



# motorbike-tours.co.uk

## Newsletter

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### Not be long now



Can I just say before I start my ramble, that it appears some of you haven't realised these newsletters consist of more than one page (please see the index to the right).

Well, the almond blossom is on the trees here in Spain, and although we've had our fair share of rain, the temperatures are beginning to rise and more and more bikes are appearing on the roads. Those of you who know Lake Viñuela in Southern Spain will be familiar with the café/bar which attracts bikers from far and wide on weekends and holidays. The last couple of weekends have seen the car park full of motorcycles of all shapes and sizes, and I've just *had* to pop in and drool over those beautiful machines. Anyway, what I'm trying to say is that the biking season is almost upon us, so now's the time to check those vital components and get those parts moving again. You could also take a look at your bike while you're at it.

I must say now that Lake Viñuela is once again full, it looks really impressive lying at the foot of Mount Maroma. The roads around the lake are perfect for motorcycles, so it's not hard to understand why bikers make a bee-

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line for this area. The stretch between the lake and Casabermeja is particularly good. It has everything; lake, mountain, long sweeping bends and usually, sunshine.



Another great thing about this area is its proximity to other places of interest, like Comares, El Torcal, The Spanish Lake District, Nerja Caves and the coast.

Just before we go on; I know an awful lot of our American friends read the newsletter, and I apologise for the emphasis on Spain, but if you have anything to say that you think may be of interest to us, [email me](#) and we'll include it in the newsletter.

*Alan* [See the tours here](#)

## Focus On

### Nerja Caves

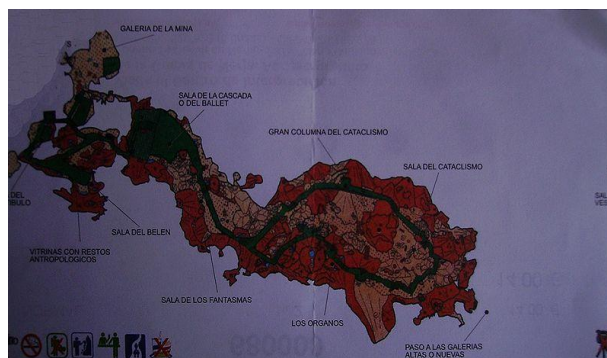
Officially recognised as both an artistic (I'll tell you why in a moment) and an historical monument, these breathtakingly beautiful caves should be on everyone's itinerary. This is one of the most important prehistoric, archaeological sites on the Western Mediterranean, dating back five million years. Deep within the caves are paintings that are believed to have an age of 20,000 years.



*Thanks to Pedroserafin for the image*

The impressive caves are famous for their large chambers filled with stalactites and stalagmites. Although all the chambers aren't open to the public, they stretch for almost five kilometres. The chambers are so spacious in fact, that each July a music and dance festival is held within the cavern, hence the artistic link.

The caves were discovered as recently as 1959 by a group of boys from the nearby village of Maro. What a shock they must have had when confronted by one of Europe's finest cave structures.



*Thanks to Luzzyacentillo for the image*

The cave complex is divided into two main parts, which go under the names of Nerja I and II. Nerja II, which is not open to the public, comprises the New Gallery and the Upper Gallery. Nerja I enjoys fairly easy access for the able-bodied and includes the show galleries.

Getting to the caves couldn't be easier as the entrance lies quite close to the autovia. Ample parking is available at a small fee, but be aware that the caves close between 2pm and 4pm every day.

Within the grounds of the cave complex is a restaurant, snack bar and souvenir shop.

If you have time, head east on the old coast road to enjoy one of the best stretches of coast road you're ever likely to come across.

Nerja Cave is one of the destinations featured in the [Andalucia Tour](#)

**See the  
Andalucia Tour  
Here**

## Featured Tourer

### Yamaha FJR 1300

The FJR 1300 is 'a lot of bike for your money' according to Dave from Manchester. He has been the proud owner of his bike for just over a year now, and wonders how he managed before.



The FJR 1300 has been around quite a while now and has some serious opposition, but ask any owner and they'll wax lyrical about their machine, and rightly so. Perfectly designed for touring, this bike doesn't lose any of its handling or performance capabilities when fully loaded, and even though it's a heavy bike, it's still nimble and maneuverable. However, it is really at its best out of town on the open road.

Dave reckons it's the best bike he's ever owned. 'The luggage clips on nicely and doesn't squeak and rattle when I come across a dodgy surface. It's fast and surprisingly economical. The only gripe I have is the hot-foot syndrome I suffer from, with warm air being blown directly onto my ankles, but it's only a slight flaw in what is to me, an almost perfect motorbike.'

Other FJR owners will recognize this, as they will the annoying habit the screen has of retracting when the ignition is killed, and then moving to its default position on start-up; this after you've spent ages setting it up to exactly where you want it. But like Dave says, the FJR has a myriad of good points to offset these problems.

'It's the best motorbike I've ever had, and I've had a few,' says Dave. (I hope he means bikes and not pints) 'I just wish I'd discovered it earlier. It does everything I want it to do, and more. If there's a better motorbike out there for the price, I want to see it.'

I know there are going to be Honda, Harley and BMW owners screaming at their monitors right now, but there's no shaking Dave's belief in this bike. We all love our bikes, don't we.

If you'd like to tell us about your bike, [Email](#) your comments and/or photos please.



**MOTORCYCLE FRIENDLY  
ACCOMMODATION**

## And Finally

Now, I've already mentioned the bar by Lake Vinuela....well unfortunately it's within walking of my home. I say unfortunately because it has gotten me into a little trouble with my wife.

So much so, that she says if I come home drunk again, she's going to leave me.

Just last week, I was in there and rather irresponsibly drank too much and threw up down my jacket. I told the guy next to me what was going to happen when I got home, and he had some fantastic words of advice for me.

He said, 'take a €50 note and stuff it inside your jacket pocket, and tell you wife that a stranger threw up on your jacket, apologised and placed the money in your pocket for the dry cleaning bill.'

Brilliant, I thought, so when I got home and my wife started going on, I said, 'hold on a minute. A guy threw up on my jacket and stuffed this €50 note in my pocket for the dry cleaning bill'.

'And what's that other €50 note doing in your hand?'

'Oh', I said. 'That's from the bloke who shit in my pants.'

*Alan* [See the tours here](#)

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