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costa del sol
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Golf holidays & experiences



COSTA DEL SOL

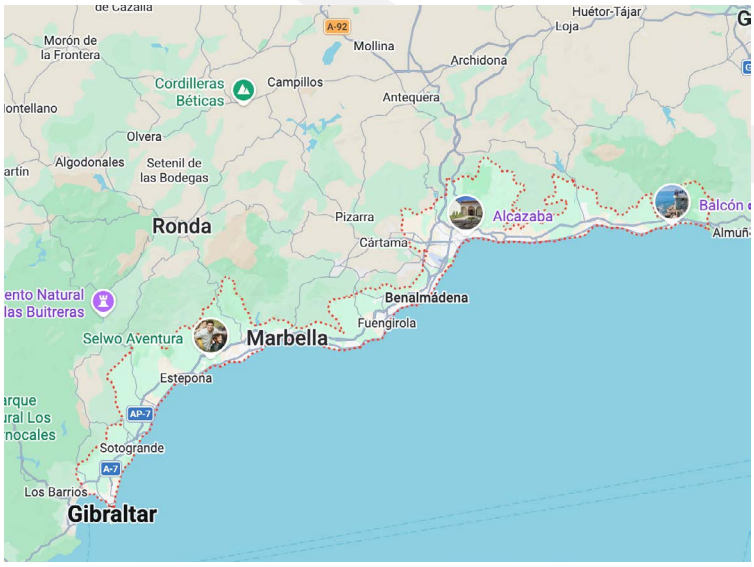
The Ultimate Golf Travel Guide



From the lively beaches of Málaga to the refined resorts of Sotogrande, the Costa del Sol pairs a remarkable variety of golf with the colour and character of southern Spain. More than 70 courses are spread across the region, taking in coastal fairways, mountain backdrops and elegant resort layouts.

That variety is a big part of the appeal. You could spend one day tackling a strategic championship course, the next playing through pine-covered hills, then finish the trip with a long lunch by the sea. Add easy access through Málaga Airport, a choice of hotels for different styles and budgets, and a mild climate that makes golf possible throughout the year, and it's easy to see why the region is known as the "Costa del Golf."

Find your Costa del Sol



The region stretches from the province of Málaga to Cádiz's Mediterranean coast, so choosing where to stay can shape the feel of your holiday. Some golfers want to be close to restaurants, beaches and nightlife; others prefer a peaceful resort with golf on the doorstep. Here are some of the areas to help you find your perfect fit.

Marbella and Andalucía: golf with a lively edge

Marbella is a great choice for golfers who want to pair their rounds with beaches, restaurants and evenings out. Explore the flower-lined streets of the old town, stroll along the seafront or head to Puerto Banús for its marina, shops and lively bars.

The area also offers excellent golf. Santa Clara Golf Marbella is a welcoming parkland course with wide fairways, thoughtful water features and views towards the Mediterranean. Cabopino Golf brings a more dramatic challenge, with elevated tees, tree-lined holes and striking views over the coast. For a varied round with a scenic setting, Higuerón Marbella Golf Resort offers a rewarding test among the hills, with the sea and surrounding countryside as a backdrop.

With different course styles close to Marbella's hotels, beaches and restaurants, this area makes it easy to build a golf break that suits the group if they are looking to mix golf with evenings out. Choose a hotel near the old town or Puerto Banús for a more social stay, or look just beyond the centre for a quieter retreat with easier access to the courses.


Santa Clara Golf Course


Cabopino Golf Course


Marbella Golf & Country Club

Sotogrande and San Roque: a quieter, more exclusive experience

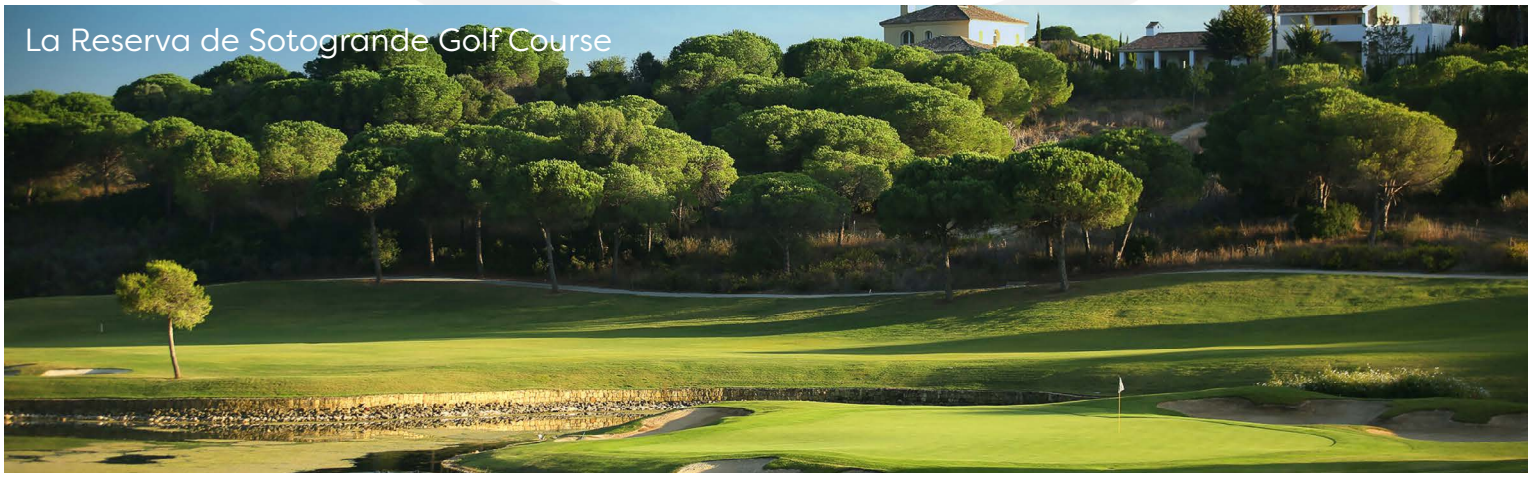
At the western end of the Costa del Sol, Sotogrande and San Roque have a more spacious, resort-led feel. Cork oak landscapes, private estates and polo grounds set the scene, while some of Europe's most celebrated courses are within reach.

Real Club Valderrama is a landmark for serious golfers. It hosted the 1997 Ryder Cup, the first to be held in continental Europe, and is known for its tree-lined holes and demanding strategy. Tee times for visitors are limited, so it pays to plan ahead. Nearby, Real Club de Golf Sotogrande is a distinguished Robert Trent Jones Sr. design, while La Reserva combines a modern championship layout with elevated views across the countryside.

This area suits golfers who want a special round or two, a peaceful resort atmosphere and time to enjoy the hotel as much as the surrounding coast.


Alto Club Golf & Academy


San Roque Golf & Resort


La Reserva de Sotogrande Golf Course

Casares, Estepona and Benahavís: resort golf and big views

Between Marbella and Sotogrande, this part of the coast brings together mountain scenery, luxury resorts and a wide choice of courses. It's a good option for golfers who want a comfortable hotel base with several layouts nearby.


Santa Clara Golf Course

Finca Cortesín, in Casares, is one of the region's most prestigious golf experiences and hosted the 2023 Solheim Cup. The resort course is known for its polished presentation and expansive setting. Further east, Villa Padierna offers three courses with different challenges, while La Quinta's three nine-hole loops give groups flexibility when planning their rounds.

Away from the fairways, Estepona offers a charming old town, a flower-filled central square and a long seafront promenade. Benahavís, set among the hills, is well known for its restaurants and makes a pleasant change of scene for an evening out.


La Hacienda Links Golf Resort



La Cala - America course



Torrequebrada Golf Course

Mijas and Fuengirola: variety, value and easy-going evenings

Mijas is a practical base for golfers who want a choice of courses and a relaxed holiday atmosphere. La Cala Golf Resort has three 18-hole courses set in the hills, alongside accommodation and leisure facilities. Chaparral Golf Club winds through Mediterranean woodland, while Santana offers a more open setting on the site of a former avocado plantation.

Nearby Fuengirola and Benalmádena bring beaches, promenades and plenty of places to eat and drink. This stretch can work particularly well for groups who want to combine golf with time by the sea and a good choice of evenings out.

Courses to put on your shortlists

With over 70 courses to choose from, it helps to build your itinerary around the kind of golf your group enjoys. Some layouts demand careful positioning and a steady short game; others reward confident driving and offer wide views over the coast or hills.

- Real Club Valderrama**:** a memorable, strategic test with a major-championship pedigree. Book early, as visitor availability is restricted.

- Los Naranjos Golf Club**:** a popular Golf Valley choice, known for its attractive layout and welcoming clubhouse atmosphere.

- Finca Cortesín**:** a high-end resort course with a major-event history and meticulous presentation.

• **La Cala Golf Resort:** three different 18-hole courses make it easy to add variety without changing hotel.

• **Chaparral Golf Club:** a distinctive woodland course near the coast, with a different feel from the more open resort layouts.

• **La Hacienda Links Golf Resort:** a coastal setting that brings sea views and a breezy change of pace to a multi-course itinerary.


Chaparral Golf Club

The best combination depends on your group's ability, preferred pace and where you're staying. Keeping courses within a sensible driving distance can make the week more relaxing, especially if you're planning several rounds.

More than a golf holiday

One of the Costa del Sol's greatest strengths is how much there is to enjoy between rounds. You can spend the morning on the course, then choose between a swim, a museum visit, a long lunch or an evening in a historic town.

Málaga: culture, history and tapas

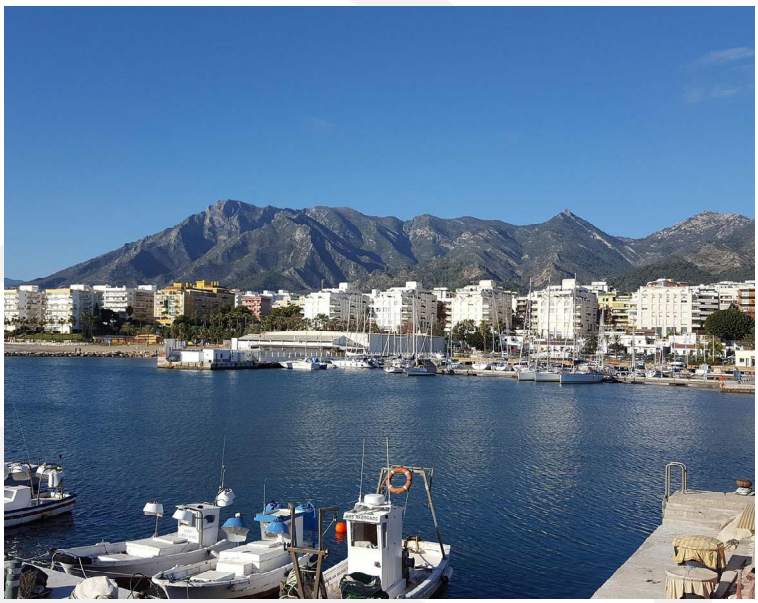


Málaga is more than the region's airport city. Its historic centre is a rewarding place to explore, with the Alcazaba fortress, Gibralfaro Castle and Málaga Cathedral all within reach of lively streets and café terraces. Art lovers can visit the Picasso Museum, while the Mercado Central de Atarazanas is a good stop for local produce, tapas and a feel for everyday Málaga.

Marbella Old Town: a slower side to the resort

A short walk through Marbella's old town reveals a very different side to the city's beach clubs and marina. Whitewashed lanes lead to Plaza de los Naranjos, where orange trees, cafés and historic façades make an easy setting for a relaxed afternoon.







Ronda and the white villages

For a day away from the coast, head inland to Ronda. The town sits above the dramatic El Tajo gorge, crossed by the striking Puente Nuevo bridge and an excellent place for wine tasting fue to its 20 local wineries. The surrounding white villages, including Parauta and Gaucín, offer narrow streets, traditional architecture and

mountain views that make the drive part of the experience.

Coast, countryside and active adventures

The region also suits travellers who like to keep moving. Walk the dramatic boardwalk route at Caminito del Rey, explore the Nerja caves or follow coastal paths and promenades on foot or by bike. Boat trips and catamaran cruises offer another way to enjoy the Mediterranean, while beach clubs and traditional seaside bars provide an easier place to unwind.

A Taste of Costa del Sol

Food is an important part of the Costa del Sol experience, whether you're stopping for a casual lunch or making an evening of it at any of the region's twelve Michelin star restaurants. Along the coast, look out for espetos de sardinas: sardines cooked over an open fire on the beach. They're a local favourite, often enjoyed with a simple salad and a sea view.



Other regional dishes to try include ajoblanco, a chilled almond and garlic soup; porra antequerana, a thicker tomato-based cold soup; and fritura malagueña, a selection of lightly fried seafood. For a relaxed meal, look for a chiringuito, a traditional beachside restaurant, or explore the tapas bars and market stalls in Málaga's old town.



Those after a more polished evening can find fine dining in Marbella and at several of the region's luxury resorts. Inland, the hills around Ronda offer opportunities to pair local wines with a scenic drive and a long lunch.

Where to stay on the Costa del Sol

Choosing where to stay can shape the whole feel of your golf holiday. The coast has everything from affordable hotels close to the beach and town centre to five-star resorts with golf, spa facilities and restaurants on site. Golf Escapes offers options across the main golfing areas, so you can choose a base that suits your group, budget and plans for time off the course.

Budget-friendly stays

A more affordable hotel can leave extra room in the budget for additional rounds, meals out or exploring the coast. Fuengirola is a popular base, with a long beachfront promenade lined with bars, restaurants and shops, plus easy access to nearby courses. **Hotel El Puerto** overlooks the sea and has a rooftop pool bar, while **Hotel Elba Estepona** offers another option for golfers looking to stay in the western part of the coast.


Hotel El Puerto


Gran Hotel Elba Estepona

For a budget-conscious golf break, consider travelling outside the busiest spring and autumn periods, and compare the cost of a central hotel with a resort stay. A hotel near restaurants and transport can help keep evenings simple; a golf resort may offer more convenience if you plan to spend most of your time on site.

Luxury hotels

If your golf holiday calls for a little extra indulgence, the Costa del Sol has hotels where the experience continues long after the final putt. SO/ Sotogrande Spa & Golf Resort sits in an elevated setting with sea and mountain views, a spa and 27 holes at Almenara Golf on site. Its position also makes it a strong base for exploring other celebrated courses in the western Costa del Sol.


SO/ Sotogrande Spa & Golf Resort


Anantara Villa Padierna

Around Marbella, Anantara Villa Padierna Palace brings together elegant accommodation and access to three golf courses. The Westin La Quinta Golf Resort & Spa is another appealing choice for golfers looking for a resort setting near Marbella, with golf close at hand.


Anantara Villa Padierna

Golf resorts

Resort hotels make it easy to build your days around golf, with courses, practice facilities and leisure amenities close by. La Cala Resort is a standout choice for golfers who want variety without changing base: it has three 18-hole courses, accommodation and a spa in the Mijas hills. The resort setting is quieter than the main coastal towns, while beaches and Fuengirola are within reach for a change of scene.

Set in the hills above Marbella, The Westin La Quinta Golf Resort & Spa combines comfortable accommodation and spa facilities with 27 holes of golf on site. It's a convenient base for a golf-focused stay, with Marbella's restaurants, beaches and nightlife also within reach.



La Cala Resort



The Westin La Quinta Golf Resort

Other Costa del Sol stays to consider

For a different mix of locations and hotel styles, these are other options available in the region that are popular with golfers:

MS Aguamarina Suites Hotel: In Torremolinos, with indoor and outdoor pools, a gym, sauna and spa. A good fit for golfers who want a coastal base with facilities for relaxing between rounds.

Gran Hotel Costa del Sol: In Mijas Costa, with a pool, pool bar, chill-out terrace and games room. Its setting offers a relaxed base for combining golf with time by the beach.

Holiday Polynesia Hotel: A Benalmádena option, well placed for exploring the marina, local nightlife and courses along this stretch of coast.

When to visit Costa del Sol

Season	What to Expect	A good fit for
Spring	Warm, bright days and comfortable conditions for walking the course. Demand rises as the main golf season gets underway	Groups planning a full week of golf and outdoor dining
Summer	Long, sunny days and hotter afternoons. Early tee times help you enjoy your round before the heat builds	Golfers who want to combine morning golf with beach or pool time
Autumn	Pleasant playing weather and warm evenings, with the coast still full of life	Groups looking for a balance of golf, dining and sightseeing
Winter	Mild conditions compared with the UK and northern Europe, though cooler days and some rain are possible	A winter break with golf, sunshine and a change of scene

Spring and autumn are especially popular for golf, so early planning is useful if you have particular courses or tee times in mind. In summer, consider starting early and leaving the hottest part of the day for lunch, a swim or a siesta. Winter can be a welcome escape from colder weather at home, but it's sensible to pack a light layer for cooler mornings and evenings.

Planning your golf holiday to Costa del Sol

Getting there: Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport is the main gateway for much of the region, with easy onward access to Málaga, Fuengirola, Mijas and Marbella. Sotogrande and San Roque are farther west; Gibraltar Airport may be convenient for some itineraries, depending on flights and your final destination.

Getting around: A hire car or arranged transfers can make it easier to reach courses, particularly if you're staying outside a town centre or playing several different venues. Check the distance between your hotel and each course before confirming the itinerary.

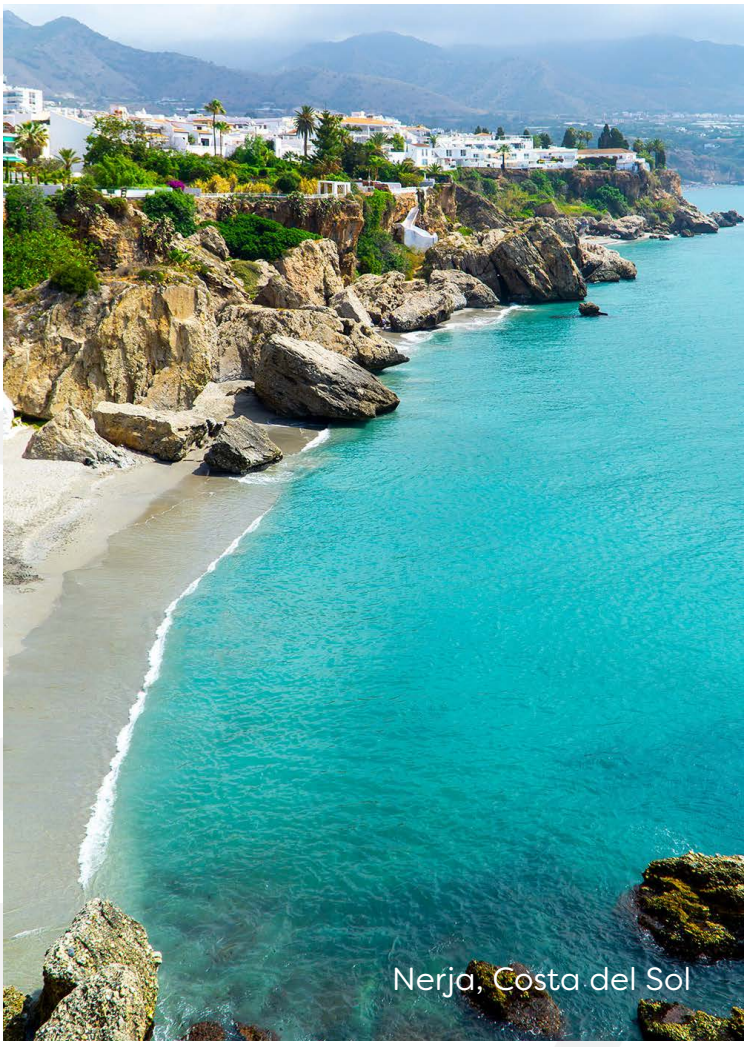
Choosing a base: If evenings out matter, look at Marbella, Fuengirola or Benalmádena. For a quieter resort stay, consider Mijas, Benahavís or Sotogrande. A golf resort with courses on-site can simplify the week, while a coastal hotel gives you more choice of restaurants and activities.

Planning your rounds: Mix course styles and keep travel times manageable. A well-paced itinerary leaves room to enjoy the destination as well as the golf. Some courses are hilly, so check the layout and buggy availability when booking, especially if anyone in your group would prefer not to walk.



Make it your Costa del Sol

The Costa del Sol works for first-time visitors and returning golfers alike. You can build a week around bucket-list courses, settle into a resort with golf close by, or combine a few rounds with beaches, Spanish food and days out in the surroundings towns.


Nerja, Costa del Sol

With so much choice across the region, the best holiday is the one shaped around your group: the right base, the right mix of courses and enough time to enjoy everything between the first tee and the final putt. Explore Costa del Sol golf holidays with us and speak to one of our travel specialists about putting your itinerary together.


Fuengirola, Costa del Sol













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