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Contents

10 Nochebuena

Christmas Eve in Spain is more important than Christmas Day

13 The Algarrobico Hotel

Demolition of unfinished hotel eyesore

16 IVA de la propiedad

Proponen gravar con un 21% de IVA el alquiler de viviendas turísticas

19 El Hotel Algarrobico

Derribo de la monstruosidad de un hotel inacabado

20 Mojácar Luz de la Navidad

Eventos navideños en Mojácar durante todas las fiestas

33 Nochevieja-New Year's Eve

How Spain celebrates the New Year

36 Los Reyes Magos-Three Kings

The Spanish tradition of the Three Kings or Three Wise Men explained

39 Abandono de Animales

Propuesta para poner en marcha el primer Plan de Acción Estatal

42 Essential Spanish-Feliz Navidad

Focus on a particular Spanish custom, the Christmas Lottery



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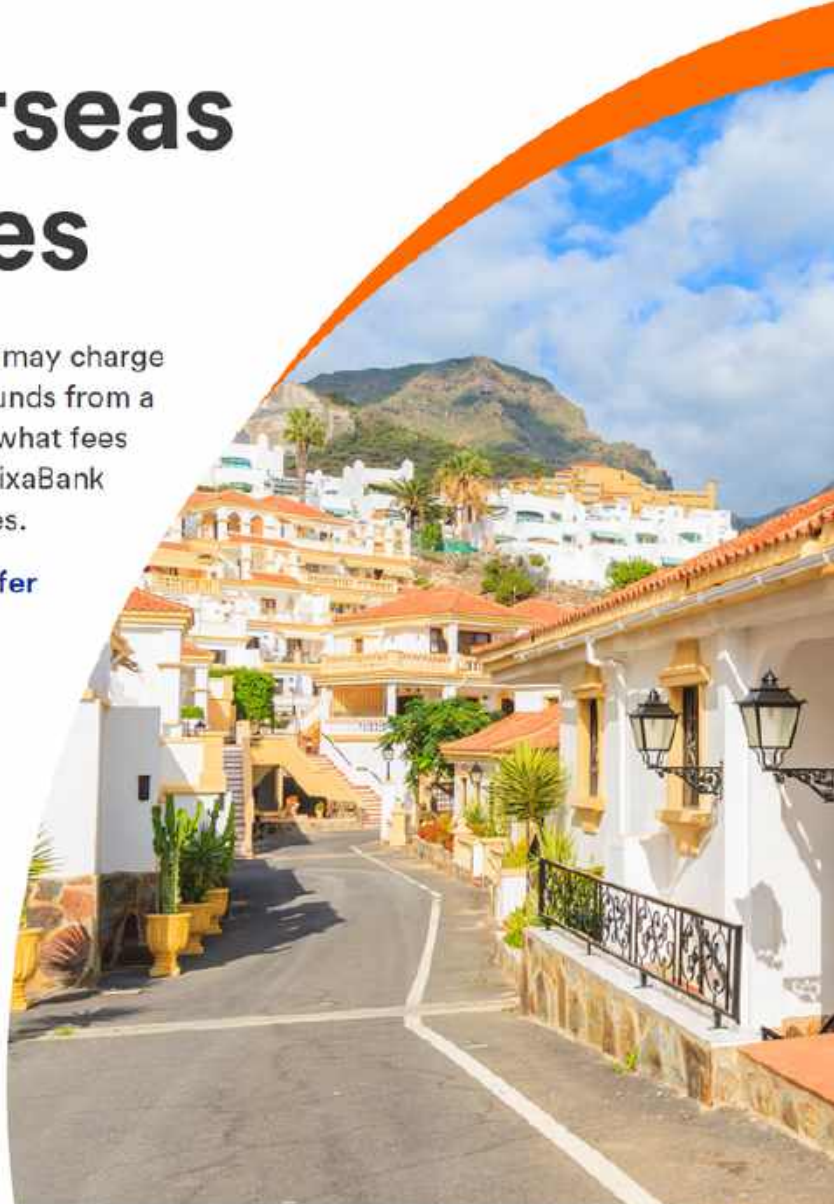
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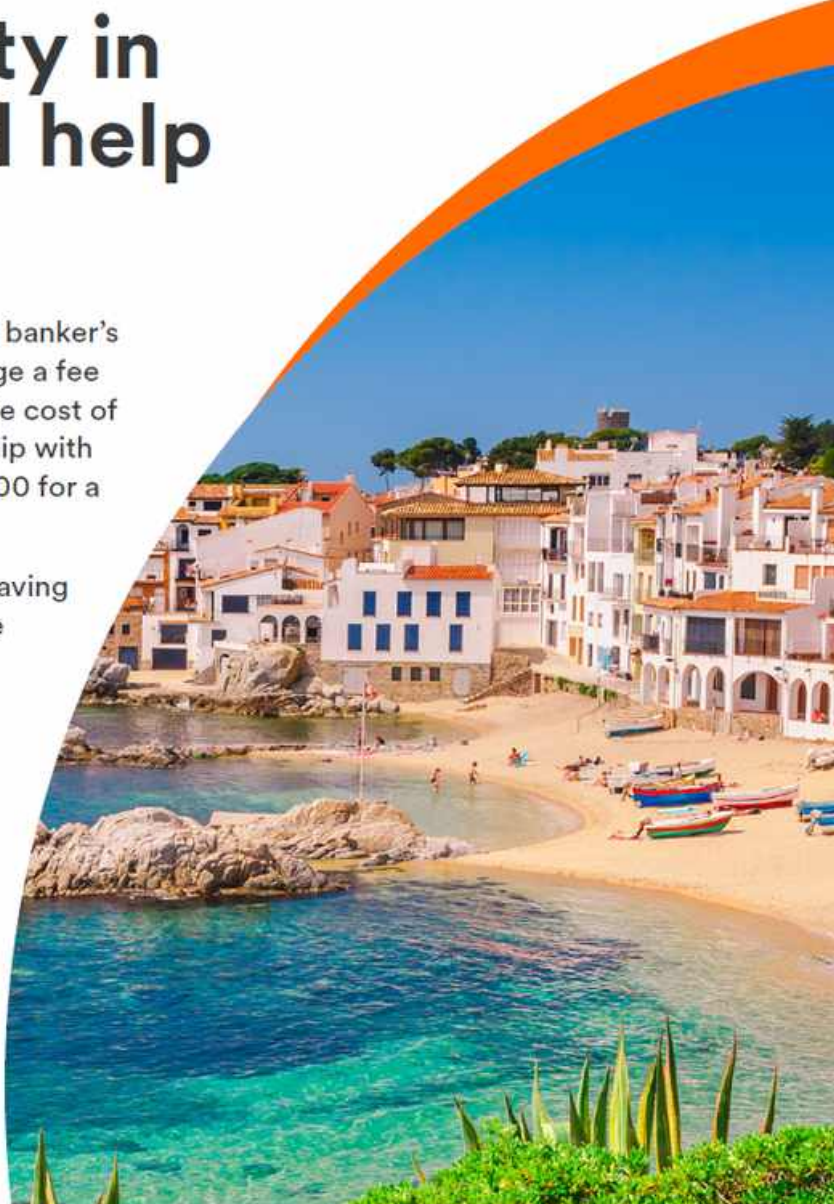
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THE BUILD UP TO CHRISTMAS AND THE NATIVITY

Christmas is one of the most celebrated holidays across the globe, bringing families and communities together in a spirit of joy and generosity. Yet, the ways in which this season is marked differ significantly depending on cultural traditions. When comparing Christmas in English-speaking countries like the United States or the United Kingdom to Spanish-speaking nations such as Spain or Mexico, the contrasts are as fascinating as they are festive.

In English-speaking countries, Christmas officially begins in late November or early December, following Thanksgiving in the United States or marked by the Advent season in Christian traditions. Decorations go up, and the festive spirit builds toward a climactic celebration on December 25th.

In contrast Spain kicks off the holiday season on the bank holiday of December 6th, Constitution Day (Día de la Constitución) then two days later on the 8th with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This year it gives a long Bank holiday weekend and by this point you will see the lights switched on in every village. Moreover, the Christmas season extends well beyond December 25th, culminating in the Día de los Reyes Magos (Three Kings' Day) on January 6th, which rivals or even eclipses Christmas Day in importance.



The Nativity - El Belén

In English-speaking nations, nativity scenes are common, but they share the spotlight with Santa Claus, Christmas trees, and a commercialised gift-giving culture. Midnight Mass is attended by some, but for many, Christmas Day festivities are more centred on family gatherings and exchanging presents.

In Spain the nativity scene (or belén) takes a central role, often elaborately designed with incredible detail. Many of the villages in the Levante region have wonderful individual nativity scenes and you should always seek them out when visiting as they all differ greatly. In Cuevas Del Almanzora they have a life size Nativity. You should also look for a little guy somewhat hidden, squatting and doing its business. Yes! Meet El Caganer. The name El Caganer" literally means "the pooper".

Traditionally, the figurine is depicted as a peasant, wearing the traditional Catalan red cap (the barretina) and with his trousers down, showing a bare backside, and defecating.

Although the origin of the Caganer is lost in the mists of time, the first records about it date back to the 1700s, but it could have already started appearing in Catalan nativities already by the end of the 1600's. It was the time of the Baroque, and Baroque art was prone to grotesque. So a statue of a pooper fitted the mood.

It is believed that the excrements of the Catalan caganer will fertilize the land and has become a symbol of prosperity and wealth, but also of good luck and happiness. Though the roots of the Christmas Pooper started as Catalan tradition, it has spread further through Spain and can be found in many village Nativity scenes.



LA NOCHEBUENA

CHRISTMAS EVE, A SPANISH CHRISTMAS EXPLAINED

Christmas Eve in Spain is more important than Christmas Day. Most consumer studies date the arrival of Santa Claus in Spain to around the 1970s. In other words, the first generations who remember receiving gifts from Santa Claus were boys and girls born in the 1970s and 1980s. Even today, if we ask the majority of Spaniards to choose between Father Christmas or the Three Wise Men, they will choose the Three Wise Men, whose tradition is much more deeply rooted.

So whilst households with children will celebrate Papa Noel or Santa Claus with a small gift, Nochebuena is not about the presents. It is about family and friends and being together and eating great food. Before dinner, the King of Spain gives a speech at nine to wish everyone a happy holiday. Afterwards, it's time for the big family dinner.

Midnight Mass - La Misa del Gallo ("Rooster's Mass", also Misa de los Pastores, "Shepherds' Mass;") on Christmas Eve are deeply ingrained traditions. In Spain, locals begin Christmas Eve by lighting small oil lamps in every home, then after their meal proceed to church to hear Midnight Mass where there's a strong communal focus on celebrating the birth of Christ through prayer and song.

Food plays a vital role in all cultures at Christmas, but the dishes of a traditional English Christmas meal of roast turkey or ham, potatoes, stuffing, and sweet desserts like mince pies or Christmas pudding are quite the opposite to what the Spanish bring to



the table. La Nochebuena meal is traditional fish and seafood. All dressed beautifully in the middle of the table for everyone to share. Christmas is incomplete without turrón (nougat) for dessert.

Then, it's time to rest because the 25th is a holiday. That day, they eat as a family again, but this time it's the leftovers from the previous day's dinner.

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DEMOLITION OF UNFINISHED HOTEL EYESORE



The Algarrobico Hotel which started to be illegally built in the Cabo de Gata Nature Natural Park in 2003 and has been a massive blot on the beautiful landscape ever since then, is set to be finally demolished within the next few months, after an agreement between the Government and Carboneras council (Ayuntamiento) in Almería. The 24 storey, 411 room eyesore had started to be built on a virgin beach in a protected green zone in Andalucía for 20 years.

The Environment and Sustainability Minister Catalina Garcia indicated that demolition work will start on the building in five or six months (stated in October 2024). The demolition work will be paid for by the national Government and the Andaluz local government pays for the treatment of the waste and the environmental restoration of the area.

The project had first got planning permission in the 1980s before the area had been officially included in the park. The developers, Azata del Sol took advantage of an alteration in zoning rules by the Carboneras town hall planners, which contradicted the Coastal Law (Ley de Costas). This Law establishes that nothing new can be

built within 100 metres of the coastline, yet it was built within 14 metres of the sea. The building is still standing despite several rulings by the Supreme Court and other courts and tribunals over the decades stating that it is illegal because it invades the protection easement established in the Coastal Ley and it is built in a non-developable area.

Various environmental groups, including Greenpeace, have been campaigning for its demolition since planning approval was first granted. ➡





DERRIBO DE LA MONSTRUOSIDAD DE UN HOTEL INACABADO



El Hotel Algarrobico, que empezó a construirse ilegalmente en el Parque Natural de Cabo de Gata en 2003 y ha sido desde entonces una enorme mancha en el hermoso paisaje, será demolido finalmente en los próximos meses, tras un acuerdo entre el Gobierno y el Ayuntamiento de Carboneras, en Almería. Este adefesio de 24 plantas y 411 habitaciones llevaba 20 años construyéndose en una playa virgen de una zona verde protegida de Andalucía.

La consejera de Medio Ambiente y Sostenibilidad, Catalina García, ha indicado que las obras de demolición del edificio comenzarán en cinco o seis meses (lo comentó en

octubre de 2024). Los trabajos de demolición correrán a cargo del Gobierno nacional y la Comunidad de Andalucía pagará el tratamiento de los residuos y la restauración medioambiental de la zona.

El proyecto obtuvo la licencia de obras en los años ochenta, antes de que la zona se incluyera oficialmente en el parque. Los promotores, Azata del Sol, se aprovecharon de una alteración de las normas de zonificación por parte de los urbanistas del ayuntamiento de Carboneras, que contradecía la Ley de Costas. Esta Ley establece que no se puede construir nada nuevo a menos de 100 metros de la línea de costa, y sin embargo se construyó a menos de 14 metros del mar. Sin embargo El edificio sigue en pie a pesar de varias sentencias del Tribunal Supremo y de otros juzgados y tribunales a lo largo de décadas que declaran que es ilegal. Invade la servidumbre de protección establecida en la Ley de Costas y se construye en una zona no urbanizable.

Diversos grupos ecologistas, entre ellos Greenpeace, llevan haciendo campaña a favor de su demolición desde que se concedió la aprobación urbanística.



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PROPOSAL TO CHARGE 21% IVA ON THE LETTING OF TOURIST PROPERTY



PSOE, the ruling political party and its coalition partner Sumar have agreed on a new tax package for 2025 with a series of important measures that modify existing taxes or directly create new taxes. One of the most striking, in the midst of the debate on the housing crisis in Spain's larger cities, is the increase in the IVA tax charged on tourist property rentals. The parties propose that IVA will be increased to 21% for tourist properties in order to reduce their profitability and transform them into permanent rental housing, "alleviating the lack of permanent housing in areas under pressure." The agreement between the two parties does not imply that these new tax measures will become a definite reality in 2025. They would need to be approved by Congress. The final position of the other parliamentary parties, necessary to push through this new tax agreement, is not yet clear.

Currently, those who rent out tourist accommodation are considered to be entrepreneurs for IVA tax purposes. However, not all of them pay IVA. The Spanish Tax Agency (AEAT) states that "those tourist accommodation rentals in which the lessor does not provide services typical of the hotel industry are exempt from IVA." Such services are, for example, providing a reception facility, or a permanent and continuous customer service in a dedicated area, or the changing of bed and bath linen and cleaning on a regular basis between check-in and check-out days. In the case of providing these services typical of the hotel industry, the rental is charged at the reduced IVA rate of 10% even though it is classed as a hotel establishment. ■



PROPONEN GRAVAR CON UN 21% DE IVA EL ALQUILER DE VIVIENDAS TURISTICAS



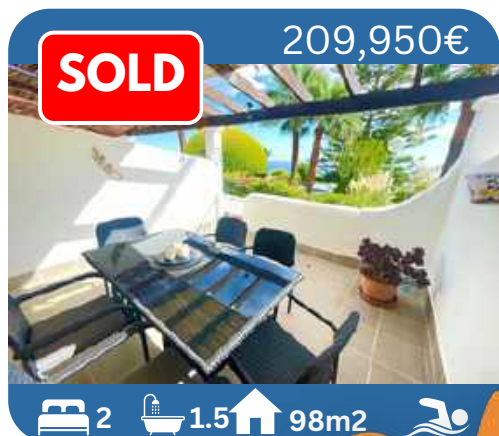
El PSOE, el partido gobernante, y su socio de coalición Sumar han acordado un nuevo paquete fiscal para 2025 con una serie de importantes medidas que modifican impuestos ya existentes o directamente crean otros nuevos. Una de las más llamativas, en pleno debate sobre la crisis de la vivienda en las grandes ciudades españolas, es la subida del IVA que grava el alquiler de viviendas turísticas. Los partidos proponen que el IVA suba al 21% para las viviendas turísticas con el fin de reducir su rentabilidad y transformarlas en viviendas de alquiler permanente, «paliando la falta de vivienda permanente en zonas con presión.» El acuerdo entre ambos partidos no implica que estas nuevas medidas fiscales sean una realidad definitiva en 2025. Tendrían que ser aprobadas por el Congreso. La posición final del resto de partidos parlamentarios, necesaria para sacar adelante este nuevo acuerdo fiscal, aún no está clara.

En la actualidad, quienes alquilan viviendas turísticas son considerados empresarios a efectos fiscales del IVA. Sin embargo, no todos pagan IVA. La Agencia Tributaria española (AEAT) afirma que «están exentos de IVA aquellos alquileres de viviendas turísticas en los que el arrendador no preste servicios propios de la industria hotelera». Tales servicios son, por ejemplo, la prestación de un servicio de recepción, o una atención al cliente permanente y continuada en un área específica, o el cambio de ropa de cama y baño y la limpieza de forma periódica entre los días de entrada y salida. En el caso de la prestación de estos servicios típicos de la industria hotelera, el alquiler se grava con el tipo reducido de IVA del 10% aunque se clasifique como establecimiento hotelero.



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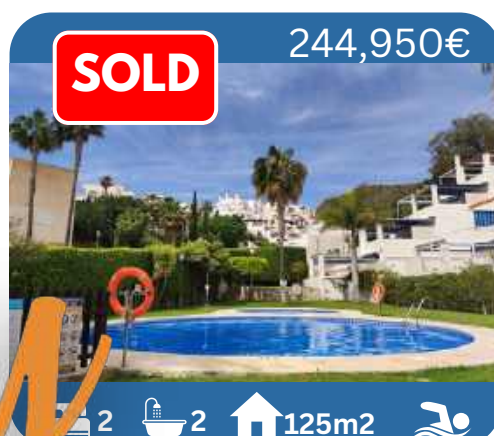
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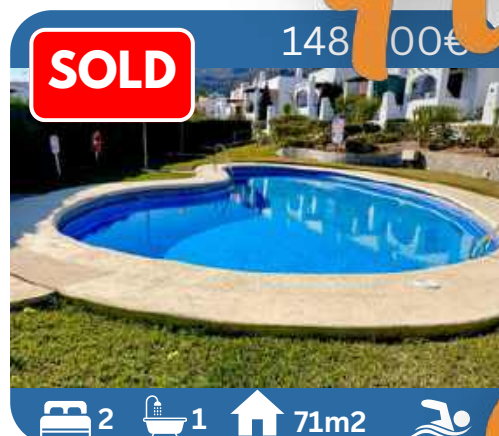
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MEET THE TEAM

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Philippa plays a crucial role in ensuring smooth transactions, handling client inquiries and documentation. Her attention to detail and organizational skills help each transaction progress from start to finish. Pip's warm, welcoming personality makes clients feel at ease, always ready to answer questions or provide advice.





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Ref: OLV2059

€225,000

This fine looking, well-built villa is located walking distance from the friendly village of Cariatiz. The property boasts 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a lovely rear garden with a large private swimming pool.

NEW LISTING



Bedar

Ref: OLV2063

€320,000

This wonderful 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom cortijo is located in the sought after hamlet of Serena just under 10 minutes from the picturesque village of Bedar. This charming property includes beautiful patios, gardens and a lovely private pool.

NEW LISTING



Bedar

Ref: OLV2061

€330,000

This splendid, imposing property is located in the beautiful hamlet of Los Pinos, under 10 minutes from Bedar. This spacious property boasts 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a private pool as well as wonderful country and mountain views.

Mojácar Luz de la Navidad 2024



EVENTS

SÁBADO 14
DICIEMBRE

CONCIERTO VILLANCICOS
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT
PARQUE COMERCIAL MOJÁCAR, 12:00

VIERNES 20
DICIEMBRE

INAUGURACIÓN DEL MERCADO NAVIDEÑO
OPENING OF CHRISTMAS MARKET
PLAZA DEL FRONTÓN, 18:00

DOMINGO 22
DICIEMBRE

TALLER DE MALABARES
JUGGLING WORKSHOP
PLAZA DEL ARBOLLÓN, 12:00

MARTES 24
DICIEMBRE

VISITA DE PAPÁ NOEL
VISIT BY FATHER CHRISTMAS
PARQUE COMERCIAL MOJÁCAR, 10:00-14:00

MIÉRCOLES 25
DICIEMBRE

MISA DE NAVIDAD
CHRISTMAS MASS
IGLESIA DE SANTA MARÍA, 11:00

MIÉRCOLES 25
DICIEMBRE

CIRCO DE NAVIDAD
CHRISTMAS CIRCUS
PLAZA DEL PARTERRE, 19:30

VIERNES **27**
DICIEMBRE

IPERSONAJES DISNEY
DISNEY CHARACTERS
CALLES DEL PUEBLO, 18:30-20:30

SÁBADO **28**
DICIEMBRE

ZAMBOMBA FLAMENCA
FLAMENCO ZAMBOMBA
PLAZA DEL PARTERRE, 19:00

MARTES **31**
DICIEMBRE

CELEBRACIÓN DE LA NOCHEVIEJA INFANTIL
CHILDREN'S NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
PLAZA DEL FRONTÓN, 11AM

MIÉRCOLES **01**
ENERO

MISA DE SANTA MARÍA, MADRE DE DIOS
MASS OF SAINT MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
IGLESIA DE SANTA MARÍA, 11:00

DOMINGO **05**
ENERO

CABALGATA DE LOS REYES MAGOS
THREE KINGS PARADE
STARTING FROM: PLAZA NUEVA, 5:30PM

Here is just a small selection of the events
scheduled in Mojácar throughout the festive
season. Scan the QR code below for the full
programme.

Aquí tienes una pequeña selección de los eventos
programados en Mojácar durante estas fiestas.
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VERA PLAYA



API-V0697 119.000€

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VILLARICOS



API-VILO159 134.000€

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VERA PLAYA



API-V0689 179.000€

This exquisite southwest-facing, three-bedroom, two-bathroom corner duplex is situated in the prime location of the Andalus Hills complex

MOJÁCAR PLAYA



API-M0213 215.000€

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MOJÁCAR PLAYA



API-M0217 370.000€

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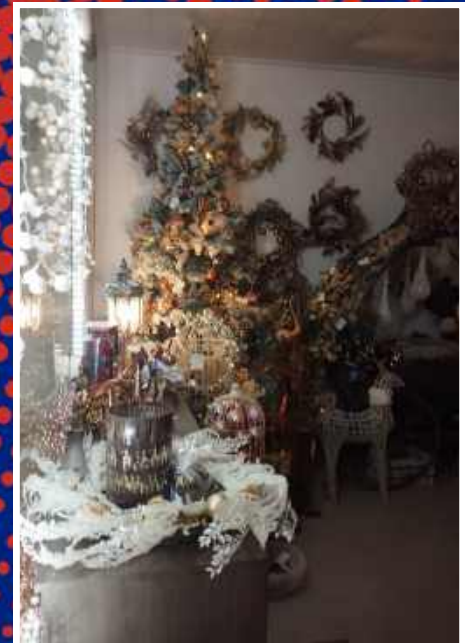
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LA NOCHEVIEJA

NEW YEAR'S EVE, A SPANISH CHRISTMAS EXPLAINED

Every year, families and friends gather to have dinner and welcome the new year, with superstitious traditions and customs so that the coming year brings luck and health. New Year's Eve here in our little corner of Spain is centred around a lavish family meal at home where nobody ventures out until 12 o'clock. The major towns will have fireworks and parties in their plazas starting at 12 o'clock.

No one in Spain misses the Campanadas on New Year's Eve. This celebration consists of eating a grape with every chime (12) of the first seconds of the new year. It is a tradition that is said to bring good luck for the entire year. Everyone follows the Campanadas on the television with their families and some go to the actual locations. Without a doubt, there is one place in Spain that is especially famous for this tradition: the Puerta del Sol in Madrid. Thousands of people gather every New Year's Eve under the clock to celebrate the arrival of the new year, transforming the square into a huge shared party, with amazing fireworks and a party until dawn. Just like they do in London on the Thames with a view of Big Ben. Or in Australia in Sydney with views of the Opera House.

According to the History Channel, the origin of the New Year's Eve celebration dates back to the Roman Empire, which paid homage in January to the god Janus (in English, January is said January, and in German, Januar). This god has the peculiarity of having two faces, one old with a beard and the other young. The first one looks back (to the past), while the young one looks forward (to the future), towards the new year that is beginning.



In Spain, the tradition of the twelve grapes is much more recent. It is believed that the custom of eating grapes with the chimes began in 1909, due to a surplus in the grape harvest in Alicante. Each grape represents a month of the year and must be eaten with each chime of the clock.

Another of the Spanish traditions to welcome the new year is to wear red underwear on New Year's Eve. The origin is found in China, where the colour red is associated with luck, success and fortune. A curiosity: red underwear is worn because red was prohibited by the Church during the Middle Ages, hence the desire to hide it.

So when celebrating New Year's Eve here in the Levante area, wear your red underwear, eat 12 grapes for luck and remember that Spanish bars are closed until midnight and will then open after a meal and celebrations at home. Very few Spanish run restaurants will open and if they are, it will be reservation only.

Feliz Año Nuevo!

30

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THE THREE KINGS

"LOS REYES MAGOS"

A SPANISH CHRISTMAS EXPLAINED

The Three Kings is celebrated on 6th January, the feast day of Epiphany, with many colourful parades and parties held the night before on the evening of the 5th January. The 5th of January is Christmas Eve for Spanish children. The excitement is palpable on the streets as you watch the parade of the Three Kings, because on the morning of the 6th, the children will have presents to open that have been left by the Kings.

Tradition states that the Three Kings (also known as the Three Wise Men or Los Reyes Magos in Spanish) were given the mission to go to Bethlehem by King Herod. They followed a star that showed them the way to see baby Jesus, who had just been born. Upon arriving, these three kings offered three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. For this reason, every year, when Christmas approaches, all the children begin to write letters to one of the kings (or to all three): Melchor, Gaspar, and Baltasar just like the children in the UK write to Father Christmas.

Many children have a favourite of Los Reyes Magos but for different reasons. They say that Melchior represents old age, Baltasar represents maturity and Gaspar represents youth and so the children choose whom may bring the most presents. Or maybe the favourite is simply because of family tradition or perhaps one handed out more candy than the other in the traditional Three Kings' parade last year!

In these letters, the children tell the kings how well they behaved during the year and ask for the gifts they would like to receive on January 6th. In theory, the better the children behaved, the better their gifts will be. But all children know that if they misbehaved, they run the risk of receiving a piece of coal instead.

On the night of January 5th, families go out into their village to watch La Cabalgata de Los Reyes Magos -the Three Kings parade. They travel through the streets on Horse back or large floats (depending on the size of the village). They throw sweets and wave to the super excited children. The great cabalgata of Madrid is broadcast live on TVE 1 (the central public Spanish channel) every year, whereas regional television



channels broadcast their own parades. The first Cabalgata (parade) in Spain is documented from 1855 in Barcelona, and the longest-standing cabalgata is in Alcoi, in the Valencian Country, where it has been celebrated uninterruptedly since 1866. It is a major draw of international tourism for Spain. After having seen the three kings parade in their village, the children run home to clean their shoes and place them in a good spot for the Kings to see them. That way, the Three Kings will know who to leave each gift for.

Since the Three Kings travel such a long distance and have a lot of work to do during the 5th and 6th of January, families traditionally leave water, turrón (a typical Christmas nougat), and milk out for the Three Kings and their camels to eat and drink. Then the children are supposed to get to bed early!

On the morning of January 6th, Three Kings' Day, children get up early and are more nervous and excited than usual. They run to the place where they left their shoes to see what gifts they have received from the three kings. They happily discover that there is no water or milk left and the nougat has been eaten, a sign that the three kings have recovered their strength to return home.

The 6th of January is Christmas Day to Spanish families. The children play with their new toys and all the families come together to celebrate. Breakfast is traditionally a 'Roscón de Reyes. Roscón de Reyes (which translates to 'ring shaped Kings' cake) is a round or oval-shaped cake that does not look unlike a giant donut. With a sweet, creamy filling inside and candied fruit adorning the top, it gives off the appearance of a jeweled crown. The most important thing about the cake are the different little figures or objects that are baked inside as each one has significance to the family/region. Normally, at least two different objects can be found in the cake—a black bean (or an haba) and something that represents the king. The person who eats the slice of cake with the king is the 'king for the day' whereas the person who gets the haba has to pay for the cake the following year. In addition, in some places or families, additional objects such as coins can also be baked into the cake.



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State Action Plan - Abandonment of Pets & Adoption

Pablo Bustinduy, Minister of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030, announced last month his proposal to launch the first State Action Plan against the Abandonment of Pets and for the Promotion of Adoption. In line with the new Animal Welfare Law (Ley de Bienestar Animal) which came into effect last year, Bustinduy declared that the aim is to achieve 'zero abandonment' and 'zero slaughter' of animals in Spain. He's working on the measures that will make up this plan and which will address, among other issues, the need to carry out mass identification of pets such as dogs, cats and ferrets. To this end, microchips will be used for dogs and cats, or rings for birds. In addition, regulations will be developed that will allow better control of animal breeding activities and thus restrict irregular breeding. The timeline for approval of the plans by the autonomous communities will be worked on over the coming year.

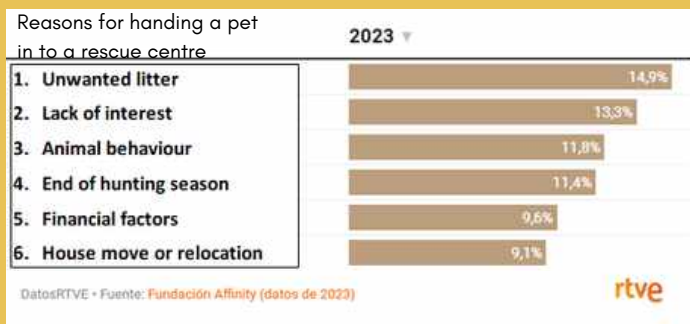
He stated that "To empathise with animal suffering, to consider animals as part of our families and our surroundings, is to build a fairer and more humane country".

Key to this plan is the adoption of pets, an activity that will be promoted at state level with specific strategies and awareness-raising campaigns. In addition, aid will be offered to organisations dedicated to the protection and fostering of animals that have been abandoned. "We are going to show that Spain is no longer that country of the past of mistreatment and suffering for animals. We want to prove that we can be a country that cares for its animals, that respects them, cures them and takes them in", said Bustinduy, at a recent Animal Rights world congress.

More than 286,000 animals - dogs and cats - entered shelters in 2023, according to the latest data from the Affinity Foundation. Of this number, 170,712 dogs and 115,970 cats were abandoned.

The project will also be aimed at training and raising awareness for responsible animal ownership and will include the proposals made at the congress by experts from the veterinary, animal, environmental and other fields such as breeding and anthrozoology. They will also focus on the improvement of infrastructures and 'networks of collection centres' for abandoned animals and the 'promotion of adoption'.

The Director General of the Department of Animal Rights, José Ramón Becerra also stressed the need for local councils and Spanish society to be trained in the care and breeding of animals, since according to data from the Affinity Foundation, the main reason for abandoning animals is having an unwanted litter and not knowing what to do with it. This is followed by owners losing interest in their pet and not understanding the animal's behaviour. See table below of the six main reasons why animals are abandoned.



Plan de Acción Estatal - Abandono de Animales de Compañía y Adopción

Pablo Bustinduy, Ministro de Derechos Sociales, Consumo y Agenda 2030, anunció el mes pasado su propuesta de poner en marcha el primer Plan Estatal de Acción contra el Abandono de Animales de Compañía y para el Fomento de la Adopción. En línea con la nueva Ley de Bienestar Animal, que entró en vigor el año pasado, Bustinduy declaró que el objetivo es conseguir «Abandono cero» y «Sacrificio cero» de animales en España. Está trabajando en las medidas que conformarán este plan y que abordarán, entre otras cuestiones, la necesidad de llevar a cabo una identificación masiva de animales de compañía como perros, gatos y hurones. Para ello, se utilizarán microchips para perros y gatos, o anillas para las aves. Además, se elaborará una normativa que permita controlar mejor las actividades de cría de animales y restringir así la cría irregular. A lo largo del próximo año se trabajará en el calendario de aprobación de los planes por parte de las comunidades autónomas.

Empatizar con el sufrimiento animal, considerar a los animales como parte de nuestras familias y de nuestro entorno, es construir un país más justo y más humano», afirmó.

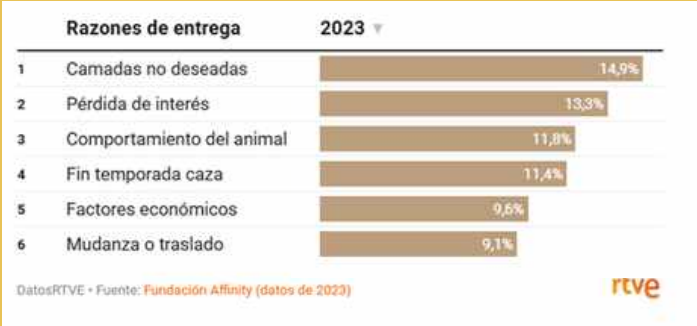
Clave a este plan es la adopción de animales de compañía, una actividad que se impulsará a nivel estatal con estrategias específicas y campañas de sensibilización. Además, se ofrecerán ayudas a organizaciones dedicadas a la protección y acogida de animales abandonados. «Vamos a demostrar que España ya no es ese país del pasado del pasado de maltrato y sufrimiento animales. Queremos reivindicar que ahora somos un país que cuida de sus animales, que los respeta, los cura y los acoge.»

dijo Bustinduy, en un reciente congreso mundial de Derechos de los Animales.

Más de 286.000 animales –perros y gatos– entraron en los refugios en 2023, según los últimos datos de la Fundación Affinity. De esta cifra, 170.712 perros y 115.970 gatos fueron abandonados.

El proyecto también estará dirigido a la formación y concienciación para la tenencia responsable de animales y recogerá las propuestas realizadas en el congreso por expertos del ámbito veterinario, animal, medioambiental y de otros campos como la ganadería y la antrozoología. También se centrarán en la mejora de las infraestructuras y «redes de centros de recogida» de animales abandonados y el «fomento de la adopción».

El director general de Derechos de los Animales, José Ramón Becerra, también hizo hincapié en la necesidad de que los ayuntamientos y la sociedad española se formen en el cuidado y cría de animales, ya que según datos de la Fundación Affinity, el principal motivo de abandono de animales es tener una camada no deseada y no saber qué hacer con ella. Le siguen la pérdida de interés de los propietarios por su mascota y la incompreensión del comportamiento del animal. Véase el siguiente cuadro con las seis principales razones por las que se abandonan animales.



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Essential Spanish – ¡Feliz Navidad!

By Louise Crawford,
Qualified Language Trainer & Linguist

¡Hola! As it's coming up to the season 'to be jolly', I thought it would be fitting to focus on a particular Spanish custom, that of the Lottery, some phrases or sayings you might use at this time of year, and consider the type of food products many Spanish people typically eat, although of course, everyone is different and traditions are changing. So what are the typical events at Christmas time, the New Year and early in January? For a bit of fun, see if you can match the events below with the correct dates. Answers are at the bottom of the page:

1	El día de la Lotería	A	6 January
2	La Nochebuena	B	22 December
3	La Navidad	C	24 December
4	La Nochevieja	D	31 December
5	Los Reyes Magos	E	25 December

The **Extraordinary Christmas Lottery Draw** is a long held tradition dating back to 1812, when the Finance minister of that time decided to create a lottery to raise public revenue and finance the needs of the country. People could buy tickets in exchange for the possibility of receiving monetary prizes. The first Christmas Lottery in Spain was held in Cadiz. It was called 'Lotería Moderna', although years later it would become known as the 'Sorteo Extraordinario de Navidad'. The *Lotería del Sorteo Extraordinario de Navidad* was inspired by the Lotería Primitiva, which had existed in Spain since 1763. However, the draw would only take place once a year and the prize would comprise large amounts of money.

Since the origin of the Christmas Lottery in Spain, the children of the San Ildefonso School in Madrid have been singing the winning numbers. It is a deep-rooted tradition in Spain and the children are famous for their ability to sing the numbers in a clear and musical tone. In the early 19th century, the San Ildefonso school took in abandoned children. Nearly every Spanish person buys a lottery ticket nowadays, and it's practically the first event to usher in Christmas. Tickets for the Christmas Lottery Draw can be bought directly from the lottery offices (there is always at least one in every town), from authorised Lottery sellers in the street, or even online. Many people buy tickets in groups, as a family, or work colleagues. When buying the ticket, you can decide on the number or select it at random. The draw consists of 195 series, each comprising 85,000 tickets. Each ticket (called 'boleto' or 'billete') is made up of ten tenths (called 'décimos'). The 'décimo' is the ticket with 5 numbers. A complete 'boleto' costs 200€, a décimo is 20€ El Gordo, meaning 'the Fat One' is the top prize, and has a value of 4 million euros. Here are some useful questions and vocabulary:

El sorteo = the draw

Los premios = the prizes

¿Has hecho la Lotería de Navidad? = Have you done the Lottery?

¿Dónde puedo comprar los boletos de la Lotería de Navidad? = Where can I buy Christmas Lottery tickets?

Quiero comprar un boleto/un décimo del Sorteo de Navidad por favor. = I want to buy a ticket/a tenth ticket for the Christmas Lottery.

¿Te ha tocado el Gordo? = Did you win the Fat one? (clearly said with humour!)

No, no he ganado nada = No, I didn't win anything!

General festive greetings are:

¡Feliz Navidad! (Happy Christmas!), **¡Felices Fiestas!** (Happy Holidays) and **¡Feliz (or Próspero) Año Nuevo!** (Happy New Year!). If someone wishes you 'Feliz Navidad' you can say the same back to them, but you could also say 'Igualmente', meaning 'the same to you', which is very Spanish!

So what other phrases do the Spanish use frequently at Christmas? Well, when you don't win the Lottery, the consolatory phrase is:

Al menos tenemos salud = At least we have our health! It's usually said jokingly, but in reality, it has a lot of sense.

When someone gives you a Christmas present, which is 'un regalo', you can express your appreciation by saying:

¡Qué bonito! Or **¡Qué chulo! Me gusta mucho. Muchas gracias.** = That's lovely or that's cool! I like it very much. Thanks a lot.

If you go to a Spanish person's house at Christmas, you will generally be overwhelmed with food, and if you just can't eat any more, then you could say: **Lo siento, pero ya no puedo más** = I'm sorry, but I can't manage any more!

When it comes to children and giving presents to them, it is the Día de los Reyes on 6 January which is when presents are traditionally given. It is the arrival of the Reyes Magos (the Three Kings/Three Wise Men) which heralds present giving. When asking a child or young person what they got for the 3 Kings Day, you could say:

¿Qué te han traído los Reyes? = What have the Kings brought you?

If a child is misbehaving, the warning phrase is:

Si te portas mal, los Reyes te traerán carbón = If you behave badly, the Kings will bring you coal! Coal is the worst present you could get, but actually coal during Reyes is an edible sweet resembling coal. The coal symbolises the ash which the original gifts of the Kings to the baby Jesus were turned into after they were burnt. In this way, the metaphor therefore means a kind of denial of the gifts.



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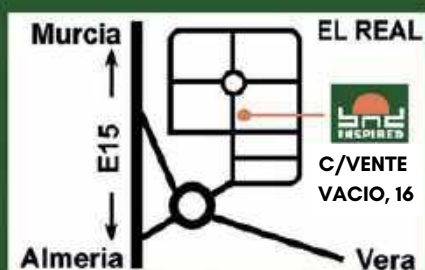
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