

Rota, España



TRANSPORTATION

Inter-city transportation is not too reliable nor is it scheduled with anything like the frequency you are accustomed to in the States.

The main roads in Spain are rather bad in comparison to what you are used to. Construction and repairs are continually in progress though. Generally, town and city streets are very rough and an auto develops rattles rapidly.

In a city of any size, driving is an adventure, not something to be taken for granted. With the narrow streets, bicycles, mules, pedestrians and the number of autos and motor scooters, it is extremely hazardous. On Spanish highways there is no speed limit. SIXTH Fleet personnel are not permitted to drive, or ride on, motor scooters or motor-bikes.

Commercial transportation is limited and often unreliable. The U.S. government has entered into a contract with La Valenciana, S.A., giving the bus company exclusive commercial rights to operate scheduled bus service for all naval activities at Rota.

This scheduled bus service is operated strictly on a ticket basis. Cash fares will not be accepted. Tickets may be purchased at the La Valenciana office located on the base opposite the Special Services Office. Tickets can be purchased, using Spanish pesetas, from 0830 to 1730, Monday through Saturday.

Commercial taxi service is practically non-existent in many smaller towns and return trips from larger towns are expensive. A naval station taxi service is maintained for station personnel and personnel of visiting ships.

The taxi service is available 24 hours a day by calling the Rota Gate (Ext. 2399). Rates may vary slightly and **should be** confirmed by the driver prior to hiring the taxi.

To Puerto de Santa Maria (about 7 miles) it is 125 pesetas; to Sanlucar (10 miles), 200 pesetas; to Jerez (12 miles), 225 pesetas; to Cadiz (21 miles), 400 pesetas; to Seville (80 miles), 800 pesetas; to Gibraltar (120 miles), 1200 pesetas.

When available, taxis may be utilized for tours. Advance reservations are recommended, particularly when the taxi is to be kept overnight. Rental rates are 60 cents per hour plus 3 cents per mile, or \$3.50 per day plus 3 cents per mile. Up to five passengers can occupy a taxi.

The base bus schedule runs every one-half hour from 0900 to 2300.

LODGING & FOOD

In Puerto de Santa Maria are the Hotel Fuentebravia (Parador) located just outside the base,

ROTA is a small typical Spanish town which has long been a summer seashore resort for many people of the larger surrounding towns. It is located on the southwest corner of Spain on the Bay of Cadiz. The Rota Naval Base is just outside this pueblo.

The town and the neighboring cities of Puerto de Santa Maria, Jerez de la Frontera, Sanlucar, and Cadiz provide homes for many of the Americans of the naval base at Rota.

There is a marked contrast between the masses and the upper classes. The upper class, or elite, as they might be called, comprise about 5-10 per cent; a very proud, well educated, well traveled, cosmopolitan class, many of whom speak English.

There is a middle class of well educated, well informed people comprising 15-20 per cent. The remaining 70-80 per cent are simple, poor hardworking people, but still proud, extremely honest, and always very courteous and helpful.

THE naval base is a joint Spanish-American base over which flies the Spanish flag. Groundwork for the mutual defense agreements and base construction program was laid by Admiral Forrest B. Sherman in discussions with Generalissimo Franco in 1951. Agreements signed in 1953 by the U.S. and Spanish governments provide for an initial ten-year lease on the base sites, subject to two five-year extensions.

Major components of the base include a U.S. Naval Station, with naval air facilities and port area, U.S. Naval Fuel Depot and terminal stowage, POL pier, port terminus serving a multi-product pipe line system to air force bases in the Spanish interior, and the U.S. Naval Magazine. The harbor and air field are joint-use facilities for U.S. and Spanish forces.

Although the U.S. activities at Rota are under U.S. control, the area encompassing the naval base is under the command of a Spanish Admiral, Jefe de la Base Naval de Rota, and certain areas of the base are strictly for Spanish use. The Spanish consider the U.S. naval activities as tenants and guests.

The Rota area is, for six to eight months of the year, rather hot and dusty, with landscape and climate similar to parts of Southern California. Winters in this sector are rainy, damp, and frequently bone-chilling.

Caballo Blanco Motel, Cangrejo Rojo Motel, Hotel St. Nickolas, and Hotel Laradio.

In Jerez de la Frontera are the Los Cisnes Hotel and La Vega Hotel. Buena Vista Hotel on the base is reserved for transients and personnel on TAD. No meals are served.

Rooms (single or double) range from 180-350 pesetas a day. Meals from 100-300 pesetas.

Individual club facilities are maintained on the base for commissioned officers, Chief Petty Officers, and enlisted men.

Also, in Puerto de Santa Maria, there is the Oasis Bar with a good restaurant, the Hotel Fuentebravia bar, which is also a good hotel and restaurant, and the Bar Santa Maria. In Jerez de la Frontera, the Los Cisnes Hotel bar also has a good hotel and restaurant with dancing and orchestra and is recommended.

Meals are served at the officers' club, GPO club, EM club, and Acey Ducey Club. In addition, a self-service cafeteria, open 24 hours a day, is located at the air terminal building.

In addition to the recommended restaurants already mentioned above, the El Resbaladero Restaurant in Puerto de Santa Maria is suggested. In Jerez de la Frontera there is also Cuatro Caminos Restaurant, Restaurant Bosque, Joka Restaurant, and Hotel La Vega Restaurant.

You will find almost all food in the area fried (with olive oil) and no one dish more well known than the other. The cocktail lounge concept is unknown in any town. You will find night life extremely limited in the area in the winter months, Sunday night being the exception.

SIGHTSEEING

Between Seville and Cadiz, just 20 miles from the naval station, lies Jerez de la Frontera, famed the world over for the type of wine it produces. In fact, the name of this wine, Sherry, is a corruption of Jerez, its place of origin.

The harvest, or vintage, or the Sherry grapes takes place about the first week in September and lasts a month. Visits may be arranged to one or more of the famous Bodegas (where it is fermented, classified, aged, and bottled) where you will see the wine being made and sample the various type of Sherries produced in this famous district. You will also be offered the possibility of purchasing bottles of Sherry directly from the Bodega.

Service personnel are reminded that due to Rota's size and lack of recreational facilities, the town is off limits for transient fleet units.

ATHLETICS

A shuttle bus operates on an hourly schedule from the waterfront to and from the recreational areas of the base.

The base has an 18 hole golf course and club house. There are a few tennis courts available adjacent to the barracks and BOQ. The riding club is very active and frequently feature rodeos; rental horses are available. There is a Rod and Gun Club with skeet and trap ranges 300 yards north of the stable area.

Swimming is a popular pastime and there are excellent beaches in the area as well as a large pool on the base. A base movie has three showings daily. There are bowling alleys, roller skating rink, hobby shop, gymnasium, go-cart track, archery range. There is a very active Aero Club which has six planes with instructors and an examining official. There are small private yacht clubs open in Cadiz and Puerto.

Bullfights and fubol (soccer) matches are popular and are held frequently off the base. Live pigeon shooting clubs are located in several of the near-by cities. Skiing is possible in Granda, a five-hour drive, but has no lifts.

MISCELLANY

The base chaplain's office is located in the chapel at the corner of Third Avenue and E Street. One Protestant and one Catholic chaplain are available for counseling. The Chapel is a beautiful building and there is a Protestant church school. Chapel church services: Catholic, 0830, 0945, 1215; Protestant, 0900, 1100.

For those personnel in civilian clothing ashore, jacket and tie are mandatory after 2200. Station personnel are not permitted ashore in uniform although concessions may be made for fleet personnel (except officers).

There are at present no establishments listed as off-limits, although in the majority of the bars in Cadiz one should be continually alert as Cadiz is a true international port. The town of Rota is off-limits to all service personnel in transient status.

In general, you will find the Spanish are agreeable, easy-to-get-along-with type of people. But in one respect, the authorities, they are firm and unbending. If questioned or detained by the police service personnel should at all times be courteous and offer no resistance. They all carry pistols/rifles, in varying combinations, and are not reluctant to use them if provoked or authority challenged.

In business transactions, bargaining is an accepted part of Spanish life. Don't allow their "manana" attitude to fool you. The average Spaniard is a shrewd business man.

BASE FACILITIES

NAVY EXCHANGE RETAIL & COMMISSARY STORES

Monday-Tuesday-Friday: 1000-1700
Wednesday and Saturday: 0900-1300
Thursday: 1000-1900

MAIN BARBER SHOP & COBBLER SHOP

Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday: 0900-1700
Thursday: 0900-1900 Saturday: 0900-1300

TAILOR SHOP

Monday thru Saturday: 0800-1700

TERMINAL RESTAURANT

Daily 0500-0200

RETAIL OUTLET-HOUSING

Daily 0900-2000

RETAIL OUTLET-TERMINAL

Monday thru Saturday: 0900-1700
Sunday: 0900-1130

LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANING

Monday-Saturday: 0730-1700
Five to seven day service only

HANGER BARBER SHOP

Monday-Friday: 0900-1700

BARBER SHOP-HOUSING AREA

Tuesday-Saturday 1030-1900

MOBILE CANTEEN

Monday-Friday: 0830-2000

SWIMMING POOL SNACK BAR

Daily 1000-1900

OUTDOOR THEATER SNACK BAR

Daily 2100-2330

STATION THEATER POPCORN SALES

Daily 1400-2200

SEABEES CLUB

Monday-Thursday: 1700-0030
Friday & American holidays: 1700-0100
Saturday: 1200-0100
Sunday & American holidays 1200-2300

OFFICERS' CLUB

Sunday-Thursday: 0900-2400
Friday & Saturday: 0800-0200
Buffet dinner only on Sunday
Movies on Saturday, Tuesday,
Thursday, and Friday

GOLF CLUB SNACK BAR

Thursday-Monday 1000-1900

Tuesday and Wednesday 1200-2100

CPO CLUB

Sunday-Thursday: 1200-2400
Friday and Saturday: 1200-0100

ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB

Monday-Thursday: 1630-0030
Friday: 1630-0130 Saturday: 1200-0130
Sunday: 1200-0030

LIBRARY

Sunday: 0900-2400
Monday-Saturday: 1000-2200
Closed from 1400-1500 daily

GOLF DRIVING RANGE

Monday-Sunday: 0830-0200

THEATER

Three showings daily:
1430-1830-2100

HOBBY SHOP

Tuesday-Friday: 1400-2200
Saturday and Sunday: 1100-2000

MILITARY BEACH

Daily until sunset

ACEY DUCEY CLUB

Sunday-Thursday: 1200-2330
Friday and Saturday: 1200-0130

POST OFFICE

Stamps and parcel post: 0900-1700
Money orders and registry:
0900-1200, 1300-1600

GOLF COURSE

Monday-Friday: 0830 to Sunset
Saturday and Sunday: 0700 to Sunset

GYM AND BOWLING ALLEY

Monday-Thursday: 1000-2330
Friday: 1500-2400 Saturday and Sunday: 1000-
2400

OUTDOOR THEATER

Daily 2130

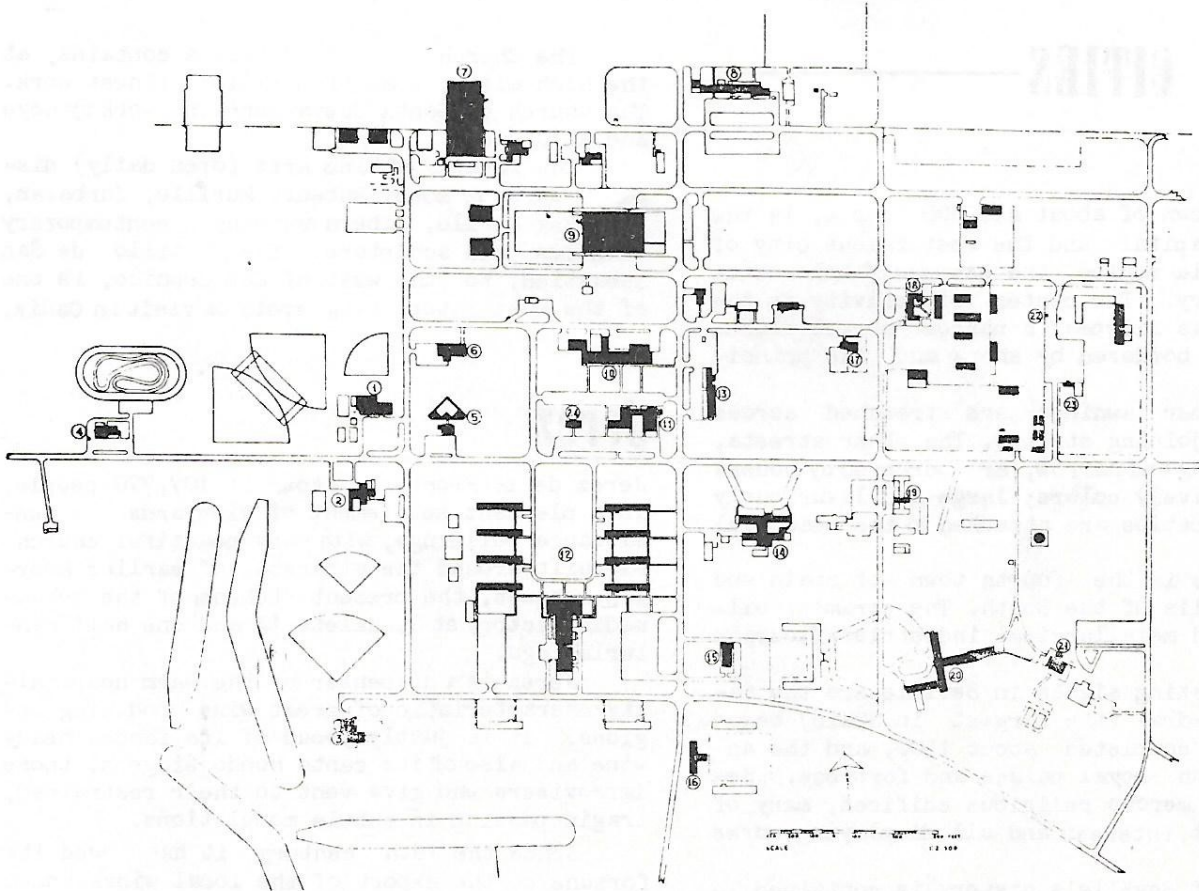
SWIMMING POOL

Even days: military personnel
Odd days: dependents
1000-2000 daily

NAVY EXCHANGE

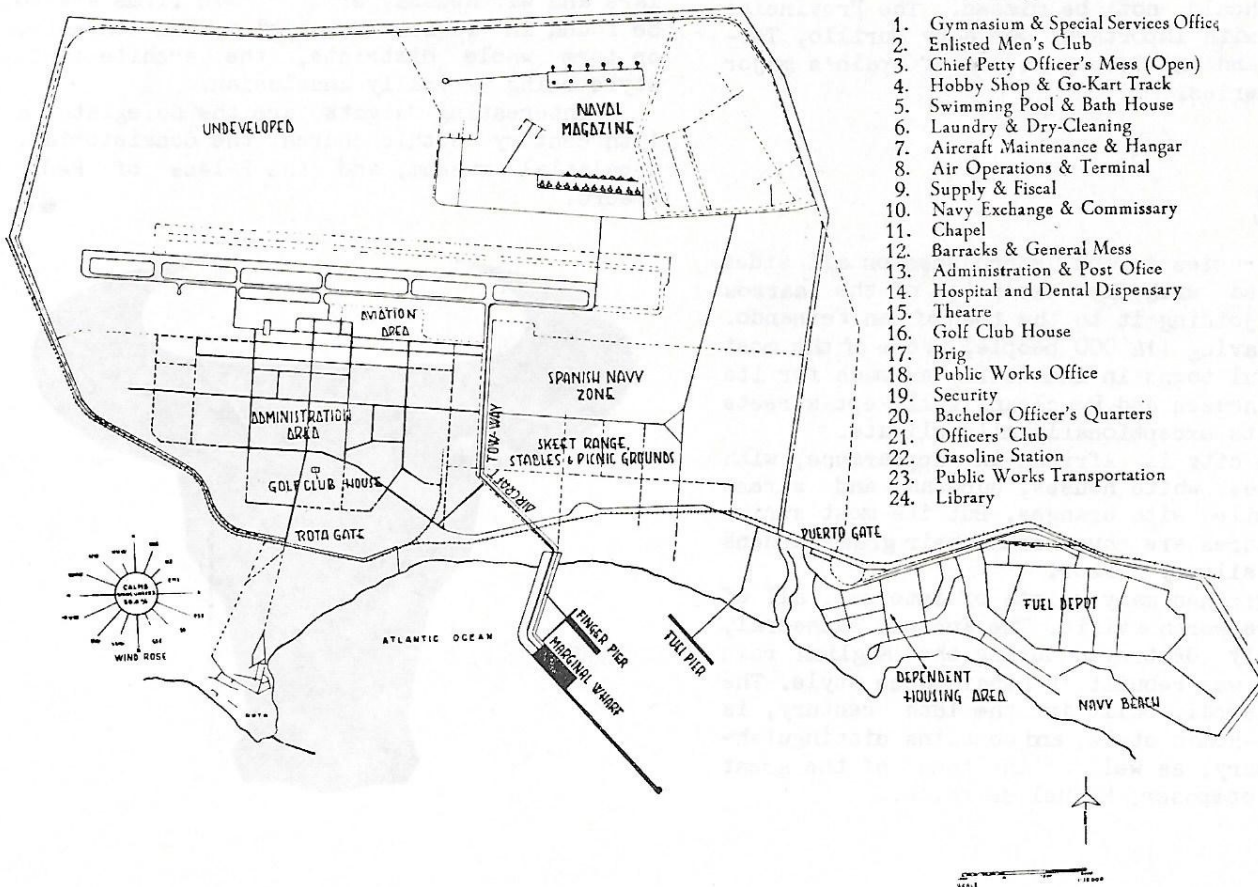
Monday 1000-1200, 1300-1600
Tuesday and Friday 1000-1600
Wednesday and Saturday 0900-1300
Thursday 1000-1800

N. S. ROTA-SPAIN



LEGEND

1. Gymnasium & Special Services Office
2. Enlisted Men's Club
3. Chief Petty Officer's Mess (Open)
4. Hobby Shop & Go-Kart Track
5. Swimming Pool & Bath House
6. Laundry & Dry-Cleaning
7. Aircraft Maintenance & Hangar
8. Air Operations & Terminal
9. Supply & Fiscal
10. Navy Exchange & Commissary
11. Chapel
12. Barracks & General Mess
13. Administration & Post Office
14. Hospital and Dental Dispensary
15. Theatre
16. Golf Club House
17. Brig
18. Public Works Office
19. Security
20. Bachelor Officer's Quarters
21. Officers' Club
22. Gasoline Station
23. Public Works Transportation
24. Library



NEARBY CITIES

Seville

Seville, a town of about 450,000 people, is the spiritual capital and the most famous city of the Andalusia region, the essence of this beautiful country. The center of activity is the Calle de las Sierpes, a narrow street closed to traffic, bordered by shops and the principal clubs.

In summer awnings are stretched across this and adjoining streets. The other streets, often winding and narrow, are bordered by houses painted in lively colors; large and luxuriously ornamented patios are attached to the beautiful homes.

Seville is the fourth town of Spain and the metropolis of the South. The ceramic, oil-refining and metallurgical industries flourish here.

Interesting sights in Seville are the majestic Cathedral (the largest in Spain) begun in 1402 and completed about 1500, and the ancient Moorish royal palace and fortress. Seville has numerous religious edifices, many of them of great interest and all displaying works of art.

Most of Seville's history is contained in the Cathedral and the Alcazar, and these two sights should not be missed. The Provincial Museum, with important works by Murillo, Torigiano and El Greco, is one of Spain's major art galleries.

Cadiz

Cadiz occupies a rock surrounded on all sides by the sea with the exception of the narrow isthmus joining it to the town of San Fernando. Cadiz, having 114,000 people, is one of the most delightful towns in Andalusia, as much for its elegant houses and its clean, well kept streets as for its exceptionally mild climate.

The city is African in appearance, with palm trees, white houses, cupolas, and street stalls piled with oranges. But its most striking features are churches in their green gardens and the silvery harbor.

Cadiz has many points of interest, all of which are worth a visit. The ancient cathedral, completely destroyed during the English raid in 1596, was rebuilt in Renaissance style. The new Cathedral, built in the 18th century, is in Greco-Roman style, and contains distinguished statuary, as well as the tomb of the great Spanish composer, Manuel de Falla.

The Church of Santa Catalina contains, at the high altar, some of Murillo's finest work. The Church of Santa Cueva contains work by Goya and El Greco.

The Academy of Fine Arts (open daily) displays works by Moro, Rubens, Murillo, Zurbaran, Van Dyck Coello, Ribera and many contemporary painters and sculptors. The Castillo de San Sebastian, to the west of Cap Cronico, is one of the most interesting spots to visit in Cadiz.

Jerez

Jerez de la Frontera, a town of 107,770 people, is a pleasant settlement of vineyards and Renaissance buildings, with many beautiful churches built around the minarets of earlier Moorish mosques, the present tokens of the Mohammedan victory at Guadalete 12 and one half centuries ago.

Jerez is a dispenser of the warm hospitality characteristic of great wine producing regions. It is justly proud of its famous heady wine and also of its canto hondo singers, those improvisers who give vent to their restrained, tragic passion in subtle modulations.

Since the 18th century it has owed its fortune to the export of the local wines known all over the world (sherry). The bodegas (cellars and warehouses) of the main firms are to be found in former monasteries and convents, or form whole districts, the architectural style being typically Andalusian.

Interesting sights are the Colegiata, a 13th century Gothic church, the Consistorial, a palatial museum, and the Palace of Pedro Aladro.

