

# Stunning, Cooler Beaches In Europe To Try For Summer 2025

Looking to avoid sweltering temperatures and over-touristed hot spots? Check out these gorgeous seaside resorts on Europe's Atlantic coast and Baltic Sea.

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France's Atlantic coast is a beautiful alternative to some of Europe's more popular beaches. GETTY

Europe experienced its hottest summer on record last year with temperatures soaring to over 100 degrees in [12 countries](#). While no place seems to be immune to heat spells these days, you can increase your chances of enjoying cooler temperatures, with daytime highs averaging in the 70s (°F) and even some (welcome)

clouds or cooling rain, if you head to Europe's Atlantic coast and Baltic Sea beaches. (And when heat waves happen, they tend to be of shorter duration than in places father south. You can check historical weather data on sites like Wunderground.) Here's where to have a look.

## The Danish Riviera



Ryegrass-covered dunes in Tisvildeleje. GETTY

With 444 islands, Denmark offers seaside lovers plenty of options. Some of the most sought-after waterfront havens can be found along the **Danish Riviera**, a stretch of sandy beaches running from Hundested to Helsingør (Elsinore) on the northern coast of Zealand, the country's largest island. About an hour and a half by train from Copenhagen, this shoreline on the Baltic Sea is a favorite spot for summer getaways,

but you won't encounter the elbow-to-elbow crowds you will in other European resorts.



Aerial view of the Danish Riviera coast at Tisvildeleje. GETTY

The seaside towns along the Danish Riviera do attract a lot of locals, says Mads Østergaard, press manager with Visit Denmark in the U.S., “but since the canals in central Copenhagen are clean enough to swim in, you don’t see giant crowds escaping the heat and flocking to the beaches, [as] you always have a canal nearby.” He says that due to the amount of sandy coastline in Denmark, “It’s also easy to find a secret inlet or smaller beach if you go exploring a bit.”



Looking out to sea at Helenekilde Badehotel. GETTY

The vibe on the Danish Riviera is more coastal Maine than big-spending Hamptons with historic *badehoteller* (Danish for beach hotels) the typical lodging and local indie boutiques rather than international luxury brand stores. Among the notable towns on this northern Riviera are **Tisvildeleje**, with a lengthy beach lined with sand dunes dotted in season with wild roses; it's long been a favorite of Danish creatives and a place where Copenhageners keep summer homes. A stylish place to stay is the Helenekilde Badehotel, offering an enviable perch overlooking the sea.





Kronborg Castle in Helsingør. GETTY

Danish royals have come to Tisvildeleje, especially for the annual summer music festival, not surprising since the resort is less than an hour by car from their country retreat at Fredensborg Palace. Other popular stops on the Danish Riviera include **Rågelejet**, noted for its striped beach huts, and **Helsingør (Elsinore)**, a market town dating from the 15th century, and home to the Kronborg Castle of *Hamlet* fame.



Tisvildeleje on the Baltic Sea enjoys moderate temperatures during the summer. GETTY

Temperatures on the Danish Riviera in July and August average about 70 degrees with water temperatures 62-63 degrees. For those who might find the sea a bit bracing, there are plenty of opportunities for hiking, trekking and kayaking, and, of course, sauna and spa treatments to indulge in.

## France's Atlantic Coast



The Rocher du Basta on the Biarritz coast. GETTY

Reaching from the Spanish border to Brittany, **France's Atlantic coast** is a gorgeous, roughly 500-mile run of sandy beaches, pristine and developed areas, churning surf zones and tranquil seas.

Although the Côte d'Azur may dominate the tourism spotlight today, Atlantic resorts like Biarritz, near Spain, and (if you count those on the English Channel, an arm of the Atlantic Ocean) Normandy's Deauville and Trouville were the preferred summer destinations for crowned heads of state, aristocrats and prominent Europeans in the 19th and early-20th centuries.



Europe's highest dune, Pyla, near the town of Arachon on the Côte d'Argent. GETTY

But these historically posh resorts, while still sought after today, are only part of the French Atlantic story. Blessed with an abundance of broad and lengthy beaches, the western coast of France also offers hideaways with quiet charms: numerous towns, *villages des pêcheurs* and ports that have remained, if not frozen in time, true to their roots.

As you work your way south to north, you'll cross through various designated coasts, like the **Côte Basque** (with Biarritz and Saint-Jean-de-Luz); the **Côte d'Argent**, so named for the glittery reflections on its ocean waters; and the **Côte de Lumière**, part of the Vendée, a *department* in Pays de la Loire.



The Atlantic Coast at Cap Ferret. GETTY

The Côte d'Argent has an enviably long sand beach; one of the resorts along this coast is **Cap Ferret** (not to be confused with the French Riviera's Cap Ferrat), a perennial insider favorite, drawing savvy Parisians and such celebrities as Marion Cotillard and Audrey Tatou.



Noirmoutier Islnd on the Côte de Lumière. GETTY

Along the Côte de Lumière, there are the islands of **Yeu** and **Noirmoutier** to explore, the established resort of **Les Sables d'Olonne** with an ample beach and



notable seaside promenade to enjoy, and unique villages like Sallertaine, known for its many craftspeople, and Bouin, a hub for oyster farming, to visit.

Farther up the road in Brittany, you'll find the fortified town of **Concarneau**, dating from the 14th century, and in more recent times, a favorite retreat for artists.



Locronan in Brittany. GETTY

**Locronan**, one of *Les Plus Beaux Villages de France*, lying a few miles from the sea, and **Ploumanac'h**, with its pink granite cliffs and pink sands, are some of the region's other draws.

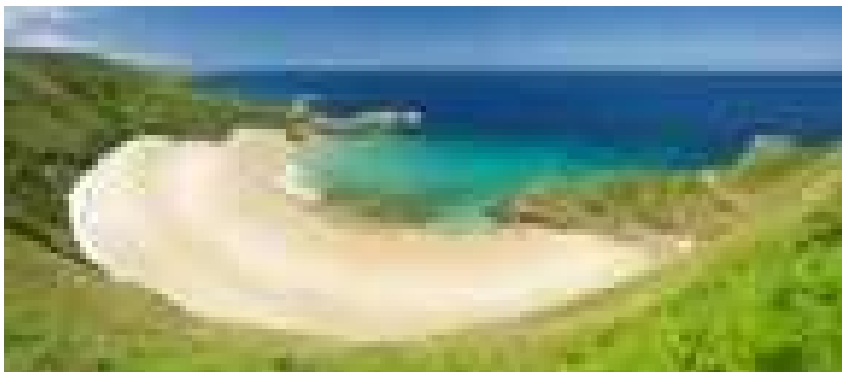


The beach in Saint-Malo, Brittany. GETTY

If you're taking in English Channel resorts on the **Côte d'Émeraude** in northern Brittany, the Belle Époque star, **Dinard**, and **Saint-Malo**, a photogenic, fortified port-town, are popular stops. **Deauville** on the **Côte Fleurie** where Coco Chanel once vacationed, remains a testament to grand Belle Époque style, and hosts a famous film festival and many cultural events each year.

As for temperatures along the French Atlantic Coast in July and August: daytime highs are typically in the mid 70s in Biarritz; in Cap Ferret expect mid 70s to low 80s; in Brittany and Normandy, low to mid 70s. As mentioned above, there can be heat spells, but they are generally of shorter duration than in some Southern European areas.

## Spain: Asturias



Torimbia beach in Asturias. GETTY

Like Basque Country, famous for such resorts as Bilbao and San Sebastián, **Asturias** offers attractions similar to those found in its well-known counterpart in Northern Spain: lush scenery, splendid Atlantic beaches along the Bay of Biscay, rustic villages, as well as a distinct cuisine lauded for its seafood, many varieties of bread, and in mountainous regions, robust stews. While not a celebrity magnet like Ibiza or Mallorca, Asturias has some high-wattage native daughters and sons, like Letizia Ortiz Rocasolano, born in **Oviedo**, who is now Queen of Spain. Famed chef Jose Andres, founder of World Central Kitchen, also hails from Asturias. Woody Allen

filmed part of his movie *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* in Oviedo, which he said was “like a fairy tale.”



Cudillero. GETTY



Santa Marina beach in Ribadesella. GETTY

With a more than 200-mile coastline, Asturias has a stunning choice of beaches: cove settings sheltered by dramatic cliffs; sandy littorals with graphic rock formations,

even a couple dotted with islets; seaside havens with calm, clear waters like the crescent-shaped **Torimbria**, and surfer beaches like **Playa de Rodiles**.



Playa de Rodiles. GETTY

[Travel the coast](#) to take in the dramatic scenery and stop at fishing villages like **Cudillero**, a place that will remind you of Vernazza in Cinque Terre, minus the crowds. Hikers can follow coastal routes that will lead them to such photogenic spots as **Lastres**, **Tazones** and **Torazu**. In and near **Ribadesella**, a medieval fishing town with modern architecture, there are various lovely beaches, which depending on the location, offer mild or moderate waters, or enough wave action to attract surfers. A short distance away is the **Cueva de Tito Bustillo** with Paleolithic-era drawings. It is part of a cave network in Northern Spain that has UNESCO World Heritage status. Weather temperatures in July and August are typically in the low-to-high 70s.



An ancient drawing in the Tito Bustillo cave in Ribadesella. GETTY



Tazones in Asturias. GETTY

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