



EXCURSIONS IN ANDALUCIA

Estepona – a jewel on Costa del Sol

Estepona is one of the few coastal towns that have succeeded in maintaining its pueblo charm and character, despite the tourism. Notwithstanding, all the tourist facilities are there, including hotels, restaurants, leisure and cultural activities and shops. The narrow old streets are decorated with hanging flowers, each street with its own colour on the ceramics, and seem more suited to horses than cars. You can stroll along Calle Real Main street which is pedestrian with its many bars and restaurants with typical Spanish dishes, have a glass of Rioja with Jamon and Manchego cheese, or go to Plaza de las Flores square in the centre of town and take a white coffee “ café con Leche”. The newly built Orchid museum is a must, and around the square there are several large mural paintings on the facade of the buildings. In total, there are more than 30 large mural paintings around the town. Estepona town market is during 2017 converted to a food market.

The mountain on the background of Estepona is called Sierra Bermeja, a natural park, which reaches an elevation of nearly 1.500 metres at the peak of Los Reales. On the way up there are several "miradores", viewpoints from where you have a view over the coastline all the way to Africa. If you follow the road down on the other side of Sierra Bermeja, if you turn north you reach several "white villages" and the town of Ronda with its famous bridge and bullring, and if you turn south San Roque.

Estepona is renowned for its beaches, two with Blue Flag, which stretch along around 21 kilometres of the coastline. Along the beach there is a boardwalk almost all the way. There are all kind of beach activities.



Cycling and tennis are popular in Estepona as well as golf, more than 30 golf courses are reached within 15 minutes with a car. There is a modern fishing and sports marina with many tapas bars and restaurants. Usually the modern sports marina hosts the weekly Sunday street market. Estepona does not have large hotel complexes, it is a town where local population mixes with north European citizens living long term in the sun. During summer, there are many tourists from other parts of Spain and the rest of Europe. The

Mayors goal is to make Estepona the garden of Costa del Sol, and he is well on his way.

The area has been occupied since prehistoric times. Romans occupied the area, but their town was destroyed by a seaquake in the 4th century. The name Estepona probably comes from the Moorish Astabbuna or Al-Extebunna. Henrik IV of Castille

captured the town from the moors in 1457 and built the town's first Christian church over what had been the mosque. Today remains only the clock tower. Of the town's castle, there are only very small remains. Estepona has a special micro climate with over 320 days with



sun. The summers are hot and you may need to take a "siesta" between 2 and 5 on one of the Chiringuito (beach bars) on the beach with a beer and fried octopus. Have



dinner at 8, Spaniards eat at 10, in the warm summer night. Try Paella and Andalusian Gazpacho - a cold tomato soup. You can also find food from nearly all world in the small charming restaurants in the marina area or in the old town. Just enjoy the Spanish lifestyle. The winters are mild an average daytime highs of 17-23 degrees, although the mornings can be chilly.

Just outside the city centre you find Carrefour where you can find all you need but especially fresh fish as Estepona is an important landing

place for the fishing industry.

If you continue eastwards you will see Laguna Village, shopping and restaurants, and Selwo Aventura, a fantastic safari park. The Jet-set village of Puerto Banus, with its harbour with luxury yachts and nightlife, is only 21 kilometres away. One of the largest shopping centres in Europe, called La Cañada, is situated in the northern part of Marbella about 25 kilometres away from Estepona.

Most tourists come to Malaga airport from all Europe. Try to spend a day in our favourite town Malaga with its



fantastic car museum, art museums, shopping street Larios, Muelle Uno harbour area with shops and restaurants and much more.

Sierra Nevada is situated just outside the town



Granada, where you also can visit the Moorish castle Alhambra and Generalife. If you go south from Estepona, you can visit the village of Casares, Sotogrande marina, Gibraltar with its apes and history, Tarifa with its traffic to Morocco and surfers, Trafalgar with its history of Nelson and lighthouse, Bolonia with its Roman town and production of Garum sauce, Cadiz Europe's oldest town, Jerez the town of Sherry and much more.



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