Telephones are located throughout the city and calling cards can be purchased at any tobacco "Tabacos" shop. Some phones may require a coin to access the codes listed below.

AT&T: 0800-99-0011 / MCI: 0 800-99-0019 / SPRINT: 0800-99-0087

TOURIST INFORMATION It is located at Pasaje de Chinitas in downtown Málaga. There is another tourist information center located at the local bus station downtown.

TRANSPORTATION A limited amount of taxis are located on the pier. Fares are metered and most taxi drivers will accept U.S. Dollars.

USEFUL WORDS

Yes • Si No • No Good Bye • Adios Good Day • Buen Días Thank You • Gracias You're Welcome • De nada

NOTES

This information has been compiled for the convenience of our guests and is intended solely for that purpose. While we work to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, we cannot accept responsibility for any changes that may have taken place since printing. © RCCL 2008. All rights reserved.



GENERAL INFORMATION Located along the Southern Coast of Spain, Málaga is known to many as the capitol of the Costa del Sol or "Sun Coast". With resort towns bordering the city both to the east and the west, Málaga is a very popular attraction to many visitors throughout Europe. The city is very busy, and one of its unique characteristics is its small garden lined streets that tend to be hidden by newer high rises.

In the past the Costa del Sol has been known for its tiny fishing villages. These villages have now all been replaced with large retirement and resort towns filled with Europeans and Spaniards. The coast is beautifully decorated with small cottages and villas that are covered with bougainvillea and jasmine.

Málaga is home to over half a million residents and reflects the personality of its inhabitants: unhurried, charming and warm. For visitors the message is clear, forget where you come from, leave your watch at home, relax and go local. Just outside Málaga are the villages of Mijas and Marbella, which are pretty little towns with expansive panoramic views of the Spanish countryside.

Beyond Málaga is the famous region of Andalusía. This area stretches across the South of Spain and includes such famous sites as the city of Granada and the Palace of Alhambra. The region is also known for its lovely villages with whitewashed cottages.





Málaga

HISTORY Settlement can be traced as far back as the 4000 BC, when prehistoric man inhabited the many caves throughout Andalucia. In 3000 BC the Iberians crossed over to Spain from North Africa, giving the peninsula its name. In the thousand years prior to the birth of Christ, the Phoenicians established permanent trading posts along the coast in competition with Greek merchants. The Greeks and Phoenicians were the first civilized inhabitants, followed by the Romans who occupied Spain until the 5th century AD.

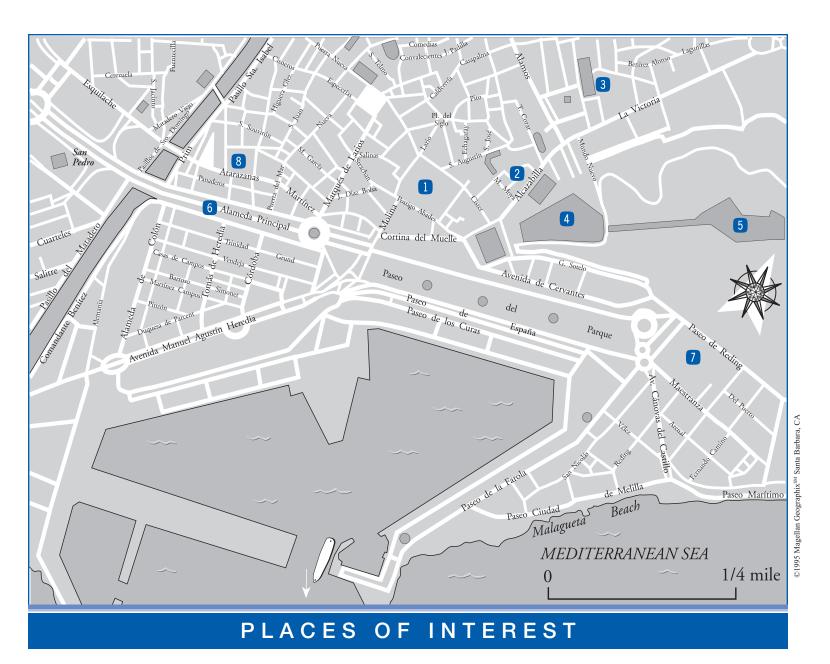
In 711 the Moors invaded Spain from nearby Africa, bringing with them their Muslim religion and influence. The battles took over 10 years and in the end Córdoba became the new capital of Islamic Spain.

Independence for the Spanish was gained in the latter part of the 9th century and Andalucia underwent a period of growth and development, with the building of a vast fleet of ships and the defeat of various Mediterranean territories. Wealth was reflected in the building of churches and the production of great works of art. It was during this time that Spain reached dominance in Europe.

As the Moorish empire disintegrated into fiefdoms, Christians began the long struggle to oust Muslims from the peninsula. Decisively defeated in 1212 at Navas de Tolosa, the Moors retreated to the Kingdom of Granada. Nearly 300 years later, in 1492, Granada fell and Spain was unified under the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella. The same year Christopher Columbus set sail for the New World.

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HISTORY (continued)

In the early 1900's, following the decline of the Spanish Empire, Spain and Andalusía achieved temporary autonomy. Civil War broke out and Franco emerged as Spain's new ruler in 1939. After World War II tourism was further developed in Málaga and the Costa del Sol area as elsewhere in Spain, and the economy began rebounding economically.

Places of Interest

1 The Málaga Cathedral was constructed in the 16th century on the site of a former Arab mosque and is one of the finest examples of Spanish Renaissance architecture. It took over two centuries to complete, and its interior is decorated with beautiful hand carved wooden choir stalls built in the early 17th century.

2 The Picasso Museum is located in a lovely 16th century building that is devoted to the Málaga born painter. The collection has a large amount of works that were donated by his daughter-in-law.

3 The House of Picasso is a great stop for any fans of the famous modernist painter. One of his first houses, it was here that the artist discovered his love for painting. His entire family lived here for the first 14 years of his life, until they moved to nearby Barcelona. The house has recently been restored, and tours are limited.

4 The Alcazaba is the Muslim palace-fortress that dominates most of the city center. Started in 1057, it was the official

residence to the Arab Emirs of Málaga who ruled the kingdom. Seen on a hilltop from anywhere throughout the city, the fortress offers excellent views of the downtown area and now houses an archaeological museum that displays stucco work as well as 12th and 13th century pottery.

5 The Gibralfaro Castle is a ramble of towers and bougainvillea-draped ramparts that beautifully overlook the Alcazaba. Last used in 1936 during the Civil War, the castle affords terrific views of the city.

6 Alameda Principal is a busy thorough fare that was constructed in the late 18th century. Located along the sea, its gardens contain rare, exotic and tropical plants. Today it is a main gathering area for the locals to stroll and enjoy the beautiful scenery. (This public park never closes).

7 Málaga's Bullring is one of the largest in all of Spain. Traditional bullfights are still held here on a regular basis.

8 Mercado Central was built in the 19th century and is the central shopping area for the locals, with fresh fish and produce for sale daily. Near the market there are some cafés and bars serving locally produced wine.

Beyond Málaga

SHOPPING FACILITIES Most stores are open from Alhambra Palace – is a fantastic Moorish palace that the 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm, Monday through locals refer to as the eighth wonder of the world. Built during Saturday. Some of the bigger department stores such as El the 12th century in the city of Granada, it served as a fortress Corte Ingles and Galerías Preciados do not observe siesta and until it became a fortress-palace for the Nasrid Dynasty. The remain open all day. All stores close on Sunday except for Alhambra has survived many wars, including the Napoleonic some of the souvenir stores located within walking distance of occupation in the 18th century when it was nearly destroyed. The rooms throughout the Palace include the "Hall of Streets" the ship. where a whisper can be heard from any part of the chamber. Few stores will accept U.S. Dollars, although most accept The Alhambra has two main parts, the Alcazaba (the fortress) major credit cards. and the Casa Real (Royal Palace).

Mijas – is located west of Málaga and was founded by the Muslims. The village sits 3,000 feet above sea level and has some beautiful views of the Spanish countryside. The small village is dotted with charming whitewashed houses that are covered with jasmine and bougainvillea. Small cafés and

souvenir shops line its streets and its narrow alleyways are only LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port of call is accessible to pedestrians and local donkeys. the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro Marbella – is a large resort town that is the choice of the rich coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each and famous. Best known for its large beach areas and high Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No price tag items, the area is lined with designer boutiques and elegant restaurants. Located in its old town is Marbella's most matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different famous plaza, the "Plaza de los Naranjos". Most locals will go colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, and get "lost" among the plaza's narrow winding streets while forgetting about the hustle and bustle of the main town with its 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes hotels and marina. are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

- Admission charges are generally in local currency.
- When going ashore, guest are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Málaga and the Costa del Sol we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS *Bargaining:* Prices listed in shops are not negotiable. It is only possible to bargain in flea markets or perhaps with an antique dealer.

Tipping: At most restaurants a 10% gratuity is accepted. It is always a good idea to ask if the service was included in the price of the meal if there are any doubts.

Local Cuisine: "Paella" is the Spanish national dish, a combination of seafood, chicken and vegetables mixed together in saffron-flavored rice. Typical Andalusían cuisine focuses on fish dishes such as Zarzuela. Up to a dozen different types of seafood are used in this dish which is served in a brandy and wine sauce. Pa amb tomáquet is peasant-style bread, topped with fresh tomatoes and grilled. Fritura Malagueña is typical fried seafood. For dessert try Crema Catalana, the local version of caramel custard.

Drink Specialties: Priorato is a popular local red wine and Malaga Virgen is a famous sweet wine. Cava is the worldrenown champagne produced in southern Spain. Bottled water is recommended.

A Value Added Tax (VAT) is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid. Check with the individual shops for details. Regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change, and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

There are plenty of exchange bureaus located throughout Málaga, not to mention banks and ATM's.

An Exchange Office is located inside the Tourist Information Office downtown. It is common for local shopkeepers to accept foreign currency at a fair rate of exchange according to the daily rate published in the local newspaper.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

The main post office is located at Avenida de Andalucía within the city center.

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