Going south or slightly inland

1. Port Aventura & Ferrari Park, Salou 12 km/7 miles

![](image1)

Photo credit. Ferrari Land

I'm pretty sure I don't need to introduce you to these famous theme parks! In our feature: Tarragona: 9 cool places to take your parents you can find costs and other information for the theme parks.

Afterwards you can check out Salou, be warned it is pretty hectic during the season.

2. Reus: the birthplace of Anton Gaudí & Catalan home of Vermouth 15 km/9 miles (inland)

![](image2)

Not only is Reus the birthplace of Antoni Gaudí but the pulsating heart of the city is packed with gorgeous streets, amazing architecture, stunning squares and lots of tempting shops.

Apart from visiting the Gaudí Museum, in Reus you can also follow a wonderful Modernist Route, as well as the Gaudí Route. In fact Reus only comes second to Barcelona in terms of the amount of Modernist architecture to be found in the city.

When Vermouth arrived in Catalonia from Italy in the 19th century, Reus naturally became its Catalan home of production. Reus was already an important world player in liquor production, ranking alongside the likes of London and Paris. Nowadays it even has its own Vermouth Museum.

![](image3)

Reus Prim Square Spain

So whatever you do or don't do in Reus, you should definitely sample the local Vermouth.
3. Cambrils: a lively, lovely beach town with a gorgeous marina 22 km/14 miles

A lively seaside town which seems to attract lots of Irish families, Cambrils has lovely beaches, a gorgeous marina and areas with cute, cobbled streets.

It also has a good reputation for food and with more than two hundred restaurants to choose from, the main challenge is deciding where to eat. The Catalan authorities have also classified Cambrils as an official Family Holiday Destination.

4. L’Ametlla de Mar: lovely coves, beaches and an authentic port 55 km/34 miles

A relatively unspoiled fishing town with some idyllic coves along with blue flag beaches, L’Ametlla de Mar is a charming place to stop off for a while or a few days. The town also has some interesting sights to see.

5. Delta de l’Ebre natural park: unique landscape with paddy fields, sand dunes and birds 106 km/65 miles

In my earliest days in Spain, I used to cycle from L’Ampolla down into the unique landscape of the Delta de l’Ebre. Embraced by paddy fields, with funny little houses that seem to sit in the water, the Delta is home to a few small towns and has beautiful beaches and sand dunes.

Although the drive is a little over 100 km, it is best to be aware that the roads in the Delta are very narrow, so the journey will take a little over two hours.

Going north
Going north

6. Tamarit: a beautiful castle overlooking the sea 13 km/8 miles

Sitting on the right hand side of the Gaia estuary is the old seaside town of Tamarit, which boasts a beautiful castle that can be traced back to the 11th century that overlooks the Mediterranean sea. The Romanesque style castle was constructed on a rocky promontory and is embraced by the little medieval village, Tamarit.

Originally the castle’s purpose was to defend the area from Barbary Pirates and Ottomans. Down through the centuries it has had a number of different owners. Today it is a spectacular wedding venue.

7. Altafulla: a gorgeous seaside town with abundant culture and history 15 km/9 miles

Altafulla is blessed with a lovely, sandy beach that meanders on for around 1 km with a backdrop of authentic fishermen’s houses that stretch down the promenade.

The old quarter of Altafulla is a small distance away from the coast, but is super impressive with its Roman town, Els Munts, which is part of the UNESCO Tarraco Ensemble.
8. El Vendrell: a lively, lovely beach town with a gorgeous marina 35 km/21 miles

Best known as the birthplace of famous cellist Pablo Casals, El Vendrell boasts interesting culture and heritage, sandy beaches and good wine and food. In fact once you travel to El Vendrell you have arrived in the famous wine region, of Penedes.
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