

Costa Weekly News tm

Email: costaweeklynews@alicantetoday.com DEPÓSITO LEGAL: MU 170-2026 21st April - 27th April 2026 - ED - 12

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Torre Vieja shooting leaves man dead in an alleged settling of scores

A 25-year-old man died late Saturday night after being shot in a residential area of Torre Vieja, in what authorities suspect may be part of an ongoing dispute between rival groups.

The shooting occurred at approximately 10:30 p.m. on Calle Bergantín, a street located near Playa del Cura. A patrol from the Civil Guard that happened to be nearby at the time reported hearing multiple gunshots and quickly moved toward the source of the noise. Upon arrival, officers discovered the victim seriously injured inside the entrance hall of an apartment building.

Emergency services were immediately dispatched to the scene. According to officials from the regional Emergency Coordination Centre, a SAMU unit responded and provided urgent medical care to the victim, who had sustained gunshot wounds to the shoulder and armpit. Despite efforts by paramedics to revive him through advanced life-saving

procedures, the young man could not be saved. He was pronounced dead at the scene shortly afterward.

Preliminary findings suggest that the shooter fired several rounds—up to six shots—from outside the building, aiming through a window into the interior entrance area. The bullets struck the victim and also left visible damage to parts of the building, including windows, walls, and metal fixtures.

Investigators believe the attacker may have been lying in wait for the victim before opening fire. After carrying out the shooting, the suspect reportedly fled the scene on a motorcycle. Authorities have since launched an extensive search and investigation to identify and locate those responsible.

The victim, who was of Algerian nationality, lived in the apartment building where the incident took place. Four other individuals residing in the same property were taken to Civil

Guard facilities for questioning as part of the ongoing inquiry. Officials have confirmed that one person has been arrested in connection with the case, although it remains unclear whether that individual is the suspected gunman.

The incident has raised concerns among residents, particularly given reports of a previous violent episode in the same area. About a month earlier, another shooting involving firearms reportedly occurred nearby, though details have only recently emerged. In that earlier case, sources indicate that the current victim may

have been involved in an attack against a rival group, which left another man injured.

While investigations are still ongoing, authorities are exploring the possibility that the latest killing is linked to retaliatory violence between groups. However, no definitive conclusions have been made public at this stage.

The body of the deceased has been transferred to the Institute of Legal Medicine in Alicante, where an autopsy will be conducted to formally determine the cause of death. Early indications point to fatal injuries

caused by gunfire, but officials say further forensic analysis will provide confirmation.

Police continue to gather evidence and interview witnesses as they work to piece together the circumstances surrounding the incident. The Civil Guard has urged anyone with information to come forward as they attempt to clarify the sequence of events and establish responsibility for the fatal shooting.



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Contact:

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Deposito Legal:

MU 170-2026

ISSN:

ISSN 3101-6723

Publishing Company:

Spain Today Online SL
Carretera de Fuente Alamo
Corvera, Murcia
30153

Printed in Elche (Alicante Province)

Generalitat to widen the CV-95 between Orihuela and Torrevieja

The Generalitat Valenciana has launched a key step toward the long-awaited expansion of the CV-95, a major corridor in the Vega Baja region, by putting out to tender the drafting of the basic project and preliminary studies for the route between Orihuela and Torrevieja.

The contract, valued at just over €1.3 million, will define the most suitable technical solution for upgrading the road while assessing multiple options to improve both capacity and safety. Among the proposals under consideration are widening the road into a dual carriageway and constructing bypasses to divert traffic away from urban areas currently affected by congestion.

Regional officials say the initiative marks significant progress on a project that has long been considered a priority for local municipalities. The third vice president and regional minister for environment, infrastructure and territory, Vicente Martínez Mus, said the government is delivering on commitments made to mayors across the Vega Baja.

"This is a necessary and long-awaited infrastructure project, and we are now moving forward with the steps needed to

make it a reality," he said, adding that the latest tender brings the region closer to a definitive solution.

Beyond technical design, the contract also includes a feasibility study and an analysis of the project's financing structure. Authorities are exploring a concession model, which would involve public-private collaboration to deliver the works. The total investment required for the project is estimated at around €180 million.

According to the regional government, this model offers flexibility for large-scale infrastructure development. Martínez Mus highlighted the potential use of an availability-based payment system, stressing that it would not place any direct financial burden on road users.

The CV-95 is a vital link connecting inland towns with the coast, carrying heavy traffic volumes throughout the year and particularly during the summer, when tourism significantly increases the local population. This surge places strain on the current infrastructure, which in many sections consists of a single lane in each direction and passes directly through urban centres.

The planned upgrade would cover approximately 26.5 kilometres, crossing or skirting municipalities including Bigastro, Jacarilla and San Miguel de Salinas. In its current state, the road faces limitations due to its layout and integration with built-up areas, contributing to congestion and safety concerns.

The preliminary studies will examine the project's technical, economic and environmental viability, while laying the groundwork for future construction phases. Officials say the ultimate goal is to strengthen mobility, reduce traffic bottlenecks and improve connectivity between inland communities and the coastal zone. With the tender now underway, the Generalitat has taken a decisive step forward in planning a major infrastructure upgrade that could reshape transport across the Vega Baja and address long-standing demands from residents and local leaders.



Spain opens applications for its most controversial immigration plan in history

Spain has launched one of the most talked-about and controversial immigration measures in recent memory, opening online applications today, Thursday April 16, for a scheme that could grant legal residency and the right to work to as many as half a million undocumented migrants already living in the country.

The plan, pushed through by President Pedro Sánchez's government, is aimed at people who have been quietly building lives in Spain without official status.

In a letter published on X this week, Mr Sánchez, who has plenty of other problems on his mind with the recent corruption-related charges against his wife, was very direct about his reasoning behind the move.

"Spain is ageing," he wrote. "Without more people working and contributing to the economy, our prosperity slows and our public services suffer."

According to the government, the measure isn't just a matter of fairness, it's an economic necessity for a country that already has around 10 million foreign-born residents among its 50 million population, with think

tank Funcas estimating there are roughly 840,000 undocumented migrants currently working in Spain.

Undocumented migrants now have two main routes to regularisation. The first is for asylum seekers who submitted applications before January 1, 2026 and are still waiting for a decision. If they can show they've been continuously living in Spain for at least five months, they can apply for residency based on their ties to the country.

The second, broader route is open to anyone who was living in Spain five months before January 1, 2026, even if they never applied for asylum. To be eligible, applicants need to show either employment ties, an intention to work, that they live with dependent family members or minors, or that they're in a vulnerable situation.

A clean criminal record is also required. Anyone whose application is accepted will immediately be allowed to live and work in Spain legally, either as an employee or self-employed.

The deadline to apply is June 30, 2026, a timeline that social organisations have criticised as too tight. The

government has refused to extend it despite weeks of pressure.

There are also serious concerns about whether the system can actually handle the volume of applications. Immigration officers are threatening to go on strike from April 21, the day after in-person appointments open, in protest at what they describe as a severe lack of resources.

Only five of Spain's 54 immigration offices will process applications directly, with the rest handled through social security offices, post offices and NGOs.

Unsurprisingly, opposition to the scheme has been pretty loud. The People's Party (PP) has called it reckless, despite previous conservative governments having introduced similar measures in the past. Madrid's regional president Isabel Díaz Ayuso has threatened to challenge it in court.

It's a deeply divisive move, but Sánchez shows no sign of backing down, framing it as both a moral obligation and a practical solution to Spain's demographic challenges.

Mild earthquake is felt off the coast of Torrevieja

A small earthquake of magnitude 1.7 has been registered during the early hours of the morning of Saturday 18th April, off the coast of Torrevieja, without causing personal or material damage. The earthquake took place at 03:15 a.m. and was located at a depth of approximately six

kilometres, being perceived only by some people.

Due to its low magnitude and the time at which it occurred, the movement was not widely felt by the population, remaining in a specific episode without notable incidence.

These type of seismic movements are relatively frequent on the coast of the Vega Baja, an area considered to be of moderate seismic activity, since they are part of the natural dynamics of the terrain and, in general, do not imply risks for the population.



Three flats destroyed in Torrevieja blaze

Firefighters have extinguished a blaze that broke out on the third floor of a six-storey residential building in Torrevieja on Friday evening.

The Alicante Provincial Firefighters Consortium said the alarm was raised at 8pm. The blaze was in a residential building at the junction of Calle Ramón Gallud and Calle María Parodi. The property consists of a ground floor, mezzanine, six upper floors and a penthouse. Most of the building was evacuated, while residents on the top floors were confined to their homes for safety.

The fire is believed to have started on the third floor, reportedly caused by a brazier. Flames spread to the balcony of the property, causing thick smoke and prompting the evacuation of all residents in the building. A man who was inside the flat at the

time managed to leave the property unaided. The flames later spread to the second floor, with large flames and thick smoke visible from the balconies. Neighbours in nearby flats called for help, and at first, it was unclear whether anyone remained inside, but no injuries were reported.

Although no one was injured, three flats were described as having been completely affected by the fire. Emergency crews including a command unit, two heavy urban pump appliances, an aerial ladder platform and a support van, alongside officers and ten firefighters from stations in Torrevieja and Almoradí attended the scene.

Firefighters brought the blaze under control at 10pm.



Murder suspect returned to prison over alleged breach of bail conditions

A Northern Irish man accused of shooting dead his friend John George in Rojales has been sent back to prison after allegedly breaching the conditions of his release.

Jonathan Alan S (known as Johnny) had been freed on €100,000 bail in December while awaiting trial over the death of fellow Northern Irishman John George Hardy, whose body was found in a lemon orchard in January 2025.

The investigating judge in Torrevieja revoked his bail after prosecutors argued he had contacted the victim's family despite a strict ban on direct or indirect communication. The court heard he sent a Facebook friend request to one of Mr Hardy's sisters. The judge described the action as deliberate harassment rather than coincidence. The sister later said the decision by the judge was "amazing news".

The ruling also refers to videos allegedly posted on social media in which the accused made threatening remarks, referred to the victim's family and showed what the judge called a defiant attitude towards the judicial process. In one clip, he claimed he had lived "like a king" in Spanish prisons and suggested he would not be caught.

He was given two days to report voluntarily to prison and entered Villena prison of his own volition. He had previously been detained in Portugal before being extradited to Spain. The wider investigation has also involved other suspects, including a Czech national who was later shot dead in Torrevieja and a British man arrested in Murcia in connection with that killing.



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Spain braces for a potential super El Niño summer

Spain could be in for an especially warm summer if a strong El Niño pattern develops, as experts are now watching closely for what they call a “super Niño.”

A super El Niño refers to the most powerful version of this natural climate event. Normally, El Niño happens when sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific warm by at least 0.5°C above average. But a super El Niño sees those temperatures spike by 2°C or more above normal, creating much stronger shifts in global wind patterns, jet streams and pressure systems. These rare events, which have only happened a handful of times since 1950, can amplify heat waves, storms or drought far more intensely than a regular El Niño.

Meteorologist Mar Gómez has put the current probability at 61%, saying it is “more likely to happen and could be much more intense”. That fits with the shift happening now from cooler La Niña conditions to something warmer, with forecasts showing a good chance of El Niño taking hold through the end of the year.

The link to Spain is not straightforward, but El Niño can

influence southern Europe by encouraging warm air from North Africa to push north more often. This tends to mean longer or more frequent heat spells, especially when added to the backdrop of global warming, which already raises baseline temperatures. Recent spring days with 30°C readings, even in the north, give a taste of what could lie ahead.

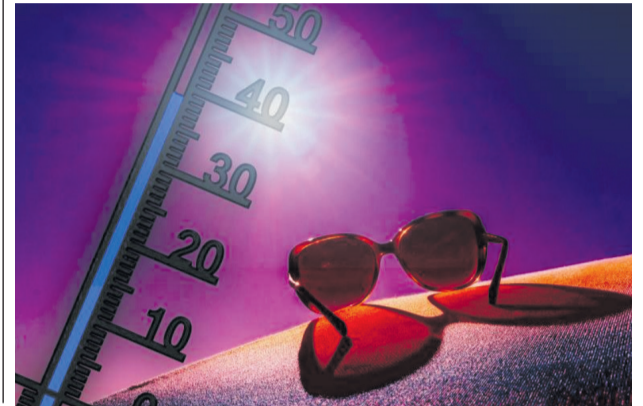
Not every region will feel it the same way. Northern areas sometimes get a bit more protection from Atlantic air, which can bring cooler and damper conditions. But the overall pattern still points to a higher risk of persistent high temperatures right across the country.

Experts stress that predictions like this are about probabilities, not guarantees. The atmosphere is unpredictable, and spring forecasts can shift as summer approaches. Even so, the ingredients seem to be lining up for something significant. A super El Niño could amplify extremes everywhere from heavy rain in some spots to drought in others.

For Spain, the main concern is how it might stack another layer of heat on top of what is already a warming

trend. While northern areas might see some variation, the south and centre could face the brunt.

Preparation makes sense, whether that means staying aware of local forecasts or thinking ahead about how hotter summers affect daily life here. The good news is that models are getting better at spotting these patterns early, giving everyone a bit more time to plan.



Bauhaus chooses Torrevieja for third store in the region

DIY and home improvement retailer Bauhaus has begun construction of a major new store in Torrevieja, marking a significant expansion of its footprint in the Valencian Community and reinforcing its growth strategy in Spain.

The project, backed by an investment of €39 million, will become the company's third store in the region, joining its existing locations in Paterna and Alfafar. Once completed, Bauhaus will increase its total commercial surface area in the Valencian Community to approximately 45,000 square metres.

A groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction was attended by Eduardo Dolón and Bauhaus Spain CEO Bart Ginneberge, alongside local officials and project leaders. During the event, Ginneberge said the new store would strengthen the company's regional presence while contributing to job creation and economic development.

Mayor Dolón welcomed the investment, describing it as a boost for the local economy. He highlighted the potential for increased business activity and employment

and expressed the city council's willingness to support administrative processes linked to the project.

The future store will be built on a 30,000-square-metre plot and will feature a total constructed area of 13,000 square metres. Of this, 9,000 square metres will be dedicated to retail space, while a 1,700-square-metre “Drive-In” area will cater to customers purchasing construction materials. An additional 2,300 square metres will house the “City Garden” section, focused on gardening and outdoor products.

According to the company, the construction and launch of the store will create around 150 direct jobs and nearly 100 indirect positions. These roles will span store operations as well as supplier and service networks connected to the development. Bauhaus said it aims to prioritise local hiring, contributing to economic growth in the surrounding area.

The retailer also emphasised its employment model, noting that more than 90% of its workforce is employed on permanent contracts. The company places a strong

focus on staff training and internal promotion, with the goal of building long-term career opportunities.

Sustainability will play a central role in the new development. Plans include the installation of photovoltaic panels capable of generating around 35% of the store's energy needs, along with rainwater collection systems and electric vehicle charging points. These measures are intended to improve energy efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of the facility.

The Torrevieja project forms part of Bauhaus's broader expansion strategy in Spain. With this opening, the company expects to bring its total number of stores in the country to 15. This milestone will follow the planned opening of a new outlet on Barcelona's Meridiana avenue later this summer.

As construction gets underway, the new Torrevieja store is set to become a key commercial hub in the Vega Baja area, combining retail, employment and sustainability in one of the region's most dynamic growth projects.

Homeownership in Spain continues to decline

Homeownership in Spain is steadily falling, reflecting a long-term shift in how households approach housing, wealth, and debt. New data from the 2024 Survey of Household Finances by the Bank of Spain shows that just 70.6% of Spanish households owned their primary residence in 2024, down from 72.1% in 2022. The decline extends a trend that has persisted since 2011.

The drop in ownership has been broad-based, affecting households across income levels and age groups. However, the most significant decreases in 2024 were seen among higher-income households, those with lower overall net wealth, and households led by individuals aged 35 to 44.

The report highlights diverging

financial trajectories between homeowners and renters. Median net wealth among homeowners rose by 8.4% between 2022 and 2024. Among non-homeowners, it grew more sharply—by 18.3%—though from a much lower base, leaving overall wealth levels in this group comparatively modest.

At the same time, total household debt declined. Aggregate debt fell by an average of 4.8% annually over the same period, signalling a broader “deleveraging” trend. By the end of 2024, 54% of households carried some form of debt, with an average of approximately €30,000.

Experts attribute part of this shift to changing housing preferences. Younger households are increasingly choosing to rent rather than buy, a decision that reduces debt burdens.

According to López Salido, lower debt relative to income makes households less financially vulnerable and better positioned to navigate future entry into the housing market.

While homeownership declines, incomes are rising. Median household income in 2023 surpassed levels last seen in 2001, marking the highest figure recorded in the survey's history. Between 2021 and 2023, overall income grew by an annual average of 3.3%.

Growth was strongest among lower-income households. The bottom 20% saw incomes increase by 7%, while gains were recorded across nearly all groups except the wealthiest 10%. By education level, income growth was more pronounced among households with lower

educational attainment, while those with university degrees saw a slight dip in median income, despite modest gains in average earnings.

Household wealth has yet to fully recover from pre-financial crisis levels, although gains have been widespread. Notably, increases in net worth among lower-income households were driven largely by reductions in debt rather than significant asset accumulation.

Financial assets, however, have reached record highs. The median value rose to €17,600 in 2024, up sharply from €6,000 in 2002. Lower-income households posted the largest percentage increases, albeit from a smaller starting point.

The composition of savings is also changing. Households are

moving funds out of non-interest-bearing current accounts into higher-yield financial products, reflecting growing financial awareness. Among wealthier households, there is a notable preference for investments such as unlisted shares.

Despite shifting ownership patterns, housing continues to dominate household balance sheets. Primary residences account for 54.2% of real assets and 41.7% of total household assets, underscoring the enduring importance of property in Spain's economic landscape.

The data suggests a structural transformation in how Spaniards accumulate wealth and approach housing—one shaped by generational differences, evolving labour markets, and changing financial behaviour.

La Plasa steps closer to gastro market plans

The City Council of Torrevieja has provisionally awarded the management of the "La Plasa" market to the company Origen Murcia, SA, for a 10-year period, marking a significant step in the municipality's plan to modernize one of its key commercial spaces. The agreement, approved by the Local Governing Board, includes an annual concession fee of €56,300.

Under the terms of the contract—pending finalization—the company will oversee both the traditional market and a new gastro market concept to be developed across more than 2,000 square metres on the ground floor and mezzanine. The initiative aims to blend the sale of fresh, local, and gourmet products with a contemporary dining experience, following models already established in cities like Madrid, Seville, and Murcia.

Mayor Eduardo Dolón described the project as a shift away from the traditional limited-hours market model toward a more dynamic, all-day destination. He said the goal is to create a lively meeting point that boosts economic activity, attracts visitors, and reinvigorates the city centre.

A private investment of nearly €1 million is expected to generate approximately 230 jobs, both direct and indirectly. City officials see the project as a major driver of urban renewal in central Torrevieja.

Despite the modernisation plans, the City

Council has emphasised that the traditional market's identity will be preserved. Existing vendors will be offered the opportunity to continue operating under favourable conditions, ensuring continuity for long-standing businesses. The new venue will also encourage participation from local entrepreneurs and self-employed workers, integrating the broader local economy into the development.

Meanwhile, the future of the building's upper floors remains under review. In response to recent public concerns, the mayor stated that no disruptive uses would be permitted. Instead, the City Council will launch a separate process to determine appropriate uses for the second and third floors, focusing on public benefit and social value.

Proposals under consideration include a multipurpose hall for institutional events, as well as cultural or gastronomic activities such as the DESAL festival. These plans will be evaluated through a new administrative process with full safeguards.

Construction work is already underway and progressing on schedule. The City Council expects the revamped market to open by late this year or early next year.

Six new taxis reinforce Torrevieja service

The City Council of Torrevieja has introduced six new accessible taxis—known as Eurotaxis—now operating in the municipality, as part of a broader plan to expand and modernize local transport services.

Mayor Eduardo Dolón and Transport Councillor Antonio Vidal unveiled the vehicles in La Mata, highlighting their role in improving mobility for residents and visitors, particularly those with reduced mobility.

The six newly launched vehicles are the first phase of a larger expansion that will see ten additional licenses rolled out in the coming months. Eight of these are expected to be awarded shortly, while two remain in the administrative process—bringing the total number of new licenses to sixteen.

Designed to meet strict accessibility standards, Eurotaxis are equipped to safely transport passengers with reduced mobility, including wheelchair users. With seating capacities ranging from six to nine passengers, the new vehicles are expected to increase service availability and better meet demand across the city.

During the presentation, Antonio Vidal said the expansion addresses a long-standing gap in the city's transport system, calling it a necessary response to years of demand for improved taxi services. He described the initial six vehicles as the "starting point" for further growth in the sector.

Mayor Dolón acknowledged ongoing complaints about taxi shortages, particularly during peak seasons, when availability has often been limited. He said the increase in licenses would significantly ease these issues and improve overall service reliability.

City officials also emphasised that the initiative was developed in collaboration with the local taxi industry, aiming to create a balanced and sustainable service throughout the year. Dolón noted that working closely with drivers and operators has been key to designing a system that reflects real demand.

Beyond increasing capacity, the expansion underscores a broader commitment to accessibility. The mayor said the introduction of more adapted vehicles marks progress toward universal access in public transport and enhances the quality of service for all users.



'A Todo Tren' Gastro Route returns with food and prizes

The fifth edition of the 'A Todo Tren' Gastro Route will be held on 24th and 25th April, bringing together traditional cuisine and entertainment for a weekend of food and prizes.

For two days, participating venues in Torrevieja will offer a traditional dish and a drink for just five euros, giving residents and visitors the chance to sample local flavours at an affordable price.

This year's event include tasty treats such as rice with ribs, lamb timbale, baby squid in sauce, Russian salad, squid sangochao and potato omelette with onion, among others. This is a route that invites people to travel to different parts of Torrevieja and discover new flavours and atmospheres.

Customers can also enter a prize draw by scanning the QR code displayed in event publicity after making a purchase. Prizes include a ham, a mobile phone and the winner's weight in Mahou beer.

To take part, customers must eat in a participating venue and register via the QR code. A maximum of two entries per person per day is allowed, and participants must provide proof of purchase to validate any prize.

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EU launches emergency energy measures to address fuel crisis

The European Commission has announced a package of emergency energy measures in response to the growing economic impact of the Iran conflict, with President Ursula von der Leyen warning that the crisis is already hitting Europe hard and that further disruption is inevitable even if hostilities end tomorrow.

Speaking to reporters, Ms von der Leyen revealed that the EU has spent an extra €22 billion on fossil fuels during just 44 days of war, with nothing to show for it in terms of additional energy supply.

"This shows the enormous impact that war is having on our economy," she said.

"Even if hostilities cease immediately, energy disruptions in the Gulf will

persist for some time."

The measures, which Brussels plans to present in full next Wednesday ahead of an informal EU leaders' summit in Cyprus on April 23 and 24, are described as temporary and focused on coordination between member states. Among the most immediate priorities is a joint approach to filling gas reserves for next winter, with Ms von der Leyen warning that without coordination, individual countries risk "entering the market simultaneously and ending up competing with each other."

A coordinated release of oil reserves is also on the table if needed.

The Commission is also proposing more flexible state aid rules to give governments greater room to support vulnerable sectors.

Longer-term proposals include reducing energy demand through building and industrial equipment renovation, as well as further adjustments to the EU's carbon emissions trading system ahead of a full review in July.

One area where Brussels is drawing a clear line is national energy subsidies. Spain's decision to cut the tax on diesel and petrol from 21% to 10% has been specifically flagged as the kind of measure that needs careful handling. The Commission isn't opposed to fuel tax reductions in principle, but Economic Affairs Commissioner Vladis Dombrovskis cautioned last week that they must remain strictly temporary.

"There is some tension between the immediate relief that energy tax reductions can provide and the

medium and long-term objectives," he said, calling on member states to take "balanced" steps.

The Strait of Hormuz remains central to all of this. Ms Von der Leyen described its closure as "extremely damaging" and insisted that any resolution must address concerns about Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes as well as the obstruction of navigation in the area. She called for stronger cooperation between EU member

states and their Gulf partners.

Adding to the diplomatic momentum, French President Emmanuel Macron has announced that an international conference will be convened "in the coming days" to work on unblocking the strait, organised jointly with the United Kingdom and partly in response to pressure from the Trump administration for European allies to find solutions to the crisis.



Car rolls into children's play area in Torrevieja park



A parked car has rolled down one of the sloping access roads surrounding Reina de la Sal park in the Los Balcones area of Torrevieja, ending up in a children's play area. The incident occurred at around 7pm while several children were playing nearby.

According to witnesses, the driver failed to apply the hand-

brake, causing the foreign-registered vehicle to roll downhill into the playground. Fortunately, no injuries were reported, although the car sustained damage to its rear side and families in the park were left badly shaken.

Reina de la Sal park, opened in 2014, is the largest green space in the Los Balcones

urbanisation. Built on a 35,000-square-metre former gully between housing areas, it features extensive sports facilities, including eight pétanque courts, basketball and five-a-side football pitches, mini-football areas, a multi-sports court, outdoor gym equipment and a large dog recreation area.

The park was developed

through the Mediterráneo VI Employment Workshop programme, which provided training and jobs for 38 unemployed people over 12 months. The project cost just over 1 million euros, with 60% funded by the regional government through Servef.

Benidorm to ban smoking on beaches this summer

Benidorm's Socialist opposition group is pushing the town's ruling People's Party to sign up to the Valencian Community's Smoke-Free Beaches Network, a move that would see all of the resort's beaches become no-smoking zones.

The proposal, put forward by Socialist councillor Laura Rubio, points to the example set by several neighbouring towns in the Marina Baixa region. La Vila Joiosa has already declared all 13 of its beaches and coves smoke-free, with l'Alfàs del Pi and Finestrat also active members of the regional network. According to Rubio, that makes Benidorm's current position increasingly difficult to justify.

"It's unacceptable that in a city like Benidorm, smoke-free areas are limited to very specific points on accessible beaches, while the rest of the coastline remains unprotected," she said.

The argument isn't purely about the comfort of non-smoking beachgoers, although that's clearly part of it. Rubio pointed to the environmental damage caused by cigarette butts, describing them as one of the most harmful and most common types of waste found on beaches.

According to the councillor, a single cigarette butt can contaminate up to 50 litres of water, takes around a decade to decompose, and releases microplastics

along with toxic substances including arsenic and lead into the marine ecosystem in the process.

Rubio finished with a pointed message for mayor Toni Pérez and the PP administration, suggesting that neighbouring towns have already shown the measure is well received by both tourists and residents.

"We hope the PP will set aside its usual arrogance and understand that protecting people's health and the future of our beaches is a necessary investment to maintain Benidorm's tourism excellence," she said.

The PP has not yet responded publicly to the proposal.



Fire in an illegal landfill in Almoradí



Crews from the Almoradí fire brigade were called into action after a fire broke out in a rural area of the municipality, where an illegal landfill had caught fire. The area was littered with belongings, pruning remains and other accumulated materials.

According to reports, when firefighters arrived at the scene, they found that the fire had already spread to a large amount of plant waste and abandoned objects, which made it difficult to extinguish completely with water alone. For this reason, the chief

decided to request a backhoe, with the aim of removing the accumulated debris and allowing firefighters to access the internal sources of the fire.

The intervention lasted until it was ensured that there were no active embers that could rekindle the fire. No personal injuries were reported.

Spain and China unite against global instability

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Chinese President Xi Jinping presented a united front in defence of multilateralism, as both leaders warned of growing instability in the global order during talks in Beijing.

Meeting at the Great Hall of the People, Xi praised Spain's role in what he described as a turbulent international landscape and urged closer cooperation between the two countries.

"China and Spain are principled countries that act with moral rectitude, and both are willing to stand on the right side of history," Xi said, calling on both nations to 'oppose the world's regression to the law of the jungle, and jointly safeguard genuine multilateralism'.

Sánchez echoed that message, warning that the international system established after the mid-20th century is increasingly under strain.

"Let us find ways together to strengthen the multilateral system and international law, which is being undermined repeatedly and very dangerously when it is needed more than ever," he said.

He added that Spain and China 'can contribute to finding solutions to the various trade tensions that exist, to the geopolitical difficulties and complexities of today's world, to the wars, to the environmental and social challenges that afflict the world'.

The visit – Sánchez's fourth to China in just over three years – comes amid height-

ened tensions between Madrid and Washington, particularly over Spain's opposition to the war in Iran and criticism of Israeli military actions in the Middle East.

Both leaders acknowledged the complexity of the current geopolitical climate. Xi described international relations as 'complicated' and said the global order is 'crumbling', while stressing that ties between China and Spain remain 'very stable'.

Sánchez said he discussed 'the grave situation' in Lebanon, Gaza, Iran, the Strait of Hormuz and Ukraine with Xi, urging China to play a more active diplomatic role.

The Spanish leader was sharply critical of ongoing conflicts, stating: "International law is being violated today, fundamentally by one country: the government of Israel." He added: "There is also an absolutely illegal response from the Iranian regime regarding a war that we have described from the very beginning as a mistake and an illegality."

He also warned of growing pressure on countries that speak out. "Those of us who raise our voice against governments violating international law are being threatened," Sánchez said, referring to remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Spain has taken concrete steps reflecting its stance, including closing its airspace to US military planes linked to the Iran conflict and refusing the use of jointly operated bases in southern Spain for related operations.

Lidl to launch low-cost mobile phone service

With pretty much perfect timing, when everyone is worrying about rising costs, Lidl has announced that it's moving into the telecommunications business. The German supermarket giant has confirmed that it plans to launch a low-cost mobile phone service across 30 countries by the end of this year, and Spain is expected to be among them.

Rather than building its own network from scratch, Lidl will operate as a mobile virtual network operator, essentially piggy-backing on existing infrastructure to offer phone services without the eye-watering cost of setting up towers and cables.

To make it happen, Lidl's parent company the Schwarz Group has taken a 9.9% stake in communications provider 1GLOBAL, which already operates in Spain using Orange's network.

The service will be offered through the Lidl Plus app, which already has more than 100

million users worldwide.

Lidl International executive Julian Beer described the plan as offering "simple connectivity" to its existing customer base, which is a fairly modest way of putting it given the potential scale of the operation.

Lidl has already been running mobile services in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and the expansion to up to 30 new markets including Spain, the UK, the US and France would represent a significant step up. The company hasn't yet confirmed the exact order in which countries will come on board.

It's not entirely uncharted territory, since Fintech companies like Revolut, Klarna and N26 have already moved into mobile services in recent years, using the same logic of keeping existing customers engaged while finding new ways to grow revenue.



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Spanish PMs wife charged in corruption investigation

A Spanish court has formally charged the wife of President Pedro Sánchez, Begoña Gómez, with multiple corruption-related offences following a two-year investigation led by Judge Juan Carlos Peinado, marking a significant development in a case that has drawn political and public attention since it began in April 2024.

The ruling accuses Gómez of embezzlement, influence peddling, corruption in business dealings and misappropriation of funds. The case now moves towards a potential trial by jury, with the parties given five days to submit arguments on whether oral proceedings should formally begin.

Judge Peinado, who heads Madrid's Court of Instruction Number 41 and is due to retire in September, opted

to conclude the investigation at this stage rather than extend proceedings further. According to legal sources, this decision came despite requests from private prosecutors to continue the inquiry.

The investigation centres on allegations that Gómez used her position as the wife of President Pedro Sánchez to advance her professional career, particularly her role linked to the Complutense University of Madrid, where she co-directed a master's programme. The judge points to what he describes as a lack of relevant qualifications and suggests that public decisions may have been influenced in ways that benefited her academic position.

A key element of the case involves the hiring of an advisor, Cristina Álvarez, who is also among those

charged, alongside businessman Juan Carlos Barrabés. The judge believes there may have been misuse of public funds in employing the advisor to assist both Gómez's official duties at Moncloa Palace and her private professional activities.

In his ruling, Peinado identifies influence peddling as the central allegation, arguing that other suspected offences stem from it. He also highlights meetings related to Gómez's university role that reportedly took place at the Moncloa Palace, suggesting this reinforces the case for possible irregular conduct.

The original complaint was filed by Manos Limpias, a controversial far-rightwing organisation led by Miguel Bernad, which has previously brought a number of unsuccessful legal actions against political fig-

ures. The complaint was reportedly based largely on press reports.

Gómez has consistently denied all allegations. Meanwhile, Pedro Sánchez has dismissed the case as part of a politically motivated campaign by right-wing and far-right groups aimed at undermining his government. When the investigation first became public, he temporarily stepped back from official duties for five days, citing what he described as a strategy of "harassment" targeting both him and his wife.

The case comes amid other ongoing legal issues involving figures linked to the president. His brother, David Sánchez, has also been indicted in a separate investigation concerning alleged influence peddling, while former transport minister José Luis Ábalos is currently on trial

over accusations of receiving kick-backs related to personal protective equipment contracts during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Gómez and the president are currently on an official visit to China as the legal process continues to develop in Spain.



Walk for Autism in Pilar



The Social Services Department of Pilar de la Horadada has opened registrations for the second Solidarity March "Walking for Autism". The initiative is being held again after the success of last year's event and aims to make visible and support people with ASD and their families.

Registration can now be done

through the official website, where participants can sign up and obtain all the necessary information about the event. The walk will take place on 26th April starting at 10am from the Plaza de la Iglesia.

"We continue to take steps for autism," said Social Services. "We encourage neighbours and visitors to join this solidarity

event. We are very excited to be able to repeat the activity and hopes to have broad citizen participation again.

The event is part of the municipal commitment to inclusion and awareness of autism, promoting a day of coexistence, sport and solidarity.

EU population set for long decline, with Spain the exception

The European Union is heading toward a historic demographic shift that will see its population shrink significantly by the end of the century, according to the latest projections from Eurostat.

The EU's population is expected to peak at 453.3 million in 2029—just four years from now—before entering a prolonged period of decline. By 2100, the bloc's population is projected to fall below 400 million, marking a drop of nearly 12% from today's 451.8 million. If realized, this would represent an unprecedented contraction in modern European history.

Experts emphasize that the decline will not be abrupt but gradual. In the coming decades, population momentum—driven by larger, older generations still moving through the life cycle—will soften the impact. However, the trend is expected to intensify after 2050, as smaller generations born during years of persistently low birth rates begin to dominate the demographic structure.

Amid the broader decline, Spain stands out as a notable exception. Unlike most EU countries, Spain is projected to see population growth through the first half of the century, reaching approximately 53.9 million inhabitants by 2050. This increase is largely attributed to sustained immigration, which has offset the country's low

birth rate.

Although Spain is not immune to the wider European pattern and is expected to experience a gradual population decline after mid-century, its long-term outlook remains comparatively strong. By 2100, Spain's population is forecast to reach around 49.7 million—about 1.3% higher than in 2025—making it one of the few EU nations likely to end the century with more people than it has today.

Beyond declining numbers, Europe is also aging rapidly. By 2100, the proportion of young people aged 0 to 19 is expected to fall from 20% to 17%, while the working-age population (20–64) will shrink from 58% to 50%.

At the same time, the share of those aged 80 and over will nearly triple, rising from 6% to 16%. Combined with the 65–79 age group, which is also set to grow slightly, people over 65 will make up nearly one-third of the EU's population by the end of the century.

These shifts are expected to place increasing pressure on pension systems, labour markets, and public finances, raising concerns about long-term economic sustainability across the bloc.

Smartphones in Spain to have easily replaceable battery

If you've ever watched a perfectly good, not to mention expensive, smartphone become unusable simply because the battery wore out and couldn't be replaced without a specialist taking it apart, that's about to become a thing of the past across the EU.

From 2027, any smartphone sold in EU member states will have to come with a battery that the user can replace themselves. That means manufacturers will no longer be able to seal batteries inside devices in a way that makes home replacement impossible, a design approach that has effectively forced millions of people to buy new phones far sooner than they needed to.

The new rules also require smartphone batteries to be longer lasting, capable of withstanding more charge cycles before losing capacity.

On top of that, brands will be required to guarantee access to spare parts for extended periods and provide software updates for a guaranteed minimum length of time, tackling the other common way phones become obsolete, being cut off from updates and left incompatible with new apps and services.

This is all part of a huge push by Brussels to reduce the mountain of electronic waste generated across Europe every

year, similar to how they're tackling plastic waste.

Since 2021, EU rules have already required manufacturers of phones, TVs, washing machines and other appliances to ensure their products can be repaired for up to ten years, with spare parts and repair manuals available throughout that period. Last year, energy labels were introduced for electronic devices showing how efficient, durable and repairable a product is before you buy it. The 2027 smartphone battery rules are the latest step in that direction, and manufacturers have until then to redesign their production processes to comply.

Brussels has been clear that repairing a device rather than replacing it reduces costs for consumers and cuts down on the raw materials needed to manufacture new products, both of which sit squarely within the goals of the European Green Deal.





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Selling online in Spain requires a tax return

Spain's income tax return season is upon us once again, with the 2025-2026 campaign officially opening on 8th April. This year though, the Spanish Tax Agency, known as the Agencia Tributaria, is paying particularly close attention to people who've been earning money through online platforms, and if you've been doing a bit of selling on Wallapop, Vinted, eBay or Milanuncios, it's well worth making sure you understand where you stand. The agency is sending out a total of 3.56 million reminder notices to taxpayers over the coming months, covering everything from online sales and cryptocurrency trading to holiday rentals and foreign income.

Of those, 437,000 notices relate specifically to income from digital platforms, whether that's selling goods, providing services or renting out a property or vehicle through an app or website.

The key threshold for online sellers to be aware of is either 30 transactions per year or €2,000 in total sales value. Platforms are now legally required to report sellers who hit either of those figures to the tax authorities, which means the Agencia Tributaria is likely to already have a pretty clear picture of your activity before you even sit down to file.

Cryptocurrency traders are also firmly in the frame this year, with 1.24 million notices planned for people with crypto-related income. The agency already holds data on balances, acquisitions, transfers and exchanges provided by resident

entities.

It's also worth noting that the deadline for filing Form 721 for virtual currencies held abroad with balances over €50,000 was March 31, so if that applies to you and you haven't already dealt with it, it's time to get some advice quickly. Holiday rental landlords are another group under close scrutiny. The tax agency has access to data on rental days, commissions and amounts withheld by platforms, so there's very little room for anything to slip through unnoticed.

On the flip side, landlords renting to permanent residents in high-demand areas could be eligible for reductions of up to 90% of net rental income if they've reduced their rental price by 5%.

The notices themselves are sent out in three stages, as Tax Agency Director General Soledad Fernández explained at the campaign launch. The first arrives when you download your tax data, flagging income that needs to be declared. The second comes as a warning during the filing process to help avoid errors and omissions. The third arrives after filing but while corrections can still be made, pointing out any discrepancies between what's been declared and what the agency already knows.

The good news is that nearly half of taxpayers who receive one of these letters do go on to correct their return voluntarily, which avoids the heavier penalties and interest charges that can follow a formal investigation.

Portugal's last circus tiger finds sanctuary in Alicante

A 16-year-old tiger called Sona, believed to be the last wild animal still living in a Portuguese circus, has arrived at the AAP Primadomus Foundation in Villena, just outside Alicante, after years of campaigning by animal welfare organisations finally paid off.

Sona has been taken in by one of southern Europe's largest sanctuaries for big cats and primates, a facility in the Sierra de Salinas that currently cares for 94 animals rescued from entertainment, the illegal pet trade and wildlife trafficking.

He arrived thanks to the combined efforts of the AAP Foundation and the Pangea Trust, which had been monitoring his situation since 2018 but had to wait until Portugal's ban on wild animals in circuses came into force in July 2025 before his owners agreed to give him up.

From the age of three months, Sona was used in magic shows and displayed as an attraction, spending most of his life confined to a truck trailer with a small external cage attached. The physical toll has been significant. Vets at the foundation have already noted that his front paws were declawed, a painful procedure used in circus animals to stop the nails regrowing, which permanently affects their movement and quality of life.

He also has severe cataracts, a missing canine tooth removed two years ago due to infection, weakened muscles in his

hips and legs from a lifetime of limited movement, and sores on his paws from years of living on hard surfaces.

Sona will spend time in quarantine while the team carry out full veterinary and parasitological assessments before he's cleared to mix with other animals. Once he is, he'll do something he's never done in 16 years of life: walk on natural ground for the very first time.

Olga Martín, head of public policy at AAP in Spain, pointed out that although Spain banned the use of wild animals in circuses back in 2023, plenty of other European countries still permit tigers and lions in circus shows. The foundation is pushing for a ban across all 27 EU member states.



New retirement age rules for Spain

Spain's pension system has been quietly changing for a while now and 2027 is when the latest round of reforms finally lands. If you're living and working in Spain, or planning to retire here, it's worth understanding what's actually shifting and what it means for you personally.

From 2027, the standard retirement age in Spain will be 67. That's been the direction of travel since reforms were first introduced back in 2011, and the move reflects a reality that most European countries are grappling with: people are living longer, the number of retirees is growing relative to the working

population, and pension systems need to adapt to stay financially sustainable long term.

The good news is that the system does allow for some flexibility depending on how long you've been paying in. If you've made contributions for at least 38 years and six months, you can still retire at 65 and receive your full pension. It's only those who fall short of that contribution period who will need to wait until 67 to get 100%.

Early retirement remains an option too, although that comes with a financial penalty. The earlier you retire before the standard

age, the bigger the reduction applied to your monthly pension. The idea is to discourage people from leaving the workforce too far ahead of schedule, rather than to shut the door on early retirement altogether.

One of the less talked about changes involves how your pension is actually calculated. Currently, the system looks at your last 25 years of contributions to work out your average, which then forms the basis of what you receive.

From 2027, you'll have a choice between two methods. You can stick with the existing 25-year

calculation, or opt for a new 29-year window that allows the two lowest-earning years within that period to be stripped out. For anyone who had a period of low-paid work or gaps in employment at some point in their career, that second option could make a meaningful difference to the final figure.

According to Spain's Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, the overall aim of these reforms is to keep the public pension system on a stable footing without fundamentally changing what it is. It remains a publicly funded, contributory system, and the adjustments are

designed to ensure it stays that way for the long term.

The European Commission has also flagged demographic ageing as one of the key challenges facing pension systems across the continent, and Spain's gradual approach is broadly in line with the direction other member states are taking.

If you're some years away from retirement, now is a good time to check your contribution record and get a sense of which calculation method is likely to work in your favour when the time comes.

Fire destroys abandoned Torrevieja spa structure

A fire has destroyed the well-known abandoned mud spa building in the Natural Park of Torrevieja lagoon, sending a dense column of smoke visible from several kilometres away, including nearby Los Montesinos. The blaze broke out shortly after 5pm on Tuesday and burned for around three hours.

Two fire engines attended the scene, supported by two Guardia Civil patrols and one Local Police unit. Most of the damage was to the wooden exterior, although crews also had to tackle flames inside the spiral structure. No injuries have been reported.

The building, designed by renowned Japanese architect Toyo

Ito, was promoted by Torrevieja Council but left unfinished more than 15 years ago because it stood on public coastal land without the required authorisation. The project cost the municipality more than one million euros and had suffered several previous fires. The remaining structure had been heavily vandalised and had become a pop-

ular urban ruin visited by young people and curiosity seekers.

Investigators believe the fire may have been started deliberately, as more than 20 litres per square metre of rain had fallen in the area since Sunday, making an accidental ignition unlikely.



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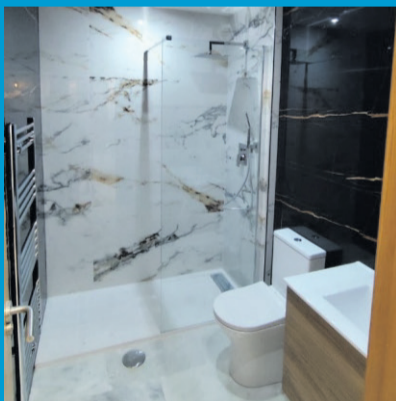
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Foreign buyers drive Spain's property boom as demand stays strong

Foreign buyers continue to play a major role in Spain's property market, with demand from overseas remaining strong across many parts of the country. Latest figures show that international purchasers are a significant force in key regions, particularly along the Mediterranean coast and islands.

According to property registrars, areas with strong tourism appeal continue to attract the highest levels of foreign investment. "Tourism intensity is the key factor determining the relative share of home purchases by foreigners," the report states, highlighting why coastal regions dominate.

This trend has been building for some time. House prices across Spain have continued to rise as demand outpaces supply, particularly in popular coastal areas.

In the Region of Murcia, the impact is especially clear. One in five homes sold in the fourth quarter of 2025 were bought by foreign buyers, accounting for 20.74% of all transactions. The region has become increasingly attractive thanks to its climate and lifestyle, with demand pushing prices higher in recent months. Coastal property values in Murcia have already surged by more than 30% as overseas interest grows.

Data from the General Council of Nota-

ries further supports this trend, showing that Murcia recorded 1,933 purchases by non-resident foreign buyers in the second half of 2025, representing 7.8% of the national total.

British buyers remain the largest group of non-residents in the region, accounting for 29.8% of transactions, followed by the Netherlands and Belgium. Among foreign residents already living in Murcia, Moroccan nationals lead with 35.1% of purchases.

In Andalucía, foreign demand is also a key part of the market, accounting for 12.5% of transactions. While this is a smaller share than in Murcia, the region continues to attract large numbers of international buyers overall, particularly in well-known coastal areas.

Across Spain, the pattern remains consistent. Nationalities such as Dutch, German and British buyers dominate the non-resident market depending on the region, while Moroccan, Italian and Romanian buyers are most active among foreign residents.

Taken together, the figures confirm that international demand continues to shape Spain's housing market, with regions like Murcia and Andalucía firmly in focus for buyers seeking property in the sun.

Emergency crews battle through the night to stabilise Orihuela forest fire

A forest fire that broke out in the Sierra de Orihuela, close to the Montepinar urbanisation, kept emergency crews busy throughout the night before finally being stabilised at 4am.

Nobody was injured, and the fire's progress was described as favourable in the hours leading up to it being brought under control.

The alert came in at 10.17pm, triggering an immediate response from the Alicante Provincial Fire Consortium. The location proved challenging from the outset, with the fire starting in a difficult-to-access area around Cruz de la Muela.

Nighttime conditions ruled out the use of aerial firefighting resources entirely, meaning ground crews had to tackle the blaze on foot in poor visibility across rough terrain.

Firefighters from the Orihuela and Almoradí stations worked alongside forest firefighters, local police, national police,

civil protection and emergency services throughout the night.

Local residents also played a valuable role, providing directions and local knowledge about access routes that helped emergency teams reach the affected areas more quickly than they might otherwise have managed.

Investigators are looking into whether the fire may have been triggered by a lightning strike in the area from a few days earlier, which could have smouldered undetected before eventually taking hold. The cause is still officially under investigation.

By early morning, with the fire stabilised, a unit of forest firefighters remained on site carrying out mop-up operations and keeping watch, supported by an aircraft that joined the effort once daylight made aerial operations possible again.



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Spain considers extra cost of living measures as war pushes inflation to 11-year high

Spain is feeling the economic squeeze of the Middle East conflict more sharply than most, with inflation jumping to its highest level since June 2014 and the cost of fuel, electricity, clothing and footwear all climbing. The government moved quickly on March 20, announcing a wide-ranging support package, but pressure is already mounting for it to go further.

The plan sets aside €5 billion for households and more than €2 billion in loan guarantees for businesses. It includes tax breaks on fuel, electricity and gas, along with targeted support for sectors hit hardest by the crisis, particularly road transport.

According to government estimates, the measures should shave between 0.8 and one percentage point off inflation figures in April, May and June.

That may not sound like much, and critics certainly don't think it is. The country's two biggest unions, CCOO and UGT, have called on the government to do significantly more. CCOO is pushing for free public transport and rent controls, while UGT is focused on expanding wage protection clauses and directing direct financial aid to those on the lowest incomes.

Consumer groups and opposition parties are also demanding additional action, and their frustration has been sharpened by news from Brussels. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen warned this week that the crisis in the Middle East is already hitting Europe hard, pointing out that the EU has spent an extra €22 billion on fossil fuels in just 44 days of war, with nothing to show for it in terms of increased supply.

A full package of emergency energy mea-

asures is expected from the Commission in the coming days, ahead of an informal EU leaders' summit in Cyprus on April 23 and 24, with joint gas reserve planning for next winter expected to be high on the agenda.

Spain's decision to cut tax on diesel and petrol from 21% to 10% has been flagged by Brussels as the kind of measure that needs careful monitoring. Economic Affairs Commissioner Vladis Dombrovskis made it clear that fuel tax cuts must stay strictly temporary, though the Commission isn't opposed to them in principle.

The fuel price data published on Tuesday April 14 laid out the scale of the problem in stark terms. Diesel has shot up by 17.9% and petrol by 4.8%, making fuel by far the biggest single driver of household cost increases.

Government sources have said that further measures haven't been ruled out and that the current package was always intended as a first response rather than a final one. They pointed to Spain's experience during the Ukraine war, when seven separate relief packages were eventually introduced. Forecasters at the Savings Banks Foundation, Funcas, are currently estimating that overall inflation could reach 4% in the coming months, although they acknowledge the picture remains uncertain and heavily dependent on how the conflict develops.

The IMF, meanwhile, is projecting that Spain will end the year at 3% inflation as a result of the war, with GDP growth trimmed slightly to 2.1%. The Bank of Spain has warned, however, that if the crisis drags on beyond this year, inflation could climb as high as 6%.



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Tap water nitrates exceed safe levels in over half of Spain's towns

Tap water across Spain carries a hidden issue that many people might not notice, even though it looks and smells completely normal. Nitrates are present in supplies all over the country, and a new interactive map from Greenpeace shows just how widespread the problem is.

Based on official 2024 data, it reveals that more than half of Spain's municipalities, 51.17%, have levels above what scientists consider the safest threshold of around 6 milligrams per litre.

In 332 towns and cities, the legal limit of 50 milligrams per litre was exceeded at some point last year. That does not make the water undrinkable by law, but it flags areas where caution is needed. The map helps people check their own municipality, and it paints a picture that has environmental groups calling for more action.

Murcia fares better, with caveats. None of the Region of Murcia's municipalities went over the legal limit in 2024, which is good news compared to other parts of Spain. However, nine towns were flagged for levels above the recommended scientific threshold, with Caravaca de la Cruz standing out most at the red category (30-50 mg/l at times), and Lorca and Totana also being marked at yellow level.

Nitrates come mostly from intensive agriculture and livestock farming, which have pushed levels up sharply in recent decades. Greenpeace blames industrial

practices and heavy fertiliser use, warning that "water pollution from nitrates is invisible." The real worry is what happens inside the body, where nitrates can turn into nitrites and form potentially harmful compounds linked to higher risks of colorectal and prostate cancer over time, according to some studies.

Spain's legal limit of 50 mg/l is there to stop immediate problems like blue baby syndrome in infants, where blood struggles to carry oxygen properly. Scientists argue for much lower levels based on longer-term health risks, but that would mean big changes and costs for water supplies.

For now, the map is a reminder to stay aware. In places like Murcia, things look manageable, but the national trend shows plenty of room for improvement through better monitoring and sustainable farming. It is a problem we can measure, and tackling it starts with knowing where we stand.



Young Alicante doctor loses leg in shark attack on honeymoon



A 31-year-old doctor from Alicante is fighting for his life in a hospital in the Maldives after being attacked by a shark during his honeymoon.

Borja, who works as a gynaecologist at Alicante General Hospital, was on a boat trip with his new wife at Koodoo Atoll, one of the archipelago's most popular tourist destinations, when the attack happened.

The shark tore off a large part of his leg, and he was airlifted immediately to a hospital in Malé, the country's capital, for emergency treatment. Surgeons were unable to save the limb due to the severity of the damage to his blood vessels and were forced to amputate.

According to specialist diving website ScubaVerse, Borja is currently in the ICU in critical condition and on life support.

The hospital has activated a massive blood transfusion protocol to manage the extent of his blood loss and stabilise his vital signs.

His wife's family have described the incident as a case of gross negligence, claiming the company that provided the water activity acted recklessly, and have already filed a formal complaint, according to local reports.

Investigators are working to establish which species of shark was responsible. Possibilities being looked at include the spinner shark, which is common in the area, although a bull shark or great white has not been ruled out.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Inspection campaign in San Fulgencio sparks controversy after police chief fined

Business owners in the small town of San Fulgencio have raised concerns after an intensive inspection campaign in early March resulted in substantial proposed fines for a range of local shops.

The inspections were carried out by the National Police unit attached to the Valencian regional authority. They followed a December incident in which the unit's chief, Fernando Gómez, was fined €120 by the Local Police for allegedly dumping rubble and furniture in a domestic waste container. Reports say he unsuccessfully appealed the sanction.

According to local sources, the March operation affected hairdressers, workshops, butchers and bakeries, despite the unit typically focusing on hospitality venues under regional public entertainment laws. Traders have described a significant police presence in the town centre.

Some of those fined have suggested a link between the December sanction and the subsequent inspections. On Monday, attempts to obtain comment from the regional department responsible and from the officer concerned received no response. The local government has said it supports law enforcement but believes coordination with Local Police is important.

Six arrested after cannabis clubs dismantled in Orihuela Costa

The Guardia Civil has dismantled two cannabis associations in Orihuela Costa as part of an operation targeting suspected drug trafficking. Six people – three men and three women aged between 37 and 66 – were arrested, while five others remain under investigation for alleged offences against public health and membership of a criminal group.

The investigation began in January, led by the ROCA team in Torrevieja, which analysed the activities of cannabis associations operating in the area. Officers concluded that two of the organisations were allegedly operating as drug distribution points under the guise of non-profit entities.

During coordinated searches officers seized 2.1 kg of marijuana, 2.2 kg of hashish, 113 hashish pellets, 1,169 cannabis cigarettes, cannabis-infused sweets and chocolates, CBD products, packaging equipment and around 1,000 euros in cash. Both premises were sealed and closure has been requested through the courts. The detainees have been released pending trial.

Two minors, aged 16 and 17, are also under investigation for allegedly using falsified identity documents to gain entry to one of the clubs. The operation was carried out with support from Orihuela Lo-

cal Police, which recently closed another premises in La Regia after seizing drugs and cash.

Alicante records more than 10,800 gender violence complaints in 2025

Alicante recorded 10,851 complaints of gender-based violence in 2025, involving 10,230 victims, according to the annual judicial report. The figures make it the second highest province in the Valencian Community for reported cases. Regionally, 27,743 complaints and 25,545 victims were recorded, giving a rate of 92.7 victims per 10,000 women – the third highest in Spain after the Balearic Islands and Navarre, and well above the national average of 74.

One of the most striking figures in Alicante is the number of victims who chose not to testify against their alleged attacker. A total of 1,622 women exercised this right, the highest number in the region, ahead of Valencia with 1,597 and Castellón with 344. Across the Valencian Community, 3,563 victims – almost 14% of the total – declined to give evidence.

Valencian courts processed 4,913 protection orders during the year, granting 3,805 of them, meaning nearly eight in ten applications were approved. In addition, 8,704 rulings were issued in gender violence cases, with 7,359 resulting in convictions, an overall conviction rate of 84.5%.

The report also includes new data on cases of sexual violence outside intimate

partner relationships, handled by specialised courts. In the final quarter of the year alone, 354 such complaints were filed across the region.

Anti-jellyfish nets to return to five Mar Menor beaches this summer

Anti-jellyfish nets will be installed at five beaches around the Mar Menor from June to September. The Regional Ministry of the Environment has put out a tender worth €90,000 to cover 4.4 km of coastline at La Mota, Villananitos and La Puntica in San Pedro del Pinatar, and Veneziola and Pantalán in La Manga, San Javier. The nets are designed to create a barrier that keeps jellyfish away from bathing areas while still allowing water to circulate naturally. Officials say this also helps prevent the build-up of organic matter in swimming zones. The system has been reintroduced in recent summers following high numbers of *Cotyloryza tuberculata*, commonly known as the fried egg jellyfish.

Jellyfish remain an important part of the Mar Menor ecosystem, feeding on plankton and helping to maintain ecological balance. The Ministry has said the nets will only be installed where they are most needed and will be handled carefully to avoid harm to seahorses and other protected species. Authorisation is in place to install nets along up to 43 km of Mar Menor beaches if required, with permission running until 2028.



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Gemma Collins shocks I'm a Celeb fans

A recent episode of I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! has drawn strong viewer reaction after Gemma Collins showed unexpected support for David Haye despite earlier tensions between the pair.

The moment followed the Bushtucker Trial "The Wicked Watering Hole," in which Haye and Ashley Roberts competed against Adam Thomas and Craig Charles. Contestants were tasked with collecting golden nuggets within a ten-minute time limit while tethered to bungee cords.

Thomas and Charles secured victory for the green team, leaving Haye visibly frustrated by the loss. In the aftermath, Collins—who was on the opposing team—approached him with reassurance, a gesture that surprised audiences given their strained relationship earlier in the series.

The pair's animosity has been a recurring storyline since Collins entered the all-stars camp. Early friction emerged during a challenge in which she lost her place in the main camp and later clashed with Haye over his insistence on strict adherence to rules during an eating trial. The disagreement intensified after Collins was denied water while completing a difficult task involving insect-based food.

Further tension arose during a separate

exchange in which Haye made a remark interpreted as a slight about Collins' appearance, adding to the ongoing conflict between the two contestants.

The situation continued to develop in subsequent episodes, with Collins voicing her frustration to fellow campmates and engaging in discussions about Haye's competitive attitude. Conversations within the camp also turned to Haye's personal life, including widely reported claims about his relationship with partner Sian Osborne and past links to Una Healy and Helen Flanagan, all of which have previously attracted media attention and, in some cases, public denials.

Despite the earlier disputes, Collins' supportive reaction following the latest trial signaled a notable shift in dynamics, becoming a focal point for viewers and highlighting the evolving relationships within the competition.



Lewis Hamilton gets family approval on Kardashian relationship

Lewis Hamilton and Kim Kardashian have formally stepped into the public eye as a couple after more than a decade of friendship. The pair made their debut appearance together at Super Bowl LX on February 8, confirming months of speculation about their relationship.

Recent developments suggest the romance has been welcomed by Kardashian's inner circle. Hamilton has reportedly spent time socializing at a Palm Springs property owned by Kylie Jenner during the Coachella festival, signalling a growing connection with Kardashian's family.

Social media activity further highlighted the overlap in their circles. Jenner shared footage of herself at a private basketball court within the residence, while Hamilton later posted content from the same location, indicating he had joined gatherings at the estate.

The couple was also seen together at Coachella, arriving arm-in-arm to attend a headline performance by Justin Bieber. They were observed near the front of the stage during the set, blending into a high-profile crowd of festivalgoers.

Members of the Kardashian-Jenner family were active on social media throughout

the event. Kardashian posted clips from the performance, while Jenner shared footage capturing the atmosphere as fireworks concluded the show. Jenner was also seen in the crowd with actor Timothée Chalamet.

The public appearances follow reports of significant effort to maintain the relationship despite demanding schedules. Kardashian is said to have made a rapid transatlantic trip, traveling from Los Angeles to London for a brief stay. The visit reportedly lasted less than a full day before she returned to the United States to fulfil work commitments.

Sources indicate that both figures, known for their global careers and busy itineraries, are making deliberate efforts to spend time together whenever possible.



Meghan puts clothes up for sale to cash in on fans

Meghan Markle has moved further into the commercial fashion space by partnering with and investing in an AI-powered styling platform that allows users to purchase items from her wardrobe directly online.

The Duchess of Sussex has joined Los Angeles-based company OneOff, where she curates and promotes outfits worn during recent public appearances, including engagements in Australia. The platform features images of Markle alongside links to purchase the clothing and accessories she has worn, positioning her as both a participant and investor in the business.

During a visit to Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital, Markle wore a designer dress by Australian label Karen Gee, paired with accessories from Real Fine Studio and Christian Dior. These items were subsequently highlighted on the platform with direct purchasing links. Other accessories worn at the event, including notable jewellery pieces, were not featured.

At a separate appearance at the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum, additional items from her outfit—including pieces by St Agni, PJ Femme, and Aquazzura—were also showcased online, with some items already unavailable in certain markets.

OneOff hosts a dedicated profile for Markle, placing her alongside a roster of established actors and public figures already using the platform. The site also includes imagery from previous engagements and personal settings, all linked to purchasable fashion items.

The venture builds on Markle's earlier activity in digital fashion curation. In March 2025, she shared a collection of clothing and accessories via social media using commission-based links, directing followers to a curated

storefront featuring a mix of designer and high street brands.

Her approach reflects a broader "high-low" styling philosophy, combining luxury labels with more accessible fashion pieces. Items previously promoted have ranged from tailored shirts and outerwear to jewellery collaborations.

The fashion initiative comes alongside Markle's continued expansion into lifestyle and media projects. She is set to appear as a guest on the upcoming season of MasterChef Australia, marking her return to the country for the first time since 2018. Promotional material released by broadcaster Channel 10 shows her on set with the program's judges during filming in Melbourne.

In addition to her media appearances, Markle has launched a lifestyle brand, As Ever, offering a range of food products including preserves, baking mixes, and teas.

Her latest ventures signal a continued diversification into business, entertainment, and consumer-focused branding, with fashion commerce becoming a central component of her evolving portfolio.

However, the Sussexes were accused of using their royal links to treat Australia 'like an ATM' - due to the mixture of charity events and private, money-making engagements.

Meghan will be interviewed at a 'girls' weekend' retreat in Sydney, at 1,600 euros per ticket - while there is debate over whether Australian taxpayers should fund their security.

VIP tickets for the event at the InterContinental Coogee Beach hotel cost 1,920 euros and include a group table photo with the duchess. Her appearance was revealed by Gemma O'Neill, host of the Her Best Life podcast which is organising the event.





THIS WEEK'S FILM PICKS

Daredevil

Saturday 25th April, Film4, 10pm



Daredevil is a 2003 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name created by Stan Lee and Bill Everett. The film stars Ben Affleck as Matt Murdock, a blind lawyer who fights for justice in the courtroom and on the streets of New York as the masked vigilante Daredevil.

In 1982, young Matt Murdock is accidentally blinded by radioactive waste. However, Matt's remaining senses are dramatically enhanced, giving him superhuman agility and sonar-like hearing. Years later Murdock becomes a respected criminal attorney. But after he's done his "day job" Matt takes on a secret identity as 'Daredevil', the masked avenger that patrols the neighbourhood of Hell's Kitchen and New York City to combat the injustice that he cannot tackle in the courtroom.

The Conjuring: Last Rites

Sunday 26th April, Sky Premiere, 9pm



Inspired by the harrowing true story of the Smurl family haunting, The Conjuring: Last Rites marks the final appearance of Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga as Ed and Lorraine Warren. The Warrens take on their most terrifying case when a quiet Pennsylvania home becomes ground zero for a relentless supernatural siege. Get ready for a haunting rooted in real horror... and not everyone will make it out unscathed.

TV Guide

Tuesday 14th April 2026

BBC

BBC ONE

11:15 Homes Under the Hammer
12:15 Bargain Hunt
13:00 BBC News at One
14:00 Shift the Thrift
14:30 Designing the Hebrides
15:00 Escape to the Country
15:45 I Made It at Market
16:30 The Finish Line
17:15 Pointless
18:00 BBC News at Six
18:30 BBC London
19:00 The One Show
19:30 EastEnders
20:00 Sort Your Life Out
21:00 Babies
22:00 BBC News at Ten
22:30 BBC London
22:40 Yesterday
00:30 Ambulance

BBC TWO

12:15 Politics Live
13:00 Impossible
13:45 The Tournament
14:30 Lightning
15:00 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure
15:30 Nature's Epic Journeys
16:30 Antiques Roadshow
17:15 Flog It!
18:00 Richard Osman's House of Games
18:30 Great Japanese Railway Journeys
19:00 Great British Menu
20:00 Britain's Biggest Warship
21:00 QI XL
21:45 To Think Like a Killer
22:30 Newsnight
23:00 The Haunting
00:50 The Apprentice

ITV

ITV1 HD

12:30 ITV Lunchtime News
The latest headlines from around the world at lunchtime with reports and
12:55 ITV News London
13:00 New: Celebrity Catchphrase
14:00 Dickinson's Real Deal
15:00 Deal or No Deal
16:00 Tipping Point
17:00 The Chase
18:00 ITV News London
18:15 ITV Evening News
18:30 European Qualifier: England v...
21:10 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa
22:10 ITV News
22:45 ITV News London
23:00 The Real Manhunt: The Night Stalker
00:00 Shop on TV

ITV2

11:05 The Real Housewives of New Jersey
12:00 Supermarket Sweep
13:00 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa
14:20 Catchphrase
15:05 The Only Way is Essex
16:05 The Real Housewives of
17:00 The Real Housewives of New Jersey
17:55 Catchphrase
18:40 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa
20:00 The 1% Club
21:00 TikTok: Murder Gone Viral
22:00 Family Guy
23:35 American Dad!
00:35 Bob's Burgers

Channel 4

Channel 4

11:10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:05 Channel 4 News Summary
12:10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It
13:10 Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad
14:10 Countdown
15:00 A Place in the Sun
16:00 A New Life in the Sun: Where...
17:00 Chateau DIY
18:00 Jasmine Harman's Renovation in...
19:00 Channel 4 News
20:00 Our Welsh Chapel Dream
21:00 New: 24 Hours in Police Custody
22:00 New: Gordon Ramsay's Secret...
23:00 New: The Copenhagen Test

Channel 5

5

11:30 Storm & Alexis
12:45 5 News at Lunchtime
12:50 Matt Allwright
14:00 Vanessa
15:00 The Hardacres
16:00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun
17:00 5 News at 5
18:00 Love Nature
18:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out
19:00 Does Your Child Have ADHD?
20:00 Sam & Ade Go Birding
21:00 Missed Call
22:00 Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law
23:05 Forensics: Crash Scene Investigators A speeding car knocks
00:05 Police Code Zero: Officer Under Attack

Entertainment

Sport

Sky Max HD

11:00 The Simpsons
12:00 Whale With Steve Backshall
13:00 Hawaii Five-0
14:00 NCIS: Los Angeles
15:00 S.W.A.T.
16:00 Police 24/7
17:00 The Simpsons
18:00 The Office (US)
19:00 The Simpsons
20:00 Rob & Romesh Vs Heavy Metal
21:00 Fast & Furious 6
23:20 The 'Burbs

Sky Family

12:30 Lemony Snicket's A Series Of...
14:20 A Dog's Purpose
16:05 Paddington in Peru
18:00 The Hobbit: The Desolation Of...
20:55 Smallfoot
22:45 The Spongebob Movie: Sponge Out

Sky Documentaries

11:05 The Eighties
12:00 Quant
13:50 My Icon: Pam Cookey
14:00 Billy Joel: And So It Goes
16:45 My Icon: John Amaechi
17:00 Discovering: Michelle Yeoh
17:55 Spector
18:55 The Yogurt Shop Murders
20:00 Murder In The Valleys
22:00 Schmeichel

U&Dave

11:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall
Rick takes us to the place where his passion for Cornwall began - his family home at Trevoze Head on
12:00 Border Force America's Gatekeepers
14:00 Speed with Guy Martin
15:00 Top Gear
17:00 Hairy Bikers Everyday Gourmets
18:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall
Rick takes us to the place where his passion for Cornwall began - his family
19:00 Would I Lie To You?
19:40 Richard Osman's House of Games
21:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?
22:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order
22:40 QI XL
23:40 Mock the Week
00:20 Would I Lie To You?

DMAX

11:00 Deadliest Catch
12:00 Cooper's Treasure
Last season, Miklos located a shipwreck tied to Christopher Columbus using Cooper's intel. Now,
13:00 Expedition Unknown
15:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue
17:00 Outback Opal Hunters
19:00 Deadliest Catch
21:00 Harpoon Hunters
22:00 Deadliest Catch
23:00 Aussie Gold Hunters
00:00 Naked And Afraid

HGTV

11:00 The Big Bang Theory
14:00 Mike & Molly
15:30 Young Sheldon
17:00 The Big Bang Theory
21:00 New: Sister Wives
Meri digs through boxes of her wedding memorabilia
23:00 Dr. Pimple Popper

RTÉ One

11:20 Father Brown
Father Brown enlists
12:15 Keys to My Life
12:45 Telly Bingo
13:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock
13:30 Home and Away
14:00 Shortland Street
14:30 The End Of The World With Beanz
15:00 EastEnders
15:30 Today
17:40 Nuacht RTÉ
17:55 RTÉ News with Signing
18:01 RTÉ News: Six One
19:00 Home of The Year
19:30 EastEnders
20:00 Fair City
20:30 Home Grown
21:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock
21:35 Prime Time
22:15 This Town
23:25 Wolf Hall

port Sky Sports Mix

11:30 EFL 14/15: Swindon v Sheff Utd
11:45 EFL 14/15: Brentford v Fulham
12:00 IPL 2026 Highlights
14:00 PL Greatest Games: Man U/L'Pool '92
14:15 PL Greatest 08
14:30 PL Greatest: Man City/Man Utd 2002
14:45 PL Greatest: P'mouth/So'ton 2005
15:00 ICC T20 WC Highlights
16:00 WTA Final: Linz
Closing in on her second
17:00 IPL 2026 Highlights
18:00 PL Darts: Brighton
22:00 IPL 2026 Highlights

Movies

Sky Premiere

13:25 The Bad Guys 2
15:25 Caught Stealing (2025)
17:20 Nobody 2
19:00 Final Destination: Bloodlines
21:00 Roofman
23:15 Weapons (2025)

Sky Greats

12:35 Singin' In The Rain
14:20 See No Evil, Hear No Evil
16:05 The Wedding Singer
17:45 Terms Of Endearment
20:00 Escape to Victory
22:00 Little Women (1994)

Film4

11:00 Anne of the Thousand Days
13:55 Stagecoach
16:10 Tobruk
18:25 Battleship (2012) Sci-fi
21:00 Independence Day
23:50 Vesper



TV Guide

Wednesday 15th April 2026

BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:15 Homes Under the Hammer	11:15 Politics Live	12:30 ITV Lunchtime News	11:00 The Real Housewives of New Jersey	11:10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	11:30 Storm & Alexis
12:15 Bargain Hunt	13:00 Impossible	12:55 ITV News London	12:00 Supermarket Sweep	12:05 Channel 4 News Summary	12:45 5 News at Lunchtime
13:00 BBC News at One	13:45 The Tournament	13:00 Celebrity Catchphrase	13:00 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa	12:10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It	12:50 Matt Allwright
14:00 Shift the Thrift	14:30 Lightning	14:00 Dickinson's Real Deal	14:05 New: Celebrity Catchphrase	13:10 Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad	14:00 Vanessa
14:30 Designing the Hebrides	15:00 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure	15:00 Deal or No Deal	15:05 The Only Way is Essex	14:10 Countdown	15:00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun
15:00 Escape to the Country	15:30 Ancient Invisible Cities	16:00 Tipping Point	16:05 The Real Housewives of Atlanta	15:00 A Place in the Sun	17:00 5 News at 5
15:45 I Made It at Market	16:30 Antiques Roadshow	17:00 The Chase	17:00 The Real Housewives of New Jersey	16:00 A New Life in the Sun: Where... ...Are They Now?: After finishing their gite	18:00 New: Love Nature
16:30 The Finish Line	17:10 Flog It!	Bradley Walsh hosts as contestants Rachel from Cardiff, Will originally from North Yorkshire, Martin	17:55 New: Celebrity Catchphrase	17:00 Chateau DIY	18:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out
17:15 Pointless	18:00 Richard Osman's House of Games	18:00 ITV News London	18:55 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa	18:00 Jasmine Harman's Renovation in...	19:00 Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up
18:00 BBC News at Six	18:30 Great Japanese Railway Journeys	18:30 ITV Evening News	20:00 The 1% Club	19:00 Channel 4 News	20:00 New: Warship: Life in the Royal... ...Navy. Kate Humble boards warship HMS Dragon and witnesses weapons testing. And JJ
18:30 BBC London	19:00 Great British Menu	19:30 Celebrity Lingo	21:00 Hell's Kitchen	20:00 New: Help! I Bought It at...	21:00 New: Missed Call
19:00 The One Show	20:00 Artemis: To the Moon and Back	20:00 Emmerdale	22:00 Family Guy	21:00 New: Grayson Perry Has Seen...	22:00 New: A&E After Dark
19:30 EastEnders	21:00 Michael Jackson: An American Tragedy	20:30 Coronation Street	22:00 New: Gordon Ramsay's Secret...	22:00 New: Gordon Ramsay's Secret...	23:05 Ambulance: Code Red
20:00 The Repair Shop	22:00 Twenty Twenty Six	21:00 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa	23:00 New: The Copenhagen Test	23:00 New: The Copenhagen Test	00:05 Trauma Room One Fifty-year-old Theresa has been rushed in after sudden, severe neck pain
21:00 Ambulance	22:30 Newsnight	22:15 ITV News			
22:00 BBC News at Ten	23:00 Miriam Margolyes Made Me Me	22:50 ITV News London The latest news and			
22:30 BBC London	00:00 Nowhere Special	23:00 The Real Unforgotten			
22:40 UEFA Champions League		00:10 Shop on TV			
23:40 Bridge of Lies					
00:25 Blankety Blank					

Entertainment

Sport

Sky Max HD	Sky Documentaries	U&Dave	DMAX	RTÉ One	Sky Sports Mix
11:00 The Simpsons	11:05 The Eighties	11:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall	11:00 Deadliest Catch	11:10 Only Fools and Horses	11:00 Masters Round 3 Highlights
12:00 Whale With Steve Backshall	12:00 On The Line: The Richard Williams Story	12:00 Border Force America's Gatekeepers The Border Force discover cardboard packaging that hides a deadly secret, and heroin disguised as a	12:00 Cooper's Treasure	11:50 Leaders' Questions	12:30 Masters Final Round Highlights
13:00 Hawaii Five-0	13:50 My Icon: Heather Watson	14:00 Speed with Guy Martin The motorbike racer and mechanic visits the USA as he hopes to win at one of America's oldest races: the	13:00 Expedition Unknown	13:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock	14:00 PL
14:00 NCIS: Los Angeles	14:00 Billy Joel: And So It Goes	15:00 Top Gear	15:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue	13:30 Home and Away	14:15 PL Greatest: Bolton/Chelsea 2005
15:00 S.W.A.T.	16:40 My Icon: Johnny Nelson (Pt2)	17:00 Hairy Bikers Everyday Gourmets	17:00 Outback Opal Hunters	14:00 Shortland Street	14:30 PL Greatest Games: United v Arsenal
16:00 Police 24/7	17:00 Discovering: Kevin Bacon	18:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall	19:00 Deadliest Catch	14:30 Fair City	A look back at some great
17:00 The Simpsons	17:55 Spector	19:00 Would I Lie To You?	21:00 New: Maine Cabin Masters	15:00 EastEnders	14:45 PL Greatest: Man City v QPR '12
18:00 The Office (US)	18:55 The Yogurt Shop Murders	19:40 Richard Osman's House of Games	22:00 New: Barnwood Builders	15:30 Today	15:00 ICC T20 WC Highlights
19:00 The Simpsons	20:00 David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived	21:00 QI XL	23:00 Aussie Gold Hunters	17:40 Nuacht RTÉ	16:00 Masters Final Round Highlights
20:00 Joe Lycett's United States Of	21:45 My Icon: Tanni Grey Thompson Pt 1	22:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order: Christmas 2018	00:00 Naked And Afraid A biology student and an expert survival instructor	17:55 RTÉ News with Signing	17:30 S/Lge: Leeds v Warrington
21:00 New: The 'Burbs	22:00 The Two Escobars	23:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?	HGTV	18:01 RTÉ News: Six One	20:45 My Icon: Jeanette Kwakye
22:00 James Acaster: Hecklers Welcome	Pablo Escobar was the	00:00 Mock the Week	11:00 The Big Bang Theory	19:00 Nationwide	21:00 ATP Monte Carlo 2026 Review
23:30 Grimm		00:40 Would I Lie To You? It's frankly unbelievable that	14:00 Mike & Molly	19:30 EastEnders	22:00 IPL 2026 Highlights
Sky Family			15:30 Young Sheldon	20:00 Donal's Real Time Recipes	
12:25 The Wizard Of Oz			17:00 The Big Bang Theory Penny tries to seduce an abstaining Leonard to ruin his "donation" for her ex-boyfriend and his wife.	20:30 How to Cook Well in Morocco	
14:10 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five			21:00 New: Dr Pimple Popper: Breaking...	21:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock	
16:35 Cats & Dogs: The Revenge Of...			23:00 Dr. Pimple Popper	21:35 Blue Lights	
18:00 Stuart Little				22:35 The Great House Revival	
19:40 Stuart Little 2				23:40 Obituary	
21:15 Stardust					
23:30 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five					

Movies

Sky Premiere	Sky Greats	Film4
12:40 Blue Moon (2025)	12:35 Escape to Victory	11:00 Sherlock Holmes and the Secret...
14:30 Caught Stealing (2025) When his neighbour asks	14:35 Legends Of The Fall	12:25 Winchester '73
16:30 Roofman	16:50 Critters (1986)	14:15 A Foreign Affair (1948) Billy Wilder's film
18:45 Superman (2025)	18:20 Mad Max	16:35 Prince Valiant
21:00 Weapons (2025)	20:00 Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior	18:40 Von Ryan's Express
23:15 One Battle After Another	21:40 Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome	21:00 Violent Night
	23:30 Seven	23:15 The Great Wall



TV Guide

Thursday 16th April 2026

BBC

BBC ONE

11:15 Homes Under the Hammer
12:15 Bargain Hunt
13:00 BBC News at One
14:00 Shift the Thrift
14:30 Designing the Hebrides
15:00 Escape to the Country
15:45 I Made It at Market
16:30 The Finish Line
17:15 Pointless
18:00 BBC News at Six
18:30 BBC London
19:00 The One Show
19:30 EastEnders
20:00 Race Across the World
21:00 The Apprentice
22:00 BBC News at Ten
22:30 BBC London
22:40 Question Time
23:40 Newscast
00:10 Weather for the Week Ahead
00:15 Joins BBC News

BBC TWO

12:15 Politics Live
13:00 Impossible
13:45 The Tournament
In the ultimate knockout quiz, eight players do battle on the Tournament Run in a series of exciting
14:30 Lightning
15:00 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure
15:30 Ancient Invisible Cities
16:30 Antiques Roadshow
17:15 Flog It!
18:00 Richard Osman's House of Games
18:30 Great Japanese Railway Journeys
19:00 Great British Menu
20:00 This Farming Life
21:00 Inside Barlinnie
22:00 The Apprentice: Unfinished Business
22:30 Newsnight
23:00 McCartney: The Hunt for the Lost Bass
00:30 Great British Menu

ITV

ITV1 HD

12:30 ITV Lunchtime News
12:55 ITV News London
13:00 Celebrity Catchphrase
14:00 Dickinson's Real Deal
15:00 Deal or No Deal
16:00 Tipping Point
17:00 The Chase
18:00 ITV News London
18:30 ITV Evening News
19:30 Shoplifting: Are We Paying the...
20:00 Emmerdale
20:30 Coronation Street
21:00 New: I'm a Celebrity... South Africa
22:05 New: DMV: Department of Motor Vehicles
22:30 ITV News
23:00 ITV News London
23:20 The Late Debate
23:50 The Real Unforgotten
00:50 Shop on TV

ITV2

11:05 The Real Housewives of New Jersey
12:00 Supermarket Sweep
13:00 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa
14:20 Catchphrase
15:05 The Only Way is Essex
16:05 The Real Housewives of Atlanta
17:00 The Real Housewives of New Jersey
17:55 Catchphrase
Stephen Mulhern hosts the
18:40 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa
Decisions need to be made that may wreck the relationships in camp. Discover which way the
20:00 The 1% Club
21:00 Hell's Kitchen
22:00 Family Guy
23:35 American Dad!
00:35 Bob's Burgers

Channel 4

Channel 4

11:10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:05 Channel 4 News Summary
12:10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It
13:10 Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad
14:10 Countdown
15:00 A Place in the Sun
16:00 A New Life in the Sun: Where...
17:00 Chateau DIY
Ben and Billie embark on a dramatic two-bedroom apartment makeover for a
18:00 Jasmine Harman's Renovation in...
19:00 Channel 4 News
20:00 Paul Merton: Driving Amazing Trains
21:00 New: Taskmaster
22:00 New: Big Mood
23:05 Gogglebox
Gogglebox: The Goggleboxers settle in for I'm a Celebrity... South Africa, Britain's Got Talent,
00:10 Sky Coppers

Channel 5

5

11:30 Storm & Alexis
12:45 5 News at Lunchtime
12:50 Matt Allwright
14:00 Vanessa
15:00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun
Charitable Wayne and Des
17:00 5 News at 5
18:00 New: Love Nature
18:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out
Susan explores the gorgeous sights in and around the Lincolnshire Fens, visiting Sir Isaac
19:00 Jane McDonald in Nashville
20:00 New: Yorkshire's Poshest Hotel:...
21:00 New: Missed Call
22:00 Forensics: Murder Scene
A recycling plant in Yorkshire is the scene of a gruesome discovery when an intact human foot is
23:30 New: Murder 360
00:30 Car Pound Cops

Entertainment

Sky Max HD

11:00 The Simpsons
12:00 Whale With Steve Backshall
13:00 Hawaii Five-0
14:00 NCIS: Los Angeles
15:00 S.W.A.T.
16:00 Police 24/7
17:00 The Simpsons
18:00 The Office (US)
19:00 The Simpsons
19:30 Live S/Lge: Hull FC v St Helens
22:15 Mr Bigstuff
23:15 Grimm
11:50 Journey 2: The Mysterious Island
13:30 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
16:30 Stuart Little
18:00 The Smurfs
19:50 Paddington
21:40 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Sky Documentaries

11:05 The Eighties
12:00 Wise Guy: David Chase and The
15:00 David Frost Vs
16:00 The Directors
17:00 Discovering: Ralph Fiennes
17:55 Spector
18:55 The Yogurt Shop Murders
20:00 Man On Wire
22:00 The Armstrong Lie
11:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall
12:00 Border Force America's
14:00 Speed with Guy Martin
15:00 Top Gear
17:00 Hairy Bikers Everyday Gourmets
18:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall
19:00 Would I Lie To You?
19:40 Richard Osman's House of Games
21:00 QI XL
22:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order
22:40 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?
23:40 Mock the Week
00:20 Would I Lie To You?

U&Dave

DMAX

11:00 Deadliest Catch
As the fleet battles through an arctic storm, Junior risks everything to get back in the game, and the
12:00 Cooper's Treasure
Darrell heads to a shipwreck linked to Gordo's list. He leads his team to the shallows where the
13:00 Expedition Unknown
15:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue
17:00 Outback Opal Hunters
19:00 Deadliest Catch
21:00 Expedition X
Horrified locals in Iowa are
22:00 Expedition Unknown
23:00 Aussie Gold Hunters
00:00 Naked And Afraid

HGTV

11:00 The Big Bang Theory
While Bernadette is away and Howard is in charge of the kids, Sheldon finds a book on experimenting on
14:00 Mike & Molly
15:30 Young Sheldon
17:00 The Big Bang Theory
21:00 xXx: Return Of Xander Cage
23:00 Dr Pimple Popper: Breaking Out

RTÉ One

11:15 Only Fools and Horses
11:50 Leaders' Questions
12:45 Telly Bingo
13:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock
13:30 Home and Away
14:00 Shortland Street
14:30 The End Of The World With Beanz
15:00 EastEnders
15:30 Today
17:40 Nuacht RTÉ
17:55 RTÉ News with Signing
18:01 RTÉ News: Six One
19:00 High Road, Low Road
19:30 EastEnders
20:00 Fair City
20:30 Heat My Home
21:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock
21:35 Prime Time
22:15 Michael D Higgins - Ireland's Ninth President
23:15 Red Eye

Sport

port Sky Sports Mix

11:00 EFL 98/99: Bolton v Watford
11:15 EFL 00/01: Bolton v Preston
11:30 EFL 02/03: Sheff Utd v Wolves
11:45 EFL 06/07: N. Forest v Yeovil
12:00 IPL 2026 Highlights
14:00 PL '00
14:15 PL 1994
14:30 PL Greatest: QPR/Liverpool 2012
14:45 Premier League Greatest Games
15:00 ICC T20 WC Highlights
16:00 Ladies European Tour Golf Hlts
17:00 Masters Final Round Highlights
18:30 WTA Final: Linz
19:30 ATP Final: Monte Carlo
20:30 Masters Final Round Highlights
22:00 IPL 2026 Highlights

Movies

Sky Premiere

12:30 Final Destination: Bloodlines
14:30 Superman (2025)
16:45 Roofman
19:00 Caught Stealing (2025)
21:00 Weapons (2025)
23:15 Roofman

Sky Greats

11:40 Raiders Of The Lost Ark
13:40 Indiana Jones And The Temple Of...
15:40 Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade
17:50 Jaws
20:00 Jaws 2
Just when he thought it was
22:00 Jaws III
23:40 Pulp Fiction

Film4

11:00 3:10 to Yuma
12:50 The Tall Men
15:15 They Rode West
16:55 The Desert Fox
18:40 Deep Impact
21:00 Jennifer's Body
23:05 Dead Man's Shoes
00:50 Let Him Go

TV Guide

Friday 17th April 2026

BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:15 Homes Under the Hammer	13:00 Impossible	12:30 ITV Lunchtime News	11:05 The Real Housewives of New Jersey	11:10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	11:30 Storm & Alexis
12:15 Bargain Hunt	13:45 The Tournament	12:55 ITV News London	12:00 Supermarket Sweep	12:05 Channel 4 News Summary	12:45 5 News at Lunchtime
13:00 BBC News at One	14:30 Lightning	13:00 Celebrity Catchphrase	13:00 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa	12:10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It	12:50 Matt Allwright
14:00 Father Brown	15:00 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure	14:00 Dickinson's Real Deal	14:05 New: Celebrity Catchphrase	13:10 Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad	14:00 Vanessa
14:45 Escape to the Country	In Cuba's capital, Clive realises his boyhood dream of taking on a potential Olympic champion at one of	15:00 Deal or No Deal	15:05 The Only Way is Essex	14:10 Countdown	15:00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun
15:45 I Made It at Market	15:30 Ancient Invisible Cities	16:00 Tipping Point	After a fiery row, Bobby	Colin Murray, Rachel Riley and Susie Dent host, with	17:00 5 News at 5
16:30 The Finish Line	16:30 Antiques Roadshow	17:00 The Chase	16:05 The Real Housewives of Atlanta	15:00 A Place in the Sun	18:00 New: Love Nature
17:15 Pointless	17:10 Flog It!	18:00 ITV News London	17:00 The Real Housewives of New Jersey	16:00 A New Life in the Sun: Where...	18:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out
18:00 BBC News at Six	18:00 Richard Osman's House of Games	18:30 ITV Evening News	17:55 New: Celebrity Catchphrase	17:00 Chateau DIY	19:00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders
18:30 BBC London	18:30 Great Japanese Railway Journeys	19:30 It'll Be Alright on the Night	18:55 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa	Ben and Billie's unfinished apartment gets hearts racing as their Valentine's Day event approaches.	PC Ed Clarke goes on a wild ride through Stoke-on-Trent pursuing a driver blasting through
19:00 The One Show	19:00 Greatest Gardens with Diarmuid Gavin and Carol Klein	20:00 Emmerdale	20:00 The 1% Club	18:00 Jasmine Harman's Renovation in...	20:00 New: Traffic Cops
19:30 Extraordinary Portraits	19:30 Beechgrove Garden	20:30 Coronation Street	21:00 Transformers: The Last Knight	19:00 Channel 4 News	21:00 New: Missed Call
20:00 Beyond Paradise	20:00 Gardeners' World	21:00 New: I'm a Celebrity... South Africa	22:05 FYI Daily	19:30 New: Unreported World	With time running out, and the investigation reaching a
21:00 Have I Got News for You	In a special programme,	22:05 New: The Assembly	22:10 Transformers: The Last Knight	20:00 Battle of the Brands	22:00 The Cancellation of Kenny Everett
21:30 The Young Offenders	21:00 Spotlight	22:30 ITV News	22:05 FYI Daily	21:00 New: Gogglebox	Revealing the life and work of the pioneering comedian who was unafraid to venture into rebellious or
22:00 BBC News at Ten	22:00 Live at the Apollo	23:00 ITV News London	22:10 Transformers: The Last Knight	22:00 First Dates	23:30 New: Piers Morgan: Uncensored
22:30 BBC London	22:30 Newsnight	23:15 Romesh Ranganathan's Parents' Evening	00:10 Family Guy	23:05 Channel 4 HD	
22:40 The Claudia Winkleman Show	23:05 The Wicker Man	00:10 Shop on TV		00:10 Taskmaster	
23:25 The Royal Hotel	00:35 Panorama				
00:50 Weather for the Week Ahead					
00:55 Joins BBC News					

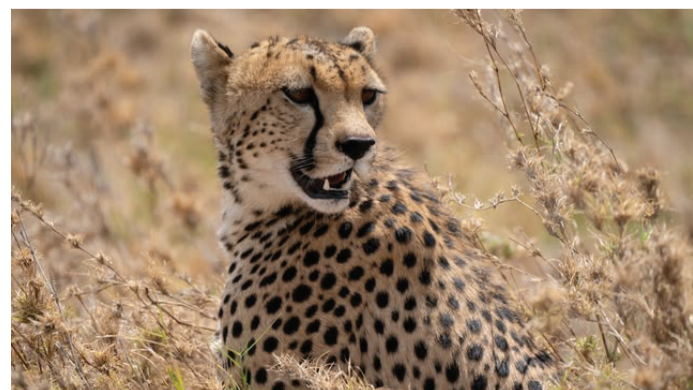
Entertainment

Sport

Sky Max HD	Sky Family	D&U&Dave	DMAX	RTÉ One	Sky Sports Mix
11:00 The Simpsons	12:10 Daddy Day Care	11:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall	11:00 Deadliest Catch	11:20 Diagnosis Murder	11:00 EFL 16/17: Ipswich v Sheff Weds
12:00 Predators	13:45 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five	12:00 Border Force America's Gatekeepers	12:00 Cooper's Treasure	12:15 Keys to My Life	11:15 S/Lge: Hull FC v St Helens
13:00 Hawaii Five-0	16:10 The Smurfs	14:00 Speed with Guy Martin	13:00 Expedition Unknown	12:45 Telly Bingo	14:00 PL Greatest: Man City/Man Utd '13
14:00 NCIS: Los Angeles	18:00 The Smurfs 2	15:00 Top Gear	15:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue	13:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock	14:15 PL Greatest Games: Man U/L'Pool
15:00 S.W.A.T.	19:50 Wallace & Gromit: The Curse...	17:00 Hairy Bikers Everyday Gourmets	17:00 Outback Opal Hunters	13:30 Home and Away	14:30 PL Greatest : Chelsea/Man Utd 2016
16:00 Police 24/7	21:20 Daddy Day Care	18:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall	19:00 Deadliest Catch	14:00 Shortland Street	14:45 PL Greatest Games: Liv v Man City
17:00 The Simpsons	22:55 Paddington 2	19:00 Would I Lie To You?	21:00 Cops UK: Bodycam Squad	14:30 Fair City	15:00 ICC T20 WC Highlights
18:00 The Office (US)	Sky Documentaries	Rob Brydon hosts the show in which celebs tell tall tales - and a few true stories - about themselves. With	22:00 Street Cops UK	15:00 EastEnders	16:00 S/Lge: Hull FC v St Helens
19:00 The Simpsons	11:00 The Eighties	19:40 Richard Osman's House of Games	23:00 Aussie Gold Hunters	15:30 Today	18:45 My Icon: Moeen Ali
20:00 An Idiot Abroad	12:00 Paul Simon: In Restless Dreams	21:00 QI XL	00:00 Naked And Afraid	17:40 Nuacht RTÉ	18:55 Live: Netball Super League
21:00 Never Mind The Buzzcocks	16:10 George Stevens: The Directors	22:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order	00:00 Dr. Pimple Popper	17:55 RTÉ News with Signing	20:30 My Icon: Leon McKenzie
22:00 Katherine Ryan: First Born Daughter	17:05 Discovering: Octavia Spencer	Frankie is joined by Sara Pascoe and Richard		18:01 RTÉ News: Six One	20:45 My Icon: Ebony Rainford-Brent
23:30 Intelligence	18:00 After The Bite	22:40 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?		19:00 Nationwide	21:00 IPL 2026 Highlights
	19:45 My Icon: Thierry Henry	23:40 Mock the Week		19:30 Fair City	
	20:00 God Bless Ozzy Osbourne	00:20 Would I Lie To You?		20:00 Imelda May - Amhráin na nGael	
	22:00 The Essex Murders: Who Killed.			20:30 Tracks and Trails	
				21:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock	
				21:35 The Late Late Show	
				23:10 The Young Offenders	
				23:45 A Room With A View	

Movies

Sky Premiere	Sky Greats	Film4
12:15 Final Destination: Bloodlines	12:00 Jaws	11:00 Jubal
14:15 Blue Moon (2025)	Police chief Roy Scheider	13:05 Anzio
16:05 Flavia	14:10 Jaws 2	15:20 Broken Arrow
17:45 Roofman	16:10 Jaws III	17:10 The Son of Robin Hood
20:00 A Big Bold Beautiful Journey	17:50 The Mummy (1999)	18:50 The Eagle
22:00 Pillion	20:00 Batman	21:00 Knock at the Cabin
A directionless man is	22:10 Batman Returns	22:55 Mission: Impossible - Ghost...



TV Guide

Saturday 18th April 2026

BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:30 Homes Under the Hammer	13:00 Women's Six Nations Rugby Coverage from the second round of the 2026 Women's Six Nations as Scotland play England.	12:00 Raymond Blanc's Royal Kitchen Gardens	11:00 Deal or No Deal Celebrity Special	11:10 The Simpsons	11:10 Ben Fogle: New Lives in The Wild
12:00 Football Focus		12:30 ITV News	13:05 Wheel of Fortune	11:40 Four in a Bed The competition begins at Cedarwood Holidays in Cornwall, where Kirstie and Joe's pristine glamping	12:05 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly
12:45 BBC Weekend News		12:45 ITV Racing Live: Scottish Grand National	14:05 Britain's Got Talent The auditions continue as further acts take to the stage with performances to impress the crowd and	14:15 Location, Location, Location We catch up with Alistair and Candice, whose budget and expectations didn't quite match in Swindon.	14:05 Catching Up with the Royals with Rev Richard Coles & Emily Andrews
12:55 BBC Weather	17:45 Flog It! Flog It! comes from Ragley Hall in Warwickshire, a beautiful 17th-century Palladian house owned by	16:00 Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals	15:25 New: Celebrity Catchphrase	15:15 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or...	15:00 Matilda
13:00 Bargain Hunt		16:30 The Chase	16:25 Kung Fu Panda	16:20 Your Song	16:05 Entertainment News on 5
14:00 Snooker: World Championship	18:35 Elizabeth: The Unseen Queen The story of Queen Elizabeth II in her own words, featuring never-before-seen home	17:30 ITV Evening News	17:25 FYI Daily	17:20 The Great Celebrity Bake Off for SU2C	16:10 Matilda Blackly comic children's drama starring Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman,
16:30 Final Score		17:45 ITV News London	17:30 Kung Fu Panda	18:30 Channel 4 News Channel 4's flagship news programme. Including the weather. [S]	17:00 5 News Weekend
17:20 BBC Weekend News	19:50 Inside Britain's National Parks Steeped in myth and	18:00 Celebrity Catchphrase	18:15 Liar Liar	19:00 New: Secret Africa: Into the Wild	17:05 Reuben Owen: Life in The Dales
17:30 BBC London		19:00 New: Britain's Got Talent	19:20 FYI Daily	20:00 New: World's Most Secret Hotels	19:00 Elizabeth II: The Unseen Photos
17:35 BBC Weather	20:45 Black British Music at the BBC: Volume 1	20:00 Celebrity Sabotage	19:25 Liar Liar Broad slapstick comedy. Fletcher Reade is the fastest, loudest, and brashest lawyer in town -	21:00 Plane	20:30 Philip & the Queen: A Royal Fairytale
17:40 Bridge of Lies	23:15 Glastonbury In June 2019, Stormzy delivered one of the all-time iconic headline performances on	21:00 The 1% Club	20:00 Minority Report	23:10 Commando	22:00 Those Were The Days
18:25 Blankety Blank		22:00 The Murder Line	21:00 FYI Daily	00:50 Taskmaster	00:05 Noel Edmonds: The Rise & Fall of Mr Saturday Night
18:25 Blankety Blank		22:50 ITV News National and international news with reports and analysis from ITV's	21:05 Minority Report		
19:00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show	00:30 Snooker: World Championship	23:10 The Murder Line	22:50 Family Guy Anarchic animated sitcom about a dysfunctional family		
20:00 The Weakest Link		00:05 English Football League Highlights	00:15 American Dad!		
20:45 Casualty					
21:35 Not Going Out					
22:05 BBC Weekend News					
22:20 BBC Weather					
22:25 Match of the Day					
23:45 The Football Interview					
00:00 Planet of the Apes					

Entertainment Sport Movies

Sky Max HD	Sky Documentaries	DMAX	RTÉ One	Sky Sports Mix	Sky Premiere
11:00 The Simpsons	11:00 All That Breathes	11:00 Outback Opal Hunters	11:55 Young MasterChef	11:30 IPL 2026 Highlights	11:50 A Big Bold Beautiful Journey
12:00 Gillette Soccer Saturday: Build-Up	13:00 On The Line: The Richard Williams Story	13:00 Gem Hunters Down Under	13:05 RTÉ News: One O'Clock	12:30 Live Ladies European Tour Golf	13:45 Final Destination: Bloodlines
15:00 Gillette Soccer Sat: Live Scores	14:50 My Icon: Heather Watson	16:00 Aussie Gold Hunters	13:15 Cheap European Homes	16:00 ICC T20 WC Highlights	15:45 Superman (2025)
17:00 The Simpsons	15:00 Dogtown And Z-Boys	19:00 Extreme Cheapskates	14:15 The Money List	17:30 EFL 21/22: Blackburn v Fulham	18:00 A Big Bold Beautiful Journey
19:00 Agatha Raisin	16:50 My Icon: Shaun Gayle	21:00 New: Paranormal Caught On Camera Ghosts flock to a quaint coastal farmhouse, a pastor's sermon is interrupted by the Devil	15:15 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond The Lobby	17:45 EFL 06/07: N. Forest v Yeovil	20:00 Roofman
21:00 Indiana Jones And The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull	17:00 Hitsville: The Making Of Motown	22:00 New: Kindred Spirits Amy, Adam and Chip investigate the Sterling Hill Mines in New Jersey. Rumours suggest a dark	16:15 Realtaí Na Gaeltachta	18:00 EFL 08/09: Cardiff v Swansea	22:15 Pillion
23:15 Ricky Gervais - Politics	19:10 I Am Heath Ledger	00:00 Body Bizarre: The Boy Whose Eye ...Falls Out. Sulaiman	16:45 The Great House Revival	18:15 EFL 08/09: Millwall v Scunthorpe	Sky Greats
Sky Family	21:00 The Essex Murders: Who Killed Goldfinger	HGTV	17:45 Nuacht RTÉ	20:00 WTA Final: Miami	11:55 Rumble In The Bronx
11:55 Paddington in Peru	U&Dave	11:00 The Big Bang Theory	17:55 RTÉ News with Signing	21:00 Masters Final Round Highlights	13:30 The Mummy (1999)
13:55 Stardust	11:00 Would I Lie To You?	21:00 New: Boy Band Confidential: A...	18:01 RTÉ News: Six One	22:30 ATP Monte Carlo 2026 Review	15:40 Batman
16:15 Smurfs (2025)	21:00 Red Dwarf	23:00 People Magazine Investigates...	18:35 Johnny English Strikes Again		17:50 Batman Returns
18:00 Hook	23:00 Not Going Out	00:00 Young Sheldon	20:10 Pat Shortt's Entertainment From		20:00 Batman Forever
20:25 The Boss Baby	00:55 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?		20:45 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock The latest national and		22:05 Batman & Robin
22:05 Shark Tale			21:15 The Tommy Tiernan Show		Film4
23:40 Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse			22:35 The Young Offenders		11:00 Dad's Army
			23:10 The 2 Johnnies Late Night Lock In		13:05 Tora! Tora! Tora!



TV Guide

Sunday 19th April 2026

BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:30 Homes Under the Hammer	12:45 Andi Oliver's Fabulous Feasts Andi Oliver heads to Cornwall to help local chef Ben Quinn put on an epic feast to thank NHS staff at	11:25 Josie's Taste Of The Westcountry	11:20 Deal or No Deal Celebrity Special	13:00 The Simpsons	11:50 Jane McDonald's Weekends Away
12:30 Bargain Hunt		12:25 Fletchers' Family Farm	13:25 Britain's Got Talent	14:30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	12:50 Jumanji
13:00 BBC Weekend News		13:25 ITV News	14:30 New: Britain's Got Talent: Unseen	15:35 Sailing the Shipping Forecast...	13:50 Entertainment News on 5
13:10 Weather for the Week Ahead	13:45 The Best Dishes Ever	13:35 Love Your Garden	14:55 Celebrity Sabotage	16:40 Our Tiny Islands	13:55 Jumanji
13:15 Songs of Praise	14:15 Snooker: World Championship Coverage of day 2 of the World Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.	14:05 Jurassic Park: The Lost World	15:55 Celebrity Catchphrase	17:40 Devon and Cornwall	14:55 The Firm
13:50 Escape to the Country	18:00 Flog It! This episode contains a collection of interesting and previously unseen finds from the show's travels	16:35 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars	16:55 Wonder Woman 1984	18:10 Channel 4 News	15:55 Entertainment News on 5
14:35 Garden Rescue		17:35 The Chase Celebrity Special	17:55 FYI Daily	18:40 Inside the World's Most... ...Luxurious Yachts: A voyage behind the scenes of the status-symbol superyachts belonging to	16:00 The Firm
15:05 Despicable Me	19:00 Artemis: To the Moon and Back	18:30 ITV Evening News	18:00 Wonder Woman 1984 Action-adventure fantasy sequel. It's 1984 and Princess Diana of	19:40 The Great Celebrity Bake Off...	18:00 Aldi vs Lidl: Which Tastes Better?
16:35 Secret Garden	20:00 This Farming Life	18:50 ITV News London	20:00 Pitch Perfect	21:00 New: Your Song	18:55 5 News Weekend
17:35 BBC Weekend News	21:00 Forensics: The Real CSI	19:00 Emmerdale	21:00 FYI Daily Latest news from the world of entertainment.	22:00 Gogglebox	19:00 Inside Britain's Poshest Bakery
17:50 BBC London	22:00 The King's Speech	19:30 Coronation Street	21:05 Pitch Perfect	23:00 First Dates A hair stylist meets a nutritionist with a bit of swag. A conspiracy theorist is matched with a science	20:00 Rich Holiday, Poor Holiday
17:55 BBC Weather	23:50 Snooker: World Championship Highlights from the second day of the World Snooker Championship in Sheffield.	20:00 Grace National and international news with reports and analysis from ITV's Correspondents in the UK	22:15 Family Guy Anarchic animated sitcom about a dysfunctional family in a wacky Rhode Island town. When Peter locates	00:00 Gordon Ramsay's Secret Service Parthenon: Gordon Ramsay infiltrates struggling restaurants with the help of a secret insider.	21:00 Rich House, Poor House
18:00 Countryfile		22:15 The Murder Line	23:35 American Dad!		22:30 My Wife, My Abuser: The Secret Footage The shocking secret footage of how Richard
19:00 Secret Garden		23:05 It'll Be Alright on the Night	00:35 Plebs		23:50 Police 999: Night Shift
20:00 Antiques Roadshow		00:00 Shop on TV Teleshopping. [HD]			00:50 Entertainment News on 5
21:00 Queen Elizabeth II: Her Story, Our					
22:00 BBC Weekend News					
22:25 BBC London					
22:30 Match of the Day					
23:45 The Claudia Winkleman Show					
00:30 Ambulance					

Entertainment

Sport

Sky Max HD	Sky Documentaries	D&U&Dave	DMAX	RTÉ One	Sport Sky Sports Mix
11:00 David Attenborough's Conquest of the Skies	11:10 Love Means Zero	11:00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve Simon begins his journey on the island of Hispaniola and its two very different countries of the Dominican	11:00 Garage Rehab Richard Rawlings is off to scope out Blue Ribbon Automotive. He has 6 days to rehab the shop and help	11:00 Sunday Worship	11:00 PL Greatest Games: Wolves/WBA '12
14:00 FILM: The Secret Garden	13:00 Pantani	13:00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Paul and Bob visit the dazzling and extraordinary	14:00 Kindig Customs	12:00 The Week In Politics	11:15 PL Greatest Games: Stoke/L'Pool '15
16:00 The Simpsons	15:00 Hill	15:00 Hairy Bikers Everyday Gourmets	17:00 Chasing Classic Cars	13:10 Home of The Year	11:30 Live Ladies European Tour Golf
18:00 Agatha Raisin	16:50 My Icon: Leon Pryce	17:00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve	19:00 Expedition Bigfoot	13:40 The Hardacres	15:00 S/Lge: Huddersfield v Leeds
20:00 Rob & Romesh Vs UFC	17:00 Williams & Mansell: Red 5	19:00 Special Ops: To Catch A Criminal	21:00 Ancient Unexplained Files	14:35 Ireland's Hidden Treasures	17:45 My Icon: Solomon Wilcots
21:00 Fast & Furious 6	18:50 My Icon: Linford Christie	21:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?	23:00 Expedition X	15:35 Always	18:00 Live Indycar Series: Warm Up
23:20 Brassic	19:00 David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived	22:00 QI Radioactive: Joe Lycett, Shazia Mirza and Josh Widdicombe tune in for a bit of 'radio' activity. [S]	11:00 The Big Bang Theory Kripke has proof that Dr. Pemberton plagiarized his thesis, and Sheldon and Amy aren't sure whether	17:40 Nuacht RTÉ	19:00 IPL 2026 Highlights
Sky Family	20:45 My Icon: Tanni Grey Thompson Pt 1	22:40 Mock the Week	20:00 New: Georgie & Mandy's First...	17:50 RTÉ News with Signing	22:00 Darts Gold: Painter v Van der Voort
12:30 The Ant Bully	21:00 2000 Meters To Andriivka	00:00 Live at the Apollo	21:00 New: Zero Stars	18:01 RTÉ News: Six One	22:15 Darts Gold: Van Gerwen v Lewis
14:15 The Emoji Movie	23:10 Flight 149: Hostage Of War		22:00 The Mexican	18:30 Cheap European Homes	
15:50 Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse			00:30 Zero Stars Roisin and Sara explore Bergen and Voss on a budget, dining at a	19:30 The Money List	
18:00 Look Who's Talking				20:30 Fair City	
19:50 Spy Kids 3: Game Over				21:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock	
21:20 The Secret Life of Pets				21:30 The Great House Revival	
22:50 The Secret Life Of Pets 2				22:30 Leonard and Hungry Paul	
				23:05 The Week In Politics	

Movies

Sky Premiere	Sky Greats	Film4
12:45 One Battle After Another	12:10 Batman Forever	11:00 Local Hero (1983) Comedy starring
15:35 Roofman	14:20 Ghostbusters (1984)	13:20 Cleopatra
17:50 Superman (2025)	16:10 Ghostbusters 2	18:10 Independence Day (1996) Blockbusting landmark sci-fi action-thriller starring Will Smith and Jeff Goldblum. A
20:00 A Big Bold Beautiful Journey	18:00 Dumb & Dumber	21:00 Memory
22:00 Weapons (2025)	20:00 Planes, Trains & Automobiles	23:15 Violent Night
	22:00 This Is Spinal Tap	
	23:40 Interview With The Vampire	



TV Guide

Monday 20th April 2026

BBC

ITV

Channel 4

Channel 5

BBC ONE

11:15 Homes Under the Hammer
 12:15 Bargain Hunt
 13:00 BBC News at One including BBC...
 14:00 Shift the Thrift
 14:30 Designing the Hebrides
 15:00 Escape to the Country
 15:45 I Made It at Market
 16:30 The Finish Line
 17:15 New: Pointless
 18:00 BBC News
 18:30 BBC London News
 18:55 Party Election Broadcast by the...
 19:00 The One Show
 19:30 EastEnders
 20:00 Panorama
 20:30 What Happened at Chernobyl
 21:00 Mint
 22:00 BBC News and Weather
 22:30 BBC London News
 22:40 Have I Got News for You
 23:10 Thirteen Lives

BBC TWO

12:45 Talking Snooker
 1/2. Alistair McGowan takes a trip through the BBC archives to look at the lives and careers of Alex
 13:30 Politics Live
 14:15 Snooker: World Championship
 18:00 Richard Osman's House of Games
 18:30 Great Japanese Railway Journeys
 6/15. Michael is in
 19:00 Global Eye
 19:30 Mastermind Final
 20:30 University Challenge Final
 21:00 Great British Menu: The Finals
 22:00 Charmain and the Prophet
 2/3. Reporter Myles Bonnar travels to Ghana to look into Charmain's death. Contains some scenes
 22:30 Newsnight, followed by Weather
 23:05 Michael Jackson: An American...
 00:05 Snooker: World Championship Extra

ITV1 HD

12:30 ITV Lunchtime News
 12:55 ITV News London
 13:00 Celebrity Catchphrase
 14:00 Dickinson's Real Deal
 15:00 Lingo
 16:00 Tipping Point
 17:00 The Chase
 When four people who have never met before - Tony from Newcastle, Linda from Penrith, Roger from
 18:00 ITV News London
 18:25 Party Election Broadcast: Green Party
 18:30 ITV Evening News
 19:30 New: How to Clean Up for Cash
 20:00 Emmerdale
 20:30 Coronation Street
 The story of everyday life in
 21:00 New: I'm a Celebrity... South Africa
 22:15 ITV News
 22:50 ITV News London
 23:00 The Murder Line
 00:00 Shop on TV

ITV2

11:05 The Real Housewives of New Jersey
 12:00 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win
 Ant and Dec host the quiz that gives contestants a chance to win the biggest
 13:00 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa
 14:05 New: Celebrity Catchphrase
 15:05 The Only Way is Essex
 16:05 The Real Housewives of Atlanta
 17:00 The Real Housewives of New Jersey
 18:00 New: Celebrity Catchphrase
 19:00 I'm a Celebrity... South Africa
 20:00 The 1% Club
 21:00 TikTok: Murder Gone Viral
 22:00 Family Guy
 23:30 American Dad!
 00:35 Bob's Burgers

Channel 4

11:10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
 12:05 Channel 4 News Summary
 12:10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It
 13:10 Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad
 The Bakers bring Bowes Museum's marvellous mechanical swan back to
 14:10 Countdown
 15:00 A Place in the Sun
 16:00 A New Life in the Sun: Where...
 17:00 Chateau DIY
 18:00 New: Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
 19:00 Channel 4 News
 Channel 4's flagship news programme. Including the weather. [S]
 20:00 The Dog House
 21:00 New: Suez: 24 Hours That Broke...
 22:00 New: Chernobyl: Days That...
 00:05 Celebrity Gogglebox
 This time the celebs watch Squid Game, Glastonbury, Open House: The Great Sex Experiment, Celebrity

5

11:30 Storm & Alexis
 12:45 5 News at Lunchtime
 12:50 Matt Allwright
 14:00 Vanessa
 15:00 Castle
 16:50 Love Nature
 A story of nature helping itself in the context of climate change, with cattle rather than humans
 17:00 5 News at 5
 18:00 Love Nature
 18:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out
 19:00 Police Interceptors
 Interceptors Gav and Neil pursue a pair of vehicles believed to have been involved in a raid on a car
 20:00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders
 21:00 Dan Snow's Great Egyptian Adventure
 22:00 Police 999: Night Shift
 Roads policing officer PC Merchant pursues a stolen car that is being driven
 23:05 Traffic Cops
 00:05 Police Interceptors

Entertainment

Sky Max HD

11:00 The Simpsons
 12:00 Predators
 13:00 Hawaii Five-0
 14:00 NCIS: Los Angeles
 15:00 S.W.A.T.
 16:00 Police 24/7
 17:00 The Simpsons
 18:00 The Office (US)
 19:00 The Simpsons
 20:00 UFO
 21:00 Andor
 22:00 New: Rooster
 22:40 New: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
 23:25 Grimm

Sky Family

11:00 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa
 12:40 The Secret Life of Pets
 14:20 The Secret Life of Pets 2
 16:00 Lemony Snicket's A Series Of...
 18:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 19:55 Cats & Dogs
 21:35 The Hobbit: The Desolation Of...

Sky Documentaries

11:00 The Eighties
 12:00 Say Hey, Willie Mays!
 14:00 All That Breathes
 16:00 John Frankenheimer: The Directors
 17:00 Discovering: Fredric March
 17:55 The Comedy Store
 19:00 Dart Kings
 20:00 The Girl Who Caught A Killer
 22:30 Outcry

U&Dave

11:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall
 At Golitha Falls - where the River Fowey tumbles down to the sea - Rick meets Dawn French, who has
 12:00 Special Ops: To Catch A Criminal
 14:00 The Boat That Guy Built
 15:00 Top Gear
 17:00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best
 18:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall
 19:00 Would I Lie To You?
 Rob Brydon welcomes more wily guests to the deceptive comedy panel show. Joining captains
 19:40 Richard Osman's House of Games
 21:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?
 22:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order
 22:40 QI XL
 23:40 Mock the Week
 00:20 Would I Lie To You?
 Regular team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by

DMAX

11:00 Deadliest Catch
 12:00 The Alaska Triangle
 13:00 Expedition Unknown
 15:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue
 17:00 Outback Opal Hunters
 19:00 Deadliest Catch
 21:00 Crikey! It's the Irwins
 22:00 The Zoo
 A popular sea lion falls ill after ingesting a foreign object. Endangered snakes are coupled for breeding,
 23:00 Aussie Gold Hunters
 00:00 Naked And Afraid

HGTV

11:00 The Big Bang Theory
 14:00 Mike & Molly
 15:30 Young Sheldon
 17:00 The Big Bang Theory
 21:00 Mock The Week
 22:00 Zero Stars
 Roisin and Sara explore Bergen and Voss on a budget, dining at a
 23:00 Dr. Pimple Popper

RTÉ One

11:35 Diagnosis Murder
 12:30 Keys to My Life
 13:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock
 13:30 Home and Away
 14:00 Shortland Street
 14:30 Fair City
 15:30 Today
 17:40 Nuacht RTÉ
 17:55 RTÉ News with Signing
 18:01 RTÉ News: Six One
 19:00 Nationwide
 19:30 EastEnders
 20:00 10 Things To Know About
 20:30 Scannal!
 21:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock
 21:35 Young Forever: The Death of Aging?
 22:35 Trackers: The People v The Banks
 23:40 The Late Late Show

Sky Sports Mix

11:00 ATP Monte Carlo 2026 Review
 12:00 IPL 2026 Highlights
 14:00 PL Greatest Games: Man U/Chelsea'00
 14:15 PL 2001
 14:30 PL Greatest: Man City/Fulham 2008
 14:45 PL 1997
 15:00 ICC T20 WC Highlights
 15:30 Masters Final Round Highlights
 On a wide-open Sunday at
 17:00 Live: Baller League
 23:00 IPL 2026 Highlights

Movies

Sky Premiere

12:35 Roofman
 14:50 One Battle After Another
 When their enemy
 17:45 Superman (2025)

Sky Greats

11:20 Ghostbusters (1984)
 13:10 Ghostbusters 2
 15:00 Groundhog Day
 16:45 The Golden Child
 18:20 Police Academy

Film4

11:00 The Lady Eve
 12:55 Sherlock Holmes and the Secret...
 14:15 Tobruk
 16:30 Stagecoach





Thousands denied entry since EU's automated border system rollout

A new digital border control system introduced by the European Union has already blocked tens of thousands of travellers and flagged hundreds as potential security risks, officials in Brussels confirmed as the scheme reached full deployment.

The Entry/Exit System (EES), designed to modernise and strengthen border management, became fully operational on Friday across participating countries. The system replaces traditional passport stamping with a digital process that records travellers' movements in and out of the bloc.

Since its phased rollout began in October last year, more than 52 million border crossings have been logged through the system, according to the European Commission. During that time, authorities refused entry on over 27,000 occasions. Among those denied access were nearly 700 individuals identified as posing a potential security threat to the EU.

EU officials say the system marks a significant step forward in monitoring external borders. Magnus

Brunner described the initiative as a way for the bloc to better track movements across its frontiers, noting that it allows authorities to know who is entering or leaving, as well as when and where crossings occur.

The EES is now active at all external border points in 29 European countries. It applies to most EU member states, with the exceptions of Ireland and Cyprus, and also includes non-EU members within the Schengen area such as Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Under the new system, non-EU visitors entering for short stays must register their passport details, fingerprints and a facial image at automated kiosks. This information is stored digitally, creating an individual record that can be accessed by border authorities across participating nations. Officials say this shared database improves coordination and enables more effective enforcement of entry rules.

According to Henna Virkkunen, the technology allows authorities to

detect risks in real time and better identify travellers who overstay their permitted visits—an issue that has long challenged immigration enforcement across the bloc.

Despite these assurances, the rollout has not been without concern. Airlines, rail operators and passenger groups have warned that the additional checks could lead to longer waiting times at

busy transport hubs, particularly during peak travel periods.

The European Commission has sought to ease those fears, stating that it is working closely with member states to ensure a smooth implementation. Officials say the registration process takes an average of just 70 seconds per traveller, arguing that the system strikes a balance between

enhanced security and efficient border crossings.

As the EES enters full operation, EU authorities maintain that the technology will play a key role in strengthening border control while facilitating travel—though its real-world impact on passenger flows will become clearer in the months ahead.



Spain's holiday season under threat

Summer tourism season is facing a potentially serious threat. The ongoing war in Iran is causing real alarm among airlines and airports across Europe, with concerns growing that jet fuel supplies could start running out within weeks, right at the point when millions of holidaymakers are planning their trips.

At the heart of the problem is the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway through which around 20% of the world's oil traffic normally passes. Since Iran's closure of the strait, fuel supply chains have been under increasing pressure, and that pressure is now beginning to show up in some very stark warnings from the aviation industry.

ACI Europe, the organisation that represents EU airports, has written to the European Union flagging what it describes as growing concern about jet fuel availability and calling for proactive monitoring and urgent action.

"If passage through the Strait of Hormuz does not resume in a meaningful and stable manner within the next three weeks, systemic jet fuel shortages will become a reality for the EU," the letter reads

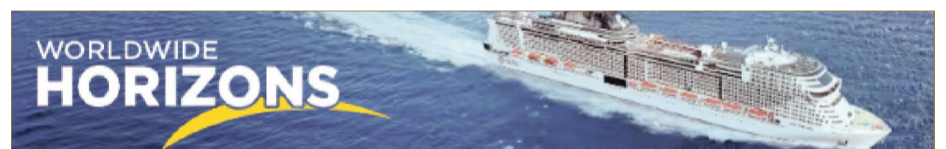
That three-week deadline lands on May 4. Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary has echoed these sentiments.

"Fuel suppliers are constantly monitoring the market," he said. "We don't anticipate any disruption until early May, but if the price war continues, we risk supply disruptions in Europe during May and June, and we hope the war ends sooner and the supply risk is eliminated."

He went on to put a number on the potential impact, adding that the airline considers there to be "a reasonable, low-level risk that between 10% and 25% of our supplies could be at risk during May and June." On the other hand, "if the war ends in April and the Strait of Hormuz reopens, then there will be virtually no risk to supply," he added.

For Spain, the timing couldn't be worse. The country's tourism sector is one of the most important in Europe, and the peak summer season brings tens of millions of visitors, the vast majority of whom arrive by air. Any meaningful disruption to flight schedules in May and June would hit hotels, restaurants, resorts and local businesses at exactly the moment they're counting on the season to get going.

For now, airlines still have several weeks of fuel reserves and the situation remains fluid. But with the clock ticking and no resolution to the Iran conflict in sight, the industry is watching very closely, and so is anyone whose livelihood depends on those summer flights touching down on time.



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Torre Vieja and Murcia clubs in world's top 100

Two well-known nightlife venues in Torre Vieja and Murcia have been nominated for the World's 100 Best Clubs list, which recognises some of the top clubs around the world.

The annual ranking is organised by the International Night Life Association and brings together hundreds of clubs from around the world, highlighting venues known for their atmosphere, production, safety standards, and overall visitor experience.

For the 2026 rankings, a total of 646 clubs from 76 countries have been nominated. Spain once again leads the way with 88 venues in-

cluded, narrowly ahead of the United States. Spain's strong presence comes from its long-standing reputation as one of the world's leading nightlife destinations, with places like Ibiza and Marbella already well known internationally.

Among the Spanish nominees are two venues, one in Torre Vieja and the other in the regional capital of Murcia. Both are familiar names in the competition and have appeared in previous editions.

Torre Vieja's Velice continues strong track record. In Torre Vieja, Velice is once again representing the local nightlife

scene. Opened in 2016, the club has built a strong reputation over the years thanks to its large-scale production, modern facilities, and consistent line-up of national and international DJs.

The venue covers around 1,700 square metres and is split between an outdoor garden area and a two-level main indoor room. It has also hosted live performances from well-known artistes, adding to its profile beyond the club circuit. Velice has previously done well in the ranking, placing 57th in 2025 and 55th in 2024.

Murcia's Odiseo returns to the list. Odiseo in Murcia, which opened in 2020, is once again in the running.

Known for its large-scale design, it brings nightlife, dining, entertainment and leisure spaces together in one place.

One of its most distinctive features is its striking rooftop pool with a dramatic overhanging section, which has become a well-known landmark in the city. Alongside its nightclub space, the complex also includes restaurants, a casino area, and a busy calendar of events throughout the year.

While it was nominated in previous editions, the venue is hoping to secure a place in the final top 100 list this year.

Public voting for the 2026 list runs from 15th April to 2nd November on the International Night Life Association website and makes up 50% of the final score. The other half is decided by an international panel of experts between 1st October and 15th November, who assess each club on areas including programming, safety, VIP services, innovation, investment, digital presence, reputation and sound quality. The final World's 100 Best Clubs list will be announced in November at the Golden Moon Awards Gala.

Lidl to open first pub

Discount retailer Lidl has unveiled an ambitious expansion plan across the United Kingdom, announcing 50 new store openings over the next year alongside a rare foray into the hospitality sector with its first pub.

The move forms part of Lidl's strategy to overtake Morrisons and become the country's fifth-largest supermarket chain, intensifying competition in a market already re-

shaped by discount grocers. Rival Aldi has already climbed to fourth place and continues to close in on Asda, while market leaders Tesco and Sainsbury's have responded with aggressive pricing and loyalty schemes.

At the centre of Lidl's announcement is a £600 million investment aimed at expanding its UK footprint and supply network. The company said the plan will create

nearly 2,000 jobs and support the rollout of new stores in locations including Abbots Langley near Watford, Warrington, and Thornbury, all scheduled to open this summer.

In parallel, Lidl is pursuing an unconventional project in Belfast, where it is building a standalone pub next to one of its stores in Dundonald. The development stems from Northern Ireland's

strict licensing laws, which limit the number of premises permitted to sell alcohol.

Under these rules, retailers must purchase a licence surrendered by another business and prove there is insufficient provision in the local area. Lidl failed to secure approval for a traditional off-licence but succeeded in obtaining a pub licence after two nearby establishments closed, creating what the

company described as a unique opportunity.

The venue, expected to open this summer after a six-year planning process, will seat around 60 customers and offer a range of Lidl-branded beers, wines, and spirits alongside other drinks intended to highlight local producers.

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of wine! Not to be missed."*



Quesada Fish and Chips



Best food and drink cities

A new international ranking has spotlighted Europe's enduring influence on the global food scene, with five of its cities earning places among the world's top destinations for culinary travel in 2026.

The annual Global Tastemakers list—compiled from the opinions of more than 400 chefs and travel experts—evaluates cities based on the breadth and quality of their food offerings. Criteria range from fine dining and Michelin-starred restaurants to street food, markets, cooking classes, and local food culture.

While Hong Kong claimed the top spot overall, Europe emerged as a dominant force, securing half of the top 10 entries.

Leading the continent is London, ranked second worldwide. Experts praised the capital's diverse culinary identity, where high-end dining exists comfortably alongside casual street food. From upscale interpretations of global dishes to vibrant markets like Borough Market, the city offers a wide-ranging experience for every type of diner. With 88 Michelin-starred restaurants—second only to Paris in Europe—London's reputation for excellence spans both luxury and everyday fare.

In seventh place globally, Barcelona stands out for its strong connection to the sea. Known for fresh seafood and traditional dishes such as paella and grilled fish, the city continues to attract

visitors seeking authentic Mediterranean flavours.

Just behind, Paris secured eighth place, reinforcing its status as one of the world's culinary capitals. The French capital's appeal lies in its accessibility to high-quality food, with iconic dishes like steak frites, coq au vin, and beef bourguignon widely available across historic neighbourhoods such as Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Montmartre, and Le Marais.

Ninth place went to Copenhagen, recognized for its innovative approach to cuisine. The city emphasizes seasonal, locally sourced ingredients and cutting-edge techniques, showcased in globally acclaimed restaurants like Noma

and Alchemist, as well as its thriving bakery and craft beer scenes in districts like Nørrebro and Vesterbro.

Rounding out the top 10 is Istanbul, celebrated for its rich culinary heritage shaped by both Ottoman and Mediterranean influences. Visitors can explore traditional flavours in bustling locations such as the Grand Bazaar or enjoy

modern interpretations at upscale restaurants like Mikla and Nicole.

The rankings highlight not only Europe's culinary diversity but also its ability to blend tradition with innovation—offering travellers a rich and varied gastronomic experience across the continent.



Chocolate theme park to open in Europe

A major new tourism project is taking shape in eastern Switzerland, where Maison Cailler has unveiled plans to transform its historic chocolate factory into a large-scale visitor attraction.

Located in the small town of Broc, the development aims to celebrate both the cultural and industrial legacy of one of Switzerland's oldest chocolate producers while offering

visitors an immersive experience of chocolate-making.

The proposed "Cailler Chocolate Park" carries an estimated budget of 400 million Swiss francs (around €433 million) and is expected to open in phases, with initial sections potentially welcoming visitors by 2027. A full launch is currently targeted for 2030, pending regulatory approvals.

Plans for the site include a mix of educational, leisure, and hospitality facilities. Among the highlights are a new exhibition gallery, restored mechanical workshops, and reconstructed production lines designed to showcase the evolution of chocolate manufacturing. The project will also feature hotels, restaurants, cocoa bean-shaped greenhouses, and a large retail space—dubbed a Chocolate

Emporium—where visitors can sample and purchase products.

The factory sits in the renowned Gruyère region, an area famous for its dairy production. Milk from the region—also used to make the well-known Gruyère cheese—plays a key role in Cailler chocolate, contributing to its rich, creamy texture.

Swiss chocolate's distinctive

smoothness is further enhanced by traditional techniques such as "conching," a process of slowly mixing and heating chocolate over extended periods to refine texture and remove bitterness. Combined with high-quality cocoa butter, these methods have helped establish Switzerland's global reputation for premium chocolate.

Night of timeless music at Hotel Algorfa

Get ready for a night of timeless music and unforgettable atmosphere this Friday, 24th April. For just €10 per person, you can experience a powerful tribute to two of the greatest voices in pop history—Tom Jones and George Michael.

Starting at 8:30, this special evening promises to bring the energy, charisma, and iconic hits that made these legends household names. From the soulful depth of "Delilah" and "It's Not Unusual" to the smooth, emotional resonance of "Careless Whisper" and "Faith," this tribute captures the spirit of both artists in a way that will have you singing along all night.

Live music has a unique way of bringing people together, and events like this are more than just performances—they're shared experiences. Whether you're a lifelong fan or simply looking for a great night out, this is an opportunity to enjoy top-class entertainment at an unbeatable price.

Bring your friends, enjoy the atmosphere, and celebrate the music that defined generations. At just €10, there's really no excuse to miss it. Make your Friday night one to remember—come along and be part of something special.




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GEORGE MICHAEL
A CELEBRATION OF HIS MUSIC




PERFORMED BY JIM McMAIL




Hotel Algorfa

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TOM JONES
A CELEBRATION OF HIS MUSIC



PERFORMED BY JIM McMAIL



Hotel Algorfa

C. PABLO PICASSO, 1, ALGORFA, SPAIN



Healthy Lemon Garlic Salmon

This is a tasty salmon tray bake recipe that's as simple as it is healthy. Salmon is slathered with a zingy lemon garlic paste that adds a stack of flavour, then cooks in just 11 minutes alongside parmesan, asparagus and blistered cherry tomatoes.

Ingredients:

- 4 x 180g/6 oz salmon fillets, skin on or off, doesn't matter

Marinade slather:

- 1 tsp lemon zest (1 lemon)
 - 1 tbsp lemon juice
 - 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
 - 1 tsp Dijon mustard
 - 2 garlic cloves, grated
 - 1/2 tsp cooking salt
 - 1/4 tsp black pepper

Vegetables (optional):

- 3 bunches asparagus, woody ends snapped or trimmed off
 - 200g/ 7 oz cherry tomatoes
 - 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
 - 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper

Cooking & serving:

- Olive oil spray
 - Parmesan, finely grated
 - Lemon wedges or slices, optional
 - Parsley, finely chopped, optional
 - Crusty bread or toast, for serving

Instructions:

Lemon garlic paste – Mix the marinade ingredients in a small bowl. Slather onto the top and sides of the salmon. If time permits, marinade for 1 hour. Otherwise, proceed with recipe. Preheat oven grill to 280°C/525°F or as

high as yours goes. Place the oven shelf 20 cm /8" from the heat source.

Prepare tray – Toss the asparagus and cherry tomatoes with the olive oil, salt and pepper. Spread out on a large tray then clear space for the salmon. Place salmon on the tray leaving a bit of space between each. Spray surface of salmon with oil.

Cook – Grill/broil for 11 minutes or until the salmon is done – the flesh should flake, the internal temperature should be 50°C/122°F.

Serve – Transfer salmon and vegetables to plate. Grate parmesan over the vegetables. Squeeze lemon juice over the salmon, sprinkle with parsley.



Quick Coconut Chicken Curry

This Coconut Chicken Curry proves you don't need a long list of spices to make a truly Indian-tasting curry – just 3 simple spices and very little effort. Tastes like a coconut-y Rogan Josh and your friends will be impressed that it's made from scratch rather than using a jar of paste.

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp unrefined coconut oil (or butter, ghee, or any cooking oil you want)
 - 500 g boneless chicken thighs, cut into ~2cm / 0.8" pieces
 - 1 large onion, diced
 - 1 1/2 tbsp garlic, finely grated (about 6 large cloves)
 - 1 1/2 tbsp ginger, finely grated
 - 2 1/2 tbsp curry powder, mild or hot (to your taste)
 - 1 tsp cumin powder
 - 1 tsp turmeric powder
 - 75 g tomato paste
 - 375 ml chicken stock/broth, low sodium
 - 400 g coconut cream (or full fat coco-

nut milk)
 - 400g / 14oz chickpeas, drained
 - 1.25 tsp cooking salt

Serving:

- Plain yogurt, slightly thinned with water to make it drizzle-able
 - Coriander leaves (cilantro), roughly chopped
 - Basmati rice (cook 3 cups of rice grains to make enough) or other rice of choice
 - Naan, optional

Instructions:

Melt the coconut oil in a large pot over medium high heat (or a large deep skillet). Add the onion and cook for 2 minutes, until translucent. Add the garlic and ginger, stir constantly for 30 seconds (scrape base if it starts to stick). Add the curry powder, turmeric and cumin. Stir for 15 seconds, taking care to make sure it doesn't stick and burn on

base (if it does, add splash of water). Add tomato paste and stir to coat all the onion, then add the chicken and stir to coat. Add the chicken stock, stir well, then once it starts bubbling, simmer rapidly for 5 minutes to reduce the liquid, stirring once in a while (adjust heat as needed, you want rapid bubbles as this is a speedy recipe). Simmer 8 minutes – Add the coconut cream, chickpeas and salt. Stir well, bring back up to a simmer then simmer rapidly for 8 minutes, stirring every now and then. The sauce should be creamy but a little thinner than you'd expect.

Serve – Remove the pot from the stove and leave to cool for 5 minutes, during which time the sauce will thicken a bit more. Serve over basmati rice with a drizzle of yogurt and sprinkle of fresh coriander. Naan or flat bread to mop up the sauce complete the dish.



Hokkien Noodles

Everyday Hokkien Noodles recipe. A great sauce with strips of chicken and lots of vegetables. This is a six-minute cook recipe, which means dinner in 20 minutes flat.

Ingredients:

- 500g/ 1 lb hokkien noodles (Udon or fresh egg noodles if Hokkien unavailable)
 - 350g/ 12 oz chicken thighs (boneless, skinless), cut into thin 0.5 x 3cm / 0.2 x 1.2" pieces
 - 2 tbsp canola oil (or vegetable or peanut oil)
 - 2 garlic cloves, finely minced
 - 8 spring onions, cut into 5cm / 2"

lengths, white part separated from green part

- 1 red bell peppers, cut into thin 0.5cm / 0.2" strips
 - 3 heaped cups green cabbage, cut into thin 1 x 5cm / 0.5 x 2" strips

Sauce:

- 2 tbsp light soy sauce
 - 1 1/2 tbsp dark soy sauce
 - 2 tbsp oyster sauce
 - 1 tbsp Mirin or Chinese cooking wine
 - 1 tbsp sesame oil, toasted
 - 1/8 tsp white pepper (or black pepper)
 Optional garnishes:

- White sesame seeds
 - Finely sliced green onion

Instructions:

Sauce – Mix all the sauce ingredients in a small bowl. Briefly marinate chicken – Toss the chicken with 1 1/2 tbsp of the Sauce. Marinate for 10 minutes while you prepare the noodles and vegetables. Rinse noodles – Prepare the noodles per the packet directions (soak in boiling water or briefly boil). Drain in a colander then rinse briefly under tap water. Sear chicken – Heat the oil in a large non-stick pan or wok over high heat until very hot. Add the chicken and toss for 1 minute. Add the garlic and white part of the

onion, then toss for another 1 minute or until the surface of the chicken is sealed (but still a bit raw inside).

Cook veg & noodles – Add the peppers and cabbage. Toss for 2 minutes until the cabbage is mostly wilted. Add the green part of the onions, noodles and remaining sauce. Toss for 1 1/2 to 2 minutes until the noodles are stained a lovely mahogany colour.

Serve immediately, sprinkled with sesame seeds and green onion if desired.



Strength exercises to enhance longevity

By the time you reach the age of 60, you will have lost 25% of your muscle mass (a common part of ageing). But that doesn't mean you have to resign yourself to being "weak." Fortunately, you can minimize age-related muscle loss and stay strong and balanced through lifestyle changes, including a nutritious diet and physical activity.

Strength training, in particular, can prevent muscle loss, keep bones strong, reduce the risk of falls, fight depression, and prevent mental decline as you age. Strength training includes exercises that build muscle strength by working against a force, whether it be body weight, resistance bands, free weights, or gym machines. When muscles are stressed, small tears occur in your muscle fibres, and as they heal, those fibres grow larger and stronger, resulting in improved muscle mass and strength over time.

Many seniors, especially those who have been inactive recently, find strength training quite intimidating. But it doesn't have to be complicated. So here are 15 great strength moves for seniors if you're not sure where to start when creating a new gym routine.

1. Overhead Press

The overhead press is a great exercise for building strength in the arms, shoulders, and upper back. It results in better coordination and balance. This exercise can also help improve shoulder mobility and stability.

Find the chest press machine at your gym or hold a pair of dumbbells in each hand at chest level with your palms facing forward and your feet shoulder-width apart. Inhale and engage your core. Press the weights overhead until your arms are straight while exhaling. Keep the movements controlled, and don't lock your elbows out at the top. Hold briefly, then inhale while lowering the weights back down. Aim for 8-12 reps, focusing on good



form to avoid injury and get the most benefits. Start with lighter weights and increase as you get stronger.

2. Wall Push-up

Wall push-ups are a simpler (easier) version of traditional push-ups that help strengthen your arms, shoulders, and chest. It is sometimes challenging to do push-ups on the ground, so wall push-ups are an effective alternative to build strength. When you push against the wall, it reduces some of the load on the upper body and makes it easier to do more reps before muscle fatigue.

To do a wall push-up, stand facing a wall slightly more than arm's length away. Place your hands on the wall at shoulder height, bend your elbows, and bring your upper body towards the wall. Pause briefly, then push yourself back to the starting position. Repeat 10-12 times, resting for a minute between sets.

3. Triceps Dip

Triceps dips are a great functional arm exercise that strengthens your arms and improves stability. They also help with joint flexibility and can ease elbow stiffness.

To do triceps dips, sit on a sturdy chair, place your hands on the edge, and slide forward so your hips are off the seat. Lower yourself until your elbows are at a 90-degree bend (if you can go that far), then push back to the original position. Go for 2-3 sets of 8-10 reps, focusing on controlled movement and maintaining good form.



4. Bicep Curl

Bicep curls are an important upper-body exercise focusing on some of the bigger upper arm muscles (biceps). These exercises help you maintain the strength needed for everyday tasks like lifting groceries.

Start by holding a dumbbell at your side, with your palm facing toward your leg and your shoulders even. Lift the weight toward your shoulder, turning your palm up as you lift. Lower

your arm back down and repeat for ten reps for 2-3 sets. Make sure to fully straighten and bend your arm, keeping your shoulders back. Lift the weight as you breathe out and lower it as you breathe in.

5. Chest Press

The chest press is a basic upper-body exercise that targets your chest muscles, shoulders,



and arms. It mimics daily pushing movements and can help strengthen the muscles needed to push a shopping cart or open a heavy door.

Lie on your back on a bench (or find the machine at your gym, like the pic above) with your feet planted firmly on the ground. Hold a dumbbell in each hand with your elbows bent at a 90-degree angle and your upper arms parallel to the floor. Press the weights upward and straighten your elbows until your arms are fully extended over your chest. Slowly lower the weights back to the starting position. Perform 3 sets of 10 repetitions.

6. Seated Row

Seated rows are safe exercises that strengthen the upper back, improve posture, and reduce the risk of back pain in seniors.

It's easiest to find a seated row machine at the gym, but if you don't have access to one, you can opt for a resistance band instead. Sit with your legs out in front of you, and a band looped around the middle of your feet. Grab a hold of the band with one side in each hand and pull the band back towards your waist as you squeeze the shoulder blades together, keeping your elbows close to your body. Slowly extend your arms back to the starting position.

7. Squats

Squats are one of the most recommended exercises for seniors (or anyone). They work on your core, hips, thighs, and buttocks muscles. Squats are beneficial for building lower-body strength and enhancing mobility, which is particularly important to maintain independence in daily

activities.

To squat, stand with your feet slightly wider than shoulder-width apart and extend your arms in front of you. Lower your body as if you are preparing to sit. Pause at the bottom before standing back up. Repeat this 10 to 12 times, resting for a minute between sets for up to 3 sets. If you are new to squats, you can use a chair for support or start with partial squats.

8. Lunges

Lunges are compound exercises that work the calves (back of the lower leg), quadriceps (front of the thighs), hamstrings (back of thighs), and glutes (buttocks) to improve balance and stability. They are especially useful for seniors because they target almost every muscle in the lower body.

A lunge position also reduces the tightness of the front hip muscles due to prolonged sitting. Plus, because they involve large muscle groups in the lower body, they are beneficial for improving metabolism.

Start your lunge by standing with your feet hip-width apart. Step forward with one leg and lower your body until both knees bend at a 90-degree angle (if you have a knee problem or find this awkward, you can keep the back leg straight). Use your front foot to push up and return to the starting position, then switch legs and repeat the movement for 10 reps on each leg for 2-3 sets. Focus on moving steadily to keep good form and reduce the risk of injury

9. The side hip raise

This strengthens your lower body and supports your hip health, which is important for lower body stability with weight-bearing activities. To perform the exercise, lie on your right side with your hips and shoulders evenly stacked. Keep your toes pointed straight in front of you and avoid locking your knees. Lift your left leg slightly up. Pause, then lower your leg back down.

Repeat this ten times with your left leg and then roll to your other side for another ten times with your right leg to complete one set. Rest, then do a second set of 10 repetitions with each leg.

10. Bridge

The bridge move is important for strengthening the abs, hips, and glutes, which support leg stability

and movement. This exercise improves hip extension strength, which is needed for walking, climbing stairs, and standing up.

To perform a bridge, lie on your back with your knees bent and feet flat on the ground. Squeeze your glutes to lift your hips off the ground and hold for three seconds before lowering. Aim to complete ten repetitions per set for a total of three sets.

11. Plank

Planks are popular and effective exercises for strengthening your core and abdominal muscles. Strong abdominal muscles are needed to perform daily activities like walking, lifting, and maintaining balance. While there are many variations in plank exercises, a forearm plank on knees is the best suited for seniors. If it's too hard, it can be modified to a wall, as a push-up can too.

To do a forearm plank, lie face down with your forearms parallel and knees lightly resting on the ground while you lift your body, keeping your back straight. Engage your core while balancing on your forearms and knees. Hold for 20-30 seconds for up to 3 sets and gradually increase the time as you get stronger. Breathe slowly and avoid sagging your hips or arching your back.

12. Farmer's Walk

The farmer's walk is a simple but effective full-body workout that increases grip strength, core stability, and overall well-being as it engages various muscle groups. It also improves heart rate and contributes to heart health.

Get a pair of light to moderate dumbbells you can comfortably hold for a prolonged amount of time. Stand with your feet and arms down at your sides. Engage your core and look straight ahead. Walk forward with controlled steps, holding the weights as you swing your arms gently. Try to walk for a set distance or time, maintaining good posture.



How to lower blood pressure when you wake

Hypertension, or high blood pressure as it is known, impacts nearly half of all adults. While there are many factors that contribute to high blood pressure, you can make moves to lower yours as soon as you wake up in the morning.

All your daily choices and habits add up, but experts agree there are a few things you can do immediately after waking up to lower your blood pressure and protect your heart.

Wake up with slow breathing
Before you even open your eyes or get out of bed, you can prime your nervous system for relaxation, helping to lower your blood pressure in the process. To do this start your day with a few minutes of slow, deep breathing.

Regular deep-breathing exercises help decrease the activity of the sympathetic nervous system, aka your "fight or flight" response, which plays a role in many cases of hypertension. It also improves baroreflex sensitivity, or your body's ability to detect and respond to changes in blood pressure, which is often impaired in people with high blood pressure.

A 2023 review of clinical studies

found that a regular practice of slow, deep breathing of fewer than 10 breaths per minute may help lower both systolic and diastolic blood pressure in people with hypertension. The amount of time needed to see results varies, though, with some studies finding that just two minutes a day provides measurable benefits, while others suggest longer sessions of 15 minutes or two 10-minute sessions each day.

Hydrate first thing
Waiting until you're thirsty to start drinking water isn't the best strategy when you're working to lower your blood pressure. While your body's circadian rhythm causes blood pressure to naturally be higher first thing in the morning, low hydration can make matters worse.

Your body loses water overnight as you sleep and when you wake up dehydrated, your blood becomes slightly thicker, which forces your heart to pump harder to push it through your veins. Instead of going straight to the coffee, keep a covered thermos of water next to your bed, and sip on it as you work your way through your morning routine.

And if you typically drink juice with your breakfast, going for

OJ could make a noticeable difference in your blood pressure. Starting your day with 100% orange juice is beneficial because it includes plant compounds like hesperidin and other nutrients, like potassium, which play a role in promoting heart health. Research has shown that both of these nutrients contribute to lower blood pressure.

Do light movement or yoga
It can be tough to roll out of bed and into your gym clothes, but even light movement or a morning yoga practice can help lower your blood pressure. Gentle activity activates nitric oxide pathways and improves endothelial function, supporting blood vessel dilation. In other words, activity can help your blood vessels dilate, effectively lowering blood pressure. A regular yoga practice of postures, breathing and meditation can lead to reductions of up to 7.96 mm Hg in systolic and 5.52 mm Hg in diastolic blood pressure.

While including a morning yoga flow into your routine may provide the biggest benefit, even one session can help. In one small study, subjects who did a single 30-minute yoga session experienced greater reductions in resting heart rate and blood

pressure than those in the control group, who quietly read for the same amount of time. Yoga can influence blood pressure by activating the parasympathetic system and improving cardiac functioning as you work through a flow of postures, making it an incredibly beneficial addition to your morning wake-up routine.

Other habits to lower blood pressure
Limit salt and highly processed foods. Excess sodium in your diet can cause your body to retain too much fluid, which can increase your blood pressure. While some people are more salt-sensitive than others, sticking to the recommended daily limit of 2,300 milligrams of sodium is a good place to start.

Opt for fresh, whole foods and use herbs or spices to flavour meals instead of salt. Prioritise potassium-rich foods. While limiting sodium often gets the most attention, increasing potassium intake may be even more impactful. Potassium not only regulates blood pressure, but it also protects against the impact of high salt intake. Include high-potassium foods like bananas, potatoes, leafy greens, tuna, salmon, pumpkin and beans regularly in your meals

and snacks.
Keep a consistent sleep schedule. Consistent sleep habits, including a regular bedtime and wake-up time, can be hard to implement, but they make a big difference. One study of over 12,000 adults found that irregular sleep duration was associated with a 9% to 17% higher risk of hypertension, while a 34-minute increase in sleep onset (or bedtime) irregularity increased the risk by 32%.

Check your blood pressure and review your goals. Make it a morning habit to check your numbers before you eat breakfast or exercise. Sit quietly in a chair with your back supported for five minutes, keep your feet flat on the floor and rest your arm on a table at chest level before measuring.



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Turn to page 38 for all puzzle results

WORD SEARCH

S	E	H	I	C	A	H	A	Z	Q	T	K	C	N	M	C	G	D	I	Q
W	A	Y	W	A	I	W	E	N	U	W	X	P	U	E	B	L	O	J	P
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1. FRIEND 2. DOG 3. BOOK 4. FOOD 5. TOWN 6. CHANGE
7. SCHOOL 8. APPLE 9. KNIFE 10. TOYS
11. UMBRELLA 12. ELECTRICITY

SUDOKU

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Word Ladder — Hard (6 letters)

Change one letter at a time to turn the start word into the end word. Every step must be a valid word.

1	G A R D E N	START
2	- - - - -	
3	- - - - -	
4	- - - - -	
5	- - - - -	
6	- - - - -	
7	- - - - -	
8	P O C K E T	END

Word Ladder — Medium (5 letters)

Change one letter at a time to turn the start word into the end word. Every step must be a valid word.

1	P L A N T	START
2	- - - - -	
3	- - - - -	
4	- - - - -	
5	- - - - -	
6	- - - - -	
7	C R O W N	END



Fuel costs are pushing more drivers towards electric cars

The latest surge in fuel prices across Spain, is giving electric cars a stronger sales pitch. With petrol and diesel becoming much more expensive, the cost of driving a combustion engine vehicle can now be up to five times higher than charging an electric car at home.

The pressure on drivers comes after the conflict in the Middle East pushed oil prices up sharply, with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz adding further tension to the market. In Spain, the effect has already reached the pumps. Petrol is now seven cents more expensive than it was on February 28, at €1.56 a

litre, while diesel has risen much more steeply, climbing 45 cents to €1.89.

That has changed the numbers for everyday drivers. According to Faconauto (Spain's car dealership association), charging an electric car at home for 100 kilometres can cost between €1.50 and €2, compared with €8 to €12 for a petrol vehicle. Transport & Environment says the extra cost of refuelling a petrol car is now expected to be five times higher than for an electric car.

Raúl Morales, communications director of Faconauto, says buyers are noticing. "Dealers

are telling us that customers are increasingly receptive to electric technologies," he said, adding that the crisis has arrived just as electric vehicle registrations were already growing quickly. The government's Auto+ Plan, which offers subsidies of up to €4,500 for these models, is also helping to support interest.

The figures back that up. In March, registrations of pure electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles rose 27.4% compared with February. Interest in the used market has also jumped by 72% compared with the same period last year.

Even so, the shift to electric still faces an obstacle. Spain's charging network has grown by 18.8% in the past year and now has more than 55,000 operational points, according to ANFAC. But there are still around 17,000 charging stations, about 24% of the total, that are out of service, broken or not yet connected to

the grid.

That gap matters if Spain wants more drivers to make the switch. For now, the price of petrol and diesel is doing part of the work for the electric car market, but experts say the charging network will need to improve quickly if the trend is to keep growing.



Latest Nissan Qashqai arrives in Spain

The Nissan Qashqai, one of the most established contenders in Europe's fiercely competitive C-SUV segment, is entering 2026 with a significantly revised lineup. Nissan has announced a comprehensive restructuring of its flagship crossover's range in Spain, introducing pricing, updated trims, and a streamlined engine offering as it prepares for the coming sales period.

The changes arrive roughly two years after the third-generation Qashqai underwent a mid-cycle refresh. That earlier update brought notable revisions to design and onboard technology, alongside improvements to the brand's electrified powertrain

strategy—particularly the introduction of an enhanced e-Power system.

Now, Nissan has refined the model range further, focusing on simplification and efficiency. The new Qashqai lineup will be offered in four core trim levels: Acenta, N-Connecta, Tekna, and Tekna Premium. In the process, the previously available N-Design special edition has been discontinued. Meanwhile, the Tekna trim, which had temporarily disappeared from the configurator, makes a return to the lineup.

Beyond trim restructuring, the mechanical offering has also been revised. While the Qashqai

continues to emphasize electrification across its range, Nissan has removed one of its previous entry-level engines. The 1.33-litre DIG-T petrol engine producing 140 horsepower is no longer available, effectively raising the baseline performance of the model.

Taking its place as the entry point is a more powerful 1.33-litre DIG-T engine delivering 158 horsepower. This four-cylinder unit incorporates 12-volt mild-hybrid (MHEV) technology, aligning with Nissan's broader push toward electrified mobility. Buyers can pair this engine with either a six-speed manual gearbox or an eight-speed Xtronic automatic

transmission. Front-wheel drive remains standard, although all-wheel drive is available as an option on automatic variants.

For customers seeking a more electrified driving experience, Nissan continues to offer its distinctive e-Power system. Unlike conventional hybrids, the e-Power setup uses an electric motor to drive the wheels, while a petrol engine acts solely as a generator. This configuration delivers 190 horsepower and 330 Nm of torque and is exclusively available with front-wheel drive.

All versions of the Qashqai benefit from electrification to varying degrees, ensuring they qualify for

Spain's DGT ECO environmental label. This designation provides drivers with a range of mobility advantages, particularly in urban areas with emissions restrictions.

With pricing now confirmed for the Spanish market, Nissan's latest adjustments position the Qashqai to remain competitive in a segment increasingly defined by electrification and evolving consumer expectations. The revised range underscores the brand's strategy of simplifying choices while reinforcing its commitment to hybrid technology as a bridge toward full electrification.

Spain already has more than 55,000 public charging points for electric cars

Spain's transition toward cleaner mobility is gaining momentum, with electrified vehicles steadily expanding their presence on the roads. New data from the first quarter of 2026 shows a notable rise in sales of hybrid and fully electric cars, alongside continued—though uneven—growth in the country's charging infrastructure.

Between January and March, approximately 30,700 electric vehicles were registered in Spain, marking a 40% increase compared with the same period in 2025. While fully electric models are growing quickly, mild-hybrid vehicles still dominate the electrified segment, accounting for the largest share of new registrations. This trend highlights a gradual shift in consumer preferences, as buyers balance environmental concerns with

affordability and practicality.

Infrastructure development has progressed in parallel, albeit at a slower pace than in previous years. According to the latest barometer from the Spanish automotive association Anfac, 2,005 new public charging points were installed during the first quarter. This brings the national total to 55,077 chargers, representing a 3.8% increase. Although this indicates continued expansion, it falls short of the average quarterly growth seen over the past two years.

Regional disparities remain a key challenge. Of Spain's provinces, 18 have already met or surpassed their charging capacity targets for 2026. However, 12 provinces are still operating below 50% of their projected goals, underscoring uneven infra-

structure distribution across the country. This imbalance could slow adoption in less-developed areas, where access to reliable charging remains limited.

Encouragingly, the quality of infrastructure is improving as well as its quantity. Of the newly installed charging points, 15% are classified as very high power—capable of delivering 250 kW or more. A total of 309 such units were added in the first quarter alone, accounting for 43% of all high-power chargers installed during 2025. These faster chargers are critical for reducing charging times and making electric vehicles more practical for long-distance travel.

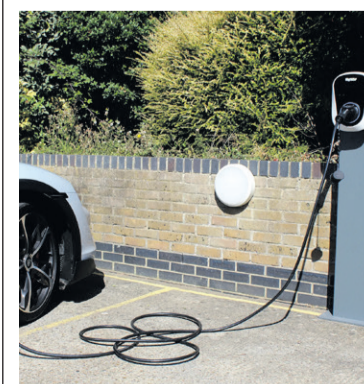
Despite these gains, Anfac points to a significant untapped opportunity. More than 17,000 charging points have already

been installed but are not yet operational due to administrative, technical, or regulatory delays. If these inactive units were brought online, Spain's public charging network would expand dramatically to over 72,000 points, providing a substantial boost to accessibility and user confidence.

Private sector investment is also playing a growing role in the expansion of charging infrastructure. The network operated by Tesla continues to grow steadily. The company now operates 100 Supercharger stations across Spain, each featuring an average of 16 charging stalls. These high-speed stations are strategically located to support long-distance travel and complement the broader public network.

Overall, Spain's electric mobility

landscape is evolving, driven by rising vehicle sales and ongoing infrastructure development. While progress is evident, particularly in high-power charging, challenges remain in ensuring balanced regional coverage and activating existing installations. Addressing these gaps will be crucial for sustaining the country's shift toward cleaner transportation in the years ahead.



Aries (21 Mar – 19 Apr)

Life

Your week starts with a bang, Aries! Channel your inner superhero and tackle that to-do list. Just remember, even Superman takes a day off—balance ambition with a little relaxation. Treat yourself to an ice cream break or a new book.

Mind

This week, Aries, focus on creating a morning routine that energizes you. A short walk or a few minutes of journaling can set a positive tone for your day. Embrace new projects with your usual enthusiasm, but remember to balance it with relaxation time.

Heart

This week, Aries, your fiery nature is shining bright. Allow your passion to draw loved ones closer, but remember to listen as much as you speak. A simple gesture of kindness could make all the difference with someone special. Plan a surprise to keep the spark alive.

Taurus (20 Apr – 20 May)

Life

Taurus, this week you're the Beyoncé of your universe, so put on that crown and shine! Focus on nurturing your creative skills. Maybe try your hand at a new recipe or craft project. Remember, it's about the journey, not the Pinterest-perfect outcome.

Mind

Taurus, your calm and steady nature will help you handle challenges this week. Try dedicating some time to a creative hobby that brings you joy. Stay grounded by organizing your space, allowing for a more peaceful mind.

Heart

Taurus, patience is your secret weapon in love this week. Slow down and appreciate the small moments with those you cherish. Consider spending quality time together on a shared hobby or interest. A little compromise could turn disagreements into fruitful discussions.

Gemini (21 May – 20 Jun)

Life

You're juggling more than a circus performer this week, Gemini! Keep those communication skills sharp and use your charm to create new connections. A witty remark might just land you a new friend—or at least a free coffee!

Mind

Gemini, your social energy is high, so connect with friends who uplift you. Dive into a book or podcast that broadens your horizons. To maintain balance, set aside quiet time to recharge your vibrant mind.

Heart

Dear Gemini, communication is your forte, so use it to express your feelings this week. Engage in heartfelt conversations to strengthen your bonds. A fun outing or a new activity can rejuvenate your relationships. Remember, laughter can be the best glue.

Cancer (21 Jun – 22 Jul)

Life

Cancer, your home is your castle, but it wouldn't hurt to add a drawbridge for some visitors this week! Invite friends over for a cozy evening or try a virtual hangout. Sharing your safe space will multiply the warmth.

Mind

Cancer, this week is perfect for nurturing your home environment. Simple acts like rearranging furniture or adding new plants can boost your mood. Spend quality time with loved ones to deepen emotional connections.

Heart

Cancer, nurture is your nature, and this week, those around you will appreciate your caring touch. Whether it's family or a romantic partner, show them love through thoughtful actions. A cozy night in could be just what everyone needs. Trust your instincts to guide you.

Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)

Life

Leo, your roar is louder this week, so use your voice to advocate for something you believe in. Just remember to listen as well as you roar! A small adventure, like a nature walk, will refuel your spirit.

Mind

Leo, your confidence is shining brightly this week. Channel your creativity into a project that excites you. While you're busy lighting up the room, remember to also enjoy some downtime in a peaceful setting.

Heart

Leo, your generous spirit draws people to you this week. Consider hosting a small gathering to celebrate your loved ones. Your warmth and charisma light

up any room, so share it freely. Just ensure you also take a moment for self-reflection to stay in tune with your needs.

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sep)

Life

Virgo, you're the detective of the zodiac this week, uncovering details like a pro. Put your analytical superpowers to good use, perhaps by organizing a part of your life that's been chaotic. Reward yourself with a treat, like a favourite snack or a mystery novel.

Mind

Virgo, this is a great week to streamline your routines. Make a to-do list to stay organized and avoid feeling overwhelmed. Prioritize a little 'me-time' with a favourite activity to rejuvenate your spirit.

Heart

Virgo, organization might be your strength, but let spontaneity take the lead this week. Surprise your partner or friends with an unexpected adventure. Flexibility can lead to delightful discoveries. Remember, a little imperfection can add charm to your relationships.

Libra (23 Sep – 22 Oct)

Life

This week, Libra, you're tipping the scales of charm and diplomacy. Plan a casual get-together or a game night; your social skills are top-notch right now. If a decision arises, trust that your heart may provide the best compass.

Mind

Libra, balance is your strength, and this week it's important to apply it to your schedule. Consider incorporating gentle exercise like yoga or stretching to soothe both body and mind. Embrace opportunities for social harmony.

Heart

Libra, harmony is key in your relationships this week. Focus on creating balance by addressing any lingering issues with grace. Your diplomatic nature will help you find fairness and compromise. A serene environment can enhance your emotional connections.

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)

Life

Scorpio, your mysterious allure is at its peak! Use this magnetic energy to dive deep into a passion project. If you feel stuck, a little music therapy with your favourite tunes might be the spark you

need.

Mind

Scorpio, your intensity can be a powerful tool if channelled positively this week. Explore your passions deeply, but also take breaks to enjoy nature or meditative activities. Connect with your inner self to maintain emotional balance.

Heart

Scorpio, your intensity can be magnetic this week. Use this energy to deepen your connections with those you love. Share a secret or explore a new depth in your relationship. Remember, vulnerability can be a strength, not a weakness.

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)

Life

Sagittarius, adventure is calling, and you're ready to answer! Whether it's a spontaneous trip or trying something new locally, the key is exploration. Remember, a well-packed snack bag is an adventurer's best friend.

Mind

Sagittarius, your adventurous spirit is calling! Plan a small getaway or explore a new local spot. Balance your curiosity with some reflection time to ensure you're staying true to your personal goals.

Heart

Sagittarius, your adventurous spirit can lead to exciting opportunities in love this week. Plan a spontaneous trip or a day of exploration with someone special. Your optimism is contagious, so spread it widely. Keep an open mind, and new experiences will enrich your bonds.

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)

Life

Capricorn, this is your week to be the zen master of practicality. Your steady approach will help others, so offer your wisdom where needed. Use some spare moments for a mini escape—perhaps a good book or a calming walk.

Mind

Capricorn, focus on long-term goals and take steady steps this week. Your discipline is your ally, but make room for spontaneous moments that bring joy. A little laughter with friends can be a wonderful stress reliever.

Heart

Capricorn, this week calls for

dedication to your relationships. Show your appreciation by doing something meaningful for a loved one. Whether it's a heartfelt note or a homemade meal, your efforts won't go unnoticed. Invest time in building long-lasting memories.

Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)

Life

Aquarius, your ideas are flowing like a creative river this week. Share them and watch them grow into something bigger. Even a quirky idea might find a place, so don't hold back. A little bit of spontaneity could lead to unexpected fun!

Mind

Aquarius, your innovative ideas are flowing, so jot them down as they come. Foster community spirit by engaging in group activities or collaborative projects. Balance your social pursuits with time to dream and reflect in solitude.

Heart

Aquarius, your creative energy is flowing this week, perfect for adding excitement to your relationships. Explore a new art or music project with friends or your partner. Allow your uniqueness to inspire those around you. Embrace the joy of sharing your passions.

Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)

Life

Pisces, your intuition is your best guide this week. Dive into your dreams and let them inspire your reality. Maybe start a dream journal for those untapped genius moments. A bit of water—whether a bath or a beach visit—will keep you refreshed.

Mind

Pisces, your sensitivity is a gift this week. Nourish your soul with music and art that move you. Set personal boundaries to protect your energy, and seek out inspiring conversations that fuel your imagination.

Heart

Pisces, your empathetic nature makes you a wonderful confidant this week. Offer a listening ear to those who need it, and your relationships will flourish. Try expressing your feelings through a creative outlet like writing or painting. Your compassion is your greatest strength.


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San Miguel Golf

Slow, slow, quick, quick, slow but somehow, we forgot about the quick bits on our round today. It was a Bogey Shield (Par plus 5) and to boot there were some singles and doubles knockout competitions taking place. But the upside was it was a glorious, blue-skyed 26c day and that made it slightly better.

We are always welcomed very warmly at this very Spanish course by Antonio and his staff. They look after us very well overall. The ground staff are doing their best with the busy season (even though it's actually low season) which was evident on the greens that were being sanded to repair and feed as we were playing. Overall, they ran a bit slow, but the course was generally in good nick. Finishing a little later than anticipated, there were some hurried de-

partures to make those important dinner dates. There was a birthday celebrated with a yummy chocolate cake, a rambunctious birthday chorus and a lovely gift given to the Secretary, Sandra, who celebrated her birthday yesterday and was very grateful for all the effort. Some healthy net scores today, with the best of the bunch as follows:

Gold: Dave Rowe (76 net)

Silver: Charlie Jackson (74 net)

Bronze: Carmel McCann (72 net – best net score of the day)

A special mention to John Osborne with the best gross score of the day of 85 – he's back...

Singles knockout matchplay results: Charlie Jackson beat Gavin Parke 5&4, Denis Ryan beat Mick Pryke 8&6. There was another singles but the result hasn't been notified to the author as yet! Doubles

knockout matchplay results: Dave Rowe and John Osborne beat Lee Eastman and Mick Roscoe 3&2. One "Twos" today for Carmel McCann – well done! "Nearest the Pins" for Denis Ryan (5th), Charlie Jackson (8th), Ivan Hanak (10th) and Guy Wade-Palmer (17th) who also took the football card with Manchester City. Nick Goodwin was back after a while away and obviously felt the need to take home the "McBride Bottle" – enjoy – you saved a few others who thought they were in the mix! Keep up to date with SMGS at www.smgs.org. Sponsorship opportunities are available for upcoming games. If interested, contact smgs91info@gmail.com. We are also proud to be supported by Michaela Schmidt at www.golf-hotspots.com for all your golf travel needs.



Winners (sorry for the glare!) (L-R): Rowe (Gold), The Tango Twins (Lee Eastman & Mick Roscoe) and Charlie Jackson (Silver). Good job all.

Rowe (Gold), The Tango Twins (Lee Eastman & Mick Roscoe) and Charlie Jackson (Silver). Good job all.

Michelin-starred chef hosts at Las Colinas Golf & Country Club

A high-end gastronomic event brought together two leading chefs this week at Las Colinas Golf & Country Club, as part of its 15th anniversary celebrations and an ongoing culinary series highlighting Mediterranean cuisine.

The Italian restaurant il Palco hosted the second evening of the series "Tres miradas, un Mediterráneo" (Three Perspectives, One Mediterranean), featuring a collaborative "four-hands" dinner led by Michelin-starred chef Alejandro Ibáñez and resident chef José Dolera.

Under the theme "Roots of the Land," the chefs created a tasting menu that reinterpreted the flavours of southeastern Spain through a modern lens. The dishes focused on local ingredients—vineyards, produce, and regional climate—elevated through technical precision and creative execution.

Dolera emphasised the importance of collaboration, particularly with Bodega Barahonda, whose wines were paired with the menu. He noted that the event reflected a shared philosophy centred on authenticity, territory, and emotional connection through food and wine.

Ibáñez, whose restaurant Barahonda also holds two Repsol Suns, highlighted the synergy between his culinary approach and the ethos of Las Colinas. He described the event as an opportunity to showcase a unified vision where cuisine, landscape, and viticulture are closely intertwined.

The initiative forms part of a broader effort to position

Las Colinas Golf & Country Club as a leading gastronomic destination in the Mediterranean, integrating fine dining into its overall experience.

Final Event Scheduled for May

The culinary series will conclude on 20th May with a third and final dinner featuring Italian chef Fabio Morisi, alongside Dolera. The closing menu, titled "Italia KM Zero," will focus on Italian culinary traditions, locally sourced ingredients, and sustainability.

The series began in March with chef Ferdinando Bernardi of Casa Bernardi in Benissa, setting the tone for a trilogy of events centred on blending tradition with innovation.

According to Food & Beverage Director Gabriele Wüthrich, the goal of the series is to create culinary experiences that connect heritage and modernity while placing the region's identity at the forefront.

As Las Colinas marks its 15th anniversary, initiatives like this continue to reinforce its commitment to high-end gastronomy as a defining element of its brand.



Spain set for blockbuster World Cup Clash

Defending European champions Spain are set for a major test at the upcoming FIFA World Cup, drawn into a challenging Group H alongside South American giants Uruguay.

The group also features Saudi Arabia—fresh from their famous upset over Lionel Messi's Argentina in 2022—and tournament newcomers Cape Verde.

The standout fixture of the group will take place outside the United States, with Spain facing Uruguay in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 26th. The clash is widely anticipated as one of the marquee games of the group stage. Historically, the two former world champions have met twice at the World Cup, with both encounters ending in draws in 1950 and 1990.

Spain arrive at the tournament in strong form, having bounced back from their round-of-16 exit at the 2022 World Cup—where they were eliminated by Morocco—by winning UEFA Euro 2024 in Germany. They also lifted the 2023 Nations League title and finished runners-up to Portugal in the 2025 edition.

Despite recent success, Spain

have struggled to replicate their 2010 World Cup triumph, failing to progress beyond the last 16 in subsequent tournaments. The team is currently managed by Luis de la Fuente, who took over following the departure of Luis Enrique after the 2022 campaign.

A new generation of talent is expected to lead Spain's charge. Lamine Yamal, just 18, is set to

make his World Cup debut in attack, while teenage defender Pau Cubarsi is tipped to anchor the back line. Midfielder Pedri will play a central role, likely alongside Rodri, who is expected to return after recovering from a knee injury.

Lost Skills: the everyday talents that technology left behind

Not long ago, daily life depended on a quiet set of practical skills—small acts of memory, coordination and patience that shaped how people communicated, travelled and worked. Today, many of those once-essential abilities have faded into the background, replaced by digital tools that promise speed and convenience. In gaining efficiency, however, something else may have been left behind: a kind of independence that required people to rely more on themselves than on their devices.

Take memorising phone numbers. Before smartphones became extensions of our hands, remembering dozens of numbers was second nature. Friends, family, workplaces—all stored mentally or scribbled into small notebooks carried everywhere. Now, devices do the remembering for us. While undeniably convenient, it raises a quiet question: what happens when the battery dies and there's no backup?

Navigation tells a similar story. Reading a paper map was once a rite of passage, a skill that demanded spatial awareness and a bit of intuition. Getting lost was part of the process—and often how people truly learned their surroundings. Today, apps like Google Maps guide users turn by turn, while voice assistants such as Siri eliminate the need to think twice. The trade-off is clear: fewer wrong turns, but perhaps less understanding of the journey itself.

Even the act of writing has transformed. Typewriters, once the backbone of offices and newsrooms, required rhythm, precision and a tolerance for imperfection. Every keystroke mattered. Modern computers have rendered them largely obsolete, though a small community still finds comfort in their tactile charm. Similarly, cursive handwriting—once a defining marker of education—is slipping away, increasingly replaced by typed text and quick messages.

For many younger people, reading cursive can feel like deciphering a foreign language.

Financial habits have shifted just as dramatically. Writing cheques, once a routine part of managing money, has been overtaken by instant digital payments. The ritual of signing, recording and physically depositing a cheque has all but disappeared, replaced by taps and transfers that happen in seconds.

Driving, too, reflects this gradual shift away from manual skill. Operating a manual transmission once required coordination and focus, a physical dialogue between driver and machine. As automatic

cars—and even self-driving technology—become more common, that interaction is fading, turning driving into a more passive experience.

Communication has perhaps seen the most visible transformation. Landline phones, once central to every household, anchored conversations to a specific place. Messages were shared among family members, often written down and left in plain sight. Today, mobile phones have made communication immediate and personal, removing the shared experience altogether.

Access to information has undergone a revolution of its own. Encyclopaedias once filled

shelves, offering carefully curated knowledge that required time and effort to explore. Now, platforms like Wikipedia and search engines deliver answers instantly. Even dictionaries—once essential tools for understanding language—have been replaced by quick online searches, complete with audio pronunciations at the click of a button.

Some skills have disappeared almost entirely. Telephone operators, for example, once played a crucial role in connecting calls, especially when direct dialling failed. Today, their work survives only in niche environments, quietly overtaken by automation. These lost skills are more than

nostalgic curiosities. They reflect a broader shift in how people interact with the world—less hands-on, more mediated by technology. While modern tools have made life easier in countless ways, they have also reshaped the abilities we value and the ones we let go. The question isn't whether progress is good or bad, but what we lose when convenience replaces capability—and whether those old skills might still have something to teach us.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Word Ladder — Medium Solution

1	PLANT	START
2	PLANS	
3	CLANS	
4	CLAWS	
5	CLOWS	
6	CROWS	
7	CROWN	END

Word Ladder — Hard Solution

1	GARDEN	START
2	FARDEN	
3	FARDED	
4	PARDED	
5	PARKED	
6	PACKED	
7	PACKET	
8	POCKET	END

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4	7	3	6	1	5	8	9	2
5	1	9	2	7	8	3	6	4

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C	O	Q	S	J	Q	D	G	W	M	R	T	J	H	C	P	C	K	D	Q
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Benidorm is about to spend €15 million fixing up its old bullring



Benidorm is preparing to spend €15 million transforming its old bullring into a modern cultural and community hub, in a move that says as much about the town's future as it does about its past.

Next week, the city council will bring forward a proposal to launch the tender process for the ambitious 'Benidorm Open Arena' project, a plan to turn the ageing venue into a multifunctional space for concerts, youth activities, sport and social events.

The project has already secured €6.4 million in European Regional Development Fund backing through the EDIL programme, but that still leaves the council needing to find almost €9 million from its own budget.

For a city often caricatured as little more than sunburnt tourists, mobility scooters and stag do's in matching T-shirts, it is a surprisingly serious investment in civic infrastructure.

Mayor Toni Pérez has described the project as "ambitious", saying it will create new spaces for "culture, knowledge, entertainment and community life" while also improving links between the Els Tolls and Foietes-Colonia Madrid neighbourhoods. And in fairness, he may have a point.

The Benidorm bullring is not exactly a bustling cathedral of traditional bullfighting these days. There is no regular bullfighting season, and the venue is already used more often for concerts and multicultural events than for matadors and capes.

So rather than preserving a fading symbol for the sake of nostalgia, the council is effectively acknowledging what many places across Spain are quietly coming to terms with: old civic spaces need to evolve if they are to survive.

What exactly is planned for the Benidorm bullring?

The heart of the plan is 'Arena Live', which will see the bullring itself renovated and turned into a large flexible venue for cultural, sporting and social uses.

Alongside that is 'Arena Joven', a new youth centre designed as an accessible and inclusive space for training, leisure and participation.

Then there is 'Arena Encuentro', aimed at improving the urban environment around the site and making it easier to move between outlying neighbourhoods and the town centre via l'Aigüera.

In other words, this is not just a facelift. It is an attempt to stitch together parts of the town that have long felt disconnected, while giving younger residents something more meaningful than yet another place to queue for a cocktail in a plastic yard glass.

Of course, spending nearly €9 million of local money on a bullring revamp is bound to raise eyebrows, especially at a time when councils everywhere are under pressure over housing, services and rising costs.

But the city argues that the joint design-and-build tender makes financial sense precisely because the structure is

in such poor condition.

Bringing the past into the future

The project's technical complexity is one of the main reasons the council wants the construction company involved from the outset. With old buildings like this, problems such as corrosion, hidden cracks or deeper structural weaknesses often only become clear once work begins.

Bringing builders in at the design stage, the council says, should help avoid nasty surprises later and reduce the risk of spiralling costs. Whether the sceptics are reassured by that remains to be seen.

Still, there is something telling about the symbolism here. A bullring, once a monument to an older Spain, may soon become a place for young people, concerts, public events and better neighbourhood connections.

For a town built on reinvention, perhaps that is exactly the point. Benidorm has always understood that survival depends on knowing when to change.

And now, at a cost of €15 million, it is betting that even its concrete relics can have a second act.

Images: Ayuntamiento de Benidorm



Buying a home locally requires more than you think

The real estate market in the province of Alicante remains under significant pressure as rising prices and housing supply continue to make homeownership increasingly difficult for local residents.

Despite relatively stable financing conditions compared with previous years, demand for housing continues to outstrip supply, driving prices higher and forcing many would-be buyers to postpone their plans. Industry data indicates that even with improved mortgage conditions, prospective buyers still need savings of more than €60,000 to access a property in the region.

The situation mirrors broader trends seen in major Spanish cities such as Madrid, Barcelona, San Sebastián and Palma de Mallorca, where high property costs require disproportionately high income levels. However, Alicante is now approaching similar affordability pressures, despite having lower average salaries than many of these urban centres.

According to data from the mortgage comparison platform iAhorro in its "Real Estate Tension Barometer," a resident of Alicante would need to earn at least €2,170 net per month to comfortably afford an average mortgage. This figure is nearly €300 above the national average monthly net salary.

The analysis shows that a typical mortgage in the city requires monthly

payments of around €759, which would represent roughly 35% of income—considered the upper limit of financial sustainability by lending institutions.

The report also estimates that the average price of housing in the provincial capital is close to €222,000, with mortgages averaging more than €177,000.

While housing availability has increased in some segments, the report notes that this has not translated into improved affordability. A significant share of available properties remains concentrated in higher-price brackets, placing them beyond the reach of many households.

As a result, even in a context of greater supply in parts of the market, the financial effort required to purchase a home remains high, limiting the impact on overall accessibility.

Alicante, along with nearby cities such as Elche, continues to attract population growth driven by employment opportunities, migration and investment interest. However, this increased demand has further intensified pressure on the housing market.

The imbalance between supply and demand is now emerging as a key factor shaping the region's real estate landscape, with affordability challenges becoming increasingly pronounced for local buyers.

Iberian Lynx back from the brink

Twenty years ago, the Iberian lynx was considered the most endangered wild cat on the planet, with fewer than 100 individuals surviving in the wild. Today there are 2,401 of them spread across Spain and Portugal, and for the first time the populations in both countries are mixing freely, something conservationists are describing as little short of remarkable.

The turnaround began with captive breeding and reintroduction programmes in the early 2000s, which gradually evolved into a network of wildlife corridors allowing the lynx to move naturally between regions.

The first signs of independent travel appeared in 2019 around Mértola and the Algarve in southern Portugal, and from there the model was rolled out across Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura and Murcia, enabling different population groups to interbreed and strengthen the species' genetic health considerably.

European funding, particularly through the LIFE environmental programme, played a crucial role in creating and maintaining those corridors. Hunters, farmers and local residents have also been brought into the project, with awareness campaigns, murals, sculptures and school workshops in towns across both countries helping to build public understanding of the lynx's ecological value. According to Spain's Ministry for Eco-

logical Transition, the 2,401 animals currently recorded represent a dramatic recovery.

Spain accounts for 2,047 of those, with 942 in Castilla-La Mancha and 836 in Andalucía. Extremadura has 254, while populations in Murcia are still growing, thanks in large part to the reintroduction programme in the Lorca highlands. Portugal has reached a record 354.

Conservationists are keen to point out that the job isn't finished yet, though. Proposed cuts to EU environmental budgets from 2028 onwards could slow the species' expansion, and continued cooperation from rural communities remains essential to the project's long-term success.





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