

# Cortijo La Pedriza Information Sheet



Winter/Spring 2012

## Welcome to Cortijo La Pedriza

We hope the following information will help you enjoy your stay. Everything in the house is for your use and comfort. Please advise us if there was anything you needed but did not have. If you have any problems during your stay or if you have any questions, please ring Wayne, who is our property manager on his mobile (0034) 695 252 158.

## The Cortijo



The Cortijo is situated at the end of an olive growers' track, lined with almond trees. The grandparents of Antonia, our nearest neighbour, built it. The Cortijo is built on half an acre of land. It has a stone threshing circle which we use as a car park, a garden, a number of patios and, of course, a swimming pool.

The garden is planted with all the herbs you will need for cooking. Our friend, Agustín, visits twice a week to tend the vegetables which you are welcome to eat. Please also help yourself to fruit from the orchard: we have apples, pears, lime, orange and lemon, figs pomegranate and grapes from the vine. If you are more adventurous, you may wish to try prickly pear, but please ask Agustín to help you pick the fruit, as there is an art to removing its small spines.

We have a number of deciduous trees to provide welcome shade in the summer. Among these are a number of almond trees. Please help yourself to the almond store in an earthenware jar under the stairs.

## Around the Cortijo

### Fuente del Conde

This is the nearest village to the Cortijo. It can be

seen from the house and its church on the hill above the village has a cross which is lit up at night. It is a 5 minute drive by car, or a 35 minute walk. It has a bar called [Los Pájaitos](#) which serves good tapas and meals. The bar is closed on Mondays.

The village has a shop which is opposite the bar which stocks a wide range of goods including fresh fruit and vegetables. You can order fresh fish and meat. There is a bakery below the shop, but you need to get there before 10 am, as they sell out quickly.

### Iznájar

Iznájar is the nearest town. It is a 15 minute drive from the Cortijo. There is a garage on the way, which sells petrol, and also has a small well stocked shop which is open on Sundays and until 10pm every night.

There are two entrances to the town. The first, after you cross the first bridge takes you to the top of the town where there is easy parking. The town has many small shops including a pharmacy, post office and banks with cash machines. There is a fish market on Calle San Cristóbal.

There are many viewpoints from Iznájar with excellent views of the surrounding lake and mountains of the Subbética Natural Park. It is well worth climbing to the town's imposing castle and church.

[Bar Cuatro Vientos](#), situated after the second bridge at the bottom of the town, has free wi fi access.

When you cross the second bridge there is a road turning to the left, which takes you to the sandy beach of Valdearenas by the lake. The beach is good for swimming, sunbathing, fishing and boating. In the summer, a restaurant called [Media Luna](#) serves lunch and dinner.

## Villanueva de Tapia

The village has a good market selling fresh meat, fish and vegetables. Bar Tomas has free wi fi.

## Rute



Rute is a half hour drive from the Cortijo. It is a small farming town with lots of shops bars and restaurants. It also has a large Mercadona (supermarket ) which is open all day from 9 am to 9 pm.

## Archidona

Archidona is a half hour drive from Cortijo La Pedriza. For the best route, head in the direction of Salinas and ignore the first signpost to Archidona. You will pass an excellent Italian restaurant on the left called [La Paloma](#). It is well worth a visit. Take the second sign-posted road to Archidona. This takes you past [Las Viñas](#), a good restaurant that specializes in meat and game cooked in a wood fired oven. This road also takes you direct to Mercadona, It is on the left as you enter the town and is open from 9 am to 9 pm. The town has many small shops and bars. [Bar Central](#) on the main street serves good food.

Archidona is also noted for its unique, octagonal "square". There is a hermitage (ermita) perched on the hill above the town, converted from a mosque after the Reconquest.

## Antequera

Antequera is the largest town in the area and is well worth a visit. It has some very impressive prehistoric dolmens on the northern edge of town and a bullring that houses a good restaurant, [La Espuela](#).

[San Benito](#), one of the best restaurants in Andalucía, is a fifteen minute drive from Antequera. Take the road to Córdoba and turn left towards Alameda. The restaurant is just after the turn-off on the right hand side of the road.

## Priego de Córdoba

An impressive town 40 minutes drive from Iznájar. It has many baroque churches and an ancient Jewish Quarter. There are many fine restaurants amongst which are [El Aljibe](#) built over a Moorish Bath house.

## Other local places to visit



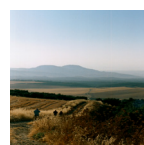
There are two impressive hilltop ermitas. The one near [Cabra](#) has spectacular views of the Córdoba countryside and an interesting church. To get there drive through Rute and after about 10 minutes take the turn off sign posted to Cabra. When you meet the main road, follow the signs to Priego and turn off at the road sign posted for the ermita. Cabra is an interesting market town with an olive oil museum and good restaurants, shops etc.

The second ermita at [Lucena](#) has a very impressive church and a good tapas bar. The church was featured in Pedro Almodóvar's film 'Hable Con Ella'.

[Alhama de Granada](#) is a great day trip from Cortijo La Pedriza. It is less than an hour away situated off the A92 on the way to Granada. It is a spa town scenically sited along a ledge overlooking a broad gorge with wonderful views, and a couple of striking churches in a well preserved old quarter.

The main attraction is the hot springs which are in the grounds of the Hotel Balneario, about 1k out of the town. The baths are sign posted from the A338 to Granada. Parking and access are free, and makes for a good hot soak.

## Further Afield



The cities of [Granada](#) and [Cordoba](#) are, of course, worthy of a day trip from Cortijo La Pedriza. Many people overlook [Málaga](#), which has great restaurants and beaches. Among its many attractions is the Picasso museum.

## The Beach

Your nearest beach is [Playa El Pedregalejo](#) in Málaga. To get there take the motorway to Málaga, as you arrive at the city the motorway forks into two. Take the left fork and shortly after, turn off to Motril. After a few minutes take the El Pedregalejo turn off. There are many good fish restaurants including [El Caleño](#) on Playa El Pedregalejo and [El Tintero 2](#) which is on Playa El Palo.

## Walking



You can take some wonderful walks direct from the Cortijo, ranging from one to eight hours. You can download some suggested walks in the "Things to do" section of our website. The best walking is to be had from the maze of olive growers tracks, surrounding the Cortijo. Olive growers do not mind you walking across their land, although they are bemused by the activity. There is also good walking in the [Sierra Subbética Natural Park](#), our favorite routes starting from the village of [Las Lagunillas](#) which is off the road from Iznajar to Rute

## The Practicalities

### Emergency Numbers

Please bear in mind that the services are not local, and response times can therefore be slow.

Police:	062
Ambulance:	061
Fire:	900 199 500, or, 957 123 597

The nearest emergency hospital is in Antequera. There is a cottage hospital in Iznájar that will also advise on any problems.

### Drinking Water

The tap water is safe to drink. Water is scarce in this region, especially during the months of March-October, so please use it with consideration and do not waste it unnecessarily.

### Electricity Supply

The electricity supply in rural Spain is not what you would expect in a Spanish City. If you have a lot of electrical appliances on at the same time the voltage reduces and, for example, your toast may take a long time to brown. This is something you get used to.

### Rubbish Disposal

Rubbish is not collected from the Cortijo. Please dispose of your rubbish daily in the bins provided by the council. The nearest are on the road at the end of the track. Turn right and they are on the bend on the left. Alternatively, there are further bins and a bottle bank in Fuente del Conde by the village shop. Please do not dispose of sanitary products or disposable nappies down the toilet.

Daily disposal of your rubbish especially in the hot summer months is essential, as waste food lying around attracts all sorts of wild life in particular ants and mice.

### Gas Bottles

These supply gas for the oven and hot water. There are 3 gas bottles in House 1. One is located under the sink in the kitchen, and heats the kitchen water and the shower in the en suite bedroom. One is located beside the cooker and serves the gas hob. One is located in the storeroom, above the outside toilet. This heats the water for the upstairs bathroom. There is also one in the kitchen of House 2. Wayne can help you change the bottles when they run out, just give him a call.

### Wood Stoves

In winter you will need to use the log burners and the open fire in the living room of House 1. There is a supply of cut olive wood outside by the side of the house.

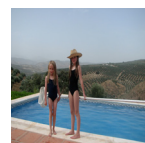
Please be careful as the outside and the handles of the stove become very hot when in use. Please protect your hands when opening the doors.

There are also electric eco panels for additional warmth in each room.

### Washing Machine

The washing machine is located in the swimming pool pump room. At the back of the swimming pool is a clothes line. There is an iron in the cupboard in House 1 in the dining area.

### Swimming Pool



The swimming pool is maintained weekly, so there should be no problems. The filter system is on a timer, and the lights for the pool and terrace can be found by the outside door to the living room. Please switch off after use.

There is an outside shower by the pool. Please use the shower before swimming in the pool in order to wash off sun creams and oils. An accumulation of these in the pool can cause the filters to block, and the swimming pool becomes unusable.