

The 20<sup>th</sup> of January



Today we went for a long walk in a big nature reserve



There were a lot of pine trees here



There were water posts and connections for fire hoses along the path.



Kjell is not peeing. He is looking down into a big water reservoir.



Here the pine spinner has been. There are a lot of larvae inside the spin that eventually are going to be butterflies (spinners).



There were a lot of different plants here



Here is a little palm tree



Here we turned and went back.  
Totally it was a hike of 8 km.

**The 21<sup>st</sup> of January**



Today went for a new walk down the slope to the beach.  
Here we have just started.



Here we are looking north towards where we stay. It is quite hilly.



Here we look south.



Big bamboo.



Caves in the mountain



Here we have reached a lookout.



Here we look down on a sandy beach, Los Tiestos, where it is best to go to by boat. There is a steep path going down there, but it looked as it was more or less washed away by the rain.



Here we are looking up in direction of where we stay.



At the same lookout.



Good summer temperature



Here we have reached the sea



The car park is washed away by the waves



Looking towards the Morach beach.

## The 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> the of January



These days there have been showers in the area and it has been cold, quite down to 9 °C in the middle of the day.

We preferably stay indoors, but take some short strolls around the neighborhood.

There we have found a couple of signs, which we think are quite funny, but not many care about them.

Beyond that we try to keep our bodies fit by using this fitness device, which is very versatile and comprehensive. There are exercises for all the muscles in the body.



## The 28<sup>th</sup> of January



Today we went for a walk in the nature reserve again. Here we look down into a valley where there has been cultivated in the old days.



We are constantly impressed by the flowering in the middle of January.



There are deep valleys here, but not so high mountains.  
Down in the mountain side we can see traces of cultivation and there has been built many terraces.



Now we can see more of the sea again



Lots of stone



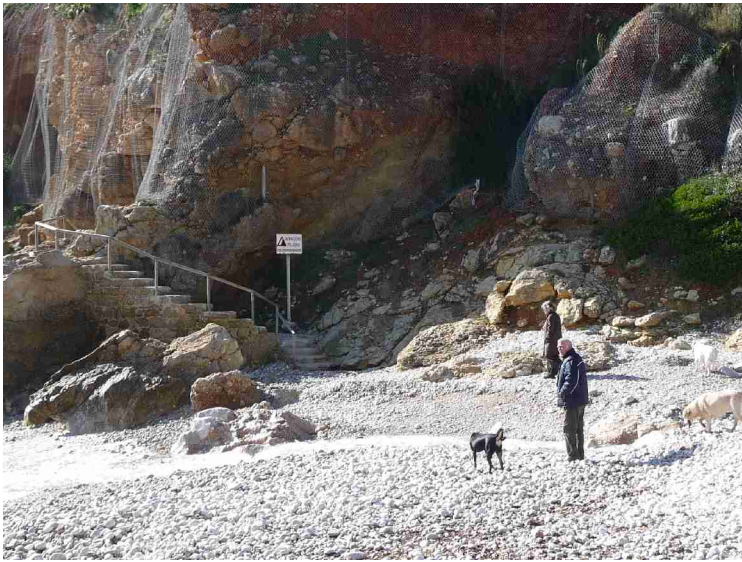
Here we look down into the bay where Granadella lies



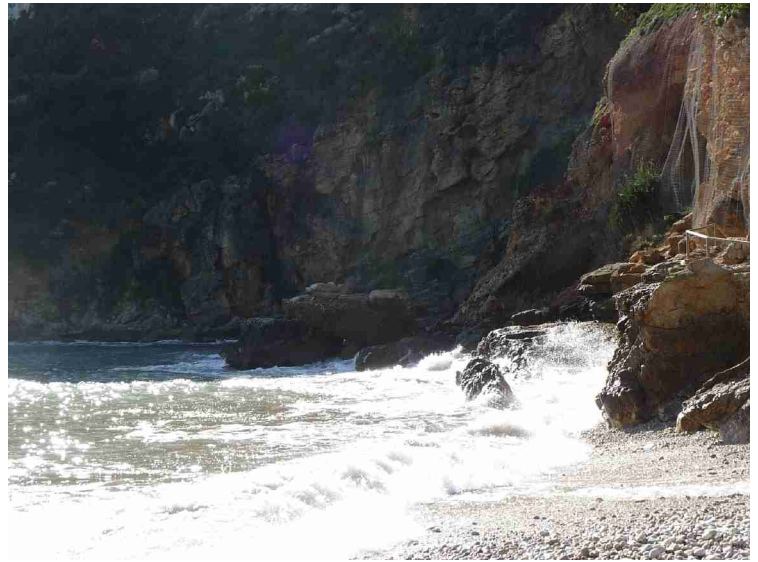
Here we are going down a steep valley



Here we are down



People are walking their dogs at the beach



Steep cliffs



There is a pebble stone beach here



Here we can see the beach settlement



Kjell is studying the map



This is the main street. There lives about 300 people in the area and there are 3 restaurants here, so it is certainly a nice little beach in the summer.

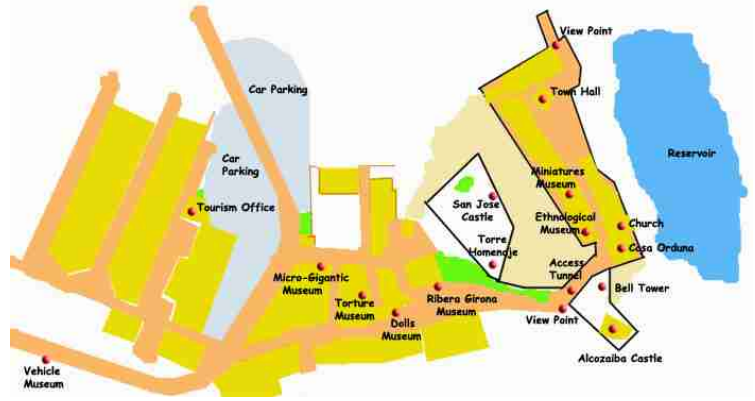
After having been there, we had to walk the hills again, 210 m straight up. Excellent trim.

## The 29<sup>th</sup> of January

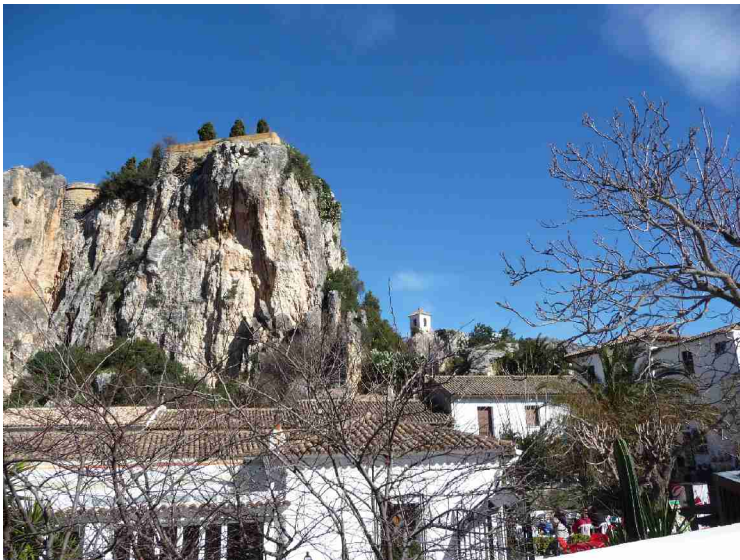
Today we wanted to go to a small hilltop town. Its name is Guadalest and has only about 200 inhabitants. It was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by the Arabs. It shall be the town in Spain that has the largest number of tourists visiting and tourism is also the main industry. There are 8 museums in this little town.



Here we see the town from the road when we arrived



Here is a schematic sketch of the town. There is a relatively modern small part of the town to the left, a small part inside the wall on the top to the right and a part lying in the middle outside the walls.



Here we see the up on the fort to the left and we see the bell tower



Here we see the bell tower on Penon de la Alcala a bit closer



Here we are approaching the entrance to the upper town



One who is trying to make some money





We have to go through Portal de San Jose to get to the upper part of the town



Here we are inside the tunnel



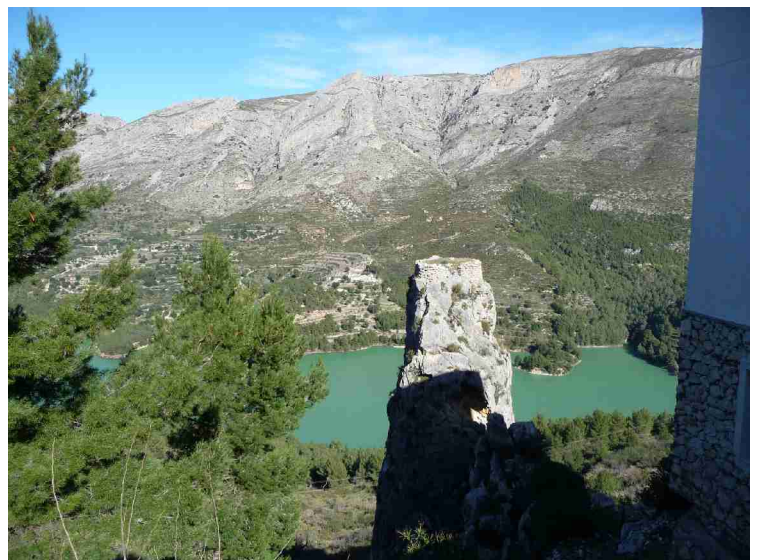
Up on the square. We see the town hall in the middle.



There are souvenir shops all over.



A close-up of the town hall



A watch tower, which is now in ruins



This is a dammed up lake, Embalse de Guadalest, which is serving as a water source for large parts of the coastal areas around Benidorm. We see the dam to the right. It was built between 1953 and 1963.



We can see that the snow is lying on the mountain tops in the distance



Another watch tower lying in ruins

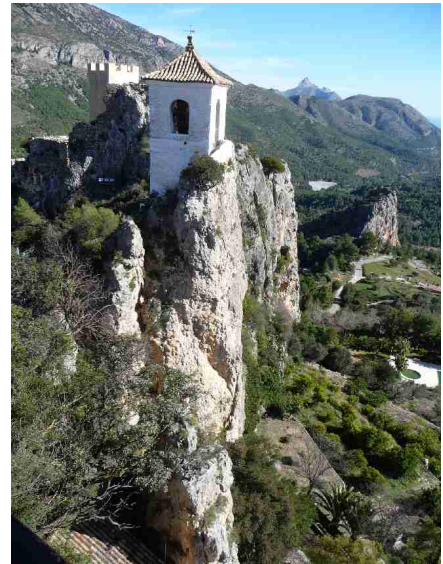


This statue was standing in the middle of the square.

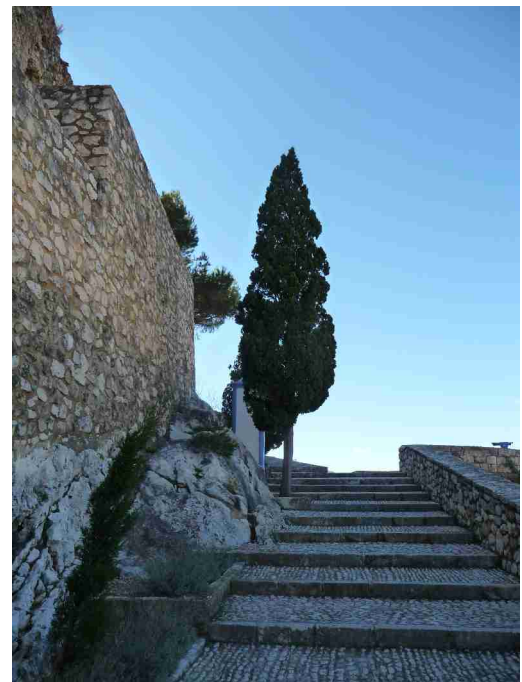


To get to the top of the castle, Castillo de San José, we had to go through the town museum, which was the house of the family Orduña. They built the house after the big earth quake in 1644.

This picture is taken there.



More pictures of the bell tower



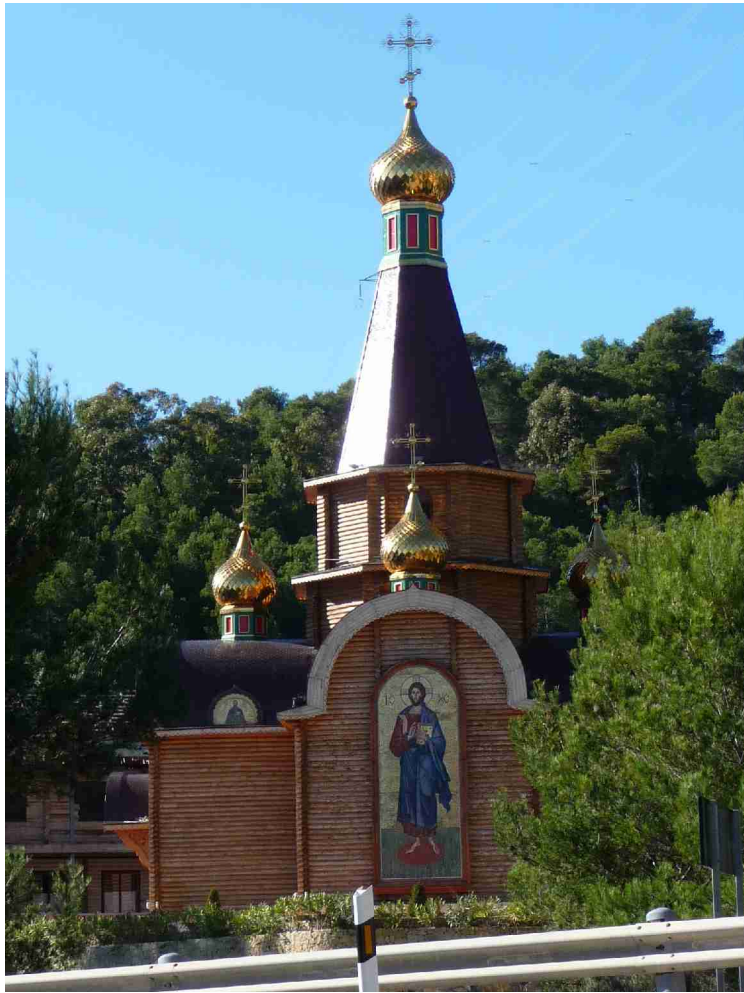
On the way to the top



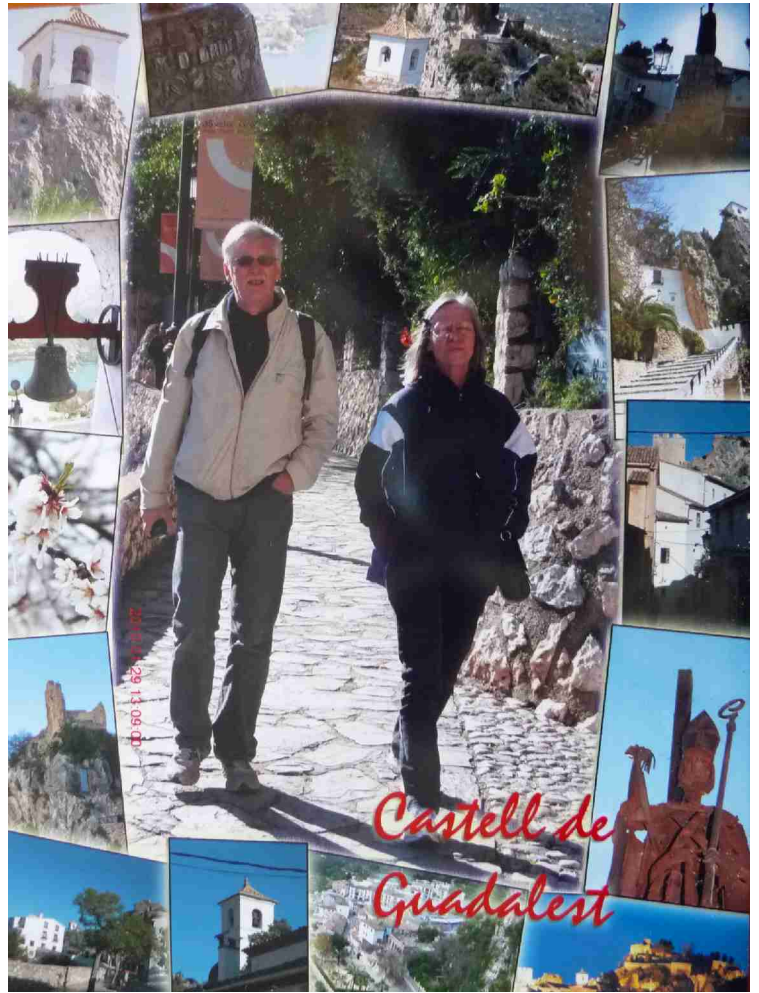
There was even a burial place on the top



This is a small town, Benimantell, a bit further up in the valley. Church with a hexagonal tower. We drove through some streets in the town that were so narrow that there were just millimeter clearance on both sides.



This is a nice church, which we drove past just outside Altea, down by the coast on the way home.

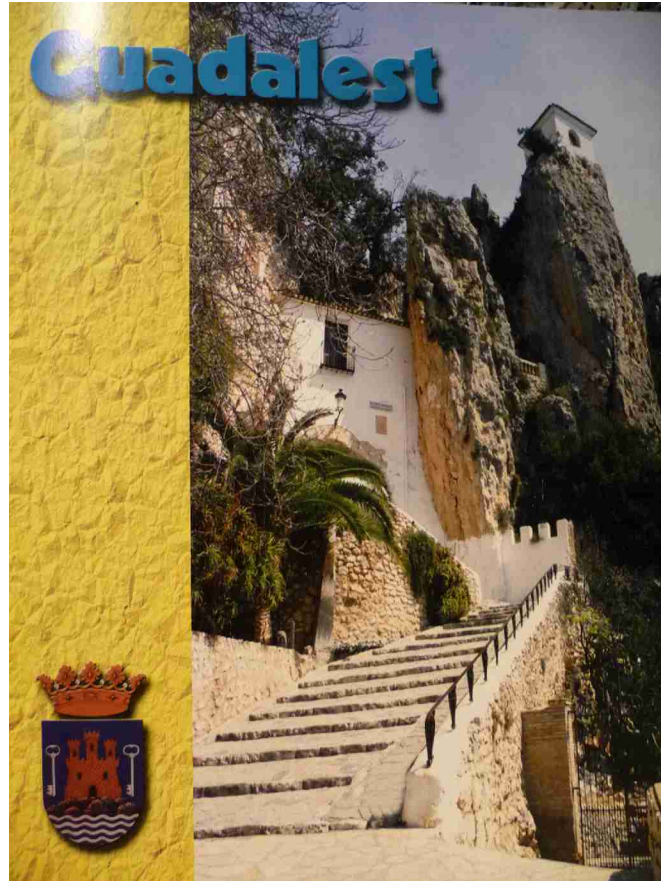


This picture was taken of us just before going into the upper part of Guadalest.

The pictures below are images, which were on the cover, which we got our picture in.



Here is an aerial view of Guadalest.



This is the front

The 30<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of January - No pictures  
The 1<sup>st</sup> of February



Was a trip to the neighbor town, Benitachell.

Took a couple of picture of the church

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of February - No pictures.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> of February



We went for a drive to Javea. Here we are at the church square in the old town.

Flowerpots outside the window



Then we walked down to the part of the city, which lies by the beach. Here we see remains of old windmills on the hilltop.

This boat is placed in a roundabout



Here we are walking past a almond tree



On beach promenade these two were sitting.  
They got no service.



Here we see along the beach promenade.



This is a bit unusual style on a church.



Here we are furthest out on one of the moles in the yacht harbor



This is the inmost of the harbor



Here we see from the mole over to the beach promenade



Overview of the harbor. The fishing nets show that the harbor also is used by the fishermen in the area.



Here we have a beer at a restaurant on the beach promenade.



Kjell is talking with some Englishmen, who have driven by camping car from England and stay in the neighbor city, Denia.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2010** – No pictures.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2010**



The city flag of Elche

Today we went to Elche, where there is an orchard of over 200,000 palm trees that was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2000 and The Mystery Play of Elx, or *Misteri d'Elx*, is a sacral-lyrical medieval drama, dated from the 15th century, which was declared a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2002.

The first humans were in Elche 5000 years BC, in the neolithic period. In the fifth year-hundred BC the Iberian town Helike was founded. The best known heritage from this times is the famous *La Dama de Elche*. It is not known who she was, but much indicate that she was a princess. *La Dama* is the most important work of art from the Iberian period. A copy exists in Elche; the original is in Madrid. Elche was destroyed by Carthaginian troops, but was restored as a Roman colony, *Iulia Illici Augusta*. In the Roman times Elche's time of greatness began, and this continued during the Visigothic times, partly because the city became a episcopal residence.

In the middle ages the known irrigation system was introduced in Elche. The city was recaptured by James I of Aragon in 1265.

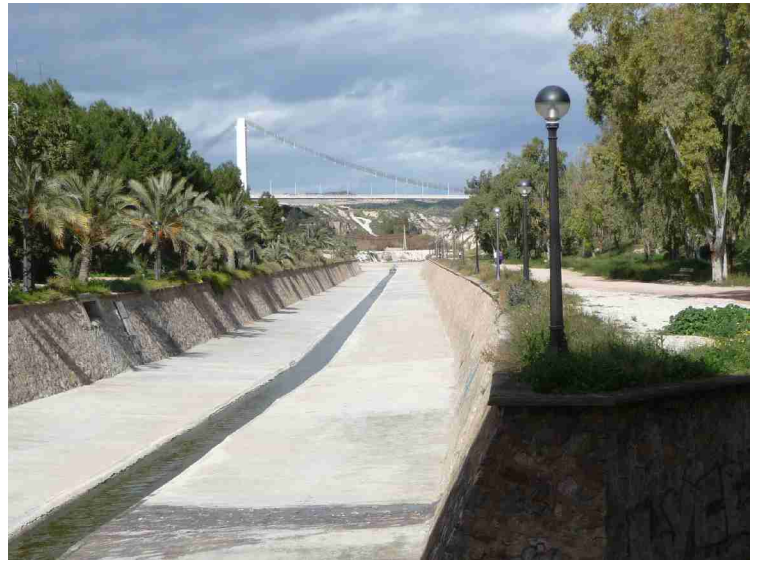
Traditionally is has been agriculture and shoe production that has been the biggest sources of income for Elche. In addition are other important industries: metal, ceramics, sweets, ready-made clothing and building industry. (According to <http://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elche>)



La Dama de Elche



We parked just besides Rio Vinalopó. They have in fact under-built the brook through the whole city. When it is not raining to much it is flowing just in the small ditch in the middle.



Here we see a bridge for one of the main roads over the river. On the right side lies the city park.



The first we see when we come from the city park is the Altamira fort or Alcázar de la Señoría, which was built in the 12-13 hundreds. Today there are museums there.



Right across the street lies Basílica de Santa Maria. There was a mosque here in 1265 when James I of Aragon recaptured the city from the Moors. The church was commenced in 1672.



In the middle of the square between the fort and the church is this figure



We went to the tourist information and got a map for the city and the sights.





These three apostles is standing just outside the church. They are from a scene in the religious play *Misteri d' Elx*



Here is a pedestrian bridge over the river and the valley



Here we have a break for a small beer



This is one of many places where there is planted palms.



This is the congress center



The entrance to a palm garden, Huerto del Cura. There are big areas or parks all over the city that are planted with palm trees.



Totally there shall have been planted over 200 000 palm trees all over the city.



There are also other types of trees



This is the entrance to a convent where there are Arabic baths in the cellar



Here the church is seen from another direction



This is the Calaforra tower from the 12-13 hundredth. It is a Moorish tower, which was used to check people who entered the city.



Here we see the fort from the church square



Blooming Cactus



Here we are on the road back to Cumbre del Sol.