

# Competa Hikes

**PRESENTS**

FEBRUARY  
2018

## NEWSLETTER

Competa Hikes provides Combination  
walking tour holidays  
[www.competahikes.com](http://www.competahikes.com)

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

email us your  
photos to be  
featured

Hello to all our wonderful walkers and hikers. We have had such an inspiring 2017, hiking many peaks, and rambling through stunning traditional Spanish countryside, made all the better for the guests we have had the pleasure to meet.

Thank you to all of you for spending your walking holidays with us, and for those who couldn't make it in 2017, we are now booking for Winter this year and through our walking season next year.

The highlights for last year and this year are the number of combination walking holidays that we have enjoyed and lovely guests we have met.

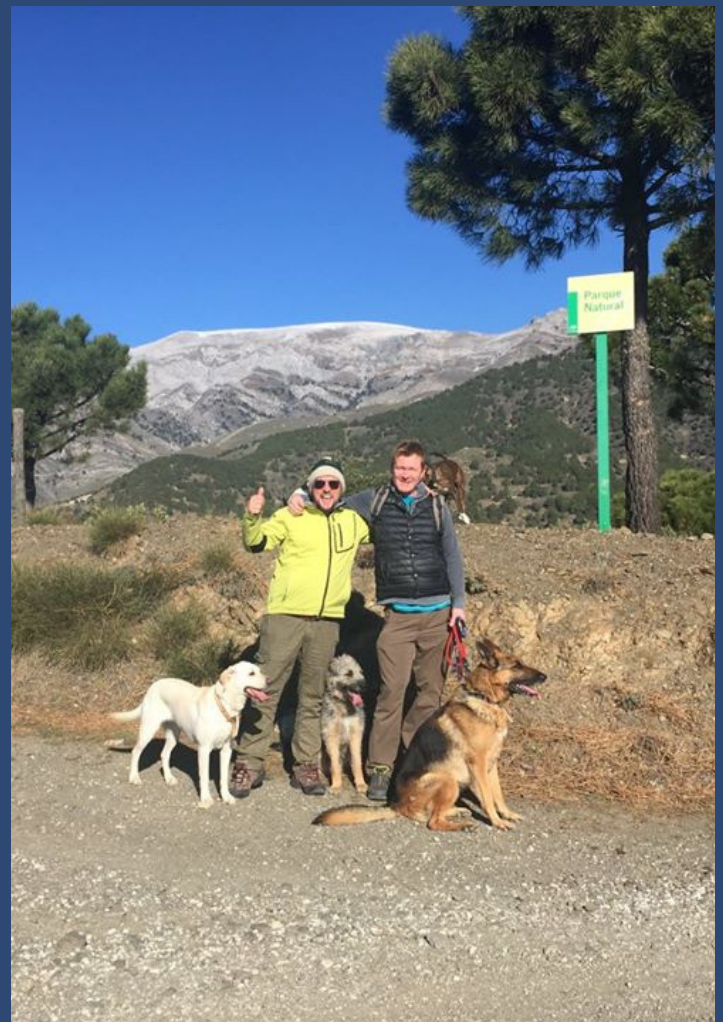
It does seem that you all love an additional activity to compliment your walking holiday,

be it bird watching or wild orchid hunting, or learning to make your own medicinal herb garden, or enjoying our culture and language courses. All were well booked last year, especially the walking & yoga holidays, and we will continue to offer these unique combination walking holidays into the future. We are building this month to enhance our walking lodge, Finca Los Pinos, with the addition of two new ensuite bathrooms, & a much larger indoor dining area and indoor yoga space. All will be completed by the beginning of March, ready for this year's season. Do look out for our special offers for this year in the newsletter below. We look forward to a super year of stunning walking and discovery, exploration and inspiration. And we look forward to sharing that with you.

## Competa Walking Club

Our monthly subscription membership provides you with

- a different guided walk every month
- a specialist walk every quarter
- a few members social events throughout the year, with seminars and presentations about the Axarquia, hiking and walking in the region, and some specialist topics such as Wild orchids, wildlife, bird watching and wild mushrooms.
- All transport to a walking start and finish point, to and from our walking lodge is included
- All midway snacks, eg fresh fruit salads, chocolate and biscuits included
- All fresh water for walking, included.







Lookout tower on wild orchid walk



Discoveries on wild orchid tour



Ridge of Mt Lucero



River bed walking





Outdoor yoga at the walking lodge



Dinner around the pool at the walking lodge



Beautiful Andalusian countryside



# What's happening in Andalucia and Axarquia?

The beauty and culture of Andalucia never fails to disappoint and as always there is an abundance of activities, events and fiestas you can enjoy. The origins of fiestas and fieras date back many hundreds of years, based on traditions and customs honouring special events.

One such special event is of course Semana Santa (Holy Week), where each village holds its own parade in which the towns' people carry large statues of Jesus or Mary around their village.

The first procession of Holy Week, starts on Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter), with processions through the village each day up to Easter Sunday. The floats are extremely heavy, and are carried by local people from the village. It is most impressive to see them pass through the narrow streets accompanied by candlelight and chants. The echo of the chants can be heard all over Competa village. When the final float is returned to the Church, the doors are opened up for everyone to view all the floats.





Artwork by Marianne Van de Horst

If you love art you won't want to miss the 10th Cómputa Art Walk on March 31st and April 1st, 3rd & 4th.

You will see a wide diversity of art by up to 35 international artists exhibited in more than 20 locations, all within easy walking distance within the village. Artists and craftsmen and women will be happy to talk about their work, inspiration, vision and techniques. Some will give workshops and you'll have the opportunity to see artists at work. Live music will give extra rhythm to the village during the 4 days. Admission is free.

June 23rd la Noche de San Juan.

This welcoming of summer involves a little of everything you should expect from summertime in Spain, but amplified. In Spain, people are said to live outdoors, so the start of summer is a huge excitement. Everyone is ready to have fun, be with friends and family, and celebrate with food, drinks, and bonfires. At the San Juan Fiesta, celebrated on St. John's Eve and the day of the summer solstice, the main component of the festival is fire, a symbol of the sun. Therefore, it is accompanied by the kindling of bonfires.



### Feria de Competa (The Competa fair)

Considered one of the most important events in the village, and a must do if you have the chance to be in Competa in late July. There is everything you would expect from a fair, with live performances and dancing and also many cultural events during this time, making it well worth a visit for the whole family.

Experience the thrill of joining the locals during the special festive time of "La

Noche del Vino" (night of the wine): Grapes have always been the main cash crop produced by the villagers of Competa and their importance as an economic factor has been and is to this day enormous. Grape vines define the local landscape, which reflects the true essence of the Axarquia region and its way of life, mixed with tradition and history.



The lead-up period to the main day is called "Preludio a la Noche" (prelude to the night) and starts on 1st of August. During this time there are special events/functions put on by local businesses and restaurants wishing to make visitors and tourists feel welcome. La Noche del Vino is celebrated on the 15th of August. It's a tradition that originated a very

long time ago, and arose out of the necessity for the winegrowers to leave their homes for several weeks to harvest their grapes. Before they left for the harvest all the village families used to get together for a celebration feast and a party; and that is how La Noche del Vino came about.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR WALKING CLUB THIS QUARTER?

## COMPETA WALKING CLUB DATES AND DESTINATIONS

**MARCH & APRIL 2018**

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**MARCH 7TH**

The 'Garden of Axarquia' walk

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**MARCH 27TH**

Walk to the foot of Mt Cisnes

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**APRIL 17TH**

3 Village History Walk Competa to  
Canillas to Archez

For information about these walks, or to  
reserve your place, please contact  
[competahikes@gmail.com](mailto:competahikes@gmail.com)







## COMPETA HIKES 7 DAY WALKING TOURS

Please go to [www.competahikes.com](http://www.competahikes.com) to access full details of tours which are all available for booking now.

### 1ST TO 8TH MARCH

Walking tour - fully booked

### 12TH TO 19TH MARCH

Combination Walking with Yoga - fully booked

### 21ST TO 28TH MARCH

Combination Walking with Wild Orchids - Fully booked

### 7TH TO 14TH APRIL

Combination Walking and Wild Flowers - Fully booked

### 13TH TO 20TH APRIL

Combination Walking, Yoga and Bird Watching - 2 spaces available at special 20% discount

### 20TH TO 27TH APRIL

Combination walking and mindfulness retreat

### 27TH APRIL TO 4TH MAY

Combination Walking and Yoga - Fully booked

### 25TH MAY TO 1ST JUNE

Combination Walking with Spanish Language & Culture - 5 spaces left!

### 19TH TO 26TH JUNE

Combination Walking and Yoga

### 25TH TO 30TH JUNE

Combination Walking and Yoga - Fully booked

### 12TH TO 19TH SEPTEMBER

Combination Walking and Writing

### 1ST TO 8TH OCTOBER

Combination Walking and Yoga

### 11TH TO 18TH OCTOBER

Combination Walking and Yoga - fully booked

### 18TH TO 25TH OCTOBER

General Walking Tour

### 25TH OCTOBER TO 1ST NOVEMBER

Combination Walking and Writing

### 4TH TO 11TH NOVEMBER

Walking and Yoga, Meditation and Massage Retreat

### 12TH TO 19TH NOVEMBER

Combination Yoga, Spanish Cooking, Language & Culture

### 26TH NOVEMBER TO 3RD DECEMBER

Specialist Walking Tour with History and Medicinal Herbs



## *Until next time ...*

*So that's it for this quarter's newsletter.*

*We have very much enjoyed the start of 2018, sharing fantastic walks, and stunning scenery with our lovely guests.*

*We hope you have found our newsletter useful, and we look forward to seeing you on one of our walking club day walks, or indeed in our all inclusive walking holidays.*

*For our walking holiday dates in 2019 please visit our website  
[www.competahikes.com/tour-dates](http://www.competahikes.com/tour-dates)*

*Please look out for our next newsletter July 2018, where we can highlight all the wonderful fiestas and festivals for Summer and Autumn here in The Axarquia, and of course tell you all about what has been happening at Competa Hikes.*

*Keep well and lots of love*

*Sarah and David*

*Competa Hikes*