VILLANUEVA DE LA CAÑADA

at a glance

Edited by Villanueva de la Cañada City Council
Contents: Communication and Press Department
Design and printing: Editorial MIC
2024

WELCOME TO VILLANUEVA DE LA CAÑADA

A place in the heart of Spain

Villanueva de la Cañada is a young, cosmopolitan town, where people have a great quality of life. It is an ideal municipality to live in, with top-quality services and a great number of educational, cultural and sports equipment. It has become a model in the health field after having promoted healthy lifestyle among its inhabitants. It has become part of the World Health Organisation's European Healthy Cities Network.

Its magnificent natural environment, the architectural design of its municipal buildings and two of the most important free-time activity facilities in the region: The water park `Aquopolis´ and `La Dehesa´ Golf Club, highlight among its tourist attractions.

Villanueva de la Cañada hosts the European Space Agency's Astronomy Science Centre, where an important number of foreign scientists work. This publication aims to make the town known to anyone who decides to come and live here or anyone who wants to visit.

Ayuntamiento de Villanueva de la Cañada

Villanueva de la Cañada
SENCILLAMENTE TODO

PRESENTATION

Villanueva de la Cañada is a municipality located in the north-west of the Community of Madrid with a young population of 24,000 inhabitants. In addition to the town centre there are four residential areas (Villafranca del Castillo, La Mocha Chica, La Raya del Palancar and Guadamonte). The Guadarrama River's Middle Course Regional Park takes up a third of the municipal district's area, situated over and extensive plain, where Guadarrama and Aulencia rivers flow.

COMMUNITY OF MADRID

It is one of the municipalities with the highest income per capita of the Community of Madrid. It has an important business sector mainly dedicated to the tertiary sector: the service sector.

UNIVERSITY TOWN

The community of Villanueva de la Cañada has an excellent educational system offer: Public, private and subsidised schools, from nursery to university. The educational network includes four nursery schools, nine schools, which offer pre-school, primary, secondary and baccalaureate education (bilingual and trilingual). Besides there are two universities.

Since both universities founded: Alfonso X el Sabio University, in 1994, and Camilo José Cela University, in 2000, Villanueva de la Cañada became as an `University Town´ with around 20,000 students. The majority of them come from other regions of Spain and other countries, which has brought great benefits in terms of economic and social development, as well as unprecedented cross-cultural exchange.

Besides, every year, the Town Hall grants scholarships to an important number of young people from de municipality so they can study at Alfonso X el Sabio University, which has its campus on municipal grounds by virtue of an agreement between both institutions.

Its aim is to offer the young people who are registered in the municipality the possibility to study their university degree in their own town without any cost for their families.

TOWN PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

The horizontal urban development, with big green areas, and the important natural surroundings are two of its most remarkable features. The Guadarrama River's Middle Course Regional Park stretches over 1,132 hectares of the municipal district. Since 1987, the Town Hall protects this natural space, legally named on 1999 Regional Park. It holds areas with great ecological significance due to its flora (oak woods, groves and banks) and fauna (imperial eagle, wildcat, black stork, etc.). It holds a medieval historic enclave: the Aulencia Castle, also known as Villafranca Castle.

Moreover, there are more than 500,000 square metres of green areas. Approximately 315,000 hold urban parks –with playgrounds for children, young and old people- and 190,000 hold the biggest urban park in the municipality, El Pinar, planted with Pinus Pinnea (stone pine).

The Villafranca meadow, which is more than two kilometres in length, harbours a great variety of trees and two ponds, and La Baltasara park can be highlighted. The latter park has a small botanical garden with more than fifty kinds of trees. It also has a water lily pond lined by bamboos, where a geyser raises.

HEALTHY TOWN

Promoting a healthy lifestyle among its inhabitants with regular physical activity as well as a balanced diet, is one of the town's main objectives. In order to do so, the Town Hall has provided the town with facilities and infraestructures where any sport can be practised.

On the other hand, Villanueva promotes `active ageing´ and it takes part in initiatives aimed to prevent ilnesses in children and adults.

Villanueva de la Cañada is part of European Network of Healthy Cities of the World's Health Organisation (WHO). It is also a member of the Red Española de Ciudades Saludables de la Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias (Healthy Spanish Cities Network of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Regions).

UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE

The town was razed after the Spanish Civil War and in the Middle of the 20th century, it was rebuilt by the General Management of Devasted Regions department. The plaza de España, where Santiago Apóstol church and the Town Hall building are located, and the small neighbouring white houses were rebuilt at that time.

In the last few decades, the Town Hall has equipped the town with the facilities which stand out thanks to their architectural design. We can find luminous buildings, with floors which have different geometric shapes, where modern building techniques have been used and in which methods from another time have been recreated with great skill.

Renowned architects and new talents of the Spanish architecture have designed award-winning projects for Villanueva de la Cañada which are greatly valued here and abroad. Some examples are La Despernada Cultural Centre, which is an architectural work of the prestigious architect Juan Navarro Baldeweg; F. Lázaro Carreter Public Library and the Public Indoor Swimming Pool, architectural works of Churtichaga & Quadra-Salcedo architecture Studio; the Local Police and Civil Defence Building, designed by Picado-De Blas architecture Studio; or the public protection houses, located in La Rioja street, designed by Aranguren & Gallegos architecture Studio.

CULTURE AND SPORTS

La Despernada Cultural Centre and F. Lázaro Carreter Public Library are the benchmark of the cultural activity of the town. The first one holds shows for people of all ages throughout the year: theatre, exhibitions, dance, concerts... It hosts English, Arts, Music and Dancing Municipal Schools .

The library has more than 26,000 volumes in bibliographic and audiovisual format. Anyone can enter free of charge to enjoy culture, literature, education and leisure reading. It has different reading rooms, both for adults and children, and it organizes many reading promotion activities: storytellers, bibliopraphic exhibitions, etc.

Moreover, there are another two civic centres such as El Castillo, where is located the Scenic Arts Municipal School, and El Molino, where elderly people meet.

In the sport field, the town has Santiago Apóstol Sport Centre, where you can find the summer swimming pool, the football pitch, tennis and paddle courts, the indoor sport centre and the indoor swimming pool, which is formed by three bathing areas, one specifically designed for diving, turning it into the first swimming pool of its kind in the Community of Madrid.

Other important sport facilities in the town are San Isidro Sport Centre, more than have a dozen outdoor sports complexes, a skate park, outdoor fitness circuit and cycling track with more than seventeen kilometres which can be enjoyed by bike or on foot.

TOURISM

Villanueva de la Cañada has one of the biggest water parks in Europe: `Aquopolis´. More than 300,000 people visit it every summer. `La Dehesa´ Golf Club is another attraction in Villanueva de la Cañada. Its course, designed by the champion Manuel Piñero, has 18 holes and par 72. Both leisure and free-time facilities are located in municipal grounds and they are the result of public and private collaborations.

Aquopolis

The great food variety in the town has become one of the tourist attractions in the last few years. In Villanueva de la Cañada there are several restaurants with different styles of cuisine: innovative, creative, traditional, Spanish and international.

Moreover, the universities located in the town have gastronomy profesoorships, in which the Town Hall collaborates, such as Cátedra Ferran Adrià de Cultura Gastronómica y Ciencias de la Alimentación of Camilo José Cela University and Cátedra Real Academia de Gastronomía of Alfonso X el Sabio University.

CELEBRATIONS

The most important festivals of the municipality are dedicated to Santiago Apóstol, patron saint of Villanueva de la Cañada. Around July 25th, numerous activities are organized for all audiences: fireworks, concerts, sports tournaments, etc.

On the other hand, the celebration of San Isidro Day, on May 15th, takes place in La Baltasara park, where a pilgrimage is organized attended by residents and representatives from all sister cities.

The Roscon Festival, on April 25th, is an event that is organized jointly with Association of Seniors to celebrate San Marcos Day, in which a special sweet is tasted.

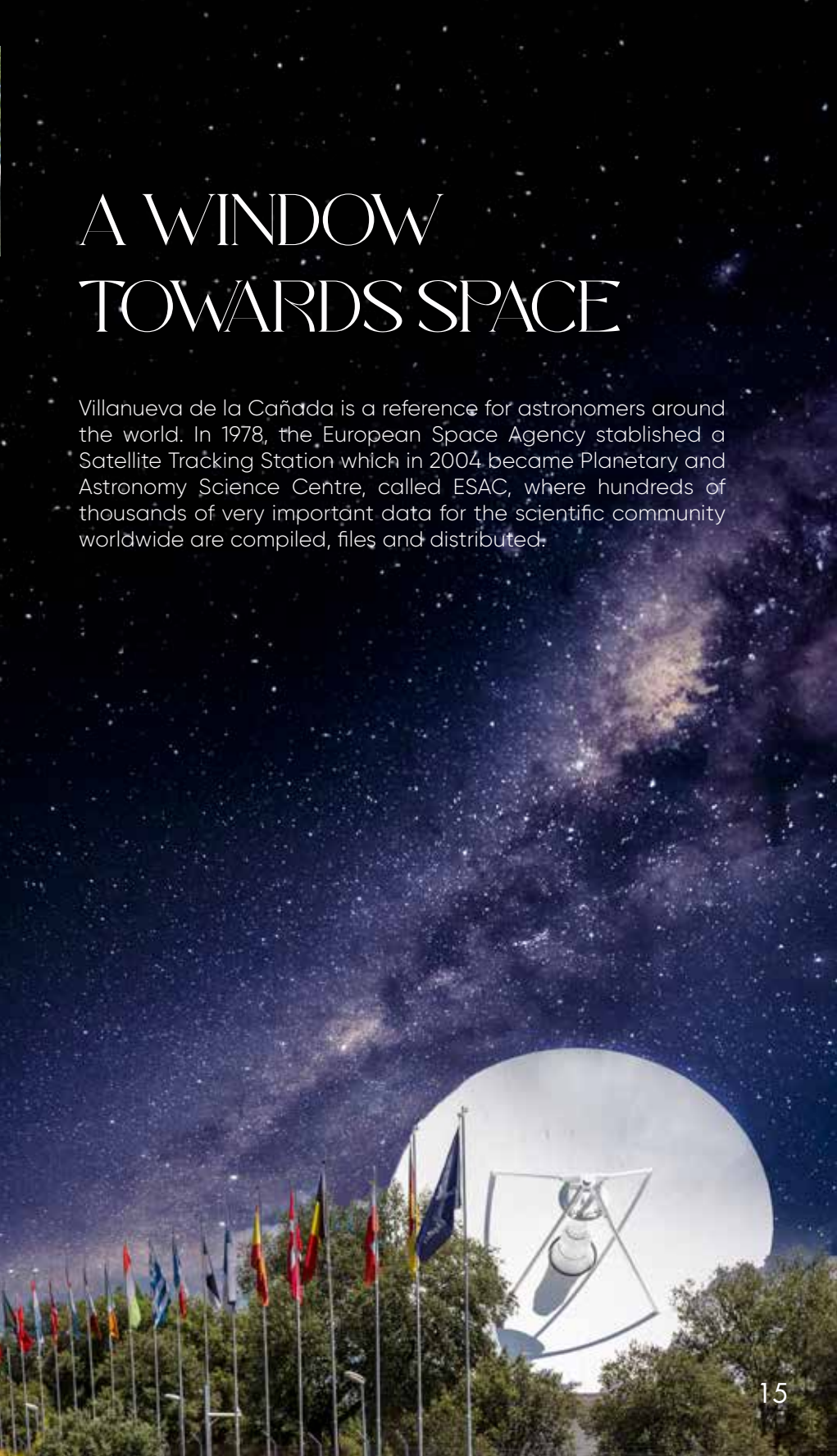
SISTER CITIES

Villanueva de la Cañada is twinned with five cities from several countries: Metepec (Mexico), Mádaba Alkubra (Jordan), Le Vésinet (France), Royston (United Kingdom) and La Cañada Flintridge (United States).

Thanks to the agreement signed by the city council and the collaboration of the Sister Cities Associations, there are multiple educational and cultural activities between these cities, such as the Space Academy Project, student & teachers exchanges between schools and artists exchanges, besides the institutional annual meetings between the mayors of the Sister Cities.

A WINDOW TOWARDS SPACE

Villanueva de la Cañada is a reference for astronomers around the world. In 1978, the European Space Agency stablished a Satellite Tracking Station which in 2004 became Planetary and Astronomy Science Centre, called ESAC, where hundreds of thousands of very important data for the scientific community worldwide are compiled, files and distributed.



INFORMATION

Villanueva de la Cañada Town Hall

Pza. de España, 1

003491 811 73 00

www.ayto-villacanada.es

ayuntamiento@ayto-villacanada.es

Approach roads

M-503 (Vva. de la Cañada - Madrid)

M-509 (Villafranca del Castillo -Vva. del Pardillo- Majadahonda-Madrid)

M-513 (Brunete- Guadamonte - Boadilla del Monte)

M-521 (Vva. de la Cañada – Quijorna)

M-600 (Vva. de la Cañada- San Lorenzo de El Escorial)

Public Transport. Buses to Madrid

Bus route 623 (Villafranca del Castillo- Moncloa)

Bus route 627 (Brunete- Vva. de la Cañada- Moncloa)

Bus route 581 (Quijorna- Vva. de la Cañada- Príncipe Pío)

Bus route 626 (Vva. de la Cañada- Majadahonda – Las Rozas)

Bus route 669 (Vva. de la Cañada – San Lorenzo de El Escorial)

Ayuntamiento de
Villanueva de la Cañada