

BEYOND THE GATES

The Region *and Beyond*

Everything outside the estate that makes this a year-round home rather than a holiday address.



TOGETHER WITH ME

More than *a resort*

When I first visited Las Colinas, I spent the whole trip inside the gates. The course, the restaurants, the trails. It was enough to convince me.

It was what I found in the months afterwards that convinced my family. The Roman amphitheatre at Cartagena on a Saturday morning. A Tuesday market in Murcia where nobody spoke English and the food was better than anything I had eaten in London. Guadalest, clinging to its cliff, with a view that stopped the conversation.

Las Colinas is a fine place to live. But it is the region around it that makes it a genuine year-round home rather than somewhere you visit. You are ten minutes from the coast, three quarters of an hour from three historic cities, and a short flight from most of Europe.

This guide is about everything beyond the gates.

John Uppard
Real Estate and Lifestyle Advisor, Las Colinas Nordic



CLIMATE

The most consistently *pleasant year*

The southern Costa Blanca sits in a semi-arid zone with remarkably steady conditions. Over 320 days of sunshine a year, which is not a brochure line but the reason daily life here works the way it does.

Winter	16 to 17 degrees in the day. You play golf in a polo shirt and eat lunch outside.
Spring	Rising from 18 to 28 degrees. Many residents' favourite season.
Summer	Warm but liveable, generally 29 to 31 degrees, with the day shifted early and late.
Autumn	Easing from 30 back down to 18. September and October are often the best of the year.
The sea	Ten minutes away, and warm enough to swim from May through November.

Not the hottest climate in Europe, and not the driest. The most consistently pleasant one, twelve months of the year, which is a different and more useful quality if you intend to actually live somewhere.

WITHIN REACH

Three cities, *forty-five minutes*

1 Alicante

The provincial capital and the way most visitors arrive. The Explanada runs along the harbour under palm trees and marble mosaics, Santa Barbara Castle looks out over the whole bay, and the Barrio de Santa Cruz is a tangle of narrow streets and small restaurants that still feels genuinely Spanish.

2 Murcia

The city visitors miss and residents love for that reason. A university town with a baroque cathedral, proper markets, and a tapas culture as good as anywhere in Spain. Around the cathedral a tapa still arrives free with a drink. It feels like Spain before the guidebooks.

3 Cartagena

Historic and seriously underrated. One of the most important ports of the Roman Empire, with a restored amphitheatre in the middle of the city that is genuinely extraordinary. Modernist architecture, a naval museum, a working harbour and a waterfront of restaurants.

> **WHY THIS MATTERS MORE THAN IT SOUNDS**
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> A resort with nothing around it is a holiday. A resort within an hour of three real cities, a university, hospitals and an international airport is somewhere you can actually live. That distinction is the whole reason this guide exists.

FURTHER AFIELD

From mountains to *ancient coast*

Guadalest	A mountain village on a cliff face with panoramic views down the valley. About ninety minutes.
Northern Costa Blanca	Altea the artists' town, Calpe and its limestone rock, Javea and Denia with a less developed coastline. An hour to an hour and a half, and a different character from the south.
Valencia	Spain's third city. The City of Arts and Sciences, the birthplace of paella, a medieval old town. Two hours by car.
Madrid	The morning train from Alicante gets you there before lunch. Just over two hours on the AVE.
Sierra Nevada	Europe's most southerly ski resort, three to four hours away, with snow from November to April.
Cabo de Gata	One of the last genuinely unspoilt stretches of Mediterranean coast. Volcanic landscape and clear water, about two and a half hours.



GETTING HERE

Connected to *everywhere*

Alicante-Elche airport	About 45 minutes. A major international airport with direct flights from London, Manchester, Birmingham and Edinburgh among others, at around two and a half hours.
Murcia-Corvera airport	About 35 minutes. Newer, with a growing route network, often quicker through security.
Roads	The AP-7 and N-332 give fast access north and south along the coast. The infrastructure is modern and well maintained.
High-speed rail	Alicante to Madrid in just over two hours, connecting on to the rest of Spain without flying.
Time zone	Central European Time, one hour ahead of the UK. No adjustment, and easy to stay in step with work or family at home.

Most residents find that within a few months the logistics stop being a consideration. You learn which flights work, which route to drive, and how to move between the two halves of your life without friction.

WHAT I WOULD SAY

The resort was not *the highlight*

When we moved here I expected the estate to be the best part of it.

The estate is why we chose the house. The region is why we stayed. It is the thing that turns a second home into a life: the Saturday markets, the cities within an hour, the fact that you can be skiing or in Madrid or on an empty stretch of coast by lunchtime.

If you are weighing this place against somewhere else, I would encourage you to weigh what is around it as carefully as what is inside the gates. That is where the difference usually is.

> “You are not isolated here. That sounds like a small thing until you have lived somewhere that is.”
>
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“Come and see the region as well as the estate. A day in Murcia or Cartagena tells you more about living here than another afternoon by the pool.”

About this guide. Written for general orientation only and current as of July 2026. Travel times are approximate and depend on traffic and season. Flight routes and airline schedules change frequently, so check current services before planning around a particular connection. Temperatures quoted are typical rather than guaranteed.

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