

ACADEMIA BERLINGUA

The school



ACADEMIA BERLINGUA offers a new way of learning the Spanish language in Spain.

BERLINGUA is situated near to the River Segura, a unique area to the south-east of Spain. Our excellent location provides us with exceptional views of the natural lagoons and surrounding areas. The larger towns of Alicante, Torrevieja, Elche, Orihuela and Murcia are a short distance away. The school is centrally located between two international airports; Altet (Alicante) 40 km and San Javier (Murcia) 47 km.

Berlingua is an academy with more than 50 years experience in teaching English, French, German... and above all, Spanish to foreigners. Each year, over 700 students from all different nationalities have passed through our classrooms, which demonstrates our success in the work to which we dedicate ourselves to teach languages. The teachers that work at the Berlingua School are all qualified university professionals that have been retained to specifically teach our method. We require that they are all native spoken and that they communicate their knowledge, culture and traditions from their country of origin.

The classrooms are equipped with TV, Wifi connection; fully air - conditioned with windows letting in natural light. The students will be able to connect to the internet via the WIFI connection.

With Academia Berlingua, you will also have the opportunity to learn away from the premises using an online platform where the students can continue their classes from their country of origin. Only students of ACADEMIA BERLINGUA can enjoy this exclusive programme.



LOCATION

The school is located in a residential area, situated in the town of ROJALES, to the south of the province of Alicante in the heart of the Vega Baja (fertile plain) region. In this country village we are able to combine the variety of natural parks, leisure and tourism.

It is a town surrounded by irrigated lands providing fruit and vegetables for exportation and where thousands of foreigners and nationals have chosen as a place of residence and relaxation. It has a great supply of restaurants and shops alike. The recreational activities include "La Marquesa" golf course with its 18 holes, tennis courts and water park.

Guardamar del Segura, is located 9km away. It boasts a pine forest with an area of 800 hectares scattered between the magnificent white sand dunes where you can observe many different species of animals and vegetation. It has one of the best fine sand beaches on the Vega Baja.

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Torrevieja is another coastal town 10km away, a centre of tourism and commerce enjoying beaches, promenades, Habeneras shopping and leisure centre, bars, restaurants and a port of great importance. Also one of the most productive salt works in Europe and the second most important in the world.

The lagoon of La Mata (7km), is a natural Park recognised by the regional government of Valencia. This area of 3,743 hectares hosts a great variety of flora and fauna. Many types of migratory birds rest on their passage to warmer lands. These are protected nature parks where tourists can visit, observe the wild life and be at one with nature.

THE CLASSES

The classes involve small groups, with qualified teachers using the most up-to-date technologies and teaching methods for effective education.

Students enrol at the level most suited to their knowledge of Spanish. The courses are organised in six levels, depending on the degree of difficulty and according to the student's ability to communicate in the language on completion of each level.

- **Level A1:** students will be able to express themselves simply in basic and predictable everyday life situations.

- **Level A2:** students will be able to express themselves adequately in basic social conventions and communicate satisfactorily in everyday life situations.

- **Level B1:** students will be able to express themselves reasonably accurately and with a degree of flexibility in familiar but more complex everyday life situations.

- **Level B2:** students will be able to communicate fluently and with sufficient accuracy to express their ideas well, using language suitable for the situation.

- **Level C1:** students will be able to express themselves fluently spontaneously, and appropriately according to the context of the conversation and the intentions of the speaker.

- **Level C2:** students will be able to express themselves in all types of situations, including discussion on abstract and complex specialised themes.



ACADEMIA BERLINGUA offers you an unforgettable experience:

A balloon trip taking in the scenery of the Vega Baja region (fertile plain), to the silhouette of the coast, mountains and the palm trees. The students will participate in the inflation of the globe and enjoy a trip between 500 and 1000 meters high. At the end of the trip, the flight

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personnel and passengers will enjoy a picnic, celebrating with cava (sparkling wine). A diploma will be presented to commemorate the experience.

<http://www.aerogolbo.com>



HORSE RIDING

Riding is an excellent form of exercise to free yourself of the tension and worries, especially when you can ride on the open fields between the orchards and the orange groves. The levels of riders range from initiation to advanced. The beginners will receive theory and practical classes. <http://todocambia.de>



FLAMENCO DANCING

The lovers of the Spanish folklore can enjoy learning flamenco, the movement of the feet, the art of the hands together with the castanets. The Don Carlos Dance School is available to teach you everything that there is to know about this dance.

SALSA DANCING CLASSES

The dance rhythms are essential to relate yourself to the Latin atmosphere. Torrevieja has numerous studios where you can salsa dancing, etc. The Don Carlos Dance School has prepared special courses so that in few days you shall be the "king of the dance floor".

TENNIS COURTS

The students have two tennis courts to practice their favourite sport. The use of these courts are free.



THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES ARE OPTIONAL, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE COURSES.

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LEISURE WALKS

ACADEMIA BERLINGUA is in contact with the group Pasico to Pasico (step by step), made up of hikers, fans of leisure walking, ecologists, environmentalists and cyclists who enjoy the natural countryside and sport adventure.

This association offers the students of Berlingua International School an ample calendar of activities. At the moment, Pasico to Pasico, offers to its members and supporters these activities in the majority are gratuitous (free). The activities are educational enabling you to learn about the surrounding environment.
<http://www.pasicoapasico.com>

GYMNASIUM

Howards Health & Fitness Club offers the students of Berlingua International School the use of their facilities. They offer a gymnasium, spa and "spinning" classes. Howards Health & Fitness Club also offers classes of Step, BodyPump, Batuka, Body Combat, Yoga, Hara Karate, Pilates (not included in the basic package). Price available on request. <http://www.howardsfitness.com>



Golf

The enthusiastic golfers can enjoy practicing this sport in the Marquesa Golf, located in a valley between two mountains, thus offering a microclimate which is very pleasant to play in all year round; the days of rain are very few in this area. Quesada is surrounded by the urbanizations, a residential enclave of the Vega Baja region, in the municipal town of Rojales.

For those of you that are interested, please consult the prices in the web page <http://www.lamarquesagolf.es>



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Guardamar

HISTORY OF GUARDAMAR

Present day Guardamar has been inhabited from time immemorial due mainly to its strategic position along the Mediterranean Sea and at mouth of the River Segura.

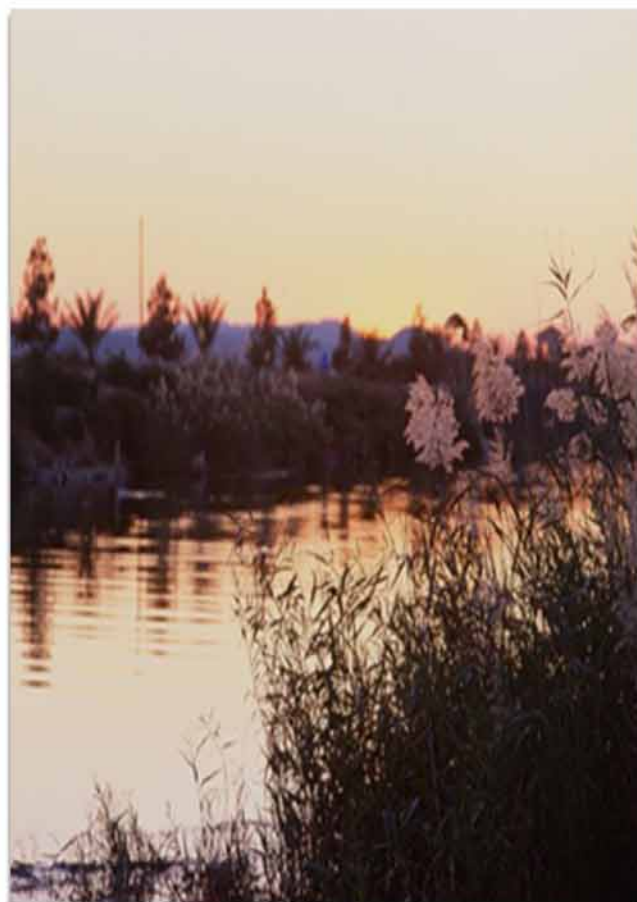


Many ancient Mediterranean civilisations have left their mark on the town. The Phoenicians established a port city there between the 7th and 8th centuries B.C. The Iberian culture blossomed between the 1st and 3rd centuries and numerous remains such as the "Dama de Guardamar" have been found. Guardamar also has remains of human activity from the period of the Roman Empire. During the centuries of Islamic domination, a community known as Al-Mudawar existed which has not yet been found and later on, a "rábita" or religious community lived in the area known as "la Fonteta".

Today, Guardamar's inhabitants come from the Christian settlers brought here by James I during his many military campaigns in the 1260's. The village was founded during the period of Castilian domination up until 1305, when the area was eventually incorporated into the Kingdom of Valencia by James II. The inhabitants of Guardamar have experienced some

difficult times during its history attacks from the Moors, the Castilians and from Berber pirates. In spite of these harsh conditions, the people of Guardamar "Guardamarencos" have remained resilient and the population has continued to grow.

Modern day Guardamar is also marked by two extremely important events - the earthquake of 1829 which totally destroyed the old mediaeval town and caused the town to be relocated to today's site. The later threat came from the movement of the sand dunes which resulted in the reforestation project and the creation of the pine forest of which Guardamar is extremely proud.



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Guardamar

CULTURAL CALENDAR AND FESTIVITIES

Winter, which is more like spring here, is Carnival time – a time of colour and activity - when local people, disguised in fancy dress and masks, enjoy hours of endless fun and music.

Spring brings our Easter and Holy Week celebrations (Semana Santa). The Passion of Christ is re-enacted in street performances and important religious processions make this time of year an unforgettable experience for visitors.

Easter Monday and St Vincent Ferrer's Day – (celebrated of the Valencian region on the second Monday in Easter) is a time when the locals of Guardamar and the neighbouring towns get together to celebrate in the Alfonso XIII Park. People have lunch together, eat the typical 'Mona de Pascua' cake and spend hours playing games, singing and having fun.



The arrival of the summer equinox (21st June) is bonfire time. We celebrate the 'Plantà de la Foguera' – a huge bonfire which is built by the locals and includes satirical images and figures. The night before St. John's day, 'vispera de San Juan' – locals flock to the beach for the magical fire rite when witches and muses dance the enigmatic fire dance. The highlight of these festivities is the burning of the bonfire on the eve of 24th June - when locals enjoy this unique spectacle.



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Guardamar

July 25th – the feast of St James is celebrated. This is a spectacular event in the festival calendar – when the history of the Moors and Christians is re-enacted in the streets of Guardamar. The ancient legend of “the encantà” is retold and locals enjoy parades and processions, fireworks, noise, music and splendid ceremonial costumes.

In September, we celebrate in the countryside, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima – a feast that lasts the month of September – with events every weekend - such as competitions and parades and floral processions.

The Rosary of the Virgin Mary, ‘La Mare de Déu del Rosari’ (in Valencian) is celebrated on 7th October. She is the town’s patron and her feast is marked by early morning recitations of the rosary through the streets of Guardamar. This continues every Sunday throughout the month of October.

Christmas is a time for children - with planned activities in the streets and a Christmas programme of events in the Casa de Cultura. The days before Christmas, we welcome ‘Menjabollos’ – “the bun eating giant” to the town. He comes from his hut in the pine trees to visit the children.

Christmas festivities culminate in the arrival of the Three Kings on the eve of the 6th January.



GASTRONOMY AND CUISINE

The gastronomy of Guardamar represents the finest of Mediterranean cuisine – based on fresh daily produce from the sea and from the surrounding market garden areas. We have Guardamar’s finest prawns from the sea – as well as bream, grouper, sea bass, red mullet and sole etc. All delicious and some cooked in salt which adds to their flavour and maintains their aroma. The market garden area, irrigated by the River Segura offers fresh fruit and vegetables, all grown with patience and care.

Special mention must be made of the ‘ñoras’ – a small sweet red pepper dried in the sun along the dunes in Guardamar. They provide a unique and delicious addition to local cuisine – and to that of the surrounding areas.

All of these wonderful natural ingredients come together to produce some excellent traditional Valencian rice dishes such as ‘arròs a banda’, ‘a la marinera’ or ‘caldero’, a traditional recipe still made today and enjoyed by the local fishermen. Another typical dish is ‘arròs amb conill’ or rice with rabbit is also an accompaniment to many of the local vegetable products e.g broad beans, artichokes, garlic etc. and goes well with meat and with fish.

A typical Christmas dish is ‘putxero amb pilotes’ which is a type of meatball stew. It is also worth highlighting the delicious salted fish, an ancient method of food preservation introduced to these shores by the Phoenicians. Of particular note are the salted fish roe, dried salted tuna and bonito – all excellent ‘starter dishes’.



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Orihuela



ORIHUELA

Historical artistic monuments, sixteen kilometres of coastline, six museums, more than ten thousand palm trees, thirty processional sculptures (pasos procesionales) and a poet. These figures give a notion of attractive nature of Orihuela. Besides which, it is brought together with a multitude long beaches and hidden coves steeped in history. A municipality, that gave us one of the first poems of Miguel Hernández, who shaped his memories of the surrounding fertile land.

BEACHES

At a little more than 20 Km from the City, in the direction of Bigastro, via San Miguel de Salinas, Orihuela has 16 Km of coast which alternates between cliffs with transparent waters and prestigious beaches of fine sand: Punta Prima, la Zenia, Cabo Roig, Campoamor, Playa Flamenca, Mil Palmeras, etc.

Coastal Orihuela occupies a large extension of land with housing developments, a predominance on family homes creates a calm and humanised environment perfectly balanced with green spaces, including the beautiful area of pine trees of "La Dehesa de Campoamor". Orihuela's beaches, year after year, obtain "Bandera Azul" status (Blue Flag), according to the

environmental regulation of the European Community, all have the services necessary to receive tourists and visitors.

At its beaches, coves and sports ports (Cabo Roig and Campoamor), nautical sports can be practised all year round, thanks to the privileged climate of the area, which assures an average temperature of around 20 ° C and more than 300 days of the sunshine a year. The nautical facilities are complemented with three excellent golf courses just metres from the sea.



THE BATTLE OF MOORS AND CHRISTIANS

The Moors and Christians festival is one of the most traditional festivals in the Southern and Eastern part of Spain. It celebrates the re-capture of Spain from the Arabs in the 12th and 13th Century. The locals dress-up in magnificent colourful costumes, generally handmade by themselves and re-enact the battle between the Moors and Christians when they captured the castle.

It is always a wonderful spectacle with much eating, drinking and a celebration for all the family.

Orihuela



MEDIEVAL MARKET OF ORIHUELA

A spectacular medieval market, which features actors dressed up and behaving according to the era, which is held in the town of Orihuela from 1st to 3rd of February. This Medieval Market is known like one "of the biggest in Spain" with more than 200 stands attracting thousands of visitors. In addition to being able to get to know all the different activities that were done in the medieval age, visitors can enjoy the wonderful cultural heritage of Orihuela.

Street bands, storytellers, musical magic and various



other acts liven up the medieval themed centre of Orihuela where visitors are able to view falconry, snake charmers, knights, acrobats and amusing games.

EASTER WEEK

Easter week is one of the most heartfelt and deep-rooted fiestas celebrated in Spain. This commemoration has centuries of history and tradition, remembering the passion and death of Jesus Christ. The streets in most of Spain's cities, towns and villages become the stage for religious fervour and devotion, combining grief and meditation in memory of Christ's death. Music, art and colour come together in magical processions; solemn parades in which crowds of people accompany religious images on their route through the streets.

Perhaps the most important local festivities in Orihuela are the Holy Week celebrations, listed as being of Touristic Interest (dates vary from March to April). As of Palm Sunday, processions are held every day, and the locals carry the sculpted 18th century effigy (paso) of Christ by Salzillo, silver thrones, banners and flowers, accompanied by music and the march of the "Nazarenos". The most spectacular procession is the Holy Burial held on Easter Sunday, in which the unique 17th century religious float by Nicolás de Bussi called "La Diabla" is brought out. This "she-devil" is so called because the devil is shown surrounded by nude female forms. This curious float is not allowed to enter local churches. The procession is led by the "Caballero Cubierto", the hooded rider, who enjoys an ancient privilege and tradition of being allowed to enter the cathedral with his head covered.

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Torreveija:



CLIMATE

Torreveija has the typical weather conditions of the Western Mediterranean areas, with hot summers and mild winters, with 2,950 hours of sunshine per year, which is one of the highest rates in Spain.

The weather conditions you can enjoy in Torreveija make it the ideal place for tourists searching for sunshine and beaches.

THE NATURAL PARK

The natural park of La Mata and Torreveija contains a salt lagoon that is located among the towns of Torreveija, Guardamar del Segura, Rojales and Los Montesinos.

The protection and preservation of the environment and landscape was deemed by the Valencian government to hold a "natural protection status" for the special protection of birds.

The park is also included in the list of the main marshes of Europe, which was formed in 1962. These marshes are located in an area close to the sea, connected by several canals.

It also fulfilled the requirements to be considered of "international relevance" during a convention held in Iran in 1971.

BEACHES

The fine white sandy beaches of Torreveija are one of the main attractions for tourists, as well as tide free waters. The beaches are maintained all year round.

During the mild winters, it is possible to see sunbathers on the beaches enjoying the weather. However it is during the summertime when you can find the best choice for leisure activities.

"Los Náufragos"

This beach is the perfect place to practice volleyball, with several competitions during the summer season. This is one of the quietest beaches in Torreveija. Facilities include: first aid, lifeboat, ambulance and a flag system for bathers indicating the safety of the water, newstands, ice-cream kiosks and bars.

Water sports: windsurfing and pedalos.



"Los Locos"

This is one of the beaches that get more crowded during the summer. It has different amenities for children. Facilities include: first aid, lifeboat, ambulance and a flag system for bathers indicating the safety of the water, newstands, ice-cream kiosks and bars.

Water sports: windsurfing, inflatable water ride and parachutes.

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Torre Vieja:

"El Cura"

This beach is the main gathering for two nights every summer. The night of the 24th June. Many people gather on the beach to light candles and make wishes. At midnight they all go in the water.

Facilities include: first aid, lifeboat, ambulance and a flag system for bathers indicating the safety of the water, newstands, ice-cream kiosks and bars.

Water sports: windsurfing and pedalos.

"La Mata"

Long beautiful shores, ideal for sport competitions held in August. The nearby Cabo Cervera is a sandy beach equipped with showers. This is the point that divides the inland from the coast. Facilities include: first aid, two watchtowers, lifeboats, two ambulances and a flag system for bathers indicating the safety of the water, newstands, ice-cream kiosks and bars.

Water sports: windsurfing, sailing boats and pedalos.



FESTIVALS

Since the last few years, Torre Vieja has experienced an increase in the number of cultural and festive activities. The municipal institute of culture; "Joaquin Chapaprieta Torregrosa" is an institution whose members work for the creation of new cultural activities, such as the

organisation of exhibitions, various lectures, literary and sculpture brings together painting, theatre, dance and musical events. This institution in conjunction with the local councils ensure that the people of Torre Vieja maintain a social activity every month of the year.



JANUARY

The year starts with the traditional parade of the Three Kings, a theatre performance and installation of the decorative lights in preparation for Carnival week.

FEBRUARY

The month of masks and costumes! The joy and charm that the carnival brings to Torre Vieja every year. The local theatre and street musicians make a difference to the atmosphere. Some twenty groups take part in the parades through the streets, delighting everyone with their originality and enthusiasm.

MARCH AND APRIL

During Semana Santa (Easter Week) the streets become crowded as there are religious processions

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Torre Vieja:

celebrated every evening and the beating of the drums marks the rhythm of the men who carry effergies on their shoulders.

This is also the time of the Book Fair which counts on a large number of booksellers and visitors every year, with the visits of well-known writers who help to give the Fair a greater importance.

MAY

The month starts with the May Fair, one of the main festive events in the Valencian region. It all began as a festival organised by a few friends, but it has made Torre Vieja into a place where you can enjoy the typical



Sevillian songs. The port area is converted into a piece of Andalusia with over fifty Sevillian style small houses, decorated with lights and bright colours. Visitors are invited to taste the fine wine and dance the night away.

JUNE

Torre Vieja offers the festival of the "Sagrado Corazón" that take place near the church of the same name which is located in the district of "Barrio de Punta". The Hogueras de San Juan are huge paper mache sculptures

of well-known personalities (as a kind of criticism) and are burnt at night to symbolize the destruction of evil.

JULY

The first of the traditional festivals of the month is to celebrate the Virgen del Carmen, patron saint of fishermen and sailors. Festivities include the tasting of large paellas and water sport competitions. To mark the end there is a sea parade with a religious image carried along the coast on a boat.

The Eras de la Sal district holds one of the most important events of the year, with the election and presentation to the "Queen of the Salt" and her "Dames". She represents the woman of Torre Vieja and many young girls dream of achieving this distinction.

AUGUST

This is the month of the International Habanera song contest, when the town becomes a real social gathering with people coming from all over the world. On the 15th August, there is the "Queen of Salt" parade, which is a very popular event.

SEPTEMBER

The municipal institute of culture "Joaquín Chapaprieta" organises the "Musica en los Barrios" The three most representative choral groups in the town present their music in various parts of the town.

OCTOBER

The 7th October is the main day of the Torrelamata festivities when the residents organise all kinds of activities; games for children, competitions, theatre,

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Torreveija:

street musicians and religious events. Finishing with the great procession "Virgen del Rosario" an image that is paraded through the streets of La Mata.

NOVEMBER

Music month in Torreveija. They have two important musical groups. One of them is the Union Musical Torrevejense, which invites local residents and visitors to take part in the events programmed to celebrate the patron saint of musicians "Santa Cecilia", as well as the musical society "Los Salerosos".

DECEMBER

Torreveija celebrate the patron saint of Torreveija "La Inmaculada Concepción" with a festival.

MUSEUMS

The museum can be found in the "Casa de la Primavera" urbanization and it was inaugurated 30th May 1992. This is a permanent exhibition visited by many throughout the year. There is also the Museo de Semana Santa "TOMÁS VALCÁRCEL"



SEA AND SALT Museum

This museum can now be visited in Calle Patricio Pérez 10 (but it will soon be moved to the Eras de la Sal area). It is a historical appreciation of the local salt mines.

"RICARDO LAFUENTE" Museum

The members of the local choir and orchestra group (Coro y Orquesta Salinas) decided to create a museum displaying elements which were an important part in Ricard Lafuente's life.

