

Malaga City

1. THE AUTHENTIC CITY OF MALAGA

MALAGA, LIKE A SEDUCTIVE LADY FROM ANDALUCIA, HIDES COYLY UNDER HER SHAWL, AND THUS REMAINS SADLY UNEXPLORED BY MANY. DISCREETLY POSITIONED AT THE CENTRE OF THE COSTA DEL SOL, THE TOWN HAS RETAINED ITS HIGHLY UNIQUE CHARACTER AND YET IS BEGINNING TO BE APPRECIATED BY VISITORS WHO ARE LURED BY THE HISTORIC CHARM AND CHARACTER OF THE PLACE - AND THE PEOPLE.

Part of the city's attraction is that of its intriguing layout which makes it particularly appealing for exploring. There are endless narrow streets, historic buildings and quaint old-fashioned shops which have remained largely unchanged despite the passage of time. This means that Malaga literally has something for everyone; a unique appeal which for one person may derive from the vitality and hospitality of the people, another from the architecture and, still another from the overall ambience and graciousness of the city.

One of the first rather delightful aspects which a visitor will notice, however, is that the Malagueno never walks around with a fixed purpose in mind as he always seems to have time for that impromptu coffee with friends or stroll through the park. In essence, this is true hospitality which is considered perfectly natural and normal. Interestingly, this is a trait which is also reflected in the Arabic cultures of the world, which is hardly surprising given the Moorish influence over the entire province of Andalusia.

Another equally endearing trait of the Malagueno is his (or her) extrovert character. Conversations are light-hearted, boisterous, peppered with amusing stories and subtle jokes. Malagenos do not take themselves too seriously and don't expect others to either!.

A strong cultural identity and respect for age old traditions is reflected in such annual events as the Holy Week at Easter while, more light hearted, yet just as respected is the flamenco which can still be heard on an impromptu basis at several of the bars in the historic part of the city.

In Malaga, as all over Andalusia, life takes place on the street. The year round mild climate encourages the delightful custom of "promenading" which, again reflects the social, agreeable nature of the people. Winter and summer here are, in reality, autumn and spring elsewhere in the world. Such seasons make the town an easy place to live, eat and enjoy as well as adding to its dynamism and appeal. On a more serious note, the city is also an important centre of administration in the business and financial world.

The streets of the historic centre preserve an age old ambience and reflect the vitality of a modern town. To fully appreciate all this area has to offer, it is necessary to spend several hours exploring the tiny backstreets which still are distinctly Moorish in character, contemplate the many churches and monasteries, stop for a coffee or a fino in

a typical bar or perhaps purchase some "biznagas" (small bouquets of fresh jasmine) from a gypsy or visit the Casa de la Guardia for a sip of "pajarete"; a wine which is a virtual national symbol and generally served with a tapa, such as mussels and shrimps.

The custom of accompanying a drink with a small snack is yet another indicative factor of the Malaguenos, hospitality and habit of socialising in the bars and pubs where they spend long hours sipping wine and chatting. The actual name tapa comes from the word for a small plate which was often requested by customers in order to cover the wine so it would not evaporate in the heat. A few enticing tit bits were placed on these covers (tapas) which in time became so popular that they were a standard request.

During the night Malaga is as brightly lit as any city. However, this town has the obvious advantage of a coastline. This is when the view of the bay is at its best and there a number of excellent restaurants beachside, or the more informal may prefer a picnic with such appropriate dining fare as grilled sardines and a frothy glass of veritable cerveza!

Background and History

In order to take full advantage of Malaga's magnificent position, it is recommended that you climb the Mount Gibralfaro. From here the old town is a mosaic of buildings and narrow streets with rooftops at every level and, again, an utterly captivating Moorish ambience.

La Alcazaba and the castle of Gibralfaro both sit proudly on the hilltop and comprise an impressive monumental complex.

The former is one of the most important military constructions of its era, particularly regarding defence. Classic columns, taken from the ruins of a [Roman theatre](#) have been used and there is a charming plaza with portico, pool and garden, close to the complex of the Nazarean Palace and a small, inhabited barrio dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. Within the palace buildings is the provincial archaeological museum that has an interesting collection of Paleolithic and Neolithic antiquities, as well as Roman art, models of the Alcazaba and the cathedral. Naturally enough, there is plenty of Muslim art here also, dating from the 10th to 14th centuries.

The Gibralfaro Castle takes up a large part of the hilltop. According to Muslim chronicles, a Phoenician lighthouse once stood there, thus it is known as Jabal-Farouk or "lighthouse hill". There is a project underway to build a lift from the base of the hill up to the patios of the castle, which would make the journey a little less arduous than the current seemingly endless steps. The Roman theatre is just below here. Some of its parts were used to build the Alcazaba where renovation is already underway. Further down towards the left is the Muslim Patio which is particularly captivating with orange trees and lots of brightly coloured flower beds. The cathedral, called La Manquita, (the one armed) is so named because the southern tower was never completed. Apparently, the money designated for construction was used instead for such laudable causes as the war of Independence in North America. The cathedral is built on the site of an earlier mosque and, in order to cover the costs of construction, the town was authorised in the 17th century to impose a tax on all wine, raisins and oil that moved through its harbour. The actual building lasted more than two centuries which is why the result is such a

potpourri of styles, gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Neo-classic etc. The interior is surprisingly well lit and full of artistic treasures.

Currently however, the cathedral is in a sorry crumbling state and the Town Hall has started a campaign for its renovation, calling on all Malaguenos to participate.

Numerous cultural events have been staged in order to raise funds and individual companies are starting to pledge large amounts to show their support. As far as the actual physical labour is concerned, the Department for Culture and Tourism is working together with the Institute of Employment and creating workshop programmes which will train students in the skills necessary for the restoration work.

In front of the Manquita is the Bishop's Palace, which in fact comprises two palaces, one built in the 16th century the other in the 18th century. The museum of religious art is housed in the latter and includes an excellent collection of paintings and goldsmiths' works. There are also two garden patios with an impressive number of plants. Still another part of the palace serves as a gallery or exhibition hall.

Carrying on down San Agustin Street we arrive at the Buena Vista Palace of the 16th century, which today houses the Museum of Fine Arts; a building full of contrasts; ornately plastered doors, a magnificent tower clearly reflecting a Mudejar influence, as well as some distinctive Renaissance elements, such as a patio with looming columns. The palace contains some twenty galleries where painting and sculptures are exhibited featuring such well known artists as Murillo, Zurbarán, Morales "the divine", Alfonso Cano, Ribera and Lucio Giordano. More recent art includes works by Sorola, Martínez Cubells and Picasso (among others). There is also an excellent collection of paintings from the Malaga school of the 19th century.

From San Agustin through to Granada Street, we arrive at the Plaza de la Merced which is quite the example of 19th century architecture; an era when Malaga was one of Europe's most important cities in terms of trade and commerce. For example, this is the site of the country's first large textile factories and ironworks.

The monumental plaza includes the birthplace of Picasso which has been converted into a small museum and includes a research library which is funded by the Picasso Foundation.

No discussion of Malaga centre would be complete without mentioning the Larios Street which divides the historic heart of the city. Constructed over a mere four year period, the street is grandiose and attractive with a harmony of architecture which is considered nowadays as being a particularly fine example of town planning. One of the small by streets is the Chinitas alley which got its name from the famous theatre café immortalised by Federico García Lorca and which has seen quite the best singers of the era, as well as writers and intellectuals from the 1920's.

Continuing on and just before reaching the ancient walls of the old Moorish city, there stands the Atarazanas Market, once a mosque and named after a monumental gate with the characteristic Arab style arch. The rest of the construction is Neomudejar from the 19th century. In fact, the building only lacks the original roof in order to be a perfect Arabic bazaar. Notwithstanding, the atmosphere is contagious with all the banter and barter of a genuine souk, not to mention heady aromas of spices, herbs, fresh vegetables

and fish. It is said that this is the best place for the latter which exude all that "catch of the day" freshness. Brightly coloured, freshly picked fruits and vegetables line the aisles and are at least half the price of the equivalent further down the coast. If you can't find the market, don't worry, just follow the shoppers baskets...

At the very core of the city lies the Paseo del Parque, a botanical masterpiece with tropical plants and trees. Dating back some one hundred years, the original house of the senior gardener has now become a central tourism office. Although only 90 square metres large it is so splendid that it appears almost palatial. There is also the Town Hall, a neo-baroque building with a façade which boasts impressive iconographic renderings dating back a century or more.

2. EVENTS

Throughout the year. At the Fundacion Picasso Museum in Plaza de la Merced 15. (Picasso's childhood home), there is a permanent exhibition of Picasso engravings entitled "Le Chants des Morts" on show. Another exhibition of engravings by Picasso to illustrate the book "Carmen" by Merimee is on show on the first floor. The Museum is open during the summer Monday to Sunday mornings between 10.00 and 14.00 and Monday to Saturday evenings between 18.00 and 21.00. During the winter months it is open Monday to Sunday mornings from 10.00 to 14.00 and Monday to Saturday evenings from 18.00 to 20.00. Closed on public holidays. More information on 952 060 215.

Throughout the year. A permanent exhibition is on show in the Museo Interactivo de la Music (MIMMA) in the Muralla Plaza de la Marina s.n. Open every day from 11.00 to 21.00. Information on 952 210 440

Throughout the year. A permanent exhibition about the Malaga artist Rafael Perez Estrada opened on 23rd April 2003 in the lower floor gallery of the Municipal Archives, Alameda Principal 23. Open daily from 9.30 to 13.30. More information on 952 128 816.

Throughout the year. A permanent exhibition "Punto de Partida" is on show at CAC, the Contemporary Art Centre, which was opened in February 2003, in calle Alemania. Visiting hours are Tuesday to Sunday during the summer from 10.00 to 14.00 and from 17.30 to 21.30 and during the winter from 10.00 to 20.00. Entrance is free. More information on 952 120 055.

Also at the City's first library specialising in Art opened at the end of December 2003.. The Rayuela-CAC Library, a joint venture by the local authorities and the prestigious Malaga Rayuela Library is full of all types of art literature from catalogues to biographies, collections and dictionaries as well as books on photography, theatre, music, architecture and decoration. The Library also stocks specialist magazines and a children's section and visitors can also order specific publications in whatever language they wish at the Centre or on www.libreriayuela.com

As well as meeting the demands of the general public the Library aims to help University students with their studies and provide a comprehensive programme of talks, book presentations and other literary activities at the Centre.

Opening hours are the same as that of the Centre: Tuesday to Sunday from 10.00 to 20.00. More information from CAC Malaga on 952 120 055

Throughout the year. A permanent exhibition of bronzes are on show in La Casa Grande-Villa Onieva in Avenida Pintor Sorrola, 4. Open weekdays from 11.00 to 13.00 and from 17.00 to 20.00.

Throughout the year the Provincial Deputation organises a wealth of cultural delights each month at the Centro Cultural Provincial in calle Ollerias s.n. Apart from concerts there are varied exhibitions in the Centro Cultural Provincial's art gallery in calle Ollerias s.n. open Monday to Friday from 11.00 to 14.00 and from 17.00 to 21.00 and in the gallery at the Sala Alameda in Alameda Principal. This is open Tuesday to Sunday from 11.00 to 14 and from 17.00 to 21.00.

February to May. Spanish courses at the Malaga University are some of the finest on offer and provide an opportunity to really learn the language. Intensive 5 hours a day courses for groups of up to seven are organised from January to December by the Spanish Department as a foreign language. Normal courses of 3 to 4 hours a day in two term Spanish courses are also available from October to December and February to May. For more information write to Apdo 310, 29080 Malaga or tel. 95 227 82 1, Fax 95 227 97 12.

Every Tuesday to Sunday. Flamenco shows at 0.30 at the Tablao Flamencio "Vista Andalucia" in Avenida de los Guindo s.n. in the Santa Paul area, which is open from 22.30 to 06.00.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday. Live jazz sessions at the Onda Pasadena Jazz Club in calle Gomez Pallete, 9 (near the Plaza de la Merced) at 23.00, 00.15 and 01.30.

Every Thursday. Flamenco at the Onda Pasadena Jazz Club in calle Gomez Pallete, 9 (near the Plaza de la Merced) at 23.00, 00.15 and 01.30.

Every Sunday. The Malaga Municipal Band gives a concert from 12 noon in the Eduardo Ocon Bandstand in the Malaga Park. These pre lunchtime concerts are popular with Malagueños and visitors alike. One of the oldest bands in Spain, founded 141 years ago today has 40 teachers and 12 pupils from the Malaga Superior Conservatory of Music in its group and has recently recorded a compact disc.

3. MÁLAGA AIRPORT

Airport Code: AGP

Málaga Airport, Avenida García Morato, s/n 29004, Málaga, Spain

Tel: +34 952 048 484

Arrivals: +34 952 048 838

Departures: +34 952 048 804
Flight arrival and departure [information](#)

Malaga Airport is 8 kilometres west of the city of Malaga and is main flight path for million people arriving on the Costa del Sol each year. The airport is next to the main A7 coast road that links to the AP7 Autopista del Sol motorway for Torremolinos, Benalmadena, Fuengirola and Marbella and Gibraltar to the west and Malaga, Nerja, Granada the East.

Over the years Malaga airport has grown and plans continue for further expansion, in response the continuous increase in numbers of travellers. Plans are already underway for the construction of an another terminal to supplement the two currently in service. A second runway is also planned.

With flight connections to more than 60 worldwide destinations, around 12 million passengers pass through the airport each year. In keeping with the every more affluent profile of this important international airport, the commercial area inside the airport building has recently been improved.

There are 9 different rest points and a wide selection of bars and restaurants, bank cash points, postal and Internet services for passengers, pharmacy and children's play area. There is no left luggage facility however.

There is even an exhibition hall, which shows the work of well-known Andalusian artists. This is usually open from 10:00 - 13:30 and 17:00 - 21:00. The exhibitions change from month to month and so, even if you are a frequent flyer, ask for details and see what's on if you have time to spare. There is an airport museum housed in the original (now General Aviation) terminal 10 minutes walk away.

Business people as well as holidaymakers head for Malaga and the Costa del Sol. With this in mind, Malaga Airport offers all the facilities needed for business meetings in the VIP rooms.

Malaga Airport Train Service

There is a half hour train service to Malaga City and Fuengirola from a station in front of the main terminal. The train station is outside the airport building and not sign posted from the Arrivals Hall. You should take the lift in the arrivals hall up the Departures Hall and then walk to the outside, towards the upper level parking area. Keeping in line with the terminal building, with the parking area to your left, walk to the end of the parking and turn right, going over the footbridge, which spans the road below. Follow the signs for the train station.

Look out for this sign above the station
(Pictured right)



It is important to know that you must have a ticket before you board the train, or you will be liable for a fine of around 10 times the cost of the fare. There is an automated ticket machine at the airport station, but you will need Euro coins (sometimes notes are rejected!). Occasionally the machine will only accept the exact fare. So be prepared!

The walk from the airport building to the station is a good five to ten minutes - normally no problem, but in the melting August mid afternoon sun or a winter torrential rain storm, you may think twice about the benefits of saving on a taxi fare. It is also worth mentioning that when you reach the station, there is a small flight of concrete stairs up to the train platform. There is no lift or escalator. So, if you have a disability or are travelling with awkward, heavy luggage, you may need help.

There is an excellent train service linking Malaga Airport to Malaga city to the East and Fuengirola to the West.

To Málaga City

First train 07:09 then 39 and 09 minutes past the hour. Last train 23.59 journey time 12 min's.

To Fuengirola

First train 05.54 then at 14 and 44 minutes past the hour. Last train 22.44 journey time 29 min's.

Price of Train Ticket:

Most one way journeys are under 3 euros depending on destination and day of the week. (slightly higher tariff on Saturdays and public holidays).

Malaga Airport Bus Service

There is a half hour Airport Bus from outside the Terminal Two arrivals hall to Malaga city centre. There is a 45 minute Airport Coach Service (90 minute in Winter) from outside the Terminal Two arrivals hall non stop to Marbella Bus Station.

The Bus stop is located just outside the main arrivals hall (turn right on leaving and walk 40m).

To Málaga City

Frequent bus Services from the Airport to Málaga City **Service No 19**. This is an urban bus, it may leave the airport empty but fill with passengers en-route so be prepared if you have a lot of luggage.

From the Airport to Malaga bus and train station every 1/2 hour:

First Bus: 07.00

Last Bus: 24.00

From Malaga bus and train station to the Airport every 1/2 hour:

First Bus: 06.30

Last Bus: 23.30

The cost is around 1 euro.

For further information (in Spanish) **Tel:** Malaga Bus Station: +34 952 350 061

Malaga Airport Taxi Service

There are always plenty of Taxi's waiting for passengers at Malaga Airport, here is a guide to the cost of [taxi fares from Malaga Airport](#).

The Taxi fares from Malaga airport have two tariff bands:

Band 1

Weekdays between the hours of 06:00 and 22:00.
(Calculate fare at approx 0.9 euros per Km)

Band 2

Between 22:00 - 06:00 .Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays 24 hours .
(Calculate fare at approx 1.01 euro per Km)

This translates approximately to the following charges for the following destinations:

Fares from Málaga Airport		
City	Band 1	Band 2
Nerja	66 EURO	78 EURO
Málaga Centre	12 EURO	15 EURO
Torremolinos Centre	9 EURO	11 EURO
Benalmadena Costa	14 EURO	17 EURO
Benalmadena Pueblo	14 EURO	17 EURO
Fuengirola	23 EURO	27 EURO
La Cala	32 EURO	37 EURO
Mijas	28 EURO	32 EURO
Marbella	47 EURO	56 EURO

4. NIGHTLIFE

Music Bars in Malaga

Vista Andalucía

All night flamenco from 22.30 to 06.00 - Olé! Avda de los Guindos, Malaga (95 223 1157)

El Cantor de Jazz

Live jazz on Thursdays in a Chicago style intimate, if smoky atmosphere. Calle Lazcano, 7 (95 222 2854).

O'Neill's Irish Pub

Draught Guinness on tap and Irish music has made this a trendy place for young Malagueños. Calle Luis del Velazquez, 3. (95 260 1460).

Theatre in Malaga

Miguel Cervantes Municipal Theatre

Regular concerts, theatre and dance performances. Recent appearances by Suzanne Vega and Art Garfunkle. Located behind Plaza de la Merced 95 222 4100.

Tapas Bars

Malaga is famed for its tapas bars and some of the best known are located in the heart of the city around Calle Nueva.

Rincón de Mata

Tucked away in a corner, tapas here cost as little as 1.20 euro and include "*habas con jamon*" (broad beans with ham), "*gambas al pil-pil*" (spicy fresh prawns) and "*caracaoles*" (snails). Esparteros, 8.

Taperia Siglo XXI

Wonderful old-fashioned tapa bar which Picasso must have known well (he was born in this square), air-conditioned and specialising in local cheeses and Serrano ham. Pza de la Merced, 12.

El Trasiego

Prop up the bar or sit *al fresco* pavement style at one of Malaga's oldest tapas bars, specialising in Serrano ham and wedges of crumbly, well-cured Manchego cheese served with garlicky olives and hunks of white bread. C/Santa Maria 23.

Taberna Rincon Chinitas

Still a bohemian buzz to this tiny bar favoured by Lorca and his pals and famed for its delicious '*Berenjenas con Miel*' - grilled aubergine with honey tapa. Pasaje Chinitas, 9.

El Trillo Taberna

Pricey location off swanky shopping street, but hard to beat for that mid-morning sherry accompanied by haute-cuisine tapas instead of the Twiglets back home. C/Don Juan Diaz.

For good seafood restaurants head for the beach suburbs of El Palo or Pedregalejo, east of the town.

Café con Libros

Student hang-out coffee bar with books and backgammon. C/Granada, 63. (95 220 4717).

Bar Logueño

Popular with locals, this tapa bar has more than 75 choices ranging from sautéed oyster mushrooms (*setas*) to deep fried peppers at prices starting from just 1.50 euro. C/Maria Garcia s/n.

Gibralfaro Bar

Bohemian-style bar and café with impromptu live flamenco located in historic passageway leading to Cathedral. Limited tapas but lots of atmosphere. Pasaje de Chinitas.

5. PARKS AND GARDENS

El Parque

Malaga's city park which runs alongside the "*Paseo del Parque*", was created at the end of the 19th century making use of land reclaimed from the sea. The park contains beautiful tropical flowering trees and shrubs. Many of the unusual and exotic species were brought from overseas, including Cuba, when Malaga was an important world trading centre.

Jardin Botanic-Historic "La Concepcion"

Just outside Malaga, "*Finca de la Concepcion*" is another magnificent botanical garden. There are regular guided tours of the gardens which pass through exotic trees and plants, Roman sculptures and a waterfall.

6. SHOPPING

Spain's biggest department store – and the second biggest in Europe – is El Corte Ingles, and you'll find a branch right opposite the train station in Malaga.

The main shopping area is around Calle Marques de Larios, near the cathedral. Along the coast, there are various big commercial centres. On the way to Marbella, you pass the Centro Canada, with stores such as Zara, Mango, Benetton and Body Shop.

There is also a branch of Mango in Malaga (calle Larios 1).

Between Malaga and Torremolinos is the new leisure complex with 70 restaurants, bars, cinemas, a gym and gift shops and soon to come is an even more enormous shopping centre.

If markets are more your thing, they take place in all the main towns along the coast, usually in the mornings until about 2pm, and sell ceramics, leatherware, jewellery and baskets. Fuengirola has a flea market every Saturday morning, selling everything from porcelain and fans to local wines, hams and cheeses.

Malaga's Mercado Central, north of the Alameda, is set in a wonderful 19th century building.

Ronda is the town for antiques, especially furniture.

7. BEYOND THE CITY

- Visit Nerja, one of the most attractive towns on this entire coastline and still with a very Spanish feel in its old backstreets of shops and whitewashed houses.
- From Nerja, drive to Frigiliana, taking in stunning mountain panoramas on the way.
- Antequera, on the direct train route north from Malaga, is another typically Spanish town and it has more historic monuments per square metre than anywhere else in Spain.

On its doorstep are the magnificent dolmen caves at El Chorro limestone gorge.

- If you're after lively seaside town and lots of nightlife, west of Malaga is the real

- Costa del Sol, with huge resorts such as Fuengirola, Torremolinos, Marbella and the yacht-owning millionaires' playground of Puerto Banus.
- Mijas, although spilling further down the mountainside with each passing year, is still a charming white-washed hilltop town of narrow cobbled streets. - - The Parque Acuatico Mijas, a waterpark with numerous pools and slides, is open from April-September.
 - Visit Andalucia's spectacular historic cities of Seville, Granada, Cordoba or – nearest to Malaga – Ronda, which is perched on a hilltop town with striking views for miles across the valley.
 - For a completely different kind of coastline, with deserted beaches and big waves, continue west to the Costa de la Luz on the Atlantic Ocean.

8. COST OF LIVING

- 33cl bottle of beer - €1
- One-litre bottle of mineral water - €0.90
- 36-exposure colour film - €7.50
- City-centre bus ticket - €0.9
- Adult football ticket - €20
- Three-course meal with wine/beer - €12

9. KEY PHRASES

- Please, thank you** – Por favor, gracias
- How much?** – ¿Cuanto es?
- Good morning/afternoon/night** – Buenos dias/buenas tardes/buenas noches.
- Excuse me** – Perdon
- How are you?** – ¿Como esta?
- I don't understand** – No entiendo
- Do you speak English?** – ¿Habla usted ingles?
- I don't speak Spanish** – No hablo espanol.
- I would like...** - Quisiera...
- Is there a bank/post office near here?** – ¿Hay un banco/correos cerca de aqui?
- Do you have...?** – ¿Tiene...?
- The time** – la hora
- A double room** – una habitacion con cama matrimonial.
- Where is...?** – ¿Donde esta...?
- The train station** – la estacion de ferrocarril
- The bus station** – la estacion de autobuses

