

Costa Weekly News tm

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Woman dies and three injured in Orihuela Costa house fire

A 77-year-old woman has died and three others have been hospitalised following a house fire in the Los Altos area of Orihuela Costa on Saturday night.

Emergency services were alerted to the incident at approximately 10:00pm on 25 April, when the Emergency Information and Coordination Centre received reports of a fire at a single-family home located at number 4, Calle Tiberiades. A SAMU medical unit, along with firefighters and local police, was immediately dispatched to the scene.

According to the Provincial Consortium of Firefighters of Alicante, the blaze originated in the kitchen of the property, which was occupied by

an elderly English-speaking couple. Although firefighters were able to bring the flames under control relatively quickly, with the operation concluding at 11:45pm, the consequences proved fatal.

The woman, who was inside the home at the time of the fire, suffered severe injuries, including third-degree burns. However, initial indications suggest that she may have gone into cardiac arrest, possibly triggered by smoke inhalation.

Two Local Police patrol cars were the first to arrive at the scene. Upon entering the property, officers found a neighbour already attempting to resuscitate the woman using cardiopulmonary resuscitation

(CPR). The officers immediately took over emergency care and continued resuscitation efforts, utilising a defibrillator carried in their patrol vehicle.

Shortly afterwards, the SAMU medical team arrived and continued advanced life-saving procedures. Paramedics worked intensively for more than 45 minutes, performing resuscitation manoeuvres and other stabilisation techniques in an effort to revive the victim. Despite their efforts, there was no response, and she was pronounced dead at the scene.

In addition to the fatality, three other individuals were treated for smoke inhalation. These included two women, whose ages have not been disclosed, and a

78-year-old man. All three were stabilised at the scene before being transferred to Torrevieja Hospital for further treatment.

While the fire caused significant damage to the kitchen area, the rest of the property was largely unaffected. Authorities have not yet released further details regarding the cause of the fire, and an investigation is expected to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the incident.



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Spain at centre of Nato tensions as Europe shows support

Tensions between the United States and several European allies have cast a shadow over a recent leaders' summit in Cyprus, where discussions initially focused on practical matters such as the European Union's future budget. Instead, the meeting was dominated by a series of overlapping geopolitical crises with direct implications for Spain and its role within international alliances.

Among the key concerns are the continuing war in Ukraine—now in its fifth year following Russia's invasion—and a broader energy and security crisis linked to escalating tensions in the Middle East, particularly involving the United States, Israel and Iran. These developments have increasingly strained transatlantic relations and raised new questions about defence cooperation within NATO.

Spain has found itself at the centre of the latest controversy following reports of a leaked communication attributed to the Pentagon. The document, first reported by Reuters, outlined potential measures against allied countries perceived as not fully supporting US and Israeli actions against Iran. Among the suggestions was the possibility

of punitive steps targeting Spain, including suspension from NATO structures.

Although such a move has no legal basis under NATO treaties—which do not provide for the expulsion of member states—the report has nonetheless triggered diplomatic concern. Any attempt to restrict Spain's participation in NATO operations or leadership roles would require unanimous agreement among all member states, making such action highly unlikely.

The Spanish government has downplayed the significance of the reported communication, emphasising that official policy is based on formal diplomatic channels rather than leaked documents. Pedro Sánchez has maintained that Spain continues to meet its obligations within NATO, while reaffirming its independent foreign policy stance.

Spain's position has been shaped in part by its opposition to recent US and Israeli military actions targeting Iran, which Madrid considers to be contrary to international law. The government has also denied the use of joint US-Spanish military bases for operations linked to the conflict, a decision that has contributed

to friction with Washington.

Further tension stems from defence spending commitments within NATO. Spain remains the only member state to have rejected US calls to increase military expenditure to 5% of GDP, a stance that has drawn criticism from American officials but reflects broader domestic and political priorities.

Despite these disagreements, European partners have expressed strong support for Spain during the Cyprus summit. Several NATO-aligned EU countries reaffirmed that Spain remains a full and integral member of the alliance, underscoring the importance of unity at a time of heightened global instability.

The situation highlights broader challenges within NATO, particularly regarding differing strategic priorities between the United States and European members. Analysts suggest that the alliance's consensus-based structure limits the ability of any single country to impose unilateral decisions, reinforcing the principle of collective defence and shared governance.

Spain unveils €7 billion housing plan

The Spanish government is set to approve a new State Housing Plan this Tuesday April 21, setting out how up to €7 billion will be spent on housing policies across the country between now and 2030.

The new plan represents a significant increase in funding, with a budget three times larger than the previous programme. According to the government, the aim is to improve access to housing by increasing supply, supporting renovations and helping younger people get onto the property ladder.

The funding will be split between the central government and the autonomous communities, with Madrid covering 60% and regional governments contributing the remaining 40%. Once approved, each region will manage its own share of the money and launch specific grant schemes.

How the money will be spent:-

A large portion of the funding will go towards expanding the supply of housing. Around 40% of the budget is earmarked for increasing public housing, with another 30% set aside for property renovations. The rest will be used for programmes aimed at helping young people move out of the family home.

The government explained that this approach is designed to tackle several issues at once, from ageing housing stock to a lack of affordable rental options in many parts of Spain.

Grants for home renovations

A key part of the plan focuses on improving existing properties, particularly by making them more energy

efficient.

Homeowners will be able to access grants of up to €20,500 depending on the type of work carried out, the size of the property and the level of energy savings achieved. Additional support will also be available, including up to €8,000 for structural improvements and up to €13,000 for accessibility upgrades.

For buildings with special status, such as listed properties or those located in historic centres, total support could rise to as much as €30,000.

Incentives to bring empty homes back into use

The plan also looks to increase the number of homes available to rent by targeting vacant properties.

Owners of empty homes could receive up to €35,000 to renovate their property, provided it is then rented out at an affordable price for at least five years. Another option allows owners to hand over management of the property for seven years, with the government covering up to €12,000 for improvements and a further €18,000 to return the property in good condition at the end of the agreement.

Alongside this, there will be support for new public housing developments. Grants of up to €85,000 will be available for building permanent subsidised housing in smaller towns, along with incentives for developers who commit to affordable rental projects.

Support for young buyers and renters

Younger people are another key focus of the plan, particularly those struggling to afford housing.

Under the new measures, people aged up to 35 will be able to apply for grants of up to €15,000 to buy or build their first home in towns with fewer than 20,000 residents. The government hopes this will also help boost populations in rural areas.

Support for renters will also increase, with the rental voucher rising to €300 per month for up to four years. In addition, a new scheme will offer up to €28,800 to help people access subsidised rental housing with the option to buy later on.

New measures to prevent fraud

The plan will also include new rules aimed at improving transparency in how subsidised housing is allocated.

Housing Minister Isabel Rodríguez said an "anti-fraud clause" will be introduced to avoid issues seen in the past, including a controversy in Alicante involving the allocation of social housing.

According to Ms Rodríguez, no housing development will receive public funding unless there is a clear and transparent system in place for applications and allocation. This will include public registries of applicants and allocation processes that can be independently verified, such as lotteries overseen by a notary.

The government explained that these measures are intended to ensure fair access and restore confidence in the system, particularly in areas where concerns have previously been raised about how subsidised housing has been distributed.

Local teachers support an indefinite strike

Teachers across the Valencian Community have announced plans to begin an indefinite strike from 11th May, escalating tensions over what unions describe as the ongoing deterioration of the public education system.

The decision follows a consultation process organised by several trade unions, with backing from regional groups including the Assembly of Teachers of the Vega Baja. The strike call has been jointly promoted by a broad coalition of unions, including STEPV, CCOO, UGT, CGT, CNT, COS and CSO, alongside the Coordinator of Teachers' Assemblies of the Valencian Community.

Union representatives say the move reflects mounting frustration among education professionals, who warn that working and learning conditions have steadily worsened in recent years. Among their primary concerns are increasing workloads, rising class sizes, and what they describe as insufficient staffing levels.

They also highlight ongoing shortcomings in school infrastructure, pointing to inadequate facilities and the lack of proper air conditioning in many centres—an issue that becomes particularly acute during periods of high temperatures. In addition, unions cite shortages of teaching materials and support staff, as well as persistent job insecurity affecting parts of the workforce.

Another key grievance is what organisers describe as a lack of meaningful dialogue

with the regional education authorities. They argue that repeated calls for negotiation have failed to produce effective solutions, prompting the decision to escalate through sustained industrial action.

The Vega Baja teachers' assembly has urged the wider educational community—including students, families and non-teaching staff—to support the strike. Organisers believe broad participation will be essential to applying pressure on authorities and achieving improvements.

They maintain that the issues at stake extend beyond teachers' working conditions, warning that the current situation is also having a direct impact on the quality of education received by students.



Orihuela invests €6 million to modernise street cleaning and waste collection

Orihuela Council has announced a major €6 million investment to modernise its street cleaning and urban waste collection service, one of the public services with the greatest impact on daily life. The overhaul aims to improve the city's appearance, strengthen provision in outlying districts and coastal areas, and make it easier for residents to support a cleaner Orihuela.

The municipality includes 23 outlying districts spread across more than 40 kilometres, as well as over 50 coastal developments. Councillor for Street Cleaning and Waste, Rocío Ortuño, said the service, brought under direct council management in 2012, required significant investment. She said the improvements respond to long-standing demands from residents.

have been added, alongside new containers and a detailed container placement study. Additional equipment includes sweepers, open-bed lorries for bulky waste, a crane vehicle for garden waste, a road washer and inspection vehicles. The council also plans to introduce a fifth recycling container and launch a door-to-door cardboard collection service for businesses.

A new local waste plan and the creation of the municipal company Ecoplan are intended to guide the next phase. The council says the investment will reduce waiting times, improve selective collection and deliver a more efficient, reliable service across the city, its districts and the coast.

Six new lorries and five support vehicles



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Crackdown coming on illegal Alicante Airport car parks

The patchwork of unofficial car parks surrounding Alicante-Elche Miguel Hernández Airport is finally facing a long-overdue shake-up after years of complaints, legal grey areas and dozens of fields turning into makeshift car parks.

What started as a handful of unofficial parking options about 20 years ago has ballooned into something much bigger, and much messier.

Today, there are around 100 separate car parks scattered across the rural land adjacent to Alicante Airport, covering more than one million square metres. That's roughly the size of 140 football pitches, all operating in a space where, technically, this kind of activity isn't supposed to happen at all.

For nearby residents, it's been a slow-burn problem that's gradually got worse. Noise, traffic, cars being left in odd places and even drainage issues have all been linked to these sites. Some operators run relatively organised shuttle services to and from the airport. Others are far more basic, little more than a fenced field and a container to take payments. In some cases, cars have reportedly

been left on roadsides or outside people's homes in the L'Altet area.

The root of the problem is a lack of clear rules. Many of these businesses originally opened with temporary licences that have long since expired. Since then, they've been operating in a kind of legal limbo, not fully authorised, but not properly shut down either.

Now, the City Council, led by mayor Pablo Ruz, is stepping in to sort it out once and for all. The plan is to rewrite the city's main planning document, the PGOU, to specifically deal with airport parking on rural land.

The idea isn't to wipe them all out. Instead, it's about drawing a line and putting proper rules in place. Some of these car parks could be allowed to stay, but only if they meet strict conditions. Others won't make the cut. And crucially, no new ones will be allowed to open until the new system is in place.

Similar to how solar farms are being handled in the area, the council wants to introduce a number of stipulations such as minimum plot sizes, proper spacing from homes

and roads, and measures to reduce the visual and environmental impact, like planting vegetation screens around the car parks.

The council has already started inspecting the existing sites and passing information to the Agencia Valenciana de Protección del Territorio, which deals with planning enforcement. The next step is a public consultation, where residents, businesses and other stakeholders will be able to have their say before anything is finalised.

If everything goes to plan, the new rules could be fully approved within a year.



Torre Vieja tackles road revamp

The Torre Vieja City Council has approved a major infrastructure programme worth more than €6.3 million aimed at upgrading roads and improving pedestrian accessibility across the municipality.

The project will see resurfacing works carried out on over 90 streets and avenues, alongside improvements to pavements, including widening walkways and lowering kerbs at crossings to enhance accessibility for residents. Officials say the initiative is part of a broader effort to modernise urban infrastructure and improve mobility throughout the town.

The contract has been divided into two separate lots, covering the northern and southern sectors of the urban area. Construction company Pavasal has been awarded the southern section of the works, valued at just over €3.26 million, while multinational firm Eiffage will oversee the northern sector, with a contract worth approximately €3.1 million. The overall duration of the works is estimated at around 24 weeks, or six months.

In the southern sector, works will focus primarily on the Acequión neighbourhood, covering the area between Portalicos Street and Pinoso Avenue. More than 40 streets will be affected, with interventions spanning approximately 114,800 square metres. In addition to

resurfacing, the project includes upgrades to pavements, irrigation systems and road markings. Crews will also work to protect and adapt existing infrastructure networks, including water supply, sanitation, electricity, gas and telecommunications.

Specific improvements are also planned in the Mar Azul urbanisation, as well as at several key junctions where accessibility issues have been identified. These targeted interventions aim to address long-standing concerns from residents regarding pedestrian safety and mobility.

Meanwhile, the northern sector will cover more than 50 streets and avenues, with works extending across roughly 108,900 square metres. As in the south, the project will involve resurfacing roads, upgrading pavements and renewing signage, while ensuring the integrity of underground and overhead service networks.

Particular attention will be given to areas surrounding Pedro Lorca Street, the Acequión and Inmaculada public schools, and Áncora Street. In the latter case, the works will include a full replacement of public lighting infrastructure. Áncora Street serves a residential complex with direct access to Avenida de las Cortes Valencianas, and residents have long called for improvements to ageing public services in the area.

In addition to road and pavement upgrades, the project also includes plans to improve access to the Torre Vieja University Hospital. A new access lane will be created from the CV-95 towards the Los Balcones area, following an agreement with the Generalitat Valenciana.

City officials say the initiative represents one of the most significant recent investments in local infrastructure and is expected to deliver safer roads, better accessibility and improved traffic flow across Torre Vieja.



Working in Spain costs more in tax than almost anywhere else in the world

If you've ever looked at your payslip in Spain and wondered where a big chunk of your salary went, a newly published global report has the answer, and it doesn't make for particularly cheerful reading.

According to the 'Taxing Wages 2026' report released this week, more than 41% of what it costs an employer to hire someone in Spain never actually reaches the worker's pocket. That puts Spain well above the global OECD average of 35.1%, and while it's broadly in line with the wider European average, it's still higher than Portugal and comfortably behind only the likes of Belgium, Germany and France on the continent.

The figure has also been creeping upward. In 2024 it stood at 40.6% and by 2025 it had risen to 41.4%, driven mainly by income tax taking a larger share, with employer social security contributions adding to the pressure too. Spain's employer contributions alone account for more than 20% of total labour costs, which makes hiring significantly more expensive than in many comparable economies.

Part of the problem, according to the General Council of Economists, is that Spain's income tax system hasn't been adjusted to keep pace with inflation. That means as wages rise, workers are pushed into paying more tax without any formal rate changes

actually taking place.

In practice, a pay rise doesn't always translate into a meaningful increase in take-home pay, particularly at lower income levels where tax benefits and subsidies start to get reduced or cut off entirely as earnings go up. In some cases, a decent chunk of a pay increase can effectively disappear before it's ever seen.

Spain isn't alone in facing this trend, as tax pressure on wages has risen across most OECD countries for four years running, hitting its highest level since 2016.



Local police dish out more than 800 fines in two years

The Local Police of Orihuela has processed a total of 857 administrative infraction files between April 2024 and April 2026 across the city, coast and districts. According to figures released by the City Council, the most common offence during this two-year period has been the consumption of alcohol in public spaces, accounting for 134 complaints. Noise disturbances rank second, with more than 110 recorded interventions—many occurring during night-time hours. Authorities have also dealt with over 90 incidents involving the dumping of rubbish and debris in streets and vacant plots.

Other reported offences include 42 cases of uncivil behaviour, such as urinating or spitting in public, as well as 36 incidents involving disobedience to authority. Officials say these types of actions frequently contribute to neighbourhood disputes and undermine the normal use of shared public areas.

In total, fines issued over the period amount to approximately €290,000. The council's Citizen Security department noted that these interventions form part of routine policing work aimed at maintaining order and addressing recurring local concerns. Data also shows a marked increase in enforcement activity over time. In 2024, from April onwards, 159 actions were

recorded. This rose significantly in 2025, with 597 interventions, coinciding with a reinforcement of police presence. In the first months of 2026 alone, officers have already carried out more than 100 actions. While incidents have been reported throughout Orihuela, a higher concentration has been observed in the city centre. Residential neighbourhoods have also seen frequent interventions, mainly linked to noise complaints, while leisure areas tend to generate repeated infractions related to alcohol consumption and public disorder.

Authorities attribute the ability to act more decisively to the municipal ordinance on citizen coexistence, introduced by the current government team. The regulation provides a legal framework for addressing behaviours that disrupt daily life in public spaces. Mónica Pastor, Councillor for Citizen Security, said the ordinance has been essential in strengthening police action. She noted that it enables officers to respond "with greater clarity and security" to issues affecting coexistence and emphasised its role in tackling everyday problems such as noise, littering and public drinking. Pastor added that continued enforcement and visible police presence also serve a preventive function, helping to deter repeat offences and improve overall quality of life across the municipality's neighbourhoods.

Orihuela Costa's most flood-prone waterways cleared

Orihuela City Council has launched a new round of cleaning and maintenance work on waterways along Orihuela Costa, targeting three channels that play a key role in draining rainwater away from the coastal area during heavy downpours.

Work is currently under way on the Nacimiento River near Campoamor, the Rambla de las Estacas in Playa Flamenca and the Barranco Rubio ravine, also in Campoamor.

All three have been identified as priorities due to a build-up of invasive vegetation, sediment, plant debris and waste that has reduced their capacity to drain water effectively, raising the risk of flooding in nearby residential areas. The work involves mechanised clearing, riverbed cleaning and the removal of accumulated waste and materials.

The coastal works follow earlier interventions carried out inland, where the council has already tackled waterways including the area around the Twin Waterwheels and several ravines including Sanes, Los Muertos, Los Calderones and Bonanza.

The project has a base budget of €232,538 and is expected to take around three months to complete. It's being carried out under an agreement between Orihuela City Council and the Segura Hydrographic Confederation, with the council covering 60% of the costs.

According to the council, the work along Orihuela Costa has a strong preventative focus, with the aim of getting ahead of potential incidents before the next spell of intense rainfall rather than dealing with the consequences afterwards.





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Spain and Mexico move to heal ties in landmark visit

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez met on Saturday in Barcelona, signalling a renewed phase in relations after years of diplomatic strain rooted in disagreements over Spain's colonial legacy.

The leaders held talks on the sidelines of the fourth In Defence of Democracy summit, which brought together progressive figures from about 15 countries to address the rise of far-right and illiberal movements.

Sheinbaum's visit marks the first by a Mexican president to Spain in eight years and reflects a broader effort to repair ties that had deteriorated since 2019. Relations worsened under former Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who had urged Spain to apologise

for abuses committed during the colonial era—an appeal directed at both the Spanish monarchy and the Vatican that went unanswered, fuelling a prolonged dispute.

Speaking on arrival, Sheinbaum sought to minimise the rift. "There is no diplomatic crisis, there never was one," she said, while stressing the importance of recognising Indigenous peoples' historical experiences. After meeting Sánchez, she added that both the Spanish government and monarchy had made gestures of rapprochement, which Mexico acknowledges, even as it maintains its stance on confronting colonial-era abuses.

A key shift came earlier this year when Felipe VI publicly acknowledged that Spain's conquest of the Americas led to the "abuse" of

Indigenous populations—an unprecedented statement that helped ease tensions. The monarch had previously resisted issuing a formal apology, contributing to a diplomatic low in 2024 when he was not invited to Sheinbaum's inauguration. Spain, in turn, broke with tradition by declining to send a representative.

Recent moves from both sides indicate a thaw. Mexico has since invited Felipe VI to attend a World Cup event this summer, while Sheinbaum extended an invitation to Sánchez for the next edition of the summit, scheduled to be held in Mexico next year.

Spain's Economy Minister, Carlos Cuerpo, described Sheinbaum's presence as "a very important and positive sign" of improving relations, pointing to opportunities for deeper

cooperation in energy, infrastructure and finance.

Sánchez and Sheinbaum later held a private meeting lasting nearly an hour. Writing on the platform X, Sánchez said the two discussed global affairs and the importance of strengthening ties between Mexico and the European Union, adding that both sides agreed to deepen their "special cultural, economic and social" relationship.

While Sánchez avoided revisiting past disputes publicly, the tone of the meeting—and the symbolism of Sheinbaum's visit—suggest a deliberate effort by both governments to move beyond historical tensions and reinforce bilateral cooperation.



Two workers killed in Benidorm scaffolding collapse



Two construction workers aged 26 and 45 have died after scaffolding collapsed from the facade of an 18-storey building in Ibiza Street, Benidorm. Emergency services were alerted at 10.49am last Wednesday. Fire crews, including a command unit, rescue van and turntable ladder from the Benidorm station, attended alongside a SAMU unit and a basic life support am-

bulance. Paramedics confirmed both men had died at the scene. A third worker managed to avoid falling. According to emergency services, he climbed back into the building through a balcony and was not injured. Firefighters worked to clear debris and secure the area after the structure fell from around the middle of the building, scattering rubble across the street.

Benidorm Council declared a day of official mourning with a three-minute silence which took place outside the Town Hall the following day. Mayor Toni Pérez expressed his condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the victims, while the Mayor of Santomera in Murcia confirmed that one of the men was a resident of the town.

Torre Vieja flats fire

A fire broke out in a residential building on Virgen de la Paloma Street in Torre Vieja, forcing the evacuation of all residents from the five-storey property as emergency crews worked to bring the blaze under control.

According to initial reports, the fire started in a first-floor apartment and quickly spread from the balcony, sending flames and a thick column of smoke into the air. The exterior façade of the building was also affected, with the fire clearly visible from the street.

Firefighters prioritised the safe evacuation of occupants and acted to prevent the

flames from spreading to neighbouring flats and communal areas. Crews were deployed rapidly and began containment and extinguishing efforts upon arrival.

No injuries have been reported so far, though the operation remains ongoing and authorities have not yet indicated when it will be fully concluded.

The response includes a command unit, a heavy urban fire engine and a ladder truck, supported by a team from the Torre Vieja fire station consisting of a sergeant, a corporal and six firefighters.





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Ryanair introduces earlier check-in times across Spain and beyond

Ryanair has announced a shake-up to its check-in process that means some passengers will need to arrive at the airport a little earlier than they're used to. From November 10, the airline is bringing its check-in closing time forward by 20 minutes, moving it from 40 minutes before departure to a full hour before the flight.

The change applies to all airports in Ryanair's network, including those across Spain, and covers both check-in desks and baggage drop-off.

According to the Dublin-based airline, the idea behind the move is to give passengers more breathing room to get through airport security and passport control, cutting down on the number of people who end up missing their flight because they're stuck in a queue.

It's worth noting that the change will only really affect those who are checking luggage in. According to Ryanair, that's roughly 20% of its passengers. Everyone else, the 80% travelling with hand luggage only, won't notice any difference. Those passengers can still check in online before they even leave the house and head straight to the boarding gate when they arrive at the airport.

Ryanair is also rolling out more self-service baggage kiosks across its network, with over 95% of airports set to have them in place by October. The kiosks let

passengers check in their bags and print their own luggage tags, which should help speed things up and keep queues moving.

On the subject of luggage costs, Ryanair currently charges between €18.99 and €59.99 for a checked bag of up to 20kg if you book it online, or between €33.99 and €54.99 if you pay at the airport. If you need a bit more room, a 23kg bag is available to buy online only, priced between €29.99 and €80.99 per flight.

As the airline points out, all checked bags must be handed over at the desk before you go through security and will travel in the aircraft hold. If your bag tips over the weight limit, you'll be looking at an extra €13 per additional kilo.



Five bodies recovered at sea brought into Port of Cartagena

Five bodies recovered at sea by the cruise ship Sapphire Princess have arrived at the Port of Cartagena.

The vessel located the bodies on Wednesday night, around 140 miles east of Cabo de Palos. They were brought on board and transported to Cartagena, where the ship docked earlier this morning.

The Government Delegation has confirmed that an investigation is under way to clarify the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

Officials have not released further details about the identities of the deceased.

Authorities have also stated that it cannot yet be confirmed whether the five are linked to a migrant boat that was rescued by a French vessel on Monday. Five people were found on that drifting boat, three of whom had died. Of the two survivors, one has been arrested on suspicion of involuntary manslaughter and facilitating irregular immigration.



San Miguel cracks down on illegal dumping

San Miguel de Salinas police have issued an €800 fine after identifying the person responsible for dumping rubbish illegally beside bins in the municipality, in a case the council says shows a clear example of environmental vandalism.

The town council confirmed that municipal services were called out immediately after the incident was reported, with teams moving in quickly to clear the waste and restore the area back to normal within a few hours. Local police then tracked down those responsible, leading to the penalty being issued under current regulations.

Officials said the dumping of rubbish in this way "seriously damages the environment and community life" and stressed that it is completely unacceptable behaviour.

The council also used the incident to remind residents that keeping public areas clean is a shared responsibility, and asked for greater cooperation from the community to avoid similar cases happening again.

While this specific case has been dealt with swiftly, it reflects a wider issue seen in many towns across the Costa Blanca and beyond, where rubbish is sometimes left next to bins rather than disposed of

correctly. Residents are often reminded that bulky items such as furniture should not be left on the street without arrangement, and that local councils will usually collect large waste if contacted in advance to schedule a pickup.

However, frustration among residents often comes from overflowing bins, particularly in busy coastal areas during the summer months when tourist numbers increase sharply. In places like Orihuela Costa, complaints about bin capacity and collection frequency have been ongoing for years, with waste sometimes piling up before it can be properly collected.

Despite that, authorities continue to insist that illegal dumping will not be tolerated and say fines will be issued where offenders can be identified.





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Spain requests EU cuts trade ties with Israel

Spain is increasing pressure on the European Union to apply restrictions against Israel after the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, José Manuel Albares, once again proposed at the EU Foreign Affairs Council this Tuesday April 21 that the European bloc suspend its association agreement with Israel or, at least, break it partially.

"The European Union is playing with its credibility," he stated. "What more has to happen for the European Union to be moved?"

Over the weekend, President Pedro Sánchez – who has long been critical of the actions of the State of Israel – made his position clear, urging an end to the conflict and calling for restraint from Israeli leadership.

"I ask those who started this war to

stop it and to rein in Netanyahu," he said, adding that Spain remains a "friendly nation" towards Israel but does not support the actions of its current government.

The Spanish leader argued that any government seen to violate international law and core EU values should not maintain privileged ties with the bloc. "It is as simple as that," he said, appealing to other member states to back Spain's initiative.

However, the diplomatic reality within the EU means that the proposal is, once again, not being passed. Spain formally submitted the request last week alongside Ireland and Slovenia, but approval requires unanimous agreement among all 27 member states, a threshold that is rarely met on sensitive foreign

policy issues.

The truth is that divisions within the bloc remain stark, particularly regarding the Middle East. Countries such as Germany have traditionally maintained strong support for Israel and are considered unlikely to endorse measures as far-reaching as suspending the association agreement. Other nations, including Italy, Austria, Hungary and Czech Republic, are also seen as reluctant to increase pressure on Netanyahu's government.

Even measures with broad backing have proven difficult to pass. EU sanctions targeting violent Israeli settlers in the West Bank, for example, required extensive negotiation before gaining approval.

As an alternative, the proposal has

been floated by several member states, including Spain, that the European Commission partially suspend the association agreement, focusing primarily on trade

This option would not require unanimity and can be adopted by a qualified majority, making it more politically feasible. In practice, it would mean placing higher tariffs on Israeli goods and a reduction in imports.

According to Commission sources, the proposed tariffs could affect Israeli exports to the EU worth around €5.9 billion, with an estimated cost impact of €227 million. It could be a powerful tool for reducing Israeli funds which can be used for its war efforts, largely because the economic relationship between the two sides remains asymmet-

rical. Trade with Israel represents just 0.8% of the EU's total external trade, whereas the EU accounts for approximately 32% of Israel's.



Torre Vieja Health Department reports rising demand



The Torre Vieja Health Department has reported increased pressure on services during 2025, with the protected population rising to 225,705 people, up 4.7% on 2024. More than half of residents are foreign nationals and 28% are aged over 65, the highest proportion in the Valencian Community.

Primary care consultations

exceeded 1.89 million, up 5.8%, while hospital outpatient visits rose to 252,033. Hospital emergency attendances climbed to 89,413, continuing a steady annual increase. Bed occupancy across the hospital's 270 beds averaged more than 85%.

Despite higher demand, surgical activity fell by 15.5% to 9,393 operations. The report

links the drop to a shortage of anaesthetists and the early end of a productivity programme. Average waiting times were longest in Urology, at 264 days, and Dermatology, at 243 days. The average wait for less urgent Priority 3 surgery rose to 70 days, although this remains below the regional average.

The annual budget reached

€237.9 million, up 3.87%, with staff costs accounting for more than half. Investment increased to €4.13 million. Managers say priorities for 2026 include reducing waiting lists, recruiting anaesthetists and strengthening primary care.

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Spain air travel row grows

Airlines and aviation experts are sending very mixed signals right now, leaving holidaymakers in Spain unsure whether they should be booking flights quickly or not worrying at all.

On one hand, Spain's airline sector is insisting that there is no immediate danger to flight operations, with strong supply chains and contracts in place to keep aircraft in the air. On the other, European industry warnings are growing louder about jet fuel availability and sharply rising costs, with suggestions that prices could keep climbing and even impact routes if tensions continue.

The Spanish Airline Association (ALA) president Javier Gándara explained this week that kerosene prices have "doubled in recent weeks" due to the conflict in Iran, but stressed that the real

issue is cost rather than availability. He said supply at Spanish airports is "guaranteed" thanks to hedging contracts and domestic refining capacity, adding that "we do not anticipate any further cancellations".

According to the ALA, only around 1.5% of air traffic would be directly affected by the current situation, with Spain also less exposed to Middle Eastern oil imports than other countries. Gándara pointed out that around 80% of aviation fuel used in Spanish airports is refined locally, which helps cushion shocks.

He also repeated advice from the industry for passengers to book early to avoid higher fares, explaining that airlines will either absorb rising costs or pass them on through ticket prices depending on their margins.

However, not everyone in the sector is as relaxed. A recent letter sent to the European Union by Ryanair, other budget carriers and ACI Europe, which represents EU airports, warned of "growing concern" over jet fuel availability. The letter called for urgent monitoring and proactive measures, suggesting that if fuel routes through key areas such as the Strait of Hormuz are not stabilised within three weeks, "systemic jet fuel shortages will become a reality for the EU".

Adding to the uncertainty, Romà Andreu, a professor at EAE Business School, warned that some airlines without strong fuel hedging contracts are already cutting flights and facing losses. He also pointed out that "people in the sector are saying there is enough fuel for six weeks", highlighting how unclear the real situation is.

Budget airline Volotea has already introduced a minimum €14 per passenger fuel surcharge on certain bookings, a move that has triggered criticism from consumer groups including OCU and Facua, who argue it may breach the "final price principle" if not clearly displayed upfront.

For now, airlines continue to reassure passengers that Spain is in a relatively strong position. But with warnings of rising prices on one side and potential shortages on the other, the message from the aviation sector is far from unified, and travellers are left trying to read between the lines.



San Javier Festival

The first details have been released of the 2026 International Theatre, Music and Dance festival which is being held for the 56th time this year in San Javier between 31st July and 23rd August.

Among the highlights of the programme, which is of course performed mainly in Spanish, are the play "Blaubeeren" directed by Sergio Peris Mencheta, appearances by Lydia Bosch in "Fedra, en los infiernos" and Rocío Molina in "Calentamiento", a Peruvian version of Shakespeare's Hamlet and a performance by popular singer Luz Casal, who is presenting her latest disc "Me voy a permitir".

In total 14 shows are being held

but the full programme is not being unveiled until 20th May, although it has been confirmed that 11 of them will be in the Auditorio Parque Almansa.

"Blaubeeren" deals with the horrendous topic of the Holocaust and is based on a study of a photo album which arrives at the Holocaust Museum in the USA, showing a group of Nazi officers enjoying a spa facility next door to Auschwitz, as well as the revulsion this causes worldwide when the photos are published all over the world.

Actress Lydia Bosch is returning to the theatre after an absence of 37 years and is bringing "Fedra, en los infiernos" to San Javier on 22nd August after prior shows

in Mérida and Madrid. This is a re-working of the Greek mythical figure of Phaedra, who fell in love with her stepson, Hippolytus, but was spurned by him: she then alleged he had tried to rape her and her husband, Theseus, had him executed. As is so often the case in Greek tragedies, she then committed suicide.

The Peruvian company is that of La Plaza, and they are offering their version of Hamlet, performed by actors affected by Down's Syndrome, on 14th August under the direction of Chela De Ferrari.

Luz Casal, meanwhile, is expected to be the most popular act during the Festival on 23rd August, and her latest collection

of songs is a tribute to women such as Amalia Rodrigues and Mercedes Sosa. Also on the new album is a version of Charles Aznavour's "She", performed with Carla Bruni, and of course the singer will be including some of the songs which have cemented her place at the top of Spanish popular song in recent decades.

The dancer and choreographer Rocío Martín comes to San Javier on 16th August with "Calentamiento", the latest example of her creativity dealing with the warm-up period before a performance. She is accompanied by a group of female flamenco singers.



Spain's endangered 'sad duck' makes comeback

Often described as Spain's "sad-looking" duck thanks to the dark markings around its eyes, the marbled teal is starting to show a far more hopeful story after years on the brink of disappearing from European wetlands.

A major conservation effort backed by €6.37 million in funding has helped drive a recovery for the species, which is officially Europe's most endangered duck. The LIFE Marbled Teal project has focused on restoring more than 3,600 hectares of wetland habitat across Spain, including key areas in Murcia, Andalucía and the Valencian Community.

The results are already becoming visible. Since 2021, the breeding

population has almost quadrupled, with 172 breeding females recorded with chicks in the wild, the highest figure seen in the past two decades.

In some areas, the progress is even more striking. The marbled teal has returned to parts of the Region of Murcia after a 15-year absence, while new breeding sites have also been confirmed in other restored wetlands across southern and eastern Spain.

Much of this recovery has been driven by large-scale habitat work, including water management improvements, the restoration of degraded wetland systems and the creation of

safer nesting areas. Projects in places such as El Hondo Natural Park have helped bring old ecosystems back into use, while work in river systems like the Guadalquivir has created new refuge zones during increasingly frequent dry periods.

Conservation teams have also introduced more innovative methods, including the use of GPS-equipped livestock to manage vegetation in a more natural and controlled way. This approach helps maintain suitable habitats without heavy mechanical intervention.

Alongside habitat restoration, more than 3,700 captive-bred marbled teals have been re-

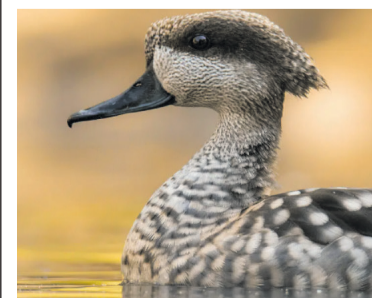
leased into the wild in Spain and other parts of southern Europe. These releases have helped support population growth, although experts say long-term success depends on keeping restored wetlands in good condition.

The species still faces major pressures, including ongoing wetland loss, pollution risks, disease and occasional hunting-related threats due to misidentification. Conservation groups have also worked with hunting organisations to reduce risks and improve monitoring.

Another key part of the project has been cooperation with local farmers and landowners, with agreements in place to help bal-

ance conservation with everyday land use around wetland areas.

While scientists stress that the recovery is still fragile, the overall picture is one of cautious optimism. After years of decline, one of Spain's most distinctive and vulnerable birds is slowly beginning to reclaim its place in the wild.



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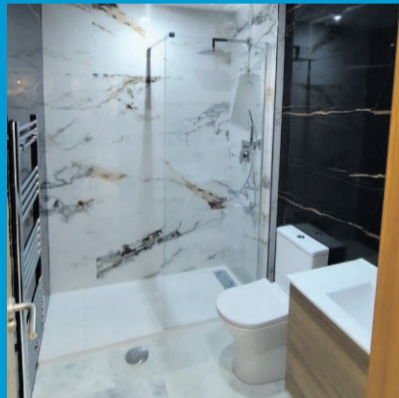
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Get paid to recycle

Spain is finally catching up with much of Europe by introducing a deposit return scheme for drinks containers, and not before time. From November 2026, every bottle of water, fizzy drink, juice, beer or other packaged beverage up to three litres will carry a deposit of at least 10 cents on top of the purchase price. Return the empty container to the shop or a collection machine, and you get your money back.

The reason Spain has been pushed into this is that it missed European packaging collection targets back in 2023. Under Spanish law, that triggered a two-year countdown to get a deposit return system up and running, and November is when that clock runs out.

Right now, only around 40% of all drinks containers in Spain are recycled, which means more than half of all plastic bottles, cans and cartons end up in landfill, incinerators or littering the environment.

The EU wants that figure at least 90% and countries like Germany, Norway and the Netherlands are already hitting those numbers thanks to exactly this kind of scheme.

The 10 cent deposit will appear on your receipt when you buy a drink and you'll get it back in full when you drop off the empty. With the cost of living still squeezing household budgets, those cents can

add up quickly, especially for families. It's also a brilliant way to get kids involved in recycling as a way of earning a bit of pocket money while learning why it matters.

The scheme covers plastic bottles, aluminium cans and cartons up to three litres. Glass returnables and non-drink containers like yogurt pots or sauce bottles are excluded, at least for now.

There are, however, some real questions about whether everything will be ready in time. Who exactly will manage the system nationally still hasn't been confirmed and hundreds of thousands of retailers across Spain are still waiting on the technical and regulatory guidance they need to get set up. Those in the industry have acknowledged the November deadline is going to be tight, but the law is the law and the change is coming regardless.



'Weather Boy' predicts the May bank holiday weather

With April winding down, plenty of people in Spain are already casting an eye towards May, and specifically the long weekend that kicks things off. Labour Day on May 1 falls on a Friday this year, making it a three-day break, and for many that means travel plans, so the weather forecast matters.

While Spain's official meteorological agency Aemet is keeping its cards close to its chest for now, Jorge Rey has already offered up his prediction. Rey is a young forecaster from Burgos who became something of a household name after apparently predicting the devastating Filomena snowstorm of 2021. He uses a traditional method known as cabañuelas, which doesn't have a scientific basis but has earned him a significant following across Spain.

For the May 1 to 3 bank holiday weekend, Rey is predicting persistent rain in Galicia and along the Cantabrian coast in the north, with a lot of cloud cover expected to spread across central Spain and the possibility of isolated showers there too.

The south is looking milder, and the Mediterranean coast and eastern Spain should see largely stable conditions.

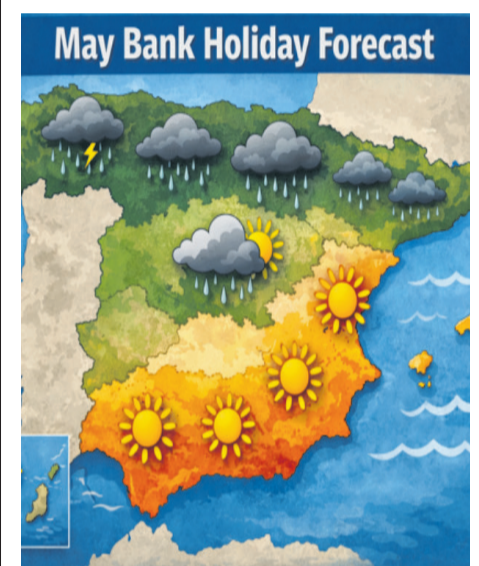
Looking further into May, Rey expects much of the same pattern to continue, with rain coming in from the west and affecting areas including Extremadura and western Andalucía, while the Mediter-

ranean stays largely settled.

As the weekend of May 9 and 10 approaches, he predicts storms pushing into central Spain, touching the Iberian System, Madrid and Castilla-La Mancha.

From around May 13, however, he expects things to calm right down again, with temperatures rising across central Spain.

The overall picture for the month, according to Rey, is one of rain fronts arriving from the west while the south and east enjoy relative stability and generally warm conditions, which broadly aligns with the early indications coming from Aemet too.



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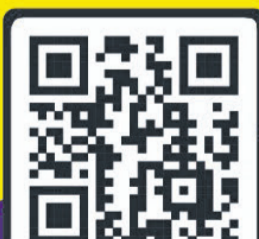
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Big changes to pet travel rules between the UK and Spain

If you regularly travel between the UK and Spain with your dog, cat or ferret, there's an important update coming into force this week that you need to be aware of. From April 22, 2026, checks on EU pet passports are expected to become stricter and for UK residents, that effectively means those passports will no longer be accepted for travel into the EU, regardless of when or where they were issued.

This has caused a fair bit of confusion among pet owners, so here's what's actually changing.

Why is this happening?

The change stems from the EU's Animal Health Law, first introduced in 2016, which set out clear rules on pet travel within the EU. Under those rules, EU pet passports are intended for animals that are habitually resident within the European Union.

In practice, this means pets owned by people living in EU countries.

Since Brexit, pets travelling from Great Britain have been classed as coming from a non-EU country and in theory, EU pet passports should no longer have been used by UK residents for entry into the EU.

However, in reality, many pet owners continued to obtain EU-issued passports through vets in EU countries and used them to travel more easily between the UK and Europe.

From Wednesday April 22, enforcement of the existing rules is expected to tighten, closing that loophole.

So what do you need instead?

For most UK residents travelling to the EU with a pet, an Animal Health Certificate, or

AHC, is required. This must be issued by an Official Veterinarian before each trip.

There are a few key points to keep in mind:

The certificate must be issued within 10 days of travel

It is valid for a single journey into the EU

A new certificate is required for every trip

In practical terms, that means a vet appointment before each journey, even if you travel frequently. Costs typically start at around £90 per pet, although this can vary.

It's also worth noting that these rules apply specifically to travel from Great Britain to the EU. The requirements for bringing a pet back into the UK remain unchanged.

What does this mean in practice?

For anyone regularly travelling between the UK and Spain with a pet, whether for holidays, visiting family or staying at a second home, the process is now more time-consuming and expensive than it once was.

For most UK residents, there's no longer a workaround using EU-issued pet passports, so planning ahead is essential. That means allowing enough time to arrange a vet appointment before each trip and factoring the additional cost into travel plans.

Before travelling, it's always a good idea to check the latest guidance for your destination, as entry requirements can vary slightly between countries. The Animal and Plant Health Agency remains the official source for up-to-date information on pet travel from the UK.



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Are workers in Spain unwittingly footing baby boomer bill?

It's starting to become a little clearer why Spain is doing everything it can to keep people in work for longer. From encouraging part-time "active retirement" to penalising early exit, the message is pretty consistent: stay in the system as long as possible.

It's certainly no secret that Spain's pension system has been under pressure for years, and with a large wave of retirements expected in the coming decades, the government has been gradually introducing measures to keep it sustainable.

At the start of this year, another change came into force that underlines the point. Workers who have paid the highest level of contributions and choose to retire early can now face significant cuts. Retire two years before the official age and the maximum pension can drop by as much as €705 a month, down from €3,359.

At the same time, a quieter shift has been happening in the background. Since January 2023, workers across Spain have been paying an additional contribution designed specifically to shore up the pension system ahead of a demographic crunch.

This charge, known as the Inter-generational Equity Mechanism, applies to everyone. Employees, employers and the self-employed are all contributing, and it is not optional. The aim is to rebuild a reserve fund that had been almost emptied, ready for the retirement wave of the baby boomer generation, which is expected to peak around 2050.

And it seems to be working, at least from the government's point of view. In just over three years, nearly €13 billion has been collected and funnelled directly into the Social Security reserve fund. That fund now stands at just over €15 billion, its highest level in a decade after dropping to barely €2 billion in 2021.

For the average worker, the impact isn't huge on a monthly basis, but it all adds up. On a typical salary, it means around €20 extra per month, or roughly €245 a year. Most of that is paid by employers, but employees still see a slice coming out of their wages. The self-employed carry the full amount themselves.

But the biggest issue is that it's not staying at that level. The rate has already increased from 0.80% to 0.90% this year and will continue rising gradually until it

reaches 1.2% by 2029. It's then expected to remain in place until at least 2050.

The timeline itself has also been carefully mapped out since Spain is heading towards a period where pension costs are expected to climb sharply as the largest generation in the country's history moves into retirement. Government estimates suggest spending could rise by around 14% by mid-century, with some projections even higher.

Despite the recent boost, the

reserve fund is still relatively small compared to the scale of the system. Monthly pension payments already exceed €16 billion, meaning the current piggy bank wouldn't even cover one month of payouts.

At the same time, the system continues to rely heavily on borrowing, with total debt now sitting above €136 billion. Strong job growth is helping bring in record contributions, but it's still not enough to fully balance the books.

All of this helps explain the growing push to delay retirement and keep more people economically active for longer. The system needs time, contributions and as many workers as possible paying in.

For many employees, though, the bigger question is how much of this is actually understood. The extra contribution is small enough to go unnoticed on a payslip, but significant enough at a national level to reshape the pension system over the coming decades.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

€82 million expansion for Vega Baja Hospital in Orihuela

The Valencian regional government has announced an investment of more than 82 million euros to expand the Vega Baja Hospital in Orihuela. The project will add 14,700 square metres to the complex, increasing its total surface area by around 40%, from 36,300 to more than 50,000 square metres. Regional leaders say the move reflects a wider commitment to strengthening public healthcare across the Valencian Community.

The expansion includes two new buildings connected to the main hospital. The northern block will house outpatient clinics, a day hospital and a mental health unit. Medical consulting rooms will rise from 30 to 98, nursing consultations from 10 to 23, and endoscopy rooms from two to five. New day hospitals are also planned for oncohaematology, general treatment and mental health.

The southern building will focus on outpatients, including a major surgery unit with recovery and minor surgery areas. It will also contain a new sterilisation centre and a haemodialysis unit. Overall hospital capacity will increase by 52 beds, and climate resilience measures will be incorporated into the design.

Once this phase is complete, space in the existing building will be reorganised to allow further upgrades, including a new maternity unit, expanded A&E, Radiology and ICU departments, and a short-stay unit. Several related improvements, including a new main entrance, helipad and underground parking, are already in operation.

Seven arrested after fake police robbery on A-7 near Elche

Seven people have been arrested after a man was robbed by suspects posing as police officers on the A seven near Elche. The forty-five-year-old was stopped by two vehicles with flashing lights in the early hours of the eleventh of December and forced out of his car. Cash, bank cards and his vehicle were stolen. He was left on the motorway unharmed. Police say the gang rented cars to carry out crimes.

Former La Veleta sports site cleared after five-year dispute
A derelict former sports and swimming pool site in La Veleta, Torrevieja, has finally been cleared after nearly five years of disputes with the Town Hall. The 9,500 square metre plot had been overgrown and strewn with rubbish. The council first ordered the owner to act in twenty twenty-one and later imposed a fine of twenty-six thousand eight hundred and thirteen euros. Delays were linked to court action and the eviction of squatters from the site.

Heredades school to keep meals service but lose transport as new centre opens
Heredades school, Almoradí will maintain its school meals service next academic year but will not continue providing transport, despite protests from families. Mayor María Gómez said officials from

the regional Department of Education have confirmed that transport cannot be maintained due to the significant increase in places created by a new school opening in September.

The new CEIP N° 4 will join the municipality's educational offer for the 2026-27 academic year. The project, secured after three decades of efforts, has involved an investment of more than eight million euros. Built on a plot of over 17,000 square metres on Avenida de Algorfa, it will have capacity for more than 700 pupils across 30 classrooms, from Infant to Primary level.

The council has intensified meetings with parents' associations, teaching staff and regional education officials to coordinate the opening. An open day is being planned so families and teachers can visit the new facilities, possibly before the admissions process begins.

The mayor has described the talks as positive and held in a spirit of calm and constructive dialogue. She said the council wants to reassure families and thanked both parents' associations and teachers for their cooperation during what she called a decisive moment for education in Almoradí.

Three dead after migrant boat rescued off Cartagena

Three people have died after a migrant boat was found adrift in the Mediterranean and brought into Cartagena. Maritime Rescue transferred the vessel to the port of Santa Lucía yesterday afternoon. Five men were on board, three of whom were confirmed dead. The two survivors were taken for medical assessment. The Government Delegation has confirmed that an investigation is now under way.

Seventeen arrested after drug network dismantled in Torrevieja
Seventeen people have been arrested after the Guardia Civil dismantled two coordinated drug supply points in Torrevieja that were allegedly linked to a surge in local crime. Investigators said the outlets were distributing heroin and cocaine and had become key supply hubs in the Vega Baja area.

The investigation began in February after officers noticed an increase in minor offences in two parts of the town. Police linked a series of thefts, vehicle break-ins, violent robberies and burglaries to drug users who were stealing items to exchange for narcotics.

The two supply points operated in different areas but were reportedly directed by a 55-year-old local man. One property had reinforced doors, surveillance cameras, lookouts warning of police presence and a handgun to protect the operation.

During raids on 10 April, supported by the Guardia Civil's Reserve and Security Group from Valencia and specialist units, officers seized 68 grams of cocaine, 35 grams of heroin, smaller quantities of other drugs, €9,700 in cash, two cars and several sto-

len electric scooters. The suspects, aged between 23 and 63, face charges including drug trafficking, illegal possession of weapons and membership of a criminal organisation. The alleged leader has been remanded in custody.

Hundreds attend motorcycle blessing in Almoradí

Hundreds of motorcyclists gathered in Almoradí over the weekend for the second Blessing of Motorcycles and Helmets ceremony. The event took place near the Ermita del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús in Puente Don Pedro and was organised by Motopeña Los Arcasiles, the local Fiesta Commission and the town council. The parish priest led the blessing, as the site strengthens its status as the first motorcycle blessing sanctuary in the Valencian Community.

Two arrested after fatal shooting in central Torrevieja

The Guardia Civil have arrested two North African men following a fatal shooting in central Torrevieja on Saturday. The victim, an Algerian national, died after an exchange of gunfire in a busy area near the junction of Calle Bergantín and Los Gases, close to a supermarket.

Investigators say those involved had previous disputes and had reportedly been involved in earlier altercations in the

area. One man was seriously injured in the shooting and died shortly afterwards. His body remained at the scene until a judicial authority authorised its removal.

A large police operation was launched, involving the Guardia Civil and Torrevieja Local Police. Officers sealed off the area, gathered ballistic evidence and began initial enquiries. The two suspects were arrested within hours. Both were reportedly in Spain irregularly and subject to active deportation orders. The investigation is continuing and further arrests have not been ruled out.

The incident follows several recent firearms cases in Torrevieja, some of them fatal, which have heightened concerns about public safety. The town does not currently have a National Police station, and responsibility for security lies with the Guardia Civil and Local Police. In 2025, the municipal council formally backed a request for a dedicated National Police station, citing population growth and increasing pressure on local security services.





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Harris Dickinson is given a huge boost in James Bond betting odds

Harris Dickinson has surged into contention to become the next James Bond, with bookmakers dramatically shortening his odds in recent days.

The 28-year-old actor—who is set to portray John Lennon in the upcoming *The Beatles: A Four-Film Cinematic Event*—has seen his odds cut from 9/1 to 8/5, positioning him among the frontrunners to replace Daniel Craig as the iconic 007.

Despite Dickinson's rapid rise, Callum Turner remains the bookmakers' favourite at 4/5, with all other contenders currently priced at 5/1 or higher. According to Ladbrokes spokesperson Alex Apati, Dickinson's growing momentum reflects increasing industry buzz. "Harris Dickinson has a busy few years ahead if the latest odds are anything to go by," he said, suggesting the actor could soon balance major roles across high-profile franchises.

The race to succeed Craig has proven volatile, with names shifting frequently. Jacob Elordi recently entered the conversation following his role in *Wuthering Heights*, and is currently listed at 5/1. Aaron Taylor-Johnson follows at 6/1, while other rumoured candidates include Idris Elba, Theo James, Jonathan Bailey, James Norton, Jack Lowden and Henry Cavill.

While casting speculation continues, one

major creative decision has already been confirmed. Denis Villeneuve, best known for *Dune*, is attached to direct the next Bond instalment and will serve as executive producer alongside Tanya Lapointe.

The Bond franchise, which began in 1962, has historically seen extended gaps between films, including a six-year hiatus between *Licence to Kill*—starring Timothy Dalton—and *GoldenEye*, which introduced Pierce Brosnan in the role.

In a significant shift behind the scenes, longtime producers Barbara Broccoli and her family ceded creative control of the franchise last year to Amazon MGM Studios, following Amazon's acquisition of MGM in 2022.

Meanwhile, Dickinson's career continues to accelerate. In the *Beatles* project, he will star alongside Paul Mescal as Paul McCartney, Joseph Quinn as George Harrison, and Barry Keoghan as Ringo Starr.

The ensemble cast also includes Aimee Lou Wood, Saoirse Ronan, Anna Sawai and James Norton, adding further star power to one of the most anticipated film projects of the coming years. With speculation intensifying and official announcements still pending, the race to become the next James Bond remains wide open—but Dickinson's rapid rise suggests he is firmly in the spotlight.

Netflix sets summer release for 'Heartstopper' film finale

Netflix has officially confirmed the release date for 'Heartstopper Forever', the concluding chapter of its hit coming-of-age romance, nearly two years after the third season debuted on the platform.

The film, based on Alice Oseman's acclaimed graphic novel series, will premiere globally on 17th July. Directed by Wash Westmoreland, the feature-length finale is set to bring closure to the story of Nick and Charlie, whose relationship has captivated audiences since the show first launched in April 2022.

The original series followed the evolving romance between two teenage boys, Nick and Charlie, portrayed by Kit Connor and Joe Locke. The third season, released in October 2024, pushed their relationship into more complex emotional territory—laying the groundwork for the upcoming film.

According to Netflix, 'Heartstopper Forever' will explore the strain placed on the couple as they face a new phase in their lives. With Nick preparing to leave for university and Charlie gaining independence at school, the pair must confront the realities of a long-distance relationship. As uncertainty grows, their bond is tested in ways they have not previously experienced.

The film will also revisit the wider friendship group, as characters navigate the challenges of growing up, relationships, and change. Returning cast members include William Gao, Yasmin Finney, Tobie Donovan, Corinna Brown, and Kizzy Edgell, alongside Jenny Walser, Rhea Norwood, and Leila Khan.

In a notable casting change, Anna Maxwell Martin will take over the role of Nick's mother, replacing Olivia Colman.

The announcement follows the emotional response to the third season, which left many viewers deeply affected by its portrayal of mental health struggles. A storyline focusing on Charlie's eating disorder resonated strongly with audiences, sparking widespread discussion online.

One particularly impactful moment featured advice given to Nick about supporting Charlie: "Love can't cure mental illness... sometimes people need more support than one person can give." The line struck a chord with fans and became one of the most talked-about elements of the season.

With its final instalment, 'Heartstopper Forever' is expected to deliver a poignant conclusion to a series that has become a defining entry in Netflix's teen drama lineup.

Rihanna lives it up in Paris

Rihanna was spotted in high spirits in the early hours of the morning as she left a Paris restaurant following a night out in the French capital.

The singer and businesswoman, 38, was seen laughing and leaning on a friend as they made their way out of César Restaurant at around 6am. Despite advertised closing times of 2am, the venue appeared to stay open late for the star.

Photographs captured Rihanna looking stylish in an oversized jacket paired with fitted black trousers and striking red lace-up heels. She completed her look with oversized sunglasses as she and her companion held onto each other while heading toward a waiting car.

The rare late-night appearance comes shortly after Rihanna addressed speculation that she is expecting her fourth child with partner A\$AP Rocky. The rumours had circulated online before the singer personally dismissed them in a light-hearted response to fans.

Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, have been in a relationship since 2020 after a long-standing friendship. While she has ruled out current pregnancy rumours, she has previously indicated she remains open to expanding her family in the future.

The outing also comes amid a busy period for the chart-topping artist, who has achieved 14 number-one singles and is currently working on her long-awaited follow-up to her 2016 album **Anti**.

Beyond music, Rihanna continues to oversee a growing business empire, including her Savage X Fenty lingerie brand and the highly successful Fenty Beauty line, alongside Fenty Skin, Fenty Fragrance and Fenty Hair.

Meanwhile, A\$AP Rocky is preparing to launch his upcoming "Don't Be Dumb" tour, set to begin on May 27 in Chicago, marking his return to the stage for a 43-date run.



Vogue Williams beams following new baby announcement

Vogue Williams was all smiles this week as she made her first public appearance since revealing she is expecting her fourth child with husband Spencer Matthews.

The 40-year-old presenter appeared in high spirits as she arrived at ITV studios, showcasing a casually chic look in a yellow jacket, jeans, and bright blue heels. The outing comes shortly after the couple shared news that they are expanding their family once again.

However, the announcement follows a deeply emotional journey. In a recent YouTube video, Vogue opened up for the first time about experiencing two miscarriages before becoming pregnant with her fourth child. She described one loss, which occurred last year, as "awful and heartbreaking."

Reflecting on her experiences, Vogue admitted she struggled with feelings of disappointment and self-blame, saying she felt as though "her body had failed her." Despite the joy surrounding her current pregnancy, she acknowledged feeling nervous due to the difficulties she faced along the way.

The couple, who married in 2018, are already parents to three children: Theodore, seven, Gigi, five, and Otto, three.

Vogue shared that her first miscarriage happened early in pregnancy and was "really upsetting," though the couple later welcomed their daughter Gigi in 2020.

Her second loss was particularly difficult. After attending a 12-week scan, she was told the pregnancy had not progressed, as the embryo had not grown. Vogue revealed she felt "really embarrassed" and deeply upset by the experience.

Spencer also spoke candidly in the video, describing the couple's journey as challenging. While expressing gratitude for their three children, he noted that this pregnancy had been harder to achieve, with "more bumps in the road" than before.

The video also captured a hopeful milestone, as Vogue attended an early hospital scan that showed positive results. It included a touching moment where the couple shared the news with their three children, who reacted with excitement to the idea of a new sibling.

The pair had initially announced the pregnancy on social media, sharing photos from a family holiday in St Barts. In the images, Vogue displayed her baby bump in a black-and-white bikini, while Spencer looked on affectionately. Alongside the photos, they wrote: "BABY NUMBER 4 INCOMING...."



THIS WEEK'S FILM PICKS

Spartacus

Friday 1st May, Film4, 8.15pm



Bank holiday epic! Spartacus is a 1960 American epic historical drama film directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Kirk Douglas in the title role, a slave and gladiator who leads a rebellion against Rome during the events of the Third Servile War.

Spartacus, who is living in brutal conditions and is forced to fight to his death for the pleasure of wealthy Romans, leads a heroic struggle for freedom. His army of gladiators is swelled by slaves who pillage estates and are trying to escape from Italy.

The Greatest Showman

Saturday 2nd May, Film4, 8.55pm



The Greatest Showman is a 2017 American musical period drama film directed by Michael Gracey. The film stars Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, Rebecca Ferguson, and Zendaya. The film is a heavily fictionalized depiction of the life of P. T. Barnum, a showman and entertainer who created the Barnum & Bailey Circus, and its star attractions.





















P.T. Barnum indulges his limitless imagination to create the Barnum & Bailey circus in the 1800s. Featuring musical numbers, exotic performers and daring feats, the mesmerising spectacle takes the world by storm to become the greatest show on Earth.

TV Guide

Tuesday 28th April 2026

BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:45 Rip Off Britain 12:30 Homes Under the Hammer 13:15 Bargain Hunt 14:00 BBC News at One 15:00 Shift the Thrift 15:30 Designing the Hebrides 16:00 Escape to the Country 16:45 Make It at Market 17:30 Bridge of Lies 18:15 Pointless 19:00 BBC News at Six 19:30 BBC London 20:00 The One Show 20:30 EastEnders 21:00 Interior Design Masters with Alan 22:00 MasterChef 23:00 BBC News at Ten 23:30 BBC London 23:40 Half Man 00:35 The Woman in Black	11:00 Snooker: World Championship Coverage of day 11 of the World Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. 13:45 The Tournament 14:30 Politics Live 15:15 Snooker: World Championship Coverage of day 11 of the World Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. 19:00 Richard Osman's House of Games 19:30 Great Japanese Railway Journeys 20:00 Snooker: World Championship 23:00 QI 23:30 Newsnight 00:05 Inside Britain's National Parks 00:55 Snooker: World Championship	11:00 This Morning 13:30 Loose Women 14:30 ITV Lunchtime News 14:55 ITV News London 15:00 Dickinson's Real Deal 16:00 Lingo 17:00 Tipping Point 18:00 The Chase Bradley Walsh hosts as four strangers - Ryan from 19:00 ITV News London 19:30 ITV Evening News 20:15 New: The Martin Lewis Money Show Live 21:00 Emmerdale 21:30 Coronation Street 22:00 Secret Service 23:00 ITV News at Ten 23:30 ITV News London 23:45 Murder - A Fight for Justice:... 00:45 Millionaire Hot Seat	11:25 The Real Housewives of Atlanta 12:15 The Real Housewives of New 13:10 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win 14:10 New: Celebrity Catchphrase 15:10 Wheel of Fortune 16:10 The Only Way is Essex 17:10 The Real Housewives of Salt 18:00 The Real Housewives of New 19:00 New: Celebrity Catchphrase 20:00 Wheel of Fortune 21:00 The 1% Club 22:00 The Real Housewives of Cheshire 23:00 Family Guy 00:35 American Dad!	11:10 Frasier 12:10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 13:05 Channel 4 News Summary 13:10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It 14:10 Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad 15:10 Countdown 16:00 A Place in the Sun 17:00 A New Life in the Sun: Where... 18:00 Chateau DIY 19:00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses 20:00 Channel 4 News 21:00 Our Welsh Chapel Dream There's one last hoorah in the Sunday school hall before it becomes the 22:00 Virgin Island 23:00 New: Gordon Ramsay's Secret... 00:00 24 Hours in A&E	12:30 Storm & Alexis 13:45 5 News at Lunchtime 13:50 Matt Allwright Matt looks at the big news stories developing during the day and offers help and 15:00 Vanessa 16:00 Castle 17:50 Love Nature 18:00 5 News at 5 19:00 Love Nature 19:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out 20:00 Michael Portillo in Stockholm 21:00 Sam & Ade Go Birding 22:00 Murder in Shetland: Trial by Jury The accused, Aren Pearson, takes to the witness stand. As his account is challenged, 23:00 Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law 00:05 The Bailiffs

Entertainment

Sky Max HD	Sky Family	Sky Documentaries	U&Dave	DMAX	RTÉ One
11:00 Will & Grace  Grace in the Hole: Grace 12:00 The Simpsons  13:00 Gladiators  14:00 Hawaii Five-0  15:00 Magnum P.I. 16:00 S.W.A.T. 17:00 Police 24/7  18:00 The Simpsons 19:00 The Office (US) 20:00 The Simpsons  21:00 The Dyers' Caravan Park  22:00 The Italian Job (2003)  00:10 The 'Burbs	11:35 Paddington  13:20 Paddington 2  When everyone's favourite marmalade-loving bear is framed, the Brown family 15:10 Harold and the Purple Crayon  16:45 Stardust  19:00 How To Train Your Dragon (2025)  An unlikely friendship holds the key to Vikings and dragons forging a new future together as an 21:20 Paddington  23:05 Paddington 2  00:55 Hotel Transylvania 	11:00 JFK: Destiny Betrayed  12:05 The Nineties 13:00 The Kid Stays In The Picture 15:00 King Of Lies: Football's Greatest Con 16:50 My Icon: Chris Hughton 17:00 Ridley Scott: The Directors  A look at the life and career 18:00 Discovering: Anthony Quinn 18:55 Chimp Crazy  19:55 JFK: Destiny Betrayed 21:00 Murder At The Cottage  23:00 The Assassination Of John Lennon 00:50 I Am Paul Walker	11:00 Aussie Road Train Truckers 12:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall Cornish king crab is on the menu for Rick as he heads out of Newquay to catch and cook this tasty 12:30 Special Ops: To Catch A Criminal 13:30 Special Ops: Crime Squad UK 14:30 Guy Martin: The World's Fastest Van? 16:00 Top Gear 18:00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best 19:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall 20:00 Would I Lie To You? 21:20 Richard Osman's House of Games 22:00 QI XL 23:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You? Richard Ayoade guest hosts the satirical news quiz, with panellists Roisin Conaty and Armando 00:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order 00:40 Mock the Week	11:00 Deadliest Catch 13:00 The Alaska Triangle A famous UFO case occurs above Alaska when an unidentified flying object 14:00 Expedition Unknown 16:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue 18:00 Outback Opal Hunters 20:00 Deadliest Catch 22:00 Harpoon Hunters 23:00 Deadliest Catch Sig gets blown off course in extreme seas. Jake faces the loss of his longtime engineer. Monte takes the 00:00 Aussie Gold Hunters To increase gold production, the Gold Devils attempt to run three machines at once. The HGTV 11:00 The Big Bang Theory 15:00 Mike & Molly 16:30 Young Sheldon 18:00 The Big Bang Theory 22:00 New: Sister Wives 00:00 Dr. Pimple Popper	11:00 The Drew Barrymore Show 11:25 The Kelly Clarkson Show 12:20 Diagnosis Murder 13:15 Keys to My Life 13:45 Telly Bingo 14:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:30 Home and Away 15:00 Shortland Street 15:30 The End Of The World With Beanz 16:00 EastEnders 16:30 Today 18:40 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 20:00 Cheap Irish Homes 20:30 EastEnders 21:00 Reeling In The Years 21:30 Home Grown 22:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:35 Prime Time 23:15 Beyond Paradise 00:15 Wolf Hall

Sport

Sky Sports Mix

- 11:45 EFL 14/15: Brentford v Fulham
- 12:00 IPL 2026 Highlights
- 15:00 PL Greatest
- 15:15 PL Greatest Games:Newc/Leics
- 15:30 PL Greatest: Bolton v M'boro 2003



TV Guide

Wednesday 29th April 2026

BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:45 Rip Off Britain 12:30 Homes Under the Hammer 13:15 Bargain Hunt 14:00 BBC News at One 15:00 Shift the Thrift 15:30 Designing the Hebrides 16:00 Escape to the Country 16:45 Make It at Market 17:30 Bridge of Lies 18:15 Pointless 19:00 BBC News at Six 19:30 BBC London 19:55 Party Election Broadcasts: Reform 20:00 The One Show 20:30 EastEnders 21:00 The Repair Shop 22:00 MasterChef 23:00 BBC News at Ten 23:30 BBC London 23:40 UEFA Champions League 00:25 Denmark	11:00 Snooker: World Championship 12:15 Politics Live 14:00 Snooker: World Championship 19:00 Richard Osman's House of Games 19:30 Great Japanese Railway Journeys 20:00 Snooker: World Championship 23:00 Twenty Twenty Six <i>Sarah's slip of the tongue on Alicia Byrd's podcast means that she's now gone viral as the 'wooden</i> 23:30 Newsnight 00:00 Unspun World with John Simpson <i>Unspun World provides an unvarnished version of the week's major global news stories - reliable, honest</i> 00:30 Extraordinary Portraits <i>On her very first day running her local Post Office, Seema discovered a cash shortfall at the till. She</i>	11:00 This Morning 13:30 Loose Women 14:30 ITV Lunchtime News 14:55 ITV News London 15:00 Dickinson's Real Deal 16:00 Lingo 17:00 Tipping Point 18:00 The Chase 19:00 ITV News London 19:25 Party Election Broadcast: Reform UK 19:30 ITV Evening News 20:30 For the Love of Dogs 21:00 Emmerdale 21:30 Coronation Street 22:00 A Taste For Murder 23:00 ITV News at Ten <i>ITV News provides a fresh perspective on the major</i> 23:30 ITV News London 23:45 New: Peston 00:30 British Touring Car Championship Highlights	11:25 The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City 12:20 The Real Housewives of New Jersey 13:15 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win 14:15 New: Celebrity Catchphrase 15:15 Wheel of Fortune 16:15 The Only Way is Essex 17:10 The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City 18:00 The Real Housewives of New Jersey 19:00 New: Celebrity Catchphrase <i>Joe Swash, Joanna Page</i> 20:00 Wheel of Fortune 21:00 The 1% Club 22:00 Hell's Kitchen 23:00 Family Guy 00:30 American Dad!	11:10 Frasier 12:10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 13:05 Channel 4 News Summary 13:10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It 14:10 Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad 15:10 Countdown 16:00 A Place in the Sun <i>Rachel and Robin dream of buying a holiday home - which could later become their permanent home - in</i> 17:00 A New Life in the Sun: Where... 18:00 Chateau DIY 19:00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses 20:00 Channel 4 News 21:00 New: Help! I Bought It at... 22:00 New: Salisbury Poisonings: The... 23:00 New: Gordon Ramsay's Secret... 00:00 Celebrity Gogglebox	12:30 Storm & Alexis 13:45 5 News at Lunchtime 13:50 Matt Allwright 15:00 Vanessa 16:00 Castle <i>Castle's agent has an offer that would mean the end of his relationship with Beckett. When a woman's</i> 17:50 Love Nature <i>We discover how the humble fox should be</i> 18:00 5 News at 5 19:00 New: Love Nature 19:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out 20:00 New: Michael Portillo in Stockholm 21:00 New: Warship: Life in the Royal... 22:00 New: The Betrayal of Anne... 23:00 Trauma Room One 00:05 Cause of Death <i>A man is rushed to hospital with a mysterious illness. The police suspect he has been poisoned by medicine</i>

Entertainment

Sky Max HD	Sky Family	Sky Documentaries	U&Dave	DMAX	RTÉ One
11:00 Will & Grace  <i>A Chorus Lie: There's</i> 12:00 The Simpsons 13:00 Gladiators 14:00 Hawaii Five-0 15:00 Magnum P.I. 16:00 S.W.A.T.  17:00 Police 24/7 18:00 The Simpsons  19:00 The Office (US) 20:00 The Simpsons  21:00 Joe Lycett's United States Of Birmingham  22:00 Tom Davis: Underdog 23:15 New: The 'Burbs  00:15 Grimm 	11:25 Hotel Transylvania 2  <i>Dracula recruits his friends to help bring out the monster in his half human, half vampire grandson.</i> 13:00 Hotel Transylvania 3: A Monster...  14:50 How To Train Your Dragon (2025)  17:00 The Golden Compass  19:00 E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial  <i>Steven Spielberg's hugely</i> 21:00 Smurfs (2025)  22:35 Hotel Transylvania 2  00:10 Hotel Transylvania 3: A Monster... 	11:00 JFK: Destiny Betrayed  12:05 The Nineties  13:00 The Commandant's Shadow  15:00 Surviving Ohio State  17:00 Martin Scorsese: The Directors  18:00 Discovering: Joan Crawford  18:55 Chimp Crazy  19:55 JFK: Destiny Betrayed  21:00 Touching The Void  23:10 The Alpinist 	U&Dave 11:00 Extreme Salvage Squad <i>Luke and his team are called to a farm in Donnybrook in western Australia where a 20-tonne</i> 12:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall 12:30 Special Ops: Crime Squad UK 14:30 Guy Martin: World's Fastest Tractor 16:00 Top Gear 18:00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best 19:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall 20:00 Would I Lie To You? <i>Brazen bluffing with Rob Brydon, David Mitchell and Lee Mack in the very witty</i> 21:20 Richard Osman's House of Games 22:00 QI XL 23:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You? 00:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order <i>Frankie tackles the biggest issues troubling the planet with the help of Sara Pascoe, Miles Jupp, Sophie</i> 00:40 Mock the Week	DMAX 11:00 Deadliest Catch 13:00 The Alaska Triangle <i>A secret government facility</i> 14:00 Expedition Unknown 16:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue 18:00 Outback Opal Hunters 20:00 Deadliest Catch 22:00 New: Maine Cabin Masters 23:00 New: Barnwood Builders 00:00 Aussie Gold Hunters HGTV 11:00 The Big Bang Theory 15:00 Mike & Molly <i>After Carl has a near-death experience while on duty, he tells Mike he's going to propose to Victoria. But can</i> 16:30 Young Sheldon 18:00 The Big Bang Theory 22:00 New: Dr Pimple Popper: Breaking... <i>...Out. John would love to date but is embarrassed about a huge bump on his cheek. Denise sees Dr. Lee</i> 00:00 Dr. Pimple Popper	RTÉ One 11:20 The Kelly Clarkson Show 12:10 Only Fools and Horses 12:50 Leaders' Questions 14:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:30 Home and Away 15:00 Shortland Street 15:30 The End Of The World With Beanz 16:00 EastEnders 16:30 Today 18:40 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 20:00 Nationwide 20:30 EastEnders 21:00 Donal's Real Time Recipes 21:30 How to Cook Well in Morocco 22:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:35 Blue Lights 23:35 Dermot Bannon's Celebrity Super 00:40 Obituary

Sport

Sky Sports Mix
13:00 IPL 2026 Highlights 15:00 PL Greatest Games: Man Utd/Man 15:15 PL Greatest: Man Utd/Liverpool '09



TV Guide

Thursday 30th April 2026

BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:45 Rip Off Britain	13:15 Politics Live <small>The big political issues of the day.</small>	11:00 This Morning	11:20 The Real <small>Housewives of Salt Lake City</small>	11:10 Frasier	12:30 Storm & Alexis
12:30 Homes Under the Hammer	14:00 Snooker: World Championship	13:30 Loose Women	12:15 The Real <small>Housewives of New Jersey</small>	12:10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA <small>Max's Bar & Grill: Gordon visits New Jersey to transform Max's Bar & Grill.</small>	13:45 5 News at Lunchtime
13:15 Bargain Hunt	17:00 The Best Dishes Ever	14:30 ITV Lunchtime News	13:10 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win	13:05 Channel 4 News Summary	13:50 Matt Allwright
14:00 BBC News at One	17:30 Natural World	14:55 ITV News London	14:10 New: Celebrity Catchphrase	13:10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It	15:00 Vanessa <small>Raw, unfiltered, authentic and personal, Vanessa</small>
15:00 Shift the Thrift	18:15 Flog It!	15:00 Dickinson's Real Deal	15:10 Wheel of Fortune	14:10 Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad	16:00 Castle
15:30 Designing the Hebrides	19:00 Richard Osman's House of Games <small>Every day this week, celebrity contestants Kelle Bryan, Antony Costa, Alexei Sayle and Emma</small>	16:00 Lingo	16:10 The Only Way is Essex	15:10 Countdown	17:50 Love Nature
16:00 Escape to the Country	19:30 Great Japanese Railway Journeys	17:00 Tipping Point	17:10 The Real <small>Housewives of Salt Lake City</small>	16:00 A Place in the Sun	18:00 5 News at 5
16:45 Make It at Market	20:00 Snooker: World Championship	18:00 The Chase	18:00 The Real <small>Housewives of New Jersey</small>	17:00 A New Life in the Sun: Where... <small>...Are They Now?: In France, Sophie and Will have their hands full at their alpaca farm. In Spain, are</small>	19:00 Love Nature <small>Observing black grouse performing elaborate, competitive courtship displays to attract females.</small>
17:30 Bridge of Lies	23:00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing <small>Paul and Bob travel with their trusty terrier Ted to fish the mighty River Trent in Nottingham in search of</small>	19:00 ITV News London	19:00 Celebrity Catchphrase	18:00 Chateau DIY	19:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out
18:15 Pointless	23:30 Newsnight <small>Insights and global</small>	19:25 Party Election Broadcast: Green Party	20:00 Wheel of Fortune <small>Graham Norton welcomes</small>	19:00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses	20:00 Michael Portillo in Stockholm
19:00 BBC News at Six	00:00 On the Basis of Sex	19:30 ITV Evening News	21:00 The 1% Club	20:00 Channel 4 News	21:00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts
19:30 BBC London		20:30 Holiday Havoc: Where Should You Go?	22:00 Hell's Kitchen	21:00 Paul Merton: Driving Amazing Trains	22:00 The Hotel Inspector
19:55 Party Election Broadcasts: Green		21:00 Emmerdale	23:00 Family Guy	22:00 Taskmaster	23:00 Snatched <small>Between 1991 and 2006, three women's disappearances led to the unmasking of a serial killer.</small>
20:00 The One Show		21:30 Coronation Street	00:30 American Dad!	23:00 New: Big Mood	00:05 My Boyfriend Made Me Do It
20:30 EastEnders		22:00 The Neighbourhood <small>Graham Norton hosts The Neighbourhood, a brand-new high stakes, street-sized popularity</small>		00:05 Gogglebox	
21:00 Race Across the World		23:00 ITV News at Ten			
22:00 MasterChef		23:30 ITV News London			
23:00 BBC News at Ten		23:45 Minority Report			
23:30 BBC London					
23:40 Question Time					
00:40 Newscast					

Entertainment

Sky Max HD	Sky Family	Sky Documentaries	U&Dave	DMAX	RTÉ One
11:00 Will & Grace	11:45 The Golden Compass	11:00 JFK: Destiny Betrayed	11:00 Extreme Salvage Squad	11:00 Deadliest Catch <small>As the Opilio season roars on, Sig puts Mandy at the</small>	11:20 The Kelly Clarkson Show
12:00 The Simpsons	13:40 E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial	12:05 The Nineties	12:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall	13:00 The Alaska Triangle	12:10 Only Fools and Horses
13:00 Big Cats An Amazing Animal Family	15:40 Shrek 2	13:00 Germanwings: What Happened...	12:30 Special Ops: Crime Squad UK	14:00 Expedition Unknown	12:50 Leaders' Questions
14:00 Hawaii Five-0	17:15 Smurfs (2025) <small>When Papa Smurf is taken by evil wizards Razamel and Gargamel, Smurfette leads the Smurfs on a</small>	15:00 Terry Venables: A Man Can Dream	14:30 Guy Martin's Spitfire	16:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue	13:45 Telly Bingo
15:00 Magnum P.I.	19:00 Antz	17:00 Oliver Stone: The Directors	16:00 Top Gear	18:00 Outback Opal Hunters <small>As the Bushmen search for a partner, their new rookie ignores safety protocols and rushes into a deadly</small>	14:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock
16:00 S.W.A.T.	20:40 The Secret Life of Pets	17:55 Discovering: Buster Keaton	18:00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best <small>Alfresco: Series celebrating home cooking. The Bikers meet three mums who love cooking and eating</small>	20:00 Deadliest Catch	14:30 Home and Away
17:00 Police 24/7	22:20 Shrek The Third <small>The grumpy ogre returns as Shrek deals with impending fatherhood and the call to</small>	18:50 Chimp Crazy	19:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall <small>Rick goes on a tour around the beautiful Camel Estuary, visits his long-time fish supplier Matthew</small>	22:00 Expedition X	14:55 Shortland Street
18:00 The Simpsons	00:05 Harold and The Purple Crayon	19:55 JFK: Destiny Betrayed	20:00 Would I Lie To You?	23:00 Expedition Unknown	15:25 The End Of The World With Beanz
19:00 The Office (US)		21:00 Scientology: Going Clear - The Prison of Belief	21:20 Richard Osman's House of Games	00:00 Aussie Gold Hunters <small>The Poseidon Crew face intense pressure when a police incident pulls Ethan away. Plus, Alan and Salty</small>	15:55 EastEnders
20:00 The Simpsons		23:20 Bruce Lee: Be Water	22:00 Qi XL <small>Sandi Toksvig gets vocal with Ed Byrne, Jimmy Carr, Judi Love and Alan Davies.</small>	15:00 Mike & Molly	16:30 Today
20:30 Live S/Lge: Hull KR v Castleford			23:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You? <small>Team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop are joined by guest host Jo Brand and</small>	16:30 Young Sheldon	18:40 Nuacht RTÉ
23:15 Rob & Romesh Vs K-Pop			00:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order	18:00 The Big Bang Theory	18:55 RTÉ News with Signing
00:15 Grimm			00:40 Mock the Week	22:00 Clear And Present Danger	19:01 RTÉ News: Six One
					20:00 Super Garden
					20:30 EastEnders
					21:00 Fair City
					21:30 The End Of The World With Beanz
					22:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock
					22:35 Prime Time
					23:15 The Dry
					23:50 Clannad: A Celtic Dream
					00:55 Red Eye

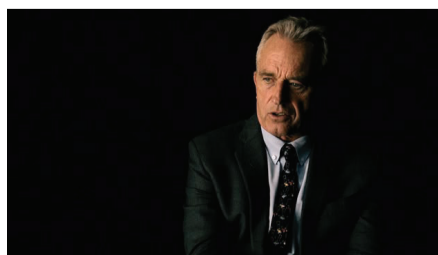
Sport

Sky Sports Mix

12:00 Legends Tour Golf Highlights

13:00 IPL 2026 Highlights

15:00 PL Greatest: Man City/Man Utd '13



TV Guide

Friday 1st May 2026

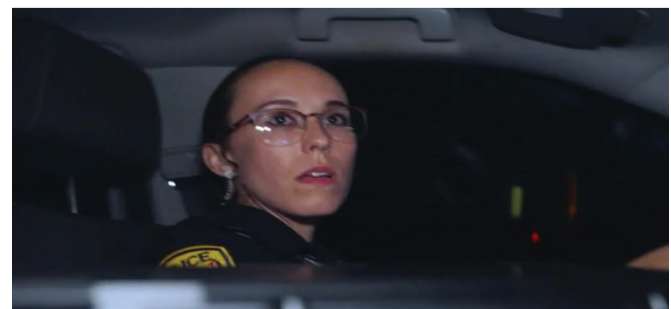
BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:45 Rip Off Britain	11:00 Snooker: World Championship	11:00 This Morning	11:20 The Real	11:10 Frasier	12:30 Storm & Alexis
12:30 Homes Under the Hammer	Coverage of day 14 of the World Snooker Championship at the	13:30 Loose Women	Housewives of Salt Lake City	12:10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	13:45 5 News at Lunchtime
13:15 Bargain Hunt	13:50 Lifeline	14:30 ITV Lunchtime News	12:15 The Real	13:05 Channel 4 News Summary	13:50 Matt Allwright
14:00 BBC News at One	14:00 Natural World	14:55 ITV News London	Housewives of New Jersey	13:10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It	15:00 Vanessa
15:00 Father Brown	Documentary looking at the wildlife of the most stunning mountain range in the world, home to snow	15:00 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket	13:05 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win	14:10 Matt Baker's Travels in the...	16:00 Castle
15:45 Escape to the Country	14:45 Lightning	17:30 Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals	14:10 Celebrity Catchphrase	15:10 Countdown	17:50 Love Nature
16:45 Make It at Market	15:15 Snooker: World Championship	18:00 The Chase	15:10 Wheel of Fortune	16:00 A Place in the Sun	18:00 5 News at 5
17:30 Bridge of Lies	19:00 Richard Osman's House of Games	Bradley Walsh hosts the show where thousands of pounds are at stake - all that stands between Roz	16:10 The Only Way is Essex	17:00 A New Life in the Sun: Where...	Join Dan Walker and the team for the news that matters to you.
18:15 Pointless	Every day this week, celebrity contestants Kelle Bryan, Antony Costa, Alexei Sayle and Emma	19:00 ITV News London	17:10 The Real	18:00 Chateau DIY	19:00 Love Nature
19:00 BBC News at Six	19:30 Great Japanese Railway Journeys	The latest news and weather from London and the South East. [S,HD]	Housewives of Salt Lake City	19:00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses	19:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out
19:30 BBC London	20:00 Snooker: World Championship	19:25 Party Election Broadcast:...	18:00 The Real	20:00 Channel 4 News	Susan celebrates pioneering engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, learns about the 1960s
19:55 Party Election Broadcasts: Liberal	23:00 Live at the Apollo	19:30 ITV Evening News	Housewives of New Jersey	20:30 New: Unreported World	20:00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders
20:00 The One Show	23:30 Newsnight	National and international	19:00 Celebrity Catchphrase	America's Drug War: Puerto Rico: The island of Puerto Rico has become a portal for narcotics entering the	21:00 Traffic Cops
20:30 Extraordinary Portraits	Insights and global interviews on the crucial news stories of the day. With Matt Chorley.	20:30 New: Bradley and Barney Walsh:...	20:00 Wheel of Fortune	21:00 Perfect Pub Walks with...	22:00 Inside Chernobyl with Ben Fogle
21:00 Beyond Paradise	00:00 Get Carter	21:00 Emmerdale	21:00 The 1% Club	22:00 New: Gogglebox	Ben Fogle spends a week
22:00 Have I Got News for You		21:30 Coronation Street	22:00 Pitch Perfect 2	23:00 First Dates	23:30 Piers Morgan: Uncensored
22:30 The Young Offenders		22:00 The Neighbourhood	23:05 FYI Daily	00:05 New: TFI Friday Unplugged	The bold, opinion-led news and debate show hosted by Piers Morgan. Piers blends journalism, debates and
23:00 BBC News at Ten		23:00 ITV News at Ten	23:10 Pitch Perfect 2		
23:30 BBC London		23:30 ITV News London	00:20 Family Guy		
23:40 The Young Offenders		23:45 The World's End			
00:10 St Denis Medical					
00:55 Quiz Lady					

Entertainment

Sky Max HD	Sky Family	Sky Documentaries	D&U&Dave	DMAX	RTÉ One
11:00 Will & Grace	12:15 Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank	11:45 My Icon: Darren Campbell	11:10 Extreme Salvage Squad	11:00 Deadliest Catch	11:00 The Drew Barrymore Show
12:00 The Simpsons	Loveable dog Hank sets out to become a samurai. Sky	In the next episode of this special series, former	12:10 Rick Stein's Cornwall	13:00 The Alaska Triangle	11:25 The Kelly Clarkson Show
13:00 Big Cats An Amazing Animal Family	14:05 10 Lives	12:00 The Nineties	Rick discovers how the Cornish landscape influenced Turner, joins an	A sonar recording may prove that a prehistoric monster stalks the seas around Kodiak Island.	12:20 Diagnosis Murder
14:00 Hawaii Five-0	15:45 Antz	13:00 Benetton Formula	12:40 Special Ops: Crime Squad UK	14:00 Expedition Unknown	13:15 Keys to My Life
15:00 Magnum P.I.	17:20 The Secret Life of Pets	15:00 Jackie Stewart	14:40 Guy Martin's World War 1 Tank	16:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue	13:45 Telly Bingo
16:00 S.W.A.T.	19:00 The Secret Life of Pets 2	17:00 Nicolas Roeg: The Directors	The motoring enthusiast wants to build a working replica of a First World War tank, pass the tank driving	18:00 Outback Opal Hunters	14:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock
17:00 Police 24/7	20:40 The Emoji Movie	18:00 Discovering: Olivia De Havilland	16:00 Top Gear	The Mooka Boys risk being buried alive as they hunt for a legendary mine shaft. The Blacklighters are	14:30 Home and Away
18:00 The Simpsons	22:10 The Last Airbender	19:00 Val	The team try out some of James Bond's greatest cars, Freddie and an Extreme E race car take on	20:00 Deadliest Catch	15:00 Shortland Street
19:00 The Office (US)	00:00 Shrek The Third	21:00 Gary	18:00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best	22:00 Cops UK: Bodycam Squad	15:30 Fair City
20:00 The Simpsons	The grumpy ogre returns as Shrek deals with impending fatherhood and the call to be King of Far Far Away.	23:00 I'm Chevy Chase And You're...	19:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall	23:00 Street Cops UK	16:00 EastEnders
21:00 An Idiot Abroad			20:00 Would I Lie To You?	00:00 Aussie Gold Hunters	16:30 Today
22:00 John Bishop 25 Tour: Live From Dublin			21:20 Richard Osman's House of Games	11:00 The Big Bang Theory	18:40 Nuacht RTÉ
Marking 25 years since he			22:00 QI XL	15:00 Mike & Molly	18:55 RTÉ News with Signing
23:45 Intelligence			23:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?	16:30 Young Sheldon	19:01 RTÉ News: Six One
00:10 Grimm			00:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order	18:00 The Big Bang Theory	20:00 Nationwide
			00:35 Mock the Week	22:00 New: 90 Day Fiancé: Before The 90 Days	20:30 Fair City
				00:00 New: 90 Day: The Single Life	21:00 Imelda May - Amhráin na nGael
					21:30 Tracks and Trails
					22:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock
					22:35 The Late Late Show
					00:10 The Young Offenders
					00:50 The Woman In Red

Sport

Sky Sports Mix
11:00 MVP Boxing: Baumgardner v Shin
12:00 MVP Boxing: Dubois v Harper
13:00 EFL 16/17: Wolves v Derby County



TV Guide

Saturday 2nd May 2026

BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:00 Saturday Kitchen 12:30 Flaming Feasts 13:00 Football Focus 13:45 BBC Weekend News 13:55 BBC Weather 14:00 Homes Under the Hammer 14:30 Bargain Hunt 15:15 Snooker: World Championship 17:30 Final Score 18:20 BBC Weekend News 18:30 BBC London 18:35 BBC Weather 18:40 Bridge of Lies 19:25 Blankety Blank 20:00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show 21:00 The Weakest Link 21:45 Casualty 22:35 Not Going Out 23:05 BBC Weekend News 23:20 BBC Weather 23:25 Match of the Day 00:35 The Football Interview 00:50 Point Break	11:00 Snooker: World Championship Coverage of day 15 of the World Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. 14:00 The Best Dishes Ever Ainsley Harriott introduces a selection of classic recipes from some of the BBC's best-loved television 14:30 UEFA Women's Champions League Live coverage as Lyon take on Arsenal in the Women's 17:30 Flog It! 18:30 Extraordinary Portraits 19:00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip Tough-talking Dom Littlewood and consumer champion Melinda Messenger turn their hand 20:00 Snooker: World Championship Coverage of day 15 of the World Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. 23:00 Top of the Pops	13:00 New: Dermot's Taste of Ireland Dermot begins his Irish food tour in the Glens of Antrim, getting hands-on at a traditional farm and dining 13:30 James Martin's American Adventure 14:00 ITV News National and international news with reports and 14:15 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present live racing from Newmarket - where the 2,000 Guineas 17:00 Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals 17:30 The Chase 18:30 ITV Evening News 18:45 ITV News London 19:00 Celebrity Catchphrase 20:00 New: Britain's Got Talent 22:00 New: It'll Be Alright on the Night 23:05 ITV News 23:15 Batman Begins	11:20 Deal or No Deal 13:25 Britain's Got Talent 15:30 Celebrity Catchphrase 16:35 Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang "When chaos strikes a family farm, Nanny McPhee arrives with her magical tricks to tame unruly 17:40 FYI Daily 17:45 Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang 18:45 Raiders of the Lost Ark Classic multi-Oscar-winning action-adventure. 1936 - an archaeology professor called Indiana Jones is 19:45 FYI Daily 19:50 Raiders of the Lost Ark Classic multi-Oscar-winning action-adventure. 1936 - an archaeology professor called Indiana Jones is 21:00 Dune 22:00 FYI Daily 22:05 Dune 00:10 Family Guy	11:20 Frasier Death Becomes Him: 11:55 F1 Miami GP Sprint Qualifying... 12:25 The Simpsons 13:55 A Place in the Sun Singer Barry and hairdresser Angela can't wait to relocate to Benidorm. Will any of 14:55 Four in a Bed 17:25 Location, Location, Location 18:30 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or... 19:30 Channel 4 News 20:00 New: Secret Africa: Into the Wild 21:00 New: World's Most Secret Hotels 22:00 Beast (2022) Thrilling romp starring Idris Elba as an all-action doctor who must protect his family from a 23:50 Assassin Club (2023) Action with Henry Golding and Sam Neill. An assassin wants to retire for love, but his handler has	11:45 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild 12:45 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly 14:45 Catching Up with the Royals with Rev Richard Coles & Emily Andrews Richard and Emily chat about royal 'secret 15:45 Hook 16:45 Entertainment News on 5 16:50 Hook Fantasy adventure starring Robin Williams and Dustin Hoffman. A grown-up Peter Pan has to return to 18:35 5 News Weekend National and international news. 18:40 Reuben Owen: Life in The Dales 20:35 William & Kate: A Royal Wedding - Minute by Minute 22:00 The Royal Popularity List 2026 23:30 Those Were The Days

Entertainment

Sky Max HD	Sky Family	Sky Documentaries	D&U&Dave	DMAX	RTÉ One
11:00 The Simpsons 	12:30 The Wild Thornberrys Movie 	11:45 My Icon: Darren Campbell 	12:15 Red Bull Soapbox Race: London 2022 AJ Odudu and Will Best present coverage as the Red Bull Soapbox Race returns for its 10th	11:00 Outback Opal Hunters 14:00 Gem Hunters Down Under 16:00 The Snake Catcher 17:00 Aussie Gold Hunters 20:00 Extreme Cheapskates Todd is obsessed with preserving the value of his assets. To keep his home 22:00 New: Paranormal Caught On Camera A ghostly figure walks next to a child's bed, a UFO infiltrates an air show, and a young woman receives a 23:00 New: Kindred Spirits	11:20 Ros na Rún 12:25 European Parliament Report 12:55 The Repair Shop on the Road 13:50 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:00 Cheap European Homes 15:00 The Money List 16:00 Racing From PuncHESTOWN 18:45 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 19:35 Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle 21:40 Pat Shortt's Entertainment From 22:15 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:45 The Young Offenders 23:20 The 2 Johnnies' Late Night Lock In 00:25 Cal
13:00 Gillette Soccer Saturday: Build-Up 	14:05 The Emoji Movie 	12:00 The Loneliest Whale 	14:15 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Bob and Paul fish the beautiful River Exe in	11:00 Outback Opal Hunters 14:00 Gem Hunters Down Under 16:00 The Snake Catcher 17:00 Aussie Gold Hunters 20:00 Extreme Cheapskates Todd is obsessed with preserving the value of his assets. To keep his home 22:00 New: Paranormal Caught On Camera A ghostly figure walks next to a child's bed, a UFO infiltrates an air show, and a young woman receives a 23:00 New: Kindred Spirits	11:20 Ros na Rún 12:25 European Parliament Report 12:55 The Repair Shop on the Road 13:50 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:00 Cheap European Homes 15:00 The Money List 16:00 Racing From PuncHESTOWN 18:45 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 19:35 Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle 21:40 Pat Shortt's Entertainment From 22:15 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:45 The Young Offenders 23:20 The 2 Johnnies' Late Night Lock In 00:25 Cal
16:00 Gillette Soccer Sat: Live Scores 	15:40 The Secret Life Of Pets 2 	14:00 Williams & Mansell: Red 5 	16:15 Would I Lie To You? David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by guests Alex Jones, Alexander Armstrong, Chris Tarrant	11:00 Outback Opal Hunters 14:00 Gem Hunters Down Under 16:00 The Snake Catcher 17:00 Aussie Gold Hunters 20:00 Extreme Cheapskates Todd is obsessed with preserving the value of his assets. To keep his home 22:00 New: Paranormal Caught On Camera A ghostly figure walks next to a child's bed, a UFO infiltrates an air show, and a young woman receives a 23:00 New: Kindred Spirits	11:20 Ros na Rún 12:25 European Parliament Report 12:55 The Repair Shop on the Road 13:50 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:00 Cheap European Homes 15:00 The Money List 16:00 Racing From PuncHESTOWN 18:45 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 19:35 Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle 21:40 Pat Shortt's Entertainment From 22:15 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:45 The Young Offenders 23:20 The 2 Johnnies' Late Night Lock In 00:25 Cal
18:00 Sport's Funniest Moments 	17:15 Shrek 	15:45 My Icon: Nasser Hussain 	22:00 Red Dwarf The revered space sitcom. The crew discover a white hole in space whilst trying to restore Holly's mind. It	11:00 Outback Opal Hunters 14:00 Gem Hunters Down Under 16:00 The Snake Catcher 17:00 Aussie Gold Hunters 20:00 Extreme Cheapskates Todd is obsessed with preserving the value of his assets. To keep his home 22:00 New: Paranormal Caught On Camera A ghostly figure walks next to a child's bed, a UFO infiltrates an air show, and a young woman receives a 23:00 New: Kindred Spirits	11:20 Ros na Rún 12:25 European Parliament Report 12:55 The Repair Shop on the Road 13:50 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:00 Cheap European Homes 15:00 The Money List 16:00 Racing From PuncHESTOWN 18:45 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 19:35 Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle 21:40 Pat Shortt's Entertainment From 22:15 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:45 The Young Offenders 23:20 The 2 Johnnies' Late Night Lock In 00:25 Cal
20:00 Miami F1 GP: Sprint 	19:00 Charlotte's Web 	16:00 I Am Luke Perry 	23:55 Not Going Out Lucy begins to consider having a breast augmentation when encouraged by Anna - and	11:00 Outback Opal Hunters 14:00 Gem Hunters Down Under 16:00 The Snake Catcher 17:00 Aussie Gold Hunters 20:00 Extreme Cheapskates Todd is obsessed with preserving the value of his assets. To keep his home 22:00 New: Paranormal Caught On Camera A ghostly figure walks next to a child's bed, a UFO infiltrates an air show, and a young woman receives a 23:00 New: Kindred Spirits	11:20 Ros na Rún 12:25 European Parliament Report 12:55 The Repair Shop on the Road 13:50 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:00 Cheap European Homes 15:00 The Money List 16:00 Racing From PuncHESTOWN 18:45 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 19:35 Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle 21:40 Pat Shortt's Entertainment From 22:15 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:45 The Young Offenders 23:20 The 2 Johnnies' Late Night Lock In 00:25 Cal
21:00 Eddie The Eagle 	20:50 Despicable Me 4 	17:45 Chimp Crazy 	00:35 Not Going Out Christmas Special: Ding Dong Merrily on Live	11:00 Outback Opal Hunters 14:00 Gem Hunters Down Under 16:00 The Snake Catcher 17:00 Aussie Gold Hunters 20:00 Extreme Cheapskates Todd is obsessed with preserving the value of his assets. To keep his home 22:00 New: Paranormal Caught On Camera A ghostly figure walks next to a child's bed, a UFO infiltrates an air show, and a young woman receives a 23:00 New: Kindred Spirits	11:20 Ros na Rún 12:25 European Parliament Report 12:55 The Repair Shop on the Road 13:50 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:00 Cheap European Homes 15:00 The Money List 16:00 Racing From PuncHESTOWN 18:45 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 19:35 Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle 21:40 Pat Shortt's Entertainment From 22:15 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:45 The Young Offenders 23:20 The 2 Johnnies' Late Night Lock In 00:25 Cal
23:00 New: Saturday Night Live UK 	22:30 Paddington 	22:00 Touching The Void 		11:00 Outback Opal Hunters 14:00 Gem Hunters Down Under 16:00 The Snake Catcher 17:00 Aussie Gold Hunters 20:00 Extreme Cheapskates Todd is obsessed with preserving the value of his assets. To keep his home 22:00 New: Paranormal Caught On Camera A ghostly figure walks next to a child's bed, a UFO infiltrates an air show, and a young woman receives a 23:00 New: Kindred Spirits	11:20 Ros na Rún 12:25 European Parliament Report 12:55 The Repair Shop on the Road 13:50 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:00 Cheap European Homes 15:00 The Money List 16:00 Racing From PuncHESTOWN 18:45 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 19:35 Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle 21:40 Pat Shortt's Entertainment From 22:15 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:45 The Young Offenders 23:20 The 2 Johnnies' Late Night Lock In 00:25 Cal
00:15 Miami F1 GP: Qualifying 	00:20 Into the Wonderwoods 	00:10 Hill One name. Two world champions. In 1996, Damon Hill claimed the		11:00 Outback Opal Hunters 14:00 Gem Hunters Down Under 16:00 The Snake Catcher 17:00 Aussie Gold Hunters 20:00 Extreme Cheapskates Todd is obsessed with preserving the value of his assets. To keep his home 22:00 New: Paranormal Caught On Camera A ghostly figure walks next to a child's bed, a UFO infiltrates an air show, and a young woman receives a 23:00 New: Kindred Spirits	11:20 Ros na Rún 12:25 European Parliament Report 12:55 The Repair Shop on the Road 13:50 RTÉ News: One O'Clock 14:00 Cheap European Homes 15:00 The Money List 16:00 Racing From PuncHESTOWN 18:45 Nuacht RTÉ 18:55 RTÉ News with Signing 19:01 RTÉ News: Six One 19:35 Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle 21:40 Pat Shortt's Entertainment From 22:15 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock 22:45 The Young Offenders 23:20 The 2 Johnnies' Late Night Lock In 00:25 Cal

Sport

Sky Sports Mix

- 11:00 S/Lge 2024 Highlights
- 12:00 Live Ladies European Tour Golf
- 15:00 Women's State Of Origin #1 Hits
- 15:15 S/Lge: Leeds v Wakefield



TV Guide

Sunday 3rd May 2026

BBC		ITV		Channel 4	Channel 5
BBC ONE	BBC TWO	ITV1 HD	ITV2	Channel 4	5
11:00 Politics London	12:25 Andi Oliver's Fabulous Feasts	12:25 Josie's Taste Of The Westcountry	11:10 Deal or No Deal	11:00 Live: Sunday Brunch	11:30 Happy Campers: The Caravan Park
11:30 Trolls World Tour	13:25 Grand Hotel	13:25 Love Your Garden	13:10 Wheel of Fortune	14:00 The Simpsons	12:30 Susan Calman's Cruise of a Lifetime
12:55 BBC Weekend News	15:15 Women's Super League	13:55 ITV News	14:15 Celebrity Catchphrase	15:00 Four in a Bed	14:30 Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War
13:05 Weather for the Week Ahead	Coverage of the Women's Super League clash between Leicester City and Chelsea.	14:15 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket	15:15 Britain's Got Talent	The competition kicks off at Tay House in Perth and Kinross, where the B&Bers aren't too happy about a	15:30 Entertainment News on 5
13:10 Songs of Praise	18:00 Flog It!	17:00 E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial	17:20 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom	18:35 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	15:35 Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War
13:45 Points of View	Members of the public bring their antiques to be viewed and valued.	19:10 Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals	18:25 FYI Daily	19:30 Channel 4 News	16:45 Runaway Bride
14:00 Snooker: World Championship	19:00 This Farming Life	19:40 ITV Evening News	18:30 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom	20:00 The Great Celebrity Bake Off...	17:45 Entertainment News on 5
17:00 Secret Garden	Following six farming families in some of	National and international news with reports and analysis from ITV's Correspondents in the UK	19:45 Hairspray	21:00 New: Cruising to the Ends of...	17:50 Runaway Bride
18:00 BBC Weekend News	20:00 Snooker: World Championship	19:50 ITV News London	A musical comedy-drama remake of John Waters' cult 1988 film of the same name. Tracy Turnblad, a	...the Earth: As the	18:55 5 News Weekend
18:05 BBC London	Coverage of day 16 of the World Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.	20:00 The Chase Celebrity Special	20:45 FYI Daily	22:00 New: Your Song	19:00 Charlie Bigham: Britain's Poshest
18:10 BBC Weather	23:00 1917	21:00 New: Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?	Latest news from the world	A former Birmingham City footballer sings for her grandad. A navy officer performs Nessun Dorma	20:00 The Air Fryer Diet: Lose Weight, Cook
18:15 Countryfile	00:50 Here We Are	22:00 Secret Service	20:50 Hairspray	23:05 Gogglebox	21:00 Rich Holiday, Poor Holiday
19:15 Secret Garden	Aharon has devoted his life to raising his son Uri, where they live together in a gentle routine away from	23:05 ITV News	22:00 The Only Way is Essex	00:00 Free Guy	22:00 Rich Wedding Poor Wedding
20:15 Antiques Roadshow		National and international news with reports and analysis from ITV's	The gang are building bridges this week as Elma, Courtney, Freddie and Dani come together to air their	(2021) Comedy action starring Ryan Reynolds. Guy lives in Free City. Free City isn't real. Nor is Guy.	23:30 When Parties Go Horribly Wrong
21:00 Making Life on Earth: Attenborough's		23:25 The Dark Knight	23:05 Family Guy		
22:00 The Cage			00:35 American Dad!		
23:00 BBC Weekend News					
23:25 BBC London					
23:30 Match of the Day					
00:35 The Women's Football Show					

Entertainment

Sky Max HD	Sky Family	Sky Documentaries	D&U&Dave	DMAX	RTÉ One
11:00 Ted's Quali Notebook: Miami	12:10 Paddington in Peru	11:50 My Icon: Shaun Gayle	12:30 Red Bull Soapbox Race	11:00 Garage Rehab	11:30 Fóram
11:30 The Simpsons	14:05 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa	12:00 Benetton Formula	14:00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing	Richard and his crew head out to Phoenix to help Fly	12:00 Sunday Worship
12:00 Live WSL: Man City v Liverpool	15:40 Shrek	14:00 Villeneuve Pironi - Racing's Untold Tragedy	16:00 Hairy Bikers Everyday Gourmets	15:00 Kindig Customs	13:00 The Week In Politics
A match from the 2025-26 Barclays Women's Super League.	17:20 Shrek 2	16:00 I Am Burt Reynolds	Luxury Lunches: The Bikers show that a luxury lunch is possible on even the	18:00 Chasing Classic Cars	14:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock
15:30 The Simpsons	19:00 Despicable Me 4	17:50 Scientology: Going Clear - The Prison of Belief	18:00 The Lakes with Simon Reeve	Wayne bags two epic finds with a 1947 Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 Super Sport Cabriolet that was garaged for over	14:10 Super Garden
17:00 Agatha Raisin	20:40 Stuart Little	20:10 The Alpinist	Simon Reeve explores the impact of humans on the Lake District, discovering the high number of visitors	20:00 Expedition Bigfoot	14:40 Ireland's Hidden Treasures
21:00 Rob & Romesh Vs...	22:10 Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse	22:00 The Bee Gees: How Can You Mend A Broken Heart	20:00 New: Border Force America's Gatekeepers	Mireya's darkest nightmare comes true. Meanwhile, Russell investigates a possible Bigfoot underwater	15:40 Ireland's Coast
22:00 Olympus Has Fallen	Academy Award-winning animated film exploring the weaves, webs and alternate realities of the incredible	00:10 EFL: The Play-Offs at 40	21:00 Special Ops: Crime Squad UK	22:00 Ancient Unexplained Files	16:40 An Affair To Remember
00:15 New: Saturday Night Live	00:10 Paddington 2		22:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?	00:00 Expedition X	18:40 Nuacht RTÉ
			23:00 QI	Phil Torres and Jessica Chobot embark on a mission to find out what's happening on the Island of	18:50 RTÉ News with Signing
			Roaming: Sandi Toksvig goes roaming with Alan Davies, Sara Pascoe, Josh Widdicombe and Benjamin	23:00 The Talented Mr. Ripley	19:01 RTÉ News: Six One
			23:35 Mock the Week		19:30 Come To Your Census
					20:30 The Money List
					21:30 Fair City
					22:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock
					22:30 Dermot Bannon's Celebrity Super
					23:30 Mrs Brown's Boys D'Mini Series
					00:05 The Week In Politics

Sport

Sky Sports Mix

14:00 Miami F1 GP: Sprint
15:00 S/Lge 2024 Highlights
15:30 EFL 97/98: Charlton v Sunderland
15:45 Women's State Of Origin #1 Hlts
16:00 S/Lge: Hull KR v Castleford
18:45 Darts Gold: Priestley v Wilson



TV Guide

Monday 4th May 2026

BBC

BBC ONE

11:45 Rip Off Britain
12:30 Homes Under the Hammer
13:15 Bargain Hunt
14:00 BBC News at One including BBC...
14:30 Scam Interceptors
15:00 Dinosaurs: The Final Day with...
16:30 Escape to the Country
17:30 Bridge of Lies
18:15 New: Pointless
19:00 BBC News
19:20 BBC London News
19:25 Party Election Broadcast by the...
19:30 The One Show
20:00 The Marvellous Miniature Workshop
20:30 EastEnders
21:00 MasterChef
22:00 Mint
23:00 BBC News and Weather
23:20 BBC London News
23:30 Have I Got News for You
00:00 Making Life on Earth:...

BBC TWO

11:20 Whisky Galore! (1949)
12:40 BBC News
Twenty-four hours a day, the latest national and international stories as they break. [S] [HD]
14:00 Snooker: World Championship
17:00 Best Dishes Ever
1/20. Ainsley Harriott
17:30 Vintage Antiques Roadshow
18:15 Flog It!
Paul Martin and his team of experts invite members of the public to bring their antiques to be viewed and
19:00 Richard Osman's House of Games
26/100. Jordan Banjo, Sian Lloyd, Nick Pickard and Ellie White test their general knowledge skills on
19:30 Great Korean Railway Journeys
1/5. Michael begins his journey at the tense frontier of the Demilitarised Zone. [S,AD] [HD]
20:00 Snooker: World Championship
23:00 The Great Escaper
00:30 Mud

ITV

ITV1 HD

11:00 This Morning
13:30 Loose Women
Join the Loose Women panellists as they interview celebrity guests and discuss the day's most
14:45 ITV Lunchtime News
The latest headlines from around the world at lunchtime with reports and analysis from ITV's
14:55 ITV News London
15:00 Around the World in 80 Days
17:25 Celebrity Lingo
17:55 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars
19:00 ITV News London
19:05 Party Election Broadcast:...
19:10 ITV Evening News
19:30 The Chase Celebrity Special
Bradley Walsh hosts as one
20:30 New: How to Clean Up for Cash
21:00 Emmerdale
21:30 Coronation Street
22:00 Secret Service
23:00 ITV News at Ten
23:15 Hellboy II: The Golden Army

ITV2

11:20 Rio
12:25 FYI Daily
12:30 Rio
Colourful animated adventure comedy. In Rio de Janeiro, baby macaw
13:15 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win
14:15 Celebrity Catchphrase
15:15 Wheel of Fortune
16:15 The Only Way is Essex
17:15 Kung Fu Panda 2
18:20 FYI Daily
18:25 Kung Fu Panda 2
Jack Black and Angelina Jolie voice this high-kicking adventure sequel. Po and his friends fight to stop a
19:00 Celebrity Catchphrase
20:00 Wheel of Fortune
21:00 The 1% Club
22:00 The Only Way is Essex
23:05 Family Guy
00:35 American Dad!
Stan is a wanted man and on the run from bounty hunter Roger. He soon finds himself in a small

Channel 4

Channel 4

11:25 F1 Miami GP Highlights
12:55 The Kid Who Would Be King
15:10 Countdown
16:00 A Place in the Sun
17:00 Escape to Florida
18:00 Chateau DIY
The new series continues. Vivienne and Simon re-invent a tired room into an Empire suite. But with
19:00 New: Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
In Almería, the Garners help friends Lynn and Della
20:00 Channel 4 News
20:30 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or...
...List It: Brilliant Builds: Kirstie and Phil look back at Andy and Jess Tuck's grand renovation of their
21:00 The Dog House
22:00 New: Virgin Island
It's the Dating Phase of the course. As some of the virgins work to overcome their anxieties, Tegan
23:00 Love Cheats: The Fake Lord
00:05 Super Surgeons: A Chance at Life

Channel 5

5

12:30 Storm & Alexis
13:45 5 News at Lunchtime
13:50 Matt Allwright
Matt looks at the big news stories developing during
15:00 Vanessa
16:00 Castle
17:50 Love Nature
18:00 On Safari with Jane McDonald
19:00 Love Nature
19:05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out
20:00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders
PC Martain Anderson and fellow motorway cops pursue a BMW driving on cloned plates. What do the
21:00 Police Interceptors
22:00 Number One Fan
Sally Lindsay, Jill Halfpenny, Daniel Adegboyega and Dean Andrews star in this thriller.
23:00 Police 999: Night Shift
All roads policing officers are called to attend a potentially fatal collision on the M5. PC Webb calls for
00:05 Traffic Cops

Entertainment

Sky Max HD

11:45 The Office (US)
13:50 Live WSL: Aston Villa v West Ham
In the Barclays Women's
16:00 The Simpsons
17:50 David Attenborough's Bachelor King
19:20 Chicken Run
21:00 Shark: British Isles Special...
22:00 Andor
23:00 Rooster
23:40 New: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
00:25 Saturday Night Live UK

Sky Family

12:15 Stuart Little
13:50 Shrek 2
It's time for odorous ogre Mike Myers to meet the new in-laws with his
15:25 Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse
17:25 Shrek The Third
The grumpy ogre returns as Shrek deals with impending fatherhood and the call to be King of Far Far Away.
19:00 Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle
21:05 Jumanji: The Next Level
23:10 My Penguin Friend
00:50 Sketch

Sky Documentaries

12:00 The Nineties
13:00 Man On Wire
15:00 Lancaster
Discover the story of the legendary bomber synonymous with the Dambusters, the night raids
17:00 Spitfire
19:00 The Wimbledon Kidnapping
Sky Original documentary exploring the mysterious disappearance of Muriel McKay, the UK's first
21:00 Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow
Sky Original investigating
00:00 Costa Concordia: Chronicle Of a Disaster

D&U&Dave

11:50 Top Gear
More motoring mayhem. The lads must each buy a car for under 1500 pounds and drive it across the
14:30 Gavin & Stacey
Happy couple Stacey and Gavin are welcomed home after their honeymoon, but a confession from Nessa
18:25 Gavin and Stacey
19:00 Rick Stein's Cornwall
Rick forages for mussels in his favourite rock pools, tours Bodmin Moor's dark past with his son Jack, and
20:00 Would I Lie To You?
21:20 Richard Osman's House of Games
Previous winners Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Cariad Lloyd, Gareth Malone and Mike Wozniak test their
22:00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You?
23:00 QI XL
Sandi Toksvig takes a look at some vets with Tom Allen, Melanie Bracewell, Desiree Burch and Alan
00:00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order
00:40 Mock the Week

DMAX

11:00 Deadliest Catch
13:00 Mysteries of the Missing
14:00 Expedition Unknown
16:00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue
18:00 Outback Opal Hunters
20:00 Deadliest Catch
A dramatic change in the
22:00 Crikey! It's the Irwins
23:00 The Zoo
00:00 Aussie Gold Hunters
HGTV
11:00 The Big Bang Theory
15:00 Mike & Molly
Despite promising to work together, Vince bails on finishing a do-it-yourself project with Mike. S6/Ep8
16:30 Young Sheldon
18:00 The Big Bang Theory
Leonard must face his fears after being contacted by his high school tormentor, while Penny realises that
22:00 Mock The Week
23:00 Zero Stars
00:00 Dr. Pimple Popper

RTÉ One

11:15 The Drew Barrymore Show
11:40 The Kelly Clarkson Show
12:30 Diagnosis Murder
13:25 Great Coastal Railway Journeys
14:00 RTÉ News: One O'Clock
14:10 Home and Away
14:40 Shortland Street
15:10 Fair City
16:10 Chariots Of Fire
18:30 Faraway Fields
18:45 Nuacht RTÉ
18:55 RTÉ News with Signing
19:01 RTÉ News: Six One
19:30 Rian Na Fola (As Gaeilge)
20:30 EastEnders
21:00 10 Things To Know About
21:30 Masters: Keepers of Tradition.
22:00 RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock
22:30 Top Gun: Maverick
00:50 The Late Late Show

Sport

Sky Sports Mix

11:00 Miami F1 GP Highlights
12:00 WTA Final: Madrid



Alicante seeks to increase cruise passengers

The Costa Blanca Tourist Board is stepping up efforts to position Alicante as a premier Mediterranean cruise destination, unveiling an ambitious international strategy at the Seatrade Cruise Global exhibition.

Working alongside the Alicante Port Authority, The Cruise Terminal, Alicante City Hall and the Alicante Costa Blanca Association for Cruise Tourism, officials are promoting both the Port of Alicante and the wider province as a hub for high-quality cruise excursions. The initiative includes meetings with major cruise lines and specialised tour operators aimed at boosting Alicante's global profile.

José Mancebo, director of the

Costa Blanca Tourist Board, said the objective is not only to reinforce Alicante's status as a key port of call but also to extend the economic benefits of cruise tourism across the entire province. He highlighted the port's "strategic location, strong infrastructure and diverse tourism offer" as factors behind its growing appeal.

The renewed push comes amid strong growth in the sector. In 2025, Alicante recorded 103 cruise ship visits—83 port calls and 20 homeport operations—bringing approximately 253,000 passengers. Projections for 2026 suggest further expansion, with 116 scheduled stops, including 20 homeport operations, 18 double arrivals and nine maiden calls from cruise

ships visiting the city for the first time.

Passenger numbers are expected to climb to around 300,000, with 25 cruise companies operating in Alicante throughout the year. The increase is also contributing to the gradual reduction of seasonal tourism patterns and could generate an estimated €84 million in economic impact.

Spending figures underline the sector's value: cruise passengers spend an average of €81.33 during a port call, rising to €420.56 for homeport stays, while crew members spend approximately €141 each.

Data also shows that cruise tourism is increasingly spreading beyond Alicante city. Around 84%

of passengers disembark—equating to roughly 218,000 visitors—with 72% staying in the city and 28% travelling to other parts of the province.

Nearby destinations benefiting from this trend include Elche, which attracts 21% of excursions, and coastal hotspots such as Benidorm (20%), La Vila Joiosa and Altea (12%), El Campello (6%) and Torrevieja (3%). Inland tourism is also growing, accounting for 30% of excursions, with visitors heading to locations such as Orihuela, Castell de Guadalest, Novelda, Elda and Villena.

"These figures show that cruise tourism is no longer concentrated solely in the city," Mancebo said. "Visitors are increasingly explor-

ing the wider province, helping to distribute tourism more evenly."

The strategy is coordinated through the Cruise Tourism Observatory, which brings together key stakeholders to promote Alicante internationally. Activities include participation in trade fairs, as well as press and familiarisation trips designed to attract new cruise routes.

Following this event, the Costa Blanca delegation will continue its promotional campaign at Seatrade Europe in Hamburg and at the MedCruise General Assembly, held alternately in Málaga, as it seeks to secure Alicante's place on more global cruise itineraries.

Alicante train station set for major transformation

A major transformation is being planned for Alicante's train station as part of the exciting new Central Park project, a long-term redevelopment scheme that aims to reshape large parts of the city around housing, accessibility and transport.

At the centre of the plans is a complete rethink of the current station site, which would see the historic terminal restored to its

original architectural style while also being integrated with a brand new modern building designed for high-speed rail passengers.

Spain's Transport Minister Óscar Puente explained that the idea is to create a single connected station, bringing the old and new structures together so they function as one unified transport hub. The new high-speed terminal is expected to

be built in the area currently used as a taxi rank, although parts of the wider site, including the existing post office building, are still under review.

Minister Puente described the plan as a "modern building that can integrate with the historic building," with both elements connected as a single operational station.

Alongside the architectural chang-

es, the railway infrastructure itself is also being heavily upgraded.

The works, which began last year, include a €20.2 million investment and are expected to be completed in the first half of 2027.

Once finished, Alicante station will have 14 tracks in total, including ten for high-speed services and four for regional trains. The upgrades involve adding three new standard

gauge tracks and converting three existing Iberian gauge lines to standard gauge, significantly increasing capacity.

According to Puente, the wider goal is to turn Alicante into one of the most important rail hubs in the Mediterranean, describing the project as the biggest railway transformation the city has ever seen.

British passengers drive Alicante airport to a record-breaking March

Alicante-Elche Miguel Hernández Airport has broken its own monthly record once again, handling 1,609,368 passengers in March 2026, a 9.1% increase on the same month last year and the highest figure ever recorded for that month at the airport.

The numbers are particularly impressive given that March still technically falls within the winter season.

In the first quarter of the year alone, the airport handled 3,945,150 passengers, up 6.6% on the same period in 2025 and already accounting for roughly a fifth of the airport's entire passenger volume for the whole of last year.

The international market continues to drive the growth, with 1,417,924 international passengers recorded in March, up 11.2% year-on-year. British travellers topped the table by some distance, with 536,966 passengers, followed by Germany with 105,409, the Netherlands with 103,575, Poland with 97,995 and Belgium with 85,961.

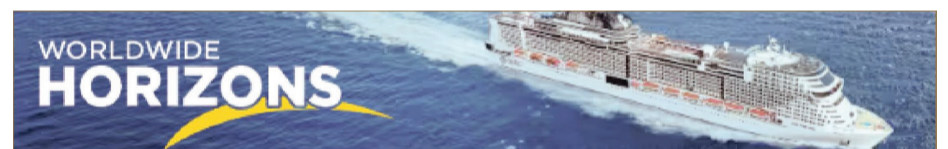
Domestic traffic dipped slightly, down 4.5% to 191,006 passengers, though that's partly attributed to the ongoing recovery of rail services following a train accident in January.

In terms of flight movements, March

saw 10,097 operations handled, up 7.5% on last year, with the first quarter total reaching 25,620 movements, a 6.3% increase on the same period in 2025.

Those figures have cemented Alicante's position as the fourth busiest airport in Spain, behind only Madrid, Barcelona and Málaga, and ahead of Palma, Gran Canaria and Tenerife South. It's also the second fastest-growing airport among Spain's top ten, with only Málaga posting slightly higher growth at 9.4%.

To put the local performance in context, the national average growth across all Aena-managed airports in Spain for March was 3.9%, meaning Alicante is growing at more than double the national rate.



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The art of keeping wine in the fridge

There comes a point in many wine drinkers' lives when finishing a bottle in one sitting becomes the exception rather than the rule – especially mid-week. Whether it's a quiet weeknight dinner or a casual glass after work, more bottles are being recorked than emptied. With that shift comes a practical question: how long does an open bottle of wine really last and how can it be preserved at its best?

The answer lies in understanding what happens to wine once it's exposed to air, and how small adjustments in storage can make a noticeable difference in taste and longevity.

Why Wine Changes After Opening

The moment a bottle is opened, oxygen begins interacting with the wine. This process, known as oxidation, gradually alters its flavour, aroma, and structure. While controlled exposure to air can briefly enhance certain wines—helping them “open up”—continued oxidation leads to deterioration.

Over time, fresh fruit notes fade, acidity becomes more pronounced, and the wine may eventually take on a sour, vinegar-like

character. Despite this transformation, open wine does not typically become unsafe to drink. Its alcohol content, acidity, and natural compounds help prevent harmful bacteria from developing. The issue is not safety, but quality.

The Best Way to Store an Open Bottle

Proper storage is the most effective way to slow oxidation and extend a wine's drinkable window. Temperature, positioning, and air exposure all play a role. A dedicated wine fridge offers ideal conditions, maintaining consistent temperature and humidity. However, a standard kitchen refrigerator works just as well for preserving an opened bottle. Cooler temperatures significantly slow the chemical reactions that degrade wine, helping it retain its freshness for longer.

Contrary to common assumptions, refrigeration is not just for white and sparkling wines. Red wines also benefit from being stored in the fridge after opening. Keeping the bottle upright further reduces the surface area exposed to oxygen, slowing the rate of oxidation. When it's time to serve a chilled

red, allowing it to sit at room temperature for about 20 to 30 minutes helps restore its aromas and flavours. Drinking it too cold can mute its complexity, making it seem flatter than intended.

How Long Does Open Wine Last?

There is no universal expiration timeline for opened wine, but general guidelines offer a helpful starting point.

Most wines remain enjoyable for about three days after opening when properly stored. By the fourth day, many begin to lose their vibrancy, with muted flavours and diminished structure. That said, wine is a dynamic product, and its lifespan depends heavily on its composition.

Wines with higher levels of alcohol, tannins, or sugar tend to last longer once opened. Full-bodied reds, fortified wines, and sweeter styles often show greater resilience. In contrast, lighter wines—such as delicate whites or low-alcohol reds—may fade more quickly.

Interestingly, some wines can taste better on the second day. A brief period of oxygen expo-

sure can soften harsh edges and enhance aromas, revealing new dimensions that weren't immediately apparent upon opening. One notable exception to the short lifespan rule is boxed wine. Thanks to vacuum-sealed packaging that limits air exposure, many modern boxed wines can stay fresh for several weeks after opening, making them a practical option for occasional drinkers.

Signs a Wine Has Passed Its Prime

Determining whether a wine is still enjoyable ultimately comes down to sensory evaluation. While personal taste is the final judge, there are a few reliable indicators that a wine may be past its best.

Appearance:

A slight change in colour is normal as wine oxidizes. Reds may develop a brick-like hue, while whites can deepen to a golden tone.

However, significant cloudiness or unusual sediment may signal spoilage.

Aroma:

The nose often provides the clearest clues. Fresh wine typically carries notes of fruit, flowers, herbs, or spice. As it deteriorates,

these aromas give way to sharper, less pleasant scents—vinegar, nail polish remover, or damp cardboard are common warning signs.

Taste:

Flavour is the ultimate test. A wine that has lost its balance, tastes flat, or carries an acidic, sour edge is likely past its peak. If it no longer delivers pleasure, it's time to let it go.

Making the Most of Every Bottle

For those looking to stretch the life of an open bottle, a few simple habits can go a long way:

- **Recork promptly:** Minimizing air exposure is key. Replace the cork or use a wine stopper immediately after pouring.
- **Refrigerate consistently:** Even a few hours at room temperature can accelerate oxidation.
- **Keep bottles upright:** This reduces the surface area exposed to oxygen inside the bottle.
- **Avoid frequent opening:** Each time the bottle is uncorked, more oxygen enters, speeding up the aging process.

These small adjustments can add an extra day—or even two—of enjoyable drinking time.

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Best bars in Madrid: the perfect pour

Madrid's nightlife is as diverse as it is electric. Beneath the city's grand boulevards and tucked into its buzzing neighbourhoods lies a world of bars that push boundaries, revive traditions, and occasionally lean into the delightfully unconventional. From experimental natural wine dens to high-concept cocktail temples, the capital's drinking scene thrives on creativity—and knowing where to go is half the experience. While visitors often flock to the obvious hotspots, locals tend to gravitate toward places that balance atmosphere, originality, and substance. These are the venues where the drinks are memorable, the crowds discerning, and the energy unmistakably Madrid.

Cruda: Natural Wine Meets New-Age Energy

Few places in Madrid feel quite as distinctive as Cruda. This natural wine bar has quietly built a reputation for doing things differently starting with its philosophy. With more than 140 bottles of low-intervention wines lining its walls, Cruda offers a curated journey through Europe's most expressive vineyards, from lively pét-nats to bold, unfiltered reds and skin-contact whites. But it's not just the wine that draws a crowd. The experience here

is deliberately immersive. The minimalist, almost meditative design—think steel finishes softened by warm lighting—creates a sense of calm that contrasts with the city's usual pace. The concept of “energetic sommellerie” underpins the approach, blending hospitality with a subtle sense of ritual.

A long communal table anchors the space, turning tastings into shared experiences, though the terrace offers a more relaxed alternative on warmer evenings. The food menu, compact yet precise, complements the wines with bold, clean flavours. For those seeking something beyond the ordinary, Cruda delivers a quietly transformative night out.

Salmon Guru: Cocktails with a Comic-Book Twist

In a city known for its cocktail culture, Salmon Guru stands out as both playful and polished. This award-winning bar blends high-level mixology with a sense of fun that's impossible to ignore. The interiors lean heavily into comic-book aesthetics, layered with retro touches reminiscent of 1960s cocktail lounges. Behind the bar, innovation takes centre stage. Classic cocktails are executed with precision, while inventive creations explore

unexpected flavour combinations, often inspired by botanicals and global influences. The menu is extensive but approachable, reflecting a broader mission to make mixology feel inclusive rather than intimidating.

Beyond the drinks, the food offering adds another layer to the experience. Small plates—ranging from hummus to mini-burgers and pickled bites—are designed to pair effortlessly with the cocktails, encouraging a more relaxed, sociable style of drinking. It's a place where experimentation and accessibility meet, making it a favourite for both seasoned cocktail enthusiasts and curious newcomers.

Arima: A Love Letter to Vermouth

At Arima, vermouth is more than a pre-dinner drink—it's the main event. This hybrid space, part restaurant and part bar, celebrates Spain's long-standing relationship with vermouth while giving it a modern twist.

The selection is impressive, with around 30 varieties sourced from across the country. Each is served with care, typically accompanied by a simple garnish of olive and orange, allowing the flavours to shine. Detailed descriptions on the menu guide guests through

the nuances of each pour, turning every glass into a small discovery.

Innovation plays a role here too. Among the more unexpected offerings is a frozen, slushy-style vermouth, a refreshing take that feels tailor-made for Madrid's warmer months. Combined with an open kitchen that brings a sense of theatre to the space, Arima offers an experience that feels both rooted in tradition and refreshingly current.

Bar H Emblematico: Classic Done Right in Salamanca

In a city that constantly reinvents itself, there's something reassuring about a bar that gets the basics exactly right. Bar H Emblematico, located in the upscale Salamanca district, has quickly established itself as a go-to for both locals and visitors.

Despite being a relatively new addition, it carries the confidence of a seasoned institution. Its connection to a well-regarded restaurant group is evident in the attention to detail, from the quality of the drinks to the efficiency of the service. The atmosphere is lively without being overwhelming, striking a balance that makes it equally suited to a quick midday stop or a longer, more leisurely visit.

Its popularity is no accident. Positioned in a busy business area, it draws a steady crowd, particularly during lunch hours. The appeal lies in its simplicity: well-made drinks, a welcoming environment, and a sense that everything is exactly as it should be.

Harrison 1933: A Nightlife Playground with Vintage Flair

For those looking to extend the evening into the early hours, Harrison 1933 offers a more theatrical take on Madrid nightlife. Inspired by the end of Prohibition, the bar channels a vintage aesthetic while delivering a thoroughly modern experience.

The venue unfolds across multiple levels, each with its own mood. Upstairs, the setting is relaxed, with low tables and a focus on expertly crafted cocktails. Downstairs, the energy shifts. A vaulted brick cellar, complete with a DJ booth and dance floor, transforms into a late-night hub where music and movement take over.

While cocktails are the main attraction, the menu also caters to simpler tastes, offering everything from beer to classic pairings like ham and olives. The result is a space that evolves as the night progresses—starting as a refined cocktail bar and ending as a full-blown party.

Rock nostalgia at Hotel Algorfa

Get ready for a night of pure rock nostalgia as Keeng, the ultimate Queen tribute act, takes the stage this Saturday, 2nd May! If you've ever dreamed of reliving the magic of Freddie Mercury and the iconic sound of Queen, this is your chance to experience it live.

From the electrifying energy of “Don't Stop Me Now” to the timeless anthem “Bohemian Rhapsody,” Keeng delivers a performance that captures the spirit, style, and showmanship of one of the greatest bands of all time. Whether you're a life-long fan or just looking for an unforgettable night out, this show promises to have you singing along from start to finish.

The doors open for an 8:30 PM start, giving you the perfect evening plan with friends, family, or fellow music lovers. And at just €10 per person, it's incredible value for a live music experience of this caliber.

Don't miss out on a night packed with legendary hits, high-energy performances, and an atmosphere that will transport you straight to a Queen concert. Grab your tickets, bring your best singing voice, and get ready to rock!



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White Chicken Lasagne

Think tender shredded chicken and golden mushrooms smothered in a cheesy, creamy sauce, layered up into a big, cosy lasagna. Try it once, and you'll be converted for life.

Ingredients:

Chicken & semi-homemade stock:

- 1 kg/ 2lb chicken breast or boneless skinless thigh
- 4 cups (1L) milk
- 2 cups (500ml) chicken broth / stock
- 2 bay leaves, dried
- 3 sprigs thyme (or 1 tsp dried thyme)
- 2 tsp chicken stock powder/granulated bouillon
- 1/2 tsp black pepper

Mushrooms:

- 2 tbsp (30g) butter, separated
- 2 tbsp olive oil, separated
- 500g / 1lb mushrooms, quartered
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 tsp salt and pepper, each

White sauce:

- 50g / 4tbsp butter
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 3/4 cup (110g) flour, plain / all purpose
- 2 cups (200g) cheddar cheese, shredded

Lasagna:

- 375g (13 oz) lasagna sheets, fresh (or 250g/8oz dried)
- 2 cups (200g) mozzarella cheese, shredded

Instructions:

Chicken:

Place milk, broth and stock powder in a large saucepan. Bring to a very gentle simmer over medium heat, add chicken, pepper, bay leaves and thyme.

Place lid on, simmer gently on medium low for 15 minutes (do not boil, can make milk split).

Remove chicken and shred. Cover pot and set poaching liquid aside.

Mushrooms:

Heat half the oil and butter in a very

large, deep skillet over high heat (or use large pot). Add half the mushrooms with half the garlic, salt and pepper.

Cook for 5 minutes, stirring leisurely, until golden. Transfer to bowl and repeat with remaining mushrooms.

White Sauce:

Lower heat down to medium.

Melt butter in skillet, then add garlic. Stir until golden.

Add flour. Stir constantly for 1 minute.

Gradually pour in 2 cups of reserved poaching liquid while stirring constantly, it should turn into a thick paste.

Mix in another cup of liquid, then add remaining liquid and stir well to dissolve.

Use whisk if necessary to make lump free.

Stir constantly for 1 to 2 minutes until it thickens – you should be able to draw a path across a spoon (see video).

Remove from heat, stir in cheese until melted. Taste and add more salt & peppers, if needed.

REMOVE 2 1/2 cups (625ml) of sauce (save for topping). Then stir in chicken and mushrooms into remaining sauce.

Assemble & Bake:

Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F.

Smear some sauce on the base of a 23 x 33 cm / 9 x 13" baking dish. Cover base with lasagna sheets.

Top with half chicken mixture, then lasagna sheets, remaining chicken mixture then more lasagna sheets.

Pour over reserved White Sauce, sprinkle with mozzarella. Cover loosely with foil or use upside down baking tray (ensure it's not touching cheese).

Bake for 25 minutes. Remove foil, bake further 10 minutes until golden and bubbly.

Stand 10 minutes, garnish with parsley if desired then cut to serve.



Chilli Lime Fish

Pan-seared chunks of white fish are coated in a syrupy, spicy lime sauce in this dish based on a traditional Thai street stall favourite. It tastes a bit like a fish version of everybody's favourite Chilli Garlic Prawns. Very quick to make and loaded with big flavours.

Ingredients:

Fish:

- 330g / 11 oz thin white fish fillets (~1cm / 0.4" thick), skinless, cut into 6cm / 2.5" (or so) squares pieces
- 0.25 tsp cooking/kosher salt
- 0.25 cup rice flour or ordinary flour
- 2 tbsp canola oil

Sauce:

- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 2 garlic cloves, finely minced with a knife
- 2 tsp ginger, finely minced with a knife
- 1 tsp chilli flakes / red pepper flakes
- 2 tbsp sriracha
- 2 tsp light soy sauce or fish sauce

- 35 g brown sugar
- 125 ml water
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- Garnishes (optional):**
- 2 tbsp coriander/cilantro leaves
- 1 tbsp large red chilli, finely sliced
- Lime wedges

Serve with:

- Rice of choice (jasmine, white, brown)
- Steamed Asian greens tossed with Asian Sesame Dressing

Instructions:

Fish:

Dust fish – Sprinkle with salt, dust with rice flour, shake off excess.

Cook fish – In a non-stick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Cook the fish until golden on each side then remove to a plate.

Fish cooking times – Thin fillets 1 cm / 2/5" thick: 1 1/2 minutes each side; thicker fillets 1.5 – 1.75cm / 0.6 – 0.75" thick 2 minutes each side) or until the

internal temperature is 55°C / 130°F.

Remove fish to a plate and set aside.

Sauce:

Sauté aromatics – In the same pan, add sesame oil on medium heat. Cook garlic, chilli and ginger until golden – about 20 seconds.

Sauce – Add everything else except lime juice. Stir, simmer, then reduce until syrupy – about 2 minutes. Add lime juice and stir. (If sauce gets too thick, add water)

Coat fish – Return fish into sauce, turning to coat in the sauce.

Serve over rice, with garnishes of choice! Pictured with steamed baby pak choy tossed with Asian Sesame Dressing.



Baked Cajun Salmon Bites

Cajun Baked Salmon Bites is just a really tasty, no-fuss way to cook salmon, fast (12 minutes!). Cut into cubes so the Cajun flavour hits every bite, then bake in a hot oven so it browns without overcooking the inside.

Ingredients:

- 4 salmon fillets, skinless, cut into 2.5cm / 1" cubes (~600 – 700g / 1.2 – 1.4lb total)

Cajun spice mix:

- 2 tsp paprika (regular/sweet, smoked also lovely)
- 3/4 tsp cooking salt / kosher salt (halve for table salt, +50% for flakes)

- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder (don't swap for fresh garlic, will burn)
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper, optional for slight spiciness
- 2 1/2 tsp brown sugar, tightly pack the teaspoons
- 2 tbsp olive oil

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 240°C/460°F (220°C fan-forced).

Crinkled foil trick – Lightly scrunch up foil, then gently unfold it so it stays wrin-

kled. Lots of little pointy bits are good.

Place on the tray and fold the edges to secure, repeat with another sheet to cover the whole tray. The wrinkles lift the fish slightly, preventing sticking and soggy undersides.

Coat salmon – Put the Cajun Spice mix ingredients in a bowl and mix. Add salmon and toss to coat. Spread on the foil (the more spaced out they are, the better they colour).

Bake for 12 minutes (don't turn). Remove salmon from the tray (so they don't keep cooking) then enjoy!

For Cajun Salmon Rice Bowls:

Add rice, lettuce, tomato, radish, avocado, Cajun salmon bites.

Or rice, Cajun salmon bites, roasted corn avocado salsa – made at the same time

as the salmon.

Sauces and garnishes for both bowls – Peri-naise or regular mayo mixed with sriracha or ketchup, chopped coriander or green onion.





Illegal Botox clinic raided in Pilar as police smash cosmetic treatment network

A clandestine cosmetic clinic and an illegal drug storage facility in Pilar de la Horadada were among the targets of a major Guardia Civil operation earlier this month as part of a crackdown on a criminal network offering unregulated Botox and filler treatments across Spain and beyond.

Operation Zlata, carried out on April 8 and 9, resulted in the dismantling of three illegal clinics in total, located in private residential properties in Pilar de la Horadada, Burjassot in Valencia and Reus in Tarragona.

A separate storage facility, also in Pilar de la Horadada, was raided at the same time. The operation saw one person arrested and three others placed under

investigation on suspicion of crimes against public health and professional misconduct.

The network had been on the Guardia Civil's radar since August 2025, when investigators identified an organised group using social media and other online channels to advertise cosmetic treatments. Those carrying out the treatments had no medical qualifications and no health authorisation, and were using prescription-only medications without any medical supervision.

Officers recovered 1,248 vials of botulinum toxin, 382 pre-filled syringes of hyaluronic acid, 269 vials of hyaluronidase, 51 containers of lidocaine, nearly 700 containers of various other medical products and more than

1,000 needles and syringes, along with packaging materials, computer equipment and documents.

The network's leaders were based in Alicante, where they were sourcing the drugs illegally before distributing them to clinics across Spain and shipping supplies as far as Lithuania and the United Kingdom.

Health authorities have been keen to stress the very real dangers involved. Botox and hyaluronic acid treatments carried out outside of authorised clinical settings and without qualified medical professionals can result in serious infections, severe allergic reactions and permanent damage.



Best carbs for weight loss

The Truth About Carbs and Weight Loss: Why Cutting Them Isn't the Answer

For years, carbohydrates have been cast as the villain of weight loss. From low-carb trends to extreme elimination diets, the message has been clear: if you want to shed pounds, bread, pasta, and grains have to go. But nutrition science tells a more nuanced and far more encouraging story.

Not only can carbohydrates fit into a weight-loss plan, but they can also actually make the journey more sustainable, satisfying, and effective when chosen wisely.

Carbs: More Than Just Bread and Pasta

Carbohydrates are often reduced to images of white bread and sugary treats, but they exist in a wide range of nutrient-dense foods. Fruits, vegetables, legumes, dairy, nuts, and whole grains all contain carbohydrates—along with essential vitamins, minerals, and other beneficial compounds.

The real distinction isn't between "carbs" and "no carbs," but between refined and complex carbohydrates. Complex carbs, particularly those rich in fibre, digest more slowly and play a key role in supporting overall health and weight management.

Fibre: The Quiet Powerhouse of Weight Loss

One of the most important components of high-quality carbohydrates is fibre. Found abundantly in whole plant foods, fibre helps regulate digestion and promotes a longer-lasting feeling of fullness after meals.

Research consistently shows that higher fibre intake is associated with better weight outcomes. People who consume more fibre tend to eat more nutrient-dense foods overall and may naturally reduce calorie intake without strict restriction. This makes fibre-rich carbohydrates a powerful ally—not an obstacle—in weight loss.

Why Whole Grains Deserve the Spotlight

Among carbohydrate sources, whole grains stand out as particularly beneficial. Unlike refined grains, whole grains retain all parts of the grain kernel—the bran, germ, and endosperm—preserving their fibre and nutrient content.

This nutritional profile translates into several advantages: Sustained Satisfaction - Whole grains help curb hunger by keeping you fuller for longer, which can reduce the urge to snack or overeat.

Consistency Over Restriction - Strict diets that eliminate entire food groups are difficult to maintain. Including whole grains allows for a more balanced, enjoyable way of eating—one that

people are more likely to stick with over time.

Long-Term Health Protection - Diets rich in whole grains have been linked to a lower risk of chronic conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers. Replacing refined grains with whole alternatives supports both immediate goals and long-term wellbeing.

Weight Stability and Fat Distribution - Higher whole grain intake is associated with healthier body weight and lower levels of abdominal fat, particularly visceral fat—the type linked to metabolic disease.

The Problem With Cutting Carbs Too Far

Low-carb diets can produce quick results, largely due to reduced calorie intake and initial water weight loss. However, rapid results don't always translate into lasting success.

Overly restrictive approaches often lead to feelings of deprivation, increased cravings, and a heightened focus on food. This can make it harder to maintain healthy habits in the long run and may ultimately lead to regaining lost weight.

A more effective strategy focuses on balance rather than elimination—prioritizing quality carbohydrates while maintaining a sustainable eating pattern.

Making Carbs Work for You

Incorporating carbohydrates into a weight-loss plan doesn't mean eating them without structure. Small adjustments can make a significant difference:

- **Choose whole over refined:** Swap white bread, rice, and pasta for whole-grain versions.
- **Pair carbs with protein:** Combining carbohydrates with protein-rich foods can enhance satiety and stabilize energy levels.
- **Eat regularly:** Consistent meal

timing helps regulate hunger and reduces the likelihood of overeating later in the day.

• **Watch portions, not categories:** Managing quantity is often more effective than eliminating entire food groups.

A Smarter Approach to Weight Loss

The idea that carbohydrates must be avoided for weight loss is not only outdated—it can be counterproductive. When chosen thoughtfully, carb-rich foods like whole grains, fruits, and legumes provide the fibre and nutrients needed to support both weight management and overall health. A balanced approach that includes satisfying, nutrient-dense carbohydrates offers something restrictive diets cannot: a way of eating that feels sustainable, enjoyable, and realistic for the long term.



Spain sees early surge in measles cases

Spain has reported 101 measles cases in the first two months of 2026, making it the second most affected country in the EU so far this year.

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, a total of 350 cases were recorded across Europe in January and February, with Spain accounting for a significant share. While the number fell slightly in February, experts warn this may not last. "Transmission typically increases in the spring months," the agency noted, raising concerns about further spread, particularly among those who are not fully vaccinated.

This follows a steady rise in

measles cases seen over the past year, which had already put health authorities on alert in regions including Murcia.

Medical specialists are clear that measles remains a highly contagious disease. Dr Pablo García Montes explains: "Measles is a highly contagious infectious disease caused by a virus that primarily affects children, although it can also occur in unvaccinated adults." The virus spreads through the air and can linger for hours, making it easy to pass on in enclosed spaces.

In fact, each infected person can spread the virus to between 15 and 20 others if they are not immunised. More than 90% of

infections occur in unvaccinated individuals, underlining the importance of maintaining high vaccine coverage.

Doctors also stress that measles should not be dismissed as a mild illness. "It is not a trivial disease," warns Dr José Ramón García López, pointing to the risk of complications. Up to 30% of children may experience issues such as pneumonia, ear infections or febrile seizures, while more serious complications like encephalitis can lead to lasting damage or even death.

Spain's recent loss of its measles-free status has been described as a "wake-up call" for public health systems, highlight-

ing the need to maintain strong vaccination programmes.

Over the past 12 months, more than 4,600 cases have been reported across EU and EEA countries, with a large proportion affecting young children and unvaccinated individuals. Nearly 80% of those infected had not received any vaccine doses.

Experts continue to emphasise that vaccination remains the most effective protection. Two doses of the MMR vaccine provide more than 95% protection and are key to achieving what is known as herd immunity, which helps protect the wider community.

Earlier outbreaks in Spain had already shown how quickly measles can spread when vaccination coverage drops, even in countries that had previously brought the disease under control.

For now, the overall risk to the general population remains relatively low, thanks to high vaccination rates. However, health experts are urging people to check their vaccination status and remain vigilant, particularly as international travel and seasonal patterns increase the chances of further outbreaks in the coming months.

NYX creates bodycare range

NYX Professional Makeup is stepping beyond its traditional makeup offerings and into bodycare for the first time in its 27-year history, unveiling a new product line designed for full-body beauty routines.

The brand announced the launch of its "Fat Oil Body" collection, marking a significant expansion beyond its core focus on facial

cosmetics. The move builds on the widespread popularity of its Fat Oil lip products, which gained viral attention across social media platforms.

Rather than debuting a single product, NYX is introducing a 12-piece lineup that includes body oils, lotions, mists, and butters. The range is formulated with ingredients such as avoca-

do oil and vitamin E, aimed at delivering hydration and enhancing skin glow.

To appeal to different preferences, the collection is divided into four scent-based categories. "Sugar Baddie" features desert-inspired notes of vanilla cookies and whipped cream, while "Caramelt Mami" combines caramel with pistachio cream

and includes shimmer-infused products. "Coconut Cutie" offers a tropical blend of coconut and peach, alongside a butt sheet mask, and "Juicy Boo" rounds out the lineup with a citrus-forward mix of clementine and mango.

The launch reflects growing consumer demand for comprehensive bodycare routines that

mirror facial skincare regimens, an area where many beauty brands are now investing.

The Fat Oil Body collection is currently available through the brand's official website.



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N	Y	N	P	F	E	C	I	W	M	L	R	R	B	X	I	Y	C	Q	M
U	R	B	L	V	Y	T	N	Z	G	G	V	U	H	U	T	Y	J	I	G
V	C	C	A	Y	T	Q	B	X	S	N	P	R	Q	E	M	K	D	Q	B
H	K	Z	N	X	S	Q	A	W	M	I	V	W	W	Q	U	O	E	V	W
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- 1.TABLE 2.GRASSLAND 3.FOREST 4.HOSPITAL 5.SUNSHINE
 6.CLOUD 7.JOURNEY 8.GARDEN 9.NEWSPAPER 10.CASUAL
 11.DIFFERENCE 12.PAVEMENT 13.PLANET 14.APPLE
 15.HARBOUR 16.LANTERN 17.BREAD 18.CHAIR 19.BALANCE
 20.LIBRARY 21.SUMMER 22.BUILDING

SUDOKU

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

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 **POCKET** START

2 - - - - -

3 - - - - -

4 - - - - -

5 - - - - -

6 - - - - -

7 - - - - -

8 **GARDEN** 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 **SHEEP** START

2 - - - - -

3 - - - - -

4 - - - - -

5 - - - - -

6 - - - - -

7 **CROWN** END



Fuel prices continue to rise across Spain as Middle East conflict pushes oil towards \$100

Fuel prices across Spain have been creeping upwards since tensions escalated in the Middle East at the end of February and drivers are really starting to feel the impact despite the government's tax cuts.

Although Spain doesn't import oil directly from Iran, the country is still exposed to the global price fluctuations. The conflict has pushed the price of Brent crude close to \$100 a barrel, and that increase is gradually filtering down to petrol stations across

the country.

At the moment, the average price of petrol in Spain sits at around €1.53 per litre, up from roughly €1.47 before the conflict began. Diesel remains significantly higher at about €1.88 per litre, despite a small daily drop.

The underlying reasons are rising crude oil prices and higher wholesale costs, which are feeding directly into what drivers pay at the pump, and there are concerns that prices could climb

further in the coming weeks if the situation doesn't stabilise.

Much of the disruption centres on the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route through which around 20% of the world's oil supply normally passes. Following attacks on vessels in the area, traffic has been severely affected, with shipments delayed and supply routes under pressure.

That has created a knock-on effect across international mar-

kets, tightening supply and pushing prices up globally, including in Spain.

There are also big differences depending on where you fill up. In the Alicante town of Algueña, diesel reached €2.209 per litre earlier this week, making it one of the most expensive spots in the country. At the other end of the scale, drivers in Figueres found diesel for as little as €1.459.

Petrol prices show a similar gap. A station in Alhama de Murcia has been among the most expensive for two weeks running, charging €2.099 per litre, while some stations in Utrera have dropped as low as €1.289.

For now, the slight day-to-day dips offer a bit of relief, but the wider trend is still pointing upwards, and much will depend on how the situation in the Middle East develops in the weeks ahead.

Spain petrol station strikes

Drivers heading off for the May bank holiday in Spain could face disruption at petrol stations after unions confirmed strike action that will hit both the start and end of the holiday period.

The action has been called by the unions UGT, FICA and CCOO following a breakdown in talks over a new national agreement covering service station staff

across the country. According to the unions, negotiations have been dragging on for months without a proper resolution and they say employers have recently taken a step backwards by withdrawing earlier proposals and putting forward what they describe as a worse economic offer.

At the centre of the dispute are

pay and working conditions, with unions arguing that staff in the sector have seen little meaningful improvement despite rising living costs. They also point to wider pressure in the industry, including fluctuating fuel prices, as adding to tensions between workers and employers.

The timing of the strike has not been chosen at random. It's set

to coincide with one of the busiest travel periods of the year in Spain, when thousands of people take advantage of the May Day public holiday, which falls on a Friday in 2026, to extend their break and travel across the country.

The planned action includes two separate strike periods. On Thursday April 30 there will be a partial stoppage between 12pm and 4pm, which is expected to hit peak departure times as holidaymakers begin their journeys. This will then be followed by a full 24-hour strike on Sunday May 3, aimed squarely at the return rush as people head back home after the long weekend.

In practical terms, this means the middle days of the holiday period, including May 1 and May 2, are expected to be the least affected in terms of disruption. However, the unions are warning that the start and end of the break could see significant

issues at fuel stations depending on staffing levels and how the strike is observed.

Automated petrol stations are not expected to be affected in the same way, although availability could still vary depending on location and service arrangements. The Spanish government is also expected to put minimum service requirements in place, particularly to ensure emergency vehicles such as ambulances, fire services and police can continue to refuel without interruption.

The unions have justified the strike by pointing to what they call an "unacceptable attitude" from employers during negotiations. They say that after some progress had been made in earlier discussions, talks have now stalled completely, leaving workers with little choice but to escalate action during a period when it will be felt most strongly.

Another month of high new car sales

Spain's new-car market continued to expand in March, confirming a steady upward trend despite uncertainty surrounding electric vehicle incentives.

Data from ANFAC shows that 130,340 new passenger cars were registered during the month, representing an 11.7% increase compared with March 2025. The result marks another strong month for the sector, building on gains seen earlier in the year.

The country entered 2026 with high expectations after recording the fastest growth among Europe's five largest automotive markets in 2025, outperform-

ing Germany, United Kingdom, France and Italy. Although part of last year's expansion was driven by replacement demand following severe storms and flooding in 2024, the market has maintained strong momentum into the current year.

Registrations in March exceeded pre-pandemic levels, underlining the resilience of demand. The continued growth suggests that annual sales could approach 1.2 million units if current trends persist.

The positive performance comes amid ongoing uncertainty over Spain's electric vehicle support schemes. The MOVES III pro-

gramme concluded in December 2025 and is due to be replaced by the Auto+ programme, part of the wider Auto 2030 Plan. Although €400 million has been allocated to the new initiative, it has yet to be fully implemented, prompting some buyers to proceed with purchases in anticipation of retroactive subsidies.

Despite the lack of clarity around incentives, the market has now recorded three consecutive months of growth. In total, 300,513 new vehicles were registered during the first quarter of 2026, a 7.6% increase compared with the same period last year, reinforcing confidence in Spain's automotive recovery.



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Aries (21 Mar – 19 Apr)

Life

Aries, your energy is as contagious as your favorite tune. Spread that enthusiasm by planning a spontaneous adventure, even if it's just exploring a new coffee shop. Consider wearing your lucky socks for extra charm. Remember, smiles are free and have unlimited returns!

Mind

This week, embrace your adventurous side by trying a new hobby or visiting a nearby park. Channel your enthusiasm into constructive activities that bring you joy. When you feel energized, share your positivity with friends who might need a boost. Keeping an active balance will serve you well.

Heart

This week, Aries, you may find yourself longing for deeper connections. Show your appreciation for loved ones through simple gestures like a handwritten note or a shared activity. Remember, vulnerability can strengthen bonds, so don't shy away from opening up about your feelings.

Taurus (20 Apr – 20 May)

Life

Taurus, your home is your castle, but this week, consider a touch of redecorating magic. Add a plant or a colorful cushion for instant ambiance. Also, don't forget to savor a piece of your favorite chocolate. Indulging a little can be the sweetest form of self-care.

Mind

Focus on creating a cozy space at home that enhances your comfort and peace. A little decluttering can work wonders for your mental clarity. Take time to savor meals mindfully, appreciating the flavors and textures. Small adjustments to your routine can lead to big improvements in your mood.

Heart

Taurus, this is a great time to enjoy the stability in your relationships. Embrace opportunities to create joyful memories with your partner or friends. A cozy night in with good food and laughter will nurture your heart and strengthen your connections.

Gemini (21 May – 20 Jun)

Life

Gemini, your words are your superpower. Use them to connect, whether it's a witty tweet or a heartfelt message to an old friend. Take a break to enjoy a captivating book or podcast. Curiosity is your best companion, so feed it well!

Mind

Communication shines for you

this week, making it a great time to reconnect with an old friend. Enjoy some light-hearted reading or a puzzle to engage your mind. Remember to pause and breathe deeply when feeling overwhelmed. A mindful approach can enhance your interactions and bring balance.

Heart

Gemini, communication is key this week. Make sure to listen as much as you speak. Engaging in heartfelt conversations can lead to newfound understanding and harmony in both romantic and platonic relationships.

Cancer (21 Jun – 22 Jul)

Life

Cancer, family vibes are strong, so plan a cozy get-together or call someone you love. A little nostalgia never hurt anyone, right? Try a recipe from your childhood and enjoy the comforting trip down memory lane. Remember, kindness is your secret weapon.

Mind

Listen to your inner voice this week as it guides you toward nurturing activities. Perhaps cook a favorite dish or start a simple creative project. Allow yourself to indulge in moments of quiet reflection. Creating a personal ritual will enrich your routine and provide grounding energy.

Heart

Cancer, your empathetic nature will shine this week, drawing loved ones closer. Use your intuition to support friends or family who might need a listening ear. Sharing your warmth will deepen the emotional connections you value so much.

Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)

Life

Leo, the stage is yours, so step into the spotlight with confidence! This week is great for showcasing your creativity, so organize a mini talent show with friends or try karaoke night. Celebrate yourself with a small indulgence; you deserve it!

Mind

Your radiant energy inspires those around you. Consider organizing a small gathering or shared activity that fosters joy and laughter. While being the life of the party, ensure you're also setting time aside for personal relaxation. Balancing social interactions with solitude will keep your spirit shining brightly.

Heart

Leo, your confidence will be magnetic this week, attracting positive energy to your relationships.

Share your enthusiasm with those around you, and consider organizing a fun gathering. Your vibrant spirit will uplift everyone and create lasting impressions.

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sep)

Life

Virgo, organization is your middle name, but this week, embrace a tiny bit of chaos. Let a new hobby lead you down an unexpected path. Sorting your sock drawer can wait. Instead, enjoy the simple pleasures like a sunny walk or a good laugh.

Mind

This week, prioritize creating a well-organized schedule that includes breaks and downtime. Tackle tasks methodically, but remember to celebrate small victories. A bit of nature, even a short walk, can refresh your mind and boost productivity. Consistency and small routines will enhance your sense of accomplishment.

Heart

Virgo, this week might encourage introspection about your emotional needs. Take time to reflect on what truly matters in your relationships. Open, honest discussions with loved ones can lead to beautiful growth and a renewed sense of closeness.

Libra (23 Sep – 22 Oct)

Life

Libra, balance is key, but this week, give a little extra to the art of fun. Call up a friend for a spontaneous outing or dive into a creative project. Harmony will always be there, so sprinkle a bit of whimsy into your routine while you can.

Mind

Harmony in relationships is emphasized this week, so focus on listening and sharing openly with loved ones. Enjoy activities that bring a sense of balance, like yoga or gentle stretches. Appreciate the beauty in simple moments, and savor peaceful interactions. A calm and centered approach will enrich your connections.

Heart

Libra, balancing your social calendar with personal time will enhance your relationships this week. Make room for special moments with those you care about. Showing your appreciation through thoughtful acts will strengthen your bonds and bring joy to both you and others.

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)

Life

Scorpio, mystery suits you, but this week, let your guard down just a touch. Share a secret with someone you trust or start a new

journal. Dive into a mystery novel or movie to keep your intrigue satisfied. Sometimes, vulnerability is the greatest strength.

Mind

Dive deep into a passion project this week, giving it your undivided attention. While doing so, ensure you're also setting boundaries to avoid overextending yourself. Share your goals with someone supportive who can help keep you motivated. Balancing intensity with gentle self-care will keep you energized.

Heart

Scorpio, your passionate nature will be highlighted this week, making it an ideal time to express your feelings. Whether through words, art, or music, share what's in your heart. Authenticity will deepen your connections and inspire those around you.

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)

Life

Sagittarius, wanderlust is calling your name, even if it's just a mental journey. Dive into planning your next adventure or explore your city with new eyes. Try a new cuisine or attend a virtual cultural event. Every day holds a new adventure waiting to be discovered.

Mind

Explore the world through new experiences, whether it's a book, film, or a cultural event. Your curiosity will lead you to delightful discoveries, broadening your horizons. Mix activity with relaxation for a well-rounded approach to the week. Balance exploration with reflection to maintain harmony in your life.

Heart

Sagittarius, adventure calls, and bringing loved ones along will amplify the fun. Plan a spontaneous outing or a new experience with friends or family. Embracing shared adventures will create joyful memories and strengthen your relationships.

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)

Life

Capricorn, your ambition is admirable, but this week, let leisure be your co-pilot. Treat yourself to a relaxing evening with your favorite film or a DIY project. Balance work with moments of joy and relaxation. Success is sweeter when savored slowly.

Mind

This week, focus on blending work with play. Set achievable goals and reward yourself with leisure activities you love. Reflect on your progress, keeping in mind the value of rest in maintaining productivity. A balanced

approach to your ambitions will lead to meaningful insights and satisfaction.

Heart

Capricorn, patience and understanding will be your best allies this week. Let your reliable nature guide you in supporting loved ones who might need your strength. Your calm presence will foster trust and deepen connections.

Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)

Life

Aquarius, your innovative ideas need an audience, so gather some friends for a brainstorming session. This week, try your hand at a quirky, creative project. Also, don't shy away from a little stargazing; it may give you the inspiration you seek.

Mind

Connect with your community by offering a helping hand or participating in a group activity. Share innovative ideas with others who appreciate your unique perspective. While socializing, take moments to recharge in your personal sanctuary. Balance external engagements with personal time for renewed energy.

Heart

Aquarius, your innovative spirit could lead to exciting new relationship dynamics this week. Embrace creative ways to connect, whether through a shared hobby or a new form of communication. Your originality will inspire and nurture your bonds with others.

Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)

Life

Pisces, your dreams are vivid, so use them as a source of inspiration for art or writing. Feel free to indulge in some daydreaming; it fuels your imagination. Make time for your favorite playlist or movie; sometimes, escapism is the best therapy.

Mind

Let your creativity flow this week through art, music, or writing, embracing inspiration as it comes. While dreaming big, keep your feet grounded by setting small achievable milestones. Find moments of serenity near water, if possible, to soothe your spirit. Balancing imagination with reality will nurture your well-being.

Heart

Pisces, your compassionate nature will touch the hearts of those around you this week. Offer your support and share your dreams and hopes with loved ones. Your ability to empathize will create strong, meaningful connections.


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San Miguel at Font del Llop

A bit like something from Jurassic Park were the mosquitoes at Font del Llop on our recent outing – they were certainly getting their starters, mains, desserts and a bit of tapas to boot from anybody who didn't have insect repellent. They were a far different species from the tiny "no-seem-us" on the Orihuela Costa. And onto the day and golf ... the temperature was already rising and with the cloud cover of the incoming Calima, it felt rather steamy! The course was in fluffy condition and could have done with a good grass-cut. They had micro-tined the greens which did make them quite slow and difficult, but the greens didn't show a huge amount of damage from pitch-marks which was in some ways quite positive. 40 "mozzie-fodders" teed off

down the first, having loosened up on the range, ready for the course, that is a challenge to most. One incapacitated member observing on a certain hole, noted and commented today, that into the present wind required a two-club increase – some took notice, some didn't – the winners took notice ironically!

Three "Twos" from Paul Wainwright (3rd), Gavin Parke (8th) and Richard Whitely (17th) and Nearest the Pins from Dave Rowe (3rd), Colin Rispin (8th), Dave Rowe (12th), Jan Skog (16th) and Richard Whitely (17th). We had a clear "winner/loser" winning the McBride Bottle but losing with the worst score of the day coming from Drew Niblock. One of our Elder Statesmen, Norman Padmore,

took the football card pot with Wigan. Well done everybody – win or lose.

On to the winners:

Gold: Dave Rowe (43 points and best score of the day)

Silver: Jan Skog (38 points)

Bronze: Keith Wickham (41 points)

Our next outing is to Altaona for our Captain's Away "Not-Away" Day. 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. The photos seemed to be a bit of a free for all – think the cat is

out of the bag that you get your name and face in the best paper! Winners (and random others!) pictured (L-R): Norman Padmore (Football card), Drew Niblock (McBride Bottle), Colin Rispin (member of and SPY), Tony "PBomber" Smale, Paul

"VC" Lambert, Debbie "I'm babysitting the bottle" Allen, Lee "President" Eastman, Jan Skog (actual "Silver" winner), Keith Wickham (actual "Bronze" winner) and Dave Rowe (heading for the Open "Gold" winner).



Torre Vieja cruise to victory over Novelda

SC Torre Vieja secured an emphatic 3-0 victory away at Novelda Unión to strengthen their push for a playoff place, responding in style after slipping to fourth earlier in the day. Backed by a travelling support of around 75 fans, Torre Vieja delivered a composed and dominant performance.

Manager Paquero selected a strong starting XI, with Matías returning to the line-up, and his side made an early breakthrough. After 13 minutes, Caleb drove forward down the left and delivered a dangerous ball into the box. Ismail reacted quickest, turning the ball home from close range to give the visitors a deserved lead.

Novelda threatened occasionally, most notably when a long ball split the Torre Vieja defence, but goalkeeper Pizana stood firm to deny the one-on-one opportunity at his near post.

Torre Vieja continued to create chances. A well-worked move down the right saw Matías pull the ball back for Manresa, whose effort drifted just wide. Moments later, the visitors came close again from a corner, forcing a goal-line save from the Novelda goalkeeper.

Caleb struck the post with a curling first-time effort, while Pucho also hit the crossbar from the edge of the area with the keeper beaten.

Half-Time Novelda 0-1 SC Torre Vieja

Despite their dominance, Torre Vieja went into the break only one goal ahead, though firmly in control of the match.

The second half began in devastating fashion for the visitors. Just two minutes after the restart, Pucho slipped Ismail through on goal, and the striker calmly finished to double the lead. Minutes later, Ismail completed his hat-trick, converting from close range after a low cross from Breno.

With a three-goal cushion, Torre Vieja managed the game effectively. A series of substitutions allowed fresh legs to maintain control, while chances continued to come—Breno headed narrowly wide late on, and Loel attempted an ambitious effort from distance that drifted off target.

Full-Time Novelda 0-3 SC Torre Vieja

At full time, Torre Vieja emerged as comfortable 3-0 winners, a result that lifts them back into the playoff positions and underlines their promotion credentials with a confident and clinical display.



Sheerins St George's Day Plaque

This was the second year playing for the new St George's Day Plaque with a big thank you to Ian and Tina Bell for taking over the sponsorship. The format was full handicap Stableford split into two groups, the course was in good condition apart from a few of the tee boxes being a bit bare, it was sunshine from start to finish and a pleasant 75 degrees.

Winner of the St George's Day Plaque from group A was Michael O'Keeffe with 39 points, eventual runner up from a three-

way count back went to "He's on Fire" Steve Burns with 34 points and third place was "Usain" John Bolt also with 34 points. Winner of group B went to "Sat Nav" Steve Day with 32 points, runner up was "Sir" Ronnie King with 30 points and third place on count back was "Magic Mike" Mike Sharlot with 27 points. Best front nine went to Ray Muttock with 18 points and best back went to Steve Gain with 21 points. Nearest the pins group A were hole 1 no winner, hole 9 Andrew Perry (Guest) hole 12 Archie

Knight (Guest), group B hole 4 no winner, hole 13 Richard Thomas (Guest) and hole 14 Tony Vanstechelman (Guest). The Two's pot was not won so carries over to the next game making it €60. There was a match play doubles knock out first round where Brian Gordon and John Bolt beat John Fairbrass and Steve Gain 3 & 2 and a first round match play singles between Andy Godfrey and Steve Ayre which went to Andy Godfrey winning on the 18th. The football card was won by

Kevin Quinn with Arsenal winning €40 adding another €40 to our charities for 2026.

The Golf Society would like to Thank Kellie, Katie and team for excellent hospitality.

Photo show winner Michael O'Keeffe being presented with the St Georges Day Plaque from Ian & Tina Bell.

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Murcia's Carlos Alcaraz named World Sportsman of the Year

Carlos Alcaraz was named World Sportsman of the Year on Monday night April 20, at the 2026 Laureus World Sports Awards. The ceremony took place at Madrid's Palacio de Cibeles and brought together some of the biggest names in sport.

The award, which was presented by footballing legends Luis Figo and Iker Casillas, recognised the outstanding 2025 season for Alcaraz, which saw him return to world number one and add both Roland Garros and the US Open to his list of titles. He then went on to complete the Career Grand Slam at the 2026 Australian Open, becoming the youngest man in the Open Era to win all four majors and breaking Rafael Nadal's previous record.

There was also recognition for another young Spanish talent, with Lamine Yamal picking up the award for Best Young Athlete.

Back in Murcia, the Mayor and other local officials were quick to celebrate the achievement, with Alcaraz putting the Region firmly on the world stage.

But Carlitos Alcaraz is making headlines for more than just his awards at the moment, as he continues to deal with injury problems. Alcaraz has been dealing with a wrist injury picked up during the clay court season, with the first

signs coming at the Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell. The issue then forced him to pull out of the competition and the Mutua Madrid Open.

The problem seems to involve inflammation in a tendon and irritation in the cartilage of his right wrist, which has limited his ability to train properly and has required him to wear a splint while recovering.

He is currently following a recovery programme with medical specialists, and at the moment there is no fixed return date. His participation in the Italian Open in Rome is still uncertain, and there are also doubts over Roland Garros in Paris, one of the biggest competitions of his season.

They have said they are optimistic that he will be fit in time for Roland Garros in Paris, although everything will depend on how his recovery goes over the next couple of weeks.

And it is not just fans in Murcia hoping he makes it back in time. Tennis supporters around the world are watching closely, as Alcaraz has become one of the sport's most popular figures, not only for his obvious talent but for his personality on and off the court.



Alicante to Istanbul flights

If you've ever fancied exploring a city where Europe meets Asia, now's your chance. Alicante-Elche Miguel Hernández Airport is adding a direct route to Istanbul this summer, operated by Turkish low-cost carrier Pegasus Airlines, with tickets starting from just €60 each way.

Flights are scheduled to start on Monday June 23, 2026, connecting Alicante with Istanbul's Sabiha

Gökçen Airport four times a week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Unlike a lot of seasonal routes, this one looks set to run all year round, and if you're planning your summer holidays now, tickets are already on sale via the Pegasus Airlines website.

The four-flights-a-week schedule works out nicely for a long week-

end, with three or four days being more than enough to get a real feel for what Istanbul has to offer. And there's plenty. The historic centre alone could keep you busy for days, with Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace all within easy reach of each other.

The Basilica Cistern, an ancient underground reservoir that's unlike anything else you'll see, is just around the corner, and the Grand

Bazaar is an essential stop if you're up for a bit of sensory overload and some enthusiastic haggling.

Once you've ticked off the classics, it's worth jumping across to the Asian side of the city. Neighbourhoods like Üsküdar and Kadıköy have a noticeably different feel, more relaxed and local, with waterfront cafes, bustling markets and brilliant views back across to the European skyline.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Word Ladder — Medium Solution

1	S H E E P	START
2	C H E E P	
3	C R E E P	
4	C R E E S	
5	C R E W S	
6	C R O W S	
7	C R O W N	END

Word Ladder — Hard Solution

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

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

N	Y	N	P	F	E	C	I	W	M	L	R	R	B	X	I	Y	C	Q	M
U	R	B	L	V	Y	T	N	Z	G	G	V	U	H	U	T	Y	J	I	G
V	C	A	Y	T	Q	B	X	S	N	P	R	Q	E	M	K	D	Q	B	
H	K	Z	N	X	S	Q	A	W	M	I	V	W	W	Q	U	O	E	V	W
W	J	N	E	S	B	M	A	Q	P	D	Q	G	D	J	N	S	G	D	C
H	A	X	T	C	P	I	W	C	F	L	Y	L	S	R	F	W	G	U	C
B	C	Y	E	Q	N	A	V	H	T	R	Y	S	C	Z	L	D	N	R	
Z	V	S	U	M	M	E	R	N	B	U	B	N	U	Z	H	G	P	H	B
C	U	N	S	F	W	H	R	U	O	B	R	A	H	A	E	F	J	L	J
E	L	P	P	A	V	E	M	E	N	T	X	U	L	Q	B	H	O	W	U
Q	L	N	U	N	T	H	Z	F	X	B	W	K	A	M	V	U	A	S	
B	N	L	M	N	R	S	O	Z	G	F	T	L	C	J	N	M	R	J	N
Z	V	M	A	I	S	O	C	S	G	R	I	H	F	Y	A	C	N	C	E
F	B	L	L	L	Y	L	G	B	P	Z	A	D	C	Y	A	S	E	B	B
N	B	F	D	I	J	J	D	U	F	I	U	S	G	Y	H	Q	Y	Z	B
E	C	R	L	T	B	S	X	X	R	O	T	A	S	I	T	K	P	F	K
I	N	J	E	U	Y	R	B	Q	L	W	R	A	N	L	M	K	Y	A	
N	D	U	L	A	U	S	A	C	T	D	Y	E	L	B	A	T	J	Z	J
O	W	J	N	H	D	Q	U	R	E	P	A	P	S	W	E	N	H	Q	Y
E	U	Y	K	N	F	S	U	N	Y	U	F	I	D	T	H	S	D	F	U

Guardamar Sunday market closed by courts

Guardamar del Segura's popular El Fogón Sunday market has closed after a court rejected the owners' request for precautionary measures to keep it operating. Local Police, backed by the Guardia Civil, enforced the municipal closure order on Sunday following a decision by Elche's administrative court.

The council says the market has been operating without proper authorisation and that a closure order issued in July 2025 remains in force. Previous attempts to shut it down last autumn were unsuccessful while the owners sought legal protection. With the court now refusing those measures, the council requested support from central government representatives to ensure the order was upheld.

Market management has told traders the site would not open and says it wants to avoid confrontation. However, the owners intend to continue their legal challenge against the closure decree, arguing that the administrative process is flawed and that the land is classified as developable.

El Fogón, which has run for more than 30 years near the N-332, is one of the province's best-known markets. It employs around 15 people directly and provides income for dozens of stallholders. The site forms part of a larger urban development plan known as ZO-6 El Oliverón, which proposes more than 2,300 homes.



Wildfire damage more than doubles

Wildfires have burned 12,946.66 hectares across Spain in the first three months of 2026, more than twice the amount seen over the same period last year. The figure is 2.2 times higher than in 2025, when 5,822.12 hectares were affected between January and March.

The provisional report from the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge says this makes 2026 the fifth worst year of the last decade so far for land affected by forest fires. Only 2016, 2025, 2018 and 2024 recorded comparable or higher figures in the same period. Even so, the area burned up to March is still 29.6% below the average for the last ten years.

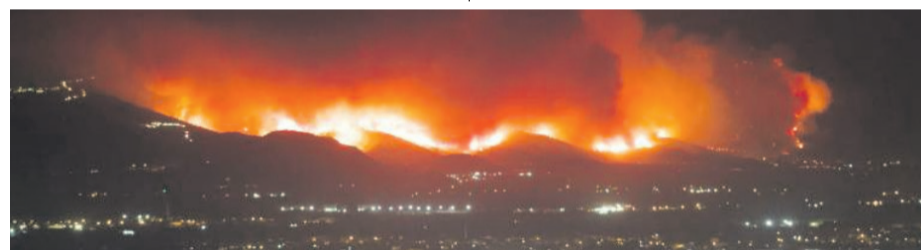
A total of 1,568 incidents were recorded in the first quarter. Of these, 864 were small fires, meaning they affected one hectare or less. So far, no major fires have been registered, with the Ministry defining those as fires affecting more than 500 hectares.

Most of the incidents were concentrated in the northwest, which accounted for

60.20% of the total. The Mediterranean area made up 12.82%, inland communities 26.72% and the Canary Islands 0.26%. When it comes to woodland affected, the northwest again saw the largest share at 48.31%, followed by the Mediterranean with 44.55% and inland communities with 7.15%.

The pattern is similar for total forest area. The northwest accounted for 89.55% of the damage, while the Mediterranean represented 4.36% and inland communities 6.09%. In terms of vegetation lost, 997.87 hectares of woodland were burned, along with 7,835.65 hectares of scrubland and open woodland, plus 4,113.13 hectares of pasture and meadowland.

The figures show that, while the start of 2026 has been worse than the same period last year, the biggest fire season is still ahead. For now, the main concern is the scale of the early damage and the concentration of incidents in the northwest, which continues to bear the heaviest burden.



Alicante strengthens its grip on property market

Alicante has firmly established itself as Spain's third largest real estate market, behind only Madrid and Barcelona. With 53,385 sales recorded at the end of 2025, the province also holds absolute leadership in the Valencian Community, accounting for 47.3% of the region's market share.

Those figures were highlighted at an event organised by Eurojavea Real Estate at a luxury villa provided by The Adelante Homes, where the latest Eurojavea Report on the Costa Blanca Real Estate Market 2026 was presented. The meeting brought together industry figures including Luis Alberto Fabra Garcés, director of the Real Estate Market Chair, and Stephan Fremeijer, manager of Eurojavea, who later spoke with the press and with clients from the Alicante area.

The numbers underline just how strong Alicante remains as a property market. Sales were up 2.9% year on year, with 81.5% of transactions involving existing homes and 18.5% new builds. At municipal level, Torrevieja, Alicante and Orihuela are among the 15 municipalities with the highest number of sales in Spain, which gives a clear sense of the province's weight in the national market.

Jávea continues to stand out for different reasons. In the last quarter of 2025, the town recorded 289 transactions, most of them resale homes, and it now

ranks first in the Valencian Community for price intensity. The average appraised price there reached €3,436 per square metre, up 13.3% year on year, while asking prices averaged €3,879 per square metre. In the most expensive parts of the market, particularly Zone 05, large detached homes are exceeding €4,300 per square metre.

The appeal of Jávea is being driven by limited supply and strong overseas demand, which remains one of the area's biggest selling points. Dutch buyers were the most active foreign purchasers in the latest period, with 72 transactions and growth of 26.3%.

Looking ahead to 2026, the message is one of continued growth, but at a steadier pace. Fabra and Fremeijer say it will be difficult to match the record activity of 2025, but they still expect the market to remain lively. They point to population growth, the need for more available land and faster planning, and a strong labour market as key factors shaping the year ahead.

As Fremeijer put it, "How development is managed on the Costa Blanca and in Spain will be crucial to consolidating this growth." He also said that legal certainty, service quality and infrastructure, including international schools in Jávea, are becoming increasingly important for foreign buyers.

Benidorm leads as foreign tourists splash out more

The Valencian Community welcomed 12.422 million foreign tourists in 2025, almost half a million more than the year before, according to the latest report from Turisme Comunitat Valenciana. That is great news for places like Benidorm, which topped the list for daily spending at €184.80 per visitor with an average stay of 6.5 days.

UK tourists made up the largest group at 24.3%, followed by France at 17%, the Netherlands at 8.2%, Nordic countries at 8.1% and Germany at 6.5%. Tourism Minister Marián Cano said the UK market has become "the main source of international tourism to the Valencian Community" once again. Overall, visitors spent more per day than in 2024, rising from €131.40 to €140.10, while staying an average of 9.2 days.

Sun and beach holidays remained the top reason to visit at 43.4%, but Cano noted this is "the first time that sun and beach tourism is not the main reason for more than half of the trips". Cultural and sports tourism are gaining ground, which she called "fundamental" data for shaping future plans. She added that the figures help "guide our promotional strategies and be more effective" with resources.

Benidorm's high spending beat out Valencia city at €163.30 per day over 6.8 days. Alicante province visitors averaged €138.40 for 9.8 days, Valencia province

€153.70 for 7.3 days, and Castellón had the longest stays at 12.4 days but lower spending of €105 per day. Business travellers spent the most at €188 daily over 7.8 days, followed by sports tourists at €176 for 6.7 days and cultural visitors at €150 for 7.6 days.

Beaches were the favourite activity for 82% of visitors, followed by shopping (68.4%), city visits (66.8%), entertainment (34.8%), gastronomy (33.3%), culture (31.6%) and nature (29.3%). Sports activities rose to 13.7% interest, with cultural shows at 9.8%. Most stayed in hotels (38.6%) or rented holiday homes (19.4%), arriving mainly by air (80.8%).

The profile is mostly men aged 25-44 (57.3%), employed with higher education. It is clear the region is attracting a diverse crowd, and places like Benidorm are reaping the benefits of that spending power.



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