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FREE / GRATIS

INDALO

Property

& SERVICES GUIDE

GUIA DE

Propiedades

Y SERVICIOS

Welcome

Welcome to this month's Indalo Property & Services Guide!

As the seasons shift, nature is putting on a vibrant show - wildflowers are blooming across the landscape, adding bursts of color to our neighborhoods and reminding us that change is constant, even if the weather hasn't quite made up its mind. One day it's sunny and bright, the next it's cool and breezy—but that's part of the charm of this transitional time of year.

In this month's guide, you'll find trusted local property listings, essential home services, and seasonal

maintenance tips to help you make the most of your space, inside and out. Whether you're planting a new garden, repairing damage caused by the rains or searching for the perfect new property, our featured professionals and businesses are here to support your goals.

So grab a cup of something warm (or cold- depending on the weather!) and explore what's new, helpful, and inspiring this month.

Happy reading!

Nick & Maddy

Editors, Indalo Property Guide

Bienvenido

Bienvenido a la Guía de Propiedades y Servicios de Indalo de este mes.

A medida que las estaciones cambian, la naturaleza está poniendo en un espectáculo vibrante - flores silvestres están floreciendo en todo el paisaje, la adición de ráfagas de color a nuestros barrios y nos recuerda que el cambio es constante, incluso si el tiempo no ha tomado su decisión. Un día hace sol y brilla el sol, y al siguiente refresca y corre la brisa, pero eso forma parte del encanto de esta época de transición.

En la guía de este mes encontrará anuncios inmobiliarios locales de confianza, servicios esenciales para el hogar y

consejos de mantenimiento estacional que le ayudarán a sacar el máximo partido a su espacio, por dentro y por fuera. Ya esté plantando un nuevo jardín, reparando los daños causados por las lluvias o buscando la nueva propiedad perfecta, nuestros profesionales y empresas destacados están aquí para ayudarle a conseguir sus objetivos.

Así que tómame una taza de algo caliente (o frío, según el tiempo que haga) y explora lo nuevo, útil e inspirador de este mes.

¡Feliz lectura!

Nick & Maddy

Editores- Guía Inmobiliaria Indalo

Please note that the Indalo Property and Services Guide is not linked to the Indalo Guides Group.

Tenga en cuenta que la Guía de propiedades y servicios Indalo no está vinculada al Grupo de Guías Indalo.

15/05/2025 - 14/06/2025 

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blue sea villas



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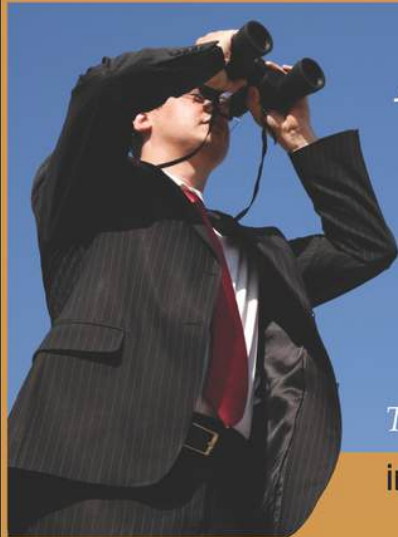
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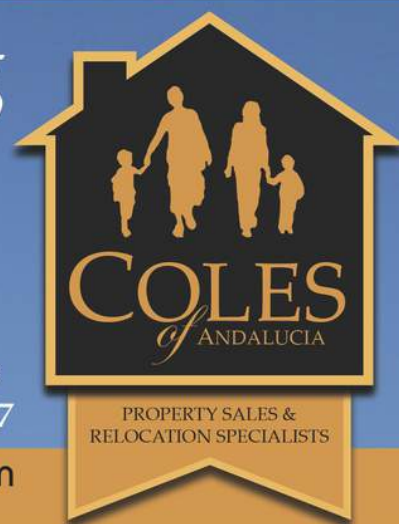


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CARIATIZ



Ref: CAR3V10

3 2

This well-constructed detached villa of approximately 120m² is situated in the charming village of Cariatiz, on a plot of nearly 400m². The property boasts a private 8m x 4m swimming pool, low-maintenance gardens, and a storage room.

PRICE €229,950

MOJÁCAR PLAYA



Ref: MOJ4V13

4 2

This family residence is ideally located just 600m from the beach, offering a peaceful and tranquil setting with captivating sea & mountain views. Despite its serene location, the property remains conveniently close to all essential daily amenities and public transport links.

PRICE €345,000

TURRE



Ref: TUR2V22

2 1.5

This beautifully presented detached villa, featuring 2 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms, is situated on the sought-after Vista Cabrera development, on the outskirts of the charming market town of Turre. Offering stunning mountain views, Jacuzzi garden & roof terrace.

PRICE €189,000



PROPERTY PRICES & BUYING TRENDS

The property sector has become a hot topic of conversation, not only for nationals, but also for foreign residents and visitors alike.

This month, we report on property prices and trends.



The National Statistics Institute (INE) published figures showing the considerable year on year increase in house prices in February of 9.4%. Some of the biggest percentage increases in sales were in northern and central areas of the country that are not dominated by tourist-based properties. The biggest increases in property sales were in Galicia (22.4%), La Rioja (19.7%); Asturias (19%) and Castilla-La Mancha (18.2%), which are generally regarded as non-tourist areas.

Idealista reported that, in the first quarter of this year, the price of buying used housing in Spain recorded a rise of 11.2% year-on-year, which has risen above property rental price increases, something which has not been witnessed in a long time. This rise means that the price per square metre is now 2,311€ according to the latest Idealista price index.

Looking at the quarterly variation, prices have increased by 1.7% in the last three months. Spain has reached a new all-time high in terms of property prices. In Spanish capital cities (capitals of Spain's autonomous communities), prices have increased in every single one in the last 12 months, except for Huesca which reduced by 7.8%. The most expensive capital is San Sebastián in northern Spain at 6000€/m², followed by Madrid at 5.321 euros/m², Barcelona (4.804 euros/m²), Palma (4.634 euros/m²) and Bilbao (3.532 euros/m²). Zamora is the most affordable capital with an average price of 1.199 euros/m².

PRECIOS DE LA VIVIENDA Y TENDENCIAS

El sector inmobiliario se ha convertido en un tema de conversación candente, no sólo para los nacionales, sino también para los residentes extranjeros y los visitantes. Este mes, informamos sobre los precios de la vivienda y las tendencias.



El Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE) publicó cifras que muestran el considerable aumento interanual de los precios de la vivienda en febrero, del 9,4%. Algunos de los mayores aumentos porcentuales en las ventas se produjeron en zonas del norte y centro del país que no están dominadas por las viviendas turísticas. Los mayores aumentos en la venta de viviendas se registraron en Galicia (22,4%), La Rioja (19,7%), Asturias (19%) y Castilla-La Mancha (18,2%), que en general se consideran zonas no turísticas.

Idealista informó de que, en el primer trimestre de este año, el precio de compra de la vivienda usada en España registró una subida del 11,2% interanual, que se ha situado por encima de los incrementos del precio del alquiler de inmuebles, algo que no se veía desde hace mucho tiempo. Con esta subida, el precio del metro cuadrado se sitúa en 2.311 euros, según el último índice de precios de Idealista. Atendiendo a la variación trimestral, los precios han aumentado un 1,7% en los últimos tres meses. España ha alcanzado un nuevo máximo histórico en el precio de la vivienda. En las capitales españolas (capitales de las comunidades autónomas), los precios han subido en todas y cada una de ellas en los últimos 12 meses, excepto en Huesca, que se redujeron un 7,8%. La capital más cara es San Sebastián, en el norte de España, con 6000 euros/m², seguida de Madrid con 5.321 euros/m², Barcelona (4.804 euros/m²), Palma (4.634 euros/m²) y Bilbao (3.532 euros/m²). Zamora es la capital más asequible con un precio medio de 1.199 euros/m².

Our sale success means we urgently need more properties in Mojácar and surrounding areas.

MOJÁCAR



This beachfront property in Mojácar is recently renovated, with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a modern kitchen, and a sunny terrace. It also includes a parking space, storage room, and access to pools and gardens. Close to local amenities and the Marina Golf course, it is ideal for a holiday home or first residence.

REF. 1584

€215.000

VERA PLAYA



Stunning one bedroom penthouse for sale in Vera Playa with direct beach access. Features include a fully equipped kitchen, spacious bedroom, and private roof solarium. Community amenities include pools, play area, and security. Ideal for rental investment or summer home.

REF. 1583

€168.000

TURRE



Spacious two bedroom apartment in quiet area of Turre with easy access to amenities. Features family bathroom, living room with terrace, master bedroom with en-suite and balcony. Communal roof solarium with countryside views. Secure underground parking with lift access.

REF. 1581

€84.900

GARRUCHA



This three bedroom apartment is 250m from the beach and port, close to amenities and tapas bars. It has partial sea views, a modern kitchen, ample storage, and off-street parking. Garrucha is a vibrant town known for its tapas, restaurants, and Friday market, near Vera, Mojácar, and Villaricos.

REF. 1580

€135.000

CARBONERAS



This penthouse has a private roof solarium, two bedrooms, bathroom, living room, kitchen /diner, and storage room. It is close to the beach, shops, and restaurants, with a built-in BBQ on the solarium. Located in a quiet community, Carboneras offers golden beaches, bars, restaurants, and a weekly market.

REF. 1578

€150.000

VILLARICOS



A three bedroom house with a private solarium just 50m from the beach and marina. Bright living-dining area, fully fitted kitchen, guest bathroom. Private roof solarium with sea view. Sold fully furnished, A/C, off street parking, no community fees. Great for year-round living or rental investment.

REF. 1575

€135.000



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Contact Carol 625 451 433
Paseo del Mediterráneo 201,
local 2ª. Mojácar 04638
k7mojacar.es

DUE TO INCREASED SALES WE DESPERATELY NEED MORE PROPERTIES WITHIN A 45 MINUTE RADIUS OF MOJÁCAR, INCLUDING MOJÁCAR, GARRUCHA, VERA AND TURRE. CONTACT CAROL ON 625 451 433



Mojácar Playa

€298,000

Ref: 2179

Semi-detached house near shopping centre. Ground floor has entrance hall, living room with fireplace, bathroom, and kitchen leading to garden. Upper floor has 3 bedrooms with sea views and a terrace. Property needs renovations but has potential to be a gem.



Mojácar Pueblo

€65,000

Ref: 2187

Charming studio with sea views. Features bright living-dining area, open bedroom, fully equipped bathroom, and integrated kitchen. Cozy and functional design. Ideal for vacation home or investment. Unable to obtain tourist license for renting out.



Mojácar Playa

€240,000

Ref: 2223

Beautiful duplex, completely renovated to a high standard. Top floor features a lounge, brand new kitchen/diner, ensuite bedroom, and utility room. Downstairs can be used as separate accommodation with lounge/bar, 2 bedrooms, and a bathroom.



Mojácar

€360,000

Ref: 2209

A charming 2 bedroom country house near Mojácar Playa with sea and mountain views. Terrace with panoramic views and potential to expand. 80s architecture adds charm. Ideal for those who enjoy being close to the sea and surrounded by nature.



Mojácar Playa

€200,000

Ref: 2205

Beautiful 2 bedroom flat in SPIRIT DE MOJÁCAR with sea and mountain views, access to communal gardens and swimming pool, spacious bedrooms and lounge with private terrace. Sold furnished with central air conditioning, parking space and private storeroom.



Mojácar Playa

€199,900

Ref: 1929

Beautiful semidetached house with private pool in Huerta de Abajo. Amazing sea views. Large and homely inside. Private garden and interior patio next to the kitchen and lounge. Private parking inside the plot of land. Very good investment to live permanently.

CHANGES TO TOURIST RENTAL REGULATIONS

By Maria José Arroyo – Lawyer – MAR Consultores Lawyers



The controversy in recent years surrounding tourist rentals has led to significant changes introduced in Organic Law the first quarter of 2025, came into force on April 3.

Indeed, the Government has granted greater authority to Homeowners' Associations (Comunidades de Propietarios) to regulate tourist rentals. As of April 3, 2025, explicit approval from the Community is required for a property owner to carry out tourist rental activities.

This unprecedented measure gives Communities greater control over how residents use their homes and allows them to take action in case of non-compliance.

The Law grants the President of the Community the power to immediately demand the cessation of rentals that have not been approved by the Owners' Meeting and even allows for legal action. The purpose of this measure is to address situations where neighbourly coexistence may be negatively affected or where community rules are being violated.

Therefore, from now on, according to Article 17 of the Horizontal Property Law, it has been amended to require a favorable vote from three-fifths of the property owners and their ownership shares in order to approve, limit, condition, or prohibit tourist rental activities. The aim is to encourage broad consensus within the Community regarding such activities.

For this reason, if you are considering purchasing a property in a community for holiday rentals, MAR Consultores Lawyers recommends that you request

prior approval from the Owners' Meeting to ensure the property can legally be used for tourist rental; or obtain a copy of the Owners' Agreement authorising tourist rental for the property you intend to buy, in order to avoid unpleasant surprises.

Another important change introduced by the new Law relates to the financial management of the Community. The Law allows for the possibility of imposing special community fees on owners of tourist rental properties, or increasing their share of common expenses by up to 20%. This measure is intended to offset increased use and wear of communal facilities.





It should be noted that this regulation will not have retroactive effect. This means that property owners who were already engaged in tourist rental activities before the Law came into force may continue doing so under the previously established terms and conditions. Thus, acquired rights are protected and legal certainty is provided for those who were compliant with the prior legislation.

Registration of tourist rental properties

In tandem with this amendment to the Horizontal Property Law, in 2024 the Government approved the Royal Decree that creates a Digital One-Stop Shop (Ventanilla Única Digital) for leases to put an end to fraud in short-term rentals.

Under the new system, regardless of the type of short-term rental, so for both tourist or temporary rentals, landlords will have to obtain an official registration number, certifying that they comply with current legislation, in order to be able to offer their properties on online platforms.

The Digital Single Window will come into force in July, but owners were able to apply to register their properties from January this year. In the first 90 days, the Ministry reported that number of applications for short-term rental registration reached 18,104 nationwide. Of these, 8,787 registration numbers were granted (49%), 7,393 are being evaluated by the Registrar (41%) and 1,924 have been revoked (11%).

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda believes that they will create a more transparent, secure and reliable rental market for all. To obtain further information on the process and proceed to register your property for tourist rentals, go to:
www.mivau.gob.es/vivienda/alquiler-de-alojamientos-de-corta-duracion

These reforms are the Government's response to increasing pressure and anger over the housing shortage and the impact of mass tourism. In some cities like Barcelona, they will phase out tourist rental licences by 2028, while other regions are introducing quotas, bans, and new taxes on foreign buyers

At MAR Consultores Jurídicos, we are here to help and advise you with anything you may need related to buying or selling property in Spain. Contact us for a free consultation or visit our website:
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CAMBIOS EN EL REGLAMENTO DE ALQUILERES TURÍSTICOS

Maria José Arroyo – Abogada – Abogados MAR Consultores



La polémica de los últimos años causada con los alquileres turísticos ha dado lugar a cambios de relevancia introducidos en la Ley Orgánica 1/2025 cuya entrada en vigor ha tenido lugar el pasado 3 de Abril.

En efecto, el Gobierno ha adjudicado un mayor papel a las Comunidades de Propietarios para regular el alquiler turístico de forma que desde el pasado 3 de Abril 2025, será necesaria la aprobación expresa de la Comunidad al propietario de la vivienda para el ejercicio de la actividad de alquiler turístico.

Esta medida de relevancia sin precedentes, otorga un mayor control a las Comunidades sobre el uso que han de hacer los ciudadanos de sus viviendas y por tanto, permite que las Comunidades puedan actuar en caso de incumplimiento.

La Ley establece la facultad al Presidente de la Comunidad para requerir inmediatamente el cese de la actividad que no estén aprobadas por Junta de Propietarios e incluso le permite el ejercicio de acciones judiciales. La finalidad de esta medida es hacer frente a situaciones donde la convivencia de los vecinos pueda

ser perjudicada o cuando se contravengan normas comunitarias.

Por tanto, a partir de ahora conforme al Art. 17 de la Ley de Propiedad Horizontal se modifica estableciendo el requisito de voto favorable de las tres quintas partes de los propietarios y de las cuotas de participación para aprobar, limitar, condicionar o prohibir estas actividades turísticas. La finalidad es promover amplios consensos en la Comunidad para este tipo de actividades.

Por todo ello, a partir de este momento si estas pensando adquirir una propiedad en división horizontal con la finalidad de alquiler turístico MAR Consultores Abogados te recomienda que solicites al vendedor la previa aprobación de la Junta de Propietarios para que tu vivienda pueda ser alquilada turísticamente; o bien el Acuerdo de la Junta autorizando el alquiler turístico de la vivienda que estas pensando adquirir, para evitar sorpresas desagradables.



Otra cuestión que ha sido modificada conforme a la Ley antes referida es un importante cambio en el aspecto económico de la gestión de la Comunidad, dado que la propia Ley establece la posibilidad de imponer cuotas especiales de gastos comunitarios a los propietarios de viviendas turísticas; o bien aumentos en la participación de los gastos comunes, hasta un máximo del 20%. Esta medida que busca la posible compensación por el incremento de los usos de servicios comunes y el desgaste adicional, en nuestra opinión es totalmente desproporcionada, dado que dicho desgaste de zonas comunes puede ser causado en igual medida por inquilinos de alquiler turístico, como por amigos de propietarios, hijos o familiares.

Indicar que esta normativa no tendrá efectos retroactivos lo cual supone que aquellos propietarios que ya estuvieran ejerciendo actividades turísticas antes de la entrada en vigor de la Ley podrán continuar haciéndolo bajo las condiciones y plazos establecidos previamente. Por tanto, de esta forma se protegen los derechos adquiridos y se da una garantía jurídica para aquellos propietarios que ya cumplían con la normativa anterior.



Ventanilla Única Digital

Acompañando a esta modificación de la Ley de Propiedad Horizontal, en 2024 el Gobierno aprobó el Real Decreto que crea la Ventanilla Única Digital para las viviendas, con el fin de acabar con el fraude en los alquileres de corta duración.

Con el nuevo sistema, independientemente del tipo de alquiler de corta duración, tanto para alquileres turísticos como temporales, los arrendadores deberán obtener un número de registro oficial que certifique el cumplimiento de la legislación vigente para poder ofrecer sus propiedades en plataformas online.

La Ventanilla Única Digital entrará en vigor en julio, pero los propietarios pudieron solicitar el registro de sus viviendas a partir de enero de este año. En los primeros 90 días, el Ministerio informó que el número de solicitudes de registro de alquileres de corta duración alcanzó las 18.104 en todo el país. De ellas, se concedieron 8.787 números de registro (49%), 7.393 están siendo evaluadas por el Registrador (41%) y 1.924 han sido revocadas (11%). El Ministerio de Vivienda y Agenda Urbana afirma que creará un mercado de alquiler más transparente, seguro y fiable para todos. Para obtener más información sobre el proceso y proceder al registro de su vivienda para alquileres turísticos, visite:

<https://www.mivau.gob.es/vivienda/alquiler-de-alojamientos-de-corta-duracion>

Estas reformas constituyen la respuesta del Gobierno a la creciente presión y la indignación por la escasez de vivienda y el impacto del turismo de masas. En algunas ciudades como Barcelona, se eliminarán gradualmente las licencias de alquiler turístico para 2028, mientras que otras comunidades autónomas están introduciendo cuotas, prohibiciones y nuevos impuestos para los compradores extranjeros.

En MAR Consultores Jurídicos estamos a tu disposición para ayudarte, aconsejarte en todo aquello que necesites en relación con la compra o venta de tu propiedad en España. Consúltanos de forma gratuita o mira nuestra web.
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DUE TO INCREASED DEMAND, WE URGENTLY NEED MORE PROPERTIES IN MOJÁCAR AND SURROUNDING AREAS!

You can find us at at Local 78 on the 2nd Floor of the Commercial Centre, Mojácar Playa.

Mojácar



Spacious 5 bedroom villa in Mojácar with private heated pool, separate apartment, solar heated swimming pool, pool house, and solar panels for energy efficiency. Offers stunning views of Sierra Cabrera mountains, secluded setting, covered car port for 3 cars, and ample parking space.

Ref. 2919

799,950€

Mojácar Playa



Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom villa with sea and mountain views, pool, garage, and workshop. Close to beach and amenities, with spacious living areas, terraces, electric shutters, electric gates, and a secluded garden with south facing pool and stunning views.

Ref. 2920

695,000€

Vera



Large 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom villa with mountain views, swimming pool, car port, close to town, beaches, and golf courses. Spacious with fully equipped kitchen, living room, dining room, office. Other features include BBQ area and air conditioning.

Ref. 2876

399,000€

Mojácar Playa



This 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom townhouse is close to the beach and amenities. It has 119.31 m² of space on three levels with a living/dining room, kitchen, and a basement with a fourth bedroom. The property includes air conditioning, double glazed windows, and is being sold furnished.

Ref. 2918

255,000€

Mojácar Pueblo



This property is a mixed-use building with a bodega on the ground floor, a restaurant and kitchen on the first floor, and a lounge, 2 bedrooms, and a bathroom on the second floor. It also has a roof terrace, a unique architecture with exposed rocks, and a small service lift.

Ref. 2348

249,000€

Villaricos



This is a top floor 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment with a large terrace, private parking, and storeroom. The apartment has stunning sea views and is centrally located near all amenities. It features air conditioning, a fully equipped kitchen, private parking and storage.

Ref. 2916

250,000€



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Estas elegantes y eficientes villas parten desde solo 499.000€, y los precios subirán a medida que avance

la construcción. Las primeras viviendas estarán terminadas a finales de este año.

¿Por qué comprar ahora? Los primeros compradores están eligiendo las mejores parcelas. Se ha anunciado un nuevo campo de golf de 18 hoyos, hoteles de lujo y la llegada del AVE a Vera en 2026, lo que aumentará notablemente el valor a largo plazo de la zona.

Ya sea como vivienda habitual, residencia vacacional o inversión, 225 Southwest es una oportunidad única para adquirir una propiedad en una de las zonas con más proyección de la Costa de Almería.

No te lo pierdas. Para más información o para concertar una visita personalizada, contacta con:

Maddy Want Directora de Ventas, ADC Property
WhatsApp: +34 644 65 00 15 Email:
mw@adcproperty.es



Construction Begins at 225 Southwest – Costa Almería's Most Exciting New Villa Development!

Construction is now underway at 225 Southwest, ADC Property's boutique villa development at Valle del Este Golf Resort in Vera. With the sun shining and diggers on-site, the first clients have already secured their dream homes — and 20% of villas are now sold.

These stylish, energy-efficient homes start from just €499,000, with prices set to rise as construction

progresses. The first villas are due for completion later this year.

So why buy now? Early buyers are reserving the best plots. A new 18-hole golf course, luxury hotels, and the arrival of the AVE high-speed train to Vera in 2026 are set to boost the area's appeal and long-term value.

Whether you're seeking a permanent move, a holiday retreat, or a smart investment in the sun, 225 Southwest offers a unique chance to own in one of Costa Almería's most promising locations.

Don't miss out. For more information or to arrange a personal tour, contact:

Maddy Want Sales Manager, ADC Property
WhatsApp: +34 644 65 00 15 Email:
mw@adcproperty.es

LOS PRINCIPIOS DEL DISEÑO, CONTINUACIÓN...

BY VAL BULLER

El mes pasado exploramos los primeros 3 de los 7 principios del diseño. Aquí te presentamos los últimos cuatro, así que después de leer esto, estarás armado con todo el conocimiento que necesitas para diseñar espacios increíbles.

4. Escala y Proporción

Se refiere a cómo los objetos en una habitación se ajustan al espacio. Desde el punto de vista de la **escala**, piensa en una habitación grande con techos muy altos; un espacio así se beneficiaría de muebles más grandes que aporten altura. La **proporción** trata de cómo los elementos encajan entre sí dentro de un espacio. Se trata de crear un equilibrio visual agradable a través de la repetición, teniendo en cuenta el tamaño, la forma, la textura y el color. Un ejemplo sería repetir un color usado en una obra de arte en los textiles del espacio, como cojines o cortinas.

5. Contraste

Este es un principio muy potente: el **contraste** es la forma perfecta de añadir interés y dinamismo a tu diseño. Ya sea en formas, materiales o texturas, puedes jugar con distintas combinaciones. Por ejemplo, madera oscura sobre fondos claros, o superficies rugosas junto a otras lisas. Un círculo cromático puede ayudarte a comprender el contraste de color: usar un tono fuerte y combinarlo con otro del lado opuesto del círculo.

6. Énfasis

El principio del **énfasis** consiste en crear un punto focal en la habitación que capte la atención en cuanto entras. Un mueble especial, una obra de arte, cojines coloridos sobre el sofá o una decoración llamativa: todos estos elementos pueden atraer la mirada y dar vida a un espacio.

7. Detalles

La atención al **detalle** se considera una fortaleza personal, por lo tanto, es un principio esencial en el diseño de interiores. Detalles como bordados en los textiles, tiradores de los muebles, grifería y accesorios de baño, todos ellos contribuyen a mejorar el diseño general del espacio.

¡Buena suerte con tu próximo proyecto!





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THE PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN CONTINUED...

BY VAL BULLER

Last month we explored the first 3, of the 7 principles of design. Here are the last four, so after reading this you will be armed with all the knowledge you need to know to design amazing spaces.

4. SCALE & PROPORTION

Looks at how the objects in a room fit the space. From a **scale** perspective think of a large room with very high ceilings, such a room would benefit from having bigger furniture that add height to it.

Proportion - is how your items fit together in a space. It is about creating a pleasing balance of repetition that considers the grouping of size, shape, texture and colour. An example of this would be colour proportion, repeating a colour used in a piece of artwork with your soft furnishings.

5. CONTRAST

This is a powerful principle: **Contrast** is the perfect way for you to add intrigue to your design. Be it shapes, materials, or texture. For example dark wood against light - rough surfaces against smooth. A colour wheel will help you understand contrast in colour. Using a bold colour and then pairing it with a shade on the opposite side of the colour wheel.

6. EMPHASIS

The principle of **emphasis** is about creating a focal point in a room that draws attention as soon as you enter. A piece of furniture, artwork, bold colourful cushions on a sofa, or intriguing decor, these will command attention that livens up spaces in your interior design.

7. DETAILS

Attention to **detail** is regarded as a personal strength, so therefor an essential interior design principle.

Details such as embroidery on your soft furnishings, handles on cabinetry, bathroom accessories, all of these will go to enhancing your interior design.

Good Luck with you next project!



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THE MOORS AND CHRISTIANS FESTIVAL



The Moors and Christians festival (Moros y Cristianos) is a vibrant, historic celebration held in many towns across southern Spain, particularly in our beloved Andalusia, Valencia, and Murcia. It is always celebrated on the weekend that falls closest to the 10th on June. Its origins date back to the late Middle Ages and reflect the centuries-long struggle between Muslim and Christian forces on the Iberian Peninsula.

From 711 AD, Muslim armies from North Africa—known as Moors—invaded and established Islamic rule over much of Spain. This period, known as *Al-Andalus*, saw a blending of cultures, though it was also marked by military conflict. Over time, Christian kingdoms in the north began the *Reconquista*, a gradual campaign to reclaim territory. This process lasted nearly 800 years.

In the year 1488, all the local governors (Alcaides) of the Levante region came to surrender to the Catholic Monarchs—except the one from Mojácar. As a result, Captain Garcilaso de la Vega was sent to meet with

him at La Fuente, where Alabez (Mojácar's governor at the time) explained the reasons why he had not surrendered. From this historic event, Mojácar's Moors and Christians Festival was born. They commemorate the peaceful and negotiated handover of the region's towns to the Catholic Monarchs in the late 15th century.

The festival typically features two main groups—one representing the Moors, often adorned in elaborate, exotic costumes, and the other representing the Christians, dressed in medieval armor. Parades, mock battles, music, fireworks, and dramatized surrenders or victories bring history to life, often centered around a symbolic castle or town square.

Though rooted in conflict, today's festival is more a celebration of cultural identity, local pride, and historical memory. It reflects the complex legacy of coexistence and confrontation that shaped modern Spain. Each town adds its own flavour to the event, blending tradition with festivity in a uniquely Spanish spectacle.

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UNDERSTANDING THE FULL COSTS OF BUYING A PROPERTY IN SPAIN

When buying property in Spain, it's important you fully understand the various costs involved - from the initial purchase price through to ongoing expenses.

Here we outline the major costs associated with buying Spanish property, along with some ways you could save money.

The upfront costs

Of course, the main cost of buying a home in Spain is the property price - but that's just the beginning.

Buyers must also account for property taxes, which typically range from 6% to 10% depending on the region, as well as legal fees, which are generally 1% to 2% of the property's value.

In addition, you'll need to factor in notary fees and registration costs, with these typically adding another 1% of the purchase price.

Exchange rate considerations

For foreign buyers, exchange rate fluctuations can have a significant impact on your property costs. The value of a currency can shift dramatically over time, and even a small change can make a big difference when transferring large sums.

To mitigate this risk, use a currency broker to send money overseas. Some FX providers, such as Currencies Direct, offer expert guidance and insights to help you time your transfers.

They also offer specialist services such as forward contracts, which allow you to lock in an exchange rate ahead of making a transfer.

Bank fees and charges

Spanish banks often charge up to 1% when receiving international payments, and an additional 0.75% to 1.5% for raising a banker's draft to buy a property. On a purchase of €400,000, you could pay €10,000 in bank fees alone.

Fortunately, these fees are entirely avoidable. Currencies Direct customers have their receiving fees waived, thanks to the company's partnership with CaixaBank.

In addition, you can use PropertyPay from Currencies Direct to handle the completion payment. This free, secure service allows the buyer to send funds directly to the seller, bypassing the banks and associated fees.

Ongoing expenses

Owning a property in Spain comes with many ongoing expenses that need to be considered, including annual property taxes, utility bills, insurance, and maintenance costs.

You'll also need to pay imputed income tax if you're a non-resident and don't rent out your property. This is a tax on what you could be earning if you were to rent the property. It's based on the property's cadastral value (which is below market value) and is either 1.1% or 2%, depending on whether the cadastral value has been updated in the last ten years.

With regular payments, it's once again important to consider currency providers. You'll want to get the best exchange rates possible and use a broker with low or zero transfer fees, such as Currencies Direct.

By understanding these key costs - and how to avoid some of them - you can budget with confidence and fully enjoy the benefits of owning a home in Spain.



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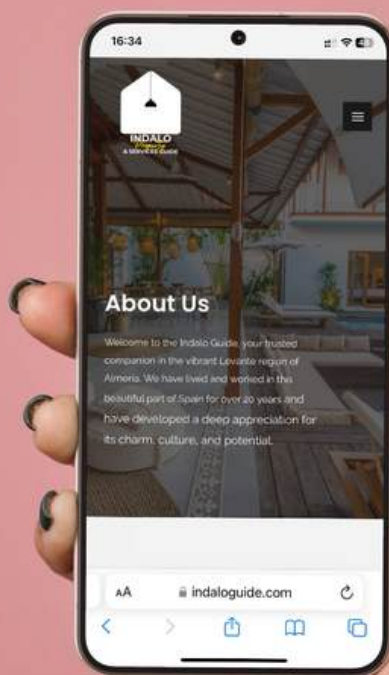
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Microchipping of Cats Now Mandatory in Spain

Despite recent legislative efforts to improve animal welfare, the abandonment of pets in Spain remains a pressing issue. In 2024, pet rescue centres reported receiving 286,000 cats and dogs. Alarming, 75% of these animals lacked any form of identification, such as a microchip or ID tag. The top reasons for abandonment included unwanted litters (15%), loss of interest in the pet (13%), and behavioural problems (12%).

To combat this problem, the Spanish Government has extended its microchipping law to include all domestic cats, making it compulsory nationwide. Until recently, only dogs were required to be microchipped. The updated legislation is part of the broader *Animal Welfare Act (La Ley de Bienestar Animal)*, aimed at improving pet care and owner accountability.

Why Microchipping?

Microchipping allows authorities and vets to identify lost animals quickly and contact their owners. It enhances the safety and monitoring of domestic cats and cat colonies alike, significantly reducing the risk of abandonment.

A *microchip* is a small electronic device, about the size of a grain of rice, implanted under the cat's skin, typically between the shoulders. It contains a unique 15-digit code linked to a database with the owner's information. The procedure is quick, painless, and doesn't require sedation. Vets use a sterile applicator to insert the chip, which is encased in a biocompatible glass capsule to ensure safety.

These chips are read by scanners, widely available in vet clinics and maintained by regional and national databases. In Andalucía, the RAIA (Registro Andaluz de Identificación Animal) database stores this information and allows owners to verify or update pet details via www.raia.es.



What to Do if Your Pet Is Lost or Ownership Changes

Because the microchip is a permanent form of identification, any change — such as ownership, address, or the death of a pet — must be reported to the registry. This can be done through a veterinary clinic, which provides the necessary forms. In the case of a lost pet, owners should inform their vet, contact RAIA directly by phone or email, and notify local police or the Guardia Civil.

Penalties for Non-Compliance

Failing to microchip a cat is now considered a *serious offence* under the Animal Welfare Act. Fines range from **€50,001 to €200,000**, and also apply to other prohibited practices like selling cats in unauthorized locations or failing to report a missing pet within 48 hours.

Registration and Age Requirements

The microchip must be implanted during the first few months of the cat's life and registered in the *Spanish Pet Database*. In Andalucía, this is managed through RAIA, which is part of the national network *REIAC (Red Española de Identificación de Animales de Compañía)*. The age by which a cat must be microchipped varies slightly by interpretation, but generally falls between three and six months. Missing this deadline could result in the aforementioned fines.



El Microchip para Gatos Ahora es Obligatorio en España

A pesar de los recientes esfuerzos legislativos para mejorar el bienestar animal, el abandono de mascotas en España sigue siendo un problema grave. En 2024, los centros de rescate de animales registraron la llegada de 286.000 perros y gatos. De forma alarmante, el 75 % de estos animales no tenía ninguna forma de identificación, como microchip o placa. Las principales causas de abandono fueron camadas no deseadas (15 %), pérdida de interés por el animal (13 %) y problemas de comportamiento (12 %).

Para combatir esta situación, el Gobierno español ha extendido la obligación del microchip a ****todos los gatos domésticos****, haciéndola obligatoria a nivel nacional. Hasta hace poco, solo los perros debían llevar microchip. Esta actualización forma parte de la ****Ley de Bienestar Animal****, que busca mejorar el cuidado de las mascotas y reforzar la responsabilidad de sus dueños.

¿Por Qué es Importante el Microchip?

El microchip permite que autoridades y veterinarios identifiquen rápidamente a un animal perdido y contacten con su propietario. Favorece la seguridad y el control de los gatos domésticos y de colonia, reduciendo así el riesgo de abandono.

Un *microchip* es un pequeño dispositivo electrónico del tamaño de un grano de arroz, que se implanta bajo la piel del gato, normalmente entre los omóplatos. Contiene un código único de 15 dígitos vinculado a una base de datos con los datos del propietario. El procedimiento es rápido, indoloro y no requiere sedación. Se aplica con un dispositivo estéril, y su cápsula de vidrio biocompatible garantiza la seguridad del animal.

La lectura del chip se realiza con escáneres disponibles en clínicas veterinarias y entidades oficiales. En Andalucía, la información está registrada en el **RAIA (Registro Andaluz de Identificación Animal)**, accesible en www.raia.es, donde el propietario puede consultar o actualizar los datos de su mascota.

¿Qué Hacer si Pierdes a tu Mascota o Cambia de Propietario?

Dado que el microchip es una forma de identificación permanente, cualquier cambio —como pérdida, cambio de dueño, dirección o fallecimiento— debe notificarse al registro. Lo más sencillo es acudir a una clínica veterinaria, donde te facilitarán los formularios correspondientes. En caso de pérdida, también puedes contactar directamente con RAIA por teléfono o correo electrónico, o informar a la policía local o a la Guardia Civil.

Sanciones por Incumplimiento

No identificar a un gato con microchip es ahora una infracción grave según la Ley de Bienestar Animal. Las multas oscilan entre **50.001 y 200.000 euros**, y también se aplican a otras acciones prohibidas, como la venta de gatos en lugares no autorizados o no informar de la desaparición de la mascota en un plazo de 48 horas.

Registro y Edad Obligatoria

El microchip debe colocarse durante los *primeros meses de vida del gato* y registrarse en la *Base de Datos Española de Mascotas*. En Andalucía, este registro se gestiona a través del RAIA, que forma parte de la red nacional **REIAC (Red Española de Identificación de Animales de Compañía)**. Según la normativa, el plazo máximo para cumplir este requisito varía entre *tres y seis meses de edad*, dependiendo de la interpretación legal. No cumplir con este plazo puede conllevar sanciones económicas como las ya mencionadas.



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Essential Spanish - Invitations & Preferences

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¡Hola a todos! Last time, we covered how to ask about and express your likes/dislikes using the main verb **GUSTAR**. As a quick recap, *Me gusta/No me gusta* is the basic construction for saying 'I like/I don't like' when it's a singular thing eg *Me gusta el vino* = *I like wine*. The 'no' in front of 'me gusta' turns it easily into 'I don't like wine'. If the thing you're talking about is plural eg apples, you just add an 'n' to the verb, so '*Me gustan las manzanas/No me gustan las manzanas*'. This time we will continue on this topic, but explore different verbs for inviting people out, discussing and expressing preferences about things and activities.

Having learnt a few languages, I know that when you're still at beginner or a low level, the best constructions or verbs to use are those that are the simplest, and/or the most memorable. There's always more than one way or verb to express something, and if you find one that's easier than another, then learn it and use it. Remember – communication first, perfection later

Imagine you have a neighbour or someone whom you have met, and you want to invite them to do something or go somewhere, but you need to get a better idea of what they like or prefer doing. So you could start with:

¿Qué te gusta hacer en tu tiempo libre? = What do you like doing your spare time? This is the informal or friendly version using 'te', but if you're still on a formal basis with the person concerned, then use 'le' instead. In order to understand the answer, you'll need to learn the vocabulary for a few leisure activities and sports, eg '*Me gusta caminar por el campo*' = *I like walking in the countryside* or '*Me gusta jugar al tenis/al pádel/al fútbol*' = *I like playing tennis/pádel/football*. Note that you literally say 'To me it pleases playing at the tennis/at the pádel/at the football', so you include the word for 'at the', in these cases 'al'. If the sport were feminine, you would use 'a la...'. Or they might just say what they do, '*Hago/Practico natación*' = *I do swimming*, or '*Monto en bicicleta*' = *I cycle*.



"Me gusta caminar por el campo"



"Me gusta jugar al pádel"



"Monto en bicicleta"



Or if you have a particular activity in mind, you could say:

¿Tienes ganas de salir a tomar/comer/cenar algo? = *Do you feel like going out for something to drink/eat/have dinner?*

The expression *'tener ganas de'* is used a lot, meaning *'do you fancy/do you feel like ...?'* You use the infinitive or the 'root' after this expression as above with *'salir'* in a question.

To ask *what kind of food they like*, you could ask:
¿Qué tipo de comida te gusta más? Equally, you can use *'tener ganas'* as a response to a question, so *'No tengo ganas'* or to express a preference eg *'Tengo ganas de comer un helado'* = *I feel like having an ice cream.*

Another great and common way to ask if someone fancies doing something is with the verb *'apetecer'*, so *¿Te apetece ir al mercadillo?* = *Do you fancy going to the street market/flea market?* (mercadillo is generally used for a small market).

If you want to ask someone to do a specific activity or go out to a particular place, make sure you know how to say the days of the week, the months, times and dates, otherwise you won't understand the answer, or there could be some confusion or uncertainty, and you might get the wrong day or time. Try and find a pattern or mnemonic to make learning the days eg write down the initial capital of each day as a prompter eg *L Ma Mi J V S D* (*lunes, martes, miércoles, jueves, viernes, sábado, domingo*). You need to be able to pronounce them too, so use a translation tool like DeepL (the best in my opinion) or Google Translate that has a little audio icon on it, so that you can hear the pronunciation, then repeat it several times.

If someone asks you to do something, you need to know how to respond to the invitation. To accept and show your keenness, in a very simple way, you could say: *'Sí claro. Muchas gracias.'* = Yes of course. Thanks very much. If you can't make it, then the simplest way to decline is: *Ay lo siento. No puedo.*

Below you'll find yet more ways of inviting people to do something, as well as the ones we've discussed above, and also negative and positive responses to invitations.

INVITAR A ALGUIEN A HACER ALGO Invite someone to do something	 
¿Quieres.....? (+ infinitive) Ejemplo: ¿Quieres ir al cine?	Do you want to.....? (using informal singular)
¿Te apetece....? (+ infinitive)	Do you fancy.....?
¿Tienes ganas de....? (+ infinitive)	Do you feel like....?
¿Te gustaría.....? (+ infinitive)	Would you like to.....? (using informal singular)
¡Vamos a la piscina esta tarde! ¿Vamos a un restaurante chino?	Let's go to the swimming pool this afternoon! Shall we go to a Chinese restaurant?
¿Qué tipo de..... te gusta?/¿Qué clase de....?	What kind of do you like?

EXCUSAS/EXCUSES	
¡Lo siento! Estoy ocupado/a	I'm sorry! I'm busy.
¡Lo siento! No puedo.	I'm sorry! I can't
No me apetece	I don't feel like it
No tengo ganas	I'm not keen
No puedo. Tengo dolor de cabeza	I can't. I've got a headache
Estoy cansado/a	I'm tired
Estoy enfermo/a	I'm ill
Estoy resfriado/a o Estoy constipado/a	I've got a cold
ACEPTACIÓN/ ACCEPTANCE	
¡Me encantaría!	I'd love to
Sí sí ¡Qué buena idea!	What a good idea!
¡De acuerdo!/Vale	All right/Okay
¡Estupendo!	Wonderful!
¡Cómo no!	Why not!

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WATER-WISE GARDENING IN ALMERÍA

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR A BEAUTIFUL, LOW-MAINTENANCE OUTDOOR SPACE

Living in the Levante region of Almería means sunshine, sea views—and very little rain. While the dry climate is ideal for sunseekers, it presents a challenge for maintaining a vibrant, healthy garden. The good news? With the right techniques, you can create an outdoor space that's both stunning and sustainable. Whether you're starting from scratch or adapting an existing garden, these practical, water-wise gardening tips will help you save time, water, and money.



01. START WITH THE RIGHT PLANTS

In a dry region like Almería, plant selection is everything. Choose drought-resistant plants that are adapted to Mediterranean conditions. These not only survive but actually thrive with minimal watering. Ideal choices include:

- Lavender – Fragrant, hardy, and attracts pollinators.
- Rosemary and thyme – Edible, evergreen, and resilient.
- Bougainvillea – A vibrant climber that flourishes in full sun.
- Agave, aloe, and succulents – Require almost no water once established.
- Oleander – Colourful and robust, perfect for hedges (note: toxic to pets).

Visit a local vivero (garden centre) and ask for “plantas autóctonas” or native species, which are naturally suited to the climate.

02. USE MULCH TO LOCK IN MOISTURE

Adding a layer of mulch around the base of plants helps retain moisture, suppress weeds, and protect roots from the scorching sun. You can use:

- Bark chips
- Straw
- Shredded leaves
- Even small pebbles for decorative beds

Mulching is especially helpful for vegetable patches and container gardens that dry out quickly.



03. INSTALL A DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Forget the hose and sprinklers—drip irrigation is the most efficient way to water your garden in Almería. These systems deliver small, steady amounts of water directly to the roots, reducing evaporation and waste. Key benefits:

- Customisable for different zones
- Great for terraces and raised beds
- Easily automated with a timer

Basic kits are available from local hardware stores and are simple to install over a weekend.

04. GROUP PLANTS BY WATER NEEDS

When designing your garden, group plants with similar watering requirements together. This prevents overwatering some while underwatering others and makes it easier to set up irrigation zones. For example:

- Keep succulents and cacti in one dry zone
- Place herbs and vegetables in a higher water-use area
- Use pots and raised beds to isolate thirstier plants

05. CHOOSE SMART GROUND COVERS

Gravel, stones, and paving are popular in Almería for a reason—they're attractive, low-maintenance, and reduce water usage. Consider:

- Decorative gravel beds with pockets of drought-resistant plants
- Stepping stones or tiled paths to limit water-hungry grass
- Artificial turf in shaded areas where natural grass struggles

This type of landscaping, known as xeriscaping, is perfect for second homes or busy homeowners.

06. HARVEST RAINWATER WHEN YOU CAN

Though summer rain is rare, capturing water when it does fall is worth it. A simple rain barrel connected to a gutter downpipe can provide water for potted plants, small garden beds, or even cleaning outdoor areas. In some towns, local councils offer incentives for installing water-saving systems—worth checking!

07. TIME YOUR WATERING WISELY

The best time to water in Almería is early morning or late evening, when the sun is low. This helps prevent evaporation and allows the water to soak deeper into the soil. Water deeply but less frequently to encourage strong root growth.

FINAL THOUGHTS

A well-planned, water-wise garden is not only practical in southern Spain—it can be more beautiful and sustainable than a traditional lawn-and-flowerbed approach. By choosing the right plants, improving irrigation, and reducing water waste, you can enjoy a colourful and healthy outdoor space all year round—without fighting the climate.



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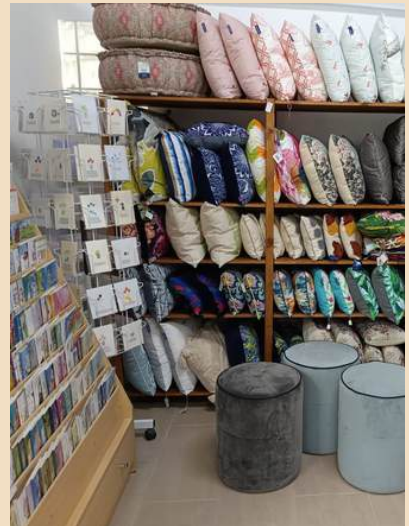
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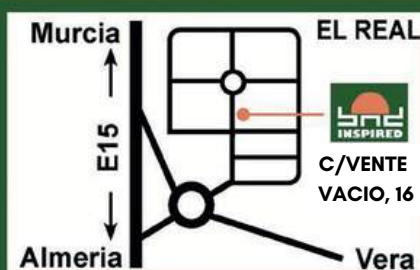
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