



Jack Noble
Secretary REA Gibraltar
3D Rulander
Vineyards
Gibraltar
T +350 200 51987
M +350 58008085
E jack.noble@ramboll.co.uk



See Distribution

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PRELIMINARY CALLING NOTICE

ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION GIBRALTAR WEEKEND 2019

FRIDAY 17 – MONDAY 20 MAY 2019

1. **Introduction.** You are cordially invited to celebrate the strong and resilient ties that we maintain with our birthplace, Gibraltar and its wonderful people in 2019. The Royal Engineers Association Gibraltar Weekend 2019 will be held in Gibraltar between **Fri 17 and Mon 20 May 19**. The event will be organised by the members of the Gibraltar REA Branch. After record attendance at this year's event (170 guests), we hope to surpass this achievement by welcoming even more of our Sapper family to Gibraltar in 2019.

We are currently sourcing venues; entertainment and structuring the programme for the 2019 event but have provided below some preliminary details.

2. **Location.** The scheduled events will take place in various locations throughout Gibraltar.

3. **Event Format.** A full and varied programme is anticipated, and it is likely the weekend will have the following outline format. At this stage, venue and function details are still to be finalised, dependant on attendance numbers and so these activities are subject to change.

a. **Meet and Greet.** A Meet and Greet function will be held during the afternoon of Fri 17 May. The location will be confirmed but will include hot food; entertainment and the REA Gibraltar Branch raffle/auction. This is likely to run into the early evening. It is an informal function in order to welcome our friends, both old and new. Dress will be casual.

b. **Powerboat Trip.** During the Meet and Greet function, we hope to arrange several powerboat trips within the Bay of Gibraltar and surrounding area. Personal equipment will be issued, and dress will be casual.

c. **Parade and March Past.** On Sat 18 May, there will be a March through Main Street from Grand Casemates Square up to Bomb House Lane. We hope that the Mayor of Gibraltar will be available to take the salute (tbc), and that the Royal Gibraltar Regiment band will be available for the event. REA Branch Standards are most welcome, and it would be fantastic if we could improve further on the 5 Standards that were on parade in 2018. Dress will be REA/Corps Blazer, tie, beret and medals for the REA attendees.

d. **REA Photograph.** After the march, we will hold an REA photograph for all members and Standards. We will congregate by the Sapper Statue in Main Street for the photograph.

- e. **Post March Refreshments.** There will be a gathering directly after the march and Sapper photograph to take some refreshments – details are still to be finalised.
- f. **Gala Dinner Dance.** A formal Dinner Dance is scheduled for the evening of Sat 18 May and will include food; entertainment; disco; and raffle/auction. We hope this event will be attended by local VIPs. Dress will be lounge suit or blazer for gentlemen and appropriate dress for the ladies.
- g. **Church Service.** A Church Service will be held on Sun 19 May in Kings Chapel. The Command Chaplin will lead a multi-denomination service of thanksgiving for the RE. REA Branch Standards are most welcome. Dress will be as per the parade.
- h. **Farewell Gathering.** There will be an informal social gathering to bid farewell to friends on Sun 19 May. This will run through the afternoon with a casual dress code and will include hot food, and maybe a few rounds of bingo!
4. **Tours.** We hope to provide at least two discrete and stand-alone tour options during Mon 20 May – details will be published in due course but could include tours of the Gibraltar tunnels; the Waterworks; the Upper Sandy armaments depot or the old town.
5. **Cost.** We will continue to source local sponsorship and funding to ensure the cost of the Weekend is kept to the very minimum for the 2019 event. Costs will be published in due course once we have a better understanding of attendance numbers. We will be requesting payment via cheque or bank transfer prior to arrival for the 2019 – this is simply because the overall event has grown to such a size that we now are required to pay significant deposits for venues; entertainment etc. We also hope to negotiate some reduced rates with local restaurants; bars and shops specifically for those attending the REA Weekend – details to follow.
6. **Travel from UK and Overseas.** Guests are to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Gibraltar. British Airways and Easyjet fly into Gibraltar from Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Manchester and Bristol. Within one and a half hours drive of Gibraltar, are the international airports of Jerez or Malaga, served from most UK airports. Both have car hire facilities, although we can arrange taxi/coach collections from these locations to Gibraltar if required – this will attract a cost to those travelling payable at the time of the journey.
7. **Accommodation.** Unfortunately, there is no military accommodation available for the REA Weekend, therefore use of local hotels or staying with friends is recommended. Further details are provided at Annex A.
8. **Medical.** Guests are to ensure they have appropriate Medical Insurance arranged before travelling. UK Citizens are able to use the services at St Bernard's Hospital when in possession of an E111 European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), or similar pending the Conditions of Brexit. Access to medical services will be denied otherwise. An EHIC can be obtained online at <https://www.gov.uk/european-health-insurance-card> or <https://www.e111.org.uk/> or by calling 0845 6062030. There will be emergency medical cover arranged for the events where required. Please ensure adequate personal arrangements are in place for family notification.
9. **Finance.** Gibraltar's currency is pounds sterling and it has its own notes and coins – please note that these cannot be used or exchanged in the UK upon your return so please feel free to get rid of any remaining 'Gibraltar' currency during the raffle. There are familiar banking names within Gibraltar including NatWest and Jyske banks, and both Newcastle and Leeds Building Societies. NatWest cashpoints will issue UK pounds sterling. Most retail outlets and hotels will accept credit and debit cards and cash (UK pounds sterling; Gibraltar pounds or Euros). Please note that Euros are required for Spain.

10. **Welfare.** The event organisers will be able to offer advice on welfare matters but guests must treat the Weekend as you would when travelling abroad anywhere else in the world and make the necessary arrangements for any known welfare matters.

11. **Additional Information.** Additional information and a more detailed Admin Instruction will be published in due course on:

- the REA HQ website;
- the REA Gibraltar Facebook page;
- via REA Branch Secretaries, and
- via personal email.

For any other pressing queries at this early stage, please contact the following:

Contact	Name	Email	Landline	Mobile
*Chairman				
Secretary	Mr Jack Noble	jack.noble@ramboll.co.uk	+350 200 51987	+350 58008085
Treasurer	Mr Richard Tomlinson	richard.tomlinson@ramboll.co.uk	+350 200 51987	+350 54028355

**Please note that Chairman role will be gapped after the departure of WO1 Paul Harman RE in Oct 18 – details of his replacement will be published in due course.*

This year's events received tremendous support with a total of 170 guests in attendance, along with 5 Standards and 14 branches represented. On behalf of all 'Sappers on the Rock', we very much look forward to your company and hope that we can welcome even more friends to join us in 2019 to celebrate our friendship and heritage with Gibraltar and its people.


Warmest REgards



Jack Noble
Secretary
REA Gibraltar Branch
for Chairman

Distribution:


External:


REA HQ – Controller REA 

REA HQ – Assistant Controller REA 

REA Branch Secretaries 

Internal:

DIO SD OS-PJOB3a Gib FM (Andrews, Simon Maj RE) 

DIO SD OS-PJOB3d3GIBPROG (tbc) 

DIO SD OS-PJOB3a3aGibSME (Studdart, Phil WO2 RE) 

DIO SD OS-PJOB3a2GibFM (Wagner, Lee SSgt RE) 

REA Gibraltar Branch Members 

ANNEX A - ACCOMMODATION

You have several accommodation options:

- a. MYGIBRALTAR
- b. AIRBNB
- c. Hotel
- d. Hostel

MYGIBRALTAR

A very useful and economic approach to arranging your visit (both flight and/or hotel) is MYGIBRALTAR at <http://www.mygibraltar.co.uk> – we would recommend trying this initially.

AIRBNB

Another useful mechanism for sourcing private accommodation (rather than hotel) is via AIRBNB at <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/>

HOTEL

If you prefer a hotel stay, local hotels include:

Hotel	Telephone	Web
Bristol Hotel (Gibraltar)	+350 20076800	www.bristolhotel.gi
Caleta Hotel (Gibraltar)	+350 20076501	www.caletahotel.com
Cannon Hotel (Gibraltar)	+350 20051711	www.cannonhotel.gi
O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel (Gibraltar)	+350 20070500	www.elliottthotel.com
Rock Hotel (Gibraltar)	+350 20073000	www.rockhotelgibraltar.com
Sunborn Hotel (Gibraltar)	+350 20016000	www.sunborngibraltar.com
Ohtels Campo de Gibraltar (Spain)	+34 956 178213	www.ohtelcampodegibraltar.es

Hotels are constantly busy and so spaces are generally in demand; we suggest that you identify and book accommodation as early as possible.

HOSTEL

If you prefer a more basic and economical stay, local hostels include:

Hotel	Telephone	Web
Hostal Carlos 1 (Spain)	+34 956 762135	www.hostalcarlos.es
Hostal Carlos 2 (Spain)	+34 956 761303	www.hostalcarlos.es
La Campana Hostal (Spain)	+34 956 173058	www.hostalcampana.es