

HOUSE GUIDE

All instruction manuals are located in the right hand drawer of the TV unit.

1. Hot Water is instant, on demand.
2. If you need the heating on please speak to Alan Russell. This would be unusual from beginning May to end September, and during winter months the heating will be on during any holiday lets.
3. Hot water bottles can be found in the airing cupboard, top shelf. Blankets for each bed are in the wardrobes.
4. Washing machine: The best general programme is activated by turning the knob to the left to 40 degrees and select the spin speed. To stop the beeping when the programme is finished turn the knob to Off.
5. The iron and ironing board are in the utility room. Also Dyson, brushes and mops.
6. Linen: Clean linen, if you are staying for more than one week, will be dropped off at the house by Alan Russell at the end of your first week. Please ensure that used linen is left for collection by Alan at this time.
7. Light bulbs are in the side board, bottom drawer – but we cannot guarantee a full stock! There are also candles and matches in the side board. We would be grateful if you would leave a supply of each for the next occupier.
8. Rubbish disposal: There is no collection – you must take refuse either to the general bin where the tarmac side road joins the main road, or to the recycling bins opposite Restaurante Justo.
9. TV/DVD: Switch both TV and digibox on (nb. Both blue lights go OFF!).
With the TV controller press the AV button.
In the "Fuente" box select EXT1 (2nd down).
Using the digibox controller press "Guide" to select your programme.
DVDs can be inserted from the left hand side.
We have all UK Freeview channels.
10. Please use the toughened glasses and jug for use around the pool for safety.
11. Please do not use bleach products anywhere as they damage the fossa septica (septic tank). Only eco-friendly cleaners should be used. Please do not use biological washing powders for the same reason – only non-biological powders should be used. Used paper and towels should be placed in the bins provided in each bathroom and not put down the loo.

IMPORTANT

PLEASE DO NOT DISPOSE OF PAPER OR TOWELS DOWN THE LOOS BUT USE THE BINS PROVIDED – OTHERWISE THE FOSSA SEPTICA WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION!

Thanks.

In case of any query please contact Alan Russell on 958 060303 or 0034 655 341 821.

ABOUT MONTEFRIO

Montefrío has a Tourist Office - Oficina de Turismo - with English-speaking receptionist (closed on Mondays and holidays), health centre 'Centro de Salud', 4 bank machines, 4 pay phones taking coins and cards, numerous bars, restaurants and grocery stores, including excellent small-sized supermarkets, IBERPLUS and COVIRAN. Bars and restaurants have one closing day per week but are as a rule all open on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and shops are open from Monday to Friday and Saturday morning until 2.00 pm. Supermarkets are the only shops open on Saturday afternoons, from 4 or 5 to 8 or 9 pm, depending on the season of the year. On Sunday mornings the bakery is open - but all other shops are closed. All banks and government offices are open from Monday to Friday, mornings only (from about 9 am to 2 pm).

The Health Centre (Centro de Salud de Montefrío), which is open 24/7, is located on C/ San Sebastian No. 1. The telephone number is 958 336658. The numerous pharmacies are also extremely helpful and (in our experience) seem happy to treat minor cuts etc.

Aside from the local shops (butchers, fish shop, greengrocers) and supermarkets there is the excellent Cheese Factory, which sells local cheeses, marinated olives, hams, olive oil and local wine. It is located at Av. Miguel Hernandez 17, 18270 Montefrío. Tel.: 958 336 206. Close to this is the market open on Mondays.

There are many bars and restaurants in Montefrío and we cannot mention all by name, but closest to the house is Meson Coronichi which is open at lunchtime only Tuesday to Sunday. It is run by Senor Lorca - front of house, and Senora Lorca who prepares the local produce beautifully. It is advisable to book at weekends. Tel.: 958 336146. Next door is Restaurant Justo which is also a bar, open lunchtimes and evenings. This has an outside patio and is more casual than Coronichi. In town is Meson el Pregonero on the Plaza de Espana, both a bar and restaurant, and a good meeting place. Like many of the restaurants it has a very reasonable menu del dia (lunchtime) and is always lively.

History

On the rocky outcrop is the Iglesia de la Villa, which is well worth the steep climb from town to visit it and enjoy the magnificent panoramic views that often feature in the region's guidebooks and posters.

The church was built on the site of a Nasrid castle. In a key strategic location, the Alcazaba was constructed in the mid-14th century to help defend the Muslim kingdom of Granada and prevent an invasion by the Christians. It is believed to have been designed by the same architect who was in charge of the Alhambra. There was also a watchtower on the castle hill, which formed part of an extremely effective network of lookout posts used to stand guard over important routes over Granada's vega (plain).

After conquering Montefrío in 1486, the Catholic Monarchs ordered the castle to be demolished and the church built in its place. The architect Diego de Siloé later became involved in the church's design, which has Mudéjar, Gothic and Renaissance features. You can see ruined sections of the castle walls around the church.

Although the church no longer holds services, there is a small history museum inside it, the Centro de Interpretación La Centinela, with interactive displays on the former castle, the

church and the conflict between the Muslims and the Christians in 15th-century Granada. It's open Monday to Friday from 12pm to 2pm.

In the centre of town is the pantheon-style Iglesia de la Encarnación, which has a huge domed roof and was designed in the 18th century by the acclaimed neoclassical architect Ventura Rodríguez.

Signposted off the road to Illora, about 7km east of Montefrío, is an intriguing archaeological site, the Penas de los Gitanos, which has evidence of human settlement from Neolithic times to the Bronze Age. Excavations here have unearthed numerous artefacts including combs made from bone, flint arrowheads and shards of decorative ceramics in the collection of prehistoric dolmens and cave dwellings, one of which has primitive rock paintings. Also here is a Medieval citadel, the remains of a Roman fort and, in the gorge below, six water mills.