



Costa de la Luz

Guía práctica costas / Mapa

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Impresión: Escandón Impresiones - Dip. Local: 456473-2011
Edición: Marzo 2011

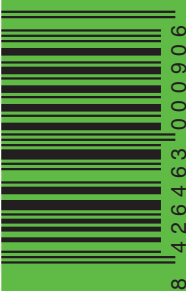


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Costa de la Luz



Situated in the westernmost region of Spain, in the south of Andalusia, Cádiz's Costa de la Luz boasts one of the country's longest coastlines, over 200 km of marvellous beaches of fine, golden sand completely open to the Atlantic Ocean. If we add to this its benevolent climate, with over 300 days of sunshine per year, then it is not difficult to understand why so many people choose to spend their holidays here. Cádiz's Costa de la Luz enjoys a privileged location opposite the North African coast and is ideal not only for sun and sand holidays but also for discovering the area's history, monuments and maritime traditions, not to mention enjoying the hospitality of its charming people.



Sanlúcar de Barrameda

One of Sanlúcar de Barrameda's main attractions for the tourist is its geographical position, its extensive beaches lying opposite Doñana National Park, which can be toured either by all-terrain vehicle or along the Guadalquivir aboard a river boat. Other attractions that the town has to offer include trips on horseback and visits to cellars to witness the production of Manzanilla wine. Sanlúcar is also famed for the beauty of its old town centre, whose highlights are Santiago Castle, the Duke of Medina Sidonia's Palace and Orleáns-Borbón Palace, not forgetting a stroll through the fishing district of de Bajo de Guía.



Chipiona

At 69 metres, Chipiona's lighthouse is the tallest in Spain. Other noteworthy monuments are the Chapel of Nuestra Señora de Regla and the Church of Nuestra Señora de la O. Chipiona is also home to excellent beaches of fine, golden sand such as Cruz del Mar-Las Canteras, Montijo-Niño de Oro, Regla, Camarón-La Laguna and Tres Piedras-La Ballena.



Rota

Rota, a town that has both a maritime and a country flavour, is surrounded by 16 km of magnificent beaches of fine golden sand: La Costilla, El Rompidillo, El Chorrillo, Punta Candor and La Ballena. Each provides a setting of particular style and local colour in which to enjoy the warm atmosphere of Cádiz's



Costa de la Luz practically all year round. Places of interest in Rota include Luna Castle, the Church of Nuestra Señora de la O, San Juan Bautista Chapel and the new Museum. The beauty and variety of the local fauna make this an ideal setting in which to enjoy a marine photographic safari.



Jerez de la Frontera

Surrounded by fertile countryside, Jerez is a delightful town with a truly unique urban layout. Thanks to its wine, Jerez or Sherry, its name has become famous world wide. But there is more to Jerez than just wine and unusual buildings; it is also famous for its horses, particularly those of the Cartujano breed, and its fighting bulls, as well as being one of the cradles of Flamenco, a motor racing venue by virtue of its high-speed circuit and a town whose monuments have seen it officially declared to be of Historical and Artistic Interest. Jerez is also home to the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art and a number of wine cellars where the visitor can sample the magnificent beverages produced here.



Puerto de Santa María

El Puerto de Santa María is famous for its exquisite beaches: La Puntilla, Valdelagrana, Fuentebravía, Vistahermosa, Las Redes, Levante and La Calita, not forgetting Puerto Sherry, a fantastic pleasure harbour which plays host to the annual Semana Náutica (Nautical Week). It is also home to a wealth of monuments, including San Marcos Castle, the Bullring, the Priory Church, La Victoria Monastery and archaeological remains at nearby Doña Blanca.

Puerto Real

The highlight of Puerto Real is the originality of its urban design which, along with its orthogonal streets, public squares and old town centre, officially declared to be of Historical and Artistic Interest, gives the town its own unique identity. The main thoroughfare of Paseo de María Auxiliadora is actually located in El Pinar de las Canteras, the extension of Puerto Real.



San Fernando

San Fernando is closely linked with Spanish naval history, its baroque-style churches standing close to swamps and salt pans. Places of interest include Las Cortes Theatre and San Romualdo Castle. Two routes well worth trying are the Camarón Route and the Armada Route, which takes in the Pantheon of Illustrious Seamen, Carraca Naval Dockyard, Torrealta and the Royal Observatory and Naval Institute.

Cádiz

Popularly known as the "tacita de plata", (little silver cup), the provincial capital of Cádiz stands alongside the bay of the same name. The sea surrounds and embraces the city, which is virtually an island with only a narrow strip of land linking it to the rest of the mainland. It is well worth losing oneself in this lively city, whose streets, with their curious urban design, almost always lead to the sea. Not for nothing is the old town centre considered a Monument of Historical and Artistic Importance. This is surrounded by walls, the highlights of which are the gates of Puerta de Tierra and Puerta de la Caleta and a wall painting of San Carlos. Our trip should include a visit to the Cathedral, Santa Cruz Church, San Felipe Neri Chapel and the Cortes de Cadiz Museum.



Chiclana

Standing to the south of Cádiz Bay Chiclana boasts two fantastic beaches, the unspoilt Barrosa and the 2-kilometre-long Sancti Petri which runs as far as the pleasure harbour. Monuments of note include San Telmo Church, Santa Ana Chapel, the Clock Tower and Sancti Petri Castle with its XVI-century tower.



Medina Sidonia

Medina Sidonia is characterised by its extremely steep streets. In addition to Arabic remains such as the Belén Arch and the gates of Puerta de la Pastora and Puerta del Sol, it features a number of Christian temples and palaces, notably Santa María la Coronada Church, from whose tower we can enjoy views of pastures on which fighting bulls graze, a typical scene in this area.

Conil de la Frontera

One place of interest in this strikingly-white coastal town is the Conil Roots Museum. From the town centre almost as far as the Cabo Roche, beaches of fine sand stretch out before us, including La Fontanilla, Fuente del Gallo, the virtually-unspoilt Castilnovo and Los Bateles, where we can enjoy a pleasant stroll along the promenade. In addition to its beaches, Conil also boasts a number of coves where the visitor can enjoy an unforgettable afternoon of sun and sea, the best known of these being Cala del Aceite.

Vejer de la Frontera

The highlights of Vejer de la Frontera's 7 kilometres of coastline are El Palmar beach and the Cape of Trafalgar, scene of the famous battle. The town, which has both been declared a Historical and Artistic Monument and awarded a National Embellishment Prize, is notable for the winding nature of its steep, narrow streets and whitewashed houses. It also features a walled area at the top of which stands a X-century castle from whose weapons yard the visitor can enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

Barbate

Barbate's landscape is dominated by La Breña y Las Marismas de Barbate Natural Park. It boasts beaches of fine, golden sand where the visitor can witness an unforgettable sunset. Notable amongst Barbate's monuments are its watchtowers and San Ambrosio Hermitage. Barbate offers a number of routes along which hikers can enjoy the both the open countryside and a number of protected areas of immense ecological value. A dependent borough of Barbate, Zahara de los Atunes boasts over six kilometres of beaches which, by virtue of their length, breadth and unsheltered situation, are favourable to east winds and thus ideal for windsurfing.

Tarifa

The highlights of this formerly-walled costal town is the Caliph's Castle and, nearby, the II-century B.C. ruins of Baelo Claudia. Nicknamed "Windsurfing Paradise", Tarifa boasts unbeatable conditions in which to enjoy the sport, particularly at Valdevaqueros Cove, with its giant dunes of fine white sand thought to be the largest in Europe.



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Active Tourism



A number of different activities can be enjoyed on Cádiz's Costa de la Luz, notably hiking, which is catered for by a large number of routes, rock climbing in the area near Tarifa, routes on horseback, paragliding, hang gliding, a wealth of aquatic pursuits, particularly windsurfing and its variations, and scuba diving.

Festivities

Cádiz's main event is its Carnival, The streets are filled with music, laughter, disguises and songs about the latest events sung with a satire and good humour unique to the people of Cádiz. In fact, the whole of the province gives way to popular tradition in the shape of a number of rich and varied



celebrations: Holy Week, Fairs and Marine Festivals, Rota's Urta Festival, the Fair of Hourse in Jerez, the impressive Beach Horse Racing event and the Exaltation of the River Guadalquivir in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, to name but a few.

Cuisine



The excellent cuisine that typifies the Cádiz coast consists of a wealth of magnificent fish and sea food, served boiled, fried or grilled and washed down with fine wines that will satisfy even the most demanding palate.