



## **Where is Estepona?**

Estepona is located in Spain, west of the Costa del Sol between Marbella and Manilva.

## **Information about Estepona**

Unlike some resorts on the Costa del Sol, Estepona has remained true to its fishing village roots and has retained its typical Andalusian atmosphere. The municipality stretches over more than 21km along the Mediterranean Sea and includes some of the best and quietest beaches on the Costa del Sol. Estepona also boasts spectacular landscapes, including the Los Reales mountains in the north. The highest resort peak is at 1,449m above sea level, one of the highest in the province. These mountains are home to the extremely rare Pinsapo pine tree.

Estepona town has had an expansion in recent years. It is now high on the list of most beautiful resorts on this side of the Costa del Sol. Many streets are pedestrian only and are flanked by whitewashed houses decorated with colourful geraniums.

The beach promenade stretches for a few kilometres. You can walk along the city's Blue Flag beaches. On the west side of the city is Estepona Marina, home to the fishing fleet and home to shops and restaurants, as well as a Sunday market. Estepona has excellent facilities, including health centers, private hospitals, schools (including Colegio San José, which is usually at the top of Andalusia's list of best schools) and sports centers.

Estepona West - to the west of the city there are several low-rise residential developments, including Valle Romano and Costá Galera. Some of the resort's best hotels can be found here, including Hotel Fuerte Estepona, Thalasso Spa Elba and the naturist resort of Costa Natura.

Estepona East - is located between the city centre and the San Pedro de Alcántara. The area is better known as the New Golden Mile. This part of the coastline consists of a succession of high-quality developments - Alcazaba Beach, Los Granados del Mar, Dominion Beach and Mar Azul - and luxury hotels such as the Kempinski Hotel Bahía, Healthhouse Las Dunas and Senator Banus Spa, as well as great beach clubs. Many hotels and residential developments in this part of Estepona are located on the coast overlooking the beach. They also often have communal facilities that in some cases are unparalleled.

North of the A7 motorway, but still within walking distance of the beach, are some of the most popular developments of Estepona. These include Cancelada, Benamara, Atalaya and El Paraíso. All are low-rise and contain a selection of apartments, townhouses and villas. All this is within walking distance of shops and other amenities. Several good hotels are located here, including the Occidental Estepona Thalasso & Spa and Hotel TRH Paraíso. A little further inland you will find the world-famous Villa Padierna resort and hotel.

### **How big is it?**

The municipality of Estepona has a surface area of 137 km<sup>2</sup>, making it one of the largest resorts on the Costa del Sol, along with nearby Benahavis.

### **What is the population of Estepona?**

Approximately 67,000 people live in Estepona, the largest city west of the Costa del Sol.

### **How many people of foreign origin live in Estepona?**

Just under a quarter of the population of Estepona is of foreign origin. British citizens make up the majority of the foreign population (4,460).

### **What is the weather like in Estepona?**

As in the rest of the Costa del Sol, you can expect good weather in Estepona all year round. The resort has more than 320 days of sunshine per year and the average temperature is 19 degrees.

### **How can I reach Estepona?**

Easy. The resort has excellent connections via both the A7 motorway and the AP7 motorway from Malaga and Algeciras. In terms of public transport, there is a good bus connection between Malaga airport and Estepona, and local buses run regularly between Estepona and Marbella.

### **How far is it from Estepona to Malaga airport?**

Malaga Airport is 82km from the centre of Estepona. It takes just under an hour to get there. Developments such as Benamara and Atalaya (east of Estepona) are about 70km away from Malaga Airport. Travel time is about 50 minutes.

### **How far is it from Estepona to Gibraltar airport?**

If you are travelling to Estepona from the United Kingdom, it may be worthwhile to look for flights to Gibraltar. The distance between Gibraltar airport and Estepona is 45km and the ride takes about 45 minutes. However, you should take into account the extra time for border checks.

### **How far is it from Estepona to Marbella?**

Marbella is located 20km east of Estepona and it is only a 20-minute drive by car along the coast road.

### **What are Estepona's main attractions?**

Although it may be small, there are plenty of things to do in Estepona, making it a great holiday destination for all ages and preferences.

The beaches and landscape are definitely at the top of the list of attractions in Estepona. The breathtaking mountains of Los Reales offer excellent hiking opportunities with a variety of routes for beginners and advanced skiers. All routes offer panoramic views of the coastline, the Mediterranean and Africa on the horizon.

In Estepona itself, strolling through the city centre and exploring the labyrinth of beautiful streets and squares is one of the most beautiful things to do. The centrally located Plaza de la Flores is beautiful. You will find traditional facades, a fountain and lots of flowers. The city is also home to almost 30 giant

murals. On it you can see a range of subjects, from abstract to everyday, but all are beautiful, and many are trompe l'oeil.

In addition to murals, Estepona has an extensive collection of sculptures on display in the city. There are more than 25 at different locations. These range from the lifelike monument of the tourist on the beach promenade to the unusual dragon in the sun in the Park Calvario.

In the center of the city are several museums such as the Archaeological Museum, where you can see the Venus of Estepona statue that is over 5000 years old, as well as some interesting Roman mosaics. The orchid garden, with its spectacular glass domes and waterfalls, is home to more than 5,000 orchids and is known as one of Estepona's major attractions.

Families on holiday in Estepona often go to Selwo Aventura. This is one of the biggest theme parks on the Costa del Sol and is a great day out. Selwo is home to dozens of animals from different ecosystems around the world, including large game and tropical birds. Visitors get to see a close-up of the animals along the way.

Golfers love to come to Estepona because there are no less than eight golf courses. For example, the well-known El Paraiso Golf Club and Estepona Golf, as well as the emerging Valle Romano. Estepona is also within easy reach of the many golf courses in Marbella and Benahavis and is just a short drive from the world famous Valderrama Golf, host of the Ryder Cup. And Finca Cortesin Golf is just a 10-minute drive west of Estepona. It is known to host the Volvo World Match Play Championship in recent years.

Estepona also offers a range of water sports such as sailing, jet skiing and diving. Many of these activities are located in Estepona Marina.

### **How are the beaches in Estepona?**

Estepona has a number of beautiful beaches, including three with Blue Flag status (in 2016). All beaches are well maintained and offer facilities and rescue services during the holiday period. Beach tents and restaurants are located on most beaches and many are open all year round.

### **The 17 beaches of Estepona offer something for everyone:**

Family-friendly beaches in Estepona - La Rada and El Cristo are the most popular among families. Both are located in the centre of the city.

Beach clubs in Estepona - Purobeach is located in Laguna Village on the east side of the city centre. It is one of the best beach clubs on the Costa del Sol. Other beach clubs include Sonora Beach, TikiTano Beach and Heaven.

Quiet beaches in Estepona - the quietest beaches on the Costa del Sol can be found near Estepona, especially in El Saladillo and El Castor (both east of the city centre).

Beaches for kite surfing in Estepona - on windy days it is ideal to kite surf on several beaches in Estepona. One of the best is at El Saladillo, where you can find two kitesurfing centres.

### **What cultural activities are there in Estepona?**

Estepona has a year-round cultural program with concerts, dance, theater and other events. Like other resorts on the Costa del Sol, Estepona has several fairs throughout the year. The highlight is the San

Isidro fair in May. The festivities last a week and include an agricultural fair, a horse show, a procession and a fair.

### **Eating out in Estepona**

In recent years, several new restaurants and tapas bars have opened in the centre of Estepona. Some of the best are La Bulla Gastrobar, Taberna Miguel, La Casa del Rey and Restaurante Sur (an Argentinian restaurant).

There is also a good choice of beach bars and restaurants where freshly caught fish and seafood are on the menu. Some of the best in Estepona Marina are Restaurante La Rada, El Pescador and La Escollera.

The resort also has several renowned restaurants. El Palangue, Kabuki Raw (with a Michelin star) and La Alcaria de Ramos. And as you might expect, the many restaurants in Estepona also offer international cuisine that is popular among expatriates in the Costa del Sol. Popular locations include Robbies, Masala Fine Indian Cuisine and Peggotty's (typical British fish & chips), one of the most famous restaurants on the Costa del Sol.

### **What is a typical dish of the region?**

One of the most typical things to eat in Estepona is sopa campera, a soup made with fresh vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers and asparagus, and with bread and a touch of mint. Some recipes contain potatoes and/or shellfish. The soup is served with melon, grapes or oranges.

### **Shopping in Estepona**

Estepona has a wide range of shops to choose from, especially in the centre of the city where you'll find many unusual shops. Several supermarket chains such as Mercadona, Aldi and Carrefour have branches in Estepona and the surrounding areas. There is also a wide choice of shops for expats. For a wider choice, nearby Marbella has a good selection of shopping streets and malls.