

PILAR DE LA HORADADA

BEACHES · NAUTICAL SPORTS · NATURE · CULTURE
GASTRONOMY · LEISURE & SPORTS · FIESTAS





1



2



3

1.- The bay of Pilar de la Horadada and its shallow, transparent seas.

2.- Jesuitas beach - Rincón Cove.

3.- In summer tourists can make the most of the services on offer on the beaches of Pilar de la Horadada.

4.- Marine Parade.

5.- The Rocamar Coves.

6.- Port Beach.



4



5

BEACHES

The coastline of Pilar de la Horadada is more than 4 kms long with very differing scenery. There are wide beaches of fine white sand in sharp contrast with the blue of the sea and tiny rocky shelves which jut out into the sea and hide coves of golden sand, intimist and small.

Pilar de Horadada has everything for you to enjoy sea and sun. The climate is typically Mediterranean with average annual temperatures of 18°, gentle breezes and more than 3,200 hours of sunshine a year. Tourists who come in search of a healthy way of life will find resources here for the enjoyment of climate and sport in an enviable setting.

The sea here is peaceful and only rarely otherwise. The beaches are safe as there are no steep slopes allowing even the smallest children to bathe happily. Furthermore, the transparent waters and good visibility invite sub-aqua divers to

look for the variety of life sustained by the sandy sea-bed, interspersed with occasional rocks and scattered platforms.

The purity of the beaches in Pilar de la Horadada has earned them the Blue Flag of the European Union, providing a guarantee of healthy surroundings.

The beaches are: Vistamar, Mil Palmeras, Coves of Rocamar, Los Jesuitas beach - Rincón Cove, Conde beach, beach of the Port, of Las Villas, of the Higuericas and of Mojón.



6



NAUTICAL SPORTS

The sailing club, awarded a blue flag, offers the following services:

Dry dock with crane and ramp.

Fuelling station.

Restaurant and Cafeteria.

moorings from 2 by 5 metres to 4 by 12 metres.

The co-ordinates for the harbour mouth are: longitude 37° 52' N. Latitude 0° 45' W.

Apart from the marina there is a dynamo of nautical activities in summer, with courses, practical studies, competitions, regattas, excursions... Also, every summer takes place the swimming race "Puerto de la Torre", attracting professional and amateur swimmers alike who can enjoy the healthy and, at the same time, festive atmosphere.

There is water skiing, paracraft, sailing and different sorts of sports fishing. The beach is the perfect place to play team games like beach



volleyball, beach handball and beach football; and for individuals, gymnastics, walking and sea swimming.

The sandy sea bed alternating with small rocky outcrops provide marine areas full of life for divers.

The variety of fauna and "gardens" of Posidonia assure you of pleasant submarine experiences and contact with their forms of life. There is also a sunken wreck near our shores; an old coal carrier which can be seen in the deeps by expert divers.

1.- Subaqua diving enthusiasts will find some sandy floors alternating with small rocky outcrops. The transparent water gives great visibility.

2.- Younger people can adventure out to sea on a jet ski or waverunner, which can be rented at the beach.

3.- For relaxation there is nothing better than a quiet afternoon fishing in natural surroundings.

4.- An ideal place for sailing.

5.- The sailing club, located below the Tower of Horadada and surrounded with beaches.





NATURE

Under its surface the sea offers an incredible variety of living creatures and of scenery. Sandy sea floors alternate with occasional rocks and the great prairies of Posidonia, creating a rich, varied habitat where the fauna teem incessantly.

A huge diversity of invertebrate species - molluscs and flat fish like plaice - lives on the extensive sands of Pilar de la Horadada.



- 1.- Posidonia (*Posidonia oceanica*).
- 2.- Little Rascal (*Sterna albifrons*).
- 3.- Common Egret (*Egretta garzetta*).
- 4.- The tidal area.
- 5.- In the bed of the River Seco aneas and reeds shelter a variety of animals.
- 6.- A Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).



The prairies of Posidonia which exist along the coast oxygenate the water and protect the sea floor and beaches from erosion. In them, apart from seahorses, pipefish, wrasse and other species, the young of many commercial species, such as the grouper, gilthead or denton.

There is also the chance of finding the smallest fish in the Mediterranean, the Posidonia fish. Seabirds feed off all this variety of fauna: seagulls, gannets and cormorants, all capable of diving after their prey.

The coast is a medium full of possibilities for fauna, above all waders and sea birds. In the tidal pools small size fish are cut off and bring gulls, grey heron and egrets. Curlew, turnstone and plovers inhabit the beaches at certain times of the year to rest or find provisions All the animal life is interrelated in a complex way and joins the submerged world with the surface.

The hinterland of Pilar de la Horadada offers some attractive excursions near the town or on the Sierra de Escalona.

In the mountain there are various botanical specimens interesting for their medicinal or gastronomical uses, such as thyme, foxglove, camomile and juniper.

The birds living in the area are orioles, bee-eaters and other, more waterside birds like the kingfisher, egret and heron, which also add to their diet on the coast. Among mammals, the fox, squirrel, hedgehog and rabbit are the most common.

In scrubland and the lower mountainside, there are more: whitethroat, thrush, shrike and pretty songbirds like the blackbird, goldfinch and greenfinch.



1.- Sweets and pastries make an exquisite snack.

2.- Rabbit in garlic, one of the typical dishes.

3.- Among the wide variety of greens and vegetables grown in Pilar de la Horadada, peppers can be found.

4.- The gentle climate permits the cultivation of refreshing citrus fruits, which tolerate poorly the frosts of the interior.

5.- Fishing provides a daily harvest.



GASTRONOMY

Gastronomy has a privileged place among the people. Of the typical dishes of Pilar de la Horadada the potato and meat stew, meat balls, rabbit in garlic and gachas migas (flour and garlic pancake). There is also a good variety of rice dishes and soups. Rice combines well with the market garden produce - beans, artichokes and young garlic. There is also a tasty range of meats to prepare the traditional dishes, like the contents of the meat balls.

Salads to complement these dishes contain lettuce, tomatoes, celery, peppers, marrows, all locally produced, and an endless variety of other vegetables are easy to find in any shop in town.

The agreeable climate of Pilar de la Horadada provides citrus fruits much appreciated in summer. The vegetable gardens produce vegetables and

greens, fresh and recently picked. The sea provides sea food, gilthead, grouper and sea bass among other fish.

For sweets and pastries there exists excellent confectionery, with flaky pastry and cordials deserving special mention. To round it all off there is sweet wine and a little pastry.





CULTURE

The finding of different remains from the Iberian, Roman and Arab epochs bears witness to mankind's liking for this part of the world. We should seek the origins of the population in houses and settlements.

The Romans called it Thiar, an enclave on the Via Augusta between the towns of Ilici and Carthago Nova. The Roman quarry of Pilar de la Horadada probably provided the stone which paved the Via.



The municipal Museum of Gratiniano Baches holds the finds made in the local settlements. The room has other sections: environment, palaeontology, numismatic and ethnology. Exhibiting the finds allows one to gain a global idea of the evolution of these lands and their resources over time.

Throughout its history, it suffered numerous attacks from pirates who disembarked on the coast and made incursions and plundered in the interior. The coastal towers were built precisely in order warn of the approach of their boats, communicating with one another

- 1.- A historical landmark, the Tower of Horadada dominates the coast.
- 2.- The musical and theatrical performances include international ballets.
- 3.- The altar of the parish church.
- 4.- The Gratiniano Baches Museum, with archeological, ethnographic and environmental exhibitions.



using bonfires and other signals. An example of this is the sober 16th century defensive tower of Horadada. Its name derives from the holes allowing communication between floors.

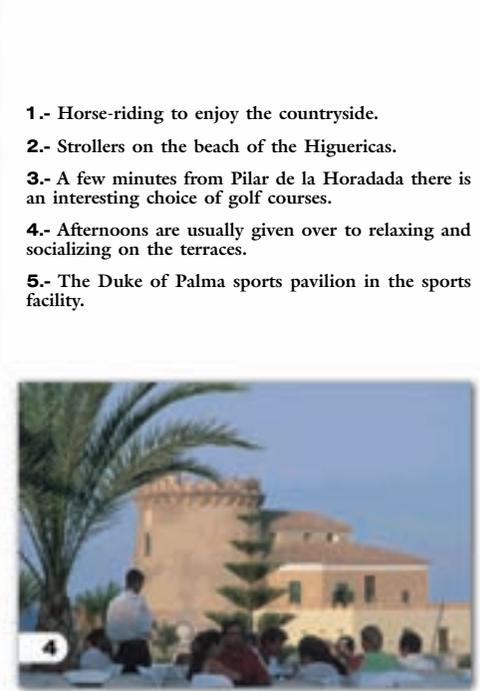
After the Reconquest it became the frontier between the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon. The latter occupied a good part of the eastern part of Spain at that time. More recently its segregation from the town of Orihuela on 30 July 1986 is noteworthy.

On your visit to Pilar de la Horadada you should not miss the 19th century church of Our Lady the Virgin of Pilar, which has a bell tower.

The town has several open spaces such a squares and gardens which tempt you to indulge in sports or simply sit and talk to friends. Pilar de la Horadada also has a variety of exhibitions, courses and other cultural activities organized by the Casa de Cultural.

Since the Music Conservatory was founded, there have been several courses on instruments and music. One of the sectors of greatest economic importance, together with tourism, is agriculture; modern techniques are used to produce the best quality. Advanced cultivation ensures abundant harvests of vegetables, fruit and flowers. The climate is very moderate because of its proximity to the sea, and the absence of frosts favours the development of this activity which provides fresh foods to shops and restaurants.





- 1.- Horse-riding to enjoy the countryside.
- 2.- Strollers on the beach of the Higuericas.
- 3.- A few minutes from Pilar de la Horadada there is an interesting choice of golf courses.
- 4.- Afternoons are usually given over to relaxing and socializing on the terraces.
- 5.- The Duke of Palma sports pavilion in the sports facility.



LEISURE AND SPORTS

The land around Pilar de la Horadada allows the practice of all sorts of sports. You can take mountain bike trips of varying difficulty and length through nature. There are lanes and paths connecting the town with the estate of Pinar de Campoverde, offering trips through the countryside.

There are gentle, agreeable routes for family cycle outings and simply relaxed cycling, especially along the coast. There are several coastal routes suitable for walking or cycling which allow you to travel along the coast without danger, making stops at the beaches. We can add the Torre Balneotherapy Centre to this healthy tourism, with sun, sea and a varied Mediterranean diet.

There is also a route marked in the Nature Area of the Río Seco, next to a recreation ground

more than 20,000 metres square, camp sites and picnic places. This route goes along a riverbed of great ecological value.

Apart from the Rio Seco Route, there are various routes for ramblers, like the coastal route along the almost 5 Km. of shoreline that can be enjoyed with several promenades and boardwalks, making stops to gather information about the area with the aid of 5 information panels distributed along this interesting field-trip.

The members of the town's equestrian group enjoy horse riding in the open fields or among orange and lemon groves, remembering those old times when life had a different rhythm. In the town of Pilar de la Horadada, and in its populated areas as well, there are superb sporting facilities: football pitches, tennis courts, a rock wall for climbing, bowling track, indoor sport centre... where throughout the year several sport

events take place, like the annual tennis competition for junior players. Lo Romero Golf is a dream come true for golf lovers. With its 18 holes it offers rounds made pleasant with beautiful greens. The eighteenth hole is surrounded by water on an artificial island making it even more original and challenging.





1



3

- 1.-The festival groups fill the whole town with light and colour.
- 2.-Musicians accompany all the festivities in Pilar de la Horadada.
- 3.-The disembarkation of the Virgin of the Assumption in the port after her journey along the coast.
- 4.-One of the stages of Holy Week, a religious festivity which rouses fervour among the believers.
- 5.- The floral offering to the patron saint causes numerous people to gather in front of the church of Pilar de la Horadada so as to pay tribute.
- 6.-The Christ of the Eucharist, one of the most famous stages of Holy Week.



4



5



2

FIESTAS

The entire population of Pilar de la Horadada turns out for the celebrations. Tradition and popular excitement can be felt in the streets, for it is Holy Week or the Patron Saint fiestas. The Virgin of Pilar is venerated with offerings and parades in which the people in general show their devotion. As an epilogue, there is a thematic parade with floats and disguises.

In the San Isidro Pilgrimage, the route covers several kilometres and the people of Pilar go on foot, on horseback or in carriages to follow their Saint.

During Holy Week various processions take place, witness to the great devotion of the population and the wonderful carving of the sculptors like Sánchez Lozano who restored the work of Salzillo.

CALENDAR OF FIESTAS

JANUARY: Appearance of the Virgin, Three Kings parade, San Antonio Abad fiestas.

FEBRUARY: Carnival.

APRIL: Holy Week, with processions.

MAY: San Isidro Pilgrimage. Festivity with fair.

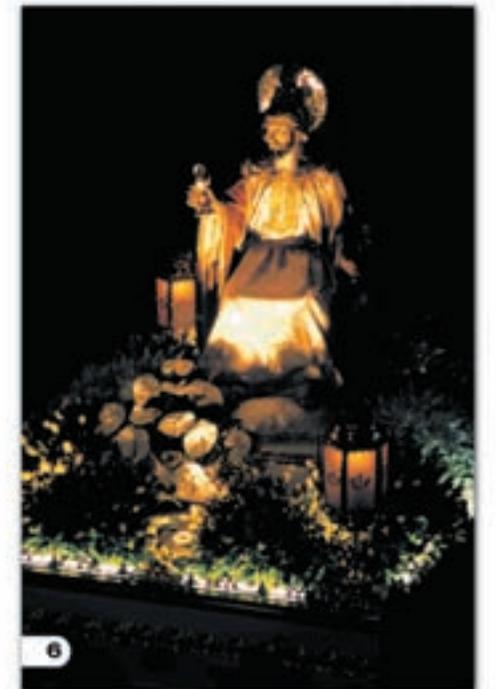
JUNE: San Juan Bonfires, with procession of the Saint and children's fiesta.

JULY: Segregation Fiesta.

AUGUST: Principal Fiestas in honour of Our Lady of the Assumption. Popular fiestas in Mil Palmeras and Pinar de Campoverde.

OCTOBER: Main fiesta of the Virgin of Pilar, with procession of floats.

DECEMBER: New Year's Eve in the Plaza de la Iglesia.



6



EDICIÓN 2010 / Fotos: © J. B. Ruiz - Ángel Fitor / N. M. B. I. E. N. T. A. L.



TOURIST-INFO:

C/. Carretillas, 19 · C.P. 03190
 Telf. 966 767 068 · Fax: 966 767 340
 E-mail: turismo@pilardelhoradada.org
 www.pilardelhoradada.org