

## Pinatar Arena hosts week of International Youth Football

**PINATAR ARENA FOOTBALL CENTER** is set for a big week of youth football from October 9 to 13. The professional sports complex on Avda. El Mojon 43 in San Pedro del Pinatar will host under-17 and under-18 national teams for friendly matches.

### Teams from across Europe and the U.S.

Teams from the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Poland, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States will be in action, showing off some of the best young football talent around. Games kick off times vary between 11:00am, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, and sometimes 7:00pm, so there's plenty of football to catch.

### Free entry and visitor guidelines

Most matches for the younger age groups are free to watch, though there are some rules, like bag checks at the entrance. Pinatar Arena has great stadium, arena, and training facilities, making it one of Spain's top spots for international football.

### Football fans invited to enjoy the action

Fans can enjoy a week of competitive football and cheer on the next generation of stars. For more info, including match schedules and visitor rules, email [info@pinatararena.com](mailto:info@pinatararena.com) or check [pinatararena.com](http://pinatararena.com).

### Costa Cálida's growing sports reputation

This event shows why the Costa Cálida is becoming a go-to spot for international sports, bringing young players and football fans together from across Europe and the U.S.

## Murcia targets housing shortage with new affordable homes

**MURCIA** is rolling out a bold new plan to make housing more accessible for young people and middle-income families. The region aims to build 25,000 affordable homes over the next five years, focusing on practical solutions that meet today's needs.

The initiative will transform unfinished buildings, empty lots, and historic city centres into modern, affordable homes, while respecting archaeological sites. It also embraces new living concepts like co-living and co-housing, which allow residents to share spaces and resources, ideal for first-time buyers, older adults, and people with disabilities.

### **Easier conversions and faster approvals**

The plan makes it easier to turn office spaces or ground-floor shops into homes and gives developers more flexibility when building affordable housing. Bureaucracy will be cut down, and key approvals fast-tracked, speeding up construction.

### **Affordable prices and community impact**

Prices will be capped at €1,840 per square metre, making projects viable while keeping homes within reach. By simplifying rules and opening up more building opportunities, the plan also aims to encourage young people to stay in or return to their communities, boosting social cohesion across the region.

## Murcia feels the heat as September breaks records

### A Month of Contrasts

September in Murcia had a bit of everything: sun, heat, and even some intense storms, but the warmth stood out above all. The region's average temperature reached 23.4°C, making it the third hottest September of the century so far, according to Spain's national weather agency, Aemet. Only 2022 and 2014 were slightly warmer, confirming what many locals already felt: summer just didn't want to let go.

### Late summer heat

The first half of the month brought those unmistakable late-summer days, with highs well above normal. Alcantarilla hit a sweltering 38.5°C on September 4, while the cooler nights in the hillier areas, such as

16.5°C in Benízar, served as a gentle reminder that autumn was slowly on its way. In coastal towns like San Javier and inland areas such as Murcia and Alcantarilla, residents experienced between 12 and 17 tropical nights, those long, warm evenings perfect for dining outdoors or enjoying a relaxed stroll along the seafront.

### Storms arrive late

Then came the storms. The remnants of Hurricane Gabrielle swept across the region at the end of the month, bringing heavy downpours and a sharp change in the weather. Molina de Segura saw more than 140 litres of rain per square metre, while Calblanque, Lorquí, and parts of Murcia also endured torrential showers. In just two days, the region recorded around two-thirds of its total monthly rainfall, and in some places, hail made an unexpected appearance, leaving parts of Sierra Espuña dusted in white.

## Murcia-Almería high-speed rail gets €6.3 million boost

**THE Murcia-Almería** high-speed rail line has received another boost, with €6.3 million allocated to move works forward on this vital route. The line, stretching 200 kilometres, forms part of the Mediterranean Corridor, a project seen as key to connecting southeastern Spain more closely with the rest of the country and with Europe.

### **The Mediterranean Corridor: More than just a railway**

The Mediterranean Corridor is more than just a railway. It is a strategic transport link designed to tie Spain's Mediterranean regions, from Algeciras up to the French border, into a modern, fast, and efficient network. For Murcia, this means shorter travel times to major cities, stronger trade links, and easier access for tourism, one of the region's most important industries.

### **Where the investment will go**

This latest funding will go towards improvements in both track infrastructure and safety systems. Part of the investment will supply expansion devices to protect the rail from temperature changes, while another part will install a backup energy system to guarantee lighting, ventilation, and fire protection in the underground section near Nonduermas. These may sound like technical steps, but they are crucial for ensuring the long-term safety and reliability of the line.

### **Economic impact for Murcia**

For the Region of Murcia, the impact will be felt in many ways. Faster passenger connections will make it easier for people to travel for work, study, or leisure, while improved freight links will help local producers, particularly in agriculture, get their goods to national and European markets more efficiently. Given Murcia's position as one of Spain's agricultural powerhouses, this could prove a major economic boost.

### **Tourism benefits**

Tourism is another sector set to benefit. Almería and Murcia's coastline, already a draw for visitors, will be more accessible than ever before. Quicker and more reliable transport links are expected to encourage more people to explore the region, supporting local businesses and creating jobs.

## Rock Legends confirmed for Cartagena's Rock Imperium Festival

**TICKETS** are now on sale for the Rock Imperium festival, and fans are being urged to get them quickly. The legendary British heavy metal band Iron Maiden has been confirmed for the next festival, making Cartagena a must-visit destination for rock lovers worldwide.

### Iron Maiden celebrates 50 years on stage

The festival will take place from July 3 to 5 at Cuesta del Batel, with strong support from the Cartagena City Council. Iron Maiden's appearance is part of their "Run for Your Lives" tour, celebrating the band's 50th anniversary. The show promises a spectacular setlist covering hits from their early decades, making it one of the most exciting concerts in the festival's history.

### Rock Imperium's growing legacy

Since 2022, Rock Imperium has brought iconic bands like Scorpions, Europe, Kiss, Deep Purple, and Judas Priest to Cartagena. Mayor Noelia Arroyo highlighted the festival's impact, noting that it boosts tourism, fills hotels, and generates income for local businesses, including restaurants, shops, and taxis. She added that the event gives Cartagena international media exposure and showcases the city's rich heritage, museums, and gastronomy.

### Powerful lineup for 2026

The first lineup for 2026 also includes Sabaton, Trivium, The Gathering, H.E.A.T, Queensrÿche, and Lacuna Coil, with more artists to be announced. Local band Triskel will represent Cartagena on the festival stage, bringing folk metal to the event. Festival passes are on sale via [rockimperiumfestival.es](https://rockimperiumfestival.es).

### Rock icons who have played Cartagena's Rock Imperium Festival

Over the years, Rock Imperium has hosted some of the biggest names in rock and metal. Fans have enjoyed unforgettable performances by Kiss, Deep Purple, Scorpions, Europe, and Judas Priest, helping to put Cartagena firmly on the map as a must-visit destination for music lovers. Each edition has drawn thousands of fans from around the world, cementing the festival's reputation as one of Europe's standout summer rock events.

## San Javier Airport set for high-tech makeover

**SAN JAVIER** Airport is taking a major step toward becoming a cutting-edge technology hub. The former airport will be converted into a centre specialising in satellite applications and aerospace innovation, with modern facilities designed to support research, start-ups, and training programs.

### **Focus on facilities**

The redevelopment will focus on the 'Technical Block' building and surrounding areas, creating flexible office spaces for emerging companies, multipurpose classrooms for workshops and training, meeting rooms, IT and telecommunications facilities, and recreational areas. The project will also include green zones, parking, and upgraded infrastructure to ensure a safe and efficient working environment.

### **Part of the Caetra Program**

Officials say the new centre will be a key part of the regional Caetra program, which promotes dual-use civil and military technologies. It aims to connect talent, research, and industry while promoting innovation in aerospace, satellite technology, and related fields.

### **Boost for regional tech**

The transformation of San Javier Airport is seen as a major boost for the region's technological development. By turning an existing facility into a modern hub, the initiative will attract companies, support specialised training, and create new opportunities for collaboration across research and industry, positioning the area as a leader in European aerospace and technology projects.







