

HUELVA  
LA LUZ  
*Andalucía*

# The beaches of Huelva



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Our magnificent coast extends from the mouth of the river Guadiana to the mouth of the river Guadalquivir; from Ayamonte to Almonte, or more precisely, from the beach of Isla Canela to the beach of Castilla, at the most easterly point, where the sea washes Doñana.

These famous Spanish rivers and Huelva's own the Tinto, Odiel and Piedras flow gently into the Atlantic Ocean, in the south-east of the Iberian peninsula. Hospitable and pleasant towns with fine golden sand, almost white at times, cover a distance of over 120 kilometres.

The area has around 3,000 hours of sun a year, just a few days of rain and an average annual temperature of over 18°C. These basic ingredients of the Huelva coast are enough to whet the appetite of visitors and residents alike. But besides this, behind these beaches, nature itself has a significant presence in protected spaces of enormous interest, making what Huelva offers even more attractive.



This is a varied and easily accessible coast: by train, the province is linked to Madrid through the city of Huelva, the provincial capital, by the Altaria train service; or via the high-speed AVE service at the terminal in Seville; if you prefer to fly, the airports of Faro (Portugal) and Seville are no more than 100km from Huelva; by road the A-49 (Huelva-Seville) and the E-1 (Ayamonte- Portugal) motorways provide easy communication, sweeping along the Huelva coastline, beaches and well-situated towns; by sea, there is no public transport, apart from specific leisure-based and traditional internal routes.

Access also comes in the shape of the many marinas in the coastal towns. The Huelva coast is increasingly geared up to welcome visitors wanting to enjoy the charm of these lands. Ayamonte, Almonte, Cartaya, Isla Cristina, Lepe, Moguer, Palos, Punta Umbría and to a lesser extent, Lucena all play an important role in refreshing the province of Huelva with their beaches. There are blue flag beaches which have earned the European "Q" for certified tourist quality; and Nature with a capital "N" in the shape of the Doñana National Park a Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site and Special Protection Area for birds, leading to other less extensive spaces, which are just as important and special, to complement the Huelva coast.



Last but not least, are the areas and towns that history has endowed with a rich artistic and cultural heritage, including famous religious and lay festivities, monuments and historically important figures.

Above all else, each location has a distinctive identity that is worth getting to know through its people and its particular urban layout or traditional architecture, for the most part developing from the close relationship with the sea, fishing and related industries.

The food is first-class and fresh fish and seafood are the coastline's star features... Also available are delicious traditional desserts, fine wines, strawberries and oranges a real treat for those of you eating out. The beaches in Huelva and the surrounding areas will captivate visitors during the day because of their climate, light and liveliness.

Dusk is amazing from any point on the coast. And at night, we have a tip for you: enjoy the sea breeze and discover the rich offerings of these villages and towns.



# Ayamonte

## The Beaches at Isla Canela and Punta del Moral

The capital of the marquisate, historically the area owned by the marquis, emerges at the mouth of the river Guadiana and reaches the sea via almost seven kilometres of beach giving welcome refreshment to the Isla Canela and Punta del Moral areas.

You will find golden sands and calm waters in these areas, which are steeped in history, as attested to by the Roman Mausoleum (Late Empire, 4th century AD) and the Torre de Canela (16th century). Come to the marina which has an entry depth of 2.5 m and over 230 moorings, or visit the immediate surroundings and you will find accommodation, restaurants and bars and a modern town that is in stark contrasts to the former fishing village that is still preserved.

Take in the sea air, settle down and sample a traditional dish, arroz a la marinera (seafood risotto), tuna with onions, succulent coquinas (a type of flat clam) or just go with the locals recommendations.



The 18-hole golf course might be a good choice at which to unwind. But you can also try your hand at nautical activities, go up the river Guadiana one day. It's well worth it. And of course, find time to visit Ayamonte, the last town on which the sun sets, as it leaves amazing lights in its wake in a beautiful setting. Enter the port area and dock from the highest section of the Barrio de La Villa district or from the National Parador hotel, by the bridge over the Guadiana into Portugal. Have a stroll through the port, the park, its streets from the Plaza de la Laguna to the Paseo de la Ribera.

You will see that the trading tradition acquired as a border town still plays a prominent role. Appreciate the rich and varied religious heritage Las Angustias, El Salvador, San Francisco, or historic civic buildings. And of course, combine swimming with the International Music Festival or the National Painting Award, held in August and September respectively, as well as celebrating the local saint day festivities in the centres of Ayamonte, Punta del Moral, Isla Canela and El Salvador.

If you want to visit earlier in the season, come in Holy Week. Ayamonte boasts one of the most famous Holy Weeks in the province, because of its tradition and solemnity, its religious statues and processions.



# Isla Cristina

## **The Beaches at El Cantil, Punta del Caimán, Santana, Central, El Hoyo, La Casita Azul, La Redondela and Islantilla**

Isla Cristina and its beaches emerged from the sea in 1755. The carnival came later, but never stopped, not even in the worst of times, which is why it is important today. Fun and welcoming, this is a sea-faring and fishing town as can be seen from its port and market, both of which are among the most important in Spain for trading in fresh fish.

Nestled between marshlands, pines and beaches, Isla Cristina's beaches offer variety and quantity: the town's own and shared beaches extend just over 13 km. An ideal, refreshing swim for visitors who can also have a go at sailing or water motorsports here, or happily combine a dip with a typical dish such as: skate in paprika, tuna in tomato sauce or whatever garnish or sauce you want, a slice of coca isleña cake for dessert or to accompany a coffee. And of course, don't leave without tasting Isla Cristina's prawns.



The Isla Cristina Marshland Nature Reserve encloses the area in its unique saltiness. From the town centre you can walk up to the sea, which is seen as a strong female presence in these parts. Seaside strolls, wooden bridges and well-designed walkways provide easy access to any of its beaches. This is a coastline where familiar landscapes mingle with tourist locations and is therefore a place where you can therefore find wonderful picnic spots, well-equipped camping sites, a whole range of restaurants and bars and high-quality accommodation with excellent service both in Isla Cristina and nearby.

Get to know the land where salting factories had their heyday, where carnival song can be heard in its streets until you get to the port where you will discover charming "El Cantil" where the Virgen del Carmen, patron saint of sailors, is fêted every August. Visit the surroundings and experience the beauty of the place; wonder at the Palomar de la Huerta Noble, the historical pigeon loft at La Redondela; the Molino Mareal mill near the Pozo del Camino; and the most modern part of the town, with accommodation and additional services which emerge between pine forests, dune and beaches in Islantilla. The beach is shared with Lepe. Since the early 1990s it has been one of the province's most modern tourist offerings on the coast.



# Lepe

## **The Beaches at Islantilla, La Antilla and Nueva Umbría**

The beaches in Lepe begin at Islantilla, where the town layout and urban planning, nature and simplicity have been judiciously combined by the people of la Isla and Lepe to provide visitors and residents with first-class comforts.

Hotel, sports and leisure facilities; on the slopes, a golf-course, opened in 1992, has earned several trophies in Spain and abroad. If you come in spring, you will have time to enjoy the International Film Festival where the complex screens alternative films.

The Torre del Catalán tower, located here since the 16th century, has witnessed the progress of these beaches, of its fishing people, the beginnings of family tourism and new trends in naturism. There is an entire tour to take in at the estuary of the river Piedras, which gives its name to the Marshland Nature Reserve and the strip of land known as the Flecha de Nueva Umbría.



The El Terrón fishing port gives way to a place steeped in tradition, where the variety of good sea food is handsomely represented. The Virgen de la Bella, in Lepe, characterises the religious faith here. Spring is the time for the romería the pilgrimage and feasts, and September is time for festivities, while August ushers in the patron saint day celebrations held in conjunction with San Roque. Life in this town beats quietly at the Paseo "Cuadrao".

For historical reasons, it has seen the local population change from cultivating crops in dry land to irrigated crops giving exceptional strawberries, and from fishing to tourism. Rodrigo de Triana, a native of Lepe and the first European to sight America from La Pinta on Columbus's first voyage, has bequeathed to history his famous "Land ahoy" and also left his mark on the town's economic growth and future.

He was important for introducing new agricultural practices with the "red gold", the strawberry originally from America. This and oranges, almonds and other produce are highly sought after in markets everywhere. Added to the town's heritage and its almost 18 km of beaches, all these things are a magnificent offering.



# Cartaya

## **Beaches at San Miguel, El Rompido and Nuevo Portil**

The Cartaya coastline extends just over 4 km, set among pines and continuing onto the marshlands which started in Lepe and finishing in the estuary of the river Piedras at the unspoilt, welcoming Flecha del Rompido.

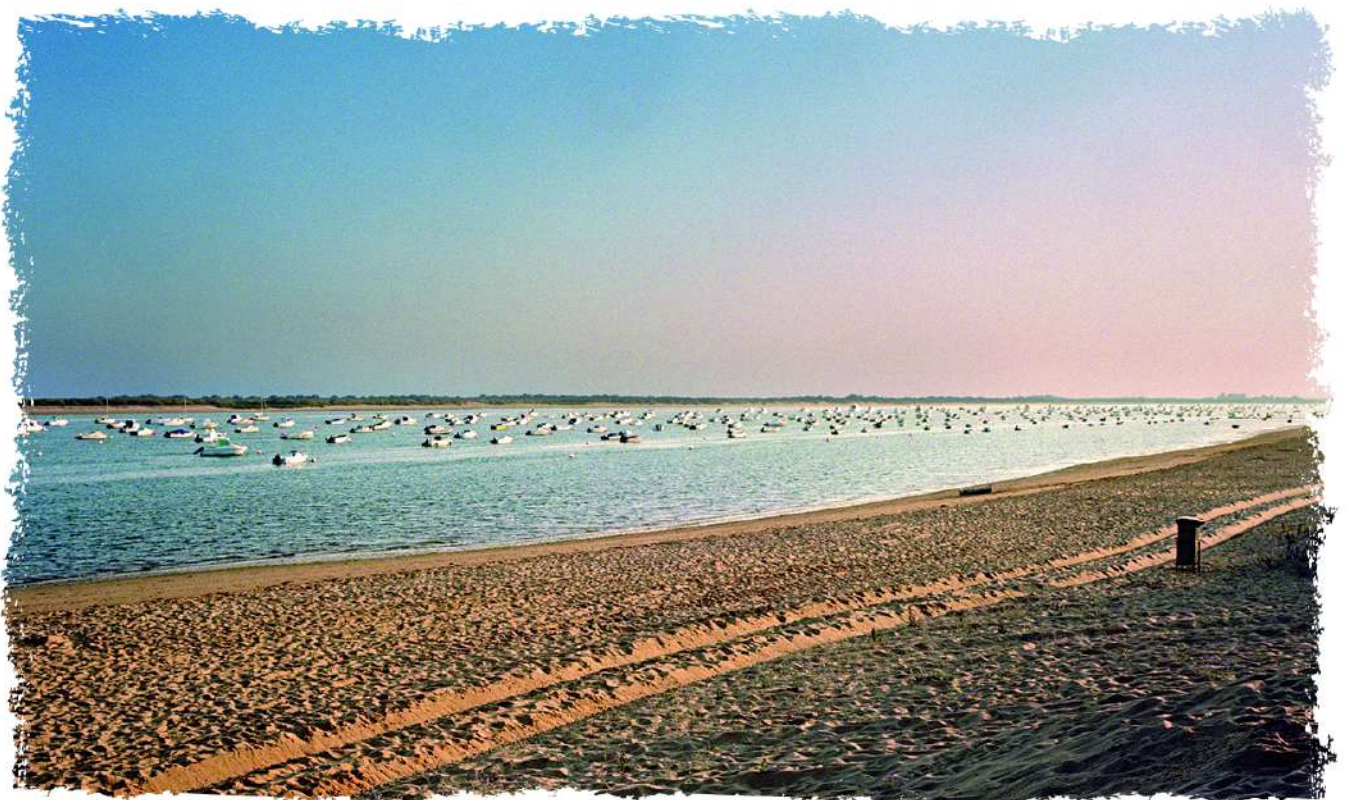
Try to identify it from the coastal viewpoints, and see its allure for yourself; wander through these places, board a boat and get to know its nooks and crannies.

This protected nature reserve is valuable for its unique bird, aquatic and plant life. A family atmosphere, traditional beach architecture, a fishing port, terraces where fresh fish and seafood continue to feature prominently; this is El Rompido and Nuevo Portil.



Don't leave these beaches without taking part in the summer festival at El Rompido, one of the area's most lively events in the season. Further inland, the area has been prepared to welcome the most demanding visitors: smart hotels with varied and affordable additional services for tourists and visitors, featuring golf courses, conference centres, a waterpark, a karting track and, never missing, the unmistakable greenery of the pine forests spreading and surrounding the El Portil Laguna Reserve.

Visit Cartaya. Its 15th century fort awaits together with its shrine, church, the typical Andalusian council buildings from the 18th century. Experience life on the streets, agriculture, which is mostly dependent on strawberries and citrus fruit, plus the people's affection for horses and accessories that are shown off in April every year. Alternatively, come in October and see the high-profile Agricultural and Industrial Fair established in 1964.



# Punta Umbría

## **The beaches of El Portal, Los Enebrales, La Bota, La Mata Negra, Punta Umbría and La Ría**

Around the peninsula of Punta Umbría, visitors can enjoy over 14 kilometres of beaches with fine sand at this seaside, fishing town. Pine forests, savins and junipers give the right touch of green and, with the azure sea, give colour to this hidden paradise which was rediscovered by British "miners" at the end of the 19th century.

Their presence here over years became obvious as a result of their typical wooden houses built on pillars between dunes and pines. However, today only a few remain on the walk along the estuary. Nevertheless, they still preserve the appearance of the former British "health houses". While visiting them, pop into the British House Museum, a copy of houses from other times and some civic buildings inspired by the period but with avant-garde overtones.

Another beacon tower in Umbría begun in 1577 and finished in 1614 led to the emergence of this predominantly fishing village. It had a magnet effect and filled the surrounding areas to form the modern-day Punta Umbría. The summer population here increases tenfold with holiday-makers who want to repeat or discover their enjoyment at these beaches as others have done.



From El Portil, with its Laguna Nature Reserve, to Punta de la Caneleta, uninterrupted beaches complement La Ría, where swimming for family groups and the young comes along with fishing or leisure trips, at various points on the quays, in the fishing port and the market. The traditional stalls for shrimps and crabs still stand on the streets and the Plaza Pérez Pastor at dusk, next to the Canoas wharf. This is the place to set off for the city of Huelva, the provincial capital, through the marshlands of the river Odiel and revel in a fine nature reserve. You can still sample many typical local dishes, which, have no doubt, come from the town's day-to-day activities: fried fish, grilled sardines, fish stews with monkfish and an abundance of seafood, to name but a few. Experience the lively feast of the Virgin of Carmen, in summer. Enjoy good music at the flamenco club, walk through Calle Ancha with its restaurants, hotels and shops, stroll through its neighbourhoods, meet the people and make the most of its main avenues: the Andalucía or the Océano, the new access road to the city. In between its typical trees, paths and bike lanes is an emerging area in which a major tourist complex has been developed to provide hotels, a conference centre, shopping centre and other services. It still looks maintains the influence of Punta Umbría, even among the pines, savins and junipers.



# Huelva

## Beach of El Espigón

Barely two decades were needed by Mother Nature to give Huelva a second beach. It was a by-product of the port activity when the Juan Carlos I dyke was created.

The accumulation of sand on the ocean side produced a virgin beach in the middle of the Odiel Marshland Nature Reserve. In some ways it evokes other times, as does the Punta del Sebo.

Two and a half kilometres of peace and calm where locals and visitors to the Huelva city can escape from the summer heat, and lovers of fishing can indulge in their favourite past-time.

Take the opportunity to cool down in this beautiful location, and when you're back in Huelva, learn about the British influence. This has, of course, also left a permanent impression on the city's neighbourhoods, docks, civic buildings, and the forefather of Spanish football, the Recreativo de Huelva.



Visit the religious and civic monuments in the old town and the surroundings. Stroll through the commercial streets in the centre and the Isla and experience the life that emanates through here.

Get to know Huelva from high up. The Mirador de El Conquero viewpoint and the Alonso Sánchez park are good places to gain more of an understanding into the development the city, which nestles between marshlands and is closely associated with fishing. The discovery of the Americas was organised here at Palos and Moguer, but Huelva was, of course, actively involved in the project and the Monument to the Discoverer Faith bears witness to this.

Just as Columbus did, discover this Tartessian city, which was known as Onuba to the Romans and Welba to the Arabs. Discover its new spaces such as the Moret Park: a huge, virgin, irregularly-shaped area making it unique; or the Avenida de Andalucía, an ordered avenue with room for nature and leisure activities. Experience a new Huelva, and make the most of its history.



# Palos de la Frontera

## Beaches of Puente del Vigía and Mazagón

The "Casa del Vigía", the watchtower built in the early 20th century for surveillance, signalling and indicating the ports of Mazagón and Huelva. Nowadays, it is a fine- looking building that has been faithfully restored and supported on 16 reinforced concrete posts. It is probably Andalusia's first construction in this material.

The building, dominating a pleasant area of the coast that continues on to Mazagón will be managed by the town council for cultural purposes. Mazagón, a town shared between Palos and Moguer, has six kilometres of beach. Tranquil waters, new tourist and services infrastructure, and excellent sailing facilities, essentially in the form of its modern port, strategically situated on the way to and from the Mediterranean. Whether it is yachtsmen and women, lovers of windsurfing, enthusiasts of fishing, motorsports, sailing, the water on this part of the coast is a colourful image of nautical sports.



Palos is a must-see venue, as the birthplace of the discovery of America, as attested to by history and the town's many references to Columbus: the Monastery of La Rábida, the Dock of the Three Caravels, the Church of San Jorge, the Fontanilla, the Martín Alonso Pinzón House Museum. You should also visit the Laguna of Palos y Las Madres and the marvellous surrounding areas, that signal the proximity of Doñana.

Palos's seaside lands have altered the town's main economic activity in which fishing and dry farming have now been replaced by irrigation- based farming, with strawberries and citrus fruit earning a well-deserved reputation for food-lovers. Palos is a place where your palate will be stimulated by stewed cuttlefish and potatoes, mackerel in tomato, freshly pressed wine must and almond cakes in any of its many bars in both the town and further afield.

Experience its feasts: in April it is the feast-day of San Jorge, the patron saint, and in August the feast of the Virgin of Miracles. And don't forget the events commemorating the discovery of America (3 August and 15 March).



# Moguer

## Beaches of Mazagón, El Parador, Rompeculos and Torre del Loro

In addition to the shared coast with Palos and Mazagón, the area around Moguer offers unforgettable beaches and locations. From the Cristóbal Colón National Parador, visitors will completely forget the urban world as they enter a practically virgin, almost unexplored coastline. Pine forests, cliffs, dunes and beaches are an ideal place to enjoy a little naturism over some 5 kilometres up to the Torre del Loro.

In their ancient dunes in the Nature Reserve of Doñana, the beach of the Parador and its unusually high sea-facing cliffs will be an inviting location to appreciate the landscape, walk on the soft sand and graceful foam left in the wake of the waves, and take a dip. Juan Ramón Jiménez, Nobel Prize for Literature, was born in Moguer which still preserves his influence in full: a monument, his birth house, the House Museum and streets featuring fragments of his writings on picturesque tiles. All of this helps make this place, which is steeped in history, heritage and life, even more beautiful



The discovery of America is visible at the Monastery of Santa Clara and the fortified church, the Monastery of San Francisco which is home to a renowned legacy of archives as well as other buildings, churches and places.

They become even more tempting when combined with the typical local desserts, orange wine and cheesecakes. This is not a place that you can easily forget.

In early September come to the patron saint festivities at Montemayor or go to the pilgrimage on the second Sunday in May, where in the midst of sevillanas and fandango music you will gain an glimpse into the art radiating from the Festival of Flamenco Song in July. And at the Summer Moon Festival, enjoy the most avant-garde shows, at open-air monuments.



# Almonte

## Beaches of Torre del Loro, Castilla and Matalascañas

The Torre del Loro (16th century) is now torn down but was active in the past, as were others on the coast which served as watchtowers for pirate raids.

This is one of the most tranquil and unspoilt places on the Huelva coast. Interestingly it is also the meeting point of four town boundaries; Palos, Moguer, Lucena and Almonte, which you can "visit" in an instant by just walking around the tower.

From the cliffs of El Asperillo, designated by the regional government of Andalusia as a natural monument, the beach of Castilla stretches to the most easterly tip of the coast, refreshing and bringing even more life to Doñana, a World Heritage Site, and a place where the locals worship their Virgin Mary in the nearby village of El Rocío, on their pilgrimage the romería world famous event which attracts at least 1 million people in less than a week.



Matalascañas also had a tower, the Torre la higuera. But like the one mentioned earlier, it is just a token presence, now that it is curiously splayed on the beach. Even So, an interesting Coast Interpretation Centre is currently being built, which commemorates these defensive constructions. Called "Torre Almenara", it also houses a welcoming Dune Park and the Marine World Museum.

Doñana, El Rocío, Matalascañas and their beaches, have sufficient appeal of their own for a visit to the Almonte area and the main population centre.

Almonte has baroque overtones overlapping the Mudéjar style in the streets, buildings, churches. It has an aroma of fruity, frothy wines where horses play an unusually important role, fairs, competitions. The horse run, the saca de yeguas, on 26 June each year, is traditional and unique because of the natural and surprise setting in the marshlands of Doñana.



# **Tourism Offices Information**

**Oficina Municipal de Turismo de Ayamonte**  
959 320 737

**Oficina de Información Turística de El Rompido-Cartaya**  
959 391 397

**Centro de Interpretación Puerta del Atlántico de Huelva**  
959 541 817

**Punto de Información Turística Huelva**  
959 251 218

**Oficina de Turismo Casa Patio San Francisco de Isla Cristina**  
959 332 694

**Oficina de Turismo de Islantilla**  
959 646 013

**Oficina de Turismo de Lepe**  
959 625 020

**Oficina Municipal de Turismo de Mazagón**  
663 879 634

**Oficina de Turismo de Moguer**  
959 371 898

**Oficina de Turismo de Punta Umbría**  
959 495 160

# HUELVA LALUZ

Andalucía



## PLAYAS

- Autovías / Autopistas
- Red del Estado (RIGE)
- Carretera Autonómica de 2º Orden / Carretera Autonómica Local



# Huelva *eleva* tus sentidos.



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