

# Costa de la Luz

The Spanish stretch of the Atlantic that extends from Tarifa on the southern most tip of Spain right up to the border with Portugal's Algarve was named for its strong, pure light

The city of Cádiz is an incredible mix of old and new and its vibrant street life make it a popular place to buy both with the Spanish and overseas investors. Originally founded by the Phoenicians who used it as a trading port, then inhabited by the Romans, and finally used as the spice trading centre for Spain with the new worlds in the middle ages, Cádiz has had a colourful past. Recently it provided the setting for Havannah in the Bond movie *Die Another Day*. This cinematic twist is not that far from the truth as Cádiz's nickname is La Cubita or Little Cuba. The city is now a lively commercial centre and the capital of the Province. Surrounded by

the Bay of Cádiz and the Atlantic on three sides it has some of the best beaches on the coast with miles of fabulous unspoilt white sand. The old part of the city is small and easily accessible on foot. The city has excellent bus and rail links and provides easy access to Jerez (with low cost Ryanair flights), Seville and the southern part of the Costa de la Luz. Cádiz is known throughout Spain for its vibrant and numerous fiestas which take place in the streets of the old town. Its Carnival is said to be the best in mainland Spain.

**Property hunting in Cádiz**  
The most popular type of accommodation in Cádiz is

the apartment and this might just be the time to buy. Still not as famous as its big sisters Madrid and Barcelona, the prices in Cádiz are buoyant but still affordable. The Council is currently offering a building renovation programme whereby it pays part and the residents pay part to upgrade the exterior and interior of the buildings and lay on new services such as mains gas which is a relatively new commodity in Spain. As a result, great swathes of Cádiz are suddenly emerging from under many years of city grime to reveal beautiful buildings originally built for the rich merchants and now divided into apartments with all mod cons.

A newly renovated building of particular note stands in Calle Raphael de la Viesca in the old town and was originally constructed in the 18th century as a palace for a lesser royal. It has been converted into bright and modern apartments but the building still retains its original feel and the paint finishes have been brought back to their original colours to give an added air of opulence. The entrance lobby rises up through the floors to the domed cupola with its gold ornamentation and the decorative panels are so fresh that it is not hard to imagine the splendour of this property when it was first constructed. The spacious apartments of 2, 3 and



4 bedrooms are finished to high standards with marble floors, marble bathrooms, hot and cold air-conditioning, and built-in wardrobes with safes. A 2-bedroom apartment is €252,425. Cádiz Casa is a property specialist in Cádiz and one of the first English speaking agents to offer properties for sale to foreign buyers. With over 150 properties from 144,000 -6,000,000 it has something for most budgets.

## Ayamonte

Ayamonte (which featured in the travel pages of issue 23 of *Living Spain*) is a fishing port that sits on the border between Spain and Portugal in the Huelva province. Situated on the estuary of the Río Guadiana, the second longest river in Europe, Ayamonte's development has been inextricably linked to its position on the border with Portugal. Indeed its beautiful tiled and tree lined plazas are reminiscent of neighbouring Portugal. The centre is a good place to take a leisurely stroll, as many of its narrow streets are pedestrianised. These link small, pretty plazas, which are tucked

away but full of busy pavement cafés and bars serving the great seafood, characteristic of the Costa de la Luz.

Ayamonte is surrounded by protected areas teeming with wildlife. The Marismas del Guadiana, the marshes of the Guadiana estuary, are rich in birdlife, including herons, storks and flamingos.

Casa Del Sol is selling Andalusian-style family houses with 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms, large terraces and private parking place for two cars on a superb development here.

The development will have 225 terraced houses in total and will be built in three phases. The first phase will consist of 71 houses, the second 78 and the third 76.

A swimming pool (with changing room), bar, 2 paddle courts, gardens and communal facilities are part of the development. The area is completely fenced and access is limited to owners. The properties include air-conditioning, household appliances and use of golf facilities. Prices start from €200,000.

With Portugal so close, Faro airport is within easy reach and takes about 45 minutes on the



new motorway and impressive suspension bridge that links the two countries. Seville is the other option if you are heading for a Spanish airport. With some of the most undeveloped beaches in southern Spain this often-overlooked part of Andalucía is an interesting option for those not wanting a built-up resort or large ex-pat community.

## GET IN TOUCH

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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Key
<b>London</b>	4	4	6	8	11	15	17	16	14	10	6	5	Average monthly rainfall (mm)
	49	39	40	41	47	48	59	60	52	65	60	51	
<b>Costa de la Luz</b>	15	17	20	21	24	28	32	32	30	24	19	14	Average monthly sunshine (hrs)
	117	25	35	55	38	4	1	1	50	92	82	130	