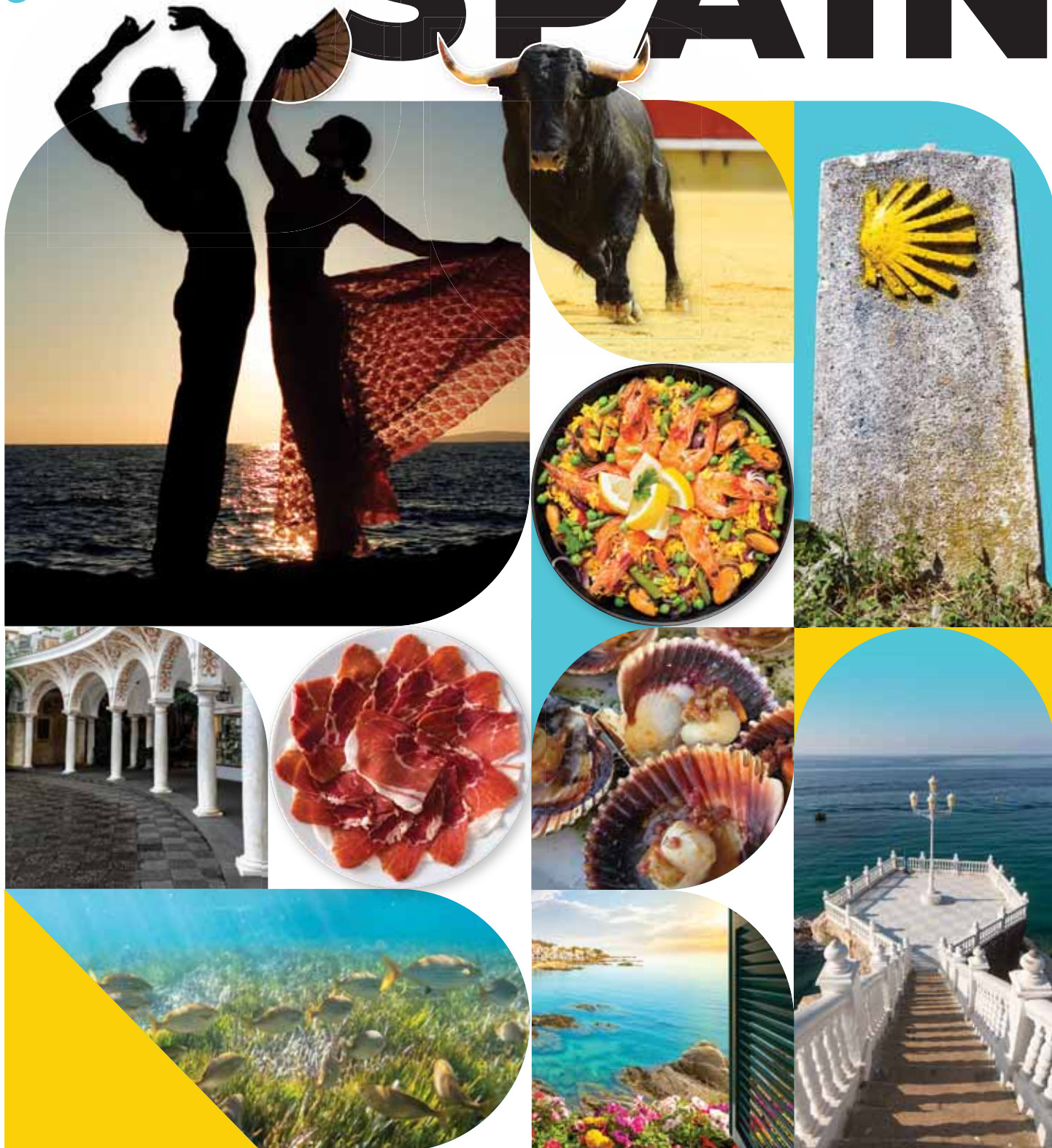


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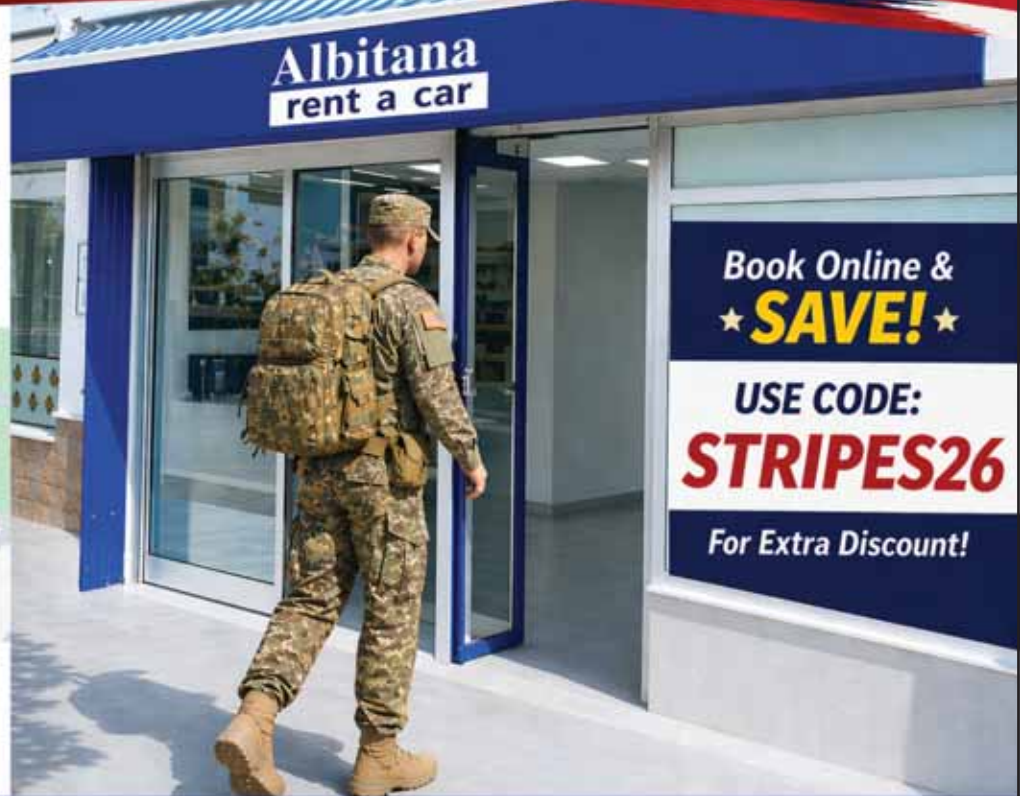
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All information current as of June 2026.

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Bldg. 178 - Gas Station

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WELCOME TO NAVSTA ROTA



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

112 is the emergency phone number throughout Europe.

To contact emergency services from NAVSTA Rota.

- **911** (on-base landline)
- **727-2911** (DSN or gov. cell phone)
- **956-82-2911** (off base/personal cell phone)

NAVAL STATION ROTA WEBSITE



READ THE NAVSTA ROTA BASE NEWSPAPER, THE COASTLINE.



PHONE INFORMATION



To call from on base use prefix **727**
To call from off base use prefix **956-82**
The country code for Spain is **+34**

In Spain, uniforms are not permitted to be worn off base.

INITIAL CHECK-IN

Active-duty service members must first report to their Command Admin. Their orders will be stamped, they will sign their arrival Page 13 and they will receive a check-in sheet with further instructions. They must also report to their Command and Pay/Personnel Administrator (CPPA) within two days of reporting.

Sailors with command-sponsored dependents must visit Base Administration (Bldg. 1, 2nd floor) to complete the command sponsorship requirements and get their shipped vehicles. See your Page 13 for more information.

LODGING

► **Navy Lodge** | 727-2643, 956-82-2643

► **Navy Gateway Inn and Suites**

727-1871, 956-82-1871

On-base lodging is only available for active-duty personnel and their families and for government personnel on orders.

GETTING AROUND

CAR RENTALS

• **NEX Car Rental** | 727-2675, 956-82-2675

Inside air terminal on base

Offer automatic (not stick shift) and manual vehicles, no extra fees for drivers aged 21–25, and monthly and weekly rates.

• **Albitana Rent a Car** | 956-064-061

Plaza del Triunfo 9, Rota

TAXIS

Taxis are often available outside of the NEX

► **Rota Taxi** | 965-84-0085

► **El Puerto de Santa Maria Taxi** | 956-85-8584

FREE SHUTTLE BUSES

One shuttle bus runs seven days a week between the Galley, Pier 1 and Camp Mitchell, adding the NEX at lunch and Liberty Center/ Gym in the evening.

A second shuttle bus runs Monday to Friday with the same stops, plus additional stops at the Fuentebrevia Gate, Bldg. 600, and the housing pool.

- Morning route: 6–8 a.m.
- Lunch route: 10:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
- Evening route: 3–6 p.m.

CHECK-IN AT THE SECURITY OFFICE

► **Bldg. 3262** | 956-82-3247

Soon after arrival, you must check in with the security office. Bring the following for all family members:

- ☐ No-fee passports
- ☐ Tourist passports (if available)
- ☐ DOD ID cards
- ☐ Orders
- ☐ Command sponsorship letter for dependents
- ☐ Command check-in sheet and the document listed on your Page 13
- ☐ Valid U.S. driver's license for any driver over age of 18

TEI CARD

Security will issue all sponsors and dependents over age 10 a TEI (tarjeta de identidad de extranjero) card. This is a Spanish ID card for foreigners. It is necessary for base access and to establish NEX and Commissary privileges.

DRIVER'S LICENSE TRANSLATION

Security will also issue all drivers over 18 a Spanish translation of their driver's license which allows you to drive in Spain for 60 days.

VALIDO STAMP

The "Valido" stamp is the common name for the stamp that all civilians, including dependents, receive that validates the duration of their assignment in Spain up to three years. Security will collect your no-fee passports, which will be validated and returned by Spanish immigration after receiving the stamp. This stamp is not required for active-duty personnel.



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NIE

You can apply for a Spanish Número de Identidad de Extranjero (NIE) while at the Security office. The number is required to sign rental contracts, cell phone or internet contracts, sign up for off-base activities, buy a used vehicle and other contractual arrangements within the Spanish economy. The application fee for an NIE is 10 euros, and Security will need to see your passport, DOD ID and TEI card. It typically takes 15–20 working days to receive the NIE.

► **FFSC | Bldg. 3293 | 956-82-3232**

Contact FFSC at 956-82-3232 or email usn.rotanavstarotasp.mbx.ffsc@us.navy.mil to register.

INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ORIENTATION COURSE (ICR)

A two-day, mandatory Intercultural Relations and Community Orientation Course (ICR) is offered at the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). A third day features an optional field trip to Rota to learn more about local culture, landmarks, and lifestyle. Registration is required and is typically done ahead of time by your sponsor. Uniform of the day is required for military personnel on the first two days of the course.

Who must attend?

- ✓ Active-duty service members
- ✓ Civilian employees
- ✓ Contractors
- ✓ Command-sponsored dependents over 18 years old

Childcare is provided for free at the Child Development Center (CDC) while parents attend the ICR class. It's helpful for your sponsor to reserve hourly care ahead of time and to fill out paperwork in advance. Call DSN 727-1100 or 956-82-1100 (from off base or personal cell phone) for details. You will be given a voucher to cover costs from the ICR instructor.

What is covered?

- Spain's history, geography and culture
- Spanish language basics
- Descriptions and briefings of base facilities, services and programs
- School information
- Hospital and TRICARE enrollment
- Driving information and Spanish license exam
- A tour of base facilities
- A field trip to downtown Rota



GROCERIES

► **Commissary | Bldg. 3300 B | 956-82-1266**

Commissary eligibility is limited to active-duty service members, American civilian employees and dependents on official orders who have been issued a TEI card. Personnel at Rota on temporary orders are also eligible once their orders have been stamped by Security.

Commissary hours:

- Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Saturday 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Sunday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Shopping at the mini-mart is open to anyone with a valid DOD ID.

Off-base grocery stores, or “supermercados” (typically closed on Sundays).

- Carrefour
- Mercadona
- Lidl
- Aldi
- Hipercor
- Dia
- El Jamon

BUDGET SHOPPING

Need an extra pan, cups or dishes at your temporary lodging? Forget something in your household goods? Here is where to find those budget needs.

• **The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Thrift Shop** is in Bldg. 3293 next to the chapel. They are open for shopping Mondays 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and Thursdays 3–6 p.m.

• The **FFSC Loaner Locker** has kits available for incoming families that include basic kitchen items to borrow for up to 30 days. The FFSC is in Bldg. 3293.

GUEST PASSES

Military members can escort up to four guests (U.S. or Spanish) on base for social visits of less than 24 hours.

Visit the Security Office to get long-term base passes for friends or family. Sponsors must accompany guests at all times on base. Non-U.S. guests will need to provide a copy of their passport and EU stamp if they are from outside the EU.

► **Security Office | Bldg. 3262 | 956-82-3247**

- **Family passes** for visiting relatives, are valid for one-month periods and are renewable two times, for a maximum of three months. A maximum of four family passes can be requested at a time.
- **Friend passes** may be issued for a single day or weekend, or a one-time pass can be issued that allows the visitor on base up to 30 individual days within 12 months.



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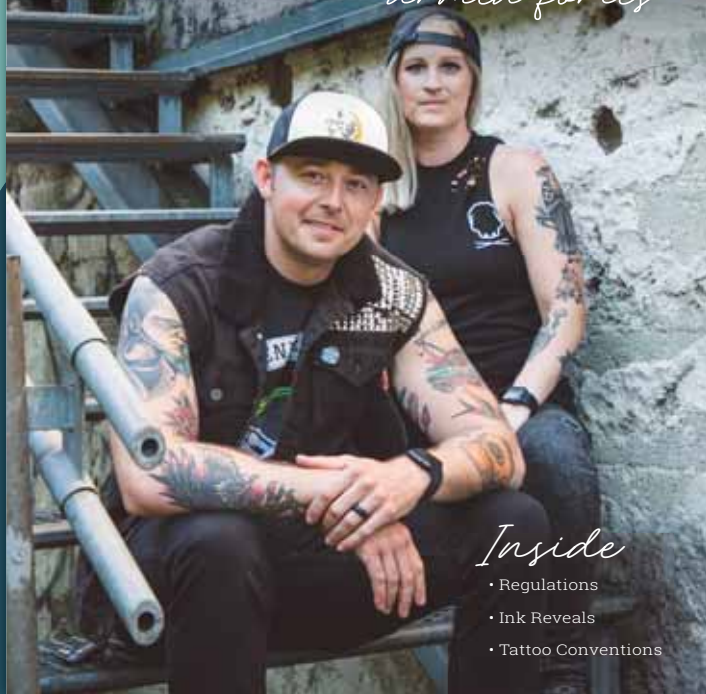


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stripes.com/epaper/special-publications/tattoo

continued from page 8

BANKING

INTERNATIONAL BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER (IBAN)

While living in Spain it can be helpful to get a European bank account with an International Bank Account Number (IBAN) for paying rent, getting cash euros or setting up cell phone and internet services.

Banks offering IBAN accounts

► BBVA | 956-81-6100

The employees at the on-base BBVA speak English and can help with IBAN setup and setting up bill payments. The office is located in the Spanish part of the base.

► WISE | wise.com

Wise is a mobile multi-currency online bank that can offer IBAN accounts via its website or app.

AMERICAN BANKING

NEX Customer Service will exchange dollars or U.S. checks for euros at the current exchange rate without additional fees.

► Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU)

Bldg. 1 | 1-888-842-6328

NFCU offers consistent services for sailors and their families stationed at Rota. To get euros with your NFCU account, members can withdraw from ATMs (subject to fee) or get a cashier's check that can be taken to the NEX. They offer international wire transfers which can help with car buying and rent payments. They also offer loans for European vehicles.

ATM LOCATIONS

NFCU ATMs dispense dollars.

- Inside the NFCU office in Bldg. 1
- Outside the La Plaza
- Outside the NEX

Spanish ATMs dispense euros (for a fee).

- Inside the Commissary
- Outside the NEX
- Outside the NMCRS Thrift Shop
- At the BBVA on the Spanish side of base

LEGAL SERVICES

► Legal Office | Bldg. 3293 | 956-82-2531

Your Navy Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) is available for a variety of legal assistance. They help with powers of attorney, notary services, wills and estate planning, medical directives, Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA), and other counseling for both American and Spanish legal cases.

Special Powers of Attorney

To draft a special power of attorney, visit jag.navy.mil/legal-services/special-power-of-attorney. It will then need to be signed in front of a notary at the RLSO office. Email rota.notary@eu.navy.mil for an appointment, or walk in on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.

NAVY EXCHANGE (NEX)

► NEX | Bldg. 3300 | 956-82-2391

- Main store open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Mini-Mart open Monday to Saturday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Main store eligibility

Only active duty on orders, and their command-sponsored dependents, may shop at the main NEX store.

Personnel from visiting ships, flights or on TDY/TAD must have their orders stamped at the main gate or at Security and show those orders when making purchases. Permanent party personnel and their dependents must show their TEI card.

Mini-mart and Consumables

All military ID card holders may shop at the mini-mart and in the adjacent and labeled 'consumables' section of the NEX. This includes active-duty members or families on vacation and personnel from visiting ships who have not had orders stamped.

Service Providers and Mall Shops

All military ID card holders have access to NEX service providers and mall shops.

- Barber & Beauty shops
- Optical Shop
- Janz Medical
- Military Auto Sales
- Laundry & Dry cleaning
- Tailor
- Spanish Gift Shop
- Portrait Studio
- Cellphone Store

Food court

The NEX food court is open for everyone.

GATEWAY GALLEY

► Bldg 38 | 956-82-1655

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GET TO KNOW ROTA



By Kat Nickola

People have been living in the coastal area around Rota since prehistoric times. The first settlement was called Astaroth and was established by the local Tartessian culture. Later, in 1100 BC, the seafaring Phoenicians built up the town and port as part of their large trade network around the Mediterranean. The Iberian Peninsula became part of the Roman empire in the 200s BC during which time the city's name was changed to "Speculum Rotae."

Castillo de Luna

After the area was subsumed by the Muslim caliphate in the 700s, a fortress, or *rabat*, was built. The city around the fort became known as *Rabat Ruta*, and it grew in size. You can still visit the location of the fortress today in downtown Rota and see some of the original wall murals in the beautiful courtyard. It suffered damage through numerous military campaigns, especially during fighting between Muslim and Christian forces of the 1200s. Once Muslim occupants were expelled, the Spanish king gifted the region to Guzman the Great and built a new castle upon the old fort in 1295. Called *Castillo de Luna*, it was the property of the Dukes of Arcos, the Ponce de León family who governed the area until the last descendant died in 1780. Nowadays, the original Islamic-inspired architecture has been restored and the building houses Rota's City Hall.

Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O

In 1537, work was completed on the parish church of Our Lady of the O. It is an interesting combination of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles that reflect many time periods of renovation and addition. Our Lady of the O refers to the biblical Mary when she was expecting Jesus' birth. The O antiphons (evening chants) are affiliated with her feast day, Dec. 18. Inside the church, are five chapels that contain ornate religious images that are paraded during holy processions throughout the year. The oldest and most revered is Our Lady of the Rosary, the patron saint of Rota.



OPPOSITE PAGE: The beach in Rota

THIS PAGE: Castilla de Luna, pumpkin sculptures, Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O interior, Semana Santa procession

Calabaza

When walking around the small streets of downtown Rota, look for the 150 pumpkin sculptures that adorn buildings and fountains. They were installed by the group *Intervenciones Artísticas de Rotato* to honor the local produce. Both tomatoes and pumpkins came to Spain from their colonial outposts in the Americas and were found to grow well in the Rota area. The *calabaza* (pumpkin) is so well-loved that it has come to represent Rota.

La Playa

In the summertime, the beaches around Rota attract throngs of local Spanish families and tourists. While parking lots may be full, bars and restaurants loud with vacationers and revelers staying up late into the night, the actual beaches are big enough to handle the influx. Except for one small rocky point, you can walk the 16km north from Rota to Chipiona on a sandy expanse of beach. The *Playa de la Costilla* is adjacent to the old town of Rota and has a very popular promenade that extends northward from the port and its lighthouse.

Fiestas

There are reasons to celebrate all year in Rota. Kick off the celebratory season by dressing up for *Carnaval* and attending the parades. Holy Week, or *Semana Santa* is next on the calendar and is a much more penitential celebration with religious processions beginning on Good Friday. At the beginning of May, the *Feria de Primavera* welcomes spring in typical Andalusian style with flamenco, horse carts and a fun, noisy fair. The *Fiesta de San Juan* in June has a unique tradition of bonfires on the beach and the burning of *juanillos* dolls. Urta, the local favorite fish, is celebrated with a four-day performance festival in August. In October, *Our Lady of the Rosary*, the patron saint of Rota is paraded from the church through town as part of a four-day festival in her honor. ■



welcome to MORÓN AB

Morón Air Base (AB) is a small Air Force base situated southeast of Seville, Spain.

ON-BASE EMERGENCIES

Cell phone | +34-955-84-8117

DSN or base phone | 9-117

PHONE INFORMATION

Off base / cell phone: +34 955-84-xxxx

DSN: +314 722-xxxx

On base: 722-xxxx

WELCOME KIT



ORIENTATION

Upon arrival to Morón you will attend a Right Start newcomers orientation at "The Spot." All active duty and dependents (including children) are encouraged to come. The first day involves a tour of the base and an introduction to base agencies. The optional second day involves a historical and cultural tour of the area.

KEY SERVICES

Force Support | Bldg. 319 | 955-84-8624

For details about base activities and to read the monthly "Morón Living" magazine, visit www.moronforcesupport.com.

Military Family Readiness Center (MFRC)

Bldg. 106 | 955-84-8403

The MFRC has kitchen kits available to borrow, and helps organize trips, volunteer opportunities and local cultural programs.

Key Spouse Program

496abskeyspouse@gmail.com

Key Spouses help run Morón's volunteer program, What's App community groups and can help you figure out how to use your skills in this small community.

Library Rec Center | Bldg. 320 | 955-84-8024

The library has meetups and clubs throughout the week.

NEXMART | Bldg. 107 | 955-84-8592

- Open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- NEXMART open Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Gas Station closed Saturday-Sunday

Let the NEXMART know if you have any specific stocking requests.

Atta Car Rental | Bldg. 320

- Open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Post Office | Bldg. 106 | 955-84-8267

- Open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Pick up window 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Mail out window 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

KIDS

School Liaison Officer (SLO)

Bldg. 106 | 955-84-8044

Morón does not have child or youth programs, however, the SLO supplies community families with a seasonal package that includes local Spanish activities with sign up information. The SLO helps parents find and enroll young kids in local Spanish daycare. In addition, the SLO can help your family make the best choice of schooling while stationed at Morón.

High School Students

There is no high school at Morón. High school students can ride a bus to Rota High School (90 minutes each way), attend a local Spanish public school, homeschool or pay for private schooling.

Seville Elementary Middle School

Bldg. 314 | 955-84-8164

With roughly 30 students in grades K-8, the school is one of the smallest DoWEA schools in the world. The school offers students a great opportunity for individualized education that can help close educational gaps. Clubs at the school are open to all kids stationed at Morón, not just those enrolled.

► **School Website:** sevillaams.dodea.edu.

► **Registration:** www.dodea.edu/registration.



HOUSING

Housing Office | Bldg. 106 | 955-84-8156

Unaccompanied personnel ranked E-4 with under three years of service will be assigned a room in the dorms.

Accompanied personnel may choose to live on or off base. There are a small number of stand-alone homes available on base with a short walk to the school. Most people live off base and you can search www.homes.mil for available rentals. The housing office will assist you with finding a home, setting up utilities, answering banking questions, delivering loaner furniture and appliances and translation services.

MEDICAL

There is a small clinic available for active duty only. All personnel and their dependents will be using TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) for health insurance purposes, enabling them to see local Spanish providers.

TRICARE International SOS | +34-900-81-2193

- The Viamed Hospital Santa Angela de la Cruz has English translators on staff at the hospital.
- The Naval Hospital at Rota is roughly 90 minutes away. ■

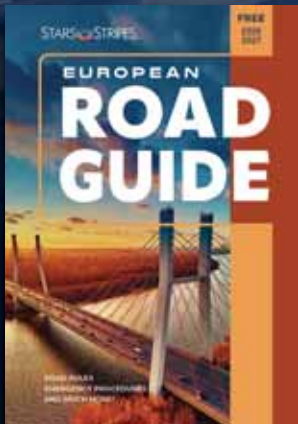
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welcome to NSE MADRID

Welcome the the U.S. National Support Element (NSE) in Madrid. Madrid is a vibrant and lively city known for its rich history, stunning architecture and unbeatable nightlife. As Spain's capital, it offers a mix of modern convenience and traditional charm, making it an exciting place to live.

Weather

- Hot summers (95–104°F in July/August)
- Mild winters (41–59°F, some cold nights)
- Spring and fall are the best seasons with perfect weather for exploring.

Mealtimes

- Lunch at 2–4 p.m.
- Dinner at 9–11 p.m.

Festivals

- San Isidro in May
- La Paloma in August
- Christmas markets in December

NSE MADRID WELCOME GUIDE



TRANSPORTATION

Madrid has a well-developed and efficient transportation system that includes metro, buses, commuter trains, taxis, and bicycles. Here are the primary modes of transportation in the city:

Metro de Madrid: One of the largest metro networks in Europe, with 12 lines and over 300 stations.

EMT Buses: Operated by Empresa Municipal de Transportes (EMT), covering the entire city with over 200 routes.

Cercanías Madrid: Commuter trains operated by Renfe, connecting Madrid with nearby cities and suburbs.

Taxis & Ridesharing: Ridesharing services like Uber, Cabify and Bolt operate in Madrid.

BiciMAD: A public electric bike rental system with over 200 stations across Madrid.

Car Sharing & Scooters: Companies like Zity, Free2Movie and Wible provide electric car-sharing services. Electric scooters from Lime, Bird and Dott are available for short trips.

NSE KEY SERVICES

Medical Care | You will need to register with TRI-CARE Overseas for medical coverage. There is no requirement to designate a PCM. However, you must request an authorization for each doctor visit by calling, e-mailing or using the MyCare Overseas app.

Dental care is handled by United Concordia (part of Tricare Overseas) with a similar process that requires the provider to have an Appointment Control Number for each appointment.

Housing | All housing is procured from the local economy. Housing office staff, working with your sponsor, will make recommendations for you to book your Temporary Lodging based on the facilities you require (pets, size of family, etc..) so that you can remain within your Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) limit. To facilitate your housing hunt, the staff will link you with local realtors who serve as military personnel advocates with local landlords. All inbound personnel are advise of the need to have funds on hand for up-front temporary lodging payments and rental housing deposits associated with this assignment.

The Housing Office will assist you with finding a home, drafting your lease agreement, delivering loaner furniture and appliances (if desired), and any translation services you will need regarding home or utilities; as well as helping with any housing-related issues.

MWR | Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) provides numerous community recreation, fitness and entertainment opportunities. MWR also maintains a library and offers free check-out gear.

KIDS

When choosing a home location, consider the bus travel time your kids will experience on the way to the school as compared to commuting time to the sponsor's work location in the CAOC-TJ at Torrejón AB.

Kindergarten–High School

If you have school-age children eligible for American kindergarten through high school, there are a lot of great options including the American School of Madrid, International College Spain, Brewster Madrid, additional private school options or local Spanish schools. Most schools will have Spanish lessons as part of the curriculum.

- The Non-DOW Schools Program (NDSP) website has a list of pre-approved schools at www.dodea.edu/non-dow-schools.

Preschool Options

Any schooling for children younger than 4 years old is at your own expense.

NDSP will pay for Pre-K starting at 4 years old. Most formal pre-school options for children under 5 years old are five-day a week programs. ■





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welcome to NSE VALENCIA

The U.S. National Support Element (NSE) is located on a Spanish Army base in Betera, just 20 km northwest of Valencia, Spain. It provides support to U.S. personnel serving in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Rapid Deployable Corps Headquarters (NRDC-SP) and limited military retiree services to U.S. veterans living in the local area.

The NRDC-SP mission is to deploy as a crisis response unit or provide collective defense. It is comprised primarily of members of the Spanish Army and nine NATO countries. The U.S. contingent is 16 U.S. Army officers, one U.S. Air Force officer and four U.S. Army NCOs.



VALENCIA

Valencia is the third largest city in Spain, with a population of roughly 841,000 in the city limits, and 1.6 million in the entire metropolitan area. The port of Valencia is the fifth busiest container port in Europe, and the busiest on the Mediterranean Sea.

The city is a tourist destination due to its mild climate, beaches, nightlife, attractions like museums, zoo and the largest aquarium in Europe. It is also famous for the Fallas (Fireworks/Burning of Statues) festival in March. The city has excellent public transportation, including an extensive metro system that extends into the suburbs with a station in Bétera. We are confident that you will have a memorable and rewarding experience working and living in Valencia, Spain.

ORIENTATION

As access to this Army/NATO base is restricted, early communication with the NSE Valencia leadership team is critical. You must coordinate with the NSE prior to arriving in Valencia to process essential documents and gain approval for base access.

During in-processing, your unit-assigned sponsor will be critical to facilitating your integration into your assigned unit and accessing services from the NSE and base agencies. The NSE will expedite your settling into the community and will schedule you to attend a Welcome to Valencia brief to help you integrate into the local community. All active duty service members and spouses are encouraged to attend this invaluable briefing.

NSE KEY SERVICES

Housing | All housing is procured from the local economy. Housing office staff, working with your sponsor, will make recommendations for you to book your Temporary Lodging based on the facilities you require (pets, size of family, etc.) so that you can remain within your Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) limit. To facilitate your housing hunt, the staff will link you with local realtors who serve as military personnel advocates with local landlords. All inbound personnel are advised of the need to have funds on hand for up-front temporary lodging payments and rental housing deposits associated with this assignment.

Transportation Liaison | The Personal Property Shipping Office (PPSO) at Rota Naval Station processes all Unaccompanied Baggage, Household Goods and Personally Owned Vehicle shipments into and out of Spain.

Health Benefits | The Health Benefit Advisor provides key information to secure medical and dental support on the economy and helps resolve any challenges in navigating the TRICARE Overseas Prime Remote and United Concordia systems overseas for authorizations and reimbursements.



Morale, Welfare and Recreation | MWR provides numerous community recreation, fitness and entertainment opportunities. MWR also maintains a library and offers free check-out gear.

Travel & Finances | Processes TDY vouchers and authorizations for NATO funded travel for Army personnel.

Non-DOW Schools Program Liaison (LNO)
There are no DoWEA schools in Valencia, so students must attend an international school, private school, Spanish school, boarding school or be homeschooled. The Non-DOW Schools Program (NDSP) will defray costs. Find more details at www.dodea.edu/non-dow-schools.

Post Office | Provides mailroom services for the U.S. military community and retirees.

MEDICAL

Although there are excellent hospitals nearby, certain medical examinations and testing must be made via appointment at the Naval Hospital in Rota, Spain which is a seven-hour drive away by car. ■



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welcome to NSE LISBON

This U.S. National Support Element (NSE) is located on a small NATO base located at the Reduto Gomes Freire (Gomes Freire Redoubt) in Oeiras, just west of Lisbon, Portugal. It provides support to U.S. personnel serving within any of four North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) units in the Lisbon Area and limited military retiree services to U.S. veterans living in continental Portugal.



ORIENTATION

As access to this NATO base is restricted, early communication with the NSE is critical. You must coordinate with the NSE prior to arriving in Lisbon to process essential documents and gain approval for base access.

During in-processing, your unit-assigned sponsor will be critical to facilitating your integration into your assigned unit and accessing services from the NSE and base agencies. The NSE will expedite your settling into the community and will schedule you to attend an Orientation to the Lisbon Area (OLA) brief to help you integrate into the local community. All active duty and spouses are encouraged to attend this invaluable briefing.

NSE KEY SERVICES

Housing | All housing is procured from the local economy. Housing office staff, working with your sponsor, will make recommendations for you to book your Temporary Lodging based on the facilities you require (pets, size of family, etc.) so that you can remain within your Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) limit. To facilitate your housing search, the staff will link you with local realtors who serve as military personnel advocates with local landlords. All inbound personnel are advised of the need to have funds on

hand for up-front temporary lodging payments and rental housing deposits associated with this assignment.

Security Management | Processes security certificates for you to work in NATO.

Transportation | The Personal Property Shipping Office (PPSO) processes all Unaccompanied Baggage, Household Goods and Personally Owned Vehicle shipments into and out of Portugal.

Health Benefits | The Health Benefit Advisor provides essential guidance to help personnel and families access medical and dental care while assigned to the Lisbon area. The advisor assists with navigating TRICARE Overseas Program options, coordinating authorizations, and resolving issues with claims and referrals through TRICARE Overseas and United Concordia.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation | MWR provides numerous community recreation, fitness and entertainment opportunities. MWR also maintains a library, recreational facility and offers free check-out gear.

Navy Pay and Personnel Administration | Handles pay, travel, etc. for Navy personnel.

DEERS and RAPIDS processing | Schedules and issues active-duty military, military retiree and dependent identification cards.

School and Community Liaison Officer (SLO/CLO) | As there are no DoWEA schools in Portugal, the SLO helps community families find the best fit for their school-aged children's (Pre-K–12th grade) education needs from among the many international and vocational schools in the Lisbon area. The high cost of tuition and transportation is absorbed by the Non-DOW Schools Program (NDSP). For more information please visit: www.dodea.edu/non-dow-schools

The CLO helps service members and their families integrate into the local community by sharing essential Portuguese cultural information and disseminating regulatory requirements.

Although English is widely spoken in Portugal, the CLO helps service members and their families with emergency translation by phone and/or interfaces with Portuguese authorities on their behalf.

Galp Fuel Program | The NSE manages this discount fuel program for U.S. assigned personnel.

Post Office | Provides mailroom services for the U.S. military community.

OTHER LISBON AREA FACILITIES

Navy Exchange (NEX) | The NEXMART is located inside the U.S. Embassy grounds in Lisbon. The NSE will process a NATO Privilege Card once you arrive which you will need to access the embassy compound.

Open Monday - Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MEDICAL

Routine medical and dental care in the Lisbon area is provided through approved civilian network providers. If care at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) is required, the nearest facility is Naval Hospital Rota, Spain, located approximately six hours away by car. All MTF appointments will be coordinated through Naval Hospital Rota. ■



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TRANSPORTAT

IN SPAIN

CUSTOMS-TAX-FREE VEHICLES

Personnel on PCS orders can own one tax-free U.S. spec vehicle. U.S. spec vehicles shipped from the States or purchased new in Spain must be registered within your first six months. There is no time limit to buy a used U.S. spec vehicle.

Your one tax-free U.S. spec vehicle may be:

- Shipped from the U.S.
- Used and purchased from another U.S. service member stationed in Spain.
- New and purchased from Military Auto Sales.

VAT-FREE VEHICLES

Active duty and government employees, or their dependents, may also own a second tax-free vehicle that has EU, or U.S. specifications.

Contractors will need to pay value-added tax (VAT) on vehicle purchases.

DRIVER'S LICENSES

When you arrive in Spain, check in at the Security Office to receive a translation of your U.S. driver's license. This allows you to drive in Spain for 60 days.

Security Office | Bldg. 3262 | 956-82-3247

- ▶ On the final day of your ICR orientation course, you will be given instructions on Spanish driving laws and take the driver's license test.
- ▶ The Security Office will submit your application for a Spanish driver's license after you pass the exam. It can take up to two months to receive the physical license after this application is sent. In the meantime, you will be issued a temporary Spanish license that is valid for six months.
- ▶ A Spanish driver's license is valid in all EU member countries.
- ▶ If you drive outside the EU, you will need an International Driving Permit (IDP) which is available from AAA. See www.aaa.com for details.
- ▶ Upon completion of your tour in Spain, you will be required to return your EU driver's license as it will no longer be valid after departing.

Who may drive in Spain?

- Drivers over 18 years old with a valid U.S. driver's license.
- Youth ages 15–18 may obtain a permit to drive a scooter (50cc or less) or micro-car. Visit the Safety Office to apply for this program.

MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENTS

A motorcycle endorsement can be added to a Spanish driver's license, when it is annotated on their U.S. driver's license. Active-duty motorcycle riders must take a motorcycle safety course. Sign up at navymotorcyclerider.com.

▶ Under 500cc

If your U.S. driver's license motorcycle endorsement is less than two years old, you will be limited to operating motorcycles powered at 500cc or lower.

▶ Over 500cc

If your U.S. driver's license has a motorcycle endorsement over two years old, you may operate motorcycles powered above 500cc. For those with recently renewed licenses, the original, U.S. driver's license (or a copy), or a written letter from your state DMV verifying the initial date of your motorcycle endorsement can also be used as proof.

SHIPPED VEHICLES

Before shipping your vehicle from the U.S., do not deregister it. If shipping from another OCONUS location, request a 'military registration.'

It is important that your vehicle arrives in Spain with a valid U.S. (or other location) registration and is equipped with metal or hard plastic (not paper or cardboard) license plates. This will allow you to drive the vehicle while waiting for the Spanish registration process, which can take four to six weeks. Without valid registration or plates, you will not be able to drive your vehicle or retrieve it from the VPC until the Spanish registration is completed.

Steps to pick up and register your vehicle:

1. You will receive an email from the Vehicle Processing Center (VPC) when your vehicle arrives. It must be picked up within 45 days of receiving this notification.

2. Make an appointment for a vehicle inspection (ITV) at the NEX Autoport.

Auto Port | Bldg. 178

956-82-2454 ITV | 956-2450

3. Check-in with the Security office and provide the following documents.

- ✓ Valid U.S. (or previous location) registration, with matching license plates on the vehicle
- ✓ Valid insurance on the vehicle in Spain, in the form of an International Certificate of Vehicle Insurance, or 'green card' (USAA and GEICO can provide a Spanish version)
- ✓ TEI card
- ✓ PCS orders
- ✓ Valid U.S. driver's license with Spanish translation
- ✓ DOD ID
- ✓ Proof of ITV appointment

4. You will receive a bill for the registration fee of roughly 100 euros that needs to be taken to the BBVA on the Spanish side of base and paid to the bank (in cash or credit card).

5. At the Security Office you will receive customs documents, a release letter, and a vehicle permit (conduce) that allows you to drive with U.S. plates until your Spanish registration is complete in four to six weeks.

6. Visit the VPC to pick up your vehicle with the following documents.

- Release letter from Security Office
- DOD ID
- Power of Attorney (if the service member cannot pick up the vehicle)

VPC | Avenida Isaac Newton 10, El Puerto De Santa Maria

7. Take your vehicle to the ITV appointment. Once the ITV is passed, you will receive an ITV confirmation form, which will need to be submitted to the Security Office.
8. After four to six weeks, return to the Security Office to pick up your Spanish registration. You will also need to go back to the NEX Autoport to have your EU license plates prepared.

ION

PURCHASED VEHICLES

If you choose to buy a new or used vehicle while in Spain, it will need to be inspected and registered.

INSPECTION

- ▶ U.S. spec vehicles must have their ITV done on base at the NEX Autoport.
- ▶ EU spec vehicles may have their ITV done either on or off base.

REGISTRATION

Register at the Security Office (Vehicle Registration Section) with the following paperwork.

- Valid current Spanish registration
- Valid insurance on the vehicle in Spain, in the form of an International Certificate of Vehicle Insurance, or 'green card' (USAA and GEICO can provide a Spanish version)
- TEI card
- Spanish driver's license or valid U.S. driver's license with Spanish translation
- DOD ID
- Passing ITV

FUEL

Only personnel and dependents with a TEI on stamped orders may fuel their registered vehicle on base at the NEX gas station or use the auto services. You can now prepay before using the pump to save time. Car detailing is open to anyone with base access.

GAS CARD

NEX Gas Station | 956-82-3759

Visit the NEX Customer Service Center to sign up for the gas card program. This allows you to purchase tax-free fuel from CEPESA gas stations across Spain.

- 200 liters of tax-free fuel may be purchased monthly.
- It takes roughly three months to receive your card.

INSURANCE

In Spain, third-party liability insurance is mandatory. It must cover bodily injury, liability of at least €50,000,000, and property damage of at least €75,000,000.

You must have an International Certificate of Vehicle Insurance, also called a green card, as proof of insurance if insured via an American company. You may also choose to use Spanish car insurance. Keep a copy inside your vehicle.

ITV

Spanish vehicle inspections are required upon arrival and dependent on time in country. U.S. Spec vehicles must be inspected at the car care center on base. EU vehicles may be inspected either on or off base.

CHILD SEATS

- ▶ **Rear-facing seats** are required for children up to 18 months old and less than 28 pounds.
- ▶ **Forward-facing seats** are required for children 18 months to 4 years old, and 20–40 pounds.
- ▶ **Booster seats** are required for children 3 to 12 years old and 33–80 pounds.
- ▶ **Children 12 years and older**
 - Under 53 inches tall, they must use a size-appropriate restraint device in the back seat.
 - Over 53 inches tall, they are permitted in the front seat. ■

▼ Valencia



HOUSING

IN SPAIN



The Housing Service Center (HSC) is your first stop when it comes to finding housing in Rota. Stop by the Family Housing office within 30 days of arrival if you are interest in getting on the waitlist for on-base housing.

- Accompanied personnel with families may choose whether to live in base housing or find a home off base.
- Unaccompanied personnel above E-4 may choose to live on or off base.
- Unaccompanied personnel E-4 and below are required to live on base in the unaccompanied housing facilities. E-4 Sailors with more than four years of service may request authorization from their chain of command to live off base.

BASE HOUSING

There is housing on base for both families and unaccompanied Sailors.

FAMILY HOUSING

Family Housing Office | Bldg. 163
727-1345, 956-82-1345

On-base family housing is situated away from the main base facilities in a community called Las Palmeras. The community has single-story duplex homes with carports and fenced backyards. They range from two to four bedrooms and extra storage is limited.

It is helpful to apply for housing ahead of time using the Housing Early Assistance Tool (HEAT) at www.cnic.navy.mil/HEAT. If you did use HEAT, you must still visit the Family Housing Office to

confirm your interest within the first 30 days of your arrival to get on the waitlist. HEAT does not determine your position on a waitlist if there is one.

Community benefits

- Walking distance to DoWEA schools and youth programs.
- Seasonal outdoor pool.
- Playgrounds, paths, pet-friendly park.
- 110-volt (American) electrical outlets.
- Central heat and air conditioning.
- Oven, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, washer and dryer are included in your home.
- Two pets (dog and/or cat) are permitted.
- Fiber optic internet service, with an on-base DSN telephone line, is available from Telefonica (located in the NEX).

UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING (UH)

Bldg. 35 | 727-2590, 956-82-2590

Single and unaccompanied personnel E-4 and below must check in at the UH office to be assigned barracks. The barracks are made up of both private and shared rooms with shared bathrooms. Units have refrigerators and microwaves with washers and dryers available in common areas.

Wi-Fi internet service is offered in the barracks via Telefonica (located in the NEX). With your account, you can also use the base Wi-Fi with a private connection.

OFF-BASE HOUSING

The HSC will help you find a property off base and sign your lease agreement. The following steps outline the house-hunting process.

HOUSING SERVICE CENTER (HSC)

Bldg. 1960 | 727-2398/2698, 956-82-2398/2698

1. Check-in at the HSC to request the virtual Housing Brief. This can also be requested at rotahousing@us.navy.mil.
2. Once you've decided to live off base, stop by the HSC and inform them of your intention.
 - Bring a copy of your orders and signed Page 13.
 - Be prepared to sign documents verifying you understand the process.
 - HSC will provide you a Housing Referral Record to record your interactions with runners and any tours you have taken.
3. Search for available houses and go on tours.
 - HSC has a list of available properties or you can see them on www.homes.mil. You can also contact a "runner," which is an approved local real estate expert.
 - Note the ID number of properties you are interested in and bring them to the HSC. They will verify that the homes are available and can provide you contact information to schedule a tour with the landlord.
 - Please note that you must complete at least three tours every 10 days to receive Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA).

4. Once you've found a property, contact the HSC and request a pre-contract. Fill out the pre-contract and send it back to the HSC. This form helps HSC prepare your lease agreement within 48 hours and places your selected home on hold.
5. Sign the lease; it will be for a minimum of one year. Both you and the landlord must sign the lease and fill out a move-in inspection form.
6. Return the lease to HSC. After that, the HSC will provide you paperwork to give to your command CPPA to begin your allowances and process your TLA claim. The HSC will also refer you to the Housing Appliance Warehouse for loaner furniture and appliances as needed.

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

The area around NAVSTA Rota has a large variety of homes, and the location you choose should be dependent on your family and lifestyle. Here are a few things to consider when visiting potential houses.

- Areas nearest to beaches will experience an influx of Spanish vacationers during the summer months. During this time, expect more noise late into the night, busy restaurants and difficulty shopping.
- Visit the home at night to see if the area is busy or loud in the evening.
- Be sure your home includes an assigned parking spot, and that it will be labeled with a "Vado" sign for your license plate. Measure the parking space to verify your vehicle will fit.
- Make sure your pets have adequate space and that the landlord approves pets in the home.
- Verify the rental payment method.
- Rent is set; however, other items can be negotiated.
- Two air-conditioning units are required. You can negotiate more.
- You can negotiate an awning for sunny patios.
- Garden and yard services cannot be negotiated into the lease.
- All negotiations should happen before shaking hands with the landlord. **A verbal agreement is valid in Spain.**

Rota—Apartments, townhouses, duplexes. Walking distance to the beach, restaurants and shopping. Near to the base, but heavily affected by summer beachgoing tourists.

El Puerto de Santa María—Suburban-style single-family homes with larger yards in established-planned communities. Will primarily require driving to restaurants, shops and restaurants.

Chipiona—Single-family, duplex and townhouse homes that tend to have more space or larger yards. Walkable to beach, restaurants and shopping, but affected by summer tourists.

Sanlúcar de Barrameda—Large homes for less rent. Can be urban or rural, near to the beach. Far from the base and will most likely require parents to drive students to DoWEA schools or bus stops.

Rural Homes—Large, typical Spanish homes with big yards and quiet rural locations are available outside of communities. They will require driving to all services and can be near or far from the base.

OVERSEAS HOUSING ALLOWANCE (OHA)

Your OHA for Spain is determined by pay grade and number of dependents. Visit travel.dod.mil/Allowances for an OHA calculator.

It is recommended that you find a home priced within your OHA. This allows for fluctuations in the euro to dollar exchange rate. It is allowable to sign a lease over your OHA; however, you will be required to sign a memo acknowledging this choice.

Rental Payment Options

- The NEX Customer Service department offers a bill pay program that makes it easy to get rent and utilities paid. Rent can be paid with any credit card, debit card, check or cash. It is also possible to have a credit card saved on file so rent payments can be made while deployed or on TAD.
- Spanish bank transfer using an IBAN number. Most banks allow this to be set up automatically.

- Cash. This is not common, and it is not recommended. But, some landlords still request cash. Be sure to get a receipt.

LOANER FURNITURE

All incoming families are authorized free loaner furniture like beds, tables, lamps, cribs and couches for up to 90 days. This allows you to move into your new home before your household goods arrive.

Kitchen items

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) has a free loan locker with kitchen items like pots, pans, small countertop appliances and silverware that can be checked out for 30 days.

Appliances

Many houses in Spain do not come with appliances installed. As such, personnel living off base are provided with free 220-volt loaner appliances and transformers for the duration of their tours. These include dishwashers, refrigerators, microwaves, stoves, freezer, washers, dryers and dehumidifiers. Talk to the HSC to obtain more information on this program.

UTILITIES

Your landlord is responsible for setting up your utilities. They will remain in the landlord's name, but it is important to establish what utilities are your responsibility to pay for and how you will pay. You may need to pay your landlord directly or pay the utility directly from a Spanish bank account with an IBAN. Expect to see the bill from the landlord prior to paying and be sure to get a receipt. ■

▼ Chipiona



HEALTHCARE

IN SPAIN

U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL ROTA

- ▶ Appointment Line: 727-3618/3620, 956-82-3618/3620
- ▶ Quarterdeck: 727-3305, 956-82-3305

The Naval Hospital on NAVSTA Rota is a small community hospital that provides medical care for active-duty Sailors and command-sponsored dependents. Military retirees, civilian employees and contractors are commonly seen, but are considered to be on a space-available basis.

The hospital offers standard patient services including primary care, pediatrics, lab work, radiology, obstetrics/gynecology, behavioral health and surgeries. There is an installation pharmacy. The hospital also offers some specialist care like audiology, orthopedics, physical therapy, dermatology and education and developmental intervention services.

Referrals off base will be coordinated with the translations team who can help guide and translate for you at appointments.

The hospital has a 24/7 emergency room.

911 (on-base landline)

727-2911 (DSN or government cell phone)

956-82-2911 (personal or off-base cell phone)

GIVING BIRTH

Mothers stationed at NAVSTA Rota typically deliver at the Naval Hospital where the labor and delivery unit is fully equipped to support both mother and baby. Services include both vaginal and cesarean (C-section) deliveries. High-risk pregnancies are referred to off-base medical facilities and newborns requiring specialized care are transferred to a local hospital with a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Expectant mothers receive comprehensive care throughout their pregnancy, including regular OB/GYN visits, as well as access to a nutrition counselor, lactation support, visiting nurses

and other base resources for new parents. The hospital also offers monthly classes covering pregnancy, labor and delivery, postpartum care, breastfeeding and newborn care basics.

DENTAL CARE

- ▶ Dental Appointments: 727-3733/3734, 956-82-3733/3734

The dental clinic is located inside the Naval Hospital Rota. All active-duty service members and their dependents are seen at the clinic for general dentistry, orthodontics and specialty appointments are available by referral.

It is not necessary to enroll in the TRICARE Dental plan by United Concordia in order to be seen at NAVSTA Rota's dental clinic. However, you will be responsible for any care you receive off-installation, to include emergency treatments.

- U.S. civilian employees and military retirees are seen on a space-available basis.

MENTAL HEALTH

Behavioral Health | 727-3408, 956-82-3408

The behavioral health services office at the Naval Hospital Rota offers psychological and psychiatric care including therapy, medication management and substance abuse treatment. To access services, request a referral from your primary care manager.

Fleet and Family Support Center | 727-3232, 956-82-3232

FFSC manages the Counseling & Advocacy Program (CAP) with non-medical counseling for all personnel on base including individuals, couples and families. FFSC also has new or expectant parent support classes and non-clinical therapy life-skills classes in topics like anger and stress management.

Chaplains | 727-2161, 956-82-2161

The chapel is a good place to start if you don't know where to go. They can help you find the resource that fits your needs. Chaplains offer counseling for all personnel regardless of religious preference. Discussions with chaplains are 100 percent confidential. In addition, the chapel offers retreats and classes in life skills, marriage and family topics and personal resiliency.

Military & Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)

MFLCs offer fee non-medical anonymous sessions with specialists for adolescents, children and families. Contact the MFLC via the DoWEA schools or Child and Youth Programs (CYP).

Military OneSource | 800-3429-6477

Confidential, short-term, non-medical counseling is offered for free via Military OneSource for active-duty members and their dependents. Visit www.militaryonesource.mil/non-medical-counseling to access options via phone, chat or video.

Military Crisis Line (MCL) is available 24/7 for free confidential mental health support.

- Call: 844-702-5495
- DSN: 988
- Text: 838255
- Online chat: www.veteranscrisisline.net ■



CELEBRATING HEALTHY GOALS

Sport has a proven, positive impact on both mental and physical health: it's a well-known fact supported by decades of evidence. That's why we're proud to stand alongside Cagliari Calcio as their jersey sponsor at the TST 2026 Tournament in Cary, NC. A celebration of intercultural friendship, teamwork, and true sportsmanship. Forza ragazzi!

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SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

MWR

www.navywmwrrota.com

Look for Rota MWR's monthly "VaMos!" magazine for upcoming activities, classes and events.



Community Recreation | Bldg. 48 | 956-82-2354

The Community Recreation office is your source for tickets and travel opportunities, outdoor recreation trips, equipment rental and community classes.

Classes | 956-82-2354

Outdoor Rec | 956-82-3101

Liberty Center | Bldg. 48 | 956-82-2527

Just for single or unaccompanied servicemembers, the Liberty Center is your place to relax and hang out, or enjoy their special events, classes and activities.

Fitness | Bldg. 44 | 956-82-2565

Rota has a fitness center with a family fitness room and option to get 24-hour access. There is an indoor pool across the street in Bldg. 45. A seasonal outdoor pool operates in the housing area.

Entertainment

Flix Theaters | Bldg. 3348 | 956-82-3709

Library | Bldg. 3306 | 956-82-2418

Pinz Bowling Alley | Bldg. 228 | 956-82-2112

Golf course | Bldg. 231 | 956-82-2260

Food and Beverage

MWR provides plenty of food and beverage options through Bomber's Fresh Mex (Bldg. 3348), Tower Pub (Bldg. 3348), Pizza Villa (Bldg. 49), Champions Bar (Bldg. 49), Gourmet Bean Fleet Café (Bldg. 3184) & Library Café (Bldg. 3306), and Pinz American Café (Bldg. 228).

FFSC

Bldg. 3293 | 727-3232, 956-82-3232

The Fleet and Family Services Center (FFSC) will be one of your first stops when arriving aboard NAVSTA Rota for the mandatory Inter-Cultural Relations (ICR) class. They also have resources designed to help you and your family while stationed at Rota.

- Field trips: Learn about shopping, eating at restaurants and local culture.
- Spanish language classes and Foreign Language Exchange (FLEX) program.
- Counseling and Advocacy Program (CAP): Abuse prevention and reaction, non-medical short-term counseling for all base personnel and dependents, and new parent support.
- Resume and interview skills, financial management, life skills classes.
- Transition Assistance Program (TAP): Mandatory class, plus other resources.
- Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP): Classes, meetups, school connection.
- Deployment, sponsorship and moving classes and support.
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPR).

POST OFFICE

Bldg. 3230 | 727-3105, 956-82-3105

Military postal facilities use gateways in the United States to connect your mail with the United States Postal Service (USPS). Shipping costs and procedures are roughly the same as those in the United States. All mail must have the following to be sent or received.

- First and last names of both sender and receiver.
- Recipient or sender names must match those affiliated with the military postal box.
- A customs form to ensure the contents abide by local area restrictions.

AFN

The American Forces Network (AFN) broadcasts locally and online via the AFN Go app available at www.afngo.net/anfeurope.

- Rota: 102.5 FM
- Morón: 92.1 FM

NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY (NMCRS)

Bldg. 3293 | 727-1614, 956-82-1614

www.nmcrrs.org/locations/rota

The NMCRS is a non-profit organization available to help with financial and nursing needs. NMCRS has representative emergency service office (ESO) personnel on every ship and satellite locations.

Financial Help: Deferred and interest-free loans for auto care, medical costs, dental, travel, household setup, pet transport, emergency travel and other verified needs. Quick assist loans for active-duty service members.

Financial Classes: LES training, budget for baby.

Visiting Nurse: Primarily OB/GYN and new parent support with follow-up care and home visits.

Thrift Shop: Bldg. 3234 next to the chapel. This is an inexpensive source of household items, clothing, and new or barely used uniforms.

USO

Air Terminal | 727-1252, 956-82-1252
rota.uso.org

The USO at Rota is focused on community building and deployed family member support. The USO provides programs and activities for Rota's homeported ships as well as transient ships. The USO also has weekly programs for the entire community like their popular canine hour dog meetup, Mighty Thinkers and Teddy Bear Club for youth, and Coffee Connections for military spouses. Find all programs and registration links at the USO Rota page on Facebook.

RED CROSS

Bldg. 3293 | 727-2333, 956-82-2333

Emergency financial and communication assistance: +1 877-272-7337

The Red Cross offers assistance with emergency issues with family back in the U.S. and emergency communication. During ICR class you will fill out emergency communication details to be used if needed.

They manage the volunteers at the hospitals and maintain dog volunteers. They have life skills and mental health classes for adults, kids and deployment resiliency. For youth and adults, they have training and certification courses in babysitting, CPR, life support and wilderness survival, plus they offer a humanitarian club. In addition, the Red Cross maintains the healing garden with community input.

CHAPEL

Bldg. 42 | 727-2161, 956-82-2161

After-hours chaplain | 639-10-1864

The chapel is considered the heart of the base. The facility is used for both religious services and base wide events.

Religious Services: Protestant, Catholic, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints and Jewish. The chapel is one of few in the world that has a Torah and special Jewish chapel. In addition, there is a separate Catholic chapel.

Chaplains' Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO): Non-faith-based coaching for personal spiritual resilience, suicide prevention training, family and couple classes and retreats, and life skills workshops.

Children's Programs: Youth groups, CCD, vacation Bible school, homeschooler meet-ups, MFLC toddler playdates, Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS).

Adult Programs: Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC), Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC), Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings.

Counseling: Non-medical, 100 percent confidential and non-reporting counseling for religious and non-religious personnel, couples and families. Chaplains can help with counseling for both mental health and life skills.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Trouble desk | 727-2347, 956-82-2347

After hours emergency number (24/7)
639-682-417

Maintains on-base facilities and utilities for all tenants. If your facility or utilities have an issue, the Public Works Department can service a solution through their Trouble Desk. ■

CONNECT → TRAIN → EQUIP → SEND

C. ORFEBRES, 1 ROTA RWC.ROTA@GMAIL.COM

REVIVE

WORSHIP CENTER- ROTA

MATTHEW 28:19

WHAT'S HAPPENING—
SCAN HERE!



SERVICE TIME:

SUNDAY 10AM

BIBLE STUDY:

WEDNESDAY 6:30PM

MINISTRIES:

Revive Kids!

Revive Women

Men's Covenant

RYTHM Youth



RESOURCES

FOR KIDS



Children may think of moving to Spain as an exciting new adventure. They may also struggle with the big change. Luckily, there are resources at NAVSTA Rota to help your kids settle into their new home.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC)

Bldg. 1963 | 727-1100, 956-82-1100

The CDC offers weekday childcare for children ages six weeks to five years old. The CDC is a large facility with age-appropriate rooms and a developmental curriculum. (after a paragraph break)

DoWEA offers a universal Pre-Kindergarten Program for children who turn four before September 1.

- Visit www.militarychildcare.com to get registered or placed on a waitlist for full-time childcare.
- Hourly care is offered on a space-available basis. Visit the CDC to register and then you can sign up by calling or via the Navy CYP website at myffr.navyaims.com/cyms.html.

SCHOOL AGE CARE (SAC)

Bldg. 41 | 727-2839, 956-82-2839

SAC is for school-aged children who are attending kindergarten through 12 years old. The SAC facility offers before and after-school care that includes structured recreation and homework help in a dedicated building with a playground.

Hourly care is space-available. Register at the SAC and then you can sign up over the phone or online via the Navy CYP website at myffr.navyaims.com/cyms.html.

YOUTH PROGRAMS (YP)

Bldg. 3053 | 727-4625, 956-82-4625

The Youth Program has a large youth center which is located next to the DoWEA school and available to youth aged 10–18. They offer everything from homework assistance and organized clubs to dynamic games and art. With ample room for hang-out space, foosball & pool tables—there's something for everyone. It's exterior is fitted with a basketball court and newly renovated skate park. Youth also get to take advantage of special events and field trips all year long.

- The “Jams” area is for tweens ages 10–12.
- The “Gravity” space is for teenagers 13–18.

MWR also manages summer employment opportunities for base youth.

YOUTH SPORTS AND FITNESS (YSF)

Bldg. 41 | 727-4721, 956-82-4721

This popular program offers seasonal sports such as football, baseball, basketball, soccer and others for youth 6–18, and Smart Start sports for kids ages 3–5. All youth participants must be registered with CYP before they can be registered for sports.

- The Tiburones Rota Swim Club is a non-profit swim club for school-aged kids that has classes and meets. They are not affiliated with YSF.

MWR COMMUNITY CLASSES

Bldg. 48 | 727-2354, 956-82-2354

MWR has a Community Classes program for adults and children in martial arts, dance, music and much more. Check the most recent “VaMos!” magazine for current class offerings. ■

SCHOOL OPTIONS

DOWEA SCHOOLS

The DoWEA schools at Rota share a large campus in the Las Palmeras housing area. The campus is named after David Glasgow Farragut, which is often shortened to DGF.

Preregistration begins by visiting www.dodea.edu/registration.

Once families complete the online pre-registration process, they need to finish registration by visiting Rota Elementary School (RES) or Rota Middle High School (MHS). No appointment is necessary at RES, but MHS students need an appointment to finalize registration.

School Liaison (SL)

Bldg. 41 | 956-82-2425

Rota Elementary School

856-82-0220 | rotaes.dodea.edu

The elementary school has roughly 600 students in pre-Kindergarten to fifth grade.

This school offers a variety of after-school clubs, special events, and special classes including Host Nation which is a combination of Spanish culture and language.

There are two Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC) and the Anchored4Life program to support students' social skills and mental health needs, plus they offer deployment and military transition support.

Rota Middle High School

856-82-0240 | rotamhs.dodea.edu

The combined middle and high schools have roughly 425 students in grades 6–12. Graduation requirements are comparable to stateside schools. Dual-credit college programs and AP courses are offered. There are many clubs and after-school activities, plus twelve varsity sports that compete with other DoWEA schools across Europe. One MFLC and an Adolescent Counselor are positioned at the school to support students.

School lunch program

The NEX handles the school lunch program.

Visit www.mynavyexchange.com/studentmeal-program to sign up, apply for free and reduced meals, and add funds to your child's account.

HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling is an option open to all command-sponsored dependents. Children may be eligible to enroll as an auxiliary student at either of the base DoWEA schools. A social group maintains a Facebook page called Rota Area Homeschool Families, and the school liaison hosts quarterly meet-and-greets and other monthly activities.

SPANISH SCHOOLS

While stationed in Spain, you have the option to send your children to local public or private Spanish schools. A few schools offer bilingual instruction. For primary students in grades 1–6, school hours are typically 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is a snack break, but lunch is not served.

Spanish public education is mandatory for kids aged 6–16, or first to tenth grade. Students in primary grades (1st to 6th) tend to have a better experience, while those in secondary grades (7th to 10th) may not find the system conducive to easily returning to an American high school system. After 10th grade, students choose between vocational degrees or a Bachillerato to prepare for university entrance exams.

The school liaison provides information about the registration process, registration forms, school lists and city hall locations. It is best to schedule an appointment with the school liaison or attend one of the bi-annual Spanish schools workshops. Visit www.smores.com/szft for details. ■



FESTIVALS & HOLIDAYS IN SPAIN

Many of the yearly celebrations in Spain are rooted in a long tradition of Spanish Catholicism, with the church's liturgical calendar dictating when festivities occur. Religious holidays are embedded in the local culture even as practicing Catholics make up just under 19 percent of the population.

ADVENT SEASON | beginning Nov. 29, 2026

The advent season marks the beginning of the Roman Catholic church calendar. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas with religious observers participating in special Mass and musical events.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on Dec. 8 with religious processions honoring Mary, the mother of Jesus. It is a federal holiday, so businesses will be closed. After this day, you can expect city light displays and holiday markets to open. Shops will be full of Turrón, powdery cookies and suckling pig.

On Dec. 22, the national Christmas lottery is drawn, including millions of euros for the "El Gordo" prize. Buying tickets for the lottery is a tradition, with towns, workplaces and charities selling fractions of their tickets to encourage a community of winners.

Advent is also when families and businesses set up their *Belénes*. These traditional nativity scenes take pride of place for the season. It is popular to walk around town to see the intricate displays or living Nativity scenes. If you'd like to build your own *Belén*, the Bethlehem Fair in Seville is renowned for its Nativity merchants.



CHRISTMAS SEASON | Dec. 24 – Jan. 6

Christmas gets its own two-week holiday beginning with a massive family dinner on Christmas Eve. Families may also attend a midnight Mass. On Christmas Day, Dec. 25, some families choose to exchange a small selection of gifts and spend the day enjoying time together. This is a national holiday, so expect all businesses to be closed.

For the next few days, there may be flamenco gatherings in Andalucía which grow into bonfire celebrations that include people singing and playing the zambomba. New Year's Eve is another reason to have family and friends over for a celebration, and New Year's Day, Jan. 1, is a national holiday.

The Christmas season ends with the biggest day of them all: Día de los Reyes Magos on Jan. 6. It is this day that the big gift-giving happens in celebration of the three kings who are believed to have given Jesus gifts after his birth. The festivities start the night prior when the three kings, Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar, parade through towns giving out candy to children as they go.

CARNAVAL SEASON | Jan. 27 – Feb. 10, 2027

Traditionally, Carnival festivals were held as a last hurrah in preparation for the somber, religious fasting of Lent. Nowadays, the party atmosphere, music and costumes are the highlight.

The exact festival dates vary by town, with some celebrations lasting weeks and others focusing on one or two special events. The city of Cádiz has the largest and most humorous Carnival in mainland Spain. For two weeks, the city transforms into a big fiesta with musical groups, a street carnival, parades and extensive performance competitions.

Regardless of when the festivities start, the season ends on Ash Wednesday, which is 40 days (not including Sundays) prior to Easter.



DÍA DE ANDALUCÍA | Feb. 28

This is an official day off in Andalucía celebrating a referendum in 1980 that eventually established the region as one of Spain's 17 autonomous communities. Expect a weekday observation with closures if it falls on the weekend.



SEMANA SANTA | March 21 – 28, 2027

Holy Week in Spain is a religious and cultural period, often a somber reminder of the events that occurred leading up to Jesus's crucifixion. In many cities, the Catholic religious fraternities or brotherhoods will stage penitential processions through the streets.

Participants wear unique tunics, robes and, notably, hoods that cover the entire face and which have a conical tip. The garments date back to the medieval period and symbolize the penitent nature of the wearer; some may even be barefoot or wear chains. Participants will carry holy imagery, candles or crosses and some processions end with fiery displays. Processions in Seville, Jerez and Cádiz are known for being exceptional.

**LABOR DAY** | May 1

This official day off honors the struggle for workers' rights. Expect businesses and schools to be closed.

**FERIA SEASON** | from Easter until October

Every town has its own fair during the warm months of the year. Begun during the Middle Ages as market days, fairs evolved into cultural gatherings. During the daytime, *feria* grounds have vendors selling food and drinks as people come and go from special events like bullfights, performances, horse shows or other local specialties. People will wear traditional outfits, and some will attend on horseback or via carriage. In the evening, the feria takes on a festival atmosphere with rides, music and party tents.

The first feria of the season is held in Seville, usually two full weeks after Easter. The celebration is famous for its flamenco dancing, horses, bullfighting and invitation-only party tents (*casetas*).

ASSUMPTION OF MARY | Aug. 15

This national holiday marks the day it is believed that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken to heaven. It is primarily a religious event with church processions. Some towns also have festivals, music and even fireworks.

FIESTA NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA | Oct. 12

The National Day of Spain is a holiday that celebrates the Spanish worldwide legacy, including its influence and continued ties through language and culture in the Americas. It marks the day Christopher Columbus landed in what is now the Bahamas.

**CONSTITUTION DAY** | Dec. 6

Marking the end of dictatorship, this day celebrates Spain's approval of the Spanish Constitution in 1978. It may be observed on a weekday if it falls on the weekend. ■



Rhythm of the SPANISH DAY

A typical day in Spain is largely based on mealtimes. Food brings people and families together, and cultivating family time is important within Spanish culture.



BREAKFAST (8 A.M.)

The day starts with breakfast, or *desayuno*, which often consists of a coffee drink and toast (*tostada*) with a topping. After that, businesses and schools will begin to open around 9 a.m.



MID-MORNING BREAK (11 A.M.)

The second breakfast is a quick break mid-morning to grab a coffee and possibly a snack. Businesses will not close for this, but there may be fewer employees for a half-hour or so. Most schools will have a long break at this time for kids to eat a packed sandwich.



LUNCH BREAK (2–5 P.M.)

Lunch, or *almuerzo*, is typically the largest meal of the day, so that is when time slows down. Many businesses will be closed from around 2 p.m. to around 5 p.m. while their employees have lunch, take a break, get kids from school and possibly take a *siesta*, or nap.

- A restaurant serving a full lunch menu (*menu del día*) or tapas will likely be open from 2 p.m. to around 4 p.m.
- Markets will often convert to selling lunch options at this time and will close for the day afterward.
- Cafes that only serve hot drinks and snacks will be open in the mornings, closed during lunch break, and open again around 5 p.m.



EVENING HOURS (5–8 P.M.)

Many shops, doctors' offices and other non-government businesses will open again in the evening.

- Cafes will serve drinks and small bites for an afternoon snack, or *merienda*.
- After businesses close is also a popular time to get *tapas* or *pintxos*.

DINNER (10 P.M. OR LATER)

While lunch is the biggest meal of the day, *cena* (dinner) is an important time with family or friends.

- Restaurants that serve full meals at lunch break and during dinner may be closed from 5–10 p.m., or they may stay open during evening hours with a limited menu of small bites, drinks and snacks. ■

Learn SPANISH

FFSC CLASSES | 956-82-3232

Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) representatives will go over Spanish basics during the ICR orientation. They also offer a three-month-long, in-person, weekly Spanish language class that includes extra practice with field trips out in the community.

MWR CLASSES | 956-82-2354

Community classes are offered through MWR. These include private and or group lessons with flexible times and group lessons held either once or twice a week and paid monthly. Signups are available at the Liberty Center in Bldg. 48, which is open daily 1–10 p.m.

LIBRARY | 956-82-2418

Through the DOW MWR library website, www.dodmwrlibraries.org, you can access Mango Languages courses and the Mango App to learn Spanish for free on your computer or mobile device.

PET

INFORMATION

ROTA VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY (VTF)

The VTF offers routine care and vaccinations for the pets of personnel stationed at Rota. This includes annual visits, sick-call appointments, health certificates, scheduled surgeries, dental cleanings and more.

Rota VTF

Bldg. 1863 | 727-3149, 956-82-3149

Register at the VTF within 15 days of arrival. You will need the following.

- Your passport
- DOD ID
- Pets' health certificate from previous duty station
- Pets' vaccination records

The VTF will assist you in getting an EU pet passport if your pet does not already have one.

The VTF can help you register your pet in the Spanish "Registro Andaluz de Identificación Animal" (RAIA). You can also register at an off-base vet.

FERAL CATS

The feral cats on base are under veterinary care and fulfill a rodent-control role. In accordance with Spanish national law and Armada installation policy, they are not to be fed or domesticated as it leads to nuisance behavior. Violating these policies may result in legal repercussions and suspension of base privileges.

POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS

Spanish Law and installation policy restricts the ownership of certain breeds of dogs, including Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Rottweiler, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Tosa Inu and Akita Inu. This list is not exhaustive and includes dogs that demonstrate aggressive character or have been involved in attacks against people.

If you plan to live on base, potentially dangerous dogs are not authorized to accompany you and your dependents on your tour in Spain.

If you live off base, you must obtain a Perros Potencialmente Peligrosos (PPP) license from the local government. After checking-in at the installation VTF, go to the town hall in the municipality you plan to live in to start the licensing process.

YEARLY PREVENTATIVES

- Vaccines are only valid for one year, even if they are used elsewhere to cover multiple years.
- Rabies (mandatory)
- Yearly de-worming (mandatory)
- Heartworm
- Parvo / distemper
- Leptospirosis
- Bordetella
- Flea and tick medicine

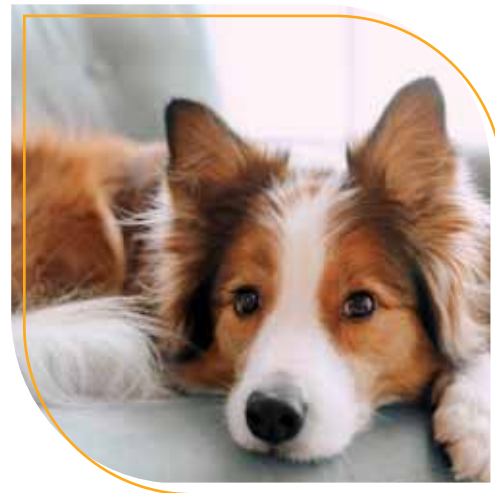
LEISHMANIA

It is important to know that leishmania is prevalent in the Rota area. This zoonotic disease is transmitted by biting insects like mosquitoes and can be passed on to humans. It can lead to a variety of skin and digestive problems in dogs and the first signs are typically ulcers in the mouth and ears. It is not fatal when controlled.

- A dog who has leishmania cannot return to the U.S.
- A leishmania vaccination is available at off-base Spanish vets only and has a 75 percent efficacy rate.
- Rota VTF recommends keeping your pet on heartworm and topical flea and tick medicine year round as a preventative measure.

PROCESSIONARY PINE CATERPILLARS

These caterpillars are native to and prevalent around southern Spain and have spiked barbs that can cause severe allergic reactions in pets, especially in dogs who try to bite them. The caterpillars typically come out between December and February when they migrate from below

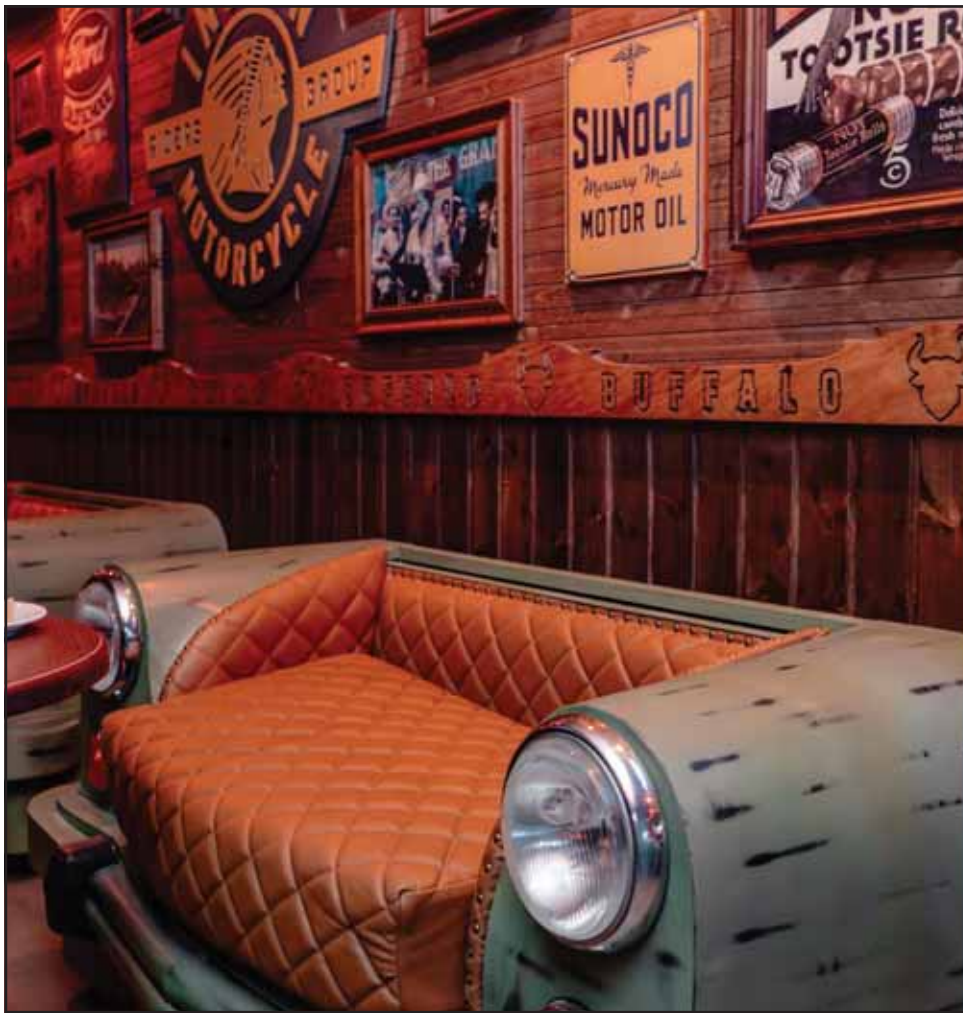


ground up into the pine trees. You will see them in lines of hundreds. Prevent your dogs from approaching them.

VETERINARY EMERGENCIES OR SPECIALIST CARE

The Rota VTF does not provide 24-hour emergency veterinary treatment, but they have a detailed list of local Spanish vets who do, including:

- Anubis Centro Veterinario, Rota | 24-hour emergencies: +34 669-479-972
- Clinica Veterinaria Santa Maria, El Puerto | 24-hour emergencies: +34 629-770-770
- Hospital Veterinario La Arboleda, El Puerto (also has specialist care) | 24-hour emergencies: +34 609-577-107
- Veterinary Clinic Avila, El Puerto (adjacent specialty hospital) | 24-hour emergencies: +34 662-305-968



**COME AND ENJOY
THE BEST SPORTS
BAR IN ROTA**

MUSIC
COCKTAILS
SHOTS



57, HIGUERETA ST. ROTA

ROTA ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE (RAWL)

Across from the drive-in movie theater

727-4000, 956-82-4000

RAWL is an on-base animal shelter run by volunteers. They help Americans who can no longer care for their pets and facilitate cat and dog adoptions. Scan the QR code below to learn more about RAWL. ■



PERSONAL

ENRICHMENT



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. agreement with Spain does not allow for dependents to work on the economy in Spain. In addition, the agreement with the Spanish government generally requires that 70 percent of the workforce on NAVSTA Rota are local Spanish citizens, leaving 30 percent of the employment opportunities for Americans.

Dependents are authorized to telework remotely for positions based out of the United States, offering another avenue to find employment.

Visit FFSC for one-on-one support, and to update your resume or research job and volunteer opportunities.

The following are options for on-installation job searching.

- **Government Positions:** Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) and General Schedule (GS) positions are offered with Navy MWR, Child and Youth Programs (CYP) and other on-installation services. Hours range from full-time to flexible part-time with varying employment benefits. Search and apply at www.usajobs.gov.
- **DoWEA-Europe:** On-installation schools offer full and part-time employment as support staff, substitute teachers and administrative employees Find certified teaching positions at: www.dodea.edu/offices/HR. Find local support positions at www.usajobs.gov.
- **Navy Exchange (NEX):** Jobs can be found by visiting www.NavyExchange.jobs and searching for Rota.
- **Defense Commissary Agency (DECA):** Jobs at www.usajobs.gov.
- **Defense Contractors:** Job opportunities with contractors are typically advertised via the company's human resources department. Your installation's contracting office and FFSC may have information about companies with contracts near you.
- **NFCU** hires dependents.

EDUCATION

Bldg. 2983

Your on-base education hub, providing academic advising, unofficial credit evaluations, degree planning and general education support. We assist service members, families, veterans and civilians in navigating flexible higher-education options. Classes are offered in-person, livestream and online. Credit for military training and prior college coursework is accepted.

- **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**
727-2984, 956-82-2984
worldwide.erau.edu/locations/rot

- **University of Maryland Global Campus**
727-2917, 956-82-2917
europe.umgc.edu/locations/spain-rota
- **Other schools with online coursework**
Visit www.military.com/education or www.militaryonesource.mil for details on U.S.-based colleges that offer online courses and discounts for military-affiliated students.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved in your community, keep your resume current and learn new skills.

- The **FFSC** has a robust volunteer program and can help refer you to other agencies.
- Visit **NMCRS**, **USO** or **RAWL** for volunteer options.
- The **NAVSTA Rota Community Relations** program offers volunteer opportunities. To volunteer, reach out to the NAVSTA Rota Public Affairs Office at coastline@eu.navy.mil.
- Child and Youth Programs (CYP) depends on volunteer sports coaches.
- The **Red Cross** manages volunteers at the hospital.
- Find **local spouses clubs, interest groups or sports organizations** to join.
- Submit travel, lifestyle or local news stories to the installation's "Coastline" newspaper at rotacoastline@gmail.com and to the Stars and Stripes by visiting europe.stripes.com/lifestyle/submissions. ■



EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE. MILITARY-FRIENDLY.

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LIVING UNDERGROUND: CAVE HOUSES *in Andalucía*

By Ian Nichols

Cool in the summer and cozy in the winter, cave dwellings allow people to live in more extreme environments. Many Spanish cave houses trace their heritage to the period of Al-Andalus in the Middle Ages when people took cave homes to the next level.

After the Reconquista, when the Catholic monarchs took over the Iberian Peninsula and expelled Muslim and Jewish populations, some of the persecuted Moriscos (Muslims who converted to Christianity, typically by force) fled into remote cave-house villages in the mountains and cliffs of Andalucía. During the 1500s, these underground towns grew and have retained their cave style ever since.

ALTIPLANO DE GRANADA

In the highlands north of Granada, the unique geology has allowed for the highest concentration of cave houses in Spain. Tourists visit the area to experience the unique mountain, desert and badlands ecosystems. Search the internet for “casa cueva altiplano” and you will find that the region is dotted with **rural cave homes** that are open as rentals and bed and breakfasts. Some are grouped in villages like Cuevas del Campo, Huéscar, Galera, Fontanar and in the hills east of Baza.

For the highest concentration, visit the town of **Guadix** and the roughly 2,000 cave homes that mesh together in a tangle of dry grassy hills and dusty streets. It is home to the **Guadix Caves Visitor Centre** where you can tour a traditional cave home and learn the origins of cave dwelling in the area.

CITY OF GRANADA

In the hills east of Granada, the **Sacromonte** quarter overlooks the famous Alhambra, one of the most famous buildings in Spain. The neighborhood was settled after the Reconquista by migrating Romani-speaking people who found commonality with other displaced people like former enslaved people and Moriscos.

There are numerous cave shops and underground restaurants and bars open for business along the primary street, including some with **flamenco** shows that invoke Romani and Moorish influences. High up on the hill is the **Cave Museum of Sacromonte**, an open-air museum with 11 historic caves showcasing the culture of the neighborhood's inhabitants.

PROVINCE OF CÁDIZ

While many tourists aim for the cliff-top white villages of Andalucía, there is a unique one that took a different tactic against invaders. Petite **Setenil de las Bodegas** tucked many of its homes under the cliffside overhang of a small canyon below its hilltop fortification.

Roughly a half-hour drive from the popular and pretty town of Ronda, Setenil is in the northernmost part of the province of Cádiz. The town is tiny. Be sure to walk along **Cuevas de la Sombra Street** where the cliff hangs over the road, providing shade. Pop into the shops for a souvenir or stop for a drink and bite to eat at one of the restaurants, all built into caves under the cliff. It can get crowded if a tourist bus comes through in the afternoon; staying overnight in a cave house will give you a quieter, unique experience and room to wander. ■





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TAPEO:

A SMALL BITES TOUR

of Sevilla

By Leigh Anne Lord

Truly the only way to experience Sevilla (Seville) is to go on a Tapeo, hopping from tapas bar to tapas bar enjoying the food and the socializing. However, with nearly 4,000 tapas joints in the city, the prospect can be a bit intimidating. Don't worry; this tour will not only allow you to have the experience but will take you through some of the city's unique neighborhoods.



Left: Ración of jamon iberico de bellota, fino and an example of tinajas. **Center:** Patatas bravas and chipirones, a pile of pringa montaditos.

CAFÉ BAR LAS TERESAS | Calle Santa Teresa 2

The Barrio Santa Cruz, Sevilla's old Jewish Quarter, is a picturesque collection of narrow winding streets and alleys, and while quite touristy, it is fun to navigate the labyrinth and feel the historic vibe. The narrowness of the streets was intentional, designed to provide protection from the blazing summer sun.

Today, the streets open to small peaceful courtyards containing ceramic benches and orange trees. In the heart of the neighborhood is a very traditional tapas bar, the Café Bar Las Teresas. While the outside tables may seem enticing, venture inside and soak in all of the nostalgia. Find a seat at one of the small tables, order a *ración* (plate) of *jamon iberico de bellota*, Spain's famous cured pork, and a glass of cold *fino* (sherry). It makes for an excellent start to your tapas tour.

CASA MORALES | Calle García de Vinuesa 11

A short walk past the Sevilla Cathedral will take you into the neighborhood between the Avenue de la Constitución and Guadalquivir River, known as El Arenal. While Sevilla's bullfighting ring, the impressive La Real Maestranza, is located here, many outstanding tapas restaurants also call El Arenal home.

Pass by the front room of Casa Morales, round the corner and enter the back bar. The rustic room is surrounded by eight foot tall clay wine vats called *tinajas*, which add to the location's ambience. Grab a table or stand at the bar and soak in the surroundings.

You might notice a local sipping on a *caña* (small beer), but Casa Morales also has an impressive list of wine and sherry. The tapas list is written on a board behind the bar. Favorites are paper-thin salt cod (*bacalao*) on toast with tomato purée (*salmorejo*) and the *pulpo gallego* (octopus served with boiled potatoes, olive oil and sweet Spanish paprika).

BODEGUITA ROMERO | Calle Harinas 10

Farther into El Arenal is the homey, personable and delicious Bodeguita Romero. In its third generation, it is truly a family operation. Without a doubt, the *pringa montaditos*, a crispy roll stuffed with slow cooked pork and black pudding, is the best in town.

If you are lucky, the owner will be behind the counter, and then you will know that his famous house-marinated potatoes are on the menu.

He is the only one who makes the dish. If you have room, opt for one more tapa. The *carrilladas*, or braised pork cheeks, will melt in your mouth and have a wonderful depth of flavor.

LA BRUNILDA | Calle Galera 5

Round out your exploration of the El Arenal neighborhood with a visit to the upscale

gastropub La Brunilda. This 18th-century house has been transformed into a beautiful space with some of the best tapas in all of Sevilla.

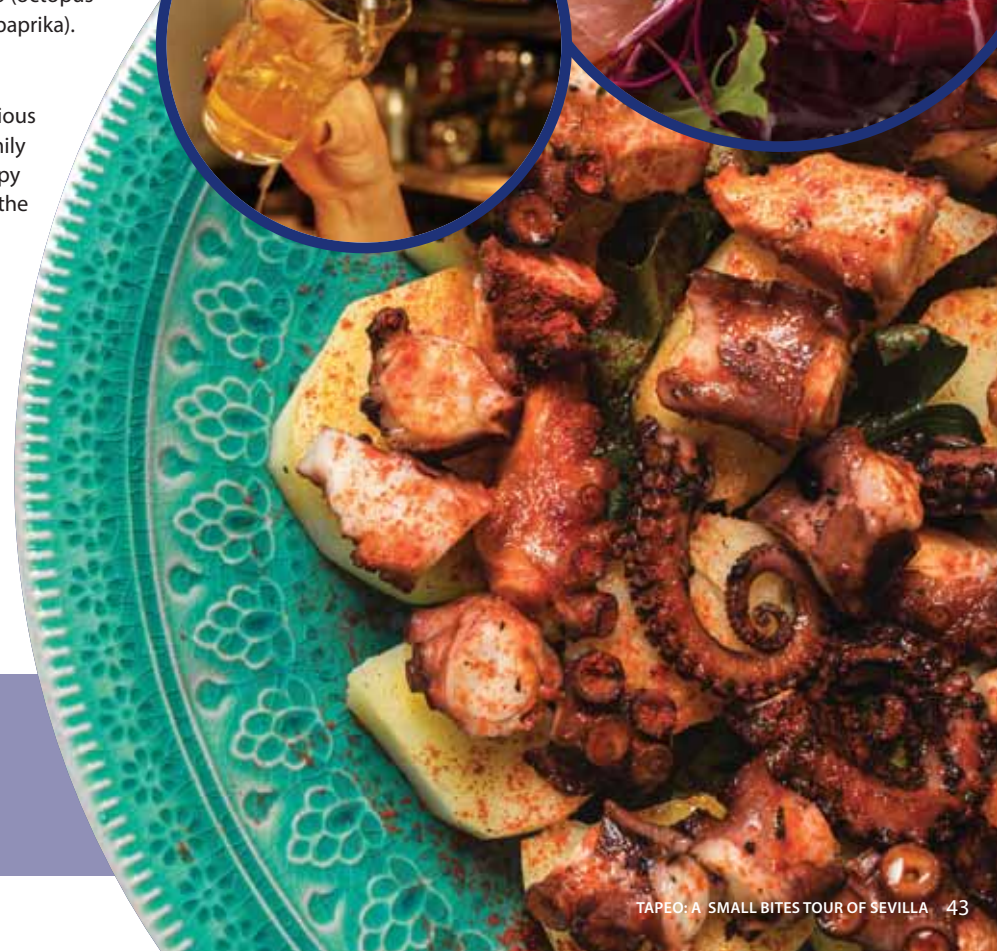
You cannot go wrong with anything on the menu, but highlights are the grilled baby squid (*chipperones*) with *migas*, the iconic tapas dish patatas bravas or one of the tapas-sized salads.

LA AZOTEA | Calle Mateos Gago 8 or Calle Conde de Barajas 13

Saving the best for last, no tapas tour would be complete without a visit to La Azotea; luckily, there are two Seville locations. Run by a husband (Spanish) and wife (American) team, the tapas at La Azotea are creative and absolutely superb.

The chef's *croquetas* are always a great initial choice, inventive and delicious. Rice paper triangles filled with shrimp, leeks and cheese are heavenly. *Carrillada Iberica* (stewed pig's cheek) is served in a rich red wine sauce and topped with melted goat cheese.

A traditional tomato and mozzarella salad is transformed with basil gummies and a spoonful of lemon sorbet. The service is attentive and friendly, and the food is amazing. This is a place you will want to return to, time and time again. ■



From top to bottom: A tapas-sized salad, serving a *caña*, pulpo gallego served with boiled potatoes.

ANDALUCÍA

Bucket List

By Mary Del Rosario

☐ ATTEND A FIESTA.

During Holy week (Semana Santa), many cities in Andalucía are transformed into a Catholic procession. The festival of San Juan is also popular with its blazing bonfire.

☐ CLIMB LA GIRALDA.

The view from this bell tower in Seville makes for a gorgeous picture.

☐ SEE A FLAMENCO SHOW.

In Seville, there are plenty of shows to choose from. Or learn it: The best way to appreciate Flamenco is by taking lessons and experiencing it first-hand.

☐ TOUR THE PARQUE NACIONAL DE DOÑANA.

Ride a bike off-road over the dunes past wetlands, perhaps you'll spot a lynx or a flamboyance of flamingos.

☐ SURF THE WAVES.

Due to windy conditions, kite and windsurfing are popular sports along the Atlantic coast.

NSE Lisbon

PORTUGAL

Córdoba ●

Seville ●
Morón AB

● Parque Nacional de Doñana
NAVSTA Rota

Cádiz

Gibraltar (U.K.)

Marbella

Ronda

MOROCCO

☐ VISIT LA MEZQUITA IN CÓRDOBA.

This intricate mosque is beautiful beyond words. Though Córdoba is another great city, it can be explored in half a day.

☐ EAT TAPAS TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

Your taste buds will be happy you did.

☐ WANDER IN THE LEGENDARY ALHAMBRA.

A masterpiece of Islamic architecture, this palace in Granada was a hub of poetry and science during the Middle Ages.

NSE Valencia



☐ HIKE UP THE SIERRA NEVADA.

If you want to climb the highest peak, Mulhacén, it's recommended to have a guide with you.

☐ DESCEND INTO THE NERJA CAVES.

Located in Málaga, the series of caverns full of stalagmites is a sight to see.

☐ EXPLORE RONDA.

The bridge view alone will leave you breathless, and the medieval old quarter will draw you in.

☐ IMMERSE YOURSELF IN PICASSO'S HOUSE.

Art-lovers will appreciate walking the halls of this home in Málaga where the popular artist came from.

☐ PARTY IT UP IN MARBELLA.

With nightlife and luxury galore, Puerto Banús is the place to be.

☐ RENT A YACHT.

Sail along the Costa del Sol while watching the sun set, and create some gorgeous memories. ■



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When traveling outside of Spain, bring both your tourist passport and official no-fee passport (if active duty or a dependent).

Travel beyond Spain and use your tourist passport as your identification for transit to and between other countries. When returning to Spain, it may be necessary for you to show your no-fee passport to re-enter.

TRAVEL TO GIBRALTAR

Due to the sensitivity of the Spain-Gibraltar border, plan ahead when traveling to Gibraltar and follow all U.S. Department of State advisories and procedures, including enrolling in the SMART Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). You must have a valid Spanish entrance visa stamp in your passport within 90 days of your return from Gibraltar to reenter Spain.

TRAVEL TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

American citizens visiting the U.K. as a tourist must get an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) prior to travel. The ETA costs 10 pounds and provides multiple entries into the U.K. with stays of up to six months. It expires after two years.

The best way to apply is via the UK ETA App provided for free by the Home Office. You will need:

- A mobile device to download the app (free)
- A credit card to pay the 10 pound fee
- Contact information
- A current, valid passport to scan
- Allow the app to take your photo

Visit www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta for details and to find links to download the app.

EUROPEAN UNION TRAVEL

ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM (EES)

The new EES system allows for modernization of all European Union border entry and exit systems. Countries will be utilizing biometric scanners to take fingerprints and facial photos when first entering an EU country. The scans are mandatory; refusal will mean denied entry into the EU.

EUROPEAN TRAVEL INFORMATION AND AUTHORIZATION SYSTEM (ETIAS)

The ETIAS system is scheduled to begin in late 2026.

Visit travel-europe.europa.eu for details. ETIAS is a travel authorization linked to your passport for people entering any one of the participating 30 countries in Europe.

An ETIAS authorization will be valid for three years. It will permit entry into the participating countries for 90 days within any 180-day period. The application will be submitted via online form, costs seven euros and will typically be approved within minutes with a guaranteed response within four days.

- Applies to travelers who are citizens of a country that does not require a visa to enter participating EU countries. This includes the United States.
- Applies to service members, civilians, contractors and their families while on leave and liberty travel throughout Europe. ■

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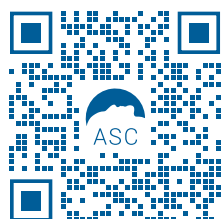
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