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Back to Spain – the Region of Murcia

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Just over two weeks ago, I was jetting my way back to Spain — this time to photograph the region of Murcia in the southeastern part of the country. The first night was spent in the [Parador de Lorca](#). Paradores have become a favorite of mine — always unique and often historic in one way or another. This one was a new build, but in a historic setting sharing a mountaintop with a 13th century Moorish castle.



The parador was nearly complete when an earthquake struck in 2011, damaging both the new building and the old castle. Repairs were made and the structural banding added to the parador became a design element that distinguishes the new construction from the old. As stunning as the structure is, however, it's the setting high above the city of Lorca that draws your eye.



Above, the parador (in the lower left of the image) as seen from the top of one of the castle towers.



Above: Looking down on the city of Lorca from the parador grounds.

Construction of the Parador de Lorca was also delayed and re-imagined whenever ruins were found during excavations. One discovery was this 15th century synagogue — now preserved, adjacent to the hotel:



For a small admission fee, the castle itself can easily be explored on foot from the parador and provides spectacular views.





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In my next post I'll venture down, off the mountain, and into the town of Lorca.

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