



Costa Tropical

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Guía práctica costas / Mapa

Andalucía



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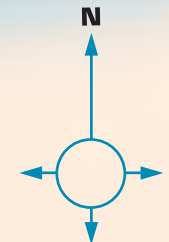
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Municipio con declaración monumental Town with declared monuments	Hotel	Torre Tower	Puerto comercial Commercial Ports	Cueva Cave	Refugio Mountain Shelter
Municipio con incoación monumental Town with monuments in process of declaration	Pensión Pension	Museo Museum	Puerto deportivo Marina	Jardín Botánico Botanical Garden	Balneario Spa
Oficina de Información de la Junta de Andalucía Junta de Andalucía Information office	Hospital	Monumento Monument	Faro Lighthouse	Centro de Interpretación Interpretation Centre	Golf
Oficina Municipal de Turismo Municipal Tourism Office	Centro de Salud Health Centre	Restos arqueológicos Archaeological Remains	Vista panorámica Panoramic View	Mirador Mirador	Senderismo Walking
Parador	Autobús Bus	Punto de Información Information	Albergue Campsite	Camping Camping	Biciclismo Cyclotourism
Parador	Oficina de Correos Post office		Albergue Lodgings	Parapente Paragliding	

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In the south of the province of Granada lies the Tropical Coast, over 100 kilometres of beaches lapped by the warm waters of the Mediterranean. Its prize location, close to the coast of Africa and the sheltered by the Sierra Nevada, protects the Tropical Coast from the north winds, creating a unique microclimate comprising 320 days of sunshine per year, an annual average temperature of 20° C and plains brimming with tropical crops that add a touch of colour to the landscape. The wealth of natural riches that characterise this corner of Andalusia have seen a variety of cultures vying to possess it over the last 3,000 years, including the Phoenicians, Romans and Arabs, all of whom have left behind countless relics of enormous cultural value.

The attractions on offer here range from pleasure harbours and locations suitable for a variety of water sports to breathtaking cliffs and solitary coves of great natural beauty, not forgetting a wealth of magnificent beaches.



La Herradura and Almuñécar

At the westernmost tip of the Tropical Coast, just before the town of Almuñécar, stands La Herradura. A district of Almuñécar itself, this village sheltered by a charming bay is tucked between the mountain peaks of Cerro Gordo and Punta de la Mona. Its calm waters lie close to the pleasure harbour of Puerto Marina del Este, which offers a wealth of opportunities for the water sports enthusiast. Pride of place among its beaches goes to the sands of Cantarriján. The town of Almuñécar itself boasts a wealth of tourist

facilities. Its coast is home to a total of 26 beaches which offer a variety of characteristics and dimensions to satisfy all tastes.

Almuñécar is surrounded by towering mountains in the valley of the River Verde. Its landscape is an explosion of colour, its tropical crops contrasting with the blue of the Mediterranean Sea.



must, the highlight being the Church of La Encarnación y el Pilar, in Calle Real.

Almuñécar's Arabic legacy is also in evidence in the shape of the fortress-castle of San Miguel and the town's coastal watchtowers.

Salobreña

Salobreña stands at the heart of the Tropical Coast. The appeal of this white town, with its winding streets and walls bedecked with flowers, lies



in the typically-Andalusian architecture of its old town centre. Salobreña's houses cover an entire mountain at the foot of which a narrow strip of tropical plain barely manages to separate the town from the sea.

At the top of the mountain stands the Arabic Castle, offering a magnificent panoramic view with the sea on one side and fertile plains on the other. Other notable monuments and places of interest include the Mudejar Church of El Rosario, El Brocal Tower, the Bóveda de la Plaza, the Paseo de la Flores, the vantage points of El Postigo, the Albaycín and the Archaeological Museum, which show us the history of Salobreña through scale models, pottery items, tools and showcases. Not forgetting a stroll through the Parque de la Fuente with its gardens and pond, home to the tropical birds that live freely in this park.

One visit of enormous interest is a trip to the only working sugar cane factory in Europe, complete with its own little museum and a scale model illustrating the whole process of transforming cane into sugar. Salobreña boasts spacious beaches on which to enjoy the sun and the sea. The rock of El Peñón, half submerged beneath the coast, marks the boundary between the town's two main, and greatly contrasting, beaches. On one side is the wild tranquillity of La Guardia, while on the other, El Peñón, with its full range of services, is hive of activity. Also worthy of mention are the beaches of El Molino, Salomar and La Charca. In addition to beaches, Salobreña boasts a number of natural coves hidden amongst its cliffs, such as El Caletón and El Pargo.



Motril

Motril occupies a privileged position among towering mountain peaks and breathtaking plains featuring the most exquisite shades of greens. Beyond the plains lies the sea, combining the deep blue of the east with the pale green of the west.

Motril is the coast's commercial centre thanks to its port, where the visitor can enjoy the curious sight of the fishing boats as they arrive, unload and auction their catch. The port is also a stopover point for the numerous recreational vessels that visit the pleasure harbour.

Motril is home to a number of monuments that make up a rich historical patrimony, including:

The Church of El Carmen of the 17th century, devoted to San Roque who was elected as saint patron during the epidemic of 1583 and later, in the 18th century, the Virgen del Carmen replaced him.

The High Church of La Encarnación of the 16th century, was built as a fortress church, for the defence against the numerous pirate attacks that suffered in the old times. It is a wide building that perfectly meets the architectural exigences of a church that was a castle too.

The Town Hall was built in 1631, with a Baroque façade, preserving inside magnificent Mudejar



offered ceilings of a great artistic value. Calderón de la Barca Theatre dates back to 1880, it represents an Italian style theatre and we have to admire the paintings in the ceiling, where the Muses of the Arts are represented.

Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza Shrine was built over the citadel that Motril defended in the Muslim age and it was the residence place of the queen Aixa Alhorra, mother of Boabdil.

The Casa de la Palma was an old device of Muslim origin that preserves an interesting Mudejar coffered ceiling. In its back area is located the Pre-Industrial Sugar Museum, with important archeological remains of a sugar device unique in Europa.

Carchuna Castle of 1783 was built as a fortress of the coast to defend the coast from the pirate attacks. It is a perfect example of military engineering of the 18th century.

The House of the Countess of Torre-Isabel is a noble building of Andalusian style of the 18th century. It has a magnificent imperial stair and it is interesting to see the glazed tiles of the courtyard. Recently, it has been restored to house the museum of the town.

Worthy of note in Motril is Poniente beach, an ideal location for water sports and home to a port, nautical club and, nearby, a golf course. Other alternatives include the quiet Granada beach, the naturist beach at Joya and La Azucena beach.



El litoral oriental

Leaving Motril, we come to the east coast, with its spacious beaches and solitary little coves amongst the cliffs, where one can practice scuba diving, sailing or windsurfing, as well as hand-gliding.

The first town that we encounter is Torrenueva, followed by Carchuna with its castle standing on the sea shore. A few kilometres away is Calahonda, whose name is derived from its deep, clean waters, perfect for the practice of scuba diving.

Following the road as it winds its way between cliffs and small, difficult-to-reach coves, we come to Castell de Ferro-Los Gualchos, surrounding a plain at whose centre a quadrangular Roman tower stands guard. Though Castell de Ferro is a white town popular with tourists, it is first and foremost a maritime borough, its beach smattered with boats. Worthy of note are the Arabic castle-fortress in the



centre of the town and the archaeological remains on La Rijana beach. Heading a little further inland, we find Los Gualchos, a village of whitewashed streets with a strong Alpujarra flavour that stands atop a natural balcony from which the Sierra Nevada can be seen in the distance.

Moving on from here towards the provincial border, we encounter other villages which combine a relaxed atmosphere with tourist



facilities such as Castillo de Baños, La Mamola, Los Yesos, Melicena, and, finally, La Rábida and El Pozuelo.

All of these locations on the Tropical Coast enjoy a warm climate all year round in a natural setting of magnificent beaches and solitary coves, surrounded by a rural landscape whose valleys are splashed with the colour of their tropical crops.



Costa Tropical

Active Tourism



The Tropical Coast offers a wide range of opportunities to partake in a number of different sports. You can enjoy the delights of the sea with windsurfing, scuba diving and a whole range of sea and wind-related sports. Conditions in the area are also ideal for paragliding, hang gliding and gliding, not forgetting that it offers the chance to play a round of golf next to the sea with the white peaks of the Sierra Nevada in the background. Just a few short kilometres from the coast is the Sierra Nevada, where skiing enthusiasts can enjoy the snow in winter and lovers of nature can go hiking with breathtaking views of the Tropical Coast and Africa as a backdrop.

Cuisine



Most dishes are based on fish and seafood, such as dried octopus, skewered sardines, salted or fried fish, zarzuela (a fish and seafood soup) and fideos (a dish comprising fish and seafood with noodles). And for dessert, choose from the wide range of sub-tropical fruit grown in the area.

