

Wildlife spotted

Moroccan gecko

Have been seen in garage where they probably live in holes in the bricks, but they are timid and run away. One gave an acrobatic display at lunchtime one day by hanging down from the patio grape vine by four, then three, then two feet and finally one foot before giving up and dropping onto the rose bush.

Pipistrelle(?) bats

Fly around at dusk. One that we found burrowed under a pillow in the big downstairs bedroom (he must have thought it was a nice, soft cave?) we identified as a pipistrelle so we assume the rest are too as they are pretty common! The one under the pillow was ejected peacefully and without protest but we were glad we found it before bedtime. (Best to keep blinds down or curtains drawn at dusk perhaps!)

European tarantula

NOT the big bird eating spider of South America that features in horror movies so please don't worry! This is a type of wolf spider similar to the largish "juicy" ones found in the UK and though the bite could be troublesome it isn't dangerous. We found one carrying around the pin-head sized babies crowded onto its abdomen. Bless.

Paper wasps

Small, non-aggressive wasps that build small "umbrella" shaped nests of perhaps 100 hexagonal cells. "Anti-avispera" spray in aerosol available if you feel they are likely to be a nuisance but take care not to inhale (spray downwind and put something over mouth and nose); if you get it on skin wash off well.

Carpenter Bees

Big black solitary bees, with shiny blue black wings, that bumble around occasionally.

Cabra

Mountain goat. Seen in El Torcal (the karst area near Antequera) posing nicely on a crag.

Lizard

Sunning itself on the balcony. Looked like a Green Lizard but book says not in Southern Spain - it must have been on holiday!