



**POLAR BEAR SWIM** **26 DEC 08**  
**Catalan Bay, Gibraltar**

Time for some extreme detoxing! If you're feeling blown-out and bloated after the excesses of Christmas, you might want to consider taking part in Gibraltar's annual Boxing Day Polar Bear Swim (bbbbrrrrr...). Organised by the Caleta Hotel in Catalan Bay, the brave swimmers start to gather at 11.45am for a midday start. Afterwards they are well-rewarded with hot brandy, mince pies and a Polar Bear Certificate. Take part if you dare to 'bear' it, otherwise watch from the comfort of the hotel!

➔ **Monarch offers scheduled flights to Gibraltar from London Luton and Manchester airports. Fares including taxes start from £47.50 one way (£84.50 return) and can be booked via [monarch.co.uk](http://monarch.co.uk)**

# events

## Guide

Far from winding down for winter, in southern Europe things are as lively as ever with bracing Boxing Day swims, fashion shows, fiestas and much more!

**VERDIALES FESTIVAL** **28 DEC 08**  
**Venta San Cayetano, Malaga**

Picture flamenco dancers stamping and swirling in the olive-growing region of Malaga and you've got the origins of the colourful Verdiales Festival in a nutshell. The festival is one of rural Andalucía's most vibrant traditions. About 25 pandas, or dance troupes, strut their stuff on stage in a lively contest. The competition falls into three categories, each originating from the areas of Almogla, Montes and Comares near Malaga. Don't forget your castanets.

➔ **Monarch offers scheduled flights to Malaga from London Luton, London Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester airports. Fares including taxes start from £42.50 one way (£68.99 return) and can be booked via [monarch.co.uk](http://monarch.co.uk)**

» **Events are subject to change so please check before confirming travel plans**



**CYPRUS DERBY CUP** **22 NOV 08**  
**Nicosia, Cyprus**



If you enjoy the occasional flutter on the gee-gees, then be sure to get along to the Cyprus Derby Cup at Nicosia Race Club. It's the most prestigious event in the island's racing calendar with total prize money and premiums of around 70,000 Euros. The race is for thoroughbred colts and geldings born within the European Union and is run over a distance of 2250 metres. Horse racing was revived in Cyprus from the end of the 19th century and the Race Club is the only place in the whole country where you can place a bet.

➔ **Monarch offers scheduled flights to Larnaca from London Luton, London Gatwick and Manchester airports. Fares including taxes start from £65.50 one way (£129.50 return) and can be booked via [monarch.co.uk](http://monarch.co.uk)**

## CANARY ISLANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL 9 JAN - 16 FEB 09

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

It's a special year for this much-loved extravaganza of classical music in the Canaries as it celebrates its 25th birthday in 2009. One of the many highlights will be conductor Lorin Maazel, fronting the acclaimed Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra with music from Wagner and Mahler. Another tour de force will be Valery Gergiev and his Mariinsky Theatre playing works from Rachmaninov and Stravinsky. For full programme details please visit [www.festivaldecanarias.com](http://www.festivaldecanarias.com)

➔ Monarch offers scheduled flights to Tenerife from London Luton, London Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester airports. Fares including taxes start from £65.50 one way (£114.99 return) and can be booked via [monarch.co.uk](http://monarch.co.uk)



## BREAD & BUTTER BARCELONA 21-23 JAN 09

Barcelona

Calling all dedicated followers of fashion! For three action-packed days, the huge Fira de Barcelona arena is simply brimming with hundreds of designers, from newly emerging to well-known labels such as Gooch, Bench, Vans, and Fly. The accent is on trendy and unconventional and the show is split into four sections: Denim, Fashion, Sport & Street and Superior – an ultra-hip fusion of fashion and music. What better way for fashionistas to shake off the winter blues and shake up their wardrobe next season! Entry by online registration only at [www.breadandbutter.com](http://www.breadandbutter.com)

➔ Monarch offers scheduled flights to Barcelona from Manchester airport. Fares including taxes start from £47.99 one way (£79.50 return) and can be booked via [monarch.co.uk](http://monarch.co.uk)



## MALAGA CARNIVAL JAN-FEB 09

Malaga

The Malaga Carnival begins with a bang on Carnival Sunday at the end of January each year. This marks the start of the lead up to Lent, and the streets of Malaga are filled with colourful parades featuring street bands (murgas), masquerades (comparsas) and choruses. Expect to party with typical Spanish enthusiasm!

➔ Monarch offers scheduled flights to Malaga from London Luton, London Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester airports. Fares including taxes start from £42.50 one way (£68.99 return) and can be booked via [monarch.co.uk](http://monarch.co.uk)



## FESTITITERES Alicante

NOV - DEC 08

If you and your children like a puppet on a string (or on a glove or a rod), you'll love Festititeres. It's Alicante's annual international puppet festival and it takes place throughout the city in various indoor and outdoor venues. There are acts from all over the globe, from Russia to Argentina, making up a diverse programme of around 30 performances. The

Festival started back in 1984 and includes fun and educational workshops and exhibitions.

➔ Monarch offers scheduled flights to Alicante from London Luton, London Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester airports. Fares including taxes start from £42.50 one way (£68.99 return) and can be booked via [monarch.co.uk](http://monarch.co.uk)