

# **Malaga** .....More than just the airport.....



Picturesquely situated in a bay surrounded by mountains and bounded by the rivers Guadalmedina and Guadalhorce, Malaga with its two thousand-eight hundred years of history is one of the oldest cities in Europe. It is easy to understand why Malaga City is capital of the Costa del Sol. Once considered the poor cousin of Andalusia's capital city, Seville, it now competes successfully for attention, thanks to its profusion of quirky museums, delightful pedestrianised centre, innovative restaurants and stylish hotels, many featuring trendy rooftop terraces with bar, pool and stunning views. Muelle Uno is a contemporary leisure complex in the port - while a new arty district called SOHO is bringing a bohemian edge to the city.



The opening of the Picasso Museum in 2003 triggered the city's cultural rebirth, and visitors are now flocking to this port city which boasts excellent transport, top-class cuisine and fascinating monuments, from Moorish and Roman times through to modern day - while retaining its authentic Andalusian feel. Whether you are visiting for your annual holiday or as curious Costa del Sol visitors, you will be pleasantly surprised by this intriguing city. There are so many things to do that it's almost impossible to list them all, for those who enjoy history, nature, art or sport, or simply for those who enjoy a good meal, there is something for all appetites. Malaga swells with cultural and historical attractions. Around every corner you'll find something to explore. Visitors who want to delve into Malaga's history are in for a treat; within the city's ancient walls there lie several important historical buildings.

## Malaga Port



The super modern port area, Muelle Uno, (Quay One in English) is a must visit zone for shopping, dining and just walking about to admire the boats. It's also the location for the Pompidou Centre, which opened in 2015. With modern shops, restaurants and bars bordering one side of the central orange tree-lined promenade and exclusive yachts flanking the other, Muelle Uno is not your average shopping complex. The waterfront open-air mall offers a contemporary shopping and dining experience by the sea, with stunning views of La Alcazaba to remind you of the city's Moorish past.

The complex boasts an impressive array of shops, with over 30 outlets selling everything from clothes, shoes and accessories, to cosmetics, handmade jewellery and home furnishings. Offering far from the usual high street shops, Muelle Uno is the place to go if you're looking for something a little different. For those who love markets, the monthly *zoco* at Muelle Uno, which takes place on the second Sunday of every month, has nearly 100 stalls selling handmade crafts and jewellery, vintage and children's clothing, home decorations, organic foods and locally-produced olive oil and meats.

When you need some refreshments, head along the promenade to the bars and restaurants where international cuisine will take you around the world. Get a taste of Japan at Mikado, be transported to Italy at Il Forno Romano or try Marisqueria Godoy for some local Spanish seafood, to name just a few. If Michelin stars are more your thing, one-Michelin-starred chef Jose Carlos García's Café de Paris takes pride of place on the Muelle Uno waterfront.

### Shopping

The main shopping thoroughfare of Malaga is the centrally located Calle Larios, with its mixture of well-known chain stores and independent boutiques, cafeteria's and ice cream parlours. There are often temporary exhibitions set-up for shoppers and strollers to enjoy, well as street entertainers and musicians. Off of Calle Larios you'll find a ravel of streets where you find much of the same shops and boutiques and plenty of restaurants and bars. Shops are generally open to 10pm and later during the summer months. ..

### Malaga Fiestas & Feria

Malaga is a cheerful and upbeat city, maybe it's because of the year-round sunshine, healthy and delicious cuisine or its deeply rooted culture, whatever the reason, Malaga is happy and the locals are always up for a party.

**Easter Week**, or Semana Santa as it's known in Spain, is as solemn, as it is alegre; if that's possible. It's a hugely important festival in Andalusia and celebrations for Semana Santa in Malaga are second-only to Easter Week in Seville.

**Noche en Blanco** takes place annually in May. A night of culture, music and entertainment, which mostly takes place on the streets, and all for free! First launched in Paris, the concept came to Malaga a few years back and has now become a notable evening in Malaga's calendar. Activities start at 8pm, there's lots of fun activities for children and carry on through the night.

**Malaga Feria** attracts millions of visitors every year; one of the most popular and longest festivals in the Spanish calendar, the annual party takes place in August; playing out non-stop for nine days and nights. The feria is divided up into the daytime activities, which take place throughout the city centre, and the night feria, which you'll find just outside the city centre, next to the Palacio de Congressos.

## **Soho Malaga – Neighborhood of the Arts**



**Soho Málaga – Barrio de las Artes** is an initiative born of the citizens themselves to rehabilitate the area between the south of the Alameda and the Muelle de Heredia. This old bourgeois residential area, located in a privileged enclave of the city, with the passage of time has been presenting disturbing signs of urban and commercial degradation, for which it has opted to create a Cultural District that, under the internationally known brand of 'Soho', invigorates the environment and offers both the local population and visitors a modern and differentiated offer of leisure, culture, commerce and business. This proposal has been decidedly accepted by the City Council of Málaga, which has set up work teams for its development in different Municipal Areas.

The Soho Málaga – Barrio de las Artes concept is applied to a very specific and very well delimited area of the city center:

- **North – South Axis:** Between the South of the Alameda and the Muelle de Heredia, next to the Port of Málaga.
- **East – West Axis :** Between the Plaza de La Marina and the Guadalmedina River.

Its proximity to the main tourist assets of the city (C / Larios, Alameda Principal, Paseo del Parque, Puerto de Málaga, etc.), its particular architecture (with magnificent buildings of the 19th and 20th centuries) and the presence of notable spaces cultural centers (Center for Contemporary Art, Municipal Archive and Alameda Theater) make it a promising environment with possibilities to become a real modern and cosmopolitan business and residential center.

**Theater & Cinema** - Malaga has an impressive performing arts agenda; so if you want to enjoy a night of live music, dance or theatre, you'll find a great choice. The Cervantes Theatre (Teatro) is the city's main and central auditorium, where you can enjoy artists and theatre coming from all four corners of the globe. There are several cinemas dotted around town, one of which, the iconic Albéniz Cinema, screens independent films, which you won't find on anywhere else.

## Gastronomy

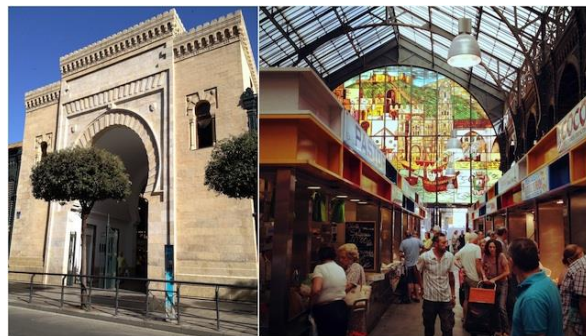


Malaga hasn't just come on as a cultural destination; it's now also one of the foremost gastronomical destinations in Spain. From humble tapas to Michelin star restaurants, it's worth visiting the city, just to savour its restaurant scene.

Of course, the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of Spanish cuisine, is tapas, and Malaga has some of the best tapas bars in the country. Much of which is fish and shellfish-focused, due to its Mediterranean location. In the centre of town, you'll find an eclectic mix of restaurants, from traditional Spanish and seafood, to Asian, Moroccan and South American. The new port of Muelle Uno is heaven for foodies, with plenty of high quality restaurants and bars. Along with Malaga's emerging food scene, is a wine tradition that dates back to the Phoenicians. Best known for its sweet wines made from the Moscatel and Pedro Ximenez grape varieties; visitors mustn't go home without visiting one of Malaga's traditional wine bodegas.

**Malaga Food Markets** - Malagueños, as the residents of Malaga are known, love their food – fish in particular. It's no wonder, then, that the city is home to some superb food markets, selling everything from the Costa del Sol's freshest fish and seafood to some of Andalusia's finest organic produce. And as is fitting for a city that always seems to be socialising, these markets are also great places to grab a cold beer and some tasty tapas.

## Atarazanas Market



Malaga's grandest market sits just off one of the busy thoroughfares leading from the Guadalmedina river to the old town. Its enormous, Moorish-style arched entrance looks more like something you'd expect to see in Granada's mighty Alhambra than in a food market – but then Atarazanas hasn't always been a marketplace. The archway is the only arch to survive from the original 14th-century seven-arched structure, which was a shipyard when Malaga was under Arabic dominion (in that time, the sea came much further inland and used to lap against the structure's southern wall). Nowadays, it is known for the quality and freshness of its fish – enjoy it fried in the typical Malagueño style and served with a juicy wedge of lemon in the excellent local tapas bars nearby. Be sure to also check out the beautiful stained-glass window on its rear façade.

## Mercado de la Merced



Malaga's most recently renovated market is not just a place to shop for food. Reopened in October 2015 after a six-month makeover, Mercado de la Merced is now one of the trendiest places to eat and drink in the city, as well as being a den of culinary innovation and excellence. Situated near Plaza Merced in the heart of the old town, the market's 22 stalls offer everything from cured hams, fresh fish and vegetables to designer tapas bars and sushi stalls. In addition to the streets of Malaga's old town – just a five-minute walk from the market – the market is also a place where the new and international blend with the traditional and Andalusian.

## Bodega Bar El Pimpi



Opened in 1971, El Pimpi is situated inside an old 18th century Málaga mansion house and is one of the longest-standing bodega bars in Málaga, where you can enjoy local food & wines and, above all, the culture & traditions of southern Spain. Its name harks back to the 'Pimpi', a local Málaga character who used to help the crews and passengers from the ships that arrived at the city's docks. Before long, they had become the first Málaga tour guides, famous for their service and good humour. Generations of personalities from the worlds of flamenco, politics and the arts have visited our rooms & hallways: the Picasso Family, Carmen Thyssen, La Repompa, Antonio Banderas, The Duchess of Alba, amongst many others who bear witness to the bodega's history. These days it's a place to get together for celebrities, Malagueños and visitors alike, who rate the bar as one of the top cultural and culinary destinations in Málaga. The interior houses hundred-year-old decorations that surprise and captivate visitors, as does the amazing setting, surrounded by the city's most important historical monuments and cultural quarters: The Alcazaba, Roman Theatre, Picasso Museum, Carmen Thyssen Art Museum, Plaza de la Merced... The traditional bodega is divided into different rooms & patios, each one with a unique & special atmosphere: Patio de los Geranios (Patio of the Geraniums), Tertulias Room, Palomar de Picasso (Picasso Loft), Patio de la Parra (the Vine Patio) and finally, at the Calle Alcazabilla entrance, one of the more pleasant pedestrian streets in the city, you can soak up the simple and convivial atmosphere on the terrace, taking in views of the Alcazaba (Moorish citadel) and Roman Theatre.

**Monuments** - In addition to homage to the great Picasso, other great historic monuments include the imposing Baroque Cathedral and the newly restored Roman theatre. High on the hill above the city is the Parador hotel, which is situated in the Gibralfaro Castle. This is a wonderful place to have a long lunch in these fascinating surroundings, with panoramic views over Malaga city and out across the port to sea. Although there has been a certain amount of destruction here over the centuries, especially during the Spanish Civil War, there is still plenty of evidence of the Moorish occupation. Today you can visit the Moorish Alcazaba fortress, dating back to 1065, which also now features a very interesting archaeological museum, as well as the Castillo de Gibralfaro, another Moorish castle. There are also many churches of great architectural and historic interest in and around the centre, which are well worth visiting.

## El Castillo De Gibralfaro



The Castillo de Gibralfaro, a Moorish palace, dates back to the 10th century and is located on Gibralfaro hill, overlooking Málaga city. Historically, the castle is renowned for a three month siege by Catholic monarchs which came to a close with the surrender of the famished Malagueños. The castle has been mostly restored and also features a military museum. It can be reached by bus or foot, but it is well-worth making the step climb to enjoy the scenic view over the city. Additionally you can get to Gibralfaro via the scenic walkway of Paseo Don Juan de Temboury, located to the south of the Alcazaba.

## Alcazaba



Alcazaba, a palatial fortification at the foot of the Gibralfaro hill, is Málaga's most iconic landmark and the best-preserved Moorish fortress palace in Spain. The fortress was constructed by the Hammudid dynasty in the early 11th century and later captured by Ferdinand and Isabel after the siege of Málaga in 1487. The Alcazaba is most renowned for some of the most important Muslim works in Spain today, as well as its caliphal arch work. The castle can be reached by foot as well as by bus, although an early start is recommended to avoid the midday heat. Alcazaba represents arguably some of the most significant architectural works in the region and are an essential destination during your visit.

## The Renaissance cathedral



The Cathedral of Málaga was designed in the Renaissance style by Diego de Siloe and constructed between 1528 and 1782. It is located in the historic centre of town and represents one of the most important architectural structures in Málaga. Due to a lack of funds only the North tower was completed, but this notwithstanding the cathedral still counts as one of the most impressive throughout the region. The stunning Baroque façade represents a unique contrast to the magnificent and numerous frescos on the inside, with the sculptural works of Pedro de Mena being among the most noteworthy.

## The Roman Theatre



The Roman theatre can be found in the southern part of Málaga, at the foot of the Alcabaza. It is estimated that it was constructed in the first century A.D. under the dominion of Augustus. The theatre represents the traditional Roman theatre architecture with the typical tiered seats and a grand entrance. It remained in use until the third century until it was converted into a source for building material by the Arab conquerors. At the time of its construction, Málaga represented one of the most important cities in the region and the theatre itself is a historical reminder of the Roman imperium.

**El Pedregalejo - is an old fishing district located east of the city of Malaga**



Málaga boasts as many as 15 different beaches, with each location more enchanting than the previous one from the chichi beach of Baños del Carmen, to the dark golden stretch of sand of Playa de la Misericordia. One of the most stunning places among them is El Pedregalejo, located about 30 minutes' walk from the town centre. It is considered one of the trendiest neighbourhoods in the city and offers a wide range of excellent restaurants offering everything from traditional Pescaito Malagueño (fried mixed fish), to Moroccan-style couscous and mint tea. The nightlife at Pedregelejo is particularly renowned due to its numerous bars, making it a spot for every time of the day. The beach itself is 1.2km long and is the ideal place for a relaxed day and a refreshing splash in the sea.

### **La Concepción Botanic Gardens**



Málaga's botanic garden is spread out over 25,000 square meters and was constructed in 1850 by the aristocratic couple, Jorge Loring Oyarzábal and Amalia Heredia Livermore. It is located outside of the city centre and can be reached by bus within half an hour. The park boasts more than 2000 different plant species from Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Oceania, as well as a huge variety of bird species. The garden successfully combines formal gardens with more tropical gardens, which immediately enchant the visitor and draw them ever deeper into its green jungles.



## Alborania Museum. Maritime Learning Centre (Malaga Port )



An interactive experience to discover the extraordinary marine life of the Alboran Sea. Discover the Málaga maritime history through fishing, sailing, culture and maritime traditions. Appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of the Andalusian coast and participate in the conservation of coastal areas and marine species. In this museum we can discover the fauna and flora of the Alboran Sea, the westernmost part of the Mediterranean. We shall discover the history of Málaga and the sea that bathes its shores through fishing, sailing, culture and maritime traditions.

The museum is actively involved in the conservation of coastal areas and marine species. It is common to find marine creatures, such as the loggerhead turtle, in recovery in the facilities. It is a participatory place where we can touch whale bones, see marine organisms through the microscope or play on a boat simulator. We can enjoy an interactive experience through aquariums, model ships, collections of marine fauna and flora, games, enveloping audiovisual presentations and laboratory experiments. It offers activities including coastal routes, walks around the port, visits to the land reclaimed from the sea, beaches and cliffs. It also offers workshops where we can discover the biodiversity of the Mediterranean, the classification of the major groups of organisms, the anatomy of fish, life of sea turtles or the art of fishing.

**Museums** - Boasting more than 30 museums, Malaga has more museums than any other city in Andalucía. Malaga is Andalusia's leading cultural and historical hub. Its huge range of art museums is one of the city's most fascinating offerings – and is by no means limited to showcasing the work of Pablo Picasso, Malaga's most famous son.

Below is a guide to the most interesting art museums this endlessly stimulating city has to offer. The latest is the long awaited Malaga Museum for those interested in archaeology and Fine Arts. Learn about the city through its wine, at the Wine Museum; its social history and customs, from the collection of 19th-century paintings at the Carmen Thyssen museum; and its famous local personalities, such as the painter Felix Revello del Toro. For more art and design delights, you can visit museums of contemporary art, archaeology or glass; while fashion is covered, together with cars, a clever gender-balancing combination.

## Picasso Museum



Málaga is not only the birthplace of Pablo Ruiz Picasso, but also offers a marvellous collection of his works. The Museo Picasso Málaga is located in the centre of the old town, close to the Plaza de la Merced, where Picasso was born. It exhibits a selection of Picasso's work from the late 19th century until his death in 1973. The 230 different works offer a unique insight into his developing style and are completed by constantly changing contemporary exhibitions. The Buenavista Palace itself, in which the museum can be found, represents a stunning example of Andalusian architecture.

**July-August:** open daily 10am-8pm    **September-October:** open daily 10am-7pm  
**November-February:** open daily 10am-6pm    **March-June:** open daily 10am-7pm  
**Special dates** Christmas: 24th & 31st December & 5th January, 10am-3pm. Closed on 25th December, 1st & 6th January

**ADMISSION FEES** *Pablo Picasso. New Collection:* 8 € (reduced fee 6 €). **Free admission:** every Sunday the last two opening hours (up to 30 minutes before closing time), Day of Andalusia (28 February), International Museum Day (18 May) and World Tourism Day (27 September).

**AUDIOGUIDE** Audioguide service is included in the entrance fee in ten languages for the permanent Collection (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish) and two for temporary exhibitions (English and Spanish). In cases where admission is free, there will be a charge for this service of € 1.

## Carmen Thyssen Malaga Museum



Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza, one of the world's foremost art collectors, now has her own eponymous museum in Malaga, which opened in March 2011. The paintings are from her personal collection, amassed over the past 30 years. The permanent collection consists of 230 works, mainly by 19th-century Spanish artists, with most of the subject matter being, unsurprisingly, Andalusia: Cordoba, Malaga, Sevilla. The most famous painters whose works feature in this collection are Zurbaran, Sorolla, Zuloaga, and Romero Torres.

**OPENING HOURS** - Tues - Sun: 10.00 - 20.00 hrs    Mon: closed (except holidays)

**ENTRANCE** - Main museum only: 6 euros (over 12 years old); 4.50 euros reduced fee for pensioners, unemployed, students aged under 26    Temporary exhibitions: 4 euros, 2.50 reduced fee (see above).

Joint ticket (main museum and temporary exhibition): 9 euros; 4.50 reduced fee (see above).

Students and Málaga city residents: 4.50 euros

Under 18 and unemployed: Free    Sunday from 17.00hrs: Free (bear in mind, long queues in peak seasons)

## MÁLAGA MUSEUM - MUSEO DE MÁLAGA



The Museo de Málaga, which was actually constituted in 1973, opened on 12 December 2016 in the impressive Palacio de la Aduana. It has brought together the former Museo Provincial de Bellas Artes (Provincial Museum of Fine Arts) and Museo Arqueológico Provincial.

Málaga now joins Almería, Cádiz, Huelva and Jaén in having a "provincial museum" in their respective capital cities; while Seville, Córdoba and Granada have separate fine arts and archaeological museums. The 18,000 square metre museum has eight rooms, the first five dedicated to archaeology and the other three to fine arts. There are just over 2,000 pieces in the fine arts collection and more than 15,000 in the archaeology collection.

Opening hours **WINTER (16 September to 15 June)** Tuesday to Saturday: 9:00 to 20:00. Sundays and holidays: 9:00 to 15:00 Mondays closed **SUMMER (16 June to 15 September)** Tuesday to Saturday: 9:00 to 21:00 hrs Sunday: 9:00 to 15:00 hrs. Mondays closed. The museum opens on holidays, including local ones, with the exception of 1 and 6 January, 1 May, 24, 25 and 31 December. Admission - Free for EU citizens, 1.50 euro for others

## Pompidou Centre



Opened in March 2015 as an outpost of the original Pomidou Centre in Paris, one of Malaga's most innovative and exciting art museums is located in a massive multi-coloured cube at the heart of the city's vast port. But this is not the only reason why Malaga's Pompidou Centre is such a stimulating and pleasurable place to visit; the permanent collection, which is imaginatively organised by theme rather than chronologically, features 90 works by heavyweights such as Francis Bacon, Marc Chagall and of course, Malaga's favourite son Pablo Picasso. All this, right in the centre of Malaga's stunning port area, makes the Pompidou one of the city's best public spaces.

OPENING HOURS Daily except Tuesday 9.30 to 20.00 hrs Last entrance half an hour before closing. Closed on 25 December and 1 January.

ENTRANCE Permanent Exhibitions 7€ (reduced price 4€) Temporary Exhibitions 4€ (reduced price 2.5€) Both Exhibitions combined 9€ (reduced price 5.5€) (reduced price is for those over 65 and students under 26) Free entrance is for unemployed, under 18's, handicapped with accreditation, everybody on Sunday after 16.00hrs.

## Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Malaga (CAC)



Located in an area known as *Soho de Málaga*, on the banks of the normally dry Guadalmedina river, is the *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo*. This exciting modern art museum is housed in the former wholesale market building which has a vast warehouse space of some 2,400 metres. The CAC Málaga was officially opened on 17 February 2003 by her Royal Highness Infanta Cristina and in its first decade has established itself as one of the most important contemporary art museums in Europe.

The museum has a permanent collection comprising around 400 works which have been loaned by private collectors for periods of between three and five years. This is particularly notable for its works created between the 1950s and the present day with an emphasis on North American artists of the 1960s such as Lichtenstein and Stella. There is also a regular programme of temporary exhibitions dedicated to up-and-coming Spanish artists.

Free entry **Opening Hours** - Winter hours (Tues - Sun): 10.00 - 20.00 hrs.

Summer hours (Tues - Sun): 10.00 - 14.00 hrs and 17.00 - 21.00 hrs. Closed Mondays, December 25 & January 1

## Museo del Patrimonio Municipal (Heritage Museum)



For an exhaustive survey of local art from the 15th to 20th centuries, this modernist-looking museum facing Malaga's stunning port is where you want to be. The permanent collection is superbly laid-out over three rooms, which focus on the 15th-18th, 19th and 20th centuries in turn. Early and late works of Picasso are explored in the second and third rooms respectively. The gallery's temporary exhibitions take a rather different tack; at the time of writing, for example, a recreation of winter sports events celebrated in Malaga between 1945 and 1977 is running.

The only art museum in Spain to focus solely on the expressionist movement bears the name of the influential local artist (b.1941) who now splits his time between Malaga and Hamburg. Rando is considered a pioneer of Spanish expressionism and this colourful, challenging gallery devotes itself to his works and to those of other important expressionist painters and sculptors from around the world.

**Opening hours** Tuesday to Sunday Winter 10.00-14.00 and 17.00 - 20.00 Summer 10.00 - 14.00 and 18.00 - 21.00  
Closed Monday, 25 December, 1 and 6 January **Entrance fees:** Free

## Roof Top Bars



Many hotels and hostels in the city now boast these wonderful bars with fabulous views and lively atmosphere, and you can even find one in a museum. Most have a contemporary feel, with sleek furniture, wooden decking and glass walls, for optimum vistas of the city.

Below is a just a few of the best rooftop terrace bars - they're all open to non-guests, so head up for an evening of admiring the cathedral, port and Mediterranean Sea from a bird's eye view. Most are open from April to September, while some remain open all year round, with reduced hours for example at weekends only.

### **Alcazaba Premium Hostel, Alcazabilla 12**

One of the most recent openings, this buzzing multi-level terrace is located next to the Roman theatre, and also has a restaurant, Batik. The view of the Alcazaba opposite, as you may guessed from its name, and Gibralfaro castle, floodlit at night, are spectacular. Take the lift to the top floor.

### **Hotel AC Málaga Palacio, Cortina del Muelle 1**

Great cathedral views from this large terrace, which was the pioneer in Malaga, and remains one of the best. Also one of the highest, which means it gets breezy, so take a jacket or shawl. Popular meeting point during the Malaga Film Festival in March. Has a restaurant and swimming pool.

### **Hotel Molina Lario, Molina Lario 22**

This seasonal terrace of the stylish hotel, on the eighth floor, is more sheltered than the AC Malaga, and hosts concerts and other activities, mostly in summer. Has a small swimming pool. The terrace overlooks the city's most famous shopping street, Calle Marques de Larios - Malaga at is most elegant. Hip monochrome furniture, stone walls, mosaic-tiled bar and night-time entertainment with DJs make it a top choice.