

EXCLUSIVE

Well Dorado



Hardly changed ... Eldorado 15 years on

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THE set of Eldorado, the biggest TV flop of all time, is a well-preserved ghost town in Spain.

The Sun told yesterday how the housing estate where top soap Brookside was filmed had been left to turn to ruin.



Brookside ... Brookside set

But 15 years on the £10million setting for the BBC's sexy sangria-drenched drama — dubbed Costa del Bonk — has been protected by the heat and dry mountain air.

Only graffiti on some of the whitewashed deserted buildings — and crushed beer cans — reveal how Spanish teenagers now congregate to drink there.

The purpose-built village lies hidden in 25 acres of pine forest half an hour's drive from the coast, near the town of Coin. It featured 18 apartments and three villas around a swimming pool.

There was also a restaurant, a supermarket, a bar, numerous shops and even a massage parlour.

[Click here to see pictures of the set in its heyday, and today...](#)

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But once the TV crews, producers and stars like Jesse Birdsall packed up and jetted home in July 1993 after just 156 disastrous episodes everything was left behind.

It was briefly opened up as a holiday camp, but that too failed and once again Eldorado was left deserted.



Star ... Jesse Birdsall

The giant wooden door of the imposing church in the square is still slightly ajar.

A rusting bell hangs silently in the tower — attached to a frayed red rope desperate to be pulled. But a slight push on the door reveals the entrance is bricked up and is nothing more than a giant facade.

To the right, the street — littered with broken branches and pine cones following recent storms — winds past the steps of the former English theatre.

Most of the two and three storey buildings are locked or secured with thick metal chains. But others lie open to the elements after locks were burst open.

The old Repsol petrol station is still there — complete with pumps, pay kiosk and faded signs.

Two bus signs give details of the local coastal coach service to Marbella.

But the once stunning swimming pool has now turned from crystal blue to putrid green.

And the giant man-made lake is only home to a handful of ducks.

Dressing rooms used by the soap's stars have been painted a sickly yellow and are now rented out by budget holidaymakers.

One local said: "It would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to demolish the buildings and rip out the wiring so I don't see anyone knocking it down in the near future. It's a bit like a ghost town, which is sad in a way."