

# Marina D'Or

Hello and welcome to **Marina d'Or** and to our apartment. We are sure that you will enjoy your stay and hopefully, this guide will help you do just that. If you have had a chance to read it before your trip, then you have a good idea of what awaits. If this is your first chance whilst on holiday, then spend fifteen minutes over a cold beer or glass of wine on the terrace reading it. It has been put together with **you** in mind, so that your stay is comfortable, enjoyable and hassle free.

It will explain useful information about the apartment and all that's in there and then go on to explore Marina d'Or and the surrounds. We know and understand that holidaymakers treat their accommodation as a base, just somewhere to stay somewhere to settle at the end of an enjoyable evening. In our apartment we



have tried to make it feel like home and not just a base. You will find lots of little extra's that are not available to the average holidaymakers or families. We believe that these little extra's can make the difference between a good holiday and a great holiday.

We have often been on holiday and thought 'That would have been nice' or, 'I wish we knew that before'. This guide will hopefully eliminate those thoughts and let you enjoy your holiday from day 1, not when you are 3 or 4 days into it. If you find there is something missing or something we can improve on, please let us know via the visitors' book in the apartment. We want your stay to be comfortable and want you to return. Hopefully, we can meet most requests, if not all.

Please note that the apartment is not for general rent. It is only available to family, friends and recommended people thereof. Please look after it as you would your own and do not be discourteous to the guests that follow you, by running out of consumables etc. (explained further on in this guide).

## The Apartment

This is a 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment. There is also a sofa bed so it can sleep 6 comfortably. We believe the furniture spec to be of a good standard compared to usual. Only built in December 2006, you will find it modern, comfortable and clean. Don't worry about bringing over bedding and towels; these items are available for you. We know they take up valuable space in your case or hand luggage so don't pack them and use ours. The bedding and towels will always be clean, fresh and washed and the apartment will be as you would expect to find it.

## How to get to the Apartment:

### By plane:

From Valencia airport, it takes approx. 50 minutes, Reus airport about 90 minutes, Barcelona airport about 2 and a half hours and Alicante airport about 3 hours. Depending on the time of year and the various deals, the extra journey may be worth it. Pick ups can definitely be arranged from Valencia and Reus airports. It's possible with the other 2.

### By road:

Stick it in your Sat Nav and follow that! If not, plan it on the Internet because we could not do a better job.

Whether you're flying or driving, follow the signs to Oropesa del Mar/Marina d'Or off the motorway. Once you arrive in Oropesa del Mar, a small costal town, Marina d'Or is sign posted and is about 5 minutes away. From the main entrance into Marina d'Or, stay on the main road. Drive down here for a few minutes and Costa Azahar I will be on your left, directly opposite the last small Marina d'Or sales office on your right. This office is a small log cabin type building. Drive straight on to the last roundabout (150 yards in front of you as you cannot turn left here), come back on yourself and take either the first or second right, Both lead to Costa Azahar I. The garage entrance is at the front of the building. You have 2 options:

- 1) Enter the garage via the remote control by pressing the 2 blue buttons on the right hand side (the left hand ones for exit from the car park), drive down the ramp and then follow it to the right. Drive straight down to the last building entrance on the left. To the left of this entrance is our car parking space, 8 spaces down,

numbered 248. Enter the building via this last entrance and get the lift to the fifth floor. Come out of the lift, go through the exit door, then turn left and our apartment is the first one on the left, numbered 248.

- 2) Drive up the road running between Costa Azahar I, (escaleria IV) and Costa Caribe III. Drive to the last entrance to Costa Azahar I, which is on your right and park opposite in the spaces provided. Enter this last entrance on the right via your communal key. Go through the next door and the lifts are immediately on your right. Take the lift to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor and then follow the instructions as above.

Please note that you can enter via the keypad. If you require the number, please contact the agent (details on last page of *Arrival Notes*).

### **The Apartment Block:**

In Spain, the higher your apartment, the more expensive the property. Being on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, you are second from the top living accommodation. Floors 1 - 6 are living accommodation. Floor 7 is where our storeroom is, (no. 248 is on the door) Floor 8 has further store rooms and a massive communal patio, for you to enjoy a BBQ etc. Floor 9 is full of washing lines, to dry your clothing, beach towels etc.

The easiest way to get to these upper floors from our apartment is as follows:

As you leave the front door, turn right, walk a few yards and turn right into the lift lobby area. Either use the lift or the stairs on your left. Whichever you use, once you arrive on that floor, look right and go through the exit door. You may need your communal door key if they are locked and definitely the storeroom key, if you are going there. The basement floor is where the car park is. Using the same lifts or stairs, go to the basement, through the exit and turn right. You will find our car parking space, numbered 248, about 8 spaces down on the right.

### **Pool, gardens and play area**

The apartment block has a small garden area contained within and just outside the front of the building. Also within is a small park area for young kids to enjoy close to home. At the front of the building is the communal pool, with a separate shower area and toilet facilities. Please note that the pool opening times are currently 10am-9pm April to

October. Requests are being made to the local community on ours and other owners' behalf to extend these times to be all year round

To get to the ground floor, there are 2 options:

- 1) Come out of the apartment, turn right, walk a few yards and then turn right into the lift lobby. Either get the lift or walk to the ground floor. On the ground floor, go out at the road exit and follow the building line towards the front of the building. Enter the pool area via the communal door.
- 2) Come out of the apartment, turn right and keep walking the length of the passageway until you come to the last exit on your right. Go through here, get the lift or walk to the ground floor. On the ground floor, take the internal exit (not the one to the road), turn right and walk towards the pool. Enter via the communal key.

### **Keys:**

You have:

- 2 x front door keys
- 1 x communal door key (operates all building gates and doors, including the pool)
- 1 x store room key (dependent upon circumstances)
- 1 x garage remote (if Required)

You would have either picked these up from us or arrangements would have been made from where to pick them up. Whichever the case, it would have been convenient to you.

## Inside the Apartment:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE APARTMENT IS NON-SMOKING



**Bathroom:** Has a shower over the bath, very powerful, and the bath is a Jacuzzi bath. With the restrictions placed on toiletries, having to be in hand luggage in clear plastic bags etc. (airport security restrictions) and for those of you not travelling with checked luggage, this could pose a small problem.

There are a number of toiletries for you to use for FREE, in the bathroom cabinet. Very personal effects (razors, creams etc.) could be purchased in Spain. It's a matter for you. If you do decide to use the general toiletries on offer, PLEASE REPLACE WITH SIMILAR PRODUCTS. As said earlier, the apartment is only let to family, friends and recommended people thereof. Don't leave them short please.

The water is heated by natural gas and you should therefore, never run out of hot water. If you do find that the hot water is running cold, just check that the pilot light on the boiler has not gone out (instructions for boiler use is in the apartment guide).

**Bedrooms:** Both have built in wardrobes and bedside lockers. The ironing board and iron are in the wardrobe in Bedroom 1 (double). The hairdryer is in the bedside cabinet next to the window. The chest of drawers has a section for your shoes. Spare bedding, including for the sofa bed, is in a storage box inside the wardrobe.



There are spare rucksacks and swim bags on the top shelf of the wardrobe in Bedroom 2; again, this saves you carrying excess luggage. Both bedrooms have plenty of hangers.

**Terrace:** Big enough for entertaining a small group or having breakfast in the morning. Small enough for a quiet beer, glass of wine or a game of cards before bed. There is an outside light and power point if you need it. A George Foreman grill or similar is one of the last items for us to buy and will probably be one of the most popular for you to have a snack or a bbq on the terrace. From the terrace, you have sea and mountain views - both are impressive and lovely to enjoy over a morning coffee or early evening beer (apparently).



**Storeroom:** Contains all those little odds and sods that come in really handy. You may or may not have a key to this room, dependent upon circumstances, which will be discussed at the time of booking. It contains personal effects of Mary's and mine (toiletries), which are not for general use, but does contain handy items like a screwdriver, spare plug adaptors, batteries, bulbs, etc. There is an Ikea bag full of beach stuff; snorkels, parasol, ball, beach mats, body boards etc.. Again, if you wish to travel light, bulky beach type items are handy and available. If you have your own, no problem. We have also invested in a couple of sun-beds for your comfort. If you are given access, please make sure that the items



borrowed from this room are returned to this room (as for the whole apartment). The inventory, which is on the bookshelf



in the living room, can be used as a gentle reminder.

THERE IS AN INVENTORY OF **EVERYTHING** CONTAINED IN THE APARTMENT AND STOREROOM, SO THERE IS NO GETTING AWAY WITH IT! THE AGENT WILL CHECK THIS UPON YOUR ARRIVAL AND EXIT. THE SAFE RETURN OF YOUR DEPOSIT IS IN MY HANDS.....

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE APARTMENT IS NON-SMOKING**

That's enough on the apartment; here's some info on what's outside.

## Marina d'Or

Is a new resort in a fairly undiscovered part of Spain. The hotels have only been built in the last 15 years and building work continues along Marina d'Or beach. The vision for Marina d'Or is impressive. Marina d'Or



beach, your holiday destination, should be completed by the end of next year, 2009. It is 90% completed now. Work will then commence on Marina d'Or Golf. There is a mini supermarket virtually opposite the apartment in the neighbouring block, for all those small bits 'n' pieces. On the ground

floor of your block is a new restaurant called 'Be Free'. They sell paella's, pizza's, burger's etc, are friendly and very reasonably priced. It has 2 TV's which show the big sporting occasions. You have the beach within 5 minutes walking distance. It is pebbly in parts but mainly sand. Running alongside the beach is Marina d'Or gardens, which is a lovely gardened area with a bar and entertainment during the summer months.

A walk through the gardens or down the beach will take you to the hotel complex. Here, you will find the drugstore (supermarket), which will cater for most of your needs, along with cafes, restaurants, bars, clubs and the Spa, which is housed in the 5\* hotel. The walk from our apartment



to the hotel complex, which takes about 15-20 minutes, is one where you can enjoy the sea and garden views or decide to walk down the main street. Whichever you take, you will find restaurants and cafes associated with various apartment blocks or independent of them. Entertainment *now* includes a sports zone, children's amusement park attached to the 5\* hotel, bars, cafes, restaurants and clubs. An adventure park was completed in the summer of 2007. This is aimed at children aged 10 years and upwards, whereas the one attached to the 5\* hotel is for children aged 4-12. The adventure park is open from 6pm-0030am, is reasonably priced and has a restaurant within, selling burgers etc. A crazy golf/bowling alley/water park are due for completion Easter 2008 through to the end of the year, along with further restaurants, bars etc. A large supermarket (equivalent to our Sainsburys, Asda's etc) has now been built and is about a 10 minute walk from our apartment. It should cater for all of your holiday needs.

There is an airport being built in Castellon (the nearest large town), and will be about 20 minutes away. Building works should be complete by the end of 2008 and flights available from Easter 2009. After the airport, work should commence at Marina d'Or Golf. This project will last for a number of years, but will end up with 3 championship golf courses, themed hotels, themed restaurants and associated entertainment complexes. It will be linked to Marina d'Or Beach via monorail. Whether you love the beach or golf, you will soon have the choice, with entertainment complexes that will make Marina d'Or a cross between Las Vegas and Disneyworld, with a beach, in Europe!!

The reality is, that your Marina d'Or holiday can be as quiet or as busy as you want. If you just fancy the communal pool with some soft drinks you have purchased from the local supermarket with a couple of baguettes, then so be it. If you fancy the beach, it is 5 minutes away. Here, you can do water sports, sip on a cool drink at one of the 3 beach bars or just sun bathe. Even sunbathing, you have the choice of doing so on the beach or the grass area, which makes a difference to some, if you have a slight aversion to sand getting into various parts of your body! For the more adventurous, you have the sports zone, amusement parks or hotel facilities of the gym etc. There is also a crèche for the kids attached to the 5\* hotel and another one located on the second line on the ground floor of one of the apartment blocks, not far from the supermarket mentioned above.

### **What's outside Marina d'Or? - Valencia Region:**

**Transportation:** It is easy to get around Valencia. There is the Norte Railway Station, found at the centre of the city. It is networked to Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla, Alicante, Port Bou (French border), Zaragoza, and Bilbao; you can get schedules of the trains from the Spanish Railway Service.

### **Festivals:**

The City's biggest festival is Las Fallas, which falls in mid March. During this time, gigantic papier-mâché art sculptures are made, and then displayed on the town squares. They often make social or political statements. On the last day of the festival, the sculptures are burned in a ritual the people have dubbed "la nit del foc" (probably something very different in English).

**Shopping:** True to its historical prominence as a centre of trade, Valencia offers many opportunities to shop. Check out the Covered Market, located at al Mercado Central de Valencia. You'll find not only great bargains but an interesting architectural juxtaposition: find 8000 square meters of market space, enclosed by a modern steel and glass building, but decorated with traditional Valencian ceramic tiles.

**Sights and Attractions:** There is plenty to see in Valencia. Some of its favourite tourist attractions are the City of Arts and Sciences ([www.cac.es](http://www.cac.es)), where you'll find a planetarium and IMAX theatre, not to mention the Prince Felipe Museum of the Sciences (Museu de les Ciències Príncep Felipe). Here you are encouraged to take a hands-on approach to learning, building items to see scientific principles at work. Children will enjoy the L'Oceanogràfic, which is possibly the largest aquarium in Europe. Outside sits a beautiful garden, called Umbracle. For an even more spectacular collection of flora, visit the Botanical Gardens, which has over 40,000 plant species, and is considered to be one of Europe's finest.

There are many museums too, testament to the country's great culture. Check out the Bull fight Art Museum, the 'El Museo de Bellas Artes de Valencia' (second only to Madrid's Prado) and the Valencian Institute of Modern Art. Be sure to visit the Cathedral, built in the 13th century. It bears a mix of Gothic, Romanesque and Baroque element.

### **Around Marina d'Or**

**Benicassim:** There is the water park called Aquarama, see the following website: [www.aquarama.net](http://www.aquarama.net). This is one of the best waterparks we have been to. There are water flutes, dinghy rides, large pools with waves, a zip rope ride diving 3 meters into water, as well as sunbathing areas. Opposite this is a Go-Karting track, which I understand is great for kids. There is a further Go-Karting track in Oropesa, please see [www.marlonkart.com](http://www.marlonkart.com).

**The Benicassim festival** is the most popular thing to happen there every year. It is always held around mid July and can be likened to the 'V' festival. The whole of Castellon, Benicassim, Marina d'Or and much further afield, including international travellers, come to the festival, which invariably is fully booked. For further details, see <http://fiberfib.com/>.

**Castellon:** There is a planetarium to visit, as well as the Port, which is nice to have a little wander around; lots of bars, restaurants, small arcade for the kids, and in the summer, craft markets. There is also a boat tour, which leaves from Castellon port every Sunday and goes to Columbretes.

**The 'Salera'** is the big shopping mall in Castellon, very easy to find and has all the local shops, H&M, Zara, C&A, Toys R Us, Sportswear, etc. All the shops are set over 2 floors, the 3rd floor being dedicated to relaxing; lots of different food places from Mexican, Italian, and Chinese through to traditional Spanish and an American diner. It also has a 10-screen cinema, huge arcade and bowling alley.

**General:** There is an English bar called CHEERS that's further down from Marina d'Or, situated in the port of Alcossebre, about 20 minutes journey in the car. The food is excellent and is mainly an English pub menu. It is reasonably priced and on a Wednesday, there is a local market which runs the length of the town so you can combine the two. CHEERS also has a pool table, 2 internet cafes and English TV!.

For train times from Valencia, Alicante and Reus to Oropesa, see [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) (can be translated into English). There is also a local bus service in Marina d'Or, which will get you to Oropesa and Castellon. On a Thursday's in Oropesa is a street market which sells toys, crafts, households, clothing etc. The bus from Marina d'Or cost 1 euro per person and is a nice way to travel. If you do go into Oropesa, we recommend going to the beach, 'Playa de la Concha'.

### **Must list of Things to Do/Sights to See:**

**Balneario Spa in 5\* hotel:** This is a fantastic experience, for either half or a full day. This is Europe's biggest indoor Spa experience and has an indoor and outdoor area, as well as a VIP area. Pleasures include numerous Spa's and Jacuzzi's, various bathing pools, saunas, Turkish baths, large outdoor pool, sun bathing area and café area. The experience costs around £25 per adult, £18 per child (u12) and is very cost effective for what you get.

**Grande Duque Hotel:** Situated near the entrance into Marina d'Or and behind the exhibition centre, this is the resorts' newest hotel. The café is a lovely place to eat; you can use the pool after 4pm. During the summer, they have evening programmes featuring entertainment, including children themed evenings, dancing and Mr. & Mrs. Marina d'Or!

**Irish d'Or:** A lovely Irish themed pub in which no expense has been spared on the deco. They do a nice evening meal, are kid friendly and are open late on weekends (once the kids are in bed). This pub is situated at Agua Marina, adjacent to the exhibition centre.

**Lasarte Restaurant:** Situated in front of Acapulco IV (or close to it) and overlooking a garden area and the beach. The paella is gorgeous and the service is of a good standard.

**Marina d'Or Gardens:** Whether it's just a stroll or you're there for the evening entertainment on the live stage, this is the most beautiful area in Marina d'Or. Well-groomed gardens, man made river flowing through it filled with Koi carp, fountain displays and family walks.



**Exhibition Centre:** This is situated between Irish d'Or and the Grande Duque Hotel. In here, you can see the dream of Marina d'Or and just how impressive it will be in time. The fountain display is like a mini version of standing outside the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas! Definitely well worth a visit, especially if you intend to return, whether for a long weekend or your main summer holiday.

**Children's Theme Park, attached to the 5\* hotel:** Great entertainment for children aged 5-12 years old. Parents can supervise the kids or if they are that bit older, you can sit in the outside café whilst the kids queue up and play. Reasonably priced, the kids have a 3D cinema, various rides, climbing frames and all the other familiar rides associated with such a park.

**Adventure Park for older children:** Open from 6pm 'til 0030, there are a variety of rides and experiences including a water ride, quad bikes, huge bouncy castle area, climbing apparatus and other funfair type attractions. Once you pay your entrance fee (about £12 for adults, £10 for children), all the rides are free and you can go on them any amount of times. There is a restaurant attached to this complex.

**A meal in the 4\* hotel:** Non-staying guests can use the hotel facilities at the 3, 4 and 5\* hotels, which include breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets. Of the three and at a reasonable price, we like any of the meals in the 4\* but to make a night of it, an evening meal here is well worth it. For about £65, a family of four can eat in this buffet style restaurant and stuff yourselves silly, including local beer and wine. Great value and a little treat for the family.