

# Most Scenic European Coastal Towns (Besides the Amalfi Coast) to Escape Summer Crowds

Europe's dreamiest seaside settings aren't restricted to Amalfi and the Rivas.

When summer throngs hit fever pitch, head to any of these off-the-beaten-coast coastal cities and towns.

[Brittany Anas](#) and [Adam Hurly](#)

May 16, 2023 11:05 AM EDT

Think "summer in Europe" and it's easy for your imagination to default to those magnetic European **beach resorts** and iconic coastal areas like Spain's Costa Brava, the **French Riviera** and, of course, Italy's **Amalfi Coast**—where pastel buildings cascade down sunbaked hillsides, limoncello **spritzes** are sipped under striped umbrellas at rocky beach clubs, and Alfa Romeos skirt cliffside roads between Positano and Ravello. Fortunately, Europe's best coastal towns and cities don't end there.

If you've waited until now to book this kind of quintessential European vacation, you may have noticed things are filling up (or sold out entirely) on Europe's most popular stretches of craggy coastline. Or, perhaps you've already explored these famed spots to your heart's content and are looking for less obvious and equally spectacular seaside hotspots.

The good news: Europe has thousands of miles of coastline, punctuated with dramatic fjords and off-the-beaten-path peninsulas. There's no shortage of vacation spots that come with crystalline waters, fantastic wine, plus surprises like castles, medieval villages, and sublime surf.

Here are the best European coastal towns and cities that provide an ideal setting for an unforgettable European vacation while giving those spotlight-hogging resorts a run for their Euros.

## Best European Coastal Towns and Cities to Beat the Crowds

...

### 2. Bodrum, Turkey



The Turkish Riviera, also known as the Turquoise Coast, links gorgeous beach towns along the Aegean and Mediterranean coastlines in southwest Turkey. Technically, Turkey straddles Europe and Asia, but these shores truly evoke a European vacation vibe. While the beaches may be the main draw, numerous fascinating attractions along this up-and-coming stretch of coastline include rock tombs meticulously carved into the sides of mountains in Fethiye, the mud baths of Dalyan, great scuba diving sites in Kas, and charming cobblestone streets draped in magenta bougainvillea.

**Related:** [Why Safari-goers Are Adding Mozambique to the Itinerary](#)

If you had to pick one basecamp in this region, head to Bodrum, which has a French Riviera feel, but at a price point based on the more affordable Turkish Lira. Across the sea from the Greek isle of Kos, yachts bob in the marina, “Bar Street” clubs stay open late, and all kinds of ancient sites beckon exploration—like the mausoleum of Halicarnassus, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. History buffs can also check out the [Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archeology](#), located in an ancient castle.

Book a stay at [Kaya Palazzo Resort & Residences Le Chic Bodrum](#), featuring a private beach, swim-up rooms, a Pier Bar that juts out in the water, and a spa with a traditional Turkish Hammam.

...

<https://www.mensjournal.com/travel/best-european-coastal-towns-cities#gid=ci02bede92a00024ac&pid=1-bay-of-kotor-montenegro>