



Residency Handbook 2026

Cortijo el Moro Art Residency is a dedicated space for artists, set on the edge of the Sierra de Maria natural park, Andalucía, Spain. Here you will find inspiration, peace and the space to think, create and play.

Established in 2025, **Cortijo el Moro's** art residency welcomes artists, writers and researchers from across the globe, practising in any media. Along with a communal studio (in the main house), we offer a ceramics workshop, as well as making a small selection of woodworking and metalworking tools available for residents use.

We offer the following accommodation options.

Main House

A sympathetically restored cortijo with 4 bedrooms, each with a private working space, use of a communal studio, ceramics workshop (for competent ceramicists), the kitchen, living room, 2 bathrooms, internal and external spaces - including a wonderful roof terrace and a fly-free room are shared with all resident artists. Residents are also free to wander the gardens, where you will find olive, fig, pomegranate, walnut and persimmon trees - we are confident you will find everything you need here, *including oodles of inspiration!*

250€ per room per week / single occupancy only

400€ per room per week / double occupancy only (if only one artist using the studio facilities)

500€ per room per week / double occupancy only (if both artists using the studio facilities)

For residents to fully benefit from their stay at **Cortijo el Moro** we operate a minimum stay policy of 6 nights. Residents may stay with us up to a period of 2 months. Discounted prices may be given upon request for stays of more than one month.

The main house, a 200 year old restored cortijo, is set over 3 floors - and as such, is only suitable for those in good health and mobility.

The ceramics workshop is located on the ground floor. There are however a few steps to navigate, which unfortunately may make it unsuitable for those with physical disabilities.

All accommodation is offered on a self-catering basis.

The residency fee includes:

- Self catering accommodation with private bedroom
- Bed linen and towels
- Access to a bathroom (2 bedrooms to 1 bathroom in the main house)
- Main house - shared kitchen/dining room (oven/hob, air-fryer, microwave, fridge-freezer, pots/pans etc., kettle, coffee pot, storage for dry food, living room (log burner, sofa, TV, DVD player, books, games DVD's), roof terrace (pallet sofas, coffee table, shade, loungers, barbecue), communal studio on third floor (desk, chair, desk-lamp, easels, some materials and tools available for use, such as glue gun, collage paper etc.)
- Access to on-site ceramics workshop (for competent users only), with electric kiln, hand-building tools, a small electric wheel and a kick-wheel, plus technical assistance (clay, coloured stains and clear glaze will be made available, and together with firings, are chargeable at cost price)
- Upper and lower garden terraces, including a 'fly-free' area with large table and chairs
- Wifi across the Cortijo
- A pick-up and drop-off service to and from Vélez Rubio (during sociable hours)
- Twice weekly visits to either a local supermarket or market
- Promotion of your work on our website and social media channels

A deposit of 50% secures your booking, with the balance payable 7 weeks before your stay.

Application Process

We ask prospective residents to first email us with the following:

- Artist statement
- 5 images of their work attached to the email (jpeg maximum file size (per image) 500KB)
- A paragraph detailing their motivations and expectations for time spent at the residency
- Preferred dates
- Professional website link (if any)
- Instagram username

Booking

Upon selection and confirmation of availability we ask prospective residents to secure their dates by making a deposit of 50% of the cost of their stay. This is the only way to secure requested dates. The remaining balance will be payable 7 weeks prior to a residents' stay.

Invoices can be provided upon request.

Funding

Cortijo el Moro is not in a position to offer any funding to artists. We are able to connect you with an external fundraising body, who may be able to help you apply for funding to enable your residency. However this will be a direct agreement between the fundraiser and the artist, **Cortijo el Moro** is not liable for any part of this relationship.

You might find useful the following links if you want to apply for a funding:

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/our-open-funds>

<https://artquest.org.uk/opportunities/>

[https://arts.britishcouncil.org/get-involved/opportunities?conditions\[\]=&page=1](https://arts.britishcouncil.org/get-involved/opportunities?conditions[]=&page=1)

<https://culture.ec.europa.eu/culture-moves-europe/home>



About the Local Area

Vélez Blanco is the closest village to the Cortijo, at a distance of 3.5km.

Built in the 16th century, the imposing castle of Vélez Blanco is an outstanding example of Spanish Renaissance. Providing an awe inspiring backdrop to the village and with daily open access, this is a fabulous place to visit, soak up the history and be inspired.

The village has a population of around 2,000 inhabitants. Aside from the castle, located just outside the village are the caves of Los Letreros, which house the now infamous Indalo drawings and early cave art (residents wishing to visit the caves may need to arrange this in advance).

Vélez Blanco also has a museum, a theatre, a weekly market (Wednesday), an outdoor swimming pool (open mid-June to 1st September), several bars and restaurants offering authentic Andalucían tapas and a traditional wash-house where you can still find residents from the village washing their smalls! Residents can also collect fresh spring water from the village, which runs down from the Sierra de María, we promise you, you are unlikely to ever taste water as good as this!

Vélez Rubio is the nearest town to **Cortijo el Moro**, 7km away. This town has a population of around 6,000 inhabitants, as such this is the working town for the Los Vélez area. Here you will find services such as printing and laser-cutting, a fantastic museum (open Wednesday to Sunday), theatre (with frequent flamenco music), a library, post office, several gyms, a selection of shops, bars and restaurants, a small park, an olympic sized swimming pool (open mid-June to 1st September) and a lively Saturday market. The impressive Parish Church of 'Our Lady of the Incarnation' is also located in the main square in Vélez Rubio, this is an important architectural example of the final evolution from the Baroque to the neoclassical.

For those wishing to explore a little further afield, it is possible to take a bus from Vélez Rubio to Granada (approx. 2hr journey). The village of Orce, approximately 45 minutes by car from **Cortijo el Moro** is a beautiful place to visit for a tapas lunch, a swim in their natural swimming pool - shared with the fish (open all year round) and the museum of the 'First Human Settlement in Europe'.

A little further, and again only accessible by car, is the town of Olula del Rio, where the wonderful 'Museo Ibañez' is situated. An excellent museum, which contains in its interior one of the largest and most representative contemporary art exhibitions in Andalucía. The museum houses more than 1,200 iconic pieces of contemporary art, with works by Goya, Lopez Mezquita, Paco Lopez, Los Madrazo, Chicharro and Sorolla.

The coastline of Costa Cálida, Murcia is just under an hour away. This unspoilt coastline has some fantastic beaches, including Playa de Los Cocedores, and the town of Aguilas. A little further up the road is Pulpí Geode, one of the largest crystal caves ever found.



Getting to Cortijo el Moro

By air:

Corvera International Airport, Murcia - is the closest airport to us, at around 1h 15m by car/taxi. We can arrange a local taxi for you upon request, current (2026) prices are 100€ each way.

Alicante-Elche Miguel Hernández Airport - is around 2 hours by car/taxi. It is possible to get a bus from this airport to Vélez Rubio. We can then arrange transport from Vélez Rubio to Cortijo el Moro. We can arrange a local taxi from Alicante airport, please contact us for cost.

Almería Airport - is around 2 hours by car/taxi. It may be possible to take a bus from the airport to Vélez Rubio, however prospective residents will need to conduct their own research via the bus company listed below.

Madrid - Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas - It is possible to take a high-speed train from Madrid Chamartín-Clara Campoamor station to Murcia, and then the Alsa bus from Murcia to Vélez Rubio, from where we can arrange collection.

Train timetable and prices found here: www.trainline.com

Bus timetable and prices found here: www.alsa.es

By road:

You can reach Cortijo el Moro by the A-92 motorway, travelling either east or west, taking junction 408 / Vélez Rubio.

By train:

Los Vélez does not have a train line, the nearest station is Lorca (currently with a rail replacement bus service from Murcia whilst the High Speed link is being built, due to be completed 2026/27).

We strongly suggest hiring a car when staying at **Cortijo el Moro**, however we appreciate this is not possible for everyone. **Cortijo el Moro** can provide a free pick-up/drop-off service to Vélez Rubio bus stop during sociable hours. Taxis can be arranged with a local company outside of these times, the cost to be met by the resident. Taxis can also be arranged for any destinations further than this, prices can be provided upon request.

We can also arrange cultural visits using local minibus or taxi services. This cost will be met by the AiR.

We provide bikes free of charge to residents during their stay. There are no local buses close to **Cortijo el Moro**, however taxis and minibuses can be arranged for those wishing to venture further afield.

Deliveries

If residents wish to purchase and arrange delivery of materials prior to their stay please read below.

Clay Suppliers

<https://www.marphil.com/>

<https://www.sio-2.com/gb/>

Please note, we do not receive mail or deliveries to Cortijo el Moro, therefore deliveries should be sent to the following address:

**Chris Born
Ctra. A-KM 161, A317
ANRORoil
Vélez Blanco, Almería 04830
Spain**

Partners and Pets

Due to the set-up of **Cortijo el Moro** couples are welcome to stay. We may be able to accommodate pets at prior request.

Bicycles

Bicycles are provided and may be used by residents at their own liability. **Cortijo el Moro** accept no responsibility for their use.

Security

Upon arrival residents will be issued with a key to the main door of the cortijo. We ask you to carefully close the entrance door, ensuring all appropriate doors are locked up at night and when you are the last person to leave at any time.

Smoking is not permitted inside the building. Ashtrays and smoking areas are provided outside. Please do not light fires outside the property, we are located in a HIGH FIRE RISK AREA and fires are strictly prohibited by the Junta de Andalucía.

Cortijo el Moro does not take responsibility for the loss or theft of personal effects. Please keep any money or valuables on you at all times.

Artist in Residence Contract 2027

Terms and Conditions

This contract outlines our mutual expectations of your residence at **Cortijo el Moro**.

Cortijo el Moro encourages you to use your time here to experiment, develop new ideas, learn new skills and interact with your fellow resident artists and the community. It should be a time of rich exploration for you. We will help in whatever way we can to assist you and provide an environment that is conducive to a positive and creative working experience.

Following are the terms of the agreement

The Artist in Residence (AiR) contract, for those selected, must be signed and returned to **Cortijo el Moro** prior to your stay. This document acts as a legally binding agreement for the AiR. It means that the artist agrees to stay for a period of between one week and two months and to make art during that period.

Accommodation and facilities:

Cortijo el Moro is not a hotel and the conditions for the artists in residence are based on an investment designed for artistic possibilities.

Some rules and regulations must be observed in order to ensure a pleasant and efficient working atmosphere. Therefore, we request residents to maintain both the studios and the accommodation areas in a clean and tidy state as well as to respect the historical building and equipment therein. There is a non-smoking policy across the Cortijo, residents may smoke in the gardens and outside areas, using ashtrays provided.

The AiR will have access to **Cortijo el Moro's** facilities, which, in the main house includes, a private room, shared bathroom, studio space, ceramics workshop, kitchen and dining room, gardens and fly-free, roof terrace. Internet access is provided across the Cortijo, in the form of a wifi connection via 3 separate routers.

Cortijo el Moro provides self-catering facilities for you to prepare your own meals. Twice weekly trips to either the supermarket or local market will be arranged.

Bed linen and towels are changed on a weekly basis, communal areas and private rooms are cleaned by **Cortijo el Moro** once a week. There is a launderette in the nearby town of Vélez Rubio and we kindly ask AiR to use this facility. Residents are responsible for maintaining the levels of cleanliness through the week, including washing, drying putting away their own dishes, cutlery and food. No personal items should be left lying around in communal spaces. Any wet laundry should be hung out on the clothes line whenever possible. Nothing hazardous is to be taken into the cortijo at any time.

Studios

Private bedrooms within the main house have a desk and chair for residents requiring periods of working alone.

Cortijo el Moro provides a communal studio space on the third floor of the Cortijo for residents of the main house. The owners of **Cortijo el Moro** have the right of access to studios and bedrooms at any time with reasonable notice.

The AiR is invited to use the studios in whatever way they wish in order to advance their work. However, the space must be returned in the same condition as it was found on arrival. Permanent changes to the fabric of the building and the painting of surfaces are not permitted. If there are special requirements these have to be agreed to in advance, by the owners of **Cortijo el Moro**. If changes are agreed to, and made, the space must be returned to its original state by the artists at their own expense.

The AiR is responsible for their material supplies. Artists may order their own materials online and arrange for delivery to a local collection point.

An inkjet printer is available upon request, at a cost of 1€ per A4 sheet. There are professional printing facilities available in Vélez Rubio should AiR require larger amounts of printing.

Specialist equipment, machine and hand tools in the workshop and belonging to **Cortijo el Moro** can be used with care and if necessary with the appropriate supervision.

Any damages and breakages must be paid for by the AiR.

Cortijo el Moro include in their fees electricity and heating for the studio, workshop (less kiln firings, which are to be paid at cost by the AiR), private and shared rooms, if use is not excessive. Otherwise, there will be a contribution required from the AiR.

All artworks produced during the residency remain entirely the property of the artist unless left behind at the end of the residency. Work left behind and all related components will become the property of **Cortijo el Moro** with the right to dispose of it in a manner most appropriate.

The AiR agrees to the documentation of their work and processes for publicity, presentation and promotion of **Cortijo el Moro** and their AiR programme.

Exhibitions and open studios can be arranged at **Cortijo el Moro** at the end of the AiR's stay. A contribution from the AiR will be required to cover aperitifs, promotional literature and publicity.

The AiR may choose to donate one piece of creative work made during their stay, for **Cortijo el Moro's** permanent collection.

Code of conduct:

During the residency, the AiR agrees to respect **Cortijo el Moro's** facilities, including all communal areas and shared spaces. The AiR is expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and respect the owners, staff and other resident artists. The centre expects participants within the programme to be positive in attitude and to promote the work and ambitions of **Cortijo el Moro**.

Cortijo el Moro reserves the right to terminate a residency if there is an indication that an artist's behaviour, during their stay, has a negative affect upon the quality of experience for other artists, collaborators and **Cortijo el Moro's** community at large.

Equal opportunity:

It is the policy of **Cortijo el Moro** that there shall be no discrimination concerning to selection of the AiR with respect to race, colour, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, gender, age or *disability.

*Please note **Cortijo el Moro** is a renovated farmhouse, around 200 years old, as such the layout, stairs to various floors and levels, means that unfortunately it is not accessible to all. Please contact us if you have concerns.

Insurance:

The artist agrees that neither **Cortijo el Moro**, nor its organisers or artists will be liable for any damages arising from any personal injury sustained by the artist or their partners or invitees. The artist further agrees that neither **Cortijo el Moro** nor its organisers or artists shall be liable for any damage to or loss or theft of personal property or artworks of the artist from the premises of **Cortijo el Moro**.

Medical awareness:

The AiR is responsible for informing **Cortijo el Moro**, in writing, of any serious or life threatening medical conditions and any medications taken regularly. Should the AiR have any specific requirements (medical or otherwise) any necessary arrangements must be discussed, before the residency, with the owners of **Cortijo el Moro**.

If it is felt that **Cortijo el Moro** cannot properly accommodate the particular needs of an artist, or their partner, then they reserve the right to decline a booking. In addition, if full details, in relationship to a medical condition, have not been given at the time of a booking, **Cortijo el Moro** have the right to cancel immediately upon that awareness.

We strongly recommend that the AiR take out a comprehensive Travel Insurance Policy, including health cover, before a visit to Spain. Be aware that if travelling from outside the European Union, you will not be covered under the Spanish health system. **Cortijo el Moro** will not be responsible, at any time or under any circumstances, for medical fees in case of illness or accident.

Visas:

It is the artist's responsibility to ensure they have secured any necessary visas for their stay.

It is the artist's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport for travel.

Cortijo el Moro will not be responsible for any loss or cancellations due to invalid visas or expired, lost or stolen passports.

Payment:

Once accepted into the programme it is up to the artist to secure their residency booking by paying a 50% deposit. This is the only way to confirm the dates you wish to have. Deposits are non-refundable, unless in extraordinary circumstances and always at the discretion of the owners of Cortijo el Moro.

Full payment is required no later than 7 weeks prior to the commencement of the residency. If full payment has not been received by this date we reserve the right to cancel the residency without refunds.

International Transactions

Residents wishing to pay in their local currency should advise us in advance. Any additional bank fees that may incurred will be covered by the artist.

Checking In

Prior to Arrival guests will receive an email from SES Hospedajes (SES Admin), the system used widely across Spain to check-in guests and register their stay. You will be required to complete a simple online form with the necessary details about your stay.

Checking in times are from 8am - 11pm.

Check-out times are flexible wherever possible.



Signed agreement:

I agree to the terms and conditions of **Cortijo el Moro's** AiR contract.

I agree that neither **Cortijo el Moro** nor any of their staff, owners or volunteers will be liable for damages arising from personal injuries, sustained by me, in or about the premises of **Cortijo el Moro**, as a result of my using the facilities and any equipment, services, food or other provisions. I further agree that neither **Cortijo el Moro** nor any of their staff, owners or volunteers shall be liable for any loss or theft of personal property. I can confirm I have read **Cortijo el Moro's** Handbook and agree to all contained therein. I also confirm I am in good health and able to travel independently.

Artist's Name:

Preferred Pronouns:

Date of birth:

Address:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

Tel. No:

Passport Number:

Signature:

Date:

Please attach a recent photograph.