



## **BENAHAVIS GUIDE**

### **Where is Benahavis?**

The municipality of Benahavis is located west of the Costa del Sol, a small piece inland between Estepona and Marbella. Benahavis has excellent connections within easy reach (via Malaga) and offers access to national and international destinations, as well as other popular destinations on the Costa del Sol.

### **Information about Benahavis**

The municipality stretches over a large area of about 150km<sup>2</sup>, from the coastal area to the mountains between Marbella and Estepona. It differs from the other Costa del Sol resorts - in the heart of the extensive area lies the quiet and traditional village of Benahavis in the mountains, which has retained the Andalusian feel.

Benahavis is one of the richest municipalities in Spain. This is due to the large number of high quality developments around the village. Golf resorts such as La Quinta and Los Arqueros belong to Benahavis, as well as La Zagaleta, an exclusively fenced estate that houses some of Spain's most expensive real estate. The nearby Villa Padierna, with its 5-star GL hotel and golf resort, hosted Michelle Obama and her family in 2010.

### **How diverse is Benahavis?**

Although the village is small, the municipality itself is very large. It includes numerous mountain ranges, river valleys and forests, making it one of the most beautiful places on the Costa del Sol. Home to many golf courses and exclusive homes, and its natural environment combined with very low density construction, makes Benahavis highly sought after for buying real estate on the Costa del Sol, especially among foreigners looking for an oasis of peace and quiet within easy reach of Marbella.

What is the population of Benahavis?

Just over 7,100 people live in Benahavis.

### **How many people of foreign origin live in Benahavis?**

Like most resorts on the Costa del Sol, Benahavis is home to a lot of foreigners - almost 4,500. More than 40% of them are of British origin.

### **How is the weather in Benahavis?**

Benahavis has the beautiful weather for which the Costa del Sol is so famous. Expect at least 320 days of sunshine per year. Due to the location of the village (inland between the mountains) the average winter temperatures are slightly lower than in the Marbella and Estepona region, and in summer it can be a bit warmer.

### **How can I reach Benahavis?**

Easy! There is a good road (A-7175) that takes you to the village of the A-7 motorway between San Pedro and Estepona (turn off at Guadalmina). If you come from the AP-7 motorway, turn off at San Pedro and follow the signs for Benahavis. The journey takes about 15 minutes.

How far is it from Benahavis to Malaga airport?

The airport of Malaga is 71km away from the village. It takes about 50 minutes to get there.

### **How far is it from Benahavis to Gibraltar airport?**

Gibraltar Airport - a good alternative if you are flying from the Costa del Sol to the United Kingdom - **is about 70km away. The journey takes about an hour plus extra time for border controls.**

### **How far is it from Benahavis to Marbella?**

The well-known resorts of Puerto Banus and Marbella are about 10km away.

### **What are the main attractions of Benahavis?**

The natural environment is at the top of the list of attractions in Benahavis. There are only a few places on the Costa del Sol that have such uninterrupted views of mountains, forests and rivers. The village itself contains many well-kept narrow streets and squares, flanked by Andalusian whitewashed houses.

The beautiful Parque Torre Leoneras on the south side of the village contains the ruins of a medieval tower and a large lake. The Montemayor Castle, built in the 10th century, is largely ruined, but several parts of the walls and the Queen's Tower are still intact. The view from here on the Costa del Sol is beautiful.

The Sunday market, held on the grounds of a sanctuary on the way to the village, is one of the most popular markets on the Costa del Sol. The trunk market is a great Sunday morning activity that attracts many different buyers and sellers from the coastal areas.

The Guadalmina River offers fantastic canyoning opportunities - this makes the route along the river via waterfalls and baths one of the most adventurous activities on the Costa del Sol. There is also a beautiful river walk that takes you across a spectacular bridge and along a traditional Moorish irrigation canal.

### **How are the beaches near Benahavis?**

The nearest beaches are in Marbella and Estepona, and it takes about 10 minutes to reach them. Choose between the family-friendly beaches in San Pedro de Alcántara, the popular beach clubs in Puerto Banús (Ocean Club, Buddha Beach, La Sala By The Sea...) or quieter beaches west of Estepona.

If you want to combine a trip to the beach with shopping in boutiques and dining in gourmet restaurants, Laguna Village is ideal (and only 20 minutes away). You can relax at the Purobeach

Marbella beach club - by the pool or on the beach itself - and treat yourself to a meal at the Camuri restaurant.

### **And what to do in Benahavis?**

Having property in Benahavis offers a great opportunity to explore the beautiful countryside. You can not only walk in the mountains or along the river, you can also play golf at one of the golf courses in Benahavis.

The village has one of the best golf course selections on the Costa del Sol, with no less than nine golf courses within easy reach of Benahavis. These include the prestigious Los Arqueros Golf & Country Club, designed by golf legend Seve Ballesteros, and the exclusive Marbella Club Golf Resort. There is even a golf academy complete with golf courses to practice in the village itself.

### **What cultural activities are there in Benahavis?**

Like all villages in Andalusia, Benahavis has deep-rooted traditions that determine the main cultural activities during the year. The processions of Holy Week are small, but are one of the most beautiful on the Costa del Sol. The Benahavis fair in mid-August takes more than five days. The whole village enjoys processions, fairground attractions, fireworks, and food and drink. Another important event in Benahavis is the pilgrimage in honor of the patron saint of the village, the Virgin of the Rosary, on October 7.

In the summer, Benahavis holds concerts and other musical events as part of its annual cultural programme. Culinary events take place regularly in the many restaurants in Benahavis.

### **Eating out in Benahavis**

The village may be small, but there are many restaurants to choose from. This, together with the high-quality cuisine, has made Benahavis increasingly popular in terms of gastronomy on the Costa del Sol. Benahavis is also home to the Sabor a Málaga Hotel School, whose students regularly win awards for their culinary skills.

Some of the most prestigious restaurants on the Costa del Sol can be found in the village. You can taste traditional Spanish dishes, or dishes with a modern twist, as well as cuisine from many corners of the world. The main ingredients are pork, lamb and game such as wild boar, venison, as well as fresh fish and seafood caught in nearby Estepona and Marbella.

What is a typical dish of the region?

One of the most famous dishes from Benahavis is marinated pork fillet (solomillo de cerdo aliñado), whose recipe is part of many family traditions!

### **Shopping in Benahavis**

Benahavis has a good selection of small shops for daily necessities. There is also a large Mercadona supermarket on the border of the municipality, located near some of our new developments. There is also an excellent choice in Marbella where you will find large shopping centres, department stores, luxury boutiques and numerous shopping streets.

### **Real estate in Benahavis**

Benahavis is home to many exclusive and high-quality homes and developments. La Zagaleta is a private estate of luxury villas with a golf course and a riding school. La Alqueria is a new development area of exclusive villas and is also home to contemporary modern developments such as Atalaya Hills. Los Arqueros is one of the most famous areas with an exceptional golf course and is also home to new botanical developments. The surrounding areas of La Reserva de Alcuçuz and Los Almendros offer peace and quiet in a natural environment. Closer to the coast, and in addition to the Atalaya Golf & Country Club, we are working on modern developments such as Cataleya and Terrazas de Atalaya and Ataleya Hills. These offer a modern lifestyle in an exceptional environment.