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PLACES OF INTEREST

HISTORY (continued)

In the early 1900's, following the decline of the Spanish Empire, Spain and Andalucía 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 thoroughfare 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

Alhambra Palace – is a fantastic Moorish palace that the locals refer to as the eighth wonder of the world. Built during the 12th century in the city of Granada, it served as a fortress until it became a fortress-palace for the Nasrid Dynasty. The Alhambra has survived many wars, including the Napoleonic occupation in the 18th century when it was nearly destroyed. The rooms throughout the Palace include the “Hall of Streets” where a whisper can be heard from any part of the chamber. The Alhambra has two main parts, the Alcazaba (the fortress) 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 accessible to pedestrians and local donkeys.

Marbella – is a large resort town that is the choice of the rich and famous. Best known for its large beach areas and high price tag items, the area is lined with designer boutiques and elegant restaurants. Located in its old town is Marbella's most famous plaza, the “Plaza de los Naranjos”. Most locals will go and get “lost” among the plaza's narrow winding streets while forgetting about the hustle and bustle of the main town with its hotels and marina.

- 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 Andalusian 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 tomàquet 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 world-renown champagne produced in southern Spain. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Most stores are open from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm, Monday through Saturday. Some of the bigger department stores such as El Corte Ingles and Galerías Preciados do not observe siesta and remain open all day. All stores close on Sunday except for some of the souvenir stores located within walking distance of the ship.

Few stores will accept U.S. Dollars, although most accept major credit cards.

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.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port of call is 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 coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

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.