



# Or There?



**WHY TO BUY**  
Chris Mercer, director of Murcia-based estate agent Mercers:

"Murcia is one of the best areas to invest in Spain in 2011. Paramount Pictures has announced it will be the new location for a leisure park which will rival Disneyland Paris, it's a reliably warm and dry part of southern Spain, it has not been overdeveloped, it offers bargain property prices, and it enjoys easy access on low-cost flights."

### Why Murcia?

The Costa Calida is a reliably warm and dry part of southern Spain, and with more than 3,000 hours of sun a year, sun worshippers will find plenty to smile about over here. According to the World Health Organization, the region offers one of the healthiest lifestyles in the world. What's particularly refreshing about Murcia is that it hasn't been overdeveloped – there are strict planning laws aimed at protecting and preserving the surrounding countryside. It is one of the only unspoilt coastlines remaining in Spain, there are plenty of rock-bottom prices to take advantage of, and the area is easily accessible thanks to low-cost flights from **Jet2.com**. Murcia international airport is just over an hour to the north, while Corvera is even closer, and due for completion in summer 2011.

### What is there to do?

The lifestyle here is typically Mediterranean, and the people are laidback and easy-going. Close at hand is the beautiful Sierra Espuña National Park ([sierraespuna.com](http://sierraespuna.com)), and for sightseeing it's hard to beat Cartagena, a baroque Roman city. Murcia itself is packed with shopping options, and there are lots of watersports, golf courses, museums and restaurants to enjoy. As for the local cuisine, the emphasis is on hearty, traditional fare served with excellent local wine.

### Where should I buy?

Mazarron, on the coast of the Costa Calida area, is very popular with buyers, and in Murcia city itself you can find townhouses to renovate and a number of modern apartments. There's also a variety of new developments offering numerous on-site facilities

### How expensive are properties?

Chris Mercer, director of Murcia-based Mercers (+34 968 199 188), says: "Although our property prices start from around £40,000 for two bedrooms, our average sale price is £105,000, and for this you can get a two- to three-bedroom detached villa with a private swimming pool. All this can be found on an 18-hole golf course, in an established community, with great on-site facilities, all within 15 minutes of Blue Flag beaches."

### Is Murcia a good investment?

Paramount Pictures has announced that Murcia will be the site of a new entertainment park. "Located about five miles from Camposol, it will bring much-needed work, wealth and prosperity to the region," says Mercer.

**MURCIA**

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