<u>Torrevieja</u>

It isn't a resort in the package holiday sense, there are only a few hotels and the area is much loved by the Spanish who flock here during the summer months for their holidays. The town is surrounded by excellent urbanisations, all with pools and beautiful gardens and the whole area enjoys fabulous beaches with fine sand and crystal clear waters. Thousands of people from the north of Spain and northern Europe have set up home permanently in the town. The local people are very friendly and welcoming to both national and international tourism.

Beaches

All of the local beaches hold the European Blue Flag for 'Clean Sea' and excellent facilities. La Mata, Los Locos, El Cura, El Acequión and Los Náufragos together make up the beaches of the Torreviejan coast. There are marvellous coves in the northern part, as well as the saline swimming pools, which can be found beside the Juan Aparicio promenade right in the centre of the town.

The promenades and the fishing port are attractions in their own right for visitors to this part of the Southern Mediterranean.

Daytime Activities

During the day Torrevieja offers a range of leisure and entertainment areas.

Fantastic beaches and terraces along the promenade have numerous playgrounds and areas of interest for the little ones.

The aqua park (Aquópolis) is a popular destination during the summer months, catering across the board for all types of visitor.

Excursions

You can enjoy the local coastline from the sea by going on a trip on the Tabardo cruisers equipped with catamarans in which you can observe the sea bed.

Excursions to the island of Tabarca and trips all along the coast of southern Alicante are available.

Eco tourism

For lovers of ecological and environmental tourism, a visit to the lakes of La Mata and Torrevieja to enjoy a mudbath is recommended. The curative properties for a large number of rheumatic dermatological, heart and respiratory complaints are well known.

Torrevieja is also surrounded by two large natural saltwater lagoons, which form the well-known "Salterns of Torrevieja".

Open Air Markets

Every Friday Torrevieja holds one of the largest open-air markets in Spain and sells all kinds of food, textiles, clothes and accessories. A smaller market can be found at La Florida on a Saturday. Street markets can be found every day of the week in different areas.

Shopping

The town has a good shopping area with lots of independently owned shops selling a variety of goods. An indoor market is open daily where you can buy fresh produce; fish, meat, fruit and vegetables.

Bars and Nightlife

Torrevieja has a variety of entertainment for the young and the young at heart. There are more than a hundred night bars. Most of these are concentrated in the El Baluarte area in La Punta. This area has become a

major attraction for thousands of people from all over the world. _____ A truly cosmopolitan variety of bars appealing to different tastes can be found. Try the Casablanca, Bésame Mucho, Pata Palo, Tía Roqueta, Tirachinas, Iris Pub, La Cantina or Correcaminos, you are sure to find the place that suits your taste.

Dining out

Torrevieja has a wide variety of restaurants catering to all tastes. You can try traditional Spanish, German, English and Italian fare. From fast food, right up to fine dining, there is a choice to suit your budget.

<u>Culture</u>

The town square is very picturesque. At Christmas it hosts a magnificent Nativity scene, which covers a large proportion of the square.

<u>Golf</u>

The Costa Blanca offers a variety of golf courses. The three closest to the town are Villamartin, Las Ramblas and Campoamor. All three courses offer a different challenge. Villamartin, built in 1972, was the host for the European Tour 1994.

Countryside

The surrounding countryside has an abundance of orange and lemon groves. Distant mountain ranges with vines growing in the valleys, and ventas (roadside inn/restaurant) serving traditional fare at great value. All in all, an ideal holiday destination for the whole family, at any time of the year.

Climate

An ideal location for a summer or winter sun holiday with an average of 320 days sunshine each year. The area is regarded by the World Health Organisation as having the healthiest climate in Europe.