

CULTURAL CENTRE CIUDAD QUESADA

FREE Library, Internet And Much, Much More!

One of the hidden benefits of Quesada, the Centro Cultural is located in the residential area up from and between Quesada Village and Dona Pepa. To find it, simply look for one of the red signs strategically located around town and follow the directions. These will bring you to the outdoor gym (free and open to all 8.30am - 10.30pm) and the Centre is the white building up a very short hill. Opening hours are 8.00am - 8.30pm with no siesta, Mon - Fri only (obviously closed on holidays, but good notice of this is given). In summer the hours are 8.00am – 2.30pm.

The front desk is just inside the front door and there is always a member of staff there. All members of the team are extremely welcoming and friendly and whilst they speak no English will do their best to help. Art and cultural leaflets for the Rojales/Quesada area are available in the main lobby. Opposite the main reception is the library (biblioteca), which not only has a very respectably stocked English section (on the ground floor) but also has (upstairs) books in other languages, including French and German. If you want to be able to borrow books, simply take your passport to the main desk where they will photocopy it, ask you for your address and phone number and then issue you with a number. When you have chosen the books you wish to borrow (3 or 4 seems to be the allowance), take them to the front desk and give them your number and the details will be written down on your record. You are allowed to keep the books for several weeks. The system appears to run on trust more than anything else and is a superb example of the Spanish low tech approach to life! If you want to donate books to the library (as many people do), simply hand them in at the reception.

Within the library is a bank of computers for internet access to all, free, for usage periods of 45 minutes. Simply go in and sit down. If the terminal is not already on, press the big blue-ringed button on the computer by your knees. If that does not work, it probably needs switching on – there will be a switch on the back of the computer. If this is confusing, the staff (or sometimes other users, who are often English) will be able to help you.

The library is also equipped with WiFi and there are many people who come to sit in the cool, comfortable, quiet surroundings whilst using their own laptops. Again, this is free.

The Cultural Centre hosts Spanish classes which run every year from October until April. There is only one class, which starts everybody at the beginning and takes them through together. Registration is in the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of September (NOT in August at all) and these classes, which are provided by Rojales council, are FREE, lasting two hours once a week.

The various rooms of the Centre are used to host classes, details of which are on the notice board by the front door on the outside. Currently Tai Chi and Art classes are offered. There is also a 'Gymnasia Terapeutica' (gimnasia terapeutica is a combination of pilates and yoga) course which runs annually from the second half of September. If you are interested in this, it is suggested that you ask at the front desk for details nearer the time. Registration is as above and again, the course is free and all ages are welcome.

If you are starting a class or group, it is certainly worth enquiring as to whether you can use one of the rooms at the Centre. The Centre often hosts exhibitions of art and photography from around the world. These displays are generally accompanied by an explanatory booklet (in Spanish) and are held in the main entrance foyer.

