

MÁLAGA

A short history

Due to Malaga's location on the coast of the Mediterranean sea, it has been influenced by the oldest and greatest civilizations. The many historic remains and caves in the province prove the presence of prehistoric man, like the famous Nerja cave.

An important part of more recent history were the various trading peoples who set up colonies in the area. The first were the Phoenicians, who set up the colony of Malaka around the 8th century B.C.. The remains of the theatre at the foot of the Alcazaba Castle date from Roman times. Under Muslim domination, Malaga became one of the greatest cities in the whole of Andalusia. It was in 1057 that work on the Alcazaba began. In 1487 Malaga was conquered by the Catholic Monarchs and shortly after that, work began on the Cathedral. In the 16th century there was a tremendous increase in Malaga's population. This was due to the growth of the city's commercial activity. During those times, Malaga was of great importance thanks to its strategic position near the Straits of Gibraltar and its location between the sea and the mountains. In the 18th and 19th centuries Malaga reached the height of its commercial and industrial splendour. It was also during these two centuries that Malaga's prosperity became noticeable in its urban development. Its most spectacular expansion was southwards as land was gained from the sea, in 1783 the Alameda Principal (main Avenue) appeared.

The Park (Paseo de Parque) was created in 1894 as an extension of the Alameda and gradually became filled with beautiful tropical plants. It was here that the Town Hall was transferred.

Places to visit

The Cathedral

Built on the site of the former Mosque, which after 1487 was converted into a Cathedral by the Catholic Monarchs. The initial building began as a Gothic project, but was abandoned in 1525. After many intervals, work ended in 1782 and the building has remained unchanged ever since. As one of the towers was only half completed, the cathedral is also called "La Manquita" (the one-armed). Money allocated to the building was instead given to Lafayette to finance part of his North American campaign. The Cathedral reflects both Gothic and Renaissance architecture.



The Alcazaba

This is one of the few testimonies of the Moorish era that still remain in Malaga. Building began around 1057. It has a double wall with a large number of defence towers, and the entrance is typically Arabic with staggered passages to make access more difficult.

The Roman Theatre

The Roman Theatre is on the western slope of the Alcazaba and dates from times of the Emperor Augustus. It fell into disuse during the 3rd century and parts of it were later used by the Moors to build the Alcazaba.

The Gibralfaro Castle

Situated on a mountain of the same name, the castle's origins date back to the 8th century, but it was rebuilt and took on its present appearance during the 14th and 15th centuries. From the walls it is possible to observe the spread of the city and the way in which it has developed over the centuries.

The Picasso Museum and Birth Place

The famous painter and one of Spain's greatest artists was born in Malaga. The city has hosted one of the finest collections of his art since 2003.

The house where he was born can also be visited.

El Paseo del Parque

This promenade was built on land reclaimed from the sea to form an extension of the Alameda. Work began in 1894. The park is not just a promenade with gardens, but an area that was gradually filled with rare and exotic plants to make up an extremely beautiful garden, and one of great botanical interest.



Calle Marques de Larios (Calle Larios)

This street is the "nerve centre" of the city and a traditional meeting place for the townspeople. It was opened in 1886 in order to join the Plaza de la Constitución with the port. Its building was possible due to the financial support of the children of the Marquis of Larios.

BABEL IDIOMAS is the only language school situated in this street!

The Bishop's Palace

The palace was built in the 18th century in what is now Plaza del Obispo. The façade is one of the most beautiful in the whole city. Nowadays, the palace is used for cultural exhibitions.

The City Hall

The city hall was built at the beginning of the 19th century in a Neo-Baroque design. Its sculptures are a symbol of the economic activity at that time. Inside, you will find an imperial-style staircase and some very beautiful Art Nouveau glasswork motifs.

Food and Beverages

One of Malaga's most popular dishes is fried fish (pescaito frito). Some other popular dishes are "Gazpacho", a delicious cold soup with tomato, garlic and many other vegetables and "Tortilla de Patatas", a Spanish omelette.

Probably the most famous Spanish dish is "Paella", a rice dish with vegetables, meat or fish and saffron.

Instead of ordering an individual dish, many Spanish prefer having "Tapas". These are small plates of food, which allows you to try a bit of everything. You will find many tapa bars in Malaga, both in the centre as well in the suburbs.

While in Malaga, one should definitely try Malaga wine. Apart from this, and other wines, people drink beer, and in the summer months they drink "Tinto de Verano" (red wine with soda).

Entertainment

Beaches

At the many beaches you can rent sun beds (hamacas) for approximately 4,50 euros per day.

Cinemas

Malaga's largest cinemas are in the shopping centres. Apart from that, there are other cinemas all over the centre. Information about movies can be found at the cinema, tourist office, in our school reception or in the local newspapers.

Theatre

The Teatro Cervantes is situated in the city centre with a lot of national and some international shows on the programme.

Bullfights

In the summer season, you can see many bull fights in Malaga. Information and tickets can be found at either the bullring or the tourist office.

Sports

In Malaga, you can play a variety of sports. Apart from the beach and water sports you can also go horse riding, play golf, rent bicycles or visit one of the many sport centres.

Night life

Being a University town, Malaga has great nightlife, concentrated in and around the Plaza de la Merced. People go out until as late as 7 or 8 a.m.

Fiestas

Semana Santa

During the holy week you can get an insight into Spanish cultural traditions by watching some of the many Easter processions.

Feria of Malaga (August)

At the Malaga fair there is folklore, music, dancing, traditional costumes and Malaga Wine during the day and a big fairground during the night.



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