

SPAIN · BEACHES · FOOD · HISTORY · CULTURE · NIGHTLIFE



Costa del Sol & Andalucía coast

Málaga's coast is mainland Spain's easiest sun destination from the UK: frequent flights, a train linking the airport to the resorts and around 300 days of sunshine a year. Mix beach days in Marbella, Fuengirola or Nerja with Málaga's museums, Granada's Alhambra, Ronda's gorge and the wilder Atlantic beaches of the Costa de la Luz.

 Read the UK government's travel advice for Spain and entry requirements before you go.

 COUNTRY Spain	 BEST TIME May–Jun, Sep–Oct	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 2h 50m direct ~£100–£380 return	 DAILY BUDGET £60–£280 ££ Moderate
 WARMEST MONTH August (32°C)	 SEA TEMPERATURE 16–24°C coolest–warmest	 TIME ZONE Madrid +1h vs UK now	 CURRENCY Euro £1 ≈ €1.19

Most visitors fly into Málaga and stay along the strip between Nerja and Estepona, either in the big resorts west of the airport or in quieter towns to the east. Málaga itself has become a destination, with the Picasso Museum, the Alcazaba and a food scene to match. The coast's real strength is what lies inland: Granada, Ronda, the Caminito del Rey and the white villages are all day trips by car or coach. Beyond Gibraltar, the windier Costa de la Luz has long Atlantic beaches. Spring and autumn are best for mixing beach and sightseeing; July and August are hot, crowded and dear, while winter is mild but too cool for most swimmers.

Highlights

- 1

HISTORY

The Alhambra, Granada

Granada's Nasrid palaces, with their carved stucco courts, and the Generalife gardens form one of Spain's most visited monuments, about 90 minutes' drive from Málaga. Nasrid Palaces entry is timed and often sells out weeks ahead.
- 2

CULTURE

Málaga's old town and museums

Picasso's birthplace has a museum of his work in a Renaissance palace, a Moorish Alcazaba climbing towards Gibralfaro castle and an old town full of tapas bars. The glass cube of the Centre Pompidou Málaga sits on the port.
- 3

ADVENTURE

Caminito del Rey

Once called the world's most dangerous path, this rebuilt boardwalk is pinned to the sheer walls of the Gaitanes gorge, about an hour from Málaga. Timed tickets are required, and the one-way route takes three to four hours.
- 4

ARCHITECTURE

Ronda

Ronda straddles El Tajo, a gorge more than 100m deep crossed by the 18th-century Puente Nuevo. Its bullring is among Spain's oldest, and the white villages of the Serranía de Ronda are an easy drive away.

5

BEACH

Bolonia and Baelo Claudia

On the Costa de la Luz near Tarifa, Bolonia's wild Atlantic beach is backed by a huge sand dune and the ruins of Baelo Claudia, a Roman town that made fish sauce. Expect cooler water and strong winds.

Where to stay

WHERE TO STAY

Málaga

A cultured city with beaches, excellent food and year-round life; the best choice for couples and anyone planning day trips by train or coach.

WHERE TO STAY

Marbella

A polished resort with a well-kept old town, upmarket beach clubs and Puerto Banús nearby; suits comfort budgets, golfers and nightlife lovers.

WHERE TO STAY

Fuengirola

A good-value family resort with a long sandy beach, plenty of British-friendly hotels and the train to Málaga airport and city.

WHERE TO STAY

Nerja

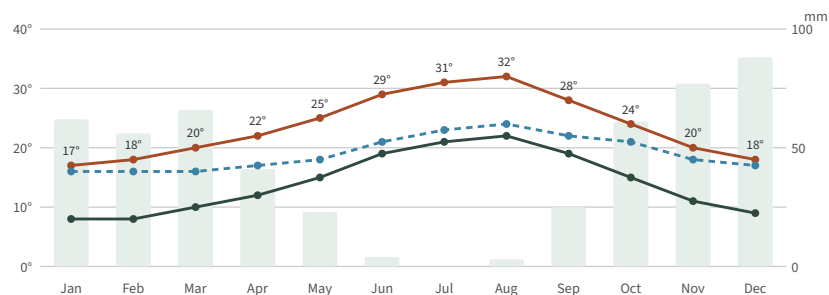
A quieter cliff-top town east of Málaga, with coves, the Balcón de Europa and the Nerja caves nearby; suits couples, families and walkers.

When to go to Costa del Sol & Andalucía coast

Best time: **May–Jun, Sep–Oct.**

**Average climate in Málaga**

— High °C
 — Low °C
 — Sea °C
 ■ Rain (mm)

**How much does Costa del Sol & Andalucía coast cost?**

SHOESTRING

£60

per person / day
≈ €71.42

MID-RANGE

£130

per person / day
≈ €155

COMFORTABLE

£280

per person / day
≈ €333

Per person per day excluding flights. Return flights from London typically cost £100 off-peak and £380 in school holidays.

Visas & entry for Costa del Sol & Andalucía coast

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, which includes Spain, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel: as a tourist; to visit family or friends; to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events; for short-term studies or training.

The requirements for working in Spain are different.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations

See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Rabies

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Spain

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Tue 8 Dec 2026	Immaculate Conception
Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Wed 6 Jan 2027	Epiphany
Fri 26 Mar 2027	Good Friday
Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Tue 12 Oct 2027	National Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Know before you go

The C1 suburban train runs from Málaga airport to the city centre in one direction and to Torremolinos, Benalmádena and Fuengirola in the other, so you may not need a hire car.

Try espetos, sardines skewered and grilled over wood fires in old boats on the sand at beach chiringuitos; locals say they are best in the months without an R.

Plugs, money, phrases, emergency numbers and more: see our Spain guide.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.