

‘Cortijo Fuente la Zarza’

Illora,
Granada,
Spain



‘Cortijo Fuente la Zarza’

Illora, Granada, Spain



General description of house

Welcome to Cortijo Fuente la Zarza which translated means 'the farm house by the fountain by the blackberries'. The house is a detached 200 year old farmhouse on (unusually) two floors. It is set in 5000 sq m of land (approx 1.5 acres). Growing on the land are numerous olive trees, a large walnut tree, an apricot tree and several fig trees. As you walk out of the front door there is a 24 ft by 12 ft swimming pool.

The house is fully furnished and can comfortably sleep 9 people. It has a through lounge and dining room. The lounge has a large glass fronted log burning stove, TV, DVD player, many English TV channels and three sofas. The dining room has an extendable table that can seat 8 people.



The fully fitted kitchen has a granite work top, dishwasher, kettle, microwave, gas cooker and fridge/freezer.

There are two bathrooms. On the ground floor there is a large bathroom with a shower, toilet, built in washbasin and two washing machines. The bathroom also has a further door leading to the outside pool and shower. Upstairs there is a newly built bathroom with bath, shower, glass shower screen, washbasin and w.c.



There are four bedrooms on the first floor. The bedrooms comprise of; a master bedroom with a king-size bed, a double room, an open plan landing room with twin beds (probably more suitable for children due to lack of privacy) and a further room with a single bed and a bunk-bed. There is also a travel cot that is suitable for a baby. The house is double glazed and centrally heated.



General description of surrounding area



The nearest town is Illora or phonetically 'eej you're a'. Illora is at the base of a mountain 1400m high called Parapanda. The house is ten minutes from Illora travelling up this mountain. The road that runs between Illora and Montefrio circulates this mountain and the house is roughly midway between the two towns. This is a view from the patio up Parapanda.

Illora is a medium sized traditional Spanish town. It has; an old castle with museum (that is lit up at night), a large church, four banks with cash point machines, numerous supermarkets, numerous shops, a large medical centre, numerous restaurants and bars, hardware stores and furniture shops. As Illora is a typical Spanish town they have typical opening times, which roughly are as follows:

	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Shops, Supermarkets	08:00	14:00	17:00	20:00
Banks	08:00	14:00	closed	closed
Bars	11:00	14:00	16:00	early hours
Restaurants	closed	closed	20:00	early hours

Shops close at 2pm on Saturdays and re-open on Monday morning. Supermarkets are closed on Sundays. Banks open Monday to Friday only.

There is a large supermarket in Pinos Puente called the Mercadona the opening times are longer than the smaller supermarkets in Illora. Monday - Saturday 9.15am - 9.15pm.

Restaurants: In Illora: La Terrasa, El Molinos, La Moderna, La Fabrica.

In Pinos Puente : Montserrat Restaurant, La Cruz de Granada.

We can provide you with a map of Illora showing where everything is.

Regional Attractions

Alhambra Palace



© MVC

Very beautiful Moorish Palace



Sierra Nevada Ski Resort



The Sierra Nevada Ski resort
:½ hr drive

Motril (the coast): ½ hr drive

Montefrio: 15minutes drive

Malaga: 1.5 hr drive

Marbella: 1.45 hr drive

Granada City Centre: 30
minutes drive

The Alhambra Palace : 30
minutes drive



How to get to the house

The house is located approx. 1 ½ hours drive from Malaga Airport and 30 mins from Granada Airport. From July 2017, Granada Airport is being serviced by Easyjet from Manchester and London Gatwick Airports.

From Granada Airport

As you leave Granada Airport you travel towards the A92 motorway. Travel toward Granada on this motorway (NOT TOWARDS Malaga/Seville). Proceed for two junctions and take the Pinos Puente turn off, travelling towards Pinos Puente on the N432 towards Cordoba. Go through Pinos Puente, past two Elf petrol Stations (on both sides of the road). There is a small sign for Illora on the right hand side of the road ignore this turning! Carry on for approx 5 minutes (7 Kilometres) passing a restaurant on the left hand side in the town of Ventas de Algarra. As you leave this town there is an alternative turning for Illora sign posted to the left. It is only a small junction so keep your eyes open. Take this left turn. This road will lead you straight to the centre of Illora. At the town centre there is a small roundabout with a bronze statue of a priest standing on it. The La Caixa Bank is also on this roundabout. We recommend that you meet John/Liz at this roundabout.

From Malaga Airport

As you leave Malaga Airport travel towards Granada on A7 / E-15 motorway. The road splits into A-45 in the direction of Antequerra / Granada. The road will branch off to Granada A92.

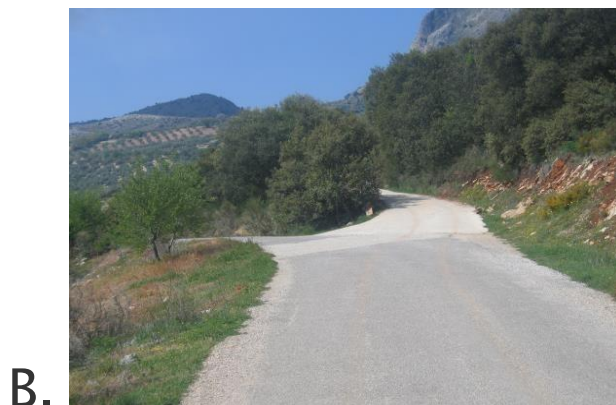
Two junctions after a town called Huetor Tajar leave the motorway for Montefrio / Loreto. It's a strange junction. You have to follow the road alongside the motorway, turn left over the bridge, then come back following the road again alongside the motorway then turn right to Loreto. Follow the road past Bracana then continue to Tocon. Immediately you reach the centre of Tocon turn right to Illora. There is a sign for Illora here but it is very easy to miss. Follow the road through Allomartes and then you will arrive in Illora. Turn left at roundabout with the fountain by the Citroen garage and follow the road up hill. You will see the roundabout with the bronze statue on it and La Caixa Bank - the meeting point with John/Liz. It takes 15-20 mins from the Motorway and is the quickest route from Malaga.

However, if you decide to carry on, take the road leading up hill from this roundabout. This is one of the main streets in Illora. Stay on this road and follow it up hill. It will twist and turn and you will eventually pass the Town Hall on the right hand side, follow the road up hill and it will take you out of Illora towards Montefrio. Travel 4.3 kilometres up this road and you will see a turning off to the left with a large wheelie bin (see picture A). There is also a large green/white sign at this junction. Take this turning.

A.



Travel down this road for approx 1 kilometre and you will see a turning to the right up a concrete road, pictured B. Turn right up this concrete road.



Travel up this road for just less than a kilometre and you will reach the house, picture C.



Instructions of how to use the House

Water

The water comes from a bore hole that goes 400m down into the mountain. A powerful pump, pumps the water out of the bore hole and into a 3000 litre storage tank located at the top of the field around the back of the house. The tank then feeds the houses' hot and cold water, the central heating system and the swimming pool. There is no mains water supply.

The house will have a full tank of fresh water however we recommend that every morning you switch on the 'water consumer unit switch' (refer to electricity section) and top up the water tank.

Once it is full simply turn off the 'water consumer unit switch' and you will have 3000 litres of water. This is more than enough to last an average family a couple of days.

The water is cold even if it is 40 degrees outside and we drink it but it is recommended that you do not use the water out of the tank for drinking. If you decide to drink it there is a yellow hose pipe at the rear of the property through the wrought iron gate. This pipe branches off from the main water pipe before it goes to the water tank. To get water, switch on the 'water consumer unit switch' and open the valve at the start of the hose pipe about 30 degrees, let the water flow through the hosepipe for a few seconds. There is a black water filter at the end of the hose pipe that filters out any traces of sediment. Then fill as many bottles as you like with fresh cold spring water. If you are at all concerned simply buy water from any supermarket in Illora.

IMPORTANT : Please remember to switch off the pump once the tank is full!

Hot Water

The hot water for downstairs is heated by a hot water heater in the downstairs bathroom. The gas bottle is located in the boiler house at the rear of the house. There should be enough gas in the bottles provided. The hot water for the upstairs bathroom is heated by a new water heater located in the boiler house and powered by a separate gas bottle therefore ensuring plenty of pressured hot water when both bathrooms are in use. The hot water works best if the water tank is full (hence maximum pressure). If you do run out of gas there are spare gas bottles in the boiler house. Any problems relighting the heaters contact John/Liz.

The boiler is demand driven and will only ignite all the burners if it senses a demand for hot water i.e. the hot tap is turned on.

Please note that 'c' on the sink tap is hot, calor = hot and frio 'f' is cold.

Electricity

The fuse board is located in the cupboard on the wall behind the front door. All the fuses should be in the up position. The Water Consumer Unit (with a clear front) on top of the fuse board cupboard switches on the pump that pumps water from the bore hole to the water tank at the top of the field. If you need to fill the water tank, switch on the water consumer unit switch located at the side of this unit (marcha = on and paro = off).

IMPORTANT: Please remember to switch off the pump when the tank is full. If you forget do not worry as the consumer unit has an 'over heat cut out (illuminated red [ST] if it has cut out, illuminated yellow [M] if system OK)', that can be reset by pressing the reset button (red) located through the hole in the plastic cover at the front of the water consumer unit.

Because of the location of the house (i.e. above the level of Ben Nevis approx 1500m) the amount of electricity is limited. The house can only support a certain level of appliances being used at the same time. The DVD, TV, lights, phone charger do not use a lot of electricity and are fine. The following use a lot:

Main water pump, Kettle, Toaster, Washing machine (a cycle approx 70 min), Dish washer (a cycle approx 90 min), Pool pump

The main water pump that pumps the water to the tank uses the most electricity, hence we recommend that you fill the tank in the morning and then switch off the pump. If you have the water pump on and any of the high demand items on, then the system is likely to trip.

PLEASE DON'T WORRY!!, it is not a problem but simply a bit of a balancing act. Simply switch off an item and switch the main fuses back on again. This is done by going to the fuse board and pushing up the tripped out fuse. This problem is the norm for properties in this area. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or Suzanne on the enclosed numbers any time of the day or night.

Pool

This is maintained weekly and does not need any attendance. For your information the fuse board for the pool is located in the wall cupboard in the bathroom. The lights for the pool are in this cupboard, to switch them on use the large grey switch. This switch will also turn on the lights on the new Pagoda . The pump housing for the pool that contains the pool pump, filter and valve system is located over the wall at the end of the pool. The pool pump should run quietly if you hear a lot of noise from the pump housing then please ring the emergency numbers and switch off the pump using the fuse breaker switch located in the fuse cupboard in the bathroom. The shallow end of the pool is 1 m deep and at the deep end the pool is 2.7m. If you need a visit to clean the pool or if the water levels drop below the skimmers please contact John or Liz straight away.

Security

The house is very secure, the walls are 2ft thick and it is alarmed. Behind the window there are removable metal bars that are used if the house is empty for long periods of time. To remove the bars simply unlock the window handle and slide the bars upwards. Then lock the handles again. When leaving the property after your holiday please replace all bars by reversing the above.

The front door has a double locking system. The windows are double glazed and have lockable handles and push bolts that are key lockable.

Heating

Obviously it is only in the winter months you will require heating. The central heating is oil fired and is fairly expensive to run. If you require the heating there is a clock next to the banister on the landing. Simply plug in the central heating lead and set the clock. You then have a choice of 'timer' or 'constant' using the button on the side of the clock. To switch off the boiler simply unplug the clock.

Emergency numbers

If you have any queries regarding the house or local area please feel free to phone me or Sue on the phone numbers below any time day or night.

Bruce Riley Home: 00441516259079
Bruce Riley mobile: 00447976 754795
Bruce Office number: 0044151 639 5000
Sue Riley mobile: 00447967228714

John and Liz Shennan live nearby and have spare keys to the house and are happy to help with any problems you may have.

John Shennan mobile: 0034651731100
Liz Shennan mobile: 0034685010153

If you cannot get through to Liz or John's mobile please text them as occasionally the reception in the surrounding areas is unreliable.

Further Emergency numbers

Guardia Civil (Regional Police) : 958463033
Local Police: Plaza del Arco : 615943523
Taxies : 958464004
Emergency 999 number is :112
Health Centre: Arda. San Rogelio :958464210

Rent

Payment method is to be agreed.

At the start of your stay

We will arrange for you to be met at the house or if necessary in Illora. Liz or John Shennan (our contact) will give you a guided tour of the house and show you how everything works. Please pay them a deposit of 100 euros refundable at the end of your holiday. He will give you a set of keys. Please be careful with these keys as it is very difficult to get copies.

If you require food and provisions on your arrival please provide us with a list and we can arrange for Liz to have it there waiting for you. Please reimburse Liz on your arrival. There is a 20 euro charge for this service to cover Liz's time and petrol.

Liz and John also offer horse riding at their farm about ten minutes drive from Montefrio.

At the end of your stay

We would be most grateful if you would do the following when leaving:

Please ring Liz/John and arrange for him to meet you at the house. He will check the house, take back the keys and return your deposit.

Rubbish: Please put all rubbish in the large wheelie bin at the first turn off toward the house
(photo A)

Laundry: Please place any used sheets and towels in the basket in the bathroom.

How to get back to the airport

To Granada Airport

Simply reverse the above directions. As you pass through Pinos Puente on the N432 proceed towards the A92 flyover. Take the Malaga/Seville turning, this takes you back on to the A92 towards Malaga. Take junction 23b to the aeropuerto. Be careful on this slip road, do not take the El Jau turning. Follow the signs to the aeropuerto passing over the A92. The airport is 2 kilometres further ahead.

To Malaga Airport

Simply reverse the directions from Malaga Airport.

We do hope that you enjoy your stay at Cortijo Fuente La Zarza. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any further questions or requests.

Best wishes,

Bruce and Suzanne Riley