



### **Where is Malaga?**

Malaga is located in the centre of the southern Mediterranean coast of Spain and is the capital of the Costa del Sol.

### **Information about Malaga**

Malaga was once a simple gateway to the Costa del Sol and was rarely visited by tourists. Now it is one of the most popular cities break destinations in Europe. In the past ten years there has been a transformation (which is still going on). Malaga now boasts a wide range of cultural attractions such as the Picasso Museum, Centre Pompidou and the Russian Museum, plus many other things to do and see.

The centre of the city has many footpaths and you'll find beautiful architecture from the 18th and 19th centuries. Malaga also has a lot to offer in terms of food, including a long list of excellent bars and restaurants and a large food market, which is a very big attraction in Malaga.

Malaga's popularity as a tourist destination has led to an increase in visitors over the past few years. Malaga is now one of the most visited cities in Spain. The growth of tourism is accompanied by the increase in hotel bookings and a significant increase in the rental of holiday homes in Malaga.

### **How big is it?**

Malaga is ranked at 6 of the largest cities in Spain. While the centre of the city itself is compact and not large, the suburbs of Malaga are vast: eastward to Rincón de la Victoria and westward to Torremolinos.

### **What is the population of Malaga?**

Almost 570,000 people live in Malaga.

### **How many people of foreign origin live in Malaga?**

Despite its large size, relatively few people of foreign origin live in Malaga - only 44,465 foreigners live in the city.

### **What is the weather like in Malaga?**

Malaga, like the rest of the Costa del Sol, has a pleasant climate all year round. There are at least 320 days of sunshine per year, while winter temperatures during the day average around 18 to 20 degrees. July and August can be very hot with temperatures above 30 degrees, although there is often a refreshing sea breeze.

### **How can I reach Malaga?**

It is very easy to get to Malaga from Malaga Airport, especially by public transport. Trains and buses run regularly between Malaga Airport and the city. The ride takes 12 minutes by train and 20 minutes by bus.

### **How far is it from Malaga to Malaga airport?**

Malaga airport is located 10 kilometers southwest of the city center of Malaga.

### **How far is it from Malaga to Gibraltar airport?**

Since there is such a wide choice of flights to Malaga and it is so easy to travel from the airport to the city, flying to Gibraltar airport is only the best option if you plan to visit the west side of the Costa del Sol.

Gibraltar airport is 135km from the centre of the city of Malaga and it takes about an hour and 40 minutes to get there (by car) - take into account extra travel time due to the crossing of the border between Spain and Gibraltar.

### **How far is it from Malaga to Marbella?**

Marbella is easy to reach from Malaga via the AP-7 toll road. The 60km drive takes a little more than 30 minutes.

### **What are the main areas in Malaga?**

As one of the largest cities in Spain, Malaga has a large number of residential areas. These areas are the most popular among foreign residents and homebuyers:

City centre - with a property in the heart of Malaga you have access to all amenities, facilities and the most important sights. This area also has the greatest potential for buy-to-let (buying and then renting out), for both long-term and holiday home rentals. There are a few new developments in the centre of Malaga. Many houses are in need of renovation.

La Malagueta and El Limonar - this area east of the centre of the city of Malaga is largely residential and has the advantage that it is within walking distance of the coast. You'll find mostly high-rise apartments - which with a direct view of the beach have excellent rental potential - or traditional early 20th century holiday homes in colonial style, often with large gardens. Some of Malaga's most expensive property can be found here.

Pedregalejo and El Palo - the districts of traditional fishing east of the city are very popular among local and foreign buyers. These areas offer a somewhat more relaxed pace of life but are still within easy reach of all the sights in central Malaga. There is a wide range of amenities and both districts have beautiful sandy beaches. There are mostly apartments, especially on the coast with villas and townhouses like El Candado.

Western coast - a relatively new area in the city. The western coast has become popular among property buyers in Malaga. There are currently some new apartment complexes under construction and there are several vacant lots destined for houses and hotels on the beach. The facilities are excellent and there are good public transport connections to the centre of Malaga.

## **What are the main attractions in Malaga?**

Malaga has a long list of attractions and offers many things for all ages and preferences. Sights are the various historical monuments such as the Roman theatre and the Moorish Alcazaba fortress, whose architecture and style are reminiscent of the Alhambra palace in Granada. The city centre is a maze of attractive streets and architecture, including some late 19th century buildings, beautiful churches and Malaga Cathedral.

The museums of Malaga are noteworthy - it is known as the city of museums - and you will find some art museums that exhibit world famous art. For example, the Picasso Museum (Picasso was born in Malaga in 1881), the most visited museum in Andalusia; the Centre Pompidou, the only branch of the iconic Parisian art museum outside France; the Russian Museum with borrowed collections from the Russian State Museum in St. Petersburg; and the Contemporary Art Centre (CAC), known throughout Spain for its modern exhibitions. Not to mention the recently opened Museum of Malaga (the fifth largest in Spain), the Glass Museum, the Wine Museum, the Vintage Car Museum and the Museum of Music, which is very popular among children visiting Malaga.

Other attractions include the port area, which has recently been adapted to create large pedestrian areas. The gigantic pergola that stretches along Muelle Uno, lined with dozens of palm trees, and Muelle Dos with a wide range of shops and restaurants, are very popular among locals and visitors alike. Malaga has two excellent city beaches (see below) plus several other smaller beaches in the suburbs.

## **How are the beaches in Malaga?**

Malaga has two Blue Flag beaches. Both are sandy beaches and are easily accessible from the city centre. All beaches in Malaga have good facilities, rescue services from April to September, and many beach bars and restaurants.

To the east of the city you will find La Malagueta, the most famous beach in the city. Events such as concerts and the annual fireworks that mark the beginning of the Malaga Fair are held here. On the west side of the city you will find La Misericordia beach with 3km of sand. Both beaches have a pedestrian promenade and cycle paths.

## **Eating out**

Over the past ten years, the food and restaurant scene of Malaga has become one of the most interesting in southern Spain. There are several high-quality restaurants in the city centre, including José Carlos García Restaurante (with a Michelin star) on Muelle Uno, El Tres in La Malagueta and El Refectorium in the centre. Recently, many new restaurants have opened, such as Eboka Gastrobar near the Picasso Museum and Alexso north of the city centre.

Eating tapas in Malaga is a hugely popular experience and there is plenty of choice, both standard tapas and gourmet-style tapas. The bars of Atarazanas food market have great fish and seafood tapas, and there is also a good selection of tapas bars in downtown Malaga. El Pimpi, one of the most famous places to eat in Malaga, has good tapas on its atmospheric terraces. Casa de Guardia in Alameda, Malaga's oldest bar, specialises in wines from Malaga that are served directly from barrels against the walls.

## **What is a typical dish of the region?**

There are many typical dishes of Malaga. As in other resorts on the Costa del Sol, fresh fish and seafood are popular options, especially fried fish (known as pescaíto) and grilled sardines.

One of the most typical things to eat in Malaga in winter is a dish called emblancho, a kind of fish stew with a base of mayonnaise. And in summer, cold soup made from garlic and almonds (called ajo blanco) is a typical Malaga dish.

### **Shopping**

Malaga is an excellent place for shopping. You'll find a wide range of shops, malls, boutiques and department stores such as El Corte Inglés (there are two in Malaga), FNAC, Decathlon, Leroy Merlin and IKEA.

The most popular place to shop in Malaga are the streets around central Calle Larios. These pedestrian streets offer a mix of well-known brands, luxury shops and smaller shops. For the more unusual boutique-style shops, the area around the Carmen Thyssen Museum has a particularly good selection.

If you're looking for shopping malls in Malaga, there are three in the centre - Malaga Plaza next to Corte Inglés where you'll find many small shops and FNAC; Centro Larios, home to mainly well-known brands such as Zara, H&M and Pull & Bear, Dunnes Stores and Primark; and Centro Comercial Vialia (next to the train station) with a good selection of well-known shops. Outside the centre of Malaga, you'll find Plaza Mayor, a shopping mall with several shops, including outlets like Nike and larger department stores like Decathlon, IKEA and Maisons du Monde.