

# **A Small Guide to 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 “Small Guide To 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 [flybe.com](#) & [Flysiesta](#) normally have good deals.

If you are flying into Málaga or Granada from worldwide destinations - search with [Kayak](#) on more than 200 websites in one go.

Arriving to Spain by boat from Plymouth to Santander or from Portsmouth to Bilbao with your own car is another possibility...but it's a long drive through [Spain](#).

Finally you can book a [train ticket to Málaga online](#).



### **Driving Distance:**

**Málaga – Torrox: 65km**

**Granada – Torrox: 110km**

### **Car Hire:**

[Hertz](#)

[Holiday Autos](#)

### **Flights:**

[Flybe](#)

[Flysiesta](#)

[Kayak](#)

### **Ferries to Spain:**

[Cheap4ferries](#)

**Plymouth – Santander**

**(2 times per week)**

**Portsmouth – Bilbao**

**(every 3 days)**

[Train Tickets](#)

# 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 senioritas 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 hotel is opening in 2008 in Calle Baja 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:

(Click on these video-link to  
experience Torrox Pueblo Live)

[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 Hotel Riu Ferrara.



**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.



# Torrox Campo

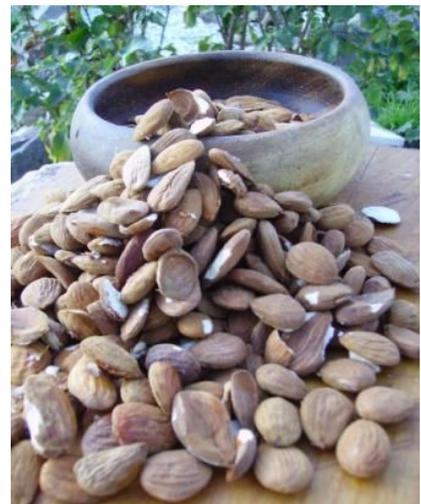
The Campo (the countryside) is beautiful; mountains, dusty-green olive trees, wild flowers in the spring, almond trees in blossom in January & February and an indescribable feel of “Wild West” due to all the new-builders...settlers.

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 add 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 ([Riu Ferrara Apartments](#)). The complex is surrounded with 11.000 m<sup>2</sup> 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 one hotel in Torrox Pueblo and a few more on Costa you will have to go to [Nerja](#), 10 km east along the coast to find hostels, guesthouses and a variety of hotels in a more cosmopolitan setting.



## 10 Villas With Pool

### **Sleeps 6:**

[Villa Pedro](#)  
[Villa Andrea](#)  
[La Higuera](#)  
[Mercedes](#)  
[Las Palmeras](#)  
[Los Pinos II](#)  
[Mi Paraíso](#)

### **Sleeps 4**

[Los Peques](#)  
[Cortijo Miguel](#)  
[Casa Serena](#)

### **Hotel**

[Riu Ferrara](#)

### **Apartments**

[Riu Ferrara Apartments](#)

# 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.



## 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

Situated about 5 km from Nerja and 1 km from the old municipal district of Maro - [The Cave of Nerja](#), which has been declared a Historic-Artistic Monument, is well worth a visit.

Particularly impressive is the 32 m-tall Hall of the Cataclysm. It has been calculated that this space was fashioned by the fall of 1,000 billion drops of water. Your attention should also be drawn to the Hall of the Phantoms and the Hall of the Waterfall.

***The caves are open from 10:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 18:30. In July and August, the evening visiting hours are from 16:00 to 20:00***

If you want to visit Alhambra Palace and its beautiful gardens, that stand out with their abundant and varied flora and stunning water features, described in a poem as "water that cries", - set aside a whole day. The drive to Granada is 110km...but you don't want to rush it. You might even want to stay overnight in [Granada](#) - the Albaycin, offers narrow shaded streets and is an ideal maze to explore. You can [book your guided tour in Alhambra](#) including coach-pick-up from your Granada hotel and an English speaking guide or you can [book your ticket](#) and go there on your own. ***(It can be difficult to get tickets in the high-season and they have to be booked in advance.)***

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 add to the charm of the city.

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

For only 28€ you get [the Málaga Card](#), which gives you free admission to more than ten attractions including 24 hours free rides on the hop on – hop off bus.



**The Málaga Card  
From € 28**

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