

TOP TIPS FOR TRAVELLERS TO SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN COASTS

**Going to visit a MedPlaya Hotel?
Here are some top travel tips to help you plan!**

WHAT WILL YOU FIND IN THIS GUIDE?



MedPlaya has 15 hotels on the main Spanish coasts such as **Costa Brava** on the North, **Costa Maresme** or **Costa Barcelona**, the golden sandy coast of **Costa Daurada**, Benidorm's **Costa Blanca** with its mellow weather throughout the entire year and the

Andalusian **Costa del Sol** in the South. Each one of these coasts offers a unique experience for all kinds of travellers.

Visit **Costa Brava** for its wild coastline with big, wide, sandy beaches good for families, as well as some more deserted and hidden coves with clear, turquoise-coloured waters. **Costa Brava** is also full of beautiful medieval towns that ooze charm and small town atmosphere.

Situated in Catalonia, on the **Costa Maresme**, just 50 kilometers north of Barcelona, **Calella** is a modern resort, perfect for those looking for a busy and upbeat holiday, with lots of organised activities.

Visit beautiful **Costa Daurada** for its golden Mediterranean beaches. **Salou** is a popular family resort with safe shallow waters, the biggest theme park in Europe -Port Aventura- together with a great variety of entertainment facilities and attractions.

Benidorm on **Costa Blanca** surrounded by up to 1558m high mountains, is perfectly protected against the cold north winds. Therefore, the weather in Benidorm stays very mild even through winter times. A city famous for being one big party, it also has a proper Spanish old town center 'Casco antiguo'.

Escape cold winter days travelling to the **Costa del Sol**, a year-round cosmopolitan resort with beautiful yacht harbours, the most romantic and charming white towns in all of Spain and hundreds of chiringuitos (bar and restaurants on the beach) along the Costa del Sol, where you can eat fresh fish and seafood for a low price.

WHAT WILL YOU FIND IN THIS GUIDE?



WHY, WHEN AND DATES
TO WATCH OUT FOR



TIPS FOR TRANSPORT



ACCOMMODATION



THINGS TO DO

... AND MUCH MORE!





COSTA BRAVA & COSTA MARESME

Why visit?

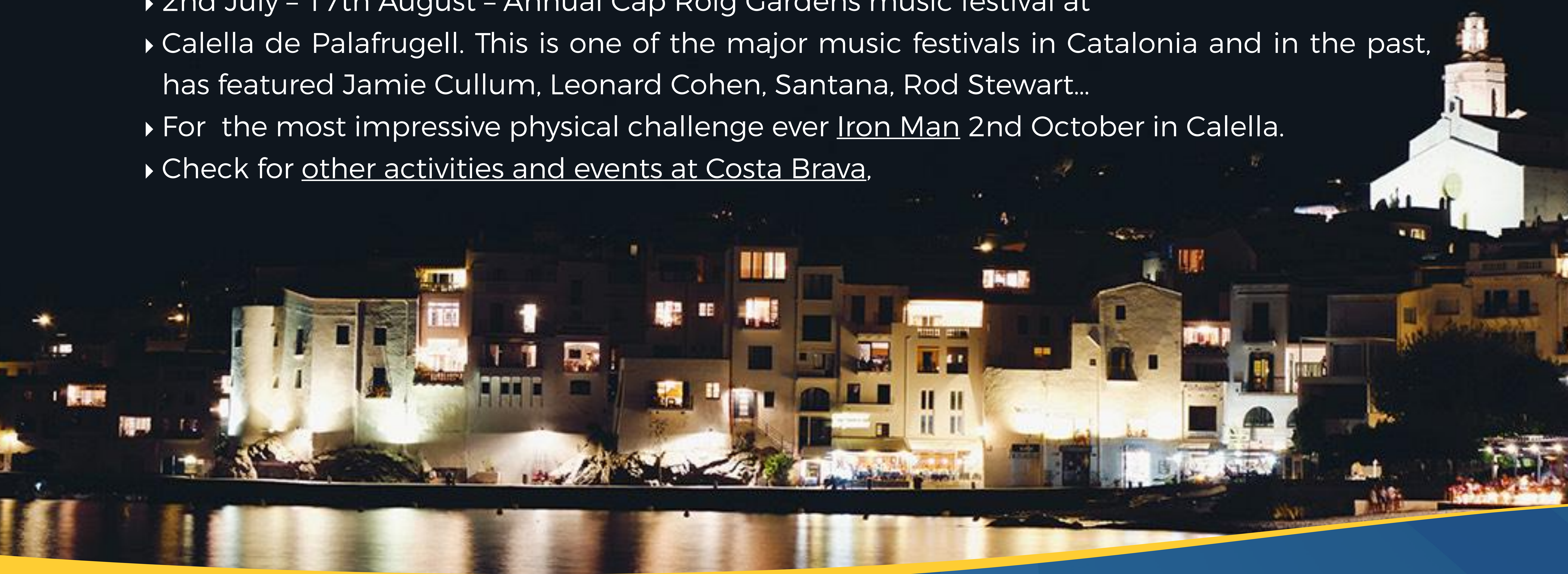
- ▶ For most beautiful sandy coves surrounded by wooded pines and colourful rocks. **Whatever kind of beach you're after**, whether it's a family-friendly stretch of sand that the kids can build castles on, somewhere to go diving or a discreet nudist cove, you'll find it here.
- ▶ This stretch of the coast is a **foodie paradise**. Catalonia has one of the highest concentrations of top-class restaurants in Spain. It is also famous for its superb wines.
- ▶ The same spectacular scenery as the Cote d'Azur but for a lower price.
- ▶ For Art (Dalí's triangle), best medieval villages and thousands of flower, boat and music festivals.

Dates to watch out for

- ▶ **Palafrugell Spring Festival** takes place between May 21 and 23rd with a carnival complete with floats and music.
- ▶ 3rd June 2011 – Corpus Christi – Tossa. Ornate 'carpets of flowers' – flower mosaics outside churches.
- ▶ 3rd July 2011 Calella de Palafrugell - Cantada de Havaneres festival. This is one of the major fiestas in the area and has been known to pull in some 40,000 visitors.
- ▶ 29th June – 1st July 2011 Festival of Sant Pere, Tossa – sardanes, concerts, fireworks etc.
- ▶ 2nd July – 17th August – Annual Cap Roig Gardens music festival at Calella de Palafrugell. This is one of the major music festivals in Catalonia and in the past, has featured Jamie Cullum, Leonard Cohen, Santana, Rod Stewart...
- ▶ For the most impressive physical challenge ever Iron Man 2nd October in Calella.
- ▶ Check for other activities and events at Costa Brava.

When to visit?

Unlike southern coasts with sometimes hot winds in summer, **it almost never gets too hot in Costa Brava**. So, if your main reason for visiting is to visit the beaches and you're looking for gorgeous hot weather, obviously, the summer months are the time to come. Be warned though, this is also peak seasons and many of the hotels will get booked up at least several months ahead. The season here is much shorter than even one on its southern neighbour Costa Daurada, therefore, most of the resorts are closing from early October until April or even end of May.





COSTA BRAVA & COSTA MARESME

How to get there?

Girona Airport is 30 minutes' trip to Platja D'Aro, 45 minutes to Tossa de Mar and Calella.

Barcelona Airport is 50 minutes from Calella. 1,45h to Tossa del Mar and Platja d'Aro.

Local transport

From Barcelona

There are no direct trains from Barcelona airport to Costa Brava resorts. Therefore, you have to get a train from Terminal 2 to Barcelona Sants station and then another train to Calella (every 15 minutes), which is not too bad. Buy your ticket to Calella directly at the airport station, although you have to use your ticket twice when changing trains in Barcelona. It's a little cheaper this way. It will take you about 1h08 and 6€.

There are no train stations in Tossa del mar or Platja d'Aro, the nearest is in Blanes, then you have to take a bus to get to Tossa or Platja d'Aro. So, the best way to get there by local transport is to take a Bus from the Airport, about 15€ per person to Tossa and 21€ to Playa de Aro. Sarfa bus

Taxi might be very expensive. Check for price first +34 93 226 8686 (120-150€ to Tossa and 65-80€ to Calella).

Check on-line webs for private transfer. Can vary from 15€ per person in a shuttle and up to 300€ per private car.

From Girona Airport

Bus to Platja d'Aro 50 min 5,50€/person. Teisa.

Taxi 40-55€

Bus to Tossa del Mar 35 min 16€ round trip. Teisa.

Taxi 50-65€

Bus to Calella 1,25h Sagalés bus timetable. 8€/person.

Taxi 50-65€.

Rent a car

It's far the best way, especially if you travel from Barcelona airport. In both Girona and Barcelona airports there are plenty of car hire companies where you can get a good deal renting your car for a week for as low as 105€ in May-June, 140€ in July-August, booking early.

When getting from Girona Airport to Calella, avoid unnecessary tolls on AP-7 road and take N-II or A-2 instead, it's free and does not take longer than toll highway. From Girona to Tossa and Platja d'Aro it's free of tolls.

When getting from Barcelona Airport to Calella it's a toll highway worth 4,80€, 6,35€ both to Tossa or Platja d'Aro. It can take twice a time to get to resorts if you wish to avoid tolls from Barcelona.

Getting a car is also very helpful if you want to visit cozy villages, as Costa Brava is a very large region and not having a car will result quite uncomfortable here.





COSTA BRAVA & COSTA MARESME

Accommodation

The Catalonia Tourist Tax applies to any facility where tourists stay overnight – from campgrounds and youth hostels to hotels and cruise ships. For 3 star hotels and lowers it's 0,45 cents per person per night. The tax is charged only for the first seven nights of your stay. People aged 16 and younger are not charged tourist tax.

The tourist tax is subject to a 10% VAT (Value Added Tax; Spanish: IVA; Catalan: L'IVA) charge. (For example: 0.45 cents + 10% = rounded up to 0.50 cents)

MedPlaya has 3 hotels in different locations of Costa Brava and 1 in Calella



HOTEL MONTERREY
Platja d'Aro

Hotel Monterrey is a modern hotel close 75m to the beach, perfect to enjoy the relaxed resort of Platja d'Aro.



HOTEL ESMERALDAS
Tossa de Mar

ApartHotel Esmeraldas at the heart of Tossa del mar offers basic kitchen facilities and it's close to the beach and centric for everything.



HOTEL SAN ELOY
Tossa de Mar

An absolutely unique 2-star hotel San Eloy is a perfect base for families with its spacious swimming pools, tennis courts, great entertainment and plenty of outdoor activities within and out of the hotel.



HOTEL SANTA MONICA
Calella

Hotel Santa Monica in Calella just 100m from the spotless shallow beach perfect for small kids and all who want to practice water sports or plan visiting Barcelona.





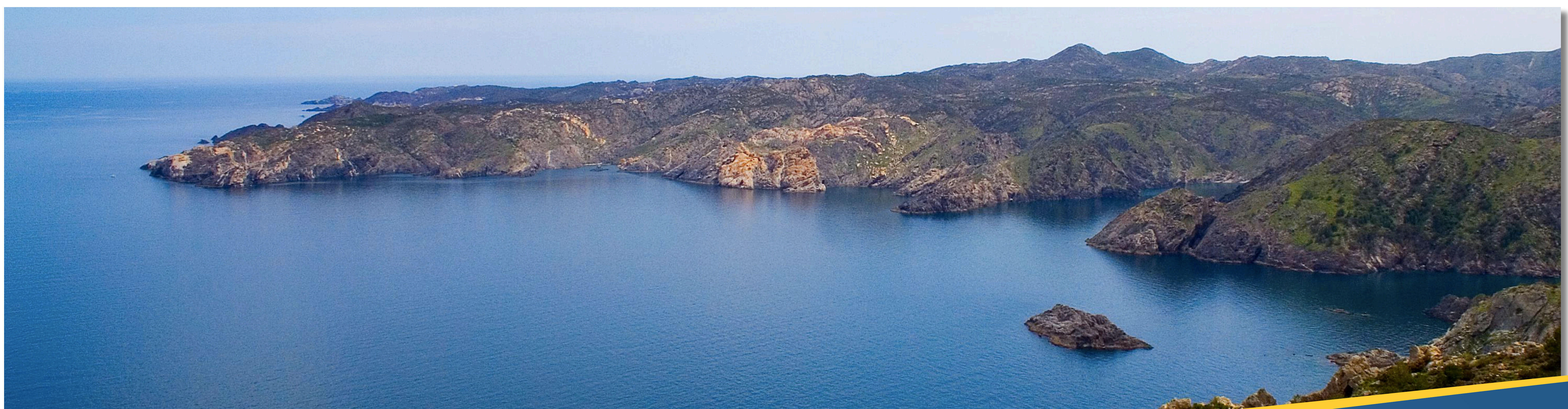
COSTA BRAVA & COSTA MARESME

Things to do in Costa Brava

- ▶ Visit **Vila Vella**, a walled town that was built in the 1100s but reinforced with formidable defenses and watchtowers in the 1500s because of the threat from North African pirates in Tossa del Mar.
- ▶ Board a glass-bottomed boat at **Platja Gran from Tossa de Mar's** nautical club.
- ▶ Relax on one of the incredible beaches or calas ***coves of Costa Brava**.
- ▶ Or drag yourself away from that beach and...
 - ▶ Learn to fly at **indoor wind tunnel** at Empuriabrava.
 - ▶ Visit **medieval towns** of Pals, Besalú and Peratallada, if you do not have a car, there are 4 hours' excursions from Palamós near Platja d'Aro.
 - ▶ Visit Girona for **Temps de Flors** flower festival in May or to **follow the steps of Game of Thrones** season 6 characters.
 - ▶ Girona with its large medieval old quarter at any other time, it's a must.
 - ▶ Go to one of the **music festivals** in Girona and on the Costa Brava
 - ▶ Visit the **Dalí triangle** – the Dalí Museum at Figueres, the Castell Gala at Púbol - the castle he built for his wife Gala which is now a museum, and finally the home he and Gala shared at Port Lligat near Cadaqués, a gem of the Costa Brava.
- ▶ Slide down the water slopes at one of the **Costa Brava's waterparks**. There is a free bus from Tossa del Mar to Waterworld water Park in Lloret de Mar. Laberint Park at Aquabrava water park is a serious fun for children with Pirate ship, mazes and Europe's biggest wave pool.
- ▶ For the great day with children also visit **Mona Foundation**, a sanctuary for rescued chimpanzees.
- ▶ **Scuba dive** in the Medes Islands in L'Estartit.
- ▶ Make the day unforgettable for children and take tourist train **from Roses to Cap de Creus national park** for stunning landscapes of the park, the vineyards and views on the bay of Roses.
- ▶ Or explore the area by hiking **The Camino de Ronda**. It is a 220-km hiking trail along the coast on Costa Brava running from Blanes to the border of France. Two most beautiful ones are the ones running from Sant Feliu de Guíxols to S'Agaró and the one starting at Calella de Palafrugell and finishing in Llafranc. At the local tourist center, you will find all the info and maps.
- ▶ Head to the old quarter for **Catalan food** and don't be surprised to see dishes like cuttlefish and meatballs, or chicken with langoustines, it's traditional here mixing rural ingredients with coastal ones.
- ▶ Check our MedPlaya blog for more tips and ideas of possible thing to do in Costa Brava.

COSTA BRAVA & COSTA MARESME

Highlights





COSTA DAURADA

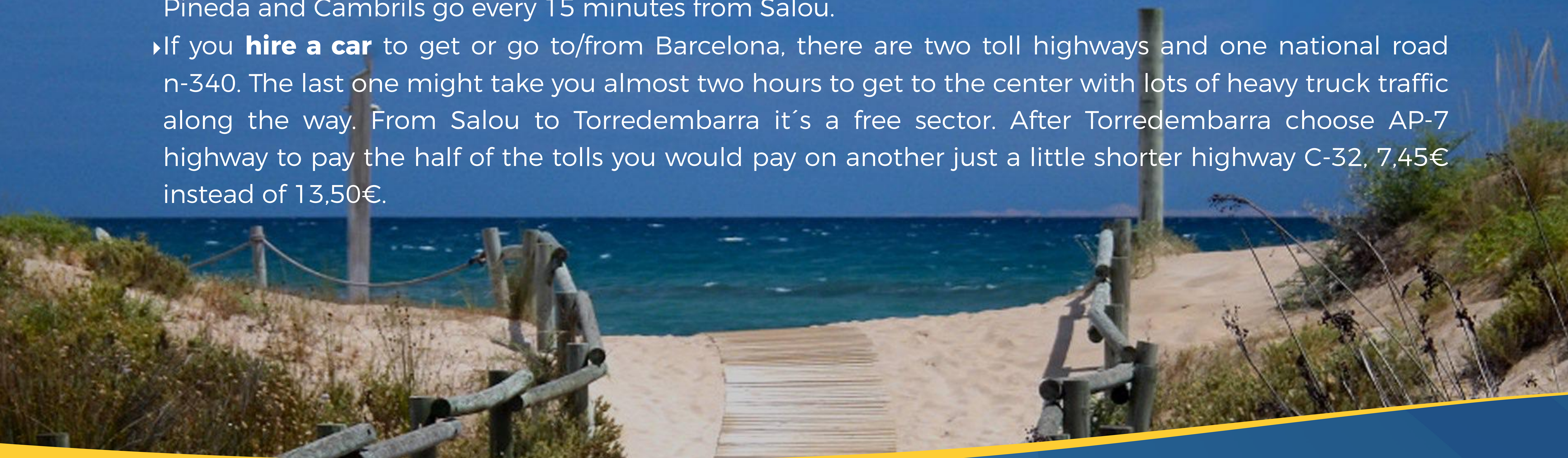
Why visit?

- **Long beaches with soft golden sand** lapped up by clear, shallow waters it is the perfect place for holidays with the whole family with resorts like Salou and Cambrils especially adapted to family needs.
- And it's much **more than just sun, sea and sand**. It offers its visitors a wide range of leisure activities, culture, nature and history in an ideal setting of peace and tranquility. Inland from the Costa Daurada, the interior is both fertile and dramatic, with many places of great historical and natural interest.



Getting around?

- **Fly** to Reus Airport, just 10 km away from Salou. Or Barcelona Airport at 100km with plenty of bus service and trains to get to Salou. Bus T1. Train T2 switching in Barcelona Sants.
- **A taxi** from the Reus Airport will cost you 30-35€. A bus 6,95€/per person each way. The Bus timetable might be a little uncomfortable for your flight, as Reus is a very small airport and with online check in most companies offer, there is no need to be at the airport very early. So, a taxi or other transfer might suit you more.
- When **flying to Barcelona** airport, bear in mind that the last bus from the airport is at 23.45, and there is no other way but taxi or private transfer to get to the southern coast, which will cost around 180€.
- Unlike Costa Brava it's pretty easy to get around Costa Daurada by **public transport**, and to save more than half of the money you would spend on your trips, get a bus card with 10 refillable trips at many bus company offices around the town on bus station. It can be one for all of you and worth about 14€. Although works only in the province of Tarragona. To visit Barcelona, you will have to buy another ticket.
- There is a **good train connection** to Barcelona or Valencia from Salou train station. A trip to Barcelona would cost 8,80€ each way and takes 1,30h to get to the city center. Buses to Tarragona cost 19.95€ round trip and might take a little longer than train depending on traffic. Buses to Tarragona, Reus, La Pineda and Cambrils go every 15 minutes from Salou.
- If you **hire a car** to get or go to/from Barcelona, there are two toll highways and one national road n-340. The last one might take you almost two hours to get to the center with lots of heavy truck traffic along the way. From Salou to Torredembarra it's a free sector. After Torredembarra choose AP-7 highway to pay the half of the tolls you would pay on another just a little shorter highway C-32, 7,45€ instead of 13,50€.





COSTA DAURADA

Accommodation

As on Costa Brava, a tourist tax is paid on Costa Daurada per person per day, 0,50 cents in 3-star hotel and 0,99cents in 4-star. You will only have to pay for first 7 nights of your stay and children under 16 years do not pay.



HOTEL CALYPSO
Salou

Hotel Calypso is a second largest 3-star vibrant hotel in Salou with the best life shows in the area and plenty activities for children and adults, within the easy walk to the center and the beach.



HOTEL PIRÁMIDE
Salou

MedPlaya Pirámide is a calmer 4-star hotel a little closer to the main beach and also offering a little for everyone in its relaxed and comfy way.



ALBATROS FAMILY
Salou

The Albatros Family is not part of the MedPlaya hotel chain, it is however a key partner of MedPlaya and is ideal for customers looking for an apartment holiday with the flexibility of adding different board options.





COSTA DAURADA

Things to do in Costa Daurada

- ▶ Salou has some of the most family-friendly beaches in the Med but they are often busy in summer. To escape the crowds, head to Platja Llarga in Salou. The pine forest on the back and quiet residential area has kept things pleasantly low-key in here. And it is only 10 minutes walking distance from [MedPlaya Calypso](#).
- ▶ Walk the “**Camino de Ronda**” of Salou, a path along the coast of Salou and Cap Salou, starting at the Eastern side of the main Levante beach and heading east along the stunning little coves.
- ▶ Visit **Port Aventura** world resort, the biggest theme park in Europe with thrilling rides, life shows and much more. Take a chance to visit the only Ferrari Land in Europe, opening April 2017 with Formula 1 racing circuit with 8 simulators and fastest vertical accelerator.
- ▶ For even more thrills, visit **Aquapolis** the huge seafront water park with slides, rides, pools, and dolphin and sea lion shows.
- ▶ Relax in one of the two spa & wellness centers in **La Pineda**: Aquum Spa and Spalass Pineda, perfect for the rainy-day plan.
- ▶ Have a laid-back day at sea on a 3h catamaran ride along the coastline with a stop for snorkeling, drinks and snacks included. Book it at the hotel and get picked up and brought back from the harbor for free.
- ▶ Visit the charming fishing village of **Cambrils** for more authentic Spanish town with the best seafood and fish restaurants and more amazing golden beaches with lots of water activities.
- ▶ Visit **local markets**, either Monday market in Salou, Wednesday in Cambrils, Thursday in Tarragona or the biggest in the area - Sunday market in Bonavista. Buses from Salou to Bonavista run every hour from 9.15 until 12.15 from the main promenade.
- ▶ Visit the capital of Costa Daurada, the roman city of **Tarragona**. One of the most interesting times to visit is during its main festival Santa Tecla, ten days in September full of music, parades, mythical animals, giants, Catalan human towers “castells” and fireworks. There is also a Fireworks festival taking place every June, castells competitions in July and more traditional festivals in August. During some of them, the entrance to the main roman sights is free.
- ▶ Visit **Sitges**, a whitewashed Mediterranean coastal town, favourite of art and gay crowd. Enjoy its beautiful promenade, or best tapas bars and fashion boutiques. Home to Sitges Flower Festival in June and International Sitges Fantastic and Horror film festival in early October.
- ▶ Go **kite-surfing** or try ousters at the floating restaurant and enjoy the calm beauty of the rice fields and sand dunes in the wetlands of the “Parc Natural de Delta de l'Ebre”.
- ▶ Try any fish, meat or calçots (barbeque shallots) dish with Romesco, a type of tomato, herbs and almond sauce. And for dessert “Crema catalana” a custard base with hard caramel top.
- ▶ Cycle Costa Daurada along the well-prepared cycle lanes along the beach. Head until the end of Cambrils, it's the most picturesque path.
- ▶ Visit **House of Illusion** for the best magic show on Costa Daurada.
- ▶ And of course, you cannot miss the visit to **Barcelona**, Montserrat and for the football fans – the Nou Camp stadium.
- ▶ [Check other things to do on Costa Daurada on our blog.](#)



COSTA BLANCA - BENIDORM

Why visit and when?

- ▶ Simply because it's a classic holiday destination with something for everyone. Cooled by sea breezes from excessive heat in the summer and remaining mild throughout the winter, Benidorm benefits from a fabulous climate at any time of the year.

Accommodation

- ▶ Choose Benidorm favorite the 2-star Rio Park Hotel well known for providing great value for money, friendly service and much more than a typical 2-star hotel, people return year after year. Another vibrant Hotel is the popular 4-star Flamingo Oasis Hotel with incredible views over Benidorm, also one of the hotels that best caters for families with lots of activities and a mini club.
- ▶ Opt for calmer 3 star hotels, Regente Hotel located in the Rincon de Loix area of Benidorm with a bright modern interior. Or adult's only Riudor Hotel just a stone's throw away from the Levante beach front, again many people return here year after year. Find the MedPlaya hotel which suits you.



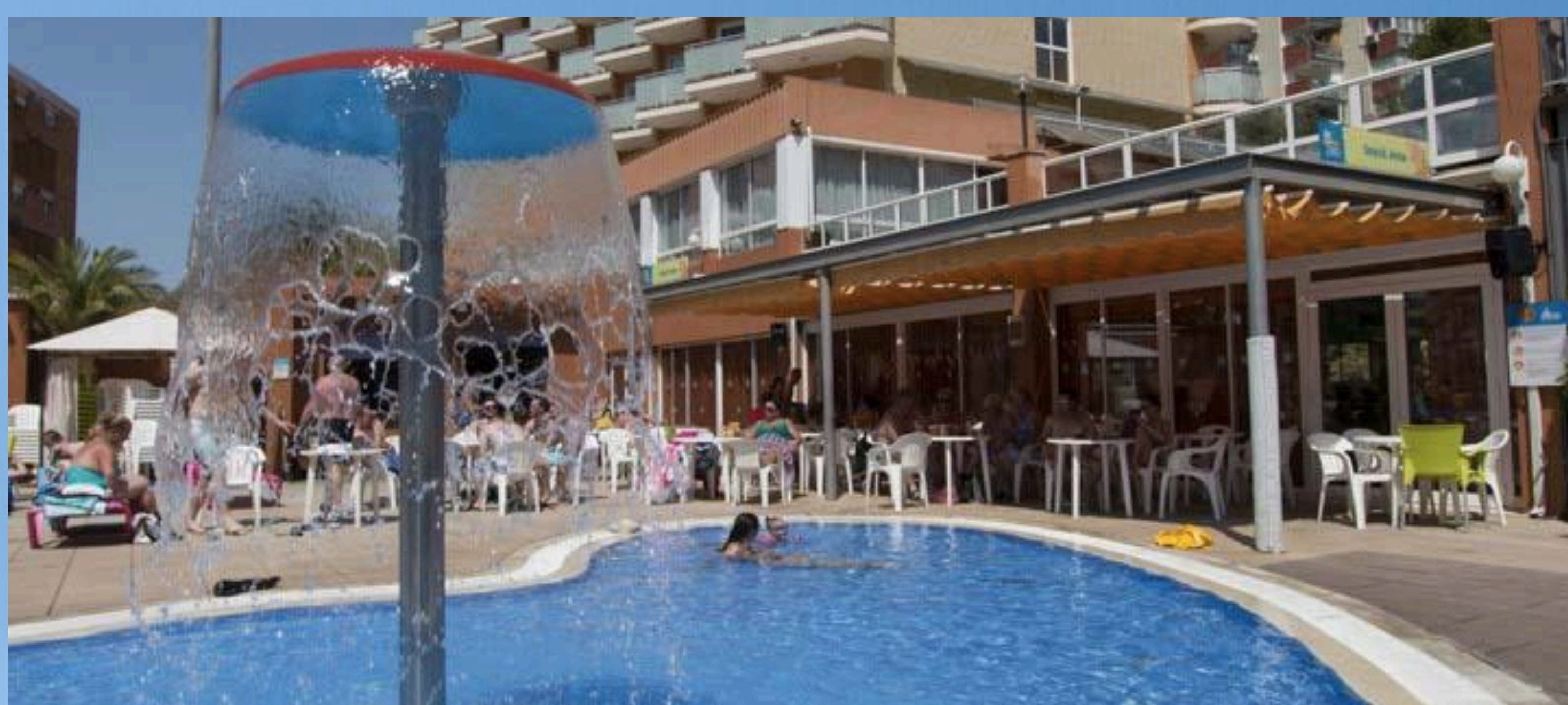
HOTEL RIO PARK
Benidorm



HOTEL RIUDOR
Benidorm



HOTEL AGIR
Benidorm



HOTEL REGENTE
Benidorm



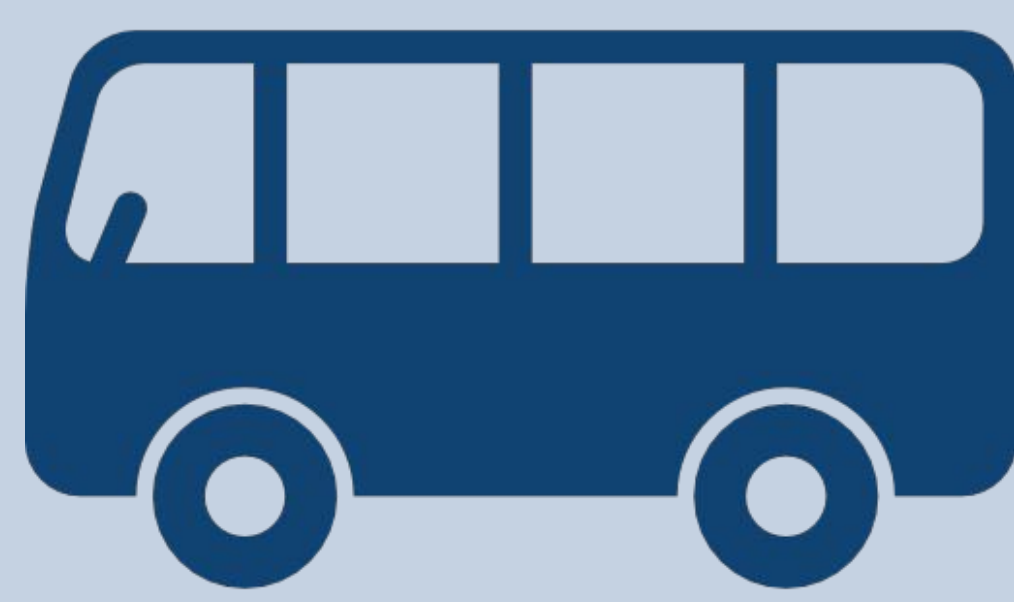
HOTEL FLAMINGO OASIS
Benidorm





COSTA BLANCA - BENIDORM

How to get to Benidorm?



- ▶ There is a bus that connects Alicante airport with Benidorm and arrives/departs from the Benidorm bus station as well as the **Avenida de Europa** bus stop in the town. (9,45€/person).
- ▶ There are also buses from Valencia Airport direct to Benidorm. (20,25€/person).



- ▶ Taxi is about 75€ to Alicante Airport 38km.



- ▶ There are trams to Alicante city, from Alicante you can connect to the national rail network RENFE that connects Alicante with the rest of Spain.

There is also the possibility of pre - booking private or shared transfers from the airport with more flexibility with regards to timetables and pick up and drop off locations in Benidorm.





COSTA BLANCA - BENIDORM

Things to do in Costa Blanca and Benidorm

- ▶ Take a seat after a walk along the promenade and enjoy the fresh shade from the palm trees at **Parque de Elche** also known as Dove park.
- ▶ Get a boat from the Harbour and visit **Benidorm Island** for stunning views and a glass bottom boat for under water marine life.
- ▶ Visit **Cala Tio Ximo** beach, a little cove some people say it's similar to Ibiza or Costa Brava, perfect for snorkeling.
- ▶ Head to **Benidorm old town** for a taste of traditional Spanish cuisine and charming cobbled streets.
- ▶ Spend a day in a peaceful mountain landscape, visit **Algar Waterfalls**, just 30 min drive from bustling Benidorm. Also nestled up in the mountains is the fortress village of Guadalest with breathtaking views over the valley.
- ▶ Head to **Polop** village to the town square and try crystal clear waters from a natural source there are more than 200 natural springs in the area.
- ▶ Visit **El Cisne Market** on Thursdays, Saturday and Sunday, a different style market with snack bars and entertainment, such as flamenco show. Take a bus number 10 towards Altea. There is a different market each day of the week in the surrounding areas.
- ▶ Visit one of the **four theme parks** in Benidorm: Terra Mítica for rides and shows, Aqualandia for water slides, Mundomar for dolphins show and swimming with sea lions, Aqua Natura and Terra Natura for more water fun and the animal park.
- ▶ Spend a day at one of the most beautiful Spanish traditional villages by the sea - **Altea**. Easily accessible by tram or bus. Other places worth visiting are Denia, Gata de Gorgos and Villajoyosa. Another great day out for visiting is **Peñon de Ifach**, resembling the more famous Gibraltar rock, it's just up from the sea by Calpe, a village packed with great fish and seafood restaurants at reasonable prices.
- ▶ Take a glimpse into real Spanish culture and come to Benidorm in November for the **Patron Saint fiestas**, a weeklong celebration with processions, funfair, floats and fireworks! The British have even got involved now with a huge fancy dress day that see about 40,000 people in a huge array of different outfits.
- ▶ For the music fans, there's plenty of live performances and cover bands and for the indie rock lovers - **summer Low Festival**. Relaxing after a night at the festival on the beach is priceless. Benidorm plays host to many top DJ's and musicians.
- ▶ For a night out visit one of Benidorm's 150 discos at the main night life areas such as Av. de Mallorca which runs from the Av. de Mediterraneo up to the Calle Ibiza. The **Levante Beach** front or the old town.
- ▶ Take a walk up to the **Mirador de la Cruz** (also known as the cross) to enjoy another stunning view of Benidorm and sunsets over the sea.
- ▶ For shopaholics visit the indoor shopping mall **La Marina** with many high street names including the once popular C&A which they no longer have in the UK.

Check our MedPlaya blog for more information on Benidorm.



COSTA DEL SOL

Why visit?

- ▶ Costa del Sol has the mildest winter in Europe with guaranteed sunshine.
- ▶ It's an International year-round resort with world class beaches, many cultural offerings, beautiful countryside and friendly locals.

When to visit?

Low season from October to April for cultural visits, May to September for the perfectly warm sea and August if you like the night life and really hot weather.

Accommodation



HOTEL BALMORAL
Benalmádena

Hotel Balmoral a 2-star hotel, located in Benalmádena Costa is a cozy place to stay if you seek friendly atmosphere, ideal for couples, families, single travelers or a group of friends.



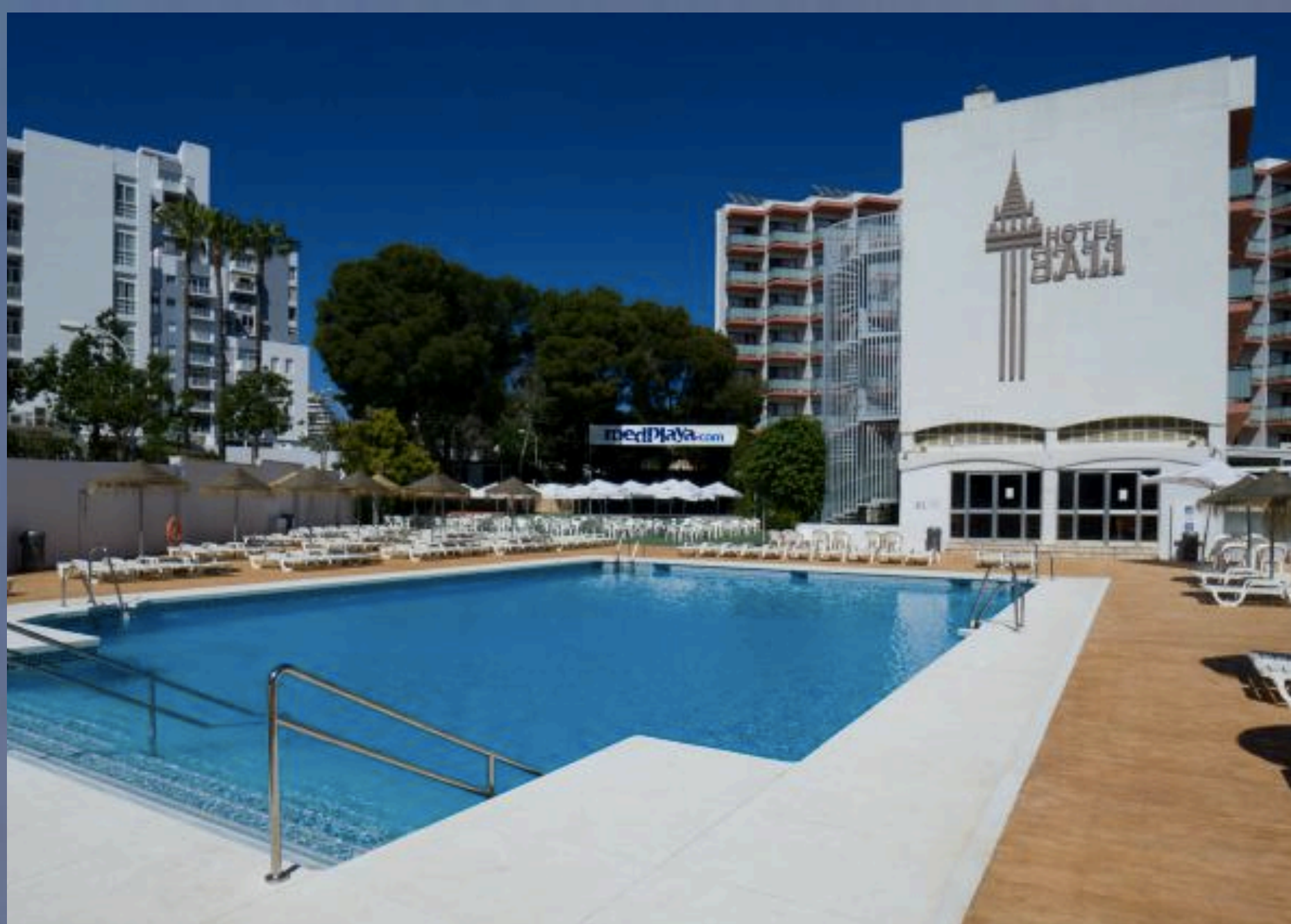
HOTEL RIVIERA
Benalmádena

Adults only 4-star hotel located near the Puerto Marina harbor in Benalmádena Costa.



HOTEL PEZ ESPADA
Torremolinos

A 4-star hotel located on the seafront promenade in Torremolinos. The hotel offers a wide range of room types, from a standard room, Club rooms to a luxury Junior Suites, available from June 2017.



HOTEL BALI
Benalmádena

If you opt for a lively atmosphere, then choose Hotel Bali, a 3-star hotel in Benalmádena Costa, an ideal hotel for families who seek a good value for money accommodation with All Inclusive board option.





COSTA DEL SOL

Getting around

Some useful links:

- ▶ [Local Renfe \(train\) Line Málaga](#)
- ▶ [Bus lines in Costa del Sol](#)
- ▶ [Bus lines in Málaga](#)
- ▶ [Scooter and wheelchair rental](#)

What's your best option?

If you are staying in a remote part of the Costa del Sol or plan to do some exploring while you're here, hiring a car is by far the best option. You can **hire a car** straight at the reception counter or prior to arrival via online car hire websites.

Depending on your destination, you may also be able to select a **Shared Transfer** which is also available as an online option when booking a transfer.

Buses offer an excellent way of moving around here in Costa del Sol. There are buses that will take you to the main cities and towns, such as Fuengirola, Benalmádena, Torremolinos, Málaga. Ask for a bus schedule at the hotel. If you plan to visit cities such as Marbella, Granada, Sevilla, you will need to get a bus from Malaga's main bus station. The tickets can be purchased at the ticket office.

Take a train from the airport to your destination: As you leave the Arrivals Hall in Terminal 3, walk straight ahead and you will come to the **Renfe Málaga Airport Train Station**.

Málaga is on the Málaga Cercanías Line which means the Local Line, going to Fuengirola stopping at Benalmádena, Los Boliches, Torremolinos.

If you take the train into the **Maria Zambrano Station**, just 4 stops away, this is a hub which operates high speed Renfe trains to places like Madrid, Seville, Barcelona, etc.

If you prefer to take a **taxi** (private transfer) there are always plenty of taxis waiting at the taxi ranks at Malaga Airport, although in the summer months you may have to wait a while. The price from the airport to our hotels (Torremolinos, Benalmádena) may range from 25€ to 30€ one way.



COSTA DEL SOL

Things to do in Costa del Sol

- ▶ **Torremolinos** is one of the most popular holiday destinations in the Costa del Sol. With amazing beaches, a renowned and vibrant atmosphere, as well as stunning archaeological attractions, it became the number one destination for holidaymakers from all over the world.
- ▶ **Beaches.** The centre of Torremolinos has two good beaches - La Carihuella and Bajondillo. Both of them are adjacent with many bars, chiringuitos, little shops and restaurants which offer typical spanish dishes (tapas, fresh seafood, etc).
- ▶ **Calle San Miguel.** In San Miguel Street, you can find clothes and jewelry shops, shoes and gift shops as well as cozy restaurants and bars.
- ▶ **Paseo Marítimo** (Sea-front Promenade). It stretches for several kilometres, all of them nicely paved and well supplied with benches, so anyone can take a stroll there and enjoy the sea air. A promenade with palm trees in places, plenty of beach bars and restaurants for when you need refreshment.
- ▶ **'La Bateria' Park.** Is a huge park/ garden located at the Montemar Alto in Torremolinos, the green areas are well maintained. You can cycle, run, work out in the outdoor exercise areas, take a leisurely stroll amongst the exotic plants and trees, soak up the sun and wonderful coastal views.
- ▶ **Molino de Inca.** If you love gardens and nature you simply cannot miss this. The Molina de Inca is a botanical garden is located near Aqualand and the Congress Centre. The garden has more than 500 varieties of trees (56 species of palm trees from all over the world). There are aviaries with different species of birds. Also, a new Japanese garden.
- ▶ **Aqualand Torremolinos.** Is the largest water park on the Costa del Sol. It offers attractions and entertainment for all ages such as: Water slides include Black Hole, Kamikazi, Niagra & Twister, Wave pool, Jacuzzi, Fast river, Infant's park, Tropical lagoon, Lawn & terrace sunbathing areas, Sea Lion Shows, Mini Golf, Gift shop, Pizzeria, hamburgeria & self-service restaurant, BBQ áreas.
- ▶ **Crocodile Park.** From less than two meters you can see giant crocodiles of different species in the world, watching their hunting techniques. The visit of all the facilities of the Crocodile Park takes approximately 2 hours. You can enjoy daily guided tours and demonstrations.
- ▶ **Benalmádena** is a well-known beach resort with many hotels, beaches and famous Puerto Marina, offering facilities, relaxing nightlife and the fabulous Sea Life Aquarium.
- ▶ **Puerto Marina.** Is the largest marina on the Costa del Sol, with over one thousand moorings and a wide range of entertainment and leisure possibilities. If anything makes the atmosphere of Benalmádena Marina, it is the nightlife. Hundreds of bars and terraces, restaurants with different cuisines, countless clubs and pubs.
- ▶ **Castle Bil-Bil.** Is an Arabic style building, decorated with bas-relief tiles following the exquisite Moorish tradition. The building is surrounded by gardens with several Muslim sources of inspiration which gives it a special beauty.
- ▶ **'La Paloma' Park.** A free park with two large lakes as well as walking areas and a garden. The park has several small enclosures containing animals such as emus, sheep and goats. It's a perfect place for a chill out day.



COSTA DEL SOL

Things to do in Costa del Sol

- ▶ **Cable Car Benalmádena (Teleférico).** Take a ride 800 metres above sea level and enjoy the most magnificent views of the Costa del Sol. The cable car will take you from Arroyo de la Miel, at the heart of Benalmadena, to the peak of Mount Calamorro.
- ▶ **Tivoli World.** It is a very popular amusement park which has a theater where musical performances are given by famous singers. There are rides and all sorts of entertainment.
- ▶ **Sea Life Aquarium.** Displays a large number of fish species that can be found in the Costa del Sol. There are more than 30 different aquariums, that are a great educational resource. There are more than 2000 fish that can be found here, from sharks to the smallest and rarest species.
- ▶ **Gibralfaro Castle-** Visiting the castle is a pleasant way to spend your day off. The visit is free of charge on Sundays after 14.00h. The view from the top is excellent.
- ▶ **Selwo Marina Delfinarium.** The amusement park shows the marine mammals and birds of South America. There is a place that has two types of intelligent dolphins. It also has a penguin habitat made of ice that is the first constructed in Andalusia and shows different types of penguins.
- ▶ **Butterfly Park (Mariposario).** Is over 2,000 m2 the largest space dedicated to the butterflies in Europe.
- ▶ **Málaga** provide a unique microclimate in the Peninsula, which in itself provides a fantastic climate for all different types of tourist activities, from sunbathing to enjoying nature in one of its many nature parks. If you are on a short trip to Málaga, there are some beautiful places to visit such as:
 - ▶ **La Alcazaba-** military fortress built by the Moors in the 11th century on the remains of a Roman fortress. The fortress lies on a hilltop with a good view over the town and sea.
- ▶ The **port of Málaga** (Muelle Uno) is located just a few minutes walking from the city centre and it is very easy to integrated into city life. The harbor has been beautiful designed with a lovely promenade with restaurants, playgrounds, gardens and the plan is to plant a total of 1000 palm trees.
- ▶ If you enjoy history and architecture you can't miss the visit of **the Cathedral** which shows many different architectural styles such as a Gothic foundation, Renaissance facades and Baroque towers.
- ▶ Málaga is known as well as a **city of museum** with total of 29 museums dedicated to all types of artwork, history, culture and customs of Andalusia. Here are some of the most visited museums.





COSTA DEL SOL

Where to eat and shop in Málaga, Torremolinos and Benalmádena

- ▶ The **typical spanish dishes** are served in the beach bars/restaurants called chiringuitos, located along the sea-front promenade in Torremolinos and Benalmádena.
- ▶ Málaga centre and the comercial centre Plaza Mayor, which is easily reachable by local train also have wide choice of restaurants with local cuisine and plenty of tapas bars. For a shopping day, we recommend you to visit [Plaza Mayor shopping centre](#), San Miguel street in Torremolinos and street '**Calle Marqués de Larios**' in Málaga which is traffic-free and luxurious area with glossy marble pavements and expensive shops.



GENERAL TIPS

FOR TRAVELLING TO SPAIN

- ▶ If you don't have one, apply for a **European Health Insurance Card** so you're eligible for state medical treatment, should you need it.
- ▶ Keep your **passport** with you as some shops quite often ask to see it if you're paying by credit card.
- ▶ **Cashback service** in shops and travel checks are not usual. And don't forget: banks are closing at 2pm.
- ▶ Take note that many small shops and taxis **do not take credit cards**. Be prepared and have cash on hand in a variety of denominations.
- ▶ Spain is on the whole a **very safe destination**, but as with everywhere petty theft happens. Don't leave your valuables on the beach while you go for a dip. Pay special attention in crowded tourist areas and bus and train stations. We strongly recommend to hire a safety deposit box in the hotel.
- ▶ ATMs always give you a **better exchange rate** than a bureau de change - it should be the same as your bank back home, plus a small fee.
- ▶ Want to send a **postcard**? Mailboxes in Spain are yellow and they can be found all over the city. You can buy a stamp (sello) at the tobacconist shop.
- ▶ Spaniards like to make every meal a **sit-down meal**. Take time to enjoy your meals!
- ▶ You may find it difficult to have dinner before 8pm in a typical Spanish restaurant as Spaniards dine far later than the British!
- ▶ Spaniards tend to **party late** as well, so the real nightlife will start after 1am!
- ▶ Spain's cultural rhythm is slow and leisurely, and it's best to adapt to this while visiting. You are on holiday and Spain is the perfect place to kick back and relax and enjoy life!

The Spanish Costas have something to suit everyone and hopefully this guide has helped you get the most out of planning your holiday.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our Med Playa hotels very soon.

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