

STUDENT INFO PACK

TLCdénia

TLCdénia

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Our aim is quite simple, to provide you with a high level of understanding of the Spanish language and culture in an enjoyable environment.

We are looking forward to seeing you in our school soon.

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1.Welcome

Thank you for choosing a Spanish course at TLCdénia.

This information pack is designed to help you prepare for your Spanish course and it also provides you with useful information about Dénia and Spain itself.

At TLCdénia we understand that experiencing cultural changes can be challenging at times but by helping you to prepare beforehand, we aim to make them enjoyable. Our school will help you to meet new people quickly, undertake new activities and immerse yourself in a different way of life.

One of the best ways of making sure that this process is a pleasant one is having a positive attitude and keeping physically healthy. We advise all our students to look at their new surroundings as a way of learning new things, eat well, do physical exercise, take part in social activities but above all, get enough rest.

As it is commonplace to have many questions about participating in a foreign language course in a different country, we are always ready to help. Please feel free to mention on arrival any queries or small doubts that you may have. Our aim is to help you to feel at home in this country and for you to have a useful and satisfying stay.

2. Airport Arrivals

Students with a pre-booked transfer service:

Prior to leaving your country of origin you must inform your TLCdénia representative of your flight details: Airport destination, date of arrival, flight number and time.

When you are going through Passport Control or Immigration you must be prepared to show:

- Your passport
- Student Visa (if needed)

When you have spoken to Immigration or passed through Passport Control and have left the arrivals security area, a TLCdénia representative will be waiting with a sign displaying your name and the school logo.

Please look thoroughly for your representative. If you cannot see them, go to the Information Desk at the airport and say:

“POR FAVOR LLAME AL NÚMERO DE EMERGENCIA DE TLCdénia Telf.: **687 45 05 77**”

Do not leave the Airport under ANY circumstances.

Price(1 or 2 people): 110€ (one way) / 220€ (return).

3. How to get to the school

Airports

Dénia is at the heart of the Valencian Community, between Valencia and Alicante and less than 100 km from both of these international airports.

By car

You can rent a car directly at the airport. Then take the AP-7 motorway north and leave at exit 62 signposted 'Ondara/Denia'.

By train/bus

Valencia: There is a bus from the airport that goes directly to the centre of Dénia. You also have the option to take the metro from the airport to the centre of Valencia. There you can take the train to Gandia and for the rest of the journey (approx. 30 km) you can take a bus or a taxi.

Alicante: There is a bus from the airport that goes directly to Benidorm. From there you can either take the train to Dénia or another bus.

An alternative option is to take the bus from the airport to the centre of Alicante. From Alicante you can take the train to Dénia. The train leaves you near Dénia harbour (CAUTION: this stop is the end of the line at the "Estacion de Ferrocarril"). From this point there is a 10 minutes walk to the school (and your accommodation).

Please have a look at the following websites for further information and for current timetables:

www.alsa.es

www.tramalicante.es/page.php

www.renfe.es/cercanias/valencia/index_horarios.html

VERY IMPORTANT

Please check public transport availability before travelling. We recommend you aim to arrive before 7:30p.m. and not to book a plane leaving earlier than 12:00p.m. If this is not possible, we suggest you consider using our transfer service.

4. Your first day at school

On the first day of your course you must arrive by 9.15a.m. at the school reception, located at 15, Barbacana Street. There you will receive all the necessary information regarding your course:

- Information about the classes, level, contents etc.
- Information about the school.
- The social and cultural activities that are organized by the school: excursions, trips...etc.
- Information about class timetables and classroom location.
- A welcome chat with the Director of Studies.
- Who to contact in case of queries, courses changes, tourist info.etc.

You must also bring the following to class:

- Notepad and pencil (Your teacher will provide you with free course material and you will be loaned a course book. If students are interested in buying the book, copies are available to purchase for just 17€.

5. Teaching method and timetables

Communicative Method:

The communicative method is one of the key ways to learning the Spanish language. This approach is very different from the traditional ways that you may have experienced in the past or on other language courses.

Our aim is that you learn via a practical approach. At TLCdénia, we hope that in your Spanish classes you will participate fully by asking all kinds of questions, giving your opinions and learning to agree and disagree in Spanish.

It is important that you are active in class in order to develop your relationship both with the teachers and the other students. Sooner or later, you will find that your experiences in class will be used in other situations such as work or when meeting other Spanish speakers in countries or cities around the world.

Remember that you will learn to speak better Spanish if you only use this language during your stay.

Timetable:

Courses are scheduled into either morning or afternoon blocks, but we cannot guarantee placement in one session or the other. This depends on the groups at the time of your course, your level, type of course, etc. You will be informed of your exact timetable on your first day of class.

	Intensive 20 lessons/week				
	2 Lessons	Break	2 Lessons	Break	2 Lessons
Schedule A	9:30 - 11:00	15 Min.	11:15 - 12:45	15 Min.	13:00 - 14:30
Schedule B	11:15 - 12:45	15 Min.	13:00 - 14:30	15 Min.	14:45 - 16:15
Schedule C	13:00 - 14:30	15 Min.	14:45 - 16:15	15 Min.	16:30 - 18:00

Intensive 30 lessons/week

*Groups are of 3-10 students. In the case of a group of a particular level being less than 3 students, the centre still offers the course but with a reduced number of lessons. For example: 2 students = 3 lessons or 1 student = 2 lessons.

Activities: Cultural and social activities are organised most weeks. Your teachers will inform you on your first day and you will be encouraged to participate.

Academic requirements:

To obtain a Certificate of Attendance from the school you must attend at least 75% of your course.

6. DELE exams

TlCdénia offers continual assessment and preparation for DELE exams (all levels). The school offers its international students Spanish courses especially designed to prepare them for obtaining a DELE diploma. We recommend an intensive preparation course, which is a 20 lesson general language course combined with 10 exam preparation classes per week. We also offer a separate exam preparation course of 10 lessons per week.

7. Staying with a host families

If you have opted to stay with a host family for the duration of your course, please make sure you have all the necessary details such as the family's address before arriving in Spain.

Both the school and the host family must be informed of your arrival date and time. Please contact the school with your arrival details.

If you have pre-booked an airport transfer with the school, a TlCdénia representative will collect you and take you to your host family.

Family life:

Our families reflect the diversity of life in Spain. There are young families, older families, single parents, couples with or without children, widows etc. Families from all walks of life that have one thing in common, they are happy to share their homes with international students.

You have the opportunity to speak and practice Spanish with your host family and they will listen and help you to constantly improve.

Remember that if you are staying with a Spanish family you will be treated as though you are another family member. With this in mind we suggest that you undertake certain household responsibilities such as keeping your room tidy, making your bed every day, asking the family for their permission if you want to bring a friend home and remembering to ask if you want to change the TV channel. Another way to join in with family life is offering to cook them a typical meal that you have in your own country.

Meals:

The family that you are staying with has to provide you with three meals a day: breakfast, lunch and dinner (Full Board).

Breakfast normally consists of cereal, fruit, toast, juice or coffee. You may sometimes have to help yourself. (Please ask your family.)

Lunch and dinner are usually prepared so the whole family can eat together. You may have to make your own dinner on the odd occasion when the family has other commitments.

Lunchtime is usually 2-3p.m and dinner is served between 9-10p.m.

If you have any special dietary requirements please let TLCdénia know so that we can tell your Spanish host family as soon as possible.

What you should bring:

Usually you should provide your own toiletries or you can buy them at a supermarket once you arrive. The host family provides towels.

Using the telephone:

Students must have their own phone card or use their own mobile. The house phone can only be used for urgent calls or emergencies. (Please ask permission beforehand.)

Laundry:

You can usually use the washing machine and iron. Always ask when it is convenient and how to use them.

Getting to school:

More often than not families live near the school and you can easily walk.

The family will tell you how to get to the school from your house on the first day of class.

Smoking:

Normally you are not allowed to smoke inside the house and you must go outside to do so. Please ask your host family what the smoking rules are.

It is common courtesy to tell your host family if you are not going to be there for a meal.

8. Staying in a shared apartment

This is the most independent option. You have your own room and share all the communal areas: the sitting room, the kitchen, the bathroom and the toilet. Our apartments are normally shared by both international and Spanish-speaking students, which may offer you the opportunity to practise Spanish at home.

Bed linen, blankets, use of kitchen and laundry room, shared bathroom and TV are all included.

Neither towels nor cleaning are included.

Arrival:

Accommodation details will be sent to you along with a confirmation letter no later than 10 days before the course starts. The school also offers a 24 hours telephone for emergencies: **Tel: + 34 687 45 05 77**

The apartment is available between 12:00 noon on the Sunday prior to the first day of class (Monday) until 10:00a.m on the Saturday following the last day of class (Friday). For those students who require extra days, there will be an extra cost per day. In high season it is not possible for a single person to book a double room.

Electricity and water is included in your accommodation. You are expected to use lights and water responsibly. For a shared apartment individual expenses of up to 30 € per month are included. If the apartment has air-conditioning an extra 15€ a week is added to the monthly budget.

Smoking:

You can smoke responsibly. However you must be very careful in the apartment, you must use an ashtray and make sure that cigarettes are extinguished completely and no damage is caused.

How to get to the school:

All of our shared apartments are located between 5 to 15 minutes walking distance from the school.

9. School Life

Surrounding area:

The school is situated in the historic part of the town, adjacent to the bus station and very close to the train station. It is a 10 to 15 minute walk to the beaches and port.

Our school building is modern, with light, spacious, air-conditioned and comfortable classrooms.

The main school can be found at 15, Barbacana Street and offers students free Wifi connection.

Students also have access to our adjacent centre located at 8, Germans Ferchen Street also with free Wifi connection for students.

There is also a small patio area where our students can relax and enjoy a cup of coffee in the sunshine. A coffee machine is located in the reception area.

Our two centres cater for both able-bodied and disabled students, given that all our classrooms are at street level.

10. Local Area

Leisure time in the town:

The school is situated near the heart of the town where you can find a large variety of places such as cafes, restaurants, ice-cream parlours and shops. Dénia is divided into two areas - the modern quarter and the old one where you can visit the castle and see the whole town from up high. You can get to the castle on foot or by taking the tourist train that departs from the town centre (it's great fun).

You can get to any part of the town on foot and public transport will take you to the beaches that are either sandy or rocky.

Bus ticket: 1,50 €

Bus timetable for beaches: Every 30 minutes by bus in summer and every 60 minutes in winter.

You can also take a taxi which will cost between 5-7€ to go from the town.

Religion and churches:

Very near the school you can find protestant, Christian and evangalistic.

Please ask the school if you want to know more about the churches in the town.

Price guide:

Here is a rough guide as to what a few things will cost.

- Snack, breakfast, sandwich 2.00- 4.00 €
- Dinner: pizza, pasta, hamburger with chips, Chinese food 5.00-10.00 €.
- Coca Cola: 1.50 €
- Beer: 2.00 €

Doing something different:

- Bicycle rental: please ask at reception if you are interested in renting a bike.
- Play tennis, golf or go sailing, etc
- Cinema: 7.00 €
- Bars: A drink can cost between 3-6 €

11. Medical and travel insurance

The National Health Service provides medical help for all European Union citizens, as long as they present an E-111 form or a European Health Card. This can be obtained from the Post Office or the National Health Service in your country before coming to Spain. Do not forget to bring the original with you.

Non-European citizens must consult their own country's health service for information regarding making a medical claim in Spain.

The school and your host family will help in any way that they can regarding your health.

You must allow plenty of time to get a doctor or a dental appointment.

24-hour chemists are available.

Travel insurance

We recommend that all students take out travel insurance in their country of origin. This should cover all personal belongings and possibly medical treatment. The school is not responsible of these matters. TLCdénia can provide you with travel insurance at low prices. Ask for more information.

12. Visas and regulations

Students from the EU, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland do not require a visa to enter nor to live in Spain. An identity card or passport is all that is required.

Students from the USA, Canada, Brazil, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and Australia do not need a visa for stays of up to 90 days although they do require a visa for longer periods. Once in Spain, they can apply for an extension at the Police Station. Student visa applications must be handed in at the Spanish Embassy or Consulate in your country of origin.

Students coming from other countries usually need a visa and should contact their nearest Spanish Embassy or Consulate for further information.

Law Regulations:

No one under the age of 18 can drink alcohol, including beer and wine; neither can anyone buy alcohol under 18. It is illegal to buy, sell or take drugs.

TLCdénia rules:

The school rules must be respected. These rules apply not only to the school but also to the host families:

- If you leave the school you will have your student visa revoked and you will have to go back home.
- You must attend 75% of the classes to obtain a Certificate of Attendance.
- You must always tell the school if you are going to be absent from a class for whatever reason and you must tell your host family if you are going to be out for dinner or spending the night some place else.
- Any student that is violent or aggressive towards another student, school personnel or damages school property will be immediately expelled.

If this happens you lose your right to a refund and immigration authorities will be informed.

13. Practical information

Customs:

To fully understand the customs it is an idea that students try to integrate as much as possible.

Understanding Spanish customs will help you to understand Spanish people.

Some important customs that you should know are:

- A Spanish woman has the same rights as a Spanish man and must be educated.
- Men and women share household chores and looking after the children.
- Queuing: Always stay in line and wait your turn to buy tickets, at the bank, at the post office and when waiting for a bus.
- The people: Spanish people will chat to foreigners anywhere and it is a good way to practice your Spanish.
- Please and thank you: These are very important words. Always use them where possible, for example when somebody helps you or when they give you information or answers your questions.

Useful Tips

Money: We suggest that you bring enough money to have a coffee, 1.20€. or a cold drink, 1.50€. You will need money to take part in some extra-curricular activities and for excursions and journeys.

You can bring money in traveller's cheques (20-50€). Only euros are accepted currency.

Banks: If your course lasts more than 6 months its possible to open a bank account. It is important to find out which bank suits your needs. This way you can have your own bankcard and withdraw money when you need it. The school can provide you with all the necessary information so that you can open a current account. Banks open weekdays in the morning from 9a.m to 2p.m.

If you do bring traveller's cheques or euros, we recommend that you change foreign currency at a bank and not at a Bureau de Change. You must take your passport for identification when you go to the bank.

Postage:

You can buy stamps at a post office or a tobacconist.

Opening times for tobacconists are: 9.30a.m - 1.30p.m and 5p.m - 8p.m.

Post office hours are: 8a.m - 3p.m.

You can send parcels from the post office.

Telephones:

It is much cheaper to ring other countries from Spain between 10p.m to 8a.m from Monday to Friday and all day at the weekend.

If you want to make a reversed charge call (“collect call”) you must ring 1004 and be connected by an operator. You can also buy telephone cards at newspaper agents and at the post office.

Free time: Any information you want to know about places to visit and entertainment can be found at the tourist office.

You will discover a variety of places to entertain yourself like theatres, cinemas, open-air concerts, wine bars, cafes, snack bars and restaurants. There are take-away restaurants offering pizzas, hamburgers and Spanish cuisine.

You usually leave a tip when you go to a restaurant but not 10% or 15% - You only leave what you want and it’s not compulsory.

Clothes:

Students usually dress casually but it’s useful to bring something smarter in case you go out to eat in a nice restaurant or visit a disco.

Please bring clothes to suit the climate as our weather maybe different to your own. In winter the weather is changeable, the days maybe sunny but you will still need warm clothing. Temperature ranges in winter from 12 °C to 20 °C and in summer from 24 °C upwards.

Electric:

Spanish electricity is 220 volts and plugs are two-pin. If you bring any electrical equipment please bring an adaptor in case it has a different voltage or has a different plug.

Emergencies:

Important telephone numbers:

- Ambulance- Police-Fire Brigade dial **112**

It is important to have the school number with you in case of emergency.

Travelling across Spain:

Spain has a great variety of customs, history and culture. Travelling is a great adventure whether it is to the beaches of Alicante, the city of Valencia, the island of Ibiza, to Barcelona or Madrid.

The cheapest way of travelling is by bus, then the train and there are often some interesting deals to be had by plane, so you need to visit a travel agency or we can help you find one.

It’s also an adventure to rent a car but it can be quite expensive if you are under 25. Consider splitting the cost with a fellow student.

The school can help you make reservations, rent a car, buy tickets etc.

National Holidays:

Here is a list of the main Spanish Fiestas (bank holidays):

January: 1st is ‘New Year’ and 6th is ‘Los Reyes Magos’.

March: 19th is ‘Fallas’.

April: ‘Semana Santa’.

May: 1st is ‘Labour Day’.

June: ‘Hogueras de San Juan’.

July: ‘Fiestas patronales’.

August: ‘Moors and Christians’

October: 9th October is ‘Día de la comunidad Valenciana’ and 12th October is ‘Día la Hispanidad’.

November: 1st November is ‘Día de todos los Santos’.

December: 6th December is ‘Día de la Constitución Española’ and 25th December is ‘Christmas Day’.

14. Dénia

THE CASTLE

Right in the centre of Dénia, on top of a hill, overlooking the town is the castle.

Access:

By car: Avenida del Cid – Calle San Francisco.

On foot: Steps from the Town Hall

Telephone: 96.642.0656

Visiting times: November-March: 10-1p.m and 3-6p.m.

April-May: 10-1.30p.m and 3.30- 7p.m.

June: 10-1.30p.m and 4-7.30p.m.

July-August: 10.30-1.30p.m and 5.30-11:00p.m.
September: 10-1p.m and 3-6.30p.m.

MONTGÓ NATIONAL PARK

108 million years ago this area was deep under the sea.

It's been 10 million years since the landmass of Africa collided with that of Europe. This forced layers of bedrock to form horizontally, producing cracks through which huge blocks erupted like the Montgó Mountain. It has taken 1.6 million years to look as it does now.

For more information about trekking routes in Montgó: Tourist Info Dénia, Plaza. Oculista Buigues, 9.

CABO DE SAN ANTONIO MARINE RESERVE

Discover beautiful fauna and flowers in the 'Reserva Marina del Cabo de San Antonio'.

Travel along it by boat or take an underwater trip. For more information about this unique area, visit the Dénia tourist office.

ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Learn about the traditions and ways of life in centuries gone by.

C/Cavallers, 1.

Opening hours: 10.30a.m - 1p.m and 4p.m - 7p.m.

Sunday afternoons and Mondays closed.

TOY MUSEUM

C/Calderón, s/n

Times: 10.00a.m - 1p.m and 4p.m - 8p.m.

CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

A church from the XVI Century

Plaza del Convento.

CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ASUNCIÓN

Baroque architecture

Plaza del Ayuntamiento.

CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LORETO

Church built in the XVII century. The cloisters are lavishly decorated.

Calle Loreto.

THE OLD QUARTER

To fully know the town visit 'Calle Marqués de Campo', one of the most lively and commercial areas of Dénia. This area was the residential area in the XIX century and you can still see many of these wonderful buildings. The 'Explanada Cervantes' located opposite the port is another beautiful area with open terraces and palm trees. You can admire the fishing boats and buy the recently caught fish at the fishing port. From 'Baix la Mar' and 'Les Roques' you can enjoy the marvellous view along the coast.

TORRE DEL GERRO

A lookout tower that dates back to the XVI century.

You can find this at the end of 'Las Rotas' beach.

BEACHES AND COAST

There are beaches to suit all tastes. Lively beaches, quiet beaches, sandy beaches and ones sculpted out of rock.

Dénia has 20 kms of beaches. In the north the beaches are of fine sand - Punta del Raset, Les Bovetes, Les Marines, Les Deveses, etc. These are all beaches are perfect for swimming and sunbathe with a gentle breeze.

In the south there is a rocky beach of irregular rock formation. It's a marvellous place for those who love rugged and natural beaches. The deep crystal clear water is great for snorkelling.

Les Rotes, Cala de la Torre del Gerro and the natural reserve of the Cova Tallada can all be reached by land or boat.

Near the tourist office you will find the bus stops for 'Las Marinas' and 'Las Rotas' beaches.

GOING OUT AT NIGHT

You will find lots of different areas with bars, restaurants and pubs all over Dénia. You will find one such area starting at the 'Explanada' and 'Raset' reaching all the way to the fishing port.

MARKETS

Every Monday morning opposite the courthouse, near Plaza Jaime 1, there is an open-air market where you can buy clothes, presents, music, food etc.

Also, there is an indoor market every day in the morning from Monday to Friday in Calle Magallanes, where you can buy fresh products like vegetables, meat and fruit.

OUR FIESTAS

It is a must to see the colour and fun of the Dénia fiestas. Throughout the year different celebrations liven up the town, with the streets full of people, music and colour.

In March 'Las Fallas' celebrates the arrival of spring and bright satirical statues are displayed to remind you of the transient nature of things. In June, 'Las Hogueras de San Juan' see singing and fires lit on the beaches.

During the local festivities in July, in honour of 'la Santísima Sangre', there is the famous Bull Run into the sea. This is a unique experience that is considered to be a national tourist event. Following on from this is 'Las Carrozas', a lively street parade full of lights and colour. A joy to both spectators and participants.

If you come in August the 'Moors and Christians' parade through the streets of Dénia is a must-see and attracts visitors from all over the world.

During the summer evenings you can hear wonderful music from the castle, where 'Música en el Castillo', offers the public a chance to hear music from around the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The Tourist Office Dénia

Plaza Oculista Buigues, 9. Tel.: + 34966422367

Useful numbers:

24 hour Taxis: + 34 96.578.6565

Emergency Police number: 112

Hospital: + 34 96.578.7012

Emergency telephone number TLCdénia + 34687450577

School reception:

9a.m to 1p.m and 5p.m to 8p.m.

School: TLC DENIA Telf: + 34 96.642.36 72

Main Office: Calle Barbacana, 15, DENIA

Second centre: Calle Germans Ferchen, 8, DENIA