



FUENGIROLA

The area

From its origins as a small fishing village, Fuengirola is now one of the largest cities on the Costa del Sol and also one of the main coasts and tourist destination. Largely in nature, the city consists of a total of 76,000 inhabitants (25% of which are predominantly European foreigners) and is a beehive of activity, with its busy streets full of up-market tapas bars, shops, restaurants and nightclubs.

Fuengirola is a bustling metropolis with a fantastic 8km stretch of beach, a picturesque port and a recently redesigned main square, Plaza de la Constitución, which is bustling all year round with both locals and tourists sampling the local cuisine and browsing the surrounding boutiques. The square is an enchanting meeting place for family and friends during festivities such as the annual Fuengirola Summer Feria, Christmas and New Year when it is all dressed up in elaborate lights and ornaments and the whole town participates in street parties and explodes in song and dance.

Another major attraction of Fuengirola, and a unique symbol of the Costa del Sol, is Sohail Castle, a luxurious medieval Moorish fortress that is now used as a venue for concerts, markets and other events - especially during the summer months.

The city is just a 40-minute drive from Malaga Airport, connecting the Costa del Sol with most European destinations and is a short drive from charming coastal towns such as La Cala and Benalmadena.

What to do

The Plaza de la Constitución is lined with numerous tapas bars, good restaurants and unique shops. During the summer, residents of Fuengirola, tourists and residents of other areas of all ages come out onto the street to enjoy the vibrant nightlife and every corner of this friendly coastal city.

One of the most popular attractions of the city is Fuengirola Biopark, an animal-friendly zoo, located in the center. The park is created with the animal welfare in mind and is proud to keep their living environment as free as possible. Visitors are therefore invited to view and interact with the animals but with natural barriers such as rivers and bridges for protection. A great day out for children and adults!

Another popular destination is the Fuengirola Water Park, the largest of its kind on the Costa del Sol. The park offers a number of attractions such as water slides, wave pools, adventure river and more. For small children there is also a Mini Water Park and plenty of cozy cafes and meeting places for adults.

The Sohail castle, originally built by the Moors in the 11th century, is not the only evidence of the diverse culture and history of Fuengirola. For lovers of history, the Fuengirola History Museum exhibits many unique artifacts, including Roman remains, which are specific to the area.

Fuengirola Feria and Easter Week are two major events in the local agenda that show the best Spanish culture and also the vibrant character of the coastal region. During this special week, the city explodes with light, colour and constant street parties. These include rides, concerts of flamenco song and dance, religious processions and food markets. The fairs are unique experiences you can't miss.

Also located in the charming little side street called 'Las Rampas', the Salon Varietes Theatre offers theatre and entertainment all year round. The large cinema and shopping mall, Miramar offers a huge choice of high-street brands such as Zara, mango and C & A, as well as English movies.

For those who want to enjoy a more active outdoor life, there is much to do: Golf courses, the Mijas Horse Racecourse, a Go Karting circuit, parasailing and fishing trips are just a few of the activities offered in Fuengirola.

Infrastructure

Fuengirola is only 25 km away from Malaga airport and connects the Costa del Sol with the rest of the world. There are flights to all major Spanish and European cities several times a day.

The bus and train stations are located in the centre of Fuengirola, so you don't have to count on a car to get along the coast.

For those who want their own car, Fuengirola offers plenty of parking in the city and is easily accessible from the N340 coastal road.

Health care

Tourists from Europe with a European Health Insurance gives you access to health care during your stay. You will simply need to contact your local health authorities to organise this.

Once you have settled in Spain and become a resident, you are entitled to benefit from the fantastic Spanish health care, this is free for those who contribute to Spanish social security.

If you want, you can also choose to be insured by one of the many private health insurance companies. Rates for Spanish private health insurance is very low compared to many other European countries.

Both public and private medical facilities are excellent in Spain often with services in English and other languages.

Fuengirola offers a number of medical facilities such as the Centro Medico Xanit and Centro Salus Clinic.

Education

You will find a wide choice of nurseries, primary schools and public schools in Fuengirola. Spanish schools accept their pupils on the basis of their area of residence and this has to be done at the Fuengirola Town Hall. Public schools usually offer free transport and extracurricular activities, as well as additional Spanish classes for expatriate children. There are also a number of private schools in Fuengirola, both Spanish and International.