

PLAYA BLANCA

# Communityoffice



Since 1998 the town of Yaiza has run an office in Playa Blanca, offering many helpful services. In an interview with Marina Santana Camacho, who represents the council for tourism and local development, she explained exactly how to use this service.

## How does this office help people?

Basically the office is an off-shoot of the Town Hall (Ayuntamiento) of Yaiza but in Playa Blanca, this saves residents travelling time and waiting time. Like the Town Hall it solves nearly all the problems that arise, but on a smaller scale. You can submit all your official papers, such as obtaining your residencia (authorised registration on this island) which entitles you to concessions such as discounts on ferries and flights. Additionally there is international tourist information centre giving you details about cultural and other events.

## You mentioned discounts on ferries and flights, can you explain this?

All residents who have Spanish nationality or are members of the EU, can ask for a certificate which later when you buy tickets for ferries or flights going either inter-island or to mainland Spain, entitle you to a discount. To take up residencia is a formality which you can either decide to do or not. People who live here for most or all of the year tend to apply for residencia. However a lot of property owners do not do this. We as a community, are happy to welcome everyone.

## Which languages are spoken in the Community Office?

We are lucky to have the tourist information centre here, so there is always one staff member who speaks English or German, making it easy to communicate, whereas in Yaiza Town Hall it is sometimes difficult to find someone who speaks other languages. Another plus for this office is that we are open in the afternoon unlike Yaiza. This enables

a lot of workers who find it difficult to visit the Town Hall in regular opening hours, to use our facility.

## What obligations do property owners have to the Community?

Basically they have only one obligation which is to pay their taxes on their properties. These taxes are due once a year, normally at the end of the year and are payable within a period of two months. The exact dates will be announced on posters, but usually the due dates are between September and November, you will always be given plenty of notice.

## How can people pay their taxes if they are not on the Island when they are due?

There are several possibilities, but the easiest way is by normal bank transfer. We have a Community telephone number and you can ring to ask the exact amount of money that is due. Another way is if you know that you will not be here, you can leave your bank information and empower the Community to pay from your local bank account.

We are also preparing an Internet site through which you will be able to pay independently from your own country. This site will be up and running soon.

## Are there more things that the Community offers?

Of course there are, for example we organise regular excursions, cultural and sporting activities in which everyone can participate. All the information is available here in the office.

## Is there anything else that you would like to tell our readers?

The most important thing is that people know that we have this Community Office in Playa Blanca and that we are here to help. Together with the staff of the tourist information centre we are happy to offer all nationalities assistance with their problems and answer their questions, being able to speak many European languages. The service we offer not only concerns Community matters, but we will help you with general problems.

Thank you very much for your time.

Community Office Playa Blanca  
Oficina Municipal de Playa Blanca  
Gemeindebüro Playa Blanca

C/ Varadero s/n  
E-35570 Playa Blanca  
Lanzarote

Tel: 928 51 90 18  
Fax: 928 51 82 02