



Welcome Pack

The Welcome Pack provides some basic information so that you know what to expect when you arrive and tips on what to do during your holiday. This way we hope your stay will be as enjoyable and relaxing as possible.

You should have already been sent the Booking Form which covers some necessary formalities, and as your stay approaches it provides us with some idea as to what your plans are when you arrive so that we can prepare.

This is our fifth season at Caserío del Mirador, and we feel privileged that guests choose to come and spend their valuable holiday here. It is our responsibility to ensure that everything lives up to your expectation and that you can make the most of your break. We believe this is a wonderful place where you can relax, enjoy and have fun with your family and friends, and experience a warm and friendly atmosphere. Please ensure that you complete the Booking Form to help us best accommodate you during your stay.

We love Spain, the people, the landscape, the food, the Mediterranean and of course the beautiful weather. We welcome you to our home and hope that you will also find something in the Spain that we know and love while you are here.

Sarah and Johnny Robinson
Caserío del Mirador

Directions

" **From Valencia to Junction 63 Benissa**

Take the A7 motorway south to Alicante.

The motorway splits about 25km from the airport or 10km beyond Valencia City. Make sure you take the AP7 fork. Both forks go to Alicante, but you want the Coastal (Costa) route, not the Interior route.

From the airport it is the left hand fork, ie the fast lane.

If you are coming from the city centre it is the right hand fork

This is the only difficult bit. Once you are past this split you can relax!

" **From Alicante to Junction 63 Benissa**

Take the A7 motorway north to Valencia, Barcelona and Benidorm. A dual carriage way takes you from the airport to the motorway up an incline. At the top of the hill you will see the motorway, (within a kilometre). There is only one sign for the right hand filter lane you need to head north (the direction to the right) on the motorway, be careful as the turning comes up very fast after the sign. Don't worry when the A7 changes its name sometimes, AP7 or A70. After about 20 minutes you will go through a motorway toll, from here it is about half an hour until your exit.

" **Directions from Junction 63 Benissa**

At Benissa (Junction 63 of the A/AP7) leave the motorway, the toll is about €5 and you can pay by credit card. Turn right almost immediately after the toll heading into Benissa, signs in the direction of Calpe and Alicante.

Drive up through the town all the way up hill and through various sets of traffic lights. (Saturday is market day in Benissa, just over half way up on the right side of the town as you drive up hill.)

Shortly after you leave the town on the N332 there is a right turning to Xalo/Jalon 7km.

Follow this road, long and straight for a while, then a few bends down hill into the Jalon Valley, and straight towards the town of Jalon. Just after the sign for Jalon is a petrol station on your left. (red neon signage)

Turn left here, immediately in front of the petrol station, almost through the petrol station yard, with the car wash booths on your left and the automatic car wash machine and petrol pumps on your right.

There is a lane here that goes up past a car workshop, the almost invisible entrance to the cemetery and some messy green wheelie bins, until after about 1km there is a hard right bend then a T junction at the end of the road.

Turn left at the T junction, this heads up to the Bernia mountains. The CV 749.

less than ten minutes to go...

The Bernia road narrows, then wiggles, then goes over a small bridge with stone blocks on each side, then a sharp right hand S bend, then soon you get to a big right hand junction. It is marked with our sign 'Caserío del Mirador', a billboard sign from the Ministry of Agriculture 'Camino Murtes' and more messy wheely bins. There is also a sign in a tree for the Donkey Sanctuary. Take this right hand turning.

You now follow this road for just less than 3km. It goes flat for a while, wiggles a bit past olive and almond groves, then bends through some pines, past a camper van full of chickens, then you have 3 sharp corners, 2 in second gear and 1 in first gear.

Now you are nearly there. As the road straightens out you will see the house to your left, the road goes straight then turns to the left.

Your Arrival and Parking

As the house comes into view, you will notice a driveway veering down to a large archway below the house and another driveway to the front door of the house above the arch. Both driveways are

available for guest parking. The lower parking area might be more convenient if you have heavy bags to carry to your apartment, especially for Fernando and Isabella. There is room for two or three cars to park in front of the arch, one car can park under the olive tree and one or two can park on the slope leading down to the terrace below. By the front door, it is possible to park three cars without blocking each other.

Finding your apartment

Please introduce yourself to let us know that you have arrived safely. To find us try the front door first and if there is no response come to the back door of the house by continuing up the road past the solar panels and down this drive to the kitchen terrace. There is usually someone here, otherwise stroll onto the pool terrace. Fernando and Isabella are on the lowest terrace, and Santa Maria, Pinta and Niña are on the level of the pool terrace with their front doors on the opposite side of the building to the pool.

Welcome Basket

We provide a few basic provisions to help you start your holiday without having to go shopping. This gives you tea, coffee, milk, juice, bread and butter. We can add to these basic provisions when you complete your Booking Form.

Meals

After a long journey you or your children may want to eat shortly after you arrive. Lunch and/or an evening meal can be available on Saturdays. It is easier for us to organise for your arrival if you can let us know what you want us to prepare when you return your Booking Form. The pool bar has a drinks fridge and wine list. Meals are catered for during the week except Mondays and Wednesdays. There are more details available in the Meals sections of the Welcome Pack.

Special Requirements

If anyone in your family is vegetarian, has an allergy, or you have any specific eating preferences, these need to be listed when you return your Booking Form.

Shopping

There is a good supermarket in Jalon that does not close in the afternoon. During the summer season it is open on Sundays but it will close for local and national holidays. There is a market on Tuesday mornings in the centre of Jalon and a variety of local shops that provide good quality local products. More information is provided in the Welcome Pack about shopping.

Meals

The kitchen serves rustic Mediterranean meals with a strong Spanish influence. Each week there is the opportunity to sample some well loved favourites giving you a variety of delicious meals during your stay. Valencia is famous for paella and this is a popular lunchtime dish throughout the region. Traditionally paella is cooked outdoors and you can enjoy Sunday lunch and a leisurely afternoon in the shade of the outside kitchen. Jalon is well known for its butchers and charcuterie, evening dinners explore some of these local specialities and eating outside during balmy summer evenings is a real pleasure. No visit to Spain is complete without tapas, a wonderful way to pass the evening with a selection of dishes to tickle your taste buds.

Please give us prior notice if you would like to be included and any preferences you may have. There is a blackboard in the outside kitchen.

Breakfast from 4 euros a head / 12 euros a family

Freshly baked bread croissants and muffins. Fruit and cereal can be included on request. You will find coffee, tea and milk in your welcome basket

Lunches from 10 Euros per head / 25 euros a family
Platters of hams, cheeses and salads, fresh bread and fruit can be made available in the outside kitchen. Daily variations depending on the season.

Sunday Paella Lunch 20 Euros a head, children half price
The traditional meal of the region and a wonderful way to pass a lazy afternoon. Served from 2pm, a three course meal with sangria, beer, wine and muscat desert wine.

Evening Dinners and Barbeques from 20 Euros a head, children half price
Dinners can be served communally or in the privacy of your own apartment/terrace. We usually arrange at least one barbeque during the week depending on guests. There is a blackboard in the outside kitchen with the evening menu and you can add your name to the list on the blackboard if you have not already registered your interest. Guests are encouraged to make suggestions if they have any preferences, although meals will depend on availability of ingredients.

The Honesty Bar and Wine Fridge
There is a selection of drinks in the pool bar prices are detailed on the fridge door. Please make a note of what you take as you take it on the honesty bar slate. If you enjoy good wines we have a selection of Spanish wines for you to enjoy. Spanish growers are gaining increasing respect from experts and generally offer good value for the quality of the wine.

Children's Teas 7.50 Euros each
Fun food after a busy day. Kids love to eat together and you can save the hassle of preparing something and cleaning up afterwards! There is a set menu of familiar meals and grown-up are welcome to have an evening drink and join the party. We can provide you with a sample menu and take guidance on anything you do not want your children to be offered. By prior arrangement, usually between 6 and 7 but times can be flexible.

Picnics and Entertaining
There are mats and cool bags if you wish to picnic on the grass terraces. Beyond the pool and around to the right is a glorious south facing terrace with olive trees and almond trees offering plenty of shade. A great site for a change of scene and a day out without using the car!

Should you wish to invite people to the house we can add to your china and cutlery supplies.

Beauty Treatments and Massages

The house beautician comes on Mondays and is usually available from 10am to 5pm. Please make sure you let us know if you are interested in seeing her as otherwise she may not stay here for the whole day if she has no other bookings.

Massages

Reflexology massage	1 hour	€35
Swedish massage	1 ¼ hours	€40
Aromatherapy massage	1 ¼ hours	€45
Sports massage	1 ¼ hours	€40
Indian Head massage	30 minutes	€25

Beauty Treatments

Manicure including hand and arm massage	45 mins	€24
Pedicure including foot and leg massage	1 hour	€25
Eye lash and/or eye brow tinting	30/15 mins	€14/12
Waxing ~ for example ½ leg	30 mins	€20

Children

The family is central to our life here at Caserío del Mirador. For most parents the happiness of the children is the key to a successful holiday. Although playing in the pool and going to the beach will be the highlight for many children, there are a wide variety of activities suitable for children of all ages. There is plenty of space to enjoy the countryside and play games. Around the corner from the Mirador, through the olive grove, you will discover a swing seat, see saw and slide for young children. The grass gets very dry and spikey so please ensure children wear proper shoes. Older children may want to explore the valley, there are plenty of walks on and off road where they can explore and discover the landscape. Please be aware that noise carries and we try hard not to disturb neighbours.

For days out there are a variety of beach resorts usually with good facilities for children including play areas. If children are interested in history there are castle ruins, hilltop forts and look outs along the coast, a legacy of the turbulent times of the Moors and pirate invasions from the sea. There is tennis, riding and cycle hire in the area. We can give you guidance on theme parks and their suitability for the ages of your children, there are natural waterfalls near Callosa, a safari park near Pego, and Benidorm has a variety of parks from Terramitica for older children, water slides at Aqualandia, to the sea life at Mundomar - wonderful for younger children. We can give you ideas for days out.

If anyone needs a break from the sun (or rain) we have plenty of books, jigsaws, toys and board games. There are the TVs and we have a number of childrens DVDs. There is table tennis for older children and if you want to venture out to Calpe there is a toddler play area in café Colores and a Tenpin bowling ally. In Benissa there is a leisure centre with indoor pool and gym with a creche and some caves worth exploring in Bendioloig.

Pool Etiquette

Around the pool we require that a responsible adult supervises children at all times

We insist that all children are supervised around the pool at all times. We ask that all inflatables are removed from the pool when you have finished your swim to prevent other children reaching for them and to keep the area tidy. Small toys can play havoc with the pump so please keep anything smaller than a tennis ball away from the water. Small children must not go onto the crown around the pool unless they are entering or exiting the pool.

Excess sun cream is difficult to filter out of the pool, so please wait until cream dries or shower off cream that is not water resistant.

Pool towels are provided and we would appreciate it if bath towels did not come on to the pool terrace. Likewise we would prefer towels and costumes to be dried on the washing line rather than over the railings. Please be aware that noise carries and shouting and screaming is often disruptive to others in the neighbourhood.

Your Apartment

On Your Arrival

Your apartment will have been prepared for you in advance and checked shortly prior to your arrival. An occasional strong wind and a pesky fly can play havoc with what was just moments ago a spotlessly clean floor. If there is anything that does not reach your standards of cleanliness we would prefer to know so we can fix the problem as soon as possible.

Under the kitchen sink in your apartment you will find an array of equipment to deal with most circumstances. Cleaning materials, fly swats and spray, and matches. If you need replenishing during your stay or you think of anything else would be useful please let us know.

Linen and Towels

When the season is not quite established, the question of bedding can be tricky. Please feel free to put the duvet back in the cupboard, or take blankets out. If you would prefer a flat top sheet or a duvet and your room is not made up as such, we can make the switch for you. We change beds after one week as standard but can replenish towels and change beds on request.

For use around the pool we have provided you with beach towels, you are welcome to take these to the beach with you. We would prefer you to use the washing line if necessary rather than leave towels over the railings, where they often blow on to the terrace below or worse eaten by the goats!

In the bathroom cabinet you will find an ample supply of loo rolls. Any thing else you are tempted to flush, please don't - it will block our septic system which is a major undertaking to put right!

Hot Water

Each apartment has a separate gas boiler to ensure a steady supply of hot water when required. The boiler is located outside the front doors of the apartments and 'fires up' on demand.

Water Supply

Although we use the tap water for tea and coffee and ice, we tend not to drink the water directly from the tap. A habit acquired from years living in London rather than any evidence that we should not. As our water is not mains supply we are erring on the side of caution. Mineral water and drinking water are available everywhere and we can assist here if you are running short. Tap water is delivered by truck so your economy is appreciated. You might hear a water pump running; this is to maintain pressure in a separate header tank. If the taps should run dry, it is usually the header tank that is empty, not the entire supply, and can be fixed in a matter of minutes!

Electricity

It is pleasant not to have our views interrupted by power lines, and consequently Caserío del Mirador generates its own electricity supply. During sunny days the solar panels are very effective topping up the batteries, and during the evening and or early morning additional electricity is provided by the generator. The system is designed for average loading and problems can occur with high loading for extended periods. For example, if ironing on a cloudy day it necessary to run the generator. Although by no means essential, we would prefer you advised us to turn on the generator if you are going to use an iron or a hair dryer. Likewise please be vigilant in turning off lights and fans on your way out.

Laundry

The main house has some limited washing and drying facilities and laundry buckets are provided for guests. Return time times will depend on the demand on the machines, please let us know if you want something back urgently. Laundry is charged at 10 euros a machine load.

Heating - for winter guests

The central heating is under floor, which is very efficient when the temperature stays constant, although it takes time to adjust if the temperature fluctuates. We try to anticipate changes as best we can although if your apartment is too hot or cold consistently please let us know. (Each apartment has hot water bottles and blankets, please ask if you need more!)

Bugs and Beasts

Our advice is to cover up in the evening and keep any doors and windows without nets closed if possible. Each apartment has some citronella candles which work fairly well when you are sitting out, and use a squirt of repellent around your ankles if you are prone to being bitten. Other than flies, you may come across a gecko or beetle, neither are dangerous. If you are going on to the grass terraces to picnic and play, please do wear covered shoes. The only other word of caution is

regarding food. Fruit flies are easily dealt with by keeping fruit in the fridge or a sealed bag or box, and ants will find sugar, spilt juice or a cut orange irresistible. If you see any wildlife that concerns you, keep away from it and come and find us.

Rubbish Disposal and Recycling

In the heat of the summer it is important to keep rubbish around the house to a minimum. There are green wheelie bins at the Les Murtes junction, and more on the roads going in to the village. We have buckets for recycling near the steps by the garage and ask guests use them. Aluminium, cartons and plastics go together, glass and paper go separately.

Servicing and Cleaning Your Apartment during Your Stay

If you would like to be looked after and your apartment cleaned and tidied during your stay please let us know so that we can make arrangements.

24 Hour Internet Access

The apartments have a Local Area Network (LAN) connection, so if you have a laptop that can get onto the network you should be able to get an internet connection. If you cannot get a connection automatically try the following routine. If you still cannot get a connection check with us if your apartment needs reconnecting .

Connect to
Show all connections
1394 Connection
(or network bridge)

Properties
Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)
Properties
Obtain an IP address automatically
Obtain DNS server address automatically
Then Restart!

Satellite TV

This is a very basic system to keep you up to date with world news and entertain children if need be. You receive Sky News, POP and Tiny POP for children and Channel 5. Sometimes the electricity to the house is interrupted which affects the settings on the satellite box, here are some brief instructions on how to re-set the box:

1. Press services button on handset
2. Press no. 4 on handset (system set-up)
3. Press 0 then 1 and press select (you will enter installer menu)
4. Press no. 2 on handset
5. Highlight frequency (set at 11.778) key in 12.129 move to save new settings then press backup key 4 times

Noise

Many of our guests choose Caserío del Mirador because of its quiet environment. Noise travels in the still air and we ask guests to be aware of these issues and respectful to our neighbours and the tranquillity of the valley.

We understand that children are excitable and want to 'let off steam' and it is their holiday too but we ask that there is some restraint. We have some basic guidelines that should accommodate everyone. Late night revelling is usually the issue that causes most problems.

Guidelines for Quiet times

Please restrain from making loud noises, especially during quiet times

Before 9am

Between 3pm and 5pm

After 11pm

Queries and General Questions

Sarah and Johnny are at the house most days and are happy to assist you in any way they can. Mondays and Thursdays are their days off and they will be more often out these days. If you require information or some assistance, the most convenient times to approach them is before 9.30am and after 6.30pm when kid's tea has been served, although you will probably see them around the house at other times.

Feedback

The Feedback Form is designed to help give other guests an independent view based on your experience on what to expect at Caserío del Mirador. This personal touch can give an alternative insight in addition to our marketing to give a fuller perspective. It is also an opportunity for you to point out any points that you feel could be improved to give future guests a better experience during their stay.

Restaurants and Eating Out

There is no shortage of places to eat out, and generally the variety will increase the closer you are to the coast. On the main beaches during the holiday season restaurants will be open all day, and elsewhere Spanish bars on the whole are open all day and will readily offer some basic tapas. Locally and away from the coast restaurants serve lunch from 1.30pm and evening meals from 8pm, the service can be a little too relaxed if you or your children are starving hungry, so a simple snack at a bar might be a better option if you are in a hurry. Most bars can do a portion of meatballs or a ham and cheese sandwich with chips, local restaurants might be a bit low on child friendly staples (very little pasta on the menus) but roast chicken or lamb chops seems to go down well with lots of crusty bread.

Sometimes restaurants close on Mondays and Tuesdays and as we move out of the peak season opening times become more limited until the winter when some restaurants at the coast can close down altogether.

Restaurants in Jalon

La Pista - On the corner of the main crossroad when you hit the town on the Bernia road coming down the hill from the house. Typical Spanish menu in a pleasant setting, there is a cafe bar area and a restaurant that extends into an open courtyard. Sometimes live music of dubious quality but plenty of space and child friendly staff, although sometimes slow. There is lots of grilled meat and good tapas on the menu.

Casa Caty - A good lunchtime menu, turn left at La Pista opposite Plaza Las Ocas.

4 Cantons - A couple of streets off the bottom right hand corner of the main square with tables in the street. Go for lunch or tapas in the evening. Don't go if you have a child who can't sit still, as you may be sitting in the street.

Caramull - A smarter and more contemporary restaurant than you would normally find locally. It has an interesting menu with a local slant and good wine list.

Riu Rau - Another long-standing and popular local restaurant on the other side of the river to where the bodegas and the Saturday Rastro are. Park by the tourist office and walk over the riverbed. The menu is orientated towards meat, wild boar is a speciality.

La Vall - on the road out of town towards Benissa. More in line with English tastes than anywhere else you will find locally. The bar at the back offers pizzas and pub like food which can be ideal if

your children want some home comforts. There is also a big screen TV for popular sporting events. The restaurant serves good food but the wine list is a little disappointing.

Cafes in Jalon

You will find loads of cafes in the village to suit all tastes, but most do good coffee, draught beer and the normal range of tapas and sandwiches.

El Mosset - a great place for an easy and cheap lunch, in Plaza Las Ocas

Lluna Llunera - a contemporary and fun bar next door to El Mosset

La Risa - Belgian run and a good choice for something a little smarter than most, breakfasts are better than their lunches. It is also a good place to buy bread. Opposite the tourist office on the road out to Alcalali.

Alelulya - a good contrast and right next door to La Risa - the owner does some entertaining tricks with sangria! A fun bar and you can buy local oranges in the buckets outside on the pavement

Bar Tallarina - a great hang out for youngsters and late night revelling with loud music and table football - on the left before the bridge on the road out to Alcalali.

Restaurants outside Jalon

Timon and Coral Beach Bar - these are on the beach just outside Calpe on the Moraira road. The bar is great for paella or just snacking while the rest of your party hire a kayak or a wind surfer. Upstairs the Timon restaurant is a good evening venue with a varied menu and wonderful views across the water to the Penon de Ifach.

Terrace de Torres - Authentic Valenciana cooking that takes you a step above the standard fare served in most local restaurants. Very Spanish, no menu, although there are choices if you can understand what they are saying to you! About 3km on the right on the road from Lliber to Gata

La Polenta - An unassuming Italian restaurant with an original menu and presented and served beautifully, first class. On the Teulada main thoroughfare, on the left as you head up the hill

La Solana - take the road out of Jalon to Alcalali, turn right onto the Denia road and almost immediately left, up a hill. The 'menu del dia' is great value with plenty of choices.

Casa Canto - international standard cuisine in a beautiful setting and good service. On the right as you enter Benissa on the N332 from Calpe heading to Gata

Casa del Maco - Haute cuisine presented in an old century finca with beautiful views from the terrace. Well signed as you head to Calpe on the N332, a right-hand turn immediately after the bridge at the bottom of the hill

Beaches and the Coast

Jalon is in the centre of a large peninsular with resorts north east and south within about a 15 to 20km radius. Here we go from North to south along the coastline to give a brief description of each main resort.

Oliva

About 40 minutes drive away but probably the least 'Costa' of all the beaches in the area, here is a big wide open beach that runs for miles. There is some windsurf hire and sports activities but mainly lots of sand, some waves, the occasional restaurant and lots of young Spanish families enjoying the water. The rip tides can be strong and dangerous so be sure to be close to a life guard if you plan to go swimming

Denia

The most established town in the area and named after its Roman temple to Diana the town has a history dating back to 200BC, the inhabitants of Denia are still referred to as Dianenes. The modern town is dominated by the 16th century castle sitting 60 meters above the town. Inhabited by the Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs and Christians, its turbulent history is the subject to the popular annual Fiestas. These include Las Fellas (burning of the effigies) and the unique 'Bous a la mar', where the bulls are taunted by local townsfolk who try and entice the bulls to charge at them

so that the bulls over-run off the quayside into the sea. This needs to be seen to be believed.

The port has always played an important role in the town with the daily fish market, regular departures to Ibiza and Mallorca, and the new marina which can accommodate over 1,000 boats. As Mediterranean trade declined with the discovery of the Americas, the town's fortunes also declined.

As the most established town in the area, Denia enjoys a diverse choice of restaurants, seafood and local traditions are prominent with some interesting variations of the Valencian Paella. Near to the old quaysides are maze of small streets brimming with bars and restaurants.

There is an 18 hole golf course at La Sella.

The Montgo is to the south between Denia and Javea, a natural park that rises to 750 meters It is an exhilarating walk where you are able to survey the whole local landscape and look 70 km out to sea to the Balearic Islands.

Las Marinas is just north of the town and has sandy beaches stretching 15km, with a variety of water sports including dingy sailing, windsurfing, diving and fishing.

Javea

Or Xabia in Valenciana is one of the most popular resorts on the Costa Blanca coastline. Stretching from the Montgo natural park to Cap de Nao, the most eastern point in Valencia, the bay is stunningly beautiful with beaches, coves, cliff walks and lookout points. The municipality can be divided into 3 areas, the old town, the port and the Arenal beach. An agricultural region until tourism took a hold, Javea has a strong cosmopolitan atmosphere with an all year round international community.

The old town is attractive with an old church, Tosca stone townhouses and many references to its agricultural heritage. The town is sited a few kilometres inland so as to be protected from pirate raids, commonplace on this coastline up to the 19th century.

The port is home to a small fishing fleet, and it is still possible to watch nets being repaired in the streets. Popular for eating out, boutique shopping and dramatic villas looking south across the bay, the port has a special feel.

Arenal Beach has a long promenade, a variety of restaurants and best of all a lovely sandy beach. Away from the traffic, children can roam freely and enjoy the climbing frames on the sand while parents can either watch from a bar or the beach.

Moraira

South of the Cap de Nao is the resort of Moraira. Originally a fishing village, the square has a small church as well as an assortment of cafes, shops and restaurants. The area is popular due to its scale and there being no high rise development. El Portet has a small beach surrounded by cafes, restaurants and glamorous villas. Often yachts will be anchored in the bay adding to the beautiful scenery. The town has a modern marina with a lovely portside restaurant, a thriving market on a Friday and the restaurant bar at L'Ampolla beach does excellent paella. Well worth a visit

Heading out of Moraira is a winding road taking you to Calpe through the heart of some of the most attractive scenery along coast. Villas with beautiful gardens, high up in the hills above and right down below among the small hidden coves all looking out across the sparkling Mediterranean.

Calpe

Further to the south is Calpe, another former fishing village that has grown out of all recognition in the past 20 years. The town has two long sandy beaches separated by a 332 meter high rock, the

famous Penon de Ifach - another challenging climb. Behind the Penon is the fishing port and close by is Las Salinas, an inland lagoon where flamingos are often seen.

Calpe has a lot of entertainment for children, a diversity of restaurants and some of the best shopping in the area.

Please ask if you would like to borrow a sun umbrella. Many of the beaches have sunbeds and parasols, usually available until the end of October. Some have showers and also security lockers

Shopping

Shopping in Jalon

Local shops are generally open from 10am to 1.30pm and then 5pm to 7pm. Hidden away in back streets, you will find ever increasing numbers of little shops which seem to disappear after 2pm.

Here we mention the more popular shops.

Mas y Mas is the large supermarket in the town where you will get almost anything you need. However if you have the time we suggest that you explore some of the other shops in the town and use the market on Tuesday mornings where you will find a more interesting range of products, especially meats, cheeses and fresh vegetables.

Teresa Supermarket - this little store has a great deli counter and salad and vegetable deliveries daily. In the little road just past the Casa Caty restaurant opposite the Plaza Las Ocas

Galan is the largest butcher that supplies many of the restaurants in the area. You may have to queue for a while but you can spend the time admiring the beautiful presentation of the shop and the cured meats hanging in the top of the building above you.

Vincentica Patisserie - local speciality pastries and bread, near Galan in the town. Try their Cocas and Empanadillas con gisantes, pizzas and pasties filled with peas!

L'Abella - a specialist honey shop which also sells related natural skin care products, gifts, toys, a good place to pick up a few presents.

Bodegas of Jalon

This area of Spain has been famous for wine production since time began. Jalon produces red, rose and white wine, or vino tinto, rosado y blanco. This area of the coast is specifically known for the Mistela Moscatell, a sweet Muscat desert wine.

Cooperativa Valenciana Virgen Pobre - the local cooperative and largest bodega with the better known wines of the area.

Bodega Cantara Cuatro - a smarter shop that has a good selection of high quality Spanish wines.

Bodegas Riko - An old established bodega, selling dried fruits, walnuts, and lots of other local produce.

Bodega Cellar el Vinyater - a bit more like an off licence with a café at the back.

The Rastro in Jalon

On Saturday mornings, on the road out of town heading to Alcalali along the riverbank is probably the best-known antiques market in this region of Spain. Antiques fare is a very loose term for the variety of curiosities on offer from any number of different stalls. Furniture, ceramics, textiles from Europe, North Africa and South America.

On the opposite side of the road is a range of gift shops and cafes

Other Shops and Points of Interest in Jalon

Pharmacia - in the town square

Banks - La Caixa, Caixaltea and Banestro are all in the town square

Markets Days

Market days are in the mornings up to 2pm and are great for stocking up on fresh fruit and vegetables, and exploring some of the more curious aspects of Spanish house-hold goods! Tuesday is market day in Jalon, Moraira market on a Friday is also handy for an afternoon on the beach, has easy parking and a good mix of produce, paella pans, and handbags. Benissa is probably the best market for range and scale on a Saturday and it makes for a nice way to see the medieval heart of the town.

Walks from Your Front Door

Caserío del Mirador is located amongst some of the most spectacular scenery you will find, many guests do not go anywhere else as there is much to see and do right on your door step. Here we list some of the most popular walks with a brief description to give you a flavour. Please ask us for a map.

Maserof

Easy Scenic Ramble

Distance 4-8km Ascent 50m Time 1 - 2 hrs

20 minutes walk from Caserío del Mirador is the small settlement of Maserof with a couple of restaurants, a bar and an old finca (home of the local wine club). Maserof has seen better days, many of the vines were killed off by disease in the early 20th century when most of its population emigrated to Argentina. The legacy is a wonderful oasis of terraces cultivated by devoted farmers, old goat tracks and the odd smallholding in the peaceful mountain landscape. The road continues up to the foot of the Sierra Bernia where there are some more restaurants popular with Sunday lunch-time visitors, but at other times this area is deserted.

Les Murtes

Easy Scenic Stroll

Distance 2-4km Ascent 50m Time ½ -1 hr

If you have enjoyed a lazy day by the pool a short stroll is the ideal way to round off the day in the cool evening sun. Our little valley has many different points of interest and a surprising number of tracks. Not far is a small spring populated with frogs, and there are old ruins and ancient terraces built by the Moors to explore. Donkey rides can be organised at the nearby (5 minutes walk) donkey sanctuary, which also serves drinks and food at lunchtime.

Alcalali and Jalon

Moderate Town and Country Walk

Distance 8km Ascent 200m Time 2½ hrs

The road up the Les Murtes Valley was only built in the 1990's but there is still the ancient network of tracks that follow gullies between mountains and along dry river beds. The path down to Alcalali was the beginning of an important route through the mountains that goes straight past the front of Caserío del Mirador. It almost takes the same time to walk these routes as it does by car on the road as they cut out much of the extra distance modern roads need to negotiate the mountain climb. Market day in Alcalali is Thursday and Jalon Tuesday. On Saturdays the Jalon Rastro is another attraction if you enjoy wandering around a mixture of curiosities. The return journey past the Jalon town hall is 4.5km up the Bernia road back home.

House Rules for Guests

Please read the following points to help protect you and other guests during your stay here. There are only three golden rules that we insist upon:

Children and the Pool

No children are to be allowed at the pool-side without a responsible adult present. We discourage the kind of play that disturbs other guests or intimidates other children and we do not allow our own family to dunk, shove and push each other in. Children are the responsibility of their parents or guardian at all times.

Flames in the Campo (surrounding countryside) in the summer

Fires during the summer are very dangerous and difficult for the authorities to contain. Any flame needs to be treated with extra caution. Cigarettes, candles, barbecues or naked flames of any sort beyond the pool terrace and Mirador are not allowed. The risk of bush fire is too great to take any risk what so ever. Large fines may be imposed for those found to have been responsible for causing a fire.

Unexpected guests and sleepovers

If you have guests visiting you during your stay here, and they decide to stay the night, we need to know their names in advance as we are legally required to keep a record of everyone that stays at the house. We can provide some spare bedding for use on the futons and have zed beds available. We will ask for a contribution towards laundry and water consumption.

Health and Safety

We operate under the highest standards to make your stay enjoyable and safe, we accept no liability for accidents or injuries to guests. If there are any safety issues you notice or anything else that concerns you regarding your safety please let us know at the earliest opportunity. Children are their parents' responsibility at all times and we ask that you take all precautions to ensure your and other family's children are safe at the house.

Emergencies and Local Doctors

We strongly advise that guests have travel insurance with full health cover. This ensures that you can take the best course of action in the case of an emergency. Our local doctor is English speaking and can visit the house if necessary. There is an emergency clinic in Benissa and the nearest hospital is half an hour away in Denia.

If you do not have health insurance, you will be expected to produce a European health card (EHIC) otherwise you will have to pay the cost of your treatment in full. It is probably better to have both insurance and an EHIC to cover all eventualities, for more information search for EHIC on the Department of Health's website <http://www.dh.gov.uk>

Accidents around the House

We have a first aid box in the house available to guests. We have children's paracetamol suspension (Calpol), plasters, dressings, treatments for insect bites/stings, etc.

Sun and Heat

It is easy to forget the strength of the Spanish sun especially if there is a cool breeze. We strongly advise that young children avoid too much direct sunlight during their first few days. Shaded playing areas are preferable to direct sun even with high protection sun cream. If you go out in the middle of the day in the summer, hats are important to keep off the sun and you may want to consider long trousers and long sleeve shirts in white or light colours too. Local people generally avoid going out in the heat of the day, preferring to do their work in the early morning and evenings. Taking a long lunch in the shade and/or an afternoon doze is nice way of avoiding the heat of the day.

If you do become sunburnt, the burn often makes you feel warmer than usual and puts you at a disadvantage if you suffer from heat. Creams can help sooth your discomfort but avoiding this condition is the wiser option. It is perfectly possible to stay active and enjoy the heat of the summer by regulating your timing during the day. The Spanish love their food so lunches and meals outside during balmy evening are rituals to be savoured.

Food and Hygiene

It is important to treat food with respect in a warm climate to help avoid tummy bugs. We ask that children wash their hands before and after eating and that crumbs and food are not left out as they attract flies and other pests that spread germs. Ants quickly find crumbs on the floor in the summer, so with a little care these situations can be avoided.

Emergency Numbers

Emergencies - Dial 112 (equivalent to 999) connects you to Fire, Police and Ambulance Services

Medical Emergencies - Where the patient can be moved easily, the quickest thing to do is to take them to the nearest Urgencia (small emergency hospital) located in Benissa behind Mercadona supermarket. Mercadona is on the national N332 road that runs through the middle of the town near the bottom of the hill. Behind Mercadona is a road that leads to the supermarket carpark underneath the store. The Urgencia is in a modern building on the corner at the top of the road.

Benissa Urgencia - 96 573 24 77

Alicante Airport - 96 691 90 00

Fire (Bomberos) - 96 691 23 52

Responsible Travel Policy

Caserío del Mirador promotes a sense of travel that we hope is a real experience where environmental, local social and economic requirements are taken into consideration.

Located in a beautiful valley with terraces built by the Moors, there is a centuries old heritage of growing almonds, olives and vines that is largely at odds with modern farming techniques. We live in an area that has been passed-by by the modern world but needs to find a way to adapt to maintain its local knowledge and traditions. Unfortunately, much of the land has been neglected as youngsters prefer the comforts of town life and looking after their family plot is increasingly uneconomic. Those who tend their trees and vines year in year out have a labour of love, taking pride in their produce. As a result of this shift away from the land, foreigners have bought many properties as holiday homes leaving the area further neglected when they are not here and causing a further move away from tradition practises and values.

At Caserío del Mirador, we want to share what we believe is a unique paradise. Although much has been lost already, we have a responsibility to maintain traditional practises and bring back the land to its former glory in a way that has moulded our valley over the centuries. Local skills, local produce and local specialist outlets need support to maintain a sense of continuity in these changing times. The local people are the soul of the area, they should have the opportunity to maintain their way of life with a dignity that respects their contribution to the landscape so that we can all continue to benefit from the qualities the area has to offer.

Caserío del Mirador supports local outlets in Jalon, we buy local produce where possible and we employ local labour to help us with our business. The trees on our land are maintained and harvested, the olives are sent to a local mill to produce our own cold pressed oil. By being successful in our business, we hope that we can demonstrate to the world the unequalled beauty of this area and help enhance our local community with its traditions and values.