

100% INDEPENDENT — NO SPONSORED PLACEMENTS

TOUR COSTA DEL SOL

THE INDEPENDENT BEACH DIRECTORY

**26 Independently Reviewed Beaches • Local Ratings •
Offline Map & Comparison**

Why Trust This Guide?

Unlike many travel websites, we do not accept payment for rankings or featured placements.

Every beach in this guide has been independently researched and scored using the Tour Costa del Sol rating methodology.

Our goal is simple:

Help you find the right beach—not the one that paid to be featured.

THE INDEPENDENT GUIDE SERIES

Costa del Sol at a Glance

From sundrenched shores to hidden coves, here is everything you need to know about southern Spain's legendary coastline in one single view.

THE NUMBERS THAT MATTER

- ✨ 150 km of sun-drenched coastline
- 🏖️ 26 hand-verified beaches reviewed
- 🏆 20 certified Blue Flag beaches (guaranteeing water quality and facilities)
- 🚆 C-1 Train Line connects Málaga Airport directly to key beach hubs like Fuengirola, Torremolinos, and Benalmádena

WEATHER & WATER (AVERAGES)

Season	Best Months	Air Temp	Sea Temp	Vibes
Peak Season	June – Sept	28°C – 31°C	22°C – 24°C	Vibrant beach life & warm evening strolls
Sweet Spot	May & October	23°C – 26°C	18°C – 20°C	Perfect weather, fewer crowds & cheaper stays
Mild Winter	Nov – April	16°C – 19°C	15°C – 16°C	Sunny walks, fresh seafood & local festivals

FIND YOUR PERFECT SPOT

- 🐕 Dog-Friendly Beaches: Head to designated zones in Fuengirola (Playa Castillo) or Torre del Mar.
- 🧒 Best for Families: Shallow and wind-protected waters at El Cristo (Estepona) or Cabopino (Marbella).
- 🤿 Best for Snorkelling: Crystal clear waters and dramatic cliffs at Playa de Maro (Nerja).
- 🌅 Best Sunset Spots: Enjoy the golden hour from Baños del Carmen (Málaga) or Playa Bil Bil (Benalmádena).

THE INDEPENDENT GUIDE SERIES

How to Use This Directory

The Costa del Sol stretches over 150 kilometers. To make your planning easier, we have divided the coast into three distinct zones. Find your vibe below:

● THE WILD EAST (Nerja to Maro)

- The Vibe: Dramatic cliffs, rocky coves, and crystal-clear waters.
- Best For: Snorkelling, kayaking, and escaping the resort crowds.
- Top Pick: Playa de Maro.

● THE ACTIVE HUB (Málaga to Fuengirola)

- The Vibe: Wide, sandy urban beaches with bustling promenades.
- Best For: Families, train access, and traditional beachside chiringuitos.
- Top Pick: Playa de Los Boliches.

● THE GOLDEN WEST (Mijas to Estepona)

- The Vibe: Upscale beach clubs, fine golden sand, and sheltered bays.
- Best For: Luxury dining, toddlers, and spectacular sunsets.
- Top Pick: Playa de Cabopino.

Editor's Choice Quick-Finder

Short on time? Here is our ultimate, hand-picked selection of the coast's standout beaches. No sponsored fluff—just the absolute best spots to lay your towel.

BEST OVERALL BEACH

- Playa de Cabopino (Marbella)
- Why it wins: Soft golden sand, sheltered calm waters, and beautiful protected dunes. The perfect crowd-pleaser.

BEST HIDDEN GEM

- Playa de Artola (Marbella)
- Why it wins: A rare, completely undeveloped natural sanctuary. Pure peace, coastal boardwalks, and zero concrete.

BEST SUNSET SPOT

- Playa de Pedregalejo (Málaga)
- Why it wins: Watch the sun melt directly behind Málaga's skyline from a traditional beachside chiringuito.

BEST FAMILY BEACH

- Playa El Cristo (Estepona)
- Why it wins: A shallow, warm, crescent-shaped bay that is 100% sheltered from waves. A giant natural paddling pool.

BEST FOR SNORKELLING

- Playa de Maro (Nerja)
- Why it wins: A protected marine zone with dramatic rocky cliffs. Incredible underwater visibility and rich fish life.

BEST TRAIN-ACCESSIBLE

- Playa de Carvajal (Fuengirola)
- Why it wins: Step straight off the C1 commuter train from Málaga and directly onto a vibrant, high-energy beach.

TCDS OFFLINE DIRECTORY — PART 1

The Beach Comparison Sheet

Find your beach in seconds. This offline directory covers accessibility, family ratings, and local amenities for the first 13 hand-verified locations.

Beach Name	Blue Flag?	Family	Parking	Train?	Best For...
La Malagueta	Yes	★★★★★	Paid	No	City Vibe & Convenience
Pedregalejo	Yes	★★★★★	Difficult	No	Sunsets & Traditional Seafood
El Palo	Yes	★★★★★★	Moderate	No	Local Vibe & Great Seafood
Misericordia	Yes	★★★★★	Easy	No	Wide Promenade & Easy Access
Bajondillo	Yes	★★★★★	Moderate	No	Torremolinos Central Beach
La Carihuela	Yes	★★★★★★	Difficult	No	Atmosphere & Great Chiringuitos
Playamar	Yes	★★★★★★	Moderate	No	Active Water Sports & Wide Sand
Los Álamos	Yes	★★★★★★	Easy	Yes	Young Vibe & Easy Parking
Bil Bil	Yes	★★★★★	Moderate	No	Castle Views & Calm Water
Santa Ana	Yes	★★★★★★	Moderate	No	Playgrounds & Safe Swimming
Malapesquera	Yes	★★★★★★	Moderate	No	Wide Green Lawns & Activity
Los Boliches	Yes	★★★★★★	Moderate	Yes	Excellent Blue Flag Facilities
Fuengirola Beach	Yes	★★★★★★	Moderate	Yes	City Beach Convenience

West Coast Gems & Eastern Coves

Venturing beyond the central hubs reveals some of Andalucía's most breathtaking coastal scenery. Part 2 of our hand-verified directory covers the rugged beauty of Mijas, Marbella's golden dunes, Estepona's family-safe bays, and Nerja's legendary natural coves.

Beach Name	Blue Flag?	Family Rating	Parking	Train Access?	Best For...
Playa de Maro (Nerja)	Yes	★★★★★	Moderate	No	Snorkelling & Dramatic Cliffs
Burriana Beach (Nerja)	Yes	★★★★★	Difficult	No	Kayaking, Dining & Water Sports
Calahonda Beach (Mijas)	Yes	★★★★★	Difficult	No	Charming Rocky Cove
Cabopino (Marbella)	Yes	★★★★★	Moderate	No	Protected Dunes & Soft Gold Sand
Playa de Artola (Marbella)	No	★★★★★	Moderate	No	Undeveloped Natural Sanctuary
Los Monteros (Marbella)	Yes	★★★★★	Easy	No	Quiet, Kitesurfing & Space
Playa El Faro (Marbella)	Yes	★★★★★	Difficult	No	Central Location & Calm Waters
Puerto Banús (Marbella)	Yes	★★★★★	Paid	No	Luxury Atmosphere & Shallow Bay
San Pedro de Alcántara	Yes	★★★★★	Easy	No	Wide Palm-Lined Promenade
El Saladillo (Estepona)	No	★★★★★	Easy	No	Long Peaceful Walks & Quiet
La Rada (Estepona)	Yes	★★★★★	Moderate	No	Ultra-Wide Sand & City Access
El Cristo (Estepona)	Yes	★★★★★	Moderate	No	100% Wave-Sheltered Shallow Bay
Playa de Sabinillas	Yes	★★★★★	Easy	No	Spacious Family-Friendly Beach



LOCAL INSIDER TIP

If you hate waves and have toddlers, head straight to El Cristo in Estepona. It is a natural east-facing cove, meaning it is completely sheltered from the wind and waves. The water here is shallow, calm, and always a degree or two warmer than the open beaches!

THANK YOU FOR READING Never Miss a Hidden Spot

This offline directory is just the beginning. Coastal conditions, parking regulations, and transit lines can change. To make sure you always have the most up-to-date information, we constantly update our live digital resources.

 UNLOCK THE FULL
INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE



Keep Exploring the Coast:



[The Costa del Sol Train Guide](#)



[Best Boat & Catamaran Tours](#)



[The Culinary Chiringuito Guide](#)