

# RLUGs of the World: Asociación PIEZAS, Brickcanarias, HispaLUG®

By HispaBrick Magazine®

In our tour of RLUG from around the world, on this occasion we decided it was time to introduce the 4 official LUGs there are in Spain. We got in touch with them and these are their answers

## ASOCIACIÓN PIEZAS

**HispaBrick Magazine:** What is the name of your LUG?

Our formal name is "Asociación PIEZAS", although we like to call ourselves simply "PIEZAS".

**HBM:** When and how did the idea to start a LUG come about?

**AF:** PIEZAS came about with the objective of fostering creativity and imagination through construction toys. We started in July 2013 as a group of AFOLs, although we didn't formally become a RLUG until 2016.

**HBM:** How many members do you have?

**AF:** Adding up adults (AFOL) and teens (TFOL) there are 25 participants.



**HBM:** Are you in touch with other Spanish RLUGs? And with RLUGs in other countries?

**AF:** We still haven't had the opportunity to establish close relations to other RLUGs in our country. However, we do have contacts with RLUGs abroad, especially with our Portuguese neighbours in Comunidade 0937.

**HBM:** Do you organise events or exhibitions?

**AF:** Of course! We have several events in the works for this year, like our participation in the Manga exhibition in Jerez and in Paredes de Coura Fan Weekend, as well as a temporary exhibition in Vera, Almería.

**HBM:** Are you in contact with The LEGO Company?

**AF:** Yes. We participate in the LEGO Ambassador Network through which we are in contact with employees of the company.

**HBM:** Is it easy to be a LEGO fan in your country? Are there advantages or difficulties?

**AF:** Neither yes nor no. There are more and more AFOL activities in Spain, but not at the level of some European cities. As a disadvantage, I would say that there is no official LEGO store in Spain.

**HBM:** Can you tell us any anecdotes related to your RLUG?

**AF:** Trips to events always give rise to anecdotes. I remember we travelled over 1000 km for an event and our car broke down 200 km before arriving. It was quite an odyssey getting the car towed to our destination with all the LEGO inside!





**HispaBrick Magazine:** What is the name of your LUG?

Brickcanarias (Asociación Cultural Brickcanarias)

**HBM:** When and how did the idea to start a LUG come about?

**BC:** In 2013, several AFOLs in Las Palmas decided to start the Asociación Cultural Brickcanarias with the main aim to bring LEGO fans living on the Canary Islands together. At the same time, the association provides us with a legal entity allowing us to interact with shopping malls public administrations, etc.

**HBM:** How many members do you have?

**BC:** Currently there are 35 active members, aside from users on the forum who exchange ideas and information, but aren't members of the association.

**HBM:** Are you in touch with other Spanish RLUGs? And with RLUGs in other countries?

**BC:** Due to our geographical location, we are somewhat isolated and barely have any personal contact with other RLUGs. A few of our members maintain relatively frequent contact with HispaBrick Magazine, and others were members of other RLUGs located on the Spanish peninsula until Brickcanarias was funded. However, our ambassador is in contact with other RLUGs through the LEGO ambassador Network (LAN).

**HBM:** Do you organise events or exhibitions?

**BC:** Yes, several times during the year. Our main exhibition is also called Brickcanarias. We organise it alternatively on a different island, once a year, which requires a big effort for all of us, since we need to travel by car and boat with our materials. Another event we are invited to each year is Comic-Can (the Canary Islands' comic festival). At the same time, we celebrate several exhibitions like the one you can visit in Ciudad de San Juan de Dios (a centre for disabled), next to its famous nativity scene or single theme exhibitions like Star Bricks which we will celebrate January next and many other events.

More and more entities ask us to do workshops for children in conjunction with an exhibition. They want the little ones to discover the infinite possibilities this building toy has to offer beyond simply buying a set in a toyshop.

**HBM:** Are you in contact with The LEGO Company?

**BC:** Yes. Since we are an RLUG, we are in close contact with The LEGO Company and we count on their valuable support when organising our events during the year.

**HBM:** Is it easy to be a LEGO fan in your country? Are there advantages or difficulties?

**BC:** In our specific case, the difficulty doesn't so much lie in being a LEGO fan in Spain as with being on the Canary Islands. We need to constantly deal with logistical and customs issues when we buy materials and it isn't easy to have a personal relationship with other RLUGs due to our geographical location, which makes any traveling expensive.

