A Taste of Torrox

a little white-washed pueblo

By Dorte Holm Jensen

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How to get there

In 2001 I did the wildest thing I've ever done in my life!

I sold my house in Denmark and moved 3.000 kilometers away to Torrox Pueblo in Andalucia where I had never been before - and without knowing how I was going to make a living when I got there.
That's a life changing experience!
If I put on my sensible hat; I cannot recommend it - But I am glad I did – otherwise I would probably not be doing exactly what I love to do today: *writing and working with travel.*
I hope you enjoy the "A Taste of Torrox" as much as I enjoyed making it.

Let's find out how to get there

Torrox is situated in the province of Málaga on the Costa del Sol. Torrox claims to have the best climate in Europe with an average annual temperature of 18C sheltered as it is by the **Sierra Tejeda** and **Sierra Almijara** mountains.

You can fly in to Málaga or Granada. The opening of the new N340/E15 auto via has made the journey from Málaga airport to Torrox a lot easier.

There are a huge amount of flights to Málaga.
From the UK Jet2 Easyjet & Ryan Air normally have good deals.

If you are flying into Málaga or Granada from worldwide destinations – you will not have any trouble finding a flight.

Driving Distance:
Málaga – Torrox: 65km
Granada – Torrox: 110km

Car Hire:
Hertz
Holiday Autos

Flights:
Jet2

Ferry:
England to Spain

Torrox Pueblo

You could be walking on sunshine….

In a little white-washed pueblo…
way down in Southern Spain
where the pace of life's "tranquillo"
and the sun shines away your strain
Mountains stretch towards the sky -
Valleys go down deep…
The palm trees sway their leaves up high
and the tapas are fresh and cheap

It is a bit surreal to set foot in the village for the first time with its narrow labyrinth streets and the ancient Moorish houses, which seem to have been intertwined in mysterious ways in the old part of town.
Torrox is a paradox where old black dressed women still sell their homegrown vegetables from the front door to by passers on the street - while young senoritas in jeans rapidly passes by talking into their mobile phones.

The natural gathering place in Torrox Pueblo is "The Plaza". Grab a café solo, a drink and some tapas on a pavement café and soak in the atmosphere. If you like people watching; this is the place to be.

The first couple of hotels has just opened in the old Moorish part of the village. Torrox has managed to retain its white Moorish village structure and I haven't seen a souvenir shop – yet. The tourists are here though; it just seems to be another sort of tourists.
Most visitors fly into Málaga, rent a car and drive to their holiday home either in the pueblo, at the coast or in the campo – the countryside around Torrox.

Torrox Pueblo is 4 kilometers inland and 125 meters above sea level.

Useful Numbers:

Emergency Doctor: 061
Medical Centres:
952 538 271 / 952 530 013
Guardia Civil: 952 538 008
Local Police: 952 539 828
Emergency Police: 091
Taxis: 952 530 352
Tourist Office: 952 530 225
Town Council: 952 530 225

Videos from Torrox:
A drive thru Torrox 1
A drive thru Torrox 2

Torrox is – like the rest of Costa del Sol - quite an international place

Torrox Costa

There's approximately 16.000 people living in Torrox, Torrox Costa, Torrox Park & the surrounding countryside and around 6.000 of us are emigrants from Morocco, Northern & Eastern Europe, USA and Canada.

Torrox Costa is blessed with an eight kilometers stretch of white sandy beaches and a long wide beach promenade - Paseo Marítimo. You'll find a wide variety in bars and restaurants along the boardwalk and at the Westside close to Hotel Riu Ferrara, you will find shops.

Sun beds and parasols are for rent at the beach (normally 3 € per day).
If you feel like letting your hair down in a more rustic, local setting away from the high-rise beachfront of Torrox Costa, you will find Chiringuitos, small beach restaurants, to the east of the promenade. On both sides of the main area there are more rustic low rise buildings and bamboo fringed beaches.
Try the Sardines, barbequed on a stick, - they smell and taste delicious…especially by the seaside.

On Monday mornings from ten to two there is a huge market on a parallel street running between the boardwalk and the main road. Everything from fresh eggs and vegetable to blue jeans and CD`s.

You might need to shop if you are in a rented villa or apartment. "Aldi" is the most inexpensive place to shop your groceries. It is just by the roundabout towards Torrox Pueblo on the opposite side from the beach.
If you feel like a few specialties from the Northern European hemisphere; go west on the main road from Aldi and look out for "Super Sol" - another 100 metres along the road. Super Sol is more expensive…but they do have scrummy stuff.
Finally "Mercadona", a huge Spanish supermarket can be found on the main road – just a road-crossing from

Farmacia is the Spanish word for Chemist's shops. You will find two in the village and several at Torrox Costa.
Correos
In Spain the Post Office is called Correos. You can buy stamps at post offices and Kiosks or tobacconists.

In Spain the mailboxes are Yellow.

Torrox Park

Torrox Park is known as “The Garden Village”.
It’s an urbanization situated between the village and the beach – much closer to the beach though.

Torrox Park has a few shops, bars and restaurants and the only campsite in Torrox.

The campsite, El Pino, is surrounded by avocado and tropical trees, and known for its excellent views, the freshness of the avocado trees’ shade, its sunny areas during the winter, as well as for its quietness and family atmosphere.
El Pino is a second category campsite, and there are 470 pitches and 47 bungalows. There is a bar, a restaurant, a supermarket, a swimming pool, laundry, etc.
It is open the whole year.

Search Torrox Hotels

Newspapers & Magazines In English

Costa del Sol News
Nerja News
Sur in English
The Grapevine
The Sentinella

Would you like your business listed in this frequently updated E-Book that spreads like a **Wild fire** across the internet…
Please Mail us

Torrox Campo

The Campo (the countryside) is beautiful; mountains, dusty-green olive trees, wild flowers in the spring, almond trees in blossom in January & February and an indescribable feel of “Wild West” due to all the new-builders…settlers.

I guess we felt like settlers
when we got our piece of land
So we bought a generator
and a second hand caravan
There was a clear stream of water
running down the mountainside
so we went into the wilderness
for a Robinson Crusoe ride

The fact that you don’t get post delivered, there are no street names and you have to bring all your garbage several kilometers to the nearest container, all ad to the feel of Wild West. Getting a landline telephone is almost impossible and so was internet until quite recently (thank lord for wireless)…so getting an away-from-it-all-feel out here (yes – I live in the campo now) among goats, avocado and cactus is easy to achieve – should it be on your wish list.
Speaking about goats – the goat man and all his four legged friends still stop the traffic while crossing the main road. This is a charming experience while on holiday, but when you live here and have to show up at work…it needs a little adjustment. But there really isn’t anything to do about it besides from getting used to the idea of; what you don’t achieve today…You *might* do mañana!

To reach the majority of homes and rental villas, you have to drive off the beaten track along unsurfaced mountain roads – tracks – however, the view you get from up here – overlooking Torrox Pueblo and the Mediterranean Sea is to die for.

Where to sleep

Finding a place to lay your head really depends on whether you want to stay by the sea at Torrox Costa, head a few kilometers inland to Torrox Pueblo or whether you want to rent your own holiday villa with pool in the beautiful and peaceful countryside,

Hotel Riu Ferrara is located on Torrox Costa and is part of a complex which consists of two 4- and one 6-story main buildings and two 4-story apartment buildings. The complex is surrounded with 11.000 m2 beautiful lush gardens just 20 m from the beach.
Staying at Riu Ferrara gives you free access to a 900sq.m fresh water swimming pool, which is heated in the winter, and a children's swimming pool. There is also an indoor swimming pool which is heated in the winter. The terrace-solarium and the sauna are at your disposal, although use of the later incurs an extra charge.

The Hotel offers complimentary table tennis, French bowls, rifle range, workout and gym facilities. Another sport facility in the hotel (that carries an extra charge) is a paddle-tennis court.
The golf course "Baviera" (Caleta de Vélez) is nearby.

The hotel offers a daytime entertainment program ("mini club") for children from 4 to 12 years of age (six times a week) and also a daytime entertainment program for adults (six times a week). Several times a week you are able to enjoy live music, shows or the Riu Evening program,

Besides from two hotels in Torrox Pueblo and a few on Torrox Costa you will find plenty of hostels, guesthouses and hotels in Nerja, 10 km east along the coast road.

Holiday Homes
Torrox Villas

Nerja Villas

Hotels
Hotels in Torrox

Hotels in Nerja

What to do in Torrox

A walk in the narrow steep and winding streets of the village is a must! Yes, you will probably get lost – but hey you can always find your way to the Plaza…otherwise; just ask.

There are plenty of possibilities for small excursions from Torrox Pueblo.

Sunday is the perfect day to visit Acebuchal – the lost city, or "Pueblo el Fantasma" – the city of ghosts. Driving out of Torrox on the old Frigiliana road you will witness a breathtaking view - over-looking the Nerja Coast and the Mediterranean Sea. Acebuchal has just recently come to life again after being abandoned for 50 years. There is a very atmospheric bar/restaurant in the village where you can enjoy a meal of Wild Boar…or maybe just a tapas and a drink – while you soak in the ambience of Acebuchal. (Driving directions) Video from Acebuchal

The whole area around Torrox invites walking – just remember to bring water and a mobile telephone.

Driving up towards Compèta you pass the only bar / restaurant, the Pavo Real, in the area between Torrox Pueblo and Compèta. A few 100 meters winding road further you will see something looking like a parking lot, locally referred to as "the helicopter pad", to your right – that is where the National Park begins.

Culinary Holiday In Torrox Pueblo

Casa Cebadillas invites you to experience a culinary holiday in the historic white village of Torrox Pueblo – Andalucia, Spain. Attending culinary classes and tasting Spanish wines with the cooking school gives you the opportunity to savor "True Spain".

The one week Cooking School Culinary Class in English program includes hands-on cooking sessions led by Christopher Carnrick as well as guided visits to markets, vineyards, shops, and local restaurants. All cooking programs take place in a manner to allow you free time to explore

Local Markets

Monday: 10.00 – 14.00 Torrox Pueblo & Torrox Costa.
Tuesday: Nerja
Wednesday: Rincón de la Victoria
Thursday: Torre del Mar, Vélez Malaga, Nerja,
Friday: Cala del Moral
Saturday: Vélez Malaga

Torrox by night

The night feels smooth against your skin….

Depending on the time of year there is always something to do in the area, summer of course being the liveliest time. From May to October - the summer nights are fantastic. If you are going out to eat remember most restaurants do not start serving dinner until seven or eight - at the earliest. The Spanish eat dinner about ten.

Torrox Costa has an impressive promenade lined with restaurants, pavement cafés and bars. During summer the promenade has night market every night. Start your dinner facing the sunset by the sea…then you still have time for a long stroll along the promenade looking at all the art and craft at the night market…and hey if you feel thirsty …the bars and cafés are just a heartbeat away.

Well… with a little insight knowledge there are other ways to spend the night. On Monday nights starting about nineish there is **jam-session** at **Casa Maria** in an old garage between Torrox Park and Torrox Costa.
If you like live music, Blues, Rock & Roll and whatever is going down that night - because you never know who shows up and grab the microphone - This is the place to be and the drinks come a lot cheaper than they do in the bars at Costa. The age group stretch wide - literally from twenty to late sixties and the variety of nationalities are very mixed. How to get there is impossible to explain - you will simply have to take a taxi or ask somebody to show you - but you are very welcome.

Have a look at this video from a Jam Session at Casa Maria

If you are in the mood for a more peaceful setting – have your evening meal under the orange trees on La Plaza in the Pueblo. Summer nights can be quite lively though with children playing around the fountain and all the outdoor tables occupied. Paco's Bar serves a *mean* Paella.

The little helper for ordering sea-food;

Rosada Frita - similar to haddock.
Bacalao frito - cod
Calamares Fritos - squid rings
Almejas - clams,
Mejillones - mussels,
Gambas - prawns
Gambas Rebozadas - prawns, all of which are battered and fried along with **Cazon Adobo** - dogfish or rock salmon, marinated in spices and lemon before battering and frying.

A delicious dip is
Ali-Oli:
garlic-mayonnaise..

Sightseeing Tours from Torrox & Nerja

TORROX TOURS
Now you can book tours from Torrox and Nerja and be picked up from Hotel RIU Ferrara in Torrox or Hotel RIU Monica in Nerja.

Alambra Palace & Granada Sightseeing
Spend a day in the spectacular city of Granada and visit the incomparable Alhambra Palace. A local expert guide will lead you around the Alhambra dubbed the "eighth wonder of the world".

Alpujarra Mountain Tour
Experience some mountain magic in the peaceful and pictures- que Alpujarras region located at the foothills of the beautiful Sierra Nevada mountain range, 3000 feet above sea level.

El Chorro Gorge
Enjoy a relaxing train ride through the Sunshine Valley, passing through villages, orange groves and rolling hills.

Gibraltar – Shopping or Sightseeing
No matter which Gibraltar tour you choose – The legendary Rock of Gibraltar will hold you in its grip: *Gibraltar looks like a cut-out piece of 1960's England!*

Jeep Tours
Pick-ups from any location in Torrox, Maro or Nerja.
Spend a memorable day in the picturesque natural parks of Nerja.

Nerja Caves & Sightseeing
Set out on a sightseeing tour of Nerja Caves, Frigiliana and Marinas del Este.

Ronda
This scenic tour in Ronda offers endless photographic opportunities – you will see houses clinging to the steep valley, distant olive fields, misty mountains and lots of unforgettable vistas.

Seville Historical City Tour
Accompanied by an English-speaking guide, you will be taken in an air- conditioned coach for a guided tour of Seville including the Cathedral of Seville, some of the Pavilions of the 1929 Latin American Exhibition and the Jewish quarter.

MALAGA
A lot of people seem to overlook **the city of Málaga** as a goal in itself…that is a mistake. Málaga may not look inviting seen from the motorway, but things are not always what they seem. The old quarter, Plaza de Mercedes, the Picasso Museum and winding little shopping streets…are just a few of the things that ads to the charm of the city.

When visiting Torrox make sure to visit this vibrant and historic city of Malaga which is currently bidding to become the *European Culture Capital in 2016*.

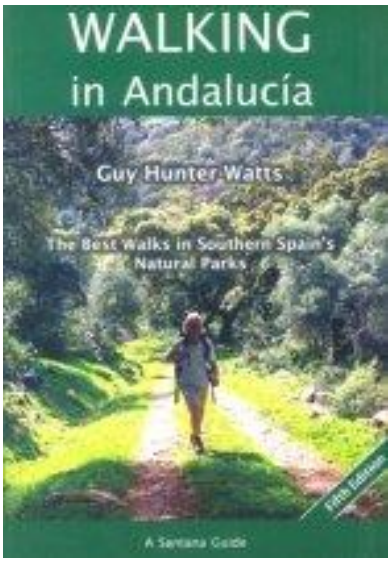
Where to find more info about the area

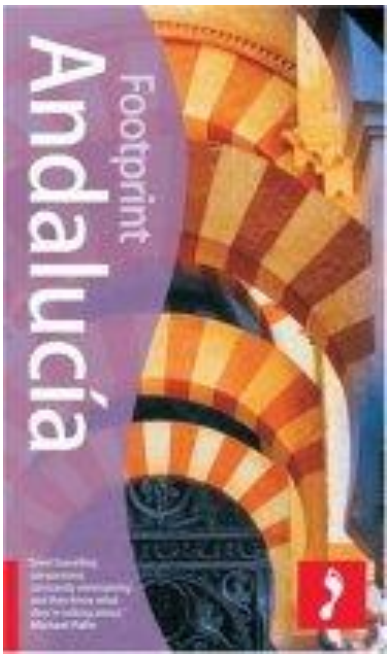
I have gathered a few links where you can find more information than this small guide leaves room for.

Books:
The Spanish Book Shop (Shipped from the UK)
The Spanish Book Shop (Shipped from the USA)

Articles:
Andalusia – A Life Changing Experience
El Acebuchal Pueblo
Malaga, Picasso & El Pimpi Bar
Nerja Restaurant First
Salobrena Costa Tropical
Salobrena – Hosta San Juan
Torrox Pueblo
Torrox Live Music Bar – Casa Maria

Useful Resources:
Ferry Routes in Spain





Travel Insurance

Covers overseas medical, evacuation and baggage

About the Author

Making a new life in a place like Andalucia is ***not*** easy – unless you happen to get your paycheck from Northern Europe or bring a pension with you. Anybody who tells you differently is pulling your leg!
The economy is still very much based on black money and it is hard to make a living working for somebody else as the majority of workers are underpaid – and if you complain…there is always some other poor bugger ready to work for the salary you declined - out of sheer need and desperation. (In 2007 33% of the population in Andalucia was not able to make it past the poverty-line – defined by the European Union.)

I am still here, ten years down the road, but it hasn't been an easy ride or a bed of roses…

However, a little tougher than on arrival, I am now doing 3 travel websites **FincaFantasticaTravel** **FerriesSpain** & **TorroxTours** with my Anglo-Irish fiancé Edward Kirwan so "poco a poco" the light has started to shine at the end of the tunnel.

I *do* love my life in the Andalusian Mountains and I feel extremely privileged not having to go to work everyday battling through the traffic from hell.
Most mornings the sun is shining and most of the year something is in bloom. January and February the Almond tree has beautiful white flowers and in May the Jacaranda tree is brightening up the landscape with rare blue colors and from around the same time the "Queen of the Night", Dame de Noche, is sending out its seductive smell of perfume from dusk till dawn.

I like the way the smell of fried Sardines mix with salty sea-air on the beach restaurants and I love driving home through the mountains - waiting an eternity for the goats and the three-toothed goat man to clear the road, so I can pass. There is something very real about Andalucia …if not surreal. See You In Torrox.

Dorte Holm Jensen

Education:

- Trained Teacher
- NLP – Practitioner
- Special Teachers Training
- The Writing school

Jobs
Free-Lance Journalist
Webmistress
Writer

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