

# 11-Day Costa del Sol, Spain Vacation for Family

From: Istanbul, Turkey | Budget: budget | Type: family | Interests: Food, Shopping, Beach, Culture

**Costa del Sol, Spain – 11-Day Family Itinerary**
**Budget-friendly | Focus: Food, Shopping, Beach & Culture**

## Day 1: Arrival in Málaga

- Morning flight from Istanbul to Málaga (AGP). Take the affordable airport train or bus into the city center.
- Check into a budget hotel or apartment in Málaga Centro or Pedregalejo area.
- Evening stroll along Muelle Uno waterfront, enjoy fresh seafood tapas at a local bar.
- Tip: Book flights mid-week for cheapest fares. Pack light clothing, sunscreen, and comfortable walking shoes.

## Day 2: Málaga City Exploration

- Visit the iconic Alcazaba fortress and Roman Theatre (combined ticket ~€5).
- Walk through the historic center and enjoy free entry to Picasso Museum (book timed slot online).
- Shop at Calle Larios and the surrounding pedestrian streets for souvenirs and local brands.
- Dinner: Try traditional Málaga-style fried fish (pescaíto frito) at a budget-friendly family restaurant.
- Tip: Use the city bus system or walk everywhere in the compact center.

## Day 3: Beach Day in Málaga

- Relax at Playa Pedregalejo or Playa del Palo – both family-friendly with shallow waters.
- Rent umbrellas and chairs cheaply or bring your own towels.
- Lunch at a beach chiringuito (beach bar) serving fresh sardines and paella.
- Evening promenade and ice cream for the kids.
- Tip: Best beach time is before 11am or after 4pm to avoid peak heat.

## Day 4: Day Trip to Nerja

- Morning bus from Málaga to Nerja (1 hour, very cheap).
- Explore the famous Nerja Caves (family ticket available).
- Walk along the Balcón de Europa and enjoy the dramatic coastline views.
- Shop for local crafts and have lunch at a sea-view restaurant.
- Return to Málaga in the late afternoon.
- Tip: Buses run frequently; purchase round-trip tickets at the station.

## Day 5: Marbella Old Town & Shopping

- Early bus to Marbella (1 hour).
- Wander the beautiful white-washed Old Town (Casco Antiguo) and Orange Square.
- Browse affordable shops along Avenida Ricardo Soriano and the marina area.
- Family lunch featuring fresh Andalusian gazpacho and grilled meats.
- Beach time at Playa Fontanilla before returning.
- Tip: Marbella can be more expensive — stick to Old Town eateries for better value.

## Day 6: Torremolinos & Beach Vibes

- Short train ride to Torremolinos.
- Full day at the wide, sandy Carihuela Beach – perfect for families.
- Stroll the long promenade lined with restaurants and shops.
- Dinner: Choose a budget chiringuito for paella or fresh seafood.
- Tip: The coastal train (Cercanías) is the cheapest and most scenic way to travel between towns.

## Day 7: Cultural Day in Málaga

- Visit the Cathedral of Málaga (known as “La Manquita”) and the nearby Mercado de Atarazanas for local produce and tapas.
- Join a free or low-cost walking tour of the historic center (tips-based).
- Shop at El Corte Inglés or local markets for Spanish fashion and gifts.
- Evening: Relaxed family dinner with homemade-style Spanish food.
- Tip: Many museums offer free entry on Sunday afternoons.

## Day 8: Fuengirola Family Beach Day

- Morning train to Fuengirola.
- Spend the day at the long sandy beach with calm waters ideal for children.

- Visit the lively Bioparc Fuengirola (zoo) if kids want a change from the beach.
- Shop at the bustling street market (best on Tuesdays).
- Return to base in the evening.

## Day 9: Mijas Pueblo – Mountain Village Culture

- Bus or taxi to the charming white village of Mijas Pueblo in the hills.
- Take the famous donkey-taxi ride, visit the miniature museum, and enjoy panoramic views.
- Explore local artisan shops and try traditional Spanish sweets.
- Lunch at a family-run venta with mountain views and hearty Andalusian food.
- Tip: Go early to avoid crowds and heat; wear comfortable shoes for cobbled streets.

## Day 10: Free Day – Beach & Shopping in Málaga

- Return to your favorite beach or try a different one (e.g., Playa de la Malagueta).
- Final shopping for olive oil, wine, and Spanish souvenirs at local supermarkets or markets.
- Enjoy a relaxed lunch featuring regional specialties like ajoblanco and espetos (sardines on a stick).
- Evening family farewell dinner with flamenco show if budget allows (or street performance).

## Day 11: Departure Day

- Morning free for last-minute beach walk or café breakfast with churros con chocolate.
- Transfer to Málaga Airport using the train (very convenient and cheap).
- Depart for Istanbul in the afternoon/evening.

**Practical Tips:**

- Use the Renfe Cercanías coastal train for cheap travel between all towns.
- Eat at local bars and markets instead of tourist restaurants to stay within budget.
- Best time to visit beaches is May–June or September for fewer crowds and pleasant weather.
- Stay hydrated and apply sunscreen — Andalusian sun is strong.

## Booking Tips

- Flights: https://www.flystayride.com/flights/
- Hotels: https://www.flystayride.com/hotels/
- Car Rentals: https://www.flystayride.com/cars/
- Airport Transfers: https://www.flystayride.com/transfer/
- Tours & Activities: https://www.flystayride.com/tours/
- Travel eSIM: https://www.flystayride.com/esim/