

The Nerja History group

By **Christinas Sinclair**

A **SELECT** group set off from Nerja on a Monday morning in April. We enjoyed breakfast en route outside Granada. This all-important breakfast stop is usually a good ice-breaker, especially for solo travellers. However, many in the group had travelled together on previous trips and so it was a jolly social event from the off!

After our intake of caffeine, we boarded the coach and travelled to Baza, where the archaeological museum opened especially for us. We had a guided visit in English, to learn about La Dama de Baza, the amazing statue of a seated lady, adorned with jewellery which was excavated in 1971. We also watched an explanatory video.

After all this new knowledge, refreshments were needed and we adjourned to a family run restaurant in the most lovely setting of grape vines.....! This restaurant also opened especially for us and delivered wine and an array of raciones for us all to share, in the sunshine.

We re-joined our coach after



Lunch Day

lunch, for the journey to Cartagena, where we checked in for 3 nights B & B. After a short spell of R & R, we all met and had a short walk to a nearby fish restaurant on the Port of Cartagena, for an excellent dinner, overlooking the twinkling lights of moored boats and listening to the gentle lap of the sea.

After a good night's sleep and buffet breakfast, our guide Pedro collected us for a guided visit of the City. During this visit, we heard about the various inhabitants of Cartagena all of whom have left their mark by Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine and

Moorish remains. It is a wonderful City with an important Port and many museums and places of interest including a Roman theatre.

After free time for lunch and a siesta, we met for a short walk to another nearby family-run restaurant, which was really stunning with its abundance of plants, especially the colourful display of hydrangeas.

After a welcome glass of cava and some aperitivos, we sat down to a wonderful dinner and then sauntered back to the Hotel.

Day three and after our buffet breakfast, Pedro joined us once more for our trip to Murcia. After an explanatory guided walk, we saw the splendid Cathedral, The Bishop's Palace and wonderful Moorish remains under the chapel of St Juan de Dios. A coffee break on the square and then more sights through the pretty streets including more remains at the convent.

Refreshments were definitely required so we adjourned to a nearby family run restaurant, where, once again, we were treated to a splendid array of wine

and raciones. We joined our coach for the visit to the Salzillo Museum, dedicated to the sculptural works of Francisco Salzillo, which are displayed during the processions for Semana Santa. We joined our coach once more, and enjoyed a surprise visit to a local winery for tastings of their range, including cava. Purchases were made and stored in the luggage area in the bus! We then continued back to Cartagena.

After a free evening and good night's sleep, we checked-out of our hotel and boarded the coach for our visit to Lorca, en route homewards to Nerja. Lorca was struck by an earthquake in 2011 and many buildings in the town are very badly affected and in need of re-building. However, we made our way high up on the hill,

which were discovered during the construction of the Parador.

After watching an interesting video and having had our various questions answered, we were in contemplative mood and so a pre-lunch drink on one of the many terraces seemed to be a good idea before we enjoyed a wonderful 3 course lunch in the Parador dining room. Finally, it was time to re-join our coach for our journey back to Nerja. It was a most enjoyable trip with like-minded people, as well being informative and educational.

Nerja History Group is open to all who are interested in Spanish history. Lectures are conducted in English and we refer to ourselves as "enthusiastic amateurs". We meet once per month at the Cultural Centre, Calle Granada, Nerja



The Crypt



Listening to the guide

near to the castle, to the stunning Parador which overlooks the town. Here we first enjoyed coffee and home-made biscuits on the vast terrace before enjoying a most interesting and informative guided visit of the remains of the Jewish quarter and synagogue,

usually on the first Friday of the month at 11.30 am.

Please check our website: www.nerjahistorygroup.es

And further information from: Christina Sinclair 687 602 057 nerjahistorygroup@yahoo.com

Shop till you drop on the Rock

By **Gail Mooney**

THE PHOENIX Club are off on their monthly shopping trip to Gibraltar on Friday 31st July. Do join us, we have some seats available. We depart from Algarrobo Lidl at 08.30 am and passports are essential. We have a short coffee break on the way at San Pedro.

The bus is parked in Morrisons car park and we leave Gibraltar at 16.30. Due to visa restrictions on entering Gibraltar, please advise if you are a non EU citizen when you book.

It is important to remember to bring your EHIC card with you, just in case.

We pick up at the A1 Garden Centre, Torre del Mar bus station and Algarrobo Lidl.

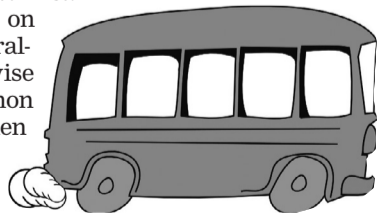
The price is €11pp which includes €1 gratuity for the driver. Children under 12 can

join us for 1/2 price. Still the best value on the coast!

Early booking is recommended if you like a particular place, as seat numbers are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Plenty to see in Gibraltar apart from the shopping!

For more information on any of our trips or events call Gail on 951 067 723, email phoenixsocial-club@yahoo.co.uk or catch us on the web at www.phoenixsocial-club.co.uk

The Phoenix Club is a registered association raising funds for 3 local charities and Help4Heroes in the UK. We meet every tuesday at the restaurant above Super-sol in Torre del Mar between 12 and 2pm and you can book trips or pay from 12.15 onwards. Do pop in and meet us.



Lux Mundi loved Almeria

By **Patricia Rothwell**

IT WAS A beautiful sunny day for the recent excursion of friends of Lux Mundi, Torre del Mar when they visited the city of Almeria.

On arrival time was free to visit and wander where they wished. Some people visited the Historical Monument of the Alcazaba fortress, which is located on a solitary hill with breathtaking views of the city and bay of Almeria and was founded by the Moors in 955AD. The fortress has undergone extensive restoration and landscaping work, with the fortress wall, Palace complex, Christian Castle, towers houses, gardens and a complex water system with many features of reservoirs, fountains, pools and flowing water channels. There was also the Cathedral and its museum, which has a fortress-like appearance due

to its towers, merlons and protected paths created to defend it from Mediterranean pirates. It was destroyed in the 1522 earthquake but in the 16th century was rebuilt in the Renaissance style. On display in the complex

was an interesting display of icons. Others strolled through the park down to the promenade with gardens and palms. There was time to enjoy a lunch, many partaking of the sea food caught locally. The group returned via the motorway with views along the coast with its many bays and agreed it had been a very enjoyable day. Lux Mundi, Torre del Mar would like to thank all the friends who supported them, which enables the centre to continue with their charitable work and look forward to seeing you again at future.

Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Torre del Mar. Avda. Moscatel 1ª, (Jardines Viña Málaga/Antigua Casa de la Viña), Torre del Mar, 29740. Opening hours Monday through Friday 10.00 to 13.00 and 15.00 to 18.00. Tel.952 543 334 E-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org Web: www.lux-mundi.org



Friends outside the cathedral