

Nude beach opinion poll

Press release 27 June 2008

Executive summary

UK naturists say:

- Spain is number one for **nude beaches**
- The best **naturist resorts** are in France
- The best beach for **first-time nudists** is Vera Playa in Spain; in the UK it's Studland Bay
- Europe's **best nude beach** is at the French naturist resort of Cap d'Agde
- Top **islands** for bare bathing are Fuerteventura (Canaries) and Formentera (Balearics)

Issued by Lifestyle Press Ltd, publisher of 'The World's Best Nude Beaches and Resorts'



Spain voted number one for **nude beaches**

Spain and the Spanish islands have Europe's best nude beaches, according to a survey of Britain's naturist holiday-makers. Baring all on the costas won 36% of bare Britons' votes, compared to 34% who named France as their favourite for all-over bathing. In third place were Greece and the Greek islands, with 10%.

These findings were revealed by publishers of 'The World's Best Nude Beaches and Resorts', from a survey of more than 500 UK naturists. "We think this is the largest detailed poll on holiday nudity by the experts and it's amazing to see Spain coming top. Thirty years ago nude bathing was illegal there and now the country and islands have several hundred beaches used by unclad holiday makers. France is well-known for its nude beaches, but we were slightly surprised that Greece came third – other countries such as Croatia have done far more to promote their holidays in the altogether," said Nick Mayhew, author of the guide.

Q2. Which European country has the best naturist resorts?

1. France	54.0%
2. Spain	24.4%
3. Croatia	8.4%
4. Greece	3.8%
5. Germany	1.8%

Q3. Which country has the best potential for growing its naturist market?

1. Spain	27.0%
2. Greece	16.2%
3. UK	14.4%
4. Croatia	13.0%
5. France	6.0%

Q1. Which European country has the best nude beaches?

1. Spain and islands	36.0%
2. France	34.4%
3. Greece and islands	10.4%
4. Croatia	7.8%
5. UK	3.0%

France first for bare resorts

France is however miles ahead when it comes to naturist resorts, winning over half the vote (54%) for its elegant au naturel holiday centres. Spain (24%) and Croatia (9%) have some catching up to do but were ranked second and third respectively. The survey also revealed the countries with the best potential for growing their naturist holiday market: Spain (27%), Greece (16%), the UK (14%) and Croatia (13%) could all benefit from further improving their all-over tourist offering.

"France has embraced nude bathers for much longer than just about every other country, which is why its naturist resorts are still the world's best by a long way," said Nick Mayhew. "Other countries in the survey, particularly Greece, have a good number of naturist beaches but relatively few commercial naturist resorts – although that is starting to change," he added.

White bottoms welcome

Other findings of interest to those who are curious include the best beach for revealing your white bottom for the first time. According to the survey, novices should head for the Spanish beach and naturist resort of Vera Playa, on the Costa Almeria between Almeria and Cartagena.

Other top survey choices for taking the plunge include the French naturist resort beaches of Euronat, near Bordeaux, and Cap d'Agde, near Montpellier. The best islands for first-timers, taking votes for all their beaches into account, are Fuerteventura in the Canaries and Formentera, next to Ibiza in the Balearics.

The world's best islands for baring all

1. Fuerteventura, Spain
2. St Martin, Caribbean
3. Formentera, Spain
4. Gran Canaria, Spain
5. Skiathos, Greece
6. Crete, Greece
- 7= Corfu, Greece
- 7= Lanzarote, Spain
- 7= Mallorca, Spain

Q4. Which beach is best for a first-time nude beach visitor? (excluding UK)

1. Vera Playa naturist resort, Spain
2. Cap d'Agde naturist resort, France
3. Euronat naturist resort, France
4. Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, Spain
5. Orient Bay, St Martin, Caribbean
6. Little Banana Beach, Skiathos, Greece
- 7= Playa Migjorn, Formentera, Spain
- 7= Corralejo, Fuerteventura, Spain
9. Haulover Beach, Florida, USA
- 10= Jandia, Fuerteventura, Spain
- 10= La Jenny naturist resort, France

Islands in the sun

A number of European islands received multiple votes for different nude beaches. Fuerteventura in the Canary islands has 11 beaches recommended in the survey, while Formentera in the Balearics and Crete have five each.

Total votes cast mean the top islands for nude bathing are Fuerteventura, St Martin and Formentera. "Island beaches are the ideal place for escape. You're a world apart from your ordinary life and if you're nervous about stripping off for the first time there's nothing better than putting miles of open water between you and your neighbours!" said Nick Mayhew.

The people's nude beach

The survey also asked naturists to name their favourite nude beach. Top overseas choice was the busy resort beach of Cap d'Agde in France, closely followed by Vera Playa in Spain and Orient Bay on the Caribbean island of St Martin. Among the other favourites were Banana Beach on the Greek island of Skiathos, Maspalomas on Gran Canaria and no less than four French naturist resorts on the Atlantic coast: Euronat, La Jenny, Arnaoutchot and Montalivet.

"The regions with the most popular nude beaches would also sound familiar to those who go on ordinary beach holidays: the Spanish islands, France, the Greek islands and the Caribbean. Nude bathing is not that different from bathing with clothes on – the setting and the activities are the same, after all," said Nick Mayhew.

"Good nude beaches are often right next door to some popular resort beaches. A few minutes' walk – and a moment of courage – are all that separate the clothed from the nude bather in many popular holiday spots. British tourists aren't exactly famous for being shy and retiring, so here's a nice way to do something adventurous while also blending in with the local beach scene."

Q5 Which is your favourite nude beach? (excluding UK)

1. Cap d'Agde naturist resort, France
- 2= Vera Playa naturist resort, Spain
- 2= Orient Bay, St Martin, Caribbean
4. Euronat naturist resort, France
5. Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, Spain
6. Corralejo, Fuerteventura, Spain
- 7= Little Banana Beach, Skiathos, Greece
- 7= La Jenny naturist resort, France
9. Haulover Beach, Florida USA
- 10= Arnaoutchot naturist resort, France
- 10= Montalivet naturist resort, France
- 10= Sotavento, Fuerteventura, Spain

Bare Britons

Closer to home, the UK's number one nude beach is Studland Bay in Dorset, where a huge and busy naturist section takes full advantage of this long sweep of golden sand and calm sea. Second choice was Morfa Dyffryn in north Wales, another long and sandy beach. Third was Holkham in Norfolk. These three beaches were also listed as the best places to try if you are baring all for the first time.

Britain's worst nude beach – by quite some distance – is Brighton's very public section of pebbles at the eastern end of the seafront. A massive 20% of respondents named it their least favourite place for stripping off; no other beach in Europe came close to receiving such a significant number of votes.

Q6 Which is your favourite nude beach? (UK)

1. Studland Bay, Dorset
2. Morfa Dyffryn, Wales
3. Holkham, Norfolk
4. Pednevounder, near Porthcurno, Cornwall
5. Fairlight Glen, near Hastings, West Sussex
6. Slapton Sands, Devon

Q7 Which beach is best for a first-time nude beach visitor? (UK)

1. Studland Bay, Dorset
2. Morfa Dyffryn, Wales
3. Holkham, Norfolk
4. Slapton Sands, Devon
- 5= Eastney, near Portsmouth, Hampshire
- 5= Fairlight Glen, near Hastings, West Sussex

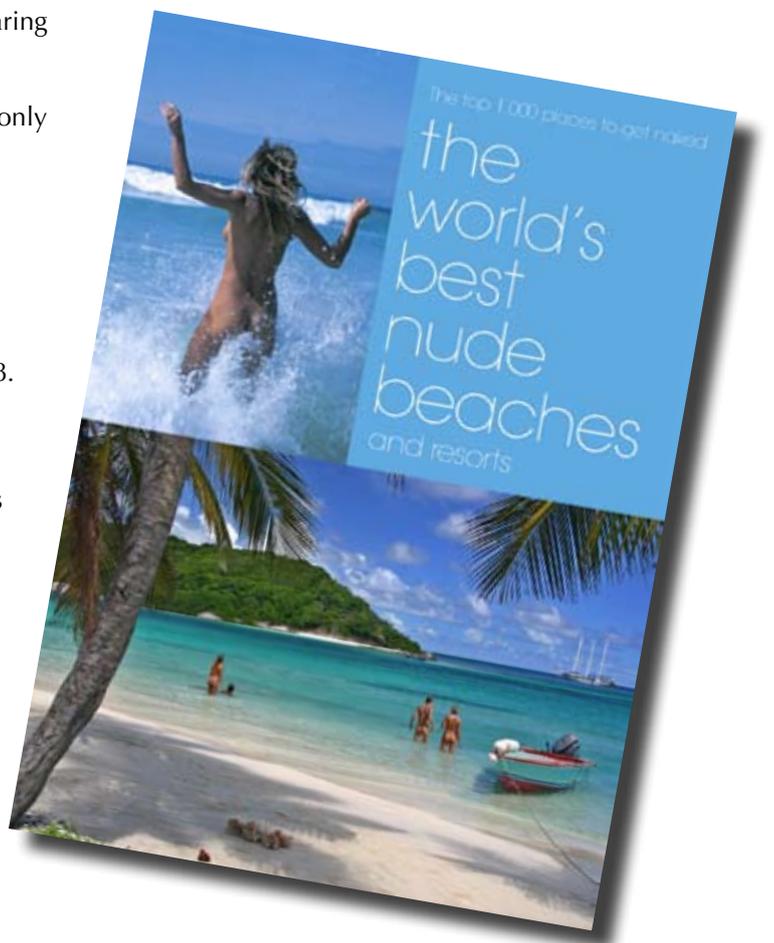
Nul points for nudity

Ten countries in Europe scored nul points for having the best beaches for nul clothing – but Britain thankfully was not among them. A patriotic 3% of Britain's naturists claimed our own islands had the best beaches for baring all. Those failing to score any votes include the landlocked Czech Republic and Luxembourg, along with Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway, Russia and Slovenia. "Perhaps UK naturists are slightly unadventurous when it comes to picking their holiday destinations. All 10 of these countries do actually have well-known naturist beaches or resorts. There's a whole world waiting to be explored by those who enjoy wearing their birthday suits on the beach," said Nick Mayhew. It may be that UK naturists are not quite so active in visiting beaches generally. Most (54%) expect to visit only three beaches or fewer in the coming year.

Notes

The survey was conducted by internet with responses invited from UK naturists between May and June 2008. To see the survey questions visit our website www.barebeaches.com/survey

The publisher's book 'The World's Best Nude Beaches and Resorts' (ISBN 978-0-9544767-3-1) is available priced £14.95 from Amazon and high street book stores, or direct from www.barebeaches.com.



Full survey results

Which European country has the best nude beaches?

1. Spain and islands 36.0%
2. France 34.4%
3. Greece and islands 10.4%
4. Croatia 7.8%
5. UK 3.0%

Which European country has the best attitude to nude bathing?

1. Spain 31.8%
2. France 29.4%
3. Germany 12.6%
4. Croatia 8.0%
5. Denmark 3.8%
6. Greece 3.6%
7. The Netherlands 2.8%
8. Sweden 1.8%
- 9= Russia 0.8%
- 9= UK 0.8%

Which European country has the best naturist resorts?

1. France 54.0%
2. Spain 24.4%
3. Croatia 8.4%
4. Greece 3.8%
5. Germany 1.8%

Which country has the best potential for growing its naturist market?

1. Spain 27.0%
2. Greece 16.2%
3. UK 14.4%
4. Croatia 13.0%
5. France 6.0%
6. Portugal 4.8%
7. Italy 4.4%
- 8= Germany 1.2%
- 8= Montenegro 1.2%
- 10= Bulgaria 1.0%
- 10= Slovenia 1.0%

Which is your favourite nude beach? (excluding UK)

1. Cap d'Agde naturist resort, France Mediterranean
- 2= Vera Playa naturist resort, Spain Costa Almeria
- 2= Orient Bay, St Martin, Caribbean
4. Euronat naturist resort, France Atlantic
5. Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, Spain
6. Corralejo, Fuerteventura, Spain
- 7= Little Banana Beach, Skiathos, Greece
- 7= La Jenny naturist resort, France Atlantic
9. Haulover Beach, Florida USA
- 10= Arnaoutchot naturist resort, France Atlantic
- 10= Montalivet naturist resort, France Atlantic
- 10= Sotavento, Fuerteventura, Spain

Which is your favourite nude beach? (UK)

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6. Slapton Sands, Devon

The best islands for baring all

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2. St Martin, Caribbean
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- 7= Corfu, Greece
- 7= Lanzarote, Spain
- 7= Mallorca, Spain

Which beach is best for a first-time nude beach visit? (excluding UK)

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3. Euronat naturist resort, France
4. Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, Spain
5. Orient Bay, St Martin, Caribbean
6. Little Banana Beach, Skiathos, Greece
- 7= Playa Migjorn, Formentera, Spanish Balearic islands
- 7= Corralejo, Fuerteventura, Spain
9. Haulover Beach, Florida, USA
- 10= Jandia, Fuerteventura, Spain
- 10= La Jenny naturist resort, France

Which beach is best for a first-time nude beach visit? (UK)

1. Studland Bay, Dorset
2. Morfa Dyffryn, Wales
3. Holkham, Norfolk
4. Slapton Sands, Devon
- 5= Eastney, near Portsmouth, Hampshire
- 5= Fairlight Glen, near Hastings, West Sussex

Which region has the best nude beaches?

1. Europe 83.5%
2. The Caribbean 9.9%
3. Australia/NZ 4.1%
4. North America 1.9%
5. South America 0.2%

How many nude beaches will you visit this year?

- None 5.1%
- One 10.1%
- Two 21.6%
- Three 19.5%
- Four 12.8%
- Five 12.1%
- Six 6.8%
- Seven or more 12%

Do you base your holiday around naturist facilities?

1. Usually 39.9%
2. Sometimes 33.7%
3. Always 21.6%
4. Never 3.9%