

Spanish Culture & Cuisine

“In L'Olleria we discover the soul of glass”

Wednesday 13th September 2017

L'Olleria is situated at the foot of the Serra Grossa mountain in La Vall d'Albaida region of Valencia. The Clariano river crosses through the town and there are many crops of vineyards, olives, carob trees, almond trees, fruit trees and aromatic plants. L'Olleria is a town with a long tradition of craftsmanship and in past centuries, glass was the most important material for the town, making L'Olleria one of the major glass producing areas around the world. The origin of those who brought the glass to the population is completely unknown but it is believed that it may have been the Romans who brought the beginning of the manufacturing process of the molten glass. The oldest documents which indicate the existence of the glassmakers and glass furnaces in the town are from the 16th century. L'Olleria is one of the few places left where the glass is manufactured using traditional methods.



The making of cooking pots gave the name to the town, going from "L'Alqueria arab de les Olles" (the Arabic town of the Cooking Pots) to "L'Olleria Cristiana" (The Christian L'Olleria). The town's emblem has an olive tree and two cooking pots over the four stripes of Aragón - Aragón is a family name that descended from the kings of the Aragonese Crown.

Our day excursion will include:



A guided tour of the **Capuchin Monastery**, founded in 1601. There is a large garden which receives water coming from L'alcavo de la Gaveta (a water cave) which runs down the mountain pass where the sand mines are - this sand was used for the making of glass. The mines were worked by the monastery. Today the monastery houses two museums: an exhibition of paintings and glass, with more than a thousand pieces from various eras, and the ethnographic museum.



We will visit a glass manufacturer to see the process of glass production.



And the **CASA SANTONJA** (the old "Palace of the Marau") which contains valuable ceramics and a great noble hall, decorated with paintings influenced by the Enlightenment and liberal Freemasonry at the beginning of the 19th century. It is being restored to house the future *Museum of Glass Valencia*, which will value the rich heritage and cultural tourism of the region.





Now it's time for a well-earned lunch at **Restaurante Casa Manola!**

Itinerary

08.00 hrs: Departure from Interiors (opposite side of the road).

09.30 hrs: Arrival in L'Olleria and refreshment break in the Hotel San Miguel (our meeting point) or one of the nearby café/bars.

10.00 hrs: Meet our guide and departure from the Hotel San Miguel, by coach, for our guided tour of the **Capuchin Monastery**.

11.30 hrs: Visit to glass factory.

13.00 hrs: Visit to Casa Santonja (on foot).

14.00 hrs: Lunch at Restaurante Casa Manola.

16.00 hrs: Re-board our coach for the return journey to Javea.

17.30 hrs: Approx. arrival back at Interiors, Javea port.

Price: €28 pp

Bookings may be made from 10.00 hrs on Sunday 18th June, with payment at the Javea U3A meeting on Wednesday 28th June (or before by bank transfer using the bank ref. code: L'Olleria and please remember to include your name).

Group Leaders: Angela Chantry & Tony Dearie



Restaurante Casa Manola



Menú

Entradas (to choose):

Ensalada de pollo y vinagreta de curry

Gazpacho andaluz

Macarrones a la bolones

Principal (to choose):

Confit de pato con salsa de frutos rojos

Cordero a la brasa

Salmón fresco a la plancha

Postre (to choose):

Tarta de bayleis

Flan de huevo

Frutas fresco

Menú para incluir pan, agua y vino

All other drinks required to be ordered and paid for directly at the bar.