

Marbella

Andalusia · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Marbella is the best-known resort on Spain's Costa del Sol. It has a small whitewashed old town, a long coast with sandy beaches and a luxury marina at Puerto Banús.

The resort is popular for beach holidays, golf and nightlife. Summers are busy, and the mountains behind the coast give a green backdrop.

When to visit

May, June and September are the best months, with warm days and a good chance of swimming. July and August are hot and busy. Winters are mild, with the most rain from November to March.

A local event to know is the Feria de San Bernabé in June, with a fair, music and parades.

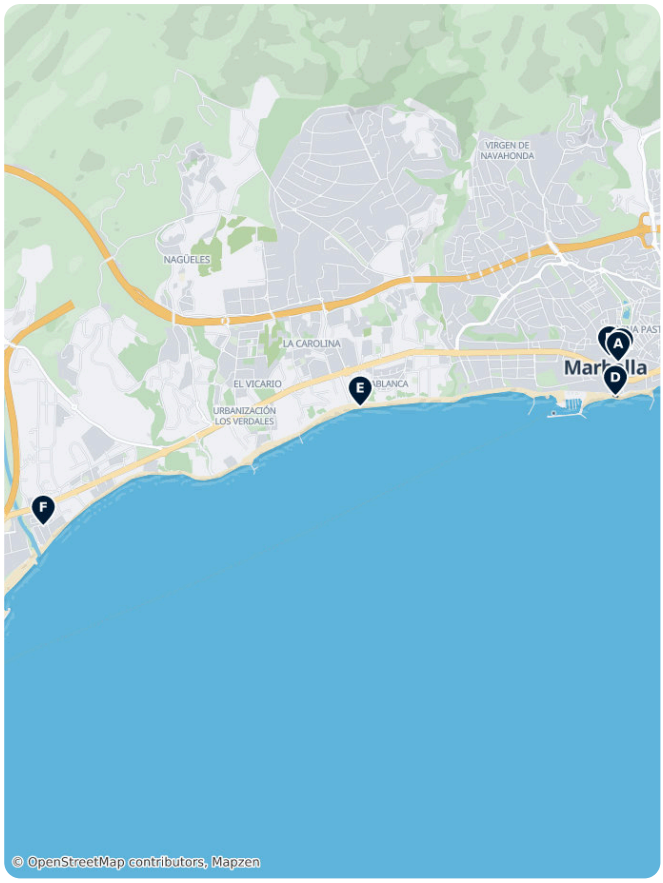
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	15° / 19°	10° / 6°	Dry air
February	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 19° Feels like 13°	10° / 6°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 21°	11° / 8°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 23°	13° / 10°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26°	15° / 12°	21 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 30°	19° / 16°	25 sunny days · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	29° / 33°	21° / 19°	29 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for the beach	29° / 33°	22° / 19°	28 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
September	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 30°	20° / 17°	20 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26°	17° / 13°	Calm winds
November	Great Great for sightseeing	18° / 22°	13° / 9°	Dry air
December	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 19°	11° / 7°	Dry air

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

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

Top sights

- A Casco Antiguo de Marbella is a maze of white lanes, flower pots and small squares. The Plaza de los Naranjos, with its orange trees, is the heart of the old town.
- B Capilla de Santiago is a small chapel from the 15th century, one of the oldest buildings in the town.
- C Parroquia Nuestra Señora de La Encarnación is the main church of the old town, built in the 17th century.
- D Playa de Venus and E Playa de Casablanca are the city's main central beaches. They are a short walk from the old town.
- F Villa romana de Río Verde is a Roman villa with mosaics, near the coast west of the center.
- Puerto Banús is a marina west of Marbella, known for yachts, shops and nightlife.



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Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
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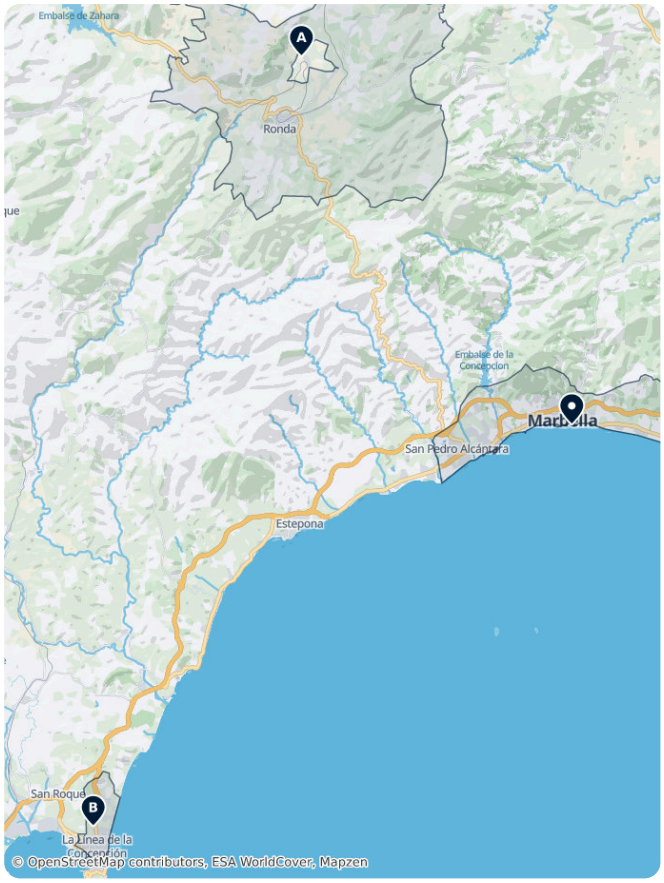
What to experience

- Eat grilled sardines on a skewer (*espeto*) at a beach bar in the evening.
- Walk the seafront promenade from the old town to the beaches at the end of the day.

Day trips

- **Mijas** (about 25 km, 30 minutes by car or bus): a white village on a hillside above the coast.
- **Málaga** (about 60 km, 45 minutes by bus or car): a large city with a historic center and museums.
- A Ronda (about 60 km, 1 hour 15 minutes by car): a town above a deep gorge. The road is winding.
- **Gibraltar** (about 75 km, 1 hour by car): a British territory. Cross the border at B La Línea de la Concepción and bring your passport.



Where to explore

Other places in Andalusia:

- **Mountains**: Ronda for views and history.
- **Coast**: Algeciras and La Línea de la Concepción for the south coast and Gibraltar.
- **Inland**: Antequera for old churches and dolmens.

Getting there

- **By air**: Málaga airport (AGP) is about 50 km east. Buses and taxis reach Marbella in about 45 to 60 minutes.
- **By bus**: Frequent buses run along the coast from Málaga and other towns. The Marbella bus station is north of the old town.
- **By train**: There is no train to Marbella. The closest trains run from Málaga to Fuengirola.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town and the central beaches are within walking distance. The coast is long, so other areas need transport.
- **Bus and taxi**: Local buses link Marbella with Puerto Banús and nearby towns. Taxis are common.
- **Cycling**: The seafront promenade is flat and good for walking and cycling.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The old town is walkable, but the coast is long.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The seafront promenade is flat and good for cycling.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: A car helps for villages and the mountains. In the old town, you do not need one.
- **Parking**: Use an underground car park near the old town.
- **Restrictions**: The old town center is pedestrian. The coast motorway, AP-7, is a toll road.

Food & drink

The coast is known for fresh fish and for *espeto de sardinas*, sardines grilled over wood on the beach. *Pescaíto frito*, a mix of fried small fish, is also common. Cold soups such as *gazpacho* are served in summer.

Eat at the beach bars along the seafront or in the lanes around the Plaza de los Naranjos.

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

Marbella is generally safe. In summer, watch your bags on the beach and in busy streets, and use strong sun protection. Swim only where the flags are green.

History

A Roman villa near the coast shows that people lived here 2,000 years ago. The Moors built a fortress, and parts of its walls remain in the old town.

The town passed to the Spanish crown in 1485, and the Plaza de los Naranjos was laid out soon after. In the 1950s the town became a fashionable resort, and tourism grew fast along the coast.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

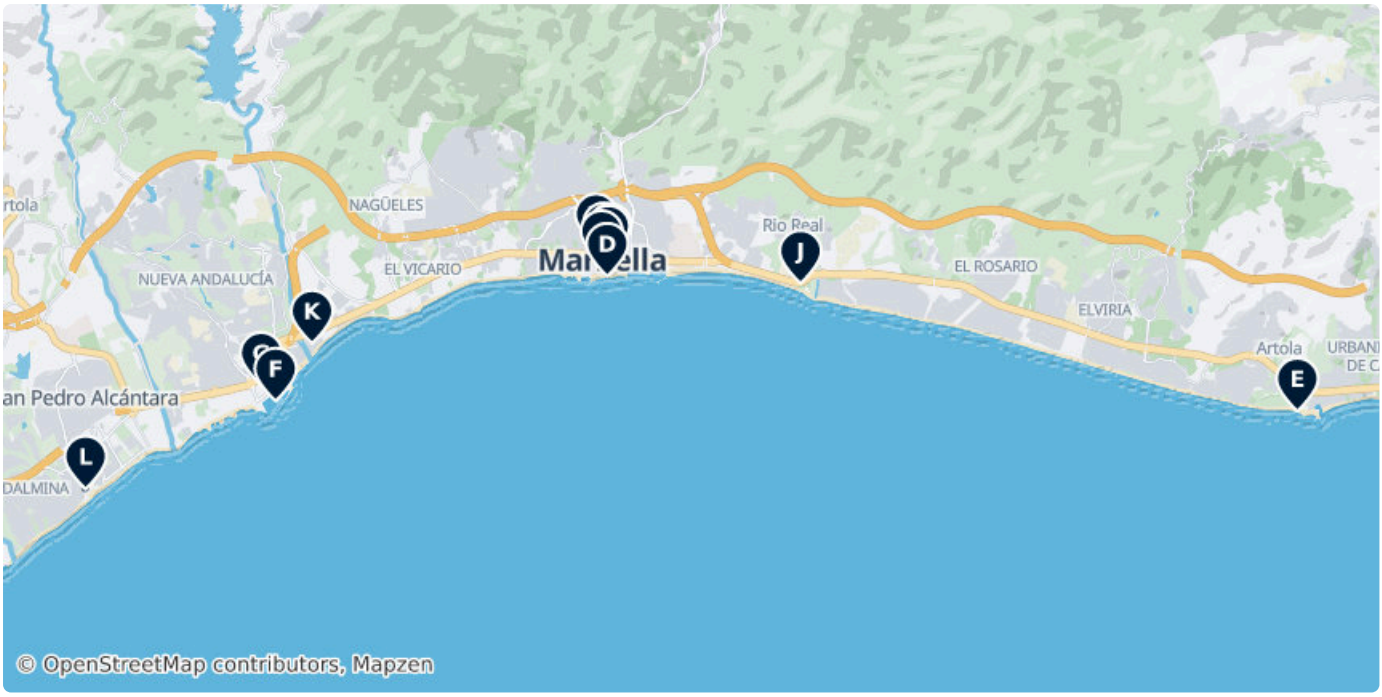
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Marbella Must-Sees

Marbella features a historical core centered on the 16th-century Casco Antiguo, where the Ermita de Santiago stands as the oldest religious site. The coastal landscape includes the long dunes of Cabopino and the central Playa de Venus. Architectural highlights range from the Roman mosaics of Villa de Río Verde and the Visigothic Basílica de Vega del Mar to the 16th-century Iglesia de la Encarnación. Modern landmarks include the luxury marina of Puerto Banús and the shaded botanical displays of Alameda Park.





A Marbella Old Town

The medieval walled city still looks pretty much like in the 16th century. The central parts of Marbella have a unique charm.

1 Calle Misericordia, Marbella 29601, Spain (36.50951, -4.88425)

marbella.es



B La Encarnación, Marbella

The Iglesia de la Encarnación is a church in Marbella, southern Spain. It was built in the 16th and 17th century.

2 Calle Viento, Marbella 29601, Spain (36.50980, -4.88390)



C Alameda Park

This 18th-century urban park features marble walkways and traditional ceramic benches decorated with hand-painted tiles. It serves as a small botanical garden with tropical plants and a central fountain.

1 Calle Carlos Mackintosh, Marbella 29602, Spain (36.50870, -4.88568)



D Playa de Venus

A centrally located sandy beach situated between Marbella's Old Town and the marina. It provides full amenities, including sunbed rentals and a variety of waterfront restaurants.

4 Avenida del Duque de Ahumada, Marbella 29602, Spain (36.50665, -4.88455)



E Cabopino Beach

Vast beach area that never gets crowded - it's simply too long for that. Part of the beach is frequented by nudists.

29604, Spain (36.48466, -4.74455)

F Puerto Deportivo José Banus

Opened in 1970, this luxury marina is designed in the style of a traditional Mediterranean village. It houses high-end yachts, designer boutiques, and upscale dining establishments.

(Unnamed Road), Nueva Andalucía 29660, Spain (36.48631, -4.95180)



G Puerto Banús

A large multi-level paid parking facility situated directly beneath the marina, providing convenient access to the waterfront and shopping district.

4 Avenida del Rotary Internacional, Nueva Andalucía 29660, Spain (36.48886, -4.95474)



H Mercado Central

A traditional indoor market specializing in fresh local produce, seafood, and regional meats. It is a central hub for residents and local chefs.

2 Avenida del Mercado, Marbella 29601, Spain (36.51145, -4.88679)



I Ermita de Santiago

The oldest church in the area is built in the unmistakable Mediterranean style. Remarkably preserved.

Plaza de los Naranjos, 29601 Marbella, Spain (36.50998, -4.88516)

+34 95 276 1100

J Torre Almenara de Río Real

A historic stone watchtower that formed part of the region's defensive network against maritime incursions.

3 Arroyo de la Playa Golf Río Real, 29603, Spain (36.50546, -4.84533)



K Villa romana de Río Verde

Villa romana de Río Verde is a Roman villa on the coast of Marbella, Spain, at the mouth of the Río Verde river.

28 Calle de Carlos Posac Mon, Marbella 29602, Spain (36.49572, -4.94444)



L Basílica de Vega del Mar

The Basílica de Vega del Mar is a church in Marbella, southern Spain. This is one of the few examples of North African Visigothic churches...

1 Calle de las Flores, San Pedro de Alcántara 29670, Spain (36.47197, -4.99035)

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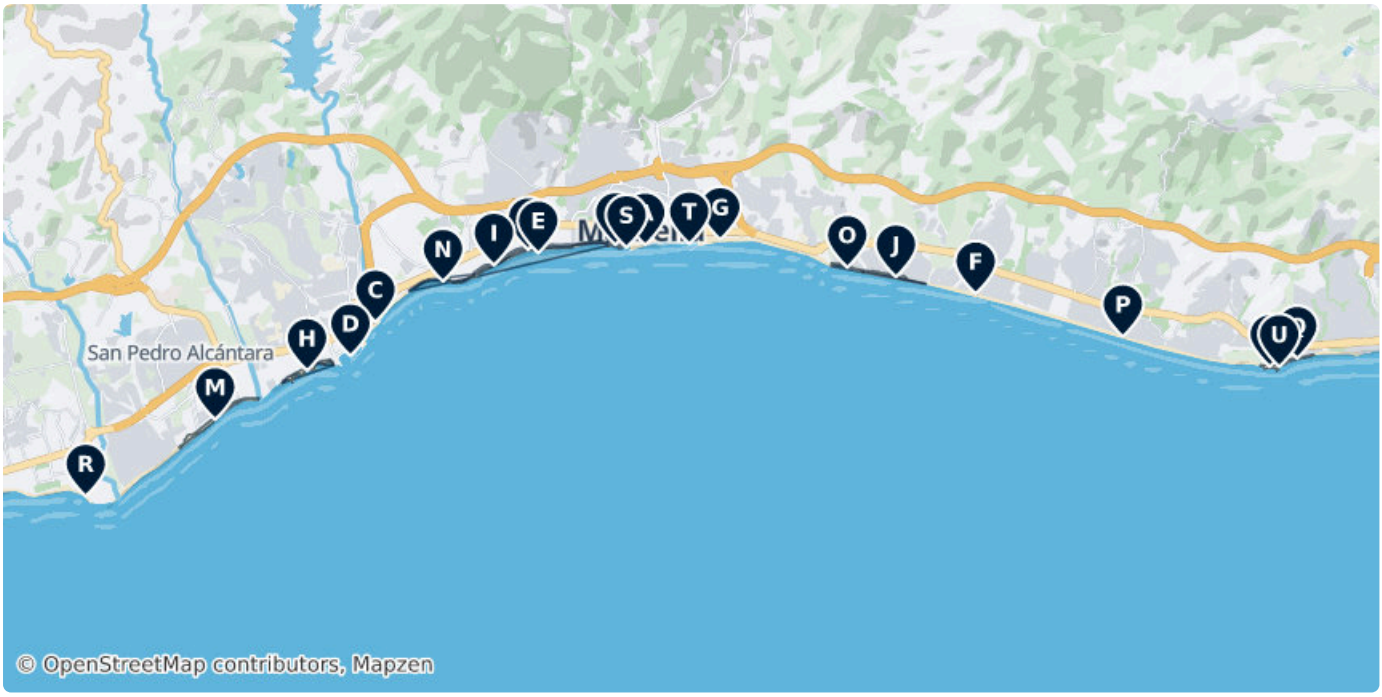
Marbella's Best Beaches & Marina

Marbella’s coastline extends over 27 kilometers, featuring a diverse range of 24 beaches and four distinct marinas. This selection encompasses central urban beaches like Playa de Venus and Playa de la Fontanilla, known for their high-quality services and proximity to the Old Town. It also highlights the Dunas de Artola, a protected natural monument at Cabopino, and the upscale Puerto Banús, a center for luxury yachting. These locations offer varied terrains from fine golden sand to volcanic pebbles.





A Playa de Venus

Centrally located urban beach adjacent to Marbella's marina. Features dark sand, calm waters, and facilities including showers, sunbeds, and children’s play areas.

4 Avenida del Duque de Ahumada, Marbella 29602, Spain
(36.50665, -4.88455)



B Casablanca Beach

Blue Flag beach right in the heart of Costa del Sol. Well facilitated beach with many bars, cafés and opportunities to borrow beds and...

(Unnamed Road), Marbella 29602, Spain
(36.50575, -4.91127)



C Playa de Levante

Playa de Levante is a beach in the municipality of La Línea de la Concepción, in the Province of Cádiz, Andalusia, Spain, located to the...

(Unnamed Road), Nueva Andalucía 29660, Spain
(36.49251, -4.94611)

D Puerto Deportivo José Banus

Luxury marina opened in 1970, accommodating over 900 berths for superyachts. It is surrounded by high-end boutiques, international dining establishments, and upscale nightlife venues.

(Unnamed Road), Nueva Andalucía 29660, Spain
(36.48631, -4.95180)

E Playa de la Fontanilla

A popular urban beach stretching 1,100 meters along the Golden Mile. It features fine sand and a promenade lined with restaurants and shops.

Spain (36.50516, -4.90895)



F El Alicate

Wide sandy beach located in a residential area, known for its clear waters and numerous chiringuitos. It forms part of a long stretch of coastline with golden dunes.

9 Calle Playa Hermosa, Las Chapas 29604, Spain
(36.49768, -4.80921)

G Playa del Cable

Located at the city's entrance, this beach is characterized by an old iron ore loading tower standing in the sea. It is a wide, sandy spot often used for beach volleyball.

(36.50764, -4.86743)



H Playas del Duque

Upscale beach area in Puerto Banús, home to several famous beach clubs. It features well-maintained sand and calm swimming conditions due to breakwaters.

1 Arroyo El Rodeo, Nueva Andalucía 29660, Spain (36.48363, -4.96169)

I Nagüeles Beach

Beautiful beach with fine golden sand and enough space for everyone. It is safeguarded, too.

1 Playa Nagüeles, Marbella 29602, Spain (36.50293, -4.91907)

J Playa Bahía de Marbella

Located in the Bahía de Marbella urbanization, this beach offers fine sand and natural dunes, providing a quieter environment compared to central urban spots.

Urbanización Bahía de Marbella, Los Monteros 29603, Spain (36.50080, -4.82737)

K Playa de Cabopino

Situated within the Artola Dunes natural monument, this beach features fine golden sand and shallow waters. It is adjacent to a small, picturesque marina.

29604, Spain (36.48437, -4.74213)

L Playa del Faro

Small, centrally located beach named after the 1864 lighthouse. It is situated in a sheltered bay, making it suitable for families with children.

15 Avenida del Duque de Ahumada, Marbella 29602, Spain (36.50670, -4.89138)

M Playa de San Pedro

Wide beach with a mix of sand and pebbles, bordered by a modern promenade with palm trees and fitness equipment. It consistently holds Blue Flag status.

(Unnamed Road), San Pedro de Alcántara 29670, Spain (36.47463, -4.98266)

N Playa del Ancón

Located on the Golden Mile, this sandy beach is home to historic chiringuitos. It offers a more relaxed atmosphere than the neighboring urban beaches.

(Unnamed Road), Marbella 29602, Spain (36.49998, -4.93070)

O Playa de Los Monteros

Quiet beach area near the Los Monteros urbanization. It features a mix of sand and rock, and is known for being the site of several upscale beach clubs.

12 Avenida de Ignacio Coca, Los Monteros 29603, Spain (36.50253, -4.83849)

P Playa de Artola

Also known as Cabopino Beach, this area is unique for its protected sand dunes, the Dunas de Artola, and its clothing-optional section.

13 Avenida de los Jardines de las Golondrinas, Elviria 29604, Spain (36.48985, -4.77565)

Q Playa de Calahonda

Narrow beach located at the eastern edge of the municipality. It is characterized by small coves, clear water, and a mix of sand and rocks.

(36.48584, -4.73588)

R Playa Atalaya

Located at the westernmost point of Marbella, this beach offers a natural setting with fewer crowds and a mix of sand and gravel.

(36.46060, -5.01215)

S Puerto Deportivo

Marbella's central marina, located in the heart of the city. It offers 377 berths and serves as a hub for water sports and evening entertainment.

(36.50616, -4.88885)

T Puerto Pesquero

The traditional fishing port of Marbella, still used by local fishermen. It is home to the Lonja fish market and several authentic seafood restaurants.

(36.50684, -4.87454)

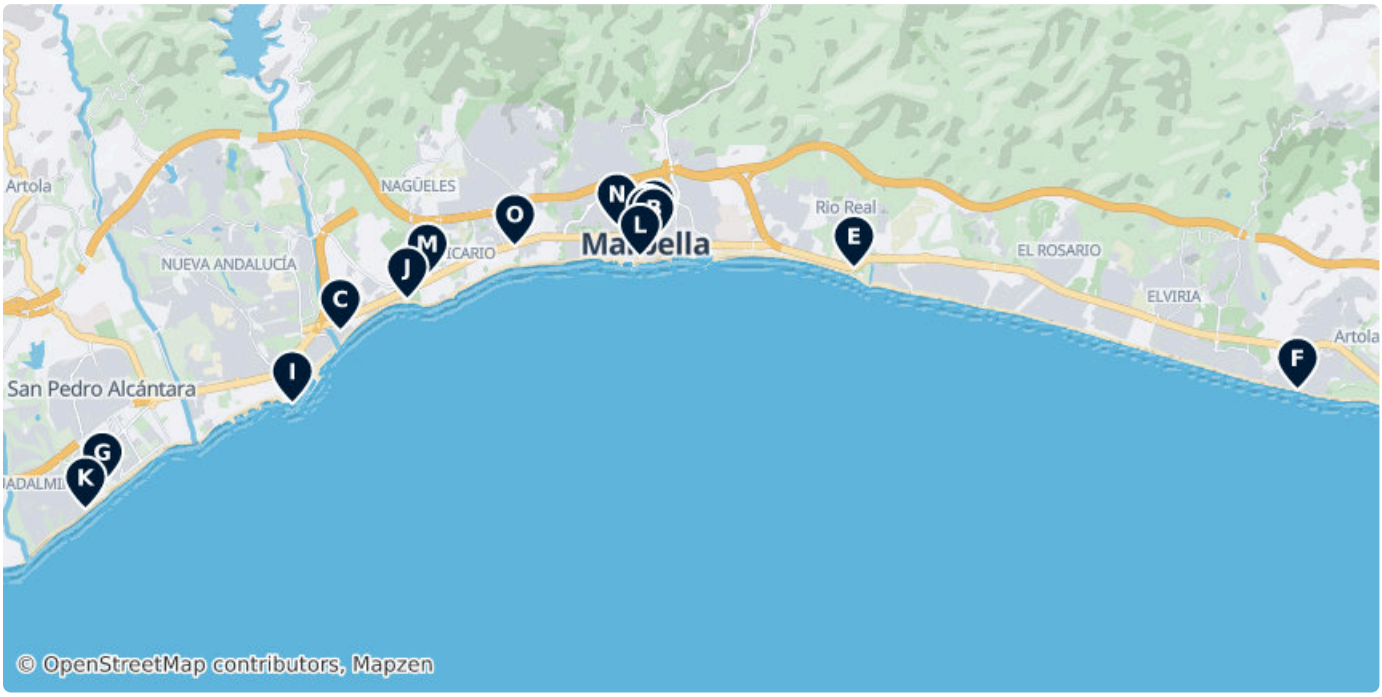
U Puerto Cabopino

A small, secluded marina located between Marbella and Fuengirola. It is known for its Mediterranean architecture and proximity to the protected Artola Dunes.

(36.48432, -4.73996)

Marbella's Historic Treasures

Marbella's history spans from Roman settlements to Moorish fortifications and Christian architecture. This collection highlights the 10th-century Castillo de Marbella, the 4th-century Visigothic Basílica de Vega del Mar, and the Roman Villa of Río Verde, famous for its intricate mosaics. Coastal defense is illustrated by 16th-century watchtowers like Torre Vigía de Ancón, while religious heritage includes the 15th-century Ermita de Santiago and the 1981 King Abdul Aziz Mosque, showcasing the city's diverse cultural evolution.





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28 Calle de Carlos Posac Mon, Marbella 29602, Spain (36.49572, -4.94444)

D Castillo de Marbella

A 10th-century Moorish fortress built during the Caliphate of Córdoba. The ruins incorporate recycled Roman capitals and once formed the core of the city's defensive walls.

Calle Arte, 29601 Marbella, Spain (36.51106, -4.88384)

E Torre Almenara de Río Real

A historic stone watchtower used for coastal surveillance and defense.

3 Arroyo de la Playa Golf Río Real, 29603, Spain (36.50546, -4.84533)

F Torre Almenara Lances de las Cañas

A 16th-century beacon tower designed to protect the coastline from pirate raids.

454 Calle de Lanzarote, Artola 29604, Spain (36.48656, -4.75973)



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H Busto Juan Carlos I

A bronze bust commemorating King Juan Carlos I.

1 Plaza de los Naranjos, Marbella 29601, Spain (36.51022, -4.88498)

I La Torre

A coastal defense tower constructed for maritime signaling.

(36.48449, -4.95371)

J Torre Vigía de Ancón

A 16th-century watchtower used to guard the coast against North African incursions.

(Unnamed Road), Marbella 29602, Spain
(36.50062, -4.93153)

K Termas romanas de las Bóvedas

Well-preserved 2nd-century Roman thermal baths featuring a vaulted brick structure and an octagonal central hall.

2 Calle 6A, Guadalmina 29670, Spain (36.46806, -4.99363)

rutasconhistoria.es/loc/termas-romanas-de-las-bovedas

L La libertad no Muere Nace y duerme Diariamente

A contemporary monument and sculpture dedicated to freedom.

13 Avenida del Mar, Marbella 29602, Spain
(36.50724, -4.88661)

M Mezquita de Marbella

Also known as the King Abdul Aziz Mosque, this 1981 structure is a prominent example of modern Saudi-funded Islamic architecture in Spain.

5 Urbanización de Lomas Marbella, Marbella 29602, Spain
(36.50429, -4.92768)

N Ermita del Calvario

An 18th-century hillside chapel used as a station for religious processions.

7 Avenida de la Huerta Belón, Marbella 29601, Spain
(36.51203, -4.89106)

O Ruina Banco Arabe

Architectural remains of a former structure on the outskirts of the city.

(36.50884, -4.91076)

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