

CONFERENCE CITY

LA MANGA DEL MAR MENOR

La Manga is located 30 Km. North **Cartagena** (Mediterranean Sea coast, Southeast Spain) in the **Autonomous Community of Murcia** in a coastal area which boasts one of the most moderate climates in Spain with more days of sunshine than other mainland areas and water temperatures higher than average. As a result it has become known as the "Costa Calida" - the "Warm Coast". It is a strip of sand, approx. 22kms. long, which forms a "barrier" and encloses the "Mar Menor" (Minor Sea) and separates it from the "Mar Mayor" (the Mediterranean). At it's narrowest parts it is only 100 metres wide and the maximum width is 1.5km.

There are four canals along the length of La Manga which allow the water to flow from one sea to the other and at the two extremes of the strip there are two protected natural spaces - at the northern end is the "Parque Regional de las Salinas (salt flats) y Arenales de San Pedro, and to the south are more salt flats known as "Las Salinas de Marchamalo y Las Amoladeras". There are over 44km. of beaches, narrower but with protected bays and coves on the side of the Mar Menor, and longer, wider expanses of pure golden sand fronting the Mediterranean. Considering the vast effort needed to keep them clean, we are proud to say that many can boast the "Blue Flag" - awarded in accordance with the regulations laid down by the European Community. *More info about natural areas and beaches (1).*



MAP OF LA MANGA DEL MAR MENOR



LA MANGA VIEWS



CARTAGENA

Very few European cities have the rich and monumental history that is possessed by Cartagena. Founded almost 3,000 years. a long history has been created by the consecutive occupation of numerous civilizations (Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines and Arabs), and one that impregnated Cartagena with a unique monumental character which has been enriched by the recent discovery of its Roman Theatre, considered to be the most important and representative of the era of Augusto.

Amongst the various places of interest that are essential to visit are the remains of the Byzantine rampart (mid first millennium), the vestiges of the Roman road, and the impressive pit of the Roman theatre (the work of total recuperation is still being carried out), the Litema (the ancient lighthouse) that is a reminder of the Arab presence, the Catedral Vieja (the Old Cathedral) or the Cathedral of Santa Maria, one of Cartagena's oldest buildings.

The city of Cartagena also has many other buildings of notable beauty, such as the Town Hall, a modernist construction that was built at the beginning of the 20th century.

Apart from its artistic and historic treasures, Cartagena offers the visitor an active commercial life, culture and leisure activities, museums (archaeological, naval, submarine, etc.) and other activities constitute a wide range of possibilities.

The area's rich gastronomy, fundamentally based on fish, seafood and excellent fruit and vegetables is another attribute of Cartagena. *More info about Cartagena (2).*