

# The Nerja History Group take in the sights of Leon, Zamora and Toro

By Christina Sinclair

AT THE end of March, a group of us, of mixed nationalities, set off from Nerja by coach to Málaga for the AVE train to Madrid, which is fast and comfortable.

In Madrid, another coach collected us, to make the rest of the journey by road with a comfort stop en route.

We checked into the NH Hotel in the Plaza Mayor, Leon, and after settling in we boarded the bus again, for the short journey to the Parador (Hostal de San Marcos), which is steeped in history with a restaurant that offers beautifully prepared traditional cuisine. We enjoyed a welcome glass of cava and dinner in the stunning dining room, after



which, we were taken back to our hotel.

After breakfast, our guide collected us for a walking tour of the city, starting with the Cathedral. There are so many

features which are notable, but, the stained glass is wonderful! (In fact, a few people said it gave them goose bumps).

We then ambled through the pretty streets to the Museum of San Isidoro with its 'beautifully jewelled chalice, (now thought by some historians to be "The" chalice from which Jesus drank at the Last Supper) and stunning painted ceiling.

En route, some of us sampled delicious hot chocolate and churros, while others who were more restrained had coffee or tea! From there, we saw the Gaudi House, the Roman city walls and other places of interest, pointed out to us by our excellent guide.

We then had a break for lunch before boarding our coach again for our guided visit of the Parador.

It is difficult to know where to start - the exterior of the building makes an impressive statement and in the large plaza in front, is a bronze statue of a pilgrim. We were shown many rooms and salons inside the Parador with explanations, including the capitular, where we had enjoyed our cava the previous evening and also the small, interior chapel. It is a wonderful building and there is a lot to take in!

Our coach took us back to the hotel for a rest/freshen-up and then it was all action stations again. Because of the excellent location of our hotel, there are many places in which to sample local tapas and wines.

After another excellent



breakfast, we went by coach to the city of Zamora, which sits on the River Duero. We were met by our guide for a walking tour of the major sights, including the castle, a collection of tapestries, city walls and a couple of the 23 churches(!) and the XVI palace which is now a Parador.

In the plaza in front of the Parador, is a network of trees, which have been grown and trained in such a way as to provide a canopy of shade. We also saw many, many storks which nest all around the city, sometimes in the most precarious of places.

We had lunch in the wonderful Capricho de Meneses, which opened especially for us. This restaurant was recom-

mended and did not disappoint - we all agreed that it was a real delight.

Then back to Leon.

Some hardy folk, took to the town once again to sample the local colour.

The following morning, after breakfast, we assembled with our cases which were then taken to the coach. Goodbye Leon and hello Toro!

Toro is also on the River Duero and has really made a name for itself for red wine - it now boasts 61 Bodegas, most of which are out of town. Our first visit was to the magnificent Colegiata with its amazing, colourful, carved doorway. This visit too, was arranged especially, as it was closed to the public for refurbishment. However, continued phone calls to Father Roberto succeeded and we were granted

access and well worth it too.

We then walked along the pretty main street, where some enjoyed refreshments and others bought local goods. Next was the inevitable visit to a Bodega with tasting and then on to our restaurant for lunch, run by a young couple. We sampled some lovely local dishes and wine and then boarded our coach for the return journey to Madrid and our AVE train to Malaga. The local Nerja coach was waiting for us and we returned safely, but tired!

Nerja History Group is open to all who are interested in Spanish history. Meetings are held in English at the Centro Cultural, Calle Granada, Nerja. See website [www.nerjahistorygroup.es](http://www.nerjahistorygroup.es) or call Christina Sinclair on 687 602 057.

## Farewell to Herbie at The Junction



Christine third from right (orange dress) with some of her friends

Report by Jo Rutland, photo by John Rutland  
MO FROM the Junction Bar in

Benalmádena held a party on August 28 to celebrate the life of Herbie Steinback, and for his wife

Christine and their many friends. Sadly Herbie died recently from a brain tumour.

Herbie was a very popular man, he was one of the star players for The Junction pool team but was unable to attend the Super Pool Winter League awards in June, due to his illness, when they won the League Cup.

Herbie, together with his wife Christine, were volunteer drivers for Age Care, driving people to many appointments and functions.

During the party Christine talked about her life with Herbie, as did many of his friends, then Christine presented Mo with a bouquet of flowers, as well as two close friends who had helped her through her loss.

The speeches ended with everyone toasting Herbie, then they all enjoyed a splendid buffet put on by Mo and a few games of pool.

Send your club news and photos to [editorial@csnews.es](mailto:editorial@csnews.es)

### Crossword

Across: 1 Horatio, 5 Scrub, 8 Arena, 9 Fiddler, 10 Semaphore, 12 End, 13 Canter, 14 Barmen, 17 Rye, 18 Distemper, 20 Whoever, 21 Reins, 23 Yeast, 24 Riddles.

Down: 1 Heaps, 2 Rue, 3 Trample, 4 Onfoot, 5 Sedge, 6 Relief map, 7 Borodin, 11 Minnesota, 13 Caraway, 15 Averred, 16 Usurer, 18 Divot, 19 Rises, 22 Ill.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR CLUB EVENTS  
CAN BE TAKEN BY  
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