

Benidorm

4th Edition

Costa Blanca - Spain

Travel Guide

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

Free Benidorm Travel Guide

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This is

Edition No. 4

of the Free Benidorm Travel Guide.

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

Please check out our website for the latest version here:

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

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Welcome to the Costa Blanca!

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

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

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

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

From San Juan, Alicante

Anna, Gloria and Hubert Keil

The Authors

DOREEN ANN DENECKER

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



HUBERT KEIL

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



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Costa Blanca

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Costa Blanca

The Sun Lover's Paradise

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

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

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

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

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Benidorm - Sunshine in the Soul

With its steady temperatures, Benidorm on the Costa Blanca, has more than half the battle won to being one of the hottest tourist places in Alicante on the Mediterranean Sea. I would



probably call it the Spanish melting pot because other than mixing with so many people from all over the world, you can try excellent food from all over the world and actively be a part of many of these countries' traditions all in one city.

Benidorm, with its Arab name, has just about the same history as all other neighbouring areas around it: first the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs and the Catholic Kings. And there are still remains of some of each one of these civilizations and architectural

treasures, but believe me, Benidorm is not to be visited for these features, but rather to 'take a walk on the wild side'. Relaxation during the day on its long stretched out sandy beaches and entertainment galore at night. If we stretch our imagination and little knowledge of Spanish, we could understand the name of Benidorm as meaning "sleeping well" (beni=bien=well and dorm=dormir=sleep) but most of the people hardly sleep at night there!

This sleepless city is conveniently found just 43 kilometres north of Alicante on the east coast of Spain and can be reached either by taking the national road marked N-332 which takes you right through the city centre or by hopping on the toll road marked AP-7. If taking the pay road, you have various exits which will let you off in the southern, central or northern part of Benidorm. If coming by bus from either the north (Valencia) or the south (Alicante or airport), you will be left off at the shopping mall called Centro Comercial La Noria on Europa Avenue, which is the main street.



Playa de Levante - the northern beach in Benidorm

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Benidorm is like Child's Play

Everything seems to be ideal when planning your holidays in Benidorm and its surrounding towns. The geographical location between two mountain ranges gives it its fantastic climate; over 350 days of sunshine and comfortable temperatures in winter and beach degrees in summer.



Playa de Poniente - with the little harbor area in the front

Ever since it was taken over by a wise businessman who saw the unlimited possibilities, Benidorm has held the winning position in being the most preferred vacation spot for many singles, retired and families from all over the world, especially from Great Britain, Germany, France and the Scandinavian countries. There are so many cheap flights leaving these main places, all arriving at the Alicante airport just about 25 minutes away. And with the increase in car hire companies, travelling around is like we said- child's play!

After a 20 minute drive in your car from the Alicante airport, you arrive at one of the many hotels right on the beach front, but the one that is most outstanding is the Bali, four star and the highest hotel in all of Europe. It was inaugurated about two years ago and its vanguard style, airy atmosphere, luxury rooms and panoramic lateral lifts would make anyone's stay here more pleasurable.



Walking down the southern beach of Poniente.

So you have come to have a pleasurable stay on the 3 mile wide beach in the bay of Benidorm. The beach there is divided by what was



The Balcon del Mediterraneo area close to the old town centre.

a huge rocky protrusion, now made into the "Balcony of the Costa Blanca" and next to the Nautical Club. So when you look at the map, the beach to the right is called Levante and the one to the left Poniente.

The Levante beach is in front of the newer part with lively restaurants offering all day dance music and good food. At the most northern end of this beach you will find all kinds of water sports: The long banana for kids (and adults), water skiing and surfboard sailing. On the other side of the balcony you will find the quieter beach of Poniente because it is a little further away

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Breathtaking view on the little island of L'Illa just off the coast of Benidorm

tal clear waters in a submarine like catamaran. Everyone has a little bit of adventurer like Robinson Crusoe in their veins and would probably like to have an island for themselves for a short time.

Well, the island is in front of Benidorm and is called L'Illa and can be visited in one of the three boats which leaves from the Benidorm port starting at 10:00 a.m. and the last one coming back at 5:00 p.m. It takes about 20 minutes to get there, a nice way to spend the day and have a leisurely lunch or snack. As you sing the Beatles famous song, 'We All Live in a Yellow Submarine', sailing to Benidorm's island, you will see beautifully coloured birds and fauna. Or you can leave Benidorm Marina at 11:00 a.m. to take a boat ride along the coast to Calpe, returning at 3:00 p.m. Never a boring moment!

Bathing suits and Dancing shoes

Benidorm, which has excellent transport from the Alicante airport, is also a very moving city. During the day, you can



Includes a walk down with a breathtaking view.

from the city centre. Another great advantage is that you can sunbathe up to around 8:30 in the evening because the buildings are set in a way that even while the sun is setting, you can baste it. And there are a few coves to be explored for those looking for more privacy.

Smooth Sailing in Benidorm

Benidorm is a year round holiday spot thanks to its weather and variety of entertainment for people of all ages. Other than the theme parks, which are quite a few, you can explore the crys-



The Iglesia Virgen del Sufragio is part of the nicely maintained old Benidorm.

either choose to relax and enjoy the long out stretching beaches or take the kids and family to one of the many parks around. You can choose from one of the Theme parks like Terra Mitica, which has set up rides and attractions having to do with ancient Egypt or Rome, Aqualandia, a water park right within Benidorm where there are rides for the wee folks, younger dare devils and just splashing pools for the older ones.

A good keep cool day! If animals are the theme for the day, go to Terra Natura, also within the city and have your children come into full con-

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tact with very different kinds of animals. Here too, you can cool off in an area where there are water rides, underwater diving or nature climbing and trekking.

At night, the nightlife is quite moving and the selection of places to dine go from fast food restaurants to the most exquisite delicacies, whatever you feel affordable for you.

With its three kilometre long soft sandy beaches; one along the new promenade in front of nicely kept hotels and lively restaurants catering to the tourist in their native tongues, and the other a little outside the old city hub, your days of relaxation are ready. Have an English breakfast sitting at one of the terraced cafes along the Levante beach, a quiet lunch sitting in the tropical gardens at the Gran Hotel Delfin, a midday snack at Cafe de Paris with rich flaky pastries, and either a formal dinner or even more typical, some tapas (small portions of just about everything you can eat), highly recommendable is El Calpi with fresh seafood tapas.



At the harbor area you can get ferry boats to Denia, Alicante, Tabarca Island and other cities along the Costa Blanca.

And to burn up all these delicious calories you can either do all kinds of sports in the sea such as surfing, surfing with a sail, bumping around on the big hot dog or playing some beach tennis with friends. But if the day activities are not your favourite, then get ready for the nightlife scene.

There are many a discotheque to visit, so you can start out at KU which has been described as a city within a city because it offers everything and two different ambiances of music to see that everyone has a good time. Penelope could be referred to as the most popular one with its inside and outside areas and a barbecue area for late snackers. If you have always wanted to try your luck in beauty contests or similar (quite original ones), then this is your place.

Benidorm is probably one of the only place that has the highest concentration of entertainment for all ages and the most extensive selection of pizzerias, hamburger joints, taverns, restaurants of all prices and nationalities in all of Spain.

Are you going to risk missing all this? Of course not, so zip on over to the tourist information at Avenue de Martinez Alejos, no 6 or Avenue Europa, one of the main Avenues in Benidorm. Almost all hotels, apartments and the bus and train station have tourist maps.

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Benidorm Means Laughter and Merriment

It must be said at this point that Benidorm is not the typical place you would go to visit museums or similar attractions. The main attraction here is fun, sun and finding new thrills. What was once a forgotten fishing village suddenly fell into the hands of a very clever businessman who realised the attractiveness that this place had and the unlimited possibilities it had to offer thanks to its climate and geographical location. It began popularising its seafront hotels and typical Spanish food which was quite appealing to the retired, both local and foreign. But many families caught onto the great flight, hotel and car hire package deals and uncovered the magnificent beaches their kids could enjoy too. With this new group of tourists, the city government started adding on new types of entertainment which included water parks, animal parks and theme parks.

Terra Mitica

This theme park is relatively new, having been inaugurated in 2000 and proposing an ambitious project of making it the spot to let your imagination go wild. This park in English is called 'Mythical Park' and clearly lives up to it. Here, anybody and everybody travels back to the legendary civilisations that lived in the Mediterranean, back to where Spain's civilisation began, rewarding you with such attractions such as the Secrets of the Pyramids, the Minotaurus Labyrinth and the Great Odyssey Trip.



To the North of Benidorm lies the Terra Mitica Theme Park

The live shows are action packed with Roman, Egyptian and Greek heroes, reliving famous battles right in front of your eyes, showing us how brave they really were. Your adrenaline

will be pumping fast with all the professional actors making ancient life so close to you. If you recover a little after watching one of these gladiator shows, then you can use your bravery to ride on one of the topsy-turvy roller coasters or any of the many other attractions there. But the best part of it all, is that almost every year, new shows and attractions are introduced, so that if you make your holiday spot Benidorm during various consecutive summers, you will always be surprised.

Terra Mitica is open from April to November. The entrance fee is approximately 40 euros adults and 25 for kids (5-10) and retired folks older than 60, but if you go in groups consult prices. There are also two day and season passes. You can buy these tickets at banks, the department store El Corte Ingles, authorised kiosks and at the gate at the theme park. It is found just five minutes north of Benidorm, easily accessible by bus or car.

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Aqualandia Water Amusement Park

So you want to cool down a little but the beach is not your cup of tea? Here at Aqualandia you can enjoy a days outing with the whole family. It is right inside the city and depending are where you are staying, you have convenient buses, can walk or drive there. The gates open



Refreshing on hot summer days the Aqualandia Water Park

from 10 in the morning until 6:30 in the evening with all kinds of water activities for all members of the family.

The children can slide down all the water slides as many times as they wish, always being well cared for by the qualified lifeguards on duty and there is a first aid station for any emergency. There are water chutes of every size, diving board areas, rapidly moving waters and even a black hole.

For the sun beauties like mum and grandma, you can lay around on comfortable hammocks and enjoy a picnic lunch in the shaded areas. It

is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is located on the north entrance hillside to Benidorm.

Mundomar Marine Animal Park

Do you enjoy the water and its interesting animal kingdom but prefer to be on land? Then Mundomar (Seaworld) Marine Animal park is your best bet.

You needn't go on an expensive cruise to be able to get a close up view of the most popular marine animals like dolphins or seals and you can actively participate in the shows and go aboard the glass bottom boat for a memorable ride. All of us have read adventure stories about dolphins and feel that they are our friends, so here is your chance to see the silly antics of these adorable sea creatures close up. Or chat up a conversation with the colourful birds travelling deep into the tropical jungle. The elegance and grace is personified with the exhibition of flamingos, so pink! Who has not had a turtle in their home as a pet, but to see ones that you could probably ride is another surprise. But, are you still even more curious and want to see what the marine world is like under the water. Well, we can all become Ariel, or Sebastian as in the Little Mermaid book and go down into a ship and have a look around the sea bottom. Refreshments and resting places are abundant. The main gate is near the Mediterranean Avenue right in Benidorm. It is open at 10:00 a.m., adults are 18 euros, children 3-12 years old 12 euros and under 3 are free. Take the time to explore this surprising entertainment.



Just next to Aqualandia you find the entrance to the Mundomar Marine Animal Park

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Terra Natura, A dream come true

This is not like any other wildlife park. Here, there are four theme areas and a water park. 1.500 animals of over 200 species, 50 of which are in danger of extinction. What a privilege to be the lucky ones to see these living specimens up close! And not only these animals but their natural habitats and fauna which makes their living quarters appropriate for them.



The Golf Course north to Benidorm.

As you enter the park, the first area to visit is the Pangea, taking you back in time to when there were rivers petrified from hot burning lava, abundant vegetation hiding gigantic insects and many other surprises.

To the left, you are carried away to America, discovering an old mine converted into a tropical farm. The colourful macaws are found in the dovecove and later on, the old joins the new in the colonial town of Copaltenango. In the center is Asia. As you stroll through the natural reserve of Kaziranga, you are able to see rhinoceros, buffalos and the temple of the wild-

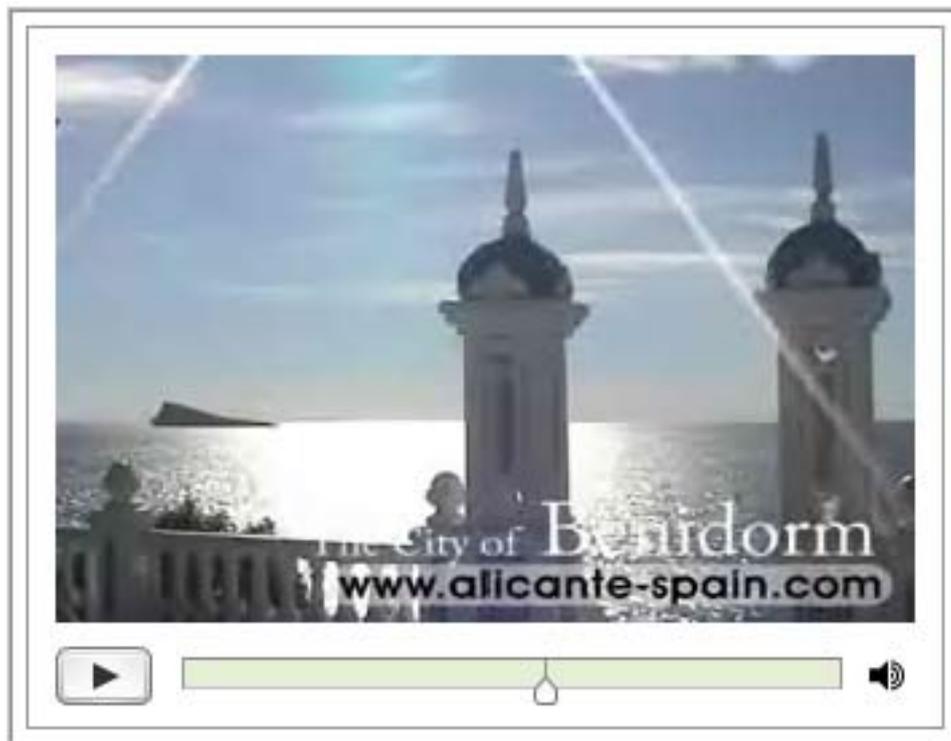
cats. In this section, there is a marvelous park for children to play in.

And last, but of course not least, is Europe. In the town of Kalicameni, white-washed and full of comedians, the natives sing their local songs. All this may sound tiring, but there are many a new food to be tried and a thirst-quenching drink to be had at any of the fabulous restaurants. And for those who need an extra thrill, in the Mare Nostrum waterway, you are fully equipped to have a splash with live sharks!

Terra Natura is open all year round, offering special passes for those who know how to appreciate a good opportunity and to take advantage of it as often as possible.

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Video



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

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Important Directions and Phone Numbers

Tourist Office - Oficina de Turismo

Avda. Martinez Alejos, 6
03500 Benidorm
Tel: 965 85 13 11
Fax: 965 80 88 58



City Hall - Ayuntamiento Benidorm

Plaza de SS.MM. Los reyes de España.
(Parque de l'Aigüera)
03500 Benidorm
Tel: 965 85 55 00



F.G.V (Ferrocarriles de la Generalitat Valenciana)

C/ Estación
03500 Benidorm
Tel: 965 85 18 95



ALSA Buscompany

Avda. Europa, 8
(Centro Comercial "La Noria")
03500 Benidorm
Tel: 902 42 22 42



RadioTaxi

03500 Benidorm
Tel: 965 86 18 18



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Important Directions and Phone Numbers



Terra Mítica

Ctra. Benidorm-Finestrat. Camino del Moralet s/n
03500 Benidorm
Tel: 902 02 02 20



Aqualandia

Avda. Archiduque Otto de Hasburgo, s/n
03500 Benidorm
Tel: 965 86 40 06



Mundomar

Avda. Archiduque Otto de Hasburgo, s/n
03500 Benidorm
Tel: 965 86 91 01

Terra Natura

Foia del Verdader, 1 (Junto a Terra Mítica)
03500 Benidorm
Tel: 902 50 04 14



Real de Faula Club de Golf

Av. Eduardo Zaplana Hernández-Soro Partida del Moralet
Salida 65
03500 Benidorm
Tel: 966 81 30 13
Fax: 966 81 30 16

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Important Directions and Phone Numbers

Regional Hospital

Ctra. Nac. 332 Benidorm-Villajoyosa
03500 Villajoyosa
Tel: 966 85 98 00



Pharmacies

More than 40 pharmacies located around Benidorm

Local Police - Policia Local

C/. Grecia, 6
03500 Benidorm
Local Police 092



National Police - Policia Nacional

C/ Apolo XI, 36
03500 Benidorm
National Police 091

Guardia Civil

C/ Capitán Cortés, 2
03500 Benidorm

Emergencies 112

Firefighter 085



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Further Related Resources



Airport in Alicante

Details about the [nearest airport to Benidorm in Alicante](#). [\(Click here for further information\)](#)

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



Car Hire in Benidorm and Alicante Airport

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



Finding Hotels

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



Airport to Benidorm Bus

How to get from Alicante [Airport to Benidorm by Bus](#). [\(Click here for further information\)](#).

Find further resources and links to Benidorm related information please visit

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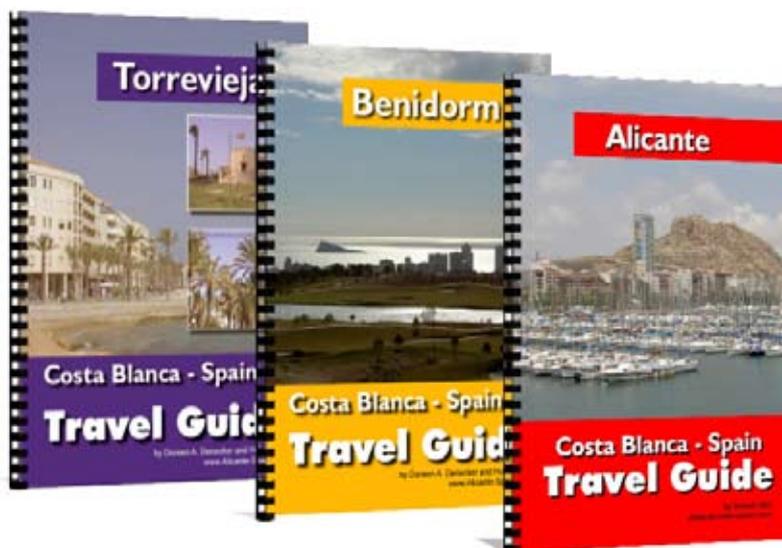
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We really hope you found this Travel Guide useful!

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

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

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



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

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