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New app for iPad: Spain's National Parks

[New App for iPad: Spain's National Parks](#)

Spain's National Park system has just released a new, free app for iPad (bilingual guide (Spanish-English)). [https://](#)

[Gastronomic Delights in Spain](#)

GT Magazine excerpt from Meet in Spain Magazine, Aug. '14 edition

[Why Stay in Paradors? Because They're the Elegant Essence of Spain](#)

Article in About.com Luxury Travel about Spain's Paradores

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Author talks about what she calls the "best churros ever": in Pamplona, at Churrería La Mañueta.

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## Where is the cruise industry meeting in January?

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created by [Julie Surrey](#) at 03 December 2014 / 05:36 AM  
308 Views



**Cartagena Murcia**, Spain, has a long, rich history, beginning even before it became an important western Mediterranean port during the Roman Empire. With a natural harbor, it served as a naval base for centuries, its ramparts dating back to the eighteenth-century reign of Charles III. Now the city is reinventing itself as a cultural tourism destination—as shown by the construction of a museum by José Rafael Moneo, that celebrates the city's ancient Roman amphitheater and more recently by the opening of the exuberant new El Batel Convention Centre, designed by the Madrid-based firm Selgascano.

The [region of Murcia](#) is one of Spain's least known, even among Spaniards themselves, and first-time visitors are often surprised by the diversity of this small region and the friendliness of its people, *Murcianos*.

The community of euroresidents living in this region has grown in recent years, drawn by Murcia's attractive mountain villages, the beautiful coastline, *Costa Cálida*, low prices compared to more expensive Spanish resorts and one of the best climates in Spain all year round.

Considering all of the above, it shouldn't be a surprise that The 3<sup>rd</sup> Seatrade Winter Cruising Forum is heading for [Cartagena](#), Spain, January 21-22, 2015 and will look at the ever-increasing popularity of winter cruising. Their [Meeting and Event Planners](#) are spot on in selecting the El Batel Convention Centre as the venue.



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This state-of-the-art building is based on the marine traditions of the city. Its location next to the port and sea of Cartagena (Murcia) influences the design.

The exterior is dominated by straight lines, similar to the containers of the boats stacked in the docks, the straightness of the edge of the port and the calm of the surrounding sea.

The innovative materials used, native to the area have been used for the first time in the façade of a building, and have allowed the architects to create luminous areas which provide great brightness to the interior. The complex structure, characterized by the absence of pillars, creates an interior with large open areas and bright effect, reminiscent of the weightlessness of the deep sea.



Throughout El Batel, the overall effect of frozen light, of extreme silence and calm, makes you feel as if you were inhabiting a space outside time. Yet you never feel isolated: Whether you are walking in solitude around the building or passing through it, the materials envelop you like a cloak. El B shows how a daring architectural proposal, using an economy of means, can enhance this latest chapter of Cartagena's rich history, sounding a bright and hopeful note in an uncertain time.

[Meeting and event planning for dummies](#) should have a special chapter dedicated to experiencing unique and innovative venues like El Batel!!

*About the Author*

*Julie Surrey is a Partner at [Creative Planette](#) and is a seasoned professional in the events industry. Ms. Surrey starting blogging actively in 2010 and writes industry specific pieces for [i-Meet](#), the online business community for people who plan meetings and events. Feel free to connect with Julie on [LinkedIn](#) and [Google+](#)*

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