



## PERKS FOR PENSIONERS

Have you heard of **IMSERSO** Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales.

They are linked to the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality which offer a program called 'Aging Actively'.

Below is the link to their website in English, with information on the activities they organise which is heavily subsidized.

[http://www.imserso.es/imserso\\_06/envejecimiento\\_activo/index.htm](http://www.imserso.es/imserso_06/envejecimiento_activo/index.htm)

**Social Tourism** for example, a program developed to benefit both the elder citizen and the hotel industry by offering extra-attractive prices for low season accommodation. Booking is possible all year round.

These are the Communities that cooperate with the program

Andalucía, Valencia, Catalunya, Murcia, Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands (for 2014 that is, this might be different next year).

Who can make use of it, when do you apply, how does it work?

You can find all the information on the Application form, a pdf-file on the right hand side of the Social Tourism-page, just click on it to open. As it is in Spanish, I will provide some answers here as well.

You have to be a resident and meet at least one of the following criteria

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[www.citizensadvice.org.es](http://www.citizensadvice.org.es)



- Be at least 65 of age (or one of a couple should be, partner can be younger)
- Receive a state pension
- Be a widow(er) of at least 55 years of age
- Receive a pension for disabled, any other kind of pension or early retirement and be at least 60 years of age

You can bring your partner, even if he/she doesn't meet any of the criteria, as long as the partnership is registered by marriage or 'pareja de hecho'.

You can apply online here

<https://sede.imserso.gob.es/Sede/portal/procEnvejecimientoPortal.seam>

Or by mail address is on the application form.

For holidays for the current calendar year you must apply before June. You can do so at a later date as well (until 1st of December), but you will be assigned any open spot or will have to wait booking your holiday until the following year. When applied for before June, you will receive notification about your application in September and if confirmed details on how to book your holiday.

You only have to apply one time, once they've confirmed that you meet the requirements you will automatically receive information about next year's offers by mail.

The application form is quite straight forward the only complication I see is if you haven't yet filed any tax returns here in Spain, as you have to state your income they are bound to verify with what has been reported on your tax forms.

Telephone number for any query: 901 109 899.

By Richelle de Wit

27/10/14

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/citizensinspain/>

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