

## Winter in Nerja on the unspoilt Costa de Sol.

When it's pouring down with rain and freezing cold, it's difficult believe that you can be enjoying sunny temperatures into the 20's after only a short flight from the UK.

But that's exactly what you can expect in Nerja on the unspoilt Eastern Costa del Sol in Spain, which enjoys Europe's best climate, especially in winter. It's like being in a different world, whether you take just a short holiday break or, if you're in that privileged position, are able to stay for a few months.

Nerja still retains the feeling of a small Spanish fishing village unspoilt by towering hotels and rowdy bars.

Stroll around the old town, promenade on the world-renown Balcon de Europa, even stretch out on one of the sandy beaches and then linger for a light meal in one of the many good-value tapas bars.

There's also a bonus to staying in Nerja at Christmas and New Year. Two celebrations instead of one.

The Spanish don't traditionally celebrate Christmas like people in Northern Europe. They treat Christmas itself as a quieter, more religious occasion. The real celebrations take place during Three Kings' Night on the 6th January, when 'the kings' from the nativity parade around the town in their chariot, throwing sweets to and at the spectators. This is when the Spanish children receive their 'Christmas' presents. Never missing an opportunity, though, the children tend to 'negotiate' presents on both occasions.

But, if you don't wish to miss your traditional Christmas lunch, there's plenty of turkey to be found on 'the day'.

If you'd like to take the opportunity to travel a little further afield, why not use Nerja as the 'gateway' for The Grand Andalusia Cities Tour?

Just a short two hour drive away are the Moorish cities of Granada, Cordoba and Sevilla. Even closer is Malaga, which is less than an hour away.

In all of these beautiful, historic cities, you'll find some spectacular examples of the 700 years of Moorish occupation, including the world heritage site, The Alhambra Palace, in Granada and the Mezquita Mosque/Cathedral in Cordoba. There are simply too many historic buildings in Sevilla to list here.

Espanihols, the Nerja apartment and villa rental specialists, can organise inexpensive accommodation in Nerja for small or large parties, for short or longer stays. They can also arrange rooms in the splendid Parador Hotels in the Andalucian cities, if you choose to spend a few days there.

Why not take a look at their website, [www.espanihols.co.uk](http://www.espanihols.co.uk), or ring them on 01562 750084?

When you've done that, take a look at the websites of budget airlines, like Monarch, Ryanair and Easyjet, which fly from most UK airports, and see what good deals are on offer during the winter.

Together they can help you to say goodbye to the cold and rain for a while.