

Benalmádena

Málaga · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Benalmádena is a resort town on the Costa del Sol, about 15 km southwest of Málaga, in three parts: the old hill village (Benalmádena Pueblo), the beach district of Benalmádena Costa, and the marina at Puerto Marina.

It is known for a mix of attractions: a Buddhist stupa, a monument-castle built by a single man, a cable car to the hilltop, a butterfly house and a marine park.

When to visit

The beach season is May to October. July and August are hot and crowded. Spring and autumn are good for sightseeing and hiking. Winters are mild.

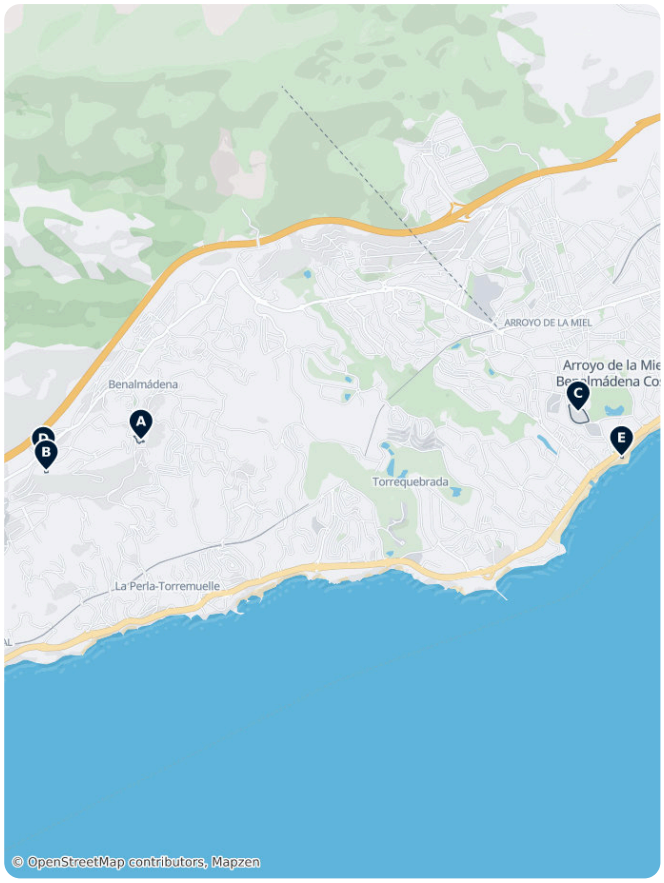
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	15° / 19°	9° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 20°	9° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Great Great for sightseeing	17° / 22°	11° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 23°	12° / 9°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 27°	15° / 11°	22 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 30°	18° / 15°	26 sunny days · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	29° / 33°	21° / 18°	28 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for the beach	29° / 33°	21° / 19°	27 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
September	Great Great for the beach	26° / 30°	19° / 16°	20 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 27°	16° / 13°	Calm winds
November	Great Great for sightseeing	18° / 23°	12° / 8°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 19°	10° / 6°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Castillo Monumento Colomares is a monument built in the 1980s in honour of Columbus, shaped like a castle, in the Benalmádena Pueblo area.
- B Enlightenment Stupa is the largest Buddhist stupa in Europe, a place of worship open to visitors.
- C Selwo Marina is a marine park with dolphins and sea lions.
- D Mariposario de Benalmádena is a tropical butterfly house in the Pueblo area.
- E Castillo Bil-Bil is a small 20th-century castle in Moorish style on the seafront.
- The Teleférico Benalmádena is a cable car to the top of Monte Calamorro.
- The Museo Precolombino is a museum of pre-Columbian art in the Pueblo.
- The Parque de la Paloma is a park with a lake near the coast.



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What to experience

- Visit the stupa and the Colomares monument.
- Ride the cable car to the top of Calamorro.
- Walk around the marina in the evening.
- Spend a family day at Selwo Marina or the butterfly house.

Day trips

- A Málaga (about 15 km): the capital of the Costa del Sol.
- B Mijas (about 12 km): a white village on a hill.
- C Antequera (about 70 km): dolmens and churches.
- D Ronda (about 100 km): a gorge town.
- E Marbella (about 45 km): an old town and marina.



Where to explore

Other places nearby:

- **Costa del Sol**: Málaga, Torremolinos, Mijas and Marbella.

Getting there

- **By air**: Málaga airport is about 10 km away.
- **By train**: The Cercanías C1 line stops at Benalmádena Costa and Arroyo de la Miel, with links to Málaga and Fuengirola. Book long-distance trains on Renfe.
- **By bus**: Buses link the three areas and Málaga.
- **By car**: The A-7 and AP-7 motorways.

Getting around

- **On foot**: Each part is walkable, but the Pueblo is up on a hill, and distances between parts are long.
- **Train and bus**: The C1 line serves the coast, and buses link the Pueblo.
- **Cable car**: Goes up the mountain.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Each area is walkable, but the parts of the town are far apart and hilly.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Hills and busy coastal roads make cycling less comfortable.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Optional. A car is useful to reach the Stupa and the Pueblo.
- **Parking**: Paid car parks, with limited space in summer.
- **Roads**: The A-7 coastal road is busy in summer.

Food & drink

The food is Andalusian coastal cuisine. Try *espetos* (grilled sardines), *pescaíto frito*, *gazpachuelo* and *boquerones*. The marina has restaurants of many cuisines, and the Pueblo has Spanish tapas bars.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

Benalmádena is a safe resort. Use sun protection in summer and take care of belongings at crowded beaches and the marina.

History

The hill village has Moorish roots, and a watchtower, the Torre Bermeja, stands on the coast. The town stayed small until the tourist boom of the 1960s, when the coast was built up.

The Colomares monument was built from 1987 by the doctor Esteban Martín, and the Stupa was inaugurated in 2003.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

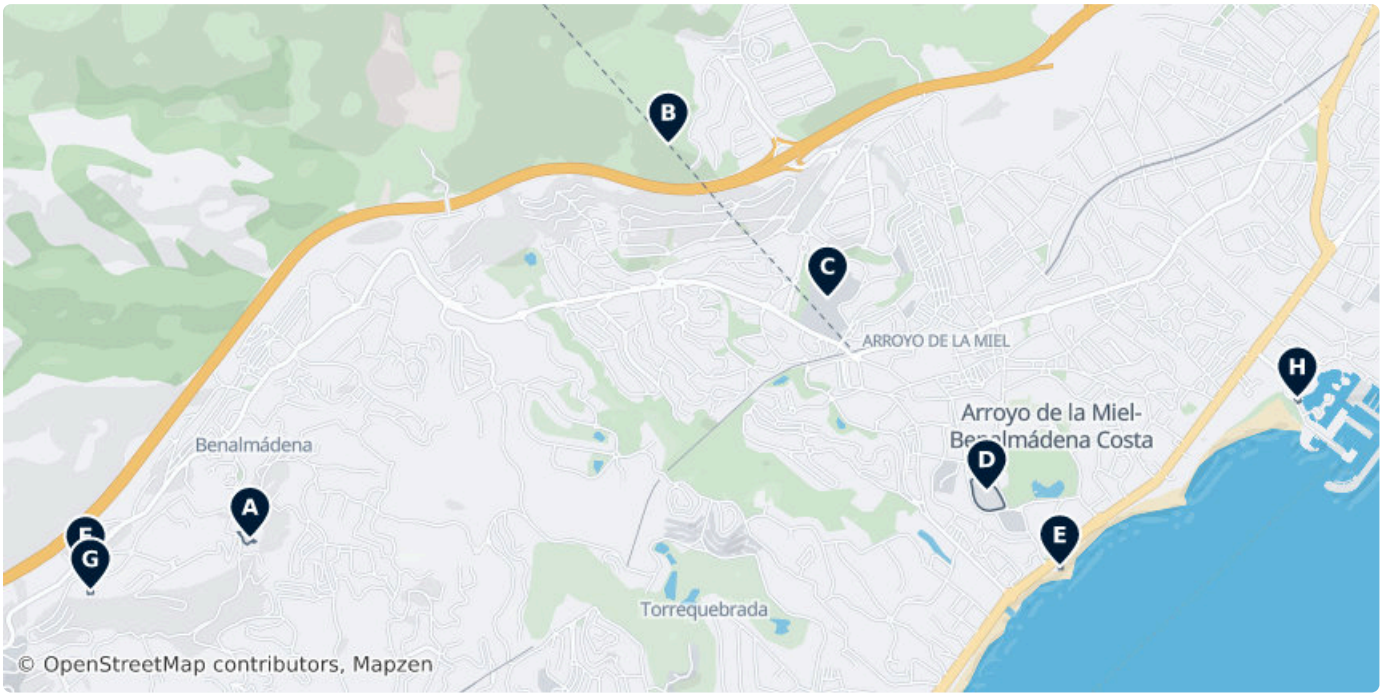
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Benalmádena's Essential Treasures

Benalmádena features diverse landmarks ranging from the Colomares Castle, a monument dedicated to Christopher Columbus, to the Enlightenment Stupa, the largest Buddhist stupa in Europe. The Teleférico cable car ascends to Mount Calamorro for panoramic coastal views, while Selwo Marina and Sea Life provide marine wildlife exhibits. Architectural highlights include the Neo-Arabic Bil-Bil Castle and the Mariposario greenhouse, home to 1,500 butterflies. Family-oriented sites include Tivoli World amusement park and the central Playa de Bil Bil.





A Colomares Castle

Castillo de Colomares is a monument, in the form of a castle, dedicated to the life and adventures of Christopher Columbus.

Finca la Carraca, Ctra. Costa del Sol, s/n, 29631 Benalmádena, Málaga, Spain (36.59043, -4.57248)

castillomonumentocolo... , +34 678034011;+34 952448821



B Teleférico de Benalmádena

This cable car connects the coast to the summit of Mount Calamorro at 771 meters. The peak offers panoramic views of the Costa del Sol and hosts regular birds of prey displays.

29630, Spain (36.60770, -4.54964)

telefericobenalmadena.com



C Tivoli World

Amusement park with thrill rides, roller-coasters and water attractions. Plenty of things to do for the whole day.

Av del Tívoli, 29639 Benalmádena, Spain (36.60097, -4.54096)

tivoli.net, +34 952 57 70 16



D Selwo Marina

Selwo Marina is a small marine park located in Benalmádena, Spain. It is the only park of its kind in Andalusia.

Parque de la Paloma s/n, 29630 Benalmádena, Spain (36.59251, -4.53228)

selwomarina.es, +34 902 19 04 82

E Bil-Bil Castle

Built in distinctive revival style, this mansion is a popular place to have your wedding. There are exhibitions sometimes here, too.

Avenida de Antonio Machado, Arroyo de la Miel 29639, Spain (36.58921, -4.52828)

+34 952 44 43 28



F Benalmadena Butterfly Park

The tropical park boasts more than 1500 butterfly species living in its greenhouse. Come here and you'll be amazed.

Calle Muerdago s/n, 29639 Benalmádena, Spain (36.58915, -4.58145)

Mo–Su 10:00–19:30

mariposariodebenalmadena.com, +34 951 21 11 96



G Benalmádena Stupa

Europe's largest stupa. The white symbol of enlightenment was built here to promote Buddhist teachings.

El Retamar, 29639 Benalmádena, Spain
(36.58816, -4.58119)

Mo	Closed
Tu–Su	10:00–14:00, 16:00–18:30

stupabenalmadena.org/en/, +34 606 27 53 75

H Sea Life

Located at the marina, this interactive aquarium features an underwater tunnel and exhibits housing sharks, rays, and seahorses.

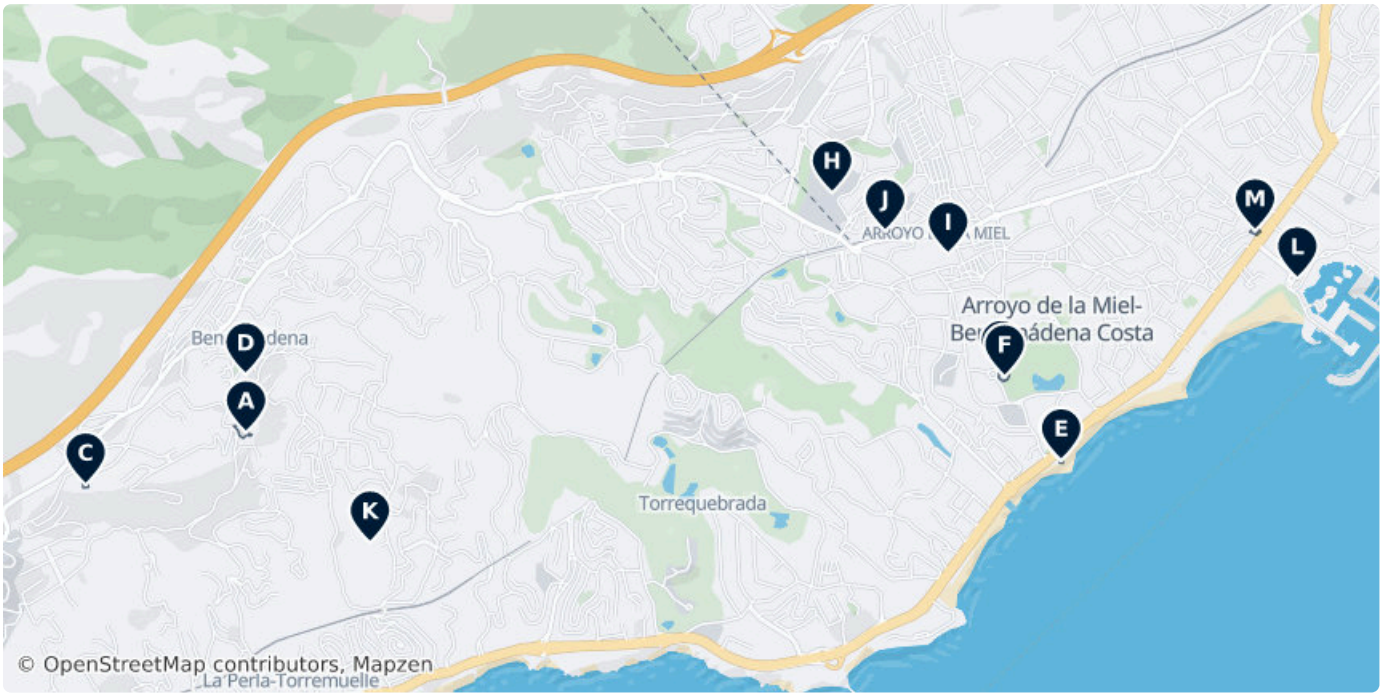
Benalmádena (36.59657, -4.51532)

Mo–Su	11:00–19:00

visitsealife.com/benalmadena, +34 952 56 01 50

Cultural and Architectural Gems

This collection showcases Benalmádena's architectural diversity, ranging from the 14th-century Torre Vigía Bermeja watchtower to the 20th-century Castillo de Colomares, an eclectic monument dedicated to Christopher Columbus. The list features the Enlightenment Stupa, Europe's largest Buddhist monument, alongside the Neo-Moorish Castillo Bil-Bil. Cultural venues include several open-air auditoriums and the historic Iglesia de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, the town's oldest church, offering a look into the region's religious and artistic heritage.





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stupabenalmadena.org/en/, +34 606 27 53 75

D Iglesia de Santo Domingo de Guzmán

The town's oldest church, situated in Benalmádena Pueblo. Originally built in the 17th century, it stands on a cliffside next to a scenic viewpoint overlooking the coast.

16 Calle de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Benalmádena 29630, Spain (36.59295, -4.57251)

E Castillo Bil-Bil

A red-walled Neo-Moorish mansion built in 1934. It currently serves as a public cultural center hosting art exhibitions and civil wedding ceremonies.

(36.58921, -4.52823)

F Auditorio Municipal de Benalmádena

An open-air amphitheater located within Paloma Park, used for concerts, dance performances, and summer festivals.

Camino Prado, s/n, 29631 Benalmádena
(36.59287, -4.53130)

torremolinosbenalmadena.com/servicio..., +34 952 328 100

G Auditorio de Benalmadena

Outdoor performance venue hosting various cultural events and theatrical productions throughout the summer season.

(Unnamed Road), Arroyo de la Miel 29639, Spain
(36.59305, -4.53150)

auditoriobenalmadena.com

H Teatro Tivoli

Performance venue located within the Tivoli World site, known for hosting concerts and variety shows.

(36.60087, -4.54067)

I Plaza de la Tribuna

A traditional Andalusian square in the heart of the old town, characterized by whitewashed buildings and typical regional architecture.

(36.59821, -4.53437)

J Plaza Pueblo Sol

A central public square in the Arroyo de la Miel district, serving as a local gathering point near commercial areas.

(36.59920, -4.53779)

K Ermita

A small traditional chapel used for local religious devotion.

23M Calle de Monte Caballo, Torremuelle 29630, Spain (36.58563, -4.56575)

L Torre Vigía Bermeja

A 14th-century defensive watchtower of Islamic origin, built as part of the coastal fortification system to guard against pirate incursions.

5F Avenida de Alay, Arroyo de la Miel 29639, Spain (36.59713, -4.51541)

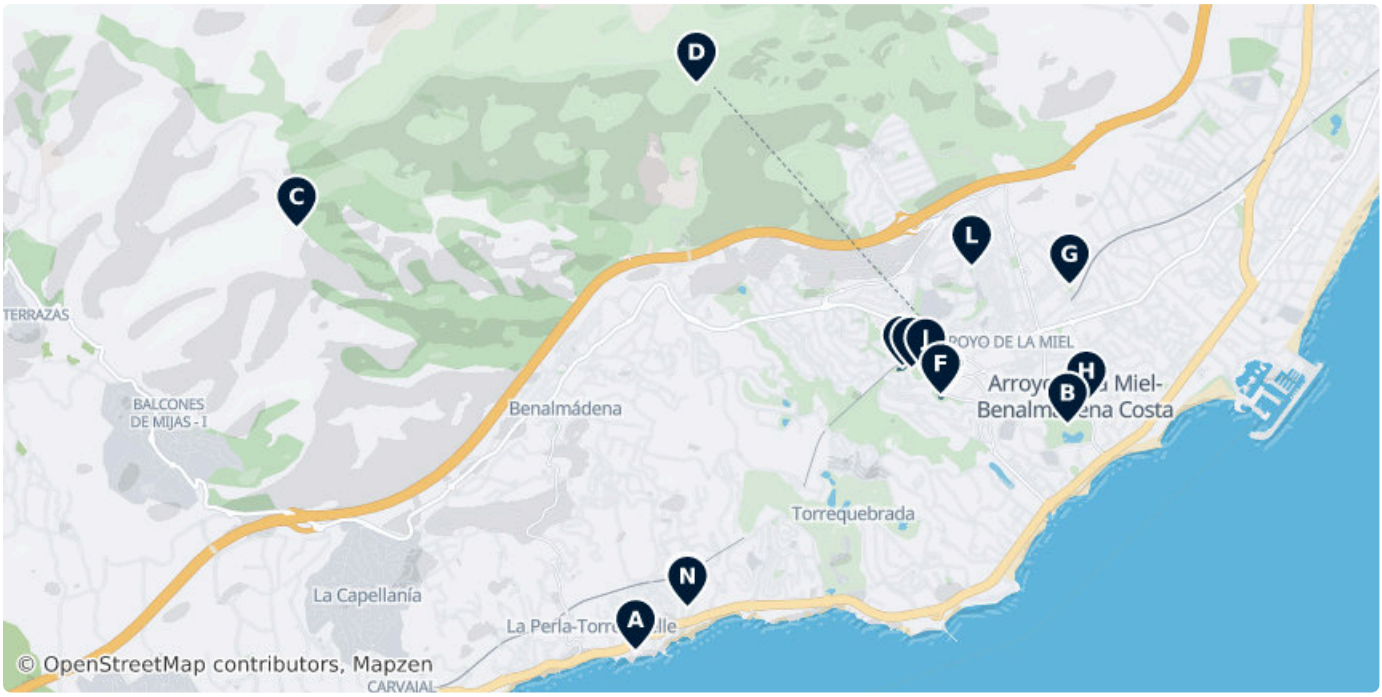
M 24 hour square

Formally known as Plaza Solymar, this pedestrian area serves as a central hub for commercial activity and nightlife near the coast.

14E Avenida de Imperio Argentina, Arroyo de la Miel 29639, Spain (36.59922, -4.51771)

Parks and Nature Escapes

Benalmádena's natural landscape ranges from the coastal TorreMuelle watchtower to the 771-meter summit of Monte Calamorro. This collection features the expansive Parque de la Paloma, known for its free-roaming wildlife and cactus collection, alongside high-altitude viewpoints like Cerro del Moro. Visitors can explore a series of interconnected green spaces including the Mare Nostrum ponds and various local playgrounds, offering a mix of Mediterranean flora, coastal panoramas, and quiet recreational areas.





A Torre Vigía (TorreMuelle)

A 16th-century coastal watchtower providing elevated views of the Mediterranean shoreline and the surrounding residential district.

7 Calle Bellavista, Torremuelle 29630, Spain (36.57792, -4.56628)

B Parque de la Paloma

Large urban green space featuring a central lake, an extensive cactus garden, and free-roaming peacocks, rabbits, and chickens.

Avenida del Parque, 29630 Arroyo de la Miel-Benalmádena Costa, Spain (36.59346, -4.52939)

Mo–Su 09:00–22:00

C Cerro del Moro

Mountain peak reaching 721 meters above sea level, offering 360-degree views of the Costa del Sol and the North African coastline.

(36.60690, -4.59524)

D Monte Calamorro

The highest point in Benalmádena at 771 meters, accessible via cable car, featuring hiking trails and bird of prey demonstrations.

29630, Spain (36.61681, -4.56109)

E Estanque Mare Nostrum Norte

Man-made pond located in the northern section of the Mare Nostrum residential park area.

(36.59738, -4.54348)

F Estanque Parque Mare Nostrum Sur

Southern artificial pond situated within the Mare Nostrum green belt.

(36.59547, -4.54023)

G Parque Medina Azahara

Local urban park with paved walking paths and landscaped Mediterranean greenery.

(36.60297, -4.52922)

H Parque de los Arboles

Wooded park area characterized by a mature tree canopy and proximity to the town center.

(36.59496, -4.52778)

I Parque Mare Nostrum Norte

Landscaped green space featuring walking paths and connectivity to the northern Mare Nostrum pond.

Calle Béjar, Arroyo de la Miel 29630, Spain (36.59729, -4.54270)

J Parque Gym Spinner

Outdoor recreational area equipped with public fitness and exercise machines.

9A Calle Béjar, Arroyo de la Miel 29630, Spain (36.59719, -4.54151)

K Parque Mare Nostrum Sur

Landscaped park area in the southern portion of the Mare Nostrum development.

Avenida del Mare Nostrum, Arroyo de la Miel 29630, Spain (36.59548, -4.53999)

L Parque Jesus Cautivo

Neighborhood park featuring pathways, seating areas, and local vegetation.

(36.60426, -4.53757)

M Parque (abandonado)

Small playground area with basic recreational equipment.

(36.58106, -4.56192)

N Parque (abandonado)

Secondary playground area located near the TorreMuelle district.

(36.58091, -4.56185)

DATA SOURCES

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