

Cautions

- ★ Stay out of the water if jellyfish are seen. In case of doubt, ask the lifeguard service.
- ★ Avoid the seashore area since many stinging fragments might gather there.
- ★ Use sunscreen, protecting against jellyfish stings or lightweight clothing.
- ★ Avoid contact with dead jellyfish on the sand or fragments on the shore since they can still sting up to 24 hours out of the water.
- ★ If jellyfish are seen and there is no proper warning sign, let the lifeguards know and, if not, people around you.

How to deal with a sting?

- ★ Seek the lifeguard service, they know what to do.
- ★ Rinse the area ONLY with seawater or a saline solution, NEVER with fresh water (fresh water increases venom absorption).
- ★ Do not rub nor scratch the area, not even with towels or sand.
- ★ Use tweezers or gloves to pluck away any tentacles still on the skin.
- ★ Apply ice on the area for 15 minutes. Do not apply it directly on bare skin.
- ★ Do not use ammonia, vinegar or urine.
- ★ Disinfect the wound with iodized alcohol 2 or 3 times a day during the first 48 to 72 hours.

Special Situations

- ★ Children, elderly people, or people with allergies may need special assistance.
- ★ If you're far from a lifeguard service and in the case of a very dangerous sting (Portuguese man o'war), call an ambulance (112) and indicate that the contact has been with this species.
- ★ In case of headache, muscles spasms, vomiting, having trouble breathing or any other symptoms, go to the nearest healthcare centre.

**Our shore is pure nature.
To care for it is our responsibility.**

For more information, please contact us.



Turismo El Ejido-Costa de Almería
<https://turismo.elejido.es>

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE
C/ Arquitecto Julián Laguna, 65 - Almerimar
950 48 95 55

Jellyfish of the Mediterranean

Environmental information



What are jellyfish?

Jellyfish are a gelatinous marine species that live floating in the sea and are part of the plankton. Usually, they have a bell-shaped body and stinging tentacles. Jellyfish are some of the oldest animals in the world and they contribute to the marine ecosystem.

What causes jellyfish blooms?

Presence of jellyfish in the sea is normal. They usually appear on beaches when the tide rises, or due to the prevalent east winds or ocean currents. However, the latest explosion in jellyfish numbers could be blamed on: the reduction of the number of their natural predators (turtles or tuna), changes in climatic factors (rainfall or global warming), land-based pollution or hydrographic features.

Why do jellyfish sting?

It's their way of defence from predators and is used to capture their prey.

When something accidentally makes contact with them, they release a toxic substance through cells present in their bodies, mainly along their tentacles. This venom paralyses or kills the small animals they eat, and people experience unpleasant sensations.

Jellyfish don't purposely attack us, it just happens when we make contact with them.

Are all jellyfish dangerous?

Each species has its own features. A sting may be serious depending on:

- ★ Species: venom composition and potency; quality of the stinging cells.
- ★ People: age (elderly people and children are more vulnerable), health, weight or allergies.
- ★ Particulars: part of the body and contact time with the jellyfish.

Species Identification:

High danger

Portuguese man o'war (Physalia Physalis)

Size: 30 cm, long tentacles
Colour: Purple-blue
Frequency: Rare

They're usually found in the Atlantic Ocean. Their presence in the Mediterranean is incidental.



Danger

Purple jellyfish or mauve stinger (Pelagia noctiluca)

Size: 5-10 cm
Colour: Pink-purple
Frequency: Very frequent

It's the most common jellyfish found on our coasts. Most stings are caused by this species.



Compass jellyfish (Chrysaora hysoscella)

Size: Up to 30 cm
Colour: Yellow-white
Frequency: Frequent



Low danger

Fried egg jellyfish (Cotylorhiza tuberculata)

Size: 20-35 cm
Colour: Brown-grey
Frequency: Frequent



The barrel jellyfish (Rhizostoma pulmo)

Size: 90-100 cm
Colour: White-blue
Frequency: Rare



Moon jelly (Aurelia Aurita)

Size: 10-15 cm
Colour: Transparent
Frequency: Frequent



No danger

Crystal jelly (Aequorea forskalea)

Size: up to 30 cm
Colour: Transparent
Frequency: Frequent



By-the-wind-sailor (Velella velella)

Size: 1-5 cm
Colour: Blue-transparent
Frequency: Frequent

