

## The Costa Brava, Barcelona & Catalunya - Spain's Hidden Gems

The Costa Brava or rugged coast extends from Blanes just north of Barcelona to the French border. The craggy northern stretch holds the bohemian and picturesque town of Cadaques, the sweeping Golf de Roses, with its wetlands nature reserve and the tranquillity of the Greek and Roman settlement of Empuries. Idle away some time in the narrow whitewashed and bougainvillea lined streets of the secluded town of Cadaques, following in the footsteps of Dali and Picasso. A stroll around the hilly street and harbour offers many boutiques, galleries and restaurants to explore. A trip to the nearby Casa-Museu Salvador Dali in the tiny harbour of Portlligat is a must. Dali's sumptuous and quirky home forms one apex of the "Dali Triangle" the three museums devoted to his life and work. Escape to the nature reserve and explore the Emporda marshland on foot or by bike and discover kingfishers and other wild fowl. Travel a little further south to the ancient port of L'Escala and sample Catalunya's best anchovies. A visit to the nearby archaeological site of Empuries, the gateway of classical Mediterranean culture into Iberian Spain gives a fascinating insight into Greek and Roman life lived there.

The southern stretch of the Costa Brava with its softer rolling coastline offers the stylish area of Baix Emporda, the walled town of Tossa de Mar and medieval villages in land. Experience the opulent life of a well-heeled Catalan and visit the area surrounding the old town of Palafrugell. The picturesque villages of Llafranc and Tarmaiu with turquoise waters and rocky coastline offer plenty of opportunities for relaxing at waterside restaurants and wandering the winding streets. Further south along the coast the medieval walled old town of Tossa de Mar, with its maze of cobbled streets makes a stunning starting point for a boat trip around the surrounding coastline. A trip inland is a must to explore the fortified medieval village of Pals and the rustic Peratallada with its narrow streets.

Girona, an hour's drive from the coast makes a fascinating destination for a daytrip. Founded by the Romans and occupied by the Moors, it is a melting pot of architectural styles, with a beautiful river setting. The nearby Teatre-Museu Dali and Casa-Museu Castell Gala Dali are the other points of the "Dali Triangle".

Barcelona, on the Catalan coast offers the perfect place for a short break, vibrant culture, world famous nightlife and sandy beaches to relax on. Once an ancient river, La Ramblas, with its cafes, street performers and stalls leads into the city from the beaches and Port Vell, where the old wharves and warehouses have been restored and developed into a stunning entertainment area, with shops, restaurants and aquarium. To its west is the Gothic Quarter, the medieval heart of the city with narrow streets and cathedral. To the east the funky El Ravel, with Barcelona's contemporary art museum and Gaudi's Palau Guell and beyond to the hill of Montjuic, where some of the city's best museums are to be found. At the top of Las Ramblas is the chic shopping district of Gracia and Gaudi's famous Sagrada Familia church.

*We encourage compassion for animals. If you go for a carriage or horse ride, please opt for services offering healthy animals. We encourage you not to support the "sport" of bullfighting.*

### Getting There

Fly direct from the UK to Barcelona or Girona with Ryanair, Easyjet, BMI Baby, Aer Lingus, BA, Thompsonfly, Thomas Cook, Jet2, Flyglobespan.

### Combine With

Ideal touring territory – take in city, culture and beach with a tour around our hotels in Andalucia.

For more images & hotel details see [www.c-boutiquehotels.com](http://www.c-boutiquehotels.com)

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**On holidays to the Costa Brava, you'll find a stunning coastline with secret creeks and coves to discover, a wealth of sports to enjoy and Tuscan-like hilltop towns to explore. Nature reserves, sweeping bays and marine sanctuaries make this a magical part of Spain. Culturally rich, the Costa Brava's most famous son is, of course, Dali. Jazz and music festivals abound throughout the year, not least in the arts capital, Barcelona. Here, Gaudi's festooned architectural creations make their mark and it's also the place to sample some world-famous nightlife. The Costa Brava is ideal for both fast-paced citybreaks and lazy beach holidays in Spain.**



**Our Recommended Hotels on the Costa Brava**  
**Clearwater Coast Resort**  
**Ivy Grange**  
**The Waterfront (Barcelona)**