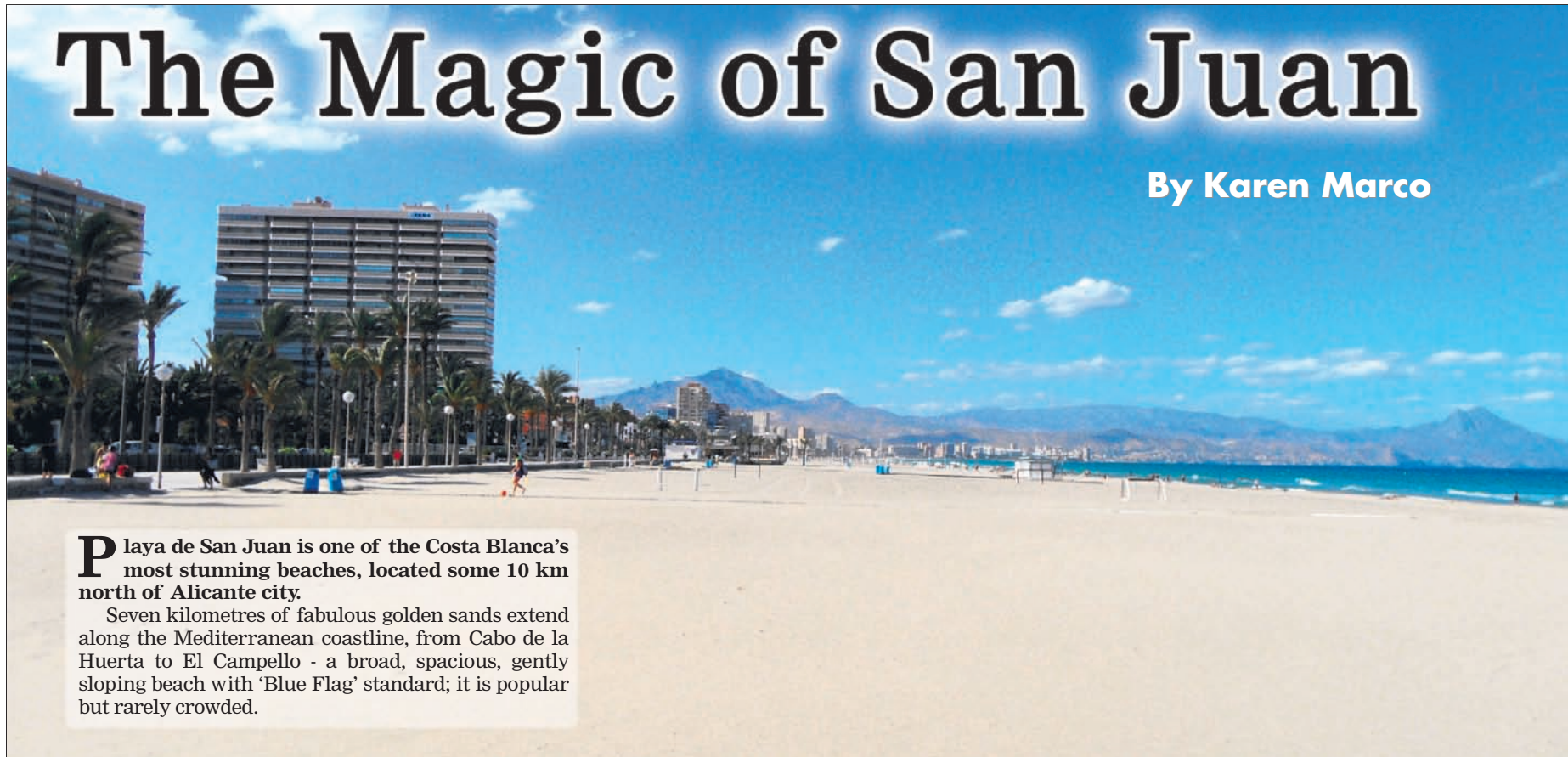


DISCOVERING THE COSTA BLANCA

Focus on San Juan



The Magic of San Juan

By Karen Marco

Playa de San Juan is one of the Costa Blanca's most stunning beaches, located some 10 km north of Alicante city.

Seven kilometres of fabulous golden sands extend along the Mediterranean coastline, from Cabo de la Huerta to El Campello - a broad, spacious, gently sloping beach with 'Blue Flag' standard; it is popular but rarely crowded.

There's never a dull moment along the seafront or beach! A wide esplanade edges the extensive sandy bay, ideal for lazy strolls, a good walk or jogging depending on your energy levels. A small skatepark delights kids of all ages, especially boys showing off their amazing skills.

Amenities include various parking zones and, running parallel to the road, a cycle lane and state-of-the-art tram line, which connects southwards to Alicante centre and northwards up the coast to Denia (a frequent service, ideal if you want to leave the car at home).

The beach features various zones of different activities...play areas for small children with the usual 'pyramid' rope climbing frames, swings and slides, a pirate boat and fantastic play houses. It's a good place for a child's party, where family and friends can bring picnic tables, sit back and relax or join in the fun and games.

Keeping fit at the beach gym circuit is another option, with all the equipment and frames you could possibly want for an alfresco workout.

The numerous beach volley nets on the sands are suitable for practice and competitions,

or just mucking around with friends. Football volley games are also played.

Playa de San Juan attracts windsurf and kitesurf enthusiasts; partake in these or other water sports or just have a laugh on a pedalo!

The smart promenade is lined with a variety of eateries - street cafés, fast food franchises, ice-cream parlours, tapas bars, pizzerias and classy restaurants serving both international and Spanish cuisine. On the beachfront, typical restaurants with sea view terraces specialise in seafood and rice dishes. The second-line main avenue also

offers many places to eat and some trendy live-music pubs.

The summer 'chiringuito' beach bars are open till the early hours - when the sun goes down chill out under the stars to the gentle sound of the sea with a cool cocktail.

Talking about partying on the beach, come down for the bonfire night festivities on June 23. Join in the ancient mystical Solstice celebrations...throw fruit, coins and petals into the sea at midnight, step into the healing, rejuvenating waters and make a wish come true. And if you're feeling daring, you can always jump over the dying flames of a bonfire to purify your soul!

San Juan has a good selection of hotels from modest family-run hostels to lavish 5-star hotels, and holiday rental apartments. The proximity to golf courses is yet another added attraction. This seaside resort has a lively family atmosphere but, as the beach is so long, you can always find a quiet spot. The southern tip of the bay is sheltered by cliffs leading to the Cabo de las Huertas lighthouse.

As you can see, there is

something for all tastes and ages, San Juan Beach is fun for everyone. Facilities include invalid access points, lifeguards and first aid posts.

'Playa de San Juan' is easy to reach on the Alicante tramline, by local bus or by car.

Some 2 km inland from the coast, San Juan Pueblo (officially Sant Joan d'Alacant) originates back to VIII century when invaders came over the sea from North Africa. Historical heritage includes the remains of ancient defensive towers dating back to the fifteenth century or possibly earlier; as well as churches and holy shrines. It's worth a visit, especially to dine at one of the traditional restaurants specialising in Spanish cuisine!

Like many other places along the Costa Blanca, the town celebrates the traditional San Juan festivities which culminate with the burning of the satirical 'Hogueras' monuments on the night of June 24.

You can see more features about the Costa Blanca on my personal travel blog.

www.kalitravel.net



Photo courtesy of Sant Joan d'Alacant Tourist Info

DEHESA DEL MAZO






SPECIALTY MEAT

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