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Area Guide

Guide to Costa del Sol



2023 Edition

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MARBELLA

Marbella is located on the Costa del Sol's coastal strip, which stretches between the Mediterranean Sea and the mountain ranges that rise up a few kilometres inland. This geographical situation affords the entire region a great microclimate of mild winters and warm, extended summers.

Marbella's central location on the Costa del Sol means it is just over half an hour to Málaga and Gibraltar's international airports, with high-speed AVE train links from Málaga to key towns across Spain and beyond to France and the rest of Europe. Most major European locations are 2.5 hours away by plane, and the high-speed train will take you to Madrid Central Station in about the same amount of time.

Originally a fishing and farming community, Marbella was 'discovered' in the late 1940s by Spanish aristocrats such as Ricardo Soriano and Prince Alfonso von Hohenlohe, the

founder of the world-famous 5-star Marbella Club Hotel who put this magnificent area on the map and made it internationally famous.

During the 1950s and 1960s, famous stars, royals, aristocrats, and tycoons of that period fell in love with Marbella, buying holiday homes or even relocating to the area year-round. This allure grew throughout time as sheikhs and those wealthy enough to afford it came to visit or reside here. Each decade saw this dynamic town, with its can-do spirit and international population, expand westward from the historic old town and the Golden Mile which now connects Marbella to Puerto Banus, a jet-set marina that was inaugurated in 1970.

Today, Marbella is separated into several distinct districts, spanning over 40 kilometres of shoreline and reaching into the foothills of the Sierra Blanca mountain range.



MARBELLA AREAS

THE GOLDEN MILE

The Golden Mile, Marbella's most opulent and privileged residential area, stretches for 5 kilometers from the entrance of Puerto Banus to the Piruli, the city's copper-clad emblem. Located parallel to the beach, the Golden Mile is home to the most expensive properties on the coast including luxurious villas and apartments, many having direct access to the beach with lush, landscaped private gardens. The world famous 5-star hotels of Marbella Club Hotel and Puente Romano Resort are situated in the centre of the Golden Mile.

The legendary Puente Romano resort has been recognised by Condé Nast Traveler Gold List 2022 as one of The Best Gastronomic Hotels in Spain & Portugal and is home to 15 restaurants, including Leña, Michelin starred Dani García's steak house, recently voted the most beautiful restaurant in the world; the iconic Nobu Marbella, the innovative tapas of BiBo, another Dani Garcia creation, and the sophisticated cuisine of Sea Grill.

Prior to the area's development, the Golden Mile was the main N-340 coast road, with origins dating back to Roman times and with vestiges still visible in Puente Romano which means 'Roman bridge'.

The Golden Mile is often compared to Beverly Hills with its luxurious Californian atmosphere, year-round sunshine and the international, jet set lifestyle that it offers.

This area extends into the hills, where lavish villas have been built within exclusive neighbourhoods such as Sierra Blanca, Nagüeles, Marbella Hill Club, and Cascada de Camoján, offering the highest standards of luxury and privacy with stunning sea views.

PUERTO BANÚS

Puerto José Banús, or simply Puerto Banús, is a luxurious marina situated in the privileged area of Nueva Andalucia, a few kilometers southwest of Marbella. Designed in the Mediterranean architectural style, this tourist enclave has grown to become one of the largest entertainment centers on the Costa del Sol, gaining international fame and prestige.

The luxury resort of Puerto Banús is relatively new, having been built in 1966 when architect Noldi Schleck persuaded José Banús to design an Andalusian village with a marina rather than plain residential buildings without appeal. Since its inception in 1970, it has been a resounding success, and celebrities and tourists continue to flock to the marina.

The luxurious marina where the largest yachts are moored is home to many designer boutiques such as Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Dior and Michael Kors, as well as high end residences and exclusive restaurants and night clubs.

A spectacular beach of fine golden sand spans for 1500m between the harbour and the beginning of the Rio Real river, encircled by a maritime promenade where pedestrians enjoy the wonderful weather of the Costa del Sol with the backdrop of La Concha mountain. Besides the marina, there are many other amenities including a large El Corte Inglés department store.





NUEVA ANDALUCIA, THE GOLF VALLEY

The famed 'Golf Valley' is a select residential area situated at the heart of Nueva Andalucia, just a short distance from the bustling splendour of Puerto Banús and the elegance of Marbella town. Named the 'Golf Valley' due to its 3 championship golf courses – Las Brisas, Los Naranjos and Aloha – and its location in the epicenter of golf on the Costa del Sol, this unique area offers luxurious villas and apartments with landscaped gardens and spectacular golf views.

The location is also very popular with families as well as golfers. The emphasis is on the excellent golf valley villas for sale, many of which include home cinemas, wine cellars, and games or entertainment rooms.

MARBELLA WEST

The area known as Marbella West begins west of Puerto Banus and Nueva Andalusia, south of Benahavis, and extends all the way to the Estepona border, which is divided by the river Guadalmina.

Marbella West has excellent infrastructure and amenities with multiple golf courses, many Spanish and international restaurants, private and public schools, beach bars, and shops available. It is just a 5-minute drive from Puerto Banus and 10 minutes from Marbella town.

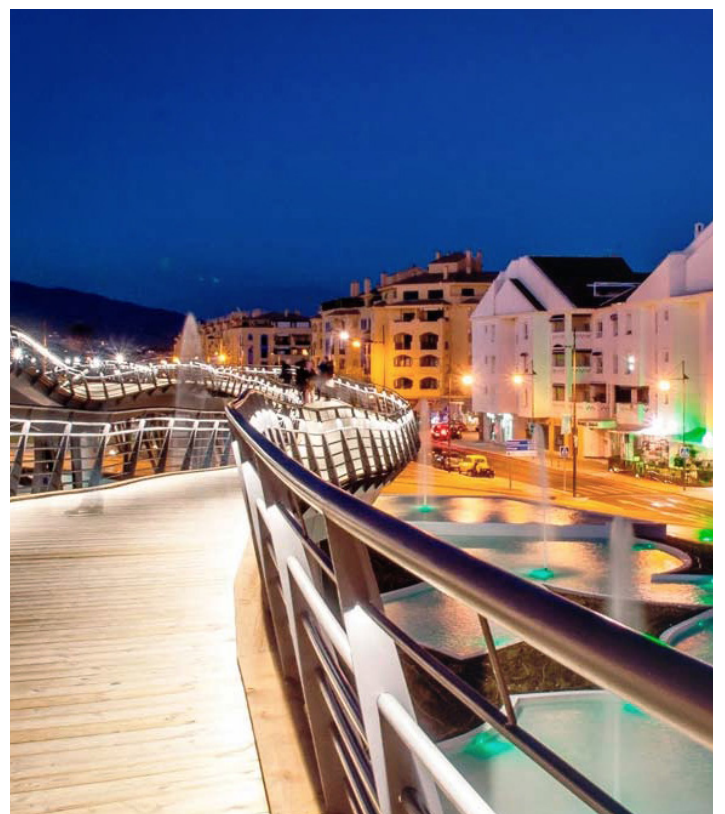
SAN PEDRO DE ALCANTÁRA

San Pedro de Alcantara, a Spanish-style village, is located west of Nueva Andalucia. The town has a lot to offer, including shops, cafés, and tapas bars that are popular with foreign residents who live in the stylish neighborhoods that surround this small town.

The coastal neighbourhood of San Pedro is popular with second home owners and offers luxurious apartment complexes, private villas and townhouses in a tranquil beachside setting. Amenities include tennis and padel clubs, restaurants, schools, shops, and beach clubs.

GUADALMINA

The exclusive neighborhood of Guadalmina, situated west of San Pedro, consists of lush green golf courses and is dominated by stunning private villas with a scattering of luxury apartment complexes. Guadalmina's very private and beautiful coastline features premium beach bars and a links golf course that runs parallel to the sand.





MARBELLA EAST

Marbella East is a stretch of shoreline east of Marbella from Rio Real to Cabopino. It is popular with families with children and offers a tranquil and relaxed setting within easy reach of services yet close to the beach. It features low-density residential zones surrounded by greenery and pine groves close to some of the best beaches in Marbella.

A wide range of property is available in this area from beach-side villas in the upmarket Los Monteros to luxury villas, townhouses and apartments in Elviria and Las Chapas. Homes for sale in the marina of Cabopino are also highly sought after.

There are several commercial centres in Marbella East featuring quality restaurants and shops as well as five-star resorts with beach clubs including Nikki Beach at the Don Carlos, Trocadero Arena and La Cabane at Los Monteros. Marbella East also features several first-class golf courses including Santa Clara, Rio Real, Marbella Golf and Country Club, Santa Maria and Cabopino. There are some top private schools in the area including the German School in La Mairena and EIC (English International College). The largest public hospital on the coast, Hospital Costa del Sol is located in Marbella East.

BENAHAVIS

The municipal area of Benahavis spans over 150 kilometres, stretching from the coast between Marbella and Estepona to the Serrana de Ronda mountain range's foothills. This region's location and lifestyle are considerably different from traditional Costa del Sol resorts, with a charming white-washed village at its centre. Visitors are drawn to Benahavis by its space, natural beauty, and proximity to Marbella and

Estepona. It also attracts lovers of unspoiled environments, as well as being a haven for adventurers seeking trekking, cycling, and swimming. Benahavis village itself is known as the 'dining room of the Costa del Sol' due to the quality and variety of its restaurants.

Benahavis is known for its extensive choice of famous golf courses. It is the second municipality in Spain with the highest amount of golf courses, second only to Marbella. The golf courses in Benahavis were designed by renowned golf architects such as Robert Trent Jones and legendary champions like Severiano Ballesteros and Jack Nicklaus. It features 12 golf courses including Los Flamings Golf Club, La Quinta Golf & Country Club, La Zagaleta, Los Arqueros Golf and Country Club, Marbella Club Golf Resort, El Paraso Golf, Atalaya Golf, and Club de Golf Benahavis

Benahavis has become one of the most sought-after neighborhoods on the Costa del Sol in recent years for individuals looking for a modern luxury properties. A great selection of new premium villas and gated apartment developments are available in this area that feature top quality specifications and amenities that attract clients from all over the world.

Exclusive country clubs and appealing residential areas overlooking nature and/or golf courses characterize the Benahavis property market. Because of the upmarket country clubs and residential projects that surround the village, Benahavis is one of Spain's wealthiest municipalities. Golf resorts like Los Arqueros and La Quinta, as well as La Zagaleta – one of Europe's most elite gated country clubs – and the Villa Padierna five-star deluxe hotel and golf resort chosen by Michelle Obama and her family for their stay in 2010, are among them.



ESTEPONA

Estepona is located west of San Pedro in the direction of Algeciras. Once a small farming and fishing village, it has retained much of its Spanish charm and is popular with visitors offering a more traditional holiday experience compared to the more glamorous towns of Puerto Banus and Marbella.

Located 33km west of Marbella, Estepona is around 1-hour drive from Malaga Airport and just 40 minutes from Gibraltar Airport. The municipality stretches from the border of San Pedro and Benahavis on the A7 through to the entrance of Sabinillas.

Estepona is the largest town in western Costa del Sol and includes a historic old town, port and marina as well as 20 kilometres of sandy beaches that are quieter than other Costa del Sol beaches, even in the high season. The famed 'New Golden Mile' runs east towards San Pedro and has extensive green areas, valleys and hills that are situated behind the coast. It was chosen by Pacha Group from Ibiza for the development of their new macro luxury beach club.

The area enjoys a warm micro-climate as it is protected by the Sierra Bermeja mountain range. Estepona offers a great quality of life for residents and tourists with a wide selection of bars, shops and restaurants as well as top sporting and cultural facilities.

The property market has been very active in recent areas with many new developments offering competitively priced villas and apartments.

SOTOGRADE

Sotogrande is situated in the province of Cadiz and the municipality of San Roque covering 20 square kilometres stretching from the Mediterranean to the foothills of the Si-

erra Almenara. It is located just 25km northeast of Gibraltar and its airport.

Sotogrande is one of the most prestigious residential developments in Europe and a chosen holiday destination for many well-known celebrities and sports stars. This private coastal community has 24-hour security and is immaculately maintained and surrounded by breath-taking scenery. Despite its wealth, it remains low key and discreet compared to the glitz and glamour of Marbella and Puerto Banus.

Sotogrande is a hot spot for polo with the Santa Maria Polo Club being dubbed the 'Wimbledon of polo'. People come from all over the world during the summer months to play polo here. It is also a mecca for golf lovers with 5 world-class golf courses in the area including the Real Club de Golf Sotogrande, Club de Golf la Cañada, Almenara Golf Club, La Reserva Club and the most famous of all – Real Club de Golf Valderrama which regularly hosts major international tournaments including the Ryder Cup (1997), the Volvo Masters and the Andalucia Masters.

Sotogrande Marina has 1382 berths with some of the most expensive mooring costs in Europe. This marina is one of the most prestigious in Spain and has a wide mix of interesting bars and restaurants. Many luxurious residential complexes are situated around the waterfront.

The local population of Sotogrande numbers around 2,500 residents however, due to its world renowned and exclusive second home market, the population rises to more than 12,000 in the high season.

Sotogrande offers a wide range of properties. The most exclusive areas are Sotogrande Costa and Sotogrande Alto with prices ranging from €1m to €3m+. Most properties are in a luxurious traditional Andalucian style but more modern contemporary architecture is now being sought after by buyers. In La Reserva, prices range from €2m to €14m+.



MIJAS COSTA

Mijas Costa is part of the municipality of Mijas, one of the largest in the province. This 12 kilometre stretch of coastline is situated on the A-7 highway running from Calahonda in the west to Fuengirola in the east. It is just 30 minutes from Malaga Airport and 1 hour 10 mins to Gibraltar Airport.

Mijas Costa has 15 beaches with 3 beaches having blue-flag status. The beaches are long and sandy such as the beach at La Cala de Mijas to smaller, pebbly coves.

It is one of the largest resorts on the Costa del Sol and home to some of the most popular places to buy property in southern Spain. The main areas, known as urbanizaciones in Spanish) found in Mijas Costa are as follows:

Calahonda – the largest residential area in Mijas Costa is very popular with holidaymakers and foreign residents. It runs from its blue-flag beach on the coast to high in the hills, north of the AP7 toll road. A wide range of property is available from modern apartments to luxury villas, many with panoramic sea views. The area has a good commercial centre with a wide range of shops, restaurants and other outlets. Sports facilities include La Siesta Golf Club and Club del Sol tennis club.

Riviera del Sol and Miraflores – These areas are popular with holidaymakers and overseas buyers. Properties including apartments and townhouses as well as several high-end villa and townhouse developments. There are a good selection of shops, bars and restaurants near the A-7 road. Miraflores Golf and El Oceano Beach Club and Hotel are also located here.

La Cala de Mijas – Once a small fishing village, this town is the main services and administrative centre for Mijas Costa. La Cala has grown into a popular place to live for Expats and boasts the best beaches in this part of the Costa del Sol. It

also has good schools, medical centres and a wide range of shops and restaurants.

Properties available include traditional village houses and front-line beach properties to modern penthouse apartments. Several new developments are currently underway in the area. La Cala is within easy reach of some of the best golf courses on the Costa del Sol including Calanova Golf Club and the three courses at La Cala Golf Resort.

El Chaparral and Las Farolas – these smaller residential areas feature mostly villas and townhouses as well as El Chaparral Golf Club. There are not many commercial outlets in these area, however they are just a few minutes' drive from commercial centres of La Cala and Fuengirola.

Mijas Costa is popular with families looking to live in quieter residential areas within easy reach of the busier resorts of Marbella and Fuengirola. Property prices are competitive and there are excellent facilities and amenities including good schools for those looking to live in this area year-round.





BENALMADENA

Benalmadena covers an area of nearly 30km² and stretches from Benalmadena Costa in the west to Arroyo de la Miel and Benalmadena Pueblo. Situated just 15 minutes from Malaga Airport, it enjoys a privileged position and has expanded quickly over the past 20 years to become one of the most popular destinations on the Costa del Sol.

Benalmadena Pueblo is a typical Spanish white-washed village with cobbled streets and a quaint square with traditional Spanish bars, restaurants and a church. Despite the influx of visitors, it has retained its charm with the church busy with local gatherings, communions or weddings every Sunday.

Arroyo de La Miel separates the pueblo from the coast. This busy town has an excellent train service connecting Fuengirola to Malaga as well as good road connections. It has grown quickly over the years and offers a wide range of shops and amenities as well as one of the largest man-made parks on the coast, the Parque de Paloma.

Benalmadena Costa has quieter residential areas situated near Benalmadena's Golf Course and Torrequebrada Golf. There is a wide selection of 'Chiringuitos' (beach bars) and the award-winning Puerto Marina, known for its buzzing nightlife and sealife Marina.

As well as two golf courses, Benalmadena has an excellent array of attractions to attract tourism year-round. There are over 20km of sandy beaches, as well as many busy tourist hotels and the famous Casino by the water's edge in Torrequebrada.

Benalmadena's property market is always popular due to its proximity to Malaga Airport. There are many well maintained houses both on the beach and in the mountain as well as new luxury villa and apartment developments with a variety of prices.

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