Exploring the Many Wonders of Guadix, Spain

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Article published on July 3rd 2012 | Destinations

Guadix is located between Almeria and Granada in Spain. It is frequently visited by tourists for its famous Jarra Accittanas which are ornate vases made out of terracotta. These vases are made to carry wedding gifts for the newly wedded couple.

Guadix is also known for the cave dwellings such as the La Barriada de Las Cuevas on the northern side of the town. These cave dwellings may look small from the front but their interiors are really huge. As you walk inside the cave dwellings, you will be surprised that some of them are hotels inside. This part of Guadix has an estimated 4,000 caves which makes it the largest settlement of inhabited caves in the whole of Europe. The temperature inside the cave houses is constantly at 20 degrees no matter what the temperature is outside.

The history of Guadix is also very interesting. The town has been around for a very long time. In fact, it dates back to the time of Julius Caesar who ordered the creation of a mining settlement to take advantage of the rich deposits of silver on the hills nearby. During the time of the Moors, they had a flourishing industry in silk which made Guadix a very important town at that time. Later when they were ousted by the Christians, they were forced to move to the hills and live in the cave settlements. Today there is a cave museum in the settlement that displays relics and art pieces.

Just a short distance from Guadix is the Calahorra Castle which was given as a reward to a Christian knight for his commendable feats during the conquest. The castle has a magnificent courtyard that was constructed by Florentine artisans. As you approach the castle, you will be astounded by the beautiful sight of the castle towers with the mountains of Sierra Nevada as its backdrop.

Guadix is also famous for its fiestas such as the fiesta that occurs during the weekend prior to Ash Wednesday of each year. Another fiesta that takes place in January is the Romeria de San Anton. During this fiesta the pilgrims go round the town while riding a horse and they do this 9 times. In May, the feast of San Torcuato takes place where a mass is celebrated and then the remains of San Torcuato are paraded across the town. Semana Santa or the Holy Week is also observed in Guadix and you get to witness a lot of traditional events during this time.

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Article Keywords:
location costa brava espagne, location lloret de mar, Location Villa Escala lloret

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