

Estepona feria

ESTEPONA Town Council has unveiled the official schedule for the 2026 Feria y Fiestas Mayores. The festivities commence on Tuesday, July 7, at 20.00 with a giants and big-heads parade leaving Víctor de Serna School, and finish on Sunday, July 12.

On the opening day, journalist Antonio Jiménez will deliver a speech at 21.00 in the Athletics Stadium fountain square, featuring flamenco singer Rocío Bazán. Local authorities light up the fairgrounds at 22.30, accompanied by the Estepona Municipal Band and fireworks.

The Caseta Municipal provides free live music throughout the week. Major acts include Diego Martín on Wednesday July 8, Joana Jiménez on Thursday July 9, Los Yalás on Friday July 10, and Paco Candela on Saturday July 11. Nuria Fergó performs on Thursday at 20.00 during the senior citizens' afternoon tea.



Credit: Ayuntamiento de Estepona

Estepona announces full feria schedule.

Children benefit from discounted fairground rides and a magic show on Wednesday. Free horse-drawn carriage rides operate daily from Thursday to Saturday between 18.00 and 20.00. Horse lovers can view the Andalusian dress competition on Sunday at 13.00, fol-

lowed by a bullfight at 20.00 featuring Talavante, Juan Ortega, and Roca Rey. Free ear protectors are available at the Civil Protection booth for individuals with high noise sensitivity.

More information can be found at ayuntamiento.estepona.es.

Seaweed situation

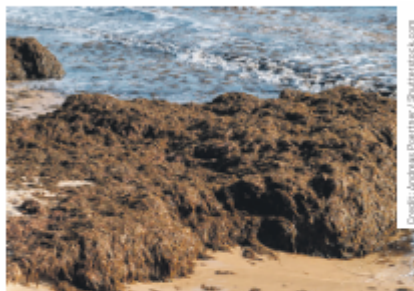
LOCAL councils are battling a record invasion of Asian seaweed, prompting regional authorities to declare an official emergency.

Marbella has removed roughly 10,000 tonnes of the invasive Asian seaweed (*Rugulopteryx okamurae*) so far this year, nearly double the 5,300 tonnes cleared in all of 2025, according to environment councillor Diego Lopez.

A single-day operation earlier this year cleared 374 tonnes from Nueva Andalucía beach alone.

In Estepona, 1,100 tonnes were collected from La Rada beach over five days, with a further 1,000 tonnes estimated across nearby beaches. Crews work round-the-clock shifts using tractors, backhoes and specialist seaweed-removal machinery.

Malaga City has also



Rotting seaweed piles cause problems.

reported a heavier-than-usual workload. Lopez said Marbella has spent over €1 million tackling the crisis this year and has raised the issue six times without securing state funding. A motion demanding emergency government support passed at the council's plenary session on Friday, June 26, though the local PSOE group voted against it.

In April the Junta de Andalucía declared the

situation one of "force majeure and extreme necessity," exempting councils from Spain's €30-per-tonne landfill tax. The Strait of Gibraltar area alone produces an estimated 100,000 tonnes of seaweed annually.

The rotting algae is damaging marine habitats, tearing fishermen's nets, and threatening tourism with its unpleasant and overpowering smell.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Quirónsalud Marbella brings the hospital to your doorstep with 24-hour doctor and specialist home visits

QUIRÓNSALUD Marbella Hospital has strengthened its Home Care Unit by introducing 24-hour medical availability and the option to receive specialist care directly at home. This expansion consolidates the service across the western Costa del Sol.

This initiative represents a major step forward in a healthcare model that, until now, focused primarily on nursing care. It has now evolved to offer more comprehensive coverage, tailored to the needs of a population that increasingly demands convenient, agile, and personalised healthcare solutions.

With this expansion, patients can receive urgent or scheduled medical care, clinical follow-ups, post-surgery care, and various diagnostic tests in the comfort of their own home, avoiding unnecessary trips to the hospital. The 24-hour availability of a doctor ensures an immediate response to any healthcare



need, while the involvement of specialists allows for the assessment of more complex cases without the patient having to leave their familiar surroundings.

One of the standout features of this service is its direct coordination with Quirónsalud Marbella Hospital. This

guarantees that home care is delivered with full access to the hospital's resources and the patient's medical history. Consequently, this ensures greater continuity of care alongside swifter and safer clinical decisions.

The Home Care Unit operates be-

tween Estepona and Fuengirola, catering to both permanent residents and temporary visitors - a very common demographic on the Costa del Sol. Frequent cases include patients recovering from surgery, individuals with reduced mobility, or families requiring specialised medical support at home.

Furthermore, the service operates on a flexible, pay-as-you-go model with no recurring subscription fees; patients only pay for the specific care they need at any given time. Anyone interested can request information or assistance directly by calling the unit on +34 686 486 256 or by emailing homecare.mbl@quironsalud.es.

With this upgrade, Quirónsalud Marbella Hospital champions a model that brings healthcare closer to the patient's home, responding to the growing demand for out-of-hospital care in the Malaga province.