Overview

Málaga is a Spanish seaport on the Costa del Sol (Coast of the Sun) in the Mediterranean. It is the capital of the equally named Province of Málaga and the southernmost large city in Europe. It lies about 100 km east of the Strait of Gibraltar, and 130 km north of Africa. With its subtropical–mediterranean climate, Málaga’s summer season lasts about eight months, and it enjoys one of the warmest winters in Europe.

Málaga is one of the oldest cities in the world, with a history of about 2,800 years. Founded originally as “Malaka” by the Phoenicians around 770 BC, it has seen many civilizations and cultures since. Phoenician, Roman, Arabic and Christian epochs made the historic center of Málaga an “open-air museum” and there is much to explore as it has been well preserved.

Famous sons of the town are the painter and sculptor Pablo Picasso and the actor Antonio Banderas. Apart from the “Museo Picasso Málaga”, with an extensive collection of 204 works, there is a plentitude of art museums in town. For a more personal look at Picasso’s childhood, visit the “Casa Natal de Picasso”, the house where Picasso was actually born in 1881.

Visiting castles, Palaces and Mansions are another option to experience this splendid old town. Alcazaba is a fortress with palatial architecture from the 11th century, and the best-preserved of its kind in Spain. It is built on a hill in the center of the city, overlooking the port. The Cathedral of Málaga is a Renaissance church. It was constructed between 1528 and 1782, and follows a rectangular plan. It is composed of a nave and two aisles. The north tower is 84 meters high, making it the second-highest cathedral in Andalusia. The south tower remains unfinished. A sign at the base of the tower declares that funds raised by the parish to finish it were used instead to help the British colonies which became the United States to gain their independence from Great Britain. This fragmentary state is the reason why the Cathedral is called “La Manquita” (The One-Armed Lady).

For a nice relaxing walk in the shade of palm trees, go to “Paseo de España”. This park was created in the 1890s on land reclaimed from the sea. A typical Spanish market with an overwhelming richness of food can be seen in the “Mercado Atarazanas”, north of the Alameda. In this newly renovated market building you find everything from fish to fruit. After experiencing this vibrant and noisy place, duck in to a close-by bar and have a relaxing lunch with some tapas.

Cruise Ship Pier Location

Malaga has two locations where cruise ships are docked: Pier 1 and Pier 2.
Pier 1, also called Eastern Pier, is for larger cruise ships. It’s a 1.5 mile (2 kilometers) walk to the city center. The Port Authority of Malaga offers a shuttle bus every 15 to 20 minutes for approx. 5 € per person.

Pier 2 is the newer one including a terminal building and the location is even closer to the city center. It’s limited in length by 200 meter and therefore only smaller ships will dock there.

Self-guided Shore Excursions & Cruise Excursions

- The Historical Quarter of Malaga is filled with old architecture and is also a great shopping area. The Calle Larios is the center of this quarter where you can easily start your exploration.
- The Alcazaba is a hilltop Moorish-style medieval fortress overlooking Malaga, with lush, fountain-filled gardens. It’s only a short walk from the port to the base of the hill and there is a path all the way up. Be aware: The climb is severe. Inside is a military museum and the view is worth the hike.
- The Buenavista Palace houses the famous Museo Picasso. It’s a must-see attraction for any art lover. The restored 16th-century palace hosts a collection of more than 200 works by the artist. (Palacio de Buenavista, Calle San Agustín, 8)

Taxi Transportation

Taking a cab is easy in Malaga. Taxis are plentiful available and prices are set by the government.

Taxi Companies Contact Data

- Cheap Taxi Malaga, Tel.: +34 685 97 55 75
- Malaga Airport Taxi, Tel.: +34 693 90 09 00
- Radio Taxi Torrox, Tel.: +34 951 32 18 71

Bus Transportation

Public transportation in Malaga is plentiful available in the town and very cheap. If you have a basic understanding where you want to go to and can speak some sentences in Spanish it’s a nice option to travel the city.

General Store Opening Hours

Shops are usually open from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and from 4:30 pm to 10 pm. The break over lunch is called siesta and part of the Spanish culture. However, in the summer months and in the tourist pedestrian areas the siesta break is usually skipped. Most shops are closed on Sunday besides a few pharmacies and convenience stores.

Service Locations

Free wifi:

Plenty of free wifi hotspots are available around Malaga at over 50 newspaper stands. Starbucks and fast food chains also offer free local wifi.

ATM:

ATMs and banks are located all over the town and you’ll be never far from one.
Tipping / Bargaining Habits

In Spain, it’s common to tip around 10% in restaurants. This is in addition to any service charge that may appear on the bill. Tipping is in cash - not on the credit card. For your taxi driver 10% is also fine. Usually you round up the charge by the approximate amount.

Safety Advice

Malaga is considered to be safe for tourists. As always, be aware of your surroundings and stay in public areas.

Nice To Know

- Tapas are the things to eat in Malaga and more generally spoken all over Spain. They are small snacks of bread, fish and meat which are served next to your drink or you can also order it a meal. Tapas are deeply embedded in the Spanish culinary culture and you definitely need to try as many as possible.

Pharmacy / Hospital Contact Data

- Farmacia Camacho González, Paseo de Reding, 17
- Farmacia del Sagrario, Calle Santa María, 29
- Farmacia Santos Alguacil, Edificio América Plaza, Av de las Américas, 7

Embassy / Consulate Contact Data

Embassy of the United States of America, Calle Serrano 75, 28006 Madrid, Tel.: +34 91 587 2240, mail: askacs@state.gov

British Embassy, Torre Espacio, Paseo de la Castellana 259D, 28046 Madrid, Tel.: +34 917 146 300, Fax: +34 917 146 301, mail: info.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Madrid Calle de Fortuny, 8, 28010 Madrid, Tel.: +34 91 557 90 00, Fax: +34 91 310 21 04

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