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Agenda



► 'caldera', is a dramatic cliff, now topped with sugar-cube houses and blue-domed churches. For spectacular impact, arrive here by boat: there are daily ferry services from Athens to Santorini and around the other Cyclades islands until the end of October ([www.gtp.gr](http://www.gtp.gr)). Direct access from the UK – on flights with EasyJet, Thomas Cook and Thomson – is also possible, until the beginning of the month. The south and east of Santorini have black-sand beaches; and the remains of ancient Thira stand on a rocky, east-coast promontory. But the caldera is the big attraction, and the best hotels are clustered around the picturesque village of Oia, on its northern tip, which is an excellent place for watching sunsets. Among the most celebrated hotels are Santorini Grace ([www.santorinigrace.com](http://www.santorinigrace.com); doubles from €325 mid-Sept/mid-Oct, then €275) and three-suite 1864 The Sea Captain's House ([www.sea-captains-house.com](http://www.sea-captains-house.com); doubles from €274 Sept, €219 Oct).



**COSTA DE LA LUZ SPAIN**  
The beaches are quiet at the end of the summer, and the weather remains warm and sunny until late October  
★PLUS A wide range of things to do and see

SO-CALLED BECAUSE OF its dazzling, white light, the Costa de la Luz is Spain's southern Atlantic coast, stretching some 200km from Ayamonte on the Portuguese border to Tarifa at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula. It has wonderful expanses of wide sandy beaches backed by pine forest and, aside from industry around the city of Huelva, has remarkably little development. Among the best beaches are those between Isla Cristina in the west and Bolonia in the

windier east. Other highlights include the Coto Doñana National Park; the sherry town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda; ancient and atmospheric Cádiz; the charming Moorish hill town of Vejer de la Frontera; and hip Tarifa, kitesurfing capital of Europe. At the start of September, Tarifa attracts a party throng to its annual Feria, celebrating the Virgin of the Light with live music and Andalusian horse processions. Thereafter it is quiet and very balmy. Among the area's most stylish hotels are La Sacristia in the heart of old Tarifa ([www.lasacristia.net](http://www.lasacristia.net); doubles from €115) and Hotel V in pretty Vejer de la Frontera ([hotelv-vejer.com](http://hotelv-vejer.com); doubles from €199).



**CORNWALL UK**  
With the end of school holidays accommodation rates fall, but temperatures hold up in September  
★PLUS The big visitor attractions are quiet

WHEN THE SCHOOL terms begin, Cornwall's beaches become peaceful; the sea is warmer than it was in June and July; and the decline in traffic makes the county's notoriously narrow lanes passable once more. Even a trip to the Eden Project or the Lost Gardens of Heligan is now stress-free; and the crowds are manageable at Rick Stein's gastronomic empire in Padstow. From 1 September, many hotels have lower rates, too. The contemporary-chic St Moritz Hotel ([www.stmoritzhotel.co.uk](http://www.stmoritzhotel.co.uk)) in north-coast Trebetherick, for example, has doubles from £204 compared with £220 in August. At St Mawes in the south, Cornwall's benchmark of boutique elegance, Hotel Tresanton ([www.tresanton.com](http://www.tresanton.com)), charges lower room rates (doubles from £240) but still offers summer activities such as private sailing trips throughout September. Over in the west, try Primrose Valley Hotel ([www.primroseonline.co.uk](http://www.primroseonline.co.uk); doubles from £120) for a bed in St Ives or make for buzzy Penzance, where accommodation options include the old-school Abbey Hotel ([www.theabbeyonline.co.uk](http://www.theabbeyonline.co.uk); doubles from £130) and comfy restaurant-with-rooms The Summer House ([www.summerhouse-cornwall.com](http://www.summerhouse-cornwall.com); doubles from £120).



The temperatures quoted are the average at midday in the month in question

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