

La Floración de Cieza

Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th March 2021



The word "Floración" conjures up the magic of spring in Murcia as the contrast of soft colours and sweet smells inundate the orchards and farmlands. For around a month the fruit orchards of Cieza will be enveloped in an extraordinary blanket of pink and white as fruit trees, particularly the peaches for which this area is so well-known, burst into flower. This is a great time to visit and to enjoy the town's culture, cuisine and traditions. Cieza has a rich historical legacy inherited from different cultures that have occupied its territory since antiquity. Its Palaeolithic and Neolithic remains are unique in the whole Mediterranean fringe and the examples of cave paintings have been declared World Heritage by UNESCO.

ITINERARY

Wednesday 17th March

08.30 hrs: Departure from Interiors (opposite side of the road) Jávea port; 2nd pick-up at Mas y Mas on the N332; comfort stop en-route.

11.30 hrs: Arrival in Cieza; drop off near the Plaza de España and free time for refreshments.

12.30 hrs: Guided visit to the *Museo Siyâsa de Cieza*



The museum is located in a Modernist building which used to be the casino in the old quarter Cieza and includes a temporary exhibitions hall as well as a large permanent display spread across 4 floors. The main focus of the museum is the **Medina Siyâsa** and there is a good collection of artifacts recovered from the site. Pride of place goes to the two life-size reproductions of the houses which have been excavated on the hill which lies above the town:

this was the site of **Siyâsa** before the Christians founded modern Cieza below its Moorish neighbour after the Reconquista in the 13th century.



The former Islamic settlement of Medina Siyâsa

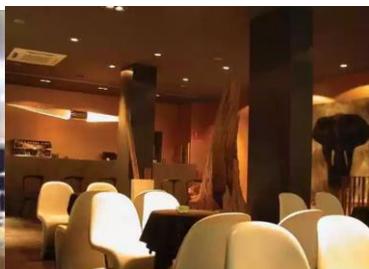


13.30 hrs: Board our coach and travel to the nearby **Restaurante La Cabana** for a light lunch.

15.30 hrs: A leisurely drive along the **Floración** route to admire the amazing fields of colour.



16.30 hrs: Travel to the nearby 4* Spa Hotel Hyltor in Archena and check in.



19.30 hrs: Dinner for the group in the hotel (included).

Thursday 18th March

Breakfast

09.00 hrs: Departure by coach for Cieza and drop off in the Plaza Esquina del Convento.



El Paseo de Cieza

This is an attractive area of the town with the Paseo, a long tree-lined walkway and open plaza containing several sculptures; a good place to stop for a coffee. Part of the convent has been converted into the library and the former water tank is now the conference room.

10.00 hrs: Board the *Tren Turístico* for another chance to see the beautiful flowering landscape around Cieza (1 hr).



11.00 hrs: Free time for individual sightseeing and lunch:



Ermita del Santo Cristo Ermita de San Bartoleme Plaza de Abastos

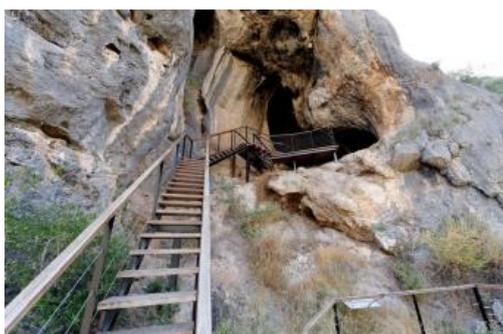


Museo Molino de Teodoro (small weaving museum)



La Basílica de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción in the Plaza Mayor

The **Esparto Museum** is another interesting place to visit if you want to learn more about this material and the handicraft processes to create it. Festivos de 10 a 13.30 h.



Cueva La Serreta We are not including a visit to see the nearby cave paintings due to the difficulty of access: "Entrance to the cave is via a narrow spiral staircase - anyone with mobility issues or nervous disposition is advised not to visit this location" (FYI: a visit to the cave must be pre-booked in advance - it is not possible to just arrive at the location).

15.30 hrs: Board the coach to return to our hotel in Archena.

Enjoy the facilities of the hotel, take a stroll along the nearby River Segura or perhaps visit the **Museo de Esparto in Archena**:



Spa at the Hotel Hyltor

Walk along the River Segura



The Museo del Esparto is housed on the ground floor of the Palacete de Villa Rías, which stands in the middle of the Jardín de Villa Rías public park and was once the home of the Viscounts of Rías. The museum is normally open to the public between Tuesday and Friday from 17.00 to 20.00 hrs.

19.30 hrs: Dinner for the group (included).

Friday 19th March

Breakfast

09.30 hrs: Check out and load luggage onto the coach.

10.00 hrs: Arrival in the nearby Molina de Segura and visit to *Museo Horno del Concejo y Casa del Folclore*.



The large bread oven which has been restored as part of the Museo Horno del Concejo is one of the oldest structures remaining in Molina de Segura, and is inside a building which is typical of the 17th and 18th centuries in the oldest part of the town centre. Until the 18th century it was the only oven of its kind in the whole of the town, and the original structure has been maintained during renovation, with the rammed earth walls of the building housing a traditional "moruno" oven. But the actual oven is far older than the building, and the earliest known reference to it dates from 1491, when Molina was one of the towns administered, and to all intents and purposes owned, by the Marquises de los Vélez. It remained in use for at least half a millennium, having finally fallen out of use in the 1970s. An audio-visual display shows the life and work of bakers and information regarding different kinds of bread.

11.00 hrs: Followed by a visit to the nearby *El Museo del Enclave de la Muralla*, designed to house and display the remains of the medieval wall which was built almost a thousand years ago by the Moors to protect the town of Mulinat-as-Sikka.



As visitors make their way along the wall a series of displays provides information regarding both the structure and features of the town's defences in the Middle Ages and the history of Molina until the 15th century. Many of the displays are interactive, while the wall itself features a nine-sided tower - the only one of its kind yet discovered in Murcia - and the typical

"double hairpin" entry gate, which slowed down potential attackers and allowed defenders to attack them from above. Alongside the museum is one of the large industrial chimneys which have been preserved as reminders of the importance of industry in the history of the town.

12.00 hrs: Free time for refreshments in one of the café/bars near to the Parque de la Compañía, which is full of specimen trees and plants with many different varieties of palms, conifers and shrubs, as well as an a replica of an old water mill.



14.00 hrs: Re-board our coach for the journey back to Jávea, with a refreshment break en-route.

17.30 hrs: Approximate arrival in Jávea.

NB The programme is provisional until hotel/visits etc. have been confirmed - further details and cost will be published when available.

BOOKING: a date for booking this trip will be published nearer the time.

DISCLAIMER/CANCELLATION: Members are reminded that they are responsible for their own travel/health insurance. In case of subsequent cancellation of your booking, refund of deposit/s can only be made if your place is sold on to another member/s. Please refer to the SC&C page on the website for further details.

Angela & Tony - Group Leaders

