



The Honourable Ana Carmen Mata Rico
Mayor of Mijas

Via e-mail: info@mijas.es

Dear Mayor Mata:

I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals – PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters worldwide – following a recent high-profile altercation between a tourist and a donkey handler in Mijas, which has shed light on the ongoing controversy surrounding the donkey “taxis” used in the town. **We'd like to offer a solution that serves everyone: please allow us to provide Mijas with its first electric tuk-tuk. In turn, we ask that the town end the use of donkeys and other equines for tourist rides.**

Today, many people are realising that donkeys are not taxis but intelligent, sensitive, and cautious animals, who can become distressed, alarmed, or panicked when surrounded by bustling holiday crowds. Forcing them to bear the weight of tourists and their luggage places a tremendous strain on their backs and joints and puts them at risk of collapsing and even dying as temperatures soar. It has been documented that donkeys used in the tourist trade, who are made to work even when pregnant or lame, suffer from painful abrasions and wounds due to ill-fitting tack and are beaten with sticks by handlers and denied essentials like rest and water. Most of them will end up at a slaughterhouse.

While Mijas has a long history of donkey rides, times and sensibilities change. According to reports, Mijas locals are “fed up” with donkey exploitation, and compassionate tourists are increasingly avoiding activities that exploit animals and the areas where such things take place. The time to replace living, feeling individuals with modern vehicles is now. By retiring equines and introducing electric tuk-tuks – starting with the one we're offering to provide – you can help future-proof the income of residents who rely on the tourist trade, help animals, and satisfy the demands of increasingly discerning travellers. Everyone wins!

Europe has just experienced some of its hottest summer months on record, and conditions are only going to become more dire for these animals. Please let us know if Mijas will take us up on our offer of a tuk-tuk. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Mimi Bekhechi
Vice President for Europe
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

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