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Welcome to the Costa del Golf

With more than 70 world-class golf courses, the Costa del Sol has been dubbed the Costa del Golf, a prime destination for sports holidays.

Situated midway between the sea and the mountains, with 325 days of sun a year and an average annual temperature in the 20°Cs, the Costa del Sol promises perfect playing conditions all year round.

And as if that weren't enough, there's plenty of culture to soak up, as well as leisure activities and entertainment to pleasantly while away the hours. Not to mention the balmy beaches, stunning natural landscapes and excellent connections by air (Malaga international airport is the third largest in Spain), land (dual carriageways, motorways, high speed trains) and sea (over 11 marinas). All coming together to make the Costa del Sol, also known as the Costa del Golf, the favourite golfing destination in Europe.

A round of golf in stunning surroundings

The diverse range of course designs will make you want to come back year after year so you can discover more and more new courses. From pitch and putt to the most demanding holes, there is a seemingly endless array of golf courses to choose from. Diversity is one of the defining characteristics of the Costa del Golf; and there really is something for everyone. The golf courses regularly organise classes and championships for men and women of all levels.

If you're just starting out in the game, you'll be pleased to know there is a large selection of golf schools and academies offering personalised classes, kids classes and special courses for players with reduced mobility, always taught by qualified instructors.

Personal service, tailored to every group and every player, as well as excellent facilities where club houses become the epicentre of social life before and after each game, also combine to make the Costa del Golf the perfect destination for a round of golf or two.

Much more than golf

If anything characterises the Costa del Sol, it's the limitless range of activities on offer. Extending far beyond the golf course, the choice of doing exactly what you want, whenever you want, makes the province of Malaga stand out from other destinations.

After a day of golf, you won't be short on options for living the local culture and enjoying your leisure time. From feeling the warm sand underneath your feet and taking a dip in the azure waters of the Mediterranean to lazing in the sun before or after each game and strolling along the dynamic seafront promenades filled with shops and beach bars, you'll find something you fancy doing. You can also visit the quintessentially Andalusian inland villages (there are 103 in the province), discover the exhibitions on at the various museums or wander the pretty streets of the capital, breathing in the culture and history.

Shopping is another wonderful way to spend your time. The historic centres of the towns and villages in the Costa del Sol are bursting with shops and markets where you can stroll around and browse unique items. The centre of luxury shopping is Puerto Banús, where the biggest brands in the world compete to attract your attention.

In terms of accommodation, the Costa del Sol is unbeatable with its diverse selection of high-quality places to stay. Whether you prefer a hotel or resort with its very own golf course, and specialising in golf holidays, or an apartment where you can relax between games and dream about your technique, you'll find the perfect place for you.

A number of hotels in the Costa del Sol also offer wellness centres, where you can be enveloped in an exclusive environment and gently coaxed into a deep state of relaxation.

And then, of course, there's the incredible gastronomy, defined by its combination of traditional dishes and avant-garde twists.

Complementing the food, is the dynamic night life. As the sun sets over the Costa del Sol, the seafront promenades, marinas, beach clubs, bars and pubs in the city centres come to life, creating the perfect end to the perfect day. The Costa del Sol is unique destination focused on golf and leisure time, with culture and food much-desired bonuses.

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www.visitcostadelsol.com/golf

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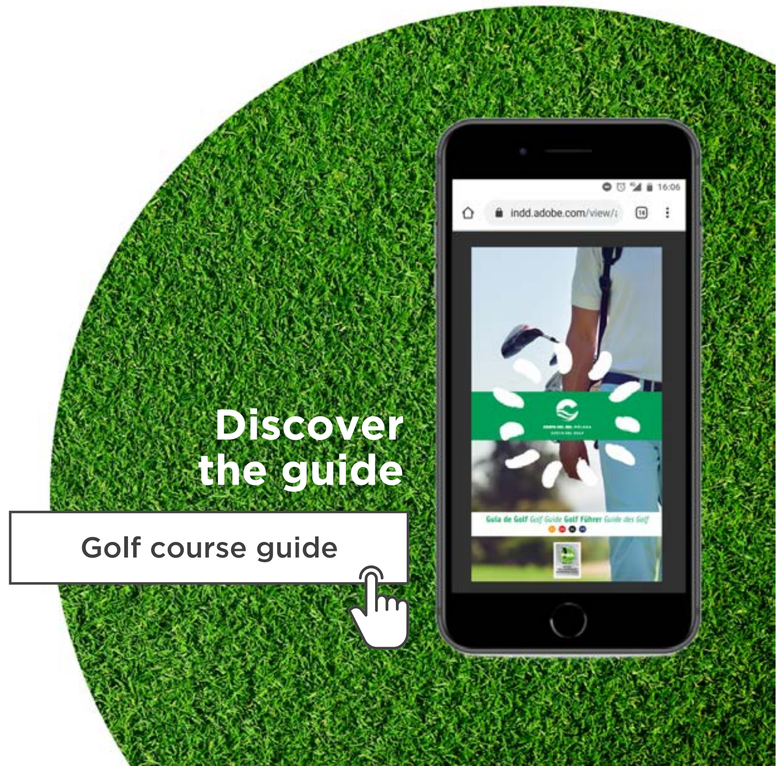

1. Axarquía

Golf aficionados will absolutely love Axarquía.

With its selection of world-class golf courses and clubs and authentically Andalusian beaches, nature, culture and relaxation, the enchanting municipalities in Axarquía will make you fall in love with the area.

As you travel from the Altos Montes in Axarquía to the western coastline of the Costa del Sol, you will soon discover that this is a land of contrasts. Sticking out into the Mediterranean, charming villages such as Rincón de la Victoria, Torre del Mar (in Vélez-Malaga), Algarrobo, Torrox and Nerja await with some of the best beaches in Malaga. Make sure you don't miss a visit to Frigiliana, which is considered one of the top 10 most beautiful villages in Spain.

The scenery in Axarquía is peppered with wild and unique landscapes, offering up picture-perfect settings. Cases in point include Moclinejo and Cómpeta vineyards, producing delicious wines, and the Periana olive groves, famed for its aceite verdial.

Between Almáchar and El Borge, you can see traditional raisin producers drying the grapes which in turn become some of the best raisins in the world.

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Axarquía

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360º view

2. Antequera

Combining history, culture, nature, gastronomy and relaxation, the municipality of Antequera offers a whole world of enjoyment beyond the golf course that will delight golf lovers looking for the perfect destination for their next sports holiday.

Very few places can claim to have such a wealth of history and culture as Antequera. Located in the heart of Andalusia, the town counts over fifty monuments and important archaeological sites.

As you walk the streets of Antequera, you will be immersed in its past. A glorious history that has left behind mansions, churches and convents in a diverse variety of styles, as well as a Moorish fortress and a UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site.

The municipality also has one of the most awe-inspiring natural spaces in the province of Malaga, Torcal de Antequera, which boasts the most impressive karstic landscape in Europe.

And as if all that weren't enough, close to the town centre is the Conjunto Arqueológico Dólmenes de Antequera, an exceptional megalithic construction, declared a UNESCO world heritage site due to its wonderful state of preservation.

Antequera

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to see a
360º view

3. Malaga

The capital of the Costa del Sol is the perfect destination if you're looking for a golf holiday but you're not willing to walk away from all the conveniences, culture and leisure activities of the city. Malaga certainly won't disappoint in this regard with its long beaches, museums, restaurants serving up the best Andalusian dishes and avant-garde golf clubs. Indeed, the city is very proud to be the golfing capital of southern Europe.

One of Spain's biggest cities, Malaga boasts an impressive past and a present that is just as fascinating. Its age-old castle, sitting close to the vibrant port area, is listed as an Historic and Artistic Conservation Area and Site of Cultural Interest.

As you wander through Malaga, you'll see beautiful historic streets and buildings bearing the marks of the Arab and Roman civilisations that once lived here. Turn your head upwards and you'll see two great citadels perching from a great height, namely Alcazaba and the ruins of Gibralfaro, whose remnants date back to Moorish times. The towering Renaissance church is also known as La Manquita ("the missing one") as one of its towers, bizarrely, was never finished being built.

Malaga is extremely well equipped for tourists. Alongside its sixteen beaches, great selection of hotels and limitless leisure activities, there are stunning sights and a selection of world-class museums. Among others, you can visit Museo Picasso, Museo Thyssen, Museo San Petersburgo and the Pompidou Centre. The city of Picasso has now become a mecca for culture in Europe.

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Malaga

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4. Valle del Guadalhorce

Just 20 kilometres from Malaga capital and 10 kilometres from the stunning beaches of Torremolinos, Alhaurín de la Torre is the perfect destination for a quiet stay in the midst of the Valle del Guadalhorce, famed for its beautiful natural landscapes and incredible golf courses.

The historic centre of Alhaurín de la Torre has areas of great natural beauty and buildings harking back to its past. Here you can travel back in time, starting with a visit to the archaeological sites dating back to the Roman period. You can also discover the village's Moorish past at Cortijo de Mollina, where an ancient farmhouse and tower were discovered.

Alhaurín el Grande has been inhabited by many illustrious figures, including Gerald Brenan and Antonio Gala, named Hijo Adoptivo, an honorary title, of the village since 2012. During Holy Week, this area in Malaga is of great importance, so much so that it has been declared an Andalusian Festival of National Tourist Interest.

And its greatness dates back to the Catholic Kings as they gave the village its name. Walking through the streets of Alhaurín el Grande will take you into a world where the Roman and Arabesque combine. Churches and convents are just some of the sights to see.

The sport par excellence in Alhaurín el Grande is golf, with a course designed by Seve Ballesteros located in the wilderness of Sierra de Mijas.

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Valle del Guadalhorce

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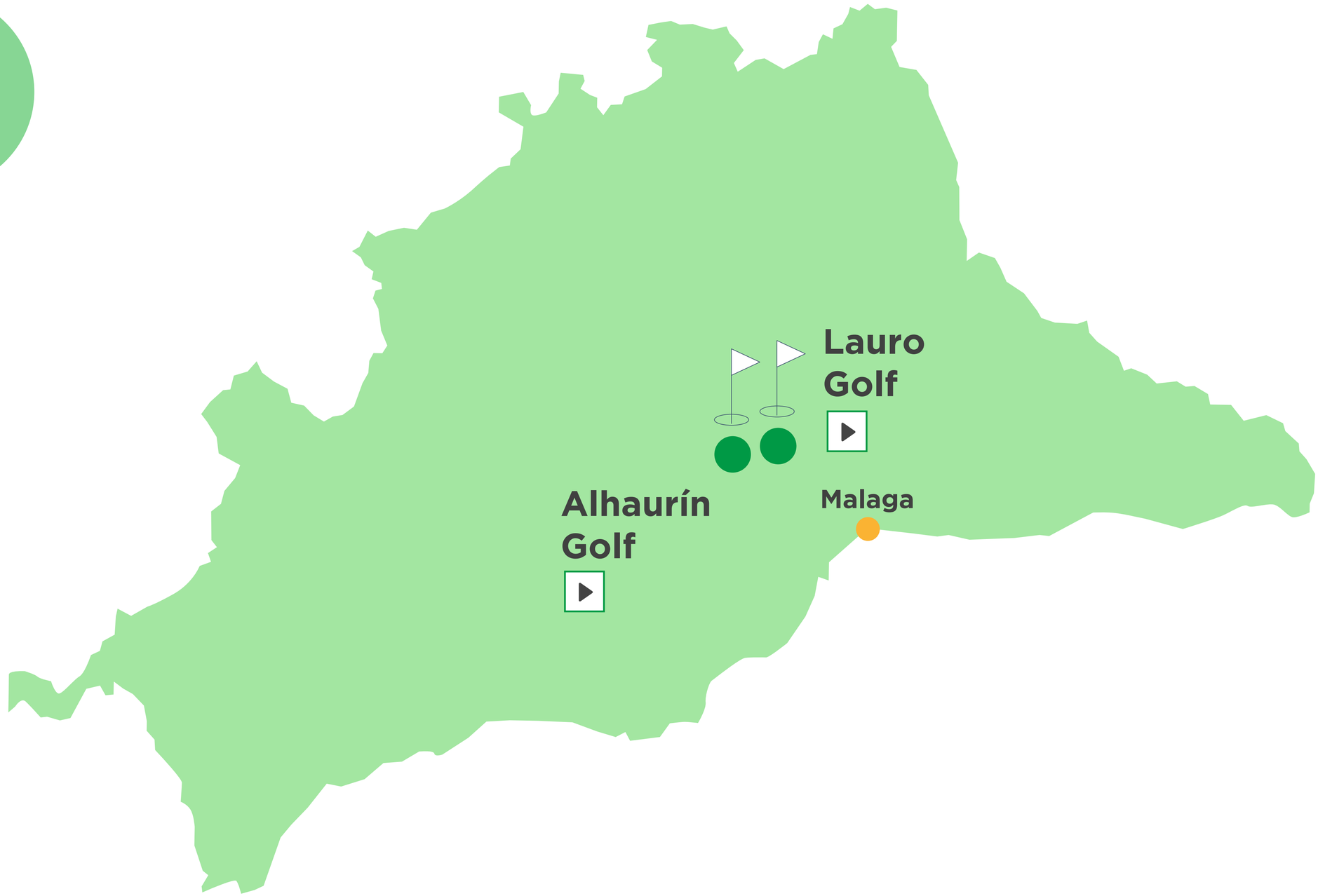

5. Torremolinos

Located just 10 kilometres from the capital of the Costa del Sol, Torremolinos is a town cohabited by locals and tourists who are attracted by its sun, sea and sand lifestyle. The long beaches, great selection of hotels, traditional beach bars, not to mention its world-class golf courses have made Torremolinos one of the most popular destinations among golf lovers in Europe.

Back in the 1950s and 1960s when artists like Grace Kelly and Orson Welles used to walk its streets, Torremolinos was still a seaside neighbourhood of Malaga city that drew in visitors looking for both privacy and the cosmopolitan lifestyle of the city. Over half a century later, Torremolinos still boasts the charm that attracted the great names of the past, transforming it into a tourist destination in the Costa del Sol.

Once you've passed the Mediterranean motorway, the verdant foothills of the mountain blur with the diverse and varied skyline of the town, which is divided into four well-defined areas: El Calvario, El Bajondillo, La Carihuela and the labyrinthian streets that make up the historic part of the town.

Torremolinos propels the economy in the province, thanks in part to the tourism industry and the activities generated by Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones de la Costa del Sol.

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Torremolinos

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360º view

6. Benalmádena

The municipality of Benalmádena sits just 20 kilometres from the centre of Malaga and offers a whole host of attractions to make your holiday an unforgettable one. In addition to its prestigious golf clubs and resorts, Benalmádena gives visitors absolutely everything they are looking for.

Benalmádena Pueblo breathes tranquillity with its picturesque narrow streets and plazas, while Benalmádena Costa is where most tourists stay. Here the extensive coastline is divided into 15 beaches. Arroyo de la Miel, which has developed quickly over recent years, offers a wide range of entertainment and leisure opportunities, making it a sought-after destination.

Benalmádena's marina, known as Puerto Marina, is one of the icons of the area and one of the most popular places for visitors to spend time. Entertainment here is guaranteed with boat hire, fishing trips and dolphin spotting, as well as the restaurants, shops, clubs and terraces. The perfect place to while away lazing hours day and night.

The most original sights, in terms of their origin or their structure, are the Estupa Budista de la Iluminación, Colomares castle and Bil castle, an Arab-style building whose red tiles make an impact on the landscape.

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Benalmádena

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7. Mijas

One of the areas with the most golf courses in the province of Malaga, Mijas is known as the Golf Valley. With its dozen or so clubs, academies, tournaments, hotels and resorts, Mijas has become a landmark golf destination in Europe, offering players everything they could possibly want and more.

Sitting on the hillside and overlooking the sea, Mijas has a wide range of ever-adapting services so you can easily soak up its traditions and past and visit its different areas, by donkey taxi, for example.

The historic centre of the village has been declared an Historic and Artistic Conservation Area. The gardens and viewing point from the fortified walls are particularly beautiful with their remnants of the ancient fortress. Mijas also boasts an incredible Contemporary Art Centre (Centro de Arte Contemporáneo), displaying works by artists of the calibre of Pablo Ruiz Picasso, Salvador Dalí and Miró, among others.

Mijas' coastline is not lacking either, offering the joy of the sun, sea and sand to visitors who are looking for a getaway that combines history with the beach. Cala de Mijas is a stunning cove, one of the best in the province of Malaga, and the perfect spot to lounge in the sun and water or have fun trying out different water sports, such as jet skis, water ski and paragliding.

Flanking the beaches in Mijas are traditional beach bars serving up sea food, paella and refreshing glasses of tinto de verano you can enjoy as the sun sets.

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Mijas

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to see a
360º view

8. Marbella

Marbella is the municipality with the most golf courses in Spain. If you're into golf, a holiday at this famous town promises a whole lot of fun, both at its extraordinary golf courses and its countless tourist attractions. That said, the reason why Marbella is such a world-class destination for golf lovers is that its courses are nestled in stunning natural surroundings affording spectacular sea views.

Marbella is known for culture, entertainment and glamour. One of the most exclusive towns on the Mediterranean, it boasts twenty-five kilometres of coastline, four marinas, the most luxuriant golf courses on the Costa del Sol, exclusive restaurants and excellent weather, making it a destination like no other.

Marbella offers unique experiences whether you fancy shopping in its exclusive boutiques, dining in its fine restaurants or having fun at the beach clubs. Wellness is also a big deal here, with over twenty thalassotherapy centres and spas, not to mention a world-class selection of hotels in its three main areas: Marbella, San Pedro de Alcántara and Nueva Andalucía-Puerto Banús.

Marbella also has some interesting archaeological sites, such as Basílica Paleocristiana de Vega del Mar in San Pedro de Alcántara and the remains of a Roman villa in Río Verde, among others.

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Marbella

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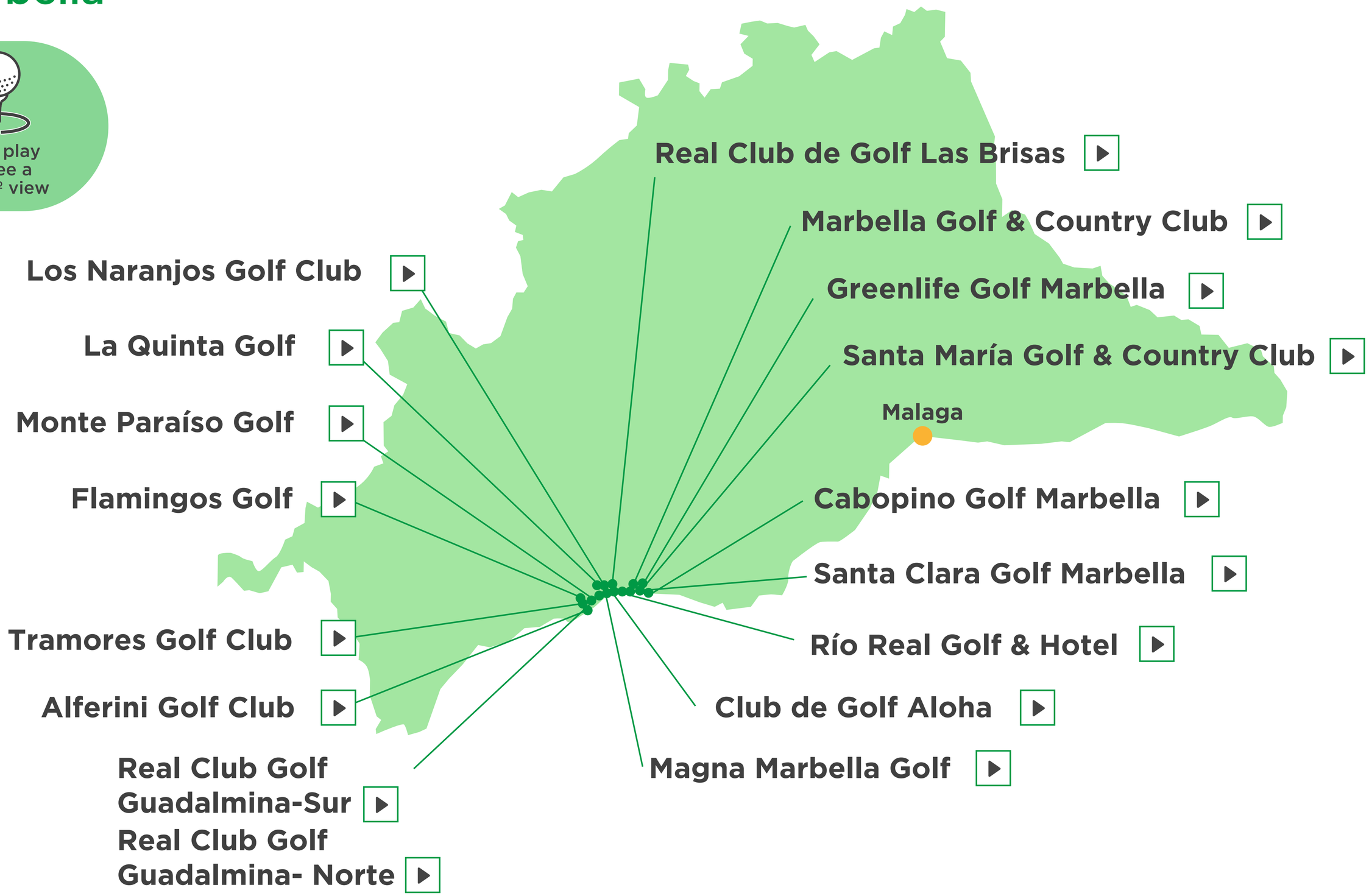

9. Benahavís

Benahavís is that quintessentially Andalusian village you've been dreaming of. With its Arab layout, whitewashed houses and colourful flowerpots, the village is the picture-postcard southern Spanish village. Its name comes from a combination of Ben – meaning "son"– and Avís or Havis, the name of the Arab noble who reigned from Montemayor castle, a fortress dating back to the 10th century and whose remains you can still see after a short hike.

The tranquillity that you breathe here is like no other as you wander the narrow streets, many of which are pedestrian, looking for its most picturesque points: the small squares, the ancient Moorish towers, the beautiful façades and the viewing points whose vistas improve with each step you take.

Sitting between the western Costa del Sol and the southern slope of Serranía de Ronda, the extensive municipality of Benahavís is the perfect place to do some wonderful walking with its network of hiking routes, many of which run close to streams and pools. No less than three rivers, the Guadalmina, Guadalmansa and Guadaiza, run through the municipality and the beauty spot Las Angosturas.

COMBINING GOLF AND GREAT FOOD

It is not by chance that this corner of Andalusia is crazy about golf. With its 11 courses, some of them exclusive, Benahavís is the third municipality in Spain with the most clubs, making it a veritable paradise for golf lovers. Renowned for its rich culinary tradition, Benahavís has a great range of restaurants serving up traditional dishes, based on pork and game, earning the municipality the nickname of the "dining room of the Costa del Sol".

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Benahavís

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10. Estepona

Extraordinary golf courses, long beaches, charming beach bars, traditional restaurants and an exclusive environment that breathes peace and quiet: Estepona is one of golfers' favourite destinations in Europe. And it's no surprise, given that here you can enjoy a relaxing holiday with all the golfing infrastructure you could possibly dream of right on your doorstep.

With its 30 kilometres of pristine sandy beaches, Estepona is a slice of paradise on the Costa del Sol. It is famed for La Rada beach, its large range of hotels, diverse types of accommodation and a lovely marina surrounded by bars where you can enjoy plates of sea food and fish. Estepona has a diverse selection of restaurants, shops and cafés, as well as beach clubs where you can enjoy the sunset. You absolutely must visit Parques Selwo Aventura and Bótanico Orquidario, the botanic garden made famous by its orchids.

Estepona's beautiful setting will seduce you. Its restored historic centre, which is one of the most spectacular in Andalusia, is an urban garden with its web of white streets adorned with colourful pots bursting with vivid flowers, giving the town its classic coastal Andalusian feel. Traditions and customs are still very much alive here and blend harmoniously with its more modern and tourist side.

Estepona loves culture and art bursts from its streets. Sculptures by prestigious artists are exhibited in the open air and murals decorate the façades of buildings, vibrantly bringing the town to life. As you wander through the different neighbourhoods, the quality and originality of the street art will leave you speechless.

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Estepona

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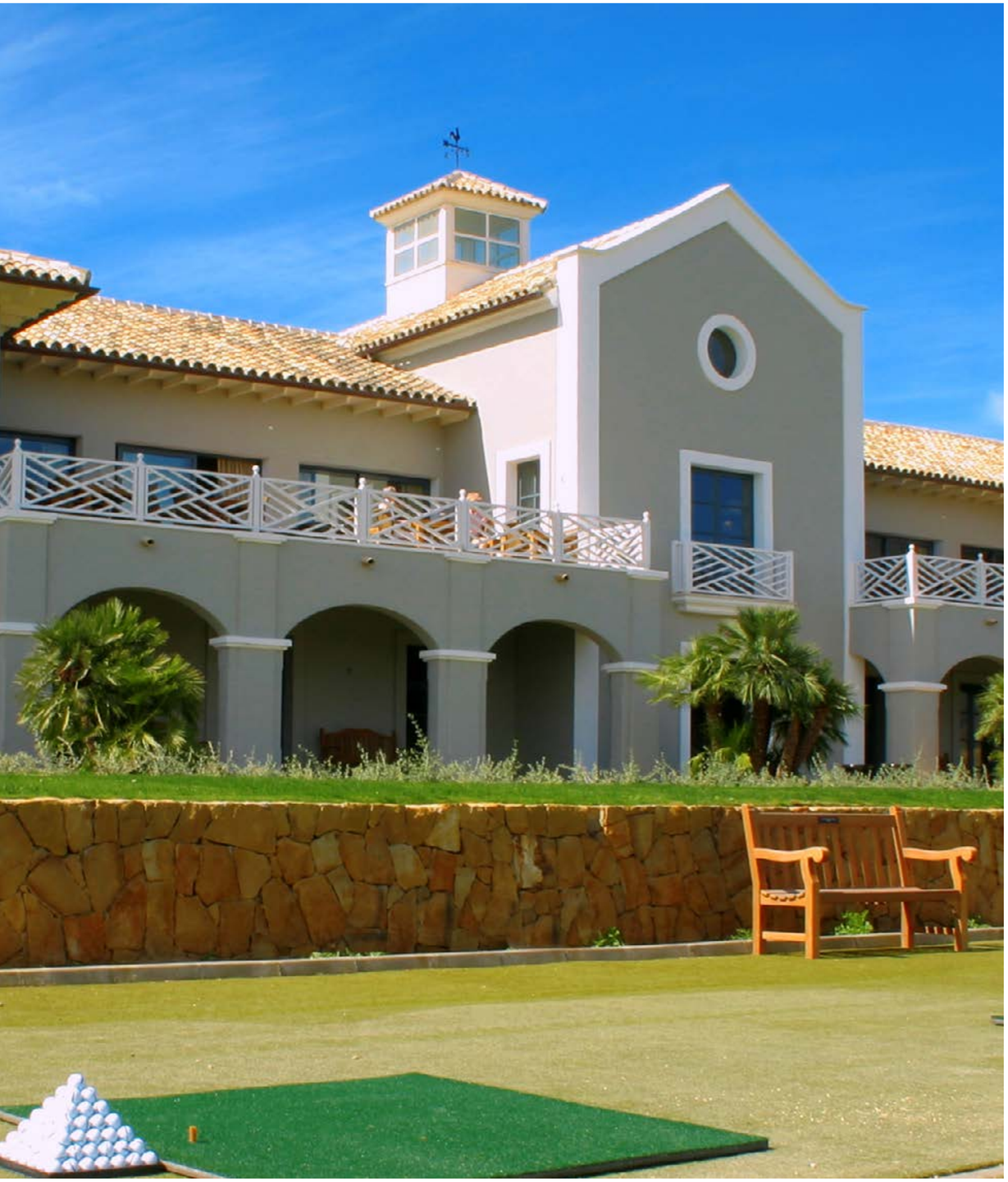

11. Casares

Located between Campo de Gibraltar and Serranía de Ronda, Casares still bears the traces of the different civilisations that have lived there over the course of its history. With its peaceful atmosphere, coastal setting and three world-class golf courses, the village is the perfect destination for golf lovers.

With its whitewashed houses, quintessentially narrow and steep streets, Casares is a picture-postcard Andalusian village. Its houses appear to cling to the hillside, earning it the name of pueblo colgante or hanging village. The perfect place to take a stroll through the streets where Blas Infante once walked, soak up the history and culture, and discover the places you won't read about in guide books, as well as local artisanal shops and bars where you can sit down for a well-deserved break.

Declared an Historic and Artistic Conservation Area, Casares boasts an impressive historic and artistic legacy. Epitomising this is Casares castle, which dates back to Arab times and defines the municipality's skyline. Perched on the highest part of the village, the fortress benefits from the sheer limestone rockface to bolster its defence. As you stand at the top here, you can breathe in the valleys, hills and coastal plains that extend from Serranía de Ronda to Algeciras bay.

The Baños Romanos de la Hedionda is famed for the healing properties of its waters, particularly on the skin, and Canuto de la Utrera is a stunning place to hike, climb and enjoy the great outdoors.

Casa Natal Blas Infante is also worth a visit so you can discover the life of the man who was officially considered the "father of Andalusian nationalism" through fragments of his life and works displayed in the building. The other rooms host temporary exhibitions of works by local artists.

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Casares

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12. Manilva

If you're looking to relax and enjoy wonderful golf courses close to the sea and quintessential white Andalusian villages, Manilva is your ideal destination. Just imagine unwinding at the beautiful beaches and amid the stunning natural surroundings after a long day of golf.

The municipality is home to five different villages and towns: Manilva, Sabinillas, El Castillo, Hondacavada and Puerto de la Duquesa. Manilva is famed for its beautiful beaches, with their crystalline waters that sparkle under the glistening sun.

On the coastline, beyond the marina (Puerto de la Duquesa), which is the epicentre of tourism in the area, there are a selection of welcoming hotels and resorts where you can spend your holidays enjoying the beach, sun, golf and sea. Although the main economic sector in the municipality is tourism and, to a lesser extent, farming and fishing, the area has kept its traditional character.

If you visit Manilva you won't be short on opportunities to soak up the culture and enjoy some delicious cuisine. The passing of the centuries and peoples have left a rich and beautiful heritage behind, which you can see in two archaeological sites, both declared Sites of Cultural Interest: Los Castillejos de Alcorrín and Entorno del Castillo de la Duquesa. The latter comprises a necropolis, villa, baths and facilities for salting the fish. Consequently, the preservation industry, mostly focused on tuna, appeared in the area.

Manilva

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to see a
360º view

13. Sotogrande

Thanks to its lovely weather and impressive geography, Sotogrande is a wonderful place to practise outdoor sports all year round. It has many well-designed golf clubs and courses with 9, 18 and 27 holes so you can combine a great round of golf at a fine course with lazy hours at the beach. Sotogrande is a residential development located in the municipality of San Roque. The extensive sports infrastructure and hotels have made it one of the biggest luxury residential areas in Andalusia, Spain and even Europe.

The marina, commonly known as Little Venice, is a wonderful space to spend a lovely evening out. The maze of canals is flanked with international bars and restaurants so you can unwind in elegant surroundings.

The municipality of San Roque has limitless tourist attractions. This quintessentially Andalusian town, defined by whitewashed streets and grated balconies, enjoys an elevated position, guarding the vestiges of its ancient populations. Of interest are the ruins of the Roman town of Carteia (11th century AC) where you can still see buildings, walls, watch towers, streets, the forum and houses.

The historic centre, declared an Historic Conservation Area, is an example of ordered and logical town planning where the streets cling to the topography. San Roque also has wonderful cliffy beaches, perfect for practising water sports and enjoying a spot of bird watching.

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Sotogrande

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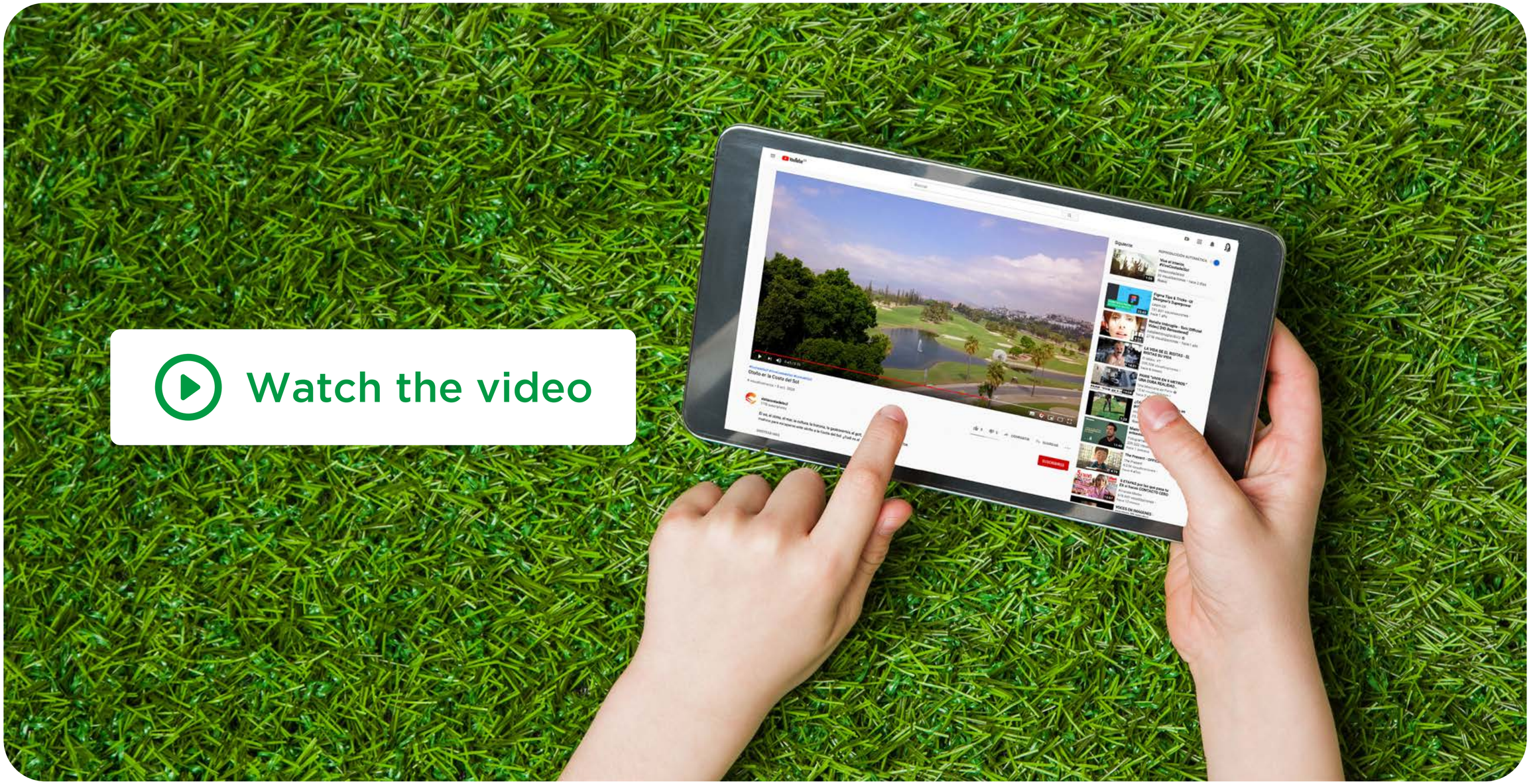
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