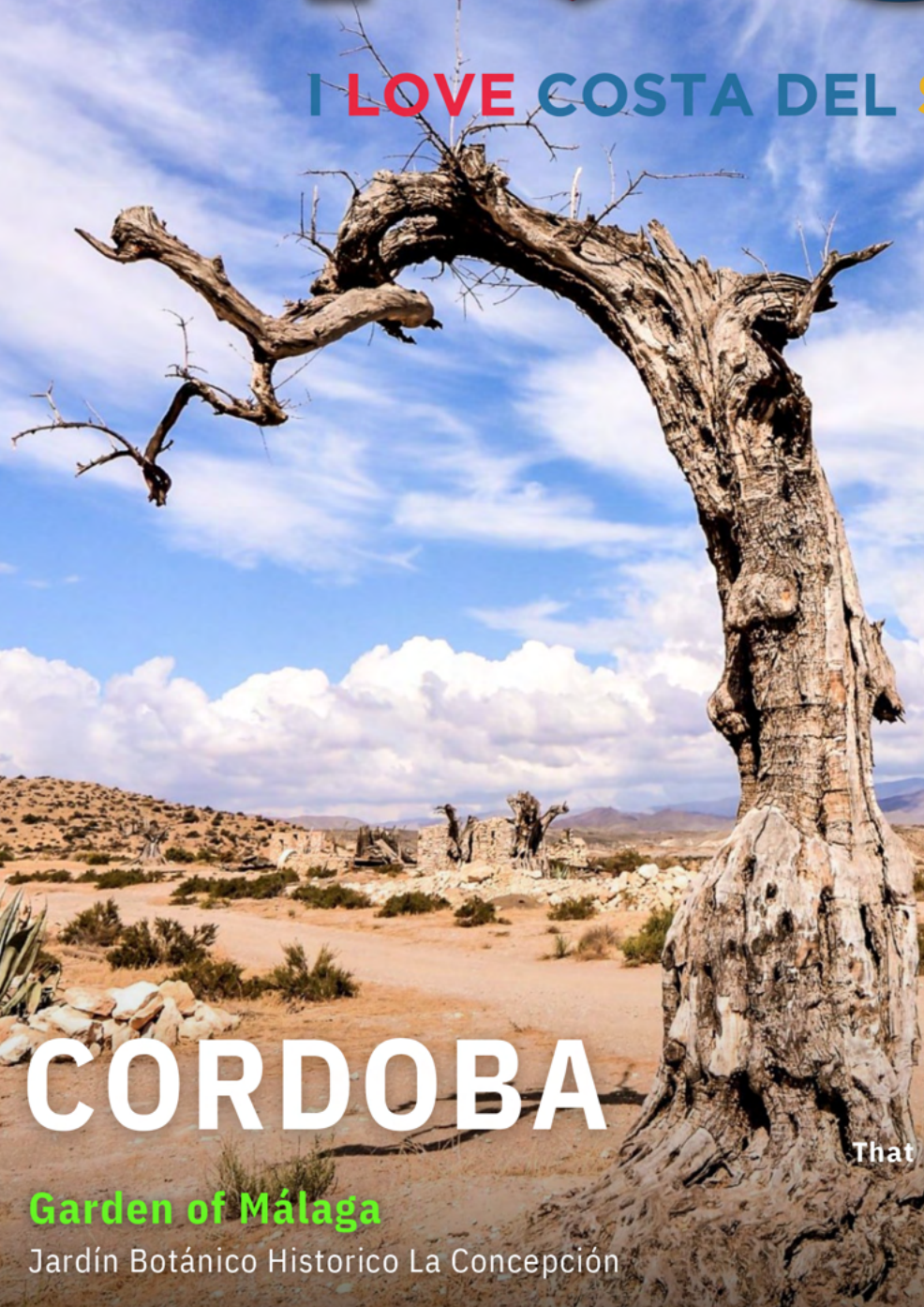


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MIGAS CON CHORIZO

Delicious Food



Journey to the Arab Heart of Andalusia

Photo credit: Mistervlad/Shutterstock



Córdoba is not simply another Spanish town to tick off your travel list - it is a genuine journey through time. This is a place where history still pulses through its narrow streets, whitewashed walls and colourful patios. It tells a story spanning thousands of years, shaped by cultural encounters, transformation and the lives of countless generations.

From its Roman foundations and the golden age of the Caliphate to modern-day life, Córdoba remains a city where diverse cultures intertwine with Spanish spirit, creating one of Andalusia's most iconic destinations. The city is also renowned for the fragrance of jasmine, one of Córdoba's most cherished symbols, which fills its streets and patios during the warm spring and summer evenings.



HISTORY OF CÓRDOBA

To understand present-day Córdoba, one must travel far beyond the era of tapas and patio festivals. The city's history dates back to ancient times, when it became a Roman colony in the 1st century BC. It soon developed into one of the most important administrative and economic centres in Hispania. The Romans transformed the city with forums, aqueducts, an amphitheatre, public baths and an extensive road network connecting it to the wider Empire.

Following the fall of the Roman Empire in the 5th century, Córdoba came under Visigothic rule. During this period, the first Christian churches were built, laying the foundations for the religious diversity that would later define the region. While both the Greeks and Romans left their mark on the city, its true flourishing began with the arrival of the Moors on the Iberian Peninsula.

In 929, Córdoba became the capital of the Caliphate of Córdoba, ushering in its celebrated Golden Age. At the time, it was one of the largest and most influential cities in Europe, with a population estimated at around half a million inhabitants. The Arabs brought not only remarkable architecture and artistic achievements but also advances in science, philosophy and literature. Around seventy libraries, a university and a medical school were established, while construction began on the Great Mosque.

This period of splendour lasted until 1002, and by 1031 the Caliphate had officially collapsed. The once-mighty capital of learning and culture fragmented into smaller rival kingdoms known as taifas. Gradually, Christian influences began to appear in the cityscape. Churches and monasteries rose alongside former mosques, creating a unique architectural blend.

In 1236, Córdoba was conquered by Christian forces led by King Ferdinand III of Castile. Under its new rulers, the city developed as a centre of trade, particularly in cloth and silk. Social life revolved around religion, churches and palaces. Patios, which had served as private spaces during the Caliphate period, evolved into important communal areas for residents.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, Córdoba gradually became a quieter provincial city, yet it retained the richness of its cultural heritage, especially its Arab legacy. Today, although it is no longer the capital of a great Caliphate, it continues to attract visitors from around the world who come to discover hidden patios, sample local cuisine and soak up its unique atmosphere. Festivals, fairs and everyday life give Córdoba a distinctive rhythm, ensuring that its history remains a living presence rather than a distant memory.



Mezquita-Catedral

The Mezquita-Catedral is undoubtedly Córdoba's most famous landmark. Owing to its extraordinary uniqueness, it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Construction of the mosque began in 786 during the Caliphate period, resulting in one of the most remarkable architectural creations in Europe. Over the centuries, the site has served as a pagan temple, a Christian basilica, a mosque and, finally, a cathedral.

Even the entrance courtyard, the Patio de los Naranjos, sets the tone for what awaits inside. Visitors step into an immense space filled with columns and horseshoe arches that create a truly unforgettable impression.

The Mezquita is particularly famous for its "forest of columns", of which around 850 still survive today.

From Monday to Saturday, between 8:30 am and 9:30 am, visitors can enter free of charge. Although access is limited to the columned hall, it is an excellent option for travellers exploring Córdoba on a budget. Full access begins at 10:00 am, with standard admission priced at €15.

Those wishing to enjoy a different perspective can climb the bell tower viewing platform. Entry costs an additional €4, but the panoramic views across the city more than justify the expense.

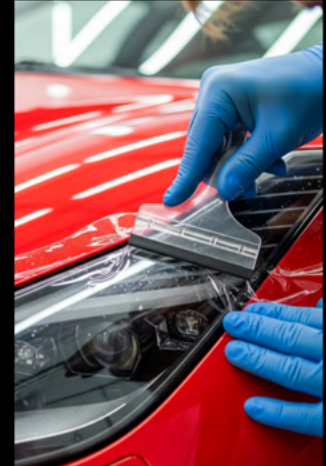




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R OMAN BRIDGE

Spanning the Guadalquivir River, the Roman Bridge was constructed in the 1st century BC during the reign of Emperor Augustus. Stretching more than 300 metres and featuring sixteen arches, it originally formed part of the Via Augusta, one of the longest roads of the ancient world, connecting Cádiz with France.

Until the 20th century, it remained the city's only bridge, serving as a vital link between Córdoba and the surrounding regions. For centuries, merchants, soldiers, pilgrims and travellers crossed here, making it one of the most important gateways to the city.

From here, visitors can enjoy spectacular views of Córdoba's old town, with the Mezquita rising prominently in the background. Arriving early allows for a peaceful stroll accompanied by the music of local street performers. The bridge is particularly enchanting at sunrise and sunset, when the warm Andalusian light bathes the ancient stonework in shades of gold and amber. As evening falls, the illuminated Mezquita and the reflections dancing on the waters of the Guadalquivir create one of the city's most memorable scenes.

The Roman Bridge is one of Córdoba's most photographed landmarks and a favourite gathering place for both locals and visitors. Walking across its centuries-old stones offers not only beautiful views but also a tangible connection to the city's rich past. It is easy to imagine the countless generations who have crossed this bridge over the last two thousand years, witnessing the rise and fall of empires, religions and cultures that have shaped Córdoba into the city it is today.



Photo credit: Marina Nozhko/Shutterstock

At the southern end of the bridge stands the Torre de la Calahorra. Once an Arab defensive fortress, it now houses an interactive museum dedicated to the coexistence of Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures in medieval Spain. Visitors can also climb to the top of the tower, where panoramic views stretch across the bridge, the river and Córdoba's historic skyline. Admission costs €4.50.

C ÓRDOBA'S PATIOS

No visit to Córdoba would be complete without exploring its famous patios. They are the city's most recognisable symbol and one of its greatest treasures.

During Muslim rule, patios became a key architectural feature. Through the use of fountains, shaded courtyards and lush vegetation, they created cool retreats from the intense Andalusian summer heat.

Over time, these spaces evolved into cultural symbols that attract thousands of visitors every year, particularly during the Fiesta de los Patios in May. Residents compete for the title of the city's most beautiful courtyard, decorating them with hundreds of colourful flowers, ceramic pots and traditional ornaments.

Rooted in centuries-old celebrations of spring, the festival has been recognised by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Many patios remain open throughout the year. The San Basilio district is home to some of the most celebrated examples, many of which have won awards in annual competitions. They can generally be visited between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. While some privately owned patios charge a small entrance fee, many remain free to enter.



For patio enthusiasts, the Palacio de Viana is an essential stop. Often referred to as the “museum of patios”, this magnificent Renaissance palace contains twelve unique courtyards, each with its own distinct style, atmosphere and character. Filled with fountains, orange trees, climbing plants and colourful flowers, they offer a fascinating insight into Córdoba's centuries-old courtyard tradition.

Visitors can explore the patios independently, while those wishing to delve deeper into the history of the palace can also visit its richly decorated interiors, home to valuable furniture, artwork and historical collections. Admission to the patios costs approximately €8.50, while a combined ticket including the palace interiors is available for around €12.

A LCÁZAR DE LOS REYES CRISTIANOS AND ITS GARDENS

Known as the Palace of the Christian Monarchs, the Alcázar was built in the 14th century and served as both a royal residence and a defensive fortress.

At present, the palace interiors are closed due to ongoing restoration work and are expected to reopen in December. Fortunately, the magnificent gardens more than compensate for the temporary closure, and entry is free of charge.

This tranquil oasis in the heart of bustling Córdoba features shaded walkways, fountains, colourful flowerbeds and elegant palm trees.

L A JUDERÍA

From the 10th to the 15th century, Córdoba's Jewish Quarter was home to a thriving Jewish community. Today, it is one of the city's most visited districts.

Its winding streets are lined with local shops, charming cafés and atmospheric restaurants.

Among its most photographed spots is the picturesque Calleja de las Flores. This narrow lane is framed by whitewashed walls overflowing with colourful flowers, climbing plants and traditional flowerpots. At its end lies a small courtyard offering a beautiful view of the Mezquita's bell tower.

Visitors interested in Jewish history should also visit the Synagogue, built in 1315 and one of only three surviving medieval synagogues in Spain.

Nearby stands a statue of Maimonides, one of the most influential Jewish philosophers and physicians of the Middle Ages, who was born in Córdoba. According to local tradition, touching the statue's foot brings good luck and ensures a future return to the city.



FROM TAPAS TO TAJINE – ARAB INFLUENCES IN CÓRDOBA'S CUISINE

Córdoba delights not only with its architecture and history but also with its rich culinary traditions.

Its narrow streets and flower-filled neighbourhoods conceal gastronomic treasures that reveal the profound influence of Arab culture on local cuisine. Here, traditional Spanish tapas coexist with tajines, couscous and desserts flavoured with almonds and honey.

Among the local specialities, visitors should not miss salmorejo, a creamy tomato soup served with egg and Serrano ham, or flamenquín, pork rolled around ham, coated and fried until golden.

For lunch, dishes inspired by Arab cooking offer a fragrant culinary journey through spices and slow-cooked flavours.

After a meal, there is no better place to unwind than a traditional salón de té (tea house). Here, visitors can sample authentic Arab teas infused with mint, hibiscus and aromatic spices. Every cup offers a different experience and transports guests deeper into the city's oriental atmosphere.



Photo credit: Dar1930/Shutterstock

CITY OF CONTRASTS

Córdoba is a city of contrasts, where European influences blend seamlessly with Arab traditions and where history meets modern life in the most beautiful way imaginable.

Walking through its streets feels like stepping back in time. Although Córdoba offers countless attractions, even a single day is enough to experience a taste of the Orient in the heart of Andalusia.

It is a city that surprises at every turn and leaves visitors with the impression that Arab inspiration and Spanish heritage have combined to create an unforgettable mosaic of flavours, aromas and sights.



Trip to the Town of Nerja

A cave home to the world's largest stalagnate, recognised by the Guinness World Records, is just one of the many natural wonders waiting to be discovered in the charming town of Nerja, located only 40 minutes from Málaga.

This delightful coastal town has plenty to offer, from its remarkable natural attractions, including caves and aqueducts, to breathtaking views and atmospheric streets full of Andalusian charm.

Should you decide to venture beneath the earth's surface and explore the cave with its impressive stalagnate, you will be amazed by the crystal-clear surroundings and extraordinary rock formations.

The stunning natural environment is truly awe-inspiring and represents a masterpiece of nature that is difficult to forget.





CAVE FROM ANCIENT TIMES

The Cueva de Nerja is a true natural masterpiece that transports visitors back to prehistoric times. Hidden within its vast chambers stands the world's tallest cave column, an astonishing geological formation reaching an impressive height of 32 metres – equivalent to approximately ten or eleven storeys.

Standing before this monumental wonder of nature, one immediately realises just how extraordinary and mysterious this place is. The rock formations take on countless shapes, while mineral deposits appear to flow down the walls, creating fantastical figures that often resemble the soaring architecture of Gothic cathedrals.

The cave is subtly yet beautifully illuminated, enhancing its unique atmosphere while ensuring the careful preservation of this remarkable natural heritage. Despite its immense scale, the cave maintains a constant temperature of around 19°C throughout the year, making exploration particularly comfortable.



The history of the cave stretches deep into the past. Archaeological discoveries indicate that humans inhabited the cave during the Palaeolithic era, when sunlight still reached parts of its interior. In addition to early human settlers, hyenas also used these caverns as shelter, adding yet another layer of mystery to this fascinating site.

In the centre of Nerja, visitors can explore the town's museum, which displays artefacts uncovered by archaeologists during excavations. Admission to both the cave and the museum is included in a single ticket.

The site also hosts a wide variety of cultural events throughout the year, including concerts, theatrical performances, children's workshops, poetry recitals and temporary exhibitions, further enhancing its appeal to visitors.

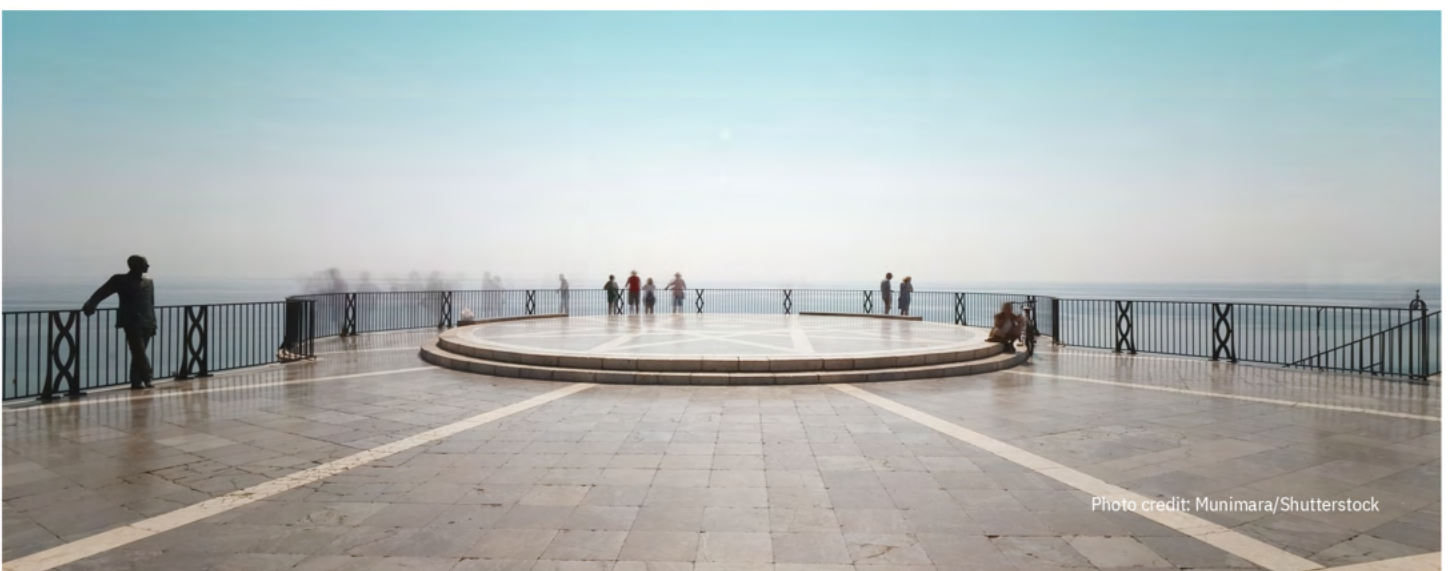


THE BALCONY OF EUROPE

After returning to the surface, you can immerse yourself in the charm of Nerja itself, where whitewashed Mediterranean houses captivate visitors with their timeless beauty. Decorative mosaics line the streets, while elegant white arches frame spectacular views of the Mediterranean Sea and the rugged coastline beyond. Narrow, romantic lanes paved with tiny stones create an atmosphere unlike anywhere else.

Strolling through these picturesque streets, one can easily feel as though they have stepped into the pages of a luxury travel brochure, surrounded by the idyllic spirit of a Mediterranean holiday.

To enjoy one of the finest views on the Costa del Sol, be sure to visit the famous Balcón de Europa. From this iconic viewpoint, visitors are rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of the sea, making it the perfect place to relax and appreciate the beauty of the surrounding landscape.





THE ÁGUILA AQUEDUCT

Also known as the Eagle Aqueduct, this remarkable structure is a fascinating example of nineteenth-century architecture, strongly influenced by the Mudéjar style associated with Spain's centuries of Islamic heritage. Built from distinctive red brick, the aqueduct impresses visitors with both its grandeur and refined design.

Its elegant arches and small central tower add character to the monument, which was originally constructed to supply water to a nearby sugar factory. Although designed for a practical purpose, the aqueduct stands out not only for its functionality but also for its aesthetic beauty and meticulous craftsmanship.

The most picturesque view of this historic landmark can be enjoyed from the road connecting Nerja with the Cueva de Nerja. Here, where history and landscape merge seamlessly, visitors can fully appreciate the harmony and beauty that the aqueduct brings to its surroundings.

Its light and graceful structure is a perfect example of the balance between practicality and elegance, making it a must-see destination for anyone with an interest in architecture, engineering or history.



The Spanish Desert That Became a Cinema Legend



Photo credit: RudiErnst/Shutterstock

In the heart of the province of Almería, between the mountain ranges of Sierra de Alhamilla and Sierra de los Filabres, lies the Tabernas Desert – one of the most extraordinary places in Spain. It is a landscape that could easily belong to Arizona or Nevada, yet it is located in southern Europe. Tabernas is the only true desert on the European mainland, where average annual rainfall does not exceed 250 mm and summer temperatures can soar to as high as 45°C.

Although it covers just around 280 square kilometres, its significance for culture, tourism and cinematography is far greater than its size would suggest. It was here that the legends of the spaghetti western were born, earning Almería the title of “Europe’s Hollywood”.



L AND OF SUNSHINE, WIND AND SILENCE

The Tabernas Desert is not an endless sea of sand. Instead, it is a rugged landscape of canyons, dry riverbeds known as ramblas, eroded hills and limestone outcrops that create fantastical formations resembling natural film sets. It was precisely this unique scenery that attracted the first filmmakers during the 1950s.

Tabernas quickly became the perfect location for directors seeking exotic landscapes without leaving Europe. Thanks to its exceptional light - characterised by sharp contrasts and crystal-clear air - films shot here acquire remarkable depth and vivid colours.

T HE GOLDEN AGE OF WESTERNS

The desert's cinematic story truly began in the 1960s when Italian director Sergio Leone recognised its enormous potential. It was here that he filmed his legendary spaghetti westerns starring Clint Eastwood, including *A Fistful of Dollars* (*Per un pugno di dollari*, 1964), *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* (*Il buono, il brutto, il cattivo*, 1966) and *A Fistful of Dynamite*.

Soon, Leone was joined by other filmmakers from Spain, Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom. The Tabernas Desert became the setting not only for westerns but also for major historical and adventure productions, including *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), *Cleopatra* (1963), *Patton* (1970) and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989).

In the 21st century, the landscapes of Tabernas returned to screens around the world through productions such as *Game of Thrones*, *Doctor Who*, *Black Mirror* and the film adaptation of *Assassin's Creed* starring Michael Fassbender. Today, the desert continues to host smaller film productions, commercials and music videos, remaining one of Europe's most recognisable filming locations.



Photo credit: Sopotnicki/Shutterstock

FROM FILM SETS TO THEME PARKS

Three former film sets have been transformed into fully fledged theme parks: **Oasys MiniHollywood, Fort Bravo Texas Hollywood and Western Leone.**

Oasys MiniHollywood is the largest and most developed of the three. In addition to its Wild West-style film town, visitors can explore a cinema museum, a wildlife reserve and even a water park.

Fort Bravo has retained a more authentic film-set atmosphere, with daily re-enactments of gunfights, stagecoach robberies and bank heists entertaining visitors throughout the year.

Western Leone, the smallest but equally fascinating site, was originally built for the production of *For a Few Dollars More*. To this day, it continues to serve filmmakers as a backdrop for new productions, preserving the spirit of the golden age of western cinema.



Photo Credit: Underworld/Shutterstock

Most visitors come to Tabernas because of its cinematic heritage, the desert has much more to offer. It is a true paradise for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike. The area forms part of the protected Paraje Natural del Desierto de Tabernas, home to more than 250 plant species and dozens of bird species, including eagles, owls and rare hawks.

One of the best ways to explore the desert is on a jeep safari or a guided hiking tour led by local experts who can explain the geology, climate and fascinating history of this unique landscape. Horse riding excursions, quad-bike adventures and even paragliding flights above the dramatic desert ravines are also popular among visitors.

For photographers, Tabernas is a dream destination. Morning mists, the golden glow of sunset and the surreal contrast between the deep blue sky and the arid terrain create scenes that look as though they have been lifted straight from a film.

Although the desert has faced increasing challenges in recent decades, including erosion and the effects of climate change, it continues to captivate visitors with its wild beauty and authenticity. It remains one of the few places in Europe where travellers can experience a genuine sense of adventure, the silence of vast open spaces and the magic of classic cinema.

For some, it is an iconic film set; for others, a living natural laboratory. For everyone who visits, however, Tabernas is a symbol of the Andalusian landscape at its most dramatic - a land of contrasts where the sun shines for more than 300 days a year.

The Tabernas Desert is far more than a cinematic relic. It is a place where nature and film history intertwine in a truly unique way. Just a few hours spent here are enough to make visitors feel like the heroes of a western and understand why Europe's very own Wild West was born in this remarkable corner of southern Spain.

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Jardín Botánico Histórico La Concepción

The Enchanted Garden of Málaga

There are places that simply invite admiration, and then there are places that seem to cast a spell over those who visit them. The Jardín Botánico Histórico La Concepción in Málaga undoubtedly belongs to the latter category. Cherished by locals and admired by travellers from around the world, this extraordinary garden combines natural beauty, history and tranquillity in a way that few places can match.

As visitors wander through its winding paths, surrounded by lush vegetation and hidden corners, they may feel as though they have stepped into another era. Time appears to slow down, while the pressures and distractions of the modern world quietly fade away. For anyone seeking a moment of peace, inspiration or simply an escape from everyday life, a visit to La Concepción is an experience not to be missed.

According to the garden's official website, La Concepción is the best-preserved natural subtropical landscape in Europe. Established in 1855, it is home to more than 50,000 plants representing around 3,000 species, varieties and cultivars. Tropical and subtropical plants flourish alongside native and endemic species, creating a botanical treasure unlike any other in Spain.

Visitors may explore the grounds independently or join a guided tour by prior arrangement. Practical information, including opening hours, ticket prices and directions, can be found on the garden's website.

Situated approximately six kilometres north of Málaga's city centre, the garden lies nestled among the hills that surround the city. It is easily accessible by public transport, with the number 20 bus stopping within walking distance of the entrance. Even the journey there is memorable. Colourful murals and street art brighten the dry riverbeds and walls at the foot of the hills, creating a striking contrast between nature and urban culture. It feels almost like a prelude to the peaceful world that awaits beyond the garden gates.



FROM AGRICULTURAL ESTATE TO BOTANICAL MASTERPIECE

The origins of La Concepción can be traced back to several agricultural estates located along the banks of the Guadalmedina River. In the mid-19th century, Jorge Loring Oyarzábal and his wife, Amalia Heredia Livermore, transformed the property into a spectacular botanical garden inspired by the parks and gardens they had admired during their honeymoon travels across Europe.

The project was developed with the assistance of the French gardener Jacinto Chamoussent, whose expertise in acclimatising exotic plant species proved invaluable. Together, they created a landscape that combined scientific curiosity, artistic vision and a passion for nature.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the estate was acquired by the Echevarría family, who expanded the grounds with additions such as the Palm Avenue and a panoramic viewpoint overlooking Málaga. In 1943, La Concepción was officially recognised as a garden of historical and artistic significance.

After a period of neglect, the City of Málaga purchased the estate and undertook extensive restoration works. The garden reopened to the public in 1994, allowing a new generation of visitors to discover one of Andalusia's most remarkable green spaces.



LIVING MUSEUM OF NATURE

The garden is divided into two distinct areas: the historic garden and the modern extension.

The historic section preserves the original design and covers approximately 3.5 hectares. Built on a hillside, it offers spectacular views over the surrounding landscape. Visitors encounter waterfalls, streams, fountains, elegant stairways, greenhouses and majestic trees at every turn. The collection of palms is among the finest in Europe and contributes greatly to the garden's distinctive character.

Particularly impressive is the extensive grove, home to century-old fig trees, araucarias, magnolias, pines, cypresses and cedars. Exotic species such as bamboo and water lilies add further diversity to the landscape.

One of the garden's most captivating features is a magnificent wisteria that cascades over a 19th-century cast-iron gazebo like a curtain of violet and green. During the flowering season, it creates one of the most enchanting scenes within the entire estate.

Surrounding the historic garden is the modern botanical extension, developed during the restoration works that began in 1990. Near the entrance, visitors will find collections of aquatic and prehistoric plants, a biodiversity-focused rock garden and a greenhouse filled with carnivorous plants, bromeliads and orchids.

Further sections showcase African plant collections, bamboo species and flora native to the Málaga region, including grapevines and olive trees. Elsewhere, visitors can explore displays of cacti, succulents, subtropical fruit trees and a historic lemon grove.



L EGCY IN STONE AND GREENERY

The beauty of La Concepción extends far beyond its botanical collections. Throughout the garden, architecture and sculpture blend seamlessly with nature, creating a setting that feels both elegant and timeless.

Among the most notable buildings is the **Museo Loringiano**, an elegant Doric-style pavilion hidden among shaded avenues. During the 19th century, it housed an important collection of Roman sculptures, mosaics and archaeological artefacts gathered by the Loring family from sites across Andalusia. Scholars and travellers from throughout Europe visited the museum, helping to establish La Concepción's international reputation.

Another architectural highlight is **La Casa Palacio**, the estate's magnificent residence. Built in 1855 and designed by German architect August Orth, the neoclassical villa occupies a commanding position overlooking the gardens, Málaga Cathedral and the Mediterranean Sea.

The residence once contained elegant reception rooms, a chapel and an impressive library filled with rare books and valuable manuscripts. It became a gathering place for aristocrats, politicians and artists, while its social events frequently featured in the newspapers of the day. Following extensive restoration between 2004 and 2007, the building remains one of the estate's most significant landmarks.

Among the garden's many artistic treasures, one sculpture in particular leaves a lasting impression. **La Ninfa**, created by the renowned sculptor Paco Durrio, depicts a nude female figure gently pouring water from a jug. Inspired by classical art, the figure appears lost in quiet contemplation, detached from the world around her.

Behind the sculpture rises a magnificent Mexican blue palm more than a century old. Its distinctive silvery-blue foliage makes it one of the most remarkable botanical specimens in the entire garden.

The combination of sculpture, vegetation, water and light creates an atmosphere that is both intimate and deeply moving. It is undoubtedly one of the most memorable corners of La Concepción.



La Concepción is capable of stirring genuine emotion. Standing on one of its hills and gazing across the landscape below, it is impossible not to feel that everything around you, the history of the estate, the exotic plants and the profound tranquillity of the garden-forms part of a single, harmonious story.

More than a botanical garden, La Concepción is a place where nature, heritage and memory coexist in perfect balance. It invites visitors not only to admire its beauty but also to slow down, reflect and reconnect with a quieter rhythm of life.

Long after leaving its gates behind, the atmosphere of this enchanted garden remains. It is that lingering sense of wonder that makes La Concepción one of Málaga's most unforgettable destinations.



Costa del Sol in 2026:

Straight Answers (with a Smile)

By Thomas Dahlsgaard Founder & CEO at &LIVING
Real Estate Company

There's a certain moment most people have when they arrive on the Costa del Sol. It usually involves sunlight, a deep breath, and the quiet thought:

"Why don't I live like this?"

For Thomas Dahlsgaard, that moment turned into a career. Today, as Founder and CEO of &LIVING, a boutique real estate agency, helping international buyers find not just a property, but a lifestyle that genuinely fits their aspirations

About Thomas

Originally from Denmark, Thomas brings a distinctly Scandinavian sense of straight-talking to the Costa del Sol property market, underpinned by more than 25 years' experience across finance and real estate. With a background in economics and investment banking in Denmark and internationally, he offers clients a clear, analytical approach when it comes to pricing, value and negotiation.

After a long-standing personal connection to Spain, having visited many times since childhood, it didn't take much persuasion for Thomas to relocate permanently to Marbella, where he combines financial insight with strong local market knowledge. In 2021, he founded &LIVING Marbella with a focus on delivering straightforward advice and strong results. The company works with an international clientele, including many fellow Danes and a growing number of Polish clients, guiding them from the first viewing to the final signature - and often well beyond.

"People don't come here just to buy square metres," he says. "They come to change how they live. My job is half advisor, half sounding board, and quite often, it's both at the same time."

Q: Is 2026 still a good time to buy?

"Yes, but it's a more measured market than a few years ago," Thomas says. "The Costa del Sol has definitely evolved into a more stable and mature property market. Prices have risen significantly in parts of Málaga Province, and demand remains high, particularly for well-located homes."

That trend is also reflected locally. According to recent data from Málaga province, average property prices on the Costa del Sol reached record levels in 2025, rising by approximately 13.8% year-on-year to around €3,842 per square metre, highlighting the continued strength of demand across the region. "What this means in practice," he adds, "is that good properties still sell, but buyers are more selective and take their time." (figures from Idealista's Málaga province housing price report) In short, 2026 is still a good time to buy, but it's a market that rewards careful selection rather than snap decisions.

"The best feedback I get," he says, "is when someone tells me: 'We should have done this sooner.'"

Q: Are prices going up or down?

"A bit of both," he explains. Prime areas such as Marbella, Estepona and Benahavís - often referred to as the Golden Triangle - are continuing to show resilience.

At the same time, not every property is benefiting equally. Listings that are priced above the market, or don't meet current buyer expectations, are taking longer to sell and often require reductions before attracting serious interest. "It's a healthier market now," Thomas says. "The best properties still move, but buyers have the time and leverage to question the price if it doesn't make sense."

Q: Why are Danish and Polish buyers so active right now?

Different backgrounds, but there's a clear pattern," Thomas says. Speaking from experience, Danish buyers are largely lifestyle-driven, looking for better weather, more time out

The international property market remains extremely buoyant. In particular, demand from Polish buyers has grown rapidly in recent years, supported by increasingly strong market data and continued investment across the Costa del Sol. Polish buyers completed over 15,500 property transactions in Spain over the past five years, including more than 4,100 purchases in 2025 alone, placing them among the top foreign buyers (figures published by the Warsaw Business Journal, February 2026). That growth reflects a broader shift: more Polish buyers are investing internationally, often balancing personal use with long-term value and stability outside their domestic market.

“In both cases,” Thomas adds, “people come for different reasons, but they end up using the property far more than they expected.”

Q: Is it still good value compared to Northern Europe?

“Without question.” Thomas points out that compared to cities like Copenhagen or Warsaw, buyers can often get significantly more for their money, particularly when you factor in outdoor space and climate. “You’re not just buying a home; you’re buying 320 days of sunshine and a healthier outdoor lifestyle.”

Q: What should buyers keep in mind when searching for property in Spain?

Thomas welcomes it when buyers connect emotionally with a property. “When people fall in love with a home quickly, it often means their instincts are pointing them in the right direction,” he says. “A beautiful terrace, natural light or a sea view can create an immediate feeling - and that emotional connection is important. At the same time, he believes that once that initial spark is there, the right due diligence should follow to support

the decision with confidence. He also encourages buyers to fully understand the costs involved in purchasing property in Spain, from taxes to community fees, so there are no surprises later on. “Social media is a great source of inspiration and can help people discover what they truly want in a property,” he says. “But professional guidance is what helps turn that inspiration into a smart investment. The right advice gives buyers clarity on everything from structural considerations to running costs and future developments.”

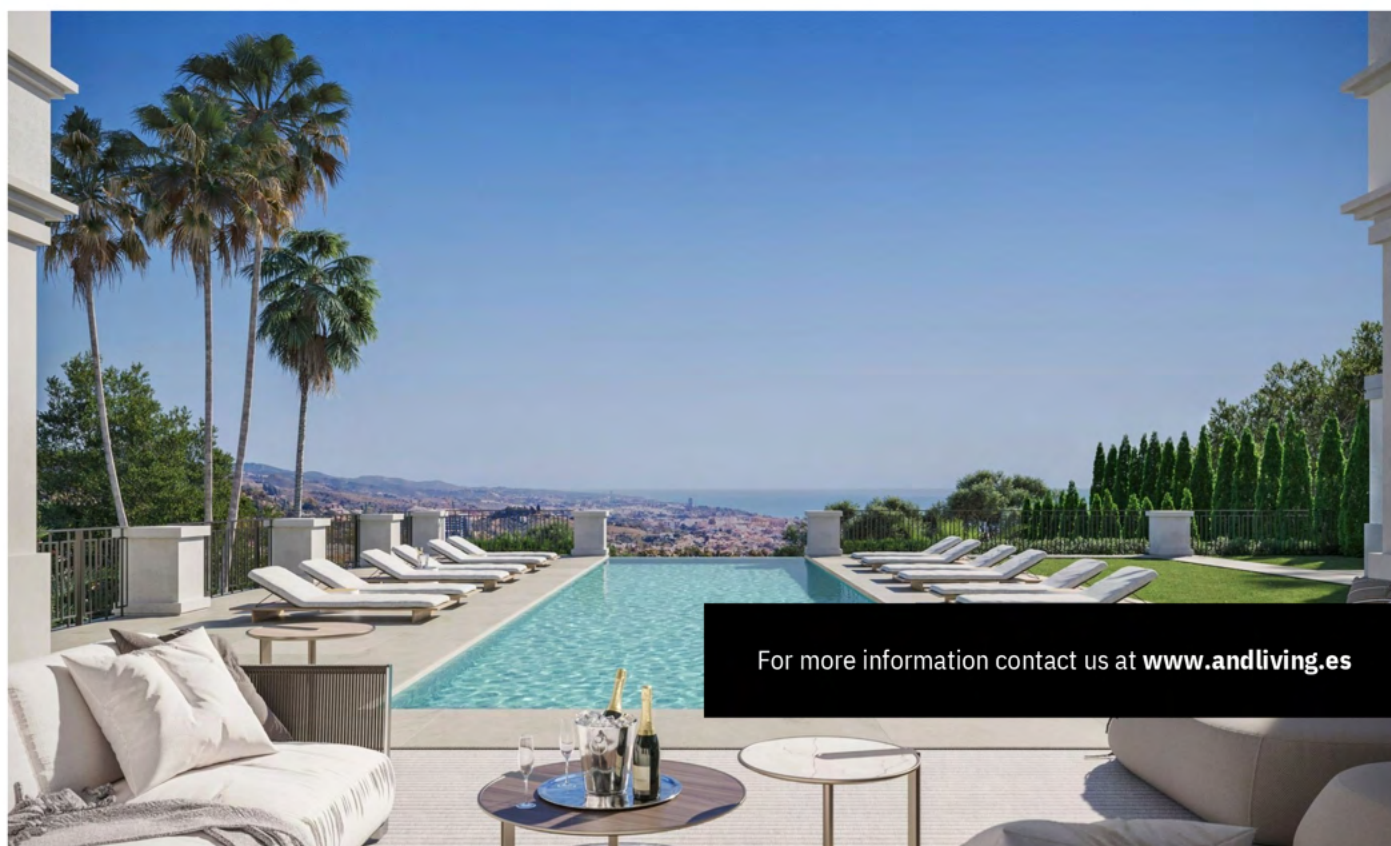
Q: What’s the outlook for the next few years?

It’s stable, supported by solid fundamentals rather than hype. Spain recorded over 700,000 home sales in 2025, the highest since before 2008, and foreign buyers made up around 14% of transactions, according to INE. Prices have continued to rise, largely because demand still exceeds supply.

On the Costa del Sol, that imbalance is even more pronounced. International buyers account for a significant share of purchases in Málaga province, helping keep prime areas resilient. The key issue going forward is supply. New construction is not keeping pace with demand, which supports prices even as the market normalises. In short, the expectation isn’t another boom, but a market that remains active, with steady demand and limited supply continuing to underpin values.

At &LIVING, the philosophy is simple: honest advice, longterm thinking and no pressure. For Thomas, success isn’t just about closing deals... it’s about seeing clients return, year after year, to a place that genuinely improves their quality of life.

“The best feedback I get,” he says, “is when someone tells me: “We should have done this sooner.”



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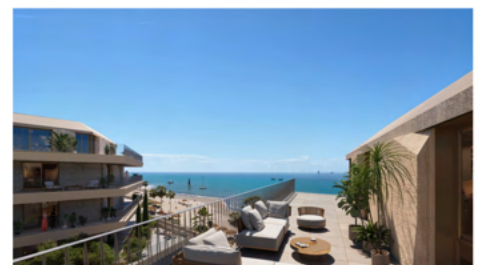


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LA Almazara - The Oil Museum



LA Almazara is a family-owned signature olive oil mill and museum located amongst twenty-six hectares of olive groves within the breathtaking Serrania de Ronda, just a few minutes drive from the spectacular gorge.

It was conceived and designed as a visitor centre offering an insight into the traditional Andalusian art of olive oil production. Designed by French architect Philippe Starck, it is an inspirational design featuring a terracotta cube shape with bull's horn and tail adornments, as well as a single eye which seemed to overlook and give approval to the whole of the process as well as admiring the Andalusian landscape and culture.

My girlfriend and our paws family recently visited this mill not quite knowing what to expect but immensely enjoyed a real immersive experience of the harvesting, production and storage of Spain's famous organic olive oil.

We began the visit at the main entrance where we were given audio phones which provided a very comprehensive audio account of the contents of the numerous glass cabinets displayed along the sloped walkway which led down to the auditorium. The displays showed historical methods of growing and harvesting the olives right through to the production and storage of the oil, showing examples of ancient storage vessels. The audio information also explained how nothing of the olive was wasted during the oil production as well as highlighting the health and beauty benefits of this wonderful, natural product.

Visitors with more time can take advantage of the full ninety-minute tour taking in the olive groves and learning about the different species used as well as learning how to identify the age of olive trees, some of which can be several hundred years old.

When entering the huge auditorium, we were pleasantly surprised to find a restaurant and bar, a wonderfully stocked shop and an oil tasting area, all overlooking the spectacular views across the valley. There was also a fascinating view through the glass floor of the auditorium to the working mill below. Although not in use at the time of our visit the aroma and atmosphere of the working mill was still there to experience. Take the time to take the short walk into the olive groves and take a look at the design of the building from there. It really does, in a strange way, blend into its surroundings.

The whole experience was to my mind unique, wonderfully organised and one not to be missed. The olive oil produced at the mill can be tasted and purchased with full knowledge of its history and lineage and it is also full of flavour and delicious.

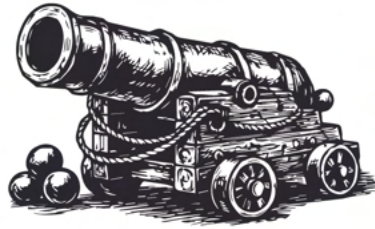
I can happily recommend a visit to LA Almazara. It was thoroughly enjoyed by both myself and my partner and of course the dogs, who were also made very welcome.

almazaralaorganic.com

Art. & Photography: Matt Johnson



PALOMA ALTA - Tarifa, Cádiz



From Defending the Strait of Gibraltar to Becoming a Unique Tourist Attraction

The aim of the initiative is to transform one of the most valuable remnants of Spain's coastal defence system - the last operational coastal artillery battery in the world - into a modern cultural centre and museum. In this way, guns that never fired a shot in combat will become even more valuable historical artefacts.

Photo credit: Agnes Inversiones



T HE STRATEGIC LOCATION OF PALOMA ALTA

The Paloma Alta complex is located on the shores of the Strait of Gibraltar, approximately 13 kilometres west of Tarifa. It is a site of exceptional strategic and historical significance, documenting both the evolution of twentieth-century military technology and Spain's role in controlling one of the world's most important maritime routes.

The battery stands on the southern slopes of the Sierra San Bartolomé at an elevation of 190 metres above sea level. From Paloma Alta, visitors enjoy panoramic views of the Strait of Gibraltar - the Roman Fretum Gaditanum - which links the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean. The location was carefully chosen: from here, military forces could monitor vessel movements through one of the most strategically sensitive waterways on the planet.



For thousands of years, the region has served as a vital communications and trading hub. Nearby lie the ruins of the Roman city of Baelo Claudia, a settlement renowned throughout the Empire for exporting garum, the famous fermented fish sauce. Together with Tingis (Tangier), Carteia (Algeciras), Septem Frates (Ceuta) and Tamuda (Tétouan), it formed part of the so-called "Circle of the Strait" - a network of cities that controlled trade and navigation through this crucial maritime corridor.

Photo credit: Agnes Inversiones





NEW LIFE FOR HISTORIC GUNS - THE COASTAL ARTILLERY MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTRE

The revitalisation of the former Paloma Alta battery is being led by the Conde de Gazola Association. The project aims not only to preserve this unique military heritage but also to create a modern centre for culture, education and research.

Planned developments include:

- the restoration and conservation of the artillery positions;
- the creation of a Coastal Artillery Museum;
- the establishment of a centre for conferences, exhibitions and residency programmes;
- the development of a Centre for Historical and Environmental Research, working in collaboration with ornithologists and ecologists.

An integral part of the project is the expansion of educational and tourism facilities, ensuring that the site becomes accessible to a wide range of visitors.

THE LAST BASTION OF TRADITION - A TRIBUTE TO ARTILLERYMEN AND THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY

Paloma Alta represents a unique technological heritage, combining precision engineering, electrical technology and early electronics. It is intended to honour the service of thousands of young artillerymen who, for decades, guarded the gateway between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, as well as between continents. Spain a nation with approximately 8,000 kilometres of coastline and two strategically important archipelagos - maintained permanent coastal artillery forces for longer than almost any other country.

Paloma Alta is set to become a living laboratory of technological history, where visitors will be able to trace the evolution of military technology: from the powerful mechanical guns of the 1920s, through electromechanical fire-control calculators, to the fully electronic command and control systems of the late twentieth century.

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Water Sports on the Costa del Sol: Adventure, Sunshine and the Mediterranean Sea

Costa del Sol has become one of Europe's premier destinations for water sports. Stretching along the southern coast of Andalusia, this famous region offers something for everyone, from adrenaline-fuelled adventures to relaxing activities suitable for the whole family.

Whether you are an experienced athlete or a first-time visitor looking to try something new, the Costa del Sol provides ideal conditions to enjoy the sea throughout most of the year.



Kitesurfing and Windsurfing: Riding the Andalusian Winds

For many water sports enthusiasts, the Costa del Sol begins where the Mediterranean meets the Atlantic. The nearby town of Tarifa, often referred to as Europe's kitesurfing capital, attracts thousands of riders every year thanks to its powerful and consistent winds.

The famous Levante and Poniente winds create perfect conditions for both kitesurfing and windsurfing. Numerous schools offer lessons for beginners, while experienced riders can enjoy some of the best wind conditions found anywhere in Europe.

Even outside Tarifa, several beaches along the Costa del Sol provide excellent opportunities for wind-powered sports, particularly during spring and autumn.



Paddleboarding Along the Coast

Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) has become one of the fastest-growing water sports on the Costa del Sol. Its popularity lies in its simplicity: all you need is a board, a paddle and calm water.

Early mornings are particularly magical. As the sun rises over the Mediterranean, paddleboarders glide across glass-like waters while enjoying spectacular views of the coastline, mountains and beaches.

Popular locations include Málaga, Estepona and Nerja, where sheltered bays provide ideal conditions for both beginners and experienced paddlers.



COSTA DEL SOL
MÁLAGA



Kayaking Through Hidden Coves and Sea Caves

The eastern section of the Costa del Sol is famous for its dramatic coastline and crystal-clear waters. Around Nerja and the protected Maro-Cerro Gordo Natural Area, kayaking has become one of the most popular outdoor activities.

Visitors can paddle through sea caves, discover secluded beaches and explore impressive cliffs that are inaccessible by land. Guided excursions often combine kayaking with swimming and snorkelling, creating a memorable day on the water.

Diving into the Mediterranean

Beneath the surface, the Costa del Sol reveals a fascinating underwater world. Divers can explore rocky reefs, underwater caves and a variety of Mediterranean marine life.

Areas around Benalmádena, Fuengirola and Almuñécar are particularly popular among diving enthusiasts. During the summer and autumn months, visibility can exceed twenty metres, providing excellent conditions for underwater photography and exploration.

For those who prefer to stay closer to the surface, snorkelling offers an accessible way to observe colourful fish, octopuses and unique marine habitats.



Photo credit: Solomon Thompson/Shutterstock

Jet Ski Adventures and Parasailing

For visitors seeking speed and excitement, jet skiing remains one of the most popular activities along the coast. Rental centres operate in most major tourist destinations, including Marbella, Puerto Banús, Fuengirola and Benalmádena.

Parasailing is another favourite. Suspended high above the Mediterranean while being towed by a speedboat, participants enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the coastline, mountains and luxury marinas.

These activities require little previous experience, making them ideal for holidaymakers looking for a quick adrenaline rush.



COSTA DEL SOL
MÁLAGA

Sailing and Catamaran Cruises

The Costa del Sol's modern marinas make it a paradise for sailing enthusiasts. Whether aboard a luxury yacht, a traditional sailing boat or a spacious catamaran, exploring the coastline from the sea offers a completely different perspective.

Many excursions include opportunities to swim in open water, watch dolphins and enjoy spectacular sunsets over the Mediterranean.

The marinas of Marbella, Benalmádena and Sotogrande are among the most prestigious sailing hubs in southern Spain.



Water Sports for the Whole Family

Not every water activity needs to be extreme. Families visiting the Costa del Sol can choose from pedal boats, banana boat rides, inflatable water parks and beginner-friendly sailing lessons.

Many beach clubs and sports centres offer specialised programmes for children, allowing younger visitors to develop confidence in the water while having fun in a safe environment.

Year-Round Destination

One of the Costa del Sol's greatest advantages is its climate. While many European destinations experience long winters, southern Spain enjoys mild temperatures throughout the year.

Even during the cooler months, sunny days and pleasant sea conditions often make outdoor activities possible. This extended season has helped establish the Costa del Sol as one of Europe's leading destinations for water sports tourism.

From peaceful paddleboarding at sunrise to high-speed jet ski adventures and world-class kitesurfing, the Costa del Sol offers an extraordinary variety of experiences on the water. Combined with its beautiful scenery, excellent infrastructure and year-round sunshine, it is easy to understand why so many visitors return to the region year after year in search of their next adventure.



Starlite Occident Marbella Celebrates 15 Years as a Global Live Music Destination



Photo credit: Starlite Festival

Another spectacular summer as Starlite Occident Marbella returns for its 15th anniversary edition in 2026. From 19 June to 29 August, the renowned boutique festival will once again transform the Costa del Sol into one of Europe's premier destinations for live music, entertainment, and luxury experiences.

What began fifteen years ago as an ambitious idea to turn a natural quarry into a unique concert venue has evolved into an internationally recognised cultural phenomenon. Today, Starlite Occident Marbella stands out for its intimate atmosphere, high-end production, and exclusive setting, attracting music lovers, celebrities, business leaders, and international visitors from across the globe.

Unlike traditional large-scale festivals, Starlite has built its reputation on proximity between artists and audiences. The combination of world-class performances, exceptional acoustics, and the dramatic surroundings of the Nagüeles quarry has redefined the live concert experience and helped position Marbella among the world's top summer cultural destinations.

The anniversary edition promises one of the strongest line-ups in the festival's history. Confirmed artists already include Lenny Kravitz, Maroon 5, Juan Luis Guerra, John Legend, Deep Purple, Alan Parsons, Rick Astley, Diana Krall, Jean-Michel Jarre, Gloria Trevi, Ozuna, Yandel, Manuel Turizo, Danny Ocean, Grupo Frontera, Elvis Crespo, Gente de Zona, Rosario, Vanesa Martín, Malú, and Love of Lesbian, with more names expected to be announced in the coming months.

Starlite offers far more than concerts alone. Designed as a full 360-degree experience, the festival combines gastronomy, nightlife, and live entertainment in a single venue. Visitors can enjoy a wide variety of culinary concepts, ranging from Nikkei and Italian cuisine to Mexican specialities and gourmet finger food, all integrated into the natural architecture of the quarry.

At the heart of the festival lies the open-air Auditorium, widely recognised for its intimate atmosphere and exceptional sound quality. With limited capacity and state-of-the-art audio technology, the venue allows audiences to experience performances in a uniquely personal way rarely found at major international festivals.



Photo credit: Starlite Festival

Once the concerts end, the experience continues at the Starlite Night Club, where exclusive parties, DJs, and late-night performances keep the energy alive until dawn. This combination of music, luxury hospitality, and nightlife has made Starlite one of Europe's most innovative entertainment concepts.

Beyond its cultural impact, the festival also plays a major role in Marbella's economy. Each summer, Starlite attracts more than 350,000 attendees, nearly half of whom are international visitors. According to organisers, the festival generates an estimated €315 million annually for the Spanish economy while supporting thousands of jobs across tourism, hospitality, retail, and transport sectors.

Social responsibility remains another key pillar of the project. Through the Starlite Foundation, the organisation supports educational, charitable, and social initiatives, while the annual Starlite Gala has become one of Spain's most prominent charity events, bringing together artists, entrepreneurs, and public figures in support of important causes.

With ticket sales already underway and global interest continuing to grow, the 2026 edition is expected to become one of the most memorable chapters in the festival's history.

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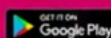
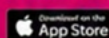
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Chorizo: The King of Spanish Sausages

Photo Credit: DronG/Shutterstock

There is no more recognisable aroma in Spain than the scent of chorizo sizzling in a frying pan, drifting from a small tavern in the early morning. This intensely red sausage, fragrant with paprika and garlic, is much more than just a cured meat - it is a symbol of Spanish cuisine, deeply rooted in history, tradition, and the country's rich regional diversity.

F ROM MONASTERIES TO TAPAS BARS

The first references to chorizo date back to the 16th century, when Spanish monks began preserving meat with paprika (pimentón), a spice brought from the New World. It was paprika that gave the sausage its distinctive colour and flavour, ranging from mild and sweet to pleasantly spicy. Over time, chorizo became an essential part of the Spanish table, and today its many varieties can be found in every region of the country, from the Pyrenees to the Canary Islands.

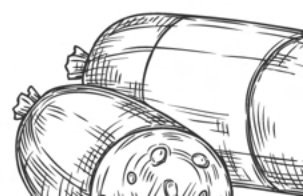
T HE MAIN TYPES OF CHORIZO

Although many foreigners think of chorizo simply as a “**Spanish sausage**”, Spaniards know that there are several different varieties, distinguished by their curing process and culinary use.

- **Chorizo curado:** Fully cured and dried, ready to eat cold. Perfect as a tapa, snack, or served with bread.
- **Chorizo semicurado:** Partially cured, suitable for eating cold or adding to various dishes.
- **Chorizo fresco:** Fresh and uncooked, requiring cooking before consumption; ideal for grilling or frying.
- **Chorizo oreado:** Lightly air-dried while still retaining its softness, commonly used in cooking.

R EGIONAL MOSAIC OF FLAVOURS

Every region of Spain has its own approach to chorizo. The type of meat used, the curing process, and the seasoning all depend on local traditions and climatic conditions. The following are some of the country's most distinctive and celebrated varieties.





♥ Chorizo de Pamplona (Navarre)

Spicy, coarsely ground sausage with an intense red colour. Popular throughout Spain and often served in thick slices as a tapa.

🌶️ Chorizo Riojano (La Rioja)

Protected by IGP status. Richly flavoured with garlic and Pimentón de la Vera paprika. Considered one of Spain's most classic chorizo varieties.

🔥 Chorizo de León (Castile and León)

Smoked and characterised by a pronounced smoky aroma. Ideal for stews and one-pot dishes, particularly the traditional cocido leonés.

🍷 Chorizo de Cantimpalos (Segovia)

Produced according to the same recipe since the 17th century. Semi-fat, well seasoned and perfectly balanced in flavour. It holds protected DOP status.

🌿 Chorizo Gallego (Galicia)

Shorter and thicker than most other varieties, often displaying a slight tang due to natural fermentation. Commonly added to soups and bean dishes.

🔥 Chorizo Extremeño (Extremadura)

Distinguished by the use of smoked Pimentón de la Vera. It offers a deep smoky aroma with a gentle spicy finish.

🍷 Chorizo Asturiano (Asturias)

Smoked over beechwood. An essential ingredient in the famous fabada asturiana, a hearty white bean stew.

🌴 Chorizo Canario (Canary Islands)

Soft, creamy and spreadable. Known as chorizo de untar, it is typically served on bread or toast.

🔍 Chistorra (Navarre and the Basque Country)

A thin, long sausage seasoned generously with paprika. Usually fried or grilled and often served with eggs and potatoes.

☀️ Sobrasada (Balearic Islands)

A soft cured sausage matured in Mallorca's humid climate. It has a creamy texture and a mild, slightly sweet flavour.

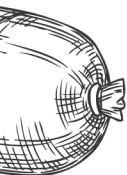
S

HAPE AND FORM MATTER

Depending on the region and its intended use, chorizo comes in a variety of shapes and formats. The most common is the sarta, a horseshoe-shaped sausage frequently found in shops throughout Spain. Cular is a thicker variety cured in natural casings and prized for its rich flavour and texture. Meanwhile, chorizo de untar is a soft, spreadable version, particularly typical of the islands, where it is often enjoyed on bread or toast.

It is difficult to imagine Spanish cuisine without chorizo. In Asturias, it is added to the rich and hearty fabada asturiana; in León, it forms an essential part of the substantial cocido leonés; while in southern Spain it is often grilled, allowing its fat to mingle with the smoke and create an unmistakable aroma. In Andalusia, revueltos with chorizo and eggs are particularly popular, while in Madrid, bocadillos filled with chistorra are a favourite late-night snack after lively fiestas. It is no coincidence that chorizo is often described as the heart of Spanish flavour. Regardless of the region, there is always a way to celebrate its rich and aromatic presence.

Chorizo is more than just a culinary product - it is part of Spain's cultural identity. Each variety tells the story of its region: the smoky curing traditions of León, the sun-ripened paprika of Extremadura, and the distinctive island flavours of the Balearics. Whether served in an elegant restaurant or a rustic village tavern, chorizo remains a symbol of simplicity, tradition, and national pride.





As the New Year begins, Easy Computers Spain sends warm wishes to the entire community. May 2026 bring you seamless connections, smooth-running devices and plenty of digital peace of mind!

This family-run company, led by **Lucy and her sister Charlotte**, has built its reputation on trust, clarity and a genuine commitment to helping the local community navigate an ever-changing digital world.

For more than 25 years, Easy Computers Spain has been the go-to tech partner for residents and businesses in San Pedro de Alcántara and Marbella.

Whether it's a laptop that suddenly refuses to start, a phone with a cracked screen or a home network in need of stabilisation, customers know they can rely on fast diagnostics, fair pricing and friendly service. The team handles everything from computer, tablet and phone repairs to business networks and CCTV installations, offering equipment and accessories from top brands such as Apple, Samsung, Lenovo, ASUS and more.

Easy Computers is also known for its exceptional customer care - something frequently praised in reviews that highlight the team's professionalism, technical skill and personal approach.

You'll find the shop at Centro Comercial La Colonia in San Pedro de Alcántara, open Monday to Friday, 10:00 - 18:00.

The team is always happy to help - and ready to make your tech life easier in the year ahead.



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Migas con Chorizo

Photo credit: Francisco Javier Miranda/Shutterstock

If there is one dish that defines the heart of Spanish rural cooking, it is Migas. Originally born out of necessity, this “peasant” dish was the perfect way to make use of stale bread that would otherwise go to waste.

Traditionally served in the regions of La Mancha and Extremadura, Migas are essentially fried breadcrumbs sautéed with garlic, olive oil, and flavorful ingredients like chorizo, bacon, and sometimes grapes or peppers. The contrast between the crispy, golden bread and the spicy, smoky chorizo makes this dish an irresistible, savory treat. Simple, hearty, and deeply satisfying,

INGREDIENTS

- **Bread:** 1 loaf of rustic white bread (stale, at least 1 day old), cut into small cubes
- **Chorizo:** 200g (7 oz) of semi-cured Spanish chorizo, sliced or diced
- **Bacon/Pancetta:** 100g (3.5 oz), diced (optional, but highly recommended)
- **Garlic:** 4–5 cloves, smashed (keep the skins on for extra flavor)
- **Olive Oil:** 4–5 tablespoons of high-quality Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- **Water:** A small splash (to moisten the bread)
- **Smoked Paprika (Pimentón):** 1 teaspoon (optional, for extra color and depth)
- **Salt:** To taste
- **Garnish:** Fresh grapes or a fried egg on top (classic traditional pairings)

METHOD

Prepare the Bread:

Place the bread cubes in a large bowl. Sprinkle them very lightly with a few tablespoons of water (don't soak them; they should just feel slightly damp). Cover with a clean kitchen towel and let them rest for at least 30 minutes to soften.

Crisp the Meats:

In a large, wide skillet, add the olive oil over medium heat. Add the smashed garlic cloves and fry until golden brown. Remove the garlic and set aside. In the same oil, add the chorizo and bacon/pancetta. Fry until the fat has rendered and the chorizo is crispy. Remove the meat with a slotted spoon and keep it warm, leaving the flavorful oil in the pan.

Fry the “Migas”:

Add the dampened bread cubes to the skillet with the chorizo-infused oil. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring constantly. This is the most important step: you want the bread to toast, turn golden brown, and become slightly crunchy on the outside while staying tender inside. This will take about 10–15 minutes.

Combine:

Once the bread is perfectly toasted, add the chorizo, bacon, and the reserved garlic cloves back into the pan. If using, sprinkle in the smoked paprika. Toss everything together for another 2–3 minutes so the flavors meld.

Serve:

Serve immediately while hot. It is traditional to serve Migas with a handful of fresh green grapes on the side to provide a sweet, refreshing contrast to the salty chorizo.

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