

# Castell de Guadalest, Algar Waterfalls & Noah's Ark

To combined the two locations makes for a fantastic day out, trip suggestions, Castell de Guadalest first port of call, then on to the Fuentes del Algar (Algar Waterfalls)

## Castell de Guadalest

Although it may seem that Guadalest is only a tourist place, it is actually a busy little village with a population of two hundred inhabitants, houses and schools, who devote their lives now to tourism and agriculture. Guadalest is well worth a visit and once you have been there you may wish for another trip, it never seems to loose its charm and even after many visits it always seems to have something else to offer. The picture formed by the freestanding elegant bell tower and the tunnel that provides access to the old centre of Castell de Guadalest is the most emblematic tourist picture in the area. Guadalest is the capitol of the valley bordered by three mountains. The town is full of gifts and craft shops. There are amazing views to the surrounding areas from the town. Guadalest has a wide range of different museums. To be mentioned The Toy Museum. The Micro model Museum, the Torture Museum, the Contemporary Art Museum and the Ethnographic Museum.



## Fuentes del Algar (Algar Waterfalls)

These are not the largest waterfalls in the world, although they a truly wonderful sight, taking your camera or video is highly recommended also, swimwear and water shoes, as the natural pools are full of small rocks which makes it uncomfortable to walk in to the waters. The Algar Waterfalls beauty spot is set high in the mountains behind Altea. Walk the paths alongside the beautiful river as it tumbles down the mountain, and swim in its pools and waterfalls. The crystal clear pools are filled by springs whose waters flow directly from among the rocks. Paths follow the course of the river and are constantly flanked by the characteristic vegetation of the area, such as reeds, bamboo and oleanders. One path goes up through aromatic herbs to the 'Arboretum' a garden of natural spices containing most of the typical Mediterranean spice plants. Next to this is the museum of the environment which houses a small collection of aromatic and medicinal herbs and the essence of oils and perfumes made from them. These products are available for purchase. At the top of the valley, a wide open space has been prepared with facilities including barbecues, tables, benches, toilets and showers.

Other attractions have been established near the Fuentes del Algar, including the Railway Museum and the Algar Cactus garden.

**Several coach companies offer trips or you can make your own way there. There is ample parking available and a picnic sites**

## Noah's Ark

Your day to **Guadalest** would not be complete without considering a visit to Arche Noah or **Noah's Ark the animal sanctuary**.

**Noah's Ark** is the inspiration of a man called **Serafin** who is devoted to providing a home for abandoned and mistreated animals rescued from circus acts, street photographers and irresponsible private collectors. The menagerie includes animals like, lions, tigers, black panthers, cheetahs, wolves, monkeys, bears, chimpanzees, snakes and even domestic farm animals. It is financed by visitors, entry is a nominal 5€, together with generous donations and in 2002 a visit by **Spain's Queen Sofia** raised the profile of this labour of love in animal care. Guided tours are available, or visitors can just wander around as they wish, enjoying the peace and tranquility of this very special place. It is well worth a visit.

**Arche Noah in Valle de Guadalest Tel: (0034) 965 972 359 Open: 10 am to 8 pm.**